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PROFESSIONALS

CZECH
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AUTUMN-WINTER 2018

THE REBIRTH OF NIXIE

Need one? Ask Dalibor Farný

GOBELINS

More than just a picture
transferred onto fabric

**CZECHS IN ARTS,
CZECHS IN SCIENCE**

Czechs everywhere

AMAZING PRAGUE

Prague off the tourist trail

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CZECH AND SLOVAK

CENTURY

WHERE OLD AND NEW MEET



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KATEŘINA
RESORT

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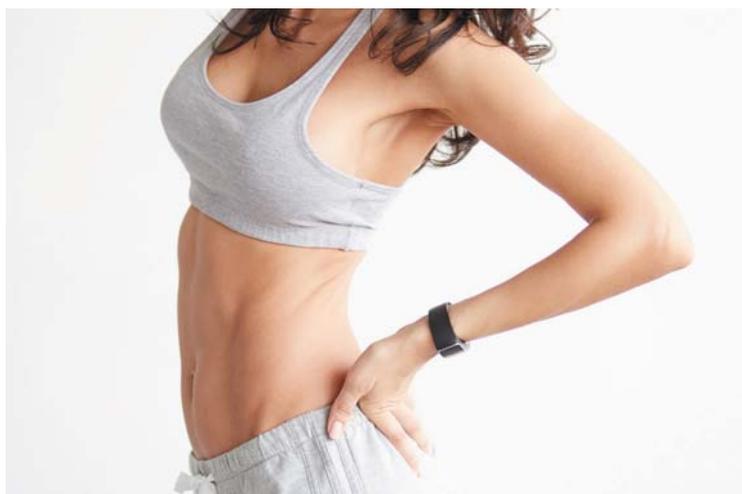
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History never
really says
goodbye.
History says,
'See you later.'

Eduardo Galeano

As in the last issue of TTTG Czech Luxury in this issue too, we still are sort of dwelling in the past. After all, we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of independence this year (you may wonder about the logo on the front cover.) Not that the Czech Republic would have nothing new and modern to offer but the past is omnipresent here. And that probably is one of the reasons why the country attracts so many foreign travelers. It is not only the historical monuments that attract them it is also the stubbornness of Czechs who try to keep the history alive. Be it the young man in a tiny Moravian village bringing Nixies back to life and supplying them all over the world, or Jan Timotej Strýček, the painter keeping alive the art of making tapestry in a Moravian town nearby. But don't worry, we will show you also some things new. Newly open luxury hotels, places in Prague off the tourist trail, Czech luxury brands – oops, most of the brands have a long history, restaurants you will adore and much, much more. It is the perfect blend of old and new we are offering. So come and explore and you will want to come again and again.

Nada Rybárová

BRNO CHRISTMAS 2018

GOURMET, ORIGINAL, AUTHENTIC AND FILLED WITH MUSIC

It was Brno that brought the tradition of putting up Christmas trees to other town squares in the Czech Republic. The tradition was begun by author and journalist Rudolf Těsnohlídek over ninety years ago. Thanks to him, the very first Christmas tree was lit up in Brno's Svobody Square in 1924. This year's Christmas tree will even be delivered to Brno the same way it was 94 years ago – by a convoy of antique carriages. Take a trip to Brno, and you will encounter an authentic atmosphere and cuisine, gifts with an original design and returnable eco-cups that are available throughout the whole city, out of which you can try the fabled Brno turbojuice. A series of live concerts will be held every day, as Brno is also, among other things, UNESCO's 'Creative City of Music'.

Lit-up faces and beaming smiles. Pre-arranged meetings and chance encounters. The friendly atmosphere of Moravia's biggest metropolis. Tasting the best cuisine from Brno and its environs, including drinks that will bring you cheer and warmth. Tunes, and not just Christmas music, played at dozens of live concerts. Beautiful designer gifts, as well as the ability to help those in need. During Advent, the center of Brno is traditionally transformed into a place where the most beautiful holidays of the year are celebrated. Brno Christmas 2018 welcomes visitors to visit Svobody and Dominikánské Squares. Moravské Square and Zelný Trh Square will also be enlivened by Advent markets. It will all kick off on Friday 23 November with a Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Svobody Square. The tree is regularly brought from Bílovice nad Svitavou, and this year it will be transported by a horse-drawn wagon just like it was 94 years

ago. The switching on of the Christmas tree's lights will be accompanied by a light show, musical performances and video mapping. With this event, which in addition to modern entertainment directly refers to Rudolf Těsnohlídek's tradition of charitable giving, the Advent and Christmas markets will open and remain in place for over a month.

Svobody Square will be the place to meet up with friends, experiencing interesting decor and enjoy daily musical and cultural programs. Musical bands and children's shows will take turns on the stage, December Design Days will take place in glass modular containers, and original Brno drinks will be available in stalls and the Winter Bar's white dome. The atmosphere in the square in central Brno is meant to be enjoyed mostly by those who love having fun together with hundreds of other people, meeting new people and appreciate the hustle and bustle of the city center.

On the other side of the spectrum, Gourmet Christmas in Dominikánské Square offers a more intimate atmosphere. Good quality and original cuisine, Christmas



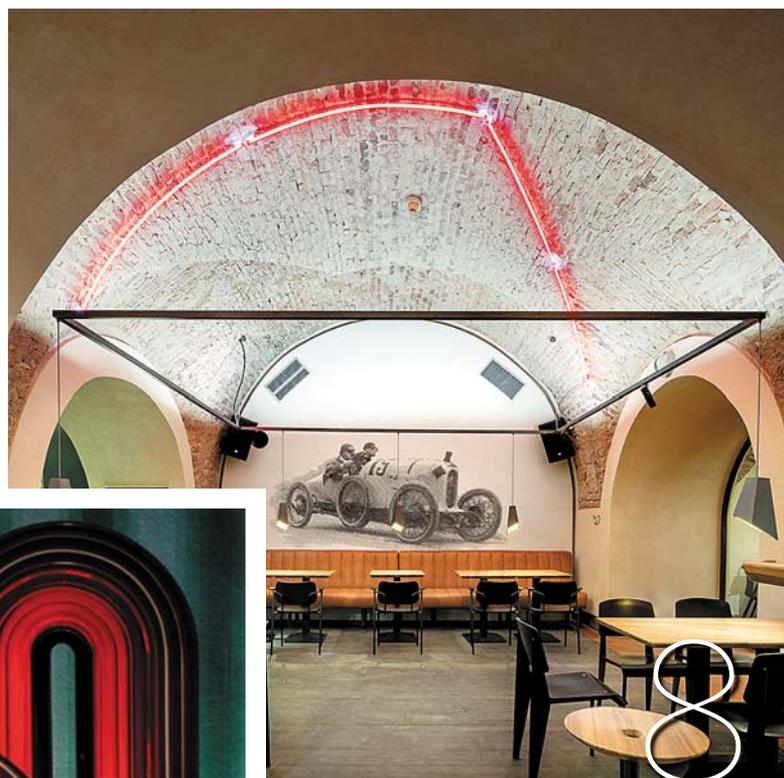
tastes and aromas, and the ability to take a break from the pre-Christmas rush. You will be able to experience all of that to the fullest extent at the Advent markets, which are most popular with families, children and foodies. The life-size wooden nativity scene, which is situated in front of the festively lit-up New Town Hall building, is a feast for the eyes, and children can also look forward to seeing live animals. Your taste buds will be aroused by local and international cuisines. Brno Christmas would not be complete without the launching of a new collection of souvenirs and original cups. After all, returnable packaging and an eco-friendly approach have been in place here for a few years now. Last year alone, 190,000 liters of waste were prevented thanks to the use of returnable cups, which are, at the same time, a nice keepsake souvenir. What will they be like this year? Come and see for yourselves! The Helping Those In Need collection will also be there, as it is something Brno Christmas would not be Christmas without, having started here 94 years ago. Těsnohlídek started the collections after he was inspired by something similar in Denmark, where the lit-up Christmas tree in Copenhagen's main square carried the motto 'From Everyone For Everyone'. The money collected under the tree was distributed to charitable organizations, which will also be the case in Brno this year. Come and enjoy the Christmas season in the city that gave all other Czech town squares their Christmas tree traditions.



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editor's selection

PALOMA PRŮHONICE

EXPERIENCE
PAR EXCELLENCE



Paloma is situated in the centre of Průhonice, just twenty minutes away from the Prague city centre. Due to its location, Paloma allows its guests to combine a gourmet experience of French cuisine with modern accommodation and exceptional design, while also invites them to take a walk in the adjacent Průhonice Park with Průhonice Chateau. Your stay at Paloma will be a unique experience, no matter if you are a visitor from a distant land or a tourist in your own land. Luxury restaurant is led by two Michelin Star Executive Chef

Nicolas Decherchi that along with his team plays a culinary symphony with precision of his own that fascinates your senses of taste and sight at the very first moment and can satisfy even highly demanding gourmets. Premium ingredients and corresponding wines recommended by sommeliers push your overall sensory experience up to the Michelin heights. "In this extraordinary place, we aim to provide our guests with at least the same exceptional experience of tasting top-class French cuisine as we provide the guests of our affiliated restaurant Paloma Mougins awarded with two Michelin stars," says Martin Kolář, Managing Director of Paloma Průhonice.

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT 'V ZÁTIŠÍ' RESTAURANT

Located in central Prague, the cozy 'V Zátíší' Restaurant serves meals you can always be sure are truly delicious. The same goes for the revamped brunch, which is served every Sunday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The food is served in the middle of the table, so that everyone can help themselves to whatever they fancy. For example, you may try salmon rillette or lamb curry, and the much-loved eggs Benedict should not be missed. Every week there's a new menu that reflects what is fresh in the current season. For instance, guests can enjoy the tastes of autumn with apple pies, mushrooms and seasonal vegetables. Included in the price of the brunch are non-alcoholic drinks – home-made lemonades, tea and coffee; as well as a bottle of wine for two people. You can bring your children with you; those up to the age of six enjoy their

brunch for free, and for children up to the age of twelve, you pay only half price.

Once you come here, you'll never want to go anywhere else.



CLARA FUTURA

A NEW LUXURY HOTEL CLOSE TO PRAGUE



The four-star Chateau Clara Futura Hotel in Dolní Břežany near Prague welcomed its first guests at the beginning of October. The restored chateau, in which the hotel is housed, belongs to the Archbishopric of Prague, whereas the hotel itself is operated by Westbohemia Hotels. The chateau complex offers luxury accommodation in 40 double rooms in five different comfort levels: 16 Superior Rooms, 10 Deluxe Rooms and 12 Classic Attic Rooms, as well as a couple of themed suites for special occasions: the Wedding Suite and Archbishop's Suite. Each room is unique, and they are all equipped with the latest cutting edge technology. Some of the rooms are

adjoining, so they can create a two-bedroom accommodation appropriate for families. There is a sumptuous buffet breakfast included in the price of the accommodation. The chateau restaurant can seat up to 80 guests; the summer garden has a capacity of 60 people. The hotel also provides conference services. Its conference rooms have a capacity large enough to simultaneously hold several different events without disturbing each other. Chateau Clara Futura is the perfect venue for wedding ceremonies as well – whether religious or civil. The ceremony can take place either in the historic Chapel of St Mary Magdalene, or in the chateau gardens under the open sky.



The Czech Republic's First Entertaining Spa Hotel

The international Revelton Group Hotels & Apartments network has added a new member. It's the Revelton Studios Františkovy Lázně, the first entertaining spa hotel in the Czech Republic.

In addition to luxury accommodation, the hotel provides, amongst other things, the Museum of Illusions and an Escape Game in which you only have one hour to unveil the secret of the disappearance of a successful scientist. Another really interesting area there is the Readers' Nook, equipped with books of various genres in several languages. The hotel, together with the pristine nature that surrounds it, provides ideal accommodation – and not just for spa clientele. The individual rooms in Revelton Studios are named after European cities. They are decorated in bold reds, blues and greens. The styles of the individual rooms vary; you can find classical, modern and bohemian rooms here. The common areas of the hotel are very cosy. One of the most popular is the terrace with its fountain. The guests use it as a place to enjoy their breakfast in the morning, for sunbathing throughout the day, and for unwinding with a glass of wine in the evening.

DOM PÉRIGNON CELLAR IN MANDARIN ORIENTAL, PRAGUE

Housed within a former 14th century monastery, Mandarin Oriental, Prague is both a five-star luxury hotel and a wonderfully preserved piece of

history. Now it has yet another attraction, the Dom Pérignon P2 Cellar.

The exquisite space where the finest champagne meets the

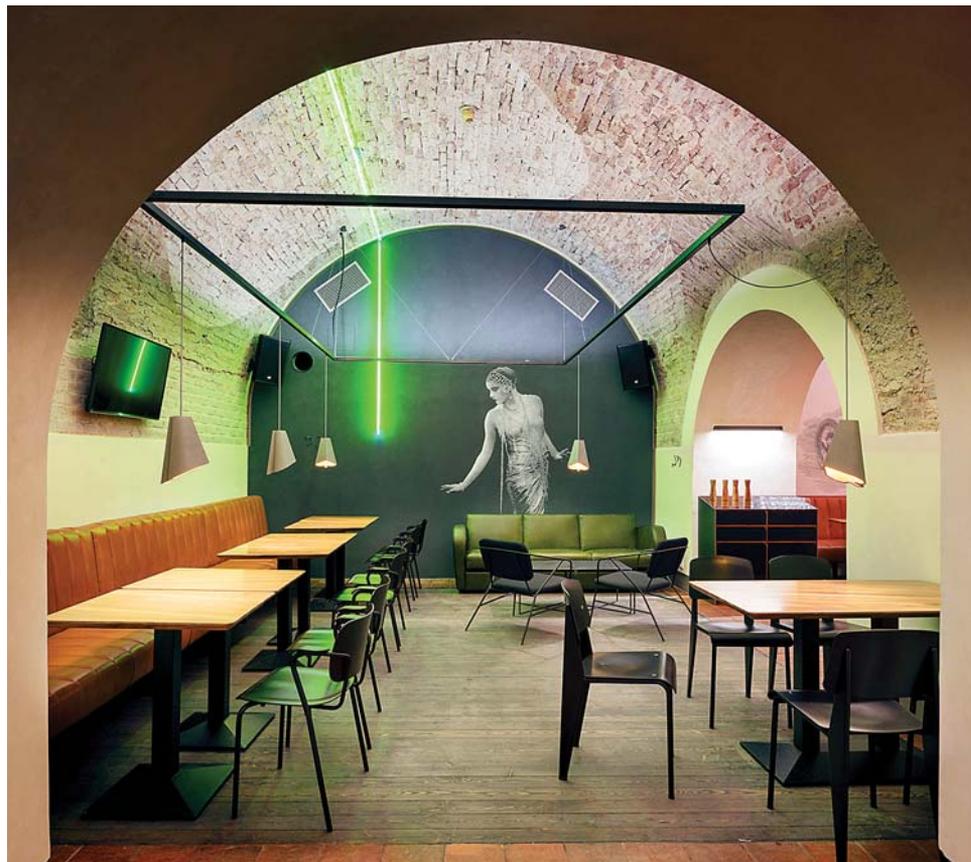
original tastes of Asian cuisine is set up for private functions and can accommodate up to twenty guests. So come and enjoy the Chef Stephen Sen-

wiratne's tailor-made menu that is harmonically paired with the world-celebrated vintages of Dom Pérignon.



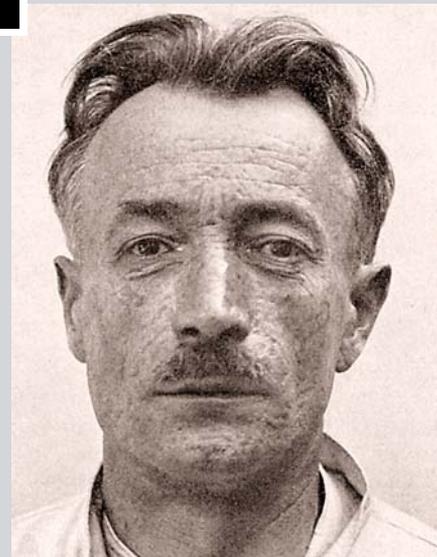
CAFE ELEKTRIC

a restaurant and bar with a film atmosphere from the 1920s



IMMENSE yourself in a 1920s film atmosphere in the CAFE ELEKTRIC, located in the Kolowrat Palace in the very heart of Prague. It was inspired by the life of the famous race car driver and film magnate Count Alexander Joseph "Sascha" Kolowrat-Krakowsky, who is credited with discovering Marlene Dietrich and director Michael Curtiz. The name of this restaurant, bar, music club and relaxation zone refers to the 1927 film *Café Elektrik*, the most famous film produced by Sascha Kolowrat-Krakowsky. His legacy lies in every corner. You may for instance sit on a cushioned bench inspired by the seat of a historic racing car, while the walls are

decorated with various modern sgraffiti depicting Count Alexander Kolowrat in a racing car and in different scenes from his films. Everything is accented by a refined lighting system that changes the atmosphere of the premises to best suit the current needs, whether a brightly-lit restaurant or a night club. There is also a terrace in the Kolowrat Palace courtyard. CAFE ELEKTRIC offers modern international cuisine. The menu was jointly created by the co-owner, Francesca Kolowrat, and chef Růžena Smolenová. Meat lovers, vegetarians and even vegans can all enjoy delicious dishes that will satisfy their desires.



FRANTIŠEK KUPKA 1871–1957

Retrospective of the work of František Kupka can be seen in the National Gallery in Prague in the autumn and winter of 2018. The exhibition, prepared in collaboration with the French Reunion de musées nationaux – Grand Palais and Ateneum Art Museum in Helsinki, Finland, shows Kupka's entire oeuvre, from his early works of the 1890s to his abstract artworks of the 1950s.

The exhibition shows artworks from the National Gallery in Prague as well as the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Albertina Museum in Vienna. The chronological exhibition is divided by theme to allow the viewer to follow the artist's path from symbolism to abstraction (of which Kupka was an originator). Many artworks also show Kupka as a satirical cartoonist and brilliant illustrator, an artist interested in philosophy, Greek and Roman art, religion and science. The exhibition will move to the Ateneum Art Museum in Helsinki in spring 2019.

A NON-HIPSTER BISTRO IN PRAGUE'S LETNÁ



Prague's Letná neighbourhood is an area renowned for its hipster establishments of all kinds. Here, it's normal for an establishment to reduce or extend their opening hours whenever they see fit without any warning. If you're unhappy with a meal, all you will do is raise an eyebrow, and if you find some eggshells in your scrambled eggs, that's no big deal either. That's simply the hipster way of life.

However, it's not just hipsters who go to Letná (which is, by the way, a really nice area). Letná has plenty to offer its more conservative visitors too: For instance, you could try the Belcredi Bistro & Bar, located just under the roof of the functionalist Belvedere Hotel.

It's not just a hotel restaurant, though – it's an extraordinarily pleasant place that serves tasty and healthy cuisine. Here, you'll find Mexican, Italian, French and Czech food; you can even sample Thai food. You'll often also see gluten-free and even paleo diet meals on the menu. Their drinks are excellent, too. The bistro offers ten of their own signature drinks, e.g. their Strawberry Basil Fizz and Penicillin Sour, which are made using their own syrups and fusions.

To put it in a nutshell, this bistro offers good quality food, fresh ingredients, excellent drinks, no fast food and no stiff business lunches either. It is most definitely worth a visit.

HANA PODOLSKÁ, THE CZECH FASHION LEGEND

Are you interested in fashion? Then you should certainly go and see 'Hana Podolská, the Czech Fashion Legend' exhibition at Prague's Museum of Decorative Arts.

Podolská, who was nicknamed the Czech Coco Chanel, founded and managed the most famous and most beloved fashion salon in Czech society during the interwar period. Not only did she clothe movie stars, but she even made clothes for the president's wife, Hana Benešová. The exhibition showcases a range of elegantly decorated evening wear, contrasting with subtle dresses, elegant coats and weekday outerwear, complemented with pumps and hats. The salon opened in 1905 as a small tailor's workshop, which Podolská – back

then still called Johanna Vošahlíková – founded in Prague's Nusle. In 1914, the by now married Hana Podolská, moved the workshop to central Prague, and one year later, she opened a ladies' fashion salon in Lucerna Palace. The salon survived the difficult war and post-war year periods; it was then nationalized when the communist regime took over in 1948. However, Hana Podolská worked in 'her' company until 1954, until she was sent into retirement. She passed away in 1972 while approaching her 92nd birthday. Even though her salon no longer exists, the name Hana Podolská is still to this day remembered by the public as a legend of interwar-period elegance, and a brave, entrepreneurial and extraordinarily capable woman.



WELCOME TO THE GRANDHOTEL PUPP



World-famous Grandhotel Pupp is one of the traditional hotels in Central Europe. It is located in the most beautiful part of the Western Bohemian spa town Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad).

The Grandhotel Pupp is one of the few European famous resort hotel counting its history since 1701. Over the years, this hotel has enchanted such nobles and famous people like German poet and philosopher Johann Wolfgang Goethe, composers Johann Sebastian Bach, Richard Wagner and Antonín Dvořák. The violinist Nicolo Paganini, the writer Franz Kafka and the master of Art Nouveau Alfons Mucha were also among its guests. Even today the Grandhotel Pupp keeps its special atmosphere which has attracted guests for centuries – the romance of old times and the world of pile carpets and silver cutlery opens before you as you enter the hotel. Its name is still a synonym for tradition, luxury and hospitality. You can enjoy modern life with elegance and respectability of last centuries here.

The Grandhotel Pupp offers accommodation in 111 Deluxe rooms and 117 First Class rooms. We invite you to our restaurants, café, bars, Pupp Royal Spa, Pupp Royal Clinic, Beauty Studio and casino in the hotel. The chef prepares delicacies from Czech and international cuisine and seasonal menu which you can taste with noble wines from the hotel's vinothèque in the Grandrestaurant Pupp. The best start of the evening is with cocktail at the English style luxury Becher's Bar. The Grandhotel Pupp has also starred in several movies. Have you seen the James Bond movie Casino Royale with Daniel Craig or comedy Last Holiday with Queen Latifah and Gérard Depardieu? If so, for a few minutes you were a visitor of the Grandhotel Pupp. Famous film stars, for ex. Elijah Wood, Andy Garcia, Danny DeVito, Robert De Niro, Sean Bean, Susan Sarandon, John Travolta, Mel Gibson, Richard Gere, Jean Reno, Uma Thurman or Robert Pattinson visited the hotel during the International Film Festival held annually in the town. We invite you to enjoy your stay in person.

www.pupp.cz



PRAGUE THAT YOU DON'T KNOW,



species of trees and plants is the ideal place to relax and wind down. You can then set out on an hour-long journey around the world in Fata Morgana Greenhouse and learn about the gems of tropical rainforests, high-altitude cloud forests, and the driest places on Earth. Its position on the right bank of the Vltava River – in an area made up of terraces and slopes of the Troja basin – makes the Botanical Garden more than suitable for growing grapevines. The protected St Clare Vineyard is one of the oldest in Prague, and you can taste its wines on the wine shop's terrace, which will also offer you a unique panoramic view over Prague. We also must not forget to mention Troja Chateau. The main hall of this remarkable baroque building, inspired by a Roman town villa, has two grandiose flights of stairs decorated with sculptures, leading right to the wide-reaching French formal garden, which invites you to stroll around or have seat and relax.

Gone are the days when you could rejoice in the beauty of cities in relative calm and peace, void of crowds of people who had the same idea as you, not to miss this or that landmark or sight. Prague is no exception, and even though we understand that no one can visit Prague and not see Charles Bridge, Prague Castle or the Jewish Quarter, we also offer other places that will entrance you, where you will only really run into locals, before the true word about the charm of these places gets out. This gives travelling a real edge.

The city that unfolds before your very eyes

The Petřín Lookout Tower was built on Petřín Hill in record time for the Jubilee

Land Exhibition in 1891. The excavation work commenced on 16th March 1891, and the grand opening was held on 20th August. Compared to the two years it took to build the Eiffel Tower in Paris – the Tower was in fact the inspiration for building Prague's lookout tower – this was a remarkable achievement. The core of the structure is an octagonal tube, around which two circular stairways of 299 steps each spiral up; one is for walking up and the other is for walking down. Not to worry, though, you can also get to the two viewing platforms situated at a height of 55 meters via a lift. The 60-meter tall lookout tower looms over the Lesser Quarter and offers beautiful views not only over Prague Castle, but also over Prague's other dominant features. You can walk up Petřín Hill, either from the Lesser Quarter or the Strahov Monastery, which you can find only a short distance from Prague Castle (it is the oldest Premonstratensian monastery in Bohemia, originating from the 12th century). You can also take a funicular from the Lesser Quarter to get to Petřín. While you are at Petřín, do spend some time there and pay a visit to the well-known mirror maze, Štefánik's Observatory, or just take a break in the Rose Garden.

Fauna, flora, a smidge of history and a glass of good wine on top

Troja – pretty much everyone, including architecture and opulent residences lovers, can satisfy their cravings here. We will send you off somewhere else to admire architecture in a minute, though, as Troja offers many other incredible enticements. You have certainly heard of Prague's Zoological Garden – after all, it is the fifth best zoo in the world according to TripAdvisor. The zoo is indeed impressive, but you will definitely not be on your own in there. So, if you find that there are too many people there for your liking, head off to the Botanical Garden, which is just a few minutes' walk from the zoo. Its outdoor exhibition of 15,000



A lively quarter with an industrial label

Holešovice – formerly not a particularly attractive area with its busy river port, various kinds of factories, steam mills and even a city slaughterhouse – is currently a compulsory stop for anyone who is interested in modern or contemporary art. The functionalist Trade Fair Palace building from 1928 was admired by none other than the great architect and artist Le Corbusier. It houses the National Gallery's collection of modern and contemporary art. Here you will find, among other works, masterpieces created by the most famous artists of the 20th century European avantgarde, such as Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Paul Gauguin, and Vincent van Gogh. Another significant art destination in Holešovice is the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, created by expanding and remodeling a factory that was near the river port docks. Exceptional exhibitions and



literary programs are organized in DOX, where you can also find a brilliant design and book shop, and a really lovely café. You may also want to go and see the Bubny Train Station. The place itself and its surroundings are still a little unsightly; however, this should change soon, as the 'Memorial of Silence' should soon be built here. Approximately three years ago, a piece of public art entitled 'The Gate of Infinity' by sculptor Aleš Veselý was ceremonially unveiled here. The artwork, in the shape of a twenty-meter long train track erected towards the sky, symbolizes Jacob's Ladder. The gigantic artwork is positioned in the exact spot where the transportation of Jews took place, as a gate on the path taken by the war victims to the deportation trains. Fifty thousand Jewish citizens from Prague were taken to Theresienstadt and other concentration camps from here between 1941 and 1945. As the creators of the project say, the Memorial of Silence is not meant to be a voiceless gesture, though; it should be a crossroads of topics looking to enrich those who are alive, young and eager to explore.

Come and explore. You will be enriched.

Q&A



The center of Prague is besieged by tourists, but the city's suburban areas, whilst only rarely picked as a destination by foreign visitors, have plenty to offer, too. **Jan Wolf**, a member of the city council, for whom tourism is among his responsibilities, shared a few tips with us.

Without any doubt, everyone is happy about the level of interest Prague is enjoying from foreign tourists; however, the city center is completely flooded by visitors during the high season. Do you have any plans to take pressure off the historic center?

Certainly, and especially so because too much of a tourist overflow is not always pleasant for the residents. Of

course, we would not like to reduce the number of tourists; we would only like them to disperse throughout the city, including parts that are further out.

What can Prague offer to visitors outside its historic center, then?

In fact, it offers quite a lot. Holešovice, a place increasingly teeming with culture, the beautiful Vinohrady with Plečnik's Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord, and Dejvice, where for instance you can find an area teeming with functionalist villas, which are unparalleled anywhere else in Europe. It also offers Troja and its gorgeous baroque chateau surrounded by a stunning French formal garden, then the world-wide known zoological garden and exceptional botanical garden, one part of which is a vineyard. All these places are easily reachable by the city's public transport network. You can also get to Troja by boat on the Vltava River. You can get by boat to Zbraslav, as well, which I also heartily recommend.



A UNIQUE SPECIMEN OF FUNCTIONALIST ARCHITECTURE UNPARALLELED IN EUROPE

On the opposite bank of the Vltava River, on a rock spur, lies a protected natural landmark rising above the river, the Baba Ruins. To this day, it is still not entirely clear whether these are the remains of a chapel or vineyard press building. The location, offering stunning views over Prague, including the zoo (the view of grazing giraffes and zebras can confidently rival that over the rest of the city), is a favorite destination for Prague's residents. The most remarkable thing here is the neighborhood teeming with villas that were constructed 86 years ago, which are a joint product of the noted architects of that time. The villas were built as one of six European modern living settlements, which emerged towards the end of the 1920s and at the beginning of the 1930s. They were supposed to promote modern functionalist housing that was affordable by the mass-

es. However, the Baba settlement site is the only one that is comprised solely of individual houses, which were designed according to the wishes of the investor. Therefore, it immediately became an area for the cream of Prague society. Architect Pavel Janák, who was commissioned to provide the urban planning solution for the villas, arranged the houses on the slope horizontally in several rows. However, he designed them in a way so that they would stand above one another on the ascending terrain, in a chessboard-like arrangement, so that they would not obstruct each other's view after they were built. In the end, the whole project was co-worked on by nineteen architects, who then designed 33 villas. Of course, you will not be able to get inside the houses, as they are all privately owned and lived in, but it is certainly worth taking a stroll through the area. If you

come to Baba at Christmas time, go to the nearby St Mathew's Church. The local parishioners have been baking splendid and sweet-smelling gingerbread nativity scenes there for many years – it is a feast for the eyes and nose alike. Unfortunately, they will not allow you to sample their delicious creations.



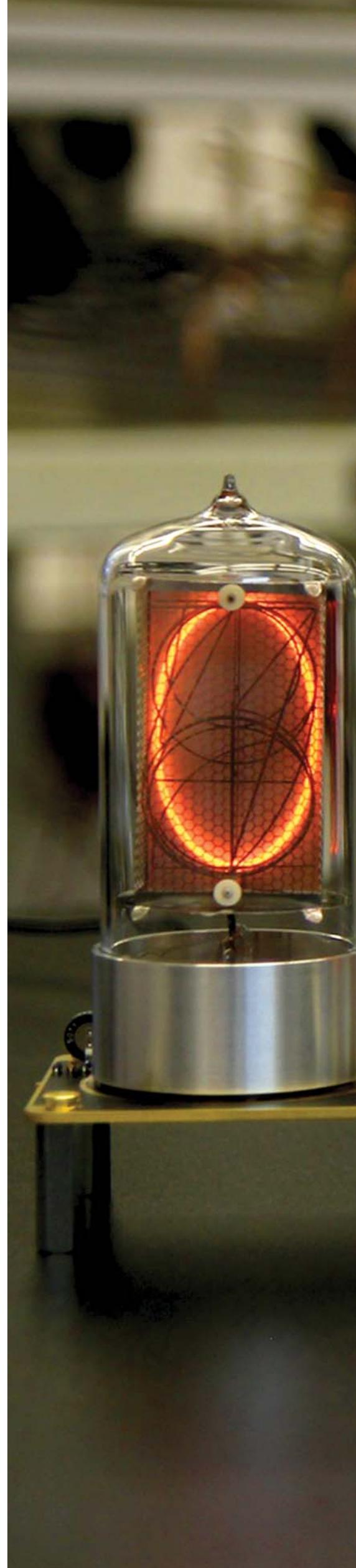
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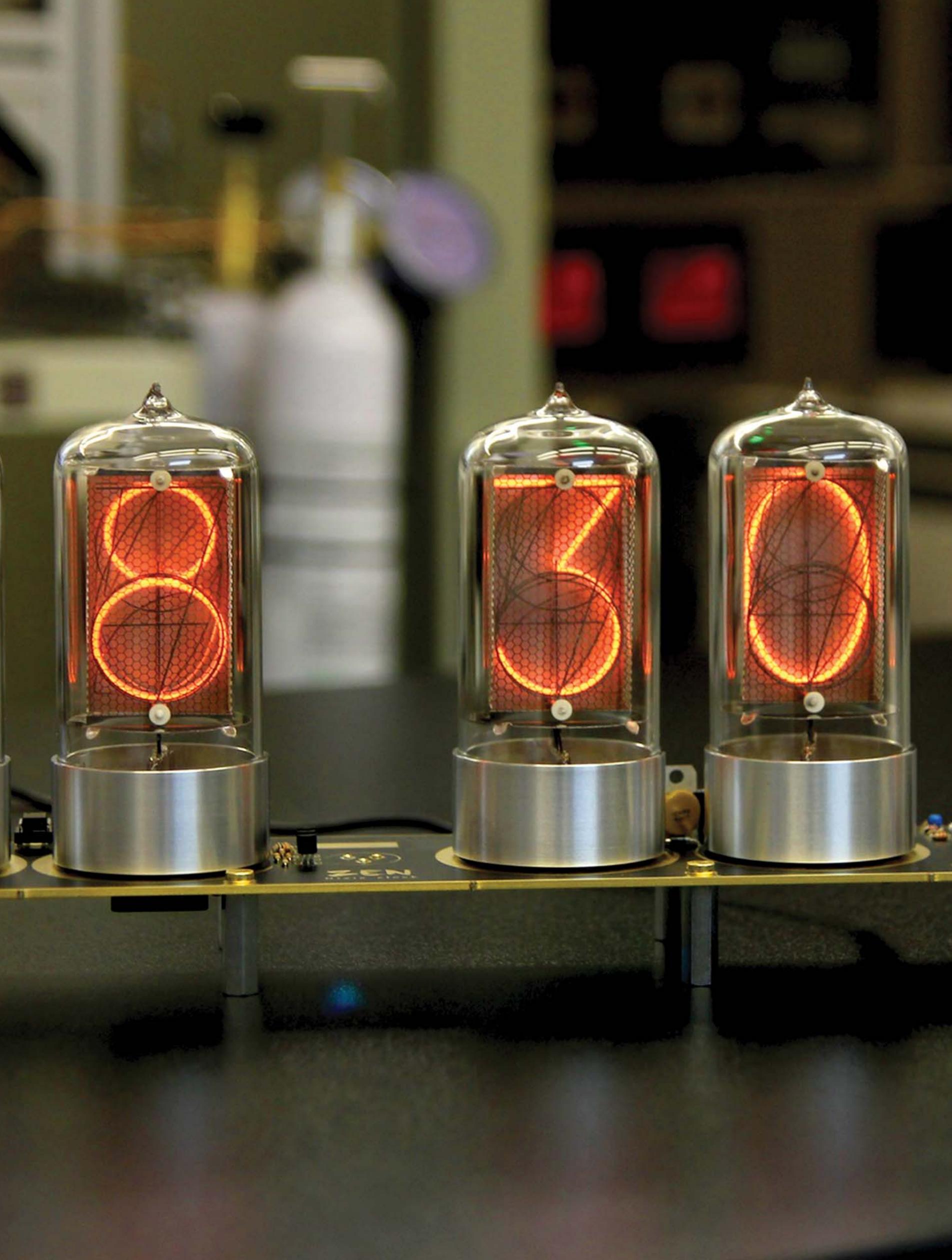
THE BEAUTY
OF THE COLD
CATHODE
NEON
READOUT
TUBE KNOWN
AS NIXIE

Are you one of those Nixies aficionados that put together their own clocks and badly need a new Nixie? Dalibor Farný is probably the only person in the whole world who can help you. And he is making not only perfect Nixies but Nixie clocks too, beautiful clocks.

12

feature
AMAZING NIXIES







Software programmer by profession, Dalibor, 34, discovered Nixie tubes accidentally when browsing internet in 2011. And he fell for them. He bought his first Nixies on e-Bay, they were small Russian tubes, leftovers from their heydays when they were used as numeric displays in early digital voltmeters, frequency counters and many other types of technical equipment. While elsewhere, Nixie tubes were superseded in the 1970s by light-emitting diodes (LEDs), in the former Soviet Union they were still manufactured in volume in the 1980s and that is why Russian Nixies are still available. They are being brought from warehouses where they have been sitting for decades and are now used in homemade digital clocks. But those small tubes were not good enough for Dalibor who was aiming for classy designer clocks. And as large tubes are already scarce and thus very expensive, he decided to make his own. He was convinced it would be easy, he would just find a book with exact description of how to make them and start working. "Not so, nobody would believe how difficult it was to find any useful

information on how to manufacture the tubes, I was very naïve then," says Dalibor. "In a way, I had to invent what already had been invented." That, however, was not his only problem: equipment also was unavailable. It was not surprising, why would any sane company keep equipment that could be used only for production of something that has been useless for decades already? The equipment was mostly destroyed or adapted for other purposes. Actually, Dalibor's sort of diary on his company's web site reads like a thriller: "I... buy a neat rotary vacuum pump (later found that it was contaminated by mercury), build a pirani vacuum gauge that I never used, build a spot welder that was also almost useless. I also tried to make a high vacuum system, using rubber hoses." That was in March 2012. Only three months later: "I made first sealed argon tubes, without a helium leak detector and with cold air/gas flame ... so they lasted only a few hours until the gas leaked in and ruined them. But I still remember the feeling when I sealed them off and watched them glow!" His first clock featuring his own Nixie tubes was ShanghaiTime, a two-tube clock he made for a 2013 glass-art contest "When Prague meets Shanghai." Displayed in the Shanghai Museum of

Glass along with other 19 Czech glass objects, the clock finished second in the visitors' vote. Only two pieces of the clock were made and are not for sale.

The next clock was a 2014 single-tube clock Dalibor called Solitube and sold in about twenty pieces mostly to friends who had been closely following and supporting his efforts for some time already. At this point he could afford to hire a part-time helper. By the end of year, orders for his tubes started coming from all over the world.

His masterpiece so far is the Zen Nixie Clock. The six-tube clock using, of course, his own Nixie tubes, combines a simple stand and a glass cover, just like a museum display case. Seems simple from outside but is quite complicated inside: the Wi-Fi enabled electronics dock connects the clock to internet to automatically keep accurate time, removing the need to set it manually. In case of power loss, the clock remembers all the settings. And a Zen Nixie Clock with a brand new design is coming soon.

Today, he can say he has made it. His Nixies are in demand and his clocks as well. Most of his production goes to the United States, mainly to California. His tubes are part of a high-end Steampunk-style Nixie Machine II clock by German artist Frank Buchwald and the clock's electronics also was developed in Dalibor's lab. Only twelve of these clocks will be available at three M.A.D. Galleries in Dubai, Geneva and Tapei at a price of about 30,000 U.S. dollars.

Dalibor, the young father of three, is not just a Nixie fanatic as we can see them all over the world. He is a dreamer, he has the drive, and might be that the tiny Moravian village of Březolupy where he works around the clock soon will be the site of a world respected company.

The R in his Nixie R|Z568M tube stands for resurrection.





PIETRO FILIPI REVIVES MADE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

To celebrate its 25th birthday, Czech fashion brand Pietro Filipi has launched a new collection for autumn/winter 2018, supported by a special campaign featuring popular actress Aňa Geislerová. At the same time, Pietro Filipi revives the brand Made in Czechoslovakia, marking the 100th anniversary of the common independent state of Czechs and Slovaks.

Pietro Filip was established by Petr Hendrych in 1993. The brand name is derived from the Italian version of the name of the founder and his son Filip. The company has now about 40 offices in six countries. However, 80 percent of the production still comes from the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

"Made in Czechoslovakia is a seal of quality for us – a designation once used on all those great products that were proudly exported from Czechoslovakia to all the world. We are likewise proud of our clothing, and that is why we only make it in limited editions of 30 to 400 pieces," said Michal Mička, CEO, Pietro Filipi.

Inspired by 1970s and 1980s silhouettes and the themes of university college life-

style, Pietro Filipi's latest collection can be described by two keywords: vintage and romantic. The collection takes over the influences of intellectualism, simplicity, purity and style from films such as *Good Will Hunting*, *The Way We Were*, and *Mona Lisa Smile*.

The men's collection abounds in influences from the university campus and preppy style, which is so typical of US Ivy League universities. Women's looks include trouser suits, men-style jackets, or even boyfriend-style pieces such as



waistcoats and boy's shorts. Long skirts underscore femininity and bring a whiff of romanticism into the collection. The season's colourway is dominated by pink, cinnamon, brown and dark blue.

Designed by Ivana Mentlová, the limited edition **Silverline Pietro Filipi** remains true to the mantra of simplicity and timelessness, supported by mostly black and grey tones. The collections will remind you of the glam rock and grunge 1990s, which is particularly apparent in the shirt and coat – the most iconic and coolest items in the line. Both pieces are made of black, glossy, crumpled material that resembles paper. There are also leather shorts and several men-style trouser suits and a low-back overall. The designer has experimented with corduroy, both in the matt and the gloss versions. And when it starts freezing, just take on one of the coats, in white, cream and ginger colour, and in a number of silhouettes.



Luděk Seryn

WATCH AND S

Czechoslovakia, an independent state of Czechs and Slovaks established in 1918, has been one of the few countries in the world capable of manufacturing mechanical watches from individual parts, including the movement, to the final product. This is a survey of the highlights of Czech and Slovak **haute horlogerie**, both traditional and new.

BIATEC

Even though last year's Slovak newcomer Biatec has produced just two basic collections thus far, it has been enjoying extraordinary success. Each collection was introduced in several color varieties with a wide portfolio of straps. The range of Corsair aviator watches, whether with a central second hand or a subdial with smaller second markings, is based on the traditional attributes of aviator timepieces. Thus, it offers an oversized crown, which allows for an easy grip even when wearing gloves, a legible font with luminous numerals and, of course, big hands.



Czapek Genève

CZAPEK GENÈVE

Although based in Geneva, Switzerland, this brand has a pronounced Czech strain in its roots. Watchmaker Franciszek Czapek was born in Jaroměř, East Bohemia in 1811. However, as he was of Polish descent, he took part in the uprising against the then-Russian rule in Poland. After the uprising failed, he fled to Geneva, Switzerland, where he – by that time under the name Francois Czapek – founded the brand Patek, Czapek & Cie in 1839, in partnership with another Polish émigré, Antoni Patek. When he left a few years later, he focused on making pocket watches. The brand name Czapek was resurrected in 2011, and four years later, their first watch truly shocked critics with its aesthetic purity and an extraordinary preservation of original patterns. Their hot new product is the high-frequency Faubourg de Cracovie Grand Feu chronograph with a white enamel dial set in a steel casing.

PRIM MANUFACTURE 1949

Wrist watches have been manufactured in Nové Město nad Metují since the beginning of the 1950s. It's hardly surprising then that almost everybody in Bohemia is familiar with the Prim brand name. Their present-day production is rather different, though, as it tends to be more premium. In addition to traditional collections, the brand also offers unique pieces and special limited editions. One of the latter includes a range commemorating Václav Havel's 80th birthday, consisting of 136 items referring to 1936, when the first

president of the independent Czech Republic was born. This number was then divided into various pieces, some made of steel, some of gold and some in a combination of both.

ONDŘEJ BERKUS

This crown prince of Czech steam-punk takes great relish in making extravagant things. Many collectors of both wrist watches and unique pens and knives leave his studios in Moravian-Silesian Slatina elated. By merging blacksmithery with fine watchmaking, he breathes life into highly extraordinary models, whether made from



Prim Manufacture

HES OF CZECH LOVAK HERITAGE



Prokop & Brož



Ondřej Berkus

Damascus steel or, for instance, titanium. Each piece is unique – as is, for that matter, its future owner. It comes as no surprise that everything is custom-made – such as the pictured model made from DLC coated Damascus steel, with a strap sewn by the legendary Ondřej Šíma.

PROKOP & BROŽ

The paths of Jan Prokop and watchmaker Martin Brož crossed as far back as 2011. However, it wasn't until a year later that they executed their first joint project – a large clock counting down to the commencement

of Pilsner Urquell's 170th anniversary celebrations. It didn't take long for both gentlemen's minds to start turning over plans to launch a new production line of wrist watches – and that's exactly what they've been focusing on since that time. The defining characteristics of their watches, featured across all models in their portfolio, are, without a doubt, minimalism, restraint and clarity. One beautiful example of this is their rendition of Retrone Sun, a steel-made model utilizing a prominent retrograde minute hand, whose dial is topped by the hour hand, in the shape of a sunbeam above the horizon.

LUDEK SERYN

This watchmaker, originally from Mohelnice, found his haven in Prague's Vinohrady. He predominantly focuses on individualized custom production. Throughout his life's journey, he has worked his way through to making technical skeleton watches, into which he breathes life with a movement of his own design. The movement is mostly encased in gold, whose malleability in parallel with its highly exclusive nature are a real advantage. This is also apparent in the second generation of Round Skeleton. Its appearance is defined by its checkered "racing" dial, displaying just four basic Arabic numerals, for which new dagger-shaped hands were designed.

MOLNAR FABRY

Banská Bystrica in Slovakia is the home of the duo of Michal Molnár and Igor Fábry, where they also have their studio. This is where existing movements and cases are given an authentic feel through the skeletonizing of bridges by hand, ornamental engravings, and decoration with diamonds or other precious stones. We needn't mention that each piece is original, such as the golden Grand Master Skeleton, which took the pair more than 400 hours to make. In addition to the time spent on decorating the actual movement, a lot of time was also spent on setting the diamonds and emeralds, which came from Zambia.



Molnár Fábry

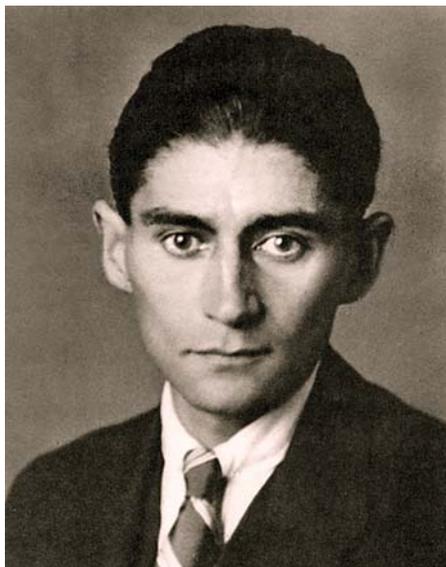
1918
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Not just Czechs as such, but also Czech Germans, Czech Jews and German Jews living in the Czech lands have made – and some are still making – their marks in the world. We cannot write about all of them here, but let us at least take a look at some of them. You may not have even realized until now that these people are linked to the Czech Republic in any way.



Almost everyone knows the legend of the Golem of Prague. According to legend, Golem was made out of clay by Prague rabbi **Jehuda Liva ben Becalel**, also known as Rabbi Löw, at the end of the 16th century, to protect the Jewish ghetto from Christians, who often attacked it. Even though we may have reasonable doubt as to the existence of Golem, who was, according to legend, located in the attic of the Old New Synagogue (entry into which has been forbidden since that time), his creator, Jehuda ben Becalel, was certainly real. During the reign of Rudolf II, he worked in Prague as the chief rabbi. Even though he spent only some of his life there, he is buried there and is always referred to in Jewish literature as the 'Prague Maharal'. Rabbi Liva, the Maharal, which means Our Teacher, was regarded in his time as a great scholar, and he left behind a great many volumes of remarkable works. His works have not yet been published in the Czech language. You'll find the Maharal's grave in the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague.

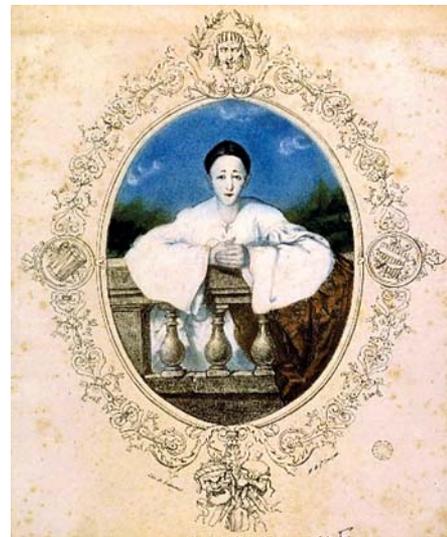
The name **Franz Kafka** is also inseparably linked with Prague, despite the fact that Kafka wrote exclu-



sively in German. He could speak Czech, though. In his letter to Milena Jesenská, his friend and first translator of his prose into Czech, he wrote in May 1920: 'I have never lived among Germans. German is my mother tongue and as such is much more natural to me, but I consider Czech to be much closer to my heart.' Kafka, who studied law, worked as an insurance clerk. However, he considered writing to be his main purpose in life, and had a hard time balancing it with working in the office. Nevertheless, he was a dedicated office worker. He was exceedingly critical of his own literary works, however. He only released a small portion of his writings for publication, and most of the time he was under extreme pressure. The majority of his works, which subsequently made him a household name worldwide, was published posthumously largely because his closest friend Max Brod did not respect Kafka's wishes to mercilessly burn all his manuscripts upon his death. Kafka, who died of tuberculosis in 1924, is buried alongside his parents in the New Jewish Cemetery in Prague's Žižkov. The famous mime and actor **Jean-Baptiste Gaspard Deburau** was not French, as you might be inclined to think. He was only half French – on his father's side, who was a former French soldier. His mother was

Czech. His real name was Jan Kašpar Debriö, alias Dvořák, and was born in Kolín in Bohemia. In 1812, he left for Paris with part of his family to perform, and he remained there. He became the star of commedia dell'arte in the Théâtre des Funambules. His performance of the famous Pierrot was especially regarded by contemporaneous critics as mesmerizing and breathtaking. Even Honoré de Balzac himself wrote about him at the

time. His art became an inspiration and model for subsequent generations. The 20th-century mime theatre also kept drawing from the legacy of his mastery. For instance, the famous Marcel Marceau and Ladislav Fialka adopted both his classic etudes (such as the Pierrot Statue) and scripts, such as The Ol' Clo's Man and Pierrot in Africa.



Few of you may have heard of **Alois Musil**, a Catholic priest, who is considered one of the greatest Orientalists and Arabists from the turn of the 20th century. He was nicknamed the Czech Lawrence of Arabia. During his travels, Musil, who was enamored with the Middle East, managed to enter places European travelers had never set foot before. He lived in individual Arabian tribes as

one of their own. In 1898, while he was exploring Jordan, he discovered extensive frescoes on the inside walls of the abandoned castle Qasr Amra, situated east of Amman. Contrary to Islamic tradition, the frescoes depict human figures. When he returned home from



CZECHS, WINTER

his first journey, nobody believed him, and some even called him a liar. He had only managed to take one picture, which he lost while he was running away from a feuding tribe's members. He thus had no proof whatsoever to support his claim. He set off to Amra again in May 1900, with the financial help of the wealthy circles in Vienna. This time he took more than one hundred documentary photographs. The results of this research in Amra gained Musil tremendous fame among his fellow scientists. But let us leave the past and look at our contemporaries, such as **Madeleine Albright**. This Czech became the historic first female United States Secretary of State. Born in Prague as Marie Jana Korbelová into a Jewish family, she was baptized and raised as a Catholic. In her own words, she only learnt of her Jewish roots after the Washington Post published an article that mentioned her

NEVER
grandparents and a few other relatives as victims of the Holocaust. She fled to the USA with her parents after the communist regime in Czecho-



slovakia took over in 1948. She was the US Secretary of State between 23 January 1997 and 20 January 2001. She also played an important role during NATO's first expansion into the former member states of the Eastern Bloc: the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary.

Martina Navrátilová, a Czech, who grew up in the small village of Řevnice near Prague, rose to the top of the tennis world. She emigrated to the USA in 1975 and became a US citizen in 1981. Between 1978 and 1987, she remained the world's number one for a total of 332 weeks, which is the second longest period of holding first place in the WTA rankings. She won a total of 59 Grand Slam tourna-

ments, 18 singles titles, 31 women's and 10 mixed doubles titles. She holds the absolute record for the number of tournaments won among all tennis players: 167 in singles and 177 in doubles. She is one of three female tennis players in history to win a complete set of Grand Slam titles in all four Grand Slam tournaments.

Miloš Forman, a two-time Oscar winner in the best director category for his films *One*

Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) and *Amadeus* (1984), was a Czech film director and screenwriter. Before 1968, he shot several successful motion



pictures in Czechoslovakia, which were characteristic of a biting and somewhat black-humored view of society. To his own surprise, the film *Black Peter* won the main award at the Locarno International Film Festival (film directors of highly renowned names, such as Michelangelo Antonioni and Jean-Luc Godard placed below Forman at the time). The film *The Firemen's Ball* was even nominated for an Oscar. Even though Forman's first US film, *Taking Off*, did win the first jury prize at the Cannes Film Festival, it was a box-office flop. Forman is considered one of the most remarkable Czech film directors – as well as



LOOK
one of the most remarkable US and international film directors – who enjoyed success with both viewers and film critics across the whole world.

Many Czechs have also established themselves in the field of science, and we owe many significant discoveries and inventions to them. For instance, **Gregor Johann Mendel**, a natural scientist and an abbot in Brno's Augustinian monastery, discovered the basic principles of genetics. He conducted cross-breeding experiments with pea plants, and based on that, he formulated three principles which later became known as the Mendelian Laws of Inheritance. However, his contribution to biology was not recognized until after his death.

You are surely convinced that the lightning conductor was invented by the world-renowned Benjamin Franklin. It so happens, however, that **Václav Prokop Diviš**, a Czech Catholic priest, natural scientist, healer, musician and inventor, constructed his 'weather machine' that worked like a lightning conductor in 1754, before Franklin did. Franklin's lightning conductor only emerged in 1760. In addition, Diviš's conductor worked better because it was grounded. In 1922, the Czech physical chemist **Jaroslav Heyrovský** discovered polarography, which is a method of analysis used to determine the presence and concentration of unknown substances in solutions. We will not bother you with the details, as the chemists among you are in the know anyway, and there are plenty of other resources for those who would like to learn more about it. What is important is that for his discovery, Jaroslav Heyrovský received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1959.

Otto Wichterle's invention is used by millions of people across the world today: gel contact lenses. What is interesting is the fact that because the then Minister of Health stopped his research in this field due to insufficient effectiveness, Wichterle carried on with his research at home, where he achieved successful results. At the end of 1961, he managed to prove that good quality contact lenses can be produced at minimal cost using the method of centrifugal casting of a monomer mixture into spinning molds. His first device for making contact lenses was an apparatus built using a children's construction set, Merkur – first with a bicycle dynamo serving as a small motor, and later with a record player motor.



LUXURY BRANDS

CZECH



Exquisite craftsmanship, original design, emphasis on paramount quality: these are Czech luxury brands. While some of them boast more than 100 years of tradition, others have been born out of the Czech creative spirit only recently.

PRECIOSA

This Czech crystal glass producer has developed out of the centuries-long glassmaking tradition in Jablonec nad Nisou. You'll find Preciosa's unique lighting projects in luxury hotels, royal palaces and mansions, and aboard yachts. Crystal, a perfectly clear glass, is a traditional Czech product. Thanks to its hardness, crystal can be easily cut, to achieve maximum brilliance.

www.preciosa.com

TONAK

It's no exaggeration to say that Tonak hats are worn all over the world. The product range is very wide, from luxury hats, top hats, bowlers and fedoras to fezzes and berets. Tonak products

are manufactured from premium-quality natural materials, such as wool or cotton. One of Tonak's brands is Hückel, named after Jan Nepomuk Hückel, who established a hatmaker's in Nové Jičín in 1799 – the predecessor of the current company.

www.tonak.cz

FESTKA

This Czech manufacturer of high-quality, handmade bespoke road bicycles was established by former racer Michael Moureček. After retiring, he was on the lookout for that perfect bike but couldn't find it. So he built one himself. The frames are made of carbon, titanium or steel. Each bike is unique, including the original graphic design, and is tai-

lored to the customer's body measurements. Want some parts of your bike to match the colour of your car or your watch face? It's no problem. Festka can do even that for you.

www.festka.com

MIKOV

This Czech knife manufacturer has a history stretching back to 1794 and is based in Mikulášovice in the northernmost corner of Bohemia. Mikov manufactures high-quality knives for hunters, fishermen, artisans, and butchers, as well as a range of pocket, army and special knives, including bespoke items.

www.mikov.cz

TON

In 1861, a plant producing bentwood furniture was opened in Bystřice pod Hostýnem and today is one of the oldest in the world. It was no coincidence that founder Michael Thonet, who gave the company its name, chose this location surrounded by beech forests: beechwood has ideal functional qualities for bentwood furniture. Ton products, which are manufactured in the town, are exported all over the world, from America to Australia.

www.ton.eu

ŽUFÁNEK

Established in 2000, this family-run distillery makes spirits from fruit grown in its orchards in accordance with all organic farming regulations. Žufánek also produces herbal-based spirits and premium original gins, often in limited editions, and has become a global leader in premium absinthe.

www.zufanek.cz



LASVIT

Focusing on the design, development and custom-made manufacturing of lights and glass installations, this relatively new company has offices all around the world. You can admire its products in the communal spaces of major hotel chains, casinos and palaces. Lasvit glass installation, for instance, enhances the Dubai metro and the Etihad Tower hotel. On several occasions Lasvit has also produced the cup for the winner of the Tour de France, the world's most challenging road bicycle race.

www.lasvit.com

MOSER

A Czech manufacturer of luxury beverage sets, home accessories and engravings from lead-free glass. Moser was established by engraver and businessman Ludwig Moser in Karlovy Vary in 1857. In 1875, the company became a supplier to Emperor Franz Josef I, and later to Persian Shah Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar and British King Edward VII. In



his role of the company's technical and art director between 1908 and 1932, Leo Moser introduced decoration techniques that are now typical of the brand: cut edges, etched and gilded designs, and the use of distinctive colours.

www.moser-glass.com

BOHEMIAN GARNET

Bohemian garnet is a translucent or even transparent dark-red jewel ideal for creating unique jewellery. Ranging from two to six millimetres in size, the stones shine and glitter beautifully when arranged in larger ensembles. The combination of Bohemian garnet with other Bohemian stone – moldavite – has recently been gaining in popularity.

www.granat.cz

PILSNER URQUELL

First produced by brewer Josef Groll on 5 October 1842, Pilsner Urquell's flagship beer and the king of all Pilsner beers is a bottom-fermented lager (4.4% alcohol). At the Plzeň-based brewery, you can watch beer being brewed or visit the Brewery Museum. In 2018, Pilsner Urquell delivered its Easter lager, blessed by František Radkovský, Bishop of Plzeň, to Pope Francis at the Vatican.

www.prazdroj.cz

KOH-I-NOOR HARDTMUTH

Pencils, pastels, paints and other artists' supplies will help you turn your creative ideas into reality. They also make excellent gifts for your friends and family. Established by Josef Hardtmuth in 1790 in Vienna, the company later moved to České Budějovice. Koh-i-noor Hardtmuth is one of the world's leading producers of high-quality art, school and office supplies. The company's pencils have picked up numerous awards at major exhibitions.

www.koh-i-noor.eu

PETROF

Europe's largest manufacturer of grand pianos and upright pianos exports these instruments to more than 65 countries all over the world. Since 1864, when Antonín Petrof built his first piano, the company has made over 630,000 instruments and many more under other brands of the Petrof family. Petrof pianos are popular among musicians for their extraordinarily soft, tender and romantic sound. Many famous pianists have played on Petrof instruments.

www.petrof.cz

BUDWEISER BUDVAR

The brewery, based in České Budějovice produced its first batch on 7 October 1895, following a local beer-making tradition going back to the 13th century. The flagship brand, Budweiser Budvar, is a lager with a 5.0% alcohol volume, a light to medium bitterness, and matures in up to 90 days. The visitor centre in České Budějovice offers entertaining and educational programme at the brewery, and a multimedia show on the history of beer making.

www.budejovickybudvar.cz

BECHEROVKA

Produced in Carlsbad, this traditional Czech herbal liqueur is concocted using local water, premium spirits, natural sugar and a secret mixture of herbs. It contains no artificial additives. Most of the herbs come from the



Czech Republic but some from exotic destinations. Becherovka is served as an apéritif or digestif, and in cocktails and hot drinks. Invented by businessman Josef Vitus Becher (1769-1840), the first Becherovka (under the name of "English Bitter") was sold in 1807 as a medicinal drink. Josef's son Jan Becher significantly contributed to the expansion of the company.

www.becherovka.com



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THE UNDYING ART OF MAKING A GOBELIN

Modern Gobelin tapestries differ only slightly from their precious predecessors. Even today, leading artists design them, and just like in the old days, it requires human hands to weave the coloured design weft by weft into the warp.

Nothing has changed in this manufacturing process taking place in the Moravian Gobelin Manufactory in Valašské Meziříčí for the past 120 years.

The painter Rudolf Schlattauer founded a small Gobelin workshop in the nearby village of Zašová in 1898. Tapestries, room dividers and upholstery, which were made according to his design, soon attracted interest, and thus in 1908, the state-funded Provincial Gobelin and Carpet School was founded in Valašské

Meziříčí – the first of its kind in central Europe. Schlattauer remained its head until his death in 1915. Part of the school was also a Gobelin workshop. The school operated until the Second World War, after which the subjects of study were taken up by other specialized schools. Despite all sorts of predicaments, the Gobelin manufacturing facility is still running today, mostly to the credit of its current head, Jan Timotej Strýček. Gobelin weaving is a very time-consuming, and therefore a very expensive art form. Its price can be many times higher than that of the original painting. Because the days when Gobelins were commissioned by the church or aristocrats to adorn their sumptuous palaces are naturally long gone, it takes a great deal of enthusiasm and love of the craft to make these products continue to prosper, as well as preserve the Gobelin art form for the future.

A Gobelin is more than just a picture transferred onto fabric. It is an original art form, with several people collaborating on its inception: the art designer creates the design, the cartoonist re-creates it to make it suitable for a tapestry, and then the Gobelin weavers set to work. The weavers must be skilled in their craft and have an eye for both colour and design. You cannot be taught this anywhere – it takes the Gobelin weavers ten to twenty years to master this specialized form of art. The Gobelin weavers sit at the endless warp threads, choose from among hundreds of shades and piece together yarn consisting of several colours. Then they begin to weave weft by weft, working up from the bottom, without actually being able to see their work while creating it, since a Gobelin is worked on from its underside. The more threads, the more precise the pattern. For instance, some baroque Gobelins had eighty or more threads weaved next to each other every ten centimetres. The production facility does more than just make new original Gobelins, though. It also has a long tradition of restoring them. Wool and especially





silk thread reacts to changes in humidity and air pollution, and over time they tend to disintegrate. Restoration is often more time-consuming than weaving a new piece, especially in those cases

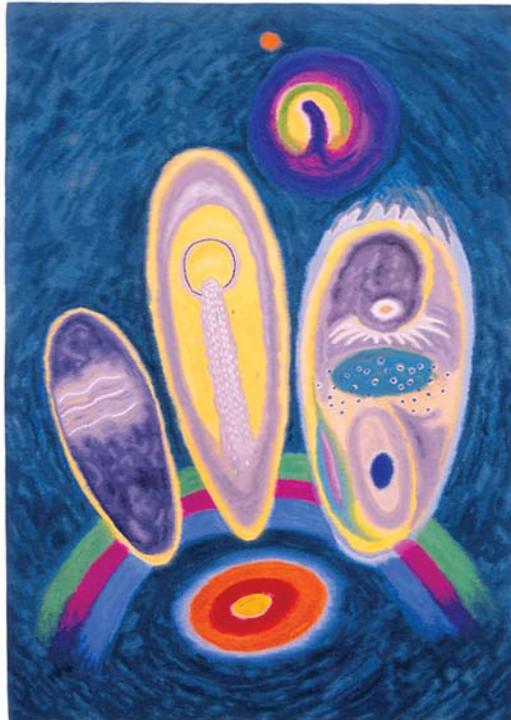
where the Gobelin has been damaged by previous restoration attempts. While nobody entrusts a precious painting to a restorer whose qualities they are not one hundred per cent sure about, it just

often is not the case with Gobelins. So, for example, a renaissance Gobelin from Telč Chateau – bearing signs of very careless attempts at restoration – had to be saved in Valašské Meziříčí.

The production facility has a decades-long tradition of hand-weaving kilims and loop carpets. Since they are designed for each client and each location individually, customers can choose from among various designs created specifically for their interior. Among the remarkable works created in the Moravian Gobelin production facility is, for instance, a replica of a carpet designed by Dušan Jurkovič, a significant Slovak representative of Art Nouveau architecture and a furniture designer. The carpet, which had originally been placed in the hall of Jurkovič's villa in Brno, was lost for good, with only a black and white photograph of it surviving. Today, the villa is open to the public, and visitors can admire the carpet in its original beauty.

There is a wonderful atmosphere in the present-day production workshops. The workshops are long rooms containing weaving looms, desks, frames – all of which are enormous in size, as the pieces that are created here are usually very





large. You can find machinery here that goes back to the beginning of the manufacturing process, and they are now pieces of working antique technology. As we mentioned earlier, modern equipment has no application in this kind of art. You can see with your own eyes how each piece is created in the workshops thanks to a unique programme called the Living Museum of Gobelins. It's exceptional in that you don't just look at the exhibits, but more importantly, you can see how the pieces emerge under the hands of the Gobelin weavers. Here, not only will you see how a Gobelin is

made or how carpet knots are tied, but you can touch and try many things for yourself. An hour-long tour, which is not dependent on the number of visitors – both small and large groups of interested people may attend – ends in the Schlattauer Cafe, part of which is a gallery. In this gallery, contemporary fabric artworks made according to designs by leading Czech art designers are showcased, as are carpets and Gobelins from the beginning of the twentieth century. If you'd like to try having a go at making something, there is an antique kilim loom and Gobelin loom you can use.

The pieces made in the Valašské Meziříčí Gobelin production facility are regularly showcased in both domestic and foreign exhibitions; they also adorn private and state representative interiors. You can find theatre curtains, made here on a unique ten-metre hand weaving loom, in many theatres in the Czech Republic, as well as abroad. If you ever find yourself in Moravia, be sure to visit Valašské Meziříčí and its Gobelin production facility. It's well worth seeing for yourself how the beauty arises in its entirety.



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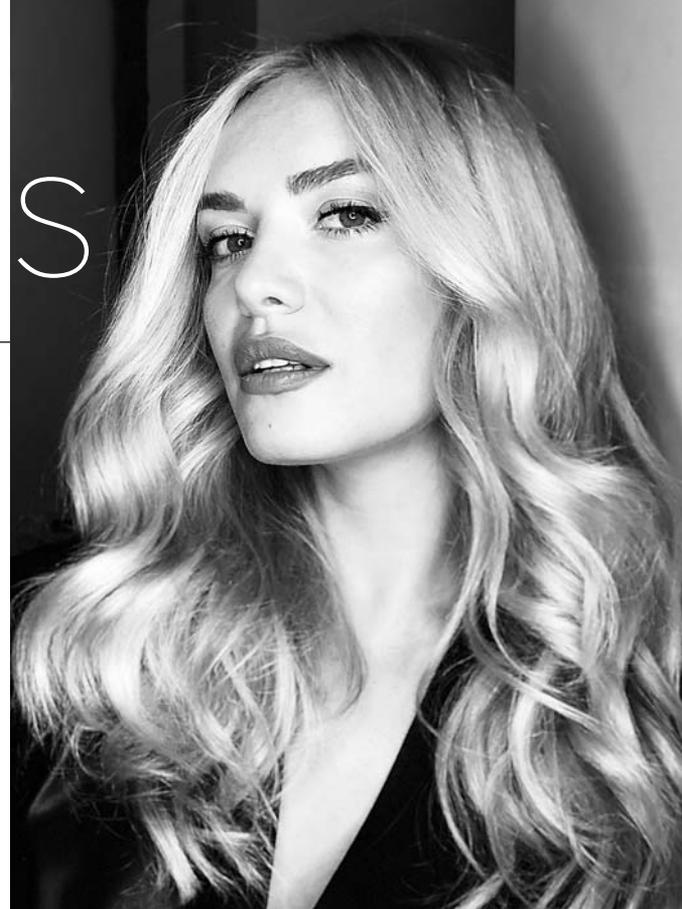
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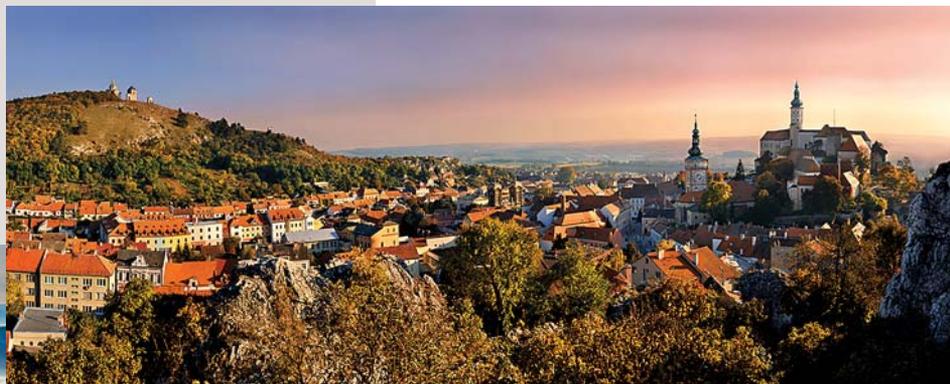
premium picks



Tařana G. Brzobohatř,

former Miss World and founder of Beauty of Help foundation that helps the elderly live a dignified life in their own homes with professional care, has traveled the world during her successful career of top model star, actress, and member of the WNYLE Council of Women Leaders. These are some of the places back home in the Czech Republic she recommends as one of the Ambassadors of *Czech and Slovak Century* project patronaged by Czech Tourist Authority – CzechTourism.

1 BESKYDY MOUNTAINS – Hills, meadows, deep forests and breathtaking nature: the Beskydy Mountains. Region connecting the Czech Republic with Slovakia that has an absolutely unmistakable character, invites for walks and hikes, for skiing or attending numerous food festivals and other events.



2 MIKULOV – Town in a region we call the Czech Tuscany. I love the local wine and food and make sure I visit every first weekend in June for my favorite Gourmet Festival. The beautiful nature and a castle on the hill above the town add to Mikulov's extraordinary atmosphere.

3 HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ – It is a great student city where I had been studying too. This vivid town full of young people, excellent bars and restaurants is one of the best Czech places to live in. I love the Elbe waterfront teeming with life, but also the city forests and the city's environs.



4 OPOČNO – I grew up in this town, I spent my childhood here. It is a magnificent place with rich history. I love to come back often to take a ride on my bike, visit the numerous monuments or hike in the nearby Orlické Mountains.



Hotel Savoy



Offering our guests the services and amenities of their dreams is the Savoy's first and foremost concern. Not least because of the exceptional location of this hotel, you will indeed feel like you are living the dream: Hotel Savoy lies smack in the middle of the most beautiful historical monuments of Prague, which are entered on the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage sites.



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We will gladly meet with you at our hotel, taking all the time you need to go through our rooms and conference facilities, one by one. Over a cup of fine coffee, we'll discuss your wishes and requirements in detail, and work together to prepare a comprehensive arrangement, making sure that you'll always feel comfortable at the Savoy. It is our greatest wish to see you leave with a smile of satisfaction on your face, so that having earned your trust, we may look forward to future visits. Our outstanding team will be at your beck and call throughout your stay/your event, and will take care of your every need. Thanks to their many years of experience, they'll give you spot-on advice and recommendations that are perfectly geared toward your needs and interests!

Dana Trnková
F&B executive

&

Petr Patočka
Executive Chef



The fully-refurbished Hradčany atrium restaurant, with its glazed, retractable roof, exudes an unforgettable atmosphere, while the Savoy's lounge, with its patio, affords a gorgeous view of Prague, centered on Strahov Monastery and Petřín Hill. Both restaurant and lounge are fully integrated parts of the hotel, and are a perfect option for your conferences, trainings, weddings, and other private or business meetings and events. We are confident you will be impressed by our 'Anglo-Saxon Library' – the most popular social room that we have to offer, on account of its exceptional, spacious interior.



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