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D R E A M I N G O F V I C T O R Y

SPANISH RACING DRIVER **CARMEN JORDÁ** HAS HER
SIGHTS SET ON THE F1 STARTING GRID

Skånegatan, Stockholm

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In Swedish crime author Stieg Larsson's *Millennium Trilogy*, protagonist Lisbeth Salander lives in Stockholm's hip, happening Södermalm district. Placing his heroine in the middle of such a diverse, constantly gentrifying neighbourhood was a wisely intentional choice on Larsson's part, one that gives anyone familiar with the Swedish capital an easy-to-understand stereotype of a young, disaffected computer-literate bohemian with aspirations of upward mobility.

For all its clichés, Södermalm is more than a sinister storybook backdrop, as evidenced by its preponderance of diverse, colourful street style and savvy shopkeepers. One particular stretch of Skånegatan street is the opposite of eerie: an epicentre of cool, a cluster of culture and commerce. At one end, popular public park Nytorget offers locals and tourists alike a place to lunch and lounge in the sunshine. On the opposite end, right after the Dr Martens shop, the street becomes Katarina Bangata. You can't miss the iconic combat boots Salander would surely wear to stomp around the district.

Skånegatan is a short block, but one filled with activities, snacks and shops to fill an entire day. Veering onto a few of the side streets offers an additional (and sometimes literal) dose of local flavour. Just be sure to call ahead if you plan to shop on a Sunday. Most of the street's merchants take the day off – even the most resilient young women with the most spectacular dragon tattoos.





Pet Sounds

Named for the iconic Beach Boys album, rumour has it this independent record shop was the first to book new wave pioneers New Order back in 1980. Times have changed, but the laidback boutique still specialises in the classic rock, folk and reggae it's stocked since opening 35 years ago. The second-hand vinyl section ensures there are always a few crate-digging DJs hanging about. Pay close attention and

you might see the same artists performing across the street at sister establishment the Pet Sounds Bar. The pub pairs live sets and rock shows with strong cocktails and a few dinner specials.

Skånegatan 53, Stockholm
Tel: +46 8 702 97 98
petsounds.se

THE STREET

Urban Deli

Step into this cute award-winning café, market, and juice and smoothie bar for a smoked fish sandwich, steaming latte or a loaf of freshly baked bread (sourdough or otherwise). Breakfast is US\$13 and includes fresh juice, coffee and a buffet of cold cuts. At lunchtime, try the seafood salad. In the grocery aisles, you can pick up beer, yoghurt, ice cream, cheese and charcuterie – perfect for a picnic in the park across the street.

Nytorget 4, Stockholm
Tel: +46 8 599 091 80
urbandeli.org



Grandpa

For the past decade, the flagship store of this unisex clothing and housewares boutique has made its name offering contemporary Swedish styles with vintage flair. If you aren't in the market for a cable knit cardigan or a tweed blazer, be sure to browse the housewares and accessories. Choose from board games designed in-house by the Grandpa team, letterpress stationery, a Petromax percolator, antique wall maps,

Sandqvist leather wallets and bags and toiletries including Mason Pearson hairbrushes and Izola bamboo toothbrushes. Don your skinny jeans if you stop by in the evenings, and expect to be handed a glass of wine while a DJ spins records in the corner.

Södermannagatan 21,
Stockholm
Tel: +46 8 643 60 80
grandpa.se

THE STREET

Kunigunda

Slip into Kunigunda and you'll fall right into contemporary Scandinavian women's fashions with a vaguely 1980s feel. Among this season's favourites: suede bomber jackets, silk tunics, woollen tights and Swedish Hasbeens sandals. Strap on one of the many vintage-style wristwatches and bracelets that look like they were sourced

straight from estate sales. Not everything in the shop must be worn. Feel as good as you look by purchasing a Klinta & Co candle. Its fruity scents can freshen any stale room, and the dual-purpose candle melts into soothing massage oil.

Skånegatan 76, Stockholm
Tel: +46 8 743 00 70
kunigunda.se



Nordlings Antik

Third-generation family-owned antiques dealer Nordling's has been in the same location for more than 40 years. Alexander Nordling began managing the shop eight years ago, further refining the eclectic collection to focus on impeccably crafted furnishings and accessories from the 1920s through the 1970s. Chairs by Swedish designers, including Axel Larsson and 1950s-style Asea floor lamps, are hallmarks of the thoughtfully curated gallery-like showroom and are artfully accented by Nordling's impressive array of teak sculptures from Danish designer Kay Bojesen and 1930s-era silver candlesticks by Swedish design house Guldsmetsaktiebolaget (or GAB). And don't neglect fashion in favour of a lovely home. The shop also specialises in silver and bronze pendants, cufflinks and vintage chronographs.

Skånegatan 86, Stockholm
Tel: +46 8 643 01 61
nordlingsantik.com

THE STREET

Marimekko

Established in 1951, Finnish design house Marimekko is known for its bold, colourful striped designs and floral prints that brighten many Scandinavian homes. In its Södermalm boutique, there are plenty of seasonal items from the brand's beautiful clothing line, including women's shift dresses, children's rain gear and ultra-light umbrellas. The remaining space is filled

with a rainbow of various and sundry necessities: bedroom and kitchen linens, thermoses, notebooks, tote bags and a variety of porcelain mugs, vases and assorted dinnerware. You'll have to settle for browsing online Sundays and Mondays, when the store is closed.

Skånegatan 71, Stockholm
Tel: +46 70 413 90 02
marimekko.com



Sardin

This cosy Spanish-French fusion restaurant doesn't serve sardines, but it is small enough inside that you might joke about feeling like a fish crammed into a tin. Arrive early in the evening and snag a sidewalk table for two. Or bring a date, have a glass of French, Spanish or Argentinian wine and, despite the cramped space, you'll find you want to stay all night. Small plate selections

range from traditional olives and charcuteries to more exotic dishes like ox cheeks with Jerusalem artichokes. Save room for dessert: a Russian-style meringue pavlova with strawberries and a passion fruit purée. Open for dinner Monday to Saturday.

Skånegatan 79, Stockholm
Tel: +46 8 644 97 00
restaurangsardin.se

Good Store

Patronise this small grocery store in the midst of such shopping splendour for one primary reason: the fair trade chocolate bars. Good Store lives up to its name as a truly good shop, an award-winning, family-owned and operated market specialising in delicious organic, vegetarian and vegan goodies. The selection of produce, packaged foods and bottled beverages is so popular with locals that Good Store recently opened a second location across town.

Skånegatan 92, Stockholm
Tel: +46 8 641 40 36
goodstore.se

