

MOVIES: 50 SHADES DARKER
BOOKS: THE FREEDOM BROKER
MUSIC: SON VOLT, "NOTES OF BLUE"
WINE: THE PRIDE OF PERU
FOOD & BEVERAGE: CHEESEY BAKED GRITS
A DEEPLY SATISFYING STAPLE



times Extra

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weekend Guide



THE NORTH KOREAN MATA HARIS

A pair of women suspected of killing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's half brother at a Malaysian airport allegedly carried out the Cold War-era assassination job at the order of Kim's spy service in Pyongyang. Male agents were likely involved in the hit-squad too, but it's the two women who South Korean spies believed used needles, spray or something else to poison Kim Jong Nam to death on Monday. Inside Extra, a look at some of the famous North Korean female spies X3

DRIVE IN

Jake Coyle, AP

GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT? THEN SEE '50 SHADES DARKER'

In all the kinked knots and twists of satin that adorn "Fifty Shades Darker," none is more worthwhile to uncoil than the tangled absurdities of its central dominator, Christian Grey. He's a singularly ridiculous cocktail of money, abs and sex toys. "The right term is sadist," he says in "Fifty Shades Darker," the second in a planned trilogy based on E.L. James' best sellers. He buys companies. He flies helicopters. He's proficient with nipple clamps. He's like some kind of humorless combination of James Bond and Dirk Diggler, both debonair and dirty. More plausible figures of masculine fantasy include the Backstreet Boys and Roger Rabbit. "Fifty Shades Darker" digs deeper into the demons and traumas of Mr. Grey, as played by Jamie Dornan. Much of the film's entertainment is watching Dakota Johnson, as the comparatively normal Anastasia "Ana" Steele, try to act opposite a distorted dreamboat who wakes to exercise on a pommel horse and who knows all the hair dressers in Seattle. Occasionally she implores him to stop acting so weird — but not often enough.

And then there are our glimpses into his past that make

for some of the movie's most unintentionally funny moments. In his childhood bedroon, we spy a picture of teenage Christian in front of the Taj Mahal and, most amazingly, a "Chronicles of Riddick" poster. It hangs in the background of a pivotal scene and the questions linger long afterward. Is the key to Christian that he's a huge Vin Diesel fan? Was it a passing fancy or was Christian — this globe-trotting sexual enigma — equally enthusiastic for subsequent installments of "Riddick"? Alas, we will never truly unlock the mysteries of Grey.

"Fifty Shades Darker," which has maintained its lilywhite palate despite its title, takes up the action three weeks after the previous film left off. Christian, seeking to make amends after their split, comes calling for Ana, promising he's ready for a more "vanilla" relationship after the violence of his desires frightened Ana away. "I want to renegotiate terms," is how he puts it, definitely speaking like a recognizable human being.

The pair quickly gets back into the swing of things. They shower. They ride elevators. They shower again. The sex scenes are a little steamier and the sculpted bodies of John-

son and Dornan are no less up to the task. But there's a slight shift in point of view. Director James Foley ("Glen-garry Glen Ross," "At Close Range") has taken over the reins from Sam Taylor-Johnson, who clashed with James. Whereas the author wanted slavish adherence to her, ahem, prose, Taylor-Johnson had the gall to try to improve it. She partly succeeded: the ably directed "Fifty Shades of Grey" was better than you'd expect.

The same can't be said for "Fifty Shades Darker," the kind of movie that's fun only when you're laughing at its flaccid attempts at drama. Not only was Taylor-Johnson replaced, the script this time was penned by James' husband, Niall Leonard. It plays out as a sequence of softcore stimulations with flourishes of melodrama that intrude (and are quickly dismissed) like unwelcome bedroom guests. An abusive boss (Eric Johnson) plays a foil (and a poor one at that) for the controlling Christian. A figure from the past (an underused Kim Bassinger) warns Ana that her boyfriend will only be happy with total obedience.

Made bashful by the ubiquity of pornography, the movies have grown so sexless nowadays that one wants to root for



AP PHOTO
Jamie Dornan as Christian Grey (left) and Dakota Johnson as Anastasia Steele in "Fifty Shades Darker"

the timid eroticism of "Fifty Shades." But Foley has dispensed with eroticism's key ingredient, foreplay, and suffocates the conventionally shot sex scenes with music. One encounter is papered over by the most questionable of aphrodisiacs, Van Morrison. The real dominating force here, as before, is Johnson

and the fluttering fluctuations of Ana's heart. So why does "Fifty Shades of Grey" belong to Christian? The movie doesn't hang on Ana's experience; she spends most of the film playing defense to Christian's psychology. Ana, who works in publishing, speaks of being swept away by Bronte and Austen, we never see

her reading a book. But she's the one who ought to be in control.

"Fifty Shades Darker," a Universal Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "strong sexual content, some graphic nudity and language." Running time: 118 minutes. ★★★★

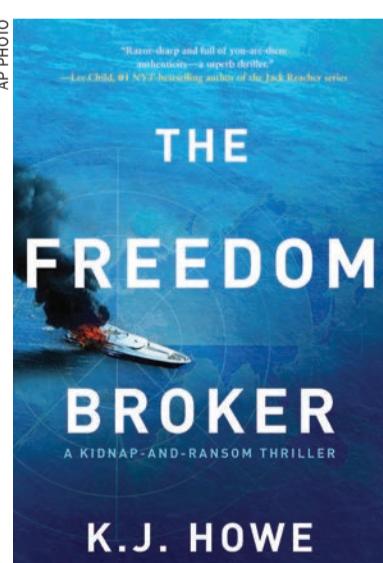
BOOK IT

'THE FREEDOM BROKER' HAS GRIPPING ACTION, THRILLS

A woman who runs an organization that specializes in recovering victims from kidnappings finds herself in a case that hits too close to home in K.J. Howe's novel "The Freedom Broker." Thea Paris runs Quantum International Security. She's the only woman in the world who leads an organization that deals with abductions and recovery. When she was a young girl, she witnessed the kidnapping of her older brother. He was never the same. Her father is a well-respected oil tycoon who wants his daughter to run his company. She visits her father for a birthday celebration. After giving him his present, she heads out for a quick run before the festivities begin. When she returns, she's shocked to find one of her father's most trusted friends is dead. Her father has been taken, and now she must use every source at her disposal to get him back.

Diplomacy mixed with a black-ops team of professionals usually gets results for Thea, but this time both might get her father killed.

Howe uses fascinating details regarding real-world teams that specialize in kidnapping with gripping action and thrills to make this an amazing page-turner. It's hard to believe that this is her first no-



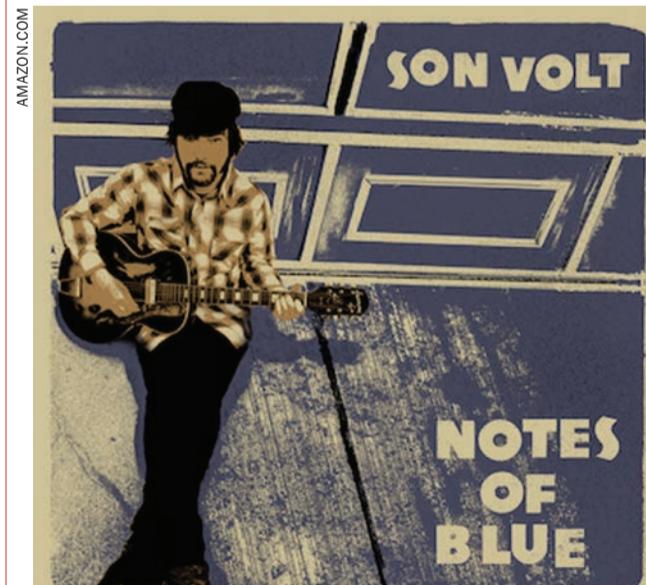
"The Freedom Broker" (Quercus), by K.J. Howe

vel because the story, characters and pacing feel like the work of a much more experienced storyteller. This is the first in a series, and further adventures featuring Thea Paris and her company will be eagerly anticipated.

Jeff Ayers, AP

tTUNES

AN AMERICANA ICON RANGES INTO NEW TERRITORY



Son Volt, "Notes of Blue" (Thirty Tigers)

with Farrar.

The song order seems significant, though. The first two cuts, "Promise the World" and "Back Against the Wall," invite listeners in with an earthy blend reminiscent of Son Volt's powerful early work. After that the album grows more daring but less accessible, mixing blues stylings influenced by Mississippi Fred McDowell and Skip James with unorthodox tunings and other musical adventures. Some of the songs will grow on you; some probably won't. In its best moments, though, "Notes of Blue" will carry you back to the old Son Volt material, evoking mountain ranges and backroads and lonely all-night drives.

Scott Stroud, AP

If Merle Haggard is the defining voice of country music, Jay Farrar might be the artist you'd turn to if you had to explain the Americana genre through the work of just one singer.

Farrar is the creative force behind Son Volt, a band he put together in the mid-1990s after he and Jeff Tweedy dissolved Uncle Tupelo and went their separate ways. His singing style, then and now, calls to mind backroad landscapes and somewhere-in-Louisiana weariness with a style so distinctive that it helped redefine the contours of the genre.

Having given birth to the term "alt-country," the signature Son Volt sound lives again on "Notes of Blue," a mature album that builds on previous milestones to explore new dimensions of the blues. And while the experimentation sometimes diminishes the band's power, there is a payoff in traversing the new territory

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

A South Korean passenger plane that exploded off the coast of Southeast Asia. Army officers lured into sexual encounters. A secret agent spirited back to North Korea in a tiny submarine.

North Korea has a long history of dispatching female spies on some of its most dangerous and deadly assignments. So the arrests of two women in connection with the apparent killing this week of an exiled member of North Korea's ruling family has helped fuel suspicions that the North was involved in the mysterious death.

South Korea's intelligence agency believes that two women poisoned Kim Jong Nam, the half brother of North Korea's ruler, as he stood in a shopping area at the Kuala Lumpur airport. But authorities have so far revealed very little information about Kim's death or the women. Here is a look at some of North Korea's most famous female spies.



KIM HYON-HUI

In November 1987, two North Korean agents posing as a father and daughter left a time bomb on a South Korean jetliner when it stopped in Abu Dhabi during a flight from Baghdad to Seoul. The plane exploded off the coast of Myanmar, killing all 115 people aboard, South Korean investigators say.

When the two, who were traveling with fake Japanese passports, faced arrest at a Bahrain airport, the 72-year-old male agent killed himself by biting a cyanide-tipped Marlboro cigarette. But the woman, Kim Hyon-hui, was stopped just before taking the poison.

After being extradited to Seoul, Kim, then around 27, told investigators that the bombing was intended to disrupt the Seoul Summer Olympics, set to begin 10 months later.

Kim was sentenced to death but was eventually pardoned on the grounds that she was duped by North Korea's leaders. She has written several best-selling books and married a former intelligence officer.

AP PHOTO



Spy Kim Hyon-hui (center) with her mouth taped is taken out from a plane upon her arrival in Seoul, South Korea, from Bahrain, after she bombed a Korean Air jetliner in November 1987



Spy Won Jeong-hwa (right) arrives at the Suwon District Court in Suwon, South Korea. Won, was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison in 2008

North Korean and its long history of using women spies

AP PHOTO



WON JEONG-HWA

Won Jeong-hwa, who entered South Korea around 2001 by posing as a defector from the North, was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison in 2008. South Korean authorities said she used sex to extract sensitive information from South Korean military officers and plotted to kill other officers. The South Korean media quickly dubbed her "North Korea's Mata Hari" after the exotic dancer sent to obtain military secrets in World War I.

After her release from prison, Won said her Mata Hari image had been exaggerated by officials and the media, and that she had used sex as a spying tool only once. She said she had fallen in love with a junior army officer.

Won also said she disobeyed orders to kill two of her South Korean military intelligence sources with poison.

Won struggled to make a fresh start after her release from prison, amid allegations that she was just a low-level informant whose role was inflated by South Korean prosecutors. Won, however, insists she was a highly trained spy.



LEE SUN-SIL

In October 1992, South Korea's intelligence agency announced it had arrested 62 people for establishing a secret southern branch of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party. Spearheading the undergrou-

nd political party was 75-year-old Lee Sun-sil, a North Korean woman who Seoul officials say had operated in the South for 10 years. Lee, reportedly ranked 22nd in the North's political hierarchy, avoided arrest because she had already returned to North Korea by the time the underground party was broken up. A former North Korean agent captured in a separate case in the mid-1990s said he had escorted her to the North in 1990 on board a submersible.

The captured agent said North Korea's founding leader Kim Il Sung, the grandfather of current leader Kim Jong Un, met Lee twice at one of his villas, awarding her an honorary title and giving her a gold watch engraved with his name. Lee, who also was a member of the North's rubber-stamp parliament, died in 2000 and was buried at Pyongyang's patriots' cemetery, the ex-agent said.

WORLD OF BACCHUS

Jacky I.F. Cheong



BODEGA TACAMA CHARDONNAY 2012

A single-varietal Chardonnay from Ica matured for six months in oak barrels. Rich citrine with bright golden reflex, the aromatic nose offers grapefruit, apricot, salted butter and acacia. With generous acidity, the fleshy palate delivers lemon, nectarine, garden herbs and green almond. Medium-full bodied at 13.5 percent, the suave entry continues through a juicy mid-palate, leading to a rounded finish.



BODEGA TACAMA DON MANUEL TANNAT 2012

A single-varietal Tannat from Ica matured for 12 months in oak barrels. Deep garnet with carmine-ruby rim, the fragrant nose presents blackberry, damson, nutmeg and tobacco leaf. With abundant acidity and copious tannins, the energetic palate supplies cassis, prune, grilled herbs and black coffee. Medium-full bodied at 14.5 percent, the leafy entry persists through a tangy mid-palate, leading to a long finish.

The Pride of Peru

Situated in central-western South America, Peru – officially the Republic of Peru – neighbours Colombia and Ecuador in the north, Brazil in the east, Bolivia in the southeast and Chile in the South. Covering just under 1.3 million sqkm and with a population of over 31 million, Peru is as large as France, Italy and Spain combined, or as populous as half of France. Comprising elements of the Pacific desert, Andes mountain range and Amazon rainforest, Peru is remarkable for its extreme biodiversity.

If civilisation is defined by urban settlements, Peru's Norte Chico civilization originated from Caral – the Sacred City of Caral-Supe is a UNESCO World Heritage site – as the oldest in the Americas, and indeed one of the oldest in the world, dating back to the 26th century BC. During the 15th and 16th centuries AD, the Inca Empire, with its capital in Cuzco, was the largest state in the pre-Columbian Americas. At the height of its power, the Spanish Empire – the first empire on which the sun never set – ruled much of the Americas with its four viceroys: Viceroyalty of New Spain (capital: Mexico City), Viceroyalty of Peru (capital: Lima, later Cuzco), Viceroyalty of New Granada (capital: Bogotá) and Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata (capital: Buenos Aires, later Montevideo).

The first vitis vinifera vines were introduced to Cuzco by Spanish conquistadores and missionaries from Andalucia and Extremadura. Conventional wisdom has it that, in the Old World at least, quality wine production is largely confined to those regions lying between the 30th and 45th degrees parallel. Stretching from the equator to Tropic of Capricorn (ca. 23rd degree parallel), Peru seems to have been

dealt a bad hand, but for mitigating factors such as altitude and maritime influence. In fact, growing conditions are so favourable that, during the 16th and 17th centuries, Peru possessed the most important vineyards in the Americas, when it was the political centre of South America. In the 17th century, Potosí – in modern day Bolivia – was the largest city in the Americas thanks to mining. Keen demand from this area further drove Peruvian wine upwards.

Through no fault of its own, the subsequent centuries saw Peruvian wine go into decline. It was not until the turn of the 21st century that Peruvian wine welcomed a long-awaited renaissance. Today, Peru comprises five D.O.s (Denominación de Origen): North Coast, Central Coast, South Coast, Andean Sierra and Selva. Its wine industry is characterised by three large producers and just under 100 small wineries. With a proud history dating back to 1540 when the first vines were planted in South America, Bodega Tacama is Peru's oldest wine producer.

To be continued...

Special thanks to the Consulate General of Peru in Hong Kong & Macao for hosting the private tasting. The following wines were tasted in the presence of Consul General Mr Sergio Manuel Avila Traverso and Deputy Consul General Mr Gonzalo Talavera-Alvarez.

For further information or enquiry, contact Ms Rosie Wu of the Consulate General of Peru in Hong Kong & Macao; E: rosie@peruconsulate.org.hk; T: +852 2868 2622

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
Taipa, Macau
T: 853 8117 5000
morts.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

THAI

NAAM THAI RESTAURANT

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

THE ST. REGIS BAR
Level One, The St. Regis Macao
Cuisine: Light Fare
Atmosphere: Multi-Concept Bar
Setting: Refined, Inviting
Serving Style: Bar Menu
Dress Code: Casual
Hours: 12:00 PM - 1:00 AM; Afternoon Tea:
2:00PM - 5:30 PM
Phone: +853 8113 3700
Email: stregisbar.macao@stregis.com



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

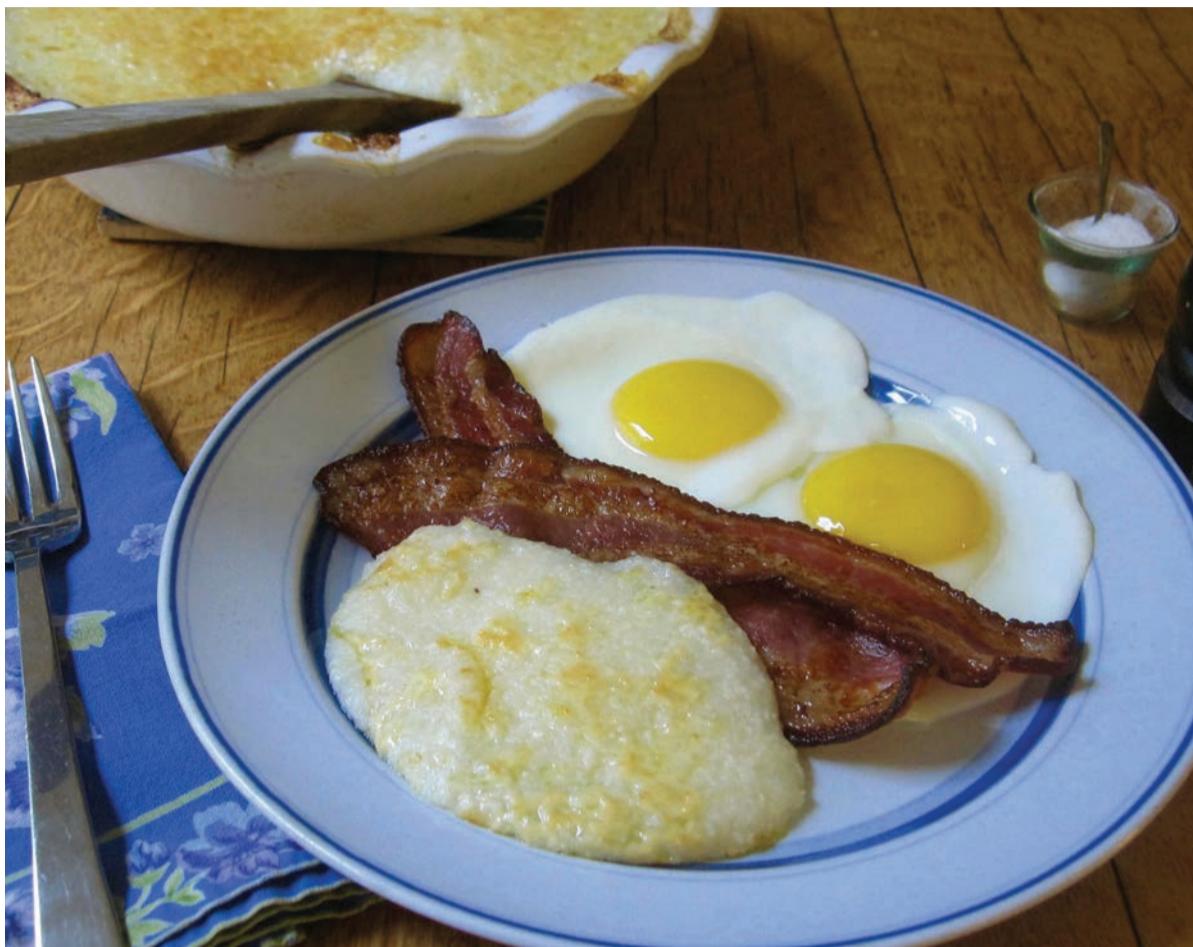
VIDA RICA BAR
2/F, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
T: 8805 8928
Monday to Thursday: 12:00 - 00:00
Friday: 12:00 - 01:00
Saturday: 14:00 - 01:00
Sunday: 14:00 - 00:00

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

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Sara Moulton, AP

AP PHOTO



CHEESY BAKED GRITS

START TO FINISH:

1 hour, 5 minutes (10 active)

Servings: 4 to 6

2 1/2 cups water combined with either 2 1/2 cups vegetable or chicken broth or 5 cups water

1 tablespoon unsalted butter, cut into pieces

1 cup grits (not quick-cooking)

1 teaspoon kosher salt

4 ounces grated sharp cheddar

Freshly ground black pepper to taste

HOW TO COOK IT

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Stir together the water, butter, grits and salt (if using salted vegetable or chicken stock, do not add salt) in a 1-quart ceramic pie plate set on a rimmed sheet pan. Bake on the middle shelf of the oven, uncovered, for 50 minutes. Remove from the oven and preheat the broiler. Stir in three-quarters of the cheese, stirring until melted. Taste and season with additional salt and pepper if needed. Sprinkle the remaining cheese on top and put the grits on a shelf in the upper third of the oven, under the broiler until nicely browned. Serve right away.

Nutrition information per serving: 196 calories; 114 calories from fat; 13 g fat (7 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 37 mg cholesterol; 708 mg sodium; 11 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 0 g sugar; 9 g protein.

CHEESY BAKED GRITS A DEEPLY SATISFYING STAPLE

A kind of carbo-licious porridge made from dried and coarsely ground corn, grits are to Southern cuisine what potatoes are to Northern cuisine — a deeply satisfying staple. Like squash, tomatoes and deep-pit barbecuing, grits came to define Southern cooking via the cuisines of such southeast American Indian tribes as

the Caddo, Choctaw and Seminole. These days we're starting to see grits all over the country. Often they'll show up at breakfast seasoned with salt and pepper, topped with a pat of butter and nestled alongside some bacon and eggs. They're also a signature element in Shrimp and Grits, one of the succulent delights of the

cuisine of coastal South Carolina and Georgia, which has also migrated widely. But wonderful as they are, grits can be a chore — if not slightly dangerous — to make. I'm speaking of regular old-fashioned stone-ground grits, which trump "quick grits" and "instant grits" in both flavor

and texture. Made the usual way, old-fashioned grits need to be stirred relentlessly to avoid clumping. You also have to handle with care; this hot mush has a tendency to bubble up and burn the cook.

Here's a way to avoid those problems: Make it in the oven instead of on the stovetop. You simply combine the grits and the liquid in a ceramic pie dish (a total of 10 minutes hands-on time) and pop it into the oven for 45 to 50 minutes. Then stir in the flavorings — sharp cheddar cheese, in this case — and it's done. How easy is that?

One note, though. The ceramic pie plate (or any shallow ceramic baking dish with the same capacity) is key. Pie plates made of metal or glass do not conduct heat as effectively.

Editor's Note: Sara Moulton is host of public television's "Sara's Weeknight Meals." She was executive chef at Gourmet magazine for nearly 25 years and spent a decade hosting several Food Network shows, including "Cooking Live." Her latest cookbook is "Home Cooking 101."

Pressure on food prices globally weighed on the earnings of consumer goods giant Nestle, which yesterday said it would step up its drive to cut costs.

The company based in Vevey, Switzerland, reported a 6 percent drop in net profit to 8.53 billion Swiss francs (USD 8.53 billion), with double-digit declines at its Chinese unit dragging on growth. Revenue barely rose, by 0.8 percent to 89.47 billion francs. CEO Mark Schneider said the company behind Maggi noodles, Stouffer's frozen foods and KitKat chocolate bars plans to increase restructuring costs "considerably" this year. He did not specify how those costs would increase, but alluded to the company's history of finding efficiencies when needed.

Nestle, which does not break out earnings by

NESTLE EARNINGS WEIGHED DOWN BY WEAK FOOD PRICING

quarter, said that organic growth, which excludes the impact of acquisitions, rose 3.2 percent last year, at the low end of its expectations. It is expected to rise 2 to 4 percent this year.

Consumer goods companies have been squeezed in recent years by low inflation, which has prevented them from charging higher prices. At the same time, the costs of some raw materials have increased.

Pricing saw some improvement in late 2016, and is expected to get better this year, Nestle said. "2016: I think the punchline was organic growth was, certainly, for our company at the higher end of industry," Schneider told reporters. "But it did come in — there's no beating around the bush — at

the lower end of our expectations."

Organic growth was strongest in the Americas, up 4.2 percent. Nestle rode currency devaluations in Latin America to increase prices there, with double-digit growth in KitKat and Nestle Dulce Gusto. It said performance in U.S. confectionery was "disappointing," though, citing competition and low growth in mainstream chocolate.

Nestle pointed to a "double-digit decline" of its Yinlu food unit in China, where the company has cited tough price pressures. "Several initiatives to turn around the business are in place and stabilisation is expected in 2017," the Swiss company said. The arrival of Schneider, a former health care industry executive and Nestle's

first CEO to come from outside the company in 95 years, has aimed to help move the food and drinks giant evolve into a nutrition, health and wellness business.

He cited "a time of change in the consumer goods industry" and said focusing on organic growth would be "the long-term value driver for our company." Schneider defended frozen foods as a core Nestle business, rejecting claims that they necessarily meant "bad" food. He also said its confectionery line didn't conflict with Nestle's increased focus on nutrition, saying people are "creatures open to indulgence."



Nestle's new CEO Ulf Mark Schneider (left) and Nestle's CFO Francois-Xavier Roger (right) attend the 2016 full-year results press conference of the food and drinks giant

WHAT'S ON



TODAY (FEB 17)

OPEN Box 2017: MULTIMEDIA THEATRE
"BUTTERFLIES IN THE SPRING BREEZE"

A challenging piece both technically and content-wise, Butterflies in the Spring Breeze is a tale addressing sexuality. Created by director Harry Ng and designer James Wong, this production tells us the intense story of a man who finds out his wife had a love affair with another woman, years before they met. This adaptation of a Taiwanese novel will take the audience through an interactive experience between actors and a holographic setting. Conveyed with the help of video effects, this contemporary narrative will reach to our deepest thoughts to make us reflect on the different colours of sexual desire.

TIME: 9pm (February 17-18, 2017)

ADMISSION: MOP120 (Free Seating)

LANGUAGE: Cantonese

VENUE: ART, Macao Cultural Centre, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2870 0699

www.ccm.gov.mo

TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

www.macauticket.com



TOMORROW (FEB 18)

OPEN Box 2017: IMMERSIVE THEATRE
"ECHOES OF OUR TIMES"

Let's wander through a strange place full of dusty and unwanted objects that once have been very useful. Listening to unfamiliar beeps and noises, two dancers respond to the sounds, like mesmerized kids listening to a story told by an old man. "Echoes of our Times" merges dance, acting and sound installations to offer the audience something closer to a real life adventure rather than an evening at the theatre. "Echoes of our Times" merges dance, acting and sound installations to offer the audience something closer to a real life adventure rather than an evening at the theatre. Choreographer Chan Chi Cheng joined Taiwanese sound designer Chi Po

Hao to take on the thrilling task of bringing the audience on stage. We will find ourselves mingling with a random group of people, standing very close to professional dancers. Let ourselves be drawn by this immersive production, living an astonishing experience in a way that will surprise us!

TIME: 8pm (February 18-19, 2017)

ADMISSION: MOP120 (Free Seating)

LANGUAGE: Cantonese

VENUE: Macao Cultural Centre, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2870 0699

www.ccm.gov.mo

TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

www.macauticket.com



WHERE CHINESE MELODIES HOVER - OPEN RECITALS

Where Chinese Melodies Hover - Open Recitals will be held at the hallowed halls of the Academy which provides the perfect setting for one of the Orchestra's free monthly recitals.

TIME: 4pm

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy, Av. do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, no. 95 C-D

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6679

www.icm.gov.mo/ochm



SUNDAY (FEB 19) NING FENG PLAYS ELGAR

Elgar's Violin Concerto is regarded among musicians as the greatest British romantic violin concerto with the solo violin being the most challenging part. The famous violinist Ning Feng will revisit Macao, this time, to perform Elgar's Violin Concerto under the conductor Tung-Chieh Chuang and demonstrate his virtuosity with a perfect representation of the unique composition in Elgar's style.

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: St. Dominic's Church

ADMISSION with free ticket

ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

www.icm.gov.mo



MONDAY (FEB 20)

THE STAMP FESTIVAL

The Stamp Festival this year is the ubiquitous Pillar Box, with thematic 20 to 30-min. guided visits led by facilitators introducing pillar boxes on stamps, miniatures from other places and interesting stories about these receptacles.

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (No ADMISSION after 5pm, closed on public holidays)

VENUE: Communication Museum of Macau / Estrada D. Maria II, No. 7

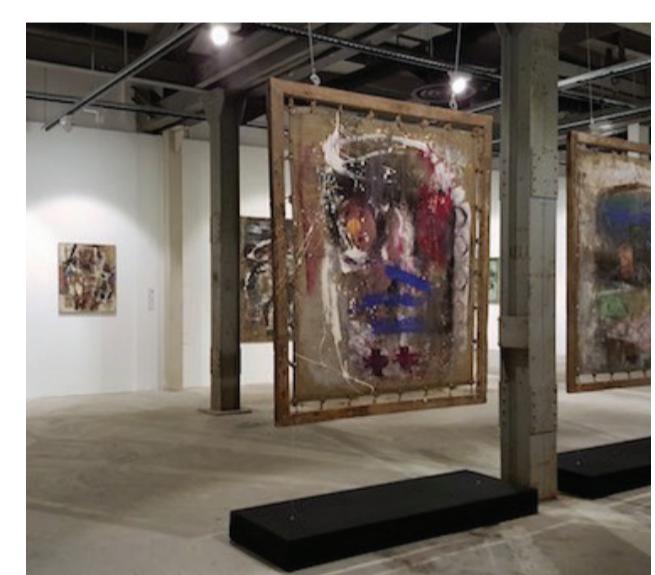
UNTIL: April 1, 2017

ADMISSION: MOP10

ORGANIZER: Communication Museum of Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063 / 2871 8570

Macau.communications.museum



TUESDAY (FEB 21)

SAILING FOR DREAMS - WORKS BY KWOK WOON

Navy Yard No.1 near A-Ma Temple - a former Government Dockyard used for shipbuilding and overhaul in the past - now serves as a venue for exhibitions and performing arts, with the first exhibition 'Sailing for Dreams - Works by Kwok Woon' displaying late Macau artist Kwok Woon's paintings. One of the founding members of the Círculo dos Amigos da Cultura de Macau, Kwok actively promoted the art of Macau throughout his life for which he was highly respected.

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: April 23, 2017

VENUE: Navy Yard No.1, Rua de S. Tiago da Barra

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

www.icm.gov.mo



WEDNESDAY (FEB 22)

AD LIB - KONSTANTIN BESSMERTNY

This exhibition presents 34 of renowned Russian artist Konstantin Bessmertny's recent paintings, sculptures, installations and mixed media, with the artist choosing not to theme this bustling, humorous visual feast in which he shares his personal musings and wittily responds to different phenomena occurring in society. A resident of Macau since 1993, Bessmertny once said: "I like a critical, sarcastic point of view on a subject. I prefer to take on a serious subject as a comedian rather than as a politician... Our duty as artists is to do as much as possible to influence bureaucrats and rich people."

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: May 28, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Macao Museum of Art

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

www.mam.gov.mo



THURSDAY (FEB 23)

TRANSIENCE: DAREDEVILS AND TOWERING WEBS

Portuguese-American photographic artist Hugo Teixeira showcases his unique collection of documentary work featuring an iconographic Macau fixture - bamboo scaffolding on construction sites. Exhibiting positive photographs on glass using a wet-plate process known as ambrotypies plus cyanotypes, and using a process that creates a cyan-blue print known as cyanotypes, Teixeira employs heavy view cameras and very carefully applied coatings of paper, metal and glass, offering the observer an awe-inspiring journey of discovery back to a 19th Century fascination that long predates the digital era.

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2017

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space, 10 Rua dos Clerigos, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Taipa Village Cultural Association

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

www.taipavillagemacau.com

Sands WEEKEND

SHOP YOUR WAY TO A PARISIAN STAY

Now until 19 March 2017

Shoppes at Parisian has more than 170 luxury and lifestyle boutiques. Here you can stroll along boulevards named after many of the French capital's famous shopping districts, such as the Champs Elysee, to enjoy a unique shopping experience. Shop at Shoppes at Parisian now to earn exclusive hotel stay, dining and massage offers at The Parisian Macao, allowing you to become part of Paris!

SPEND PARISIAN OFFER

MOP100,000 Two nights in a Suite + an exclusive dinner for two at The Parisian Macao

MOP50,000 One night in a Suite + 30-minutes back massage for two at The Parisian Macao

MOP20,000 One night in a Deluxe Room at The Parisian Macao

MOP8,000 A dinner buffet for two at Le Buffet

*Terms and conditions apply.

MONKEY KING

From 9 February

Sands Cotai Theatre, Sands Cotai Central

Monkey King is a spectacular stage show based on the famous Ming Dynasty novel "Journey to the West", considered one of the four great novels of Chinese literature. The Monkey King breaks new ground in interpreting this classic tale to appeal to a modern audience, featuring dance, skilful acrobatics, drama, martial arts, magic and other great Chinese elements. The show also features the most advanced 3D effects, LED screen projections, video mapping and full surround sound together with creative lighting effects, choreography, music and spectacular colourful costumes.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD 420, call reservations +853 2882 8818

30% off for Macao ID holders on presentation of their card. Offer runs until 28 February. cotaiticketing.com

PLANET J A UNIVERSE APART

Daily

Planet J, Shop 3009 Level 3, Shoppes at Cotai Central

Step into a universe of live interactive quests and adventures at Planet J, a live action role playing theme park. Within its 10,000 square feet facility, Planet J houses eight distinct gaming zones containing more than 200 games. Players of all ages can share the fun of Planet J so the whole family can work together to complete these adventures.

Call reservations +853 8791 6000

DAZZLING OPTIONS AT THE EIFFEL TOWER

Until 31 March 2017

The Parisian Macao

Macao's very own Eiffel Tower at The Parisian Macao, offers stunning views of the city from the Observation Decks on levels 7 and 37.

Each night you can witness the dazzling light show that celebrates the joie de vivre of the French capital. A gift shop on Level 5 offers memorable souvenirs to take home for loved ones. You can also dine at our signature restaurant La Chine, or enjoy a meal at Brasserie, Le Buffet or Lotus Palace and use your receipt to book a ride to the 37th floor observation deck as part of our View and Dine promotion, starting at just MOP248 per adult.

Daily Light Show every 15 minutes from 6:15pm to midnight.

Access: Level 5 at the Eiffel Tower Shop

Tickets: Adult MOP100 | Children MOP80

Ticketing and operation details: +853 8111 2768

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Philippine eagle

One of the world's largest eagles, this bird is critically endangered. It is also known as the "monkey-eating eagle" because it feeds on monkeys and flying lemurs. It often hunts in pairs. The Philippine eagle can live 30 to 60 years.

White-tailed eagle

The white-tailed eagle, also known as the sea eagle, mates for life and breeds in the same territory every year. This bird of prey hunts fish, mammals and other birds. It is found near large bodies of water and coastlines across Europe and parts of Asia. Large populations are found in Norway and Russia.

Harpy eagle

This South American eagle is the national bird of Panama. Harpy eagles range from Mexico to northern Argentina and live in forested areas. The bird is named after harpies, the predatory half-woman, half-bird monsters of Greek mythology. Its top head feathers fan into a crest when the bird feels threatened. A harpy eagle nest measures about 5 feet (1.5 meters) across.



Harpy eagle

Wingspan: Up to 6.5 feet (2 m)
Weight: Female, 14 to 20 pounds (6.3 to 9 kg); male, 8.5 to 12 pounds (3.8 to 5.4 kg)

Hunting with eagles

Hunting with eagles is a increasingly rare traditional form of falconry practiced on the Eurasian steppe. Although other birds of prey may be used for hunting, **golden eagles** are a favorite. The hunter will search out and capture a young, female bird. The raptor is fed by hand, trained and domesticated. When hunting, the eagle is taken high into the mountains to scan the valleys below for foxes and hares. Eagles can live for 30 years or more, but a hunter will keep his trained bird for about 10 years before releasing it to live out its last years in the wild.

For hundreds of years, the **burkitshi**, or eagle hunters, have provided food during the cold winter months in Eurasia.

WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

EAGLES

By Laurie Triefeldt

There are about 60 species of eagles. Most of these birds of prey live in Eurasia and Africa, while three species are found in Australia, two in North America and nine in Central and South America.

Bald eagle

A member of the sea and fish eagle group, this North American eagle hunts mostly fish, but will also eat carrion (dead animals). A group of soaring eagles is called a **kettle**. Wild bald eagles may live up to 30 years.



All eagles have excellent eyesight.

The bald eagle became the national emblem of the United States in 1782.

Female eagles are often twice as large as males.

Bald eagle

Wingspan: 6 to 7.5 feet (1.8 m to 2.3 m)
Weight: Up to 14 pounds (5.2 kg)

White-tailed eagle
Wingspan: 6.5 to 7.8 feet (2 to 2.4 m)
Weight: 7 to 15 pounds (3.1 to 6.8 kg)



Eagles often lay two eggs, but the larger chick frequently kills the smaller sibling.

Golden eagle

Wingspan: 6 to 7.5 feet (1.8 to 2.3 m)
Weight: 6 to 15 pounds (2.7 to 6.8 kg)

Mongolian boy with golden eagle



Golden eagle

The golden eagle lives in mountainous areas, canyon lands, riverside cliffs and bluffs of the northern hemisphere. They are found in Europe, Asia, North Africa and North America. The golden eagle is the national emblem of Albania, Germany, Austria, Mexico and Kazakhstan. A formidable hunter, it feeds mostly on rabbits, hares, ground squirrels and prairie dogs, but it has been known to kill larger prey such as wild ungulates and domestic livestock. Golden eagles are a protected species in the United States, and heavy fines may be imposed if you are found with a golden eagle feather or body part.