



ANYTHING TO DECLARE?

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BUENOS AIRES

BAMBUIHA LAKE

DELM CLUB

NEW ROUTE

WHILEY SIMPLE / NOTEREGARD

We know the Dutch take cycling pretty seriously – don't they own more bikes per head of the population than the British ever understood? Cycle routes litter the country, making this form of transportation a positive pleasure. These days, however, Holland is not just two-wheel friendly, but eight. TE Products in Amsterdam is churning out in-line skating guides for all the country's major cities, and has already done the capital Amsterdam, Hague, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Noord-Holland and Arnhem-Nijmegen. Each guide features funny maps and detailed routes, with covers designed by Dorine van den Beuker. Meet three new in-line guides will come out for Holland, and these are plans to give Copenhagen and London the treatment. Time to get rolling. **class cover**
TE Products, Tel: 31.20 658 3292



NIGHT LINE / INTERVUE

If travelling overnight doesn't exactly boot your horn, you obviously haven't kicked back in the sleeper cabins on the CityNightLine international trains that run out of Zurich to Hamburg, Berlin and Dresden, and from Vienna to Dortmund. Resembling a hi-tech spacecraft, the deluxe rooms have feather bunkbeds, table and chairs, full washroom and telephone. (For the all important room service, all angled under a glass roof/window. Should you wish to stretch your legs, the diner-lounge cars feature light meals, clean linen and twinkling overhead 'stars' courtesy of fibre-optic ceiling panels. Economy and 'stepprette' cars are also available. **class review**
CityNightLine, Tel: 41.1 225 7575.
www.citynightline.ch



FIXED MENU / FRANK

La Richelle may be relatively small, but historically it is one of France's most important maritime centres. More recently it has developed as a centre for leisure sailing and, with its proximity to the popular Ile de Re and good train links to Paris, tourism. Architect Christian Menu has been working with the town's private-public development partnership to help guide this expansion. He is just about to start work on the regeneration of La Pallice, a peripheral harbour area to the north of La Richelle. First step is a net-based public consultation and design workshop starting this autumn on the future of the area. This project follows his work in the new 3,500-mooring Minimes harbour in the south of the town, where Menu consulted the Technosauvage trade centre, a design of dynamic geometric planes which attempts to reconcile the tensions between the new developments and the old town. (Built using cutting-edge laser technologies and experimental construction techniques, Technosauvage has a distinctive, projecting glass roof, intended by Menu to be the principal elevation of the design. **class review**)



EUROPE / NEWS

START WINNING / OPEN

When you're in Madrid, make sure you visit Spain's premier vintners, Lavinia, on one of the capital's chicest streets, José Ortega y Gasset. Not only are the staff incredibly well informed, but architect Antonio de Sola has reimagined the usual dark, cavernous cellars for a sleek, climate-controlled shop floor. Even the lighting is adjusted so as not to spoil the precious contents of the thousands of bottles on display. This special attention to the fragility of fine wines doesn't end when you've paid your peras – the door-to-door delivery service ensures that your purchases will arrive home in perfect condition for quick consumption. **class review**
Lavinia, José Ortega y Gasset, 26, Madrid. Tel: 34.91 426 0604



TALL ORDER / REFORMED BY ROLAND

If you're into altitude, Dublin's latest bar may have appeal. Not content with creating a six-storey, sun-of-the-last-century 'brand experience' at St James's Gate Brewery, Guinness has added an extra floor to the 1920s Storehouse building. Here, you'll find Gravity. Designed to resemble the top of a carved-out pint glass, the structure also acts as the building's central atrium, with almost 360-degree views over one of Europe's hottest cities. The £30 million development is the work of immigration in London and Dublin architects Robinson Kelly & Dwanne. Come December, when it officially opens, everyone will be going bottoms up.
Gravity, The Storehouse, St James's Gate, Dublin 8. Tel: 353.1 400 4800



FOOD MARKET / BEST AND

With the Scottish Parliament just around the corner from Edinburgh's medieval town's student enclave of Grassmarket, the area is having to pull its socks up and go apmarket. Spit and sawdust are being joined by somewhat posher outlets and Italian-style coffee bars. The latest addition to the scene comes in the form of design-led Metro restaurant and bar, in the basement of the Apex Hotel. The three-storey eatery was put together by local practice lan Springfield Architects. Built in the shell of a former lecture theatre the space is cavernous and vibrant. With fantastic panoramic views, coupled with fusion food, Metro's a sure winner in the area. **class review**
Metro, 39-35 Grassmarket, Edinburgh. Tel: 44.131 474 3466. www.metrorestaurant.co.uk

NEWS FLASH | Berlin's, the luxury carmaker, is busy developing a mid-size sports car model with a (barely) more approachable price point aimed at an expansionist market. Start saving your pennies.