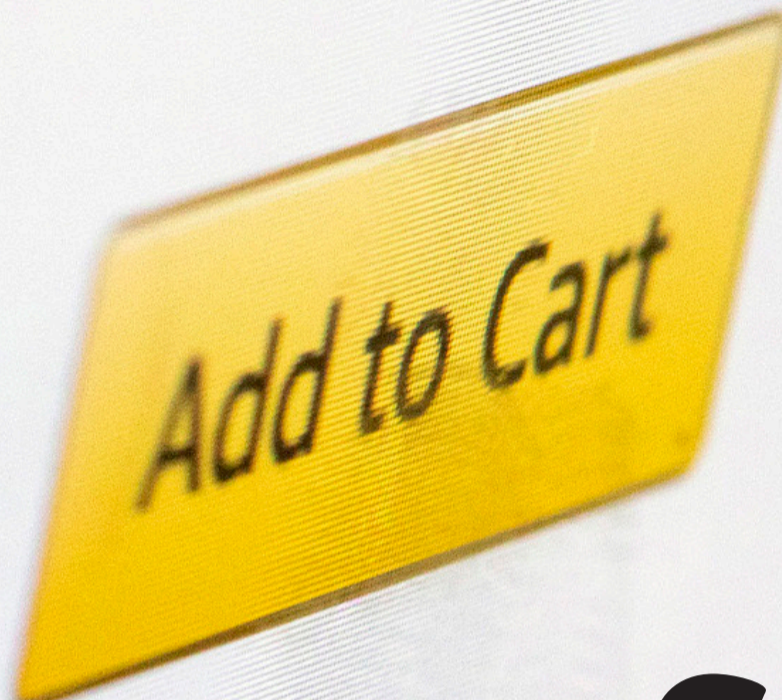




- MOVIES: LAST CHRISTMAS
- BOOKS: THE 19TH CHRISTMAS BY JAMES PATTERSON AND MAXINE PAETRO
- MUSIC: HYPERSPACE BY BECK
- TRAVELOG: AFGHAN WOMAN TAKES ON SOCIETY'S TABOOS

**times**  
**Extra** weekend Guide

Macau Daily Times | Edition 3441 | 20 Dec 2019



# smart holiday shopping



\$59<sup>99</sup>

FREE SHIPPING

There are lots of bargains online during the holidays, but also plenty of ways to get scammed – beware of fake news and reviews

DRIVE IN

Jake Coyle, AP Film Writer

**'LAST CHRISTMAS' ISN'T THE ROM-COM CLICHE IT APPEARS**

Paul Feig's "Last Christmas" looks every bit like your standard holiday romantic-comedy, but it has some surprises under its gauzy wrapping. Kate (Emilia Clarke) works in a year-round Christmas ornament shop in London where she must dress daily in a green elf costume. A repeatedly self-described mess living couch to couch, Kate's life begins to change after she meets a mysterious stranger (Henry Golding) whose life advice — "Just look up" — would be too hokey for anything but aspiring meteorologists. So far, this might sound like a reworking of Ernst Lubitsch's "The Shop Around the Corner" (still the greatest X-mas rom-com). And yet "Last Christmas" turns out to be something less familiar. It's the first — and likely the last — Brexit Christmas movie. That's not exactly the stuff of movie posters. Those drawn to "Last Christmas" by the infectious lilt of the Wham! classic and the appeal of seeing Clarke newly freed from "Game of Thrones" will encounter a holiday fable that slyly inverts many of the usual trappings of the romantic comedy — so much so that's it's neither particularly

funny nor especially romantic. "Last Christmas" was written by Emma Thompson (who also plays Kate's heavily accented mother — their family are longtime Londoners who emigrated from war-torn Yugoslavia) and Bryony Kimmings. Thompson, of course, is already an integral part of one Yuletide perennial, "Love Actually," so it's natural to come to "Last Christmas" seeking some of the same spirit. It's not to be found. "Last Christmas" is about as buoyant as leftover eggnog. Clarke's natural charm comes through — she looks ecstatic to be out of Westeros and playing a less upright character — but such a fleabag-screwup role feels better suited to a more comedic performer. Yet it's often entertaining the way Thompson and Feig take a rom-com set-up and steadily pull it apart, even as they add in the requisite gobs of syrupy sentiment. These movies can be rosy portraits of their cities and their wealthier, white residents. But "Last Christmas" captures a diverse London of immigrants and outsiders, and gravitates not toward its tourist landmarks but its street dwellers. This is set amid the harsh context of Brexit, with background TVs showing

AP PHOTO



Emilia Clarke (left) and Henry Golding in a scene from "Last Christmas"

the U.K. debates and one "go back to where you came from" encounter on a city bus. Kate is going from one one-night stand to another, steadfastly refusing to retreat home to her overbearing family in the suburbs. When not working at the store, she makes half-hearted auditions, trying to break through as a musical performer. Her boss at the boutique shop goes by the name Santa (Michelle Yeoh) and delights in sarcastic quips aimed

at her lone elf. Kate is also recovering from a health issue referenced only vaguely at first. And when she meets Tom (Golding), Kate is reluctantly inspired to begin putting her life together — even though Tom is always disappearing, only popping up randomly. There are good intentions all around but hardly any jokes, which makes the movie's treacherous third-act reveal of Tom's identity still harder to swallow.

Movies like "Bridesmaids" and "The Heat" made Feig one of Hollywood's top comedy directors, but since his "Ghostbusters" reboot, Feig has turned more toward other genres, relying on narrative twists that he can't always pull off. His last film, the 2018 suburban noir "A Simple Favor," was derailed by wild, "Gone Girl"-inspired plot developments. George Michael's "Last Christmas" was always more of hear-

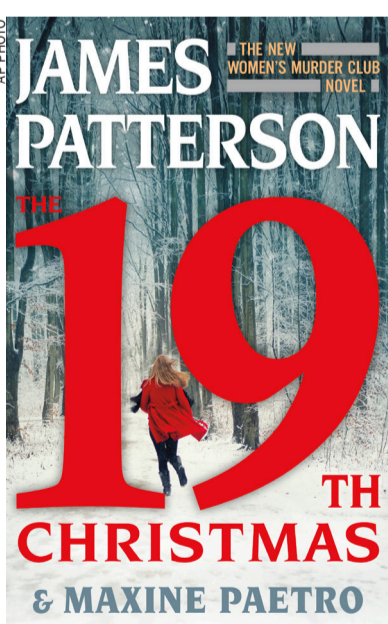
break song than a holiday anthem. Feig's movie, too, diverts from standard rom-com beats for something more about rehabilitation, charity and diversity. Its heart might be in the right place, even if its storyline isn't.

"Last Christmas," a Universal Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for language and sexual content. Running time: 103 minutes. ★★☆☆

BOOK IT

**'19TH CHRISTMAS' A GOOD FIT FOR MYSTERIES AND CHICK-LIT FANS**

James Patterson's newest book, written with Maxine Paetro, is like the socks your favorite aunt gave you a few years ago in your Christmas stocking. "The 19th Christmas" is comfort underneath its cover. Sticking with the fuzzy socks analogy, this book is a good fit for fans of mysteries and chick-lit. It's not high gloss or terribly stylish (definitely not Instagram worthy), but on those nights when you need a reliable companion, there's nothing that you crave more. Balancing her family and her job at the San Francisco Police Department, Sgt. Lindsay Boxer tries to have it all for the holidays. She's running from a serious crime scene — a cop was shot and the suspect is dead — to tree-trimming with her toddler. But this is, at its core, a feel-good novel, even with its blood, guts and bodies piling up. There's no way the criminal mastermind, known only as



"The 19th Christmas" (Little, Brown and Co.) by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro

"Loman," is going to ruin that. Oh, he tries: Loman has sacrificed "friends," a plot to assume a new identity with a hefty offshore bank and an almost entirely frozen heart. It turns out, though, he has a soft spot for his wife.

Christmas is her birthday, and when he screws up his own greedy plan, he can't let her take the fall. He would let the snitches on his payroll do that, even his long-time associate (Dare we call him a "friend"?). He wasn't going to let his "Bunny" rot in her orange jail jumpsuit, though. Interestingly, Bunny — aka Imogene — is probably the most complex character in the book. She thinks she's the housewife of a middle-class jewelry salesman, not a criminal mastermind. When she finds out otherwise, she doesn't take it well. Neither does the heroine Lindsay, of course. But she's gotten a little hard around the edges and isn't so sure of her priorities. It's a good thing she has her posse, including friends in the district attorney and medical examiner offices, and an investigative reporter — and a great New Year's Eve around the corner.

Samantha Critchell, AP

TTUNES

**BECK SHOOTS INTO THE GALAXY FOR LATEST TRIPPY ALBUM**



Beck, "Hyperspace" (Capitol Records)

The 11 songs on the aptly named "Hyperspace" are airy and psychedelic, with warm textures and waves of shimmering synth. "Hyperspace" seems a natural progression deeper into the light for Beck, whose last album "Colors" won the Grammy in 2018 for best alternative album and was his lightest, most dance-y offering. This new CD achieves greatness via stardust. Seven of the new tracks were written and produced with multi-instrumentalist Pharrell Williams and the pair have combined for lazy drums and lush, thick ribbons of keyboard. Sometimes that keyboard is so tinny it sounds like one of those toy ones played by kids. Often, they layer in cool samples or loops and let Beck's falsetto free. There is not a boring moment on the entire album. The lyrics show a preoccupation with outer space, with references to a falling star, the moon, the sun, gamma rays and the stratosphere. "I'm so high," Beck sings in one song. In another, he's "Far above the ground/Halfway to oblivion." In a third: "High as the moon." (Was everyone doing bong hits in the studio?) Things get so weird that Williams is credited with "mumbles" in one song. Beck's sorrow has been raw (see his 2002 "Sea Change") but now even when he explores being lonely and his own damaged soul ("Dark Places"), it's accompanied by pillowy choruses and starburst strumming harmonies. So strong is Beck's gravitational pull here that Chris Martin of Coldplay stops by for "Stratosphere," but he is barely noticeable. Was he even here? What is here anyway? Why is everything rotating? And is that Beck, up there? Weightless, going into the sun? Hold on, man. We'll join you in a bit.

Mark Kennedy, AP

## NEWS OF THE WORLD

Joseph Pisani &amp; Anick Jesdanun, AP

# Avoiding fake reviews and tricky ads

There are lots of bargains online during the holidays, but also plenty of ways to get scammed, even at established outlets like Amazon.

How can you be sure you're reading a legitimate review, not one coming from a company employee? How can you flag sponsored placements and other ads — and protect your credit card once you buy?

Although there's no magical solution, try some of these practices to be a savvy online shopper.

## REVIEWING THE REVIEWS

Online reviews at major retailers such as Amazon and Walmart and listing services such as Yelp look like a good place to get first-hand information from people who've tried a product or merchant.

But investigations by The Washington Post and BuzzFeed have described networks of fake reviewers paid to inflate ratings for lesser-known sellers on Amazon. Merchants might also have their own employees write favorable reviews, or trash competitors.

Amazon has waged a legal battle against fake reviewers since at least 2015, when it claimed in a court filing that "an unhealthy ecosystem is developing outside of Amazon to supply inauthentic reviews." The Federal Trade Commission recently settled with a cosmetics merchant that, it charged, had its own managers create fake accounts and direct employees to write good reviews on Sephora.com.

Beyond that, many so-called social media influencers also write reviews after receiving free products.

Saoud Khalifah, who founded the service Fakespot to help consumers avoid being influenced by fake and biased reviews, suggests looking beyond text reviews. Search for video reviews on YouTube; you can at least tell that the reviewer has used the product, though it's not always easy to tell if they've been compensated.

Text reviews can still be helpful once you learn to spot unusual patterns, such as lots of five-star ratings in a short period of time.

If a service lets people rate reviews as helpful or not, look for reviews with an unusually high number of "helpful" votes. Khalifah said merchants might try to game the system by artificially inflating favorable reviews as helpful so they show up more prominently.

Another warning sign: reviews that carry high or low ratings without offering many specifics.

Other patterns are harder to spot. A reviewer might have been banned from one service, but still write for others. Websites and apps such as Fakespot can help by flagging the same person's reviews elsewhere and offering a revised rating.

## DODGE FAKES

Just because you're shopping on Amazon doesn't mean you're buying from Amazon. The online shopping giant, like eBay, Walmart and others, has vast third-



-party marketplaces where anyone can sell goods.

The problem: That's where fraudsters try to sneak in their brand-name counterfeits.

In a report last year, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said 20 of the 47 items it bought from online stores with third-party marketplaces were counterfeit. It isn't just about getting duped; phony products might be made with toxic chemicals or carry other risks.

One safeguard is to research whom you're buying from. The "sold by" section will list the seller's name. Look up its website to see if there are negative reviews or if the site looks unprofessional. Blurry photos and misspellings are red flags. Others include sparse reviews or complaints about knockoffs. Be sure to compare the price to other sites. If it's much lower, you may be looking at a phony.

## COUPONS WITHOUT THE HUNT

Save money by installing browser extensions from such companies as Honey, RetailMeNot and Wiki-buy. A button will show up on

your web browser. Click to automatically search for and paste in discount codes such as "CYBER-DEAL" when you're ready to check out.

The companies have other money-saving tools. Honey, for example, lets you track products and will notify you when there's a price drop at Amazon, Macy's and other major stores.

Your options are more limited on your phone. Browser extensions work only on traditional desktop and laptop computers.

## PRODUCT PLACEMENTS

Amazon, eBay, Walmart and Macy's are among the retailers that are stuffing their online stores with ads to make more money.

Companies big and small can bid to get their products near the top of a store's search results. They look just like regular product listings, except for the word "Sponsored." You might think that a product is showing up at the top because it's somehow better.

Instead, sellers typically buy ads for their more expensive pro-

ducts or ones they have just launched to get the product in front of more shoppers and increase the likelihood of a sale, said Juozas Kaziukenas, the founder of Marketplace Pulse, a market research firm.

Before buying a product that was an ad, make sure that it fits what you're looking for and that there isn't a cheaper option.

## CREDIT CARD SAFETY

Once you're ready to buy, don't hand your credit or debit card number to just anyone. Even if the merchant is legitimate, smaller businesses might not have the resources to keep up on security. That could leave your data exposed to hacking.

You can protect yourself by using credit cards when possible, as they offer better protections than debit cards. Federal law limits liability to \$50 if your number gets stolen — and banks will often waive that entirely. Though there has been a decline in fraud involving existing credit card accounts, it still amounted to \$6.5 billion last year, accor-

ding to estimates from the advisory firm Javelin Strategy & Research.

Some banks let you create temporary numbers that can be set to expire once you make your purchase, preventing merchants from charging you again down the road. And of course, if the number gets stolen, it won't work.

Digital payment services such as Apple Pay and Samsung Pay also automatically substitute your card number with a digital ID. But there aren't that many merchants that accept them for online transactions.

You can also use PayPal to keep merchants from having your real card number. Instead, PayPal keeps the number and makes the payment on your behalf. Be sure you're paying a business directly, as you get some protections, including reimbursements when merchants ship damaged or counterfeit items.

If you're making a cash transfer to pay an individual directly, you're on the hook if something goes wrong.

**TRAVELOG**

Tameem Akhgar AP

**A TATTOO AT A TIME, AFGHAN WOMAN TAKES ON SOCIETY'S TABOOS**

A female tattoo artist, a rarity in ultra-conservative Afghanistan, is taking a big risk with every customer she takes on. It's been 18 months since Suraya Shaheedi started her mobile tattoo shop in the capital, Kabul. She's received death threats for taking on the taboo of the ink-on-skin drawings she does — as well as being a single woman willing to work with men.

"I have struggled a lot, even been threatened with death, because people in Afghanistan think doing tattoos is haram," she said, using the Arabic word meaning prohibited by religion.

"Whether my customers are men or women doesn't matter to me. I do tattoos for both," says Shaheedi, a 26-year-old, divorced single mother. In a black curtained room, surrounded by his friends, a young customer shrieks in pain as the needle pierces and inks his skin.

"I can't leave the profession I love," Shaheedi adds.

She easily gets customers, whether men or women, as social attitudes toward tattoos loosen up and



Suraya Shaheedi

more ink parlors open. It's the kind of small, but important change that Shaheedi feels a return of Taliban rule could threaten.

After decades of war, Afghans want peace. A big concern for many like Shaheedi is that U.S.-

led peace talks with the Taliban will boost the militant group.

"I am happy if the Taliban return results in peace, but if they disagree with my work and impede the freedom and progress of women, then I will be the first to stand against

them," she vowed. Women like Shaheedi have carved out a space for themselves in a society where custom heavily restricts women's roles and education. Close to 40% of Afghanistan's eligible girls are not allowed by their families to

go to school, and almost 20% are forced by their families to leave school after grade six, according to a survey by the Asia Foundation released this year. In areas under the Taliban, who now control or hold sway over roughly

half of the country, women are not allowed to leave their homes without a male escort. The insurgent group ruled Afghanistan with a harsh version of Islamic law from 1996 to 2001, when the U.S. invaded. Shaheedi divorced her

**RESTAURANTS**

**CANTONESE**



**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  
11:30 - 14:30 / 17:30 - 23:30



**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 —  
法式餐廳

**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: 18:00 - 22:30



**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



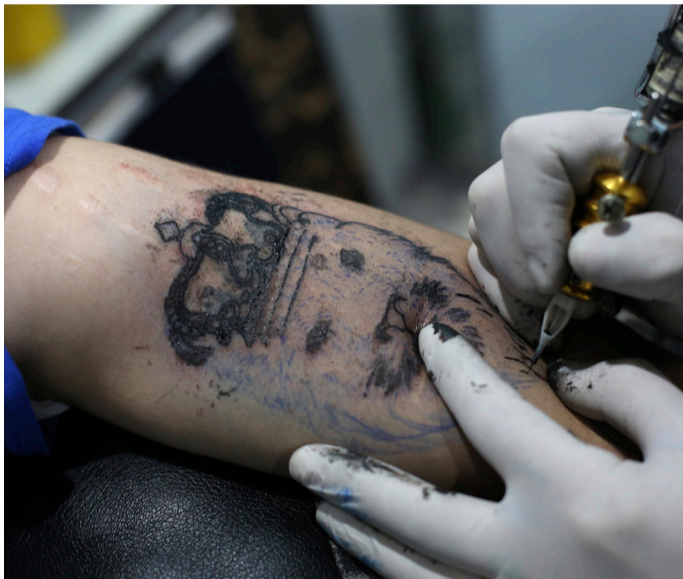
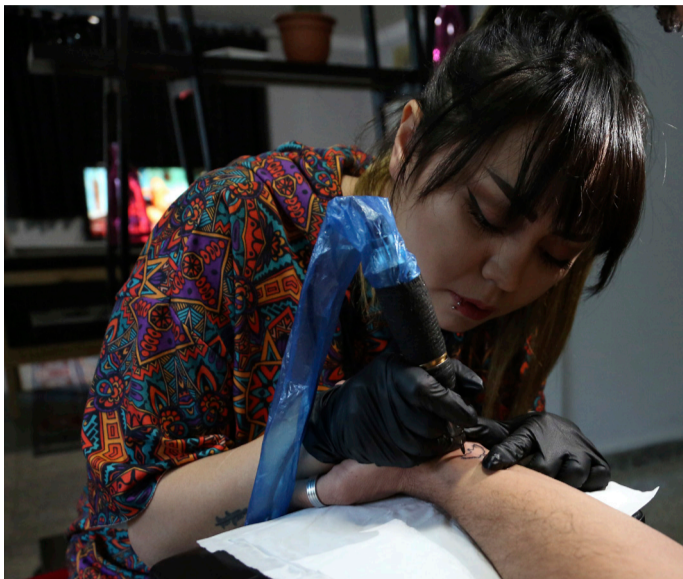
**PASTRY BAR**  
10am - 8pm  
T: 8802 2324  
Level 1, MGM MACAU



**ROSSIO**  
**Rossio**  
7am - 11pm  
T: 8802 2372  
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



**NORTH BY SQUARE EIGHT**  
11am - 1am  
T: 8802 2388  
Level 1, MGM MACAU



husband eight years ago while she was pregnant. She and her son now live with her parents. Her father supports her work, even though Afghanistan's patriarchal society often forbids a woman from touching a man to whom she is not related

or married. Her parents and elder brother persuaded her to become a tattoo artist, Shaheedi said, after she got her first tattoo while visiting Turkey — an arrow piercing the image of an eye on her right hand, which she says symboliz-

es overcoming adversity. Shaheedi's father, Hussain, 58, believes the strict customs controlling women in Afghanistan need to change. "I support my daughter in every way, and she makes me proud the way she's stood against this taboo," he

said. Shaheedi uses Instagram and other social media to find and meet customers. She prefers not to keep a parlor with a fixed address out of concerns for her safety. She also does manicures and makeup. When she

met one customer recently at a hair salon, the customer's husband recognized her from her social media pages as being the tattoo artist "Aho," the nickname she uses online. The husband threatened to kill Shaheedi if she kept posting images of her tattoo work on social media. Tattoos were common in some of Afghanistan's rural areas, especially among Pashtun and Hazara women, but the ink piercings were used sparingly, often as only a few green dots on the face. Tattoo artists say demand among the younger generation has risen for more flamboyant and personal designs, and with it, the number of ink parlors increased in the capital. Omid Noori, 23, has 16 tattoos all over his body. He wants to add another on his left arm, showing the head of a lion with a crown and wreaths. But he only wants new designs on parts of his body that his clothing can hide, because he says he's tired of hearing people's negative comments about the ink piercings. He also worries what would happen if Islamic militants caught him. "I'm thinking that if the Taliban return, they'll cut off my hands and legs,"

he said. He inked his last tattoos at a parlor belonging to a former Afghan army officer, Nazeer Mosawi. Mosawi, 42, fought for seven years in Afghanistan's civil war with the Islamic insurgents. He says he is still fighting the war, but this time his battle is against society's conservatism, with his tattoo machine as his weapon. Mosawi receives threatening phone and social media messages almost every day, demanding he close his tattoo business. "They even threaten to beat me, burn my shop," he said. "There is no alternative: I tell them, OK, I can't flee this country because of these threats. It's my homeland." But for every threat he gets, Mousawi said he gets several messages with positive feedback or people curious to learn more. Shaheedi said she is also working to put her 8-year-old son, now in second grade, through school. She is also studying business management at a university in Kabul. "Being a woman in Afghanistan requires guts," she said. "I am proud of myself for having the guts."



**南苑**  
SOUTH  
by SQUARE EIGHT

**SOUTH BY SQUARE EIGHT**  
24hrs  
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

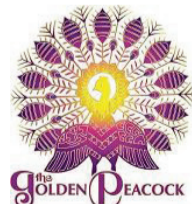


**FW RIO GRILL & SEAFOOD MARKET**  
Tel: (853) 8799 6338  
Email: riogrill\_and\_seafoodmarket@fishermanswharf.com.mo  
Location: Cape Town, Macau Fisherman's Wharf

**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**  
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**

**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

**THE BAR AT THE COUNTDOWN**  
Level 1, The Countdown 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  
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

**WHAT'S ON**



**TODAY (DEC 20)**

**SINGING CLUB IN CONCERT – THE SOUND OF NATURE**

Macau Cultural Centre's Singing Club performs this month its annual concert, featuring a variety of vocal styles and accompanying choreography. The concert will evoke "The Sound of Nature": from soothing raindrops in a forest, to animal wildlife. The performance lasts for approximately 60 minutes without intermission and is recommended only for those aged six and above. The concert, led by conductor Rosita Leong, features pianist Serena Ma.

TIME: 3pm

VENUE: Small Auditorium, Macau Cultural Centre

ADMISSION: Free tickets available at the Cultural Centre's Box Office and at Kong Seng Ticketing Service Outlets; each person can collect two tickets

ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Centre

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5555

EMAIL: enquiry@ccm.gov.mo

WWW.CCM.GOV.MO



**TOMORROW (DEC 21)**

**THE WORLD AS WILL AND IDEA – COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF EMERGING ARTISTS FROM MAINLAND CHINA**

The exhibition, curated by veteran professional Sun Feng, invited five young contemporary artists from Mainland China, namely Ouyang Sulong, Yuan Song, Liang Manqi, Hu Weiyi and Ying Xinxun, to showcase a total of 26 different types of large-scale artworks, including spatial drawing installations, interactive video installations, 3D printings, photographs, videos and sculptures. By combining different media materials, the artists create works in an innovative and distinctive styles, seeking to convey their unique views on daily life and social issues as well as probing into inner senses and philosophy, and reflecting the aesthetic features of contemporary arts in China. Through their artworks, the artists attempt to interpret spiritual images, taking the audience on a journey of perception and understanding by inspiring them to explore and reflect on themselves and the external world.

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

UNTIL: February 23, 2020

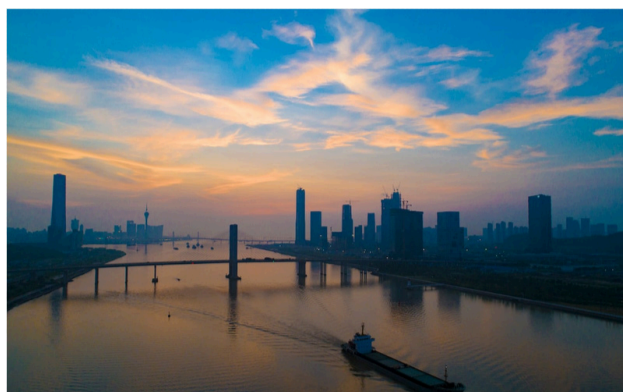
VENUE: Macau Contemporary Art Centre - Navy Yard No.1, located at Rua de S. Tiago Da Barra

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANISER: Cultural Affairs Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

WWW.ICM.GOV.MO



**SUNDAY (DEC 22)**

**MACAU-ZHUHAI FIREWORKS IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF MACAU TO THE MOTHERLAND AND NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS DISPLAYS**

On the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macau SAR, and also on New Year's Eve, fireworks displays light up the night sky at Macau Tower shorefront. The pyrotechnics are accompanied by music, with the sounds relayed also from outside Kun lam Ecumenical Centre and on the Taipa shoreline near Ocean Gardens, creating a memorable experience for spectators. Other popular viewing points are at Macau Science Center; the top of Penha Hill; and from the Anim'Arte NAM VAN zone, by the lakeside at Nam Van. The fireworks display for December 22nd is to be larger than usual, with the neighbouring island of Hengqin in Guangdong Province taking part. On New Year's Eve, the fireworks display performance is scheduled to last for approximately five minutes.

TIME: 9pm (December 22)

12am (December 31)

VENUE: Next to Macau Tower

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Macau Government Tourism Office

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 3000

EMAIL: mgto@macaotourism.gov.mo

WWW.MACAOTOURISM.GOV.MO



**MONDAY (DEC 23)**

**RED DECEMBER – EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS**

This exhibition features artist Carlos Marreiros' latest large-scale artwork "Red December" and a series of paintings from his sketchbooks. "Red December", a large composition embedded with detail, depicts a scene where Chinese and Western historical figures from different periods of time gather together and indulge in pleasant conversations with each other. The work visualises the utopia in the artist's mind, where different cultures exist harmoniously in an inclusive society. In addition, the paintings from his sketchbooks give an account of the artist's creative and reflective process over the years, allowing the audience to take a close look at his sources of inspiration and traverse his creative world which features both Chinese and Western cultures.

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: February 13, 2020

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, located at No. 95,

Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

ORGANISER: Cultural Affairs Bureau

WWW.ICM.GOV.MO



**COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF MACAU ARTISTS 2019**

The "Collective Exhibition of Macau Artists" has been held for many years, providing an important platform for local artists to showcase their calligraphic works and paintings and to exchange ideas, and promoting the innovation and development of art in Macau. The open submission for this year's Exhibition was held in May. After a professional and rigorous selection, the winning and shortlisted works were selected by a panel of experts and academics from Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau.

This exhibition features 80 outstanding pieces (sets), covering a wide range of themes in various forms and styles, reflecting the efforts of local artists to represent the beauty of Chinese traditional arts while exploring artistic innovation. The exhibition shows the characteristics and features of Macau's contemporary Chinese calligraphy, painting and seal carving.

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 13, 2020

VENUE: Old Court Building

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

ORGANISER: Cultural Affairs Bureau

WWW.ICM.GOV.MO



**TUESDAY (DEC 24)**

**2019 CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION**

Each year, Christian churches in Macau and other local Christian organizations come together to organize a Christmas Eve Celebration. The event – which started 27 years ago – has attracted over time a cumulative number of participants totalling over 100,000. The event allows residents and visitors to enjoy the festive season, while deepening their knowledge of Christian faith. This year's four-hour programme includes Christmas carols, choir singing, live music, children's dance and singing, performances by youth dance teams, drama plays and games, all suitable for families. The event is to be conducted in Cantonese.

TIME: 8pm-12am

VENUE: Ruins of St. Paul's

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 2435

ORGANIZER: Macau Christian Churches and organizations

EMAIL: 1993mcm@gmail.com



**WEDNESDAY (DEC 25)**  
MACAU LIGHT FESTIVAL

In 2015, MGTO launched the first edition of the “Macau Light Festival” which is held annually in December at various locations in Macau Peninsula and on the Islands. The event program includes projection mapping, light installations, interactive games and a series of other activities. The event aims to draw visitors to different districts of the city for an appreciation of Macau by night and to learn about the local culture and history from innovative angles shaped by light artistry.

TIME: 7pm-10pm (5-8 mins in every 30 mins; last projection mapping starts at 21:50)  
UNTIL: December 31, 2019  
VENUE: Please refer to the following website  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000  
ORGANISER: Cultural Affairs Bureau  
[https://content.macaotourism.gov.mo/uploads/mgto\\_events\\_festivals/2019\\_MacauLightFestival\\_tc.pdf](https://content.macaotourism.gov.mo/uploads/mgto_events_festivals/2019_MacauLightFestival_tc.pdf)



**THURSDAY (DEC 26)**  
THE LONG JOURNEY: THE FORBIDDEN CITY AND MARITIME SILK ROAD

After a collaboration spanning two decades, the Macau Museum of Art and the Palace Museum in Beijing are putting together their largest-ever joint exhibition – The Long Journey: The Forbidden City and Maritime Silk Road. The showcase divides the Museum’s 4th-floor gallery into three sections: Crossing the Oceans; Bringing Western Influence to the East; and Eclecticism. The exhibition features nearly 160 cultural relics from the collection of the Palace Museum, including porcelains, scientific instruments, timepieces, daily-use items, enamelled pieces, calligraphic works, and paintings and textiles related to the Maritime Silk Road. The 2nd-floor gallery hosts “A Panorama of Rivers and Mountains 3.0,” described as a digital interactive interpretation of one of the top-10 Chinese paintings as measured by popular opinion.

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: March 15, 2020  
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art  
ADMISSION: Free admission  
ORGANIZERS: Cultural Affairs Bureau; Macau Museum of Art; Palace Museum  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814  
WWW.MAM.GOV.MO

# Sands WEEKEND



**A MAGICAL WINTER WONDERLAND AT SANDS RESORTS MACAO**

Experience a magical winter at Sands Resorts Macao. We have decked the halls with holiday cheer and prepared unforgettable winter activities for visitors. Marvel at the inverted Christmas tree at The Parisian Macao, and be spellbound by the 3D Light and Sound Spectacular at The Venetian Macao. We also have feasts that will warm your hearts, sensational shopping offers, exciting entertainment and more. At the end of the day, luxuriate in one of our stunning guest rooms or suites. And be sure to join our New Year’s Eve Countdown!

Further details: [en.sandsresortsmacao.com](http://en.sandsresortsmacao.com)



**CHIADO**

Shop 2206, Level 2, Sands Cotai Central

Try a festive season set dinner at one of the most authentic Portuguese restaurants in town. Chiado was developed in partnership with celebrity chef Henrique Sá Pessoa, and offers contemporary, casual fine-dining emphasising traditional dishes. This winter Chiado presents superb set dinner menus offering scallops; lobster cream soup; grilled codfish; braised Iberian pork cheeks; roasted octopus with chourigo sausage rice and more.

Set Dinner: Christmas Eve (24 December), Christmas Day (25 December), New Year’s Eve (31 December) MOP688\*

Reservations: +853 8113 8988 or [chiado.reservation@sands.com.mo](mailto:chiado.reservation@sands.com.mo)

\*Subject to 10% service charge



**BRASSERIE**

Shop 3312, Level 3, The Parisian Macao

Diners looking for delicious Parisian flavours this festive season will find them at the très authentic Brasserie. Christmas and New Year set menus include a three-course lunch and four-course dinner, offering oysters; seared duck foie gras; turkey; steak; French desserts and much more. Add MOP 250 for wine pairing.

Set lunch prices: Christmas Day (25 December) & New Year’s Day (1 January 2020): MOP288\*

Set dinner prices: Christmas Eve (24 December), Christmas Day (25 December) & New Year’s Eve (31 December): MOP588\*

Reservations: +853 8111 9200 or [brasserie.reservation@sands.com.mo](mailto:brasserie.reservation@sands.com.mo)

\*Subject to 10% service charge



**COTAI WATER JET 2019 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION PROMOTION**

Until 31 December 2019

Passengers whose birthdays are during the month of the purchase date and who are 12 years or above can show their valid Macao or Hong Kong ID, or international passport to enjoy a Cotai Class round trip ticket for HKD/MOP 259 or a Cotai First round trip ticket for HKD/MOP 469. This promotion only applies to Cotai Water Jet City Route.

Black-out Periods: 21-26 December 2019.  
Further details: [www.cotaiwaterjet.com](http://www.cotaiwaterjet.com)



澳門金沙度假區  
**Sands**  
RESORTS MACAO



1

# World of Wonder

EXPLORING THE REALMS OF HISTORY, SCIENCE, NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY

## Ghosts of Christmas Past

### A tribute to Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'

#### A time of change

The Industrial Revolution was a time of great progress, with railroads, steam engines and factories supporting a growing middle class. But there was another side to this coin of prosperity. Low wages, poverty and crime were growing, while the slums and the poorhouses filled beyond capacity. If you were born into a poor family, it is very likely that you would have been working in a factory by the age of 5.

It was in this world of extreme wealth and poverty that Charles Dickens lived. He made his home in London, England, where he wrote about and tried to realize social reform.

#### Victorian Christmas

The working poor of the Industrial Revolution (clerks, shopkeepers, dressmakers and factory laborers) had little time or money for celebrating Christmas. But the upper and middle classes embraced the holiday with new and old traditions. Singing Christmas carols came back into fashion, while handmade gifts, large feasts, dances and games with family and friends became staples of the holiday. In the early 1840s, the first Christmas card was sent and Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" became part of the celebrations. Prince Albert (husband of Queen Victoria) brought the German custom of decorating the Christmas tree to England, and soon everyone wanted one. In addition to their emphasis on home and family, the Victorians encouraged churchgoing and charity as important aspects of the holiday.

#### What is in a name?

A carol is a joyful song, hymn or ballad with a theme that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. The title "A Christmas Carol" suggests that Dickens intended this work to be enjoyed in the happy spirit of the season. In the preface of the original book, Dickens wrote:

*"I have endeavoured in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it."*

*Their faithful Friend and Servant, C.D. December, 1843.*

Nineteenth-century composer Arthur Sullivan helped to popularize the carols with four Christmas scores: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," "I Sing the Birth," "Upon the Snow-clad Earth" and "Hark! What Mean Those Holy Voices."



*Charles Dickens*

#### About the book

"A Christmas Carol" was published the week before Christmas in 1843. Dickens wrote it in six weeks and paid for production out of his own pocket. Designed with a gold-stamped cover, the book included eight illustrations by John Leech (four woodcuts and four hand-colored etchings). Its price was set at 5 shillings, making it affordable to most people.

#### The ghosts

"A Christmas Carol" is about a stingy man named Ebenezer Scrooge who is visited by three Christmas ghosts who try to reform him. The Ghost of Christmas Past was the first of the three spirits (after the visitation by old business partner Jacob Marley) to haunt Scrooge. The Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come follow.



Lionel Barrymore on radio 1930s-1940s



Alastair Sim in 1951



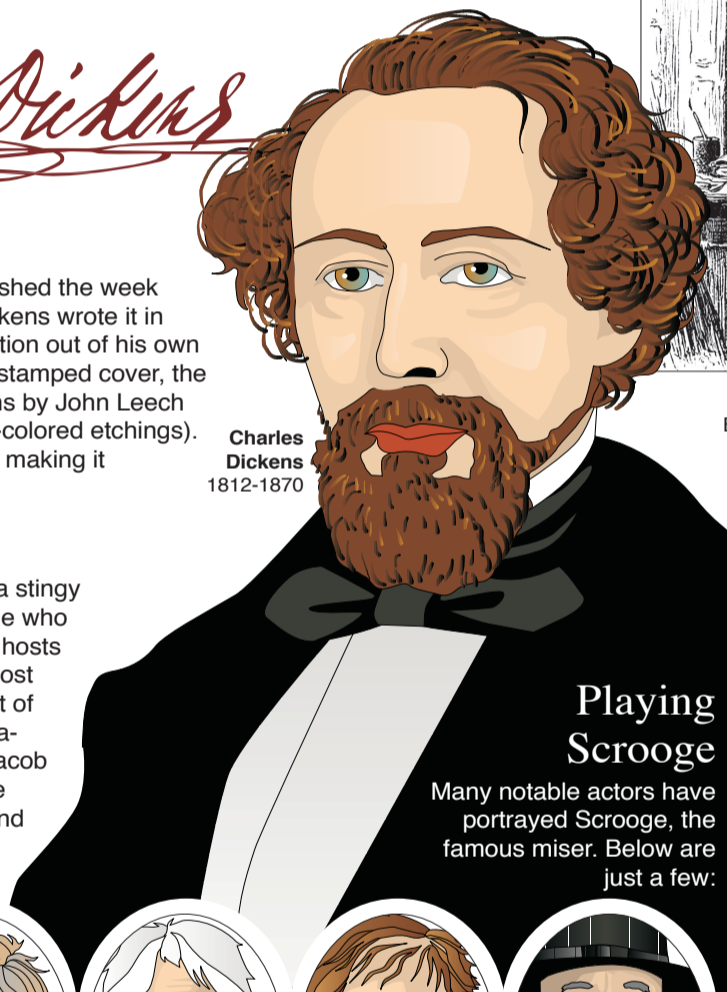
Basil Rathbone in 1956 and 1958



Albert Finney in 1970



Patrick Stewart in 1999



Charles Dickens 1812-1870

#### Playing Scrooge

Many notable actors have portrayed Scrooge, the famous miser. Below are just a few:



1904 illustration by Fred Bernard, published in The Leisure Hour

#### A brief biography

Born in 1812, Charles Dickens was the second of eight children. His middle-class family often lived beyond its means, and when Charles was 12, his father (a naval clerk), mother and siblings were sent to debtor's prison. Charles went to live with a family friend and was forced to work in a factory. This event scarred the young man, but also served as a creative force for many of his essays and novels. It also laid the foundation of his support for social reform.

After the family's release from prison a few months later, Charles attended public school for a short time. At age 15, he found work in a law office, where he learned shorthand. In

1829 he began a career as a newspaper reporter. Five years later, his first story, "A Dinner at Poplar Walk," was published in a magazine.

Dickens married Catherine Hogarth (daughter of George Hogarth, editor of the Evening Chronicle) in 1836. They

made their home in London, where they raised 10 children.

Many of Dickens' novels were first published as serials that ran weekly or monthly. Some notable works: "Sketches by Boz," "Oliver Twist," "Nicholas Nickleby," "A Tale of Two Cities," "David Copperfield," "Great Expectations" and "The Pickwick Papers."

In 1842, Dickens visited Canada and the United States, where he spoke on international copyright (some publishers were pirating his works) and the abolition of slavery.

After publishing "A Christmas Carol," Dickens went on regular reading tours in England, France, Ireland and the United States.

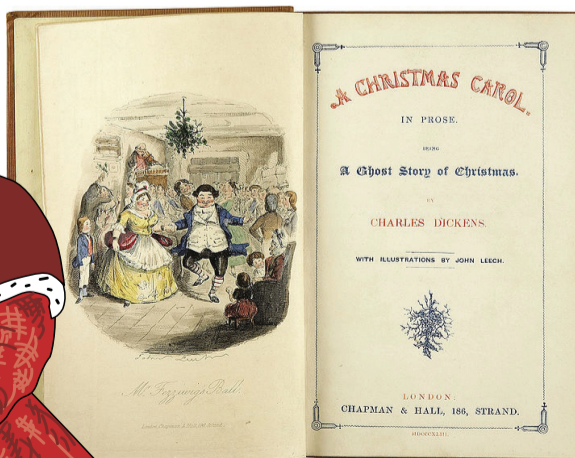
In addition to his novels and essays, Dickens was dedicated to helping the poor, while encouraging education and social change.

#### In the end

Dickens passed away at age 58 in the summer of 1870. Despite his wishes for a humble burial, he was laid to rest with great honors in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey in London.

Famous in his own lifetime, Dickens had become so closely associated with the Christmas spirit that when he died, a little girl is said to have asked, "Mr. Dickens, dead? Then will Father Christmas die, too?"

Today, after more than 160 years, "A Christmas Carol" continues to remind people that the holiday season should be about more than material goods.



Title page, "A Christmas Carol," first edition, 1843

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; www.thehistoryofchristmas.com; http://charlesdickenspage.com

At a bookstore near you: Two full-color World of Wonder compilations: "Plants & Animals" and "People & Places." For more information, please visit [QuillDriverBooks.com](http://QuillDriverBooks.com) or call 800-605-7176