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### "This autumn we're building on our huge expansion"

Hello, and thank you for choosing to fly with Wizz Air today. It is my pleasure to welcome you on board. As the summer season draws to a close, we hope you made as many long-lasting memories as we did here at Wizz Air.

Despite a challenging time for the travel industry, we celebrated our most diverse summer schedule ever, with huge expansion across Europe, the Middle East and beyond. We carried a record-breaking number of passengers this summer, hit a new milestone with our fleet (we now have more than 160 aircraft), and we yet again reconfirmed our position as the industry leader on sustainability. Our emission levels for this summer are expected to be 10% lower than 2020, meaning we're making strong progress towards our goal of a 25% reduction by 2030 (compared to 2020).

And the end of this year is set to be just as exciting. In the UK, we're building on the expansion from our London Gatwick base with five new routes, including flights to Agadir and Verona, and at London Luton we have four new routes to Tallinn, Prague, Hurghada and Sharm El Sheikh. Passengers in Italy will also be able to enjoy new opportunities as we launch flights from Venice to Amman, Ancona to Bucharest, Verona to London Gatwick and Perugia to Cluj-Napoca.

Further east, we now offer 23 new routes to three cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Dammam, Jeddah and Riyadh), and in October we launch a route from Abu Dhabi to Kuwait. But here's one for your bucket list: Wizz Air now flies to the Maldives, an archipelago nation that was voted the World's Leading Destination in 2021 by the World Travel Awards thanks to its postcard-perfect beaches and idyllic resorts.

So, whether you're looking for a cultural city break or a holiday of a lifetime, we've got you covered. No matter where you are heading today, I and everybody at Wizz Air wish you a safe journey.

**József Váradi**Chief Executive Officer



#### Our enhanced health and safety measures



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#### **Editor's letter**

Being a child of the early 90s, rollerskating was something I threw myself into with the unmatchable passion of a pre-teenager. I'd rollerskate around the park, head to Saturday night roller discos with my friends, practice (and mainly fail at) jumps and tricks on the pavement outside our house. And like so many childhood fads, I haven't laced up my skates for a couple of decades (and even if I could find them, they definitely wouldn't fit!). But our cover feature is inspiring me to think about skating again. Vienna is enjoying a huge rollerskating revival, with community meet-ups and discos, and it's the home of Austria's popular Vienna Roller Derby league. Read more on p32.

We've got a story about another childhood icon on p44, as we head to the home of Lego: Billund. If these both sound a little too high energy for you, how about a story about going slow on Venice's north lagoon (p60)? Or tips on the top 10 things to do in Dammam (p70)? Or maybe you just want to cosy up and taste some of the best cakes, biscuits and desserts from Romania and beyond (p52)? Wherever you're travelling to this month, I hope you enjoy every second.

Claire Köksal, Editor



#### **HOW TO CONTACT WIZZ AIR**

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### Walk on a diamond bridge

in Georgia

Hanging out at a shiny new bar takes on a whole new meaning at the Dashbashi Canyon. Here, dangling 280m above the ground, you'll find Georgia's most eye-catching new attraction - a glass watering hole suspended from a 240m 'diamond bridge'. The bar, which has several levels, is located at the apex of the crossing, with developers hoping their 'crown jewel' will make it into the Guinness Book of Records as the highest venue suspended from a bridge. Those who have a head for heights can cycle alongside the bar on a zip wire suspended over the canyon.

★ Wizz Air flies to Kutaisi



Get your binoculars out

in **Bourgas** 

Even if you're not a keen twitcher, the sight of 170,000 birds gathering in one spot during their autumn migration is pretty spectacular. Bulgaria is already one of the world's most bird-rich nations (with over 400 common species), but each October Bourgas Bay becomes a heaving hotspot for pink and white pelicans, storks, harriers, sparrowhawks and lesser-spotted eagles all arriving along Via Pontica, Europe's second largest migratory flyway. "The migration is a performance, attracting birdwatchers from all over the world each year," say the experts at Penguin Travel, who offer an eight-day tour of the theatrics. "The Black Sea coastal wetlands provide the best conditions for watching thousands of migrants." penguintravel.com







PHOTOS: 2021 NETELIX, SM ENTERTAINMENT, SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, JASON DECROW, INVISION, AP, SHUTTERSTOCK, JIHOON JUNG, DARCYGOM, SAMSUNG INNOVATION MUSEUM



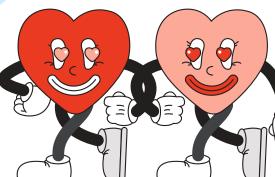
### Visit the Boy King

in Luxor

It's 100 years since the tomb of Tutankhamun was uncovered. In November 1922, archaeologist Howard Carter became a household name after discovering the 19-year-old sovereign's mummy lying in a sarcophagus made from 110kg solid gold. While it took Carter years, anyone can find Tut's burial place today, simply by looking for tomb KV62 in Luxor's Valley of the Kings (although note: his glistening funeral mask is at the new Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo). No doubt your thoughts will echo Carter's first words on gaining entry to the tomb: "It is wonderful..."

# Go shopping for your future self in Eindhoven

Billing itself as the "biggest design event in Northern Europe", Dutch Design Week (22-30 October) features work from 2,600 designers, including some seriously cool futuristic stuff. Belén's Sun+ project, for example, uses sustainable materials to create solutions to extreme sun exposure, including 'unseen' sunglasses made from skincoloured metal mesh, and textiles made from woven mesh to help reduce our reliance on sun creams. Raw Color's collection of Temperature Textiles does the opposite, aiming to keep people warm, rather than cool with their blankets, socks and scarves, which are printed with thermo charts that depict the rising global heat. "These textiles strive to raise awareness and to provide additional warmth," explains Daniera ter Haar, who heads the Raw Color studio with Christoph Brach. "The users should be stimulated to lower their heating and therefore reduce their personal CO2 emission." ddw.nl 



# Show your romantic side in <a href="https://linear.com/ltaly">Italy</a>



Is there anything more off-putting than a couple smooching in public?
Well, get used to it. Kissing in specific areas is now encouraged throughout Italy, as some of the country's most picturesque spots have just been dubbed Zona Romántica (romantic zones) with signs saying Obbligatorio baciarsi ('kissing is mandatory'). The newest addition to the list is in Anacapri on Capri. Belvedere dei Sognatori overlooks the Mediterranean and is accessed by a stairway cut into the rock.

Don't forget your mouth spray.

#### **Relax** in Paris

Did you know Paris has more spas than anywhere else in Europe? According to a new study, there are a whopping 965 of them – that's nine per square kilometre, or 2.64 for every day of the year. Rounding up, here are our top three to try today...



#### THE GOLD-PLATED EXPERIENCE

A day pass at Molitor Spa by Clarins will set you back a massive €290, but splashing out will get you access to its incredible outdoor pool (a genuine piece of Parisian history), as well as the hammam, sauna, tea room and yoga studio. molitorparis.com/en/spa



#### THE CHILLED LOCAL FAVOURITE

Opened in April this year as part of the Hotel Pavillon Faubourg Saint-Germain, the Spa des Prés by Codage is a minimalist space designed for ultimate calm. Choose the 'shopping break' foot massage if all the retail therapy has got a bit much.

en.pavillon-faubourg-saint-germain.com



#### THE MIND, BODY AND SOUL ONE

House of Yoga (also known as HOY) is a hotel, florist, yoga studio and spa rolled into one in the city's ninth arondissement. Start your day with purple corn pancakes, put your limbs through their paces at one of the daily hot yoga classes before relaxing with a Chi Nei Tsang massage. hoyparis.com

\*\*Wizz Air flies to Paris



October is the greatest time of year for fans of tight black spandex, stuckon cat ears and apple bobbing. If you like your movies horror-filled and the ghost train is your favourite ride, look no further than our guide to the best

SLIGHTLY CREEPY

Walk around Madrid's Reina Sofia Museum, said to be haunted by former patients from its time as a hospital. You can spook yourself even more with a visit to Malaga artist Leonor Serrano Rivas' Natural Magic exhibition (until 27 February), which plays tricks on visitors using smoke, mirrors and video projection.

museoreinasofia.es

Ride La Isla Maldita, a horror-filled swashbuckle featuring zombie pirates, is a new theme park experience at Spain's PortAventura (near **Barcelona**) that blows boring old ghost trains out of the water. portaventuraworld.com

Search for a long-lost passenger in one of London's 'ghost' tube stations with the new Mission Breakout escape room experience – did he ever get out? Will you?! missionbreakout.london

Recoil at the creepy objects on show at the private Musée de Vampires in Paris, including anti-vampire protection kits and mummified cats. Book in advance or join special events organised by Sous Les Paves, who specialise in the esoteric side of the 'cursed' city.

sous-les-paves.com

Take the super scary Legends, Anecdotes and Ghosts walking tour in Venice and learn about historic horrors, including 16th-century butcher Biasio, who added children's flesh to his sguaseto (stew).

Yikes! viator.com



Spend a spine-chilling stay at **Bucharest**'s Hotel Cismigiu, allegedly haunted by the ghost of a young woman who fell down a lift shaft and can still be heard screaming in the night. Rather you than us. hotelcismigiu.ro





The football team of Ferencváros or Fradi, as it is also known, earned a place in the UEFA Europa League group stage in 2022. The team will take on FK Crvena zvezda, AS Monaco FC and Trabzonspor in Group H this autumn. The home group matches will be held in the Groupama Arena. Tickets can be purchased online at meccsjegy.fradi.hu. Come and cheer from the venue! Let's experience the unique atmosphere of the Groupama Arena. Let's fill the stadium and see you at Fradi international matches!

Ferencvárosi TC - Trabzonspor: 2022. 09. 08. 21:00

Ferencvárosi TC – FK Crvena zvezda: 2022. 10. 13. 21:00

Ferencvárosi TC - AS Monaco FC : 2022. 10. 27. 21:00



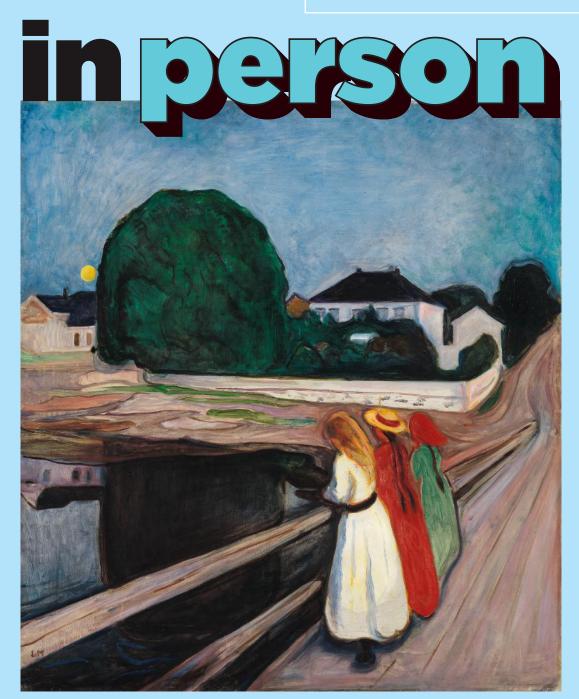
Buy your tickets to the International matches here:

### THE POWER OF MUSIC



Listen to the new Fradi records on Spotify,
Apple Music, YouTube Music and more.





The sisters cooking up a storm in Amman

**p18** 

On an Edvard Munch odyssey in Oslo

**p22** 

Keeping silk-making traditions alive in <u>Lyon</u>

**p27** 



We meet the enterprising sisters of Beit Sitti, a cooking school at the heart of Amman that shows how local cuisine is as much about who you prepare it with as how you prepare it

Words and photography by Paul Stafford

t's a peaceful evening in Amman and the oppressive heat of midday is starting to lift. The call to prayer reverberates up the building-clad valley and yet, in the Beit Sitti kitchen, everybody is in action.

One guest pulls an aubergine from a large gas burner with a pair of tongs, while Om Reem ('Mother' Reem), the teacher for this evening, moves deftly and with a sense of calm between people, demonstrating the correct chopping method, washing fresh vegetables, or spooning out samples of thick pomegranate molasses and creamy tahini for that all-important taste test (the chef's prerogative) before they are added to the mix.



What was, an hour ago, a kitchen full of strangers, is now a well-oiled production line creating Arabic cuisine's finest dishes. And crucially, conversation has quickly moved from formal and polite to friendly and comfortable, and that's all down to the skill of the teachers.

"For me it's very important for foreigners, as well as locals, to be able to interact with local women and see what they have to offer. They're very smart women... and they have a lot of stories," says Maria Haddad Hannania. Om Reem, for example, has been with Beit Sitti for over a decade.

Maria runs Beit Sitti (which translates as Grandmother's House) with her sisters Dina

and Tania. The cooking school opened in 2010 after the sisters inherited the property following their grandmother's death. And they could think of no better way to honour her legacy to open a cooking school sharing the recipes they prepared with her. "This was our grandmother's house," says Maria. "Me and my sisters, we used to come here when we were young, and we used to learn from her how to cook Arabic food. She was this big, super-strong woman and she was an amazing cook."

With the help of their mother, who designed the house ("she's the real boss," jokes Maria), Beit Sitti was born; the work of three generations of enterprising women

#### the entrepreneurs AMMAN



from the same family. "Jordanian food is home," says Dina. And that's the feeling conveyed at every Beit Sitti cooking class, surrounded by the smells of spices, crushed garlic and grilled aubergine. It is warm and welcoming, and feels more like you're cooking in someone's own home than a classroom.

Through the decades, Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese and Iraqi refugees have made Jordan their base, bringing their influences to enrich the culture and cuisine. As such, the sisters explain, there are very few truly Jordanian dishes, with pan-Arabic food often featuring on the menu.

The Beit Sitti special is the rice-based makloubeh, which means 'upside down', where ingredients – including cauliflower and aubergine, often picked from Maria's own farm – are layered into a pan, cooked and then flipped over on completion.

But at the heart of it all are the spices, the sisters explain. "All of our spices, like the za'atar, are homemade," says Maria. "We have local women who make za'atar for us. For sumac, they pick the berry, then they dry it, then they blend it, and they grind it.

That way we are supporting even more local women."

"What we try to do are dishes where you can get the ingredients back at home, and where some people will be chopping vegetables and some will be adding spices, with teamwork to get a full dish out," says Dina. This sense of shared responsibility between strangers is almost as important as the food itself.

"We have had people who met here and even fell in love," Maria adds. "They were" from different countries, but they met here at our school and at their wedding, their main course was makloubeh!"

Matchmaking might not be the main goal of a Beit Sitti class, but creating positive interactions through food certainly is. Maria hopes that after their visit people go back to their home countries, invite their friends over, and share their experiences and the flavours with their own friends and families. "By learning these recipes you're really taking a piece of Jordan with you, without carrying it in your bag," she says:

#### beitsitti.com

★ Wizz Air flies to Amman



# PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK



#### Food for thought

Take a bite out of Amman with these three other gourmet experiences



#### **Taste the rainbow**

The city's most colourful street is also home to some of its most delicious restaurants. Try Turtle Green for traditional shai (tea), Al-Quds for the best falafel in town (well, reigning King Abdullah II is said to be a fan) and Levant for some sublime kebabs.



#### Hit the souks

Whatever you're looking for, Amman's bustling food souks have you covered. Souk El Khodra is open every day, and is where locals buy fresh-as-can-be fruit and vegetables. Souk Jara has spices in every colour imagineable piled high every Friday, and on Saturdays the weekly Farmers' Market sells artisan food and tasty gifts.



#### Savour a supperclub

Vicarage & Sons launched in 2021 and gives visitors the chance to try authentic Jordanian cuisine in the comfort of a traditional home. Venues change each session – from shabby chic houses to secret gardens and rooftop terraces – and a multi-course feast is paired with a selection of local wines.

# "The Scream's tortured face adorns fridge magnets and posters the world over"

Norway's prodigal son is seemingly everywhere in the country's capital. But how much Edvard Munch can you see in 48 hours? We send our writer on a mission to find out



wo black panels, mounted head-height on the wall, are concealing something. The darkened room clamours with people, holding phone cameras aloft and jostling for an unobscured view. Slowly, the panels move apart – and the image that's revealed is unmistakable. The painting's tortured face adorns fridge magnets and posters the world over. I've even seen it parodied in *The Simpsons*. I'm looking at Edvard Munch's *The Scream*.

Oslo's year-old MUNCH museum has three versions of this work - Munch replicated it several times - and they're shown in turn on an hourly basis, to protect them from light damage. This 12-floor temple to Norway's most famous artist, towering over the floating saunas and Barcode district cafés of the Oslo fjord, is the perfect place to begin a painter's pilgrimage in the Norwegian capital. There's no shortage of Munch-themed sites here, but there's a problem: I've only got 48 hours to see them all.

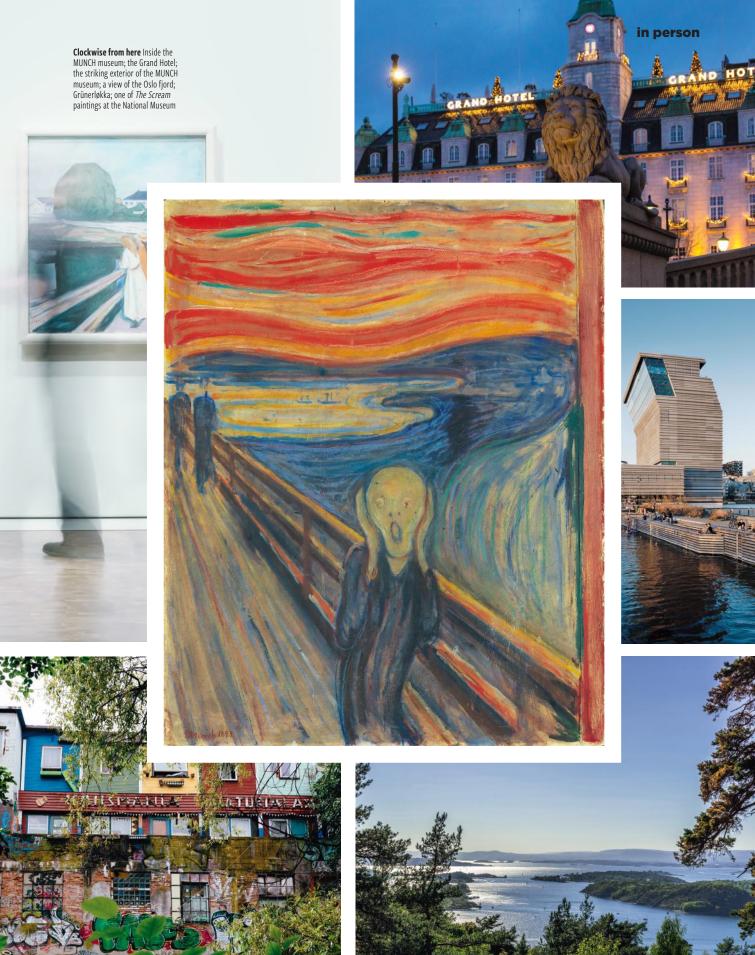
You could spend a day in MUNCH alone, browsing its colossal collection – from the hollowed-out, vampiric faces and skinny, alien-like figures of Munch's most troubled and popular works; to the later, bucolic paintings of Norway's fjords and forests he painted after being treated for a nervous breakdown. I settle for a morning, finding time to eat a lunch of steamed mussels at the rooftop restaurant with its views of Ekeberg Hill – the inspiration for *The Scream*.

Having bought the obligatory fridge magnet, I hop on a tram to Oslo's trendy Grünerløkka neighbourhood. Now called the 'Shoreditch of Oslo' thanks to its youthful vibe, it was a slum in the 19th century, when Munch grew up here.

My first stop is Fossveien 9, an apartment block that was one of Munch's first childhood homes and where, as a small child, he tragically lost his mother and sister to tuberculosis. Now, former winner of the World's Best Barista award, Tim Wendelboe, has a coffee shop practically next door - Espressobar Skole Brenneri.

I sip a flat white and lift my gaze to meet Munch's first-ever muse: the skyline of old Oslo, which crawls up a steep road called Telthusbakken, lined with turn-of-the-century wooden houses, to Old Aker - Norway's oldest church. Munch was a sickly child, unable to go to school. It left him with lifelong social problems, but allowed him to channel his gift. With nothing else to do, he would sit at his window and paint whatever he could see.

I explore the leafy squares and neoclassical apartment blocks of Grünerløkka, ticking off three more of Munch's childhood abodes, then wander into central Oslo for dinner. There's only one place for it: the Grand Café, an ornate restaurant beneath the Grand Hotel that was the meeting place of the 19th-century cultural elite. Munch was infamous here, both a regular customer and a strange, impoverished outsider, who once offered to give the restaurant one of his paintings in exchange for 100 steak dinners (they declined).



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Naturally, I'm opting for steak tonight – aged, smoky and smothered in buttery Béarnaise. You don't have to be a struggling artist to baulk at these prices, but there's no better place to channel that chapter of late 19th-century history; it's depicted in a huge mural along the back wall, painted by the son of Munch's art teacher. Edvard's gaunt, pale face takes centre stage.

I sleep upstairs in one of the Grand Hotel's glamorous suites and hit the road first thing the next day. It's time to explore Ramme – a holiday home that Munch owned in later life. The artist had a nervous breakdown in 1908, and it was in 1910 that he bought a property in this isolated, forested area a 40-minute drive along the Oslo fjord. At the time, it was a popular getaway for artists, who could paint nudes outdoors without fear of shocking the bourgeoisie.

This summer, a project nine years in the making opened to the public: a boutique hotel in Ramme, built in the style of a 19th-century farmhouse by Petter Olsen, son of Munch's patron, Thomas Fredrik Olsen (of shipping company Fred. Olsen & Co). Set on a working farm amid landscaped gardens, Fjordhotell is an incongruous, sprawling site in the middle of nowhere. But it's brilliant – 12 of its 42 rooms are themed by Munch paintings, boasting a huge replica above the bedstead with décor to match its hues. The



Olsens' personal Munch collection is on show in the basement.

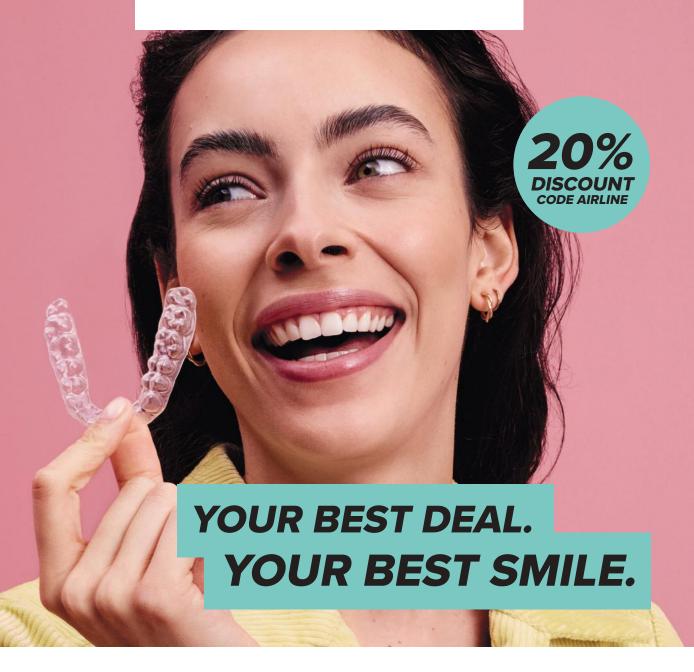
A 10-minute walk through the gardens brings you to Munch's holiday home, which is being renovated to look just how it did in Munch's time (that is, with blindingly yellow walls). I dine on corn-fed chicken at the complex's fab farm-to-table restaurant, before heading back to the capital for my final afternoon.

I make a beeline for The National Museum of Art, which has one of the world's most important collections of Munch artworks. Sure enough, there's another version of *The Scream* – but the other paintings illustrate the life he lived here, which I've seen over the past 48 hours. There's *The Sick Child*, and *Death in the Sickroom* – two tragic depictions of illness and loss from his Grünerløkka childhood. And paintings I saw in MUNCH take on new meaning: portraits of fellow artists at the Grand Café; a tiny landscape of Old Aker church; outdoor nudes; forests and fjords from his more settled years in Ramme.

Having traced the footsteps of Edvard Munch's Oslo, I've learned that one can't exist without the other. There's one pilgrimage place left: his grave, under a simple bust sculpture in a secluded, leafy corner of Our Saviour's Cemetery. Ever the introvert, it makes sense for Munch to be set apart from others, even in death. But now, with a tribute to Munch at every turn in Oslo, it seems we've finally learned the true worth of the things that set this troubled artist apart.

**ጃ Wizz Air flies to Oslo** 

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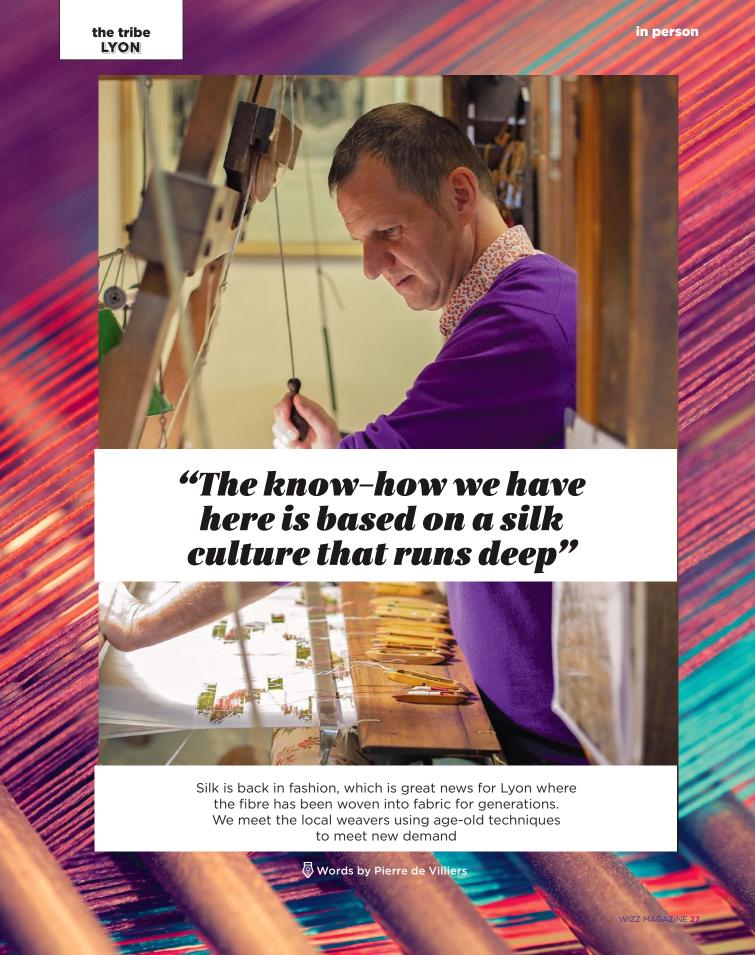




With us on the right track!

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"I grew up surrounded by textile machines," laughs Virgile De La Calle, a weaver at Soierie Saint-Georges, a company started in 1970 by his dad Ludovic. "At my folks' place you could find them all the way from the toilets to the garage. So, even though my father never pushed me to join the family business, I was inspired to become a weaver. And it's been a privilege to have my dad around to show me how things are done."

Soierie Saint-Georges is one of a handful of weavers in Lyon that, alongside modern machinery,

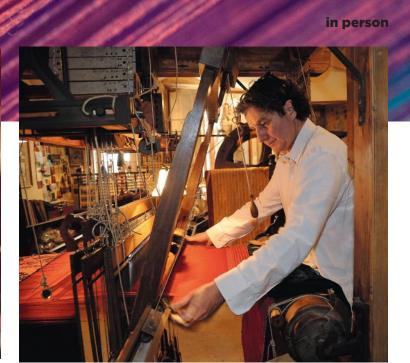




still uses a 19th-century Jacquard loom to work gold and silver thread into fabric, which is then supplied to, among others, the fashion industry. "We use the Jacquard to do things modern machines can't," says Virgile. "With the Jacquard, the only limit is your imagination. There's no better way to produce the sort of quality materials people are looking for today."

Located in the Vieux Lyon district - home to the city's silk weavers (called canuts) in the 16th century before they moved on mass to the Croix-Rousse hill in the 19th century - Soierie Saint-Georges offers tours of their workshop so people can appreciate the effort that goes into creating fabrics and the range of silk garments they sell at their fashion accessories shop. It's an open-door policy adopted more and more by weavers as the industry moves on from the days where techniques where closely-guarded secrets - passed on to a select few, or maybe not at all.

generation to the next.



"My dad learnt his craft in Croix-Rousse from the old boys and was an apprentice to this one weaver who wouldn't share his technique of blending different colours," says Virgile. "So, when he passed away, his secrets died with him. Keeping things to ourselves is a sure-fire way to kill the craft, which is why we don't mind sharing information. In fact, when another silk business recently appointed a young female weaver, she asked my dad for tips on a very specific technique, and he gladly helped her out. Being willing to share knowledge is an important way to preserve the rich history of silk weaving in Lyon."

image Silk with en thread at Soie

The pride Lyon takes in its silk history is plain to see at Maison des Canuts, a museum devoted to weaving. In addition to demonstrations on a Jacquard and exhibitions tracing the origins of silk, it has walking tours of the traboules – an extraordinary network of covered passageways once used by canuts to get their wares from their workshops on Croix-Rousse to riverside traders. Maison des Canuts also produces its own range of garments, Philéone, made using knowledge acquired across five generations.

"The know-how we have here is based on a silk culture that runs deep," confirms Philibert Varenne, who has run Maison des Canuts (which first opened in 1970) with his wife Virginie since 2004. After taking over the business, the couple wasted little time diving into the history of weaving to gain as much knowledge as possible about past techniques. "When we arrived our first goal was to repair all the looms at the museum," says Virginie. "The second was to learn how to weave with old hand-weaving looms. We are

proud that all the machines now work, even the draw loom (which uses techniques from the 17th century).

While keeping the old ways alive is a common theme among weavers, it doesn't mean the industry is not willing to embrace new technology. At Brochier Soieries, a family business that's been going since 1890, Jacquard looms combine with digital printing to produce scarves featuring masterpieces by famous artists including Picasso and Frida Kahlo. "Museums provide us with high-definition images and we produce as many samples as needed to be as close as possible to the original painting in terms of colour and precision," explains Eliza Ploia, the manager of Brochier's two shops in Vieux Lyon. "Our most popular items are French painters prints like Claude Monet and demand has definitely increased."

In what is another example of the new and the old blending seamlessly, the Jacquard looms used by the Brochier weavers have been spruced up. "They have been improved with mechanical and digital innovations, which increases the precision, the pattern complexity and the weaving speed to more than 300m a day, versus 3cm per day for a hand loom," explains Eliza.

They are innovations, coupled with centuries-old know-how, that will keep the looms spinning in Lyon as the world falls back in love with silk. "Natural fibres are more valued nowadays and silk is sustainable," she adds. "Also, people are increasingly looking for locally made products, which is exactly what we are so proud to preserve here in Lyon."

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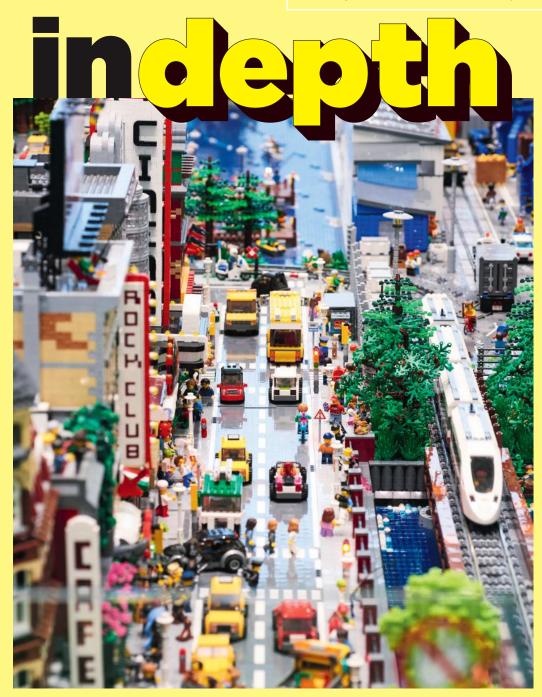


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**Gliding into a** rollerskating revolution

in <u>Vienna</u>

Child's play: how to have a block party

in Billund

**Indulging in** the sweetest bakes

in Romania

**Exploring the** slow-paced, eco side

of Venice

The top 10 things to see and do

in **Dammam** 

**p32** 

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Eva Baumgartner, one of Powerjam's founders, leads the group in a short warm-up session. Patchy childhood memories of budget rollerblades and a lack of fear have erased how demanding quad skates are for me, especially when you're doing squats. "Sweating already?" Eva asks before she pumps up the boombox volume and initiates a groove of side steps and little roller kicks. "Don't be afraid to add a little flavour." Everyone joins in, even those of us hiding at the back. The music eventually makes everyone lose themselves in the fun.

Its creators weren't simply capitalising on a TikTok and Instagram trend. "When the pandemic hit, we couldn't do our beloved full contact sport," explains Eva, talking about the rough and tumble world of









"The music was amazing, and I was learning stuff I'd never done before in a positive environment"

roller derby. She and co-founder Riannon Clarke took part in the fast-paced sport played on quad roller skates, together for many years. Without the weekly training sessions, the dance and music-loving duo had the time to try something else on wheels, and Powerjam was born. There were park skaters, but not bigger groups dance skating. "We just happened to tap right into this comeback," adds Eva.

There's something special that happens when dancing and skating come together. It's not only about honing style and skill, but being a part of a diverse and international group. All genders, ages, nationalities, ethnicities and body types are present and welcome. It's become an activity representative of fun, freedom, inclusivity and expression.

Amanda Bonner joined Powerjam during the lockdown to get outside and exercise. She played roller derby for a year at university in the US, but that was 10 years ago. "I had never skated outside before, never with this heeled boot. I felt like I was really starting over," she says. "It took me a little while to get the courage to go to a meet-up because I didn't know anyone, but the energy was so great, the music was amazing, and I was learning stuff I'd never done before in a positive environment. We already have one thing in common – we like to skate and want to get better."

What started with distance skating outdoors has since led to booming membership numbers and private classes in a shared fitness space, including roller skating courses in basic training







**Above** The thrilling Vienna Roller Derby league **Left** A roller derby game in the 1950s

and Rhythm & Jam skate choreographies. Proving that skating is more than a passing fad in the city, other groups and events have eagerly ramped up over the past two years. There's a passion for all types of skating, with communities teaming up and crossing over. CIB Austria (Community in Bowls) is the adrenalin-fuelled bunch that takes over the skate parks to practice their tricks. The Roller Strizzis meet and roll around town, especially in Vienna's prime nature spaces, like the artificial Donauinsel island and the grounds of Prater – one of the city's biggest parks and home to a beloved fairground.

All my conversations return to roller derby - the start of Vienna's skating scene. Even the name Powerjam references a part of the game where

#### Roller derby is the faster, rougher sister of jam skating. Or like rugby, without the ball, on skates

someone is sent to the penalty box, not just jam in the improvised music sense. Invented in Chicago in the 1930s as a form of sports entertainment combining endurance racing and contact, roller derby in later decades became synonymous with punk rock attitude and smashing stereotypes. The sport was revived and reimagined in the early 2000s as a fresh, thrilling full-contact sport. The International Women's Flat Track Derby Association Championships (WFTDA) currently registers 444 Member Leagues across six continents.

Vienna is home to Austria's very first roller derby league, Vienna Roller Derby (VRD), which celebrated its 10th anniversary last year and has around 80 members made up of skaters, referees and volunteers. Roller derby is still not generally perceived as a sport because of its long history as an entertainment fixture, but that all changes when you see it in person.

I watch a training session in a school gymnasium in Donaustadt, the city's eastern 22nd district, as VRD gears up for its first game in two and a half years. Two teams, five against five, play with four blockers and one jammer, competing in 60-minute 'bouts' on an oval flat track, divided into two-minute intervals called 'jams'. I'm told it's the faster, rougher sister of jam skating. Or like rugby without the ball, on skates. The jammer (who wears a star on their helmet) scores points every time they lap blockers on the opposing team. Blockers must help their own jammer and stop the other jammer in a swift battle switch of defence and offence.

It is athletic and brutal, but energetic and exciting. It's a different world to the leisurely street gliding,



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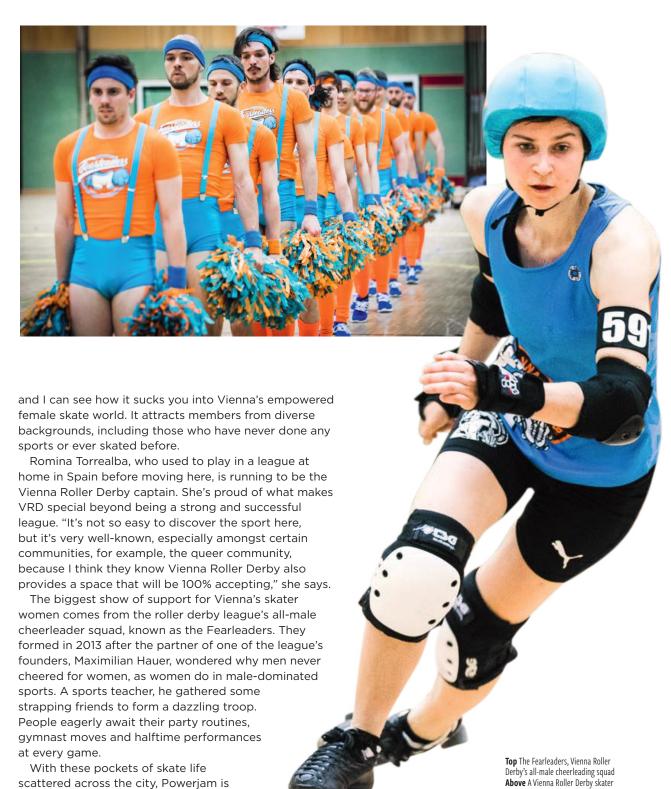
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pushing for Vienna to have a permanent rink home for dance skating and Vienna Roller Derby. It currently hosts roller discos



in action



#### "We happened to tap right into this skating comeback"

**Left** Riannon (left) and Eva (right) skating with style in Karlsplatz

Even leading roller skate dealer WIFA got on board and is now the city's main skate supplier.

"Although we don't have the locations, many super motivated people try to push this scene and work with what we've got," Eva says. So, where would Vienna's home of skating be? The dream is for an indoor roller rink in Prater. Here families could skate during the day and, come evenings, they could host roller discos. The Vienna Roller Derby league could move from school sports halls to its own arena.

Since Prater has been the site of old stadiums and pitches, where many successful sports clubs from cricket to football have been forged, I can't think of anywhere more symbolic. Vienna might be taking its time to give roller skating a home, but it can't slow the community's dedication. No matter what (and where), they'll always find a way to say: you can come and skate with us.

rollerskate.at, viennarollerderby.org

**⊀** Wizz Air flies to Vienna

in a weather-proofed old parking lot and urban renewal space called Garage Grande, but the dream is to secure an indoor roller rink that will be accessible to everyone.

The concept was tested at the Wiener Eislauf-Verein (Vienna Ice-skating Club) – an open-air ice rink next to the central Stadtpark. For the first time this year, they opened the doors for a summer roller disco. Around 500 people showed up. "That was our biggest achievement so far," Eva tells me, especially in a city where ice skating is a long-standing tradition.

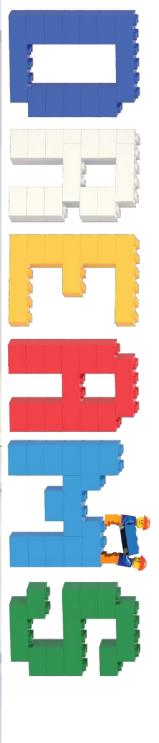












The past two years have brought out the kid in many of us - Lego sales rocketed by a quarter during the pandemic.

We travel to Billund, the home of Lego and the self-proclaimed Capital of Children, to find what the big deal is about those plastic blocks

Words by Mike MacEacheran

here's a moment during my walking tour of the Jutland town of Billund, across shopping street Butikstorvet, past the ice cream parlour and toy shop, when everything suddenly makes sense. It's when I first glimpse a pedestrian footbridge over the street with a radical design that merits special attention. Believe it or not, but at one end of the span

it has a trampoline embedded into its walkway and, twisting out from the parapet, a tube slide instead of a staircase. It couldn't be more improbable. Yet, Billund isn't any ordinary place.

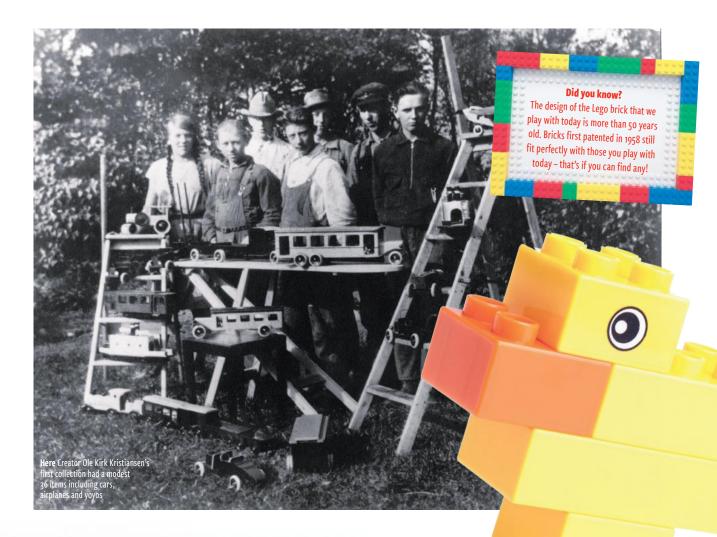
I'm here to find out how this town, which was only home to around 250 inhabitants a century ago, rebranded itself Capital of Children and created a family-friendly tourism model that's now the envy of the world. In 2019, prior to the pandemic, 3.72 million visitors flew into Billund Airport, double the number since 2006

and making it easily Denmark's second busiest gateway after Copenhagen. Most hotels and resorts around Billund book up well in advance, and many visitors find themselves scrambling for rooms, paying over-the-odds, or settling for an airport hotel like I have, pulling up the blinds and wondering where they've just landed.

But there is a simple logic for all of this. Lego, the Danish toy company which began in Billund with interlocking wooden bricks in 1932, opened its first theme park here in 1968 next to the Lego factory. And the company is now a  $\in$ 9.1 billion symbol of child's play and 'Leg godt', the Danish for 'play good'. You could say that over time, play has percolated into the city's DNA.

"Billund has been the 'Home of the Brick' for 90 years, and throughout three generations, Lego has been its largest company," says Charlotte Sahl-Madsen, CEO of CoC Playful Minds, the organisation which develops the programmes behind Capital of Children. "The Lego values of learning through play have







inspired the entire world, and even though Capital of Children is so much more than these values, it is very natural for us that Billund is the Capital of Children."

Nowadays, just about everybody in Billund accepts that you're coming here for Legoland, and this year there are more reasons to visit than most. Inside the expansive theme park is the new Lego Movie World, opened in May 2021 but enjoying its first proper season, as well as a host of new creative pavilions on Brick Street. Amongst these are the Legoland Gallery, showcasing the best global fan-creations; the Great Lego Reef, for building underwater designs; and the Creative Workshop, where master builders guide visitors through constructing complex models. At Rebuild the World, centered around a gigantic brick globe, you can reshape our planet in any way in which you see fit. Sure, it's a romantic fantasy for me to build a hotdog helicopter, but what the heck.



can do all that here. Plus, it's worth the visit for the starting point alone - a flabbergasting Most visitors, of course, don't seem to brick oak tree, as tall as the three-storey question all the plastic tricks and gimmicks, building itself and made with 6.5 million but there's more substance to it than you bricks. With little kids, there's normally five might at first think. Indeed, the overriding philosophy here is that children are every bit as competent as adults when it comes to solving problems, decision making, being creative and collaborating. Hence, UNICEF anointed Billund the rare honour of being a Child Friendly City in September 2020.

> "In Billund we want to be the best place in the world for children and families with children - for both residents and tourists," says Martin Perregaard-Bitsch, CEO of Destination Trekantområdet, the regional tourist board for Veile, Kolding and Billund. "We want to be the centre of knowledge in regards to play, learning and co-creating. And this is the reason why we shape the future together with those who will live in it."

But what does that mean in real terms? And how does that restless, child-focused thinking manifest itself day to day?

minutes before moans, but not here. The joy of discovery for children is infectious, the sense of nostalgia for adults hard to shake. While the main purpose of a trip is for towering models and roller coasters, there are obvious add-ons. Around Legoland, a self-sustaining industry has crept up beyond the theme park and there is now a wealth of entertainment on tap. For instance, WOW

home to Scandinavia's biggest water park, with its enormous geodesic dome of flumes, wave pools, lazy rivers and tube rides. There are no Lego bricks in sight, but it's still quite the party piece for families seeking a rush.

Park is a wilderness attraction for Peter Pans

and Wendys with rope walkways, giant nets,

play towers, swings and zip lines in the trees.

Or consider the usually mobbed Lalandia,

whatever the weather.

Clockwise from above A bird's-eye view of Lego

House; an incredible Lego

artwork at Legoland; the Lego waterfall at Lego

House; the Castle Hotel

at Legoland



According to CoC Playful Minds, it shows in how the Capital of Children has developed an ethical method for adults to really co-create together with children. Cue safe and secure urban spaces, informal learning environments and ways for different generations, cultures and nationalities (of which Billund has more than 70) to meet and play in new ways. If the original Lego brick brought comfort to children during the difficult postwar years, perhaps the Capital of Children concept feels especially needed in a world that often permanently feels upside down.

"We involve children every single day, in each and every project," says Charlotte. "And it's not just an afternoon where we hear what they should think, but processes lasting up to six to 12 months, where the children gain new knowledge about urban spaces, art and architecture, conduct innovation processes and are involved in their implementation."

As it happened, I'm in Billund at a serendipitous moment, ahead of the second annual Children's General Assembly,

a symposium of 56 nations preparing a manifesto for the UN General Assembly in New York in September. The point? To shake the tree from the roots. "The question is how will state leaders use the inspiration from the children?" adds Charlotte. "The young people don't do this for fun either. They do it for the future."

There is a saying in Jutland inspired by toy maker Ole Kirk Christiansen, the original inventor of Lego. "Det bedste er ikke for godt," he famously said. Only the best is good enough. In feel-good Billund, it's something both adults – and children – take more seriously than you'd ever think possible. For more information on Capital of Children, visit capitalofchildren.com

**▼** Wizz Air flies to Billund

#### Clockwise from top left

The opening of Sans Billund, an artwork that pays homage to play; CoC Playful Minds' Academy of Co-Creation; a Play Contract playground commissioned by CoC; Billund Builds, a CoC project where adults and children build together PHOTOS: COC PLAYFUL MINDS, KIRSTINE MENGEL, NIKOLAJ THANING RENTZMANN



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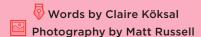
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**SCAN ME** 

# The sweet spet spot

Over the centuries, Romanian cuisine has celebrated its melting pot of communities and cultures. A new book focuses on its most tempting treats: baked goods



Bordered by the Black Sea, the towering Carpathian Mountains, dense pine forests and sprawling marsh land, Romania is a nation where contrasts are tightly woven together to create a rich tapestry of natural beauty, history and art. And, of course, food. Eat your way around the country and you'll taste the impact of the overlapping cultures that have made their mark here for hundreds of years. "Romania is a constellation of cultures – a 'little Europe', where the Middle East meets Austrian and German influences, layered on top of the inheritance left by the ancient Romans and Greeks," says chef Irina Georgescu, the brains behind new cookbook, *Tava: Eastern European Baking and Desserts From Romania & Beyond*, which

explores how Romania's geographical location at the heart of Europe means that it offers one of the continent's most exciting and varied – if largely unknown – cuisines.

Tava focuses mainly on the baked delicacies
Romania has adopted over the years - think
Armenian pakhlava, Saxon plum pies, Swabian
poppyseed crescents and Hungarian deep-fried
flatbreads (langoşi in Romanian; lángos in Hungarian)
- traditional recipes that have been passed down
through generations and first brought here by the
settlers who eventually called Romania home. Here we
pick out some of Irina's standout recipes, and share
the stories of Romania's most delicious desserts.







#### Sweet cornmeal cake

Moldavia (a historical region that stretches across north-eastern Romania, Moldova and western Ukraine) is famous for two crucial foodstuffs: polenta (or cornmeal) and its outstanding dairy. These two join together joyously in mălai dulce, a filling cake which comes either as savoury or sweet, and uses crème fraiche or curd cheese for extra richness. Here is Irina's twist on this classic treat – although typically the recipe calls for flour mixed in with the polenta, hers is gluten free.

#### **Ingredients**

450ml full-fat milk
80g golden caster (superfine) sugar
35g honey
125g fine cornmeal (polenta)
25g unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing
3 medium eggs, separated
300g brânză de vaci, set cottage cheese or ricotta
To serve: 125g crème fraiche, plus honey for drizzling

#### Method

Bring the milk to the boil in a large pan, then reduce the heat to medium and add the sugar, honey and cornmeal. Simmer for 10 minutes until the milk has been absorbed, then stir in the butter and set aside to cool.

Butter a 15 x 22cm rectangular ceramic pie dish and preheat the oven to 180C.

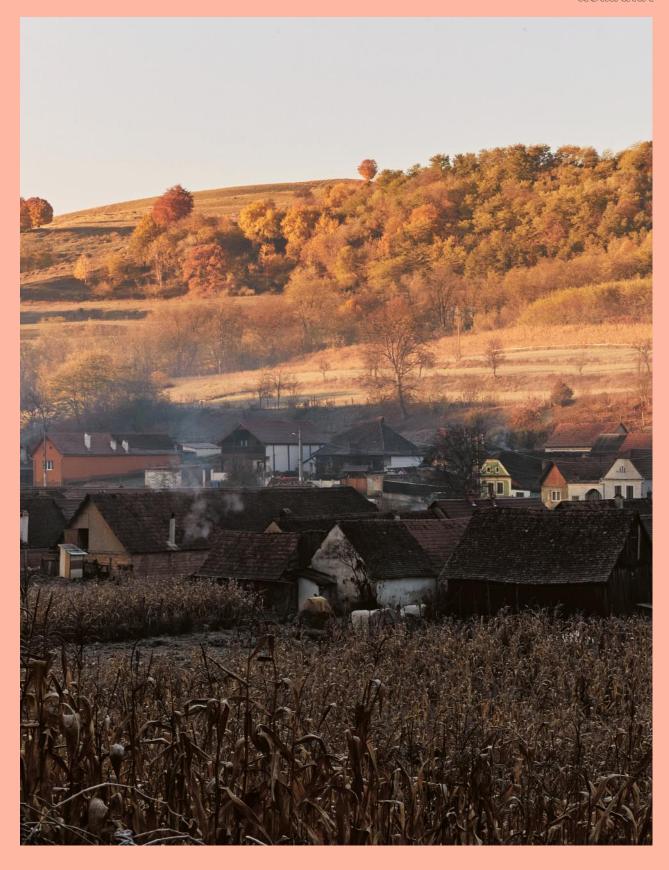


In a bowl, beat the egg whites to stiff peaks. When the cornmeal mixture has cooled, add the egg yolks and cheese, then fold in the egg whites. Pour the mixture into the prepared dish.

Bake for 50 minutes, covering the top with kitchen foil if it cooks too quickly or reducing the heat to 170C. The cake will puff up and crack around the edges.

Turn the oven off (even if the cake still has a slight wobble in the middle) and allow the cake to cool in the oven until just slightly warm.

When cooled, slice in the tray and serve slightly warm with crème fraiche and a drizzle of honey.



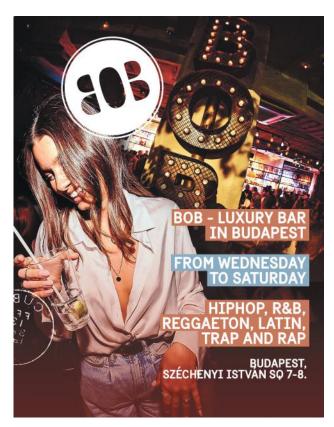


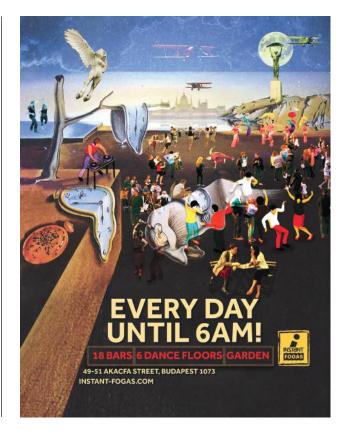
"Savarins have been popular in Romania since the beginning of the 20th century, when the sophistication of the Belle Epoque was reverberating from Paris to the streets of Bucharest," says Irina. The country's answer to a rum baba is impossible to resist. The story goes that Stanislas Leszczynski, former King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, spent his exile in France and used to complain how his Kugelhopf (a similar sweet, yeasted bread cake) was too dry. His French pastry chef Nicolas Stohrer, who later opened the first ever patisserie shop

in Paris, soaked it in sugary Malaga wine. "This recipe inspired two famous desserts," says Irina, "rum baba and savarin. The latter used no raisins and was soaked in kirsch, and was named after the renowned French gastronome Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin." Head to Scovergăria Micăi in Bucharest for the best in the capital.

Tava: Eastern European Baking and Desserts From Romania & Beyond by Irina Georgescu (Hardie Grant, £27) is out on 27 October. ★ Wizz Air flies to 11 destinations in Romania









## Waterworld



The traditional fishing community of lagoon island Burano is redefining tourism in Venice. We meet the locals preserving its natural wonders and slow-paced way of life



Photography by Stefano Mazzola

t's a sunny Saturday in Venice, and thousands of visitors are going to Burano. And why not? This is probably Venice's prettiest island – an Instagram dream of candy-coloured houses, pint-sized canals, and a belltower leaning as tipsily as its cousin in Pisa.

It takes 40 minutes on the packed waterbus to sail into the north lagoon, after the long line to board. In fact, tourists often spend more time getting to Burano than they do on the island itself. Once they've arrived, most make a quick circuit round the bright cottages, pick up some souvenir biscuits, and then upload shots to Instagram from the long line for the boat back to town. Massimiliano Bovo isn't happy about it.

"It's useless to come for 20 minutes," he says, pouring glasses of Prosecco for his clients as they wait for a coveted table at Trattoria al Gatto Nero, his family's restaurant. "You don't see anything; you don't bring anything home. I'm completely against this kind of tourism." Food on the run is as far from the Bovo family's philosophy as it gets – one memorable lunch I spent there finished around 5pm, with Massimiliano doling out glasses of Prosecco to passers-by.

Because, what people miss, behind the simplicity of Burano, is a culture that has been rooted here for thousands of years. It's also about the lagoon itself – glassy-smooth and unpopulated here in the north, filled with rare wildlife, but minutes from one of the most visited cities on the planet. Today, as the tiny island groans under the weight of mass tourism, the Buranelli are fighting back, in a startlingly appealing way: by sharing their culture.

Take the Bovos, for example. Massimiliano's parents, Ruggero and Lucia, opened the Gatto Nero in 1965. Back then, Burano was a simple fishing community, as it had been since Roman times – and the couple started serving equally simple seafood.

Nearly 60 years on, they still do. The likes of Tom Cruise and George Clooney come to the Gatto Nero because they know they'll be eating fish hand-caught that morning from the lagoon: seared scallops and razor clams, mussels with linguine and goby fish risotto are staples of the menu.



"It helps tiny fishing businesses," says Massimiliano of the restaurant's hyper-local ethos. "It means the fish is fresher than anything imported, and we're offering a product that's part of our culture. And we show that to tourists, combining food, history and a sense of place. It's nicer than slapping down a dish that says nothing."

Often, guests will be sitting next to the fishermen who caught their dinner. People like Domenico Rossi, a moecante – someone who catches moeche, the lagoon's highly prized soft-shell crabs. "My family have been moecanti since the times of La Serenissima (the 'most serene' Republic of Venice which fell in 1797)," he says proudly. Today, he's one of a dying breed – there are just 30 moecanti left in the entire lagoon. During his childhood, there were 100 on Burano alone.

"The profession will be extinct in 20 years," he says - which is why he takes tourists out with him in his







Clockwise from top Beautiful Burano; Massimiliano, Lucia and Ruggero Bovo; linguine with spider crab and baby tomatoes on zucchini flowers at Trattoria al Gatto Nero



100-year-old bragozzo boat to witness it. Male crabs shed their shells twice a year – and a moecante's job is to recognise when they're about to do so. Based on the neighbouring island of Torcello, Domenico spends three months hand-stitching 2.5km of nets to 3,000 chestnut poles, and from March to June and October to December, he sets his nets in the lagoon. He can tell an on-the-turn crab at a glance, and brings them to the Torcello canals, where he waits for them to shed their shells.

"We live in symbiosis with the crabs," he says.
"When they shed, they can harden very quickly. If you leave it 10 hours, you've lost weeks of work." Living to the rhythm of crabs is a solitary life, and, says
Domenico, "I'm a solitary person - but I like people who find this interesting.

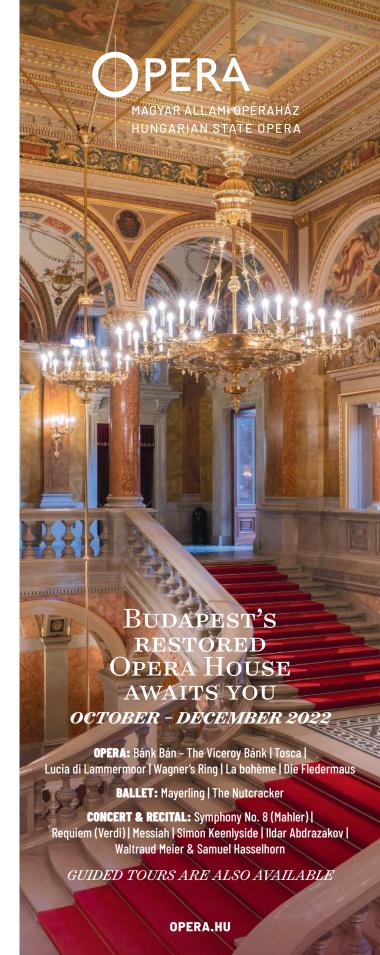
"Maybe 90% of tourists will walk around Burano with their backpacks, but that 10% want to know about our heritage. This is a world that doesn't exist anymore, and I want to pass on my traditions."



Domenico isn't the only Buranello asking us to love Burano, instead of crushing it. "People take pictures of the coloured houses without even knowing why they were painted that way," sighs Andrea Rossi (no relation), as we drift past the shorefront of peach, yellow, blue and mint-green facades.

There are two theories - first, that the bright colours helped the fishermen recognise Burano on fog-filled nights. Second, and less romantic - that they drank so much on their days-long trips that it was easiest to remember their house by its colour. Whichever is true, both theories revolve around Burano's centuriesstrong trade. This part of the lagoon has been known for its fishermen for 2,000 years, with Burano feeding the 20,000 inhabitants of Torcello, a 5th-century boomtown which was eventually replaced by Venice. Today, Torcello is largely uninhabited, making Burano the oldest community left in the lagoon.

Andrea is a fifth-generation fisherman, and as well as providing Hollywood stars with the best bass of







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their lives, he wants to share his knowledge with the rest of us. He takes tourists birdwatching from his hide on sleepy Torcello, and sails them into the wild north lagoon with his fishing partner, Michele Vitturi.

You're only an hour from Venice, here, but it feels like a different continent. The boat slips quietly between the barene, the mudflat islands that Venice is built on. Birds like the ibis – sacred to the ancient Egyptians – dance overhead, their crescent-shaped beaks looking like those famous 'plague doctor' Venetian masks.

Michele cuts the engine as we drift towards a flock of flamingos using the centimetres-shallow water as a paddling pool, strutting around like supermodels. The only noise is the flapping of their pink wings. "This is paradise," grins Andrea.

Andrea's other passion is the lagoon's edible plants. Michele takes out an oar to scull over to another island, where, they say, the plant life is "bellissimo".

"Look how gorgeous this one is," says Andrea of a verdant bush of salicornia, the lagoon's super-salty samphire. He gathers a handful, snipping gently at the



#### VENICE







Clockwise from top Grilled mullet with wild fennel at San Giorgio Café; Andrea Rossi (right) and chef Alessio Comunian (left); a martini with lagoon herbs at San Giorgio

plant to "prune it, not damage it," and adds santonico, an absinthe-like marine wormwood. During the island's grinding postwar poverty, Buranelli used to eat salicornia risotto, he says, and santonico grappa used to be on every shelf.

While tourism means they don't need to forage for their meals anymore, Andrea wants the lagoon plants to return to Venice's plates. Burano, like Venice, is seeing an exodus of young people because of the tourism economy. "Plants could provide an income, give a future for people like my nephew," he says.

Plus, they're delicious, as we find at San Giorgio Café, on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore, squaring off against St Mark's Square in the centre of Venice. Andrea and Michele have chugged in from Burano to hand over a tray of hand-caught mullet and plants to chef Alessio Comunian, who scatters santonico over a salicornia-laced risotto, and sautées the mullet with lagoon fennel and another clump of salicornia.

Barman Luca Stocchi even shakes us a salty martini with lagoon-brewed gin and a salicornia garnish. Can these plants save the lagoon? That's a tall order – but if anyone can, it's the Buranelli.

**⊀** Wizz Air flies to Venice

#### Go slow

More ways to support Venice's eco-warriors on your next trip



#### **Shop: Process Collettivo**

This non-profit store sells wares created by the inmates of the city's prisons. The organic cosmetics (soaps, deodorants, shower gel and more) are made by the women of Giudecca from plants in the prison garden. **malefattevenezia.it** 



#### Stay: Corte di Gabriela

Too many Airbnbs are contributing to a housing crisis in various cities, Venice included. Stay in a sustainable boutique hotel like Corte di Gabriela with its clever wastewater treatment and in-house laundry service using organic products. **Book at booking.com** 



#### Eat: La Tecia Vegana

You can't come to Venice and *not* eat fish, but this female-run, 100% biovegan restaurant is a tasty alternative. The plant-based pastas are a huge hit, as is the indulgent tiramisu with soy and almond cream. **lateciavegana.com** 

### BEAUTY WITHOUT SURGERY

Dr. Beatriz Beltrán tells us about her commitment to regenerative medicine



This year is very special for Dr. Beatriz Beltrán, as she has been awarded the National Medicine Award in the category of Aesthetic Medicine. At her clinic in the heart of Barcelona, on Paseo de Gracia, she offers the most cutting-edge treatments based on regenerative medicine, to prevent the signs of ageing on our faces. Dr. Beltrán has also upgraded the facilities so that the clinic is now a 500 sq m temple dedicated to health.

The clinic is a national and international leader in non-surgical aesthetic medicine, and it offers the most innovative technologies and

the best options for those who don't want to go under the knife.

Dr. Beltrán has been working in the world of aesthetic medicine for more than 16 years, and she is known for creating the famous 'BB Technique', which prevents the signs of ageing, corrects those signs that have already appeared, and enhances attractiveness without the patient losing their natural features.

Her philosophy is to work from the inside out – from the gene to the skin. She uses the knowledge she has gained from her specialism, internal medicine, as well as her knowledge of orthomolecular

micro-nutrition, so that her patients not only look good, but they also feel good, too. Her current focus is on regenerative medicine, reversing these signs of ageing in a natural way without treatments and foreign products that can deform the face. "We not only have to satisfy the current needs of our patients, but we have to think that all the treatments we carry out today will have repercussions in the future," Dr. Beltrán says. "That is why it is very important to select the correct treatment for each patient."

#### **EFFICACY AND SAFETY**

Dr. Beltrán works with technologies that use different types of energy to regenerate collagen, such as lasers like Fotona 4D, pulsed light, focused Ultherapy, Thermage FLX or microneedling with radiofrequency. She also works with the best body devices such as Coolsculpting and Emsculpt. Dr. Beltrán is very demanding when it comes to using these devices and only uses those that have the approval of the drug agency, as they are the only ones that have the scientific studies that guarantee their efficacy and safety. She also works with autologous fillers, such as fat, the stromal fraction of the tissue and mesenchymal stem cells, which have the potential to naturally regenerate aged tissues. All this, in a single one-day treatment, that offers an immediate return to normal life.

The aim of Dr. Beatriz Beltrán's clinic is to help patients look the best version of themselves with natural results while using regenerative treatments that will not only help them look better, but will also slow down the ageing process.

Paseo de Gracia 78, 5 - 1 08008 Barcelona Tel: +34 934 877 466 / +34 644 970 589 Instagram: @drabeatrizbeltran drabeatrizbeltran.com

# The CO

## best things to do in Dammam

Find out how culture, tradition and gastronomic wonders come together in Saudi Arabia's eastern gem

Words by Tharik Hussain

ong before the modern city of Dammam became the centre of Saudi Arabia's expat community (and the home of those who work for the world's largest oil company, Saudi Aramco) this was an area where historic trading ports connected Arabia to the rest of the world. It was a place where intriguing and ancient communities lived, from the mysterious Dilmun through to the Kingdom's little-known Shi'a Muslims.

This wonderful coming together of oil wealth, foreign influence, ancient nautical and religious culture makes Dammam one of Saudi Arabia's most fascinating cities to explore. Lucky for you, it's one of our newest destinations. Here's our ultimate guide to the gateway to the Kingdom's cosmopolitan eastern city.









#### **2** Dive into Al Qatif Central Fish Market

Sitting on a little sliver of land in Tarout Bay, Al Qatif is one of the largest fish markets on the Arabian Peninsula and the biggest in Saudi Arabia. The bustling sight is as raw and real as it gets and is held in a square overlooked by residential homes. Wander through a maze of wide stalls, open crates and Styrofoam freezer boxes displaying some of the Persian Gulf's finest seafood. Take a deep breath and dive in, jostling with locals and restaurateurs out purchasing their daily specials as hawkers shout out their wares.

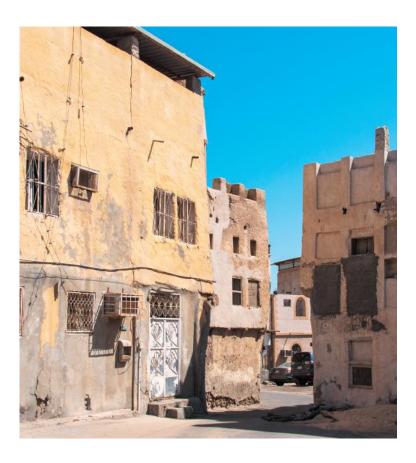
You'll spot fresh shark, giant crabs, tiger prawns, grouper, parrot fish and safi (rabbit fish), served spiced and deep-fried in most local seafood restaurants. The fish on offer is a combination of those hauled up from the Gulf by the local Shi'a fishermen and other large batches that arrive by the truckload from surrounding fishing ports along the coast.



#### Take a dip in Half Moon Bay

To the south and far from the hustle and bustle of urban Dammam life, you can take your pick from high-end resorts and spas along Half Moon Bay, like the five-star Dana Beach Resort, each with their own private section of this pristine stretch of coastline.

Alternatively, find a little spot along the sheltered bay, maybe under one of the many decorative shaded picnic areas, and go for a cooling, refreshing dip in the crystal clear waters. Ramp up the action and hire a jet ski, rent a fishing boat and spend the day trying to grab your lunch, or don some scuba gear and explore the vivid corals that lie just beneath the surface and rarely drops more than 22m in depth.





## Explore Tarout Island's Shi'a neighbourhood

Tarout Island's historic quarter is home to Saudi Arabia's oldest Shi'a community. Here you'll find a distinctly nautical architectural style featuring wood and mud, and unique grand mosques with Farsi designs and motifs. Take the time to sit in the delightful local cafés and restaurants where you'll meet some of Dammam's friendliest locals. During special festivals like Muharram, look out for the fascinating Shi'a iconography and flags that decorate the streets and mosques.





at Masjid Al Ain

Named after an old spring that once watered this area, tiny Masjid al Ain on Tarout Island is a quaint little mud-walled mosque with a stunning carved wooden front door framed by a beautiful geometric pattern that sits beneath a fort-like design. It also has a simple mud minaret where an ornate lantern sways in the sea breeze, evoking the tiny lighthouses of antiquity - a nod to the area's nautical heritage. Often left open, pop in for a rare glimpse of a historic mosque in the region's traditional style.

the historic Arabic name for the island on which it sits, Ishtarut, which in turn is derived from the myth that the castle is built on the site of an ancient temple dedicated to a Phoenician goddess. However, excavations have revealed artefacts that connect the island to the mysterious fourth millennium BC Dilmun civilisation and others that date back even further to 5,000 years ago, suggesting Tarout and the mainland weren't always linked, and may well be one of the

Exactly who built the castle isn't clear, though the strongest theory is it was the Portuguese who controlled the waterways in the 16th and 17th centuries. Luckily you don't need to know who laid the bricks to appreciate its beauty.

Free to visit, its most atmospheric time is in the cool of early evening when the castle is lit up and the quaint little cafés and restaurants in the surrounding alleys buzz with late-night revellers. Pull up a chair somewhere like Tarout Coffee, with its pretty wooden shutters and cool open-air lean-to and admire this goldencoloured marvel as you sip on a cup of aromatic Arabian kahwa (coffee).



### Dine in style at Heritage Village

Resembling a traditional fort in Naid (an area in central Arabia) with a spectacular, patterned wooden door and mud walls decorated with iconic triangular patterns, Heritage Village is way more than just a dining experience.

Here you can recline on traditional Saudi-style low-cushioned sofas in the decorated central court beside a gently bubbling fountain where ornate lanterns hang from the ceiling. The smell

of freshly-baked bread wafts through as traditional

Najdi food such as jareesh (a savoury barley dish) and kabsa (a type of Saudi biryani) arrive en masse.

Once you're full, take a walk through the small museum spread across five floors in the upper section and admire muskets and swords dating back to the 1800s, historic currency, domestic antiquities and traditional clothing and jewellery from

across the Kingdom. heritage-village.com.sa

Wizz Air flies to Dammam



#### Get your grill on at **Alsabat BBQ Restaurant**

Eat like a local at this delicious little grill-restaurant tucked away in one of the winding alleys of the historic Al Qatif neighbourhood. Set around a green open courtyard with a water feature, this family-run restaurant is renowned for its barbecue-style meat - skewers of lightly spiced, beef, mutton and chicken served with a delicate, green salad and clay oven-baked local flatbread.



#### Relax on beautiful Marjan Island

On the glittering water of the Persian Gulf you'll find Marjan Island. Built in 1991, it consists of four artificial coral-shaped islands with hotels, beaches, green parks, restaurants and cafés. At the heart is a 30m-tall tower shaped like a spiral sea shell which has gorgeous views back across to Dammam.



#### Eat like a king at Al Marsah Seafood

Jutting out on the corner of Prince Talal and Tenth Street like a mini sea liner, this is, hands-down, one of the best seafood joints in town. You'll be greeted by a spread from a fish market - an excellent choice of fresh seafood that includes sea bream and hamra (red snapper) and large crabs, lobsters and prawns sold by the kilo - before taking your seat in the airy interior. Grilled, spiced, battered or in a soup and served with rice, salad or fries, dig in and be prepared to hear lots of slurping and the cracking of shell - this is the kind of joint where people noisily enjoy their food.



## **HOLLYWOOD SMILE**

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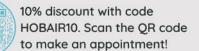


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#### Advanced Plastic and Cosmetic Surgery for Face, Body and Breast

With the most advanced operating rooms and highest standards of surgical safety on the Costa del Sol, Cirumed Surgical Center is ready to meet even the most extensive body reshaping demands. The largest specialist Plastic Surgery Center in the region was founded by CEO Dr. Alexander Aslani with an aim to deliver world-class body contouring and facial plastic surgery and over the past decade it has earned an international reputation for excellence.



متخصصين في العلاجات التجميلية غير الجراحية شد ونحت الوجه والجسم عن طريق مورفيوس 8 شد و نحت الوجه والرقبة عن طريق اكبوتايت /فيستايت /فيكتايت الشد بالخيوط الطبية بوتوكس / حمض الهيلورينيك / هايدروكسوبابتايت نحت الجسم بالتبريد كول سكالبتينج ادفانتيج علاج وتنظيف البشرة المائي هايدرافيشيال علاج ديرماين علاج النضارة بي بي جلو والمزيد من العلاجات غيّر من نفسك أحدث التقنيات في جراحة التجميل والعلاجات التجميلية للوجه والجسم والثدى

مع غرف العمليات الأكثر تقدمًا وأعلى معايير السلامة الجراحية على ساحل الشمس، فإن مركز سيروميد الجراحي جاهز لتلبية كل متطلبات إعادة تشكيل الجسم الشاملة والاكثر تعقيداً. تم تأسيس أكبر مركز متخصص في الجراحة التجميلية في المنطقة من قبل الرئيس التنفيذي الدكتور ألكسندر أصلاني بهدف إجراء عمليات وجراحة تجميلية على مستوى عالمي، وقد اكتسب على مدار العقد الماضي سمعة دولية للتميز. يسافر المرضى من جميع أنحاء العالم إلى ماربيا للبحث عن خبرة الدكتور أصلاني الخاصة ، لذا تواصل معنا اليوم من أجل ترتيب موعد استشارة طبية مع الدكتور أصلاني.



**The Eats**Where to have a good meal

**p78** 

**The Stays** Where to rest your head

**p80** 

## THE EATS

Where to go for a great meal across the WIZZ network



### Saddle Abu Dhabi

Discerning foodies in the UAE will already be very familiar with the name Saddle. Famous for its impeccable coffee, Mediterraneanstyle cuisine and high-profile popup events (like its quirky, dine-in hot-air balloons paying homage to the honeycombed-hilled Turkish city of Cappadocia this summer), Saddle has come a long way from its humble food truck beginnings.

The newest permanent home is at Abu Dhabi's Marsa Al Bateen, set in a spectacular glass building with views across the marina.

A striking artwork by visionary local artist Mattar Bin Lahej – four shimmering metal horse sculptures floating from the ceiling – adds

a touch of sophistication. But the star is, of course, Saddle's seriously extensive menu. At breakfast, you can kick off your day with their gourmet toast and pastry options (the shakshukafilled croissant is a must-try).

For lunch or dinner, choose from lighter plates such as butternut squash carpaccio or tuna tartare in an orange yuzu dressing, while mains such as grilled sea bass and beef tagliata will definitely hit the spot. Whatever you order, leave room for their signature pistachio cheesecake, a dreamy, creamy dessert topped with caramelised pistachios. saddledubai.com



#### MJ's

#### Malmö

Located inside Malmö's buzziest hotel (of the same name), MJ's has a reputation as a party spot. But that doesn't mean the food here is flash-inthe-pan. Dishes like cabbage, harissa, goat's yoghurt and Valencian almonds, and grilled pork neck, habanero glaze, tomato salad and tarragon mayonnaise elevate this hip, millennial joint into a gastronomic talking point. mjs.life



#### Eker

#### Suceava

For food with real flair in Suceava there's only one place to go. Centrally located Eker is stylishly decorated with dark blue walls, low-slung lights and velvet banquettes. But one look at the menu and you won't be talking about its aesthetics. Succulent meat dishes sing here, with tender lamb sous-vide cooked for 24 hours and smoky ribs served with creamy new potatoes and a punchy barbecue sauce. **eker.ro** 



## Hiša Franko Ljubljana

Run by the pioneering woman who transformed Slovenia's food scene, Michelin-starred Hiša Franko has become a destination in its own right over the past couple of years. Ana Roš and her husband Valter Kramar took over his family restaurant in the Soca Valley in the early 2000s (Hiša means house, and Franko was Valter's father), and quietly

focused on hyperlocal, seasonal cuisine before everyone started doing it. In 2018 Ana received her first Michelin star and in 2020 – a pretty tough year for anyone in the restaurant industry – she was bestowed her second. Thanks to Ana's ingenuity, Hiša Franko is now number 21 in the World's 50 Best Restaurants. If you're lucky enough to bag a table here, dishes

like corn beignet with fermented Alpine cheese and smoked trout roe or beef tongue pastrami, seaweed crystal, jalapeño and wild plants will astound you. Missed out on a reservation? Ana and Valter have just opened a new bakery, Pekarna Ana in Ljubljana, and a low-key bistro, Ana Ljubljana, is due to follow this autumn. hisafranko.com

## THE STAYS

The best places to rest your head across the WIZZ network



**Vienna** 

It's hard to visit Vienna without stumbling across somewhere Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart once laid his head. Arguably the most famous musical genius of all time (sorry Beyoncé), Mozart spent his greatest years in the Austrian capital, flitting from apartment to apartment. One such spot is on Petersplatz, which in August opened as Vienna's newest luxury hotel: The Rosewood Vienna. And it's a lot more glamorous than in Mozart's day. In the glorious 19th-century building you'll find 71 quest rooms and 28 suites, all elegantly styled in neutral colours. An enormous Presidential Suite stretches to about 170m<sup>2</sup> and has a dining room that seats eight, plus gorgeous views of the city.

But you don't have to hustle your way in there for the hotel's best cuisine. The rooftop Neue Hoheit Brasserie serves up innovative Austrian cuisine (and those stunning vistas), while on the first floor, Salon Aurelie offers almost-too-pretty-to-eat Viennese cakes and pastries. There's also a secret garden room on the sixth floor for private events, plus a state-of-the-art spa and fitness centre. It all sounds like music to our ears.

To book any of these hotels, visit **wizzair.com** and find your best deal with our trusted partner

**Booking.com** 

#### **Manon les Suites**

#### Copenhagen

Now, 'Instagrammable' is a word we like to use sparingly, but we've had a long, hard think and there's just no other word to do this fabulous hotel justice. Manon les Suites has got to be one of the most photogenic hotels in Europe; a little slice of paradise tucked away in the heart of Copenhagen.

While Scandinavian design might have been the biggest design interior export of the early 21st century, this hotel eschews it all. Anything clean, white and minimalist is out; everything maximalist, colourful and OTT is in. The rooms feature Balinese touches such as wooden fourposter beds, and the sixth-floor

restaurant wouldn't be out of place in New York's Williamsburg thanks to its exposed pipes, industrial-style lights and steel beams. But the winning shot lies in the Manon Les Suites atrium.

An extraordinary turquoise pool reminiscent of Mexico's resplendent cenotes (cave pools) with lush greenery spilling over balconies, light-up fish lamps and terracotta pots dangling from five floors above, it's a magical spot that's genuinely guaranteed to take your breath away. Once you've calmed down, bag one of the Ibiza-style white day beds for lounging around with a cocktail in hand. Bliss.





#### **Cali Mykonos**

Mykonos

If you're going to do an island like
Mykonos, you'd better do it in style.
That means a hotel with a private beach,
dreamy views of the Aegean and grub
served up by Lefteris Lazarou, Greece's
first Michelin-starred chef. Step into the
limelight Cali Mykonos, an eco, luxury
retreat in the sleepy village of Kalafati
that feels a world away from the bustle
of Mykonos Town.



#### **Shalai Resort**

<u>Sicily</u>

This four-star hotel in Linguaglossa, on the northern side of Mount Etna, brings together tradition and modern style. Set inside a 19th-century building, Shalai (meaning 'fullness of joy' in local dialect) has 13 beautifully appointed rooms, all styled in neutral décor. This is somewhere to relax, with the spa a real highlight thanks to its gorgeous treatments, a sauna and Turkish bath.



#### 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 in a World War II antiaircraft shelter in the Old Town. Thanks to the outstanding interior design, people from all over the world visit this historical place living its second life at night.

Spread over five floors, Bunkier is open Wednesday till Saturday. You can laugh at standup comedy, sing at karaoke, dance to the music or just enjoy the evening with a cocktail.

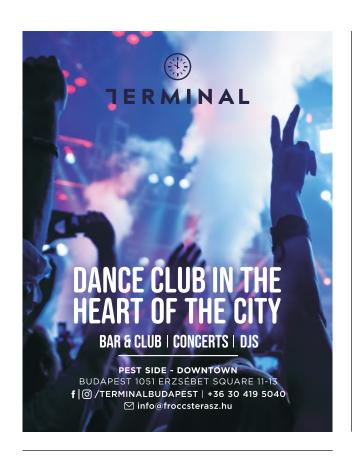


THE ROYAL CASTLE IN WARSAW +48 22 35 55 170 zamek-krolewski.pl

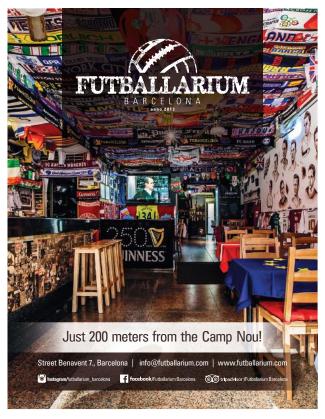
To celebrate the 300th birthday of Italian painter Bernardo Bellotto (also known as Canaletto) and the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the Royal Castle in Warsaw, the castle has organised a retrospective of Bellotto, considered the best Vedic painter of the 18th century, in collaboration with the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen in Dresden. The first part of the exhibition is devoted to Canaletto's youth and his stay in Florence, Milan, Rome and Verona. The second presents the artist's works for the court of the Vettin family, while the third showcases the last period of his life, which Bellotto spent in Warsaw at the court of King Stanislaus Augustus. The exhibition brings together works from museums around the world, including the National Gallery and British Museum in London, the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Manchester Gallery of Art, the Pinacoteca del Castello Sforzesco in Milan and the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister in Dresden.

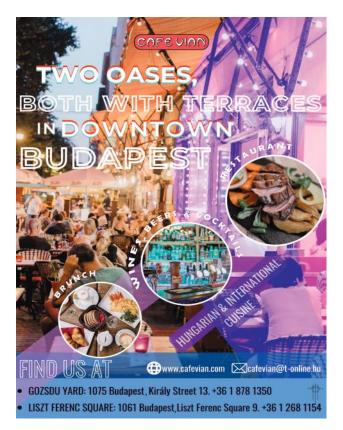














For exciting art and more this autumn, the atmospheric city of Kaunas is the place to be

Kaunas, Lithuania's second city and one of the three European Capitals of Culture of 2022, has much to offer for travellers focused on nature, architecture, art, history, design, music, food and more. All of the above, plus the element of surprise, make up the 'kaunastic' formula. 'Kaunastic' is a word used to describe the indescribable feeling when discovering Kaunas. And autumn is the perfect time for your own version of this recipe!

The fast pace of the European Capital of Culture is marked by colourful murals, unexpected land art and landscape design, and dance and performance art installations in public spaces. Moreover, Kaunas 2022 offers various art exhibitions in galleries and converted industrial areas, as well as crossover music events.

Much of the programme's projects were inspired by the city's rich history, which dates back to the 14th century. Kaunas lived its golden years between the two world wars as the temporary capital of Lithuania. This was when its dense network of Modernist architecture was built, and today this urban heritage is a vital part of the contemporary face of Kaunas.

The main programme of Kaunas 2022 will wrap up over the last weekend of November. This is when Contract, the final act of the Contemporary Myth of Kaunas Trilogy, will take place. During the closing weekend, 25-27 November, Kaunas will be decorated with contemporary art installations in various public spaces and many other events. And shortly afterwards, the city will kick-off its



the traditional Christmas celebrations. Here, traditional Christmas trees are uniquely themed works of art installed in the Town Hall each December. What theme will 2022 bring, you ask? It's best to witness it yourself – after all, the holiday season is one of the few permanent things in our itineraries and is not to be missed.

visit.kaunas.lt #visitkaunas #kaunastic #kaunas2022

•Edinburgh

· Aberdeen

Belfast•

 Doncaster/Sheffield Liverpool

Birmingham• London LTN•

Cardiff Bristol London LGW ·London SEN Eindhoven

Brussels Charleroi

Paris Beauvais• Saarbrücken• Paris Orly•

Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg

•Geneva

• Molde • Alesund

·Bergen

· Haugesund Stavanger

Lyon• Grenoble

Nice:

Zaragoza•

•Bilbao

Madrid.

 Castellon Valencia

Barcelona

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Alicante

Faro. Malaga• •Gibraltar

Seville

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1,000+ routes
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 Lanzarote Fuerteventura Tenerife• •Gran Canaria





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...



#### **Head for adventure**

Here at WIZZ, we're always on the lookout for incredible new travel opportunities. And we think you're going to want to dive head-first into this one. From 4 October, Wizz Air Abu Dhabi will start four flights a week to the Maldives. With arguably the world's best beaches spread out over nearly 1,200 islands, our newest destination is the sort of holiday spot screen savers were made for thanks to its turquoise waters and icing sugar-soft sand.

It's not the only exciting new country we start flying to this year. This autumn and winter we launch 20 new routes to three destinations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Dammam, Riyadh and Jeddah. In September we started flying from Abu Dhabi, Rome and Vienna to Dammam, and in December we'll start flights to Jeddah and Riyadh, the vibrant capital of this beautiful country. What are you waiting for? Thanks to WIZZ you're one step closer to a far-flung adventure.

## Lost and found

Back in 2018. Wizz Air launched a new initiative: a competition to win tickets to a mystery destination to encourage travellers to live life to the fullest and step into the unknown. This summer Get Lost made its return, flying a plane full of winners from Abu Dhabi to an unknown location which turned out to be... Kutaisi in Georgia! They enjoyed an adventure-packed weekend of rafting, ziplining and more.











39 bases in 16 countries



1,000-





## Winter is coming (and so are our new routes)

Temperatures might be cooling down, but at Wizz Air things are still hotting up. This summer we carried more passengers than ever before, and we're continuing this upward trend into autumn and winter as we launch routes across the network and unlock new travel opportunities at low prices for WIZZ passengers. In the UK we have nine new routes to Europe and beyond from both London Gatwick and Luton. So, if you're looking to escape the seasonal chill, how does Sharm El Sheikh, Hurghada



or Agadir sound? Or if you're a wintersports enthusiast, what about seeking out some snow near Grenoble, Tallinn or Prague?

And we're not just expanding in the UK. In Italy we have new flights from Venice to Amman, Ancona to Bucharest, Verona to London Gatwick and Perugia to Cluj-Napoca. Over in Bulgaria, we're launching new flights to Stockholm and Hamburg from Sofia thanks to the addition of a seventh Airbus A321ceo. Make your winter one to remember – book with Europe's coolest airline now.



## Touching base in Suceava

This winter, Wizz Air is showing its continued commitment to Romania by announcing a brand-new base in the beautiful city of Suceava. From December the airline will base two of its super-efficient Airbus A321neo aircraft at Suceava airport and fly to 11 destinations in seven countries. WIZZ will launch five new routes (including to Paris, Venice and Larnaca), and increase frequency on some of its most popular routes (such as seven flights to Milan a week, and five to Rome).

#### **New routes**

**Abu Dhabi** – Kuwait, Malé (the Maldives)

**Bucharest** - Aarhus, Ancona, Rimini

**Budapest** - Madeira

Cluj-Napoca - Perugia

Craiova - Billund, Turin

lasi - Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg, Copenhagen, Memmingen

Kraków - Lyon

London Gatwick -

Agadir, Grenoble, Hurghada, Marrakesh, Mykonos, Sharm El Sheikh, Verona

**London Luton** - Agadir, Hurghada, Podgorica,



Prague, Sharm El Sheikh, Tallinn

Rome - Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg, Dortmund, Lyon, Turku, Yerevan

**Sofia** - Hamburg, Stockholm

**Suceava** - Brussels, Eindhoven, Larnaca, Paris, Venice

**Tirana** – Lyon

**Venice** - Amman, Suceava, Warsaw

Vilnius - Grenoble

**Warsaw** - Aqaba, Bilbao, Madeira, Valencia

# "We need to understand young people's point of view - they are the future of air travel"

Customer Insights and Research Manager Dániel Ambrus talks about the Wizz Air Youth Forum, an exciting new initiative that targets our savviest customers

right young things are shaping the future of Wizz Air, thanks to a new project that started this summer. The Wizz Air Youth Forum - a monthly informal, online discussion with select customers aged between 18-25 - launched in June, and the insight gathered is already giving the airline a fresh perspective on how to tailor its communication and services to a switched-on generation of keen travellers, "It's important for us to target this market, to understand their perception of Wizz Air and their needs and pain points," says Customer Insight and Research Manager Dániel Ambrus. "This audience is one of our key target markets, and of course they're the future of air travel."

The Wizz Air Youth Forum is spearheaded by Dániel. He only joined WIZZ in February this year but is already making strides researching our customers' valuable opinions and gathering information to make WIZZ the

most-loved airline in the skies. "I've always had a great passion for aviation and travel," he says. "So, this opportunity was a great fit for me. What I love is that I get to work closely with many different departments in the company."

Dániel's job involves a lot of research. He focuses on brand tracking (getting an understanding of how much customers and potential customers know about Wizz Air), and targets the airline's existing customer base with questions about their interests and travel habits. He also organises a customer satisfaction survey, which all Wizz Air passengers receive after their flight, and is crucial for building on and improving our customer service, "It's all about hearing the customer's voice," says Dániel.

The Wizz Air Youth Forum is a new, creative way of speaking directly to one very important section of the airline's customer demographic – young passengers who are passionate about travelling, flying and future trends. The objective? To gather feedback on key Wizz Air business areas, including the customer journey, future travel demands and habits, sustainability, digital developments, creative concept directions and communications.

Dániel reached out to potential candidates for the forum on social media, invited customers directly and raised awareness about the project in the media.

"We received a thousand applications!" he says. "But now we have a pool of around 100 people. We invite around 20 for each session, and usually 5-7 attend depending on their availability." All the participants are travel enthusiasts with a keen interest and knowledge of aviation. "Most are also frequent travellers of Wizz Air, so really know the pain points and what other travellers might be thinking and feeling," says Dániel.

The first hour-long session focused on travel disruption management, and the second on





sustainability. "They provided a lot of actionable ideas," says Dániel. "For example, our communication needs to be clearer when we talk about things like low CO<sub>2</sub> levels or world-class engines, because not all customers naturally understand these terms. And they let us know what didn't mean anything to them – for example we say we don't have a business class and

that's better for the environment, but they didn't understand why." And the best bit? Participants are offered a €20 Wizz Air voucher for their involvement, and those who get involved four times in a year even have the chance to win a €200 voucher.

The feedback has all been positive so far, and Dániel has been busy passing on the information to the relevant departments so they can make adjustments for the next generation of Wizz Air flyers.

And he's busy working on new projects too, talking with partners about social media listening and an Eye Witness project which gives passengers a chance to respond directly via video after flight delays and disruption. It's a position that's going to keep him very busy. "I love how much responsibility I have," he says. "This is a role that's constantly expanding as the airline has a hunger for information from our customers."

## Take your career to new heights with Wizz Air

Here at Wizz Air we believe that affordable travel provides the opportunities that can change people and the world around us for the better. If you are looking to shake up your career, think about joining our team. To reach our goal of hiring 20,000 colleagues by 2030, WIZZ is continuously recruiting across the network.

We're pleased to announce that between January and May 2022, we hired 1,000 new cabin crew members. Our teams have been busy training and onboarding these new employees to support their smooth and quick integration into the WIZZ family.

Wizz Air is proud to have a strong culture of diversity, with colleagues from more than 60 countries. Want to be a part our team? For more information visit

wizzair.com/career

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

wizzair.com/en-gb/greenest



## **Our fleet**

#### Younger, greener and growing

#### Wizz Air has a single-type fleet of

168 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\* 53

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)

Flight crew 2 Cabin crew 5

Number of aircraft\* 41
Seat capacity 230



#### 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\* 68

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** 

## World of WIZZ

At **wizzair.com** you'll find the answers to all of your travel needs, from adding luggage and changing flights, to car rental, airport parking and more





#### **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.

#### The right fare for you

		BASIC	WIZZ GO	WIZZ PLUS
BAGS	Carry-on bag 40x30x20cm	<b>√</b>	✓	✓
	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			✓

## DISCOUNT CLUB

#### Fly with us for less

Our WIZZ Discount Club offers a wide range of discounts on travel\* and related services.

#### Standard membership €29.99

Suitable if you usually travel solo or with one companion, as they'll also enjoy the discount.



Member + one companion



Ticket discount



Save on each bag booked online



#### Flexible travel

#### Fare lock

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.

#### **WIZZ Flex**

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.

#### **Travel insurance coverage for COVID-19**

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.

#### **Group membership €69.99**

Suitable for those who fly with families and friends, as you'll get the discount for up to five other passengers.



Member + up to five companions



Ticket discount Save on each bag booked online



#### 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.



#### **Italy Discount Club**

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

#### Standard membership €19.99 Group membership €34.99

## Benefits include:



Ticket discount\*\*



WIZZ Priority

## 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.

Charging electronic devices on board using a portable battery charger is forbidden.



#### **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. lkg 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.













## 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
- Wear your face mask properly (covering your nose and mouth) 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

 ${}^*\mathsf{Subject}$  to applicable jurisdiction

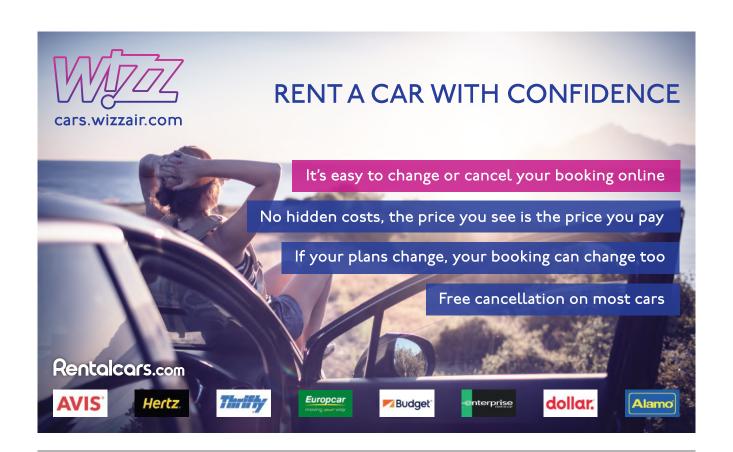
For more information, please refer to the General Conditions of Carriage on wizzair.com

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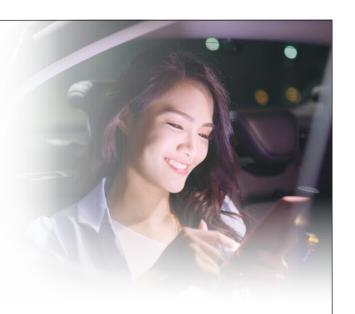
A driver will be waiting with your sanitized ride



#### **Delayed flight? Fear not**

Our drivers will track your flight





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Airtox® is a Danish safety shoe manufacturer that represents a genuine and authentic pioneering experience in safety footwear. Our compelling brand and futuristic safety shoes are a highly influential mixture and are well known for setting trends in the market.

