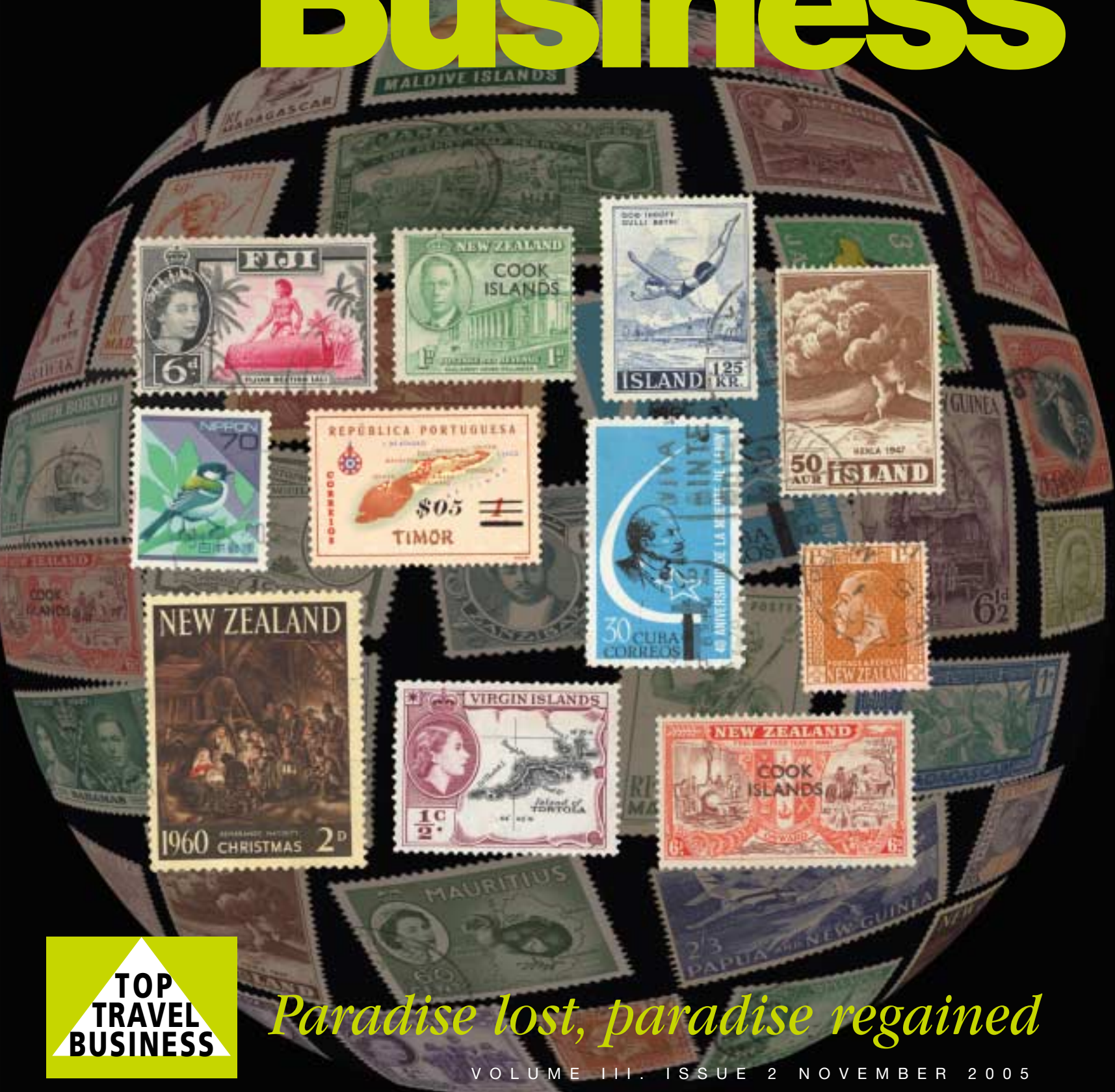


Top *Travel* Business



Paradise lost, paradise regained

TOP TRAVEL BUSINESS is the right for you. For whom exactly you may ask. For all those who organize or host corporate events and trainings, for those who decide about success and strategies of the company. Motivating and rewarding employees is an integral part of the road to success and it is also the direct way to incentives.

We can't and we don't even want to offer everything, however we would like to inform you about the possibilities that travelling has to offer. Seemingly nothing exceptional as many think been there, done that. That may be true. However, personal impressions are somewhat different to

understanding and using destinations, hotels or activities for team building, training, corporate events or simply as a reward for the employees. Top Travel Business brings information and ideas and also experiences of those who organize such events. If we ask what exactly spa or wellness is, how many people would know the correct answer? These trendy words can have multiple meanings and use of such services is extremely varied today.

The main topic for this issue are islands - exotic, tropical and ice ones too.

They have all one thing in common and that is unique atmosphere, magical tranquility, great variety of sport and social activities, unusual accommodation facilities, comfort, luxury but also the local traditions and typical examples of ordinary island life. Are you going to New Zealand? Why not visit Fiji at the same time. Are you tempted by the Caribbean? Try Cuba. Don't fancy long-haul flights? Iceland or Cyprus is just round the corner. It all depends on the purpose of the journey and the rest is easy-peasy. And the way how to do it? Read on.





In this *issue*

6 *Wellness*
What you may not know

Japan

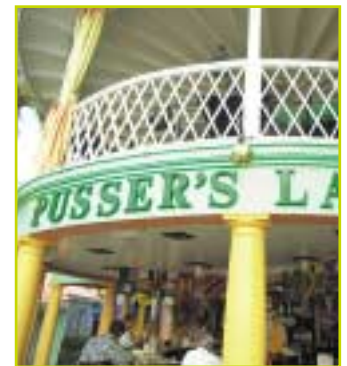
seen by student
Tomáš Zempler

16

British Virgin Islands

Islands to discover

14



Our man in Havana

Štefan Rybár

4

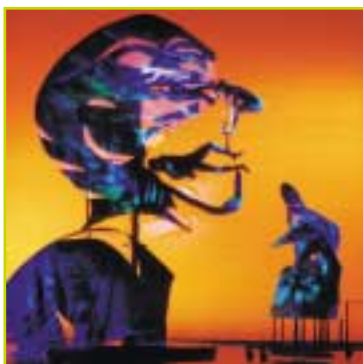


Lady who brings Excitement

8

**TOP
TRAVEL
BUSINESS**

Published by
1. Distribuční společnost s. r. o.
General Manager:
Anna Marie Zemplerová
Editor-in-Chief:
PhDr. Jana Hudcová
Address of editor's office
in the Czech Republic:
Safaříkova 5
120 00 Praha 2
Tel.: +420 222 514 993
Fax: +420 224 252 567
e-mail: jana.hudcova@ttg.cz
Address of editor's office
in the Slovak Republic:
marta.balkova@ttg.cz
Photographs: authors of texts,
archive TTG Czech, Fiji Tourist Board
Design: K+K Graphic Studio
DTP: DTP Futura, s. r. o.
Print: Rodomax s. r. o.
Published on 24/11/2005
Permission: MK ČR E 16115



Fiji

Nicest people
in the world

12



Our man in Havana

Štefan Rybár

A friend of mine Petr Weiss is a professor. He was named by the president himself and his card would be really impressive, provided his wife Lucie got it made. Prof. PhDr. Petr Weiss, PhD.

This is all very admirable yet proved not to be very useful as a qualification for being a top manager in MICE sector. Mission to Cuba failed and Prague has lost the opportunity to host the 18th International Congress of World Association for Sexology. On the other hand who would be a better person for an interview about sex, Cuba and MICE?



You may not know it yet, but you are a typical example of a MICE consumer...

What does that mean?

I'll explain later. Let me ask you first which places abroad have you visited in the past five years?

Canada – twice, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Cuba, Argentina, Peru, Slovakia, Hungary and other countries too, I can't recall all of them now.

And how many of those were purely private trips?

Sri Lanka, but privately I travel mostly to village of Býkovec near Počátky.

So Býkovec and Sri Lanka is regular tourism, the rest is MICE. You really seem to be a congress veteran. Which one was the best in your opinion and what do you consider to be the key to success of an international congress?

Well the best place is my country house in Býkovec so I might organize an international congress there one day. Congress is successful only when it presents attractive speakers and also when it is held in an attractive location.

So what do experts on sex mostly talk about there?

About sex. But purely at theoretical level.

And what is your specialization, your „personal“ topic?

Sexual behaviour of inhabitants of the Czech Republic. We repeatedly make representative surveys which don't exist anywhere else in the world.

So do sexologists have some sort of advantage over us, mortals – I mean men?

Mostly disadvantages as everyone has high expectations of sexologists. I would even say ridiculously high.

You went to Cuba with your wife. So what does she do when men discuss such important issues?

Wife hangs out by the hotel swimming pool, reads Lonely Planet so that she's well prepared for what's coming next after the conference is over. After a bad experience of being attacked she didn't really fancy going to the city on her own.

Which brings us to your special mission and you introduction to the world of MICE...

Exactly. Back then we wanted to make good impression on the Association's board and convince them to hold one of the future conferences in Prague in 2007.

And it's not like we said „Hey, let's go to Prague“. We have prepared properly, including a very nice presentation. We have shown them how many great sexologists there were since the times of Hynie and also the beauties of our dear capital with Smetana's Vltava symphony playing in the background.

So what went wrong then? Or do you think you didn't present Prague well enough?

We have underestimated the power of behind-the-scenes lobbying. They work not only in politics but apparently in congress politics too.

Then again, you went to Cuba which is a great experience itself...

It was definitely well worth it. In contemporary globalized world there are only few places with no McDonald's or no sign of teleshopping presenter Horst. The contrast of poor living conditions and beautiful untouched nature. Cuba is not



The colonial palaces of Havana fall apart. Several collapse every day.



just the regular Caribbean island with beaches, fishing and diving. The inland is fantastic too, really great for cycling trips for instance.

How did you get there?

We have explored the inland quite thoroughly. Just with a hired car, nothing complicated. Suddenly you have deal with completely different issues. The main one being food. Normal shops even the „grocery store, Czech village, 1960’s“ kind simply don’t exist there.

On other hand anything you come across is available for few dollars. Tractor full of pineapples, fantastic fish straight off a harpoon and that crabmeat...They cooked the crabs for us straight on the beach, in a pot with seawater and garlic, even Chez Maxim’s couldn’t beat them. However, there were also queues for bread from 5 am and they wouldn’t even recognize the dollars.

Driving experience from Cuba?

Traffic in Cuba is a phenomenon. Great cars – buicks and chevrolets left by Americans who fled in the 1950’s, polished as ever. Or volgas and moskvichs. Nothing in between.

Cuban inland is not as popular as the seaside and that’s a pity. Sometimes it makes you feel as if you were in the Jurassic Park. You keep on looking for dinosaurs.



Autopista Nacional, highway from Havana. Traffic is minimal yet memorable. Oxcart in the fast lane – and in opposite direction. Hitchhikers. They wave with dollar bills and occupy two lanes out of three. You have to pay for hitchhiking and it is almost mandatory for drivers to pick up the hitchhikers.

Accomodation?

Another speciality. Services for foreigners are partially legal and it is somehow possible to obtain a permission to provide tourist accomodation. It is, however, very difficult so often a person approaches you on the street and asks you whether you want to go for a dinner. Then he takes you to a house with no signposts, you pass the living area and walk into a backyard with set up tables for dinner. Such businessman risks high fines though, even execution of the property.

Havana?

To me Cuba is sea and nature. The charming architecture of Spanish towns is all in ruins now. Dealers on the streets. They are willing yet afraid, there is a policeman on every corner, chasing people constantly. And in the hotel the walls are decorated with photographs of Americans. Elegant and refined, in long gowns, dripping with diamonds, playing poker and roulette. Old time glory gone by nostalgia, who knows?

And something on the more optimistic note?

Playa Coco north of Gamaguey, no tourists, just them, wonderful Cubans. They grilled pig sucklings in the sand, sang, danced and we welcome to join in. They were so easy going. They didn’t expect anything from us, they didn’t want anything and when they got exhausted, they would fall asleep between the lorries in which they arrived. Trucks all covered with paintings – of Che Guevarra.



ONE show.
Thousands of
inspirational ideas.

Whether you need to arrange a meeting or party, conference or exhibition, team building or incentive travel, sales presentation or training, Confex has it all. There are over 1,000 venues, hotels, destinations, corporate hospitality, incentive travel and party companies plus complimentary conferences.

With all this under one roof for 3 days, it's the ideal place for inspiration.

Register now at www.internationalconfex.com

CONFEX
41-43 THE PALM, 5 AVE, LONDON

THE UK'S BIGGEST EVENT FOR PEOPLE ORGANISING EVENTS

wellness

mean to you

J For many years wellness has been a normal part of our lives. When you say wellness, everyone has their own idea of what it means. And unfortunately, these ideas may vary greatly. Once during a visit in an Austrian wellness facility, we were told that sitting in a haystack is a hay therapy while sunbathing on a terrace is a sun spa. This is one of the reason while a debate should be taking place among professionals to explore this theme further. So what exactly wellness is then? We searched for an answer and found various descriptions and characteristics which all had one notion in common – wellness includes activities to make people feel better, well, that help to relax and unwind. To find out whether this notion is right we had asked an expert, ing.Pavel Attl of Institute of Hospitality Management in Prague who gave us two possible answers.

Firstly, wellness can be defined as activities bringing a feeling of satisfaction from wellbeing that is brought about by an individual through a collection of pleasant impulses of physical or psychological nature. These include sports, pleasant music, regeneration, unwinding, relaxing, good food and drinks in moderation and positive experiences.

The second approach understands wellness as a state of being healthy including a physical and mental fitness, harmony of mind, body and soul, responsibility for one's life, healthy nutrition, relaxation and mental activity. Americans then believe that wellness means a control of health through mind. So it's up to you to pick the best definition...

Functions of wellness

Six basic functions of wellness can be observed when talking about this human activity:

- Social – taking care of one's own mental and physical health is not an individual activity but it is a socially relevant phenomenon;
- Work – as improving one's health can have a positive impact on the working process;
- Mental – improving one's health at physical level will reflect upon the mental aspect of a person;
- Intellectual – we not only have a good feeling but we are also aware of our improving health state;
- Physical – slowing down of the aging process, boosting of health functions, etc.;
- Emotional – wellness enhances personal feelings.

Elements of wellness

It is for a fact that wellness is a whole concept including five main elements:

- Positive attitude that takes into consideration success at work and in personal life and also relations with others;
- Fitness or exercising does not have the sole purpose of getting fitter but also to improve health and promote overall personal development using new techniques which are more sensitive to body's needs;
- Personal habits including a daily routine, personal hygiene, etc.;
- Stress management consisting of anti-stress techniques and meditation features;
- Emphasis on healthy and balanced diet with the aim to cleanse the organism, strengthen muscle tone, stabilization or even weight loss, removal of cellulite, body fat control (reduction of 'bad' fat share).

Bit of history

The original wellness elements could be found in Ancient Greece where the principle of kalokagathia (balance of body and mind) was practised. The principle of looking after the body was developed mostly in Ancient Rome. Wellness as we know it today wasn't created until after the Second World War. The merits for current wellness wave go to American physician Dunn who came up with the term in the 1950's by combining the word well-being with the word fitness. Wellness is a reaction to the previous development of body care i.e. fitness. Wellness arose from activities such as aerobics, jogging, weight lifting, etc. which started to appear in the US and then in Europe in 1960's. In the US wellness resorts are often called Spa (origin of the word is sometimes derived from Latin expression sanita per aquam = health through water).

In Europe wellness started to spread at the beginning of Eighties. One of the first wellness countries was Austria. Today there are more than 500 hotels with wellness programmes. Other German-speaking countries (Germany, Switzerland) have quickly adapted to the growing demand. For wellness purposes sea also became used later in the form of thalassotherapy – a method based on using the seaside climate, sea water and sea products (seaweeds, sand, salt, mud, etc.). Another modern element of wellness is the use of caves (speleotherapy), either natural (e.g. Wieliczka in Poland) or artificial (e.g. Mariánské Lázně). New physical activities appear such as nordic walking, stretching, Pilates, tai chi. New leisure facilities are built also suitable for wellness activities (aquaparks, fun parks, theme parks), specialized hotels with wellness services crop up. Also wellness activities are becoming increasingly influenced by Eastern culture and its various physical and mental techniques such as yoga, aromatherapy, meditation, zen, acupuncture, ayurveda, etc.

Calm down, relax *and enjoy...*



This is the mantra of today's Western civilization which the Eastern cultures have embraced centuries ago. Mixing of various influences gave rise to the traditional art of Thai massage. And it is no ordinary

massage. Thai massage is much different to the one we know well, based on rubbing and moulding of muscles. Thai massage is influenced by yoga, traditional Chinese medicine, acupuncture and the Indian healing art of ayurveda and is based on activating invisible energy paths and centres in the human body. This is the dictionary definition but how's the reality in the heart of Europe?

Very good indeed, the choice is yours – Old Town, New Town, Smíchov or Dejvice in Prague, Špindlerův Mlýn or Bratislava. In all these places you can find islands called Sabai, full of supple and skilful Thai hands, ready to relieve your legs, arms, shoulders, back, neck or head and it's up to you whether you choose reflexive, herbal, acupressure or other special massage or whether you prefer oriental aromatherapy or floating.

Whichever procedure you pick, you are guaranteed to feel like in heaven, at least for a while.

Relaxing music, bubbling water, pleasant smells and great care will make you forget about stress and pain for a while. Experienced and specially trained therapist will take you to a dimly-lit room, will lie you down on a soft mat and starting from your toes she activates various pressure points, muscles, limbs, stretches your spine, unblocks your joints and gets rid of all the tensions right to the top of your head. All you have to do is to lie, listen and make no resistance, leaving everything up to her is the best way to renew the energy flow.

Set of pressing movements of specific points, bending and passive stretching of various body parts using elements of yoga is not difficult at all for the massaged one so it is suitable for small, tall, thin, fat, men or women.

You don't need anything for a traditional Thai massage, you will get a clean, fresh-smelling and comfortable outfit for the massage, showers and cosmetics are available before and after the massage too. One word of advice (especially for the ladies): don't go heavy on makeup or straight after your hairdresser's appointment – your makeup or hairdo won't last. That shouldn't matter though as all that matters is sabai i.e. comfort in the Thai language.



Lyžařský sen? Rakousko!

22.000 kilometrů sjezdovek, jistota sněhu, špičková kvalita hotelů a služeb... zimní radovánky bez hranic!
Více informací a nápadů pro Vaše firemní akce a incentivní cesty: Rakouská národní turistická centrála,
Österreich Werbung, tel: 222 211 282, fax: 222 210 256, info@rakousko.com

www.rakousko.com

Wow effect of lady Extravaganza

Štefan Rybár

Would you believe that you could order a party, for instance with Mozart theme, and get everything served on a silver plate – period-style menu, musicians, candle-lit dinner in a palace including costumes for 200 participants? Or how about a seminar of your company where the traditional tourist trip would be replaced by a race of small teams around Prague with the aim of finding king Charles IV. while answering questions related to history of Prague or innovation of your company on the way? Same old stuff, isn't it, this wouldn't get you name remembered, would it? It is just the daily routine which has to be mastered well. But once that's done, there's time for the really interesting stuff.

could cover the whole hotel with rose petals..." says Mrs. Zdena Buláková in a very convincing tone.

And you listen to her plans and start to believe it is possible with her. It was always the big dream of this extravagant lady and successful business-woman to be a party organizer. Her dream came true yet she wants more. She wants to get back in time, to the times of Francois Vatel, fantastic chef of Prince Condé who allegedly committed suicide after fresh fish failed to be delivered for a dinner in honour of Louis XIV. – Roi du Soleil. Mrs. Buláková, however, stands, firmly on the ground and is well aware of the difference between Roi du Soleil's court and Prague 16 years after the Velvet Revolution. Her way to fulfill her dream sums up quite well the past years. Even back then, she used to organize

parties, as a consultant in Čedok travel agency, preparing programmes for Trade Unions trips. Then the Iron Curtain was removed and she decided to go her own way, inspired by a trip to the US with few dollars in her pocket.

She founded an agency Conti Promotor, she got the thrill of running own business and disappointments too, she found her niche in the market. Every year she approaches around 400 customers and every tenth then ends up using her services in Prague. Once she ended up clearing up an old house full of old things which led her to founding Belle ile antiques store. And then there were the bad news, such as floods, and the good ones such an online auction site opening right now.

That's how she got here, right next to the Intercontinental Hotel, in the middle of crystal chandeliers, paintings and behind an antique desk. She looks around her kingdom and says that business is business. Her heart belongs to her magnificent parties and she excitedly explains her theory of wow effect that even Vatel could agree with. A party worth of such a label is not the one with fire-

works. When guests get off their cars and say „wow“ to themselves that is all natural. The effect has to continue and strengthen. Arrival, entry, venue, decorations, food...And still that doesn't have to be all. There should be the last step, programme, highlight of the evening, icing on the cake, one last „wow“ before we go home.

Now she thinks she has what she's been looking for all the time – Spirits.

Latest love of Mrs.Zdena, her Programme with capital P is a truly spectacular performance. For which you will need a stage at least six metres high, among other things. It is a hard-to-describe mixture of the Czech black theatre and world multimedia show. Czech Republic and the world also come together in the joint production and direction by award-winner Michael Curry and his long-time colleague Misha Votruba.

I don't know how will the trip into the past go for this extraordinary lady. I am sure though that the ephemeral beauty of her parties is hard to forget. The jaw-dropping moment with WOW on the



Michael Curry and his Spirits



Michael Curry, stage designer and artist, is definitely one of the best in his field. One of his greatest successes include puppet design for Disney's Lion King, millenium celebration on Times Square, Superbowl 2000, opening and closing ceremonies of 2002 Olympic Games or Mozart's Magic Flute production in the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Curry is a three-times winner of Emmy Awards and many other accolades. Currently, he is working on a third performance for Cirque de Soleil in Las Vegas and for Royal Theatre in London.

Spirits, a multimedia show, original and unique mixture of black theatre, digital animations, musical and circus. It is a story of a small boy with vivid fantasy who can't get enough attention from his busy parents or his teenage sister. No one's interested in his glass sphere and so he hides in a closet where Spirits are found.

Only then little Florian starts to feel important. He takes charge of the Spirits and leads them into a fight with their enemy. There are many adventures on the way and in the end he finds out that he is indispensable for his family in the real world too.

Production: Michael Curry, Misha Votruba, screenplay and directed by: Michael Curry, Misha Votruba, black theatre: Pavel Marek, music: Jan Muchow, digital animations: Misha Zabranska

More at www.contipromotor.cz

11th GOLF SHOW

March 19 - 20th 2006

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Veletržní Palác

Dukelských hrdinů 47, Praha 7

- golf equipment, clothing, footwear
- golf tourism
- golf courses and clubs
- golf training equipment
- other interesting exposition

Contact:
e-mail: golfshow@volny.cz
Phone: +420 604 363 911

www.golfshow.cz

Let's start a new golf season with us

Organizer

RAGUSA

Co-organizer

EXPO

Seal paws, lucky survivors and a pickled penis

Lucie Weissová



Hulvar Eistenson and his seal paws

Most Czechs go on holidays to warmer regions. They prefer grilling on the beaches or exotic plants and animals. I just want to prove you that unforgettable experiences can be also found in a country where the mean temperature in July is 13 degrees Celsius and where are no trees at all. Iceland.

Unforgettable experience number one is right on the way from the airport to Reykjavik. In the middle of lava stone landscape (where the Americans practised landing on the Moon in 1969) a lake called Blue Lagoon is found. The colour is genuinely bright blue and the water temperature is 40 degrees and boasts with healing properties due to its mineral content.

You can heal your breathing system too. The air is exceptionally clean on Iceland. When you travel around the island you will see smoke raising up every now and then but don't panic: it isn't smoke from chimneys. It is steam from hot springs and geysirs. In the same way Czech language (or Karel Čapek to be more exact) gave the world *robot*, Icelandic gave us *geysirs*. Geysir is a village that no tourist passes by, as expected it is renowned for its geysirs.

The Icelanders use the geysirs not only as tourists attractions



Penis Museum



One of many Iceland's geysirs

but also as sources of heat and hot water. No heating plants, no boiler-rooms. When you turn the water tap in a bathroom, it is the hot water from the core of earth. It smells of sulphur but it is well environmentally-friendly and cheap.

Magnus Kristianson has hot springs on his land. He founded a travel agency and shows them to

tourists. He takes the tourists around his garden and teaches them how to protect the nature. Because if we don't respect nature, it will get all back to us. And he illustrates it with an example if an Icelander who used the holes in the ground as rubbish dumps. After twenty years a geyser penetrated the ground there and splashed the whole village with rubbish.

Before you leave Magnus' garden, you are given something resembling a fishing rod with an egg in a net at the end. You dip it in the hot spring and after a while you get a hard-boiled egg.

The national food, however, are not eggs boiled in hot springs but sea food. Not just the sea products we know but also those that we as landlubbers regard with bit of suspicion, or even an unpleasant feeling around our stomachs. Let's explore the kitchen of one of the best fish restaurants in Reykjavik. It's called *Srí frakker*, meaning at three tailcoats but also at three Frenchmen who originally opened this restaurant. Today it is run by chef Hulvar Eistenson with his genuine Icelandic dishes. Such as seal paws and tails. They are firstly cooked for three hours, then marinated in whey. They are served only once a year between January and February. With the picture of the cute animals in my head and taste in my mouth I certainly can't recommend those.

However, what I can recommend is whale meat. Whale hunting is prohibited but Hulvar Eistenson has done a smart thing years



Gullfoss waterfalls

ago. One ship with whale meat to be delivered to Japan had to come back as ecological activists wouldn't allow the goods to be unshipped. Hulvar then bought the whole deep-frozen delivery. Whale steaks are excellent as well as raw meat dipped in spicy sauce.

There is not enough Icelanders to fit into the Czech third largest city of Ostrava. There is only 250 000 of them. Maybe that's the reason why they can't be asked to have proper surnames. Last name is made of the name of father with ending -son for men and -dóttir for women.

If you expect all the people to be fair, Nordic types, you will be somewhat surprised. Some of them look more like Italians or French. Explanation is quite saucy. Allegedly if a ship sank by the shores of Iceland, the fisherman would save the freezing cold sailors but putting in them in one bed with their wives to warm up.

Czech Alena Anderlová got there the usual way though and she has lived there for more than thirty years now. When asked what she appreciates the most about living on Iceland she replies without hesitation: safety. Locals are so few that a criminal could be easily spotted so everyone would think twice before robbing a bank. Nobody locks their cars: the risk of the lock freezing overnight is much greater than your car being stolen.

So overall: Iceland is worth visiting for its beautiful nature, clean air, hot springs, fish specialties and nice people.

If this is not enough I add one more attraction. In the middle of Reykjavik the Penis Museum is found. You can see those of insects as well as of whales, usually preserved in alcohol. As far as I know they don't have this in Costa del Sol.



Blue lagoon

Business Class

**S naším novým menu v Business Class
Vás čekají nebeské prožitky**

Naše nové menu jsme pro Vás připravili ve spolupráci s Asociací kuchařů a cukrářů České republiky podle posledních gastronomických trendů. Budte si jisti, že až se pohodlně usadíte a ucítíte vůni přicházejících pokrmů, bude to jen začátek koncertu s milionem tónů chuti.

www.czechairlines.com





ES

Straight



When you think of a kitsch postcard from holidays, then Fiji looks just like that. As one of my friends had brightly remarked – it sounds as it was an ad for Bounty chocolate bar. And indeed it does, you can even find a Bounty resort there as well as many stories of HMS Bounty Captain and crew ending up on one of the islands.

Rich greenery, white sandy beaches never too hot to walk on, fantastic, never-ending calm sea, coconut trees everywhere, banana trees, pineapples, papayas, mangoes.

This may be really surprising for those who never experienced this before, especially for a Central European. People most commonly stay in resorts for their holidays, some with a 30 years of history past them, some brand new ones and some under construction still. Each of them unique. Whether occupying a whole island, located on the shores of the largest island Viti Levu or found on an island between the sea and a river, next to a golf course.

You can stay in the luxurious Sheraton resort, Golf Terraces suites linked to the Guoman chain in London or on an island – Treasure Island, Shipwreck Island, Bounty Island, tiny islands with few huts and a private beach, islands with private residences, honeymoon islands and every single of them has its own magic spell, character, identity. There are labyrinths of villas as well as middle-sized capacities of 15 traditional-styled bungalows on Wananavu Beach where the manager knows everyone by their name and you feel like home. There is also the Treasure Island where it will take you 15 minutes to walk from a beach on one side to another beach on the other side through a well-maintained forest. The bed will be covered in flowers and friendly geckos will give you a good-night there. Then there is the tiny island with one house for the honeymooners where boats go only once a week. You can travel in the inland too and stay in an authentic village sharing local customs and traditions.

Row, row, row your boat – you will find boats of all shapes and sizes. Don't forget it is an island kingdom. And it has its ferries, yachts and boats on which you have to get on in order to get to land. Low and high tides are strong and they have their „timetable“ so a shallow access to water is more of a rule than an exception. One-day trip around inhabited and desert islands is one of the greatest experiences ever also thanks to the hospitable and friendly crew. Heaven on water for land-lubbers.

Fear of unbearable climate disappears shortly after landing at the Nadi international airport. Guidebooks speak of tropical climate but you have

to experience it in order to know what it means. Short days with beautiful sunsets pace out the rhythm of life. From breakfast til dinner, peace of the night is respected there too. On the streets and in the resorts. Another refreshing change from the Mediterranean. Big round sun hangs low above the ground for the whole day so the feeling of endless space is given only by the sea. People get up early and go to bed early too. There is no siesta and the temperatures are not a problem, even for Central Europeans. From 28 to 30 degrees in the shade with constant breeze is very pleasant and even though one has to be careful while staying in the sun, it is nothing unbearable. Not even the air humidity is 100 percent.

Fiji lives its own life at its own pace and Fijian time is a special term on its own. Everything flows calmly, peacefully and slowly. Totally relaxed, totally laid back. That's time as Fijians understand it. And as for accuracy in services, then it doesn't work like that – everything runs according to a Swiss watch. And on the way there you won't even notice the 11-hour time difference.

The best thing about Fiji are its people. Incredibly friendly, incredibly nice, incredibly polite. They don't suck up to tourists, they have their pride and dignity which they emanate from afar as well as joy of life. They always welcome you and sing when you're leaving. That's how it works on Fiji – no ones poor, no one's begging – everyone can go back to their native village if he's not doing too well. And the village will take care of him and protect him. Tribal chiefs are still elected, worshipped, respected and are in charge of decision-making. They decide about land, property, public affairs and they vote the chief of the chiefs whose decisions and opinions have to be tolerated even by the government. Visit to a village should not be missed. It is a ceremony with strictly given rules and even though it is more of a tourist attraction these days, it loses nothing of its charm. Maybe because the tradition is still alive and takes place regularly in villages even without a tourist in sight, maybe because it is a pleasure for locals and indispensable part of their lives. Stories told by dancing and singing represent the history of the country and the nation. If you don't have time, you can explore the local traditions even in your hotel as the employees are keen to show them and very often do. Out of pure pleasure, because they enjoy the rituals and they walk in the footsteps of their ancestors. So nobody loses really.

Nature is fruitful – manioc, bananas, mangoes, coconuts, herbs for every occasion. Resorts offer a selection of international cuisine with English style prevailing, local dishes are part of every stay. Fish, meat

off the postcard

Jana Hudcová

and vegetables grilled in bamboo leaves under hot stones are a real delicacy. Soup from coconut milk with sea crabs, vegetables or meat is really special too. And what is there to drink? Try local beer, Australian or New Zealand wines or go for the local treasure – water. Fiji water is a real hit these days, especially with celebrities all around the world. It comes from artesian wells and it is a great product for exporting. To global celebrities, of course! There is definitely no shortage of water. Both salt and fresh. From the sea, rivers, lakes, streams and waterfalls. Extensive water supplies are a plus for tourists too. You can find tap water anywhere and is safe to drink too which is not very common in many sea side resorts.

Fiji is definitely a safe place to go, main season runs from April to October. Except for few mosquitos there are not many insects there, neither other dangerous creatures. There is no risk of infections so stays should be trouble-free. Coral reefs are spectacular, shortly to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Natural Heritage list.

What about us then? Those who want to go as far as possible, those who want to know what it feels like to be on the other side of the world shouldn't hesitate for any longer. It is worth it, at least once in a lifetime. So why not now, when the connection is so favourable. Korean Air offers three flights a week to Seoul with connecting flights to Nadi international airport on Fiji. Total flight time is approximately 24 hours and the airline's services are certainly a good start.

And then it's just paradise – and trust me, in this case it's no cliché. Fiji is one of the very few countries where colour pictures in catalogues don't lie.

www.bulafiji.com



BVI

Petr Zempliner

British Virgin Islands – islands blessed with two attributes in their name at once. British because they are Britain’s overseas territory formally headed by the British queen and virgin because they are pristine, beautiful and untouched. It is trendy to use a lot of adjectives these days. They make up for a lack of substance in things, the substance is replaced with series of qualities and characteristics. Things quite ordinary, average and unexceptional are frequently said to be the great, cool, awesome and fabulous. Apart from the reasonable doubts you get whenever you hear or read one of these expressions, you might also face a dilemma when considering using such a word – you hesitate whether it is appropriate.

I must say here and now that doubts in case of islands that are both British and Virgin would be definitely inappropriate!



They are British because they drive on the left, speak English and have football and yachting as the most popular sports. The most favourite drink is known as painkiller whose alcohol content consists of rum, mostly „British Navy Pusser’s Rum“.

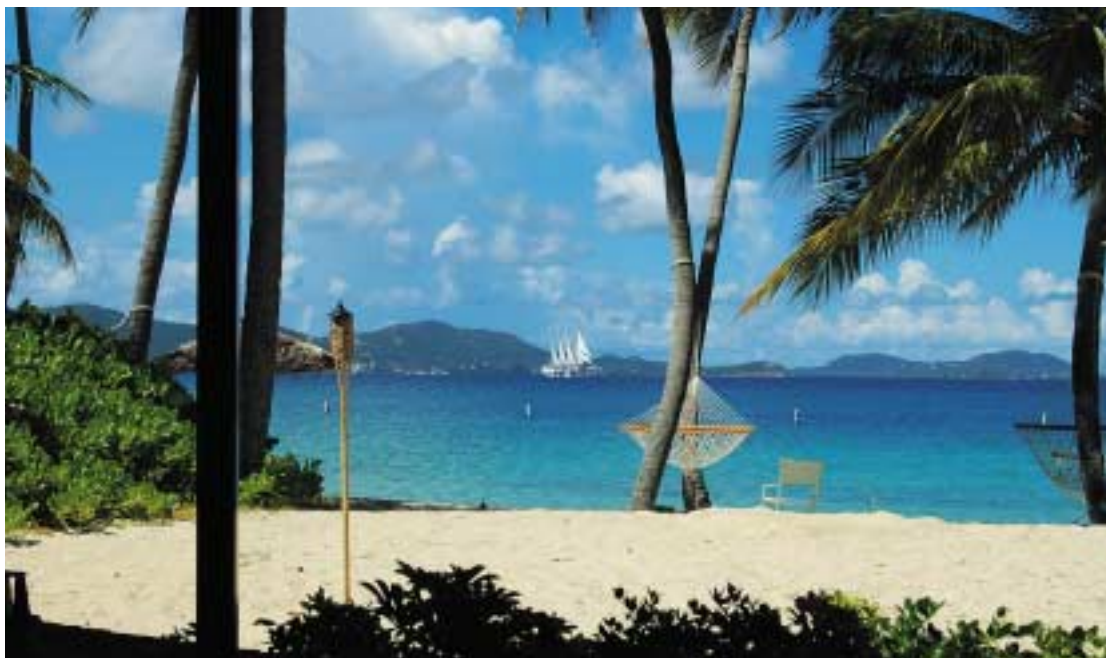
Life has a slow pace there as in the good old England, people stick to traditions and the British law which have been around for a while now as it is a country conservative and fair in the British way. You might think „heaven on earth“ and you wouldn’t be far from truth.

They are Virgin because on 33 islands and 153 metres squared you get only 23 thousand inhabitants. Tourists are so rare there that you actually might find it difficult to meet any in case you had the urge to do so. The beaches are pristine white and sea is crystal clear, better even than in travel catalogues.

Virgin Islands became known like that thanks to Columbus. This archipelago used to be an ideal home to pirates who not only made a living from looting but also acted as a strategic actor in the colonial and imperial games of English, Dutch, French, Spanish and Danish forces.

And with Francis Drake, among others, fighting for the British crown it is no surprise that they remained British and Virgin.

British Virgin Islands are clustered in the northern end of Leeward Islands, west of Portorico. They steeply come out of the Caribbean waves in the south and Atlantic in the north and because of their uneven terrain they are not very suitable for agriculture. They have no natural resources. There is hardly any industry on the islands. 92 percent of workforce are employed in services and even if they don’t overwork themselves, the purchase power parity of GDP per capita is unbelievable 38 500 USD (compared to 16 800 USD in the Czech Republic). The country evidently prospers, it has tiny unemployment rate and its inhabitants



Paradise - even for tax payers



(80 percent of African origin, the rest are Europeans and Asians) are literate from 98 percent, they have lovely homes. No beggars, no homeless people. The place is calm, clean and tidy.

Guess why?

British Virgin Islands are a paradise. Paradise of yachting, scuba diving, fishing, heaven for every demanding tourist and also a tax haven for every entrepreneur.

The offshore phenomenon of British commercial law can save a lot of money, especially on taxes. BVI are one of the most popular offshore locations.

So do visit BVI because they are genuinely spectacular and it would be a shame not too, however, make sure you don't count the airline tickets into the tax base because it could look bit suspicious in the Inland Revenue office. BVI are definitely not for the broke ones – they might an expensive, very pricey destinations. But then again, why not spend the money you saved on taxes?

Japan

Tomáš Zempliner

Konnichiwa. I switch on the TV and pour myself warm saké, straight out of the microwave, into a small pot. I lie down in bed which occupies two thirds of the space in my room in the four-star Akasaka Yoko Hotel. There's a cooking show on. Three local fishermen have caught shrimps and now they're stuffing their mouths with them while expressing their total satisfaction with a variety of throat noises. Sometimes they laugh with their mouth full of shrimps opened. They splutter and smack. They like the food. I switch the channel. Japanese guy on a train. He's travelling on a motor train through the Hokkaido island and he's very thoughtfully observing the nature passing by. I switch the channel. Baseball. Hideki Matsui on the bat. I switch the channel. The earth is shaking and the window glasses are trembling A brand new high speed train Nozomi Super-Express is passing by. I switch the channel. Food. Trains. Food. Baseball. Hideki Matsui spits, swings his bat and goes for it. I switch the channel. I switch off the TV. Ooh.

The thing I was looking forward to the most was the Japanese food. OK, I admit, the historical monuments or technical miracles were tempting too. However, today my idea of Japan is totally different.

The first powerful impression was imprinted in me by Japan's pride – Tokyo. Endless city where planes fly below you and trains pass above you, where herds of white collars move from one end to the other and raw salmon flies straight into your mouth. Using the underground is an adventure by itself. It is the fastest means of transport, no doubt. If you can manage to avoid all traps of the city, to buy a ticket and find your way in a maze of underground passages and secret corridors to the right platform, then bingo, you won. The road to success is lined with many defeats. You will be commonly defeated if you ask someone for help, even though Japanese people are very polite and well-mannered. Maybe too much for European standards. All the politeness prevents them



from helping. In reality it shows in the following way: you ask someone a seemingly simple question, they will mumble out a plethora of words ended by „Hai“ which means Yes. The subject of the question is not important. Right now you have received an answer saying something like „I'm sorry, I am not able to answer your question.“ If you don't speak Portuguese and you want to talk to a Brazilian who doesn't speak any English, you will find a way to communicate. Not so with Japanese. Our cultures are too different, you can read very little from Japanese facial expressions.

It is 8 a.m. and I leave the hotel. My today's visit it is to Nikkō, famous monastery complex north of Tokyo. Route is straightforward: I take the underground from Akasaka Mitsuke to Ueno, then I change the line to Asakusa. There I have to catch the express train to Uzonomie where I will change to JR to Nikkō.

It is ten o'clock and I've spent the past hour trying to figure out which out of twenty trains goes to Uzonomie. From the train dispatcher's wailing I understand after 15 minutes that the train is leaving from there in five minutes. Hallelujah. There's no train in sight though. When the train dispatcher sees my confused look, he says „Hai“, bows and smiles. We both know it is not worth trying. After



three more hours in which I explored many new parts of Tokyo I finally leave for Nikkó.

The more time is spend in the country of rising sun, the more I am aware of its contrasts. Traditional versus modern Japan. When you travel on Shikansen 250 km/h and all you hear is a pleasant humming noise or when you watch the frequency for mobile phone use, you're tempted to think we have much in common. In the formal ways of our lifestyles our civillizations really seem close. Japanese tend to watch less sumo and more baseball or football. They wear the same clothes and listen to the same music. Social relations, relations of Japanese people to family, work and society vary greatly though from ours. Most marriages are pre-arranged by families. Employees are epxected to be totally loyal to the company. They even say that if you leave a job, no one will want to hire you again because who would want a disloyal worker? Seems a strange logic to you? Well Japanese don't feel the need to change anything about it. The vision of collective well-being is a sufficient motivation for them even at the cost of individual limitations to making choices and changes in life. The fact that they produce 95% video cameras in the world and their car manufacturers have an increasing global market share explains this hidden lack of freedom. And when I asked how many famous Japanese scientists, artists or writers there are, I got an answer in a question: And do you need them in your life? I said: Yes, and asked: Do I need 95% of video cameras in my life?

I have sushi for dinner. Selected pieces of raw fish and sea food lie on coloured plates and circulate in a conveyor belt. Colour of the plate indicates the price. Ika, Kohada, Ikura, Amebi. It looks almost too good to eat. But you do enjoy eating it. The selection is amazing provided you don't sit at the end of the belt.

To my great joy the day when I jumped on the Hikari super express train and left stressful Tokyo finally came. I see the symbol of Japan, majestic Fuji-san out of the train window. My next stop is Kyoto.

Kyoto is the former capital city and still a cultural capital of the country. It has preserved some of its original atmosphere as it did-



n't become a commercial metropolis like Osaka, Tokyo or Nagoya. I am not the only to get to Kyoto that day, travelling sumo championship arrived too and I couldn't wait to see it. 200-kilo fighters firstly do the cleansing ritual with a glass of water, then do few gymnastics exercises. They try to act on each other, to bring the other one out of concentration. This phase lasts for several minutes, the actual match then only few seconds. Very exciting show. Sumo is not purely Japanese sport anymore, during my visit a Mongolian contester fought with with a Bulgarian one for the first place.

Kyoto became the starting point for my trips on the Honshu island. Finally I visited the atomic-bomb-inflicted city of Hiroshima.

Very sombre shade still lies on this city. In the centre of an extensive heritage site a skeleton of

a house by Czech architect Jan Letzel, the so-called Atomic Dome, is found, reminding of the tragic event of 1945. Sixty years later on Japanese still consider themselves as victims of the war. Americans have allegedly dropped the bombs to justify their expensive development. Not a single word about Pearl Harbour from Japanese side.

It is evening now and I'm flying home tomorrow. I pour myself warm saké but no TV tonight.

Wellness in Japan

RELAX

Along with few Japanese I plunge into a hot bath covered in clouds of steam. Japanese feel bit uneasy about my presence, when I look at them, they become nervous and start to giggle. This is completely normal in Japan as well as intensive body care. Hot bath is called Onsen. It is part of Riyokan ritual when the smells of bath oils mix with smells of delicious dishes. Those are served in a pleasant ceremony. Exhausted by the bath and stuffed from the dinner I fall asleep on the ground which is the local tradition.



conquer the



While the most popular variety of white wine in the world has to be Chardonnay these days, those who know something about wine tend to go for fresh, distinctively aromatic, more piquant and spicier Sauvignon blanc. We are not talking about the Moravian speciality of past years – grassy Sauvignons. World's major experts claim that our praised grassy tones of Sauvignons from North parts of wine regions are simply a sign of unripe grapes, flaw of the wine, just plain chlorophyll. We are talking about Sauvignons from perfectly ripe grapes which smell of peaches or even gooseberries and kiwi. We mean the world renowned Sauvignons who could allegedly only be made by French winemakers in the Loire valley. We are very lucky though. Over the past few years we could become not only eye but also mouth witnesses of the unbelievable results of winemakers from New Zealand who managed to beat French in Sauvignons. Even the guru of every wine lover Tom Stevenson had to admit in his World Wine Encyclopedia in the chapter about New Zealand: "Sauvignon blanc from the region which is the most

remarkable winemaking area the world, is an equal counterpart to wines of Sancerre and Pouilly in the contest for the best wine. Only rarely it falls on such a low level as its alter ego from Loire in bad years and still remains much cheaper." And now we get to the secrets of those who know something about wine. They can spot a world quality wine for a fraction of the price of famous brands. They can drink equally great wines as those with centuries of tradition without paying the typical tax for the posh people.

History

The story of New Zealand's success is encouraging in other aspects too. Especially by showing how incredibly quickly it could get into the world's top league. Especially when the origins of winemaking in New Zealand are so humble.

First wine was made there in 1835. At the beginning of 20th century the New Zealanders were seriously considering introduction of prohibition. Only in 1945 a final decision was made, i.e. that there wouldn't be any prohibition. Wine could be only sold in hotels though. No wonder then that in 1960 the average wine consumption in New Zealand was 1.74 liters per head. That year, however, the restaurants got the permission to sell wine too. It was not until 1980 though when a law forbidding diluting wine with water had to be passed!

In 1984 the wines from New Zealand were noticed for the first time. Specifically the Müller Thurgau wine which was usually made with an addition of "sweet reserve" as in the original Ger-

world

Radek John

man formula. When the wine was done, pasteurized juice was added resulting in a sweet wine with fresh grape flavour, resembling to German Liebfraumilch. The sort of wine that lovers of dry wines including me despise yet some of us drink them secretly, pretending they bought it for their wife. Back then it still wasn't a production that would make the jaws of the wine world drop.

From 1990 the wines could finally be sold in supermarkets too. So from where exactly was the bomb called 'world's greatest Sauvignons winning one international wine competition after another in the past years' dropped?

The secret is hidden in the unique character and climate of winemaking area Marlborough on the South Island. It was discovered quite late. Wine grapes were originally grown on the North Island which has a much warmer climate than South island. It took decades before New Zealanders started to experiment with wine growing in the South Island too. An interesting paradox arises here. South Island produces white wines of South type. Those which are worn out and lack acids. South Island with much colder and rougher climate gives wines of North type. And that's desirable in case of white wines. The grapes have to undergo stress, they have to pass a cruel test in the form of changing very low temperatures at night and very high temperatures during the day. Only then the grapes give out the best of them. Only then the fresh taste of Sauvignon bursts inside the glass with such an intensity.

What to be aware of when selecting a wine from New Zealand?

There is no appellation system in New Zealand. The origin of grapes is always written on the label. That is the key to use. Wines from Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Poverty Bay and Hawke's Bay are from the North Island. Which means that you're not very likely to find any champions among Sauvignons or other white wines there.

On the other hand, if you fancy trying red wine then go for the North Island which is warmer than the South one. The question is, however, why even try a red wine from New Zealand when there so many other, better areas for red wine in the world.

The miracle from New Zealand mostly comes from Marlborough in the form of Sauvignon blanc.

While many New Zealand's wines from other areas have disappointed me, Sauvignon blanc from Marlborough did so only in one case out of thirty samples.

And don't get confused when the Marlborough reserve will be written on wine labels from large winemaking companies in the North Island. It is common in New Zealand to transport grapes or the juice from a distance of up to 1500 kilometers.

And by no means don't get confused by the metal cap on New Zealand wine bottles. Traditional cork negatively alters the taste of the wine in 10 to 15 % of bottles. A wine defect known as bouchon occurs. In such case the wine expert gives the bottle back to the distributor who then returns it to the winemaker.

The demand for New Zealand's wines is so great that the local winemakers have decided not to lose those ten, fifteen percent of bottles from their production and chose to use the caps securing greater tightness and quality. Snobs who need rituals with corkscrew opening, sniffing and examining of the cork will have to cope with that somehow.

The prices of absolute majority of Marlborough Sauvignons in shops in New Zealand range between 200 and 300 CZK per bottle. Compared to the prices of French competitors among the world's top, local winemakers really seem fair.

And finally the most important thing. These are definitely not wines for archiving. They are consumed young, fresh, crisp and with a sparkle. Luxurious hotels all around the world have been offering Marlborough Sauvignons 2005 vintage since October 2005. The grapes are picked in spring and in autumn they are ready to drink.



EVROPSKÁ
Cestovní Pojišťovna a.s.

Snít o něčem navíc

EU Vy cestujete, my se staráme. www.evropska.cz

caleidoscope

Petr Zempliner

Taiwan is and isn't China

I land in Taipei at Chiang Kai-Shek International Airport. I'm in China. In the smaller one, more developed one and more democratic one.

It lies on the island called Taiwan, formerly known as Formosa or „beautiful island“ as called by Portuguese seafarers who landed by its shores in 1517 for the first time. I was surprised to learn that they didn't meet the Chinese there but Micronesians who came from islands not far from Phillipines.

Chinese started to move to Taiwan in 15th century although the island was found only 160 kilometers away from continental China.

Today Taiwan has 23 million inhabitants i.e. three times as much as 50 years ago. The capital Taipei has three million inhabitants and it seems to function perfectly. Many cars that don't stand in traffic, they seem to pass quite smoothly, fast modern underground, clean environment, order everywhere.

People are surprisingly pleasant, even open and honest I could say. No sign of arrogance which is not uncommon in continental China. Maybe a feature of small, endangered nation.

I approach a younger gentleman and ask him where could I find an ATM machine. He doesn't understand, yet smiles at me. After few similar experiences I learn that a smile doesn't have to necessarily mean that one's happy. Smile is a natural reaction when they're confused or embarrassed.

A waiter is smiling after spilling a soup over your lap is not laughing at you. He is embarrassed and his smile is an excuse. If you get angry, he will smile even more. He's sorry. Smile back.

Dragon's mountain full of compassion

Lungshan temple is sacred to Kuanym, Goddess of Mercy. Built in 1738, it has been hit many times in the past by earthquakes, typhoons and wars and renovated again and again.

Lungshan or Dragon's Mountain is a complex of ancient pagodas closely encircled by quite ugly, tall, reinforced concrete buildings from 1960's.

You walk in – crowds everywhere. Wooden temple shines with colours, there are flowers and fruits everywhere. Every now and then there is some sort of brass or maybe bronze furnace resembling a giant jug standing on its own in the space. They are full of smokey ashes where the believers light there incense sticks. Something keeps on falling on the wooden floor of the temple from those who pray – it doesn't fall, they throw on the ground two smooth, flat red kidney-shaped stones. These are called shimbui. This way they will find out what the future holds for them. They stand, they kneel on small stools or on the ground, some read from prayer books, some sing.

A universe of tranquility, world of spiritual matters – while outside cars flow in five lines, mobile phones ring, Taipei of three million

is beating.

You leave, you know it's time but you don't feel like it. You look into people's faces and even though you don't understand them, you don't know their god, you feel they're close to you, you have feelings for them. By the entrance various special foods are sold in a stand. Wafers, biscuits, bananas, fried crisps... possibly to make the goddess more merciful.

Chiang the Saviour

An enormous open space in the city center and three monumental buildings, one of them, the most dominant one being Chiang Kai-Shek's Memorial. What does it remind me of? Oh I know, Lincoln's Monument in Washington. Not a bad example to follow. I mean ideologically-wise, not architecturally-wise. Chiang Kai-Shek is sitting and has the National Theatre on his left-hand side and National Concert Hall on his right-hand side.

Both buildings are built in the traditional Chinese style and they are beautiful. Mixing a politician and army leader with muses does good to Taiwanese.

I leave through the main entrance. There is something going on in the right wing – pretty girls, possibly models, stand on a divided stage – they will be filming a Johnny Walker ad there.

Keep walking.

Founder of modern Taiwan, cultural institutions and Scotch whisky. What a pleasant surprise. Not that I would like Scotch that much but the combination suggests that Chiang Kai-Shek's mini-cult it not as great as it may seem at first. Which is good.

Look what I had for lunch

Food is an extremely important subject in China. Mainly because the Chinese had problems feeding their own nation in the (not so distant) past. Past few centuries represent a history of wars and also a history of famines. That's why Chinese would eat anything and everything which could make Europeans sick.





I went to a night market and I couldn't believe what I saw! You can get a fresh turtle, cobra snake or you fancy a smaller snake? Snake gall is great for male potency, well-fed worms are said to be very nutritious. Sea creatures I never knew that existed let alone having eaten them before. To make it clear I am not talking about mussels, prawn, octopuses, oysters, lobsters, crabs, scallops or other tasty animals that we commonly call sea food and that we lovingly savour on our holidays in the Mediterranean. Chinese cuisine is world famous and you can have as much as you like of it in Taiwan. It has many colours and flavours, it is sweet and hot, spicy and mild, simply different. Different than the European version of Chinese cuisine. It is different than continental Chinese cuisine. And you will like it! Even if you voluntarily give up snakes, locusts and bats.

Taipei 101

Taiwan is found in a seismically very active area – Pacific zone called Ring of Fire. In the last century the island was hit by six earthquakes whose strength was greater than seven degrees Richter's scale. The last big earthquake happened in 1999 and killed 2405 people with more than 11 thousand being injured. Decision to built a building half a kilometer tall in these geological conditions is, midly said, brave.

I am talking about the world's highest building Taipei 101 with 101 floors, 508 meters high. It is a technological phenomenon whose parameters can be hardly appreciated by non-technical type like me.

That's fine though, I got used to such feelings while driving a car, using a computer or talking on a mobile phone. I tell myself over and over again, it doesn't matter how it works, what matters is that it does.

So even now when I have no clue how this house can stand like that I enjoy the ride in the world's fastest elevator who takes to the top viewing floor at a speed of 60km/h.

From there you can see the whole Taipei and the nearby central range which is – as a bad journalist would put it – at your feet.

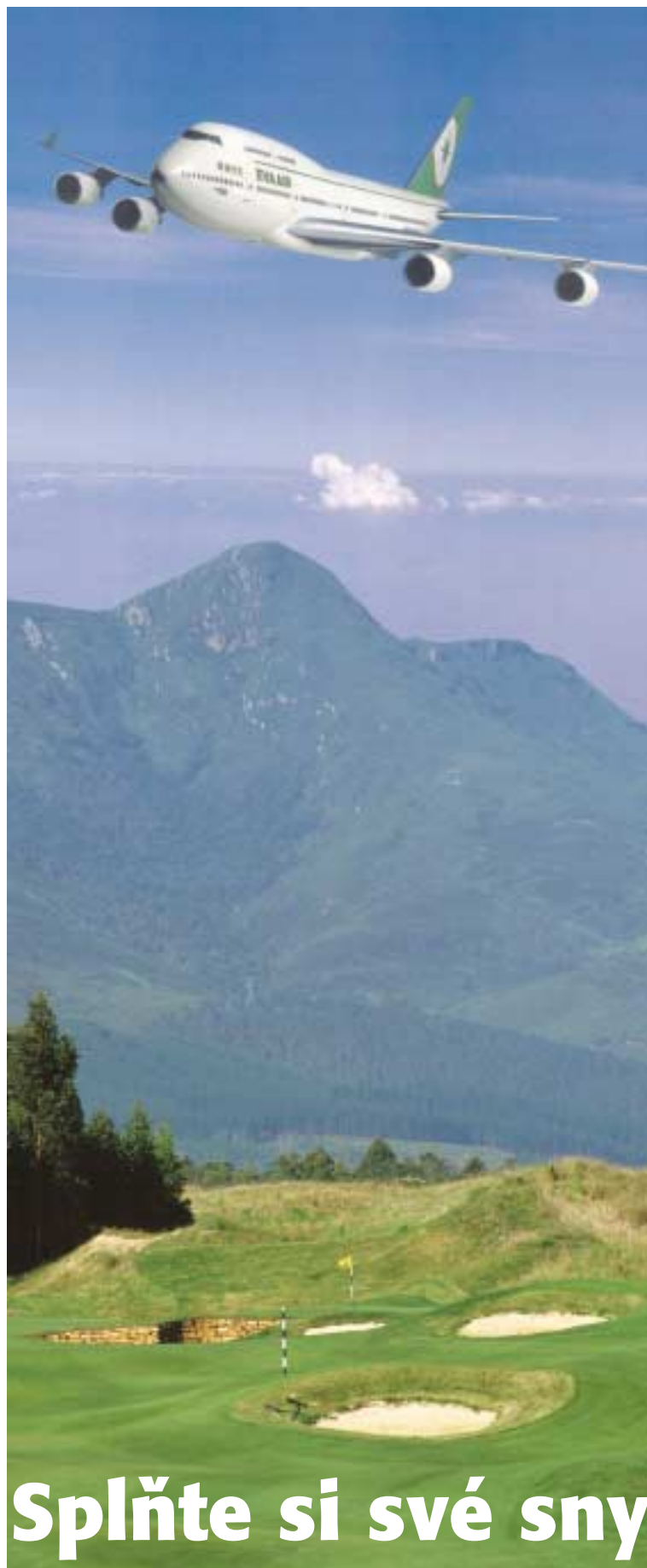
Enjoy! Every step you make in the top floor will remind you of New York Twin Towers. Then on the way back in the elevator when your digestive processes will be speeded up thanks to intensive braking down, you will wonder whether this building speaks of a natural ambition to stand out, to be the first, to push the limits or more of arrogance and no respect for natural laws or existence of terrorism.

I'm on the plane home.

I divide countries that I visited between reusable and non-reusable.

Taiwan is reusable.

I can't wait. Maybe I'll have a snake for dinner next time.



EVA AIR 

www.evaair.cz



W *inter magic of Berlin*

In winter, or pre-Christmas time to be precise, Berlin has 44 Christmas fairs to offer as well as longer opening hours, hundreds of Advent concerts. As winter season is ideal for visiting museums and galleries there are two new museums on the Museum island to be seen with the famous Egyptian and archeological collections. And next year – as usual – long nights of museums, long night of bars and long night of shopping will take place. Advent is a great time too.



We don't have to be too sentimental in order to appreciate the beautiful city decorations and lights creating a truly special atmosphere. Every Christmas fair is different, with different magic and gifts to offer. Every single of them smells of mulled one, Christmas sweets, sounds of jingling bells made of glass and boasts with dab hands of craftsmen. And as for shopping? Ideal, the great selection will enable you to get all your presents sorted at once and peacefully.

N *ot all Christmas have to be white*

Very true in case of Cyprus. The Christmas spirit comes alive with the Advent period as many different nationalities living there celebrate Christmas their own way. Due to the religion worshipped by majority of population, Orthodox Christmas celebration dominates. The first Christmas holiday takes place on 1st January when presents are given, trees – pine trees on Cyprus – are decorated and stuffed turkey is served as well as Christmas sweets. And of course, the Vasilopitta pie which is a special dish of every family and has a coin hidden inside to bring luck in the upcoming year.

Decorated monasteries and churches are a great place to visit even on 6th January, yet another holiday. This time everyone prays for a successful new year, all family members meet to share the feast and traditional cakes.

In December the main pre-Christmas attraction is the 3rd harvest of tangerines which takes place on 21st December and cause mass hysteria all over the island. On that day everyone can take part on tangerine harvest which is a unique experience as it is. Did you know that tangerines are picked in the same way as apples in our country? All that you can't eat can be sent as a present to friends and relatives. Tangerine fights take place which is fun for the small and grown-up alike.

D *o you like a mailbox full of postcards?*



Tradition of hand-written letters and postcards is on the decline. Maybe that's why their receivers value them more than ever before. One of the ways how to get more of them is to take advantage of special Christmas offer of the company Activa which is bringing you a rich selection of pens.

„Christmas Offer 2005“ brings you prestigious pens by Parker. Parker 100 is 'the' pen for the 21st century while elegant Parker LATITUDE symbolizes freedom of writing and freedom of expression. Brand new Duofold Check represents the creative spirit of Parker brand with its two-tone design styled as a chess board. Waterman brings ultimate luxury with the exceptional EXCEPTION pen which is one creative step ahead in conceptual design. Charismatic and stylish ladies will love the sparkling Ice et La pen exclusively made with Swarovski crystals. Rotring brand then introduces new version of Newton whose innovated and improved design, heavy metal finishing and functional precision give the right impulse for rational and visionary way of life.

So now you know what to get your partners in personal or business life for Christmas and you can only wait for those postcards coming.

ILTM
2005

MAKE IT
YOUR BUSINESS



INTERNATIONAL
LUXURY
TRAVEL MARKET

05 | 08 DECEMBER 2005 | CANNES
05 CONFERENCE | 06-08 EXHIBITION

05-08 DECEMBER 2005 | CANNES | FRANCE

ILTM is simply the world's premier travel trade forum for the luxury travel industry. A totally focused international business to business event, which showcases only high quality products and services to specialist luxury trade professionals, who are primed to purchase at the highest level.

If your company plays a part in the international luxury travel market, make it your business to be at **International Luxury Travel Market 2005**.

- International Luxury Travel Buyers
- VIP Hosted buyer programme
- Pre-arranged business appointments

<http://www.iltm.net>

To receive an ILTM Exhibitor Brochure, contact the ILTM team in London:
Tel: + 44 (0) 208 910 7917 Fax: + 44 (0) 208 334 0621 Email: info@iltm.net

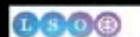
PRESTIGE ALLIANCE

 Reed Travel Exhibitions



AIR FRANCE

Maison
de
FRANCE



Herald Tribune

