

TimeOut

SINGAPORE



Happy holidays!

◆ Your guide to celebrating Christmas, New Year's
Eve and Chinese New Year in Singapore ◆



CLASSIC AFTERNOON TEA: REVELRY

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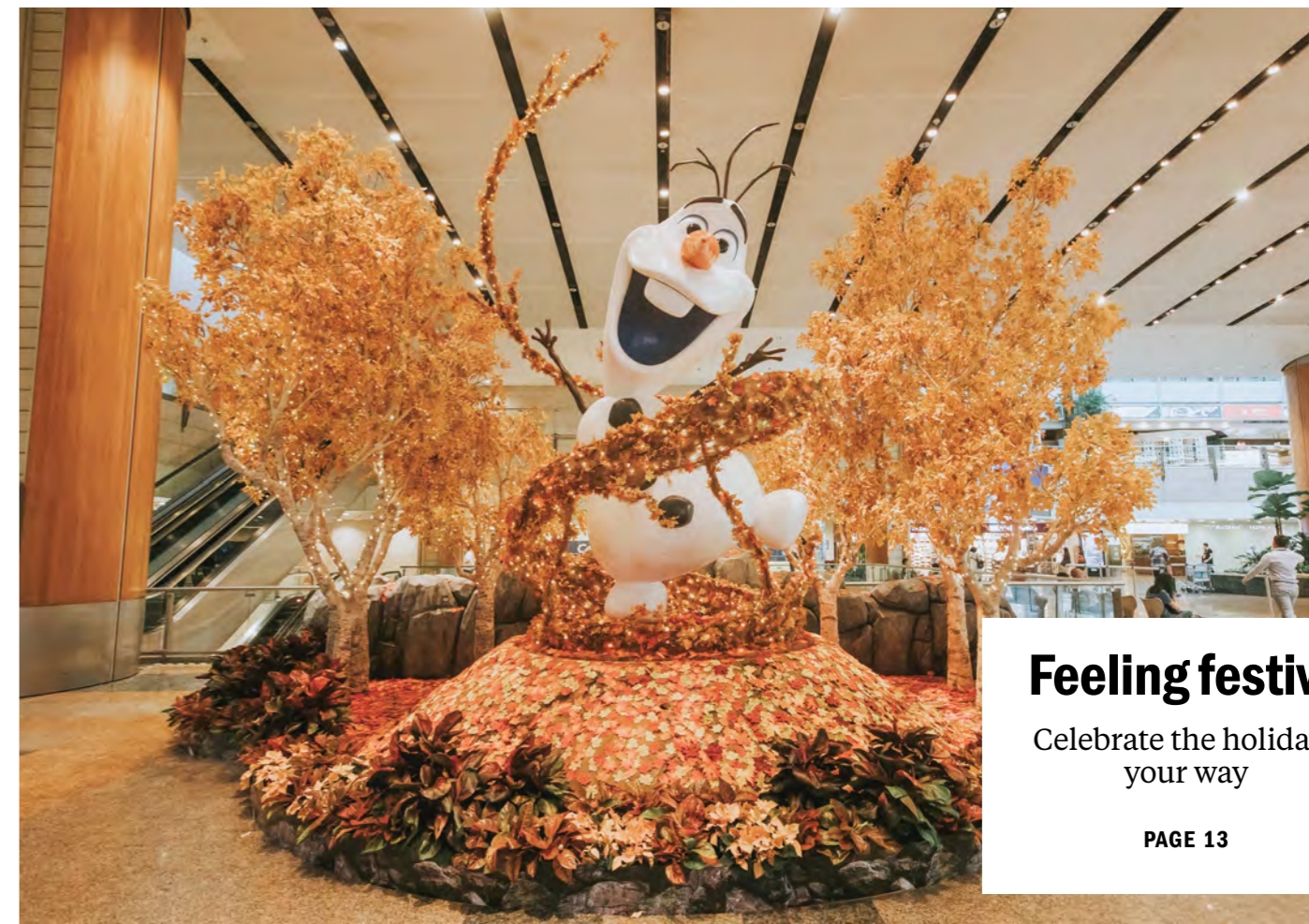
SYDNEY



INTERCONTINENTAL
SINGAPORE

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IN THIS ISSUE...



Feeling festive

Celebrate the holidays your way

PAGE 13

Hello, Singapore



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND a happy New Year! Oh, and while we're at it, have a great Chinese New Year! These two months are going to be a whirlwind, with celebrations and parties at every turn. To help you navigate the overwhelming number of events happening across the city, we've created a handy guide that maps things out based on your preferences on page 14. Need help picking out presents too? Flip to page 20 for the most coveted gifts this season. Have fun and we'll see you in 2020.

Nicole-Marie Ng Editor

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Contents

Your 2020 travel plans, sorted

Swap out Bangkok and Tokyo for these cities and islands instead

PAGE 34



Baby, it's cold outside

Or as cold as Singapore gets. Warm up with these hot alcoholic beverages to get in a festive mood

PAGE 30

Wearable art

Because art isn't reserved just for galleries and museums

PAGE 36



Something new

These clothing brands borrow from tradition

PAGE 32

↓ FEATURES AND REGULARS

4 City life 13 Season's greetings 20 Christmas gift guide 26 Food 30 Drink 32 Shopping
34 Travel 36 Art 37 Stage 38 Music 39 Film 40 Christmas wish list

Time Out
SINGAPORE

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Time Out Singapore does not accept compensation
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Winner: International Media
Brand of the Year, 2018

Time Out Singapore
is distributed for
free during the first
week of the month at
MRT stations in and
around the CBD

Published by Time Out
International Limited.
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SINGAPORE
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TO DO

The best events around town this month and beyond

THINGS TO DO Christmas Wonderland

Until Dec 26
The annual Yuletide affair returns to deck the halls of Gardens by the Bay with magical luminarie sculptures in time for Christmas. Skate under the stars, experience 'snowfall' in the tropics, have a go at the carnival games and rides, and browse the charming European-inspired Christmas market for everything from handcrafted gifts to festive grub.
→18 Marina Gardens Dr. Bayfront. From \$6.



DON'T MISS

DECEMBER

**THINGS TO DO
Culture Cartel**
Dec 6-8
Explore the diversity of street culture with the best brands, purveyors and talents from the region and beyond showcase art, fashion, toys and tattoos. Take part in discussions, interactive exhibitions and engaging workshops. Plus, meet New York's street art heroes Crash and Stash.
→F1 Pit Building, 1 Republic Blvd. Promenade. From \$24.



Dream Wife, The Alex Blake Charlie Sessions

**MUSIC
Legacy Festival**
Dec 6 & 7
The two-day music festival makes its debut at Siloso Beach Sentosa where the dancefloor is sandy and the music is loud, especially when you've got Tiësto, Don Diablo and more helming the decks.
→Siloso Beach Walk. Harbourfront. From \$130.

**MUSIC
The Alex Blake Charlie Sessions**
Dec 7
Embark on a sonic discovery at this festival with female-fronted acts. Catch Soak, Cate Le Bon, Dream

Wife, Goat Girl, and Singapore's very own Vandetta at an unusual heritage venue: Pasir Panjang Power Station.
→27 Pasir Panjang Rd. Labrador Park. From \$115.

**THINGS TO DO
Singapore Comic Con**
Dec 7 & 8
Geek out with fellow gamers and cosplayers at this mega pop culture event. Making an appearance is three-time New York best-selling artist Mark Simpson (aka Jock) who's known for the *Batman: The Black Mirror* series, comic book artist and penciller Greg Capullo, and pop surrealist Tara MacPherson.
→Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre, 10 Bayfront Ave. Bayfront. From \$18.

**FOOD
Epicurean Market**
Dec 13-15
Make some space in your belly for a gourmet celebration filled with food and drinks from Koma, Origin+Bloom, Mott32 and over 50 booths. Included in the festival line-up are free masterclasses led by celebrity chefs like Wolfgang Puck



Singapore Comic Con

and a festive market to add to the holiday cheer.
→Marina Bay Sands, 10 Bayfront Ave. Bayfront. \$42.

**STAGE
Cats The Musical**
Dec 17-Jan 5
If the mention of *Cats* got you humming to the tune of *Memory*, then get your paws (or claws) on tickets to Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic musical. Follow the Jellicles as they come out to play for one special night. With synth-heavy songs, captivating choreography, and fur-tastic costumes, this spectacle is one for the cool cats.
→Sands Theatres, The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands, 4 Bayfront Ave. Bayfront. From \$50.



Cats The Musical

**THINGS TO DO
Christmas On A Great Street**
Till Jan 1
Santa Claus is coming to town. Orchard Road undergoes its annual transformation – this year into a dreamy wonderland complete with a fairy-lit Christmas village filled with fun rides, game booths, food trucks and live

music performances, as well as interactive set pieces including a four-metre-tall immersive tunnel. Catch local bands Sisay, Lucky Strike, Supersonic and more as they jingle bell rock your Christmas.
→Various locations including Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza, 391A Orchard Rd. Orchard. Free.

ALSO DON'T MISS



DRINK East Imperial Gin Jubilee

Dec 5-14
Singapore's biggest gin and tonic festival is back with over 10 participating brands and more than 20 of the city's best cocktail bars. Hop on down to try the bars' G&T creations and vote for your favourites on Instagram using #GinJubilee2019. On December 14, head to Jam at Siri House for \$12 cocktails all night and the crowning of Singapore's best G&T during East Imperial Gin Lane.
→ #01-02 Dempsey Hill, 8D Dempsey Rd. Orchard.

JANUARY

THINGS TO DO

M1 Singapore Fringe Festival

Jan 8-19

Based on the theme of *My Country and My People* – the title of the iconic 1967 poem by local literary hero Lee Tzu Pheng – this year's Fringe spotlights 12 thought-provoking works across diverse genres by local and international artists. Settle into your seat for highlights including the musical *Kebaya Homies*, and an intimate live showcase *Beside Ourselves* by electronica duo.gif.

→ Various locations including Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, 1 Esplanade Dr. 📍 Esplanade. From \$15.

THINGS TO DO

Light to Night Festival

Jan 10-18

See the Civic District come to life at sunset with a slew of vivid artworks, music and literary performances. Immerse yourself in the interactive journey to the past where you uncover the history of the area.

→ Various locations including Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Pl. 📍 Raffles Place. Free.



Kebaya Homies, M1 Singapore Fringe Festival

PHOTO: TUCKY'S PHOTOGRAPHY



Of Monsters & Men

PHOTO: MEREDITH TRILUX

ART

Singapore Art Week

Jan 11-19

Think you can chinstroke your way through nine days of art and tell your Warhols from your Hirsts? Even if art isn't your jam, you won't want to miss the slew of exhibitions, tours, talks, film screenings and music performances showcasing everything from the visual arts to traditional practices.

→ Various locations including Gillman Barracks, 9 Lock Rd. 📍 Labrador Park. Various prices.

MUSIC

Of Monsters & Men

Jan 18

Billed as Iceland's answer to Arcade Fire, the indie-folk quintet first exploded onto the scene with their brass-bop *Little Talks*. Now, they're coming back

armed with tracks that are a little less folk, a little more synthpop, including lead single *Alligator* from their studio album, *Fever Dream*.

→ Fort Canning Green, Canning Rise. 📍 Bras Basah. From \$108.

THINGS TO DO

Chinatown Chinese New Year Celebrations

Jan 25

This Chinese New Year, it's out with the pig and in with the rat. New Bridge Road and Eu Tong Sen Street get dolled up with bright lights including sculptured lanterns of the zodiac animal. Get auspicious trinkets and traditional delicacies at the festive street bazaar, join in on song and dance performances and bask in all the celebrations.

→ Various locations including 133 New Bridge Rd. 📍 Chinatown. Free.

THINGS TO DO

Huayi-Chinese Festival of Arts

Jan 31-Feb 9

Usher in the year of the rat with a line-up that scale the heights of artistic vision, from traditional to contemporary, and mainstream to cutting-edge. With works by Toy Factory, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, new kid on the theatre block GroundZ-0, and acclaimed sanxian player Jessica Lu, you'll be sure to start your lunar new year on a high note.

→ Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, 1 Esplanade Dr. 📍 Esplanade. Various prices.

THINGS TO DO

Chingay Parade

Jan 31 & Feb 1

Feast your eyes on dazzling floats and immensely talented performers from around the globe as they transform the familiar streets of Singapore into a vibrant night carnival. If that isn't enough to entice you, the evening continues with exciting performances and culminates in a rousing display of lights, fireworks and pyrotechnics.

→ F1 Pit Building, 1 Republic Blvd. 📍 Promenade. From \$28.50



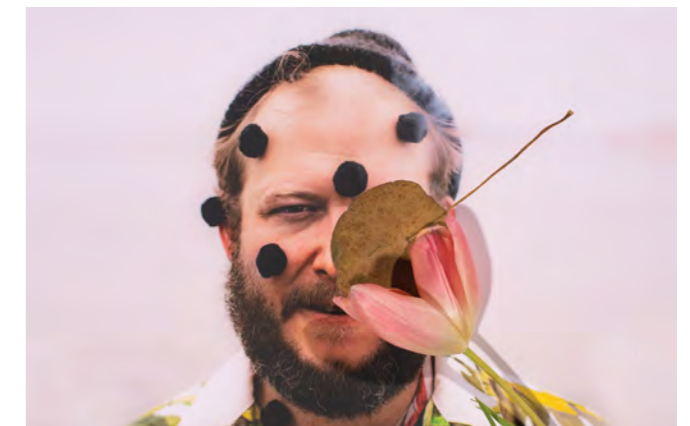
Huayi-Chinese Festival of Arts



Chingay Parade

Find more awesome events at [timeout.com/singapore/things-to-do](https://www.timeout.com/singapore/things-to-do).

ALSO DON'T MISS



MUSIC

Bon Iver

Jan 17

Wear your heart on your sleeve and sing out loud as American indie-folk band Bon Iver descends onto the stage with their emotive setlist. Try to hold back tears as they play *Skinny Love* and *Hey Ma* from the latest album *i,i*. If it's anything like their recent US tour, expect a visually stunning showcase as well.

→ #04-01, The Star Theatre, 1 Vista Exchange Green.

📍 Bouna Vista. From \$89.

MY SINGAPORE

Pamela Chia

Author of *Wet Market to Table*
@ieatpuffin



PAMELIA CHIA'S EARLIEST memories of food involve going to a wet market, following her mother (who would keep her occupied with a chunk of char siew) around as she bantered and bargained with vendors. This became a strong foundation for her career in food. First, as a former chef of Michelin-starred Peranakan restaurant Candlenut and now, as a published author of *Wet Market to Table*, a cookbook that explores uncommon local vegetables, fruits and herbs and how to make dishes that bring out their unique flavours.

What do you love about Singapore's wet markets?

What I love about wet markets in Singapore, beyond the produce, is their humanity and warmth. At supermarkets, everything is labelled and packaged so there is hardly any need to speak to another person. Even when making payment, we do it entirely through

a machine. It is such a seamless, wordless, smooth transaction. On the other hand, at wet markets, you are almost forced to speak and interact with those around you. You get the sense that people live and breathe there – they are truly a reflection of the times. You'll hear the crooning of Chinese radio and half-drunk cups of kopi... I find it very endearing.

What are your most interesting finds at the wet market?

Due to the lack of a demand for uniquely regional produce, many of the most interesting finds are becoming increasingly hard to buy. An example is belimbing, reminiscent of a small starfruit. I love to use it diced finely in ceviche or sliced thickly and used in a Nonya petai bean and prawn stirfry. Another one of my favourite market ingredients is the mountain yam. Beloved by the Japanese, it is commonly grated to form a slimy

purée (tororo), which is used to top udon or soba. When incorporated with minced meat, it lends the finished product a beautifully silky texture when cooked.

Do you have any favourite stalls?

I love the vegetable uncle at **Empress Market**, which is centrally located and hugely popular with regulars. The uncle is charming and extremely helpful. I once picked up a bunch of mugworts and he taught me all about cooking it in an omelette and its healthful properties, especially for females. I also enjoy going to **Chia's Vegetable Supply** at Tekka Market as there is always some bossa nova or salsa playing, which adds to the whole experience of shopping at the market. He also has a great range of regional produce and more exotic foreign ingredients such as tomatillos.

■ Interview by *Delfina Utomo*



OVERHEARD IN SINGAPORE

"They're rich, they don't even use NETS."

"I'm wearing the same dress she wore yesterday – it's a power move."

"Why don't we do Secret Satan instead?"

"It's the Year of the Rat next, do we forgive them for the Black Plague yet? No?"

"Does Cirque du Soleil mean 'circle of life'?"

"You should do stand-up comedy at my wedding."

"The office is so poor now they switched to two-ply toilet paper."

"The guy I went on a date on had a high school dating sim as his wallpaper leh!"

"I was like huh? You didn't tell your mum we broke up a year ago?"

"I don't get it. It has so many buttons. Can't it just wash my butt?"

FIND ME A DATE

These city kids ditched Tinder and let us play matchmaker. Here's a blow-by-blow account of their blind date...



← BEE, 27

Works as a graphic designer

WHY SHE'S SINGLE "Perhaps it's because I've only figured out what I want recently."

IDEAL DATE "A combination of loud and quiet or unexpected and mellow. Will be great if he can initiate and keep the conversation going."



JEREMY, 26 →

Works as a curatorial research assistant

WHY HE'S SINGLE "I think it's a combination of factors like moving around a lot or when I find a woman I'm interested in, something happens that prevents a romantic relationship."

IDEAL DATE "A candle-lit dinner where you lose track of time and it would end with us slow dancing in a park."

"Jeremy seems like the good-boy type."

FIRST IMPRESSION

"She seems very cool, hip and trendy, especially with the way she styled and dyed her hair."

"There wasn't really any chemistry."

CHEMISTRY

"There was definitely a connection due to our intellectual interests in the creative arts and our similar sense of humour."

"We had to be reminded by Ben (the owner of Kinou) to savour the food before it turns cold because he was talking so much."

AWKWARD MOMENT

"The closest I can think of is when we got so distracted with eating the delicious dishes, but those were moments of mutual silent content."

"We went back home afterwards, couldn't do much on a weekday!"

AFTERWARDS

"We ended up talking until around 10.15pm and continued chatting during our walk to the MRT station where we exchanged phone numbers."

♥♥♥♥♥ "He talked a lot but didn't ask much about me during the date but he's knowledgeable in arts and mythology."

VERDICT

♥♥♥♥♥ "I had a fun time! I could've laughed and talked about many things with Bee. It would be nice to get to know each other more."

HOT SPOT

Our daters had a meal at **Kinou**



THE ATMOSPHERE

"Kinou felt really homely and Ben and the staff are friendly and approachable."

– Bee



THE FOOD

"We had a variety of French-Asian fusion dishes. I really enjoyed the seared tuna."

– Jeremy



THE DRINKS

"I had a very good cocktail called Clever Club, the spritz of absinthe made it refreshing and light."

– Bee

→ 81 Tras St. ☑ Tanjong Pagar.

NEIGHBOURHOOD GUIDE

Serangoon

There are more reasons to visit Serangoon than Chomp Chomp and Nex.
By Cam Khalid, illustration by Ngo Ha Le

FIFTY YEARS AGO, Serangoon made a name for itself as an expat enclave. The quiet town was home to British soldiers and their families in the 1950s. Now, the quaint North-East suburban town is awash with cool, contemporary cafés, restaurants and shops that stand alongside all-time supper favourites. Take a stroll down the tranquil neighbourhood and discover the hidden gems tucked along its endearing small streets.

1 FUNFIT

Update your wardrobe with fashion-forward beachwear and activewear from this homegrown brand. The label also stocks a variety of lifestyle products ranging from body care and pool accessories to travel and outdoor additions, perfect for getting all your fitness or beach gear sorted under one roof.

→ #02-42 NEX, 23 Serangoon Central. 📍 Serangoon.

2 SERANGOON SPORT CENTRE

Work those leg muscles and break a sweat along the running tracks of Serangoon Stadium housed within the Sport Centre. Alternatively, cool off by dipping your toes in the swimming complex. If you're up for a friendly match, grab your racket and swing a serve or smash at the Burghley Squash and Tennis Centre.

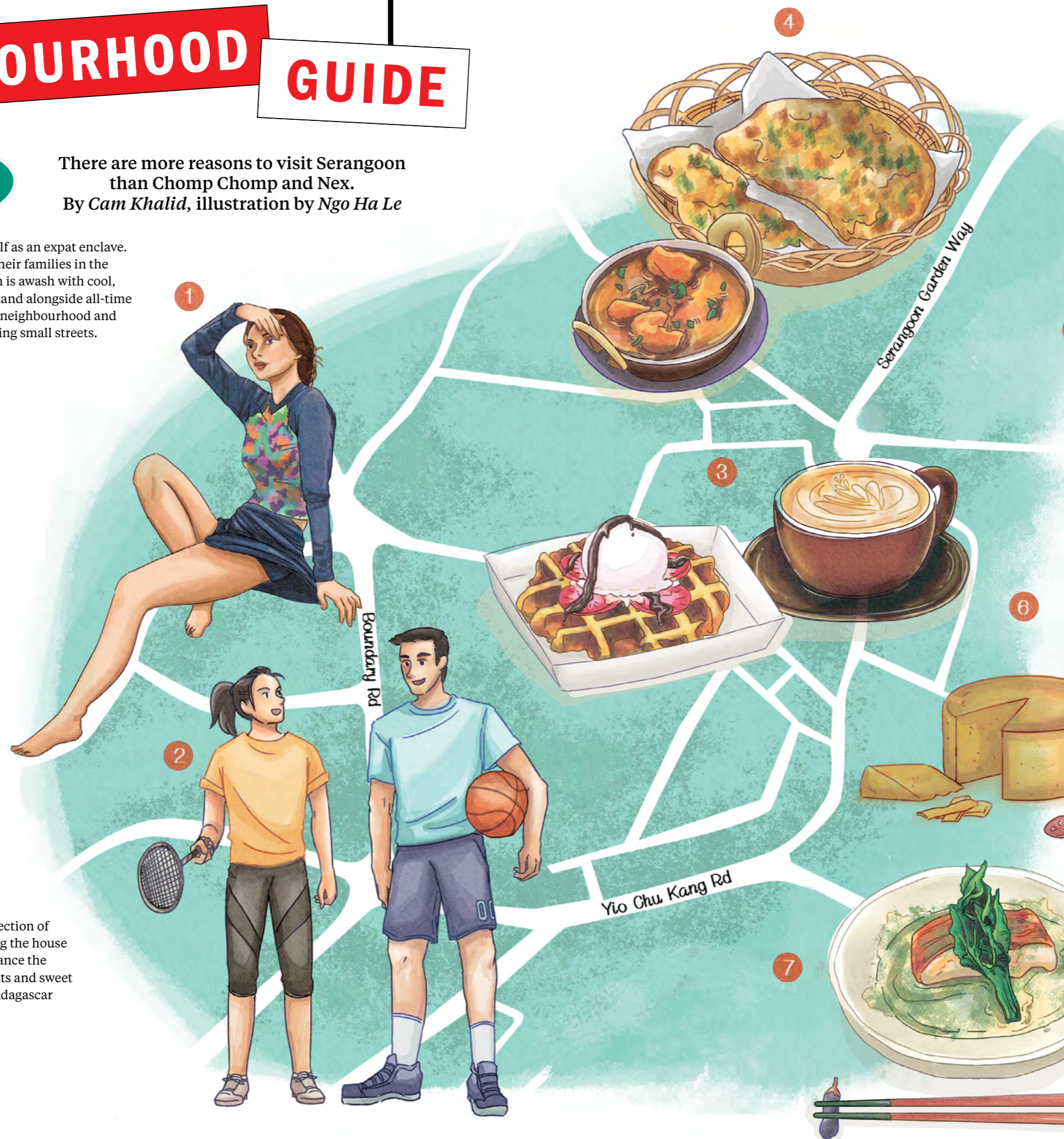
→ 35A Yio Chu Kang Rd. 📍 Serangoon.

3 THE AFTERTASTE

Get your dose of caffeine with The Aftertaste's selection of freshly brewed specialty coffee (from \$3) including the house blend Bold Heart that is roasted in Singapore. Balance the bitter yet smooth flavour with oven-fresh croissants and sweet treats such as the Matcha Strawberry (\$7.50) and Madagascar Speculoos Crunch (\$7.50).

→ 2 Maju Ave. 📍 Lorong Chuan.

Discover more quirky neighbourhoods at [timeout.com/singapore/things-to-do](https://www.timeout.com/singapore/things-to-do).



4 SRISUN EXPRESS

It doesn't matter if you're perking up for the morning or having a late-night craving, this bustling 24-hour restaurant will sort you out with prata (from \$1.50) accompanied with an extensive range of curries and hot teh tarik (\$1.60). Besides its specialty South and North Indian comfort food, it also serves local favourites like mee goreng (\$6.60), satay (\$11 for 10 sticks) and roti John (from \$4.40).

→ 56 Serangoon Garden Way. 📍 Lorong Chuan.



5 PLONK

5 PLONK

After a long day, kick back and relax – Aussie style – with wine and tapas at this bistro and bar. Guzzle down pasta and gourmet pizza but not without ordering up its original Australian chicken parmigiana (\$23). And if you're there on the weekend, have brekkie your way by building your own plate.

→ 7 Maju Ave. 📍 Lorong Chuan.



6 LA PETITE BOUTIQUE

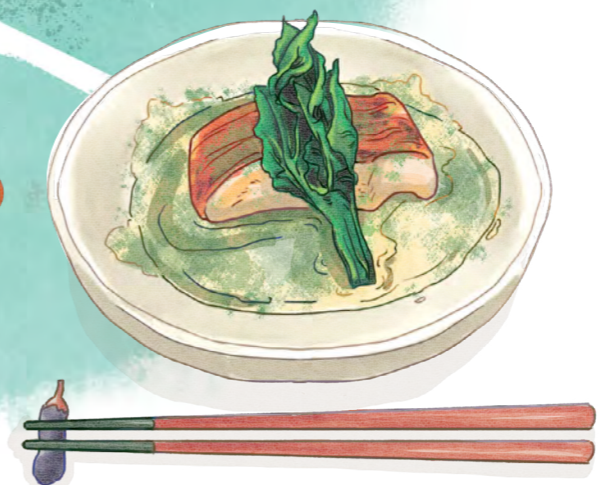
Aficionados of cured curds of all stripes will appreciate the reasonable prices of the cheeses offered here. Besides artisan cheese, this narrow store also stocks a myriad of boutique vinos, French cold cuts, fresh bread and pastries, and home-cooking provisions that will soothe even the most homesick expat.

→ Serangoon Garden, 4 Kensington Park Rd. 📍 Lorong Chuan.

7 MUSTARD SEED

What was once a popular private dining set-up is now finally a full-fledged restaurant. Fans should already know about chef Gan Ming Kiat who spent time in the kitchens of Candlenut and Goto. His omakase-style menu combines Singapore flavours with Japanese cooking techniques.

→ 75 Brighton Cres. 📍 Serangoon.





Inspired by the Colourful Flavours of Asia

The Merlion, hawker markets and Crazy Rich Asians, Singapore is known for many things, but one thing that wouldn't necessarily come to mind is Gin. However, Tanglin is changing this perception. Tanglin is as much about celebrating Asia as it is about crafting Gin. It is capturing the wonders of Singapore with its European, Malay, Indian and Chinese influences. The illustration on the label reflects the Singaporean influence on the spirit. The dishes highlight the handpicked botanicals and spices in the Gin, a closer look reveals some of the city's best-hidden spots. The inspiration for the brand's name comes to life with the shape of the front label, the same form as the Tanglin Gate, entrance to the Botanic Gardens: home to the world's largest Orchid display.

Tanglin & Tonic

50 ml Tanglin Gin / 150 ml Tonic Water

Stir together and serve with a large chunk of ice, sliced unripe green mango, orange or lime.

• Serves 1 •

www.tanglin-gin.com | [@tanglinginofsingapore](https://www.instagram.com/tanglinginofsingapore) | [@tanglinaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/tanglinaustralia)

Season's greetings

With Christmas, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year happening within a month from each other, the festivities just keep on coming. Here's your guide to feasting, gifting and spreading festive cheer.

By Delfina Utomo, Dewi Nurjuwita,
Fabian Loo and Nicole-Marie Ng



Jingle bells

Not sure what to do this Christmas?
'Tis the season to start your own traditions

First things first, how ready are you to mingle?



Call me the Grinch

Well, okay. Are you even leaving the house?

No

I'm staying home

BYOT Party
Get your friends together for an intimate BYOT (Bring Your Own Tradition) Christmas where everyone brings their own set of time-honoured yuletide traditions.



Let's make new friends

Maybe

I'll consider it if there's food...

The English House, by Marco Pierre White
Dec 1-25
Enjoy a classic English Christmas with organic turkey and pudding.
→ 28 Mohamed Sultan Rd. 📍 Fort Canning. From \$48.

I'm all about tradition

Yes

Are you having a classic Christmas?

No

Hit me with something fresh

Island

City

I love getting away from it all



We just have to ask, do you want to kick it up old school or are you in it for the 'gram?

I just wanna be my best dorky self



Ugly Sweater Christmas
Dec 24 & 25

Come dressed in your tackiest Christmas sweaters and revel in the festivities at Alley on 25's Ugly Sweater Christmas Party. Don't miss the lavish feast of roast meats and extravagant desserts, before getting merry on festive-themed booze.
→ Andaz Singapore, 5 Fraser St. 📍 Bugis. From \$158.

Did you even celebrate Christmas if it isn't on Instagram?

A Frozen Wonderland
Nov 29-Dec 26

Have a magical Christmas at Changi Airport. Step into the world of Disney's *Frozen 2* by exploring the Enchanted Forest at T3. Over at Jewel, snap a picture at 16-metre-tall Christmas tree set against the HSBC Rain Vortex.
→ 78 Airport Blvd. 📍 Changi Airport.

Gotcha! So, are you feeling naughty or nice?



Sorry Santa, I'm feeling naughty

Bar Rouge
Every Friday till Dec 28

Head to one of the hottest nightclubs in town and paint the town rouge with beats by DJ Rattle & Styluxtakut and have a jolly good time.
→ #71-01, 2 Stamford Rd. 📍 City Hall. \$25.

Are you kidding? I'm like Mother Teresa

Willing Hearts

Get into Santa's good books and start scooping and packing meal boxes for the less fortunate at Willing Hearts, a soup kitchen that delivers food for the unprivileged. It's the season of giving, after all.
→ #01-51, Kembangan-Chai Chee Community Hub, Blk 6 11 Jln Ubi. 📍 Eunos.

Let's celebrate in the city

Are you willing to pay big bucks for presents?

No

Definitely blowing it out

Royal Albatross Christmas Sunset Cruise
Dec 21 & 21, 24, 27-29

Splurge on a sunset sail, tuck into a sumptuous buffet, sip on festive drinks.
→ 8 Sentosa Getway. 📍 Harbourfront. From \$195/adult.

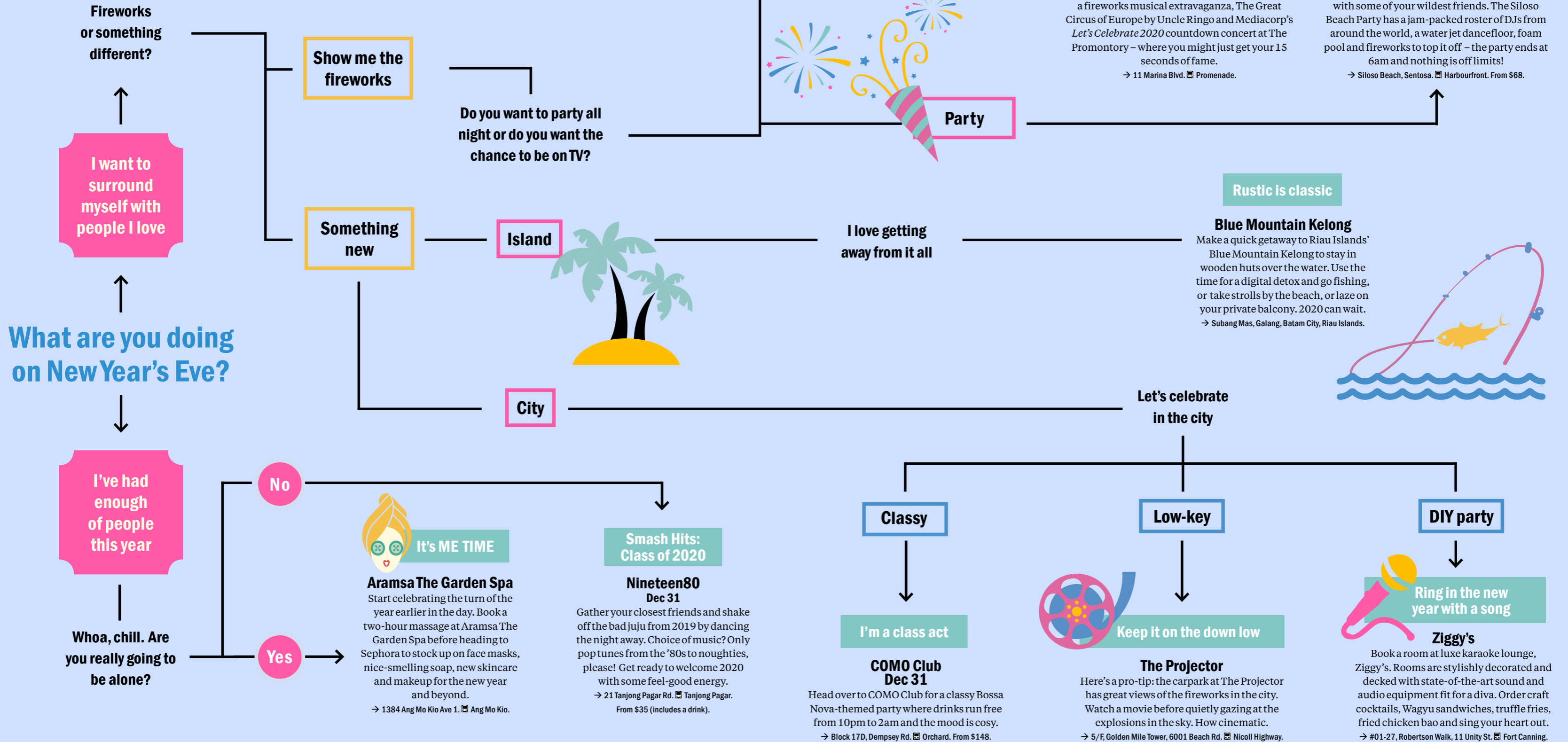
The best things in life are free

Island Lights
Nov 16-Dec 31

Soak up all the feels at Sentosa Cove Village that transforms into an Insta-worthy light art installation.
→ Sentosa Cove, 1 Cove Ave. 📍 Harbourfront. Free.

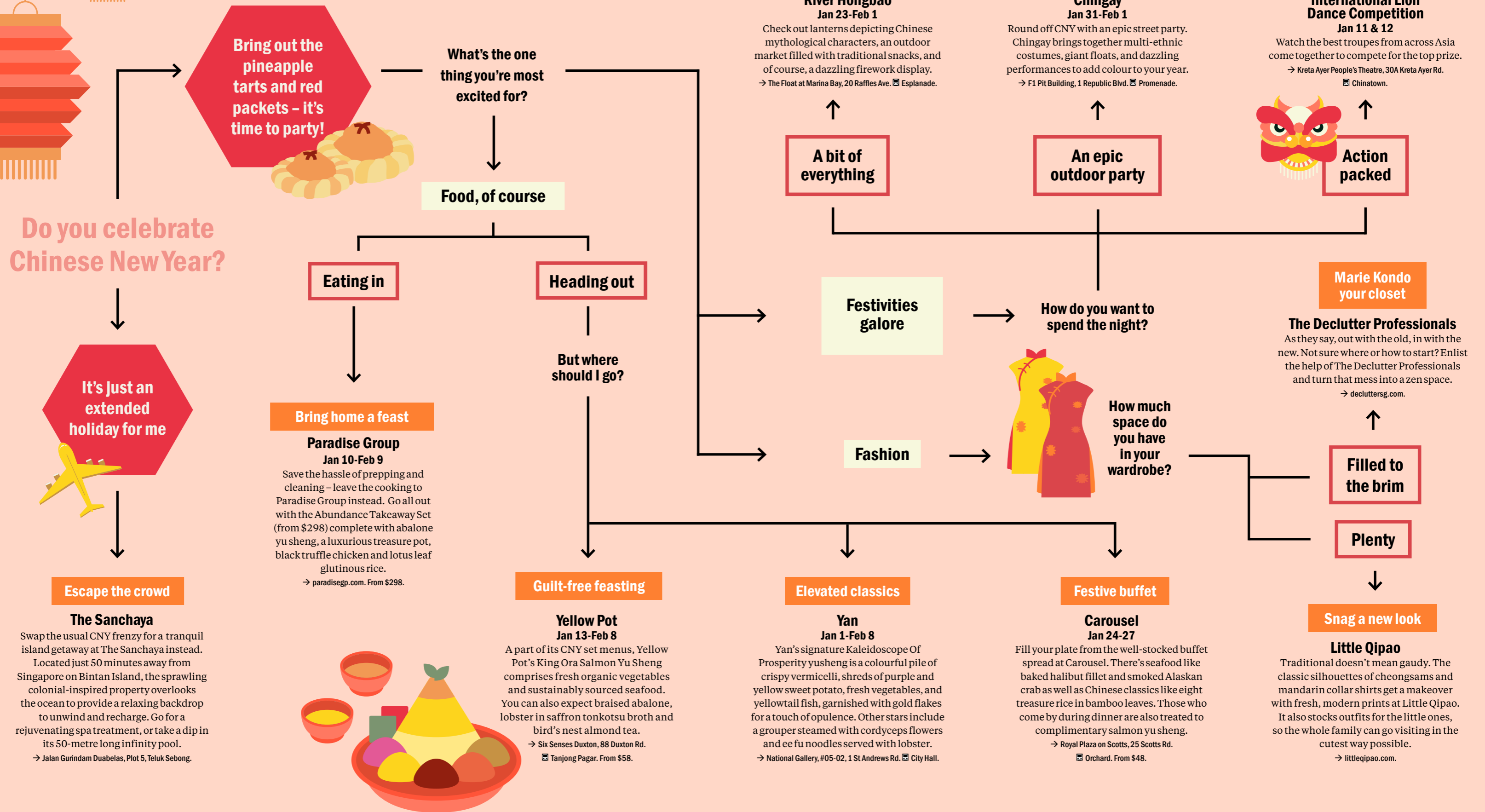
New Year, New Me

Start 2020 with a new sense of adventure by deciding how you want to party



Turn up the huat

Make the most of your Chinese New Year break



For the maximalist

A gift list for that larger-than-life friend who has everything

FROM A BRIGHT red lippy and whimsical tea infuser to a bottle of specialty gin, there's something on this list for your very, very loud buddy you can't help but love.

1 AIRPODS PRO APPLE

Oh come on, why wouldn't your friend want to show off to the world that they're rocking the new AirPods 2? With faster pairing features and wireless charging options and a nifty noise-cancelling mode, every hustler needs a pair. → 270 Orchard Rd. 📍 Orchard. \$379.

2 NEON CHRISTMAS BON BONS JANICE WONG

Getting chocolates for Christmas is great but getting Janice Wong chocolates? Now we're talking. Janice's festive collection comes with a neon splash this year with unusual flavours like popcorn and spice, gingerbread, dulce de leche, cherry and dark chocolate peppermint. → #B1-K28, Paragon Shopping Centre, 290 Orchard Rd. 📍 Orchard. \$38.

3 TAPIR TEA INFUSER MUSEUM LABEL

Make tea drinking fun with this whimsical tea infuser featuring the Malayan tapir. Fun fact: it was inspired by a painting from the William Farquhar Collection of Natural History. One to get for your showy friends who love the attention of telling a good story. → National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Rd. 📍 Dhoby Ghaut. \$10.

4 FRENCH EARLY GREY LAVENDER GIN THE CANBERRA DISTILLERY

If you have a friend who loves hosting and experimenting with cocktails, this prettily packaged French Earl Grey Lavender Gin is one to add to their collection. Infused with bergamot and lavender, this blue-coloured bottle of gin is delicate and fragrant. A great party tip: add tonic water and the gin turns pink. → #01-12, UE Square, 81 Clemenceau Ave. 📍 Fort Canning. \$127.

5 WHERE IS THE PENGUIN MASK SET SEPHORA

Have friends that loves looking good from head-to-toe? The holiday mask set from Sephora has a mask for all their needs. There is a coconut hair mask, a lychee face mask, a cucumber eye mask, a shea lip mask, an aloe vera hand mask and an almond foot mask. We can imagine that glam friend using all of them in one go before a party. → #B2-09, ION Orchard, 2 Orchard Turn. 📍 Orchard. \$48.

6 JUNG SAEM MOOL LIP-PRESSION ESSENTIALS

Give your friend the confidence to pucker up and pout through the festive season with this bold lippy collection. Available in 12 shades of red and rose, choose from the attention-grabbing orange-red shade, Steal Red or the demure Natural Rose. The lightweight matte lipstick immediately brightens up a look. → #03-02/05, Paragon Shopping Centre, 290 Orchard Rd. 📍 Orchard. \$42.



For the minimalist

Your frugal friends deserve gifts this Christmas too

FOR A GIFT that keeps giving, pick these treasures: cold-press coffee liqueur, reusable beeswax wraps and an arty tea cannister.

7 BEESWAX WRAP ECO.LE

Touted as a sustainable, reusable alternative to plastic wrap, there's a whole lot to like about these beeswax wraps that can last for up to a year. The wraps from minimakers.sg come in many sizes and a big part of the fun lies in picking out the prints your friend might like. → #03-56, Bukit Timah Shopping Centre, 170 Upper Bukit Timah Rd. 📍 Beauty World. \$27.90.

8 THE MELODIST KIT AESOP

The minimalist always wants to keep the house looking and smelling impeccable. This home kit from Aesop, inspired by the muse of music, Euterpe, The Melodist holds a trio of home staples like the woody and warm Olous Aromatique room spray, a body soap bar and its famous Post-Poo drops. → B2, The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands. 📍 Bayfront. \$110.

9 BUBBLES & POLKADOTS BODY WASH ASHLEY & CO.

That feeling when you're fresh out of the shower and ready for bed is a small pleasure everyone should enjoy. Ashley & Co. helps achieve that dream a little with its Bubbles & Polkadots wash, which smells like a fresh garden rose mixed with soft powdery musk and warm amber. Goodnight world, peace out. → Robinsons The Heeren, 260 Orchard Rd. 📍 Somerset. \$45.

10 AWAKENINGS CONCRETE TEA TIN GALLERY & CO.

For the friend who believes minimalism is an artform, this loose leaf tea cannister doubles as a conversation piece. An ode to condensed milk tins used for takeaway coffee, this handcrafted model by local design studio Orbjek, comes filled with locally blended tea by Pek Sin Choon, one of the oldest tea houses in Singapore. → Gallery & Co., National Gallery Singapore, 1 St. Andrew's Rd. 📍 City Hall. \$39.90.

11 COLD PRESS COFFEE LIQUEUR MR BLACK

Kopi 'O' gets an upgrade with this coffee liqueur made with real coffee beans from Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia and Brazil. The mixture of cold-pressed, unfiltered coffee with silky smooth Australian wheat vodka makes this the premium coffee liqueur for coffee purists. → Available at various bars and restaurants like Jigger & Pony, Chihuly Lounge, Nutmeg & Clove and Burnt Ends. \$81.

1 INSTAX MINI LIPLAY FUJIFILM

The Fujifilm Instax Mini LiPlay makes capturing memories easy. The hybrid instant camera has a built-in LCD monitor and printer and is chock-full of features to capture life's greatest moments.

→ Courts, 50 Tampines North Dr 2. Tampines. \$249.

2 WH-H910N HEADPHONES SONY

Okay, this is a bit of a splurge. But these new wireless headphones from Sony is slim, compact, offers superior sound quality and ambient noise cancellation so it's great for the frequent flyer.

→ #03-01 Wisma Atria, 435 Orchard Rd.

Orchard. \$399.

3 OIL-FREE FACIAL SUNSCREEN THANN

For people who spend too much time in the sun, Thann's light and non-greasy sunscreen makes for a great stocking stuffer, and naturally it smells great too.

→ Multiple outlets including #03-45, Paragon, 290 Orchard Rd. Orchard. \$49.

4 ITIWIT 30L DUFFEL BAG DECATHLON

Protect your friends' belongings when they're off exploring high seas. This duffel has a volume of 30 litres, is watertight, durable and looks great in turquoise.

→ Multiple outlets including 230 Stadium Blvd.

Kallang. \$30.

5 MONOCHROME NECKLACE BESBES

Established in Singapore, Besbes offers a wide variety of phone necklaces in a range of colours for those who want to keep their phones within reach at all times.

→ Gallery & Co., #01-17 National Gallery Singapore, 1 St Andrew Rd. City Hall. \$27.

6 INSULATED STEEL BOTTLE UNITED BY BLUE

Not only are United by Blue's water bottle designs beautiful, that handy braided paracord strap also lets the user easily attach the bottle to a backpack with style.

→ Outside, #03-19 Orchard Gateway, 277 Orchard Rd.

Somerset. \$49.

7 TRAVELLER BACKPACK XHUNDREDFOLD

A tote, sling and backpack all in one. Every purchase contributes to the brand's #buildabag cause to provide job opportunities to the underprivileged in Thailand.

→ Naiise, #02-334/335, Suntec City, 3 Temasek Blvd. Esplanade. \$69.

8 HANDCRAFTED SHOES DESI HANGOVER

Handwoven by leatherworking artisans from rural villages in India. Desi Hangover was founded with the commitment to give back to these communities.

→ The Green Collective SG, #02-18, Funan Mall, 107 North Bridge Rd. City Hall. \$109.

9 LIFE'S AN ADVENTURE SOCKS TALKING TOES

What better way to remember to seize the day than with this reminder written on a pair of socks – the last thing your giftee sees before putting on their shoes and venturing forward.

→ We The People, #01-42 #02-57 Millenia Walk, 9 Raffles Blvd. Esplanade. \$12.

10 G-SQUAD SPORTS G-SHOCK

The OG stylish sports watch, the new G-Squad Sports calculates calories burned and steps logged – all while sticking to its shock-resistant roots.

→ #B3-65B ION Orchard, 2 Orchard Turn. Orchard. \$199.

For the outdoorsy

Give your gallivanting friend something to remember you by

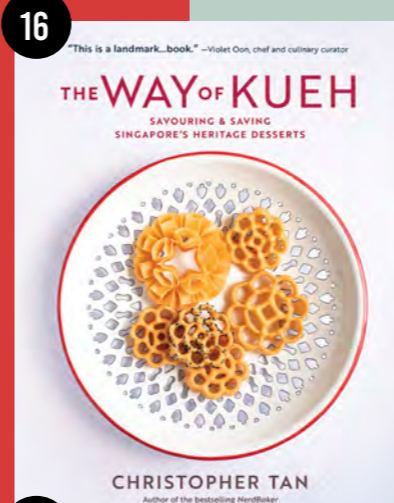
THE WEATHER OUTSIDE is frightful, so help your friends gear up with duffel bags, bottles and more.



For the homebodies

For those among us who prefer staying in and never leaving the house

HOME IS WHERE the heart is, so we totally understand if your friends want to stay in bed all day with these finds.



11 ROOM DIFFUSER SCENE SHANG

This homegrown label filters traditional Chinese designs through a contemporary lens resulting in beautiful pieces that look good in any home. Its room diffusers are topped with intricately cut paper to fill the room with scents of bergamot, lily of the valley and orchid.

→ 263 Beach Rd. Bugis. \$89.90.

12 MINI TEA JELLY DUO SET TWG

So they've tried TWG's signature tea and scones, but have they dipped shortbread cookies into a pot of its delectable tea jellies? It's so good, anyone on the receiving end is sure to love it.

→ #01-09/10 Republic Plaza, 9 Raffles Pl. Raffles Place. \$18.

13 SET OF THREE CANDLES HUSH CANDLES

Support a local brand in your present gifting efforts. Established by two Singaporean friends, Hush is an affordable alternative for those looking for high-quality candles.

→ Craft Assembly, 66 Haji Ln. Bugis. \$57.

14 JOY TO THE WORLD LUSH

There are fewer things in life more relaxing than taking a shower after a long day. Make your friends' bathing experience more pleasurable with this soap and body lotion set.

→ #B1-13 Wisma Atria, 435 Orchard Rd. Orchard. \$35.

15 DEATH STRANDING GAMEPRO SHOP

The most highly anticipated video game release of the year, Death Stranding is at the top of every gamer's wish list.

→ #03-15, Funan, 107 North Bridge Rd. City Hall. \$79.90.

16 THE WAY OF KUEH EPIGRAM

Challenge your culinary-inclined bud to try these kueh recipes. Remember to drop hints that you're willing to taste test the creations.

→ #01-01, 45 Maxwell Rd. Tanjong Pagar. \$47.90.

17 HOUSE PLANTS TUMBLEWEED PLANTS

Think they want a pet but can't commit to one just yet? Get them a house plant instead. Tumbleweed Plants also has adorable ceramic pots to brighten up the home.

→ 33 Tembeling Rd. Eunos.

18 UNMASK THE MAGIC FRESH

Pamper your giftee with this set of Fresh's best-selling scrubs and masks. We're privy to the Rose Face Mask and Sugar Face Polish Exfoliator.

→ Sephora, #B1-05/09 Ngee Ann City, 391 Orchard Rd.

Orchard. \$120.

19 ULTIMATE EARS WONDERBOOM PORTABLE BLUETOOTH SPEAKER COURTS

It's always handy to have a portable speaker lying around and these gems from Ultimate Ears pack a punch despite their small size. It's waterproof, dustproof and provides surround sound for up to 10 hours.

→ 50 Tampines North Dr 2. Tampines. \$89.

20 SEASON'S SIPPING TEA FOR ONE T2

We might not have snowy winters in Singapore, but that doesn't mean we can't warm the cockles of our hearts with a hot cup of freshly brewed tea. This stackable teapot and cup set is both functional and gorgeous to look at on kitchen countertops.

→ #01-20, 313 Somerset, 313 Orchard Rd. Somerset. \$84.



For someone you know very well

There's no better time than Christmas to splurge on those closest and dearest to you

IF YOU KNOW them like the back of your hand, you probably wouldn't mind spending a bit more on their Christmas presents. Splurge on the ones you love with these gifts from local makers and businesses.

1 MIXED & MATCH CLASSIC SHEET SET SOJAO

One of the best things about staycations is the bedsheets that make you feel like you're floating on top of a fluffy cloud. Help them replicate this with premium-quality sheets from SOJAO, made with GOTS-certified 100 percent organic cotton and spun with the finest long-stable fibres.

→ SOJAO Studio, 44 Kallang Place. 📍 Kallang. From \$98.

2 WONDERLAND BOTANICALS SUBSCRIPTION

We're all too familiar with the dread of watching our flowers wilt. Here's a solution: Wonderland Botanicals' floral subscription, so they'll always have beautiful, fresh blooms delivered to their doorstep constantly.

→ wonderland.com.sg. From \$35 a week.

3 SANTORINI DREAM HAMMOCK AIRMOCK

Bring a Santorini holiday to them with this chevron pattern hammock that comes in a collapsible frame and carrying bag – so they can take it to the beach. Lounging around the has never looked more appealing.

→ NOMADX, #03-09 Plaza Singapura. 📍 Dhoby Ghaut. \$178.

4 CUSTOMISED BRACELET STUDIO EMOI

The bracelet is tarnish resistant and does not fade after being exposed to the swimming pool, or a day at the beach – and they can carry a piece of you wherever they go.

→ Capsule By Juliette, #02-02 Cluny Court, 501 Bukit Timah Rd. 📍 Botanic Gardens. \$195.



5 P3 CLASSIC CRYSTAL SUNGLASSES ROCKET EYEWEAR

Stylish eyewear doesn't have to cost a bomb. Made by local start-up Rocket Eyewear is crafted from premium Italian acetate and offers maximum protection with its polarised lenses.

→ The AC Joo Chiat, 420 Joo Chiat Rd. 📍 Eunos. \$169.

6 MOVEMENT LEGGINGS KYDRA ATHLEISURE

Introduce your favourite gym buff to Kydra Athleisure. This local athleisure brand's Movement Leggings are not only functional, but they're as flattering as those sold by a not to be named yoga brand – but without the heavy price tag.

→ Uppercut Boxing, 155A/157A Telok Ayer St. 📍 Telok Ayer. \$78.

7 STARTER KIT ALCHE{ME}

If they don't already have a skincare routine in place, it's time to step in with alche{me}'s Started Kit? Each one includes one-month supply of products with personalised key formulations for the complexion of their dreams. Who's the fairest of 'em all?.

→ alcheme.one. \$175.



For person you barely know

Worried about gifting an inappropriate gift? Stick with these failsafe standards

IT DOESN'T MATTER if you're shopping for your co-worker or partner's cousin – you need to step away from that novelty gifts aisle. We're staging an intervention with these non-basic gift ideas for acquaintances that will make the festive season a little less awkward.



8 DUSK TERRAZZO CANDLE JAR CANDLES OF LIGHT

Contrary to popular belief, candles aren't such a bad gift idea – especially if they're from small-batch makers Candles of Light. One of the cult favourites, Dusk evokes a proprietary botanical scent blend featuring essential oils of floral geranium, earthy patchouli and spice. To top it all off, it's presented in limited edition terrazzo packaging.

→ Ode To Home, 29A Seah St. 📍 Esplanade. \$53.90.



9 DEEP SLEEP WELLNESS SET BANYAN TREE

Chances are, they'd probably need some quality shut-eye after all the festive partying. Deep Sleep Wellness Set includes a lavender bergamot sleep enhancer and massage oil, beautifully wrapped furoshiki-style.

→ Banyan Tree Spa, Tower 1, 55/F, Marina Bay Sands, 10 Bayfront Ave. 📍 Bayfront. \$44.90.

10 SALTED EGG CEREAL FOSSA CHOCOLATE

When in doubt, quality chocolate makes for a no-brainer gift. Award-winning bean-to-bar craft chocolate maker, Fossa Chocolate's Salted Egg Cereal is loved by all.

→ Apartment Coffee, #01-12, 161 Lavender St. 📍 Lavender. \$12.

11 2020 PLANNER BYND ARTISAN

Get your bud started on their 2020 goals with this practical case-bound planner. And for an additional \$10, you can even personalise it with their initials.

→ Bynd Artisan, #03-24 Raffles City Shopping Centre, 252 North Bridge Rd. 📍 City Hall. \$35.

12 FACE KIT 13RUSHES

Every makeup lover needs a basic brush kit in their makeup arsenal. This one has everything needed to create the perfect face: a dome foundation brush, flat brush, powder brush and the shader.

→ Fayth, #B1-03/03A Plaza Singapura, 68 Orchard Rd.

📍 Dhoby Ghaut. \$69.90.

13 B&W THERMAL MUG THE ANIMAL PROJECT

This gift helps support a local social enterprise, and reduce plastic waste while at it. The Animal Project offers products featuring artwork by children with special needs.

→ #01-07 The Art Faculty, Enabling Village, 20 Lengkok Bahru.

📍 Redhill. \$20.

14 ARC IN IVORY THRIFTY THIEVES

Chic jewellery is always a safe idea, even if you're unsure of their personal style. Thrifty Thieves is known for making statement pieces inspired by Pantone's colours charts, colours charts, and this arc with abalone shell charm is no exception.

→ Actually, #03-18 Orchard Gateway, 277 Orchard Rd. 📍 Orchard. \$12.90.

15 PERANAKAN TILES TRAY CAT SOCRATES

One can't go wrong with heritage-inspired décor pieces. This Peranakan Tiles Tray from Cat Socrates makes a lovely addition to any dining table – and doubles up as a chic accessory holder.

→ 448 Joo Chiat Rd. \$19.

16 TEMPEH MAKING KIT TEMPEH CULTURE

If you've heard them talking about switching to a plant-based diet, they'll appreciate Tempeh Culture's DIY kit. It contains all the essentials to make tempeh from scratch.

→ tempehculture.sg. \$25.

Food

Edited by Nicole-Marie Ng

Cream of the crop

A hotlist of some of Singapore's coolest ice cream parlours. By *Fabian Loo*, photography by *Ahmad Iskandar*

THERE'S ALWAYS A reason for ice cream – our perpetual summer heat makes sure of that. While our grandparents cooled off with shaved ice packed tightly into balls, drizzled with coloured sugar syrups in the past, today we have diverse flavours inspired by cultures beyond our shores. Here's a sampling of some of our nation's coolest creations.

← Mrs. Plump's

Made with fruits, seeds and even leafy greens

Here, the natural, superfood-infused ice cream melts fast, and has a shorter shelf life. Omitting corn syrup reduces the duration the icy treat can stay frozen and cutting out preservatives shortens its expiration date. Mrs. Plump's Mia Kusen has one easy solution: "eat it quickly".

TRY Chocolate kale (\$4.90), which Mia first developed when her kids contracted hand, foot, and mouth disease. Ice cream was all they could eat, and she couldn't find any that was nutritious. She masked dehydrated kale with a decadent chocolate base to trick her vegetable-hating twins.

→ #01-01, ImPact@Hong Lim Green, 20 Pickering St. ☑ Clarke Quay.

Geometry →

Churning dreams into reality

Growing up, Emma Goh and Jeslyn Yeo had a common dream: to open a café. The god sisters have known each other since they were 13, and would often cook together. More than a decade later, they opened Geometry. It's named after a branch of mathematics that reflects the pair's meticulous approach to gelato-making.

TRY Goma (\$3.90), black and white in colour made with a combination of black sesame and golden sesame.

→ #01-5142, Blk 2 Jalan Bukit Merah. ☑ Queenstown.

Denzy Gelato →

Forward-thinking frozen treats

Denzy Gelato was only six months old when owner Damien Yau entered the Singapore Gelato Competition in 2019. "We went as underdogs with nothing to lose," he says. His creation, the pear, ginger, and ginger flower sorbet took home the top prize and gave Damien the confidence for his other "avant-garde" travel-inspired flavours: the Elderflower Mojito, floral and refreshing, takes inspiration from Bali; Persian Prince, made with almond and infused with saffron, is based off Italy.

TRY The OG flavour: pear, ginger, and ginger flower (\$4.60).

→ #01-404, 506 Bishan St 11. ☑ Bishan.

← The Humble Scoop

A sweet dose of nostalgia

Yvonne Kwek worked in market research and spent three years as a cabin crew. But what she really wanted to do was open an ice cream store. During her travels, she noticed that many of the ice cream shops she visited focused heavily on local produce and flavours. She thought: "Why don't I do something similar, to create ice cream that reminds people of home". She started The Humble Scoop a year ago, selling familiar flavours like sugarcane with lemon and pulut hitam.

TRY Guava sour plum (\$3.90), a familiar, refreshing combination that harkens back to Yvonne's childhood.

→ #B1-92, Katong Shopping Center, 865 Mountbatten Rd. ☑ Paya Lebar.

Dopa Dopa Creamery →

Nutty creations

"When you have ice cream, you feel happy," shares Leonard Ong, the owner of Dopa Dopa Creamery. He named his gelato shop after dopamine, the neurotransmitter that affects the way we feel pleasure. In true Italian style, the gelato comes hidden under metal lids of ponzetti, and the smooth, creamy creations will have you coming back for more.

TRY The signature pistachio (\$4.70). Making it is labourious: nuts are first slow-roasted, then blended down to create a thick paste that's used to flavour the gelato.

→ #01-01, 29 South Bridge Rd. ☑ Clarke Quay.

← Apiary

Only the freshest ingredients

Apiary's co-founder, Travis Goh, brings out a bag of fresh mint. "Feel the leaves," he says excitedly. The young plant, sourced from a local hydroponics farm, is soft, tender and fragrant – and is used by Travis to make a batch of mint and chocolate ice cream. Using fresh ingredients is important to Travis as it helps ensure quality. "We try to source for good ingredients and turn them into ice cream by adding our own twist," he says.

TRY The +61 (\$4.70). Fresh oranges are bought from nearby Tanjong Pagar Market, and their zest is mixed with toasted almonds and chocolate chips to make a chunky Australian-inspired treat.

→ 84 Neil Rd. ☑ Tanjong Pagar.

Find more food recommendations at [timeout.com/singapore/restaurants](https://www.timeout.com/singapore/restaurants).

HAWKER SPOTLIGHT

One Mouth Noodle

Wonton noodles that are effortless to slurp, but tedious to make.
By *Fabian Loo*

THE FUTURE OF our hawker culture is fuelled, in part, by central kitchens, automation and hipster creations that put their own spin on local dishes – not that there's anything wrong with that. But over at One Mouth Noodle, ex-interior designer Jim Yeow is doing things differently.

The 37 year old set up his wonton noodle stall at Yishun Park Hawker Centre under an incubation programme by the National Environment Agency.

"It was a sudden urge," he says. "I wanted a change in environment." Maybe those close to him could have seen it coming. After all, he follows his father's footsteps – where in the 1960s, the older Yeow used to run a wonton mee stall too.

"All my recipes are from my father," Jim shares. It took him over two years to learn the ropes and everything – from the noodles right down to the char siew – is laboriously handmade.

On the concise menu are egg noodles with char siew and wonton (\$4.50), shrimp dumplings (\$4.50), or braised beef brisket (\$5.50). To prepare them, Jim gets to the stall at 6am every day, and goes home only after 9.30pm. But the most important part of his day begins just after lunch, at 2pm.

He straps on an apron and dusts off his metal workspace – it's time to make a batch of his signature noodles. Over a dozen eggs are added to flour and kneaded by hand, the mixture is

LOCAL DISH OF THE MONTH



pressed over itself, layer after layer, until it forms a smooth dough that's cut into soft, silky strands.

"The noodles are special," says Jim. "The rest are just supplements." It takes him over three hours to make some 150 neat balls of noodles. And between tending to the char siew roasting in the oven, and the tender beef brisket bubbling in the pot, Jim hardly has time to rest.

"I went from sitting down every day to having to stand up every day," he jokes. Thankfully, he now has the help to tend to the stall.

Making everything by hand might be painstaking, but it's well worth the extra effort. Slurping up the springy noodles is almost effortless, and the plump wontons get their juicy bite from being well-stuffed with a golden ratio of "80 percent prawn, 20 percent pork". Beef and pork get marinated a few nights prior before they're cooked for the flavours to fully infuse.

"Everything is nicer when it's handmade," Jim says. After our first bite of One Mouth Noodle, we have to agree.

→ #01-12, Yishun Park Hawker Centre, 51 Yishun Ave 11. 📍 Yishun.

3 QUESTIONS with Jim Yeow

1. What was the biggest change from working in the office to being a hawker?

I miss air-conditioning the most.

2. Were you ever worried about becoming a hawker?

Not really. I was driven by my passion to cook.

3. What do you like most about being a hawker?

When people finish my wonton noodles without leaving a single strand behind.



Jim Yeow

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Lombardo's Singapore

→ 15 Duxton Rd. 📍 Tanjong Pagar.

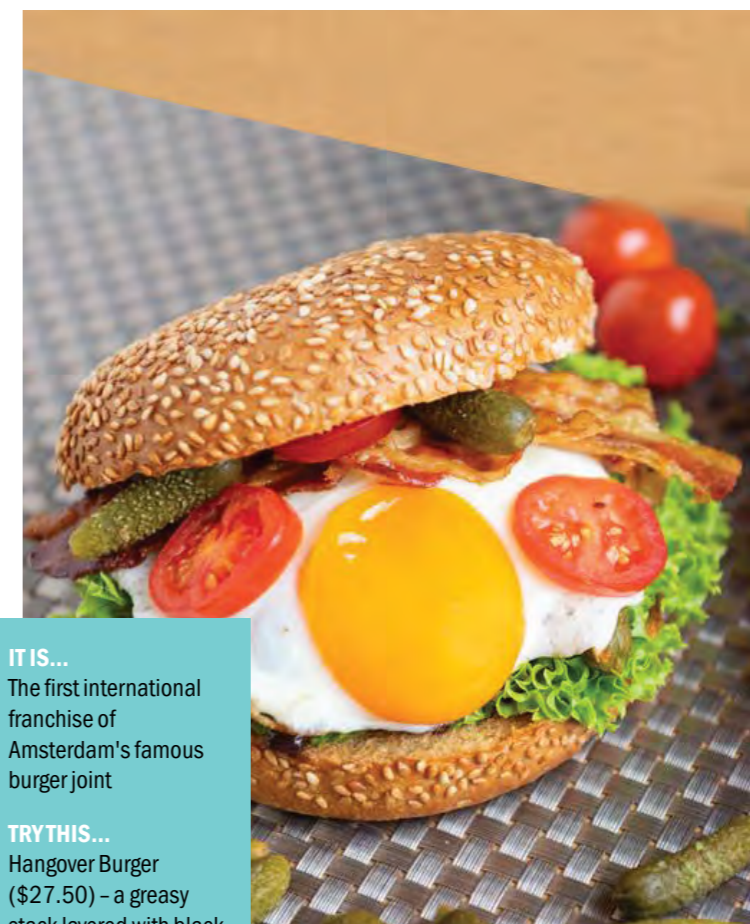


YOU MIGHT HAVE heard of Lombardo's when it first opened in Amsterdam. Its debut creation – an opulent, over-the-top \$250 burger, with lobster tail, Wagyu beef, foie gras and truffle shavings sandwiched between 25 karat gold-covered buns – caused quite a buzz.

You might also know Lombardo's as one of Amsterdam's top burger joints. It has, over the past nine years, gained some 2,000 five-star reviews on TripAdvisor. And even if you don't, the Singapore outpost – the brand's first international franchise – makes sure you do, with declarations of its humble achievement painted on various parts of the wall.

It hopes to convince you to part with \$25 for just the burger, and nothing else. Granted, Lombardo's buns are larger than most and almost two-palms-wide. Each fluffy vessel – buttered and toasty on one end and sprinkled with sesame seeds on the other – are a worthy base to deliver the Black Angus beef patties into your mouth.

Staying safe is your best bet here. We like the Dutch cheese



IT IS...

The first international franchise of Amsterdam's famous burger joint

TRY THIS...

Hangover Burger (\$27.50) – a greasy stack layered with black Angus beef, crispy pancetta and a fried egg

burger (\$22.50), which forms the foundation for many of Lombardo's permutations. The beef patty, amply seasoned and juicy but lacking a Maillard-approved crust, comes layered with complementary, classic fix-ins: melted English cheddar, sweet red wine onion compote, mini pickles, lettuce, and homemade burger sauce. It's accessorised to form creations like the beer-braised pork (\$29.50), blue cheese (\$28) – and our favourite,

the greasy goodness of pancetta and a fried egg in the Hangover Burger (\$27.50).

Shooting for bolder creations is where the burgers failed to impress. Resist your patriotism and skip the chilli crab-inspired Singapore Fling (\$35). The crab meat mixture, strong and pungent, overwhelms each bite with spice and fishiness. The Silence Of The Lamb (\$27.50) has an assertive gaminess and its goat cheese crumble brings on more fun than flavour.

A few non-beef options and two sides complete the menu. Skip the roasted vegetables (\$8) since you're already indulging and order the lemon zest fries (\$8), which are light, crispy and perfumed with bright, citrus notes.

We can say this about Lombardo's Singapore – some things don't quite stack up. Between its hits and misses, this famed burger joint doesn't earn the same full five stars here just yet. ■ *Fabian Loo*



Read more restaurant reviews at [timeout.com/singapore/restaurants](https://www.timeout.com/singapore/restaurants).

Time Out Singapore reviews anonymously and pays for all meals

★ Poor

★★ Promising

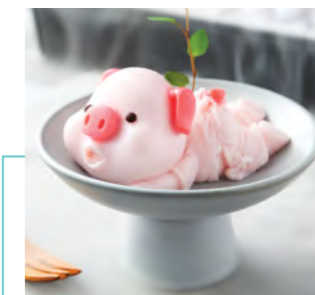
★★★ Good

★★★★ Very good

★★★★★ Exceptional

HOT TABLES

New restaurants across towns



↑ Social Place

Traditional yum cha gets a modern makeover at Social Place. The Hong Kong-based restaurant opens its first outlet in Singapore with a selection of playful dishes. Try the sweet and sour pork on ice (\$24.80), or bite into adorable dim sum shaped into pigs, swans, and mushrooms.

→ #01-22, Forum The Shopping Mall, 583 Orchard Rd. 📍 Orchard.

Kin

Chef Damian D'Silva is back – this time with a new concept at the swanky lobby of Straits Clan. The menu highlights Singapore's heritage foods, represented by our myriad cultures. Grab some friends and share the tender gulai (\$38) slow-cooked with Indian spices, or try the chap chye masak rempah titek (\$30) brimming with intense crustacean flavour.

→ Straits Clan, 31 Bukit Pasoh Rd. 📍 Outram Park.

New Ubin Tampines

New Ubin has found a new home, and this time, the famous zi char restaurant returns to its humble roots as a casual eatery. Located in an open-air canteen in remote Tampines Crescent, it still spotlights wok-kissed signatures like the garlic baked crabs (\$48 for 300g).

Also don't miss the Ubin Nasi Lemak (\$15) from the test kitchen.

→ 01-16, 18 Tampines Industrial Cres. 📍 Tampines.

Drink



Mulled wine, Manhattan



Mandarin eggnog, MO Bar

Find more drink recommendations at timeout.com/singapore/bars

Hot toddy Shin Gi Tai

Having moved from its original Waterloo Street address to Telok Ayer Street (right above Park Bench Deli), Shin Gi Tai still takes a no-nonsense approach to cocktails, focusing on classics. There's no menu – simply tell them what you're in the mood for and they'll shake something up. It's \$25 for most cocktails, \$30 and above for those made with premium spirits, so be sure to check before you order. Ask for a warm cocktail and they usually come back with a Hot Toddy – ours came steaming with The Orientalist Dragon Whisky and a slice of lemon studded with cloves. → 179A Telok Ayer St. 📍 Tanjong Pagar.

Mandarin eggnog MO Bar

From December 4 to 26, the good folks at MO Bar bring on the festive cheer with this frothy cup of eggnog (\$24) made with rum, olorose sherry, egg yolk, sugar and chai milk. You can also choose to have it cold, too, but where's the fun in that? → 4/F, Mandarin Oriental, 5 Raffles Ave. 📍 Promenade.

Mulled wine Manhattan

It's not Christmas unless there's mulled wine at the table and from now till December 25, you can take home your very own 700ml bottle (\$98) prepared by the bar legends at Manhattan. It's made with red wine, fresh orange peel, cloves, cinnamon, cardamom, sugar and cognac – all you have to do is warm it up over the stove and it's ready to be the star of your dinner party. Alternatively, it's also available as a part of Manhattan's Adults-Only Sunday Cocktail Brunch every Sunday in December. It is the season of feasting, after all. → 2/F, Regent Singapore, 1 Cuscaden Rd. 📍 Orchard.

Sponsored feature



Why this new Japanese craft gin deserves a spot on your bar cart

Meet the tropical spirit from Okinawa, Japan that's making waves in Singapore

JAPANESE WHISKIES HAVE had their moments in the sun – it's time for the gins to shine. Be one of the first in Singapore to try Okinawa Gin, a new craft spirit from Masahiro Distillery located on the balmy coast of the southern island.

Okinawa Gin is the distillery's first foray into gin making after spending more than a century distilling Awamori, a spirit unique to Okinawa made from indica rice. With a heritage that traces back to 1883, the distillery was founded by Shobun Higa, the son of Shozoku Higa, the master chef of the Ryuku Kingdom. After producing Awamori for more than a hundred years, it combines these traditional Japanese techniques with modern-day European production methods to make a fragrant gin that perfectly encapsulates the essence of its tropical home.

Each bottle of Okinawa Gin is distilled with juniper and five locally foraged botanicals: shekwas (a green citrus fruit native to

Okinawa), guava leaves, bitter melons, roselle and Japanese long peppers. The result is a refreshing spirit that is richly aromatic, evoking memories of a resort getaway where a gentle sea breeze caresses your face and the sand tickles your toes.

Sip on this delightful spirit neat or on the rocks – or if you're feeling adventurous, whip up an easy-to-make cocktail at home. Try the Okinawa Ricky (45ml Okinawan Gin, half a lime and soda), Okinawa Sunset (40ml Okinawa Gin, 15ml Campari and 15ml lemon juice) or stick with a good ol' Okinawa Gin and tonic to enhance its citrus notes.

In partnership with



→ You can get a bottle from shop.demajesticvines.com which has over 100 other spirits, wines and sakes available for your drinking pleasure.

Firewater

Heart (and belly) warming cocktails that pack a boozy punch. By *Nicole-Marie Ng*

HOT COCKTAILS ARE hard to come by in Singapore. It's hard to convince people to veer away from an ice-cold G&T, but a warm tippie – especially at the end of the night – is like a giant bear hug from your cuddliest friend. And there's no better time to start sipping on one than during the festive season where mulled wine, eggnog and hot toddy start making their way onto bar menus. Here are some to warm the cockles of your heart.

Swiss Miss Junior

This ultra-small pocket bar located along Tanjong Pagar always keeps things fresh – changing its concept twice a year to keep barflies on our toes. This time around, it takes inspiration from kitschy ski lodge discos of the 1970s to the present day Petite Chalet. We'd imagine there's

no better beverage to have after hitting the slopes than a mug of hot chocolate. The Swiss Miss (\$25) is spiked with green chartreuse and dark rum before it's topped with whipped coconut cream and torched cinnamon. Even without snowy weather, we still crave this cosy cocktail all the time.

→ 43 Tanjong Pagar Rd. 📍 Tanjong Pagar.

Irish coffee Chihuly Lounge

The team at Chihuly Lounge's take on a classic Irish Coffee (\$22) deploys hand-brewed single-origin Ethiopian coffee, Irish whiskey and homemade cream. Served warm in a Georgian Irish Coffee glass, this stunner is well-balanced, nutty and not bitter in the slightest.

→ The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore, 7 Raffles Ave. 📍 Promenade.

Shopping & Style



Rethinking tradition

Traditional clothes and fabrics step up in style – and into modern times. *By Delfina Utomo*

TRENDS COME AND GO but style is forever. And where better to turn for inspiration than traditional garb that are timeless, thoughtful and classy? They shouldn't be saved just for special occasions either – here are the brands making heritage pieces tastefully modern and wearable.

Baju by Oniatta

Behind every batik fabric is a story. Batik refers to the technique of making intricate patterns onto a piece of fabric. A delicate, time consuming artform, a lot of skill is put into designing each sheet. Look closely and each motif also carry symbolic meanings – and this is what owner Oniatta Effendi showcases with every collection.

Whether it's the Merdeka jacket with parang prints, which symbolise victory

and power, or the men's shirt adorned with the Garuda (a mythical bird), which represents masculinity, the garments you're wearing all tell a story.

BUY Get a kebaya set from the Nostalgia series. Each set is inspired by strong women in Oniatta's life and come with a white kebaya in several styles, a piece of batik tulis and an optional obi belt.

→ #02-07, MOX, 451 Joo Chiat Rd. ☎ Paya Lebar.



Baju by Oniatta

↑ Studio HHFZ

If you want a piece that is truly yours, get a contemporary cheongsam made at the hip Studio HHFZ, located in Katong's creative co-making hub, MOX. The magic happens from your first consultation with dressmaker, Hu Ruixian. Her portfolio includes fresh and elegant traditional designs – sometimes with a modern twist. Details like mother-of-pearl buttons, tweed fabric and extra pockets make each creation stand out. In true bespoke fashion, Ruixian not only makes cheongsam but other outfits as well.

BUY The key to a good cheongsam lies in the fit so getting a bespoke piece is a must. No two pieces at Studio HHFZ are the same – you can bring your own fabric or shop for the perfect piece in-store with the dressmaker. From that base, customise it with buttons, pockets or fluttery sleeves. Dresses not your thing? Make a jumpsuit instead if you prefer the comfort of pants.

→ #01-04, MOX, 451 Joo Chiat Rd. ☎ Paya Lebar.



ANERDstore

The Missing Piece

Perhaps the missing piece in your wardrobe is a modern cheongsam from this homegrown label. Shop from a variety of options that flatter your silhouette in soft, breathable fabrics that are perfect for our humid climate – so you can don your outfit on more occasions than just Chinese New Year and weddings. Make heads turn with designs that include cape-sleeved frocks, off-shoulder jacquard dresses, lace details, batik belts and more in pretty prints – outfits that you can do on more occasions than just Chinese New Year and weddings.

BUY Set trends with the Mirabella Cheongsam from The Missing Piece's 2020 collection. It features a luxurious and unique multi-coloured floral lace fabric that is reminiscent of Peranakan batik.

→ #03-06, 10 Winstedt Rd. ☎ Newton.

YeoMama Batik

If you're one to go bold at family gatherings, tick clothes shopping off your list at this mother-daughter boutique. With an eye for wearable batik, Yeo Mama offers racks of women's pieces in modern silhouettes designed in-house and made with handcrafted batik sourced from Indonesia. Update your wardrobe with fresh threads like flared slit culottes, wide-sleeved wrap tops, bodycon dresses as well as bareback cheongsams that you can pull off as a casual outfit or dress up for special events. There is even a batik activewear selection if you want to bring some culture to the gym. Men, don't feel left out – Yeo Mama also has pieces for you.

BUY A batik jumpsuit – for you and your mother. From fitted halterneck styles to comfortable roomy jumpsuits in batik print, these pieces fit any style and make you feel and look good.

→ #01-87, Oxley Bizhub, 65 Ubi Rd 1. ☎ Macpherson.



The Missing Piece

Discover more cool shops at [timeout.com/singapore/shopping-style](https://www.timeout.com/singapore/shopping-style).

ANERDstore

Ethical, sustainable and fashionable, ANERDstore is more than just a fashion label. It works with craftsmen from Indonesia to produce one-of-a-kind batik or *tenun* (cloth made from a traditional art of weaving) pieces. Shop blouses, kimono tops, skirts and even batik notebooks. ANERDstore also holds batik-making workshops for the public to drive more awareness to the art of batik.

BUY Keep it casual with batik culottes that you can pair with a t-shirt for everyday wear. On days where you need to impress, wear it with a matching batik tunic to make a statement.

→ #02-18, The Green Collective SG, Funan Mall, 107 North Bridge Rd. ☎ City Hall.

Travel

Edited by Dewi Nurjuwita



Apo Island, Philippines

Foresight is 2020

New year, new cool destinations.
By Dewi Nurjuwita

THEY SAY THAT life begins at the end of your comfort zone. Resist the urge to revisit your favourite destinations and seek out new travel haunts. Who knows? You might find your next go-to cuisine or serendipitously make new friends and create lifelong memories while you're at it.

To help you get started, we've rounded up some lesser-known cities (and islands) that we predict will be huge next year. It's time to start planning your 2020 travel escapes.

SIQUIJOR, PHILIPPINES

Mention Siquijor to any local, and you'd probably be met with an uncomfortable stare. The island south of Cebu has a reputation as a land of witchcraft and was feared by locals in the past. But Siquijor is bursting with beauty: pristine beaches, dreamy waterfalls, and lush trails.

EXPLORE The reefs around the island are rich in corals and aquatic life, and many of its dive sites have been declared marine sanctuaries. Avid divers can choose from over 15 sites, such as **Coral Garden** or **Sawang** for beginners, and **Sunken Island** for the more advanced. Alternatively, take a day trip to **Apo Island** and swim with the turtles.

EAT Feast on the best baked goods in town at **Lilibeth Pan De Bisaya** (Enrique Villanueva, Siquijor, Philippines), a simple roadside bakery shop that makes pan de coco, salbaro, ensaymada and pandesal. For dinner, head to **Dagsa Restobar** (San Juan, Siquijor, Philippines), a restaurant made of driftwood with a relaxed ambience serving homemade wood-fired pizza.

DRINK Located in the heart of Maite Village is **Baha Ba'r** (San Juan, Maite, Siquijor, 6227

Siquijor), a restaurant-bar with an extensive tapas menu and cocktails inspired by local fruit and ingredients. Try the Baha-Nana Daiquiri (with Tanduay white rum, calamansi, Malibu and banana) or Papa Fuego (Bacardi gold, maraschino liqueur, grapefruit, calamansi and ginger).

STAY For a unique experience, stay at **Glamping Siquijor** (glampingphilippines.com), where accommodation comes in the form of luxury tents. Each tent is equipped with Egyptian cotton sheets, a cosy duvet, comfortable loungers and a personal barbecue pit right outside.

KERALA, INDIA

Kerala, located on the edge of the Arabian sea, is one of the most beautiful states in India. Far from the bustle of bigger cities like Delhi and Jaipur, it's dotted with beautiful hill stations, golden beaches, small islands, rivers, wildlife, and mountains. The state's "Responsible Tourism" programme also ensures visitors conserve Kerala's beautiful culture and heritage, an initiative that's long overdue.

EXPLORE What sets Kerala apart are its backwaters, made up of a network of canals covering a vast area of the country. Book an

excursion to discover them on a traditional houseboat, an important mode of transportation in coastal Kerala used to ship rice, spices, and other goods. Then, hike through the **Sholayar Forest Ranges** and visit the breathtaking **Athirappilly Waterfalls**.

EAT When in Kerala, you need to try Kerala-style dosa, which is traditionally served for breakfast. **Pai Dosa** (Ground Floor, AS Tower, NH17 Service Road, Edappally, Kerala 682024) has a reputation for serving the best ones in town. For fragrant biryani, pop by **Paragon Restaurant** (Kannur Rd, Kozhikode, Kerala 673001).

DRINK Don't leave Kerala without having a spiced sambharam, a traditional drink from South India made from pure buttermilk; and seasoned with shallots, garlic, ginger, chillis, bilimbi (pulinji), asafoetida powder, coriander leaves, mint leaves, mango and pineapple slices. The beverage is a cool and energising beverage, perfect for Kerala's summer days.

STAY Looking for the ultimate wellness stay after the hectic festive season? Head to **Somatheeram Ayurvedic Health Resort** (South of, Chowara, Kovalam, Kerala 695501, India), which has won the best Ayurvedic Centre in Kerala award 10 times. The resort's room categories range from standard cottages for those looking for basic lodging, to fancy deluxe suites.

BURIRAM, THAILAND

Buriram literally translates to "City of Happiness" and lies at the crossroads between Thailand's Northeast and Southeast regions. The provincial capital was an ancient Khmer empire and holds some of the country's most magnificent Khmer relics.



Athirappilly Waterfalls, India

"Phanom Rung is the largest Khmer monument in Thailand and sits on top of a dormant volcano."



Phanom Rung, Thailand

EXPLORE Learn more about the history of Buriram by marvelling at its ancient relics. See the ruins of **Phanom Rung**, the largest Khmer monument in Thailand, which sits on top of a dormant volcano, or get an insta-worthy shot at the 10th and 11th century **Prasat Muang Tam**. The latter is a temple complex close to the lake symbolising the ocean that surrounds Mount Meru (the centre of the universe in Hindu cosmology).

EAT Head to **Song Pee Nong Dinosaur** (Sakae Sam subdistrict, Buriram 31000) for Northeastern Thai food such as tom saap (hot and

sour pork rib soup). For a more upscale meal, **La Lom Bar & Restaurant** (Khu Mueang Alley, Nai Mueang, Mueang Buri Ram District, Buri Ram 31000) is a fusion restaurant overlooking the La Lom Canal.

DRINK Nightlife in Buriram is similar to what you'd find in other parts of Thailand, albeit much smaller. Expect loud karaoke bars, neon signs, and flashing lights. But hey, that's the intrigue of it all. Most of the bars and nightclubs, such as **Bamboo Bar** (14 13 Rom Buri, Nai Mueang, Mueang Buri Ram District, Buri Ram 31000) and **Speed Music Hall Disco** (Nai Mueang, Mueang Surin District, Surin 32000), are concentrated in The Square on Romburi Road. To mingle with the younger crowd, head to the cool **Motown** (18 15-16 Thani Alley, Nai Mueang, Mueang Buri Ram District, Buri Ram 31000), which offers imported beers and spirits.

STAY Whether you're travelling for business or leisure, choose to stay at **Modena by Fraser Buriram** (111 Moo 16 Samet, Mueang Buri Ram District, Buri Ram 31000), located a stone's throw away from Chang International Circuit and Buriram Castle Mall. If you're a soccer fan, check out **Amari Buriram United** (444 Moo 15 Buriram-Prakonchai Rd) the only football-themed hotel in Thailand.

For more travel features and tips visit [timeout.com/singapore/travel](https://www.timeout.com/singapore/travel).

Art

Edited by Dewi Nurjuwita



OPEN
HOU
MON : C
TUES : C
WEDS : C
THUR : C
FRI : C
T : C

Art of gold
Clockwise from left:
Hunny Bee Halter
Top; Minor Miracles;
designer Dawn Bey.



Got prints?

From iron-on patches to pieces of wearable art. By Dewi Nurjuwita

YOU'VE DEFINITELY SEEN Pew Pew Patches around – be it on a stranger's denim jacket, at various pop-up markets, or your friend's backpack. With adorable designs and witty phrases, the colourful iron-on patches are were first made by local designer Dawn Bey when she was studying fashion design in Hong Kong.

Now, the entrepreneur has another exciting project on the horizon. She's set up shop in a quaint studio on the first floor of her home near Holland Village. Called Minor Miracles, the print and textile label merges her love for fashion, prints, and art.

Congrats on the launch of *Minor Miracles!* How did it come about?

"Minor Miracles was born out of my love for fashion and prints. The idea first came about when I created an exclusive print for my bridesmaids' outfits and it received such a great response. This studio space is where I create prints which go onto textiles, paper, plastic... basically anything that can be printed! My team and I create our fashion collection in-house, from the designing and patternmaking to sampling. We love keeping the craft alive. Every

season, we come up with fresh prints and a new range of clothes.

How do you combine your love for art and fashion with *Minor Miracles*?

Art has a beautiful way of telling a story, usually in an indirect way through metaphors. You can read a scene and infer the mood from the expressions, the colours and the scale. The version of fashion that I subscribe to, on the other hand, is more wearable and practical. Prints are a special way I can make art and fashion meet in my language. I am able to take a story and depict it visually through a range of prints that then go onto the body in different shapes and sizes.

Beyond just paintings on the wall, interactive moving art forms like performance art and dance inspire me. In a similar way, fashion turns the body into a walking interactive art form.

What's one thing you look for when you're translating your prints to fabric?

I always look for a theme or a story that strings everything together. It can be something simple like a visual line, but it needs a reason

for its being. Fashion can be too superficial or transactional sometimes in its approach to creation and I want to be more intentional with my work.

Tell us about your favourite item from the collection.

Currently, it's the No Scrubs Kimono Jacket. Function wise, we made this with a combination of features the team really wanted – a hood, big pockets, a cool silhouette and we made it reversible. It's a knockout!

Why did you decide to convert the first floor of your home into a print and textile studio?

Our friends were looking for someone to take over their lease and with such a good location, we couldn't turn it down. We want to be prudent with the way we accelerate the business. Converting the first floor of our new place into a print and textile studio just made sense.

→ 87 Jalan Kelabu Asap. 📍 Holland Village.

→ Minor Miracles is open for walk-ins on weekdays between 10am-1pm and 3pm-7pm. On weekends or after hours, email hello@minormiracles.shop to make an appointment.

Stage

Life on the fringe

These voices demand to be heard. By Dewi Nurjuwita

A WORLD AWAY from the glitzy, big-budget Broadway productions you see at Marina Bay Sands, the city's fringe theatre scene is hidden away in unassuming black boxes and intimate spaces in galleries – just the way its loyal audience likes it. After all, there is something alluring about walking into a mysterious space, not knowing exactly what to expect.

Last month, we stepped into the set of *The Hawker*, an immersive theatrical production by The Second Breakfast Company. Staged at the Aliwal Arts Centre's studio which transformed into a hawker centre setting, complete with colourful mismatched tiled floors, red and white plastic chairs around round tables, and a roti prata cart. "We tested this format out and had a first staging last year at the Asian Youth Theatre Festival. We didn't expect such good turnout and warm reception. People were really intrigued by it," says the not-for-profit theatre company's artistic director Adeeb Fazah.

A name synonymous with the local fringe theatre scene, Adeeb got his start at Yellow Chair Productions. That's where he met Mohamad Shaifulbahri, who he eventually co-founded Adeeb and Shai with. Established last year, the collective aim to bring international fringe productions to Singapore, debuting with a remake of Sam Steiner's *Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons*.

Shai has an similarly impressive repertoire. His latest work with Bhumi Collective (called *Mak-Mak Menari*) will be staged at the 16th edition of the M1 Fringe Festival, which shines a spotlight on the underrated talents in Singapore's local fringe theatre scene.



The Hawker

But what exactly defines fringe theatre in Singapore? "It is something that has a 'no-frills' spirit and nature," says Shai. "The set-up is basic, sparse even, a table and perhaps, two chairs – often borrowed or loaned. It strips away the bells and whistles and focuses on the story. Personally, I also think fringe theatre is able to manoeuvre a lot more quickly to tell stories that are contemporary and urgent."

However, it's not a bed of roses. According to Shai, there's the question of bureaucracy, red tape and finding suitable spaces. "If you look at fringe festivals around the world, cities and towns come together to support the realisation of the festival. You'll see rooms in pubs, indoor basketball courts, or community centres being converted into performance spaces. Heck, I've even watched a musical in a Quaker House."

Bud Theatre's Claire Devin shares similar sentiments: "In Singapore, fringe has been pushed into expensive black boxes. Small companies are forced to raise their prices and compete in markets that can often suppress their originality or expression. And then there's the issue of censorship, which marginalises the

idea of experimentation."

The scene may be small, but there's a new breed of younger production companies with voices that need to be heard. The simplest way you can support them is by going to the plays. "As a society, we need to be less afraid of the unknown or the unexpected. We need to not be terrified of the unconventional. These works that expose the oppressed, marginalised, and down trodden act as a catalyst for societal change," Claire says.

Need some recommendations? Up-and-coming playwright Dwane Ng presents his new play *Single Mothers* (\$28) at The Arts House Play Den on December 20 to 21, and Bhumi Collective's *Mak-Mak Menari* (\$27) runs from January 17 to 19 at the NAFA Studio Theatre as part of the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival.

"Institutions can also open up their extra resources to artists who work individually. It's easier said than done, but it's the first step," Adeeb tells us.

→ The M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2020 takes place from January 8 to 19. For more information, visit singaporefringe.com/fringe2020.

Music & Nightlife

Edited by Cam Khalid

Strings attached

Five members of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra talk classical music. By *Cam Khalid*

CLASSICAL MUSIC GOES beyond Bach, Beethoven and Mozart. Backed by an orchestra of strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, and occasionally, a choir, it takes shape in various forms. Learn more about Singapore's from the people who know it best.

Lau Wen Rong, Trumpeter

It was love at first listen

"The opening theme of *Star Wars* got me interested in the trumpet and I joined the school band."

Power to the youth

"I enjoy listening to the performances by youth groups such as the Singapore National Youth Orchestra as they remind me of why I took up music in the first place."

Explore classical music further

"There are masterclasses and workshops by great artists at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music each semester that I highly recommend."



Chan Yoong-Han, First violinist

A family affair

"I was brought up in a family of musicians who were active in the early development of Western classical music in Singapore. Having witnessed the birth of the SSO as a child, I joined the orchestra in 2002 after completing my master's degree in music in the US."

Support local

"Check out local orchestras and ensembles such as Orchestra of the Music Makers, re:Sound Collective and the Metropolitan Festival Orchestra. Each of these ensembles has their unique identity and sound, and they offer a variety of programming angles."

Enjoy a free performance

"The Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music has an impressive list of chamber and orchestral performances by established international musicians."

Samuel Armstrong, Trombonist

A brass quintet

"My love for music and playing in the orchestra started with my family who are all brass players."

Gulnara Mashurova, Principal harpist

Home is where the harp is

"My mother actually got me started on harp."

Classical music is my passion

"I love the variety of styles it offers."

Best seen live

"I also enjoy jazz and world music, attending the Sing Jazz Festival and Mosaic Festival as much as possible. One of the highlights in recent years was seeing Richard Bona live in Singapore. The Kempinski Hotel has a nice bar with live music as well."

Gig out

"When I'm not playing with the SSO, I enjoy attending concerts by other orchestras and ensembles such as the New Opera Singapore, The Musicians' Initiative, Singapore Lyric Opera, and Red Dot Baroque."

Get jazzy with it

"I also like listening to performances by the Jazz Association of Singapore, led by Jeremy Monteiro and Weixiang Tan."

Joshua Tan, Associate conductor

Slow start

"I was forced to learn the violin from the age of six. I got bored of listening to the mainstream charts, picked up a recording my Dad had and I fell absolutely head over heels with classical music since then."

A rollercoaster ride

"Listening to orchestral music is like getting on a roller coaster at Universal Studios, albeit an emotional one. The extremes of human emotions and thoughts are condensed into a piece of music. It's representative of the human condition. That's what makes it such a unique and approachable art form."

Making melodies

"For free concerts, catch the Singapore Symphony Orchestra at the Botanical Gardens as well as Gardens by the Bay."

→ Catch the Singapore Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert at the Esplanade on December 12 and 13. From \$25.

1 Esplanade Dr. Esplanade.

Film

Edited by Cam Khalid



Singapore Comic Con



Chewbacca (left) and Rey (right)

Feel the Force

Bear this Yoda quote in mind as you learn the ways of being a Jedi: "Patience you must have, my young padawan". By *Cam Khalid*

THE FORCE IS strong now that *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* is days away from its December 19 release. Hop onto the Millennium Falcon and journey with Rey, Finn and Poe Dameron as the Resistance faces the First Order once again. Expect plenty of space action and a possible epic end to the ancient battle between the Jedi and Sith.

If your love for the *Star Wars* franchise extends beyond bingeing on the original, prequel and sequel trilogies, as well as the anthology films, don't sit home and twiddle your lightsaber. Feel the Force and master the skills for a lightsaber duel, meditate to the sweet sounds of the soundtrack, and meet fellow Jedis. While you can't move things with your mind or fight stormtroopers, you can still make BB-8 proud by making an effort.

Master the lightsaber at The Saber Authority

First step: pick up a lightsaber – or rather a glowing, polycarbonate one. Second step: learn the basic strikes and footwork from the pros at The Saber Authority. The movements taught are based on a mix of Asian martial arts. Once you've got the foundations down to a T, prepare for a duel with a fellow saber combatant and make sound effects like fwoom, fwoom, tchzzt.

→ Various locations including 100Plus Promenade @ Sports Hub Gate 2, National Stadium 1 Stadium Dr. Stadium. \$20-\$60.

Go on a sonic space adventure at SSO Pops: The Music of Star Wars

Let the Singapore Symphony Orchestra take you to a galaxy far, far away with the music of legendary composer John Williams

on December 19 and 20. Led by Australian conductor Christopher Dragon, the orchestra relives iconic moments from the movie franchise including the dramatic *Imperial March* and *Leia's Theme*, as well as the beautiful *Across the Stars*.

→ Esplanade Concert Hall, Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay, 1 Esplanade Dr. Esplanade. \$25-\$98.

Swing to the beat with Beat Saber VR

Most virtual reality (VR) arcades offer Beat Saber, a VR rhythm game where you slash colour-coded blocks to the beat of your chosen song. Each beat indicates the saber you need to use – red or blue – and the direction to slash while dodging oncoming obstacles. It's tons of fun and makes the perfect excuse to practise your strikes and footwork as well as your double-saber skills.

→ Various locations including V-Room, #02-02 Orchard Gateway, 277 Orchard Rd. Somerset. \$12-\$15.

Meet fellow Jedis at Singapore Comic Con

The army behind Singapore Comic Con is also the same one behind the annual Star Wars Celebrations in the city. And like all comic cons, this one is bound to have a couple of stormtroopers, Princess Leias and even a Chewbacca in all his hairy glory if you're lucky. Three-time New York best-selling artist Jock, who has produced key art concept designs and promotional imagery for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is also making an appearance at this year's convention.

→ Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre, 10 Bayfront Ave. Bayfront. \$18.

DON'T MISS

Three movies to catch this month



↑ Cats

In cinemas Dec 26

Andrew Lloyd Webber's synth-heavy musical gets a film adaptation with a star-studded cast.

Dolittle

In cinemas Jan 16

Watch Robert Downey Jr. play one of literature's most iconic characters in a reimagined classic of the man who can talk to animals.

The Lighthouse

In cinemas Jan 30

Robert Eggers' new psychological horror sees two lighthouse keepers losing their minds as they get stuck on a remote New England island.

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

What the Time Out Singapore team is asking Santa for this year

Tim Webb

Managing Director, Asia

“A reversal in global warming or a bottle of Stag Leap The Fay.”

Nicole-Marie Ng

Editor

“A four-day work week and a partridge in a durian tree.”

Cam Khalid

Citylife Writer

“More hours in the day (and at night for the ZZZs).”

Sally Lam

Finance Manager

“For peace to return to my hometown of Hong Kong.”

Delfina Utomo

Digital Editor

“For Mercury to retrograde less and perhaps an office pet.”

Fabian Loo

Food and Drink Writer

“To be part of the Kardashian family’s Christmas card.”

Michelle Ong

Head of Sales

“For an amazing 2020, and a holiday.”

Dewi Nurjuwita

Art and Culture Editor

“All the cat and dog cuddles in the world.”

Kashmira Kasmuri

Designer

“For people to be more giving with their smiles.”

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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FRIDAY 13 DEC

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(FRA)

10PM - LATE

GREY GOOSE
WORLD'S BEST TASTING VODKA

TUESDAY 31 DEC
8PM - LATE

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East Imperial Gin Jubilee

December 5-14

Head down to the participating bars to check out their G&T creations and vote for your favourites using #GinJubilee2019

East Imperial Gin Lane

December 14, 5pm till late | Jam at Siri House

Join us for \$12 cocktails, electrifying music and good vibes all night as we crown Singapore's best G&T



Organised by:

