



CELEBRITY CHEF VOLUME II

An Evening with Josh Emmett,
19th January, 2011
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Restaurant Maze, Melbourne,
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from Down Under.

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(including wines)

Dates: 19th January, 2011
Restaurant: Astor Grill
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DINING · SHOPPING · NIGHTLIFE

agenda

Apples and Oranges

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with Beijing's most innovative
entrepreneurs and chefs



Stinky cuisine
Beijing's best cocktails
Rejuvenating treatments
Imperial dining

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PLUS VISITOR INFORMATION, CULTURAL EVENTS, MUSIC, SPORTS, STAGE & CINEMA

agenda

Greetings!

Thanks for your support!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



agenda

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Refined Cantonese cuisine



Cantonese

Sui Yuan Chinese Restaurant

Sui Yuan is a great place to experience authentic Cantonese dishes. The restaurant's design manages to be both traditional and modern, and the ornate dining room, lined with Chinese calligraphy and bronze sculptures, makes the perfect backdrop for a business meeting, or dinner with friends. Don't miss out on their weekend dim sum buffet, where you can enjoy 30 different kinds of dim sum, a cold appetizer buffet, desserts, and tea for just RMB 88 between 10.30-2.30pm. For more information or reservation please call 6338-1999 ext. 1726.

Daily 11.30am-10pm. 168 Guang An Men Wai Avenue, Xicheng District (6338 1888 ext. 1726)
[西城区广安门外大街168号](#)

Signature dishes include all kinds of dim sum, such as the crystal shrimp dumplings with chives, steamed bean curd skin rolls with vegetables and fish stock, and deep fried custard balls

Perfect for an authentic taste of Cantonese food in a refined setting

While you're in the neighborhood, take in some culture at one of many nearby attractions, such as the Capital Museum, Beihai Park, Baiyun Taoist Temple, and the National Center for the Performing Arts. Then treat yourself to a signature Chinese massage at the Doubletree by Hilton Spa (starting at RMB 350 per hour), and finish off the day with a drink at the Lin Lounge hotel bar.



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39 Dongshanhuan Zhonglu,
Chaoyang District.
(5969-8112/8113/2765)



Lucky Street / Annex
9-C, (North Side of
Dongyuan Apartments)
Lucky Street, Chaoyang District.
(5867-0293/0294, 5729-0768)





Classic European with a twist



European

Cabare

Located in Solana, this Mediterranean-influenced European eatery offers a diverse menu that ranges from tasty tapas to delectable desserts and boasts European specialties like fresh imported oysters and Iberico ham. The classic Spanish dishes *gambas al ajillo* and *paella marinara* are well worth a try, and the mouthwatering and innovative desserts, like gin and tonic on a plate, are an absolute must. Engaging service and a lovely view of Solana's lake create a relaxing atmosphere that, along with a glass of wine from Cabare's vast selection, complements the meal perfectly. Every Sunday from 10.30am to 2.30pm, Cabare offers an all-you-can-eat European buffet brunch (RMB 148) accompanied by live jazz music.

Daily 9am-2.30am. 15-1, Bldg 15, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District (5905 1760)
[朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾15号楼15-1号 www.cabare.cn](http://www.cabare.cn)

Signature dishes include spicy oyster shots (RMB 42), Iberico ham (RMB 140 for 50g), gambas al ajillo (shrimp with garlic, RMB 55), paella marinara (RMB 120), and gin and tonic on a plate (RMB 38)

Perfect for savory Mediterranean-style seafood

While you're in the neighborhood, check out Solana's third annual Lights Festival – from December 17 to 31, the "happy sea" themed light display will fill shoppers and diners with the holiday spirit. If you miss the final day of the event, console yourself with a decadent ice cream from Cold Stone Creamery, some bling from Twice, and a movie at Saga Cinema.



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**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

RUMI
波斯美食
PERSIAN GRILL

1-1 Gongti Beilu
(opposite
Zhaolong Hotel)
Sanlitun

8454 3838



BEIJING EATS

by Eileen Wen Mooney

A Food-Lover's Companion
to China's Culinary Capital

中国人口出版社

It's all been said now. And, as far as food goes, the rest of us writing Beijing guides might just as well hang up our chopsticks.

— Peter Neville-Hadley

Eileen Wen's no-nonsense approach and discerning palate doesn't just lead you to the treasures in China's capital, but to a deeper appreciation of why China is the world's capital of eating.

— John Krich,
author of *Won Ton Lust*
and former *Wall Street Journal*
Asia food columnist

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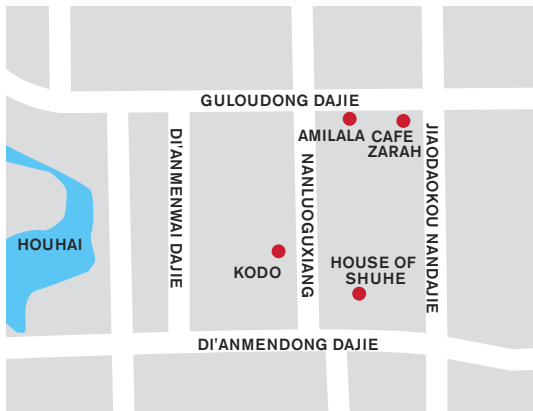
House of Shuhe serves a hotpot in a tranquil alley a stone's throw from bustling Nanluogu Xiang – just as its namesake village offers a peaceful respite from boisterous Lijiang. You can sit in the courtyard, relax in a private room overlooking the garden, or burrow into a couch as you simmer your own Yunnan specialties. Ingredients range from snakehead fish and beancurd to exotic and salutary wild herbs such as yangxincai (养心菜), guanyincai (观音菜) and banlangen (板蓝根). Also on the menu are local scallops, shrimps, beef and lamb. The buffet will change slightly by season, so try the baojiang beancurd (包浆豆腐) and Yunnan ham (火腿肘) while you still have a chance.

Daily 10am-midnight. 17 Beibingmasi Hutong, Dongcheng District (5721 8898)
东城区北兵马司胡同17号

Signature dishes include the hot pot buffet (RMB 68 lunch, RMB 98 dinner), assorted wild herbs, fresh meats and seafood.

Perfect for a relaxing and unique hot pot experience

While you're in the neighborhood, stop by Café Zarah to take in a powerful espresso and some art, or pop into Kodo for some fun trinkets for your home before heading to Amilal for a cozy place to wind down the evening.





Authentic regional cuisine is closer than you think

FAR-FLUNG CORNERS

Beijing's lesser-known provincial government restaurants

As the capital of China for many centuries, Beijing has always been a magnet for people from across the country, which has greatly contributed to the richness of the local food scene. Today, each provincial government office is represented in Beijing, and each office operates a small hotel offering lodging to local officials coming to the capital. Many are famous for their regional eateries and the authenticity of their food. These are a few of the lesser-known provincial restaurants in town worth trying out.

Ji Ren Yuan 吉人缘 Run by the Jilin Provincial Government, Ji Ren Yuan is the place to sample genuine Manchu dishes. *Songrong 松茸* (pine mushrooms), picked wild in the forests and prized for their delicate aroma and taste, are prepared in four different ways – try any of these for the pure fragrance of the pines: *baozhi songrong mo 鲍汁松茸蘑* (pine mushrooms in abalone sauce); *cuizha songrong mo 脆炸松茸蘑* (deep-fried crispy pine mushrooms); *xiangjian songrong mo 香煎松茸蘑* (pan-fried

pine mushrooms); and *qingchao songrong mo 清炒松茸蘑* (stir-fried pine mushrooms).

Daily 11.30am-2pm, 4.30pm-9pm. Xue Song Binguan, 2 Madian Nan Lu, Bei Sanhuan, Haidian District. (8200 0066 ext 2118) 吉林省人民政府驻京办事处饭店。海淀区北三环马甸南路2号七省大院吉林驻京办雪松宾馆

Na Lan 那兰 This is the Guangxi provincial restaurant, which features specialties of the Zhuang minority as well as some Cantonese dishes. *Bama xiangzhu 巴马香猪* is organic roasted suckling pig from Bama County – a must-try dish with hardly any fat. Also delicious is the sticky taro root from Lipu, which is thinly sliced and steamed between slices of streaky pork. Called *lipu yutou kourou 荔浦芋头扣肉*, it doesn't come any better than this. Sour bamboo shoots, the provincial trademark, are stir-fried with shredded pork in *suansun chao rouzi 酸笋炒肉丝*. Daily 11.30am-2pm, 5.30-9pm. 26 Huaweili, Panjiayuan, Chaoyang District. (6779 6688) 朝阳区潘家园华威里26号 广西大

Nanchang Fandian 南昌饭店

This small dining venue attached to the Nanchang City Government Office Hotel offers select Jiangxi specialties. Highly recommended is the *yansun chaorou 烟笋炒肉* (stir-fried smoked bamboo shoots with fatty pork), *lihao chao larou 藜蒿炒腊肉* (stir-fried lihao with cured meat), and *zhurou fenzheng 猪肉粉蒸* (steamed pork with a hint of star-anise flavored rice meal). Daily 11am-1.30pm, 5.30-8.30pm 35 Huangchenggen Nanjie, Xicheng District. (6607 9991) 西城区皇城根南街35号

Yu Fu Shen Chu 豫府神厨 Simple, clean and pleasant, the Henan provincial government restaurant is probably the only place to sample the province's signature dish – *judan shuixi 牡丹水席*, the famous peony water banquet, which is served in a large deep bowl with assorted strips of cooked meat, including braised beef, crabmeat, ham and sausage, sitting on a bed of finely sliced white turnip in a savory sour broth. *Guihua yudu 桂花鱼肚* is strips of deep-fried fish maw, paired with scrambled eggs and green pepper which are wrapped in thin pancakes. Daily 11am-2pm, 5pm-9pm. 8 Dongbinhelu, Youanmenwai, Nan'erhuan, Fengtai District. (6357 6666) 丰台区南二环右安门外东滨河路8号

Zi Yu Xuan 紫钰轩 Situated on the first floor of an old run down Jiangsu provincial government hotel, the menu of Zi Yu Xuan is extensive, featuring dishes from Hangzhou, Suzhou, Yangzhou, and Shanghai. However, it's the unique fresh vegetables that are worth the trip, including some not available elsewhere. Prepared as a dressed cold dish (*liangban 凉拌*), stir-fried (*qingchao 清炒*), or cooked with meat (*shaorou 烧肉*), the vegetables include *douban 豆瓣* (lima beans); *jicai 芥菜* (shepherd purse); *juyue 菊叶* (chrysanthemum leaves); *yesheng qin 野生芹* (wild celery); *shuiqin 水芹* (water celery); *gouqiyue 枸杞叶* (wolfberry leaves) and *machixian 马齿苋* (purslane). This eatery is probably the only restaurant in Beijing that makes *pashao zhutou 扒烧猪头* (braised pig head) – a Yangzhou signature dish. Daily 11am-2pm, 5-10pm. Inside Jiangsu Hotel, 1 Ganshuiqiao, Andingmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6422 4806) 朝阳区甘水桥1号安定门外大街江苏饭店

Compiled by Eileen Wen Mooney



Simple, straightforward, and delicious



Japanese

Yukie Ryoutei 雪江料亭

Tucked away in a peaceful residential area, this unpretentious Japanese eatery features iron-pot rice, a specialty of Northeastern Japan, which serves 2-3 people and takes 20-30 minutes to prepare. Order it right after you arrive, and you'll have time to go through the diverse menu (in Japanese and Chinese) that features everything from salad, sashimi and sushi to skewers, soups and hot pots. The yam mash decorated with chunks of fresh tuna and seaweed strip is a bit slippery, but like the signature eel, comes to life when placed on a bite of rice. When the iron pot rice finally arrives, the waitress stirs it up and serves the rice, shiny and brown and speckled with soft chicken breast and aromatic mushroom, into bowls table side. Balance your meal with skewers of roasted ginkgo and beef tongue, as well as stir-fried five vegetables consisting of wood ear, mushroom, leeks, cabbage and bean sprouts, which have a mild flavor of sake.

Daily 11am-2pm, 5-11pm. Bldg 15, Shi'er Jiefang, Jiuxianqiao Nanlu, Chaoyang District (6435 1348)

朝阳区酒仙桥南路十二街坊15号楼

Signature dishes include iron pot rice (RMB 58 for two, RMB 68 for three), tuna yam mash (RMB 32), roast beef tongue (RMB 8), roast ginkgo (RMB 5), sake flavored assorted vegetable stir-fry (RMB 25)

Perfect for home-style Japanese cuisine in a casual and comfortable environment

While you're in the neighborhood, grab a cup of gourmet coffee and a baked good at Delicatessen in Holiday Inn Lido before heading to the Gossip Bar for a night of delicious drinks and gossip!





The perfect bowl of ramen can be the quest of a lifetime

THE CITY OF NOODLES

Beijing's best ramen

Like any humble meal, great culinary talent can, and does, transcend the limits of a simple staple dish, and elevate it to art. Ranging from simple to superlative, these bowls will get you through the day.

Ajisen With over 30 branches in Beijing, Ajisen is the 7-Eleven of Japanese Ramen Noodles. They are everywhere you want to be (if you want to be in a mall or in an office building). You know what you are getting, so there is no room for disappointment – slurp down not great but good enough noodles surrounded by white-collar brethren. Daily 10am-10pm. B1/F, Shin Kong Place, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District. 味千拉面，朝阳区建国路87号新光天地地下1层

Ajitoku This Tokyo-style restaurant serves a variety of classic and innovative Japanese dishes in an industrial-chic setting. Daily 11.00am-2.30pm, 5.00-9.30pm. Bldg C, B113, Raycom Infotech Park, 2 Kexueyuan Nanlu, Zhongguancun, Haidian District. (8286 1993) 味德日本料理，海淀区科学院南路2号（北四环中关村3号桥南拐100米路西）融科资讯中心C座地下一层

Elvis With Japanese pop music on the speakers, simple decor and plainly dressed wait staff, Elvis may look like fast food, but it also serves up some of the best ramen in the city. Daily 11am-11pm. 3 Jinchengfang Jie, Xicheng

District. (6622 0388) 福神，西城区金城坊街3号

Miyazaki's Home Is this the home of one the world's most delightful storytelling masterminds – complete, as one would expect, with scuttling ghosts and portals to strange and magic realms? Perhaps not, but it is the home of a ramen mastermind, as the rich, nourishing broth attests. Daily 10.30am-10pm. 20-4-101 Jintai Li, Jintai Lu, Chaoyang District. (8599 4866) 宫崎家，朝阳区金台路金台里20-4-101

Invincible Ramen The name smacks of hubris, but this small restaurant's faith in its bowls of thin Japanese noodles served in piping hot broth (RMB 23-28) is absolutely justified. Invincible's soups rival any in Beijing – layers of flavor color the soy option, while the non-soy option is rich and solid. Slices of pork and ramen combine for a silky, savory end result. Simple maki and nigiri (RMB 8-12) make inexpensive side dishes, and there are fruit slushy desserts (including cranberry and mulberry, RMB 18-20) and shochu to drink. All the elements combine for what is likely Beijing's best ramen. Daily 11am-10.30pm. 32 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6467 7688) 无敌家浜骨汤创作面坊，朝阳区霄云路32号

Len Len Len Len's entrance and underground dining area may be suspiciously bunker-like but once inside, one finds a relaxing atmosphere and refined food. A wide overview of Japanese food is offered, with delectable staples like tempura, udon noodles, and soba. Daily 6pm-12.30am. 1/F, Ziming Dasha, 12B Xinzhong Jie, Chaoyang District. (6415 6415/6416) 联想，朝阳区新中街乙12号紫铭大厦1层

Meishixiu Opened by a Beijinger who returned home after receiving training at some of Japan's most prestigious restaurants, this healthy little eatery specializes in soba noodles. Daily 10.30am-11pm. Tuanjiehu Beiwutiao (300 metres east of Tuanjiehu Beijie, behind the Beijing Maternity Hospital), Chaoyang District. (8597 5618) 美食秀特色餐厅，朝阳区团结湖北五条（团结湖北街往东300米，北京妇产医院后面）

Noodle Bar 1949's noodle house seats twelve diners around its central bar, behind which chefs tease out lengthy strips of noodle before your eyes, then toss them into your choice from a small range of soups, including brisket, tendon, tripe and a veggie option (all around RMB 30). The RMB 38 set features a broth including the three meats mentioned above, served with an additional two side dishes. Daily 12.30-2.30pm, 6-10.30pm. Inside 1949-The Hidden City, Courtyard 4, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6501 1949) 朝阳区工体北路4号院

Oden Hearty Japanese stew and luscious sushi. The affordable sake sets are a great introduction to Japan's national drink. Daily 6pm-late (reservations essential before 10pm). Rm 204, Taiyue Suites, 16 Nanshanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6506 6700) 关东煮，朝阳区南三里屯路16号泰悦豪庭2层204室

Sake Manzo Opened by a qualified sake taster, this "dining-bar" boasts a huge selection of shochu and sake as well as excellent umeshu. The Japanese home cooking-inspired menu features favorites including homemade tofu, a great scallion-smothered tonkatsu and innovative salads. 1) Mon-Fri 6pm-midnight; Sat-Sun 11.30am-2pm, 6pm-12.30am. 1/F, Yilongfang, Yilongtai Apartment, 28 Panjiayuan Nanli, Chaoyang District. (8770 8767); 2) Daily 11.30am-2pm, 6pm-midnight. 27 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjiailou, Chaoyang District. (6436 1608) 慢走日本烧灼餐厅，1) 朝阳区潘家园南里28号漪龙台公寓伊坊1层；2) 朝阳区安家楼亮马桥路27号



Gaby Alves' sparkling personality is part of her success

TERRAFORMING THE DINING LANDSCAPE

Restaurateur Gaby Alves of SALT and TERRA

Gaby Alves is a veteran of the Beijing restaurant scene, and one of its most respected players. Since coming to China from Brazil seven years ago, the former professional volleyball player has opened a series of acclaimed restaurants and emboldened scores of adventurous chefs. Beginning with Alameda in 2003, and followed by SALT in 2007, her South American-inspired menus have earned her a consistent stream of "best of" awards, as well as a horde of dedicated customers. Her latest venture, TERRA, opened in Sanlitun earlier this year. The welcoming and energetic Alves met up with Agenda to share the secrets behind her success.

You used to be a professional volleyball player. How did you make the transition from the court to the kitchen? Well, both are quite

challenging in terms of competition. They play very good volleyball in Brazil, but when I was playing, nobody was getting paid. I just did it for fun, because I had a passion for it. But a lot of things about the sport actually prepared me for what I'm doing now. In volleyball, as in the restaurant business, there are no routines. You're always doing something new, and that makes it really exciting. There's also some "serving" and some "spiking" here and there, rallying the team and so on. But I think the real continuities between the two are the challenge and the passion.

You came to China from Brazil. How does that influence the way you do business? Doing business in Brazil, you have to be very persistent. Competition is so stiff there that

"When I first came here seven years ago there was next to nothing. There was a huge opportunity in Beijing in terms of what you could offer, and in terms of novelty. You could really explore a lot of exciting options. Nowadays it's a bit overwhelmed and saturated"

you only have a very small chance of survival. But this teaches you to be versatile, and juggle a lot of responsibilities at the same time. There is also the fact that the laws there tend to favor the big, multinational companies, and the smaller ones have to put up with very changeable regulations. So you constantly need to adapt and make new decisions in order to play the game.

What made you decide to settle in Beijing? Mainly opportunity. And of course all of the rest of the world is thinking the same way nowadays. It's the sleeping tiger that is now thrashing and biting! So this is the place to be, especially in the food and beverage industry. When I first came here seven years ago there was next to nothing. There was a huge opportunity in Beijing in terms of what you could offer, and in terms of novelty. You could really explore a lot of exciting options. Nowadays it's a bit overwhelmed and saturated. It's still very exciting though.

So how has your approach to the restaurant business changed in the time you've been here? Well, I think the competition has continued to become fiercer and fiercer, and as a result you have to be really dedicated to management, keeping everything under control, and maintaining a high standard of service. There's always something you can improve a little bit more. You face novelties and obstacles every day. It's really endless, but that means there's always good work to be done, and you please people a little bit more all the time.

What's the story behind the names SALT and TERRA? Do you have a philosophy for naming your restaurants? The philosophy is about what is fundamental in every part of our life. There is a very old expression about salt: "the salt of the earth," which refers to the meaning, the flavor, the taste of life, and everything that comes from the earth. And the

natural compliment to salt is terra, or earth. Each is part of the other, and both bring everything that we have in life. They are the origin of flavor, taste... everything! They're quite complex names, actually, although they appear to be very simple. Salt is one of the most important and oldest ingredients to be traded. It's also in every food we eat. You could write a whole "salt bible" explaining its origins, its history, its bio-physiology, its significance, and so on. There's also an expression "you're the salt of my life" which means that someone is the meaning of your life.

What do you try to accomplish through your cuisine? What I always try to accomplish, what never

"Well, I think the competition has continued to become fiercer and fiercer, and as a result you have to be really dedicated to management, keeping everything under control, and maintaining a high standard of service"

changes for me, is that I try to bring forward different flavors, and different approaches to flavor. I also always try to blend, to go back to food at the chemical level and really see what can be done with all the dimensions of taste.

What is the hardest thing about owning a restaurant? I think it's fascinating. I'm passionate about it, and that's what drives me, but if you didn't have that, you wouldn't be in this business. It's very intense, and you have to be very hands on. Especially with what I do, you're always working with an image or a concept. Of course, you always want to just be yourself, but you always need to be a kind of cultural envoy as well. I think if there's anything that really lets you down, it's the regulation. The laws are not very well defined, so one day it's A, the next day it's Z, and depending on the season of the year, you don't know who is going to come to your door and tell you what you have to do. The regulation

"I think if there's anything that really lets you down, it's the regulation. The laws are not very well defined, so one day it's A, the next day it's Z, and depending on the season of the year, you don't know who is going to come to your door and tell you what you have to do"

is just very volatile and it's quite hard to deal with it. Even after you've been here for a long time, it still gets you a little bit.

And what is your favorite thing about owning a restaurant? I think it's the recognition that you have from your loyal customers. When customers are coming to your place twice a week, or something three

times a week, it's better than any award or trophy you could ever get. And just interacting directly with them is very enjoyable. Of course, some days you just aren't prepared to deal with everything that the job throws at you. We're just human beings, after all, and you can't run a restaurant like a machine. Sometimes you're just in a different frame of mind, and you can't really give a 100 percent performance. But the customers always make you feel great at the end of the day.

What would you say is your greatest accomplishment? There are two things. One is that I've got a staff that has been with me for five years, some of them ever since I came to Beijing. And for me, that shows that we're doing well, that we have a good team, and that I don't treat them so badly! (laughs) And the other is the recognition and loyalty of the customers.

Besides your own restaurants, what are your favorite places to

hang out around town? (Laughs!) Well, being a restaurant owner you don't really have much time to hang out! At the end of the day you are so exhausted that you just want to go to your home. That's the best place to be. I love my house, and my dog and my cat, and I love to go back to my sanctuary. But when I do go out, I'm a foodie. I quite like the old places in Beijing. I like "Flo's," because I like my oysters, with my Champagne, which in the winter is quite nice. And also traditional Chinese places, especially hot pot and Sichuan food!

Are there any local volleyball leagues in Beijing? Actually yes! Well, not really leagues, more like clubs. But you can play volleyball here all year long. During the summer we have beach volleyball in Chaoyang Park every weekend. Unfortunately the summer here ends a bit too early, but we play until the end of September, or maybe into October. There are also clubs at Western Academy Beijing (WAB), near the Riviera, and the International School of Beijing (ISB), by the airport. WAB is a bit more high level, and at ISB it's a bit more for fun.

Interview by Nikolaus Fogle

SALT 盐 Mon-Sat noon-3pm, 6-10:30pm, Sun Brunch noon-4pm. 2/F, 9 Jiangtai Xilu (opposite the Japanese School, west of Rosedale Hotel), Chaoyang District (6437 8457) 朝阳区将台西路9号2层(珀丽酒店西边)

TERRA Tue-Sun, 11-1am. 1 Sanlitun Nanlu, Chaoyang District (6591 9148) 朝阳区三里屯南路1号

Brasserie Flo 北京福楼餐厅 Daily 11am-3pm, 5:30-11pm. Rainbow Plaza (Longbo Guangchang), 16 Dongsanhuan Beilu (south of the Great Wall Sheraton), Chaoyang District (6595 5135/9) 朝阳区东三环北路16号隆博广场二层



Robinson and Ruppel are on the culinary case

SOLID AS OAK

Food and Beverage Manager Edvard Ruppel and Chef Phillip Robinson of Mediterraneo

In an out-of-the-way spot in the Oakwood service apartments lies the latest incarnation of Mediterraneo, an authentic Mediterranean restaurant known for fresh, classic dishes. **Agenda** caught up with F&B manager Edvard Ruppel and chef Phillip Robinson to learn more about their cooking style, and how they keep Oakwood's residents in a state of culinary bliss.

What are the guiding principles of your cuisine?

Ro: My guiding principles are to keep the menu simple, use good quality local ingredients, and to have a great tasting final product. What I really try to accomplish to keep the food uncomplicated, simple, and something that everyone can enjoy. As much as possible, I try to change with the times, but at the same time, I like to be creative without being overly complicated. Simple food is good for a reason.

What are the particular challenges and joys of working F&B in Beijing?

Ru: During the day, I really enjoy working with kitchen staff – that's such a joy for me. There are, of course,

a lot of challenges in F&B, particularly when working with such a diverse staff. I bet I could write a book about it. That being said, when you work hard and believe in yourself, and if you stay focused on the future, there is nothing you can't do.

Ro: I think the key to success is keeping a positive attitude. In F&B, there are so many things that can happen every day – funny things and frustrating things. But most of them are funny things, and on a daily basis there are way too many to describe here.

You have a lot of repeat customers. What's your key to keeping them satisfied?

Ro: The key to getting repeat customers, no matter whether you're working in a hotel, a standalone restaurant, or any other place, is to have consistently good food at a reasonable price.

What's the best thing you've ever eaten?

Ru: Every once in awhile my wife cooks for me, and to me this is the

best thing I can eat because it comes from the heart. There's nothing better in the world.

Ro: The best thing I have ever eaten must be an English spring lamb roast lunch, which consisted of roasted potatoes, maple parsnips, braised red cabbage and honey carrots. It was divine!

Can you teach us an easy recipe to cook in our tiny Beijing kitchens?

Ro: A quick and easy recipe that anyone can make at home is one of our tapas dishes: marinated soy tuna. The best thing is that the only cooking required is toasting the sesame seeds, so it's perfect for Beijingers on the run. For this dish, you'll need about 50 ml of high quality soy sauce and sunflower oil, 150 grams of fresh tuna chopped into 2 cm cubes, and 1 tablespoon of sesame seeds. Mix the first three ingredients and allow it to marinate in the fridge for 12 hours. Roast the sesame seeds in a pan until golden and allow them to cool. Once the tuna has marinated, drain the marinade and dry the tuna on a paper towel, and then place it on a bed of sesame seeds.

What are your favorite restaurants, bars and shops in Beijing?

Ru: I have too many favorite restaurants here in Beijing. I love that there is so much variety here, and that no restaurant is exactly the same. It would be impossible for me to list them here.

Ro: I have to say Element Fresh is my favorite restaurant, because my wife works there and she will kill me if I don't mention that. I don't really have that much experience going out in Beijing because I am always working, and when I am not working I spend the rest of my time with my daughter. I don't get much time to shop, but when I do, you'll find me in the Sanlitun area.

Interview by Marla Fong

Mediterraneo 8 Dongzhimen Xiejie, Chaoyang District (5995 2888) 朝阳区东直门斜街8号



Kerry Hui fears neither flames nor fusion

THE NEW WAVE OF FUSION

Chef Kerry Hui of Chao Restaurant

For more than 20 years, Kerry Hui has been honing his skills in the kitchen, and is now whipping up Fusion dishes in Chao, an open-concept restaurant that serves French-inspired fusion dishes.

Agenda met up with Kerry to find out where he learned his chops.

When did you first start cooking?

I began cooking at the age of 13, and then in 1991, when I was 18, I began my career as a chef. Back then, I trained to be a chef at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Clubhouse, which is one of the oldest institutions in Hong Kong founded to promote horse racing. I then ended up working in Hong Kong as a food consultant for many years before coming here to work at Chao.

What is your favorite part about working at Chao?

My favorite part about working at Chao is that the kitchen is so great. Since the kitchen is set up in an open style, I have plenty of time to communicate with guests and know their specific needs and tastes. Once I know how much time it takes the guests to eat their food, then I know when to bring out their next dishes.

How would you define your cooking style and how does Chao's menu bring that out?

I have my own philosophy when it comes to cooking: stick to what tastes good. So many chefs now modify dishes to make them healthier, but I never follow their lead and add less salt or less sugar. Personally, I think the most important thing is that it tastes good.

Where do you get your inspiration for recipes?

The inspiration for my recipes comes from going to the market every day. There I am able to find many new ingredients, which allow me to create new dishes for people to taste.

You know, sometimes simple foods are really the best. In my lifetime I have tasted many foods from around the world, but still the most amazing food I have ever eaten in my life was a spicy duck that my friend made. It was very simple but impressed me greatly.

What are some of your favorite things to do and places to go to have fun around town?

My two favorite things to do in life are enjoying sunshine at the beach and drinking

beer. Right now I am thinking about writing a book about food. I have already written two books, *Confessions of a Chef* and *Simple Desserts 2008*, and I'm constantly finding inspiration for new book ideas.

Besides your restaurant, where else do you love to eat?

Being from Hong Kong, I enjoy eating Hong Kong cuisine. Most of the time, I just walk around in Chaoyang Park and go to the Hong Kong Café to enjoy their BBQ. I like the simple decoration and the authentic flavors there.

What's your favorite food related proverb?

This quote by Alfred E. Neuman says it all: "We are living in a world today where lemonade is made from artificial flavors and furniture polish is made from real lemons."

Can you teach us a quick and easy recipe we can make in our tiny Beijing kitchens?

Sure why not. This dish is pretty easy, and you don't need a big kitchen to make it, although you will need an oven. You start by sautéing some white button, shitake and porcini mushroom, and cooking them until all the water evaporates. Then you add some feta cheese and slowly allow it to melt. Once that has happened, you add breadcrumbs, season it with salt and pepper, and allow it to cool.

Then you take five sheets of filo dough and layer them on top of each other and brush them with melted butter. Add the filling to the pastry, fold in the corners and then roll them. It's similar to making a Chinese spring roll, although a little tricky due to the nature of the dough. While you're doing that, preheat your oven to 200 degrees. Bake the pastry for ten to 12 minutes until it is golden and crisp, and serve immediately with a side salad.

Interview by Marla Fong

Chao. 11am-11pm. RS-17, Bldg 11, SOLANA, 6 Chaoyang Park Road, Chaoyang District (5905 1778) 潮 朝阳区朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾11栋RS-17号



A stinky tofu by any other name...

SPOILED ROTTEN

Treat yourself to the capital's stinkiest snacks

The French may have their stinky cheeses, but no one has mastered the funk like the Chinese. In China, anything smelly can be made into a delicacy and while some of these foods started as accidents, others were thoughtfully crafted. If you consider yourself bold or open-minded with your meals, then you are in luck because stinky is the new delicious. Agenda points your nose and taste buds in the right direction.

Stinky Tofu 臭豆腐 You think politics is a sore subject? Try discussing who has the best stinky tofu in town. No one really knows the origin of this dish, but that doesn't stop many places around the country from trying to claim it. Beijing is littered with stands advertising themselves as the best from Hunan, Shanghai, Shaoying, Nanjing, Yunnan, the Mao Family, and more. In Beijing and most places in

northern China, people eat their stinky tofu with breakfast from a jar (*Doufu Lun* 豆腐乳). In southern China, on the other hand, it's rather dry, and its color ranges from pale, light yellow to grey, and almost black. In Hunan, stinky tofu usually comes in thinner pieces and people call it "smelly jerky" (*Chou Ganzi* 臭干子), while on the streets of Beijing, it is either deep-fried or grilled and served with hot sauce. Stinky tofu

dishes are available in restaurants, even some upscale ones. Dishes include steamed stinky tofu with meat sauce (*Roujiang Zheng Choudoufu* 肉酱蒸臭豆腐), stewed stinky tofu with hairtail (*Choudoufu Daiyu* 臭豆腐带鱼, not available in Beijing) and fried stinky tofu with beans (毛豆煎臭豆腐). Moldy tofu stir-fried stinky tofu (*Meidoufu Chao Choudoufu* 霉豆腐炒臭豆腐) is the ultimate combination of smelly tofu. Three Guizhou Men.

1) Daily 11am-10pm. Bldg 7, Jianwai Soho, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District. (5869 0598); 2) Daily 10am-11pm. 2/F, Nalisa Building, 1 Guangshun Nandajie, Chaoyang District. (6470 7288); 3) Daily 24hrs. Inside the West Gate of Workers' Stadium (above Coco Banana), Chaoyang District. (6551 8517) 三个贵州人。1) 朝阳区东三环中路39建外Soho7号楼。2) 朝阳区广顺南大街1号娜丽莎大厦2层。3) 朝阳区工体西门内

Stinky Perch 臭鳊鱼 When it comes to fish, most people would argue fresh is best, but the people of Anhui beg to differ. 200 years ago, when transportation and refrigeration were sub par, fish sellers often had to deal with seafood on the edge. At the story goes, a genius businessmen cooked them and made them into a smelly but delicious dish, called stinky perch (*Chou Guiyu* 臭鳊鱼). Even today, with proper refrigeration methods in place, this stinky tradition lives on. The 'proper' way to do prepare this dish is to put a salted fish, either whole or in pieces, into a wooden bucket for four to seven days, depending on the temperature. Once fermented, the fish is deep-fried or simmered with seasonings. People who enjoy it do so because of the uniquely firm but tender texture, and, believe it or not, its fresh taste. RMB 98/148 (small/large). Huatinghu. Daily 11.30am-10pm. 16 Tiansingsi Xili, Xuanwu District. (6331 5151) 花亭湖, 宣武区天宁寺西里16号

Bean Juice 豆汁 One of the most famous, or perhaps notorious, old-time Beijing snacks is called bean juice (*Douzhi* 豆汁), and its flavor has been described as sour, salty, and gross. Even those brave of heart may be tempted to spit out the first sip of this misunderstood delicacy, but those who can keep it down find the drink downright addictive. If that's not enough of a reason to keep sipping, it is also extremely rich in protein, vitamin C and fiber. *Douzhi* is made with the fermented dregs of the beans used to make noodles, and a good

bowl of it should be a dull shade of grey and green, and carry a crown of froth. It is usually eaten with a hard and crunchy fried ring of dough (*Jiaoquan* 焦圈) and pickled vegetables (*Paocai* 泡菜). If you're curious but afraid of making a fool of yourself spitting, you can purchase a large bag at the Baoji Douzhi Shop (宝记豆汁店) on Niujie Street for RMB 3 and sip in the privacy of your own home. RMB 1.5. Laociqikou Douzhi Shop. Daily 5.30am-8pm. Opposite of Temple of Heaven's north gate, Chongwen District. (6703 5725) 老磁器口豆汁儿店, 崇文区天坛北门对面

Durian Desserts 榴莲甜品 Durian might be the national fruit of Thailand, but Hong Kong is the place that puts it to great use with delightfully pungent dishes ranging from durian candy in grocery stores, durian and chicken stew (*Liulian Dun Ji* 榴莲炖鸡) in restaurants, and crispy durian cake (*Liulian Su* 榴莲酥) in Dim Sum restaurants. Thanks to Honeymoon Desserts a few durian delicacies have been brought to Beijing over the past two years. Durian Pancakes (*Liulian Banji* 榴莲班戟) is a typical Cantonese pancake with durian and fresh cream stuffing inside a very thin and tender skin. In this dessert, the original taste of durian is very well preserved in the cream, but isn't too strong. Neverland Durian (*Liulian Wangfan* 榴莲忘返) is a chunk of durian in a creamy soup dessert and takes its name from a Chinese idiom that means getting lost in a pleasant experience. They also have durian pudding (*Liulian Budian* 榴莲布甸) which is a western style dessert with a touch of durian. RMB 15/32/19. Honeymoon Dessert. Daily 10am-10pm. 1) B120, B1/F, China Central Shopping Mall, 81 Jian'guo Lu, Chaoyang District. (5969 5436); 2) B1-13B, B1/F, Raffles Shopping Center, 1 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng District. (8409 4228) 满记甜品。1) 朝阳区建国路81号华贸购物中心B1楼B120单元。2) 东城区东直门南大街1号来福士购物中心B1楼B1-13B商铺

Thousand Year Old Egg 松花蛋/皮蛋 The name of this dish is a bit misleading since these eggs are really only a few weeks old and are made by preserving the egg in a mixture of clay, ash, salt, lime, and other ingredients. During this process, the yolk becomes dark green, creamy and fragrant, while the white part becomes a dark brown jelly. The science behind these eggs is very interesting. Because of the clay and ash, the pH of the egg rises, and in this highly

alkaline environment the proteins decompose, the lipids become more easily digested and absorbed, and the egg's cholesterol is lowered. That being said, thousand year old eggs are not a health food. Some of them are cured with zinc oxide, which presents the risk of developing a copper deficiency, and some of them have even shown traces of lead. Nonetheless, they are delicious. If you find a good source they will keep for a few months if refrigerated, but should be eaten immediately once their shell is cracked. They can be eaten alone or with pepper, vinegar, ginger or a mixture of all three. Eating them with tofu is popular in many regions (*Pidan Doufu* 皮蛋豆腐). There's also a famous porridge cooked with rice, called thousand year old egg and lean meat stew (*Pidan Shourou Zhou* 皮蛋瘦肉粥), which is a combination of these eggs and lean pork. You can try thousand year old egg with ginger at Xiaowangfu for RMB 18. Xiaowangfu. Daily 11am-2.30pm, 5-10pm. Bldg 2, Guanghua Donglu, Chaoyang District. (6594 3602) 小王府, 朝阳区光华东路2号楼

Pig Intestines 肥肠 The phrase "waste not, want not" surely came out of the Chinese kitchen, where every part of the animal is used. Pig intestines in particular are a delicacy enjoyed throughout the nation, and Chinese people are fascinated by its special smell and chewy texture. In the northeast of China, it's very common to eat a stew of steamed intestines with pig blood injected into them (*Xuechang* 血肠), especially in the winter. In Shandong province, one of the most popular dishes is a sweet and sour flavored intestine dish (*Jiuzhuan Huichang* 九转回肠) made by cutting intestines into small rings, frying them, and serving them with a sauce made of sugar and vinegar. Here in the capital, intestines are stewed with other internal organs and bread (*Luzhu* 卤煮). In southern China, intestines are eaten with noodles, soft bean curd (*Douhua* 都花, similar in texture to pudding) if not fried alone. In Hunan province, intestine hot pot is the most popular intestine dish. It's similar to regular hot pot, but with a broth made from intestine. RMB 48/58 (small/big). Xiangchangxiang Hotpot. Daily 11am-10pm. Bldg 10, Tuanjieshu Dongli, Yaojiayuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (8596 6628) 湘肠香火锅店, 朝阳区姚家园路团结湖东里10号楼

Compiled by Jiang Jun



A feast fit for emperors

IMPERIAL DINING

If stinky dining isn't your thing, Beijing has another much more refined way to spoil yourself rotten. While Imperial cuisine resembles northern Chinese fare in many ways, the selection of ingredients and preparation are extremely complex and pay great attention to the color, taste, and smell of the dishes. If you're unfortunate enough to be stuck in the north this winter, reward yourself for your suffering by indulging in one of these sensual meals.

Baijia Dayuan Restaurant This restaurant used to be an Infante's home, and it still looks and feels like one – the secluded garden courtyard is filled with wait staff clad in Qing dynasty garb. Imperial snacks and venison are specialties. Daily 10am-9:30pm. 15 Suzhou Jie (next to Ba Yi Middle School), Haidian District. (6265 8851) 百家大院食府, 海淀区苏州街15号(八一中学旁边)

Dazhaimen This lavish restaurant harkens back to a dynastic era,

simulating a Beijing courtyard experience with its variety show and palace cuisine, which includes bitter *douzhi* and bone marrow soup. Daily 11am-10:30pm. 1) Bldg 3, Huixing Beili, (to the east of Luoma Huayuan), Chaoyang District. (6495 2166/0018); 2) Guoxing Jiayuan, 20A Shoutinan Lu, Haidian District. (8835 6687/9) www.bjdzhaimen.com 大宅门, 1) 朝阳区惠新北里3号楼(罗马花园东侧); 2) 海淀区首体南路甲20号(国兴家园)

Fangshan Restaurant Great service and Cixi's favorites, for just less than the price of a marble boat. Daily 11am-1:30pm, 5-8pm. 1 Wenjin Jie (inside Beihai Park, enter via east gate), Xicheng District. (6401 1889) 仿膳饭庄, 西城区文津街1号北海公园东门内

Guo Yao Xiao Ju This cozy courtyard restaurant serves well-priced Tan-style fare and traditional Beijing cuisine. Try the deep fried prawns and lion's head meatballs. Daily 11am-1:30pm,

5pm-9pm. 58 Jiadaokou Santiao, Dongcheng District. (6403 1940) 国希小居, 东城区交道口三条58号

Huangcheng Shifu Opulent settings and elegant service make this restaurant a tasteful and classy option. Daily 11am-2pm, 5-8:30pm. Nanchizi Dajie (inside Changpuhe Park), Dongcheng District. (8511 5142/5372) 皇城食府, 东城区南池子大街菖蒲河公园内

Li Jia Cai This exclusive imperial-style restaurant seats about 80 people, with set meals priced per person. English menu available. Daily 11am-1:30pm, 5-8:30pm. 11 Yangfang Hutong, Deshengmennei Dajie, Xicheng District. (6613 7509) 厉家菜, 西城区德胜门内大街洋房胡同11号

Mei Wen Zhen This ornately decorated restaurant specializes in the imperial cuisine of the Qing court and also offers tea ceremony performances. Daily 10am-10pm. 1) L124, 1/F, West Wing, China World Shopping Mall, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6505 6139); 2) 48 Xihai Nanyan, Xicheng District. (8328 4099); 3) 1/F, Novotel Peace Hotel, 3 Jinyu Hutong, Dongcheng District. (6559 7672) 美味珍御膳, 1) 朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸西楼1层L124; 2) 西城区西海南沿48号; 3) 东城区王府井金鱼胡同3号诺富特和平宾馆首层东侧

Qingshui Donghua One can easily imagine Qingshui's dining room drenched in smoke and filled with the clinking of baijiu glasses (and the menu is a World Wildlife Fund nightmare), but the quality of their *jiachangcai* makes it well worth a visit. Daily 11am-2pm, 5pm-9:30pm. 56 Donghuamen Dajie, Dongcheng District. (6528 3988) 清水东华, 东城区东华门大街56号

Red Capital Club The place to impress out of town guests, the Red Capital Club's courtyard setting capitalizes on nostalgic kitsch and well-known Beijing dishes. Features a 1950s-style cigar and cocktail lounge. Daily 6pm-midnight. 66 Dongsi Jiutiao, Dongcheng District. (6402 7150, 8401 8886) 新资俱乐部, 东城区东四九条66号

Tiandi Yijia A stone's throw away from the Forbidden City, Tiandi Yijia serves a similar atmosphere – imperial. Aristocratic food, environment and prices. Daily 11am-2pm, 5-10pm (11am-9pm?). 140 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. (8511 5556/7) 天地一家, 东城区南池子大街140号



This squirrel flies right off the plate

SWEET SALVATION

A sweet retreat from Beijing's bitter cold

Just because the winter is bitter cold, that doesn't mean life can't be a little sweet. With this thought in mind, we've searched through the city's traditional cuisine for dishes that remind us of bright, clear skies, and give us a warm feeling in the belly. They're sure to put some spring in your step!

Pork Sweet and Sour Pork Loin 糖醋里脊 This southern dish is a sweet and sticky mound of lean, crispy-skinned pork fillet sticks. RMB 22.

Repenjing. Daily 11am-9pm. 12 Hufang Lu, Xuanwu District. (6303 3248) 热盆景. 宣武区虎坊路12号

Pineapple Pork 菠萝古老肉 This Shandong dish is another take on sweet and sour pork. The main difference here is the substitution of streaky, fatty pork for the usual lean cuts. The pineapple oozes with sweet and sour zing. RMB 25.

Guolin Jiachangcai. Daily 10am-9:30pm. 2/F, Xinjiekou Fandian, 44 Xinjiekou Nandajie, Xicheng District. (8328 9672) 郭林. 西城区新街口南大街44号新街口饭店2楼

Sweet Streaky Pork 甜烧白 Steamed streaky pork, glutinous rice, and bean paste comprise this succulent taste of Sichuan. RMB 26.

Meizhou Dongpo. Daily 11am-11pm. 7 Chunxiu Lu, Chaoyang District. (6417 1566) 眉州东坡. 朝阳区春秀路7号

Lychee Pork 荔枝肉 The "lychee" in this dish is actually pork. Some chefs cook this Fujian dish with all lean meat, while others think that using some fat meat creates a more lychee-like look and taste. RMB 28/38.

Bamin Shifu (Fujian provincial government restaurant). 1/F, Bamin Hotel, 7-provinces Yard, 2 Madianqiao Nanlu, Beisanhua, Haidian District. (8200 5551 ext. 7777) 八闽食府. 海淀区北三环马甸桥南路2号七省大院福建驻京办八闽宾馆1楼

Crystal Sugar Elbows 冰糖肘子 This dish from Jiangsu features sliced pork elbows first roasted, then boiled, then deep fried and finally steamed with rock sugar. RMB 68.

Changzhou Binguan Restaurant. Daily 11am-1:30pm, 5-9pm. 1/F, Bldg 113, Jixiangli, Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6553 5588) 常州宾馆餐厅. 朝阳区朝阳门外大街吉祥里113号楼1楼

Chicken

Cola Wings 可乐鸡翅 A contemporary homestyle innovation – chicken wings boiled in coke and soy sauce after being fried. RMB 4/two wings.

Qigong Jianghu Kaochi. Daily 10:30am-10:30pm. 12 Yinghua Dongjie, Chaoyang District. (6423 5801) 七公江湖烤翅. 朝阳区樱花东大街12号

Mutton

Tastes Like Honey 它似蜜 An imperial Muslim dish dating from the Qing Dynasty. Small chunks of mutton are fried with sweet wheat paste (甜面酱) and sugar, creating a thick, honey-sweet, dark red sauce. RMB 38/small size, RMB 57/big.

Kaorouji. Daily 11am-11pm. 14 Qianhai Dongyan, Xicheng District. (6404 2554) 烤肉季. 西城区前海东沿14号

Fish

Squirrel Fish 松鼠鱼 This elaborate-looking Suzhou dish – a fried fish sliced and puffed inside out to look like a squirrel – oozes with sweetness. RMB 168/550g.

Wumingju. Daily 11am-2pm, 5-9:30pm. 32 Zaoying Beili, Maizidian Jie, Chaoyang District. (6502 1568) 无名居. 朝阳区麦子店街枣营北里32号

Staple Foods

Sweet and Sour Youtiao 糖醋油条

These deep-fried fluffy dough sticks cut into small pieces and dressed with sweet and sour sauce are a traditional Sichuan breakfast item. RMB 18.

Feiteng Yuxiang. Daily 11am-2:30pm, 5pm-midnight. Inside Huatongxin Hotel, 1-1 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6417 4988) 沸腾鱼乡. 朝阳区工体北路1-1号华通新饭店内

Compiled by Jiang Jun



Seriously creative drinks



Bar/Restaurant

Apothecary

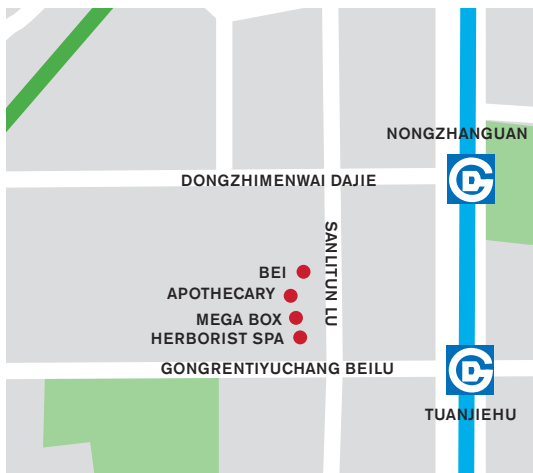
Apothecary displays mixology at its finest, concocting delectable potions of brandy, gin, rum and whiskey. With fresh fruit, five homemade bitters, and countless mixers at their disposal, expert mixologists create tantalizing beverages that you can't help but enjoy. A menu of Creole dishes features house-smoked meats and sausages stuffed with vegetables pickled in Apothecary-branded brine. To top it all off, the gently polished blonde woods and soft lighting make this Beijing's most unpretentious yet sophisticated bar.

6pm-late Tuesday-Sunday; Closed Monday.
3/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Beilu
三里屯北路81号那里花园3层4

Signature drinks are old fashioned and whiskey cocktails (RMB 55)

Perfect for impressing fussy clients with service and ambiance that feels like home

While you're in the neighborhood, indulge in some northern-Asian inspired dishes at Bei, located in the basement floor of the Opposite House, or some shopping in The Village at Sanlitun. Check their website, www.sanlitun-village.com, for new specials and promotions, such as discounted massages at Herborist Spa, movie deals at Mega Box, or freebies at many of their other shops.





A sweet reminder that summer is not far away

HOOKED ON HOOKAH

A better way to see your breath this winter

Sick of the cold? Escape to one of Beijing's hookah bars and escape the cold with a puff of fragrant smoke and a mental journey to the hot desserts of the Middle East.

1001 Nights With its outdoor seating and belly dancing performances, this venerable favorite for Middle Eastern fare is ideal turf for water pipe puffing (RMB 68, in cherry, mint, mixed fruit and strawberry). 1) Daily 11am-2am. Gongti Beilu (opposite Zhaolong Hotel), Chaoyang District. (6532 4050) www.1001nights.cn 朝阳区工体北路兆龙饭店对面, 2) Daily 11am-midnight. North side of Solana Mall, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6316/7/8) 朝阳区朝阳区朝阳公园路6号SOLANA内

Alameen A haven for fans of hookah and Middle Eastern food alike. The customers here tend to stick around long after the meals are over, sipping on coffee in between smoking their water pipes (RMB 40, in apple, grape, mango and mint). Daily 9am-midnight. 2 Sanlitun Xiwu Lu, Chaoyang District. (8451 7489) 朝阳区三里屯西五街西2号

Biteapitta For a break from the Sanlitun bar scene mayhem, what better way to unwind than with fresh pita and apple-flavored hookah (RMB 40)? Daily 11am-11pm. 2/F, Tongli Studio (same block as Le Petit Gourmand), Sanlitun Houjie, Chaoyang District. (6467 2961) 朝阳区三里屯东街后街同里2层

Hai Bar This Houhai terrace bar offers dazzling views of Houhai on one side and of the Drum and Bell towers on the other. The standard shisha with water (RMB 50) comes in apple, banana, lemon and strawberry; but they also mix milk (RMB 80) or red wine (RMB 120) in the base for a stronger flavor and buzz. Daily 11am-2am. 36 Yandai Xiejie, Xicheng District. (6403 4913) 西城区烟袋斜街36号

Lantung This three-floor bar, lounge and restaurant in Solana specializes in lakeside lounging and spicy Thai tapas – the perfect complement for a laidback night of hookah (RMB 100, in apple, strawberry and lemon). Daily 10.30am-2am. Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6213) 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾国际商区

Lush Open 24 hours a day, Lush is your bet for hookah (RMB 45) whenever the fancy strikes in the wee hours of the morning. Its neighboring sister bar Pyro Pizza offers the same deal in a saucier environment. 1) Lush. Daily 24hrs. 2/F, Bldg 1, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu (across from the Wudaokou light-rail station), Haidian District. (8286 3566) 海淀区成府路华清嘉园1号楼2层(五道口地铁站对面); 2) Pyro Pizza. Daily 11am-3am. B1/F, Bldg 12, Huaqing Jiayuan, Wudaokou (5 min from Wudaokou subway station), Haidian District. (8286 6240) 海淀区五道口华清嘉园12号楼地下1层

Ottoman Turkish Cuisine The understated decor focuses one's attention on what really matters: authentic family-sized Turkish dishes and hookah (RMB 40, in apple, cappuccino, lemon and orange). Daily 11am-10pm. 32 Lucky Street, Chaoyang District. (5867 0210) 欧斯曼土耳其餐吧, 朝阳区亮马桥好运街32号

Rumi This classy Persian restaurant offers one of the widest selections of shisha in town, with flavors ranging from orange, peach and plum to cappuccino and saffron (RMB 58). Don't forget to BYOB if you like liquor alongside your hookah. Daily 11.30am-midnight. 1A Gongti Beilu (opposite Zhaolong Hotel), Chaoyang District. (8454 3838) 朝阳区工体北路甲1号兆龙饭店对面

Souk Lounge Many hail Souk as the first bar to introduce hookah to Beijing. It remains one of the best places to relax with a water pipe, with its outdoor patio, private booths and opium den feel. If all that isn't enough to entice you, there are also Mediterranean-inspired tapas, a large selection of international beers, darts and multiple TVs to watch the game. Daily 4pm-late. Chaoyang Park West Gate (in the alley behind Annie's), Chaoyang District. (6506 7309) www.soukbeijing.com 朝阳区朝阳公园西门(安妃后面)

Turkish Mum No need to feel naughty about smoking here – Turkish Mum offers tantalizing flavors like apple, strawberry, cherry and peppermint (RMB 45), along with great Turkish food. Daily 11am-midnight. 3 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. (8532 3979) 土耳其妈妈, 朝阳区工体北路3号

Xinjiang Red Rose Aside from some of the best lamb skewers around town, this Sanlitun favorite features nightly performances (starting at 7.40pm) of live music and belly dancers with snakes – perfect for an intoxicating hookah toke (RMB 50). Daily 10.30am-11pm. Inside 7 Xingfu Yicun alley, opposite Workers' Stadium North Gate, Chaoyang District. (6415 5741) 朝阳区工人体育场北门对面幸福一村7巷内

Xiu This swanky nightclub in the Park Hyatt has a live band to keep the dance floor bumpin'; plus a scenic patio with one of the best rooftop views in town that's just right for that puff of hookah (RMB 100) when you need to rest your feet. Mon-Fri 11.30am-2.30pm, 6pm-late, Sat-Sun 6pm-late. Park Hyatt (entrance across from the hotel lobby), 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (8567 1838) 朝阳区建国门外大街2号



A warm, rustic retreat from Beijing's bar scene



Bar/Café

Amilal

Located in an unassuming *hutong* off of Gulou Dongdajie, Amilal is a cozy converted *siheyuan* that captures the Nanluogu Xiang vibe. Outside, single-story rooftops covered in weeds encircle a gnarled tree growing in the courtyard, while beautifully captured photographs and second-hand furniture refine the inside space. One of Beijing's most secluded bars, Amilal's secretive location makes it intimate – a great little spot to bring friends. The drink menu offers a number of German, Belgian and Dutch beers, which range from RMB 20-50, and well-regarded Scotch for around RMB 50. The 110 square meter space also serves as a platform for live music. Mongolian and Kazakh bands perform impromptu sets, and there is promise of regular music to come. Not the kind of place you're likely to go to looking for a wild night out, but the subtle, relaxed vibe marks Amilal out as one of Beijing's true hidden gems.

Daily 2pm-late. 48 Shoubi Hutong (southeast of 66 Gulou Dongdajie), Dongcheng District (8404 1416) 东城区鼓楼东大街66号东南侧寿比胡同48号院内

Signature drinks include German, Belgian and Dutch beers (20-50 RMB)

Perfect for chatting with friends and in-the-know Gulou hipsters

While you're in the neighborhood, pop out for some of Mrs. Shi's Dumplings. Another hidden gem, this authentic eatery serves fried and boiled dumplings and other home-style dishes. For a more serious dinner, stop by Dali Courtyard. The experience of dining here is as memorable as the food. Individually created set menus range from RMB 100-300.





For a famously good time, follow the bouncing ball

PASS THE MIC

Places to croon and caterwaul the night away

If filling a leather-upholstered room with friends, beer and snacks and singing the night away is your idea of a grand night out, then read on. These are some of Beijing's major "kalaOK" joints – book ahead for weekends, or be ready to wait a long line for a room. And since most of these spots are open 24 hours a day (except where indicated), you can croon whenever the mood strikes.

17 Miles KTV This inexpensive bar-looking KTV by Peking University caters to students with a free, simple buffet around lunch and dinner time, cheap alcohol and student discounts. RMB 25 per person for four hours before 5pm from Monday to Friday and RMB 43 for 3 hours after 5pm. Dahengkeji Dasha, 3 Suzhou Jie, Haidian District. (8282 8988) 17英里KTV, 海淀区苏州街3号大恒科技大厦

Gongti 100 This KTV is in a prime location, surrounded by the glitzy nightclubs on the Gongti west gate strip. The rooms (138 in total) are decorated in a variety of styles, including an elegant Suzhou style and an old Beijing hutong home style. Despite the central location, prices are surprisingly reasonable – starting from RMB 15/hour for a small room. 6 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District. (6553 3333, 6553 8888) 开心一百, 朝阳区工体西路6号

Haoleidi Another KTV conglomerate with branches all over China, Haoleidi is distinguished by fine service and quality equipment. The song selection

can be somewhat random, but prices are good. Get a Hello Kitty member card if you want to a better deal. Shunmai Jinzuan Dasha, 52B Dongshanhuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (6772 6311, 6772 6322) 好乐迪, 朝阳区东三环南路乙52号顺迈金钻大厦

Melody This chain has outlets in four cities, with five in Beijing. If you need to sing, Melody is one of Beijing's most popular karaoke bars. The selection of songs is huge – ranging from old to new, from Chinese to Cantonese and Japanese to English – and regularly updated. A wide range of food is available. 1) Opposite of Blue Island, 77 Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6551 0808); 2) Opposite of The Central University of Nationalities, 24 Zhongnaguan Nandajie, Haidian District. (6218 9088); 3) Fulicheng, 61 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District. (5903 7188) 麦乐迪, 1) 朝阳区朝阳门外大街77号(蓝岛对面); 2) 海淀区中关村南大街24号(中央民族大学对面); 3) 朝阳区东三环中路61号

Party World This Taiwan-based karaoke chain arrived in Beijing in the 1990s to conquer the Beijing music scene. As a result, six Party World venues have sprung up in the capital. Its elegant décor and classic song books cater more to crooners over 30. Although prices for the Party World karaoke experience are relatively more expensive, the KTV chain boasts of a free breakfast, lunch or dinner buffet

worthy of the extra charge. 1) 1/F, Fanli Dasha, 22 Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (8857 6566); 2) 1/F, East Tower, Yonghe Dasha, 28 Andingmen Dongdajie, Dongcheng District. (5811 3388); 3) 1/F, Tengda Mansions, 168 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Haidian District (8857 6588); 4) (6480 1010) 第五大道钱柜1) 朝阳区朝阳门外大街22号泛利大厦1楼; 2) 东城区安定门东大街28号雍和大厦东楼1楼; 3) 北京市海淀区西直门外大街168号腾达大厦裙楼1层; 4) 北京市朝阳区慧忠北里309号天创世缘3楼

Tango Combining a vast dance floor, swanky lounge and KTV bar, Tango is popular with clubbers. But this doesn't lessen its appeal to singers who are drawn by its good equipment and enormous songbook. Prices are slightly higher than average, but you can always get a good deal on weekdays.

1) Daily 24 hours. South Gate of Ditan Park (next to Jin Ding Xuan restaurant), Dongcheng District. (6428 2288); 2) Daily 2pm-7am. Gongti Xilu (beneath Gongti 100 bowling alley), Chaoyang District. (6551 9988) www.tango.com 糖果, 1) 东城区地坛公园南门; 2) 朝阳区工体西路工体100保龄球馆下面

Tong Yi Shou Ge Tong Yi Shou Ge has a shorter history in Beijing, first appearing on the scene in 2003. TVSG's main specialty is that it provides different style rooms specifically for various functions, such as birthday gatherings, couples or family karaoke. With a greater emphasis on Chinese popular songs in its selection, Tong Yi Shou Ge is lesser known among expats. If the customers' vocal cords need a rest, there is a range of arcade game machines, DDR, table hockey, and a huge buffet to occupy themselves with. Prices vary greatly between different rooms and times. 1) 36 Wenhuiyuan Xilu, Haidian District, (6225 6688); 2) 46 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang District (6461 8886). 同一首歌 1) 北京市海淀区文慧园西路36号; 2) 北京市朝阳区霄云路46号

Yuesheng Fine sound equipment and very reasonable prices (hourly rate starts from RMB 19) make this a good backup option if the major venues are booked out. The low prices also make Yuesheng a favorite among college students. 1) 32A Zhongnaguan Nandajie, Haidian District. (6214 0299); 2) 1/F, Xinshijie Zhengren Dasha, 9 Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Chongwen District. (6708 6666) 乐圣, 1) 海淀区中关村南大街甲32号; 2) 崇文门外大街9号新世界正仁大厦1楼

Compiled by Jiang Jun and Florence Sit



Shaken or stirred, these cocktails will move you

SWEET SOPHISTICATION

Beijing's Best Cocktails

Shaken or stirred, nothing warms the blood like a perfectly mixed cocktail. Dedicated to keeping your blood from freezing, Agenda scoured the town and came up with a list of the capital's best cocktails.

Frangelico Take a break from the bitter cold and visit the northern part of Italy with a Frangelico, a sweet blend of hazelnut liqueur, lime juice, sugar and vodka. The lime adds a delightful citrusy contrast to the sweet warm depth of the Frangelico – a dulce retreat from the Beijing winter. RMB 35. 2/F Sun-Thu 6pm-2am, Fri-Sat 6pm-4am. Sanlitun Houjie, Chaoyang District. (6416 4549) 朝阳区三里屯北街3.3 服装大厦南侧

Pisco Sour The Chilean and Peruvian Pisco Sour is imbued with the aroma of muscatels, a hint of lemon juice, and house-made bitters, rounded out with an egg white which lends the drink its signature creaminess. RMB 70. Apothecary Tue-Sat 7pm-late, Sun 6pm-late. 3/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5208 6040) 朝阳区三里屯北路81号那里花园3层

Cosmopolitan A treat for the eyes as much as it is for the mouth, the mini-Cosmo popsicles – a mix of Grey Goose vodka, Triple Sec, cranberry liqueur, and cranberry juice – served atop a large dahlia-lit cube of ice. RMB 100. Centro Daily 24hrs. 2/F, Shangri-

La's Kerry Centre Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District. (6561 8833) 朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心饭店1层

Grapefruit Gimlet D lounge's take on this classic cocktail, plays with texture, using the requisite London dry gin and pressed lime, but sweetening it up with Korean grapefruit marmalade. The addition of ginger and apple puree lends the perfect amount of heat to the mix. RMB 65. D Lounge Daily 8pm-late. Courtyard 4, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6593 7710) 朝阳区工体北路4号

Dirty Martini If you like your martini dirty, this delectably cloudy concoction is sure to tug at your heartstrings. Cocktails are RMB 30 during happy hour (daily beginning at 3pm). Fubar also holds a monthly one kuai drinks special on the first of every month. RMB 50. Fubar Sun-Thu 6pm-2am, Fri-Sat 6pm-4am. Behind Stadium Dog, Gate 10, Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang District. (6593 8227) 朝阳区工体东路工人体育场东门内10号进口

Manhattan Not many bars in Beijing can make a good Manhattan, but Kanetaka Daiki knows how to do this classic cocktail justice – his interpretation is strong, urbane and simple. Glen Daily 5pm-2.30am. The Hidden City, Courtyard 4, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. (133 1126 1949) 朝阳区工体北路4号院

Moscow Mule Ichikura revived the drink conceived in the 1940s that kicked off the vodka trend in the Western world. Ginger-infused vodka, ginger ale, and lime served in a ridged copper mug. RMB 50. Ichikura Daily 6pm-1:30am. 2/F (entrance via stairs at south wall of Chaoyang Theater), Chaoyang Theater, 36 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6507 1107) 朝阳区东三环北路36号

Absinthe Martini Change up your martini with this blend that is equal parts vodka and Czech-produced Sebor absinthe. It's deceptively smooth; the mildly sour and bitter notes counterbalance the warm licorice flavors. RMB 50. Obiwan Fri-Sat 7pm-late, Sun 2pm-midnight. 4 Xihai Xiyuan, Xicheng District. (8322 1231) 西城区西海西沿4号

Bittergourd Cocktail Chinese-inspired innovations are nothing new at the Opposite House, and we strongly suspect that their new line of cocktails, featuring unique flavors such as bittergourd, are the cause for their loyal following. RMB 70. Tue-Sat 8pm-3am. B1/F, The Opposite House, Bldg 1, Sanlitun Village, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District (6410 5222) 朝阳区三里屯路11号三里屯Village 1号楼瑜舍地下1层

Raspberry Sky Made with raspberry vodka, fresh Thai lime, cranberry juice and white sugar, Q's candy-colored cocktail is fun and brimming with flavor (RMB 50). It's sweet and slightly tart, not syrupy in the least bit. Try Q's 2-for-1 Martini deal every Wednesday 6-11pm. Q Bar Daily 5pm-2am. Top floor of Eastern Inn Hotel, 6 Baijiazhuang Lu, Chaoyang District. (6595 9239) 朝阳区百家庄6号三里屯南路逸羽连顿酒店顶楼

Watermelon Chili Martini This piquant drink is an unusual combination of fresh watermelon juice, red chili, vodka, a few slivers of lemon and sugar. The result? A refreshing mixture that ends in a spicy, robust kick. RMB 40. Tryst Daily 5pm-2am. Nali Mall, Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6417 3092) 朝阳区三里屯北路那里商城内

Apricot Old Fashioned This Old Fashioned isn't quite so old-fashioned. The double-twist here is that the apricot-infused bourbon is offset by a dash of smoky ten-year Laphroaig. An orange twist garnish further enhances the fruity hints of the apricot. RMB 65. Twilight Mon-Sat 11.30am-2.30pm, 6pm-2am. 3/F, 0102, Bldg 5, Jianwai Soho, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District. (5900 5376) 朝阳区东三环中路39号建外Soho 5号0102单元3层



This BBQ is hot, even without the buns

THE FLAME GAME

Beijing's Best BBQ Options

Barbeque may be considered a summer food, but in the winter, there is no better way to warm things up than a piece of seared meat. Agenda put together a savory list of barbeque joints to help keep you warm this winter.

Persian Rumi This sleekly designed Persian grill serves a tantalizing array of delicious grilled kebabs, a hearty complement to their dependable crowd-pleasers like salads, hummus and pita. Daily 11.30am-midnight. 1A Gongti Beilu (opposite Zhaolong Hotel), Chaoyang District. (8454 3838) www.rumigrill.com 入迷, 朝阳区工体北路甲1号兆龙饭店对面

Chicken Wings Gui Wei Only 80 skewers of wings are marinated here everyday, which shows how much care goes into the process. It shows, too, in unique flavors like wasabi, garlic, powerfully fragrant black pepper and honey-sweet original. The mashed potatoes are rich, fluffy and served with chicken gravy. By backstreet barbecue wing joint standards, Gui Wei is almost upscale – real furniture, atmospheric lighting and black walls decorated with murals and chalked graffiti of inspired customers. 20 Heizhima Hutong, Dongcheng

District. (6407 5931) 鬼味烤翅, 东城区黑芝麻胡同20号

Japanese Kagen This stylish tepanyaki joint buried in the basement downstairs from its sister sushi establishment (Hatsune), serves up tasty marinated meat grilled fresh at each table. The difference here is the dipping sauce: choose from light lemon soy, pepper powder or a salt and pepper powder to enhance the meaty flavor. Order a plate of their specialty jumbo shrimp, spicy marinated beef, kobe beef or filet mignon to get the most out of the hot coals. Daily 11am-2pm, 5.30-9.30pm. B1/F, Bldg C, Heqiao Da-sha, 8 Guanghua Donglu, Chaoyang District. (6583 6830) 火源, 朝阳区光华东路8号和乔大厦C座地下1层

Brazilian Latin Grillhouse Pulsing with Brazilian music and decked out in green and gold, the Latin Grill has an all-you-can-eat offer of over 13 kinds of roast meat, buffet and unlimited Yanjing draft (lunchtimes RMB 88 Mon-Fri, RMB 98 on weekends, evenings are RMB 138 from 5pm-11pm). Waiters dressed like gauchos bring hunks of bullock to your table and slice a month's worth of protein onto your plate. The Latin Grill is no

date restaurant, but it's perfect for the office blowout or after-match party. Daily 11am-3pm, 5-11pm. C1-11, Bldg 1, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6126/8) 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾国际商务区1号楼C1-11

Serbian Kiosk Sizzling Serbian-style sausages and hearty hunks of meat are the specialties of Kiosk, whose two locations serve Sanlitun and Gongti Beilu. Both serve the same grilled selections like the Big Bite Burger (pork or beef patties with cheese, RMB 33) and Chavaptschichi (pork or beef sausages, RMB 26). Among the side dishes is the ever-popular paprika salad. 1) Daily 10am-10pm. 1 Xingfu Yicun (in the first alley west of the Xindong Lu intersection), Chaoyang District. (6416 3068); 2) Tue-Sun 11am-11pm. Nali Mall (next to Jazz-Ya), Sanlitun Beijing, Chaoyang District. (6413 2461) 南斯拉夫烤肉店, 1) 朝阳区幸福一村1号; 2) 朝阳区三里屯北街那里服装市场

American Union Bar & Grille With an American chef manning the grill, Union Bar & Grille's cheeseburgers are a meaty treat, and the fries are among the best in town. Other menu items include chicken wings, seared ahi tuna, crab cakes, pasta, steaks and more. Mon-Fri 11am-11pm, Sat-Sun 11am-midnight. S6-31, 3/F, Bldg 6, Sanlitun Village South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6415 9117) 优年美式餐厅, 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯Village南区6号楼3层S6-31

Korean Nijujia Village BBQ Your usual Korean BBQ staples – beef, lamb, pork, vegetables – served by waitresses in ethnic dress who speak limited English but do have a picture menu. Daily 10am-10pm. 3/F, Monalisa Bldg, 1 Guangshunnan Daijie, Wangjing, Chaoyang District. (6471 5530) 牛家韩国烤肉, 朝阳区望京广顺南大街1号娜丽莎大厦3楼

Xinjiang Crescent Moon Muslim Restaurant Xinjiang barbeque is mutton roasted on skewers with a heavy shower of cumin. Crescent Moon Muslim Restaurant has some of the best in town. Besides their chunky lamb skewers, baked flatbread and sweetened yogurt are also well worth trying. Daily 11am-11.30pm. 16 Dongsi Liutiao (alley number six, 100m west of Chaonei Beixiaojie), Dongcheng District. (6400 5281) 弯弯的月亮, 东城区东四六条16号

Compiled by Jiang Jun



A pretty place to spend your pennies



Fashion

Even Penniless *New!*

Sanlitun Village North pursues one thing, and one thing alone: style. Never mind whether its tenants hail from Paris or Guangzhou – so long as their products are classy, creative and chic, they'll fit right in. That's why we weren't at all surprised to see Chinese label Even Penniless quietly join the ranks a few months ago. Designer Gao Xin, a Hangzhou fashion school graduate, grew his brand in the cutthroat fashion world of Shanghai, where his talent for minimalist design separated him from the rest. Now, finally, his clothes are available in Beijing (though, in spite of the store's name, they do command steep prices). Stunning slim-cut silk slacks (RMB 1,587) are a welcome find amongst the attractive but abundant blazers, trenchcoats, and jackets with leather detailing. The selection of winter coats is the real draw, with a color palette ranging from white to gray and black to red. Look out for the black faux fur coat (RMB 3,998) and wool coat with batwing sleeves and buttons (RMB 3,698).

Noon-8.30pm. NLG-10, B1/F, Sanlitun Village North, 11 Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoyang District (6427 5928) 朝阳区三里屯北路11号三里屯Village北区地下1层NLG 10单元

While you're in the neighborhood, pick up an equally sleek iPhone 4 at the Apple store before rounding out your wardrobe with thermals and socks in every color from the Ikeaesque Uniqlo. Finish the evening by grabbing some tapas and wine with friends at the recently opened Enotera on the fourth floor of the Nali Patio.





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Fun is part of the job at Orange Hotels

APPLE COMPUTER, ORANGE HOTEL

Wu Hai, CEO of Orange Hotel Group, is filling the gap in the Chinese hotel industry

There are hundreds of hotels to choose from in Beijing, from small budget chains to some of the most luxurious hotels in the world. Wu Hai, of Orange Hotel Group, is working to make middle-range hotels more appealing, and Agenda hunkered down with him to learn what makes his hotels different, what helps him keep them affordable, and what the story is behind the name "Orange."

Tell us a little bit about the Orange Hotel Group. Orange Hotel Group is all about good design and affordability in hotels. The whole world is changing and the younger generation wants to experience something different. That's our whole idea: we try to go about creating something

that is different, fashionable and appeals especially to the younger generation.

We started with one hotel in Beijing and now we're up to ten. In total, we have 18 hotels across China in operation; two are Crystal Orange hotels and the rest are the regular Orange brand. Right now, we have five more in the design and construction stages.

When and how did you first get involved with Orange Hotel Group?

I was in the online travel business for a while. As a matter of fact, I actually started the first online travel business in China back in 1997. I worked for several big online companies and after all those years I started to un-

derstand exactly what customers wanted. I eventually got tired of being the middle man for these travel companies and thought to myself: "Why not be the supplier?"

In China, the hotel industry is very strange. If you look at it closely, you can see that the industry has a dumb-bell shape. At the one end, you have a lot of luxury international hotels. At the other end, there's all the budget hotel chains. In the middle, there's nothing at all. I saw an opportunity to fill that void with Orange Hotel Group.

How are you able to maintain low prices?

It's more about the concept of the hotel. When we first started this company, we did a lot of market research about what the customer really wanted. For example, swimming pools (at least in China) aren't really necessary. So we eliminated these types of facilities that people rarely use. That's one way to keep the prices low.

Another way to cut costs involves our design. We use what we call small design and we design things in a chic way. This way, we don't have a massive lobby that would cost a lot, but if you look at our lobbies, they are still fashionable. At the same time, we don't have a huge restaurant, which would be an added cost.

Where did the inspiration for Orange Hotel Group come from?

It stems from Apple Computers and their ideas. Look at the iPhone. There are over 10 million iPhones sold in China with little to no advertising. The reason sales are so high is because of the brand and the personality of the brand. It's cool. People want cool things; they'll spend money on cool things.

I thought we should adapt this idea for our hotels. People have gotten used to the boring hotel chains. There's nothing new there. That's why I decided we have to do something different, something cool. We chose to focus on the experience

"The whole world is changing and the younger generation wants to experience something different. That's our whole idea: we try to go about creating something that is different, fashionable, and appeals especially to the younger generation"

customers have when they visit our hotels and make that experience be memorable and different.

What is your current business strategy? We have two brands – Orange Hotel, which is our value brand, and Crystal Orange Hotel. We found in our research that the market between budget hotels and luxury hotels is larger than we had thought, so we created these two brands to serve as “middle brands.” We needed another brand to fill that gap between Orange Hotel and the high-end competitors, so we created Crystal Orange.

“I worked for several big online companies and after all those years I started to understand exactly what customers wanted. I eventually got tired of being the middle man for these travel companies and thought to myself: Why not be the supplier?”

The needs of our guests are slightly different in China than in other areas of the world. In China, social status is very important. The main way people show off their status is by showing off brands. We make sure to incorporate this when we design our hotels. For example, we have Kohler faucets. Our international travelers don't care as much about the brands, they just want their room to look good. Our Chinese customers, however, are the ones who tell their friends about our Kohler faucets and LG flat screen TVs. So we do our best to satisfy both those needs because we understand the differences among our various guests.

Speaking of brands, what's your marketing strategy for the Orange Hotel brand? Actually, we don't have a serious investment in marketing at all. We believe in word of mouth. The trick to what we are doing is creating a memorable experience for our guests, which then creates an emotional connection with the hotel. We hope that our guests take with them pleasant memories that they then tell their friends.

“The reason sales are so high is because of the brand and the personality of the brand. It's cool. People want cool things; they'll spend money on cool things.”

For example, each of our rooms has a fish to keep each of our guests company. We make cards for each of them telling the customer his fish's name. This makes the experience friendlier. We also provide each of our guests with a Rubik's cube and if you get three sides correct, your fish will buy you coffee. It's these small additions that make our hotel unique.

We try to create things that might be funny or memorable and that are distinct. When our customers tell their friends about these memories, then they voluntarily work as our marketing team without knowing it.

Who is your target market? At first, we thought our hotel would appeal most to the young, urban elite. We figured older guys wouldn't appreciate the new approach we were taking. It turns out we were wrong.

Some of our older guests said they preferred to stay in our hotels because they thought it was cool. I was surprised. I figured out that our target market was “psychologically” young urban elites; they are young at heart. Those are the ones who love what we are doing here at Orange Hotel Group.

Who tends to stay at your hotels, Chinese or foreigners? We target both groups and I think that comes from our fusion design. Our hotels have a very western feel but we still have some Chinese elements. In our hotel in Hangzhou, though, at least

20% of our clientele are foreign. Like I said, we don't do any marketing, so all of those overseas visitors came by word of mouth.

Why did you choose the name Orange? Again, the inspiration came from the Apple brand. We thought “Hey, why can't we be an Apple hotel? Or a Peanut hotel?” There were a lot of other ideas but we finally settled on orange. We felt that orange was just bright and lively, young and energetic, and this is how we think of our hotels. It also stands out because the name, Orange, and what it is, a hotel, don't usually go together. Since it contrasts, this also makes it easier to remember.

When did you come to Beijing? I first moved to Beijing from the countryside in 1987 to go to college. I think my parents expected me to become a government official but apparently I found a different path. Since then, they've moved here to join me.

What do you like to do around the city? In my spare time, I do a lot of reading. I like reading *The Economist* and other magazines to practice my English. Sometimes I even read them out loud. I also love meeting new people, especially those working in the architecture field. I like hearing about what's new in the industry and learning more about it. As far as favorite places to go, my favorite restaurant is Yuelu Shanwu (岳麓山屋). Since I am from Shanxi province, I like spicy food. I go there pretty often when I miss home.

*Interview by Sarah Isabel Lavers
Learn more about Orange Hotels at
www.orangehotel.com.cn.*

Yue Lu Mountain Dining 11am to 11pm.
Jizhuangli Building 1, 10 meters west of Hotel G
(6551 0806) 岳麓山屋 朝阳区吉庄里1号楼



A luxurious path to relaxation



Spas

The Ritz-Carlton Spa

With its accessible location in the CBD, the Ritz-Carlton Spa offers an oasis retreat from the daily grind. It features six single lavish treatment rooms, a couples' suite that comes complete with Balinese massage bed, a color hydrotherapy bathtub, a nail bar, Vichy shower room, aqua bed room, wet area and a whirlpool. Their signature treatments blend ancient rituals and modern scientific treatments to promote overall health. Memberships are available at three levels (diamond, gold and silver) and include benefits such as overnight stays and discounts in the hotel.

Daily 11am-11pm. 17/F, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 83A Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District (5908 8091)
北京丽思卡尔顿酒店 朝阳区建国路83A号

Signature treatments include the Yin Yang Aromatic Massage (RMB 500), Caviar and Pearl Anti-Aging Facial (RMB 1,800) and Spoil Yourself Silly package (RMB 6,588)

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TAKING THE ENTREPRE-CURE

Spa de Feng and Salon Aqua Salus Owner Xu Feng

Xu Feng understands the spa industry. Having soaked up a vast knowledge about treatments, client service, and business strategy during his formative years in Europe, Xu opened his first men's spa, Spa de Feng, in Wudaokou in 2006. Since that time, his business has expanded to the CBD, and even Singapore. In 2009, Spa de Feng was voted Best Men's Spa in China at the Asian Spa & Wellness Festival.

Beijing is a fertile ground for a thriving spa culture: it has lots of money, and stressors to match, but nonetheless many spas fail to achieve the long-running success that Xu's spas have enjoyed. Agenda sat down with Xu to learn the prescription for success in the spa business.

How did you get started in the spa business? I lived for many years in Europe. In Europe, spas are very

natural things. At the time I was there, around 2000, spas were very catchy and popular. When I came back to China in 2004, I noticed that there were only three types of spas here. There were these traditional Chinese spas that are basically medical places offering acupuncture and medicinal massage. They are very effective, but ugly, and their service and décor reminded me of medical clinics. Then there were the beauty salons, but these focused on things like facials, and were mostly a social place for women where they could call each other "sister" and "auntie." They were very feminine, and also very exclusive to outsiders. Finally there were international standard spas, but these were mainly in hotels, and they were very, very expensive. I found that if I wanted to have a nice massage, in a nicely appointed environment, I'd have to

pay for it, but this was a problem because I a student who lived far from everything and couldn't afford to do this kind of thing once a week. After a lot of thinking, I decided that I needed my own personal masseur! This was, of course, not very practical, so I started thinking about how to make it into an entrepreneurship idea.

Did you grow up around spas? My mom was an importer/exporter of spa products, so yes, I was brought up in spas. I got to know all kinds of things: different therapies, how to conduct them, how to maintain service, and everything else.

What would you say makes for a great spa? Well, I think that each business caters to a very specific clientele. It is very important is to be able to position yourself correctly, otherwise it's going to be a disaster in terms of profit and return. For me, a great spa would be, first and foremost, something accessible—not only financially, but also psychologically. The Evian Spa in Shanghai, for example, is very good in a lot of respects, but I've had a lot of clients tell me that they are not comfortable going there. Even during the treatment, you constantly have the feeling that you're doing something wrong, something not up to standard, or you're not worthy of this place. (laughs) But for me, the spa is a very familiar place, not something distant, or something that you should have to put on a face for.

What advice would you give someone wanting to enter the spa business? I think the most important thing is the positioning. It's so important to have a niche, to have a cornerstone of your business. You cannot have everything. You need to have some clients who are faithful. And the new thinking is just to pay a lot of attention to the Chinese clients. We used to be very expat and business traveler oriented: eighty or ninety percent of our customers were foreigners

"After a lot of thinking, I decided that I needed my own personal masseur! This was, of course, not very practical, so I started thinking about how to make it into an entrepreneurship idea"

at one time. But since late 2007, the time of the big financial crisis, things have changed a lot. Companies used the crisis as an excuse to terminate a lot of expat packages, so more and more of our clients are local, or foreigners living here under local pay. The thing is, people still have high expectations, so the trick is to blend these two things: the local price and an international standard of service.

What differences do you notice in the types of treatments that foreigners and Chinese clients go for? I won't say there's an intrinsic difference, but they do have different expectations and different aims when they come to the spa. For foreigners, we are one of the few

"It is very important is to be able to position yourself correctly, otherwise it's going to be a disaster in terms of profit and return. For me, a great spa would be, first and foremost, something accessible—not only financially, but also psychologically"

spas they could go to; they could not go to a Chinese spa in many cases. So when they come here they are very open to suggestions: they get facials, they get waxing, massages of course, and different body treatments. Chinese clients wouldn't come here for a facial. They would go to a more facial-oriented place. But they come here for our massage because it is established as one of the best in town. Actually, I think the only way that foreigners are different is that they do a lot more waxing, for physical reasons. (laughs) But I think it's changing, because Chinese do a lot of waxing now, too.

What sets a men's spa apart from an ordinary spa? Everything! In all aspects, you have to know that your clients are men. So the first thing is to avoid all of the feminine traits of the spa business: the décor, the music, the techniques, the service... With men, there isn't the same gossip when they come to the spa. You don't really ask

"Men are objective-oriented. They come in order to have a specific thing done. You don't need to do any hard selling, because it never works! They know what they want. Give them what they want, and they will be happy"

them anything. I think a problem with a lot of men's spas in Beijing is this: they imagine that by calling themselves a men's spa, they become a men's spa. And they might be, but they won't make clients feel comfortable. A lot of people in the men's spa business actually come from the female spa business, but they don't really try hard enough to adapt. Men are objective-oriented. They come in order to have a specific thing done.

You don't need to do any hard selling, because it never works! They know what they want. Give them what they want, and they will be happy! (laughs)

Is expansion changing your business model? I don't think it's changing my business model. I think Singapore makes sense because south Asia is one of the most important roots of spa culture, so I just want to be closer to those things. I want to have more things to learn from and adapt to. I think every market opens a different opportunity, and also a very different challenge. It's very hard to copy a model completely to a different market. In France, spas need to be fully booked one week in advance, otherwise they are not making any money. But in China there is an overabundance of service. Wherever you go, you always can go to a spa, and Chinese clients never make appointments. Even if you are running at twenty percent of capacity, you are still profitable.

What are your most popular treatments? Our Signature Relaxation Massage. We have also had very good feedback on our Signature Four-Hands Massage. Actually, I'm very proud of this treatment. It's designed according to the theory of yin and yang energies. It starts with one person on the legs and feet, and the other person on the back. The techniques are connected according to the yin and yang of the body. And then the client turns over and one therapist conducts a facial, while the other one does foot reflexology.

What do you like to do to relax? I sing. I'm a trained tenor, but I very seldom sing arias. Mostly I just sing karaoke! (laughs) You can often find me at Party World! My other passion is to go around the city discovering new restaurants. Living in a city like Beijing gives you the opportunity to discover all of these great restaurants that have been established for more than one hundred years. I also have favorite places for each type of cuisine: Morio for Japanese, Bei for Chinese-Japanese-Korean fusion, CRU for steak, and Justin's for French.

Interview by Nikolaus Fogle

Morio J-Cuisine Daily 10am-2:30pm, 5:30-10:30pm. 1/F, Hotel G, 7 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District (6551 6999) 朝阳区工体西路7号

Bei 北 Daily 5:30-10:30pm. B1/F, The Opposite House, Bldg 1, Sanlitun Village, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District (6410 5230) 朝阳区三里屯路11号三里屯Village 1号楼瑜舍地下1层

CRU Steakhouse Daily 6-10pm/F, JW Marriott Hotel, China Central Place, 83 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District (5908 8530) 朝阳区建国路83号华贸中心JW万豪酒店2层

Justine's 杰斯汀 Daily 6:30-10am, noon-2pm, 6-10pm. 1/F, Jianguo Hotel, 5 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District (6500 2233 ext 8039) 朝阳区建国门外大街5号建国饭店1层



Training for success

GOOD ADVICE

Life and career coach Tracy Driscoll tells us how to reach for the stars—and get there

Tracy Driscoll knows coaching is more than advice – it is the systematic unlocking of a person's potential, which empowers them to take the lead in their own lives. With 15 years of professional experience in marketing, PR and recruitment, Driscoll is qualified to provide advice on a number of career-related topics, and her 14 years of experience living in China have given her insight into the particularities of expat life. Agenda caught up with Tracy to learn more about what it takes to turn dreams into reality.

Who is career coaching for? Career coaching is for people who are serious about making a big change in their life, moving forward and making their dreams a reality. Anyone can talk about what they wish was happening in their life, but not everyone is ready to make the commitment it takes to accomplish it, which is why people hire coaches. Coaches can

help them clarify what they want or encourage and support them to achieve their goals. It doesn't matter if those goals are related to career, family, self development or health. What does matter is that the person, or the company, is truly passionate and ready to take actions.

Can anyone live their dreams? Of course! The only thing stopping people from living their dreams is usually the belief that they can't. Understanding your beliefs, where they come from and then working to turn them to your advantage is a big part of the coaching process.

How much of a commitment does coaching require? Achieving your goals and dreams requires commitment, and investing time and money in coaching is part of your commitment to yourself, your goals and your dreams. To make a major change in your life it usually takes three months,

or one coaching session a week for 12 weeks. Coaching sessions are usually one hour to 90 minutes. But everyone's needs are different, so I usually meet people for a free trial first to see if coaching is really what they need, and to make sure I am the right coach for them. After this session I recommend a number of sessions based on what they want to achieve.

Why is it that so many people don't know what they want? Some people are very clear about what they want, they just don't know where to start or how to go about it. Others are yearning for something they can't put their finger on. There are many reasons. They might be caught up in a busy professional life that doesn't allow them the time to get in touch with their true goals or even to get to know themselves well enough to understand their true desires. Engaging a coach is a sure sign you are ready to take hold of the steering wheel and take control of your direction.

And how do you help with this? As a coach it is my job to listen first, then to help clients explore their issues and discover their own answers. I do this by asking questions and using coaching tools which will help them to dig deep and find these answers within themselves. I help them to create the roadmaps they need to achieve their dreams, support and encourage them through the process of acting on these plans and finally help them to reflect on what they have learned and achieved. The best thing about coaching is seeing when your clients realize they know all the answers. In those "A-ha!" moments, the clouds clear and they see their way forward. There's nothing more exciting than that feeling, both for the coach or the coachee.

Interview by Jiang Jun

Visit www.aspirecoachingbj.com and set up your free trial today, or check out her upcoming events all around Beijing. Email tracy@aspirecoachingbj.com for more information.

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SAVING GRACE

Rejuvenating Beauty Treatments in Beijing

With the new year just around the corner, it's time to tackle your beauty woes and stride bravely into 2011.

Agenda has put together a list of the best beauty treatments around town to smooth, restore, tighten and brighten.

Beautytek Institute Beijing/ Chuk

See Yu Beautytek by Medilab is a treatment aimed at tissue tightening, fat reduction and body shaping, particularly cellulite removal, anti-aging treatment and weight loss. Call for price consultation. Daily 10am-10pm. 11-102, Baihuan Jiayuan, Shuangjing Qiao, Chaoyang District. (136 0106 2611) 朝阳区朝阳区双井桥百环家园 11-102

Collective Luxury Treatments here incorporate cocktails and elemental herbology. Try the harmonizing facial (RMB 880). Daily 11am-8pm. 6 Fangyuan Xilu (inside Lido Park), Chaoyang District. (5941 1830) 朝阳区芳园西路6号 丽都公园内

Eric Paris The customized facials (RMB 350) of this upscale salon will tackle any skin issues you have. Try the Decléor aromatic facial (RMB 400). Daily 10am-8pm. 43 Sanlitun Houjie, Chaoyang District. (135 0137 2971) 朝阳区三里屯后街43号

Daisy Beauty Salon Offers IPL (Intense Pulsed Light Therapy) facials (RMB 357/60 min), which treat redness, sun damage, enlarged pores and wrinkles. A 10-session package costs RMB 3,360. Daily 10am-8:30pm. Rm. 301, Building B, Sunshine 100 International Apartments, Guanghua Donglu. (5100 0556/7) 光华东路阳光100国际公寓B座301室

Golden Corolla Offers everything from slimming treatments and wrinkle reduction to acne prevention. Facials start at RMB 260, and skin packages from RMB 2,900 for 10 treatments. Tue-Sun 10am-9pm. 1/F, Bldg 7, Julong Garden, 68 Xinzhong Jie, Dongcheng

District. (6551 8091) 东城区新中街68号 聚龙花园7号楼1层

Heavenly Spa Try the "re-hydrator" treatment (RMB 700/50 min) and "eye zone" treatment (RMB 400/30min). 9am-10pm. The Westin Beijing Chaoyang, 7 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5922 8888) 朝阳区朝阳区东三环北路7号金茂北京威斯汀大饭店

I-Spa There are 10 rooms with different treatments which start at RMB 498 an hour and include a blend of floral extracts and therapeutic mud flows. Daily 10:30am-Midnight. (last appointment 11pm). 6/F, InterContinental Financial Street Beijing, 11 Jinrong Jie, Xicheng District. (5852 5888 ext 5601) 西城区金融街11号金融街洲际酒店6层

Kocoon Offers propolis serum facials (RMB 578) which uses a natural cure-all substance made by bees to treat inflammation and allergies. Tue-Sun 11am-930pm. Rm C301, 3/F, North Bldg, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Beijie (west side), Chaoyang District. (5208 6068) 朝阳区三里屯北街西侧81号那里花园北楼3层C301室

The Peninsula Try the instant brighter facial, which uses natural AHAs and BHAs to inject life into dry skin. Facials start from RMB 700/50 min. Daily 9am-11pm. 3/F, The Peninsula, 8 Jinyuhutong, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District. (8516 2888 ext 6090) 东城区东城区王府井金鱼胡同8号2王府半岛酒店三层

TATA Salon Try their 30-45 minute eye treatments, aimed at improving general health, lifting and dark circle prevention (RMB 430-700). Daily 10am-10pm. Workers' Stadium North Gate, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. (8511 3880) 朝阳区工体北路工人体育场北门

Yuanxitang Offers hour-long full-body oil massages for RMB 380 and 90-minute-long facials for RMB 480. Daily 9am-5pm. Room 617, East Tower of Wangzuo Center, No. 2 South Guangongdian Street, Chaoyang District. (6592-3668) 朝阳区光华路2旺座中心东塔617

ZenSpa Treatments here were originally designed for Indonesian royalty. Try the two-hour detox package (RMB 980) featuring a cane sugar aromatherapy scrub and Thai herbal bath. Daily 11am-11pm. 1, 8A Xiaowuji Lu, Chaoyang District. (8731 2530) 朝阳区小武基路甲8号1号院 (东四环南路15号出口)

Uncover
Beijing



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● FRIDAY, DEC 31

Midi Awards ▶

Twelve categories honoring the best rock musicians in China – who will win? Only 800 tickets available. RMB 150, RMB 80 (advance). 7pm. The Star Live. 3/F, Tango, 79 Heping Xijie (50m north of Yonghegong subway station), Dongcheng District. (6425 5677) 星光现场, 东城区和平西街79号糖果3层 (雍和宫桥路北50米)



● TUESDAY, JAN 4

◀ Film: Bohemian Life

This modern adaptation of La Vie de Bohème follows three penniless artists as they become friends in Paris. Part of Aki Kaurismäki: A Retrospective, celebrating the acclaimed Finnish New Wave filmmaker. In French with Chinese and English subtitles. RMB 15. 7pm. UCCA. Dashanzi 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (8459 9269) 尤伦斯当代艺术中心, 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区

● WEDNESDAY, JAN 5

Chinese Vegetarian Cooking Class

Learn to cook a hearty three-course meal of well-known Chinese dishes with a vegetarian twist. RMB 240, RMB 200 (members). 10am-noon. The Hutong. 1 Jiudaowan Zhongxiang Hutong (southeast of Beixinqiao subway station), Dongcheng District. (8915 3613) 东城区九道湾中巷胡同1号 (北新桥地铁站东南边)

● SUNDAY, JAN 9

American Sunday Roast

Lazy Sundays of prime beef rib cut tableside with all the trimmings plus traditional puddings and pies. RMB 178+15%, RMB 98+15% extra for wine buffet. One East, Hilton Hotel. 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6466 2288) 希尔顿酒店, 朝阳区东三环北路东方路1号

● MONDAY, JAN 10

Live Music: Cindy Chavez

Cindy Chavez, a jazz singer of Latin heritage who blends jazz rhythms with her tender voice and soft piano accompaniments. Free. Centro. 1/F, Kerry Centre Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District. (6561 8833) 炫酷, 朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心饭店1层

● TUESDAY, JAN 11

British Club Coffee Morning

The first coffee morning of the new year. All foreign passport-holders welcome. No jeans or sneakers allowed. E-mail britclubbeijing@yahoo.com for more info. RMB 60, RMB 40 (members). 10am-noon. Capital Club Athletic Center. Capital Mansion, 6 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (8486 2225 ext 136) 朝阳区新源南路6号

● SATURDAY, JAN 1

New Year Party

Cheap drinks to welcome 2011. RMB 5 for local beer, RMB 15 for imported beer and all mixed drinks, and RMB 25 for draft Hoegaarden, Stella and all cocktails. Free. 8.30pm. Luga's Villa. 2/F, 7 Sanlitun Houjue (10m from northwest corner of 3.3 Shopping Center), Chaoyang District. (6416 2575) 朝阳区三里屯后街7号2层(离3.3购物中心西北角10米)

● SUNDAY, JAN 2

**7.30am
Great Wall and Silver Pagoda Forest**

Hike to the "Wild Wall" at Huang-huacheng and the Silver Pagoda Forest, before lunch in a local village. Reservation required. RMB 220. Culture Yard. 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District. (8404 4166) 东城区石雀胡同10号

● MONDAY, JAN 3

Chill Chasers at Aria

A steaming bowl of hot and nourishing soup is the ultimate winter comfort food. Aria's Matthew McCool serves up hearty winter soups including smoked lobster consommé, and ham hock and split pea soup. Aria, China World Hotel. 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6505 2266 ext 36) 中国大酒店. 朝阳区建国门外大街1号

● THURSDAY, JAN 6

Live Music: Christophe Lier Trio

Enjoy the French jazz session at Dongmianhua Hutong. RMB 30. 9pm. Jianghu Liveshow Bar. 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nandajie, Dongcheng District. (6401 4611) 江湖酒吧. 东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号

● FRIDAY, JAN 7

Bunnies at The Bling Mansion

The Year of the Rabbit is going to mean a lot of Playboy bunnies; Bling gets started early. RMB 2,000 cash prize for the sexiest bunny. Table reservations recommended; call Hill at 138 1085 8776 to book. Free. 9pm. Bling. Solana 5-1, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6999) 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号Solana蓝色港湾国际商区5-1

● SATURDAY, JAN 8

▼ Live Music: Perdel

Local rockers start a new tour. RMB 70, RMB 50 (advance). MAO Livehouse. 111 Gulou Dongdajie, Dongcheng District. (6402 5080) 光芒. 东城区鼓楼东大街111号

● WEDNESDAY, JAN 12

Talk: Night Photography

Ever have trouble capturing photos at night? Get tips and insight from professional photographer Peter Carney. No cameras necessary. Reserve at contact@cultureyard.net. RMB 35. 7.30-8.30pm. Culture Yard. 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District. (8404 4166) 东城区石雀胡同10号

Events deadlines!
Jan 13 issue: Dec 29
Jan 27 issue: Jan 12
E-mail your listings to
listings@agendabeijing.com



DEC 30

THURSDAY

9.30AM

Ladies Golf Beijing's avid lady golfers play weekly at a local course. RMB 290 (includes green fees, caddy and lunch). Tee-off time is 9.30am. Details at beijingladiesgolf@yahoo.com or www.beijingladiesgolf.org

5PM

Jubbly Bubbly Two-for-one on champagne by the glass. Free. Terra. 1 Sanlitun Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (6591 9148) 朝阳区三里屯南路1号

No Ties After Five Discounts on beer and selected cocktails. Join the No Ties Club and collect stamps to receive free buckets of beer, wine and spirits. Free. Mix, Westin Chaoyang. 7 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5922 8000) 威斯汀酒店, 朝阳区东三环北路7号

6PM

Wind Down at the Wine Club Discover some of the world's finest wine regions. Five wines and one cocktail accompanied by expert commentary and canapes. RMB 150+15% per person. One East. 2/F, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang District. (5865 5030) 朝阳区东方路1号希尔顿酒店2层

6-10PM

Bodega Fever Fill up on as much tapas as you can from Scarlett's wide-ranging selection. Scarlett. Hotel G, 7A Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District. (6552 2880) 朝阳区工体西路甲7号北京极栈内

7-9PM

ORIENTED Happy Hour Drinks-fueled networking with a lucky draw to boot. Reserve your spot at www.oriented.com/rsvp. RMB 100, RMB 50 (pre-registered). Venue TBD

Handball Men, women, beginners, pros are all welcome at Beijing City International School in the CBD. Contact Marcus at m.wachtmeister@gmx.de or 152 1027 1497. More info at www.handballchina.org.

7.30PM

Riverdance Last Tour in China A show that needs no introduction. RMB 280-1,680. Beijing Exhibition Theater.



Riverdance Last Tour in China

135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng District. (6835 4455) 北京展览馆剧场, 西城区西直门外大街135号

New Year Concert: China National Symphony Orchestra Some of the finest musicians in China mix European and Chinese classics. RMB 100-2,011. Great Hall of the People. West side of Tian'anmen Square, Dongcheng District. (6309 6156) 人民大会堂, 东城区天安门广场西侧

New Year Concert: Vienna Johann Strauss Waltz Orchestra Lots and lots of Strauss. RMB 180-880. Century Theater. 21st Century Hotel, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (6466 4805, 6468 3311 ext 3126) 世纪剧院, 朝阳区亮马桥路40号(21世纪饭店)

7.30 & 9PM

Samba Beginners Beginner's class on every Thursday by native Brazilian and professional dancer and fitness instructor Renata Secco who has over 10 years of performing and teaching experience in Brazil, USA and Asia. RME 80 per lesson. J-Ballet Studio. 1/F, Bldg D, Jingxiu Yuan, Xingfucun Zhonglu, Chaoyang District. (8453 3003) 朝阳区幸福村中路景绣园D座1层

9PM

Tightarse Thursdays Carlsberg for RMB 20, Tsingtao for RMB 10. The madness of the Beijing darts league? Priceless. The Stumble Inn. S3-31, 3/F, Sanlitun Village South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6417 7794) 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯Village南区3号楼3层S3-31

Exposed: Ladies' Night Free VnC cocktails and second-floor "girls-only" zone. Free. Zeta Bar. 2/F, Hilton Beijing, Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5865 5000) 颐达

吧, 朝阳区东三环北路东方1号希尔顿饭店2层

9.30PM

Liu Yue Guitar Trio Jazz lines read by classic guitar. Free. East Shore Live Jazz Café. 2 Qianhai Nanyanlu (just to the west of the post office on Di'anmenwai Dajie), Xicheng District. (8403 2131) 东岸咖啡, 西城区地安门外大街前海沿2号楼2层

10PM

Girls' Night Out Free vodka drinks from 10pm-1am for the ladies. Free. Xiu. Park Hyatt, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (5867 1108) 秀, 朝阳区朝阳区建国门外大街2号

TIMES VARY

Martini Night All martinis are RMB 40 all night, and there's free pizza from 9-10pm. Free. George's. Near Gate 12, east side of Workers' Stadium, Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang District. (6553 6299) 朝阳区工体东路工人体育场东门内12号进口

Mule and Mojito Thursday Help ease the water shortage with mule and mojito refills. The bar saves water on washing the glass, and you'll pay just RMB 20 for the refill. Win-win. Free. Mao Mao Chong. 12 Banchang Hutong (east off Nanluogu Xiang), Dongcheng District. (159 9264 6024) 毛毛虫, 东城区板厂胡同12号(南锣鼓巷往东走)

Flamenco Night Enjoy a glass of Sangria with Tapas at RMB 58 or RMB 200 for a bottle to flamenco guitar live band. Water. Store 15-4, Solana, 6 Chaoyanggongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6008/9, 137 0113 1533) 子水, 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾国际商务区15-4

D E C

31

FRIDAY

6PM

New Year Eve Seafood Dinner Buffet

Ring in the new year with an enormous seafood buffet dinner including all sorts of international delights.

RMB 428+15% including free-flow wine and beer. Seasonal Elements. 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5865 5020) 希尔顿酒店, 朝阳区东三环北路东方路1号

6.30PM

Embrace 2011 New Year's Eve Countdown

Vivacious live entertainment and music, with lucky draws from 6.30-11.30pm. Bottles of Pommery are RMB 500 on the night. RMB 488 (includes a glass of champagne). Westin Financial Street. 9B Jinrong Jie (Financial Street), Xicheng District, Xicheng District. (6606 8866) 威斯汀大酒店, 西城区金融街乙9号

7PM

Midi Awards

Twelve categories honoring the best rock musicians in China – who will win? Only 800 tickets available. RMB 150, RMB 80 (advance). The Star Live. 3/F, Tango, 79 Heping Xijie (50m north of Yonghegong subway station), Dongcheng District. (6425 5677) 星光现场, 东城区和平西街79号糖果3层 (雍和宫桥路北50米)

7.30PM

New Year Concert: Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra Beijing

Russia's best offer a New Year as good as any of the finest on earth. RMB 200-5,800. Great Hall of the People. West side of Tian'anmen Square, Dongcheng District. (6309 6156) 人民大会堂, 东城区天安门广场西侧

New Year Concert: Winter Sonata-Brassissimo Vienna

The Austrian brass quintet ring in 2011 with Christmas songs and classics. RMB 120-580. Century Theater. 21st Century Hotel, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (6466 4805, 6468 3311 ext 3126) 世纪剧院, 朝阳区亮马桥路40号(21世纪饭店)

9PM

New Year's Eve Countdown Party

Bring in the New Year with the most beautiful people in town, and get down with the hottest party beats mixed by international DJs. RMB 288 per person for open bar from 9pm till 1am including house spirit, local beer, house wine and finger food and one glass of Mumm Champagne at midnight. RMB 1388 per couple including a bottle of Mumm Champagne and free flow house spirit, local beer, house wine and finger food, plus a free room at Hilton Beijing for the night. Zeta Bar. 2/F, Hilton Beijing, Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5865 5000) 颐达吧, 朝阳区东三环北路东方1号希尔顿饭店2层

NYE at Q Happy hour from 9-11pm, with special frozen vodka drinks and music to see in the new year. Free. Q

Bar. On the top floor of Eastern Inn Hotel, 100m south of Beer Mania, Sanlitun Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (6595 9239) 朝阳区三里屯南路麦兜啤酒吧南100米

2011 Countdown Party Live band Maximum round off 2010 and take you into 2011. RMB 400 (includes two glasses of champagne). Xiu. Park Hyatt, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (5867 1108) 秀, 朝阳区朝阳区建国门外大街2号

9PM-5AM

Yen Countdown DJs include Mickey Zhang, Dio, Yang Bing, Usami and Ou Yang. For more information, call 136 7130 4233. RMB 150, RMB 280 (VIP advance, includes VIP pass plus RMB 100 drink voucher), RMB 100 (advance), RMB 70 (early bird). Tickets at Lush, Aperitivo and www.clubzone.cn. Dashanzi 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区

9PM-6AM

Genesis 2011 The Acupuncture team gets you dancing into the new year. For info, see www.acupuncture-records.com. RMB 100, RMB 70 (advance), RMB 50 (early bird). 751 Tank D-Park, Dashanzi 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区

9.30PM

New Year's Eve Party DJ Tommy's still feeling festive. But are you? Free. Luga's Basement. 1/F (below Luga's Villa), 7 Sanlitun Houjie (10m from northwest corner of 3.3 Shopping Center), Chaoyang District. (6416 2575) 朝阳区三里屯后街7号1层(离3.3购物中心西北角10米)

10PM

Kid Fresh and Beware Ring in the new year with this pair of turntablists. Resident Saul D supports. RMB 50, free (before 11pm). Punk. B1/F, The Opposite House, Bldg 1, The Village at Sanlitun, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6410 5222) 朝阳区三里屯路11号三里屯Village1号楼裙舍地下1层

New Year's Eve Midnight supper

Inspired by Lady Astor's New York Midnight Supper – the St. Regis is counting down the final hours of the year with a special dinner buffet complimented with free flow of imported wines and classic Shanghai jazz. RMB 298 includes a glass of champagne. 21 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District (6460 6688) 朝阳区建国门外大街21号



Yen Countdown at 798

J A N

01

SATURDAY

9AM

Tianjin Architecture Tour A tour around the highlights of Beijing's neighboring city. Cost includes train tickets, bus in Tianjin, guide and lunch. Meet at entrance 20 of Beijing South Railway Station. RMB 490, RMB 390 (children under 16). Ninety Percent Travel (151 1791 6648, info@90percenttravel.com) www.90percenttravel.com

11.30AM-3PM

Bubbalicious New Year Recovery Recuperate from your holiday partying at the Bubbalicious Recovery Brunch. Munch on fresh seafood and healthy soups and enjoy the special therapy sessions with on-site doctors and nurses. RMB 428+15% (includes free-flow champagne). Seasonal Tastes, Westin Chaoyang, 1 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (5922 8880) 朝阳区新源南路1号威斯汀酒店

1-4PM

Black Sesame Gourmet Learn the secrets of Chinese cooking in a courtyard kitchen with the master chefs. Class includes a demonstration, hands-on cooking, plus lunch. RMB 300, RSVP required. Black Sesame Kitchen, 3 Heizhima Hutong, Dongcheng District. (136 9147 4408) www.blackssamekitchen.com 东城区东城区黑芝麻胡同3号

2PM

Aussie Rules Nine-a-side on grass. No wonder they say g'day a lot. More details at beijingfooty@yahoo.com.. Jade Gardens.

7.30PM

Ballet: Romeo & Juliet Britain's much-loved Northern Ballet Theatre brings their adaptation of the star-crossed lovers, set to Prokofiev's score. RMB 80-1,280. NCPA. 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District. (6655 0000) 国家大剧院, 西城区西长安街2号

Drama: Five Acts of Life Five of Lao She's celebrated short stories come to the stage. This adaptation debuted in Hong Kong to immense critical acclaim. RMB 180-680. NCPA. 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District. (6655 0000) 国家大剧院, 西城区西长安街2号



Bubbalicious New Year Recovery

8.30PM

New Year Party Cheap drinks to welcome 2011. RMB 5 for local beer, RMB 15 for imported beer and all mixed drinks, and RMB 25 for draft Hoegaarden, Stella and all cocktails. Free. Luga's Villa. 2/F, 7 Sanlitun Houjue (10m from northwest corner of 3.3 Shopping Center), Chaoyang District. (6416 2575) 朝阳区三里屯后街7号2层 (离3.3购物中心西北角10米)

Live Music: Army of Jade Kirin, Chiren, Bolan Tonghua, Nuclear Fusion - G, Los Crasher From metal to experimental, from punk to folk. Who says you can't handle all of them in one night? RMB 60, RMB 50 (advance). MAO Livehouse. 111 Gulou Dongdajie, Dongcheng District. (6402 5080) 光芒, 东城区鼓楼东大街111号

9PM

Live Music: Long Shen Dao The best Chinese reggae band finally drops their debut album. Let's ska with Tai Chi Reggae. RMB 60 (first 100 at the door get a free CD). Yugong Yishan. 2-3 Zhang Zizhong Lu (former Duan Qirui government building, east of Ping'an Dadao), Dongcheng District. (6404 2711) 愚公移山, 东城区张自忠路2-3号段祺瑞执政政府旧址西院

Live Music: Wang Yuqi and Band The former guitarist of Second Hand Rose starts a new daydream slowly. RMB 30. Jianghu Liveshow Bar. 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nandajie, Dongcheng District. (6401

4611) 江湖酒吧, 东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号

10PM

Live Music: 24 Hours, Rustic, SUBS Grab some energy, enthusiasm and creativity from the best of the young powers. RMB 50, RMB 40 (advance). 2 Kolegas. 21 Liangmaqiao Lu (inside the drive-in movie theater park), Chaoyang District. (6436 8998) 两个好朋友, 朝阳区亮马桥路21号 (燕莎桥东1500米路北汽车电影院内)

Live Music: Rudeness, Old Fashion, The Film Rock out your hangover and swing it away. RMB 40, RMB 30. D-22. 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District. (6265 3177) 海淀区成府路242号

11.30PM

Hang the DJ Music from iLoop, AMU, Guzz, ZuGe and Howie Lee. Free. School. 53 Wudaoying Hutong, Chaoyang District. (6402 8881) 朝阳区五道营胡同53号

TIMES VARY

The TREK Peloton Road Bike Cycling Club Rental bikes are available. Riders are divided into groups based on speed and distance. More information at tom@cycloportschina.com or 139 1028 0053.

I Cabare Live Dinner music 3 courses menu at RMB 248. Come, dine, drink and dance. Cabare. 15-1, Bldg 15, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 1760) 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾15号楼15-1号

J A N

02

SUNDAY

7.30AM

Great Wall and Silver Pagoda

Forest Hike to the "Wild Wall" at Huanghuacheng and the Silver Pagoda Forest before lunch in a local village. Reservation required. RMB 220. Culture Yard. 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District. (8404 4166) 东城区石雀胡同10号

10AM

Badminton Shuttlecock shenanigans for the intermediate and advanced. Contact John at johnsk_ho@hotmail.com.

Women's Lacrosse Practice takes place every Sunday at 10am. Equipment is provided. Cost of pitch fees is shared. Contact Fiona at fionaboyle66@hotmail.com.

11.30AM

Bubbly Sundays Caviar, live seafood, tartare stations, make-your-own sushi rolls, teppanyaki ice cream and much more. RMB 368+15% (includes free flow of Pommery Pop champagne), RMB 148+15% (kids younger than 12), free (kids under 6). Senses. 1/F, Westin, 9B Jinrong Jie, Xicheng District. (6606-8866 ext. 7810) 味·西城区金融大街乙9号北京金融街威斯汀大酒店1层

Bubblicious New Year Recovery

Recuperate from your holiday partying at the Bubblicious Recovery Brunch. Munch on fresh seafood and healthy soups and enjoy the special therapy sessions with on-site doctors and nurses. RMB 428+15% (includes free-flow champagne). Seasonal Tastes, Westin Chaoyang, 1 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (5922 8880) 朝阳区新源南路1号威斯汀酒店

NOON

Sureño Set Sunday Lunch Enjoy a selection of tapas dishes, a soup and one main course from the menu. RMB 188+15%, RMB 298+15% (including champagne). Sureño, The Opposite House, Bldg 1, The Village at Sanlitun, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6410 5222) 朝阳区三里屯路11号三里屯Village 1号楼瑜伽地下1层

American Sunday Roast Lazy Sundays of prime beef rib cut tableside with all the trimmings plus traditional puddings and pies. RMB 178+15%, RMB 98+15% extra for wine buffet. One East, Hilton Hotel. 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6466 2288) 希尔顿酒店·朝阳区东三环北路东方路1号

1PM

Women's Soccer The Odds and Ends are Beijing's only amateur 11-a-side football team for women. Suitable for all skill levels. Matches or practice every week. Free. Beijing Geological University. Contact Wenhui at 8526 2420 ext 111 or wf7788@hotmail.com.

1.50PM

Hutong Rickshaw Tour Explore the hutong on this rickshaw ride, before stopping in to see a traditional courtyard and meet a local family. Call Lisa on 139 1150 8227 or 8621 6278 for more information. RMB 180. Meet at 1.50pm at the South gate of Lotus Lane. CnAdventure. www.cnadventure.com

2PM

Basketball Play with the Angels. General Administration of Sport of China Training Centre. www.angels-club.com.cn

3.30-5.30PM

Tea at Tiananmen Enjoy a luxurious afternoon – nibble on an array of freshly baked scones, finger sandwiches, delectable cakes and pastries. RMB 138. Capital M. 3/F, 2 Qianmen Pedestrian Street (southeast of Qianmen), Chongwen District. (6702 2727) 崇文区前门步行街2号3层

5.30 & 7PM

Samba Intermediates

Intermediate class on every Sunday by native Brazilian and professional dancer and fitness instructor Renata Secco who has over 10 years of performing and teaching experience in Brazil, USA and Asia. RME 80 per lesson. J-Ballet Studio. 1/F, Bldg D, Jingxiu Yuan, Xingfucun Zhonglu, Chaoyang District. (8453 3003) 朝阳区幸福村中路景绣园D座1层

7.30PM

Ballet: Romeo & Juliet Britain's much-loved Northern Ballet Theatre brings their adaptation of the star-crossed lovers, set to Prokofiev's score. RMB 80-1,280. NCPA. 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District. (6655 0000) 国家大剧院·西城区西长安街2号

Drama: Five Acts of Life Five of Lao She's celebrated short stories come to the stage. This adaptation debuted in Hong Kong to immense critical acclaim. RMB 180-680. NCPA. 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District. (6655 0000) 国家大剧院·西城区西长安街2号

8PM

The Emitter, Joker, Namu, Not There Listen to the very Chinese Namu and get lost in Not There's electric experiment. RMB 50 (include free snacks). MAO Livehouse. 111 Gulou Dongdajie, Dongcheng District. (6402 5080) 光芒·东城区鼓楼东大街111号



Bubbly Sundays at Westin Financial Street

J A N

03

MONDAY

— 11.30-2.30PM, 5.30-10PM —

Fondue Feast Curb the wintry cold with traditional favorites ranging from melted cheese with bread cubes to tender meats in heated olive oil. For dessert, it's Valrhona chocolate with seasonal fruit. Starting from RMB 280 for two. Blu Lobster. Valley Wing 1/F, Shangri-La Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District. (6841 2211 ext 6727 / 6728) 蓝韵, 海淀区紫竹院路29号北京香格里拉饭店新闻一层

— 2PM —

Lakeside Afternoon Tea Daily afternoon tea at RMB 98 including a pot of your favorite tea and tea pastries include classic sandwiches and freshly baked scones served every afternoon before 5pm. Water. Store 15-4, Solana, 6 Chaoyanggongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6008/9, 137 0113 1533) 子水, 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾国际商区15-4

— 4PM —

Burger, Burger Mondays Come hungry. Two-for-one on all signature burgers. Blue Frog. 3/F, Bldg 4, Sanlitun Village South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6417 4030) 蓝蛙, 朝阳区三里屯北路19号三里屯Village南区4号楼3层S4-30(6417 4030)

— 6PM-MIDNIGHT —

Monday Pizza Night Buy any pizza and get the second one for free. Ciro's Pomodoro. 81 Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5208 6008) 波莫多洛, 朝阳区三里屯北路81号

— 7-8PM —

Chinese Language and Culture Club The Chinese teachers will teach you the stuff you really want to know, like slang and cursing, pick-up lines, what the popular music is nowadays and more. Register at contact@cultureyard.net. RMB 75/workshop, RMB 250/month (4 workshops). Culture Yard. 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District. (8404 4166) 东城区石雀胡同10号

— 7.30PM —

Ballet: Romeo & Juliet Britain's much-loved Northern Ballet Theatre brings their adaptation of the star-crossed lovers, set to Prokofiev's score. RMB 80-



Ballet: Romeo & Juliet

1,280. NCPA. 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District. (6655 0000) 国家大剧院, 西城区西长安街2号

Drama: Five Acts of Life Five of Lao She's celebrated short stories come to the stage. This adaptation debuted in Hong Kong to universal critical acclaim. RMB 180-680. NCPA. 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District. (6655 0000) 国家大剧院, 西城区西长安街2号

Bookworm Pub Quiz Put your grey matter to the test under some tough questioning. Wine specials all night. Free. The Bookworm. Courtyard 4, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6586 9507) 书虫书吧, 朝阳区工体北路4号院

— BPM —

Live Music: Cindy Chavez Cindy Chavez, a jazz singer of Latin heritage who blends jazz rhythms with her tender voice and soft piano accompaniments. Free. Centro. 1/F, Kerry Centro Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District. (6561 8833) 炫酷, 朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心饭店1层

Live Music: Allie Webb LA singer charms with pop and jazz tunes every Monday to Saturday. Free. Aria. China World Hotel. 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6505 2266) 中国大饭店, 朝阳区建国门外大街1号

— 9.30PM —

The Boardroom Buy-one-get-one-free Moët champagne cocktails, 20 percent discounts on all bottles of Johnnie Walker and Hennessy VSOP, and a free glass of sparkling wine for secretaries. If only all offices were like

this. While Tia and The Knutz heat up the dance floor with R&B, hip-hop, jazz and more. Free. Xiu. Park Hyatt, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (5867 1108) 秀, 朝阳区建国门外大街2号

— TIMES VARY —

Chill Chasers at Aria Aria's Matthew McCool serves up hearty winter soups including smoked lobster consommé, and ham hock and split pea soup. Aria, China World Hotel. 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6505 2266 ext 36) 中国大饭店, 朝阳区建国门外大街1号

Happy Mondays All-day happy hour. The Stumble Inn. The Stumble Inn. S3-31, 3/F, Sanlitun Village South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6417 7794) 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯Village南区3号楼3层S3-31

Temptation Mondays Get over the Monday blues with 30% off any bottle of wine. Mosto. 3/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5208 6030) 摸石头, 朝阳区三里屯北路81号那里花园3层

Beijing City Bus Tour This daily bilingual city tour offers a brief introduction to Beijing's sights and planning. RMB 380, free (children under 1.2m). Day tour (3 hours) bus departs at 9.30am, 10am, 2pm and 2.30pm. Night tour (1.5 hours) bus departs at 7pm and 7.30pm. Tour departs from Guomao Exhibition Hall. Beijing Citybus Tour (400 650 0760) www.citybustour.com

J A N

04

TUESDAY

5PM

Terra-fic Tuesdays Two-for-one Stellas, imported beers for RMB 28 (or RMB 100 for a bucket), RMB 38 caipirinhas and mojitos, RMB 48 for a glass of champagne and 20 percent off on all bottles of wine. Free. Terra. 1 Sanlitun Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (6591 9148) 朝阳区三里屯南路1号

6PM

Irish Volunteer Quiz How much do you get paid? The Irish Volunteer. Jiangtai Lu (opposite the east gate of the Lido Hotel), Chaoyang District. (150 1112 4113) 朝阳区高家园小区平房311号(丽都饭店东门对面)

6-10PM

Mussels & Wine Flights Experience four different flavors of mussels with selected wines. RMB 98. Scarlett. Hotel G, 7A Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District. (6552 2880) 朝阳区工体西路甲7号北京极栈内

7PM

Film: Bohemian Life This modern adaptation of *La Vie de Bohème* follows three penniless artists as they become friends in Paris. Part of Aki Kaurismäki: A Retrospective, celebrating the acclaimed Finnish New Wave filmmaker. In French with Chinese

and English subtitles. RMB 15. UCCA. Dashanzi 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (8459 9269) 尤伦斯当代艺术中心。朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区

7:30PM

Drama: Five Acts of Life Five of Lao She's celebrated short stories come to the stage. This adaptation debuted in Hong Kong to immense critical acclaim. RMB 180-680. NCPA. 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District. (6655 0000) 国家大剧院。西城区西长安街2号

Ballet: Madama Butterfly The Northern Ballet follows up Shakespeare with their take on Puccini's classic. RMB 180-1,080. NCPA. 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District. (6655 0000) 国家大剧院。西城区西长安街2号

7-9PM

Gaelic Football Beijing Gaelic Football Club holds weekly men's and women's practice games every Tuesday in the city; all skill levels are welcome. Details at beijinggaa@yahoo.com or www.beijinggaa.org.

7:15PM

Beijing Devils Training Rugby training out at Dulwich Legend Gardens, Shunyi. Free bus leaves The Den at 7:15pm. The Den. 4 Gongti Donglu (next to City Hotel's main entrance), Chaoyang District. (6592 6290) 敦煌。朝阳区工体东路4号城市宾馆正门旁边

7:30PM

Stumble Inn Quiz Night How many beers do you have? Free. The Stumble Inn. S3-31, 3/F, Sanlitun Village South,

19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6417 7794) 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯 Village南区3号楼3层S3-31

7:40PM

Pilates Work the mind and the body at this class. RMB 90. Yin Yang Community Center, Courtyard 1, Hegezhuang Village, Chaoyang District. (6431 2108) www.yinyangbeijing.com 朝阳区崔各庄乡何各庄村1号院

8-10PM

Enoterra Ladies Night Free-flow Burgundy bubbles. Free. Enoterra. D405, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (5208 6076) 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园D405室

8PM

NFL at Luga's Watch the NFL with bottles of Coors or Sol (six for RMB 98), or RMB 20 mixed drinks. Free. Luga's Villa. 7 Sanlitun Houjue (10m from northwest corner of 3.3 Shopping Center), Chaoyang District. (6416 2575) 朝阳区三里屯后街7号(离3.3购物中心西北角10米)

Quiz Night Questions and answers. Free. Tim's Texas Bar-B-Q. 14 Dongdaqiao Lu (on the corner of Guanghua Lu), Chaoyang District. (6591 9161) www.timsbarbq.com Tim's 熏烤房。朝阳区东大桥路14号贵友大厦正北200米

8:30PM

Open Mic Night Brave a demanding crowd and get a drink for your efforts. Free. Paddy O'Shea's. 28 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6415 6389) 朝阳区东直门外大街28号

9PM

Mundo Latino with Magic Tequila All night long, enjoy 20 percent discounts on all bottles of tequila to the sound of salsa and Latin rhythms. Free. Xiu. Park Hyatt, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (5867 1108) 秀。朝阳区朝阳区建国门外大街2号

Eastside Open Mic An open mic night with drinks specials to get you brave enough. Free. Tun. Courtyard 4 (20m south of Salsa Caribe), Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6585 5866) 屯。朝阳区工体北路4号院

TIMES VARY

Temptation Tuesdays Drinks on Tuesday? Why not? Enjoy your favorite wines at 30% off. Modo. 3/F, Sanlitun Village South (close to Element Fresh), 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6415 7207) 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯 Village南区3楼(近新元素)



Gaelic Football

JAN 05

WEDNESDAY

10AM-NOON

Chinese Vegetarian Cooking Class

Learn to cook a hearty three-course meal of well-known Chinese dishes with a vegetarian twist. RMB 240, RMB 200 (members). The Hutong. 1 Jiudaowan Zhongxiang Hutong (southeast of Beixinqiao subway station), Dongcheng District. (8915 3613) 东城区九道湾中巷胡同1号(北新桥地铁站东南边)

4PM

Buy One Burger, Get One Free

From steakhouse to swiss & \$hrooms – double your fun. All-Star Sports Bar & Grill. Bldg 5, 1/F, Solana Shopping Mall, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6999) 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号Solana蓝色港湾国际商区5-1

6-11PM

Martini Wednesdays Beijing's best martinis? Ten of them are buy-one-get-one-free tonight. Free. Q Bar. On the top floor of Eastern Inn Hotel, 100m south of Beer Mania, Sanlitun Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (6595 9239) 朝阳区三里屯南路麦兜酒吧南100米

6.45PM

Nia A brand-new fusion of lifestyle and fitness. Apparently it's just like chocolate. RMB 110 (one class), RMB 800 (eight classes). Yin Yang Community Center, Courtyard 1, Hegezhuang Village, Chaoyang District. (6431 2108) www.yinyangbeijing.com 朝阳区崔各庄乡何各庄村1号院

5-8PM

Launch: "Brilliant" Jewelry Collection Jacky's Jewelry will showcase its latest collection "Brilliant"; a collaborative design effort by Jacqueline Rabenberg and artist Clemens Briels. Free. Touch, The Westin Chaoyang, 1 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (5922 8000) 朝阳区新源南路1号威斯汀酒店

7PM

Film: Leningrad Cowboys Go America Hopeless European rock musicians journey to the New World. In the words of the UCCA: "Ugly actors, good feelings. Yeah." Part of Aki Kaurismäki: A Retrospective, celebrating the acclaimed Finnish New Wave filmmaker. In Finnish and English with Chinese



CBA: Beijing Ducks vs. Dongguan Leopards

and English subtitles. RMB 15. UCCA. Dashanzi 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (8459 9269) 尤伦斯当代艺术中心, 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区

7.30PM

CBA: Beijing Ducks vs. Dongguan Leopards Steve Francis and the boys try to restore some pride to the capital's hoops team. RMB 40-260. Beijing Shougang Basketball Center. 105 Fushi Lu, Shijingshan District. (8829 6156) 首钢篮球中心, 石景山区阜石路105号

8PM

Frank's Quiz Win money. RMB 20. Frank's Place. Jiangtai Xilu, west of Rosedale Hotel, Lido area, Chaoyang District. (6437 8399) 朝阳区丽都将台西路

Jazz Night What goes well with pad thai and green chicken curry? Jazz, obviously. Rotating musicians entertain weekly. Purple Haze Courtyard. 1, Dongsì Liutiao (east exit), Dongcheng District. (6501 9345) 紫苏庭, 东城区东四六条1号

8.30PM

Paddy's Quiz Free drinks for the top five finishers. Free. Paddy O'Shea's. 28 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6415 6389) 朝阳区东直门外大街28号

9PM

Tristan Traditional French tunes. Free. Salud. 66 Nanluoguxiang, Dongcheng

District. (6402 5086) 老伍, 东城区南锣鼓巷66号

Live Music: Zhang Jing Singer-songwriter-poet-painter Zhang Jing welcomes you to his world with a glass of wine or a cup of tea. Free. Jianghu Liveshow Bar. 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nandajie, Dongcheng District. (6401 4611) 江湖酒吧, 东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号

Coquin Ladies Night Free cocktails until 1am for those of the appropriate sex. Free. Touch, Westin Chaoyang, 1 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (5922 8888 ext 8112) 朝阳区新源南路1号威斯汀酒店

Bling's Got Talent Open Mic Night Sing your heart out to win an RMB 700 Bling gift card. RMB 2,000 cash prize available on the last Wednesday of the month. Table reservations recommended; call Hill at 138 1085 8776 to book. Free. Bling. Solana 5-1, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6999) 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号Solana蓝色港湾国际商区5-1

10PM

Kitchen DJs Bitesize Buddha and Saul D cook up down and dirty funk soul disco and early hip-hop. Free. Punk. B1/F, The Opposite House, Bldg 1, The Village at Sanlitun, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6410 5222) 朝阳区三里屯路11号三里屯Village 1号楼瑜舍地下1层

J A N

06

THURSDAY

9.30AM

Ladies Golf Beijing's avid lady golfers play weekly at a local course. RMB 290 (includes green fees, caddy and lunch). Tee-off time is 9.30am. Details at beijingladiesgolf@yahoo.com or www.beijingladiesgolf.org

11AM-1.30PM

Black Sesame Cooking Class: Shanxi Noodles Learn how to make delicious noodles (cat's ear, knife-grated and hand-rolled) from scratch, as well as the savory sauces that go with them. RMB 250. Black Sesame Kitchen. 3 Heizhima Hutong, Dongcheng District. (136 9147 4408) 东城区东城区黑芝麻胡同3号

5PM

No Ties After Five Discounts on beer and selected cocktails. Join the No Ties Club and collect stamps to receive free buckets of beer, wine and spirits. Free. Mix, Westin Chaoyang. 7 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5922 8000) 威斯汀酒店. 朝阳区东三环北路7号

6PM

Wind Down at the Wine Club Discover some of the world's finest wine

regions. Five wines and one cocktail accompanied by expert commentary and canapes. RMB 150+15% per person. One East. 2/F, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang District. (5865 5030) 朝阳区东方路1号希尔顿酒店2层

6-10PM

Bodega Fever Fill up as much tapas as you can from Scarlett's wide-ranging selection. Scarlett. Hotel G, 7A Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District. (6552 2880) 朝阳区工体西路甲7号北京极栈内

7PM

Film: Drifting Clouds A neo-realist yet comical look at Finnish unemployment. Part of Aki Kaurismäki: A Retrospective, celebrating the acclaimed Finnish New Wave filmmaker. In Finnish with Chinese and English subtitles. RMB 15. UCCA. Dashanzi 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (8459 9269) 尤伦斯当代艺术中心. 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区

7.30 & 9PM

Samba Beginners Beginner's class on every Thursday by native Brazilian and professional dancer and fitness instructor Renata Secco who has over 10 years of performing and teaching experience in Brazil, USA and Asia. RME 80 per lesson. J-Ballet Studio. 1/F, Bldg D, Jingxiu Yuan, Xingfucun Zhonglu, Chaoyang District. (8453 3003) 朝阳区幸福村中路景绣园D座1层

9PM

Live Music: Christophe Lier Trio Enjoy the French jazz session at

Dongmianhua Hutong. RMB 30. Jianguo Liveshow Bar. 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nandajie, Dongcheng District. (6401 4611) 江湖酒吧. 东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号

Cheeky Monkey Improv Join the cheeky show and have fun with some impromptu. RMB 30, RMB 20 (students). D-22. 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District. (6265 3177) 海淀区成府路242号

Exposed: Ladies' Night Free VnC cocktails and second-floor "girls-only" zone. Free. Zeta Bar. 2/F, Hilton Beijing, Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5865 5000) 颐达吧. 朝阳区东三环北路东方1号希尔顿饭店2层

9.30PM

Liu Yue Guitar Trio Jazz lines read by classic guitar. Free. East Shore Live Jazz Café. 2 Qianhai Nanyanlu (just to the west of the post office on Di'anmenwai Dajie), Xicheng District. (8403 2131) 东岸咖啡. 西城区地安门外大街前海南沿2号楼2层

10PM

Girls' Night Out Free vodka drinks from 10pm-1am for the ladies. Free. Xiu. Park Hyatt, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (5867 1108) 秀. 朝阳区朝阳区建国门外大街2号

TIMES VARY

Martini Night All martinis are RMB 40 all night, and there's free pizza from 9-10pm. Free. George's. Near Gate 12, east side of Workers' Stadium, Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang District. (6553 6299) 朝阳区工体东路工人体育场东门内12号进口

Mule and Mojito Thursday Help ease the water shortage with mule and mojito refills. The bar saves water on washing the glass, and you'll pay just RMB 20 for the refill. Win-win. Free. Mao Mao Chong. 12 Banchang Hutong (east off Nanluogu Xiang), Dongcheng District. (159 9264 6024) 毛毛虫. 东城区板厂胡同12号(南锣鼓巷往东走)

Flamenco Night Enjoy a glass of Sangria with Tapas at RMB 58 or RMB 200 for a bottle to flamenco guitar live band. Water. Store 15-4, Solana, 6 Chaoyanggongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6008/9, 137 0113 1533) 子水. 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾国际商务区15-4



Wind Down at the Wine Club

J A N
07

FRIDAY

6PM

Thank Funk It's Friday Half-price drinks from 6-9pm. Free. Zeta Bar, 2/F, Hilton Beijing, Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5865 5000) 颐达吧, 朝阳区东三环北路东方1号希尔顿饭店2层

6-10PM

Seafood Carnival Dive into king crabs, oysters, lobster, caviar and salmon – have it steamed, fried or roasted to your taste at live cooking stations. RMB 328+15% (including beer and wine). Elements, Hilton Hotel, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5865 5020) 希尔顿酒店, 朝阳区东三环北路东方路1号

Thank God it's Friday All standard drinks for RMB 25. TGIF Coupons are on sale buy 5 coupons and get the 6th drink for free! Coupons can be used every Friday. Scarlett, Hotel G, 7A Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District. (6552 2880) 朝阳区工体西路甲7号北京极线内

6.30PM

Kunqu Opera: The Peony Pavilion This mythical tale of true love battling conservative feudal ethics is one of Kunqu opera's definitive pieces. RMB 380-1,980 (includes dinner). Nanxincang Imperial Granary, Nanxincang, 22 Dongshishitiao, Chaoyang District. (6409 6477/99) 皇家粮仓, 朝阳区东四十条22号南新仓

5PM

Film: Lights in the Dusk A sad-sack night-watchman finds himself fancied by an attractive young blond. Part of Aki Kaurismäki: A Retrospective, celebrating the acclaimed Finnish New Wave filmmaker. In Finnish and Russian with Chinese and English subtitles. RMB 15. UCCA. Dashanzi 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (8459 9269) 尤伦斯当代艺术中心, 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区

Film: Making Plans for Lena In this comedy, Lena tries to get on with life after her breakup with Nigel. Her biggest obstacle: Her family insists on making her happy by any means necessary. In French with Chinese



Slap at MAO Livehouse

and English subtitles. RMB 20, RMB 10 (students). French Cultural Centre, 16 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District. (6553 2627) 朝阳区工体西路16号

7.30PM

CBA: Beijing Ducks vs. Foshan Liyuan The Ducks look to come in from the basketball wilderness. RMB 40-260. Beijing Shougang Basketball Center, 105 Fushi Lu, Shijingshan District. (8829 6156) 首钢篮球中心, 石景山区阜石路105号

8PM

T.F.I. Fridays Classic tunes from DJ Topsy, and free shots on the hour. Free. The Stumble Inn, S3-31, 3/F, Sanlitun Village South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6417 7794) 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯Village南区3号楼3层S3-31

9PM

Live Music: Chiren These Beijingers tell their old stories in the hutongs. RMB 40, RMB 30 (advance). Jianghu Liveshow Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nandajie, Dongcheng District. (6401 4611) 江湖酒吧, 东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号

Live Music: Maizi Legendary folk musician/performance artist Maizi invites you to join his folk musical experiment. Price TBD. Yugong Yishan.

2-3 Zhang Zizhong Lu (former Duan Qirui government building, east of Ping'an Dadao), Dongcheng District. (6404 2711) 愚公移山, 东城区张自忠路2-3号祺瑞执政府旧址西院

Live Music: Slap Slap who? Authority, they say. The last show for the folk-rock band before Chinese New Year. RMB 50. MAO Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dongdajie, Dongcheng District. (6402 5080) 光芒, 东城区鼓楼东大街111号

10PM

Live Music: Streets Kill Strange Animals, Carpet of Let, Chaos RMB 40, RMB 30 (students). D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District. (6265 3177) 海淀区成府路242号

Basement Two-for-one drinks specials until midnight. Free. Punk, B1/F, The Opposite House, Bldg 1, The Village at Sanlitun, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6410 5222) 朝阳区三里屯路11号三里屯Village1号楼瑜伽舍地下1层

TIMES VARY

Documentary Series: My Memories and Me UCCA joins with Caochangdi Workshop to shed some light on the darker corners of contemporary Chinese history. Curated by Wu Wenguang. RMB 15. Times TBA. UCCA. Dashanzi 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (8459 9269) 尤伦斯当代艺术中心, 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区

J A N

08

SATURDAY

8AM

Ice Hiking Walk on (frozen) water amidst spectacular scenery. Cost includes equipment, guide, ice hiking tutorial and lunch. Meet in front of McDonald's at Ginza Mall (southeast corner of Dongzhimen Qiao). RMB 350, RMB 290 (children under 16). Ninety Percent Travel (151 1791 6648, info@90percenttravel.com) www.90percenttravel.com

8.30AM

Hiking Trip: Cuandixia Village This gorgeous Ming dynasty village – which also served as the setting of the Jet Li and Andy Lau film *Warlords* – is worth the hike. Reserve at contact@cultureyard.net. RMB 350. Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District. (8404 4166) 东城区石雀胡同10号

2PM

Nike 6.0 "Five Gates" Jam #3: The Post Jam session #3 to celebrate the unveiling of the third "unique" obstacle of the NIKE 6.0 Nanshan Park. NIKE 6.0 Nanshan Park, Shengshuitou Cun, Henanzhai Town, Miyun County. (138 1045 9745) 南山滑雪滑水度假村有限公司, 密云县河南寨镇圣水头村

Aussie Rules Nine-a-side on grass. No wonder they say g'day a lot. More

details at beijingfooty@yahoo.com. Jade Gardens.

2-6PM

Beijing Book Swap and Board Games Tired of your current collection? Swap your English, French, Dutch and Portuguese books. The only rules are: no textbooks, classics or Chinese-language titles. Several lively board games will also be taking place, from Settlers of Catan to Monopoly. Free. Sequoia Café. Unit 1-1, Bldg 7, Jianguomenwai Diplomatic Compound/Unit 1-11, Bldg 7, Jianguomenwai Diplomatic Compound, Chaoyang District. (6501 5503) 美洲杉, 朝阳区建外公寓7楼1单元1-1号

3-5PM

Gaelic Football Beijing Gaelic Football Club play men's and women's games every Sunday; all skill levels are welcome. For further details, contact beijinggaa@yahoo.com or visit www.beijinggaa.org. Western Academy of Beijing, 10 Laiguangying Donglu (off the Airport Expressway), Chaoyang District. (8456 4155) 北京京西学校, 朝阳区来广营东路10号

6PM

Live Music: Yaksa Metal leader Yaksa assembles ten top metal bands to celebrate their 15th anniversary and the release of three music videos. RMB 80, RMB 60 (advance/students). Yugong Yishan, 2-3 Zhang Zizhong Lu (former Duan Qirui government building, east of Ping'an Dadao), Dongcheng District. (6404 2711) 愚公移山, 东城区张自忠路2-3号院祺瑞执政府旧址西院

7PM

Film: The Man Without a Past A nameless man arrives in Helsinki and is promptly beat to a bloody pulp. He develops amnesia, and must begin to put his life back together. Part of Aki Kaurismäki: A Retrospective, celebrating the acclaimed Finnish New Wave filmmaker. In Finnish with Chinese and English subtitles. RMB 15. UCCA. Dashanzi 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (8459 9269) 尤伦斯当代艺术中心, 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区

9PM

Alfa's House of Funk Replace "of" with "and" and you've got the idea. Free. Alfa. 6 Xingfu Yicun (in the alley opposite the north gate of Workers' Stadium), Chaoyang District. (6413 0086) 阿尔法, 朝阳区幸福一村6号文体北门对面的胡同里

I Don't Do Him, I Do G Free-flow cocktails and wine. But only for ladies. Free. Scarlett. Hotel G, 7A Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District. (6552 2880) 朝阳区工体西路甲7号北京极线内

Live Music: Joe's Heart, Paper Tiger **Jamboree, Streets Kill Strange**

Animals Young pioneers show us some creation. RMB 20. What Bar. 72 Beichang Jie (just north of the west gate of the Forbidden City), Xicheng District. (133 4112 2757) 什么酒吧, 西城区北长街72号(故宫西门往北)

Live Music: Perdel Local rockers start a new tour. RMB 70, RMB 50 (advance). MAO Livehouse. 111 Gulou Dongdajie, Dongcheng District. (6402 5080) 光芒, 东城区鼓楼东大街111号

Live Music: Tookoo Tookoo gathers their hardcore friends to celebrate a new decade. RMB 40, RMB 30 (students). D-22. 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District. (6265 3177) 海淀区成府路242号

Live Music: Ye Er Bo Li Have a taste of the Kazakh spirit. RMB 40, RMB 30 (advance). Jianghu Liveshow Bar. 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nandajie, Dongcheng District. (6401 4611) 江湖酒吧, 东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号

TIMES VARY

I Cabare Live Dinner music 3 courses menu at RMB 248. Come, dine, drink and dance. Cabare. 15-1, Bldg 15, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 1760) 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾15号楼1-1号



Nike 6.0 "Five Gates" Jam #3: The Post

J A N
09

SUNDAY

10AM-1PM

Games Yard: Mahjong Morning (Beginner) Learn the rules of mahjong, then put your newfound knowledge to the test. Reserve at contact@cultureyard.net. RMB 70. Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District. (8404 4166) 东城区石雀胡同10号

10AM

Badminton Shuttlecock shenanigans for the intermediate and advanced. Contact John at johnsk_ho@hotmail.com.

Women's Lacrosse Practice takes place every Sunday at 10am. Equipment is provided. Cost of pitch fees is shared. Contact Fiona at fionaboyle66@hotmail.com.

11.30AM

Lazy Weekend Brunch Get up late and treat yourself to an international brunch. Prices start at RMB 20. Water. Store 15-4, Solana, 6 Chaoyang-gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6008/9, 137 0113 1533) 子水, 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾国际商区15-4

NOON-3PM

American Sunday Roast Lazy Sundays of prime beef rib cut tableside with all the trimmings plus traditional puddings and pies. RMB 178+15%, RMB 98+15% extra for wine buffet. One East, Hilton Hotel, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6466 2288) 希尔顿酒店, 朝阳区东三环北路东方路1号

1.50PM

Hutong Rickshaw Tour Explore the hutong on this rickshaw ride, before stopping in to see a traditional courtyard and meet a local family. Call Lisa on 139 1150 8227 or 8621 6278 for more information. RMB 180. Meet at 1.50pm at the South gate of Lotus Lane. CnAdventure. www.cnadventure.com

2PM

Basketball Play with the Angels. General Administration of Sport of China Training Centre. www.angelsclub.com.cn



Sushi and Sashimi Class at Kempinski

3PM

Flag Football The only American football group in Beijing plays flag football for weekend fun. Contact Yoyao Hsueh at yoyao@gmail.com or 159 0120 2499. Chaoyang Park, 1 Nongzhan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. 朝阳公园, 朝阳区农展馆南路1号

3.30-5.30PM

Tea at Tiananmen Enjoy a luxurious afternoon – nibble on an array of freshly baked scones, finger sandwiches, delectable cakes and pastries. RMB 138. Capital M, 3/F, 2 Qianmen Pedestrian Street (southeast of Qianmen), Chongwen District. (6702 2727) 崇文区前门步行街2号3层

4-7PM

Sushi and Sashimi Class Chef Tani will teach you genuine Japanese cooking, from cooking rice to cutting fresh sushi-grade fish to making sushi rolls. Includes meal and wine. RMB 398+15%. Kempinski Hotel, Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (6465 3388 ext 4200) 凯宾斯基饭店, 朝阳区亮马桥路50号

7PM

Film: Juha A simple peasant couple has their lives thrown asunder when a city man comes and lures the wife away. Part of Aki Kaurismäki: A Retrospective, celebrating the acclaimed Finnish New Wave filmmaker. With Chinese and English subtitles. RMB 15. UCCA. Dashanzi 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (8459 9269) 尤伦斯当代艺术中心, 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区

8PM

Live Music: Wu Zhuoling and Wednesday's Trip Indie pop Sichuan girl takes you on an easy mind trip. Price TBD. Yugong Yishan, 2-3 Zhang Zihong Lu (former Duan Qirui government building, east of Ping'an Dadao), Dongcheng District. (6404 2711) 愚公移山, 东城区张自忠路2-3号段祺瑞执政府旧址西院

9PM

Live Music: China5 "Nu-pop band brings their new EP" RMB 50, RMB 40 (students). MAO Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dongdajie, Dongcheng District. (6402 5080) 光芒, 东城区鼓楼东大街111号

Live Music: East Brunswick All Girls Choir, The Big Picture Have fun with some slow-core Aussies. RMB 10, RMB 5 (students). D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District. (6265 3177) 海淀区成府路242号

Live Music: Goumao He says acoustic guitar can also be punk. Have a listen and let me know if he's right. Free. Jianghu Liveness Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nandajie, Dongcheng District. (6401 4611) 江湖酒吧, 东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号

Lush Open Mic Show off your talents for 15 minutes of fame and a free beer. Past acts have ranged from freestyle rap battles to tap dancing. RMB 10. Lush, 2/F, Bldg 1, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu (across from the Wudaokou light-rail station), Haidian District. (8286 3566) 海淀区成府路华清嘉园1号楼2层 (五道口地铁站对面)

J A N

10

MONDAY

— 11.30-2.30PM, 5.30-10PM —

Fondue Feast Curb the wintry cold with traditional favorites ranging from melted cheese with bread cubes to tender meats in heated olive oil. Starting from RMB 280 for two. Blu Lobster. Valley Wing 1/F, Shangri-La Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District. (6841 2211 ext 6727 / 6728) 蓝韵·海淀区紫竹院路29号北京香格里拉饭店新阁一层

— 2PM —

Lakeside Afternoon Tea Daily afternoon tea at RMB 98 including a pot of your favorite tea and tea pastries include classic sandwiches and freshly baked scones served every afternoon before 5pm. Water. Store 15-4, Solana, 6 Chaoyangongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6008/9, 137 0113 1533) 子水·朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾国际商务区15-4

— 4PM —

Burger, Burger Mondays Come hungry. Two-for-one on all signature burgers. Blue Frog, 3/F, Bldg 4, Sanlitun Village South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6417 4030) 蓝蛙·朝阳区三里屯北路19号三里屯Village南区4号楼3层S4-30 (6417 4030)

— 7-8PM —

Chinese Language and Culture Club

They'll teach you the stuff you really want to know, like slang and cursing, pick-up lines, what the popular music is nowadays and more. Register at contact@cultureyard.net. RMB 75/workshop, RMB 250/month (4 workshops). Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District. (8404 4166) 东城区石雀胡同10号

— 7.30PM —

Film: Making Plans for Lena In this comedy, Lena tries to get on with life after her breakup with Nigel. Her biggest obstacle: Her family insists on making her happy by any means necessary. In French with Chinese and English subtitles. RMB 20, RMB 10 (students). French Cultural Centre, 16 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District. (6553 2627) 朝阳区工体西路16号

Bookworm Pub Quiz Put your grey matter to the test under some tough questioning. Wine specials all night. Free. The Bookworm, Courtyard 4, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6586 9507) 书虫书吧·朝阳区工体北路4号院

— 8PM —

Live Music: Allie Webb LA singer charms with pop and jazz tunes every Monday to Saturday. Free. Aria, China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6505 2266) 中国大饭店·朝阳区建国门外大街1号

Live Music: Cindy Chavez Cindy Chavez, a jazz singer of Latin heritage who blends jazz rhythms with her tender voice and soft piano accompaniments. Free. Centro, 1/F, Kerry Centre Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District. (6561 8833) 炫酷·朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心饭店1层

— 9PM —

Live Music: East Brunswick All Girls Choir

Slow-core quartet from Down Under rocks around China before they relocate to Germany. Price TBD. Jianghu Liveshow Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nandajie, Dongcheng District. (6401 4611) 江湖酒吧·东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号

— 9.30PM —

The Boardroom Buy-one-get-one-free Moët champagne cocktails, 20 percent discounts on all bottles of Johnnie Walker and Hennessy VSOP, and a free glass of sparkling wine for secretaries. Tia and The Knutz heat up the dance floor with R&B, hip-hop, jazz and more. Free. Xiu, Park Hyatt, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (5867 1108) 秀·朝阳区建国门外大街2号

— TIMES VARY —

Annual Clothes Drive Until Jan 30. Rotaract Beijing's second annual clothes drive is collecting all nearly new and gently used clothing for those in need throughout China. The clothes will be distributed via the clothing charity Roundabout. Visit www.rotaractbeijing.org to find a drop-off point near you.

Happy Mondays

All-day happy hour. The Stumble Inn, The Stumble Inn, S3-31, 3/F, Sanlitun Village South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6417 7794) 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯Village南区3号楼3层S3-31

Temptation Mondays

Get over the Monday blues with 30% off any bottle of wine. Mosto, 3/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoyang District. (5208 6030) 摸石头·朝阳区三里屯北路81号那里花园3层

Beijing City Bus Tour

This daily bilingual city tour offers a brief introduction to Beijing's sights and planning. RMB 380, free (children under 1.2m). Day tour (3 hours) bus departs at 9.30am, 10am, 2pm and 2.30pm. Night tour (1.5 hours) bus departs at 7pm and 7.30pm. Tour departs from Guomao Exhibition Hall. Beijing Citybus Tour (400 650 0760) www.citybustour.com



Fondue Feast at Blu Lobster

J A N
11

TUESDAY

10AM-NOON

British Club Coffee Morning All foreign passport-holders welcome. No jeans or sneakers allowed. E-mail britclubbeijing@yahoo.com for more info. RMB 60, RMB 40 (members). Capital Club Athletic Center. Capital Mansion, 6 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (8486 2225 ext 136) 朝阳区新源南路6号

5PM

Terra-fic Tuesdays Two-for-one Stellas, imported beers for RMB 28 (or RMB 100 for a bucket), RMB 38 caipirinhas and mojitos, RMB 48 for a glass of champagne and 20 percent off on all bottles of wine. Free. Terra. 1 Sanlitun Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (6591 9148) 朝阳区三里屯南路1号

6PM

Irish Volunteer Quiz How much do you get paid? The Irish Volunteer. Jiangtai Lu (opposite the east gate of the Lido Hotel), Chaoyang District. (150 1112 4113) 朝阳区高家园小区平房311号(丽都饭店东门对面)

6-10PM

Mussels & Wine Flights Experience four different flavors of mussels with selected wines. RMB 98. Scarlett. Hotel G, 7A Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District. (6552 2880) 朝阳区工体西路甲7号北京极栈内

7PM

Film: Ariel Part poetic realism, part black comedy, this film follows a Finnish coal miner to jail and back again. Part of Aki Kaurismäki: A Retrospective, celebrating the acclaimed Finnish New Wave filmmaker. In Finnish with Chinese and English subtitles. RMB 15. UCCA. Dashanzi 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (8459 9269) 尤伦斯当代艺术中心, 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区

Green Drinks Join Beijing's green community for their informal drinks at their monthly meet-and-greet. Happy hour promotions apply. Contact Jenny at bjgreendrinks@gmail.com for more details. Free. The Bookworm. Courtyard 4, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6586 9507) 书虫书吧, 朝阳区工体北路4号院



Film: Woman Basketball Player No. 5 at Jianghu Liveshow Bar

7.15PM

Beijing Devils Training Rugby training out at Dulwich Legend Gardens, Shunyi. Free bus leaves The Den at 7:15pm. The Den. 4 Gongti Donglu (next to City Hotel's main entrance), Chaoyang District. (6592 6290) 敦煌, 朝阳区工体东路4号城市宾馆正门旁边

Women's Rugby Rugby training out at Dulwich Legend Gardens, Shunyi. Free bus leaves The Den at 7:15pm. Contact Amy at 152 0148 7305 or haggisgoeswild@gmail.com

7.30PM

Headhunter Social Networking Evening For people looking for career development and/or for new and more interesting challenges; for companies that are looking for employees; for "Executive Search" and Headhunter companies and of course for people wishing to meet and have a good time with some of Beijing's best. Entry includes complimentary drinks, canapés and happy hour until 10pm. RMB 130, RMB 80 (register before Jan 11). To register email eventbj@fcclub.com or call 139 1109 8002. 7.30pm. Flames, Hilton Wangfujing, 8 Wangfujing East Street, Dongcheng District. (5812 8888) 东城区王府井东街8号北京王府井西尔顿

Film: Woman Basketball Player No. 5 Take a breather with this 1957 sports movie directed by Xie Jin. Complete

with rivalries on and off the court, accordion sing-a-longs, and fiendish American villains! Free. Jianghu Liveshow Bar. 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nandajie, Dongcheng District. (6401 4611) 江湖酒吧, 东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号

Stumble Inn Quiz Night How many beers do you have? Free. The Stumble Inn. S3-31, 3/F, Sanlitun Village South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6417 7794) 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯Village南区3号楼3层S3-31

7.40PM

Pilates Work the mind and the body at this class. RMB 90. Yin Yang Community Center, Courtyard 1, Hegezhuang Village, Chaoyang District. (6431 2108) www.yinyangbeijing.com 朝阳区崔各庄乡何各庄村1号院

8PM

Quiz Night Questions and answers. Free. Tim's Texas Bar-B-Q. 14 Dongdaqiao Lu (on the corner of Guanghua Lu), Chaoyang District. (6591 9161) www.timsbarbq.com Tim's 熏烤房, 朝阳区东大桥路14号贵友大厦正北200米

8-10PM

Enoterra Ladies Night Free-flow Burgundy bubbles. Free. Enoterra. D405, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (5208 6076) 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园D405室

JAN 12

WEDNESDAY

→ 2-5PM ←

Hands-on: Embroidered Purse Looking for a new hobby? Try your hand at making Chinese purses with embroidered patterns. RMB 150. China Culture Center. 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (6432 9341) 朝阳区亮马桥路29号安家楼青特中心院内

→ 4PM ←

Buy One Burger, Get One Free From steakhouse to swiss & shrooms – double your fun. All-Star Sports Bar & Grill. Bldg 5, 1/F, Solana Shopping Mall, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6999) 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号Solana蓝色港湾国际商区5-1

→ 6-11PM ←

Martini Wednesdays Beijing's best martinis? Ten of them are buy-one-get-one-free tonight. Free. Q Bar. On the top floor of Eastern Inn Hotel, 100m south of Beer Mania, Sanlitun Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (6595 9239) 朝阳区三里屯南路麦兜啤酒吧南100米

→ 6.45PM ←

Nia A brand-new fusion of lifestyle and fitness. Apparently it's just like

chocolate. RMB 110 (one class), RMB 800 (eight classes). Yin Yang Community Center, Courtyard 1, Hegezhuang Village, Chaoyang District. (6431 2108) www.yinyangbeijing.com 朝阳区崔各庄乡何各庄村1号院

→ 7-9PM ←

Exhibition Opening: Cold War Winter Owner of Koryo Tours Nick Bonner has one of the world's most extensive collections of North Korean art. This month, Koryo Studio is proud to present the best in Pyongyang's winter scene linocuts from Bonner's private stock, never before exhibited. Free. Koryo Tours Office. 27 Bei Sanlitun Nan(next to Yashow Market), Chaoyang District. (6416 7544) 朝阳区北三里屯南27号

→ 7.30-8.30PM ←

Talk: Night Photography Ever have trouble capturing photos at night? Get tips and insight from professional photographer Peter Carney. No cameras necessary. Reserve at contact@cultureyard.net. RMB 35. Culture Yard. 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District. (8404 4166) 东城区石雀胡同10号

→ 8PM ←

Frank's Quiz Win money. RMB 20. Frank's Place. Jiangtai Xilu, west of Rosedale Hotel, Lido area, Chaoyang District. (6437 8399) 朝阳区丽都将台西路

Lush Pub Quiz Quizmaster Josh "Vegas" Lally presides. Come early for a seat. Winners take home a bottle of Jack. Free. Lush. 2/F, Bldg 1, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu (across from the Wudaokou light-rail station), Haidian District. (8286 3566) 海淀区成府路华清嘉园1号楼2层(五道口地铁站对面)

Pomegranate Quiz Quizmaster Karl one week, a guest every other. Expect fun questions on such topics as Cockney rhyming slang. Free. The Pomegranate. 19 Kaifa Lu, Xi Baixinzhuang, Houshayu, Shunyi District. (8046 2558) 石榴园, 顺义区后沙峪西白辛庄开发路19号

Jazz Night What goes well with pad thai and green chicken curry? Jazz, obviously. Rotating musicians entertain weekly. Purple Haze Courtyard. 1, Dongsi Liutiao (east exit), Dongcheng District. (6501 9345) 紫苏庭, 东城区东四六条1号

→ 8.30PM ←

Paddy's Quiz Free prizes for every round and free drinks for the top five finishers. Free. Paddy O'Shea's. 28 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6415 6389) 朝阳区东直门外大街28号

→ 9PM ←

Beijing Beatles Tribute Band All you need is covers. Free. Salud. 66 Nanluoguxiang, Dongcheng District. (6402 5086) 老伍, 东城区南锣鼓巷66号

Bling's Got Talent Open Mic Night Sing your heart out to win an RMB 700 Bling gift card. RMB 2,000 cash prize available on the last Wednesday of the month. Table reservations recommended; call Hill at 138 1085 8776 to book. Free. Bling. Solana 5-1, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District. (5905 6999) 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号Solana蓝色港湾国际商区5-1

Hump Day Mid-week drinks discounts. Free. Pyro. B1/F, Bldg 12, Huaqing Jiayuan, Wudaokou (5 min from Wudaokou subway station), Haidian District. (8286 6240) 海淀区五道口华清嘉园12号楼地下1层

→ 10PM ←

Kitchen DJs Bitesize Buddha and Saul D cook up down and dirty funk soul disco and early hip-hop. Free. Punk. B1/F, The Opposite House, Bldg 1, The Village at Sanlitun, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6410 5222) 朝阳区三里屯路11号三里屯Village1号楼瑜舍地下1层



One-day Great Wall Hike



ALWAYS SUNNY IN SHUNYI

Leanne So of Bel & Well Property

*For the past four years, Hong Kong-Canadian Leanne So has helped Beijingers rent some of the most exclusive and luxurious properties in the east part of the city as a realtor at Bel & Well Property. **Agenda** sat down with her to learn more about this foraway suburban haven.*

Tell us a little bit about Shunyi. The Central Villa District, more commonly known as Shunyi or just the airport area, houses the vast majority of Beijing's villa projects, better-known international schools, and a wide array of international retail establishments. Its cleaner, quieter and more spacious family-friendly surround-

ings give the area a high-end North American suburban ambiance.

The Central Villa District has long been an expat favorite, especially among North American and European professionals who come to China with their families. Part of the draw for this is the large amount of international schools here. The International School of Beijing, Western Academy of Beijing, Dulwich, the British School, Montessori School Beijing and several others are either based in the area or will have a campus nearby.

Another reason that Shunyi is so popular is that it is blessed with space – and a lot of it! The area is home to several large-scale leisure facili-

ties found nowhere else in the city, including a water park, hot spring resorts, golf courses, equestrian and horsemanship clubs and an indoor ski resort, to name only a few.

There's also the Shunyi Rowing and Canoeing Park, which hosted several of the 2008 Olympics' water events, the China International Exhibition Center, which is the city's largest exhibition center, and the Shunyi Park and the Jian River Park, which are cultural and environmental sites.

What kinds of properties are available in this area?

The most sought-after properties in the area are those that have at least four bedrooms and a children's play area, and projects that have excellent in-property facilities such as a complete and well equipped clubhouse. Generally speaking, the properties in this area have three or more bedrooms, you can expect to spend anywhere from RMB 30,000 per month on a three bedroom villa, and up to RMB 100,000 per month on a larger villa. If you're looking to buy, you should prepare to spend between RMB 50-60,000 per square meter, and an additional RMB 10-15 per square meter per month. There aren't too many high-end apartment buildings in this area, but if someone is looking into renting one, the Beijing Riviera really stands out.

Unlike the rest of Beijing, villa properties in Shunyi are exempt from regular market trends and fluctuations. Regulations put in place to limit the quantity of land-consuming villa projects were one of the first instruments used by Beijing policy-makers to control property prices. This led to an imbalance between supply, which has been stable, and demand, which has kept on increasing. For investors looking for regular and tangible returns on their investment, nothing beats buying a villa property in the area, especially since the area has been targeted by city developers to become the capital's sixth multi-center, serving as Beijing's logistics

and hi-tech manufacturing hub, catering to the automotive and aerospace industries. The development of large-scale office and retail projects is planned for the next ten years.

That being said, the property market throughout China is one of the most important pillars of the most vibrant economy in the world. This sometimes gives it a "too big and too important to fail" aura. As for the Beijing market, being the capital of China always has its upside. Property in the capital will always remain strong – and thus continue to be a safe bet.

Is it convenient to travel between Shunyi and Beijing? Shunyi has become much more accessible in recent years. In addition to the Airport Express, the new subway line 15 is under construction, and the first phase is set to be completed by December 28, 2010. This will incorporate Beijing's northern centers into the city's light rail system. In addition, aside from regular inner-city bus routes, several express buses go directly from Sanyuanqiao and Dongzhimen to Shunyi.

Many villa compounds also manage shuttle buses servicing residents from the compounds to the inner city.

How do you address the particular needs of the clientele in this area?

We cover a wider range of services, so we are really much more of a complete property service provider. We also always consider our clients as partners in business, so instead of simply providing them with one-off services, we have built an organization that aims to provide long-term benefits, so it's a collaboration that benefits both sides.

One of the things we pride ourselves on is helping clients to eliminate as much risk as possible before they make their decision. We usually offer our clients service packages, for example, instead of providing brokerage services; we also provide location consulting pre-brokerage, financial and legal advisory during brokerage and asset management post-brokerage services.

What advice would you give to our readers on renting or buying

an apartment? Today's potential home renters and buyers are blessed with the opportunity to venture beyond increasingly congested and overpriced business and embassy districts. Sadly, many real estate providers' range of expertise falls short of matching the city's ever-growing range of options. Most agents will quite rightfully claim to be experts in high-end downtown apartments, but might not know much about the other options available.

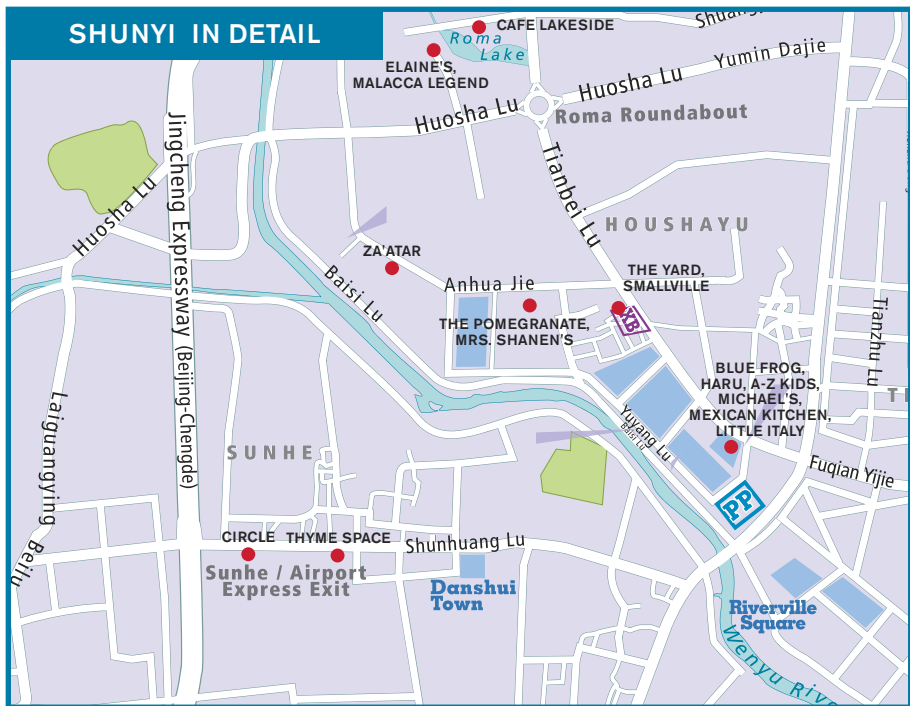
So what I would advise your readers to do is to clearly state your wants and needs, and if the options offered fail to expand beyond inner-city apartments, get a new provider. During actual viewings, ask compound-specific questions and if you're given no more than a "I'll get back to you on that later," get a new provider.

Interview by Jennifer Thomé

To learn more about these properties and more, contact Bel & Well Property International at 8591 0218 or visit www.bel-property.com.cn.



SHUNYI IN DETAIL



Café Lakeside 湖畔之家 Daily 11.30am-10pm. 15 Luoma Dajie, Luogezhuang, Houshayu, Shunyi District (8048 3466) 顺义区后沙峪罗各庄罗马大街15号

Blue Frog Daily 10am-11pm. L312, Europlaza, 99 Yuxiang Lu, Tianzhu Zhen, Shunyi District (8046 6337) 顺义区天竺镇欧翔路99号北京欧陆 时尚购物中心(欧陆广场)L312室

The Yard Daily 11am-10pm. 3 Kaifa Jie, Xibaixinzhuang, Houshayu, Shunyi District (8049 9449) 顺义区后沙峪西白辛庄开发街3号

Ming Court Daily 11.30am-2.30pm, 5.30-10.30pm. Langham Place, 1 Er Jing Lu, Beijing Capital International Airport (southwest of Terminal 3), Chaoyang District (6457 5555) 朝阳区首都机场二经路1号朗豪酒店(T3航站楼西南)

Thyme Space 3 Shunhuang Lu, Sunhe, Shunyi District (8459 5868) 顺义区孙河乡顺黄路3号

The Pomegranate Tue 3pm-late, Wed-Sun noon-late. 19 Kaifa Lu, Xibaixinzhuang, Houshayu, Shunyi District (8046 2558) 顺义区后沙峪西白辛庄开发路19号

A-Z Kids 9am-8pm. Room 102, Bldg 3, Pinnacle Avenue, Linyin Lu, Shunyi District (8559 2883/6) 顺义区A-Z英伦创意园, 顺义区林荫路 荣和广场3号楼102

Circle (Jing Guang Yuan) Restaurant 21 Shunhuang Lu, Chaoyang District (8459 0999/1616/1625) 朝阳区顺黄路21号 京广园

Little Italy Daily 10am-10pm. 813 Pinnacle Plaza, Tianzhu Real Estate Development Zone, Shunyi District (8046 4680/79)

Elaine's Vegetarian Restaurant & Bar Daily 11am-late. Walk 800m along the banks of Luoma Lake, 100m north of Luoma Roundabout, Houshayu, Shunyi District (8048 5088/5566) 顺义区后沙峪镇罗马环岛向北100米左转, 沿罗马湖畔800米

The Mexican Kitchen Daily 11am-9.30pm. 705 Pinnacle Plaza, Tianzhu Real Estate Development Zone, Shunyi District (8046 4558/59) 顺义区天竺开发区荣祥广场705号

Fuel at Langham Place Daily 11am-late. 1/F, Langham Place, 1 Er Jing Lu, Beijing Capital International Airport (southwest of Terminal 3), Chaoyang District (6457 5555) 朝阳区首都机场二经路1号朗豪酒店(T3航站楼西南)

Michael's Place Italian Ristorante Daily 10.30am-10.30pm. L112, Euro Plaza, (Opposite the Exhibition Hall), Central Villa District, Shunyi District (8042 4457) 顺义区顺义区天竺镇裕翔路99号欧陆时尚购物中心一层112号 (国展对面)

Mrs. Shanen's Bagels Sun-Thu 7.30am-8pm, Fri-Sat 7.30am-8.30pm. 5 Kaifa Jie, Xibaix-

inzhuang (next to Capital Paradise), Shunyi District (8046 4301) 单太太贝谷面包房, 顺义区西白辛庄开发街5号 (紧邻各都园)

New York Style Pizza Daily 11am-9pm. 7 Riverville Square, Shunyi District (6450 8790) 顺义区温榆广场7号

Malacca Legend Daily 11am-10pm. 6C Dongbeisan Lu, Luogezhuang Village, Houshayu Town (8049 8902) 顺义区后沙峪镇罗马湖畔

Smallville Mon-Thu 7.30am-7.30pm, Fri-Sun 7.30am-8pm. 3 Kaifa Jie, Xibaixinzhuang, Houshayu, Shunyi District (8046 5448) 顺义区后沙峪西白辛庄开发街3号

Za'atar Daily 11.30am-10pm. Unit 2, Bldg 3, Lakeview Place (by Dragon Bay Villas), Shayu Huanlu, Houshayu, Shunyi District (8042 2248) 顺义区后沙峪镇沙峪环路3号2单元

Haru Teppanyaki and Sushi Bar Daily 11.30am-2pm, 5.30pm-10pm. 902 Pinnacle Plaza, Jingshun Lu, Shunyi District (8046 5112) 顺义区天竺镇开发区荣祥广场 902. See Directory for more locations.

The Orchard Tue-Sat noon-2.30pm, 6pm-9pm. Sun buffet noon-3pm, 6pm-9pm. From Jingshun Lu, turn left (west) at Shunbai Lu Intersection, (turn at the driveway just west of the Hegezhuang Village Sign), Shunyi District (6433 6270) 顺义区崔各庄乡何各庄村 (过何各庄村路标志右转)

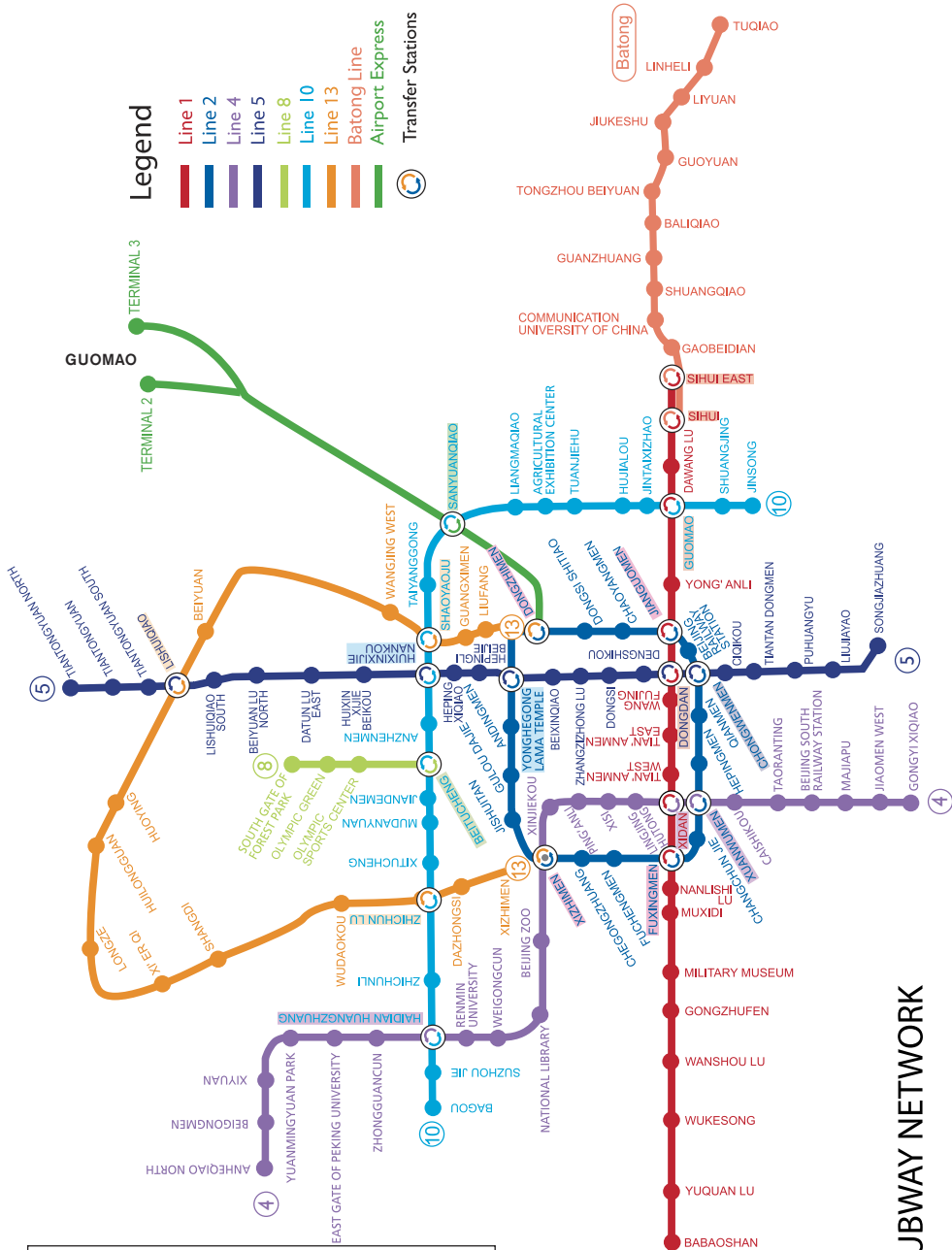
Subway Starters

- Stations are indicated by the blue Beijing Subway (北京地铁 Beijing DiTie) sign.
- Tickets (票 piao) cost RMB 2. You can also put money on a transportation smart-card valid on all subways (RMB 20 deposit).
- First trains depart approx. 5am. Last trains depart approx. 10:30pm.
- Trains approx. every 3 min throughout the day (every 5-8 min on Line 13), slowing down to around once every 10 min after 8pm.
- Wheelchair access varies, but is generally difficult due to steep stairways, narrow escalators and high passenger volume.

Legend

█	Line 1
█	Line 2
█	Line 4
█	Line 5
█	Line 8
█	Line 10
█	Line 13
█	Batong Line
█	Airport Express

C Transfer Stations

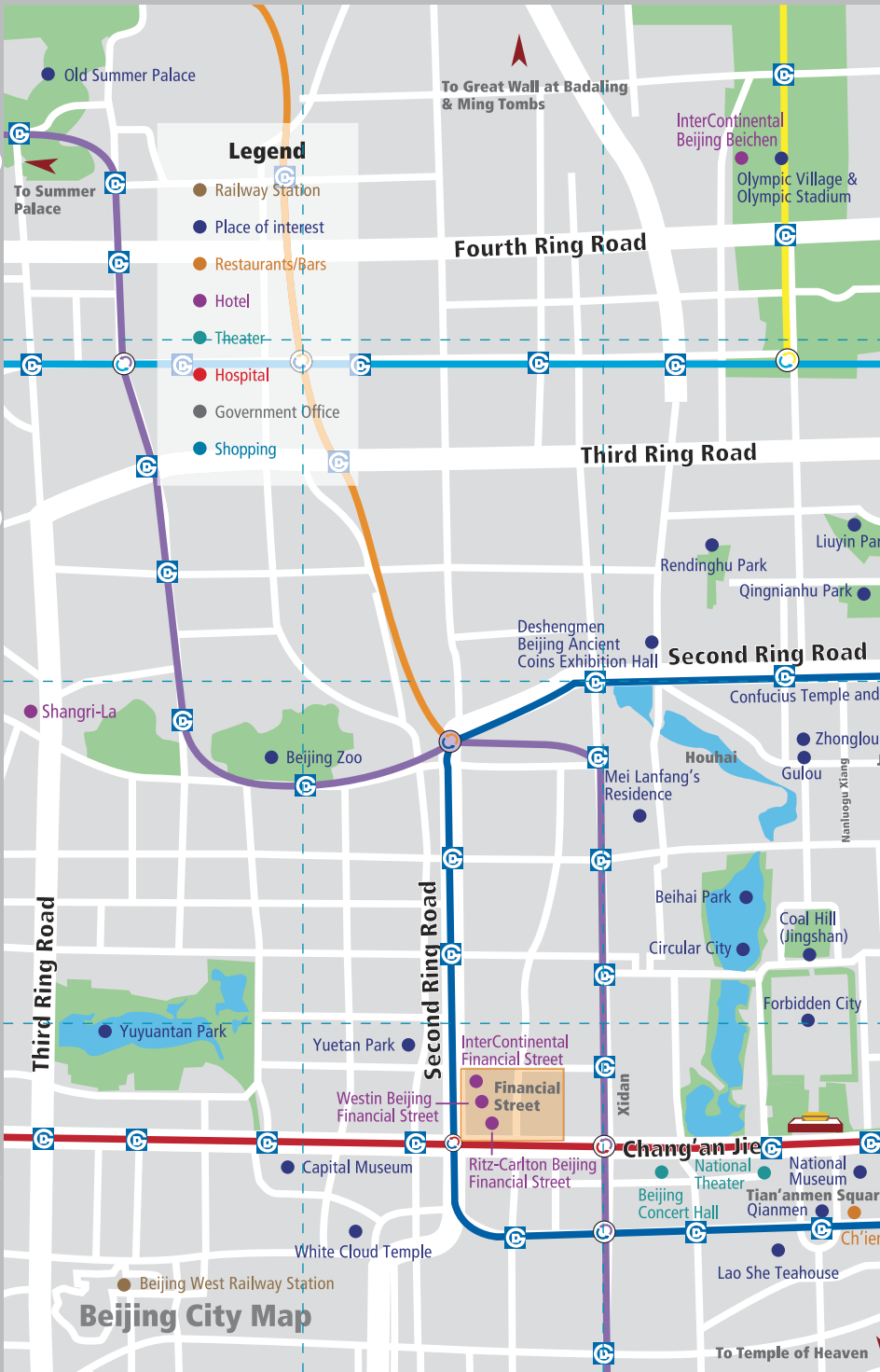


BEIJING SUBWAY NETWORK

1

2

3



Old Summer Palace

To Great Wall at Badaling & Ming Tombs

InterContinental Beijing Beichen
Olympic Village & Olympic Stadium

Legend

- Railway Station
- Place of interest
- Restaurants/Bars
- Hotel
- Theater
- Hospital
- Government Office
- Shopping

To Summer Palace

Fourth Ring Road

Third Ring Road

Second Ring Road

Third Ring Road

Second Ring Road

Chang'an Jie

Beijing City Map

Beijing West Railway Station

To Temple of Heaven

A

B

C

D

Shangri-La

Beijing Zoo

Deshengmen
Beijing Ancient
Coins Exhibition Hall

Rendinghu Park
Qingnianhu Park

Liuyin Park

Confucius Temple and
Garden

Zhonglou

Gulou

Nanluogu Xiang

Houhai
Mei Lanfang's
Residence

Beihai Park

Circular City

Coal Hill
(Jingshan)

Forbidden City

Yuyuantan Park

Yuetan Park

InterContinental
Financial Street

Westin Beijing
Financial Street

Ritz-Carlton Beijing
Financial Street

Capital Museum

White Cloud Temple

National
Theater
Beijing
Concert Hall

National
Museum
Tian'anmen
Square
Qianmen

Lao She Teahouse

Ch'ien

4

5

6



Auchan Supermarket

To Capital International Airport

Crownne Plaza
Park View Wuzhou

Days Inn Hotel

Dashanzi Art District

Lido Holiday Inn

Trader's Upper East

Crownne Plaza
Sun Palace

Exit & Entry
Administration
of the PSB
(Visa Office)

The Hilton Beijing

Westin Beijing
Chaoyang

Kempinski Hotel

Solana

Lufthansa Center

Great Wall Sheraton

Lama Temple

Kunlun Hotel

Sanlitun

The Opposite House

Sanlitun Village

Pacific
Century Place

Chaoyang Park

Beijing Entry-Exit
Inspection and
Quarantine Bureau

Fourth Ring Road

Honglingjin Park

Tuanjiehu Park

CBD

CCTV
Tower

Maoyan
Middle

Shin Kong Place

China World
Trade Center

Jianwai Soho

Soho New Town

Zhihua Temple

Ritan Park

Friendship Store

The Place

China World
Hotel

Silk Market

China World
Trade Center

Jianwai Soho

Soho New Town

Grand Chang'an
Theater

Oriental Plaza

Grand Hyatt

Tongren Hospital

Beijing Railway Station

Ming Dynasty
City Wall Ruins Park

Ancient
Observatory

Marriott Beijing City Wall

Beijing Municipality
Government

To Panjiayuan Antique Market

Men 23

Donghuanmen
Night Market

National Art
Museum of China

Peking
Union
Hospital

Wangfujing

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VISITOR INFO

Information on this page excerpted from the Insider's Guide to Beijing 2010, available in stores around Beijing or by delivery to your home, hotel or office. To order a copy, call 5820 7700, or e-mail distribution@immersionguides.com.

COMMUNICATIONS

USEFUL NUMBERS

Ambulance & Emergencies 120

Beijing 999 Ambulance Service 999

**Beijing United Family Hospital
Emergency Room** 5927 7120

Fire 119

Police 110

Traffic Accident 122

Telephone Directory 114 (Chinese);
1161 14 (press 2 for English service).

Time 117

Weather 12121

PHONE CARDS/MOBILE PHONES

IP cards for calls in China and overseas are sold in cell phone stores, newsstands and China Telecom outlets. Cards with a face value of RMB 100 sell for RMB 30-40.

SIM cards and cell phone top-up cards (chong zhi ka, 充值卡) can be bought from cell phone stores, newsstands and SIM card shops. Call and SMS charges are as follows for the major networks:

China Mobile Easyown (Shen Zhou Xing, 神州行) Making and receiving calls costs RMB 0.6/min. Calls cost RMB 0.2/min within Beijing and RMB 0.3/min domestic long-distance if you dial 12593 first, then the number you wish to call.

M-zone (Dong Gan Di Dai, 动感地带) Local calls RMB 0.25/min at peak hours (9am-9pm), off-peak calls RMB 0.12/min.

China Unicom Ruyitong (如意通) Local calls RMB 5.4/min, longer distance calls RMB 1.24/min. Dialing 96531 before the number you wish to call reduces both local and long-distance calls to RMB 0.25/min. Receiving calls costs RMB 0.2/min (weekdays 9am-8pm) and RMB 0.35/min (off-peak).

UP Xinshili (UP 新势力) Local calls RMB 0.25/min. Receiving calls costs RMB 0.1/min. Paying an extra RMB 5 per month gives unlimited free incoming phone calls and lower fees for making phone calls.

WI-FI

For a list of Wi-Fi locations in Beijing, visit http://v4.jiwire.com/search-wifi-hotspots.htm?city_id=1757971.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.thebeijinger.com Agenda's sister site has a directory listing more than 4000 Beijing venues, as well as a blog, forum, events, reviews, classifieds, and more.

www.beijing-kids.com "Beijing's essential expat family resource" offers articles, events, a directory and forum catering to English-speaking families.

HOSPITALS & CLINICS

Bayley & Jackson Medical Center

Clinic and dental hours Mon-Fri 9am-6pm; Sat 8am-4pm; doctor on call 24 hours. 7 Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang District. (400 810 0120, 5869 6166) www.bjhealthcare.com 庇利积臣医疗中心, 朝阳区日坛东路7号

Beijing International SOS Clinic

Daily 24 hours. Pharmacy Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat-Sun 8am-6pm. Suite 105, Wing 1, Kunsha Bldg, 16 Xin-yuanli, Chaoyang District. (6462 9112, 24hr 6462 9100) www.internationalsos.com 国际SOS, 朝阳区新源里16号琨莎中心1座105室

Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics

Mon-Sat 8.30am-5.30pm, Sun 8.30am-5pm; 24-hour emergency. 2 Jianguai Lu, Lido area, Chaoyang District. (appointment 5927 7000, emergency 5927 7120) www.united-familyhospitals.com 北京和睦家医院, 朝阳区将台路2号

Beijing United Family Health & Wellness Center - Jianguomen

Mon-Fri 8.30am-3.30pm. B1/F, St. Regis Hotel, 21 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (8532 1221, emergency 6433 2345) www.unitedfamilyhospitals.com 北京和睦家建国门保健中心, 朝阳区建国门外大街21号国际俱乐部饭店地下1层

Beijing United Family Clinic

- Shunyi Mon-Thu 9.30am-7.30pm; Fri-Sun 9.30am-4.30pm. Unit 818, Pinnacle Plaza, Tianzhu Real Estate Development Zone, Shunyi District. (8046 5432, emergency 5927 7120) www.unitedfamilyhospitals.com 北京和睦家顺义诊所, 顺义区天竺房地产开发区荣祥广场818号

Beijing Vista Clinic - Kerry Center

Daily 24 hours; clinic hours 7.30am-9pm. B29, Kerry Center, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District. (8529 6618) www.vista-china.net 北京维世达

诊所, 朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心B29号

China-Japan Friendship Hospital

Mon-Fri 8am-noon, 1.30-5pm; Sat 8-11.30am; 24-hour emergency. Yinghua Dongjie, Hepingli, Heping Jie Beikou, Chaoyang District. (6422 2952, 6422 3209) www.zryhy.com.cn 中日友好医院, 朝阳区和平街北口和平里樱花东街

Hong Kong International Medical Clinic

Daily 9am-9pm; 24-hour emergency, 9/F, Swissôtel office tower, 2 Chaoyangmen Beidajie, Dongcheng District. (6501 4260, 6553 2288 ext 2346) www.hkclinic.com 北京港澳国际医务诊所, 东城区朝阳门北大街2号港澳中心办公楼9层

International Medical Center (IMC)

Daily 24 hours. S106, 1/F, Lufthansa Center, 50 Liang-maqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (6465 1561/2/3, dental 6465 1384/94/28) www.imclinics.com 国际医疗中心, 朝阳区亮马桥路50号燕莎中心1层

Peking Union Medical College Hospital

Mon-Fri 8am-4.30pm; 24-hour emergency. 1 Shuaifuyuan, Wangfujing (the foreigners' wing is located south of the inpatient building), Dongcheng District. (6529 5284, emergency 6529 5269) www.pumch.ac.cn 北京协和医院, 东城区王府井府前1号 (外国人就诊楼在门诊楼的南侧)

MONEY

ATMS

Most ATMs accept foreign bankcards connected to the Cirrus, Plus, AmEx, Visa and MasterCard networks. Some local banks charge transaction fees (RMB 25 for Bank of China) but many do not; your home country bank will probably slap on a fee for each withdrawal in Beijing. Maximum single-day withdrawal limits for foreign cards vary but range RMB 3,000-5,000, with a per session limit. For a list of ATMs, see www.move-andstay.com/beijing/guide_banks.asp

American Express 6505 2228; after-hours US hotline: 601 336 393 1111; Emergency card replacement (Hong Kong): 00852 2277 1088; Stolen traveler's checks: 10 800 744 0106 (toll-free)

Western Union (800 820 8668, China Post Beijing 6659 9111 ext 8459) www.westernunion.com

Visa Certain banks, notably Bank of China and HSBC, can provide cash advances with a Visa card. Many ATMs allow Visa cardholders to withdraw money up to a daily limit.

TRANSPORT & TRAVEL

AIRPORT & AIRLINES

Beijing Capital International Airport

General enquiries 6457 1100, lost luggage 6459 9523, customer complaints 6454 1166. Terminal 1 6454 0100, Terminal 2 6459 8333, Terminal 3 6453 0030. <http://en.bcia.com.cn/>

Air Canada 6468 2001, 400 811 2001

Air China 800 810 1111, 400 810 0999

Air France 4008 808 808

All Nippon Airways 800 820 1122

Austrian Airlines 6464 5999

British Airways 400 650 0073

China Southern Airlines 6459 0539, 6459 6490 95539

Continental Airlines 400 650 6686

Dragon Air 400 888 6628

Japan Airlines 400 888 0808

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines 400 880 8222

Korean Air 400 658 8888, 8453 8137

Lufthansa Airlines 6468 8838

Northwest Airlines 400 814 0081

Qantas Airlines 400 888 0089

SAS 8527 6100

Shanghai Airlines 800 820 1018,

Singapore Airlines 6505 2233

Swiss Air 8454 0180

Thai International 8515 0088

United Airlines 800 810 8282

TRAINS & RAILWAY STATIONS

Train tickets go on sale ten days in advance of departure at train stations and ticket agencies but are available to travel agents a day earlier. Round-trip tickets for trains starting from and terminating in Beijing can now be purchased 12 days before the return date. In addition, tickets for the Beijing-Hong Kong train can be bought up to 20 days ahead of departure. To book a ticket for pick up at agency near you, call 9510 5105. You can also order a ticket on www.51piao.com/train for pick-up or, for a RMB 10 surcharge, delivery to an address within the Fourth Ring Road.

Beijing Station (Beijing Huo-

chezhan) Beijing Zhan Jie, Dongcheng District. (5101 9999, Chinese) 北京站, 东城区北京站街

Beijing West Railway Station (Bei-

jing Xikezhan) Lianhuachi Donglu (east of Xisanhuan Lu), Fengtai District.

(5182 6253, Chinese) 北京西站, 丰台区莲花池东路

Beijing South Railway Station

(Beijing Nanzhan) 12 Yongdingmenwai Dajie, Chongwen District. (5186 7999) 北京南站, 崇文区永定门外大街12号

Beijing North Station (Beijing

Beizhan) Xizhimen, Xicheng District. (5186 6223, Chinese) 北京北站, 西城区西直门

TAXIS

Beijing's 67,000 cabs are easy to hail, except during the rush hour peak. Drivers are generally friendly and honest, but few speak English. The flagfall rate is RMB 10, and RMB 11 after 11 pm. At press time drivers could add an additional RMB 1 to the bill to cover fuel costs. Tips are not expected.

Beijing Taxi Dispatching Center

They can't send a driver to your house, but will alert all taxis with GPS in the vicinity of your request for a taxi and exact location. (6837 3399)

Beijing Yinjian Taxi Company Call them and they will notify their drivers of your location. (96103)

ASM Chauffeur and Tour Services

Airport pick-up and delivery service, chauffeur service and personal guide service available. English-speaking drivers. Pricing on website. (5166 1575) www.chauffeurasia.com

Beijing Limo Airport pickup, corporate events and sightseeing. Choose from stretch limos, buses and vans, all with bilingual drivers. www.beijinglimo.com/english

TOUR COMPANIES

Beijing Citybus Tours See all of Beijing's major sights in a three-hour bus tour. Call 6512 2032 or 400 650 0760 for information. www.citybustour.com

PASSPORTS & VISAS

VISA APPLICATIONS/EXTENSIONS

Exit & Entry Administration of the Public Security Bureau Mon-Sat 8.30am-4.30pm. 2 Andingmen Dongdajie (by Xiaojie Qiao), Dongcheng District. (8402 0101, 8401 5294) 北京市公安局出入境管理处, 东城区安定门东大街2号

EMBASSIES

If your embassy has moved, or you can't find it in the list below, consult the up-to-date list of all the embassies in Beijing at www.travelchinaguide.com/embassy/foreign/beijing.

All embassies except Russia's are located in Chaoyang District.

Australia 21 Dongzhimenwai Dajie (5140 4111) 东直门外大街21号

Canada 19 Dongzhimenwai Dajie. (5139 4000) 东直门外大街19号

France 3 Sanlitun Dongsan Jie (8532 8080) 三里屯东三街3号

Germany 17 Dongzhimenwai Dajie (8532 9000) 东直门外大街17号

India 1 Ritan Donglu (6532 1908) 日坛东路1号

Ireland 3 Ritan Donglu (6532 2691) 日坛东路3号

Italy 2 Sanlitun Dong'erjie (8532 7600) 三里屯东二街2号

Japan 7 Ritan Lu, Jianguomenwai (6532 2361) 建国门外日坛路7号

Malaysia 2 Liangmaqiao Beijie (6532 2531) 亮马桥北街2号

Netherlands 4 Liangmahe Nanlu (8532 0200) 亮马河南路4号

New Zealand 1 Ritan Lu Dongerjie (6532 7000) 日坛路东二街1号

Pakistan 1 Dongzhimenwai Dajie (6532 2504) 东直门外大街1号

Philippines 23 Xiushui Beijie (6532 1872) 秀水北街23号

Russia 4 Dongzhimen Beizhongjie (6532 1381) 东直门北中街4号

Singapore 1 Xiushui Beijie (6532 1115) 秀水北街1号

South Africa 5 Dongzhimenwai Dajie (6532 0171) 东直门外大街5号

South Korea 20 Dongfang Donglu (8531 0700) 东方东路20号

Sweden 3 Dongzhimenwai Dajie (6532 9790) 东直门外大街3号

Switzerland 3 Sanlitun Dongxuejie (8532 8888) 三里屯东五街3号

Thailand Embassy: 40 Guanghua Lu (6532 1749). Visa and consular section: 15/F, Bldg D, Twins Tower, Jianguomenwai Dajie (8566 4469) 大使馆, 光华路40号. 领事馆, 建国门外大街双子座大厦D座15层

United Kingdom Embassy: 11 Guanghua Lu (5192 4000). Visa and Consular sections: 21/F, North Tower, Kerry Centre, 1 Guanghua Lu (8529 6600) 大使馆, 光华路11号. 领事馆, 光华路1号嘉里中心北楼21层

United States of America 55 Anjialou Lu (entrance on Tianze Lu) (8531 3000, visas 8531 3333, visa call center 400 887 2333). 安家楼路55号 (东门在天泽路)

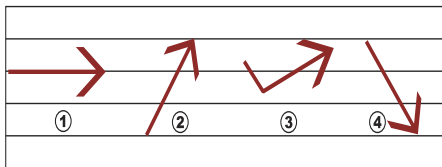
Vietnam 32 Guanghua Lu (6532 1155) 光华路32号

LANGUAGE GUIDE

Introduction to tones reproduced from *Immersion Guides'* Mandarin Phrasebook, available in stores around Beijing or by delivery. To order a copy, call 5820 7700 or e-mail distribution@immersionguides.com

At a loss for words? These two pages are a quick-reference summary of useful phrases that might come in handy on your travels around Beijing. You won't get far without knowing some of the basics of spoken Chinese, so let's start with ...

TONES



• Tone is variation in pitch by which a syllable can be pronounced. All Chinese pinyin are marked with one of four tones. The four tones are as follows:

1st tone – singing tone; high, flat, continuous

2nd tone – rising; similar to the intonation used to ask a question in English, like “oh?”

3rd tone – dip tone; falls and then rises

4th tone – falling tone, sharp like when you holler “boo!”

• These tones are incredibly important. If you get them wrong, people will not understand what you are saying. Many syllables in pinyin have dramatically different meanings depending on the tone. Take for instance the Pinyin construction *bao*:

First tone: **bāo** 包 wrap Second tone: **báo** 薄 thin

Third tone: **bǎo** 保 guarantee Fourth tone: **bào** 抱 hug

As you can see, if you're not careful, you will mistakenly tell someone that you want to hug them, when in fact, you just want to give them a guarantee.

BASICS

Hello/hi	ní hǎo	你好
Good-bye	zài jiàn	再见
Please	qǐng	请
Thank you	xiè xiè	谢谢
Yes/no	shì/bù shì	是/不是
Good/not good	hǎo/bu hǎo	好/不好
My name is ...	wǒ jiào...	我叫...
I'm sorry / excuse me	dùì bù qǐ	对不起
I am ...	wǒ shì ...	我是...
Can I ...?	wǒ kě-yǐ...ma?	我可以...吗?
I don't understand	tīng bù dǒng	听不懂
Can you speak English?	nǐ huì shuō yīng-yǔ ma?	你会说英语吗?

GETTING AROUND

Where is...?	zài nǎ...?	...在哪?
Tiananmen	Tiānānmén	天安门
Forbidden City	Gùgōng	故宫
Wangfujing	Wángfǔjǐng	王府井
Great Wall	Chángchéng	长城

Temple of Heaven	Tiāntán	天坛
Summer Palace	Yíhéyuán	颐和园
Old Summer Palace	Yuánmíngyuán	圆明园
Lama Temple	Yōnghégōng	雍和宫
Silk Street Market	Xiù Shuǐ Jiē	秀水街
Yashow Market	Yǎxiù Shìchǎng	雅秀市场
The Place	Shìmào Tiānjiē	世贸天阶
Sanlitun	Sānlǐtún	三里屯
Houhai	Hòuhǎi	后海
World Trade Center	Guómào	国贸
Financial Street	Jīnróng Jiē	金融街
bank	yín háng	银行
post office	yóu-jú	邮局
hotel	lǚ diǎn	旅店
airport	jī chǎng	机场
railway station	huǒchē zhàn	火车站
subway station	dìtiě zhàn	地铁站
pharmacy	yào-diàn	药店
hospital	yī yuàn	医院
embassy	dà shǐ guǎn	大使馆
north/south/east/west	běi/nán/dōng/xī	北/南/东/西

CABS AND DIRECTIONS

Take me to...	wǒ yào qù...	我要去...
Driver	shī-fu	师傅
Turn left	zuǒ-zhuǎn	左转
Turn right	yòu-zhuǎn	右转
Go straight ahead	yì-zhí zǒu	一直走
We're there	dào-le	到了
U-turn	diào-tóu	掉头
I want the receipt	wǒ yào fā-piao	我要发票
traffic light	hóng-lǜ-dēng	红绿灯
cross the street	guò mǎlù	过马路

SHOPPING AND BARGAINING

I (don't) want this	wǒ (bù) yào zhè gè	我(不)要这个
I want one (of an item)	wǒ yào yí gè	我要一个
How much does it cost?	duō shǎo qián?	多少钱?
One yuan/kuai (unit of currency)	yí yuán/yí kuài	一元/块
That's too expensive	tài guì le	太贵了
Can you lower the price?	Néng piányì yìdiǎn ma?	能便宜一点吗?
Where can I buy...?	zài nǎ kě-yǐ mǎi...?	在哪可以买?

EATING

waiter/waitress	fú-wù-yuán	服务员
menu	cài-dān	菜单
order food	diǎn cài	点菜
bill/check	mǎi-dān	买单
I am vegetarian	wǒ chī sù/wǒ bù chī ròu	我吃素/我不吃肉
I do not eat pork/beef	wǒ bù chī zhūròu/niúròu	我不吃猪肉/牛肉
I am allergic to peanuts	wǒ duì huā-shēng guò-mǐn	我对花生过敏
the food's good	hǎo-chī	好吃
chopsticks	kuài-zi	筷子
knife and fork	dāo-chā	刀叉
spoon	sháo-zi	勺子
cup/glass	bēi-zi	杯子
napkin	cān-jīn-zhǐ	餐巾纸
rice	mǐ-fàn	米饭
chili sauce	là-jīāo	辣椒
ketchup	fān-qié-jiàng	番茄酱
vinegar	cù	醋

USEFUL VOCABULARY

bag	bāo	包
bar	jiǔ-bā	酒吧
bathroom	xǐ shǒu jiān	洗手间
battery	diàn-chí	电池
charger	chōng-diàn-qì	充电器
book	shū	书
camera	zhào-xiàng-jī	照相机
cigarettes	yān	烟
credit card	xìnyòngkǎ	信用卡
lighter	dǎ-huǒ-jī	打火机
clothes	yī-fú	衣服
(to have a) cold	gǎn-mào	感冒
computer	diàn-nǎo	电脑
elevator	diàn-tī	电梯
glasses	yǎn-jìng	眼镜
hospital	yī yuàn	医院
hotel	lǚ diàn	旅店
hutong	hútòng	胡同
I'm allergic to...	wǒ duì... guò-mǐn	我对...过敏
Internet	wǎng-luò	网络
lighter	dǎ-huǒ-jī	打火机
map	dì-tú	地图
mobile	shǒu-jī	手机
name card	míng-piàn	名片
newspaper	bào-zhǐ	报纸
number	hào-mǎ	号码
phone	diàn-huà	电话
paper	zhǐ	纸
pen	bǐ	笔
photo	zhào-piān	照片
policeman	jīng-chá	警察

purse	qián-bāo	钱包
raincoat	yǔ-yī	雨衣
umbrella	yǔ-sǎn	雨伞
restaurant	fàn-diàn	饭店
suitcase	xiāng-zi	箱子
sun glasses	tài-yáng-jìng	太阳镜
supermarket	chāo-shì	超市
ticket	piào	票
ticket booth	shòu-piào-tíng	售票亭
bathroom	xǐ-shǒu-jiān	洗手间
toilet paper	wèi-shēng-zhǐ	卫生纸
top-up cards	chōng-zhí-kǎ	充值卡
tour guide	dǎo-yóu	导游
watch	shǒu-biǎo	手表

NUMBERS

0	líng	零
1	yī	一
2	èr	二
3	sān	三
4	sì	四
5	wǔ	五
6	liù	六
7	qī	七
8	bā	八
9	jiǔ	九
10	shí	十
11	shí-yī	十一
20	èr-shí	二十
35	sān-shí-wǔ	三十五
100	yì-bǎi	一百
123	yì-bǎi èr-shí-sān	一百二十三
1,000	yī-qīān	一千

你该怎么走呢?
Nǐ shuō zěnme zǒu nǎ?
What route do you suggest?

北京前门对牌楼，
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