

times Extra

weekend Guide

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LIVES ON TEMP

Europe's economic recovery is in full swing, and in countries like Portugal the unemployment rate is falling from record highs. The brightening figures conceal a darker reality: the rise of temporary work



- MOVIES: A FANTASTIC WOMAN
- BOOKS: THE MONK OF MOKHA BY DAVE EGGERS
- MUSIC: STRANGE ANGELS: IN FLIGHT WITH ELMORE JAMES BY VARIOUS ARTISTS
- WINE: THE STANDARD-BEARERS OF WÜRTTEMBERG VI
- TRAVELOG: NEW SHIPS AND TRENDS IN CRUISING

DRIVE IN

Lindsey Bahr, AP Film Writer

A STAR IS BORN IN OSCAR-NOMINEE 'A FANTASTIC WOMAN'

The lead character of Sebastian Lelio's film "A Fantastic Woman" is named Marina. She is a nightclub singer and a waitress. She has a boyfriend, Orlando, who is much older than her, but that matters little. They are clearly smitten with one another and in that post-honeymoon phase of the relationship where things are still passionate, but also calm and comforting. They're planning a trip together. She's moving in. Life is moving along nicely it seems.

Marina is also a transgender woman, portrayed by a transgender actress, Daniela Vega. If you've heard of "A Fantastic Woman," which recently picked up a best foreign language film nomination

for Chile, you've likely heard this fact. It might even be the only thing you know about it.

What's astonishing about the actual experience of watching "A Fantastic Woman" is how small of "a thing" it really is, and in that way perhaps one of the truest expressions of modern transgender life that we've ever seen in a fictional film. Marina is just Marina. She has a delicate beauty, and a cool choppy Alexa Chung-like haircut and style. On stage, she's performs with a sultry confidence. Off stage, she's quieter and almost reserved, but very present, especially around Orlando (Francisco Reyes). But one night, Orlando dies

suddenly and Marina's tranquility is thrown into a tailspin — not just from the death of her love, but from all the unnecessary and often ridiculous complications, some bureaucratic, some purely emotional, that emerge and seem to stem from the fact that she is transgender.

At the hospital where Orlando dies, the fact that her legal name is still her birth name and not Marina becomes an issue with a cop (who an uncomfortable doctor calls when she leaves the scene after he's pronounced dead). A social worker, too, becomes obsessed with checking on Marina, which she continues to explain is just a matter of procedure and to ensure that she was not abused or a sex worker, but which feels nothing but invasive and inappropriate from Marina's perspective. Orlando's family, too, is unconsciously cruel to her — save for his brother, Gabo (Luis Gnecco), who seems to be the only person in the film empathetic to the fact that Marina is just a human who has lost a loved one.

Every day is filled with the ever-present threat that someone is going to be uncomfortable with her. Marina is gracious and accommodating almost to a fault, both to the



Daniela Vega in a scene from "A Fantastic Woman"



Daniela Vega

insidiously subtle kinds of judgment and the more outward violence and hatred. Orlando's ex-wife tells her in no uncertain terms that she is not welcome at the funeral or wake. His grief stricken son is disgusted by her and makes no attempt to hide. And all Marina wants to do is grieve in her own way.

Lelio's film occasionally delves into some magical realism as Marina struggles

to maintain her composure amid such callous inhumanity from so many people, which is a beautiful if jarring disruption in a film that's otherwise so committed to reality.

It's Vega's extraordinary performance, full of grace and depth, that keeps "A Fantastic Woman" in check from becoming something either too campy or too sanctimonious. It's one that has the power to make an

audience really understand and internalize why it is an act of bravery to simply live life as herself, and perhaps even change some minds in the process.

"A Fantastic Woman," a Sony Pictures Classics release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language, sexual content, nudity and a disturbing assault." Running time: 104 minutes. ★★★★★

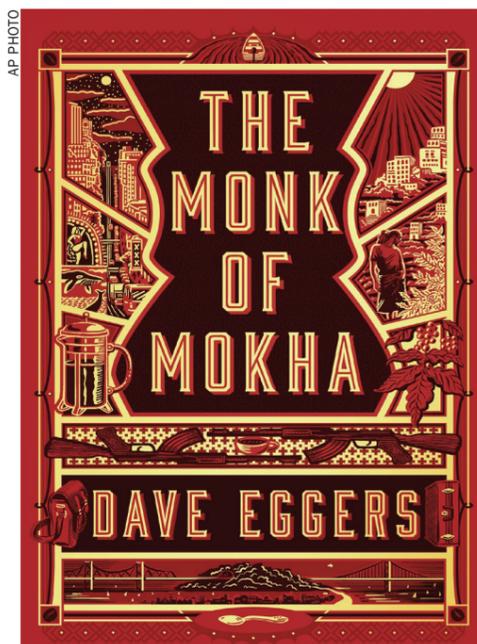
BOOK IT

'MOKHA' RECOUNTS QUEST TO REVIVE COFFEE TRADE IN YEMEN

As legend has it, coffee was born in Yemen, when a Sufi brewed the beverage to fuel his late-night devotions. Roughly 700 years later, a Yemeni-American set out to revive the country's languished and forgotten role in the world's coffee trade.

Master storyteller Dave Eggers spins the story of this quest, which proves astonishing even aside from the half-dozen near-death experiences, in his latest nonfiction book, "The Monk of Mokha." Readers follow Mokhtar Alkhanshali's journey from his childhood in San Francisco's hardscrabble Tenderloin district to the verdant mountains of Yemen to the testing room for those aspiring to be expert coffee graders. Interspersed along the way are treatises on the colorful history of coffee and the extensive process involved in producing that steaming cup of joe, as well as a refreshing, insider's perspective on Yemen, a country more often associated in Americans' minds with drones and al-Qaida.

If Alkhanshali's mission sounds ambitious, it becomes even more so with Yemen's instability following the Arab Spring and the rise of Houthi rebels. Alkhanshali uses his gift of gab to talk himself out of the many sticky situations in which he finds himself in Yemen, drawing on his hated year at a religious school to cite verses from the Quran extolling mercy and hospitality, thus persuading his jailers to let him go, as well as coaching from his former boss at a California Honda dealership ("Whoever controls the conversation controls the deal"), which propels him to tell masked men armed with AK-47s that he'll need his laptop back by the morning. "Stranger still," Eggers writes, "the (leader) agreed."



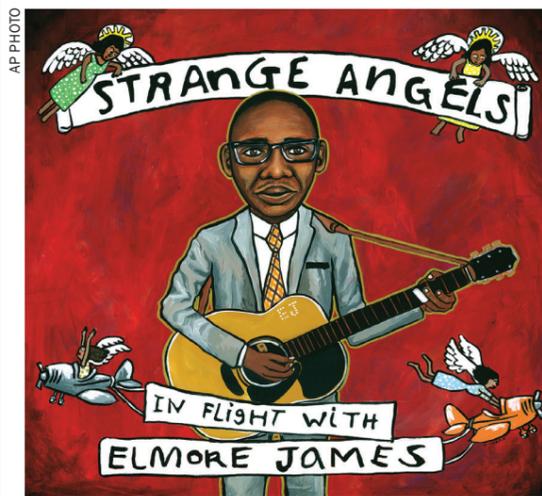
"The Monk of Mokha" (Alfred A. Knopf) by Dave Eggers

Some of these incidents, and perhaps the sheer number of them, border on the fantastical, and a reader can't help wonder if it all happened as described. Still, they're side stories to the indisputably remarkable and true tale of how Yemeni coffee got its second act on the world stage.

Rasha Madkour, AP

TTUNES

TOM JONES AMONG ARTISTS SINGING ELMORE JAMES' BLUES



Various Artists, "Strange Angels: In Flight With Elmore James" (Sylvan Songs)

Shelby Lynne, Allison Moorer and Tom Jones, whose Welsh version of urban blues on "Done Somebody Wrong" is an improbable highlight. But the stars are the guitarists channeling James' influential slide work. They're led by Doug Lancio, who leaves no need for words on the instrumental "Bobby's Rock" and the near-instrumental "Hawaiian Boogie." Warren Haynes, Billy Gibbons and Duke Levine also wield a mean bottleneck, and the wise decision to record the album in mono somehow makes their guitars sound even more monstrous.

The set is being released to coincide with James' 100th birthday, and the inclusion of studio chatter reinforces the party mood.

James can rest in peace, because his music lives.

Elmore James has been dead 54 years, and the blues aren't doing too well either. This lively tribute album gives both a boost.

The fan base for the kind of music James performed may be shrinking, but the parade of talent on "Strange Angels" shows there's still a lot of love for the blues among contemporary musicians.

Singers who contribute rousing renditions of James' material include Rodney Crowell,

Steven Wine, AP

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Barry Hatton, Lisbon

Europe's rise in temporary work contracts puts lives on hold

Europe's economic recovery is in full swing, and in countries like Portugal the unemployment rate is falling steeply from record highs reached during the recent financial crisis. Just don't tell people like Nuno Mendes that the good times are back.

The 40-year-old Portuguese government worker lives from six-month contract to six-month contract, doing the same job every day but never sure of his future, and takes home just 1,200 euros (USD1,500) a month. He would like to marry his girlfriend and have children, but he can't afford it. Unlike co-workers on permanent contracts, banks won't give him a mortgage. "Everything in my life is on hold — starting a family, making long-term plans," Mendes says. "It's all very limiting and debilitating." Many workers across southern Europe are in the same boat as Mendes, trapped in poorly-paid, insecure jobs that are locking them out of a life they once felt entitled to. It's one of the legacies of the eurozone debt crisis, and it's the new normal.

Unemployment across the 19-country eurozone was at its lowest level in nearly nine years in December, at 8.7 percent, official figures showed this week. The improvement from 9.7 percent a year earlier comes amid a strong economic growth rate of 2.5 percent last year.

The brightening figures conceal, however, a darker reality.

Temporary, or fixed-term, contracts that give workers a short horizon of income security have increasingly become the norm since

the Great Recession. The European Commission acknowledged last year that "the overall trend since 2006 indicates growing use of involuntary fixed-term contracts."

European leaders have in recent times urged governments in southern Europe, where the end of 20th-century dictatorships heralded new democratic powers and powerful trade unions demanding job protection, to make their workforces more flexible. That meant making it cheaper and easier to hire and fire employees.

Recent legislation has watered down some safeguards. Even so, many businesses remain reluctant to risk open-ended contracts that further down the line could be an unwelcome burden due to severance pay and other legal considerations.

Such concerns have given rise to what is termed a dual labor market, seen by analysts as a European scourge. It means that some workers get a healthy pay packet, generous benefits and employment security. Others endure low wages, job insecurity and bleak prospects of promotion.

The Spanish government said this month that 2017 was a record year for job creation, with 21.5 million employment contracts signed. The

downside: 19.6 million of them were temporary.

Italy's largest trade union says the number of people with temporary or part-time jobs who are seeking permanent, full-time work grew to a record 4.5 million in the first half of 2017. That compares with nearly 3.1 million in 2007. On top of that, the number of Italians who cannot find full-time work more than doubled from 756,000 in 2007 to 1.8 million in the first half of last year. European businesses have partly explained that by a mismatch between the skills workers possess and the skills companies need. A survey published this month by the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, based on responses from more than 50,000 businesses in 23 countries, found that the mismatch "is becoming a significant obstacle to growth."

Portugal's jobless rate stood at 7.8 percent in December, the lowest in eight years. It peaked at a record 16.2 percent in 2013, which was a third straight year of recession after the country's 78-billion euro (\$97 billion) bailout amid the eurozone's financial crisis. A recovery began the following year.

But only 34 percent of employment contracts signed between 2013 and last year were open-ended, accord-

ing to the Observatory of Crises and Alternatives at Portugal's Coimbra University.

"The creation of jobs in Portugal has been spectacular [...] but most of them are temporary jobs," said Nuno Teles, one of the observatory's researchers.

He points to a high turnover of fixed-term contracts. From 2013 to the end of 2017, about 3 million employment contracts were signed, but only about 1 million of them still exist. Some workers, Teles says, have two work contracts in the space of a month.

Part of the reason is the nature of Portugal's economic recovery. It is largely being powered by the tourism sector, where seasonal work is common, and the construction industry, which is frequently offering contracts valid only for the duration of specific building projects.

Another driver of change has been new technology. Working patterns are changing, with an increasing number of people freelancing, working part-time from home and holding jobs for short periods. It suits some.

In the case of employees like government worker Mendes, there's an added twist: he isn't a temporary worker, he's a fake temporary worker, and the government is

behind the sham.

Mendes, who holds a Masters degree, belongs to a loose national association of such workers called "precarious do estado" —literally, "precarious government workers."

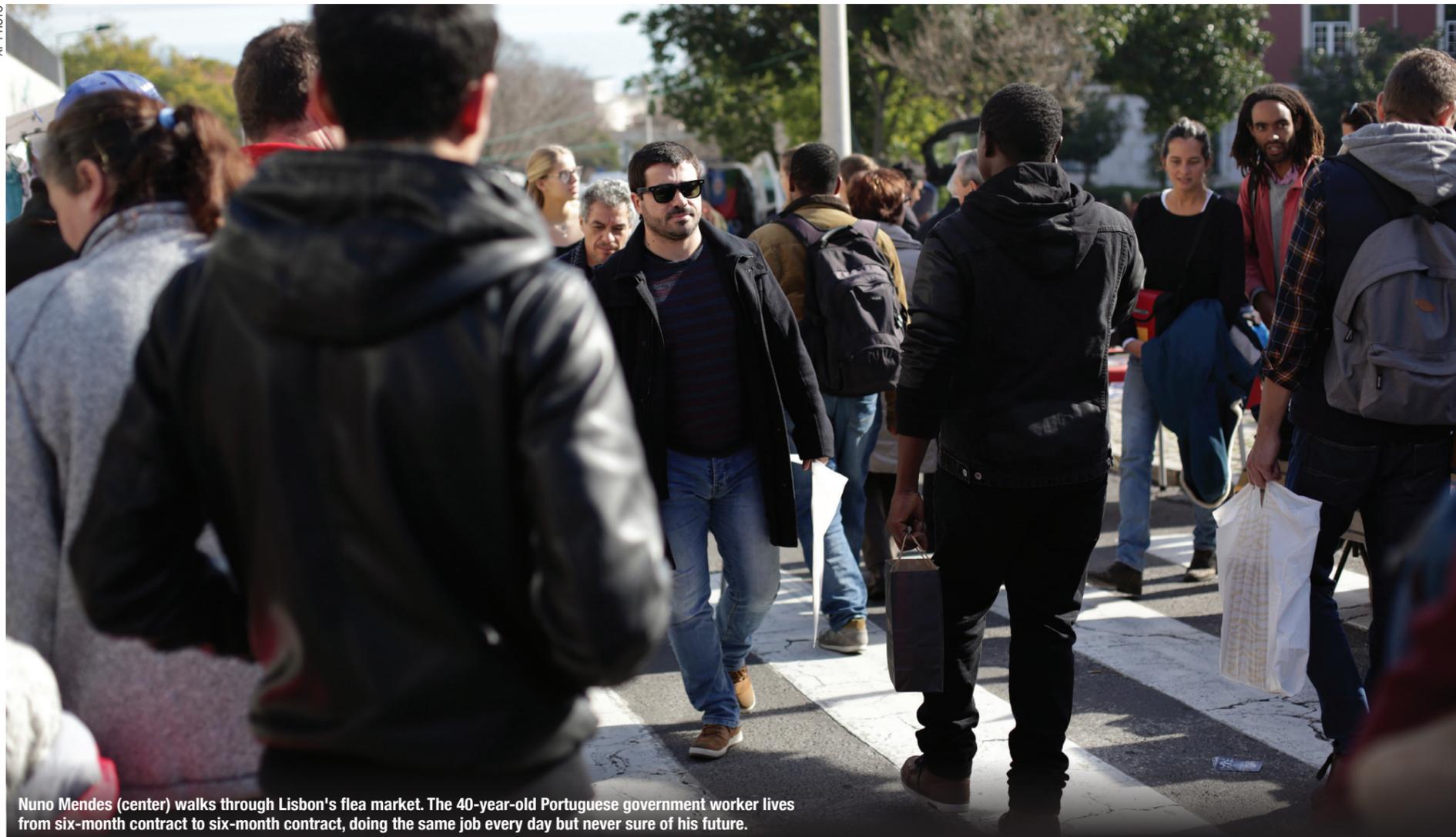
They are employed by the state on temporary contracts that are renewed every six months or annually. The association is pressing the government to make good on its 2015 promise to formally classify them as the permanent workers they effectively are.

The association's website includes numerous stories from those in similar circumstances to Mendes. "Why can't I set out the course of my and my family's life for the next 3, 4, 5 or 10 years?" complains one of them, 37-year-old school teacher Antonio Fachada.

The issue has become a key battleground for trade unions, but Mendes says he doesn't feel resentful. He sees the government as a victim of the financial crisis, too, because the bailout lenders wouldn't let it hire permanent staff.

With the economy surging, Mendes is hopeful his limbo will come to an end soon, though he's learned to roll with the punches.

"I've stopped worrying about my future," he says with a laugh. "I can't, because I'd end up having no life."



Nuno Mendes (center) walks through Lisbon's flea market. The 40-year-old Portuguese government worker lives from six-month contract to six-month contract, doing the same job every day but never sure of his future.

WORLD OF BACCHUS

Jacky I. F. Cheong

The Standard-Bearers of Württemberg VI



SCHLOSSGUT HOHENBEILSTEIN SILBERLING MUSKATROLLINGER TROCKEN 2016

Also known as Muscat Hamburg, Muskatrollinger is a red scion of the Muscat family. Coruscating ruby with gleaming carnelian reflex, the tutti frutti nose radiates raspberry, strawberry and rose. Anchored by neat acidity and crunchy tannins, the tantalising palate oozes cranberry, redcurrant and geranium. Medium-bodied at 12%, the adorable entry carries onto a vivacious mid-palate, leading to an appetising finish. Full of summery zest, a brilliant apéritif.



SCHLOSSGUT HOHENBEILSTEIN SILBERLING CABERNET BLANC TROCKEN 2016

No typo here, Cabernet Blanc indeed, the offspring of Cabernet Sauvignon and a highly resistant variety. Limpid citrine with shimmering golden reflex, the pristine nose offers gooseberry, bell peppers and elderflower. Braced by racy acidity and clear minerality, the vibrant palate delivers cloudberry, whitecurrant and nettle. Medium-bodied at 13%, the invigorating entry continues through a chiselled mid-palate, leading to a cleansing finish. An interesting variety, a token of Württembergian innovation.



DAUTEL SELEKTION -S- WEISSBURGUNDER TROCKEN 2015

Luminous citrine with pastel golden reflex, the caressing nose presents apricot, Williams pear, green olive and jasmine. Supported by ample acidity and clean minerality, the rounded palate supplies loquat, nectarine, pine nuts and bouquet garni. Medium-full bodied at 13.5%, the fleshy entry persists through a structured mid-palate, leading to a creamy finish. A modern, well-made Pinot Blanc.



DAUTEL SELEKTION -S- CHARDONNAY TROCKEN 2014

Rich citrine with bright golden reflex, the aromatic nose reveals lemon, Anjou pear, thyme, pine nut and frangipane. Underpinned by generous acidity and saline minerality, the multifaceted palate dispenses green apple, mirabelle, almond, beeswax and seashells. Medium-full bodied at 13.5%, the precise entry evolves into a spiced mid-palate, leading to a melodious finish. A deliciously complex Chardonnay that rivals a fine Chassagne-Montrachet.

(Continued from "The Standard-Bearers of Württemberg V" on 8 December 2017)

Amongst Germany's 13 wine regions, Württemberg stands out as an anomaly on two counts. First, it is one of the only two – the other being Ahr – that produces more reds than whites. Second, it possesses a particularly diverse portfolio of grape varieties – rivalled only by Rheinhessen – in a country where prestige historically tends to equate to Riesling concentration, e.g. in Rheingau (just under 80%) and Mosel (approximately 60%). Notwithstanding variations, this vinous kaleidoscope generally holds true across the board in Württemberg, from local cooperatives, family-owned estates to elite VDP (Verband Deutscher Prädikats- und Qualitätsweingüter) member-estates. As per Deutsche Weininstitut statistics, noble varieties such as Riesling (18.7%), Lemberger (15.2%) and Pinot Noir (11.6%) in Württemberg, even when combined, still fall short of majority in hectareage. Since the turn of the millennium, the Pinot family has been on a meteoric rise in Germany. From 2000 to 2016, Pinots Gris and Blanc have seen a surge of 113.1% and 99% respectively in hectareage, turning the country into the world's third largest and single largest producer of the former and latter respectively. Whereas Alsace has a Grand Cru appellation for Pinot Gris, VDP Württemberg has both Großes Gewächs and Erste Lage for Pinots Gris and Blanc. All the while, Chardonnay is no longer a novelty, with a whopping 208.9% surge in hectareage. Be it technological advancement or vinous innovation, Württemberg remains at the forefront in

Germany. With a wide array of terroirs ranging from shell-limestone, keuper, marl and loess to clay as well as climatic conditions, resulting in 200+ Einzellagen (single vineyards) for its extensive portfolio of grape varieties, Württemberg is a strong candidate for the title "Germany's most dynamic region". While its "first triumvirate" of Riesling, Lemberger and Pinot Noir continue to reach new heights, a "second triumvirate" comprising Chardonnay, Pinots Gris and Blanc is taking shape. The old-time favourite Trollinger, in the meantime, is breathing new life. Situated in Beilstein, Heilbronn, the 14ha Schloßgut Hohenbeilstein has been a VDP member-estate since 1973, and went fully organic in 1987, when the movement was derided as pseudoscience. Winemaker Joscha Dippon is never afraid to innovate, but is visibly less comfortable with receiving compliments for his wines full of purity and vitality. Located in Bönningheim, Ludwigsburg, the 12ha Weingut Dautel has the luxury of spaciousness that urban estates around the Stuttgart region lack. Equipped with a state-of-the-art, meticulous cellar, winemaker Christian Dautel produces wines of remarkable focus and structure. To be continued...

Tasted at Schloßgut Hohenbeilstein (W: www.schlossgut-hohenbeilstein.de; E: info@schlossgut-hohenbeilstein.de) and Weingut Dautel (W: http://weingut-dautel.de; E: info@weingut-dautel.de) during a press trip organised by Mrs Diana Maisenhoelder (diana.maisenhoelder@vdp-wuerttemberg.de) and Mr Dietmar Maisenhoelder (dietmar.maisenhoelder@vdp-wuerttemberg.de) of VDP Württemberg (www.vdp-wuerttemberg.de).

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

巴黎人
— BRASSERIE —
法式餐厅

BRASSERIE
Level 3, The Parisian Macao
Monday - Sunday:
11:00am - 11:00pm
Tel: +853 8111 9200

GLOBAL

CAFÉ BELA VISTA
Grand Lapa, Macau
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
5pm - 12midnight
T: 8802 2319
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU

COPA STEAKHOUSE
3/F, Sands Macao Hotel
OPENING HOURS:
Cocktails: 4:30 pm - 12:00 am
Dinner: 5:30 pm - 11:00 pm
Tel: +853 8983 8222



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
Sun to Thu: 04:00pm - 01:00am,
Fri, Sat and Eves of Public Holidays:
06:00pm - 03:00am
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



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
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
Macao Fisherman's Wharf
Edf. New Orleans III
Macao

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

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

TRAVELOG

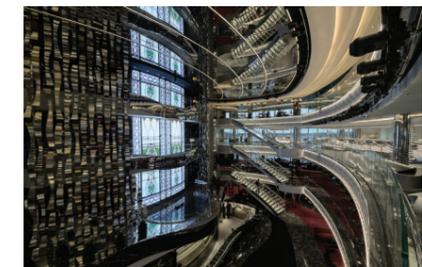
Beth J. Harpaz, AP Travel Editor

A LOOK AT NEW SHIPS AND TRENDS IN CRUISING FOR 2018

What's new in cruising for 2018? As usual, there's lots of razzle-dazzle — laser tag, water slides, zip lines and massive LED screens — along with a continued emphasis on healthy lifestyle options, from dining to fitness. But there are also changes underway in ship design, itineraries and who's cruising.

DESIGN, DEMOGRAPHICS AND DESTINATIONS

New ships are offering more outdoor spaces and views of the sea, with promenades, boardwalk-style decks, glass walls, transparent walkways and see-through slides. Small ships, river ships and expedition cruises are booming, with more itineraries in cold-water destinations like Iceland, Greenland and the polar regions. Alaska cruises are as popular as ever, for big and small vessels. There's a new focus on marketing to millennials, many of whom cruised as kids. Royal Caribbean says its shorter cruises — like three- and four-night Miami-Bahamas trips on the *Mariner of the Seas* next summer — appeal to younger travelers who may prefer shorter vacations over weeklong trips. Uniworld is offering “U by Uniworld” river cruises for ages 21-45 only, with European itineraries that include music festivals. The Cruise Lines International Association, which represents most of the world's major cruise brands, noticed another new phenomenon: “skip-gen” cruising. Grandparents are cruising with grandkids, but sometimes skipping a generation by sailing without mom and dad. Most cruises provide a range of children's programming so grandparents aren't baby-sitting all day, while also offering activities,



excursions, meals and shows that all ages can enjoy together.

INDUSTRY GROWTH

The cruise industry continues to grow, with 27 million cruisers expected in 2018, a million more than last year and up from 18 million in 1979. There are also 27 new ships coming out in 2018, according to CLIA: 10 for river cruising, 17 for ocean.

“We're in our golden age,” said CLIA Chairman Arnold Donald, who is also CEO of Carnival Corp., at a Jan. 25 meeting in New York. “Cruising has never been more popular.”

NEW SHIPS

Royal Caribbean's *Symphony of the Seas* will be the world's largest cruise ship when it launches this spring. Its inaugural season will be in Europe, with sailings from Miami beginning in November. Features include a laser tag arena, Bionic Bar where robots make drinks, a 10-story racing slide called *Ultimate Abyss*, rock climbing and ice skating. The ship will host a production of the Broadway hit “*Hairspray*” and its sports bar will feature

30 big-screen TVs. A luxury family suite for eight includes a two-story slide, private movie theater, Lego wall and secret crawl space. But it's not for budget cruising: It's priced in the tens of thousands of dollars.

Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Bliss* also launches this spring and heads to Alaska. It's designed for enjoying natural scenery, with a 180-degree observation lounge perfect for watching glaciers. Recreation includes laser tag, a race course for electric go-karts, and a waterslide with a transparent tube that swooshes you along the side of the ship. Other features include a Beatles club with a cover band and a spa with a snow room and a salt room. Norwegian is starting to move away from the celebrity chef craze, but dining options will include a barbecue spot called *Q*, *Los Lobos* for Mexican food and *Food Republic*, where dishes like ceviche or Asian noodles can be ordered from an iPad. Holland America Line launches the *Nieuw Statendam* in December. The ship's features include *World Stage*, an entertainment

venue with a two-story, 270-degree wraparound LED screen; *Music Walk*, where three lounges offer different genres of music; and *BLEND*, where guests can blend their own wine. Holland America is also continuing a partnership with *O, The Oprah Magazine*, through 2018, on 300 cruises with programs for meditation, health, style and even a book club that's included onboard appearances by authors like Elizabeth Strout. Holland America Line is also starting round-trip Boston-Cuba trips this year. *Celebrity Edge* begins

sailing in November. Its futuristic design concepts include the *Magic Carpet*, a cantilevered movable deck that will serve as a walkway as well as a place to enjoy ocean views and a space for live music and themed dining. The new ship also features a venue called *Eden* with a three-level window on the ocean, al fresco seating, walkways and an “*Eve at Eden*” experience that will blend performance art and unique culinary offerings. *Carnival Horizon* debuts in April with a Dr. Seuss-themed water

park, an eatery called *Smokehouse Brewhouse* featuring Guy Fieri barbecue and craft beers brewed onboard, and an LED *Dreamscape* atrium sculpture that will show artwork by patients of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a Carnival charity partner. *Carnival Vista* already has the three deck-high *Dreamscape* light panels. Other fun features on Carnival ships range from “*Green Eggs and Ham*”-themed breakfasts for kids to *Lip Sync Battles* a la the popular Spike TV show to custom cocktails at the *Alchemy Bar*.

MSC Cruises are better known in Europe than North America, but the brand is working to change that. In December, *MSC Seaside* launched and was named best new ship of 2017 by *CruiseCritic.com*. It features an interactive aqua-park, open-air promenade with glass-floor catwalks, two zip lines, a four-deck atrium, *Aurea* spa with a snow room and beachlike condo suites. You can even see the sea from glass elevators. *Seaside*, with a 4,100-guest capacity, is based in Miami for Caribbean itineraries. Its sister ship, *MSC Seaview*, launches in June with Mediterranean cruises for its inaugural season.



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Elizabeth Strout (right) speaking to guests aboard the Holland America Line ship *Eurodam* on a cruise to Alaska

WHAT'S ON



TODAY (FEB 2)
GREAT SYMPHONIC POEMS

This concert by the Macau Orchestra leads the audience on a journey through the work of 19th-century Bohemian composer Bedrich Smetana. The Orchestra, led by director Lu Jia, will perform work from the pinnacle of Smetana's career: his cycle of six symphonic poems, "My Fatherland", which due to its length and high technical demand, is not often played in its entirety. This rare musical feast is part of the Macau Orchestra 2017-18 Concert Season; it is scheduled to last 70 minutes, with no interval.

TIME: 8pm
VENUE: St. Dominic's Church
ADMISSION: Free admission, tickets will be distributed 60 minutes before the performance at the concert venue (maximum of two tickets per person)
ORGANIZER: Macau Orchestra
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0782
www.om-macau.org



LEGENDS IN CONCERT

After last year's special limited engagement, Legends in Concert, repeatedly voted the number one live tribute show in Las Vegas, is coming back to The Parisian Macao. This time the all-star cast of this long-running production will pay tribute to pop and rock megastars Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, Lionel Richie, Whitney Houston and Freddie Mercury, performing along with a live band and dazzling dancers. Each of these performers not only closely resembles the star they portray, but uses their natural voice to pay homage to their iconic musical counterpart.

TIME: 8pm (February 2, 2018)
2pm & 8pm (February 3, 2018)
6pm (February 4, 2018)
VENUE: Parisian Theatre, The Parisian Macao
ADMISSION: MOP180, MOP380, MOP480
ORGANIZER: The Parisian Macao
www.parisianmacao.com
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818
Kong Seng Ticketing: 2855 5555
www.macaoticket.com



TOMORROW (FEB 3)
REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM COLLECTION – 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

The Macau Museum of Art (MAM) presents "Representing Women through MAM Collection – 19th and 20th Century", showcasing 70 female portraits from the museum's collection. They include works from the Chinese and Western traditions, and some at the confluence of both. The exhibition is organized in four sections: "A Western Tradition in Macau – 19th Century", "Views of Europeans on China – Late 19th Century", "Calendars and Posters – Early 20th Century" and "Propaganda – Mid 20th Century". It seeks to show how, even though at that time women's access to the profession of artist was limited, women themselves were a constant source of inspiration for male artists.

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: February 25, 2018
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZER: Macau Museum of Art
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814
www.mam.gov.mo



SUNDAY (FEB 4)
ROSIAN WINDS – FRIENDSHIP AND MEMORIES CONCERT

The local school Colegio de Santa Rosa de Lima English Secondary, founded over 80 years ago, is famous for its wide array of cultural activities. The institution has two choirs, a String Orchestra and a Chinese Orchestra. Now the school is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its Santa Rosa de Lima Concert Band. To mark its first decade, the group is holding the "Rosian Winds – Friendship and Memories Concert", in cooperation with the Macau Band Directors Association. The concert will be conducted by Leong Pui Long.

TIME: 8pm
VENUE: Small Auditorium, Macau Cultural Centre
ADMISSION: MOP50
ORGANIZER: Macau Band Directors Association / Colegio de Santa Rosa de Lima English Secondary
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2825 2825
www.mbda.org.mo



MONDAY (FEB 5)
DOCUMENTING IMPERMANENCE: AN EXHIBITION OF REPORTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALICE KOK AND STUDENTS

About 80 snapshots of life in Macau as captured through the lens of artist Alice Kok and her IFT students are on display in this exhibition. The IFT Tourism and Hotel School launched a reportage photography course in 2011, inviting well-known artist Alice Kok as instructor. The programme is part of the Institute's efforts to promote the development of Macau's cultural and creative industries. Kok has taught photography at IFT to students from many different backgrounds, from reporters to a fireman and a fish salesman. In her classes, students are asked to use their cameras to look at Macau's daily life from a different viewpoint than usual.

TIME: 9am-10pm
UNTIL: March 31, 2018
VENUE: Team Building, Institute for Tourism Studies
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252
ORGANIZER: Institute for Tourism Studies
www.ift.edu.mo



TUESDAY (FEB 6)
SWIM ON THE RIFFLES

Macau is surrounded by sea and had been a fishing port since more than 700 years ago, which made fishery one of the city's traditional industries. The industry was also the pillar that supported Macau's economic and social development. Six sculptors from the Macau Sculpture Association, including Leung Tat-hung, Tong Chong, Wu Hin Long, Sou Leng Fong, Lau Yin Wan and Che Wai Fong, created sculptures with fish as the theme. The seven artworks that are displayed are made of materials such as wood, clay, stainless steel and glass to express the artists' contemplation of the changes in the fishing industry.

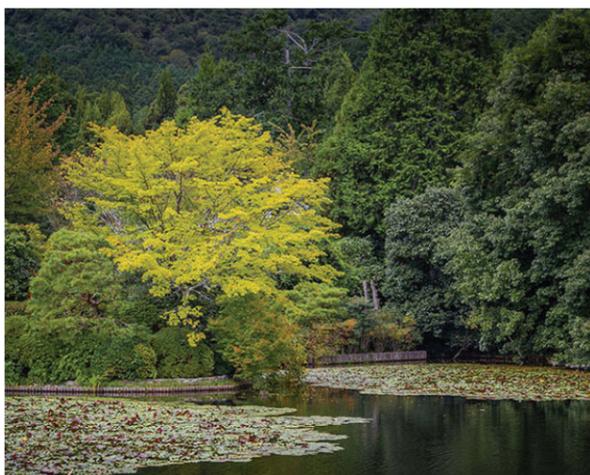
TIME: 11am-6pm (closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: February 25, 2018
VENUE: 10 Fantastia – A Creative Industries Incubator
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZERS: Macau Sculpture Association, Creative Industries Promotion Association of St. Lazarus Church District, 10 Fantastia – A Creative Industries Incubator
EMAIL: cipa_slcd@yahoo.com
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/macau.sculpture



WEDNESDAY (FEB 7)
2018 BRAND STORY – MACAU ORIGINAL FASHION EXHIBITION

The Macau Fashion Gallery invited for this project several local fashion designers to plan and decorate its exhibition space in order to promote their respective brands. The first phase of the project, running until March 4, highlights streetwear brand I.N.K and gender-neutral brand JADE.L. Through the exhibits, visitors can have an in-depth understanding of the stories and concepts behind each brand. In addition, the Macau Fashion Gallery set up a “Brand Story – Pop-up Shop” where visitors can buy products from the brands featured in the project.

TIME: 10am-8pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: March 4, 2018
VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZER: Macau Fashion Gallery
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341
www.macaofashiongallery.com



THURSDAY (FEB 8)
SOMEWHERE – PHOTOS BY FRANCISCO RICARTE

After joining last year’s group exhibition “Here & Now” at Creative Macau, Macau-based architect Francisco Ricarte now expands his exploration of the concept of “emptiness” in relation to the city, into the solo exhibition “Somewhere”. The Portuguese professional has long been a photography enthusiast but only began using digital technology in his art when he moved to Macau in 2006. His work focuses on how photography helps us to understand our surroundings. This time Ricarte challenges the public with photos of locations that may at a first glance seem unrecognisable but which ultimately reflect – and remind the viewer of – Macau’s ever-changing reality.

TIME: 2pm-7pm (closed on Sundays)
UNTIL: March 17, 2018
VENUE: G/F, Macau Cultural Centre Building
ADMISSION: Free admission
ORGANIZER: Creative Macau – Center for Creative Industries
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282
www.creativemacau.org.mo

Sands WEEKEND



LEGENDS IN CONCERT

The Parisian Theatre

Legends in Concert, repeatedly voted the number one tribute show in Las Vegas, comes to The Parisian Macao for a special limited engagement. The all-star cast includes tributes to Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, Lionel Richie, Whitney Houston and Freddie Mercury. Each of these great performers not only closely resembles the star they portray, but use their natural voice to pay homage to their iconic music counterpart.

Date: 8pm, 2 - 3 February (Friday & Saturday)
Tickets: From MOP/HKD180, call reservations +853 2882 8818
cotaiticketing.com



THOMAS FRIENDSHIP BREAKFAST WITH THE LITTLE BIG CLUB ALL STARS

Until 31 March 2018
Urumqi Ballroom, Level 4, Sands Cotai Central

Start your day off right, with the ultimate breakfast party! Kids are transported to The Little Big Club character stories by the immersive room décor, and see their dreams come to life by experiencing the loveable live mini shows. No party is complete without an awesome and delicious array of dishes and desserts prepared just for you.

Time: 9am – 10:30am
Admission: MOP238* (Adults) / MOP138* (Child)
MOP688* (Family Package: 3 family members + 1 child)
Tel: +853 8113 7915 / +853 8113 7916

You can approach the reservation counter next to Paradise Gardens between 2pm – 6pm
Present your hotel key card for 25% discount

*Child admission prices apply to children 5 – 12 years of age only. Terms and Conditions apply.



VIEW AND DINE AT THE PARISIAN MACAO

Until 29 March, savour exotic flavours at The Parisian Macao and enjoy the spectacular views from the Eiffel Tower. Tickets include admission to Eiffel Tower 37th Floor and a meal at selected restaurants.

Lunch Set
MOP258* per adult | MOP178* per child

Enjoy Lunch at Le Buffet or Set Lunch at Brasserie or Lotus Palace for one person, plus Eiffel Tower ticket for one.

Dinner Buffet
MOP418* per adult | MOP258* per child

Enjoy Dinner at Le Buffet for one person, plus Eiffel Tower ticket for one.

Book Now
Le Buffet +853 8111 9250 Brasserie +853 8111 9200
Lotus Palace +853 8111 9260

*Subject to 10% service charge. Terms and conditions apply. Blackout period: 14 - 22 February.



WINTER WARMERS

Until 11 February 2018

Celebrate this winter season by savouring hearty and warming dishes at our signature Chinese restaurants throughout Sands Resorts Macao. Tempt your taste buds with exquisite dishes prepared with the freshest and seasonal ingredients to keep the winter chill away.

SandsResortsMacao.com/dining



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