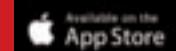


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the island,  
you know

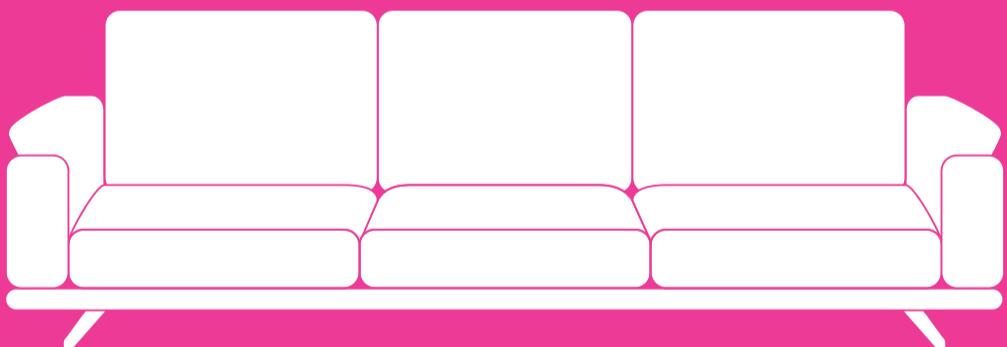
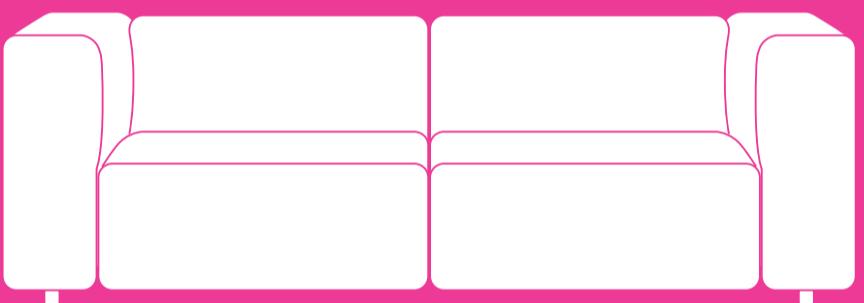
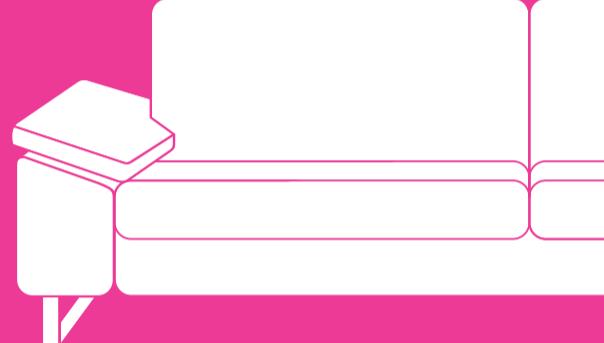
HK MAGAZINE NO. 1105 FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2015 [www.hk-magazine.com](http://www.hk-magazine.com)



# SOUTH OF THE BORDER, NORTH OF SHA TIN

37 amazing things to do in the New Territories

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You were served today by CY Leung ☺

How strongly would you agree with the following statements?

**1. My server abased himself before me, catering to my every whim or desire.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE

**5. My server is the scariest-looking member of the HKSAR government.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE

**2. My server was happy to ignore lesser people and follow my lead instead.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE

**6. My server would be great value at a cocktail party, once he downed a couple shots of Maotai and started talking about philosophy and jazz standards.**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE

**3. My server shows a strong awareness of the weaknesses of the Basic Law and uses them to his advantage.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE

**7. I would reappoint my server to the post of Chief Executive in 2017.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE

**4. My server displays a nuanced understanding of the difficulties inherent in the China-Hong Kong relationship.**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE

**Other comments:** Keep up the good work! ☺

**Name:** Xi "The Big Xi-Xi-P" Jinping

Thank you for completing this form!  
Please leave it in the bin on your way out,  
next to the burning effigies of the Pan-Democrats.

## Who's in charge?

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**12**

## COVER STORY

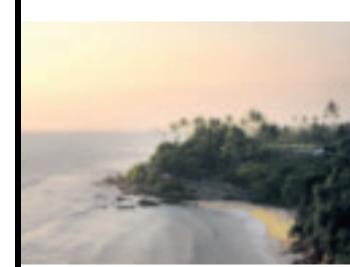
New Territories: not just for cows anymore



**18**

## ESCAPE ROUTES

10 top beaches for  
10 top beach bods



**20**

## DISH

Sai Kung special:  
all the best bites



**23**

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Men, women,  
accordions: what  
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Neo pours new,  
cool cocktails



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## FILM

"T.S. Spivet" brings  
out the child in us



**38**

## FIRST PERSON

Author Zita  
"Deep Snow" Law



# MAILBAG

## Mr. Know-It-All's Guide to Life

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

**They say Hong Kong is a world-class city, but does it do anything better than all the other major metropolises? – Record Man**

Hong Kong is a global pioneer in one unlikely area: how we flush our toilets.

Despite the seemingly endless rain, Hong Kong has never been self-sufficient when it comes to water. Our huge population, tiny landmass and loads of uncooperative bedrock mean that we only gather 20-30 percent of our needs from rainfall and local water sources. The rest is imported from the Dongjiang River in Guangdong, about 80km away. The process costs about \$4 billion per year.

Until the 60s water rationing was a very real issue in Hong Kong. The June 1963-May 1964 drought crippled the city, with only four hours of water supply available every four days. The Hong Kong government set out to resolve the issue with a three-pronged approach: building more reservoirs, importing water from China—and using seawater to flush our toilets.

While the seawater scheme was piloted in the late 1950s, it only reached a critical mass in the late 60s, and the last water rationing in Hong Kong took place as late as 1982. It's still being rolled out, with salt water flushing hitting Pokfulam in March 2013 and Wah Fu Estate in October 2013, and the Northwestern New Territories in March this year. Now about 85 percent

of the SAR's population uses seawater for flushing—it comes out to about 748,000 cubic meters of sea water each day, water that would otherwise have to be bought in from China at 2.5 times the price. The 1,698 kilometers of salt- and freshwater pipes running through our city makes it the most extensive dual-water system on the planet.

But the piping isn't what's impressive. Of the many coastal cities in the world, Hong Kong is actually the only major metropolis to use sea water for flushing. There are only a few other locales that use a similar system: the island town of Avalon, California, plus a handful of the world's most isolated islands.

It comes at a cost, of course—for one, corrosive seawater means pipes degrade faster, although the price of replacing them is still cheaper than importing water. For another, Hong Kong's easy access to water—our water rates are some of the cheapest in the world, and we don't pay for seawater at all—means that the city actually has one of the highest, most wasteful levels of water consumption per capita on the planet.

Worth thinking about when you leave the tap running as you brush your teeth. Oh, and if you have a dog: Don't let him drink from the toilet.

Mr. Know-It-All answers your questions and quells your urban concerns. Send queries, troubles or problems to [mrkia@hkmagmedia.com](mailto:mrkia@hkmagmedia.com).



Is this cat for sale too?

Photo by Leanne Fung



## Your hunger, anger, humor:

"We HAVE to go."

### Weather, Man

*With hurricane season comes an influx of Hong Kong Observatory weather warnings and none is more aggravating than the Typhoney [“HongKabulary,” July 3, issue 1103], aka the promise of a T8 day off work dangled in front of us and then snatched away. Our Facebook readers know the feeling.*

In Cantonese we say “Li’s Force Field”

**Bert Chakovsky**

### Cat Toque

*The world's first Hello Kitty-themed restaurant opened in Hong Kong last month and we got to chat with head chef Master Law [“Street Talk,” June 26, issue 1102]. Our Facebook fans have already made a beeline for the restaurant.*

Yummy I want to try ■

### Summer Spring

We should go try this place after fashion week!!!

### Julie Osen Foster

Please don't forget about this place.  
We HAVE to go.

### Stefán Orschel-Read

### Sinking CYs

*In a recent Mr. Know-It-All column we discussed the history of the boat SS Seawise University, named for owner CY Tung (“Seawise”=“CY’s”). The vessel was burned and sunk in 1972. A Facebook reader found a parallel...*

Funny how history repeats itself...  
The next SS CY is sinking fast too lol.

### Hector Gonzalez

### Write in and Win!

Got something to say?  
Write us! Our letter of the week gets an HK Magazine notebook, umbrella (pictured) and copy of “Historical Hong Kong Hikes,” total value \$470.



# FISH & MEAT

## A new culinary experience.

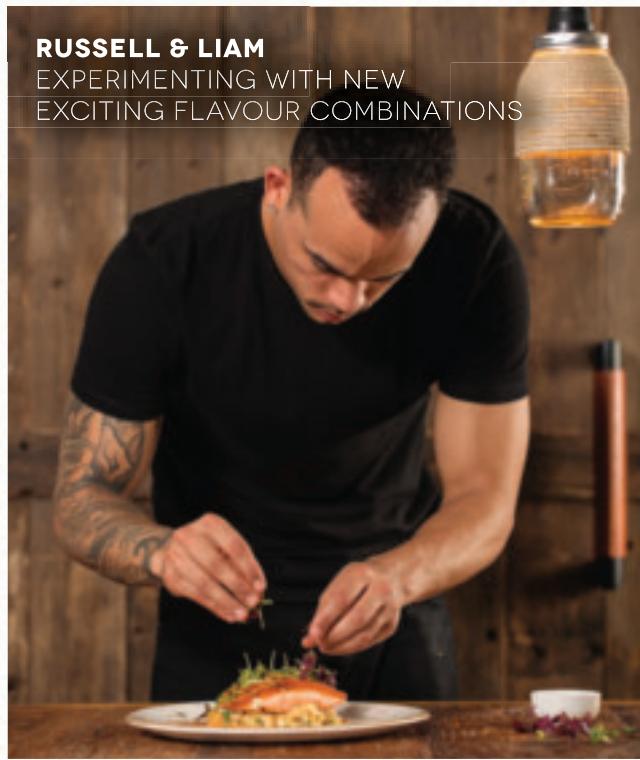
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# THE WEEK

SAT 7/18



WED 7/22



MON 7/20



Friday 7/17

## Book Now...

The annual **Hong Kong Book Fair** isn't just a place to buy the new "Fifty Shades": You can also check out talks from writers. Today, catch the panel discussion "How and What and Why Do Writers Write?" (5-7pm). No, seriously, why?

**Through Jul 21.** **Theatre 1, HKCEC, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai.** \$25 at the door.

Saturday 7/18

## Summer Kind of Wonderful

Can't take the heat? Catch the last two sessions of **Endless Summer at The Pulse**—there'll be water gun fights, water soccer and even water bowling. Prefer to stay dry? Look out for the outdoor movie screenings and live DJ shows—all alongside burgers, ice cream and booze.

**Jul 18 & 25, noon-8pm.** **Rooftop, The Pulse, 28 Beach Rd., Repulse Bay.** \$180 from [www.thepulse.com.hk](http://www.thepulse.com.hk).

Sunday 7/19

## Market in Your Diary

Check out the third edition of **Cosy Market** in Sham Shui Po, an all-day hipster flea market offering vintage clothing, handmade accessories and home-baked goodies.

**1-7pm.** **G/F, 108 Ki Lung St., Sham Shui Po.** Visit [www.facebook.com/cosymarket](http://www.facebook.com/cosymarket) for info.

Monday 7/20

## Sippin' Sushi

Mondays and Tuesdays don't always have to be quiet. The Mira's lounge bar **Room One** has just launched a new promo offering free-flow sushi and saketinis for three hours, which is just about enough time to get wasted merry.

**Mon-Tue, 7-10pm.** **118 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2368-1111.** \$288 per person.

Tuesday 7/21

## Get Glow

Join Hiking Tours on the **Bats and Fireflies** walk, which takes you on a two-hour, 7km-roam after dark to teach hikers about the nocturnal critters of the New Territories. Just FYI: bats will not attack or get stuck in your hair—they're way too good at flying.

**Jul 21, 28, 8pm.** **Meeting point: Exit C, Fanling MTR.**

\$130 from [hikingtours.hk](http://hikingtours.hk).

Wednesday 7/22

## Blurred Lines

Last time Albarn, Coxon et al. were here, **Blur** was inspired by the city to make its latest album, "The Magic Whip." The Britpop band is back in town to perform—no doubt with an extra dose of Hong Kong-style nostalgia.

**8pm.** **Grand Hall, HKCEC, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai.** \$480-880 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com).

Thursday 7/23

## Caked On

Calling all tai-tais (and wannabes): **Aberdeen Street Social** has paired up with makeup brand Nars for an afternoon tea. Nibble on light bites like pink raspberry and lemon balm éclairs—all made with colorful icing. Best of all, you'll get a free eyeliner and lip gloss plus a voucher for a free makeup service.

**Through Jul 31, Mon-Fri, 2:30-5:30pm.** **G/F, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central.** 2866-0300. \$288 for two.

Friday 7/24

## Beauty Call

This is your last chance to see "**Beauty and the Beast**," staged at the Venetian to celebrate its 20th anniversary. Do it... before the petals drop off the rose or whatever.

**Through Jul 26.** **Venetian Theatre, The Venetian, Estrada da Baia de N. Senhora da Esperança, Taipa, Macau,** (+853) 2882-8888. \$280-680 from [www.cotaiticketing.com](http://www.cotaiticketing.com).

Saturday 7/25

## Blues in the Night

Looking to do something a little different on a Saturday night? Head to **Blues Night** inside Lai Yuen Super Summer 2015 to jam with local jazz musicians. BYO instruments.

**8-10pm.** **Central Harbourfront.** Free.

Visit [www.jazzforfun.hk](http://www.jazzforfun.hk) for info.

Photo: K.Y. Cheng/SCMP



## DO THIS

### Loyalty Pays Off

Wellington Street mainstay Loyal Dining is teaming up with Tsingtao to bring us **Thirsty Thursday**—with free-flow dim sum and beer! For two hours, you can stuff yourself with all the xiaolongbao, har gao and siu mai you can handle, washed down with good ol' fashion Tsingtao. *Yum bui!*

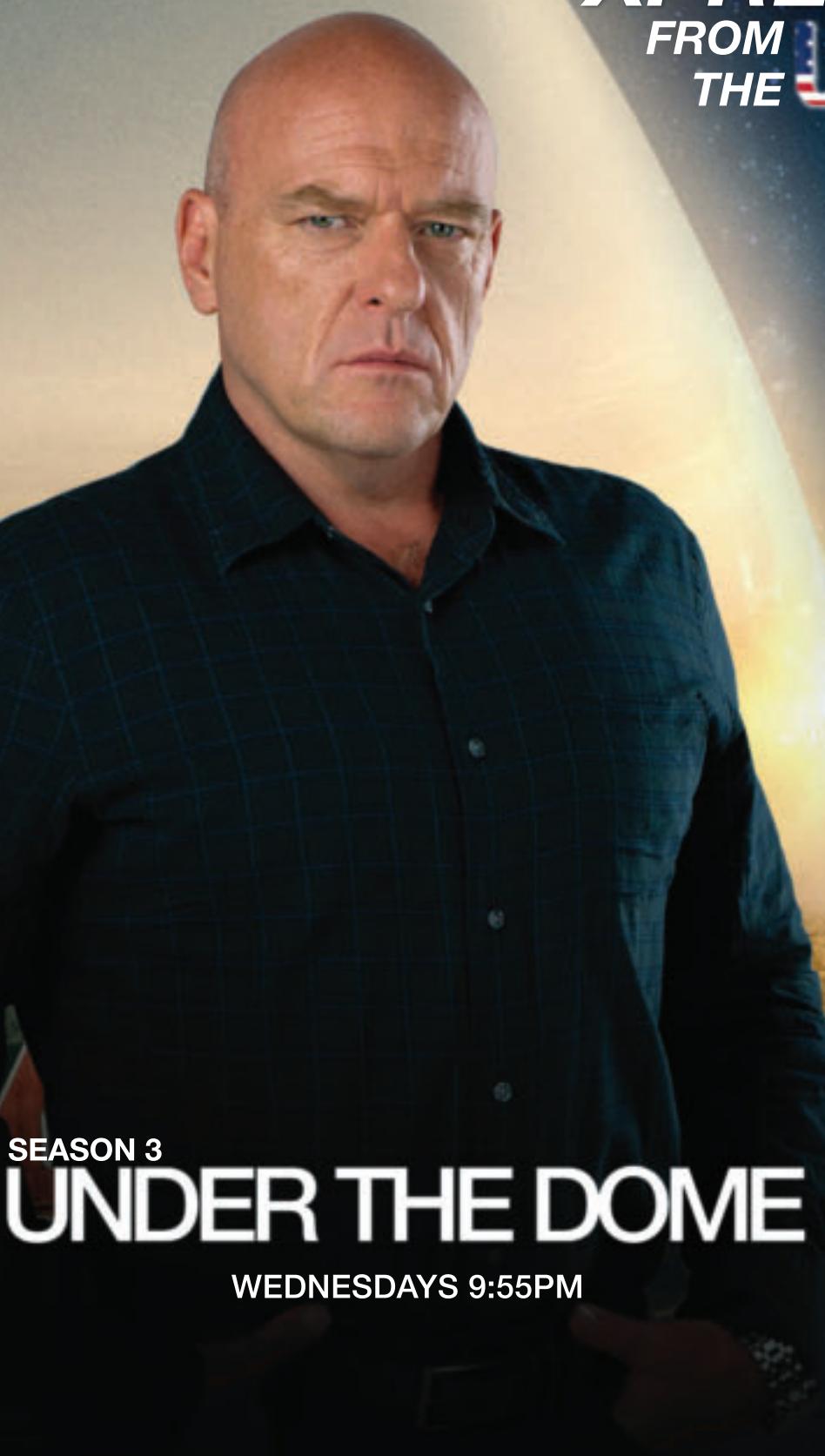
**Thursdays, 10:30pm-1:30am.** **66 Wellington St., Central, 3125-3000.** \$298 per person.

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# NEWS

## Last Week In Reality

Sat 04

**Busted Scammer** An elderly woman in a wheelchair is confronted by a group of policemen in Tuen Mun. The woman is notorious for getting into taxis and then saying that she has forgotten her purse, offering hand-written IOUs in lieu of payment. If the driver refuses to let her in the car, she threatens to report them to the Transport Department. A driver will not accept the IOUs and she calls the policemen over, who tell her that cab drivers need to make a living and pay their bills. One green cab driver says that she has been doing this for several years, and she is well known in the area.

Sun 05

**Student Loans** A 40-year-old secondary school teacher files a police report after having wired more than \$1 million over two years to a former student, who claimed he was using the money to invest in the London Gold Exchange for the teacher's retirement. The student, who has known the teacher for 10 years, "helped" the teacher buy gold for \$300,000, then opened an investment account for a further \$750,000. The teacher later asked to close the account, but the student found excuses not to. The investment company said the account did not actually exist. A police investigation is ongoing.

Mon 06

**Hair Cutting** A shirtless and inebriated 39-year-old man goes to a hairdresser in the Long Ping Market a little after 9am, holding two cans of beer and a foot-long knife wrapped in a towel. He places the knife on the counter and asks the hairdresser for a cut and dye. A security guard at the market notices his knife and calls the police. By the time the police arrive, the hairdresser has finished the haircut. The police arrest him before he can pay the \$130 bill. The hairdresser says the man is a regular, and often comes by to start trouble while drunk.



Tue 07

**Trolley Thief** At around 2pm in Tsim Sha Tsui's China Hong Kong City, a man leaves a hand trolley at the entrance to a Kee Wah bakery and walks inside to shop. Upon exiting the shop he finds that the trolley, which contains jewelry, gems and gold worth \$6.13 million, is gone. CCTV footage shows a man wearing a cap and a medical mask walking off with the trolley. Police are investigating the case but are unable to speculate on why the man left the trolley unattended.



Wed 08

**Night Rider** At around midnight in Aberdeen, a 50-year-old expat is found on top of the double-decker 90B bus bound for South Horizons. A passenger tells the driver that a man is making noises on the roof, but the driver dismisses it as a joke. Another passenger also reports the incident, and the driver stops at the Ap Lei Chau Drive station and discovers the man holding on to the roof. He climbs down with the help of a rubbish bin, saying that he is drunk and cannot remember where or how he got on to the roof. Police send him to the hospital for examination.



Thu 09

**Fire Escape** At around 5am, a 25-year-old lovelorn man petulantly sets fire to a pile of newspapers in his 22nd-floor flat. The fire spreads. The man climbs out of his kitchen window on to the water pipes outside the building, making his way down to the 17th floor before being discovered. The man continues climbing down to the 13th floor, where firemen pull him back into the building and take him to safety. The police arrest him and discover illicit drugs in his flat.

Fri 10

**Bus Rage** During Typhoon Linfa, a man waits to take the 276A from Tin Shui Wai to Sheung Shui. After about five minutes he bangs on the window of the bus office, demanding to know when the next bus will depart. The drivers say that due to the No. 8 typhoon the schedule has been modified. He storms into the office and drags a driver outside, pushing him and another driver to the ground. He slaps the second man in the face, causing him to faint, before leaving.

Illustrations: Ryan Chan

## Talking Points

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



Photo: Ip Man

### Donnie Yen to be Jedi?

Rumors are flying that martial arts star **Donnie Yen has been cast as a jedi** in an upcoming "Star Wars" movie. There has been no confirmation from either Rian Johnson or Gareth Edwards, who are directing "Star Wars: Episode VIII" and spinoff film "Rogue One," respectively. Apple Daily reported that out of an impressive list of candidates that included Tony Leung, Daniel Wu, Wang Leehom, Jet Li, Chang Chen and Stephen Chow, **Donnie Yen was chosen for his fluency in English, strong martial arts abilities... and lower fee.** Yen is rumored to be flying to London early next month to begin shooting.

**Our take:** Ip Man with a light saber? Awesome.

### SAR Students Sex It Up (Online)

A Facebook group called "**Elite School Sex Secrets**" has become popular with secondary school students, with subsidiary groups created for Hong Kong's respective elite establishments. The parent group, which was created in June, has accrued more than 13,000 "likes" to date and enables the high-achieving students to **discuss sex, share photos, disclose sexual encounters and even find hookups** by messaging a WhatsApp number or filling out an anonymous form. Outside of secondary school circles, groups like "CUHK Sex Secrets" and "Legco Sex Secrets" are on the rise. Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council chairman James Lam Yat-fung says that these groups are **just the tip** of the iceberg, and that schools and parents need to cooperate to educate students about sex.

**Our take:** Well, if you won't teach them, they'll have to learn for themselves...

### Bad Week for Taxis

More than 100 green and red taxis conducted a police-sanctioned **slow-drive demonstration** last week, driving from Sai Wan Ho and Kowloon Bay to the Central Government Offices to protest taxi apps and ride-sharing services such as Uber. Drivers complained that some apps offered an unlicensed 15 percent discount to its users. Meanwhile, **green taxis in Lok Ma Chau are clogging single-lane roads** to queue up for parallel traders arriving across the border, charging fares at unmetered rates. The congestion has turned a 10-minute drive into an hour-long journey, blocking all other forms of transport.

**Our take:** If taxi drivers weren't such crooks in the first place, we wouldn't be using taxi apps.

### Quote of the Week

"If you think there's no problem,  
I wonder if you even live in Hong Kong."

Legco member and legal functional constituency representative Dennis Kwok Wing-hang berates CY Leung during a Legco Q&A session. The Chief Executive had insisted that there were no problems between the CE and the legislature. Kwok asked Leung to assure Legco that he would not run for election in 2017 "for the sake of Hong Kong."



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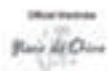
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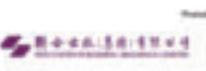
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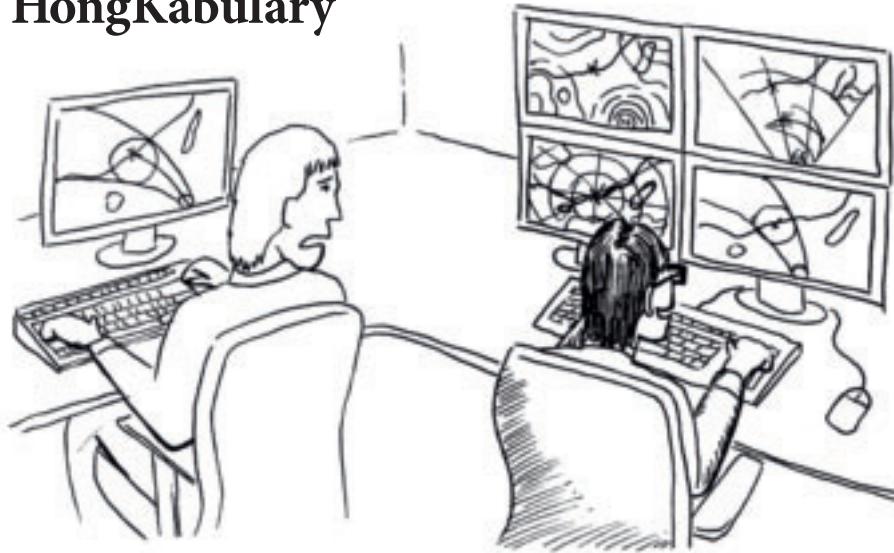
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# UPFRONT

## HongKabulary



### The Office Observatory

(əi: pfi:s ɒbɜ:z:vætɔ:rɪ), n.

Pre-typhoon phenomenon in which everyone in the office has the Hong Kong Observatory storm tracker page open in a browser tab.

*"Hey, why is everyone leaving?"*

*"The office observatory just hoisted the No.8 signal. See you tomorrow!"*

## Caption This

Hong Kong—Members of the League of Social Democrats and Left 21 burn photos of Lee Kuan Yew to demand the release of Singaporean teenager Amos Yee. (Nora Tam/SCMP)



Paper Lee Kuan Yew Burned As Offering To Ancestors In Need Of Firm Guiding Hand In Afterlife

## Fast Facts

### Rainy Day Fun

How are we spending our T8 day off?

- Finally using that masters in Shoddy Wikipediaed Meteorology.
- Getting thrown about and completely drenched on the MTR on the way home, like usual.
- Playing an accidental game of tic-tac-toe with our neighbors while taping up windows.
- Complaining that the typhoon is dealing insufficient pain, devastation and destruction to be real fun.
- Performing "King Lear," method actor-style.

## Street Talk



**Chan Tak-kwan** is the current World Series of Mahjong champion. He tells Yanis Chan how he defeated 200 players from more than 10 countries last August to claim the title and take home \$180,530 in prize money.

**HK Magazine:** How did you get into mahjong?

**Chan Tak-kwan:** When I was a kid I used to enjoy playing with the tiles, especially at banquets. I often used to watch my neighbors playing. It's what people did back in the day to kill time. I am self-taught: Every loss is a lesson you literally have to pay for.

**HK:** What were you doing before winning the title?

**CT:** I was, and am still doing, furniture sales. My life hasn't changed much, because the cash prize was a lot less than the previous two years: it used to be US\$500,000. That's because the year I won, the prize was linked to player numbers, which were low. Winning lots of money doesn't guarantee a good future, right? I'm into photography though, and have been able to pick up some new equipment with the prize money.

**HK:** Did the competition look like it does in Cantonese movies such as "Kung Fu Mahjong" or "Fat Choi Spirit"?

**CT:** They are too dramatic! I have never seen players doing those kinds of weird cheating tricks. But in some ways my winning the competition might sound like a movie plot in that I was the dark horse, losing the first two rounds before coming from behind to ultimately triumph.

**HK:** What's your best memory of the tournament?

**CT:** My friends self-financed themselves to join the WSOM just to keep me company, which was really nice of them. The best moment was that when I won the competition, they were there with me. They are the mahjong buddies I usually lose my money to!

**HK:** Did you hold any mahjong titles before this?

**CT:** No, and to be honest, I rarely win when I play with friends! But since claiming the title, I've been playing more because they

keep challenging me. Winning or losing isn't really a huge deal to me though, and we never bet big anyway.

**HK:** How is playing in a competition different from playing with friends?

**CT:** I think playing in a professional context requires full concentration. Unlike playing with friends, you don't really talk to other players in competitions because they are all strangers. In the semi-finals I played a full-time mahjong player who teaches it in Japan. I could see she took a strategic approach to the game. I just won that game by luck.

**HK:** How do you approach the game?

**CT:** In Cantonese there's an expression, to keep a "usual" mind—something like an open mind, accepting anything that comes your way. In 2010 a beer maker hosted several rounds of banquet-style qualifiers, so a few of my mahjong buddies and I booked a table to celebrate a birthday for fun. That's the reason I joined the contest. But then I eventually got sponsored to participate at the WSOM in Macau, which I didn't expect at all.

**HK:** How much time do you spend playing mahjong?

**CT:** Not much: probably once every two to three months. With so many other forms of entertainment it's hard to find someone to play with. But I did spend time practicing for this particular competition, just to become familiar with the rules and scoring system.

**HK:** What qualities does a mahjong player need to have?

**CT:** To be able to use their brains. Too often people link mahjong with gambling, which gives it a bad reputation. It's actually a good learning tool to train your brain, like math. Some steps are calculable, or at least have an element of probability. Children and students should play it more.

Official registration for the 2015 WSOM Main Event opens on August 1: [www.worldmahjong.com](http://www.worldmahjong.com)

# COUNT ME IN HONG KONG!

Be the change. Volunteer.

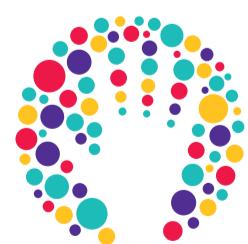


**Did you know that 32.5% of ethnic minority children in Hong Kong live below the poverty line?<sup>1</sup>**

**You can change that.** Volunteer with HandsOn Hong Kong to support our programs in serving underprivileged women and children, migrants, ethnic minorities, refugees and asylum seekers. Our programs include helping out at temporary shelters for women migrant workers, assisting migrant mothers to adapt to life in Hong Kong, teaching minority/refugee children and escorting ethnic minority families on outings.

**Every act counts. Do your part to be the change for a better Hong Kong.  
Volunteer at [handsonghongkong.org](http://handsonghongkong.org)**

#CountMeInHK #HandsOnHongKong



**HandsOn**  
HONG KONG

# Journey to the North

We're not just about the island at HK Magazine. This week we venture into the New Territories to find the best of Hong Kong's hinterland. **By HK Staff**



# YUEN LONG

Home to indigenous walled villages and countless nature reserves, Yuen Long sits cozily between the Mai Po marshes and the Hong Kong Wetland Park. It's a regular stomping ground for eco warriors jonesing for a taste of handpicked organic produce, families after a great day out, and shutterbugs looking for sun-washed wildlife.

**GET FESTIVE**

This August, Yuen Long plays host to **OpenSesame!**, a two-day music festival boasting a lineup of over 30 of Hong Kong's best indie acts. Best part? You can set up camp and stay the night. Organizers stumbled on the space and begged villagers to let them host

**Aug 15, noon-11pm; Aug 16, 11am-10pm.** 1 Chu Ma Leung, Pat Heung, Kam Tin Rd., Yuen Long. \$280-380; \$150 extra for camping. from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com).

## ORGANIC FUN

There's food ripe for the picking at the **Tai Tong Ecopark**, where about \$120 buys you a full day of plucking strawberries, lychees and a variety of vegetables. You can

plop down for a picnic on site, or pay by weight to take the produce home. December-April is organic strawberry season, while lychee season lasts from mid-June to mid-July. Other organic veggies are available all year round.

**11 Tai Tong Shan Rd., Yuen Long, 2470-2201, ttly.hk.**

PURRFECT PRODUCE

If your organic snacking needs a touch of cuteness, head to the **Hello Kitty Go Green Organic Farm**. The grounds are completely themed around the cartoon cat—and even feature a BBQ area and Hello Kitty gift shop—but the emphasis is on organic low-carbon farming. The 50,000-square-foot farm provides farming workshops, educational programs and ample homegrown produce to take home.

**Sze Pai Shek Village, Kam Tin, Yuen Long, 5579-2178**  
[www.gogreenlife.com.hk](http://www.gogreenlife.com.hk)

## THE FINAL NOODLE

Translating to "Best Until the End," **Ho To Tai Noodle Shop** is a Yuen Long noodle stalwart. It's been open since 1949—and the old-timey décor hasn't changed one bit. Treat yourself to a bowl of signature wonton noodles, or take home a box of the prized dried noodles.

**67 Fau Tsoi St., Yuen Long, 2476-2495**



## SHA TIN AND TAI WAI

Once a vast expanse of farmland by the Shing Mun River, Sha Tin underwent major development in the 1970s into a New Town. But the district still has its fair share of historical landmarks and activities. Bordering Sha Tin is Tai Wai, which boasts one of the largest walled villages in Hong Kong. It still retains its neighborhood feel, with equal measures of mom-and-pop stores and small trendy eats.

### MEET THE VILLAGE PEOPLE

The historic **Tai Wai Village** is a stone's throw away from the MTR station. It's the biggest and the most historic village in the Sha Tin district. Check out the traditional entrance, a hundred-year-old ancestral home and temple in the village center.

### HEED SOME HERITAGE

Sitting right by the Shing Mun River, the **Hong Kong Heritage Museum** is worth your time—it features 12 exhibition halls showcasing Hong Kong's culture through displays of art, music, dance, history, literature and theater.

**1 Man Lam Rd., Sha Tin, 2180-8188.**

### PARKS AND REC

Head to Ma Liu Shui pier—15 minutes from University station Exit B—and take a boat tour around the **geopark**. The trip explores the unique rocks and scenery of the New Territories. [www.geopark.gov.hk](http://www.geopark.gov.hk).

### WHEELING IN THE DEEP

Worshippers flock to **Che Kung Temple** during Chinese New Year to spin the “wheel of fortune” inside the structure, which is believed to bring good luck—but you can also visit during less busy times.

**Che Kung Miu Rd., Tai Wai, 2697-2660.**

### SUNSET WALKS

If you're partial to long sunset walks, you'll want to soak up the picturesque mangroves of northwestern Hong Kong at the coastal wetlands of **Ha Pak Nai**. Northeast, there's an easy biking trail towards the salt marshes of **Nam Sang Wai**, which leads you to prime bird-watching territory all along the Kam Tin River. In the cooler months (Nov-Apr), take a biking tour with **Mountain Biking Asia** (from \$500) around Nam Sang Wai to an old walled village and back to Yuen Long proper for a dim sum lunch.

[www.mountainbikingasia.com](http://www.mountainbikingasia.com).

### SUSHI, MAN

Yuen Long isn't all hikes and bikes: Its town center has recently become home to a top-grade *omakase* joint. **Sushi Man** is operated by Chef Cupid Leung, who'll make you fall in love with marbled hunks of toro and expertly grilled eel. The resto offers four types of omakase menu from \$600-1,300 per head.

**G/F, 5 Yan Lok Square, Yuen Long, 2285-9477.**

### GLAMP IT UP

A daytime trek in Yuen Long too much to handle? Go for a glamping staycation instead. Visit the family-friendly **Mingle Farm** camping ground, which has caravans and tents for rental. But the highlight are the bubble igloo tents that offer a little slice of sci-fi. Choose between varying degrees of transparent dwelling: from fully see-through to partially concealed rooms.

**From \$1,200 for bubble tents. 30 Fung Ka Wai, Tin Chi Rd., Yuen Long, 2891-8263, [www.minglefarm.com](http://www.minglefarm.com).**

## TAK WHAT YOU CAN GET

Tai Wai's **Chik Tak Lane** and its surrounding streets are home to low-key restaurants, cafes and bars—but one of the most famous establishments is **Fung Lum**, an old-school Cantonese eatery that has been around for some 50 years. Signature dishes include roast pigeon, shrimp toast, and salt and pepper prawns. After dinner, head to local watering hole **Speak-easy** and kick back with a few beers.

**Fung Lum: 45-47 Tsuen Nam Rd., Tai Wai, 2692-1175.**

**Speak-easy: Shop B, 11-13 Chik Tak Lane, Tai Wai, 2609-1996.**

### RICE AND ROLL

Expect to line up for the renowned cheung fun rice noodle rolls at **Kwan Kee** (坤記腸粉). They're cheap, freshly made and incredibly smooth. Slurp it up with all the sauces and extra sesame seeds.

**Chik Fu St. (Near Chik Fu Lane), Tai Wai.**

### SPA DAY

The **Hyatt Regency Sha Tin** is home to the Melo Spa, which boasts top-of-the-range treatments. There are various packages available, including the 2.5-hour “Vitality” program (\$2,150) that comes with a signature massage, facial and bath. This summer, the spa is also offering the Herbal Wellness Experience package (\$1,188, through Aug 31), which includes a 25-minute scrub with ingredients like rosemary, black pepper and ginger; plus a 55-minute facial using aloe vera—perfect if you've been in the sun for too long.

**5/F, 18 Chak Cheung St., Sha Tin, 3723-7684, [www.hongkong.shatin.hyatt.com](http://www.hongkong.shatin.hyatt.com).**



Geopark your behind here

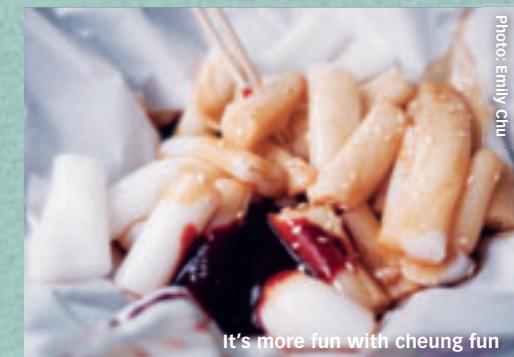


Photo: Emily Chu

### WAI, YOU!

Walled villages, aka *wai tsuen*, started out as Hakka and Punti clan settlements from as early as the Song dynasty (1127-1279). Villages built walls around their homes for protection and to maintain territorial boundaries. Some of the earliest walled villages that still exist include **Kat Hing Wai** (Kam Tin, Yuen Long), one of the largest and best preserved of the Tang villages, with some 17th century Qing Dynasty structures still standing.

### Keeping Up with the Clans

You'll notice that everyone from the same walled village has the same last name. The **Tang clan** were some of the first Chinese settlers to the area of Kam Tin in Yuen Long in the early 14th century, and many of the walled villages you can see today are still inhabited by their descendants.

### Hall and Moats

The ancestral hall is the core of any walled village. It's not just about worshipping your forebears: It also acts as a study hall, village conference room and a venue for social gatherings. The more affluent the village, the more elaborate the hall. **Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall** up in Sheung Shui Wai is one of the best examples. Built by the rich Liu clan in 1751, it boasts detailed wood carvings and auspicious murals.

### Walled Village Traditions

Many modern-day descendants still return to their villages during traditional festivities. Walled villages have their own traditions, such as the **Lantern-Lighting Festival** which celebrates newborn boys on the 15th of the first lunar month.



Chef Cupid, sushi-lover



Say neigh to Tai Tong Ecopark



Mingle Farm's bubble igloos:

## SAI KUNG

It's hardly a hidden corner of Hong Kong any more, but Sai Kung is still a quiet (ish) getaway from the pollution and the noise of the city.

### BEACHES BE CRAZY

Among the many trails Sai Kung's abundant landscape offers, hiking to **Tai Long Wan** should be on the top of your list because of the beautiful beachy reward that is **Ham Tin Wan**. Take the two-hour hike, or hire a boat from Sai Kung pier straight there if your summer bod doesn't need the extra toning. You can rent tents at Ham Tin Wan, or if you want to go hardcore hike to **Long Ke Wan**, which isn't as fully supplied but boasts clear water and fine sands.

**Hike starts at Sai Wan Pavilion: Take minibus 29R from Sai Kung town center.**

### LOOK SHARP

Step off the sampan from Sai Kung pier to **Sharp Island** for a day of exploring the hills of the island or snorkeling over beautiful coral. Wander along the tombolo causeway that leads the small neighboring island of Kiu Tau—just remember to head back before the tide rises and cuts you off.

### RIDE THE WATERFRONT

Venture off the beaten path and into the woods for the hour-long seafront walk (or 20-minute cycle) from **Yung Shue O to Shum Chung**. With a huge piece of grassland to roll around on, little houses dotting the field and great food at the end of the journey (see p.20), you'll forget you are even in Hong Kong.

**Take a taxi or bike from Sai Kung Town Center to Yung Shue O.** Rent a bike at Sun Ping Bicycle (21A Tak Lung Back St., Sai Kung, 2792-3116), no cycling allowed on Sai Sha Road on Sundays and public holidays.

### MAKE SOME WAVES

What better time for watersports than summer? Head to Sha Ha Beach and hop into a kayak (\$100 per day) to paddle around the coves and islands of Sai Kung bay, rent a stand-up paddleboard (\$180 for three hours) or take a one-day windsurfing course (\$450) at **Windsurfing Centre HK**.

**Sha Ha Beach, Tai Mong Tsai Rd., Sai Kung 9733-1228.**

### CATCH SOME SQUID

Gather your most-cuttlefish-loving friends for an evening **squid-fishing boat trip**. The boat uses bright lights to attract the little critters so you can pull them up. Catch enough and you can dine on your bounty—the boat cooks it all up for you afterwards.

**From \$199, 3555-5555, [www.jubilee.hk](http://www.jubilee.hk).**

### TEE UP, ISLAND-STYLE

Don't have a fabulously expensive membership to the Hong Kong Golf Club? There's still room for those of us in the 99.99 percent to enjoy a round or two. The beautiful **Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Course** on the island of the same name is the only public golf course in Hong Kong. It's \$160 for golf clubs, \$35 for shoes and \$175 for caddies. Just remember to look out for eagles, herons and the occasional barking deer when you're teeing off.

**Ferry to Kau Sai Chau runs daily from Sai Kung Pier.**

### GET LOST

If you can't escape the crowds in Sai Kung town, try the "ghost island" of **Yim Tin Tsai**, with a total population of... one. Yes, only a solitary caretaker inhabits what was formerly home to about 1,000 Hakka settlers, the last generation of whom departed in the 90s. You'll find empty salt farms, a UNESCO-awarded chapel, beautiful mangroves and abandoned houses aplenty.

**Ferry from Sai Kung Pier on weekends and public holidays, 10am-2pm; returns 12:30-5pm; [www.yimtintsa.com](http://www.yimtintsa.com).**

## TAI PO

The name "Tai Po" derives from the Chinese words for "Big Step": Some say this refers to the strides that farmers and pearl fishers took to escape the jaws of local beasts. But in post-New Town Tai Po, you're more likely to be hurrying to sink your own teeth into something at the town's popular cooked food center.

### RAIL PASS

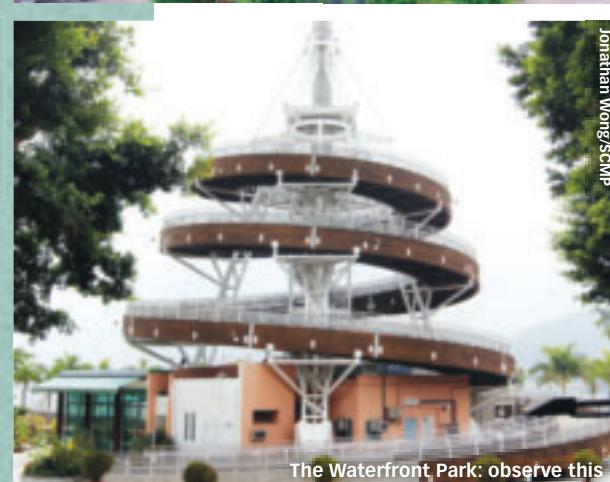
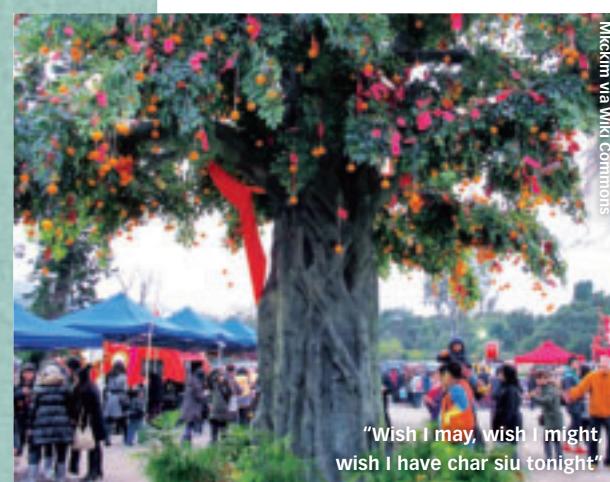
Today's high-speed rail construction projects got you down? Take a chugging journey down memory lane at the **Hong Kong Railway Museum**, which occupies a well-preserved station built in 1913. Its original trains, ticketing office and semaphores remind us there really was a time when we were happy with little engines.

**13 Shung Tak St., Tai Po, 2653-3455.**

### MONK OUT

Not content with owning disproportionate amounts of Hong Kong's physical space, Li Ka-shing recently made headlines with the **Tsz Shan Monastery**, a \$1.7 billion venture into spiritual terrain. But despite boasting the world's second-tallest Guanyin statue and bulletproof windows, Li's version of Nirvana got off to a shaky start when it opened earlier this year. Visitors found themselves turned away from its "Gates of Wisdom" for not having secured a booking months in advance. Don't make the same mistake.

**88 Universal Gate Rd., Tai Po, 2123-8666.  
Free to visit, book at [www.tszshan.org](http://www.tszshan.org).**





**Yim Tin Tsai, pristine and abandoned**

Isaac Wong via Creative Commons



**Surf your heart out**

## MAKE A WISH

A collection of 23 mini-villages with a mix of indigenous and Hakka communities, **Lam Tsuen**'s settlements date back to the 1100s. Here you'll find temples, ancestral halls and more. Jot your wildest aspirations down on joss paper and hang them up by the famous (but sadly now artificial) **wishing trees** at the Tin Hau temple.

**Lam Kam Rd., Tai Po.**

## GET GOOSED

We'd say head to **Yat Lok Barbecue Restaurant** for its famed goose, but if you're extra hungry they do a mean char siu too. The owner speaks English and is very friendly—especially if you ask about the photo of him and Anthony Bourdain behind the counter.

**G/F, Block A, Po Wah Building, 5 Tai Ming Lane, Tai Po, 2656-4732.**

## HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

Head to **Cloudy Hill** for the best view of Tai Po. You'll find it via section 8 of the Wilson Trail, beginning near Fan Sin Temple. The climb is well worth it, and just beyond are Hok Tau village and strawberry fields forever (though they're only pickable in spring).

**Wilson Trail Section 8, Wun Yiu Rd., Tai Po.**

## FREE WHEELER

Cycling to **Tai Mei Tuk** (where you'll find villages and BBQ spots) will take you a good 1.5-hours along Tolo Harbor, once the home of pearls and pirate vessels. Rent a bike at Tai Po's Waterfront Park, which features a not-too-creepy insect house, a pool for model boats and a lookout from which to survey the journey ahead.

**Yuen Shin Rd., Tai Po.**

## TIN SHUI WAI

The "Town of Sadness" is shaking off its gloomy reputation to become a dynamic and vibrant NT hub.

### SEE YOUR SEAFOOD

**Lau Fau Shan** is a village famous for the oyster farming which has taken place along its shoreline for hundreds of years. While this continues on a smaller scale, its main street now boasts stalls offering a huge range of live seafood and shellfish which you can buy and take to one of several restaurants, who will cook it up to order.

**Shan Tung St. or Main St., Lau Fau Shan.**



### HISTORY WALKING

The **Ping Shan Heritage Trail** takes you on a historical journey through three villages, temples, ancestral halls and a walled village. Well-preserved heritage sites and centuries-old ancestral halls offer a tingly look into the lives of early clan settlers from the late Yuan dynasty (1271-1368), and include Hong Kong's oldest pagoda, Tsui Shing Lau, built around 1486, a 200-year-old walled village and the famous Tang and Yu Kiu ancestral halls.

**From Tin Shui Wai MTR station Exit C, turn left on Tin Fuk Rd. and again onto Ping Ha Rd.**

### RUSTIC RUMMAGING

Run by members of the Tang clan, **Ping Shan Traditional Poon Choi** is one of the city's oldest and most traditional *poon choi* restaurants, where fish, shrimp, chicken, mushrooms and more delicacies are served layered in a metal "basin" dish. What's not to like?

**G/F, 36 Tong Fong Village, Tong Fong Village, 2617-8000.**

### WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Believe it or not, the SAR has much more wildlife than it does rats and roaches. **Hong Kong Wetland Park** offers unique plant life and more than 200 bird species in its 60 acres of land, highlighting the diversity of our flora and fauna and importance of conservation. It's also the home of celebrity crocodile Pui Pui, caught in the Shan Pui River in the northwestern NT in 2003.

**Hong Kong Wetland Park, Wetland Park Road, Tin Shui Wai, 3152-2666.**



**Get some Ping Shan heritage in you**

### HELP! I'M IN SHEUNG SHUI!

The last stop on the East Rail Line before hitting the mainland, Sheung Shui has developed quickly in the past few years. Thanks to widespread parallel trading it now has something of a trading post feel. Soak up the frontier town vibe, suggests longtime resident **Michael Taylor** ([www.accidentaltravelwriter.net](http://www.accidentaltravelwriter.net)).

#### Drink Back In Time

The **Better 'Ole** bar has been a New Territories institution since the 1970s, and at one time there were at least five outlets in the market towns of the New Territories. The only surviving branch is caught in a sort of time warp, one of the dwindling number of colonial-era family-run businesses that used to dot Hong Kong. The homemade borscht is legendary, as is the pig knuckle.

**35-36 Fu Hing St., Sheung Shui, 2939-2286.**

#### Cafe Culture

Until Starbucks showed up a few weeks ago **Cafe Je T'aime**, a quirky little Parisian-style cafe on a

run-down side street full of hardware stores, was the only spot in Sheung Shui where you could get a decent cup of coffee.

**7 San Kung St., Sheung Shui, 9703-8167.**

#### Fit for a Qing

Between Sheung Shui and Fanling, **North District Park** is one of the loveliest in Hong Kong. Fashioned after the Qing Dynasty gardens of Yangzhou, it has pavilions and a covered walkway. There's a pebble walkway to massage your feet, an artificial lake, conservation corner, amphitheater, garden and more. ■

# PERKS

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## The Theatre Bus

"Using drama as the vehicle to educate, entertain and empower the leaders of tomorrow, The Theatre Bus provides exceptional drama classes, live performances and educational services throughout Hong Kong. Our team of passionate and talented professionals ensure your child gets a fun and meaningful learning experience every time." We offer:

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[info@thetheatrebus.com](mailto:info@thetheatrebus.com)  
[www.thetheatrebus.com](http://www.thetheatrebus.com)



## Summer DJ Festival Line Up (July)

Magnum Entertainment Group proudly announces our Summer DJ Line up

We have already arranged a lot of parties in this summer, here comes the DJ Line Up for July!

Check this out, the hottest DJ perform in the hottest venue in Lan Kwai Fong. Starting from today, many more coming, stick with us, you will be surprised! Don't forget to follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

4,5/F California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar Street, Central, H.K  
RSVP: 2111 8110



## HKCO – Classic and Favorites interpreted by Virtuosi

As the Chinese orchestra of the people of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra will keep pushing new horizons in order to create an omnidirectional, boundless, music realm. Signature series includes The Distinguished, The Music World, Hong Kong Drum Festival and Discovery etc. Book tickets of the 39th Orchestral Season (9/2015-8/2016) before 31/7/2015 to enjoy up to 40% discount.

Inquiries : 3185 1600/[inquiries@hkco.org](mailto:inquiries@hkco.org)  
Website : [www.hkco.org](http://www.hkco.org)



## M&S "Tastes of the British Isles"

M&S has created a selection of mouth-watering biscuits this Summer.

All butter Poly-Poly Swirls (\$36)- Crunchy raspberry and custard flavor biscuits based on the traditional early 19th century British pudding

All Butter Earl Grey Tea & Lemon Biscuits (\$55)- Sweet, citrusy melt-in-the-mouth biscuits with real flecks of Earl Grey tea

All Butter Battenburg Squares (\$36)- All butter biscuits made with ground almonds with the traditional pink and yellow chequerboard visual

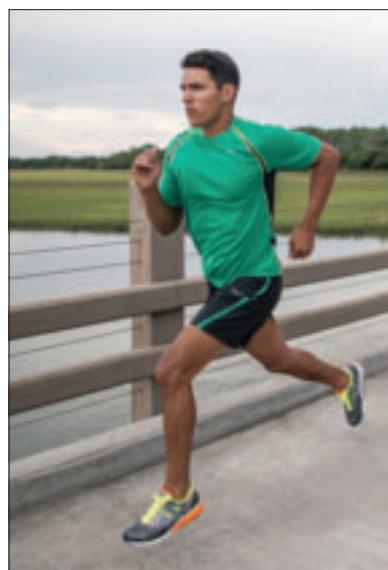
Visit us @ G/F-1/F Central Tower,  
22-28 Queen's Road, Central, 2921-8323.



## THANK GOD IT'S LUNCHTIME!

Indulge in Fish & Chick's 2-course set lunch that would not burn your lunch pocket money. You can choose between having the British-style Fish & Chips, half Rotisserie Chicken, Pan-fried Fresh Fish, Chicken Milanese or the Salted Cod Brandade for your main course. Price starts from \$88 and available on weekdays from 12pm to 3pm. Psst! Price includes a magnificent seaview!

Fish & Chick  
Shop 6, G/F, 25 New Praya, Kennedy Town, 2974 0088



## Saucony "Find Your Strong"

As one of the world's leading running shoe brand, SAUCONY has come to a revival in this era. Founded in 1898 in Pennsylvania, this American legend has been renowned for producing comfortable and functional sneakers, which has won the hearts of sports fans and trendsetters globally hereafter. Saucony is now available in Hong Kong for running lovers.

Shop No 222, K11 Art Mall, 18 Hanoi Road,  
Tsim Sha Tsui 3122 4108



## Celebrate Belgian National Day at FRITES

FRITES is celebrating Belgian National Day (21st July) with a Belgian Beef and Beer special! From now till the end of July, FRITES, will be offering an exclusive real Belgian Beef "Belgian Blue" from De Beef. Cooked to preference, the tenderloin cut is served with stoemp, spinach and brune jus for \$395. Perfectly paired with the dish, a complimentary La Corne Triple Beer will be offered with the dish ordered.

The Wellington, 1/F, 198 Wellington Street,  
Central, 2217-6671



## Life In Color to Charity Party?

After announcing Life In Color Hong Kong's postponement, the organiser has confirmed another party: HOPE CHARITY PARTY, held at AsiaWorld-Expo on 25th July. 100% from ticketing profits will proceed as donation for Hong Kong victims of the incident at Formosa Fun Coast.

All guests are welcome to attend HOPE CHARITY PARTY by presenting their "Life In Color Hong Kong" tickets.

[www.facebook.com/HopeCharityParty](http://www.facebook.com/HopeCharityParty)  
[www.sigma-production.com](http://www.sigma-production.com)

## A More Perfect Union

Hong Kong-based design brand **Native Union** has been quietly expanding its stable of cool cables and funky cases. A few months ago the brand launched a shatter-resistant marble iPhone case alongside a teeny tiny personal speaker that can fit into your pocket, purse or pouch for conference calls and music on the go. The products couple smart technology with hand-finished details for one of a kind results.

**Monocle special edition personal speaker, \$400;**  
**Clic marble phone case, \$650. Available at [www.nativeunion.com](http://www.nativeunion.com).**

IS THERE ANY WAY THAT TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP US SLOW DOWN INSTEAD OF SPEEDING US UP?

Absolutely. People often assume that, as a proponent of the Slow movement, I must be against new technology. They assume slowing down means throwing away the gadgets, yet nothing could be further from the truth. I am no Luddite; I love technology and own all the latest high-tech goodies. To me, being able to speak and write to anyone, anytime, anywhere is exhilarating. By freeing us from the constraints of time and space, mobile communication can help us seize the moment, which is the ultimate aim of Slow.

But there are limits. The truth is that communicating more does not always mean communicating better. You see parents staring at smartphones while spending "quality time" with their children. Surveys suggest that a fifth of us now interrupt sex to read an email or answer a call. Is that seizing the moment, or wasting it?

Whenever a new technology comes along, it takes time to work out how to get the most from it. Mobile communication is no exception: It's neither good nor bad—what matters is how we use it. The challenge is to use communication technology more wisely. To switch on when it brings us together and enriches our lives, but to switch off when old-fashioned, face-to-face communication—or even just a little silence—is called for.

Human beings need moments of silence and solitude—to rest and recharge; to think deeply and creatively; to look inside and confront the big questions: Who am I? How do I fit into the world? What is the meaning of life? Being "always on" militates against all of that. You cannot daydream or reflect when your mind is constantly wondering if you have a new text message or if it's time for a fresh tweet.

The bottom line is that technology can help us slow down if we deploy it judiciously. That means using it to get things done efficiently and effectively, save time—but then switching it off so we can notice that saved time by being constantly distract ed. We also have to dedicate that saved time to Slow pursuits rather than simply cramming it into more work or consumption.

FOR THE LOVE OF SLOW IN CONTROL OF THEIR TIME, HOW CAN FULL-TIME FREELANCERS LEARN TO DIVIDE THEIR WORK AND SOCIAL LIVES? It's both essential and possible to do. If you never stop working, then you never recharge your batteries or allow your mind to slip into the creative mode of thought that psychologists call "slow thinking." Most of us know when enough is enough: You feel yourself flagging physically,

You need a coffee or a Red Bull. generation starts to wander. You to go over things several times thing takes longer than it should temper more easily. The joy dra feels like a chore. D for working how the

FRANCE YOUR BOOK. IT FROM ITS HARD STANCE ON THE France's famous 35-hour workweek run into trouble because it was a fits-all remedy. It was too inflexible to how far legislation had remade past decade, the 35-hour week has symbol or an aspiration than a reality. Successive governments have water companies and their workers have the law. Today French workers put in a week on average, which is just below European average.

WHY OTHER COUNTRIES ARE AT LIFE BALANCE IN AN INTERESTING Germany is a shining example of how its economy is a powerhouse of productivity. Germans work far fewer hours than other countries. When they're at home, checking Facebook is verboten—and when they're away from work, they leave behind and focus on friends, family. They also put up a firewall between work and life: Leading German firms such as Bosch and BMW have stopped staff from checking email outside working hours. The German Labor has done the same, and has ban-

of the equation, the recession may prove to be a boon to Slow outside the workplace. When people have less money to throw around, they are more likely to embrace slower forms of leisure such as walking, cycling, conversation and playing board games. That may explain why home cooking has surged in the US. It may start as a grudging act of self-denial, but eventually people realize that slower forms of leisure can actually be fun, nourishing and relaxing.

# Sandspiration: 10 Top Beaches



From far-flung shores to easy-breezy escapes, these 10 exotic plots of sand will make for the perfect lazy summer holiday.

## 1 Neato El Nido

If you're looking for beautiful beaches with more luxury surrounds, then Palawan's **El Nido** in the Philippines should tick your high-maintenance boxes. The eco-friendly resort chain has four locations scattered across the serene archipelago—visit them all on an extra indulgent vacay.

## 2 Crushin' on Croatia

Forget Italy, **Croatia** has all the makings of a Mediterranean fantasy. Choose an island—any island!—and you're in for a treat.

## 3 Get to New Guinea

It's all about beaches, vast stretches of untouched coral, jungles, WWII history and the tribespeople of **Papua New Guinea**. Exploring PNG is not for the lazy traveler though—good luck locating tourist centers or gleaning any information from TripAdvisor. But if you're up for a challenge, you'll love the island's charm.

## 4 Bummin' in Boracay

No matter how many beaches we explore, we're always swimming back to **Boracay** in the Philippines. When it comes to clear seas, powdery sand, great food and friendly faces, the famous island paradise has it all.

## 5 Pretty in Pink

The Komodo Islands in Indonesia are home to the romantic **Pink Beach**—and yes, it's actually pink thanks to a mix of red and white sand. It's in a fairly remote location that's most accessible by boat, but travelers can opt for a homestay with simple accommodations.

## 6 Hola Cuba

We'd like to meet any wanderluster who hasn't put **Cuba** on their bucket list now that the borders are slowly opening up to tourists. Latin flavors and Cuban beats combined with world class beaches: We're there.

## 7 You Better Belize it

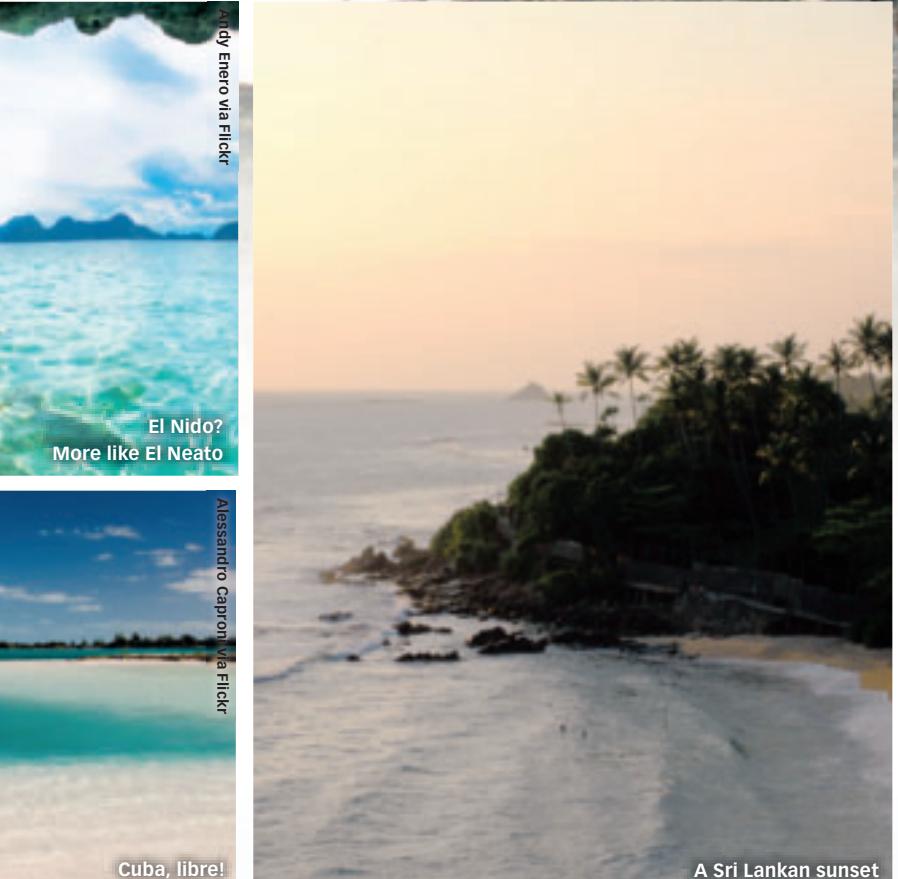
Who wouldn't want to be surrounded by coconut groves and beautiful lush greenery while catching rays on one of **Belize's** pristine island beaches? If you're not the type who can doze for days on a beach, there's plenty to do nearby—think conch fishing, snorkeling around the 300-kilometer-long Belize Barrier Reef or making the trip to Tikal National Park, just across the Guatemalan border.

## 8 Sea Shells

Topaz water and powdery beaches? We're in! Get to **Seychelles** to enjoy the diving, snorkeling and idyllic beaches before the rest of the world discovers it. Won't be long now...



Andy Enero via Flickr



El Nido?  
More like El Neato

Alessandro Caproni via Flickr

Cuba, libre!

A Sri Lankan sunset

## 9 Ceylon Away

Thanks to the completion of the Colombo-Galle highway, Sri Lanka's southern beaches are more accessible than ever. Head to popular **Mirissa** or quaint **Tangalla** and let the low-key vibes sweep you away. Visit in January or February for a chance to spot some blue whales... or just settle in for the day with a fresh coconut.

## 10 Laze Around Langkawi

Malaysia's prime plot of sand is a great place to learn how to scuba dive. It's also home to a handful of kickass shores—like the popular **Pantai Cenang** or more rustic **Tanjung Rhu**, where mangroves and limestone caves abound.

**Where are you heading for your next adventure?**  
I want to know! Email me at [kate.springer@hkmagmedia.com](mailto:kate.springer@hkmagmedia.com) or tweet @KateSpringer and #hktravels.



Pristine Tanjung Rhu on Langkawi

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# Kung Food Fighting

Kick off those concrete shackles and head out to Hong Kong's backyard—Sai Kung's charming eateries should sate all your New Territories nomming needs. By **Tammy Ha** and **Joanne Lee**

## Oh Hey, AJ

Think Sri Lankan food is basically just southern Indian? Think again: **AJ's Sri Lankan Cuisine** is out to set you straight, serving up Sri Lanka specialties like black lamb curry—an aromatic, spicy and all-around awesome dish. Curry may be the country's pride and joy, but another highlight is the Sri Lankan banana leaf rice, aka *lamprais*. The fresh dish has a lovely fragrance that emerges as you unwrap the banana leaf—inside you'll find big chunks of chicken and fish, or you can ask for a vegetarian version.

**12-14 Sai Kung Hoi Pong St., Sai Kung, 2792-2555.**

## Lai to Me

Attention all hiking enthusiasts—and those willing to hike for the promise of good food. Look out for this hidden gem nestled on the road to Sham Chung, about 15 minutes past Yung Shue O Village. The dai pai dong-style **Lai Kee Store** boasts a unique, self-built wood stove, on which staff cook most of the dishes. The highlights here are home-style Hong Kong favorites, like pork bone congee with dried vegetables, which is not too salty and well balanced with a slight smoky taste. Craving seafood? An oyster omelet here is totally worth the hike.

**Ngau Yue Tau, 70 Yung Shue O Village, Sai Kung, 9377-7211.**



## Down on the Ranch

It's hard to miss **Anthony's Ranch**, thanks to the huge plastic ox-head standing guard over the door. The restaurant has an American wild west-style interior and serves great starters to match—go for the crispy buffalo chicken wings with chili sauce. As you'd expect, the burgers are great here, as are the smoked ribs. Slathered in red barbecue sauce, the juicy, tender ribs are well-seasoned and taste about as close to authentic Texas smokehouse as you're going to get in Hong Kong. Do the American thing and pair it all with a tall, frosty milkshake.

**28 Yi Chun St., Sai Kung, 2791-6113.**

## Use Your Loaf

A few minutes' walk from the far end of the Sai Kung seafront, **Loaf On** is easy to miss—there are no flashy fish tanks or neon lights, but rather minimal white walls and an unassuming entranceway. The subtly decorated Michelin-starred seafood restaurant tempts your appetite with fresh catches of the day: your dinner is literally a phone call away, delivered fresh from Sai Kung fishing boats as soon as you place your order. Forget trawling through the menu: The staff have been educated about more than 20 fish species and will point towards their favorite dishes—like the deep-fried abalone, squid and mantis shrimp, flower crab and their signature deep-fried tofu.

**49 Market St., Sai Kung, 2792-9966.**



## You're the One

For fantastic views and low-key village vibes, head to **Hebe One O One**, about a 10-minute drive from Sai Kung town center. The waterfront building has several open-air floors, including a friendly bar downstairs and a more formal dining room on the rooftop where you can dig into the seared scallop appetizer, bacon-wrapped chicken and a broad selection of drinks including Japanese craft beer and Pimm's. And if that's not enough for you then the seaside breeze and seagulls flying over the yachts in the harbor should seal the deal.

**112 Pak Sha Wan, Sai Kung, 2335-5515.**



## Mi Casa Es Tu Casa

The four founders of modern tapas bar **Casa** all hail from different countries, each bringing some far-flung flavor to the table. You can see the diversity in the varied menu, with creative tapas covering the likes of Spanish tortillas, Japanese okonomiyaki and buffalo-coated cauliflower with blue cheese sauce. And when the sun goes down? Casa transforms into a vibrant bar with wines, champagnes and craft beers aplenty.

**Shop 1, Sui Yat Building, 1 Sai Kung Hoi Pong Square, Sai Kung 5594-0007.**



## NEW AND NOTED with Adele Wong



### Top Up at Utop

**Utop** (19/F, Popway Hotel, 117 Chatham Rd. South, Tsim Sha Tsui, 2117-3526) is the flagship restaurant at newly opened Popway Hotel, and boasts some alum from PolyU—the uni known best for its hospitality management program—at the helm. Dig into fancy dishes with fancy names like Summer Paradise (Sichuan pepper and pineapple dessert) and Spring Field (quinoa salad) at this sky-high venue that comes with a private rooftop terrace. And of course, don't forget to try the signature Utop Chicken: a chicken roulade dish paired with quirky ingredients like red dates, chestnuts and endive.

### Say Teas

**Peerie Tea** ([www.peerietea.com](http://www.peerietea.com)) wants to make sure you're ingesting all-natural, no-harm brews that have been harvested from small local estates in countries like Taiwan and China. Choose from a selection of green,

oolong, white, fruit and other varieties from their colorful website, and get them delivered straight to your home.

### The David Laris Show

California Tower has a new inhabitant: **Porterhouse by Laris** (7/F California Tower, 30-36 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2522-6366), a collab between the ubiquitous David Laris and Eclipse group. Laris is a well-reputed chef-slash-restaurant consultant from Australia who worked with glitzy establishments in London and Shanghai before setting his eye on Hong Kong. He was behind Dining Concepts group project The Bellbrook Bistro Oz by Laris (now closed). As its name implies, Porterhouse is all about the steaks—prized USDA Prime cuts from the grill or oven, paired with decadent sides. There's also an impressive selection of seafood, from raw oysters to king crab to lobster, which you can order as starters or sidekicks to your steak.

Email me at [adele.wong@hkmagmedia.com](mailto:adele.wong@hkmagmedia.com) or follow me on Twitter: @adelewong\_hk.

## RESTAURANT REVIEWS

### TAP – The Ale Project ★★★★☆

Beer. 5 Hak Po St. Mong Kok, 2468-2010.



This Mong Kok craft beer bar boasts at least a dozen beers on tap, specializing in Hong Kong brewery Young Master Ales. It's a smallish space with a bright industrial look, crammed full of seats and stools. Punters spill out onto the street, beers in hand for a convivial, neighborhood atmosphere.

**HIT** The menu revolves around Hong Kong takes on classic pub food. The "lap cheong schmear" (\$58) was toast with two big scoops of home-made pâté, made with duck liver and lap cheong sausages. That unique lap cheong flavor was a fantastic twist on the dish. A large Sichuan chicken wrap (\$74) came out fresh and crunchy, full of complementary flavors and just a touch of Sichuan spice. Our crispy Cajun wings with fermented tofu ranch sauce (\$58) were a little plain on their own, but the sauce's sour tofu kick lifted them to the next level.

**MISS** We were excited about the "siu yuk cubano" (\$45 for half, \$78 for full-size): It was delicious, but the Hong Kong twist was comparatively nonexistent. Call us spoiled...

**BOTTOM LINE** A good atmosphere, great beer and innovative Hong Kong takes on the classics: Tap's on to a winner.

**Open Tue-Thu noon-midnight; Fri-Sun noon-2am. Kitchen closes around 10pm. \$\$**

All of our reviews are independent and anonymous!

### Frites ★★★★☆

Belgian. 1/F, The Wellington, 198 Wellington St., Central, 2217-6671.



Belgian beer hall Frites is back in Central (sort of... its location at the far end of Wellington Street is right on the border of Sheung Wan), and it's just as big and bold as before. Stained glass and dark woods pave the way for the quintessential moules-frites-and-beer experience.

**HIT** The selection of beers is impressive. Choose from a range of draught and bottled

beers—there are big brands like Leffe as well as niche Trappist bottles and Monastic ales. And the mussels do not disappoint: we went with the Marinière (\$225 for 500g), which consisted of mid-sized bivalves lightly touched with a garlicky white wine sauce. The salmon tartare (\$145) was another hit, with chunks of fatty fish mixed with herbs and lightly cured in lemon juice.

**MISS** The poultry wasn't up to speed: we endured a dry and joyless chicken schnitzel (\$195) and a slightly tastier but similarly fated duck à l'orange (\$275). The relatively empty venue also gave the space a sad vibe. We weren't so crazy about the rather hefty prices, either.

**BOTTOM LINE** For the best experience at Frites, come with a big, boozy group and do it properly on a weekend.

**Open daily noon-11pm. \$\$\$**

#### Ratings

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

#### Price Guide

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

#### 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.

# WHAT'S ON

CULTURE + NIGHTLIFE + FILM

## A Life More Ordinary

Feeling overwhelmed by life? Check "Out of the Ordinary," a new exhibition of paintings by Chris Huen Sin-kan which continue his fascination with all things existential. The large, serene portraits aim to bring about the contemplation of "the marrow of things in themselves": slow, austere everyday life as seen from Huen's studio in Tai Kok Tsui.

Through Sep 5. **Gallery Exit, 3/F, 25 Hing Wo St., Tin Wan, 2541-1299.**





## HK PICKS



### When the Accordion Meets Cinema Music

This is one of those gigs where the name tells you everything you need to know. Local accordion band The Accordi人 (literally "the Accordi-people") performs an eclectic medley of movie tunes, spanning everything from Miyazaki's "Castle in the Sky" theme to "Pirates of the Caribbean" to songs from "The Sound of Music." In the band's own words, "When the accordion meets cinematic tunes, the effect is even more romantic than when Shaolin kung fu meets soccer." Can't argue with that. Jul 25, 8pm. Cultural Activities Hall, Sha Tin Town Hall, 1 Yuen Wo Rd., Sha Tin. \$100 from [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk).

## Classical



### The Oxford Gargoyles: Blame It On My Youth

The Oxford Gargoyles are returning for their second a cappella tour in Hong Kong. The dapper ladies and gents have been putting on a selection of concerts across town for the whole month, with a final appearance at HKU's Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre Grand Hall, which will raise funds for a charity water project based in Yunnan. Jul 17, 7pm. Grand Hall, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Center, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Rd. Reserve tickets at 2705-2155 or [imaffairs@ymca.org.hk](mailto:imaffairs@ymca.org.hk). [www.ymca.org.hk](http://www.ymca.org.hk).



### Teriver Cheung Group and Marques Young

The KL-based trombonist and composer Marques Young—currently the co-principal trombonist of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra—joins young Hong Kong guitarist Teriver Cheung and his posse for a night of jazz. Jul 17, 10:30pm. Backstage Live Restaurant, 1/F, Somptueux Central, 52-54 Wellington St., Central, 2167-8985. \$150 in advance from [www.playroll.hk](http://www.playroll.hk), \$180 at the door; both include one drink.



Photo: HK Sinfonietta Ltd.

### Ángel Padilla Harp Recital

See harp virtuoso Ángel Padilla Crespo—known best for his otherworldly trills—flutter his fingers in an evening bill of romantic Spanish and Mexican tunes. The concert is held at the Chiang Chen Studio Theatre (CCST) at PolyU. Jul 18, 8pm. Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Yuk Choi Rd., Hung Hom, 3400-2828. \$280-380 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com) or from Fringe Club.



Photo: Marco Borggreve

### Good Music at the Fringe with James Cuddeford

The HK Sinfonietta's Concertmaster James Cuddeford steps out of the concert hall for this chamber music series at the Fringe Club Dairy. This month's program is titled "East West Miniatures," and features a bill of tunes written by Claude Debussy, Korean 20th Century composer Isang Yun, Hong Kong's own Charles Kwong and Cuddeford himself. Jul 21, 7pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$150 from [hksl.org](http://hksl.org), includes one drink.

## Need to Know

### Theater & Arts

Urbitix (credit cards)	2111-5999	HK City Hall	2921-2840
Urbitix (enquiries)	2734-9009	HK Academy for Performing Arts	2584-8500
HK Ticketing	3128-8288	Kwai Tsing Theatre	2408-0128
HK Arts Centre	2582-0200	LCSD Music Programme Office	2268-7321
Fringe Club	2521-7251	LCSD Dance/Multi-Arts Office	2268-7323
HK Cultural Centre	2734-2009	LCSD Theatre Office	2268-7323

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# ARTS

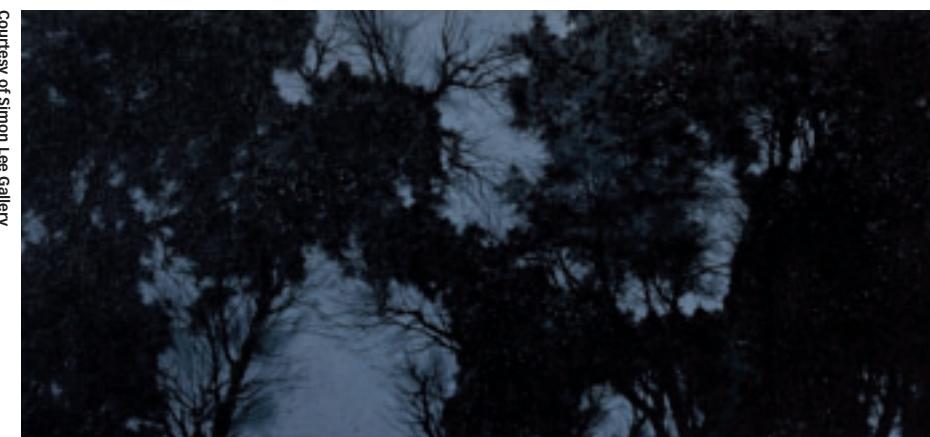
## Exhibitions



Courtesy of Simon Lee Gallery

### Claudio Parmiggiani

Italian artist Claudio Parmiggiani descends on Hong Kong this month for his first show in the city. As one of the mainstays of the Arte Povera movement of the 60s—which aimed to subvert the commercialization of art by using common materials to make conceptual or performance art—Parmiggiani will showcase his iconic “Delocazione” works. He builds installations with assorted objects and sets them on fire, leaving an imprint in soot on walls, paper and boards. Through Aug 29. Simon Lee Gallery, 304, 3/F, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder St., Central, 2801-6252.



### Pan Jian

The Xi'an born, Beijing-based artist Pan Jian showcases his works at 10 Chancery Lane this summer. Spending days to months taking reference photos of his home town and of the woods of Beijing, Pan develops his dark, shadowy paintings gradually, sometimes adding four or five layers of paint to his canvas to build true texture into his work. Jul 18-Aug 15. 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, G/F, 10 Chancery Lane, Central, 2810-0065.



### Masters of Myanmar:

#### New Works by Aung Myint and Min Wae Aung

Having always worked closely with Burmese artists, Karin Weber brings us brand new works by two notable artists in the local art scene. Aung Myint creates abstract, cubist works while exploring social themes, while Min Wae Aung is considered a “traditionalist” who paints contemporary portraits of Burmese monks and nuns. Through Aug 15. Karin Weber Gallery, G/F, 20 Aberdeen St., Central, 2544-5004.

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A photograph of a modern fitness studio's interior. The floor is covered with black rubber mats with red and white diagonal caution tape. The ceiling is white with exposed pipes and red pendant lights. In the background, there are white lockers and a small sign featuring a panda. The overall aesthetic is industrial and clean.

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T A T L E R

# NIGHTLIFE

Edited by Andrea Lo

andrea.lo@hkmagmedia.com

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## Open Bar Neo Cocktail Club



**The buzz:** Another day, another new cocktail bar in Sheung Wan. This time, it's Neo on the steps of Shin Hing Street in NoHo. The bar boasts painfully hip interiors and independently sourced liquors, with more than a dozen original creations on the cocktail menu to boot.

**The décor:** Neo ticks all the right boxes when it comes to targeting the hip, beautiful crowd that swarms the west end of Hollywood Road. Industrial chic takes center stage—it's all low ceilings and neon lighting. You'll find surprising touches at every corner you turn, like a vintage Playboy pinball machine from 1980s New York,

a retro foosball table and arcade games. There's also a tiny outdoor space to take a breather in when you're feeling overwhelmed by all the hipsters.

**The drinks:** The Neo Hive (\$120) is made with white rum, pineapple-infused Jamaican overproof rum, dry curacao, pomegranate, lime and orgeat syrups, plus citrus to give the sugary drink a zesty zing. Need something stronger? Try Mezcal's Crack (\$90), consisting of blanco tequila, mezcal, ginger, honey water and sesame-sprinkled caramel cracklings.

**Why you'll be back:** Get a group of friends together and order a round of bar bites to share. We're fans of the beef provencal (\$80) and Mr Croque (\$75)—made with jambon blanc, emmental cheese and bechamel sauce.

By Andrea Lo

10 Shin Hing St.,  
Sheung Wan,  
2812-2280.



**Deadmau5 in Macau**

DJ Deadmau5 seems to be as known for his off-stage shenanigans (and his enormous plastic mouse head) as his work on the decks. See the Canadian DJ spin his signature progressive-house at Club Cubic. It's free drinks all night for the ladies—sorry, boys. Jul 22, 11pm. Club Cubic, 2/F, Hard Rock Hotel, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau, (+853) 6638-4999. \$380 at the door.

## Concerts



**Linkin Park in Shenzhen**

Seminal rock band Linkin Park is playing for one night only... in Shenzhen! If you missed the band in Hong Kong back in 2011 and 2013—not long after they ceased to be relevant—this right here is your chance. Jul 19, 7:30pm. Shenzhen Bay Sports Center Stadium, 3001 Binhai Avenue, Nanshan, Shenzhen, China, (+86) 755-8630-8840. \$500-2,250 from www.cityline.com.

### Club Cubic Presents Official Mixmag Party

Dance music and clubbing culture magazine Mixmag teams up with Club Cubic to throw this party. Why should you go all the way to Macau for it? You'll have the chance to appear in the next Mixmag. Hope you're hot... Jul 18, 11pm. Club Cubic, 2/F, Hard Rock Hotel, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau, (+853) 6638-4999. \$250 at the door.



**Chris Brown**

Love him or loathe him, rapper/R&B singer Chris Brown is still touring. Earlier on in his career, his portfolio was filled with upbeat, benign hits like "Forever" and "Beautiful People"—but later he moved on to less, um, savory tunes like "Loyal" and "Bitches N Marijuana." If, for whatever reason, you happen to be a huge fan of Breezy's—he's also heading over to Macau to host a "Girls' Night Out" at Club Cubic. Jul 22, 10:30pm. Dragon-i, U/G, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, 3110-1222. \$800 at the door. Jul 24, 11pm. Club Cubic, 2/F, Hard Rock Hotel, City of Dreams, Macau, (+853) 6638-4999. \$480 in advance, email rsvp@cubic-cod.com; \$580 at the door.

### Galantis

Swedish EDM production and songwriting duo Galantis, aka Christian "Bloodshy" Karlsson and Linus "Style of Eye" Eklöw, make their Hong Kong debut at Zentral. Remember 2014's poppy, clubby hit "Runaway (U & I)"? That was them. The pair also recently dropped debut album "Pharmacy," packed with their signature electro-house bangers like current chart-topper, "Peanut Butter Jelly." Jul 23, 11pm. Zentral, 4-5/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2111-8110. \$350 at the door, including a drink.



**OK Go**

LA-based, YouTube-originated pop band OK Go is back on the scene with this concert at Musiczone. Go see them for the nostalgia, if nothing else. Remember when YouTube was a new thing? Nor do we. Jul 24, 8pm. Musiczone, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$450 from www.ticketflap.com.

## HK PICKS



### Soundbox Hong Kong—Music to be Heard

Soundbox is a series of concerts by Live Nation, bringing avant-garde artists to the SAR stage. At the kick-off, see Ohio electropop/indie hip-hop duo Twenty One Pilots; Japanese singer-songwriter and "Samurai Guitarist" Miyavi; plus local five-piece Killersoap (pictured), who combine catchy beats with moody ballads. Jul 21, 8pm. Rotunda 3, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$550 from www.cityline.com.

## Clubs

### Scndl

Melbourne EDM duo Scndl hits Zentral to destroy the dance floor. Not literally, hopefully. Dance floors are expensive. Jul 17, 10pm. Zentral, 4-5/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2111-8110. \$350 at the door, including a drink.

### Play's Non-Stop Weekend

Play's Non-Stop Weekend is perfect for friendship groups where no one likes the same music. In the main room, dance to DJ Jekey (house), Gie (EDM) and Bennie Blanco (hip-hop). In the Rosé Room, DJ Seth (hip-hop), Ros (hip-hop and electronic) and Manlogik (reggaeton and dancehall) are on the decks. Jul 18, 10:30pm. Play, 1/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, 2525-1318. \$200 for ladies and \$300 for gents at the door.

### Dimensions Festival Hong Kong Launch Party

Can't make it out to Croatia's electronic music festival Dimensions? It's coming to Hong Kong with a launch party at Social Room. The lineup includes Jay Pelmet, aka Clockenflapper Jay Forster (pictured); old-school DJ Frankie Lam and local mainstay Ocean Lam. Jul 18, 10:30pm. Social Room, 3/F, Won Hing Building, 74-78 Stanley St., Central. \$150 at the door, including a drink.



### Galantis

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## HK PICKS



### Musician Area 6th Anniversary

Indie music venue Musician Area is celebrating its 6th birthday with a little help from their friends. See rapper Heyolitic; post-hardcore five-piece Prayforme; emo and power-poppers Say You Care; rap/metal group SexyHammer; alt-rock and nu-metal foursome Jatbusing; and newcomers Carrier, who wish to spread their music "like a virus." Jul 25, 7:30pm. Musician Area, Room C, 8/F, Morlite Building, 40 Hung To Rd., Kwun Tong. \$150 at the door.



### Muse

Brit-rockers Muse have been around since 1994, making them one of the most successful, most consistent rock bands in the world. Bellamy and co. always rock their live shows, so this gig will be one to watch. Sep 29, 8pm. AsiaWorld-Arena, Sky Plaza Rd., Chek Lap Kok. \$780 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com).

## Gigs

### Mosaic

Mainland synth-pop four-piece Mosaic (not to be confused with the US indie band of the same name) was formed seven years ago in Chengdu. They're bringing their poppy, flamboyant upbeat sound to Hidden Agenda. Jul 20, 8:30pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$200 at the door.

### Happy Mondays

UK alt-rock band Happy Mondays defined the "Madchester" scene of the 80s in the UK. Despite disbanding multiple times over the years, they've been able to pull through and come together for this gig. Catch them at KITEC. Jul 28, 8pm. Rotunda 3, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$545-650 from [www.wegottickets.com](http://www.wegottickets.com).

### The Used

US rock band The Used comes to town for one night only at KITEC. Fun fact: frontman Bert McCracken was featured on reality show "The Osbournes" when he was dating Kelly Osbourne. Kinda metal drama! Aug 10, 8pm. Musiczone, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$450-550 from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com); \$650 at the door.

## Junks & Parties



### Bump On the Ocean

If you missed Bump's pool party last month, here's something even better—the nightlife promoter is putting on a junk party. Taking place on the Tarzan and Jungle Jane—two supersized party-friendly junks—the party boasts a 3-meter-long inflatable water slide, plus free-flow drinks. BYO food. Jul 18, 10am. Central Pier 9. \$650 for the first 50 tickets; \$700 thereafter, from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com).

### Food Panda 1st Anniversary Party

Online food delivery company Food Panda is throwing a party to celebrate its first birthday, but this isn't just your regular cocktail hour shindig. It'll be a Beatship party—a recently launched party concept aboard the Star Cruise's Superstar Virgo. Get on the cruise at night, first-pump to DJ beats, splash around in the pool, then stumble back to your room and pass out. Too stingy to pay for accommodation? You can get a standing ticket—but it's gonna be a long night. Tickets include dinner, late-night snacks and breakfast. Jul 18-19, check in from 6-8pm. Ocean Terminal, Harbour City, 3-37 Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$380-2,000 from [www.beatshiphk.com](http://www.beatshiphk.com).

### Splash

Couldn't make it to Splash earlier this month? Fear not. The infamous pool party at Macau's Hard Rock Hotel is hosting a second run in August. Expect vodka shots and people in states of undress. Don't want to catch the ferry home like some kind of zombie gambler? Book a hotel room quick. Aug 22, 3:30pm. Hard Rock Hotel, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau, (+853) 8868-3338. \$480 from [cityofdreamsmacau.com](http://cityofdreamsmacau.com).

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娛樂及文化事務處 Leisure and Cultural Services Department



## The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet ★★★★

**(USA) Adventure. Directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Starring Kyle Catlett, Helena Bonham Carter, Judy Davis, Callum Keith Rennie, Niamh Wilson, Jakob Davies. Category IIA. 105 minutes. Opened Jul 9.**

Sometimes, the best adventures can be the quietest ones. "The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet" takes us through the rocky ranges of Montana, the diesel-tinged highways that worm through cowboy America, and deep into the concrete jungle, all through the reticent introspection of an unassuming 10-year-old boy.

Based on Reif Larsen's 2009 novel "The Selected Works of T.S. Spivet," our story's hero Tecumseh Sparrow Spivet is a boy genius, an inventor and cartographer who understands the world through his diagrams and maps of the world. When he invents a perpetual motion machine, T.S. receives a call from the Smithsonian informing him that he has won a prestigious award. What else would a boy who takes his work as seriously as T.S. do, but make his way across the country to accept the prize?

The film is organized almost episodically, with stories sparked by T.S.'s observations, calculations or measurements: everything from the topography of a Montana valley to the rate at which his father knocks back whisky in the evening. As he leaves his Montana ranch home in the night and hops onto an eastbound freight train, we learn more about T.S.'s worldview, his family dynamics, and eventually a much darker family secret. But these moments also do more than that: They poignantly reveal the insecurities of a child who speaks and acts maturely, but still has the emotional naiveté of his actual age.

As you'd expect of director Jean-Pierre Jeunet ("Amélie," "The City of Lost Children"), the world of the film is magical. Some might find the warm coloring and almost dreamlike scenery to verge on a syrupy kind of superficial, but of course it has to be: The exposition of the film and its characters are gloriously fictional, from the beautiful orange-tinged ranch to the sheer simplicity of a life surrounded by nature. The film's strong performances are a remarkable portrayal of grownups in a world seen through a child's eyes. And who better to play an offbeat entomologist mother than Helena Bonham Carter? As T.S. Spivet himself, Kyle Catlett (you'll see him in this year's "Poltergeist") is practically a dead ringer for Macaulay Culkin in his "Home Alone" days, with his world-smart demeanor but childish fragility.

It's a great performance from Catlett, and the character is well-drawn thanks to Jeunet and his longtime collaborator Guillaume Laurant, who worked together with the original author to produce an intensely quotable script. At times, lines bring out an unexpected tear or two, while at others they're delightful little windows into a child's mind.

When T.S. Spivet finally goes up to accept his award and is asked to give a speech, he stands tall on a crate with his hair slicked back, wearing a kid's tux. Feigning adulthood he reveals his family secret to a room full of academics. It's an abrupt and incomplete confession—a little vague and anticlimactic, but that's the point. All at once we remember he's only 10 years old. There are still many adventures ahead. **Evelyn Lok**

## Coming Soon



### Inside Out

**(USA)** Another summer, another Pixar cartoon to tug at your heartstrings. The heroes of "Inside Out" are none other than the emotions of Riley, an 11-year-old girl from the Midwest. As she and her parents move to San Francisco, Joy (Amy Poehler), Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust have to work out how to help Riley adjust to her new home. Buckle in: It's definitely going to give you ALL THE FEELS. Opens Jul 23.



### Insidious: Chapter 3

**(USA)** Ah, the curse of the third movie. Gone are Rose Byrne and Patrick Wilson playing the couple trying to save their possessed, comatose son. The third chapter is written and directed by first-time director Leigh Whannell and focuses on the predicament of a teenager grieving for her late mother. Spookiness awaits... Opens Jul 23.



### Love is Strange

**(USA)** This isn't your average love story: John Lithgow and Alfred Molina play an older couple who have just gotten married after spending 40 years together. But when one of them loses his job, they're forced to sell their apartment and temporarily live apart. As George (Molina) moves in with neighbors, Ben (Lithgow) shares a bunk bed with his nephew in Brooklyn. With audiences singing high praises for the lead performances, this is not one to miss. Opens Jul 23.



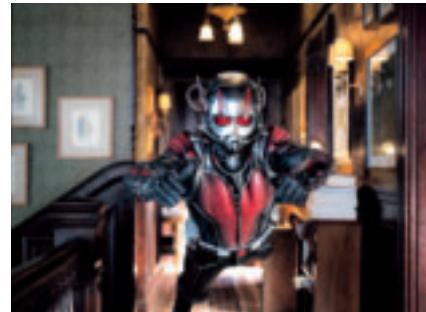
### Magic Mike XXL

**(USA)** Ladies (and gents), hang on to your shorts, because it's time yet again for shirtless, abtastic gyrating from the likes of Channing Tatum, Joe Manganiello and Matt Bomer, with Donald Glover joining the ranks of the strip crew. There's a plot here somewhere, something about Magic Mike (Tatum) rounding up the gang for one last legendary performance on Myrtle Beach. But who needs plot when you've got all those shiny abs? Opens Jul 23.

### Paris Holiday

**(Hong Kong)** A Louis Koo summer rom-com! A freshly jilted Lee Chun-kit (Koo) runs away to Paris to start a new life. In his new apartment, he meets his new roommate, a manic pixie dream girl budding artist (Amber Kuo) who has also recently had her heart broken. Sparks inevitably fly, but is it really the best idea to pine after your roommate? Opens Jul 23.

## Opening



### Ant-Man

**(USA)** Inverting the "bigger is better" mantra this summer is perhaps Marvel's weirdest superhero yet. Paul Rudd is Ant-Man, an ex-con who dons a suit that shrinks him down to the size of an ant, but increases his strength in equal measure. Working with his mentor, he's tasked with pulling off a teeny-tiny heist that might just save the world... Opened Jul 16.

### Monster Hunt

**(Hong Kong/China)** Affectionately dubbed the "Father of 'Shrek,'" animator Raman Hui has a new project out. "Monster Hunt" combines the star-studded likes of Jing Boran, Tang Wei and Sandra Ng with an array of animated monsters. Based on traditional supernatural stories from "Strange Tales from Liaozi," the film is Hui's first live action feature. Opened Jul 16.

## Continuing

### Court

**(India)** An aging folk singer is arrested for allegedly singing words so inflammatory that that they induce a sewage treatment worker to commit suicide. The trial unfolds and the story soon turns into a ruthless examination of the Indian judicial system.

### Danny Collins

**(USA)** Sorta based on true events. Al Pacino is the aging Danny Collins, a world-weary rock star who is inspired to change his life for the better after he receives a lost letter penned to him by the late John Lennon. A simple—even borderline cliché—tale, lifted by charismatic performances all around. **★★★**

### Entourage

**(USA)** Picking up where the show left off in 2011, Hollywood's favorite bad boy Vincent Chase is back with manager/best friend E, former gofer-turned-tequila-entrepreneur Turtle, half-brother and failed actor Johnny Drama, and of course agent-from-hell Ari Gold. Making a comeback as the head of a studio, Ari calls Vinnie and the crew to star in their first feature film. Expect lots of name-dropping, celebrity cameos... and boobs.

**★★**



### Far From the Madding Crowd

**(UK/USA)** One of Thomas Hardy's classics comes to life on screen once again, this time with Carey Mulligan ("An Education") as the independent Bathsheba Everdene. In the timeless tale, Bathsheba attracts three suitors and must choose between them—while also inheriting her uncle's farm and showing the male workers who's boss. An admirable performance from Mulligan seals the deal for a solid movie. **★★**

### Infinitely Polar Bear

**(USA)** Screened at the Sundance Film Festival in Hong Kong last year, this is a whimsical drama that sees Mark Ruffalo as a father coping with manic depression and recovering from a recent breakdown. Hoping to make a better life for their two precocious daughters, his wife (Zoe Saldana) takes on an MBA at Columbia, leaving Ruffalo to take care of the kids—and himself. Equal parts whimsy and heart-tugging drama, anchored by the wonderful Ruffalo. **★★★**



### It Follows

**(USA)** The sophomore work of David Robert Mitchell ("The Myth of the American Sleepover") was called the best original horror film of 2014. After a young woman sleeps with her boyfriend for the first time, she finds herself up against an evil spirit. A horror film disguised as a pro-abstinence scare tactic? Or the best horror flick of the year? Watch it and see.

### Jurassic World

**(USA)** It's been 22 years since the infamous dino-park opened and it's back again in a long-awaited fourth installment. Pushed to boost visitor attendance, the park concocts a hybrid creature, the Indominus Rex—a blend of all your worst reptilian nightmares. A fun, flashy revamp, but it can't possibly match up to the original. **★★**

## Need to Know

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**The Metroplex, 2620-2200**  
www.metroplex.com.hk

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

### The Last Five Years

(USA) Hot off the release of "Pitch Perfect 2," Anna Kendrick stars in this big screen adaptation of the 2001 Broadway musical of the same name. It's about the marriage between Cathy, a struggling actress, and Jamie, an up-and-coming writer. Their individual perspectives are told through song in opposite chronological order, only intersecting at the wedding. It's gotta be good if Kendrick is singing.



### Minions

(USA) The pesky yellow creatures from 2010's "Despicable Me" finally get their own spin-off movie. This time, the plot takes us way back before the minions were serving supervillain Gru. Having worked from the beginning of time for unsuccessful baddies such as T. Rex and Napoleon, they now seek out the latest evil boss to worship lest they fall into deep depression. The search leads them to Scarlet Overkill, the world's first ever super-villainess.

### Over Your Dead Body

(Japan) Prolific Japanese director Takashi Miike lends his hand to this horror thriller. A theater troupe is about to put on the classic horror play "Yotsuya Kaidan," a story of deadly revenge, ghosts, and murder. But the story begins to take its toll on the cast, who also struggle with grudges and lust off-stage. Juicy.

### Pitch Perfect 2

(USA) Get ready pitches, the Barden Bellas are back. After winning three championships since the last time we saw them, the all-girl a cappella group is en route to their next victory, but not before a major embarrassment leaves the future of the team in question. In a quest for glory, the Bellas take on the worldwide a cappella championships. Funny, tuneful and self-aware, it's a pitch perfect sequel indeed. ★★★★

### Poltergeist

(USA) A retelling of the 1982 classic, this time round the spooky tale appears (of course) in brand spankin' new 3D. Eric Bowen (Sam Rockwell), his wife Amy (Rosemarie DeWitt) and their three kids move into a new suburban home in Illinois. But when youngest daughter Maddy begins talking to an imaginary friend—and one day goes missing—the parents consult a team of parapsychologists to save her before it's too late. Kids with imaginary friends: usually a bad sign.

### San Andreas

(USA) Dwayne Johnson plays a search-and-rescue helicopter pilot who must save his daughter in the midst of a devastating earthquake along the San Andreas Fault. Expect all the disaster flick clichés, cheesy acting and awesome CGI tearing the West Coast apart. ★★

### Ted 2

(USA) Seth MacFarlane's trash-talking, bong-smoking, F-bomb-dropping cuddly stuffed animal returns in this sequel, this time faced with very human and serious dilemmas. With his best friend John (Mark Wahlberg) by his side, Ted is looking to prove his "personhood" in court so that he and his girlfriend can adopt a baby. Couldn't they just go buy a tiny teddy bear or something?

### Terminator: Genisys

(USA) Arnie returns as the Terminator in the fifth movie of the series—in all steel ab CGI glory. In this rebooted timeline, the future of the past is once again in question. Resistance leader John Connor (Jason Clarke) sends Kyle Reese (Jai Courtney) back in time to protect his mother, Sarah Connor (Emilia Clarke, "mother of dragons" herself)—who this time around is a skilled fighter with a Terminator on her team. The movie franchise may be old, but the story and magnetic performances make it far from obsolete. ★★★★

### While We're Young

(USA) After "Francis Ha," Noah Baumbach brings us yet another sobering slice-of-life tale, this time focusing on the woes of the middle-aged. Ben Stiller and Naomi Watts are Josh and Cornelia, a married couple in their 40s who are stuck in a rut. Meeting the young hipster couple Jamie (Adam Driver) and Darby (Amanda Seyfried), they soon find themselves craving a free-spirited youth they never had. But will the friendship last?

### The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet

(USA) See review, opposite.

## Special Screenings

### CineFan: Orson Welles, The Magnificent Magician

Check out a retrospective program devoted to legendary film, theater and radio wizard Orson Welles, with all his greatest classics on show. Sadly, you just missed "Citizen Kane"—Welles' cinematic debut and the movie perennially considered to be one the best films of all time—earlier this month. However, you can still catch "The Trial" (Jul 19, 5pm), Welles' take on the Kafka novel that divided critics. Through Jul 19. Agnès b. Cinema, Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai, 2582-0200. www.cinefan.com.hk. \$65.

### BC Sundays:

#### Steven Soderbergh Special

Catch awesome flicks by the prolific and versatile filmmaker Steven Soderbergh ("Ocean's Eleven") every Sunday this month. This week, gear up for "Magic Mike"—just in time for the sequel, which opens on the 23rd. July wraps up with "Haywire," an action flick starring Gina Carano about a female black-ops soldier who's betrayed and left for dead during a mission. Jul 19, 26, showings are around noon. Broadway Cinematheque, Prosperous Garden, 3 Public Square St., Yau Ma Tei. www.cinefan.com.hk. \$65.

## Film Festival

### CineFan SIFF 2015

Cinephiles, get your cash ready: the annual Summer International Film Festival returns this August. Featured films include Hou Hsiao-hsien's latest offering, "The Assassin," which won him the best director at Cannes this year. Starring Shu Qi, it's an arty first foray into the martial arts genre for the director. Stay tuned as well for a filmmaking masterclass from Malaysian director Tsai Ming-liang (1992's "Rebels of the Neon God") on Aug 8-9. Tickets available from Jul 21 onwards. Aug 11-25. Various screening locations. www.cinefan.com.hk.

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## Win tickets to the HKTDC Hong Kong Book Fair!

The 26th edition of the Hong Kong Book Fair takes place from July 15-21, featuring a host of celebrated English-language authors including Booker Prize-winner Ben Okri, Swiss philosopher Alain de Botton and biographer Carol Thatcher. There's always a queue round the block for tickets, but thanks to the Hong Kong Trade Development Council we've got 10 tickets to give away to our lucky readers.



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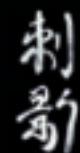
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### THE SHADOWS OF MY NEEDLE

In this current photographic exhibition "The Shadows of My Needle", tattoo artist Sze-C has taken photos after giving ink. She continues to explore the other side of the human soul, known as the "shadow". The "shadow" and "truth" become double-edged swords. Through exposing the shadow, we reveal our true identities beyond the roles we play in life, like an actor playing a part but recognizing this is just a "role".

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# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

## ROB BREZSNY



**CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22):** "A poet must not cross an interval with a step when he can cross it with a leap." That's an English translation of an aphorism written by French author Joseph Joubert. Another way to say it might be, "A smart person isn't drab and plodding as she bridges a gap, but does it with high style and brisk delight." A further alternative: "An imaginative soul isn't predictable as she travels over and around obstacles, but calls on creative magic to fuel her ingenious liberations." Please use these ideas during your adventures in the coming weeks, Cancerian.

**LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22):** July is barely half over, but your recent scrapes with cosmic law have already earned you the title of "The Most Lyrically Tormented Struggler of the Month." Another few days of this productive mayhem and you may be eligible for inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records. I could see you being selected as "The Soul Wrangler with the Craziest Wisdom" or "The Mythic Hero with the Most Gorgeous Psychospiritual Wounds." But it's my duty to let you know that you could also just walk away from it all. Even if you're tempted to stick around and see how much more of the entertaining chaos you can overcome, it might be better not to. In my opinion, you have done enough impossible work for now.

**VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22):** "People who have their feet planted too firmly on the ground have difficulty getting their pants off," said author Richard Kehl. That's good advice for you in the coming weeks. To attract the help and resources you need, you can't afford to be overly prim or proper. You should, in fact, be willing to put yourself in situations where it would be easy and natural to remove your pants, throw off your inhibitions, and dare to be surprising. If you're addicted to business-as-usual, you may miss opportunities to engage in therapeutic play and healing pleasure.

**LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22):** "A failure is a person who has blundered but is not able to cash in on the experience," wrote American author Elbert Hubbard. In light of this formulation, I'm pleased to announce that you are likely to achieve at least one resounding success in the coming weeks. At this juncture in your destiny, you know exactly how to convert a past mistake into a future triumph. A gaffe that once upon a time brought you anguish or woe will soon deliver its fully ripened teaching, enabling you to claim a powerful joy or joyful power.

**SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21):** The poet Mary Ruefle describes reading books as "a great extension of time, a way for one person to live a thousand and one lives in a single lifespan." Are there other ways to do that? Watching films and plays and TV shows, of course. You can also listen to and empathize with people as they tell you their adventures. Or you can simply use your imagination to visualize what life is like for others. However you pursue this expansive pleasure, Scorpio, I highly recommend it. You are

set up to absorb the equivalent of many years' experience in a few short weeks.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21):** Sagittarian rapper Nicki Minaj is not timid about going after what she wants. She told Cosmopolitan magazine that she's "high-maintenance in bed." Every time she's involved in a sexual encounter, she demands to have an orgasm. In accordance with the current astrological omens, Sagittarius, I invite you to follow her lead—not just during your erotic adventures, but everywhere else, too. Ask for what you want, preferably with enough adroitness to actually obtain what you want. Here's another critical element to keep in mind: To get exactly what you want, you must know exactly what you want.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19):** A college basketball player named Mark Snow told reporters that "Strength is my biggest weakness." Was he trying to be funny? No. Was he a bit dim-witted? Perhaps. But I'm not really interested in what he meant by his statement. Rather, I want to hijack it for my own purpose, which is to recommend it as a meditation for you in the coming weeks. Can you think of any ways that your strength might at least temporarily be a weakness? I can. I suspect that if you rely too much on the power you already possess and the skills you have previously mastered, you may miss important clues about what you need to learn next. The most valuable lessons of the coming weeks could come to you as you're practicing the virtues of humility and innocence and receptivity.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18):** What's hard but important for you to do? What are the challenging tasks you know you should undertake because they would improve your life? The coming days will be a favorable time to make headway on these labors. You will have more power than usual to move what has been nearly impossible to move. You may be surprised by your ability to change situations that have resisted and outfoxed you in the past. I'm not saying that any of this will be smooth and easy. But I bet you will be able to summon unprecedented amounts of willpower and perseverance.

**PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20):** Australian actress Rebel Wilson has appeared in several successful movies, including "Bridesmaids," "Bachelorette,"

and "Pitch Perfect." But she didn't start out to be a film star. Mathematics was her main interest. Then, while serving as a youth ambassador in South Africa at age 18, she contracted malaria. At the height of her sickness, she had hallucinatory visions that she would one day be "a really good actress who also won an Oscar." The visions were so vivid that she decided to shift her career path. I foresee the possibility that you will soon experience a version of her epiphany. During a phase when you're feeling less than spectacular, you may get a glimpse of an intriguing future possibility.

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19):** "Stop Making Sense" was originally the name of the film and music soundtrack produced by the Talking Heads in the 1980s, and now it is the central theme of your horoscope. I think your brain would benefit from a thorough washing. That's why I invite you to scour it clean of all the dust and cobwebs and muck that have accumulated there since its last scrub a few months back. One of the best ways to launch this healing purge is, of course, to flood all the neural pathways with a firehose-surge of absurdity, jokes, and silliness. As the wise physician of the soul, Dr. Seuss, said, "I like nonsense. It wakes up the brain cells."

**TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20):** When you read a book that has footnotes, you tend to regard the footnotes as being of secondary importance. Although they may add color to the text's main messages, you can probably skip them without losing much of the meaning. But I don't recommend this approach in the coming days. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, footnotes will carry crucial information that's important for you to know. I mean this in a metaphorical sense as you live your life as well as in the literal act of reading books. Pay close attention to the afterthoughts, the digressions, and the asides.

**GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20):** The English word "quiddity" has two contrary definitions. It can refer to a trivial quibble. Or it can mean the essential nature of a thing—the quality that makes it unique. I suspect that in the coming weeks you will get numerous invitations to engage with quiddities of both types. Your first task will be to cultivate an acute ability to know which is which. Your second task: Be relentless in avoiding the trivial quibbles as you home in on the essential nature of things.

**HOMEWORK:** What's the name of the book you may write some day — perhaps your memoir? Testify at [FreeWillAstrology.com](http://FreeWillAstrology.com).

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# PROPERTY

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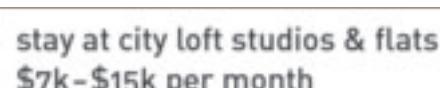
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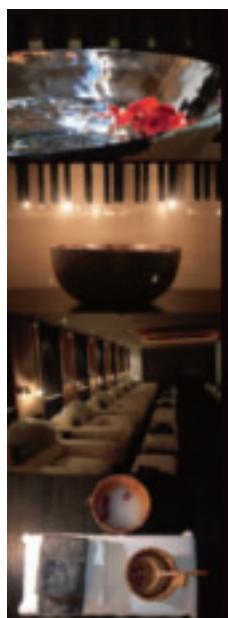
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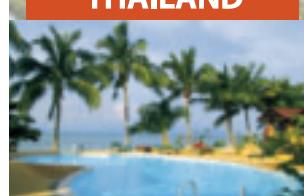
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## SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I have been happily married for 12 years. I'm deeply in love with my wife—she's amazing, very sexy and gorgeous. I used to be jealous, but about six years ago, I lost my feelings of jealousy. In their place, I developed a strong desire to share my wife with other men. It's my only fantasy. She knows about this, but she says it's wrong. I never asked her to actually do it. Am I wrong for feeling this way?

—A Shamed Husband, A Marital Erotic Deadlock

Objectively speaking, ASHAMED, there's nothing wrong with your fantasy—hell, there would be a fuck of a lot right with your fantasy if your wife were turned on by it. So when your wife says, "It's wrong," try and hear what she should be saying: "It's wrong for me."

And if you're the optimistic type, ASHAMED, you can opt to hear, "It's wrong for me at the moment." There are lots of women out there happily cuckolding their husbands—or happily playing the role of hotwife—who rejected the idea when their husbands first shared their fantasies. Don't allow yourself to be shamed—"It's not wrong, honey, but I understand it's wrong for us"—and don't pressure your wife to do it, and she may surprise you one day.

My boyfriend and I have been together for two years. I moved in a year ago, and we have been happy living together since. During the past year, I've come across a lot of his ex's old belongings—letters and pictures. It's not like I snoop. He's kind of a hoarder, and I frequently find this stuff tucked in books or drawers. It's starting to frustrate me. I long ago threw away most of my ex's things, and the stuff I did keep is stored in a box that's out of sight and mind. I don't necessarily want him to throw all this stuff away, but I want to feel comfortable in our shared environment. I also want to be able to think about our life together and not his past. How do I communicate this?

—Ex's Various Items Disturb Entirely New Couple's Environ

I'm like your boyfriend—not a hoarder, but definitely a tucker. I tuck letters and photos and other keepsakes into books, stuff them in the backs of drawers, set them on shelves or beside the rest of the tchotchkes. I do this because, 1) I'm not organized/depressed enough to scrapbook, and 2) I like running across old photos or letters when I'm looking for something else.

Perhaps your boyfriend feels the same way—or maybe your boyfriend is a hoarder and a slob. Either way, EVIDENCE, my advice is the same: Own up to your insecurities—tell him that there's nothing about his past that should prevent you from enjoying your present—and then ask him to make a reasonable accommodation. Tell him you would like to place his ex's pictures and letters, as you run across them, into a box that's clearly labeled and easily accessed, but out of sight and mind.

If he says yes, EVIDENCE, take that yes for an answer. That means putting whatever you find away, refraining from griping at your boyfriend about the stuff he chooses to hold on to, and reassuring yourself that a day will soon come when your shared environment is completely ex-proofed.

With my past four serious girlfriends/sexual partners, I noticed that my sweat began to smell more like theirs after we had been sleeping together for a while. Is that a real thing or is it all in my head?

—Sweat Turning Into New Kink

I haven't heard of this, STINK, and it might be all in your head—but my hunch is that it's all in your

diet. The things you ingest impact the scent of all of your bodily fluids, some more noticeably than others, and the longer you're with a particular woman, the likelier you are to be sharing the same meals, the same wines, the same beers, juices, recreational drugs, etc., and this is probably what's causing your sweat to smell more like theirs the longer you're together.

Mom came for a week and snooped. She found our bondage stuff, just a set of cuffs and a blindfold, and completely lost her mind. What do we say to her?

—My Outraged Mom's Madly Yelling

"It's a hotel for you next time."

I am a wife and a cuckold. I'm turned on when my husband sleeps with other women. I have wanted to pursue these fantasies pretty much for as long as I have been in serious relationships. My husband and I have been married for four years, and we worked hard to get to where we are today, learning how to communicate and setting rules. Lately, though, I feel like my feelings are changing. While we do all our communicating with other women in group-chat settings, my husband has more free time than I do. Some days I wake up to literally hundreds of message exchanges, and I can't keep up or get a word in. Making it worse: I oftentimes have to talk to him about mundane things, like bills and what we are having for dinner, while his conversations with other women revolve around hot sexts. We have better sex than ever, and I come harder, faster, and more often after he has been with another woman. But I am not sure how to reconcile these feelings of jealousy and inadequacy. I worry that he's thinking, "What am I doing with her when I could be by myself and get all the pussy I want?" I do not want to quit seeing other women (see the bit about hot, hot sex), but I do not know how to balance my fears and jealousy.

—Trouble In My Intense Desires

Always nice to hear from the exception that proves the rule—typically, husbands get straight couples into cuckolding—but you're not a cuckold, TIMID. Cuckolds are men. Women who are turned on when their husbands cheat on them are *cuckqueans*. (Credit to Annie W., a former coworker who introduced me to that term.)

Okay, TIMID, let's make a list of everything your husband would lose if he dumped you: love, stability, history, family, intimacy, hot sex, and someone to co-tackle the day-to-day crap (cleaning, bills, dinner) that he would otherwise have to tackle all by himself. He would also lose a wife who's happy to let her husband fuck other women—lots of other women—and those wives are few and far between. I'm not saying you're wrong to feel insecure, just that you have more leverage—and more value—than you seem to realize.

Inform your husband that these feelings of jealousy and inadequacy—which are fueled by his thoughtlessness and inconsideration—are putting your arrangement and maybe even your marriage at risk. Your cuckquean marriage, which he ought to regard as a paradise, is only gonna work so long as you feel included (in the fun) and secure (in his commitment). Tell him he has to cut way, way back on the sexting, which has gotten way the fuck out of hand, and that he has to make an effort to include you more, or he risks getting cast out of paradise.

On the *Lovecast*, Dan talks with special guest Tristan Taormino: [savagecast.com](http://savagecast.com).

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# FIRST PERSON



"Humans can never change fate. It's like everything was written in a script."

Photo: Kirk Kenny / studiozag.com. Hair: Neville / Triple 8 Salon. Venue: Showcase by Bread n Butter

Author **Zita Law** is a prolific writer best known for her New Age romance novels, penned under the name "Deep Snow." She has written more than 100 books, including "The Pawnshop No. 8," which was adapted into a TV drama. She tells Isabelle Hon about her ideal partner, why she thinks men should pay for dates—and changing fate.

**I grew up** in a happy family. I was good academically—I majored in history but my goal was always to become a writer.

**I started as** a contributing writer in my first year of university. I wrote 5,000 to 10,000 words a week for newspapers like the Oriental Daily.

**Later I had** my own column in Fresh Weekly. They paid me \$800 for each short story. That was around \$3,200 each month, which was quite good at the time.

**When I was 21,** I became a reporter for Yes! magazine. My main job was to write ghost stories, and also to find pretty and talented models for photoshoots.

**After this,** I worked in PR for four years. I carried on writing my short story columns in Ming Pao, Amoeba magazine and Sisters magazine.

**I quit my job** at 28 to focus on writing novels. As of now I have published more than 100 books.

**Most stories I write** are gothic, New Age romance. It's pretty dark. Readers call me the "magical novel queen."

**"The Pawnshop No. 8"** is probably my best-selling book. It's sold a few hundred

thousand copies, and a new edition is coming out this month. It's been translated too. It's really interesting when you travel and see your book in Korean!

**I have lived alone** for 15 years. I enjoy the quiet. And I love working in my home studio: I call it my "Cat Loft." I try to work normal office hours. It's much more efficient.

**I wake up** at 8am and start my day, and take a break at 5 or 6pm. After that I go shopping, to the movies or dine out with friends.

**Many writers love** to work from coffee shops, but I'm used to working at home. You can save the time you'd spend on makeup, dressing up and commuting.

**I am a typical Leo.** I am strong and tough but never domineering.

**At work I am** very tough, but in love I'm super tender.

**The most unforgettable love** of my life was a French boyfriend. It was long-distance. We met up two or three times a year and we cherished each time.

**We were so in love,** we even thought of getting married. But I've got everything here: a career, family and friends.

**Nowadays I prefer men** in their 30s who are younger than me: not too childish nor too old, and with financial security—so we can enjoy life together.

**And of course,** he needs to be good-looking!

**He should take** me to good restaurants. Don't get me wrong, we can also go to chaan tengs sometimes.

**Living in Hong Kong** is expensive, yet men are always expected to pay for women. I think the golden ratio should be the man paying two-thirds and the woman paying the rest.

**As a gentleman,** a man should pay for a woman. I expect the man to pay for dinner and movies, and in return sometimes I would buy them little gifts.

**I hope any boyfriend** would understand that I'm not going to have a baby.

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

**I'm very feminine,** but my taste is a bit hardcore. My favorite movies are "The Human Centipede" and "Natural Born Killers." Horror is exciting.

**I wish** I could go to Romania and see the castles that dukes once lived in.

**I believe that** humans can never change fate. It's like everything was written in a script. You think you are making decisions—but that is also included in the script.

**You can't control** your fate, but you can control your emotions. No matter how you feel, your fate won't change. But being happy or being sad—that's all up to you.

## NEED TO KNOW...

Zita Law is the author of books such as "The Emancipator" and "Kama Sutra." Her best-seller "The Pawnshop No. 8" was made into a 166-episode drama, which you can watch online at tiny.cc/hk-pawnshop8. Law is launching three books at the Hong Kong Book Fair: "Sinister Love II," "Swallow Your Own Tears" and a new edition of "The Pawnshop No. 8."

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