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Prague

Chief Editor
Naďa Rybářová

Contributors
Naďa Rybářová
Petr Bílek

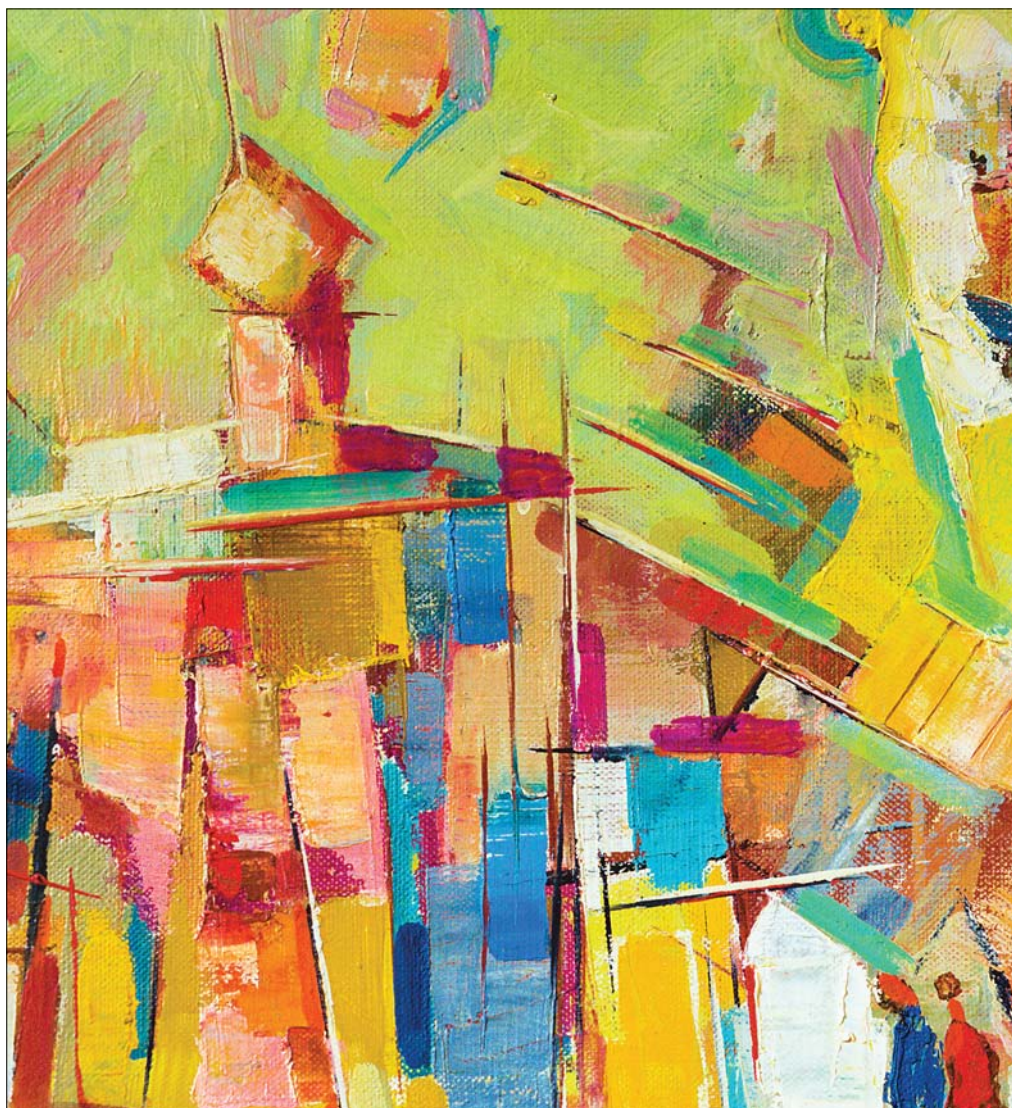
Head Designer
Luděk Neužil

Photos
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Ladislav Renner
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Petr Hamerník
SchiDD Wikimedia Commons
DOX

Executive Director
Amara Zemplerová

Šafaříkova 5
120 00 Praha 2
Czech Republic
www.ttg.cz

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There is nothing
new in the world
except the history
you do not know.

Harry S. Truman

The Czech Republic is celebrating its 100th birthday, and although it was born as Czechoslovakia in 1918, and the Czechs and Slovaks parted their way in 1993, Czechs feel it as their anniversary, and rightly so. You all know – we hope – all the Czech must sees. Prague is one of them. But there is more, as you will find when leafing through this edition of ttg czech luxury which focuses mostly on the legacy of the past 100 years. And actually there is a lot you may have never heard off. Be it Hradec Králové, the so called salon of the republic, Plzeň where Adolf Loos designed a unique set of urban interiors (well, you have heard about Plzeň, because of the beer, right?) or Zlín where Baťa has built his shoe-making empire. It is all worth a visit. Because as Harry Truman said, "There is nothing new in the world except the history you do not know." And this is history that you may not know, but is worth to explore. So we hope you will come and learn about our history and at the same time enjoy what the present can offer. The perfect blend of the old and new will make you want to come again.

Naďa Rybářová

PRAGUE | CZECH REPUBLIC | CENTRAL EUROPE



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CONTACTS:

Headquarters: Na příkopě 18, 11000 Praha 1
Office address: Přemyslovská 2845/43, 13000 Praha 3

+420 221 447 256
director.incoming@cedok.cz

www.cedok.com

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spring–summer 2018



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editor's selection

THE MLÝNEC RESTAURANT RIDING ON A NEW WAVE



The Mlýnec Restaurant has undergone a complete remodeling and its new interior will certainly please all guests. Muted colors, wood, brass, an open kitchen, adjustments to the lobby, and a uniquely designed bar that resembles water waves – all of this is tied to Mlýnec's location on the Vltava right next to Charles Bridge.

The restaurant has also changed its brand identity which, just like the new interior, invokes images of the river and the arches of Charles Bridge, of which the restaurant offers a unique view. What remained unchanged is the restaurant's team. This means that you can continue enjoying dishes created by Executive Chef Marek Šáda. The local sturgeon with yams, and ginger and lime mousse is a real delicacy.



Nové Lázně: Royal Experience



Danubius Health Spa Resort Nové Lázně will give you the opportunity to enjoy a healing stay in Mariánské Lázně, in the spirit of European aristocrats. In the beautiful environment of wild nature, you can relax in the late 19th-century hotel, where you will find luxurious rooms as well as a royal spa. The history of Nové Lázně

dates back to 1896, when it was a meeting place for the cream of society. The building with its four towers welcomed kings as well as emperors; among others the English monarch Edward VII relaxed here, as did Emmy Destinn. During the First Republic, Prague's elite and famous were also frequent guests. And the atmosphere is indeed reminiscent of the First Republic: finely dressed gentlemen with their ladies at their

sides stroll through the corridors of the sumptuous hotel, their luxury cars parked safely outside, and everyone looking forward not only to the healing springs, but also to the delicacies on the hotel restaurant's menu.

During his stay in Mariánské Lázně in 2005, **English prince Edward was also accommodated in Nové Lázně.**

Extensive reconstruction of such a unique locality had to be done on a large scale, but at the same time with due regard for the many sensitive factors. This brought its fruit in the form of 225 fully equipped luxury rooms with free wifi connection. You can satisfy your gourmet appetite not only in the Royal restaurant (Nové Lázně), but also in Goethe restaurant in Centrální Lázně, in the lobby bar and in the Viennese Café. However, Royal Spa Centrum with its spa treatment is the central pearl of Nové Lázně. In the historic interior, you will find two standard swimming pools and a counter-current swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna, sanarium, steam bath,

Kneipp therapy, relaxation room and **Royal cabin of Edward VII**, as well as the Imperial cabin of the Austrian monarch Franz Joseph I of the Habsburgs.

To which procedure should you treat yourself first? Massage, hydrotherapy, peat wrap, inhalation, cryosauna? Make your decision while relaxing in our comfortable surroundings. When you allow yourself the luxury of a visit to the hotel of Health Spa Resort Nové Lázně, you will enjoy an unforgettable experience. A feeling that you are a real king among mortals.

www.marienbad.cz



MANÚ Risto & Lounge:

Mediterranean gastronomy on the Vltava



MANÚ Risto & Lounge is a unique project by Italian chef Emanuele Ridi. It can be found on Dětský ostrov Island in the center of Prague. Its designer interior combined with professional services, Mediterranean cuisine and a wide selection of absolutely unique wines thanks to the BANCA DEL VINO wine bank, which is located next door, guarantee an unforgettable experience. According to owner Emanuele Ridi, the idea is to provide guests an island that offers

Mediterranean meals and a breathtaking view of the riverside's scenery. After all, Emanuele Ridi has a very close relationship with water. He comes from the little town of Portoferraio on the Mediterranean island of Elba and since 1992, he has lived in the Czech Republic. To most Czechs, he is known as the Italian chef from a TV culinary show he made for a local TV channel. To his friends, he is simply known as Manú. His only restaurant in Prague is named after him.

SAVOYA Restaurant & Lounge
– A New Restaurant in the Legendary Savoy Hotel – The Savoy Hotel, located in the most famous Czech ski resort Špindlerův Mlýn, has been a sym-



bol of pleasant and graceful luxury for more than 137 years. This is also true of its restaurant. The SAVOYA Restaurant & Lounge offers modern Czech cuisine, gracefully combined with international and Scandinavian cuisines. Chef Michal Hůsek, who honed his skills in Michelin restaurants with Norbert Niederkofler and Herbert Hinter, among others, is inspired by nature and the best it has to offer when preparing menus. Local ingredients are supplied by local farmers; excellent white, red and rose wines come from all over the world. Take a seat in this simple, yet elegant alpine restaurant infused with the smell of wood, lean against a comfortable sheep's wool cushion and order one of the restaurant's specialties, such as glazed veal sweetbread and fallow deer cheeks in Port wine. Satisfaction is guaranteed.

Mitrowicz – a picturesque chateau on the Lužnice River

The Baroque Mitrowicz Chateau, located in the heart of South Bohemia, was essentially a ruin and it is no wonder since it was used by a cooperative farm during Communism. What was not destroyed then was damaged by the catastrophic floods in 2002. After undergoing nine years of renovations, the chateau literally rose from the dead in 2016 and for the first time ever in its almost five-hundred-year history, it opened to the public.

The chateau is always open during the summer season and rest assured that you will not be bored. It even has its own pier, so you can take a boat trip. There is also a hornbeam maze and an atypical children's playground. The garden of Mitrowicz Chateau has been completely redeveloped. You can look forward to more than 10,000 young plants, a relaxed atmosphere, singing birds, a rest zone with teak wood lounge chairs at the pond, the possibility to order a picnic basket, and an herb garden that generously supplies the local grill and bar.

The chateau is very popular, especially as a venue for weddings and family and corporate events. Those participating in such events can stay in luxurious accommodation both directly at the chateau or in the nearby former brewery building. The honeymoon



suite offers a view right of beautiful St Anne's chateau chapel. Are you planning a wedding? Mitrowicz is an excellent choice. Or organize a family event here. You will not regret it.

CUKRÁŘ SKÁLA

Prague's first confectionery factory



The newly opened Cukrář Skála confectionery factory in downtown Prague offers both traditional and experimental tastes, all at very reasonable prices, uncommon with such quality desserts.

At Cukrář Skála, don't expect a café with small tables decorated with grandmother's lace. On the contrary, the confectionery's concept is inspired by traditional factories. The architect used stainless steel as well as glass allowing for visitors to see confectioners in action across all phases of production.

"We have been watching the confectionery segment for some time and it appeared to us that there just isn't a proper confectionery that would simply focus on the art of confectionery in its modern sense," explains one of the owners, David Petřík from the TOGETHER group. "In the Czech Republic, as opposed to cooks, there are only a handful of excellent confectioners. This is why the arrival of Lukáš Skála was a great opportunity for us. We did not want to create just another café with a display case for a handful of cakes. Instead, we wanted to build a place that masters the art of working with sugar, whipped cream, butter, fresh fruit, chocolate and essentially offers honest craft at its very core," he added. Lukáš Skála, leading Czech confectioner,

prepares all confectionery starting from the most basic ingredients. Despite the fact that the confectionery amazes many with its modern looks, the roots lie in traditional recipes which Skála inherited primarily from his father who also trained him. Lukáš boasts many successes from international confectionery competitions including gold at the Erfurt Culinary Olympics. He also worked in the kitchen of Prague's Intercontinental Hotel as well as the Bruxx brasserie. At Cukrář Skála, he offers traditional and ice-cream cakes, pralines, breakfast pastry, sweet sandwiches for the afternoon, seasonal products as well as desserts of unusual tastes and shapes.

SIA – ASIAN EXPERIENCE IN THE HEART OF PRAGUE

New restaurant opened recently downtown Prague in the historical Šporkovský palace, offering an extraordinary Asia experience. Run by the Gastronomy Group TOGETHER, the Sia restaurant seats up to 220 guests. The menu of Sia originates from traditional Asian recipes and cooking processes that are further enriched with new ideas of an international team led by experienced chef Jiří Šift. Under his guidance, cooks from Indonesia, Nepal, India, Vietnam, Malaysia, China and the Czech Republic cooperate to offer Sia's guest a unique experience. The restaurant's interior makes references to exotic and poetic Asian marketplaces which Europeans are known to admire. At Sia, food is prepared in an open-kitchen directly in front of the guests' eyes. This way, guests can watch the preparation of home-made noodles, Chinese Dim sum dumplings, Peking ducks

being portioned or the preparation of meat and fish on Robata, a Japanese grill. In line with traditional

Asian dining style, individual dishes are served in the middle of the dining table as



they are prepared. Throughout lunches and dinners, guests can taste more dishes at once and the visit is not only a culinary, but also a visual and social experience you can share with your friends or family at one table.

SOME DISHES YOU WILL LOVE

Peking duck – it takes two days to make a Peking duck. The duck is first marinated with Hoisin Sauce and then hot water is poured over its skin. The duck is then coated with a mix of syrup, honey and vinegar. On the second day, the seasoned duck is baked in an oven until it turns crispy.

Dim sum – hand-made dumplings made from wheat, rice or starch flour. They are then filled with meat, seafood, herbs and vegetables. After they are filled, they are steamed in bamboo baskets or fried for a crispy sensation.

Robata Grill – inspired by the fishermen of Hokkaido in Japan, Sia's cooks grill fish, seafood, aged meats and vegetables on the Robata Grill. A set temperature is the key to bring out all the individual tastes. Dishes are served, among other options, with traditional Japanese marinades and sauces.

DOUBLE PLEASURE AT THE OLŠANKA SUPERIOR CONGRESS & WELLNESS HOTEL



artist Jiří Slíva decorate the bar and please both the eyes and the mind. Those of you who enjoy wine best with a book can take a seat next to a bookcase and start reading, naturally about wine. Moreover, VinVin is the ideal combination of a bar and a wine shop; it offers more than 2,000 bottles for sale.

At the end of 2017, the hotel introduced its brand new Wellness Center featuring two Finnish saunas, an aroma sauna, a steam room, indoor and outdoor saunas, a whirlpool and a Kneipp wading pool. The Wellness Center is attended to by the same staff as the wine bar, which means that clients can enjoy a glass wine right at the Wellness Center's bar. You will not find a traditional wine list here (which would be somewhat out of place), but you can choose from among tried and tested Znojmo wines and new wines provided directly by the wine-makers themselves. Just come experience the double pleasure that can be found at the Olšanka SUPERIOR Congress & Wellness Hotel.



The Olšanka SUPERIOR Congress & Wellness Hotel in Prague's Žižkov neighborhood, located just a few minutes from the city center, is known both to visitors who are looking for quality accommodation and to lovers of good wine. Its modern VinVin wine bar serves not only excellent Moravian wines, which are mainly from the Znojmo wine region, but also a number of outstanding international wines. Most of them can be ordered by the glass, which means that there is no reason to sample just one per night. Since the end of 2017, hotel guests have been able to relax in the hotel Wellness Center before

heading to the wine bar, or combine them both and enjoy a glass of delicious wine right in the Wellness Centre. The connection between the hotel and the VinVin wine bar is seamless also thanks to the unmistakable Žižkov atmosphere and the wide variety of wines and vineyards from the Znojmo region. The area that Žižkov occupies today was heavily covered in grape vines in the 18th century. Hory Viničné, as it used to be called during the reign of Emperor Charles IV, is a bohemian neighborhood, bustling with night life and inspiring many artists and writers. The VinVin bar, which is situated in the very heart of Žižkov, represents a return to the customs and traditions that have their roots in this area. Funny, wine-themed cartoons drawn by renowned Czech

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MODERN ART? VISIT MUMO



The Montanelli Museum is one of the few private non-profit modern art institutions in the Czech Republic and you can find it on Nerudova Street in Prague. And since you will most likely go to Nerudova Street when in Prague anyway, it would be a pity to miss the museum. This is a place that promotes creativity and imagination and strives to find a dialogue between established and experimental arts, between the past and the present. The museum's program ranges from the presentation of current Czech and foreign artists overlapping with "art experience" to current dance art and performances, to guided tours and debates with artists and custodians of different individual projects. Guided tours are given in Czech, English and German.

CULINARY EXPERIENCE

YOU WOULD NOT EXPECT ON A HIGHWAY



hotels in the Czech Republic and abroad, in the three-star Waterside Inn in England, and for celebrities such as Jake Gyllenhaal or Julia Roberts before he settled in Brno. You will not find any contrived creations in his kitchen, just food that makes sense. "Menu is compiled with respect to season. I try to meet conservative guests for example with chopped rabbit by grandmother's recipe but also demanding visitors with grilled foie gras," he says. While the food is delicious yet simple, the restaurant's interior offers remarkable visual experience. Three spacious rooms divided by a wooden sliding wall can be united in one and their original mossy carpets will immediately catch your attention. "We wanted to build pleasant and spacious place with timeless design and I am glad we have succeeded," says Jiří Lešíkar presenting proudly the result, which combines wood and moss as well as metal and rock.

Jiří Lešíkar and Lumír Sendrei, two friends who decided to improve the level of gastronomy on the highway connecting Czech Republic's two biggest cities, Prague and Brno, opened their Signature restaurant at the end of 2016. Located at the exit 182 near Brno, the restaurant provides haven to any gourmet with its excellent cuisine, collec-

tion of champagne wines counting 160 labels, coffee lounge or breakfasts that include own bread and yoghurt. The owners care about every detail, from the meticulous selection of suppliers to the final product on the guest's plate. They like cooperation with local farmers, but only when they receive solely fresh and quality ingredients. They seem to disagree with the current trend of serving local food at any cost. Pavel Veltruský, the chef, cooked on giant transoceanic ships, in Marriott



PALOMA, NEW RESTAURANT WITH MICHELIN STAR ASPIRATIONS



Paloma, a French restaurant that recently opened in Průhonice outside Prague, is sibling to the Michelin-starred Paloma in Mougins on France's Cote d'Azur. Having the same owner, Paloma Průhonice is led by Nicolas Decherchi, whose southern French cuisine gave the original Paloma near Cannes its two Michelin stars. After relishing the excellent cuisine and wines, you will be driven home in the restaurant's limo, or you can stay overnight in the Paloma Boutique Hotel. It seems that the daughter of Paloma Mougins is on its way to gain the same top reputation.



Good traditions are to be maintained, says **Pavel Anděl**, the Creative Director of the Czechoslovak centennial celebrations that will commence under the name "Re:publika 1918-2018" at Brno's exhibition grounds on 26 May.

Independent Czechoslovakia was founded on 28 October, so why are you beginning as early as 26 May and why at the Brno exhibition grounds of all places?

Ninety years ago on that day, the first Czechoslovak president, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, attended the opening ceremonies of these exhibition grounds. A contemporary culture exhibition premiered here on 26 May 1928 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic. The exhibition grounds were actually built to house this exhibition. Where else are the celebrations supposed to take place? Good traditions should be maintained. Plus, the history of the Brno exhibition grounds maps the history of the outstanding functionalist architectural style. Because our festival is supposed to reflect the history of the past one hundred years, functionalism is definitely a part of it.

How much space will you actually dedicate to architecture?

Originally, I wanted to hold an exhibition dedicated to the architecture of the past one hundred years in building A, which is the grounds' central exhibition hall. But then I abandoned this idea. Because when I saw the hall empty, I realized that the building itself was worth exhibiting. The space is absolutely great. And so we have decided to leave it partially empty; people will simply walk into an empty

hall and be amazed. At the most, we might just enhance this experience with some photographs centered on architecture. However, architecture is an important element throughout the exhibition grounds. We would also like to make use of a theatre that not many people know about. Its beautiful functionalist building has been closed because of its poor structural stability. But we are planning on cleaning it, reopening the cafe and erecting a stage in front of the building. We will be allowed to enter the foyer, where we will install an exhibition on the history of the theatre and display period photographs.

I suppose that the performances on the stage in front of the theatre will be in Czech and will appeal mainly to Czech visitors. What can visitors from abroad expect?

I believe that most of what appeals to Czechs will also appeal to foreigners. One of the greatest attractions for foreigners will definitely be the famous "The Slav Epic" by Alfons Mucha, which will be displayed on the exhibition grounds during the celebrations. There is also a dance festival involving dance ensembles from the successor countries of the former Habsburg Monarchy. First the time ever, ensembles form the national theatres from Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Poland, Ukraine, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia will be presented on the same stage. It has been the Czech Republic and Slovakia for the last 25 years, not Czechoslovakia anymore. Olomouc, another relatively large city not far from Brno, will be hosting the Festival of Songs, which generally attracts many choirs from all over the world. We want to bring them to Brno. Our idea is that during the day, the choirs would sing in different places throughout the city and then in the evening, they would all sing at our event. In this way, we could put togeth-

er a really large choir, perhaps the largest one ever. This would also be entertaining for visitors from abroad – imagine you are walking in the city and run into a singing choir at every other corner. What's not to like about that? And the evening will be phenomenal. Czech design is another thing to catch the attention of foreigners. One Hundred Years of Czech Design is a project that we have been working on with major designers and where we want to show the best of what has been made over the past hundred years. On the other hand, the 100 Years, 100 Books project will probably not appeal to foreigners all that much, at least not to those who don't speak Czech. Quotes and passages from works by the best writers will be posted on buildings, sidewalks, and trams all over the city. Those who visit the Morava exhibition hall where this project will be primarily located will be able to also enjoy that architectonic gem.

That all looks wonderful. Do you also have something for those who would like to take a break from all the culture and take part in something, shall we say, less intellectual?

So how about the gathering of the legendary Jawa 21 motorcycle owners. Jawa 21, officially referred to as Pioneer, but known as "goat's breath" among the Czechs, was made in the 1950s and today it is a collector's item. Or the assembling of a 1918-era map. That will require some knowledge though. We discovered a map, or rather it was provided by the Department of Geography at the Brno University of Technology. It is giant, 17 x 40 meters. 659 map sheets, each of them 50 x 60 cm. They will print them out for us, we will attach them to panels and people will approach it like puzzle. I hope they are not confused by the Zakarpattia region, which was a part of Czechoslovakia at that time.

The program also include the Re:Lax zone. How is this related to the past hundred years?

In the Re:Lax zone, visitors will be able to try the historic form of some sports. Such as inline skating with old roller blades with four wheels, or they will be able to compare a new basketball versus an old leather one. It will be fun.

So anybody who is in the Czech Republic between 26 May and 17 June, when the Re:publika festival ends, should come to Brno...

Of course we would like everybody to come to Brno and celebrate with us on the exhibition grounds. I believe that the entire city of Brno will dress in the Re:publika colors and it will be an event like no other for a long time. We would also be happy if our festival spread across the country. We are offering other cities and villages, associations, and societies the opportunity to organize any part of the our program at home under our logo. If another city puts together a gathering of "goat's breath" motorcycles, we would be happy.

INSPIRED BY HISTORY AND NATURE



of a home spa, which is based on the world-famous Czech spa tradition and responds to today's hectic lifestyle that often lacks peace, quiet and relaxation. This gave rise to another network of stores, MANUFATURA – Vaše domácí lázně / Your Home Spa.

The company has recently conducted an extensive survey among its customers. One question asked about the emotions and feelings that the MANUFATURA brand evokes in its customers. The most frequent answers were: well-being, relaxation, a nice scent, a moment just for me, and peace. And it is no wonder. The formulas for the cosmetics products are inspired by the time-proven wisdom of our grandmothers, who used to wash their hair with beer and put a pouch containing lavender under their pillows so they could sleep better. History has also inspired the design of MANUFATURA's stores, which are supposed to act like a balm for your soul and evoke the nostalgic atmosphere of times long past. Moreover, each store is a little different. An important feature in every store is their authentic pieces of antique furniture.

If you wish to buy something that is genuinely Czech and truly natural when visiting the Czech Republic, your choice is obvious: MANUFATURA cosmetics contain between 97 and 99.5% natural ingredients and are not tested on animals. The toys are wooden and hand-made.

Anyone who visited Prague right after the Velvet Revolution, which ended the totalitarian regime and opened the city to visitors from all over the world, may remember that it was practically impossible to buy a genuine Czech souvenir. Thus, **MANUFATURA** was born. Today, after 27 years of existence, this 100% Czech-owned company offers much more than just souvenirs.

But let's return to its beginnings. In 1991, when Prague was desperately lacking typical Czech, and quite frankly, tasteful souvenirs, architect Karel Němeček set off to visit Bohemian and Moravian villages and bought all kinds of items from local craftsmen, from traditional corn husk dolls to hand-painted Easter eggs and wooden toys. He opened his very first store in the beautiful premises of a former laundry room in a Dominican Monastery in the heart of Prague's Old Town and shortly after that, other

stores followed in the center of Prague. Today, the company has an extensive network of MANUFATURA

Original Czech Tradition stores that are located throughout Prague's historic city center, at Prague Castle and at Václav Havel Airport and sell products made by more than 250 individual craftsmen and small Czech businesses. Originally, MANUFATURA only sold wooden toys and handcrafted products, but they soon started to make their own cosmetics. Its main warehouse was located in a former soap factory and the idea to again breathe life into manufacture of glycerin soap presented itself. Soap was soon followed by other cosmetics products inspired by Czech history and nature. When developing their cosmetics, the company draws inspiration from history and nature and that is why the use of typical ingredients sets MANUFATURA's products apart: Czech beer, wine, Carlsbad sprudel salt, medicinal herbs, and fruit. Over time, the entire cosmetics program has been brought together by the concept



Q&A



There is no herb that is completely devoid of at least some healing properties, says **Bára Čechová**, the Creative Director for Manufaktura.

Manufaktura is known for using mostly natural ingredients in their products. Do you find this limiting in your work as Creative Director, or is it the other way round?

In fact, using natural materials is an unlimited source of ideas for me. Nature is unbelievably rich and inspiring and the beneficial properties of many natural ingredients have been known and used for over one hundred years, verified by several generations of our ancestors. As a student, I used to travel between Prague and Karlovy Vary, a route that is lined with green hops fields, which certainly contributed to the use of beer and hops in our famous beer cosmetics line; many of our fruit lines were inspired by my childhood memories of my Moravian grandma – the smell of apples coming from the basement that scented her entire house, a garden full of apricot and plum trees, her best smelling rose beds that my family still remembers today... One of the last things to inspire me was the daisies that covered the garden like a carpet in the spring and whose delicate beauty brought me to the idea of a gentle skin care line, using the benefits of this plant. Every time that I think of a new idea for our cosmetics, I go to see if the plant I am thinking of has any positive effects. As we say, there is no herb that is completely devoid of at least some healing properties – and so I am happy that I have been able to turn all of my memories, emotions and ideas into beautiful cosmetics products used to promote relaxation and soft skin.

There is relatively a large amount of competition on the cosmetics market. How do you deal with this?

Competition is really fierce and with the

advance of online shopping, it keeps growing. The only way to address it is to stay one step ahead without resting on your laurels and to be consistent with the quality of the products that your customers are used to and keep surprising them with new releases. We have been successful in doing this for several years with our popular limited editions that we launch twice a year, for the spring-summer and fall-winter seasons. One of the latest and best trends in cosmetology is body and mind care (spa therapies, relaxation and fighting everyday stress, good mood management, etc.) We are happy that we sensed this trend a long time ago and that our entire cosmetics concept is brought together by the idea of a home spa based on the world-famous Czech spa tradition, responding to the modern hectic lifestyle in which we often do not have time to rest, regenerate, and relax.

Originally, your company only specialized in hand-crafted products that you still sell. How do you choose suppliers from among all the small craftsmen?

Our story indeed started with the development of a retail network of original stores, offering Czech hand-crafted products and wooden toys in historic buildings in Prague's center. Thanks to our journeys all over the country and collaboration with experts, we have managed to bring together 250 small craftsmen, former folk craft masters, the Bearer of Folk Craft Tradition awardees, and small Czech businesses. All this has resulted in a unique platform to present traditional Czech crafts for which we have helped create sustainable conditions while providing a regular sales outlet and collaboration on product development, design and protection. Unfortunately, there are not many new craftsmen that fit into our concept, so we have been trying to focus on how the crafts are presented in our stores. Last year for instance, we dedicated a significant part of the floor space area to the presentation of different manufacturing

processes – you can see a lathe that is used to create some wooden toys, old blueprint molds and a sewing machine, woodcarving instruments, glass-making tools and semi-finished products...

Each of your stores is a little different. Where do you draw inspiration from?

Literally, we are inspired by "old times" in nearly everything we do. An essential part of our interior design is the authentic pieces bought from antique stores that we regularly visit. These are different in every store and we ourselves never really know what the outcome in a new store be – it all depends on what pieces of historicizing furniture and decorations we manage to buy. We try to conceive our stores so that they capture our customers' attention and attract them because of their cozy, homey atmosphere, evoking a nostalgia for times long gone.

Do you have an idea as to what percentage of your clients are foreigners?

Thanks to regular analyses that we have been carrying out from day one, we know this figure exactly. Our stores that are located in tourist areas, i.e. Prague's city center, Prague airport, Karlovy Vary and Český Krumlov, most customers are foreigners (in some stores, it is even more than 90%). On the other hand, in most stores that are located inside shopping malls and focus on Czech customers, you see very few foreigners. Exceptions are stores in some shopping malls that foreigners visit – traditionally, Palladium, Nový Smíchov and recently also Chodov have been very popular. In our store in Prague's Central Railway Station, foreigners form about one-half of our customers.

A few years ago, Manufaktura discontinued wholesaling and only supplies cosmetics into their own stores. This also meant the end of your exports. What was the reason for this decision?

The reason for this (uneasy) decision was to provide a unique quality to the way in which our products are presented and sold. We were always very sorry when our product got somewhere we did not like: a dust-covered, untastefully decorated store, often together with low-quality products sold by people who knew nothing about it. Following the slogan "More can be less", we decided to prefer quality over quantity and continue only with our brand stores in the future that would be fully under our control – so that we could be sure of the presentation and sale quality. Looking back, this decision was very helpful for the further development of the entire project and brought our brand to another level.

Q&A



In 1918, Czechoslovakia became an independent country and therefore, 2018 will mark centennial celebrations in the Czech Republic. We spoke with **Jan Wolf**, a member of Prague's City Council, about how the Czech capital is preparing for the grand celebration.

What is Prague planning for the anniversary?

There are many events planned in Prague, ranging from exhibitions to classical music and rock concerts, etc. In December, we will host an historical reenactment of the arrival of the first Czechoslovak president, T. G. Masaryk,

in Prague. He will come to Wilson train station in his presidential railway car pulled by a steam engine and accompanied by legionaries. The Archives of the Capital City of Prague have access to an incredible number of interesting materials related to the establishment of independent Czechoslovakia and are preparing a number of exhibitions, both in Prague's Municipal House and elsewhere.

Is Prague planning something that would also appeal to its foreign visitors?

To be honest, the Czechoslovak centennial is not all that popular abroad. To the extent foreigners know about our history, they are more aware of the Warsaw Pact troop invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, which is not a reason to celebrate. In fact, we will only commemorate 1968 through acts of

reverence, such as by placing period photographs and videos on YouTube. However, the centennial anniversary of our country will also have something to offer foreigners. I would like to mention a concert that will be performed by the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra at Old Town Square and the Slav Epic by Alfons Mucha. The latter will on display in the Municipal House starting in April. The Slav Epic seems to attract foreigners more than Czechs. Over the 75 days it was on display in Tokyo, 662,000 people, including the Japanese emperor, saw it. In the Czech Republic, only a mere one-half million people in four years went to the exhibition. The Prague Public Transit Company will present a one hundred-year history of public transportation, including intersection traffic control, which will certainly be interesting both for Czech people and foreigners. An exhibition at Kampa, which has become a tradition, might also appeal to foreigners. In 2016, it concerned the 700th birthday of Charles IV, a King of Bohemia and Germany and a Holy Roman Emperor; last year it was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Prague's inscription in the UNESCO World Heritage List; and this year, the topic will be one hundred years of independent Czechoslovakia. Texts on panels will be also in English so foreigners can read them. In June, the Prague Symphony Orchestra (FOK) will play in Brussels. The capital of Europe was chosen on purpose.

PRAGUE: A PLACE TO BE IN 2018

2018, with its many anniversaries, is a very special year for **Czechia**. We will be celebrating not only 100 years since the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic but also 50 since the Prague Spring and many other anniversaries. The celebrations are set to be bigger than ever with hundreds of events throughout the year.

Although the centenary of the Czechoslovak Republic falls on 28th of October there are exhibitions, concerts, shows and other events to take place over the course of the year. The celebrations will culminate with a grand military parade and the reopening of two of the most important monuments in Prague the National Museum and the Old Town Hall, both of which had been under a long-term reconstruction.

If you're heading to Prague to join the celebrations you shouldn't miss visiting The Municipal House. There's no other place as linked to the events of the 28th October as this impressive Art Nouveau building. Its Czech Gentlemen's Club became the meeting place of prominent Czech politicians, especially after the Czechoslovak National Committee meetings were re-established. The portraits of the five '28-Octobermen' document that first Czechoslovak law was signed here, as well as appeals addressed to the new Nation. But the prime moment for the Municipal House came at five pm on 28 October 1918, when the Grégr Hall rang out with the memorable words on the founding of Czechoslovakia. Every year you can come here to enjoy the traditional Concert for the Republic. This year's 100th

jubilee will lend a particularly festive air and it will feature Bedřich Smetana's extraordinary symphonic poem cycle 'My Country'. Another exceptional experience will be the Czecho-Slovak and Slovak-Czech exhibition in the National Museum. It will cover how the ini-



tially far-fetched notion of Czechoslovakia became reality; focus on the similarities and differences of both peoples, and what ultimately led to the joint State splitting up in 1992. The relations between the two nations will be shown through the fates of specific people. The public will also get to see the interiors of the National Museum, following its extensive remodelling.

Most likely the biggest highlight of the centennial celebrations of the Czechoslovak State will be a festive military parade on Evropská Boulevard. The procession will present some 2000 Czech Army servicemen and women, 200 pieces of military equipment, as well as 300 staff from the integrated rescue system. The parade will also feature active reservists, with war veteran participation promised.

Prague:1918



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LIKE AN ARISTOCRAT



Beautiful interiors, a unique park and luxurious accommodation

THAT'S DOBŘÍŠ CHATEAU

The rococo **Dobříš Chateau**, located approximately 35 kilometers from Prague, dates back to the second half of the 18th century and was rebuilt from an originally Baroque residence that had burned down. Until 1942, it was owned by the Colloredo-Mannsfeld family, and then it was appropriated by the Third Reich. In 1945, it was confiscated by the Czechoslovak state and for many years, it was the seat of the House of Writers (Domov spisovatelů). It did not return to the Colloredo-Mannsfeld family until 1998. The charming Garni**** Hotel can be found in the northern wing of the chateau, where stables once were. Ten luxurious rooms and a beautiful honeymoon suite will satisfy even the most demanding customers. Moreover, guests will definitely not be bored here. Walks through the chateau's French garden, which spreads over five terraces and is a

rare example of Rococo garden architecture featuring gorgeous ornaments and hedges, a fountain and an orangerie, will enhance your stay. The French garden is going to be revitalized and the orangerie is going to be restored this year. For this reason, the park will reopen to the public in 2020. The larger English park also invites you to take long walks, and unlike the French garden, you can bring your



dog with you. Be sure to take a tour of the chateau, which includes eleven Rococo and Classicism chambers, a Hall of Mirrors and other representative rooms.

If you would like to be more active, rent a mountain bike and explore the surrounding area full of forests and ponds. In the evening, after you have had your fill of exercise, order a Czech or international specialty in the chateau's restaurant. Enjoy your breakfast in the same place the next morning, or if you don't feel like getting up, have it served to you in your room.

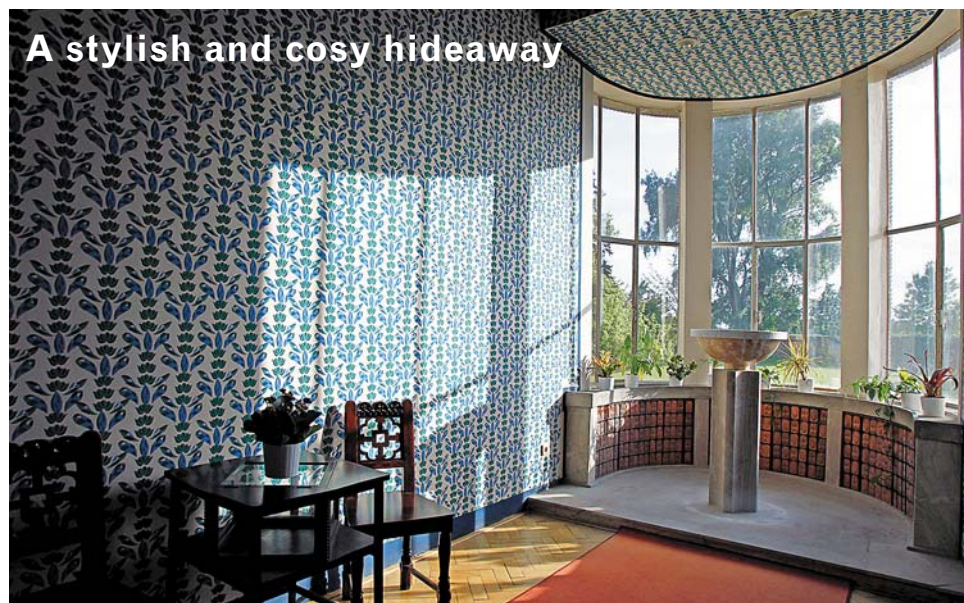


CHATEAU ŠTÍŘÍN



Hidden in a quiet place amidst forests and ponds, **Hotel Chateau Štířín**, a Baroque chateau with a beautiful English park, offers accommodation in stylish luxury rooms with a total of 123 beds. The rooms are situated in the historical building as well as in the adjacent houses: Salm, Arminia and Jockey. One of the chateau's main attractions is a golf course in the chateau park, offering a host of romantic spots in a cultivated natural environment. Gastronomy in Štířín is taken care of by the restaurant in the Atis house, whose unique "organic" architecture resembles the work of the architect Hundertwasser. The menu is dominated by modern Czech cuisine. Guests will appreciate an outdoor garden with a splendid view of the park in summer and seats by the fireplace in winter.

CHATEAU KOTĚRA



Chateau Kotěra is an elegant boutique hotel in Ratboř near Kutná Hora, about one hour's drive from Prague. Located in a "new chateau" built by the famous Czech architect Jan Kotěra at the beginning of the 20th century, the hotel will charm all fans of excellent design, architecture and the good life. Guests can choose from 19 rooms located in the main building, equipped with period furniture, or from another 17 rooms located in the orangery.

The Neo-Classical villa was built between 1911 and 1913 by Jan Kotěra as modern manor for the Mandelík's family. The chateau was a teeming center of bustling cultural and social life, and was even visited by Czechoslovakia's first president, T. G. Masaryk. Due to the Mandelík's family Jewish origin the

chateau was expropriated in 1939 and served as a residence for the German asset management authority and SS troops, replaced by the Red Army for some time. Housing an elementary school from 1947, the chateau was returned to the Mandelík's family in 1992. Unfortunately, it continued to fall into disrepair until 2004 when it was salvaged and built into a hotel. Only a few items survived from the original furniture of the villa, including kitchen equipment, a serving table and built-in wardrobe. However, Chateau Kotěra features a unique collection of designer period furniture. Guests can admire furniture by Jan Kotěra, his student Josef Gočár and other major early 20th century architects and designers, such as Adolf Loos, or Pavel Janák.

Chateau Savoia Škvorec

The borough of Škvorec lies east of Prague, at a point where the hills are just starting to appear from amidst the otherwise flat land. In Škvorec, visitors will be welcomed by the Savoia chateau, once a medieval fortress, later the favourite palace of Maria Theresa of Savoia. This pleasant place with a rich and interesting history has been destroyed, forgotten and reborn. Today, visitors can stay in one of 12 luxury double rooms. The cosy interior displays a tasteful combination of period furniture and contemporary design. Prepared by a team of chefs led by Monica Salvatore-Eremeev, the local meals reflect the current owner's varied mixture of traditions and cultures. A significant portion of the vegetables and herbs used in the kitchen are sourced from the chateau garden. The wine menu includes wines from the Mikulov wine subregion as well as sparkling wines, such as Valdobbiadene Prosecco, Cava, Champagne and others.



A FAIRY-TALE STAY IN LIBLICE CHATEAU

The Baroque Liblice chateau can be found just a few kilometers north of Prague in a picturesque village of the same name. After undergoing an extensive renovation in 2007, one of the best preserved and most compact sites from the High Baroque by Italian architect Giovanni Battista Alliprandi

turned into a romantic hotel with a stylish restaurant, a conference center and a spa. The chateau is owned by the Czech Academy of Sciences, but you do not have to be a researcher to spend the night here. And take our word for it: you will feel like you are in a fairy tale here. You can stay directly at the chateau in one of the rooms fitted with period furniture or in a modern room in an adjacent building. After taking a stroll through the vast French park with a pond and an English garden, you can rest in the spa and enjoy one of the relaxation procedures, or walk further to the chateau game enclosure along a path by Slánná louka (marshes). Make sure not to miss this hike in summer if you are keen on botany



– it is one of the last locations in the Czech Republic where you can still find the highly endangered wild orchid species (*Anacamptis palustris*).

In the evening, you can dine in the impressive chateau restaurant. It offers both Czech and international cuisine with maximum emphasis on local ingredients and products. Many of them are sold under the private Chateau Liblice Collection brand. In addition to several wine and sect varieties prepared exclusively for the chateau, it also has its own private coffee brand. The local restaurant is truly renowned and has been among the best in the Czech Republic for a long time.

Would you like to come with children? If you bring them to Liblice, you can be sure that they will not be bored; pony and horseback riding and sailing toy boats on the pond will keep them occupied. And when you put them into their chateau beds in the evening, try wine tasting with a local sommelier. Simply a fairy-tale vacation.



DISCOVER LUHAČOVICE, ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SPA TOWNS

Comfort, tradition and an unmistakable atmosphere – One of the largest Czech spa towns lying 180 km from Vienna next to the Slovak border, it is somehow different and exceptional. In addition to traditional spa procedures, it attracts visitors with its unique architectonic design, special natural mineral springs and active social life. An unrepeatable genius loci, the spirit of the place, sets Luhačovice apart from many significant European spa towns and confirms its top position in the spa industry.

Luhačovice's Surroundings

You can find many natural, cultural and historic sites in the region around

Luhačovice. This relatively small area offers mountains, wineries, castles and chateaux, UNESCO sites, surviving folk traditions and local gastronomy. See with your own eyes how charmingly varied the region can be.

A historical place that brought Czechs and Slovaks together

At the beginning of the 20th century, two nations, the Czechs and the Slovaks, came together in Luhačovice. Luhačovice became the first spa town in Austria-Hungary to come under Czech control and claim allegiance with Slavic culture. Many important people have met here who combined their skills to build a modern spa town with a Slavic spirit. Structures by Dušan Jurkovič provide an original atmosphere in the spa town. The idea for a Czechoslovak nation was

first articulated in his Slovácká bída. In this way, Luhačovice contributed to the foundation of an independent Czechoslovakia, a country that is celebrating its centennial this year.

Dušan Jurkovič's Legacy

Slovak architect Dušan Jurkovič left a significant architectonic legacy in Luhačovice. He created several real architectonic gems in the spa in the early 1920s. Structures featuring Carpathian folk architecture elements and decorative Art Nouveau principles are carefully set in the landscape, supplying a unique character to this place, which you will not find in any other European spa town. This year commemorates the 150th birthday of Dušan Jurkovič, the most renowned Slovak architect ever.

JURKOVIČŮV DŮM HOTEL ****

The most significant work by Jurkovič is Jurkovičův dům (Jurkovič's House) from 1902. It is situated in a picturesque park in the very middle of the spa colonnade. Since its complete renovation, it has served as a four-star hotel offering all amenities under one roof, including a pool and a whirlpool. The building has been nominated to become a national cultural monument of the Czech Republic. Jurkovičův dům is the only place that offers a natural carbon dioxide bath in an original "golden bathtub" in a stylish spa chamber. After nearly one hundred years, guests can enjoy the benefits of natural mineral water in an authentic bathtub from the beginning of the last century.

www.SpaLuhacovice.cz



GOLF & SPA RESORT KONOPIŠTĚ



The largest golf resort in the country offers everything for an active stay, just half an hour's drive from Prague. Located in a quiet place in the heart of nature, the resort's twelve residential buildings offer 100 luxury rooms and all the amenities you may wish, such as a

spacious spa & wellness and two restaurants. To cater for your golf needs, there are two championship 18-hole courses, Radecký and D'Este, as well as a 9-hole public academy. Set in a mildly rolling landscape, Radecký is a real challenge with a lot of bunkers, water hazards and sophisticatedly modelled greens. With generously broad fairways, D'Este is somewhat shorter, and has highlights such as the island green at hole no. 9.

HUNTING DRESS CODE BY PETRA STERNBERGOVÁ

Are you going hunting and have nothing to wear? Or do you just want to look good when strolling through nature? Then visit Jemniště Chateau, where you can buy appropriate attire.

The idea to design a relatively small but all the more smart Hunting Dress Code Collection was conceived a couple of years ago by Petra Sternbergová, who together with her husband owns and manages the Baroque chateau near Prague. "I came to the conclusion that we should have something truly 'ours' at the chateau that we could sell to our guests and also something for the social portions of our hunting events," says Petra Sternbergová. "But only when we designed a coat, a paletot, and a



skirt did I tell myself that what I really have a good sense of is colors and I put together outfits in different color combinations so that ladies have something to choose from." She carefully chose a sewing room in which to make her clothes and her idea has really taken off. Initially, her customers were mostly women who wanted to wear something nice with jeans; only over the past year, women who hunt as a hobby have started to come to the chateau and splurge. This is because Hunting Dress Code outfits can only be purchased at Jemniště Chateau.

CHATEAU JEMNIŠTĚ



The Baroque chateau Jemniště offers its guests three suites. Located in the left wing, the Rainer suite consists of a romantic bedroom, a breakfast parlor and a bathroom. The suite features an aristocratic style of decoration and furniture, including a canopy bed, corner bathtub and fireplace. The remaining two suites, Terezie and František, are located in houses left of the main gate. Each has a charming parlor, bedroom, hall and bathroom. All suites are furnished with historical pieces, including lithographs and a painted washbowl.

In the castle restaurant, a la carte dinner is served to the chateau guests, Café Custozza offers a selection of delicious desserts, and guests can also buy local sausages and venison from the chateau's own hunting area.

THE REBIRTH OF THE ENGELMÜLLER LEGEND

If it were not for Tomáš Kopečný's love for old cars, the once famous glove-making brand Engelmüller would have been forgotten for good. Tomáš Kopečný, who used to hear about Engelmüller from his grandfather, also a keen motorist, has decided to bring the brand back to life.







the German army. Emil Engelmüller did not live to see the nationalization of his company by the communists in 1948; he died before the end of WWII in 1944. Even though the company no longer existed, in the 1960s and 1970s, the national glove-making enterprise Rukavičkářské závody Dobříš continued making limited series of gloves and accessories for motorists under the Engelmüller brand, especially for the sporting organization Svazarm that used to provide them to Czechoslovak motor sport teams who represented the country abroad. And then 2015 came. One hundred and fifty years after the company was started, Tomáš Kopečný decided to bring Engelmüller back to life. As he says, he would not get involved in anything with which he does not have a personal relationship. Just like Emil Engelmüller, he is passionate about motorsports. Together with his father, he used to collect and repair classic cars and as a little boy, he used to hear his grandfather talking about functional car models displayed in an Engelmüller store when the company was in its heyday. Tomáš, the director of successful ad-

Several years ago, when he was looking through an old issue of the Automobil magazine, which used to be published by the Prague Auto Club, he saw a full-page advert of Engelmüller. The company mainly specialized in leather goods for motorists, but also sold traditional gloves and accessories that were popular with famous racing driver Louis Chiron and Czech female racer Eliška Junková. Tomáš Kopečný started to search for what had actually happened to the company and found out that just like many other businesses, it was put under state control by the Communist Party and its assets were merged with a national glove-making enterprise in Dobříš.

But let us return to the beginning. Ferdinand Engelmüller opened his first glove-making shop in Prague in 1865. Thanks to their great design and high quality, his gloves soon became well-known all over the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which also included Bohemia

at that time and very soon, Ferdinand Engelmüller would open stores in Vienna and Budapest. In 1876, the fame of Engelmüller's gloves spread all the way to the US, where they were exported in small batches until the beginning of World War I. However, the golden days of the company did not start until some thirty years later when it was taken over by Ferdinand's son Emil. He presented his products at a car exhibition held in Prague in 1904; the selection of goods included not only gloves, but also stylish leather coats, flat caps and aviator caps. Since that moment, Engelmüller has forever been associated with motorsports.

The company experienced its greatest boom between the two World Wars. Their stores sold leather clothes, hats and gloves made from the best Russian and Swedish leathers and their ads could be seen in most car and social magazines. Their gloves were worn by celebrities such as Czech actress Lída Baarová, famous Czech aerobatic pilot František Novák, Louis Chiron, whom we already mentioned, and Italian car and motorcycle racer Tazio Nuvolari. The Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1938 meant hard times for Engelmüller as all of their production went to satisfy the needs of

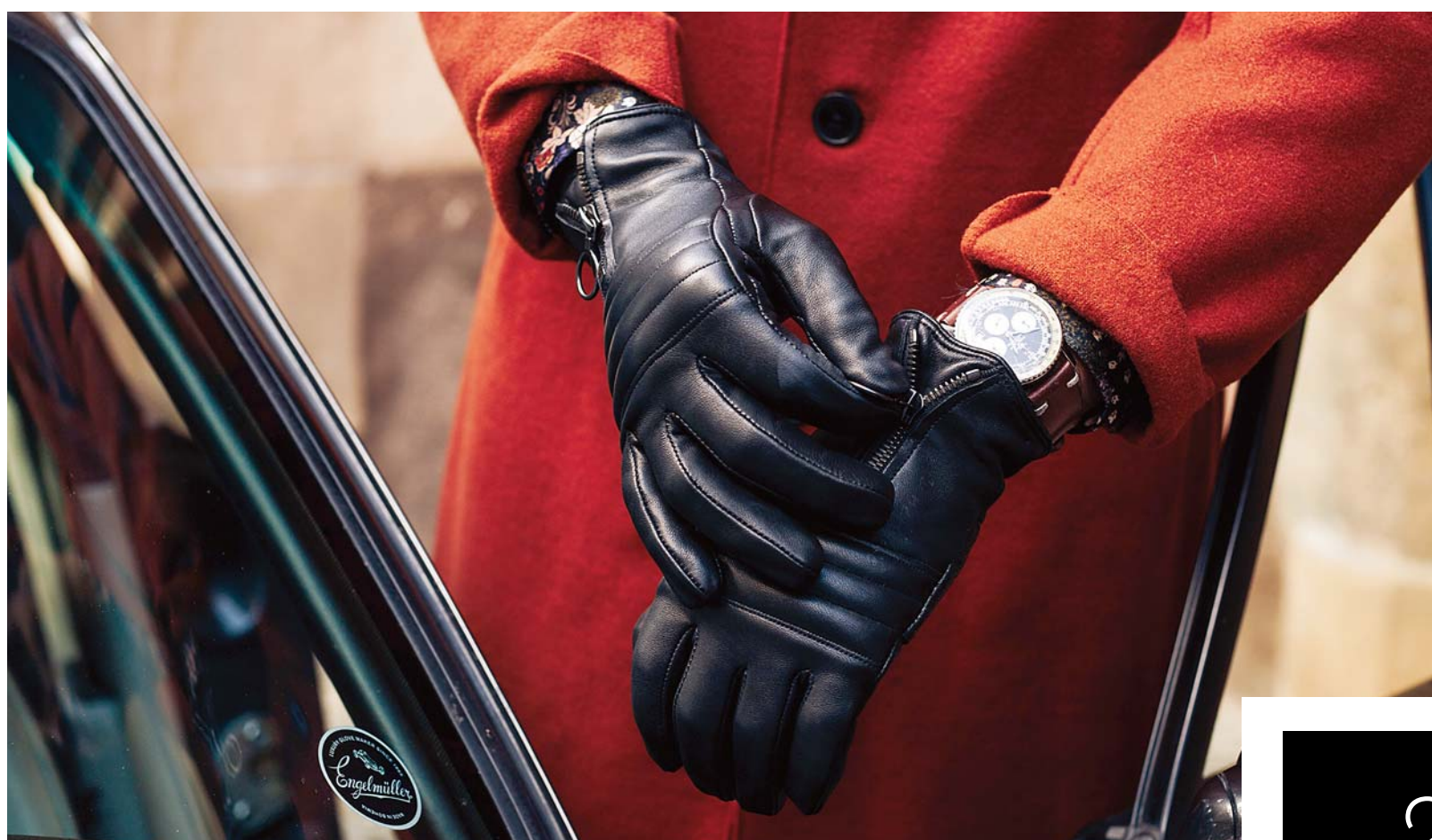


vertising company Scholz & Friends, immersed himself into studying gloves, a subject that he had not known practically anything about until then. His received a great deal of help from glove-maker Šefránek, who learned the craft between the wars, and experienced designer Jana Rollová, who lives and works in Paris. The brand was renewed and the first collection was designed in 2016. It comprised six lines and twenty models. This winter, a third collection was introduced that features drivers', winter and formal gloves. Naturally, the production of aviator caps was not renewed since those would hardly find any customers today. The finest lamb leather, goat leather, American deer leather and the most luxurious Mochetto cowhide are used. The final product has a serial number and "Made in Česko" stamped on the inside. "Our gloves are handmade with the help of original methods, which is by no means easy. Making one pair of gloves requires more than eighty independent steps," says Tomáš Kopečný. "Fortunately, there are still enough people able to make world-class gloves." The popular brand has found its fans and its sales volume is several hundred pairs of gloves per month. Nearly all production is exported, and not only in Europe, but also to Japan and Australia. So far, the gloves can only be purchased in the e-shop, but this should change soon. A flagship store is supposed to open this year in the center of Prague and a series of touch points is in the pipeline where



customers will be able to try gloves on, order them and then receive them within 76 hours at an address that they provide. The first of such places are supposed to open in Berlin and Paris. Engel Müller used to be synonymous

with progress and their products used to be worn by the innovators of their times. The brand is targeting similar clientele today and is on the right path to make Kopečný's dream come true: to make the best gloves on the market.



SIX HIGHLIGHTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS



The Czech Republic is commemorating one hundred years since the foundation of Czechoslovakia. A lot has happened over one hundred years and in many respects, the Czechs have left a lasting legacy, largely still as a part of Czechoslovakia. Most people in the world are familiar with Czech beers such as Pilsner Urquell and Budvar, and Bohemian glass is really famous. Skoda and Tatra vehicles also have a good reputation and everybody knows Bata as their shoes are sold all over the world. Prague is rightfully considered to be one of the most beautiful cities and Czech spa towns have been the destination of choice for people from all parts of the world for many years. Let us take you to some places that, unfortunately for you, you may not yet have heard about.

Jewish Pilsen ① It is pretty obvious that Pilsen beer is made in Pilsen. However, it would be a mistake to think that Pilsen is just a brewery. In the early 1900s, in addition to beer and industry, fine arts were also thriving in Pilsen. The high society of the time, including the large Jewish community, would invite renowned architects to Pilsen, such as world-famous Adolf Loos, who designed a unique set of urban interiors here. Today, you can

find eight preserved residential interiors that Loos, who was hardly known then, designed for rich Jewish merchants

in the 1930s. Take guided tours of four of them that have been restored and enjoy the austere, functional and yet harmonious atmosphere of the beautiful flats. And since you are already in Pilsen, walk into the Great Synagogue from the late 1890s. It is the largest synagogue in the Czech Republic, the second largest in Europe and the third largest in the world.

Hradec Králové – The Salon of the Republic ② Indisputably, the timeless city planning designed by Josef Gočár has had the greatest affect on the current appearance of Hradec Králové, which was a military fortress until the mid-19th century. The design includes a sophisticated orbital road and the principle of radial residential developments alternating with green areas. As a counterbalance to the historic part, a new modern city center was built with wide streets and monumental buildings,

designed with an emphasis on their functionality. Besides Josef Gočár, other architects and artists, namely Gočár's teacher and leading Czech architect and city planner Jan Kotěra, were involved in the new city design. They turned the former fortress into an urbanism pearl of the first Czechoslovak Republic.





Healing Springs below Černá hora Mountain ③ There are not many places where you can combine sports activities on a ski slope with a well-deserved rest below like you can in Janské Lázně, a picturesque town in the Krkonoše Mountains. Local patriots say that healing springs in Černá hora Mountain were consecrated in the 15th century by Pope Pius II, but evidence of this is missing. The springs did not become famous until between the World Wars. In 1935, a children's polio sanatorium opened in Janské Lázně as the first institution of this kind in Europe. In 1934, American professor Oskar Baudisch proved that local water has similar effects to the water in Warm Springs, USA, where F. D. Roosevelt used to go for treatment. One year later, patients from all over Europe started to come here.

Zlín and the Baťa Phenomenon ⑤ Baťa – synonymous with successful business combined with social feelings. The shoemaker giant, who conquered the world, built houses, schools and hospitals for his employees. Colonies of typical “Baťa” structures, both single-family houses and high-rise buildings, started to appear. The most famous of them is a 77.5-meter tall skyscraper, once the Baťa headquarters, built between 1937 and 1938. In addition to many advanced technical features – a sixteen-story frame made from reinforced concrete was built in 160 days and there is a central air-conditioning system controlled in each individual office – the building is mainly known thanks to the mobile office located in one of the elevators, including a telephone and running water. When built, it was the second largest secular structure in Europe.

Four Hundred Nativity Scenes in Třebechovice pod Orebem ④ The unique Museum of Nativity Scenes in Třebechovice pod Orebem houses approximately four hundred newborn Baby Jesuses, Josephs and Marys and three times as many kings. Since 1925, the Museum has collected four hundred nativity scenes of different kinds and from different materials. The best known, Probošt's Mechanical Nativity Scene, is seven meters wide and comprises two thousand pieces.

Plečník's Gifts to Prague ⑥ When the first Czechoslovak president, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, started to work at Prague Castle in 1918, he invited Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik to Prague to incorporate the spirit of democracy and the new republic in the official presidential seat. And Plečnik did so well that in 1920, he was appointed the official castle architect. The results of his work can be seen in many places around the castle. Working for the Czechoslovak president was such an honor for him that he refused any remuneration. Plečnik also designed another structure in Prague, one of the most remarkable contemporary churches in the Czech Republic, the Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord built in 1932. Plečnik was a committed believer, saw the church design as a gift and did not request any money for it either.



premium picks



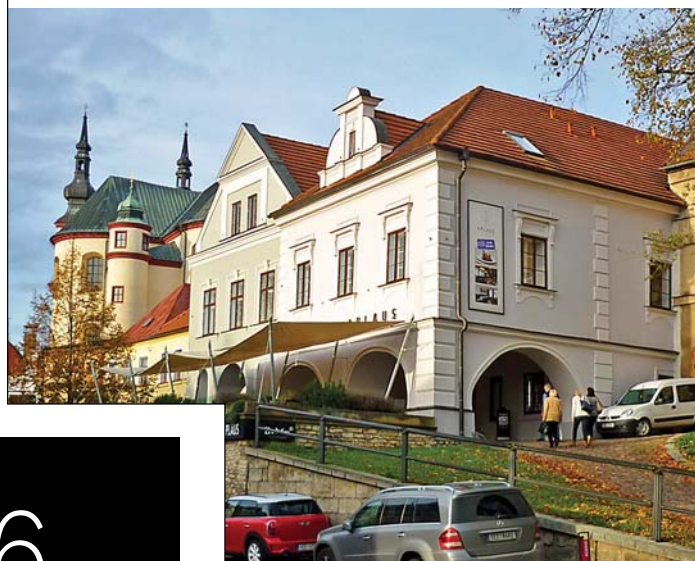
Dadja Altenburg-Kohl,
a Czech physician and philanthropist, the founder, director and curator of the Montanelli Museum in Prague, has chosen some of her favorite places in the Czech Republic. Let's take a look together at what they are.

1 PRAGUE THEATERS – I frequent the La Fabrika, Divadlo Ungelt and Jatka 78 theaters; the last one mentioned is a place with ideal conditions to hold circuses and dancing, non-verbal and alternative theater. But I am also a frequent visitor to the National Theater, and not just because I am personally involved there.

2 PRŮHONICE PARK – This park, which spreads over an area of 250 hectares, was founded in 1885 and thanks to its uniqueness, it is inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List. It lies just a few kilometers south-east of Prague and a walk through it will certainly refresh you and lift your spirits. Make a loop around the pond or walk along the chateau and then have lunch in one of the local restaurants – their cuisine will certainly not disappoint you.



3 LITOMYŠL – Litomyšl is a beautiful town that is alive with culture, especially during the summer. There are many outstanding galleries that I like to go to and in summer, Smetana's Litomyšl Music Festival is held here and it is an event that I never miss.



4 DOX – This modern art center in the Holešovice neighborhood (Prague) is located in a former factory. Not only does it organize, among other things, high-quality exhibitions, but its architecture is smart and anything but simple. I think that DOX can easily stack up to many similar art centers around the world.



5 PRAGUE ZOO – According to TripAdvisor, Prague Zoo is the fifth best zoo in the world. The animals here are kept in conditions that are as close as possible to their natural habitats. The exemplary level of care for young animals is evidenced by the large number of annual additions. For instance, last October, critically endangered Malayan tiger twins were born here and they are doing really well. Moreover, the zoo stands out due to its quality and it is a beautiful place.



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