



Goodbye Landline Phones

You still use a landline phone? Copper networks are going away, as cable and fiber-optics lines come along with faster Internet speeds. It's happening in America. Soon, the world. **X3**



- MOVIES: MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - ROGUE NATION
- BOOKS: BADLANDS BY C.J. BOX
- MUSIC: ASHES & DUST BY WARREN HAYNES
- WINE: THE AUSTRALIAN LEGACY
- FOOD: GASTRONOMIC WONDERLAND

DRIVE IN

Jocelyn Noveck, AP

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED FOR CRUISE IN NEW 'MI' FLICK

There's some interesting talk in the cleverly satisfying script of "Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation" about the element of luck. As in: How much is luck a factor in the success of Ethan Hunt and his IMF cohorts? After all, in the last movie they merely saved us from a nuclear holocaust. Was it talent, work, or dumb luck? Whatever you decide about that, let's be clear about this: When it comes to Tom Cruise and his durability as an action hero, luck has little to do with it. The guy's an action star extraordinaire, and it's not luck or chance but work and smarts and yes, some swashbuckling derring-do that get him there.

Whatever you may think of Cruise and his complex off-screen persona, let's give him this: At age 53, he and his Ethan Hunt are, if anything, getting more fun to watch. And they make "Rogue Nation" not merely a serviceable summer flick, but an entertainment well worth your inflated ticket price. Let's give kudos to a few other folks, too, starting with director-writer Christopher McQuarrie, who, like each director in the franchise, puts his own stamp on the proceedings. McQuarrie ("The Usual Suspects") does this with both a wry script that often makes fun of what's happening, and some seriously entertaining action pieces, in-

cluding a complicated assassination sequence set in Vienna's glittering opera house during a lavish production of Puccini's "Turandot." (Parents: here's a chance to get some opera into your kids' summer — sort of like hiding the broccoli in the brownie mix.) Also invaluable is returning "MI" vet Simon Pegg as Benji, the wise-cracking (and safe-cracking) computer whiz who provides a crucial dose not only of humor but also of humanity here. Welcome newcomers include Alec Baldwin, as a pompous CIA boss with deliciously dry delivery, and Rebecca Ferguson, making the most and then some of the obligatory



Rebecca Ferguson, left, and Tom Cruise appear in a scene from "Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation"

female role. Ferguson is — get this — Swedish-born, named Ilsa here, and, yes, shows up in Casablanca, too. "Rogue Nation" doesn't start slowly. In fact, it begins with the scene you're most likely to have heard about, because it involves Cruise's own stunt work, in which the actor actually places himself on the wing of an airborne jet, and then — why not? — lets his legs slip, hanging on by only his hands as the landscape beneath gets tinier and tinier. Why is Hunt on the wing? Well, that's what can happen, annoyingly, when you try to board a plane AFTER takeoff. He manages to successfully remove a case of nerve gas canisters, but we're just getting started. We soon learn that the IMF is being disbanded, and the ti-

ming is terrible. Hunt is onto something really bad: the Syndicate, a nefarious group of former spies led by a vague, sinister leader (Sean Harris). That the Syndicate is not attached to one particular nation — it is the "Rogue Nation" of the title — has eerie resonance in today's world. Hunt soon finds himself chained to a ceiling in a London dungeon. Enter Ilsa (Ferguson) who obviously has some attraction to Hunt, and a tendency to save his life, but also is clearly not working with him, either. The two meet again in Vienna, and eventually in Morocco, where Hunt and his friends take on a mission that involves, for one thing, Hunt holding his breath underwater for an impossibly long time while fighting an impossibly strong water

current and many other things. It shouldn't surprise you by now to hear that Cruise apparently flirted with on-set danger here, too. And it's impossible to deny that this knowledge adds to the fun. Early on, when Hunt was hanging off that plane, my 12-year-old companion — who's grown up in the age of computer-generated wizardry — confidently whispered: "Ha, that's totally a green screen." And I was happy to be able to whisper back: "Nope. That's just Tom Cruise."

"Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation," a Paramount release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "sequences of intense action and violence." Running time: 131 minutes. ★★☆☆

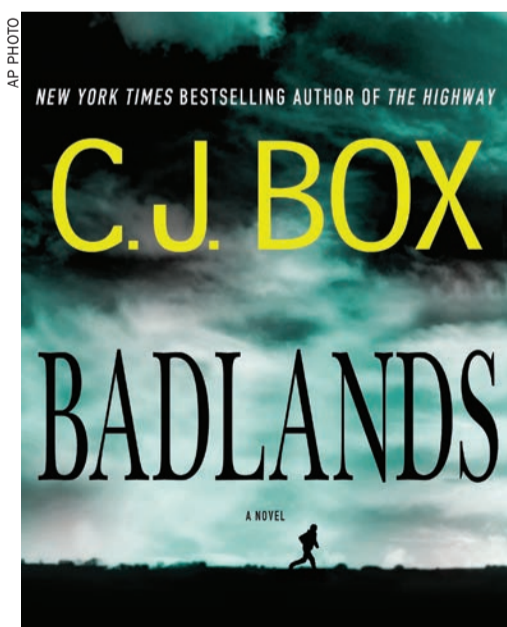


Rebecca Ferguson

BOOK IT

'BADLANDS' IS INTRIGUING STAND-ALONE NOVEL FROM C.J. BOX

The new Wild West, in which a hamlet becomes a boomtown because of its oil-rich fields, makes a sturdy background for C.J. Box's intriguing new stand-alone novel. Taking another break from his best-selling series about Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett, Box delivers an enthralling thriller in "Badlands," the story of a once-quiet area unprepared for its rapid growth. Cassandra "Cassie" Dewell, last seen in Box's terrifying "The Highway," arrives in this new frontier anxious to start as chief investigator for Jon Kirkbride, sheriff of Bakken County. But the progress that assures Cassie her new high-paying job comes with problems. A few years ago, Grimstad was an economically depressed North Dakota town "dying a slow death," its most notable feature the below-zero winters. But a burgeoning oil industry has brought in a few thousand workers, who have too much money and idle time on their hands. Grimstad's unbridled population growth also means that crime and the drug trade are out of control. The town's infrastructure from housing to restaurants to law enforcement is woefully unprepared. As Cassie looks into murders related to rival gangs and corruption within the sheriff's department, 12-year-old Kyle Westergaard unwittingly is in the middle of the drug war when he finds a duffel bag filled with drugs and money. Kyle, a special-needs child who lives with his alcoholic mother and her low-life boyfriend, finds the bag after he witnesses a fatal car accident while on his early morning newspaper route. The balance between Kyle's emotional story and Cassie's perceptive detective work adds heft to the novel.



"Badlands" (Minotaur Books), by C.J. Box

Box deftly shows an area under siege by progress, where the prairie now "roared" with trains and tankers. "Millions of barrels of oil bound for every corner of the country." The author's strength in creating well-rounded characters shaped by their environs and their own moral codes again shines in "Badlands."

Oline H. Cogdill, AP

ITUNES

WARREN HAYNES, ACOUSTIC BAND SHINE ON 'ASHES & DUST'

Thirty-five years in to his career, Warren Haynes returns home to the Appalachian mountains for "Ashes & Dust," a collaboration between the veteran jam-band guitarist and vocalist and the adventurous acoustic band Railroad Earth. A native of Asheville, North Carolina, Haynes grew up in a center of bluegrass and mountain music. Yet he gained his reputation with his hard-charging, blues-rock band Gov't Mule; in a lengthy stint with the Allman Brothers Band; and occasional appearances with the Grateful Dead. Known for his beefy, adventurous solos, Haynes takes an earthier approach on "Ashes & Dust." The collection includes a moody version "Coal Tattoo," the Billy Edd Wheeler classic on hard-working miners. Grace Potter duets with Haynes on a cover of Fleetwood Mac's "Gold Dust Woman," which is both ethereal and muscular. Haynes brings in former Allman Brothers cohorts Oteil Burbridge on bass and Marc Quinones on percussion for "Spots of Time," the album's most expansive, jam-scene tune. It's not a surprise since Haynes co-wrote it with Phil Lesh of the Grateful Dead. Haynes has long been known for fitting into a variety of ensembles. "Ashes & Dust" expands that reputation, revealing just how wide-ranging his talents are.



Warren Haynes featuring Railroad Earth, "Ashes & Dust" (Concord)

Michael McCall, AP

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Tali Arbel, AP Business Writer

US agency voting on new phone rules

The copper network behind landline phones, a communications mainstay for more than a century, is going away, as cable and fiber-optics lines come along with faster Internet speeds.

But the alternatives have drawbacks, including an inability to withstand power outages. The U.S. government is considering rules yesterday to make sure Americans aren't caught off guard in emergencies if they switch.

Many people already scoff at the idea of a landline. About 45 percent of U.S. households just use cellphones. But outside of cities, cell service can be poor.

Yet even among households with wired phone service, according to a government study last year, about half of them have already ditched copper-based landlines for an Internet-based phone service sold by phone and cable companies and typically packaged with TV and Internet services. That's expected to continue.

Fiber and cable networks come with big benefits, such as faster Internet service and expected improvements in 911, including the ability to send texts and photos. Verizon also says fiber lasts longer than copper and doesn't need as much maintenance.

But a home phone that relies on the Internet will go out when the power does. With copper networks, the phone line delivers its own power source and will continue to work — as long as the phone isn't a cordless one needing separate power.

In addition, many home bur-

glar alarms and medical alert systems run on the copper network, so people need time to get replacements.

"One of the concerns we all have is people don't understand the difference in these kinds of phone service. They see a phone is a phone is a phone," said Mimi Pickering, a documentary filmmaker in rural Whitesburg, Kentucky. She fought unsuccessfully against her state's recent decision to drop requirements that phone companies provide old-fashioned phone service to all homes. Instead, they can now offer a wireless or Internet-based service instead.

■ About 45pct of US households just use cellphones. But outside of cities, cell service can be poor

The march away from copper appears inevitable.

"There will be so few people on the network that it won't be economical to maintain it," said Jon Banks, a senior vice president at United States Telecom Association, which represents Verizon, AT&T and other phone companies. "When copper wears out, nobody really wants to replace it with more copper."

AP PHOTO



A.J. Bowen works on fiber-optic installation in Norton, Vt.

The Federal Communications Commission is expected to require that phone companies warn residential customers three months before they aban-

don a copper network. For businesses, six months' notice would be required.

Phone and cable companies would also have to warn customers with newer technologies that the phone will go out with the power, so people have time to get replacement alarms and backup batteries if necessary.

"If you mess with people's phone systems without explaining what's going on, you have real issues," said Harold Feld, senior vice president at the public-interest group Public Knowledge. "People's lives depend on it." He estimates that about 80 million people as well as several million small businesses still have traditional copper-based phone service.

Some customers, consumer advocates and the telephone-workers union accuse the phone companies of not repairing copper networks that they want to shut down. The new rules would prohibit companies from retiring a copper network through neglect. If it wants to

abandon copper, it would need to tell customers.

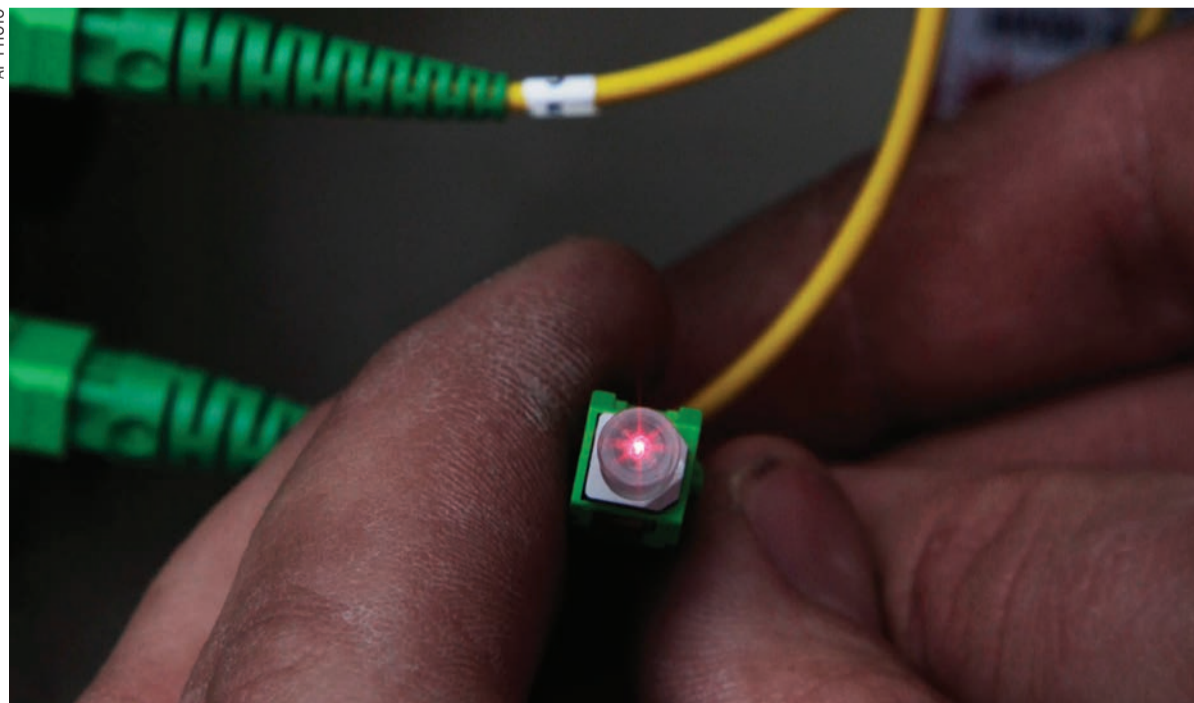
In FCC filings, Verizon says that retirement-by-neglect is a myth, while CenturyLink says it spends billions of dollars to maintain its copper network and doesn't see the need for this rule.

Consumer advocates have particular concerns about remote areas. They worry that copper will be replaced there with wireless services that don't do as much.

They point to what happened on the western part of New York's Fire Island after Superstorm Sandy destroyed a lot of the copper wiring there in 2012. Verizon wanted to replace it with a home phone service called Voice Link, which relies on the cellular network but is not a cellphone. But, unlike copper, Voice Link couldn't be used for Internet service and didn't work with faxes or credit-card machines used by small businesses.

After complaints, Verizon said it would also build a fiber network.

AP PHOTO



Tyson Hoffman, a Verizon service technician, checks a cable as he connects it to the Verizon FiOS fiber network in Rockville, Md.

WORLD OF BACCHUS

Jacky I.F. Cheong

The Austro-Italian Legacy



TIEFENBRUNNER KIRCHLEITEN SAUVIGNON 2011

Sourced from vineyards at up to 700m asl, matured on lees for 6 months and partly aged in large oak casks. Bright lemon-lime with luminous golden reflex, the invigorating nose offers pomelo peel, calamansi, greengage, elderflower and flint. With racy acidity and pulsating minerality, the focused palate delivers lemon peel, gooseberry, starfruit, sage and crushed oyster shell. Medium-bodied at 13.5%, the exotic entry continues through a spicy mid-palate, leading to a minerally finish.



TIEFENBRUNNER PINOT BIANCO 2011

Sourced from vineyards at up to 600m asl, matured on lees with regular batonnage in large oak casks for 7 months. Light citrine with gleaming sunshine reflex, the refreshing nose offers lime peel, quince, peach and seashell. With energetic acidity and clear minerality, the cleansing palate delivers lemon peel, green apple, Tianjin pear and rock salt. Medium-bodied at 13%, the pristine entry persists though a lively mid-palate, leading to a minerally finish.



TIEFENBRUNNER PINOT GRIGIO 2011

Sourced from vineyards at up to 350m asl, matured with regular batonnage in large oak casks for 7 months. Translucent citrine with pastel golden reflex, the uplifting nose offers pomelo, green apple, pear, fresh herbs and seashell. With crispy acidity and palpable minerality, the pure palate delivers lemon, greengage, melon, cut grass and rock salt. Medium-bodied at 13.5%, the citrusy entry evolves into a composed mid-palate, leading to a minerally finish.



TIEFENBRUNNER FELDMARSCHALL VON FENNER MÜLLER-THURGAU 2011

Sourced from vineyards at over 1,000m asl, matured on lees with regular batonnage 7 months, aged for 9 months in vats and 12 months in bottle. Brilliant citrine with shimmering golden reflex, the graceful nose offers pomelo peel, guava, peach pit, jasmine, white smoke and crushed rock. With generous acidity and articulate minerality, the classy palate delivers lemon peel, nectarine, apricot pit, sage, bouquet garni and rock salt. Medium-full bodied at 13%, the elegant entry evolves into an expressive mid-palate, leading to an indelible finish.

Austria and Germany are brothers in various ways, and Trentino-Alto Adige (Trentino-Südtirol in German) is to Austria what Alsace (Elsass in German) is to Germany. Both Trentino-Alto Adige and Alsace are limitrophe regions of the countries they now belong to – the former an Austro-Italian enclave, the latter a Franco-German territory. Despite their small size, both are amongst the wealthiest in their countries and extremely quality-driven when it comes to wine. Situated in the northernmost of the country and bordering Austria, Trentino-Alto Adige is one of the five Autonomous Regions of Italy, alongside the Aosta Valley, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Sardinia and Sicily. The smallest wine region of Italy, Trentino-Alto Adige is perhaps the oldest of all Italian wine regions, whose viticultural history can be traced back to the Rhaetians some 3,000 years ago. When Rome was still a republic, Rhaetian wines were mentioned in historian Cato the Elder's De Agri Cultura and, according to naturalist Pliny the Elder, it was from the Rhaetians that the Romans learnt to store and transport wine in wooden barrels. When Rome became an empire, both Augustus and Tiberius were fans of Rhaetian wines; the latter was so renowned for his drinking prowess that he was nicknamed Biberius (from bibere, meaning to drink in Latin). As elsewhere in Europe, monastic influence began to take root in the 8th century, and remain important through the Middle Ages. Trentino-Alto Adige comprises two sub-regions: Trentino and Alto Adige (Südtirol in German), each with roughly half of Trentino-Alto Adige's total population of approximately 1 million. The former is culturally more Italian, with 90% of its inhabitants having Italian as native language, whereas the latter is decisively German, with 2/3 of its inhabitants having German as native language. Trentino-Alto Adige, and indeed half of Italy for that matter, was part of the Austrian Empire and subsequent Austro-Hungarian Empire until the Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye in 1919. Located along the Dolomites, Alto Adige is a particularly Alpine region. Mineral-rich and with huge diurnal variation, its vineyards are amongst the highest in Italy, producing white wines capable of challenging those produced in Friuli. Owned by the same family since 1675, Tiefenbrunner is one of the leading estates in the region.

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
10.00 - 23.00
T: 88022539
Level 2, MGM MACAU



IMPERIAL COURT
Mon - Friday
11:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 23:00
Sat, Sun & Public Holidays
10:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 23:00
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



AUX BEAUX ARTS
Tue - Fri: 18:00 - 24:00
Sat & Sun: 11:00 - 24:00
Closed every Monday
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
Taipa, 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
Tue-Sun: 17:00 - 24:00
Closed every Monday
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



MGM PASTRY BAR
10:00 - :00
T: 8802 2324
Main Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU



ROSSIO
Mon - Sun: 07:00 - 23:00
T: 8802 2385
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



SQUARE EIGHT
T: 8802 2389
24 hours
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

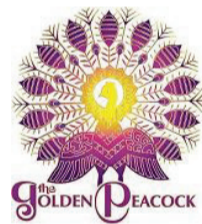
JAPANESE

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

O SANTOS
20 Rua da Cunha, Taipa Village
T: 2882 5594
Wednesday - Monday
12:00 - 15:00 / 18:30 - 22:00

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 Taipa
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
Macau Fisherman's Wharf
Edf, New Orleans III
Macau



LION'S BAR
Thursday to Tuesday
19:00 - 17:00
(Close every Wednesday)
Tel: 8802 2375 / 8802 2376

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

FOOD

GASTRONOMIC WONDERLAND



When one thinks of a Cantonese restaurant, immediately, the image of individuals talking loudly while sharing their food comes vividly to mind. However, in recent years, many sophisticated Chinese restaurants opening their doors to discerning diners offer a Western style dining ambiance with exceptional, authentic, Chinese food. For those who prefer quiet, elegant dinners with close friends, these venues are outstanding and exquisite. Lai Heen at The Ritz-Carlton, Macau is one of these gems.

Situated on the 51/F of The Ritz-Carlton, Macau, Lai Heen's interior design is stunning. The ambiance brings you back to Macau's Chinese and Portuguese colonial past. At the entrance corridor, a waterfall welcomes guests with soothing sounds of water and lit-up waves, reminiscent of the old trading port of Macau. The corridor is decorated with

intricate patterns hollowed out to decorate walls and ceramic vase chandeliers, creating a majestic and refined atmosphere.

The main dining area is carefully decorated with classic China vessels and decorations. Blue glass pendants suspend from the four-meter high ceiling. When paired with the ceramic vase chandeliers, a sense of classic sophistication is portrayed. The walls are embellished with beautiful motifs crafted from thousands of pieces of Azulejo ceramic tile work. Named after different precious stones from ancient Chinese culture, the five private dining rooms are ideal for intimate and celebratory occasions. Some rooms are separated by movable sliding partitions for flexible table arrangements.

With such an impressive interior, there is no doubt that the dishes also marvel the palate. The man behind the delicious creations is Executive Sous Chef Bill Fu, who

heads the culinary team at Lai Heen. A highly experienced chef, Chef Bill brings over 25 years' experience to the restaurant.

"I started getting into the business of cooking when I was a teenager. At that time I wanted to earn money during the summer vacation, but then it became a lifelong passion," he says. A true Hong Konger, Chef Bill began his career in the culinary world in the Hong Kong catering industry. Both his father and uncle were chefs so following in their footsteps, he started to cook part-time as a teenager in his father's establishment. With a growing specialism in exceptional Cantonese fare, he then went on to build his career at local Hong Kong eateries before moving on to key roles at the Excelsior Hotel, The Peninsula Hong Kong and The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong. Young and ambitious, he points out that he likes to spend time with older chefs and learn

from them, and build upon their knowledge. "I like to learn their technical skills, but they can be stubborn and sometime resist new ideas. I am younger, and that is why I like to experiment and come up with new things. Tradition is important, but innovation should also be recognized as an important personality trait for a chef," he comments. Chef Bill comes to The Ritz-Carlton, Macau from the The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong where he played a key role in achieving two-star Michelin restaurant recognition for the hotel's Cantonese restaurant, Tin Lung Heen. Now, he will ensure the restaurant is nothing short of outstanding in the quest for similar Michelin recognition. Indeed, dishes at Lai Heen are delicious, and aesthetically, the presentations are artistic and bold. Char-grilled barbecued Ibérico pork is a must-have item on the menu. Chef Bill purposefully

chose the pork neck to be the main ingredient, char-grilled to perfection will a bit of sweetness. Due to the high fat content, it is juicy and rich in flavors, with various tantalizing textures. Another wonder is the special braised pork belly with preserved vegetable. Traditionally, it is a dish that is created to go with rice, but at Lai Heen, Chef Bill tones down the savouriness, so that it can be enjoyed on its own. The meat is succulent and soft. Once put in the mouth, the fat begins to melt, which imparts a buttery taste on the tongue, then, the sweetness from the sugar sprinkled on top kicks in, finally combining with the fragrant aroma of the preserved vegetable. This might not be the healthiest creation on the planet, but I am sure a lot of us will happily die from heart attack after savoring it. After all, with such incredible talent, Chef Bill definitely has the license to kill.



WHAT'S ON



TODAY (AUG 7)
SPLENDID DAYS
 – CLASSICS OF DECADES MUSIC CONCERT 2015

Macau Dong Fong Culture Artistic Group is renowned for its series of music and concerts. This year the group is presenting this new and sophisticated concert at The Venetian Theatre. The concert features several elements of Chinese music, bringing in traditional Chinese instrumentalists and dancers to demonstrate the beauty of Chinese culture. Audiences will be left amazed by the professional stage production, lighting and high-end audio, making it a night of remarkable experience.

TIME: 8pm
 DATE: August 7-8, 2015
 VENUE: The Venetian Theatre
 ADMISSION: MOP200, MOP400, MOP600
 LANGUAGE: Chinese
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818
<http://en.sandsresortsmacao.com>



GHOST THE MUSICAL

Love transcends anything, even death, as we will soon find out with this one of a kind musical. Based on the 1990 Academy Award-winner movie, Ghost the Musical is a West End and Broadway production like nothing we have seen before. Technically perfect, this show displays a technologically advanced set complemented by a music score that brings back the iconic power of Unchained Melody. Nominated for five Olivier and three Tony Awards, Ghost has been voted the ninth best musical of all time. The production continues to take the world by storm, in tours that have sold over a million tickets, in Europe, the USA and Asia.

TIME: 8pm (August 7-9, 2015)
 3pm (August 8-9, 2015)
 VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre, Avenida Xian Xing Hai, s/m, NAPE
 ADMISSION: MOP180, MOP280, MOP380, MOP480
 ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Centre
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2840 0555
<http://www.ccm.gov.mo>
 Tickets: (853) 2855 5555
<http://www.macaoticket.com>



TOMORROW (AUG 8)
I LOVE MACAU ORIGINAL MUSIC SHOW
 – MACAU ORIGINAL MELODIES CONCERT

The nine local singers, who released the charity album Macau Original Melodies Vol.1 last year, including David Chan, Anabela leong, Fanny Cheong, Hyper Lo, Cherry Ho, Bighead Cheong, AJ, Josie Ho and Jose Rodrigues, together with band Era The Dot, are going to share most of the songs from the album and exclusively perform new hits from the upcoming charity album, Macau Original Melodies Vol.2, set for release on 12th September to their fans. This year's beneficiary will be the Macau Association of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped, where all proceeds from sales will be donated to the association. Via this project, the singers would like to demonstrate the relevance of original music and art development; to encourage the younger generation to strive for their dreams despite the difficulties ahead; and to create a certain amount of social impact by changing perceptions and to contribute to society at the same time.

TIME: 8pm
 VENUE: Macau Polytechnic Institute Auditorium, R. de Luís Gonzaga Gomes, Macau
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2893 8996
 ORGANIZER: Macau Federation of Trade Unions
 Free admission tickets will be distributed at:
 Rua do Campo No.124, edifício Kin Fai, R/C;
 Rua De Xangai no. 174 Edf. Da Associacao Comercial De Macau, 17D
<http://www.stagefaom.org.mo>



SUNDAY (AUG 9)
MASTERS IN PAINTING
 – CONTEMPORARY WATERCOLORS

This exhibition brings together around 81 watercolors of the highest caliber and 39 renowned artists from mainland China and Macau. The various works on display will feature beautiful landscapes, personalities, flowers and animals. The works showcase not only the incredible talent that is working in Macau and

mainland China today but also various painting styles. Participating artists from the mainland include Liu Dawei, chairman of the China Artists Association, Wu Changjiang, Wang Qijun, Li Xiaolin, Zhao Yunlong, Tian Haipeng, Jiang Zhinan and Ding Sizhong. Macau artists whose works are also on display at the exhibition include Lai Ieng, President of the Macau Artist Society, Poon Kamling and Ng Waiki.

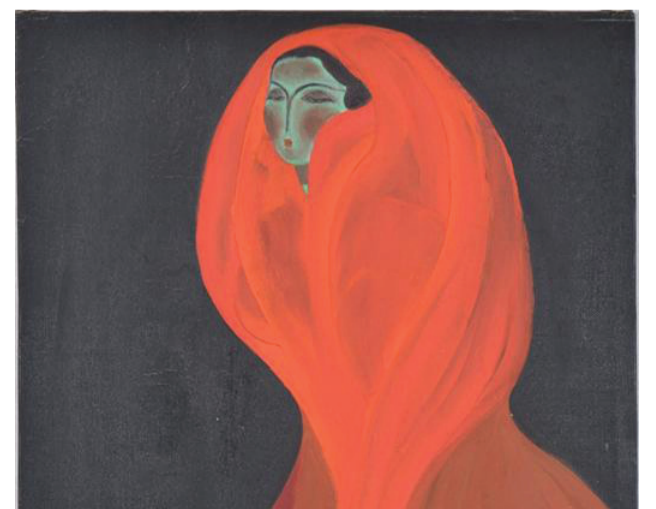
TIME: 11am-7pm (August 7-14, 2015)
 11am-4pm (August 15)
 VENUE: Florence Ballroom, The Venetian Macau
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818
<http://en.sandsresortsmacao.com>



MONDAY (AUG 10)
I AM MY OWN LANDSCAPE
 – EXHIBITION BY CRYSTAL CHAN

This show exhibits Chan's artworks created during her study in New York. Themed human body, the works express the emotion of different parts of the body, and explore the contradictions between inner self and the external environment. Crystal Chan, a young artist, was born in Macau in 1986 and has lived in Taiwan and Greece. After her graduation in hotel management in 2009, she started as a self-taught artist, and has been inspired mostly by what she saw and experienced during her travels. She particularly loves drawing portraits. In her words, the eyes, the nose and the lips speak individually, expressing emotions in a straightforward, honest and innocent way. Chan loves the arts, reflecting her own sentiment. Currently located in New York, she is enrolled in the School of Visual Arts.

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
 UNTIL: August 22, 2015
 VENUE: Albergue SCM, No. 8, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lazaro
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205
 FACEBOOK HOMEPAGE: creativealbergue.scm



TUESDAY (AUG 11)
19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PORTRAIT OIL PAINTINGS - MAM COLLECTION

This exhibition showcases 26 portraits – mainly realistic, with a small number featuring impressionism, expressionism and modern art – from these centuries

assembled by the Macau Museum of Art. Of these portraits, eight were produced by the 19th century painter Lam Qua and his studio, while 18 were painted by fourteen foreign and Chinese artists.

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

ORGANIZER: Macau Museum of Art

<http://www.mam.gov.mo>



WEDNESDAY (AUG 12)
THE GOLDEN DRAGON 2.0

The Golden Dragon 2.0 features the dramatic goings-on in a Chinese restaurant. A boy with toothache, the confusion of an unmarried mother-to-be, an old man with young dreams, a sexy flight attendant's struggle with 'the meaning of existence', parting lovers... It's all on the menu!

TIME: 8pm

DATE: August 8-9, 12-15, 2015

VENUE: Old Court Building, Avenida da Praia Grande, Macau

ADMISSION: MOP150

LANGUAGE: Cantonese

ORGANIZER: Macau Experimental Theatre

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6655 1380

<http://www.mexptheatre.com>



THURSDAY (AUG 13)

EXHIBITION BY CHAN VAI CHUN

This exhibition – showing in the Military Club, an imposing Portuguese building erected in 1870 – features some 120 works by Chan Vai Chun, a famous local manga creator who has immersed himself in culture, art and Chinese Opera, whilst taking the time to publish a book exposing the humorous side of the Cantonese language.

TIME: 11am-7pm

DATE: August 12-16, 2015

VENUE: Macau Military Club, Avenida da Praia Grande, 975

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

ORGANIZER: Macau Foundation

<http://www.fmac.org.mo>

Sands WEEKEND



**EEG 15TH ANNIVERSARY GLAMOROUS
CONCERT IN MACAO**

22 August, Saturday, 8pm

Cotai Arena

Only limited tickets are still available to celebrate the incredible success of the past 15 years of the Emperor Entertainment Group (EEG). The group brings together some of the biggest names from its history for a spectacular one-night only concert with the theme of "Gold". Along with Joey Yung, Twins, Leo Ku and Hins Cheung, there will be plenty of other performers who will participate in the concert, including movie star Raymond Lam, Sherman Chung, Vincy, William Chan, Ken Hung, Mag Lam, Jay Fung, Steven Cheung, Deep Ng, Alex, Adason Lo, Angela Hui and Lillian Chan. Famous stage actor Jim Chim will perform as well.

*Note: Artists are subject to change without prior notice.

Tickets: MOP/HKD880, call reservations +853 2882 8818



BON JOVI LIVE IN MACAO

25-26 September, Friday and Saturday, 8pm

Cotai Arena

Music legends Bon Jovi have a glittering history of success won over the past 30 years. The band is an icon of American rock music. Fans will be treated to an unforgettable night of Bon Jovi's huge arsenal of worldwide hits, including 'Livin' On A Prayer', 'You Give Love A Bad Name', 'Who Says You Can't Go Home', 'It's My Life' and many more. This is a concert experience that no true rock fan will want to miss.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD580, call reservations +853 2882 8818



SHOP AND STAY

Shopping expenditure can now earn hotel stays starting from just MOP20,000. With over 650 luxury duty-free shops offering all your favourite brands, it's never been so easy. Shoppers spending within Shoppes at Four Seasons, Shoppes at Venetian and Shoppes at Cotai Central (except dining outlets) are entitled to the hotel offers below:

MOP60,000 - 1 night in a Deluxe Room at Four Seasons Hotel Macao, Cotai Strip®

MOP30,000 - 1 night in a Royale/Bella Suite at The Venetian Macao®

MOP20,000 - 1 night in a Deluxe Room at Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central

Shoppers with valid Shop & Stay Voucher must book the room on or before 30 September 2015 and check-in on or before 31 December 2015.

See sandsresortsmacao.com for details and terms and conditions.



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澳門金沙度假區

Sands

RESORTS
COTAI STRIP MACAO



WORLD OF WONDER

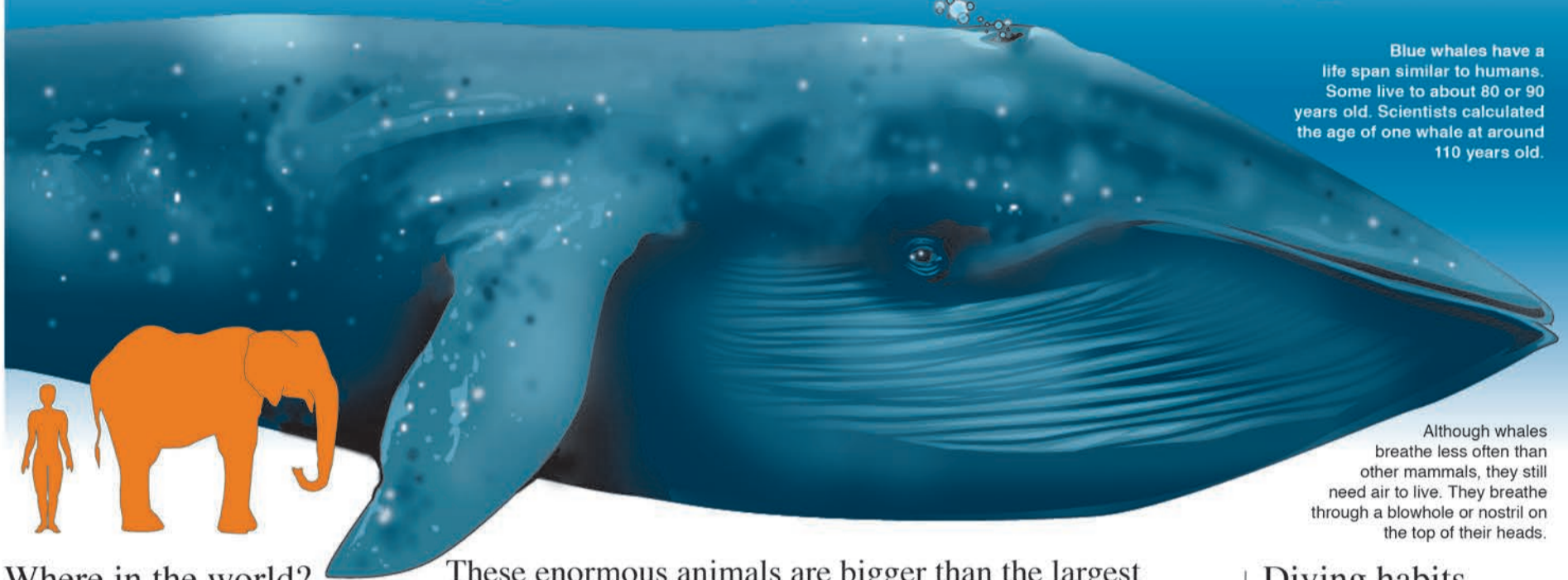
Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

By Laurie Triefeldt

BLUE WHALES

Blue whales have a life span similar to humans. Some live to about 80 or 90 years old. Scientists calculated the age of one whale at around 110 years old.

Although whales breathe less often than other mammals, they still need air to live. They breathe through a blowhole or nostril on the top of their heads.



Where in the world?

Blue whales are found in oceans around the world. They feed for months in polar waters before migrating to the equator to breed and give birth. Blues usually travel in small groups, in pairs or alone. During migration, the whales eat little or nothing, surviving on body reserves for four months or more.



They cruise the oceans at about 5 mph (8 kph), but can accelerate to more than 20 mph (32 kph) if they need to.

Communication

The blue whale is not only the largest animal on Earth; it is also the loudest. (The South American howler monkey is the second loudest.) Blue whales communicate and navigate using low, loud moans, pulses and whistles that can travel hundreds, maybe thousands of miles. The call of the blue whale reaches levels up to 188 decibels. (A jet engine reaches 140 decibels.)

You can visit the NOAA website to hear a blue whale call:
1.usa.gov/1NTqRpg

These enormous animals are bigger than the largest dinosaurs, bigger than any animal that has ever lived on Earth. Amazingly, these endangered giants reach this size by feeding almost entirely on tiny, shrimplike crustaceans called krill.

What's for dinner?

Blue whales are toothless baleen whales. They strain their food from the water using 260 to 400 thin, fringed plates called **baleen**, which hang from each side of the mouth. A whale takes huge gulps of water and krill, closes its mouth and, using its sievelike baleen as a kind of filter, squirts the water out and swallows the krill.

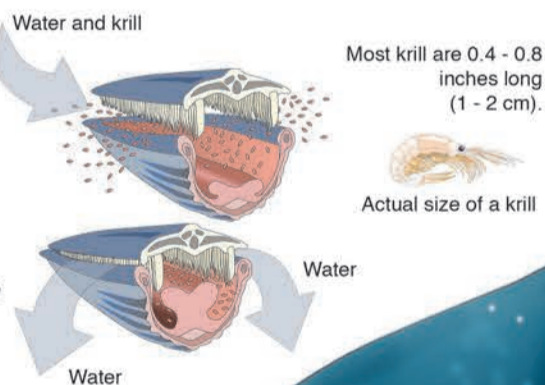
During the feeding season, a blue whale eats more than 4 tons (3.6 metric tons) of krill daily. Sometimes, two whales will work together to catch the krill. One whale will use its body to block the prey, forcing the school of krill into an easy-to-eat group.



It would take 40 elephants, each weighing 5 tons (4.5 metric tons), to equal the weight of a blue whale.

Weighing in

Blue whales are born weighing about 3 tons (2.7 metric tons). The calf nurses on its mother's milk for several months and gains about 200 pounds (91 kilograms) every day. A full-grown blue whale weighs in at about 200 tons (181 metric tons).



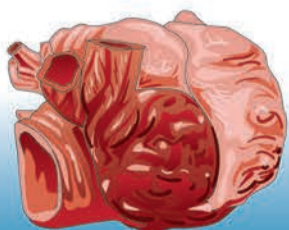
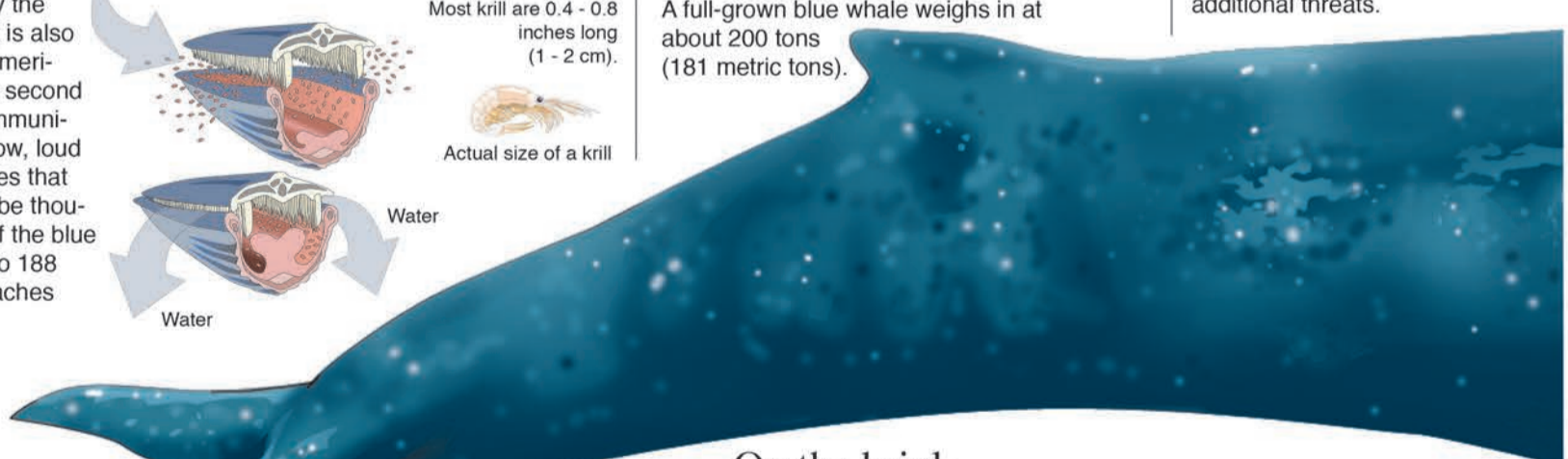
Diving habits

While sperm whales will dive thousands of feet deep, blue whales dive no deeper than about 300 feet (90 m). These diving depths are due to the whales' food source of krill living at shallow depths, and because blue whales need to surface every few minutes to breathe.

Threats

As you might expect, an animal this large has few predators, but sharks and killer whales have been known to attack them.

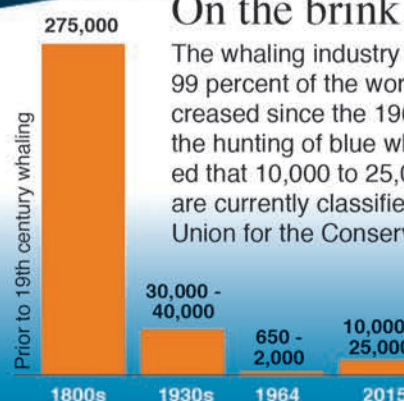
Environmental changes, including **habitat loss** and **toxins**, are challenging this cetacean's survival. Also, climate change is having a disastrous impact on krill populations, the blue whales' major food source. Ship impacts and getting tangled in fishing gear are additional threats.



Did you know?
A blue whale's heart is about the size of a small car.

On the brink

The whaling industry of the early and mid-1900s destroyed almost 99 percent of the world's whale population. Some populations have increased since the 1960s, when many countries passed laws to stop or limit the hunting of blue whales, but the species remains vulnerable. It is estimated that 10,000 to 25,000 blue whales swim our oceans today. Blue whales are currently classified as endangered on the Red List of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.



It is estimated that just 1 percent of original blue whale populations exist today.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; www.enchantedlearning.com; www.whaleroute.com/migrate/; http://animals.nationalgeographic.com; http://www.worldwildlife.org; www.marinemammalcenter.org; National Marine Mammal Laboratory - NOAA

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