



Guide to Rio: from safety to samba

With the Olympics just over two weeks away, there is a cocktail of concerns in Brazil over how prepared the country is to host the international competition. Not only is the country in the midst of one of the worst economic recessions in its history, dealing with a political drama involving the impeachment of the president, but the host city, Rio de Janeiro, is seeing social tensions flare once more. Throw in a dose of the Zika virus, concerns over safety and doubts that much of the city's construction will be completed to schedule, and the 2016 Summer Olympics is shaping up to be an extraordinary cocktail. The Times provides a guide for those intending to visit during these turbulent times. **X3**



- MOVIES: STAR TREK BEYOND
- BOOKS: SEINFELDIA BY JENNIFER KEISHIN ARMSTRONG
- MUSIC: APACHE BY AARON NEVILLE
- WINE: THE SOUTHERN KALEIDOSCOPE III
- EVENTS: FRENCH SOUL IN SANYA

DRIVE IN

Jake Coyle, AP Film Writer

A TOUCH OF HUMOR INVADES
'STAR TREK BEYOND'

In the previous "Star Trek" installment, Spock cried. In the latest, "Star Trek Beyond," he laughs. And not just a little snicker, either, but a belly-full one. What bold explorations into the farthest reaches of the galaxy hold for Spock no one knows. A sigh? A hiccup? "Star Trek Beyond," like most of the rebooted properties flying around our movie theaters, delights in nostalgically resurrecting iconic characters and tweaking them anew. The balance is a delicate one, as seen in the pre-release debate around this film revealing Sulu (John Cho but formerly played by LGBT icon George Takei) as gay. The scene in question turns out to be a mere moment,

lightly handled, showing Sulu greeting his same-sex partner and their daughter after a long mission. It's all expressed with just a few arms tenderly draped across shoulders. And it's the kind of welcome touch that director Justin Lin, the "Fast & Furious" veteran who takes over for J.J. Abrams, has brought to this pleasingly episode-like installment. The opening scene, fittingly, plays with a smaller scale. Captain Kirk (Chris Pine), on a diplomatic mission, appeals to a snarling beast looming above him in a crowded amphitheater. Enraged at Kirk's offer, the alien beast hurtles down upon him, only to turn out to be no more monstrous than a feisty bulldog.

The film finds a bored Enterprise finishing up a five-year tour in deep space. The (albeit brief) change of pace is immediately appreciated. The last two beefed-up "Star Trek" movies, as if overcompensating for decades of Trekkie nerd-dome, threatened to make the once brainy "Star Trek" less distinct from other mega-sized sci-fi adventures — just another clothesline of CGI set pieces strung together. Like its recent predecessors, "Star Trek Beyond" is mostly an assortment of effects-heavy scenes with bits of talking in between. But unlike the previous film, 2013's bloated "Star Trek Into Darkness," not everything is quite so much of a life-and-death issue (the exhausting de facto pitch of today's summer blockbuster).

The Starship Enterprise, led by Captain Kirk (Chris Pine, looking more natural in the role), is lured through a nebula where a would-be rescue mission turns into a trap set by the villain Krall, whose spectacular army of mechanical drones ("bees" he calls them) attack in an overwhelming swarm. In a galactic blitz, the Enterprise is torn to shreds and crashes down on a rocky planet where the ship's scattered crew tries to gather, survive and understand Krall's motives.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES VIA AP



In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Anton Yelchin (left) and Chris Pine are seen in "Star Trek Beyond"

A local becomes an essential guide for them: Jaylah (a nimble Sofia Boutella), a pale loner with black streaks running down her face who helps the crew discover the Federation's history on the planet. The backstory, though, never quite gets filled out, and the plot serves as little more than a mechanism to test the efficient camaraderie of the Enterprise crew. The heart of the film, though, like the

previous two, is the bromance between Kirk and Zachary Quinto's Spock. They're Felix and Oscar in outer space, and still the highlight of this batch of "Star Trek" films. It's only late in the film that the alien mask is pulled away revealing the actor underneath Krall: Idris Elba. For those who didn't place his baritone earlier, the reveal comes as a disappointment. It should be a crime in deep space, as it is on Earth,

to shroud such a tremendous force behind mountains of extraterrestrial makeup. But I suppose had Elba been an unadorned baddie all along, the Enterprise might really have finally met its match.

"Star Trek Beyond," a Paramount Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "sequences of sci-fi action and violence." Running time: 122 minutes. ★★☆☆

PARAMOUNT PICTURES VIA AP



Zoe Saldana (left) as Uhura and John Cho as Sulu appear in a scene

BOOK IT

'SEINFELDIA' OFFERS LITTLE NEW
ON LANDMARK COMEDY

Eighteen years ago, in one of the most anticipated moments in American television history, fans of "Seinfeld" obsessed over the series ending its nine-season run and struggled with saying goodbye to one of the most influential, hilarious and successful comedies of all time. In a sense, though, the farewell wasn't entirely necessary. The show has lived on in perpetuity, with reruns broadcast daily in nearly every corner of the U.S. And, in fits and spurts, we've been satiated with both extensions of the show and glimpses into the making of it. Even though the show has never really gone away, we still crave more — more on the Low Talker and Bob Sacamano, on coffee-table books and mastering your domain and achieving "Serenity Now." The proliferation of so much material likely complicates an author's ability to add something new to the conversation, though,

AP PHOTO



"Seinfeldia" (Simon & Schuster), by Jennifer Keishin Armstrong

and despite her noble efforts in "Seinfeldia," Jennifer Keishin Armstrong does little to broaden perspective on the show for its most ardent fans. Though Armstrong spoke to numerous writers and others involved in "Seinfeld," the new light they shed is limited.

The book did not include fresh conversations with the main characters or David, relying instead on other published comments and the aforementioned litany of easily available sources. It's not that interesting threads are completely missing from "Seinfeldia." We learn of a scrapped episode in which Elaine weighed buying a handgun, of Richards' aloofness on the set and of a York Peppermint Pattie standing in as the famed airborne Junior Mint to make sure the camera could easily track it. But couldn't the author even track down more members of the fascinating parade of ancillary characters who might offer some new stories? Not Jerry Stiller, who played George Costanza's father? Not Wayne Knight, of Newman fame? Not the actors behind David Puddy or J. Peterman or Susan Ross?

Matt Sedensky, AP

TTUNES

AARON NEVILLE SHAKES A FUNK
FEATHER ON 'APACHE'

AP PHOTO



Aaron Neville, "Apache" (Tell It Records/Kobalt)

Aaron Neville picks up the pace and delves into songwriting on "Apache," a lively album meshing New Orleans R&B with Brooklyn funk. Aably guided by Soulive's Eric Krasno and backed by members of Lettuce and session aces like keyboardist Pete Levin and sax player Cochemea Gastelum, Neville's famous falsetto and vocal quivers shine brightest on the ballads while also raising some of the brisker tunes above where they belong. Evoking a childhood nickname, one of several inspirations behind the choice of title, the sounds on "Apache" are set firmly around the early 1970s. Deep guitar grooves and brash horns call to mind Neville peers like Isaac Hayes and Al Green, though there's more style than substance in some efforts. "Orchid in the Storm" and "Stompin' Ground" form a wonderful combination. The first namechecks his excellent 1983 mini-album and oozes romance, while the second is a tribute to his roots and mentions a phonebook-worth of New Orleans characters and landmarks. "Fragile World" is a Marvin Gaye-like homily about environmental, political and other disasters which nearly veers off the edge of preachiness. More effective is "Make Your Momma Cry," a cautionary tale whose brotherly tone hits hard, especially because it may already be too late. Fifty years after "Tell It Like It Is," Neville's biggest solo hit, the New Orleans native who relocated to New York City after Hurricane Katrina is still inspired and inspirational on slow ones like "Heaven," "I Wanna Love You" and "Sarah Ann." They all give one of American music's most distinctive voices another chance to stir hearts and souls.

Pablo Gorondi, AP

TRAVELOG

Jenny Barchfield, AP, Rio de Janeiro

Guide to visiting Rio for the Olympics, from safety to samba

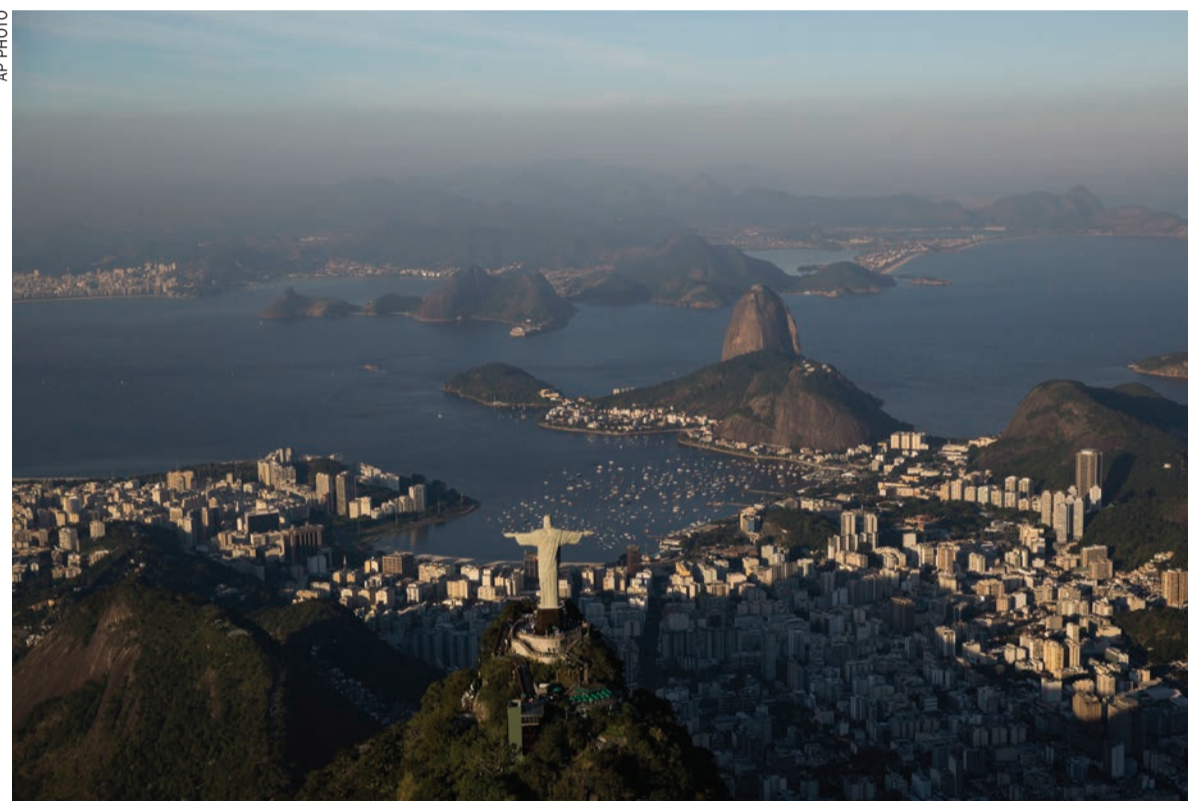
With the Olympics just a few weeks away, Brazil faces a litany of problems: an economy in freefall, the Zika virus and a political crisis with an impeached president. But for those brave — or foolhardy — enough to make the trip, Rio de Janeiro is a city rich with potential rewards. Broadcasters have already deemed the city's backdrop for the Summer Games the most telegenic ever. But no matter how good this teeming seaside metropolis — where the urban jungle and the literal jungle meet — looks on TV, footage simply can't compare with the experience of actually being here.

Here's a Q&A on tips for visiting Rio, from staying safe to samba parties:

Is Rio safe?

With an estimated 85,000 police and soldiers patrolling the streets during the games — twice the security contingent in London in 2012 — Olympic and local officials have insisted Rio will be “the safest city on earth” during the Aug. 5-21 games. Still, violent crime is a fact of life in this city, starkly divided between haves and have nots, so it's best to keep a low profile.

For Cariocas, as Rio's 6 million residents are called, low-key dressing is de rigueur for both safety and practicality. Havaianas, the Brazilian flip-flop brand, are Rio's uncontested footwear of choice. And the city's golden-sand beaches make board shorts and T-shirts, or hot pants and tank tops, a uniform for rich and poor alike. (While Rio's Southern Hemisphere winters tend to be mild, thermometers can dip in August into what Cariocas consider the bone-chilling depths of the mid-60s, so pack a sweater or light jacket.) Watches and jewelry not clearly made from plastic are best avoided,



The Sugar loaf and Guanabara bay are seen behind the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro

as is using cellphones in public or conspicuously carrying camera equipment. Electronics are extremely expensive in Brazil, and a smartphone can cost several months' worth of salary for locals, so it's best to keep them under wraps. If you do get mugged, don't react or fight. Hand over your possessions calmly and without hesitation. It's only money and/or stuff. And no matter how much of a pain the ensuing nightmare of card cancellations proves, it's not worth getting injured.

Do people speak English?

In a word, no. Outside Olympic venues and high-end hotels and restaurants, most Cariocas only speak Portuguese, though they might know a few words of English or Spanish. On the other hand, most people are eager to help foreigners and will resort even to pantomime to get their point across.

What's for dinner?

If you go to one of the myriad “churrascaria” (shoe-hass-car-EE-ya) all-you-can-eat Brazilian barbecue joints, the answer is meat, meat and more meat. Roving waiters brandishing spits stacked with cuts of prime beef, lamb chops, pork sausages and even wizened black chicken hearts will insist on refilling your plate till you verge on bursting.

For vegetarians or those recovering from a meat overdose, options are limited. Best bets include corner juice bars offering a cornucopia of freshly squeezed tropical fruit juices, as well as acai (ah-sa-EE) — a deep purple Amazonian palm berry that's frozen, blended and served slushy.

Is there public transportation?

The city's metro line is being extended to serve the beachfront Leblon neighborhood and reach the

far-western Barra da Tijuca neighborhood, where Olympic Park is located. But the project is behind schedule and may not be finished in time for the games. Buses are confusing, packed, dangerous and generally best avoided. Cabs are plentiful and decently reliable — just make sure your cabby turns headlights on after dark. (Many won't.)

Besides sports, what is there to do in Rio during the games?

Plenty. And the good news is, the best things in Rio are free.

Rio was hard hit by the recession, with the economy shrinking last year by 4 percent, sending unemployment and inflation soaring. The nosedive of the local currency, the real, has made Rio much cheaper for visitors spending dollars or euros. But the cost of hotels and restaurants can still be shocking. Savvy travelers can staunch the

bloodletting by taking advantage of the city's many free attractions:

—Sugarloaf Mountain: The sheer granite outcropping that presides over the waters of the Guanabara Bay will no doubt prove a breathtaking backdrop for the Olympic sailing races. But rather than just ogling the iconic rock, why not hike it? A guide is necessary to scale the Sugarloaf itself, but its stumpier twin, the Morro da Urca, is doable without help. A mud path winds through tropical vegetation to a summit with peerless views over the city's dense patchwork of towers, hillside “favela” slums and mist-enshrouded rainforest.

—Sunset at Arpoador: Take in the sun's spectacular nightly performance as it sinks into the Atlantic from atop the Arpoador rock formation in between Copacabana and Ipanema Beaches. The crowd there raucously applauds the glittering show, night after night.

—Pedra do Sal: Experience a “roda de samba,” or live samba music, at the birthplace of Brazil's most famous musical genre. Monday nights bring hordes of aficionados to this former slave market in the Gamboa region of historic downtown for an open-air dance party.

—Centro: Rio's beaches tend to steal the thunder, but the Centro downtown region, where the city got its start 451 years ago, is a treasure trove of colonial-era churches and historic monuments. Perhaps the most stunning among them is the Mosteiro Sao Bento, a Baroque church and working monastery where monks perform Gregorian chants during Sunday Mass. Get there early to snag a seat. Also in Centro is the Portuguese Royal Reading Room, a 19th century gem of soaring jacaranda hardwood bookshelves and stained glass windows, tucked into the newly rehabilitated Praca Tiradentes.



WORLD OF BACCHUS

Jacky I.F. Cheong



CHÂTEAU GRAND MOULIN
CORBIÈRES TERRES ROUGES 2009

A blend of 80% Syrah and 20% Grenache Noir, macerated for 42 days and matured for 12 months in French oak barrels. Reddish black with carmine-rosewood rim, the heady potent nose offers bilberry, damson, coffea arabica, clove, cigar and cedarwood. With generous acidity and firm tannins, the spicy palate delivers black cherry, prune, liquorice, allspice, dark chocolate and game. Full-bodied at 14.5%, the broad entry continues through a vibrant mid-palate, leading to a savoury finish.



CHÂTEAU GRAND MOULIN
CORBIÈRES-BOUTENAC 2008

A blend of 60% Mourvèdre and 40% Carignan, fermented for 35 days and matured for 12 months in French oak barrels. Reddish black with burgundy-carmine rim, the brooding nose presents cassis, black cherry, liquorice, cocoa, tobacco and fine oak. With abundant acidity and ripe tannins, the saturated palate supplies red cherry, plum, clove, black pepper, caffè mocha and wild mushroom. Full-bodied at 14.5%, the dense entry persists through a structured mid-palate, leading to a spiced finish.

The Southern Kaleidoscope III

(Continued from "The Southern Kaleidoscope II" on 1 July 2016)

The wine classification systems of Burgundy and Germany are notoriously complicated, but perhaps necessarily so, considering their hierarchical structure as well as numerous terroirs, styles and designations. With a closer look, however, Languedoc-Roussillon's wine classification system is no less complicated, for this is the single largest wine region of France, and its wine-related legislations and regulations are constantly evolving. The all-encompassing Pays d'Oc IGP (Indication Géographique Protégée) designation is a useful one for producers and consumers alike, but Languedoc-Roussillon as a region slowly but gradually shifts away from quantity and towards quality, multi-level subdivisions have begun to take shape, both geographically and hierarchically. Setting aside the Spanish-influenced Roussillon in the south and the now Rhône-affiliated Costières-de-Nîmes in the northeast, Languedoc-proper consists of three major AOC areas: Coteaux-du-Languedoc, which includes the up-and-coming districts of Terrasses-du-Larzac, Grés-de-Montpellier, Pézenas, Faugères, Saint-Chinian and La Clape; Minervois, with its Minervois-la-Livinière considered the finest; and Corbières, a subregion as extensive as many a wine region.

An AOC since 1985, Corbières is the single largest appellation of Languedoc-Roussillon, responsible for roughly 40% of the region's aggregate production. With more than 12,000ha under vine, Corbières is merely 15% smaller than Alsace in terms of vineyard area. Due to its diverse climatic conditions and soil compositions, the massive Corbières AOC can be further divided into 11 districts, and Corbières-Boutenac is generally considered to be the first amongst equals. An AOC since 2005, Corbières-Boutenac is renowned for its infertile, limestone-rich and free-draining soil, which forces vine roots to dig ever deeper in search of water and nutrients, which are conducive to the quality of wine. Like the larger Corbières in general, Corbières-Boutenac a specialist of Carignan, Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. In recent years, the unofficial title of Grands Crus du Languedoc has gained some traction. Aiming to include the best wines from the Languedoc-Roussillon region, the said title is nonetheless not officially recognised by Institut National de l'Origine et de la Qualité (INAO), the guardian of the French AOC system, but it does show that the region has come a long way in terms of quality.

To be continued...

Jacky I.F. Cheong is a legal professional by day and columnist by night. Having spent his formative years in Britain, France, and Germany, he regularly writes about wine, fine arts, classical music, and politics in several languages

RESTAURANTS

CANTONESE



GRAND IMPERIAL COURT
5pm - 12midnight
T: 8802 2539
Level 2, MGM MACAU



IMPERIAL COURT
Monday - Friday
11am - 3pm / 6pm - 11pm
Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays
10am - 3pm / 3pm - 11pm
T: 8802 2361
VIP Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU

BEIJING KITCHEN
Level 1, Grand Hyatt Macau
Opening Hours
11:30am - 24:00



KAM LAI HEEN
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 8793 3821
11:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 22:00
(Close on Tuesday)

SHANGHAI MIN
Level 1, The Shops at The Boulevard
Opening Hours
11:00 - 15:00; 18:00 - 22:30

SHANGHAI

CATALPA GARDEN
Mon - Sunday
11:00 - 15:00 / 17:30 - 23:00
Hotel Royal, 2-4
Estrada da Vitoria
T: 28552222

FRENCH

寶雅座
AUX BEAUX ARTS

AUX BEAUX ARTS
Monday - Friday
6pm - 12midnight
Saturday - Sunday
11am - 12midnight
T: 8802 2319
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU

GLOBAL

HARD ROCK CAFE
Level 2, Hard Rock Hotel
Opening Hours
Monday to Sunday : 11:00 - 02:00
Sunday : 10:00 - 02:00

CAFÉ BELA VISTA
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 87933871
Mon - Thurs
06:30 - 15:00 / 6:00 - 22:00
Fri - Sunday
06:30 - 22:00

MEZZA9 MACAU
Level 3, Grand Hyatt Macau
Opening Hours
Dinner: 5:30 - 11:00



VIDA RICA (RESTAURANT)
2/F, Avenida Dr Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
T: 8805 8918
Mon - Sunday
6:30 - 14:30 / 18:00 - 23:00



MORTON'S OF CHICAGO
The Venetian(r) Macao-Resort-Hotel
Talpa, Macau
T:853 8117 5000
mortons.com
• Bar
Open daily at 3pm
• Dining Room
Monday - Saturday: 13:00 - 23:00
Sunday: 17:00 - 22:00

ABA BAR

ABA BAR
5pm - 12midnight
T: 8802 2319
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



PASTRY BAR
10am - 8pm
T: 8802 2324
Level 1, MGM MACAU



ROSSIO
7am - 11pm
T: 8802 2372
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



SQUARE EIGHT
24 hours
T: 8802 2389
Level 1, MGM MACAU

ITALIAN

LA GONDOLA
Mon - Sunday
11:00am - 11:00pm
Praia de Cheoc Van, Coloane,
next to swimming pool
T: 2888 0156



PORTOFINO
Casino Level1, Shop 1039,
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 8118 9950



AFRIKANA
Monday to Sunday
6:00pm - 3:00am
Location : AfriKana, Macau Fisherman's Wharf
Telephone Number : (853) 8299 3678

JAPANESE

SHINJI BY KANESAKA
Level 1, Crown Towers
Lunch 12:00 - 15:00
Dinner 18:00 - 23:00
Closed on
Tuesday (Lunch and Dinner)
Wednesday (Lunch)

ASIAN PACIFIC

ASIA KITCHEN
Level 2, SOHO at City of Dreams
Opening Hours
11:00 - 23:00

GOLDEN PAVILION
Level 1, Casino at City of Dreams
Opening Hours
24 Hours



GOLDEN PEACOCK
Casino Level1, Shop 1037,
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 8118 9696
Monday - Sunday:
11:00 - 23:00

PORTUGUESE

CLUBE MILITAR
975 Avenida da Praia Grande
T: 2871 4000
12:30 - 15:00 / 19:00 - 23:00

FERNANDO'S
9 Praia de Hac Sa, Coloane
T: 2888 2264
12:00 - 21:30

WESTERN

FOGO SAMBA
Shop 2412 (ST. Mark's Square)
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 2882 8499

THAI



NAAM
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, The Resort
T: 8793 4818
12:00 - 14:30 / 18:30 - 22:30
(Close on Mondays)

BARS & PUBS



38 LOUNGE
Altrira Macau,
Avenida de Kwong Tung, 38/F Talpa
Sun-Thu: 13:00 - 02:00
Fri, Sat and Eve of public holiday:
15:00 - 03:00

R BAR
Level 1, Hard Rock Hotel
Opening Hours
Sun to Thu:
11:00 - 23:00
Fri & Sat:
11:00 - 24:00



BELLINI LOUNGE
Casino Level 1, Shop 1041,
The Venetian Macao
CONTACT US:
Tel: +853 8118 9940
Daily: 16:00 - 04:00



D2
Macao Fisherman's Wharf
Edf. New Orleans III
Macao

VIDA RICA BAR
2/F, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
T: 8805 8928
Monday to Thursday: 12:00 - 00:00
Friday: 12:00 - 01:00
Saturday: 14:00 - 01:00
Sunday: 14:00 - 00:00

VASCO
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 8793 3831
Monday to Thursday: 18:30 - 12:00
Friday to Saturday: 18:00 - 02:00
Sunday: 18:00 - 24:00

TASTE OF EDESIA

Irene Sam

EVENTS

FRENCH SOUL IN SANYA

With numerous terrorist attacks occurring during the past year in various parts of the world, many are thinking twice about going on vacation outside of China. Sad as it is, individuals who are looking for an alternative to a getaway in the French Riviera now have the option of flying to Sanya and stay at the Sanya Sofitel Leeman Resort, a luxury resort inspired by the glamour of Southern France.

Daily flights to Sanya are available from Zhuhai airport and it takes less than an hour to get there. Located on the spectacular Haitang Bay, Sofitel Sanya Leeman brings French art de vivre to a setting on the southern tip of China's only tropical island destination. An elegant answer to a luxury traveler's quest for the good things in life, Sofitel Sanya Leeman illustrates an artful blend of local culture and French soul.

The promotion of French culture is one of Sofitel's four key pillars – Design, Culture, Gastronomy and Wellness. At the all day dining venue inside the resort, one can find perfectly baked French macarons at one corner and local Hainanese dishes at other counter. Rooms are delightfully furnished with elements that are reminiscent of nature and the sea. The bathroom even features amenities from Lanvin.

The first Sofitel beach resort in Greater China, Sofitel Sanya Leeman forms an oasis of sophistication reminiscent of that of the French Riviera, an infusion of timeless French hospitality and authentic Hainanese culture. Its 477 superbly appointed rooms, suites and villas, are set amidst lushly landscaped gardens, beachfront swimming pools and gourmet dining outlets. In addition to the usual resort attractions, guests can enjoy pony riding, helicopter sightseeing tours and participate in oriental dance classes.

Culturally speaking, this year, Sofitel hotels have been celebrating the French Fete de la Musique since the beginning of last month. This annual music event has been held during the European summer since its inauguration in 1982 and Sofitel has been celebrating the festival amongst its 120 hotels worldwide since 2010. This year's theme for the majority of Sofitel hotels in Greater China has been "Vivre ensemble la musique" (Musical Togetherness), expressed in diverse events.

Last month, 300 guests enjoyed a special Fete de la Musique performance at Sofitel Sanya Leeman. Guests were fascinated by the star of the evening – multi-talented, Henry Padovani, in his newest show, Fly Like a Song. Co-founder of popular English rock band The Police, the legendary French performer has explored many genres of music in the course of his long career. His newest programme includes some of his most famous and most loved songs in an electrifying performance that ranges from dreamy blues to classic rock interspersed with abrasive and sometimes mischievous sounds.

Nostalgia was to the fore when surprise guest participants joined Henry Padovani on-stage for some impromptu numbers. Evergreen members of The Wynners, Hong Kong's favourite pop band from the 1970s - Alan Tam, Bennett Pang, Anthony Chan - as well as Eddie Ng delighted the audience by showing that they had lost none of their appeal in the intervening years. The audience reached fever pitch of excitement at the end of the performance.



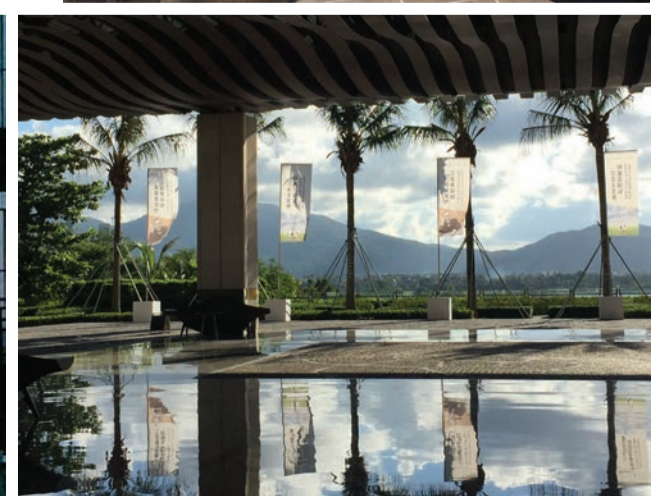
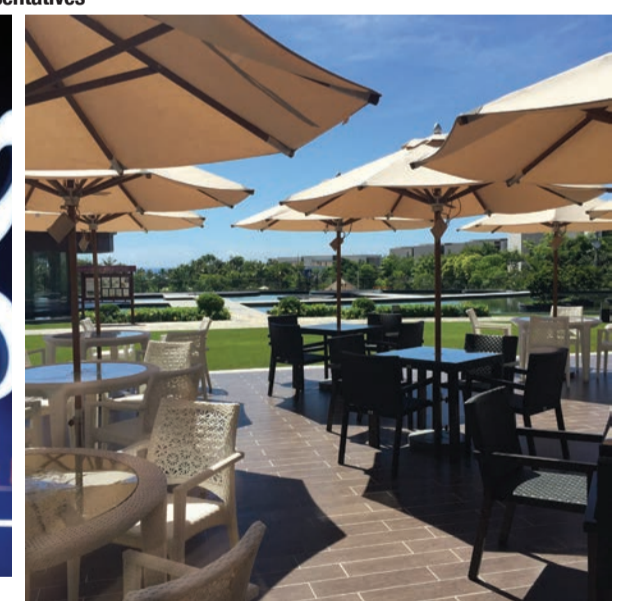
Allan Tam, Henry Padovani & Bennett Pang



Hong Kong celebrities and AccorHotels' representatives



Henry Padovani



WHAT'S ON



TODAY (JUL 22)
NEOCLASSICAL MUSIC

Neoclassicism in music is a concept of contradictions, while the innovative tonal harmony and complex use of instruments make the composition less resemble classical music, its melody and composition are, nevertheless, echoing the baroque and classical music. It was with the impetus of this contradiction that Igor Stravinsky and other composers of the 20th Century wrote many memorable masterpieces. Following two works by Stravinsky, Maestro Lü Jia will present Alberto Ginastera's Concerto for Strings in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of this great composer.

TIME: 8pm
VENUE: Dom Pedro V Theatre
ADMISSION: MOP100, MOP120
ORGANIZER: Macau Orchestra
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0782
<http://www.icm.gov.mo/om/en>



HUP – STARCATCHERS (SCOTLAND)

Bring your babies to comfortably sit on stage and marvel with their very first artistic experience. Let them crawl into the fascinating musical world of HUP, a show specially created for newborns and toddlers up to 24 months. Observe how the little ones relax throughout this intimate, classical music adventure as they discover sounds and shapes in a sonata for two violins, one cello and a very cheeky raccoon who, almost like in a game, challenge the young audience to follow the interaction between musical moods and rhythms.

TIME: 11am, 3pm & 5pm (July 22- 24)
ADMISSION: MOP180
VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre,
Avenida Xian Xing Hai s/n, Nape
ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Centre
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2870 0699
<http://www.ccm.gov.mo>
TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555
<http://www.macauticket.com>

TOMORROW (JUL 23)
CHOOK & GEK

On a faraway icy plain, a lost postman is caught in a blizzard. Luckily, childhood memories come to his rescue as he recalls brother Chook and the way they played and dreamed. Of course he will not forget mum, who was always there for them and their dad, working in the far-far North. One day, they would visit him, leaving big cities, factories and villages behind, heading straight to the land of

woods and dense black forests. Conceived by Melting Point, a boutique theatre from Saint-Petersburg, Chook & Gek is a clowning and theatrical performance combining puppetry with video installation spells based on a children classic story by Russian writer Arkady Gaidar. Founded in 2012, the company is inspired by the idea of independent theatre and the dream of creating non-verbal performances using mime and other expressive languages. Its pilot project Chook & Gek has been praised in various festivals throughout Russia and Europe.



TIME: 11am, 3pm & 5pm (July 22- 24)
ADMISSION: MOP180
VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre,
Avenida Xian Xing Hai s/n, Nape
ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Centre
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2870 0699
<http://www.ccm.gov.mo>
TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555
<http://www.macauticket.com>



SUNDAY (JUL 24)
2016 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DANCE FESTIVAL

One of the most significant international events in Macau, the biennial International Youth Dance Festival provides a platform for dance lovers from around the world to cultivate friendship, exchange cultures and display diverse dances. Now in its third decade, this year's biannual Festival features more than 600 dancers from 10 local groups plus participants from different countries and regions. Activities include a parade, outdoor and indoor performances, workshops, and photography competition.

PARADE (JULY 24)
TIME: 5:30pm-9:30pm
VENUE: Ruins of St. Paul's -> Rua da Palha -> Rua de S. Domingos -> St. Dominic's Church

INDOOR PERFORMANCE (JULY 26 & 28)
TIME: 8pm-10pm
VENUE: Macau Forum I
ADMISSION: Free with ticket

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE
TIME: 8pm-9:30pm
VENUE: Tap Seac Square (July 24)
& Anim'Arte Nam Van (July 25)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5533
ORGANIZER: Education and Youth Affairs Bureau
<http://www.dsej.gov.mo>



MONDAY (JUL 25)
DRAWING IS GIVING ONE'S HEART,
BY ALEXANDRE BAPTISTA

Drawing is Giving One's Heart, by Alexandre Baptista explores the interrelationship of the body and sexuality, in which individual works on paper employ various techniques such as mixed media, acrylic and gold leaf, enamel and vinyl and gouache, photography, painting and integrated text.

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
3pm-8pm (Mondays)
VENUE: AlbergueSCM-A2Gallery, No.8
Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro
ADMISSION: free
ENQUIRES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205
ORGANIZER: Albergue SCM
FACEBOOK HOME PAGE: Albergue SCM



TUESDAY (JUL 26)
MACAU ANNUAL VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION 2016
– WESTERN MEDIA CATEGORY

The 2016 Macau Annual Visual Arts Exhibition is dedicated to Western Media category, with exhibits varying from painting, photography, printmaking, ceramic, sculpture, mixed media and video recording. The jury panel, comprised of experts from related fields, has selected a total of 83 works for the exhibition, to display the diversity and innovation in local western media art.

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: August 7, 2016
VENUE: Old Court Building
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699
<http://www.icm.gov.mo/fam/27/en/>



WEDNESDAY (JUL 27)

EXHIBITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAN TIANHENG

This exhibition features a total of 188 pieces/sets of Han Tianheng's calligraphy, paintings, seal engravings and literati playthings for the audience to appreciate Han's unique artistic creation style and achievements.

TIME: 10am-7pm
(no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: August 7, 2106
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(free admission on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814
<http://www.mam.gov.mo>



THURSDAY (JUL 28)

NEIGHBOURHOOD — PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS BY LAURA CHE

An open garden atop a two-story apartment: an association of enjoyment with its spectacular aspects and views. As metropolitan in new generation, everyone is stressed from work; an effective way to relieve is to clear your mind by making an escape from busy life and stay in a fun and relaxing place, as suggested by the artist. Laura's passion for art motivated her to create artworks. Laura Che is into fashion design, interior and spatial design, as well as product design. Besides painting and drawing, she also does illustrations for children. Laura has been participating in collective exhibitions at Creative Macau since 2000s. "Neighbourhood" is her first solo exhibition.

TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)
DATE: July 27 to August 20, 2016
VENUE: Creative Macau - Centre for Creative Industries, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue, Macau
ADMISSION: free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282
ORGANIZER: Creative Macau - Centre for Creative Industries
<http://www.creativemacau.org.mo>

Sands WEEKEND



ANDY HUI COME ON: PART TWO LIVE 2016 MACAO

8pm, 23 July (Saturday)

Cotai Arena

Entering the music industry back in 1986, Andy Hui has released an extensive list of classic hits over the years and won many awards for his outstanding achievements in the field. Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Andy's music career at this not-to-be-missed concert.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD380, call reservations +853 2882 8818
cotaiticketing.com



SHREK THE MUSICAL - THE BROADWAY SMASH-HIT SHOW

22 July - 7 August

The Venetian Theatre

SHREK The Musical, the smash-hit show from New York's Broadway, brings the hilarious story of everyone's favourite ogre to life on stage. During its Broadway run, SHREK The Musical played over 500 performances, garnered eight 2009 Tony Award nominations. Now the hit stage version is coming to Macao this summer. One show daily on Tuesday to Friday, two shows daily on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD180, call reservations +853 2882 8818
cotaiticketing.com



BLUE MAN GROUP IN MACAO

11-28 August

The Venetian Theatre

The BLUE MAN GROUP's show is comedy, theatre, rock concert and dance party all rolled into one. The show is a combination of science, comedy, music and vibrant visual effects. With no spoken language, except for a narrator, BLUE MAN GROUP is perfect for all ages, languages and cultures.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD280, call reservations +853 2882 8818, cotaiticketing.com
Show schedule: Tuesday-Friday 8pm; Saturdays 5pm/8pm, Sundays 2pm/5pm.
No shows on Monday



PO'S KUNG FU FEAST, CHARACTER BREAKFAST WITH THE DREAMWORKS ALL-STARS

Until 30 September 2017

Urumqi Ballroom, Level 4, Sands® Cotai Central

Live your dreams like Po from "Kung Fu Panda" and experience the ultimate breakfast feast with your favourite DreamWorks All-Stars. Get your camera ready to capture the memorable moments with your beloved DreamWorks heroes and enjoy the exclusive stage performances. Book now to experience the coolest themed breakfast!

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Family Package (4 Family Persons + 1 Child): MOP 688+
Saturday - Monday: 10am - 11:30am | Tuesday - Friday: 9am - 10:30am
Reservations: +853 8113 7915 / 8113 7916



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WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology
By Laurie Triefeldt

NINJA

THE SHADOW WARRIORS

Also known as shinobi, ninja were specially trained spies and assassins in feudal Japan. Shrouded in mystery, these warriors have become the stuff of legends and folk tales. Today, ninja have found their way into pop culture and are often portrayed in films, books and games.

According to some Japanese folk tales, the ninja is descended from a demon that was half-man and half-crow.



忍者

This is the word "ninja" in kanji script. The word **shinobi** or **nin** means stealth, silence and to endure. The word **mono** or **ja** (**sha**) means person.

In a word

The word "ninja" is derived from the Japanese characters "nin" and "ja." Together, these kanji characters are pronounced **shinobi**, a short form of **shinobi-no-mono**.

The word "shinobi" can be traced back to late 8th-century poems. A shinobi is a person who can move stealthily and who endures. The use of the word "ninja" is relatively new and probably evolved because it was easier for Westerners to pronounce than shinobi, which is more accurate and almost always used in Japan.

Kunoichi is the word used to describe a female ninja or practitioner of ninjutsu.

The basics

Ninja first trained in the mountains of Japan more than 800 years ago, particularly in the regions of Iga and Koga.

These early ninja learned the arts of **ninjutsu**. Ninjutsu is sometimes called "the art of stealth" or "the art of invisibility."

Ninjutsu taught its followers how to spy, infiltrate, assassinate and sabotage an enemy. Ninja were trained in secrecy, disguise, concealment, geography, meteorology, medicine, poison, guerrilla warfare and possibly other martial arts.

Most modern students of ninjutsu focus on physical fitness and self-defense skills over stealth.

Bushido vs. ninjutsu

The samurai lived by the code of bushido, valuing loyalty and honor above all else, while the shinobi believed in completing the mission by any means possible.

The shinobi were not always honorable in their tactics, but they were not criminals, as they worked for a political cause and in the service of a feudal lord.



Ninja sneaking up on musician. Utagawa Toyokuni print, 1853. Library of Congress Prints and Photos Collection



Mount Kaito in Iga province, an area associated with the ninja. Print by Japanese artist Utagawa Hiroshige, 1861. Library of Congress Prints and Photos Collection

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; asianhistory.about.com; http://world.time.com; http://www.wayofninja.com; Library of Congress

A secret society

Discarding popular folklore, actual historical accounts of the ninja are rare; they were, after all, expert secret spies. Much of what we know about the ninja is found in three or four manuals written after the 16th century when the ninja way of life was no more.

Tools of the trade

Many ninja weapons were created from farming equipment such as sickles, saws and shears. These modified weapons had the advantage that, if discovered, they would appear to be simple farm tools.

Poison was another weapon for many ninja. It could be added to food or applied to a dart or blade.

A ninja disguised as a flute player could use the flute as a club or blow-dart tube.



Clothing

Today, ninja are usually depicted in all-black clothing, with just their eyes showing. This iconic costume is derived from the kabuki theater and has little to do with what ninja really wore. In fact, ninja preferred dark navy blue for night operations because this color is better than black for hiding in the shadows of a dark night. However, the ninja did not always work at night; these agents of deception were masters of disguise and would have dressed to blend in with their targets. They might have dressed as farmers, peddlers, foot soldiers or actors.

Early days

In the 12th century, two men, a disgraced samurai named Daisuke Togakure and a Chinese warrior-monk named Kain Doshi, combined their knowledge to create a new theory of warfare called **ninjutsu**.

The first known ninja school, or **ryu**, was established soon after.

The rise and fall

The ninja came into their own between 1336 and 1600, in a time of constant war. Their skills were greatly admired, and ninja were in high demand by warlords who hired them as mercenaries. The time of the ninja came to an end in the late 16th century when Japan became unified and the wars ended. The warlord Oda Nobunaga destroyed the ninja strongholds at Iga and Koga, forcing the ninja to disperse. Peace held few job opportunities for these elusive warriors, but some were taken on by shogun as secret police.

Supernatural powers

Myths and legends about the mysterious ninja grew over the years. By the mid-19th century, tales of the shinobi had gained great popularity in Japanese lore and quickly spread to the West. Stories have been told of ninja training that included invisibility, walking on water and power over natural elements.