

CITY GUIDES

ALL THAT'S TRENDY IN SOME OF THE WORLD'S COOL CAPITALS. THIS ISSUE WE TRAVEL TO REYKJAVIK, ICELAND, AND CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

edited by Carol Greening

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND



GRILLMARKADURINN, THE GRILL MARKET

Lauded for its excellent service, divine food and top-notch décor, Grillmarkadurinn, or The Grill Market, is run by a group of Icelandic culinary pros that are on a mission to create the best dishes using native ingredients. Guests are treated to fresh and seasonal dishes while taking in the serene atmosphere of the restaurant with unique interior features like live moss, basalt columns and fish skin. <http://www.grillmarkadurinn.is/>
Photos by: Björn Árnason



HOTEL BORG

Located in the heart of Reykjavik, Hotel Borg is an elegant reflection of Art Deco with a touch of modernity. Originally opened in 1930 for adventurer Jóhannes Jósefsson, the hotel boasts 56 rooms, which are individually styled with various woods and leather and custom designed to offer their visitor a unique and ultra sophisticated experience. Surrounded by art galleries, specialty shops and quaint restaurants, Hotel Borg is a primary example of a true Icelandic experience. <http://en.hotelborg.is/>
Photos by: Hotel Borg, 2012



HVALALIF - LIFE OF WHALES

Embark on an aquatic adventure out to Faxaflói bay for a chance to marvel at the majestic creatures of the sea with Life of Whales tours. Aboard Andrea, the spacious queen of the fleet, take in the breathtaking panoramic view atop the massive deck or from the comfort of one of two stylish lounges, complete with a snack bar. There is also opportunity to get a glimpse of the diverse local bird life. <http://www.hvalalif.is/>
Photos by: Hvalalif-Special Tours and Life of Whales



KRONKRON

Likened to entering a sweets factory, the KronKron store boasts an array of fun colours and fresh designs, featuring labels of both up coming and leading designers. The shop is run by designer duo Hugufrún Árnadóttir and Magni Þorsteinsson, of the Icelandic label KRONbyKRONKRON. Located in the main shopping district of Reykjavik, Laugavegur, the inviting atmosphere of the shop welcomes a wide range of customers with their unique mix of styles. <http://kronbykronkron.com/>
<http://www.kronkron.com/>



SPARK DESIGN SPACE

Spark Design Space has the distinction of being the only design gallery in Reykjavik, founded in 2010. It is a forum for eclectic projects and collaborations between local designers and other professionals. The exhibits usually last for two months before show items are then stocked in what has been dubbed the 'slow shop,' as curators slowly build a collection of things they love, that tourists are sure to enjoy as well. <http://www.sparkdesignspace.com/>



VIDEY

The preserved beauty and historic landmarks found on the island of Videy make it an ideal sojourn during any visit to Iceland. Drop in at the Videy Church, one of Iceland's oldest churches still with its original interior, and be sure to stop by The Videy House, an Icelandic architectural landmark. Other sights include Yoko Ono's Imagine Peace Tower, Gallery Restaurant, Videyjarnaustr cabin and The Old School House. <http://videy.com/en/videy-2/>



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CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

CHARLY'S BAKERY

Charly's Bakery is Cape Town's prime spot for indulgent and outlandish wedding cakes, and other delectable confections, for any occasion. Popular treats include their Double Chocolate Cheese Cake, Bailey's Ultimate Gold Chocolate Cake, and their famous Chocolate and Vanilla Cupcakes. The family-owned business has their inventive and trendy designer cakes featured regularly in Cape Town magazines. <http://www.charlysbakery.co.za/>



FRANSCHHOEK WINE VALLEY, FRANSCHHOEK, SOUTH AFRICA (NEAR CAPE TOWN)

Situated among the picturesque mountains of the Cape Winelands is the Franschhoek Valley, the food and wine capital of the country. Centrally located and culturally diverse, the village boasts over a hundred fascinating things to do – horseback ride through the Vignerons de Franschhoek, sample the highly praised cuisine, or explore Franschhoek's prominently displayed French heritage. <http://franschhoek.org.za/>
Photos by: Eddie Wilson, Foto Artist Studio

J&B MET

A gathering of the elite and privileged, the annual J&B Met, a Gold Circle Horseracing event, is renowned as Cape Town's esteemed social event. Sixteen top horses run 2000 metres during South Africa's highly celebrated race at the Kenilworth Racecourse, with a purse of 2.5 million South African Rand (\$280,000 CDN). It is also regarded as a fashionable affair for the glamorous crowd to see and be seen. This year (the race is on February 2) marks the 36th time the event has been held. <http://www.jbmet.co.za/>



RADISSON BLU ON THE WATERFRONT AND TOBAGO RESTAURANT

A deluxe room with an ocean or marina view is what the Radisson Blu Hotel at Cape Town's waterfront offers its guests, along with 24-hour concierge, baby-sitting and room services. Topago's Restaurant offers an exquisite alfresco dining experience at the Atlantic's edge. Topago's Bar and Terrace is the perfect setting for sipping drinks near the rim flowing, heated pool – relaxing, yet inspiring atmosphere. <http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-capetown>

