FROM JUNE TILL SEPTEMBER DAILY AT 7.30 PM  CONCERT HALL OF COSMOS HOTEL

RUSSIAN NATIONAL DANCE SHOW  IN MOSCOW «KOSTROMA»

A Russian Dance Miracle!

Tickets & inquiries in English at:
+7 495 234 6373
+7 495 769 3235
www.nationalrussianshow.ru
What more could you want than to relax on one of Moscow’s wonderful terraces? But happily there is more: the city has a growing number of complexes, home to clubs, restaurants and arts venues. In these places you can have two completely different evenings in one spot — without that nightmare so common to clubbers, of following a friend across town in search of some venue where he knows the DJ and he’s sure he can talk his way in — if only he can find it.

Krasny Oktyabr is an obvious first call, but one that keeps evolving. Strelka has a renowned terrace bar that sits in front of an open air cinema and buts up against any number of clubs and restaurants, not to mention exhibition halls and a cluster of media and television companies.

Artplay is gaining attention for its mix of bars, clubs and cafes at the Design Center near Kurskaya. Shops, conference centers and exhibitions keep it alive in the day, until the evening’s entertainment kicks off.

And predating both is Dom Zhur, with its cinema, lecture and function rooms, and a peaceful terrace restaurant right on Nikitsky Bulvar.

We hope you find this edition useful: a mix of reviews, comments, ideas and interviews with experts, selected and conducted independently.

Mark Gay
m.gay@imedia.ru
Eugeny Onegin is part of the Bolshoi Theater’s summer season but not the familiar opera based on Pushkin’s verse-novel. This time it’s ballet, still to Tchaikovsky’s score, but based on a version created for Stuttgart Ballet back in 1965 by the late John Cranko. The production comes to the Bolshoi’s old stage in July and runs until July 21. Opera lovers can see Der Rosenkavalier (old stage, until July 27) and Carmen (new stage, until July 21).

Choreographers and Directors Showcased

The International Chekhov Festival features not just Russia’s most famous playwright but his contemporaries, forebears and successors. Up until July 14th you can see works and adaptations of Pushkin, Ostrovsky, Bulgakov, Ionesco and Dostoyovsky at different venues around Moscow, through to the middle of July (the festival starts in May).

The festival was established more than 20 years ago to expose an international audience to directors they may not have encountered. The organisers aim to showcase some of the more original and fascinating stagings of drama from around the world. Today the festival travels through many Russian cities and several European capitals, as well as Taiwan, Israel and Canada. And for the first time it includes two ballets from Israel’s Batsheva Dance Company.

The festival has adopted the motto of Italian director Giorgio Strehler: “Art theatre for everyone.” It coincides with a workshop for young directors from the CIS, Baltic countries and Georgia.

Burr will headline the Afisha Picnic in Kolomenskoe Park on July 13th. As well as the reinvented, long-evolving English band, the festival adds more British ingredients in the form of La Roux and The Buzzcocks. Top US names include George Clinton & Parliament, Aloe Blacc, and Ariel Pink. Tesla Boy and Splean are among the Russian acts.

If you haven’t yet visited the park, it is one of the former royal estates, the site of 2,000 year-old, pre-slavic settlements and remained a village up until the 1980s, when it became a museum park.

Watch the latest movies with English subtitles. Exclusively in CINEMA PARK theaters.

Tserkovnaya Starina Gallery

Purchase and sale of rare, antique Russian icons. Formation of private and corporate collections.

30/2 Prechistenka Ulitsa, “Artifact” gallery-complex
+7 495 933 31 70, ext. 127
+7 926 585 9007
www.rusicon.net
rusicon@inbox.ru
Humans have built flying machines for centuries, and despite the achievements of modern aviation, people still try to mimic birds. The eternal goal, famously pursued by Leonardo da Vinci, is to build a human-powered flying machine.

The top international competition is now sponsored by Red Bull, and the Moscow leg takes place from July 26 to 28 at Strogino beach.

If you want to see what can be achieved with muscle, gravity, and imagination — that’s the place to be.

Top Athletes Compete In Moscow Summer Games

The world’s best track and field athletes are set to compete in Moscow this summer at Luzhniki Stadium, in the Olympic Complex of Luzhniki, site of the 1980 Olympic Games.

The 14th World Championships in Athletics, will be held from August 10 to 18. The biennial event comes only a year after the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Qualifying rounds kick off on the Saturday morning, with 100 meter heats, pole vault, discus and long jump. One of the highlights will be long jump after Russia’s Aleksandr Menkov achieved this year’s top performance in the IAAF Diamond League in June.

Treasure in the Headlamps

How complicated can you make a treasure hunt? Try by car, across Moscow, during the night, following encrypted clues on the Internet. Night Moscow’s social aspect and love of technology is as important as the screeching of tyres.

The club for 20 to 35 year olds departs from other night time rally clubs, like Cops and Robbers or Summer Lightning, making use of internet and mobile communications, encrypted clues, and coordinates requiring GPS or Glonass navigation. Part of the challenge is that you must keep up with the latest technological innovations. So membership requires investment of time and money. Treasure hunts follow signs around the city, into industrial, abandoned and unfinished buildings.

It holds events every Friday, as well as corporate events and promotions, with the backing of Moscow City Government.
Hotel Chefs
Think Global, Cook Local

Moscow Guide • HOTELS

THE MAGICIANS BEHIND SOME OF THE CITY’S BEST RESTAURANTS TELL HOW THEY’RE MAKING THE MOST OF RUSSIA’S HOME GROWN FOODS

BY MARK GAY

Diners can increasingly find Russian produce on the menu in Moscow restaurants and hotels are playing their part in encouraging local farmers. Seasonal fruit and vegetables, along with meat, fish and dairy produce are becoming staples, as chefs try to add local interest to their dishes. It’s partly an attempt to stop food becoming boring, as customers encounter similar dishes around the world.

The Moscow hotel dining scene continues to evolve, from the rooftop to the street, moving venues to ground level to compete with stand-alone restaurants. The Moscow Times asked some of the city’s leading hotel chefs about the trends shaping the dining scene.

Andrei Shmakov took up the role of Executive Chef at the Hotel Metropol on July 1, as part of a revamp of catering under Food and Beverage Director Stephen Quinn. The restaurant launched a new menu for its Evropeisky restaurant, coinciding with the opening of its summer terrace. A new menu complements some traditional cocktails at the Chaliapin Bar.

Andrei SHMAKOV, Executive Chef, Hotel Metropol

The guest is interested in the finished product but where possible he is proud to eat locally-sourced produce. It should be seasonally grown, but also at the best price.

Moscow City Hall is discussing a new central food market, based on the Rungis market in Paris. How would that help?

If they follow the blueprint of Rungis market then it will tremendous for Russian produce and the local chefs. Rungis is a city in itself and is a tourist attraction for chefs from all over the world.

Which type of foods do you tend to source locally?

Fruit, vegetables and fish.

Where are you from and what are your favorite types of dish?

I was born in St Petersburg but live in Tallinn with my family. I love Italian food as a customer but French food as a chef!

Where do your staff get their training.

We have a team that trains our food and beverage staff to build on the training which they received before starting employment. Training is very important to us.

Francois CANTIN, chef of the Hilton Moscow Leningradskaya Hotel

I think customers are ready to pay if the quality is there. I always believe that buying locally is a source of quality but some goods are just not available here so we have to compromise and look for the best, whether it is local or not.

Which type of foods do you tend to source locally?

As much as possible but Moscow’s location makes you compromise so we mainly buy fruit and vegetables from Russian regions, dairy and eggs, caviars, sturgeon, and Russian goods such as smoked meat and cheeses. We also work with local bakeries to provide us daily with fresh breads.

Many foreign guests want to eat Russian dishes to complete their stay in Moscow. Some are looking for casual or comfort food and other want fancy. We
I am from the north western part of France, near Brittany and Normandy region. I do enjoy ocean, freshly-caught fish and simple, freshly-cooked, quality vegetables. I also enjoy French fancy pastries very much.

Is there enough professional education in food service, table service, hospitality and so on in Russia?

We work with the branches of many hospitality colleges who send us students of every grade on a regular basis, based on their school term. Hopefully we will offer a job to the most talented & dedicated students.

As for the current employees, most of them have gain maturity and experience via scholarship and years of experience in Moscow Hotels and restaurants. We then train our staff regularly based on our concepts, organization and current tendencies.

Laurent DROIOLE, F&B Director of Swissôtel Krasnye Holmy

The world is moving fast and customers are moving from one part of the earth to the other part enjoying food experiences everywhere. The risk now is that food becomes boring and I would say that the main duty of experienced chefs is to bring some sparkles to the eyes of our customers by offering something good but different.

Which foods do you tend to source locally?

I myself really believe that a professional restaurant should guarantee their guests that they are selecting the best products to prepare their dishes. In our new restaurant concept we will focus on selecting local farmers and producers and we will focus on the product itself more than anything else.

We will encourage any local producer proposing high quality products. It could be any food item but it could also be china, linen or any other item that we use in a restaurant.

How do you respond to customer’s wishes?

When a dish is not popular we try to understand why and how we may modify it to make it more popular. Price is not the only factor; sometime simply changing the description of the dish can have an influence. Building a menu is a psychological exercise and the position of the dish among the list of items available on the menu may also influence its popularity. The first dishes on the menu are often more popular than the last ones.

Where are you from and what are your favorite types of dish?

I am from France and I love cheeses and steak tartare but I really believe that a dish by itself is not much, the emotion given the waiter when ordering and delivering the dish is as much important for me to enjoy the experience and it is my daily challenge to give emotions and customized and memorable souvenirs to all of our guests without any exception.

What is your view on professional education and service among Russian catering staff?

What is important is behavior, smiling and positive attitude. I’d rather recruit someone who demonstrates nice behavior with a concrete willingness to please our guests than someone with a very nice resume and a great professional education but without any emotion in his behavior.
Kicking Back On The Terraces

DRINK UP THE SUN ON THE CITY'S TERRACES AND SAMPLE A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS AND LIBATIONS AS YOU MAKE THE MOST OF THE SUMMER.

DOM ZHUR

Dom Zhur is the historic watering place of journalists to this day. It may not be as packed as nearby Jean Jacques and the in-crowd is more varied in age, but the hushed conversations may be better informed than those of the fashion-billies up the hill.

Its terrace is one of the hidden gems of the boulevard ring, a spacious, green yard in a central quarter of the city. It’s a small, cultural ghetto, housing a cinema, downstairs bar and numerous function suites.

The drinks list is reasonably priced for the location, if the selection of cocktails is limited. Most guests were sipping beer or deep in conversation over a bottle of vodka. It is a place for talking and catching up, and the music was barely noticeable.

Food was rich and flavoursome, and conveniently priced at the same 445 rubles per dish. We ate PR (a warm salad of lightly fried beef with cherry tomatoes and rucola) Talk with an Oxacal (lamb kebab on lavash, with tomatoes and roast potatoes) and Philosophy of Delight (potroshki of liver, hearts, kidneys on a skillet, flamed in brandy). Half liters of beer cost from 130 to 200 rubles, with whiskies priced a little higher.

BY MARK GAY

Dom Zhur
**STRELKA**

In terms of view and location Strelka has it all: It’s right on the river, close to exhibition halls, bars and media companies. The Strelka Institute of Architecture and Design even has a cinema in an open courtyard that hosts film festivals. And since films can finish late, it helps to have several nightclubs on the doorstep. During the day the bar offers pleasant brunches and at night it turns into a meeting point for the art crowd from the Strelka Institute below, that come to wash down the impressions of the latest Strelka event with a refreshing cocktail and listen to live music.

It offers a broad range of salads, appetizers and grilled dishes. Wine by the glass is pricey, at upwards of 300 rubles, but there is no need for surprise as both menus and drinks lists are on its web site.

**SWISSÔTEL KRASNYE HOLMY**

The Swissôtel Krasnye Holmy already has one of the finest rooftop terrace views in central Moscow. And if that’s not elevated enough for you, there’s always the City Space Bar, with its 360-degree views.

In the main body of the hotel, general manager Marc Ohlendorf is overseeing the renovation of one of the restaurants into a “culinary playground”. This introduced different zones for working, meeting, lounging, and dining – and community tables to meet or catch up with friends. In addition to its restaurant menu, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, for the past year the hotel has offered healthy eating through its Vitality concept.

**GAVROCHE**

Wine lovers may prefer the terrace at Gavroche on Timura Frunze, which stores 130 different wines in its humidity-controlled wine room. One advantage of its summer terrace is that it’s not on the main drag, yet is sought out by those looking for a relaxed atmosphere in which to meet friends or business associates.

The décor is styled after French cafes but, say the owners, with a Moscow twist. The food is regional French: the filling dishes of Burgundy, Provence and the south-west. And while France has a strong presence on the wine list, the carta vina also covers many old and new world regions.
Located in an old industrial warehouse, ten minutes walk from Kurskaya metro station, the Artplay Design Center houses everything from conferences and lecture halls to bars, clubs and cafes. Consequently, Artplay seems to be as popular during the day as it is in the evening.

The club sits on the roof of the old Badaevskyi beer factory on the Taras Shevchenko embankment, just opposite the Moskva City complex. In order to get in you have to dig on Facebook for a password. The entrance is a staircase leading up to a small inner courtyard, followed by another staircase, this time inside the factory, up to the roof.

The audience is glam, even a bit over the top. Mostly they comprise the staff of big international companies, expats and local singles. Drinks are from 500 rubles upwards. Water pipes are also available. The club holds dancing shows, fireworks and so on. The music is tech-house, mostly easy listening and forgettable, though the club sometimes invites famous DJs. The most attractive feature is the summer veranda overlooking Moskva City.

Several contemporary exhibitions have been held here in recent months while the complex is also home to more than 300 shops. Indeed, the presence of these shops only adds to the alternative atmosphere in the evening, with revellers wandering past several empty bathroom doors to get to the Rodnya studio.

Rodnya is frequented by a young crowd, for whom the dressed-down look seems to be the norm. Indeed, the club is notable for its friendly door policy, which is a lot more relaxed than other places in the city. Rodnya itself is fairly small and is located on two floors — one of which is a covered rooftop terrace with its own DJ booth and bar. For those wanting break from the dancing, the terrace is also lined with seating.

Inside, and down a set of rather steep stairs, guests will find another bar and more music — though the music on both floors tends to be a mix of techno, electro and rave. Prices at the bar are reasonable by Moscow’s standards and the drinks menu is fairly extensive.

If the Rodnya club turns out to be a bit too hipster for your liking, then a number of concerts and late-night parties are also held at the nearby Artplay club. Exhibitions, film-showings and even theatre performances are held here during the day, so it’s worth enquiring about the evening’s entertainment before visiting. The music here tends to be quite experimental with international artists, such as Dirty Beaches and Arms and Sleepers, having played here in the past. Prices at the bar mirror those in Rodnya, with popular spirit and mixers starting from 250 rubles.

Mention of the Golden Girls club may provoke a momentary pause in those who remember the eponymous US television series. But people in search of a sedate evening — or a racy night — will soon know if they’ve made the right choice.

There can be no mistaking the upmarket, club-like atmosphere of The Golden Girls Topless Lounge. It has a varied format of shows, from musical and dance routines to revue or burlesque. Striptease and erotic dancing can follow circus or vocal performances, or example.

From its quiet entrance on Belorusskaya’s Yamskogo Polya, beside the Golden Palace Casino, a greeter leads you to a reserved table. On two floors, these accommodate about four people while alcoves seat up to 10 people. There are also seven private rooms.

Expect to pay upwards of 1,500 rubles for the personal dance show that will inevitably follow any conversation with one of the professional dancers.
Go East
Across Eight Time Zones
And 9,000 Kilometers

The Great Wall stands at the eastern
destination of a Trans-Siberian journey
across deserts, grasslands, mountains
and plateaus stretching approximately
9,000 kilometers beyond Moscow.

BY MARK GAY

The greatest show on earth, is
how you could summarise the
Trans-Siberian Railway. For
those ready to immerse them-
3elves in the sights, sounds and cultures
they experience across 9,000 kilometers
it is unforgettable, says Odette Fussey,
director of The Russia Experience.

As a tour operator she has special-
ized in the Trans-Siberian Railway for
the past two decades and it continues
to inspire her. "One train journey, from
Red Square to the Great Wall."

Some would-be travelers have per-
haps read too much Agatha Christie.
Images of table linen and champagne
should be put aside, perhaps in favor of
Eric Newby or Paul Theroux. Another
misconception is that the journey
involves one train.

"The Trans-Siberian isn’t one train,
it’s a series of trains that make up the
Trans-Siberian route. And travelers are
often surprised by what they get on that
route, which is why it’s vital to do proper
research," Fussey said.

Some customers do indeed seek lux-
ury and the agency offers a product for
those who want comfort at a relaxed
pace. "However, the majority of our trips
are on 'working' trains where you’ll be
traveling with locals and were you’ll
get an experience that in many respects
hasn’t changed for decades."

Holiday makers’ tastes continue
to evolve, along with the type of person
making the trip. "A decade ago I
would have said backpackers made up a
large majority of our clients but that
has changed. Now it’s anyone who is a
real traveller rather than simply a tourist
and who wants a truly memorable expe-
rience," Fussey said. Clients range from
their twenties through to those in their
seventies.

Some travelers may be tempted to
organize their own trip, but the journey
4n any require three visas, depending on
the route. These visas may specify the
precise date of your visit, which requires
accurate scheduling.

While train travel is a key part of the
journey it does not have to be the focus
of attention. You might choose to eat supper with
Siberian villagers, trace the final days
of the Romanov dynasty, visit the last
remaining Soviet gulag, sweat it out in
a Russian sauna, ride with the steppe
nomads, stay in a Mongolian ger camp
or have a shamen read your fortune.

The company offers travel in either
direction, according to what customers
want to do next. For clients based in
Moscow, this is more likely to be a jour-
ney through Siberia, onto Mongolia and
across the Gobi Desert before glimpsing
the first contours of the Great Wall and
arriving in Beijing.

The Russia Experience (www.trans-
siberian.co.uk) offers a detailed pro-
gam of tours on the Trans-Siberian.
Prices start from around US$2000 per
person based on the 18-day Classic Big
Trans-Siberian from St. Petersburg to
Beijing. The cost is based on two people
traveling in a four-berth cabin (upgrades
available) and does not include flights
or visas.
S
ports and adventure holidays are growing in popularity around the world, yet if you explore the wilds of Russia, such as the Altai mountains in western Siberia, you are joining an exclusive club.

The cost of flights, scarcity or complete lack of railway transport and the delights of navigating by marshrutka or bus, are just some of the obstacles. But adventures are not meant to be easy.

Lack of awareness is a key issue according to tour operators. Muscovites and expats living in the city are more likely to travel abroad than to venture beyond the Golden Ring — that’s if they make it beyond the Third Ring.

But with each year that passes, they have less excuse. The Altai Republic has a brand new airport, Gorno-Altaisk, and offers cars for hire.

Elena Bitochkina, manager of tour operator Sibir-Profi, which also trades as AltaiTeam, gave us her take on the challenges and attractions of Siberia.

What kind of people comprise tourists to Altai — foreigners, expats living in Russia, or Russians?

There are two types of Altai vacation: one is for active tourists, and one for those who like peace and quiet. The active tourists are mostly Russian: they do some remote sightseeing, rafting, conquer Belukha, travel by car across the whole of the Altai and so on. However, when the rare foreign tourists do visit Altai, they also come for exactly this kind of holiday.

Which segment is growing, and what are the obstacles to growth?
The biggest tourist flow is Russians spending their vacation in cottages. For many this is a chance to spend time with their family. CIS tourists are very actively attracted through mass media and advertising by tourist agencies. But the problem is attracting foreign tourists. Russian law is very contradictory and some laws seem to aim at reducing even the limited number of foreign tourists to Russia. So very few foreign tourists go further than the Golden Ring.

Please describe a typical package trip that you offer?
Our company Sibir-Profi offers vacations for different categories of tourist: from those who want to spend time with their families at the hotel and want the odd excursions, to those who want active, sometimes even extreme holidays in the mountains. Our typical tour is a group tour with a pre-agreed program.

Are the trips suitable for families with children and where do people stay?
Yes, they are. For the family holidays we have also developed some active programs. For example, a weekend rafting down the Chumysh river, which is totally safe, even for children. In this case we arrange camping accommodation in tents.

The alternative to this is to stay at a hotel but to have daily excursions, horse riding trips, walks, exploring ethnography and much more.

Are regional hotels plentiful or do people use alternative accommodation like staying with families?
We think that there are enough hotels in the most popular and easy-to-reach destinations, like Lake Aya, Emerald Katun and Chemalskiy Region. In other, more remote destinations tourists do stay with local families because of the lack of hotels. Yet again, this very fact may add extra flavor to your trip. For example, in Ust-Koskinskiy Region tourists often stay with the descendants of the old-believers. Locals are very hospitable and friendly and always welcome tourists.

What is the approximate cost, both regional costs and the flight from Moscow?
The average price of the well-prepared active tour for 10 days is 20,000 to 25,000 rubles ($620 to $780). The cost of a round ticket from Moscow, however, can cost as much as the tour itself, especially during the summer season and such expenses do put off a lot of people.

When you are on a tour, other out-of-pocket expenses are very small: mostly just food before and after the tour. Tourists may need to pay for a hotel, if they arrive early. But the prices at Barnaul hostels are low, from 450 rubles ($14) per night and Barnaul’s central hotel will cost 2,500 rubles ($77) per night.
Summer Camps and Holidays
Help Children Gain Sports, Language And Social Skills

KEEPING KIDS BUSY DURING THE HOLIDAYS NEED NOT BE A CHORE.
CAMPS, SCHOOLS AND SPECIALIST TOUR OPERATORS ARE READY TO TAKE THEM OFF YOUR HANDS.

The family travel operator, Children’s Center Pelican, has a great number of adventure and wellness programs for families with children up to 13 years old. Pelican traditionally offers trips to Austria and Italy in the middle of the summer. There are two premieres this year: Tyrolean tales — from July 20th to August 4th — for families with children aged up to 6 years old in Seefeld, Austria; and TransAlp: an intensive tour of both countries for active parents and their children from 6 to 13 years old. (July 20th to August 4).

August is the heavenly time for those, who have already experienced the joy of vacationing with Pelican at the baths in Switzerland. The Thousand Magic Drops program for children from 3 to 13 years old in Leukerbad — consists of bathing and wellness treatments at the famous spa resort, as well as the intensive club life for Pelican members. Like the Alpine programs, there are educational walks and activities in the mountains, training in mountaineering and rock climbing, adventure quests and art workshops. Lovers of the seaside may plunge into unforgettable educational adventures in Cyprus.

ABC KIDS International Preschool promises an active and interesting summer program to occupy children between the ages of 2 ½ to 7 years old. It offers outdoor games and walks in the grounds of Mirax Park, including yoga and uchu. There are visits to the zoo, picnics and even fishing.

The teachers promise that lessons will be fun, exciting and engaging.

Pelican

The family travel operator, Children’s Center Pelican, has a great number of adventure and wellness programs for families with children up to 13 years old. Pelican traditionally offers trips to Austria and Italy in the middle of the summer. There are two premieres this year: Tyrolean tales — from July 20th to August 4th — for families with children aged up to 6 years old in Seefeld, Austria; and TransAlp: an intensive tour of both countries for active parents and their children from 6 to 13 years old. (July 20th to August 4).

August is the heavenly time for those, who have already experienced the joy of vacationing with Pelican at the baths in Switzerland. The Thousand Magic Drops program for children from 3 to 13 years old in Leukerbad — consists of bathing and wellness treatments at the famous spa resort, as well as the intensive club life for Pelican members. Like the Alpine programs, there are educational walks and activities in the mountains, training in mountaineering and rock climbing, adventure quests and art workshops. Lovers of the seaside may plunge into unforgettable educational adventures in Cyprus. The programs include:

1. Finding Nemo. Check-in before October 26th.
2. Corsair’s Harbor. Check-in before August 24th
3. DINOancientry — Check-in between October 12th and November 10th).
Little Angels

The Little Angels kindergarten bases its educational program on the British National Curriculum for Early Years. Children are totally immersed in the English language. Teaching is in English by professionally-qualified native English teachers. The school was founded in 2004, and has a summer club from 3rd June to 23rd August and is open for children aged from 16 months up to 8 years old. As well as language classes, activities include music, sports, ballet, computer classes, puppet shows and arts and crafts. Every week it has excursions based on a different theme.

Gymboree

This long-established company has been entertaining and teaching children for more than 35 years. It designs programs to develop their cognitive, physical and social skills of children with the help of child development experts Zero to Three. This includes specially made playground equipment by Jay Beckwith.

Classes range from Play And Learn for the youngest, through music, art and sports. Scholl skills, for 3 to 6 year olds encourage healthy habits and a positive attitude toward exercise through fun and physical sports play.

A part-time summer camp provides a break for parents of children aged 3 to 6 years old. The camp is open on Mondays and Fridays from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm and children can attend once or twice a week.

Residence Of Childhood

This company offers a summer camp program, My Perfect Summer, for children from 2 to 10 years old. The aim is to help children learn English while making new friends and having fun.

The program is based around a vacation in the pine forests of Moscow Region in a cottage on a secure territory, an environment for studying and resting. An international team of qualified teachers lead an active language program that does much more than teach by the book. English lessons involve role play and conversation.

Arts classes develop children’s creative abilities while sport activities, include swimming, soccer, fitness, choreography, karate, horse riding and badminton.

And to complete the perfect summer, there is a broad cultural programme with cinema, olimpiads, dance parties, picnics and more.

Nothing appeals to children like water. You can board cruise boats on the Moskva River from several jetties. Start at the westernmost, at Kievsky Vokzal or Vorobyovy Gory, walkable from the Metro station or along the riverwalk from Neskuchny Sad.
Smailik

Smailik is a cozy children’s club for children from 8 months up to 7 years old, which uses the Montessori system. Parents can accompany the youngest children, while from the age of three children can explore their independence with a summer camp, supervised by experienced teachers. Each week is devoted to a project or topic, like zoology, botany, geography, physics, astronomy, cooking, music, and museums.

Highlights include hiking, putting up tents, or visiting the length and breadth of Russia with the help of projectors and interactive simulators. Children can come from one to five days a week.

P’tit Cref

French language summer camps are available, as well as English. P’tit Cref offers both, with native-speaking French and English teachers. The camp takes children 2 to 7 years old, by the day, or even half day. Each week has a new theme, for example Little Nature Children includes forest walks with a focus on flora and fauna of Moscow region. Building cabins and boats, visiting the zoo and farms. In contrast, Little City Dwellers explores the city plan, parks and museums, and teaches traffic safety. Other programs focus on music and sport.
Golden Girls club  

Know a better place? Get a free drink!  

Lucky Lee

We met in an expensive interior of the Golden Girls club. House music rumbled in the background of the club — the DJ was adjusting the sound. Over the loud speaker, the beauty salon beckoned the make-up artists and stylists. Several actresses were rehearsing on the stage, and it was hard not to watch them. The instruments lit up as they were turned on. All of this created a surreal atmosphere, a special world of mystery and allure.

Lucky was wearing Versace. He had a bottle of water on the table, and I had a non-alcoholic mojito and coffee, perfectly made.

We each take a sip.

— Many people call you the Russian Hugh Hefner. That’s a, um, pretty high estimation. You say your club is the best. Why did you decide that?

— Look at me! (Laughing) Who do you see? A fun Russian Korean. You see a person who knows everything there is to know about striptease! I’ve been to all the clubs in the world. So I look at all the most interesting things, added my own creativity and created the best format there could be. It’s so elegant and beautiful that I call it a strip-boutique. Come to my club and if you still say you’ve seen better, I’ll pay the tab! (I slyly daily a bit and we hug.)

— You’re not taking a risk?

— Absolutely not!

— Okay. How do you manage to avoid turning your club into a public house, which has already become a real Russian tradition?

— (Crimacing) I wouldn’t talk about Russian traditions that way. There are many great, good girls among the dancers. And most of them (laughing) are in my club! You should understand that a club becomes a brothel only when it has nothing other than “meat” to offer for its pastime guests. But I have the main thing — a show, where people end up in a completely different reality with tender attention and luxurious interaction with beautiful girls.

— (Winking) Do you enjoy talking to beautiful women? Why do you reject American striptease?

— (Wagging his finger:) I never reject anything. It’s just that the public in Russia is programmed differently. They are less interested in genitalia ... they love to see the whole picture. You can say that they are more sophisticated in their perception of striptease.

— Then why do so many foreigners like your club?

— They just go crazy from what they see at my club! Americans, Germans, Frenchmen, Italians. They tell me: Lucky, you’re a genius, you were able to make the best club in the world! That gives me pride. I worked hard to hear that sort of assessment.

— How do you select your team?

— Professionally. Intuitively. (Pointing to a calculator) Using numerology. I have a specialist who counts the numbers of all the candidates, their dates of birth, names, etc. and he, believe me, has never made a mistake! My team is made up of energetic, talented people who share my ideas and are ready for this to work for decent pay.

— What ideas?

— Don’t you get it? Striptease is a great art! The art is absolutely synthetic, combining choreography, management, psychology and acting! Public opinion is disingenuous, rewarding my business with unpleasant epithets. A pretty girl deserves a beautiful life and the attention of men! No one will dissuade me of that!

— Are family and stripping compatible?

— Family and the movies, family and the opera, family and business? It all depends on the family. I got married and divorced regardless of what business I was engaging in.

— Do you allow yourself sex with your club’s dancers?

— Hmm. Well if I say no, I’d be lying. If I say yes, I’ll look like a jerk. I’ll answer this way. I never used my own position. I’m still young, a successful man. I’m surrounded by many beautiful women who I helped become beautiful and successful. It does happen that mutual interest between us arises. In striptease, that’s a good enough reason for sex. Just like in ballet, in gymnastics, in the theater, anywhere where the body is a working instrument. So, yes. Satisfied? The main thing is that the girls are satisfied. (Laughing) They don’t complain!

— Your guests — what kind of people are they?

— People who, as a rule, have found their place under the sun. But under this sun it is often too hot. Money brings not only dignity, but also loneliness. I think that the people who come to my club have a massive deficit of interaction. In a society where any attention to a woman (Americans know this best) is seen as sexual harassment, men prefer places where they won’t be snubbed like listless children. The question is the quality of the place. Any club means status. I’m satisfied with the status of my guests, and I think we’re worthy of each other.

— What is the secret to your success?

— Seventeen years ago, my life changed with the film Showgirls. Since then, I just love striptease. From that fascination, my whole life changed. I sincerely and passionately love what I do. I was lucky to be born and live in Russia, because I love every single Russian woman! Later, in the States, I met with Elizabeth Berkley - the star of the film Showgirls. I told her the impression that her work made on me. They say that film ruined Elizabeth’s acting career, but it created my production career!

— Why did you turn to striptease?

— I just went toward beauty. Beauty is the highest manifestation of harmony. And the most stunning kind of beauty is female. It’s the main comfort that warrior men have received from the Creator. Is the demonstration of beauty really a shameful thing? I hope that someday, public opinion will stop being so disingenuous and men will stop lowering their voices when they share impressions about parties in strip clubs. I make people happier! That’s why they call me Lucky Lee!