WHAT'S ON

www.whatson-kyiv.com
Est. 1999

Issue №28
15 December 2019 – 31 January 2020

The What's On Holiday *Issue*

Make sure you take in one of the most iconic events of the season – The Nutcracker | Where to find that crafty character – good ole St Nick – this holiday season in Kyiv | Where to go, what to do, when to do it, and why – we'll leave the with whom to you

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WE LOVE MAKING OUR READERS HAPPY, and there is no better time to create a little extra joy than at Christmas and New Year.

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This month and into the new year we've got tickets for

THE NUTCRACKER
29 - 30 December at 20.00
ICCA (Heroyiv Nebesnoyi Sotni Al 1)

ROYAL VARIETY SHOW
19 December at 19.30
11 January at 19.00
Caribbean Club (Symona Petlury 4)

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Good luck and Happy Holidays from all of us at What's On

WHAT'S ON

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Photo credit: depositphotos.com / IgorVetushko

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Yana's pick this month

How long dan you go without checking emails or Facebook notifications? If missing out another 'important' tweet feels like a disaster, you might be due for a digital detox. Together with expert, Nadya Pereviznyk, we look at the phenomenon of Internet overuse and discuss the ways to disconnect. Even for a little while.

Illya's pick this month

"Last Christmas I gave you my heart…" We all know those lyrics so well. This year will be no different, as I set to making this Christmas even more magically Ukrainian.

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Originally founded in 1999, What's On Kyiv is an English language monthly magazine with a goal to inform residents and visitors to Kyiv of events in the entertainment and cultural life of the city. As well as providing advice, guidance, and listings of live music, theatre, nightlife, sporting events and more, What's On also interacts with the business community, both expatriate and local, and provides brief news articles on events of relevance to Kyiv and Ukraine and the wider region.

OUTPOST PUBLISHING

From the Editor

Editor-in-Chief
Lana Nicole Niland

"The idea that so many people come together at this time to 'celebrate peace on earth and goodwill to men' is definitely valid"

While there is hardly a chill in the air, the holidays are indeed on their way, and Kyiv is getting into the spirit, with lights sparkling on most streets, holiday music playing overhead, and festive events planned this way and that.

I have to admit, while the feeling is different in Ukraine, Christmas for me is indeed a most wonderful time of the year. Regardless of where some traditions were born, whether they are valid or not, and even if you don't believe, the idea that so many people come together at this time to 'celebrate peace on earth and goodwill to men' is definitely valid.

For those celebrating in Kyiv make sure you check out the country's Christmas Tree and market on Sofiivska Pl, and then slide down Andriivskyi Uzviz to enjoy the Ukrainian-themed market on Kontraktova Pl (p 26). Not sure where to get gussied up for the holidays? Our small round-up of venues may help make the decision a little easier (p 8). May we suggest that you enjoy a cup of cocoa at some point in these next weeks (p 27) too: you'll need the downtime amidst the shopping hustle and bustle, which sometimes puts people on edge (p 23). And after all is said and done, perhaps you can take time to slow the pace at a brunch or two this season (p 10).

While Christmas is all about the kids, New Year for me is indeed a time to reflect on the year past and the next to come. In every sense, these last 12 months of 2019 have been intense. I am not averse to the path less travelled, and in fact, often take it. Though, for 2020, I look forward to the trail being a little better kept, more visible, and less cumbersome. But then again, the paths we walk are those that make us, and perhaps the gods think me well enough for a good hard hike. No matter what comes, I look forward to gearing up.

In the meantime, let me take a moment to thank you dear readers for not just picking up our publication, but for your continued interest in our content. We love hearing from you, even when you think we might have been led astray…

May the holidays bring blessed grace to one and all – those tucked up warm in their homes, and those who continue to fight for the sovereignty of a great nation; those with friends and families in all corners, and those without anyone to turn to. Our hands and hearts go out to you all, and we wish you the very best this holiday season no matter how you decide to celebrate.

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PRESENTS

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ROYAL

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STARTING AT 19:00

Variety Show «ROYAL» (Grand Piano) is an exquisite, revealing performance for adults. Strictly 21+! So much more than a dinner show, ROYAL is a new cultural trend in Kyiv. Spectators have never before been presented the Kyiv version of an iconic Parisian cabaret. And it is all about to change now!

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Caribbean Club, 4, Symona Petliyury Street, Kyiv, +380 67 2244111

TICKETS: CARIBBEAN.COM.UA

Light it Up!

Tassy Klim

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE GOT THROUGH ANOTHER YEAR – TIME TO CELEBRATE! AND NO ONE DOES NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS QUITE LIKE THE CHINESE

Every culture has its own way of celebrating the New Year, but the one thing they all have in common is the practice of saying goodbye to the old year and hoping for good fortune in the year to come. In China, however, they take New Year to a whole new level, with 15 days of celebration, where each day has its own traditions that centre mostly around being with family and eating lavish feasts. But not only.

LIGHT IT UP

Lanterns too have a huge amount of cultural significance in China, where the New Year celebrations end with a festival of flying lights. This is not to be confused with the Giant Lanterns Festival, which is an installation of more than 30 enormous glowing lanterns that will light up the night and add some sparkle to your soul.

Usually celebrated sometime between 21 January and 20 February, here in Kyiv, the Giant Lanterns of China festival will kick things off early (from 13 December) to help get everyone in a festive mood. As well as the Giant Lanterns, there will be plenty more to check out if you want a taste of China – from delicious food stalls and tea ceremonies to exciting masterclasses and workshops, and of course, a souvenir fair where you can do some last-minute Christmas shopping. You'll be glad to know that giving gifts brings luck (according to Chinese tradition), so don't be afraid to get out your wallet!

If you've been to the Giant Lanterns Festival before, be prepared for a new experience, as the lanterns have all been updated since last year. The organisers have also introduced a family ticket this year, to help make the most of your precious family time. Or, if you'd rather spend some time away from the kids, you can drop them off at the children's zone to enjoy some activities while you sip some baijiu (aka Chinese vodka) or sweet wine (because apparently even drinking can protect you from bad luck at Chinese New Year!). Just don't forget to pick the kids up when you leave.

Housework-haters, rejoice! It's considered unlucky to clean during Chinese New Year – you might just sweep up some of your good luck.

WHITE... METAL... RAT?

Symbolism is a big deal in China, in everything from food to lanterns to gifts. Which brings us to the most famous aspect of the New Year celebrations – the Chinese Zodiac. Whether you believe in horoscopes or not, it's still fun to figure out what the year supposedly has in store for you based on your Zodiac animal.

On January 25, the Chinese calendar will change from the Year of the Pig to the Year of the Rat. The Rat is the first of the 12 Zodiac signs, which go through a 12-year cycle, but each year is also associated with one of five 'Ce-

lestial Signs', creating a 60-year cycle. Recent years of the Rat are 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, with 2020 being the year of the White Metal Rat.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

If luck hasn't been on your side lately, maybe you just haven't been following the zodiac correctly. If you were born in the year of the Rat, your lucky colours are blue, gold, and green. Your lucky numbers are 2 and 3, or any combinations of them (23, 322, etc). You are most compatible with those born in the Year of the Ox, Dragon, or Monkey, and least compatible with Horses, Goats, and Rabbits.

Despite being considered pseudo-scientific, following the Chinese zodiac, Western zodiac, or any other kind of astrology has been shown to have some benefits. As long as you don't let this guilty pleasure run your life, reading your horoscope can make you happier and motivate you to try new things.

Everyone wants a little extra dose of luck to start the New Year. Westerners tend to believe that 'you make your own luck', but if the Chinese believe you can get a little extra from giving gifts, visiting family, and eating and drinking well, then it can't hurt to try! So, let's all say it together – 新年快乐 (xīn nián kuài lè) – Happy New Year!

SAY 再见 (ZÀIJIÀN – GOODBYE) TO HUNGER

Dinner habits stuck in a rut? Eager to step outside of your comfort zone? There's no better place to start than with the famously omnivorous Chinese cuisine. You might have heard that Chinese people will eat anything that moves, and that's not too much of an exaggeration – it's not unusual to see ingredients like insects and pigs' ears on menus in China. Make sure you watch out for misleading names on Chinese menus too. If you see a dish called 'Husband Wife Lung Slices', it's not what you might think – it's bovine cuts with chili oil. And if you come across 'field chicken' – that's actually frog!

Luckily, there are also more familiar options for less adventurous eaters or vegetarians.

As China has many diverse regional cuisines, the Giant Lanterns Festival offers an opportunity to taste food from all over the country. If your tastebuds can't stop speaking Chinese following the festival, Kyiv has a number of great options to check out.

Kytayskyi Pryvit
Ivana Franka 7
$$
hihichina
+380 95 556 9977

BAO Modern Chinese Cuisine
Mechnykova 14/1
$$$$
bao.ua

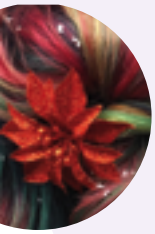
Harbin
Sichovykh Striltsiv 33a
$$
harbin.kiev.ua

MeiWei
V Vasylkivska 23
$$
meiwei.com.ua

Giant Lanterns of China
13 December – 2 February
Spivoche Pole (Lavrska 31)
160 UAH
chinafest.com.ua

Getting Party Perfect

Yana Andyol



THE PARTY SEASON CAN BE A TOUGH TIME FOR BUSY CITY-DWELLERS, WHO OFTEN FACE ANALYSIS PARALYSIS WHEN TRYING TO CHOOSE A SALON OR BEAUTY BAR. BUT WO HAS DONE THE RESEARCH SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO — OUR SHORTLIST OF KYIV'S FINEST WILL HELP GET YOU PARTY-READY FOR 2020, MINUS THE STRESS

SAY NO MO

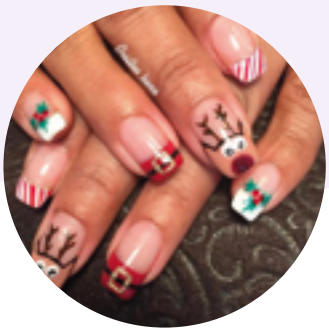
Over the last decade, sustainability has become integral to the world of fashion and beauty. In December, this self-proclaimed 'social nail bar' will burst onto the scene to challenge Kyiv's traditional nail bars, just in time for the new decade. Their mission? Devotion to green principles, offering vegan-friendly, cruelty-free alternatives to the toxic, chemical-laden products often found in other salons. Say No Mo is an ideal blend of social venue and retail boutique, creating the perfect environment for a dose of holiday mood.

09.00 – 17.00
Shota Rustaveli 36
saynomo.social.nail.bar
+380 50 722 1313

STYLE DE BEAUTÉ

The old saying goes 'you have to suffer to be beautiful', but the team at Style de Beauté is here to reassure us that beauty requires no sacrifice – only care. This classic beauty salon is a one-stop shop for all your New Year party needs, offering haircuts and styling, braiding, cosmetology procedures, massage, and nail care. The artists are always full of fresh ideas for innovative hair colour, inventive nail designs, and fancy braiding. Come here for the friendly atmosphere, cosy interior, and relaxing music, and leave with a new image.

Nail care – 250 UAH
Party make up – 1 200 UAH
10.00 – 20.00
Heroiv Stalinhradu 24a
sbeaute.salon
sbeaute.salon
+380 44 581 6272



JOY BAR

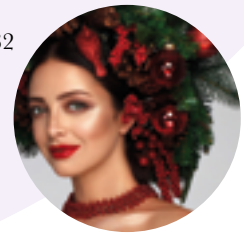
A cosy beauty studio for those who value their time, JOY Bar will complete your festive look quickly and professionally. The studio offers beauty services for men, women, and children, so you can bring the whole family along. Hairstyle, make-up, brow design – the full set is available to get you to the party as fast as possible!

Evening set (hair + make-up) – 700 UAH
10.00 – 22.00
Obolonskyi Pr 14a (Dream Town 1, 3rd floor)
joybarkiev
joybarkiev
+380 63 066 1000

MVK

This 'nail aesthetics workshop' is the go-to for those who want to ring in the new year in classic style. MVK's philosophy is to never follow trends, sticking instead to minimalist design with clean lines and nude colours. The specialists here offer a wide range of services to ensure your experience is a special one – you can keep it simple with a classic manicure or go all-out with nail art. MVK's expert team speak basic English and focus on what they do best.

Nail design – 400 UAH
09.00 – 21.00
Marshala Malynovskoho 8
Antonovycha 74
mvk.ua
mvk.ua
+380 67 537 4032



VENUS CLINIC

Make-up is like magic: its effects are only temporary. But taking care of your skin means you won't just look radiant at your New Year Party – you'll keep on glowing well into 2020. And while staying forever young remains a fiction for now, this modern laser rejuvenation salon is trying to prove otherwise. Located in Podil, VENUS Clinic offers a wide range of skincare services using state-of-the-art equipment, and the staff will recommend treatments based on your own personalised skin rejuvenation program.

Forever Young BBL (skin rejuvenation) – 1 600 – 5 200 UAH, depending on the treatment area.
10.00 – 20.00
Yaroslavska 6
VENUSclinicKiev
venus-clinic.com.ua
+380 44 537 0806

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Afterparty Retreat

SNOOZE YOUR ALARMS AFTER THE NEW YEAR PARTY AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WANT. WE'VE COLLECTED THE BEST SPOTS FOR YOUR MIDDAY TREAT. BON APPÉTIT!

Marianna Hariazha

Brunch, or as some might call it, late-late breakfast, takes its roots from England's hunting breakfasts, which were multicourse midday meals meant to stuff the belly. Meanwhile, there are those convinced that *Sex and the City* the whole cultural phenomenon of brunch. Regardless, this New Year's Day, or any Sunday for that matter, sleep as long as you want and indulge yourself with lively talks about the previous evening's antics at one of these top venues.

RONIN

On Sundays, Ronin welcomes guests for a special seafood brunch. It is more of a family-targeted brunch with a wide variety of mouthwatering dishes like noodles with mussels and clams, oysters, sushi Nikkei, and more than 20 other dishes to try. The brunch menu also includes unlimited wine and soft drinks. It comes to 799 UAH per adult and 399 UAH for kids aged 6 to 12. Reservations at Ronin are must, as the seafood brunch buffet area fills up fast.

Zoolohichna 10
Sunday 12.00 – 15.00 (brunch)
+380 68 713 1414
RONIN.Kyiv

TRÈS BRANCHÉ

Très Branché introduced a new format for the locals' favourite place. Now it is a brunch café a la mode or, in other words, the first French-style brunch café in the city. Whenever you are hungry, just pop in and enjoy toast, waffles, Burgundy snails, sip a glass of Kir Royal, or choose an auteur-style Bloody Mary. French-inspired brunches for two will surprise you with mini onion pie, vegetable ratatouille, avocado toast on rye bread, and potato a la maison. Très Branché is right next to the Golden Gates, so there's no reason not to enjoy our marvellous Kyiv, great chats, and a savoury meal.

Lysenko 4
Every day 08.30 – 23.00 (brunch/late breakfast)
+380 97 266 3223
TresBrancheKiev

LYUBIMY DYADYA

Lyubimy Dyadya, aka Favourite Uncle, is a place where cosiness and that hard-to-find home-feel meet delicious Middle Eastern recipes. No wonder brunch here consists of spicy shakshuka of two fried eggs served with tahini, grilled challah for you, and lazy varenyky with berry sauce for your friend. What could be better? If that doesn't float your boat, there is the option of ordering the Big Lyubimy Breakfast for two with sparkling wine or orange juice included. This proposal is available from Monday to Sunday, and it's yummy.

Pankivska 20
Weekdays 08.00 – 12.00 (late breakfast)
Weekends 09.00 – 14.00 (brunch/late breakfast)
+380 67 506 3198
lyubimydyadya

The In-betwe

WHILE GOD SUGGESTS THAT SUNDAY SHOULD BE A DAY OF REST, IT WAS THOSE CLEVER ENGLISH WHO FIGURED OUT THAT SIPPING ON SUNDAY, ALONG SIDE A PLETHORA OF FOODS NOT NECESSARILY SERVED AT BREAKFAST, AND NOT NECESSARILY SERVED AT LUNCH, MIGHT BE A GOOD THING

Lana Nicole Niland

A portmanteau of breakfast and lunch, brunch can be had in 5-star style in a couple of different locations right here in Kyiv, and the Park Kitchen at Hilton Kyiv is no exception. Bring the whole family and indulge in what is sure to be an hours-long event.

Each brunch at the Hilton features a new gastro focus, with French, Georgian, and Seafood themes taking pride of precedence in recent months. Executive chef Shota Goderdzishvili ensures that every food station has been carefully prepared and presented, so that not only the mouth but the eyes too are treated to something special.

In addition to whatever theme that might be going on at any given brunch, there are mainstays that appear at each event: indulge in oysters, stay for sushi, you'll crave the caviar. And for carnivores, a whole meat station is yours along a big and beautiful backdrop of busy kitchen staff. Saving room for dessert might be difficult, but worth it, with a plethora of options right at your fingertips. And don't forget that various wine options, sparkling wine, and a variety of cocktails come with your brunch ticket.

The big holiday event has already come and gone, but there's another to look forward to after all the sparkle has settled.

Sunday Brunch at the Hilton
Shevchenko Blvd 30
26 January at 12.30-16.30
2 150 UAH
+380 67 690 2353

GUILTY WINE BAR

Guilty Wine Bar prides itself on offering wines from Italy, France, Portugal, Germany, Argentina, and New Zealand. On Saturdays and Sundays, the bar hosts hangover brunches with the Babentsovy sisters, which is usually announced on their Facebook page. The venue comes up with a custom-curated menu each weekend – chocolate pancakes, waffles with sweet potato, eggs and prosciutto, cabbage pancakes with cheese and salmon, which is the ultimate antidote for those who partied hard the night before. Enjoy and try a glass of Tuscany red wine to wash it down.

Vosdvyzhenska 38
Weekends 10.00 – 16.00 (brunch)
+380 66 869 4851
guilty.winebar

GOOD GIRL

Good Girl is the perfect spot for those who crave a healthy, nutritious, sugar and lactose-free brunch. The goal is to celebrate dishes made with locally-sourced ingredients, which add up to a balanced but yummy palette for any taste. Good Girl's brunch menu includes a range of smoothie bowls, gluten-free oat porridge, and mango salad, and on the weekend, the chef comes up with special treats for visitors.

Mechnykova 7
Every day 09.00 – 16.30 (brunch/late breakfast)
+380 97 737 3838
goodgirlkiev

BIGOLI

Bigoli is a renowned spot for truly Italian cuisine in Kyiv. Serving traditional Italian breakfast food, it will melt your brunch heart. Crunchy focaccia with roasted salmon and a fried egg or tomatoes and a slightly spicy sauce. Which to choose? Maybe your heart goes the way of something more traditional in the way of pasta and a glass of wine? Be brave and pick any dish that catches your eye.

Klovskyi Uzviz 7a
Weekdays 08.00 – 11.00 (brunch/late breakfast)
Weekends 08.00 – 14.00 (brunch/late breakfast)
+380 44 499 1441
Bigoli.Restaurant.Kyiv

Perfect
een Snack

While wrapped in luxury afforded by the Hyatt Regency Kyiv, you will enjoy hours of gatro-indulgence at its best. The Hyatt only just returns to the brunch scene after a few years' break, but don't let the pause fool you – with new general manager Domonik Strobil at the helm, change is afoot, and this best-loved practice of lazily sifting through Sunday is back.

Live music, a dedicated play area for children, and free parking are just the tip of the iceberg… Start the day with your choice of white or red wine, or some bubbly, move on to the fresh seafood stations and enjoy an oyster or two or 10! Sushi, salads, and Asian specialties will take you into your second and third courses, and then take a break or take to the carving station if you're still not sated.

Those with a lighter palette will enjoy cheeses from all around the world, and don't forget about dessert! An additional station for the younger gourmets with gummies and fresh ice-cream will keep even the oldest of kids happy.

The Hyatt too will have had their festive Sunday brunch by the time this issue appears in your hands, so make sure you put the January event in your calendars now!

Sunday Brunch at the Hyatt
Alla Tarasova 5
26 January at 12.30-17.00
2 200 UAH
+380 44 581 1234

Unplug and Get your Life Back

Yana Andyol

THE END OF THE YEAR IS ALWAYS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME SELF-REFLECTION. AND IF YOU WANT TO GIVE YOURSELF TIME AND SPACE TO THINK BEFORE ENTERING THE NEW DECADE, WO HAS SOME ADVICE FOR YOU: A DIGITAL DETOX

With the constant information overload of the modern age, many of us find it hard to really switch off. We've been investigating the topic with the help of experts, and delving deep into the reasons behind our internet addiction. Here's our advice to help you kick the habit before the new year begins.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Way back in 1995, Dr Ivan Goldberg coined the term 'Internet Addiction Disorder' as a joke on a psychiatry forum, all the while claiming that such a disease could not exist. He was surprised when hundreds of self-described addicts began posting about their symptoms. Fast forward to 2019 and Compulsive Internet Use (or CIU) is one of the biggest problems facing our society. Study after study shows that excessive use of our devices can interfere with our career, relationships, and mental health.

Though still not officially recognised as a disease, CIU has recently been attracting serious attention from researchers and mental health counsellors. The topic of digital detox isn't that popular in Ukraine, however – those looking for advice on how to break up with their devices generally have to look to international media. That's why we chatted to Nadya Pereviznyk, Ukrainian PR specialist and digital detox advocate.

"The rise of neuroscience and the widespread use of MRI scanning has provided us with important data on brain development and function. As with any other dependency disorder, internet addiction affects the brain's pleasure centre. Some evidence in neurological studies suggest similarities between the brain chemistry of those that suffer from CIU and people with drug or alcohol dependency. The good news is that excessive Internet use is easier to overcome than any chemical addiction."

#FOMO

Researchers describe FOMO, or 'Fear of Missing Out', as "the uneasy and sometimes all-consuming feeling that you're somehow missing out – that your peers are doing, in the know about, or in possession of more or something better than you." Although the term has been around since 1996 (introduced by marketing strategist Dr Den Herman), the advent of social media acted as a catalyst for the FOMO effect and accelerated discussion around the problem.

Pereviznyk explains the phenomenon in terms of the theory of evolutionary psychology — if FOMO is a particular type of fear associated with our amygdala (the part of our brain which processes emotions) it could be a result of our instinct to survive: "Information has been very valuable to humanity since ancient times. Edible food, dangerous animals, weather changes – this knowledge was crucial for feeling safe and staying alive. FOMO is a result of life-or-death information hunger that triggers an uncontrolled consumption mechanism. However, the 'information obesity' we experience today has absolutely no impact on our survival," she says.

EXPERT ADVICE

Take a self-test. Just because you shop online frequently or watch YouTube a lot doesn't necessarily mean you suffer from CIU. Of course, nowadays it's nearly impossible to step away from technology, and we're not suggesting you unplug completely from the digital world. The problem only arises when internet overuse interferes with your daily life. Take a short self-assessment quiz online to see if your device use is a cause for concern. If you are seriously worried about your screen time, consult a therapist for a professional diagnosis.

Trick your brain. Keep yourself busy trying to develop positive habits and turn your notifications off. It's not easy, but trying to focus all of your attention on one specific task at a time is key to increasing your productivity and improving your mental and emotional health.

Keep tabs on your screen time. Dr Kimberly Young, PhD in Clinical Psychology and expert on internet addiction disorder, suggests taking control of your time spent online. This takes a lot of self-discipline, but luckily there's an app for that. In fact, there are many great apps to help you reduce your use, while Apple and Android also have built-in features to keep track of screen time.

Finally, our guest expert advises that the root of the problem should be addressed: "Give your life meaning. Social media channels become far less important if one sets up meaningful goals and expectations in career, family, health, and relationships with people. Life management is the key, I think."

The average user spends nearly 6 hours and 42 minutes online per day.

2 hours and 16 minutes is the amount of time per day that the average user spends scrolling through social media.

(Digital in 2019, report by We Are Social & Hootsuite)

Take a self-assessment test

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Paraska Plytka-Horytsvit. Overcoming Gravity
17 October – 19 January
Mystetskyi Arsenal (Lavrska 10 – 12)
40 – 80 UAH
artarsenal.in.ua

Remont: Nadia Kaabi-Linke
21 November – 12 January
IZONE (Naberezhno-Luhova 8)
Free
izone.ua

POLYSTYLISM

15 November – 28 February
Tsekh Art Gallery (Kyrylivska 69)
'Polystylism' is an ironic name for this exhibition, since Mykola Bilous paints everything in his singular, distinctive style, using base tone and a mixture of the three primary colours – yellow, red, and blue. Bilous is a sophisticated colourist, and his canvases are a real treat for the eye, like dreamlike cinematic freeze-frames.
Free
tsekh.com.ua

The Khanenkos' Antiquities. The Archive Folder
27 November – 22 December
Khanenko Art Museum (Tereshchenkivska 15)
10 – 40 UAH
khanenkomuseum.kiev.ua

The Countries of My Dreams
3 December – 19 January
Museum of Ukrainian Diaspora (Moskovska 40b)
25 – 50 UAH
MuseumUkrainianDiaspora

Domini Canis
4 December – 27 December
Institut Français of Ukraine (Honchara 84)
Free
institutfrancais-ukraine.com

The Empty Spaces of Doors and Windows Allow the Room to Be Inhabited
4 December – 17 January
The Naked Room (Reitarska 21)
Free
thenakedroom.com

Flowers. Project by Alexandra Larsson-Jacobson and Maria Kulikovska
6 December – 1 February
Shcherbenko Art Centre (Mykhailivska 22v)
Free
shcherbenkoartcentre.com

Iliustoriy
10 December – 12 January
Taras Shevchenko National Museum (Shevchenka Blv 12)
25 – 45 UAH
museumshevchenko.org.ua

MEREZHYVO PAMIATI

26 November – 10 January
National Museum of the Holodomor-Genocide (Lavrska 3)
In this exhibition, world-renowned artist Daria Alioshkina explores the story of the Holodomor through vytynanka – the traditional Ukrainian art of papercutting. Through ten huge vytynankas (paper cuts) over 3.5 metres across, the project uses traditional symbolism to tell the story of the genocide inflicted on Ukraine in the 1930s. Ukrainian folk crafts intertwine with historical events, depicting trauma with delicate beauty.
15 – 30 UAH
holodomormuseum.org.ua

Residence of Santa Claus
18 December at 11.30
VDNH (Akademika Hlushkova Pr 1)
190 UAH
vdng.ua

The Snow Queen: Sand Fairy Tale
21 December at 12.00
Budynok Kino (Saksahanskoho 6)
120 UAH
ukrkino.com.ua

Soap Bubbles Magic
21 December at 17.00
Kinder Club (Hryhorenka Pr 23)
200 UAH
kinderclub.in.ua

DISNEY ON ICE: FROZEN

3 January at 10.30
Palats Sportu (Sportyvna Pl 1)
Brace yourself for Disney's unforgettable tale of love, friendship and icy-cold winter: the story of sisters Anna and Elsa is coming to life on ice. You'll find yourself immersed in the kingdom of Arendelle along with the two princesses, plus hilarious snowman Olaf, Kristoff and his faithful reindeer Sven, and the mystical trolls. After their many adventures, Frozen reveals the secret of the most powerful kind of magic there is – love.
299 – 1299 UAH
spalace.com.ua

Journey Through the Looking Glass
22 December at 19.00
National Circus of Ukraine (Peremohy Pl 2)
100 UAH
circus.kiev.ua

Space Christmas
23 December at 16.00
Kyiv Planetarium (V Vasylkivska 57/3)
300 UAH
planet.org.ua

Christmas Dreams
28 December at 16.00
Premier Palace Hotel (Shevchenko Blv 5-7/29)
150 UAH
premier-palace.phnr.com

Seven Good Deeds of St. Nicholas
29 December at 10.30
New Ukrainian Theatre (Mykhailivska 24zh)
250 UAH
nut.kiev.ua

Christmas Shadow Kingdom
6 January at 14.00
ICCA (Heroyiv Nebesnoyi Sotni Al 1)
90 UAH
icca.kiev.ua

The Nutcracker: Sand Animation
11 January at 15.00
House of Architect (Borysa Hrinchenka 7)
150 UAH
arhite.com.ua

Wild Dance Party
17 December at 22.00
Caribbean Club (Symona Petlyury 4)
FREE
CaribbeanClub

Reggaeton Party
18 December at 20.30
Habana (Verkhniy Val 24)
FREE
Habana

Cybernetic Event 14 with Prolix, Teddy Killerz, Agressor Bunx
20 December at 23.00
Volume Club (Harmatna 26/2)
From 500 UAH
volumeconcertclub

Low: Young Marco (Dance/Electronic)
20 December at 23.55
Closer (Nyzhnoiurkivska 31)
Price TBA
closerkiev

Solar Fake (electro)
21 December at 22.30
Volume Club (Harmatna 26/2)
From 450 UAH
volumeconcertclub

CUBANOBOOM PARTY

3 January at 20.00
Aloft Hotel (Esplanadna 17)
Start the New Year strong by putting your dancing skills to the test! The evening will feature a fiery assortment of salsa, bachata, cha-cha-cha, and much more, played by a selection of live DJs. Aloft Hotel boasts the best-quality sound and a premium dance floor, so grab a partner and make your way to this heated event in and amidst the holidays.
From 100 UAH
ClubcubanoBoom

After Midnight Show
28 December at 22.00
Caribbean Club (Symona Petlyury 4)
Ladies 200 UAH
Gents 400 UAH
CaribbeanClub

Crazy Dance Party
29 December at 22.00
Caribbean Club (Symona Petlyury 4)
Ladies FREE
Gents 250 UAH
CaribbeanClub

New Year's Eve: Back to the 80s/90s
31 December at 22.00
Docker Club (Bohatyrska 25)
From 750 UAH
DockerPub

Kyiv Kills: Rock the New Year Party
31 December at 19.00
Art-club Tepliy Lampoviy (Mykhaila Omelianovycha-Pavlenka 4/6)
From 150 UAH
tepliy.lampoviy

Closer: NY Night
31 December at 23.00
Closer (Nyzhnoiurkivska 31)
Price TBA
closerkiev

Just Dance Party (Swing Dance)
4 January at 19.30
Patefon Dance Hall (Vyzvolyteliv 1)
Price 50 UAH
swingdance.ua

Tusa with Overload (rock, alternative metal)
5 January at 18.00
Art-club Tepliy Lampoviy (Mykhaila Omelianovycha-Pavlenka 4/6)
From 80 UAH
tepliy.lampoviy

2 Years with United: Vril (Techno)
6 January at 23.00
River Port (Nyzhniy Val 67)
Price TBA
riverportkyiv

Mayhem: Kyiv (Black Metal)
12 January at 20.00
Bingo Club (Peremohy Pr 112)
From 890 UAH
clubbingo

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE MUSEUM OF MEDICINE

31 December at 22.00
Museum of Medicine (Khmelnytskoho 37)
Dance away 2019 in a building where world-famous scientific discoveries were made! Hosted by Anatoly Tapolsky, better known as the Father of Ukrainian Drum and Bass, this New Year's party checks all the boxes with its offbeat location and talented DJ lineup. With previous party locations including Zhytniy Rynok and the legendary Lieberman Estate, you'll want to keep an eye on Tapolsky to find out what's next. Don't put off buying your tickets – Tapolsky's events are known to sell out fast!
From 599 UAH
djtapolsky

Osnova with Marthial, Clasps, Jana Woodstock, Nastya Muravyova (Techno)
17 January at 24.00
Otel' (Nyzhnoiurkivska 31)
Price TBA
otelleto

Closer: Masquerade
18 January at 23.55
Closer (Nyzhnoiurkivska 31)
Price TBA
closerkiev

Heavy Culture 2020
18 January at 23.00
Otel' (Nyzhnoiurkivska 31)
Price TBA
otelleto

Winter Mass VII
25 January at 16.30
MonteRay Club (Prorizna 8)
From 280 UAH
monterayclub

Salsa Party with 4Kuatro
31 January at 22.30
Habana (Verkhniy Val 24)
Free Admission
Habana

Weekend with the Orchestra: Portraits of the Baroque Epoch
Bach & Handel
15 December at 12.00
National Philharmonic of Ukraine (Volodymyrskyi Uzviz 2)
From 60 UAH
filarmonia.com.ua

Holos Skrypky: Voice of the Violin
18 December at 19.00
Kozlovskyi Art Centre (Khreschatyk 50b)
TBA
KozlovskyiArtCenter

Roman Hrynkiv and Friends
19 December at 19.00
Kozlovskyi Art Centre (Khreschatyk 50b)
TBA
KozlovskyiArtCenter

Santa's Factory
Fun Holiday Musical for Families
19 – 29 December
Kyiv Municipal Theatre of Opera and Ballet for Children (Mezhyhirska 2)
From 50 UAH
musictheatre.kiev.ua

New Year's Concert: Kyiv Municipal Academy of Dance Named After Serge Lifar
21 December at 12.00
National Opera of Ukraine (Volodymyrska 50)
From 20 UAH
opera.com.ua

White Christmas
Concert of International Christmas Songs
22 December at 19.00
Freedom Event Hall (Kyrylivska 134)
From 650 UAH
freedomhall.kiev.ua

A Knight of Goodness and Light
22 December at 19.00
Kozlovskyi Art Centre (Khreschatyk 50b)
TBA
KozlovskyiArtCenter

Seventh New Year's Strauss Concert
24 – 25 December at 19.00
National Opera of Ukraine (Volodymyrska 50)
From 100 UAH
opera.com.ua

Winter Evening with Classics
Brichaldi, Strauss, Tchaikovsky
25 – 29 December at 19.00
Kyiv Conservatory (Horodetskoho 1-3/11)
From 150 UAH

New Year's Christmas Concert
Gala Concert
26 December – 7 January
National Opera of Ukraine (Volodymyrska 50)
From 50 UAH
opera.com.ua

Vivaldi – The Secret
27 December at 19.00
Metropolis Music Hall (Druzhby Narodiv 7)
TBA
metropolisorchestra.com.ua

Haydn's Symphony No. 45 "Farewell"
Kyiv Chamber Orchestra
29 December at 19.00
National Philharmonic of Ukraine (Volodymyrskyi Uzviz 2)
From 100 UAH
filarmonia.com.ua

The Wizard of the Emerald City
Family – The Wizard of Oz (in Russian)
29 December – 8 January
Lesia Ukrainka National Academic Theatre (Khmelnytskoho 5)
From 30 UAH
rusdram.com.ua

New Year's Variety Show
31 December at 22.00
Caribbean Club (Symona Petlyury 4)
From 4 600 UAH
caribbean.com.ua

Santa 2: Global Warming
Fun Holiday Musical for Families
31 December – 10 January
Kyiv Municipal Theatre of Opera and Ballet for Children (Mezhyhirska 2)
From 50 UAH
musictheatre.kiev.ua

LORDS OF THE SOUND – GRAND CHRISTMAS 2020

28 December at 19.00
Palace of Ukraine (V Vasylkivska 103)
You are invited to a magnificent evening of music, uniting an orchestra, choir, stars of vocal talent shows, dancers, and of course special guests. The music that accompanies Christmas is enough to put even the most stringent of Scrooges in a good mood, and this show, featuring European holiday favourites as well as the carols of Ukraine, will do just that! Join those on stage and ring in the new year with their spectacular Grand Christmas programme.
From 400 UAH
palace-ukraine.com

ONE-ACT BALLET EVENING

19 December at 19.00
Suzirya Theatre (Yaroslaviv Val 14b)
Two unique cross-sectoral performances uniting modern ballet with opera, deep house music, sculpture, and painting will inspire this season with Kyiv's own OSDC. The first of two ballets performed in one act each, Catechism is a unique colour-kinetic performance on the border of theatre, art, music, and ballet, combining three dimensions of art – colour, movement, and sound. Alien Letters, on the other hand, is a spectacle an experiment; a true drama in choreography, and a sensual story of love and betrayal.
balletosdc

Shchedryk: Oleh Skrypka and NAONI Orchestra
Traditional Christmas Concert
7 January at 19.00
Palats Ukraina (V Vasylkivska 103)
From 200 UAH
palace-ukraine.com

Sarah Chen
American Pianist; Debussy, Ravel, Falla, Chopin
11 January at 19.00
National Philharmonic of Ukraine (Volodymyrskyi Uzviz 2)
From 70 UAH
filarmonia.com.ua

New Melodies of Christmas Eve
Concert of Ukrainian Christmas Carols
11 – 12 January at 19.00
Kyiv Municipal Theatre of Opera and Ballet for Children (Mezhyhirska 2)
From 50 UAH
Musictheatre.kiev.ua

Music by the name of Strauss
12 January at 19.00
National Philharmonic of Ukraine (Volodymyrskyi Uzviz 2)
TBA
filarmonia.com.ua

The Snow Queen
Original Ballet by A. Rekhviashvili based on the fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen
18 January at 19.00
National Opera of Ukraine (Volodymyrska 50)
From 50 UAH
opera.com.ua

Kyiv Modern Ballet: Two for the Seesaw; 1984
21 January at 19.00
Kyiv Municipal Theatre of Opera and Ballet for Children (Mezhyhirska 2)

FOR MANY, TAKING IN THE NUTCRACKER IS PART OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY TRADITION. THIS YEAR, A BRAND-NEW PERFORMANCE IS TAKING TO THE STAGE

Roman Mykyta

The New *Nutcracker*

Choreographed by Victor Ishchuk and produced by Alyona Matviyenko, this new holiday favourite is sure to please. The pair have created several productions, including the daring and post-modern favourite *The Great Gatsby*. However, their latest creation, *The Nutcracker*, promises to be a nostalgic ride. Ishchuk wants "the audience to return to their childhood during the two-hour show".

RETURNING A CLASSIC

Reflecting on the work done, Ishchuk transforms the performance by returning details from Hoffman and Tchaikovsky, which are usually glossed over. The libretto proves that Ishchuk stays true to Hoffman by developing the story as the melancholic farewell to childhood. Ishchuk explains: "Clara meets Drosselmeyer's nephew as a love interest during the party, but after the toy battle, during their pas de deux in the snow, love hits them at once and childhood is over; the tone is both tragic and beautiful."

Ishchuk says his inspirations for choreographic innovation include Jiri Kilian and George Balanchine. He also includes Michel Fokine for creating dramatic narratives. Unlike in his previous projects, Ishchuk plans to keep the choreographic language classic, adding fresh, authentic notes. The second act of *The Nutcracker* features the suite of divertissements performed in honour of the principal couple. Ishchuk says, "I don't like when these national dances are distilled to classical variations." That being said, the Chinese dance is not a pointe variation. It is choreographed in theatrical-national style and employs an air dragon. The Trepak uses all of the robust virtuosity that Ukraine's hopak has to offer. The Veryovka and Virsky Ensembles will be the key national dance performers on the stage. Ishchuk states: "No one can dance the Trepak better than the artists of Virsky."

It seems the whole team is a union of real pros. An experienced magician has the role of Drosselmeyer – Clara's mysterious godfather, who gifts her the Nutcracker doll for protection. The dances of the Party Scene prove the choreographer studied Tchaikovsky's score in detail to deliver forgotten nuances.

THE THREADS OF THE NUTCRACKER

While pushing for authenticity, Ishchuk's Nutcracker features his signature use of irony, humour, and sometimes irreverence. Designer Angela Lysytsya also influenced the performance. *The Nutcracker* is her first ballet project, filled with fresh ideas from Australia. For example, Drosselmeyer's steampunk costume style reflects the character's whimsical and timeless nature. Steampunk captures this idea while giving it a 21st century update. Listening to the playful French dance in Act II, Lysytsya designed the women's costumes as lingerie. These designs inspired Ishchuk to make the dance 'cheeky'. Such collaborations make ballet beautiful, going back to the glorious days of Diaghilev.

A TRUE FAIRYTALE

Dance is not dance until dancers dance it, and professionalism was the core aspect to look for during castings. Elizaveta Cheprasova and Francesco Piccinin will dance the principal roles. Cheprasova trained in Kyiv and St Petersburg, formerly dancing in the Mariinsky Theatre, and currently in Budapest. Piccinin, from Italy, dances in Estonia at present, and Matviyenko describes him as "a real Prince." With their first meeting set for 23 December, the two learned their roles remotely with videos from Ishchuk. They'll have just a few extra days to rehearse before the premiere. Ishchuk says the principal dancers will have to work hard, but Matviyenko insists they will be the quintessential young and beautiful fairytale couple.

Modern technology allows connection to happen rapidly, even in a realm such as ballet, and the performance is still facing a new frontier. How will it work? According to Ishchuk through professionalism. On the date of the premiere, the audience will see the result for themselves – the magic of *The Nutcracker*, paradoxically traditional yet fresh and new.

The Nutcracker – A New Old Fairytale
29 – 30 December at 20.00
ICCA (Heroyiv Nebesnoyi Sotni Al 1)
Viktor Ishchuk's brand-new production, tinted with nostalgia, is bound to reawaken the child in all of us. Freshened up with new style and innovation, this well-loved ballet remains classic at its core. Attend the most famous Christmas party of all time, battle the King of the Mice, and journey to the Land of Sweets, where peace reigns and dreams come true.
From 100 UAH
icca.kiev.ua

Live Music | 15 Dec 2019 – 31 Jan 2020

THE BEST OF HANS ZIMMER (DE, FILM MUSIC)

18 January at 19.00

Central House of Officers (Hrushevskoho 30/1)

Hans Zimmer is one of Hollywood's finest and most prolific composers: since the 1980s, he has composed music for over 150 films. Zimmer is the man behind the soundtracks to *Pearl Harbor*, *Inception*, *The Dark Knight* and *Interstellar*, to name but a few. His music makes any scene feel epic, and if it already gives you goosebumps in the cinema, just imagine this effect multiplied by hearing it played live.

From 200 UAH

cbo.org.ua

Liapis-98 (BY/UA, rock)

15 December at 19.00

Stereo Plaza (Lobanovskoho 119)

From 599 UAH

stereoplaza

Vahonovozhatyie (dance, electronic)

15 December at 19.00

Bel Etage Music Hall (Shota Rustaveli 16a)

TBA

beletage.musichall

Christmas Jazz Songs – Sinatra

20 December at 20.00

House of Architect (Borysa Hrinchenka 7)

From 240 UAH

+380 50 386 7410

Solar Flake

21 December at 18.00

Volume Club (Harmatna 26/2)

From 500 UAH

volumeconcertclub

The Josers – Lie

21 December at 19.00

Mezzanine (Nyzhnoiurkivska 31)

230 UAH

mezzaninekyiv

The Best Ukrainian Metal Act 2019

21 December at 17.00

Bingo (Peremohy Pr 112)

From 250 UAH

Bingo.ua

United People (a cappella)

23 December at 19.00

Caribbean Club (Symona Petlyury 4)

From 150 UAH

caribbean.com.ua

Jazz Age

Celebration of Music from the 20s, 30s, 40s

24 December at 19.00

Caribbean Club (Symona Petlyury 4)

From 290 UAH

caribbean.com.ua

Diezel50 (rock)

25 December at 19.50

Atlas (Sichovykh Striltsiv 37-41)

From 550 UAH

Atlas37

New Year Jazz

27 December at 19.00

Dim Kino (Saksahanskoho 6)

TBA

SvitloConcert

Shubin Band (rock covers)

28 December at 19.30

Porter Pub (Ivana Mazepy St 3)

TBA

044 280 1996

GAPOCHKA (INDIE, POP-ROCK)

17 December at 19.30

Caribbean Club (Symona Petlyury 4)

Award-winning Ukrainian duo Gapochka are back with their uncompromising spirit and unique blend of old-school and post-punk. Singer Katia Gapochka is one of the most powerful voices on the contemporary Ukrainian music scene, complemented musically and artistically by Yevhen's bold guitar parts. According to Katia, their new album *Neobkhidna* is all about self-expression and the need to embrace all your facets, both negative and positive.

From 290 UAH

caribbean.com.ua

Christmas JAZZ style

6 January at 20.00

House of Architect (Borysa Hrinchenka 7)

From 340 UAH

+380 50 386 7410

Oleh Skrypka and NAOFI (rock, orchestral)

7 January at 19.00

Palats Ukraina (V Vasylkivska 103)

TBA

+380 44 247 2476

palace-ukraine.com

Mayhem (NOR, black metal)

12 January at 20.00

BingoClub Kyiv (Peremohy Pr 112)

From 890 UAH

bingo.ua

Jacob Banks (UK, soul, R&B, hip-hop)

22 January at 19.00

Atlas (Sichovykh Striltsiv 37-41)

From 890 UAH

Atlas37

Ingested (UK, extreme metal)

24 January at 19.00

Art-club Tepliy Lampoviy (Mykhaila Omelianovycha-Pavlenka 4/6)

TBA

tepliy.lampoviy

Emergenza Festival Kyiv (battle of the bands)

25 January at 18.00

Art-club Tepliy Lampoviy (Mykhaila Omelianovycha-Pavlenka 4/6)

TBA

tepliy.lampoviy

Winter Mass VII

25 January at 16.30

MonteRay Club (Prorizna 8)

From 280 UAH

067 223 0644

monteray.kiev.ua

Dynamo Kyiv – Ukrainian Premier League Football
15 December at 14.00 vs Desna Chernihiv
Olympiyskyi Stadium (V Vasylkivska 55)
50 – 500 UAH
fcdynamo.kiev.ua

Kyiv Basket – Ukraine Cup Basketball (Quarterfinal)
27-29 December vs MBC Mykolaiv
Palats Sportu (Sportyvna Pl 1)
75 – 300 UAH
kyiv-basket.com.ua

Kyiv Basket – Ukrainian SuperLeague Basketball
26 December at 19.00 vs BC Dnipro
10 January at 18.00 vs Mykolaiv
16 January at 18.00 vs BC Dnipro
18 January at 18.00 vs Kharkivskiy Sokoly
Meridian Sports Complex (Heroiv Sevastopolya 11b)
75 – 300 UAH
kyiv-basket.com.ua

Kyiv Ice Wolves – Ukrainian Hockey League
21 December at 18.00 vs Bila Tserkva White Leopards
5 January at 18.00 vs Dnipro Kherson
8 January at 18.00 vs Dynamo Kharkiv
11 January at 18.00 vs HC Kremenchuk
16 January at 18.00 vs Donbas Donetsk
Shallett Arena (Mista Shallett 6)
30 – 60 UAH
vovki.in.ua

KYIV BASKET ADVANCES IN EUROPE CUP

18 December, 22 January & 5 February
Palats Sportu (Sportyvna Pl 1)
Kyiv's pro basketball team Kyiv Basket took a big leap in European club basketball by making the second round of the FIBA Europe Cup after beating Belarussian champion Tsomski Minsk away in overtime of an entertaining final group stage match. Just in its second season, Kyiv proved that its appearance in the Ukrainian SuperLeague final last season was no coincidence by topping a group that also featured Bulgaria's Levski Lukoil and Ukrainian qualifier BC Dnipro, who finished fourth. The team returns to action this month when they host Hungary's Egis Kormend at Palats Sportu on 18 December. The group also features Latvia's Ventspils and Holland's Landstede Hammers Zwole, with the top two teams advancing to the quarterfinals.
75 – 300 UAH
kyiv-basket.com.ua

Yule Marathon
22 December at 11.30 – 15.00
Vyshhorod Embankment (near the Kyiv Hydroelectric Power Plant)
500 – 700 UAH
yule.gonka.com.ua

Folk Ukraine New year Festival
14 December – 20 January
Sofiivska Pl, Volodymyrskyi Uzviz, Kontraktova Pl
FREE
folkukraine

Borjomi New Year Parade
21 December at 14.00
Sofiivska Pl
FREE
Borjomi Parade

Giant Chinese Lantern Festival
15 December – 1 February
Spivoche Pole (Lavrska 33)
160 – 200 UAH
1chinafest

New Year's Eve at Kyivan Rus Park
31 December
Kyivan Rus Park (Kopachiv, Kyiv region)
150 – 395 UAH
parkkyivrus.com

What's Ahead

UKRAINIAN SUPERLEAGUE BASKETBALL ALL-STAR GAME

1 February at 13.30

Palats Sportu (Sportyvna Pl 1)

Since entering the league last season, Kyiv's pro basketball team has taken the league by storm. The team is now marching again in the Ukraine Cup as it looks to move forward on last season's successes. This February, you can see some of Kyiv-Basket's stars, like the USA's Kasey Shepard and 2018's Big Sky Conference (USA) Player of the Year Bohdan Bliznyuk go up against the finest talent in Ukrainian basketball. The SuperLeague brings its all-star game back to Kyiv's Palats Sportu for the first time in 10 years. You won't want to miss out as all of Ukraine's biggest stars will put on a show to remember. Lots of surprises are in store, so be sure to pick up your ticket today!

150 UAH (Early Bird special)

fbu.ua

FRIENDSHIP COLLECTIVE X CELESTIAL

1 February at 22.00

Otel' (Nyzhnoiurkivska 31)

Do you love techno? Do you love art? Prepare to be blown away on February 1 as Friendship Collective and Celestial combine to bring their audience both at the same time. Up-and-coming Berlin-based artists Beat Movement and T-Kode promise to provide rave-worthy techno beats with local support featuring Dmitry Danilenko. The art exhibition will be sure to lead you to another dimension by "mixing reality with the digital future". Come for the music and stay for the art – or vice versa!

From 200 UAH

otelleto

VIRSKY UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE SHOW

18 February at 19.00

Palats Ukraina (Vasylkivska 103)

Without a doubt, this Ukrainian ensemble is the most precise, skilled, and talented. The upcoming February performance is the chance to feel the dancers` agility, enjoy the miraculous choreography, and resonate with diverse characters. Currently directed by Myroslav Vantukh, the ensemble continues the legacy of the founder, Pavlo Virsky. Another portion of winter performances throughout Ukraine is the chance to watch the true professionals who work hard to preserve the national culture and share the

150 — 750 UAH

experience globally

KUKLACHEV CAT THEATRE. I AM A CLOWN

14 March at 15.00

KPI House of Culture (Peremohy Pr 37)

This performance is dedicated to the world-famous comic actors. Charlie Chaplin, Leonid Yengibarov, and Charles Adrien Vettah. *I'm a Clown* is a stylistic interpretation of these prominent personalities through the prism of modernity mixed with the authentic acting adopted by Cat Theatre. Performing pieces of the outstanding clowns, Dmitriy Kuklachev complicates his show by adding numerous tricks with cats.

150 UAH

ckm.kpi.ua

KRYHITKA

14 February at 19.00

Bel Etage Music Hall (Shota Rustaveli 16a)

Did you miss them? Kryhitka, fronted by Kasha Saltseva, are back after three years spent in self-development and reflection. They are here, renewed and better than ever. "When the social changes are so powerful, we want to be with our people", the frontwoman says. And it's true – we can't wait for her to come and remind us about the experience we get while hearing her original lyrics live. On St. Valentine's Day, this reunion after a three-year break is going to be special.

From 500 UAH

beletage.musichall

WOMAN JAZZ

8 March at 19.00

Budynok Kino (Saksahanskoho 6)

The best way to celebrate 8 March is to celebrate female empowerment. The golden voice of Ukrainian jazz, Olha Lukachova, together with Rodion Ivanov`s quartet, will perform world-famous ballads by Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and Aretha Franklin. Powerful sounds and emotional live music will make International Women's Day even more inspiring. The lyrics will make your heart skip a beat, and you'll be sure to leave the hall with sense of warmth and pride.

From 140 UAH

SvitloConcert

Time to celebrate!

Trendy nails and sparkly cocktails await!

SAY NO MO

Social Nail Bar

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St Nicholas is Coming to Town

Lee Reaney

IT WASN'T LONG AGO THAT ONE FATHER FROST, OR "DID MOROZ" IN UKRAINE, WAS THIS COUNTRY'S MOST CHERISHED HOLIDAY CHARACTER. BUT AS UKRAINE MOVES TO DEFINE ITS MODERN CULTURE AS SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM ITS SOVIET PAST, THE MORE TRADITIONAL ST NICHOLAS (OR SVYATYI MYKOLAI IN UKRAINIAN) HAS MADE A COMEBACK. BUT WHO EXACTLY IS ST NICHOLAS IN UKRAINE? AND WHY IS HE MAKING A COMEBACK NOW?

WHERE'D HE COME FROM?

Like elsewhere, St. Nicholas is derived from a popular 3rd century bishop known for secretly giving gifts to children, the sick, and the poor. His legendary deeds included saving women from prostitution, condemnend men from the tip of an executioner's sword, as well as guiding lost sailors through inclement weather. Europeans in the Middle Ages regularly celebrated the man in December, and he developed a special following in the Netherlands, where he would leave children coins in their shoes on St. Nicholas Day. Dutch settlers brought their St. Nicholas (or Siinterklaas in Dutch) traditions with them when they immigrated to the US, which eventually turned into the character we now know as Santa Claus.

REPLACING DID MOROZ

As elsewhere in Europe, St. Nicholas was popular in Ukraine even before the Soviets arrived. But as the communists moved to destroy religion, they actively moved to replace its traditions. This is where Did Moroz comes in. Originally the pagan Slavic wizard of winter, the Soviets revived the character for their New Year holiday celebrations. Alongside his Snow Maiden (or Snihuronka in Ukrainian), the pair became immensely popular and remain that way in Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus today. In this way, Did Moroz has become not just a Russian character, but a secular, Soviet one as well. This could explain the appeal of returning to the more religious, traditional Svyatyi Mykolai traditions.

CELEBRATING SAINT NICHOLAS DAY

So, how do you celebrate? It's all about the gift-giving! Like in the West, children write letters to St. Nicholas explaining how good they've been and what they want. They either leave these on their windowsills for his helpers to pick up or they mail them to his

Be St. Nicholas This Year! Churches collect letters to St. Nicholas from orphanages before St. Nicholas Day. Stop in ahead of time and pick up the gift a child wants – you'll make their St. Nicholas Day this year one to remember!

Manor in Hutsulshchyna National Park. They'll leave special 'mykolaychky' cookies under their pillows in the hopes that St. Nicholas brings what they've asked for. But if they've been bad this year – he'll leave a stick to beat you with instead! Ukrainians take extra care to make sure that St. Nicholas visits every child – especially if they don't have parents. Nowadays many churches collect gifts that are distributed on 19 December to orphanages and children of soldiers killed in ATO.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN KYIV?

There's plenty of ways to meet St Nick yourself. You can head on over to the Pechersk Lavra (Lavrska 15) where you can visit his official residence in Kyiv. There's a toy exhibition, a games room, a place to write letters and, of course, you can meet the man himself (60 UAH entrance + 20 UAH to visit St. Nicholas). On request, you can even order weaving lessons, workshops, or a theatrical performance.

Sofiivska Ploshcha will have a European theme this year, with a souvenir market, children's fair, food area, and photo zone. On St. Nicholas Day, kids can travel with Einar the Elf to Lapland to see Santa's modern residence in a state-of-the-art, interactive 360° show (190 UAH).

Kontraktova Ploshcha will also feature the man himself, with a traditional Oposhnia ceramics theme, skating rink, slide, and Christmas market.

VDNH (Hlushkova 1) is once again hosting its Winter Country celebrations (free entrance), with an amusement park, food fair featuring the Bavarian Courtyard, Kyiv's largest ice rink, the ice sculpture castle, and the Christmas Dream Factory, where you can discover elves making Christmas decorations and meet Santa Claus himself!

For those of you who are a bit more intrepid, why not head to the official St. Nicholas Manor in Hutsulshchyna National Park? Your kids will have a season to remember after getting gifts from ole' St Nick himself right in his own home! There's plenty more to see and do there, including performances, light shows, and contests.

No matter what you do this season, Happy St. Nicholas Day!

MANY THEATRES HAVE SPECIAL ST. NICHOLAS DAY SHOWS ON 19 DECEMBER

Kyiv Municipal Academic Puppet Theatre
Myropilska 1
17.00
80 UAH
puppet-theater.kiev.ua

House of Architect
Hrinchenko 7
10.00
220-270 UAH
arhite.com.ua

Antonov Aviation Museum
Medova 1
13.00
350 UAH
aviamuseum.com.ua

New Ukrainian Theatre
Mykhailivska 24 zh
17.00
250 UAH
nut.kiev.ua

St. Nicholas Goes Digital! Too busy to be bothered to send mail like it was the Middle Ages? Send St. Nicholas an email at **st.nicholas.estate@gmail.com** instead!

The Spirit of St. Nic

Natalia Kurtiak

Celebrated on 19 December, a best-loved holiday for children – St. Nicholas Day, is fast approaching, where good little girls and boys traditionally wake up to gifts laid under their pillows. So as to help you make your list and check it twice, here's a selection of our favourite gifts to wake up to and where to find them.

1. SWEETS

Candies and baked goods are always a hit, though maybe best not left under the pillow. Chocolates, eclairs, and vegan desserts are the hottest thing right now!

B12 Candy Bar
Mezhyhirska 24
candybar.b12

Tonka
Revutskoho 9
tonka.desserts

2. UNFORGETTABLE IMPRESSIONS

Tired of the tie? Make an impression instead. For example, an evening spa for two, a photo session, or tickets to a concert.

Bodo
Malevycha 86h
bodo.ua

Donum
Khoryva 11a
donum.kiev.ua

3. ITEMS FOR THE HOME

Blankets, scented candles, photo frames, sleep masks, teacups, garlands, and more are fun to give and receive!

Vsi. Svoi. Home and Décor
Khreshchatyk 34
vsi.svoi.home.decor

Zara Home
Sportyvna Pl 1a
gullivercenter.com

4. A BOOK BY YOUR FAVORITE AUTHOR

A book is always a great gift. World classics or contemporary, contemporary fiction, self-development or psychology. And the fact that it's something you have enjoyed makes it all the more special.

Bookstore Ye
Khreshchatyk 46
knyharniaye

Bukva
(B Khmelnytskoho 3b)
bukva.ua

5. TECHNOLOGY

There is no one we know who doesn't like a fun gadget, so pick something that really connects. Anything from a portable charger to a brand-new laptop – whatever your budget will allow.

Citrus
Khreshchatyk 52
citrus.ua

Rozetka
S Bandery Pr 6
rozetka.com.ua

6. PERFUME AND COLOGNE

Fragrances are always at the top of the list in UA. And we have nothing against that, because who doesn't like to smell good?

Brocard
Peremohy Pl 3
brocard.ua

Bomond
Khreschatyk 38
bomond.com.ua

7. CLOTHING

Regardless of whether you're buying for a man or woman, with so many fabulous local designers you are spoiled for choice. Not sure about size? Go more for 'homewear' – cosy slippers, cute pyjamas, or a bathrobe.

Vsi. Svoi
Khreshchatyk 27
vsi.svoi

Balcony Garment
Zhylianska 45
balconygarment.com

8. SKINCARE

The skin becomes more sensitive to weather conditions in the winter so make sure your loved ones are ready for the temperature drop with a set of lotions and potions.

Kiehl's
Sportyvna Pl 1a
kiehls.ua

Kosmo
Biloruska 2
kosmo.ua

9. JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES

No woman we know would ever turn down a piece of jewellery, and whoever came up with the idea that giving a man a watch is a bad sign is now long gone. Go, splurge.

Sova Jewelry House
Khreshchatyk 38
sovajewels.com

Timeshop
Nyzhnii Val 33b
timeshop.com.ua

Gift ideas

Girls

Guys

Deck the Halls

Natalya Jaddock

It's that time of year again: mulled wine on every street corner, Christmas classics on repeat, and excitement in the air! With Christmas and New Year quickly approaching, there's no better place to be to take it all in than the capital of Ukraine.

THE UKRAINIAN WILLY WONKA

What with shopping, travel plans, and the mad rush to finish your work before the year's end, 'tis the season to be frantic. However, getting into the Christmas spirit is easier than you think. If you're not feeling festive yet, Roshen has the perfect antidote: an evening visit to the Roshen Winter Village will take you straight into the world of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and you'll feel its magic no matter what year you were born. Light shows to blow your mind, dreamy Christmas music, festive food and drink, and a state-of-the-art skating rink could turn any 'Bah, Humbug!' day around.

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

Think Christmas shopping is stressful and time-consuming? You just have to go to the right places... Kurazh Bazar is a great place to soak up the festive atmosphere and buy gifts from a curated selection of Ukrainian vendors. From restored Soviet Christmas ornaments to handmade soaps and beautifully printed Ukrainian books, there's something for everyone. Performances by local artists, photo zones, a live DJ and prize giveaways are just a few of the extra attractions on offer. Plus, VDNH's Winter World is conveniently located nearby. This is a great place to go with the little ones: you'll find a skating rink, a slide, sweet treats, light shows and a little train chugging around the event grounds. For adults, there's also a great selection of mulled wine, served by cheery-eyed Christmas-sweater-wearing servers!

FAN FAVOURITE

Be it the monthly market, or their two flagship locations on the famous Khreschatyk, we know we can rely on Vsi Svoi. With a massive selection of Ukrainian-designed-and-made goods, you're not only supporting the local economy but purchasing high-quality goods. Conveniently, their Christmas market is open every weekend until the end of December. Come to find the perfect gifts and stay to relax and enjoy the atmosphere.

MARKET MADNESS

Be sure to visit Kyiv's annual Christmas markets on Kontraktova Ploshcha and Sofiivska Ploshcha, running for over a month, from 14 December to 19 January. Here you can enjoy a mix of traditional and modern goods and entertainment. With special events and entertainment planned for 25 December, 31 December, and 7 January, these markets are the perfect place to celebrate if you're on your own for the holidays.

THE MORE THE MERRIER

Whether you're celebrating solo or with friends and family, Kyiv will be sure to enchant you. With two official dates for Christmas, we can safely say that nobody does Christmas like Ukraine!

Roshen Winter Village
Until 8 March
Nauky Pr 1
10.00 – 22.00
120 UAH
roshenwintervillage

Kurazh Bazar
Akademika Hlushkova 1
Keep an eye out on Facebook for their next event.
150 UAH
kurazhbazar

Winter World at VDNH
7 December – 1 March
Akademika Hlushkova 1
FREE
vdngkyiv

Vsi Svoi Christmas Market
14-15, 21-22, 28-29 December
Desyatynna 12
FREE
vsi.svoi

Christmas Movie Night

Daria Isaieva

Decorate the tree, play Secret Santa, and watch a few of these forgotten classics filled with holiday cheer for a splendid festive night in.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (2009, US)

Scrooge, once an ordinary kid, then a romantic teenager, and finally a man in love with Christmas. The animated 3D adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic novel is about the tragedy of a Victorian-era moneylender. Taken on a journey of self-redemption, Ebenezer Scrooge finds the real value of life. The new cartoon features roles voiced by Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, and other legendary actors.

NOEL (2004, US/CANADA)

New Yorkers love the winter holidays, where thousands of Christmas trees illuminate the city, creating a fairytale wonderland. For some, however, this is not enough, as they wait for something incredible, magical even, to escape from everyday hardship and worry.

NEW YEAR'S RATE PLAN (2008, RU)

A young Andrey buys a new phone and gets a strange offer on a "New Year's" rate plan immediately. Though unaware of the consequences, Andrey agrees. On New Year's Eve, he dials a random number to wish a stranger "Happy New Year!" Watch to see what happens next.

LOST CHRISTMAS (2011, UK)

On Christmas Eve, Anthony comes to Manchester with no memory of his name or past. With one touch, he discovers a unique superpower: to locate the lost. Who might this strange ability help? How will Anthony get his memory back?

FINDING CHRISTMAS (2013, US)

Owen and Sean are two best friends, neither of whom enjoys the Christmas holidays. Sean unsuccessfully buries his head in a pile of documents, while Owen can't find inspiration even in his beloved hobby. So, the two friends decide to experiment, swapping for the holidays to change up their environment and distract themselves from their gloomy thoughts.

CHERRY ON THE CAKE (2012, ITALY)

Amanda knows relationships are complicated. While her friend believes it's time for Amanda to settle down and finally find 'the one', her therapist surprises with a disappointing diagnosis, calling her "Madame Catastrophe". But even the woman who stubbornly refuses to become happy is not immune to fate.

BAD SANTA (2003, US)

Willie is an unusual Santa Claus. A divorce and ex-prisoner, Willie continues on his life journey as a malicious womaniser and drunkard. But there is a little boy who has a strong belief in the holiday fairytale, and Willie will have to come up with a real miracle this time to bring his plan to fruition!

Behind the Christmas Lights

THE MAGIC BEHIND THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR IN UKRAINE

Ilya Ovchar

Nothing reminds us of the upcoming holidays like Christmas carols occupying the airwaves of supermarkets and malls from November up until the end of the year. Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way… It's like that every day. Every. Single. Day. It's a great song, but even something as genius as Rachmaninov's piano concerto can be annoying after hearing it everywhere for a month nonstop. Regardless, I still love Christmas for its vibes. It brings magic in winter and makes me warmer too. Of course, the glühwein doesn't play any part in that whatsoever. With Ukraine's wonderful geographic location, one can experience both the Catholic and the Orthodox Christmas. Each brings diversity, and, well, a few extra days off.

CATHOLIC VS ORTHODOX

Just like two siblings arguing, the Catholic tradition keeps 25 December, while Orthodox Christmas is on the eve of 7 January. Coincidentally, one is 13 days earlier than the other. This difference dates back to 1582 when Pope Gregory of Rome decided to switch to the Gregorian calendar, which was, simply, 13 days earlier. And because the church back in the day dictated what to do, everyone else switched too.

From my experience in the western world (I sound like Borat now, don't I?), I got the impression that Catholic Christmas is kind of like a much bigger version of Thanksgiving – heck, they even eat turkey on both, but that spreading goodwill and joy is at its core. Whereas Orthodox Christmas is a much more religious event and is more about the idea of universal salvation.

Orthodox Christmas is celebrated slightly more modestly way than New Year, contrary to Catholic Christmas in the west. This is because most of the areas that practiced Orthodoxy were under Soviet rule – a regime not terribly fond of religion. The idea of 'Did Moroz' being a New Year's personage only came about in the 30s, and even the Christmas tree was banned for a few years according to some sources.

But we love traditions for their diversity, uniqueness, and sometimes controversy. Christmas in Ukraine usually turns out to be a lot of merry-making for a memorable holiday. These tips will help you enjoy the authenticity of the much-anticipated celebration in Ukraine.

THE 12-DISH MARATHON

Kutya. Our Christmas special made of wheat, raisins, poppy, honey, and nuts. Kutya is the first meal to be served at Christmas Eve supper (Svyata Vecherya), and everyone at the table should have at least a spoonful of the dish. Some families leave a plate full of kutya out overnight in homage to those gone before us.

Varenyky with potatoes or cabbage. Those lovely bites represent wealth in the family. NB: Ihor Kolomoiskyi, a Ukrainian billionaire oligarch, loves his varenyky. These are, of course, homemade for those of us lucky enough to have mamas so inclined, though they can also be bought frozen from the supermarket. Not to be confused with pelmeni.

Grybna Yushka z vushkamy – your basic broth-based mushroom soup with little dumplings. Representing the two natures of Jesus (divine and human), and also a must-have on the table.

Borshch. Well, this goes without saying – good old borshch. Should be served with garlic, thin slices of salo or pampushkas (little buns).

Holubtsi. The secret is in the name. The holub (pigeon) is a renowned symbol of the holy spirit. Now seriously – cooked cabbage leaves wrapped around various fillings is the true Ukrainian speciality. No wonder it is on the list.

Stewed beans. Dishes with beans represent the spring, which is reborn in all people following the passing of winter.

Pampuhy – fried or baked pastry served with some kind of filling. Wonderfully sweet, these play an essential part in shaping Christmas Eve, and embody all the saints.

Potatoes. Boiled potatoes are served often, though the cook who serves them with lemon gets extra points.

Falafel. This small treat made with the well-loved chickpea doesn't only taste great, but it is also a source of energy to get you through the other 11 dishes.

Dorado fish. Fish can be often been a symbol of Christianity, which makes it a must on your dinner table.

Stewed cabbage with mushrooms. Cabbage dishes represent the simplicity and strength around this religious foundation.

Uzvar. Made of dried fruit, this has to be the most popular drink at Christmas time, and is the symbol of life given by God.

THE HOLY NIGHT IN KYIV

Not sure how to put this spread together yourself? No problem! These few local venues are sure to help so that you can continue to spread goodwill and cheer.

Kanapa
Andriyivskyi Uzviz 19
12.00 – 00.00
Price: $$
+380 68 044 3050

Ostannya Barykada
Maidan Nezalezhnosti 1
10.00 – 00.00
Price: $$$
+380 68 907 1991

Taras Bulba
Pushkinska 2-4/7
09.00 – 11.00
Price: $$
+380 44 270 7248

Sho
Mechnikova 18
09.00 – 00.00
Price: $$$
+380 44 466 0305

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all from the What's On team!

'Tis the Season

Natalia Kurtiak

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat, and there is no better time to get into the long-awaited festive mood, watching Coca-Cola ads for the 100th time, stepping out to mulled wine tastings, and engaging in other pre-holiday pursuits. So what's in store this year? Lots!

In anticipation of the holiday season, the organisers of the city-wide festivities have divulged a few secrets: Kyiv will celebrate Christmas and see the New Year in German style with the city's biggest and best tree on Sofiivska Ploshcha, a non-stop concert schedule, and of course, Santa Claus!

"The square is going to be illuminated with lots of red, green, and gold," says Ihor Dobrutskyi, curator of Folk Ukraine. "We are installing large shining arches and art objects and we've planned a lot of fabulous photo zones based on German fairytales too! Sofiivska Ploshcha will have never been decorated so beautifully."

The Christmas tree is promised to be lush as those in Germany, where the original tradition was born, with decorations based on German fairytales. A European Santa Claus will brighten up the square too, where a whole pavilion devoted to the story of this fabulous character will be set up.

In previous years, the concerts on Sofiivska Ploshcha lasted for a meagre 15 days. However, this year, you can expect non-stop entertainment from 19 December, the official opening of the country's main Christmas square, right up until the end – 19 January.

Another holiday location is going to be on Kontraktova Ploshcha. Here, the festive theme moves closer to Ukrainian culture, with décor inspired by the pottery culture of the Opishnya and Poltava regions and will include ceramics and toys. In addition, a giant skating rink, much larger than any in previous years, has been promised. It all comes together to form the perfect way to celebrate this month. Make your plans to enjoy the holiday here in Kyiv!

Kyiv's Christmas markets are a great place to go and have street food, glühwein, or medovukha. Take in folk performances in the evenings, where the stage will be showcasing some kind of entertainment nearly every night from 19.00.

Sofiivska Pl 1
19 December — Ukraine's Main Christmas Tree lights up
25 December — Christmas Fair
31 December — New Year party
7 January — Starkeepers Parade

Kontraktova Pl 1
19 December — Podil Christmas Tree lights up
25 December — Catholic Christmas Holiday
7 January — Orthodox Christmas Fair

Kyiv Holiday Market
14 December – 19 January
folkukraine

Present or Promise

Tassy Klim

New Year is on its way, as are Saint Nicholas Day and Christmas. It's time to see who's been naughty or nice and sum up the previous year, with resolutions in tow. Is there anyone in Ukraine who has it all figured out?

ARE YOU ON SANTA'S LIST?

As it turns out, most Ukrainians haven't even made it to the mall yet for gift shopping and have no idea what to buy, with more than 90% of those questioned still stuck at the choosing stage. To our surprise, none of the respondents who had actually taken the time to make their list had picked a set of soaps as a gift! (A note to readers who didn't grow up in the Soviet Union: a toiletry gift set was the gift to give back in the day. The industry will have to come up with more eye-catching promos or continue to face challenges in the 21st century). Nope. Those early Christmas shoppers - the 10% - had all picked wholly original, personalised gifts. I bet 90% of the late starters would be thrilled to receive such a thoughtful gift.

Funnily enough, one of our respondents promised themselves last year to start buying presents earlier this year. But they still haven't started. Which takes us to (failed) resolutions…

RESOLUTION AS THE SOLUTION?

When I chatted to Ukrainians about their resolutions, many said that this was THE year to stick to the resolutions they had made at the beginning of 2019. Guess how many had actually stuck to them? An overwhelming 27%! Most researchers say there are three main reasons people don`t follow through on their personal commitments around the new year: unrealistic expectations, the fact that some are all talk and no action, and waiting for that perfect right moment. If the first two are easily accomplished with proper planning and/or not lying to yourself or your friends by saying that you are going to visit the gym forty times a month, the third, well, that's a matter of perspective. Let us just say that for those who are waiting for the right time to start that new hobby or sport – it never comes. You need to create it yourself. Starting whatever you promise yourself "tomorrow", or "after the weekend", has never been an effective strategy. So just get out there!

Oh, and Happy Holidays!

If your resolution is to read more next year, check out our website whatson-kyiv.com or grab a copy in print at the venues listed in the back of this magazine. We promise not to disappoint in 2020!

Wanna make holiday gift-giving more fun? Try the Secret Santa game

SCAN ME

Cocoa Loco

Daria Isaieva

Here's a riddle for you: which popular hot drink was originally a sacred substance forbidden to women, before becoming an exclusive treat for royals and aristocrats? Let WO take you on a journey throughout the surprising history of cocoa, followed by our suggestions for some of the best places to try it in Kyiv.

DRINK OF THE GODS

If you could travel back in time to the American tropics, before the arrival of Christopher Columbus, you might not even recognise the granddaddy of modern cocoa: a foamy, fermented drink that was consumed cold and often unsweetened. Cocoa beans were mixed with maize beans and chilli pepper, then ground with water into a paste. The word 'chocolate' probably derives from the Aztec word 'chocolatl', meaning 'foam water' (hardly the most appetising etymology).

Forbidden to women and children, chocolate was reserved for men of noble origin, warriors and shamans, as well as victims awaiting sacrifice. When the Spanish General Hernan Cortes landed on the coast of Mexico in 1519, the Aztec chief Montezuma II treated the Spaniards to a thick whipped beverage made of cocoa beans, vanilla, chilli pepper, and spices, served cold in bowls of pure gold. On his return to Spain in 1527, Cortes brought with him not only cocoa beans, but also the recipe for hot chocolate.

FROM AUSTERITY TO ROCOCO

In the 17th and 18th centuries, chocolate consumption was centred on Spain and Italy. Due to its capacity to satisfy hunger, drinking chocolate really caught on in these Catholic heartlands: according to the Catholic principle that liquids are still permitted during religious fasts, hot chocolate replaced food when food was not allowed. At the royal court in Madrid, chocolate was a symbol of prestige and status. Since it was the Spaniards who began importing it from Mexico in the early 1700s, chocolate was considered a Spanish drink.

Chocolate entered the French court in 1615, when Anna of Austria (who grew up in Madrid) married Louis XIII of France. Chocolate thus ceased its association with gloomy Jesuitism and the Spanish Inquisition, and became part of French rococo style. While bourgeois families started the working day with a cup of coffee, aristocrats chose to begin their day of refined idleness by lying back and sipping hot chocolate.

From the late 18th century onwards, so-called 'chocolate rooms' began to appear in London; these were frequented by a peculiar cross-section of society, from the aristocracy to the demi-monde. However, with the dawn of the Industrial Revolution and the ousting of the Ancien Régime in France, the popularity of chocolate went into rapid decline.

POWDER POWER

In 1820, Dutch chocolate maker Coenraad Johannes van Houten developed a new method of cocoa production, which extracted almost all the oil from the beans and produced a powder as the finished product. Chocolate and cocoa ceased to belong to the category of pleasures reserved for adults, like coffee or tobacco, and became a drink mostly enjoyed by children. Now, in the early 21st century, hot chocolate (and its powder-based counterpart, cocoa) are cold-weather drinks for all to enjoy, regardless of gender, age, or social class.

Undoubtedly, this will have whet your appetite for all things chocolate-based. In this case, let us offer some of the best places to enjoy the ideal mug of cocoa in Kyiv:

Druzi
Andriyivskyi Uzviz 2d
Prorizna 3/5
druzicafe.com.ua

Cocoa with peanut butter	*65 UAH*
Cocoa with coconut milk	*69 UAH*
Hot chocolate with marshmallows	*69 UAH*
Almond hot chocolate	*79 UAH*

The Cake
Arena City, V Vasylkivska 5
TheCakeKiev

Cocoa with marshmallows	*60 UAH*
Cocoa with oat milk	*80 UAH*

Milk Bar
Shota Rustaveli 16
milkbar.com.ua

Cocoa with lavender	*69 UAH*

Honey
Nyzhniy Val 19/21
Yaroslaviv Val 20
TSUM Kyiv, 6th floor
honeycafe.com.ua

Classic red cocoa	*69 UAH*
Cocoa with spices or marshmallows	*72 UAH*
CocoCocoa	*97 UAH*

Good Girl
Mechnykova 7
goodgirlkiev

Raw Cocoa with hazelnut milk, coconut milk, sea salt, and Jerusalem artichoke	*125 UAH*

Call me Cacao
Nyzhniy Val 35
Pushkinska 11a
chaocacao.kyiv

Classic cocoa	*48 UAH*
Honey and pepper cocoa	*66 UAH*
Classic hot chocolate	*62 UAH*
Lavender hot chocolate	*70 UAH*
Fresh ginger hot chocolate	*74 UAH*

More than Trendy *Caucasian Cuisine*

Natalia Kurtiak

WHILE THE FIRST SNOW IS FALLING, I AM WARMING UP AROUND THE FIREPLACE AT BAKLAZHAN, A RESTAURANT BELONGING TO THE WELL-KNOWN TARANTINO FAMILY CHAIN. SERVING UP MIDDLE EASTERN CUISINE, THEIR MENU FEATURES SOME OF THE MOST ICONIC DISHES FROM UZBEKISTAN, GEORGIA, ARMENIA, AND AZERBAIJAN. LOCATED IN A CENTRAL PART OF KYIV, IT IS A PERFECT PLACE TO ESCAPE FROM THE CITY BUSTLE

WARM AND TRANQUIL

The first thing you think on entering is: wow, how peaceful it is. Greeted by a friendly coatroom attendant, the hostess takes us to our table. We are seated in the main hall and can't help but look up. Charmed by the glass ceiling, I may have to return during the day to look up at the sky in broad daylight.

While waiting for our food to arrive, I take a look around. It is now clear what makes the general atmosphere so relaing– warm colours and lighting plus relaxing music. With a majestic Christmas tree and decorations everywhere, it's obvious the venue is ready for the holidays. The restaurant is spacious enough: a main hall, two banquet halls, a children's room, and on open kitchen, so the distance between the tables allows you to share your innermost thoughts.

Every Friday, so I'm told, the venue features live music. It is a nice touch, holiday season or otherwise, and one you will no doubt get caught up in. Just don't forget to call a cab when it's time to leave.

DELVE INTO TRADITIONAL CUISINE

We start with eggplant rolls with tomatoes and walnuts. The taste is very gentle, the rolls almost melt in my mouth. Everything is well-balanced: not too spicy, not too bland. My guest this evening does not disagree. As we enjoy this first course, we observe the process of skewered meat and fresh vegetables being prepared: everything is cooked on the grill, in the open kitchen.

But what makes my mouth water is when it actually appears on the table.

The chicken is so juicy, and the tender meat served with pomegranate sauce, while unusual, is delicious. The sour hints combined with the fruity flavour completely hit me. Next are the veal khinkali. I have tried this dish before, many times, and so I think I know what to expect. They are scrumptious – some of the best I have ever had.

To quench our thirst this evening we have basil compote, which reminds me of the basil lemonade my mother used to make. Nostalgia turns to satisfaction, and mulled wine is served later. Served without sugar, it's a great beverage option so that I can control how much sugar I add.

GETTING READY TO CELEBRATE

With the holidays almost upon us, people muss and fuss trying to decide where to celebrate the New Year. Baklazhan can solve this small challenge. With two banquet halls (one for 10 – 14, the other for 20 – 30 people) and the spacious main hall, you'll find no problem trying to arrange an exceptional celebration. Where whether you're celebrating with family, friends, or colleagues, there is something for everyone among the broad selection of snacks and large portions of Caucasian national specialities. In addition, guests celebrating the New Year will receive a pleasant gift from the Baklazhan team – a culinary master class in khinkali cuisine. Now there's a gift you'll have likely never thought to give or receive.

Can't get in to this location? Visit the one near metro Olimpiiska (V Vasylkivska 57/3). It's the best place to grab a quick business lunch. In addition, Baklazhan offers free delivery service, so you can enjoy Caucasian delights at home any night of the week!

MAKE SURE YOU TRY:

Lamb luleh-kebab	*195 UAH*
Baked eggplant rolls with veal and suluguni cheese	*152 UAH*
Chaikaneh pilaf with lamb and barberry	*215 UAH*

WO EDIBLE INVENTORY

Eggplant rolls with tomatoes and walnuts	148 UAH
Chicken skewers	170 UAH
Grilled vegetables	105 UAH
Veal khinkali	125 UAH
Pomegranate sauce	45 UAH
Basil compote	45 UAH
Red mulled wine	85 UAH
TOTAL:	**723 UAH**

WHAT'S ON CHECKLIST

English menu	✓
English-speaking staff	✓
Wifi	✓
Price	$$
WO Rating	★★★★★

БАКЛАЖАН
КАВКАЗСКАЯ КУХНЯ

Baklazhan
Shevchenko Blvd 35
12.00 – 00.00
baklazhan.tf

THE ACC AGM

Since 1992, the Chamber has been organising their year-end General Membership Meeting, gathering members, partners, representatives of the diplomatic community and state officials to meet and catch up on the latest developments. This year, with the event taking place on 5 December at the illustrious Fairmont hotel, featured remarks from Ambassador William B. Taylor, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, an announcement of the Chamber 2020 Board of Directors, a presentation of the Chamber Annual Report, and, of course, a cocktail reception to round out the evening. Everyone at WO wishes the ACC a wonderful year ahead!

A GOLDEN EVENING

Much fun was had on Friday 6 December as international business professionals waved goodbye to the working week and welcomed in the weekend with drinks aplenty at GOL'DAbar on Shota Rustaveli, recently opened by the owners of Alchemist. Guests at the event organised by BigMeetUkraine networked in good company while enjoying delicious Middle Eastern cuisine and a great selection of wine & cocktails! The Big Meet will return in January 2020.

BEST THREADS

On 19 November, the annual Best Fashion Awards was held at Fairmont Grand Hotel in the Ukrainian capital, bringing together and identifying leaders in Ukrainian fashion and highlighting their achievements. Kateryna Osadcha and Yuriy Gorbunov steered the event, with designers taking home an award in the categories for best women's designer, best men's designer, best accessories, discovery of the year, breakthrough of the year, best fashion performance, with awards given out for those featuring sustainable fashion and cruelty-free fashion.

RADISSON BLU – WINNER!

Radisson Blu Hotel has been announced winner of the B2B Interior of the year in the prestigious V Eastern Europe Real Estate Awards 2019 on 26 November. This is quite the honour for the city centre hotel as the venue recently underwent some major renovations so that stylish design could coexist with the highest technical standards, a timeless interior, a historic atmosphere and comfortable zoning which answers the needs of modern business and leisure travellers. "It's such a pleasure and honour to accept this award and continue to grow our destination with this title," said Yana Kozhekina, Assistant of Marketing and Communications Manager of the Radisson Blu Hotel, Kyiv City Centre.

A THOUSAND MILES

You won't have to go that far to enjoy a good time, as Kyiv's Mille Miglia is located in the Radisson on Yaroslaviv Val, which is where TUCC met on 15 November for a one-of-a-kind Italian dining event. Gathering more than 10 nationalities to enjoy a truly gastronomic tour through the Italian countryside, the six selections were complemented with a tasty selection of wines. The gastro club's next event will happen in the new year – see you in 2020 TUCC!

IN CELEBRATION OF EASTERN SUCCESS

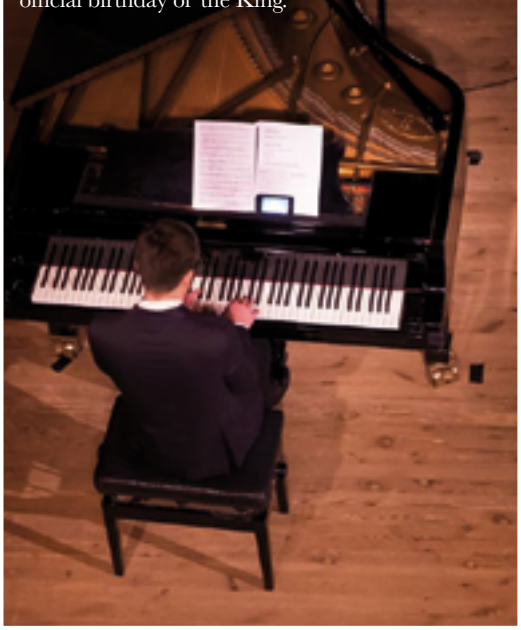
On 21 November, The British Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce (BUCC), the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, along with the John Hughes Business Club held the John Hughes Memorial Dinner at the Opera Hotel in celebration of the achievements of the esteemed Welsh engineer, founder of Donetsk, and entrepreneur in steel and coal in Ukraine. Attended by 80 leaders from business, including agriculture, energy, finance, heavy industry and IT, the event was a success with Tymofiy Mylovanov, Minister of Economic Development, Trade, and Agriculture of Ukraine, as the guest speaker.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

The IWCK Charity Bazaar is known as one of the biggest charity fundraising platforms in the capital, and this year, the 27th annual Bazaar brought together the international community and Ukrainian charity organisations in one place on 30 November at Olimpiyskyi Stadium. With 47 embassies participating, IWCK beat their previous record, while guests enjoyed dancing master-classes, and music and theatre performances from Spain, UAE, France, Argentina, South Africa, Germany, etc. The event raised 3 205 742 UAH in support of charity programs for children, women, and the elderly.

A CELEBRATION FIT FOR A KING

The Embassy of Belgium in Kyiv celebrated King's Day on 18 November with a fabulous concert at the National Philharmonic. A few of the country's top jazz and pop artists were in attendance, and guests enjoyed an incredible evening of music followed by a reception in the main hall. The King's Feast has been celebrated in Belgium since 1866 following a decree by Leopold II, and since 2001, Belgium recognises the day (officially 15 November) as the official birthday of the King.



Sector H
Kyiv Paris *(Sichovykh Striltsiv 10)*
Like A Local Wine Bar *(Sichovykh Striltsiv 26)*
Reni *(Sichovykh Striltsiv 60)*

Sector J
Alphavito *(Predslavynska 35d)*
Lounge bar Mantry *(V Vasylkivska 5)*
Lucky Pub *(V Vasylkivska 13)*
Under Wonder *(V Vasylkivska 21)*
Tolstoy *(V Vasylkivska 19)*
Bierstube *(V Vasylkivska 20)*
Mama Manana *(V Vasylkivska 44)*
Alfaro *(V Vasylkivska 49)*
Druzi Cafe *(V Vasylkivska 49a)*
Rooster Grill Bar *(V Vasylkivska 68)*
Manu *(V Vasylkivska 94)*
Amster Damster *(V Vasylkivska 111/113)*
17.804 *(V Vasylkivska 82)*

Sector K
Shlyapa *(Antonovycha 14)*
Perfe *(Antonovycha 14a)*
Holiday Inn hotel *(Antonovycha 79)*
Normal *(Antonovycha 81)*
Kyiv President *(Hospitalna 12)*
Rus *(Hospitalna 4)*
Belle Vue Belgian Beer Cafe *(Saksahanskogo 7)*
Yabloko *(Saksaganskoho 39/41)*
Dos Amigos *(Saksaganskoho 51/87)*
Sam's Steak House *(Zhylyanska 37)*
Steak House Goodman *(Zhylyanska 75)*

Sector L
Guramma *(Dniprovskiy Descent 1)*
Park Cafe *(Mazepy 11a)*
Shooters *(Moskovska 22)*
Veranda na Dnipri *(Naberezhne shose 11a)*

Sector M
Frat Social Club *(Evgena Konovaltsya 36d)*
La Casa Del Habano *(Klovskiy Descent 13)*
Almondo Night Party Bar *(Lesi Ukrainky bulv. 34)*
O' cafe *(Mechnykova 9)*
Si *(Mechnykova 9)*

Sector N
LKafa *(Chokolivskiy bulvar 11)*
Cosmopolite hotel *(Vadyma Getmana 6)*
IQ Hotel *(Vadyma Getmana 6)*

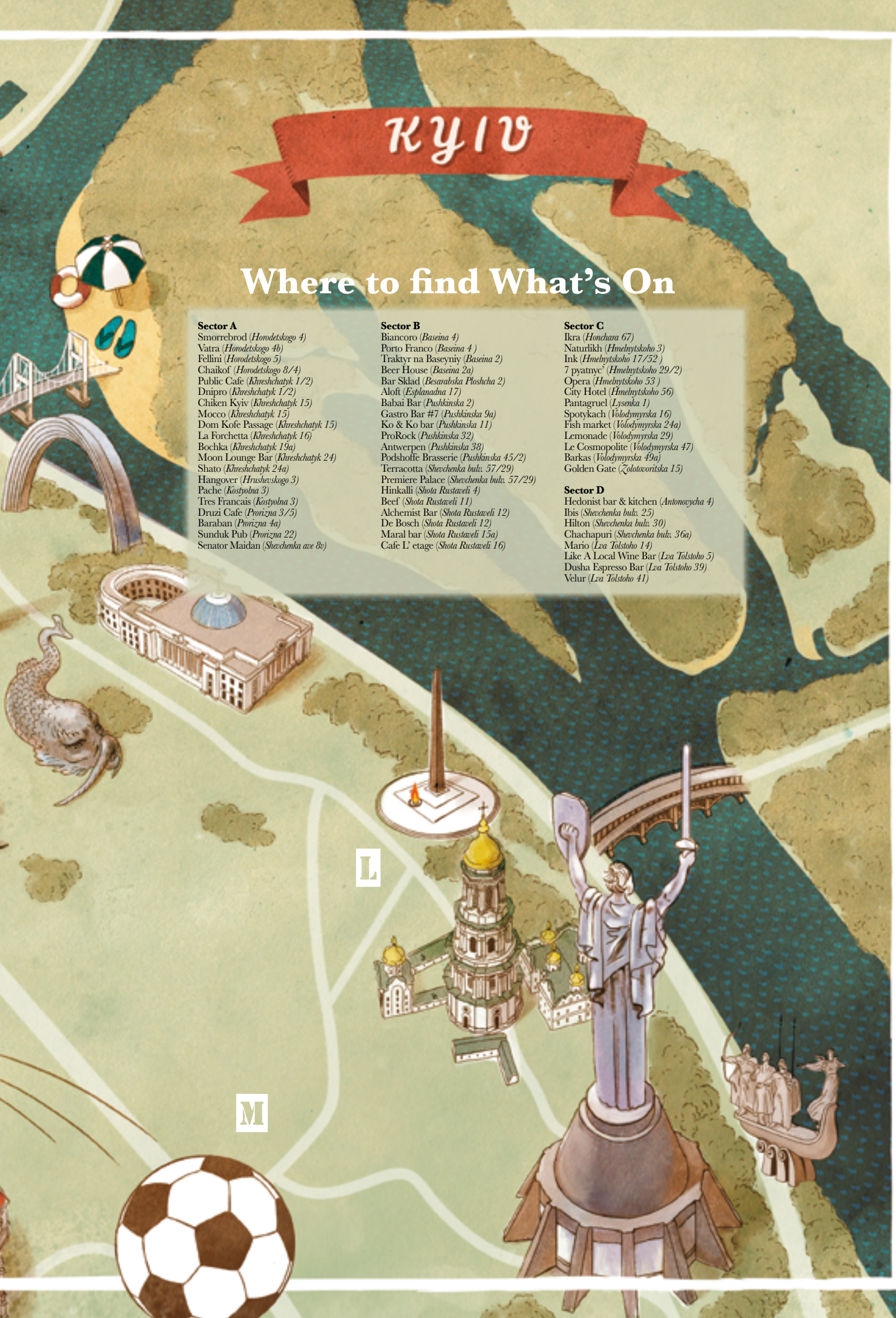
Sector E
Outpub *(Dmytrivska 18/24)*
Belmondo *(Hogolivska 17)*
Varva *(Saksaganskoho 108/16)*
Caribbean Club *(Symona Petlyury 4)*
La Vaca Tapas *(Symona Petlyury 6)*
Ibis *(Polzunova 6)*

Sector F
O'Brien's Irish Pub *(Myhailivska 17)*
Hyatt *(Tarasovoyi 5)*
Pauz Cafe *(Sofivska 5)*
Whisky Corner *(Sofivska 16/16)*
Knyazhyi Grad *(V Zhytomyrska 2)*
InterContinental *(V Zhytomyrska 2a)*

Sector G
Druzi Café *(Andriivskiy Descent 2d)*
Kanapa *(Andriivskiy Descent 19a)*
Kanapka Bar *(Andriivskiy Descent 30a)*
De Pari *(Andriivskiy Descent 34v)*
Radisson Blu *(Bratska 17/19)*
Piano Café *(Kontraktova Ploshcha 4)*
Freedom Club Event Hall *(Kyrylivska 134)*
Lumberjack barbershop *(Nyzhniy Val 15)*
Bar Dom *(Sagaidachnoho 10/5a)*
Riviera *(Sagaidachnoho 15)*
Impresa *(Sagaidachnoho 21)*
Tike *(Sagaidachnoho 31)*
Tarantino Grill & Wine Bar *(Sagaidachnoho 35)*

Fairmont *(Naberezhno Hreshchatytska 1a)*
Savazh Closer cafe *(Nyzhnioyurkivska 31)*
Barcode *(Nyzhniy Val 17)*
Call Me Cacao *(Nyzhniy Val 35)*
To be *(Verhniy Val 2a)*
Habana *(Verhniy Val 24)*
Lubchik *(Vozdvyzhenska 10b)*
Ohota Na Ovets *(Vozdvyzhenska 10b)*
RybaLove *(Vozdvyzhenska 21-23)*
Vozdnyzhensky *(Vozdvyzhenska 60)*
Deficit *(Yaroslaviv Val 9)*
Radisson *(Yaroslaviv Val 24)*
Paul *(Yaroslaviv Val 26)*
Golden Gate *(Yaroslaviv Val 33v)*
Ptaha *(Ihorivska 5)*
Urban Grill *(Horyva 25/12)*

Art of the Map: Dmytro Shkolnyi



Where to find What's On

Sector A
Smorrebrod (*Horodetskogo 4*)
Vatra (*Horodetskogo 4b*)
Fellini (*Horodetskogo 5*)
Chaikof (*Horodetskogo 8/4*)
Public Cafe (*Khreshchatyk 1/2*)
Dnipro (*Khreshchatyk 1/2*)
Chiken Kyiv (*Khreshchatyk 15*)
Mocco (*Khreshchatyk 15*)
Dom Kofe Passage (*Khreshchatyk 15*)
La Forchetta (*Khreshchatyk 16*)
Bochka (*Khreshchatyk 19a*)
Moon Lounge Bar (*Khreshchatyk 24*)
Shato (*Khreshchatyk 24a*)
Hangover (*Hrushevskogo 3*)
Pache (*Kostyolna 3*)
Tres Francais (*Kostyolna 3*)
Druzi Cafe (*Prorizna 3/5*)
Baraban (*Prorizna 4a*)
Sunduk Pub (*Prorizna 22*)
Senator Maidan (*Shevchenka ave 8v*)

Sector B
Biancoro (*Baseina 4*)
Porto Franco (*Baseina 4)*
Traktyr na Baseyniy (*Baseina 2*)
Beer House (*Baseina 2a*)
Bar Sklad (*Besarabska Ploshcha 2*)
Aloft (*Esplanadna 17*)
Babai Bar (*Pushkinska 2*)
Gastro Bar #7 (*Pushkinska 9a*)
Ko & Ko bar (*Pushkinska 11*)
ProRock (*Pushkinska 32*)
Antwerpen (*Pushkinska 38*)
Podshoffe Brasserie (*Pushkinska 45/2*)
Terracotta (*Shevchenka bulv. 57/29*)
Premiere Palace (*Shevchenka bulv. 57/29*)
Hinkalli (*Shota Rustaveli 4*)
Beef (*Shota Rustaveli 11*)
Alchemist Bar (*Shota Rustaveli 12*)
De Bosch (*Shota Rustaveli 12*)
Maral bar (*Shota Rustaveli 15a*)
Cafe L' etage (*Shota Rustaveli 16*)

Sector C
Ikra (*Honchara 67*)
Naturlikh (*Hmelnytskoho 3*)
Ink (*Hmelnytskoho 17/52)*
7 pyatnyc' (*Hmelnytskoho 29/2*)
Opera (*Hmelnytskoho 53)*
City Hotel (*Hmelnytskoho 56*)
Pantagruel (*Lysenka 1*)
Spotykach (*Volodymyrska 16*)
Fish market (*Volodymyrska 24a*)
Lemonade (*Volodymyrska 29*)
Le Cosmopolite (*Volodymyrska 47*)
Barkas (*Volodymyrska 49a*)
Golden Gate (*Zolotovoritska 15*)

Sector D
Hedonist bar & kitchen (*Antonovycha 4*)
Ibis (*Shevchenka bulv. 25*)
Hilton (*Shevchenka bulv. 30*)
Chachapuri (*Shevchenka bulv. 36a*)
Mario (*Lva Tolstoho 14*)
Like A Local Wine Bar (*Lva Tolstoho 5*)
Dusha Espresso Bar (*Lva Tolstoho 39*)
Velur (*Lva Tolstoho 41*)

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