



2012/12

今日天津

Tangla Hotel Where East Meets West

中西合璧的唐拉雅秀



封面人物: Fintan O'Doherty,
the General Manager of the Tangla Tianjin
欧菲德, 天津中心唐拉雅秀酒店总经理

定价: 10元



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Important admission testing dates for second semester.

December 4 & 5
Registration for testing

December 8
Testing for Grades 1 - 12

December 14
Testing for Early Childhood Center
(3-5 year olds)

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王府
QING WANG FU

Merry Christmas!
庆王府圣诞夜
Qing Wang Fu Christmas Eve

圣诞自助餐
Christmas Buffet

12月24日 24th December
18:30-21:00

628 元/位
RMB 628 per person

12岁以下儿童 400元/位
RMB 400 per child
(below 12 years old)

圣诞特别套餐
Christmas Dinner

12月1日至31日
1st December to 31st December

西餐套餐 728元/位
Western Set Menu
RMB 728 per person

中餐套餐 828元/位
Chinese Set Menu
RMB 828 per person

圣诞15%服务费 Subject to 15% service charge

中国天津市和平区重庆道55号 300050
No. 55 Chinggang Road, Heping District, Tianjin, China 300050
电话 Tel: +86 22 8713 5555 / +86 22 5835 5555 传真 Fax: +86 22 8713 5566
邮箱 Email: info@qingwangfu.com 网址 Website: www.qingwangfu.com

中西合璧的百年建筑中，优雅精致的装饰风格，典雅恢弘的豪华大厅中，聆听真挚的圣诞颂歌，以王府为伴打造最为独特的圣诞之夜。

电话预订为贵献上最诚挚的圣诞问候，圣诞教人用为您送上最美祝福和欢愉。

Qing Wang Fu has created the most unique Christmas Eve for you!

The choir will perform a lovely Christmas and New Years songs for you and your party.

Meanwhile, Santa Claus will bring nice presents and prayers for you and your family and friends during this festive season and New Year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

COUNTDOWN INTO 2013 NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION AT QBA

Countdown with your loved one and friends into 2013 and say goodbye to 2012.
 Enjoy the best entertainment in town with our resident latin band to celebrate the coming new year.

Qba New Year package, rates start from RMB350 (inclusive service charge)

Date: 31st Dec 2012 20:30 to late
 Terms and conditions apply.

For more information visit www.westin.com/tianjin or contact our service team.

2nd floor, Qba Bar & Grill

THE WESTIN
TIANJIN
天津君麗威斯特酒店



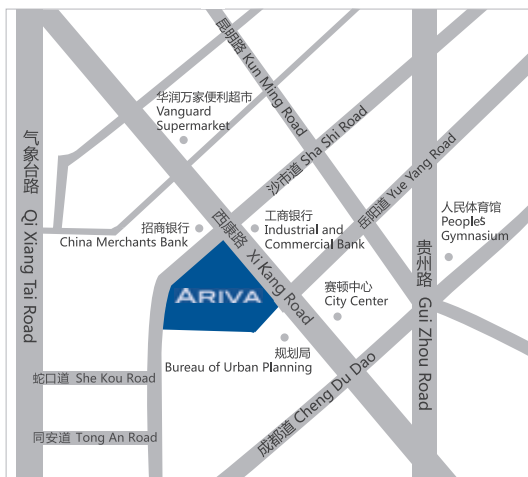
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In a century old beautiful Italian heritage building
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Christmas Celebrate an Italian Christmas in luxury

Christmas Eve grand dinner
Time: 19:00- 21:00, October 24th, 2012
Venue: Via Veneto
Price: ¥ 1688/person

Christmas promotion:

Time: From November 25 to December 24, 2012
▶ 20% off discount for room rate in promotion period
▶ No charge of service fee for dining in Via Veneto in promotion period

Guestroom promotion:

- Celebrate Christmas at our Christmas Eve dinner and, on the same day, book a one night stay at our classic guestroom for only ¥ 2000/night
- Celebrate Christmas at our Christmas Eve dinner and, on the same day, book a one night stay at our suite deluxe for only ¥ 2500/night
- Celebrate Christmas at our Christmas Eve dinner and, on the same day, book a one night stay at our Presidential Suite for only ¥ 2200/night

Entertainment

On the night we will have live music, a lucky draw and an auction of top wines from around the world.

Prizes for the lucky draw
1st prize: one night free stay at our deluxe suite at the Yi Boutique
2nd prize: a 1000RMB dining voucher for our hotel
3rd prize: Ferragamo skin care set



Add: No.52-54, Min Zu Road, Hebei District, Tianjin
TEL: 022-24455511



Christmas Party

December 24th, 2012
6:30pm-9:30pm
Diamond Ballroom

Over 150 lucky draw prizes waiting for you to bring home !!!

Live entertainment and performance with a wide variety of delicious buffet spreads.

For ticket purchase, please contact 8319-8888 ext. 3105

hotel nikko tianjin

No. 109 Nanjing Road, Tong Guan Road Entrance of The Exchange, Heping District, Tianjin, China
Tel: 8319-8888 Fax: 8319-2266
www.nikkotianjin.com

天津海河假日酒店 Holiday Inn Tianjin Riverside



圣诞嘉年华 Grand Ballroom X'mas Gala Dinner

Venue: 5F Ballroom

VIP RMB 1488/位
Adult RMB 1188/位
Child RMB 898/位

威尼斯咖啡厅圣诞夜自助餐 Café Venice Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet

Venue: 2F café venice

Adult RMB 698/位
Child RMB 498/位

Date: Christmas Eve, 2012
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Phoenix Shopping Mall, East Haihe Road, Hebei District, Tianjin
(Nearby Eye of Tianjin)
T: +86 (22) 2627 8888-2266 F: +86 (22) 2627 6666

Treat yourself to a special weekend offer together with X'mas Eve Dinner.





Aqua Cafe

Christmas around the World

Let us indulge you with the delicacies around the world during this Christmas Eve.

Fabulous shows and lucky draw prizes are waiting for you.

588 RMB/Person

Time: Dec. 24th, 2012 18:00-21:00
Venue: Holiday Inn Tianjin Aqua City Aqua Cafe- 2F

For more information:
+86 22 5877 6666-3718



Next Beijing Road, Hongqiao District, Tianjin, P.R. China
Website: www.holidayinn.com/qapacity
E-mail: hotel@holidayinn-aqua.com



Christmas 皇家圣宴

IN CROWNE PLAZA TIANJIN BINHAI
Monday December 24, 2012 From 18:00 till 22:00

RMB 1888 net / per person
RMB 1588 net / per person
RMB 988 net / per person
【The lucky draw prizes include healthy tickets】

11 days romantic cruise trip to Mediterranean for Two person

Experience a warm & romantic cruise with us around the globe in Crowne Plaza Tianjin Binhai. Come with your family to enjoy our shows with Moulin Rouge, Samba dance, Bollywood music show. Kids get gift from Santa Claus, play with snows and bubble show and many many more. Lots of lucky draw prizes are waiting for you. It will be an unforgettable Christmas you ever have in Tianjin.

Crowne Plaza Tianjin Binhai - Grand Ballroom
For more information please call : 022 58678888 Ext. 2299
55 Zhongxin Avenue Airport Economic Area Tianjin, 300308 P. R. China



CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION

RMB **458*** /adult RMB **298*** /child below 12 years old

Buy two tickets and get one night complimentary stay in a superior room on Dec 24, 2012 (room only).

Complimentary free flow of soft drinks and Santa Clause will make an appearance for the children and parents

Accompanied by a lucky draw and live band

Children below 5 years eat free when accompanied by their parents

Enjoy our Christmas beer buffet for only RMB80* per person

For inquiries, please call our hotline 24578888 ext. 3635

Date and time: Monday 24th December 2012, 18:30-21:00

* Complimentary room requires two full adult price tickets
* The hotel reserves the right to have final decision
* Subject to 15% service charge

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TIANJIN
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<http://www.radissonblu.com/plaza-tianjin>



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new Cantonese cuisine and modern Sichuan cuisine

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Mellow Lounge Lobby Bar
Pleasant fragrance of drinks, and romantic atmosphere

Luxury five star hotel
Personal experience Unlimited possibilities



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The Hearing Procedures in a Labor Dispute Arbitration

---From Logos Law Firm (experienced local Chinese lawyers)

劳动仲裁中的审理

To make awards of labor dispute cases, labor dispute arbitration commissions shall adopt the arbitral tribunal system. The arbitral tribunal shall be composed of three arbitrators, with one serving as chief arbitrator. And the cases may be solely arbitrated by one arbitrator if the they are simple.

The labor dispute arbitration commission shall, within five days from the date it accepts an application for arbitration, make a notification to the parties concerning to the composition of the arbitral tribunal in written to the parties.

An arbitrator shall withdraw, and the parties is entitled to apply for his withdrawal orally or in written, under one of the circumstances sent out following:

- (i) He/She is a party to the case in question or a close relative of a party or its agents;
- (ii) He has interest relations to the case;;
- (iii) He has other relations with a party to the case or its agent, which may affect impartial award; or
- (iv) He meets with a party or its agent without authorization or accepts invitation to dinner or gifts therefrom.

The labor dispute arbitration commission shall, in a timely manner, make a decision on the application for withdrawal and notify the parties of the decision orally or in written.

The arbitral tribunal shall notify both parties to the date and place of the hearing five days before the hearing is held. A party who has justifiable reasons may request for postponing the hearing three days before the hearing is held. The labor dispute arbitration shall decide whether the request is approved.

In the course of arbitration, the parties is entitled to examine and cross examine and debate. When the examination and cross examination and debating is ended, the arbitrator shall solicit the final opinions to the parties.

Where the evidence provided by a party is substantiated upon verification, the arbitral tribunal shall confirm the facts on ground of such evidence.

Where a worker fails to provide the evidence which is kept and controlled by the employing unit and is relevant to his arbitration claim, the arbitral tribunal may require the employing unit to provide such evidence within a specified time limit. Where the employing unit fails to do so, it shall bear the

unfavorable consequences.

The arbitral tribunal shall make a written record of the hearing. Where the parties or the other participants in the arbitration believe that there are omissions or errors in their recorded statements, they shall have the right to apply for supplementation or correction. If the tribunal refuses to do so, the application shall be recorded.

The written record shall be signed or sealed by the arbitrators, recording clerks, the parties and other participants in the arbitration.

After applying for arbitration of their labor dispute, the party may reach a settlement on their own. Where a settlement agreement is reached, the arbitration application may be withdrawn.

The arbitral tribunal shall mediate before making an award. When an agreement is reached through mediation, a statement of mediation shall be prepared by the arbitral tribunal.

Where mediation fails to or before the statement of mediation is served, one party goes back on the agreement reached, the arbitral tribunal shall make an award in a timely manner.

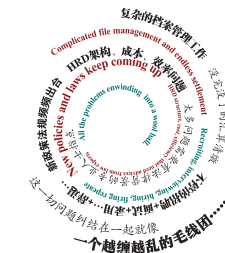
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Email: Logoslawfirm@yahoo.com.cn Website: www.logoslawfirm.com Fax: +86 22 83715257

+86 22 83715256 +86 22 83713771

Merry Christmas

Tianjin TEDA International Hotel Christmas Eve Party

Would like to beat the winter blues or kick off Christmas with a wonderful party? The brightly-coloured Binhai Grand Ballroom presents a sumptuous Christmas dinner buffet with the highlights of traditional Christmas specialties. Neon flashing stage brings magic performances and attractive lucky draw, the Santa gives the exquisite gifts to all the guests. Tianjin TEDA International Hotel invite you to spend the Christmas cheer on this carnival feast.

Diamond Package - CNY 1688 nett per person including Christmas Eve Gala Dinner in Binhai Grand Ballroom, one lottery ticket, VIP exclusive seat, fitness center voucher and one night stay in deluxe suite.

Platinum Package - CNY 1488 nett per person including Christmas Eve Gala Dinner in Binhai Grand Ballroom, one lottery ticket, fitness center voucher and one night stay in guestroom.

Glod Package - CNY 788 nett per person including Christmas Eve Gala Dinner in Harbour Restaurant and one lottery ticket.

Date: 24 December 2012
Location: Binhai Grand Ballroom
5th Floor, Building A 5:30pm to 10:00pm
Harbour Restaurant
1st Floor, Building F 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Grand Prize: **RM20,000 in cash**

天津泰达国际酒店
TEDA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

NO.8 Second Avenue, TEDA Binhai New Area, Tianjin PRC 300457
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E-mail: hr_info@tedahotels.com
www.tedahotel.com

REFU 天津瑞福天科模具有限公司

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A professional manufacturer specialized in the design, production and process of precision stamping mold, injection mold and precision mold parts. Established in 2006, Tianjin Refull Tianke Mold&Die Co., Ltd owns various types of auto machines including CNC, EDM and Wire Cut that are imported from Switzerland. The Company will provide a comprehensive solution to clients with the precision mold manufacturing as the core and precision injection mold as the carrier and assisted by printing and assembly.

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Support

Encouragement

People who share our goals and beliefs

All of these things help us to discover how we fit into the place that God has put us.

Join our fellowship Sundays at 9:30 AM or 10:15 AM in Tianjin or at 10:00AM in TEDA as we discover God and His great plan, together



New Tianjin Location Starting November 4th at King Hall Hotel

Address: No. 22, Huan Hu Zhong Lu, Hexi District (河西区环湖中路22号)

Bus line: 1, 9, 705, 826, 953 stop nearby

www.TJIF.com

Please contact Scott Carlson with any questions:

- Phone: 8829 7772
- Tianjin email: enquiry@tjif.com
- TEDA email: enquiry@tedafellowship.com

Open to foreign passport holders only.



King Hall Hotel
Address: No. 22 Huanhu Zhong Lu
天津市河西区环湖中路22号

CROWNE PLAZA
TIANJIN JINNAN
天津京基皇冠假日酒店

Spring Teppanyaki Restaurant

It is located on the third floor of the hotel.

The restaurant can serve 78 guests at its four teppanyaki stations.

Opening times: 17:30—22:30

The restaurant has a comfortable and elegant atmosphere where you can enjoy our delicious food prepared by our hotel chef.

Signature teppanyaki

The set menus give you the chance to taste our different specialties such as our Snow Dragon Beef,

Tempura and Sushi

Snow Dragon Beef

comes from specially fed and carefully raised cattle.

It is served with grilled garlic slices that enhance the tender and juicy taste of the meat. Grapefruit vinegar is available. We offer salads, tempura, sashimi and sushi of a variety of flavors, as well as traditional

Korean bibimbap and cold noodles.



We Welcome you to Spring Teppanyaki Restaurant!
Reservation hotline: 28728888 ext. 6580, 6579

Ling Yu Road, Ba Li Tai Town, Jinnan District, Tianjin, China
中国天津市津南区八里台镇领域路

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Holiday Inn Binhai Tianjin

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International School of Tianjin

Real Estate 房地产

Joanna Real Estate

Restaurant 餐厅

DIN TAI FUNG
Trattoria Italiana
Bavarian Beer Keller
YY Beer House
Tapas Hank's

International Relocation

国际搬家公司
REX Service

Others 其他

Logos Law Firm
Renew-Dental
SINOBO
Tianjin Magic Lily International
Travel Agency

~~What~~ How did we learn today?



At **Tianjin International School** we know that we can teach our students lessons from stories and textbooks. We can teach them with words, examples and illustrations, with manipulatives, pictures and games.

But one thing that sets our **Early Childhood Center** apart is how our teachers constantly take it one step further, by turning learning into a real life experience: Which materials will make the best house? Which ones will keep out the big, bad wolf? Brian can tell you.

But don't just take our word for it. **Call us today** to set up a personalized tour, and come see how your child can **learn by doing**.



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天津市河西区泗水道4号增1号

Letter from the Editor

As we near the end of the year it is always surprising how quickly it has gone. With the new year just around the corner, some are looking forward to a better 2013 while others are worried that December 21st might signal the end of the world. Although most people don't take it too seriously and will treat that day just like any other, what if it was really true? I suppose if it really did happen we might rue the lost opportunity to prepare properly for the end of our lives.

Most likely many people would try to rectify mistakes made in the past or say things that they had not dared to say before. It would be their last chance to put things right before they close their eyes and ready themselves for the peaceful big sleep from which we never awake. However, it is never wise to leave things to the last minute and spend the last moments of your life rushing around with so much to do. Whoever first said: "Live every day as if it was your last" has a very good point. Perhaps the doomsayers' prophecy is more a reminder for us to take life seriously and to not waste life's precious gift.

Making a life-changing decision can be a painful process because it could be the biggest mistake in your life. This can be especially true in decisions regarding relationships and family. Divorce, was once extremely rare in China but it is now becoming more and more common. Some Chinese think it is a side effect of the globalization and prosperity that has brought tremendous opportunities to China. Paula Taylor has recently been exploring the emotional world of Chinese people regarding divorce. She understands that divorce in China is a much more complicated issue than in her hometown Britain. She wanted to know about the Chinese people's changing attitude toward it and what was most important to the people making this momentous decision.

However, we hope that these are issues that are not part of your life and want to sincerely wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Remember to cherish the time spent with your family and try to do everything better next year!

时间过得飞快，转眼间2012年即将过去。每年年末都是人们回顾过去一年，展望新一年的时刻。但今年有些特别，有些人在等待世界末日的预言是否会实现。12月21日这一天究竟会发生什么事？

虽然大多数人对此说法都不以为然，但我们不妨想象一下，如果世界末日真的要来临，你还有什么未了的心愿？也许这个预言更像是一个警钟，提醒我们认真过好每一天，就像这是生命的最后一天。

做出一个影响终生的抉择是个痛苦的过程，尤其是涉及感情或家庭的决定。在中国，离婚曾经是个禁忌，但近年来，中国的离婚率却处于上升趋势。Paula Taylor在主题故事里剖析了中国人的情感世界和他们对离婚这个问题的态度。

如果你目前没有类似的困扰，那我们衷心祝你圣诞快乐，新年快乐！在新的一年里，记得要珍惜与家人相处的时间！

Monica W

JOIN
THE JIN TEAM!

Got a passion for Tianjin?
Want to share your China experience?
Are you a veteran expat with tips and tricks of the trade?
In tune with the expat community?

JIN Magazine is looking for **freelance writers** to contribute articles to the magazine in all areas. If you are interested, please get in touch with editorial@jinmagazine.com.cn

JIN
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今日天报

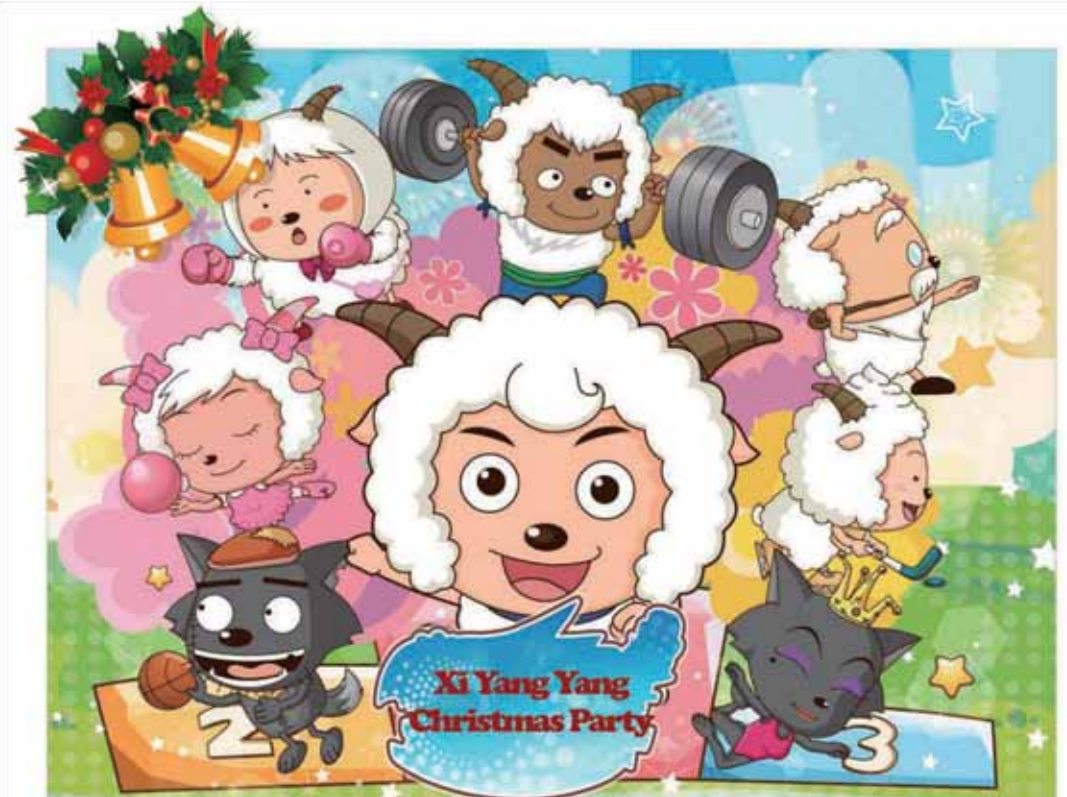
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How much fun do you want to have this Christmas?

Get ready for a fabulous party, with plenty of exciting ideas, magic ornament, live entertainment, luxury delicious food, the exciting lucky draw prize, Christmas gifts, an unforgettable Christmas celebration for your whole team. Relax, it's the Holiday Inn Tianjin Binhai.

Date: Monday 24th December, 2012

Time: 18:30-24:00

Location: Binhai Ball Room, 15th F, Holiday Inn Tianjin Binhai

A. RMB2188 per person including gala dinner, two lottery tickets, VIP Area seat approaches the stage, one night stay in a business room with two breakfasts before Dec. 31, 2012

B. RMB1688 per person including gala dinner, lottery ticket, live entertainment
It's half the price of the normal one for children. If you bought our Christmas gala ticket, add RMB428 you can enjoy one night stay in a superior room with two breakfasts. This promotion is valid from now to February 28, 2013.

Book Christmas gala tickets before December 10, 2012, half price for Children ticket. This is on a first come, first serve basis.

For reservations and enquiries, please call 6628 3388

预订或问询请拨打 6628 3388

Caters Plaza, 86 Five Avenue, TEDA, Tianjin 300417
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Holiday Inn
天津滨海
TIANJIN BINHAI

WHAT'S ON December

Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

The Former Soviet Union Songs Concert

前苏联歌曲音乐会
Time: 19:30 on Dec 7 Friday
Price: 180/120/80/50/30 RMB

Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Forever Red Star

The Russian Red Star Red Army Chorus and Dance Ensemble Concert

永远的红星——俄罗斯红军红星歌舞团音乐会

Time: 19:30 on Dec 28 Friday
Price: 880/680/480/280/180/80 RMB



Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

The Nutcracker

芭蕾舞剧《胡桃夹子》

Performer: Mongolian National Ballet Theater
Time: 19:30 on Dec 24-26
Price: 380/280/180/120/80/50/30 RMB



Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Flamenco Dance

弗拉明戈舞

Performer: Raffaello Amargo Dance Team
Time: 19:30 on Dec 29-30
Price: 680/480/380/280/180/120/60 RMB



Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Music Drama: THE SUIT

音乐话剧《情人的衣服》

Director: Peter Brook
Time: 19:30 on Dec 13-16
Tianjin Grand Theatre Little Theater
Price: 300/200 RMB



Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Pipe Organ Solo Concert

管风琴独奏音乐会

Organist: Drahoslav Gric
Time: 19:30 on Dec 26 Wednesday
Price: 380/280/180/120/80/50 RMB



Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Vienna New Year's Concert 2013

维也纳管弦乐团2013新年音乐会

Performer: Symphonia Vienna
Conductor: Raphael Schluesselberg
Time: 19:30 on Dec 27 Thursday
Price: 1280/1080/880/680/480/280/180/120 RMB

Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

The Kingdom of the Netherlands Eindhoven Symphony Orchestra Concert

荷兰王国爱因霍芬交响乐团音乐会

Conductor: Daan Adamiraal
Time: 19:30 on Dec 29 Saturday
Price: 580/380/280/180/120/80 RMB



Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Tianjin Symphony Orchestra and Stanislavski and Niemi Boris - Danqinke Music Theatre Music Concert

天津交响乐团与莫斯科国立斯坦尼斯拉夫斯基和涅米洛维奇-丹钦科音乐剧院音乐会

Conductor: Korobov
Time: 19:30 on Dec 4 Tuesday
Price: 380/280/180/120/80/50 RMB

Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

The World Classic Song Chorus Concert

世界经典歌曲合唱音乐会

Time: 19:30 on Dec 24 Monday
Price: 380/280/180/120/80/50 RMB

Tianjin Concert Hall

Daniel • Kramer Piano Concert

丹尼尔·克雷默钢琴音乐会

Time: 19:30 Dec 25 Tuesday
Price: 240/180/120/80/50/30 RMB
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068



Tianjin Concert Hall

Vienna New Year's Concert 2013

维也纳管弦乐团2013新年音乐会

Performer: Symphonia Vienna
Conductor: Raphael Schluesselberg
Time: 19:30 on Dec 29 Saturday
Price: 1280/1080/880/680/480/280 RMB
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Western Shore Museum

Vocal Classic Concert

声乐经典专场音乐会

Performer: Tianjin Song and Dance Theatre
Time: 20:00 on Dec 1 Saturday
Price: 100RMB

Western Shore Museum

Piano Solo Concert

钢琴独奏音乐会

Time: 20:00 on Dec 7 Friday
Price: 100RMB



Western Shore Museum

Classic Movie Music Concert

电影音乐经典音乐会

Time: 20:00 on Dec 8 Saturday
Price: 100RMB



Western Shore Museum

String Quartet Jazz and Country Music Concert

弦乐四重奏爵士、乡村音乐专场音乐会

Time: 20:00 on Dec 14 Friday
Price: 100RMB



Western Shore Museum

Classic Folk Music Concert

民乐经典音乐会

Time: 20:00 on Dec 15 Saturday
Price: 100 RMB



Western Shore Museum

Classic String Quartet Concert

弦乐四重奏经典音乐会

Time: 20:00 on Dec 21 Friday
Price: 100RMB



Western Shore Museum

A Cappella Concert

无伴奏合唱音乐会

Time: 20:00 on Dec 22 Saturday
Price: 100RMB



Western Shore Museum

Guqin Solo Concert

古琴独奏音乐会

Time: 20:00 on Dec 28 Friday
Price: 100RMB



Don't Miss

First Year Anniversary Open House Christmas Tree Lighting and Family Festive Fun

Time: 10:00 a.m.-15:00p.m. on Dec 8 Saturday
Tel: 5856 8500

United Family Healthcare
www.ufh.com.cn

Don't Miss

Christmas Ball

Tianjin International Community Centre

08 Sat

Ticc_09@hotmail.com
Tianjin.weebly.com

Expo

Bin Hai Exhibition Center

Automobile Trade Expo

Date: 07-09 Fri-Sat

Chamber Event

Continental

Wednesday, December 5, 2012
12:15 - 16:30

Become our yearly Sponsor
2013/14 of the GCC North
China - Tianjin Office

German Chamber cordially invites you to join our factory visit at Continental Automotive Systems (Tianjin) Co., Ltd., which was founded in year 1995 and belongs to the Continental Automotive Group. It is a Foreign-Owned Enterprise, located in the center of the TEDA industrial zone in Tianjin with more than 1,500 employees and 29K square meters of building area. Continental Automotive Systems (Tianjin) Co., Ltd. is the second fastest growth company in TEDA, and one of the largest automotive suppliers in China. The main product portfolio covers most fields of automotive electronics including blue tooth systems, radios, engine control units, body control units and transmission control units for both local and international OEMs. In year 2009, Continental Tianjin has introduced new technologies to produce state of the art radios and transmission control units, Wire bonding, clean room, and plastics have been established in Continental Tianjin to widen the product portfolio. At the same time, Continental Tianjin has added experienced talent to ensure a solid foundation for additional growth.

Agenda:

12:15 - 12:30 Get together at 1F Global Center
12:30 - 14:30 Transfer with the free shuttle bus from Global Center to Continental Automotive Systems (Tianjin) Co., Ltd.
14:00 - 14:30 Presentation by Mr. Franz Winklmeier, BU TR Asia Operations Manager, Continental Tianjin
14:30 - 16:00 Factory Tour
16:00 - 17:30 Transfer back to Global Center

Optional:

Stammtisch Binhai (Networking dinner) in La Seine French Restaurant Binhai
Price: German Chamber Members: Free 1 Non-Members: 150 RMB

Meeting Point Downtown:
1F Lobby, Global Center, No. 309 Nanjing Road

Contact:
Ms. ZHANG, Yamei
+86 22 8787 9249
zhangyamei@bj.china.ahk.de

Please note in case you registered but cannot attend, please remember to cancel your reservation 24 hours in advance, otherwise a no-show fee will be applied and you will be invoiced for the event.

What's hot on Weibo...

▶ **MSN only to be available in China**
Microsoft confirmed in early November that Windows Live Messenger will suspend its service and be replaced by Skype from the first quarter of 2013. Only in China will MSN still be accessible. In the past few months, Microsoft has been encouraging Windows Live Messenger users to transfer to Skype. Microsoft spent 8.5 billion dollars in acquiring CSkype last May.

▶ **Personality or Ignorance**
A new graduate intern who worked at CCTV has caused a storm by refusing to help colleagues book their lunch. In China, it has become a common practice for interns to do office chores that are often not part of their job. There have been differing opinions regarding this incident. Some have said that this intern has shown no respect to their seniors and is ignorant of the office rules. Others said this highlights a bad practice that should be changed and that the individual's dignity should be respected.

▶ **Did you Take the Advantage on Single's Day**
Because the date November 11 has four ones, it has become known as Single's Day. Like other festivals, it has been hijacked by retailers and become an excuse for a shopping extravaganza. A Double Eleven Shopping Carnival began at 0:00 on November 11. Advertisements promised a 50% discount for the day. Within 10 minutes, the trade volume on TMall (under taobao) had reached 250 million yuan and at the end of the day the final sales figures were 1.32 billion RMB, which was almost four times the volume of the same day last year.

▶ **Most Wanted Jobs in China**
Which workers are the happiest? In a survey on Weibo civil servants, government officials and teachers took up the top positions on the list. High-income professions like artists, high-ranking managers, pilots and actors were next on the list. The unhappiest workers were miners. It makes you think, are you happy with your job?

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Most Important Power Transition of China Succeeded

■ 中共十八大顺利完成领导层更替

中国共产党第十八次全国代表大会于2012年11月8日召开，会议选举产生新一届中央委员会和中央纪律检查委员会，通过关于十七届中央委员会报告的决议、关于《中国共产党章程（修正案）》的决议。14日上午在人民大会堂胜利闭幕。中国共产党第十八届中央委员会第一次全体会议，于2012年11月15日在北京举行，选举出了新一届的中共中央领导，习近平当选中共中央总书记。



A new generation of top Chinese leaders took the stage on November 15th in one of the world's most important power transitions, taking the helm of the ruling party of the world's second-largest economy and the most populous country. Xi Jinping was sworn in as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), leading the seven-seat Political Bureau Standing Committee. The other six members of the top leadership of the Party's central leading organ are Li Keqiang, Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhengsheng, Liu Yunshan, Wang Qishan and Zhang Gaoli. They were elected at the first plenum of the 18th CPC Central Committee following the CPC's 18th National Congress. Their election marked a smooth top leadership transition following the 16th national congresses of the Party in 2002.

Tianjin sees European & American tours boom in the pre-Christmas season

■ 圣诞节海外购物游升温



据本市多家旅行社提供的消息，随着圣诞购物季的到来，欧美旅游线路升温趋势。游客希望赶在海外圣诞打折促销期淘得物美价廉的奢侈品。

Christmas shopping season is coming. According to several travel agents in Tianjin, European and American routes are becoming very popular as many tourists hunt for good bargains during the discount season in America and Europe. With numerous luxury brands, the travel routes to France, Switzerland and Italy are very popular. For example, a travel agent in Tianjin launched an offer for a "10-day Tour to France, Switzerland and Italy", which has been very popular with tourists. In addition, the number of consultations and reservations for American tours has been steadily rising since obtaining a visa to America was made simpler.

Delegation of Hong Kong SAR Visited Tianjin

■ 香港财政司司长访津

2012年10月30日，香港特别行政区财政司司长曾俊华、财经事务及库务局局长陈家强、香港金融管理局总裁陈德霖、香港驻北京办公室主任朱曼玲与香港商会天津分会的会员在海河假日酒店进行了亲切融洽的交流。



On October 30th, the government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China Mr. John Tsang, the finance secretary Mr. Ceajar Chan, secretary for Finance services and the treasury, Mr. Norman T.L.Chan Chief Executive from Hong Kong monetary Authority and Ms Cathy chu, Director of Beijing office visited Tianjin. Members from Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce-Tianjin had a discussion about the future development of Tianjin and Hong Kong.

21 rare birds poisoned in Tianjin as volunteers rush to help

■ 21只珍稀东方白鹤中毒，天津志愿者紧急救援

21只国家一级保护动物东方白鹤在天津北大港湿地自然保护区被发现中毒死亡。自野生动物摄影师在11月11日发出消息以来，来自天津北京等地的志愿者们纷纷赶到事发地对幸存的东方白鹤展开救援。



Twenty one oriental white storks, China's class-one protected animal, died from pesticide poisoning in a wetland reserve in Tianjin. A wildlife photographer triggered the alarm on November 11 after he found in Beidagang Wetland Reserve that some oriental white storks were unwell. There are less than 2,500 of the critically endangered species in the world, and 500 of them are living in the wetland reserve south of downtown Tianjin. Volunteers from the Tianjin Bird Watching Society, Dagang Oil Field Bicycle Club and Wildlife Conservation Society rushed to rescue the poisoned birds. Carbofuran, one of the most toxic pesticide, has been discovered at three spots to be illegally used to intentionally poison the birds. 15 poisoned oriental white storks have been sent to hospital while two are in critical conditions.

Air China launches Tianjin-Chongqing-Lijiang route

■ 国航开通天津-重庆-丽江线路

11月8日国航天津分公司开通天津—重庆—丽江航线，此航线的开通将更加丰富丽江及天津市民的旅游出行选择。



Air China expanded its domestic network on 8 November when the Star Alliance airline launched a new service from Tianjin (TSN) via Chongqing (CKG) in the southwest of the country to Lijiang (LJG) near the border to Burma in Yunnan Province. Flights operate three times a week with 737 aircraft. On the Tianjin to Chongqing sector, Air China faces competition from West Air's and Tianjin Airlines' each daily flights as well as Sichuan Airlines' three flights a week, while the Chongqing to Lijiang route faces further competition: West Air operates twice-daily and Chongqing Airlines 11 times weekly, while Xiamen Airlines, Lucky Air and Sichuan Airlines each operate daily.

Tianjin subway receives nearly 500,000 daily passengers

■ 天津地铁日接待乘客数量将近50万

随着冬季的到来，越来越多市民选择乘坐地铁出行。天津地铁1、2、3、9号线日接待乘客数量已将近50万。



As winter comes, more and more Tianjin residents chose to take the subway. Recently, the passenger flow of Tianjin Metro lines has reached nearly 500,000. In order to let passengers has a cosy journey on subways, the Tianjin Subway Operating Company started to carry out subway management method for winter. According to the statistics, the passenger flow hit 3 million after the Line 3 opened for a month. The passenger flow hit 10.5 million after Line 1, 2 and 3 operated in networks. Besides Line 5 and 6, the construction works for Line 1 eastern line, Line 2 airport line, and Line 3 south station line have been started. By 2020, Tianjin rail transit will stretch to 1,000km, covering both its urban and rural areas. In addition, the mobile phone signal will cover the Tianjin subway in the near future.

Ascott Named 2012 Best Recommended Serviced Apartment by Travel + Leisure

■ 雅诗阁荣获中国旅行奖“特别推荐酒店式公寓”



2012年11月16日，雅诗阁品牌在“2012悦旅中国·旅行奖”上荣获由业内知名媒体《悦旅Travel+Leisure》颁发的“2012特别推荐酒店式公寓”大奖。

On 16 November, Ascott has been named "2012 Best Recommended Serviced Apartment" at Travel+Leisure 2012 China Travel Awards. Travel+Leisure magazine first introduced its Travel Awards to China in 2009. The award list has also become the best guide for travelers to find the best accommodation, airlines, cruises and destinations. Mr. Kevin Goh, Regional General Manager of East China and South China, accepted the award on behalf of Ascott China. He said, "We are honored to be recognized by our clients and industry bodies. Today, Ascott has around 8,000 serviced residence units in China. As we enlarge our presence, we will continue to serve more of our clients with quality accommodation during their travels away from home."

TANGLA HOTEL – WHERE EAST MEETS WEST

By Paula Taylor

中西合璧的唐拉雅秀

天津中心唐拉雅秀酒店的总经理欧菲德的酒店从业经历遍及整个亚洲，因此在他的管理策略中，“中西合璧”就变成了关键词。

中国的富人阶层正在不断壮大，因此他们愿意花钱购买奢华、高档的产品和服务。因此，很多中国的酒店都在装潢上不惜血本，把酒店内部打造成金碧辉煌的皇家宫殿。欧菲德认为，虽然酒店的主要客人还是中国人，但是在管理上还是要注入一些西方的智慧。在西方人看来，越简单的东西就越能代表奢华。

唐拉雅秀酒店的各种设施简约但不简单。虽然地处天津最繁华的商业区，但是酒店客房都位于三十层以上，因此你感觉不到城市的喧嚣，却能获得俯瞰城市的好视野。即使是普通客房也要比一般酒店的客房大一倍，而且所有房间都配有临窗的浴缸。

欧菲德希望未来五年仍然在中国工作，把唐拉雅秀品牌打造成高端客户认可的第一品牌。

Given the fact that Tianjin's many fine hotels are vying for customers in an ever increasingly choosy market, what is the secret to keeping the paying customers happy, and at the same time satisfying the requirements of the investors, a notoriously difficult feat? At the Tangla Tianjin they have discovered the secret – finding a niche in the market and filling it. Let's now meet one of the men behind this particular brand.

Fintan O'Doherty, the General Manager



of the Tangla Hotel has impressive credentials. His hotel experience reads like a who's who of the stars of the hotel world, the Hilton, The Copthorne Tara, Radisson Edwardian, etc. and he has worked in such diverse places as Kiev, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, London etc. etc., the list goes on. I wondered if after having being in such exciting places, the move to Tianjin seems like somewhat of a downgrade. He was quick to assure me that this was not the case, he said "There is lots to do in the hotel and in the city. I think that China is very exciting, there are a lot of differences with back home, but there are also a lot of similarities". He lived in London for many years and I agree with him, there are similarities with Tianjin. I wondered if his life was as exciting as it sounds and he smiled and said "I get to travel a lot and I can pack a lot into one day".

Of course any good Manager delegates and he said "I have a good team and it is important to dignify them by delegating and giving them responsibility". I put forward a view that some people feel that the service in North China is not as good as it is in the South, but he answered "This is the first time I have heard that. You can train people, if you train them well they will be able to offer a high standard of service whatever their location."

He came to Tianjin in a roundabout way, due to unforeseen circumstances his original previous plan to work in Beijing changed and he was asked to go and work at the Hilton in

Chong Qing. All he knew was that Chong Qing is a city in China, nothing else, so he had to quickly research exactly where and what kind of place it is. He found working in China very enjoyable and did sterling work at the hotel, but nevertheless exciting pastures beckoned in the form of the Meritus Mandarin in Singapore. He told me Singapore is a fascinating place, however despite its sophistication and reputation for cleanliness he did not feel that it was 'better' than China. After that an opportunity came up to work in Ho Chi Minh City at the Windsor Plaza. He loved the vibrancy of this city and in a way was sad to leave. However the lure of Beijing was attracting him, so when a former Hilton colleague asked him to go to Beijing to manage a new flagship hotel, the Tangla, he leapt at the chance. As is the way with the hotel business, there are myriad opportunities to further one's career so he also didn't hesitate when the chance to take over the Tangla Tianjin arose.

The Tangla hotels are owned by HNA Airlines and they plan to have 50 Hotels within five years. This is not the extent of their ambitious ideas, regarding future development he told me "The Tangla brand is part of a company that owns many brands, including Hainan Airlines. Our plans for the future include the aim to have a Tangla hotel in every city that the airline flies to. Plans are also underway to have a Tangla in New York. In January next year we will be opening a 420 room Tangla resort hotel in Sanya".

Back to the Hotel itself. Chinese customers like to spend money but they also like to see what they are getting for it, consequently many Chinese owned hotels are ostentatious and are over the top in terms of décor. I asked him what is different about the Tangla. He explained that the Tangla brand is a Chinese owned hotel group, it has to appeal to Chinese customers, who let's face it are the majority, but it also combines the business acumen of the west. This successful marrying of the two ideals has resulted in a remarkable hotel.

Western thinking is that less is more and something doesn't have to look flashy to prove it is expensive. Although class is not something that can be bought, there has obviously been a lot of money spent on this hotel. Whilst the elegance is understated, it is

clear that this is a very sophisticated establishment. The Tangla is special for many reasons. Even its name is connected with a legend set in the Tanggula mountain area and reflects the wishes and fortune of the Guardian God. The Tangla Hotels & Resorts' brand core values are "Harmony, Elegance, Excellence and Tranquility". I can confirm that they are indeed living up to these values through this particular hotel. Although located at Binjiang Dao, all the rooms are penthouse rooms, so they are far above the hustle and bustle of what must be Tianjin's busiest area, people and traffic wise. Everywhere in the hotel an atmosphere of peace reigns, even the elevators are so discreetly disguised, that it is not immediately apparent where they are. If I sound like a starstruck fan, it is because I am. This hotel screams, albeit quietly, of class.

The harmony and tranquility themes are carried through to the spa and swimming pool areas, there are candles and the scent of beautiful essential oils everywhere. Excellence is a given, we were fortunate enough to be invited to lunch and the food and presentation is of the highest quality. I spoke with the head chef, who had come from Beijing and he was knowledgeable and enthusiastic.

I was delighted when Mr. O'Doherty offered to show us the rooms, including the presidential suite. Being a person of modest means I can guarantee I probably will never stay in a presidential suite in my life, but I like to live vicariously through others, so this chance to see how the moneyed and famous pass time in hotels was a unique opportunity for me. Fabulous does not do it justice, but however, the other rooms are just as impressive in their own way. I asked to see an "ordinary" room. Actually there is no such thing, as although they are classed as "ordinary" they are actually twice the size of normal hotel rooms, and one can enjoy a relaxing bath whilst gazing out over the skyline. As I said, the rooms are so high up nobody is overlooking you so there is no need for curtains.

To the question where will you be in five years' time he answered "I will definitely still be in China". I get the feeling that he will not rest until the Tangla brand is the number one choice for discerning hotel guests. Yesterday Beijing, today Tianjin – tomorrow the world!



To Divorce or Not? A Painful Decision

By Paula Taylor

痛苦的抉择

近年来困扰城市人的一大社会问题就是离婚率上升，家庭个体变得不再那么稳定。在全世界的印象里，中国人对家庭十分重视，对配偶的忠诚度也较高，但中国的离婚率却呈逐年上升的态势。过去，离婚是一件耻辱的事情而且人们大多会把原因归结于女方。即使是男方先出轨，人们也认为是妻子做得不够好而导致丈夫不得不另结新欢。但是时代在变迁，人们对婚姻的态度也在与时俱进。通过和一些中国朋友的交谈，我感受到他们对离婚问题都有着十分理性的态度。离婚不再代表耻辱，但终究是最后一个解决方法。现在人们会开始为自己考虑，而不是只为别人而活，忍受不幸婚姻的煎熬不再是现代人的做法。但有一点是相同的，那就是孩子的利益应该放在首位。

Just recently I read a salutary tale of a husband and wife, both lawyers, who went through such a messy divorce and resulting custody battle for their three children, that their £3.2 million pound house had to be sold to fund the legal costs and all they were left with was £90,000 between them. The house that represented their life's work disappeared into the black hole that was their lawyer's pockets. The Judge in the trial criticised the couple for hating each other so much that they rushed headlong into mutual financial destruction. He said that they had effectively destroyed the ship of marriage and then wrecked the lifeboats too. The wife said she did it to stop her husband getting custody of the children, and blamed their lawyers for encouraging them to go to litigation. The

question was asked how a couple who once loved each other enough to get married and have three children together, could end up in such a hate filled situation.

Whilst no-one can sit in judgement on somebody's else's marriage, it is a sad truth that often it is the lawyers who benefit from divorce the most, so it is in their interests to urge their clients to go down this route, rather than encourage them to try to salvage their marriage, divorce means income for the lawyers.

In England it is relatively easy to get a divorce, the husband or wife can just cite unreasonable behaviour or irreconcilable differences. I have never understood what unreasonable behaviour means, after all what I think is unreasonable is not what you may



think is unreasonable and vice versa. In America it is even easier to get divorced and the internet has lots of advice as to the easiest ways.

Once upon a time in China a failed marriage was a thing of shame, usually the blame was laid squarely at the door of the woman. Even if the husband had a mistress it was deemed that he, because of his wife's inadequacies, had no choice but to turn to another woman. Times change however and in modern China divorce is not frowned on so much. Indeed the numbers of divorced people are growing amongst both the younger and older generation. Pressure to marry surely must be a factor, as many marry those whom they do not love. Usually when I ask my friends about changing attitudes in China, it is something that is perceived as bad they always say "Oh it is because we see it on western TV programmes, so we copy". Still I wanted to know how Chinese people really feel about divorce so I interviewed four people and essentially asked 9 questions, namely:-

1. How do you feel about divorce?
2. Do you have any divorced friends, if so what is their situation?
3. Before in China divorce was rare but now there are more and more people

getting divorced, why do you think there has been a change?

4. In the west in most cases it is relatively simple to get divorced, is it that easy to get divorced here?
5. If a couple decide to get divorced do you think friends ought to offer advice? (Remember many Chinese people listen to what their friends have to say).
6. If your friends want to divorce what advice would you give them?
7. Do you think some people decide too quickly to divorce?
8. After divorce whose life do you think will be easier, the man or the woman's?
9. In the west divorce is not shameful for parents or their children. Do the children of divorced parents here experience any prejudice?

View of Chinese Women

Li Li who has been married for three years said that she feels divorce is quite normal and not at all surprising. She has

friends that are divorced, some of them are enjoying being single, the others, after a period of letting the dust of divorce settle, look around for someone new. She does agree that although there were far fewer divorced people in China before, now there are more and more couples deciding to get divorced. She said "I feel that there has been a change because of several things.

1. Before Chinese society became more open, people would absolutely not tolerate couples living together before marriage, or even pre-marital sex, but now most people accept these things. The old idea of being faithful unto death hardly exists anymore. People can accept divorce and remarriage.

2. People today have many more pressures than people in the past had. Rising prices, the need to buy a house, school fees for the children, meeting the medical expenses of elderly family members, the problem of trying to keep up with the neighbours, it all makes a person feel as if there is such heavy pressure on them that they cannot breathe. It is difficult

to find the balance that makes for a happy family life. People have started to look outside their marriages for happiness.

3. These days there are many more ways to communicate with people and this unfortunately has brought negative influences. QQ and Weibo amongst others have closed the distances between people, consequently sometimes they are enticed by others. Marriages are under threat from all the things I have mentioned.

It is not as easy in China to get divorced as it is in the west, especially if there are children involved. There is the problem of dividing up the assets in a family, deciding what happens to the children and who will bring them up, friends and family will oppose a divorce so there is their view to be considered. If somebody asked my advice as to whether or not they should divorce, I would give them my opinion, but at the end of the day the people involved have to decide whether to stay in the marriage or to walk away from it. I would give them advice such as to think carefully about it, and tell them to ask themselves what caused them to want to get divorced in the first place. Maybe they need to think about the fundamental issues they have and really make sure that their situation truly is irredeemable before deciding to divorce. They should not make such a drastic decision because they are temporarily angry. If they have children, I would ask them if they had already agreed on how to raise the child. Divorce should be done in such a way so as to result in the least harm to the child. Before making a final decision both sides should be given time and space to think about it very carefully.

Many people decide to get divorced too quickly, there are no "good reasons" to get divorced, but many people decide to do it because their love has died. Also of course some people have extramarital affairs that lead to a marriage being broken up. If a couple decide to get divorced I don't think the man necessarily finds it easier to adapt than a woman, but if there are children involved, naturally this will complicate matters, especially in a financial sense. I know that in the west if a couple get divorced it is viewed as nothing and their children will not suffer prejudice. Chinese society is much more tolerant now so divorce in itself may not carry so much stigma, however some traditional views are still held so there are bound to be some people whose thinking and attitudes will have an influence on the child".

MAIN STORY



Li Li's opinion is very balanced and she does have good advice to give to her friends. She has also mentioned the downside of internet communication, this is a familiar story, someone falls in love with someone who they are communicating with via the internet and suddenly want to leave their families for their new 'love'. Sometimes before they have even met in person they are willing to give up everything for the new relationship. In China they use QQ to chat with friends and also to network with strangers.

Yu Yu, who has been married 5 years, told me "I feel that women should not agree to divorce, they will be lonely, pitiful and helpless, after all this world is still dominated by men. I do have friends that are divorced, outwardly they seem to be doing ok, but I think that the reality is that looks are deceiving and maybe they are not doing as well as people assume. I think one of the problems is that many girls are the only child of the family and the divorce rate amongst them is particularly high. I feel that these women are especially helpless. I imagine there are several reasons why the divorce rate is increasing:-

1. Many people have attitude problems, they think the grass always looks greener on the other side.

2. Different habits, for instance some girls that are the only child have a high opinion of themselves, this is because their family members treat like them like princesses. We all make mistakes, but they are not taught this, so when they get married and experience difficulties they will not admit any fault on their part. They have their own rules of behaviour.

3. Parents are also part of the problem, they think that their child will suffer when they get married and they are blind to the faults of their own child. They interfere in the marriage, also blaming the other party, problems are never the fault of their child.

4. Years ago when people got married they shared everything, money and other assets became the property of both of them. In my father's time a couple would strive together to go in the same direction to make the marriage work, but these days couples still

have their own separate property, separate money. There is a very clear distinction about what belongs to who. The attitude seems to be what's mine is mine and what's yours is yours.

5. There is also media interference, nowadays there are many programmes offering advice to married couples, sometimes it is bad advice but people still follow it as it is deemed to be given by "experts".

For a lot of people children are not their first priority, they are more concerned with dividing up the family assets. If they can do that smoothly then the divorce proceedings are relatively straight-forward, probably the methods here are in line with the rest of the world.

I don't think friends necessarily need to get involved, the problem should for the couple to handle. Most people will stand on the side of their own friend and will take their standpoint on issues. I would tell my friends that they should listen to their own heart, if they want to get divorced then get divorced, if they don't want to get divorced then don't. I think unless there is someone else involved, or they cannot have children, any other reason for getting divorced is not really a good reason.

Of course divorced men have it easier than women. I know divorced men who very quickly found new partners who were women that had never been married. These days there is definitely something wrong with people's values, as long as the man has money, status and position, the women will not care about anything else.

I think today's children will quickly become used to the "fast food" style of

marriage. Some divorced parents get along together very well. Maybe when children are small they suffer more, but as they get older they realise that if their parents are really not happy, they will come to the conclusion themselves that it is better for the parents to separate".

The Perils of Modern Living

One lady told me that her husband had met another woman via QQ and wanted a divorce. His behaviour to her was almost intolerable as she would not agree to divorce him, so he did everything in his power to make her hate him. He has repeatedly told her that he does not love her. Unfortunately for her she still loves him. We may think that she should just let go of him, and that once somebody does not want to stay with you, you cannot force them. However the complication is that she has a 7 year old son, and so feels that if she agrees to the divorce his future would be adversely affected. She has begged him to think about his actions and how they affect their child, but he is adamant that he wants to leave and live with his girlfriend, he has told her she can keep the child as his girlfriend is not interested in looking after someone else's child.

The reason he has not just upped and left is that in China women have a lot of protection from the law. If he just leaves, the divorce court would look unfavourably upon it and probably the wife would get to keep the house for the sake of the child. He is willing to forsake his child, but not his house, so for the time being they are still living together. Of course I have only heard her side of the story



and no doubt the husband has a totally different view of their life together, however it is a fact that they do have a young child and it is that fact that should influence their decisions.

Another lady told me that she had surreptitiously checked her husband's messages and found that he was communicating with a young woman via QQ. She did not waste any time and told him she wanted a divorce. He got such a fright that he ceased to use his QQ account immediately. For him the prospect of divorce was too frightening to contemplate. They too have a young child that he dotes on so fortunately this marriage was saved.

The View of Chinese Men

The above opinions belonged to women so I also interviewed a couple of men. Zhou who has been married for one year said "20 years ago divorce was viewed as very shameful. Now however if people decide that they don't love each other anymore, they can just get divorced. We all have freedom these days, everyone has the right to decide for themselves. I do know people that are divorced but their circumstances depend upon whether they live in the city or the countryside. I can give you two examples. My wife has a friend who got married to a local ruffian. They were married for 7 years and then they had a child. The man did not work and just did all kinds of things to get money, he also beat his wife all the time but because she loved him she put up with him. She then developed a serious problem. Although she had her own work and was quite busy, she would often help people such as sweeping snow away from neighbour's doors, however she could never remember doing so. Her boss took her to the hospital to get checked out and they discovered that she was schizophrenic. Her family thought up a good reason for her to return to her hometown in the country in order to rest. Her husband eventually decided to divorce her, but because in the countryside men outnumber women, despite her problems, many men came to her door asking to marry her. If she was in the city, she would not have so many opportunities to remarry

The other people I know that are divorced come from the city. This couple both went to Japan to study and became very good friends. Because they found it difficult and struggled in Japan, they became very close and fell in love. After six years of being together the man decided to return to China to work and develop a business, whilst the woman stayed in Japan developing her business. However they continued to be a couple. After 11 years the woman came back



to Tianjin and they got married. After six months of marriage they decided they were not suited and the wife flew back to Japan. So after 11 years of being a couple, it took just six months of marriage to destroy their relationship and they got divorced.

Before in China there was not much movement of people, they tended to stay in the same place all their lives. This mean that they would be very familiar with each other so if a couple got divorced it would be talked about by everybody, especially by the husband and wife's older sisters. Also values back then were a lot more restrictive. Today people have

the opportunity to travel more and live in other places, this means there will be opportunities to meet other people.

There are many people that get divorced quick as a flash, especially young people, but it is quite complicated if there are things to consider such as property, children, family business and other assets, all these things have to be taken into consideration and most of the time only the Courts can decide what to do. I don't think it is that easy to get divorced abroad either.

MAIN STORY

Although it is not that simple to get involved in someone else's household matters, friends should mediate and advise them not to divorce, people should definitely think twice before deciding to go down this route, because if they decide after that they have made a mistake and want to get back together again, it will never be the same, just like if a mirror is broken and people try to fix it, it would always have cracks. Chinese people think that if everything in the family and home is going well, naturally everything else in life will be ok. However if there really is no way for a couple to get along then there is no choice but to divorce. I don't really know what kind of reasons are not good reasons to divorce. Regarding life being easier for one party than the other, my feelings are that life is not easy anyway. I think we have to look after each other and encourage each other, if people get divorced and don't marry again, life will definitely be harder. At the moment in the media, some reports are saying that at least in the city 2nd hand men are very popular, they are bestsellers! If a divorced woman has no children she should be able to find another partner.

As family is so important to Chinese people, the family home should be a sanctuary for children. If their parents get divorced then the love that they experience is halved, it is not complete so I think it would bring about an extreme change in their personality".

Zhang who has been married for four years says "The word 'divorce' is never far from my wife's mouth. Every time we argue her response is that we should get divorced. However I think we are far from divorce, it will not happen. At the moment I don't have any friends that are divorced, but many of them have a bad relationship with their wives and they always call me up and invite me out just so they can grumble about them.

I think there has been a change in Chinese thinking regarding divorce, however China is still very traditional and divorce is not thought to be a good solution. If a couple want to divorce there really is a lot for them to consider, for instance will their parents accept it? If they have children what kind of influence will it have on them? To put it simply, in the past Chinese people lived for other people, not for themselves, so they had to consider what everybody else wanted. Nowadays people have moved on from that way of life and they live more for themselves, so if a couple are not suited they can divorce. It is not a simple thing to get divorced in China because of the problems of sorting out the family assets and how to bring up the children.

As far as giving advice is concerned, if the person giving the advice knows the couple well and they ask for advice, that is ok. If a friend of mine asked me for advice I would help him to analyse the problem deeply to see whether or not there is another way to handle the problem other than divorce. If he has thoroughly explored every other avenue but still wanted to get divorced then I wouldn't oppose him, after all everyone has the right to decide for themselves.

Many people get divorced because they don't love each other anymore, but I don't agree with this. I think that marriage is sacred, so if people get divorced for this reason both sides are not facing up to their responsibilities. When two people get divorced maybe it is the man who has it easier but I am not too sure.

In China bringing up children in single parent families will definitely present problems, I think the children will have issues in their hearts and minds. They will lose the feeling of both parents loving and taking care of them together. They will also suffer discrimination and they will lose their own identity and not know their place in society".



Not The Only Solution

Well there you have it, I have spoken to many Chinese people about divorce and the responses presented here really do reflect an accurate view of how Chinese people view divorce at the moment. The statistics are rising ever higher as already mentioned, which is worrying many people, as the family has always been at the very heart of Chinese society. As the family arrangement is breaking down, many people feel that the very fabric of society is being threatened.

Insidious TV and radio programmes that give the harmful advice to please oneself and get out of a marriage on a whim do nothing to help society. Of course it is easy for me to talk, but for a couple whose marriage is in



crisis, surely the last thing they need is to consult complete strangers on air, whose sole motive is to increase the viewing or listening figures, as to the best way to resolve their problems. I admit I used to be one of those people who watched these shows and I acted as an armchair judge, jury and mediator. I feel very foolish when I think about my responses, shouting at the TV urging the wife to leave her "no good husband". Thank goodness I saw sense and banished those harmful manipulative programmes from my life.

Communication is essential to maintaining a good marriage, and doing this through the media is not a good way. A marriage in trouble can be saved if both parties are willing to work at it. Chinese parents who object to their children divorcing do so for good reasons, but sometimes it can have negative results. Sometimes the parents are just worried about what the neighbours think. Providing there are no big reasons for the cause of trouble in the marriage, like wife /husband beating, alcoholism/drug/gambling problems or a third party, sometimes a marriage can be saved. Some advice suggested that such couples take the time to sit down and work out what went wrong, and if they felt they didn't love each other anymore, to ask themselves at which point this started to happen. They could also try to fall in love with each again by reminding themselves of why they got together in the first place. No-one ever said marriage was easy and a husband who has been married for a very long time said "A good marriage is a union of two good forgivers".



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Ding Dong Merrily on High!!



By Andrea Klopper

当钟声响起

圣诞的钟声即将敲响。作为重要的宗教神器，钟是每个基督教堂都要配备的。每到周日的礼拜、婚礼或圣诞庆典都会听到教堂的钟声。

天津的安里甘教堂就有一口这样的大钟，是十九世纪末由英国的一位教士 Oswald 捐赠的。由于当时的海运费很贵，教士不得不四处筹款才把大钟从英国运到天津。后来大钟上还刻上了华北地区主教和天津英租界长官的名字。

这口大钟出自名门。它的制造厂位于伦敦东部，曾经制造过很多世界闻名的大钟，遗憾的是这口钟目前下落不明。

A hallmark of British presence in different places used to be the local church building, most notably those of the Anglican Church or Church of England. From Tianjin to Cape Town to Nova Scotia, these can be found. All Saints' is an example in this city. It housed a large tenor bell that would ring out calling people to the Sunday services and tolling on the occasion of weddings and special celebrations like Christmas.

Anglicans in Tientsin had started out meeting for a weekly English service of worship and preaching with other Protestants in the Union Church which had been built on the Daku Road in 1864. Growing numbers of British led to Anglicans requesting a place for their own meetings. The Bishop of North China, Rev Charles Perry Scott who had first come to China in 1874 sent by the Church Missionary Society (CMS), became bishop in 1880 and took up their cause. He requested a clergyman. In 1890, a church room was dedicated and

Reverend Brereton instituted to minister to a congregation of about 40. In appreciation of his services, the British Municipal Council offered a site for a church and parsonage. Church wardens were appointed. Reverend Francis Lushington (Frank) Norris followed. Bishop Scott frequently visited and observed that Tientsin's foreign population was increasing very rapidly, promising to make it a very large place should North China continue to open to commerce. He took up the idea of building a more substantial church building to replace the little church room that was being used by Anglicans in the town. "...at Christmas time the little church room was fairly overcrowded..." he commented in a letter back to England for publication in the North China Mission Quarterly (April 1899). Meanwhile, Rev Norris had mentioned the need for a bell to an acquaintance, Reverend Oswald Pryor Wardell-Yerburgh who was then Rector of Christ Church, South Marylebone. He had previously given some fifty hand bells to the church school

for boys in Peking. Interestingly, all these were lost in 1900 when mission property was burned and looted but they were subsequently found being sold off in a street! One was then used in St Hilary's Chapel, Peking. Rev. Norris raised some £54 towards the cost of shipping a bell. The remaining £10 was received from donations made in England having appealed to bell ringers and others through a letter in the North China Missions Quarterly. By the late 1890s, the bell had arrived in Tientsin.



Three bell emblem identifying bells from the foundry

The bell came from the foundry of Messrs Mears and Stainbank, Whitechapel in the East End of London. The foundry produced a number of famous London church bells as well as many across the world, including America's original Liberty Bell (1752) used to proclaim American Independence and that which famously rings out from Big Ben (1858) in Westminster. It also designed the 2012 Olympic Bell. The bell had engraved upon it the names of Bishop Scott and

Rev Norris as well as the apt refrain from the psalms:

"Let all the people's praise Thee."

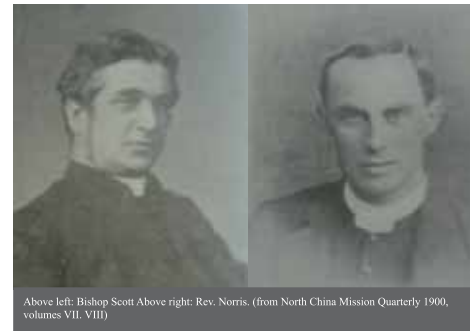


Tenor bell that hung in All Saint's Church, Tianjin (from North China Mission Quarterly, volume V no.3 October 1897)

However, as there was as yet no church building, the bell was used in the CMS compound. Bishop Scott and Rev. Norris pressed on with the challenge of fund-raising with subscriptions and donations gradually accumulated in the Tientsin Church of England Fund. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) made a sizeable grant of £500 from the Marriott Bequest (The Mission Field, Nov. 1903). Plans were drawn up and the decision was made to build in phases as monies allowed. This in fact actually increased the total cost of the building to some £3000.

The foundation was duly laid on 4 June 1900 by the bishop's young wife, Mrs Scott, but subsequent events with the Boxer Siege of Tientsin brought the work to a standstill and it was only finally completed in 1903.

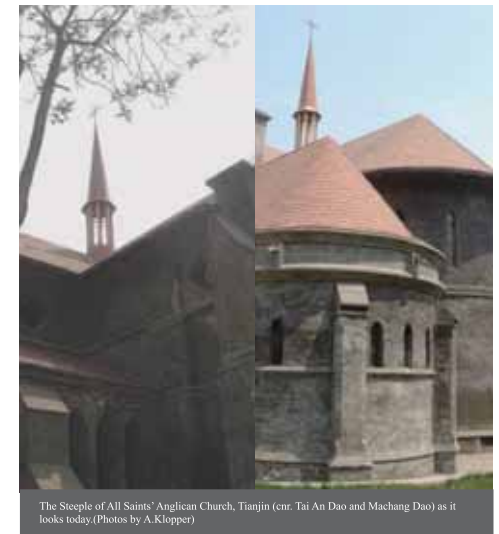
The church could seat some 300 people. The substantial grey brick was topped with reddish Marseilles tiles and the red and black floor tiles were imported from England. The substantial pews were placed on flooring planks stained dark walnut to provide warmth, as did American heating furnaces placed below the central portion of the floor. Light came through leaded window panes and some stained glass windows. There were tapestries hung and a small American organ. Acoustic properties were very good. The bell could finally be put to the use for which it had long been envisaged! Though the whereabouts of the Tientsin bell are now unknown, the steeple in which it once hung remains, testimony to a group of expatriates who once lived here.



Above left: Bishop Scott Above right: Rev. Norris. (from North China Mission Quarterly 1900, volumes VII, VIII)



The foundation stone, evident still today though having been defaced. Note the distinctive grey brick work. (Photo by A. Klopper)



The Steeple of All Saints' Anglican Church, Tianjin (ctr. Tai An Dao and Machang Dao) as it looks today (Photos by A. Klopper)

With special thanks to Ms L. McCann at Bodleian Library, Oxford.

How much is too much

By Parker Barribal

中国网络游戏经济

每次经过路边的网吧，你常常会看到一屋子人挨挨挤挤的坐着，耳朵上挂的耳机，双手在不停的敲打键盘。是的，他们就是传说中的网络游戏少年。有资料显示，中国网络游戏人群的年龄层为18到30岁之间，男性居多，通常都具有中等以上学历。难以置信的是，这些不同年龄段的网游少年已经把中国一举打造成为全球最大的网络游戏市场之一。线上游戏对年轻一代的影响仍然有待商榷，但毋庸置疑的是快速发展的网络游戏经济如今已经成为中国主要产业之一。

We have all walked by an internet café here in Tianjin or even back home and seen a packed house. And what is filling the time and screens of so many, mainly male customers? Is it homework, world news, cancer research? No, generally the flash of the screens and the tapping and clacking of the keyboard comes from Chinese gamers. The typical profile of the Chinese online gamer is 18-30 years of age, male, and usually has a secondary education. What you may not realize is that the caffeine and nicotine fueled gamer in front of the screen there is doing his part to turn China into one of the largest online gaming

markets in the world.

Online gaming in China, like everything else Chinese, represents a huge market. The industry does well over 15 billion USD per year and is only on the rise. A large part of the online gaming industry outside of China is generated through consoles like the Xbox 360 and PlayStation, which offer subscription based online gaming communities that allow players to connect worldwide. However, both of these major consoles are banned here in China. And while there may be ways to get through the gaps in the great firewall, the lion share of gaming revenue in the Middle Kingdom comes from PC based MMORPG's



Online game figures

(Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game). For those of you with a tangible social life, these games are like most role playing video games in that players take on the identity of a character in a game and control his actions. These games are often set in a fantasy world. The other characteristic of MMORPG's is that they exist in a digital world hosted by the game's publisher. These games occur in a persistent, digital world that continues to evolve even when a player is not logged in to the game. Many games, like World of Warcraft, allow for social interaction between characters and allow strangers from across the globe to interact in a digital space. While this may be a new form of communication it also represents huge business for game publishers.

According to John Gaudiosi of Forbes.com, "China is home to more than 150 million gamers who collectively generate half of the global PC online games revenue, and several large online game companies that have begun to expand internationally," said Lisa Cosmas Hanson, managing partner of Niko Partners. "Our analysis shows that while Chinese gamers start with casual and social games, many evolve into MMOG gamers and then contribute much more revenue than gamers who stick to simpler games."



Subscriptions to these kinds of games are generating most revenue for video game publishers, however, some companies have experimented with in-game advertisements but gamer reaction has been quite hostile. The point of immersing oneself in an online game is escape, and if you see a Nike ad in the middle of a mission it kind of takes away from the experience. Publishers have to listen to the market because there are so many alternatives forms of gaming. Another revenue stream has been pay for play content. That is, using real world money for access to otherwise unavailable in-game content. When a game integrates this content well players are more than willing to fork over the extra cash to enhance their experience, and game publishers are getting better at this integration all the time. It seems developers are getting it right, last year revenues from online PC gaming exceeded 10 billion yuan for the first time.

While piracy would wreak havoc on more traditional consoles like Xbox or Playstation platforms, online gaming is unique in that if a player wants the real experience of an MMORPG, he must pony up the RMB for a subscription, or be left out. But that's not to say that free gaming options are not popular. In fact, the free to play model that is popular in the US for many online games actually grew from the piracy problem in China. Game companies knew that disks were easily imitated so they innovated, and began to offer their product for free online, and then offer micro-transactions in-game. As mentioned above, this style has crept into the Xbox and Playstation world and is used

heavily in the PC gaming world.

A few years ago, the internet café was the bread and butter of MMORPG publishers with roughly 50 percent of revenue coming from internet cafes. At-home gaming is now the trend, boosted by broadband Internet development. The total revenue of China's online gaming market is expected to hit 55.7 billion yuan by the end of 2012, according to official statistics. But there is more than just yuan and jiao's up for grabs.

There is also a social communication element at play. Imagine the throngs of people who have gravitated to online gaming and MMORPG's specifically. More and more of their interactions with others are through the filter and in the context of the online games. The Chinese I know are very social. Whether it's dining together or KTV, everybody likes to be out and about. And if you have been here



long enough you know that social interaction in China is very nuanced; there are rules that we as foreigners will never really understand, and plenty that we may never even discover. While we generally get a free pass as foreigners, the rules of etiquette in China can be pretty intricate. As people replace face to face interaction for online communication, it can't help but influence their real world interactions. While I did not observe too many friends that lost social skills due to gaming, there were some who you knew where spending too much time in front of a screen. They said more off color things without recognizing them as such. I can only imagine how well it must go over if a Chinese gamer forgets to guard the face of those around him. As gaming has gotten more and more popular a slang term has evolved for gamers,宅男 (zhainan) while the connotation is that of a nerd, the characters combine and translate literally to a male homebody, and describes one who has traded traditional social interactions for those available through channels like online gaming.

Regardless of how online gaming may influence young people in the future, it has become a major industry in China, and one that will see rapid growth as technology becomes more and more attainable to the average Chinese. There are even rumors about the ban on Xbox and Playstation consoles being lifted. Until that time the market will continue to be ruled by the online MMORPG's and browser games. For many young Chinese these games offer an outlet that does not require time to develop a skill like say picking up a sport. Rather, it is instant gratification and relaxation in the midst of a society that can be quite stressful, and game developers are more than happy to provide that release, for a fee of course.

Social Reject? Read On!

社交恐惧症患者还有别的出路吗?

我们上个月说到发展你的人脉，靠他们的关系帮你找到满意的工作。不过有些人不善此道，这种方法对他们并不适用。不过还有别的方法，那就是在中国的求职网站上注册。求职网站上有海量的信息，但是你一定要有些中文基础。12月正是准备求职的时间，因为中国的财政年度恰好与公历年度相吻合，各大公司都开始确定明年的预算。在农历春节的假期过后，这些公司就开始招兵买马了。

So, we've established in the few past articles that if you know people, they will help you find a job and if you don't know people, then you have to work on your networking skills and get to know people, who will then help you find a job.

In very few cases, you might just not be able to create this network of relationships and friendships. Even if you're very shy, I've experienced Chinese youth start conversations and I'm not even a Chinese speaker so I think it's not very difficult to get over your personal barriers get in touch with the community.

Nonetheless, there are always different personalities and different situations where you just can't form those bonds. In some cases, you might just not know the right places to start a professional network connection (by the way, wrong places include: night clubs, bars and KTVs!)

So now you need to start the long job finding journey on your own and it might not be pretty but it's possible. Let's list your choices. You can use expat magazines for the job ads (not very informative but might be a

In this article series, Moe ELGHAREEB discusses China's workplace, employment opportunities, issues that face expats in Chinese businesses, how the Chinese professional scene accommodates expats and the potential for expat-Chinese co-operation in the workplace.

suggest Google Chrome).

You'll create your accounts and complete them with all your details. Now make sure that you write the correct title that suits your job target. I would also advise you to write beside your account title the following "expat: basic Chinese" and even better would be writing it in both English and Chinese. By the way, whenever I say Chinese, I mean Mandarin unless you're in Guangdong or Hong Kong, but that's another story.

You should be reading this in December (I'm writing it a bit earlier) and this is actually a very good time to get your online accounts ready and complete for the year's biggest hiring marathon. I'd like to point out that in China; the fiscal year coincides with the calendar year as opposed to most world countries.

This means that companies are getting their new budgets finalized for the next year right now as you're reading these lines and once they are back from the New Year holiday, they will start drafting the new positions they need to fill next year. Some weeks after the New Year holiday comes the Chinese New Year with the wonderful fireworks and amazing shows.

Watch, enjoy and get ready because once the Chinese New Year holiday is over, companies return to work, now ready with budgets, job descriptions and are hunting for talent. This will surely be the time to get this job you're looking for. But now that you know they are looking for you as well, how do you make that connection? You apply like there's no tomorrow through those websites to all of the opportunities that seem suitable and until a few hiring managers notice and contact you. Then?

How are you going to navigate this maze? Who's going to teach you the ins and outs of the job? How are you going to learn without losing precious career progression time? These are our topics for next month. Until then, I will gladly receive your comments & questions and will try to discuss them in the next article. Merry Christmas.



Send comments & questions to Moe ELGHAREEB via email moghareeb@gmail.com

We make you smile

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General manager Mr. Zhang Yu Jie

为期数月的天津泰达国际会馆内部装修改造工程近期终于结束。内部硬件设施全面更新升级，会馆整体感觉焕然一新，舒适度大幅提升。为了在天津日趋激烈的市场竞争中立于不败，一直保持客户满意度和市场知名度则相当重要。天津泰达国际会馆总经理张宇杰先生在百忙之中接受了今日天津英文刊的独家专访，通过本期杂志向读者具体介绍会馆全面整修的初衷和未来发展计划。

to achieve better business performance in all aspects, our group invested a lot of money for the project.

Since we have been looking forward to this completion for such a long time, what do you think will attract customer the most?

Actually each floor has been rebuilt in different ways. The restaurants have been drastically changed and you can easily notice the changes once you walk in. Also the glass rooftop of the swimming pool has been replaced totally. Therefore, you can even see the shining half ball shape rooftop outside the club. Meanwhile, the layout inside the guest rooms has been updated, they still retain the European style but the basic tone is more dignified.

In order to bring the business to a new step, what kind of business plan did you make to get potential customers' attention? Is there any promotion for Christmas?

Certainly, there will be some related theme activities to promote the club amongst target clients. For example next month, we have two main events related to Christmas; firstly, there will be a puppet show for the family; secondly, the crostalk night will be a great event for everybody to come to. Moreover, the theme events are all open to public, so please contact us and book tickets for yourself now.

Do you have a fixed customer group? What kind of service can your club provide?

Our club is a high-grade business casual hotel and membership club. Now we have more than 800 members who are high-level business people in Tianjin, which is one of the specialties of our club. We also hope to build up an ideal platform and opportunity for customers to communicate with their business partners or clients.

Again, to create a comfortable staying experience, put the customer's needs in first position, care of details and be considerate, these are the service standards that we strive to achieve all the time.

Finally, what would you like to say to our readers?

First of all, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the chairman of Teda International Hotel Group to offer me the chance to join the team. I am also grateful for all the help and support from workmates, clients, members, and group leaders. Everybody has the same goal to bring the club up to a higher level than ever before. Therefore I promise to try my best and work hard on it. No matter whether it is the club facility, environment, or service quality, etc. every aspect will be raised. Also, this is a commitment I make to all the JIN readers.

After a few months, the redecoration project of Teda International Club Tianjin is now completely finished. Now the TICT is open to the public with its brand new look inside and outside. In order to keep ahead in the competitive hotel industry in town, it is quite important to make guests feel satisfied and retain popularity in the market. Recently the general manager, Mr. Zhang Yu Jie, accepted the exclusive interview of JIN to share more details about the purpose of the redecoration and future plans.

Since Teda International Club Tianjin has been occupying an important position in the Tianjin high-class hotel industry, could you please introduce the major achievements in the past?

Belonging to the Teda International Hotel Group and established in 2002, Teda International Club Tianjin was the second 5 star hotel in Tianjin downtown. During its development over the years, it has been carrying on the enterprise concept "Create Comfort and Excellence", trying hard to build up the image, exploring the path of development, and earning its great reputation from the public.

Recently we finally completed the interior renovation. In order



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- Translation and interpretation
- Event consulting and venues search

Contact the Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce:

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Past Event

Seminar: Datenermittlung für die Analyse und Gestaltung der Ablauf- und Aufbauorganisation in Fertigung und Montage
 Time: 30. Oct. 2012
 Venue: Würth (Tianjin) International Trade Co., Ltd.



Nowadays many companies in Tianjin are confronted with the challenge to enhance their internal production processes. Dr.-Ing. Uwe Gründler from REFA provided advice and support on how to determine data for the analysis and design of process and structure organization in the production and assembly. The REFA Group was established in Germany in 1924 and is one of Germany's most well-known organization for labor and company organization and professional training.



Upcoming Events November 2012

- I. German Christmas Market, 15:00 – 20:00, December 8, 2012
- II. Factory Visit at Continental Automotive Systems (Tianjin) Co., Ltd., 14:00 – 16:30, December 5, 2012
- III. German Chamber monthly Get-Together in Binhai (Stammtisch in Binhai): 17:30 – 21:00, December 5, 2012, La Seine French Restaurant Binhai Tianjin
- IV. Tax executives update, 14:00 – 17:00, December 14, 2012, Tianjin Renaissance Lakeview Hotel
- V. German Chamber monthly Get-Together (Stammtisch Tianjin): 19:00 – 22:00, December 26, 2012, Drei Kronen 1308 Brauhaus

The Tianjin International Christian Fellowship enters a new chapter

The current Tianjin International Fellowship continues a long tradition of foreign Christians in Tianjin meeting for Sunday worship. Way back in the nineteenth century, to be a Western foreigner was to subscribe to some form of Christian faith, hence the mistaken belief that Christianity is a foreign faith. It was part of many Westerners' tradition to attend a church service on a Sunday and so, from the early days, services were held for and by Western Christians until the early 1950s when most could no longer stay.



With the opening up of China once more in the 1980s, foreigners returned, with Christians naturally among them. They gathered to meet in a conference room of the Tianjin Binguang from September 1986 until April 1987 when they moved to the Intertech Building on You Yi Lu. Other foreigners from Nankai University, the Foreign Language Institute and the growing business community began to attend. They moved from a small conference room to a spacious auditorium, although by 1996, people were spreading into the balcony at the rear. The warmth of the fellowship made up for the lack of heating in winter when people used to bring their own blankets so they could wrap up. Different men took turns preaching, then as now. Particularly memorable was a sermon by Dr. West who illustrated it with a fresh pig's heart he'd bought in the local street market! Singing was usually acapello until a small keyboard was obtained, and later an acoustic guitar and single microphone were added. There was no Sunday school for the children who sat in the service. Services were often followed by lunch in local restaurants. There was also support offered in some relief projects with flooding in Hebei in late 1996 and drought in 1997. At this time, a Mandarin-speaking fellowship had also started and met within the same building, starting a relationship between the two that has continued amicably up to today.



Fellowships for the next 14 years! Many of the families who had been here in the early days moved on but there were always new families arriving and a Sunday School was started with parents volunteering. It became a full programme with children



doing a small annual Christmas performance. The music team also developed with keyboard, electric guitars and drums and a more suitable public address system. There was also an influx of international students, a trend that has continued resulting in almost sixty nationalities being represented. They have participated a range of Fellowship-sponsored growth-nurturing activities. Other small groups have also emerged at different times for prayer, Bible study, singing. Sermons continued to be delivered by various members and the occasional visitor. Some weekend trainings were offered, for example regarding marriage. Further growth has occurred with the forming of a TEDA congregation from about 2006 and a second earlier more informal service being held on Sunday in Tianjin. Clearly church is not about the building but about the people. Many long-standing and supportive friendships have developed over the years, often withstanding the inevitable movement.



For the past 2 years, the leadership of the Tianjin International Christian Fellowship (TICF), as it has become known, has been seeking a new venue. At last, the fellowship itself has

relocated to the fifth floor (Mandarin-speaking fellowship on second floor) of the fortuitously named King's Hall Hotel on the corner of He Niu Cheng Dao and Huan Hu Zhong Lu. It is just in time for the 'Round the World for Christmas' services in which different Christmas traditions are shared and celebrated. Do come and join us as we enter a new chapter in the story of Tianjin expat Christians!



Add: King Hall Hotel, No. 22 Huan Hu Zhong Road, Hexi
 Email: enquiry@tjif.com / enquiry@tedafellowship.com

Tel: 8829 7772



EUROPEAN CHAMBER IN TIANJIN

2012 European Business Gala Dinner - A Night with Stars

The 7th annual European Business Gala Dinner was held in ST. Regis on Oct.12th with attendance of 300 guests, the theme of this year Gala is "Film Festival" to celebrate the upcoming 5th EU Film Festival in Tianjin.

All the guests enjoyed a memorable evening for not only the delicious food and beverage from various European countries, but also the atmosphere of EU Film Festival throughout the party with the red carpet walk and picture taking, European songs, involvement in the EU Film Quiz and cocktail making follows the names of European Film stars, and of course plenty of attractive lucky draw items.

We also would like to take this chance to thank for all the sponsors for their great support and generous sponsorship



Local board

5th Annual EU Film Festival arrives in Tianjin

The 5th annual European Union Film Festival was officially launched at the Drei Kronen 1308 Brauhaus on 8 November. Almost 100 guests came for the opening ceremony including invited VIP guests from local government, media partners and member companies. Guests were treated to a buffet featuring food from all EU nations, as well as a speech from Mr. William Fingleton, Head of the



Mr. William Fingleton from EU Delegation launched the EU Film festival in Tianjin



Premiere in Imax Tianjin, Cyprus 'Fish and Chips'

Press and Information Section at the Delegation of the European Union to China. Another 150 guests from EU Community in town and local people joined the group for the screening of Cyprus' entry to the festival, 'Fish and Chips' in Imax Tianjin after the dinner celebration.

Nine movies from different EU member states were screened at two venues: The Imax Tianjin, in Jinwan Plaza, and the Wellington College International Tianjin. Screenings were held from the 8th to the 18th. Most of these films are focused on the day-to-day lives of European people, something which is lacking in a lot of mainstream Chinese cinema.



EU Community and local people enjoyed the movies



Movies screened in Imax Tianjin



Movies screened in Imax Tianjin



EU Community and local people enjoyed the movies

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Tel: +86 22 2374 1122 Email: tianjin@euccc.com.cn Website: www.eurochamber.com.cn

Past Events

Excusive dinner with delegates from the US Embassy Beijing

6:30-8:30 PM, November 1 – Hotel Nikko Tianjin

Nearly thirty AmCham China Tianjin members engaged a sparkling US Embassy delegation of five in a lively and spirited 'dinner table' discussion of the status quo of US-China relations on November 1 at Hotel Nikko Tianjin. Topics included current issues, policy, forecasts, trends, universities, and Chinese-US and US-China perceptions, and other pertinent goings-on which one might do well to keep in mind.



The Embassy delegation included Jim Sciutto, chief of staff to Ambassador Gary Locke; Gregory S. D'Elia, mission outreach coordinator; Brett Blackshaw, regional affairs unit chief, Political Section; Harold "Lee" Brayman, Market Access and Compliance Office, Commercial Service; and Dan Wald, economics officer.

By Matthew Stein

The Evolving Role of the General Manager

6:00-9:00 PM, Nov 7 – The St. Regis Tianjin



speaker Oly Riches

Michael Page consultants Oly Riches, Regional Director – China, and Byran Luro, Senior Manager, came to share results and insights from their recently released Employee Intentions Report

<<http://www.michaelpage.com.cn/websitepdf/ChinaEmployeeIntentionsReport201213v2.pdf>> with 24 general managers, presidents, and managing directors. The presentation highlighted the changing role and priorities of general managers how it is intertwined with the changing desires and preferences of employees, especially those in China's tier sub-1 cities.

Following the report, Alex Tham, MD, Alcan Cable, provided a case study of how his role as



Daniel Liu and Paul Cunningham



Speaker Alex Tham

Managing Director has changed, including his successful efforts in instilling a triple-bottom-line mindset in his team, his handling of strategy decisions with superiors and interested parties from earlier in his career, and closed with a showcase of his integrated team/culture-building CSR project with Jet Li's ONE Foundation and Habitat for Humanity.

Both presentations, moderated by AmCham China, Tianjin Chairman Michael Hart, MD – Jones Lang LaSalle - Tianjin, set the foundation for a long-table discussion that followed over a four-course St. Regis Tianjin meal. Daniel Liu, GM - Tianjin United Family Hospital, Richard Zhang, President - Rex Group, and Eric Chen, GM – Cintas, made notable contributions to the dialogue.

By Matthew Stein

Upcoming events

Dialogue with the Tianjin Government & 2012 AmCham China Tianjin Annual Appreciation Dinner

4:30-8:30 PM, Wednesday, December 12 – Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel

AmCham China, Tianjin warmly invites you to attend this year's Dialogue with the Tianjin Government & Tianjin's Annual Appreciation Dinner on December 12th at Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel. This is Tianjin Chapter's most important government relations event of the year. The evening provides an opportunity for members to communicate with the Tianjin government officials on the current economic climate and development trends in Tianjin. It will also provide an opportunity for recommendations to the US business community in Tianjin,

and on issues or concerns related to AmCham China members and the foreign business community.

We are expecting Vice Mayor Ren Xue Feng to represent the Tianjin Government for the evening as well as William Zarit, minister for commercial affairs at the US Embassy. AmCham China President, Christian Murck will lead the discussions.

We encourage you to attend this valuable event, to interact with local officials and to hear the chamber's official view on government advocacy on local levels.

Individual Tickets:

Cardholding members register and pay in advance: RMB 400
Cardholding members pay at door: RMB 450
Employees of member companies: RMB 450
Non-member: RMB 800



Address: Room2918, Exchange Tower 2, No. 189 Nanjing Rd, Heping District, Tianjin 300051
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A CITY WITHIN A CITY

By Paula Taylor

城中之城

今年，在回英国探亲之前，我家附近大概有三座大学校园。七周之后，当我再一次回到天津时，已经有两座大学校址被迁走，还有一座正在搬迁。如果你已经在天津住了几年，那么即使你是外国人，也肯定知道八里台的师范大学，这是一所专门培养教师的综合大学。如果你恰好又在天津上过汉语课，那么你的老师很可能就是那所学校毕业的。但是，三年前那间学校就被拆掉，搬到郊外的大学城。有一次，打出租车想回我之前学习过中文的大学看看，司机径直把我拉到一片荒郊野地。我一度以为他想要“谋财害命”，但冷静分析并仔细观察一下周围地形，惊讶的发现大学分校的教学楼赫然矗立在我的眼前。

This year when I left for England there were three universities in my road. When I came back, 7 weeks later, two had been completely removed from the face of the landscape and one is in the process of vanishing before my eyes. If you have been here for several years, remember Shi Fan Daxue at Ba Li Tai? This is a very important university and its speciality is training teachers. If you have learned Chinese

here the likelihood is that your teacher graduated from this school. However about three years ago they started to knock it down and upon enquiring as to what was going to happen, I was told that they were moving to University City. Have you ever been to University City? Have you ever heard of University City? In the near future most universities will be located there and many have already relocated.

I already had experience of this place, as when I first came here I was studying Chinese at a university. One night soon after I arrived and had been out late, I got a taxi and told the driver the name of my university. I didn't recognise where he was taking me, but I put it down to the fact that I was not yet familiar with the place. However when we arrived we seemed to be in the countryside, there was no-one around, just huge building sites full of bulldozers and cranes, and one completed darkened building. I was really nervous and told the driver he had taken me to the wrong place. I had visions of him murdering me and leaving my battered and bloodied body buried under the rubble, (this is what living in London does for you). However I need not have worried, there were two branches of my university, the new branch was at University City, which was where he had taken me, I just was not aware of that at the time. He apologised and took me to the old branch without charging me any



Outside the city



Inside view of the city

extra. I can say that this is one of the few times I have ever met a decent taxi driver in Tianjin. Fast forward four years and there are now many universities there and the building sites have turned into huge thriving campuses. The landscape here is changing rapidly and already some buildings at Nankai University are empty in preparation for moving. I wonder what will happen to Zhou En Lai's statues.

Cheap and Cheerful

Property prices are rising higher and higher in Tianjin so as far as the universities are concerned, it is much cheaper for them to be located outside of the main areas. Each university itself is like a small town, with restaurants, supermarkets, hairdressers and myriad small shops and businesses. One university even has a veterinary surgery, which no doubt comes in handy as there are



Students' flasks waiting to be filled with hot water

many stray dogs and cats that roam the campuses. They offer reduced rates at this surgery so if any kind student finds an injured animal, they will be more inclined to seek medical help for it.

Dormitories are extremely cheap with some costing just 800 yuan per year. However for that you would be expected to sleep 8 to a room and many do not have air conditioning. Toilets and shower rooms are communal, so Chinese students get used to living with many other people. Personal space is a luxury and many people here do not have such a requirement anyway.

The shops on campus are also cheap as their customers are students and they know they cannot charge exorbitant prices. I often frequent these establishments as anyone can take advantage of what is on offer, discounted goods are not limited to students.

I visited the optician and bought several pairs of glasses at 100 yuan a pair. I even took some back to England with me.

Food For Thought

I came here to learn Chinese so originally I lived on campus. At first I found the food awful, the student canteens are full of unrecognisable things covered in slime and oil and everything tasted like cardboard, a full meal cost around 3 yuan so truly I was getting what I paid for. I rapidly lost weight. I remember one day I sat in the canteen with a bowl of slop in front of me and I almost broke down in tears. I pushed it away in despair, I just could not force it down my gullet. I didn't really have cooking facilities in the dormitory so I didn't know what I was going to do. The next day a fellow student invited me to lunch.

"No thanks I can't stomach the food in the canteen" I replied. She said "Student canteen? We don't eat there it is disgusting, we eat in the restaurants". That started a love affair between me and university restaurants. I hadn't realised there were other options, the canteens were at the very lowest end of the spectrum for cash strapped students. Universities are full of regular restaurants too, with the advantage that although they offer the same food, they are much cheaper. They also tend to be clean as the universities want the students in class and not off sick because of eating bad food.

The students often bemoan the fact that University City is in an inconvenient location. There are regular buses but they are always packed, hence there are unofficial taxis, which are really just men with cars who wait either outside the universities, or at bus stops at strategic locations looking for customers. I have used their services once or twice but patience and a very small body is needed, patience because it is only when you get in their vehicles that you realise they are waiting until they have enough passengers, which may be as many as eight, before they go, and with that many people in a little van it is very squashed. Small Chinese people don't mind this but for lanky westerners, it makes for a very uncomfortable journey. If I avail myself of their services I arrive at my destination bent double and I always have to unfold my limbs before I can actually walk.

Apart from the fact that it is much cheaper for the universities to be situated at this location, there is another reason for it. Chinese people like to have everything

placed in boxes, so having all the universities in one location satisfies this ethic. The students have everything at hand that they need and they don't even have to leave the campus. This means that they can put all their efforts into studying without any of the distractions of outside life.

Now that we have line three on the Metro, you will find a stop almost at the end of the line called Da Xue Cheng, or University City. The new line has made life much more convenient for the students. When you have an hour or two to spare hop on the metro and go and have a look at University City, it makes for interesting viewing. It really is a city within a city.



Best Vehicles

天津瑞金国际学校

作为天津瑞金国际学校的校长，Phil Armstrong 先生肩负重任。虽然长久以来，瑞金在校生优异的学习成绩有目共睹，但是Phil先生远远不满足于此，并且不断追求更加先进的教学理念和方式，用于开发学生们的最大潜力。他认为，学习应该是终身制，而不是仅限于学校内或教室里。同时，这种对学习的极大热忱和工作态度使得Phil Armstrong先生完全胜任校长工作。



REGO International School

Phil Armstrong, the principal of Rego International School is a man on a mission. Rego has always had a strong academic ethos, but he is not satisfied with resting on the laurels of the school's good reputation, he wants the school to strive ever onward and upward in order to help the students achieve their highest potential. He thinks learning should be a lifelong commitment and keenly pursues higher learning, a principle that has resulted in him being highly qualified for this job.

Rego is a British school and this means several things.

1. Attitude towards the students – the school's educational approach focuses on individual students.
2. They fully recognise that every class has students of different abilities, therefore the teachers actively work to meet the needs of each student.
3. The examinations are the same as in Britain-GCSEs and A Levels, which are an internationally recognised standard.

4. Traditional customs are maintained, they have the old fashioned, effective house system, this is designed to bring the students closer together and learn the benefit of team work. The school awards certificates for achievements that the students obtain for their houses.

5. Most of the teachers are from Britain and they bring with them the expertise of working in a British school. The National Curriculum forms the basis of their educational system.

As Rego is a British school, student life there is extremely interesting, as they marry typically British cultural activities and festivals with international ones, i.e. they held a Guy Fawkes/bonfire night celebration in tandem with Halloween. I thought only British students would know who Guy Fawkes was, but the Rego students now all know.

Rego's core values are that students should lean to be knowledgeable, ambitious, independent, creative, principled and responsible. Whilst the school has a very strong academic record, its strength also lies in the fact that they emphasize the children should be happy and fulfilled in their school life.

Teaching the students to be principled is taken very seriously, hence in order to graduate, students aged 14-18 years of age must demonstrate that they have spent at least 15 hours each school year carrying out voluntary work, as part of their enrichment activities. This can take the form of anything from volunteering at an orphanage, to proactively doing things in connection with protection of the environment. As part of the enrichment process, normally school finishes at 3.30 p.m., but on Mondays and Thursdays there is a mandatory 4.30 finish and the students take part in activities designed to bring them closer together, for instance they have Wii dance sessions together.

Encouraging young people to engage in philanthropic activities will help them to develop into responsible, caring adults. Mr. Armstrong told me he is very interested in volunteer work in Africa and has taken students to Tanzania, they helped to raise funds for hospitals, build schools, and



support orphanages for runaways. It is a good thing to educate children that there are others far less fortunate than themselves. They should be made aware that the world they live in contains all kinds of people in varying circumstances, and that they personally can make a difference if they get involved in these kinds of activities.

School trips, whilst fun for the students, also have a purpose. A school trip to Japan including a visit to an orphanage. Mr. Armstrong is the right person to lead the children down this path, as when he was in the UK he was a staunch supporter of environmental groups and he took the lead in a Friends of the Earth group.

The school also likes to get the parents involved, and that night they were preparing for "An Evening of Excellence" at the Sheraton Hotel - an awards ceremony. The students would be given certificates in recognition for their achievements. Mr. Armstrong is an accomplished musician and that night would be giving a piano recital. Also the school was going to host ISCOT Science Day and visitors from other international schools would take part. They also get involved in interschool maths competitions.

There are currently no plans to renovate the school and he told me "We are very proud of our culture and attitudes and we want to further develop these things. There is no need to do any building work on the school, it is fine as it is, we wish to focus on the students, helping them to achieve their highest potential is paramount.

As far as their academic record is concerned, many students go on to enter some of the best world renowned universities. He told me about a former student who had got an offer to enter Cambridge University, but had turned it down in order to go to a university specialising in science subjects. There are not many people who are likely to get an offer from Cambridge, let alone turn it down, but such is the excellent standard of education provided by Rego that Mr. Armstrong seemed hardly surprised, he told me this in a rather matter of fact manner. The exam results are exceptional and this is partly due to the, I hesitate to use the word "relaxed" but hard working culture promoted by the teachers. Indeed it seems somewhat of a contradiction to say these words in the same breath, nevertheless it is true. It is a myth to think that the best students are those under pressure, happy students make for productive study and result in higher academic results.

As the majority of students do not have English as a first language, when students who struggle with the language start school



there they are placed in a spotlight programme, whereby they study English at an intensive level for 3 – 6 months before they join mainstream classes.

Mr. Armstrong is a father himself, he has two sons, and so he fully understands children and particularly the problems they have adapting to a different culture and language. He, his wife and his sons were all born on different continents, Mrs. Armstrong is Russian, one son was born in Switzerland and the other was born in Japan!

This is a Principal who clearly takes his responsibilities to his students very seriously and mutual respect is promoted at the school. He told me "We don't have a punishment system if students speak their mother tongue, we rigorously encourage them to speak English by reasoning with them that if they speak their mother tongue, they automatically exclude their classmates from participating in conversations. I have been teaching a long time and I feel this method is far more effective than excluding a child from lessons, that is counter-productive!" I looked through the windows of the classrooms and I could see that the children were engaging with the teachers and diligently studying. I also think it is important to look at the local staff and see what kind of feelings are emanating from them. It seems that they are happy to work at the school too. Parents with children at Rego can relax, their children are in very good hands, there is a master captain at the helm of the Rego ship and he is steering the students to success.

Budding Artists of Musical Extravaganzas



Wellington College International Tianjin is quickly developing a reputation for putting on musical productions of a very high quality. Following the success of its sell-out musical show, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Wellington has staged its second major musical production this year, Bugsy Malone, an action-packed song and dance extravaganza. This was again directed by Jane Griffiths, a professional singer, dancer, actress and director from London.

Bugsy Malone began life as a very successful film written and directed by Alan Parker, and featuring child actors, most notably Jodie Foster. Parker was trying to find a film that his children could enjoy, and his eldest son suggested one featuring a cast of just children. The plot is loosely based on events during the 1920s Prohibition era in the US, and more specifically, the exploits of Al Capone and Bugs Moran in Chicago. The film was later adapted into a stage show and its tongue-in-cheek style, starring children as the gangsters and their molls, makes it perfect for a school production.



Bugsy Malone is a slapstick musical comedy. The story line follows the rivalry between two half-witted street gangs, aided and abetted by a well-intentioned, one-time boxer, Bugsy Malone, who steps in to take control of Fat Sam's gang and give Dandy Dan and his boys what they've got coming to them. In this musical spoof, the message is one of good, clean fun. The characters are wonderful cartoon cut-outs and their weapons of choice 'splurge guns', or whipped cream and custard pies.

Jane Griffiths chose Bugsy Malone as a perfect vehicle to showcase the talents of a wide range of students at Wellington. The pupils taking part ranged from six to eighteen years of age. She said "We knew

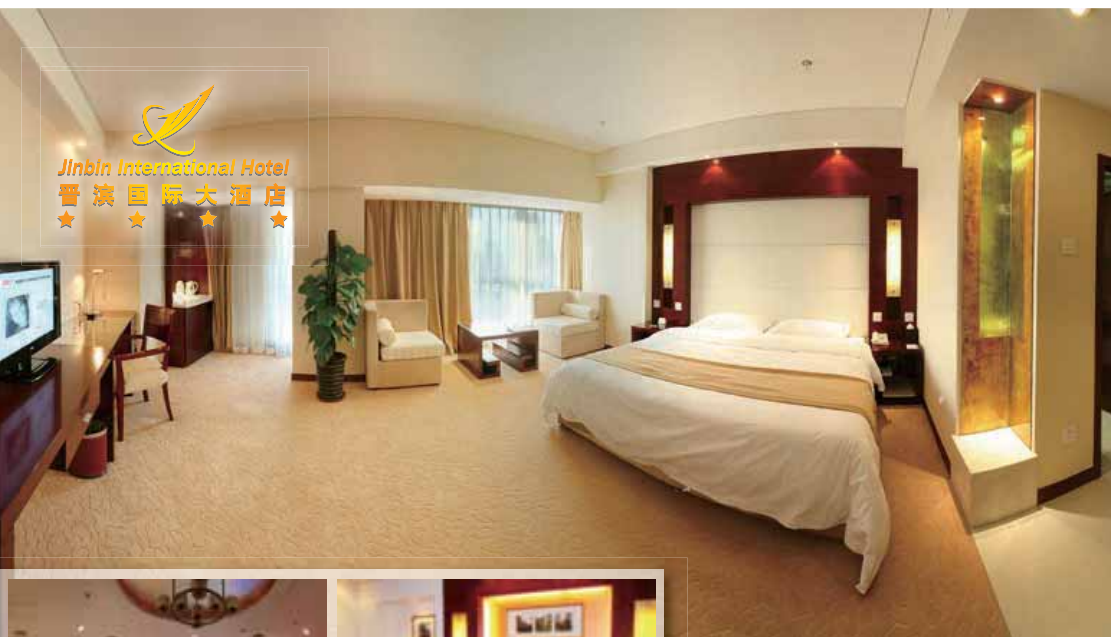
Bugsy Malone would be a sure-fire hit with both children and adults alike - not least because of its elaborate stage set, specially tailored period costumes and an enthusiastic cast of over 60 talented pupils". It was also quite challenging for both older students and younger students to

work together, because such a huge project demanded more patience and a strong spirit of team work.

The dramatic scenes were interwoven with vivid characterization and spectacular special effects, all against the backdrop of a very impressive stage set. This reflected long hours of rehearsing and hard work, all coming to fruition in a high quality performance. Of special note were the professional dance sequences. The audience was stunned by the audition scene, in which the actors interacted with the Headmaster, cast as the director, from the auditorium. In the middle of the show, the audience burst into spontaneous applause and gave a standing ovation to express their admiration.

After watching the show one guest said "It was fabulous, the standard of the performance was very high and the dance numbers were amazing."

The Headmaster, David Cook, highlighted Wellington's commitment to the Performing Arts in his closing night speech: "Tonight was the last of four wonderful performances, all emphasizing just how far we have come in such a short time, barely more than a year, in developing and then combining the talents of our individual actors, singers, dancers and musicians, not forgetting all the teachers and students backstage. It was a supreme team effort, and one we can feel justifiably proud of. Now for next year!"



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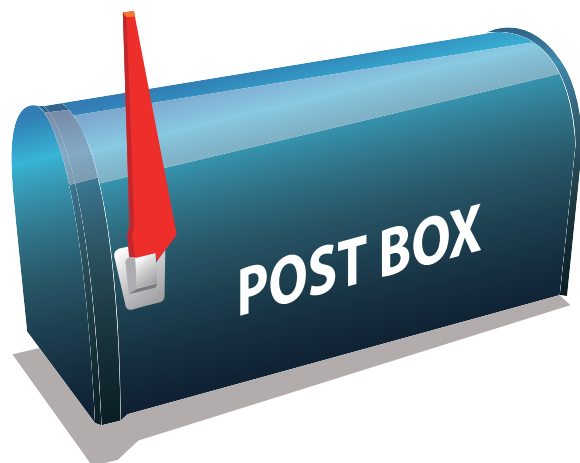
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Friendship

by Paula Taylor

跨国友谊

和中国人交朋友容易吗？你可能会说：他们那么热情好客，有什么难的？但我说的是真正的朋友，两个文化思维方式完全相反的人如何成为真正的朋友？虽然我在中国已经生活四年了，也有不少中国朋友，但我还是有很多烦恼。

中国人无论干什么事都喜欢成群结队，所以他们总会叫上我。有时候，我不想去那些地方，就让他们自己去，但他们好像亏待了我似的，非要迁就我改地方。这让我感到很不舒服，因为他们实在没有必要为了我改变计划。

有一次我的室友回国探亲了，我的好朋友就打电话问我一个人住寂寞不寂寞，她可以来陪我。但她不知道我有多么享受这种自由的感觉，我可以随心所欲，不用考虑别人的感受了。

我们就是在这样的吵吵闹闹中度过的。他们认为我不合群，我认为他们太罗嗦。但不知为什么，我们还是成为了朋友，而且我仍然十分爱他们！

Is it easy for westerners to have Chinese friends? You may think that of course the answer is yes, and that it doesn't matter what nationality someone is. However it is challenging to be real friends with someone whose culture and thinking are polar opposites to yours. Although I have many Chinese friends, I don't find it particularly easy to be friends with them and I have to work hard at it. I feel I have to constantly watch what I say and do, as it is easy to offend them. For example a friend invited me to her house for lunch, her mother had prepared a feast for us and I said "Thank you for your hard work". My friend was horrified and said "You can't say that, that suggests she is a waitress". I thought that surely they would take into account the fact that I am a foreigner and we often make mistakes with the language and culture, but she wanted me to know that I had offended her mother.

My most precious Chinese friend is like

a sister to me, but it is over simplistic to say that our nationalities have no bearing on our friendship. The differences in culture rear their head every day and we often have misunderstandings and differences of opinion. I don't understand why if my friends want to eat something particular I have to eat it too. Or if I say, for instance, that I do not want to go to the same place as they want to, they will all change their plans to suit me, which makes me uncomfortable. No matter how many times I tell them to just go ahead and do what they want, they feel that they have to cater to me. This is a product of the legendary Chinese hospitality and the need to entertain guests. Even though I have lived here for four years and my friends know me very well, I



am still thought of as a guest. Much as I love my friends, I long for the type of friendships that I have back home, where I do not have to walk on eggshells.

Another bone of contention is what is considered to be good manners. Where I come from you have to say please and thank you to everyone. I often get annoyed because if I ask a friend "Would you like coffee?" she just answers "hǎo" she doesn't say please, or thank me when I give her the coffee.

If I tell Mary something and a Chinese person tells her something different she will take their advice. When the Japanese Tsunami and the resulting disasters caused many to worry about radiation pollution, Mary received a text from a friend advising her to immediately buy lots of salt. Mary told

me to buy extra salt. "Eating lots of salt is foolish and dangerous, don't listen to these rumours. Who is your friend, is she a scientist?" I asked her witheringly. Mary bought extra salt.

What my friends say:-

Conversely my friends sometimes think I am very difficult, because of course I am not like them. They all like to be together and do the same things together. I don't feel that I always have to be with them. When my roommate went back to her country for two weeks Mary phoned me up and said "You must be lonely living by yourself, I can come and stay with you". What she didn't know was that I was dancing a jig even as I was seeing my roommate off. I was revelling in the two weeks of freedom that would follow, two weeks of doing exactly as I liked without having to consider her. "No, it's okay I am quite happy on my own" I said. Mary couldn't believe it, how could I be happy on my own? She is used to living with lots of people, when she goes back to her hometown four people sleep in the same huge bed. When she was at university there were 8 people to one room. When she moved out of the dormitory she rented a room with six others. Chinese people get used to sharing their space with others and so do not like to do things on their own.

As food is such a big deal, my friends

will all discuss what to eat in great detail, but I am interested in what is going on in the world, I want to discuss the destruction of the environment or the war in Afghanistan etc., I am not interested in having lengthy conversations about where to eat and what to eat. My Chinese friends are too kind and always worry about me. I don't show consideration for them by co-operating with plans for the mutual good of the group. They feel I am not grateful for their concern.

Once a friend phoned me up in the morning when I was running late and the conversation went like this:-

Her: "Good morning, have you eaten your breakfast?"

Me: "Not yet".

Her: "Oh. What are you going to have for lunch?"

Me: "I don't know".

Her: "How about this evening, what will you have for dinner?"

Me: "I haven't even thought about breakfast yet, how do I know what I will eat for lunch and dinner". I was exasperated, I was trying to get ready and I was involved in a pointless conversation. Now I know the reason she was asking was that she thought we could eat together. I was considered selfish because I didn't worry about her eating on her own.

My insistence on them saying please and

thank you is a problem in their eyes because this means that our relationship is not very close. They tell me this lack of courtesy proves that we are good friends and there is no need to stand on ceremony. Apparently the closer the relationship is the more "free" they can be and the more liberties they can take. My opinion is that only strangers should try to take liberties with me.

They cannot offer me help and advice as I don't take it, but offering help is part and parcel of Chinese culture. By rejecting their advice as not suitable for me, they think that I do not value them. They cannot shape me into their homogenized mould. They tell me my hair is strange, and that Chinese people do not have such hair. I tell them, unnecessarily, that I am not Chinese. I look different, my thinking is different, I don't care for their personal opinions on my business - I am a problem. Chinese friends are loyal, kind, and helpful, but I am not kind and I don't need much help.

Conclusion

They think it is hard to be friends with me, I think it is hard to be friends with them. My Chinese friends drive me crazy, I drive them crazy. Why are they still willing to be friends with me? I don't know. However what I can say is, the best thing about being in China is having Chinese friends. I love them to death.

A Real Real Estate Bubble: How Nagging Mothers In Law Could Hurt The Chinese Economy

By Parker Barribal

中国房地产经济的泡沫

总体来讲，中国的地产和西方不同。确切的说，土地的所有权完全归国家所有。而且长期以来，房子都是由工作单位分配的，不是个人购买的一件商品。实际上，这种社会现象一直持续到90年代后期，中国大陆地区的房屋货币交易几乎没有市场。生活80年代的人们几乎都是由工作单位根据其工作年限、年龄、家庭成员数量分配住房。因此，住房条件并没有成为适婚青年男女组建家庭的绊脚石。甚至在地产经济飞速发展的今天，你仍然可以听到一些老人在一起闲话家常，感叹现在在生活方式变化之大的同时，不禁怀念改革开放初期那段住房无压力的时光。

Regardless of where you are from, the relationship one has with a mother in law is almost always a pain. They can nag, and pry, and make you feel you've descended into the seventh circle of hell in some cases. While this can be a strain on any marriage, it rarely has nationwide economic implications; unless you happen to live in China, where the mothers of potential brides vet would-be suitors on their possession of real estate above most anything else. I am not just picking on in-laws here, the Confucian ideal of the man as the sole provider is also contributing factor that reinforces the unwritten law that a man without a house is a

man destined to bachelordom. While to me that sounds like an awesome way to dodge the marriage bullet, it has major economic consequences for China.

Real estate in China is a bit different from the West. Technically all land is owned by the state. For many years a home was not something one purchased, but was something one was assigned. Most housing was doled out by one's work unit (danwei). In fact, up until the late 1990's there was no monetized market for real estate on the mainland; the government giveth and the government taketh away. Most people in the 80's were assigned housing by their danwei, according to one's



seniority, age, and family size. Housing was modest but essentially free and did not really enter the equation when courting a mate. Even with the rapid development and prosperity of many Chinese you will still hear older generations lamenting the simpler times of a China pre-Opening and Reform. While every grandparent is guilty of viewing the past with rose colored glasses, in China the change in lifestyle, including the pressures of home ownership, have been dramatic ones to say the least. As to the China of today, let's check the numbers.

-The Chinese real estate market accounted for 13% of China's GDP growth last year, that's more than exports by the way.

-Between 1998 and 2008 14.4 billion square meters of residential housing space were constructed in China. For perspective, that is 160 times the residential space of the entire island of Manhattan.

According to HSBC, the value of real estate wealth in 2010 was USD 17 trillion, which is more than 3 times China's GDP.

In the US the housing cost to income ratio (annual salary versus the cost of a home) is 3 to 1. According to JP Morgan, in China that ratio is 13 to 1. Do you have over a decade's worth of income on hand so you can get married? Neither do many Chinese men. The pressure to marry is high, but so are home prices. Interestingly, rental prices have not kept pace with purchasing prices, they have remained relatively low. This means that the incredible increase in home prices is not being driven by a demand for housing per se, China

does have plenty of space available to live in, to the point that many housing developments sit empty for years. The driving force rather is a confluence of other factors like societal pressure to marry into a home, and using real estate as a safe investment.

The skewed gender and age demographics of China are creating hardship for those left outside of the real estate bubble, and creating a class of marriage 'untouchables'. The Male to female ratio is currently 120 males to 100 females. Chinese guys are searching for mates who, along with their mother, expect a home as a prerequisite for marriage. This ratio is expected to increase in the future as males are generally favored both historically and economically for their earning potential. The one child policy has



also hurt males who do not come from families of means. The 4-2-1 family describes the typical Chinese family post-One Child Policy. That is, four grandparents, two parents, and at the center of it all, the one child. Generally speaking, Chinese grandparents (a demographic with more members every day) and parents are more than willing to pitch in and help their son purchase a home as he tries to find a wife. If a man does not have the advantage of independent wealth, or help from older family members, his chances of courting a mate fall drastically. At the bottom of the demographic heap are male laborers especially from the villages of China. Many females leave the village in search of work, or suitors, in the cities. From any angle, the cards are heavily stacked against uneducated male laborers who are choosing from an ever shrinking pool, and competing with a city male who may well come from 4-2-1 families. When it comes to social and family pressures about marriage, this demographic has become untouchable in the eyes of many Chinese.

Since Opening and Reform Chinese policies have been aimed at rapid development. A city can grow skyscrapers overnight. Now the government must manage the giant of this growing real estate bubble. While it has been a major driver of the economy, if prices falter, the affects will be felt nationally as well as abroad. China's real estate craving increases the prices of everything from copper to concrete and any building material in between, if that bubble does burst in a big way, the ripple will be felt across multiple sectors. There have been attempts to control how many homes individuals can buy, but it has done little to slow the hunger for real estate investment. While this sounds like a setup for a huge bubble burst similar to that of the US, there are some key differences.



In the US, families were getting home loans for essentially no down payment, and at historically low interest rates. The government pushed banks to make lunatic loans to people who did not really qualify for them, and banks were not regulated properly and started selling toxic mortgage backed securities, and so the bubble grew and eventually burst. In China, families have much more skin in the game, meaning their down payments for a home might be as high as 40% or 50%, making a default personally crushing, and discouraging mass defaults that would make for systemic risk. Chinese leaders are hoping this will help to keep the bottom from falling out of the market. However, they are left with a very difficult choice; allow the bubble to continue to grow in the near term and hope for the best in the future, or, attempt to cool the market now and risk and overcooling of the economy more generally.

One does not always consider cultural factors when looking at economic issues, but in the case of the bubbling Chinese real estate market, one cannot really understand the market without some knowledge of the culture driving it. When my Chinese friends explain the family pressure involved with marriage in China, I must admit the level of power that parents hold over their adult children makes me cringe a bit. While your mother in law may be a pain, at least she's not helping to drive a bubble in your home country that could burst and devastate your economy.

SHOPPING

Christmas in China

By Jim Gibney

为圣诞节选件礼物

在中国过圣诞节，有几件事情需要提前搞清。首先，这里根本没有“大促销”这回事。因为所有的商品会在一夜之间价格翻倍，之后再挂上打折的牌子！其次，大可不必列出今年必买清单或者因为没抢到某样商品而感到沮丧。最后，如果你真的打算买点什么当作礼物，完全可以在圣诞节当天早上去转转，因为在中国，那天并不是重大传统节日。



Is there a better place in the world to buy presents? No! Why? Firstly, there are no Christmas "sales" that, after all, are only an excuse to bump up prices for maximum profit in the mad rush up to Christmas. If you don't believe me then why do all the stores have massive Boxing Day sales where prices are about half what they were only a couple of days ago? Secondly, there are no long queues to buy this year's must have present or the disappointment of missing out because they sold out. Thirdly, if you forget a present you can pop down to the store on Christmas morning because in China it is just another day.

In TEDA, where I live, I have two favourite places for buying presents. We are spoilt down here because we have some of the best value shopping in China. It is so good that I recommend jumping on the train and coming down here to check it out. Your first stop should be Decathlon which is a sports' store that has some of the best clothes, sporting gear and accessories that you could wish for. If you are of a sporting bent, whatever your interest - be it snorkeling, camping, cycling, hiking, tennis

- absolutely whatever, you will find something of interest here. Not only do they have a great selection, everything is so cheap as well.

Nearby, in Tang gu, we have the enormous Yang Huo market where if you can't find what you're looking for, it probably doesn't exist. There are toys galore and they are so much cheaper than in any store. It is so much better than a store because most places will bargain if you are not happy with the price. If you know what you want, get a Chinese friend to go with you and see what price they can get for you. My Chinese wife is often able to get most goods at a great reduction from the original price. At Yang Huo you should never pay the original asking price. It is easy to get to as Tang gu station is on the train line from Tianjin.

There are dozens of stalls selling all kinds of clothing, perfume, handbags, camping gear, bicycles, watches, the list is almost endless. Now, I am not so naive that I don't know that some of the products may not be real but if that were so you would not be getting them so cheap. However, with many products, it is almost impossible to tell the

difference between them and the real deal. That is, except for the price, which will be only a fraction of the genuine article. One warning though, be careful with computer gear like USBs which promise 880 GB. Like my grandmother used to say, "If it sounds too good to be true, it usually isn't."

Every once in a while I get up to Tianjin and when I do, I always visit Ancient Culture Street. If you want to get some presents to take home which have a distinct Chinese flavor, this is the place to go. It is also an interesting area to visit architecturally and there are literally hundreds of stores selling Chinese curios and handicrafts. If you are looking for a souvenir or a gift you could buy some jade, a tea set, swords, silk, paintings or sculpture. The traders are always friendly and you can always look without feeling any pressure to buy. If you are really lucky you might be able to pick up a real antique at a bargain basement price.

Happy shopping and Happy Christmas!

Merry Christmas from ISETAN

Authentic Bakery
TOUS les JOURS
多乐之日

Alice Chocolate Cake 168 RMB

Little soldiers in fairyland cake 168 RMB

Reindeer pumpkin carriage 148 RMB

Date: Nov. 22 to Dec. 25
Venue: B1F TOUS les JOURS counter
Tel: 2718 8399
Offer: Nov. 22 to Nov. 30: make a reservation and get 15% discount
Dec. 01 to Dec. 25: make a reservation and get 10% discount

ISETAN
天津伊势丹
www.isetan-tianjin.com

H&Y Pâtisserie Française

Date: Nov. 22 to Dec. 25
Offer: spend over 100RMB, get one free selected cake; purchases over 200RMB, get one free cake at selected counter (except the special price products)

A Classic macaroon gift box
Optional flavor, plus bag
Quantity: 26 pieces
Price: 224RMB
Offer: purchase classic macaroon gift box, get one selected cake for free

B French Christmas cake
Ingredients: 64% Belgian dark chocolate; imported hazelnuts from Spain; imported 999 edible gold foil from Japan; imported cream from France; Madagascar vanilla bean.
Flavor: chocolate, hazelnuts, vanilla
Standard: 1 pound
Price: 599RMB
Offer: make a reservation before Dec. 15 get one bottle of French red wine for free

和幸 Planning to open on Dec. 20 (Thu)

7F Gourmet Town Tonkatsu WAKO open up

Fried pork chop store WAKO has arrived at Tianjin Isetan. Since its establishment, it has been developing this fried pork chop skill for over 50 years.

The carefully selected ingredients, tasty fried pork chops well-cooked with an advanced technique, and the sincere service will remain all the same in Tianjin. Representing the uniqueness of Japanese food culture, the outstanding flavor of fried pork chop will definitely satisfy you.

A BEL AIR dry red wine (France) 750ml 139RMB
B LA GRAVETTE dry red wine (France) 750ml 200RMB
C HAUT VALENTIN dry red wine (France) 750ml 282RMB
D CARLES ANDREU sparkling wine (Spain) 750ml 228RMB
E BESSERAT champagne (France) 750ml 510RMB

An area with a mild atmosphere and an annual average temperature from 10 to 20 degrees is the ideal place to grow grapes. Sometimes humidity and excess rainfall affect the grapes, therefore adequate drainage function of the soil is crucial to successful production. The reason why French red wine is so popular in the world is because of the vast variety of wine they produce.

GODIVA Belgium 1935

Date: Nov. 22 to Dec. 25
Venue: B1F GODIVA counter
Tel: 27188235

Gifts:
Spend over 5000RMB on one visit, and be entitled to purchase a merry-go-round crystal box for 200RMB
Spend over 5000RMB on one with VIP card, and get one merry-go-round crystal box for free

Purchase any Christmas series products, and for 30RMB you can buy a Christmas ornament box with 3 pieces of chocolate
Purchase any Christmas series products with VIP card, get one Christmas ornament box with 3 pieces of chocolate for free

Isetan Membership Card Advantage
Advantage: Discount for membership card holder:

- Discount for regular membership card holder 5% discount
- Discount for VIP membership card holder 5%~10% discount
- Special discount for membership card holder yearly 20% discount

Tianjin Isetan Membership Card Get registered in Expats Club
The activity is popular and will be carried on in the future
During promotion period, get registered or update personal information, get two cans of free cookies from Tous Les Jours.
Availability: only 20RMB cookie
Validity: 2012, December 1st to 31st
Isetan 108, Nan Jing Road, Heping Tel: 2722-1111 Hrs: 10:00-21:00

Chinese Flavors

By Jim Gibney

中国味道

如果有一天你要参加一个中国的烹饪真人秀“中国味道”，面对随机提供的食材，做出一道中国风味美食，我可以给你一些提示，让你稳过三关，获得周冠军！

Most of us would love to know how to make authentic Chinese dishes because we can then make them for our friends when we go back to our own country. We can always spin a story like: this is a dish that I learned to make when I was in Tianjin. I got it from an elderly lady that lived in a flat on the floor below mine. Tales like this are sure to impress our less adventurous stay at home friends. Furthermore, we get to use the “mysterious” Chinese ingredients that we used to never buy from a local Chinese

supermarket which we probably never frequented before.

But before we can do this we have to learn how to make these Chinese delicacies. Well, here is your chance. Today we are going to play the popular TV show “Master Chef”. Actually, we are going to play the Chinese TV version which is called “Zhongguo Weidao”. The idea behind these programs is that you and a competitor are given a random selection of ingredients. You then have a set time limit to combine these ingredients to make something extraordinary that will convince the judges that your dish is better than your competitor’s. Just how easy is that!

To begin, here are our first lot of ingredients: two eggs, flour, leeks, cooking oil and salt. We have thirty minutes to make them into something that will impress the judges. Are you ready? Your time starts...now! First, put the flour in mixing bowl and add some water. Mix it all up until it becomes doughy. Let the dough sit for a while. While we are

waiting, we will chop up the leeks. Then put the cooking oil into the pan, add the eggs and beat them up. Now, let it cool. When it is cool, we will mix it with the leeks. This will be the filling for our...dumplings!

If you want, you can now add meat to the mix. I don’t do meat so I will give it a miss. Now, you need a rolling pin and a hard surface to roll out the dumpling pastry. Take the doughy flour mix and flatten with the rolling pin into a circle with a diameter of about 5 centimetre. Add the filling and fold the flattened mix into a triangular shape with serrated edges. It might take a bit of practice getting the shape right. Put a little cooking oil in the pan and fry the dumplings. After three or four minutes add some water and continue cooking until the outside is golden brown.

Take out the dumplings and serve them hot to your friends. If you want, you can put the left over dumplings, if you have any that is, in the freezer where they will keep for months. You can take them out any time you feel peckish and steam or fry them. This is a great recipe to keep for Chinese New Year so you can have an authentic Spring Festival

party with your friends wherever you are in the world. The ingredients are things that you would find in any kitchen in the world. The hardest part is folding the dumplings but like anything, persevere, practice makes perfect.

Congratulations. We have now won through to the second round of “Zhongguo Weidao”. The judges loved our dumplings. Our next lot of ingredients are: a piece of soft tofu, a bunch of Chinese onions, one small red pepper, a sharp knife, broad bean paste, pan, dian fen – in Chinese 淀粉 also known as starch, MSG, salt, cooking oil. I know what we can make. Of course, it is Sichuan Ma La Dofu: one of the most famous and popular dishes in China. Our time starts now! First, drain and then cut up the soft tofu into cubes of about one square centimetre.

Next chop up the Chinese onions and the red pepper. Then put some water into the fry pan and heat it up. Now, add the diced up tofu. When the water has boiled turn

down heat and put the tofu aside for the moment in a bowl of cold water. Then, with the water still in the pan, turn the fry pan back onto medium and put in some cooking oil, then add the Chinese onion, red pepper and the broad bean paste, with a pinch of salt. This dish is often cooked with pork. I won’t add any in but you can if you wish. If you want you can add the diced pork now.

Simmer this mix for two or three minutes, if you added pork, maybe continue for a bit longer to ensure that the pork is well cooked enough. Then, add the tofu

eggplant and green pepper into small pieces, cubes of about a centimeter will do fine. Put the eggplant and pepper to one side for the moment. Heat up a pan with the cooking oil and cook the chopped potato until it is golden brown and then remove. We will use this later. While waiting for the potato to cook, we can chop up the Chinese onion and slice the garlic and ginger. Once you have removed the potato, start cooking the eggplant until it looks done, don’t let it burn, and remove it as well. It’s looking good.

Now, cook the chopped up Chinese onion, green pepper, sliced ginger and garlic. Add some soya sauce, vinegar and a little sugar and mix thoroughly. When it smells great and



looks almost ready, add the cooked potato and eggplant and continue mixing. Finally, add a little water and salt, then a teaspoon of corn starch mixed with water. It should thicken a little. This means it is ready. You have just made Tudi San Dian, 土地三鲜. You await the judges’ verdict. They look pleased and give you the thumbs up. The audience applauds. You wait to see if you have won.

Congratulations! You have won this week’s episode of “Zhongguo Weidao”. The judges ask you, “What is your secret? How come a wai guo ren is so good at Chinese cooking?” You blush a little and are a bit embarrassed to tell them that you have some Chinese friends who helped you buy the ingredients and that you read an article in Jin magazine that gave you all the recipes. But who cares? You are now a famous Chinese master chef!

The judges loved this as well and now you are through to the final round of “Zhongguo Weidao”. We might have to try something a bit harder this time to impress the judges and show our expertise. Our ingredients this time are: a potato, an eggplant, a green pepper, a Chinese onion, sugar, garlic, starch (used previously), pepper, salt, vinegar, soya sauce, ginger, cooking oil. Our thirty minutes starts now! First, we need to peel the potato and wash it. Once we’ve done that we also need to wash the green pepper and eggplant, got to make sure they are clean.

Now, we need to chop up the potato,



Luxury in Italian Street



Savage of Sea Bass

French cuisine has always had aristocratic status in the culinary world. An elegant environment, fresh ingredients, exquisite presentation and professional service are what people have come to expect in a quality French restaurant. Of course, only a building with a historic heritage can accommodate a good French restaurant and add to the luxurious dining experience. Fortunately, in Tianjin these have all come to together in the Via Veneto.

The Via Veneto restaurant sits quietly in a historical villa in the Italian concession area. It used to be the home of Yi Zhaoyun who was a high-ranking Chinese military officer back in early 1900's. Now it has been transformed into the Yi Boutique Luxury Hotel. Though Via Veneto is an Italian name, don't be misled. It offers authentic French cuisine prepared by a Michelin starred chef. His name is Samuel Galdon and he has designed a menu with an emphasis on seafood. Just reading the descriptions of dishes like "king crab", "scallops", "lobster" can stimulate one's appetite and make the mouth water. All the seafood is imported with the quality and freshness guaranteed. Just in case you don't want seafood they also provide Australian beef and New Zealand lamb.

However, we love our seafood. On our visit, we started with the lobster soup which tasted of the deep blue sea. Then, we tried the deep fried codfish which was served with some cuttlefish and rice. This is a creative and absolutely delicious combination that is sure to whet the appetite of local diners.

The menu, is to say the least, extremely innovative in the way it uses the different ingredients. It is suggested that you book at least one day in advance because the chef will then have ample time to prepare your order so as to make your visit one you will never forget. As an extra special treat, the Via Veneto restaurant will soon be serving afternoon tea, this will be an experience that is certain to give you a relaxing and delicious way to spend the afternoon.



Lobster soup

威亚尼托法式餐厅

Add: 50-54 Min Zu Lu, Hebei District
地址: 河北区民族路50-54号
Tel: 24455511
Price: RMB 500

Simply White, Simply Delicious



There is a great Italian restaurant in TEDA. It is hard to find because it is tucked away off the main road and it doesn't have a big sign but if you manage to find it, you will be rewarded. The owner and head chef is Antonio Mazzei and he has made sure that his restaurant is an authentic patch of Italy in downtown TEDA. My only worry is that the more people that know about this excellent place to eat the harder it will be to get a seat.



Ham roll with salad

The atmosphere is very artistic with lots of white that gives it a clean look and the modern cutlery looks like it came off the space shuttle. The food is out of this world too. For appetisers we had some tasty bruschetta which was a light and delicious start. I had several pieces before it was time to dig into my generous serve of pasta. The pasta pomodorini with cherry tomatoes and enough spice to make my mouth sing was excellent.

To take the edge of the spice there is an extensive wine list and a choice of beers. My colleague had an enormous calzone, big enough to feed two people. She made a good effort at finishing it off and remarked that the ham, cheese, mushroom and artichoke filling was delicious. The dessert was a chocolate tiramisu which was the sweetest possible ending to a meal that made me feel like singing Santa Lucia - it felt so Italian.

Then there are the pizzas but that will have to wait for another article. In a word: Bellissimo!



Calzone

Bella意大利厨房

Add: 39 Huang Hai Lu, Inzone Hotel, TEDA
地址: 天津经济技术开发区黄海路39号银珠酒店1层
Tel: 59829797
Price: RMB200

鼎泰豐
Merry Christmas!
Christmas Xiao Long Bao **Style!**
Christmas lucky draw: (Dec. 23 to 25) 3 days in total
About 324 prizes in each restaurant.
The prize: Yangcheng hairy crab gift box, wine, 50 RMB coupon, fridge magnet, saving box, iphone shell.

Binshui Dao Store
天津市河西区滨水道18号(滨水道与鞍山路交口)
TEL: 022-28138138

FASHION CLUB
Grand opening on December 12th! Singer Liu Jialiang to be on stage!
The 600m2 bar is a perfect spot for parties
Live jazz music every night
Famous DJ Lucien and mixology flair heat up the night
Ladies and expats who come before 9pm will be treated with a free cocktail. More than three expats coming together will receive a free bottle of whisky.
Guests coming after 9:00 will receive a secret gift.
Welcome to Fashion Club!
Add: Building 2, 150 Rong Yuan Lu, Hua Yuan, Nankai District
(above Bank of Construction at the crossing of Ying Kou Dao)
Tel: 8370-9898, 133-7031-9898



2012 JIN Magazine Restaurant Awards Ceremony

On November 8th, 2012 the Jin Magazine Restaurant Awards Ceremony was held at The Westin Tianjin Hotel. Many distinguished guests from the Tianjin Municipal Government Information Office and Jinwan Media Group, representatives from foreign companies in Tianjin, international schools and prize winners were present at the ceremony.

It was the first time that a restaurant award had been organized by foreign language media in Tianjin. We collected over 500 votes on our website and, after consultation with our panel of judges, the winners of the 16 categories were selected and announced on the evening.

At the same time, Jin Magazine was honored to announce that an advisory board for Jin Magazine was also established.

The members are:

Christoph Kaiser, General Manager of Turck (Tianjin) Technology Co., Ltd.

David Cook, Headmaster of Wellington College International Tianjin

Debbie Cook, Marketing Director of Wellington College International Tianjin

Gabriele Castaldi, Chairman of EU Chamber of Commerce in China, Tianjin Chapter

Hank Martin, Manager of Hank's Sports Bar & Grill

Joseph Azmeh, Headmaster of Teda International School

Michael Hart, Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, Greater Tianjin Chapter

Michael Yeung, Chairman of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, Tianjin Chapter

Mireille Wan, Managing Director of CB Richard Ellis

Steve Moody, Headmaster of International School of Tianjin

Philip Armstrong, Headmaster of Tianjin Rego International School

Raul Harri, Headmaster of Tianjin International School

With the rapid development of Tianjin, an ever increasing number of expats have come to live and work in Tianjin. The Awards reflect the demands of the expat community and is evidence of the vitality of the expat-related service industry in Tianjin. It also provides a useful reference for new comers to help them discover the many delights of our wonderful city.



首届《今日天津》杂志 餐厅大奖隆重揭晓

11月8日晚, 首届《今日天津》杂志餐厅大奖在天津君隆威斯汀酒店隆重揭晓。来自天津市政府新闻办和今晚传媒集团的领导、在津外资企业、国际学校、各国商会和获奖单位代表出席了当晚的颁奖典礼。

本次大奖是天津首次由外文媒体主办, 面向在津外籍社区的餐饮类奖项。通过在津外籍人士的网络投票以及特别评委的审定, 最终评选出包括最佳法餐厅、最佳意大利餐厅、最佳中餐厅在内的16个类别的奖项。

随着天津的开发开放, 越来越多的外国人选择来这里生活和工作。本次餐厅大奖的发布反映出本市涉外服务业的蓬勃发展, 同时也为外国人的日常生活提供了有益的向导。

主办方《今日天津》杂志是隶属于今晚传媒集团的英文刊物, 旨在向在津外籍社区宣传天津的发展形势, 搭建文化交流的平台, 提供衣食住行的便利信息。



Christian Metzner, GM of Astor Hotel



GM of Qing Wang Fu



Distinguished guests



Flo team



Hosts Michael Hart and Monica Wang



Christoph Kaiser, advisory board member



Terry Ko, General Manager of The Westin Tianjin



Lucky draw winner



Lady guests



Flora Chen, BV Director of Hotel Nikko Tianjin



La Seine team



Michael Yeung, advisory board member



Hank Martin



Lucky draw winner



Lucky draw winner



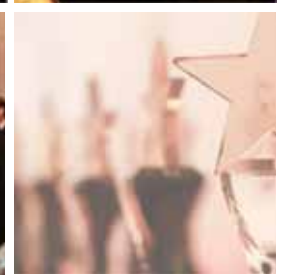
Representative from Renaissance Lakeview Hotel Tianjin



Guests talking happily



Guests enjoyed the buffet prepared by The Westin





The Best Cafe

Aqua Cafe Holiday Inn Tianjin Aqua City

Aqua Café at Holiday Inn Tianjin Aqua City has been named the "Best Café" in a readers' poll conducted by JIN magazine. According to the publication, "Word of mouth is often the most unbiased indicator of the quality of a product and JIN Awards sum up which players in the local F&B industry some of the city's most affluent diners consider the stellar performers."

"It's a great honor for us" Jeffrey Lawrence says, when he took over the trophy of "Best Café" awarded by JIN. He is the new Food and Beverage Director of Holiday Inn Tianjin Aqua City and is carry with him more than 20 years hospitality experiences specialized in Food and Beverage. "We would like to congratulate and thanks to everyone in making this happen" & "We will continue our efforts to deliver high-quality services and experience to all diners visiting the café." says Mr. Mah, the General Manager and Mr. Zhu, the Deputy General Manager.

Aqua Café is located on the second floor of Holiday Inn Tianjin Aqua City with more than 120 seats, serving East Meet West delicacies, Asian specialties and Western delights. Its modern and friendly decoration style gives customers a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere. Besides serving buffet meals, Aqua Café offers a la carte menu for customers who are looking for a simple meal. The café also organize various event or promotion during special occasions and the next inline will be the Christmas Eve Dinner Party with the theme of "Around the World" where besides celebrating the Christmas, you will be delighted with various delicacies around the world.

"As JIN magazine has reaffirmed the stature of Aqua Café, we hope even more diners in Tianjin will be encouraged to experience our hospitality," says Jeffrey.



Victorian Lounge The Astor Hotel

On a sunny day, the sunlight shines through the glass ceiling of the lobby lounge, making the lobby the best place in the world to spend a relaxing afternoon and it is also the uniqueness of this hotel. It is gorgeously huge and bright. Even if you are dressed like an upper-class lady in 19th century, you won't look odd in the lobby. The champagne afternoon tea at Victorian Lounge of Astor is featured with warm scones, a glass of champagne, fresh fruits and sandwiches. It is an ideal choice for your social afternoon gathering.



The Best Afternoon Tea



The Best Decor

Drei Kronen 1308

We would like to welcome you with the warm, friendly Bavarian style greeting "Grüß Gott" at our brew house. It is our great pleasure to seat you within the stylish, cozy atmosphere encompassing fine woodwork, traditional Bavarian furnishings and historical decoration imported from Bavaria.

Our philosophy is to provide you with the best service to make you feel comfortable as much as possible.

Our servers are friendly and attentive to provide always fast service and quick delivery of your ordered beers and dishes. Our obsession with beer is legendary, yet our passion

for great food runs just as deep. From our commitment to fresh ingredients to the breads, pretzels and buns we bake ourselves to original Bavarian Meals and our homemade desserts, every inspired recipe reflects the artistry and love that makes the brew house experience unlike any other.



The Best Outdoor Dining Experience

Bistro Thonet Qing Wang Fu

Qing Wang Fu, the former residence of Manchu prince Zaizhen, was a historical mansion constructed in 1922. After a major restoration last year, the Qing Wang Fu Mansion has been reborn as an exclusive entertainment venue with comprehensive functions including dining, wine tasting, banquet facilities, library and exhibition hall.

If you like wandering in Wu Da Dao, you may have passed by the mansion several times. Still keeping a low-profile image, the Qing Wang Fu is not easily recognizable from the outside. The mansion sits silently 100m away from the bronze horse carriage on Chong Qing Dao. Walking through the solemn entrance, you'll see the main building. On the left hand, there is a small garden. The first thing comes to my mind is the desire to enjoy some sunshine and coffee by the lawn.

There is a small cafeteria Bistro Thonet by the garden that serves both Chinese and western food and afternoon tea. The cafeteria is long and thin and all the tables are by the window. The afternoon tea in the cafeteria is a fusion of Chinese and western desserts. What is unique is the presentation of afternoon tea. A miniature of ancient Chinese style shelf for displaying antiques is used to present the delicately made cakes and sandwiches.





*The Best
Pizza*

Trattoria Italiana

Trattoria Italiana is based on an authentic Italian meal with a variety of wine-oriented and professional Western-style service. The internal structure is very unique, the main forms of single rooms open to the guests. The first and second floors include an open bar and six single rooms, every single room includes about 4-6 tables. This is also advocated in this restaurant - for the guests a warm, quiet and romantic dining environment. On the third floor contains four rooms, mainly for all the type of banquet. Since the opening day, Trattoria Italiana has hosted a variety of banquet. For example, European-style weddings, birthday parties, friends' parties and various drink receptions and so on. Our restaurant provides the choices of A la Carte menu, Set menu, Buffet menu and accompany with shipped Italian wine and other drinks and so on. During the summer, Trattoria Italiana offers the form of outdoor garden reception, and has a romantic violin playing and professional bands.

Mr. Minuti Jose who is hired from Italy is a professional Italian chef. And a well-designed menu has been widely received in Tianjin expatriates and local residents. Restaurant has some very successful cooperation with a lot of foreign companies in Tianjin, such as the Air Bus, John Deere, and Metso and so on. The restaurant's menu includes Stater, Soup, Pasta, Pizza, main course and dessert. Diversified range of choices can be well positioned to meet customers' needs.

There is no VIP in Trattoria Italiana; we treat every customer always the same way. Therefore, each of the customers dining here are our VIP.



Firehouse Renaissance Lakeview Hotel



*The Best
Steak*

Firehouse at the Renaissance Lakeview Hotel is a refreshing alternative to the dark and staid look of classic steakhouses. Its contemporary raw stone and wrought iron design elements, glassed-in kitchens and a wood-burning grill placed in the center of the room, inject new life into a steakhouse, traditional in all but ambience. Here the best cuts of beef, the freshest seafood and fabulous wines are offered in a much more modern and casual setting.



Three main parts of the restaurant are the grill, from which diners can order open style burgers during the day and the finest steaks during the night. The wine cellar is a large double-storey cellar featuring an impressive collection from the best vineyards around the world. The raw bar features freshly-shucked oysters.

Open for lunch and dinner daily.



*The Best
wine list*

Decanter, St. Regis Tianjin

Decanter is the perfect place for wine enthusiasts and connoisseurs; featuring an extensive wine cellar with wines from the world's most celebrated vineyards. With a cosmopolitan and deeply masculine setting, The St. Regis Bar will become Tianjin's favorite after-work meeting place where friends and colleagues can relax while enjoying a 'Jin Mary,' the St. Regis Tianjin's own version on the original cocktail created at The King Cole Bar at the flagship St. Regis New York. A rare haven of refined luxury, The St. Regis Bar is also a place for guests to enjoy the enduring tradition of St. Regis Afternoon Tea and Kung Fu Tea Service.

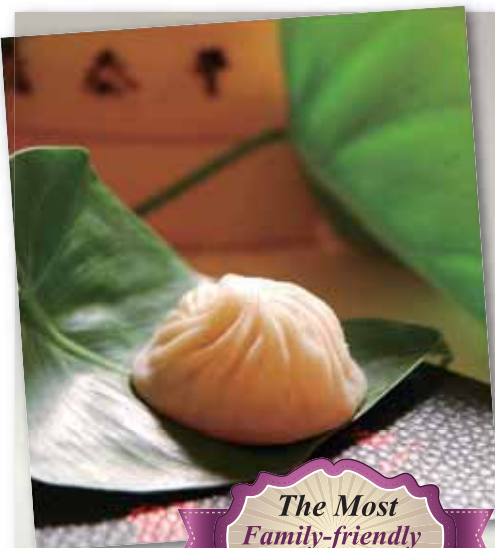
*The Best
Service*



La Seine

LA SEINE French restaurant is the distinctive and unique Parisian style in Tianjin, located in three major cultural and commercial district of Tianjin from the beginning of 2009. The decoration colors are mainly based on red, black and white. Hung on the wall a hundred years ago, the old photos of Paris show out classical warm and romantic. And it integrated the Wine and Food, European style, elegant atmosphere.

La Seine won The Best Service award in 2012 Jin Magazine Restaurant Awards. We would like to thank Jin Magazine readers for their support and we will try our best to provide our best service as always. Thank you very much!



The Most Family-friendly Restaurant

Din Tai Fung

As one of the characters of Chinese cuisine culture, so many restaurants make steamed dumplings, but only Taiwan Din Tai Fung has introduced steamed dumplings to the world and has made massive epicures fascinated. Featured by the cuisines and elegant surroundings, what Din Tai Fung deals with seems to be plain but not simple, even more difficult to stick to more than 30 years' continuity. However, Din Tai Fung in a low key has been recognized and awarded by the world, reported in series by NHK, ranked Top Ten Restaurants in the world by New York Times, invited by a restaurant of trois étoiles au guide Michelin to perform dumpling making in Europe every year, guaranteed by French government to operate in the Champs Elysées...In Taiwan, Japan, Los Angeles, Singapore and Beijing, personages of political circles and stars of performance and sports frequently come to Din Tai Fung Restaurant. Apart from these honors, each guest to Din Tai Fung is the actual glory of Din Tai Fung. It's said that Din Tai Fung is not only a "golden signboard" but also a "delicacy signboard"; what Din Tai Fung has done is "to be worthy of the guests who admire this

To have dinner here, there are entertainment rooms for children, ample and cozy dressing rooms for ladies, where the mothers can watch their babies through half mirror window; business banquet can be served in single and quiet business dining room; broad square is available for parking...



The Westin Tianjin

Setting a new benchmark for meeting facilities in Tianjin, The Westin Tianjin offers elegant function rooms featuring modern décor, state-of-the-art technology, innovative menus, and intuitive service.

Inspired by the design of Paul Smith, the banquet facilities offer sophisticated settings for any event. The Grand Ballroom provides a vast, light-filled space with flexible configurations to accommodate up to 600 guests. Boasting stunning chandeliers and a dramatic color palette, The Grand Ballroom is the ideal venue for elaborate banquets, formal dinners, cocktail parties, and wedding receptions. An adjoining pre-function area is adjacent to the hotel lobby.

The banquet staff, led by the Executive Chef, exhibits a flawless attention to detail in everything from creative coffee breaks and personalized meeting menus to magnificent spreads for large-scale events.

The Executive Chef exhibits a flawless attention to detail in providing everything from creative coffee breaks to personalized meeting menus to magnificent banquets for spectacular events. Whether you're staging a business event to impress or creating a memorable wedding celebration, the experienced staff of The Westin Tianjin will work with you to create the menu to suite the occasion. In addition to the palate-pleasing cuisine, customized table displays provide a colorful touch to energize events, meetings, seminars, special occasions, and banquets.

Furthermore, the intuitive conference team makes meeting planning a stress-free experience. From audio-visual presentations to tailored menus, our professional event coordinators are on hand to ensure your event goes off without a hitch.

Whether you wish to organize a cutting-edge business meeting, an elegant banquet, or a fairytale wedding reception, The Westin Tianjin offers endless possibilities to impress your guests.

The Best Hotel for Holding Social Events



The Best Italian Restaurant

Prego- The Westin Tianjin

With seven eclectic restaurants and bars, The Westin Tianjin offers numerous ways to relax, connect with friends and colleagues, and dine in style.

Enjoy a deeply satisfying and lively dining experience at Prego. Prego's lively environment is filled with the intoxicating aromas of homemade pizza, pastas and rustic Italian fare prepared in an open kitchen. The open kitchen turns the preparation of your meal into the evening's entertainment. The staff is friendly, fun and known for having personalities as robust as the food they serve. Prego's cuisine is rustic yet refined, rooted in tradition while producing innovative creations using only the finest and freshest ingredients available. An extensive wine list highlights the best of both Old and New World varietals, while a kids menu keeps younger diners happy with popular dishes.

Prego features traditional Italian food prepared with only the freshest ingredients available on the market. The feast starts with antipasto ranging from a plate of Italian cold cuts to the pan seared sea scallops wrapped with crispy bacon. To continue with primi, the pasta section allows you to be your own chef and choose the type of pasta to match the sauce, including the rich, hearty Bolognese and a very popular pizzagole with clams, broccoli, anchovies and tomatoes. As for the pizzas, the Prego signature pizza - WOW suprema - is a delight of thin crispy crust generously topped with prosciutto, shrimps asparagus, spinach and mushrooms, coming straight from the oven to your table. To satisfy a bigger appetite, the secondi include various fresh seafood with highly recommended black cod, as well as a large selection of steaks for meat lovers. Finally, desserts are not to be missed, with traditional tiramisu and Prego mud pie.

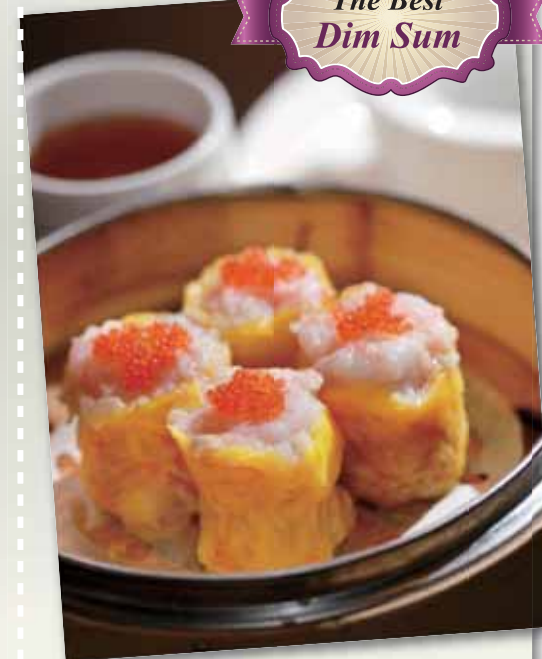
And what Italian dinner could be complete without a good bottle of wine? To enhance the flavour of the food, carefully selected wines from Old and New worlds are collected in the wine cellar, with a strong emphasis on wines from Italy.

Prego Italian Restaurant definitely is one the most fancy restaurants in town for you and your family to come.

Riverside Chinese Restaurant Holiday Inn Tianjin Riverside

Holiday Inn Tianjin Riverside is located at Phoenix Shopping Mall A on East Haihe Road, in the rapidly developing He Bei District. The hotel is surrounded by several sightseeing spots, such as Ancient Culture Street, Da Bei Temple and the 140-meter-height Eye of Tianjin Big Wheel. You may get the easy access to both local and international delicacy within the hotel. Firstly, Café Venice provides "fresh is the best" dining concept with the live cooking from the two open kitchens. For Japanese food lover, GEBA Japanese Restaurant serves you authentic cuisine, prepared by skillful Japanese chefs. Moreover, Riverside Chinese Restaurant blends authentic cuisine in a comfortable dining environment, attentive service and offers 14 private dining rooms for your business or family gatherings. Finally, Dazzle Lobby Lounge offers a trendy environment for you and your friends to relax, while sipping away exciting cocktails, tasting from our Tapas menu and listening to soothing music, plus exciting live performances from Monday to Saturday.

The Best Dim Sum





**The Best
Brunch**

Hank's Sports Bar & Grill

Hank's Sports Bar & Grill has been providing authentic Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners in Tianjin since 2003, providing that traditional holiday experience expatriates and their families are so familiar with when it comes to this special time of the year.

Enjoy a complete Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner in your own home, you need only to set the table and carve the turkey or ham. A complete dinner feeds six adults, includes turkey or ham, sweet potato casserole, mashed potatoes and turkey gravy, assorted sautéed vegetables, carrot soufflé, cranberry sauce, stuffing and apple or chocolate walnut pie for only 1098RMB, give at least four days' notice for in home catering, all orders must be picked up.

Hank's also offers a dine in experience for an all you can eat buffet on Thanksgiving and Christmas days for only 198RMB per adult, 100 RMB for children seven to twelve, children six and under no charge with paid adults. Buffet includes turkey and ham with all the sides and desserts, coffee, tea.



**The Best
Thai
Restaurant**

YY Beer House

Established in 1995, YY Beer House has been open for 17 years, it is an expert at providing Thai food and is popular with foreign guests in Tianjin. As the first Thai restaurant in Tianjin, YY insists on using imported Thai spices and experienced Thai chefs to cook typical Thai cuisine for customers.

Also on offer are more than 50 kinds of imported beers, wines, liquors and cigars from all over the world for guests to choose. Therefore, YY Beer House is half restaurant and half bar.

YY Beer House was invited by the Thai embassy to attend a large event, the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Thailand in Beijing Chaoyang Park. Recently, YY Beer House was featured by Wall Street Journal on March 25 in the US.

Therefore if you want to try some authentic Thai food in Tianjin, come to YY Beer House.



**The Best
French
Restaurant**

Flo Brasserie

Stepping through the doors of Brasserie FLO in Tianjin, you are transported to another era and culture. To a herald of "Bonjour Monsieur, Bonjour Madame" from the pristine staff, you may pinch yourself to believe you are not in Paris.

The atmosphere in the room is welcoming and warm. Much more than a restaurant, Brasserie culture revolves around friendships, new and old, invigorated by food and wine. It is already a meeting point for the significant French population of Tianjin, but it is clear that it fills a much bigger gap in the culinary appetite of the city. There simply is nothing else to compare it with and patrons of all walks of life can now enjoy dining in Paris without ever leaving town.

From the moment you enter your mouth will water, as you are greeted with an iced display of only the freshest and finest shellfish. Giant oysters hand-picked in France are flown in daily and are signature to the unique culinary experience of FLO. But the journey does not stop there. Opening the menu is breathtaking, and it will likely take you some time to choose from their vast selection. Whether ordering from the incredibly reasonably priced business lunches and set menus, or treating your taste buds to one of the countless a la carte dishes, you will be completely spoilt for choice.



**The Best
Chinese
Restaurant**

Hotel Nikko Tianjin Tao Li Chinese Dining

The luxurious Hotel Nikko Tianjin is the best located hotel in Tianjin. It is conveniently positioned above Nanjing Road which is Tianjin's premium shopping and entertainment district. The hotel is directly above the new METRO which is the city's major juncture station.

This elegantly-designed Chinese restaurant in Tianjin is renowned as the best place to enjoy the Premium Shark's Fin and Finest Dim Sum. With capacity of 132, Tao Li has a spacious dining hall and 8 private rooms to cater all kinds of dining occasions and also an ideal venue for weddings in Tianjin.



Young Heir of Traditional Clay Figurine Crafts



Hou Yu began to learn the traditional colored figurine making called Clay Figure Zhang when he was just 16. Initially, he was enrolled at the Tianjin Academy of Art to study western sculpture. By combining Chinese traditional colored figurine making with the skeletal anatomy commonly used in western sculpture theory, Hou Yu began to make creations that were much more natural and vivid. When he was twenty-one he started in the workshop of Clay Figure Zhang.

During his seven years in the workshop, his works have helped to make it a financial success and it has won awards and the recognition from Chinese and foreign art collectors. In the process he has been experimenting with many different materials, including wax, copper and stainless steel. He is particularly skilled at portraiture and his custom-made works have received many plaudits from his many satisfied customers.

In 2008, he began a project with the Chinese Film Museum to make wax figurines from classic Chinese movies. Since then his works have been displayed at the museum. In the same year, he had an exhibition of his works at the First Tianjin Folk Art Exhibition where he won an award.

While still using his skill in the craft of Chinese colored sculpture, Hou Yu has also integrated new technologies and techniques such as casting them in bronze, which has further enhanced the value and longevity of his works.

This statue is of the Chinese Pure Land Buddhism founder. It is a realistically painted sculpture. This kind of sculpture is best known for its life-like depictions and simple coloring. The conjunction of Chinese traditional techniques and the western emphasis on realistic reproduction of human anatomy has greatly improved Chinese painted sculpture art. All of these statues are representations of historical Buddhist masters who were responsible for great achievements in their lives.

Chinese Buddhists have traditionally viewed the practice of meditation and the recitation of Amit abha Buddha's name as the easiest way to achieve enlightenment. The reciting may be done vocally or mentally. In Chinese Buddhism, there is also a related practice called the "dual path of Pure Land cultivation", also known as the "dual path of emptiness and existence". In this type of meditation the name of Amit abha Buddha is recited slowly while the mind is emptied of all thoughts and concentrated on the incantation. When idle thoughts do arise, the phrase is repeated again to chase them away. With constant practice, the mind is able to remain empty and at peace. This is the ultimate aim of the practice - the attainment of Samadhi.



In this figure Hou Yu has portrayed an old man from the late Qing Dynasty sitting on a rock while enjoying the afternoon sunshine with his bird. He is dressed plainly and has a satisfied look on his face. The old man is obviously a well-educated member of the upper-class but due to the turbulent times, he has chosen to live a life of solitude rather than fight to defend his societal position. Although the man is living a simple life in his later years, he still feels happy. This figurine expresses the creator's understanding that real happiness is not achieved through money or power.

This statue is of the Master Xu Yun and was ordered by a Shanxi temple. It shows him in a meditative state. Xu Yun (1840-1959) was a renowned Buddhist master and one of the most influential Buddhist teachers of the last 200 years.



Let's Count Down!

By Casey Hynes



新年倒数!

新年前夜对你意味着什么? 对有些人来说, 这是忘掉过去一年不愉快的事情, 祈祷新一年平安合顺的时刻。而对另一部分人来说, 他们又有一个好理由去纵情狂欢, 不醉不归!

在北京这个国际化大都市里, 人们总能找到丰富的夜生活, 而跨年之夜更是一个全城沸腾的时刻。798艺术区的“焱派对”和Haze酒吧的跨年派对每年年末都会准时上演。

如果你不喜欢派对的喧闹和陌生人的汗味, 你可以找一家热门的餐厅, 提早定位子和朋友一起谈天说地等待新年钟声的敲响。很多餐厅也会推出酒水无限畅饮的新年套餐, 让你消磨整个晚上。

Depending on who you ask, New Year's Eve is either a vitally important holiday during which you get to forgive and forget the bad stuff from the year before and dive into a new era of health, wealth and productivity, or it's just another day that gets turned into an excuse to drink until you puke and make out with strangers.

It's true that New Year's Eve is just another day. The changing of the calendar year doesn't invoke some magic that erases bad habits and suddenly inspires people to do more with their lives. But it is one of the biggest party nights of the year, so why not make the most of it?

And where better to do that than Beijing? OK, Shanghai might be a decent place to celebrate as well but Beijing does bring on the charm when it comes to New Year's Eve.

Since the big night falls on a Monday this year, why not make a weekend of it and close out 2012 in style? Hop the train to Beijing a few days before to take in the sights or just start the party early.

As for actual New Year's Eve, you have some options. One is to get in on the annual Yen bash, a massive celebration where Beijing's bold and beautiful countdown to the new year. The bash kicks off at 9 p.m. and is held in the trendy 798 Art Space. The entertainment will be provided by some of the city's most popular DJs and you can expect that everyone will be dressed to kill. Tickets range from 70RMB for the early bird deal,

100RMB for pre-sale and 150RMB at the door.

Beijing hotspot Haze, well known for its regular parties and excellent dance music, will also be throwing a New Year's Eve bash. The 100RMB ticket price at the door includes one free shot, but you can also get 70RMB tickets ahead of time. This all-night bash will be a perfect place to say goodbye to the old year and welcome in the new.

But big parties aren't the only way to celebrate in Beijing. Most bars – particularly ex-pat friendly ones – offer some kind of specials or entertainment if you're looking for something a little more low-key than what will be going on at the Yen party or Haze.

One alternative is to splash out and get really indulgent with friends. Make reservations at one of Beijing's finer restaurants – preferably one with an

all-you-can-eat-and-drink special – and make merry with those nearest and dearest to you. A great option is Tairyo teppanyaki. Their regular deal includes countless courses of sushi, sashimi, grilled fish and meats, as well as fried ice cream and copious amounts of red and white wine, sake and beer. It's a great way to kick off the evening or enjoy the company of friends with a little help from the free-flowing booze.

The most enjoyable part of spending New Year's in Beijing is the atmosphere in the city itself. Being out and about among fellow ex-pats gives you a sense of comradeship and excitement you wouldn't find anywhere else in the world. With all the possibility and energy in Beijing, it's impossible not to feel just a little optimistic about what lies ahead in 2013.



当冬日的雪花摇曳着, 在夜幕中飘落, 我们听到远处传来了圣诞老人驾着鹿车的清脆铃声。12月22日晚, 跟随着“红鼻子小鹿”的脚步, 我们相聚在天津威斯汀大酒店, 共同拉开华兰国际幼稚园2012年圣诞Party的神秘面纱。看阳光灿烂, 那是新年绚丽的色彩。听, 金钟朗朗, 这是新年动人的旋律。想知道圣诞老人给小朋友们准备了什么样的神秘礼物吗? 想要聆听唱诗班的小朋友带来的天籁之音么? 想要和爸爸妈妈一起游戏娱乐High翻全场么? 快来加入我们的圣诞狂欢PARTY吧!

When the winter snow falls at night, we will hear the bell of Santa Claus's deer sleigh coming from a distance. On the evening of December 22nd, following the steps of the deer, we will gather at The Westin Hotel Tianjin and celebrate Hopeland International Kindergarten 2012 Christmas Party. Did you hear the bell of Christmas ringing? Do you want to know what gifts did Santa bring? Want to listen to the beautiful voice of the children's choir? Want to play games with mom and dad and have fun? Come and join our Christmas carnival PARTY!

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Guangzhou, a city with Food from the Heart

By Kyle Knutson

食在广州

中国第三大城市广州的饮食文化闻名全国，是中国十大美食之都。正所谓“食在广州”，这里每年都会举办美食节，其饮食文化源远流长。粤菜作为广州菜系的代表，汇集全国各地优秀民间美食，并在此基础上不断地吸取各大菜系之精华，借鉴西方食谱之所长，融汇贯通自成一家的。而且，广州人酷爱饮茶，尤其爱饮早茶。早上见面，其他地方的问候语大多是“吃了没”，广州人则往往是“喝茶了吗？饮茶构成了岭南文化有别于其他文化的一个显著特质。广州人喜欢喝茶，比如饮早茶，凉茶，功夫茶等。所以，大家喜欢在节假日呼朋唤友去茶座品茶。其实品茶尚在其次，主要是吃点心，聊天。因此，广式点心品种多样，制作精美，各有风味。名点、名小食、名风味食品更是不胜枚举。

Guangzhou is the capital city of Guangdong province in the far southern neck of China with beautiful Hainan island in the distance. It is also, more importantly, the capital city of dim sum (or dian xin 点心 in Mandarin).

Ah, dim sum. No trip to Guangzhou can possibly be complete without some good quality dim sum. One of my most cherished memories while visiting the Chinatowns in America were the numerous dim sum outings that my Chinese American family shared together. Dim Sum, which literally means “touch the heart”, is a special type of Cantonese dining experience, where a great diversity of bite sized hunger quenching delights, which range from steamed, fried, boiled, baked... you name it... are served in bowls, plates, steamers, baskets, lotus leaves ... you name it (again)... all to your heart's content. It's almost like a mini buffet semi neatly arranged around your table and just within range of your chopsticks.

Except for the lack of push carts served by boisterous serving ladies, which is sadly now a pastime, the whole dim sum experience is one of the most colorful and memorable dining interactions one can have in China and Guangzhou has it all. But make sure you bring a friend or six for the food served can accumulate to epically vast

proportions. Loud conversation, without fear of disturbing others since they will most likely be just as equally noisy, should also accompany your meal.

Cha Siu Bows (Cha Shao Bao 叉烧包 in Mandarin), or steamed white bread with BBQ pork stuffing, were always a favorite of mine.



Commercial area



My grandfather would always buy them by the dozen at the Chinese bakery in America and when I first arrived in Tianjin, I remember scratching my head in confusion as to why I had trouble finding any. In Guangzhou, you can easily find them at the small mom and pop shops as well as those fancy restaurants.

Har Gow (虾饺 ha gaau) and Siu Mai (烧麦 siu mai) are for those dumpling fans out there. Har Gow are a kind of shrimp dumpling enclosed by an almost transparent juicy white skin. The thinner and stronger the skin is, the better the quality. Siu Mai are stuffed with minced pork and shrimp with a sprinkle of mushroom on top. It's great for meat lovers for the meat stuffing is larger than the skin.

Cheung Fan (肠粉) was probably the most talked about dish amongst the locals (especially young students). It's basically a stretched out flat rice noodle that's rolled up with either: BBQ pork, shrimp or beef. Small specialty shops along Guangzhou's old street are packed during the weekends because of the famous Cheung Fan. Make sure you pour their specialty soy sauce on top before consumption.

For those with more exotic tastes, the



Dim Sum

chicken feet, or phoenix claws for purists (凤爪 fung zao), come in two kinds: the brownish salty ones whose skin melts off the bones and the slightly tougher white ones, or bai yun feng jiao. In northern Guangzhou, there are a series of mountains called Bai Yun Shan. The water from these mountains was originally used for the special flavoring used to make white chicken feet.

Another exotic dish for those brave enough is the tripe (Stomach 牛肚 / 金钱肚) mixed with a vinegar like sauce. While one may balk at the mention of stomach, one thing I can argue is that it doesn't taste as strong as liver so therefore, my preference has always been stomach.

Lo Mai Gai (糯米鸡), or sticky rice wrapped in lotus leaves, can be found almost everywhere in Guangdong Province. Different variations of it are a popular seller at many of the mountain villages clustered around the entrance to numerous trails and hikes. They are quite similar to Zhong Zi which are usually smaller and served during the Dragon Boat Festival Holidays.

Luo Bo Gao, (萝卜糕 Cantonese: lo4 baak6 gou1) a special fried turnip cake, is actually quite good thanks to its extra crispy exterior. Sometimes it's cooked more than once until golden brown and chopped into cubes. You can add chili for that extra little kick.

Rice Porridge (Cantonese: Juk 粥 Mandarin: Zhou) comes in a variety of styles including thin meat porridge (Mandarin: Shou Rou Zho 瘦肉粥), duck egg porridge (Mandarin: pei dan zhou 皮蛋粥), fish or a combination. It tastes great and warm especially during the winter.

If all this sounds a bit too out of the ordinary, a traditionalist can stick to the famous Cantonese spare ribs (排骨 paa14

gwat1), or the steamed beef balls. And that's basically what they are. You get what you ask for and you can't go wrong with either one of these dishes. Many of the beef balls come in soups as well and can be bought from the numerous food stands dotted along many of the major snack streets.

And of course, no one should forget dessert. While in general, dessert isn't really the most popular portion of the meal in China (that is, if you prefer ice cream sundaes over oranges), dim sum has plenty to offer. And the interesting catch is that, often times, you can have the opportunity to eat dessert first it just so happens to have been made at the time of ordering. Besides, it's best to get things fresh before the other patrons do.

Baak Tong Gou (白糖糕) is a kind of sweet flavored, cold, gelatinous triangle. If this rather terse description turns you off, then think again. The sweet candy combo flavor will make you a true believer when it comes to eating things with disgusting sounding names like a “sweet, cold, gelatinous triangle.” And it's great finger food too. Note that most Baak tong gou is more readily available in Hong Kong.

Dan Tat (蛋挞 dan ta) have been all around China but Guangdong is where they came from. They are the most crispy, fresh and warm that I've ever tasted. They are my younger sister's favorite dish and as one of her old sayings goes, “If the dan taat sucks here, everything else will suck!”

One last dish I must mention is the Jian dui (煎堆). They consist of deep fried flavorful rice flour covered with sesame

seeds all around. Red bean is stuffed within to give it a sweet flavor. This is also a popular dish with westerners.

Guangzhou does have its share of tourist sites scattered across the city (Yexiu park, Shamian Island and the intriguing Wampoa Military Academy) but for most people, both Western and Chinese, the most memorable experience comes from Guangzhou's true heart, the dim sum. The old section of Guangzhou which consists of the two combined main streets of Xia jiulu and Shang jiulu are perfect for trying out the cheungfan



Chicken feet

(BBQ pork rolled up in a rice blanket) and zhou (rice porridge). You can also take in some of the historic architecture and the colorful traditional Cantonese windows and alleys in addition to the great food. Normally, one of the worst tourist catchphrases that I often hear is: “If you haven't tried or seen the (special food item), then you can't say that you've been to (city name).” For Guangzhou, I will have to make an exception, “If you haven't tried the dim sum, then you can't say you've been to Guangzhou (or Hong Kong)!”



Cantonese morning tea



Made in China – Giant Pandas

by Paula Taylor

绝对中国造

地球人都知道大熊猫是中国的国宝，靠吃竹子为生。所以我不想说这些大家都知道的事。但是你知道是谁首次把大熊猫带到西方吗？那些离乡背井的大熊猫在异国的土地上能顺利地生存吗？

It is fitting that the last article of the year in the Natural China series should be about the Giant Panda. Who does not love them? Though all animals are unique and wonderful, the Giant Panda definitely has captured the hearts of most people. Why are we so enamoured of Pandas? Maybe it is because they only come from China and are therefore rare, or maybe it is because they look exactly like toy bears, there is something not quite real about them. There is a debate going on as to whether they are actually bears or whether they are a type of raccoon. I am not one to be bothered by technical details, as far as I am concerned they look like bears.

I am not going to tell you what you already know about pandas, i.e. that they eat bamboo and they are threatened because of disappearing habitat and low breeding rates etc. What I would like to do is hopefully tell you something you don't know. For instance, I am sure you could all name the first man on the moon, but can you name the first man to introduce Pandas to the western world? How about the name of the first Panda to go to America? Below are some facts about these marvellous creatures.

Panda Fact 1: All pandas belong to China and any that are in overseas zoos are only on loan for a yearly sum of around £650,000, which is a lot of yuan.

Panda Fact 2: Any cubs that are born to overseas pandas are sent back to China within two years.

Panda Fact 3: It is quite difficult for the females to get pregnant as they are only in heat for 72 hours over the entire year and can only conceive during a 24 hour slot.

Panda Fact 4: Pandas are white bears with black bits. A clearer division of colours in mammals could not be found except perhaps in the zebra. It looks as though someone has painted their eye sockets and arms and legs black after realising there were already large white bears in the form of Polar bears!

Panda Fact 5: Although Pandas exist solely on bamboo, their digestive systems can accept other foods and they have been known at times to eat rodents.

Panda Fact 6: In July of this year the first panda to be born in 24 years at Japan's Ueno Zoo, Tokyo died only 6 days after being born, leaving staff devastated.

Panda Fact 7: There are no pandas in zoos in England although Edinburgh Zoo in Scotland welcomed two last year. Are there any in your City?

Panda Fact 8: Because of the low nutrition and energy they get from bamboo, they basically have to eat all day.

Panda Fact 9: Pandas are solitary creatures and only meet occasionally to mate.

Panda Fact 10: The man who first introduced the panda to America and indeed the Western world was called Quentin Young. The panda's name was Su-Lin and the year was 1936.

Although many animals have either disappeared or are endangered due to overeating, by humans that is, the Chinese Government has a vigorous conservation programme, and so at least for the ones in captivity in the breeding centre at Chengdu, pandas are faring well and they are safe for the time being. How many of us have seen a live panda? Not many probably. As I am living in the land of the Giant Panda, I hope that I will get an opportunity to see them before I leave these shores.

recite it in the original Chinese.

One influential poet from this era is Li Bai who was born in Central Asia in 701 and died in 762. He led a highly wild youth and liked to play with swords. He is said to have killed several men before he was 20 over matters of honour. He never really settled down and was a wanderer most of his life. He wanted a job in the government but did not do anything about it. He wrote poems on many subjects, one of his most well-known is "Thoughts on a Still Night":

*Before my bed, the moon is shining bright,
I think that it is frost upon the ground.
I raise my head and look at the bright moon,
I lower my head and think of home.*

By Jim Gibney

Chinese Poetry

中国诗

中国的诗歌在唐朝达到鼎盛，有2000多首唐诗流传至今。如果你能背上几句唐诗，你的中国朋友一定会把你惊为天人的。唐代最著名的诗人当属李白和杜甫，他们的诗有不同的风格但都很浅显易懂，是中国孩子们的启蒙教材。



Li Bai looks up at the full moon

China has a long and proud history of incredible achievements in many areas including literature, architecture and science. When Europe was in the Dark Ages, Chinese culture was flourishing. The Tang Dynasty (618-917) was a period of great progress in all aspects of culture but especially in the arts and particularly in poetry. Poetry was an important part of life at all levels and this period is considered to be the Golden Age of Chinese poetry.

In the Tang Dynasty poets and poetry were celebrated. Nearly 50,000 poems have survived from the pens of more than 2,000 individual poets. Poetry was seen as important. If you wished to progress through the government ranks proficiency in writing poetry was a prerequisite. The imperial examination even had a poetry writing task. There were also poetry contests among the elite which provided entertainment for those at their banquets.

Most Chinese learn some Tang Dynasty poetry at school and will be able to rattle off a few lines on request. One sure fire way of impressing any Chinese person you know is to be able to recite some Tang poetry. They will be even more impressed if you know a line or two in English and even more if you can recite a whole poem. As most of them are only four lines it is not too hard to learn. If you really want to impress, try to learn and

This poem is well known to most Chinese people and many can recite it. Even today, school children are required to memorise it. He was fond of a drink but even when drunk was capable of delivering poems of great beauty on the spot. He wrote about the lives of the people, the magnificent scenery he saw on his travels and his wishes and regrets. He was quite famous and influential and in his travels he met many people including Du Fu.

Du Fu was another great poet of this time. He was born in 712 in Henan and died in 770. As a child he was a prolific reader. Many consider him the greatest of Chinese poets and one of the greatest writers ever. Like Li Bai, he was a wanderer who never stayed in the same place for long. He was usually poor and starving. He liked a drink as well, one of poems is "Many People Come to Visit and Bring Wine After I Fell Off My Horse, Drunk".

*The moon's reflected on the river a few feet away,
A lantern shines in the night near the third watch.
On the sand, egrets sleep, peacefully curled together,
Behind the boat I hear the splash of jumping fish.*

His life was very different to that of Li Bai who spent some of his life in the court of the emperor. My favourite Du Fu verse is from "Spring View" which has the famous line "A letter from home would be worth uncountable gold". Change letter to email and the line is one that still rings with meaning to many people in the world today. That, truly, is a sign of great literature, poetry that still speaks to people more than 1200 years after it is written.

LOCALEVENTS

Rego UN Day

The annual UN Day activities and celebration of Tianjin Rego International School took place on October 24, the birth date of the United Nations. UN Day is one of the most important activities at Rego as it provides the opportunity to celebrate the internationalism, uniqueness and broader sense of community. The day began with Rego's traditional parade to show the diverse cultures that make up the school population. The parade ended in the theater where students, parents and school staffs put on a concert representing the varied talents of the Rego community. Moreover, the centerpiece of UN Day is the international lunch sponsored and provided by the parents. The food represented all of the cultural traditions that combine to form the big family.



BBC Filming at Wellington

The BBC spent the day filming at Wellington on 6th November for a news segment on the increasing demand for British public school-style education in China, where the emphasis is on creativity and inquiry. The segment aired on 8th November on the BBC 6 o'clock and 10 o'clock news and on BBC World News on 9th November and can be viewed on the link below.



George Alagiah, award winning BBC television news presenter and journalist, conducted the interviews with the Master, David Cook and with Wellington pupils, including five year old piano prodigy, Mimi Zhou. George Alagiah is currently in China covering the leadership handover for the BBC and is conducting a series of reports on the relationship

between China and the UK. After the interviews, the BBC team stayed to film Wellington's musical production, Bugsy Malone, which was also highlighted on the news segment.

Best boutique hotel in town

The famous magazine <City Traveler> held the award ceremony in Shanghai recently. The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin is awarded the Best Boutique Hotel from City Traveler. The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin is the first Luxury Collection brand hotel in China and it will be 150 years old in July, 2013. Many celebrities visited the hotel like Dr. Sun Yan-Sen, the famous master of Beijing Opera Mei Lanfang, Herbert Hoover and so on. This award is a great gift for its 150 anniversary.



The first historical and cultural themed villa hotel at Wudadao Area open to the public

Located at Chongqing Dao, Qing Wang Fu now has now been officially open to the public since October 27th. It is the first historical and cultural themed villa hotel and provides excellent service. The 14 suites and 19 serviced apartments available for guests are all townhouses with private yards. During the process of renovation, the original architectural style and design were retained as much as possible, so the charm of historical culture and ancient architecture is very noticeable to the guests. Moreover, the interior design includes classic British noble style and modern Chinese simple style; every room is ornamented with traditional and modern crafts from all over the world; the exquisite facilities and personalized butler service present the elegant British lifestyle in the 30s.

Halloween



There was an impressive array of skeletons, zombies, vampires, wizards, witches, ghouls and ghosts at Wellington's Halloween celebrations on 26th October. Pupils from Nursery right the way through to Year 12 dressed up for occasion and the teachers also had the chance to show off their costumes. Junior students enjoyed Halloween games and activities throughout the day, with a Halloween assembly and parade in the afternoon and prizes awarded for the best costumes and best carved pumpkins. Parents in The Nest arranged a special cake and cookie decorating activity for the children, with the children taking home all their decorated goodies.

The Senior students got into Halloween mode after lunch by decorating their House rooms, followed by their own Halloween assembly, with prizes again awarded for the best costumes. There was a great atmosphere around school as everyone got into the Halloween spirit and there were some very imaginative and scary costumes.



Pack light and stay fit

Associated with one of the most famous sports brands, New Balance, The Westin Tianjin organized a morning jogging activity called 'Run Westin' on November 5, which was also part of the New Balance Gear Lending Launch ceremony. This event was specially designed for guests who stay at The Westin Tianjin and want to do their usual exercise routine. The Westin now offers a new gear lending programme that makes staying fit on the road more convenient than ever. Westin guests will have clean New Balance shoes delivered to the room that they can use for free whilst staying in the hotel. This allows them to pack light and stay fit.

The marketing manager Jessica Wang said, "Starwood created this new programme for The Westin Hotels and Resorts. Guest can pre-book running shoes for the next day when they stay at The Westin Tianjin. It was created to enhance our guests' experience in all ways. Our aim is to be a partner in our guests' well-being before, during and after their stay."



The St. Regis Tianjin Star Care for Community

The St. Regis Tianjin Executive Board and the department heads paid a hearty visit to the Tianjin Children Welfare Association on October 19th 2012 to launch the Starwood Community Care campaign-We Are Together. The hotel staff has not only prepared a large amount of gifts which were carefully selected for the children, but participated in the team work with all the children of the Association, such as cutting animals out of paper, drawing cartoon figures and playing games with the children. Both the children and the teachers from the Association have spoken highly of the contribution from the hotel and the children have paid us back well with their big smiles on their face by the end of the activity. The children had left their cute hand prints on the Starwood Community Care flag to say thanks to the whole society. Most of the children have learning difficulties and most of them are orphans. At the end of the day, the entire team feels that it's great to give back through the Starwood Care programs.



Limited edition travel bag purchasable online

The Grand Tourista Bag by Jason Wu for St. Regis Hotels & Resorts debuts in conjunction with launch of St. Regis' Retail Website: www.stregis.com/boutique. St. Regis Hotels & Resorts, part of Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Inc. is delighted to unveil The Grand Tourista Bag by Jason Wu for St. Regis Hotels & Resorts inspired by today's grand tour and designed with a new generation of luxury travelers in mind in November 15 in New York.

Sophisticated, timeless and informed by the brand's rich heritage, The Grand Tourista Bag marks Wu's first product created exclusively for travel and the first accessory designed for the St. Regis brand. The Grand Tourista Bag will retail for \$1,995 at www.stregis.com/boutique and www.jasonwustudio.com beginning in early December and will be available for pre-order at online luxury fashion retailer Moda Operandi beginning today on www.modaoperandi.com.

Tianjin Networking Club at China Blue

The new session of TNC event was held at the 50th floor of Tangla Hotel Tianjin on November 20. Over 100 professionals and entrepreneurs attended the event. The event is organized by Jin Magazine, and co-organized by American Chamber of Commerce, European Chamber of Commerce, German Chamber of Commerce, Singapore Chamber of Commerce and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce.

It was so exciting to see some new faces that day. Some of them were new comers to Tianjin and were eager to know about the local business environment and look for opportunities. TNC is definitely the best platform for people like this. The spirit of TNC is about mutual help and mutual benefit. We were also glad to welcome members from Switzerland Chamber of Commerce because it was their first time to participate in the event as a co-organizer.

AC Grindl, Promotion Officer of TNC, made a presentation about the event and hosted the lucky draw session. The event proved to be another great success. TNC social event has become the most important and influential business event in Tianjin and we look forward to seeing you in November.

For more information, please log on: www.tjnnetworkclub.org or email: marketing@rexgroup.net



Teda International School's International Festival



Teda International School hosted its first International Festival on October 26. Both staff and parents contributed time and effort to create a memorable event. The event started with a fantastic multi-cultural lunch prepared by the PFA (Parent and Friends Association) which included a feast of foods from around the world for students to enjoy.

After lunch, TIS community members toured a range of displays celebrating the unique culture and diversity of a selection of nationalities represented within the school including Canada, USA, Mexico & Latin America, China, Korea, India, Australia/New Zealand, Denmark, Russia, the Czech Republic and Ethiopia. Early Childhood and Primary children travelled around the world with their passports, receiving stickers as they visited each country. Students learned about customs, culture, national interests, flora and fauna, clothing and foods; all the things that make each country unique.

As a finale to the day, school community members from 27 nations celebrated with a Parade of Nations. Students and parents dressed in national costume, sharing the significance of building unity and reflecting on the mission of the United Nations. Everyone participated in singing the UN anthem and enjoyed the various national anthems associated with our school community.

The pride we all share in our own countries and our school community was evident in the joyful enthusiasm of all present, when close to 500 people paraded around the field.

Twisted Christmas: Santa's Helpers

By Parker Barriball

圣诞老人的帮手们

每年的圣诞节，圣诞老人都要坐着雪橇给小朋友们派发礼物。但是世界那么大，只靠他一个人可忙不过来。因此，圣诞老人就找了一些帮手，在不同的地区完成发礼物的任务。不过这些帮手可不像圣诞老人那么和蔼可亲，他们大都面目丑陋，让人看了十分害怕。他们前世都是犯过罪的小鬼，忏悔后被圣诞老人招至麾下。他们专找淘气的小孩，要在圣诞这天给他们点教训。所以，如果你的小孩总是闹着不想睡觉，你可以告诉他：再不睡觉，这些小鬼就要找上你了！

Christmas is a time of fun and cheer for young and old. St. Nicholas perched atop his sleigh, Coke bottle in hand ready to bring toys and cheer to all the good boys and girls. In the US Santa Claus is the rosy cheeked Saint of Norman Rockwell fame. But did you know in many European traditions that instead of elves, St. Nick was often accompanied by companions that make Halloween seem like child's play? This Christmas Eve when you can't get the kids to bed, try pulling out one of these heart-warming stories.

Black Peter- Netherlands, Belgium.

Did you know Santa has helpers besides the elves? His name is Black Peter and originally tradition holds that he was the devil enslaved by St. Nick, then a lowly demon, and in his current rendition is simply a dark skinned Moor. In some traditions, Santa's little helper is said to kidnap the naughty list kids and brings them to Spain in a sack, because hell hath no punishment to match Spain apparently. While some traditions paint him as more the mischievous imp than a



Black Peter

kidnapping demon, he is still way more hardcore than an elf in pointy shoes. During recent years the role of Black Peter has become part of a recurring debate in the Netherlands. Controversial practices include holiday revelers wearing black face and wearing afro wigs, gold jewelry, and bright red lipstick, and doling out candy. Ah, nothing like a little Christmas time racism.

Le PèreFouettard- Northern France

Father Flog as he was briefly known in American lore was a tanner usually depicted in chains who doled out corporal punishment instead of toys. Why the chains you ask? His European origin story is the kind of thing that

Freddy Krueger would call beautiful. According to one legend he killed three children, cut them up, and put them in a pot. When St. Nicholas, who apparently has Jesus powers, happened upon the scene he resurrected the children. Then PèreFouettard repented and became Santa's (chained) companion, because nothing says Merry Christmas from St. Nick

like a good beating. Santa, the reindeer, and Charles Manson. Merry Christmas children, now run off to bed and await your doom.

Krampus- Alpine Countries

Picture an elf, small in stature, long ears, and pointy shoes, cute by all accounts. Now let's pretend that Tim Burton and Quentin Tarantino created a villain mid acid trip, that creature is Krampus. From the German word for claw, Krampus rides shotgun with Santa to play the bad cop to Santa's good cop. Also, the thing sitting next to Santa on the sleigh is a seven foot, wooly, horned devil. While some parents would have visions of sugar plums dancing in the heads of their children, Krampus is an old Germanic folklore stay over that can only be described and pants-crappingly terrifying. He doles out punishments to the naughty kids while Santa gives toys to the nice ones. Remember being told to be in bed before Santa comes so he will stop at your house and give presents? That was only half of the story. If you were awake when this duo rolled through town, Krampus would assume you were on the naughty list and kidnap naughty boys in a sack and flog naughty girls. I cannot stress enough that I did not make up that last line.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a nightmare!



Father Flog



Krampus



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