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Elf spotting in Iceland

How the nation's elusive
'hidden people' became
more than folklore



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There are plenty of exciting winter city destinations to explore this season, book a trip with Wizz Air to visit the spectacular Christmas markets of Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Warsaw, and Rome, where a grand festive market takes place in the historic and atmospheric Piazza Navona. Meanwhile, our winter sun routes will help you shake off those post-festive blues – go snorkelling in Malta, souk exploring in Morocco or hit the beach in the Canaries.

Those with a sense of adventure can try somewhere new, Wizz Air now flies to Yerevan in Armenia – which has a wonderful local food scene, with flavours inspired by European and Levantine cuisines.

The good news continues across our network. This autumn we got our newest subsidiary, Wizz Air Malta, which started operations on 27 September with its inaugural flight from Malta International Airport to Rome Fiumicino. In the Middle East, we now fly to the

beautiful Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with 23 routes from Europe and Abu Dhabi to Dammam, Jeddah and Riyadh. And in Italy, we’re adding three new A321neos to our bases at Rome Fiumicino and Milan Malpensa, which ensures the launch of 12 exciting new routes. We also started flights from Naples to Abu Dhabi and from Milan to Marsa Alam in Egypt. We’re expanding in Romania, too, adding five new aircraft at our base in Bucharest and adding capacity in Bacau, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi and Sibiu, and increasing frequency on more than 30 existing routes to destinations including London, Rome, Madrid and Tel Aviv. What else do we have up our sleeves for 2023? Well, watch this space!

No matter where you are heading today, I and everybody at Wizz Air wish you a safe journey.

József Váradi
Chief Executive Officer



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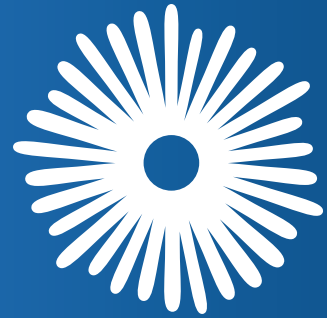


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ICELAND'S ALL-NEW GEOTHERMAL LAGOON

Minutes from the City Centre

in this **issue**

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The creative team rented a 4x4 from Go Car Rental Iceland to explore the wild and untamed Iceland environment and search for elusive elves

Wizz

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PHOTO: DAVE INMS

Editor's letter

This festive season, I'm giving in to the Elf on the Shelf trend – the mischievous toy sprite who only moves around at night when everyone in the house (read: small children) are asleep. My three-year-old will love it, especially as she's finally old enough to experience and appreciate the magic of Christmas. But did you know you don't have to travel to the North Pole to find elves? In Iceland, a third of people believe these 'hidden people' exist, with schools teaching their customs and roadworks rerouted to ensure they don't destroy elf dwellings. The creative team went in search of these fabled creatures (p36). The winter fun continues on p52 with our alternative wintersports feature. Whether you're in the mood for ice driving, snowshoeing with huskies or building your own igloo, we've got 20 super-cool ideas. Over in Paris – typically a tricky place if you're not a meat-eater – we look at the trend for vegan restaurants (p64) and on p74 we shine a spotlight on the women shaking things up in Saudi Arabia's new art scene. Wherever you're travelling to this month, I wish you a wonderful trip.

Claire Köksal, Editor

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Bernardo Bellotto

W 300. rocznicę urodzin malarza

On the 300th anniversary of the painter's birth



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Wystawa w Zamku Królewskim w Warszawie

Exhibition in The Royal Castle in Warsaw

Where to go, what to do and why

inplace



Get the ruff guide to the city in Paris

Photographer Gray Malin's latest series, *Dogs of Paris*, captures the City of Light as a backdrop to some seriously posh pups. Not an owner in sight, they wear sunglasses and ride around in open-top vehicles. "This series pays homage to the joy of escapism, our furry friends, and the incredible fashion, food, and culture of Paris," explains Gray of his exhibition in partnership with Hôtel Plaza Athénée. He's shot more than 30 series around the world. "I chose iconic locations including the Prestige Suite - aka the Carrie Bradshaw Suite - and a beautiful rooftop terrace with exquisite views of the Eiffel Tower." graymalin.com
✈️ Wizz Air flies to Paris

WORDS BY JADE BREMNER, JUDY COGAN, CLAIRE KÓKSAL, KIKI STREITBERGER

Choose from a carbon-conscious menu in Bristol

With sustainability at its core, The Canteen prints the carbon emissions of dishes on its menu. “We have always practised sustainability, and it’s an ever-evolving process,” says general manager Liam Stocks, “however, we decided to take the next step and get our menu carbon footprinted.”

The concept was instigated by local vegan charity Vival and it’s being well-received by customers. “It’s great to see the education people get,” says Liam. “Our carrot and beetroot pakoras were 128 grams. When one beef burger patty clocks in at 3,050 grams, it puts things into perspective.” canteenbristol.co.uk

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Bristol



Gawk at the beauty queens of the desert in Al Dhafra

Thousands of furry hopefuls from all over the Middle East descend on the Al Dhafra region in Abu Dhabi in January to compete in camel beauty pageants (and attempt to win huge sums of prize money). For several weeks a year, the area is the centre of the camel universe, with Bedouin families setting up camp between the dunes and market traders selling everything from camel shampoo to sweet karak chai. Stunners are supposedly the ones with long legs, an elegant neck, pert ears, expressive eyes (with curled eyelashes), droopy lips – and, of course, a shapely hump. Other seasonal highlights include Saluki races, falconry competitions, displays of local crafts and traditional performances. The Al Dhafra festival, now in its 16th year, takes place until 31 January, 2023.

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Abu Dhabi

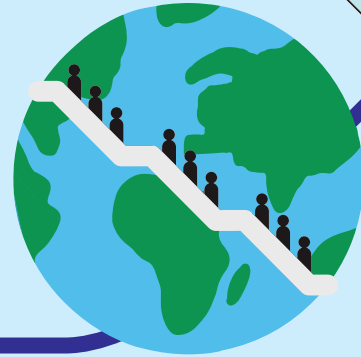


PHOTO: PEXELS

Go underground in London

Celebrate the London Underground map's 90th birthday this season with 20 new facts about the city's famed tunnels...

in place



1

Harry Beck based his design of the Underground map on an electrical circuit diagram.

2

More than 1,000 bodies lie beneath Aldgate station. It was built over a plague pit from 1665.

3

The average speed on the Underground is 33kph, which includes station stops.

4

On the Metropolitan line, trains can travel more than 96kph.

5

Every week, London Underground escalators travel the equivalent distance of going twice around the world.

6

There are 49 abandoned 'ghost' stations on the network. Down Street is one of them, which Winston Churchill used as a bunker during WW2.



7

London Underground opened with the world's first underground railway in 1863.

8

The London Underground's blue and red logo was designed by Edward Johnston in 1919 and is one of the oldest corporate brands of modern times.

9

Tube trains are estimated to transport 1.35 billion passengers every year.

10

Waterloo is the busiest Underground station with 100.3 million passengers per year.

11

Around 55% of the London Underground is above the ground.

12

During WW2, part of the Piccadilly line was used to store British Museum treasures.

13

Originally known as the Baker Street and Waterloo line, the Bakerloo nickname was coined by the *Evening News* and officially adopted in July 1906.

14

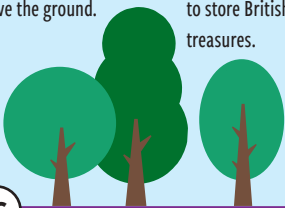
The Elizabeth line is the newest line to use tunnels under London. Opened in May 2022, it currently stretches over 96km.

15

Liverpool Street station is built upon an ancient burial site and in 2015, archaeologists unearthed 3,000 skeletons.

16

The Northern line's air quality is so bad that 20 minutes travelling on it is said to be the equivalent of smoking a cigarette.



17

The shortest distance between two adjacent stations is 260 metres (Leicester Square to Covent Garden) and the journey takes about 30 seconds.

18

The longest escalator is in Angel station, at 60 metres, with a vertical rise of 27.5 metres.

19

More than 47 million litres of water are pumped from the Tube each day.

20

One of the early names proposed for the Victoria line was the Viking line.
✈️ Wizz Air flies to London

Play our Christmas travel quiz

To get you in the festive mood, we've put together a quiz of some of the strangest traditions around Europe. How well do you know these kooky holiday season customs?



1. In Austria what character sets out to capture naughty children on Christmas Eve?

A: The Krampus B. Count Dracula
C. Donald Trump

2. On 5 December, what do children in Germany fill their shoes with before leaving them outside?

A: Socks B. Coal
C. Sweets

4. Over Christmas, what item do unmarried Czech women throw over their shoulder to determine how successful their love lives will be the following year?

A: A shoe B. A lock of their hair
C. An iPhone

3. In Norway it is tradition to hide all brooms in the house on Christmas Eve to stop who from stealing them?

A: Local bin men B. Witches
C. Quidditch players

5. El Caganer is a fixture in every Spanish nativity scene. But what 'present' does this cheeky figure leave behind?

A. Myrrh B. Mince pies
C. Poo

Answers 1A, 2C, 3B, 4A, 5C

Celebrate the anniversary of James Bond in Brussels



Head to the Brussels Exhibition Centre to find out how the car stunts were created across the James Bond franchise, which celebrates its diamond anniversary this season. View 50 cars from the screen, including the iconic *Goldfinger* Aston Martin DB5 and Nomi's *No Time To Die* Superleggera DBS, plus motorcycles, boats, helicopters, a jetpack and even a subway car used in filming. After the show, sink a trademark martini at the British bar on site. 007brussels.com

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Brussels

Watch a peak performance in Saalbach

Rave on Snow first took place in the Austrian town of Saalbach in 1993/1994 with 50 friends who introduced electronic sounds to the mountains. It celebrated its 25th birthday in 2018 and now it's back (after a Covid hiatus) with big-name dance DJs, after parties and 200km of ski/snowboard runs. A big highlight of the event in December is the Gipfel Party (between 15-18 in 2022), located on the peak of Schattberg mountain, 2000 metres above sea level.

raveonsnow.com

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Salzburg



Indulge in subterranean flavours in the Maldives

Ever wondered if a meal would taste different underwater? Here are three places to find out (no scuba gear necessary)...



ITHAA UNDERSEA RESTAURANT

The world's first all-glass undersea restaurant sits five metres below sea level at the Conrad Maldives Rangali Island hotel. Enjoy cocktails, caviar and Maldivian lobster with 180-degree panoramic views of the Indian ocean. conradmaldives.com/dine/ithaa-undersea-restaurant



5.8 UNDERSEA RESTAURANT

As its moniker hints, this intimate restaurant (with room for just 10 couples) is 5.8 metres beneath a lagoon at the adults-only Hurawalhi Island Resort. Barefoot luxury meets delicious seafood. hurawalhi.com/dining/undersea-restaurant



SUBSIX UNDERWATER RESTAURANT

Reach it by speedboat and descend a dramatic three-floor staircase to find a clam-inspired bar, sea-urchin chairs and front row seats to ocean life. Private dinners can be arranged. niyama.com/en/restaurants/subsix

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Malé

in place



See trash turned into treasure in Lisbon



All multi-coloured, all massive and all made of plastic, these creations are the works of Portuguese 'trash artist' Artur Bordalo, aka Bordalo II. His latest exhibition, *Evolution*, (and his first since 2019) in Lisbon features his big-scale animal sculptures made from scraps of metal, plastic toys and old hoses.

"Lisbon is my hometown and there's nowhere I'd rather show my most recent work," Bordalo II says. "Each piece has a specific meaning, there will be recognised pieces, and new, never-seen-before styles."

You can see *Evolution* at Edu Hub until mid-December. bordaloi.com

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Lisbon



Embrace northern culture for a year

in Leeds

Leeds 2023 is a 12-month celebration of culture, music, art and live performances in the Yorkshire city. The opening show on 7 January, *The Awakening*, will kick off an epic programme of a dozen major events and plenty of creative experiences. Homegrown stars such as singer Corinne Bailey Rae and poet Simon Armitage will feature. "In challenging times, the story of our creativity in Leeds can provide much-needed comfort, joy and inspiration to ourselves and to the nation," says Creative director and CEO Kully Thiarai. leeds2023.co.uk

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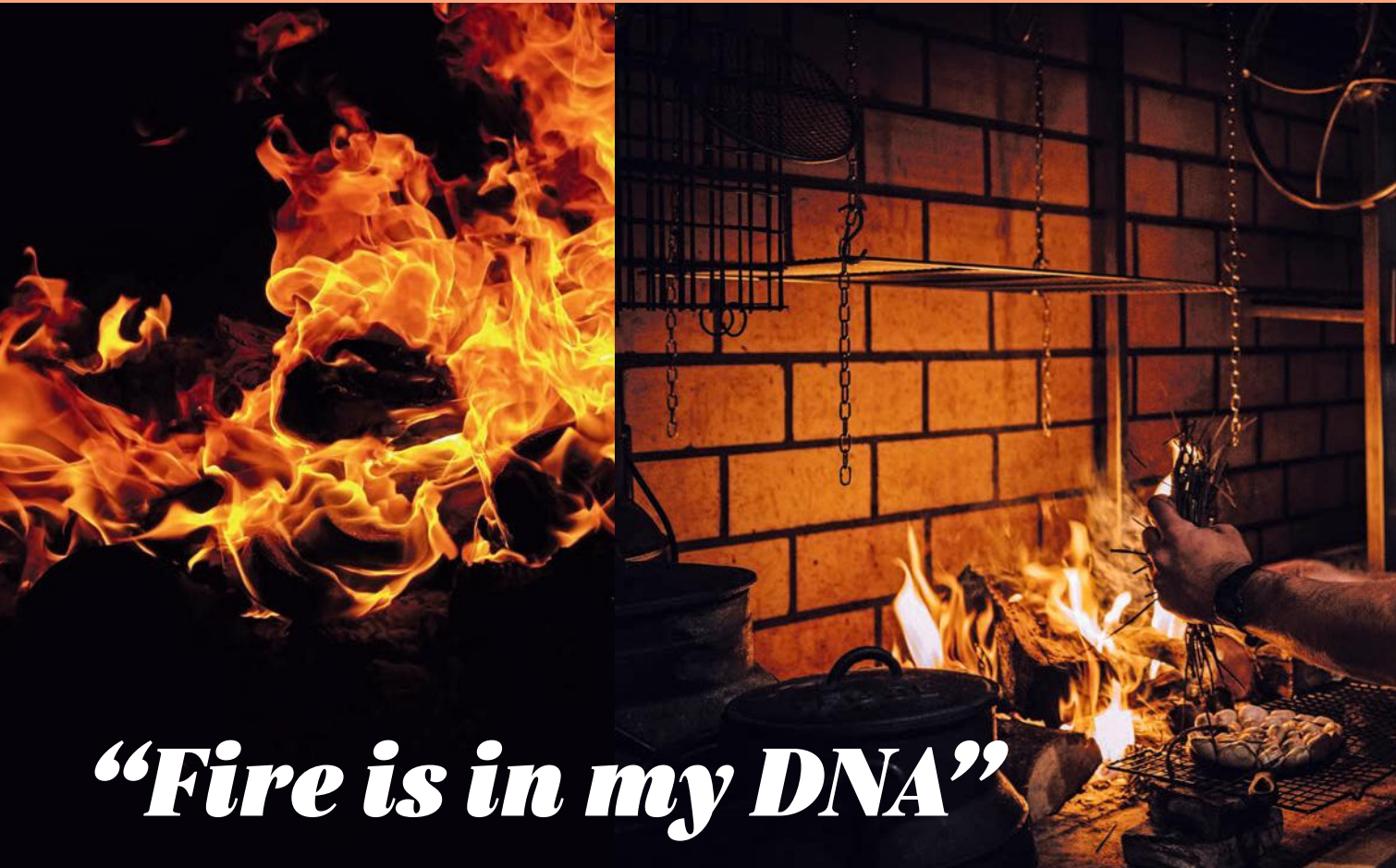
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**Becoming a
gladiator**
in Rome

p27


**Morocco's
Andy Warhol**
in Marrakesh

p30



“Fire is in my DNA”

Food and flames: we meet the star chefs reigniting primal pleasures across Portugal

 Words by Amy Rose Everett

You’ve heard of fine dining. But what about fire dining? From north to south Portugal, chefs are turning their backs on technology and – quite literally – playing with fire. From the hottest Michelin-approved restaurants to tiny local frango spots, kitchens are taking it back to the basics of ancestral cooking methods, before there were stoves and ovens. A handful of innovative chefs are cooking caveman-style, with open flames.

Ricardo Dias Ferreira pioneered Porto powerhouse Elemento in 2019, Portugal’s first high-end restaurant to rely solely on “the wild animal that is fire”, as Ricardo puts it. And the challenge was huge.

“It was, and still remains, a completely different style from what was happening in the gastronomic panorama in Portugal,” he explains.

Ferreira’s work began by filling a 19th-century building with specially made fire grills and ovens. Next, he gathered unusual materials to infuse locally sourced ingredients with highly individual flavours



Left Chef Ricardo Dias Ferreira at Porto's Elemento
Here Flame-kissed flavours at Food Circle

– everything from pine needles to eucalyptus and straw. Walking into the restaurant, you're hit with the incredible smell of woodsmoke. "Everyone called me crazy at the time," Ricardo says.

Menus rely on the daily catch – red prawns from the Algarve, grouper fish from the Azores. No day is the same. But "fire is never a gentle master" as the old proverb goes. It's hard going back to basics.

"It's a daily challenge," the chef says. "It's not just about pressing a button or turning on a gas burner and cooking. We have to understand the wood. The humidity of the environment directly influences the efficiency and speed at which we are cooking."

A project this demanding, in an industry as volatile as hospitality, must be driven by real passion in order to succeed. Ricardo's hard graft honours his childhood growing up in the small fishing village of Praia do Pedrógão. Ambitious daily menus are inspired by the chef's childhood memories.

"Street-grilling fish and seafood is an important part of Portuguese culture," he points out. "My

grandparents were farmers, and on Sundays we'd grill lunches."

Like Ricardo, chefs Hélio Gonçalves and Tiago Maio at the 12-seater Food Circle restaurant – an hour from Lisbon inside the Sublime Comporta retreat in a picturesque freguesia of Comporta – cite their wood oven-cooking grandparents as an influence. "All those family dinners [inspired] the smells and flavours that we try to recreate now," says Tiago.

In a garden with more than 300 species of edible herbs and flowers, organic produce from Alentejo is cooked on an open fire. A beautiful OFYR grill serves as the centrepiece for guests to sit around. Dishes like scarlet shrimp rice are fired up. "We smoke the heads of the carabinero, grill them and make the sauce, to add that smoky flavour to the dish," says Tiago.

The chefs also wrap fish in Kombu kelp, hang it over the fire to cook for the duration of dinner, and serve it up with garnishes like pureéd leaves from the garden or a beurre blanc of local seaweed. Flavours are steeped in smoke and the sea.



Food Circle is “constantly in evolution”, says Tiago, thanks to “Portuguese roots, with twists of Asian, French and Nordic kitchens”. What doesn’t change is a commitment to prioritising Portugal’s outstanding national produce – be it pork, tomatoes, olives or green vegetables.

On the subtropical island of Madeira, trailblazing chef Júlio Pereira makes use of the abundant fruit trees and organic farms, drawing on the use of fire from his simple upbringing. In the capital of Funchal, he dreamed up two stand-out modern restaurants, Kampo and Ákua.

“My family comes from the countryside, where the wood-burning stove was a constant in our life. It was what we used to cook almost every meal,” he says. “The heat would serve to boil water for baths, and its chimney smoke would be used to smoke chorizo, which would be sold at our butcher’s shop.”

Kampo, Júlio’s meat-focused project, is hands down one of the best steak spots in the archipelago. Carnivores in search of a caveman-style experience can choose juicy cuts from the fridge, but the oxtail ravioli with truffle is the star dish using open flames. “Cooking on burning wood was one of the pillars for

Clockwise from top left
Exquisite cuisine at Sublime Comporta’s Food Circle; chef Hélio Gonçalves at Food Circle; Kampo’s Júlio Pereira

my project. Fire is in my DNA, as a person and as a chef,” says Júlio.

There’s no doubt that Portuguese cuisine is having a moment, with huge growth in the number of burgeoning restaurants (28 eateries in the country have Michelin stars; seven of them have two). The country’s top chefs accredit this to the same things: upholding tradition, buying local produce and honouring family values.

“It’s the cuisine from the past and the present,” says Júlio. “I believe that our restaurants are succeeding in demonstrating what [Portuguese] gastronomy is all about – family and friends who come together at the table. We love what we do. It’s not just a job, but it’s our life as Portuguese people.”

Will ancestral principles at Elemento, Kampo or Food Circle earn Portugal a Michelin new star in 2023? Where there’s smoke, there’s fire...

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"I'm outnumbered as I face my nemeses"

Our writer trains like a legendary warrior at the world's first and only gladiator school in Rome

 Words by Xav Judd

I'm all alone on a small patch of earth, with a mortal enemy on either side of me. One has a short sword up against my throat. He gazes into my eyes with a look of thunder - with a slight pull of his wrist it could all be over for me. But, relief, it's just my imagination running away with itself - I'm not in peril. The weapons are made of wood, and I'm learning how to fight like a legendary warrior at Gruppo Storico Romano, the world's only Gladiator fight school, tucked away on a narrow Rome side street, off the city's famed Via Appia.

Before training, Giacomo, our instructor for the two-hour lesson, takes us to the on-site museum. As we tour around the 250 painfully recreated exhibits of costumes, scale models and armaments, it feels like stepping into a bygone era. Giacomo presents salient facts about the remarkable former empire: "Roman civilisation borrowed heavily from Etruscan culture, and a prime example was the gladiatorial contest. The first time such bouts were held in the Roman Republic was circa 264BC."

the challenge ROME

I slip into a vintage-style Roman tunic and belt, in preparation for our tuition. We're in a recreated ludus, or gladiator training centre, where wooden buildings with pretty terracotta roofs encircle open-air sandy areas. The atmosphere builds as we recite a traditional chant: "*Avē Imperātor, moritūrī tē salūtant*", translated as: "Hail the emperor, those who are about to die salute you".

Then comes our first test of agility, speed and stamina. We hop between the spaces of a ladder-type construction on the floor, then leap over a plank several inches off the floor and dodge a row of swinging sandbags. We repeat this mini-assault course, our first test of endurance, a handful of times. I receive a conk on my skull. My punishment is a stack of press-ups. As a serial offender, Giacomo then administers a couple of playful whip lashes. I soon learn this is no place for slackers.

For around a millennium, gladiators were a mainstay in ancient Roman 'entertainment'. Both slaves and paid volunteers were used to satisfy what ancient Romans believed was a much-needed distraction for the masses. The skillful combatants, who often battled to the death,

were frequently regarded as celebrities and sex symbols. Some considered the sweat from these prizefighters to be an aphrodisiac. Interest in this cultural phenomenon reignited after former Bank of Italy employee Sergio Iacomoni set up the gladiatorial re-enactment group, Gruppo Storico Romano, in 1994. "We do period gladiatorial re-enactments all over the globe, including in the Colosseum. Out of that, sprang the idea for the school, which started in the year 2000."

Now it's our time to fight. Giacomo gives us each a wooden sword (a *gladius* in Latin) and demonstrates the various attacking strokes gladiators mastered in order to kill an opponent, when striking the head, neck, shoulder. "Make sure you really stick the blade in deep and apply an extra twist, if you wish to cause maximum damage to their stomach," says our instructor. In one manoeuvre we have to take a sizable step backwards, pirouette and slice into the rear of our make-believe foe.

We're then taught how to block with our weapons, and put what we've learned so far into several sequences, before pairing up to improve our technique.



School finishes with the ultimate mano a mano. I'm pitted against other newcomers in a bijou arena, with Giacomo acting as the referee. I'm so nervous my knees knock together with enough force to crack lobster shells. Yet I dig deep into my psyche and locate my alter ego - Xavius Not-Scaredy-Kattus. Adrenaline is high, but the matchups are fun and friendly - three strikes on your adversary's torso is required to win each bout.

Finally, I'm outnumbered, as I face my two greatest nemeses. Fortunately, unlike in Roman times, the spectators here (relatives of the participants) are not paying for blood. Instead, they use hand signals to indicate mercy for me - the vanquished. Forget Latin classes and toga parties, exploring the culture of ancient Rome has never been so immersive. I can only imagine what noble warriors felt centuries ago before they faced their combatants.

rome-gladiators-school.com

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A+ Excellent!



Train like a gladiator

Wrestling

While weapons were important, gladiators would spend a significant amount of time practicing their fighting without weapons. It helped them to be agile, read their opponents and could save them if they lost their weapon during a fight.

Athletics

Part of training a winning gladiator involved running, resistance training (with big stones, logs or sandbags), long jumps, and even gymnastics, for stamina and entertainment purposes.

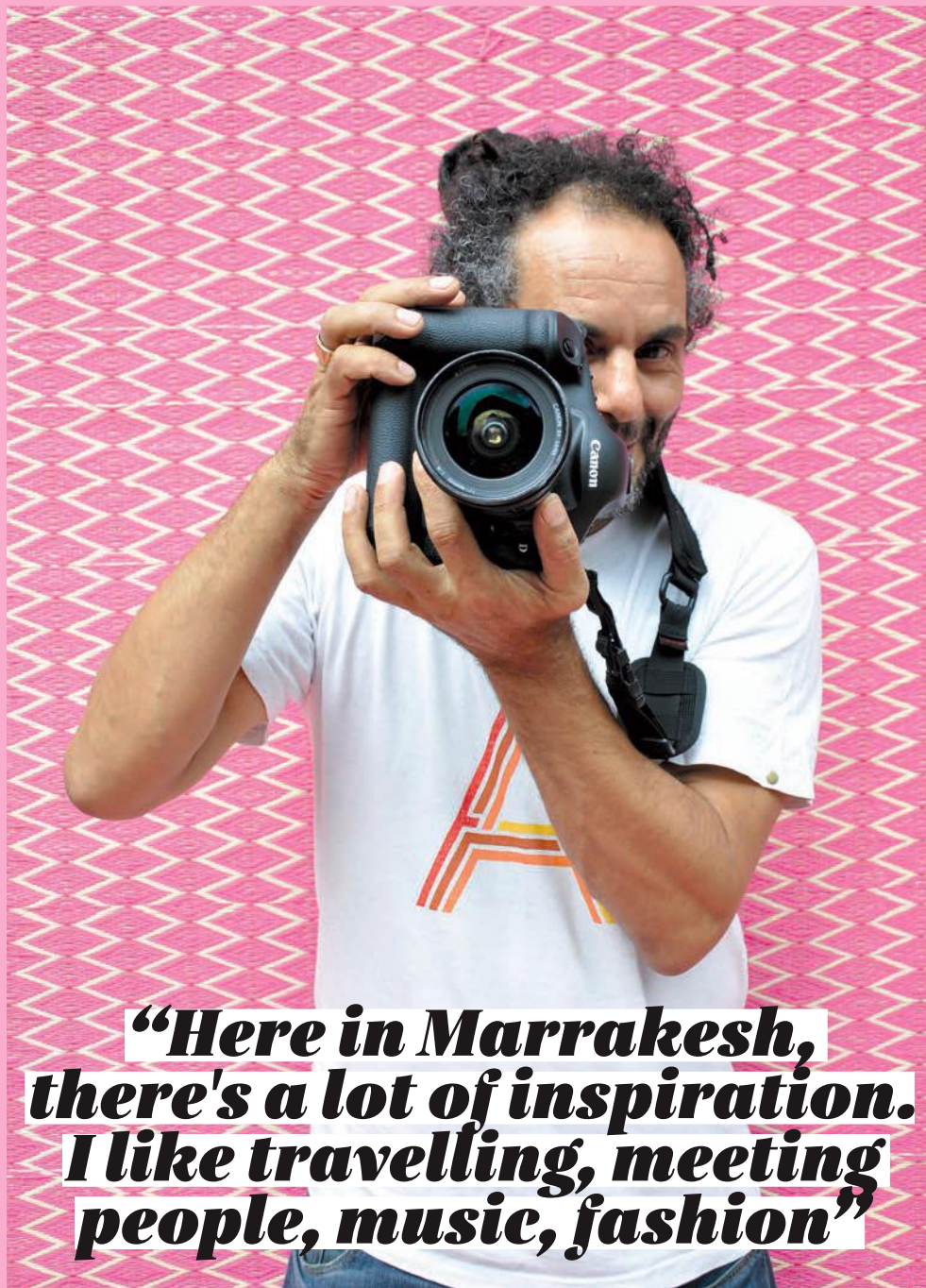
Heavy weapons

To build up their strength, trainers would give gladiators practice swords that were twice the weight of the ones they would go into the stadium to fight with. These were often wooden instead of metal.

Vicious moves

Gladiators were taught not to slash their opponents, but to stab them. In a sport where you have to kill or be killed, this was the most efficient method. However, the best gladiators put on a show before finishing off their opponent.

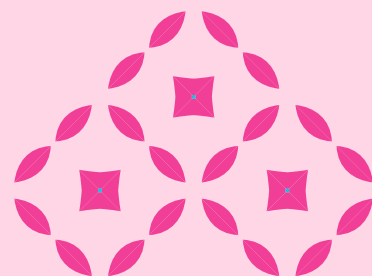
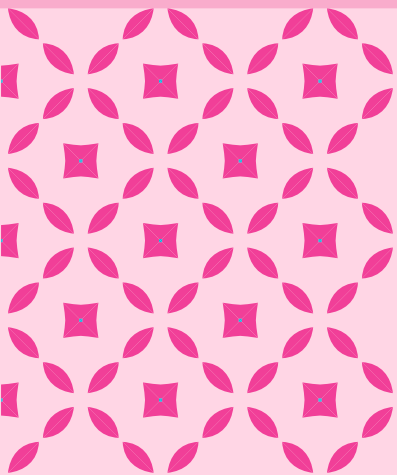




***“Here in Marrakesh,
there's a lot of inspiration.
I like travelling, meeting
people, music, fashion”***

Moroccan artist Hassan Hajjaj invites us into his kitsch corner of Marrakesh: his gallery, boutique and home, Riad Yima

 Words by Judy Cogan



When Moroccan-born British photographer and artist Hassan Hajjaj is in Marrakesh you'll find him at Riad Yima – his home, which doubles as a boutique, gallery, photograph studio and tearoom.

Tucked down a narrow alley in the belly of the city's ochre-hued Medina, behind a centuries-old iron door, Riad Yima (Yima meaning 'Mother' in the darija dialect) is hard to find.

"I'm not doing it on purpose," laughs Hassan. "That's just the layout of Medina and how it works!"

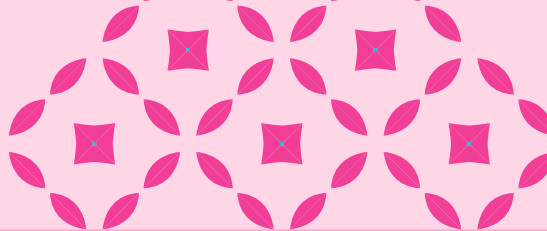
Inside the riad, birds sing and swoop around tall plants and vines, and below a square of open blue sky. This is a lurid sanctuary, a kaleidoscope of colour where every detail is deliberate – from the Moorish-style floor tiles to the upturned Coca Cola crates, repurposed as seats, and the neat rows of babouches (Moroccan slippers), made from flour sacks.

I spot the Barbie-like Middle Eastern Fulla dolls dressed as Hassan's *Kesh Angels* – a nod to his synonymous series of photographs depicting young female Moroccan bikers that raised his name globally after exhibits in major art institutions in London, Paris and New York. The images were mounted in wooden frames inlaid with cans of soda and tins of tomato paste – his spin on pop art, while referencing Islamic mosaics and retro Moroccan brands. It also earned him the moniker 'The Andy Warhol of Marrakesh'. "I have nothing to do with Andy Warhol and that

comparison comes from the Western world," he says. "But I have no problem with it." In fact, out of it came Hassan's clothing and bar brand, Andy Wahloo. "In 2007 Algerian singer Rachid Taha joked about Andy 'Wahloo', which translates to 'I have nothing' in darija," he recalls. "I got branded with something from outside, and then reclaimed it." You can see Andy Wahloo everywhere inside Yima, from turquoise and pink tea caddies that celebrate classic pop art with designs from traditional Moroccan soup brands and hoodies printed with SuperLux Souk-Wear – a playful poke at UK urban label Superdry.

Born in 1961, in the fishing village of Larache, Hassan arrived in London in 1973. Leaving school at 15 he became a DJ, music promoter, designer, retailer and restaurateur before turning to art. He flits between London (where he has a shop called Larache) and Marrakesh every three weeks. "In Marrakesh there's a lot of inspiration. I like travelling, meeting people, music, fashion," he says. "But London gives me a different point of view. I like to go back and forth; I work better that way."

In a career spanning four decades, he's also extended himself into sculpture, fashion and film production. He photographed singer Billie Eilish for *Vogue* in 2020 and rapper Cardi B for the cover of *New York Magazine* in 2017. Hassan, now 61, has also helped launch the careers of young Moroccan creatives, for example, Yassine Alaoui Ismaili (aka Yoriyas), a Casablanca-based street photographer.



The riad brings together all of the influences that have shaped Hassan throughout his life: on display are counterfeit designer goods, North African heritage, food, fashion and music, especially '90s club, hip-hop (he loves Busta Rhymes) and reggae scenes. The walls and ceiling preserve classic traditional Moroccan architecture. Rails are stocked with djellabas (robes) in African-designed fabrics and suits woven from sugar bags.

Crowding the walls are some vintage advertising and film posters – and Hassan's own instantly recognisable photographs. High shelves are lined with rows of cola bottles filled with acid yellow, orange and pink liquid. The colour-clash mix of old and new feels calm and considered.

"I bought it in 2002 and it took four years to redesign," Hassan says. "We went with a Feng Shui style of living, where you live inside out, so you have daylight and when it rains you can see rainbows. We have the sound of birds and there's no noise of cars so it's very peaceful."

Previous pages, left
Hassan Hajjaj
Previous pages, right
and above Inside Hassan's
colourful home Riad Yima

The upcycled furniture represents a unique style he's honed over decades. "In the '90s I was doing lots of shows using recycled objects," he says. "I turned light boxes from a shop sign into a table and old fabrics into cushions and banquettes. It ended up becoming a signature style of my work so it felt natural this furniture should end up in the riad."

He works with local artisans to create each piece. Business is booming now that people are more conscious of making sustainable purchases. "As someone who's quite known, it's kind of cool to meet someone upcoming and learn what's going on," he says. "If one person can get something from me and use that in a positive way, I'm happy."

✈ **Wizz Air flies to Marrakesh**

Art and soul

Three other places for a culture fix in Marrakesh

Yves Saint Laurent Museum

The fashion designer had an affinity for this city (famously saving the brilliant-blue Majorelle Gardens, just round the corner, from destruction). This museum dedicated to his work opened in 2017, and has more than 7,000 of his pieces on display. museeyslmarakech.com

Maison de la Photographie

Immerse yourself in the photographic history of Morocco at this riad museum. It opened in 2009, and has an impressive array of images dating back to 1870. maisondelaphotographie.ma

MACAAL

The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden showcases works from Morocco and neighbouring countries. It is especially famous for its large sculpture park, with 13 permanent installations, worth exploring via golf buggy. macaal.org



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ones to watch**
in Saudi Arabia

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AND OVER THERE

AND HERE

PROBABLY HERE TOO

ELVES LIVE

AND OVER HERE



AND HERE...APPARENTLY



Jess Vincent learns why
a third of locals in Iceland
believe in 'hidden people'

WE HERE



Photography by Dave Imms



“I look into his eyes, willing him to come to life”

A collection of elves at the Icelandic Elf School in Reykjavik

I'm face to face with an elf. He's wearing green overalls and he's sat on a rock, crossed-legged, reading a book. He has a long grey beard and thick grey eyebrows, and his lips and cheeks are the same red as his pointy hat. I look into his eyes, willing him to come to life. I want him to give me a sign - a wink, perhaps - that he's real. But his wide-eyed expression, frozen in time by layers of porcelain and acrylic paint, doesn't change.

“Elves can decide when they are seen and when they are not,” says Magnus Skarphedinsson, headmaster of the Icelandic Elf School in Reykjavik. He has caught me staring at the elf statue that is

perched on his desk. “Only people with psychic abilities can see them,” he continues.

The last time I visited Iceland I spent a week driving the ring road, during a bucket list tour of the mighty Land of Fire and Ice. I swam in smoking geothermal lagoons, melted the soles of my boots over bubbling mud holes, and watched the northern lights from my frozen car bonnet. This time I'm here for a different adventure - I'm enrolling in Iceland's only elf school, to learn about Iceland's huldufólk or 'hidden people'.

Around a third of Icelanders believe in elves, according to a Prósent survey conducted in May 2022. While 11% of respondents said they're not sure



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From left to right A certificate handed out for finishing elf school; a booklet at the school; Headmaster Magnus Skarphedinsson with some tiny friends

either way. The existence of elves has long been used by environmental groups to hamper construction plans. A decade ago, the Friends of Lava group famously brought a case to the Supreme Court of Iceland to halt the construction of a road, which they claimed would disturb an elf habitat and elf church. “Even if people don’t believe, the elves are good for protecting the planet,” urges professor of folkloristics Terry Gunnell at the University of Iceland.

Other accounts of the hidden people include them being involved in construction machinery mysteriously breaking down and workers falling ill, and there are hundreds of stories of elves saving lives. Stories have attracted international media attention and lured thousands of visitors to Iceland every year, but I couldn’t help but wonder: do Icelanders really believe in elves, or do these stories serve another purpose?

Maybe I’ve watched too much *The Lord of the Rings*, but I was expecting the Icelandic

Elf School to have a turf roof and a tiny red door, surrounded by waterfalls and moss-covered lava fields. Instead, I find myself in an industrial complex in downtown Reykjavik surrounded by grey buildings and freshly laid tarmac. The school is between a nail salon and a bed shop, and the closest thing to a waterfall is the sound of last night’s rain trickling down a drain. A beaten-up car pulls up soon after I arrive, and headmaster Magnus steps out and shakes my hand, almost breaking it.

Inside the classroom, we sit next to miniature elf houses and sailboat replicas. The tiny room is filled floor to ceiling with all kinds of knick-knacks: elf and fairy figurines; light-up snowmen and Christmas trees; boxes filled with snail shells.

Class begins with an important lesson: contrary to belief (and the elf statue on Magnus’ desk), elves don’t wear pointy hats. Magnus gives me a handbook, with illustrations showing that elves in Iceland look like us, only much smaller (between



ELF-HELP

Elves in Iceland don’t live in cute little wooden houses but in rocks. The rocks are often created by large lava flows like Hellsgerði park.



**“Elves can
decide when
they are seen
and when they
are not”**



Magnus at his Elf School telling tales and stamping a diploma

“All nations apart from Iceland have lost their connection with elves”

two and 100 centimetres) and with pointier ears. Then there are the hidden people (attractive human-sized elves dressed in Medieval clothing), as well as light fairies, gnomes, trolls and dwarfs. Despite never having seen an elf himself, Magnus’ belief in elves started when his great-aunt told him she’d spent the evening with an elvish family on the cliffs near her home. “I often went down to the cliffs to see if I could find them,” says Magnus. “I never saw them, but I knew my great-aunt so well that I was convinced she was telling the truth.”

While at university, Magnus founded the Paranormal Foundation of Iceland with fellow students to record people’s supernatural experiences. In 1988, he opened the Elf School, where on Friday afternoons Magnus tells the stories of the people he’s interviewed and gives lectures on the history and cultural significance of elves in Iceland. Since opening, the headmaster has interviewed 900 Icelanders and 500 foreigners about their experiences with elves, and up to 10,000 students have



ELF-HELP

Some believe there’s a difference between elves and hidden people, with the former taking on human-like characteristics and the latter coming in all shapes and sizes. This illustration is one of the many created by the ‘elf-seer’ Erla Stefansdottir.

graduated from Elf School. “All nations apart from Iceland have lost their connection with elves,” Magnus says, writing my name and sealing my Elf School diploma with the headmaster’s stamp. “Even in Iceland we are losing the elves. When elves sense there is ignorance in a culture, they withdraw and become less seen.”

I continue my search for elves in Hafnarfjörður, a harbourfront town 10km south of Reykjavík and the elvish capital of Iceland. “Hafnarfjörður has the biggest concentration of elves in Iceland,” says my guide Sigurbjörg Karlsdóttir, who’s been running elf walking tours in Hafnarfjörður for 22 years. “A gifted elf-seer [a person who can detect magic] called Erla Stefansdóttir created a map of where you can see elves and hidden people in Hafnarfjörður. I wanted to share these special places with visitors.”

Following Erla’s illustrated map, the tour passes through famous elf sites like Hamarinn, a cliff where the Royal Family of the hidden folk live, and the Dwarf Stone behind Hafnarfjarðarkirkja, a rock

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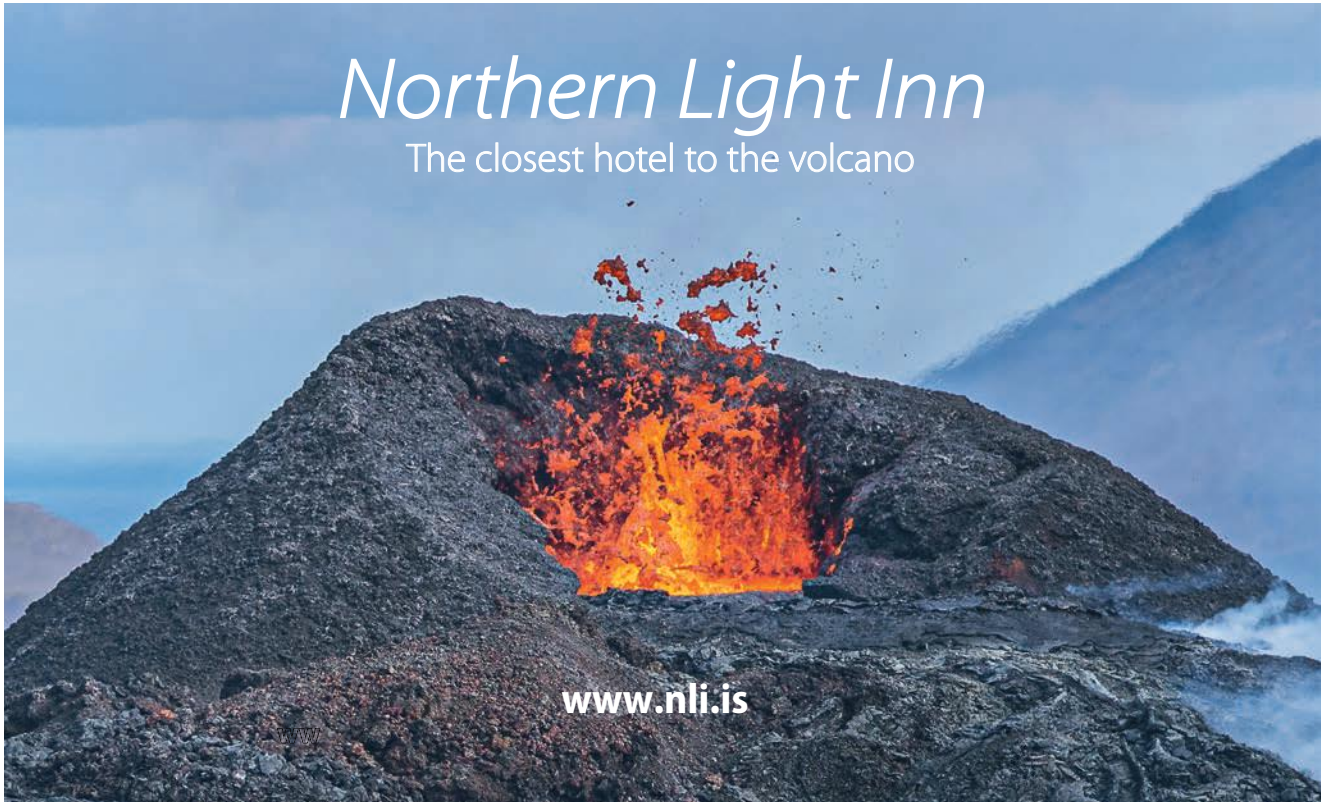


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Here An elf sign in Hellisgerði park
Right Elf guide Sigurbjörg Karlsdóttir




ELF-HELP

Santa Claus is not the only one that cashes in on treats over the festive season. During the holidays in Iceland, there is a custom to clean your house and to leave food for the elves on Christmas Eve so that they can feast and dance while humans are at church. Then, on New Year's Eve, locals light candles so elves can relocate to new homes. And don't be disappointed if the food you leave out remains untouched. Elves don't sink their teeth into the grub, just draw energy from it.

that couldn't be moved to build a church because a dwarf lives there. The highlight, though, is Hellisgerði, a park that Erla says has the largest colonies of elves, dwarfs and hidden people in Iceland. Wearing a red elf hat knitted by her mother, Sigurbjörg walks us through the moss-covered lava fields and caves of Hellisgerði as she tells us of the genesis of elves. The story goes that Eve hid her unwashed children from God, who punished her for her treachery by hiding her dirty children from mankind, forever banishing them and their descendants to Iceland's rocks and cliffs.

"Icelandic folklore is a mixture of Nordic, Irish and Gaelic beliefs that has been adapted to a volcanic landscape," professor Gunnell later tells me. "While many Icelanders won't say that they believe in elves, there's a strong sense here that you don't mess with your surroundings."

When I see solidified lava, Sigurbjörg – who admits she has never seen elves but can "feel their energy, like a stream coming up from the earth" – talks of hidden worlds filled with dancing, feasts and religious sermons. "Many of the elves in the park are farmers," says Erla, passing a lamppost that is

A woman wearing a red knit hat and a red jacket with a blue and white patterned scarf is looking upwards with an expression of awe or surprise. She is standing in a rugged, rocky landscape with sparse vegetation. The background shows dark, jagged rock formations under a cloudy sky.

“During their time off, the elves have dances, they sing and they enjoy good company. They also go to church”



Hamarinn, where Valur Grettisson and his brother encountered an elf

marked with a cartoon elf. “During their time off, they have dances, they sing, and they enjoy good company. They also go to church.”

I put my ear to the Álfakirkja (elf church) – a large rock with a triangular opening – hoping to hear an organ or a priest giving mass, but I only hear the whistling of the wind and the crunch of autumn leaves. “There are so many things that are hard to explain,” says Sigurbjorg, noticing my disappointment. “People believe in God, but they don’t see him. To believe in elves is not a religion – it’s just believing there is more than meets the eye.”

After the park, we climb up to Hamarinn, a rocky cliff that overlooks the port town of Hafnarfjörður. According to Erla Stefansdottir’s Hidden Worlds map, this is home to “elven beings of royal

stock”, an angel “in purple hues” and “an energy vortex resembling a wheel”. It’s here that Valur Grettisson, editor-in-chief of *The Reykjavík Grapevine* and host of *Supernatural Iceland*, had an encounter with the elf world when he was four years old.

“I climbed up this cliff and I saw light coming out of a rock,” he says. “My brother, who was 8 years old, saw the same light and he was trying hard to get closer to it. Then I remembered that elves are not always good – they often take children – so I convinced him to get away. Later, in my early 20s, I asked my brother if he remembered what happened, and he said: ‘I have no idea what you’re talking about’”. But Valur has a very vivid memory of what he saw. “This is one of the few places you can see elves without having the ability to see what is hidden from you. This cliff definitely has some powers.”



ELF-HELP

The reason why Hafnarfjörður has the biggest concentration of elves in all of Iceland may be because it's protected by a guardian spirit, depicted here by elf-seer Erla Stefansdóttir. These protectors reach hundreds of metres high and are very beautiful and powerful.

“This is one of the few places you can see elves without having the ability to see what is hidden from you. This cliff definitely has some powers”



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The Laugarvatnsvellir flatland is home to a famous Álfakirkja

Sadly, there's no light beaming from the rock when I visit. As two local hikers walk past, I ask them if elves could live here. "No, of course not," one of them says, the other nodding in agreement. "I think tourists believe in them more than we do. I don't know any Icelanders who believe in elves." That said, they confess they wouldn't interfere with potential elf habitats. "I won't mess with fate if I don't have to," says one hiker. "There is so much we don't see. Anything is possible in Iceland."

The following day I visit the sight of another elf encounter. Just outside of Reykjavík is an important Álfakirkja where locals like Icelandic travel blogger Regína Hrönn Ragnarsdóttir says she heard voices coming from the rock.

"As I was approaching the elf church, I heard loud voices as if many people were talking," writes Regína in her blog

account. "I thought to myself that there must be a group of people visiting the elf church, although I hadn't seen anybody around. But as I stood by the elf church one minute later there was nobody around and it was completely silent again."

Black mountains, streaked with moss and topped with early winter snow, surround me as I cross Laugarvatnsvellir's grassy flatlands in the afternoon glow. But all I can hear is the crunch of my boots on the loose volcanic rock. The Álfakirkja – sitting alone in the middle of vast, flat plains – juts out of the ground like a cathedral in a desert. I put my ear to the black rock as I did in the park, but instead of elves talking or bells ringing I can only hear my own breath and the distant rumble of traffic on the highway. I remember Sigurbjörg telling me that meditation helps people connect with the elves – that I should "open my third



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ELF-HELP

Located 59km from Reykjavik on the Laugarvatnsvellir plains, this Álfakirkja (elf church) is a rock formation that not only looks like a cathedral but, legend has it, is a big congregation point for the hidden people. Mystery surrounds the towering, remote site with ramblers reporting hearing loud talking and singing as they approach the Álfakirkja, only for no-one to be there when they arrive. Others have said they've seen people walk towards the rock formation before disappearing. With all the strange goings on, locals try to be respectful and stay on the elves' good side by first asking their permission before visiting the church, and also promising not to make any loud noises during the visit.

eye". I close my eyes, clear my mind and put my hand to the church, hoping to feel a vibration or the beat of church music. But, Iceland's elves have eluded me once again.

As I leave Reykjavik to walk between the dramatic cliffs of Þingvellir National Park, scored into the earth between two tectonic plates, there's no denying that this country is magical and those who live here have a deeper connection with the natural world. If the ground beneath my feet can bubble and steam; if lava flows can freeze to look like cathedrals - there's plenty else we don't understand about this otherworldly place. The longer I'm in Iceland, I realise I've been chasing the wrong question. Whether elves exist, and whether Icelanders truly believe, isn't what matters - what matters is the stories we tell ourselves that give meaning to a place and help protect it.

✈ Wizz Air flies to Reykjavik



Writer Jess Vincent feels for vibrations at an Álfakirkja



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It's snow time

Another year, another opportunity to whip up the powder and carve your way down some of the best trails in Europe and beyond. But don't the usual options sometimes seem a bit, well, same old, same old? Read on for 20 of this year's top off-piste ideas

 Words by Sarah Warwick

 Illustrations by Jango Jim



1. Soar through the air like an eagle

On the slopes have you ever felt like you're flying through the air like a bird of prey? OK, maybe that's just us. But, even if your skills aren't quite up to scratch, in Grindelwald in Switzerland's Jungfrau region, you can glide through the air just like an eagle. First Glider is a zipline experience with a difference. Four would-be flyers are attached to a giant eagle-like parachute which glides 800m through the valley at a hair-raising 82kmph.

Jungfrau.ch

Wizz Air flies to Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg, Geneva

2. Try dog sledding... without the sled

Do you miss walking your dog while on holiday? In La Plagne, France you can swap your regular suburban traipsing for a snowy forest walk with a real husky by your side. The resort's new 'cani-rando' experience pairs you with a dog that normally pulls the resort sleds, for a stroll in snowshoes through the snowy forest. It's a more chilled (and less chilly) alternative to dog sledding, plus you get one-on-one time with some gorgeous blue-eyed doggos.

evolution2.com

Wizz Air flies to Lyon



3. Sunbathe afterwards

There are few places in the world where you can ski and sunbathe in one day – Cyprus is our pick, if you fancy clipping on ski boots after breakfast and slipping on your swimsuit after lunch. Take a trip to the Troodos – Mount Olympus resort in the Troodos mountains, before heading the hour's drive to the seaside town of Limassol in time for some lazy lounge time. mytroodos.com/skiing

Wizz Air flies to Larnaca



5. Shoot for the stars at this restaurant

Les 3 Vallées is home to more Michelin-starred restaurants than any other ski area in the world, with 20 stars awarded to 12 restaurants. The latest spot to join this lofty club is Restaurant Sylvestre at the Grandes Alpes Hotel in Courchevel 1850, after being awarded a Michelin-star in March 2022, a year after it opened. Expect dishes like lamb Savoyarde with amaranth, tonnato juice and black truffle, and beef broth with quince, butternut pumpkin and spices.

restaurantsylvestre.com

Wizz Air flies to Grenoble

PHOTOS: RESTAURANT SYLVESTRE; ADOBE STOCK

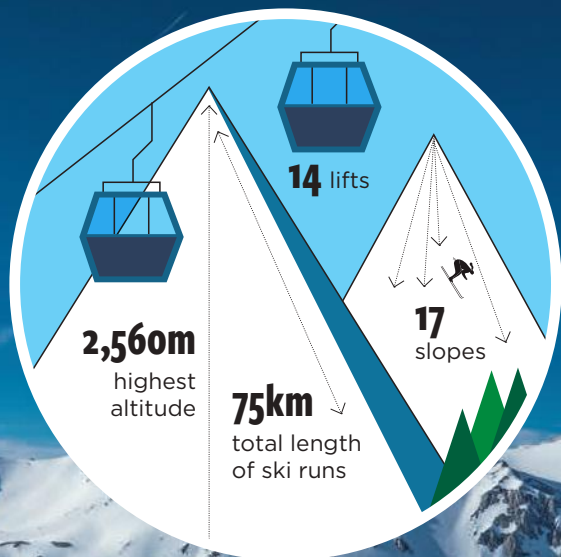
4. Go Uzbeki-skiing

If we say "the only ski resort in Uzbekistan", you might imagine a old brutalist concrete clubhouse. But Amirsoy – which Lonely Planet described as a "next-season St Moritz" – is anything but. Set in the Western Tian Shan mountains, a short hop from Tashkent, Amirsoy is the brainchild of billionaire businessman turned winter sports fanatic, Rashvan Abdullaev. Guests will find a luxurious and hip resort, complete with 11 ski trails, a hammam and spa, and tubing, snowmobiling and quad biking.

amirsoy.com

Wizz Air flies to Tashkent





6

Check out the most popular ski resort in the world

Did you guess Vail, Courchevel, Klosters...? Nope, it's none of these. According to a 2022 study of Google data by *money.co.uk*, more would-be-skiers from around Europe want to go to Bansko in Bulgaria than any other resort. Not heard of it? Well, this cobblestoned town's snow-sure slope scene combines good-value ski passes with year-round attractions and rousing après. We wouldn't have guessed it was the most popular, but the people have spoken (or Googled). [banskoski.com](https://www.banskoski.com)
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7

Take a tour in the dark

What do you do if your area has some of the best skiing in the world, but the sun only comes up for an hour a day? Ski in the dark, or at least that's what the folk in Alta, in Northern Norway do. Join Upguides for a seven-day trip in December (ask about other dates) and have the unique experience of ski touring in the Arctic Circle, with its eerie 'blue light', cut through by powerful head torch beams as you hike up virgin peaks and barrel across the powdery snowfields. upguides.com/en/trips/riders-in-the-dark

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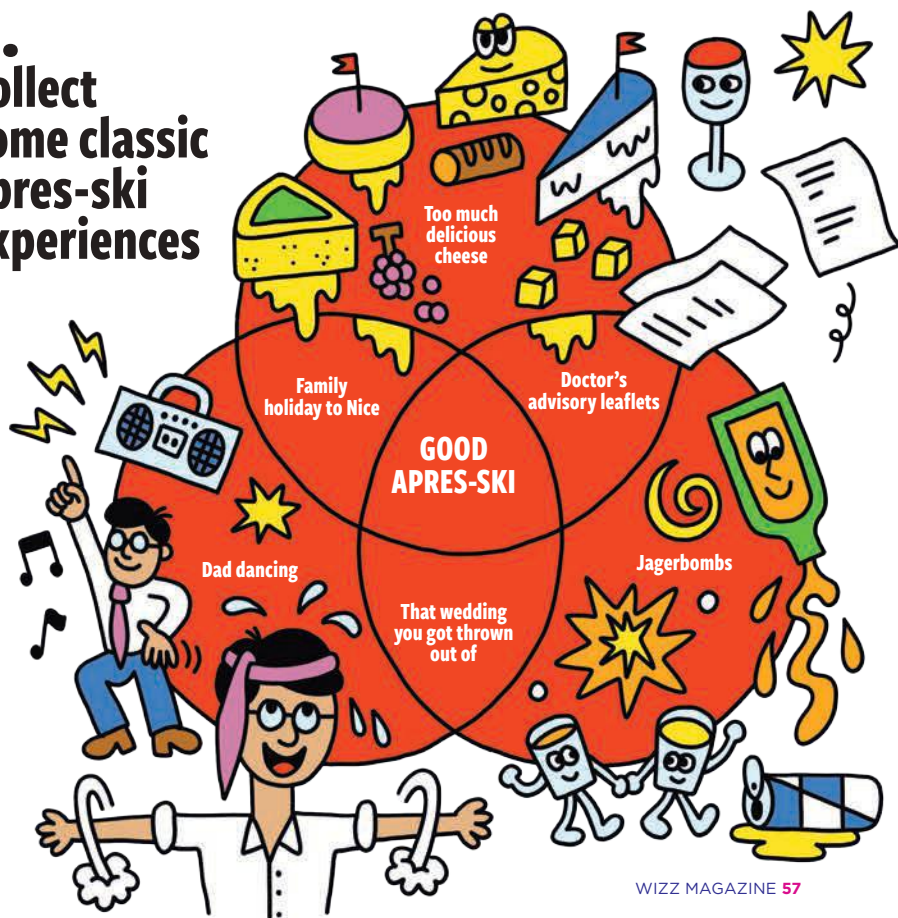


8. Hit the slopes in the UAE

Skiing in the desert might sound like a complete impossibility, but then the UAE likes to defy the laws of physics when it comes to tourist experiences (just check out the gyrocopters, flyboards and underwater jet skis). Ski Dubai is a ski resort in an indoor bubble, complete with slopes, bobsled run, rides and zorbing (rolling inside a plastic ball). Animal lovers may want to join the daily 'March of the Penguins' and get up close with the resident king and gentoo penguins, while kids from the age of three can learn from scratch with a five-day inclusive course. skidxb.com
Wizz Air flies to Dubai

PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK

9. Collect some classic apres-ski experiences



10. Go carbon neutral

Going green is a factor in every decision these days for many of us, and luckily there are now more low-carbon accommodation options available than ever before for every budget.



The minimalist, modern Das Gerlos boutique hotel in Tyrol, Austria, is 100% powered by renewable energy. Its scrumptious organic breakfasts and afternoon tea are included in the B&B rate. dasgerlos.com



Chamonix's Eco Lodge has had a total overhaul recently. You'll now find hot tubs, Sonos sound systems, and a glass-fronted sauna, all powered by its own renewable energy. Sleeps up to 10. firefly-collection.com



Laax in Switzerland is aiming to be the first energy self-sufficient ski resort. Modern rooms and apartments sleep up to eight. You can add maid service, breakfast buffet or gym/pool access as add-ons. rocksresort.com



11 Build your own house

The Iglu-Dorf Zermatt igloo village in Switzerland returns again this season, complete with ice restaurant, bar, and its two-berth igloo hotels. This time visitors are being invited to DIY their own igloo by day, before snuggling down under furs to see if it (and they) can survive a night at -20°C . Whether you make your own snow house or not, we recommend warming up with the bar's winning fondue and glühwein combo before getting into it. iglu-dorf.com
Wizz Air flies to Geneva



12. Pull out your best moves

Are you a ski trip addict? Well you might want to consider repeat trips to Les Arcs in France as legendary après-ski brand, La Folie Douce, has launched a “Pass Pas Sommeil”, giving unlimited access to 10 massive dance nights from 18 December to 9 April. With guest DJs for each event, it’s likely to be the kind of disco déjà vu worth repeat flying for.

lafoliedouce.com

Wizz Air flies to Grenoble and Lyon



14. Get kite confident

If you’re already a decent ski or snowboarder, why not take it to the next level with a beginners’ kite-skiing course in southern Norway? A recent addition to the winter-sports canon, the Scandinavian-born sport melds kite surfing and off-piste skiing for a sporting cocktail of swooping speeds and thrills. Head to Haukeliseter, in the Norwegian mountains for a weekend course that will take you from kite-novice to kite-confident, capable of taking to the slopes independently, if you dare. kitesurfing.no

Wizz Air flies to Oslo

PHOTOS: PEXELS, MAX MESTOUR AND AMELIE LOUVIS, PRESS/COPENHILL.

13. Have an urban ski adventure

Why shlep all the way to some mountains when you can ski right in the heart of a capital city? CopenHill is an artificial ski slope on the roof of Amager Bakke power plant in Denmark’s capital. Amager Bakke calls itself the “cleanest waste-to-energy power plant in the world”, and converts 440,000 tonnes of waste into clean energy each year. The views from the top of the tree-lined, 400m-long green slope are – as you might expect – spectacular. copenhill.dk/en

Wizz Air flies to Copenhagen



15. Learn to freestyle

If you watched the 2022 Winter Olympics with anything like the obsessive interest we did, you’ll have witnessed freestyle skiers floating in the air, while tackling huge jumps, verts and pipes. At Mayrhofen in Austria you can attempt to copy them at Vans Penken Park. mayrhofen.at

Wizz Air flies to Memmingen/Munich



16

Face your fears

The latest attraction at Swiss Glacier 3000 resort is one for experts only. Newly opened for the 2022-23 season, Cabane-Pillon is a black diamond run that makes our neck hairs jump up just thinking about it. A whopping 1,000 metres descent over three kilometres of piste on a 41-degree slope, with a 265m ski-through tunnel. Like we said: not one for the faint-hearted. glacier3000.ch

Wizz Air flies to Geneva



PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK



18. Strap on some algae

Skiwear hasn't always had the best environmental rap. Most products, from skis, to boots, to goggles have some hard plastic component, but things are starting to change with the launch of the first equipment made from algae. Wonder Alpine have launched the Intention 110 ski, made with a "composite of vertically laminated, domestically sourced aspen with high-density, algal polyurethane stringers" – meaning the plastic in the core doesn't use fossil fuels. They're apparently fab on backcountry powder. Win-win. Order your gear at wndr-alpine.com

17. Go ice-driving on a frozen lake

Ice driving at speed gives a whole new meaning to the concept of drifting. In Åre, northern Sweden, Below Zero allows you to zoom a Porche 911 around a lake-turned-to-ice in a specially customised car for these icy conditions. Studded tires make them (slightly) easier to control on the 12km of snowy track. But beginners through to experts will take the wheel next to an instructor offering helpful guidance on mastering the balance between throttle and steering on the super slippery surface. belowzeroicedriving.com
Wizz Air flies to Trondheim



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19. Keep warm

Everybody knows the best way to keep warm on a ski trip is alcohol (and plenty of it). Tick off all of these classic après-ski drinks and you'll keep the chill off until you get home

1. VIN CHAUD/GLÜHWEIN

The obvious choice but by no means boring, you can find it jam packed with fruit, jazzed up with sticks of cinnamon, or even spiked with a shot of rum or liqueur. Red wine haters are now catered for too. There are white wine, cherry wine or even bottled sparkling versions.

Find it: Everywhere

2. BOMBARDINO

The Italians' answer to eggnog, 'The Bomb' was, legend has it, invented in the northern region of Lombardy by a bartender from Genoa who warmed up his clientele with a trademark mix of milk, whiskey, and zabaglione (an egg-based custard).

Try it: Italy

3. JÄGERBOMB

A combined triumph over popular culture by three Central European nations, this drink – also known as the Flying Hirsch – is a blend of German

spirit (Jägermeister) and Austrian mixer (Red Bull), believed by some to have been invented at a ski resort on the Riederalp in Switzerland.

Try it: Anywhere – you'd be lucky to avoid it

4. EISWEIN

In English, Ice Wine, this delicacy is made in the German Rhine region from frozen grapes. The patience required to leave fruit on the vine until winter is rewarded with a deliciously sweet wine.

Try it: Germany and Hungary

5. DEMI-PECHE

While the British take the edge off a pint of lager with lemonade or lime, the French have a sweeter take on the shandy, dropping in a shot of peach syrup. It somehow tastes guilt free, even if you're tucking in before lunch.

Try it: In the French Alps



20

Cling on for dear life

If battling hand to hand against the elements is your thing, then there's no better sport than ice climbing. Clinging to sheer frozen walls with your crampons and ice axe will either make you feel like a god or turn to jelly. See which, on a one-day beginners' workshop in Valmalenco in the Italian Lombardy region. explore-share.com/trip/ice-climbing-day-workshop-valmalenco/ Wizz Air flies to Milan

PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK



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www.regiontatry.sk
www.enjoytatras.com





Sacre vert!

How Paris went vegan

Turning the home of foie gras into a vegetable-loving place was never going to be easy, but legendary chef Alain Ducasse and his cohorts are up for the challenge

 Words by Melissa Twigg



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Alain Ducasse and I are having a very French sort of conversation. Steak, he informs me with a knowing Gallic look, is terribly sexy. Too sexy, in fact, because it can taste overpowering and leave the chef without much freedom to add his own touch. Whereas vegetables are in dire need of a sensual touch – and Alain is just the man to give it to them.

“Making meals just from vegetables was the greatest challenge of my career,” says Alain. “Animal fat is filled with flavour so even an average chef can make a good piece of meat taste delicious. But vegetables need so much love and attention if they are going to be the star of your plate. They don’t start incredible; they require work to become that way. It is a long process but my God, the results are worth it.”

He’s not alone in his quest to sex up the tomato. For the benefit of our palates, our bodies and our planet, chefs all over Paris have been taking the provocative step of swapping meat for mushrooms and mangetout.

This striking shift towards all things green was started by Ducasse and his great rival, Alain Passard. In the last decade, both men won back their third Michelin stars for their respective Parisian restaurants. At Alain Ducasse’s Plaza Athénée and Passard’s L’Arpège meat was banished from the tasting menus and replaced with 10 world-class courses out of little more than truffles, radishes, beetroot and asparagus.

Alain Ducasse has since left the Plaza Athénée and set up his own vegetarian restaurant, Sapid – an affordable bistrot (starters cost around €9 and main courses €12) in the fashionable 10th arrondissement. It does a roaring trade with the lunch crowd and



Above Alain Ducasse has made a striking shift towards all things green in his culinary endeavours





offers a delicious menu that is 95% vegan. This is a surprising step from one of France's most famous luxury restaurateurs – but, then again, turning the home of foie gras and boeuf bourguignon into a vegetarian-friendly place to eat was always going to require stepping outside his comfort zone.

“It took a while, but these creative chefs changed the landscape, and suddenly there were vegetarian dishes on most menus and actual vegan restaurants,” says Christina Meyer, a French restaurant reviewer and television producer based in Paris. “Previously, when people ate vegetarian food in France, we thought: ‘Oh dear, they must be ill.’ But now we think: ‘Ah, they are being healthy, and they have seen the beauty in vegetables.’”

This must be a relief to the city's vegetarians, who were for decades stuck with goat's cheese salads and the occasional trip to the Rue des Rosiers for yet another falafel. They are still very much in the minority, but the needle is moving in their direction. While France is the European country with the highest beef and veal consumption per inhabitant, 24% of French people identify as flexitarian and are cutting back on meat, as per a 2020 IFOP poll.

The queue around the block for a pretty restaurant in the 9th arrondissement named Le Potager de Charlotte, meaning Charlotte's Vegetable Garden, is evidence that things are changing. It's not only vegetarian but vegan – which means more in France than it does elsewhere. That's because French cooking is all about butter, cream and eggs, and it takes real imagination to create a menu that is both traditional and deliciously indulgent without any of those staple ingredients. The result is rich mushroom gnocchi, vegetable chips dipped in thick egg-free mayonnaise, and lemon tart that inexplicably tastes buttery.

A short walk past the Musee de la Vie Romantique and the winding roads of Notre Dame de Lorette is Macéo – a restaurant that offers a wonderfully traditional dining experience with lugubrious waiters, mahogany tables and burgundy and white walls.



Top Corn cake with burnt corn at Sapid
Above Baked courgette with ricotta and sunflower seed
Right A mushroom dish at Charlotte's Vegetable Garden



“Creative chefs changed the landscape, suddenly there were vegetarian dishes on most menus”



“Food from the garden has become sensual and something to be treasured”



It also has a mostly plant-based menu and serves delicious aubergine and mushroom-based dishes with some of the best wine menus in the city – and was cited as the favourite restaurant of nearly every Parisian vegetarian I spoke to.

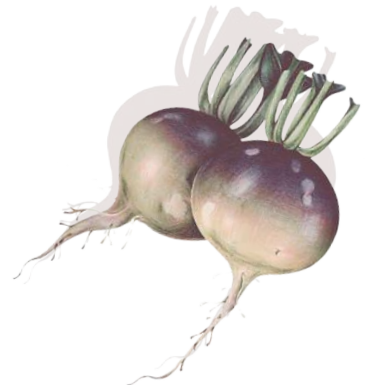
Even the croissants are benefiting from this shift, thanks to the mouth-watering vegan artisan pâtisserie, Land & Monkeys (named for the idealised version of Earth our ancestors lived on). I visited the original pistachio-coloured outpost in the 11th arrondissement and found it infused with the scent of sugar and filled with the sort of colourful delicacies we dream of in our desk-bound everyday lives. Violet macarons, pistachio cakes, lemon tarts and raspberry mille-feuille are laid out in meticulous rows, surrounded by an array of eclairs and babas au rhum (small cakes filled with whipped cream and liquor).

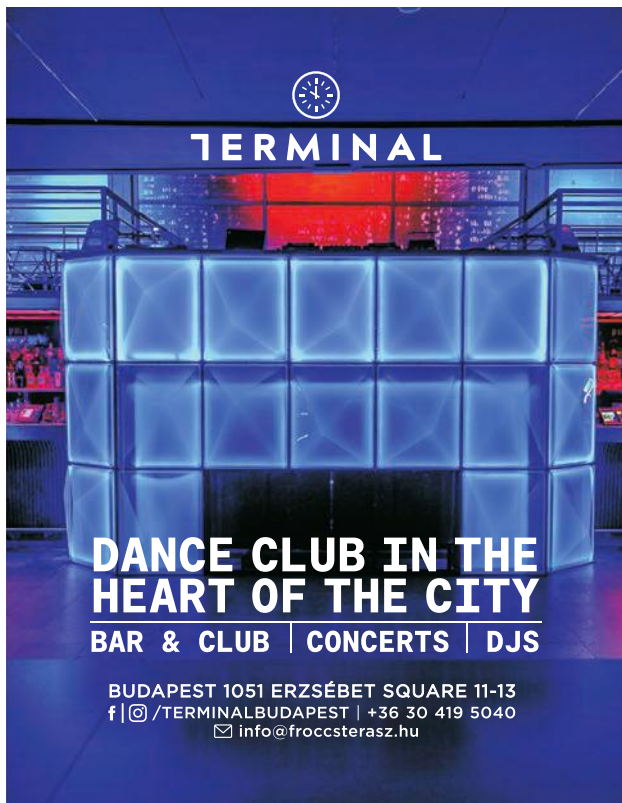
High-end pâtisseries dot the French capital but Land & Monkeys is one of very few that is entirely vegan. The brand (there are now six in various spots around Paris) was started by Rodolphe Landemaine, a classically trained pastry chef who grew up in Normandy and who worked his way through the city’s cut-throat pastry-making world only to declare himself the ultimate outsider when he went vegan. “People thought I had gone crazy,” he says. “Honestly, they looked at me and said: ‘The man is weird, he’s gone mad.’”


The solution was to open his own pâtisserie, which has proved a huge hit with the younger generation – many of whom are keen to move away from the dairy-guzzling of their elders. For Rodolphe, the biggest technical challenge was replacing eggs, but he has



Top left A tofu filling at Land & Monkeys
Left The pâtisserie’s butter-free cookies






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Left Alain Passard makes sure only the best vegetables land on your plate



done so by using a variety of innovative techniques including making vegetable proteins from potatoes and peas.

And although he himself is vegan, Rodolphe doesn't like to use that term in his marketing, largely because in France, the word vegan has negative associations after a series of protests against butchers and farmers. Instead, he uses *végétale* (which loosely translates as plant-based).

"A lot of people don't actually know this place is vegan," explains Christina. "It's clever - because in France the best way to get people to cut back on dairy is to get them to try the classics, find out it's all just as good when it's not made with animal products, and then introduce the issue of the environment. Here, taste always comes first."

Another solution is to turn growing vegetables into an art form. Alain Passard - of aforementioned L'Arpège - spends as much time at his farm on the outskirts of Paris as he does in his kitchen, passing his mornings testing the soil, checking on his roots and choosing which vegetables to send into Paris for the lunch service. His methods are dogmatically organic

and include old-fashioned touches such as horse-drawn ploughs to turn the soil, and ponds filled with frogs, which act as natural insecticides.

And his improvisational approach has taught his sous-chefs to start seeing the farm as an extension of the restaurant. "My kitchen knows the meal begins in the soil. Which means I certainly do not deserve all the praise for L'Arpège, none of us do," says Alain. "Nature did most of the hard work."

Alain Ducasse agrees. "Using locally sourced produce from the land is a new and growing trend in Paris, but it is one I have been thinking about for many years," he says. "Slowly, the city is transforming. In the past it was only our American visitors who would eat just vegetables. But everything is different now. Food from the garden has become sensual and something to be treasured."

While it might seem somewhat unfair that the French get to have the sexiest vegetables as well as everything else, being able to call a gastronomic trip to Paris a healthy option is certainly a cause for celebration.

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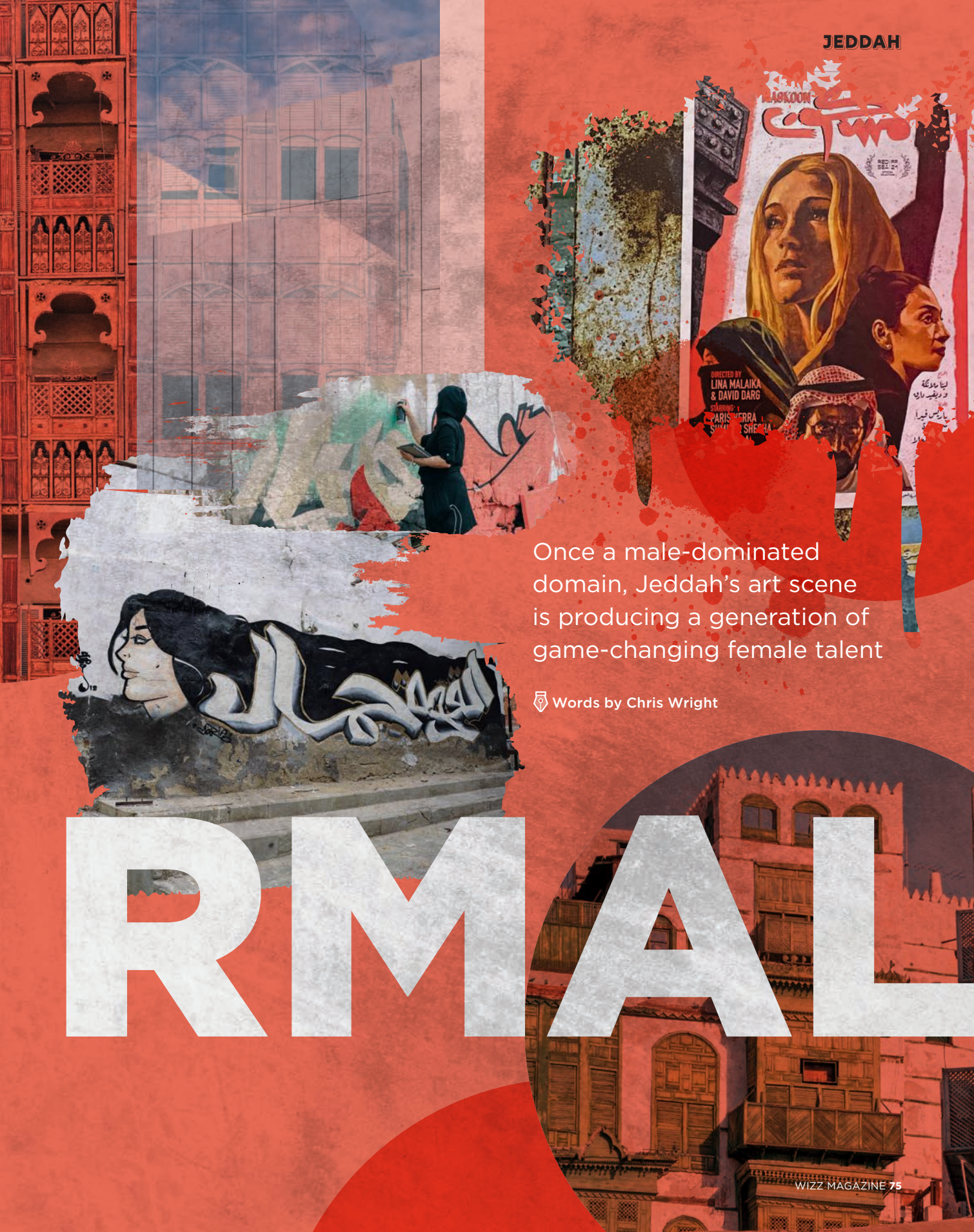
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THE NEW ABNO





Once a male-dominated domain, Jeddah's art scene is producing a generation of game-changing female talent

Words by Chris Wright

RMAL

When Saudi filmmaker Lina Malaika was scouting a location for *Maskoon*, a psychological thriller released in 2021, she didn't have to look far from home. "The film begins and ends in Al-Balad – every angle in the movie has the neighbourhood in it," she says, referring to Jeddah's glorious Old Town, a 7th-century shambles of coral stone houses, teetering balconies, intricately carved doors, and cluttered storefronts (the Old Town has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2014).

"You won't find an aesthetic like it anywhere else in the world. It's the perfect film set," Lina continues. "You could say that Al-Balad is the main character in the movie."

Lina, who grew up in Jeddah watching movies with her dad ("It was our bonding time") was especially pleased that *Maskoon* was an official selection at the Red Sea International Film Festival in 2021 and that the organisers selected her favourite neighbourhood as the venue. "They wanted the event to have a

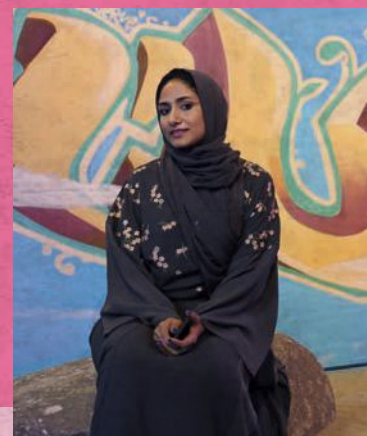
beautiful backdrop, so they chose Al-Balad," she says. "That was very cool for me."

Situated on the Red Sea coast in the Kingdom's western region, Jeddah is known for its fancy resorts, glitzy shopping malls, fine dining and scenic corniche, but the city could also lay claim to being one of the world's largest open-air art museums. "You see sculptures on roundabouts, in parks, on the streets," Lina says. "Head along the waterfront and you'll find them everywhere. From Henry Moore to Joan Miró – it was part of the urban planning here, having all these famous artists. I took it for granted when I was a kid, but it made its mark. Everything I have ever done has Jeddah in it."

Lina isn't alone in this regard. In recent decades, Jeddah has tended to foster home-grown talent rather than buying into global superstars. The city's cultural resurgence is also a result of Vision 2030, an ambitious initiative to diversify Saudi Arabia's economy, reform its society, and establish it as a tech powerhouse. The initiative also led to the establishment of a Ministry of Culture, whose stated

Opposite page Maryam Abushal at Dhad Store
Clockwise from below
Festival favourite *Maskoon*,
the Al-Balad neighbourhood,
director Lina Malaika





“I don’t think of art as gender specific”

aim is to promote “a flourishing of arts and culture” in the Kingdom.

Jeddah has been particularly receptive to this ambition, with the city’s ATHR gallery launching the celebrated AIUla gallery in Aljadidah, and local artists like Zahrah Al Ghamdi, who represented Saudi at the 2019 Venice Biennale, and Basma Al Sulaiman, founder of the Basma Al Sulaiman Museum of Contemporary Art, making their mark in the Kingdom and beyond. Jeddah’s art world is flourishing, in large part, due to the work of these women.

“I don’t think of art as gender specific,” says local digital artist Ameera Sheikh, “but of course Saudi Arabia has become more open, so women are more relaxed about showing themselves in this field.” This could certainly be said of Maryam Abushal, one of Saudi’s first female graffiti artists, whose work includes a mural of a smiling woman holding a steering wheel – a celebration of the 2017 royal decree granting women the right to drive.

Maryam is one of the many locals to have learned their craft at Dhad Store, a street-art supply store that hosts workshops and provides support to up-and-coming talent. She also stands as a shining example of local artists who have made the transition from underground struggler to mainstream success. Her work – which she describes as “busy and wild” – involves 3D renditions of Arabic script. And while you will see her creations on the streets of Jeddah, you may also find them in shops and restaurants, or on sneakers and shirts.

Along with helping to pay the rent, the commercial aspect of Maryam’s work allows her to repay the favour she received from Dhad Store’s founders more than a decade ago.

“I run workshops, and I hire artists to work with me on large projects,” she says. “I’m teaching the next generation, but it helps me, too – I give young graffiti artists work, they lend me their muscles. This is for the future.”

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Right Graffiti paying homage to female drivers

Below A young female artist spraying a fresh mural

Bottom The Hayy Jameel arts complex



“Until a few years ago, we didn’t really have a platform”

Ameera can still recall a time when getting your work shown as a young artist in Jeddah – let alone getting someone to pay for it – was the stuff of fantasy. “Until a few years ago, we didn’t really have a platform – we were a small community who supported each other,” she says. “Today, you have people designing game characters, drawing Manga comics, doing covers for board games or novels. Then you have digital artists like me, people doing large murals around the city, or making paintings for galleries. It is very exciting here right now – I feel grateful to be living in this time.”

If you were interested in joining the ranks of budding artists in Jeddah, you would have no trouble getting someone to show you the ropes. The city is home to a growing number of funky spaces – the Arty Café, Adar Art Hub, and RJ Design among them – where patrons can sip coffee while flexing their creative muscles in everything from pottery to tie-dyeing to painting rocks. “Go to Adar on a Saturday and you’ll see all these artists hanging out together,” says Ameera. “They’ve built a nice community there.”

On a larger scale, there are organisations like the new Hayy Jameel arts complex, which helps local creatives both develop and showcase their talents. Contemporary galleries are also cropping up at an impressive rate, with esteemed spaces like the





“It is very exciting - I feel grateful to be living in this time”



From left to right Hayy Jameel, the historic Al-Balad neighbourhood, artist Ameera Sheikh



ATHR being joined by the surprisingly edgy Saudi Art Council gallery at the Gold Moor Mall and pop-up shows at the city's King Abdullah University of Science and Technology. Then there are tiny venues like Brew92 café, whose walls bear murals from the celebrated French graffiti artist Zepha.

One of the hottest spots in Jeddah right now is the new Atelier LaVie, a modish “entertainment destination” on the city’s bustling King Abdulaziz Road. For Dhad Store general manager Basmah Khojah, however, the draw is not only due to the Atelier’s restaurants, shops, or even its state-of-the-art cinema. “There’s some really interesting large-scale street art in the surrounding area,” she says with enthusiasm. “Really interesting.”

Basmah describes the artists who hang out at Dhad as a kind of extended family. “We have regular gatherings with DJs, barbecues, skateboarding, break dancers. We enjoy our time together,” she says. Recently, Dhad built on these intimate get-togethers, launching a larger series of public events called Outline, which they plan to hold twice a year.

Even before Outline, Jeddah’s cultural calendar was getting busy. Along with the Red Sea Film Festival, the city hosts the 21,39 Jeddah Arts initiative, Jeddah Photo, the Shara Art & Design Fair, the Jeddah Art Promenade, and dozens of smaller gallery-run events. Those who make art here, though, look for inspiration in less obvious places. “I like the beach – it calms my mind,” says Maryam. “The Red Sea is also full of colour, the fish and the coral, so I get ideas from that.”

Ameera, for her part, enjoys wandering the alleys of Al-Balad. “They have these lovely doors, each with its own colour and texture,” she says. “I also like to get away from the city. I visited the site where they are building [the futuristic city] Neom. There wasn’t much there, but I fell in love with the nature, the mixture of desert and sea.” Ameera is also inspired by the Hayy Jameel arts complex – though not necessarily for the reasons you might expect. “Yes, they have these different galleries, exhibitions and workshops, but it’s not only about art,” she says. “They also teach things like gardening and beekeeping. It’s a lovely place.”

✈ **Wizz Air flies to Jeddah**



Discover a new beach city on the Mediterranean

Baroque buildings, white sand, clear waters and a deep connection to the art of ceramics... welcome to Castelló

The city of Castelló lies 80km north of Valencia in a privileged setting on the Mediterranean coast. It is one of three provincial capitals in the Autonomous Community of Valencia, which has 120km of coastline dotted with beautiful beaches to coves.

Thanks to its proximity to the coast and the influence of the sea, Castelló has a pleasant climate most of the year. In addition, there are good links by air, train and road. Castellón Airport offers frequent routes to the main national capitals and international destinations, and there is a high-speed train that connects Barcelona and Madrid in around two

and three hours respectively.

The foundation of Castelló's industrial, social and cultural evolution is thanks to its ceramics trade - which remains the largest and most important industry in Castellon Province. In April 2020, Castelló became the first Spanish city to be included in the European Route of Ceramics of the Council of Europe. One of 48 Cultural Routes, the Council aims to safeguard and educate the public on the heritage and social history of ceramics and its remarkable development.

Castelló's architectural heritage is rich and varied, including Valencian

Baroque buildings and unique construction like that seen in the Gothic Fadri Tower, built in the 15th century. The area also offers delicious cuisine made with locally grown produce, notable dishes include 'Arrocito de Castelló' (Castelló-style rice). The sea and nature are ever-present in daily life in the city. Castelló has three beaches with white sand and clear waters, which stretch for approximately 4km along the Mediterranean coast. Try watersports like sailing, jet-skiing or kayaking and then walk the promenades and people watch of an evening. Bliss.

castellonturismo.com



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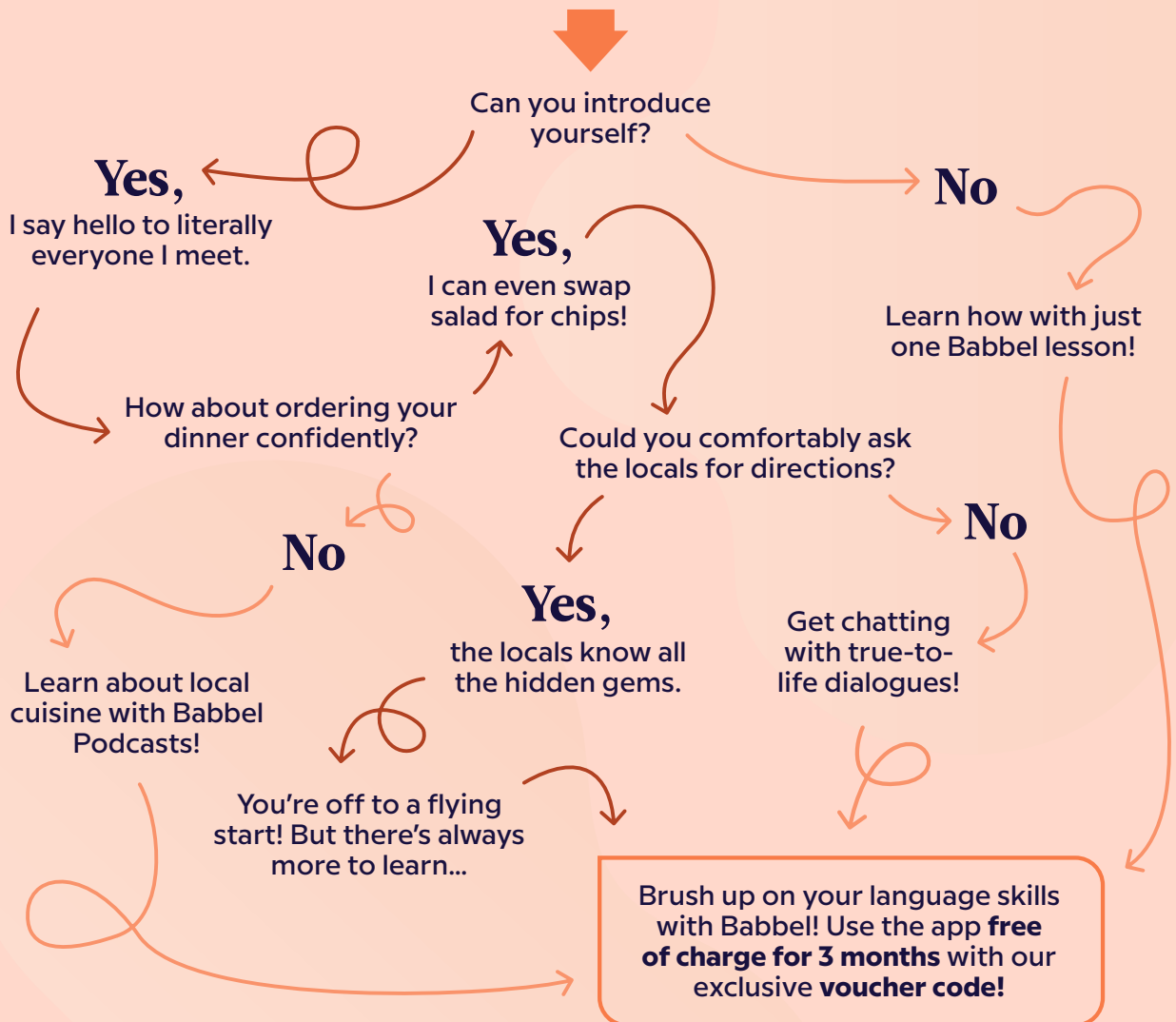
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People, places and things we love this season

in the **know**



The Eats
Where to have
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socialise
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THE EATS

Where to go for a great meal across the WIZZ network



Din Tai Fung London

Dumpling fans around Europe rejoice – the legendary Taiwanese restaurant’s latest outpost has opened at London’s Centre Point. The original eatery shot to global fame in 2010 when it was recognised by *The New York Times* as one of the “Top 10 gourmet restaurants in the world”.

There are already queues out the door at the new branch, which stays true to the dish the brand built its name on in Taiwan in the 1970s – steaming baskets of paper-thin Xiao Long Bao, handcrafted with surgical precision and featuring a minimum of 18 folds. When it comes to fillings, choose between traditional

crab and pork, truffle and pork, or classic chicken or beef. And don’t forget to delicately dunk each one in vinegar, soy sauce and ginger. To warm up for the feast of dumplings, work your way through a delectable array of side dishes, like a generous portion of original Shanghaiese drunken chicken or braised Sichuan sliced beef.

And the decor? East meets West with Din Tai Fung taking design inspiration from the swinging 60s when the Centre Point building was constructed, combining it with traditional Asian touches. It’s a case of two icons aligning for one unforgettable dining experience. dintai fung-uk.com



Sensa

Prague

One of Prague’s hottest openings in 2022 offers Asia-inspired fusion by chef Zdeněk Křížek. Dishes include octopus tentacles, scallop gyoza dumplings with truffle and orange ponzu sauce, Jerusalem artichoke served with potato chips, pistachios and port wine and king bream with yellow mango curry and pak choi. The menu changes with the seasons. sensabistro.com



Kafeteria August

Oslo

This new California-esque eatery in Norway’s capital serves simple, unfussy, paired-back food. Think scrumptuous breakfast platters with boiled eggs and fresh wholegrain bread, potato salad with anchovies and frisée lettuce, white asparagus with lumpfish roe in a buttery lemony sauce, and tangy beef tartare. Great food enjoyed in an artsy, earthy industrial space. Job done. kafeteriaaugust.no

PHOTOS RYAN SWENNEY



Cookies Cream Berlin

A fine-dining vegetarian eatery with a Michelin star should be enough to pique any discerning foodie's interest, right? But, in case you need more convincing – chef Stephan Hentschel and his team create bold flavours, and plate them so beautifully you almost don't want to eat them. Don't just have dinner at Cookies Cream, savour it – with either

five or seven courses, served with freshly harvested supplies from farmers in Krielow and Brandenburg in a hip industrial loft setting.

The tasting dishes – dubbed 'The Magnificent Seven' – include beetroot rose served with potato waffles and horse radish and house-made cornflake ice cream with currants for dessert. Or go for

one of the signature dishes, like the onsen egg yolk with seaweed caviar, the parmesan dumpling or Dim Sum that's delicious and then some. At the bar, mixologists "break the rules of flavor and taste", serving up three experimental concoctions, using key ingredients from the food menu. Who says vegetarian joints are boring? cookiescream.com

THE STAYS

The best places to rest your head across the WIZZ network



Stracta Hotel

Iceland

This welcoming family-owned hotel in Hella sits just off Route 1 - the gateway to Iceland's natural wonders, including geysers that shoot up 20 metres, towering waterfalls you can walk behind and Thórsstöf, the stunning land carpeted in green pleated valleys named after the Norse god Thor.

Stracta's 148 modern, minimalist rooms come with earthy tones and natural wood features. Choose from simple standards and studio rooms with kitchenettes to two bed apartments for the whole family, and deluxe suites with a private hot tub. Communal

hot tubs sit in the hotel garden, where you can gaze at views of the Eyjafjallajökull and Hekla volcanoes and, on clear dark nights, spy the northern lights. Guests can also request wake-up calls for when the aurora borealis appears. By day, the hotel helps visitors arrange self-guided trips to the otherworldly sights in the area. It also organises horse riding, hiking, kayaking tours, plus thrilling super-jeep, buggy and even helicopter experiences - for off-the-grid raw nature and bird's-eye views of the Land of Fire and Ice from above.

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Booking.com

Mövenpick Hotel Amman

Ok, Mövenpick Hotel Amman you had us at 'Chocolate Hour'. That's right, every afternoon at this lush Jordanian stay they serve up complimentary cocoa treats for a full 60 minutes. And it's just a taste of things to come at a hotel where they've perfected pampering their guests.

If you still fancy something sweet after your chocathon, head over to the Cappuccino Lounge for a coffee and expertly crafted piece of cake. Or, for something more substantial, try The Senate, an all-day dining restaurant with legendary buffets. Cocktail hour is covered by the Rumors Lounge where you can either perch

indoors at the pea-green tables of the Shisha Terrace or seek shelter from the sun under an umbrella outside on a deck that has panoramic views over Amman. If that belt is starting to feel a bit tight after too much food and drink, sweat it out at the hotel's sauna followed by a massage.

And the rooms? Well they're tranquillity itself – all muted tones, the softest of beds and floor-to-ceiling windows that allow you to gaze out, over the city. If you really feel like pushing the boat out the Presidential Suite on the top floor comes with its own Jacuzzi. Either way, indulgence is guaranteed at the Mövenpick.



The Sommerro

Oslo

Whether it's the art deco details, bespoke furniture or stunning tiled bathrooms, the suites at The Sommerro are sigh-inducingly lovely. Foodies are particularly well catered for here with no less than six restaurants – dishing up everything from new fusion flavours to tried-and-tested classics – competing for your custom. And the cherry on top? Eight treatment rooms to make you feel like a new person.



Mama Shelter

Belgrade

Are you the kind of person who gets bored out of their skull in a hotel? Then mosey on over to this Mama Shelter. Vibrant, fun and seriously quirky, the hotel has kaleidoscopic rooms with chess boards, superhero masks and big screen TVs. Then there's a rooftop area with foosball tables and a bar with DJs. With so much to do, you might have to remind yourself to go sightseeing.

THE DRINKS

Where to go for a strong cocktail across the WIZZ network



Bedrock Dubai

Sick of dingy sports pubs with sticky floors and bad beer? Dubai has just upped the ante when it comes to competitive drinking establishments. Bedrock is a sleek games-oriented socialising space – with natural woods, orange lighting, tall bars and comfy booths – that’s just opened at Dubai Marina’s Pier 7.

There are a grand total of 20 screens to watch live sports on, including a 200-inch screen, and the atmosphere during big tournaments is electric. When there’s no sport on, create your

own at one of five electronic dart boards, with digital scoring and game options. Meanwhile, players can compete on an indoor golf simulator featuring 50 of the world’s top courses. Solo swingers are free to practise their technique on the driving range simulator.

Crafted signature cocktails include the refreshing Bedrock G&S, with Bombay gin, cucumber and watermelon soda, rosemary, olive and orange bitters. Beer snobs will be pleased to know they pour BrewDog Punk IPA on tap.

bedrockdxb.ae

The Cut & Craft Leeds

Just opened in the city's Victoria Quarter, next to classic British brand The Ivy, this new cocktail bar is dripping in vintage glamour. Dating back to 1906, the building is shrouded in legend. It used to house the Collinson's Cafe tea blending and coffee roasting company, which regularly hosted violinist and Titanic band master Wallace Hartley before his fateful voyage (he famously led the band as the ship sank).

Roughly £1.2 million was invested in dressing The Cut & Craft's Leeds outpost, with its long hallways, rooms under high ceilings and modern chandeliers, bringing the space back to its former opulence. Drinking here in the circular bar, under a central dome skylight or in one of the

velvet nooks, is a wonderfully evocative experience. The cocktail list, meanwhile, is fun and inventive. The espresso martini flightboard has caramel, hazelnut and vanilla flavours while Paradise in Yorkshire mixes vodka with passionfruit, cranberry and apple. Or try a long list of classics including Moët spritzers.

thecutandcraft.co.uk/leeds



The Monkey Bar

Prague

It's easy to go bananas for this indoor and outdoor (heated tropical garden) bar in the hip Nové Město area of Prague. The vodka-based Mango Sticky Rice cocktail, comes in a rice-like bowl, with chopsticks and a sesame seed and mango garnish, while the Negroni uses the house Monkey 47 sloe gin as a base for a full-bodied flavour.

monkeybarprague.com



Sputnik Bar

Tel Aviv

This hidden casual and cool local spot is part of the 'retro-futurism' movement in the Israeli city. It has a big secret garden and excellent DJs playing in two rooms. 'Yakov' has hip-hop and pop sounds and 'Satellite' plays electronic music. Find it via a TLV Nights nightlife tour, which reveals the hippest secret local spots in the city. tlvnights.com

Why Kaunas should be your next winter break

Lithuania's second city is bursting with snowy festive fun, plus centuries of history, culture and architecture

From courtyards full of street art, halls of chamber music and art performances, to gloriously winter scenes ripe for snow-angel making, relaxing saunas, and historic homes of legendary artists – Kaunas' attractions can fill any weekend getaway itinerary this season.

Lithuania's second city, has much to offer travellers with a penchant for nature, architecture, art, history, design, music, food and beyond. All of the above, plus the element of surprise, make up the 'Kaunastic' formula. With the festive season in full swing, winter is the perfect time to make your own version of Kaunastic.

The city's rich history dates back to the 14th century, meaning endless discoveries await in the ancient old town with its narrow alleys. But this is just the beginning. Architecture lovers will learn how Kaunas became the temporary capital of Lithuania between the First and Second World Wars. It was during this period, that a dense network of modernist and art deco architecture was built. Today, urban heritage surrounded by lush nature is a vital part of the contemporary face of Kaunas.

The traditional Christmas season kicks off in Kaunas on the last weekend of November. One of the city's key symbols is the ever-changing Christmas tree installed in the Town Hall Square – previously it was built with 32 thousand plastic bottles and made it into the Guinness World Records as the largest plastic bottle sculpture ever. This year, the tree is inspired by



the work of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, Lithuania's beloved painter and classical composer.

After treating yourself to local delights in the city's Christmas market, embrace Kaunastic hospitality and tone your muscles at the city's numerous spa lounges or the Olympic-size swimming pool. It's

conveniently located right next to Žalgirio Arena, home of the basketball team, Žalgiris, known for selling-out Euroleague games with a lively audience of almost 15,000 spectators. Let's hope a win will wrap up your Kaunastic experience.

visit.kaunas.lt
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Best of POLAND

From sizzling restaurants to museums and the bars you'll want to be seen at, here's our round-up of the hottest places to enjoy around the network



WOOSABI GDAŃSK & WROCŁAW

+48 579 735 225
woosabi.pl

Woosabi is an urban oasis in the heart of Gdańsk, on Spichrzow Island. You'll instantly fall in love with its interior, filled with plants and good music.

A must-try is their signature dish, the Asian-steamed bao bun burgers with a variety of different fillings. They also serve Asian-inspired curry, noodle and rice bowls, excellent breakfasts and great drinks. It's a place

to relax, have a good time and enjoy good food.

And if you're visiting Wrocław, we have good news for you! You will find two more beautiful Woosabis here offering its signature tasty dishes and good vibes.



KRUTOY LOUNGE

Toruń: +48 511 017 799
Warszawa: +48 511 017 757
Gdańsk: +48 733 233 834

Check out Krutoy Lounge, the largest chain of cocktail bars and hookah lounges in Poland, with spots in Warsaw, Gdańsk and Toruń. Every central location has an elegant décor, both original cocktails and perfectly made classics, plus smoky hookahs. There is also a food menu in Warsaw.

Our lounges are a place for work, leisure or an escape from everyday struggles. Present your boarding pass to receive a welcome drink!



BUNKIER

+48 530 917 788
bunkierclub.pl

There's no better place for a party in Gdańsk than Bunkier. A nightclub located in an anti-aircraft shelter from World War II next to the Old Town.

This venue is really worth seeing because of the unusual, shocking but outstanding interior design! People from all over the world visit this historical place living its second life at night.

Planning city break during the end of the year? Think about welcoming 2023 at Bunkier New Year's Eve Black & White Party.





**CENTRUM PRASKIE
KONESER**

koneser.eu
[facebook.com/
CentrumPraskieKoneser](https://facebook.com/CentrumPraskieKoneser)

Centrum Praskie Koneser is a post-industrial, revitalised space in the heart of Warsaw's Praga-Północ district, in which everyone will fall in love – also during winter! In this former vodka factory you'll find the unique ice rink called "Praska Ślizgawka" available from early morning until late in the evening. It's absolutely must-see, especially at dusk when it is surrounded by a lot of fabulous lights.

Koneser is also a real hub of art where you'll discover the most famous Polish artists (e.g. Museum of Fantasy Arts and dozens of art galleries) as well



as history of the place (Polish Vodka Museum) and secrets of illusion (Magic Mind Museum).

Moreover, you can choose from unbelievably wide variety of flavours at bars, cafes and restaurants. Visit in "Koneser Grill" restaurant – the only Michelin's Guide recommendation owner from the right bank of the Vistula River – especially will be unforgettable experience!

**LEILA MEZZE &
LOUNGE**

+48 22 110 21 02
restauracjaleila.pl
ul. Żurawia 32/34, Warsaw

Do you dream of a Middle Eastern-style feast? Discover a real Jordanian restaurant in the heart of Warsaw!

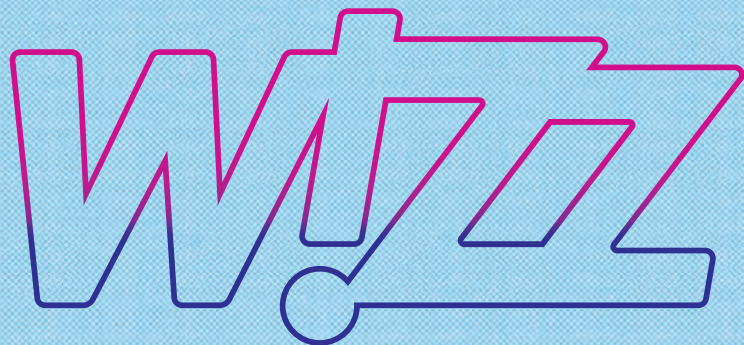
Leila Mezze & Lounge is famous for its excellent food, great cocktails, shisha and special events. Every weekend you can watch belly dancing, shows by phenomenal performers and have fun to the rhythms of excellent DJs.

At Leila, you will be treated to a mezze-style feast, with multiple sharing dishes and new flavours. Jordanian chef Ahmad has a lifetime of knowledge about food from this region, and knows mezze better than most.

Leila is an ideal place for business meals, family dinners or quick snacks. Taste, whet your appetite and don't be afraid of new flavours!

You'll come as a **guest**, you'll leave as a **friend**. Get a 10% discount with your boarding pass.





The WIZZ pages

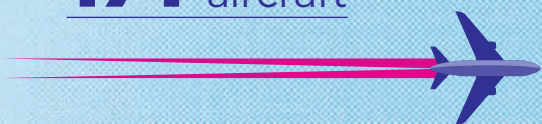
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53 countries

200 destinations

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new destinations

We never stop searching for new destinations – we fly to 200 places in 53 countries and counting – to add to your bucket list and make planning your next holiday a breeze.



DATA AS OF 1 DECEMBER 2022



news

Want to know where we're flying next, how to get the most out of your journey and what's new in the dynamic world of WIZZ? Then read on...



A taste of la dolce vita

How far we've come since we first started flying to Italy back in 2004! We are now the third largest airline in the country, and we're still continuing to expand.

We're adding three more A321neo aircraft to our bases in Rome Fiumicino and Milan

Malpensa, adding frequency on existing routes and unlocking travel opportunities to new destinations. Case in point? We have three exciting new routes this winter, from Milan to Yerevan and Marsa Alam in Egypt, as well as from Naples to Abu Dubai. Bellissimo!

Poland calling

This winter, Wizz Air will start new flights from London Luton to Poland. From 13 December there will be two flights a week to Bydgoszcz and Łódź. "Wizz Air is pleased to announce the launch of two routes to two new Wizz Air stations in Poland. Our growth at Luton reaffirms our commitment to offering passengers ultra-low fares to various exciting destinations," says Wizz Air UK Managing Director Marion Geoffroy.



Wizz
by
numbers



171
aircraft



200
destinations
in 53 countries



37
bases in
16 countries



1040+
routes



6,500+
staff



21.7m
passengers
carried*

*FIGURE FOR F2022

Roam around Romania

We are expanding in Romania! This September Wizz Air celebrated an impressive milestone – flying more than 25 million passengers to and from Bucharest. We are adding five new A321neo to our fleet, by December the number of Wizz Air planes at Bucharest airport will be 17. This new capacity means new routes to exciting destinations such as Prague, Athens and Larnaca from the Romanian capital.

We have also increased capacity across the country at Bacau, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi and Sibiu, with extra frequency on existing routes to destinations including London, Rome, Paris, Milan and Tel Aviv.



Say hello to Wizz Air Malta

In autumn 2022, we welcomed the newest subsidiary to the Wizz Air Group: Wizz Air Malta. Our fourth airline (alongside Wizz Air Hungary, Wizz Air UK and Wizz Air Abu Dhabi) took to the skies on 27 September, flying from Malta International Airport to Rome Fiumicino. “Malta’s economic and regulatory regime will enable Wizz Air to strengthen its position in the global market,” says Wizz Air President Robert Carey.

PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK

New routes

Abu Dhabi – Ankara, Dammam, Mattala (Sri Lanka), Naples

Athens – Tel Aviv, Tirana

Bucharest – Ancona, Athens, Larnaca, Leeds Bradford, Prague, Preveza-Aktion

Cardiff – Bucharest, Milan

Dammam – Budapest, Larnaca, Rome, Tirana

Jeddah – Bucharest, Budapest, Larnaca, Milan, Rome, Venice

London Luton – Bydgoszcz, Lodz, Marrakesh

Milan Malpensa – Marsa Alam, Skiathos, Yerevan

Riyadh – Bucharest, Budapest, Catania, Larnaca, Milan, Naples, Rome, Sofia, Venice

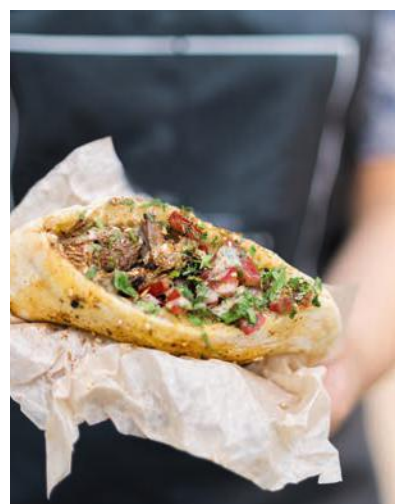
Rome Fiumicino – Barcelona, Eilat, Gothenburg, Ibiza, Kefalonia, Kos, Malaga, Menorca, Palma de Mallorca, Paris, Porto, Preveza-Aktion, Rhodes, Seville, Skiathos, Valencia

Vienna – Dammam, Eilat, Jeddah, Madeira, Riyadh



Where to next?

WIZZ now has routes to a host of exciting new destinations in sunny Saudi Arabia. Here are our top picks for a surprising winter city break



This sprawling port city on the Red Sea has long been a gateway for religious tourists, of course devout Muslims are obliged to make the pilgrimage to Mecca (an hour outside the city) once in their lives, but the area is also home to staggering architecture, fine shopping, desert activities and a sprawling coastline with good diving opportunities and an excellent dining scene.

One of the best places to start exploring is on the waterfront corniche, dotted with palm trees, artworks, restaurants, parks, hotels and mosques – regular concerts also take place here. Watch the hazy sunset on Al-Saif Beach, adjacent the corniche, or at one of the many popular beaches, including the luxurious Al Murjan

Beach or Alexandria Beach with calm-water swimming and waterfront cafés.

To escape the heat, do as the locals do and find sanctuary in an air-conditioned mall. There are more than two dozen to pick from, including the Mall of Arabia, for luxury and middle range brands, and the Red Sea Mall with indoor palm trees, international eateries, a cinema and a historic claim to fame – the former largest indoor water fountain in the world. Alandalus and Jeddah Boulevard are two other popular

choices for shopping, but for a local feel try the Al-Balad area, with traditional shops near Makkah Gate – selling everything from carpets to woven baskets.

Replenish your energy with seafood, fresh from the port, in the city's diverse restaurants. The marquee-style red and gold Al-Khayam restaurant serves locally spiced dishes fit for a Persian king or queen, while

Toki has fantastic Asian flavours, from Thailand and Malaysia to

China. Or why not fill up on shawarma or falafel at roadside joints.





Riyadh

Saudi's bustling cultural capital is more open-minded than other cities in the Kingdom. This is where to come to experience the nation's happening art scene, rich heritage and history. The clay and mudbrick fort of Al Masmak is a significant starting point, this is where King Abdulaziz bin Abdul Rahman Al Saud united the tribes in 1902, by reclaiming the fort (which was seized by a rival clan). A spear was fired at the doorway so hard it still remains lodged in it today. Inside are exhibitions, maps and historic photos from the early 20th century. From here, the National Museum is the next



logical place to visit – its engaging interactive displays dive deeper into Arabian history, culture and art. Take in the views of the sprawling city from one of its modern feats of architecture – a 24-metre-wide glass ball designed by British architect Norman Foster and suspended on the tower of Al Faisaliah Centre by the Saudi Binladin Group. Additionally, the Kingdom Centre, is another vision to behold, rising 302 metres into the sky with ultra-fast lifts that whizz passengers to the Sky Bridge on the 99th-floor at 180km/h. Souq Al Jamal, meanwhile, offers more traditional facets of local life. This camel market is where prized desert animals are paraded and traded to the highest bidder.



Dammam

The capital of the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia gets fewer tourists than Riyadh and Jeddah, but off-the-beaten track explorers can find empty attractions like the sleepy Marjan Island, a man-made archipelago on the Persian Gulf with coral-shaped islands, tranquil waters and plenty of restaurants and cafés. The Heritage Village nearby, housed in a five-floor old fort, is stuffed with dining options and historical artefacts including old manuscripts and antiques, but for a closer insight into local culture, rummage around the Alfelwah and Aljowharah Museum's 500,000 objects from the region, including a 500-year-old copy of the Quran. For thrills, head over to Cobra Entertainment City for rollercoasters and fairground attractions or explore the King Fahad Park, with its water features, manicured lawns and more than 100 species of trees and plants.



“Here at the OCC we have a little kerosene running through our veins”

The Operations Control Centre (OCC) team are the ones in charge of the complicated day-to-day logistics of running an airline. Mauro Aguiar Peneda tells us why he loves the toughest job in aviation

You're probably reading this from your plane seat dreaming of the adventures waiting for you at your destination, or the friends and family you're about to celebrate the holiday season with. What you're unlikely to be thinking about is where this plane has just been to before it picked you up, or why you're on this specific aircraft rather than the one that was at the gate next to you. Or whether your friendly cabin crew started their day knowing they'd take this very flight.

The planning that goes into this spider-web of detail is mind-boggling. Here at WIZZ, it's all down to the passionate Operations Control Centre (or OCC) team, headed up by Mauro Aguiar Peneda, Head of the OCC and Fuel Management. Mauro is Portuguese and joined WIZZ in Budapest this summer after being headhunted while in Brazil working for the largest airline group in South America. “When

I started the interview process I thought – wait a minute, there is something really interesting going on at Wizz Air. I immediately



knew I wanted to be part of it.” But, what is the OCC? And what exactly do they do? “OCC is the heart and brains of the airline,” says Mauro. “The company needs to decide where it wants to fly and how, plus what time flights will depart and arrive. And then on the day, you need to execute this plan. But then you need to work out which specific aircraft is going to fly from A to B, where it's going to next, who will be the crew on the flight.” Of course, that's if everything goes to plan. And, let's

face it, over the past two-and-a-half years the airline industry has faced more challenges than most. The OCC team has to deal with an ever-changing landscape – problems with aircraft, stormy weather, Air Traffic Control strikes, volcano eruptions or power outages at airports. Whatever is thrown at them, they have to do their utmost to keep flights as close to on-time – and safe – as possible.

But who are the OCC team?

“The duty managers are the maestros of our orchestra,” explains Mauro. “These are the people who will tactically decide to swap an aircraft if one has a maintenance issue and cannot fly. And they have to take those difficult decisions of delaying, rescheduling or cancelling a flight.”

Flight dispatchers are in charge of submitting the flight plan – the route, how fast the plane will fly and how much fuel they'll carry on board. And the Maintenance Control Centre reports back on the health of planes, checking on every element – from issues with a specific seat which means it can't be used, to problems that



mean that an aircraft can't fly (and a spare – or rerouted – plane is needed).

The OCC checks every tiny element of the flight, too. "Crew are rostered into flights," says Mauro. "But, there are legal limits to how many hours a crew member can fly. If their night flight was delayed yesterday, they may need to rest and we'll need to find someone else. Or maybe they slipped in the shower, or sprained their ankle, or got stuck in traffic and can't take the flight. We need to rebuild the puzzle constantly.

"We tend to work on a 72-hour horizon," he continues. "I have teams looking simultaneously into what's going on now and the repercussions for the next day, trying to anticipate issues and provide quick solutions. I know, from a passenger's point of view, it seems like there's this cold machine that impacts their lives. We know a cancelled flight can affect 200 people. We try to be as customer-centric as possible, but if I don't cancel this specific flight, maybe I will need to cancel five other ones further down the line."

Wizz Air has more than 40 bases and 171 aircraft. That means on any given day there are around 800 WIZZ flights across Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Each aircraft will fly between four to eight flights. Duty managers work on shifts so there are eyes across the entire fleet 24/7. "Even though we have an aggressive technology portfolio, our people are absolutely invaluable," Mauro says. "They are the ones connecting the dots, which are difficult to connect, and no system can do it like they can. Just like pilots and cabin crew, there is no foreseeable future of replacing human beings taking these tough decisions.

"You need to be creative to do this, and be very passionate about this business. We all say that we have a little kerosene running through our veins, because that's what it takes! We love to celebrate the little victories – that one crazy idea that means thousands of people can reach their destination and meet their relatives who they haven't seen in a year. That makes the job unbelievably rewarding."

Born to run

Here at Wizz Air we believe that lacing up your trainers and exploring on foot is the best way to experience a city. And that's why we sponsor seven major running events across Europe, including half marathons in Bucharest, Budapest, Cluj-Napoca and Cardiff, as well as full marathons in Skopje and Sofia. Looking for a reason to kick-start your fitness for 2023? Check out more information about our events and how to apply at wizzair.com/en-gb/information-and-services/about-us/wizzrunning. We'll see you at the start line!



Fly in the most sustainable way

We launched Wizz Air with the strong belief that air travel should not be a privilege. That we will create a world of opportunity for all through affordable travel. And we are delivering on that promise.

And while we gave the freedom to travel to more and more people, we have also proven that growth and sustainability can be achieved hand in hand. While breaking down barriers between people and air travel, we've also shown a whole industry how aviation can be more sustainable.

Crucial business model and design decisions, from pricing to seat density, make sure we fly with high-load factors. We've never even thought about business-class seats. Or a hub-and-spoke model. Or substituting short train rides for flights. We've instead focused on flying with the youngest, most efficient fleet and the most modern engines possible, to consume less fuel.

This all delivers the lowest CO₂ emissions per passenger kilometre in the industry, beating not just legacy carriers, but also low-cost airlines operating in a similar way to us.

A plane will never be greener than a train or an electric vehicle.

But we are and will be the greenest choice of flying. Because when it comes to a crucial issue like sustainability, we believe in the facts of today. Not promises of the future.

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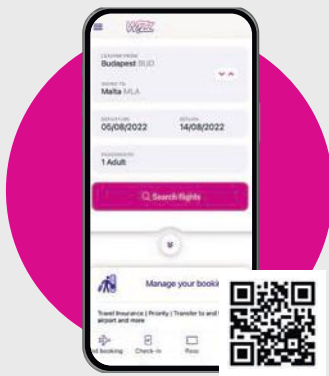
NEW!

Our 26kg bag

We now have a 26kg checked-in bag option. Upgrade from 20kg to 26kg on a WIZZ Go ticket, or add the bag separately. You can travel with up to six 26kg bags (per passenger) in the hold. Max. 149 x 119 x 171 cm



The right fare for you



Download our app!

Booking cheap flights is now even easier. Use our app to buy WIZZ Discount Club membership, review bookings, add baggage, upgrade, choose or change seats, get travel insurance, check in, check your flight status and board.

		BASIC	WIZZ GO	WIZZ PLUS
BAGS	Carry-on bag 40x30x20cm	✓	✓	✓
	Trolley bag 55x40x23cm		✓	✓
	20 kg checked-in bag		✓	
	32 kg checked-in bag			✓
SEATS	Seat selection		✓	
	Premium seat selection			✓
CHECK-IN	Online check-in	✓	✓	✓
	Airport check-in		✓	✓
	Priority check-in		✓	✓
	Auto check-in			✓
BOARDING	Priority Boarding		✓	✓
FLEXIBILITY	WIZZ Flex			✓
	Refund to WIZZ account			✓

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one companion



Ticket
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You can secure the fare of your selected tickets for 48 hours before you complete your booking for bookings made more than seven days prior to the outbound flight's departure date.

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You can modify your tickets (including passenger name) without paying a flight change fee, or cancel your flight and request a full refund (additional services will not be refunded) to your WIZZ account, which can be used for 90 days to purchase new tickets.

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Our travel insurance now includes medical expenses and cancellation cover following COVID-19 infection. Just add the insurance to your basket together with your flights.

Flexible travel partner

Create a new reservation without providing each passenger's name at the time of booking.



On the ground

Car rental

Book your flights and car rental in one easy step. Just add your car rental to your basket together with your flights. Get attractive discounts and enjoy our WIZZ credit back promotions.

Airport parking

Our long-standing partner ParkVia offers great prices and availability for airport parking across Europe, with fast and easy booking and significant savings, whether you're travelling for business or pleasure. Book online at wizzparking.com.

WIZZ Ride

Book your taxi in one easy step from your WIZZ App. You can benefit from great discounts for your private transfer even upon arrival to your destination with our partner Cartrawler.



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If you have our Italy Discount Club membership, you can enjoy premium discounts on domestic flights during your membership.

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Benefits include:



Ticket discount**



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- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Consultation and trichoscopic examination | 2 Qualification for the procedure | 3 Preparatory guidelines provided to qualified candidates |
| 4 Procedure performed: graft extraction (FUE) and implantation | 5 Post-procedure guidelines provided | 6 Post-operative care |

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Our fleet





Younger, greener and growing

Wizz Air has a single-type fleet of 171 aircraft from the Airbus A320 family. It's among the youngest and most efficient in Europe – and the safest. Our planes already have

sophisticated safety equipment and, by 2030, we will have 500 aircraft. We're also the most sustainable airline in Europe – our neo airliners feature advanced systems and engines that





reduce our carbon footprint, as well as noise and cost, helping us keep fares low and accessible so everyone can fly with one of Europe's safest and greenest airlines.

Airbus A320ceo

-  **Max. cruise speed** 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h
-  **Wingspan** 35.8m (117ft 5in)
-  **Number of aircraft*** 50
-  **Seat capacity** 180/186
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 4







Airbus A321ceo

-  **Max. cruise speed** 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h
-  **Wingspan** 35.8m (117ft 5in)
-  **Number of aircraft*** 41
-  **Seat capacity** 230
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 5







Airbus A320neo

-  **Max. cruise speed** 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h
-  **Wingspan** 35.8m (117ft 5in)
-  **Number of aircraft*** 6
-  **Seat capacity** 186
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 4



Airbus A321neo

-  **Max. cruise speed** 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h
-  **Wingspan** 35.8m (117ft 5in)
-  **Number of aircraft*** 74
-  **Seat capacity** 239
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 5



Top marks for safety

Wizz Air is registered under the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Operational Safety Audit (IOSA), the global benchmark in airline safety recognition. Wizz Air has also been awarded the **highest seven-star safety ranking** from the world's only one-stop airline safety and product rating agency, **AirlineRatings.com**

*DATA AS OF 1 DECEMBER 2022

Your onboard safety

Please show consideration for fellow passengers and pay attention to the following information. Remember that by purchasing your Wizz Air ticket, you have accepted the Wizz Air General Conditions of Carriage (available in full at wizzair.com)



Safe handling of hand luggage

Ensure hand luggage remains safely stowed in the locker or under the seat in front of you for takeoff, landing, and at any time as instructed by the crew. Passengers seated in the emergency rows and first row must store their cabin bags in the overhead lockers. Take care when opening lockers, as falling items may injure fellow passengers.

In case of evacuation, all baggage must be left on board and the instructions of the cabin crew must be strictly followed.



Safety equipment

It is an offence to tamper with or remove safety equipment, including adult and infant life vests, infant safety belts or extension belts. You are not allowed to remove or damage any onboard informative placards.



Sharp items

To dispose of any sharp items (e.g. hypodermic needles), please contact a cabin crew member. Do not leave your needle or syringe behind.



Turbulence management

Turbulence can occur unexpectedly. Whenever seatbelt signs are switched on, remain seated, keep seatbelts fastened, and stow away large electronic devices.



Safety of infants on board

Wizz Air has a clear procedure for infant (a child under two) restraint systems. You can only use the single hook infant seatbelt - vests/slings cannot be used with the infant seatbelt. Wizz Air only accepts aft-facing car seats when an extra seat is purchased. **However, during take-off and landing, and whenever the seatbelt sign is switched on, infants should sit on an adult's lap with the seatbelt fastened.** Life vests for infants are available and are provided whenever flying over water. All lavatories are equipped with a changing table. Do not leave children unattended in the cabin.



Lithium batteries

Portable electronic devices (PED) such as phones, laptops and tablets can contain lithium batteries. When damaged, faulty or overheated, these batteries can catch fire and explode. **If you recognise any issues with your device, inform the cabin crew immediately.**



Electronic devices

Some electronic devices can be used during the flight with **WLAN/Wi-Fi/Bluetooth turned off.**

Larger electronic devices that cannot be held comfortably in one hand, exceed ca. 1kg in weight and do not qualify as handheld devices (e.g. laptops, notebooks etc.) must be stowed in the overhead stowage compartments for takeoff, landing and whenever required by the cabin crew. **If in doubt, please ask your cabin crew.**

Inflight health tips

Read these tips on how to stay fit when travelling.



Before your air travel

Consult your doctor before travelling if you have any medical concerns. Pregnant women and those with heart or respiratory problems, blood diseases or ear, nose and sinus infections should seek medical advice before flying. **Crew members are entitled to call for medical assistance pre-flight if they deem it necessary and are in doubt about your fitness for the flight.**



Medical supplies on board

Keep any medication you may need in your hand luggage and in its original packaging. **Inform cabin crew of allergies or illnesses.** If you are seriously ill or travelling post-surgery, you will need a medical certificate confirming that you are fit to fly. If you have limited mobility, are hearing- or sight-impaired, pregnant, or unable to understand/react to safety instructions, you will be unable to sit in the emergency exit rows or the front row.

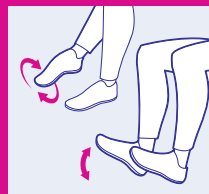
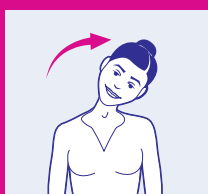
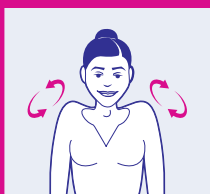


Nut allergy

During our WIZZ Café service we offer peanuts and some snacks containing peanuts/nuts traces. **We strongly encourage those with allergies to take all necessary medical precautions before flying and inform the cabin crew during boarding about your allergy.**

If you start to feel unwell during the flight, do not hesitate to talk to the cabin crew.

Exercise Be as active as possible. Try the following routine every 30 minutes:



Your security

...is one of our top priorities. To ensure a smooth and pleasant flight, please read the following rules of conduct

Please do...

- Always follow crew instructions
- Respect the crew and other passengers
- Behave in an appropriate manner
- Stay calm and cooperative
- Consider wearing a face mask, ensuring it covers your nose and mouth while on board

...so you can:

- Travel in a nice, pleasant and peaceful atmosphere
- Relax on board
- Get to your destination as soon as possible

Do not...

- Smoke on board (including classic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, pipes, vapers)
- Put e-cigarettes in your checked-in bags or charge them on board
- Breach, or refuse to follow, crew instructions
- Harass in any way fellow passengers and/or crew members (including sexual harassment)
- Threaten or be aggressive towards fellow passengers and/or crew members
- Be violent or behave in a hostile, erratic manner
- Damage the aircraft or onboard equipment
- Waste, pollute or contaminate the cabin in any way
- Endanger the safety of the flight by any means
- Consume alcohol that was not purchased on board. Alcohol is served at the crew's discretion to passengers of legal drinking age. The crew reserves the right to stop serving alcohol to any passenger who is, or appears to be, intoxicated
- Be under the influence of drugs or medical substances that may affect your behaviour or self-control
- Film or photograph the cabin crew without their permission

...or face the consequences:

- You are fully responsible and accountable for your behaviour. Unruly or disruptive behaviour on board and before boarding will not be tolerated and will be reported to the authorities. You will be held legally and financially responsible in all cases.

The following consequences* will occur for such misconduct:

- Denied boarding
- Penalty/fine or arrest by local police:
 - Smoking on board, including lavatory: up to €3,000*
 - Unruly behaviour due to intoxication: up to €5,000 and two years in prison*
 - Endangering the safety of an aircraft: up to five years in prison*
- Diversion of flight and arrest
- Reimbursement of cost of diversion: €10,000–€80,000*
- Criminal procedure and court litigation*
- Cancellation of all of your existing Wizz Air flight bookings
- A ban from Wizz Air flights in the future

*Subject to applicable jurisdiction

For more information, please refer to the **General Conditions of Carriage on wizzair.com**

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a 2022.08.01. - 2023.01.31. között újonnan igényelt Wizz Air hitelkártya főkártya esetén.
A THM 375.000 Ft-ra és 12 hónap futamidőre került meghatározásra.

Jelen tájékoztatás nem teljes körű, és nem minősül ajánlattételnek. A 10 000 pontot a Bank a 2022. 10. 01. és 2023. 03. 31. között újonnan igényelt és jóváhagyott Wizz Air Hitelkártya főkártya igénylések esetén biztosítja, abban az esetben, ha a főkártyabirtokos a Hitelkártya igénylőlapon mobil telefonszámot és e-mail címet ad meg, annak érdekében, hogy az Erste Bank ezen megadott elérhetőségekre, termékeire és szolgáltatásaira vonatkozóan megkeresse telefonon, SMS-ben, e-mailen, Internetbanki és mobilalkalmazási szolgáltatáson, illetve a Wizz Air honlapján regisztrált és rögzítette a Wizz számlaszámát vagy e-mail címét az Internetbanki szolgáltatásban a Wizz Air Hitelkártya főkártya jóváhagyástól számított 60 napon belül, valamint legalább egy alkalommal egy tranzakciót végez a kártyával a kártya Bank általi jóváhagyását követően szintén 60 napon belül. Ezen időszak alatt a vásárlási tranzakciónak könyvelésre kell kerülnie. A Wizz Air Hitelkártya főkártya elsőként küldött kártyakísérő levelének dátuma minősül a Wizz Air Hitelkártya jóváhagyásának. Amennyiben az akció keretében igényelt Wizz Air Hitelkártyát a Főkártyabirtokos annak kibocsátásától számított 12 hónapon belül megszünteti, a Bank jogosult a 10 000 pont megvonására akként, hogy 10 000 forinttal a Főkártyabirtokos hitelszámláját megterhelje. Üdvözlő pontok jóváírása – az előzőekben szereplő feltétel teljesítése esetén a vásárlási tranzakció könyvelését követő három héten belül kerül sor. Társkártya igénylése esetén a Bank nem biztosít Üdvözlő pontokat. Az Üdvözlő pontokra vonatkozó kiegészítő rendelkezéseket – a hitelkártya számla megszüntetése esetére – a Wizz Air Kártyák Pontgyűjtő Feltételei tartalmazzák. A részletes kondíciókat és szerződéses feltételeket az Erste Bank mindenkor hatályos Lakossági Hitelkártya ÁSZF-je és a Lakossági Hitel Hirdetmény, a Wizz Air Kártyák Pontgyűjtő Feltételei tartalmazzák. Ezek a dokumentumok megtalálhatóak a bankfiókokban és a www.erstebank.hu címen. Wizz Air Hitelkártyák esetén a Főkártyabirtokos a Pontgyűjtési Alap összegével megegyező összértékű vásárlási tranzakció után jogosult pontok gyűjtésére, amelyben a társkártyával történt vásárlások is beleszámítanak. A Teljes Hiteledj Mutató (THM) meghatározása az aktuális feltételek, illetve a hatályos jogszabályok figyelembevételével történik, a feltételek és a jogszabály változása esetén mértéke módosulhat.

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