MCE South Europe 2018 shined over Thessaloniki, Greece!

MCE South Europe organized by Europe Congress took place this week from 21 to 23 October 2018 at Makedonia Palace in Thessaloniki, Greece and exceeded all expectations!

The Europe Congress forums exist since 2011 and this version cleverly promotes South Europe as a MICE destination, showcasing its purest potential to international event planners with the purpose of creating strong and long-lasting business relations.

Sunday afternoon marked the official opening of the event with registration and a welcome reception at the amazing venue hotel. After being welcomed by the City of Thessaloniki Philharmonic Orchestra withlocal hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the renovated harbor of Thessaloniki, participants were offered to discover the Thessaloniki Cinema Museum and the Center of Contemporary Art of Thessaloniki. The Luxury Hotel Group Mediterranean Palace Hotel Rooftop impressive Dias Hall hosted the networking dinner.

Monday offered the start of the core of the successful B2B forum, the pre-scheduled and match-made meetings for all participants. The 35 encounters form the base of the new business relations that are being shaped between the suppliers and buyers that attended the show in Thessaloniki.
Most of the event planners that were hosted were new to the destination and to participation at a EuropeCongress forum, due to the company's internal policies. As always, the forum

impressed through its careful organization, varied event program and helpful staff.

Familiar faces were at the forum from the many MICE suppliers. But also new destinations and supplierstook part. Eliza Tsolakou from the Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau stated: ‘’I have attended many B2B events in the past but the forum by Europe Congress has exceeded my expectations. Especially with the quality of buyers and overall professional delivery of the event. I will definitely attend next year inValencia and am looking forward to hosting one of your future forums in Athens.’’

Hotel Makedonia Palace went all the way to impress the participants through its excellent meeting facilities and services, amazing coffee breaks, luncheons and afternoon surprises as fresh ice creams.Monday’s dinner took place this time in the property of Grand Hotel Palace. Before joining the property for an eve with dinner and entertainment a small city sightseeing was offered.

The success of the event and its organization was assisted by the official event partners: the Makedonia Palace Hotel, the Thessaloniki Convention Bureau, the City of Thessaloniki, the Region of Central Macedonia and airline partner Aegean Airline.

For more information, please contact Europe Congress on: Email: info@europecongress.com or Telephone: +420 226 804 080

Europe’s strength stemmed

from nation states



Those who want to forge the European Union into a European empire are all supporters of immigration, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said on Tuesday on the Memorial Day of the 1956 revolution and freedom fight, outside the House of Terror Museum in Budapest. He stressed Europe is a home of nations.

According to the Prime Minister today in Brussels imperial marching songs are being played again, “it is true that this tune is different from the old one”. Today they are not conquering with weapons: Brussels is not Istanbul, not Moscow, not imperial Berlin, not even Vienna. Nothing ever was conquered from Brussels, only colonies were administered from Brussels, he said.

“We, however, have never been either a colony or a coloniser, we have never taken anyone’s country away, and for that reason we will never give ours to anyone else either”, he stressed. Today Brussels is being ruled by those who want to replace an alliance of free nations with a European empire. A European empire which is led not by the elected leaders of nations, but by Brussels bureaucrats, Mr Orbán stated, observing that today in a number of European countries, too, supporters of a European empire are at the steering wheel. This is why we may have a fair idea of what that “brave new world” would be like if it were up to them. Young men of conscription age coming from other continents and different cultures are appearing in ever larger numbers, he highlighted, and “will within our lifetime shape large European cities into their own image”, thereby turning indigenous Europeans into a minority, slowly but surely. Terrorism will become a part of city life. Political manipulation, in reference to the rule of law, will

be an everyday occurrence. And the freedom of speech and press will extend as far as it echoes their ideas, the Prime Minister listed.

Those who want to forge the European Union into a European empire are all supporters of immigration



The Prime Minister said those who want to forge the European Union into a European empire are all, without exception, supporters of immigration: they have turned the letting in of migrants into the yardstick of Europeanness, and expect every country and nation to turn multinational within the shortest possible time. We now see, he continued, that they intentionally did not use their enormous police and military might, they intentionally did not protect Europe from the masses of migrants. “If we were able to do so, they would have been, too. It was not the ability that was lacking, but the will”, Mr Orbán said.

In his words, “the Brussels vanguard and the other leaders who are opposed to nation states” see migration as a chance and an opportunity even today. A chance to replace the European Union of nation states with a multicultural empire with a mixed population smoothed into a united front. A Europe without nation states, an elite detached from its national roots, an alliance with multinational power groups, a coalition with financial speculators, he listed, adding that “this would be George Soros’s paradise here”.

European nations will have to choose a future

He also said that while it is still only October, everyone in Europe is already thinking about May. The May European parliamentary elections will decide, he continued, which way

Europe should be heading. European nations will have to choose a future, and we Hungarians cannot stay silent either: “if the tune of the trumpets wavers, we will not be able to line up behind even the most important and truest cause”. We must therefore accept the challenge and call forth those who believe in a Europe of nations. We must wave the flag of a free and strong Europe, he said.

The Prime Minister stressed: “Let us choose independence and the cooperation of nations against global governance and control. Let us reject the ideology of globalism, and support the culture of patriotism instead”. He stated that Europe is different from the other continents: Europe is a home of nations, not a melting pot.



Europe is a home of nations

Mr Orbán stressed that Europe was led astray not by proud nations, but by imperial designs. Imperial experiments and experimenters are responsible for the monstrous wars of the twentieth century, a sea of suffering, and the multiple destruction of a thriving Europe.

“We believe that every nation is special, and unique in its own way, and can brighten up the segment of the world that is entrusted to it”, he said, stressing that this is why the Hungarian people rose up already in 1956.

“We love our culture which sustains and protects our freedom. We believe in strong families, we hold that our traditions and history are exceptional, we celebrate our heroes, and above

all we love our country. We do not want to, and indeed we will not, surrender it for the sake of any empire or global governance", the Prime Minister stated, adding that they do not want to wipe national feelings away, but in actual fact they wish to encourage them so that they release the abilities and talent inherent in Hungarian people.

History teaches us, he said, that in sovereign countries freedom lives on, democracy is enduring and peace prevails.

Mr Orbán also highlighted that almost all the revolutions and freedom fights of the Hungarians met with a negative result, but somehow this eventually led to a positive final outcome: survival, country and freedom. In his words, this is a veritable mystery which is called forth by every one of our national holidays.

Hungarians do not bet on the fate of their country



He also said that the Hungarian people are not the gambling type, they do not bet on the fate of their country, they are reluctant to engage in dubious adventures. If needs be, they can also fight without hope, but they prefer both heroism and common sense to be on their side.

According to the Prime Minister, the freedom fighters of fifty-six made a reasonable decision: the Soviets withdrew from Austria, Hungarian communists were busy butchering one another, and the free western world encouraged us and promised help. "On the one side, the hopelessness of certain demise, on the other, one last chance, a chance that would never return. It had to be tried. And they did try it. The way only we Hungarians can. With courage that laughs in the face of death, leaving our bad disputes behind, in full unity and with a pure

heart”, he said.

He pointed out that with every year that passes after 1956, there are fewer and fewer of those who took part in or witnessed those days. But every year since then “we have come together nonetheless, come rain or shine, and this will be so on every 23 October as long as Hungarians live in this world”. The Prime Minister said “Faludy was right to say that for us 1956 is not a memory and is not history, it is our heart and our spine”.

He highlighted that after 1956 there was communist dictatorship in Hungary for another 34 years. Cold daily life in dictatorships tends to undercut human dignity, and even after their fall there remain emptiness, a diminished life force and pettiness, he pointed out. He took the view that “this is what we Hungarians escaped from, this is what the freedom fighters of fifty-six rescued us from”.

Mr Orbán said “it was not human weakness, not division that was handed down to us, but the example of courage, heroism and greatness”. This was the only way that we Hungarians could be proud of our country even during communist oppression, he pointed out.

He underlined that “we Hungarians are the best at moaning”, we are second to none when it comes to complaining, and we Hungarians can mourn ourselves more sincerely than anyone else. Yet, “here we are, one thousand one hundred years after the conquest, a thousand years after the establishment of the Christian Hungarian State, as one of Europe’s oldest nations, surviving occupiers and occupations”, he said. He believes that eternal Hungarian heroism must be there somewhere among the reasons for the survival of the Hungarian people.

The Prime Minister also emphasised that the lads of Pest born in the thirties – in their mere teens, or twenties at most – had received nothing from their country, and the nation could

only offer them a share in its suffering. However, the lads of Pest who never got anything from their country gave their all for it, and for this “their place is up there in the pantheon of eternal Hungarian heroism”, he observed.

Mr Orbán said that when after almost half a century of Soviet occupation and communist oppression we regained our freedom, “we thought we had finally returned home”. Hungary has been a part of Christian Europe for a thousand years. “We are Europe because we remained Europeans even when they sold us off in Yalta, and also in ’56 when they let us down”, he said.

He took the view that after the departure of the Soviets “we believed that we had finally found peace, that our history, culture and world political situation had finally fallen into harmony, that we could occupy our position in Europe again”. But today European nations, “including us Hungarians, are compelled to face challenges of the distant past”. He added that Europe finds itself in danger not due to external military threats, not due to American or Soviet aspirations, but through its own doing.



He raised the question: who would have thought that “the imperial idea which ruined Europe time and time again could re-emerge in Europe”, that others would want to tell us whom we should live together with in our own country, and that Hungary or Poland would be attacked on the basis of fabrications, or that threats would be levelled at Romania and Slovakia, and even Italy?

The Prime Minister highlighted that Europe’s greatness, strength and glory stemmed from nations that compete and cooperate with one another all at once. Nations once respected one another’s rights, protected the interests of their

citizens, were able to cooperate well, and shared the blessings of peace, advancement and security. This is the kind of Europe, a Europe of nations that we Hungarians joined a good fifteen years ago. “We accepted the invitation of Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac, not the conquests of Bonaparte or the Third Reich”, he said.

He pointed out that we Hungarians “suffered enough from empires”. They all wanted to turn us into good subjects. “They did not understand that we have a country, and that a country has sons and daughters, not subjects.” They have perhaps learnt since that “the Hungarians sniff out imperial designs from afar and send their governors packing sooner or later. If they are lucky”, he said. He concluded his speech saying: “Let us think of the freedom fighters of ’56, let us remember the lads of Pest, let us choose the future of patriotism and national pride”.

(MTI)

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airBaltic Meal Pre-order Sales Grow 45%



Riga. The Latvian airline *airBaltic*has seen significant growth in the

number of economy passengers choosing among a selection of over 70 fresh meals they have added to their reservation. During the first three quarters of 2018, the sales through different selling points have improved by 45% in comparison to the same period last year.

Zane Pabērza, Inflight Services Manager of *airBaltic*: “Meal pre-order provides excellent value and we see huge potential in this area, as the customer has a large variety of fresh hot meals, desserts and beverages with many customization opportunities to choose from for a reasonable price.”

“Moreover, ordering is very convenient and flexible for passengers and you can add the meal to the reservation up to 24 hours before departure. When departing Riga, 8 most popular and demanded meal options are available during online check-in and *Manage my Booking*tool even up to an hour before departure,” Zane Pabērza added.

The most popular meal pre-order options ordered by *airBaltic*passengers are teriyaki salmon, grilled pork fillet and cheese omelette. Most popular flights, on which passengers pre-order meals, are flights from Riga to Barcelona, London and Paris. *airBaltic*is continuously working on menu development by providing the best practice of airline catering.

During the first three quarters of 2018, advanced seat reservations have seen an increase in sales by 29%. Most often passengers choose to reserve a window seat. Thanks to the improved overall comfort and larger windows, passengers use the service most often on flights performed by the new *Airbus A220-300*aircraft. Top destinations, on which passengers reserve seats, are flights to London, Tallinn and Berlin.

*airBaltic*serves over 70 destinations from Riga, Tallinn and Vilnius, offering the largest variety of destinations and convenient connections via Riga to its network spanning Europe, Scandinavia, the CIS and the Middle East. For summer 2019, *airBaltic*has introduced three new destinations from Tallinn to Malaga, Brussels and Copenhagen. In addition, next summer *airBaltic*will launch a new direct route connecting Riga and Stuttgart.

***airBaltic*in brief:**

airBaltic(AIR BALTIC CORPORATION) is the world's most punctual airline connecting the Baltic region with 70 destinations in Europe, the Middle East, and the CIS. *airBaltic*is a joint stock company that was established in 1995. Its primary shareholder is the Latvian state, which holds 80.05% of the stock, while Lars Thuesen holds around 20% through his fully-owned Aircraft Leasing 1 SIA. The*airBaltic*fleet consists of 36 aircraft – 13 *Airbus A220-300s*, 11 *Boeing 737s*and 12 *Bombardier Q400Next Gen*aircraft. *airBaltic*has received numerous international awards for excellence, innovative services, and achievements in reshaping its business. In 2017, the airline received the CAPA Regional Airline of the Year awards, while in 2018 *airBaltic*received the ATW Airline Industry Achievement Award as the Market Leader of the Year. *airBaltic*achieved the best on-time performance globally in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

UNWTO/GTERC Report : Asia and the Pacific grows in importance for Global Tourism



Madrid, Spain, 23 October 2018 – The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), in partnership with the Global Tourism Economy Research Centre (GTERC), presented its Asia Tourism Trends Report today at the Global Tourism Economy Forum in Macao. The report shows Asia and the Pacific outperforming all world regions in growth in international arrivals since 2005.

'UNWTO/GTERC Asia Tourism Trends – 2018' shows that international tourist arrivals in Asia and the Pacific grew 6%

in 2017 to reach 323 million, around a quarter of the world's total. Of all world regions Asia and the Pacific, the second-most visited after Europe, has grown the fastest in international tourist arrivals since 2005. Arrivals increased an average of 6% per year, above the world average of 4%.

Rapid economic growth in a region with over half the world's population, coupled with rising air connectivity, travel facilitation and large infrastructure projects, have boosted international travel in the region. This has had a large impact on Asian destinations' tourism earnings, which have steadily increased from 17% of the world total in 2000 to 29% in 2017. This is equivalent to US$ 390 billion in tourism receipts.

Asia and the Pacific plays a vital role as a source market as well, fuelling much growth in both regional and long-haul destinations. The region produced 335 million international travellers spending US$ 502 billion in 2017, 37% of the world total. Around 80% of these visits were concentrated in Asia destinations. Outside the region, 56% of the long-haul trips were to Europe.

EU-China Tourism Year

To celebrate the EU-China Tourism Year 2018, the report looks at international tourism between China, the largest economy in Asia, and the block of 28 European Union (EU) countries.

It finds that 5.7 million Chinese tourists travelled to Europe in 2016, of which 3.5 million went to the EU. In reverse, 5.5 million Europeans travelled to China in 2016, 3.1 million of whom from EU countries.

China's Greater Bay Area – a major outbound area

The last chapter of 'UNWTO/GTERC Asia Tourism Trends – 2018' provides an insight into the Greater Bay Area of China, a

project to create a large socio-economic zone and tourism area comprising the two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao, as well as nine cities in Guangdong Province. According to the report, the Greater Bay Area is China's fastest-growing tourism region and the Pearl River Delta home to several cities with high tourism development including Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Foshan.

Austrian Airlines Expands Flight Service to Tokyo

- **Daily Austrian Airlines flights from Vienna to Tokyo starting in 2019**
- **"Reaction to the ongoing high level of demand", says CCO Andreas Otto**
- **Boeing 767 to be deployed on additional flights**





Starting at the end of March 2019, Austrian Airlines will operate six weekly flights from Vienna to Tokyo. As of the beginning of May until the end of October 2019 a daily connection will be offered. Up until now five flight connections per week were planned in the summer flight schedule of 2019. "With this step we are reacting to the ongoing high level of demand on this route", states Austrian Airlines CCO Andreas Otto. The additional flights will be operated with a Boeing 767 aircraft from existing capacities.

As a result, Austrian Airlines as well as its Star Alliance and joint venture partner ANA will each operate daily flights between Vienna and Tokyo as of 2019. Austrian Airlines flies to Narita Airport, whereas ANA departs from Haneda. “More than 37 million people live in Tokyo and its surroundings. Moreover, Japan is becoming an increasingly interesting destination for European tourists, for example due to the 2020 Summer Olympics”, explains Andreas Otto. “For this reason, the outlook is also good,” he adds.

Photo Copyright: Lufthansa Cargo)

Air Transat laat Belgen volgende zomer Canada ontdekken met zes bestemmingen en meerdere vluchten per week

Brussel, 24 oktober 2018 – Air Transat, benoemd tot ‘World’s Best Leisure Airline 2018’, stelt het nieuwe vluchtschema voor zomer 2019 voor en kondigt daarbij verheugd aan dat Belgische reizigers vanaf 1 mei 2019 naar zes Canadese bestemmingen kunnen vliegen. Air Transat biedt wekelijks drie directe vluchten vanuit Brussel naar Montreal, waar reizigers aansluiting geniet op de binnenlandse vluchten naar Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary en Québec. Vanuit Amsterdam biedt de luchtvaartmaatschappij directe vluchten aan naar Toronto, Vancouver en Calgary. De doorverbinding naar

Edmonton via Toronto is nieuw vanaf 2019.

Frankfurt Airport Offers More Destinations, Flights and Seat Capacity

Winter schedule 2018/2019 starts October 28



Photo: Departure Screen at Frankfurt Airport

FRA/dm – Frankfurt Airport's (FRA)'s new winter schedule will begin on October 28. For the new Winter 2018/2019 timetable, some 89 airlines will be serving 266 destinations in 101 countries worldwide, making Frankfurt Germany's number one international aviation hub with the most intercontinental destinations.

Compared to the same period last year, the number of passenger flights will increase by five to six percent. This growth is evenly distributed in the intercontinental, European and domestic segments. Seat capacity will also rise by five to six percent.

New destinations from FRA

This winter, long-distance travelers can look forward to three

new destinations via FRA: Condor will be flying thrice weekly to Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and once per week to Curacao (Netherlands Antilles). Additionally, Lufthansa will be introducing two weekly flights to Eilat (Israel). Lufthansa will continue to operate flights to Shenyang (China) and San Diego (U.S.), which were launched during the summer schedule. Air Astana will also maintain services to Atyrau (Kazakhstan) for the winter schedule.

In continental traffic, Lufthansa will inaugurate a new route to Trieste (Italy), with twelve flights per week starting this winter. Lufthansa will continue the flights established this summer to Bordeaux (France), while Wizzair will maintain its Kiev-Zhuliany (Ukraine) service.

Trending intercontinental connections

Many FRA airlines will expand their frequencies on routes to existing destinations this winter season. From October 16, travelers interested in flying to India can not only take advantage of Lufthansa's daily flights, but also Air India's four direct flights per week from Frankfurt to Mumbai. Lufthansa will still be flying nonstop to Addis Abeba (Ethiopia), but without a layover in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia). Ethiopian Airlines will also be serving its Addis Abeba. hub with daily connections. Passengers traveling to Morocco, will also be fly twice a week with either Lufthansa or Ryanair to Agadir – in addition to Condors two connections per week.

Escaping this winter's inevitable cold temperatures will be easier thanks to additional services to Cancun (Mexico). Condor will increase its frequencies to one flight per day, while Lufthansa will fly thrice weekly to the Mayan Riviera. Existing destinations to the U.S. will be gain more

frequencies via Frankfurt Airport. A choice of three flights per day will be possible to to San Francisco (U.S.) this winter. United Airlines will add a second daily service, along with existing Lufthansa daily service to the Bay Area. Lufthansa will boost its New York-JFK service (USA) to two daily connections throughout the winter schedule. Newark Airport, the other main international gateway to the financial metropolis on the Hudson River, will also be served daily by Delta Airlines, Singapore Airlines, United Airlines and Lufthansa – giving FRA passengers a choice of six daily flights to the Big Apple this winter.

Expanding continental connections

Should you prefer closer getaways this winter, you can count on many continental expansions throughout FRA's entire route network. Along with Aegean's daily connection to Thessaloniki (Greece), Lufthansa will be adding two new weekly flights. Ryanair will fly 12 times per week to Dublin (Ireland) this winter. With connections offered by Lufthansa and Aer Lingus, FRA passengers with thus have a choice of 63 flights per week to the Irish capital.

Note: All comparisons refer to the corresponding FRA Winter Timetable 2017/2018.

À l'aube de ses 3 ans, Blue Valet se développe à l'international et s'installe

à Bruxelles !

À l'aube de ses 3 ans, Blue Valet se développe à l'international et s'installe à Bruxelles !

Pour sa première ouverture européenne, Blue Valet a choisi la capitale belge.

Désormais présent au sein de 15 gares et 8 aéroports en France, le service de voiturier-parking continue d'accroître sa présence et franchit la frontière belge pour sa première ouverture européenne. Depuis le 17 septembre le service est actif à la Gare de Bruxelles-Midi ainsi qu'à l'Aéroport de Zaventem afin de satisfaire la demande des 157 000 voyageurs quotidiens de ces deux pôles.

L'entreprise propose aux voyageurs d'affaires de prendre en charge leur véhicule au dépose-minute le jour de leur départ puis de le stationner dans un parking sécurisé. Au retour, le voiturier retrouvera une nouvelle fois le client au dépose-minute pour lui restituer sa voiture.



Le service de voiturier-parking assure "Blue Valet propose des prix compétitifs allant jusqu'à 60% moins chers qu'un parking d'aéroport/gare ou encore qu'une solution de type taxi/VTC

Plus de 150 000 usagers ont déjà été conquis par Blue Valet, un service innovant et connecté qui permet de rejoindre gares et aéroports en toute sérénité !

En constante évolution, l'entreprise qui propose désormais son service au sein des 4 gares parisiennes, des plus grands aéroports français et maintenant sur 2 nouveaux sites en Europe, est également créatrice d'emplois. « Le recrutement

est au cœur de la stratégie Blue Valet. Il est indispensable à notre croissance. De ce fait, sur le territoire français, nous avons déjà plus de 250 collaborateurs. Un chiffre que nous prévoyons bien sûr d'augmenter compte tenu de notre ouverture à l'international » poursuit Benoit Ricard.

Les tarifs

Les tarifs comprennent le coût du stationnement, la prestation aller/retour du voiturier ainsi que l'assurance tous risques du véhicule. Avec la même stratégie que pour la France, Blue Valet propose des prix compétitifs allant jusqu'à 60% moins chers qu'un parking d'aéroport/gare ou encore qu'une solution de type taxi/VTC.

"Nous négocions des places de stationnement à tarifs préférentiels et nous répercutons l'économie directement à nos clients, notre service de voiturier en plus", nous confie Benoît Ricard.

Pour la gare du Midi, 2 jours vous coûteront 39€, 7 jours 79€ ou encore 10 jours 94€, soit un tarif moyen journalier de 11,20€ (sur la base de 7j).



Pour Bruxelles-Zaventem, les tarifs vont de 45€ pour 2 jours à 80€ pour 7 jours ou encore 95€ pour 10 jours, soit un tarif moyen de 11,40€ (sur la base de 7j). À noter que des services complémentaires comme l'assurance annulation ou encore le parking couvert permettront de répondre aux différents besoins des clients.

Ces tarifs comprennent le coût du stationnement, la prestation aller/retour du voiturier ainsi que l'assurance tous risques du véhicule. Par ailleurs, des services complémentaires payants comme l'assurance annulation ou encore le parking couvert sont proposés aux voyageurs.

Et pour demain ?

Pour accélérer sa montée en puissance, Blue Valet bouclait en avril 2017 une levée de fonds de 2 millions d'euros qui a permis d'assurer l'ouverture de 16 nouveaux sites en moins d'un an.

En 2018, Blue Valet continue d'afficher une hyper croissance (+300%) et ambitionne de devenir le leader européen de son secteur en poursuivant les ouvertures en France et en Europe.

À PROPOS



Blue Valet est aujourd'hui la meilleure façon de voyager sereinement en France. Créée en juin 2015 par deux frères entrepreneurs Hugo et Benoit, la start-up s'est rapidement imposée comme le leader du parking avec voiturier dans les grands hubs de mobilités français. À l'heure de l'ultra service et du digital, Blue Valet redéfinit l'offre de stationnement et l'expérience voyageur en proposant une solution innovante

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Ces choses exacerbant cette insupportable fierté nationale des Russes

par DANIEL CHALYAN



Les Russes en font toujours des tonnes lorsqu'il est question de faire l'éloge de leur pays. Mais pardonnez-les, ils ont bien des raisons de le faire!

1. Notre musique classique

Tchaïkovski, Prokofiev, Rimski-Korsakov, Moussorgski, Scriabine, Rachmaninov, Stravinsky, et la liste est encore longue. Notre tradition musicale classique est probablement le seul domaine culturel russe que l'on pourrait croire être le fruit d'une civilisation parfaitement européenne.

Les compositeurs russes se sont imposés comme de véritables citoyens du monde de par leur capacité à atteindre les gens malgré les barrières culturelles. En effet, la littérature, par exemple, ne parvient pas toujours à obtenir le même résultat, même si nous sommes tout aussi fiers de nos illustres hommes de lettres.

Lire aussi : Attentes vs réalité: ce que vous réserve véritablement un séjour en Russie

2. Notre capacité à créer des miracles à partir de rien

Pour être honnête, nous aurions pu commencer par ce point, car s'il y a un domaine dans lequel les Russes sont en tête, c'est bien lorsqu'il s'agit de fabriquer, avec rien, des choses stupéfiantes.

La Russie est par exemple encore aujourd'hui le seul pays en mesure d'acheminer les cosmonautes vers la Station Spatiale Internationale et de les ramener, grâce aux fusées Soyouz. Après 50 ans d'exploitation, ces modèles restent toujours la référence en la matière. Les États-Unis tentent actuellement de contrer cela avec des projets développés par SpaceX et Boeing, mais leurs tests ne devraient pas avoir lieu avant 2019 selon la NASA.

Même si la conquête de l'espace jouit de pharaoniques financements, notre programme spatial nous rappelle souvent qu'il est important d'être fier de notre capacité à utiliser

des outils de qualité inférieure et de maigres ressources pour élaborer des systèmes aussi, voire plus, performants que des produits résultant d'investissement de plusieurs milliards. Cette philosophie a d'ailleurs été à l'origine de plusieurs de nos armes ou voitures, mais est aussi d'une utilité indubitable dans notre quotidien, où le système D est roi.

Lire aussi : Tout ce que vous mourez d'envie de demander aux Russes sans oser le faire

3. Notre contribution à la Seconde Guerre mondiale

Si en Occident s'est répandue l'idée selon laquelle les États-Unis ont été les grands sauveurs lors de ce conflit, la Russie ne voit pas les choses ainsi. En effet, l'URSS ayant perdu pas moins de 27 millions de citoyens (contre 418 000 Américains) au cours de cette tragique page de l'histoire, le pays considère aujourd'hui que c'est bel et bien son sacrifice qui a rendu possible la victoire face à l'Allemagne nazie.

Le fait de compter plus de victimes que tous les autres a eu un profond impact sur la psychologie des Russes : cela dessine la façon dont nous voyons notre nation dans l'histoire, tant passée que présente. Bien entendu, tous ne croient pas qu'il est bon d'utiliser le sacrifice de nos grands-parents pour justifier une opinion sur les relations internationales, mais les pertes soviétiques en temps de guerre sont devenues inextricablement liées à cette habitude.

4. Notre âme de combattant

Les Russes aiment s'imaginer en combattants ou en survivalistes, tout comme ils adorent se battre d'ailleurs. Nous nous sommes en réalité frayé un chemin à travers l'histoire malgré le rude climat de nos terres et les abruptes transitions politiques et culturelles.

L’esprit robuste des Russes peut être comparé à celui des Britanniques, à la seule différence que ces derniers apprennent à enterrer leurs émotions intérieures, alors que les Russes, dans leurs abondants jurons et leurs fréquents jets d’objets à travers la pièce, font preuve d’une tout autre manière de gérer leur stress. Cela s’explique principalement par une histoire complexe, notamment lors des derniers grands conflits qu’ont été la Seconde Guerre mondiale et la guerre civile, mais aussi lors de la terrible décennie des années 1990.

Lire aussi : Pourquoi les Russes sont-ils si étranges?

5. Notre caractère borné

Contrairement aux peuples occidentaux, l’obstination est ici perçue comme une qualité inhérente et importante. Les Russes sont en effet persuadés que personne ne viendra les sauver en cas de besoin et qu’ils ne peuvent donc compter que sur eux-mêmes. Ainsi, être borné est en quelque sorte lié à la survie. Imaginez votre cheval mourant au beau milieu d’une interminable plaine enneigée, à des kilomètres du plus proche village. Voilà où est né ce trait de caractère.

6. Notre singulier sens du mérite

Baudolino, d’Umberto Eco, est l’un de mes romans favoris. Parmi les créatures fantastiques qui y sont décrites, il existe un peuple aspirant sans cesse à réaliser des sacrifices, et de préférence l’ultime. Il s’agit certainement à leurs yeux du meilleur moyen de prouver leur mérite. Or, on retrouve ce trait chez les Russes aussi, à qui la notion de sacrifice est inculquée dès l’enfance. Ce trait s’est d’ailleurs particulièrement révélé au cours de la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

En réalité, les Russes se montrent toujours prêts aux plus grandes folies afin de démontrer leur bravoure et leur mérite.

Cela les pousse parfois à se trouver dans des situations périlleuses, ce qui conduit malheureusement dans certains cas à des tragédies. Par exemple, l'escalade urbaine est en Russie une pratique très populaire, consistant à grimper au sommet des plus hauts édifices, sans équipement de protection.

De plus, la Russie étant une nation profondément orthodoxe, cela a probablement élevé la souffrance au rang de chemin vers la vertu, bien plus que dans les pays catholiques ou protestants. Ce phénomène se retrouve d'ailleurs dans notre littérature, où s'attarder sur les sentiments douloureux d'un personnage est monnaie courante.

Lire aussi : À qui les anciens Slaves vouaient-ils un culte avant l'arrivée du christianisme?

7. Notre capacité à dépenser toute notre énergie et nos ressources pour le groupe

Certains pourraient se référer à cette qualité comme étant la « vaste âme russe », bien que cette expression soit plus fréquemment utilisée pour décrire les dispendieux actes de bienveillance ou de générosité de la population. En réalité, cela devrait également englober l'irrationalité des Russes, leur propension à l'exagération face à diverses situations.

Un élément crucial de la psychologie russe repose sur les normes sociales : proposer de payer pour une tournée de verres ou faire quelque chose pour le groupe sont des comportements avec lesquels nous sommes tous élevés. Mais s'offenser pour de petites insultes en fait également partie. La Russie peut apparaître tel un pays développé peuplé par des individualistes vivant dans une économie de libre marché, mais notre culture arbore encore une considérable dépendance vis-à-vis de ce que le groupe pense de nos actions individuelles, influençant profondément notre manière d'agir, pour le meilleur et pour le pire.

Source : article publié dans Russia Beyond

Plus d'histoires et de vidéos passionnantes sur la page Facebook de Russia Beyond.

Austrian Airlines Wants More Women in the Cockpit



- **Targeted increase in the share of female pilots**
- **Current search for 100 fully-trained pilots**
- **Numerous courses and training positions once again in 2019 for future pilots**

More aircraft, more flights and more staff. Austrian Airlines is continually expanding. In the first half of 2018 alone, Austria's home carrier hired 400 new employees, mainly pilots and flight attendants. At present Austrian Airlines plans to add 100 fully trained pilots. In addition, training courses for future pilots will be offered again in the coming year. "We are pleased that we can offer so many career entry opportunities to experienced pilots and those who still want to become pilots", says Helmut Haubenwaller, Head of Crew Training at Austrian Airlines.

More women in the cockpit

The job and training offering particularly targets women. Over the last three years, the percentage of female pilots at Austrian Airlines has risen from three percent in 2015 to the current level of five percent. This is a positive development. However, it also demonstrates that women are still strongly underrepresented in this profession. For this reason, the declared objective of Austrian Airlines is to have more women in the cockpits of its aircraft.

Learning to fly from scratch

Four so-called ab initio courses will be offered in 2019, each with 24 training positions for interested candidates without previous flight experience. The requirements demanded of prospective candidates include EU citizenship, a secondary school leaving certificate, a secondary school vocational certificate, or the subject-related university entrance qualification of the country of origin. Furthermore, candidates should be at least 165 cm tall and have an unrestricted passport. In addition, they should have a very good command of written and spoken German and English. People wearing glasses or contact lenses may only have maximum of +/- 3.0 diopter lenses. More information for potential applicants is available at www.austrianpilot.at.

Belgische wijn is booming business

Wijn maken in België kan. Dat weten ook Jan Van Lancker en wijnexperts Pieter Raeymaekers en Johan Stoffels die samen investeren ineen nieuw Belgisch wijndomein “Valke Vleug”.Valke Vleug had deze zomer haar eerste oogst.

Het drietal innoveert in de Belgische wijnsectortevens met de lancering van Vinetiq, een wijnboutique exclusief gericht op cool climate wijnen dat zowel offline als online inzet op beleving.



Wijnavontuur in Klein-Brabant

Valke Vleug is een nieuw Belgisch wijndomein te Liezele bij Puurs. Op een grond gekend voor asperges staannu 15.000 wijnstokken Auxerrois en Pinot Noirbestemd voor voornamelijk witte en mousserende wijnen.Deze zomer had het nieuwewijndomein Valke Vleug haar eerste oogst.

Wijn maken in België kan. Al 30 jaar tonen pioneers dat expertise en doorzettingsvermogen ook in België erg kwalitatieve wijn kan opleveren. De klant smaakt de eigen Belgische wijnen steeds meer.Wereldwijd gooien wijnmakers hoge ogen met wijnen gemaakt in in een koeler klimaat onder meer uitdagende omstandigheden.

Cool climate: nieuwe wijnstijl culinair in trek



Cool climate wijnen komen uit streken waar het klimaat wat koeler is omdat zehoger of verder vande evenaar gelegen zijn.

De unieke paradox is dat hoe lastiger de druif het heeft, hoe mooier de wijn wordt. Een overtreffende trap van vakmanschap en lef van de wijnmaker om voor deze cool climate regio’s te kiezenis vereist. Cool climate wijnen zijn bijzonder trending bij chefs en sommeliersomdat hun verfijnd karakter en veelal lager alcoholgehalte zicht prima leent tot food pairing.

Vinetiq innoveert in Belgische wijnsector



Vinetiq is de eerste Belgische wijnboutique die zich volledig toelegt op cool climate wijnen.Het is tevens een project van ondernemers Pieter, Johan en Jan.

“Het helpt wijnmakers in pakweg Oregon te overtuigen hun wijn toe te vertrouwen aan Vinetiq als je ze vertelt dat we zelf ook wijn maken. Cool climate wijnmakers zijn vakidioten die hun baby’s niet zomaar aan de eerste de beste willen verkopen”, aldus medeoprichteren CEO Pieter Raeymaekers.

Vinetiq heeft een gammacool climatewijnenvan over de hele wereld: van Engeland over Loire, Bourgogne en Champagne naar Duitsland, Oostenrijk, Noord-Italië en Sicilië, Chili, Australië, Nieuw-Zeeland, de VS tot Canada…. De zopas

gelanceerde online wijnboutiqueheeft momenteel 25 wijndomeinen en een 150-tal wijnen in haar portfolio. Dit aantal breidt de komende weken en maanden verder uit.

Cool concept, warme aanpak





Vinetiq bouwt op de grond van Valke Vleug een wijnhoeve getekend door Vincent Van Duysen. De gebouwen zullen naast de wijnactiviteiteneen kader bieden voor diverse events waarbijwijn en gastronomie centraal staan.

“Ik hou van schoonheid en plezier. Stijlvol van wijn genieten gekoppeld aan fijne gastronomie, maar ook muziek, kunst en zelfssport. Dit is een uniek onderdeel van wat we met Vinetiq in de markt willen zetten”, legt medeoprichter Jan Van Lancker uit.

Beleving staat centraal bij Vinetiq. Vinetiq innoveert ook hier door de beleving van het eigen wijndomein en diverse events door te trekken naar een mooi uitgebouwde webwinkel. De online wijnboutique zet in op persoonlijke serviceen hulp bij het maken keuzes. Daarbij is er extra aandacht voor food pairing. Vinetiq.eu biedt bovendien vele technische en verhalende info achter elke fles en wijndomein.Het neemt je helemaal mee in de wereld van cool climate wijnen.

“Ons assortiment cool climate wijnen betovert door schakering,

raffinement en finesse en staat mijlenver af van de commerciële aanpak die de wijnsector overheerst.Vinetiq gaat consequent voor beleving waarin we onze klanten écht omarmen en een gastvrij forum bieden om authentieke, cool climate wijnen te ontdekken”,vult medeoprichter Johan Stoffels aan.

Vinetiq laat op 9, 10 en 11 november voor de eerste keer haar wijnen proeven aan het grote publiek.

Meer info via vinetiq.eu