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Some girls grow up dreaming of their wedding day — they see the dress, the flowers, the happy tears floating in the eyes of their guests. And then there are New Yorkers.

The big city literally towers with possibilities, the promise of adventure beckoning from every street corner. Why dream of Mr (or Mrs) Right when you can spend a lifetime exploring?

Muscovites have a lot of the same characteristics as New Yorkers — the energy, the stress, the focused glare as they navigate the hustle of a city street — but not when it comes to their personal lives. Though more progressive than the rest of the country, Moscow still sees marriage as a requirement, something you do if you want to be a fully rounded human being, something expected, rather than something chosen. And if you choose to get married, and to get married in Moscow, there are even more expectations: the photo session in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (romantic!), kissing to shouts of “Gorko!” (a shout that means “bitter” but is meant to be sweet?), drinking liters of Sovetskoye Shampanskoye (ouch).

I’m sounding too negative. Better to turn to the Summer Guide you’re holding (are you holding it gently? Like a newlywed? Good). We’ve got it all — from which hotels to choose for your wedding, to which dress shops to avoid, to which spas will leave you looking best. So read, relax, rejoice and forget the fact that Russia has the highest rate of divorce in the world, according to the UN. There I go being a New Yorker again. Gorko!

Sincerely,
Miriam Elder
moscouguide@media.ru
Cultural Happenings Summer 2011

The Chekhov International Theater Festival runs through July 31 this year with a focus on dance. The National Dance Theater of Spain performs several short ballets. “Graza,” “Arcangelo” and “Flockwork” run July 13 to July 17 and “Noodles” and “White Darkness” from July 19 to July 23.

One of the most anticipated performances comes from choreographer Moses Pendleton’s Momix Dance Company, a troupe of so-called “dance-illusionists” known for their inventiveness. “Botanica,” which runs from July 10 to July 14, features dancing with a dinosaur and puppets and a soundtrack of birdsong, Vivaldi and more.

Another performance to look out for is “Town History,” a piece based on the stories of Mikhail Saltykov-Shchedrin and Irving Washington. It is performed by Studio Six, a New York-based company comprising actors who studied in Moscow. “Town History” runs from July 13 to July 17 at the Meyerhold Center.

www.chekhovfest.ru
Tel. 223-9650, 223-9651

Transformers, Herzog light up film fest

Many cinophiles might think opening a film festival with a movie by Michael “Pearl Harbor” Bay isn’t the best sign of a fulfilling experience, but the Moscow Film Festival, which runs June 22 to July 2, will have the usual broad range of films, with enough choice to satisfy even the fussiest of film lovers. Hundreds of films will play at the Oktyabr cinema on Novy Arbat for the festival’s 33rd incarnation, including a retrospective of US director Sam Peckinpah (“The Wild Bunch,” “Straw Dogs”), whose films have had a direct influence on the likes of Quentin Tarantino and Werner Herzog. Herzog, once called “the finest film director alive” by François Truffaut, gets his own dedication at the festival, with showings of all his films featuring the brilliant Klaus Kinski, including “ Fitzcarraldo” and “Nosferatu the Vampyre.” Bay’s film “Transformers 3: Dark of the Moon,” will get its world premiere in Moscow on June 22, one week before it opens anywhere else. U.S. rock group Linkin Park, featured on the film’s soundtrack, will play a concert at Vasilievsky Spusk on June 23.

Summer Exhibits

Art lovers are in for a treat this summer. The Tretyakov Gallery is currently showing “Holy Russia,” devoted to the history of Christian Russia, from the 9th to the 18th centuries. The exhibit brings together icons, crosses and other church-related items from 25 different Russian museums. “Holy Russia” debuted at the Louvre last year, where it was a huge success attracting 260,000 visitors.

“Salvador Dalí: Retrospective,” a huge exhibit devoted to the Spanish surrealist artist, will open at the Pushkin Museum on August 16. The exhibit will feature works from the Dalí Theatre Museum in Spain, which was opened by the artist in 1974.

The Multimedia Art Museum hosts an exhibit devoted to Arte Povera, a movement that swept Italy in the 1960s and early 1970s and believed that anything and everything could be used to make art. Part of the Year of Italy in Russia, the show is on till July 10.

Tretyakov Gallery, 10/12 Lavrushinsky Pereulok. Metro Tretyakovskaya.
Tel. 230-7788, www.tretyakovgallery.ru

Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts. 12 Volkhonka. Metro Kropotkinskaya.
Tel. 697-7998/9578, www.museum.ru/gmii

Tel. 637-1100, www.mdf.ru
Summer in Europe means one thing for music lovers: festival season. Though Moscow has yet to build its own Glastonbury, all is not lost. The Ahmad Tea Music Festival on July 2 and Afisha Picnic on July 23 will bring some exciting groups to Moscow.

The Ahmad brings indie darlings Klaxons, winner of Britain’s Mercury Prize in 2007, and Maximo Park to Moscow this summer. They will be buoyed by folk group Erland and the Carnival, which won critical praise for their eponymous debut album, made up of contemporary arrangements of folk songs once collected by composer Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Afisha offers an even more eclectic mix, bringing Hole, the outfit headed by Courtney Love, to Russia for the first time. The picnic will also feature The Kaiser Chiefs and rising new wave star Marina and the Diamonds, who is almost certainly the first Greek-Welsh singer-songwriter to play in Kolomenskoe Park. Don’t miss Rainbow Arabia, a California-based electronica duo. And be sure to stay for Zemfira, who will close the festival.

Another impressive import, lo-fi kings Ariel Pink’s Haunted, will play Strelka on July 20. Their song “Round and Round” was voted best of 2010 by indie site Pitchfork.

If all of that is a bit too fay and indie, then head for Nashestvie from July 8-10 for the country’s biggest outdoor festival. The line-up features some of the biggest, if ageing, names in Russian rock, such as Garaik Sukachyov, Chaif, Bravo and Bi-2, plus the odd rap star like opposition favorite Noize MC. Tickets start at 3,000 rubles and go up to 100,000 rubles for super VIP treatment, which includes free beer and a room in a nearby hotel.

Tel. 221-2239, http://ahmadtea.ru/limes/one/268/
http://picnic.afisha.ru/


See the site for detailed instructions on how to get to the festival.
Finding Wedding Bliss

BY OLGA KRUSTALEVA

MOSCOW’S FIVE-STAR HOTELS WILL HELP YOU CREATE A WEDDING TO REMEMBER.

It’s a cliche because it’s true: your wedding day will be one of the best days of your life, but also one of the most stressful. Luckily, the Russian capital boasts an increasing number of services to make life easier. To ensure your reception goes off without a hitch, head to any one of the five-star hotels in Moscow to help you throw the party of a lifetime.

The Ritz Carlton is without a doubt the jewel in Moscow’s five-star crown. Its opulent interior, top-notch service and special perks will make any wedding a day to remember. The hotel offers florists for flower arrangements, an expert chef to craft a customized menu, and can help with table seating and even produce a comm emorative video of the event. The event will set you back a tidy sum — pricing starts at 5,200 rubles per guest, excluding VAT. Extras like videos (100,000 rubles) and functioning sound equipment (150,000 rubles) can shoot the price through the roof. And yet demand is high — popular dates are reserved up to a year ahead of time, so unless you are planning your wedding for a winter weekday, it would be best to book well in advance.

The Hyatt Ararat is another exquisite hotel located in the very heart of the Russian capital. Aside from the usual — a terrace overlooking Red Square, premier service — the hotel appears specially made for weddings, boasting a Gregorian chapel on site. The hotel offers the services of a personal wedding manager, to help with everything from choice of tablecloths to music. Most couples opt for the “Biblioteka” room, which will set you back 30,000 rubles plus the cost of dinner (4,000-5,000 rubles per person + VAT) and wine (2,800 rubles per person + VAT).

A special treat is the “One Perfect Day, Two Perfect Nights” package, which gives a newly-married couple the gift of two nights at any Park Hyatt or Hyatt Resort hotel worldwide after celebrating their wedding at the Ararat in Moscow, if more than 60 guests attend their wedding. The Ararat, named after the peak on which Noah allegedly landed his ark, appeals to the superstitious. The hotel staff says aside from peak popularity in spring and summer, newlyweds are also drawn to “magical” dates, like 10/10/10, 11/1/11 and 11/11/11 and so on. Those looking ahead to 12/12/12 should book now.

Anyone looking for a more modern spin will find plenty at the Swissotel, a 34-story high-rise that towers over Moscow. The hotel has a number of rooms to choose from, like the spacious “Davos hall” on the 29th floor, which offers panoramic views of the city, glowing beautifully (and romantically) as the summer sun sets. Or there’s the hotel garden, available for an extra 200,000 rubles. The price for a basic package starts at 4,700 rubles per person and includes welcome cocktail, wedding dinner and cake, as well as a photo shoot at the “City Space” bar on the 34th floor. If you order a banquet for more than 50 people, a night in a luxurious room with a panoramic view of the city is offered to the newlyweds for free. Additional offers, like limousine service and a team of entertainers, are also available.

The Sheraton Palace off Ulitsa Tverskaya is another fancy option. Choose from three venues for your gala reception: the spacious “Vladimir” restaurant, or one of two smaller (but recently renovated) halls, “Moscow” and “Saint Petersburg.” Whichever room you choose, be sure to stop by the hotel’s magnificent marble staircase, highlighted with glass parapets and gilded walls, for a unique photo opportunity. The hotel offers a complementary personal wedding manager to ensure everything goes according to plan. The price is right too — 3,000 rubles per person for food, or 5,000 for food and drink. And
there’s an added perk: all newlywed couples get a night in the hotel for free after the celebration.

The nicest place to hold a wedding in Moscow might actually be outside the city. Located on Moscow’s outskirts, Le Meridien Moscow Country Club is surrounded by lakes and birch forests, giving an unparalleled atmosphere of quiet and mystique. Le Meridien can take care of decoration, entertainment and other important pre-wedding arrangements, and offers additional services like spa procedures for the bride and groom and personalized wedding cake. Rates for the wedding menu start at 3,500 rubles per guest and if your guests expect to stay overnight, a standard room costs 8,500 rubles, including breakfast. There’s a plus for the happy couple: book at least ten rooms for your guests and the Wedding Suite is yours as a gift, complete with romantic breakfast.

On the other end of the spectrum, there’s the President Hotel, for those hoping to celebrate their wedding in the atmosphere of Soviet days of yore. Formerly called the Oktyabrskaya hotel, the site was built for the Soviet elite and remains the conference hall of choice for Moscow chinovniki. It’s been renovated since, and boasts a nice location in the historical center of Moscow, as well as exceptional service. The reception room includes a huge, open terrace that wraps around the hall, with views onto the Moskva River, the Cathedral of Christ the Savior and, unless one averts their eyes, Tsereteli’s infamous Peter the Great monument. The minimum price for a wedding package is 5,350 rubles per person for various appetizers, a special menu from the chef, a unique wedding cake and an open bar for four hours. Reserve for at least 25 people and the newlywed couple gets a free night’s stay.

You’ve always dreamed about having a beautiful wedding. Let us make your dream come true and your wedding planning a joy.
Style in Russia tends to fall a decade or two behind the West, despite a few pockets of trendiness in the capital. When it comes to wedding fashion, Moscow is still light-years behind in terms of selection, price and customer service.

A sparkling, puffy-sleeved princess wedding gown may have been your dream dress when you were six years old, but now that you are older and wiser, you probably have more refined taste. If so, Moscow is not the place for you. But don’t despair, there is hope.

Those into the “old school” Moscow look (à la Barbie-goes-to-the-prom) can head to Wedding Salon Kapriz. The shop on Novinsky Bulvar boasts a wide selection of unknown Italian designers and domestic dresses reminiscent of the gown Belle wore to the ball in Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast.” At time of writing, the shop’s first window boasted a dusty rose and off-white ball gown with a sweetheart, corset top and silk-screened rose details on the skirt. The floral theme continues with a rose-shaped bundle of fabric at the right shoulder. How much does this fairytale Italian-made nightmare cost? 107,000 rubles ($3,800). Those looking to spend less can shell out 47,000 rubles, for a Russian — in every sense of the word — silver mermaid dress with rhinestone spaghetti straps and a voluminous bustle.

Even this shop has its bright side. Service and “the experience” are everything when it comes to buying a gown, and the shop attendant at Salon Kapriz, dressed head-to-toe in velour, was more than attentive, quick to say that while most dresses take three months to make and tailor, the shop is willing to work with brides on tighter deadlines (probably for a little extra cash).

Your one-stop guide to bridal fashion in Moscow: the good, the bad and the ugly.

Sparkles & Lace: Dressing the Part

BY CATHERINE BLANCHARD

The Moscow Times
Kutuzovsky Prospekt boutique was the first shop to bring Vera Wang dresses to Moscow, and keeps a beautiful selection of international designers. Russians comprise 99 percent of the shop’s clientele, but its director, Natalia Batura, said the majority of her staff speaks enough English to help any bride get through the grueling process of finding the perfect dress. The boutique sells big names like Monique Lhuillier and Badgley Mischka, but Vera Wang is still the big seller, all the more so after the Russian success of Hollywood blockbuster “Bride Wars,” where a Vera Wang dress competed for attention alongside starlets Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway. Batura takes issue, however, with one of the movie’s famous quotes, when Hudson’s character claims, “You don’t alter Vera Wang to fit you. You alter yourself to fit Vera.” Plumage, she stresses, has its own atelier to make sure the dress fits your frame perfectly. And if you can’t find the style or size you’re looking for, the shop can order exactly what you need.

The offerings aren’t cheap, with the average price of a dress at Plumage running between 170,000 and 200,000 rubles. A beautiful lace couture dress can run up to a million rubles. Those pinning for a Vera Wang should be prepared to pay upwards of 170,000 rubles for her ready-to-wear dresses and as much as 840,000 rubles for couture. For brides hoping to keep it local, respected Russian designer Igor Chapurin has an exclusive line of couture dresses for the boutique. There are also plenty of accessories, from Italian shoes to tiaras by American brand Bridal Symphony, as well as evening dresses for guests, because, according to Batura, “guests who aren’t dressed properly can ruin a wedding completely.”

Those brides hoping to stand out should head to Atelier Sol on Lyalin Pereulok, near Kursky train station, where a team of designers sews one-of-a-kind gowns for the city’s most discerning brides. The tailors can create almost anything to fit any figure, from an adapted version of your dream gown for shotgun weddings to more conservative tea-length dresses for second or fifth time brides. The studio also offers Valentino and Emanuel Ungaro sketches that brides can choose from. The prices are surprisingly appealing. The cost of a ball gown starts at 33,000 rubles, plus the price of fabric, and takes from four to six weeks to complete.

Budget shoppers have a few options, including Russian sites like www.floradress.ru, where all of the top 100 best sellers run under 10,000 rubles. But the best option might be going abroad or at least looking for foreign-run sites. Net-a-porter.com delivers to Russia and their wedding boutique currently stocks a floor-length Max Azaria silk crepe dress for 22,550 rubles. Halston Heritage, Antik Batik, Alice + Olivia and Issa dresses for under 27,420 rubles don’t look out of place next to Lela Rose and Jason Wu options. Shipping to Russia only costs an extra 914 rubles.

Not everyone has the option of international travel, or a spare hundred thousand rubles lying around. In that case, there’s always the ZAGs website, where “vintage” dresses abound. One woman in Marino, southeastern Moscow, offers her short white graduation dress to future brides: “Wore it once. Laces up the back.”

FROM VERA WANG TO “BEAUTY AND THE BEAST,” MOSCOW’S SHOPS HAVE WEDDING FEVER.
Getting married should be one of the happiest days in a woman’s life. But the reality is that it can often prove one of the most stressful, the culmination of months of logistical planning. For many women it’s a juggling act of keeping on top of the endless to-do lists concerning flowers, invitations, cakes and the dress, alongside the pressures of a demanding job. Keeping all those balls in the air is enough to make even the most level-headed of brides-to-be a tad frazzled.

So it’s important that we busy women take some time out to concentrate on number one. Your wedding is the one day of your adult life when you can justifiably expect to feel and look like a princess. And knowing that you’ll be under the constant gaze of not only your friends and family, but also the photographers’ lens means that you need to know you’re looking your best. Which means one final checklist: hair, make-up, manicure, pedicure, stress-relieving massage? Check!

Luckily, these days the Russian capital caters to every whim, language and budget. As a long-serving Moscow expat, I’ve seen the city’s landscape change dramatically over the years and nowhere more so than in its burgeoning service industry. From Thai massages to Brazilians, it’s all here if you want it. So let’s all say “I do” to looking fabulous on the big day.

The wonderfully luxurious ESPA Spa inside the Ritz-Carlton Hotel is the ideal sanctuary from which to escape any pre-wedding jitters. With impeccable English, its helpful staff explain that the spa boasts a subtly lit heated pool, steam room and sauna. Rose petals are strewn across the many treatment areas, offering everything from facials to massages to invigorating salt scrubs. A quick trot along the marble hall takes you to the hair and beauty salon, where manicures and pedicures are also on offer. For the bride wanting to tone as well as spruce up, there’s a gym complete with pilates and yoga studio.

The spa can also accommodate spontaneous visits, as the expansive dressing rooms come ready equipped with dressing gown, towel and slippers, so there’s no need to take anything other than your swimming costume. This is the perfect spot for women looking to really spoil themselves and aren’t afraid to pay for it.

A slightly less sumptuous, but equally enjoyable, pre-nuptial experience can be had at the Expat Salon by Patriarchs’ Ponds. All practitioners speak English and the smaller, open plan nature of the salon creates a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. It’s the ideal place to enjoy a treatment while gossiping with your mother or...
bridesmaid. Expat does not include a spa, but does offer a full range of beauty treatments, including even Botox, glycolic peels and biolifting. They even promise to noticeably reduce cellulite over the course of a mere five sessions on their wondrous “endermologic lipomassage” machine. Whether or not you believe that, what you can expect to find at Expat is quality service at not unreasonable prices.

3 Maly Patriarshy Pereulok, 3.
650-3749, en.expatsalon.ru

For brides on a slightly tighter budget, the Spa Home Club is a fresh and friendly new arrival on the beauty scene. There’s the traditional raft of treatments on offer and it even houses a mini sauna. Staff are very accommodating and most speak English, but the real unique selling point of this particular salon is its mobile service. The beauty therapists at SHC can come to you and work their magic in the comfort of your own home, a rare find in Moscow and perfect for the busy bride.


Next on the list is the rustic French charm of the city’s Petit Spa l’Occitane. You will be treated well at whichever of its numerous sites you choose. Here a bride-to-be can purchase any product from French natural brand L’Occitane, while choosing between a wide variety of treatments including manicures, facials and massages. Hair treatments are not on the menu, since here the emphasis is put on nourishing and buffing your pre-wedding body into perfection. The design and layout of all the l’Occitane spas are as tasteful and Gallic as one would hope, if you close your eyes you can almost smell the fresh country air. The only potential drawback here could be the lack of English among the staff.

Multiple locations, www.loccitane.ru/petit-spa, 9,2,1931,33385.htm

Those looking for a slightly more exotic pre-wedding beauty overhaul should look no further than the capital’s many Thai 7 Kracok salons. Most of the staff are from Bali and Thailand but are fluent in Russian, and some also speak English. Here the massages are billed as being “traditionally Thai” and are widely considered to be the best in Moscow. The quirky decor and soft strains of Asian music wafting around the salon make this a wonderful option for any bride wanting a few hours of intensive rest and relaxation.

The last suggestion for anyone in the latter stages of wedding planning is Novinsky Passage’s Well Hall. This is a one-of-a-kind hidden gem of a salon. Here the full works are on offer — cosmetic and beauty treatments, hair styling and coloring, as well as the more extreme options of Botox and fillers. The spa areas feature a range of differently themed rooms; there’s the rural Russian-style banya complete with straw and faux stable, and the luxuriously curtained boudoir entirely devoted to Thai massages. No one speaks English but there is a translated price list on display.


Of course, these are just a few of the growing number of health and beauty options sprinkled across the city. All brides are different and what is most important is finding the place that is right for you in order to ensure that you are feeling picture perfect for your moment in the spotlight. From five-star hotels to tucked away boutique spas, Moscow has it all.
There are moments that mark the different times of year: the first snow, the first painful fall on the winter ice and, the best of them all, the emergence of the first summer cafe.

By one count, Moscow has 2,000 summer cafes and terraces. But how to find that perfect place in the sun or, at the very least, a spot out of sight of an exhaust-filled traffic jam, is another question entirely.

Herewith summer 2011’s definitive “terrace crawl.”

Start on Pushkin Square, with the obvious choice of Piramida and its glorious view of Moscow’s surly taxi drivers. You will get to know their trade well since you will be waiting hours to get served.

Best head up Tverskaya for its eclectic choice of summer terraces. There is Mi Piacé, its secluded wooden terrace hidden inside a dvor, or Scandinavia across the way, the expat’s traditional favorite summer haunt (along with Starlite Diner on Mayakovskaya). A newer option is Khachapuri, a Georgian restaurant on Bolshoi Gnezdnikovsky Pereulok.

Next, head down Tverskoi Bulvar, where Tverbul, a new steakhouse, has just put up a large outdoor patio. Next door, Kseniya Sobchak’s cafe Bublik has outdoor seating. Neither is the best outdoor area, since the covered roofs keep out any signs of sun and fresh air, but on the plus side both are fairly large and roomy.

Heading down Nikitsky Bulvar, there is a triple run of outdoor seating which
seems to melt into one: coffee shop Capuccino, followed by the John Donne pub and then Jean Jaques, where by some arcane local regulation a young man with a shaved head and black rimmed glasses must permanently be seated outside. They are all decent enough places to sit, but if you look next to Capuccino, you will likely see a deserted cafe that is all too often overlooked. Konfael Kafe seems far less popular than its neighbors and that is a shame: it might be the only place in Moscow with a picture of Britain’s newly married couple, Prince William and Kate Middleton ... made out of chocolate. After all, chocolate gifts are Konfael’s speciality. Even first lady Svetlana Medvedeva has presented the cafe’s chocolate to school children on a number of occasions.

From there, head down towards the Kremlin, where you’ll find the terraces with the best views in town. Grab a seat at Bosco Cafe or Bosco Bar — sitting outside for a meal or drink while staring at Lenin’s Mausoleum cannot be beat.

After a quick toast on Red Square, a good option is to head for Petrovka, where the Marriot Aurora has a decent terrace adjacent to the hotel. From there, it’s a simple stroll to Stoleshnikov Pereulok, where Gogol offers a sprawling terrace and some of the cheapest drinks in town, especially for its prime location. The cafe at Denis Simachev is better suited for those unafraid of 350 ruble beers.

From Stoleshnikov, it’s a quick jaunt to Stoleshnikov Pereulok, where Gogol offers a sprawling terrace and some of the cheapest drinks in town, especially for its prime location. The cafe at Denis Simachev is better suited for those unafraid of 350 ruble beers.

VARVARY ARRIVES

It’s official: Moscow now hosts one of the best restaurants in the world, at least according to Restaurant Magazine’s World’s Best 50 List. Varvary, the brain...
VARVARY DECLARED RUSSIA’S BEST FARE BY RESTAURANT MAGAZINE

Beyond the food, the restaurant has two other attractions: the chef himself and a nice view. Komm, to put it gently, thinks highly of himself, once comparing himself to Shostakovich and easily disparaging Moscow’s other restauranteurs. He once told an interviewer about how he threw out a high-ranking government official in disgust after the man dared to ask for kotlety, instead of accepting the set menu offered to all guests, regardless of rank. The view, meanwhile, is provided by a seventh floor balcony that gives a decent panorama of Moscow (while conveniently hiding the carbuncular monstrosity of a building that houses the restaurant itself).

Address: 8A Strastnoi Bulvar. Chekhovskaya. Tel. 229-2800. www.anatolykomm.ru

MOSCOW HAS EMBRACED OUTDOOR CAFE CULTURE WITH RELISH, BARELY VISIBLE IN THE CITY EVEN TWO YEARS AGO. FOLLOW THIS TRAIL TO HIT UP ITS BEST SPOTS.

Piramida 18A Ulitsa Tverskaya. Tverskaya. 694-3603
Mi Piace 20 Ulitsa Tverskaya. Tverskaya. 650-7575 www.mipiace.ru
Scandinavia 7 Maly Palashevsy Per. Tverskaya. 694-5630 www.scandinavia.ru
Khachapuri 10 Bolshoi Gnezdnikovsky Pereulok. Tverskaya. 629-6656 hacha.ru
Tverbul 24 Tverskoi Bulvar. Tverskaya. 629-2251 www.ginzaproject.ru
Capuccino 12 Nikitsky Bulvar. Arbatskaya. 627-6907 www.jan-jak.com
Gogol 11 Stoleshnikov Pereulok. Teatralnaya 514-0944 www.gogolclub.ru
Denis Simachev Cafe 12 Stoleshnikov Pereulok, bldg 2. Teatralnaya. 629-8085 www.denissimachev.ru

child of self-trained chef Anatoly Komm, was ranked at No. 48 this year, the first time a Russian restaurant has appeared on the list.

Varvary is a Russian look into the world of molecular gastronomy. If you are a bit hazy on what that is, it’s best to consult Roald Dahl’s “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and the chewing gum invented by clever Willy Wonka. The gum tastes like a three-course dinner: tomato soup followed by roast beef with baked potato and finished off with blueberry pie and ice cream. In short: lots of flavor concentrated into little punches. At Varvary, eating a spoonful of liquid that tastes like Borodinsky bread is a very expensive experience, but one you are unlikely to forget.
A Summer Calendar of Cultural Life in Moscow

ANTON CHEKHOV HOUSE AT MELIKHOVO:
Permanent display: the house furnished more or less as it was when the writer lived there from 1892 to 1898 and wrote the famous play "The Seagull." Located in Melikhovo, from Kursky Station to Chekhov, then bus 25. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 8-272-24078.

ANTON CHEKHOV MUSEUM:
Permanent display: the writer's Moscow apartment, with a small display of photos and manuscripts. Located at 6 Sadovo-Sadkhirskaya Ul. M. Barrikadnaya. Ticket office open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sat., Sun. and holidays 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Mon. and Tues. 291-6154.

ATELIER NO. 2 GALLERY AT WINZAVOD CENTER OF CONTEMPORARY ART:
One and the Same: post-industrial art objects, to Sept. 4. Main exhibit halls: a recently revised display of 20th-century Russian art. Located at 10 1st Zachatyevsky Pereulok. M. Chkalovskaya, Kurskaya. 2 to 8 p.m., closed Mon. 917-4646, 8-985-417-5077, www.winzavod.ru

DOM NASHCHOKINA GALLERY:
Family Values (Semeiniye Tsennosti): works by Pyotr Pashkevich, his children and relatives, to Sept. 13. Located at 12 Vorotnikovsky Pereulok. M. Pushkinskaya. Ticket office open noon to 8 p.m., Sun. noon to 6 p.m. 695-8119, www.domnashchokina.ru

GMG GALLERY:

KONYONKOV MUSEUM:
Layer 99,9: abstract sculptures, to Aug. 27. Located at 14 Nikitsky Bulvar. Mon. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. noon to 6 p.m. 692-4475. www.konyonkovmuseum.ru

MOSCOW KREMLIN MUSEUMS:

NEW TRETYAKOV GALLERY:
Anton Olshvang, Layer 99.9: post-industrial art objects, to Sept. 4. Main exhibit halls: a recently revised display of 20th-century Russian art. Located at 17 Tverskaya Ul. M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., closed Mon. and Tues. 629-4472.

RUARTS GALLERY:

RUSSIAN HARMONICA MUSEUM:
The History of the Russian Harmonica: a small museum devoted to the instrument. Located at 12 Bryusov Pereulok, Apt. 11. M. Pushkinskaya. Ticket office open noon to 8 p.m., Sun. noon to 6 p.m. 692-4475, www.ruarts.ru

RUSSIAN POSTERS FROM THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY:
EXHIBITION: One of the main directions in Russian posters is the expression of national identity and patriotism. Located at 18 2nd Tverskaya-Yamskaya Ul. M. Kropotkinskaya. Noon to 8 p.m., Sun. noon to 6 p.m. 692-4475, www.ruarts.ru

SHCHUSEV ARCHITECTURE MUSEUM:
Austria, Come Out! (Avstriya, Davai!): Austrian art, design, architecture and music, to Aug. 28.

TRETYAKOV GALLERY:
Early 20th-Century Russian Posters from the Tretyakov Gallery collection, to Sept. 11. Main exhibit halls: masterpieces of Russian icon art and world-famous 19th- and early 20th-century paintings.

RUSSIAN POSTERS FROM THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY:
EXHIBITION: One of the main directions in Russian posters is the expression of national identity and patriotism. Located at 18 2nd Tverskaya-Yamskaya Ul. M. Kropotkinskaya. Noon to 8 p.m., Sun. noon to 6 p.m. 692-4475, www.ruarts.ru

VESELOV MEYERHOLD MUSEUM:
Permanent display: a small museum devoted to the director. Located at 12 Bryusov Pereulok. Apt. 11. M. Pushkinskaya. Ticket office open noon to 5:30 p.m., closed Mon. and Tues. 229-5322.

RUSSIAN EVENING (Russky Vecher): an excursion for tourists upon request. Located at 18 2nd Tverskaya-Yamskaya Ul. M. Mayakovskaya. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wed. and Fri. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., closed Mon. and the last Fri. of the month. 251-6730.

THE SEAGULL:
THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE in English: Anton Chekhov's famous play "The Seagull." Located at 10 Krymsky Val. M. Oktyabrskaya, Park Kultury. Ticket office open 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Thurs. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., closed Mon. 230-7788, 951-1362, 238-1378. Excursions 953-5223. An Autoline minibus runs from outside the New Tretyakov Gallery to the Tretyakov Gallery at 10 Krymsky Val daily at noon, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 p.m., www.tretyakovgallery.ru

ROZA AZORA GALLERY:
Rozy and Azory: paintings by Yelizaveta Plavinskaya and Sergei Gorshkov, Fri. to July 27. Located at 11 Nikitsky Bulvar. Mon. to Sat. noon to 8 p.m., Sun. noon to 6 p.m. 692-4146, www.rozaazora.ru

RUARTS GALLERY:

RUSSIAN HARMONICA MUSEUM:
The History of the Russian Harmonica: permanent display of musical instruments. Located at 12 Bryusov Pereulok, Apt. 11. M. Pushkinskaya. Ticket office open noon to 5:30 p.m., closed Mon. and Tues. 229-5322.

ITALIAN RESTAURANT

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Show Terra Brasilis

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SHCHUSEV ARCHITECTURE MUSEUM:
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