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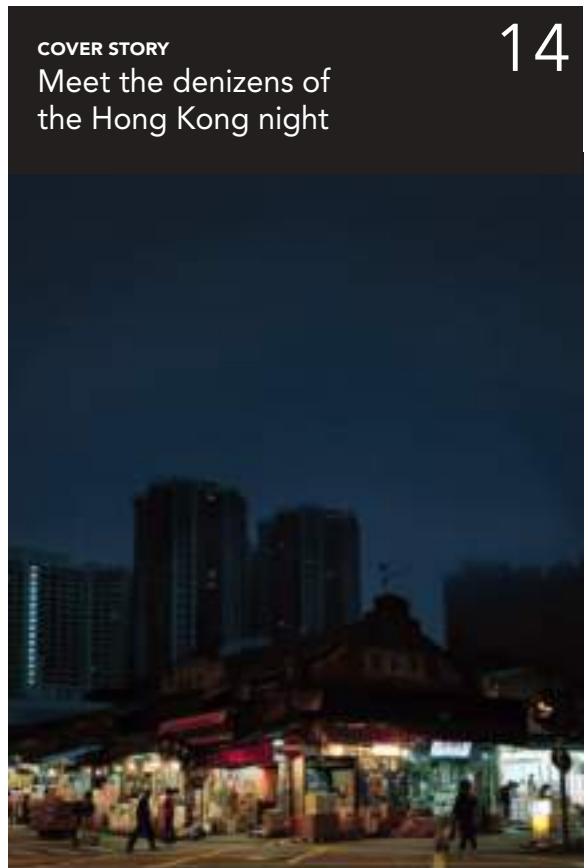
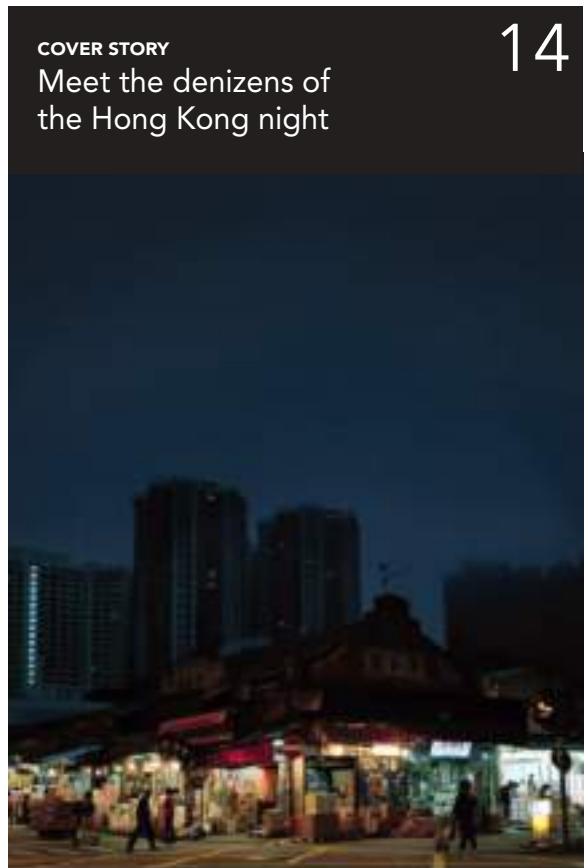
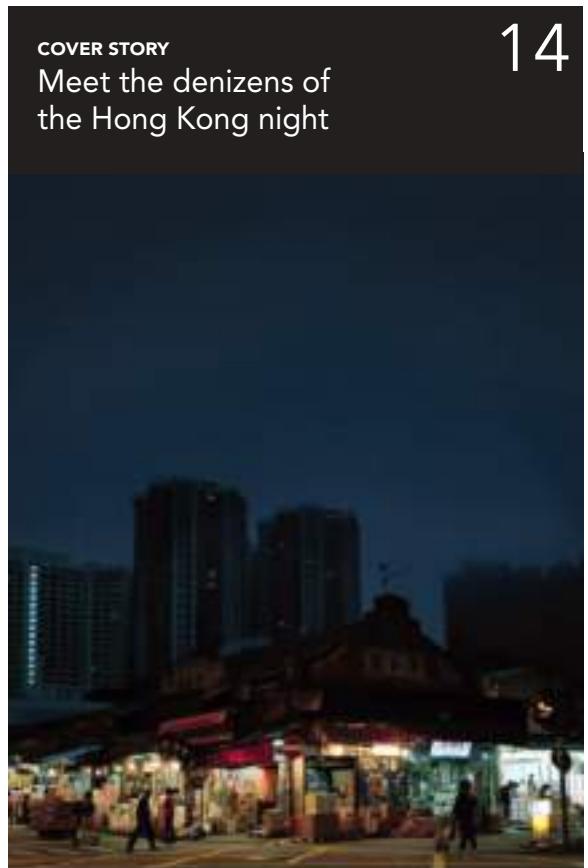
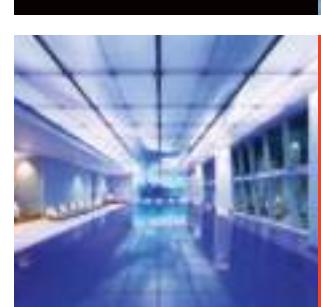
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<p>COVER STORY Meet the denizens of the Hong Kong night</p> 	<p>14</p>	 <p>CLOCKENPREVIEW The bands you didn't know you have to see at Clockenflap</p>	<p>20</p>	 <p>TRAVEL Burma: Land of gold and ochre</p>	<p>24</p>
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	 <p>FIRST PERSON Talking guitars and girls with indie rocker Jing Wong</p>	<p>46</p>			

Innovator Generator

The Innovation and Technology Bureau has finally got the go-ahead after three years of filibustering from pan-democrat lawmakers, who see the brand new government department as a pointless waste of public money. But we've got our eye on a few projects that the ITB is working on, and we have to say... we're impressed.

Rezoning Ray

Here's an innovative new concept for you: Using this astonishing new technology, with a single stroke of a pen you'd be able to turn impossibly beautiful, rural country park land into a dusty, ugly morass of concrete housing. It's the future!

LegChat

Instead of the occasional embarrassing WhatsApp chat leak, this messaging app would be the perfect social media platform for the city's eager lawmakers. With LegChat, it would be easier than ever for lawmakers to get in touch with their admiring constituents, by sharing inappropriate sentiments and barely-clothed photos. We hear that even Chief Executive CY Leung has scheduled a time to post a photo of his broadly representative nominating committee, if you know what we mean. Best of all, Longhair would be auto-blocked.

The Bureau Development Bureau

Startup bureau dedicated to nurturing the growth of bureaus intended to boost investment in Hong Kong's industries, via the medium of setting up bureaus to attract business instead of, oh, we don't know, actually making it attractive for businesses to move to Hong Kong.

Listen, What About An App to Deliver

A Plate of Char Siu Rice to You, Whenever You Want?

Just imagine it. You're hungry, you pull out your phone, and in a few taps you've ordered a plate of \$30 char siu rice that comes straight to you for, like, \$200. What a great idea! It's a totally amazing app that's going to really disrupt the char siu rice landscape.

Hong Kong Scienceier Park

Forget Cyberport and the Hong Kong Science Park, which both already exist to attract technology-oriented businesses to the city, with infrastructure designed to turn Pokfulam and Tai Po into the next Silicon Valley. What if we were to build another, even more sciencey park? That would be BOUND to attract the startups and big tech firms who passed over Hong Kong every other time the government tried to entice them in. Lenovo, we're looking at you!

That Super Connector

CY Leung is very keen on the SAR becoming a "super connector" between China and the rest of the world. No one's exactly sure what a "super connector" is, but we suspect it has something to do with sex.

Who's in charge?

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Look us up!



The List

where[®]



HOME



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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

What's the history of the Duddell Street gas lamps? – Gassy Man

The gas lamps of Duddell Street are the final four gas lamps in the city. But where do they come from?

In the earliest days of the colony, street lighting came in the form of oil lamps hanging in the doorways of houses. Convenient for homeowners and cheap for the government, but not great for nocturnal navigation. So in the 1850s the government erected public oil lamps between Central and Wan Chai, and in 1864 the Hong Kong and China Gas Company—better known as Towngas—introduced gas lighting to the territory. The gasworks on Whitty Street in Shek Tong Tsui was the first of its kind in Asia, making the city also the first in Asia to be lit by gas. Kowloon, naturally, had to wait another 28 years.

When first introduced, the lamps had to be manually lit and extinguished every day. These days the process is automatic, and the Duddell Street lamps (still served by Towngas) flick on and off automatically at 6pm and 6am, respectively. The other 140,000 other street lamps in the SAR? They use electricity.

But here's an interesting tidbit concerning the city's street lamps you might not know about: the rat bins.

In the late 1890s Hong Kong fell victim to the third plague pandemic, an outbreak of the bubonic plague that originated in Yunnan province and swept across the globe, killing more than 12 million people. Hong Kong lost at least 10,000 and resolved to fight the disease: In fact, the bacteria which causes bubonic plague was first discovered in Hong Kong.

So in the early 1900s the government installed "rat bins" on public lamp posts to help prevent a recurrence of the plague. Rat bins were small cylindrical containers attached to the posts, filled with disinfectant. Anyone who found a dead rat—or killed one at home—was told to drop the ex-rodent into the bin. Twice a day a government rat collector would come by and empty the bins, taking them away to be tested for plague. It was an elegant way to detect potential infections before they set in.

As modern medicine improved and the risk of plague decreased, rat bins were gradually phased out and by the late 70s there were none left on the lamp posts of Hong Kong. But there's one enduring legacy of Hong Kong's rat bins: the Cantonese saying 電燈柱掛老鼠箱—deen dung chu gwa lou shu seung, or "rat bin hanging from a lamp post." It's a caustic term for a mismatched couple: A tall woman with a short, squat man, or vice-versa. Forget gas lamps—What better way is there to remember our city's heritage?



Photo: SCMP



This week in My Perfect HK:
Photographer Sean Lee-Davies has created "Love is Wild," a photo exhibition that combines wildlife and high fashion, in the hopes of drawing attention to the plight of wildlife all over the globe. Check out more details (and an awesome photo of a lion) on p.19. Lee-Davies's organization, Project C:CHANGE, is also calling for a complete ban on the ivory trade in Hong Kong. The SAR is still a major hub for the trading of wildlife, and the city has more elephant ivory on sale than anywhere else in the world. Check out more at projectcchange.com, and maybe pick up a Love is Wild print—all proceeds go to supporting wildlife charities. You money goes to a great cause, and you get an amazing photo into the bargain: Works for us.

Letters

"Guess living in HK 9 years isn't enough to understand HK Magazine logic."

Going Off Scripture

Last week's Page 3 column, ["The Bible According to Carrie," Nov 6, issue 1121], made fun of Chief Secretary Carrie Lam's ill-judged comment that "there is a place reserved for me in heaven." Facebook readers joined in...

And so it came to pass that the Hong Kong fell, and individuality was no more. And Carrie Lam looked down upon her new dominion as Master of all; and thought it good.

Abid Khan

She and 689 has guaranteed booking for Hell already. Along with the rest of the pro establishment camp.

Felix Hung

Logic Challenge

Last week's cover story ["The HK Magazine Emoji Dictionary," Nov 6, issue 1121] was well received. Well, mostly...

Makes so [little] sense...guess living in HK 9 years isn't enough to understand HK Magazine logic.

Jeremy Porter

Shot in the Foot

A story on hk-magazine.com about a photographer's response to Rachel Mok, the mother who attempted to pay for services with Facebook likes, struck a chord online.

It's so evident that this woman is such a douchebag it's barely worth writing here what a cheap, disrespectful, manipulative douchebag she is.

Mischa Moselle

Anyone who has tutored in HK can tell you that this woman epitomizes the "parents" one has to put up with.

Jane Lam

Paying clients earns you more paying clients. End of story.

Denis Dominguez

#PrivateEyeHK



Infrared Path

Photo by Marius Beyermann (Instagram: @marius_bw_ir)

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

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Programme details and artists are subject to change. Please refer to HKAF website for details and conditions of sales.

THE WEEK



Saturday 11/14

Check Out These Salty Balls

The Hong Kong Beach Water Polo Association is hosting a two-day **beach festival**, with free crossfit classes led by Crossfit852, dodgeball matches and of course, the third annual International Hong Kong Beach Water Polo tournament. To kick off the festivities, there'll be a boozy party with beach games and a live DJ.

Nov 14-15; games and classes 9am-5pm, party Nov 14 4:30-7pm.
Repulse Bay Beach. Free entry.

Friday 11/13

Cut Then Dried

Flawless Spa is bringing barber duo Cuts & Glory in for a special **Groom Room** this week, with wet shaves, haircuts and quick massages for men. It's perfect for keeping your moustache suave this Movember—unless you're going full wookie.

Through Nov 15. Flawless Spa, 4/F, Sea Bird House, 22-28 Wyndham St., Central, 2869-5868. Wet shaves from \$300, cuts from \$250.



Sunday 11/15

Untzzzzzzzz...

Those hungry for more (and lazier) beats on a Sunday can be satiated at Vibes' chill-out party **Disco Naps**, which sees Cliché Records' resident DJs on the decks. 5pm. Vibes, 5/F, The Mira Hong Kong, 118 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2315-5999. \$60 for one drink, \$100 for two.

Monday 11/16

Rum-a-Dum-Dum

Yep, it's Monday, and Rummin' Tings is back with its weekly **Quiz Night**. First place winner gets a voucher for \$500, second place gets a bottle of rum and even if you come in last you still get to play a little rum roulette. 8pm. Rummin' Tings, 28 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2523-7070. Register at info@rummingtons.hk.

Tuesday 11/17

Baddie Beatdown

This year's **Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships** comes with a grand prize of some \$2.7 million this year, which is drawing in the top players from all over the world. Go watch them bat those shuttlecocks, if you know what we mean...

Nov 17-22. Hong Kong Coliseum, 9 Cheung Wan Rd., Hung Hom. \$40-680 from urbtix.hk.

Wednesday 11/18

Le French Film

It's not May, but the **HK French Film Festival** opens tonight with "L'Hermine" (Courted), a multi-award-winning comedy drama all about a severe judge who doesn't believe in leniency. But then he meets a woman he once loved and of course his life flips upside down, because what else is supposed to happen?

7:20pm. AMC Pacific Place, 1/F, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway Rd., Admiralty. \$95 from amccinemas.com.hk. More info from hkfrenchfilmfestival.com.

Thursday 11/19

Beer Belly Brewin'

Start drinking right after hump day with the **Hong Kong Pub Crawl**: Expect \$20 beers and \$30 cocktails at four bars, and VIP entry to a mystery club. Mystery! 9pm. Crawl starts at Baby Buddha, 18 Wo On Lane, Central. \$100, \$180 with t-shirt from hongkongpubcrawl.net.

Friday 11/20

Belligerently British

After serving up "A Slice of London," we're getting the full boozy beauty of the UK: **Best of British Drinks Experience** is a three-night event full of food and festivities, including a stand-up show on Friday, live music on Saturday and a bartending competition on Sunday. Nov 20-22, 5-10pm. Chater Garden, Chater Rd., Central. Free.

Saturday 11/21

Hipster Music

White Noise Records is holding a **store renewal party** with live bands from Tokyo and the SAR, live DJs and lots of records to buy and exchange. Oops—did we just dig up the underground music scene?

2-10pm. 1/F, 720 Shanghai St., Prince Edward, 2591-0499. Free; BYOB.

Don't Miss...

Lan Kwai Drum

Koreaphiles rejoice: LKF is celebrating its 14th annual **Lan Kwai Fong Carnival**, and this year's theme is all things Korea. Besides the usual booze, food and performances, Wo On Lane is gonna get a Myeong-dong makeover to sell skincare, make-up and fashion products. There'll be K-pop dancers, singers and bands, along with drummers and Taekwondo masters. So pull out your Hanboks and brush up on your Korean drinking games, because why not?

Nov 21-22. Lan Kwai Fong, Central. Free entry.



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November 25, 2015

5:30 – 9:30pm

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Last Week In Reality



SAT 31

Best Dad Ever At around 8am, a woman drops her iPhone 6S into a drain in front of a bus stop in Ma On Shan. She runs for help and 10 minutes later returns with her father. The father, who is still in his pajamas, removes the iron grate and lowers himself into the drain to retrieve the lost phone. After several attempts he is able to retrieve the phone by grasping it between his toes and returns it to his daughter.

On Shan. She runs for help and 10 minutes later returns with her father. The father, who is still in his pajamas, removes the iron grate and lowers himself into the drain to retrieve the lost phone. After several attempts he is able to retrieve the phone by grasping it between his toes and returns it to his daughter.

SUN 1

Blackout Drunk Late at night, a 41-year-old man takes a taxi home after a night of drinking. Two hours later, he wakes up on the streets of North Point, with loose front teeth and blood all over his face. All of his belongings are gone, aside from a \$100 bill in his pocket. He returns home to Sai Wan Ho and his son calls the police for him, suspecting that his father has been robbed but was too drunk to remember what happened. The man is taken to the hospital for a check-up.

MON 2

Lights Out At around 3am, a 32-year-old man scales the pipes of a residential building in Mong Kok. He tries to enter an apartment on the second floor, which is dark but has open windows. It turns out that the owner was watching television with the lights off. Hearing strange noises outside, he throws open the curtains and locks eyes with the thief, clinging onto the pipes outside. He shouts at the thief, who tries to climb down and escape, but trips and falls onto the podium level, injuring his leg. The owner calls the police, who arrest the thief and send him to the hospital.



TUE 3

Rental Illness A 70-year-old woman is leaving her apartment to head to the Lands Tribunal to reclaim the apartment she has leased out, after failing to recover \$4,700 in rent from her tenant. As she is about to leave with all the rental documents, a man in a cap wearing a mask attacks her from behind, wraps his arm around her neck and takes her documents along with \$1,000 cash. The woman suffers from minor injuries and is taken to the hospital.

WED 4

Causeway Canoodle In the afternoon, a couple is seen hugging and kissing on the rooftop of a building in Causeway Bay. Although clothed, the woman has her legs wrapped around the man, and his arm is between her legs. They engage in this activity for around an hour. Netizens criticize them for engaging in such behavior in the day time, suggesting that a night-time assignation would be less offensive.

THU 5

Shadow Puppets At around 1am in Kowloon City, a 36-year-old woman driving on a probationary license sees a "black shadow" flash in front of her and swerves to avoid it, losing control and crashing into the security gate of a children's toy shop. The woman and her 26-year-old male passenger suffer minor injuries. The woman passes a breathalyzer test.



FRI 6

Monky Business A Buddhist monk is found begging for alms in a cooked food market in Sheung Shui. After he has succeeded in collecting sufficient cash, he sits down at the restaurant and orders a plate of scrambled eggs and beef rice, instead of the usual vegetarian fare. The incident is caught on tape by a netizen and put online, where he is condemned as a fraud.

Quote of the Week

"Receiving millions of dollars from a property developer is not just a friendly act... This is common sense, unless Mr. Hui is a pretty woman."

Court of Appeal judge Wally Yeung Chun-kuen expresses doubts that convicted Sun Hung Kai tycoon Thomas Kwok would offer millions of dollars to former Chief Secretary Rafael Hui out of friendship alone. Hui and Kwok are appealing their convictions for bribery and misconduct in private office, respectively.

Talking Points

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

Bad English Students Going for Mainland Uni Places

At a recent two-day tertiary education exhibition at KITEC, the most popular booth belonged to Tsinghua University, one of China's top two universities. Students said that they were applying to Tsinghua because there were **more places available**, and also because **their English was not up to the standards of Hong Kong universities**. The Education Bureau said that over the last four years out of 12,700 applicants, 5,100 won a place at Chinese universities. While some students said that they wished to broaden their horizons, others expressed concerns that they **wouldn't be able to log on to Facebook or WhatsApp**.

Our take: It's all fun and games until the Great Firewall stops us from checking Instagram.

Illustration: Elaine Tang

Elderly Fans Denied Tickets, Storm Mong Kok Stadium

Elderly fans lining up for specially priced senior citizen tickets for the World Cup qualifying match between Hong Kong and China were disappointed when the tickets sold out within two hours. About **20 elderly football fans refused to leave Mong Kok stadium** when it was announced that tickets had sold out. They explained that **they had counted the number of people queuing, and therefore were right to expect tickets**. Several outraged elderly fans tried to break into the stadium after failing to obtain a ticket. Of the 3,000 tickets that were on sale, 586 were sold at Mong Kok Stadium, while the rest were sold on the Cityline website.

Our Take: It's like the Sevens all over again...

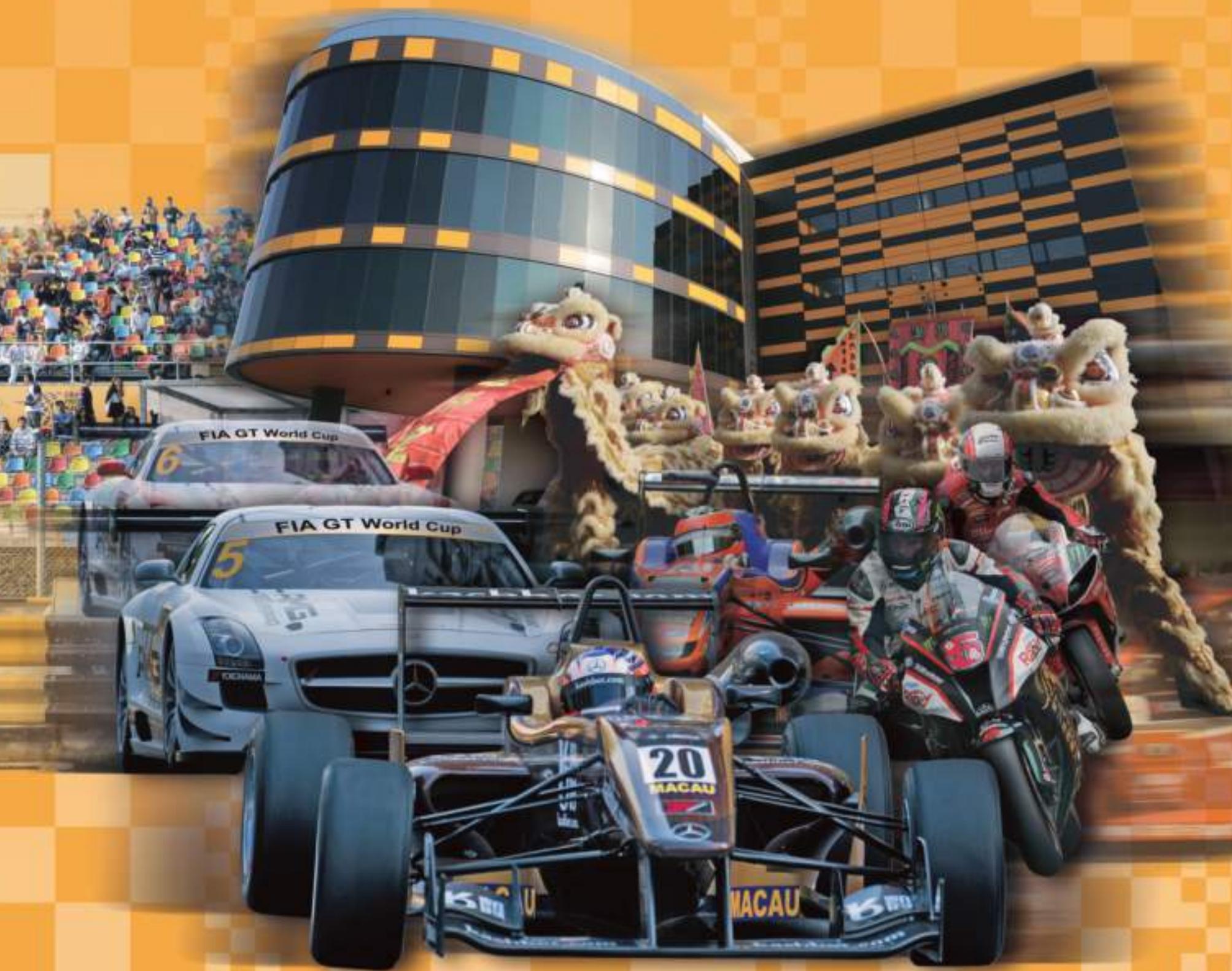




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Street Talk

Meet third-generation Feng Shui master **Louis Wong**. He opened Toronto's first feng shui school in 1987 before returning to Hong Kong in 1992 to open several more. He tells Adrienne Chum about how feng shui works with science... and how it gets you girls.



HK Magazine: So you're a feng shui master who studied mechanical engineering and law. Why?

LW: I like math. Chinese astrology is very mathematical. All fortune telling and face reading is based on statistics: No matter if it's feng shui or astrology, it's all math-based. If your foundation in math is good, you'll understand it better. I liked law because it trains your logic, and it serves the community. My current work is also a service to the people, but from a different angle.

HK: How do you explain feng shui to skeptics?

LW: Feng shui is all about living in harmony. Why is it *feng* [wind/air] and *shui* [water]? These are two elements that influence our lives. *Feng* is about air, especially air pollution in its modern application. *Shui* is something that has recently come into the spotlight, especially with the lead water scandal. It's something everybody uses. Choosing feng shui is choosing a location, a place to live. We plan the layout of a house to make it comfortable to live in, and place items in the house to enhance positive properties and reduce destructive ones.

HK: Do you put all of your faith into feng shui?

LW: No—it is meant to be taken as a second opinion. We must use our logic to make decisions, and feng shui is used to enhance our energy levels for good health and

smarter thinking. I tell clients not to make feng shui a priority—it can help us, but it isn't everything.

HK: Have you had any troublesome clients?

LW: One time, a client came to me and said to me, most sincerely, "I want to be Li Ka-shing." So I had to tell him the truth—there's no way he could be Li Ka-shing, because to be him your character, your background, your social environment all have to be right. Even then you still might not be him. Other than that, the most difficult clients are the ones who call and say they are feeling suicidal—I make them promise to see a doctor before I talk to them. Every year I get maybe 10 of these cases, sometimes really late at night. I try to give them sincere advice and reasonable hope.

HK: Does your feng shui knowledge help you get girls?

LW: Actually, yes it does! Back at university, I had zero difficulty meeting girls because all the girls would ask me for love advice. It helped me communicate with girls more—and since it was free advice, I ended up with a lot of girlfriends. Even now, a lot of clients ask me for love advice.

HK: What about your wife?

LW: She's Christian. When I met her at university, she was very against feng shui. We both have a background in law, and that is a field that requires a person to explain the reasoning behind every action or statement. Most feng

shui masters don't talk about the reasoning, but my habit of explaining comes from my law studies. My wife has listened to me explain feng shui for so long, she's started to understand it too. All good feng shui masters will explain their reasoning. If they can't tell you, don't believe them.

HK: So, what's the best place in Hong Kong to live?

LW: Traditionally, Sai Kung is great because the winds come from the southeast, and those winds have clean air. The Mid-Levels are great too. Young people who want good careers would do well to live in Kowloon Station and Olympic as the buildings are very new, while up-and-coming districts include Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan West, Western District and the Southside. But living on Lantau island is not so great because in the winter, the winds come from the north, blowing air from industrial cities like Shenzhen.

HK: Go on, give us some advice.

LW: People don't need to get their fortunes checked all the time. Many think they need to every year, but your life is mostly made of a few big decisions, like choosing a life partner, which will affect your whole life. You should get some advice for it—but you don't need it for every little thing.

Learn more about feng shui through Louis's online lessons—or ask him for love advice—at skyfortune.com.

Blowing Water

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

jup¹

sei²

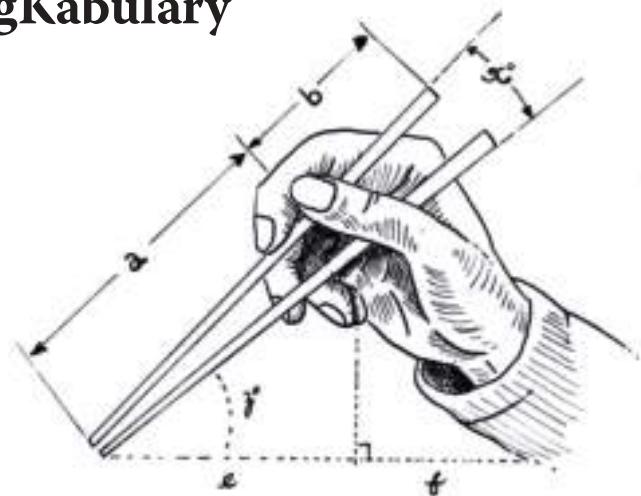
gaai¹

執死雞

"PICK UP DEAD CHICKEN"

"Steal an easy victory." Most often used in reference to football and sex. Originates from people who would scrounge in the markets for leftover poultry.

HongKabulary



Arithmesticks (ærɪθmæstɪks), n.

The textbook manner in which certain expats hold chopsticks because they've had to learn how to use them correctly, instead of just lazily grabbing food.

"You have excellent arithmesticks. Here, have some duck tongues."
"Thank you, I learned from the back of a disposable chopstick packet. And no thanks."



Melo Luminous Care

Enjoy the luminous crystal and diamond treatments at Melo Spa for a glowing new look in this festive season.

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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.

Urban Buzz

Hong Kong offers the ultimate shopping experience: from its giant designer malls and packed street markets to its bargain outlets, you'll find fabulous clothes, gifts, gadgets and souvenirs. The city is also home to celebrated fashion designers, quirky shopping malls and a wealth of independent boutiques, as well as local fashion brands and offbeat neighborhoods that create a buzz you won't find elsewhere.

Shop 'til you drop

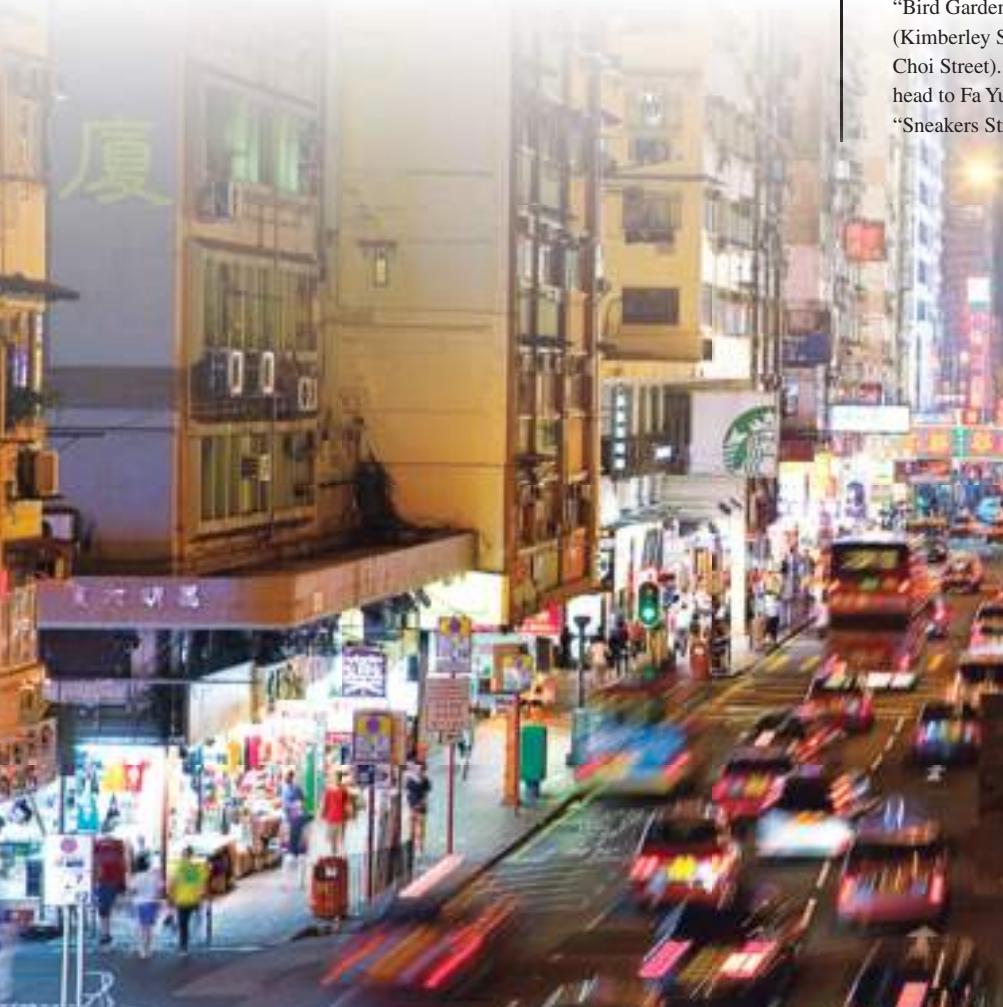
If you're after the big brands, you should head for one of Hong Kong's swanky malls, such as the Landmark or prestigious Harbour City. However, there's much more to the city's shopping mecca than famous international brands, and some of the best stores are a short walk away from this glitz and glamor. Tucked away in a backstreet of Tsim Sha Tsui's shopping paradise is Granville Road, a hub of independent boutiques that showcase Hong Kong's own fashion designers. If you're looking for quirky and fun gifts and household bits and pieces, **Homeless**, with branches in Causeway Bay, Tsim Sha Tsui and Sha Tin, should be on your list.

Get Funky

In the buzzing urban district of Causeway Bay, revamped shopping center Fashion Walk is making a name for itself among shoppers looking for locally designed apparel. Enter **Liger**: a funky fashion brand started in 2009 by designer friends Hilary Tsui and Dorothy Hui, who curate unique statement pieces from around the world. In the same complex you'll find **Juice**, a cool fashion and lifestyle store.

Old and New

Despite Hong Kong's buzzing modernity, there are still aspects of the city's shopping scene that are timeless. Since colonial times, it has been one of the foremost destinations to have a suit made, with **Apsley** and **La Elite** two of the best known local tailors. For a more contemporary retail experience, head for the Star Street precinct area of Wan Chai, which exudes a distinctive fashionable vibe, being home to numerous Hong Kong designers, quirky boutiques, vintage shops and funky bars.



Spotlight on: Yau Tsim Mong

For such a compact district—it only measures about seven square kilometers—Yau Tsim Mong, which comprises the popular areas of Yau Ma Tei, Tsim Sha Tsui and Mong Kok, is one of the most densely populated in Hong Kong. It's absolutely chock-a-block with cultural sights, historic buildings, themed streets and shops: this is the area to visit if you're searching for super-trendy shopping malls, wholesale outlets, street markets, bazaars, local fashion designers and much more.



Bunkaya Zakkaten

Shoppers' paradise

Many shops are packed together, often in themed streets, to offer a real bargain for the consumer as well as something a little out of the ordinary. Step into the Sino Centre for example and you'll find a whole world of Japanese comic and popular cartoon paraphernalia, while just around the corner in Kimberley Street is the Hong Kong branch of kitsch Tokyo concept store **Bunkaya Zakkaten**. Next door to the Broadway Cinematheque is **Kubrick**, one of the city's best film, book and disc stores.

Streets Ahead

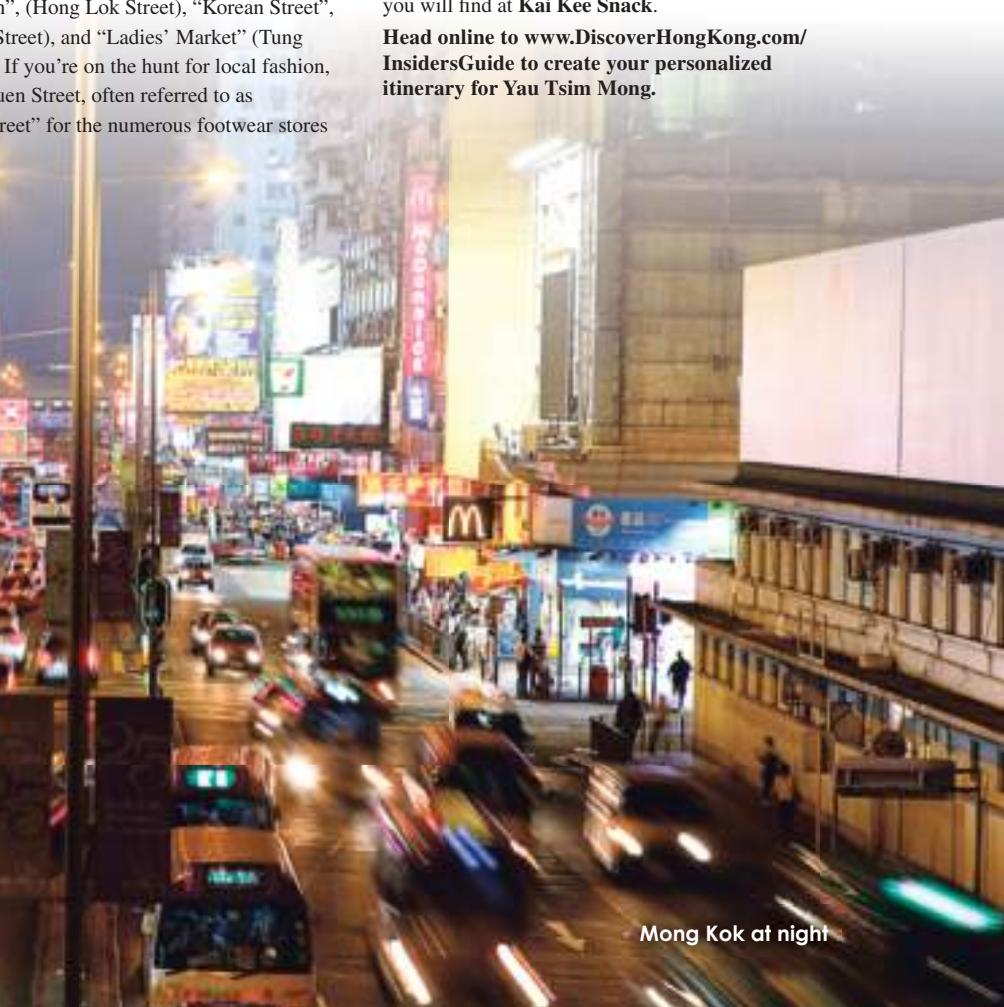
Yau Tsim Mong's themed streets include "Bird Garden", (Hong Lok Street), "Korean Street", (Kimberley Street), and "Ladies' Market" (Tung Choi Street). If you're on the hunt for local fashion, head to Fa Yuen Street, often referred to as "Sneakers Street" for the numerous footwear stores

here. Buried along here is the hidden gem, **Mee & Gee** (Me & George) Import Shop: a second-hand vintage shop popular with Hongkongers.

Remember to Recharge

Shopping is hungry work, so be sure to plan a pit stop during your day at one of the many trending Hong Kong eateries in Yau Tsim Mong. "Korean Street" is aptly named as it is home to some of the city's best "hof" bars: Korean Fried Chicken and beer joints that are taking over the city, while for more local delights, head to Dundas Street, which is renowned for its savory street snacks such as those you will find at **Kai Kee Snack**.

Head online to www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide to create your personalized itinerary for Yau Tsim Mong.



Mong Kok at night



Soho

Sleepless City

Hong Kong comes alive at night, abuzz with diners, revelers, theater goers and market traders still out plying their wares. The nightlife scene is rightly legendary: there is something to do at every time of the day in this city that never sleeps. The nightlife options are too numerous to mention, but below you'll find just a sample of what's on offer: from culture through to late-night party venues and midnight feasts.

24-Hour Fun

So you're after a good time? You've definitely come to the right city! Hong Kong boasts entertainment galore and most of it kicks off after sunset. Whether you're after a classy cocktail in a trendy bar, live entertainment that beats through the night or a late night snack, Hong Kong is the city to oblige.

Best Bar None

If you've already heard of Hong Kong's crazy all-night vibe, then it's surely because of the sheer number of bars of all shapes and sizes. Most first-timers head straight to the thoroughfares of Lan Kwai Fong in Central, which are packed full of bars and nightclubs, with revelers spilling out onto the streets at all hours. However away from this main draw, lots of trendy niche bars are opening up for a slightly more cultural experience.

Music Mecca

Be sure to fill up on more than just cocktails at one of the city's varied entertainment venues. Hong Kong has a happening live music scene, offering everything from Cantopop gigs to jazz recitals and karaoke. **Full Cup Café** is a hipster's paradise, while the **Fringe Club**, one of the city's foremost art spaces, has been providing a platform for artists since 1984. **For more insider info on Hong Kong, head to www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide**



Eslite Bookstore

Spotlight on: Wan Chai

Wan Chai has witnessed a rapid transformation over the past 150 years: from a mid-19th century fishing village into the buzzing social beacon of Hong Kong today. The district owes its bright lights and all-night entertainment to its maritime ties, being the destination of choice for wartime sailors. Although there's a multitude of bars, restaurants and clubs to fill your night, there's a lot more to Wan Chai that's worth exploring, and whatever your inclination you'll be sure to find something to suit your tastes.



Billidart Bar & Restaurant

Something for Everyone

For fascinating insights into Wan Chai's community spirit, duck into House of Stories, a center that offers neighborhood tales and guided tours of Wan Chai's historic streets. The district is preserving its historical and cultural character, with streets of old buildings being sympathetically redeveloped, such as Mallory Street, home to restaurant **Ho Wah Cafe**, a 60-year-old streetside restaurant that opened in the 1980s. Nearby Ship Street is another old road that now contains many of the district's trendy restaurants and bars, including the distinctive **Ham & Sherry** tapas restaurant.

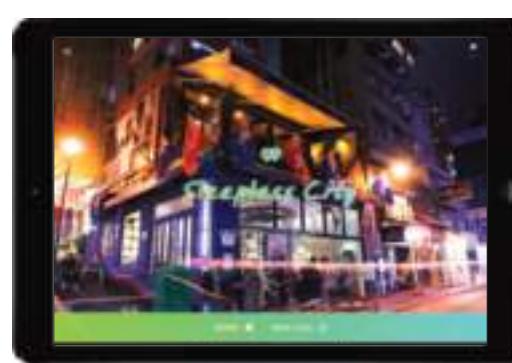
Delicious Experiences

Well into the early hours of the morning, Wan Chai residents can always be found in one of the district's many late-night restaurants. **Joy Hing Roasted Meat** is a time-honored tradition, having been serving up

Cantonese char siu (barbecue meat) since the end of the Qing dynasty, using a special oven to achieve its rich flavors. Alternatively, follow the locals as they make an obligatory stop for dessert. Day or night, **Chong Sao Star Dessert** has throngs of people queuing outside for its tofu pudding, warm sweet soups and ices. Meanwhile, hit Wan Chai neighborhood Causeway Bay for amazing shopping no matter what the time of day, with shops often open past 10pm. **Eslite Bookstore** is a much-frequented evening spot away from the hustle and bustle of the streets, while a livelier time can be found along Lockhart or Jaffe Roads in Wan Chai, which are filled with bars and clubs. **Billidart Bar & Restaurant** is an American-style sports bar with pool tables, dartboards and international sports matches.

Head online to www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide to create your personalized itinerary for Wan Chai.

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





星雲大師

神算米精

Nightcrawlers

When night falls and most of the city goes to sleep, the rest of it comes alive. **Justin Heifetz** and **Isabelle Hon** venture into the heart of Mong Kok to meet the weird and wonderful people of the city's early hours. Photos by **Kirk Kenny**



Tarot card reader Brian Wong Man-kam says that men typically ask for advice about money

10pm Temple Street

Under moist tarpaulins along Temple Street, two women are having their fortunes read. Another two sit patiently for theirs. For tarot card reader Brian Wong Man-kam, predicting the future is natural and he doesn't know how it works. While other card readers languish in wait for customers, his stall thrives. He says it's because he tells his clients exactly what the cards say—unless the cards say to get an abortion.

Most of Wong's clients are young women. "A lot of women are wondering if keeping a baby will keep their man," he says. But even if the cards advise otherwise, "I always tell them to keep it," Wong says. "I have a strong opinion, I don't believe in abortions."

Wong says that these clients are often initially happy when he tells them the cards say to keep the baby. "My role is to give life," he says. But Wong can still be disappointed: He says most women come back to him with news that they went through with the abortion.

Sometimes, the advice is about getting pregnant. Wong says he once advised a 16-year-old teen mother not to have a second baby—not because of what was in her cards, but because of how he felt.

Wong has been operating successfully on Temple Street for 13 years. He's making enough that he doesn't have to supplement his income during the daytime. He says that the tarot card readers along Temple Street "operate in silence." What he means is that they don't have licenses from the government to use their plots—instead there is an unspoken agreement that they can operate there. That's the way it's been for the 13 years he's been reading cards.

10:30pm Temple Street (II)

Near the tarot tents, a mix of voices is butchering what might be Cantonese opera. Under a makeshift tent, a group of elderly men and women pass a microphone back and forth around a state-of-the-art karaoke machine. One of the singers, at least 60 years old, wears a skin-tight neon pink skirt and red lipstick.

We ask about the stall and a friend of the boss's tells us to take a seat. Her name is Sa and it's her second time working there as a karaoke companion—she's paid to sing songs with people. She comes when the boss needs her—she's worked in another outdoor karaoke tent, right next door, for seven years.

"The government doesn't make us pay," she explains. "They let us use it because of cultural heritage. We have a silent agreement," says Sa, using the same wording as Brian Wong. She adds that these agreements keep out developers from building high-rise mega blocks—and triad-controlled businesses. "This place belongs to us."

Last night on the job, Sa made a meager \$400 singing with clients. They asked her to sing either Cantonese opera or Cantopop—or "Jingle Bells." "There haven't been too many weird experiences," Sa says. "Sometimes there are drunk people, but it's rare they're so drunk that they try and touch me. It's peaceful here."

But now it's just before 11pm and a police car pulls up by the curb in front of the tent. A female officer has some words with the boss and everyone hurries to the microphone for just a few more songs. "It's way too early for them to stop us," one man tells us, finishing his beer. "The police have a bad attitude. I just don't like them."

Drunken voices drown out the karaoke machine amid the rush for the final songs of the night.

"It's hard to find a good singer these days," Sa laments.



Sa, right, is paid to sing with a patron



Mr. Yip at his fruit stall in Yau Ma Tei

12:05am Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market

It's only minutes after midnight at the wholesale fruit market in Yau Ma Tei and the first stalls are just opening for business. Boxes of pomelo block the street. From this 102-year-old market, the rest of Hong Kong's fruit stalls buy their produce.

For a graying Mr. Yip, who's been working at the market for 36 years, fruit is political.

"Hongkongers will eat Japanese fruit because they have short memories," he says.

"The Koreans and Taiwanese won't eat it."

Mr. Yip is the boss of his own fruit stall. He's an advocate of Chinese fruit—Xinjiang apples, in particular. He says they get sweeter every year, far eclipsing the quality of American apples. "America's been interfering too much in China's problems. There are so many misunderstandings and what the U.S. media covers isn't true."

He places a crate of apples onto a freight elevator and paces around. He's dressed more formally than the others at the market, in smart black slacks and a white button-down shirt. "Even in the fruit market, just like China, we sometimes have arguments," he says as the freight elevator rises. "China is so big and 56 races are arguing for territory. We can solve this problem by ourselves, so why does the U.S. need to get involved?"

Mr. Yip came to Hong Kong from Dongguan in the 60s, at a time when the fruit market was profoundly different than it is today. Decades ago, it operated during the daytime and also sold meat. The market was an infamous hotbed of illicit activity. Mr. Yip says he was frequently bothered by junkies. Gangsters used to steal his fruit and sell it to hawkers at a reduced price. "But those were the old days," he says. "Now it's safe. We have cameras at the shops and thieves don't come in anymore."

"I'm still doing business with the Japanese," Mr. Yip tells us. "But if they continue to deny history, I won't be happy about that."



Boxes of fruit are hauled after midnight

2:15am Portland Street, Mong Kok

A neon sign for a gentlemen's club glows over Portland Street. It's just after two in the morning in Mong Kok's red-light district, and there's barely anyone outside. Karaoke blares through the front door.

We walk inside and a woman greets us immediately. She tells us she's in charge of the gentlemen's club and that her name is Mary. She says "thank you and you're welcome" instead of "thank you" at the end of her sentences. She's in her 50s, maybe older. Her hair is permed and her lower teeth stained black.

Inside, past a karaoke area, the club is partitioned into tiny rooms. Each door has a glass window in it. Inside, there's a small L-shaped faux leather couch. It's \$500 for one hour with one of Mary's girls—that's just to drink beer and talk, though. Touching, like a massage, will cost \$100. Everything else costs an extra \$100 to \$1,000—Mary runs a sliding price scale.

"Yuli" is one of Mary's girls. She moved to Hong Kong from Suzhou. She says it was to seek a better life, but she still goes back to Suzhou every holiday. She speaks her native language, Mandarin, and some broken Cantonese. She waves to Mary through the window if she wants to express something more clearly in Cantonese. Yuli says she speaks through Mary—or "mommy," she calls her—to talk to her western clients.

In spite of Mary, Yuli is happy to give a massage for free. She'll drink beer, but prefers red wine. And she says she's happy to do her job. She's expected to work until eight in the morning, but clients rarely come in that late. She often goes home early and says she doesn't have to work too hard. The money's good, she says. And a lot of clients just want to talk.

"They don't all want sex, sometimes they just drink beer and chat with me," she says. She does complain, though, that most of her clients aren't handsome. She prefers body hair, and men in their twenties—uncommon for the men who walk through the club's door.



Photo: Dustin Shum/SCMP

4am Portland Street (II)

At the karaoke area of the club, a man screams into the microphone, wailing lyrics by Beyond. Everyone else covers their ears. Mary sits smoking a cigarette in a leather-clad booth, with a man about her age. "Thank you and you're welcome," she says, as Mong Kok fades into morning.

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In The Jungle, The Mighty Jungle

Project C: Change and Sean Lee-Davies are raising money and awareness for wildlife conservation through charity photography exhibition **Love is Wild**. With beautiful images of exotic fauna in Africa posing with hot actresses and models, it's eyecandy for everyone involved. A charity gala ball, "Out of Africa," will be held to auction large prints on Nov 26 at the Island Shangri-La at 7pm; RSVP required. Through Nov 17, Liang Yi Museum, 181-199 Hollywood Rd., Sheung Wan. Nov 21-24, Galerie Huit, Shop 2, G/F & 1/F, SoHo 189, 189 Queen's Rd. West, Sheung Wan. More info from projectcchange.com.

CLOCKENPREVIEW

Hong Kong's biggest music and arts festival returns in just two weeks, from Friday to Sunday of November 27-29. **Evelyn Lok** preps us for some of the 'flap's most anticipated acts.

Acts you've splurged on the ticket for:

Damien Rice (Fri 7:30pm)

Irish singer-songwriter

The sound: Post-breakup staples: Honest lyrics with sad guitar-strumming.

The crowd: People either about to sneeze or about to cry, you're not sure.

Scream this: "I can't take my eyyyyes off of you" *sobbing*.

Listen to: "9 Crimes," "The Blower's Daughter."

The Libertines (Sat 9:45pm)

UK rockers

The sound: Dirty, messy punk rock played by a volatile group that somehow makes it work.

The crowd: People going nuts during the best time slot at Clockenflap.

Scream this: "You can't stand me you can't stand me you can't stand me now!"

Listen to: "Can't Stand Me Now," "Gunga Din," "Anthem For Doomed Youth."

Ratatat (Sat 8:15pm)

Rocktronica duo

The sound: Heavy on the guitar, synth and percussion, with riffs as smooth as cream. Usually matched with psychedelic backdrops when playing live.

The crowd: Concentrating dancers.

Listen to: "Cream on Chrome," "Wildcat," "Falcon Jab."

A\$AP Rocky (Sat 10pm)

Rapper

The sound: A mix of Southern-influenced rhymes and dreamy clodtrap for a booty poppin', 100 percent critically validated set.

The crowd: Twerkers, aggressive fans who will yell every word into your face.

Scream this: "I LOVE BAD BITCHES THAT'S MY FUCKIN PROBLEM."

Listen to: "Fuckin' Problems," "L\$D," "Wild For the Night ft. Skrillex."

Check out our Spotify playlist for the best of this year's Clockenflap lineup: tiny.cc/hk-clockenplaylist.

New Order (Sun 9:30pm)

Seminal UK rock/electronica

The sound: The band's unique cross between punk-pop and EDM.

The crowd: People who were hipsters in the 80s. 20 assholes wearing the Joy Division "Unknown Pleasures" T-shirt.

Scream this: "Every time I see you falling / I get down on my knees and pray / I'm waiting for that final moment, you say the words that I can't say."

Listen to: "Age of Consent," "Ceremony," "Blue Monday," "Bizarre Love Triangle."

Acts you should see:

Clean Bandit (Fri 6:45pm)

English electronica

The sound: Pop- and dance-infused songs with intricate instrumentals.

The crowd: Hipsters, band geeks.

Scream this: "As long as we're together / There's no place I'd rather be."

Listen to: "Rather Be," "Stronger."

HOCC (Sat 8:30pm)

Denise Ho, High priestess of Cantopop

The sound: The best kind of Cantopop: Socially relevant lyrics and emotional melodies.

The crowd: Born and bred Hongkongers.

Listen to: "木紋" ("Wood Grain"), "再見...露絲瑪莉" ("Goodbye... Rosemary"), "是有種人" ("There's a Kind of Person").

Flying Lotus (Fri 8:30pm)

Musical mad scientist

The sound: Brain-melting experimental tunes.

The crowd: People who are really out of it, or people who are way too into it.

Scream Do this: *Quiet appreciative nodding*.

Listen to: The entirety of 2010's "Cosmogramma" album, while on a long, contemplative MTR commute.

Earth, Wind & Fire Experience ft. Al McKay (Sat 7pm)

70s funk fathers

The sound: The best of 70s funk and disco tunes.

The crowd: Everyone, from stragglers crossing paths at prime Clockenflap time to families getting ready to bring kids home.

Scream this: "Do you remember / The 21st night of September?"

Listen to: "September," "Let's Groove."

The Pains of Being Pure at Heart (Sun 6pm)

Indie darlings

The sound: Warm, fuzzy, feel-good indie pop.

The crowd: People too cool for you.

Scream this: "She was the heart in your heartbreak / She was the miss in your mistake / And no matter what you take, you're never going to forget."

Listen to: "Heart in Your Heartbreak."

Kid Koala (Sun 6:30pm)

Mixed-genre turntablist

The sound: Alternative hip hop with samples taken from jazz, cartoons, sneezing and the spoken word.

The crowd: Craft beer-sipping guys with beards and intense looks.

Listen to: "More Dance Music," "Moon River."

Neon Indian (Sun 7:15pm)

Chillwave extraordinaire

The sound: Hazy retro disco sounds.

The crowd: People swaying in uber-trendy "festival" gear.

Scream this: "I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN ACID WITH YOU" [don't actually do this—it's so passé].

Listen to: "Polish Girl," "Should Have Taken Acid With You," "Annie."



Where are the indie chicks? Leah Dou lor...

Hong Kong sounds:

Leah Dou

(Sat 7pm) Indie princess

The sound: A clear-cut, crushworthy alto—as you'd expect from Faye Wong's daughter.

The crowd: Tattooed indie types and Faye Wong loyalists.

Listen to: "My Days," "Chimes."

Subyub Lee (Fri 8:30pm)

Singer-songwriter

The sound: Soft guitar-led ballads, film scores to rom-coms like "Love in the Buff."

The crowd: Couples, aspiring buskers.

Listen to: "What's Behind," "Anyway At All."

Jing Wong (Sat 12:30pm)

Bilingual rocker

The sound: Sweet acoustic folk pop to angsty hard rock.

The crowd: People who read our first person interview with him on p.46.

Listen to: "我們" (Us), "This Is a Love Song," "How to Disappear."

YoungQueenz (Fri 6:45pm)

Multilingual rapper

The sound: Chilled-out hip hop.

The crowd: Fans of indie rock and alt hip hop.

Listen to: "That Pain," "一生懸命" (With All One's Might), "Memories."

Life Was All Silence (Sat 5pm)

Post-rockers

The sound: Dark, moody, ambient tunes.

The crowd: Silent, intense types, interspersed with the early ones gearing up for the night.

Listen to: "Falling Wall," "Damascus."



Sup, Subyub?

Get on that A\$AP Rocky



The Libertines, ready to rock your socks off



New Order, still a hipster band after 30 years



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Macau The Venetian Macao Resort Hotel



FASHION

LOOKBOOK

Edited by Zoe Chan

Blogger & Stylist at normalchic.com | Instagram @zoe_normalchic



Photo: Kirk Kenny / studiozag.com

Leather Weather

Leather jackets will never go out of style. Pick from a biker or racer look: The biker style is more boyish, cooler and edgier, while the racer look is sexier and more feminine. Here I'm wearing a black racer leather jacket from Chevignon, super-soft and great for keeping me warm in the autumn breeze. Boots pair really well with leather: Check out this pair of flat boots from PennyBlack to finish off the look.

Tank Top, \$1,145 from Claudio Pierlot
Suede Chelsea boots, \$1,680 from PennyBlack

Piccadilly boots,
\$2,800 from Minelli
@ Central Central



Spencer bag,
\$6,190 from
Vivienne Westwood



Grace 3 Station bracelet,
\$1,600 from Links of London



Leather racer jacket,
\$3,590 from Chevignon

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

Claudie Pierlot

Shop 3085B, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St., Central.

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Shop 632, Times Square, 1 Matheson St., Causeway Bay, 2506-2155.

Links of London

Shop 141, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, 2918-9727.

Vivienne Westwood

Shop OT305, Ocean Terminal, Harbour City, Tsim Sha Tsui, 2375-9688.

PennyBlack

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Burmese Days

Myanmar is opening to the world and there's no better time to visit this beguiling, golden country, says Adam White.

Burma—or Myanmar—has blossomed in the last five years. Slowly, and sometimes painfully, the country is opening up after decades of ruthless military control, even holding its first free elections in a quarter of a decade. The pace of change is startling—the price of a phone SIM card has gone from US\$300 to US\$3 in the space of three years. That's not to say that there aren't problems: The elections don't relinquish military control, and poverty is widespread. But this beautiful country is starting once again to show itself to the world. It's a place of generous people and stunning sights: You can't afford to miss it.

Yangon

Myanmar's biggest city is busy changing. The streets are chock-full of beautiful old colonial buildings which have steadily gone to seed after decades of neglect. Meanwhile there's construction on almost every corner as new money floods into the city, and even industrial-looking hipster bars are popping up. But islands of tradition remain in the form of the golden pagodas which dot the city and gleam so brightly they hurt to look at in the midday sun. The vast **Shwedagon Pagoda** is the most sacred of its kind in Myanmar, a vast complex of golden spires stretching into blue skies overhead.

Where to Eat

Thanks to its hugely varied ethnic makeup, Burmese food is amazingly diverse, from Chinese-style noodle dishes to curries which sit halfway between fragrant Thai food and spicy Indian. **Taing Yin Thar** (5A, corner of May Kha Rd. and Parami Rd., Yangon (+95) 1-966-0792) is a great introduction to some of the best of Burmese cuisine, with a menu that intentionally covers the country's different styles. Try a range of dishes, and don't miss the excellent green tomato salad.

The Burmese national dish is *mohinga*, a beautiful fish noodle soup most often eaten at breakfast. It's subtly spiced and wonderfully aromatic, topped with plenty of coriander and crunchy chickpea fritters. Get up early and head to **Lucky Seven** (49th St. and Mahabandoola, Yangon), hidden away



behind a tree-lined street. A bowl of their *mohinga*, washed down with a cup of Burma's rich, sweet tea, will set you up for a day like little else. For another kind of noodle, **999 Shan Noodle Shop** (130B, 34th St., Yangon) serves up cheap and phenomenally good noodles: a little spicy, a little sweet and very, very good.

The frenetic, marvelous **19th Street** in the middle of Yangon's Chinatown is lined by grill restaurants which come alive as the sun sets. Each store is fronted by shelves with rows on rows of skewered meat: You pick whatever looks good, hand it to the staff and they'll bring it back perfectly grilled. Wash it all down with plenty of Myanmar beer.



Shwedagon pagoda stretches towards the sky



Monks take a break in Mandalay

Where to Stay

Burma has a hotel problem: There just aren't enough, which means that they're pricy compared to the rest of Southeast Asia. Rooms begin at around the US\$40 (\$310) mark for something that would cost you US\$10 in Bangkok.

Still, if you want to do it in luxury, the **Sule Shangri-La** (223 Sule Pagoda Rd., Yangon, (+95) 1-242-828) is one of the best hotels in the city, and widely acknowledged as having the best internet connection in the entire country. It's also right in the middle of town, a stone's throw from the **Sule Pagoda**—one of the city's most iconic structures—and the **Bogyoke Aung San Market**, which stocks everything from souvenir jewelry to *longyis*, the ubiquitous skirts worn by men and women alike.

If you're looking to spend a little less, the **Thanlwin Guest House** (Y25, Thanlwin Rd., Pyinawaddy Estate (behind Sedona Hotel), Yangon, (+95) 1-542-677) is a lovely hostel staffed by some of the nicest people in the capital.

Yangon-Mandalay

There are a few ways to get from Yangon to Mandalay: You can fly, catch the bus or take the train. We opted for the third choice, trusting the colonial British rail system... which hasn't really been updated since the British left. The 16-hour overnight journey (about \$100) is alternately beautiful and exhausting. The train doesn't bump around so much as rattle you to your very core, but it's almost all worth it as the sun rises in the morning over rice fields, every half-mile lighting up another golden pagoda that glints its morning welcome.

Mandalay

Mandalay is less immediately appealing than Yangon: the city is much more sprawling and gridded, and it lacks the colonial charm of its southern brother. The city's centerpiece is **Mandalay Palace**, a huge walled citadel that was once the royal residence of the Kings of Burma. It was more or less leveled and then rebuilt

after World War II, but there are some charming sights to be seen nonetheless. It's also worth walking up **Mandalay Hill** in time for sunset, which offers panoramic views of Mandalay and the surrounding countryside, as well as plenty of chances to chat with the monks heading up for their devotions and the view. Be warned: You won't be the only tourist at the top trying to snap the sunset.

Make time for the half-day trip to **Mingun**, just to the north of Mandalay. A tourist ferry (\$30) makes it a leisurely, charming journey up the Irrawaddy River. The real draw is the **Mingun Pahto**, an enormous structure started in 1790 which was originally intended to serve as the base of a huge, 150-meter-tall pagoda. Abandoned long before completion, what's left is a block of brick some 70 meters square and 50 meters high, which visitors can clamber up (leaping over the occasional earthquake-induced crack) for phenomenal views of the surrounding countryside.

Also near Mandalay is the **U Bein** bridge, the oldest and longest teak wood bridge in the world. This stilt-like construction is trod by hundreds of locals—and, yes, plenty more tourists—every day. Add your footfalls to the thousands that have come before, with the comforting thump of wood underfoot as dusk falls. It's perhaps part of what makes Myanmar so special, a sense that the history that's everywhere is still part of the daily lives of the Burmese.

Mandalay-Bagan

There's a day-long ferry (around \$300) that cruises down the Irrawaddy River from Mandalay to Bagan, the country's temple region. It's a gentle meandering day through mud-brown waters under blue skies, past innumerable golden stupas standing against green hills and occasional ornate railway bridges that are reminders of the country's colonial past.

Bagan

The plain of Bagan is home to a mind-boggling 2,200 temples, stretching out across the landscape in a never-ending series of red brick spires. Built between the 11th and 13th centuries, the 104 square km of Bagan has everything from tiny shrines just big enough for a single person, to vast complexes containing towering Buddhas. It's magical that a place like this has come to be—a testament to Burmese faith, culture and devotion.

You'll need to buy a US\$15 (\$116) ticket to the "Bagan Archaeological Zone," which covers access to the entire area. A horse-and-cart tour will take you around the well-known temples, such as the **Ananda** and **Sulamani** complexes. But the real joy of Bagan lies in hiring an electric bike for the day (from about \$40-50) and heading out on your own to seek out Bagan's lesser-visited stupas. Most of the middle-sized buildings can be climbed via internal passages (although watch out for beehives!), yielding gorgeous views of the plain. Find the right one and you'll be treated to the perfect sunset, as the red brick temples glow ochre in the dusk.

Bagan is also famous for its lacquerware: strip after strip of bamboo, woven up and then layered with lacquer sap. Light, strong and flexible, it's intricately inscribed and decorated, inlaid with a range of gorgeous colors. **Myinkabar Village** in Bagan is home to most of the lacquerware stores: We liked **Golden Cuckoo** ((+95) 61-65-156), whose lovely owner took us into the back room, where the good stuff is kept.

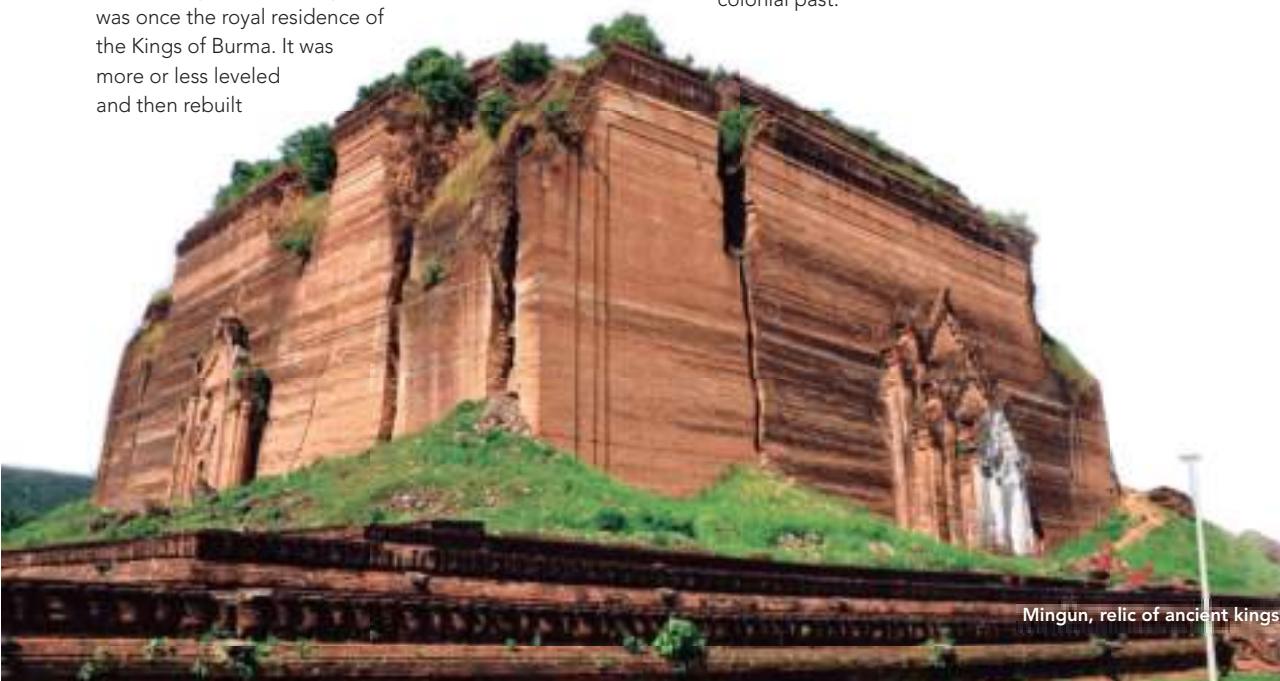
If you splurge on only one thing on your trip to Myanmar, make it a hot-air balloon ride with **Balloons Over Bagan** (from US\$320 (\$2,480)). Yes, it's not cheap—but the experience is one of a kind. You're picked up before dawn and driven to a field, where you're plied with coffee as balloons are inflated while the sky lightens. Then it's up and away, a fleet of balloons rising upwards as the temples of Bagan stretch out below. It's beautifully silent and peaceful, interrupted only by the creaking of the wicker basket and the occasional roar of the flame burners overhead. It's unforgettable stunning. Do it. easternsafaris.com.

Getting There

Airlines fly daily to Yangon, and Cathay Pacific holds regular discounted fanfares. You'll most likely need a visa, which is easily applied for online and costs US\$50 (\$388).

Ethical Travel

It's a good policy to try to avoid spending money with institutions that will directly benefit the military regime which has effective control over the country. Do your research before you leave to make sure you don't book hotels and services affiliated with the military—spend your money with the people you meet instead.



Mingun, relic of ancient kings

Winner Winner, Turkey Dinner

Thanksgiving falls on November 26, and there's no other way to celebrate than to loosen up your belt and gorge on an all-American turkey feast. Chow down on the best of the SAR's Thanksgiving offerings. By **Leslie Yeh**

Stone Nullah Tavern



Home on the Range

There's no question that **Blue Butcher** knows their meat, so expect them to have one of the tastiest birds in town; this year, they're touting Hunter Valley free-range turkeys, raised in Australia and fed rich organic grains to enhance their flavor. We like the flexibility of ordering a whole or half portion (\$1,880/980), although we'll probably just opt for the whole bird and save leftovers for next-day turkey sandwiches—arguably the best part of Thanksgiving. The menu kicks off on November 26 through December, and all orders include a pumpkin pie with cinnamon whipped cream.

Order 48 hours in advance by emailing reservations@bluebutcher.com or calling 2613-9286. 108 Hollywood Rd., Central, bluebutcher.com.

Peking Turkey

We may be partial to all-American Thanksgivings, but if anyone could pull off a "hipster" alternative, it'd be fine-dine Chinese restaurant **Mott 32**. Expect roasted free-range turkey carved tableside and served Peking-duck style with pancakes and a trio of sauces, including chef Lee Man Sing's "secret turkey sauce." Two other dishes round out the turkey feast—a turkey and "five shade" salad combining fresh fruits such as dragon fruit and melon, and the minced turkey served with water chestnut, mushroom and bamboo in a crisp lettuce cup. The menu starts on Nov 16 for \$1,880.

Order 72 hours in advance by emailing reservations@mott32.com or calling 2885-8688. B/F, Standard Chartered Building, 4-4A Des Voeux Rd. Central, mott32.com.

Where the Turkey Blooms

Lily & Bloom has consistently done one of the best turkey dinners in town, and this year is no exception. The kitchen is serving up a veritable Thanksgiving feast, with each "Heritage Turkey"—organic and antibiotic-free—sourced by chef Billy Otis, a Chicago native. For \$320, you'll get a serving of turkey with the quintessential sides—creamy mash, collard greens with bacon and roasted chestnuts, sweet potato mash with candied pecans, homemade cornbread and brussels sprouts with a brown butter vinaigrette. Planning your own Thanksgiving bash? You can order a 4kg turkey complete with three sides to take home for \$1,880.

Thanksgiving offer available from now through Nov 28. 5-6/F, LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 2810-6166.

Man Against Meat

Hankering for a nostalgic taste of the holidays back in the States? Look no further than **Stone Nullah Tavern**. Deemed a "religious rite" at this Wan Chai institution, chef Vinny Lauria is revamping all the Thanksgiving classics with a menu that sounds truly mouthwatering: black pepper and bourbon gravy, cranberry marmalade, chili honey butter with homemade biscuits, caramelized onion and apple stuffing, four cheese casserole, and a choice of garlic-butter-roasted turkey or southern fried turkey. In true Joey Tribbiani fashion, it's time to pull out the maternity pants and prep for a serious case of the meat sweats.

Available on Nov 26 for \$548 per person (plus \$198 for free-flow packages). Call 3182-0128 or email info@stonenullahtavern.com. G/F, 69 Stone Nullah Lane, Wan Chai, facebook.com/stonenullah.

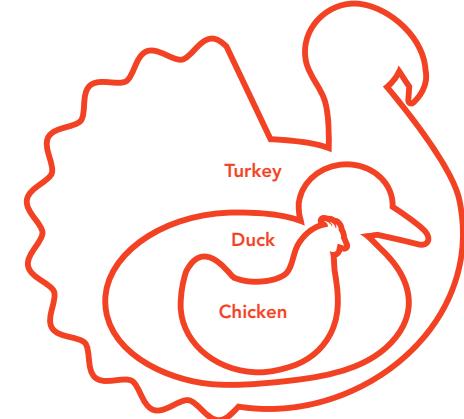
Tried and True

It may not be the fanciest eatery in town, but for classic comfort food (and good ol' American-sized portions) you can't go wrong with **Dan Ryan's**. Their turkey menu this year starts with a smooth pumpkin soup followed by the main event—a juicy roasted bird with all the fixin's: giblet gravy, candied yams, mashed potatoes and mixed veggies.

Top it off with apple or pumpkin pie and you'll have plenty to be thankful for over the holidays.

Available on Nov 26 for \$398 per adult, \$208 for kids. Reserve at any Dan Ryan's location, windy-city.com.hk.

The Anatomy of a Turducken



DUCK-Yeah!

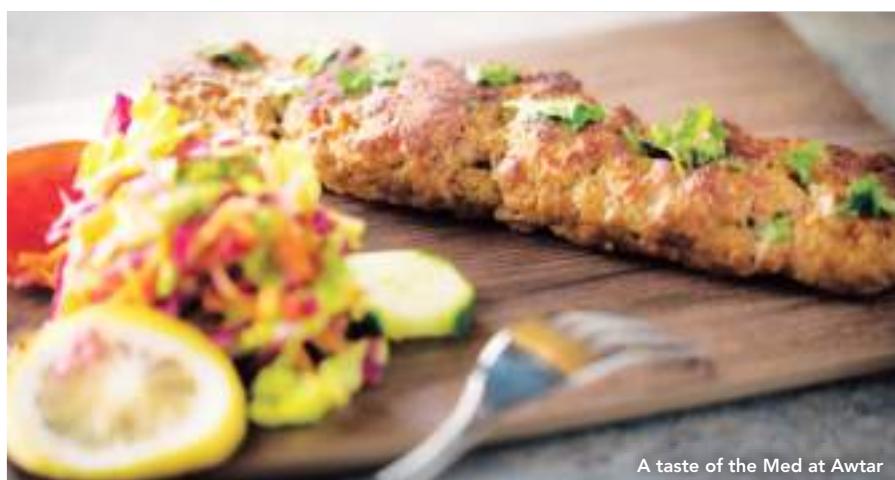
Screw the cronuts, cruffins and cake-uh-ffins (that's a cupcake + a croissant + a muffin, we imagine)—comfort food haven **Restoration** is bringing back perhaps the only foodie hybrid worth getting excited about: the infamous turducken. For any of you who haven't had the gastrogasm of tearing into this beauty, it's a whole chicken stuffed inside a whole duck stuffed inside a whole turkey. Bring this baby home—if you can manage to carry it—for \$2,700. Alternatively chow down on the restaurant's turkey menu (\$598, Nov 25-29)—but without a turducken in sight.

Order turducken two days in advance through Nov 27. 1/F, 63 Wyndham St., Central, 2536-0183, facebook.com/restorationhk.



Homey sides at Restoration

NEW AND NOTED

Edited by Leslie Yeh
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Fancy Sammies

If you've ever visited the world-famous Tartine bakery in San Francisco and had a bite of their life-changing (yes, life-changing) pastries and artisanal breads, then you'll know that a newcomer by the same name in Hong Kong would have a hell of a lot to live up to. Thankfully, the menu at **Tartine** (2-3/F, 38 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central, 2808-0752) has tempted our inner glutton right off the bat, with an all-day selection of open-faced sandwiches dreamt up by chef Philippe Orrico, of On Dining and Upper Modern Bistro. With prices hovering around \$88, this might be the next best thing since sliced bread, i.e. sliced bread piled high with premium ingredients—think black truffle, lobster, fresh burrata, roasted figs, goat cheese, pork rillettes and duck confit.

Sea Breezes in Soho

Shisha lovers will soon have a new go-to spot where they can feast on Mediterranean-inspired dishes—**Awtar** (23 Staunton St., Central, 2530-5900), a two-story restaurant and lounge set to open this month. This hub of southern European food will bring to life Greek, Lebanese and Turkish cuisine in a relaxed tropical oasis, along with original cocktails and premium shisha. No word on particulars of the menu yet, but they do sound pretty serious about their smokes, employing two dedicated outdoor areas and a full range of flavored tobacco imported from the United Arab Emirates, in addition to specialty pipes.

Bringing Big Game

It seems like everyone and their grandmas are launching a new seasonal menu as temperatures cool and we hear the distant tinkling of sleigh bells, but here's one that has managed to pique our interest: Modern Spanish restaurant **Zurriola** (18/F, The One, 100 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2253-7111) is offering a winter game menu through December featuring wild meats such as venison, pheasant and boar. The wild boar bourguignon sounds like Julia Child's rebellious half-sister, while venison loin with Hokkaido pumpkin and black walnuts has us seriously rethinking our Thanksgiving menu. If you've never enjoyed the robust flavors of game before, this may be the perfect opportunity to indulge your wilder side—probably paired with one or two of Zurriola's excellent cocktails.



RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Townhouse ★★★★☆

Fusion. 23/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2344-2366.



Townhouse's unique East-meets-West menu mirrors its sister restaurant Glasshouse in IFC, but with a distinctly urban feel.

HIT Aside from the bright neon "Townhouse" sign adorning the entrance, Gaia Group's latest installment in LKF's California Tower is a dimly lit, industrial-vibe dining room that directs your attention immediately to the city lights twinkling beyond the floor-to-ceiling windows. Amid this stunning view and central location, prices remain incredibly fair, with mains clocking in below \$200 and drinks under \$100. Expect the unexpected, whether it's Asian dishes with a western twist—as in the pad thai made with squid ink noodles (\$138)—or vice-versa,

such as in a well-constructed lasagna (\$118) with a rich massaman curry sauce in lieu of ragu and bechamel. It seems strange, but it works and is actually more multi-dimensional than the original. Don't miss an excellent selection of starters to pair with the hand-crafted cocktails: lightly fried pepper squid (\$78) is made special by the salty addition of tobiko roe in the accompanying spicy kimchi mayonnaise, while crab cakes (\$118) had copious amounts of fresh crab and corn with a moreish yuzu dip.

MISS Fusion dishes can be a hit or miss depending on your flavor preferences: We appreciated the chewy texture and subtle flavor squid ink pasta imparted on an otherwise traditional pad thai, but found the flavor unduly sour (warning: hold off on the extra squeeze of lime).

BOTTOM LINE A great place for pre-drinks and bar bites for LKF party-goers, or a solid date night spot for those with a more adventurous palate.

Open Sun-Wed, noon-midnight; Thu-Sat, noon-2am. \$\$

Cat's Eye ★★★★☆

Japanese Yoshoku. 25 Swatow St., Wan Chai, 2891-8986.



Vaguely cat-themed, this cozy Japanese omelet rice ("omurice") resto sees long lunch lines wrap around its storefront pretty much every day. If you get there after 1pm, don't even think of ordering the signature hamburger steak dishes, as they're always sold out by then.

HIT Severely hangry after a long queue, the wagyu hamburg steak omurice with curry and demi-glace (\$94) hit the spot perfectly, and arrived hot within just five minutes of ordering. The wagyu steak was cooked just right: Juicy and tender, but not greasy. The egg had a perfectly just-cooked, half-runny consistency, while the curry provided just enough peppery kick to tingle the

tastebuds, though the minced pork that was supposedly an integral ingredient was largely unnoticeable. The surprise highlight came in the demi-glace sauce—which, as the menu proudly states, has been cooked for three days—a lip smacking blend of beef stock and something that might be magic, condensed into a silky jus that we could happily eat all day.

MISS Cat's Eye isn't the kind of place for a long lunch—which is a shame, because the portions are sizable and definitely worth savoring, and not for inhaling within a 15-minute rush. Ordering an appetizer of sweet tofu and beef stew (\$35—solid on the flavor, though the beef was slightly overcooked) alongside a main left our dining space severely cramped.

BOTTOM LINE Go early and go often, and go for the wagyu steak dishes. We wish Cat's Eye would open a bigger branch—but would that ruin a good thing?

Open Mon-Sun, 11:30am-3pm; 6-9:30pm. \$

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

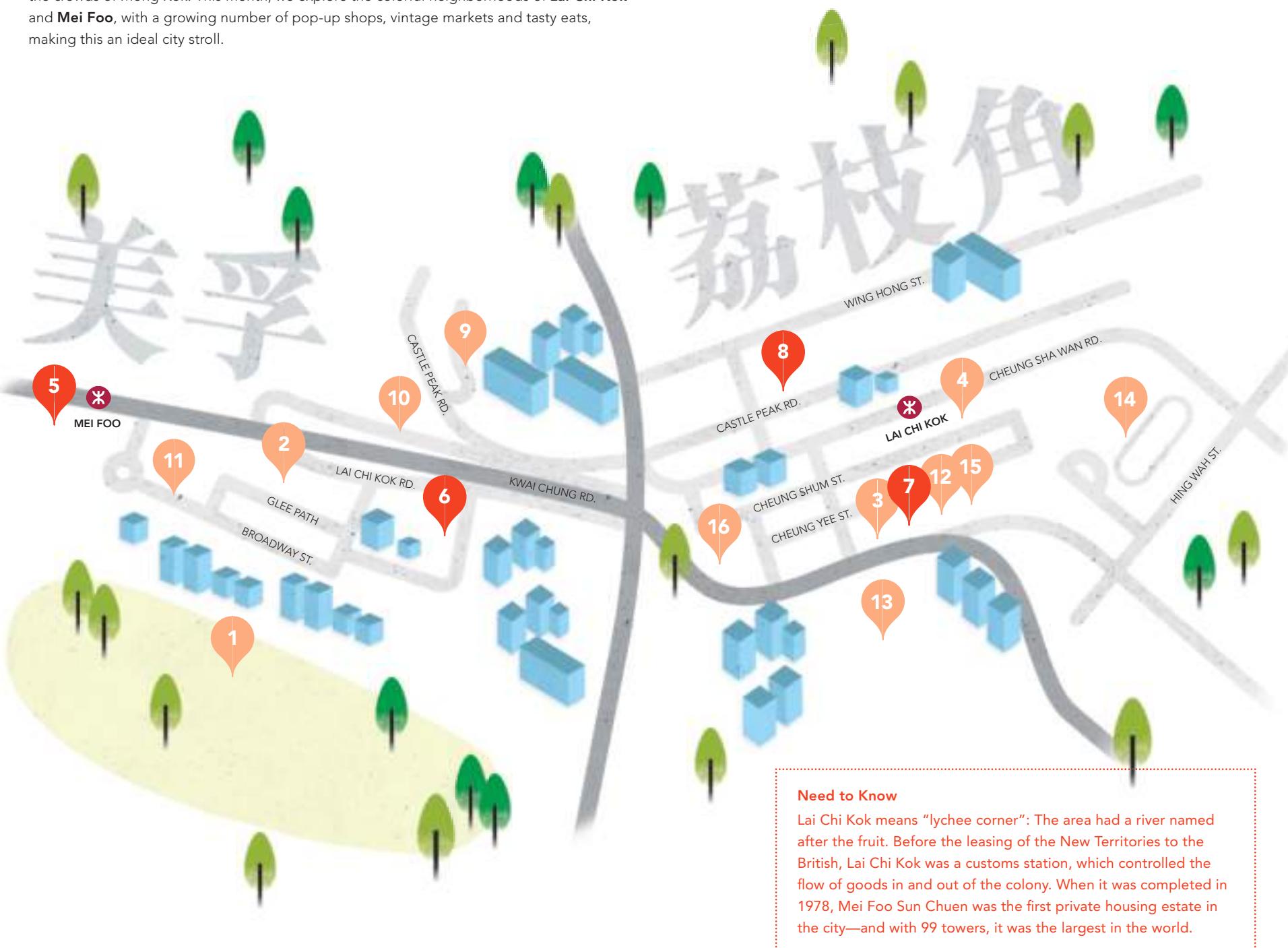
Our Policy

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

Lai Chi Kok & Mei Foo

Still think it's the "dark side?" Think again: Kowloon is seeing a handful of up-and-coming dining and cultural destinations that are free (so far) of the tourist traps of Tsim Sha Tsui and the crowds of Mong Kok. This month, we explore the colorful neighborhoods of **Lai Chi Kok** and **Mei Foo**, with a growing number of pop-up shops, vintage markets and tasty eats, making this an ideal city stroll.



Need to Know

Lai Chi Kok means "lychee corner": The area had a river named after the fruit. Before the leasing of the New Territories to the British, Lai Chi Kok was a customs station, which controlled the flow of goods in and out of the colony. When it was completed in 1978, Mei Foo Sun Chuen was the first private housing estate in the city—and with 99 towers, it was the largest in the world.

5 Lai Chi Kok Skate Park

Catch some air and practice your ollies and darkslides at the skate park in Lai Chi Kok Park, located a few minutes' walk from Mei Foo station. Covering 17,222 sq. feet, this skate park is the largest in Hong Kong, with well built facilities and shower rooms nearby for you to wash up after hitting the ramps—or when you wipe out.

Turn right to Broadway St. from Exit A of Mei Foo station and walk five minutes to Lai Chi Kok Park.



6 Bun Kee Congee & Noodle Kitchen (彬記粥麵小廚)

Go to this popular noodle shop for your wonton fix, or dig into other favorites on the menu, including beef brisket noodles, steamed rice rolls, fish ball noodles and congee. You'll be in and out within 30 minutes, satisfactorily fed for less than \$50.

B/F, Shop 96, 79 Broadway St., Mei Foo, 2785-4546.



7 Point-to-Life

Artsy hangout D2 Place is the ideal place to pick up some customized stationary and unique Hong Kong memorabilia. Point-to-Life stocks an array of creative lifestyle products, including colorful stationary, character notepads, books, iPhone cases and one-of-a-kind kitchen items.

Shop No. 105, 1/F, D2 Place, 9 Cheung Yee St., Lai Chi Kok, 2152-0199.



8 Factory Outlets

Need a new pair of kicks or a luxury designer bag? Make a pit stop at Lai Chi Kok's factory and outlet stores to browse a variety of clothes and goods at bargain prices. Many shops will only sell in bulk, but you should be able to snag a few individual deals—and don't miss the Adidas factory outlet.

Hong Kong Industrial Centre, 489-491 Castle Peak Rd., Lai Chi Kok. Open Mon-Sat, 9am-8pm.



Check back next week for more awesome things to do in Lai Chi Kok!

NOTHING CAN PREPARE YOU FOR THE END

A vertical promotional image featuring large, bold, gold-colored text on a black background. The text reads "GET YOUR FREE MOVIE TICKETS NOW!" The background is a blurred image of a movie poster showing a hand holding a glowing, multi-colored energy source, possibly a planet or a star.



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CULTURE



Classical

Island Express Jazz Orchestra Live at Fringe Dairy

The Island Express Jazz Orchestra is Hong Kong's very own big band—headed by music director Shoichi Chinda, the musicians and solo vocalist Ela Allegre come from a variety of international backgrounds. They'll be playing a tasty selection of big band jazz standards and songs by contemporary jazz composers Bob Mintzer, Frank Mantooth and Matt Catingub. Nov 25, 10pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$120-150 from Fringe Club, includes one drink.



The Chieftains

Listen to some Irish folk play Irish folk: The Chieftains is a group headed by a renowned uilleann piper with the most Irish name you'll ever see: Paddy Moloney. There'll be fiddles, drums, and redheads too. Nov 13, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$150-450 from urbtix.hk.

Håkan Hardenberger

The HK Sinfonietta has invited trumpet player great Håkan Hardenberger to play some serious trumpet music and conduct the orchestra at the HKAPA. The program will include a couple of trumpet concertos and a few modern works rearranged for trumpet, along with orchestral classics from Prokofiev and Ravel. Sounds like he's pretty good at tooting his own horn.

Nov 13, 8pm. Amphitheatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai. \$180-480 from hkticketing.com.



Music Delight Series: Piano Battle

An interactive classical piano recital, Piano Battle pits the fleet-fingered duo of Andreas Kern and Paul Cibis against each other to win over the audience: They'll even improvise on audience-requested melodies. For each of the six differently styled rounds, the audience will vote on their preferred performance from their seats. Basically it's like a freestyle rap battle, but with more ivory. Nov 13, 8pm. Auditorium, Sha Tin Town Hall, 1 Yuen Wo Rd., Sha Tin. \$120-200 from www.urbtix.hk.

Phasesⁿ (II): Materials, Surfaces and Movement Interaction

Italian composer, pianist and percussionist Sascia Pellegrini performs a new work with dancer Sarah Xiao Chengyong in collaboration with the Bellissima Italia festival. The work is all about the five elements or "phases" of Chinese alchemy: fire, water, earth, wood, metal. The piece is divided into five parts, one for each phase, and fuses east and west, philosophy and mythology, alchemy and tradition to recreate the rise of our planet from dust to life. It'll include live music and dance, plus projected videos and prerecorded sounds all mashed into one. Trippy. Nov 13, 8pm. Y-Theatre, Youth Square, 238 Chai Wan Rd. Free from eventbrite.com.

Men of Harlech

The Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir performs with a selection of HKAPA students. Though they have roots in Welsh culture, the Choir includes locals and non-Welsh expats as well, singing songs in both English and Welsh. Now if only we could figure out how to sing all those consonants... Nov 14, 7:30pm; Nov 15, 4pm. Concert Hall, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai. \$200-300 from hkticketing.com.



Charlie Siem

The City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong opens their season with Charlie Siem, a British-Norwegian violinist and fashion model, who's worked for Dior and Vogue, as well as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and The Who. He'll be playing some Ravel and Vaughan-Williams with the CCOHK. Go for the music, stay for the jawline... Nov 21, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$200-400 from urbtix.hk.



A Dialogue of Trees

This program is a multimedia cultural crossroads between Hong Kong and Norway, with interactive visual projections and chamber music. Percussionist Heidi Law will be playing with Norwegians Karoline Vik Hegge (viola) and Finn Magnus Fjell Hjelland (piano), as artist Vvzela Kool projects her new media art. The program will include commissioned pieces from Norway and the SAR, an Asian premiere of a Norwegian work and more. Go, then name your first-born child after the pianist. Nov 22, 8pm. Youth Square Y-Studio, 2/F, 238 Chai Wan Rd., Chai Wan, 3721-8888. \$180-220 from urbtix.hk.

Comedy

Paul Ogata

The tiny Hawaiian won the 2007 San Francisco International Comedy Competition and has headlined around the world. He's back in town for a whole week, so you've got no excuse not to see him. Nov 19-21, 26-28. TakeOut Comedy, B/F, 34 Elgin St., Central, 6220-4436. \$250-300 from takeoutcomedy.com.

Dance



Illuminated

A collaboration between the Sydney Dance Company and Australian Chamber Orchestra, this show combines dance with live music and a solo soprano, merging Baroque music and contemporary moves. Nov 13-14, 8pm. Nov 13-14, 8pm. Kwai Tsing Theatre, 12 Hing Ning Rd., Kwai Fong. \$200-480 from urbtix.hk.



L'Amour Immortel

This dance-drama is a reinterpretation of an old, classic Chinese ghost story in which Nie Xiaoqian, a beautiful ghost, is forced by the devil to prey on humans. But then she meets and falls in love with a warm-blooded man, and tries to save him whatever the cost. The classic plotlines of forbidden love and being in love with dead people are dramatized on stage by the Hong Kong Dance Company. Orpheus and Eurydice, eat your heart out. Nov 27-29, 8pm; Nov 28-29, 3pm. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$160-360 from urbtix.hk.

Theater

Circle Mirror Transformation

The HK Repertory Theatre premieres this award-winning American comedy in Hong Kong as part of the World Cultures Festival. It's all about a drama teacher running a course for a handful of students. As the course continues, the lines between stage and reality begin to blur. It's like they're living a TVB drama... In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles. Nov 14-15, 17-22, 7:45pm; Nov 15, 21-22, 2:45pm. Theatre, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$160-300 from urbtix.hk.

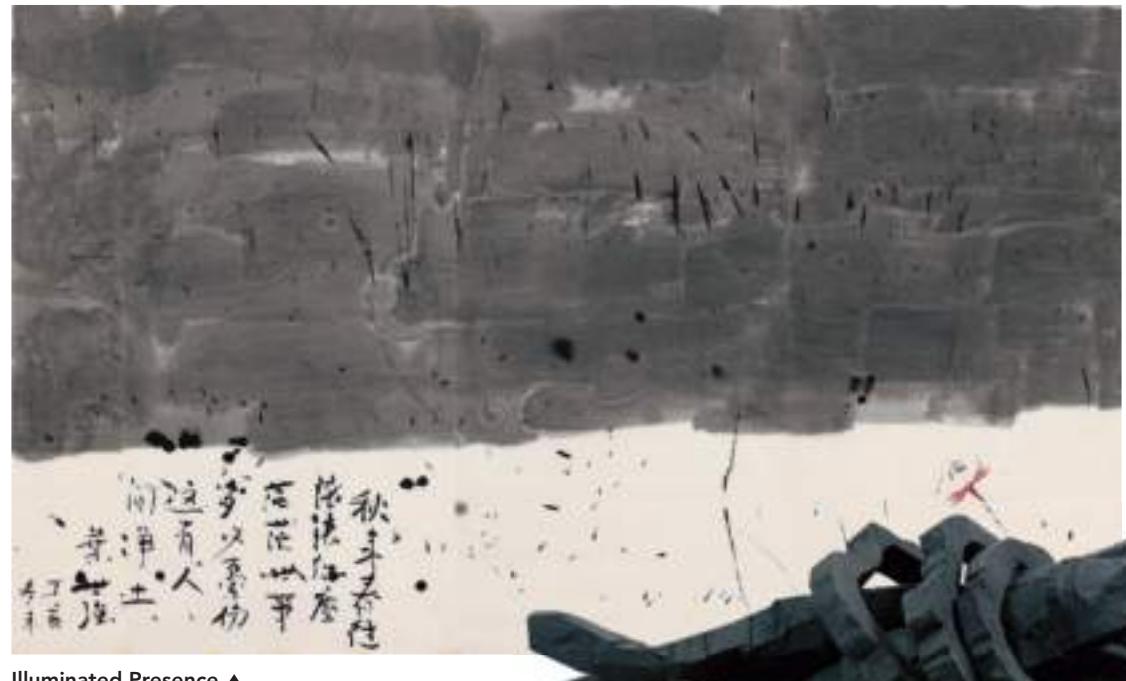


Edited by Adrienne Chum

adrienne.chum@hkmagmedia.com



Exhibitions



Illuminated Presence ▲

This exhibition aggregates some of the late painter Yeh Shih-Chiang's most important works, and combines them with photographer Yeh Wei-Li's (no relation) images of painter Yeh's home. Photographer Yeh renovated painter Yeh's abandoned home and recreated his world for us to see. Metal Through Nov 23. Pao Galleries, 4/F & 5/F, Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai, 2582-0200.



© Georg Baselitz. Photo © Jochen Littkemann, Berlin. Courtesy White Cube

Ocular/Fleurs ▼

James McGrath is back again, this time with flowers, peacocks and a mind-bending perspective of mirrored balls. His baroque style and bright colours grab the viewers' eyes, and the fisheye distortion holds the attention. Although it also looks like he painted on a Poincaré disc. Through Nov 26. The Cat Street Gallery, 222 Hollywood Rd., Sheung Wan, 2291-0006.



◀ Georg Baselitz

This self-named solo exhibition is all about the new works of German postmodernist, neo-Expressionist artist Georg Baselitz. The works include a world premiere of two series of paintings, along with a new large sculpture and group of prints. Through Dec 5. White Cube, 50 Connaught Rd., Central, 2592-2000.

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NIGHTLIFE

Lan Kwai Fong Carnival

This year's LKF street carnival gets the whole K-pop treatment, alongside plenty of international snacks and tipples. Wo On Lane will be transformed into a mini Myeong-dong with beauty and fashion stalls aplenty, and there'll also a chance to take selfies dressed in traditional hanbok, plus gawk at Taekwondo demos and K-pop dance performances. Nov 21-22, 1pm. Lan Kwai Fong, Lan Kwai Fong, near D'Aguilar Street, Central. Free.



Music Festivals



Photo: Kevin Mazur/Getty Images

Dirty Boogie Rockabilly Festival

Slick your hair back and get your 50s on: The Dirty Boogie Rockabilly Festival is in town. Four bands including Los Rizlaz from Japan, The Bempol Rockers from the Philippines, and Hong Kong's own Boogie Playboys and Miss Cathy will be gracing the stage. There'll be a live tattoo station from the guys at Star Crossed Tattoo and live hairstyling workshop as well. Be sure to dress the part... Nov 14, 8pm. Grappa's Cellar, UG/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, 2521-2322. \$260-280 from ticketflap.com.

Madonna: Rebel Heart Tour at Studio City
Couldn't score tickets to Madonna's stint in Hong Kong? The queen of pop makes her way to our sister SAR for two nights at the brand new Studio City, but you'll have to shell out way more to see her. Expect tons of theatrics, from pole-dancing nuns to Mike Tyson (maybe?). Feb 20-21, 2016. Call (+853) 8885-3333 for more info. \$2,588-8,888 from studiocity-macau.com; \$10,888 for VIP club seats, includes access to Club Lounge.

Concerts

Elton John

Elton John is back again to perform at the HKCEC. He dropped classic hit "Your Song" more than 40 years ago and he has done an OK job since, with 35 gold and 25 platinum albums under his belt as well as 250 million records sold worldwide. And with only one warbly Princess Diana song to get in the way... Nov 24, 8pm. Hall 5BC, HKCEC, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai. \$488-2,388 from hkticketing.com.



Gigs



The Singleton Discovery Series: Mr. Sipp
House of Mercury's The Singleton Discovery Series concerts are coming to a conclusion with their third act, Mr. Sipp: vocalist, songwriter and guitar god, bringing his brand of high voltage Mississippi blues to Hong Kong. Nov 14, 9pm. Loft 22, 22/F, California Tower, 30-36 D'Aguilar St., Central. \$420-480 from ticketflap.com.

Kevin Guffy

Chill out with guitarist Kevin Guffy on hump day, who'll be playing at Mahalo all night. It's just 10 minutes from Happy Valley Racecourse... Perhaps a post-race nightcap? Nov 18, 8pm. Mahalo Tiki Lounge, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2488-8750. Free.

Songs Without Words II

The Undergrounds' instrumental series returns: Three local bands will be bringing their swoon-worthy ambient tunes to the stage. On the roster? Award-winning post-hardcore group Last Digits, masters of complex multi-instrumental melodies Prune Deer and progressive metal band Omicron. Nov 21, 9:30pm. Orange Peel, 2/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2812-7177. \$120 in advance from undergroundhk.com/events/tickets, \$150 at the door; both include one Jack & Coke.



One OK Rock

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

DJ Gigs



Mr Mike and Mister P

Returning after a set in April, Mr Mike and Mister P are back in Hong Kong to spin their house and funk tunes at the highest bar in the world. Nov 14, 10pm. Ozone, 118/F, The Ritz-Carlton, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 2263-2263. \$250 at the door, includes one Belvedere drink.

Marcel Fengler: Push 6th Anniversary

Electronic music advocates Push are all grown up. All the way from legendary Berlin techno club Berghain, Marcel Fengler makes his way to Hong Kong to celebrate Push's 6th birthday with a night of mindblowing beats. Free Push anniversary T-shirts for those who get there early. Dec 4, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2810-1510. \$250 from ticketflap.com, with two drinks before 12:30am, one drink thereafter. \$300 at the door before 12:30am, \$350 thereafter; both include two drinks.





Karma Kid

Karma Kid aka turntable prodigy Sam Knowles heads to Lily & Bloom's weekend lounge nights Bloom Bloom Room, with his fun future bass beats and quirky YouTube sampling in tow. Nov 20, 10pm. Lily and Bloom, 6/F, LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 2810-6166. \$200 from ticketflap.com, \$300 at the door, includes one drink.

Nightlife Events

Clockenflap Official After Party: Woo Stage 2015

Once again Woobar hosts the official Clockenflap after-party, if you're able to stand after a eight hours of day-drinking. This year the venue is open to everyone, with priority entry for Clockenflap ticketholders. You'll get to move your stuff to a range of international DJs, from American electro duo Wolf + Lamb to Japanese DJ Mitsu the Beats to Hong Kong's own Arun R. On Saturday, The Libertines will also be delivering an encore set. Nov 27-29, 10pm. Woobar, W Hotel, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3717-2222. Free.

White Christmas at The Woods

Artisan cocktail bar The Woods is serving up a festive cocktail pairing menu for the month of December, with plate and tipple pairings including a pine-tree martini with white asparagus, and a clarified milk punch with a white chocolate foie gras lollipop. Available Monday-Thursday and Saturdays. Dec 1-31. The Woods, L/G, 17 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2522-0281. \$588 per person from thewoods.hk.

Boujis Weekday Rumble: Autumn Edition

Boujis is gearing up this fall with a revamped weekday series on Wednesdays and Thursdays, offering free champers between 10pm-1am as well as drink specials all night, and beats from revolving resident DJs each night Boujis, 37 Pottinger St., Central, 2324-0200. Free.



Tiki Tuesdays at Sugar

Snazzy eastside rooftop bar Sugar has recently launched Tiki Tuesdays, with plenty of original tiki-themed creations on offer. Hope you like rum. And hangovers. Tuesdays, 5-10pm. Sugar, 32/F, East Hotel, 29 Tai Koo Shing Rd., Quarry Bay, 3968-3738.



Wig Out Movember

Are your Pottinger Street wigs still intact after all that Halloween debauchery? Get em out and give back in honor of Movember: Mahalo's hosting their first **Wipe Out Cancer** fundraising party, with ticket proceeds benefiting the Movember Foundation. Nov 19, 8pm. Mahalo Tiki Lounge, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2488-8750. \$1,000 from ticketflap.com.



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Spectre

★★★★★

(UK) Spy. Directed by Sam Mendes. Starring Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux, Ben Whishaw, Monica Bellucci, Ralph Fiennes. Category IIA. 148 minutes. Opened Nov 5.

Do we need Bond? It's a question that the Bond movies themselves have asked in the recent "gritty" years, ever since 2006's reboot, "Casino Royale." The 24th Bond movie is Daniel Craig's last as the iconic superspy, and a strong if over-long finale that ties up the various strands of the movies since he first starred in the role.

A few months after the death of M (Judi Dench), Bond, James Bond goes ever-so-slightly rogue when he lays waste to most of a Mexico City block while trying to take out a man who turns out to be a member of a super-secretive criminal organization called Spectre: The organization behind everything Bond has faced since "Casino Royale." He's soon trotting around the world in search of the shadowy cabal, accompanied by Madeleine Swann (Léa Seydoux), the daughter of assassin Mr. White from the previous movies (No, you probably won't remember him).

Meanwhile, the new M (Ralph Fiennes) finds himself locked in a bureaucratic struggle with the oily C (Andrew Scott, aka Moriarty from TV's "Sherlock"), who wants to centralize the world's intelligence-gathering capabilities in a single organization—headed by himself, of course.

After the emotional gut-punch of "Skyfall," "Spectre" feels like a conscious return to the Bond movies of the 80s and 90s, reveling in spectacle and showmanship. There's plenty of the best kind of Bond action, with helicopter fights, car chases, plane crashes and—the film's best set-piece—a frantic fight



through claustrophobic train carriage, the camera doing its best to squeeze into the action. Cinematographer Hoyte van Hoytema ("Interstellar," "Her") does a strong job, particularly in a taut, shadowy scene à la Roger Deakins in which Bond first infiltrates a Spectre meeting and we're introduced to the film's baddie, Ernst Stavro Blofeld (Christoph Waltz). Waltz is always a great villain, and his combination of good looks and psychopathic tendencies turn a good role into a riveting one.

As for the supporting cast, although you do feel the loss of Judi Dench's no-nonsense M, it's also great fun to watch Ralph Fiennes running around with a gun in hand. Ben Whishaw's hipsterish Q is always fun but sadly Naomi Harris's Moneypenny is sidelined, which is a shame. The impossibly beautiful Monica Bellucci gets all too little screen time in her role as the woman Bond inevitably bangs to get his next lead.

Daniel Craig gives a fitting send-off to what we're probably

going to end up calling Bond's "gritty era." What's good about Craig's performance is there's more to it than a nice tuxedo. You get a real sense of the thuggery that underlies Bond. He's not a very nice man: He's a killer, a gorilla in a Savile Row suit.

But at a runtime of two and a half hours, "Spectre" does drag on. It's not that the pacing of each segment is off—Mendes times his scenes impeccably—but it's just that there's too much going on, one denouement too many. No one's asking for a totally cogent plot—this is a Bond movie, after all—but it's the volume that's been stuffed in that feels unwieldy and drags the whole thing down.

Still, 24 movies in and James Bond is still ordering his badly made martinis, the suave dinosaur having occasionally creepy sex with a parade of beautiful women as he chases bad guys across the globe. Do we still need Bond? Maybe not, but that doesn't mean he's not wanted. **Adam White**

Coming Soon

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 (USA) Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth and Josh Hutcherson return in the final segment of The Hunger Games franchise, in which the resistance against President Snow's dystopian dictatorship finally reaches a conclusion. Katniss and Gale continue their march onto the capital on a mission to assassinate Snow... and meanwhile figure out how to fix Peeta, now a violent amnesiac freshly rescued from Snow's prison.

Lost in Hong Kong ▾ (Hong Kong/China) Directed by Xu Zheng and starring himself alongside Bao Bei'er and Vicky Zhao Wei, it's another wacky comedy following Xu's debut "Lost in Thailand." As a disillusioned former artist who now designs bras, Xu Lai (Xu) vacations in Hong Kong with his wife and her family, while humorously the thought of visiting his former flame... and inadvertently getting looped into a murder investigation along the way. Just like every cross-border sightseeing tour. Opens Nov 19.



Standing Tall

(France) A strangely harsh film to have opened the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, "Standing Tall" is a peek into the French juvenile justice system through the story of Malony, from his mother's abandonment through 10 years of his life as social workers refuse to give up on him. Opens Nov 19.

Zinnia Flower

(Taiwan) Starring Karena Lam and Shih Chin-hang, "Zinnia Flower" is about dealing with loss. A man deals with a devastating car crash that took the life of his pregnant wife, while on the same day, Ming (Lam) also lost her fiancée. Having made its rounds in the festival circuit, Tom Lin Shu-yu's latest film is a direct and grieving response to the death of his wife in 2012. Opens Nov 19.

Opening

Go Away Mr. Tumor

(Hong Kong) Despite sounding like a terrible children's book, "Go Away Mr. Tumor" sees Daniel Wu and Bai Baihe in a light-hearted romantic comedy based on the popular comic by Xiong Dun, all about how the the illustrator fought her malignant tumor. Opened Nov 12.

The Green Inferno

(USA) Horror genius Eli Roth ("Hostel") is behind yet another cult horror flick, this time commenting on slacktivism in the internet world. "The Green Inferno" follows a group of college students who venture deep into the Amazon in a mission to stop a company from deforesting thousands of acres. But when their plane crashes, they are taken captive by a cannibalistic tribe. Sounds like bloody fun... Opened Nov 12.

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl

(USA) Awkward high school senior Greg shuns people to navigate the complex social maze of high school life, with only his classmate Earl, with whom he makes short film parodies, for company. But when he's forced to spend time with a girl in his class who's just been diagnosed with leukemia, he learns the true worth of friendship. Opened Nov 12.

Continuing

Black Mass

(USA) Johnny Depp transcends the Tim Burton roles for James "Whitey" Bulger, the formidable kingpin of the Irish-American Winter Hill gang in the 70s, who rose to power through a notorious FBI alliance in exchange for intel to take down the Italian mafia. Scott Cooper's take on the source material salutes to some of the best mobster movie conventions and is full of tightly managed tension. ★★★★

Boulevard

(USA) In Robin Williams' final film appearance, he plays a married man who discovers his suppressed sexual identity when he meets a young male prostitute. Instead of paying him for sex, he only looks for gentle companionship. But what are the consequences?

Bridge of Spies

(USA) Lawyer James B. Donovan (Tom Hanks) finds himself at the center of Cold War negotiations, when he's enlisted to help secure the release of a U-2 spy plane pilot who was shot down and captured in the Soviet Union. With the big names of Spielberg and the Coen Brothers behind it, this historical thriller could never really go wrong. ★★★★



Return of the Cuckoo

(Hong Kong) Oh man, get ready for the nostalgia trip: The beloved 2000 TVB series of the same name (十一月初五的月光, literally "The Moonlight of October 5th") finally comes to the big screen. Picking up where the series left off, we're back on the streets of Macau, where the (once) mute Man-cho (Julian Cheung) grapples with his love for Charmaine (Charmaine Sheh), who is actually his adopted sister. Will they finally end up together? Opened Nov 12.

Suffragette

(UK) "Suffragette" dramatizes the women's suffrage movement in England at the turn of the 20th century. It stars Helena Bonham Carter and Carey Mulligan as fictional key players in the fight and Meryl Streep as the activist and movement leader Emmeline Pankhurst. Opened Nov 12.

The End of the Tour

(USA) Starring Jason Segel as the reclusive genius novelist David Foster Wallace, writer of "Infinite Jest," and Jesse Eisenberg as Rolling Stone reporter David Lipsky, "The End of the Tour" spans a five-day road trip and interview, revealing the humor and insecurities shared between the two men. The film is based on Lipsky's memoir, published after Foster Wallace's suicide in 2008.





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Mountains May Depart

(China) Known for his long, minimalist takes, Jia Zhangke's latest film just opened the Hong Kong Asian Film Festival. It's an ambitious drama that tells the story of a family in a small coal mining town in Shanxi, told in three parts over three different years: 1999, 2014 and 2025.



She Remembers, He Forgets

(Hong Kong) One of the opening films of this year's Hong Kong Asian Film Festival, award-winning director Adam Wong Sau-ping's latest release is a nostalgic romance starring Miriam Yeung and Jan Lamb. Caught in a mid-life crisis, a woman looks back at the choices she made in her youth after attending a high school reunion.

The Walk

(USA) Robert Zemeckis ("Back to the Future") brings Philippe Petit's 1974 daring tightrope dance across the Twin Towers to the screen, in full IMAX glory. Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays Petit, who turns out to be a bit of a dick. But the drama, artistic tension and genuine life lessons are definitely worth your time. ★★★★

Sicario

(USA) In the boys' world of the FBI, agent Kate Macer (Emily Blunt) is plucked from bleak kidnapping cases to join a special task force fighting the war against drugs on the US-Mexican border—on a manhunt for the cartel's top dog. A female-led, slow burning thriller that will please both action and intrigue lovers alike. ★★★★

Spectre

(UK) See review, opposite.

Tangerine

(USA) Sean Baker returns with another quirky, beautifully shot story set in L.A., this time centering on two transsexual sex workers who teach a cheating boyfriend a lesson on Christmas Eve. Like ratchet reality TV drama? There's plenty of it here. ★★★★

Special Screenings

44th Hong Kong French Film Festival

The 44th edition of the French Film Festival is here once again. On the roster? Plenty of odd romances and arty pieces. Check out "When I Don't Sleep," a young Parisian man's journey through the night as he collects enough Euros for a train ticket to the seaside in the morning; "One Wild Moment," in which a 40-something divorced dad finds himself getting involved with his best friend's daughter—who is now convinced she is in love; and "Stubborn," about a jilted lover who follows his ex to New York to try and win her back. Various screening locations. Nov 18-Dec 10. \$60-95 from hkfrenchfilmfestival.com.

CineFan: The Taste of Cult

CineFan's cult classic series continues, this time bringing screeners of 1997's "Starship Troopers" (Nov 8, 21)—the perfect gory cross-pollination between "Top Gun" and "Alien" with a whole load of satire thrown in for free; and 1976's "The Man Who Fell to Earth" (Nov 29, Dec 20)—starring David Bowie as a beautiful extraterrestrial. Screenings held at The Grand and Agnès B. cinemas. Nov 8, 2:30pm; Nov 21, 5pm; Nov 29, 7:30pm; Dec 20, 2:30pm. \$65-75 from cinefan.com.hk.



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SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Elsie de Wolfe (1859-1950) was a pioneer in the art of interior design. She described herself as "a rebel in an ugly world." Early in her career she vowed, "I'm going to make everything around me beautiful," and she often did just that. In part through her influence, the dark, cluttered decor of the Victorian Era, with its bulky draperies and overly ornate furniture, gave way to rooms with brighter light, softer colors, and more inviting textures. I'd love to see you be inspired by her mission, Scorpio. It's a good time to add extra charm, grace, and comfort to your environments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): At the age of 36, author Franz Kafka composed a 47-page letter to his father Herman. As he described the ways that his dad's toxic narcissism and emotional abuse had skewed his maturation process, he refrained from lashing out with histrionic anger. Instead he focused on objectively articulating the facts, recounting events from childhood and analyzing the family dynamic. In accordance with the astrological omens, I recommend that you write a letter to your own father—even if it's filled with praise and gratitude instead of complaint. At this juncture in your life story, I think you especially need the insights that this exercise would generate. (P.S. Write the letter for your own sake, not with the hope of changing or hurting or pleasing your dad. You don't have to give it to him.)

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): Shizo Kanakuri was one of Japan's top athletes when he went to compete in the marathon race at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics. Partway through the event, fatigued by sweltering heat, bad food, and the long journey he'd made to get there, Kanakuri passed out. He recovered with the help of a local farmer, but by then the contest was over. Embarrassed by his failure, he sneaked out of Sweden and returned home. Fast forward to 1966. Producers of a TV show tracked him down and invited him to resume what he'd started. He agreed. At the age of 74, he completed the marathon, finishing with a time of 54 years, eight months. I think it's time to claim your own personal version of this opportunity, Capricorn. Wouldn't you love to resolve a process that got interrupted?

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): In most sporting events, there's never any doubt about which competitor is winning. Each step of the way, the participants and spectators know who has more points or goals or runs. But one sport isn't like that. In a boxing match, no one is aware of the score until the contest is finished—not even the boxers themselves. I think you're in a metaphorically comparable situation. You won't find out the final tally or ultimate decision until the "game" is complete. Given this uncertainty, I suggest that you don't slack off even a little. Keep giving your best until the very end.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): One night as you lie sleeping in your bed, you will dream of flying through the sunny summer sky. The balmy air will be sweet to breathe. Now and then you will flap your arms like wings, but mostly you will glide effortlessly. The feeling that flows through your body will be a blend of exhilaration and ease. Anywhere you want to go, you will maneuver skillfully to get there. After a while, you will soar to a spot high above a scene that embodies a knotty problem in your waking life. As you hover and gaze down, you will get a clear intuition about how to untie the knots. Whether or not you remember this dream, the next day you will work some practical magic that begins to shrink or dissolve the problem.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): "I demand unconditional love and complete freedom," wrote Slovenian poet Tomaz Šalamun. "That is why I am terrible." In accordance with the astrological omens, I'm offering you the chance, at least temporarily, to join Šalamun in demanding unconditional love and complete freedom. But unlike him, you must satisfy one condition: Avoid being terrible. Can you do that? I think so, although you will have to summon unprecedented amounts of emotional intelligence and collaborative ingenuity.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): You have the answers you need, but you keep sniffing around

HOMEWORK: What's your most beautiful or powerful hidden quality? Testify at FreeWillAstrology.com.

as if there were different or better answers to be had. Moreover, you've been offered blessings that could enable you to catalyze greater intimacy, but you're barely taking advantage of them—apparently because you underestimate their potency. Here's what I think: As long as you neglect the gifts you have already been granted, they won't provide you with their full value. If you give them your rapt appreciation, they will bloom.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) tried to earn a living by selling pencil sharpeners, but couldn't make it. In frustration, he turned to writing novels. Success! Among his many popular novels, 27 of them were about a fictional character named Tarzan. The actor who played Tarzan in the movies based on Burroughs' books was Johnny Weissmuller. As a child, he suffered from polio, and rebuilt his strength by becoming a swimmer. He eventually won five Olympic gold medals. Burroughs and Weissmuller are your role models in the coming weeks, Gemini. It's a favorable time for you to turn defeat into victory.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): Artist Andy Warhol had an obsession with green underpants. In fact, that's all he ever wore beneath his clothes. It might be fun and productive for you to be inspired by his private ritual. Life is virtually conspiring to ripen your libido, stimulate your fertility, and expedite your growth. So anything you do to encourage these cosmic tendencies could have an unusually dramatic impact. Donning green undies might be a good place to start. It would send a playful message to your subconscious mind that you are ready and eager to bloom.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): In the coming weeks, take special notice of the jokes and humorous situations that prompt you to laugh the loudest. They will provide important clues about the parts of your life that need liberation. What outmoded or irrelevant taboos should you consider breaking? What inhibitions are dampening your well-being? How might your conscience be overstepping its bounds and making you unnecessarily constrained? Any time you roar with spontaneous amusement, you will know you have touched a congested place in your psyche that is due for a cleansing.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): For each of the last 33 years, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Los Angeles has selected a "National Hero Dog." It's an award given to a canine that has shown exceptional courage in helping or rescuing people. In 2015, the group departed from tradition. Its "National Hero Dog" is a female cat named Tara. Last May, she saved a four-year-old boy by scaring off a dog that had begun to attack him. I'm guessing you will soon have an experience akin to Tara's. Maybe you'll make a gutsy move that earns you an unexpected honor. Maybe you'll carry out a dramatic act of compassion that's widely appreciated. Or maybe you'll go outside your comfort zone to pull off a noble feat that elevates your reputation.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 21): According to cartoon character Homer Simpson, "Trying is the first step towards failure." I don't agree with that comic advice. But I do think the following variant will be applicable to you in the coming weeks: "Trying *too hard* is the first step toward failure." So please don't try *too hard,* Libra! Over-exertion should be taboo. Straining and struggling would not only be unnecessary, but counterproductive. If you want to accomplish anything worthwhile, make sure that your default emotion is relaxed confidence. Have faith in the momentum generated by all the previous work you have done to arrive where you are now.

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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I'm a hetero guy in need of advice. Back in college, I met this girl. Suffice it to say she was into me but I had some shit to work through. So we ended up being a missed connection, romantically. Despite that, we still became fast friends. I'm less awkward now, in large part because our friendship changed my life. We each married other people, and everything worked out great. Except I still love her. I think about her often, want to share things about my life with her, find myself wanting to rely on her when things are tough. I don't know what to do with it. On one hand, she means an awful lot to me—she is the kind of friend that comes along once in a lifetime—and I know that I mean a lot to her. So this is a relationship worth protecting, even as asymmetrical as it is. On the other hand, these feelings are starting to seem kind of pathetic. We are barely part of each other's lives anymore—do I even have a right to feel the way I do? I see three options, each of which is shit.

(1) Keep my feelings to myself and endure/enjoy a painful but deeply meaningful friendship. (2) Disappear, either abruptly or gradually, with no explanation. Or (3) damn the torpedoes and bare my soul, which might painfully explode the relationship. After years of option 1, I am strongly leaning toward option 3—just blowing shit wide open and dealing with whatever happens.

— No Good At Acronyms

You're going to need a gay dude to act on the advice I'm about to give you—and not just any gay dude, NGAA, but the kind of gay dude who obsesses about Broadway musicals. And not just any gay dude who obsesses about Broadway musicals, but the kind of Broadway-musical-obsessed gay dude who has good taste. (Look through his record collection: If *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* is in there and *Mame* isn't, he does not have good taste.)

Okay, here's my advice: Listen to the original Broadway cast recordings of *Company*, *Follies*, and *A Little Night Music*—music and lyrics, in all three cases, by Stephen Sondheim (peace be upon him). Yes, you can get all three recordings on iTunes, NGAA, but you need to listen to them on vinyl, and you need to discuss these shows, and three songs in particular, with someone who already knows them by heart. Hence the need for a gay dude with good taste in Broadway musicals and an extensive collection of original Broadway cast recordings—on vinyl. As any Broadway musical-obsessed gay man will tell you: Epiphanies, insights, and breakthroughs come most reliably in moments of silence, i.e., when you have to flip the record over.

Here are the songs you need to pay close attention to: "Sorry-Grateful" from *Company*, "The Road You Didn't Take" from *Follies*, and "Send in the Clowns" from *A Little Night Music*. (You might be a little too fragile for "Too Many Mornings" and "Losing My Mind," both from *Follies*.) Listen over and over again—until you know the lyrics of all three songs by heart. Discuss what these songs mean with your new gay friend. Then you'll know what to do.

A friend of mine talks about his sex life almost constantly. Not quite like bragging, more matter-of-fact. For instance, out of the blue he will come out with this: "I was sitting in a bar and this broad looks at me and asks if I want to fuck. She had the tightest pussy I've ever had." It just seems like conversation for him. I'm baffled by this. What's going on with him?

— Not So Talky

I want to say something like this: "The amount of pussy and/or cock a man is actually getting

exists in inverse proportion to the amount of pussy and/or cock a man brags about getting." But it ain't necessarily so. ("It Ain't Necessarily So," *Porgy and Bess*, music by George Gershwin [PBUH], lyrics by Ira Gershwin [PBUH].) I've known plenty of guys who bragged constantly about getting tons of ass, and they weren't all liars. Almost every one of them, however, was deeply insecure—they bragged about the ass they were getting because they feared people saw them as guys who couldn't get ass in a donkey storm.

I was stroking my partner and went for the lube, when he informed me that he prefers to have his handjobs sans lube. He says that lube is messy. For the past three years, he has raved about my handjobs and said my skills are professional level, and never once did he complain about the lube. I attempted to follow through, but all my old techniques didn't work. I asked him to show me how, what he likes, and he said just do the same as I've always done. The sliding, gliding, twisting motions that I usually use, all with a reasonable amount of squeezing, just DO NOT WORK without lube. My hand stuck to the dampish skin and would not slide. He says I am making a big deal out of nothing, but I am upset. One of the best tools in my sexual toolbox has just been rendered unusable.

— Sincerely Laments Obstructed Wanking

You need to listen to the original Broadway cast recording of *Wicked*, music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz (PBUH). When Idina Menzel sings "Defying Gravity," pretend she's singing "defying aridity." Apparently that's your boyfriend's superpower, or his cock's superpower: aridity—"being without moisture, extremely dry, parched"—is no impediment to pleasure. And it's not an uncommon superpower, SLOW. Lots of guys prefer lubeless handjobs. So have your boyfriend jack himself off while you listen to *Wicked*, see what works for him, and then try not to make a big deal—try not to make any sort of deal—out of his handjob preferences going forward.

I usually like your advice, Dan, but I was dismayed when both you and Peter Staley got it wrong in your response to STATUS, the woman who was preparing to divorce her HIV+ husband after the revelation of another affair. You both seemed to think she was trying to get her husband sent to prison. I think she was trying to avoid that outcome! She wants her husband to tell the truth in therapy, but she's concerned doing so will land him in prison. Here's something else you both missed: When someone tells a therapist what they have already done, the reporting requirements are far less stringent than when a patient tells what they plan on doing. If a therapist believes a patient is likely to harm themselves or others in the future, the therapist may have to act. Patient confidentiality carries a lot of weight when it comes to past actions.

— Really Regular Reader

You weren't the only reader who came to STATUS's defense. It's possible Peter and I got it wrong—our familiarity with cases where vengeful exes abused reporting laws to go after HIV+ people may have colored our response. On the off chance I got it wrong, RRR, I'm going to need to be punished. It should be something that really hurts. Oh, I know: I'll listen to the original Broadway cast recording of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Twice.

On the Lovecast, Salon writer Debra Soh on the tricky subject of pedophiles: savagecast.com.

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consecutive years is an incredible feat for Chef Pino Lavarra, who has helmed Tosca only since 2013.

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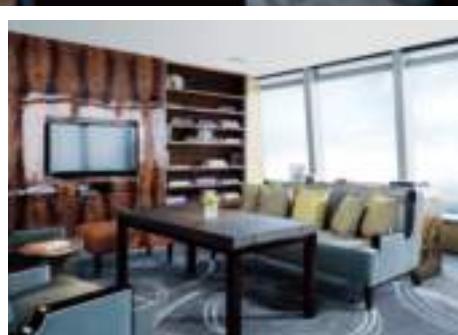
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One lucky winner will be able to get The Ritz-Carlton Club experience firsthand, because we've **one night's stay for two worth \$10,450** to give away.

Want to win? If you were reading last week, you should have already found an *italicized* word in an article on the Spotlight page of that issue. Now you have to do the same with this and the next issue! Once you've got all three, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about why you'd like to win a stay at The Ritz-Carlton. Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry before **10am on November 23, 2015**. The best, most convincing entry will win the top prize.

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

Win Christmas dinner for eight people!

Want to invite friends around for Christmas dinner—but don't have the skills or time to throw everything together? How about this—you host a dinner at home for friends and family and Le Port Parfumé, the classic French Mediterranean restaurant/bistro, delivers an amazing Christmas dinner for eight people, worth \$5,200, straight to your door?

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To win, tell us about your perfect Hong Kong Christmas dinner. Submit your entry to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways by **10am on November 16, 2015**. The winner will be announced on November 20.

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FIRST PERSON

“I’m not just a musician—I’m more of a performer who uses music.”



Indie rocker **Jing Wong** writes rebellious rock with a poetic twist, a genre he’s dubbed “Book Rock.” He tells Isabelle Hon about a hyperactive childhood, his path to fame and why he’ll never smash a guitar on stage.

I think I had ADHD when I was a kid.

I used to run all over the place. There were always bruises on my legs since I kept running into things.

Most of the good kids in my class thought I was a weirdo.

I used to sing all the time. I even hummed songs during exams.

Once, I was singing during class and my teacher caught me. She punished me by saying, “If you want to sing, you have to sing so loud that everyone in school can hear.” I did what she asked.

At that time, my favorite song was “Do You Hear the People Sing” from “Les Misérables.” I imagined I was Prisoner 24601.

I was asked to join the choir.

Persuasion works on me, but coercion is out of the question.

My sense for music was a genetic gift from my father. He was very well educated. He wrote poems and had great taste in music.

People always make fun of my name: “You are so noisy. How come your name is Jing [“quiet”]?”

I went to international school for my A-Levels and later went to the UK for university. In the summers I would spend whole afternoons listening to Britpop.

I was heavily influenced by UK music. I went to many live shows. I was also influenced by improvisational live jazz with weird melodies. Every day I was educated by atypical music.

I played in a band where all five of us had different tastes. We loved to share them—industrial music, free jazz, experimental, big band, art school, psychedelic rock.

I came back to Hong Kong after getting a first-class degree and a master’s degree from Central Saint Martins and the Royal Central School of Speech & Drama.

Then one day I picked up an acoustic guitar and started busking.

At the beginning I couldn’t afford a mic. I lost my voice after two hours of singing.

Then I played better and saved money for a mic and an amp.

I busked in different places in Hong Kong, for six hours every Sunday.

Buskers now work in shifts with a few people—I used to play all by myself.

Once there was a kid with his father, they stood and listened to me for an hour.

The kid left and came back with a bag of McDonald’s for me.

Later I joined Anthony Wong Yiu-ming’s label People Mountain People Sea.

The next year I joined their 10th Anniversary tour in China, performing in Shanghai, Beijing and Fuzhou. In Fuzhou I met my manager, who was a DJ.

When I first started I played mostly folk-pop.

During my days in People Mountain People Sea, a lot of electronic elements were available, adding to my songwriting experience.

This past June I made an explosive change, destroying my past image totally.

I found there was no word to perfectly describe my style.

I reconfigured my genre—I named it “Book Rock.”

It’s a mixture of blues, rock and post-punk. It’s rock, but in a poetic and subtle way.

I’m not just a musician—I’m more of a performer who uses music.

Aside from music, I love theater. Theater has the greatest capacity—involving time, visual and performing art, sculpture, music, dance, literature and poetry.

When I was young I used to like [singers] Noriko Sakai and Gigi Leung because they were pure and innocent.

Now that I’m older I like [Taiwanese TV host] Dee Hsu (Little S) most. She’s gutsy and straightforward. She’s funny and sexy too—she’s a Latin dancer.

As for my girlfriend, she can’t just be a pretty woman. She should know her own thoughts but not be a feminist.

I have a daily habit of looking for guitars on eBay, even though I already own so many guitars that I don’t need to buy more.

But I’m still obsessively checking guitars on eBay, just like people checking the Hang Seng Index every day.

My performing style is highly influenced by Radiohead’s Thom Yorke.

There were many musicians in the ‘60s who would smash their guitars on stage.

I love my guitars and I won’t damage any of them. It’s only acceptable when the performer’s music reaches that level of emotion.

But I’ve never seen a performance reach such a level in Hong Kong—not even Nicholas Tse.

I’ve published my first Chinese EP after two English ones, to get closer to local audiences.

I’ll also be performing at Clockenflap this year.

For Cantopop singers, the ultimate goal must be to have a concert at the Hong Kong Coliseum—but for an independent singer-songwriter, performing in Clockenflap is something we should be proud of.

Jing Wong plays Clockenflap on Saturday November 28 at 12:30 pm.

In Memory of Rainer Werner Fassbinder

Exhibition:

Fassbinder 1945 - 1982

25.11. - 23.12.2015

Venue: Goethe-Gallery
Goethe-Institut Hongkong
14/F Hong Kong Arts
Centre, 2 Harbour Road,
Wanchai

Opening hours:

10:00am - 8:30pm (Mon - Fri)

1:00pm - 6:00pm (Sat)

Free admission



Films:

German Film Forum

Venue: Cinema, Hong Kong
Film Archive
50 Lei King Road,
Sai Wan Ho

15.01.2016 (Fri), 8pm



Satan's Brew

1976, 112 mins, IIB

20.11.2015 (Fri), 8pm



The Marriage of Maria Braun

1978, 120 mins, IIB

11.12.2015 (Fri) 8pm



Katzelmacher

1969, 88 mins, IIB

19.02.2016 (Fri), 8pm



Ali: Fear Eats the Soul

1974, 91 mins, IIB

18.03.2016 (Fri), 8pm



Effi Briest

1974, 141 mins, I

Ticket price: HK\$60/30 (full time students, senior citizens, people with disabilities and CSSA recipients)
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