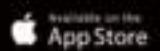


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HK MAGAZINE

HK MAGAZINE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2015 HK-MAGAZINE.COM

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## Know Your Copyrights

The government is facing an uphill battle to pass the Copyright Amendment Bill, which intends to protect the interests of the film, TV and music industries. Critics fear it will threaten freedoms of speech and creation, and have dubbed the bill the "Internet Article 23," after 2003's hugely unpopular and abandoned national security clause. But what will the new laws mean? Let our totally unqualified legal team show you the ropes.

### Scenario I

**Question:** I have written and recorded a song all about how much I adore Chief Secretary Carrie Lam. A popular Carrie Lam fansite, "Lam's Lads," has taken this song without permission and it now plays whenever anyone visits their website. Do I have grounds to sue?

**Answer:** Yes, because anyone who creates a site with an auto-loading theme song deserves to be broken on the wheel of the legal system.

### Scenario II

**Question:** I wish to take a photograph of Financial Secretary John Tsang I found on his official site and superimpose it onto an explicit piece of pornographic material. Am I allowed to do this?

**Answer:** You are not permitted to do this, unless you happen to be the originator of the pornographic work. Have you considered approaching John Tsang to see if he might be open to starring in a tastefully made docu-drama entitled "Financial Surplus Sluts 23?"

### Scenario III

**Question:** I wish to pirate the new season of hit drama "Game of Thrones" when it airs in April. Am I allowed to do this?

**Answer:** This is illegal and we cannot condone this behavior in any way. Please take this USB stick and load on all of the episodes you just downloaded in high definition so that we may, um, examine exactly how illegal it really is.

### Scenario IV

**Question:** I want to make fun of Chief Executive CY Leung, but I fear I will not be able to do so if I cannot use his likeness. What do I do?

**Answer:** There are exemptions if your work falls into the realms of pastiche or parody. As you are almost certainly not a funny person, we suggest that you leave it to the experts. That's us.

### Scenario V

**Question:** I am a Legco member and have been asked to attend a meeting of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. As it is some kind of convention, I intend to cosplay as Chinese president Xi Jinping. I have the perfect suit picked out and everything. Is this acceptable?

**Answer:** Remember to yell, "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!" as you are dragged away by security forces.

### Who's in charge?

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**Accountant** Winson Yip  
**Cover** Pierre Pang

### Where to find us!

**Editorial enquiry:** hk@hkmagmedia.com  
**Sales enquiry:** 2565 2222 or advertising@hkmagmedia.com  
**Marketing enquiry:** marketing@hkmagmedia.com  
**Circulation enquiry:** circulationadmin@scmp.com  
**HK Magazine Media Ltd.**  
**Morning Post Centre, 22 Dai Fat Street**  
**Tai Po Industrial Estate, New Territories**  
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### Look us up!



The List

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# HOME



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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

### Why is evaporated milk so popular in Hong Kong? – Lacto Lad

It might surprise you in an age of milk powder smuggling, but China has never been big on dairy. Historically cattle were kept for their ability to work the fields, not to produce milk. It's the reason many Chinese are lactose intolerant: They never developed the ability to digest it properly.

But when the British came to the city, they brought with them a love of tea... with milk. Sacrilege to the lover of a delicate first flush pre-Ching Ming longjing tea, perhaps—but it's not too bad in a mug of Lipton.

Transporting cows, breeding them, milking them—all of these were considerable inconveniences, and it made milk a rare commodity. Hong Kong's Dairy Farm, in fact, was founded in 1886 with the specific aim of halving the price of milk in the territory.

But then two things were invented which made milk accessible to all Hongkongers: the canning and evaporation processes. By the 1920s, milk could be reduced down to about half of its original volume, thrown into a tin and shipped around the world.

As the population of Hong Kong exploded after the 1950s, so too did its cuisine. The cha chaan teng rose to prominence, with its own unique brand of food. Not Chinese, not western—but something wonderfully in between.

Including, of course, milk tea. Evaporated milk allowed you to add a concentrated, smooth milkiness—but without

adding too much liquid to dilute the incredibly strong tea that Hongkongers loved. It was cheap, easy to store and it created one of the world's greatest drinks. Why wouldn't it become popular?

Hong Kong's best-known brand of evaporated milk is Black & White, a Dutch brand that's been in the city for over 70 years and is easily identifiable thanks to its red cow livery. Some say it produces a smoother brew; but equally you might just call it brand loyalty. In fact, Black & White is owned by Dutch dairy cooperative FrieslandCampina—which also owns the "Longevity" brand condensed milk. Hong Kong's milk monopoly—you heard it here first.



Photo: Nora Tam/SCMP

Pour, my pretties!

My Perfect  
**HK**

This week in My Perfect HK: Vets in the city are warning Hongkongers to be careful with their pets around the festive season, as Christmas plants

and food can be highly toxic to pets. Cats can be poisoned by lilies, while poinsettia, holly, mistletoe and

Christmas trees can all be bad for your animals—and remember to keep your Christmas chocolate away from anyone who's not human. Good news, though: turkey is fine! And one more note to parents and surprise present-givers alike: Don't gift a puppy for Christmas unless you know the owner is wholly committed. This is a time for giving—not for regret.

## Letters

### "The author of this article is biased and unscientific."

#### Cold Reception

Mr. Know-It-All's explanation of why Hong Kong feels so cold [December 4, issue 1125] hit a (frozen) nerve...

In Europe, when the outdoor temperature falls below 15C, indoor heating kicks in on public transport, in offices, shops etc. In HK they don't even switch off the aircon. I never feel cold in Europe, but I hate winters in HK.

#### Laura Ruggeri

I find March and April the worst. The rains and humidity pick up, but it's still not warm enough to quickly dry out wet things, so they smell when they finally do.

#### Great Hop Forward

HK homes are not ready for this weather, I feel more cold in winter here than in Europe!

#### Trinke Trinkete

Perhaps some lead in the water contributes to greater insulation effectiveness?

#### Bernard King

This is so unscientific; HK is never cold. It is always warm and unbearably hot in the summer. HK's windchill is nil or negligible. The author of this article is biased and unscientific.

#### Al Tseng

Just 20C and people are dressed like they are heading for Iceland....SMH

#### Ken Iwaki

### #PrivateEyeHK



Secret Viewpoint, Fei Ngo Shan

Photo by Zoe Ng

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

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# THE WEEK



**Friday 12/11**

## Ugly Sweaty

It's your time to shine: Rúla Búla is hosting an **Ugly Sweater Competition!** Show up in your scratchiest abomination and drink until the sweaters look good. **6pm.** Rúla Búla, G/F, 58-62 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2179-5225. Happy hour extended to 10pm. See contest rules at [tiny.cc/hk-uglysweater](http://tiny.cc/hk-uglysweater).

**Saturday 12/12**

## Gimme Shelter

Charbon Art Space has invited Swiss illustrator **Emmanuelle Houdart** to exhibit her drawings and costumes. She'll also be hosting workshops on creating personal "coat-shelters" this weekend—illustrations of coats that protect and defend us. Ooh, complex! **Dec 12-13, 10am-12:30pm, 2:30-5pm.** Charbon Art Space, Unit B 8/F Sing Tek Factory, 44 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Aberdeen, 2518-0035. Free entry; workshops \$390 from [charbonartspace.com](http://charbonartspace.com), includes all materials.

**Sunday 12/13**

## Hostile Touchdown

Tired of reading about stocks and corporate competition? Watch it happen in person at the **Hong Kong Corporate Sevens**, a fundraiser in which corporate rugby teams from all over town lay the touchdown smack down. There'll be activities for everyone, young and old and all proceeds will go to the Po Leung Kuk Tackling Life Program. Gates open 9:30am. So Kon Po Recreation Ground, 55 Caroline Hill Rd., So Kon Po. Free entry.



**Monday 12/14**

## I Wanna Be a Lock Star

Hip Hop House Dance Week has flown in French dancer Niako and Japanese dancer Usuke for **Street Dance Session 2015**. They'll be teaching you how to get down and dirty in four sessions, so get your kicks ready for some new creases. **Dec 12-13, with Niako; Dec 14 with Usuke.** \$300 for one session, discounts available for multiple sessions; register at [tiny.cc/hk-streetdance](http://tiny.cc/hk-streetdance).

**Tuesday 12/15**

## Santa Glam

Take a photo (or a selfie) with Pacific Place's **Santa**, sit on his knee, and tell him about your wishes for world peace. Then discover you're on the naughty list and run out of the mall because nobody understands you. Afterwards, post a tearful selfie on Instagram and tag us @HK\_Magazine. We understand you.

**Through Dec 25.** Garden Court, LG1, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty. \$110; one ticket admits up to four people. All proceeds go to charity drive Operation Santa Claus.

**Wednesday 12/16**

## Planck Constants

IndieCast.fm is hosting **Showcase Vol. 2** at The Wanch tonight, featuring super duper indie bands Oh! Nullah, The Benefactor, and Planck.

**9pm.** The Wanch, 54 Jaffe Rd., Wan Chai. Free entry.

**Saturday 12/19**

## Steady As She Goes

Korean urban dance dudes Keep It Steady celebrate their one-year anniversary with **Keep it Party Vol. 5**, bringing in dancers from Korea, Macau and of course Hong Kong. They're all about keeping street culture alive, one six-step at a time. There's an after-party too, if you're into getting hot and heavy with b-boys.

**Dance battle, 6pm; after-party 10pm-1am.** Jam City HK, Room B, 8/F, Ka Ming Court Block AB, 688-690 Castle Peak Rd., Lai Chi Kok, [tiny.cc/hk-keepitparty](http://tiny.cc/hk-keepitparty).

**Thursday 12/17**

## A Long Time Ago...

Forget Christmas, there's only one date in December that actually matters: **"Star Wars: The Force Awakens"** opens in cinemas today. Will it live up to the massive hype and attention? Follow the force to find out... alternatively, buy a lightsaber from Toys 'R' Us (\$599) and pretend you're a Jedi Knight at home. Open in theaters city-wide.



**Friday 12/18**

## Kitchen Confidence

Learn how to cook up a fancy feast at Pots n Pans Cooking Studio, which is holding a **Four-Course Dinner Class.** Les nommes du jour? Pan seared scallops with mango salsa, roasted chestnut cream soup, duck à l'orange, and pears poached in red wine.

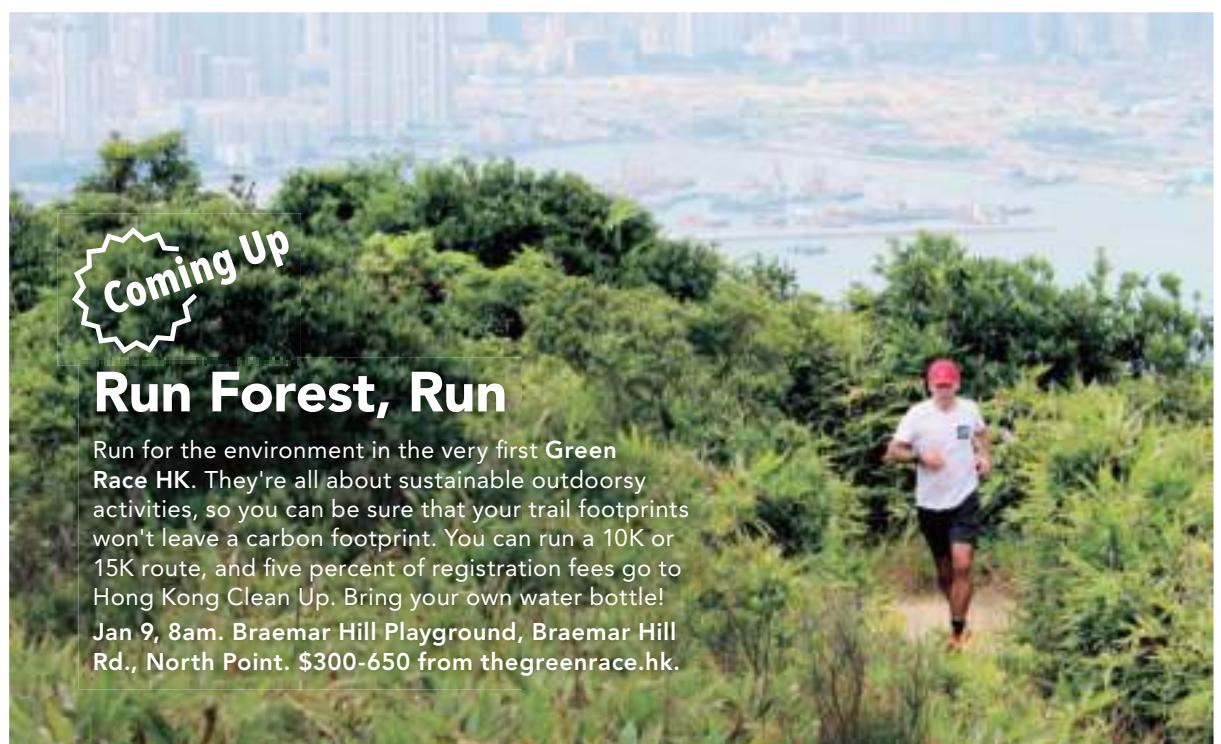
**7pm.** Unit 6B Hang Cheong Factory Building, 1 Wing Ming St., Lai Chi Kok. \$480 from 5112-5634 or [tiny.cc/hk-potspans](http://tiny.cc/hk-potspans); spaces limited.

Coming Up

## Run Forest, Run

Run for the environment in the very first **Green Race HK**. They're all about sustainable outdoorsy activities, so you can be sure that your trail footprints won't leave a carbon footprint. You can run a 10K or 15K route, and five percent of registration fees go to Hong Kong Clean Up. Bring your own water bottle!

**Jan 9, 8am.** Braemar Hill Playground, Braemar Hill Rd., North Point. \$300-650 from [thegreenrace.hk](http://thegreenrace.hk).





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**New Year Eve Feasts** | 31/12/2015  
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New Year Eve French Set Dinner @ Privé  
MOP788+ per person | Wine pairing MOP249+

**Christmas Indulgence at Mistral** | 24-25/12/2015 | Mistral, 6F  
MOP488+ per person | Free flowing wines MOP168+

**Le Réveillon de Noël at Privé** | 24-25/12/2015 | Privé, 6F  
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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](http://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](http://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 &amp; 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](http://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



## Last Week In Reality

SAT 28

**Totally Sauced** A group of 10 Hokkien men are drinking in front of a grocery store in Tsuen Wan.

A 20-year-old member of the group starts yelling and swearing, arguing with the others. As the argument turns into a fight, one of the men rushes into the grocery store, grabs a bottle of soy sauce and throws it at the arguer. Another picks up a chair and chases him, hitting him with it until it breaks. The shopkeeper hides in the corner and calls the police, who arrive to find the other nine men have fled, leaving behind a splatter of soy sauce and the 20-year-old lying injured on the ground. He is sent to the hospital.



SUN 29

**Bomber Man** A 48-year-old man, whose hobby is searching for unexploded World War II bombs while hiking, takes his metal detector on a trek along the Wilson Trail in Tai Tam. The metal detector comes across four wartime-era Japanese-made grenades. He calls the police, who discover that the grenades are still armed. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Bureau arrives and detonates them at the scene.

MON 30

**Left Behind** A nanny supervising primary school students on cross-boundary school coaches accidentally leaves a sleeping boy on the coach while taking the others through immigration. An officer with the Hong Kong Immigration Department goes to inspect the coaches and finds the young boy still asleep in his seat. The officer wakes the boy and takes him back to the nanny, who is assisting a group of children who are queuing up to go through immigration. The incident causes a brief traffic jam at the Shenzhen Bay Port outbound vehicle area.

TUE 1

**Bad Fruit** A man and two women suffer from food poisoning after eating wild fruits they pick in Kowloon Bay. The fruits are green and around 6cm in diameter, and were found beside a tree inside a housing estate. An hour after eating the fruit the group experiences abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea and a burning sensation in the throat. They seek medical assistance at the emergency department of United Christian Hospital, but do not have to be hospitalized.

WED 2

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



THU 3

**Photo Exhibition** At around noon, a middle-aged man is seen running completely naked around the streets of Happy Valley near Hong Kong Stadium. Pedestrians are startled by the scene and call the police, who arrive with ambulances on standby. A photo of the scene circulates the internet, and gains more than 300 "likes" and "shares" in less than an hour. The man is suspected of being mentally unwell.



FRI 4

**Thief Tantrum** In the evening, a 39-year-old Vietnamese woman is found stealing clothes from a mall in Tseung Kwan O. Two staff members rush forward to stop her from leaving and the woman throws a tantrum. She bites the staff, tears off her shirt, throws it on the ground and starts screaming that she has been raped. Twenty minutes later, she puts her clothes back on and repeats her claim to the police. She is arrested and the injured staff sent to the hospital for a check-up.

## Quote of the Week

"People asked if I'm going to filibuster. I asked them in return, 'would you eat'?"

"Long Hair" Leung Kwok-hung confirms that he intends to filibuster against the government's Copyright Amendment Bill. Some netizens are calling it the "Internet Article 23," named after the wildly unpopular proposed national security legislation.

## Talking Points

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

### Pan-dems to DAB: You Cheated

Pro-democracy lawmakers have accused their pro-Beijing counterparts of dirty tactics during the District Council elections. Speaking on Commercial Radio Kwong Chun-yu, who won in the Pek Long constituency, accused the pro-Beijing DAB of underhanded tactics, including **setting up an "invisible" campaign team on voting day** who were disguised as normal voters and urged others to "vote for number one," Kwong's opponent. A member of Kwong's team alleges that an elderly voter said **she was threatened into voting for the DAB candidate** after giving them her personal information to get a free gift. She was allegedly told that having filled out the form she was obliged to support the candidate, and **if she did not vote accordingly she would be breaking the law**.

**Our Take:** All's fair in love and politics, right?

Illustration: Elaine Tang

### Getting Hitched is Crazy Pricy

A survey carried out by online shopping site ESDlife has revealed that **couples spend an average of \$314,000 on weddings**, while the value of gifts from guests has risen to more than \$1,000 per red packet. The results show that **the wedding industry in Hong Kong is worth \$17.7 billion**, while average spend has risen 17 percent in the last five years. The largest expenditure comes from wedding banquets, at an average cost of \$160,000. The survey also revealed that only 40 percent of couples were in a position to buy property after marriage, while the **number of couples living with their parents after marriage is up from 15 percent in 2009 to 32 percent**.

**Our take:** Staying single for life is looking like a pretty affordable alternative...





## Street Talk

**Leung Choi-ling** is the owner of Fusion Court cha chaan teng in Shek Kip Mei's Pak Tin Estate, which is slated for redevelopment next year. She tells Kate Lok about her policy of hiring people with a history of mental illness, and her hopes for the future.

**HK Magazine:** When did you start your CCT business?

**Leung Choi-ling:** I opened my first cha chaan teng 27 years ago in Sheung Shui. I started it because I'm an absolute foodaholic. I love cooking and eating! I learned from my brother, who knew how to cook dai pai dong dishes. But then the rent in Sheung Shui got too expensive, so I turned to the government and bid for shops under the Housing Authority—that's how I started Fusion Court here in Pak Tin Estate. At first, it wasn't smooth at all. The location isn't that appealing, it is quiet and secluded and it took me a while to gather customers. But I believe in the quality of my food.

**HK:** Many of your staff suffer from mental illnesses. When did you start employing them?

**LC:** Around 7 years ago, through a program initiated by the New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association. They are people who have recently recovered from mental disorders and now want to get back to supporting themselves. Everybody deserves a chance to prove themselves.

**HK:** What kinds of issues do they deal with?

**LC:** They used to suffer from mental disorders such as depression; some are ex-cancer patients. One of my staff members used to suffer from depression. After she recovered she had lost her confidence to face the world, and was afraid society would not accept her for her past. Working at Fusion Court enabled her to regain her confidence.

**HK:** What other success stories have you come across?

**LC:** One of my ex-employees just got promoted to be the director of his company. I can still remember when he first started working here: He was extremely reclusive and mumbled to himself. He started out doing delivery work, and then slowly got better and became a lot more confident. I am very proud of him. Occasionally, he comes to visit us to share his story and encourage the staff.

**HK:** How many people do you think you've helped out?

**LC:** When I first joined the program and started hiring these people I never knew that I would be able to help so many, or that it would be such a satisfying experience. I think what matters most is not the number of people that I have helped, but the opportunity I have given to people who are willing to try and deserve a second chance. I encourage other restaurants to do the same thing.

**HK:** Are any customers prejudiced against your workers?

**LC:** Yes, some customers tell me off because they find the staff slow and unresponsive. I keep their situation a secret: I never tell my customers about my employees' struggles; I just tell them that it's difficult to employ people. It is true that my employees need time to learn, and they require a lot more attention and patience, but the effort is worth it.

**HK:** What will happen when Pak Tin Estate is redeveloped?

**LC:** I know the Housing Authority will be giving compensation to shops, but I don't want the money. I want Fusion Court to stay in Pak Tin Estate. The district councilor suggested

I report my case to the Housing Authority and see if they would grant me an exemption. But I was told that the system has changed and I cannot get a store. They told me to take a place in the wet market, which is impossible for me.

**HK:** What will you do?

**LC:** If I have no choice I will risk bidding alongside big companies such as Café de Coral and Maxim's for a place in the new shopping mall. Which is totally unfair—I know I stand a very small chance against them. But I will not give up on my employees or my cha chaan teng. My staff are worried they will not be accepted if they have to work in other places, but I know most would prefer working to receiving government assistance. They are all clever, but society often stigmatizes them, and that puts pressure on them. They have all recovered and are eager to learn and try, a quality I very much appreciate. They deserve their chance just like everybody else.

**Visit Fusion Court at Shop 25, Pak Tin Commercial Centre, Pak Tin Estate, Shek Kip Mei, 2779-2268**



## Blowing Water

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

siu2 sin2 yuk6

小鮮肉

"LITTLE FRESH MEAT"

"Young hunk." Term used across the Chinese internet for a handsome, physically fit young man. Often has connotations of innocence or naiveté.

## HongKabulary



**Single Bells (sɪŋl belz), n.**

The depressing anthem of Christmas orphans who celebrate alone in Hong Kong because everyone has either left for the holidays or doesn't celebrate Christmas.

*"Single bells, single bells / Single all the way / Oh what fun it is to be / Alone on Christmas Day."*

# Best of Hong Kong 2015

What a year it's been: Here are our favorite new openings from the last 12 months in the SAR. **By HK Staff**

#HelloKitty  
#hkfoodie  
#meow



## Best Bites

### Best Insta-worthy Eats

Why settle for hugging the plush toy when you could be munching on its adorable face instead? **Hello Kitty Chinese Cuisine**, the world's first Hello Kitty-themed restaurant, opened this year and Hong Kong's foodstagrammers jumped on it like expats at a free-flow drinks night. With Hello Kitty-shaped shrimp dumplings, lotus buns and rice to boost your social media following, who cares if you're paying an absurd amount for standard dim sum?

A-C, Lee Loy Mansion, 332-338 Canton Rd., Yau Ma Tei, 8202-8203, [hellokittychinesecuisine.com.hk](http://hellokittychinesecuisine.com.hk).

### Best Value Brunch

Forget champagne brunches—cocktails are the new cool. We've always been fans of Zuma's drinks, which is why we went giddy with glee when they launched **Zuma's Saturday Sessions**, a new weekend brunch for \$450 featuring unlimited tipplers plus sushi and grilled skewers from 2:30-5pm. Start with a Lillet Spritzer (Lillet blanc, peach liqueur, citronella and prosecco), move on to a yuzu and mandarin cosmo then end up with a Japanese shiso daiquiri. Down all six drinks on the menu—then set up round two. This is one brunch we'll be back for.

5-6/F, The Landmark, 15 Queen's Rd. Central, 3657-6388.

### Best Hipster Hangout

Communal tables, hand-sourced ceramics and organic everything makes **Teakha II**—the second branch from entrepreneur Nana Chan—the ultimate hipster hangout. Did we mention it's tucked away on a more or less unknown alley in Shek Tong Tsui? Grab a cozy cup of tea and one of Nana's homemade green tea cakes and meditate on life, the universe and the word "artisan."

18 Po Tuck St., Sai Ying Pun, 2858-9185.



### Best Cheat Food

Donuts? Check. Cookies? Check. Double Double Chocolate and "Green Crack"? Check. For waving goodbye to diets and six-packs (who needs new year's resolutions, anyway?) **Munchies** is a one-stop shop for the three essential food groups: chocolate, butter and sugar. Treat yourself to a vanilla bean cookie, salted caramel doughnut or matcha ice cream sandwich and watch your waistline expand before your very eyes.

4 Shin Hing St., Central, [munchies.hk](http://munchies.hk).

### Best Payday Splurge

Good news: Repulse Bay's The Pulse development isn't just for bored tai tais and millionaires. It's also a great place to splurge all your hard-earned money on payday! And what better place than at **Tri**, a modern Balinese restaurant decked out in gorgeous bamboo décor and lotus-shaped pods? Complete with flickering candlelight and pools of water, Tri's the perfect place to live the high life: even if it is just once a month.

Shop 302, 3/F, The Pulse, 28 Beach Rd., 2515-0777.

### Best Food Crossover

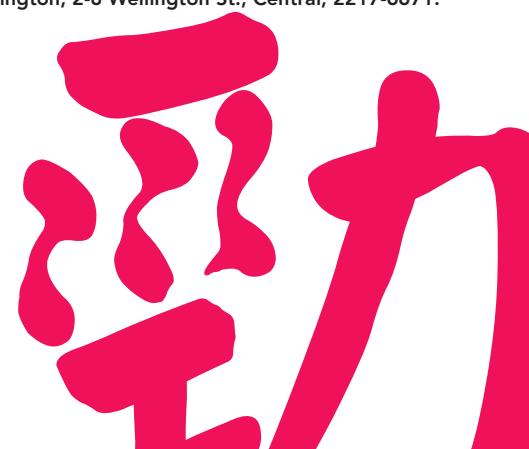
Amid a handful of high label food crossovers this year (so many afternoon teas!), **Elephant Grounds and The Upper House's pop-up café** takes the crown for being the most crave-worthy. While the decadent ice cream combos have been all the rage for some time now, being able to chow down in The Upper House definitely won them (ice cream) brownie points. Too bad this pop-up's over at the end of December.

Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, 2253-1313.

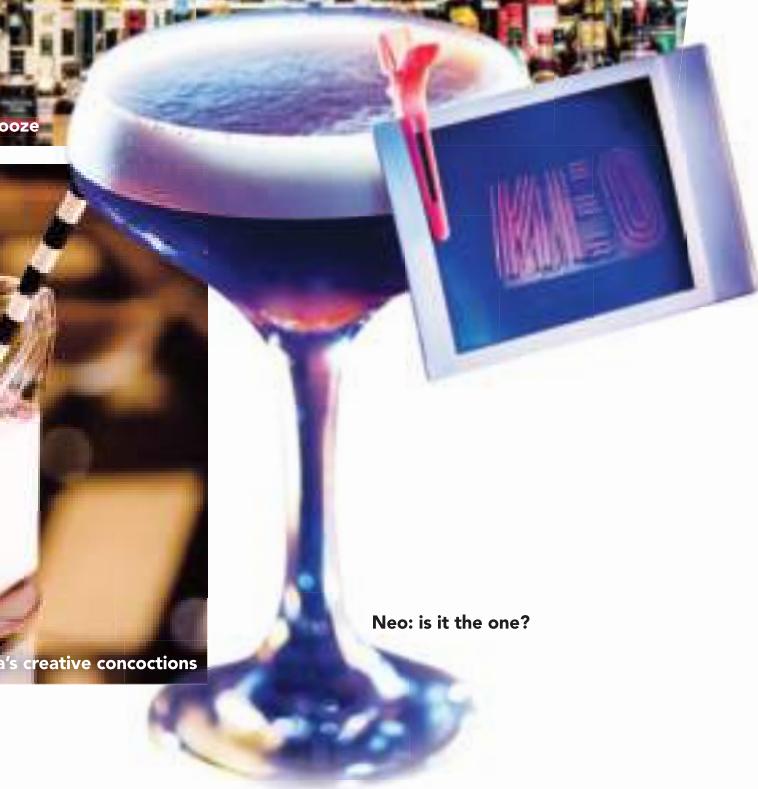
### Best Comeback

After bidding farewell to its original Queen's Rd. Central location back in 2013, Belgian beer hall **Frites** reopened again in Central (well, kind of Sheung Wan) in a 7,000-sq-ft space on Wellington St., bringing back its signature moules-frites, steak and ale pie and pork schnitzel. Another branch has recently popped up on Haven Street in Causeway Bay, and we've heard whispers of no fewer than four more locations in the works. Moules for all!

1/F, The Wellington, 2-8 Wellington St., Central, 2217-6671.



亨



## Best Booze

### Best Cooler-Than-Thou Bar

If tossing back negronis while nodding to Berlin beats is your kind of vibe, chances are **Mitte** is already your go-to. This bar is all about its four signature negronis: traditionalists will enjoy the Classic (\$126) made with bitters from the Negroni Distillery rather than campari, while more adventurous drinkers will enjoy the zippy but boozy Spritz (\$78) featuring sweet bitters and Italian sparkling wine. Not a Negroni nut? Other cocktails are available, but you won't be able to order them without being judged by everyone in there.

**1A Upper Station St., Sheung Wan, 2803-7080.**

### Best Instadrinks

The combined genius of top chef Vicky Cheng and mixologist Antonio Lai has resulted in the brainchild that is **Vea**, where food-influenced cocktails reign. Up on the 29th floor, the lounge features a long terrace for perfect nighttime city views as you sip on one of Lai's concoctions. Try the Cleopatra Formosa (\$170), a smoky mezcal, Absolut Elyx, pineapple and star anise drink, served in a gilded, lit-up pineapple goblet; or the Genmai 13 (\$110), a long gin and tonic refreshed with genmaicha brown rice tea cordial. Creative fusion bar snacks also furnish the menu, such as chef Cheng's take on the *bor lor yau* with chilled caramel butter (\$38)—check out p.24 for more on their nomtastic bites.

**29-30/F, The Wellington, 198 Wellington St., Central, 2711-8639.**

### Best Boozing with a View

Singaporean nightlife hotspot Ku Dé Ta has flown its first outpost, **Cé La Vi**, to the top of California Tower with a sleek and sexy three-story penthouse and rooftop bar,

complete with some of the best views in Central and a host of refined cocktails to go alongside it. Flip through the 20-page cocktail menu to sate whatever boozy craving you have, from sweet and fruity "This is the Life" (\$148) and delicate, sake-based "Flowers Hikari" (\$108) to more classic drinks like the New Orleans-originated Vieux Carré (\$118). Standard prices for the middle of Central, but if you're female and head over on a Wednesday, you'll be plied with free mini-bottles of Perrier-Jouët. Classy!

**24-26/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 3700-2300.**

### Best Weekend Tippling

If you're not one of the people breaking out the heaters and down jackets this week, The Pulse's new rooftop venue **The Cabana** still touts summer vibes all weekend long. Located above seafood fine-dine The Ocean, The Cabana is dotted with intimate cabanas and sun beds for optimum sunset chilling, and features free-flow champagne at its Saturday "Save Water, Drink Champagne" parties (3-7pm, tickets from \$580). Don't forget your bathing suits, so you can hunker down in one of their Japanese-style onsen baths (or prep for an imminent champagne shower...).

**4/F, The Pulse, 28 Beach Road, Repulse Bay, 2889-5939.**

### Best Bar Bites

Korean-American gastropub **Edition** spins out over a dozen types of house-infused soju and soju cocktails, plus the house-infused flavors that are all the rage in Seoul these days. Somek trains (soju beer bombs) are a comparatively tame option to start off your night: But to really make it a good one, Edition serves up fusion comfort food at its best. Think spicy, gochujang-laced

fried chicken wings (\$68), cheesy kimchi fries (\$50), pork lollipops slathered in molten cheese (\$68), gooey grilled cheese sandwiches (\$50) and a pork belly pineapple bun sandwich (\$85). Maybe save the diet for tomorrow.

**G/F, 37 Peel St., Central, 2336-6695.**

### Best Reformed Geek Hangout

**Neo** ticks all the right boxes when it comes to targeting the hip and beautiful crowd that swarms around the west end of Hollywood Road. And by "hip and beautiful," we mean reformed geeks who are really just there to bash out a new high score on the 80s pinball machine and arcade console while their hip, beautiful dates sip on creative handcrafted cocktails. In between games, try the rum-tastic Neo Hive (\$120), made with white rum and pineapple-infused Jamaican overproof rum, plus dry curaçao, pomegranate, lime and orgeat syrups. It's super effective!

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

### Best Totally Ludicrous Happy Hour

Stone Nullah Tavern's **"Beat the Clock"** happy hour is still blowing our minds—and getting us doing rough sums on the back of bar napkins. It runs Monday-Friday, 5-7pm. Drinks start at \$1 (yes, one Hong Kong dollar) and double in price every 20 minutes—that's still only \$64 per drink at the end of happy hour. We're still not sure it makes any fiscal sense: But by the time we try to work it out, we're always too drunk to think.

**69 Stone Nullah Lane, Wan Chai, 3182-0128.**

# Best

## Best Fun



## Best Shopping

### Best Finally-It's-Here

It's been an age since the H&M in Central closed down and we were faced with a tedious MTR ride just to get affordable fashion. But the **new H&M store** in Fashion Walk has FINALLY opened up, making it way too easy to burn right through our paychecks again. It's also got the city's first ever H&M Home, the brand's interiors line. Looks like we're all about to get a whole load more of scatter cushions in our lives...

**Hang Lung Centre, 2-20 Paterson St., Causeway Bay, 2337-3400.**

### Best Shop Space

Hong Kong-based online retailers Grana have been making a name for themselves with their high-quality, not-too-expensive basics. But the problem with every online shop is: what if you don't fit into those 26 inch skinny jeans? What if you thought you were an S but you're actually an XL? **Grana's new fitting room** means that you can go and try on everything before you order online, which takes a lot of anxiety—and refund costs—out of the whole online shopping thing. Works for us. **108 Hollywood Rd., Sheung Wan, 2755-8744.**

### Best Hipster Haircut

Cuts, trims and classic wet shaves are the order of the day at **Fox and the Barber**, which has brought a little slice of London's Shoreditch cool straight to the SAR. Just three seats plus classic products, fragrances and styles make this experience super trendy without being insufferable. We hope you are too...

**41-43 Graham St., Central, 2405-6880.**

### Best Slice of Britain

Expats missing sausage rolls, tiny packs of pre-sliced ham and almost-affordable hummus can rejoice once more

### Best Surprising Use of a Tiki Concept

It's worth heading all the way out to Sai Kung to check out **Tikitiki Bowling Bar**, Hong Kong's first ever tiki-themed bowling alley, bar and restaurant. Tropical from head to toe, it's a big joint where you can grab snacks at the "Sea Dogs & Mermaids" bar or at one of ten neon-lit "Krakatoa Lanes" in-between scoring a few strikes, or go for more serious eats at the "Beach Burns & Cannibals" restaurant. Now that's tikitastic.

**4/F, Centro, 1A Chui Tong Rd., Sai Kung, 2657-8488, tikitiki.hk.**

### Best Fitness Trend

A no-commitment gym pass that enables you to take unlimited classes city-wide? Where have you been all our lives? **KFit, GuavaPass and ClassCruiser** all launched in the SAR this year, offering unlimited classes to the city's gym bunnies for a monthly fee. What's on the workout agenda? Pilates, yoga, mixed martial arts, indoor cycling, muay thai, dance and more, at over 40 boutique studios and gyms. See you in hot aerial yoga. Is that a thing? [classcruiser.com](http://classcruiser.com); [guavapass.com](http://guavapass.com); [kfit.com](http://kfit.com).

### Best Zen Experience

Sensory deprivation? Like, total darkness? No iPhone even? If every instinct in your body screams "hell no!" at the very idea, then you're probably the perfect stressed-out candidate for the zero-gravity experience that is **Float On Hong Kong**. Their isolation pods seek to strip away your senses, leaving you mentally, emotionally (and physically) naked. Practitioners also swear by it for pain relief, stress management, therapy and spirituality. And no, you can't get a drink while you're in there.

**B/F, 89 Caine Rd., Mid-Levels, 2548-2844, floatonhk.com.**

### Best Art Fair

This year saw the emergence of **Art Central**, the bratty younger brother to Art Basel Hong Kong. With a more accessible vibe than Basel and some quirker art, we really liked this trendy new art fair. Next year will see an even stronger selection of works from artists from around the world. "We're working to cement Hong Kong as the cultural center of the Asian contemporary art scene," say the organizers. We'll start practising our thoughtful chin-stroking now.

**The next Art Central runs Mar 23-26, 2016. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central, 2174-0322, artcentralhongkong.com.**

thanks to the opening of Asia's largest **Marks & Spencer food store** in Langham Place. New to the flagship is the city's first Marks & Sparks hot food takeaway counter, complete with super-British fish finger sandwiches. Our tip: Go at the end of the day for all the discounted yellow-sticker stuff. It's a Blighty bargain!

**Shop 25, B2/F, Langham Place, 8 Argyle St., 2415-8300.**

### Best Celeb Salon (On a Budget)

Stylist to the stars Kim Robinson is making his A-list haircuts and coloring treatments available to us ordinary people with the opening of a chain of **KR+** salons across the city, boasting reasonably priced cuts. The KR+ salon in the artsy Soho189 complex is definitely geared toward the younger generation, with iPads stuck to the walls, a hip soundtrack by Hong Kong DJ Janette Slack and even a selfie wall where you can hashtag your new hair. #Qualitystyling at #affordableprices? Instagram away!

**Shop 8, Soho189, 189 Queen's Rd. West, Sai Ying Pun, 2121-0188.**





### Best Use of Springs

Whether you're looking for fitness or fun, it's all better when you're airborne. At least, that's according to **Bounce Inc**, a huge trampoline park at KITEC with 80 interconnected trampolines and activities including dodgeball, a slam-dunking area and glow-in-the-dark club nights. Grab some friends and get to jumping... **Bounce Inc, G/F, E-MAX, KITEC, 1 Trademark Drive, Kowloon Bay, bounceinc.com.hk.**

### Best Star Wars Simulator

With the new "Star Wars" movie just hitting screens, now seems the perfect time to reenact every sci-fi spaceship shoot-out you've ever seen, via the medium of laser tag. **Lasermads** has a space station arena, with awesome tunes and two different laser weapons to play with. Remember: Learn from Han Solo, and always shoot first. **11/F, Ying Kong Mansion, 2-6 Yee Wo St., Causeway Bay, 2343-3033, lasermads.com.**

### Best Spa Treatment

If you've ever been strolled through a shopping mall and suddenly thought "what's that amazing smell?", chances are you've been Lushed. The UK brand, which uses fresh ingredients to produce its aromatic beauty products, recently opened the ambitious five-story **Lush Spa** in Central. It offers a range of treatments incorporating color, fragrance and sound, including the "Hard Day's Night" treatment, which combines "evocatively reworked" Beatles' classics with massage. Fab (four). **Soho Square Store, G/F-4/F, Soho Square, 21 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central, 3915-0638, lush-hk.com.**



Hit the lanes at Tikitiki

### Worst Trends of 2015

- \$90 pints.
- Somehow, juice cleanses are still a thing.
- Hong Kong institutions like Goldfinch restaurant closing.
- Tsui Wah is getting crazy expensive. (A curry is like \$70 now!).
- Those tiny plant hair clips from the Mainland. It's only a matter of time...

*#JoytotheWooorld*

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### Natural Causes

Oil-and-ink magnate Alisan Fine Arts hosts their first ever photography exhibition, "Un/natural." It's a joint show by Ming Thein and Stephen King (no, not the author) all about the relationship between the natural and unnatural. King shows nature doing things that look unnatural, as in this photo of an Icelandic river, whereas Ming highlights man-made things which seem organic—while still revealing an unnatural core.

Dec 5-Jan 9, 2016. Alisan Fine Arts, Room 2305, Hing Wai Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Rd., Aberdeen, 2526-1091.

# FASHION

## LOOKBOOK

Edited by Zoe Chan

Blogger & Stylist at [normalchic.com](http://normalchic.com) | Instagram @zoe\_normalchic

### Christmas Gifts

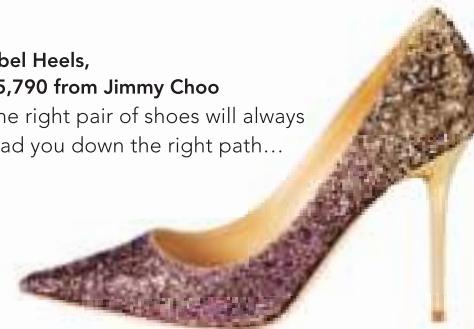
Christmas is almost upon us, and you haven't started your shopping yet, have you? Let these present ideas help you out.



**Daniela Saffiano Leather Card Holder,**  
\$700 from Michael Kors x DFS  
Who says Christmas is only about red?  
This pink leather will melt your lady's heart.

### FOR HER:

**Goldie bag in calfskin suede,**  
\$19,060 from Chloé  
Dark leather and golden detailing:  
She'll be the queen of the night.



**Abel Heels,**  
\$5,790 from Jimmy Choo  
The right pair of shoes will always  
lead you down the right path...

### FOR HIM:

**Veuve Clicquot champagne,**  
\$399 from Soho Wines & Spirits  
What's a party without champagne?  
Yellow is the new black  
at Christmas...

**Reidel Sommelier's "R" Black Series**  
champagne glass, \$1,390 from Lane Crawford  
Because a good bottle of champagne  
deserves a good glass.



**Red leather sneakers,**  
\$6,100 from Fendi  
Comfortable and chic, perfect  
for dancing the night away.



### FOR KIDS:

**Karl Lagerfeld Kids Choupette**  
fingerless gloves, \$358 from  
[melijoe.com](http://melijoe.com)  
Save these gloves from Karl Lagerfeld's  
first kids' collection for the trendiest,  
coolest kid you know.



**Gisela Graham Tartan Fabric Deer Orn,**  
\$449 from Indigo Living  
Tartan's a great pattern for Christmas—  
and this adorable reindeer will buy your  
way into any kid's heart.

#### Michael Kors X DFS

T Galleria by DFS, Lippo Sun Plaza, 28 Canton Rd.,  
Tsim Sha Tsui, 2732-5229.

#### Jimmy Choo

Shop G119, Harbour City Gateway Arcade,  
Tsim Sha Tsui, 2916-8966.

#### Chloé

Shop G207, Harbour City Gateway Arcade,  
Tsim Sha Tsui, 2175-5091.

#### Fendi

Shop G17-G18 & 112, Landmark Atrium, Central, 2524-1339.

#### Soho Wines & Spirits

49 Elgin St., Central, 2525-0316.

#### Indigo Living

6/F, Horizon Plaza, 2 Lee Wing St., Ap Lei Chau, 2555-0540.

#### Lane Crawford

Podium 3, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St., Central, 2118-2288.

#### Melijoe

[melijoe.com](http://melijoe.com).

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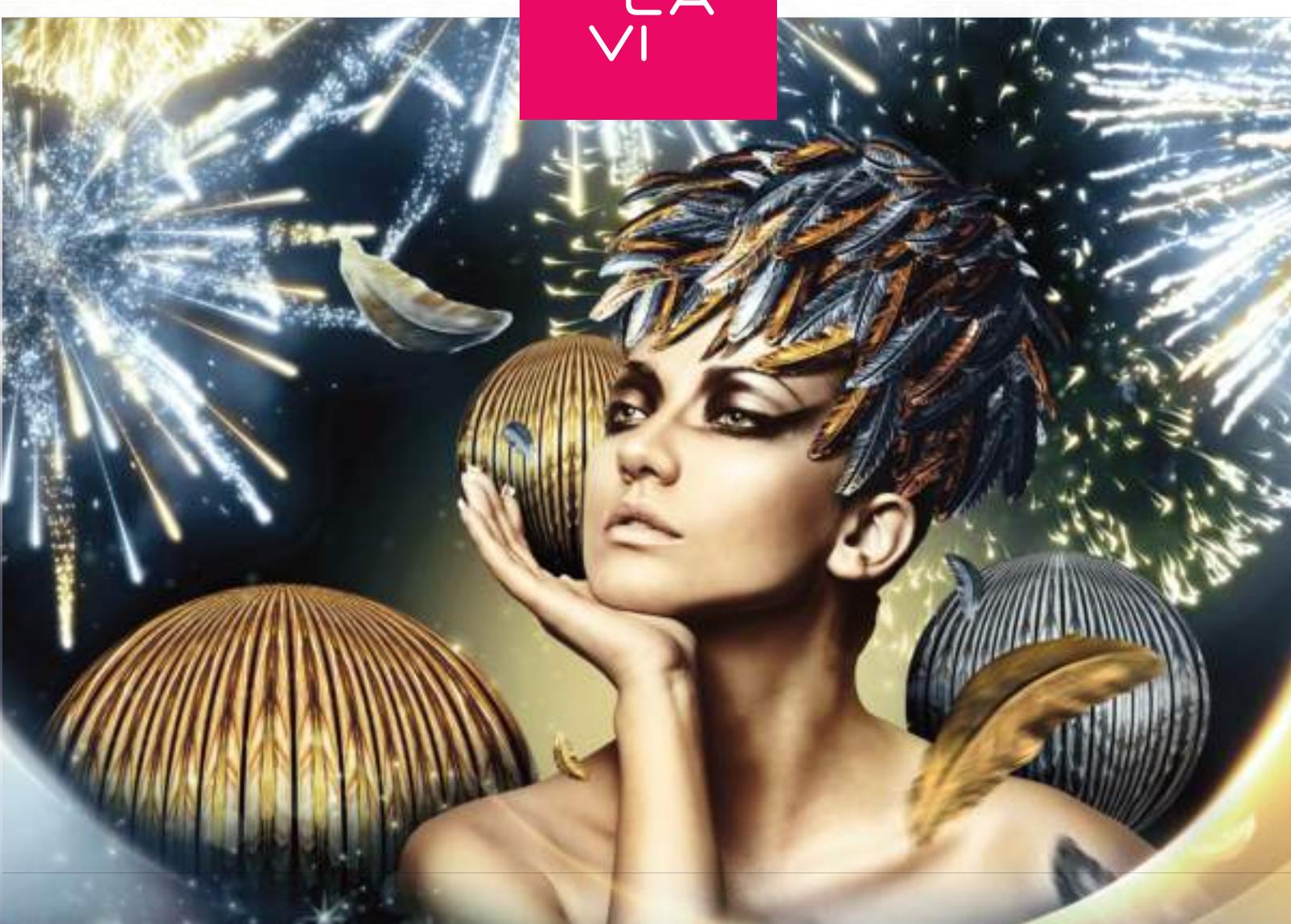
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# MACAU

WHAT'S NEW IN OUR SISTER SAR



## It's a Kind of Magic

New in Macau this season: Franz Harary's **The House of Magic**, a US\$40 million spectacular that brings the Space-Shuttle-disappearing illusionist's own brand of "Mega Magic" to our Sister SAR. The multi-magician show features a rotating series of performers from around the world, as well as Harary's own talents. Our suggestion: See if you can get him to turn \$500 into a \$1,000, then take him out gambling. Studio City Macau, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau. Shows run multiple times daily; tickets \$450 from [studiocity-macau.com](http://studiocity-macau.com).

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# MACAU



## What's New, Macau?

Recent weeks have seen exciting developments in Macau, with the Hollywood-inspired leisure resort Studio City leading the way alongside new restaurants and clubs. Here's a look at what's fresh in our Sister SAR.

### Studio City Macau

Given the growing sophistication of tourist expectations, the time was right for a new experience that would offer visitors to Macau something aside from yet another casino. Several years and US\$3.2 billion in the making, Studio City is a cinematically-themed entertainment, retail and gaming resort that the owners (and Macau in general) hope will strengthen the city's leisure, business and tourism sectors. And it's pretty stunning: Based around a Hollywood-studio concept, the resort's Art Deco facade includes a figure-of-eight "Golden Reel" ferris wheel ride which straddles the resort's two-tower hotel 130 meters in the air. Other offerings include a 5,000-seat events and concert space, a TV studio where audiences will be able to attend live TV broadcasts, a Warner Bros. entertainment center and Batman-themed motion ride, and more.

Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau, [studiodcity-macau.com](http://studiodcity-macau.com).

### Lai Heen

Not only is Lai Heen the highest Chinese restaurant in Macau—perched as is it on the 51st floor of The Ritz-Carlton, Macau—it's also becoming fast regarded as a pinnacle of Asian cuisine in our sister SAR. Featuring contemporary yet classic design alongside a wine cellar, cigar lounge, spectacular chandeliers and cascading waterfall as well as THAT view, this is an experience for all the senses. Chef Bill Fu was brought in from Tin Lung Heen at The Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong, and it was primarily through his efforts the restaurant earned its two-star Michelin status. Diners can expect signature dishes such as char-grilled barbecued Iberico pork, steamed crab claw with egg white in lobster bisque, and braised pork belly with preserved vegetables.

51/F, The Ritz-Carlton, Galaxy Macau, Estrada da Baía da Nossa Senhora da Esperança, Cotai, (+853) 8886-6868.

Edited by Daniel Creffield  
daniel.creffield@hkmagmedia.com



Go classically elegant at Lai Heen

#### Pacha

One of the biggest nightclub brands in the world, Pacha is finally bringing its blissed-out Balearic beats to Macau. It seems like such an obvious match—the only question is what took it so long to get here? As a global nightlife leader with venues across the globe, including Ibiza, New York, Dubai, Buenos Aires and Sydney, Pacha is bringing exclusivity, sophistication and a touch of decadence to Macau's growing party scene. With a distinctive style and club culture, guests can book private tables or private room—or just rage it up on the dancefloor. Resident DJs and special events with some of the world's biggest names at the decks promise to keep things lively.

Studio City Macau, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, (+853) 8865-6699.

#### Mezza9 Macau

Mezza9 Macau at the Grand Hyatt Macau has just launched a new Portuguese kitchen offering dishes by Ricardo Oliveira, Chef de Cuisine at the restaurant. This joins the recently-added Thai Kitchen, featuring the specialties of renowned Thai chef Siriluck Lekkwan, alongside the restaurant's existing show kitchens, which create Macanese, grill, sushi and sashimi, wok dishes and more. The open kitchens offer a theatrical element, while seating diners between tanks of live seafood, kitchen equipment and ingredients lend a fun market feel.

3/F, Grand Hyatt Macau, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, (+853) 8868-1920.

#### Heart Bar

A trendy new venue just opened inside the new Ascott Hotel is being billed as "Macau's first mixology concept bar," so expect cocktails and fancy drinks as well as the usual bottles of vinho verde. With a modern European vibe, Heart Bar has an indoor area of 80 seats and an outdoor of 30, offering bites and a wide range of booze. But a cocktail bar lives or dies by its concoctions: The 29 offerings include the "Whisky Figgy" (MOP85), almost a Christmas pudding in a glass containing apricot preserve, blended scotch, thyme, honey, dried fruit and toffee, citrus and pineapple, while the "Jasper Rose" (MOP85) is floral yet elegant, with London dry gin, fresh pink grapefruit, aromatic rose water, lychee liqueur and a few drops of Peychaud's bitters, giving it extra aroma and beautiful pink shade. It's won our hearts already.

Ascott Macau, Rua Cidade de Braga, Nape, Macau Peninsula, (+853) 2822-0688.



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Organizer: **HK** Venue: **SOHOeast**

# Top Tables<sup>2015</sup>

From well-respected chefs venturing out on their own to relative newcomers making a big splash on the scene, this has been a groundbreaking year for restaurant openings. **Leslie Yeh** names the top 10 restaurants that blew us away in 2015.

## Ore-no Kappou

Billed as Michelin for the masses, Ore-no Kappou lets you cheat a bit at dining in a fancy location, on fancy dishes, and with fancy company, at a fraction of the price. This Japanese import brings over a handful of two-Michelin-starred dishes from the original Ginza Okamoto in Japan, including sliced abalone with Japanese cucumber, grilled Kagoshima pork loin with miso, and our favorite, a moist miso-marinated grilled cod. With standing-room-only at a third of the tables, and speedy service, Ore-no is able to keep prices fairly reasonable—although you could also easily splurge here if you opt for the full two-star treatment.

**6/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2328-3302.**

## Ta Vie

Previously chef de cuisine at Ryugin, chef Hideaki Sato brings his painstaking attention to detail and passion for his craft to Ta Vie, a restaurant that blends his classical French training with the Japanese ingredients he's built his name on. With an eight-course degustation available at \$1,880 a head, dinner here is a pricey treat, but it's worth it from start to finish. Ingenious techniques combined with subtle flavorings and fresh, seasonal treats take you on a culinary journey—just make sure you're strapped in for the ride.

**2/F, The Pottinger, 74 Queen's Rd. Central, 2351-5808.**



La Paloma's fine Spanish bites



## ◀ La Paloma ▶

We weren't sure what to expect from chef Willy Trullas Moreno's more casual, pigeon-bespattered successor to FoFo, but we were charmed right off the bat by the twinkling fairy lights and colorful setting that makes you want to stay the night for a glass of sangria or three. The menu may not break any new boundaries—one of the tastiest items is a variation on the original "explosive" smoked salmon bags at FoFo—but it's consistently tasty, from the Valencian paella to the huevos rotos broken eggs which are some of the best we've had in Hong Kong.

**1/F, Soho 189, 189 Queen's Rd. West, Sai Ying Pun, 2291-6161, lapaloma.hk.**

## Tycoon Tann ▶

In a town dominated by fantastic, dirt-cheap Chinese food on every street corner, is it even worth shelling out more than \$100 for char siu and fried rice? Yes, when it comes to Tycoon Tann, the trendy contemporary Chinese restaurant-bar that's nailed a winning combination of classic and cool. Covering three stories of prime real estate space on Wellington Street, Tycoon Tann does avant-garde fine dining with a classical Chinese foundation, plating up char siu made with Hungarian Mangalica hog, crispy salted chicken and crunchy fried rice with abalone, shrimp and conpoy. Don't leave without trying the refreshing Chinese-inspired cocktails from the ground floor Mod Bar.

**74 Wellington St., Central, 3125-3228, tycoontann.com.**



The Optimist's seafood tower

## El Mercado

In an increasingly saturated restaurant scene, a new cuisine is likely to pique our interests right away. Luckily, El Mercado deserves the attention it's received as Hong Kong's first Nikkei restaurant, serving Japanese-Peruvian fusion (who knew?). From seared beef nigiri with banana-flavored rice to the ceviche with ohnibe fish and sweet potato, the interplay of textures and combinations here is addictive. The dish that really made our eyes pop? A plump Japanese oyster with lime and squid ink foam, with a tart house-blend of leche de tigre ceviche marinade poured over just before serving.

**21/F, 239 Hennessy Rd., Wan Chai, 2388-8009, elmercado.hk.**



"Buddha Jumps Over the Wall" at Tycoon Tann



Vea's petits fours round out the tasting menu

### ◀ Vea

What happens when you bring together one of Hong Kong's best chefs (Vicky Cheng from Liberty Private Works) and most renowned mixologists (Anthony Lai from Quinary)? A groundbreaking concept bringing something new and daring to the restaurant scene: Cocktail pairings that feature ingredients working just as well on the plate as they do in a glass, making for a seamless experience. An open show kitchen lets you ogle over an army of trained chefs meticulously plating your food, from tuna belly with burnt cucumber jelly to sous-vide pigeon with smoked eel, pigeon blood and cabbage. Occupying the top two floors of The Wellington, Vea serves up only one tasting menu at a time, and serves it well.

**29-30/F, The Wellington, 198 Wellington St., Central, 2711-8380, vea.hk.**

### Saam

While the age of molecular gastronomy might have come and gone, there'll always be a time and place for science experiments with food. The kitchen lab that is Saam reflects influences from all over the world (hence the name, which means "together" in Afrikaans): Chef Patrick Dang plays with, deconstructs and reconstructs his food, serving up foie gras "candy" enveloped in white chocolate and liquid cherry gastrique, and "Gangnam-style" tartare mixed with pear kimchi and shiso. It's all a bit crazy and kooky, but it works.

**51 Graham St., Central, 2645-9828, saamhk.com.**

### The Ocean ▶

Le Comptoir group continues its hot streak of churning out hip, stylish dining destinations, and we can't help but be drawn in hook, line and sinker. Boasting stunning azure-washed décor and panoramic sea views, The Ocean is a study in dining with the senses, with tranquil atmosphere, exquisite tableware and artful plating working in harmony to create memorable feasts. We're not saying it's the best Japanese or seafood in town, but executive chef Agustin Balbi and sushi chef Yukio Kimijima (formerly of Sushi Ta-ke) have done an excellent job of illustrating the marriage of art and food that Le Comptoir is known for, making this destination worth the splurge.

**Shop 303-304, 3/F, The Pulse, 28 Beach Rd., Repulse Bay, 2889-5939, theocean.hk.**



Splurge on white sturgeon caviar at the Ocean



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# DINING

Edited by Leslie Yeh

leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com



Pork & fennel sausage pizza at Osteria Felice

## Happy Eating

The constant ebb and flow of restaurant openings and closings in this city can be disheartening, especially when you're saying so long to old favorites (RIP Fatty Crab and Souvla), which is why we're glad to see newcomers that seem to wield staying power. Hidden away in dead man's land between Central and Admiralty, the opulent, gold-plated dining room of Il Milione has been stripped away to make room for a more affordable newcomer, **Osteria Felice**

(meaning "happy tavern", Shop 16-21, G/F, Hutchison House, Harcourt Rd., Central, 2516-6166) that has us hooked already. The mozzarella and burrata section is pure decadence, with 11 different presentations of the premium cheeses, including the classic caprese and topped with Oscietra caviar. Don't miss the well-priced handmade pastas such as squid ink linguine and oxtail ravioli, as well as the pizzas that rival the chewy, slightly charred crusts of current Neapolitan-style pizza king, Motorino.

## RESTAURANT REVIEWS

### Yours Bistro

French. G/F, 5 Kwun Chung St., Jordan, 3956-9601.



with a glass of house wine each—not bad for \$298 per person. The most successful portion of the meal was undoubtedly the execution of the meat. Slow-cooked beef cheek was tender, while the guinea fowl was just barely pink with a nice crispy skin.

■ **MISS** With the exception of acceptable mains, the rest of the meal was uninspired. The chef's amuse-bouche (if it can be called that) was an unadorned, scraggly piece of smoked salmon. An artichoke salad starter was flavored well, yet unmemorable, while the mushroom-truffle soup lacked any hint of truffle. The carrots alongside the beef cheek had wilted, and the jus, which should have been syrupy and luscious, had congealed so that it smeared unappetizingly on the plate.

■ **HIT** Yours Bistro has the beginnings of a cozy and welcoming vibe. Vintage French posters combined with black-and-white tiling and tables for two are a nice touch, but unfortunately surly, irritable waiters and half-adorned whitewashed walls detract from the ambience. We opted for the set dinner menu which includes a starter, entrée and dessert

■ **BOTTOM LINE** A tired French bistro that leaves you feeling somewhat unwelcome and largely unsatisfied.

**Open Mon-Sun 11:30am-2:30pm,  
6:30-10:30pm (9:30pm Sundays). \$**

### 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
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## NEW AND NOTED

### Finger-lickin' Chicken

With nothing being more quintessentially southern than fried chicken and beer, chef Austin Fry is sticking to his roots at **The Roundhouse – Chicken + Beer** (29 Amoy St., Wan Chai, 2866-3330), a new take on the original Roundhouse taproom in Central. We found the fried chicken just as you'd expect from a Texas-born chef (and one named "fry" nonetheless)—juicy and tender sweet tea-brined chicken coated in a crispy, crunchy, well-seasoned batter. Other snacks like fried okra, deviled eggs (also fried) and buffalo wings are needed to soak up 32 different beers on tap, including local heavyweights Young Master Ales and one of our favorite Shanghai imports, Boxing Cat Brewery. Be prepared to guzzle several different varieties and don't miss the Spiced Porter, which makes for the perfect winter drink.



All-you-can-eat Canto? We're in

### Cantonese Cool

Looking to evoke the nostalgic atmosphere of the old Hong Kong bing suts of the 60s and 70s, **Café Hong Kong** (G/F, 15 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2806-0220) celebrates its grand opening this month with a great deal: \$128 for a 90-minute all-you-can-eat feast featuring 32 items on the menu, including baked seafood rice, spaghetti with beef, steamed shrimp dumplings, chicken buns and pork chop rice. Decorated like an upscale cha chaan teng with vintage posters, dark wood furnishings and antique radios, Café Hong Kong is the place to come reminisce on good ol' days gone by—or alternatively, to stuff yourself silly with as many plates of noodles, chicken wings and dim sum you can squeeze into an hour-and-a-half eating marathon. The promotion runs for dinner daily from now through Feb 29, 2016.

### Forest Café ★★★★☆

DD19, Lam Kam Rd., Lam Tsuen, Tai Po, 9869-0173.



Located in a tranquil village in Tai Po, Forest Café is a seriously hidden gem—it's not even listed on Openrice. With dandelions drifting through the air and squirrels wandering past, this café in the woods is a great hideaway for a relaxing day.

**HIT** Coffee-expert-slash-owner City Ng held a quick consultation with us before making our own pour-over filter coffee (\$35). The one we tried had a thick body, rich aroma, and slight bitterness without the acidity. While you're waiting for mains, you can browse the collection of vinyl

records and throw your own tunes on the record deck. For entrées, we tried the baked oysters with cheese, which were tasty and a pretty fair deal at \$200 for six pieces. The chicken salad (\$65) was a decent portion of tender meat scattered amongst crisp, fresh leaves—possibly made even more fresh by the clean air and woodsy surroundings.

**MISS** Our angus rib-eye cheeseburger (\$70) was flavorful and well cooked, but arrived lukewarm. The lime soda (\$25) we had with it was way too sour for our liking.

**BOTTOM LINE** Exhausted from life and in search of a real hideaway? Forest Café is the place to be.

**Open Tue–Sun 11am–6pm. \$\$**

**How to get there:** Take bus 64K from Tai Po Market MTR Station and get off at Lam Tsuen San Tsuen. Forest Café is about a block away, next to Kwan Yik grocery store.

### Our Policy

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

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# CITY STROLL

## Hung Hom

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



### Need to Know

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

### 5 Pure Massage

Had a stressed-out work week? Head over to Pure Massage. Here they specialize in affordable foot and body massages, ranging from rose bath salt foot massages (\$204) to Taoist tui na treatments (\$234) to the coveted Thai massage (\$316). Go before 5pm on weekdays for cheaper rates.

**Shop G36, Site 12, Whampoa Garden, Hung Hom, 3156-1616.**



### 6 IM Chicken

Three words: Korean Fried Chicken. Just off the busy Wuhu Street, IM Chicken will fulfill all your foodie needs. With chicken fried to perfection, choose between sweet or spicy sauce and then pick a cheesy topping to pour on. No side dishes necessary: This stands all on its own.

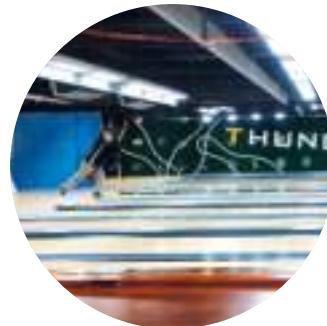
**G/F, 117 Wuhu St., Hung Hom.**



### 7 Thunder Bowl

Round up some friends and head over to Thunder Bowl for a night of good ol' friendly competition (\$140-215 per hour). Show off your ball skills (or lack thereof), or hit up the snooker tables to release your inner pool shark.

**B1, Site 8, Whampoa Garden, 7 Tak On St., Hung Hom, 2122-9822.**



### 8 Kazuo Okada

Recently awarded 1 star in the Michelin guide, Kazuo Okada serves up Japanese fine dining. It specializes in multi-course kaiseki tasting meals, served on antique tableware. It's not cheap, but you can thank us later.

**5/F, Harbourfront Landmark, 11 Wan Hoi St., Hung Hom, 3746-2722.**



Check back next week for more awesome things to do in Hung Hom!

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# CULTURE

## UPCLOSE: FROG KING



*Book now  
for the truly  
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magic of  
Studio City  
Macau!*

The House of Magic show has just opened to rave reviews in Studio City Macau, the Cotai Strip's freshest and most exciting entertainment destination. It's the largest, and most sophisticated permanent magic show in the world.

Packed full of mind-blowing stunts and heart stopping moments, not to mention touches of Las Vegas glamor, the show has everything you would expect and much, much more. It makes for an unforgettable experience.

Legendary artist Kwok Mang-Ho, better known as **Frog King**, is back to show off another round of new pieces: "Frog King's Recent Works"—and they're more introspective and revealing than ever before. He sat down with Adrienne Chum to talk about spreading frogspawn through his work.

**HK Magazine:** Part of your exhibition is a series of small paintings titled "Frog Fun Life." Is the frog life really that fun?

**Frog King:** It's not that fun. Sometimes I have to be dressed up in the hot sun for six hours, and I'm sweating inside. It's a very stupid way to do this fun thing. On the outside I have to smile because people want to take pictures. I am happy to do it, because if I just do visual art, I don't feel I am doing enough and my life will have no meaning. So I try different ways to develop art.

**HK:** How do you decide on what to wear for a performance?

**FK:** It depends on the time. If I can prepare, I'll take my time. If I can't prepare, I just go to the venue first and improvise with the materials available. Like a magician, I can still make something from any location. A mature artist can realize anything. For a policeman, when they take their uniform off after work, it's like they're a normal person. Before Santa puts his outfit on, people will think he is not there yet. Like in Chinese opera—before we come out, we don our costumes.

**HK:** How do you communicate with your audience through cultural and language barriers?

**FK:** Sometimes I sing mountain songs or Cantonese opera, sometimes I read poems. It is a cultural sharing. I had a booth where I would write anything in Chinese. People would come to me to get something written and they would keep it, maybe even put it on the wall. I could share my mother tongue without speaking much. When I approach

people, I'll say, "Let's take a picture together." It's using the body as a medium for communication.

**HK:** Why frogs?

**FK:** Frogs are naturally adaptable. In the water, they can be like fish, but on land they have four legs. They can thrive in two environments and experience a lot. The [Japanese] cartoon character Keroppi is also a very happy frog. He can dance and sing, he's a whole package. This art form is a whole package. I have ink paintings, I have jewelry that I'm wearing now: This watch is in a frog shape, which is easy to communicate with because once it's out, it's like a signature.

**HK:** How are your current works different from before?

**FK:** It's like an apple tree. Forty years ago, it was a germinating seed. Now it's mature and can be harvested. I can pick the apples to eat, and most of them are sweet. It's a happy time, a golden age. Now I'm spreading frogspawn everywhere: One frog makes a million eggs. I have nine million works, and I continue making more. My froggy sunglasses have brought people into the "frogtopia dimension." Anybody, after wearing the froggy sunglasses and taking a picture, turns into a member of the frogtopia. So it's a one-second happiness dimension. You will never forget it in your lifetime.

**HK:** Can you see through your froggy sunglasses?

**FK:** I can see. About 20 percent or so. In the evening I don't see very well and have to find somebody to guide me. Sometimes when the ceiling is low, I might hit a light or something. But most of the time I'm OK. I just need to be more careful.

Catch "Frog King's Recent Works" through Jan 30 at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, 10 Chancery Lane, Central, 2810-0065.

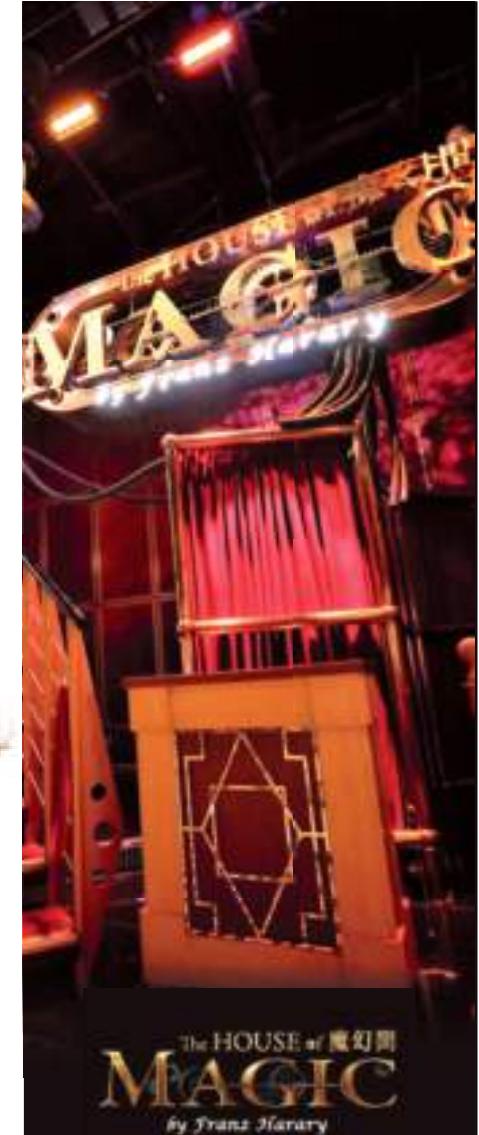
# ASIA'S EPICENTER OF MAGIC

## At Studio City Macau



Edited by Adrienne Chum

adrienne.chum@hkmagmedia.com



## Classical

### Happy Go Lucky Big Band

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

### Pop Christmas

Bring the family down for an afternoon of merry eating and entertainment at St. John's Cathedral for Pop Christmas. There'll be upbeat Christmas jingles to bop along to, plenty of yummy goods to fill up tummies large and small, and a real live Santa for the little ones. All profits go to Sailability HK, a charity providing the disabled with the opportunity to participate in water-based activities. Dec 12, 12:30pm. St. John's Cathedral, 4-8 Garden Rd., Central, 2523-4157. \$100 includes treats and drinks.



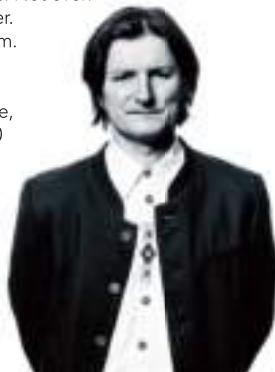
### Music @maze Green Concert

Youth Square hosts a concert to promote green living and environmentalism, with choirs and singers performing

21 songs all about green activism. Most of the songs are original and new. Plant songs! Dec 12, 7:30pm. Y-Theatre, Youth Square, 238 Chai Wan Rd., Chai Wan, 3721-8888.

### Christmas Choral Showcase

City Chamber Orchestra is celebrating the festive season with a Christmas Choral Showcase, performing with two youth choirs from Europe. The Warsaw Boys Choir and the Wells Cathedral School Choralia will be singing Baroque works and classic Polish and English carols. We can guarantee that your caroling won't compare to theirs. Not even when you're sober. Dec 15-16, 7:30pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$180-480 from urbtix.hk.



## Dance



### The Nutcracker

The Hong Kong Ballet returns for its year-end celebration with the legendary Christmas classic, "The Nutcracker." As the Yuletide season draws ever closer, it's high time for the retelling of the magical tale of young Clara and the chivalrous Nutcracker who saves her from the clutches of the evil Rat King. Stunning costumes and set, a heartwarming tale and the timeless music of Tchaikovsky paired with the work of the talented HK Ballet dancers: It just never gets old.

Dec 18-27, 2:30pm, 7:30pm. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$180-680 from urbtix.hk.

## Opera

### Il Trovatore

Verdi's four-act opera, Il Trovatore, sends us back to medieval Spain to watch troubadour Manrico and his rival Count di Luna fight over their love for Leonora. As tension rises in the love triangle, the two men duel and blood is shed... In Italian with Chinese and English surtitles. Dec 11-12, 7:45pm; Dec 12-13, 2:45pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$150-630 from urbtix.hk.

## Musicals

### Sing-a-long-a Frozen

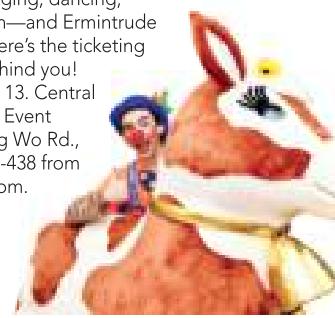
The Udderbelly Festival Hong Kong presents Sing-a-long-a Frozen, a screening of Disney's "Frozen" with on-screen lyrics so kids (or you) can belt out all the words. Best dressed Frozen-themed prizes will be awarded at every screening. Dec 23-27, 31-Jan 1, 2016. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$228-316 from hkticketing.com.



## Theater

### Udderbelly Opener: Cinderella—the Panto

The Hong Kong Players is running their 55th annual Christmas show as the opening act of the Udderbelly Festival. They'll be reenacting the classic tale of Cinderella as a pantomime show with singing, dancing, jokes, a clown—and Ermintrude the Cow. Where's the ticketing office? It's behind you! Through Dec 13. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$290-438 from hkticketing.com.



### Music for Kids with Harry Wong

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

### ID

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

### Farfalle

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

Daily 3pm\*,

5pm, 7pm & 9pm

(Additional show for Sat & Sun)

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# CULTURE

## Exhibitions



### Play Manuals

Art Experience Gallery hosts Taiwanese artist Shih Yung-chun's first solo exhibition in Hong Kong. His works are a painted collage of imagination, memories and self-entertainment, with surrealist scenes and games that tap into our secret desires and our yearning to play. His toys and his friends routinely make appearances, and you might even find Shih in there himself. Dec 12-Jan 8 2016. Art Experience Gallery, Room 2009, Cable TV Tower, 9 Hoi Shing Rd., Tsuen Wan, 2110-9928.



**Jeff Wall**  
Canadian photographer Jeff Wall holds his first exhibition in the Asia Pacific over at White Cube. This body of large-format photographs dates from the last eighteen months, in which he's continued to build the bridge between art and documentation. Dec 10-Jan 23 2016. White Cube, 50 Connaught Rd., Central, 2592-2000.

**Blue Whispers**  
Japanese artist Kojiro holds a solo exhibition at Art Beatus Gallery all about the color blue. He sees blue as the universe and the ocean, and seeks to untangle the true meaning of the color through his paintings. So, it's basically the pictorial version of Eiffel 65's 1999 dancefloor hit "Blue (Da Ba Dee)"? Dec 4-24. Art Beatus Gallery, G/F, 129-133 Wellington St., Central, 2526-0818.



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### Case Study Chris Chan

I have been training and participating in different sports trainings and competitions for a long time. I played basketball for over 40 years and represented Hong Kong in an overseas basketball competition as a teenager. I have started playing badminton in recent years. In 2012, the doctor diagnosed me as a patient with badly worn cartilage in my knees that had to be operated on. After the operation, I had to visit the doctor every six to nine months for injections in my knees and each of them cost over HK\$10,000. The injections allowed me to keep playing sports. Six months ago I was introduced to Flexiseq, which has been very effective. I use it twice per day - once in the morning and once in the evening. In addition to regularly using Flexiseq twice per day, I also use the gel after exercising. Flexiseq has been very useful in maintaining the mobility of my knees, which is the reason why I am able to maintain my habit of playing badminton twice every week, each time for around two to three hours. Flexiseq has also greatly improved the pain in my knees after exercising. I would recommend Flexiseq to anyone who is experiencing pain in their knees.

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1. Consaghan P, Rother M. A Randomized, Double-Blind, Phase II Trial in Moderate Osteoarthritis Knee Pain Comparing Topical Ketorolac Gel with Ketorolac-Free Gel. *The Journal of Rheumatology* 2013; 40:10.  
2. Consaghan P, Björkman J, Kremer M, Wiss E, Klein T, Rother M. Drug-free gel containing ultra-delivery phospholipid vesicles (TDT® 400) as topical therapy for the treatment of pain associated with osteoarthritis: a review of clinical efficacy and safety. *Current Medical Research & Opinion*, 2013, 31-13.

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# NIGHTLIFE

## OPEN BAR CIMA FINE DINING BAR

**The buzz:** Cima is the latest addition to Wan Chai's new restaurant and bar hotspot 239, bringing in a slew of modern western and Japanese dishes with a focus on ingredients freshly flown in from Japan. The food-centric approach translates to a cocktail menu strongly influenced by the growing trend of closely combining eating and drinking experiences (thus the name of their signature cocktail concept, deemed "Eatails").

**The décor:** Bright and modern, the light wooden interior at Cima is a fresh take on a traditional Japanese restaurant. All that feels missing is the rice paper shoji walls, though the private room can be sectioned off with sliding doors. The main room has more of a lounge feel, with booth sofa seating and a long bar table taking center stage—complete with an inset tropical aquarium—where you can watch the masters at work.



**The drinks:** While Cima's "Eatal" menu is still developing, the currently available signatures include a Beef Sangria (\$180) and a Wine Cooler Horse Carpaccio (\$150)—and are definitely for the more adventurous drinkers/diners

out there. The beef sangria is a sweet, quaffable version of the drink, served on the same plate as tasty chilled beef slices, marinated in red wine, garnished with garlic chips and powdered miso. The sangria supposedly contains just a drop or two of the marinade itself, but any added beefiness is unnoticeable. As for the Wine Cooler, the drink itself—made with OJ, egg yolk, olive oil and celery salt—acts as almost a dipping sauce for those willing to give horse carpaccio a spin. On the more conservative side? Non-eatal drinks are available, designed with a playful Hong Kong spirit in mind: The Rednaxela (\$125) is a festive cocktail featuring Frangelico, egg white, cream, icing sugar and nutmeg, whipped into a thick foamy drink. The Kai Tak (\$135) supposedly describes the shaky feeling of landing in Hong Kong's old airport, with a touch of anxiety from the fresh bird's eye chili balanced out by the sweetness of fresh strawberries, pomegranate syrup and crushed ice.

**Why you'll be back:** If the unique spin on edible cocktails doesn't take your fancy, the tamer concoctions will. Come for lunch, where you can start off the boozing alongside a western or Japanese-style set meal from just \$100. Evelyn Lok  
3/F, 239 Hennessy Rd., Wan Chai, 2395-2269.



## Clubs

### Cliché Presents: Boogie Time

Lily & Bloom is launching the first edition of Boogie Time, a brand new, vinyl-only old school session. For the concept's debut, Aussie sound curator Graz will bring the electro beats while DJ trio Sweet Talk grooves with an eclectic mix of ska, hip hop and jazz. Dec 12, 10pm. Lily and Bloom, 6/F, LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 2810-6166. Free entry.

### Jamie Jones

DJ, Hot Creations label boss and leader of cross-genre band Hot Natured, Jamie Jones, will be bringing his brand of Ibiza-friendly techno and house grooves to Volar. Dec 17, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2810-1510. \$300 from ticketflap.com, with two drinks before 12:30am and one drink thereafter; \$400 at the door with two drinks.



### I Am Hardwell: United We Are

Superstar Dutch DJ/beat match prodigy Hardwell is one of the biggest names in electro house in recent years. He's bringing his biggest tour yet to The Venetian Macau, promoting his latest album "United We Are"—so get ready to get really sweaty at a laser-tastic, beat-pumping show. Dec 19, 11pm. Cotai Arena, The Venetian. \$640-1,180 from cotaicketing.com, and hkticketing.com; Add \$108 to advance tickets for a round trip ferry ticket to Macau.

## Music Festivals

### Grass Camp 2016

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

### Gigs

#### Mary Kiani

Singer Mary Kiani of 90s Scottish electro dance group The Time Frequency makes an appearance in Hong Kong this weekend, ready to deliver some awesome throwback tunes. Get there before 9pm for free-flow standard drinks for just \$200. Dec 11, 8pm. Cafe Queen, 237 Queen's Rd. West, Sheung Wan, 2799-2883.



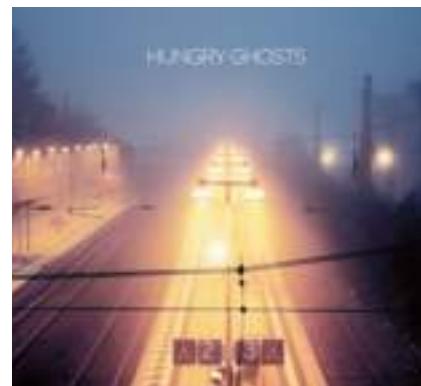
#### Envy Asia Tour

Japanese indie hardcore band Envy is hitting up Hidden Agenda this December. Since forming in 1992, the group has toured all over Japan with acts such as Mogwai and post-metal group Isis. They're supported by local bands Life Was All Silence and Dandelion Mound. Dec 15, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$350 from ticketflap.com, \$400 at the door.



#### Nathan East

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



#### Hungry Ghosts: Farewell Concert

Local indie heroes Hungry Ghosts are set to launch their third full length record, but it'll also sadly be their last, ending a nine-year-long band career. They've opened for top international rockers from Coheed and Cambria to Silverstein. The new album, "Hold Dear Forever," sees influences from post rock and pop. Their album launch farewell gig is supported by local indie four-piece Ponyboy—who have emerged from a hiatus just to play the show. Dec 19, 8:30pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$180 from ticketflap.com, \$200 at the door; both include a CD.

#### Sworn Enemy

American thrash metal pioneers Sworn Enemy started out as Downfall and later Mindset, but later changed their name because another band called Mindset existed all along. So you can guess they're going to sound pretty angry about it. They're supported by local band Fight Club, but we're not really supposed to talk about that. Dec 20, 8:30pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$180 from ticketflap.com, \$220 at the door.



#### Toro y Moi: What For? Asia Tour

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

#### Ladybeard Returns to Hong Kong

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



**Edited by Evelyn Lok**  
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com

## Nightlife Events



### Tonight Plan Less, Savour More Street Party

A street party on Knutsford Terrace! As if it isn't always one anyway. But this time Kronenbourg 1664 steps in with two themed zones for punters to party at their own pace. We're guessing there's a special corner for really really drunk French people... Dec 16, 7pm.

### Celebration: Madonna NYE

Watch out as Wyndham Street's DiVino gets trodden by well-heeled Madonna impersonators this New Year's as the resto hosts their Madge-themed party. Following a welcome pomegranate martini (Madonna's drink of choice), it'll be an Italian five-course menu including her favorite lemon cake. Resident DJs will be mixing Madonna and vocal house with 80s and dance tunes. There'll be a lucky draw with prizes up to a Magnum bottle of Tuscan Brunello Rudolfi wine and a special "Celebration" champagne. Dec 31. DiVino, 73 Wyndham St., Central, 2167-8883. \$888 per head; reserve at 2167-8883 or email booking@divino.com.hk.

### 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-Thursdays and Saturdays. Through Dec 31. The Woods, L/G, 17 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2522-0281. \$588 per person from thewoods.hk.

### New Year's Eve with Anders Nelsson

Grappas Cellar welcomes Hong Kong showbiz veteran Anders Nelsson (he was a teen idol in the 60s and an actor in the 80s) to ring in the new year, as well as celebrate his 65th year in Hong Kong, PLUS his 70th birthday for a triple whammy celebration. Ticket includes an Italian set menu and free-flow prosecco all night. Dec 31, 10pm. Grappa's Cellar, UG/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, 2521-2322. \$1,388 from ticketflap.com.



### Red Countdown to 2016

Skip the shady City/Super picnic up top on IFC's roof garden and ring in the new year properly at Red, which is hosting its annual bash complete with flowing drinks, tequila ice luges and DJ beats. A five-course dinner is \$1,098 and includes two glasses of champagne. Party starts 10pm. Dec 31, 10pm. Red Bar, 4/F, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St., Central, 8129-8882. \$400-450 from Red Bar + Restaurant, Pure Fitness Kinwick Centre and Pure Yoga The Centrium; \$500 at the door, all include five standard drinks.

### DJ Revolution x Mad Decent Present: Major Lazer, Jack Ü and More

DJ god Diplo's own label Mad Decent collabs with DJ Revolution to bring some of the top names in EDM to Hong Kong this December. It'll be five freaking hours of twerkable beats from Major Lazer, American duo Jack Ü (aka Diplo and Skrillex, who's back after his flight got cancelled the last time he tried to come to Hong Kong), Dillon Francis, Cashmere Cat and there'll even be a special appearance from 2NE1's K-goddess CL. A VIP package including 10 tickets, table and champagne will set you back a cool \$15,000. Dec 12, 5pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$480-1,500 from hkticketing.com.

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## Burnt ★★

**Comedy/drama.** Directed by John Wells. Starring Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller, Omar Sy, Daniel Brühl. 101 minutes. Category IIB. Opened Dec 10.

If you fall into one of the following categories, you will probably scoop up every last bite of "Burnt": A reality TV junkie whose guilty pleasure is marathon-watching "Hell's Kitchen" or "Chopped"; a food blogger who thinks everything is "moreish" or "mouthwatering"; or a 16-year-old girl whose walls are plastered with posters of Bradley Cooper. For everyone else, this movie may hold little to whet the appetite, although it's digested easily enough.

"Burnt" stars the baby blue-eyed Cooper as Adam Jones, a previously 2-Michelin-starred chef in Paris who fell from grace at the height of his career after getting swept up by drugs and alcohol. As penance, he's sentenced himself to shucking one million oysters in a dingy New Orleans seafood joint. In the opening scene, he crosses off the final atonement for his sins, and is off to London in pursuit of his obsession: that elusive third Michelin star.

The first half of "Burnt" is easily entertaining, as Jones rounds up a motley crew of chefs to staff a ritzy restaurant run by his former mentor's son, Tony (Daniel Brühl, who gives a great performance as someone who half-despises, and is half in love with, Jones). The gang includes sous-chef Michel (Omar Sy) whom Jones previously wronged, an eager-beaver newbie (Sam Keeley), and the requisite love interest in the form of saucier Helene (played flawlessly by Sienna Miller).

Following a big flop on opening night, everything starts to come loose: There's plate-smashing, furious yelling and



even a bit of manhandling which makes you long for the charming real-life Cooper instead of this ego-centric, violently tempered chef who uses and abuses at will.

In fact, the movie makes the inexcusable mistake of promoting the notion that all great chefs must be tyrannical, arrogant pricks in the kitchen—which aside from Gordon Ramsay's dramatized reality TV portrayals, simply isn't true.

Of course, the tale is ultimately one of redemption, but we're not sure the end justifies the means: Jones's behavior remains unpardonable throughout the movie, despite support and words of encouragement from both Helene and his psychiatrist, Dr. Rosshilde (Emma Thompson).

Although Burnt provides plenty of juicy fodder in the form of drug dealer run-ins, a budding kitchen romance and of course, endless panoramas of gorgeously plated food, ultimately the biggest disconnect is also the most crucial: The gap between the adoration bestowed upon Jones as a revered Michelin-starred chef, and his personal passion for the food he's creating.

No explanation of Jones's culinary backstory or his passion for cooking leaves Cooper detached from his character, despite his "moreish" acting chops and "mouthwatering" good looks. Sixteen-year-old girls and foodies? This one's for you. **Leslie Yeh**

## Coming Soon

### Star Wars: The Force Awakens ▾

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

### Love the Coopers

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

## Opening



### Before We Go

**(USA)** "Before Sunrise" meets Captain America on his day off: Chris Evans plays a busking trumpet-player who meets a woman by chance in the Grand Central terminal, and a random encounter turns into an overnight whirlwind romance across New York City. Opened Dec 10.

### Burnt

**(USA)** See review, above. Opened Dec 10.

### Freeheld

**(USA)** Recently playing at the Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, "Freeheld" stars Julianne Moore in the real-life story of New Jersey detective Laurel Hester, who was diagnosed with terminal cancer and fought for the right to leave her life partner (Ellen Page) her pension benefits after her death. Opened Dec 10.

### Initiation Love

**(Japan)** Final year uni student Suzuki begins to date dental hygienist Mayu, but soon leaves for Tokyo for his first job. At first it works out, but their relationship soon breaks down due to circumstances out of their control. Based on a novel of the same name by Kurumi Inui, this film might hit home for anyone who's ever felt the pain of long-distance, or a relationship caught in between the stages of growing up. And if so: Catharsis! Opened Dec 10.

### Legend

**(UK)** "Legend" tells the true story of London's most infamous twin gangsters: Reggie and Ronnie Kray, who reign over the city in the 60s... until an internal power struggle and sheer madness breaks their brotherly bond. The twins are both played by Tom Hardy. Double Tom Hardy! Opened Dec 10.



## Continuing

### By the Sea

**(USA)** It's the first Brangelina collab since "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" brought them together. Penned and directed by Angelina, it's about a couple trying to revive their marriage at a seaside French resort in the 70s. Part channeling French New Wave cinema, part perfume commercial, be prepared to sit through two hours before any real exposition comes through. Numbly exhausting, like the marriage itself. ★★

### The Crow's Egg

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

### The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2

**(USA)** The final segment of The Hunger Games franchise is here, in which the resistance against Panem's dystopian dictatorship reaches a conclusion. If you were hoping for some delicious popcorn action and juicy J-Law romance, you'll have to sit through most of the movie before we get there: too little, too late. ★★★



### In the Heart of the Sea

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



### Keeper of Darkness

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

### Lost in Hong Kong

**(Hong Kong/China)** Xu Zheng directs and stars as a former artist-turned-bra designer, who vacations in Hong Kong with his wife and her family, at the same time getting looped into a murder investigation. Rapidly jumping from wicked stunts and car chases to sentimental monologues, it's a little disjointed and insane—but in the most fun way possible. ★★★



### Point Break

**(USA)** The 1991 cop thriller which starred Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze as cop and surfer-slash-crook gets a shiny 2015 remake. This year sees undercover FBI agent Johnny Utah (this time played by Luke Bracey) return to save the day, when he suspects that a team of extreme athletes is behind a series of international crimes.



**Edited by Evelyn Lok**  
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com

## Need to Know

AMC Cinema, 2265-8933  
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Broadway Circuit,  
2388-3188  
cinema.com.hk

Golden Harvest Cinema,  
2622-6688  
goldenharvest.com

MCL Cinema, 3413-6688  
mclcinema.com

UA Cinema,  
3516-8811  
uacinemas.com.hk

The Metroplex, 2620-2200  
metroplex.com.hk

The Grand Cinema,  
2196-8170  
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### Port of Call

**(Hong Kong)** Aaron Kwok is Detective Chong in this meditative probe into Hong Kong's sex industry. Based on a real-life case in 2008 where a teenage prostitute was found murdered and horrifically dismembered, it's a delicate, hopeful drama rather than thrashing gore (although it has its moments of squirm-worthy violence). ★★★★

### Ryuzo and the Seven Henchmen

**(Japan)** Phone scams targeting the elderly meet pumping action in this Beat Takeshi flick about Ryuzo, an ex-Yakuza boss who's pushing 70. While his family is away on holiday, he receives a call from an anonymous caller claiming to be his son and pleading for money. It soon spins into a quest for revenge, glory and maybe a few osteoporosis gags.

### She Remembers, He Forgets

**(Hong Kong)** 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.

### Spectre

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



### 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.

### The Vanished Murderer

**(Hong Kong)** The always dapper Sean Lau Ching-wan is transported to 1930s northern China as a moustachioed inspector tracking down an escaped female prisoner... who begins to leave clues relating to a spate of suicides in an increasingly politically treacherous landscape.



See "Zinnia Flower" at the Movie Movie Golden Horse Marathon

## Film Festival

### Pineapple Underground Film Festival

Film nerds, get ready to develop a really, really flat bum from all the movie marathoning to come: The fifth annual PUFF returns with 76 international indie films screened across five days. It opened with a world premiere of Japanese horror "Innocent Prayer," a more-than-disturbing look on how a serial killer and an abused child cross paths. There's also a focus this year on "Girlogy," or the work of women filmmakers, which features a series of short films by female directors from France, Sweden and Hong Kong, plus a feature flick from Japan. Through Dec 12. Free with registration at info@puff-festival.org. See the full program at puff-festival.org.

## Special Screening

### Movie Movie Golden Horse Marathon

Asian film buffs, haven't caught up with the Golden Horse winners yet? Broadway Cinematheque is hosting a marathon of four of them for an entire Sunday's worth of binge-watching. Starting from 1:10pm, catch Audience Choice Award winner "Mountains May Depart," then Karena Lam's winning performance in "Zinnia Flower" at 3:40pm. The story of an indigenous Taiwanese family going against property developers "Wawa no Cidal" won the gong for best original song—catch it at 5:45pm. Finally, round it off at 7:50pm with "Thanatos, Drunk" about two brothers reckoning with the death of their alcoholic mother, which won four awards. Dec 13. Broadway Cinema, 6-11/F, The One, 100 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, cinema.com.hk.



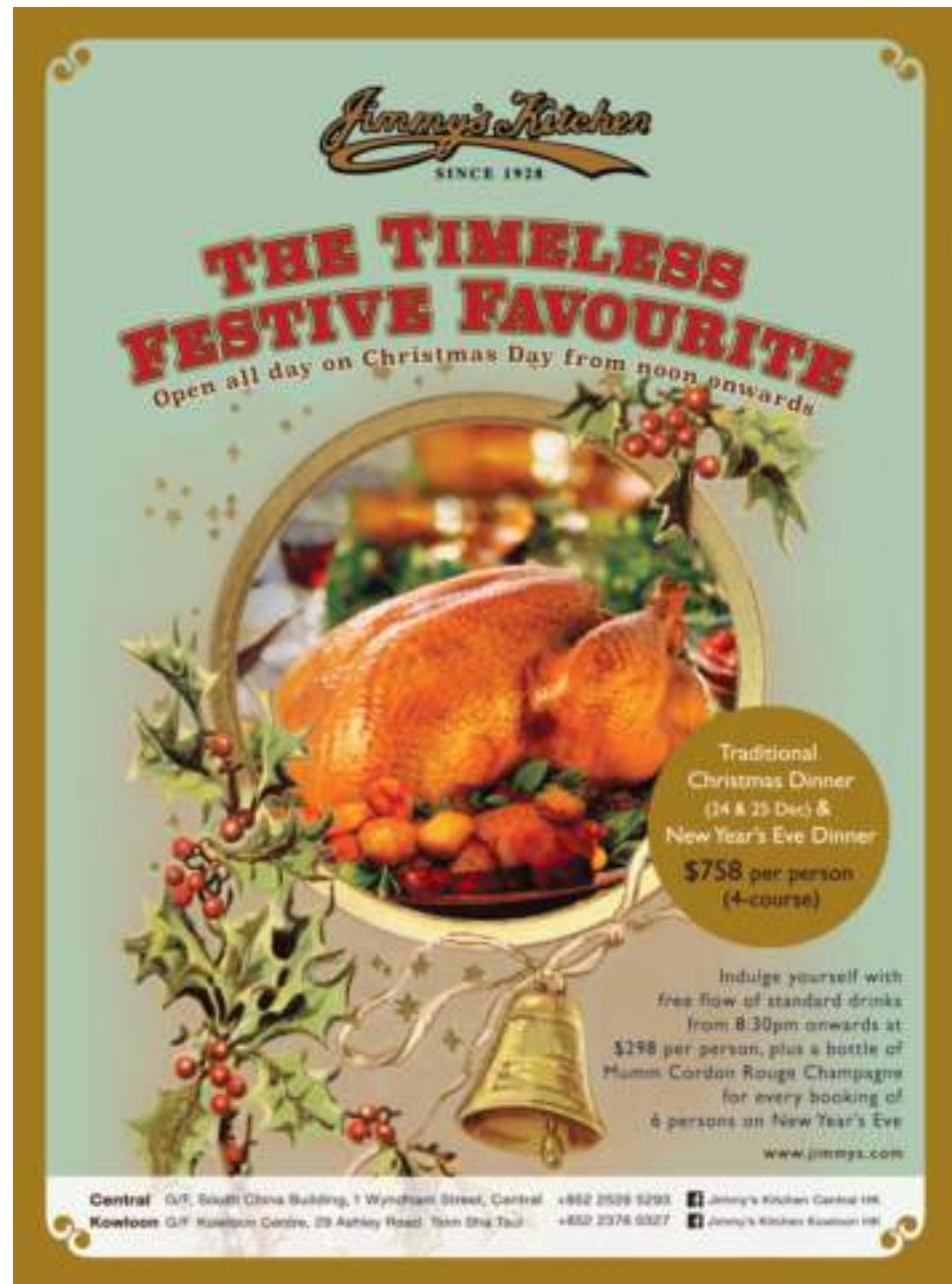
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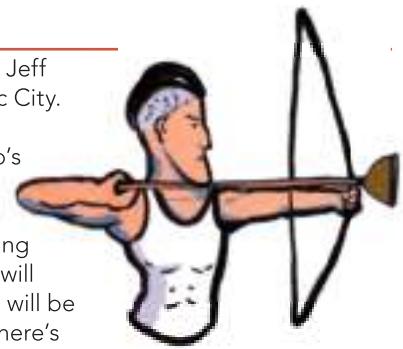
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**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21):** My old friend Jeff started working at a gambling casino in Atlantic City. "You've gone over to the dark side!" I kidded.

He acknowledged that 90 percent of the casino's visitors lose money gambling. On the bright side, he said, 95 percent of them leave happy. I don't encourage you to do this kind of gambling in the near future, Sagittarius. It's true that you will be riding a lucky streak. But smarter, surer risks will be a better way to channel your good fortune. So here's the bottom line: In whatever way you choose to bet or speculate, don't let your lively spirits trick you into relying on pure impulsiveness. Do the research. Perform your due diligence. It's not enough just to be entertained. The goal is to both have fun and be successful.



**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19):** Ancient Greek philosopher Epicurus was a pioneer thinker whose ideas helped pave the way for the development of science. Believe nothing, he taught, unless you can evaluate it through your personal observation and logical analysis. Using this admirable approach, he determined that the size of our sun is about two feet in diameter. I'm guessing that you have made comparable misestimations about at least two facts of life, Capricorn. They seem quite reasonable but are very wrong. The good news is that you will soon be relieved of those mistakes. After some initial disruption, you will feel liberated.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18):** Aquarian inventor Thomas Edison owned 1,093 patents. Nicknamed "The Wizard of Menlo Park," he devised the first practical electrical light bulb, the movie camera, the alkaline storage battery, and many more useful things. The creation he loved best was the phonograph. It was the first machine in history that could record and reproduce sound. Edison bragged that no one else had ever made such a wonderful instrument. It was "absolutely original." I bring this to your attention, Aquarius, because I think you're due for an outbreak of absolute originality. What are the most unique gifts you have to offer? In addition to those you already know about, new ones may be ready to emerge.

**PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20):** Here's an experiment that makes good astrological sense for you to try in the coming weeks. Whenever you feel a tinge of frustration, immediately say, "I am an irrepressible source of power and freedom and love." Anytime you notice a trace of inadequacy rising up in you, or a touch of blame, or a taste of anger, declare, "I am an irresistible magnet for power and freedom and love." If you're bothered by a mistake you made, or a flash of ignorance expressed by another person, or a maddening glitch in the flow of the life force, stop what you're doing, interrupt the irritation, and proclaim, "I am awash in power and freedom and love."

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19):** "Happiness sneaks through a door you didn't know that you left open," said actor John Barrymore. I hope you've left open a lot of those doors, Aries. The more there are, the happier you will be. This is the week of all weeks when joy, pleasure, and even zany bliss are likely to find their ways into your life from unexpected sources and unanticipated directions. If you're lucky, you also have a few forgotten cracks and neglected gaps where fierce delights and crisp wonders can come wandering in.

**TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20):** What state of mind do you desire the most? What is the quality of being that you aspire to inhabit more and more as you grow older? Maybe it's the feeling of being deeply appreciated, or the ability to see things as they really are, or an intuitive wisdom about how to cultivate vibrant relationships. I invite you to set an intention to cultivate this singular experience with all your passion and ingenuity. The time is right. Make a pact with yourself.

**GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20):** Like Metallica jamming with Nicki Minaj and Death Cab for Cutie on a passage from Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute," you are redefining the meanings of the words "hybrid," "amalgam," and "hodgepodge." You're mixing metaphors with panache. You're building bridges with cheeky verve. Some of your blends are messy mishmashes, but more often they are synergistic

successes. With the power granted to me by the gods of mixing and matching, I hereby authorize you to keep splurging on the urge to merge. This is your special time to experiment with the magic of combining things that have rarely or never been combined.

**CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22):** I hope you can figure out the difference between the fake cure and the real cure. And once you know which is which, I hope you will do the right thing rather than the sentimental thing. For best results, keep these considerations in mind: The fake cure may taste sweeter than the real one. It may also be better packaged and more alluringly promoted. In fact, the only advantage the real cure may have over the fake one is that it will actually work to heal you.

**LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22):** There's a sinuous, serpentine quality about you these days. It's as if you are the elegant and crafty hero of an epic myth set in the ancient future. You are sweeter and saucier than usual, edgier and more extravagantly emotive. You are somehow both a repository of tantalizing secrets and a fount of arousing revelations. As I meditate on the magic you embody, I am reminded of a passage from Laini Taylor's fantasy novel "Daughter of Smoke & Bone:" "She tastes like nectar and salt. Nectar and salt and apples. Pollen and stars and hinges. She tastes like fairy tales. Swan maiden at midnight. Cream on the tip of a fox's tongue. She tastes like hope."

**VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22):** I bought an old horoscope book at a garage sale for 25 cents. The cover was missing and some pages were water-damaged, so parts of it were hard to decipher. But the following passage jumped out at me: "In romantic matters, Virgos initially tend to be cool, even standoffish. Their perfectionism may interfere with their ability to follow through on promising beginnings. But if they ever allow themselves to relax and go further, they will eventually ignite. And then, watch out! Their passion will generate intense heat and light." I suspect that this description may apply to you in the coming weeks. Let's hope you will trust your intuition about which possibilities warrant your caution and which deserve your opening.

**LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 21):** "The secret of being a bore is to tell everything," said French writer Voltaire. I agree, and add these thoughts: To tell everything also tempts you to wrongly imagine that you have everything completely figured out. Furthermore, it may compromise your leverage in dicey situations where other people are using information as a weapon. So the moral of the current story is this: Don't tell everything! I realize this could be hard, since you are a good talker these days; your ability to express yourself is at a peak. So what should you do? Whenever you speak, aim for quality over quantity. And always weave in a bit of mystery.

**SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21):** Ducks are the most unflappable creatures I know. Cats are often regarded as the top practitioners of the "I don't give a f---" attitude, but I think ducks outshine them. When domestic felines exhibit their classic aloofness, there's sometimes a subtext of annoyance or contempt. But ducks are consistently as imperturbable as Zen masters. Right now, as I gaze out my office window, I'm watching five of them swim calmly, with easygoing nonchalance, against the swift current of the creek in the torrential rain. I invite you to be like ducks in the coming days. Now is an excellent time to practice the high art of truly not giving a f---

**HOMEWORK:** Review in loving detail the history of your life. Remember how and why you came to be where you are now. Testify at [FreeWillAstrology.com](http://FreeWillAstrology.com).

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## SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I'm a 24-year-old gay male with few resources and no "marketable" skills. I have made a lot of bad choices and now I struggle to make ends meet in a crappy dead-end job, living paycheck to paycheck in an expensive East Coast city. Recently, someone on Grindr offered me \$3,000 to have sex with him. He is homely and nearly three times my age, but he seems kind and respectful. I could really use that money. I have no moral opposition to prostitution, but the few friends I've spoken to were horrified. Part of me agrees and thinks this is a really bad idea and I'll regret it. But there's another part of me that figures, hey, it's just sex—and I've done more humiliating things for a lot less money. It makes me sad to think the only way I can make money is prostituting myself, because my looks aren't going to last forever. And let's face it: Prostitution is an ugly and messy business, and it wouldn't impress a potential future employer.

– Stressed Over Taking Elderly Man's Payment To Eat Dick

I shared your letter with Dr. Eric Sprinkle, an assistant professor of psychology at Minnesota State University and a licensed clinical psychologist. "This young man is distressed that he may have to resort to 'prostituting himself,' which suggests he, like most people, views sex work as the selling of one's body or the selling of oneself," said Dr. Sprinkle, who tweets about sexual health, the rights of sex workers, and secularism @DrSprinkle.

But you wouldn't be selling yourself or your body, SOTEMPTED, you would be selling access to your body—temporary access—and whatever particular kind of sex you consented to have with this man in exchange for his money.

"Sex work is the sale of a service," said Dr. Sprinkle. "The service may involve specific body parts that aren't typically involved in most industries, but it is unequivocally a service labor industry. Just as massage therapists aren't selling their hands or themselves when working out the kinks of some wealthy older client, sex workers are merely selling physical and emotional labor."

Massage therapists who haaaaate seeing their occupation referenced in conversations about sex work—all those hardworking, never-jerking massage therapists—might wanna check their privilege, as the cool kids on campus are saying these days.

"Massage therapists have the privilege of not worrying about being shamed and shunned by friends," said Dr. Sprinkle, "and not worrying about being arrested for violating archaic laws." You will have to worry about shame, stigma, and arrest if you decide to go ahead with this, SOTEMPTED.

"He will have to be selective about whom he shares his work experiences with and may have to keep it a lifelong secret from family and coworkers," said Dr. Sprinkle. "This could feel isolating and inauthentic. And while I am not aware of any empirical evidence to suggest men who enter sex work in this manner later regret their decision, this young man's friends have already given him a glimpse of the unfortunate double standard social stigma of pursuing this work."

Because I'm a full-service sex-advice professional, SOTEMPTED, I also shared your letter with a couple of guys who've actually done sex work—one a bona fide sex worker, the other a sexual adventurer.

"I was struck by the words SOTEMPTED used to describe sex work: ugly, messy, humiliating," said Mike Crawford, a sex worker, sex workers' rights activist, and self-identified "cashsexual" who tweets @BringMeTheAx. "For many of us, it's actually nothing like that. When you strip away the moralizing and misinformation, sex work is simply a job that provides a valuable service to your clients. Humiliation or mess can be involved—if that's what gets them off—but there

is absolutely nothing inherently ugly or degrading about the work itself."

What about regrets?

"It's true that he could wind up regretting doing the paid sex thing," said Crawford. "Then again, there's a chance of regret in almost any hookup. Lots of people who didn't get paid for sex wind up having post-fuck regrets. I'd also encourage him to consider the possibility that he might look back and regret not taking the plunge. I've met plenty of sex workers over the years who wish they had started sooner."

"I don't regret it," said Philip (not his real name), a reader who sent me a question about wanting to experience getting paid for sex and later took the plunge. "I felt like I was in the power position. And in the moment, it wasn't distressing. Just be sure to negotiate everything in advance—what's on the table and what's not—and be very clear about expectations and limits."

Philip, who is bisexual, wound up being paid for sex by two guys. Both were older, both were more nervous than he was, and neither were lookers.

"But you don't really look," said Philip. "You close your eyes, you detach yourself from yourself—it is like meta-sex, like watching yourself having sex."

You may find detaching from yourself in that way to be emotionally unpleasant or even exhausting, SOTEMPTED, but not everyone does. If your first experience goes well and you decide to see this particular guy again or start doing sex work regularly, pay close attention to your emotions and your health. If you don't enjoy the actual work of sex work, or if you find it emotionally unpleasant or exhausting, stop doing sex work.

It has to be said that there are plenty of people out there who regret doing sex work—their stories aren't hard to find, as activists who want sex work to remain illegal are constantly promoting them. But feelings of regret aren't unique to sex work, and people who do regret doing it often cite the consequences of its illegality (police harassment, criminal record) as chief among their regrets.

One last piece of advice from Mike Crawford: "There is a pretty glaring red flag here: \$3,000 is a really, really steep price for a single date. I'm not implying that SOTEMPTED isn't worth it, but the old 'if it sounds too good to be true' adage definitely applies in sex work. Should he decide to do this, he needs to screen carefully before agreeing to meet in person. The safety resources on the Sex Workers Outreach Project website ([swopusa.org](http://swopusa.org)) are a great place for him to learn how to do just that."

**I'm a straight twentysomething woman. I recently gave my partner a blowjob. He was enjoying it, obviously, and then he said, "I'm feeling brave. I want you to finger me." I have never fingered a man before, and he has never suggested that he might be into that, so I was caught off guard. I responded, "But we don't have lube!" He didn't say anything, and I finished him off without fingerling him. He hasn't brought it up since. He is a manly man and conservative. I want him to be able to experience that if it's something he wants to experience, but I don't know what to say!**

– 2 Prod Or Not 2 Prod

You don't have to say anything. Just buy a little bottle of lube—not a full-size bottle (most of those look like giant cocks, and we don't want to scare this manly man to death)—and set it on the nightstand. When he notices it, 2PON2P, smile and say, "That's for the next time you're feeling brave."

On the Lovecast, it's the one-minute wonder show! Listen at [savagecast.com](http://savagecast.com).

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# SMART JOBS

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Shore Hospitality, winner of a Most Valuable Companies in Hong Kong Award, is expanding its portfolio of restaurants. In addition to some vacancies at existing restaurants, the group is also looking for dynamic people to join the team for a new concept, set to open in January.

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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## Living Like a Star

The successful launch of the Studio City entertainment complex on Macau's Cotai Strip has seen the birth of a new international tourist hotspot.

Studio City, the US\$3.2 billion Hollywood-inspired leisure resort, is Macau's freshest and most exciting leisure destination. It's the magnificent jewel in the crown of a truly innovative concept.

The movie-themed development is at the heart of what is already regarded as one of the most diversified entertainment packages around. It's ideally located close to the Lotus Bridge and has been earmarked as a future station for the planned Macau Light Rapid Transit System.

But the ambitious owners are far from content to rest on their laurels. Big plans for Studio City continue to roll out. The latest offer available to guests is the opportunity to live the Hollywood lifestyle of the rich and famous.

You now have the chance to relax in the luxurious surroundings of the swish Studio City Hotel and get a taste of life on the red carpet.

Elegance and class fills the air as you are whisked off to luxury accommodation, situated in the appropriately named Celebrity Tower and Star Tower.

The hotel offers 1,600 rooms, all tailor-made to meet individual needs. Celebrity Tower boasts comfort and style, with a central focus on a cinematic theme, while the Star Tower affords genuinely lavish suites and generous living space designed with discerning guests in mind.

Star Tower guests are offered exclusive facilities including personalized check-in, a private indoor heated swimming pool and a health club. Access to the privileged Star Club is also available for selected guests.

Whatever option you choose, everyone is made to feel like a star at Studio City, where the enthusiastic, dedicated staff only have one thing on their minds: Making sure your stay in Macau is a memorable experience.

[studiocity-macau.com](http://studiocity-macau.com)



## A Holiday Treat at L'hotel Island South

Christmas is coming and with it we can look forward to a festive season full of celebrations. For most people it's the best time of the year, a time to relax and enjoy the best life has to offer. And here in Hong Kong that usually involves food!

After all, the city is famous worldwide for its international cuisine and has been dubbed Asia's food capital.

So, where do you go when the options are seemingly limitless? Head to L'hotel Island South, where you can enjoy exquisite all-day buffet dining at the LIS Cafe.

Tucked away on the Southside of the island, this must-visit eatery dishes up gastronomic delights that are on par with anywhere in the city. And there's never been a better time to dine out. Throughout December and January a complimentary surf and turf meal, featuring sustainable lobster, will be offered to every adult dinner buffet diner.

LIS Cafe is the perfect destination for a Christmas or New Year celebration. Prices for a buffet lunch on December 24 and 25 are a remarkable \$368 for adults and just \$218 for children and seniors. Dinner options are available in two sittings.

Equally attractive prices are on offer on December 31 and the New Year period, January 1 through 3.

And if partying is more your scene, welcome in 2016 in style at Bar LIS, where for just \$128 you'll have a choice of free-flow house wine, sparkling wine, beer and soft drinks at their New Year countdown party. See you there!

[lhotelgroup.com](http://lhotelgroup.com)

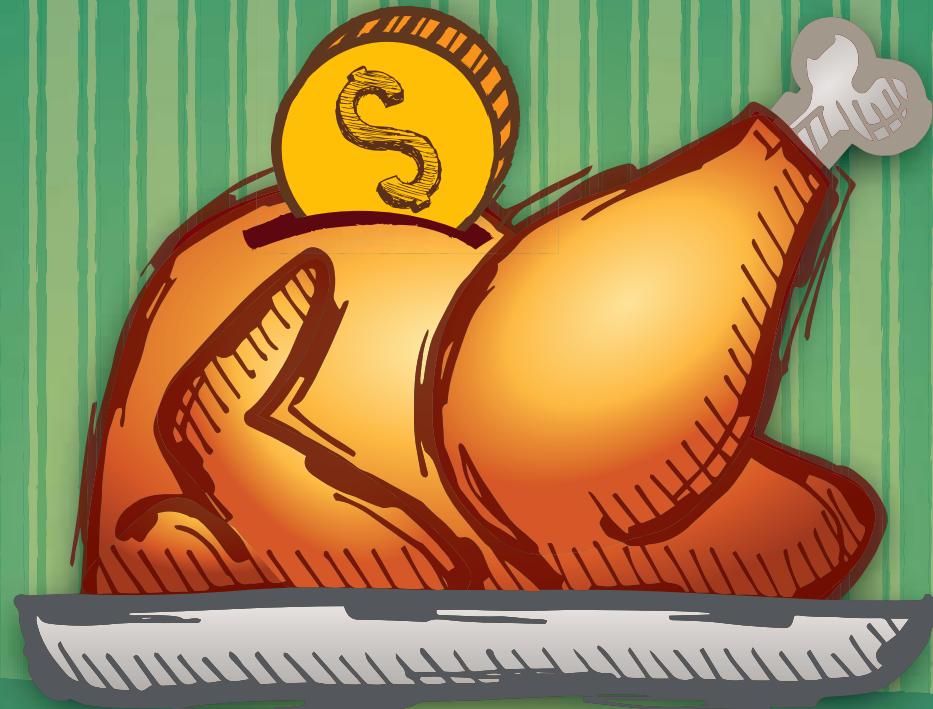


## OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

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愛心聖誕大行動

# Eat, Drink & Donate



## ‘Tis the season of celebration and goodwill.

From 23rd November until 18th December, you can enjoy the delicious tastes of Christmas while knowing that you'll also be donating to those less fortunate.

At over 20 participating restaurants the chefs have prepared dishes such as prime US rib eye steak, Sunday roast, pulled pork sliders, Bombay Tawa Chicken, and daily catch seafood as well as a special festive Operation Santa Claus Menu that offers everyone's seasonal favourites.

15% of all sales from the **Operation Santa Claus** Menu will be donated to support 22 charities, and to bring hope to those in need this Christmas.

Thank you in advance for your support and book early to secure your seats now!

Please check out [osc.scmp.com/meal](http://osc.scmp.com/meal) for more details.

#OpSantaHK #OSC

Take a photo of the food at the participating restaurants and share it on Facebook and Instagram.

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# HK GIVEAWAYS

It's your final chance to enter our December HK Giveaways, and we've got a city break stay at Macau's newest resort that's just crying out to be snapped up. Will you be the lucky winner?

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AT STUDIO CITY  
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## Win a holiday package at Studio City Macau, worth more than \$11,000!

Macau's newest entertainment destination is finally here: **Studio City Macau**, the resort built around that most glamorous of things, showbiz itself.

The new resort is home to a panorama of attractions, from the figure-of-eight ferris wheel built into the very structure of the building, to an exclusive Batman-themed ride, a full TV production studio, Pacha nightclub and the House of Magic extravaganza, created by master illusionist Franz Harary himself.

Sounds good, right? One lucky person will win a **complete holiday package for two at Studio City Macau**, worth more than \$11,000.

The winner will get two return ferry tickets to Macau, where you'll be treated to a **night's stay in a Star Premier King Suite at Studio City Macau**. But that's not all. You'll also get F&B vouchers for your stay, plus two VIP tickets to the House of Magic show—that's a pretty full evening's entertainment.

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 issue!

Once you've got both, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about the perfect Macau Christmas getaway. Go to [hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways](http://hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways) to submit your entry before **10am on December 14, 2015**. The best entry will win the top prize.

Good luck! The winner will be announced on December 18.

## Win stylish swimwear for your next getaway!

Winter's drawing in, and it's about to get cold. Well, any day now, at least. So it's time to start thinking about a sunny getaway to somewhere balmy, sunny and beautiful, like Thailand or Bali.

But if you're going to skip town, you don't want to do it wearing some ratty old bikini. That's why we've got **two sets of swimwear** to give away, courtesy of ski and surf brand **Perfect Moment**. The brand, created by French adventurer and filmmaker Thierry Donard, is all about stylish, functional ski and swimwear.

With one for the fellas and one for the ladies, the swimwear is altogether worth \$4,000! Want a chance to win? In one sentence, tell us where you'd take your new swimwear—and why. The most entertaining entry wins. Send it to [hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways](http://hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways) by **10am on December 14, 2015**.

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# FIRST PERSON



"We can go to 120,000 restaurants, but still we don't feed our souls."

Dutch musician **Jaap van Zweden** is the Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. He worked around the world as a concertmaster and conductor before taking up his post at the HK Phil in 2012. He tells Adrienne Chum about how he started conducting, what he thinks of music education in Hong Kong, and cleansing his soul with Bach.

**I was born** in a very low-key neighborhood. Not very poor, but quite poor.

**From the first day** I held a violin in my hands, I knew I was going to be a musician. I was 7.

**The hardest thing** in life is to become who you are. To find that out, you have to try a lot of things. If you want to become a musician, you have to choose an instrument.

**But I've always** had the feeling that the instrument chose me.

**My first performance** was in Amsterdam. I was 9 years old. It was wonderful.

**I felt very at home** on stage—which I still do. That's my home. It doesn't matter where my stage is.

**I left Amsterdam** when I was 16 to go to New York. Too early, actually. I studied there for three years, and had a very tough time.

**I was very lonely** for the first year. My parents had no money to visit me, so I was alone. The second year was much better—I made a lot of friends who are still friends now.

**Then I became** the concertmaster for the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. So you cannot say I had a long youth.

**It was Leonard Bernstein** who told me I should conduct. He pushed me into it, and after a few years I started to like it. He's my big inspiration.

**If I were to play** a violin now, I would hate myself for not being in shape.

**It's not that difficult** to be a very good conductor, or even a great conductor. But it is very difficult to be a good father to the orchestra.

**Twenty years** in an orchestra helped me a lot. When I talk to them I know what it's like because I was on the other side.

**What do I love** about conducting? It is not a feeling of power, but it is a powerful feeling.

**When I conduct**, I am a part of a very powerful movement, a hundred people doing something together, making something. Being part of that—and leading that—is a glorious feeling.

**I love this orchestra.** I'm very proud of them. When I started here, I said I wanted this orchestra to be at the highest level, and it is there. I'm really happy with that.

**The thing is**, being at the highest level is a responsibility. You have to stay there. It's like a muscle. You have to train the muscle again, again and again.

**My children are** grown up now and it is wonderful to see them live their own lives, but just spending a few weeks a year with the family is tough.

**My youngest son** is a DJ in Amsterdam. I don't like everything he makes, but there are some things I like. He's a very talented young man.

**He loves classical music** but he thinks there is a next step for us, and that is what he's doing.

**Parents are very smart** in this town because they understand that learning music is food for the soul.

**We can go** to 120,000 restaurants, but still we don't feed our souls. With music, we do.

**Parents also understand** that being in touch with an instrument and being in touch with music makes you a better pupil at school.

**The problem for parents** is this: If you don't push, you did it wrong. If you push too much, you also did it wrong.

**Raising children** has everything to do with finding a balance. When is the moment you inspire your children? When is the moment you say no to them? When is the moment you tell them to practise?

**The more talent** a child has, the more strict you have to be with the child. Talent deserves a very spartan life.

**If you are** not talented, you can play maybe a little bit of piano, violin. But if you are a big talent, then the strictness comes too—you have an obligation to your talent.

**It is also** a talent to work hard. Everybody can quit, that's easy. But if you don't quit, you run into problems.

**Whatever it is** that you do, you will keep running into problems until your last day on earth.

**I've never thought** about quitting music. That would mean I would quit living.

**Sometimes I think** of when I will stop conducting. There is a moment in your life when it's time to sit down and not run around, not work all year.

**To sit down** and have my children and my grandchildren around me by an open fire. It plays in my head and I think, "That would be nice."

**But then I hear** my next Beethoven concerto and I think, "Oh, let's go!"

**I won't be** the conductor who's 85 and still on stage. There will be a moment when I will stop.

**What will I do then?** Play piano. I want to learn all the Bach suites on piano.

**I want to play Bach**, because Bach is the composer who cleanses your soul.

**He is the composer** who will forgive you for whatever you did. Then you can forgive yourself.

**If you do** what you love, everything will come one way or another.

**See Jaap van Zweden** conduct the second part of Wagner's Ring Cycle, "Die Walküre," on Jan 21 and 23 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. \$280-\$880 from urbtix.hk.

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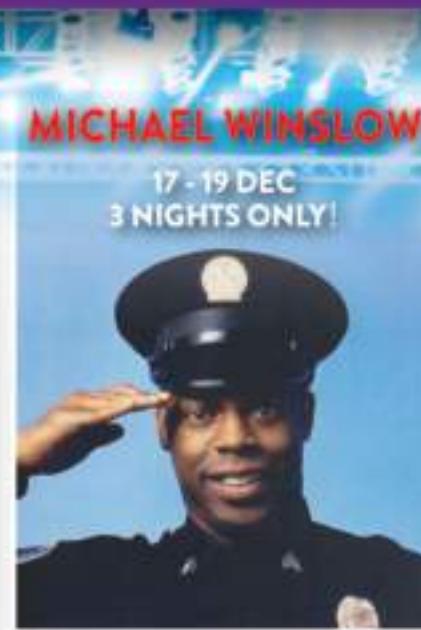
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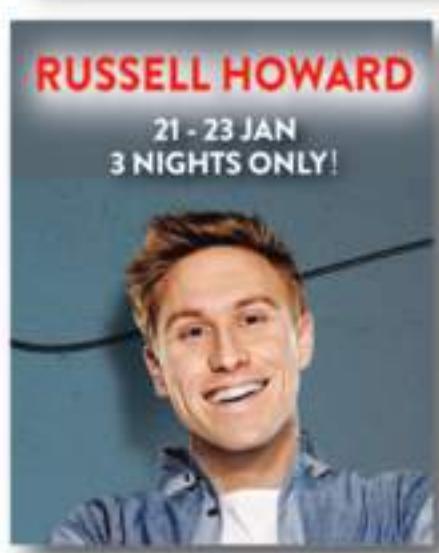
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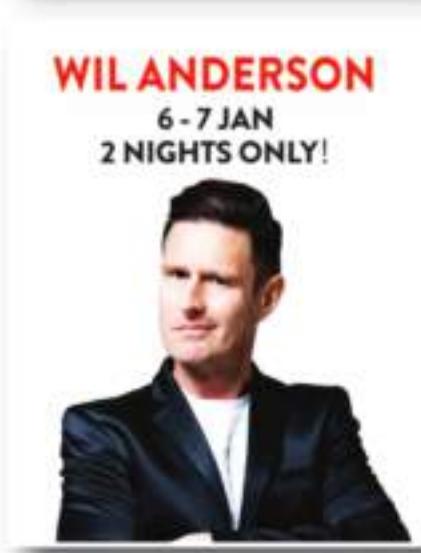
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3 NIGHTS ONLY!



WIL ANDERSON

6 - 7 JAN  
2 NIGHTS ONLY!



GOBSMACKED!

29 DEC - 6 JAN



JAMIE MACDOWELL  
AND TOM THUM

30 DEC - 1 JAN  
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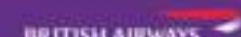
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