

NEWSLETTER

for foreign offices

October 2019

CONTENT

TRADE NEWS

Hotels & restaurants – Transportation – MICE – People –
Data & Research

PRODUCT NEWS

Culture – Cities, Communities & Regions – Events – Active Tourism

TRADE NEWS

Hotels & restaurants



Sparta to build a hotel at Letná

The **football club Sparta Praha** plans to build a **new hotel** adjacent to its **stadium** at Prague's Letná. Preparatory works will commence in October, the hotel is slated for opening in 2023. More at www.sparta.cz.

New AeroRooms Hotel at the Prague Airport

Prague Airport has opened new **AeroRooms Hotel**, which offers a total of fourteen comfortable rooms accessible from both the public and non-public area behind the passport control. Hotel is designed for both connecting passengers and clients who need short-term accommodation near the airport terminals. More at www.prg.aero.



Anybody hotel evaluated best in the Amazing Places project

In the **Amazing Places** project aimed at motivating Czechs to domestic travel, **Anybody hotel** in **Brno** was voted the best among 270 places in the Czech Republic. The hotel that opened early this year, offers rooms referring to famous movies of the 1960s.

Hotel Akademie Hrubá Voda open in winter for groups only

Hotel Akademie Hrubá Voda near the city of **Olomouc** will be available only for large **groups** that will rent the whole hotel during the winter season. The hotel will be open to individual tourists again next spring.

Transportation



More flights between Moscow and Karlovy Vary

The **low-cost** carrier **Pobeda** has increased number of its flights between the **Vnukovo** airport in **Moscow** and **Karlovy Vary** from two to five per week. The carrier will fly between the two cities five times a week until the end of the winter schedule on March 3, 2020.

Vueling launched a new route from Prague to Florence

Vueling opened a new route from **Prague** to the Tuscan capital of **Florence**. The route will be operated four times a week until the end of October, with flights every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. For the winter season from November to March, Vueling will offer three weekly services, every Monday, Friday and Sunday. The route is to be operated with an Airbus A319 aircraft with 144 seats. More at www.prg.aero.

Smartwings and Czech Airlines increasing number of flights

During the winter season, **Czech Airlines** will increase frequencies on flights to **Kiev** and **Moscow**. Flights to the capital of Ukraine will now operate up to eight times a week, while Sheremetyevo International Airport in **Moscow** will be served three times a day. Czech Airlines will also extend several summer routes into the winter season, such as flights to **Beirut**, **Odessa** and **Keflavik**. **Smartwings** too is increasing the number of flights within the winter schedule. The route between Prague and **Rostov-on-Don** will now be served three times a week. The airline will also operate more flights on the route to **St. Petersburg**, which will be available every day from the start of the winter schedule, and will, as usual, resume service to **Dubai**, United Arab Emirates. More at www.prg.aero.

Prague Airport's honey wins gold medal

The **Prague Airport** has won the **Gold Medal** for its flower honey in the **Czech Honey** contest for the sixth time. The competition is organized annually by the **Bee Research Institute** at Dol. Among a total of 360 samples, the one from Prague Airport received a 100 per cent rating. The practice of beekeeping at the Prague Airport goes back to November 2011, when Prague joined other international airports in monitoring the air quality by using bees, as part of efforts to reduce the negative environmental impact of air transport. More at www.prg.aero.

Brno Airport handled record number of passengers during summer school vacation

The **Airport of Brno** handled **over 230,000 passengers** in July and August, with July with 117,255 passengers handled being a record month in the whole history of the airport. The airport handled over 400,000 passengers during the first eight months of this year and the total for the whole 2019 is expected to exceed 2018 numbers by 5 percent. More at www.brno-airport.cz.

V some Czech regions, train tickets and discount cards of České dráhy (Czech Railways) will no longer be valid

From the end of the year, **train tickets** and **discount cards** (In Karta) issue by **České dráhy** (Czech Railways – Czech national railway carrier) will no longer be valid. České dráhy's e-shop, box offices and mobile application will also be unavailable. The reason is that four **Czech regions** – **Zlínský**, **Jihomoravský**, **Ústecký** and **Olomoucký** -, when making new contracts with railways carriers (including České dráhy), decided they will sell train tickets for connection within the region themselves. Passengers will be obliged to use "**regional integrated tickets**" instead. New rules will apply only to passenger and local express trains within the regions, while they will not apply to inter-regional express trains,

ordered by the state. In the Ústecký and Zlínský regions the changes will take effect on December 15th, while in the Olomoucký and Jihomoravský regions on January 1st. Two regions – Liberecký and Plzeňský – will allow the option of using either type of train tickets.

MICE



The Courtyard by Marriott Prague City hotel has finished renovation of its meeting rooms

The **Courtyard by Marriott Prague City hotel** has finished **renovation** of its four **meeting rooms**. All of the meeting rooms have been fitted with new sound system and integrated high-resolution data projectors paired with technical wallpaper, which serves as both a screen and writable surface for presentations. For easy and effective navigation of event participants, the hotel

has installed a set of digital signage displays in the main lobby and next to each meeting room. More at www.pragueconvention.cz.

People



New general manager of Czech Railways

Václav Nebeský has been appointed new head of the board of directors and general manager of Czech Railways. Nebeský who served as deputy minister of regional development replaced Miroslav Kupec in the post of the carrier's general manager.

Data & Research

Population of the Czech Republic rose to 10.67 million

The **population of the Czech Republic rose** by **18,841** to 10.669 million in the first half of 2019. According to data released by the Czech statistical office, solely foreigners, led by Ukrainians, accounted for the increase.

Plzeň has the cheapest espresso, Prague the most expensive

The **average price of an espresso** in Czech restaurants and cafés is **41 CZK**. While in Prague guests have to pay 48 CZK, in Plzeň it is only 32 CZK. According to a survey based on data from 2,600 Czech restaurants and cafés collected by the company Storyous, people drink coffee most between noon and 2 p.m.

Quality of Life: the Czech Republic ranks 24th in the world

The **Czech Republic** has taken **24th place** in the **2019 Social Progress Index**. The country climbed two places compared to last year, even though it received fewer points than in 2018. The index is annually prepared by the **Social Progress Imperative** NGO and **Deloitte** based on data about the level of social and economic development and the state of the environment. Of the 149 countries which were included in the comparison, Norway came on top while the Central African Republic was last.

Moody's upgrades Czech Republic's ratings to Aa3, changes outlook to stable from positive

Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") has **upgraded** the Government of the **Czech Republic's** senior unsecured and long-term issuer ratings to **Aa3** from A1 and changed the outlook to stable from positive. More at www.moody.com.

PRODUCT NEWS

Culture



Vadim Repin: Violin Gala

Vadim Repin accepted invitation for a **violin recital** at Smetana Hall. He will be joined by his most frequent piano partner, **Andrei Korobeinikov**. Nov. 11, 2019, 19:30. Municipal House, Prague. More at www.fok.cz.

Alena Šrámková: Architecture

Alena Šrámková belongs to the most significant personages of contemporary Czech **architecture**. For the exhibition, she selected 17 artworks she deems vital in her production. The constructions, projects, contest proposals and studies are represented not by clearly arranged and comprehensive collections of plans but mainly sketches and drawings. The drawings are accompanied by models, mainly working-presentation ones, that were made in the very studio of the architect. Photographs of real constructions are presented independently. The exhibits come from the property of the EHL & KOUMAR ARCHITEKTI studio (formerly Šrámková architekti) and from the collection of the National Gallery in Prague. More at www.museumkampa.cz.

Stefan Milkov: Troubled Times

Exhibition presents latest pictures by renowned sculptor **Stefan Milkov**. Oct. 25 – Dec. 8, 2019. Galerie Václava Špály, Prague. More at www.prague.eu.

Drop Dead Funny / Contemporary art from Israel

Exhibition Drop Dead Funny brings works by **16 artists** who apply humoristic gestures as a way to cast a fresh look on day-to-day life and a political reality in a country rife with tensions and conflicts. A highly effective tool, humour allows them to tackle the tensions around race, gender, identity and social conventions as these intermingle with the fears and anxieties of modern life. Brno House of Arts, through Nov. 3, 2019. More at www.gotobrna.cz.

Legendary cabaret Crazy Horse Paris in Prague for the first time

Czech audience will for the first time ever experience the unique French cultural phenomenon of **Crazy Horse Paris**. The nine performances in the Hybernia theatre in Prague will be part of the cabaret's international tour Forever Crazy. Nov. 5 – 9, 2019, Hybernia, Prague. More at www.crazyhorseprague.cz.

Russia. Timeless

The exhibition presents the contemporary distinctive art statements in **Russia**, incl. the works of the former nonconformist artists such as **Oscar Rabin, Lydia Masterkova, Ilya Kabakov, Dmitri Prigov, Viktor Pivovarov** and the works of those who were born after 1989. DOX Center for Contemporary Art, Prague. Oct. 4 – Dec. 2, 2019. More at www.dox.cz.

Czech Cabaret Show

Czech Cabaret Show is a spectacular art show featuring the most famous musical and cabaret pieces in an unconventional style. Royal Theatre, Prague. Dec. 16, 17 and 21, 2019. More at www.leroyal.cz.

Cities, communities & regions

Lipová named the Village of the Year



Lipová won the title **Village of 2019**. The village with population of some 600 is located in northern Bohemia. Lipová finished first among 13 finalists of the 25th edition of the contest in which criteria such as social life, business opportunities or environmental activities in each village are judged.

Ski Pass for SkiResort Černá hora-Pec to be valid in Malá Úpa too

The Krkonoše's **SkiResort Černá hora - Pec** will offer its ski passes also for the **SKiMU** area in **Malá Úpa** for the upcoming season. The ski pass will now be valid for 50 kilometers of downhill trails instead of the 40 kilometres last year.

Olomouc Region to establish a tourist board

The regional government of **Olomouc** region will set up its **own tourist board** to deal with marketing activities in tourism throughout the region. Numbers of tourists in the region, both foreign and domestic, are increasing, with **698,978 tourists spending night** in the region **last year**, an increase of 6.3 percent compared to 2017.

National Park Šumava saw over 675,000 visitors in summer

Over **675,000 tourists** visited the **National Park Šumava** in **July and August**, an increase of 75,000 compared to the same period of 2018. The increased number of visitors however resulted in higher number of petty offenses, such as traffic and parking violations, swimming in glacier lakes or entry into restricted zones. Over 2.5 million tourists visited the 680 square kilometre national park last year. Number of visitors rise by 15 to 20 percent each year.

Events

Global Champions Prague PlayOffs

Global Champions Prague PlayOffs, a unique **show-jumping** event, will bring the world's best horses and riders to Prague. The 16 top teams from all over the world will take part in the contest. O2 arena, Prague, Nov. 21–24, 2019. More at www.pragueplayoffs.com.

Czech Travel Market 2019

Czech Travel Market, an international **travel trade fair**, is a good opportunity for travel agencies, tour operators, tourist destinations, carriers, hotels and service providers to get new information and to purchase or sell products and services. Oct. 30–31, 2019, PVA EXPO Prague. More at www.czechtravelmarket.cz.

Whisky life! Prague

The seventh annual **Prague whisky festival**, again organized in the New Town hall in the center of Prague. Vendors will offer more than 150 different whiskies to choose from, including rarities and those that are not yet available in the Czech Republic. No minors under 18 years of age will be admitted. New Town Hall, Prague. Nov. 1 – 2, 2019. More at www.whiskylifeprague.cz.

Chocolate Festival

The Event at the **Galerie Harfa** shopping center will offer not only stands with all kinds of **chocolate** but also an exhibition about the history of chocolate, tastings and workshops. Galerie Harfa, Prague. Oct. 18 – 20, 2019. More at www.cokoladovy-festival.cz.

Dyzajn Market Prague

The second edition of a **sale exhibition** of designer's products, **clothes, accessories, toys, decorations** and more will take place at the Prague Exhibition Grounds. Its accompanying program features theatre and music performances. Prague Exhibition Grounds Holešovice, Dec. 14–15, 2019. More at www.prague.eu.