

NEWSLETTER

for foreign offices

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Castle Bezděz

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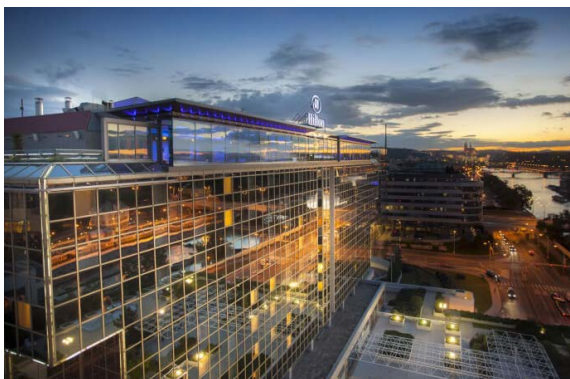
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TRADE NEWS

Hotels & Restaurants

Hilton Prague Announced as Czechia's Leading Hotel at World Travel Awards



The **2023 World Travel Awards Europe** has recognized **Hilton Prague** as **Czech Republic's Leading Hotel** for the second consecutive year at the 30th edition of one of the travel industry's most prestigious awards event held in Batumi, Georgia. Source: Hilton Prague

Honey from the rooftop of Vienna House by Wyndham Andel's Prague won the gold medal in the Czech honey competition



The bees from the hotel rooftop won the **highest award from the Czech Beekeeping Research Institute**

for the fifth time in a row. Vienna House by Wyndham in Czechia placed beehives on the roofs of its hotel buildings several years ago. Beekeeping thrives in city centers (where hotels are mainly located) because there aren't as many competing insects, and the trees and plants aren't fertilized as much. Thanks to this, the city's honey has the best taste. More at <https://www.pragueconvention.cz/hot-news/taste-the-gold-winning-honey-from-a-hotel-rooftop>

Transportation

Czech Railways awarded for its on-board service

Czech Railways received the **World Passenger Award 2023 in the on-board service category** at the World Passenger Festival 2023 held in Vienna. The Czech national carrier succeeded among nearly forty nominated state-owned as well as private carriers from around the world, including companies such as RegioJet, Switzerland-based SBB, Austria-based ÖBB, France-based SNCF, Germany-based DB, the UK-based GWR or LNER, the U.S.A.-based Amtrak and Japan-based JR Central. More at <https://www.ceskedrahy.cz/en/press-center/press-releases/ceske-drahy-has-received-prestigious-international-world-passenger>

European Sleeper confirms night train from Prague to Brussels

From 25 March 2024, the Brussels – Amsterdam – Berlin night train will be extended to the Czech capital **Prague**. The trains will run **three times a week**: from Czechia on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from Belgium on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The journey will take approximately fifteen hours. Source: European Sleeper

Development plans of the Prague Airport



Development plans of the Airport Prague for the coming years promise faster check-in, a better range of services, bespoke parking or new direct connections. The airport **2030** development plans will bring 200 direct connections, 37 long-haul routes, and 10,000 parking places. Expansion of the terminals will increase the airport's capacity to 21.2 million passengers and double the peak hourly capacity. Last but not least, the airport will be carbon neutral. More at <https://www.prg.aero/en/prague-airport-ready-future-capacity-new-routes-shops-bespoke-parking>

Smartwings doubled its revenue last year

The **revenue** of the air carrier **Smartwings doubled last year** and reached the total of CZK 19.3 billion. Compared to 2021 when sales of services amounted to CZK 8.2 billion, this represents an increase of 11.1 billion, that is 234.50 percent of the previous year. Last year, the operating results grew to CZK 766.3 million, an increase of 1.79 percent year-on-year. Source: Smartwings

Taxi service at the Vaclav Havel Airport Prague provided by Uber

Fixed fares quoted in advance, 24/7 service availability, and a fleet of (at the maximum) up to five-year-old mainly upper middle-class cars are offered by



Uber, the new provider of taxi services at the **Vaclav Havel Airport Prague**. Passengers can order their taxi ride through Uber application loaded to their smart phones, via the airport web interface or at kiosks in the arrival halls at both terminals. More at <https://www.prg.aero/en/taxi-service-vaclav-havel-airport-prague-now-provided-uber-customers-know-final-prices-advance>

Volotea will launch third line from Prague, will start flying to Florence

The **Volotea** airline will launch its third route from Prague from **March 22 next year**, offering a connection to **Florence**, Italy. Currently, Volotea is flying to Lyon and Nantes from Prague. Flights to Florence are scheduled for Mondays and Fridays. Source: Volotea

PRODUCT NEWS

Cities & Regions

Prague

Christmas markets in Prague

The Christmas markets on the **Old Town Square** start on **Dec. 2, 2023** and end on **Jan. 6, 2024**. The **Christmas tree** will be lit for the entire duration of



the markets. The markets on the **náměstí Republiky Square open on Nov. 24 and will last until Dec. 2023.** Christmas markets will also be held by the church of St. Ludmila on the **náměstí Míru Square every day from Nov. 20 to Dec. 24, 2023,** and on the nearby **Tyl Square from Nov. 26 to Dec. 24.** Markets on the **Wenceslas Square** will be held **from Dec. 2, 2023 to Jan. 6, 2024.**

The Pardubice Region

Planet Hlinsko



In **Hlinsko**, new **educational center, Planet Hlinsko**, opened, focusing on learning about the individual spheres of the planet Earth - the lithosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere, but also on learning about part of the universe or the formation of the Earth. Source: Planeta Hlinsko

The South Moravian Region

Mega bugs

The **exhibition** of more than **20 giant detailed models of insects** weighing up to 1 ton will be held at the **Brno**



Exhibition Grounds until January 31 next year. This unique exhibition presents representatives of insects as we have never seen them before - in the form of extremely enlarged exhibits with the aim of capturing even the smallest detail. The exhibition also includes an audio box, in which visitors will be able to listen to the sounds the bugs are making. Source: BVV

The Olomouc Region

The legendary Christmas Market in Olomouc



After four years, the **ice rink** is returning to the markets to be held from **Nov. 19 to Dec. 23, 2023.** A novelty this year is the **Punch trail** - a small guide to popular Christmas drinks. Just like last year, a **walking route** will allow you to admire the unique sights of Olomouc (fountains, baroque columns, architecture), enjoy the unique atmosphere of the Advent markets and admire the view of the historic core from several vantage points. The first is built on the Upper Square (Horní náměstí), the second is in the Town Hall Tower and the third at a 30-meter-high observation wheel on the market. Visitors will not miss out on the **traditional lighting of the Christmas tree**, and

children can look forward to the **Santa's post office and various workshops**. More at <https://www.vanocnitrhy.eu/en>

Culture

Michael Rittstein – Feet on the Table



After the retrospective exhibitions at the Prague Castle Riding School and the Egon Schiele Art Centre in Český Krumlov, **Michael Rittstein** will be presented at the **Museum Kampa** with another unique selection of his paintings. This time, the emphasis will be put on his key works from private collections combined with a selected pieces executed during the last three years. **For most of the paintings it will be their first public display**; some of them will be returning to Czechia after decades in collections abroad. Michael Rittstein has been one of the leading representatives of Czech expressive figurative painting for almost half a century and has influenced whole generations of painters with his distinctive work. He had headed the painting studio at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague for seventeen years, where he was appointed professor. His work is represented, among others, in the Albertina Museum in Vienna, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum in Bratislava, the National Gallery in Prague, as well as in most of the Bohemian and Moravian regional galleries. Museum Kampa, Dec. 9, 2023 – March 10, 2024. More at <https://www.museumkampa.cz/vystava/michael-rittstein-feet-on-the-table/>

Museum of Decorative Arts expands its collection of Cubist design



The **Museum of Decorative Arts** was given the opportunity to purchase **private collection of Cubist design**. Its fourteen furniture suites (a total of 59 items) and sixty-five items-collections of ceramic, metal and glass objects (consisting of over 160 pieces) include works by the most accomplished exponents of Cubism – Vlastislav Hofman, Josef Gočár, Pavel Janák, and others. Through this acquisition, the Museum has greatly **expanded its holdings of Cubist design presented within its permanent Czech Cubism exposition**. More at <https://www.upm.cz/cubism-acquisitions-purchased-for-upm-collection/>

Stanislav Podhrázký and friends



In 2020, the centenary of the birth of one of the most distinctive Czech artists of the post-war generation, **Stanislav Podhrázký** (1920–1999), passed almost unnoticed – in part because of the limitations on cultural life resulting from the anti-Covid measures. Podhrázký is one of just a few Czech artists who – had it not been for Communism – would undoubtedly have achieved European fame thanks to the unique and timeless nature of their work. **GASK, Kutná**

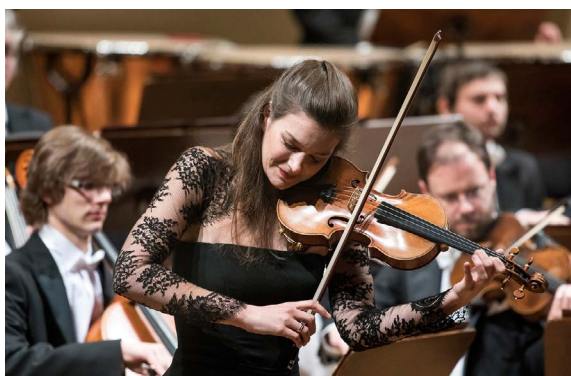
Hora, through Feb. 2, 2024. More at <https://gask.art/exhibition/stanislav-podhrazsky-a-pratele/>

Bryan Adams



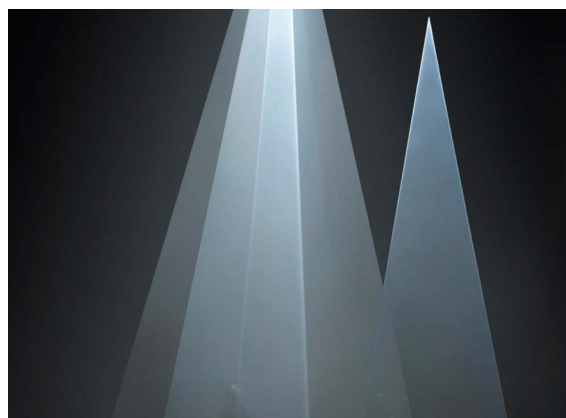
Within his **So Happy It Hurts** world tour, Canadian singer Bryan Adams is coming to **Prague's O2 Arena on Dec. 16, 2023** to present songs from his current album as well his as older hits. More at <https://www.prague.eu/en/event/33263/bryan-adams>

Czech Philharmonic - Velvet Revolution Concert



Concerts on the occasion of the national holiday commemorating the anniversary of the Velvet Revolution have become a tradition and a challenge for the selection of programs and for the inviting of truly special guests. This year's guests are the iconic conductor **Antonio Pappano** and the outstanding violinist excellent violinist **Janine Jansen**. Rudolfinum, Dvořák Hall, Nov. 16 and 17, 2023. More at <https://www.rudolfinum.cz/en/event/29328-velvet-revolution-concert-czech-philharmonic/>

CO-EXTENSIVE



The international group exhibition CO-EXTENSIVE at the Galerie Rudolfinum is based primarily on two moments. The first is the observation that images (in the broad sense of the word, from the thousands of pictures that everyone has on their phone to social media to artworks) are a permanent part of the everyday experience of the world. The second moment consists of a question of how and what remains alive in contemporary art from the legacy of the style of art which can be referred to as minimalism. An image becomes space in the exhibition and space becomes, in some cases, an image. Participating Artists: Marion Baruch, Larry Bell, Michał Budny, Angela Bulloch, Simon Callery, Ann Veronica Janssens, Anthony McCall, Jaromír Novotný, Robert Šalanda. **Galerie Rudolfinum, through Jan. 21, 2024.** More at <https://www.rudolfinum.cz/en/event/30746--co-extensive/>

Spa

Royal Spa hotels have won a prestigious European award for innovation

The **Luhačovice Nivamare** and **Miramare** spa hotels of the **Royal Spa group** belong among the most



innovative European spa facilities. At least the **expert jury of the European Spa Association** thinks so. At the European Congress of Spa and Balneology, the hotels won **two prizes in the ESPA Innovation Awards**. In the Innovative Spa Product category, the special treatment program Sleep Balance of the Nivamare spa hotel won the award, and the special prize of the expert jury went to the post-covid syndrome program at the Miramare spa hotels. Source: Royal Spa

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News from the CzechTourism agency

Tourism Software Triumphs in Madrid

Petr Štumpf and Petr Janeček from the Faculty of Economics of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (UWB) were the first Czechs to win **one of the main prizes at the conference of the International Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism, Aiest**. They presented to their colleagues from all over the world their **software tool DestinACE**, which simulates various scenarios and can help destination managers with strategic planning and decision-making. The Aiest conference is a major meeting of tourism scholars that

has been regularly held since 1949. The event took place in Madrid this year. The Faculty of Economics and the UWB were represented by Petr Štumpf and **Petr Janeček**, the latter of whom is also the **head of the Institute of Tourism at the national agency CzechTourism**. More at <https://info.zcu.cz/clanek.jsp?id=5758>

Symposium Culinary Prague



Symposium Culinary Prague is a unique gastronomic event that annually brings top chefs from all over the world to Prague. This year the Hybernia Theater will host the **ninth year** of the prestigious meeting, which will offer visitors not only the opportunity to look into the secrets of modern cuisine, but also to taste exceptional food and drinks. The Culinary Prague Symposium is open to the public and experts alike. Again, the **Czech Specials project is partner of the event**.

František Reismüller appointed director of the CzechTourism agency

František Reismüller has been appointed new director of the CzechTourism agency. Reismüller, so far head of the agency's department of marketing and foreign representations, replaced Jan Herget in the post. Jan Herget left the position after five years at his own request.