



Travel machine

From roller coasters to cruises to destinations, virtual reality is exploding as a way to market travel. You can parasail and paddle-board using virtual reality content produced by Florida's Visit St. Pete/Clearwater Tourism Board. You can land a jet on Hamilton Island in Queensland, Australia, then go swimming with tropical fish in the Great Barrier Reef. You can watch the opening song "Circle of Life," recorded at a live Broadway performance of "The Lion King," and peer around the theater at everything from the aisles and audience, to the performers and props, to the conductor and backstage. And even if you can't af-

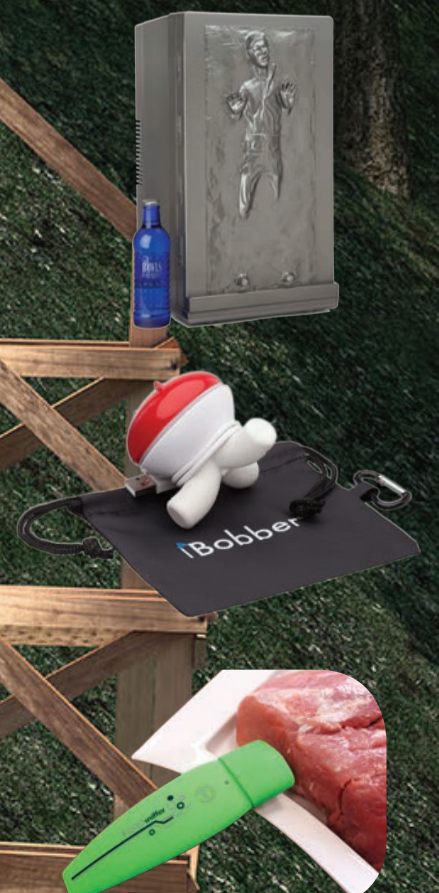
ford Dubai's luxury Burj Al Arab Jumeirah hotel, you can take a 3-D online tour of a royal suite, lobby, helipad, bar, spa, restaurants, marble staircase with cheetah-print carpet and rotating canopy bed. "VR is taking the world by storm, similar to what mobile did seven years ago," said Abi Mandelbaum, CEO of YouVisit, which has created over 300 VR experiences for destinations, from Vatican City to Mexico's Grand Velas Riviera Maya. "Virtual reality is the most realistic experience you can have of a place without being there. It's powerful. It gets people excited and engaged and interested in having that experience in real life."

CONTINUED ON X3



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- BOOKS: POLITICS IN A TIME OF CRISIS: PODEMIOS AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE BY PABLO IGLESIAS
- MUSIC: ROYALTY BY CHRIS BROWN
- WINE: THE GOLDEN STATE IV
- FOOD: EUROPEAN SOPHISTICATION

LAST MINUTE GIFT GUIDE



DRIVE IN

Jocelyn Noveck, AP

A SENSITIVE WILL SMITH ANCHORS WORTHY 'CONCUSSION'

One of the most impactful scenes in "Concussion" is a brief and wordless one: Just a few seconds, really, of a high school football team going through its drills. We don't know who these young, determined, helmeted kids are, but the message is sobering, especially if you're a parent: Concussion-related brain damage from football is not merely a threat to the professionals featured in the film. It's a threat to our football-playing kids, too. And that's a strong argument for any football lover (or parent of one) to see this film, which is anchored by a sensitive, understated performance by Will Smith as the real-life forensic pathologist who earned the NFL's animosity for shining a torch on the problem in Pittsburgh, home of the revered Steelers. The film, directed and written by Peter Landesman, may suffer from an overly simplistic, sometimes sermonizing script that could have used some sharp editing. But it's to be ad-

mired for bringing a truly important issue to the big screen — one we hate to hear about, perhaps, but isn't going to go away no matter how much we in this football-mad country try to avoid it. We first get to know Dr. Bennet Omalu, a Nigerian immigrant, in the autopsy room, where he has the strange habit of speaking to the corpses he's cutting into, asking them questions. He wants their help, in deducing how they died. This approach endears him to some colleagues while antagonizing others. One day, a beloved former Steeler ends up on Omalu's table: Mike Webster — "Iron Mike" — who died at only 50 after his last years were plagued by dementia. Omalu wonders why a high-level athlete would experience such a rapid deterioration. Ignoring colleagues' pleas to leave the case alone, Omalu orders testing of Webster's brain, at his own expense. "I don't know what I'm looking for," he tells his skeptical but supportive boss, Cyril Wecht (a

wisecracking Albert Brooks.) What he discovers is shocking: Webster's brain has been ravaged, a result of repeated blows over his long career — some 70,000 hits, Omalu estimates. He co-authors an article in a medical journal outlining his findings that Webster and others like him suffer from CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy). He thinks the NFL will be glad to know, so it can better help its athletes. Well, he's wrong. There's been some controversy over whether the "Concussion" filmmakers may have deleted scenes to mollify the NFL, but the NFL certainly does not look good here. Rather than welcome Omalu's findings, the league and its representatives seek to discredit him. Wecht tries to explain this to an oblivious Omalu, who doesn't watch football (or even turn on the TV): "You're going to war with a corporation that owns a day of the week — the same day the church used to own." Or, as former Steeler doctor Julian Bailes (Alec Baldwin) tells

AP PHOTO



Will Smith as Dr. Bennet Omalu, in a scene from Columbia Pictures' "Concussion"

him: "You gave their biggest boogeyman a name." Bailes has watched a string of players die under tragic circumstances, including the suicides of Junior Seau in 2012 and Dave Duerson a year earlier. (Duerson's family, incidentally, has publicly disputed how Duerson is portrayed in the film.) He turns into a crucial ally of Omalu's. Much of the credit here goes to Smith: He masters Omalu's Nigerian accent in a convincing, unshowy manner, and remains hugely watchable throughout. When Omalu goes to a night-

club — not his usual territory — to dance with a new lady friend who will eventually become his wife, Smith makes Omalu's social shyness believable — for a minute, you forget that this is the hugely charismatic Will Smith. Baldwin is effective, too, though his own accent is uneven. As Omalu's future wife, the gorgeous Gugu Mbatha-Raw is touching but seriously underused — and saddled with more heavy-handed lines than she deserves. It is she, though, who points out a deep truth to Omalu that

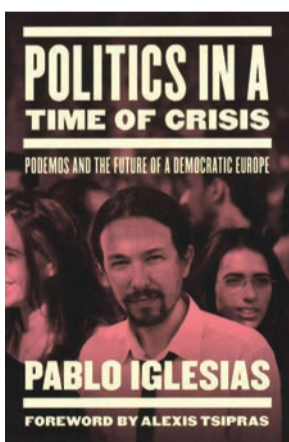
he hasn't yet seen: Football, she tells him, is a beautiful game. Indeed it is. But it also has a dark, troubling side which many have been loath to acknowledge, and that's a simple reason that "Concussion" is a worthy enterprise indeed.

"Concussion," a Sony Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America "for thematic material including some disturbing images, and language." Running time: 123 minutes. ★★★☆☆

BOOK IT

AN UNVARNISHED PORTRAIT OF PABLO IGLESIAS, SPAIN'S ENFANT TERRIBLE

Pablo Iglesias is a master of political communication. The Spanish politician can fire up a live audience of thousands with a brief speech, charm millions of viewers through the television screen and engage persuasively in one-on-one conversations. The success of Podemos, the anti-establishment party he helped found, owes everything to him, and to his special gift with the spoken word. The written word, however, is a different matter. "Politics in a Time of Crisis..." [was] published in English just ahead of Spain's general election on December 20. It brings together four essays: on the nature of power, on Spanish history, on the origins of the recent economic crisis and on the present state of the nation. It is padded out with a couple of speeches and a foreword written by Alexis Tsipras, the Greek prime minister (a friend and political ally). The book serves as an introduction to one of the Iberian peninsula's most original and talented politicians of recent years. Iglesias helped launch Podemos in January 2014, with no programme and no money. In May it won 8 per cent of the vote in EU elections. At one point this year, polls suggested it might become the biggest bloc in the Spanish parliament. Support has fallen since but Podemos is certain to enter Spain's legislature this month, a standard bearer for Europe's radical new left. As Iglesias makes clear, the bulk of the book was written before Podemos was founded. It therefore provides an unvarnished glimpse of the author's thinking, without the layers of moderation and calculation that party politics demand. He



Politics in a Time of Crisis: Podemos and the Future of Democracy in Europe, by Pablo Iglesias (Verso)

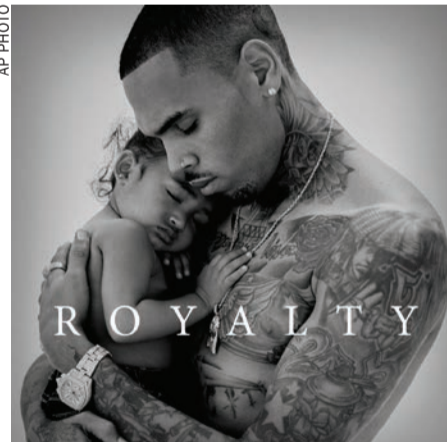
says in the preface: "This book is unusual. Neither the thoughts set down in it, nor the style of writing, were conditioned by the kind of political responsibilities I have now... Here you have me, then — ready for a duel in the OK Corral, wearing my last grin as an enfant terrible." That makes the book sound somewhat more thrilling than it is. Its main flaw is the absence of an overarching theme. Instead, there is a series of vignettes and observations that are at times pertinent and illuminating. Often they are neither. Iglesias gallops through complex topics (the last century of Spanish history, say) at such speed that he is likely to leave most readers frustrated. The former political scientist also displays an unfortunate fondness for academic jargon, and for the kind of sentence that collapses into itself like a

soufflé. Take this one: "The fact is that the readjustment of power relations within the state apparatus is one of the keys to transformative political action." Is that really a fact? And, if it is, what the hell does it mean? There is much that makes sense in Iglesias's critique of modern capitalism, not least his (widely shared) anger at the tendency to "privatise the profits and socialise the risks" in modern banking. But he slips too easily into conspiracy theories and generalisations. The eurozone crisis, for example, is cast as part of an international master plan to convert the European periphery into a factory for "low-paid, labour-intensive products and services". Iglesias adds: "Our province of Spain has been selected, along with Greece, Portugal, Italy and Ireland, to act as the slum of the Europe invented by the Party of Wall Street." What shines through is Iglesias's determination to rid the left of its ambivalence towards political power. He ridicules the "white knights of the purity of principle", too obsessed with theory to actually fight for change. There are important insights scattered throughout, not least about the economic forces and political frustrations that allowed Podemos to flourish. In some ways, however, the arguments are undermined by the simple passage of time: for all the deep economic problems that remain, countries such as Spain and Ireland have yet to be converted into slums. On the contrary, European Commission data show they are the fastest-growing economies in the eurozone this year. Spain's established parties are battered and wounded — but polls suggest they will remain the largest forces in parliament. Iglesias ends his book with four simple words: "Tomorrow belongs to us." He may yet be proved correct. Right now, however, the old order looks pretty resilient.

Tobias Buck, Financial Times
(The writer is the FT's Madrid bureau chief.)

tTUNES

CHRIS BROWN IS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ON 'ROYALTY'



Chris Brown, "Royalty" (RCA)

Chris Brown knows his strengths, and on his seventh studio album, "Royalty," the singer plays to them with solid success. It's a feat worth applauding, considering how disparate the multi-dimensional singer's specialties seem to be. There's the electro-dance stuff: the contagiously upbeat "Fine By Me"; the mid-tempo and cool "Zero"; and the Tayla Parx-assisted "Anyway," with its arena-filling waves of synth sounds. There's also the electronic-influenced "A Little More (Wake Me Up)." "You inspire me, gimme a reason to keep on," Brown sings to his daughter, Royalty, who appears on the album cover, and inspired the release's title as well. It's good, radio friendly pop music that seems as natural to Brown as traditional R&B fare, which he delivers with expertise on the old school-leaning "Make Love"; the sweet but slightly explicit "Back to Sleep"; and the steamy, Keith Sweat-inspired "Who's Gonna (Nobody)." Brown pushes the R&B envelope, too, linking with Dutch DJ-producer Afrojack — who worked on Brown's "Look at Me Now" — for the very sexy "Discover," with its trap-inspired production and slinky lyrics. And Brown gives typical R&B groveling a fresh spin on "Proof," thanks, in large part, to help from "Trap Soul" singer Bryson Tiller, who co-wrote the track. Last, but not least, there is "Brown, the singer-with-rapper-sensibilities," who shows up on "Little Bit," singing, "Baby, you been on that pole too long." The singer's edgier side appears again on the very likable "Wrist," featuring Solo Lucci. All-in-all, "Royalty" is a worthwhile collection, proving that in a world where "stay in your lane" is common wisdom, it doesn't exactly apply to people like Brown, who have a few lanes to choose from.

Melanie J. Sims, AP

HOLIDAYS

Beth J. Harpaz, AP Travel Editor

Travel industry embraces virtual reality as marketing tool



Anan Bishara, left, and Denise Burrell, right, both from New York, check out a virtual reality display that lets visitors explore the Pike Place Market and other attractions atop the Space Needle in Seattle

CONTINUED FROM FRONTPAGE

Virtual reality offers immersive, 3-D experiences via videos and images with 360-degree perspectives, using a USD100 headset from Samsung or a virtually free cardboard contraption designed by Google. You need your own smartphone, and the \$100 headset works only with certain Samsung models. You can also watch VR videos online with a 360-degree view, though they're not as immersive as using a headset because you're not shutting out your surroundings. Whichever your method, by moving the device or cursor in different directions, you can see the sky, the floor, down a hallway or around a corner. Mandelbaum said the average user spends 10 minutes on a VR experience, "an eternity" in the digital world.

Dolly Parton's theme park, Dollywood, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, created a VR experience to introduce a new ride, Lightning Rod, billed as the "world's fastest wooden coaster."

"You can take your phone and spin it up and down, look behind you, to the left or right, to get an idea of what this ride is like," said Dollywood spokesman Wes Ramey, comparing

VR is taking the world by storm, similar to what mobile did seven years ago.

ABI MANDELBAUM
CEO OF YOUVISIT

the VR experience to looking at photos or reviews before booking a trip. "The ride will not open until March, but this builds buzz around it. It gives people an opportunity to ride it virtually before it's completed." Mall of America in Minnesota is lau-

ncing its first VR videos this month, showing its onsite aquarium, Nickelodeon Universe theme park, Santa exhibit, a shopping wing and a choral performance. Carnival Corp.'s new Fathom brand, which plans voluntourism cruises to the Dominican Republic and Cuba, is working on VR content that shows participants in onshore activities like planting seedlings in a reforestation program, reciting English with school children, dancing to Latin music and sharing a meal with locals.

Because so few consumers own viewing devices, some VR producers set up at trade shows, shopping malls, pop-up stores and even on the street where they can provide the headsets. The Miami-based Newlink public relations firm created a VR experience for the Dominican Republic that can be seen on YouTube in a simple 360-degree version, but the company also showed it at trade shows, supplying VR headsets so viewers could get the full effect. As a marketing technique, said Newlink spokeswoman Lourdes Perez, "it is the next big thing."

Is there a risk that viewers will be so satisfied by the VR experience that they won't need to see the real thing? Visitors to Seattle's Space Needle observatory sometimes focus less on real views of the city out the windows because they're so mesmerized by virtual views on the observatory's walls, screens and videos.

But Mandelbaum's not worried. When YouVisit set up tents in Manhattan where more than 1,000 visitors used VR headsets to experience a Carnival cruise, "the reactions were incredible. They would say, 'I didn't know I could do all that on a cruise.' Once they see what it's like, they're more inclined to book."

GIFT GUIDE: THE SEASON'S WEIRD AND WACKY TECH GIFTS

Whether you're shopping for a Trekkie, a tech-savvy fisherman or a paranoid chef, gadget gifts abound this year. They may be weird or wacky, but they are sure to be memorable as last-minute gifts for the geek who has everything.

FOODSNIFFER (USD130)

'Tis the season for overeating, leftovers and food poisoning. Got friends who like to shove meat to the back of the fridge only to find it a little past its "use by" date?

The Foodsniffer may be the gift you're looking for. The device will "sniff" your slightly funky chicken, beef, pork or fish. It senses certain volatile organic compounds that are emitted when food starts to decompose. Through a smartphone app, you see whether the meal is fresh, starting to spoil or spoiled. The device won't detect the presence of gastroenteritis from bacteria such as salmonella or e. coli, so make sure you cook your food sufficiently, even if it's deemed fresh.

Online: <http://myfoodsniiffer.com>

HAN SOLO FRIDGE (USD160)

Nothing says chill like Han Solo frozen in carbonite. This mini fridge's front door features a 3-D rendering of a frosty Han and holds 18 canned beverages.

The fridge can switch between cold and warm modes, but sadly a dreamy 1980s Harrison Ford doesn't collapse at your feet when you switch the heat on. The fridge door does, however, give off the same eerie red glow that appeared when Princess Leia thawed him out in "Return of the Jedi."

Want something more contemporary? ThinkGeek also sells a tiny \$70 mini fridge that holds just a six-pack. It looks like the BB-8 droid from the new "Star Wars" movie.

Online: <http://www.thinkgeek.com/product/1caf>

"STAR TREK" PHASER UNIVERSAL REMOTE REPLICATOR (USD150)

"Star Wars" is all the rage now, with hundreds of products tied to the new movie. But Trekkies need their toys, too. For the Captain Kirk in your life, this universal remote has been recreated with 3-D scans of Star Trek props.

You operate this remote using motion rather than buttons. It combines the small mini phaser and the larger pistol-shaped phaser models used as weapons on "Star Trek." The smaller one can be used separately or inserted into the larger phaser, which has a pistol-grip base.

Beam strengths can be customized, and the remote makes a variety of phaser firing sounds. A metal stand with a hidden magnet is included, making the phaser easy to grab if your home is overrun by Tribbles, or you just need to change the channel.

Online: <http://www.thinkgeek.com/product/1db4>

IBOBBER (USD100)

Hooking Moby Dick is easier when you've got portable sonar on your side.

The iBobber fish finder attaches to your fishing line and floats on the surface of the water. Once you cast it, the iBobber can show you where fish are and how big they are. It also maps the floor of the waterbed, letting you know how deep the water is and pointing out obstacles, as far down as 135 feet, whether you fishing from shore, boat or dock.

The device syncs with your phone via Bluetooth and displays the images on your screen. It's not video, but more like a cartoon graphical representation of what's below you.

The app keeps a log of your excursions. Favorite fishing spots can be tagged with GPS in case you need to come back later to catch the big one that got away.

Online: <http://reelsonar.com>

MISTLETOE DRONE (USD70)

What's a gift guide for geeks without some kind of drone? Even better, this drone can act as a remote-controlled wingman for those looking for a holiday smooch.

The mistletoe drone hovers with a pair of counter-rotating rotors. An infrared remote provides throttle and directional control.

For a big party, up to 20 of these drones can be flown independently without radio interference problems.

The drone's rechargeable battery provides up to five minutes of flight and takes 30 minutes to charge through its remote. When controlling it, just make sure the drone ends up over the right person. A mistake can be disastrous.

Online: <http://www.hammacher.com/Product/87706>



Samsung Gear VR on display during the Oculus 2 conference in Los Angeles

WORLD OF BACCHUS

Jacky I.F. Cheong



WINDWARD VINEYARD MONOPOLE PINOT NOIR 2013

Dark garnet with cardinal-Tyrian purple rim, the nose is delicate and fragrant, offering blueberry and boysenberry for fruits, imbued with eucalyptus, vanilla spice, Oolong tea and potpourri. Supported by abundant acidity, lush tannins and palpable minerality, the palate is nuanced and promising, delivering blackberry and cassis for fruits, complemented by black pepper, Qimen tea, sous bois and charred oak. Full-bodied at 13.8%, the composed entry carries onto a tangy mid-palate, leading to a long finish. Reminiscent of a Nuits-Saint-Georges. Merely 1900 cases produced.



WINDWARD VINEYARD MONOPOLE PINOT NOIR 2012

Dark garnet with cardinal-carmine rim, the nose is ebullient and floral, effusing cranberry and redcurrant for fruits, infused with cinnamon, rose tisané, cedarwood and iris. Braced by generous acidity, silky tannins and fresh minerality, the palate is alluring and discreet, emanating red cherry and plum for fruits, supplemented by nutmeg, Earl Grey tea, forest mushroom and lavender. Medium-full bodied at 14.3%, the pure entry continues through a chiselled mid-palate, leading to a lingering finish. Reminiscent of a Chambolle-Musigny. Merely 1700 cases produced.



WINDWARD VINEYARD MONOPOLE PINOT NOIR 2010

Dark garnet with carmine-rosewood rim, the nose is aromatic and brooding, presenting bilberry and cassis for fruits, augmented by spice box, dark chocolate, leather and graphite. Anchored by bounteous acidity, tasty tannins and clear minerality, the palate is masculine and profound, supplying blackberry and black cherry for fruits, enriched with black olive, allspice, coffea arabica and game. Full-bodied 14.7%, the dense entry persists through a smoky mid-palate, leading to a gamey finish. Reminiscent of a Gevrey-Chambertin. Merely 1375 cases produced.

The Golden State IV

(Continued from "The Golden State III" on 27 November 2015)

For long periods in its viticultural history, the US did not have any formal appellation system in place, and the perimeters of individual wine regions were often identical to administrative units such as states and counties. It was not until 1980 that the American Viticultural Area (AVA) system came into being. While appellations in the Old Continent were often demarcated through the centuries by Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries as well as royal decrees, in the US the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) of the Department of Treasury is the authority, having assumed this duty in 2003 from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of the Department of Justice, finally severing the inseparable ties between Pinots and pistols as well as Rieslings and rifles.

At present, there are approximately 230 AVAs, which can be as tiny as a village or so gigantic as to cover several states. Any interested parties can petition the TTB to create a new or modify an existing AVA. It is markedly different from the general European system, and imposes little or no rules with regards to grape varieties, winemaking methods and yield, meaning any grape variety can be grown in practically any AVA. The stated vintage must constitute at least 95% of the grapes used in making a wine, whereas at least 85% has to come from the state AVA (or, in the case of county- or state-level AVAs, at least 75%).

Unhindered by history and tradition, American winemakers apparently enjoy more freedom than their European counterparts, although traditionalists may argue that the concept of terroir is in no way as closely adhered to in the US as in Europe, which remains one of the key issues dividing New World and Old World wines.

Situated in the western part of Paso Robles, the family-owned Windward Vineyard is a Pinot Noir specialist, a bijou estate that is entirely quality-driven. Covering merely 6ha, the estate grows Pinot Noir only, and produces one single wine, which can taste decidedly different depending on the vintages. Inasmuch as it is inspired by the elegant Burgundy style, Windward Vineyard is not afraid to interpret Pinot Noir in an authentic American way.

To discover the beauty of American Pinot Noir, contact Mr Ross Chan of CCF Wines; W: www.ccfwines.com; E: rosschan@ccfwines.com

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



JADE ORCHID

Mon - Sun
11:00am - 3:00pm & 6:00pm - 11:00pm
Mezzanine Floor, Harbourview Hotel, Macau
Fisherman's Wharf
T: (853) 8799 6315 | (853) 8799 6316

FRENCH

**寶雅座
AUX BEAUX ARTS**

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



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 Taipa
Sun-Thur: 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



PRAHA BAR
Monday to Sunday
8:00am - 1:00am
Mezzanine Floor, Harbourview Hotel, Macau
Fisherman's Wharf
Reservation Number : (853) 8799 6605

TASTE OF EDESIA

Irene Sam

FOOD

EUROPEAN SOPHISTICATION

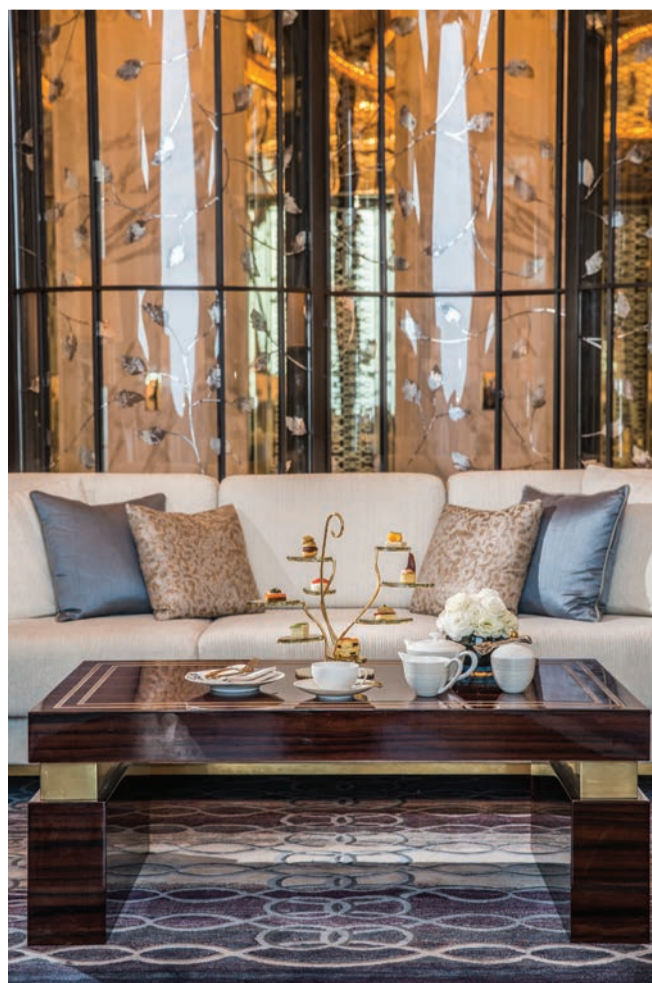


The Ritz-Carlton, Macau has taken the sophistication of afternoon tea into the next level with spectacular views over the Cotai skyline at the classic Ritz-Carlton Bar & Lounge, an exclusive lounge area perfect for guests to indulge in a crafted afternoon tea experience.

Afternoon tea was first introduced as upper-class women in the 19th century would curb their hunger between lunch and dinner with friends, with a tray of tea, dainty sandwiches, and cake. This soon became a fashionable and social occasion and would feature intricately decorated delicate bone china. Delicious scones, savory, and sweet delights are the main features of the Ritz-Carlton afternoon experience. If you are still hungry, the wagyu beef mini burger on the bar snacks menu is also a must-try. As the night approaches, the best

way is to kick off the evening with an “Aperitivo.” With its origins in Italian culture, the term “Aperitivo” has become synonymous with both the ritual of going out for a pre-dinner drink as well as the drink consumed. With the purpose of getting the night off to a great start, “Aperitivo” is traditionally a highly fun and social occasion. At The Ritz-Carlton Bar & Lounge, “Aperitivo” will take on a different theme each evening such as American, Italian, Thai, British and French. Guests can commence their evening with a range of premium cocktails that match the theme of the day as well as a range of pre-dinner nibbles. Morsels will be served to the table, while guests can also indulge in an anti-pasti and cheese buffet.

Another venue inside the hotel worthy of mentioning is the Ritz-Carlton Café, which offers an unsurpassed French culinary journey sure to inspire the senses. Chef Raphaël Kinimo, Lyon-born executive chef of The Ritz-Carlton Café, explains that no celebration in France is complete without a seafood platter with family and friends. Featuring a myriad of fresh assorted seafood such as oysters, prawns and crab, meals at the local brasserie are often topped off with a glass of crisp white wine to end on a high note. The Ritz-Carlton Café brings this tradition to Macau where guests can enjoy a sumptuous and appetizing seafood buffet sourced from France, as well as crabs and lobsters from Canada and Alaska, followed by a freshly prepared main course of traditional recipes.



WHAT'S ON



TODAY (DEC 24)
10TH MACAU DESIGN BIENNIAL

Founded by Macau Designers Association, 'Macau Design Biennial' has been held every two years since 1994 and is now in its 10th edition. The Biennial is the only professional competition for the whole design sector of Macau and a representative event for designers in the cross-Strait four regions. It seeks to enhance the understanding of the importance of creative design and corporate image to industrial development. The competition of this edition has attracted participants from China, Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and Malaysia. Some 2,202 entries by 694 participants were received this year.

TIME: 10am to 7pm (Closed on Monday, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: February 14, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art
ADMISSION: Adult MOP5, free for Children under 12 years old, elderly over 65 years old (Admission is free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 7588
ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau
<http://www.triennialmacau.com>



TOMORROW (DEC 25)
ART SCHOOL MUSICAL - EDWARD LAM DANCE THEATRE

Edward Lam Dance Theatre is returning to Macau with Art School Musical, a thought provoking reflection about love and art. The Hong Kong director and playwright reinvented The Butterfly Lovers' legend, a classic Chinese work frequently adapted into a diversity of performing expressions. Premiered last May, the piece is Lam's vibrant, humorous and personal vision tackling a variety of themes, from gender issues to the essence of ingenuity.

TIME: 7:30pm (December 25-26)
2:30pm (December 27)
VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre, Avenida Xian Xing Hai, s/m, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP150, MOP200, MOP250, MOP300
ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Centre
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2870 0699
<http://www.ccm.gov.mo>



SATURDAY (DEC 26)
MACAU LIGHT FESTIVAL 2015 - JOURNEY OF LIGHTS

Revolving around the theme about the Butterfly Fairy and little elves, the Macau Light Festival 2015 - Journey of Lights will dazzle a total of 11 famous attractions including some world heritage attractions in town. The Festival features three program highlights known as 3D Mapping, Light Installation and Interactive Games. People of any age group are welcome to join the event. Locals and visitors can follow the Butterfly Fairy to look for little elves and embark upon an enchanting journey of glittery lights.

TIME: 7pm-10pm
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Senado Square; Lou Kau Mansion; Cathedral Lane, Cathedral Square; St. Dominic's Church; Ruins of St. Paul's; Holy House of Mercy & A-Ma Temple.
ADMISSION: Free
TOURISM HOTLINE: (853) 2833 3000
ORGANIZER: Macau Government Tourist Office
<http://www.macautourism.gov.mo>



SUNDAY (DEC 27)
NOTABLE COUPLE – ARTEFACTS FROM SUN WAN, DR. SUN YAT-SEN'S SECOND DAUGHTER, AND HER HUSBAND, TAI ENSAI

This exhibition brings together collections from five museums in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, namely the Shenzhen Museum, the Hong Kong Museum of History, the Macau Museum, the Guangdong Museum of Revolutionary History, and the Memorial Museum of Generalissimo Sun Yat-sen's Mansion. Showcasing more than 100 precious relics and images, the exhibition introduces the everyday life of Dr. Sun's family, allowing visitors to share their joy, anger, sorrow, and happiness as ordinary people while simultaneously experiencing the unique Chinese-Western charm of the Republican era and their extraordinary roles in it.

TIME: 10am-6pm (Ticket booth closes 5:30 pm; Closed on Mondays; Open on public holidays)
UNTIL: January 10, 2016
VENUE: Exhibition Gallery, 3rd floor, Macau Museum, No. 112 Praceta do Museu de Macau
ADMISSION: MOP15
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911
ORGANIZER: Macau Museum
<http://www.macaumuseum.gov.mo>



MONDAY (DEC 28)
CREATIVE & COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION

Creative & Collective Exhibition can be seen as a group exhibition without a theme. Four artists – Lei Ieng Wai, SAH, Gigi Lee and Justin Chiang – all agree that creation is rather incompatible with the concept of "collective / group". The so-called "collective" only means here an intersection of time and space. Genuine art is a personal and intimate act and therefore discussing it "in group" would destroy its originality.

Instead of having a curator, the exhibition arises from the four artists' frequent gatherings. They just want to showcase their respective personal works in the same space and time lapse. They would get together, but never create together, discussing artistic creation but apparently never influencing each other. Their ideas on each other's artistic expression are unfathomable. Only when their works are displayed together can we discover the subtle relations between individuals and the group.

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: January 31, 2016
VENUE: No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026
ORGANIZER: OX Warehouse
<http://oxwarehouse.blogspot.com>



TUESDAY (DEC 29)
MACAU PRINTMAKING TRIENNIAL 2015

As one of the four great inventions of ancient China, it is well-known that printing has had a historical significance. The art of printmaking which can trace its history to over a thousand years ago is therefore of great importance and has become a prevailing artistic medium nowadays. To promote printmaking art, in succession to the first eminent Macau Printmaking Triennial, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Macau S.A.R. will present its second edition in Autumn 2015. The Triennial seeks to provide an overview of the latest aspects and innovations of contemporary printmaking throughout the world. As a platform for printmaking experts from various countries, it also offers great opportunities to encourage exchange and advancements in the genre of printmaking.

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: February 14, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai,

s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 7588
ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau
<http://www.triennialmacau.com>



WEDNESDAY (DEC 30)
STARRY VIENNA – NEW YEAR CONCERT

On 1st January 1959, for the first time Vienna Philharmonic had their annual New Year concert at the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde (Golden Hall) in Vienna broadcasted on TVs. Since then, cheerful polkas, elegant waltzes and joyful operetta arias from Vienna have been performed everywhere at New Year's Eve for decades. On this occasion, the Macau Orchestra invited prestigious conductor Martin Sieghart from Vienna to present the New Year concert in Macau in a pure Viennese style for the first time, hence bestowing New Year's blessings upon music lovers in Macau.

TIME: 8pm
VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre, Avenida Xian Xing Hai, s/m, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP100, MOP200, MOP300, MOP350
ORGANIZER: Macau Orchestra
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0782
<http://www.weibo.com/orchestraMacau>



THURSDAY (DEC 31)
EXHIBITION OF ANTIQUE MAPS "GLOBAL MAPPING OF MACAU"

Ancient maps are the visual representation of human beings' observation and imagination about the world. Not only do the maps manifest human understanding and delineation of the places they are in, they also embody their contemplation and imagination of the unknown area. An exchange hub of the East and the West, Macau played a crucial role in maritime trade. Nearly 40 reproductions of maps dated between the 13th and 20th Century provided by the MUST Library will be showcased.

TIME: 10am-7pm (Mondays to Saturdays)
11am-7pm (Sundays, closed on Public Holidays)
UNTIL: January 31, 2016
VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre, Avenida Xian Xing Hai, s/m, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZERS: Sir Robert Ho Tung Library
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2877 1177
<http://www.library.gov.mo>

Sands WEEKEND



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:

- Spend Hotel Stay**
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 and check-in on or before 1 June 2016.

See sandsresortsmacao.com for details and terms and conditions.



SEASONS OF WONDER

Daily 6-10:30pm until 3 January 2016

The outdoor lagoon area of The Venetian Macao is transformed into a stunning outdoor winter fairyland, complete with artificial snow. The dazzling Seasons of Wonder 3-D light and sound spectacular once again delights visitors by projecting beautiful seasonal images on the 43,000-square-foot façade of The Venetian Macao. Powered by digital video mapping technology, the free-admission show will run every half hour from 6pm to 10:30pm.



GRAND ORBIT HOLIDAY FEAST FOR TAKEAWAY

Daily until 4 January 2016

Grand Orbit, Level 1, Conrad Macao, Cotai Central

Enjoy classic festive flavours with family and friends. Order your all-time favourite package of roasted dishes including turkey, chicken, beef striploin and ham, complete with your choice of sides.

For more details, please contact +853 8113 8910
or Macau.GrandOrbit.Reservation@conradhotels.com



DREAMWORKS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

24, 25, 26 December

Urumqi Ballroom, Sands Cotai Central

Celebrate with your favourite DreamWorks Animation stars from Shrek, Madagascar, Kung Fu Panda and How to Train Your Dragon at a fun filled, mouth-watering holiday party! Enjoy special holiday songs and performances by the DreamWorks friends while you dine on a variety of delicious themed dishes and desserts. There's also a special gift for every child (4-12 years old) and family packages are available. Terms and conditions apply including a 10% service charge.

Time: Lunch: 12pm-2:30pm | Dinner: 6pm-8:30pm
Adult: MOP/HKD478 (Lunch)/MOP/HKD498 (Dinner)
Child: MOP/HKD248 (Lunch)/MOP/HKD268 (Dinner)
Family Package (3 Adults + 1 Child): MOP/HKD1370* (Lunch) / MOP/HKD1450* (Dinner)
Reservations: +853 8113 7915 Email: shrekfast@sands.com.mo



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WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

By Laurie Triefeldt

CALENDARS

Calendars can be thought of as a kind of clock that keeps track of days, weeks, months and years. Today, there are more than 30 different kinds of calendars in use around the world.

Year of monkey

The oldest continuously used calendar in the world is the **Chinese calendar**, in use since about 2637 B.C. Ancient Chinese astronomers divided their calendar into 354 days with 12 months of 29 or 30 days. This calendar counts years in cycles of 60. Each year is named for an animal, with each animal year occurring every 12 years. Last year was the Year of the Ram or Sheep. The year 2016 is the Year of the Monkey. Next year will be the Year of the Rooster.

This traditional lunar-solar calendar is still used to identify the Chinese New Year and other special events, but modern China uses the Gregorian calendar in everyday business life.



Ancient African calendar stick made of bone

What's in a name?

The word "calendar" is derived from the ancient Roman word "kalendae" or "calends," which was the first day of each month. In Latin, the word for accounting books is "kalendarium."

Keeping track

It is not known how long people have been keeping track of the passage of time by counting the days, months and years. But archaeologists have discovered ancient African and European **calendar sticks** believed to be more than 30,000 years old. These bone sticks had notches carved in them that recorded the phases of the moon.



This solar calendar was carved into bone about 10000 B.C.

Lunar time

Many ancient civilizations used the moon to mark events. It takes the moon about 29.5 days to travel around the Earth. This is called a **lunar month**. The earliest calendars were based on the 12 cycles of the moon. The Sumerians of Mesopotamia, ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, Chinese, Greeks and Romans used a lunar calendar. A **lunar year** is about 355 days. Today, there are many cultures that still use a lunar calendar to plan events.



The marvelous Maya

The most sophisticated and accurate calendar was developed in the Americas by the **Maya**. Mayan mathematicians and astronomers calculated the solar year to be 365.2420 days. This is a difference of only seconds from what modern scientists have concluded.

Maya months

The Mayan calendar had 365 days divided into 18 months of 20 days each, with an extra five-day period called **Uayeb** at the end.



SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; Encyclopedia Americana, Grolier Inc.; The Story of Clocks and Calendars: Marking a Millennium, Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books; Calendar Art, Four Winds Press

7 days a week

The ancient **Babylonians** were the first to divide a week into seven days. They also divided the day into 24 hours, the hour into 60 minutes and the minute into 60 seconds. They named the days for the sun (Shamash), the moon (Sin) and five stars.*

The Romans renamed the seven days after Roman gods: Sol, Luna, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn. Our current days are based on old Norse and Anglo-Saxon translations for these gods: Sun (Sunday), Moon (Monday), Tiw (Tuesday), Woden (Wednesday), Thor (Thursday), Frigg (Friday), Saturn (Saturday).

Babylonian astronomical symbols



*The five stars were actually planets.

The amazing Aztecs

The **Aztecs** built a mighty empire in the Valley of Mexico during the 1400s that continues to influence Mexican culture today. They built great temples and used a highly advanced 365-day solar calendar. The Spanish brought an end to the Aztecs' years of wealth and power in 1521 when they attacked and conquered **Tenochtitlan** (Mexico City).

Aztec days

The Aztec calendar had 365 days divided into 18 months of 20 days each, with an extra five days at the end of the year. This calendar worked for 52 years before it no longer matched the seasons. To compensate, they started a new calendar every 52 years.



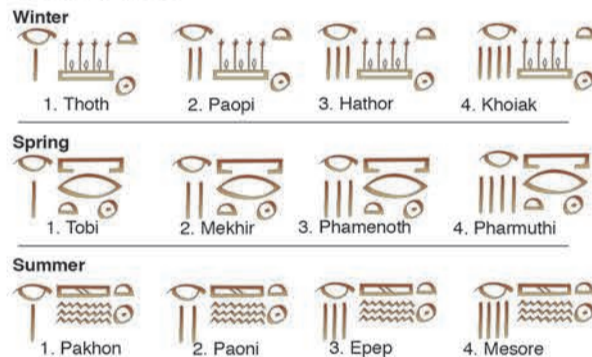
Solar time

Scholars believe that the **ancient Egyptians** were the first to use a **solar calendar**. The lunar calendar was always 10 to 11 days short of a seasonal year, so the Egyptians replaced their lunar calendar with a solar one around 2772 B.C. A solar year is about 365 days, the amount of time it takes for the Earth to travel around the sun (although the ancients believed the sun was traveling around the Earth). Their calendar had 365 days divided into 12 months of 30 days each, with an extra five days added at the end. The new year began when the star Sirius began to rise, signaling the Nile River's spring flood.



Egyptian months

The ancient Egyptians named their months after their gods.



Year of confusion

In 46 B.C., **Julius Caesar** changed the Roman lunar calendar to a solar one. The Julian calendar would have 365.25 days, divided into 12 months beginning in January. An extra day was added to February every three years (later corrected to four years). The year 46 B.C. is known as the year of confusion as it had 445 days instead of 365. Eighty days were added to get the seasons to align with the new solar calendar.

Changes

In A.D. 525, a Catholic monk calculated what he thought to be the birth of Jesus and created a Christian calendar where the year 1 B.C. (before Christ) was followed by A.D. 1 (Anno Domini, Latin for "in the Year of Our Lord").



In 1582, **Pope Gregory XIII** created the calendar we use most today. It is called the Gregorian calendar. This calendar was designed to correct errors in the Julian calendar, but it took centuries before it was widely adopted.

Islamic calendar

The **Islamic calendar** is the religious calendar of all Muslims. This calendar begins with prophet Muhammad's flight from Mecca to Medina. This flight, called the **hegira**, took place in A.D. 622 on the Gregorian calendar. This lunar calendar has 12 months, each beginning at sunset on the day the moon's crescent is sighted.

Islamic months

1. Muharram	2. Safar	3. Rabi I
4. Rabi II	5. Jumada I	6. Jumada II
7. Rajab	8. Shaban	9. Ramadan
10. Shawwal	11. Zulkadah	12. Zulhijah

Hebrew calendar

The **Hebrew calendar** is the official calendar of Israel and the religious calendar for all Jewish people. According to tradition, the Hebrew faith began 3,760 years ago, and the Jewish calendar begins on this date. This year is the Jewish year 5776, which dates back to the beginning of Creation. Based on the ancient Babylonian calendar, it is a lunar calendar that usually has 12 months.

Hebrew months

1. Nissan	2. Iyar	3. Sivan
4. Tammuz	5. Av	6. Elul
7. Tishri	8. Cheshvan	9. Kisleev
10. Tevet	11. Shevat	12. Adar