



- MOVIES: VELVET BUZZSAW
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# times Extra

weekend Guide

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# SMOKING AT THE WATER

At the world's largest pilgrimage in Prayagraj in northern India, tens of millions of Hindu faithful travel to the sacred sangam - the confluence of three holy rivers - to take a dip, where a reclusive pot-smoking sect has been growing in ranks

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Associated Press

# Naked pot-smoking sect grows at Indian



The Kumbh Mela, or pitcher festival, is a series of baths by Hindu sadhus and sadhis, holy men and women, and other pilgrims who believe the ritual cleanses them of their sins and ends the process of repeated reincarnation.

For some, stripping down for a holy dip also signifies the stripping away of the material world. At every Kumbh, including this year's, thousands of devotees are initiated into the reclusive sect of the Naga Sadhus

— naked, ash-smeared cannabis-smoking Hindu warriors and onetime-armed defenders of the faith who for centuries have lived as ascetics in jungles and caves. On so-called royal bathing days, the Naga Sadhus lead

the 13 monastic orders' processions — on garlanded horses, elephants and tractors — through the festival grounds and into the river, armed with tridents and swords. Performed by senior priests, the elaborate process of ini-

tiation comprises five rituals, starting with the shaving of heads and beards, ritual offering of saffron robes, wearing prayer beads, applying ash on the body and giving up their last piece of clothing. The aspirants have to take a

DRIVE IN

Jake Coyle, AP Film Writer

## 'VELVET BUZZSAW' A GLORIOUSLY GORY ART-WORLD SATIRE

The art installation, so often a playground in the contemporary art museum, is in Dan Gilroy's gloriously gory satire "Velvet Buzzsaw" a terror chamber. Interactivity is involuntary. "Velvet Buzzsaw," which opens on the Art Basel Miami Beach fair, assembles a glittering gallery of art-world snobs, strivers and divas. A cocktail of critics, collectors, buyers and even a couple actual artists, it's the kind of easy-target collection that Christopher Guest might have taken aim at. But Gilroy, who memorably skewered "if it bleeds, it leads" TV news in "Nightcrawler," has something darker, or at least bloodier in mind. In "Velvet Buzzsaw," when a painting fetches a "killing" at auction, the payoff might be literal, and any subsequent shredding is going to be a lot more sinister than anything cooked up by Banksy. Among them are Morf Vandewalt (Jake Gyllenhaal), a power-wielding critic, "God" in this designer-label uni-

verse; Rhodora Haze (Rene Russo), a big-time dealer whose old nickname is both the film's title and the tattoo on her shoulder; buyer Gretchen (Toni Collette), who can manipulate private buyers and museums, alike; a pair of painters, one a graffiti artist sensation (Daveed Diggs), the other a sullen has-been who has turned his studio into a profitable assembly line (John Malkovich); and Josephina (Zawe Ashton), a struggling protegee to Haze. It's on Josephina that the plot turns. When an elderly neighbor named Ventril Dease dies, she stumbles upon the paintings that litter his apartment, and quickly realizes it's a major discovery. She swipes them all before they're to be tossed in the garbage. When she shows them to Vandewalt, with whom she's sleeping, he immediately pronounces the paintings "visionary." The whole transactional system goes into overdrive to posthumously turn Dease into a major artist and, more importantly, into an industry. The million-dollar sales are

orchestrated, the Los Angeles museum show strong-armed, the paintings carefully parceled to stimulate just the right amount of demand. Vandewalt gets book rights. The paintings themselves we take for the genuine article. Unlike the frivolous installations that flutter through "Velvet Buzzsaw" (like a metallic sphere that emits various sensations when you stick your hand into its holes), Dease's works, deemed "outsider art," represent something "substantial" in a shallow contemporary art world. Only Josephine knows that Dease, whose murky past is slowly revealed, had wished his artwork destroyed. At first merely creepy (we learn his reds were painted in blood), figures in the paintings begin to subtly move, snatch and kill. In vivid slasher vignettes, everyone who has cynically capitalized on Dease's art works gets their comeuppance, many of them at a gallery late at night. "All art is dangerous," says Haze before quite realizing how right she is. Are there certain ironies that



Rene Russo (left) and Jake Gyllenhaal in a scene from "Velvet Buzzsaw"

this satire of the commodification of art should come in a film that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival (the premiere auction house for independent film), a film that is being streamed by Netflix (where algorithms strictly govern a film's monetary value), and one that's penned by a filmmaker with credits including "Kong: Skull Island" and "Real Steel"? Sure, but that doesn't mean it's not a lot of fun. Gilroy's set-piece slaughters are expertly

executed old-school camp, some of them laugh-out-loud funny. Maybe not since "Peeping Tom" have scenes of art and murder been so closely synthesized. That film, of course, had much more on its mind and posed more disquieting questions for its audience. "Velvet Buzzsaw" doesn't lead anywhere inward; it becomes just a litany of (exquisite) death scenes for art-world caricatures. Still, what caricatures they are. Especially good is Gylle-

nhaal's Vandewalt, a paragon of pretention whose pompous demeanor steadily crumbles. "Listen to my intelligent mind," he tells Josephina, reaching perhaps the very mountaintop of mansplaining. He's a masterpiece.

"Velvet Buzzsaw," a Netflix release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for violence, language, some sexuality/nudity and brief drug use. Running time: 113 minutes. ★★★★★

# Hindu fest



vow of celibacy, practice tough physical and mental conditioning and renounce worldly possessions and family ties. After a purifying bath in the river and a prayer ceremony, the sadhus have to perform "Pind Dan," a Hindu funeral

ritual to pay homage to their ancestors for the salvation of their souls. Usually this ritual is performed only after a person dies. But the last "Pind Dan" ritual at the Naga initiation ceremony is for the sadhu himself, sym-

bolizing the unity of his soul with God. "They will consider themselves dead, and only their soul will live on. They will pronounce themselves dead even while living," said Santosh Mishra, a 50-year-old priest of the Juna

Akhara monastic order. After they are ordained, the Naga Sadhus must remain partially or fully naked for the rest of their lives, sleep on the ground, limit themselves to one meal a day, obey their leaders and gurus and protect the Hin-

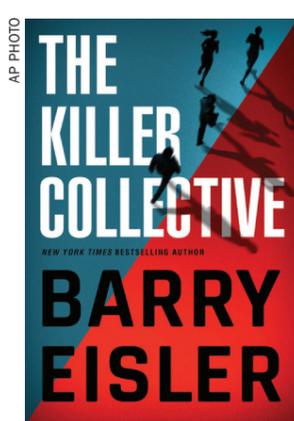
du religious traditions. The ancient Kumbh festival, which UNESCO added to its list of intangible cultural heritage in 2017, runs through early March, in Prayagraj, northern India. About 150 million people are expected to attend.

## BOOK IT

### 'KILLER COLLECTIVE' IS ANOTHER PAGE TURNER FROM BARRY EISLER

At first blush, Barry Eisler's new thriller resembles one of those cartoonish action movies in which a handful of retired covert operators who don't trust each other are forced by circumstances to join forces for one last job. Indeed, Eisler has assembled the most memorable characters from his 14 previous novels and given each major roles in "The Killer Collective." There's Livia Lone, a Seattle sex crimes investigator who would rather kill perverts than jail them. And John Rain, an assassin who specializes in "natural causes." And Delilah, a treacherous Mossad agent. And Dox, a former Marine sniper. And deadly black ops soldiers Ben Trever and Daniel Larison. And the pair's old commander, Scott Horton. As the story begins, all but Lone have retired to quiet lives, but inevitably, trouble finds them. The action starts when someone who wants to remain unknown uses Horton to arrange a hit. He'll pay Rain a million dollars to kill a Seattle cop and two FBI agents if the hit man can make the deaths appear accidental.

After Rain turns down the job, an airliner carrying the FBI agents crashes into Lake Michigan. A team of assassins tries to bushwhack Lone and botches the job. And Horton and Rain barely escape when the unknown bad guy tries to tie up loose ends. Lone and the FBI agents had been marked for death after uncovering a pedophile ring involving six Secret Service Agents. Such a scandal would be embarrassing, of course, but would someone really bring down an airliner to cover it up? Clearly, a more nefarious conspiracy involving higher-ups must be at work. So Lone and Rain combine forces, and the "Killer Collective" is assembled to identify the conspirators and take them out. Unlike movies such as "Red" (featuring Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich and Helen Mirren), Eisler's tale is anything but cartoonish. In fact, the most compelling part of the story is the way the author portrays the complex relationships among his characters, from old romantic involvements to past betrayals



"The Killer Collective" (Thomas & Mercer) by Barry Eisler

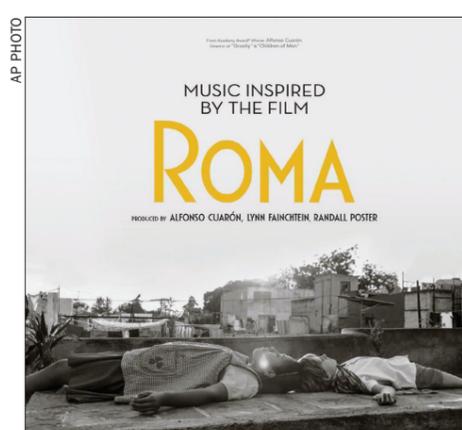
that have them bristling with mutual distrust. All of that must be overcome if they are to work as a team. Eisler, a former covert operative for the CIA, knows this turf. And as usual with an Eisler novel, the plot is full of twists, the prose is muscular and the action unfolds at a torrid pace. The result is another page turner from one of the better thriller writers since James Grady published "Six Days of the Condor" in 1974.

Bruce DeSilva, AP

## TTUNES

### BECK, PATTI SMITH, UNKLE INSPIRED BY 'ROMA'

Beck, Patti Smith, U2, DJ Shadow and Billie Eilish are part of a large and diverse group performing songs inspired by Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma," resulting in an album that has plenty of good music but with few direct links to the film. The film's soundtrack was based on songs played by Mexican radio stations in the 1970s, most by Mexican artists like Jose Jose and Javier Solis. Most of the 15 tracks on this album are originals written by some of Cuarón's favorite musicians, including Cafe Tacuba's Quique Rangel and Asaf Avidan, and today you'd search far and wide — and probably without success — for a commercial broadcaster with a playlist this varied. French sister duo Ibeyi's "Cleo Who Takes Care of You" references the movie — Cleo is the live-in maid at the core of "Roma," a Mexico City neighborhood — as does Sonido Gallo Negro's "Cumbia del Borras," which includes plenty of barking by



Various Artists, "Music Inspired by the Film Roma" (Sony Music Masterworks)

the dog it pays homage to, and in a more elliptical way, so do EL-P & Wilder Zoby with their space-age instrumental "Marooned." Other top songs include "Con el Viento" by a fragile-sounding but determined Jessie Reyez, Michael Kiwanuka singing on U2's "On My Knees," and Beck's fascinating, orchestrated "Tarantula" — an early 1980s U.K. pearl by Colourbox — where he sounds like Robert Plant doing a Bryan Ferry impression. After Laura Marling's stately take on "Those Were the Days," which can be heard by Ray Conniff in the film, T Bone Burnett's "Roma" feels like someone ripping off your earphones while you were daydreaming. It ends the album with four minutes of hammering percussion and sounds of the city, including salesmen hawking honey and roasted pumpkin seeds. The dream is over but life has to go on.

Pablo Gorondi, AP

**WORLD OF BACCHUS**

Jacky I.F. Cheong



**BODEGA GARZÓN RESERVA ALBARIÑO 2017**

A single-varietal Albariño from the same location, fermented in cement tanks and aged on lees in stainless steel tanks for up to 6 months. Luminous citrine with shimmering golden reflex, the refreshing nose presents pomelo, green apple, jasmine and wet stone. Supported by energetic acidity and clear minerality, the vivacious palate supplies grapefruit, Asian pear, lavender and crushed shells. Medium-full bodied at 14%, the high-spirited entry persists through a piquant mid-palate, leading to a long finish. Minerally driven, this gem represents modern elegance.



**BODEGA GARZÓN SINGLE VINEYARD ALBARIÑO 2017**

A single-varietal Albariño from the same location, fermented in cement tanks and aged on lees in French oak barrels (20%) and cement tanks (80%) for up to 6 months. Scintillating citrine with flickering golden reflex, the refined nose reveals kaffir lime, sugar apple, thyme and seashells. Buttressed by abundant acidity and saline minerality, the delineated palate unveils calamansi, kiwi fruit, oregano and celery salt. Full-bodied at 14.5%, the poised entry evolves into a concentrated mid-palate, leading to an indelible finish. This is a showcase item that rivals the finest Albariño / Alvarinho from Spain's Rías Baixas DO and Portugal's Vinho Verde DOC.



**BODEGA GARZÓN ESTATE VIOGNIER 2018**

A single-varietal Viognier from Garzón, Maldonado, fermented under temperature control in stainless steel tanks and aged on lees for up to 6 months. Limpid citrine with glowing silver reflex, the antiseptic nose exudes lime peel, peach pit, basil, citronella and wet stone. Anchored by ample acidity and steely minerality, the pristine palate oozes lemon rind, sweet ginger, kaffir lime leaves, honeysuckle and rock salt. Medium-bodied at 14%, the herbal entry continues through a chiselled mid-palate, leading to a cleansing finish. Thoroughly dry and eminently stylish, this wine could cost twice or thrice as much as its current price tag, had it been born in Condrieu or Château-Grillet.

**The Oriental Republic**

Covering some 176,000sqkm and with a total population of just under 3.5 million, the Oriental Republic of Uruguay is the 2nd smallest in area and 3rd smallest in population amongst the dozen sovereign states in South America. Rather than tiny and flimsy, Uruguay is lean and mean, and punching well above its weight appears to be in the national psyche, most famously on football pitch: La Celeste (The Sky Blue) have won FIFA World Cup twice and Copa América a record 15 times. Perhaps even more strikingly, Uruguay ranks #1 within South America and indeed Latin America in numerous regards, be it democracy, income equality, peace, per capita income, press freedom or renewable energy – not for nothing is it dubbed “Switzerland of the Americas”. Sandwiched between Argentina and Brazil on land and bordered by Río de la Plata and the Atlantic Ocean, Uruguay is situated in the richest and most developed region in South America. European colonisation of Uruguay came rather late by South American standards, due to fierce resistance from the indigenous peoples and the comparative lack of natural resources, notably silver and gold. During much of the 19th century, Uruguay had to tread a fine line between such great powers as Argentina, Brazil, Portugal and Spain. Following Argentina, Chile and Brazil, Uruguay is currently the 4th largest wine-producing country in South America. Its viticultural history may date back some 250 years, but its wine industry began in earnest only in the late 19th century. Uruguay has not been as visible as Argentina and Chile on the international wine market, largely because: i) it has just over 8,000ha under vine, hence dwarfed by its

neighbours; and ii) less than 10% of annual production is exported. With the advent of the Information Revolution – vis-à-vis the Industrial Revolution – and globalisation, competition and saturation in the global wine industry are reaching unprecedented levels. Better informed and more curious than ever, consumers are increasingly looking for authenticity and diversity. Against this backdrop is the meteoric rise of Uruguay's Bodega Garzón, New World Winery of the Year 2018 by Wine Enthusiast. Combining meticulous vineyard management and state-of-the-art cellar with an overarching principle of sustainability, this winery is a phenomenon to behold, and its produce is of stellar quality across the board.

*To be continued...*

Available at East Meets West Fine Wines; Contact: Ms. Karen Gaignon, Macau Sales Manager; W: www.emw-wines.com; E: karen.gaignon@emw-wines.com; T: +853 6235 2898



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

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

**BEIJING KITCHEN**  
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Opening Hours  
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(Close on Tuesday)

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**SHANGHAI**

**CATALPA GARDEN**  
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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



**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



**NORTH BY SQUARE EIGHT**  
11am - 1am  
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Level 1, MGM MACAU



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The Venetian Macao  
TEL: +853 8118 9950



**FW RIO GRILL & SEAFOOD MARKET**  
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Email: riogrill\_and\_seafoodmarket@fishermanswharf.com.mo  
Location: Cape Town, Macau Fisherman's Wharf

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Wednesday (Lunch)

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The Venetian Macao  
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T: 2871 4000  
12:30 - 15:00 / 19:00 - 23:00

**FERNANDO'S**  
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T: 2888 2264  
12:00 - 21:30

**THAI**



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(Close on Mondays)

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Fri, Sat and Eve of public holiday:  
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**R BAR**  
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Opening Hours  
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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**  
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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

## TECHNOLOGY

Dan Gelston, AP Sports Writer

## DRIVERS, CONNECT YOUR WI-FI! iRACING A HIT IN NASCAR

Ray Alfalla got hooked on NASCAR in the late 1990s after his family left Cuba and settled in the Miami area. He's the type of die-hard fan the sagging sport craves — a kid who dreamed of racing who's now an adult that settles in each weekend to catch each bump-and-run moment. He rarely misses a race. And for someone who's never worn a firesuit, he's won a few, too. Alfalla took the checkered flag at Charlotte and Richmond — lost a heartbreaker at Phoenix, once — and he hoisted a championship trophy on the stage at Homestead just like Cup Series star Joey Logano. Alfalla is in the elite class of drivers who have mastered iRacing, an online simulation of the real deal each week in NASCAR. The paint schemes on stock cars, the cockpit view of thick traffic, the detail of the tracks down to each tunnel turn, bridge and banking, are all so realistic it's like watching a NASCAR race from an in-car camera on broadcast TV.

Drivers, start your Wi-Fi connection! Dale Earnhardt Jr. plays. So does Denny Hamlin, Bubba Wallace and scores of drivers in the NASCAR garage who grab a wheel for fun and or even use it as a scouting tool for the race ahead. William Byron might be just another shaggy-haired 21-year-old kid in college had he not started

iRacing when he was 13. Byron was captivated by the game, which helped spark his passion for real racing and start a career that took him to the pole of Sunday's Daytona 500.

"Does Michael Jordan play basketball without practicing? I think it's the weirdest thing that our sport goes out there with no practice and goes and races," Byron said. "I try to use it as much as I can." The real stars here are regular fans like Alfalla, a 29-year-old mail carrier who put his stamp on iRacing with the kind of record most drivers would envy: four iRacing championships, 24 wins and USD50,000 in career prize money. Alfalla, who started online racing in 2003, said he never raced more than go-karts and found it cheaper to play Mario Kart than chase a NASCAR career.

"You don't need huge funds to go racing," Alfalla said. "You just need a computer and an internet connection."

Beats scrambling for sponsorship just to secure a ride. Launched in 2008, iRacing is primed for its biggest growth yet. The eNASCAR PEAK Antifreeze Series hiked its prize pool to \$100,000 and boosted its credibility with the addition of NASCAR teams that include Joe Gibbs Racing, Wood Brothers Racing and JR Motorports. There was a 40-player draft — the first in iRacing history — and each gamer selected earned a \$500 bo-

nus. The Wood Brothers have won at least one NASCAR race in each of the last six decades and NASCAR's oldest team had another first — the first pick of the draft, and it selected, of course, Alfalla. iRacing President Tony Gardner said there are 85,000 active members spread over dozens of series and the company is turning a profit (though he declined to reveal financials). "The product is so good now," Gardner said. "It's time to get more eyes on it." Earnhardt, with his nearly 2.5 million Twitter followers, did his part and plugged the series and the stream on his feed for Tuesday night's season opener. Zack Novak won the race and \$1,000 for Roush Fenway Racing at the video version of Daytona International Speedway.

The season is only 18 races long and only the top courses are selected. No repeats. There is a 30-minute qualifying session before each race. The races can be found on iRacing.com, NASCAR.com, Facebook, YouTube and Twitch. Gardner said the best races hit six-figure views but that number was expected to leap with NASCAR's involvement. Just like in NASCAR, beginners race in low-level series and can advance through the ranks to the elite Peak series. iRacing memberships can

start at \$6.50 a month or \$55 per year and the suggested materials include a force feedback steering wheel and pedals (from \$200 to over \$1,000) that can be plugged into any USB port. Alfalla says he spends about five hours practicing each week to defend his series championship, which this season comes with a \$40,000 prize. Alfalla is currently testing a new steering wheel made by a manufacturer he declined to name. "I've won championships in iRacing on a \$150 wheel and I've won championships in iRacing on a \$1,000 wheel," Alfalla said. Not a virtual NASCAR fan? No worries. There are simulation series that include Porsche GT3 cars, the World of Outlaw dirt series, a sprint car series, Rallycross and GTE endurance races. Parker Kligerman, who has 14 career



Ray Alfalla with his awards on the track at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Florida

Cup starts and is trying to qualify for the Daytona 500, is a staunch iRacing advocate and teamed with retired star Jeff Burton to form the Burton Kligerman eSports sim team. "Our sole mission is to help grow this series," Kligerman said. "It's not like we have the overhead of a real race team with cars and people and such. But we can put our capital behind things that will simply grow the series. It's a pretty cool thing and that's why I think it can be successful." The sim series skews toward the coveted 18-to-34 demographic, the fan base e-sports and real sports all are chasing for a share of the entertain-

ment dollar. The top iRacing drivers should get added exposure and a bit of a cool factor if they are affiliated with a NASCAR team.

"It makes everything more real to the drivers," Gardner said. "It's a real sport now with the teams involved."

How real? Kligerman said today's iRacing kids who spend hours behind the wheel could morph into NASCAR's stars of tomorrow.

"I believe that sim racing has the power to lower the barrier to entry in motorsports," he said. "At some point, someone will go from the console game, to iRacing, to the Peak eSports championship to real NASCAR. That will happen. In our lifetime, that will happen."

**WHAT'S ON**



**TODAY (FEB 15)**

A NIGHT WITH PIANO AT THE GALLERY

For the past five years, Fundação Rui Cunha has regularly hosted musical soirées using its piano, with musician Forest Kam playing different genres of composition, from classical, to Western and Chinese pop. Sessions are open for all to come and listen, or even to play a favorite tune or two. The concerts are organized by ELITE - Association for Creativity and Music Culture, a non-profit local organization that seeks to promote the musical talent of Macau's young people.

TIME: 6pm-8pm

VENUE: Fundação Rui Cunha

ADMISSION: Free ORGANIZERS: Fundação Rui Cunha and Elite - Association for Creativity and Music Culture

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 3288

www.ruicunha.org



**TOMORROW (FEB 16)**

VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT – PIANO IN LOVE

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Clara Schumann, a 19th century German pianist and composer also became famous for her unflinching love for her husband, fellow-composer Robert Schumann. To celebrate Valentine's Day, the Macau Orchestra put together a special programme, part of its "Shining Virtuosos" series, featuring Clara Schumann's "Piano Concerto in A minor" and Robert Schumann's "Genoveva", plus "Symphony No. 4" by Johannes Brahms, a close friend of the couple. Conductor Lio Kuokman leads Chen Sa on the piano for a performance lasting approximately 90 minutes, including one 15-minute interval.

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: Grand Auditorium, Macau Cultural Centre

ADMISSION: MOP150, MOP200, MOP250

ORGANIZER: Macau Orchestra

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0782

www.om-macau.org

TICKETING SERVICE: (853) 2855 5555

www.macauticket.com



SAM & TAM HAPPY TOGETHER WORLD TOUR – MACAU

Hong Kong stars Sam Hui and Alan Tam are joining forces for a night of nostalgia and reminiscence. Sam & Tam Happy Together World Tour – Macau transports audiences through a "musical time tunnel" to experience the evolution of Cantopop over the decades. Sam and Alan are offering fresh interpretations and new lyrics for their classic songs alongside brand new tracks. In addition to a number of duets, they each also sing solo, performing their own and each other's greatest hits. Fans can also expect state-of-the-art stage design, impressive lighting and effects, glitzy costume changes and surprise special guests.

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: Cotai Arena, Venetian Macao

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP780, MOP1080, MOP1380

ORGANIZER: Suncity Group; Venetian Macao

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

www.venetianMacao.com

TICKETING SERVICE: (853) 2855 5555

www.macauticket.com



**SUNDAY (FEB 17)**

CONCERTS BY SCHOOL ORCHESTRAS

This concert series is the latest product of a collaboration that began in 2010 between the Macau Youth Symphony Orchestra Association and several local schools. This year the series sees more than 500 students take to the stage in front of family and friends in order to showcase their talents. The performers include: the Sacred Heart Canossian College (English Section) Junior String Orchestra; the Pui Ching Middle School Primary String Orchestra; and the junior rank of the Macau Youth Symphony Orchestra.

TIME: 3:30pm

VENUE: Grand Auditorium, Macau Cultural Centre

ADMISSION: MOP100

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2825 2899

ORGANIZER: Macau Youth Symphony Orchestra Association

www.macauyso.org.mo

TICKETING SERVICE: (853) 2855 5555

www.macauticket.com



**MONDAY (FEB 18)**

PRAYER & BLESSING - EXHIBITION OF CHINESE NEW YEAR WOOD-BLOCK PRINTS OF SHANXI AND HUNAN PROVINCES

The exhibition takes Chinese New Year traditional prints as its main theme, showcasing folk art from Shanxi Province and Hunan Province. Woodblock Chinese New Year prints from Pingyang and Zhangzhou in Shanxi carry the blessings and prayers of the locals; while Tantou woodblock prints from Hunan have vibrancy, and use color and silhouette to reflect the energy of the Chunan district. During the exhibition's run there are four sessions offering respectively a Chinese New Year Woodblock Prints Workshop. In the sessions, craft workers from the two provinces demonstrate the skills they have inherited from their cultures, including colouring and printing techniques.

TIME: 9am-7pm

UNTIL: February 27, 2019

VENUE: Chun Chou Tong Pavilion in Lou Lim Ioc Garden

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau

ENQUIRY: (853) 8988 4000



**TUESDAY (FEB 19)**

THE SHANGHAI SCHOOL OF PAINTING – COLLECTIONS OF THE PALACE MUSEUM

The Macau Museum of Art and Beijing's Palace Museum are jointly holding an exhibition on a group of famous Chinese artists that formed what is known as the Shanghai School of Painting. The movement combined China's ancient painting traditions with influences coming from the West and paved the way for a more commercial view of art. Those identified as part of the group included Wu Changshuo, whose body of work is considered by experts in Chinese painting as a key turning point from traditional art to that of modern times, and has had a profound influence on later generations of artists.

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

UNTIL: March 10, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

Enquiries: (853) 8791 9814

ORGANIZER: Macau Museum of Art, and Palace Museum

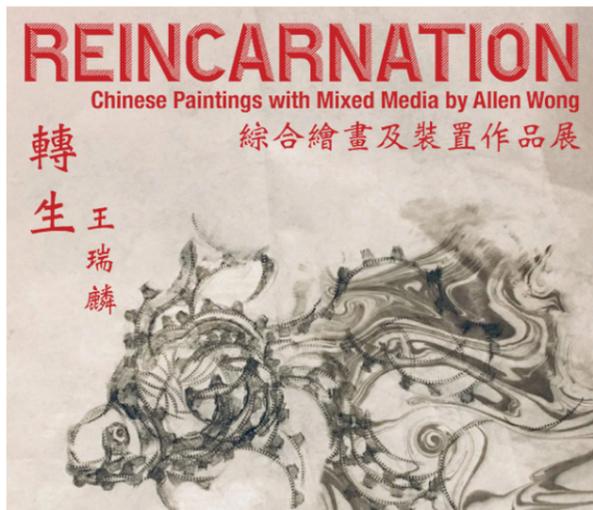
www.mam.gov.mo



**WEDNESDAY (FEB 20)**  
MICRO VIEW – A COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

Artistry of Wind Box Community Development Association has invited various local artists and institutions to create microscopical paintings and three-dimensional works for “Micro View – a Collective Exhibition of Paintings”. The showcase features, for instance, pieces coming from several non-governmental organizations working on prevention of drug abuse, such as ARTM - Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau, Christian New Life Fellowship’s Smart Youth and We Point programmes, and Macau Teen Challenge.

TIME: 12pm-7pm (closed on Wednesdays)  
UNTIL: March 2, 2019  
VENUE: At Light, Pátio do Padre Narciso nº 1, R/C  
ADMISSION: Free  
ORGANIZER: Artistry of Wind Box Community Development Association  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 6595 7203

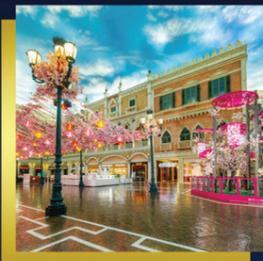


**THURSDAY (FEB 21)**  
REINCARNATION – CHINESE PAINTINGS WITH MIXED MEDIA BY ALLEN WONG

This exhibition features paintings and art installations by Macau-based artist Allen Wong. His work has been widely shown in Macau and overseas, including solo exhibitions in Portugal and France. He holds a master’s degree in modern art from the South China Normal University, and he is also a member of the Macau Artist Society. Established in 2003 by the Institute of European Studies of Macau, Creative Macau - Center for Creative Industries aims to provide a public platform for the creative output of local people.

TIME: 2pm-7pm (closed on Sundays)  
UNTIL: March 9, 2019  
VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre  
ADMISSION: Free  
Organizer: Creative Macau - Center for Creative Industries  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282  
WEBSITE: www.creativemacau.org.mo

# Sands WEEKEND



**SEASONS OF PROSPERITY 2019**

Until 19 February  
Sands Resorts Macao

Sands Resorts Macao welcomes the Year of the Pig in style! Visitors can enjoy beautiful festive decorations across the properties. There is also The Parisian Macao’s Eiffel Tower Grand Illumination Chinese New Year Show running each evening at 15-minute intervals until midnight.



**WINTER IN PARIS ICE RINK FUN**

Until 19 February  
Level 7 Observation Deck, Eiffel Tower, The Parisian Macao

Winter wonderland, real ice rink, seasonal treats with seating areas, under the Eiffel Tower.

Time: 4pm-10pm daily  
Ticket Price: MOP50 for 30 minutes  
\* 10% discount for In-house Guests at The Parisian Macao



**LA CHINE – VIBRANT AND CHIC**

Level 6, Eiffel Tower, The Parisian Macao

Located within the Eiffel Tower, La Chine offers a vibrant and chic dining experience, with an amazing view of Cotai Strip. Guests can experience French-influenced Chinese dishes in a genuine French atmosphere. Come and indulge yourself and your family with our new seasonal menus as well our dim sum dishes.

Time: 11am – 3pm | 6pm – 11pm  
Reservations: +853 8111 9210 or lachine.reservation@sands.com.mo



**SAVOUR AN INNOVATIVE DIM SUM FEAST AT DYNASTY 8**

Level 1, Conrad Macao, Sands Cotai Central

Iconic flavours and texture of authentic Cantonese dim sum served with an innovative twist. Dynasty 8 evokes feelings of old-world China charm, with 8 private dining rooms which portray the rich history and décor of 8 important imperial dynasties.

Time: Monday - Friday 11am – 3pm  
Saturday & Sunday 10am – 3pm  
Reservations: +853 8113 8920 / macau.dynasty8.reservations@conradhotels.com



澳門金沙度假區

Sands  
RESORTS MACAO



# WORLD OF WONDER

By Laurie Triefeldt

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

# COUNTRY MUSIC



**Garth Brooks**  
b. 1962 (age 57)

## An overview

Country music, also known as "country and western," is a distinctly American genre of music that has developed several popular styles and subgenres over the past century.

Ballads and dance tunes are characteristic of country music. Folk lyrics and harmonies are accompanied by mostly string instruments such as banjos, electric and acoustic guitars, steel guitars and fiddles.

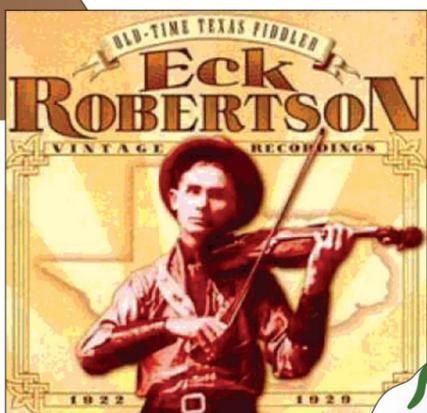
## Early days

Country music can trace its roots to the folk music of the Irish, Scottish and English settlers of the southern Appalachian Mountains. In the early 1900s, American fiddlers were mixing the traditional folk tunes with gospel and blues, developing a sound that would eventually be called country.

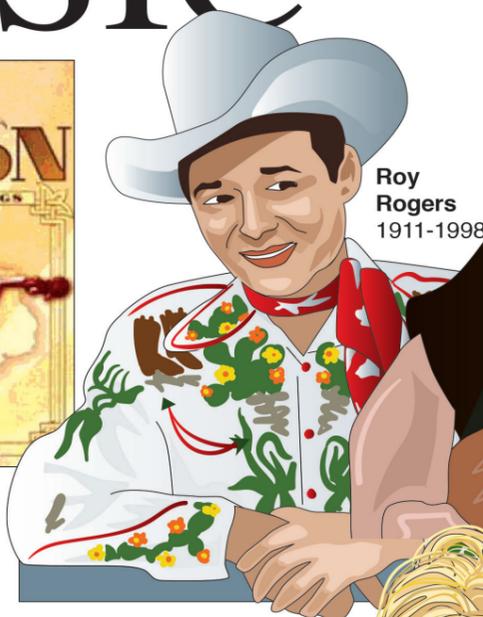
The first commercial country record was made by **Eck Robertson** in 1922 on the Victor Records label. 1927 is often heralded as the moment in time when country music hit the mainstream. It was at this time that the songs of **Jimmie Rodgers** and **The Carter Family** could be heard on the radio.

Jimmie Rodgers recorded most of his songs between 1927 and 1933. His million-selling single, "Blue Yodel #1," made him the pre-eminent voice of country music.

The Carter Family was a successful country group during the 1920s and continued to perform for several decades.

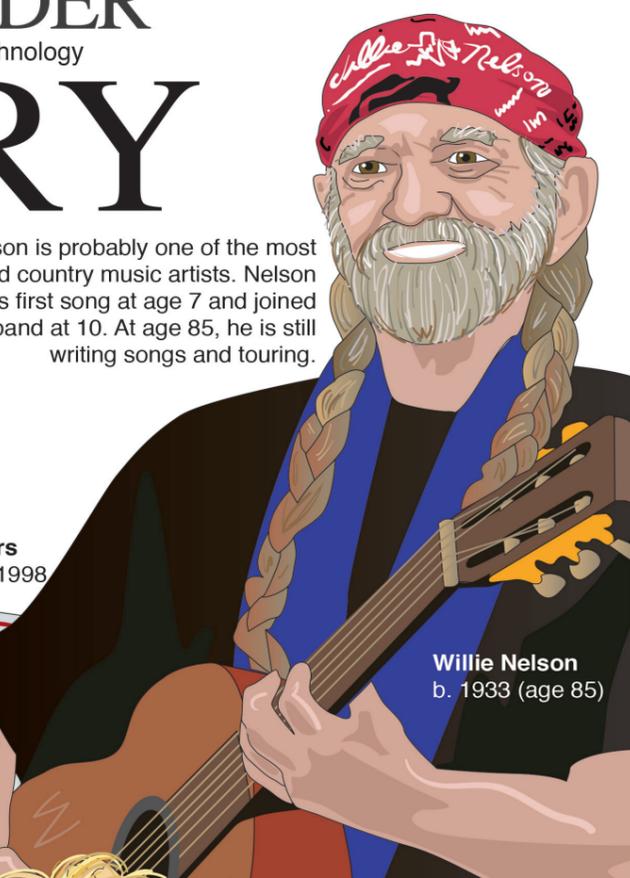


**Eck Robertson** 1887-1975

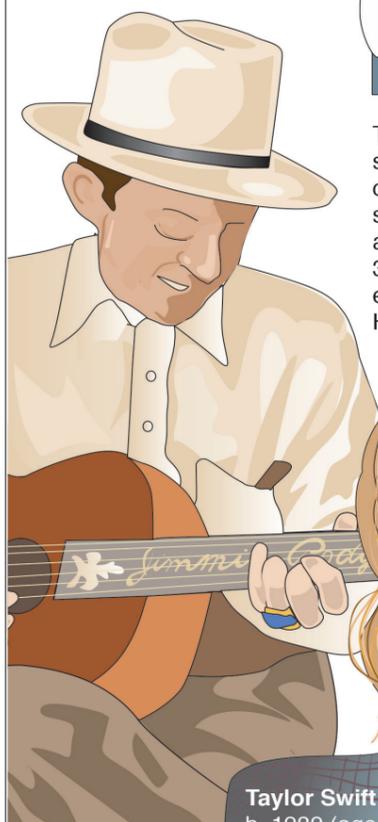


**Roy Rogers**  
1911-1998

Willie Nelson is probably one of the most recognized country music artists. Nelson wrote his first song at age 7 and joined his first band at 10. At age 85, he is still writing songs and touring.



**Willie Nelson**  
b. 1933 (age 85)



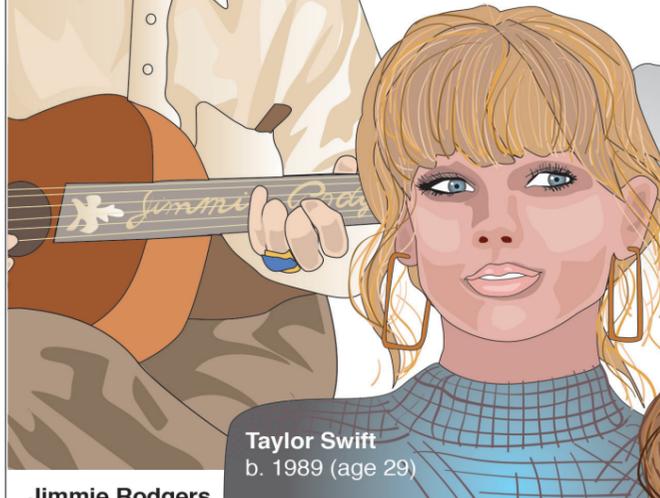
**Jimmie Rodgers**  
1897-1933

Known as the "Father of Country Music," Rodgers met with great success.

Twenty-five of Dolly Parton's songs have reached No. 1 on the Billboard country music charts. She has written and composed more than 3,000 songs and was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1999.



**Dolly Parton**  
b. 1946 (age 73)



**Taylor Swift**  
b. 1989 (age 29)

Born in Pennsylvania, Swift moved to Nashville, Tennessee as a teenager in order to pursue a country music career.

Between 1966 and 1987, Pride had 52 top-10 hits on the Billboard country music charts.

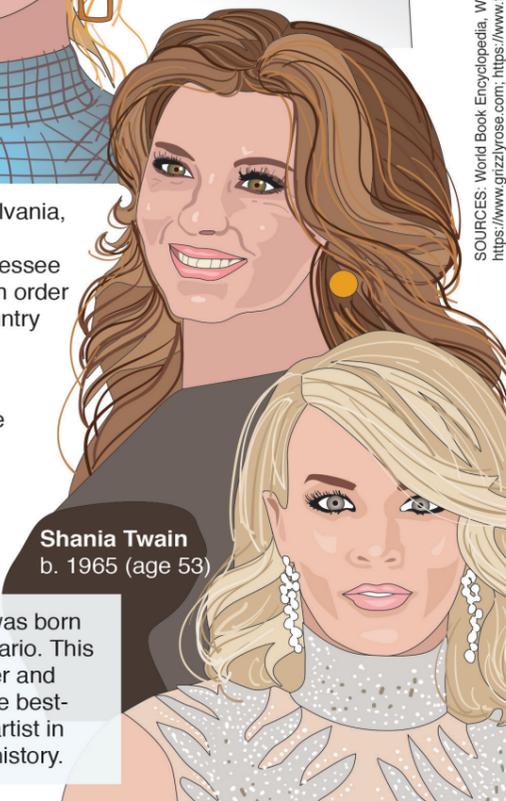
Shania Twain was born in Windsor, Ontario. This Canadian singer and songwriter is the best-selling female artist in country music history.



**Johnny Cash**  
1932 - 2003



**Charley Pride**  
b. 1934 (age 84)



**Shania Twain**  
b. 1965 (age 53)

## The changing sound

During the 1930s and '40s, radio shows featuring country music could be heard across the U.S. **The Grand Ole Opry** began airing in 1925 and continues today. Cowboy songs and Western music were popularized by films made in Hollywood and sung by stars like **Roy Rogers** and **Gene Autry**.

By the early 1950s, **bluegrass**, **Western swing**, **country boogie** and **honky-tonk** emerged. **Rockabilly** was hugely popular. Johnny Cash is an enduring representative of the rockabilly genre. By the 1960s, the **Nashville sound** turned country music into a multimillion-dollar industry.

In the 1970s, many artists felt country music had sold out, and **country rock** and the **outlaw movement** were born. Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard and a host of other "outlaws" rebelled and began to break the established country music rules.

During the mid-1970s, Dolly Parton made her mark as a mainstream country artist. 1989 has gone down in history for introducing many legendary artists and songs. Artists like Garth Brooks brought a youthful vitality to the genre and helped change the direction of the country music scene once again.

The 1990s saw country music gain worldwide recognition, and bands like **The Dixie Chicks** became hugely popular.

The 21st century has seen **country rap** and **country pop** emerge. This music continues to evolve and grow a diverse audience.

**Carrie Underwood**  
b. 1983 (age 35)

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://www.grizzlyrose.com>; <https://www.thoughtco.com>