

word of mouth

FEBRUARY 2009 These shoes weren't made for walking... Burning man! The world's hottest chill... Baby, you can ride my bike...

the BUZZ

(the city)

LITHUANIA Glorious Vilnius

Vilnius has shaken off its Soviet bloc past to become one of Eastern

Europe's latest hot spots—and its appointment as European Capital of Culture 2009 makes now the time to visit. Start by checking in to the **1 Stiklai Hotel**, a 600-year-old fairy-tale building in the well-preserved Old Town (7 Gaono St.; 370-5-264-9595; stiklaihotel.lt; doubles, \$315–\$350). For brunch, visit **2 Pilies Kepyklė**, a rustic bakery serving the city's best potato pancakes, topped with a slice of fried salmon and a dollop of cranberry sour cream sauce (19 Pilies; 370-5-260-8992). Experience Lithuania's homegrown talent at the unassuming **3 Old Town Art Gallery and Studio**, started

our BUS
Ary's 101 message
in NYC
www.ary.com

meal DEAL
Culinary tips
for staying healthy in
Singapore
www.ary.com

'round MID-NIGHT
The smell of fresh bread
in the morning
www.ary.com

Paramount vantage: Admiring Vilnius's Old Town from the city walls.



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by recent graduates of the Vilnius Art Academy and led by fresco artist Onute Julkiene. Look for Paulius Julka's life-size realist paintings and for metalwork by avant-garde blacksmith Darius Kaupas (22 Totoriu St.; 370-6-860-6383; totogallery.lt). A highlight of the city's cultural celebrations, the **4 Contemporary Art Centre's 4A Code Share** exhibition looks far beyond Europe: It showcases art from Africa, America, Asia, and Australia, with the purpose of encouraging intercultural dialogue (2 Vokietiju St.; 370-



5-212-1945; cac.lt), while the **Vilnius Opera Festival**, in June, will feature classics and New Wave works, as well as ballet and experimental theater productions (opera.lt). For traditional Lithuanian fare, head to **5 Užupio Klasika** in the bohemian neighborhood of Užupis—the restaurant is so tiny that the water doesn't have to leave the bar to take your order (28 Užupio St.; 370-5-215-3677; entrées, \$7–\$16). Home to the best patio in town, the candlelit **6 irVino** bar attracts Vilnius's young professional set with an extensive wine list, tasty tapas, and exceptional service no matter how busy it gets (7 Aušros Vartų). The relaxed vibe at **7 Zoe's Bar and Grill** often ramps up into a party after hours, with a local DJ on the decks (3 Odminių). In the wee hours, hit **8 Mojito Naktyš**, a packed underground—literally—club where twentysomethings sway to Euro dance-pop while dodging water fights between unruly bartenders (33 Didžioji).



Mirror, mirror: The James Chicago's Paul Frank bike beside Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate.

(Buzz) trend UNITED STATES Two Wheels Better

Biking, the new driving! Spurred by rising eco-awareness, an array of hotels are touting bicycles in their amenities arsenal, enabling guests to saddle up and explore U.S. cities on two wheels. In Chicago, the trenchant traveler can cruise Lake Shore Drive on a Paul Frank–designed bike, compliments of the **JAMES CHICAGO** (312-337-1000; jameshotels.com; doubles, \$179–\$259), while Miami's **CANSEVOORT SOUTH** offers a glow-in-the-dark Puma version perfect for after-hours tours of South Beach's strip (305-604-1000; cansevoortsouth.com; doubles, \$495–\$745). And since all this exercise is bound to work up an appetite, the **LORRIEN HOTEL**, which opens this month in Alexandria, Virginia, will pack picnics into the baskets of its Phat Cycle Fundamental cruisers (877-956-7436; lorrienhotelandapa.com; doubles, \$329–\$429).

Step out in spring's statement shoe from Brazil-based designer Raouda Assaf, who carved an intricate Japanese garden—replete with birds and blooms—into the Rania's seven-inch heel.



Rasso & Brooke
Rania shoe, \$1,800
(rassoandbrooke.com)



Le Smoking:
Yves Saint
Laurent

PARIS Hammer Time

(Buzz) sale Already dubbed "The Sale of the Century," Christie's auction of the **YVES SAINT LAURENT and PIERRE BERGÉ COLLECTION** at Paris's Grand Palais includes Roman antiquities, Old Master paintings and drawings, important French Art Deco furniture, and twentieth-century art. Not in the market for a Picasso or a Matisse? You can experience the duo's exquisite taste at the sale viewing (Feb. 21–23), which re-creates their legendary apartments on the rues de Babylone and Bonaparte (33 av. de General Eisenhower; 33-1-40-76-85-85; christies.com).

Voluntourists: Gear up! Have a whale of a time counting endangered humpbacks at **OUTRIGGER WAIKIKI** (outrigger.com).