The Street Life Issue

Sex and the City
Cities have historically been set up to serve men. We examine the efforts to tackle the gender imbalance of our urban spaces. p50

The power of water
How Viva con Agua charity stages an arts festival in Hamburg in aid of water. p57

Florence city walk
Street Levels Gallery owner and city insider Sofia Bonacchi takes you on a tour. p30

Art from the street up
How street artists like Jacoba Niepoort make our world so much brighter p12

From street to plate
Discover how family food empire NENI rose from the streets of Tel Aviv. p44

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For more information and articles, visit 25hours-companion.com
Editor's Note

If you’ve never listened to Randy Crawford’s version of The Crusaders’ song ‘Street Life’, put it on your Spotify playlist for sipping in the sun while you flip through the pages of this winter issue of Companion. We’ve chosen the colourful theme of ‘street life’ for our coming of age 21st edition as a homage to the city, that incubator of ideas and dreams where literary movements and art scenes begin, political movements are born, and passions fuel the greater good.

In this issue we explore the work of renowned street artist Teppeiato (p12), most notably Jacek Nisepoer who collaborated with 25hours Hotels to create the interiors of the Passion rooms in our Indre By Copenhagen hotel. On the food front we trace the sharing culture of our NENI restaurants right back to the street food of Tel Aviv (p44). We stand up for women’s rights as we examine how cities have traditionally been designed by and for men, and look at ways that’s now being addressed in places like Vienna (p40). Elsewhere we take a philosophical look at the benefits of running through urban environments (p40), and a deep dive into how the world of fashion has spilled out from catwalk to street due to the power of the influencer (p21). And don’t miss our love letter to the vending machine, the unsung hero of street culture (p9).

But of course we know there’s dark side to street life, especially during winter. We flag up what The Hoxton hotel group is doing to help the homeless (p64), and how our partner charity, Viva con Agua, transforms a German football stadium into a glorious art festival once a year to raise funds for water aid around the world (p57). We stand up for women’s rights as we examine how cities have traditionally been designed by and for men, and look at ways that’s now being addressed in places like Vienna (p40). Elsewhere we take a philosophical look at the benefits of running through urban environments (p40), and a deep dive into how the world of fashion has spilled out from catwalk to street due to the power of the influencer (p21). And don’t miss our love letter to the vending machine, the unsung hero of street culture (p9).

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And bringing the beat back up, don’t miss our entertaining feature on record stores in Tel Aviv (p44). In fact check it out now, and pop out to see if they have the vinyl version of The Crusaders featuring Randy Crawford. As the lyrics tell us…. ‘Street Life, it’s the only life I know!”

Jane Anderson, Editor in Chief

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Contributors

Monica Garwood

Monica Garwood is an illustrator from San Francisco, recently relocated to summer pastures in Los Angeles. She specializes in hand-drawn conceptual and narrative illustrations, painting and murals. Clients include Google, The New York Times, Sephora, Facebook, The New Yorker and Penguin Books. Much of her work is female-focused—pushing for women’s empowerment and gender equality, illustrating lifestyle and individual storytelling. She spends her non-working hours hiding in the mountains with her dog and searching for the best hole-in-the-wall restaurants. See her illustrations on our front cover and p50.

Instagram.com/monicagarwood

Rick Jordan

A contributing editor at Condé Nast Traveler after having spent two decades at the title, Rick was born in Edinburgh, spent his toddler years in Sierra Leone and now travels the world from his home in north London. He writes about food and drink as much as he can—partly because he thinks a country’s culinary culture provides a fascinating window into its soul, but mainly because he loves trying new cocktails. Recent travels have taken him foraging on the hillsides of Madeira and sailing past Chilean Patagonia to the icy reaches of Antarctica. Rick indulges his passion for cocktails on p54 as he takes us on a bar crawl of Singapore.

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Sofia Bonacchi

Sofia Bonacchi is a cultural entrepreneur promoting urban art. In 2012, she won a scholarship to study in the United States learning about different types of management from movie production to sales, hospitality to contemporary art. In 2017 she returned to Italy and chose the city of Florence, enrolling for a Bachelor Course in Arts Management. During her degree, she collaborated with Street Levels Gallery, the Florentine art company she now runs with her two partners. She also teaches Event Management at The Sign Academy in Florence. Let her guide you through her hometown on her insider city walk, p50.

Instagram.com/sofiabonacchi

Nick Savage

Nick Savage grew up on an island in coastal Maine where a deep appreciation for the outdoors was instilled in him, home out across a career that has seen him reside in Edinburgh, New York, Berlin and Green- land, where he worked on expeditions for the National Science Foundation. London has been his home for more than a decade, an ideal staging ground for exploring the planet, which he does through trekking, ultra-running, cycling, snowboarding, kayaking, climbing and sailing, the more remote the better. Read his guide to urban running, p40.

Instagram.com/nicksvagg
Swiss skin care company, Soeder has sustainability at the core of its philosophy. "Not only are we catering to the needs of those using our product, but also of nature and of those making it," says founders Hanna and Johan who started production in their kitchen, juggling a baby and toddler too. All products are now made in their very own factory in the town of Schwerzenbach, Zurich, with ingredients that nature provides. Orange peels, lavender, cedarwood and Swiss herbs are high on the list. All scents are based on essential oils from plant parts such as leaves, seeds, roots, or shells. All products come in glass bottles and most of them can be refilled in Soeder stores or at a growing network of refill stations. If there’s one product to try it’s the Soeder Natural Soap Herbal Garden made from organic cold-pressed oils. Wheat proteins and honey regenerate the skin, whilst the glycerine provides extra moisture, locking all the goodness in.

250ml, €24 up to 5 litre €32.

soeder.ch

Have you ever met a robot?

The Frank Gehry designed Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein, Germany welcomes back the smash Hit exhibition Yields, Robot. Design between Human and Machine. It looks at how science fiction becomes reality, as robotics take on a growing role in our lives with over 200 exhibits from industry and the home, as well as computer games and media installations, plus examples from art and literature such as Star Wars’ R2-D2. The exhibition seeks to broaden our view of the ethical, social and political questions that arise as our environment becomes increasingly robotic. Till 5 March 2023.
design-museum.de

The Crystal Restaurant sits at Jungfraujoch Top of Europe in Switzerland, Europe’s highest railway station. At 3,454m, the restaurant has spectacular views of the Aletsch Glacier, Europe’s largest. The journey is possible via a train that cuts through the Eiger Mountain and the restaurant serves Swiss and international dishes, plus a selection of Swiss wines.

iceq.ch
**Going**

**Parables for Happiness**

If you love colour, check out Yinka Ilori, whose work is influenced by a mix of cultures including the north London diaspora community he grew up in and the Nigerian textiles of his childhood. The first museum display exploring his work is open now until 25 June 2023 at the Design Museum, London entitled ‘Yinka Ilori Parables for Happiness’. His work spans architecture, furniture and graphic design. If you love colour, check out Yinka Ilori, whose work is influenced by a mix of cultures including the north London diaspora community he grew up in and the Nigerian textiles of his childhood. The first museum display exploring his work is open now until 25 June 2023 at the Design Museum, London entitled ‘Yinka Ilori Parables for Happiness’. His work spans architecture, furniture and graphic design.

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**Fans of Studio Ghibli films such as My Neighbour Totoro will be over the moon to hear that Studio Ghibli Park has just opened in Nagoya, three hours south of Tokyo. Visitors will discover artifacts from past productions, uncover secrets behind the films and wander fantasy lands. Japan also celebrates 150 years of train travel this year with a new route connecting the hot spring town of Takeo-Onsen down to Nagasaki, a gateway to the Goto Islands. Japan’s first bullet train arrived in 1964 and this latest route will be operated by the new West Kyushu Bullet Train also known as ‘Kamone’, meaning ‘Seagull’, travelling at speeds of up to 320km per hour. And if you can’t make it as far as the streets of Japan, the new West Kyushu Bullet Train also known as ‘Kamone’, meaning ‘Seagull’, travelling at speeds of up to 320km per hour. And if you can’t make it as far as the streets of Japan, the new West Kyushu Bullet Train also known as ‘Kamone’, meaning ‘Seagull’, travelling at speeds of up to 320km per hour. And if you can’t make it as far as the streets of Japan, the new West Kyushu Bullet Train also known as ‘Kamone’, meaning ‘Seagull’, travelling at speeds of up to 320km per hour.

**HERITAGE & FOREST**

**Nagoya & Düsseldorf**

**Art & Entertainment**

**Japanese**

**Copenhagen**

**People & Business**

**Floating Worlds**

‘Land on Water’ is a radical solution for sustainable, modular construction on water by MAST, a maritime architecture studio based in Copenhagen. As founding partner, Marshall Blecher says, “Land on Water could lead to off-grid floating communities like the one pictured in the image.” Proposals include floating houses, basketball courts and his Laundrette of Dreams which was built from over 200,000 LEGO bricks.

**Hamburg**

**Food & Drink**

**Mix it up**

Kiu Kiu is a mixer created by Hamburg bar virtuoso Joerg Meyer from the pulp of cacao which tastes like an exotic combo of lychees, peach, apples and ripe bananas. Joerg has spiced it up with fresh azafran and pink pepper, perfect for Pisco, Tequila or Cachaca cocktails.

**Community Workout**

Cologne offers many places to exercise and train outside – even in the winter months! - be it a boot camp at the Aachener Weiher with Urban Sports Club (urbanprintclub.com) or outdoor yoga in Beethovenpark with Matterhorn (mattenfreunde.de). Our favourite is the free morning workouts with the Zappes bar team - every week day from 7:30am to 8:30am. When the weather is very cold, they take place in a sports hall on Moltkestraße!

**Tallin, Engadin, Berlin, De Cocksdorp**

**Health & Wellbeing**

**Do sweat it!**

Nothing beats a sauna in the depths of winter wherever you are. By the harbour Head to IgluPark in Tallin’s trendy Noblessner harbour area for sub-zero dips and warming heat. There’s even sauna accommodation for an overnight stay.

**Community**

**Outdoors & Activity**

**Düsseldorf**

**Health & Wellbeing**

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A love letter to the Vending Machine

Rick Jordan champions the quiet allure of that street corner friend, the vending machine, now dispensing everything from ramen to cars.

It’s the sound that stays in the mind. Keying in the numbers to make your choice, then the pause, the buzzy whir of the metal or plastic coil; the silence before the long drop into the well and—depending on what you buy—the clunk or soft scrunch. Pushing your hand in, you retrieve your prize. Because, even though it’s been paid for, buying something from a vending machine always feels a little as if you’ve won something. There’s something a little Edward Hopper about them—lonely presences on empty platforms and street corners, little beacons of illumination and succour. But no one’s ever painted or written a love song about vending machines, or immortalised them in a poem; compared to their more glamorous, rock’n’roll cousin the jukebox they’re the unsung hero of street culture.

A history of these robotic booths tracks our tastes and addictions, our technology, the way we pay and the way we cheat. From coins and notes to Apple Pay; a litany of automation and deception. The cravings of humanity; the guilty pleasures of the midnight Twix or Fanta. Archaeologists of the future may be able to tell a lot about us by examining their rusting innards. In Glasgow, a machine dispenses clean needles to heroin addicts; in Japan, the spiritual home of the vending machine, you can buy almost everything you can think of, plus many things you never would have. Fresh oysters, tickets for mystery flights, the edible chrysalis of silkworms, fancy dress, delicate artworks of origami. Fuzzy c Milanese, mystery flights, the edible chrysalis of silkworms, fancy dress, delicate artworks of origami. Fuzzy c Milanese, mystery flights, the edible chrysalis of silkworms, fancy dress, delicate artworks of origami.
As a concept, they date back to 1st century Egypt, when Greek mathematician Hero of Alexandria devised a lever-operated device that would dispense holy water in return for a coin. In 17th-century England, coin-operated boxes in taverns would dispense snuff and tobacco—an invention you never see in period dramas, do you? While in 1822, a British publisher called Richard Carlile set up a machine to sell banned political publications; if no person actually sold them, he argued, then no one could be prosecuted (it didn’t work).

But the modern vending machine really came of age in the late 19th century, with a flurry of devices dispensing chewing gum and chocolate, cigarettes and condoms, fruitcake and hard-boiled eggs. In 1929, someone fed a nickel into a machine in Indiana and the first mechanically sold bottle of Coca-Cola rolled out; at one machine in Utah, you could buy a set of divorce papers all ready to be signed. In the US, the world of the vending machine probably reached its apex with the birth of the automat, an entire restaurant comprising several machines selling starters, mains and desserts.

Over the years, the technology has evolved. As a teenager, I once had the arduous responsibility of tending to my school’s vending machine, restocking the crisps and cans, counting up the money—‘just think, my teacher beamed, ‘of all those hot, sticky 10p pieces!’—some of which I was given as payment. Now there are ‘micro-market’ machines, with swipe-to-open individual doors, allowing for items that wouldn’t survive the drop, such as pot plants, milk shakes or Champagne. These are machines that introduce themselves and talk to you, and social-media ones operated by Twitter.

And with AI comes the very real possibility that this vending machine will know what you want to buy before you do. Whirrr...pause...clunk.

"Vending machines are the unsung hero of street culture"

The evolution of the robotic booth

- **100 AD**
  Hero of Alexandria constructs a lever-based machine to dispense holy water in return for a coin

- **1615**
  Brass, coin-operated honour boxes are constructed to sell tobacco and snuff at taverns in Britain

- **1850s**
  A ‘self-acting machine’ is invented in Yorkshire to dispense postage stamps

- **1888**
  Tutti-Frutti chewing gum machines start appearing on the New York metro

- **1930s**
  Machines selling ice-cooled bottled soda are introduced

- **1947**
  The Kwik Kafe coffee-vending machine makes its debut in Pennsylvania, thus ushering in an age of bad instant coffee

- **1970s**
  The snack vending machine that we know and love is first introduced

- **2003**
  The Let’s Pizza machine kneads dough and bakes pizzas to order, all in three minutes

- **2013**
  Carvana opens the first car-vending machine in Atlanta, Georgia, USA

- **2014**
  The Oreo vending machine is unveiled, which can make personalised biscuits using 3D-printer technology

- **2022**
  The global vending machine market is estimated to be worth $32.32 billion
Over the past 50 years, street art has become a global phenomenon, winning over ever more followers with its colourful and characterful images full of humour and humanity. From its roots in illegal graffiti, it has evolved into an urban art form that is often unsanctioned but welcomed, or even commissioned to make a neighbourhood safer and more appealing.

In recent years, it has resurfaced in galleries and auction houses. By definition, though, it belongs on the streets, accessible to everyone, highlighting urgent social and political issues, reflecting popular culture. As such, it has become increasingly sought after among tourists as an alternative way to discover a city.

Making her mark

Left: Artist, Jacoba Niepoort
Above: Ostend, Belgium, for The Crystal Ship arts festival
Below: Graz, Austria 2020 for the Urban Art Festival Styria

Jacoba Niepoort grew up in Denmark “with brushes and pencils in her hand”. She started painting murals at high school in the US and has since painted over 40 more in the Americas and Europe, as well as producing numerous works on paper. In 2019, 25hours Hotel Indre By in Copenhagen invited her to contribute to one of two concepts for the hotel’s Passion rooms. When we spoke she was preparing for her second solo exhibition, ‘Metamorphosis’, at Galleri Hjorth in Horsens, Denmark.

How did you start painting murals?
My high school had a very creative art programme. The oldest students had done these big portraits and I remember thinking, this is larger than life, I want to do something like this. I did my first mural in the school at 18, inspired by an image from a Walt Whitman poem, and they paid me to do four more. While I was at uni, at Massachusetts Amherst, I went to Mexico and created murals with kids from a local orphanage. It was that process of sharing and teaching and giving back that inspired me, too.

When did you decide to pursue art professionally?
I thought I would work for the World Bank and fix the world! I did my Masters in international development at Roskilde in Denmark, focusing on artists who create political and social art, and worked for a time for the Danish Center for Culture and Development. Art was always a sideline, though, and I went full-time about six years ago.

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How do you create your murals?
A lot of my inspiration comes from everyday experiences. From that, I try to create an image that conveys an emotion or a moment, do a photo shoot, and create sketches. And from those sketches, I grid onto a wall.

What materials do you use?
I like working with big markers that I fill with liquid acrylic paint, and also with watered-down paints. I often test the colours on site with an NCS colour chart.

Why do you paint in a circular motion?
That’s almost like a string in itself. I try to keep one continuous line going—as if you could pull it out and there’d just be one long string. There’s no one defined line, everything is loose. What interests me is depth and plurality of emotion in art.

What is the significance of the threads in your paintings?
It’s a simple way to show connection. I also use them as emotions: I have created images of people trying to separate the strings from each other because we’re so intertwined.

How do you react to your murals?
What interests me is when people stop for a second and feel something. It’s special, especially in a city where everyone is moving so fast. One project I really enjoyed was in a small town in Costa Rica. The general attitude was that people weren’t really communicating. So my interest was creating something that showed an interaction. I created five murals and everyone stepped up to help. People brought food, let me stay in the hostel, donated paint. Those moments are so powerful, you hold them in your heart.

How is your work evolving?
One mural I did in Copenhagen during lockdown is about our interaction with nature. It’s next to a giant park, but you have these humans, and these two little birds, one of which has started to pluck out its feathers in distress. It’s similar to humans holed up in apartments during Corona, and in that process sometimes destroy it. The beautiful thing is that the feathers grow back on those birds when they are released.

Why are your figures naked?
It’s like removing the outer shell to show emotional vulnerability. There are some places where they are regarded as too sexual and I like challenging that, too why it is acceptable for advertising to objectify a body wearing a limited amount of clothes, but not for art to use the natural body?

And female?
Some images would be difficult for some not to interpret in a sexual way if I used men and women. But I also love the power that is in trust and oneness.

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In France, one of the biggest names in street art is Invader, an anonymous artist who was born in 1969 and, like Batman, only appears in public in a mask. Since 1998, he has been "invading" the streets of Paris and other world cities by cementing or gluing mosaic "Space Invaders" onto street corners, walls and monuments, without prior agreement.

"I like the concept of decontextualising art to bring it to the streets, to surprise everyday people," he says. Defining himself as an UFA (Unidentified Free Artist), he approaches his "serious aesthetic invasion project" as a game, giving himself "a score of 10 to 100 for every new piece installed." Every invasion is meticulously planned and recorded, creating a "tactile installation" that stretches across a city's "neurotic points".

Originally inspired by the 1978 video game, Invader's mosaics have since morphed into creatures of the artist's own imagination and versions of popular icons such as The Pink Panther and Frankenstein. As his digital technology takes over the physical world, he sees them as "the perfect icons of our time.

Some countries have repelled his invasions. "Several" pieces have been "removed, damaged or destroyed by individuals who seek to reclaim them, which is stupid as they are not signed and easy to reproduce". More positively, there are "police officers who recognise and enjoy [his] art" and collector's items offered in an online Space Shop.

25hours Hotel Terminus Nord is full of pixelated creatures including the room numbers, inspired by them. The concept of art consultancy Visto Images was to create the impression that the hotel is an extension of the street, hence the large-format 'Neighbourhood Heroes' portraits of 10th arrondissement characters in the corridors.

In Cambodia, street art has become a key part of the "Khmer Renaissance"—not least thanks to FONKi, a French-born, Montreal-raised artist whose parents escaped the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s. After discovering graffiti at 15, FONKi returned to Cambodia in 2012 to film The Root Remain (2015), an award-winning documentary in which he reconnects with the country's traumatic past and discovers its creative potential.

Interspersed with archive footage from the Pol Pot era, the film follows FONKi as he paints a giant portrait of his maternal grandfather and paternal grandparents, who died during the war and genocide, and his late great-grandfather, on the wall of the French Institute in Phnom Penh. It also sees him incorporating the traditional decorative elements of Khmer architecture known as kbach into a piece of graffiti art on a derelict lot, painting a primary school in a fishing village on Koh Rong, and meeting other creatives from Cambodia and the Khmer diaspora: spoken word artist Kosal Khiev, street artists Peap Tarr and Lisa Mann, and all-round creative force Sok Vuthy of KeepUP.ho.od records.

"If the past seems grey, add colour to the present," writes FONKi beneath the portrait—and he goes on to do just that. Eighteen months later, he was back to make Fonki World, a six-episode web documentary, viewable on Quebec digital platform La Fabrique Culturelle, in which he paints his way across Cambodia, into Vietnam and back to Montreal. In 2017, he moved to Cambodia, and in 2021, in partnership with Factory Phnom Penh, he launched the FT Gallery & Studios, a dynamic exhibition space and artists’ residency programme for international and Cambodian artists influenced by street art, graffiti and Asian culture.

Now 32, FONKi is also curating ‘murals and canvases for Cambodian artists influenced by street art, graffiti and Asian culture’, inter alia for Cambodia Festival in March 2023, as well as painting his ‘first big fine arts commission in two years’, and making time for his wife and young daughter.

He still paints on walls: from a mural on an abandoned royal residence in Kampot to an AR project of a smiling lion overlaid with flowers and birds, that he created with Italy-based Japanese artist Ttwoone, using a filter by Japan-House, a digital platform La Fabrique Culturelle, in which he paints his way across Cambodia, into Vietnam and back to Montreal. In 2017, he moved to Cambodia, and in 2021, in partnership with Factory Phnom Penh, he launched the FT Gallery & Studios, a dynamic exhibition space and artists’ residency programme for international and Cambodian artists influenced by street art, graffiti and Asian culture.

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GET YOUR BARTER ON

From vintage clothes to antique homeware and retro toys, Lille’s legendary once-a-year flea market is a huge event with a stellar stall line-up.

For anyone who loves vintage, brocante, preloved, antique or plain old secondhand, La Grande Braderie in the French city of Lille is the place to head. Just once a year, during the first weekend of September, the entire metropolis transforms into one great big flea market where you can rummage to your heart’s content and uncover anything from vintage Joan of Arc china plates to taxidermy badgers, or how about a mountain of Barbie dolls or a mid-century modern glass and steel table that would cost you thousands of euros in a fancy vintage shop?

Here, you’ll spot the serious hunters-up before dawn breaks, prowling the pretty boulevards of Lille with their flashlights and eagle eyes. You’ll see folk pulling along trolleys and suitcases, and vans at the ready to drive off precious haul across Europe and beyond.

There’s a cool sense of democracy about this grand sale. The professional brocante merchants set up stalls the entire length of the Boulevard de la Liberté and Boulevard Louis XIV, while local inhabitants who want to join in lay out their wares on the pavement in front of their apartments throughout the Vieux-Lille, Lille centre and Gambetta street in Wazemmes. A good place to start the hunt is from Gare Lille-Flandres—which is actually the original Gare du Nord brought over brick by brick from Paris.

In a city of 234,000 residents, it’s estimated that 2.5 million bargain hunters flood the streets during La Grande Braderie, with 8,000 sellers making this the largest flea market in Europe. And watch out for giant piles of mussel shells on street corners like black and blue art installations. Over 500 tons of moules-frites are eaten over the weekend, which proves vintage shopping is hungry work.

And you don’t need a large budget. This writer came away with a pair of vintage leather shoes, €20; a gold-plated long chain necklace, €30; large china bowl, €15 and a table lamp, €25, and plans to go back next year in a van for larger items!

braderie-de-lille.fr
lilletourism.com

Braderie De Lille 2023: 2 & 3 September

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braderie-de-lille.fr
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Braderie De Lille 2023: 2 & 3 September
C is for Copencore
A brilliant fashion week that has branded a trend, Copencore, Copenhagen plays host to the perfect mix of sustainable brands and youthful, playful fashion. Look out for Copenhagen brands Ganni (@ganni), Stine Goya (@stinegoya) and Saks Potts (@sakspotts), along with influencers from the city, Pernille Teisbaek (@PernilleTeisbaek), Josefine HJ (@josefinehj) and Anna Sarlvit (@annasarlvit).

A is for Aimee Song
Korean blogger turned fashion designer Aimee Song started her Song of Style blog back in 2008 and was one of the first to prove that providing social media content could become a full-time job. She has since turned it all into a global brand with a YouTube channel, a fashion brand shop-shop.songofstyle.com and two books, the first of which, Capture Your Style, made it to The New York Times’ bestseller list. She reached number 25 on the Forbes list of top internet creators, too.

B is for Billie Bhatia
Billie Bhatia works as a fashion and beauty features editor, author and has established herself as a brilliant columnist. She instantaneously understood the mood of the nation when she launched an Instagram account dedicated to the fine chain worn by Connell in the TV adaptation of Normal People. Follow her for an exercise on how to wear her go-to uniform of joyful dresses (she really needs to launch a fashion range) and for witty one-liners that accompany her take on fashion, whilst pushing for inclusivity across the industry.

These days, photographers are just as likely to snap people attending fashion shows as they are to shoot the models on the runway. As the pack travel from city to city, the outfits have been thought out and are always camera ready. We meet the models, influencers, photographers, editors and brands who are changing the street-style game and taking up our Insta feeds.

Compiled by Michelle Duguid
is for Digital photography

The focus on street style is a relatively recent phenomenon, brought on by the rise of digital photography, the ubiquity of camera phones and a fascination with influencer culture. There used to be 10 photographers outside catwalk shows; now there are hundreds vying for the best picture. Look out for Acelle @styledumonde and @tommyton for chronicles of the street-style circuit.

is for Emma Fridsells

Digital advocates greater diversity within the fashion industry. An American based in London, Kenya is editor of British ELLE, magazine and author of GIRL. She advocates greater diversity within the fashion industry and last year was recognised by the British Fashion Council for her work and given a Global Leader of Change award. We also love her for her easy, beautiful style and her pride in supporting new talent on and off the page.

is for Fashion month

Traditionally, the circuit would be New York, London, Milan and Paris in turn twice a year, but now there are several new fashion capitals that also host their own runway week, including Kiev, Lagos and Seoul. Key moments from the S/S 2023 shows saw Kim Kardashian turn designer for Dior & Fendi; Linda Evangelista return to the runway, and Coperni made fashion history for spraying a dress in layers of liquid material directly onto a nearly nude Bella Hadid.

is for Fashion

WGSN coined this new phrase ‘Genuinfluence’ to describe social media stars who use their voice beyond just product placement. They go above and beyond just product placement. They go above and beyond just product placement. They go above and beyond just product placement.

is for Genuinfluence

Genuinfluence

is for Heels

Gigantic platforms from Valentino, high octane spindly heels from Louboutin, and chunky dad shoes like Prada add to the planet earth. Slingbacks are embellished with all manner of OTT decoration. Looee’s does have surreal-inspired shiny balloons acting as shoes. Enthusiasm for extra height is the key and look out for the styling trend of matching your shoes to the same colour history.

is for Imaginative

The past couple of years have been really difficult so we all need something to smile about. Imaginative, happy fashion ticks the boxes. Could it be our longstanding obsession with wild swimming or the fact that the new Little Mermaid film is about to come out? There was definitely need to the under water on the runways regardless, and we love Moschino’s offering for Astral’s wardrobe.

is for New Sexy

Want to know what the influencers will be wearing next? We predict it’s all about the new sexy. Practicality has been trashed as a crop top and young designers have been channelled as a crop top as a crop top and young designers have been trashed as a crop top. STER Nicky and Copermi in Paris, we see chainmail bras, harnesses and cut-out dresses in diaphanous fabrics. The key to unleashing your skin this winter? Invest in an oversized coat or blazer to wear over all the sheer fabric.
is for Owning It
The gram is full of fashionable Millennials, but style acquisition does age is just a number and style is timeless if you own it. Follow these ladies for style inspiration shows that age is just a number and The gram is full of fashionable Millennials, but style is timeless if you own it. Follow these ladies for style inspiration shows that age is just a number and The gram is full of fashionable Millennials, but style is timeless if you own it. Follow these ladies for style inspiration shows that age is just a number and

is for Quality and Quantity
Thankfully, fashion has started to wake up to the fact that the constant consuming of new clothes is having a terrible effect on the environment. A new wave of influencers recognize secondhand or preferred as a way of being creative. Our favourite is Amy Astley, known as Susie Bubble, launched her blog Style Bubble in 2006 as a platform for new fashion talent. She is commonly front row at the shows and known for her maximalist love of fashion. Influenced in her fashion choices with the wider world, she’s as happy to discuss politics and racial injustice as she is discussing her favourite designers.

is for a very stylish Palestinian-Puerto Rican
Maria Alia Al-Sadek is a creative who models with an emphasis on modest dressing. "The way that I style things and even the way that I shop is influenced by my modesty and my choice to wear the hijab," she said in Emperifolia.

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is for Rotate Birger Christensen
Influencers Jeanette Madsen (j маяетемадсен) and Thora Valdimars (thoravalsdimars) are founders of Rotate, bringing joyous statement silhouettes at a mid-range price point. No wonder the label is so successful. From sleek evening separates to wedding guest dresses, no piece turn heads and are also worth to perfection by the owners.

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is for Wearability
The hashtag #ParisianStyle has been used 4.5 million times on Instagram and #ootd or “outfit of the day” has clocked up 397 million mentions. This is a more conscious place. Here’s hoping it’s a fashion ethical influencing undoubtedly makes the internet shop in a clever way. It’s by no means a quick fix, but works with Oxfam and Ebay to show you how to preloved as a way of being creative. Our favourite is Amy Astley, known as Susie Bubble, launched her blog Style Bubble in 2006 as a platform for new fashion talent. She is commonly front row at the shows and known for her maximalist love of fashion. Influenced in her fashion choices with the wider world, she’s as happy to discuss politics and racial injustice as she is discussing her favourite designers.

is for X-Ray lives
Influencers brought fashion to the average person and they started to replace fashion editors in the front rows. We expect the influencer to be our stylish friend—they give us guided tours of their homes, skincare routines played out in front of mirrors and introduce us to new babies. Everything is played out on the gram but it is “real” life or a database of curated, shopable style?

is for For Up Next Designer
Fashion insiders know that the insta account @upnextdesigner spotlights new talent and gives them a wide platform. Followed by 224k, its USP is that it is a front-row seat for discovering the newest of names. Founded by Albert Ayal, the platform is now also for celebrity stylists to dress their clients in cutting-edge creations.

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is for Youth Quake
Street fashion or street style wasn’t started by fashion designers but from the street up, from urban centres and associated with youth culture. Street style has now been adopted by major designers as high fashion and Louis Vuitton have collaborated with Supreme, and Gucci with Palace skateboards.

is for Zips
Louis Vuitton designer Nicolas Ghesquière played with proportions for S/S 2023 with gigantic industrial size zips and oversized buttons. The product game was strong so look out for the playful perspective when the samples hit the streets, as they will be all over the grid.
### Colour Vision

Bring a rainbow flash to the slopes with these ROXY Feenix Colour Luxe Goggles. They offer 100% UV protection, anti-fog treatment, double density face foam and polar fleece for maximum comfort.

€40, roxy.com

### Curiouser & Curiouser

British jewellery making duo, Harriet Vine and Rosie Wolfenden, otherwise known as Tatty Devine, have launched a Cabinet of Curiosities winter collection. This ode to discovery, scientific classification and craftsmanship is sure to get you noticed.

€40, tattydevine.com

### Colour Vision

Inject a little colour into your life this winter with COMPANION’s selection of mood-enhancing stuff.

### Colour Vision

- **Carry on**
  - Bring a rainbow flash to the slopes with these ROXY Feenix Colour Luxe Goggles. They offer 100% UV protection, anti-fog treatment, double density face foam and polar fleece for maximum comfort.
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The vinyl piece of the puzzle

Have you really been to a city if you don’t visit one of its record shops—heroically rooting a vinyl out of a wooden box, secreting it under your arm so no one else notices your find and tries to wrestle it from you, and finally sliding it over to the judge bearded man behind the counter? These shops are so often hubs of communities, meeting places for like-minded people, and pointers to the most obscure of dance records here…though it means you might even find a few records by a certain Liver-pool four-piece—what’s right, The Zutons?

2 Copenhagen
Skindergade 14, 1157 København

In a city so refined—good-looking, well-dressed people who can really knot a scarf, extraordinary cakes, lilac bars, gorgeous architecture, criminally good Scandi Noir—they must be able to part with a decent effort with record-stores, right? Right (well, I wasn’t going to say “wrong” after all that build up, was I). A three-minute walk from the doors of 29hours Hotel Breda is Record, the oldest record business in Copenhagen, and still going strong with bargains and rare finds. Once you get back to the hotel, if you make it obvious that you’re not pinching one of their lovely records, you can even spin your new purchase in 29hours Vinyl Lounge, and recline on a leather chair to drink it in.

3 Florence
Via Bindi, 7R, 50132 Firenze

You’ve not really visited Florence until you’ve hit Rock Bottom. No—wait—let me explain. A mere 10-minute walk away from the divine madness of 29hours’ Dante’s Inferno-inspired Firenze offering, in a quiet street away from the tourist throngs, nestled in the most out of place amongst the classical grandeur of its surroundings, the desk man is stacked to the gills and wonderfully curated, covering any genre you’d care to mention. This writer was lucky enough to track down a rare Beatles US LP for a knock-down price. Well, I wasn’t going to say “nock bottom price” now was I?

4 Hamburg
Marktstrasse 35, 20357 Hamburg

The place that moulded the aforementioned Beatles into the band they became was hardly going to skimp on the vinyl. This gritty and cool city has always been the first port (pun intended) of call for new sounds. From the docks of Liverpool or the merchant ships from America, it’s never shied from embracing all corners—the better the better—from every corner of the globe. You will find this rich history depicted (and sold back to you) in local institution Zonard Records, which stocks everything from classical to hip-hop…you might even find a few records by a certain Liver-pool four-piece—what’s right, The Zutons?

5 Dubai
The Flip Side Unit 37, Alserkal Avenue, Virgin Megastore Unit 8F - Financial Center Ed - Downtown Dubai

Hardly a city associated with ‘vintage’, ‘hurried’ or ‘second-hand’, the shiny slickness of this desert oasis may fool you into thinking that there’s no record shop meaning to be done. But where there’s money to be made, Dubai will do it efficiently. The Flip Side is the place to go, especially if you’re into your techno and funk. It is also very much worth noting that, for retro value stockists here will be incredibly tickled if you make a request for the Ultravox single that shares their city’s name—how they laugh…shortly before throwing you out. This city is one of the cradles of classical music, but it’s straight to the 21st century for this century for a healthy dose of techno, house, electonic and dance with super-knowledgeable staff. Market, just a 15-minute walk from Dubai Hotel Vernet in Alserkal Quartier, is the one to head to. I’m sure you could sink- or the obscurest of dance records here…though it means nothing to me. facebook.com/33rpmstore

6 Vienna
Marktgasse 40, 1070 Wien, Austria

Have you really been to a city if you don’t visit one of its record shops? Well, I wasn’t going to say “wrong” after all that build up, was I? A three-minute walk from 29hours Hotel Vernet in Alserkal Quartier, is the one to head to. I’m sure you could sink- or the obscurest of dance records here…though it means nothing to me. facebook.com/33rpmstore

7 Düsseldorf
Ackerstrasse 53, 40233 Düsseldorf

It would be rude—and slightly embarrassing—if the home of Kraftwerk, one of the most influential electronic bands of all time, didn’t raise the game when it came to music full of wax. And so our Trans-Europe Express pulls into Beat Retreat. With one of the most impressive and retro shop fronts from our list—all men tying and orange signage—this is, surprisingly, one of the city’s newest record stores. Offering an array of styles to sample for your next banging set or mixtape, there’s everything from jazz, via dub, hip-hop, electronic, and right up to Latin on offer here, as well as many-in-store events.

8 Zurich
Menggasse 58, 8005 Zurich

Where most other record stores around the world usually have an air of organized chaos, it’s no surprise that the surprisingly high volume of record shops in this, the largest city in Switzerland, are all tidy rows…like some kind of tuning device…I’ll leave it to you to finish the analogy. Mono Records looks as if someone has taken the 29hours design aesthetic and smashed it together with a record shop (now there’s an idea)—all goers are to be found here, and feel free to kick back in one of the plush couches and have a listen to your or other people’s purchases with a beverage from the in-house bar. To your pleasure.

9 Paris
42 Rue des Écoles, 75005 Paris

You know when you walk into a record store and think, “this is nice, but I wish there was a life-size model of a crocodile suspended over my head while I clicked through the racks”? Well, do I have the place for you. In the heart of the Lamarat quarter of a city so adept at offering the kind of shops you want to rummage through all day, Crossing is an institution, possessing a muck of almost half a million records, with 60,000 on display. With such a vast catalogue, you can expect every genre. Indeed, the shop has now expanded twice to accommodate every music lover’s taste under one roof, a roof which, and I can’t emphasise this enough, has a life-sized crocodile model suspended from it. facebook.com/33rpmstore
You can’t help but love Todo Modo, an independent bookshop that’s just a stone’s throw from Santa Maria Novella. The place is packed with books in foreign languages, great classics, essays, novels, illustrated books, local and international magazines, and much more. On entering, you are embraced by more than 20,000 titles arranged on the pretty wooden shelves and furnishings. The passion and experience of the booksellers guide each curious reader in this warm place dedicated to literature. However, Todo Modo is not just a library. The Uqbar wine bar/cafe, inspired by the famous J.L. Borges story, offers an excellent selection of wines that match the dishes from Hiroko’s cuisine, a Japanese chef who’s in charge of the preparation of home-cooked meals and original combinations. My favourite is a potato and carrot terrine, covered with a soft layer of feta cheese and a sprinkle of curry, so yummy! The large room that serves as a dining area is often transformed into a place of meeting and culture, thanks to the events taking place at the library from time to time: book presentations, screenings, workshops, seminars and readings. Todo Modo is an intimate and welcoming place, where you can stop for breakfast, lunch or an aperitif with friends, as well as an afternoon of study, or simply to browse and get lost among the shelves of the library.

todomodo.org

Florence is the city of the Renaissance, that’s true, but some cultural institutes also open a window on the contemporary art scene. The Novecento Museum is one of them. It opened in 2014 inside the ancient Leopoldine Hospital in Piazza Santa Maria Novella, and currently houses a permanent collection dedicated to artists of the 20th and 21st centuries such as Giorgio De Chirico, Filippo De Pisis, Giorgio Morandi, Mario Mafai, Renato Guttuso and many others. There’s also a big focus on temporary exhibitions, installations and various activities that are organised throughout the year, such as the outdoor cinema in the museum’s inner courtyard. One of the exhibitions that I most appreciated was the personal show of Albanian artist Adrian Paci in 2017, but more recently Jenny Saville, Henry Moore, Allan Kaprow, Ra di Martino and many other artists of the current scene have also passed through the Novecento Museum. ‘Paradigm. The architect’s table’ is the space within the museum that’s dedicated to architecture: a wing of the loggia is set up every two months with projects, drawings, scale models and images that tell the public about the dialogue between content and artistic ‘container’.
S. Forno

A bakery that’s more than just a bakery! The vintage furniture, the shelves heaving with local goodies and the counters full of delicacies, all make S. Forno such a loving and familiar place. The shop is a landmark of the San Frediano district, open daily from 7.30am until late in the afternoon. All products are carefully selected and they all come with beautiful packaging, which makes them great presents for relatives and friends. The pastry lab at the back of the store continuously delivers excellent treats for breakfast, both sweet and savoury, that you can enjoy with a good coffee, tea or fresh juice. Lunch, too, is excellent, but try to get in early. There are just a few seats and they’re usually taken, but thankfully the district offers many nearby public spaces where you can stop, such as Piazza del Carmine or Santo Spirito. S. Forno is a sincere and delightful place in the heart of Oltrarno, the most fascinating walking area of the city.

ilsantobevitore.com

La Compagnia Cinema

La Compagnia is a movie theatre that’s also an intercultural hub. Despite being located in one of the most touristy areas of the city (so close to the Duomo), inside this place the atmosphere is totally local! In addition to the programming of films and titles of the moment, La Compagnia offers documentary-type screenings and retrospectives on famous and rediscovered directors from Woody Allen to Pasolini, and from Hitchcock to Truffaut. It is also the home of film festivals, special events, meetings and book presentations. Some of the most exciting festivals during the year are the Middle East Now, the Korea Film Fest, the Florence Queer Festival, the feminist dialogues of Cinematografica and the Firenze Archeofilm focusing on the correlations between archeology, art and the social environment. La Compagnia has got a nice little restaurant and collaborates with the Twist Bistrot, a vintage bar right next to the cinema entrance that’s open every day from 7am to midnight, with a particularly kitsch aesthetic where most of the furniture items are on sale.

cinemalacompagnia.it

Cascine Park & Market

Cascine Park, a public garden that extends for about 8.5km on the banks of the Arno River, is the green lung of Florence. Large meadows, a 35-hectare forest and a long walking track crossing it make this area a perfect place to spend a Sunday dedicated to sport, yoga and physical activity, where you can meet for a picnic with friends or relax a little under the shade of lime trees and holm oaks. The park is also home to some monuments and works of art: the largest and most mysterious one is the pyramid built by architect Giuseppe Massetti in 1796, which at the time was used for food storage. Tuesday is market day, the largest in the city. The stalls of the Cascine Market are known by all locals as the place where you can find anything at very cheap prices. Clothes, shoes, bags, household items, minters, flowers, fruit and vegetables, sweet food and much more: from 7am until 2pm the road that runs along the river turns into a large bazaar that extends for over 1km. The Cascine Park is connected to the home center by the tram line and can therefore be reached from Santa Maria Novella railway station in just a couple of stops.

visittuscany.com/en/attractions/cascine-park-florence
Street Levels Gallery

Our place, Street Levels Gallery, is the first international, urban art gallery in Florence, a reference point for the city and its citizens. Over time, we have transformed an old call centre into a contemporary exhibition space that routinely hosts exhibitions, events, talks and book presentations, all to investigate the different levels of interaction between urban space, artistic practices and the public. We want to educate and raise awareness. We want to export the culture of the longest-lived art movement of the contemporary scene, that of Street Art. We want to bring our local artists out of Florence and introduce our city to the best-known and most emerging names from the international scene. We want to stimulate the active participation of the community, take care of it and participate in the cultural life of Florence, in order to renew it. We are located in the heart of Via Palazzuolo, a multi-ethnic and densely populated area just behind the Santa Maria Novella railway station. Our neighbourhood also speaks of us, of our energy, of the desire to establish ourselves in a context that is sometimes hostile to urban art. Street Levels Gallery is a junction between artists, operators and citizens, an open and familiar place, the route you take when you want to return home. Come and visit us on site or online!

streetlevelsgallery.com

Sofia Bonacchi

I like to say I’m like a cat: I sleep a lot (it’s like partying to me), I purr, I bite (yum!), I’m currently living the fourth out of my nine lives. The first one started on the coastal side of Tuscany where I grew up, and sunbathed by the beautiful seaside. And then I got bored and changed everything. I found myself in Kansas City, (I know, what can I do about it?), Rome, Melbourne, Florence. I changed my skin over and over again. The last one I wore still fits. It’s where I found home. I completed my studies in Arts Management, and now I’m a cultural entrepreneur living the dream in the city of Florence. I run Street Levels Gallery, the only urban art gallery in the Renaissance hotspot of Italy. Sometimes I think, why on earth did I choose such a dream, and such a city to pursue it? And then I remind myself why I went away from my hometown in the first place. I’m in this world to make it a little more colourful and a little happier, too. And a wall with no art on it is like a human with no personality. Boring.

Vintage Melrose

If you’re looking for an original, old-fashioned piece of clothing, then Vintage Melrose is the place to find it. Its collection of clothes and accessories is huge and great value for money. The furniture reflects the style of the garments, making Melrose a nostalgic place, a corner of the city dedicated to unique, fancy pieces of clothing that hang there, begging for you to find them. Melrose Vintage has two locations, one just outside the Santa Maria Novella station and another near the Piazza San Lorenzo, in Via Dei Ginori. The first is open only in the afternoon while the second is open from Monday to Saturday from 10am to 8pm and Sunday from 2pm to 8pm. Check out its Instagram page.

@melrosevintagestorefirenze
Matt Charlton on why Lisbon’s music scene rocks
Put down your past-pump chicken, save your sardines, vanquish your vinho verde to the back of your mind and place your plate do not matter. Do save them for later however – they’re all, really, very nice indeed.

Food is, of course, what first comes to mind when thinking of Lisbon. Portugal’s beating heart…that and Cristiano Ronaldo, maybe…but the city doesn’t just march to a culinary beat, but to the everradouro ego of a footballer. Throughout every tumbledown medieval march to a culinary beat, or to the overinflated ego of a footballer. Lisbon…whisper it…is worth searching out, however, and they’re mostly local to Lux Fragil or B.Leza to get a truly local twist on EDM or Hip-Hop, mixing with Latin rhythms, and playing with expectations of more conventional dance music. If guitars are more your thing, then you’re still spoilt for choice, with local institution Masculon offering live music and DJs, and indie rock stalwart Insurgente (an ‘alternative rock’ bar) playing indie, synth, and New Wave, with a local celebrity dorman in the shape of D’Artagnan welcoming you into the cozy space.

For a laidback daytime groove, albeit a groove that might be played by the likes of DJ Peggy Gou, head to local institution LOUNGE, a friendly, intimate bar with a Berlin vibe. To really lean into that laidback feel, how about a bit of record shopping? Perkaco, a chipboard-rail record store, focuses on disco, hiphop, new wave, soul and world music, whilst Fluo Discos, a mere five-minutes away from Lux Fragil, stocks everything from Krautrock to Dubstep… the owner, Pedro and Joao, can give you some pretty amazing pointers for your Lisbon musical itinerary, too.

To finish taking Lisbon’s cultural pulse, head down to LXFactory. Once a looking-shy abandoned inner city production plant, it has been converted into a vast space housing more than 200 independent businesses, including a record shop, a morning workshop in the shape of Lio Dragées, and, from Landes Chocolate, the best chocolate cake this writer has ever had. Nurse your Sunday morning head after a night of dancing by munching along the cobblestone walkways, the enormous 25th April Bridge towering over you, and drink in the people, sights, sounds, and some white port, with a coldfish cake from Casa Portuguesa on the side. See? Told you we’d save the food for later.

‘Lisbon is a city that dances hard’

Shelter for your accommodation, the bars, record shops, and clubs of the Portuguese capital will be sure to fill your time with every kind of beat and high note.

Lisbon is a city that dances hard. The clubbing scene is thriving, and there are plenty of options to choose from. Be sure to check out the likes of Lux Fragil or B.Leza to get a truly local twist on EDM or Hip-Hop, mixing with Latin rhythms, and playing with expectations of more conventional dance music. If guitars are more your thing, then you’re still spoilt for choice, with local institution Masculon offering live music and DJs, and indie rock stalwart Insurgente (an ‘alternative rock’ bar) playing indie, synth, and New Wave, with a local celebrity dorman in the shape of D’Artagnan welcoming you into the cozy space.

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Put down your port-and-chocolate chicken, save your salade, vaunquish your vinho verde to the back of your mind and place your palm down on the kitchen door. Do save them for later however; they’re all, really, very nice indeed.

Food, is of course, what first comes to mind when thinking of Lisbon, Portugal’s beating heart...shh and Cristino Ronaldo, maybe...but the city doesn’t just march to a culinary beat, or to the everenduring age of a football club. Throughout every tumblingly medieval distric, via the sprawling riverfront, and down to the regenerated once industrial wastelands of LX Factory, the likeness of Lisbon runs along a musical stage, whether it be the traditional sailor’s laments of Fado; the bluesy, jazzy, grungy garage-rock movement; or the pulsing club scene. Lisbon...whisper it...may be about to become cooler than Berlin.

...or maybe just a Latin equivalent—fewer items of black clothing, and a touch warmer in the winter. The two cities have much in common, however—a more informal, DIY nature than you would find in most other European capitals; the feeling of once vacant spaces regenerated once industrial wastelands of LX Factory; the feeling of a once-forgotten city now rediscovered.

But first to Fado, maybe one of the original reasons as to why the city is such a magnet for creatives. A metropolis with melancholy always draws artists, and you can’t get melancholy without the unspoken Portuguese folk music, which can be traced back almost exactly two centuries to the alley of Lisbon. It’s characterised by tunes of sorrow and wistfulness, often about the sea or poverty...what we’re saying is, don’t just plan a birthday party around visiting one of Lisbon’s many Fado joints. A good Fado joint is worth searching out, however, and they’re mostly located in the bohemian district of Alfama. Walk past the ones trying to encourage you in—they’re for the tourists—instead, head to the likes of Tajo Bar (a favourite of Madonnas, no less) and drink in the hearty atmosphere along with some vinho verde. There’s also the exciting development of mixing hip-hop with Fado, the results of which you will see in some of our playlists.

Da Weasel
Mixing Frank Ocean-esque RnB vibes with a rich injection of Latino beats and instrumentals.

Dino D’Santiago
A great head of Lisbon’s Afro-electric dance, Cape Verdean artist, traditional Angra, Bebida, and Pasteis with electric grime to create a rich, bustling, musical storm which took Portugal by storm. Berlin, his music video album, was his new independent and panemusical album released to wide acclaim in 2021.

For a laidback daytime groove, albeit a groove that stretches from rockabilly to Dubstep... the owners, Pedro and José, can give you some pretty amazing pointers for your Lisboa musical itinerary, too.

To finish taking Lisbon’s cultural pulse, head down to LXFactory. Once a sorry-looking abandoned inner-city production plant, it has been converted into a vast space housing more than 200 independent businesses, including record shops, a running workshop in the shape of Lis Dragage, and, from Landau Chocolate, the best chocolate cake this writer has ever had. Name your Sunday morning head after a night of dancing by mooching along the cobbled walkways, the enormous 25th April Bridge towering over you, and drink in the people, sights, music…and some white port...with a codfish head. Shelter for your accommodation, the bars, record shops, and clubs of the Portuguese capital will be sure to fill your time with every kind of meal and high note.

Lisbon is a city that dances hard. The clubbing scene is thriving, and there are plenty of options to choose from. Be sure to check out the likes of Lux Fragil or B.Leza to get a truly local treat on EDM or Hip-Hop, mixing in Latino rhythms, and playing with expectations of conventional dance music. If guitars are more your thing, then you’re still spoilt for choice, with local institution Machico offering live music and DJs, and indie rock stalwart Inverno (an ‘alternative dance’ band) playing indie, synth, and New Wave, with a local celebrity doorman in the shape of D’Artagnan welcoming you into the cosy space.

For a laidback daytime groove, albeit a groove that might be played by the likes of DJ Peggy Gou, head to local institution LOUNGE, a friendly, intimate bar with a Berlin vibe. To really lean into that laidback feel, how about a bit of record shopping? Peekaboo, a chipboard clad store, focuses on dices, breezy, new wave, soul and world music, whilst Flur Disco, a mere five away from Lux Fragil, stocks everything from Krautrock to Dubstep, the owners, Pedro and José, can give you some pretty amazing pointers for your Lisboa musical itinerary, too.

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Listen to the ‘Lisbon is a city that dances hard’ playlist

EU.CliDES’s playlist

Lisbon heats NOS
Sad To See Lisbon
River Tagus

Branko
Hailing from the likes of Lux Fragil and Anak Lug, as well as MIA, Branko has been DJ’ing for over 15 years and part of the highly regarded duo, Too Bizarro Som Sussoto and, since 2015, as a solo artist, his debut album featured collaborations with Prince Naka and Tyffyn. Hailing from Lisbon’s controversial production plant, it has been converted into a vast space.
As I compose this piece, I’m currently on a writing assignment in the Baa Atoll of the Maldives with my family, training for an ultramarathon, which I’m due to run five days after returning to my urban landscape. The circumference of the island is minuscule, just north of a mile. To get the necessary distance I’m looping the islet dozens of times, creating a palimpsest of footprints in its loamy, ivory-coloured sand.

Initially, I was counting my blessings. It felt like utter luxury dodging crabs and coral over the cars and cyclists that pose an existential threat to the city runner. But after enough circuits I find myself perversely missing the tactile experience of urban running: the heady sensation of dancing through streets as one’s body spews endorphins; the myriad sights, sounds and smells that comprise a cityscape.

The benefits of running are manifold. Running burns more calories than almost any other exercise, strengthens muscles, builds stronger bones and upgrades the cardiovascular system. Recent studies have shown that sustained long-distance and ultra running can even benefit your DNA, lengthening the telomere protein caps at the end of chromosomes. In other words, it may be able to reverse ageing on a cellular level.

But what of running in urban settings? Running in general improves brain function, but when navigating the onslaught of sensual data that comprises a cityscape, the mind flourishes. In a recent study, running and meditation have been seen to have a similar effect on the brain. Breathwork, the present moment, awareness of your bodily state and mindfulness all dampen down the white noise around you. This experience is even more enthralling when side-stepping and shooting the gaps of a busy urban street, more so at rush hour.

Running can be many things. It can be gruelling and exhilarating, grim and epiphanic. To me, this elevates the experience of navigating a city to new levels. The senses are heightened. Details occasionally emerge from the streets in ultra high definition. For the traveller, this can make a journey all the more memorable.

One of the more obvious aspects of running as a means of discovering a city is that you can cover significantly more ground pounding the pavements. Whereas one generally walks at a rate of circa one kilometre every 14 minutes, if you’re running a tempo pace you might be able to take down 10 to 12 kilometres an hour. Granted, it may be difficult to pay close attention to your surroundings, but you’ll experience a lot more of them.

Running will almost certainly take you to the unguarded, unself-conscious corners of the city, where life plays out oblivious to the distortion of tourism, at its own speed, authentic. Countless times I’ve found myself in the industrial bowels of a metropolis,
not necessarily the most aesthetically pleasing experience but perhaps more honest than the more confectionery retail centres and boulevards that visitors frequent. It offers a fuller picture of place.

On the other hand, there’s something to be said about the thrill of sprinting down a famous promenade or planning a route around sighting an architectural tour. It’s naturally a joy de vivre involved in moving your body. This is only heightened by doing so through a setting you might come across on the silver screen. Coupling this with music can amplify the sensation—what I call the Baby Driver effect. When your strides and movement coalesce with the rhythm of song, it often feels like dance.

Planning is essential to running through an unfamiliar city. You might be wondering how best to plan a route through a strange place. Initially, when I first started running abroad, I would search online for potential routes but soon found that apps are much more useful. AllTrails is a great one if you’re looking to find a place. Initially, when I first started running abroad, I would search for potential routes but soon found that apps are much more useful. AllTrails is a great one if you’re looking to find a place.

However, when I’m travelling my first point of reference in figurative terms is the north of England, Northumberland, in particular the Sizergh Castle and Gardens. It’s a huge estate with over 100 different places to run, from gentle walks to more strenuous runs. The majority of it in one run if you have the time and energy. It’s easily discoverable – you can even experience the majority of it in one run if you have the stamina. Go Running Tours offers sightseeing opportunities that take in The Parliament, Nyhavn, The Royal Castle and The Little Mermaid.

As for when to run, that’s highly subjective. Those with full-time jobs or families often tout the dawn run, which has the fringe benefit of eliciting virtuous feelings. If you’re in a busy city, like Venice, rising early is a must for dodging crowds, and running with the sunrise always imparts a certain timeless feeling to it, particularly when navigating quiet, ancient neighbourhoods.

For my sins, for the time being, I’ll have to make do with the Indian Ocean, white sand beaches and a tiny island. Yet when I think upon returning to the city and running its streets, I don’t feel sad. In fact, it’s quite the opposite. “Running will almost certainly take you to the unguarded, unself-conscious corners of the city, where life plays out oblivious to the distortion of tourism, at its own speed, authentic.”

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**RUNNING PLAYLIST**

**BLONDIE**
ATOMIC (EXTENDED VERSION)

Make sure to put this on after your warm-up as the opening one-two punch of amazing intro hooks may well make your hamstrings twang its last.

**FRENCH VANILLA**
SUDDENLY

Dirty horns and funky beats supplied by this American art punk band will propel you forward through your first km, as you restrain your cushioned feet from breaking into a groove all of their own.

**DJ SHADOW**
ROCKET FUEL (FEAT DE LA SOUL)

We all need a bit of rocket fuel by the mid point of our run, don’t we? Moon Landing conspiracies put to a hop hop beat and mixed with a collage of sound? This’ll propel you through the atmosphere.

**ROBYN**
DANCING ON MY OWN

Not many can rival ABBA for a sad banger, but this work of genius by Robyn will help you push through the tears as you reach km 4. Try not to pass by a reflective surface when the chorus hits though. You will feel the inescapable urge to have a mirror boogie.

**MARIE DAVIDSON**
WORK IT (SOULWAX REMIX)

Sweary, dirty, gritty, thudding, and all the other things that you might expect to have a mirror boogie.

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**KIT RUNDUP**

**THE SHOE**

There’s no better shoe for an urban run than French brand HOKA’s Mach V, which has established a reputation for itself as being equally adept as an everyday trainer or a racer for distances from 5k to a half marathon. Super lightweight with a mega comfy upper and bombproof lockdown, the Mach V is a staple, go-to city runner.

**THE T-SHIRT**

Regardless of where you’re running, or what time of the year it is for that matter, Salomon’s Sense Aero LS Tee will keep you cool and protected, and so lightweight that it often feels as if you’re wearing nothing at all.

**THE SHORTS**

Battle-tested in the rugged terrain of Northumberland, in the north of England, Montane excels in outdoor clothing. The brand’s Dragon Twin Skinny shorts have been built with long runs in mind and are totally comfortable, with a close-fitting undershort beneath a lightweight, loose overshort.

**THE WATCH**

Finnish watchmaker Suunto’s 9 Peak Titanium has chic lines and class, lightweight linked bracelet, and sits just as easily in a boardroom as a finish line. But don’t let its ultra-thin and slim design fool you. It’s tough as nails with sapphire glass and Grade 5 Titanium.

**THE SOCKS**

Socks might be the most underdog of one’s running kit. Healthy, happy feet are central to enjoying yourself, especially at distance. Stance’s Run Light Staple Crew will ensure this, with ultralight cushioning and a lightweight, breathable barrier between your foot and your shoe.

**THE JACKET**

The Patagonia Houdini jacket only weighs 100 grams and is so stowable that it easily packs down into a running belt or pocket once you warm up. As with all things Patagonia, its sustainable credentials are top shelf with a lifetime warranty.

**THE WINTER**

The Eternal City offers up an embarrassment of riches to sightseers with a penchant for history. ArcheoRunning is the first certified running tour in Rome and probably one of its finest, with guides as aptitude in the succession of Caesars as they are in cadence and steps per minute.

**COPENHAGEN GO RUNNING TOURS**

Copenhagen is the perfect sized city for running. It’s easily discoverable – you can even experience the majority of it in one run if you have the stamina. Go Running Tours offers sightseeing opportunities that take in The Parliament, Nyhavn, The Royal Castle and The Little Mermaid.

**LISBON LISBON CITY RUNNERS**

Lisbon is the city du jour for the hip and trendy, and its hilly terrain and hidden byways make it a challenging, enchanting one to investigate on foot. Lisbon City Runners will take all of the navigation off your hands, showing you all of Lisbon’s best angles.

**STOCKHOLM RUN WITH ME**

Stockholm has it all for the urban runner: neoclassical architecture; gorgeous waterways; eclectic parks that send their way around Nordic rivers and lakes. Run With Me Stockholm will enable running along all of these, and can even swap in a yoga class to help you offset the impact.

**PARIS RUN RUN TOURS**

The City of Lights may just be the best in the world to explore in running shoes. Run Run Paris sets you up with a top-class runner, provides water, healthy snacks and waterproof jackets, and will even take photos as you navigate the city, so you can keep your Instagram feed sparkling.
Neni is a family business and that is reflected in the name. Neni is the initials of us four brothers: Nuriel, Elior, Ilan and Nadiv. We started out 15 years ago as a passion project of my mother, Haya Molcho, who was born in Tel Aviv and who has been a great chef and cook aficionado her entire life. My father was an artist and she travelled the world with him and learnt about different kitchens from all around the globe, and developed a fusion kitchen, which, back then, wasn’t so common. Whether they were in India, China or Mexico, they would come back to Europe and cook and reinterpret things she had tasted abroad and recreate them with new spices.

Fusion is inherent to Israeli and Tel Avivian cooking. You have to imagine that Israelis came from all around the world to Israel. It was a new country and everyone brought with them flavours and food from where they were from: Moroccan Jews, Syrian, Romanian, Polish. So we could try food from the entire world but then mix it together with Israeli combinations. And that’s what makes a Tel Avivian kitchen. That’s what we stand for today—international, eclectic cooking. It’s very hard to define it as we keep on innovating and cooking with different chefs and inspirations from our travels around the world, and that’s what you see in the Neni kitchen.
The way we linked up with 25hours Hotels is quite a funny story. Christoph Hoffmann, the founder of 25hours Hotels, along with some colleagues, were eating breakfast at our restaurant in Vienna almost daily while building the first 25hours Hotel in the city. They were also there having lunch and dinner! And we were like, who are these guys? They come here all the time. Are they trying to copy our concept? It was the first year we opened. We talked to them, and they said, you know what, we’ve been trying to think how we can create a concept similar to this in our hotels. We love it. It feels familiar. It’s uncomplicated. It’s fun. We don’t think we could do it any better than you so we want to ask you if you could run our restaurant business!

Back then, we were honoured but we said no, we don’t have the knowhow yet. They called us a year later and they said, we have another hotel in Zurich, what about now? And we said, why don’t we rewrite your menus and test this out?

Preheat the oven to 220°C for a fan oven. Halve the Jerusalem artichokes lengthways and place on a baking tray lined with baking paper. Massage in salt, pepper and olive oil and roast the Jerusalem artichokes in the oven for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, cut the onions into rings, halve the tomatoes and finely chop the parsley. Add the tomatoes and onions to the Jerusalem artichokes and roast together in the oven for a further 10 minutes. Mix in the parsley and lemon juice. Serve hot or lukewarm.

Topinambur with Tomato & Red Onions

For 4 people
6 Jerusalem artichokes
Salt
Pepper
80g olive oil
2 red onions
15 cherry tomatoes
40g parsley, plucked
Juice from 1.5 lemons

Preheat the oven to 220°C for a fan oven. Halve the Jerusalem artichokes lengthways and place on a baking tray lined with baking paper. Massage in salt, pepper and olive oil and roast the Jerusalem artichokes in the oven for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, cut the onions into rings, halve the tomatoes and finely chop the parsley. Add the tomatoes and onions to the Jerusalem artichokes and roast together in the oven for a further 10 minutes. Mix in the parsley and lemon juice. Serve hot or lukewarm.
QUINCE DESSERT

For 4 people
4 lemons
6 small quinces
280 grams of sugar
1 vanilla bean
2 cloves
Whipped cream or ice cream to serve

Squeeze lemons. Put half of the juice and the squeezed lemons in water. Peel the quince, cut in half and remove the core. Place the quince halves in the lemon water.

Stir sugar into the rest of the lemon juice until dissolved. Remove the quinces from the water and rub with the lemon juice sugar. Place flat-side down, side by side, in a shallow saucepan or tall pan. Reserve the remaining lemon juice sugar. Add the scratched vanilla pod with the pulp and the cloves. Bring to a boil, then cover and simmer over low heat for 2 hours. Check from time to time whether water is needed and moisten the quince with reserved lemon juice sugar. Serve lukewarm with whipped cream or ice cream, using the vanilla pod as decoration.

OUT NOW!
Coming Home: My Family Recipes by Haya Molcho

Coming Home is Haya’s sixth book and is all about old family recipes. As her son Nuriel says, “The book is all about the beginning. It’s about uncomplicated cooking. It’s about everything from the soup that we loved as kids when we were sick, to our favourite cheesecakes that our grandmother made for us. My mum dedicates every chapter to one of us sons and to my father and herself, featuring that member of the family’s favourite dishes.”

Coming Home: My Family Recipes, €35
Currently available in German. English to follow. shop.neni.at
If you’re reading this on a bus or bench in a city, or reasonably sized town, take a look around you—what do you see? High-rise, glass and steel buildings, perhaps, graffitied billboards, the glare of sunlight reflecting off lines of slow-moving cars—concrete jungle where dreams are made of. Cities are collages of human endeavour and survival, and express a certain sort of freedom and sense of possibilities; and while they may seem chaotic and organic, like a circuit board they are all connected with systems of zoning, or urban planning. But while cities are often poetically cast as females—Venice, for example, famously known as La Serenissima—they have almost exclusively been planned and built by men. Baron Haussmann, who created the boulevards of Paris; Robert Moses, who transformed New York into the modern city we know today. And while we may think of cities as being neutral spaces, designed equally for all residents, the truth is quite the opposite. At a time when women and their supporters are marching to reclaim the streets and make them safer spaces in the face of high-profile cases such as the murder of Sarah Everard in London, what if those very streets are designed—albeit unintentionally—to trip women up?

“Even if it’s unconscious, cities have been set up to serve men’s roles, and women’s lives and experiences have been an afterthought at best,” says academic Leslie Kern, in her book Feminist City: Claiming Space in a Man-Made World, which sets out the case for non-sexist, inclusive cities that acknowledge the lifestyles and contributions made by women. She’s just one of a growing number of voices challenging the status quo. The writer Caroline Criado Perez argues that cities are biased against women because of a “female-shaped” gender data gap—a lack of research that’s “both a cause and a consequence of the type of unthinking that conceives of humanity as almost exclusively male,” she writes in her book Invisible Women. “One of the big problems with the way we’ve laid out our cities is it’s been done in such a way to serve the needs of this mythical male breadwinner who has a wife at home in the suburbs.”

It’s an issue that affects the way our homes are designed and our streets are lit, the provision of public bathrooms and design of public spaces—after all, mobility and access are key to a sense of being made to feel welcomed and wanted. Transport systems tend to favour the home-to-work-and-back journeys made by men, rather than the circuitous ones often made by...
“Cities have been laid out to serve the needs of this mythical male breadwinner who has a wife at home in the suburbs”

As a city with its own transgenerational memory, little wonder that Vienna is consistently voted top for quality of life in surveys by The Economist. “All sorts of assumptions are made about what we want, but decision makers need to ask questions and listen to the answers,” says Susannah Walker, co-founder of UK charity Make Space for Girls. “And if you ask them, girls will tell you they want larger swings, so that’s what they get.”

Transport systems tend to favour the home-to-work-and-back journeys of men, rather than the circuitous ones made by women

“Transport systems tend to favour the home-to-work-and-back journeys of men, rather than the circuitous ones made by women”

Transport systems tend to favour the home-to-work-and-back journeys of men, rather than the circuitous ones made by women
You're spoilt for choice with Singapore's cocktail scene, with innovative new concepts, flavours and foods to accompany them. Rick Jordan reports on the most exciting drinking destinations in the city.

Like a midnight raconteur in a white fedora sitting at the end of the bar, the best cocktails usually have the best stories. The Bellini will always have a few pithy lines to say about Harry's Bar in Venice; the shaken-not-stirred Vesper Martini accompanied by the twanging guitar riff of the 007 theme, while the Espresso Martini was conjured in party-hard Nineties Soho when Kate Moss demanded something that would ‘wake her up then f**k her up’. Travel east, though, to the Long Bar of Singapore’s Raffles hotel in about 1915, and you might have encountered a Chinese barman called Ngiam Tong Boon, who had sailed here from Vietnam. Asked to create a cocktail that a woman could order without offending the sensibilities of the era, he reached for his bottles of gin, Cointreau and cherry brandy, added a soupcon of grenadine and Dom Bénédictine, and topped it with lime and pineapple juice. The Singapore Sling—resembling fruit juice but packing a real punch—was born.

That was the colonial era, of course; a period of Somerset Maugham tales and languorous aristocratic afternoons in white linen for the privileged few; Singapore gained its independence in the 1960s and has been carving out its own identity ever since. And while Singapore Slings are still served in a tall pisco grande glass with a cherry on top, the cocktail scene has evolved, with homegrown talent firing up new drinking destinations—from downtown dive bars to sleek hotel lounges—and adding indigenous ingredients and spirits to the mix. In the annual Asia’s 50 Best Bars awards for 2022, Singapore took 10 of the top spots, making it the cocktail capital of Asia.

No Sleep Club, Old Fashioned

“Our signature cocktail is a take on the Old Fashioned based on the Asian tradition of drinking cognac with green tea. It’s a drink you’ll see in pubs, clubs and Thai discos, is considered a little down-market, as far from a classic cocktail as you can imagine. Our version uses Martell Noblige, which we sous-vide overnight and fat-wash with a house-made hojicha (roasted tea) caramel and Packham pear, finished with white peach vinegar and local curry leaf. The roasted tea matches the notes in the spirits, while the pear gives a fruity note to an otherwise super-boozy cocktail.”

Juan Yi Jun, bartender and owner at No Sleep Club

Shaken not stirred

Getting creative at Atlas
Custard apples and long kang bring some very individual flavours

“I think we now have a cocktail culture that’s all our own,” says Ivy Woo, co-founder of the Singapore Cocktail Festival which takes place in March. “You can track it all back to 28 HongKong Street, an innovative speakeasy opened by three former New York lawyers just over a decade ago, which was the first bar here to take a craft approach to cocktails. Many local bartenders learnt their skills there, and now that generation are opening their own places, each with its own personality.”

These bars, mostly gathered around Chinatown and the Central Business District, reflect the myriad tastes of the city, from the gin library of Adas to the molecular gastronomy of Tippling Club. “Thankfully, we’re seeing a move to more responsible drinking—which can mean lower ABV drinks but also sustainable ones,” says Ivy. “At Mallow, former Noma forager Sasha Wijidessa is curating what you could almost call a wellness cocktail menu.”

One thing that came out of the pandemic is the food is really strong now—as restaurants were the first to re-open after lockdown, having a full dinner menu meant bars could open their doors too. “And there are certain rituals at bars,” says Ariel Tay, a twenty-something Singaporean. “At Nutmeg & Clove, they give out chicken soup at the end of the night, so we always make sure we wind down there after an evening’s bar hopping.”

“Singapore bars are also really tapping into local producers more than ever,” says Ivan Yaf, bar tended and owner at No Sleep Club, an exciting new addition to city’s bar scene. “We’re recently had our own gin distilleries such as Tānglin Gin and Brass Lion, while Compendium are making spirits with interesting local flavours such as chilli; a green rice-flower dessert, and palm sap. And we have access to ingredients to the music—originates in Singapore’s cocktail evolution. Others in the group include the rum-soaked Sugarhall, which re-opened in March 2022, but Live Twice takes its inspiration from mid-century Japan. Graze on a wasabi cheese terrine or an ebi-and-corn sando, while ordering delicate cocktails such as the Bamboo, a mix of fino sherry, white vermouth, Japanese vodka, Japanese tomatoes and wasabi). Last Word, a stripped-back bar (“minimalist Nordic”) with a Japanese-style menu of highballs and sours, along with one of the best Bloody Marys in town (celery-infused vodka, Japanese tomatoes and wasabi).”

The most recent concept from Jigger & Pony, founded by husband-and-wife team Indra Kantono and Gan Guoyi and a key bar in Singapore’s cocktail evolution. Others in the group include the rum-soaked Sugarhall, which re-opened in March 2022, but Live Twice takes its inspiration from mid-century Japan. Graze on a wasabi cheese terrine or an ebi-and-corn sando, while ordering delicate cocktails such as the Bamboo, a mix of fino sherry, white vermouth, Japanese vodka, Japanese tomatoes and wasabi). Last Word, a stripped-back bar (“minimalist Nordic”) with a Japanese-style menu of highballs and sours, along with one of the best Bloody Marys in town (celery-infused vodka, Japanese tomatoes and wasabi).”

One of the leading lights of Singapore’s cocktail scene is Vijay Mudaliar, who won awards for Native, a locavore restaurant in which everything—from the furniture to ingredients to the music—originates in Singapore. This bar opened during the pandemic and is an ode to zero-waste and upcycling: table-tops are grown from mycelium, while the bar, which undulates at one end to accommodate wheelchair users, was 3D printed from recycled plastic bottles, as were the coasters. Everything on the menu is plant-based, with cocktails made from ingredients such as spirulina and cactus—on a menu that gives equal weight to non-alcoholic mixes.

Live Twice

Something of a split personality, this is a clean-living café by day that, come 7pm, invites you behind a velvet curtain at the far end to a team-ted cocktail bar. It’s run by young bartenders Bai JiaWei and Jerrold Khoo, formerly of Employees Only and Jigger & Pony; Khoo is a musician with a love of rock’n’roll, hence the sort of playlist that will make you want to play air guitar while sipping on cocktails such as Perfect Sazerac, which adds absinthe to the mix. staygoldflamingo.com

Stay Gold Flamingo

Stay Gold Flamingo is one of the leading lights of Singapore’s craft cocktail scene. It opened in March 2022, but Live Twice takes its inspiration from mid-century Japan. Graze on a wasabi cheese terrine or an ebi-and-corn sando, while ordering delicate cocktails such as the Bamboo, a mix of fino sherry, white vermouth, Japanese vodka, Japanese tomatoes and wasabi). Last Word, a stripped-back bar (“minimalist Nordic”) with a Japanese-style menu of highballs and sours, along with one of the best Bloody Marys in town (celery-infused vodka, Japanese tomatoes and wasabi).”

Analogue Initiative

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The Millerntor Stadium transforms into the Millerntor Gallery. During four artistically inspiring days, artists, musicians and other creatives come together to generate donations for essential clean drinking water and sanitation projects. The stadium comes alive with paintings, sculpture, video art, murals, illustrations, digital art, music, poets, comedians, DJs, dancers and actors. The charity Viva con Agua is behind this phenomenon, transforming art donations into water projects. This uplifting event is also an open platform for dialogue and exchange. Works of art of all genres as well as a diverse music, cultural and educational programmes show how everyone can positively shape the world. Last year’s event celebrated 10 years of collectivist activism and collaboration everyone and was dedicated to the theme of FLUXUS—together we flow. The next Millerntor Gallery takes place from 13 to 16 July, 2023 and the theme is Making Waves—The Power of Water.

Viva con Agua’s director, Agnes Fritz explains, “There are three clusters of thought behind the new theme. First is the power of water in regard to climate change. Water is our big power source and we look at water cycles and how water really moves on the planet. Secondly, we look into the bad side of the fight for water and the wars it creates when countries and people don’t have access. And finally, we will be looking at the spiritual side of water. Its elemental part. The forms of water: How it sounds and how it looks.”

In 2022, Millerntor Gallery had 43 mural artists participating, curated by Hera, one of the biggest street artists in Germany. Fritz says, “We are sending out a call for applications over the winter for artists to take part in next summer’s event. We also go and seek out artists, and also have a family of artists who have helped us to create the gallery over the last 10 years.” When works are sold at the event, 45% goes to the water charity Viva con Agua, and the rest is a handling fee. Some artists donate 100% of their art for free. As Fritz says, “We’re not only supporting the WASH (an abbreviation for water, sanitation and hygiene) projects, but we’re also supporting art and artists. During the 2022 Millerntor Gallery, roughly €100,000 went back to the artists, of which we are very pleased about.”

At the 2023 event, the entrance fee will be €19 per person because the Millerntor Stadium and football club was founded in the year 1910. Yet Fritz is keen to point out that the event is inclusive. As she says, “People who genuinely can’t afford to come in can say, ‘Hey, I can’t pay that!’ and we will welcome them. We also invite refugee groups and student groups from socially marginalised due to the apartheid system and the low infrastructure. Fritz explains, “We are supporting with sanitation projects like building toilets and integrating toilets in public spaces such as schools. As well as building, we usually have training and workshops about how to handle a water borehole, how to clean your hands, how to handle the toilets, how not to waste water, and how to separate the black water from the clean water. In South Africa they have access to clean drinking water, but they lack sanitation, so we’re focusing on this.”

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, Viva con Agua supports water infrastructure projects, and has been constructing boreholes and water wells for many years. Fritz says, “We were also able to buy a drilling machine as we had a large donation from a person in Hamburg whose last wish was to support water projects. We are able to send the drill to many other communities in the North of Ethiopia too. An English artist called David Shillinglaw painted it for us!”

Projects that benefit from Viva con Agua

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In Uganda, Viva con Agua supports a lot of rural projects but also in the urban area of Kampala. “Sometimes there are big public schools where there is no access to clean drinking water, and no toilets,” says Fritz. “We work with the government and the local school district officers to implement an integrated WASH approach, including a menstrual hygiene component. For girls who are menstruating, it’s essential to have school toilets that can be locked, and for everyone to know that this is something normal and not something dirty.”

South Africa

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COMPANION is a magazine about the people who shape and enrich our cities and lives.

25hours-companion.com
As the nights draw in, and the streets become darker and colder, 25hours Hotels’ sister company, The Hoxton, is on another mission help the homeless and vulnerable following last year’s ‘Stay For A Stay’ charity initiative.

For every stay booked last February (before January 31, 2022) on thehoxton.com, a donation was given to cover the cost of a stay in a shelter to someone in need. This meant that for every staycation, business trip or romantic city break taken at any Hoxton hotel during the time the campaign ran, someone struggling to get by was guaranteed a shower, a hot dinner and a bed for the night. The more stays booked, the more people helped.

‘Stay for a Stay’ built on The Hoxton’s commitment to doing good for the communities around its hotels. The hotel group has been supporting homeless charities since 2019 (see below) through various fundraising initiatives, including a London to Paris charity cycle.

Homelessness can take many forms, the most visible being those sleeping rough on the streets, but also includes all of those sofa surfing and relying on friends and acquaintances for a roof over their heads. Homeless shelters provide more than just a warm bed for the night. They’re a vital stepping stone for getting people on the road to better days with resources dedicated to finding employment and education, health and legal advice, emotional support and securing long-term accommodation. All donations are gratefully received.

Check out The Hoxton’s plans to help the homeless this winter at thehoxton.com