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The Bookish Five

Bookseller Lee Bo has become the fifth person associated with Causeway Bay Bookstore and its publishing house, Mighty Current, to disappear from Hong Kong in mysterious circumstances. Confusion has been rife, as have conspiracy theories—and the plot twists keep on coming.

But we're here to set your fears at rest. You can put your panic buttons away, folks. Pay attention, if you please:

- The booksellers have not been abducted by mainland forces working without the knowledge of the Hong Kong government, in conditions so suspicious that even Chief Executive CY Leung, not a man known for his dissident views, has had to say something like, "Hang on a moment, guys. This doesn't feel right."
- Nor is it relevant that bookseller Lee Bo went to China without using his home return permit, raising questions regarding how exactly he left Hong Kong when the Immigration Department has no record of it.
- Nor are the handwritten letters sent home by Lee Bo in any way suspicious or really, really weird. Or the fact that his wife has withdrawn her request to the police for help.
- Nor does it matter that the books they were selling were known to be critical of the Chinese Communist Party, with one in particular containing damaging allegations concerning Xi Jinping's potential extracurricular... activities.

No, none of this is pertinent. Why have these booksellers really gone missing?

Isn't it obvious? Wake up, sheeple!

It's all too plain what's going on. There's only one explanation.

Lee Bo and the other four booksellers have clearly obtained a book which, once touched, gave them **powerful but wildly dangerous supernatural abilities**. Unable to harness their newly awoken talents and terrified of hurting those closest to them, these five bookish individuals have decided that the only wise course of action is to skip town and learn to control their newfound skills at the hands of a wise Shaolin monk.

What else could possibly explain the disappearance of five people who published and sold books critical of Beijing? What else but the rapid onset of metahuman powers would cause these five opponents of the CCP to suddenly go missing, to the bewilderment of family, police and politicians alike?

What, save a suite of suddenly acquired superpowers, could possibly lead to the sudden absence of five people? Sure, they're five people who sold a book sullying the spotless record of the Chinese president, but that's hardly relevant.

Mark our words: They'll be back. And when they're back, they'll be superheroes.

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HOME



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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

What should my new year's resolutions be? - New Year Eve

Here are some new year's resolutions for all my readers:

- Always work to know more. Hong Kong is a wonderful and intriguing place. There's a secret hidden around every corner, a piece of history or culture stuffed into every cranny. Don't just pass over it.
- Look up. Much of the beauty of Hong Kong is hidden in plain sight above our heads. Whether it's the curved walls of old tong lau tenements, peeling shop signs or forests of TV antennae, the city comes alive above ground level.
- Eat something that you wouldn't normally. Depending on how able you are to deal with the unusual, it goes in the following order: chicken feet, pig blood, pig brains, deep fried insects. They are all delicious, so give them a go. But yes, you can skip the abalone.
- Visit interesting corners of the city. Break out of your usual rut and set foot in the untrdden corners of the territory. Ever been to the Shing Mun Reservoir? The farms of Yuen Long? The Frontier Closed Area?
- Give China a second/third chance. Not necessarily politically, but don't automatically sneer at mainlanders. Visit. It's an amazing country of wonderful places and welcoming people. And that's without even mentioning the food.

Make time for the journeys. Our city is small and convenient, and the MTR and taxis rush us from place to place. The next time you hop on a tram, bus or ferry, actually watch the world go past for 10 or 15 minutes. You'll be happier (and a little bit richer) for it. Can't bear to slow down? Then grab a red minibus: All the benefits of watching the world go past, at something approaching the speed of sound. But buckle up!

And as for me? I only have one resolution for 2016: Finally answer the questions some readers are still sending me about where to get pictures framed, bags repaired or old lamps fixed. Even though I haven't been doing that kind of thing for two and a half years now. So here's your answer: To all readers still writing in looking for the perfect place to learn the art of batik fabric dying:

Google it.

Happy New Year, one and all!



David Wong/SCMP

My Perfect
HK

This week in My Perfect HK:

In our first issue of the new year, we'd like to remind all our readers that, no matter what your 2015 was like, this is a fantastic chance to make a new start and give a little back. Take the time and space between the new year and CNY to ask yourself: What could I do to make myself and Hong Kong better, in big ways or small? Turn to p.10 for a bunch of great ideas. But here's a tip now: Let the people close to you know that they matter to you.

Or at least grab them for a drink.

Letters

"This is very good news to geese!"

Loosey Goosey

We reported online about Central's iconic Yung Kee roast goose restaurant, which is set to close after the family which owns it could not come to terms about who would control the business. Readers were (mostly) distraught...

Greed destroyed this family and their father's legacy... tragic ending.

Ken Iwaki

Man that sucks. They used to be one of the best, and had everything going for them. They even own the building, if I'm not mistaken. It all comes down to greed.

James Li

Perfect example of everything that's wrong with the HK mindset.

David Francis Urrows

The founder is rolling over in his grave... wealth can't be passed down for more than 3 generations.

Vivian Ngo

Think positive – this is very good news to geese!

Timson Wong

Go eat at Yat Lok. It's better and not so TVB dramatic anyway. Only they yell at you.

Adrianna Tan

\$1.1 billion for a restaurant... insanity. Never thought this place was any big deal even when I lived in HK. I could go to a local restaurant under a bridge in Yuen Long and get better roast goose for 2/3s cheaper than what they charged.

Robert Edward Keilitz

Here comes the McDonalds and Mc Cafe!!!!!! Hong Kong's new cultural identity.

Mike A. Poteet

I am sure McDonalds will introduce the roast goose burger and get a Michelin star. After all if you can manage to buy a tomato by yourself you are already a chef in this town...

Sailor Saki

Just saying, why not just shut down and let the memories pass... it is bleeding money due to greed that ends up in lawsuits and the chefs leaving with the star and forming their own restaurant... the longer they attempt to drag and hold on to that legend which is no longer, the more they suffer internally... and might even lose out more...

Richardson Lau

When two farmers fight over a cow, only the lawyers get to milk it. Very HK drama, the outsider tears the family apart.

Ivan Ng

#PrivateEyeHK



The Beach

Photo by Andrew Tin (Instagram @cbgsryuto)

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



Tuesday 1/12

More than Simple

Eight acrobats and not much else: Aussie group Gravity & Other Myths brings their hit show **A Simple Space** to town. But it's not your normal circus show. Instead of the usual ornate plots, lights and beats, expect simple live percussion and pared-back visuals, with the audience brought right up close to the performers.

See Culture (p.22) for more.

Friday 1/8

Milton's God

Loud and bright (and that's just his shirts), the pun-derful **Milton Jones** comes to Hong Kong with a bag full of one-liners and a head full of crazy hair. **Jan 8-10. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$595-683 from urbtix.com.**



Saturday 1/9

Happy Punjabi

Feel like something exotic for the weekend? Drop by the three-night pop-up **Punjabi!** at Boqueria for a taste of the Punjab region of northern India and eastern Pakistan. Expect flame-roasted kebabs, claypot-cooked rice and more for a full Punjabi experience.

Jan 8-10, 7:30pm. 7/F, LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham St., Central. Email events@blacksheeprestaurants.com for reservations. \$588.



Sunday 1/10

It's Freeeeee!

Drum in the new year with something free—**Freespace Happening** returns with more indie music and art performances, including a Taiko drum/dance performance by Unlock Dancing Plaza.

2-7pm. West Kowloon Cultural District, West Kowloon. Free.

Monday 1/11

Not A-mused

Can't handle a pub crawl after the excesses of December? Time to soak in some culture, instead of alcohol. Ring in the year with a **museum crawl** instead. All LCSD museums are offering free admission for the entire month of January. **Through Jan 31.**

Wednesday 1/13

Blade Runner 2.0

Wonder how Hong Kong and other cities are developing in the future? Check out the **2015 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture (Hong Kong)**, showcasing interactive installations and innovative ideas by 60 international exhibitors all about the future of our urban conurbations.

Through Feb 28. Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, Kowloon Park, Haiphong Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, uabbhk.org. Free.

Thursday 1/14

In Your Face

Not just a pretty face? New York-based artist Tony Oursler's solo exhibition **PrIV%te** opens today. His gigantic wall head-shaped panels look at how facial recognition technology defines and changes our identity. Maybe we should all start wearing masks...



Through Mar 5. Lehmann Maupin, 407 Pedder Building, 12 Pedder St., Central. Free.

Friday 1/15

Carnivalesque

Hit up the **AIA Great European Carnival** to celebrate the new year. Bigger than ever, this year the show's got all your favorite rides in addition to new ones from around Europe, as well as Italian light sculptures and live performances.

Through Feb 21, 11am-11pm. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$90-125 from tgec-en.ticketareana.asia.

Saturday 1/16

Shhhhhh...

Legendary New York speakeasy **PDT** (Please Don't Tell) sneaks into town at the Landmark Mandarin Oriental. The hotel's had a makeover to recreate the secret watering hole, complete with hidden entrance. You heard it here first. **Through Jan. See Nightlife (p.25) for more.**

Coming Up

Chasing Amy

Creepy respected fashion photographer Terry Richardson is in town to show off his exhibition "Portraits," showcasing work from the past 20 years of his career. His **questionable behavior with models** iconic fashion editorial work defined a visual aesthetic of the 2000s. Now check out this photo of Amy Winehouse and a big cock.

Jan 14-Feb 20, 11am-7pm. Galerie Perrotin, 17/F, 50 Connaught Rd., Central.



NEWS

Last Week In Reality

SAT 26

Not Coming Down At around 9am, a 46-year-old man at home with his mother throws a tantrum in his Kwai Chung apartment, throwing things around the living room. He locks himself in his bedroom, and grabbing a stuffed monkey toy he climbs out of the window of his 29th-floor apartment. His mother calls the police and firemen, who arrive and inflate a mattress below him. The man climbs up the exterior pipes to the apartment on the 30th floor, and a standoff ensues. At 1pm, he climbs back to his apartment and sits on the windowsill. He is rescued and sent to the hospital. He has a record of mental instability.

SUN 27

Real War Games

Two brothers aged 34 and 30 are playing at a war games center in San Po Kong together with 10 strangers. They split into two teams and "battle." During the skirmish one of the rival teams is hit multiple times by BB bullets, but he refuses to play dead and instead keeps bringing himself back to life. The two brothers complain, but the rival team gangs up on the brothers and beats them up. A member of staff at the center intervenes, but is also attacked. The assailants flee the scene.



MON 28

See You Loiter A mainland PhD student at Chinese University pleads guilty to two counts of loitering. Since beginning his studies in September, the man had twice entered the women's toilets in the university to spy on students, including his crush. In his defense, the man said that his family runs a nightclub, he never had proper sex education growing up and that he only committed the crime because he was too scared to approach his crush. Sentencing the man to 14 days in jail suspended for two years, the judge suggests that the man learns from the motto of Chinese University's New Asia College: "sincerity and intelligence."

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TUE 29

Calling the Boys At midnight, a 31-year-old woman loses control of her vehicle on Waterloo Road and crashes into a nearby taxi, before bouncing into a 12-meter-tall metal fence. Firemen arrive, spraying water to cool down the smoking car. The driver is given a breath test which she passes, but she becomes irritated by the reporters who have gathered at the scene. She makes a phone call and suddenly a group of 10 men arrive to chase off the reporters. One man damages a reporter's camera and the police intervene. The man offers to pay for the damage, and the reporter agrees.

WED 30

New Year's Rerun Members of online forum Discuss.com.hk reveal that ATV is planning to air its 2012's New Year's Eve celebration show on New Year's Eve 2016. Some commenters point out that since ATV has failed to pay their employees, they don't have the budget to produce a live broadcast on New Year's Eve. Others point out that since New Year's Eve is more or less the same every year, there's nothing wrong with broadcasting a re-run.



THU 31

Abandonment Issues A 39-year-old jobless man is charged with the neglect of a child at the Eastern Magistrate's Court, after leaving his six-year-old daughter at home alone for a day while he went to the mainland to search for his missing wife. The judge spends 15 minutes in court scolding the man, calling his outrageous action "brainless" and stating that "I wanted to tear the case to pieces when I saw it." The man responds quietly, "I know I am wrong." He is sentenced to one year's probation.



FRI 1

Breakfast of Champions McDonald's launches an "All Day Breakfast" for the new year. Netizens criticize the new "Chef's Set." While its selling point is thick toast with beans in tomato sauce, the toast is criticized for being either just white bread, or "harder than flip flops." McDonald's apologizes, saying that a popular promotion can attract too many customers and that service might suffer as a result.

Quote of the Week

"For people my age on Facebook, it's not as easy as it is for people your age. I'll do it step by step."

Chief Executive CY Leung responds to news that since opening an account in October, he appears to have been adding Taiwanese models and Japanese adult video stars as Facebook friends. The Chief Executive's office claimed CY's Facebook had been hacked.

Talking Points

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

Triad Tribulations Roundup

What's new in the world of **alleged former triad boss Kwok Wing-hung**, better known as "Shanghai Boy"? On December 17, he's said to have made a high-profile appearance at the funeral of a former triad member, bringing a large group of followers with him. This put the police on high alert, upsetting triad members and causing a scene. Four days later he was **attacked while having afternoon tea at the Peninsula Hotel**, suffering facial injuries. On December 29, he announced that **he would hold a press conference to explain a controversial 2012 dinner** with the campaign manager and aides of then Chief Executive candidate CY Leung. **At the last minute he called off the press conference**: There are reports that the night before, one of his subordinates was attacked and injured. On December 31, reports emerged that Shanghai Boy had been blacklisted by his alleged former triad organization.

Our take: Does he have something juicy on CY?

Farewell, Payphones

The MTR has announced that **all coin-operated payphones in its stations will be removed by the end of the year**. The corporation's contract with operator Shinetown Telecommunication is due to expire. **Payphone usage has fallen 60 percent in the past six years**, and income has been unable to cover operation costs. There are currently 400 coin-operated payphones in 87 MTR stations. Shinetown's executive director told Ming Pao, "**this is the end of an era**." At its peak, Shinetown operated more than 2,000 payphones outside newspaper stalls and tea shops all over the city, but as mobile phones became popular, the payphone business fell to less than one percent of the company's turnover.

Our take: Take out payphones, put in ATMs and phone charging stations. Please?

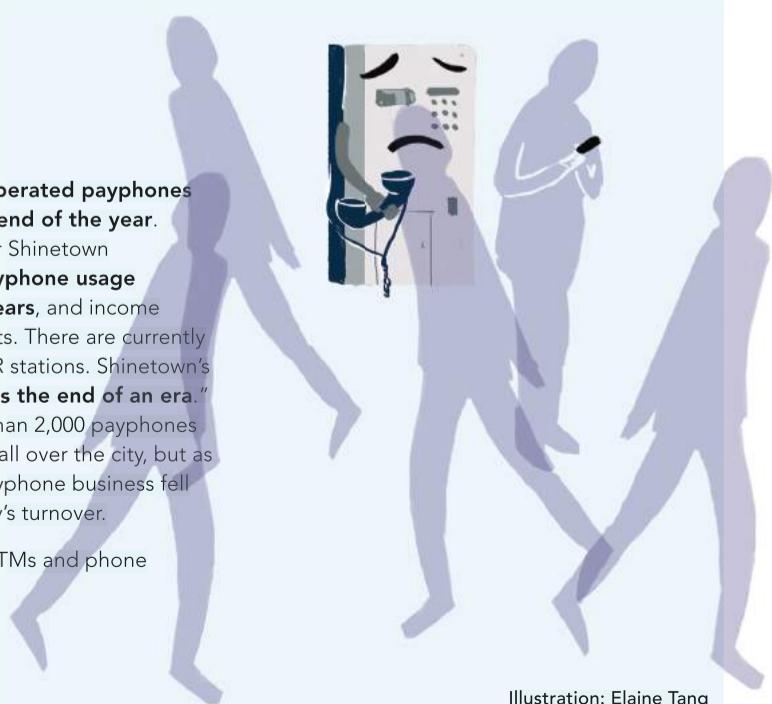


Illustration: Elaine Tang



Street Talk

"Star Wars" is back with "Episode VII: The Force Awakens" and to celebrate it, 27-year-old Star Wars fan **Traymond Lui** has custom-made his own lightsaber, complete with changing colors and sound effects. He tells Isabelle Hon about crafting the ancient Jedi weapon and sparring with his girlfriend.

HK Magazine: When did you become a Star Wars fan?

Traymond Lui: I still remember it was in 1999 that my mom first took me to the cinema to watch "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace." We were late and the movie had already started when we arrived. The first scene I saw was the Jedi knights fighting with the droids. The scene was stunning and I fell in love immediately.

HK: How did the plans for your own lightsaber come about?

TL: After the second prequel came out, I decided I would have my own lightsaber in my lifetime. I knew there were plastic ones in Toys "R" Us, but I really wanted to have a steel one. I searched the web and found the raw materials on a Taiwanese website, but the price was too much for a student. I was forced to cool down my passion. But finally this year, I spent around \$3,000 on materials from Taiwan, and a few hundred on cables and LEDs in Sham Shui Po, and I started to tailor-make one. It took me from the end of November to mid-December. I even had to learn some new electronics skills.

HK: Have you ever fought with your lightsaber?

TL: Yes! The lightsaber blade is made of plastic, I made another one for my girlfriend and we always play-fight at home. We usually stand on the bed and fight. There isn't much space in my house, so we need to be very careful. When I was young, I was using the long bit of a vacuum cleaner to fight and I broke the lamp in the dining room. I lied to my mom and said I didn't know what happened.

HK: What's your opinion of the new "Star Wars" movie, "The Force Awakens"?

TL: After watching "The Force Awakens" I couldn't find much linkage between it and the previous ones. Maybe it's because the director changed, but this episode focuses more on love and relationships. But the biggest thing I can't accept is that it's too commercial. The new bad guy seems really powerful, he can use the Force to freeze laser guns—but eventually he's defeated by an untrained character. Obviously they want to

pave the way for the next episode. But that's so commercial!

HK: Any tips for people who want to make their own lightsabers?

TL: I put 90 LED bulbs into the lightsaber—and then it didn't turn on. I was really disappointed since I'd spent so much time on it. Luckily, later I solved the problem and shared all the details online to make it easier for everyone to have their own lightsaber.

HK: If you were a character in "Star Wars," who would you be?

TL: I think I'm Anakin Skywalker, who later became Darth Vader. At first he was a good man, and I totally understand why he would turn into a bad guy. I'm a Scorpio and I know if I think the wrong way, I could easily do the wrong thing. That's why I always think clearly before making any decision. Everyone has the dark side in them sometimes.



Want to craft your own lightsaber? Check out Traymond's instructions at facebook.com/brainwerkshk.

Blowing Water

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

taat3 pei4
撻皮

"DEFLATED SKIN"

"To slack off, be lazy." Invokes the image of a sagging piece of skin.

HongKabulary



New Year's Limbo (nju: jərz limbəʊ), n.

Saying "Happy New Year" in January to general confusion, because for westerners it's too late and for the Chinese it's too early.

"Happy new year!"

"What? It's not the Year of the Monkey until February."

"Damn it, I'm stuck in New Year's Limbo!"

HONG KONG INSIDER's GUIDE

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



Tranquil Escapes

For a region famed for its high-rises, Hong Kong surprises visitors with its untold natural beauty. If you venture beyond the entertainment hub of downtown, you'll discover that almost three-quarters of Hong Kong is made up of countryside—rugged mountains, bijou islands and kilometer upon kilometer of indented coastline.

Beachin' Around

You don't need to leave Hong Kong Island to find idyllic beach retreats and **Shek O Beach** is one of the best picks for a fun day trip. Meaning "rocky bay", Shek O peninsula juts out into the South China Sea, providing a perfectly sheltered enclave and ample scenery for shutterbugs. Rent yourself a barbecue on the beach, head to one of the shack restaurants for a skewer or two, or even grab a quick Thai bite on the storefront.

Coast Along

Venture further off the beaten track to the northerly **Golden Beach** on the Gold Coast. As one of the longest beaches in Hong Kong, the golden stretch of sand glistens as far as the eye can see. A boardwalk lined with tropical trees runs the length of the shore and volleyball players are frequently leaping around, California-style. It's also right by the seafront arcade, the Gold Coast Piazza.

Rock the Boat

For a whole-day adventure, travel further into the northeasterly New Territories to Sai Kung, a volcanic region of Hong Kong. Here you'll find the gorgeous **Hap Mun Wan (Half Moon Bay)**, a real Hong Kong treasure on Sharp Island. This long, narrow isle is two kilometers off the coast and accessible only by sampan. The waters are warm and crystal clear, resembling a tropical Asian destination.

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

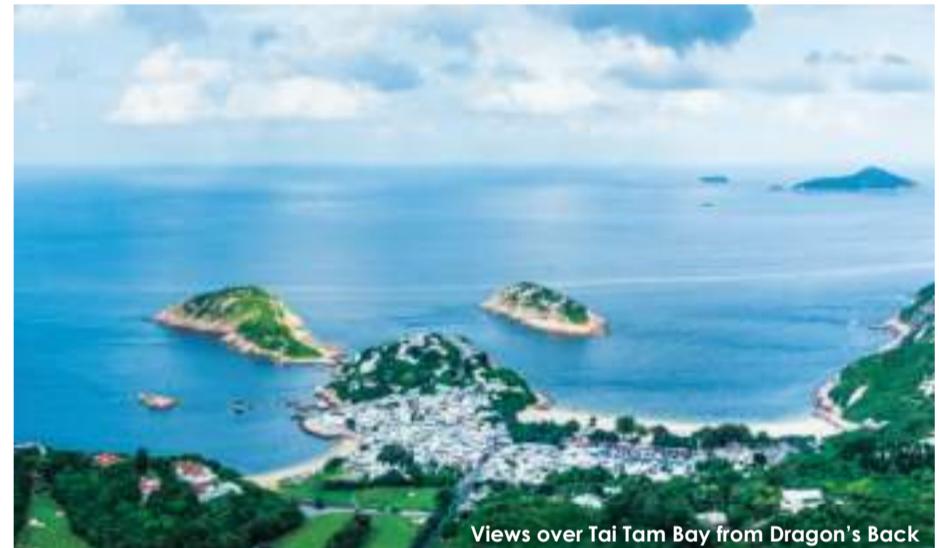


INSIDER's

GUIDE

Spotlight on: Southern District

When you first arrive on Hong Kong Island, chances are you'll be immediately surrounded by the city's gleaming skyscrapers, luxury malls and bustling markets. But just minutes away from this urban jungle, in Hong Kong's beautiful Southern District, lie kilometer upon kilometer of steep mountain trails, country parks and beaches that can provide you with a tranquil escape for a day or two—if you ever want to leave, that is.



Views over Tai Tam Bay from Dragon's Back



The Repulse Bay Visual Art Museum

Hit the Trail

The best way to really experience the Southern District's rural tranquility is on your own two feet: the south side of Hong Kong Island is devoted to several country parks and reservoirs for easy rambling routes or more adventurous trails. Forming part of stage 8 of the Wilson Trail, the **Dragon's Back** offers spectacular views over the picturesque Tai Tam Bay on one side and the South China Sea on the other, while **Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir** is a turquoise gem of water in Tai Tam Country Park.

Beachside Eats

Restaurants are all making the most of the incredible seaside atmosphere on their doorstep. At **Pinot Duck** in Stanley, duck in all its guises is the name of the game, served with an ample wine list of fine pinot. The food is a contemporary take on the classic Asian favorite so look out for crispy duck wings in Sichuan pepper, Jasmine tea-smoked duck breast and crispy duck leg in sweet soy sauce.

For classic Cantonese staples with an edgy spin, check out **Meen & Rice** in Repulse Bay, while at Shek O Chinese and Thailand Seafood Restaurant is always busy.

On the Waterfront

In Stanley the covered street market dominates the shopping scene, but there are also small boutiques opening up. As well as shops that have been around for decades, there are lots of new stores and restaurants opening up on the waterfront. Around the coast in Repulse Bay, **The Pulse** is a seaside mall new to the scene, with many independent and well-known brands. The Repulse Bay Visual Art Museum is worth a stop if you have the kids (or even big kids!) in tow: it's home to Hong Kong's largest 3D museum and contains over 80 3D art pieces.

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



Natural Heritage

Hong Kong may be a buzzing urban metropolis, but its little-known secret is that some 40 percent of the territory is formed of country parks and nature reserves. Step outside of downtown and you'll discover steeple-top mountain chains, remote hiking trails, rugged coastlines and wild beaches. Plus with more marine diversity than the Caribbean and one-third of the total bird species in China, you'll soon want to spend all your precious time outdoors.

Rocky Beginnings

The most prominent protected nature reserve is the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China, in northeasterly Sai Kung. One of the prettiest of these areas is **Yan Chau Tong Marine Park**: a happy result of violent volcanic eruptions some 180 million years ago. With little erosion, it's worth a visit to explore the rocky headlands and cliffs surrounded by picturesque bays and turquoise waters.

Under the Sea

To discover what lies beneath Hong Kong's calm waters, escape to **Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park** (Hoi Ha literally translates to "under the sea"), a sheltered bay that's famous for its coral collection. You might be able to spot more than 60 species of hard coral just from a clear spot on the surface, or dive down further to happen upon colorful soft coral and more than 120 species of fish.

Reserved for You

Keep your feet on dry land at the renowned **Hong Kong Wetland Park**, some 60 hectares of wetland reserve with specially designed habitats for its water bird species. The large visitor center holds regular themed exhibitions, plus you can meet the salt water crocodile "Pui Pui." **Mai Po Nature Reserve** is another must-visit wetlands that supports thousands of birds during migratory season.

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



Spotlight on: Tuen Mun

Situated at the mouth of the Tuen Mun River in Hong Kong's westerly New Territories, the district of Tuen Mun owes its very early settlements to the abundant natural resources. Small villages and eventually a market town built up around the waterfront, which once fed the livelihood of the Tanka (boat dwelling) fishermen. Today, although much of the neighborhood is now residential, there's a whole host of natural beauty that's just waiting to be explored. To explore Tuen Mun's ancient natural heritage you can hike to the Castle Peak Basin, boasting jaw-dropping views down over the territory.

Go Dolphin Spotting

Tuen Mun is also home to **Tai Lam Country Park**, Hong Kong's second largest, with Tai Lam Chung Reservoir at its heart. Further west lies the village of **Lung Kwu Tan**, which with its unimpeded views out to sea is a popular spot for searching out the Chinese white dolphin, actually a pink humpback dolphin that cruises the South China coastline. Take a quick walk up to **Chinese White Dolphin Lookout** with a pair of binoculars and you may be in luck!

Treason and Plot

For an intriguing taste of history, **Hung Lau**, an early 20th century Grade I historic building set in **Chung Shan Park** is where legend has it that Chinese revolutionary Dr. Sun Yat-sen plotted his uprising, and you'll find a plaque commemorating his theories that's believed to have been handwritten by the man himself. Another building of historical significance is Tsing Shan Monastery, one of the three oldest temples in Hong Kong, with records that date back

to 1464. It comprises three groups of buildings, including a ceremonial arch, gatehouse, prayer halls and dormitories.

Food and Flea Markets

With such strong ties to the land and sea, there's ample fresh local produce to be had in Tuen Mun. Freshly farmed produce can be found in the rural community of **Lam Tei**, at the aptly named **Farmer Restaurant**, where you'll find true Cantonese countryside fare. Alternatively, opt for some flavorful meat dishes at Lam Tei's renowned **Red Season Aroma Restaurant**. Meanwhile, **Lok On Pai Siu Lam Flea Market** has more than 100 community stalls selling everything from pot plants, dolls, goldfish, handbags and sunglasses.

Head online to www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide to create your personalized itinerary for Tuen Mun.

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



The A-Z of New Year's Resolutions

Resolve to do 26 better things this year. By **Leslie Yeh** and **Adam White**

A is for

Adopt an Animal

Missing love in your life? Find a furry four-legged best friend at **Hong Kong Dog Rescue**. This rescue organization finds homes for hundreds of dogs a year, and you could be the next one to bring up a cuddly companion. Adoption days are held every Sunday from 2-5pm at Whiskers N Paws (10/F, Horizon Plaza, 2 Lee Wing St., Ap Lei Chau, 2552-6200). hongkongdogrescue.com.



D is for

Declutter

If your apartment's drowning in clothes that were last fashionable in the late 90s, it might be time to declutter your home... and your life. Bring your quality cast-offs to **Green Ladies**, which gives you back a percentage of used clothing sales, or simply donate them if you're just looking to free up some space. Alternatively, **H&M** gives you a voucher for each full bag of clothes and textiles you bring into the store. Score!

Green Ladies: G/F, St. James' Settlement, 85 Stone Nullah Lane, Wan Chai, 2831-3204.
H&M: 30 Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 3521-1171.



B is for

Breathe Better

Stop just complaining about Hong Kong's scary pollution levels and put your money where your mouth is. It may cost a pretty penny, but a high-quality **air purifier** is a good investment, especially in Hong Kong where clean air isn't exactly easy to come by. Your lungs will thank you. Until you go outside, that is.

Purifiers from \$4,280, renaud.hk.



C is for

Cook Like a Chef

Tired of store-bought congee and craving some homemade coq au vin instead? Hone your kitchen skills and learn to butcher and bake like a pro with bona-fide culinary lessons at **The Mixing Bowl**. This cooking school holds courses for all levels so don't worry if you're still cracking shells into your scrambled eggs: The instructors here will have you whipping up fierce meringues in no time.

5 Shin Hing St., Sheung Wan, 2524-0001, themixingbowlhk.com.



E is for

Explore Entrepreneurship



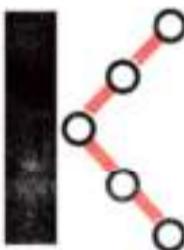
There's a reason why it seems like everyone and their mom is starting a business in Hong Kong: The city is a great place for entrepreneurs, with a thriving startup community and plenty of tools and training courses at your disposal. **TEN**, The Entrepreneurs' Network, provides a support channel for entrepreneurs with networking opportunities and courses that range from raising capital to identifying your market niche. Our market niche is fresh pea shoots. They're in season!

ten.org.hk.

F is for **Find Fitness**

It's an oldie, but a goldie—a new year means that it's time to renew your resolutions to get that six-pack or tone up that underarm flab. Join a gym if you've got cash to spare, but we're partial to getting fit for free: **Hong Kong Harbour Runners** is a community group that connects those who love to pound the pavement, getting fit while exploring Hong Kong's cityscape and making lasting running buddies.

facebook.com/HarbourRunners.hk.



K is for **Kick it in Kowloon**

How many times did you hang out in Kowloon last year? Do you still call it the "dark side"? Shame on you, man. Cross the harbor for once in your miserable life for some of Hong Kong's best eats and fun.

Take the Tsuen Wan line. Yes, that's the red one.

L is for **Land a Lover**

Tinder is so last year—time to man (or woman) up and land a lover who'll last more than a split-second on a one-night stand. The foundation to any great romance is a great first date—skip dinner and a movie and head instead to the **Hong Kong Astropark**, where you can fall in love under the stars...

Take Citybus 698R or Green minibus 7 to Pak Tam Chung, Sai Kung. From there, it's a 15-minute cab ride.



G is for **Go Green**

Every year you say you'll recycle more, and every year you fail. 2016 is the year to don the green hat and walk the extra few steps to the recycling bin. Can't handle the trek? Then sign up to **HK Recycles** (from \$590 per month), which will come to your house and collect your recycling for you. All you have to do is sort it. You can do that, can't you?

hkrecycles.com.



I is for **Ink It**

You've been thinking of getting a tattoo for as long as you can remember—and you've finally got a good idea for a kickass tat. Instead of crying over spilled ink (literally) at some dodgy street-side parlor, ring up Rob Kelly at **Blackout Tattoo** for a professional artist who'll turn your fantasy into a reality. Whether you want a Game of Thrones dragon or BB-8 drawn indelibly onto your own body, Rob will make sure your tat stays sharp and classy.

502 Hing Tai Commercial Building, 114 Wing Lok St., Sheung Wan, 9427-2278, blackout-tattoo.com.



M is for **Mind over Matter**

Worried all the time? Welcome to the modern condition. But finding time to meditate can be hard, so head on a full detox holiday to **The Palm Retreat** in Koh Samui, whose program is designed to restore the mind, body and spirit. The only problem? You're in Thailand, so it's going to be very difficult not to sneak in a calorific mango sticky rice... From \$1,178 per night, all inclusive. Minimum 4 nights.



H is for **Healthy Habits**

Eat less, exercise more, obviously. But that's easier said than done. Sometimes a simple word of encouragement goes a long way in shaping your choices throughout the day. Subscribe to **wellness websites** such as mydailyinsights.com or mindbodygreen.com for daily, only slightly smug inspiration straight to your inbox.



J is for **Jam for Joy**

Just like Bob Marley, we're jammin' all over town. **Art Jamming** is one of the best painting parties in the city, with free-flow acrylic paints and canvases so you can unleash your inner Picasso. Alternatively, round up your musician friends for an all-out jam session at **Peel Fresco Music Lounge** on open mic Tuesdays, or find the joy in making your own **homemade jam**: Cook about 950 grams of hulled, chopped strawberries in a pan with around half that of sugar (add more to taste) and 2 tablespoons of lemon juice until thickened and bubbling at the surface, which should take about 8-9 minutes. Transfer to a jar and voila! Homemade strawberry jam. Serve on buttered toast and try not to eat it all at once.

Art Jamming: from \$200, 1/F, 1 Rumsey St., Sheung Wan, 2541-8816, artjamming.com.
Peel Fresco: 49 Peel St., Central, 2540-2046, peel-fresco.com.



N is for **Nix the Negativity**

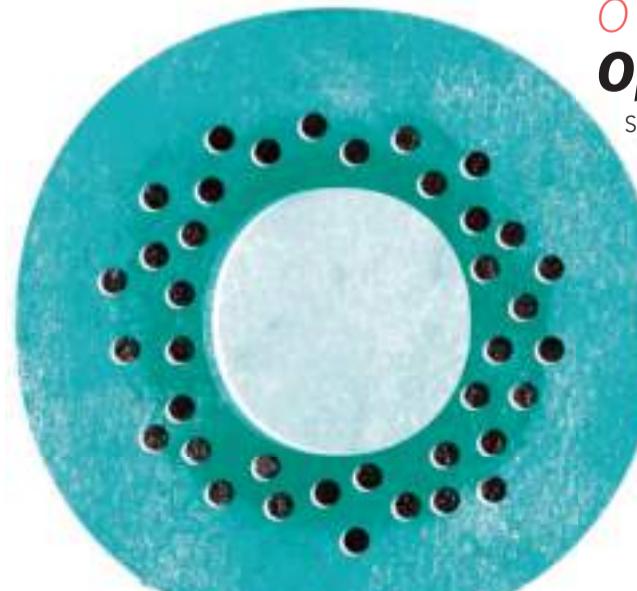
Can we all agree that 2015 was a bit of a crappy year? Well, we're in a whole new one now so you can **stop being so pessimistic**. Plan an adventure! Go see a friend you haven't hung out with in ages! Remember that it's fun to do silly things!



O is for **Opt for Organic**

So you've spent the whole year searching out all-natural food labels and eating only farm-to-table produce—it's time to take the next step and start growing your own. The guys at **Time To Grow** can teach you all about setting up your own mini farming ecosystem on your rooftop or balcony, complete with planters, organic seedlings, soil and a harvesting plan. So the next time you run out of basil for homemade pesto, instead of dropping a small fortune on a few wilting leaves simply pick 'em from your balcony.

timetogrow.hk.



P is for

Pick up Pottery

Pottery: It's mind calming, effortless but rewarding and you can pretend you're in the movie "Ghost." Building a beautiful bowl or ceramic mug is easier than you think—just ask the experts at **The Pottery Workshop**, who've turned many a pottery noob into a molding magician. Courses are available for groups or individuals (\$2,500 for 7 sessions) and yes, you get to keep the bowl.

3/F, Hollywood House, 29 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2525-7949.



Q is for
Quit

Want to **stop smoking**? Us too! Call the Integrated Smoking Cessation Hotline at 1833-183.



R is for
Read Regularly

There's nothing wrong with magazines (read more HK Magazine!) but few things beat a good book. Learn to become a trained storyteller to read to kids or manage a storytelling program with **Bring Me a Book Hong Kong**, an organization that advocates family literacy. bringmeabook.org.hk.



S is for

Sack the Stress

Boss an asshole? Boyfriend a passive-aggressive tool? a) quit your job b) dump your boyfriend c) work out all that stress with boxing classes at **Jab MMA**.
From \$1,400 for 8 classes. 5/F, Kimley Commercial Building, 142-146 Queen's Rd. Central, 2851-6684.



V is for

Volunteer

Countless hours spent watching "Friends" reruns would be much better applied at **HandsOn Hong Kong**, which has a variety of volunteer programs for you to choose from. Help students with disabilities, volunteer at a food bank, read to the illiterate or help spread environmental awareness... we guarantee the good feeling will last much longer than unwrapping that hoverboard you got for Christmas.

handsonhongkong.org.



T is for
Take Care of
Your Teeth

Look, we get it. **Visiting the dentist** is as torturous as sitting through Episodes I-III of "Star Wars," but you have to face the chair unless you want to be unkissable forever.

W is for

Write like Whitman

Feel the need to write the Great Hong Kong Novel? The **Hong Kong Writers Circle** is here to help. Founded in 1991, this organization connects writers from all genres and levels to hone their craft, offering regular seminars, writing workshops, readings and social events. Critique groups also allow you to receive feedback on short- or long-form works from publishing professionals. Our suggestion: needs more explosions.
hkwriterscircle.com.



X is for

Ex Your Exes

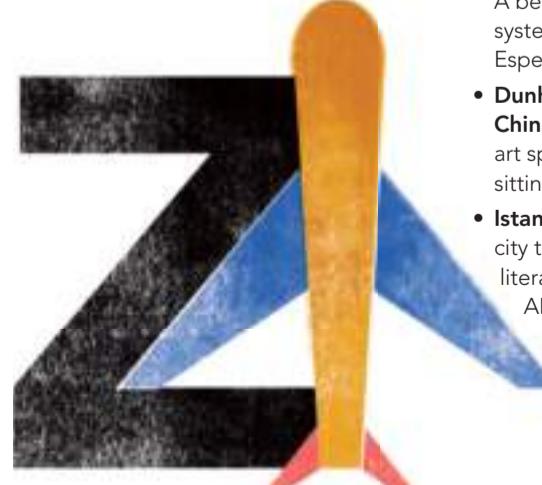
Been through a crappy breakup(s)? **Delete their numbers** from your phones so you'll never drunk-dial them ever again. Go find someone new who isn't a douchebag!



Y is for

Yoga like Yoda

Give a sun salutation to the new year at **The Yoga Room**, a boutique studio which focuses on perfecting technique through personalized instruction. With more than 100 classes on offer each week, you've got no excuse not to brush up your tree pose. **Starting from \$3,600 for 20 classes.** Xiu Ping Commercial Building, 104 Jervois St., Sheung Wan, 2544-8398, yogaroomhk.com.



U is for
Unplug



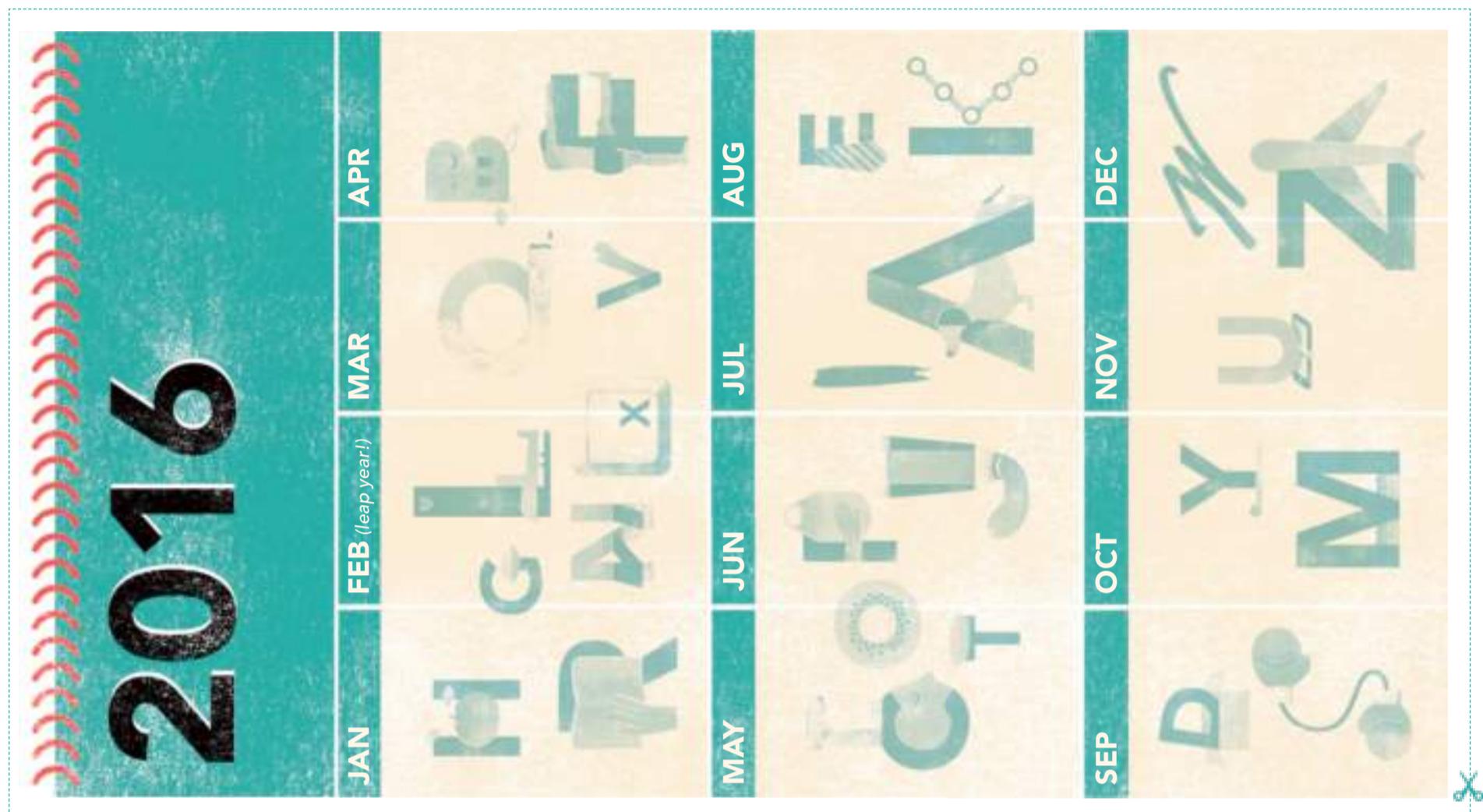
Research has revealed that people spend an average of eight hours and 41 minutes a day on media devices, which is why we're making it our top resolution this year to **unplug**. Do whatever you need to do to unglue your fingers from your phone: Ban devices in the bedroom, at dinner, when you're out with friends, and especially when you're watching a sunset with someone important to you. Chances are you're missing a great makeout opportunity because you're trying to decide between the X-Pro and Amaro filters on Instagram.

Z is for
Zip Away

So over Thailand, Vietnam and Laos? Make this year one of more exotic exploration. Here are five great places to go this year:

- **Kapas Island, Malaysia.** Perhaps the best kept secret in Malaysia. Go for the white sandy beaches and picturesque palms.
- **Mergui Archipelago, Myanmar.** A beautiful and highly untraveled system of islands in the Andaman sea. Especially good for divers.
- **Dunhuang Caves, Gansu Province, China.** Ancient temples and Buddhist art spanning a millennium of creation, sitting at a nexus of the Silk Road.
- **Istanbul, Turkey.** We're not the only city to combine east and west: Istanbul literally straddles Europe and Asia. AND there's baklava.
- **Shanghai Disneyland, China.** Slated to open in Spring 2016, the House of Mouse comes to the mainland and is set to be the largest theme park in China. You have to see this, even if you don't want to. Also: there's gonna be a Toy Story Hotel!

A little cut-out-and-keep calendar to remind you to do something good every month. Happy 2016!



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Revive for this Christmas

Unveil your stylish and toned body shape

Modish Body Compact and Shaping Treatment
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20/F, One Hysan Avenue

Shop A1, 2/F, Manson House, 74-78 Nathan Road

Tsuen Wan · 2940 6161

Unit 2310, 23/F, Kolor Tsuen Wan 1, 68 Chung On Street

Exclusive Hotline **2808 2524**

[www.megevehomme.com](#)



THE MEDITERRANEAN

逸瓏園

Sai Kung · Hong Kong



Rendering of The Mediterranean¹

- Low-density, Mediterranean resort-style residences in Sai Kung
- Luxurious clubhouse featuring a 45m-long swimming pool, jogging trail and horticultural amenities² and more
- Close to Kau Sai Chau Golf Course, Hong Kong Geopark of China and Waterfront Park
- Relaxing seaside community, renowned for seafood alfresco dining and charming cafes
- In the vicinity of Hong Kong Academy³ and a wide selection of sports facilities

Name of Street and Street Number of the Development: 8 Tai Mong Tsai Road*
District: Sai Kung Town Website Address: www.themediterranean.hk[#]

Enquiries:
8208 8223

Sales Gallery: 146 & 148A, 1/F, Olympian City 2 (Olympic MTR station Exit D3)



Please scan QR code
for more information

The photographs, images, drawings or sketches shown in this advertisement / promotional material represent an artist's impression of the development concerned only. They are not drawn to scale and / or may have been edited and processed with computerized imaging techniques. Prospective purchasers should make reference to the sales brochure for details of the development. The vendor also advises prospective purchasers to conduct an on-site visit for a better understanding of the development site, its surrounding environment and the public facilities nearby.

1. The image contained in this advertisement/ promotional material is the rendering of The Mediterranean. The rendering is not taken from the Development and has been processed with computerized imaging techniques. The recreational facilities, layout, partitions, specifications, measurements, colours, materials, fittings, finishes, appliances, furniture, decorative items, plants, landscaping and other objects and the views thereof may not appear in the Development or its vicinity when the Development is completed. The rendering only shows the general appearance of the Development. The structures and surrounding environment of the Development have not been shown in the rendering or may be different from the reality. The rendering does not show the air conditioners, pipe ducts, and grilles on the external wall of the Development. This advertisement/ promotional material does not reflect the actual view or the external appearance of the Development. The vendor also advises prospective purchasers to conduct on-site visit for a better understanding of the development site, its surrounding environment and the public facilities nearby. The rendering and the information contained in the rendering are for references only. This advertisement/ promotional material shall not constitute any express or implied offer, representation, undertaking or warranty given by the vendor. 2. The details of clubhouse after completion may differ from that stated in this advertisement/ promotional material and are subject to the final plans approved by the relevant authorities. The opening hours and use of different facilities in the clubhouse are subject to the relevant laws, land grant, deed of mutual covenant, clubhouse rules and the situation of the environment. The facilities may not be immediately available upon completion and occupation of the Development and additional charges may apply upon usage. The names of the clubhouse facilities are yet to be confirmed and will not be shown in the Provisional Agreements for Sale and Purchase, Agreements for Sale and Purchase, Assignments and other deeds of the residential properties in the Development. The final names may differ from those stated in this advertisement/ promotional material. The Vendor reserves the right to change the clubhouse facilities and design without prior notice. 3. Please refer to the Education Bureau's website of "International Schools in Hong Kong" – <http://edb.hkdcity.net/internationalschools>.

Vendor: Asian View Development Limited. Holding company of the Vendor: Tsim Sha Tsui Properties Limited, Sino Land Company Limited, King Chance Development Limited and Barts Investment Limited. The Authorized Person for the Development and the firm or corporation of which the Authorized Person is a proprietor, director or employee in his or her professional capacity: Mr. Choy Ka Hung of SPIRAL Architectural Design Limited. Building contractor for the Development: Cheung Kee Fung Cheung Construction Company Limited. The firm of solicitors acting for the Owner in relation to the sale of residential units in the Development: Lui & Kam Law Corporation. Authorised person who has made a loan or obtained financial assistance to provide finance, for the construction of the Development: The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited. Other person who has made a loan or has undertaken to provide finance, for the construction of the Development: Sing-Ho Finance Company Limited. To the best of the Vendor's knowledge, the estimated material date for the Development: 31 January 2018 ("Material date" means the date on which the conditions of the land grant are complied with in respect of the Development). The estimated material date is subject to any extension of time that is permitted under the agreement for sale and purchase. For the purpose of the agreement for sale and purchase, without limiting any other means by which the completion of the Development may be proved, the issue of a certificate of completion or consent to assign by the director of lands is conclusive evidence that the development has been completed or is deemed to be completed (as the case may be) in accordance with the terms of the title. Prospective purchasers are advised to refer to the sales brochure for any information on the Development. This provisional street address is subject to confirmation when the Development is completed. #Website containing electronic copies of sales brochure, price lists(s) and register of transactions. This advertisement / promotional material shall not constitute or be construed as giving any offer, representation, undertaking or warranty whether express or implied by the vendor. This advertisement is published by the vendor or is published by another person with its consent. Date of Printing: 5th January 2016


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Sino Land


EUROMONEY
REAL ESTATE AWARDS
2015

Best Developer
Overall
in Hong Kong

Best Residential
Developer
in Hong Kong

Best Leisure /
Hotel Developer
in Hong Kong

Best Mixed
Developer
in Hong Kong

Sino Land Company Limited has been named the "Best Developer Overall in Hong Kong", "Best Residential Developer in Hong Kong", "Best Leisure / Hotel Developer in Hong Kong" and "Best Mixed Developer in Hong Kong" at Real Estate Survey conducted by leading international financial magazine Euromoney for two consecutive years.



Breaking Point

Soon after makeout season comes breakup season (nooooo!) and secret cinema organizers Goooood are putting together **Breakup Cinema**, a special screening on a ferry crossing Victoria Harbour for all those embracing or mourning the demise of their romantic relationships. The theme is "Ex," so there'll be an exhibition ("ex"-hibition) and a special program before a secret film screening. Ticket sales go towards the Society for Abandoned Animals, because it's not just humans who can have their hearts broken.
Jan 9, 7pm. North Point Ferry Pier. \$180 from ticketflap.com.

FASHION

LOOKBOOK

Edited by Zoe Chan

Blogger & Stylist at normalchic.com | Instagram @zoe_normalchic



Star Power

It's the beginning of the year—the perfect time to set our goals and dreams for 2016. My new year outfit: this starry dress, like the night sky itself, to make all my dreams come true. What rounds out the look? A clutch, of course. I've fallen in love with clutches made by Kotur—they always seem to have something new, which makes them perfect for January.

Tucana dress, \$1,534 from Lovers + Friends @ Revolve
Jour et Nuit clutch, \$6,985 from Kotur
Twin stars silver earrings, \$499 from Pandora
Santorini flower earrings, \$725 from Folli Follie
Pizazz heels, \$2,690 from Steve Madden



Kotur, Sogo TST, Sheraton Hotel Shopping Centre, 20 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 3911-1710.
Revolve, revolveclothing.com.
Pandora, 57 Queen's Rd. Central, 2117-4650.
Steve Madden, B1/F, Shop 5, Langham Place, Mong Kok, 3514-9491.
Folli Follie, 1-3 Pedder St., Central, 2533-4210.

Got a great street style shot?
Tag us on Instagram @HK_Magazine!

Holistic Hideaways

New year, new you... or so they say. **Evelyn Lok** lines up a wellness itinerary away from the rowdiness of well-trodden Koh Samui that's great for beginner yogis and hardcore health nuts alike.

The palm-fringed shores of Thailand's second-largest island, Koh Samui, is one of the country's most popular tourist hotspots and it's home to ample luxury spa resorts and backpacker hives dotted across the island. But it's also a great place to really dedicate yourself to a healthy getaway, whether you choose to hole up in a one-stop villa or explore your choices all throughout the island. And just in case you need to let off steam between green smoothies, the closest bar or beach is never far away...

Eat Right

After the overindulgence of the holiday season your body deserves some good quality, clean nourishment. Feed up on healthy fare at the moderately-priced **Vikasa Life Café**, part of Vikasa Yoga Retreat (Moo 4, Tambol Maret, Koh Samui, (+66) 77-422-232, vikasayoga.com). Opened by the pioneer of Vikasa (meaning "evolution") Yoga Konstantin Miachin, the terrace café's best known for its healthy buffet, but also serves an all-day menu of raw, vegan, vegetarian and meat dishes. Once you've acclimatized to your newfound gusto for clean eats, you'll feel right at home at vegan café and barefoot artist mecca **June Art Café** (Samui Town Center, Bophut Ring Rd., Koh Samui, (+66) 77-425-587, juneartcafe.com). With another branch in Nathon old town, the café boasts a menu of vegan desserts and delicious fruit smoothies on top of a celebrated tofu salad. Though the menu items are comparatively expensive, the chill, bohemian atmosphere is hard to beat.

Detoxing on a shoestring? A small authentic

Thai buffet spot **Jay Tamachad**

Vegetarian Restaurant (Hat Chaweng 4, Koh Samui, (+66) 89-6451951), just out of the commercial area of Chaweng, serves up inexpensive vegan foods and a handful of Chinese dishes from as early as 7am.



Enjoy a vegan berry cake at June Art Café

Get Fit

Let's get real: just sipping on juice for three days straight while sunning yourself in a luxury villa isn't going to help you maintain your new year bod. You're going to have to work for it. Start slow and easy with a beachside yoga session at **Marga Yoga** (276/1 Moo 3, Taling Ngam, Koh Samui, (+66) 80-88-999-60, marga-yoga-koh-samui.com), a newly renovated center on Taling Ngam beach (re-opening officially Jan 18) that offers relaxing Hatha yoga and shorter Hatha flow classes as well as yoga therapy, from just THB500 (\$108). "Yoga on delivery" services are also available, with instructors hired to your chosen location. For something that will make you break more of a sweat, **Samahita Retreat** (55/20-24 Moo 4, T. Namuang, Koh Samui, (+66) 77-920-090, samahitaretreat.com) offers an integrated "YogaCoreCycle" program: Group fitness classes that fold breath work, meditation, cardio, strength training—pretty much all you need to whip yourself into shape—into workouts complete with sea views.

Sweat it Out

After your exertions, a relaxing day excursion at **Tamarind Springs** (205/7 Thong Takian, Koh Samui, (+66) 80-56-966-54, tamarindsprings.com) is a must. It's one of the island's most longstanding and unique spa establishments, with giant granite boulders making up hot herbal steam caves dotted throughout a lush jungle setting. There are specially designed body scrubs and rock pools for you to cool down before and after sweating out all those toxins. Top it off with a Thai yoga massage treatment, which should do the job of ironing out all the final kinks with a mix of acupressure and passive stretches. Treatments start at THB5,000 (\$1,071) for an hour and a half in the forest steam caves and a two-and-a-half-hour massage.



To infinity pool and beyond at Samujana

Sleep Well

You'll want to stay away from the hooligans on Chaweng and Lamai beaches, so the quiet northeastern shore of Choeng Mon beach is a good area to look. While most yoga centers and retreats also offer accommodation, one of the most sought-after places to stay on the island is **Samujana**, a plush villa property just 10 minutes away from the airport. Each villa is individually designed with infinity pools and modern furnishings, and is staffed and equipped depending on your requests. Spa treatments, bookings for outside excursions and private fitness classes are also available within the property.

63/154 Moo 5, Baan Plai Laem, Koh Samui, samujana.com. Prices from US\$700 (\$5,425)/night for a three-bedroom villa.

Get There

Just a three-hour flight away, Koh Samui is easily accessed through Bangkok Airways, with two direct flights leaving Hong Kong daily. Prices start at around \$2,180.



Sun salutations at Samahita Retreat



New Year, New Fat You

Diet resolutions are all well and good... until you crack three weeks into January and undo all that good work with two Big Macs and an extra serving of fries. If you're going to fall off the wagon, at least do it with these awesomely unhealthy goodies, says **Leslie Yeh**

Instead of: plain congee

Try: Risotto with Truffle Mascarpone

There's nothing quite like a comforting and hearty bowl of risotto, and one of our favorite places to splurge on this winter warmer is at **Aberdeen Street Social**. Generous portions aside, Jason Atherton's masterful creation is everything you want from a risotto—nuggets of rice cooked al dente bound by a creamy, umami-rich sauce and dressed with different textural toppers from crispy fried shallots to shavings of sharp parmesan and roasted mushrooms. As the heavy mascarpone envelops everything in cream and cheese, you can't help but hoard every last bite. On your hips.

**35 Aberdeen St.,
Central, 2866-0300.**

Instead of: an egg and cress sandwich

Try: The Skyscraper Burger

Why have one when you could have four? Piled sky-high with four 6oz patties, five slices of Monterey Jack cheese, pulled pork, bacon, caramelized onions, tomato, lettuce and house sauce, The Skyscraper Burger at **The Diner** is the burger to end all burgers—and possibly put you in a permanent food coma. If you attempt to take down this massive meat feast, make sure you bring along a defibrillator in case of sudden cardiac arrest...

G/F, 4-8 Arbuthnot Rd., Central, 2562-3181.

Instead of: dry toast

Try: Dessert Toast

Dazzling Café's signature brick toasts may be the size of your head, but they'll hit you right in the gut. Think a humongous box of toasted bread housing half a dozen baby squares of toast, topped with scoops of ice cream, gooey caramel, whipped cream, custard, chocolate shavings, strawberry syrup and macarons for good measure. Butter your tiny toasts with whatever your heart desires as you say goodbye to skinny jeans, midriffs and bikini season...

**Shop 22, L3, The One, 100
Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui,
2312-6099.**



**695
CALORIES***



Instead of: a fruit platter

Try: Chocolate Profiteroles

When you're done stuffing yourself silly with fried and fatty savory foods, it's only logical to max out the calorie intake by ingesting copious amounts of sugar and chocolate. Ice cream, pastries and chocolate lovers alike will find sweet solace in the profiteroles at **Le Relais de L'Entrecôte**—softball-sized scoops of ice cream sandwiched between choux pastry and drowning in a sea of chocolate sauce and slivered almonds. Ask for additional dollops of fresh whipped cream to top off this ridiculous indulgence.

222 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2891-9080.

**715
CALORIES***



Instead of: a juice cleanse

Try: Pig Ear Nachos

Move aside, braised beef and pulled pork—the ultimate meat topper for nachos adds both crunch and heaps of flavor. We're talking crispy fried pork ears—arguably the best parts of the pig. If you have to eat it to believe it, head to **Stone Nullah Tavern** where you'll be sucked into the addictive combo of fresh tortilla chips, spicy jalapeños, cooling sour cream, pork cheek chili and sauce-slathered crispy pork ears that set our taste buds on fire. This platter of crunchy fried goodness is worth every last calorie.

G/F, 69 Stone Nullah Lane, Wan Chai, 3182-0128.

*Calorie counts are based on careful and detailed analytical procedures
were totally just kind of guessed at by HK Magazine staff. Please eat responsibly.

NEW AND NOTED

Edited by Leslie Yeh
leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com

Slow-cooked duck ravioli with consommé at Urban Park

Park it Outside

Take advantage of Hong Kong's warm winter by making the most of alfresco dining this month: Outfitted with plush white couches and oversized tables, **Urban Park**'s (4/F, 20-22 Granville Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2751-1999) open-air terrace is our new go-to spot for kicking back Kowloon-side with a few cocktails and plates to share. Serving up fuss-free modern European cuisine, the latest eatery from

Dining Workshop shines most in the meat department, with a gorgeous herb-crusted rack of lamb (\$379) and supremely tender bone-in beef ribs (\$489 for a plate big enough for two). The Singaporean F&B group has also opened a dim sum spot called Yum Cha (3/F, 2751-1666) in the same building, so head downstairs if you're after cute bird-shaped shrimp puffs and piggy-shaped buns instead.



Get your maki on at Ozone

Wacky Off

Here's one good way to beat the hump day blues: **Ozone** (118/F, The Ritz-Carlton, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 2263-2263) is offering diners unlimited maki rolls every Wednesday for \$480 per person, with quirky creations inspired by ingredients from 10 international cities, including our own. Deemed "Wacky Maki Wednesdays" (try saying that three times fast), chef Rafael Gil dresses up the traditional rolled sushi with signature ingredients from around the world, including a bahia king prawn filling in a Brazilian moqueca sauce, an Alaska-inspired roll with king crab meat and gently fried soft shell crab dipped in a sweet and sour sauce in a nod to Hong Kong. Wash down those wacky makis with free-flow Veuve Clicquot for an additional \$300 a person.

Plating Paradise

Sailing into the space last occupied by L'entrecote de Paris, the new island-inspired **Paradis** (3/F, Winning Centre, 46-48 Wyndham St., Central, 3182-0105) promises to be a burst of vibrant Caribbean flavor in the heart of the city. A melting pot of cuisines, Paradis draws on ingredients from both land and sea in a menu filled with hearty palate-pleasers, including fresh scallop ceviche with passion fruit, chili and avocado, crispy "Accra" salt fish croquettes, slow-cooked iberico pork chops with candied yams and cinnamon-crusted plantains. Of course it wouldn't be paradise without a cache of colorful cocktails, which is why the restaurant emphasizes its world-class mixologists just as much as the tropical-inspired food. Get ready for a heavy dose of coconuts and rum...

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Famous Dim Sum ★★★★☆

Dim Sum. 7B Playing Field Rd., Prince Edward, 2398-3183.



Famous Dim Sum sure has a confident name: But this all-day dim sum restaurant, started by alumni of Michelin darling One Dim Sum around the corner, delivers on few-frills bites in a relatively comfortable environment.

HIT You can gauge the talents of a restaurant by the quality of their har gao (\$26) and the ones at Famous Dim Sum didn't disappoint, with thin wrappers stuffed full of fresh shrimp. "This is Not Spring Rolls" (\$23) were three long, thin... spring rolls, basically, filled with more of the same high-quality shrimp. *Lor mai faan* fried sticky rice

(\$25) was a generous helping of rice that had been stir-fried with lap cheung sausage, dried shrimps and peanuts and then steamed in a lotus leaf. The salty, crunchy, fragrant dish tasted just like our childhoods. Finally, the char siu bao (\$16) were large and fluffy with a sweet and meaty sauce, but they were sadly a little light on the pork. Maybe we just got unlucky. Staff were pleasant and efficient, and happy to recommend special dishes.

MISS The xiaolongbao soup dumplings (\$21) were disappointing: too big to fit into the mouth and lacking in flavor, with skins that tore too easily. Our shrimp cheung fun rice rolls were soggy and stodgy, which was a shame as again the shrimp was fresh and well cooked.

BOTTOM LINE High-quality classic dim sum dishes for a steal: Famous Dim Sum really does deserve to be famous.

Open daily 7am-10pm. \$

Pivo Czech Bar ★★★★☆

Eastern European. Shop R004, Civic Square, Elements Mall, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 2196-8733.



With warm, tavern-like décor and an open bar spilling out onto Elements' Civic Square, Pivo Czech Bar is an inviting space to hunker down for the night with rich comfort food and excellent Czech beers.

HIT The menu covers a small but thoughtful selection of Eastern European fare, from braised oxtail to sausages, pork knuckle and schnitzel. Our duck leg (\$185) was the highlight of the night: fennel-crusted crackling skin giving way to tender, pull-apart meat, balanced by braised red cabbage and duck fat gravy. The pork schnitzel (\$168) was also

a winner, with scattered capers and chopped dill lending tang to a crisp, breadcrumb-crusted pork chop and topped off with a soft-boiled egg. We were most impressed by the hospitable service; restaurant manager Lubomir was clearly passionate about the food of his home country, eagerly explaining each dish and at one point, bringing us a shot of Becherovka to sample. With cinnamon and allspice notes, it was the perfect digestif after knocking back pints of hoppy, honey-laced Pilsner Urquell.

MISS Although the flavors were spot on, the goulash (\$85) arrived in a crusty bread bowl that we had to saw through with a serrated knife, so we gave up halfway through.

BOTTOM LINE A hearty taste of the Czech Republic, with generous pours to pair.

Open Sun-Thu noon-1am, Fri-Sat noon-2am. \$\$

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

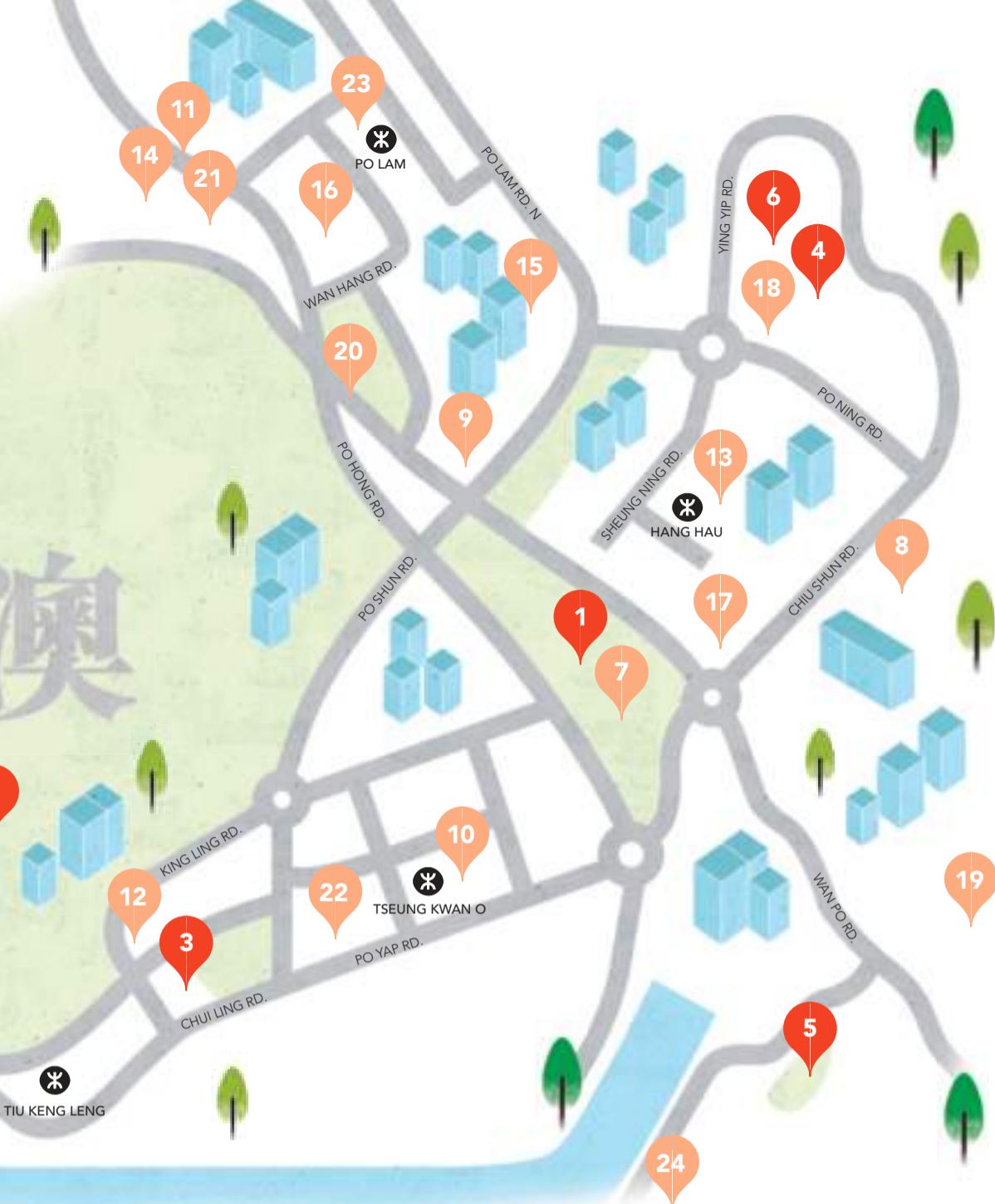
Reviews are based on actual visits to the establishments listed by our super-sneaky team of hungry reviewers, without the knowledge of the restaurants. Reviews are included at the discretion of the editors and are not paid for by the restaurants. Menus, opening hours and prices change and should be checked. 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.

CITY STROLL

Tseung Kwan O

Literally meaning the "General's Bay," Tseung Kwan O got its name all the way back in the Ming Dynasty, when the government sent a famous general to the bay to fight the pirates of the South China Sea.

The neighborhood has been mocked with the nickname "streetless town" because of its interconnected malls and residential complexes, allowing you to walk from one end to another without setting foot at ground level. But there's more to this neighborhood and it's not just about the malls—despite the area's prominent landfill, Tseung Kwan O has its beauty.



1 Hong Kong Velodrome

Cyclists should be thrilled about the Hong Kong Velodrome—the biggest cycling facility in town is a landmark of the area. The wavy exterior was inspired by a cycling helmet and the velodrome hosts all kinds of international sports events. Watch out for upcoming races: the final round of the 2015-16 UCI Track Cycling World Cup will be hosted here on Jan 16-17.

105-107 Po Hong Rd., Tseung Kwan O, 2878-8621.



2 Mau Wu Shan Castle

This 100-year-old Grade I fortification is a hidden gem along the trails above Tseung Kwan O. Start from Haven of Hope Hospital and in just 20 minutes you will reach this abandoned fort, which was built in the Qing Dynasty to watch for pirates. Feel like hiking some more? The batteries and fortifications of Devil's Peak overlooking Lei Yue Mun are another 2 hours away.



3 Hong Kong Design Institute

The HKDI has created an artistic little corner of Tseung Kwan O, with a gallery that holds regular exhibitions of work from all over the world. Currently on display: exhibitions showing off arctic architecture, Swiss typography and the art of urban regeneration.

3 King Ling Rd., Tseung Kwan O, 3928-2994.



4 Wonderful Restaurant

Hang Hau Village is THE place to go in Tseung Kwan O if you're looking for smaller eateries with lots of personality. Wonderful Restaurant is a small cha chaan teng serving traditional Cantonese wok-fried dishes that won't break the bank.

G/F, 30 Hang Hau Village, Tseung Kwan O, 2335-5638.



5 Wan Po Road Pet Garden

Tired of being told that you're not allowed to bring your pooch to the park? This large area is specifically designed for our furry friends and has latrines, collection bins, pet showers, rain shelters and more. Small dog owners can rest easy, as the garden offers two separate sections based on animal size.

Wan Po Rd., Tseung Kwan O.



6 Lardos Steak House

Despite its unremarkable looks, Lardos serves some great steaks with even better prices. The tiny steak house may not seat many, but the flavor's more than big enough to pull us in.

G/F, 4B Hang Hau Village, Tseung Kwan O, 2719-8168.



Check back next week for more awesome things to do in Tseung Kwan O!

TREE



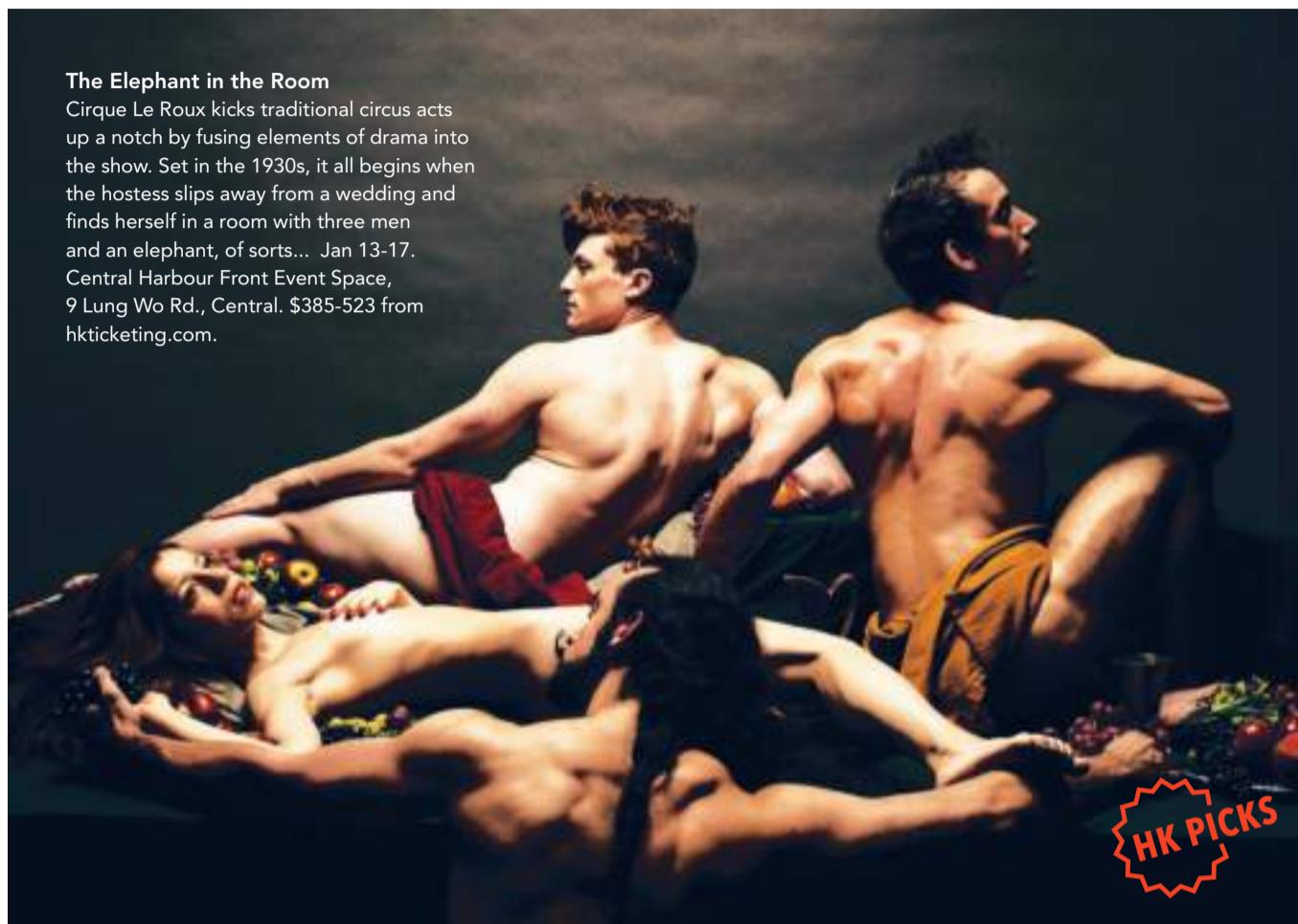
WE'RE ON
SALE!



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The Elephant in the Room

Cirque Le Roux kicks traditional circus acts up a notch by fusing elements of drama into the show. Set in the 1930s, it all begins when the hostess slips away from a wedding and finds herself in a room with three men and an elephant, of sorts... Jan 13-17. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$385-523 from [hkticketing.com](#).

Farfalle

From Italy comes the Teatro di Piazza o d'Occasione, a theatre company that's all about interactive theatre and the use of space. Their show, "Farfalle," reinterprets the metamorphosis of a caterpillar's cocoon to a butterfly through a pair of dancers, colorful lights and some butterfly wings. And we thought it was just a kind of pasta... Jan 8-10. Studio Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$260 from [urbtix.hk](#).

Inherit The Wind

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



A Simple Space by Gravity & Other Myths

Thought "defying gravity" was just a show tune? Not so for Gravity & Other Myths, eight young Aussie acrobats who'll compete for laughter, gasps, and applause with their mind-boggling feats. Take that, Isaac Newton. Jan 7-17. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$385-523 from [hkticketing.com](#).



We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Take the kids on a hunting trip without going outside (although technically you still have to drag them to the Udderbelly). Adapted from the picture book of the same name, this show takes families on a bearish adventure with catchy songs and interactive scenes. Jan 21-24. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$385-523 from [hkticketing.com](#).

Briefs

The larger-than-life Briefs boys are in town for a show that's ballsy enough to make your eyes pop and jaws drop. The extravagant and acrobatic boylesque combines comedy with nudity—the two best things in life, right? Jan 26-30. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$355-443 from [hkticketing.com](#).

The Ghost Seller & His Butterflies (Version 80)

An innovative double bill of genre-twisting contemporary opera from Hong Kong and Taiwan. "The Ghost Seller" by Taiwan's GuoGuang Opera Company features not-so-scary ghosts inspired by the short allegorical tale "Dingbo Sells A Ghost," while "His Butterflies (Version 80)" by Hong Kong's Utopia Opera Workshop is a romantic, modern musical production consisting of a series of songs written by the legendary Cantonese opera master Tong Tik-sang. Feb 26-27, 7:30pm. Ko Shan Theatre New Wing, Ko Shan Theatre, 77 Ko Shan Rd., Hung Hom, 2740-9222. \$100-200 from [urbtix.hk](#).

Festival

The AIA Great European Carnival

This fun-packed waterfront carnival returns to Hong Kong, with an even bigger list of attractions this year. There are over 50 rides and games, plus a whole other load of fun: Italian light sculptures, 3D replicas of famous European landmarks and of course, loads to eat and drink. Through Feb 21. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$90-125 from [tgec-en.ticketarena.asia](#).

Classical

Piano Opera

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

Concerts



Beardyman: One Album Per Hour

Creating a studio-quality album takes hours and hours of hard work, but the scruffy beatboxer known as Beardyman is trying to break all the rules by carving out an album in just one hour live on stage—and you can be a part of it, because he's all about the audience participation. And the beards. Feb 2-3. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$385-473 from [hkticketing.com](#).

Comedy

Steve McGrew

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

Russell Howard

One of the UK's hottest comics, Russell Howard brings the funny to the Udderbelly Festival. In 2011, he became the youngest comic ever to sell-out London's largest arena. Expect the same here, only the venue's quite a lot smaller. He's famous, but he's not Eason Chan. Jan 21-23. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$595-683 from [hkticketing.com](#).



Opera



The Ring Cycle Part 2 – Die Walküre

Richard Wagner's epic Ring Cycle saga continues with "Die Walküre." In the second part of the opera, our hero Siegmund is being pursued by his enemies when he comes across the beautiful Sieglinde... Performed by the HK Phil, directed by Jaap van Zweden. Jan 21-23. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$280-880 from [urbtix.hk](#).

Theater

Brainiac Live

Brainy is the new sexy. Right? The multi award-winning Brainiac arrives in Hong Kong for the first time to take you and the little ones on a breathless ride through the wild world of the weird and wonderful. With a great range of experiments and demonstrations, join the Brainiacs in this messy, loud and all-action live show—and don't try this at home... Through Jan 10. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$385-523 from [hkticketing.com](#).

Exhibitions



The World is Our Home: A Poem on Abstraction

This exhibition at Para Site takes viewers into a world of abstraction, showcasing the work of three abstract painters: Robert Motherwell, Tomie Ohtake and Tang Chang, who all worked in different parts of the world but who all comment on similar experiences and events. Also featured is video work by artist Bruce Nauman. Through Mar 6. Para Site Art Space, 22/F, Wing Wah Industrial Building, 677 King's Rd., Quarry Bay, 2517-4620.

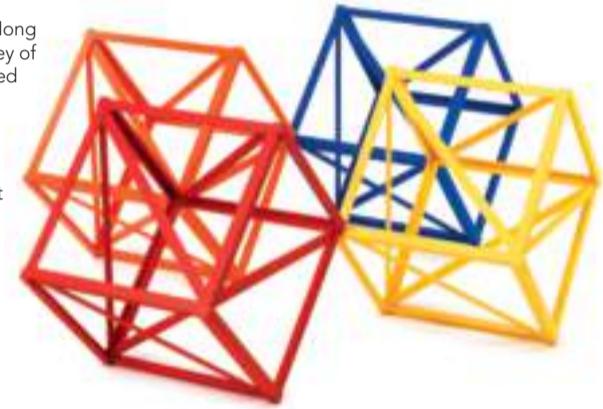


The Human Scale

Ever wondered if a city has its own life? Danish architect Jan Gehl and his team want to bring cities to life, specially designing them for humanity's needs. Part of the 2015 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture, this film looks into how to create "life between buildings." Jan 10, 2:30pm. Agnès b. Cinema, Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai, 2582-0200, uabbhk.org.

Going East

Artist Rasheed Araeen's first Hong Kong solo exhibition is a survey of his near 70-year career. Dubbed "the father of minimalist sculpture" in the UK, he'll be showing off everything from his earliest abstract illustrations to his more recent post-minimalist sculpture. Through Jan 16. Rossi & Rossi Hong Kong, Unit 3C, Yally Industrial Building, 6 Yip Fat St., Wong Chuk Hang, 3575-9417, rossirossi.com.



An advertisement for IAFT Hong Kong. It features a green diagonal banner on the left with the text "ASK ABOUT OUR SHORT COURSES". The main text "NEW YEAR! NEW CAREER!" is in large white letters. Below it, a paragraph describes the 1-year practical filmmaking program. At the bottom, it says "LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE FOR JANUARY 2016". Contact information includes "CONTACT US TODAY!", "ADMISSIONS@IAFT.HK", "WWW.IAFT.NET", and "5808-3443(3445)". There are also icons of a film reel, a movie camera, and a window.



EDUCATION EXHIBITION IN HONG KONG

Information, advice and guidance for prospective students

Date: 16 – 17 January 2016

Time: 11:00 – 17:00

Venue: Grand Hyatt Lounge and Library Rooms
1 Harbour Road, Wanchai

Prospective students who are considering undertaking a degree in London are welcome. The exhibition includes introduction to each institution, subject presentations, advice and guidance on studying at four leading UK universities.

Further information and registration is available at

www.wcsil-hongkong-2016.eventbrite.co.uk



You are encouraged to register in advance for this event.

Imperial College
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NIGHTLIFE

OPEN BAR VEA

The buzz: Standing for "Vicky et Antonio," two-story restaurant and bar Vea is helmed by culinary talents Vicky Cheng, previously of Liberty Private Works, and Quinary's Antonio Lai. The idea is to try to close the gap between drinking and eating by bringing food ingredients into booze, and booze into food.

The décor: At the top of new-ish F&B beacon The Wellington, a long terrace wraps around the outside of the 29th floor lounge, showing off glittering skyscraper views converging at the two IFC towers. The bar feels masculine, with dark leather bar stools, wood and marble surfaces and brass finishings all around.

The drinks: While the whole concept is a collaboration between Lai and Cheng, the bar menu itself is the brainchild of Lai and ex-Noma chef Leszek Stachura. A total of 16 cocktails play with the texture or flavor of particular ingredients, categorized under "Sweet," "Savory," "Sour" and "Strong." The Genmai 13 (\$110) is a mix of gin, genmaicha brown rice tea cordial and soda water, topped off with an adorable cone of toasted genmaicha kernels for a subtle, nutty crunch. Bloody Mary lovers will want to try the Blood Wedding (\$130), which is sweeter than its name suggests: blending vodka with smoky Lapsang Souchong tea, tomato and Chinese mustard green juice,

garnished with a stick of Asian beef jerky and cherry tomato. If you're looking for a drink to impress, the regal Cleopatra Formosa (\$170) should do the trick: Served in a gold pineapple goblet, it's an icy mezcal and Absolut Elyx blend with a pineapple and star anise syrup. Wood smoke wafts out as you open the lid, complementing the smokiness of the mezcal. And for kids at heart? A boozy kindergartener's drink comes in the form of the rich Peanut Butter Milkshake (\$120). It's actually peanut-free, mixing white chocolate liqueur with Frangelico, half and half and a pinch of salt, served in a glass carton complete with rainbow sprinkles.

Why you'll be back: Chef Cheng has also contributed a slew of Asian-style snacks to the bar, such as its signature homemade pineapple bun, which is served as a juicy Iberico pork katsu sandwich (\$58) or with chilled caramel butter inside (\$38) for a sophisticated twist on the *bor lor yau*. With utmost attention paid to presentation details, whatever you order at the bar is bound to be Instagram-worthy. That's all that matters, right?

Evelyn Lok
29/F, The Wellington,
198 Wellington St.,
Central, [vea.hk](#).



Concerts

Diana Krall



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



Rain: The Squall

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



5 Seconds of Summer: Sounds Live Feels Live

Feel like hanging out with ALL of the city's teenagers in one room together? Aussie pop punk kids 5 Seconds of Summer are performing in Hong Kong for the first time, touring their latest album "Sounds Good Feels Good." Considered by many to be One Direction's protégés (1D has a financial stake in 5SOS), the foursome is known for bouncy hits including "She's Kinda Hot" and "Hey Everybody!" Mar 10, 8pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$488-1,588 from [hkticketing.com](#).

Gigs

Toro y Moi: What For? Asia Tour

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

The Vamps

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

One OK Rock

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

Ladybeard Returns to Hong Kong

Bored of the Hong Kong music scene? Here's something completely different. Dressing up as a pigtailed 5-year-old, six-foot Aussie wrestler and "kawaii-core" pioneer Ladybeard returns to Hong Kong for this gig. Known for his metal covers of Cantopop and his Japanese pop-metal band Ladybaby (formed together with two cute Japanese teens), Ladybeard's return is unmissable if you're after something a little more... alternative. Doors open 3pm. Jan 16, 3:30pm.

Jan 16, 3:30pm.
Focal Fair, 28/F,
Park Avenue
Tower, 5 Moreton
Avenue,
Causeway
Bay. \$250 from
[undergroundhk.com](#); VIP tickets
\$450 with
access to
meet and greet.



You & Me & Sweaty & Cramped

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



Cicada

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



Edited by Evelyn Lok
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com

Events & Festivals

Death Cab For Cutie

Indie heroes Ben Gibbard et al. are playing in Hong Kong. Are you going to be the type of smug fan who says you knew them before "Transatlanticism," and you're still following them up to their latest album "Kintsugi"? Or maybe you're just an MK jai who's stumbled on the show at MacPherson Stadium... Mar 1, 8pm. MacPherson Stadium, 38 Nelson St, Mong Kok. \$490 from ticketflap.com.



Bon Iver

Pull on your hipster beanies, because indie folk act Bon Iver is touring Asia. Haven't heard mountain man Justin Vernon's stuff beyond his bit in Kanye's "Lost in the World"? Start listening to first album "For Emma, Forever Ago" on loop now, written while hibernating for three months in a cabin in Wisconsin—it's the perfect winter playlist. Mar 8, 8pm. MacPherson Stadium, 38 Nelson St, Mong Kok. \$590 from ticketflap.com, \$690 at the door.



PDT Pop-up Bar

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

Shelter Skelter 2016

Good deeds and good music come together at Shelter Skelter. The two-day show features 11 Hong Kong bands including After-After-Party, Thinking Out Loud and League of Gentlemen, and everyone's playing for international disaster relief charity ShelterBox, who provide emergency shelter and vital supplies to those overwhelmed by disasters around the world. Jan 16-17. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd, Central. \$90-125 from tgec-en.ticketarena.asia.

HK PICKS

Malt Masters 2016
Find the perfect dram at this two-day whisky showcase at the Conrad, featuring tipplers from more than 50 distilleries. There'll also be masterclasses for you to nose deeper into whisky appreciation, as well as classes on cigar and food pairing. Feb 27-28. Conrad Hong Kong, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, 2521-3838. \$800 per day from gormei.com.

Hong Kong Sinfonietta
香港小交響樂團
音樂總監 Music Director 葉詠詩 Yip Wing-sie

Good Music @ The Fringe

Rarities & Contrasts

19.1.2016 Tue 7pm

Programme

Charles Kwong
Niccolò Paganini
Camille Saint-Saëns
Evan Chambers

Neon (world première)
Duet No 1 for Violin & Bassoon
Fantaisie for Violin & Harp, Op 124
Come Down Heavy! (1994/1996)



Cheung Man-yui Kitty
(Violin)



Timothy Sun*
(Saxophone)



Chin Hing-sang
(Bassoon)



Jenny Ng*
(Piano)



Ann Huang
(Harp)

* Guest performers

The Fringe Club – Fringe Dairy

(2 Lower Albert Road, Central)

\$150 (including a drink)

Details & Online Tickets: www.HKSL.org/Fringe

Programme Enquiries : 2836 3336

Admission age: 6 or above

Hong Kong Sinfonietta reserves the right to change the programme and artists



Hong Kong Sinfonietta is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Joy ★★★★

(USA) Comedy/Drama. Directed by David O. Russell. Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro, Virginia Madsen, Isabella Rossellini, Bradley Cooper. Category IIA. 124 minutes. Opened Dec 31.

There are good directors, there are hack directors, and then there are directors whose work, for better or worse, is instantly recognizable. Scorsese, yes. Wes Anderson, yes. Michael Bay? Alas. And of course, David O. Russell.

What defines a David O. Russell flick, especially his recent work? It's a pretty straightforward bulleted list that goes as follows:

- Jennifer Lawrence: Gutsy, determined heroine.
- Bradley Cooper: Slightly-too-smooth-but-overall-nice dude.
- Robert DeNiro: Insane father figure.
- Bangin' tunes.
- Sixty percent more silly than you'd expect.

Which makes "Joy" David O. Russell in a cinematic nutshell.

"Joy" is a heavily fictionalized biopic of American inventor Joy Mangano, struggling single mother of two who became a millionaire inventor. When we first meet her, Joy's life sucks. She's working a dead-end job, has bills upon bills to pay, her mother is a shut-in obsessed with TV soaps, her ex-husband lives in the basement and her self-obsessed father's just been kicked out of his house and wants to move in. But she's ever-creative and is desperate to make something of her life. When she invents a self-wringing mop she decides to throw herself into selling it, no matter the cost.

There's a lot to like in "Joy." It lives up to its name as a joyful film: A tale of the American Dream, of wanting something badly enough and working for it hard enough until it all comes



true. It's well shot and wryly funny, and Jennifer Lawrence is always magnetic on screen.

But there are weaknesses, too—and one is J-Law herself. True, she's one of the best actresses working today, with an inherent, irrepressible feistiness that makes her perfect for this kind of determined character. But the truth is that the woman is so flawlessly good-looking that it's hard to believe her as a desperate struggling mom. This is one of those cases where the reality of showbiz ruins the artifice of filmmaking: It's hard to believe that anyone with such great skin could ever be a mom unable to make ends meet.

We also get a lot of Russell's trademark soapy family drama but it never quite goes anywhere, as it's unable to get beyond caricature. The supporting cast of Joy's self-centered, irritating family is entertaining but it feels like conflict for

conflict's sake. Robert DeNiro, Isabella Rossellini, Virginia Madsen and Elisabeth Rohm are all great fun to watch, but they're presented as one-note characters, not genuine humans. Similarly Bradley Cooper is the TV exec who introduces her to the world of home shopping channels, in two of the most entertaining of the movie's sequences. Is he fun? Absolutely. Is he a real person? Not so much.

In a way, it doesn't matter. This is, after all, a film about a woman selling mops on TV. And on top of that it's a David O. Russell film: The man doesn't strive for realism, kind-of biopic or not. Instead he's got Jennifer Lawrence, bangin' tunes, and yes—60 percent more silly than you'd expect. Oh, joy. **Adam White**

Coming Soon

The 5th Wave

(USA) There's nothing like a film about the obliteration of planet Earth to start 2016 off right: Chloë Grace Moretz is a high school kid who desperately tries to save her younger brother as multiple (five) waves of alien attacks destroy the human race. Bet she wishes she could "Carrie" herself out of this pickle. Based on the 2013 bestselling young adult sci-fi novel by Rick Yancey. Opens Jan 14.

Steve Jobs

(USA) Apple geeks, hold on to your lightning cables: Danny Boyle's Steve Jobs biopic starring Michael Fassbender finally lands in Hong Kong. It chronicles the story of the father of Apple from his first launch of the Macintosh in 1984, to his personal struggles with his ex-girlfriend and son, to his departure and later return to Apple. Get ready for that magnum opus keynote presentation: You know there's going to be one. Opens Jan 14.

Salut d'Amour ▾

(South Korea) A light Korean rom-com featuring a courtship between two geriatrics. Meanwhile, a property developer struggles to get the final signature needed to approve a redevelopment project. There's probably some kind of moral here about liking old things. Opens Jan 14.

Mojin: The Lost Legend

(China) A 3D fantasy blockbuster starring Shu Qi, Huang Bo and Angelababy, "Mojin" is the second film adapted from successful web novel series "The Ghost Blows Out the Light," telling of a trio of grave robbers who venture deep underground in search of the ultimate treasure. Opens Jan 14.

Opening



100 Yen Love

(Japan) Submitted as Japan's entry to the Best Foreign Film category of the 88th Academy Awards, "100 Yen Love" is not your average tender Japanese love story: It's a dirty, stark peek into the life of Ichiko, a 30-something misanthrope still living with her parents who finds solace in... boxing? Opened Jan 7.

The 33

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



Daddy's Home

(USA) The second comedy collab between Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg since 2010's detective action-comedy "The Other Guys," Hollywood pits mild-mannered stepdad (Ferrell) against bad boy biological father (Wahlberg) in the ultimate fatherhood one-up competition. Opened Jan 7.

Continuing

Before We Go

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

Burnt

(USA) Bradley Cooper is a former top chef in Paris whose substance abuse has led his career to collapse. After repenting his crimes, he's hired as the head chef of a new fine-dine in London. A good looking star and even better looking food make up for an iffy plot. ★★

By the Sea

(USA) In Angelina Jolie's film, a couple tries to revive their marriage at a French seaside resort in the 70s. Part French New Wave, part perfume commercial, be prepared to sit through two hours before any real exposition. Numbingly exhausting, like the marriage itself. ★★



MINI REVIEW

Ip Man 3

(Hong Kong) The grandmaster of Wing Chun returns six years after his last outing. It's 1959 and Ip Man (Donnie Yen) is settling into his life in Hong Kong. But he must face down a local gang threatening to take over a local primary school, under the orders of an American street fighter and property developer (Mike Tyson) who wants the land for no discernible purpose other than to be the villain and the cause for an epic showdown. But the incredulity of the plot barely matters when you've got Yen taking out dozens of thugs, all expertly shot and choreographed with some artful cinematography thrown in. A mixture of tender family drama, dry Hong Kong humor and one or two of Ip Man's signature lectures on righteous morality, this action blockbuster is one to watch: Especially if you're not a stickler for factual truth. ★★★★ Evelyn Lok





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Joy
(USA) See review, left.

The Little Prince

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

Sherlock: The Abominable Bride

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

Snoopy: The Peanuts Movie

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

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

(USA) J.J. Abrams takes the reins for this first part of the sequel trilogy to the legendary space opera. Set 30 years after the fall of the Empire in "Return of the Jedi," a new military dictatorship has assumed rule. Brilliant fun, even if it's basically just a remake of "A New Hope." ★★★★



Special Screenings

M+ Screenings: Visible Places

This collection of 13 films screened across three days are an attempt at the deep sensory exploration of the cities we live in. The program ranges from a standalone screening of Mak Tai-kit's Hong Kong sci-fi flick "The Wicked City" (Jan 15) starring Leon Lai and Jacky Cheung; to a triple bill exploring places from the female perspective (Jan 16), featuring video artist May Fung's short "She Said Why Me," Manon de Boer's "Sylvia Kristel-Paris"—an interview with the "Emmanuelle" actress—and documentary "24 City" about a factory being replaced by a large apartment complex. Other highlights include anime classic "Ghost in the Shell" (Jan 17) inspired by the Kowloon Walled City, and Zhou Tau's "Blue and Red" (Jan 16) which beautifully captures three cities in polarizing hues. Jan 15-17. Broadway Cinematheque, Prosperous Garden, 3 Public Square, Yau Ma Tei. \$80 from westkowloon.hk/mplusscreenings.

French Film Festival: Retrospective

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

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CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): In her poem "Tree," California poet Jane Hirshfield speaks of a young redwood tree that's positioned next to a house. Watch out! It grows fast—as much as three feet per year. "Already the first branch-tips brush at the window," Hirshfield writes. "Softly, calmly, immensity taps at your life." I suspect this will be an apt metaphor for you in 2016. The expansion and proliferation you have witnessed these past few months are likely to intensify. That's mostly good, but may also require adjustments. How will you respond as immensity taps at your life?

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): Centuries ago, lettuce was a bitter, prickly weed that no one ate. But ancient Egyptians guessed its potential, and used selective breeding to gradually convert it into a tasty food. I see 2016 as a time when you could have a comparable success. Look around at your life, and identify weed-like things that could, through your transformative magic, be turned into valuable assets. The process may take longer than a year, but you can set in motion an unstoppable momentum that will ensure success.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): Imagine that a beloved elder has been writing down your life story in the form of a fairy tale. Your adventures aren't rendered literally, as your waking mind might describe them, but rather through dream-like scenes that have symbolic resonance. With this as our template, I'll predict a key plot development of 2016: You will grow increasingly curious about a "forbidden" door—a door you have always believed should not be opened. Your inquisitiveness will reach such an intensity that you will consider locating the key for that door. If it's not available, you may even think about breaking down the door.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): John Steinbeck won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962. His novel "Of Mice and Men" helped win him the award, but it required extra persistence. When he'd almost finished the manuscript, he went out on a date with his wife. While they were gone, his puppy Toby ripped his precious pages into confetti. As mad as he was, he didn't punish the dog, but got busy on a rewrite. Later he considered the possibility that Toby had served as a helpful literary critic. The new edition of "Of Mice and Men" was Steinbeck's breakout book. I'm guessing that in recent months you have received comparable assistance, Aries—although you may not realize it was assistance until later this year.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): Remember back to what your life was like during the first nine months of 2004. I suspect that you fell just short of fulfilling a dream. It's possible you were too young to have the power you needed. Or maybe you were working on a project that turned out to be pretty good but not great. Maybe you were pushing to create a new life for yourself but weren't wise enough to make a complete breakthrough. Almost 12 years later, you have returned to a similar phase in your long-term cycle. You are better equipped to do what you

couldn't quite do before: create the masterpiece, finish the job, rise to the next level.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): To become a skillful singer, you must learn to regulate your breath. You've got to take in more oxygen than usual for extended periods, and do it in ways that facilitate rather than interfere with the sounds coming out of your mouth. When you're beginning, it feels weird to exert so much control over an instinctual impulse, which previously you've done unconsciously. Later, you have to get beyond your self-conscious discipline so you can reach a point where the proper breathing happens easily and gracefully. Although you may not be working to become a singer in 2016, Gemini, I think you will have comparable challenges: 1. to make conscious an activity that has been unconscious; 2. to refine and cultivate that activity; 3. to allow your consciously-crafted approach to become unselfconscious again.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): Ancient humans didn't "invent" fire, but rather learned about it from nature and then figured out how to produce it as needed. Ropes had a similar origin. Our ancestors employed long vines made of tough fiber as primitive ropes, and eventually got the idea to braid and knot the vines together for greater strength. This technology was used to hunt, climb, pull, fasten, and carry. It was essential to the development of civilization. I predict that 2016 will bring you opportunities that have metaphorical resemblances to the early rope. Your task will be to develop and embellish on what nature provides.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22): British author Anthony Trollope (1815-1882) had a day job with the postal service until he was in his fifties. For years he awoke every morning at 5:30 and churned out 2,500 words before heading to work. His goal was to write two or three novels a year, a pace he came close to achieving. "A small daily task, if it really be daily," he wrote in his autobiography, "will beat the labors of a spasmodic Hercules." I recommend that you borrow from his strategy in 2016, Leo. Be regular and disciplined and diligent as you practice the art of gradual, incremental success.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): Umbrellas shelter us from the rain, saving us from the discomfort of getting soaked and the embarrassment of bad hair. They also protect us from the blinding light and sweltering heat of the sun. I'm very



much in favor of these practical perks. But when umbrellas appear in your nightly dreams, they may have a less positive meaning. They can indicate an inclination to shield yourself from natural forces, or to avoid direct contact with primal sensuality. I hope you won't do much of that in 2016. In my opinion, you need a lot of face-to-face encounters with life in its raw state. Symbolically speaking, this should be a non-umbrella year.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): Around the world, an average of 26 languages go extinct every year. But it increasingly appears that Welsh will not be one of them. It has enjoyed a revival in the past few decades. In Wales, it's taught in many schools, appears on road signs, and is used in some mobile phones and computers. Is there a comparable phenomenon in your life, Libra? A tradition that can be revitalized and should be preserved? A part of your heritage that may be useful to your future? A neglected aspect of your birthright that deserves to be reclaimed? Make it happen in 2016.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Fourteenth-century author Geoffrey Chaucer produced a collection of stories known as the "Canterbury Tales." It became a seminal text of English literature even though he never finished it. The most influential book ever written by theologian Thomas Aquinas was a work he gave up on before it was completed. The artist Michelangelo never found the time to put the final touches on numerous sculptures and paintings. Why am I bringing this theme to your attention? Because 2016 will be an excellent time to wrap up long-term projects you've been working on—and also to be at peace with abandoning those you can't.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): A bottle of Chateau Cheval Blanc wine from 1947 sold for \$304,000. Three bottles of Chateau Lafite-Rothschild 1869 went for \$233,000 apiece. The mystique about aged wine provokes crazy behavior like that. But here's a more mundane fact: Most wine deteriorates with age, and should be sold within a few years of being bottled. I'm thinking about these things as I meditate on your long-term future, Sagittarius. My guess is that your current labor of love will reach full maturity in the next 18 to 20 months. This will be a time to bring all your concentration and ingenuity to bear on making it as good as it can be. By September of 2017, you will have ripened it as much as it can be ripened.

HOMEWORK: Write a one-page essay entitled "2016 Is the Year I Figure Out What I Really Want."



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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I'm a 45-year-old straight male. Politically and socially, I consider myself an ardent feminist. There is nothing I enjoy more than giving a woman an orgasm or two. I'm very GGG and will cheerfully do whatever it takes. Fingers, tongue, cock, vibrator—I'm in. If it takes a long time, so much the better. I'm okay with all of that. Now and again, though, I really like a quickie, a good old-fashioned "Wham, bam, thank you, ma'am!" The only ladies I've found willing to engage in those cock-centric acts are sex workers. I'm okay with that, too. But the last time I paid for it, with a woman I had patronized before, I was just about to slip my cock in doggy-style when her phone rang. It was in reach, and she picked it up! I hesitated, but she didn't pull away, and in fact pushed back a bit while she answered. I figured this was what I came for, so I proceeded. Her cavalier attitude toward being fucked from behind while having a trivial phone conversation wound up being a huge turn-on for me. By the time she finished her 20-second call, I was finished as well. I hadn't come that quickly since I was a teen. She laughed that she should take calls more often. What kind of beast am I that I really enjoyed such utter indifference? Does this reveal some dark secret deep in my psyche? How can that mesh with my otherwise feminist views?

— Premature Ejaculation Needs Some Introspective View Examined

First, PENSIVE, "enjoys giving women orgasms" sets the bar for "ardent feminist" just a bit low. So here's hoping your feminism involves more than penetrating a willing partner with your fingers, tongue, cock, and whatever vibrators happen to be lying around. Because if your feminism doesn't include support for pro-choice policies and candidates, regular donations to Planned Parenthood, backing equal pay for equal work, speaking up when other men say shitty/rapey/dehumanizing things about women (particularly when there isn't a woman in the room whose pussy you want to lick until you come, because feminism!)—and more—then you're not a feminist, ardent or otherwise.

Moving on... Why did it turn you on when the sex worker took a call during your session? Because it did. Turn-ons are subjective and mysterious. People who are curious about their turn-ons have to start with "this turns me on" and work backward from there. And to figure out why a particular fabric/adornment/attitude/scenario arouses us, we use the only tools available to us—guesswork and self-serving rationalizations—to invent a backstory that makes some sort of logical sense, and then we apply it to something (kinks, turn-ons, orgasms) that really defies logic.

So, PENSIVE, if I were to hazard some guesswork on your behalf, I'd probably go with this: Being treated with passive contempt by someone that you are supposed to be wielding power over (the woman you're fucking, a sex worker you've hired)—being subtly humiliated and mildly degraded by that woman—taps a vein of eroticized self-hatred that makes you come quickly and come hard.

And while that's wonderful for you, PENSIVE, it isn't proof you're a feminist.

I'm a 29-year-old gay trans man. On female hormones, I took a long time to come and usually wouldn't come at all. I always enjoyed sex; I just wasn't focused on coming. My partners would or wouldn't, depending on their preferences. Since starting testosterone a few years ago, I now come quickly and easily. (Sometimes too quickly and easily.) My problem is that after I come, like most men, I'm done with sex. And the stronger the orgasm, the truer this is. A while ago, after a really fun time, I woke to find that I'd accidentally fallen asleep and left my longtime hookup buddy to fend for himself. Other times, I'm just tired and/or

turned off. I definitely don't want anyone inside me (it hurts), and while I've tried mustering enthusiasm for blowjobs, hand jobs, etc., my attempts come across as pretty tepid. So in the context of both ongoing relationships of various sorts and hookups, what's the etiquette? I've found myself just avoiding things that'll push me to come, because I don't want to be rude. And since I've always enjoyed sex without orgasms, this doesn't bother me mostly. But once in a while, I would like to come. How can I do this and still take care of the other guy?

— Not Good At Sexy Abbreviations

Use your words, NGASA: "If it's not a problem, I'd rather come after you do—my refractory period kicks in hard when I come and, like other men, I briefly lose interest in sex. On top of that, I'm a terrible actor. So let's make you come first or let's try to come at the same time, okay?"

My wife and I are bisexual—we're a man and woman—and we've been tiptoeing right up to the edge of organizing a threesome or swap through 3nder. But we haven't gone through with it yet—too many flakes and fakes. But we have no complaints—just contemplating a threesome has put amazing energy back into our sex life. Is there a name for the explosive sex you have with your longtime partner when you're anticipating a group scene or threesome? If not, can we suggest the neologism "presome"?

Rhymes with threesome!

— Married With Anticipated High Jinks

The phenomenon you describe—the insanely hot sex a couple has before a threesome or other sexual adventure—has been noted by sex researchers and couples counselors. Dr. Margie Nichols, a psychologist and sex therapist, told the New York Times she frequently urges the non-kinky couples she sees to emulate kinky couples. "Kinky couples plan sex," Nichols told Amy Sohn, "and simmer for days in advance."

Many couples in the planning stages of a threesome do a lot more than simmer: Like you and the wife, MWAHJ, they find themselves having hot twosomes in anticipation of the impending (and hopefully hot) threesome. I think "presome" is a wonder term to describe that kind of sex—I'm officially endorsing your proposed neologism—but I don't think it works as well for four-way swaps, group sex, BDSM play parties, etc., because it obviously rhymes with/riffs on "threesome." But it's an excellent term to describe the situation you and the wife are in.

To describe the sex you'll have in the wake of your first successful threesome, I would propose the term "postsome."

I thought your advice to SCRAPE, the guy whose penis was suffering due to his girlfriend's shaved-but-stubbly labia, was spot-on—except in regards to waxing. As both a former professional waver and a woman with very coarse pubic hair, I hope you don't mind if I correct you: Waxed hair does not grow back as prickly as shaved hair. The hair follicle tapers from its root. When shaved, it is cut straight across at its thickest point. The hair, as it grows, continues to grow from there. When waxed, the hair is removed at its root, and a new hair will grow intact, with the softer taper. I cannot shave without extreme discomfort during regrowth (like needles in my undies!). SCRAPE's girlfriend's post-wax stubble may still be too uncomfortable for him, but it will doubtless be an improvement. Honestly, I'd be amazed if she's not currently in more pain than he is!

— Smooth Moves

Thanks for sharing, SM.

Listen to Dan's podcast every week at savagecast.com.

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

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LANTAU

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

GATEWAY/ HARBOUR CITY

Gateway Apartments
Gaylord Indian Restaurant
Greyhound Café
Harbourside Restaurant
Hotel Icon

Jimmy's Kitchen
Joa Ristorante
K11 Art Mall
Kowloon Cricket Club
Kowloon Shangri-la Hotel & Deli Kool

La Villa Restaurant & Bar
Langham Hotel Main Street Deli
Lobby Café - Sheraton Hotel
Mega Hospitality Intl
Morgan Stanley
Namo
Ned Kelly's Last Stand
Nomads
Outback Steakhouse - TST Centre
Pacific Club
Page One
Papi
Pierside Bar, The Royal Pacific Hotel and Towers
Pizza Express - 35 Ashley Rd.
RA Restaurant & Lounge
Regal Kowloon Hotel
Ritz Carlton - Concierge
Ruth's Chris
Starbucks - 102 Austin Rd.
Starbucks - Albion Plaza
Starbucks - China HK City
Starbucks - Elements
Starbucks - Empire Centre
Starbucks - Gateway Arcade
Starbucks - Harbour Crystal Ctr.
Starbucks - I Square
Starbucks - K11
Starbucks - Knutsford
Starbucks - Mirror Tower
Starbucks - Ocean Terminal
Starbucks - STAR HOUSE B/F
Starbucks - The Sun Arcade
Stormies
Swindon Books
Tequila Jack's
The Doghouse
The Grand
The Swiss Chalet
Tiffany's New York Bar
Triple O
W Hotel
Weinstube
Wired Café
Wooloo Mooloo

KOWLOON TONG

Amaroni's
Baptist University
Baptist University Student Union
City University Student Union
Dan Ryan's
Page One
Park N Shop
Pizza Express
Starbucks - Festival Walk
Starbucks - HKBU

HUNG HOM

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

KOWLOON BAY/ KWUN TONG/ KOWLOON CITY

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

HK GIVEAWAYS

New year, new awesome prizes to win courtesy of your favorite magazine! This month we're offering an amazing stay at the Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong as well as dining delights at the swanky Greater China Club. Lucky you...

WIN
A NIGHT AT
THE MANDARIN,
WORTH
\$10,150!



Win a suite stay at
Mandarin Oriental,
valued at \$10,150!

The **Mandarin Oriental**, Hong Kong needs little introduction. One of the world's finest hotels, it offers the most elegant and enjoyable hospitality experience imaginable. But for one lucky reader, imagining won't be necessary as you'll really be there, swanning around like one of the countless celebrities and VIPs to have graced the grande dame of Asian hotels over the past half century.

And a **one-night's weekend stay** in a **Studio Suite** will certainly make you feel special! We're talking Chinese elm paneling, silk matting, bathrooms of travertine stone and Chinese marble and a pedestal bath. It also includes the latest technology throughout the suite, including internet access, a dedicated floor butler, breakfast and even classic afternoon tea for two at the Clipper Lounge is thrown in. Rose petal jam, anyone?

Fancy a chance to live the high life? Here's how.

In this issue and the following two, you will need to find an *italicized* word in the appropriate Spotlight page article. Once you've got all three, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about what a stay at this iconic property would mean to you. Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry before **10am on January 25, 2016**. The best, most romantic entry will win the prize.

Good luck! The winner will be announced on January 29.



Win a dining voucher for the Greater China Club!

From one classic experience to another: A haven of art and fine-dining, the **Greater China Club** is rapidly forging a reputation thanks to its fabulous Thai and Cantonese food. And with not one but two chefs formerly of Michelin three-star restaurants, it all starts to make sense.

The only problem? Whether you go for the Thai chef's fresh crab with yellow curry sauce, raw shrimps with spicy seafood sauce and stir-fried Manila clams with chili paste and basil leaf, or opt for steamed fresh crab claw with egg white in wine and wok-fried Australian lobster balls with black truffle, morel fungus and asparagus from the Cantonese kitchen.

This delicious dilemma notwithstanding, you're guaranteed a great time at Greater China Club, which also boasts a jazz lounge, roof garden and art arcade.

We've got **two dining vouchers worth \$2,500 each** to give away for a meal at the Greater China Club. Want the chance to win? Just describe in one sentence what you love about Cantonese or Thai food. If your prose makes our mouths water, you've got a good chance of being a winner! Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry before **10am on January 18, 2016**. Winners will be announced on January 22.

WIN
DINING
VOUCHERS
WORTH
\$5,000!



FIRST PERSON

"I really care about the accuracy of my Cantonese accent."

Cantonese-speaking actor

Brian Thomas Burrell has starred in TVB dramas and comedies for the past 20 years. His role in the 2007 sitcom "Best Selling Secrets" gave him his nickname, *Yat Gor* ("Brother One").

He tells Isabelle Hon about growing up nerdy and Mormon, making the switch to acting, and why he's trying to add accents—and lose them at the same time.



I grew up in a Mormon family in Salt Lake City, Utah.

I was totally a nerd. I wore glasses and braces for six years.

At age 16, I took off the braces, put on contact lenses, and suddenly turned handsome.

Then I got popular with the girls.

But I have always been a shy boy. While with the girls I liked, I could barely say anything.

Mormon boys normally become missionaries when they're around 19-21 years old.

I preached in Boston. One day, someone asked me if I wanted to learn a second language. I started learning Russian and Cambodian.

I became a volunteer in Cambodia for two years. I knew enough to communicate with locals after the first half-year.

When I got back to the U.S. I became a court interpreter.

I met my ex-wife, who is from Hong Kong and was studying in Utah.

We got married the third month after we met. After she graduated in 1995, we decided to move to Hong Kong.

I taught in a kindergarten for a year and a half, studying computer science at night.

Then I helped an IT company to answer phone calls from mainland customers.

By that time I could already speak fluent Cantonese, so I started to take a Putonghua course in my free time.

I had a double major in Asian Studies and Chinese Literature after three years.

I changed jobs every two years. Every time I changed my job, my salary doubled.

I saw [western Hong Kong actor] Gregory Charles Rivers on TV. I said to myself: If he can be an actor here, why can't I?

I started doing some part-time acting in 2001. My wife didn't like it, and we sometimes fought about it.

2003 was a hard time for all Hongkongers. Everyone was suffering under SARS. My wife and I divorced and she took our two kids with her.

But I became a full-time actor the same year.

Later I joined TVB as a contract artist. I did a lot of work in advertisements, dramas... I was even the "Mad Doctor" in Ocean Park's Halloween.

I also did some part-time jobs—teaching English, and I was a bodyguard at media events. Once I escorted Jackie Chan.

To work at TVB, the first thing to do is to maintain a good relationship with the directors and producers.

In 2007, [TVB drama boss] Catherine "Sister" Tsang asked me to take part in [soap opera] "Best Selling Secrets" as "Brother One."

She said I was the first choice—so I immediately said yes.

The character fixed me into the hearts of Hong Kong audiences.

Most people who see me on street call me "Brother One"—or, sometimes "Mr. Ho," as they think I am Ho Kwok-king [Gregory Charles Rivers].

I host a talk show with Gregory, and recently I found out that he was Sister Tsang's first choice, not me. He was busy with a musical so he turned it down and she found me.

Anyway, I'm still glad I could take the role.

I just love performing.

I'm taking guitar lessons and a Chinese opera course. I want to release a CD this year.

I really like singing. From Beyond to Eason and Mr., I really like Cantopop.

I also think deeply about my characters. I'm a gweilo, but all my characters are gweilos from different countries. I've started to add accents to my English.

But I really care about the accuracy of my Cantonese accent.

The difference between me and Gregory is in the accent: He thinks gweilos should keep their accents, but I don't.

There's a quote, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." I have lived here for more than

20 years. Cha chaan tengs are the places I go to most often.

I eat everything: tofu fa and chicken feet.

When greeting someone, gweilos usually kiss on the cheek and hug. I just can't do this. It's embarrassing.

As a Hongkonger, I prefer using Cantonese to communicate. I haven't spoken English for a long while. Even now it would feel so weird to speak it.

Everyone in the world I'm living in speaks Cantonese.



Listen to "Brother One's" talk show "Three Foreigners, One Market" with fellow non-Chinese actors Q Bobo and Gregory Charles Rivers, Sundays on Metro Music Digital from 10-11pm, metroradio.com.hk.



Happy New Year 2016

We look forward to welcoming you to our restaurants for great dining experiences in 2016

Are you a member of our *Frequent Diner Club*? Join now and enjoy our fantastic rewards!

Checkout our website for full details on all our exciting dining options - www.diningconcepts.com



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CENTRAL HARBOURFRONT EVENT SPACE

Admiralty MTR Exit A - 5 mins walk to Tamar Park or 5 mins walk from Central Star Ferry Pier

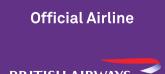
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