

WARSAW Insider

The Capital's Original City Magazine Since 1996



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Take me to the river!

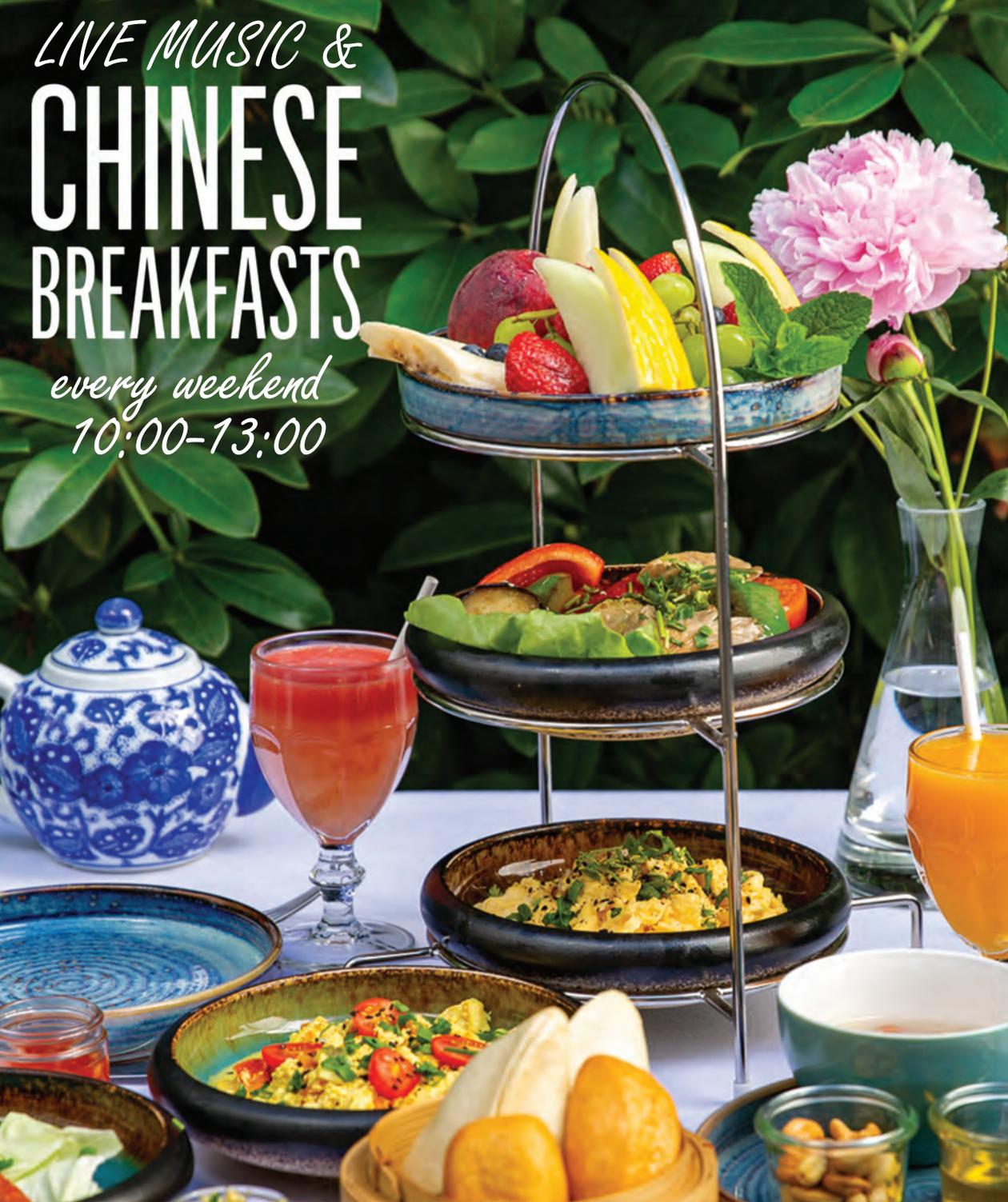
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HELLO NORMALITY? Don't be stupid. For all the talk of returning 'back to normal', it's worth remembering that there's not one thing about Warsaw that can actually be termed normal. If you needed a reminder of that, then you had the weather in June: freak-out orange skies and clouds that looked like bubble wrap. Looking upwards, you wondered who'd spiked your coffee. Surreal as it was, it wasn't a patch on the works of Tytus Brzozowski: this issue, we take a seat with the city's favorite artist. And he's not the only cultural heavyweight we've rubbed shoulders with: also in this edition, we speak to the country's premier architectural critic, Grzegorz Piątek, about his best-selling books and the changing face of Warsaw. Of course, there's more: the yarn-bombing of Praga and a homeless Jesus have also found their place in and among these pages, as too has the river – inside, we present our love letter to it. Have fun, blah, blah...

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PHOTOGRAPH THIS PAGE BY ED WIGHT. COVER PHOTO BY KEVIN DEMARIA

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Weekend Francuski vol.4



09-10-11.07
Hala Gwardii

le fromage



le coq

le tire -
bouchon

le vin

la tour Eiffel

Paris



les couverts

la baguette

le croissant



A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

FRENCH CUISINE | FRENCH MUSIC CONCERTS

WINE TASTING | FRENCH SPECIALTIES | FRENCH BEER

Celebrate with us

**July 9, 10 and 11th
in Hala Gwardii – French Weekend**

Each year, on July 14th, the French celebrate the country's biggest holiday. As tradition dictates, elegant celebrations are organized in towns and villages across the nation featuring balls and fireworks with the Champs Elysees set aside for a ceremonial parade featuring the country's land and air forces. That is how the French traditionally commemorate the storming of the Bastille in 1789, and this year it is our honor to invite you to join us and partake in this historic event.

Meet & Join the French Ambassador to Poland in raising a toast to the French Revolution on Saturday, July 10 at 15.00.

Hala Gwardii

Pl. Żelaznej Bramy 1

For details, see: facebook.com/halagwardii



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In brief



PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN DEMARIA

CITY NEWS

All Things Great & Small

In Warsaw, monumental changes are afoot...

Better Late Than Never

Six years after it was due to be completed, a monument honoring Solidarity's pivotal role in the fall of Communism has finally been unveiled at the junction of Kopernika and Świętokrzyska.

Created following a campaign by Janusz K. Dorosiewicz (previously credited as the driving force behind monuments to Ronald Reagan and footballer Kazimierz Deyna), the project depicts the iconic **Solidarność logo** slashing through a recovered chunk of the Berlin Wall.



In brief

The Art of Giving

A cloaked figure of **Jesus** sleeping rough on a bench has appeared outside the Capuchin Monastery on Miodowa 13. Created by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz, a devotee Catholic, the work is identical to around 100 sculptures created by him and found in locations as far afield as Washington, Singapore and the Vatican. Made from bronze, the location is by no means coincidental – across Warsaw, the monastery is famed for its work with the homeless community as well as for its daily soup kitchen serving 600 meals per day.



Uprising Hill Revised

Work is underway to transform Warsaw's iconic **Uprising Mound**. Created from tons of war rubble, and measuring 35-meters in height, many viewed it as being a symbolic 'tomb'. Now, however, plans are afoot to lend the landmark a new lease of life and, in the process, make it more user-friendly. Included in this is the creation of a park featuring raised treetop walkways as well as the introduction of a reliquary containing items discovered during Warsaw's post-war clear-up. Additionally, the Kotwica – the anchor-shaped emblem of the rebellion – will be moved to make way for a two-tier viewing platform cut into the hill. Designed by Archigrest, the projected should be completed by mid-Autumn of 2022.

PHOTOGRAPHS LEFT: ARCHIGREST, ABOVE: BY KEVIN DEMARIA, OPPOSITE PAGE: PRESS MATERIAL



URBAN PLANNING

Street Smart

Announced in June by City Hall, a winning design has been selected that will forever alter **Chmielna...**



As actions to transform Warsaw's city center gather pace, Chmielna looks next to be in line for an overdue facelift. Currently noted for its shuttered stores, graffiti squiggles and littered, barren spaces, the street has long been overlooked in the campaign to glorify the center. Now, that stands to change after plans drawn up by RS Architektura Krajobrazu were revealed.

"The concrete square will disappear and instead two brand new squares and plenty of greenery will appear," said Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski at a

press conference last month. "We want to create a friendly space in the heart of the city in which people actually want to spend time."

Already well-regarded for completed projects that include the riverfront boulevards as well as improvements to Świętokrzyska street, RS Architektura Krajobrazu envision the creation of a green urban oasis outside the Atlantic Cinema building, an area that has traditionally been better known for its broken concrete and shouty, late-night atmosphere – a product of a largely disastrous 90s campaign to renovate the street.

Humanizing this section through the addition of trees, street furniture and ambient lighting, the approach will be extended up and down the street. Moreover, with environmental concerns remaining a burning issue, so-called rain gardens will also be introduced to "strengthen the city's resilience to climate change".

Careful not to "obliterate our perception" of the actual street, consideration will further be awarded to the height of the trees to ensure that the architectural merit of the tenements that line Chmielna is in no way diluted. 





PUBLIC ART

Bombs Away

Praga gets yarn bombed!

In an area well-known for its community actions and spontaneous outbreaks of street art, June saw the yarn bombing of nearly 40 bollards positioned on Praga's Kawęczyńska street. Led by an NGO called The Michałów Society (Praskie Stowarzyszenie Mieszkańców "Michałów"), the action began last year when a diverse range of locals volunteered to knit covers during online work-

shops conducted at the peak of the lockdown. Premiering at the start of summer, the patterns included winged angels and smiley faces, not to mention cheeky gnomes, pizza wedges and a top-hatted witch. Temporarily removed in mid-June to allow for repairs to the tramline, the colorful installations returned later that same month, complete with two replacement covers to take the place of those that had been previously stolen.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SYLWESTER KLIMIUK



What Is It!?

Often described as a sub-genre of street art, yarn bombing originated in the States when – according to some sources – a group of Texas knitters sought to find a creative way to get shot of their leftover materials: hey presto, yarn bombing was born. Sometimes dubbed ‘graffiti knitting’, the practice will typically see street furni-

ture or installations covered in crocheted patterns. Something of a global phenomenon, some of the more famous examples include the yarn bombing of a tank outside Dresden’s Military Museum, the covering of Pittsburgh’s Warhol Bridge, as well as the knitted blanketing of the Wall Street bull by the Polish artist Olek. [↗](#)



The Eye of the Beholder

This month, we catch up with the country's foremost architectural critic, **Grzegorz Piątek**, to talk about his best-selling books as well as the changing face of Warsaw...

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAKUB CELEJ





WI: Your love for the city is obvious – but when did it begin? I'm guessing way before loving Warsaw became 'fashionable'!

GP: I can actually pinpoint the moment! I was six and received a present from some friends of my parents: it was a book about the monuments of Warsaw, and whilst I'm sure the choice was purely incidental, it captured my imagination straight away. I didn't really understand it, but I was gripped – to the point that I made my parents take me around the city finding them all!

Your book about the city's reconstruction, *Najlepsze miasto świata*, has been phenomenally successful – what was it that struck such a chord with the public?

I think a lot of that came down to the fact it provided another narrative about the city. Traditionally, the way we think about the city has always focused on its destruction and the suffering. Though that has an important place in history, the story of Warsaw's rebirth is something that we should be really proud of – it's a very positive story that I think had been under-represented.

The title alone is pretty high impact...

That wasn't a slogan I invented – it was actually a quote from an article published in 1946 back when the rebuilding project was first made public. I think it conveyed the ambition of the planners. In many ways, I find that it's this ambition that is missing a little nowadays. We don't have enough courage to strive for the best. We're trying to forecast the future, but what we should be doing is envisaging it and shaping it ourselves.

Your latest book, *Niezniszczalny*, feels like a natural progression of the first and focuses on Bohdan Pniewski, one of the architects that played such a huge role in Warsaw's revival. What drew you to him?

He was a fascinating person, though he remains largely unknown outside of the architectural milieu. When he was practicing from the 30s to the 60s, he was the most famous architect in Poland, and I think what I found really compelling was how he was able to remain a favourite of such differing regimes. He regained his status after the war to build the Sejm, the National Opera, the National Bank HQ, various ministries and the Polish Radio HQ.

What is Pniewski's legacy – how should we view him with the benefit of hindsight?

I can't praise him enough as an architect. His use of materials was excellent, and that's especially true when you look at his expertise with stone. He was also very conscious of designing interior spaces, ensuring they were well-scaled throughout. Further, the level of craftsmanship was incredibly high. His buildings were built to last, and I think it speaks for itself that successive users have taken such good care of his buildings.

He was also quite controversial though?

Yes. Politically, he's a bit more ambiguous. He was very discreet about his own political views, and that's definitely one of the reasons he was able to keep in favor. What I discovered during my research was that he was very much a pro-Catholic nationalist, things that make him quite questionable by today's standards.



Interview

Also, he was very elitist in his world view – in his view, society was about The Elite and The Rest – he only wanted to design for the former. There was never any interest in pursuing a social agenda, solving the housing crisis or improving everyday lives.

How was he able to play the system so well?

Firstly, he was a hellishly talented architect. On top of that, he had a flair for monumental architecture, and that style was appreciated by both pre- and post-war regimes. By 1945, his prestige was so considerable that it was the government that courted him, not vice versa. It helped that he was charming – people liked him.

A social butterfly?

A universal truth about architecture is that it's not institutions that commission a project, but specific people – so yes, a lot depends on the contacts you keep. In Pniewski's case, he was an avid hunter that often went hunting with all the important people of his era. He struck a lot of deals that way. In today's terms, it'd be the equivalent of mixing in an executive box at a big match or going golfing in the right place.

What can we learn from the past?

We need to be more ambitious. To reach for the stars. It's not a Warsaw problem though, but rather a global one – architects and planners have become less powerful, and as such their work is more constrained than it was in the mid-20th century when their status was far more high profile. In those days, politicians would look up to them and listen. We need more of that.

On the subject of 'the new', where do you stand on what's happening currently in Warsaw – for instance, the skyscrapers?

I'm not opposed to them, put it that way. It's a good thing they're being built principally in one area, and they do make the city's skyline look good. I like that they point out the city's business district. Taken on their own, I don't see a huge amount of individual merit, but that's the nature of commercial architecture – it doesn't need to be great.

“We need to be more ambitious. To reach for the stars”

Thinking specifically, after all the hype there's more than just a few people that have been left a little underwhelmed by the Varso Tower...

Well, that was also the same with Złota 44. There was a lot of excitement when people saw the plans, then disappointment with the reality. I didn't have high hopes for the Varso Tower, but I don't find it distasteful or anything – it's just average. But

I understand that. When you're building such a tower there's so many factors to consider: functional, structural, environmental, safety, etc. Artistic ambition becomes just another factor. It's not the same as building a small house for a private client or a public building with a specific function. In those cases, you can really get creative, but when you're building a big machine for office work you just can't get too sophisticated.

What are your fears for Warsaw?

It's not just about Warsaw, but the whole the country – the housing market is too inflated. There's not enough public housing; the rental market is wild and unregulated. This is bad for cities as it creates zones of luxury housing that cuts the rest of us off from whole sections of a city. It bothers me that we face hyper-gentrification in many of our major cities.

Is there a neighborhood you really can't get enough of?

Śródmieście Południowe – it's got an interesting mix of turn-of-the-century architecture, PRL buildings as well as all the things that make modern Warsaw so exciting: restaurants, stores, etc. Sure, it's been partially gentrified, but not yet to the max. It's a supremely 'liveable' part of the city.

Whenever you speak to architects though, they often complain about the city's disorganized nature – surely a case in point is Śródmieście Południowe?

Architects dream about making cities as uniform as possible – but I believe you need room for unpredictability as that makes

cities lively and better to live in. Having consistent architecture looks better on paper than it does in reality.

You mentioned gentrification earlier – what are your thoughts on all the industrial/historic landmarks that are being revived as mixed use projects?

These spaces are a paradox. They allude to the past and the local character of an area, but in reality they're very globalized – you could be anywhere in the world. Personally speaking, I'm not convinced by them as I find them over-planned and over-designed. In the long-run though, I can't see them all surviving – the concepts will evolve and the formulas will change as they adapt to changing demands. My big concern now are the market-places at Gwardii and Mirowska. These are authentic places, and I'd be upset if they were turned into something else.

On a brighter note, what positives have you seen?

I love that Warsaw is taking more care of its greenery – it's one of the biggest assets of our city and an important legacy of the reconstruction. Everyone laughed when the Mayor promised to plant a million trees, but after two years the policy has really started to have an effect.

Lastly, is there an area you tip for greatness?

The lockdown enabled me to really explore the city and I loved discovering Bielany. It's got a great vibe with some brilliant cafes, some lovely architecture and lots of parks. It doesn't feel as dense as other districts, either. As an area, I think it's time will certainly come. 



Interview



The latest exhibition views the Polish connections to 12 international cities through the surreal eye of Tytus Brzozowski. Clockwise from top left: Dresden, Lviv, Vienna and London.



IMAGES COURTESY OF TYTUS BRZOZOWSKI

KEEP IT SURREAL!

Regarded as one of Poland's favorite contemporary painters, **Tytus Brzozowski** talked about his work and his latest exhibition...

WI: Even people with next to no affinity with the arts love your work – what's the secret?

TB: Firstly, I'm really pleased to hear that! I've always wanted my paintings to work on two levels – first, for people to simply enjoy them. On that front, I think it's helped that they're colorful, intense, and present cheerful scenes. Secondly, I've always wanted them to have a more hidden and substantive value that creates a wider story. That concept appears to work.

When did you first 'find' your style?

Throughout my studies I had the thought to transform the urban spaces depicted in my architectural drawings in accordance with my own imagination. I took a step closer to this in 2009 when I painted a giant spider standing in between buildings; at the time, I was captivated by the idea of a seemingly harmonious scene disrupted by such a large and surreal element. Two-years later I painted a picture of teapots floating above Warsaw's Old Town and something just changed inside me. Since then, I've been painting continuously, adding in things like flying tenements, pianos or trams running in between buildings.

How have you developed your style?

Over the years the topics I deal

with have evolved. Moreover, I'm constantly working on improving my painting technique. I've enriched my color palette, and whilst my paintings have retained the same kind of atmosphere, you can easily distinguish my newer works from my older ones.

What's does your painting process involve?

It all starts with hundreds of quick sketches which I imagine would be pretty incomprehensible to most people. They're like my own secret language and I use these to work through an idea and figure out the composition. After, I prepare a final black and white drawing on A4 – from that moment, the layout of the buildings or the shading won't change. Next, I prepare the drawing on a final, large sheet of paper. I use hard pencil, so it's quite a laborious process. The final stage is the most important – and also the most satisfying – and involves adding the colors.

Your latest exhibition is the result of your cooperation with Instytut Polonika during which you painted 12 international cityscapes and referenced their Polish connections. Can you expand on these a little?

For instance, in the painting of Paris I've introduced the figure of Paul Landowski – a sculptor whose most famous work is Christ the Redeemer in Rio.

For Dresden, I chose to recall traces of the former Polish-Saxon personal union, whilst for Lviv I lifted the buildings into the clouds to show how dearly Poles continue to hold this city in their hearts.

Any surprises in the course of your research?

It was a big and serious project; as part of it, I visited many new places and also discovered lots of new things about cities I already thought I was familiar with. Before preparing each painting I'd meet the institute's team for hours so I could learn as much as possible about the towns and their Polish elements. In Dresden, for example, I learned that Bernardo Bellotto (a.k.a. Canaletto) – whose paintings of Warsaw remain so famous – only ended up in the city after King Stanisław August Poniatowski stopped him on his way to St. Petersburg.

I also learned about a Polish spy by the name of Kulczycki. As a reward for his work, he asked King Sobieski for the sacks of strange grains that the King had seized. These turned out to be coffee beans and it was with these that Kulczycki opened Vienna's first coffee shop.

We can't avoid mentioning your murals and the one by Wschodnia station is arguably the best to date! Anything we should know?



Interview

It's of particular importance to me due to its sheer scale – it's over 60-meters in height. It's definitely an interesting feeling seeing such a large mural peering over the roofs of the surrounding tenements. It's worth mentioning, as well, that it was painted using anti-smog paint that decomposes nitrogen oxide – the mural has the effect of 650 trees.

While we've got you, explain the lotto balls that appear in the mural!

The mural was designed on the request of Totalizator Sportowy – this was one of their ways of celebrating the firm's 65th birthday. That's why their signature yellow lotto balls appear, and also why you'll find a basketball and badminton player, a footballer and a pianist in the mix – those are all pursuits supported by the brand.

Finally, what next...

I've got some murals due for Wola, with one of them very different from previous projects because it'll take up three walls – furthermore, I had to integrate a window into the image which was quite a challenge. As for the exhibition, when that closes in Warsaw on July 13th we're going to tour the world with the paintings: shows are planned in Chicago, London, Vilnius, St. Petersburg, Lviv and Rapperswil. I'm hopeful that we'll prepare a mural based on the series in one of these cities.

Twelve Cities Exhibition by Tytus Brzozowski

Where: Biegasa Gallery
(Al. Jerozolimskie 51)

Date: Ongoing till July 13th







Get Me To The River!

As summer reaches its apex, we bring you our essential rundown of what to see – and do – on Warsaw's Wisła river

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN DEMARIA



Glimpse... The Future

Seen as a shiny, strange orb, find a time capsule sitting on the river's boulevards until the end of this month. Scheduled to be opened in ten years' time – and thereafter in 25-year intervals – possibly the bigger point of interest are the wacky historic predictions that flank the object. Taken from some of the biggest names in science and literature, these depict all manner of funky flying contraptions and oddball inventions that never made it past the imaginary stage.

“
A cross between the Loch Ness Monster, the wriggly creature found on the river bank is Ślizg

Shoot... A Sea Monster

Seemingly a cross between a serpent and the Loch Ness Monster, the mysterious wriggly creature peering out from the dense vegetation just north of Most Gdański is, actually, some-



thing called Ślizg. Unveiled in 2015 by artist Maurycy Gomułicki, it's one of Warsaw's weirder oddities. "Eerie yet sensual," explains the artist, "the dynamics of Ślizg are set to the rhythm of the water flowing north... I hope Ślizg will be scar-

ing and seducing pedestrians long after my soul is roaming the Elysian Fields."

Soak... Up The Neon

Ceremonially lit in front of a crowd of 100,000 people on June 21, 2014, the neon sign attached to Most

Gdański won a competition to 'find a new neon for Warsaw'. Not without controversy (the original winner was disqualified for cheating), the contest was organized by Praga's Neon Muzeum with the eventual winner (artist Mariusz

Lewczyk) earning praise for his positive message – today, it's one of the city's best-loved neons. But is it the only one on the Wisła? Of course it bloody well isn't. For more, check out the trio of paper boats hung from underneath Świętokrzyski

Bridge, the iconic Muzeum sign that crowns the Museum of Modern Art or any number of the food and drink points that line the riverside. For the biggest light extravaganza of them all, however, point your camera towards the National



Feature



Stadium. Lit up in the colors of the Polish flag, it's an awesome sight come darkness.

Take... The Stairs

Completed in 1959, the two-level Most Gdański is looked upon by critics as one of the unsung engineer-

ing triumphs of Warsaw. Largely, that's thanks to an entrancing spiral staircase that's become a favored photographic backdrop for 'Just Married' couples returning from church. And if you've got a thing for stairwells (hell, who doesn't!?), then

the extravagant stone stairwells that run beneath Most Poniatowskiego are absolutely imperious. Final word, though, goes to the terraced steps that line much of the left side of the river – on these, a sneaky beer with friends has

become a local rite of passage.

Pose... For A Selfie

Attention all Instagrammers! If you're searching for something punchy to wow your followers with, then look no further than Most Gdański. Stunning to cross,

the lower-level features tram tracks embedded into weathered wooden boards. Scissored in shadows cast from criss-crossing steel support pillars, the pedestrian walkways running each side promise a walk to remember – even



“
*Hunt for
 a gnome,
 a pres-
 ent from
 gnome-
 crazy
 Wrocław*”



more so come dusk when the Wisła basks in the dusky half-light of sweaty, summer sunset. Professionals, mind you, won't head anywhere but Siekierkowski Bridge. Here, the river's natural bend and the distant glinting skyline make it a favorite for high-impact shots that contrast the futuristic horizon against the river's natural glory.

**Cross...
 The River**

Pootle across to the other side of the Wisła by bouncing across the gangplank and boarding a vessel called the

Wilga. Running until September, this 'water tram' is one of many that criss-cross the river in summer. Find yourself dispatched 600 meters or so from the zoo.

**Take...
 In The View**

Scale to the top of the observation terrace for grandstand views of the Wisła. The shallow staircase makes it an easy ascent that even those who usually wobble with vertigo are able to manage. Photographers hoping to capture the city's scarlet sunsets flock here come twilight. Do so

yourself, and afterwards, check out the historic depictions of the river that have been cast in the paving slabs right by it.

**Hunt...
 A Gnome**

Added four years back, scour the left bank to spot Życzliwek, a jolly-looking gnome carrying a suitcase and sunflower. Gifted to Warsaw by the city of Wrocław, you'll find him hiding out on Bulwar Jana Karaskiego. But what have gnomes got to do with Wrocław? Often mistakenly attributed as a homage to the surrealist

anti-Communist protests of the Orange Alternative (in actuality, only one gnome pays reverence to the group's actions), they first appeared in the city in 2005 and have since swept the town like a ransacking horde. According to the artist originally behind them, Tomasz Moczek, they were simply intended to become a touristic symbol of the city. "I just wanted to create something that hadn't come before, something that was universal," he says. "They're not political and they're nothing to

do with Communist protests."

**Romance...
 Your Love**

Suspended via 48 ropes from a pair of 90-meter pylons, Świętokrzyski became the capital's first suspension bridge when it was completed in 2000 and today can reflect on a reputation as the city's most romantic bridge – that's born from its heavy uses in cheesy rom coms such as *Tylko Mnie Kochaj* and *Nigdy w Życiu*. The lovelocks may have been removed the railings, but that doesn't stop canoodling couples from walking its



Feature



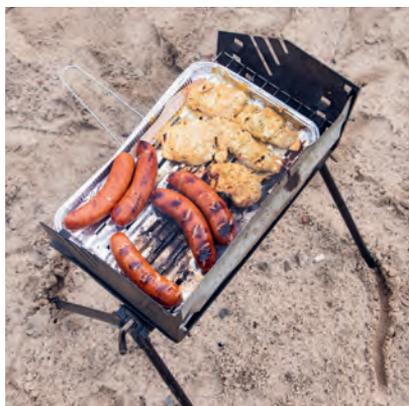
479-meter length to catch the sunset. Slender in its silhouette, and opening out into the very heart of the Powisle district, it's a real beauty to behold!

Go... Wild

Contrasted against the energy of the left

bank, the right side of the river is Warsaw's secret little garden: a wild mass of tangled vegetation and natural life. Of the city's more enduring urban myths is the tale of a Japanese delegation asking the Mayor how much the city had spent

creating the effect of an untamed riverbank. "What amazing landscaping," one delegate is said to have proclaimed. Though purely apocryphal, it's a story that says much: both about the increased efforts to protect the right bank, and





the full extent of the Wisła's environmental power.

Hail... The Mermaid

Monuments dot the riverside, but none are more famous than the mermaid that sits a stone's throw from Świętokrzyski Bridge. Cast in bronze, it's alleged to be the last monument to be unveiled in Warsaw before the Nazi occupation. The sculptor, Ludwik Nitschow, used a 23-year old poetess, Krystyna Krahełska, as his model, though it's been suggested he used considerable artistic license to beautify the work. Serving as a medic in the Home Army, Krahełska was shot on the first day of the

Warsaw Uprising and died the next day. The statue, meanwhile, just about survived though 34 bullet holes can still be noted.

Party... Till You Drop

Back in the old days drinking by the Wisła meant necking plastic glasses of flat lager in the company of He-Man jobs. Today, mind you, it's the realm of everyone and anyone, something underlined by the diversity of the people you'll find. Budget stops blasting out Ibiza dance tracks are still a common sight, but so too are a rich range of other bars and seasonal clubs. Of the ones found on water, check Barka Wynurzenie, a craft beer barge



that gently rocks on the waves, or head to the slick, upmarket confines of Przystań Nowa Fala. Moored next to the white cube that is the Museum on the Vistula, it's a zone that feels pristine and perfect in more ways than one. Then, having passed numerous bridges lit in glowing colors, no excursion in this direction is complete without

a stop at Barka. With stars glinting above the white sails strung across the deck, it's a destination of near mythical standing. Party people won't want to miss Pomost 511, while those dressed to impress can drink with Warsaw's celebs from the rooftop of the luxury Sen nightclub.

Be... Cultured
Key to bringing

'life' (i.e. people) back to the river have been two world class institutions: The Museum on the Vistula (a branch of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw) and the Copernicus Center. In the latter, engage in fun science experiments before taking a rooftop walk or perusing the sculptures and gardens outside. In the former,



Feature

meanwhile, find a regular roster of intelligent exhibitions inside a white cube building that was transported from Germany.

Bring... Your Grill

There's nothing that screams summer louder than the sight of dozens of bonfires flickering on the sandy beach just south of Most Poniatowskiego. As Warsaw's most popular spot for an open-air grill-up, it's a seasonal must no matter how many times you've done it – but whatever you do, bring the insect repellent. And don't be a jerk: for Pete's sake, tidy up after yourself!

Check... The Street Art

Street art is most definitely Warsaw's "thing" and there's no shortage on the Wisła. Of particular note are the two murals that decorate the left rump of Śląsko-Dąbrowski – on one side find Józef Piłsudski riding a horse that ap-



pears made from origami, while on the other stacks of screaming human heads that commemorate the human sacrifice associated with the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. Neither will you miss the swirly graphics adorning the Museum on the Vistula – they're particularly stunning at dusk when set against a crimson sky.

Enjoy... The Food

It's not just drink that the Wisła does well, but also food. Grunt i Woda have a solid reputation that includes an offer crafted by the boys at Warburg-

er, whilst more upmarket meals can be enjoyed on the terraces of venues such as Zachodni Brzeg. Occupying a prime piece of terracing outside the Museum on the Vistula, Paloma nad Wisłą have become a summer must for their hip street food bites, and you're also not going to regret checking out the buzzing street food stalls and shipping containers of Plac Zabaw as well the cabins and floating vessels of WIR. Where the latter is concerned, find an outpost of Vegan Ramen Shop as well as The Cool





Feature



Cat – their K-Fries are absolutely banging!

Be... Active

It's not Florida, but that doesn't stop the natives going wild for water-sports each and every summer – central to this are Miami Wars whose flotilla of boats and equipment includes speedboats, jet skis and more sedate forms of transport.

Blast... To The Past

Head to the mouth of Czerniakowski Port and you'll view one of the stranger blasts to the past – a monument to sappers charged with clearing the river of mines in the post-war years. Unveiled on the 30th anniversary of the end of World War II on May 8, 1975, it was authored by Stanisław Kulon

and depicts a group of Polish soldiers disarming a Nazi booby trap. Rising tides immerse the figures to various depths.

Educate... Yourself

Found within a whistle of the Gdański Bridge, the Kamień Educational Pavilion has thrilled the public ever since it was officially unveiled last July. Surrounded



by nature of the rawest form, and inspired by the rocky boulders so prevalent on this side of the river, the structure was created by the acclaimed architectural studio eM4 Pracownia Architektury Brataniec. Stunning in its simplicity, and costing a modest PLN 5 million, the pavilion has proved a hand's down hit for not just its striking aesthetics, but also in the way it has reconciled architecture with the environment and culture with nature. Touting two levels and a glazed north-western façade, features of the object include surrounding educational paths, multi-functional

meeting spaces, a mezzanine reserved for exhibitions, and even binoculars and magnifying glasses to aid any nature lessons.

Get... With The Moment

For all our pointers, it's the spontaneity of the riverside that is its biggest boon – arrive with no plans and let the energy swirl around. Chill out in the hammocks or read a book on the deckchairs, or go with the flow and partake in impromptu tango classes, open-air chess tournaments, or unannounced gigs. It's this 'anything goes' mood that the Wisła should be celebrated for. **IN**

Eat!



TIME FOR THE RHINE...

If first Warsaw fell in love with the wines of Italy and France, tomorrow promises to be the turn of the wine (and food) of our Western neighbors...



Review



THE LOOK

Half-hidden in a restored pre-war property wedged behind Pl. Konstytucji and Koszykowa, discover a thriving micro-scene of trending bars and restaurants. Included in their number is Czarne Czerwone Złote, a venue that's high on cooling bare brickwork and minimalist touches. Extending downstairs, recline on scarlet banquettes to admire contemporary art illuminated by vertical lights. Deeply relaxing in its own quietly fashionable manner, the setting pairs well with a crowd that's professional, sophisticated and impeccably turned-out.

THE CONCEPT

Founded by a Polish-German couple, Czarne Czerwone Złote opened during the height of the pandemic (ouch!). But while the original idea had

been to operate simply as a wine store and bar, the recruitment of a talented chef added an extra dimension to their operations. With that in mind, you could slot it into the 'resto-bar' category, but doing so risks belittling the considerable accomplishments of both the kitchen and the bar.

THE CHEF

Step forward Paweł Rosiński – cutting his teeth at stalwarts such as Merliniego 5 and Mokotowaka 69, Rosiński later served as Flavia Borawska's right hand at Opasty Tom before it all went wrong with Covid. Recruited by Czarne Czerwone Złote, find a chef keenly committed to both seasonal produce and working with wine. "The secret of making my food work with the German wines on offer is to incorporate them generously in the sauces," he tells the *Insider*.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN DEMARIA



THE FOOD

The presumption that German cuisine is limited to bratwurst and sauerkraut is as antiquated as the vision of Poles existing on... well, kielbasa and bigos. Light and nuanced, Rosiński's menu has been honed for the temperatures with elegant starters involving curls of herring served with crisp potato pancakes, onion jam and a pinch of crème fraîche, or delicate beef tartar with all its needed co-stars: capers, truffle mayo, shallots and a runny quail's egg yolk.

The fish skills, too, are strong – we enjoyed pike perch with a creamy thyme risotto as well as a thick coil of octopus with thunks of baked tomato.

THE SIGNATURE

A specialty of the Alsatian region, big points go to the selection of Flammkuchen – a wood-fired joy

that the lazy (us!) would describe as German pizza. Crisp and wafer thin, find it sprinkled with toppings the feature walnuts, pear, gorgonzola, raspberries and various garden tasties.

THE WINE

"More and more Poles are drinking wine," says co-founder Agnieszka, "but still not many are familiar with German – we wanted to introduce them to it." This they have and with some style to spare. The result of the couple's deep dive around the winemaking regions of Germany, the list presents a clutch of their favorites including the Rieslings of Cornelia and Reinhard Löwenstein, biodynamic wines from Günter and Philipp Wittmann, and wines sourced from the 1,000-year-old monastery at Bischöfliches Weingut Rudesheim. [IN](#)

Review



THE FRENCH CONNECTION

A deli-style extension of their existing Bielany operation, **Gourmet by Café de la Poste** lands in Mokotów...

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN DEMARIA

BACKSTORY

Inspired by the French concept of “pour vivre heureux, vivons cachés” (if you want to live happily, live hidden), Café de la Poste first opened in 2013 in the quaint back corner of Stary Bielany. Launched by Tatiana Fremond and her late husband, it stripped away preconceptions of French culture by tapping into Tatiana’s roots growing up in the working class countryside outside La Rochelle. “Back there,” she says, “you’d handle what life threw at you by sitting around a table drinking wine with friends and family.”

That philosophy has followed her to Poland, as has the mantra “keep everything French”. In the case of de la Poste, that meant even French soap in the bathrooms. The new venture carries this flame, moreover, it seems built for The New Reality that everyone talks of. Foreseeing that foreign travels would be curtailed, the new arm of de la Poste was created specifically to target those forsaking their annual holiday but still seeking their favorite tastes of France.

INSIDE LOOK

A wall-size classic image of Le Boulanger de Valorgue perches above the glass counter glowing with an assortment of over 40 kinds of French cheese, meats and colorful macarons. Then, along each side you’ll be clocking shelves chockfull of enough produce to see a small French village through an entire pandemic. Additional atmosphere is provided by the array of French market trophies and mid-century

“

... it sets the stage for a deli experience drowning in deep tradition

advertising – together, it sets the stage for a deli experience drowning in deep tradition.

OFF THE SHELVES

Warsaw loves jars! On one wall, for instance, discover selections from the producer Catrice Gourmet (fruitful vinaigrettes with tantalizing textures as well as rich and savory rabbit terrines). Alternatively, splurge on some foie gras from Jean d'Audignac before daubing it on the store-baked baguettes. If there's any leftover, melt it over steak or potatoes.

That's not all. On the other wall find an assortment of dried baked sweets. Two to watch include the pain d'épices, a rye based spice cake made with nutmeg, honey cinnamon and other spices and the Nonnette, a small gingerbread cake usually involving using honey and orange marmalade.

GIVE SOMETHING

For a gift with a twist, then pick up a tote bag splashed with bold typography and controversial expressions. For the more timid, then Tatiana's mugs are great fun, and come adorned with the names of iconic French ditties such as *Voyage, Voyage* by Desir'less or *Je ne veux pas travailler* by Pink Martini.



INSIDER SECRET

Have you heard of Monsieur Armand's macaroons? Well, they're a Gdansk legend, and this is the only place outside of

that city where you'll find them for sale. They set an entirely new standard to which you might be used to. 

Eat! Profile

BREADY, SET, GO!

Two brothers reveal the secrets of their bread biz...

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN DEMARIA

BEGINNINGS

It all started after Brother No. 1, Stanisław, read a magazine interview with the owner of San Francisco's legendary Tartine Bakery. "Why not try this ourselves," he asked Brother No. 2, Maciej.

Hey presto, Picador was born. Starting operations in the office district more commonly known as Mordor, their artisanal bakery thrived – until, that is, some plonker let a virus out of a lab.

With covid driving all those working in Mordor back into their hobbit holes, the duo needed a new plan. Putting their heads together, they launched a new venue, a small hatch on Pl. Konstytucji that would allow them to sell their bread in the center from a tiny 7 sq/m store.

Featuring an eye-catching neon, and beautifully designed bags courtesy of Maciej, a former graphic design student at the Academy of Art in Kraków, the gamble appears to have worked with the pair already planning another location, this time near Kino Iluzjon in a beautiful modernist building.

LOCAL HERO

Right at the forefront of Warsaw's artisanal bread revolution, the basics are executed with aplomb, but what sets Picador aside is their homage to the Polish classic yeast cake (drożdżowka): find them filled with blueberries, strawberry, rhubarb and blackberry and topped off with crumble and icing.

INSIDER FAVORITE

With its flakey layers of buttery goodness, nothing beats their pistachio brioche.

INSIDE TIP

Heading to a summer grill fest? Then stock up on their czarnuszka-topped burger buns to impress all your pals!

Picador

Konstruktorska 9 (Mokotów) / Pl. Konstytucji 6 / Mrówcza 212 (Anin)



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN DEMARIA

Eat! listings

author's cuisine

ALE WINO

You could eat in Ale Wino a hundred times – and we know some people that have – and still never be bored. That alone says much for the consistency and creativity of a kitchen that has come to be admired as the source of some of the best cooking in the city. Regularly adjusted to utilize the best items the season has to offer, chef Sebastian Wełpa's menu is a triumph of expertly balanced tastes. Rounding out the experience is an intimate, labyrinthine design that's ideal for when it's cold and grim, and a shaded courtyard terrace that's perfect for when it's not. **ul. Mokotowska 48**

DYLETANCI

The epitome of the neo-bistro style, find an attractive space that's been seamlessly designed to feature a wine store, kitchen and dining room(s) that somehow feel organically joined. The atmosphere is lifted by faultless cooking that combines a little bit of Polish with a little bit of eclectic: it's a combination that works and often magnificently well. **ul. Rozbrat 44A**

KLONN

BOB Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List" Attractively located in a lush expanse of leafy parkland, Klonn finds itself planted inside a low-level building just a whisper from Ujazdowski Castle. Dark and slick on the inside, the reverse is true of an exterior dedicated to expressions of street art. Yet while a big deal has been made of the visual creativity, it's the food that leaves the real impact. A harmony of flavors, the hybrid cuisine includes

luxury pizzas, hearty beef fillets and sophisticated desserts: it's all a fantasy of skill. **ul. Jazdów 1B**

MOD

An incubator for the unorthodox, this cool and kooky venture pushes the envelope when it comes to being different. Devised by Trisno Hamid, a Singaporean chef with a classic

French background, glories include ramen noodles in a steamy yuzu broth and Angus beef rump steak served with tahini mashed potatoes and a big thump of chili and fig relish. Adding to the sense of being somewhere current, find a seriously cool vibe inside an interior featuring a retro mirrored wall, upside down plants and busy tables filled with the



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Eat! listings

f & b super hubs



KONESER GRILL

CENTRUM PRASKIE KONESER

Set in the revitalized space of a 19th century vodka factory, Koneser has seamlessly blended modernity with post-industrial scenery to create an energetic dynamic reflected by its rich cultural and artistic offer, niche boutiques, local stores and impressive food and drink offer. An island of prosperity in the otherwise largely gritty Praga suburb, props go to the Koneser Grill and Bombaj Masala. With the pandemic still lurking in the background, Koneser's wide open plaza acts in its favor. **PI. Konesera**

ELEKTROWNIA POWIŚLE

The big headlines last year were set aside for Elektrownia Powiśle, a magnificent reinvention of a historic power plant that once kept the city fed with electricity. Today, it's feeding Warsaw something a helluva' lot more tastier. Comfortingly stringent in their hygiene practices, you swing in for a food court that's dazzling in both its offer and visual impact: neon is king! Cocktail bars, a craft beer point and an exhaustive selection of street food units (e.g. Philly cheese steak!) give cause to visit, and if you're antsy about staying indoors then head out to find the immense spaces outside dotted with deckchairs and – as of this year – a huge, ventilated marquee with well-spaced tables and full shelter from the elements. Beyond these quite copious attractions, it is the retention of its historic character contrasted against the newly inserted elements that makes it such a visually enticing, standout hub. **ul. Dobra 42**



ELEKTROWNIA POWIŚLE

PHOTOGRAPHS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PRESS MATERIAL/KONESER GRILL, KEVIN DEMARIA (2)

Eat! listings



HALA KOSZYKI

Introducing the absolutely bleeding obvious, Hala Koszyki changed Warsaw's mindset when it first opened in 2016. Gathering dozens of niche venues under the wrought iron ceiling of a historic market place, it transformed the way Warsaw eats, meets, drinks and plays. Still highly influential, it's guaranteed that once the weather warms up its front courtyard will again become one of the best people watching spots you'll find in the city. **ul. Koszykowa 63**

FORT MOKOTÓW

If you've not visited Fort Mokotów before, shame on you. Like enter-

ing a secret world, a potholed lane flanked by scraggly bushes opens up to reveal a former Tsarist era military complex whose battered brick fortifications have since been turned over to house ad agencies, art studios and assorted creative think tanks. Food and drink also play a role here, with the lead taken by Żywa Kuchnia, an eatery that promises to regenerate the mind and body with their "bio-active, healing foods". Schodki, meanwhile, is just about the most atmospheric gem you'll ever wish to find: a place of battered brick, creaking wood and tangled vines, it's a sublime setting for a bottle or three. **ul. Ractawicka 99**

FORT 8

The penchant for reviving historical addresses and filling them with food and drink concepts has become a nationwide fixation, and Fort 8 stands as an example to all. Set at the point where Ursynów, Mokotów and Wilanów all meet, this 19th century Tsarist barracks has been buffed up spectacularly and its vaulted units infilled with workshops, stores and restaurants. Smashed sideways by the pandemic, the return of this upmarket bastion is good news for those that appreciated the charms of Dziruka od Klucza, Fort Bistro and Wine Corner. **ul. Fort Służew 1B**

Eat! listings

kind of people that you'd mistake for rising fashion photographers.
ul. Oleandrów 8

RESTAURACJA WARSZAWSKA

Humongous in size, the vast spaces and lack of natural light never feel an issue. Loaded with slick finishes and polished raw materials, find this subterranean venue unraveling amid the giant original foundations that support this pre-war skyscraper. Divided into 'snacks', 'plates', 'sides' and 'desserts', big shouts go to a golden schnitzel the size of a tricycle wheel as well as the spicy pork dumplings served in a vibrant essence of paprika. It's exceptional.
Pl. Powstańców Warszawy 9 (Hotel Warszawa)

ROZBRAT 20

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
This busy neo-bistro fuses upmarket, casual styling with an exciting wine list, interactive service and the kind of atmosphere you can't get enough of. Under chef Bartosz Szymczak's leadership, Rozbrat's grown to become one of the blogospheres favorite write-ups. Never the same, if there's a consistent thread to visits then it's the playful inventiveness that has come to define Szymczak's cooking.
ul. Rozbrat 20

chinese

PAŃSKA 85

Despite the over-the-top luxury trimmings Pańska looks good without ever losing its dignity. With their kitchen staff headhunted from across China, the food sets a standard that has yet to be seen in any Chinese restaurant in Warsaw: there's delicate salmon rolls

wrapped in mango; dim sum that are pouches of pure goodness; and Sichuan-style pork that's a blaze of sizzle and spice. The Beijing Duck, carved and served table-side, is the highlight. **ul. Pańska 85**

REGINA BAR

Taking their inspiration from New York's Little Italy and Chinatown, the menu at Regina is the very definition of ethnic comfort food: won-ton dumplings, ribs in sticky hoisin sauce and the best-selling General Tso chicken – famed for its healing properties, it's one of the best hangover remedies around. On the Italian front, leopard-spotted pizzas land are presented with wheel-bladed knives in a kooky, retro interior featuring a dangling chandelier and the tallest mirror in Poland (possibly).
ul. Koszykowa 1

comfort food

KURA

Pairing fried chicken with double-fried chunky chips, think of this budget stop as an artisanal take on KFC for the post-hipster generation. And best of all, check their homemade sauces: from the tart and spicy Challenger No. 3, to the tangy Mango-BBQ option, these are sauces that open the gateway to addiction. **ul. Nowolipki 15**

KUR & WINO

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
Andersa street has evolved to become something of micro scene rich in hip haunts: in this renaissance, Kur & Wino have more than played their part. Cooked rotisserie-style, the big points go to chicken from Podlasie and guinea-fowl from Wielkopolska served with a medley of creative sauces. The cool,

funky backdrop adds to the buzz, as does a terrace crowded with crates and palms. **ul. Andersa 21**

PALOMA NAD WISŁĄ

Attached to the modern art museum, people flood here to enjoy an atmospheric wooden-decked terrace, an exciting choice of spritzers and food that captures the zeitgeist: artisanal cheeseboards; stuffed rotis; fish tacos; vegan ice cream and so much more.
ul. Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 47

POGROMCY MEATÓW

Dude food doesn't get much better. Specializing in slow-cooked meats, find artisan buns stuffed with ribs, beef tongue, pastrami and the like before being given extra oomph with locally grown greens, homemade kimchi or house pickles. A savage, primal pleasure of dripping sauce and juicy meat, the homespun quality of Pogromcy Meatów catapults it above the competition.
ul. Koszykowa 1

desserts

KUKUŁKA

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
Recruiting the acclaimed Beza Projekt studio to handle the design, the result is a funky two-level space with monochrome floors, spirally stairs and little blasts of color set against the stark, minimalistic concrete finishes. But what really gets you are desserts that lift this piece of Warsaw in the direction of heaven – the cream puffs are something else.
ul. Mokotowska 52

MISS MELLOW

Mixing sophisticated desserts with those that fall more on the filthy food porn side of things, Miss

Eat! listings

Mellow have hit the bull's eye by offering something for everyone that enjoys the sweeter things in life. Lauded even by Vogue, find a wicked rundown of toasts, brioches, financiers, brownies, cookies and cakes. Eschewing chemical nasties, it's a place in which the owners' commitment towards quality resonates throughout. **ul. Wilcza 62**

MOD DONUTS

Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
Shoebox in its size, it's here you'll find a steady queue lining up for their award-winning NYC-style donuts – featuring toppings like hibiscus; mango; salted caramel; matcha; and lemon and poppy, they're a fab deviation from the standard Polish pączek. **ul. Paryska 27**

SŁODKI BEZ

Cake: good. Sugar: bad. We all know that. But what you might not know of is the existence of Słodki Bez, a small little store specializing in sugar-free desserts. And it's not just sugar they've dispensed of altogether, but also white flour, gluten, lactose and all the other synthetic nasties that we're meant to dislike. Using natural substitutes, find a rich array of cakes and sweets such as vegan banoffee pie, chocolate nut cake, chickpea brownies, macarons, tarts and pralines. **ul. Hoża 54, slodkibez.pl**

farmers' markets

BIOBAZAR

First founded in 2010, BioBazar pre-dated Warsaw's love of food-from-the-source and triggered a city-wide trend that's shown no sign of slowing. Though imitations have come thick and fast, none have matched this original in either size

or scope: fresh fish, cheese, eggs, bread, cured sausages, honey... you name it, they've got it. Comprehensive in its pitch, everything you need to pursue a bright, happy life is here in this legendary farmers' market. **ul. Wołoska 3**

FORTECA KREGLICCY

Spot the stars of Warsaw's restaurant and blogging scene perusing the stalls at this weekly farmers' market. Held each Wednesday, look for Pan Ziółko, Poland's first celebrity farmer (!), Portobellos from the country's only organic mushroom farm and the magical yogurts from Mleczna Droga Manufaktura Serów. Even the bottom-feeding carp here tastes bang on. **ul. Zakroczymska 12**

HALA MIROWSKA

As popular with undercover chefs as it is with queue-jumping pensioners wielding walking sticks like sabers, the accessibility of its price tags is bettered only by the rich bounty of produce that awaits. In the post-war units attached to the core building, Darek at No. 17 has amassed a legendary reputation for his edible

flowers; at 115, cheeses and handmade sausages are the order of the day; whilst Pani Anna at 114 has been called the Queen of Mirowska for her peerless skills handling a butcher's cleaver. Your best bet is to pencil in a full afternoon here. **Pl. Mirowski 1**

fine dining

EPOKA

Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
Preserved 19th century cornices and baroque-style drapes lend an enveloping sense of luxury inside this A-Class space. Scene of the *Insider's* most impressive dining moment of 2019, Epoka's menu is based on Polish cookbooks from different epochs (hence the name, dummy!), with the dishes reconstructed in a way that's innovative, unexpected and a roller coaster of thrills. Oh gosh moments include jellied apple compote; a sweet and boozy pumpkin pottage; razor thin chestnut with marinated celeriac; and bigos like no other. You want

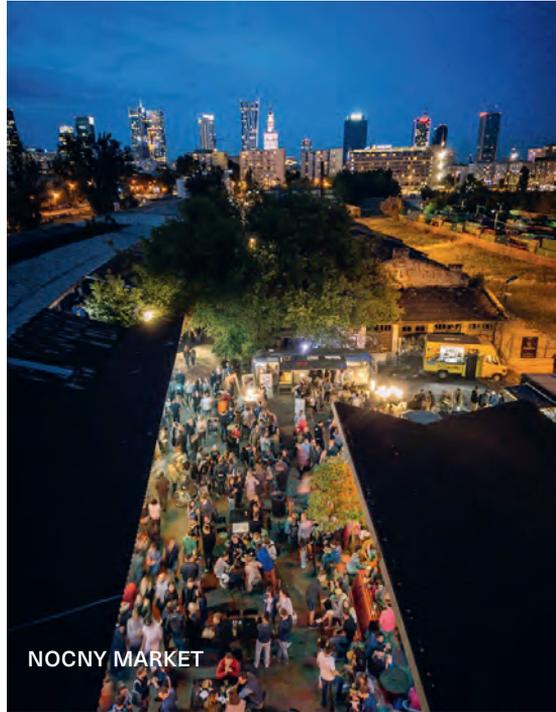


Eat! listings

seasonal sensations



LUNAPARK



NOCNY MARKET

LUNAPARK

When Lunapark first premiered in 2019 we named it “the most imaginatively insane F&B concept that Warsaw’s ever seen”. Nothing we’ve seen since has changed our mind on that. Occupying a derelict outdoor leisure complex, this weekend market gets a Coney Island makeover complete with a bar set around a carousel; a circus-style big top entered via the mouth of a grinning clown; a shot bar disguised as a shooting gallery; and a bank of fairground games. A

wild world of top quality food stalls, games, drinks and weirdness, it’s a haven of hip and a hedonist’s asylum. Defined by its incredible energy and madcap backdrop, visiting at the weekend is one of the big joys of Warsaw. **ul. Wał Miedzeszyński 407**

NOCNY MARKET

Will it ever die? Three years after they first announced their permanent closure (or is it four?!), Nocny Market have returned for a final hurrah – so they say. Set out on an

abandoned railway platform livened up with strips of neon, this weekend night market has become nothing sort of an institution. Gathering together dozens of street food vendors to form a patchwork of uber cool traders and hip little stands, organizers have this time promised to give preferential treatment to those hit hardest by the pandemic, as well as brands just starting out in their gastro adventure. To miss it is to miss out on an essential part of summer! **ul. Towarowa 3 (Warszawa Główna)**

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM LEFT, KEVIN DEMARIA, PRESS MATERIAL (3)

Eat! listings



OFF BRZESKA



TARG ŚNIADANIOWY

OFF BRZESKA

Whenever a new street food hub opens, the temptation is to benchmark it against the Nocny Market. But OFF has its own distinct sense of identity, a factor helped by its location. Set against Brzeska street – a chipped, broken back road with something of a hairy past reputation – this alone contributes to a raw vibe that's helped by the presence of an arty Praga crowd that feels far more Bohemian than anything in town. Though relatively small

in its size, the vibe is fab: drink craft beer under overhanging canvas sheets strung with colorful streamers that wave in the breeze. Not short on vegan options, the alternative feeling is aided and abetted by DJs, local bands and a crowd determined to make it a night to remember. **ul. Brzeska 25**

TARG ŚNIADANIOWY

Alternating locations between Mokotów and Żoliborz, this open-air weekend extravaganza

is a bit of everything: a food market, a picnic, even a place to get the bike fixed or to stock up on vintage vinyl. First debuting about a five-thousand years ago, you could point to Targ Śniadaniowy as being Warsaw's first true street food concept – doing so wouldn't be incorrect. Still boasting a staunch following, check in on their social media accounts to see what's in store – not ones to stand still, you'll find most weekends assigned a different theme or ethnic focus.

Eat! listings

to pause the evening for at least forever. **ul. Ossolińskich 3**

EUROPEJSKI GRILL

Decked out in tan and vanilla shades, hexagonal lighting installations, glinting mirrors and bold, blue ceramics, there's a character that bridges the classic with the contemporary to magnificent effect. Basque chef Beñat Alonso has used the lockdown to simplify his menu, a work which gives regional suppliers an all-star role. But 'simple' is a relative term. The Europejski Grill has not lost its sophistication. **ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 13**

NOBU

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
Famously founded by Meir Teper, Nobu Matsuhisa and some aspiring actor by the name of Robert De Niro, it's a space that promises simplicity, elegance and minimalism, not to mention a harmonious sense of modern, zen-like luxury. On the menu, meanwhile, expect their signature squid 'pasta'; new-style sashimi; and black cod miso as well as killer cocktails such as lychee & elderflower martini. **ul. Wilcza 73**

NOLITA

For many diners, there is no bigger night out than one that begins and ends in this enclave of class. Dashing in its monochrome colors and muted gunmetal shades, Nolita is where Warsaw heads to live the life of the 1%. Lacking the magic tricks of some, the 'show factor' might be subdued but the tastes definitely aren't. Who to credit? Two words: Jacek Grochovina. Cooking with poise and focus, his menu is a marriage of the classic and creative, with core ingredients given unexpected lifts with cunning turns and inspired little twists. **ul. Wilcza 46**

SIGNATURE

Flirting with fine dining – yet at prices a notch below – the menu is a succession of highs that are a tribute to the sophisticated palate of chef Wojciech Kilian. Adding to the sense of being somewhere special is a setting inside the former inter-war Soviet Embassy. Adorned with original, auction-bought photos of Marilyn, pretty pink colors and luxury fittings, Signature washes over you in waves of bliss. **ul. Poznańska 15**

SZÓSTKA

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
Found on the sixth floor of a 1930s tower that was, for a time, ranked Europe's second tallest building, Szóstka was the fine dining experience that EVERYONE loved over the last year. For that, credit goes to Dariusz Barański, a highly skilled chef fond of presenting such dishes as crab meat toast with lime and mango. And there's the setting, as well: seen as a long, slick space decorated with steel tubing, bursts of greenery and a coved glass ceiling, dining here has been one of the *Insider's* great, recent pleasures. **Pl. Powstańców Warszawy 9 (Hotel Warszawa)**

greek

MR. GREEK SOUVLAKI

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
With its smart navy blue exterior festooned with pot plants, this tiny townhouse seduces all who pass – but if the front terrace is a gem, then enter to find a place that simply bubbles with warmth and the engaging air of gentle chaos. While there's no frills or fancy with the food, there really doesn't need to be: you dine on pillowy pittas and skewers of meat while enjoying

carafes of wine brought to you by Takis, an enthusiastic owner that wears his heart on his sleeve. By the time the evening closes, you feel like one of the family – and that, surely, is the essence of hospitality. **ul. Londyńska 16**

MYKONOS

You're struck first by the sheer size of Mykonos – it's simply immense. Though undeniably slick, never does the cosmopolitan style lose the fundamental casual effervescence one naturally associates with the jewel of the Aegean. The food scores highly as well. It's not rocket science – Greek cuisine rarely is – but it is everything you remember from your holiday by the sea: unfailingly delicious. **ul. Grzybowska 62**

indian

BOLLYWOOD LOUNGE

Known for their raucous dusk-till-dawn parties, there is another less hedonistic roll filled by Bollywood: that of a restaurant. The menu is an uncomplicated, classic affair that's an ideal primer for the party ahead. **ul. Nowy Świat 58**

BOMBAJ MASALA

Not just the best looking of Warsaw's Indian restaurants, Bombaj Masala also has some of the best cooking. With so many restaurants reliant on one 'master pot' for their curry, this classy venue feels unique in delivering a variety of rich, intense tastes. The vindaloo is a special standout, with big, punchy flavors that leave you tingling long after you leave. **Al. Jana Pawła II 23**

GURU

The menu is a union of local, seasonal ingredients (organic this, farmyard

Eat! listings

that) and imported spices, coming together to blast the competition out of the water. From the openers, the chili chicken fry stands out as a dish that's all snap and crackle, while of the mains the tikka masala is exceptional in taste. And when you want to take the nuclear option, sign the disclaimer before being flattened by the phaal – it's Poland's hottest curry! **ul. Widok 8**

INDIA GATE

Specializing in delicious southern Indian dishes, find also a number of non-standard curries and starters including fluffy lentil pancakes and dosa stuffed with cheese. If there's a complaint, then it's the chef's reticence to go completely psychotic when it comes to assaulting us with spice. **Al. Jerozolimskie 87**

italian

DZIURKA OD KLUCZA

HOW Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"

Having upped sticks from their spiritual home in Powiśle, the DoK team magically teleported themselves to Fort 8 where they've carried on much as before: that is, knocking out beautiful homemade pasta and other Italian staples to appreciative audience that's followed them for years. And it looks pretty fine as well – immerse yourself in an intimate and engaging interior decked out with door frames and hanging plants. **Fort Służew 1B**

FOCACCIA

The big surprise at Focaccia is that there's no Italian in the kitchen – it appears they don't need one. Looking splendid in its crystal white colors, this dining room has plaudits aplenty for its selection of pizzas and more sophisticated mains: order the

duck breast with marsala sauce for a failsafe choice. **ul. Senatorska 13/15, focaccia.pl**

LE BRACI CUCINA

Opened pretty much the minute that the lockdown was eased, the latest concept from restaurateur Daniel Pawełek is a celebration of la dolce vita, a stylish, carefree journey through the joys of modern Italy. Cooking, and that's been left to Przemysław Samul, a chef with experience in several Michelin-starred international restaurants, and his menu is a deep dive into homemade pasta and Venetian-style cicchetti. Wine, too, plays a distinct role, though it's their Negroni that could well become the 'order of the summer'. Full report soon! **ul. Górnośląska 24**

PROSCIUTTERIA

When Prosciutteria first opened, ooh, three years or so ago, it was hailed a sensation and proof as to the far-reaching ambitions of Warsaw's burgeoning gastro scene. Based around cold cuts and served on heavy wooden boards, here was a convincing Italian menu to be enjoyed in a snug, warm interior composed of pre-war floor tiles, exposed brickwork and black and white images of Italian stars. You felt like you were on holiday. **ul. Solec 85**

japanese

ARIGATOR

This Japanese-style noodle joint whisks you to the narrow, steamy back alleys of late night Tokyo. Clad in corrugated iron and dark, weathered wooden slats, it's got that buzzing sense of chaos that feels familiar from the films. And the food, gosh, they get that right as well.



WELCOME TO GREECE!

For authentic Greek food & hospitality, look no further than Mr. Greek Souvlaki!

ul. Londyńska 16
(Saska Kępa)



BEST of
WARSAW

2020

Insider Approved:
Best of Warsaw WINNER
2020!

Eat! listings

From a tiny menu order up dainty pork dumplings, braised kakuni bacon or deep-fried tofu before hitting up a feisty bowl of ramen emanating life-affirming goodness. A complex tangle of interlacing flavors, it's the sort of dish you'd happily queue up for: and yes, people do. **ul. Piękna 54**

UKI UKI

How much do the locals appreciate Warsaw's original udon bar? Enough to queue outside the door? That's right. Dining is a close quarters experience here, but is done so without complaint: that electric pasta maker turns out noodles of such chewy goodness that everyone leaves beaming. **ul. Krucza 23/31**

korean

THE COOL CAT

Refusing to take themselves too seriously, the angle is fun and forward-thinking, something that's evidenced by way of an occasionally wacky menu of Americanized Asian food (the matcha ice cream donut is insane in both idea and taste!). The cocktails are equally eccentric yet also reveal some devastating talent: the Kimchi Mary is pungent, punchy and above all potent! **ul. Solec 38 (also on Marszałkowska 8)**

KOREANKA

A courtyard cubbyhole that's scuffed, informal and fashionably ramshackle. Such has been the stir created by it, diners arrive in the knowledge that they'll be scavenging a table and eating what little might be left over from another sell-out day. Yet here's the point of contention: is it really all that's cracked up? The kimchi is exemplary, but not everything works so well. **ul. Koszykowa 59**

latin & spanish

CEVICHE BAR

With chef Martin Gimenez Castro injecting his passion and personality into the venue, this is an address that punches through the greyness of everyday Warsaw. Ceviche is the default order with the Atun one of the best sellers: chunks of tuna given a rich zing with the addition of chili, lime and roasted coriander. The Japanese influence on South America's dining habits isn't forgotten either, with must-haves including the salmon tiraditos. **ul. Twarda 4**

mexican

LA SIRENA

Inspired by the ultra-violent films of Danny Trejo, the hardcore interior heaves with machetes, holy shrines, skulls and wire mesh; but if La Sirena looks fab, it tastes even better. Introducing a new dimension to Warsaw's parched Mexican landscape, highlights inc. poblano peppers stuffed with pork/beef, peach, apple and apricots, as well as a 'near death' salsa that's finally living up to its name. **ul. Piękna 54**

SEÑOR LUCAS

Submerged down one of those cramped, little walk-down units on ul. Poznańska, its tiny proportions (one table and a counter to lean on) and basic aesthetics (a blackboard and some crates) belie a standard that sits there with the best – actually, it's become our favorite Mex in town! **ul. Hoża 41 (enter from Poznańska 16)**

middle eastern

JOEL SHARING CONCEPT

Joel Sharing Concept seeks to channel the atmosphere and tastes typically found in the food markets and bazaars of contemporary Tel Aviv. As such, find yourself ordering from a small galaxy of bites that range from pittas stuffed with beef and lamb kofta to mezze dishes such as baked beetroot served with stewed tomatoes, cranberries and cumin. **ul. Koszykowa 1**

LE CEDRE

With the decadent dazzle of a bedouin tent, nights in Le Cedre are best celebrated with blasts on a sheesha and their Friday night belly dancer. Otherwise, just settle for the best Lebanese food in CEE; of particular note, the charcoal-grilled lamb chops. **Al. Solidarności 61**

polish

BARON THE FAMILY

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
Set around a spacious network of canopied outdoor wooden cabins, the *Insider's* former Chef of the Year, Aleksander Baron, presents a casual food offer around his passion for 'food from the fire'. Yes sir, that means suckling pigs; sausages flavored with gingerbread spice; tartare served inside fried bread; piles of ribs; and other hefty foods that make you feel good about life. Having evolved from maverick talent to national treasure, this is The Good Baron at his thundering best! **Krakowskie Przedmieście 4**

Eat! listings

ice cream box

FRANK WARSZAWA

Mixing, so they say, French philosophy with New York creativity and Polish heart, a visit to Frank is like happening upon a little, local secret. The pastries are a standout, but you know what, so too is the ice cream. Pastry or ice cream? Spoil yourself: have both. **ul. Polna 18/20**

ICE POT

Ice Pot finished has long been one of the Insider's favorite scoop – and they keep getting better. Produced by a true enthusiast, the seasonal flavors and occasionally wacky experiments (mulled wine, apple pie, etc.) never score less than a perfect ten. And if the tastes are a different level, then the service is as well. **Hala Gwardii**

JEDNOROŻEC

What is it with Mokotów and ice cream? Amid a hugely competitive field, the wide flavor choice, quality ingredients and loving hand of Jednorożec mark them a notch above their immediate competitors. **ul. Narbutta 38**

NA KOŃCU TĘCZY

Named in honor of the rainbow that once stood in the center of Pl. Zbawiciela, this vibrant spot occasionally likes to push the envelope when it comes to flavors, but it's the fruity flavors that seem to work the best: the kiwi mascarpone is another level, as is the apple sorbet. **Al. Wyzwolenia 15**

NITRO LODY

Frozen with liquid nitrogen, just watching the process is enough to make customers feel like they're watching some NASA sponsored experiment. Smoother than midnight velvet, the result sees super creamy classic tastes jazzed up with sprinkles of Lion bar, Gummi Bears and other such greatness. **ul. Zwycięzców 11**

PALLONE

Made to Italian recipes reputed to be 160-years old (with some personal magic thrown in to boot), Pallone pride themselves on quality ingredients: chocolate from Belgian and Colombia, citrus fruits from Sicily, and the finest cream and milk you'll find in Poland. There's nothing too wacky about the flavor choice but the tastes will punch you out. Wow!!! **ul. Brzeska 29/31**

QUATTRO SI

This Pruszków-based gelateria raised eyebrows earlier this year after it was ranked 42nd in the latest edition of the Gelato Festival World Rankings. Owned by Peter Bertoti, the parlor is no stranger to accolades, having previously scooped domestic awards for its plum and blueberry flavors. **ul. Jasna 4B (Pruszków)**

ROSZKI

Although it looks rather budget-minded, Roszki have won hearts for an offer that's especially

strong on chocolate-based ice creams. The chocolate habanero comes with a fiery twist and a fan club that extends beyond Muranów's geographic borders – full marks! **ul. Andersa 37**

STARA LODZIARNIA

Interesting variations such as coconut & blackberry are well received, but it's the basics that are truly exceptional: no-one does strawberry better! Made outside of Warsaw by the owner's parents (and to a recipe coined by the family before the war), the scoops here speak of a true labor of love. **ul. Francuska 48**

ULICA BAŚNIOWA

The choice isn't just vast, it's sugar-free thanks to their commitment to using natural stevia instead. Few leave with anything but rave reviews, and their cause is furthered by an equally impressive choice of cakes and tarts. It's a Żoliborz legend – and rightfully so. **Al. Wojska Polskiego 41**

VEGESTACJA

Known as the vegan square mile on account of its proliferation of vegan restaurants and cafes, it's no surprise to find a vegan gelato stop ('vegelato') opening in the area. Top marks to sugar-free creations such as the mango lass or raspberry & cardamom. **ul. Poznańska 26**

Eat! listings

BEZ GWIAZDEK

Focusing each month on a different region of the country, Robert Trzópek's tasting menu takes diners to the very heart of the Polish soul and does so via tastes that betray his fine dining background: delicate and precise, it's the polar opposite of the mundane Polski feast. For many, it's the best restaurant in the city! **ul. Wiśłana 8**

steak houses

BUTCHERY & WINE

When Butchery opened in 2011 it completely transformed the way Poland viewed its steak. The first 'new wave' meat joint in the country, it's launch lit the fuse for a steak revolution. Now an institution in its own right, this cosmopolitan spot remains one of the most sought out bookings in the capital. **ul. Żurawia 22**

KONESER GRILL

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
Brought to you from the same stable as Rozbrat 20 and Butchery & Wine, the Ferment Group's latest opening ticks just about every box going. Amid smooth lighting, blond woods, metal fixtures and outbreaks of rich teal colors, visit for a menu based around the concept of 'fire'. Yes, that means meat. But beyond that, do also anticipate unexpected glories such as quail Scotch eggs and grilled Fine de Claire oysters. It's all stonkingly brilliant. **ul. Ząbkowska 29 (Centrum Praskie Koneser)**

MIĘSNY

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
Already firmly embedded in the hearts of the surrounding community (and beyond), this local champion has long been hailed by foodies for a menu that offers an atavistic joyride

through primal, caveman pleasures: if there's a better chateaubriand being served in Poland then we've yet to find it. Set inside a monochrome-floored, white-tiled interior adorned with an azure-colored neon and graphic illustrative wall art depicting tasty farmyard animals, it does more than simply serve our favorite meaty cuts; it makes the neighborhood feel complete. **ul. Walecznych 64**

thai

BANGKOK SOI

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
Dispensing entirely of formality, order from a crumpled sheet of paper at the counter before seating yourself in a basic room decorated with Chang beer pennants and Muangthong United football scarves. Replicating the street tastes of Bangkok, what next arrives is a whirl of full-throated flavors that you never expected. It's easy to become hopelessly lost in waves of bliss. **Al. Jana Pawła II 50**

THAI THAI

A visual feast of ink black colors and shimmering deities this is by far the most formal of Warsaw's Thai options – and also the best. Peaks include a grilled beef salad full of citrusy twists, lively flavors and vibrant colors, and sundried pork neck that's all manly crunch and nose-clearing sauce. **Pl. Teatralny 3**

vegan

EDAMAME VEGAN SUSHI

Sushi without its star ingredient sounds ridiculous, but this vegan sushi joint manages to out-manue-

ver its traditional competitors by replacing below-par fish with fresh, vegetarian produce: pak choy, shiso, avocado, eggplant, oyster mushrooms, asparagus, etc. In HappyCow's rankings, it scores the highest of the lot. **ul. Wilcza 11**

LEONARDO VERDE

Geometric patterns, plant arrangements and the large format illustrative artwork of Dominique A. Faryno decorate Leonardo Verde, an upmarket – but inexpensive – Italian joint. Pizza is the forte, and you'll see why after ordering the 'hot romantic'. **ul. Poznańska 13**

MOMENCIK

Steamy, tight and sweaty, this pokey subterranean cavern has one key credit to its name: burritos that outrank the majority of 'proper Mexicans' in town. The salsas, too, are magnificent. **ul. Poznańska 16**

NO PROBLEM

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"
No Problem's menu registers a direct hit when it comes to health-minded comfort food but there's a bar scene as well with a range of craft beers served in a buzzy space that's Berlin in its spirit: rough-hewn walls painted with street art, wobbly wooden furniture and posters advertising upcoming gigs. **ul. Bracka 20**

VEGAN RAMEN SHOP

Now found in Saska Kępa (a cool venue decorated with 'levitating shelves'), Mokotów (wall art, bamboo and a giant cat), and Muranów (Street Fighter arcade game and a pink surfboard), their fans head here for what many have described as 'the best noodles in the world!' Order the spicy miso ramen and you too will become a convert. **ul. Finlandzka 12 a, ul. Kazimierzowska 43 & Al. Jana Pawła II 52/54**

Drink!



KEEPING IT COOL

With temperatures already hitting the kind of levels usually only found inside a microwave, the last thing on our minds is a steaming hot cuppa' – so it's a good thing, therefore, that the global nitro phenomenon has been welcomed in Warsaw.

Review



What's it all about? Well, for the benefit of those that have spent the last few years hiding under a rock or serving out a jail sentence in Kentucky, it's essentially a cold brew coffee infused with nitrogen and then released through a perforated, pressurized valve – this results in a silky, creamy, ice cold coffee. The final effect isn't dissimilar to Guinness both in its look and its taste.

First appearing in Warsaw two or three years back, it's become something of a cult summer staple with a growing spread of specialty cafes providing their own special spin. In this regard, top marks go to Tłusty Kotek (who also serve up nitro tea), as well as the homemade machine at Kawetek.

In the 'burbs, we love Czytelnia, whilst back in the center Relax Na Wilczej and Coffeedesk also get winks of approval. And that's not forgetting Cophi, either – served on a shaded pavement terrace adorned with palm-like succulents, in local terms they've long been considered flagbearers of this trend.

Nitro Heroes

Coffeedesk
Wilcza 42 & Prózna 7

Kawetek
Łucka 18

Cophi
Hoża 58/60

Relax Na Wilczej
Wilcza 17

Czytelnia
Zjednoczenia 50

Tłusty Kotek
Hoża 51

TERRACE CULTURE

Joining the battle for the title of Warsaw's top summer space, a Saska jewel reopens under the banner of Flaming...

BACK STORY

Something of a modernist pearl, the Łepkowskich Villa was completed in 1935 according to a swish design coined by Lucjan Korngold and Piotr Maria Lubiński. Commissioning it was Józef Łepkowski, a car dealer specializing in the import of American automobiles such as the Chevrolet.

Commandeered by Polish forces during the Siege of Warsaw, it was at the forefront of Saska Kępa's defensive actions in 1939. In the post-war years, it became a bulwark of French diplomatic activity and served as the ambassa-

Review



dor's home from 1946 until 2005. More recently, it was reabsorbed into the district's social life under the guise of Biała, a cocktail-coffee concept by Grupa Warszawa.

THEN WHAT?

Then came Flaming & Co. Already known in the city center for a food & drink concept channeling the Long Island spirit, their latest venture opened in June under the banner of Flaming Bistro. Although it's early days yet, you get the idea that a legend has been born.

THE CLINCHER

Rarely has a concept been better suited to the overall backdrop. With its perfect white colors, the glass-fronted oblong form of the Łepkowskich Villa has an elegant sophistication to it that's delicious on the eye. But it becomes even more so out the back.

It's here you'll find a garden that's been in-filled with well-spaced wooden decks hiding amid the vegetation and plant life. A garden in the truest sense of the word, the best view is from the balcony on top. Set aside for smokers, and accessed via a glorious spiral staircase, it's from here you gaze down on the people gathered below as you consider all the good things about life.

And if the crowd look impeccable in their freshly-pressed polos, then don't think for a moment it's entirely serious – this being The Kępa, kids and dogs are not forgotten. In one corner, find a quietly hidden inflatable slide and play area, whilst out front discover a doggy bar fitted out with water points for your four-legged fiend. And if you don't care for either children nor animals, then the large footprint of Flaming Bistro's garden ensures you won't be

bothered by those that do – it's a win-win.

DRINKS...

Are fab. You've got some craft beers from upscale breweries like BeerLab, a strong wine list, a good choice of house lemonades (Insider choice: the yuzu tang) and... cocktails. The classics are great, but you're a moron if you don't hit them up for their own Flaming Specials. They're all winners, but the Flaming Co. (infused butterfly tea vodka; Cointreau; elderflower cordial; sour; sparkling wine; and lime juice) is really something special – light, fun, refreshing and ideal for a starry summer night.

Flaming Bistro
Francuska 2, flaming-co.com/
flaming-bistro

Roundup



IN FOCUS: ŚRÓDMIEŚCIE POŁUDNIOWE

Get to the bottom of the city center's nightlife...

THE BIG BUZZ

If ever a street was dying to be pedestrianized then it's definitely **Poznańska**. In summer, find an international crowd of partying professionals spilling

out of bars like **Beirut** and **Kraken** to give the area a real street party vibe. The recent addition of **VHS**, an 80s-themed cocktail bar, has served to only up the ante.

DARK & DIVEY

Long and narrow, dark and murky, **Świetlica** (*Marszałkowska 17*) is as raw as they come: basically, it's everything you demand from the last bar of the night – a place where you can slide into the gloomy shadows and watch the world spin around.

MIX & MINGLE

So small is the Moroccan-themed whisky bar that is **Aura** (*Hoża 27*) that conversation with strangers is inevitable, but the same applies to the much larger **Foton** (*Wilcza 9A*) not far away. Composed of raw materials, steel frames and tumbling plants, it's a late night winner where the boozy ambiance guarantees meeting total strangers.

PEOPLE WATCHING

Hala Koszyki (*Koszykowa 63*)

Roundup



CUDA NA KIJU

transformed the way Warsaw socializes, and this former market hall has lost none of its spirit. Not many places feel as international, and five years after opening it remains one of Warsaw's top check-ins. Drinks-wise, there's something for everyone, but the Pimm's is our recommendation.

OLD TIME LEGEND

Celebrating their 25th anniversary this July, not many can beat the longevity of **Gorączka Złota** (*Wilcza 29*). Oblivious to wider trends, there's nothing faddish about dark and pokey GZ, and it's this feeling of neighborly normality that its ardent band of regulars hold dear. But beyond that, this bar is simply the place for an exceptional pint.

SPEAKEASY SECRET

Hidden deep inside a courtyard

building few even know about, plush-looking **Back Room** (*Koszykowa 49A*) is masterful when it comes to cocktails. Immaculate, imaginative and mixed with practiced expertise, they reflect the upmarket ambience to a tee.

WHERE TO WATCH THE EUROS

For Brit expats (and about 28 nationalities beyond) **Legends** (*E. Plater 25*) has been the no-brainer. Run by Graham, an ex-embassy bod and devout Everton fan, Warsaw's favorite football pub is the final word in expat banter.

... AND WHERE NOT

"Are you showing football," we enquired of **Cuda Na Kiju** (*Nowy Świat 6/12*). "Never," came the answer. Instead, turn up to drink craft beer in a vast, echoing courtyard or directly outside on one of the ZILLIONS of deckchairs they've planted outside. With the palm tree in front, this is Warsaw's favorite summer terrace!

CRAFT BEER CRAWL

Regarded as the undisputed heart of Warsaw's craft beer scene, **Nowogrodzka** street features a trio of legends: industrial-looking **Drugie Dno**, followed by **Jabeerwocky** and **Kufle I Kapsle**. In these, explore the remarkable world of Polish craft alongside a crowd that feels diverse in gender, age and nationality. And round the corner, don't forget **Hopito**.

COURTYARD COOL

Bibenda (*Nowogrodzka 10*) have nailed it when it comes to finding the balance be-

tween food and drink. Feeling shaded and a little chipped, the inner courtyard seems to define Warsaw's urban cool, a feeling that's matched equally at **Wozownia** (*Nowy Świat 1*). For a pre-party drink, the latter is a bit of a beauty with its neons, plants and plentiful Prosecco.

WINE TIME

Ale Wino (*Mokotowska 48*) is nothing if not a striking inner-city refuge. Complete with wooden decking, and a slanting sail blocking out the sun's full power, it's a place in which to dwell over exquisite food and some brilliant wine.

INSIDER FAVE

At **Pardon To Tu** (*Armii Ludowej 14*) there's much to love: the commitment to leftfield sounds, the flexi hours, an interesting beer choice and a sprawling terrace for warmer nights. Mostly though, you love it for its air of friendly, unforced cool.

ALL-NIGHTER

A riot of drunkenness and fun, weekends at **Plan B** (*Wyzwolenia 18*) pass by in a raucous blur. It's a fave of the kind of off-duty DJs that read *Vice* magazine, and this den of debauchery is at its best when the party hits the colonnades that curl outside.

HANGOVER HERO

If you're hungover, then there's a good chance that came from **Pacyfyk** (*Hoża 61*), a super cool bar with interiors inspired by the Miami Vice era: lots of candy floss pink and shades of teal. But help is at hand – rock by for their exotic versions of the Bloody Mary. Three sips and you're Superman! ☑

Drink! listings

after work classics

THE ALCHEMIST

Poland's still getting used to the idea of 'a pint after work', but in The Alchemist the idea of a post-office drink just seems so right. From the off, it's a place that screams, "off with the tie, there's drinks to be had!" Back under new ownership, the terrace remains the place to be seen. **Pl. Piłsudskiego 3**

FRANCUSKA 30

The brollies that dangle teasingly over the terrace are one of Saska's most photographed sights, but this café earns its visitors by providing ace coffee brewed using Chemex, Aeropress and Drip methods, as well as a range of French crepes, above-average cocktails and a healthy smattering of craft beer. **ul. Francuska 30**

clubbing

LUZTRO

Dark and generally grubby, Warsaw's most (in)famous club only gets going around about three. As the hours click towards daybreak, the scenes of depravity are like something from Sodom and Gomorrah. Enjoyed by zombies that quite definitely don't have to be up for work anytime in the next 48 hrs, it's not just the full-on techno that will leave the brain rattling – it's the craziest night in Poland! **Al. Jerozolimskie 6**

RITUAL

Looking dark and sensual, this two-level space unwraps before you like some elaborate adventure. Can-

dles flicker, atmosphere crackles – moving towards the bar, slinky, sultry club creatures of unfathomable beauty prowling past with drinks poised in hand. Heating up gradually as the night progresses, Ritual moves organically from being a voluptuous bar to a spicy club as the night ebbs towards its heady conclusion. **ul. Mazowiecka 12**

SEN

Entering this top-floor joint, visitors are hit by a tidal wave of gorgeousness: wall-to-wall with George Clooney lookalikes, off-duty celebrities and catwalk glamor pusses, the carefree hedonism is like something from a film – only tonight, you're one of the stars. Sod the bank account, you think, bring me champagne: enjoy just that on a terrace deck slung with Edison bulbs, or indoors in an area festooned with deluxe sofas and floor-to-ceiling windows that stare out onto the National Stadium opposite. **ul. Wioślarska 6**

SMOLNA

Helping to fan the 'sense of secret', the no-cellphone policy (you cover the camera with a sticker) ensures a zero amount of berks recording the shenanigans that await. Allow the names they've pulled do the talking – past events include sets by Pete Tong, Laurent Garnier and Hercules & Love Affair. If those names mean nothing then it's not your place. **ul. Smolna 38**

SYRENI ŚPIEW KONESER

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List" Almost insane in the scale of its ambition, the multi-floor set up is a big, sexy mash of steel stairs, velvet sofas and industrial add-ons. As for the weekend parties, these are an exercise in excess with all kinds of lunacy breaking out: trapeze artists, sword swallowers, burlesque

dancers and more. Leaving, it's with the senses spinning in a swirl of disbelief. The very definition of debauched decadence, the brilliance is underlined by flawless cocktails and the best-looking crowd in the country. **Pl. Konesera 4**

cocktails

AURA

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List" Nestled inside a small nook on Hoża, the mousehole dimensions of Aura are tempered by the tall ceilings and Moroccan-style design that's so cool it found itself featured in Dezeen magazine. Promoting the heavy use of swivelly chrome stools and Persian rugs, the heavy hint of retro glam is balanced out by a crowd that, at times, strays into the head turning category. Find them lapping up a cocktail list firmly zoned around Aura's collection of bourbons. **ul. Hoża 27**

BAR WIECZORNY

Fixed by some of the biggest names in Polish cocktail culture, the cocktails are a serious biz here and neatly complimented by a beautiful garden set with crates and little lights dangling from the trees. Mokotów doesn't have the best reputation for nightlife, but in Wieczorny the area has a star of some legend. **ul. Wiśniowa 46**

EL KOKTEL

The pert and pretty are here, so too the well-groomed modern man, but there's a balance to the crowd that prevents any whiff of snob. As a bar it feels open-minded, engaging and intelligent, and those are traits that rub off on those present. Drinks – such as the smoking Out Of The Box – are insanely good, and served

Drink! listings

in a small, high-ceilinged interior busy with framed vintage posters, cyan-colored wallpaper, baffling photos of Lynch-esque scenes and gleaming strainers and shakers. **ul. Wojciecha Górskiego 9**

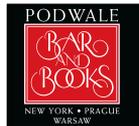
LORETA

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"

Well who doesn't love a rooftop bar? That's the setting of Loreta, a bar that channels the spirit of this design-led hotel brand through its funky décor and eclectic art. The terrace, though, is the clincher. As night falls, retreat to a deck signposted by a neon the color of bubblegum pink; here, amid bristling greenery and low-slung seating, join other cocktail hounds enjoying house sips such as the Loreta Cup. **ul. Widok 9 (Puro Hotel)**

MR. OH

A semi-secret world for those In The Know, find Mr. Oh in one of the Harry Potter towers that prop up Poniatowski Bridge. Dark, decadent and redolent of an after-hours members club, this latest concept from Enio Chłapowski-Myjak (formerly of 6 Cocktails) is firmly on its way to becoming the coolest address in town. Late nights, Asian-themed cocktails and an A-list crowd await. **Al. 3 Maja / ul. Kruczkowskiego**



PODWALE BAR & BOOKS

Occupying the kind of charismatic gatehouse you'd read about in Dickens, position yourself in front of the upstairs fireplace for a celebratory cigar and a glass of something tall and lovely: the cocktails are in a class of their own and specifically customized for the season. Spooling, silent Bond films, regular burlesque shows and

random decorative monkey figures add an unexpected 'element of weird'. **ul. Wąski Dunaj 20**

REGINABAR

Hip and happening, the concept at Reginabar is a wacky amalgam that mixes elements of New York's Little Italy with China Town next door. The menu rocks, but find it augmented by a dynamic cocktail list that reflects the crazy things happening in Warsaw's world of drinks: that means, the regular sips aside, 'magic cocktails' with names such as Power Spells and Star Dust. Dazzly and mysterious, lap these up in an interior that joins the retro with the avant garde. **ul. Koszykowa 1**

THE ROOF

Twenty-one floors high, find The Roof perched on one of Wola's newest skyscrapers. Featuring indoor and outdoor seating, the air of sophistication manifests itself by way of inspiring house cocktails (e.g. a Warsaw-themed sarsaparilla), a vampish crowd and a design that feels luxurious, elegant yet tastefully restrained: sleek furnishings and well-deployed plants and spherical lights that never detract from the star attraction: stonking views of the glittering city. **Rondo Daszyńskiego 2**

WARSZAWA POWIŚLE

🏆 Best of Warsaw 2020 "Hot List"

Found in a saucer-shaped building that began life in the 60s as a ticket booth, the retro-inspired Warszawa Powiśle is even better than the cult bar once found here. Polished up, and still touting original features such as power boxes and concrete floors, giant windows and a PRL era neon perched atop of the building, the scene is set for classic cocktails imbibed and enjoyed in a rotunda decorated with vintage tables, velvety poufs, leafy plants and an

underlit, marble-topped bar. It's nothing less than super cool. **ul. Kruczkowskiego 3B**

craft beer

CRAFT BEER MURANÓW

Humble and unpretentious, CBM's rising stock has been reflected by their growing reputation as one of the finest tap bars with a suburban postcode. Split over two levels, as basic as the aesthetic is (screechy chairs and some murals that reference the brewing process), it's an atmosphere that feels warm and clattery and like a local pub should. **ul. Andersa 23**

CUDA NA KIJU

Set in the former Communist Party HQ, find Warsaw's first legitimate multitap bar slotted inside a glass prism hidden amid the solid, socialist era arcades. Drenched in sunlight that comes slanting through the glass walls, queue inside to order from the 15 taps firing out beers from various European craft breweries, before heading out to enjoy a humungous terrace dotted with deckchairs and tables. Watching the sunset while looking out towards the city's iconic palm tree installations is a pure Warsaw moment. **ul. Nowy Świat 6/12**

CZEŚĆ

It started as a café, but now Cześć is better known as being at the forefront of the new generation of 'quali-tap' bars – small little places with six or so beers on the go. The two owners, Piotrek and Kuba, take their beer seriously, so do expect plenty of new finds as well as traditional favorites from stalwarts like Artezan and Pinta. **ul. Grzybowska 2 (through the side passage)**

Drink! listings

DRUGIE DNO

To plug into the pounding heart of Warsaw's craft beer scene, look no further than Nowogrodzka. Joining the ranks of the street's multi-tap bars is Drugie Dno, a three-level space that's been themed to evoke the look of a disused power station. Sporting rugged brickwork and a scuffed style, the industrialized look has been amped up to the max through the use of steel girders, vintage voltage meters and toilets disguised as elevator shafts. **ul. Nowogrodzka 4**

HOPITO

Created by the namesake brewery, a producer that thinks nothing of creating drinks such as Grizzly, a hazelnut and Brazilian coffee imperial pastry stout, Hopito has a younger vibe than the other craft bars in the vicinity – find a sloshed audience weaving around a neon lit room with black and white doodles. Note, also, the presence of this year's must-have accessory. A wood-fired pizza oven imported from Naples. **ul. Żurawia 32/34**

JABEERWOCKY

Drowned in boisterous babble and general pub racket, the affable Jabbers is home to what most rate as the most adventurous choice of craft beer in the city: pioneering international breweries are well represented, but don't overlook the sensational drinks produced by Jabeerwocky's very own master brewer. **ul. Nowogrodzka 12**

KUFLE I KAPSLE

Found somewhere round the top of Warsaw's hierarchy of craft beer bars, Kufle welcomes all, from entry level novices taking their first steps in the beery world to note-taking nerds conducting research for their blogs. Interiors

are respectful of the building's pre-war heritage and are thick with noise, clamor and the reassuring smell of spillage. The edgy beer selection becomes is even more radical when you look down in the fridge. **ul. Nowogrodzka 25**

PINTA

Taking the space once occupied by the ill-fated Mikkeller Bar, Pinta's flagship bears many of the hallmarks of the previous tenant: a pared down Scandi design set across two glass-fronted floors round the back of Chmielna. Featuring plenty of concrete and chunks of shipping containers, the sparsity of the design keeps your attention on the beer – and it's brilliant. Pinta, if you don't know, can be considered the founding fathers of Poland's craft beer scene, and this bar gives their portfolio the attention it deserves. **ul. Chmielna 7/9**

SAME KRAFTY

Squashed into two narrow, rugged rooms decorated with benches and rough plaster walls, Same Krafy have rescued Old Town from big beer brands peddling piss. Offering artisan alternatives, this intimate bar lures daring tourists looking to explore the more subversive side of Polish brewing. Too busy? Head five meters opposite to Same Krafy Vis-à-vis. You will find tourists, but locals are often the majority, a telling indicator that says much for their approval rating. **ul. Nowomiejska 10**

dive bars

MIEJSCE CHWILA

Surviving the move from their former digs is the giant mural of a weather-worn babcia, and it's under her watery gaze that drinkers

congregate to make the most of a decent fridge generously stocked with specialty beers from Poland's more leftfield producers. Also successfully enduring the challenges of their cross-city move is the underlying spirit that made them so famous. Defiantly arty in its character, the creative mood that prevails manifests itself in a quirky design that involves retro accents, refurbished armchairs, a neon of Lennon and the compelling illustrations of Izabela Wójtowicz. **ul. Żurawia 47**

NOWY ŚWIAT 'PAVILIONS'

For the highest condensation of bars in the capital head to 'the pavilions', a collection of ramshackle drinking cabins, shot bars and sheesha lairs inside a tight grid of shadowy back alleys. Adding to the gentle sense of confusion comes the realization that so many bars look the same – accessed through clattery, barred doors, visitors walk into what can only be described as murk and chaos. **Find them through the passageway at Nowy Świat 26.**

OFFSIDE

Located opposite a mural of a giant goose and a gaudy statue of retro football star Kazimierz Deyna, this wreck announces its intention from the off with a piece of graffiti over the bar declaring that, "this is not a f***ing cocktail bar". Despite the somewhat threatening slogan, it's a place of amiable anarchy and warm camaraderie. The neo Berlin aesthetic sits well with a crowd composed of maverick artists, local radicals and volunteers from Poland's first 'democratic' football club, AKS ZŁY. **ul. Brzeska 16**

PRASKA

For Praga at its craziest and most creative, Praska doesn't disappoint.

Drink! listings

Beers from Brooklyn Brewery keep the open-minded crowd lubricated with other amusements arriving in the form of regular DJs and a quite extraordinary interior: Christmas lights, giant, toy tigers, heaps of plants and other scaparyard finds dominate what rates as our weirdest discovery of 2019. ul.

Brzeska 23

late night legends

BAR STUDIO

The dehumanizing scale of the Palace of Culture is diluted in

warmer weather when Pl. Defilad turns into something of an outdoor party thanks to Bar Studio's presence – and no worries if it rains, the epic colonnades were built as if to provide shelter from the storm. And with no nearby neighbors to ruin the party, it's just about one of the only places in Warsaw where noise is never an issue – scream and no-one cares. Pl. Defilad 1

GRAM

Up the stairs you go to enter Gram, a small room that invokes feelings of stepping inside a circus Big Top. Order up a craft beer from the fridge before making your way around the arcade games and pinball machines squeezed inside – come on, there's

not much to beat the feeling of out-scoring your date on Space Invaders and Pac-Man. Between turns, count the number of monkey figures parachuting from the ceiling... ul.

Marszałkowska 45/49

live entertainment

HYDROZAGADKA / CHMURY

Set out in the wildlands of Praga, consider this pair of neighboring venues as the definition of unforced cool. Known for their alternative music scene, the low-ceilings and their tight, crowded confines



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Drink! listings

generate an electrifying atmosphere where the audience and band become one. Walking a fine line between industrial and straight out decrepit, the ambiance is second to none: drinks flow, strangers meet and music smashes out – you can feel something special happening here. **ul. 11 Listopada 22**

KLUB POGŁOS

Scuzzy and a bit seamy, this alt. performance venue gives Warsaw an interesting, if not utterly random direction with an events schedule that involves spoken word performances, vegan BBQs, old skool rave nights and hardcore gigs from bands with names like Cancer Bats and Moscow Death Brigade. They've had bingo nights, as well – hosted by Charlotte Drag Queer. In a city that's always felt a little lacking in the 'live' department, Pogłos punches past sensibility to present evenings that are raw, uncompromising and always high on action. **ul. Burakowska 12**

WOREK KOŚCI

H.P. Lovecraft would love it. Decorated with replica skulls (400 reckons the owner!), this place is nothing if not a passionate celebration of the beautiful and bizarre. Burlesque shows are their specialty, but at other times don't be too shocked to stumble in on meetings with private detectives, seminars by criminal profilers or gigs by bands with names such as Bipolar Order. Crazy, brilliant, etc., and ideal for a night with a difference. **ul. Bagatela 10**

specialty coffee

ASFALT

The combination of vinyl and coffee

ain't nothing new, but at Asphalt you feel that the very heart of the concept has been completely remastered. Take stock of your purchases over alt. coffees served inside mugs crafted by the nearby Fenek ceramic studio. **ul. Tamka 37**

COFFEEDESK

Looking flawless in her pearl white colors, Coffeedesk is a place that does it right. Brewed by expert coffeologists, the humble cup of Joe becomes an object of adoration. Populated round-the-clock by head-phoned freelancers and digital nomads tapping into their Macs, it's a light, bright spot with a dynamic style and a keen sense of sexy. **ul. Wilcza 42**

COFFEEDESK PRÓŻNA

Already established thanks to an uber-cool location on Wilcza, discover their latest outpost sitting on gloriously restored pre-war Próźna. Featuring brick finishes, warm woods and elegant lighting, the commitment to quality is underlined by a wall of coffee ephemera, a pair of La Marzocco machines and a glassed-in coffee lab set aside for trainings and workshops. **ul. Próźna 7**

COPHI

The phrase three's a crowd could have been coined with Cophi in mind. Its super-snug dimensions are ideal for an afternoon spent curled up on an armchair watching the leaves tumble down on Hoża outside. A passion project whose small footprint is counterbalanced by the depth of its offer, the living room vibe mounts when the temperatures start dropping and the interiors act as a beacon to the public. Note: currently open for window-side take-outs only. **ul. Hoża 58/60**

COPHI II

Already established on Hoża as one of Warsaw's favorite sources of specialty coffee, Cophi have cast their net a little further (and we mean a little – as in 500 meters or so) to cover Lwowska. And what a gem it is: personally designed by Uri, the owner, find a bijou space lavished in shades of candy cotton pink and rich, forest green; finished with a healthy, heavy dose of fresh wood, poster art and patterned floor tiles, it's a place you'd like to hang around in. **ul. Lwowska 2A**

FAT WHITE

Attached to one of the hippest, most Instagram-able barber shops in town, highlights of this adjoining cafe include a rocking cold brew, wickedly friendly staff and a half-mad collection of toy action figures (from Simpson models to a bad ass Al Pacino in full Scarface model). Tiny in its footprint, what it lacks in size it makes up for in heart: find a beauty of an interior that's all swan white colors with walls graced by bookshelves and contemporary art that references Muranów's past. **ul. Andersa 6**

FILTRY DOBRA KAWA

Launched in 2007 by Konrad Konstanynowicz, Filtry was the original specialty coffee café, a groundbreaking operation that led by example. Enjoy your coffee in a high-ceilinged unit clad in chess board colors and scuffed PRL flooring – considered by the city's coffee aficionados as a place of pilgrimage, the responsibility falls to us to ensure it's still standing when this lunacy ends. **ul. Niemcewicza 3**

FORUM

Born with Instagram in mind, Forum has it all: super cool

Drink! listings

Afro-haired staff, a fashionably frayed interior, and a devoted client base that's all about out-sized headphones and razor-thin laptops. Changing weekly, the big pull is a menu of specialty coffees from acclaimed roasters such as Five Elephant and The Coffee Collective fixed up by Poland's AeroPress and Brewers Cup champion. **ul. Elektoralna 11**

HAŁAS VINYL + COFFEE

Hałas is that brilliant little secret that every neighborhood deserves: a cool little café snuck down a leafy residential street – amid the vinyl albums for sale, find a crew of staunch regulars arriving for weird non-alc. beers and specialty

coffee brewed by a super friendly team inside an attractive basement comprised of crisp white walls and retro fittings. You want summer to return just to be able to sit on their outdoor bench and wallow in the shade. **ul. Elsterska 10**

KAWIARNIA FABRYCZNA

Head to this warm den to sink inside comfy retro chairs and wallow in the natural light that seeps through the window. Prepared on a Nuova Simonelli machine, the coffee hails from a range of pedigree roasters such as Warsaw's own Coffee Lab. Creaky wooden floorboards, local artwork and non-obtrusive colors make it a prime perch after a wintry prow through the parks of Powiśle.

ul. Fabryczna 28/30

KAWIARNIA KAWAŁEK

This neighborhood café offers a human touch in an area filling itself with gleaming glass blocks and gated compounds. Acting as a magnetic force, the homemade nitro machine ("I just like making things," says the owner), is a thing of legend. **ul. Łucka 18**

RELAKS

An evergreen institution, the specialty coffee at Relaks commands respect across Poland. Jacketed in chipboard panels and retro posters, the buzz has lasted so long as to become ingrained in their DNA. **ul. Puławska 48**



Piękne przedmioty. Nabytki 2020 Beautiful objects. Acquisitions 2020

4.05–15.08.2021

Muzeum Łazienki Królewskie, Biały Dom
The Royal Łazienki Museum, White Pavilion



Waza do supy, 1760-1780, Porcelan-Manufaktur Ludwigsburg | Soup tureen, 1760-1780, Porcelain-Manufaktur Ludwigsburg

Opiekun
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Drink! listings

RELAX NA WILCZEJ

An updated upgrade of the original Relax found downtown, this modern day success story maximizes all available space and light with a clean-lined interior that's embellished by a scattering of coffee tomes and a statement mural by Mariusz Tarkawian. A cracking edition to the capital's line-up of alt. coffee haunts. **ul. Wilcza 17**

STOR

Heaven for freelancers and people watchers, visitors bask in natural light amid outbreaks of greenery and quirky design touches: over some of the best specialty coffee in the city, time runs away here and before you know it hours have passed. Though it feels like a neighborhood warrior, it comes as no surprise that Stor's patrons hail from all over Warsaw. **ul. Tamka 33**

U KRAWCA

Creaky floorboards and references to the address's former function as a tailor's shop lend a warmth that's particularly pronounced once the overhead draftsman's lamps are switched on. Homemade cakes, hipster colas and coffee sourced from the likes of Gesha keep it packed with a friendly crowd of local aficionados. **ul. Siennicka 3**

wine bars

ALE WINO

Summers here are magical, with drinkers congregating on a courtyard deck shielded from the sun by a slanted white sail; but winters aren't too shabby either – lose yourself within a warren of warmly-lit rooms that feel snug, intimate and even a little rustic. The choice of 250 plus wines is supported by some

of the best cooking in the city. **ul. Mokotowska 48**

BUBBLES

Despite sounding like a 1980s Essex nightclub, find this bistro locked inside an eternal state of romance. A charismatic assembly of rickety crates, Tolix chairs and deep forest greens, this compact space is ripe for dating. Order a glass of bubbles before plunging into a menu inspired by the slow food philosophy. Damn right there's a lot to like at Bubbles, but there's even more to love. **Pl. Piłsudskiego 9**

CZARNE CZERWONE ZŁOTE

For those wineing out, Czarne Czerwone Złote features over 80 Deutsche weines from 13 producers – carefully selected after the owners' travels through Germany, the carefully curated choice has been matched to a cool, modern design and a menu offering cheeseboards, olives and an extraordinary tarte flambee. **ul. Koszykowa 49A**

DYLETANCI

The archetypal all-rounder, Dyletanci has it all: an approachable bistro style; adventurous cooking; and a wine list with no discernible Achilles Heel. Burgundy is a particular strength, as too are Polish wines (including those from the proprietor's own vineyard, the upcoming Dom Bliskowice). **ul. Rozbrat 44**

LA BUVETTE

La Buvette sits like a hidden gem, nestled on a charming street that radiates off Stara Ochota's Pl. Narutowicza – tree-lined and looking like a cloned version of a picturesque arrondissement of Paris, it's a pleasure to sit on the terrace. And if you've got a tiny dog, you'll fit right in! Come evening, pick through boards of gourmet cheese

whilst sipping on a curated choice of French wines picked by co-owner Harold, a native of Strasbourg. **ul. Mochackiego 4/43**

MIELŻYŃSKI WINE BAR

Tangled in vines and creeping ivy, this brick warehouse comes into its element each summer when drinkers pile outside to drink amid rustling trees and pristine lawns. Set within a former factory compound, the area has been revived with the legendary Mielżyński Wine Bar at its core. **ul. Burakowska 5/7 (also on Czerska 12)**

RAUSZ NA WILCZEJ

Formerly a restaurant serving pre-war cuisine, Rausz na Wilczej used the pandemic to reposition themselves as a wine store / bar, building on their previous reputation for sourcing quirky labels you wouldn't have necessarily heard of before. "In general," says co-owner Izabela, "we want to present wines we drink ourselves from regions that are interesting and well worth knowing." In addition to their Spanish, Italian and French collections, find excellent wines from less familiar destinations: Slovenia, Czech, Austria and Georgia. **ul. Wilcza 27**

WINNICE MOŁDAWII

Set in a 1920s villa that miraculously survived the war, you'll be visiting for a family-run business specializing in the import of Moldovan, Georgian and Romanian wines. Covering both classics and the latest trends, it's a portfolio that's broad in its style and aching to be discovered inside a converted garage attached to the house. Wallow in the suburban serenity of their leafy garden: doing so, you'll come close to drowning in bliss and authentic hospitality. **ul. Czarnieckiego 63A, winnicemoldawii.pl** 

DISCOVER

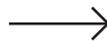
WILHELM SASNAL: SUCH A LANDSCAPE

Back in the spotlight, Sasnal's first major Polish exhibition since 2007 promises to be one of the cultural highlights of the year...



Often lauded as the greatest talent of his generation, a new exhibition featuring the works of Wilhelm Sasnal has opened at Polin, and in the process opened a Pandora's Box that questions how we view the Holocaust.

Depicting Poland in the wake of the Shoah, the exhibition grapples with weighty topics that examine topics of loss, guilt, absence, exclusion, nationalism and alienation. Deeply layered, it goes further to address issues relating to xenophobia and cultural appropriation.





“It’s a complex exhibition because this is a complex painter,” explains the curator, Adam Szymczyk. “Moreover, it presents works painted over a 20-year timespan so of course it will be challenging.”

Of the sixty or so selected paintings, many directly reference Poland’s landscape, which Sasnal presents against the haunting shadow of the Holocaust. In one painting, he depicts his bicycle standing in front of the vastness of Majdanek; in another, his wife stares out of the window at the

gates of Birkenau – titled The First of January, the idea for the work came after the couple found themselves accidentally driving past the Nazi death camp on New Year’s Day.

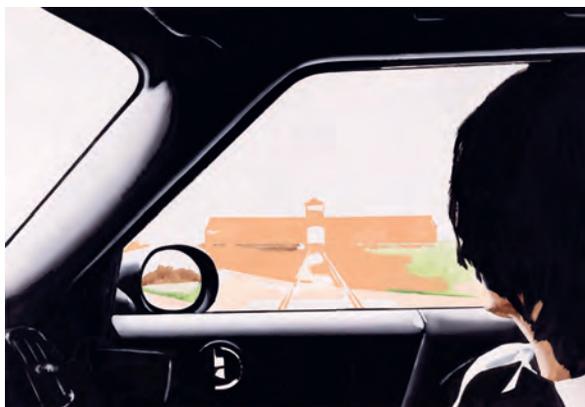
Viewing these, you feel the void left behind by the genocidal policies of the Nazi regime.

Titled ‘Such A Landscape’, the exhibition draws inspiration from other artists, and in particular the landscape painters of the 19th century that helped solidify a national identity at a time when Poland did not geographically exist. Though

these works helped unite Poles and mold the nation’s soul, the nostalgic patriotism that they fostered came at the cost of excluding other ethnic groups such as Jews and Gypsies.

Sasnal brings attention to this though many of the presented works, but there is more to this exhibition than landscapes alone. Other inspirations include poems, books, films, photographs and even graphic novels: four images, for instance, see Sasnal depict scenes from Art Spiegelman’s Maus series, only with the pro-

Wilhelm Sasnal: Such a Landscape When: ongoing till January 10th, 2022
Where: ul. Anielewicz 6 (Polin) **Cost:** PLN 20/15 **Web:** polin.pl/en/wilhelm-sasnal



tagonists removed.

In other works, he pays a respectful nod to the melancholy stories of Tadeusz Borowski, a Pole that survived captivity in Auschwitz only to later commit suicide after the war.

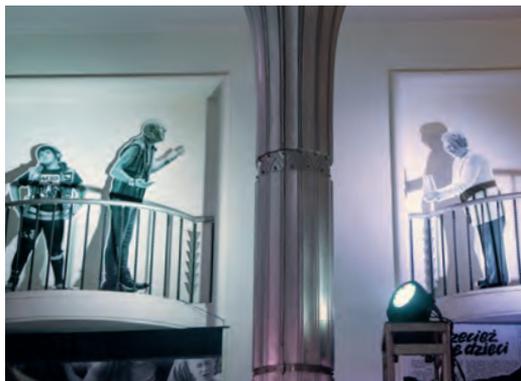
Interpreting the paintings is left to the viewer, but there can be few people that do not sense the disgust and horror that the artist must have felt when painting a portrait of Hitler – it clings to the wall crossed out with a seemingly furious hand.

Posing tough questions, and tinged with a heavy sense of melancholy, this is an exhibition designed to make an impact. However, Szymczyk stresses that the intention is not to cause division but rather to build bridges through the discussions it may prompt.

“In these difficult times, and our current reality, I hope this exhibition gives people a glimmer of hope,” he says. “We have a history we need to understand and address, and only by doing so can we come to terms with the present.”

“

Posing tough questions, and tinged with a heavy sense of melancholy, this is an exhibition designed to make an impact



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN DEMARIA

ROCK ON

As festival season reaches its frenzy, celebrate the story of 'Poland's Woodstock' at this curious exhibition...

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN DEMARIA

BACKGROUND

Jarocin Festival was one of the biggest rock festivals in 1980s Europe and by far the biggest festival of alternative music in the Eastern Bloc. Regarded by some as the Polish Woodstock, some believe that the festival was designed by the government's secret service to create a "safe outlet" for the Polish youth of the time. Others disagree, citing rumors that organizers would simply get officials drunk so as to receive the necessary paperwork that was needed to safeguard the festival.

Whichever theory you buy into, there's no escaping the fact that the festival offered an escape from the reality of PRL Poland. Progressive in a way that was unknown, for many it was a golden opportunity to listen to genres usually overlooked by state radio and TV: blues, rock, heavy metal, punk and reggae. As such, it wasn't uncommon to find the audience sneaking in cassette recorders to create bootleg tapes.

Its waning popularity after the political transformation was compounded by crowd trouble which was serious enough to see the festival put on ice. Resuming in 2005, this year's event will kick-off on July 16th.

JAROCIN HEROES

Numerous bands used Jarocin as their launch pad to greater glories, with the likes of T. Love, Dzem and Kult all getting their head start here. But

established stars also performed on occasion, including Poland's great bard of contemporary times: Czesław Nieman. Arriving alone in his white Ford Transit, and acting as his own roadie, the musical legend allayed fears that he would be negatively received by the punk crowd and was instead met with raucous cheers.

EXHIBITION

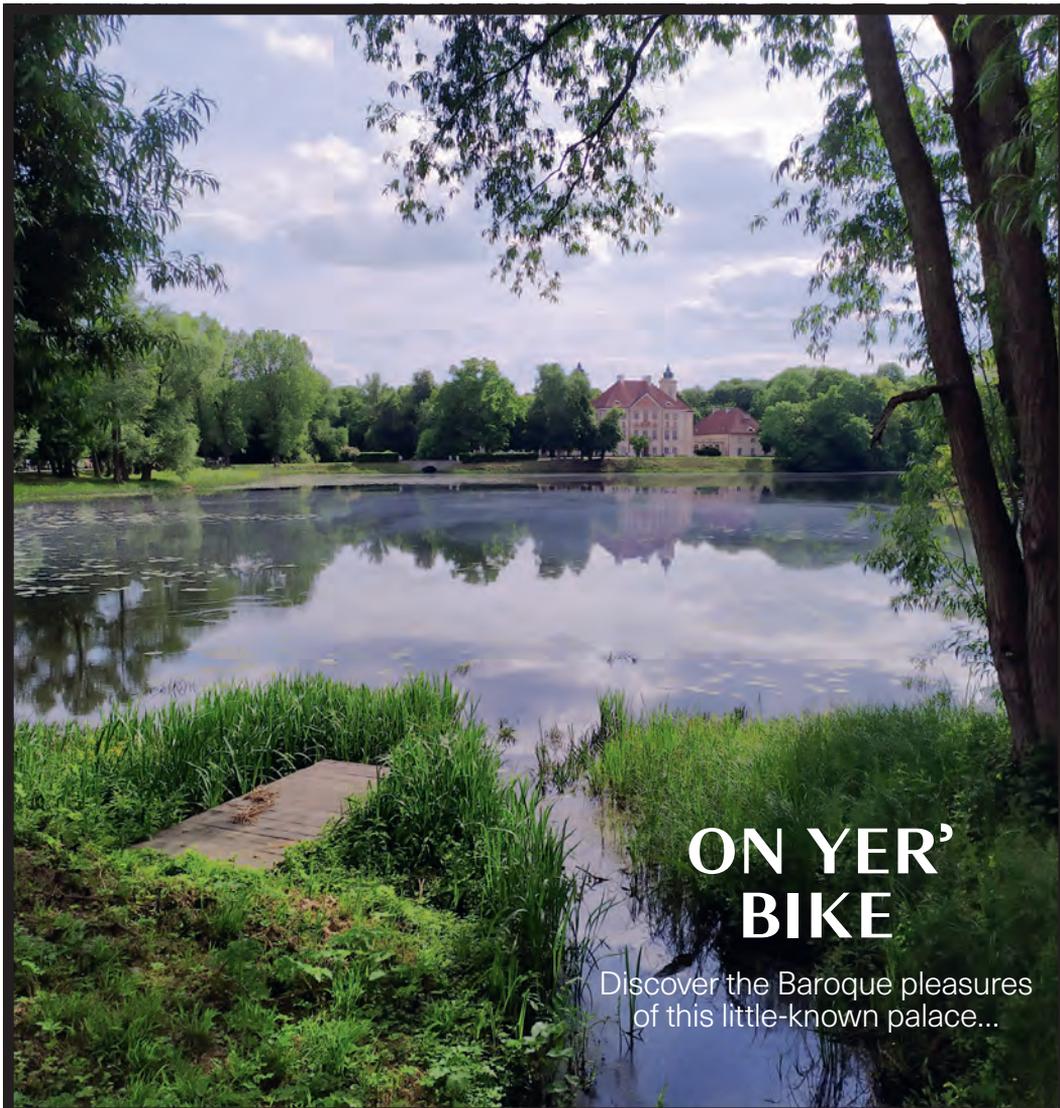
Nestled in a corner of the Palace of Culture & Science, right by Bar Studio, the exhibition summons the festival spirit by leading visitors through a maze of scaffolding – traipsing through it, you feel as if you're backstage at a gig. Images from past events beam down from every angle, and so too does music – the effect isn't far removed from being in the thick of a sweaty crowd. For a more private experience, enjoy your own personal rock-out sesh in one of the interactive audio booths, and after peruse a series of festival photographs taken by the leading documentary photographer in the country: Chris Niedenthal. If there's a big win, however, it's the manner in which this exhibition captures the festival vibe and the magic of youth.

Jarocin - Stacja Wolność!

Where: Pl. Defilad 1 (PKiN). Enter from the Marszałkowska side next Bar Studio.

Tickets: bilety.muzeumrocka.pl

Cost: zł. 1-33



ON YER' BIKE

Discover the Baroque pleasures
of this little-known palace...



BIKE TOUR: OTWOCK MAŁY

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS
BY MICHAŁ PAKULNIEWICZ



Michał Pakulniewicz is an analyst/researcher by profession, but a tour guide at heart. A fan of Warsaw's interwar modernist architecture, and proud of the city's World War II history, he enjoys long walks across the city in search of its glories and novelties. An ardent cyclist, join him to get the best out of Warsaw (and beyond!)..





THE DESTINATION

The Baroque palace is located on an artificial island on an oxbow lake. Interestingly, the island was created by digging a narrow channel which can be seen when walking through the park. The channel was actually dug by Ottoman POWs taken after the Battle of Vienna in 1683. The palace, meanwhile, was the work of the most renowned architect in Poland of the era – the Dutch-born Tylman van Gameren.

At the time of its construction in the 1680s the palace was one of the most magnificent aristocratic residences in the Mazovian region surpassed only by the Royal Palace in Wilanów. Not surprising, seeing that the owner of the palace in Otwock Wielki was the Grand Marshal of the Crown Kazimierz Bieliński. The Bieliński family was particularly close to the court of Poland's Saxon monarch Augustus II the Strong and the King was a frequent visitor to the palace for personal rea-

sons as the owner's daughter was his "favorite"; this alone bestowed many favors and titles on the family and gave Kazimierz Bieliński a strong influence on the Dresden and Warsaw courts. Known for his love of feasts, debauchery and hunting, the king often visited the estate to indulge in these very pleasures. In fact, such was his liking for it, it was here that he hosted Tsar Peter the Great and allegedly proposed a plan to partition Poland (despite being the nation's ruler!).

Perhaps fittingly in relation to the King's hobbies, the tympanum above the main entrance depicts nymphs and fauns in red stucco, inspired by Roman Bacchanalia. This not so prudent scene is, however, balanced out by a cartouche featuring the Bieliński family coat of arms over the central window above the entrance. The coat of arms is held by the allegories of health and strength.

The palace, though located some distance

GETTING THERE

- > Once again, use Wilanów as the starting point and follow Przczołkowa and DREWNY streets south towards Konstancin-Jeziorna.
- > Turn left on Mirkowska street and follow it until you reach road 721. Turn left on 721 and proceed until it intersects with road 712.
- > Turn right on 712. The road will take you straight to the Gassy ferry which runs every 10 mins. Cost is zł. 3 per person and zł. 2 for a bicycle.
- > Once on the right bank of the river follow road 712 until it intersects with 801. This is a relatively busy regional road but also pretty wide and allows for safe cycling until you reach Otwock Mały.
- > Turn right at ul. Zamkowa and that'll take you straight to the main gate (sometimes, this gate is locked in which case the security will usually guide you to turn back, turn right, right again, and then another right so that you reach the palace though the side entrance.
- > If you live on the right of the Wisła, just follow the bike route alongside Wał Miedzyszyński (which in fact is road 801) southwards. Follow the road until Otwock Mały and then continue as described above.



from Warsaw, sustained damage during almost every conflict that has ravaged the country: looted and ruined during the Napoleonic wars, it also suffered in both World Wars. Its romantic, parkland ruins became a popular attraction in the 1800s, but after WWII its decline was such that its surviving structures were relegated to serving as a juvenile home for girls. Only in the 1970s did the government set about improving it, envisaging it as a residence for visiting statesmen. Ironically, however, the most renowned 'guest' that ended up was Lech Wałęsa who was interred here during the Martial Law period.

The Palace is currently a branch of the National Museum in Warsaw and operates as the Museum of Interior/Museum of Design. Among the many items in the hands of the museum are numerous artifacts related to Ignacy Jan Paderewski, including his piano. 

DID YOU KNOW?

The son of the founder of the palace, Franciszek Bieliński was, like his father, the Grand Marshall of the Court. It's after him that Warsaw's Marszałkowska street is named – a tribute to his central role in paving the streets of the city.

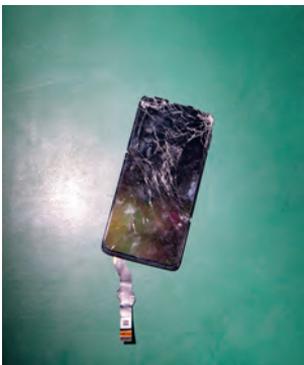
CULTURE BLAST

Each Sunday at 5 p.m. drop by for classical music concerts that promise to nourish the soul.



THAT'S SERVICE!

Tech meltdown? Then head to iSerwis...



BACKGROUND

It all began in 2008 when Tomek, one of the co-founders, dropped his iPhone 3 and decided to have a go mending it himself. With his passion for repairs stirred, he's been fixing things ever since, along with co-partner Michał. Originally based in those pavilions on JPil, they've since set up shop downtown on Hoża.

EXPERTISE

About 80% of their work revolves around the resuscitating knackered mobiles, whilst the other 20% is laptop based: both PC and Mac. The back-room is a trove of phone parts that they've amassed since starting out in business, and they're not throwing any: "you never know what'll come through the door," explain Tomek and Michał. All things considered, they can fix just about anything, from broken motherboards to malfunctioning phones rescued from the bottom of a lake – they've done it all.

TURNAROUND

"If you're coming in off the street," they add, "we'll most likely turn your problem around within 24-48 hours – depending on the availability of parts." A 24hr express service is available for extra, with cell phone repair given priority.

CUSTOMER SERVICE?

You gottit! They are nationwide as well: when one customer's iPhone 10 sustained water damage up by the Hel Peninsula ("don't ever believe they're fully waterproof," say the dynamic duo), iSerwis received it via a same-day delivery service and had it back in his hands for the very next morning. And yes, they also offer fluent English-speaking service courtesy of Michał's impressive linguistic talents.

iSerwis
ul. Hoża 40, iserwis.net.pl

learning

preschools



AMERICAN SCHOOL OF WARSAW

Students aged 3-5 are encouraged to try new things, ask questions, and take risks in a nurturing environment in which they learn life skills alongside academics. Following the Primary Years Programme (PYP), our young students become caring, active participants in a lifelong journey of learning. **Contact admissions@aswarsaw.**



BRITISH PRIMARY SCHOOL OF WILANOW

A values-driven school offering a world-class education based on the best of British Education. BSW is the first school in Poland to be accredited as Compliant by the Council of British International Schools (COBIS). Based in a purpose built premises in Wilanow BSW is accepting applications from Nursery to Year 9. **Please email admissions@bswilanow.org to organise a visit.**



THE BRITISH SCHOOL WARSAW
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

THE BRITISH SCHOOL WARSAW EARLY YEARS CENTRE

The British School Warsaw provides EYFS classes from nursery to Year 1 (6 years old). Children develop quickly and their Early Years practitioners aim to do all they can to help your child have the best possible start in life and become a

lifelong learner. **ul. Dąbrowskiego 84 (Early Years Centre), tel. 22 646 7777, thebritishschool.pl**



THE CANADIAN SCHOOL OF WARSAW PRESCHOOL

Welcoming students from the ages of

2.5 to 6 years old, currently 45% of their admissions are international students. The dedicated, IB-trained teachers deliver an innovative program (PYP) in English designed for modern world needs. The program offers a combination of Literacy, Maths, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education, Art, Music & Rhythmics, French and Polish classes. **ul. Ignacego Krasickiego 53, tel. 697 979 100, canadian-school.pl**



CASA DEI BAMBINI & TODDLER SCHOOL

(multiple locations) Casa dei Bambini and Toddler School have three green and harmonious locations in Mokotów and Izabelin. The school in Izabelin is set in the quiet of the Kampinos Forest just outside the city. Teachers are fully trained in early-childhood education in English according to the Montessori philosophy. Registration open to children 12 months to 6 years of age. **ul. Badowska 19, ul. Tatrzńska 5a (Mokotów), ul. Szkolna 16, (Izabelin), tel. 692 099 134, wmf.edu.pl**



INTERNATIONAL TRILINGUAL SCHOOL OF WARSAW

THE INTERNATIONAL TRILINGUAL SCHOOL OF WARSAW

Established in 1994, The Trilingual



Warsaw Montessori Schools

Accepting applications for our programs and locations:

Infant & Toddler
Tatrzńska 5a
Badowska 19

Casa dei Bambini
Badowska 19
Szkolna 16, Hornówek

Elementary
Szwoleżerów 4

**„Erdkinder”
Middle School**
Tatrzńska 5a

**Montessori
High School**
Pytlańskiego 13a

Contact Office: 692 099 134
office@warsawmontessori.edu.pl

www.wmf.edu.pl

School of Warsaw offers nursery, primary, and pre-school education with an international curriculum for children aged from one to 15. The full immersion trilingual setting allows for the choice between English, Polish, Spanish or Chinese, French or Japanese. Teachers are highly-qualified native speakers from the US, France, Spain, China and Japan. **ul. Nobla 16 (tel. 501 036 637), ul. Karowa 14/16 (tel. 503 072 119), ul. Krolowej Aldony (tel. 533 321 084), office@3languages.pl, itsw.edu.pl**



The English Playhouse

THE ENGLISH PLAYHOUSE

The English Playhouse functions

in two green and quiet residential districts of Mokotów and Wilanów. The pre-school follows the English National Curriculum and accepts children from 12 months up till six-years-old. For more info or to arrange a tour call Justyna Nowak on tel. 784 037 808 or email: jnowak@theenglishplayhouse.com **ul. Pływińska 14a, tel. 22 843 9370, tep.edu.pl**



MAPLE TREE MONTESSORI

Maple Tree Montessori is a family-run, international preschool that offers an authentic Montessori curriculum supported by a Music

& Art program, with a natural playground and a strong focus on an ecological & healthy lifestyle. They have two classes: a toddler group (15 to 30 months) and a casa class (2.5 to 6 years). **ul. Piechoty Łanowej 46A (entrance from Rotmistrzowska/ Petyhorska), tel. 531 599 444, mapletreemontessori.pl**



montessori
stepping
stones

MONTESSORI STEPPING STONES

An intimate, international, English-speaking preschool located in

Admissions
open

for Early Years, Primary,
Secondary and IB



THE BRITISH
SCHOOL
WARSAW

A NORD ANGLIA
EDUCATION SCHOOL

Contact our Admissions Team for a tour
or a personalised *Virtual Discovery Meeting*

admissions@thebritishschool.pl
(0048) 22 842 32 81 ext. 125
www.thebritishschool.pl

Powsin that follows the Montessori philosophy which emphasizes the individuality of each child. Children from the ages of 1.5-years-old to 6-years-old are welcome, with the school's goals aimed at facilitating the individual development of the child, both physical and mental, through a system that is focused on the spontaneous use of the human intellect. **ul. Przyczółkowa 140, tel. 728 939 582, montessoristeppingstones.pl**

schools



**AKADEMEIA
HIGH SCHOOL**

AKADEMEIA HIGH SCHOOL

Akademeia High School is an academically selective international school in Warsaw, offering iGCSEs and A Levels whilst preparing students for the best universities in the world. The staff body consists of alumni of the world's best universities, whilst facilities at what has become Poland's most

prestigious school include an art studio, auditorium, sports hall and roof garden. **ul. Ledóchowskiej 2, akademeia.edu.pl**



AMERICAN SCHOOL OF WARSAW

With over 50 nationalities, ASW has been welcoming students from around the world since 1953. As an IB Continuum school, our students follow the PYP, MYP and DP throughout their learner journey. These programmes develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who are motivated to succeed. They are inspired by our highly qualified and international teaching staff. Students graduate with either the IB diploma or an American high school diploma. All programs are conducted in English, with integrated EAL support for non-native speakers.

Contact: admissions@aswarsaw.org or 22 702 85 00, ul. Warszawska 202 (Konstancin-Jeziorna), aswarsaw.org



BRITISH PRIMARY SCHOOL OF WILANOW

A values-driven school offering a world-class education based on the best of British Education. BSW is the first school in Poland to be accredited as Compliant by the Council of British International Schools (COBIS). Based in a purpose built premises in Wilanow BSW is accepting applications from Nursery to Year 9. **Please email admissions@bswilanow.org to organise a visit**



**THE BRITISH SCHOOL
WARSAW**
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

THE BRITISH SCHOOL WARSAW

Premium international school established in 1992 by Nord Anglia Education. The curriculum is designed to provide the highest academic quality of education. They follow the English National Curriculum, adapted to the needs of their international student



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KINDERGARTEN**
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CHILDREN'S CLUB
NOW OPEN**



Education for a better world

Belwederska 6a, Warsaw

www.maturamiedzynarodowa.pl/przedszkole



community: from Primary through to the Secondary Key Stages to the IGCSE examinations and a well-established International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program. **ul. Limanowskiego 15, tel. 22 842 3281, thebritishschool.pl**

THE ENGLISH PRIMARY

The English Primary is designed specifically for children in the primary education ages, just as children experience in England but in an international community. Pupils are taken through the key learning stages so that they can achieve to the best of their ability through a fun learning experience. The Core Curriculum subjects include English, Phonics, Science, Mathematics, French, PE and Swimming, Music, Personal, Social and Health Education. **ul. Rzodkiewki 18, tel. 784 037 808, tep.edu.pl**



THE CANADIAN SCHOOL OF WARSAW INTERNATIONAL ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Located on two campuses in the Mokotów this is the only authorized IB School with PYP programs taught in English and Polish. French is taught as a third language. Offers a wide range of extra activities, a summer school, and employs a full time psychologist. Provision is made for additional Polish and English support. International staff, cultural events and challenging student initiatives create the perfect learning environment. **ul. Betska 7, tel. 692 411 573 / 885 420 044, secretary@canadian-school.pl or secretary.olimpijska@canadian-school.pl**



THE INTERNATIONAL TRILINGUAL SCHOOL OF WARSAW

Established in 1994, The Trilingual School of Warsaw offers nursery, primary, and pre-school education with an international curriculum for children aged from one to 15. The full immersion trilingual setting allows for the choice between English, Polish, Spanish or Chinese,

French or Japanese. Teachers are highly-qualified native speakers from the US, France, Spain, China and Japan. **ul. Nobla 16 (tel. 501 036 637), ul. Karowa 14/16 (tel. 503 072 119), ul. Krolowej Aldony (tel. 533 321 084), office@3languages.pl, itsw.edu.pl**



JOY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Treating pupils with mutual respect but not at the expense of being demanding, the methods used are hard on the problem but soft on the person. Taking into account what students think, feel, learn and want for themselves and their world, Joy Primary teaches important life skills as well as respect, care for others, problem solving and co-operation. Here, children are challenged to discover their abilities and competences, while encouraged to explore personal strength and autonomy. **ul. Syta 131A, tel. 722 305 333, sekretariat@joyprimary-school.pl**



British Primary School of Wilanow

Accepting applications for Nursery to Year 9

bsw.com.pl
+48 221 110 062
ul. Hlonda 12, Warsaw
admissions@bswilanow.org



MONNET INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Located in Mokotów, the Monnett is the only school in Poland that implements the International Baccalaureate Program from kindergarten level all the way through to secondary school. The fully-qualified staff are committed to delivering only the highest standards of education. **ul. Stępińska 13, tel. 22 852 06 08, maturamiedzynarodowa.pl**



WARSAW MONTESSORI SCHOOL

A leader in the field of Montessori education, well-trained teachers guide students to independent and successful learning with both English and bilingual classroom provided. Located just steps from Łazienki Park the school resides in vibrant surroundings near to museums, embassies and natural settings which provide students with learning outside the classroom. **ul. Szwoleżerów 4 (grades 0-4), tel. 608 488 420, wmf.edu.pl**

WARSAW MONTESSORI MIDDLE SCHOOL

Guided by trained specialists, students are responsible for managing their household, operating small businesses, caring for local flora and fauna as well as domesticated animals, taking charge of the younger children and much more. "Adolescence Program" activities, integrated with academic studies, help students discover their inner strength to meet real life challenges. **ul. Tatrzańska 5A (grades 5-8), tel. 604 137 826, wmf.edu.pl**

WARSAW MONTESSORI HIGH SCHOOL

Warsaw Montessori High School aims to teach students the values which Maria Montessori outlined in her educational philosophy such as: responsibility for one's own development, care for others, honesty, empathy, and service. The school continues to meet the principles of Maria Montessori through implementing the IB Diploma Program principles and practices. Warsaw Montessori High School is an authorized IB World School for the Diploma Programme – code 061201. **ul. Pyłasińskiego 13A, tel. 787 095 835, wmf.edu.pl**

shopping

accessories



EYEBAR

At Eyebar the expert team meets needs through their perfect eye-brow care and makeup products. If you dream about having the perfect brows, their sets are available from Eyebar salons or online at our website. **eyebar.pl**

GLAMSTORE

Widely hailed by Poland's fashion glossies, this store sells modern furnishings with all the trimmings and colors you could ask for. **ul. Narbutta 83 (entry from ul. Łowicka)**

LEKKO

Lekko offer four specialized oils that are strong but gentle and sharpen the senses. Using CBD extracts, they strongly focus on concepts

of self-care and wellbeing. made from the highest quality crops and sourced from farms run in accordance with the principles of sustainable agriculture, all products are approved by verified labs. **lekko.com**



MANDEL

MANDEL

Valuing traditional craftsmanship and the finest materials, Mandel's mission is to add 'a classy touch to every story'. This they do with clothing suited to all occasions and every personality. **ul. Nowogrodzka 18A, mandel-store.com**

fashion

Moliera 2

MOLIERA 2 BOUTIQUE

Brands: Alexnadre Birman, Alexandre Vauthier, Aquazzura, Balmain, Beach Bunny, Burberry, Buscemi, Casadei, Christian Louboutin, Cult Gaia, Francesco Russo, Gianvito Rossi, Golden Goose, Herve Leger, Isabel Marant, Kenzo, Maison Michel, Marc Jacobs, Manolo Blahnik, Moncler, OneTeaspoon, Self-Portrait, Tod's, Tory Burch, Victoria Beckham, Yves Salomon, Zimmermann. **ul. Moliera 2, moliera2.com**

Moliera 2 | PL. TRZECH KRZYŻY

PL. TRZECH KRZYŻY 3/4

Brands: Beach Bunny, Buscemi, Canada Goose, Casadei, Christian Louboutin Men, Dsquared2, Fay, Gianvito Rossi, Hogan, Kenzo, Moncler, Mr & Mrs Italy, OTS, Ralph Lauren, Tod's, Tom Ford, Tory Burch, Valentino, Yves Salomon. **Pl. Trzech Krzyży 3/4, plactzechkrzyzy.com** 



Piaseczno | Puławska 42E
designeroutletwarszawa.pl

SUMMER IN THE CITY

As evenings get steamy, look cool for the summer by pimping your wardrobe at **Designer Outlet Warszawa...**

This month, our fashion team has gone back to the beginning: sure, the city enjoyed its nightlife before, but it was the revival of Pl. Zbawiciela a decade or so ago that catapulted Warsaw into a different galaxy when it came to concepts of

fashion and fun. All of a sudden, even the New York Times was paying attention, gushing about the hip generation that had stormed the Polish capital and taken it from glum to glam. Still blisteringly on edge as a scene to be seen on, we've used Zbawiciela as the stage for this month's photo shoot.

PHOTOGRAPHER: PIOTR NAREWSKI | STYLIST: AGATA KLEPACKA | MODEL: GABI PAPIŃSKA



SHOP THE LOOK *(Shown above from left to right)*

LIME SORBET

Illuminate your style with sorbet shades of neon lime – in this case, a visor that looks great when combined with beige.

Twinset vest (zł. 696 now **zł. 467**), **Twinset visor** (zł. 232 now **zł. 93.60**), **Calvin Klein ring / Hour Passion** (zł. 389 now **zł. 272.30**), **Calvin Klein necklace / Hour Passion** (zł. 715 now **zł. 499**).

DENIM CLASSIC

You can't beat denim shorts. This summer, pair them with a denim top and constrain your color palette to blue and white.

Boxeur des Rues jacket (zł. 429 now **zł. 181**), **Levi's shorts** (zł. 259.90 now **zł. 129.90**), **Twinset top**

(zł. 603 now **zł. 405**), **Twinset purse** (zł. 1,284 now **zł. 861**).

PINEAPPLE COCKTAIL

Ideal for hot, sticky evenings, get sprightly with an exotic, pineapple print dress – add a hat and you've got real character to flaunt!

Twinset dress (zł. 1,083 now **zł. 726**), **Twinset hat** (zł. 526 now **zł. 353**), **Swarovski bracelet** (zł. 549 now **zł. 274** / zł. 384 after July 7th).

STAR DUST

Shimmery silver isn't just for nighttime – this summer, add it to your yoga look, or fling it on for daylight walks or just meeting friends. Shine on, supergirl!

by Insomnia sweatshirt (zł. 249 now **zł. 169**), **by Insomnia shorts** (zł. 149 now **zł. 99**), **Twinset shoes** (zł. 1,052 now **zł. 705**).

CANDY PINK

For the must-have pastel of the season, look for a candy-colored suit that shouts PINK. Perfect for those living on the go, it'll change face depending on the accessories: we went for a casual look with sneakers: perfect to talk work over a cup of coffee.

Pinko trousers (zł. 1,145 now **zł. 755**), **Pinko jacket** (zł. 1,670 now **zł. 1,100**), **Liu Jo shirt** (zł. 899 now **zł. 450**), **Marc O'Polo shoes** (zł. 439 now **zł. 309**).



HORSING AROUND

A new permanent exhibition opens in Łazienki Królewskie...

BY HANNA POLAŃSKA

From July onwards, Łazienki Królewskie will be opening its legendary Kubicki Stables to the public following a meticulous renovation – as well as the completion of a new permanent exhibition honoring its equestrian traditions.

Built between 1825 and 1826, they were constructed to a design authored by Jakub Kubicki, an architect that began his career during the reign of King Stanisław August. Accommodating 48 horses and eight horse-drawn carriages, the building survived WWII without much damage and today houses an exhibition dedicated

to horse-drawn vehicles – in this case, the oldest exhibit dates back to the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The collection also includes rarities such as a calèche carriage and a Stanhope Faeton vehicle produced by Jacob Lohner's Viennese firm – among others, they supplied vehicles to the court of Franz Josef. Other valuable acquisitions include locally built vehicles such as a coupé carriage from Nowy Tattersall and a milord carriage from Adolf Hertl's factory.

The exhibition also features a collection of coach lanterns and harnesses in the English and Krakow styles, as well as

a unique borderland harness. Presented are saddles from the well-known Warsaw factories of Łukasz Lassota and Ludwik Kazimierski and, in addition, visitors will further admire equestrian costumes and accessories.

Beyond this is an exhibition of 19th century looms that could once be found in the royal tapestry factory. This exhibition ideologically refers to Polish weaving traditions and royal factories, including one established in 1768 in Grodno.

Kubicki Stables

Agrykola 9, lazienki-krolewskie.pl

YOUR SECRET GARDEN

Enjoy the seasonal vibes of summer in the splendid gardens of the National Museum in Warsaw...

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MNW



ffering a surprising respite amid central Warsaw's traffic gargled streets, check

into the National Museum in Warsaw to chill down in one of the city's most spectacular green spaces. Reopened at the end of June, we're delighted to welcome back visitors to the Lorentz courtyard in the main building of our historic institution. Together with the parks found in our branches in Nieborów and Arkadia, Królikarnia and Otwock Wielki, it forms a unique green network of museum gardens.

Designed by museum staff, the flowerbeds have been planted with species long associated with the NMW's outposts in Nieborów and Arkadia. As such, find plants and flowers that include – but aren't limited to – fuschias, yarrow, sage, foxglove, verbena and larkspur. A welcome sanctuary



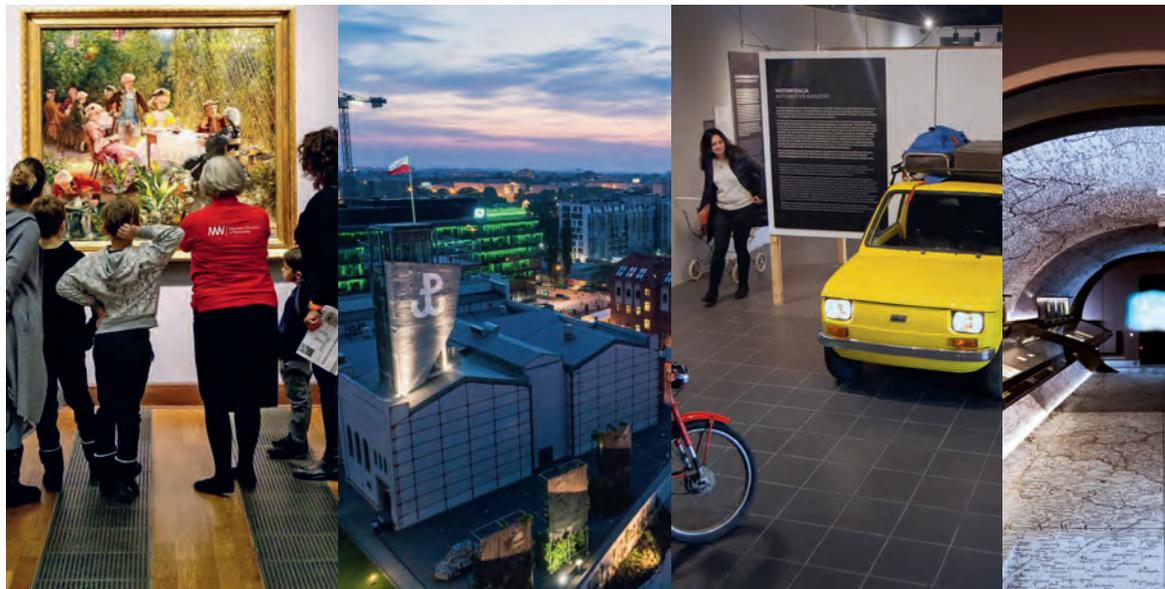
in the city, we're certain it'll become a place in which we can all gather to rebuild that sense of the community that we've all long-missed.

Helping in these efforts, we've organized numerous attractions that will number in-depth discussions covering such topics as climate change, as well as art meetings, open-air cinema screenings and our Holiday Book Club. That's not all: also on the menu, check in on our website to find out about our upcoming children's workshops

– offering diversions such as gymnastics and architectural walks, you'll never be bored again!

And, of course, while you're here, feel warmly invited to visit the new temporary exhibitions in the main building.

National Museum In Warsaw
Al. Jerozolimskie 3, mnw.art.pl
Open Tues-Thurs 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fri 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sat-Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Mon.



THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN!

Warsaw's rich history and cultural significance has left it with no shortage of museums to visit. Offering a well-rounded view of the city's past and present, these are the seven you just shouldn't miss...

FRYDERYK CHOPIN MUSEUM

The 18th century Ostrogski Palace is the perfect foil for the ultra-modern content of this multi-sensory space. The personal items are captivating (his death mask, gifts from his muse, etc.), but the big victory here is the museum's ability to suck visitors right back into the times of Chopin through the use of interactive sights and sounds. **ul. Okólnik 1, chopin.museum**

MUSEUM OF LIFE UNDER COMMUNISM

A deeply personal insight into the former system by allowing visitors to view what Communism meant to the everyday person. Here, rifle and

rummage through a room mocked-up to resemble a typical household apartment, watch propaganda films, peer inside a phone box, paw at vintage keep-fit gear or covet the ladies fashions of the time. Detailed in its captions, witty in its presentation and comprehensive in its content, it is a place where normal items such as aftershave bottles, postcards, clothing and crude household appliances are allowed to shine on a totem and tell their own story. A haven of trinkets and collectibles, its small size belies its utter magic. **ul. Piękna 28/34, mzpri.pl**

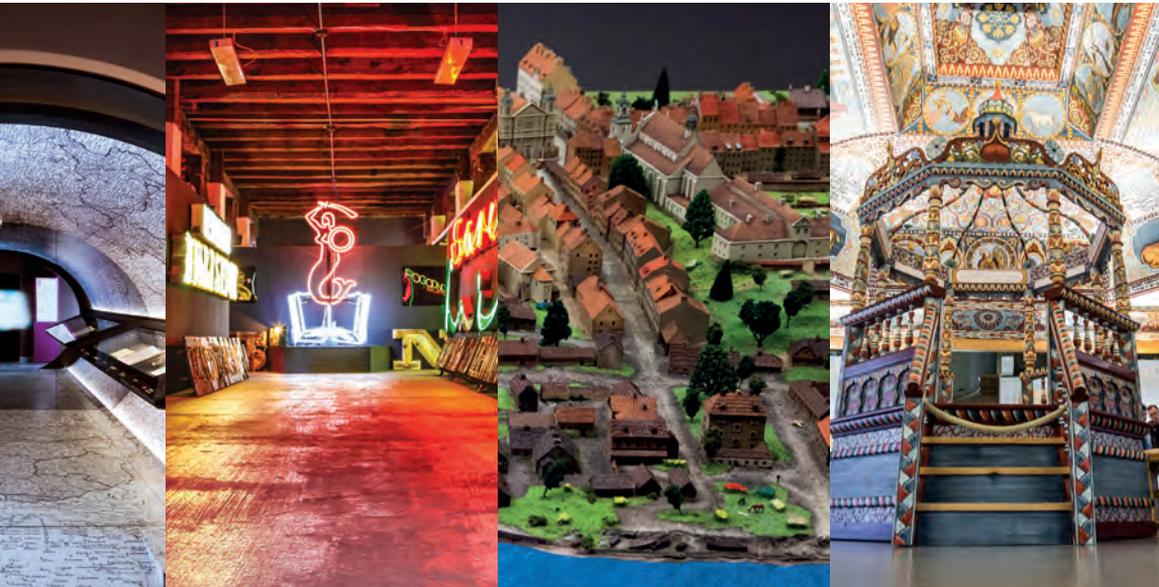
MUSEUM OF WARSAW

Reprised as a maze-like treasure filled trove glimmering with

curiosities, thousands of objects have been gathered here to detail the story of Warsaw in a non-linear style that can at times feel overwhelming. Peculiar souvenirs, scale models, old postcards and recovered works of art all combine with a mass of trivia to leave visitors boggled with knowledge. The vertiginous views of the Rynek below are worth the admission alone. **Rynek Starego Miasta 28-42, muzeumwarszawy.pl**

NATIONAL MUSEUM

Famed for its collection of Dutch and Flemish masters, it's also the final word in Polish art, with all the greats represented – inc. **Matejko, Witkiewicz** and other such stars.



That's reason enough for many, but for others the museum's ace card was revealed at the end of 2017 with the opening of the Gallery of Polish Design. Offering a full 360 view of Polish 20th century applied arts, it's an aesthetic joy featuring everything from iconic PRL era wall units and tulip chairs to kitschy toys and gizmos. Frankly, it's a stunning museum that just keeps getting better – though delayed by covid, the start of the year saw the world class **Gallery of Ancient Art** added to the mix. Featuring 1,800 ancient relics, papyrus scrolls, Iranian golden masks and even an Egyptian mummy! **Al. Jerozolimskie 3, mnw.art.pl**

NEON MUSEUM

Playing a key role in the government's attempts to fuse socialist ideology with consumerism, the campaign to 'neon-ize' Poland saw gloomy cities still bearing the scars of war boldly gleam once more under lights designed and produced by many of the leading

artisans of the time. Salvaged from the scrapheap (in many instances, literally), this museum was created by Iлона Karwinska and David Hill who inadvertently kickstarted a nationwide trend and reignited the country's appetite for neon. Housing several dozen neons that once lit up Poland, these renovated signs make for Warsaw's coolest attraction: Instagram them now! **ul. Mińska 25 (Soho Factory), neonmuzeum.org**

POLIN

Composed of eight galleries, this architectural marvel covers different stages of local Jewish history, from the middle ages to the present day. Highlights of this museum include a staggeringly beautiful replica of the ceiling of Gwoździec synagogue, and a 'remake' of a typical inter-war Jewish Warsaw street. That it was named the European Museum of the Year in 2016 such much for its ambitions to focus on more than the Holocaust alone. **ul. Anielewicz 6, polin.pl**

THE WARSAW RISING MUSEUM

If the throngs and sheer informational overload can often be daunting, it remains the most important museum in the capital, and quite arguably the country. Points of interest are rife and include a life-size replica of a B-24 Liberator plane as well as a claustrophobic 'sewage tunnel' through which visitors squeeze to get an idea of the kind of conditions combatants once faced. But it's not the A-list sights that make the biggest impact, rather the smaller, highly personal curios: a pair of wedding bands forged from bullets; an Omega watch, it's hands frozen at the same moment a bomb killed its owner; and a lucky cuddly mascot made from a German overcoat. Of course, the aftermath is also covered in heartrending detail and concludes with a 3D film that takes viewers swooping over the smoldering ruins of the capital. **ul. Grzybowska 79, 1944.pl**

museums



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Museum

CAR MUSEUM

Home to over 300 vehicles, displays include WWII trucks and tanks, a Ford Thunderbird, Russian-made Volgas, Wałęsa's bullet-proof Volvo, a ZIS 110 Cabriolet once used to carry Yuri Gagarin, and Gierek's Cadillac Fleetwood. **ul. Warszawska 21 (Otrębusy)**

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

A visual pleasure that showcases colorful costumes, fabrics and ceramics from Poland and beyond. And those assuming an ethnographic museum lacks punch are in for a surprise: exhibitions are brilliant in their scope, wit and quirkiness and have included explorations of the Disco Polo genre, Hungarian erotica, iconic streetwear, etc. **ul. Kredytowa 1, ethnomuseum.pl**



Zachęta National Art Gallery

THE HERITAGE INTERPRETATION CENTER

This small venue tells the complex story of Old Town's reconstruction: if the first section about Warsaw's physical elimination is poignant, then the others do a fabulous job of sharing the optimism and alacrity that followed. **ul. Brzozowa 11-13, mhw.pl**



Copernicus Science Centre

JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

Officially opened in 1947 the Jewish Historical Institute was created to serve as an archive of Jewish culture in Warsaw. It contains artwork, historical artifacts and important documents from the city's rich Jewish past. **ul. Tłomackie 3/5, jhi.pl**

MUSEUM OF DOLL HOUSES, GAMES & TOYS

Formerly found inside PKiN, this beautiful treasure features spectacularly crafted doll houses that provide

a stunning 'freeze frame' into the past. Now, the collection has been boosted by the addition of toys and games, many of which are from the PRL era. **ul. Krzywe Koło 2/4**

MUSEUM OF PRAGA

The Praga Museum tells the story of the area with such charm and simplicity that it manages to leave an unlikely impression that's as punchy as that of the big institutions. Star billing goes to a restored Jewish prayer room and the Flying Carpet: an exhibit festooned with various trinkets and treasures once available for purchase from local pavement traders. **ul. Targowa 50/52, muzeumwarszawy.pl**

PALMIRY NATIONAL MEMORIAL MUSEUM

An excellent multimedia exhibition set next to a cemetery holding the graves of 1,700 Poles executed in the first years of Nazi occupation. The museum tells their forgotten story as well as that of the siege and subsequent occupation of Warsaw. **Palmiry, palmiry.mhw.pl**

PAWIAK

What was once a Tsarist prison assumed a doubly sinister function under the Nazis. Some 100,000 Polish political prisoners were held here, 37,000 of which were executed on-site. Split in two sections, cells are found on one side, while on the other the full story of the invasion and occupation. **ul. Dzielna 24/26**

POLISH VODKA MUSEUM

The Polish Vodka Museum features five thematic rooms that do a slick and entertaining job of documenting the national tippie. Highpoints number a smart collection of salvaged bottles and an interactive room in which visitors learn can test their knowledge on a quiz machine and strap on some trippy goggles to experience the effects of being

completely sloshed. **Pl. Konesera 1, muzeumpolskiejwodka.pl**

THE ROYAL CASTLE IN WARSAW

Highlights include the lavishly restored 18th century royal apartments with 22 paintings by Canaletto, the Senators' Chamber in which the Constitution of the Third of May was signed, the biggest collection of oriental rugs in Europe and two remarkable Rembrandt paintings. **Pl. Zamkowy 4, zamek-krolewski.pl**

TRAIN MUSEUM

Inside, find 200 scale models of locomotives and steam engines, some beautifully detailed model villages and all kinds of train related ephemera: clocks, timetables, uniforms, etc. Top billing goes to a 1942 German armored artillery train, and the walnut-clad personal wagon once used by Poland's first post-war leader, Bolesław Bierut. **ul. Towarowa 3, stacjamuzeum.pl**

experiences

COPERNICUS SCIENCE CENTRE

Zillions of interactive exhibits allow visitors to experience an earthquake, walk on the moon, look at the world through the eyes of a snake and discover if your partner's a good liar – and that's the tip of the iceberg. **ul. Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 20**

FOTOPLASTIKON

Thought to date from 1905, Warsaw's Fotoplastikon generates 3D perspectives from a set of 2D images: visitors peer through an eyepiece and are taken on a trip around the world while music from days yore parps away in the background. **Al. Jerozolimskie 51, fotoplastikonwarszawski.pl**

PARK MINIATUR

Ghosting around the city, the spectacular miniature park now has a new home! Find magnificently detailed 1:25 scale models of Warsaw's vanished, pre-war architectural treasures. **ul. Marszałkowska 105**

galleries

CENTER OF CONTEMPORARY ART (CSW)

Though their message stands to get a little more conservative with the recent appointment of a new director, its likely this will remain one of the leading gallery spaces in Poland – and even if not, just creeping around the corridors of this baroque castle is a thrill in itself. **ul. Jazdów 2, u-jazdowski.pl**

DOM SPOTKAŃ Z HISTORIĄ

The History Meeting House wins points for small but frequently excellent exhibitions that cover topics such as 'rebuilding Warsaw' and 'Socialist Realist architecture.' **ul. Karowa 20, dsh.waw.pl**

MUSEUM ON THE VISTULA

Previously used to temporarily house Berlin's Kunsthalle, this riverfront pavilion has seen a number of edgy contemporary exhibitions including, most recently, one dedicated to the works of Miriam Cahn. **ul. Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 22, artmuseum.pl**

ZACHĘTA GALLERY

Consistently challenging our perception of "what art is", the Zachęta's reputation precedes itself: a bastion of contemporary art, its ever-changing lineup of exhibitions have presented a range of Polish and international artists. Always on-edge, this is arguably the most famous gallery in the country. **Pl. Małachowskiego 3, zacheta.art.pl**



MAP



shopping experiences

1
Designer Outlet Warszawa
ul. Puławska 42E,
designeroutletwarszawa.pl

2
Elektronia Powiśle
ul. Dobra 42, elektronia-powisle.com

3
Galeria Mokotów
ul. Wołoska 12,
galeriamokotow.com.pl

4
Galeria Północna
ul. Światowida 17,
galeriapolnocna.pl

5
Klif House of Fashion
ul. Okopowa 58/72, klif.pl

6
Koneser
Pl. Konesera, koneser.eu

7
Plac Unii
ul. Puławska 2, placunii.pl

8
Mysia 3
ul. Mysia 3, mysia3.pl

9
Vitkac
ul. Bracka 9,
likusconceptstore.pl

10
Westfield Arkadia
Al. Jana Pawła II 82,
pl.westfield.com/arkadia

11
Złote Tarasy
ul. Złota 59, zlotetarasy.pl

museums

1
National Museum
Al. Jerozolimskie 3,
mnw.art.pl.pl

2
The Warsaw Rising Museum
ul. Grzybowska 79, 1944.pl

3
Museum of Life Under Communism
ul. Piękna 28/34, mzpri.pl

4
Fryderyk Chopin Museum
ul. Okólnik 1, chopin.museum

5
Neon Museum
ul. Mińska 25 (Soho Factory), neonmuzeum.org

6
Museum of Warsaw
Rynek Starego Miasta 28-42, muzeumwarszawy.pl

7
POLIN
ul. Anielewicza 6, polin.pl

stores

1
Moliera 2
Moliera 2 Boutique
ul. Moliera 2, moliera2.com

2
Moliera 2 | PL. TRZECH KRZYŻY
Pl. Trzech Krzyży 3/4
Krzyży 3/4,
plactrzekrzyzy.com

LOOKING BACK



SUMMER MADNESS

Even by Poland's own wacky standards, June served up some of the freakiest weather in living memory...

Scorching heat, hardcore hail, flooding, tropical storms, whirlwinds, orange skies and weird bubble clouds – yep, we had it all. Starting with a ferocious heatwave, Poland suffocated under temperatures that reached 36 degrees Celsius, with the prolonged bake-up finally broken by vicious storms that lashed the country – in Poznań, hospitals were evacuated and cars seen floating away after the city was smashed by a violent storm. Elsewhere, dramatic footage was recorded of a tornado ripping through villages in the vicinity of Nowy Sącz.

As for us, Mother Nature saved herself for a memorable storm that plunged Warsaw into mid-morning darkness, before blanketing the city in strange bubble-like clouds; after, the internet went similarly crazy when the skies turned the kind of orange usually seen on a prison jumpsuit. But it's only getting started: meteorologists have warned the nation to expect even stranger weather in July. **IN**

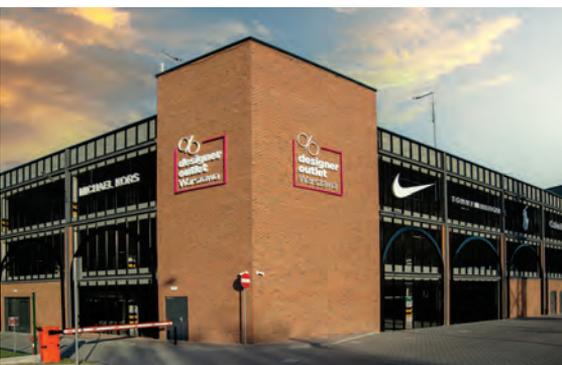


Designer Outlet Warszawa is bigger!


**designer
outlet**
Warszawa

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is now twice as big! In the newly built part you can also find Boxeur des Rues, Lacoste, Lindt, Marc O'Polo, Regatta and The Cosmetics Company Store (with brands such as Clinique, Estee Lauder, MAC). You cannot miss it!



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