

The Berlin Times

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DIE  WELT

2015



Welcome! Willkommen! ¡Bienvenidos! Benvenuti!



“Road to Berlin!” was on the banners in European stadiums. You have taken the road to Berlin from everywhere in Europe! Now you are here from Italy, Spain and right across the continent – and are welcome guests in our city. Berlin is proud to have the international soccer world here. Let’s laugh together, dance together, let us savor the variety of Europe. Look at this city, which was divided by concrete and barbed wire for decades. To the world of business, I say: “Berlin has a lot to offer – in sport, culture, and in commerce.”

May the best team win the Champions League final. But even now, we are all winners. Let us celebrate, one and all, as Europeans with a common European future!



Como sabéis, el eslogan de este torneo ha sido «Road to Berlin» y muchos habéis emprendido ese camino a Berlín desde todos los rincones de Europa. Ya estáis aquí y nuestra ciudad os recibe con los brazos abiertos. Nos enorgullecemos de ser los anfitriones del fútbol internacional y de recibir a los aficionados llegados desde Italia, España y toda Europa. Vamos a reír, bailar, disfrutar y celebrar juntos la diversidad europea. Que esta ciudad, que estuvo dividida durante décadas por un muro rodeado de alambres de púas, sea testigo de nuestro encuentro. A los representantes de la economía les digo: «Berlín tiene mucho que ofrecer, y aunque es más reconocida como ciudad de cultura y del deporte, también destaca en el ámbito de la economía.»

Que en la final de la Liga de Campeones ganen los mejores, aunque todos hemos ganado ya. Celebremos en el espíritu de un futuro europeo en común.

Detlef Prinz
Publisher



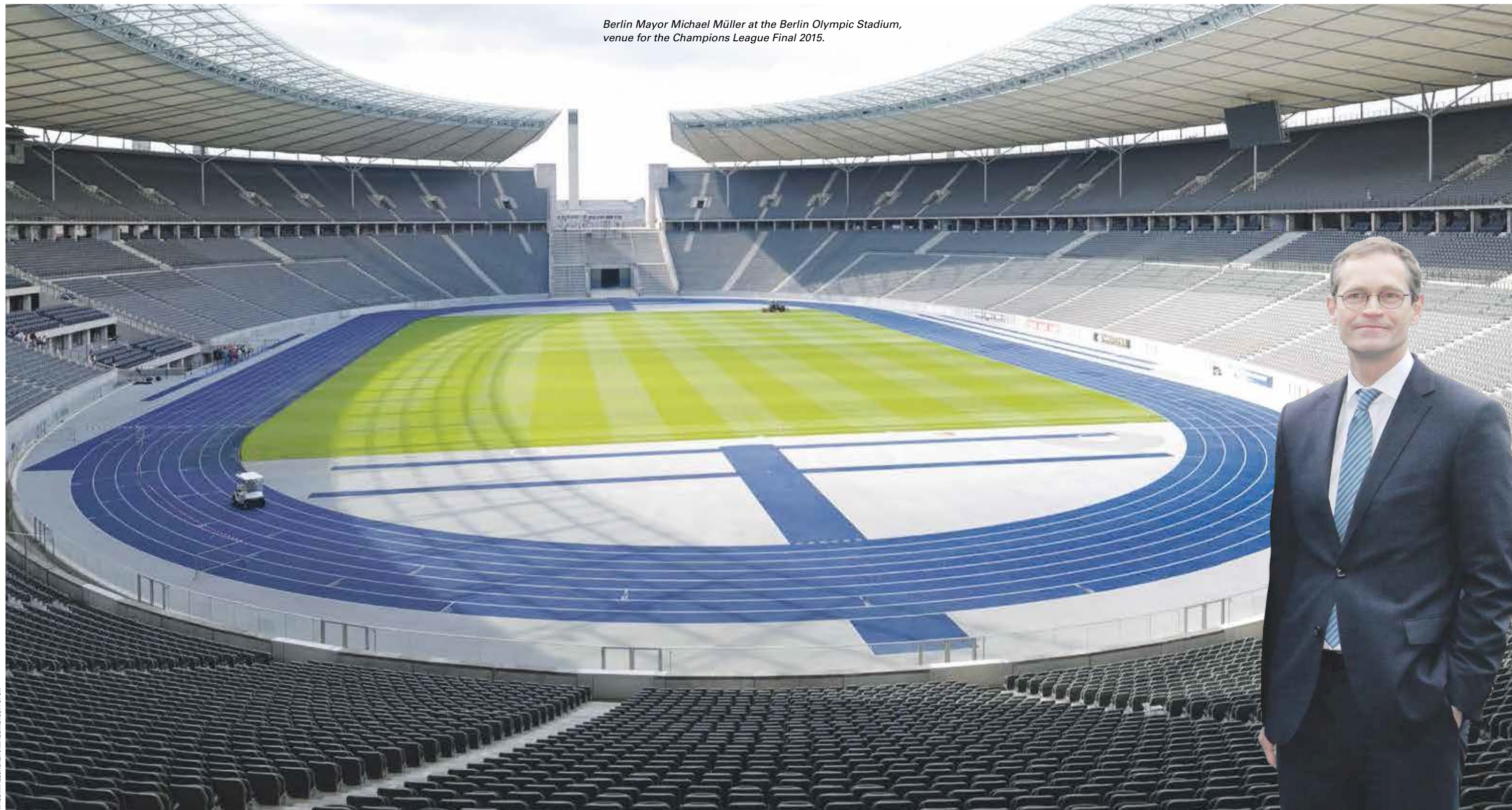
„Road to Berlin!“ war in den Stadien Europas zu lesen. Ihr nehmt die Road to Berlin aus allen Teilen Europas! Ihr seid angekommen, und wir begrüßen Euch als liebe Gäste unserer Stadt. Aus Italien, Spanien und ganz Europa. Berlin ist stolz, die internationale Fußballwelt hier zu haben. Lasst uns lachen, lasst uns tanzen, lasst uns gemeinsam die europäische Vielfalt genießen. Schaut auf diese Stadt, die Jahrzehnte durch Mauer und Stacheldraht getrennt war. Den Vertretern der Wirtschaft rufe ich zu: „Berlin hat viel zu bieten. Sportlich, kulturell, wirtschaftlich.“

Im Champions-League-Endspiel möge der Bessere gewinnen. Aber schon jetzt sind wir alle Sieger. Lasst uns feiern im Geiste einer gemeinsamen europäischen Zukunft.



«Road to Berlin» si poteva leggere in tutti gli stadi d'Europa. Voi avete percorso la Road to Berlin da tutta Europa! Voi, cari ospiti della nostra città, siete arrivati dall'Italia, dalla Spagna e da tutta Europa. Berlino è fiera di poter ospitare il mondo del calcio. Ridiamo, balliamo e godiamoci insieme i vari modi di essere europei. Guardate questa città, che per decenni è stata divisa dal muro e dal filo spinato. Mi rivolgo ai rappresentanti dell'economia: «Berlino ha molto da offrire. Dal punto di vista sportivo, culturale ed economico».

Nella finale della Champions League vinca il migliore, ma già adesso siamo tutti vincitori. Allora festeggiamo insieme nello spirito di un futuro europeo condiviso.



Berlin Mayor Michael Müller at the Berlin Olympic Stadium, venue for the Champions League Final 2015.



Berlin Mayor Michael Müller, in conversation with reporter Ralph Grosse-Bley.

Berlin's No. 1

He's the mayor of the German capital, but on this particular weekend Berlin is ruled by something quite different: soccer. In an interview with *The Berlin Times*, Michael Müller (SPD) talks about the iconic nature of the Olympic Stadium, the allure of Berlin and the exceptional talent of soccer player Lionel Messi

Herr Müller, Berlin's going to be welcoming an influx of southern European fans and players this weekend. Have you been learning a few words of Spanish and Italian in recent weeks?
(laughs) No, unfortunately I don't have the time for that. But I'm really looking forward to the match and I'll be there, of course.

It's certainly going to be crowded in the VIP box ...
I assume that many high-ranking politicians and other representatives from all areas of public life will be watching the final in the stadium.

The prime ministers of Spain and Italy as well?
That would be wonderful.

What's the significance of the Olympic Stadium for Berlin?
Today, the Olympic Stadium is also a symbol for the capital – almost as well known as the Brandenburg Gate. The stadium touches peoples' hearts – also because of its vibrant history. The chant “Berlin, Berlin – we're going to Berlin” is familiar to every soccer fan in Germany. There's a huge amount of emotion involved.

You've only been in the job for six months. Did you imagine it would be easier?
No. I've known the city for 50 years, I've been familiar with its political issues for a long time. What is new for me is the wide range of things I'm now responsible for – cultural policy, for example. Another change is increased public and media interest. It's a challenging job, but it's great fun.

Berlin is especially attractive to young people from all over the world. What is it that makes Berlin so appealing, do you think?
I think it's the authentic history of a formerly divided city. It's constantly changing, reinventing itself. The relatively low cost of living is also a factor, for sure – and the cosmopolitan lifestyle of the city.

Is this why Berlin is growing so quickly?
Yes, 40,000 new residents arrive here every year. It's also part of our job to create the space they need, places to live and places to work.

More than 10 years ago, your predecessor Klaus Wowereit coined the slogan “Berlin is poor, but sexy”. Will that still be the case in the future? Will

Berlin always be poor?
I hope not. One day, the slogan should be: “Berlin is rich and sexy”.

One last question: Who's going to win?
I think it'll be a close call, because these are top-class teams on par with each other. But in the end, I reckon one man will make the difference – Messi!

WAITING FOR FRIENDS

The Berlin Times

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Three foreign ministers talking soccer

As a young man, he played in midfield. Now Frank-Walter Steinmeier is a striker for German foreign policy. His diplomatic skills have earned him global respect. He's looking forward to the soccer spectacular with guests from Italy and Spain. For *The Berlin Times* he exclusively shares his thoughts on the game.



PRIVATE

It's the soccer highlight of the year: FC Barcelona and Juventus Turin meet in the final of the Champions League at the Berlin Olympic Stadium.

Of course, it would be even more thrilling for us with a German team in the final. But I'm sure that Messi, Pirlo and the rest will lay on a soccer celebration for all of us. And in any case, German soccer is being represented on the pitch in the form of Marc-André ter Stegen.

I like to recall my years as an active soccer player, and not just in the run-up to big matches.

"I've always put my heart and soul into playing soccer"

I played in right midfield. I wasn't really what you'd call an intricate footwork technician. But instead I put my heart and soul into my game, and I had stamina! The route to success is often a long one – that's something I learned from politics a long while back.

There's never been a Champions League Final in Berlin, and who knows when it'll happen again. So we're happy that Berlin is able to host the game this year, and that we can celebrate this feast of soccer with our guests from Italy and Spain. ⚽

Why do you think that Barcelona's chance is higher than Juventus'?

Juventus and FC Barcelona have collected six European Cups and more than fifty national league trophies in their record books. Both are historic European teams, it is sure that the final will be hotly contested.

However, FC Barcelona has come to Berlin after eliminating the defending champions of the leagues of England (Manchester City), France (Paris Saint Germain) and Germany (Bayern München), which shows that Barcelona is currently in great shape. In addition, FC Barcelona arrives in Berlin as the champion of the best league in the world, the Spanish League, and their stars are enjoying their best moment. For any team, not only for Juventus, it's really hard to stop strikers like Luis Suarez, Neymar

and especially Messi, all three surely in the top five or top ten in the world.

A message for FC Barcelona fans?
I would tell them to enjoy the festival of soccer that means this final in Berlin. Winning or losing, the merit of FC Barcelona this season is immense and they

"Barca is in great shape"

should be proud of their team. I ask them to support Barca during the 90 minutes, to put their bit to bring the cup to Spain, to demonstrate once again the usual fair play shown by Spanish fans around Europe.

How have you seen Berlin and what are you going to tell your colleagues and friends about the German capital?

I am confirming today that Berlin is still one of the most dynamic capitals of Europe. Such an attractive city for both leisure and business.

Berlin constantly reinvents itself, always attentive to the forefront while respectful of its immense history. Any excuse is a good excuse to come back here. ⚽



Spanish Foreign Minister
José Manuel García-Margallo

Why is Juventus better and how high is Juve going to win?

Today FC Barcelona is playing the best soccer in the world. Hence, it will be very hard for Juventus to win its third Champions League title. Anyway in the past four years Juventus, supported by its high class players, two great coaches and a reliable society behind, improved more than anyone else in Europe becoming a team with a precise identity, very tough to deal with. Strong motivations, the awareness of being a determined and united group, and a bit of luck. These I think will be the ingredients to win the final.

"Juventus is hard to beat"

Thousands of your countrymen will be in Berlin the day celebrating a soccer party. What is your message to the Juve fans?

My message to the Juve fans and to all soccer fans who will be in Berlin on June 6, is to enjoy the show responsibly, being proud of their respective teams. Billions of people will watch this game and it is important for everyone to contribute in the right way to the success of the event. I am sure the Juve fans will fill up the Olympic Stadium with the same passion

and support of all Italian fans back in 2006. They could definitely be the 12th man on the field.

The divided Berlin has written history. After reunification it has become attractive for youngsters from around the world. What are you going to tell your friends about the German capital?

In the past twenty-five years Berlin has become one of the most vibrant and interesting capitals in the world. What impressed me the most about Berlin has been the capacity to rapidly change its outlook, moving from a symbol of the Cold War to become a world-renown cultural hotspot and an artistic and musical landmark for younger generations. ⚽



Italian Foreign Minister
Paolo Gentiloni

BERLIN IN NUMBERS

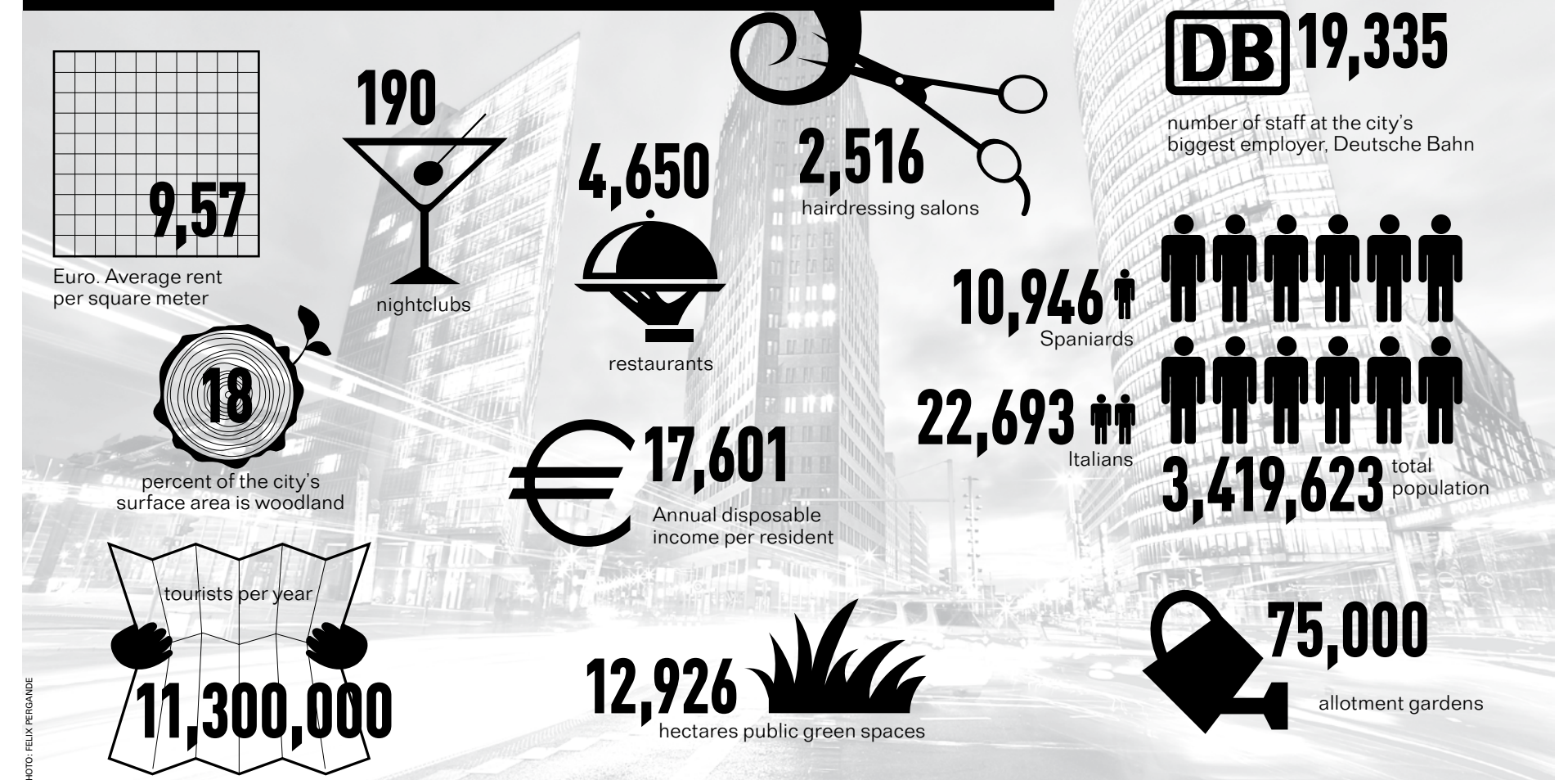


PHOTO: RELAX PICTURE

Bauherr:
› Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG)

Auftraggeber:
› Implenia

Zielstrebig

Endstation Brandenburger Tor: Nach insgesamt 3km Vortrieb wird Tunnelbohrer Bärinde auch die 2. Röhre der neuen U5 präzise und verlässlich fertigstellen.

Innovativ

Speziell modifizierter Herrenknecht-Bohrer für „Vortrieb mit erhöhter Dichte“ inmitten Berlins. Unterquert sicher Spree und Spreekanal – bei geringsten Überdeckungen bis zu 5m, sandigen Geologien und hohem Grundwasserdruck.

Bild: Antonio Pätz-Graunz

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ESPAÑOLEANDO EN BERLÍN

Máxima germanización

Los españoles que viven en la capital de Alemania aman a su ciudad de adopción, pero bregan a diario con la añoranza gastronómica, el frío invernal y el difícil idioma alemán, muchas veces echando mano del humor y la mutua compañía | De María-Paz López

Cuando se instaló en Berlín, Daniel Brühl empezó a añorar las patatas bravas del bar Tomàs. Las patatas fritas en buen aceite de oliva, cortadas a dados irregulares y grandotes, con su sala de tomate picante, son un manjar clásico de ese bar histórico del barrio de Sarrià, en su Barcelona natal. De padre alemán y madre catalana, el actor protagonista de «Goodbye, Lenin!» tenía el

Sobre esta verdad no se dude. Cuando un grupo de españoles se reúne en Berlín, los temas de conversación serán siempre tres, no necesariamente en este orden: comida, clima e idioma. En esta vida fuera se puede sobrevivir con poca cosa, pero todo es más llevadero si hay croquetas de pollo.

Así, sobre la nostalgia gustativa del expatriado hispano se han cimentado varios establecimientos con encanto en Kreuz-

andaluza que lleva cinco años en la capital de Alemania, ha condensado en monólogos esa angustia existencial del español enamorado de su ciudad de adopción pero impotente para comunicarse con normalidad en la lengua de Schiller. Lirola se patea como cómica las salas berlinesas del circuito hispanohablante, y ha popularizado una sentencia que lo dice todo: «La vida es demasiado corta para aprender alemán».

Sabiduría profunda. A los hablantes latinos nos impresiona la longitud acumulativa de las palabras alemanas: por ejemplo, conceptos como Sehenswürdigkeiten, cosas dignas de verse, o Gebrauchsanweisungen, instrucciones para el uso; nosotros necesitamos varias palabras sueltas para expresar lo mismo. Nos dejan perplejos las declinaciones (nos preguntamos por qué los alemanes declinan, si también tienen preposiciones), y nos abruma esas oraciones subordinadas retorcidas como alambiques. Una vez que el oriundo de las Españas ha asumido que su Oberstufe – obtenido con esforzado tesón en el Goethe Institut de Madrid, Barcelona, San Sebastián o Granada – no le permite echarse unas risas con sus nuevos amigos alemanes, empieza el reencuentro salvador con la comunidad nacional.

«Ellos tienen Mallorca, nosotros tenemos Berlín.»

Se fragua en blogs como Berlunes, uno de los más populares entre los españoles de la capital, cuyo lema es: «Ellos tienen Mallorca, nosotros tenemos Berlín». Integrado por dos periodistas, un informático y un ingeniero, Berlunes.com presenta una delirante Escuela Superior de Berlinología, dirigida por los enigmáticos profesores Shopenhau y René D., con intervenciones del becario Juanma y de Frau Dulenta (fenomenal juego de palabras en tres idiomas a la vez: la señora, en alemán, tiene algo que ver con el fraude, todo junto en castellano, pero además es «dulenta», o



María-Paz López

«En Berlunes se cuentan historias de terror sobre el proceso de Anmeldung»

alma y el estómago desgajados entre Berlín, la capital que tanto ama, y Barcelona, la tierra de la infancia, allí donde se fragua la querencia a los sabores y los olores, esa querencia que te acompaña luego toda la vida.

Por eso, las patatas bravas se han labrado un puesto de honor en el Raval. Así, como el barrio más céntrico de Barcelona, se llama el bar de tapas que Brühl y su socio y amigo, el gallego Atilano González, abrieron en febrero de 2011 en el barrio berlinés de Kreuzberg. Incluso han plasmado su experiencia en un libro de recetas y anécdotas de título inequívoco: ¡Tapas! Die spanische Küche der Bar Raval (¡Tapas! La comida española del Bar Raval).

Ahora que el Barça se planta en el Olympiastadion de Berlín para disputar la final de la Liga de Campeones con el Juventus de Turín, bien vale oíear cómo se cuece la vida española en la atrayente capital de Alemania. Para empezar, es complicado saber cuántos españoles viven en la ciudad del río Spree. Según la embajada de España, a finales de 2013 (últimos datos oficiales disponibles), eran 10,946 los aquí instalados, pero podría haber muchos más sin registrar. La mayoría llegaron espoleados por la crisis económica, pero también por el encanto emprendedor que se respira en Berlín. Pero, ¿qué les pasa con las patatas bravas?

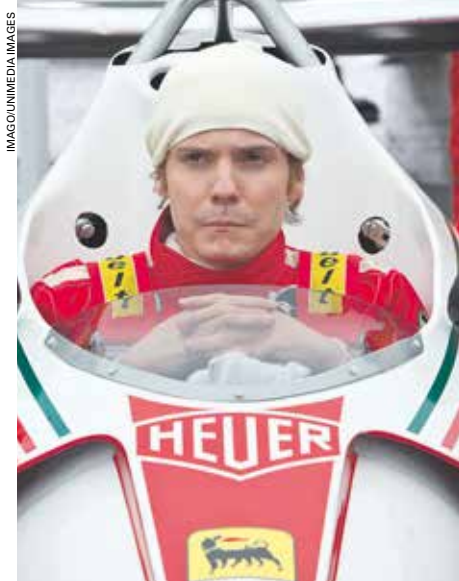
LA VANGUARDIA

Aliviado el trago alimentario, están el frío que corta y la pronta oscuridad del invierno, que hacen que incluso compatriotas de lugares también fríos – Burgos, por poner un ejemplo que huela hasta a los burgaleses- protesten que Berlín es mucho peor. Hasta que llega la primavera, la capital

germana florece, y los que españolean deciden que ha valido la pena esperar. Aquí no hay playa, pero tampoco todos en España tienen la costa a tiro de piedra.

En el corrillo de las cuitas, la charla suele transitar de la añoranza gastronómica y del agobio atmosférico a la impotencia ante la lengua. Paloma Lirola, una humorista

máxima germanización, como cuando te has habituado a tratar de usted a cualquier persona con aspecto de haber terminado la escuela primaria, el choque cultural ante el tuteo a la anciana vecina puede resultar brutal. Y cuando los buenos amigos alemanes te hacen bromas sobre la siesta o las corridas de toros, respiras hondo y les dices que evocan una España tópica, sectorial, y que la verdadera España es mucho más rica, heterogénea y sabrosa. También les preguntas cómo se sienten cuando en medios extranjeros se pinta a los alemanes en pantalón bávaro si son hombres, o luciendo un dirndl si son mujeres. Entonces, te entienden.



En la película del drama de la fórmula 1 «Rush» 2013 interpreta el papel del joven Niki Lauda.

María-Paz López, nacida en Barcelona en 1967 y residente en Berlín, es corresponsal del diario español La Vanguardia en Alemania y Centroeuropa. Cuando el Barça ganó la Champions en 2009 en Roma, ella era corresponsal en Italia y Vaticano. Por eso, sus colegas de Deportes en la redacción central de Barcelona dicen que es un talismán y que el Barça ganará en Berlín el 6 de junio. López ha sido también jefa de sección de Internacional y redactora sénior especializada en religión.



El «Bar Raval» en el barrio Kreuzberg (Lübbener Str. 1): 2011 ha inaugurado la estrella de cine Daniel Brühl («Rush», «Inglorious Bastards») el bar de tapas. Brühl es de Barcelona, tiene una madre española.

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Nei primi anni sessanta migliaia di italiani sono emigrati per lavoro in Germania. Hanno contribuito al «miracolo economico». Loro stessi avevano bisogno dei soldi per le loro famiglie rimaste in Patria.

Gufi e gobbi, buongustai e ironici in fuga.

Dimenticate i „gastarbeiter“ che andavano nel ricco nord per lavorare in fabbrica: gli italiani a Berlino sono artisti, architetti, startupper. E non si meravigliano più se un'azienda si chiama «pirla».

Passaggiando per Prenzlauer Berg, può capitare di incrociare un camion con una gigantesca scritta: «Pirla». Se vi stupite e vi fermate a fotografarla, due energumeni addetti al carico-scarico vi guarderanno in cagnesco. Non avrete rispettato la prima regola che si impara arrivando a Berlino. Tutte le parole che finiscono in -one, -azzo, -accia o -ino indicano una sola, rassicurante provenienza: l'Italia. Sono sinonimo di bella vita, abbigliamento di gran classe, raffinati aromi. Anche quando negli italiani provocano attacchi di fou rire, qui fanno esotico. L'ape-bar itinerante «Mazzo», per dire, fa ottimi caffè.

Una volta imparata questa prima, fondamentale regola, bisogna impararne subito un'altra. Se andrete a trovare amici tedeschi, gli verrà spontaneo dimenticarsi la vostra provenienza e proporvi di andare a mangiare fuori, «dal nostro italiano». Non vi offendete. Ogni berlinese ha il «suo» ristorante italiano, col pronome personale. E nel frattempo nella capitale ce ne sono di eccelsi, anche per palati torinesi, bolognesi o romani. Quelli classici, dove si rintanava la «Toskana-Fraktion» della Spd: i grandi amanti dell'Italia come Gerhard Schröder, ma anche l'imbronciato re dei Verdi, Joschka Fischer, sono la Bocca di Bacco o il pane e le rose. Ma poi ci sono anche quelli orgogliosamente regionali. Come il lucano Muntagnola, prediletto dal compianto Claudio Abbado – Berlino è ancora a lutto per la morte del maestro – o dal

presidente di Unicredit, Giuseppe Vita, che è ormai una sorta di nume tutelare degli italiani «tedeschizzati», dopo una vita a cavallo tra i due Paesi, ai vertici di colossi tedeschi come Schering e Axel Springer. Vita, per dire, c'era anche la notte che cadde il Muro e si beccò una multa per aver parcheggiato male. Il poliziotto ultrazelante che se ne infischio del momento storico.

La calata degli italiani a Berlino negli ultimi anni, però, ha assunto proporzioni imponenti. E ha provocato qualche malumore per l'abitudine dei nostri compatrioti a comprare casa, che ha contribuito all'aumento vertiginoso dei prezzi. Ovvio che, alla vigilia della finale Juventus-Barcellona, l'ondata di tifosi che si rovescerà sulla capitale stia creando un filino di ansia in più. Ma quello che molti

«al vino buono non rinunciano, a costo di mangiare pane e cicoria»

tedeschi non sanno è che il 9 giugno gli italo-berlinesi si divideranno chiaramente in due categorie: hooligans e gufi. Chi non andrà allo stadio, si riverserà nei bar con i maxi schermi. Uno dei più popolari è il Caffè Bistrot Sport Italia, dietro il vecchio miglio dello shopping a Berlino ovest, il Ku'Damm. Chi cercherà invece posti dove tifare contro la Juve, può tentare la fortuna alla pizzeria 'A Magica. Romanista, come suggerisce il nome, non esattamente un covo di «gobbi».

In realtà, la presenza degli italiani a Berlino ha una caratteristica particolare, anzi, unica. La comunità è profondamente diversa da quelle che si trovano in tutto il resto della Germania. E' un novum storico. Anche per noi mezzosangue. Per noi ultraquarantenni mezzi italiani e mezzi tedeschi, l'interminabile viaggio da bambini per andare a trovare i nonni in Germania era sempre un'avventura. Se abitavano, ad esempio, a Nordhorn, nel lembo settentrionale della Germania, significava passare 24 ore in una carrozza da sei. In compagnia di famiglie che affrontavano viaggi di un giorno e mezzo e si portavano tutto, frittate, panini mastodontici, vino fatto in casa, soprattutto:

LA STAMPA

triplicati, ma durante la Grande Crisi c'è stata un'accelerazione forte. In sunto, come scrivono i due studiosi, «il settore dei servizi si sta evolvendo come il settore occupazionale più importante per i nuovi immigrati italiani».

Le fabbriche automobilistiche e le ciminiere delle acciaierie sono, insomma, lontanissime. Gli italiani che approdano a Kreuzberg o Mitte (questi i quartieri prediletti, secondo Pichler e Schmidt) sono quasi sempre laureati o diplomati. Fanno gli architetti, i giornalisti, i manager, i designer, i programmatori, i liberi professionisti, o tentano la fortuna come artisti. Più raramente, lavorano come camerieri, gelatai o baristi. Li incontri nei caffè e nei locali di Friedrichshain e Wedding, in bicicletta, con le barbe lunghe, le magliette arrabbiate e gli occhiali da hipster, perfettamente mimetizzati tra i berlinesi doc. Fanno i registi, i programmatori, i poeti. Portano qui un pezzo di creatività italiana. Ironici in fuga.

Federico, ad esempio, ha un blog strepitoso. Segnalato di recente da uno dei due

conazionali. Negli anni Sessanta, ai tempi dei grandi esodi dei Gastarbeiter, quando Berlino era una città tragicamente divisa e la parte Ovest un'enclave, erano appena un migliaio. Ora sono ben 26mila, secondo uno studio recente di due sociologi, Edith Pichler e Oliver Schmidt, e continuano ad aumentare. Dagli anni Ottanta sono

Ma Berlino è un'altra storia. I prezzi economici delle case, rispetto alle maggiori città italiane, ma anche la solida economia solida tedesca, hanno attratto qui molti

LA BERLINO ITALIANA

siti più letti dagli «expat» a Berlino, «Il Mitte» (l'altro è «Berlino Cacio e Pepe»). Sul suo «amorequietplace.com», ha scritto un'esilarante guida in inglese dei supermercati tedeschi che comincia con la spiegazione della Pfandmaschine, il diabolico apparecchio per restituire il vetro a rendere, sovente impallato da anziane signore che infilano le bottiglie «Very. Slowly», «Molto. Lentamente». Federico sta tentando anche un esperimento arduo. Inventarsi una parola tedesca composta al giorno. Ha già all'attivo creazioni notevoli come «Geburtstagssingmut», ossia il coraggio di chi intona per primo «Happy Birthday» alle feste, ma anche «Naturbildentauschung», la delusione di chi rivede la foto di un momento magico come un tramonto mozzafiato e si accorge che fa schifo.

Naturalmente, in una città dal discreto consumo alcolico, non può mancare il buon vino italiano. Il segreto di molti italiani che non vogliono spendere troppo ma vogliono essere sicuri della qualità, sono i supermercati «Centro italia» (tra i pochi, peraltro, con la pasta De Cecco e Voiello, in alternativa all'onnipresente Barilla), ma anche le piccole enoteche. Marco Callegaro ne ha aperta una

eccellente a Hufelandstrasse, Sant'Ambroeus. Mescendo Chianti e Barbera vinificati senza compromessi te ne racconta la storia. Soprattutto, spiega che «i tedeschi, quando si tratta di scegliere se e quanto consumare, sono sensibilissimi alle notizie: nel periodo in cui la crisi della Grecia ha raggiunto l'apice, hanno smesso di comprare bottiglie da tredici euro e hanno ripiegato su quelle da sette». Gli italiani, aggiunge, sono meno elastici: «al vino buono non rinunciano, a costo di mangiare pane e cicoria». Non è una metafora, per fortuna.



Tonia Mastrobuoni è nata a Bruxelles da madre tedesca e padre italiano. Attualmente è inviata de La Stampa a Berlino, ha una rubrica sull'Europa su Radio radicale, Neureka, e si occupa dei libri del Festival dell'Economia di Trento. In passato ha lavorato come giornalista economica per Reuters, Apcom, Westdeutscher Rundfunk e il quotidiano Il Riformista.



Tonia Mastrobuoni.

EXPO 2015: MILAN RADIATES INNOVATIVE SPLENDOR

Over 500,000 visitors came to the opening of the Milan World's Fair on May 1, 2015. By October 31, the city expects to host 20 million people from around the world.

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Prof. Dr. Emanuele Gatti
president of the Italian Chamber of Commerce for Germany (ITKAM)

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A cut above the rest

He is Germany's best-known hairdresser. His name: Udo Walz. She is Berlin's secret star: the singer and actor Katharine Mehrling. Their presence at the lively Berlin "Literaturhaus" is met with a hushed silence. | *By Frank Hubrath*

Herr Walz and Frau Mehrling live and work in the German capital. Both are masters of their métier: The Swabian from Waiblingen cuts Chancellor Angela Merkel's hair and performs a balancing act employing art, kitsch and dexterity – Hesse-born Mehrling from Hanau has twice won the "Golden Curtain" award for the most popular Berlin actor and blends Parisian charm with Berlin nostalgia.

They know each other. They like each other. At the photoshoot, the pair delivers a remarkable rendition of John Denver's country anthem "Take Me Home, Country Roads". This even manages to subdue the otherwise bustling "Literaturhaus" into a state of calm reflection.

This much is clear: Udo styles petite Katharine's hair. But the otherwise so eloquent and multi-talented television personality doesn't want to talk about that. Mehrling laughs: "Of course, because I'm very critical." Walz counters: "When she has a stage appearance, I do her extensions. She doesn't like me to say that." Mehrling cheekily retorts that she doesn't have any at the moment. "And I'm proud of that," she says.

Those who have entrusted their hair to the manual dexterity of the master craftsman himself include such famous ladies as Marlene Dietrich, Romy Schneider and the woman who would later become the Red Army Faction terrorist Ulrike Meinhof – when they were all still alive, at least. In his memoirs, the stylist describes the efforts he went to cutting Meinhof's hair. Without any knowledge of whom he was using his

"We love Berlin. Actually nobody's really interested in you."

scissors on: "I didn't know anything about politics," he says.

The maestro gave Chancellor Merkel the legendary Walz fringe. Which only increased his popularity further. Walz now owns nine hairdressing salons, seven in Berlin and two in Mallorca. Regarded as a society darling at the age of 18 in St. Moritz, he was especially admired for his pinned-up styles.

These days, many of his female clients view him as a reincarnation of Rococo hairdresser Léonard Autié, court coiffeur to the French Queen Marie-Antoinette. She was – as the story goes – beheaded in late 1793; which is of course something we wouldn't wish on Katharine Mehrling, at least.

Katharine Mehrling studied acting and musical theater at the London Studio Centre and – like Marilyn Monroe – at the Lee Strasberg Institute in New York. She gave her stage debut in London's West End at the Old Vic Theatre in a production of "Hair". Since then, she's played leading roles such as the lascivious Sugar Kane in "Some Like it Hot", Mackie Messer's lover Polly in Brecht's "Threepenny Opera", the voluptuous President Evita Peron in "Evita" and Fanny Brice in the musical "Funny Girl".

She experienced her adoptive home Berlin in the title role of the Parisian romantic comedy "Irma la Douce" and the immortal sweetheart "Piaf". In more than 250 performances, the actor metamorphosed from skittish femme fatale to tragic figure in the role of Sally Bowles in "Cabaret".

In 2008, she even got the chance to perform as a club singer alongside Tom Cruise in his Stauffenberg anti-Nazi opus

„Valkyrie“. Surely it's now only a matter of time before the hotly-tipped actor gets her big break. "Castrop Rauxel", a song she wrote herself, is ironically self-mocking: „Ich bin ein Star, ja ich bin's / In der deutschen Provinz.“ (I'm a star, yes I am / In the provinces of Germany)

For the stars of the stage and the salon, soccer is no minor matter. "I always watch the matches on television, because I can see much better," says the older, but somehow ageless Walz. Katharine Mehrling's first time in the Olympic Stadium was for Hertha's last Bundesliga home match. "It was brilliant, really good fun," says Mehrling.

Udo Walz is already sensing some Champions League stress. Because the final between Juventus Turin and FC Barcelona is taking place in Berlin, of all places. He's constantly fielding calls from friends asking if he can get them some tickets. But there's absolutely no chance: "I'm having to disappoint people. Although they'd be willing to pay any price," says the celebrity hairdresser. The match has been good for business: "Plenty of people have already made appointments to have their hair done. The men are watching soccer, the women are going to the hairdressers," says Walz.

Incidentally, the "Vokuhila" (the German abbreviation of 'vorne kurz, hinten lang', or 'short at the front, long at the back'), the legendary soccer player's haircut, is now passé. Today, says Udo Walz, footballers go for a more contemporary look. The trendsetter here is David Beckham: "Once he goes for a new hairstyle, everyone wants to look like him," says Germany's most famous hairdresser. Walz won't be pressed on whether soccer players all look the same, or whether they've all got tattoos. Portugal's handsome Ronaldo, for example, is different, he says. But Mehrling doesn't think he's so great. Her head's been turned by others: "I think Bastian Schweinsteiger's sweet. And Manuel Neuer is great. And Per Mertesacker isn't unsexy."

Walz is very impressed: "You know more than I do. What's that?"

Berlin, their adoptive home, is an affair of the heart for them both. Walz has travelled the globe, but only wants to live in Berlin. Katharine Mehrling worked in London, Paris and New York, but in Germany, she only feels at home in the city on the Spree: "My people are here. Here, you can just be who you are."

Walz nods: "We love Berlin. The people are really tolerant, actually nobody's really interested in you."

That's not quite correct! The willowy singer with the amazing timbre grins: "Going for a coffee with Udo Walz on the Kurfürstendamm without being bothered – that's impossible. Everyone knows Udo – they all want to take a selfie with him."

On the ball in Berlin: celebrity hairstylist Udo Walz and singer Katharine Merling, Berlin's secret star.



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A girl on the West Berlin side watches a bricklayer working on the border on August 13, 1961. Overnight, from August 12 to August 13, thousands of soldiers and policemen began carrying out East German government orders to seal off roads and train tracks leading to West Berlin.

NEW BERLIN

Cosmopolitan and democratic

The German capital has become the political center of Europe again, signifying a new chapter in the city's storied past

By Stefan Aust

You're still aware of it, but you can hardly imagine it anymore, even though some remnants of the wall remain as a reminder. Only when the train drivers go on strike again and the trains all grind to a halt, you find yourself longing for Tempelhof and PanAm and the short flights out of the walled-in city. And when they strike again, you hope for a new airlift, at least until the present-day lunatics return to their senses.

Otherwise Berlin is just a city again, loud and shrill, unfinished and glitzy and full of tourists and migrants from all over the world, old and new federal states and those parts of the world that are even poorer and much less sexy than the new Berlin.

A metropolis, almost as large as it used to be, before the wars, when the world still appeared to be in imperial order and yet fragile, because rulers met the challenges and crises of the new era with old methods. Here on the Spree, a naive Emperor allowed himself to be dragged into a devastating war by his bureaucrats and military strategists, supported by cronies and relatives on the thrones of neighbor-

ing countries, the revolution was declared here, this was the arena for battles between Spartacists and Nazi paramilitaries, the place where Hitler celebrated his takeover, where he paraded his troops, before they attacked Europe, here the bombs rained down until no stone remained attached to another. The Cold War began here. It also

"The fall of the Wall allowed Europe to grow back together."

ended here, when the Wall fell one night in November. Unexpected by all those who are sponsored with endless taxes as a way of foreseeing political developments.

As long as the Brandenburg Gate was closed, sealed off on the western side with an elegantly curved, meter-thick wall, the German question remained open. Richard von Weizsäcker brought history into sharp

focus on this point. And Willy Brandt, who as Mayor of Berlin had to look on, angry and powerless, as the Wall was built, could hope that what belonged together would now grow together. And that wasn't just divided Germany. The fall of the Wall also allowed Europe to grow back together, eastern and western Europe. And again, Berlin was right in the middle. A center, a bridge between East and West. Where a woman from East Germany could become one of the most influential political figures of the West, where European history was and is still being written – by peaceful means. Perhaps a continuation of the conciliatory policies of a Bismarck, who always knew that politics isn't just about drilling through thick boards, but also about balancing these. But even that is not without risk. A policy of equanimity can become a seesaw policy, short-term tactics can undermine long-term strategy. Those who no longer know where they stand can suddenly end up where they didn't want to be.

The Berlin Wall served as a magnifying glass to track the Cold War narra-



The tide of freedom has become unstoppable. Members of East Berlin's "People's Police" force have no choice but to listen to the demonstrators' chants on Nov. 10, 1989. The previous day, the Berlin Wall fell after 28 years of existence, and many border crossings were opened.

tive. To this day, again as though under a magnifying glass, Berlin's government quarter brings global lines of conflict into stark relief. For example, in investigative committees, above all in one, the com-

data should be passed on, what do we get for it, what should be revealed and what not, when are we still an ally, when are we just a stooge and to what extent have we distanced ourselves from the alliance

"There are few other capitals in the world where politics and the public sphere are so close."

mittee charged with shedding light on the activities of the NSA in Germany. All lines converge here: how much should a country allow itself to be spied on by Big Brother US, how close must their cooperation be in the fight against Jihadists, what

in the meantime? Paris, Brussels, London, Washington, Moscow, Beijing, Jerusalem, Erbil and not least Athens – they are all sending their envoys to Berlin providing for movement in politics and gridlock in the government quarter.

There are few other capitals in the world where politics and the public sphere are so close, where politicians, lobbyists and journalists, business managers and artists rub shoulders to such an extent, day by day, night by night. A handful of restaurants serve as communal watering holes for German and foreign politicians, with Hollywood stars and state premiers, German and European parliamentarians, secret service agents and former US presidents sitting cheek-by-jowl at their dining tables – to the astonishment of some foreign observers. Here, the traditional political class is being eroded bit by bit. In some way it is cosmopolitan and democratic, the new Berlin, and that's quite something – after a history such as this.

Stefan Aust (68) is a German journalist. He was on the staff at television broadcaster NDR from 1972 to 1986. From 1988 to 1996, the sociology graduate was editor-in-chief of the program "Spiegel TV". From 1994 to 2008, he was editor-in-chief of the news magazine "Der Spiegel". Aust has written numerous books on mainly political themes. Aust has been publisher of the newspaper "Die Welt" since 2014.

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The Club der Visionäre is one of the most popular open air locations in the city. The bar is located right next to the River Spree. DJs play fine electro and Minimal there daily.

Berghain, Am Wriezner Bahnhof
Berghain is a world famous techno club, if not THE most famous. Techno fans from all over the globe come here for an unforgettable night – or more specifically nights in the plural – because at Berghain, you can dance to the best techno sounds played by DJs from all over the world from Saturday night through to Monday morning. The queues are always very long and there's no guarantee you'll get in, as the bouncers are notoriously selective.

Watergate, Falckensteinstraße 49
Watergate is on the Oberbaum Bridge directly on the River Spree. The club has two rooms with huge windows affording a fantastic view of the river. The DJs here play techno and house and if you've got the stamina to stay up all night, you'll get to see the sunrise over the Spree.

House of Weekend, Am Alexanderplatz 7
Weekend is renowned for its large roof terrace

high above Alexanderplatz in Berlin. There's an incredible view over the whole city from here. The club is open from Thursday to Sunday, with techno and house usually on the decks.

Kater Blau, Holzmarktstraße 25
Kater Blau, managed by the same people who ran the old Kater Holzig, is located on the opposite bank of the Spree. There's yet another club on Holzmarktstraße, where Bar25 was once famous. A night in Kater Blau triggers memories while stoking interest in something new – for example the urban village planned for the plot next door.

Prinz Charles, Prinzenstraße 85f
The most eye-catching feature of this club is the bar, which is in what used to be a swimming pool. The club area is equally extravagant, with dancing to electro beats every Friday and Saturday. Apart from the club nights, cultural events are also held here.

Haubentaucher, Revalerstraße 99
A new oasis for Berlin. In what used to be the old repair workshop for the Reichsbahn, or German State Railway, raw Berlin urbanity meets laid-back Mediterranean style. There's an indoor and outdoor club with a huge pool.

Monkey Bar, Budapeststraße 40
The Monkey Bar is on the 10th floor of the Hotel "25hours", with a roof terrace offering a sensational view over the Zoo, the Memorial Church and the Kudamm. The bar's motto is "life is beautiful" – and the cocktails are to die for.

Butcher's, Torstraße 116
To the rear of a snack stand behind a red telephone booth, you'll find the entrance to this windowless cocktail bar with a vaguely disreputable feel. The cocktails, mixed from high-quality spirits, are served without any pretensions and are a true taste sensation.

Adnan, Mommsenstraße 63
The most fashionable place to enjoy Italian food. The fantastic ambience and great service mean you'll immediately feel at home here. It also serves the best pizzas in town.

Borchardt, Französische Straße 47
Probably the most famous restaurant in Berlin. Described as the "movie-makers living room and the politicians' dining room". Dine here and you can be sure to spot a few famous faces.

Grill Royal, Friedrichstraße 105
If you like art and red meat, this is the place for you – with both of these items featured heavily on the menu. When it comes to last orders, the restaurant also runs an open-end policy so you can dine at leisure into the night.

Pre-soccer shopping

When it comes to shopping, Berlin has long been up there in the Champions League. Not much time during the final weekend in Berlin? No problem, *The Berlin Times* is here with shopping advice to guarantee you won't be left off-side.

World famous and stuffed with all the global brands (Prada, Gucci, Tiffany, Cartier, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Hermes etc.), the KaDeWe (Tauentzienstraße 21-24, 10789 Berlin) is the biggest department store on the European continent – stocks everything but the kitchen sink, as they say! Spectacular – the gourmet department on the 6th floor.

Smaller, but well arranged: Galeries Lafayette (Friedrichstraße 76-78), the German branch of the famous Parisian store. From here, it's just a few meters to the temples of high fashion, The Corner (Französische Straße 40, at Gendarmenmarkt) and the Department Store im Quartier 206 (Friedrichstraße 71).

It may not be beautiful, but it's certainly interesting – Potsdamer Straße. Rather like New York's meatpacking district, this is the new place to be – or rather the place to shop. As well as numerous galleries, you'll find among others the boutiques of fashion avant-gardist Andreas Murkudis (Potsdamer



270 shops and a giant food court: The Mall of Berlin just opened in September 2014. It is located within a short walking distance of the Brandenburg Gate.

Straße 81, – including pieces by Dries van Noten, Kostas Murkudis, Marni, Maison Margiela and The Row) and the milliner Fiona Bennet (Potsdamer Straße 81-83). Her hats are worn by an array of celebrities including Brad Pitt und Katie Holmes.

Award-winning fashion from the capital with an increasingly international clientele can be found at Kaviar Gauche (Linienstraße 44). Pieces by the Berlin design duo are now sold in boutiques all over the world (e.g. Rome, London, New York, Tokyo). Their fans include Charlize Theron and Nadja Auermann, and their wedding dressers are among the top sellers in the range.

Lala Berlin (Alte Schönhauser Straße 3) has also made an international name for itself. The Tehran-born designer Leyla Pie-dayesh started out more than 10 years ago with hand-knits (Claudia Schiffer loves her sweaters). Her signature item: dreamily soft cashmere scarves in Palestinian-style designs.

MORE TIPS, IN BRIEF

Garments Vintage. Cool second-hand store with designer pieces and items from movie productions (Linienstraße 204 und Stargarder Straße 12).

Das neue Schwarz – a small, classy second-hand boutique with classy designer pieces (Mulackstraße 38)

Chic fashion jewelry for relatively small prices can be found either close to the Ku'damm at **Rio** (Bleibtreustraße 52) or in the east of the city at **TomShot** (Alte Schönhauser Straße 25).

You'll find a huge sneaker selection at **Solebox** (Nürnberger Straße 16).

Small, but always good for a surprise item and not too expensive are the owner-managed boutiques **Frosch & Königin** (Rochstraße 16) and **Roman's** (Schlüterstraße 44).



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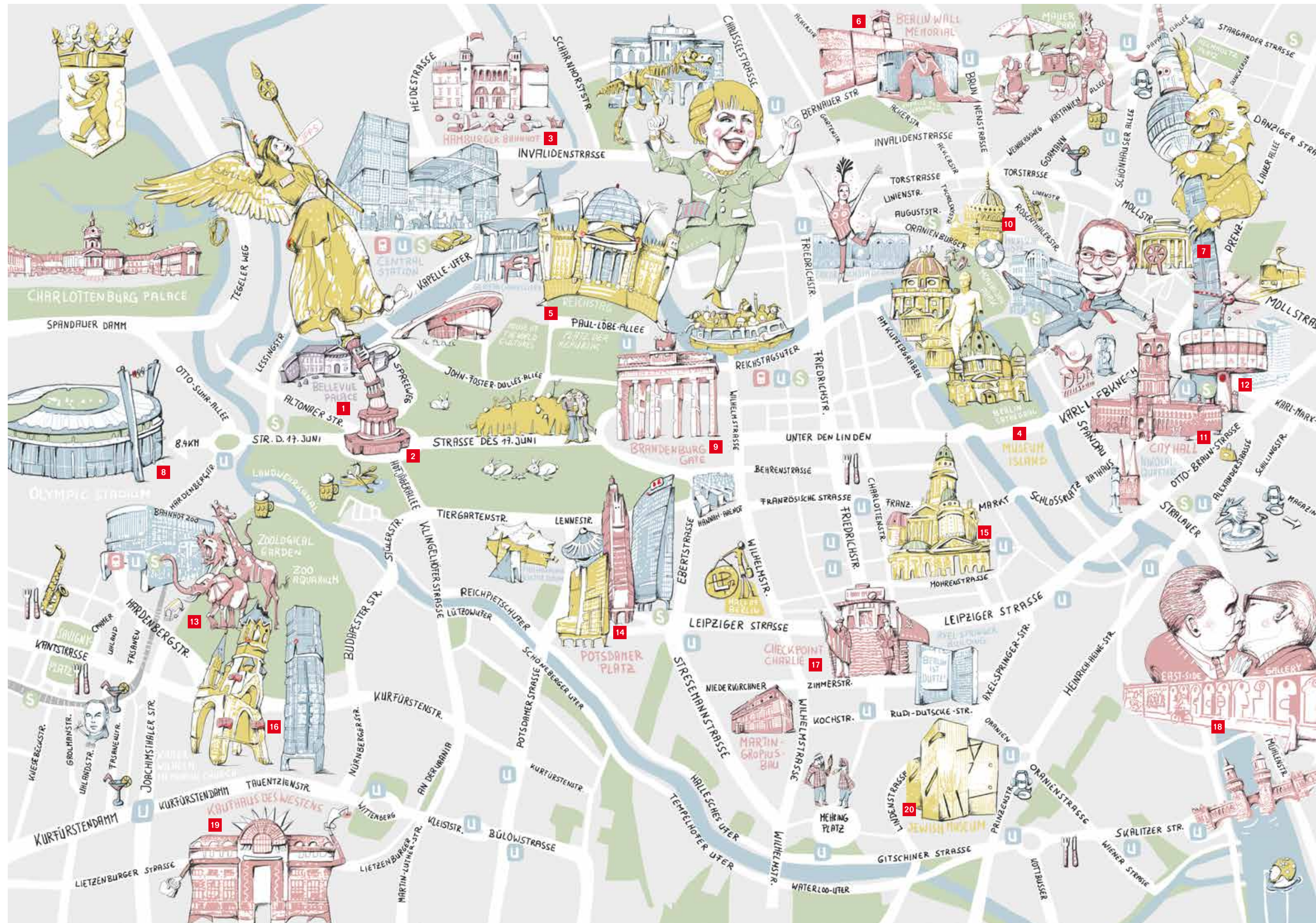
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BERLIN, DU WUNDERSCHÖNE

Berlin – you are beautiful. A whacky and wonderful megacity. 777 years old, yet still so young. You've waged wars, crowned emperors, built walls. But the proud people have repaired your broken heart again and again. The whole world joined you in celebrating reunification. The whole world wept with joy that day. Today, the whole world is laughing with you. In the many thousands of streets, on the squares, in the cafés. You've done it. You are Europe, you are America, you are everything. You are here – and here is the world. You are poor, but sexy. Berlin – you are beautiful.



- 1 **Bellevue Palace**, Spreeweg 1
Seat of German President. The wonderful gardens took 200 years to finish.
- 2 **Victory Column**, Großer Stern
The golden Victoria. 285 steps to get close to the goddess of victory.
- 3 **Hamburger Bahnhof**, Invalidenstrasse 50–51
This station is art, a contemporary museum.
- 4 **Island Of Museums**, Bodestraße 3
An entire island of museums. An incredible journey into the past.
- 5 **Reichstag**, Platz der Republik
With Angela Merkel, Germany's CEO. She loves soccer.
- 6 **Berlin Wall Memorial**, Bernauer Straße 111
The Wall – symbol of the former division of Germany.
- 7 **Television Tower**, Panoramastraße 1A
365-meter Television Tower.
- 8 **The Olympic Stadium**, Olympischer Platz 3
Can hold some 74,000 spectators.
- 9 **The Brandenburg Gate**, Pariser Platz
Where the Wall came tumbling down.
- 10 **The New Synagogue**, Oranienburger Straße 28–30
Mirrors Jewish life in Berlin.
- 11 **Red City Hall**
Berlin Mayor Michael Müller is based at Red City Hall. Rathausstraße
- 12 **The World Clock**, Alexanderplatz 1
The place to meet up. Be on time!
- 13 **The Berlin Zoo**, Hardenbergplatz 8
A downtown zoo. Lions, giraffes, penguins – they're all there.
- 14 **The Sony Center**, Potsdamer Platz
Futuristic and visionary.
- 15 **The German and French Cathedrals**, Gendarmenmarkt 1–5
Facing each other: Two imposing protestant churches.
- 16 **The Memorial Church**, Breitscheidplatz
On the Kudamm – a global gathering point.
- 17 **Checkpoint Charlie**, Friedrichstraße 43–45
Where the Cold War almost became hot.
- 18 **East Side Gallery**, Mühlenstraße
Honecker and Breshnev – the Communist embrace.
- 19 **Kaufhaus des Westens**, Tauentzienstraße 21–24
The luxury "Department Store of the West" really does stock everything.
- 20 **The Jewish Museum**, Lindenstraße 9–14
Documenting 2000 years of German-Jewish tradition.

THE ART OF THE PRINCESS

Gloria captures the attackers

An aristocrat and two soccer players in the Champions League Final 2015: Exclusively for *The Berlin Times* Gloria von Thurn und Taxis drew portraits of Lionel Messi and Andrea Pirlo. | *Philipp v. Studnitz*

Gloria von Thurn und Taxis, now in her fifties, hit the headlines in the 1980s as a punk princess with a series of eyebrow-raising hairstyles. Following the unexpected death of her husband Prince Johannes in 1990, the aristocrat earned great respect as the savior of the family businesses in quite different circles: she has since been regarded as a model manager, someone who has

my children, my nieces and my nephews,” says Gloria von Thurn und Taxis, describing her first steps towards becoming a painter on canvas.

Always portraits, always in a quite unmistakable style clearly aimed at instant recognition: of both the subject and the work of the artist herself. To mark the final of the Champions League, publisher Detlef Prinz asked the royal painter for two exclusive

“It was really good fun capturing these two salt-of-the-earth guys.”

cleverly and proactively secured a centuries-old family fortune for the future. Always in the interests of her three children, Prince Albert, Princess Maria Theresia and Princess Elisabeth, and assuming responsibility for an historic princely House.

For example, a section of the Thurn und Taxis' St. Emmeram Palace in Regensburg became the Bavarian National Museum, which is open to visitors just like many other parts of the 500-room palace.

Also, for over a decade now the summer garden festival at St. Emmeram has been one of a number of highly successful events with which the Princess has established the Thurn und Taxis ancestral seat as a tourist attraction in the Upper Palatinate.

And some years ago, Princess Gloria began to paint. This was also a project closely bound up with her role as head of the family: “I just started drawing portraits of

portraits for *The Berlin Times*: Lionel Messi and Andrea Pirlo, the two main protagonists in the final match of the Champions League between FC Barcelona and Juventus Turin on June 6 in Berlin.

The princess doesn't have a favorite, although as someone who spends a lot of time in Rome every year, she probably feels greater affinity with the Italian: “In any case these are two impressive characters. It was really good fun capturing the facial features of these two salt-of-the-earth guys with a pencil,” she says.

Philipp v. Studnitz, 49, was society columnist at the B.Z. newspaper until 2014. Today he writes for the Deutsche Bahn magazine “mobil”.



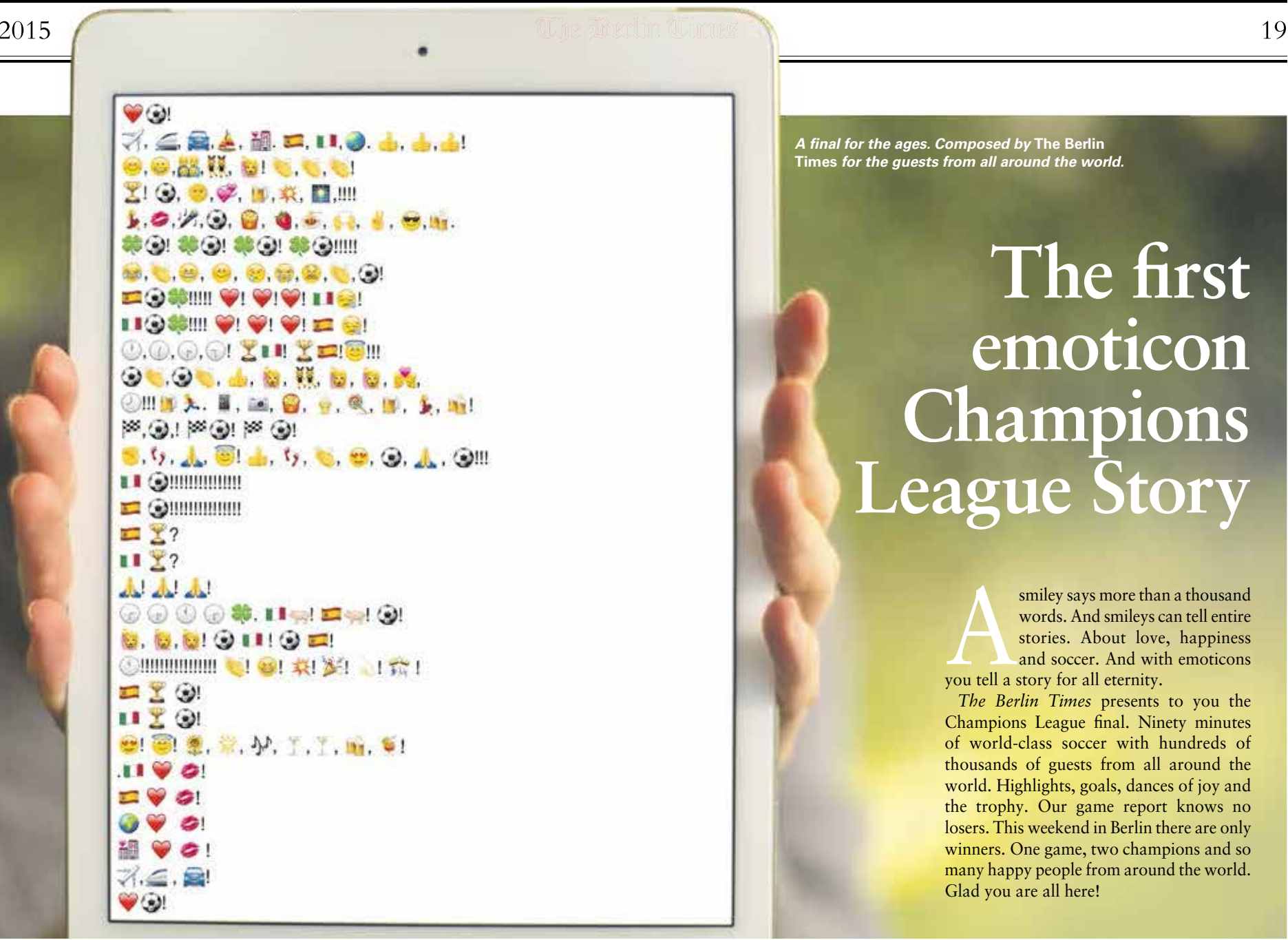
Above: The portrait artist Gloria von Thurn und Taxis exhibited her work in Paris, New York and Rome (www.gloriasportrait.com)

Left: Strong types: Princess Gloria's take on the two soccer stars Lionel Messi (l.) and Andrea Pirlo

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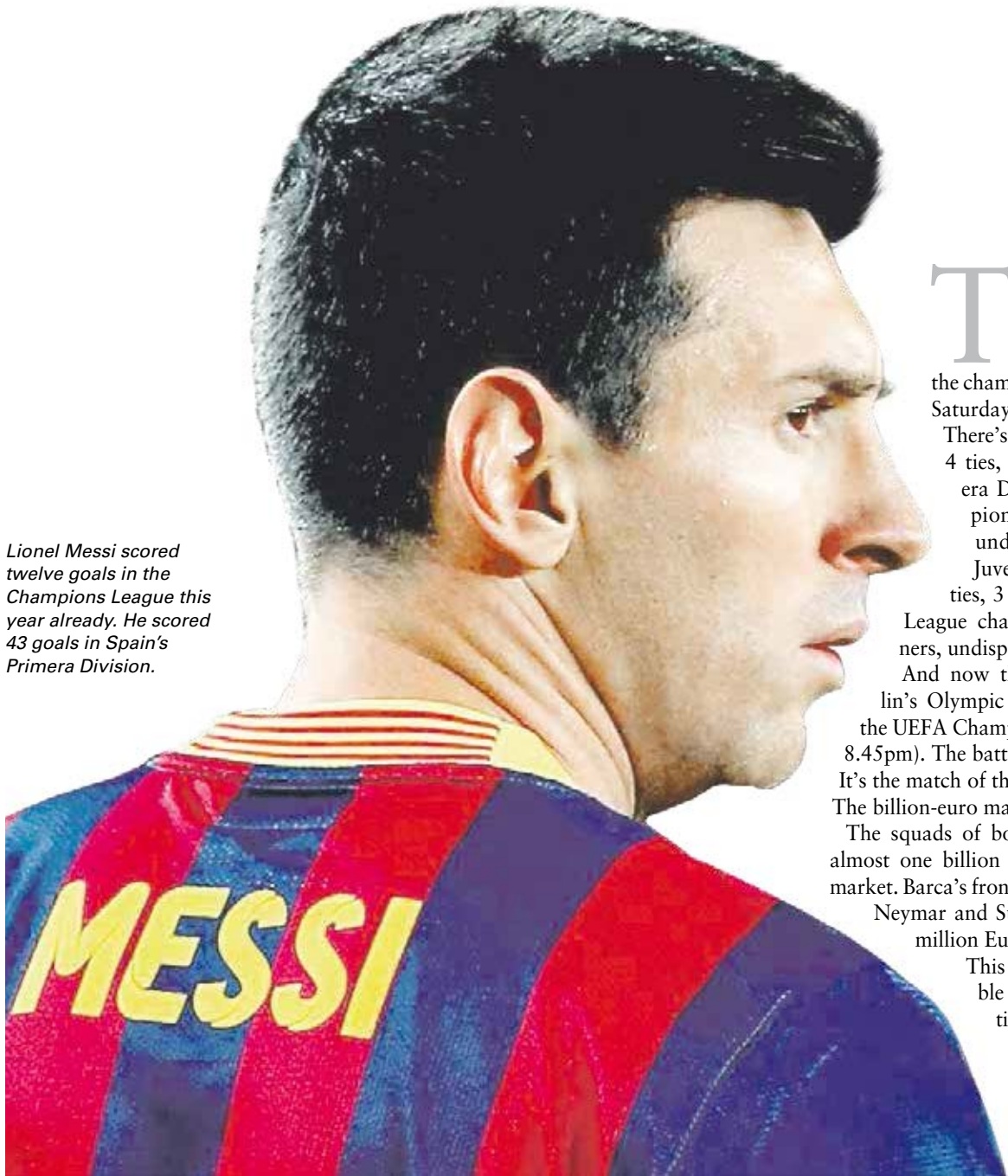
The Berlin Times presents to you the Champions League final. Ninety minutes of world-class soccer with hundreds of thousands of guests from all around the world. Highlights, goals, dances of joy and the trophy. Our game report knows no losers. This weekend in Berlin there are only winners. One game, two champions and so many happy people from around the world. Glad you are all here!



Adnan

Restaurant Bar

BATTLE OF THE TITANS



Lionel Messi scored twelve goals in the Champions League this year already. He scored 43 goals in Spain's Primera Division.

IMAGO/BPI (MESSI), IMAGO/AFLOSPORT (PIRLO), IMAGO/ULMER (TER STEGEN), IMAGO/REVERFOTO (TROPHY)

The vital statistics of champions: 30-4-4. And 27-8-3. But who's going to become the champion of champions this Saturday?

There's FC Barcelona. 30 wins, 4 ties, 4 defeats in the Primera Division. League champions and cup winners, undisputed. And there's Juventus Turin. 27 wins, 8 ties, 3 defeats in the Seria A.

League champions and cup winners, undisputed.

And now the showdown in Berlin's Olympic Stadium. The final of the UEFA Champions League (kick-off: 8.45pm). The battle for the triple crown! It's the match of the year. The billion-euro match.

The squads of both finalists are worth almost one billion Euros on the transfer market. Barca's frontline alone, with Messi, Neymar and Suarez, easily costs 260 million Euros.

This promises to be a veritable battle of the – diminutive – titans. Lionel Messi (27, 1.70m), two-time Champions League winner, arguably the best soccer player of all time, against

1.77m), world champion and two-time Champions League winner with Milan.

Can 36-year-old Pirlo, dubbed "l'architetto" (the architect) by his fellow players, once again heave the old lady of soccer Juventus back onto European soccer's most prestigious throne? And stop Messi, the unstoppable?

And in Berlin's Olympic Stadium of all places, where Pirlo and his Juventus colleagues Buffon (37) and Barzaglia (34) bagged the World Cup title in the 2006 final against France?

In the current season A.S. Roma didn't make it out of the group phase, Juve and Napoli suffered the same fate the year before, Milan lost in the round-of-16. Already in 2012 Italy had lost its fourth Champions League spot – to Germany. The odds are clearly against Juventus, Barca is the big favorite. But as Pirlo says – "history sometimes repeats itself". He knows the game at the Olympic Stadium could very well be his last big final on the international stage. Pirlo wants to keep playing for the Italian national team at the European Championships in 2016, but he will be 37 by then. At Juve Pirlo can rely on his considerably younger midfield teammates Paul Pogba (22, market value: at least €50 million) and Arturo Vidal (28, market value: €42 million).

Juve versus Barca. Italy versus Spain. Juve's participation in the final – the resurrection of Italian soccer.

Is Messi going to decide the final – or will it be Pirlo?

The European soccer crown is up for grabs. Millions of euros are on the line, but Italy's honor is, too. Juve wants to beat the almost unbeatable FC Barcelona. Finally, they would get their revenge.

By Ralph Grosse-Bley

Humiliated by Spain in the 2012 European Championship final in Kiev – 4:0 the score there. Six of the embattled Squadra Azzurra players from that match are now representing Juve in the final: as well as Buffon, Barzaglia and Pirlo, the line-up also includes Bonucci, Marchisio and Chiellini.

Both Italy and Spain were knocked out of the 2014 in the preliminary round.

Italy has suffered a low ebb internationally since 2010 (when Inter Milan beat Bayern München 2:0 in the final), no Italian club has survived past the quarterfinals of the Champions League. In the current season A.S. Roma didn't make it out of the group phase, Juve and Napoli suffered the same fate the year before, Milan lost in the round-of-16. Already in 2012 Italy had lost its fourth Champions League spot – to Germany.

But then Juventus eliminated Real Madrid, the cream of the crop, in the semis. And in the second-leg match (1:1), it felt as though Real could have carried on playing for an hour and not score another goal against the Italians.

June 6 in Berlin. The day of reckoning. For the 2012 European Championship disgrace. Perhaps also for the biggest World Cup scandal in Brazil. On that occasion, Luis Suarez (28) bit opponent Giorgio Chiellini (30) on the shoulder in a crucial group match between Uruguay and Italy – and

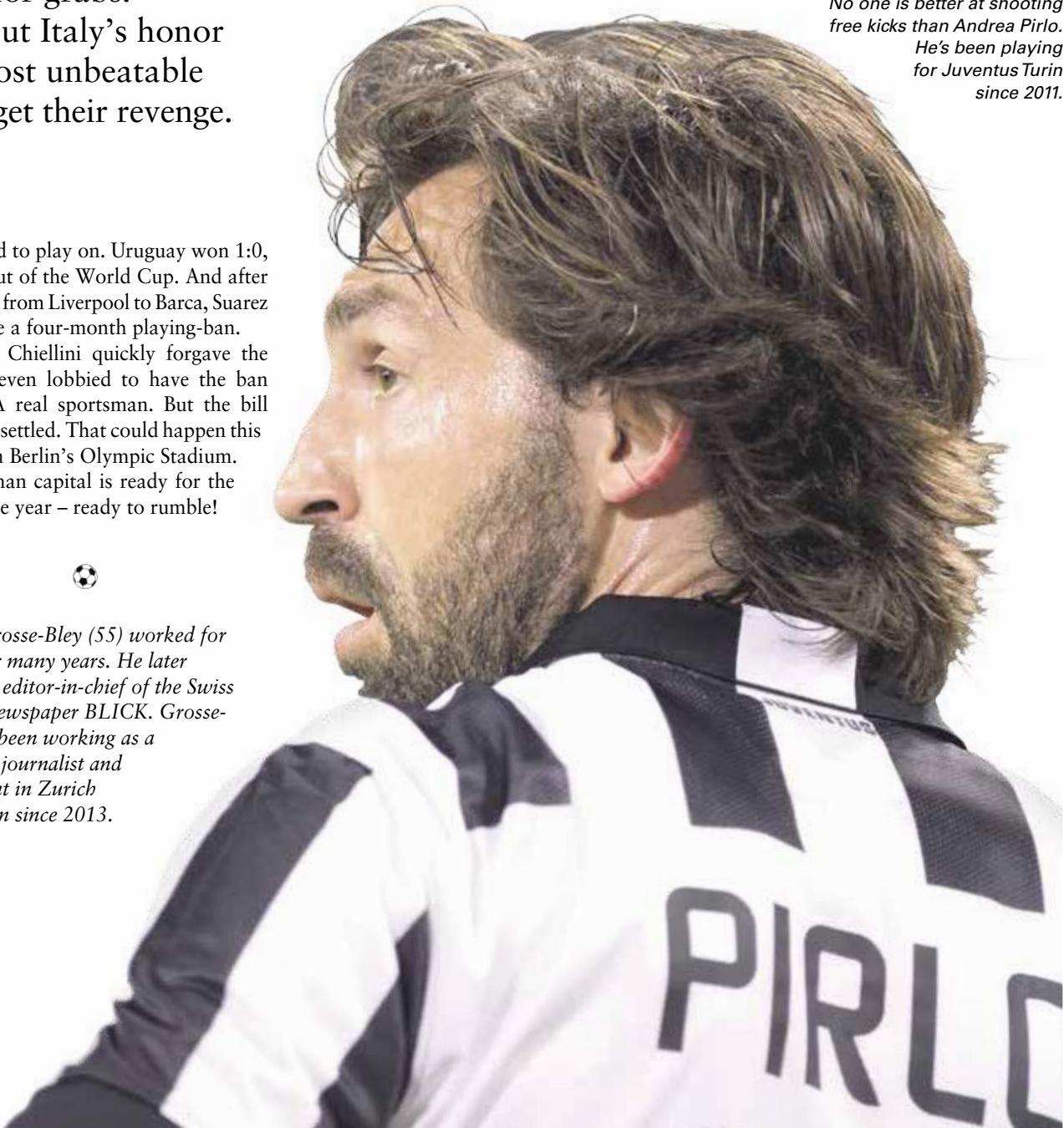
was allowed to play on. Uruguay won 1:0, Italy was out of the World Cup. And after transferring from Liverpool to Barca, Suarez had to serve a four-month playing-ban.

Revenge? Chiellini quickly forgave the biter, and even lobbied to have the ban curtailed. A real sportsman. But the bill hasn't been settled. That could happen this weekend, in Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

The German capital is ready for the match of the year – ready to rumble!



Ralph Grosse-Bley (55) worked for BILD for many years. He later served as editor-in-chief of the Swiss tabloid newspaper BLICK. Grosse-Bley has been working as a freelance journalist and consultant in Zurich and Berlin since 2013.



No one is better at shooting free kicks than Andrea Pirlo. He's been playing for Juventus Turin since 2011.

1993 Olympique de Marseille · 1994 A.C. Milan · 1995 Ajax Amsterdam · 1996 Juventus F.C. · 1997 Borussia Dortmund · 1998 Real Madrid · 1999 Manchester United · 2000 Real Madrid · 2001 FC Bayern München · 2002 Real Madrid

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WINNERS

2003 A.C. Milan · 2004 FC Porto · 2005 Liverpool FC · 2006 FC Barcelona · 2007 A.C. Milan · 2008 Manchester United · 2009 FC Barcelona · 2010 Inter Milan · 2011 FC Barcelona · 2012 Chelsea F.C. · 2013 FC Bayern München · 2014 Real Madrid

(In the 1992/93 season, the competition replaced the European Champion Clubs' Cup)

The only German in the final

For Barca's German goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen, the final against Juventus is about more than just winning.

One year ago, ter Stegen (23) transferred from Borussia Mönchengladbach to Barca, where he's been playing with global stars such as Lionel Messi, Neymar and Andrés Iniesta. During his time at Borussia, ter Stegen didn't just mature into an outstanding goalkeeper, he also became a great figurehead for the club. Born and bred in Mönchengladbach himself, he played for the squad for seven years, rising to starting goalkeeper under coach Lucien Favre and making the leap into the German national team. Today, ter Stegen is the unchallenged starting goalie. From one perspective at least:

He's playing in the Copa del Rey and in the mother of all contests: the Champions League. The Spanish champions Liga commitments are being met by Claudio Bravo. Barca's superstar Lionel Messi says that ter Stegen has the potential to become the best goalkeeper in the world, and the media have also in the meantime warmed to the man who one year ago set out from Gladbach to Barcelona and into the big wide world. In the Champions League semi-final hosted by Bayern München, when the final score was 2:3, the goalkeeper put in a stellar performance and showed that he's going to be a force to reckon with in the future.



Marc-André ter Stegen (23) could be the best goalie in the world one day – says Lionel Messi!

Champions League Group Phase 2015/2016

After the game is before the game. The 2015/16 Champions League will begin on June 30/July 1 with the first qualifying round.

Pot 1 for the draw will now be formed by the champions of the top seven associations: Spain, England, Germany, Italy, Portugal, France and Russia.

The regulations state that the eighth seeding will be taken by the Champions League holders. However, as both finalists this time round – Barcelona and Juventus – have already won their domestic titles, that slot goes to PSV, winners of the championship in the Netherlands. The other three pots will be set using the club coefficient rankings, which UEFA compiles based on results over the last five UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League campaigns.



POT 1	POT 2
FC Barcelona Chelsea F.C. FC Bayern München Juventus F.C. S.L. Benfica Paris Saint-Germain F.C. FC Zenit Saint Petersburg PSV Eindhoven	Real Madrid Atlético Madrid FC Porto Arsenal F.C. Manchester City Manchester United Bayer Leverkusen Valencia CF
POT 3	POT 4
Sevilla FC Olympique Lyonnais FC Dynamo Kyiv Olympiacos F.C. Galatasaray S.K. FC Basel FC Shakhtar Donetsk Lazio Rom	A.S. Roma VfL Wolfsburg Borussia Mönchengladbach K.A.A. Gent FC Red Bull Salzburg Celtic Glasgow Malmö FF FC Viktoria Plzeň

(Teams in bold are in, all others have to qualify in the play-offs.)

DER KAISER

“If anyone can stop Barca, it’s Juventus!”

Germans everywhere refer to him as the Kaiser, or the Emperor. Franz Beckenbauer is a former world champion – in 1974 as a player, and in 1990 as German national coach. He won the European Cup, today’s Champions League, three times with Bayern München (1974, 1975, 1976). In this interview, the Kaiser talks openly about the state of European soccer. | *By Walter M. Straten*

Your team, Bayern München, has missed out on the final. Are you coming to Berlin anyway?

You can’t miss out on a final at home. I’m glad it’s Juventus against Barcelona – even though Bayern missed out this time. I’d rather see an international final in the Champions League with two teams from two countries, than a ‘national’ final like the one with Real against Atletico last year.

Can Juventus halt the Barcelona goal machine with Messi, Neymar and Suarez? If any team can, it’s Juventus! The guys from Turin are strong on defense and brilliant on offense. I was really impressed by their 3:0 in the round-of-sixteen in Dortmund. It’s also clear that nothing will stop the Barca trio altogether. Bayern realized that, too.

Juventus goalkeeper Buffon (37) and mid-field big shot Pirlo (36) won the world title with Italy in Berlin’s Olympic Stadium back in 2006. Nine years on, aren’t they too old for a final like this?

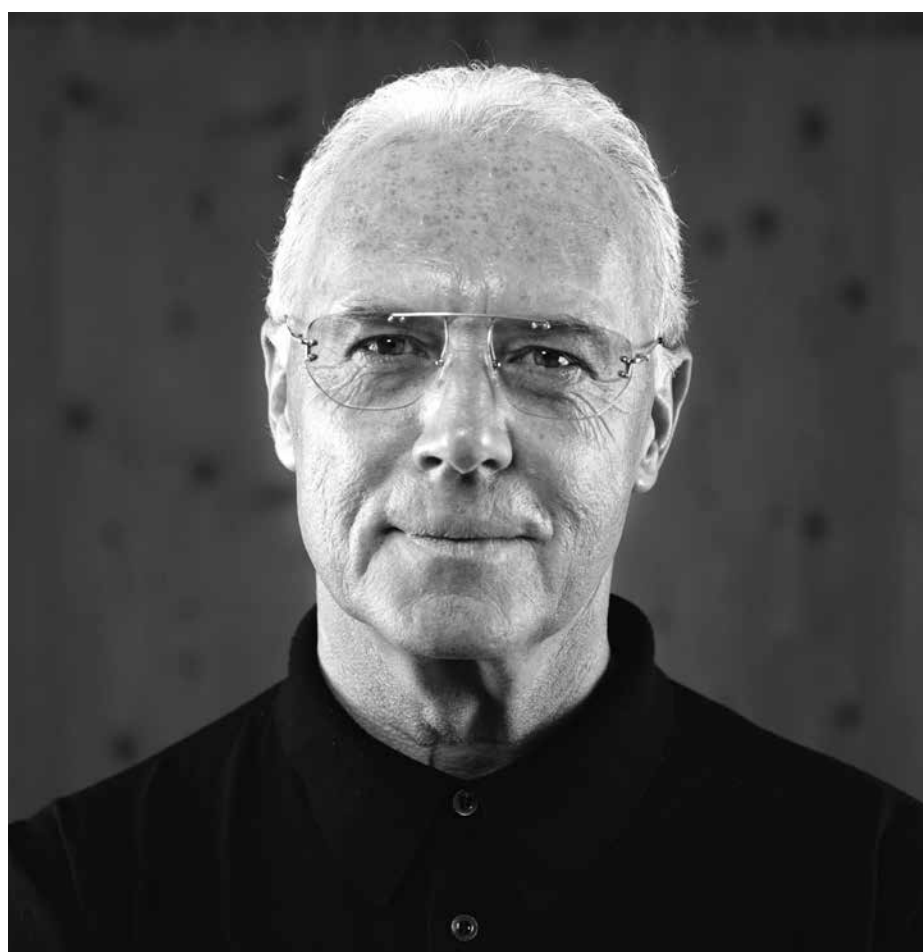
No. Buffon has just proven himself – in the truest sense of the world – in the match against Real Madrid. And Pirlo deploys his strengths very cleverly. Like many great players, he knows how to get his teammates running (grins)... both are indispensable.

For the first time since 2010, an Italian squad has survived the quarterfinals. Is Italian soccer experiencing a renaissance? I don’t know if I’d go that far. Italian soccer has been in the doldrums for a while. And the success of Juventus, the only top international club in Italy, shouldn’t obscure that fact.

Barcelona has refined its style after Pep Guardiola and under Luis Enrique. Is this the better team technically – and your favorite?

Yes, I think so. Barca has the best line-up in Europe. Behind the super offense there’s also Iniesta and the former Schalke player Rakitic, who’s come on leaps and bounds.

What’s up with England? The wealthiest league in the world, but all the clubs out in the quarterfinals...



Franz Beckenbauer played in 103 games for the national team. His nickname “Kaiser” was derived from his elegant, almost majestic playing style. The 64-year-old legendary former player and coach is the honorary president of Bayern München.

It’s incomprehensible that Chelsea, Manchester City and Manchester United went out so early. And Chelsea’s victory in the 2012 final in Munich after a penalty shoot-out shouldn’t really have happened. Bayern München was the superior team by far in that match. The only thing I can identify as a weakness in the English game is that they don’t take any kind of winter break and have a 20-team league. The clubs also play in two other cup competitions. It’s noticeable that they always run out of steam by the end of the season due to these high demands.

Pep Guardiola has tried to take Bayern into the finals twice now. Has he failed? No, not at all. In 2014 they went out

against Real Madrid, in 2015 against Barcelona. That kind of thing happens on a bad day or two bad days. Pep will just try again next season. I’m optimistic.

After the 2013 German final with Bayern against Dortmund many people thought the Bundesliga was the number one sports league in Europe. A misconception? We were not, and are not the number one sports league in Europe.

What are we then? How do you rate the European leagues?

At the top is Spain, quite clearly, Sevilla’s just won the Europa League again. I’d put the Bundesliga at number two, closely followed by the Premier League. And Italy

and France more or less neck and neck at number 4.

You won the European Cup three times in a row from 1974 to 1976. Why has no club succeeded in defending its title since the introduction of the Champions League in 1992?

That’s down to the rules of play. Back then, the European Cup began straightaway with a knock-out round. The first opponents usually came from small countries. That meant it was possible for an experienced club like Bayern to defend its title. Today, you’re faced with tricky challengers in the group phase. For example, Bayern had to play Man City, AS Rome and ZSKA Moscow. In the old days, you’d only meet teams of this caliber in the quarterfinals at the earliest.

Which of those three European Cup titles holds the best memories for you?

1974, without a doubt. Bayern played against Atletico Madrid in the final in Brussels. Because the score was 1:1 in the first final match, we had to play the repeat match two days later, on a Friday. We won 4:0 and celebrated all night. The next day, we took the bus from Brussels to Gladbach for the last Bundesliga match. Without having slept a wink, and with plenty of alcohol coursing through our veins, we lost to our archrivals Gladbach 0:5. But we didn’t care, they didn’t test alcohol levels on the pitch in those days ... And we were even presented with the championship trophy that we’d already won, at the Bökelberg stadium. Two unforgettable days.

What’s your pick for Saturday?

2:1 to Barcelona – but only after extra time. So that we’ll get more from the match in Berlin...



Walter M. Straten, born in 1958, is the deputy editor-in-chief and chief sports editor of the German daily newspaper BILD.

(The interview appears today in BILD, too.)



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In July 2014, some 400,000 people came to cheer Bastian Schweinsteiger as he lifted the World Cup trophy at the Brandenburg Gate.

No ticket? No problem!

More than 74,000 spectators are expected to watch the Champions League final live at Berlin’s Olympic Stadium. Those not lucky enough to have a ticket will be able to experience the match in bars, restaurants, clubs or at open-air locations. An overview.

During the first weekend of June, there’ll be no escaping the excitement generated by the Champions League final in the German capital. More than 100,000 fans, most of them from Italy and Spain, are expected in Berlin. The central gathering point will be – after the Olympic Stadium, of course – the UEFA Fanfest at The Brandenburg Gate (Platz des 18. März). The celebrations begin on Friday, June 5 with, among other things, an Ultimate Champions Match (5.30pm) involving many soccer stars from yesteryear. The supporting program includes acts such as the “Blue Man Group”. Top DJ Robin Schulz is set to entertain the fans that evening. The Champions League trophy will also make an appearance, and

is likely to feature in many a photo. There’ll be autograph sessions, freestyle soccer and many competitions to win tickets for the final. The Fanfest continues on Saturday and Sunday. But take note: there will be no public viewing at the Brandenburg Gate on Saturday evening! Opening times: Friday, June 5: 11am to 11.30pm, Saturday, June 6: 11am to 8pm, Sunday, June 7: 11am to 5pm. Fans who don’t have a ticket to the final have a large choice of public viewing options for Saturday. Soccer is the order of the day in numerous bars, cafés and open-air locations.



It’s not just men who are crazy about soccer! Two young women celebrate Germany’s World Cup title in 2014.



July 2014: The bus carrying the German World Cup winning squad drives past the Brandenburg Gate

CHARLOTTENBURG-WILMERSDORF
Irish Harp Pub Berlin, Giesebrechtstraße 15
Alt Berliner Biersalon, Kurfürstendamm 225
Fabulous Route 66 Diner, Pariser Straße 44
Tipperary Berlin, Triftstraße 58
FRIEDRICHSHAIN-KREUZBERG
Cosmo Lounge, Ziegelstraße 28
Brauhaus Südstern, Hasenheide 69
11 Freunde Public Viewing im Postbahnhof, Straße der Pariser Kommune 8
BAR 11, Wiener Straße 21
Die Wilde 13, Gabriel-Max-Straße 13
Hops & Barley, Wühlischstraße 22/23
MITTE
FC Magnet Bar, Veteranenstraße 26
Schmittz, Torstraße 90
Gaffel Haus, Dorotheenstraße 65
The Sixties Diner, Oranienburger Straße 11
The Oscar Wilde Irish Pub, Friedrichstraße 112A
PRENZLAUER BERG
Schwalbe, Pappelallee 65
TEMPELHOF
The Sixties Diner, Mariendorfer Damm 338

LOCAL LEGENDS

Berlin’s most popular soccer clubs are the Bundesliga squad Hertha BSC and the 1. FC Union, currently in the Second Bundesliga. Both clubs can boast a glorious past and many loyal fans.

The Grand Dame

The brilliant Barca are playing in Berlin and it’s difficult to see anything. It’s the Nov. 23, 1999, the second group phase of the Champions League. Hertha BSC hosts the Futbol Club Barcelona founded in 1899 by Swiss national Hans Gamper.

There’s a thick mist over the Olympic Stadium. The Hertha squad includes Michael Preetz (now club manager) and Pal Dardai (now club coach). The Barcelona line-up includes a certain Luis Enrique and Pep Guardiola as captain. On the Catalans’ coaching bench sits Dutchman Louis van Gaal, who’s been coach at Manchester United since 2014. Following goals by Luis Enrique and Kai Michalke, the match watched by more than

Hertha BSC Berlin has experienced peaks and troughs since the foundation of the Bundesliga in 1963. From relegation to the regional league (1965 to 1968), through the Bundesliga runner-up spot (1974/75) to participation in the Champions League (1999/2000). The downward slide reached its lowest point in the 1980s, when Hertha slipped from the first to the third league table. A one-year return to the upper echelons of German soccer in 1990 was followed by another six years in the wilderness of mediocrity. It was 1997 before the club managed to claw its way back into the Bundesliga through the efforts of coach Jürgen Röber.

Incidentally, the club was born on July 25, 1892 as BFC Hertha 92. The name



Blue and white are Hertha BSC Berlin’s team colors. 50, 000 fans attend every home game.

60,000 spectators ends with a score that’s a fair reflection of the teams’ performance: 1:1. Not forgotten: During the first group phase, Hertha beat two top clubs, FC Chelsea and AC Milan, at home. In contemporary Berlin, no one is dreaming of participation in the Champions League. The capital city’s club and its fans in the east and west of the city have just put a difficult, messy season behind them. Right to the last, the specter of relegation was breathing heavily down the neck of the team led by coach Dardai. And recollections of the last Bundesliga relegation of 2010 are still fresh. It wasn’t always this way: between 1926 and 1931, the squad played in the final of the German championships six times in a row. The capital chaps eventually bagged their first win in 1930 after five attempts, following it up the next year with their second – and to this day, their last – championship win.

was inspired by an excursion by founding member Fritz Lindner. The chimney of the Wannsee steamer “Hertha” looked resplendent in the shipping company colors blue and white – the club colors of Hertha BSC Berlin to this very day. The club’s thrilling history is wonderfully documented in the book “Blau-weiße Wunder – die Geschichte von Hertha BSC” (Blue-White Wonder – The History of Hertha BSC). Michael Jahn tells of high points and scandals, and influential Hertha figures such as Hanne Sobek, Wolfgang Holst, Helmut Faeder and Dieter Hoeneß. In short: It’s a story about “Frösche” (or “Frogs”, the name of a former association of Hertha fans), the Olympic Stadium and as the locals would say “ne ganze Menge Berlin” (a whole load of Berlin).

The Iron Men

Some stories are quite simply the stuff of legend. In these, the coach bears the venerable German name Norbert Düwel, the mascot is “Ritter Keule” (a knight) and the home ground is called “An der Alten Försterei” (At the Old Ranger’s Forest Office).

This places us firmly with the 1. FC Union Berlin from the Berlin neighborhood of Köpenick. With the club anthem “Eisern Union” (Iron Union) sung by punk diva Nina Hagen, public training sessions held from 10 am in the morning and the license for the Second German Bundesliga.

If the defeats start raining down thick and fast again – no problem: the club’s very own annual Christmas sing-along always man-

fonder of BFC Dynamo, a club with close links to the Stasi, or secret police. Dynamo won the East German championship title 10 times – partly due to some highly dubious refereeing. In 1968, the FDGB Cup (Free German Trade Union Federation Cup) was won by Union – until the club lost its license after reunification – owing to a forged bank guarantee.

In 1998, the club received the kiss of life and a cash injection from Michael Kölmel, the owner of the movie distribution company Kinowelt. In 2001, the club climbed from the Regional League North into the Second Bundesliga and reached the final of the DFB Cup (German Soccer Association Cup). The “Iron Men” lost 0:2 to Schalke 04



Magical: Union Berlin’s stadium is sold out even for the Christmas sing-alongs.

ages to attract up to 30,000 crooners, most of them fond of a good drink or two. And yet Union Berlin has a colorful, indeed quite bizarre past steeped in history: The club was founded back in 1906 under the name SC Olympia 06 Oberschöneweide. The club’s first bloodletting came thanks to Emperor William II.: 60 percent of association members were drafted into World War I combat – and only one in every five returned. In the decades that followed, the squad reached the final round of the German Championships (1920), beat the strongest team in the German Reich SpVgg Fürth (1923), slipped down the rankings despite the “Iron Union” battle cry, stars such as Otto Martwig and Karl Schulz left the club; the players, known as “Schlosserjungs” or “metalworker boys”, were Berlin champions during the Nazi epoch, but took a backseat in the East German era: the comrades were

in the Olympic Stadium. In the UEFA Cup, the kickers from Köpenick even reached the second round after beating Finnish team FC Haka Valkeakoski. The team under coach Norbert Düwel plays its home matches in the only stadium devoted solely to the sport of soccer in Berlin (without a track surrounding the playfield). The Union’s encounters are noisily celebrated by up to 20,000 fans on average. Thousands of these fans voluntarily gave their time to help remodel the stadium’s terraces, at a ground fondly dubbed “our living room”. And those who acquire a personal stadium stone at a cost of €75 are not only demonstrating their devotion and loyalty to the team – they are also showing that they have a heart for a very special German soccer club.

A VIEW OF BERLIN

Berlin – in many ways, it is fitting that Berlin is playing host to the UEFA Champions League final – even with no German team participating. Not only is Germany the current holder of the World Cup. Not only was the national celebration of the victorious team held in Berlin, at the Brandenburg Gate. But it was Germany’s, and Berlin’s, hospitality and happiness at hosting the 2006 World Cup which decisively put the newly imagined capital of reunited Germany on the tourist map.

Berlin is the most visited urban tourist destination in Germany. Foreign visitors totaled some 4.5 million last year. Foreign overnight stays have increased from 7.45 million in 2009 to some 12.5 million last year. On any given weekend, a multitude of languages is heard as young people from all over roam Berlin in search of its legendary techno, or simply a good time. The lack of a “Sperrstunde,” or closing time, in many bars has long given Berliners a reputation as night owls. Now the rest of the world joins in!

Behind these figures and images lurks a considerably more somber, murderous

The post-Wall

Berlin has become a joyous party place for millions of visitors from around the world. But the remnants of the city’s darker past are still very visible

By Alison Smale

past. Today, Berlin may seem relaxed, tolerant and open to many. But reminders of the times when this was not so are everywhere.

Walk around the circle encompassing the Victory Pillar in the lush Tiergarten – you can’t fail to miss the giant statues of Bismarck and military men responsible for the Prussian victories the pillar commemorates. Go from there along June 17 Street to the Brandenburg Gate and you will see the Soviet memorial, complete with T-34 tanks, that Stalin made sure was built in 1945 to stamp on German and Allied minds the Soviet part in defeating Nazism.

Speaking of June 17, that is a reference to the day in 1953 when workers in Com-

munist East Germany rebelled against the Stalinist system installed by Germans and their Soviet allies. If you go to Wilhelmstrasse at the corner of Leipziger Straße, a little southeast of the Brandenburg Gate, you will see a photo exhibit and placards marking the protest, which was quickly crushed by Soviet tanks and largely lost in memory until this open-air display was mounted on the 60th anniversary in 2013. And that exhibit in turn opens a door into yet more deadly history. For it is mounted on one corner of a building which today is the Finance Ministry, but started life in the 1930s as the Air Force ministry built for Hermann Göring, the No. 2 to Adolf Hitler. Even then it seems, war must have been part of the Nazis’ calculations. Under the bulky ministry – once the largest office building in Europe – Göring had giant bunkers. Apparently, he anticipated having to use them, as the “Thousand Year Reich” crumbled under the Allied assault on Berlin and Germany in 1945.

This massive building – not much harmed – was first the seat of Soviet administration, then of an East German assembly that proclaimed that zone’s “constitution” in 1949, and eventually the seat of several East German ministries. As you face its main entrance, the 1953 display is to your right. On the left hand side of the building, near a still standing section of the grim Berlin Wall (1961-1989) is a display chronicling how one East German family used the House of Ministries to launch a (successful) bid to escape over the Wall.

Opposite that display, in turn, is the “Topography of Terror,” a detailed exhibit of how the Nazis rose, took power and fell. Visiting it properly takes several hours, so perhaps it is something for a future visit.

Anyone who wants more reminders of Nazi terror can go to the Jewish Museum and/or walk to the nearby Holocaust Memorial adjacent to the Brandenburg Gate. It is an indescribable monument, not universally loved, but its labyrinth reflects the loss of orientation, values or a straight path forward that a modern visitor can only imagine as a small part of what millions of European Jews endured en route to their destruction.

For a detailed feel of the Wall, it is well worth it to make the journey to Bernauer

Straße, where a large open air display shows the division of the city at a point where houses themselves formed part of the Wall. Here, hundreds of people succeeded in jumping or tunneling free; scores died in the attempt. Voice recordings of people involved – from escapees to journalists and other contemporaries – can be heard at special listening posts all along the one kilometer site. Opposite the open display are two glass houses with more exhibits.

Why dwell on all this? Because it forms the essential backdrop to today. After 1989, when first Communist governments in Poland and Hungary, and then the Berlin Wall and East Germany crumbled, a great sense of opening was felt across central and eastern Europe. Eventually, the Soviet Union itself collapsed. While the end of the Cold War was swiftly proclaimed, and much has changed irrevocably in the quarter-century since, the enormity of events in 20th

century Europe was such that they definitely were not eradicated, either physically, or from minds. In Berlin, which sprawls over an area nine times the size of the arrondissements of Paris, there is space enough both to recall those events, and to build something new. That availability of space – and abandoned buildings – was a key factor in Berlin becoming a creative hub, a force to attract



Alison Smale is considered one of the most influential political journalists in Europe.

anyone with an idea to realize to try to do it here, a cheaper cosmopolitan center than ever more expensive places like London or New York.

If all this seems heavy, that is because it is much easier to find what is light – and you can celebrate that you are here for a European sports happening that 30 years ago could never have been such a citywide, cosmopolitan event in Berlin. Enjoy pedaling the mobile bike beer bars up and down the streets of the center. But look around at what you see, for all those buildings, monuments and even the empty spaces represent blood and treasure spilled and spent in and for this extraordinary city, so that today it can present itself in the enviable light of being whole, and free.

Alison Smale is the Berlin bureau chief of The New York Times.

Resurrected from the ruins

Berlin was a rich industrial city, before it suffered the consequences of the war. 25 years after the fall of the Wall, the capital is back on its feet | By Peter H. Koepf

Berlin is poor, but sexy. With this slogan, the last mayor cast his city as a brand. But Berlin was sexy long before Klaus Wowereit. And not in the least bit poor. One thing it certainly was, was innovative.

When Thomas Edison illuminated the first office high-rises in New York in 1882, Berliners were strolling along Leipziger Straße beneath 36 electrically powered arc lamps. The first subway ran in 1902. Schering supplied the world with medication to treat gout and insomnia, Borsig built locomotives and other machines for the whole of Europe. AEG, Allianz, Siemens, Deutsche Bank, Knorr Bremse, Lufthansa and Osram are all Berlin companies. Between the wars, four out of every 10 people working in the German electro industry worked in Berlin, dubbed “Elektropolis” at the time. Other robust sectors: mechanical engineering, steel construction, vehicle manufacturing, the iron, steel and metalworking industries, construction, consumer goods, textiles.

Berlin had intellect: Albert Einstein worked here. And art: expressionist painters such as Ernst Ludwig Kirchner changed perception and style in Berlin before World War I. And politics: Philipp Scheidemann declared the first republic on German soil in Berlin. And of course sex: In the 1920s, Berlin was one of the sauciest places to party in Europe.

In short: Berlin was busy. Berlin was wired. Berlin smelled of sweat and champagne. And then came the Nazis and the torch processions, which Berlin painter Max Liebermann commented on thus: “I

can’t eat as much as I’d like to throw up.”

The city has only been poor since 1945. The Allies in Yalta had agreed that all German weapon factories should be destroyed. Many of those were based in Berlin, and Comrade Stalin knew no mercy: “Of course Germany cannot be allowed to retain its heavy industry,” he said. So the Red Army seized company accounts and plundered factories. Between

nomics historian Johannes Bähr. “Siemens will always remain in Munich, and Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt.” Along with the big companies, the workforce also turned its back on Berlin, above all people with qualifications: “Anyone with career aspirations went to the West. That was Berlin’s greatest loss: human capital,” says Bähr.

But now, 70 years after the end of the

“Berlin is the start-up metropolis of Europe”

May and June 1945, Russian commandos seized around 2,000 machines with a total weight of around 11,000 tons.

The Western allies also claimed the right to reparations – until 1947. In the end, 460 plants had been broken down, almost all of them right down to the last switch – or in other words inclusive of supplies, semi-finished and finished goods.

And then came the blockade of 1948/49: The “candy bombers” may have flown material into the city for manufacturing at Siemens & Halske and 6,000 tons of finished products out, but the inflated transport costs remained – even once the blockade had been lifted. Within just a few years, 900 other companies relocated their operations to western sectors, hundreds relocated individual corporate divisions, western German companies closed their Berlin branches. By the end of 1950, one in every four jobseekers couldn’t find work.

“The damage is irreparable,” says economist

war, human capital is returning. Berlin is drawing thousands of young creatives from Spain, Italy and Israel, start-ups are trying out new things, the spirit of the country’s late 19th century ‘Gründerzeit’ has returned. “Berlin is the start-up metropolis of Europe”, says Stefan Francke, CEO of Berlin Partner for Business and Technology. “We bring startups and industry together in the capital thereby linking the best of two worlds: the digital knowhow of young company founders and the long-term market experience of established industry.”

Evidently with success: over the past year, Berlin has collected much more than €1 billion venture capital for startups in technology and digital media, almost as much as London, which is still Europe’s frontrunner in this sector. Almost 90 percent of newly-founded companies create a market innovation. One in every eight new jobs arises in the digital sector.



Optimistic about Berlin’s future: Cornelia Yzer.

Cornelia Yzer, Senator for Business, Technology and Research believes that as an investment and innovation location for national and international companies, Berlin is “more attractive than ever since reunification.” The German capital can again compete on a level playing field with other metropolises, she says.



Peter H. Koepf is Editor in Chief of The Atlantic Times and The German Times.

Smart City

Berlin is a laboratory for future solutions. All universities, research institutes, technology sites and companies such as Siemens and Bosch will join forces to work on urban future technologies, to make the city even smarter. Specifically: Berlin will serve as a reference city for attempts to develop a self-driving car. The transport system will be remodeled to make it more environmentally friendly and socially sustainable, the search for a parking space – 30 percent of all traffic! – made easier using an app. Electricity will be derived from “green sources”, public buildings given an energy overhaul using intelligent processes. That’s the “smart city” that the CEO of business developers Berlin Partner, Stefan Francke, is hoping for. He invites industry representatives to learn from and in Berlin, in particular also for Asian megacities: “In Berlin they can gather experience on a smaller scale and use them as a reference for the entire world,” he says. Cisco has chosen Berlin as its training and development center and set up its innovation center for the “Internet of Everything” in Berlin.



Royal vehicle: In the early 1920s a Slaby-Beringer was part of Buckingham Palace’s fleet of cars, too.

WIRED

Berlin already had electric cars in 1899. Siemens-Schuckert, for example, presented the “Electric Victoria” in 1905. Top speed: 30 km/h. Range: 60 kilometers. Only 50 were built. Or the “Slaby-Beringer” built in 1919 especially for the war wounded. The single-passenger car weighed just 180 kilograms – with battery. 2005 cars were built by 1924. An original Slaby-Beringer, formerly the property of Buckingham Palace, is now on show at the German Museum of Technology in Berlin.

Berlin is now following on this tradition: Brose is the only German manufacturer of electric motors for bicycles, Berlin is testing startup Ubictricity’s idea of charging electric cars from street lamps. And the shipping company Meyer Logistik delivers to grocery stores Lidl and Rewe in Berlin and the surrounding area from the logistics center in Oranienburg using the first 18-ton truck in the world to be powered by electricity alone. The Berlin-Brandenburg region aims to be seen as an internationally recognized pioneer in the electromobility sector by the year 2020.



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The Oberbaum Bridge, a former border crossing point between East and West, where today numerous new media company headquarters are located. (Right: Volker Hassemer)

Berlin. The future.

For decades, the city's future was contained by fixed boundaries. After the fall of the Wall, the new capital got into gear and entered a period of rapid growth | By Volker Hassemer

Cities are always at risk of missing the advent of their own future development. This is not least due to the fact that they are presented with this potential future on a daily basis and in small installments. And then it can quite easily come to pass that the importance of developing one's own energy, goals and strategies for fully exhausting the possibilities of one's own future, can be overlooked.

In Berlin, for decades the picture was quite a different one. Here, fixed boundaries had quite literally imposed limitations on our future. Here, it was much rather a case of us wishing, day in and day out, that things wouldn't get any worse.

Then, with the fall of the Wall, the future arrived for Berlin quite suddenly, and in full technicolor. We may have been caught on the starting blocks, but our response was decisive. We commissioned the „New Berlin“, developed and built the reclaimed inner city, the relocation of government and parliament went smoothly ... We set ourselves targets – some were attained, others lacked the right conditions to succeed.

A quarter of a century has already passed since all this happened. It is now high time we defined our targets for future decades in the light of the experience of these 25 years. Where does Berlin want to go? What challenges does it feel bold enough to tackle? What pledges can it make to its partners in Germany and on the international stage? What sort of cooperation is it capable of? In what areas can it be relied upon to deliver?

Incidentally, these are not questions for politics alone. Policymaking is of course important for every city. But what really matters is urban society as a whole. When we're talking about attainable goals, these depend on the achievements of this society, which is also required to then realize these goals. The residents of a city ensure that the city's pledges for the future can be kept. It is they who determine whether their city carves out a career for itself, as well as the nature of this path.

So, the clarification of these goals, as well as their pursuit, the analysis of possibilities and urban potential, must be conducted in concert with an urban society. If Berlin is to now be certain of its future, politics and society must sit down at the same conference table. After all, this is about the city they share.

This, the city, has made astonishingly good progress over the last 25 years. Not just because we've found ideal sites in the urban framework for government and parliament, for embassies and national representations, for association lobbyists and for businesses.

“Then, with the fall of the Wall, the future arrived for Berlin quite suddenly, and in full technicolor.”

The city functions well as a political location. But much more importantly: Berlin has at the same time become an attractive prospect for the raw material required for any urban future: youth. For many young, creative people, and by no means from Germany alone, Berlin has become a dream destination. They don't come here chasing the best jobs (because there simply aren't enough of those to go around). They initially come here because they simply want to live in this city. They hope to be able to progress on a professional level too, and they do all they can to make this happen.

As so many come with these expectations, they have in the meantime become a large number of people joining together to enlarge and bolster this cluster of creativity in Berlin. And this must now be Berlin's primary goal: to do all it can to consolidate and improve conditions for this development set in motion by young people themselves. To support this process of economic growth borne of creativity. Berlin does not have the potential to attract established (founded in the past) companies in their entirety. But it serves as a nucleus for the

development of new enterprise fueled by the energy of Berlin's new young citizens.

It makes perfect sense therefore – the second point – that Berlin must become a city increasingly driven by culture and scholarship. This isn't just a place to experience culture and practice scholarship. It must be channeled into the conception of a future goal that uses scholarly and cultural potential to define the social reality of the city. For many large towns and cities, the concept of “city through culture” will be a perspective of the future. Berlin has the pre-

“seasoning in the soup” – or however else you might describe a flavor-enhancer served on the side. Citizens are the very essence of the city, and that's why they must be carefully tended to by politics and society. Also: their shared responsibility (see above) for the city must be drawn out and acted upon.

This depends on education, on the qualification of individual possibilities, but also on solidarity and fairness as prerequisites for a successful urban community. This is the recognition that the individual can on the one hand demand interest and attention for his own sake, and that on the other this is also a requisite part of the shared responsibility for the success of the urban community.

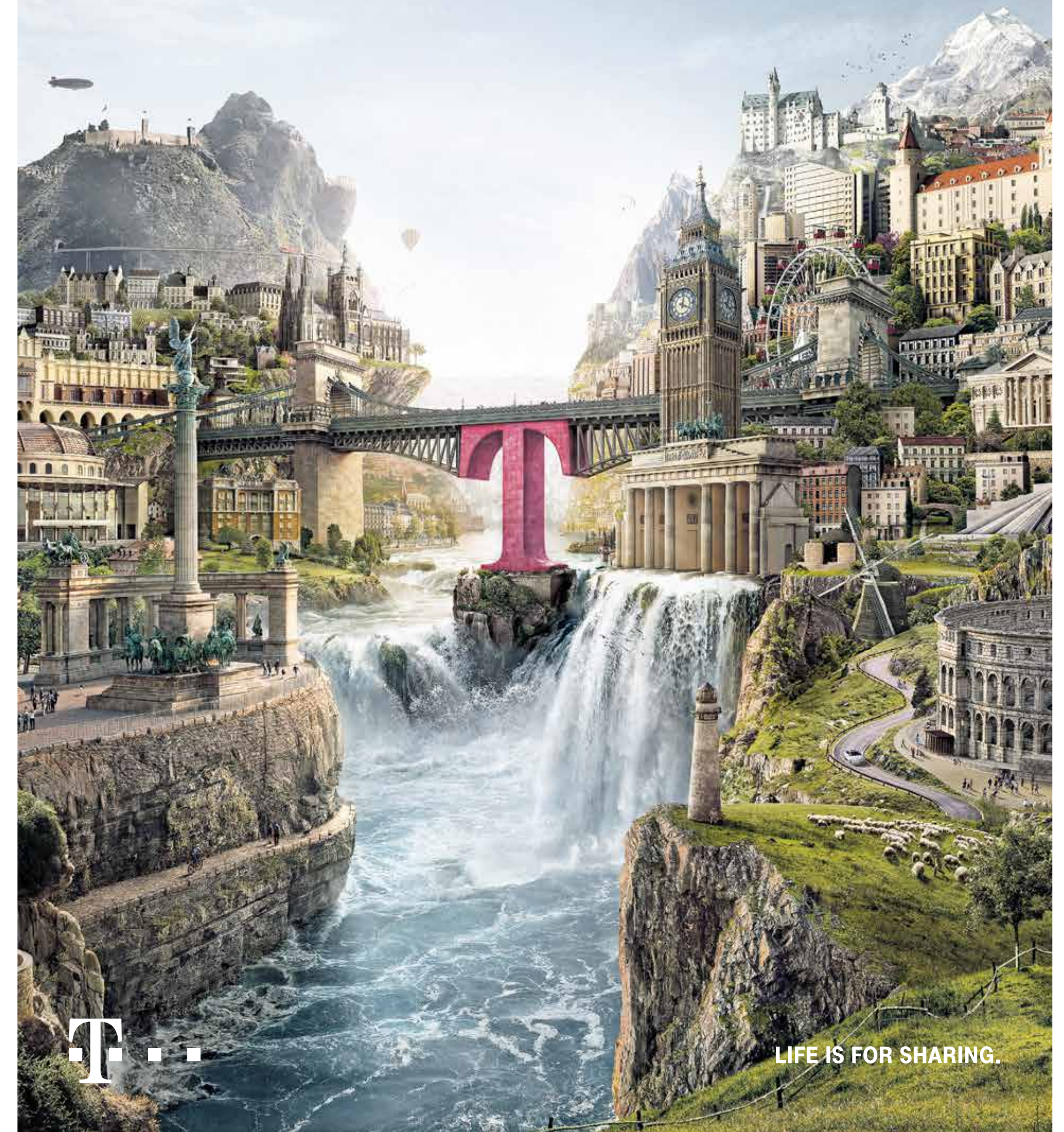
So last but not least: in the case of Berlin especially it is “the city” and all its trimmings – with its people, its buildings, its urban development, its natural resources and places of beauty, its peripheries, its international profile and popularity; the city that people from outside are seeking, and that for good reason, people who reside there don't want to leave – it is the city as a whole that entices. For this Berlin, more than anywhere else, “the city” is perhaps the best response to the question of what, summed up in a single word, it is that one can expect from this place, what makes it what it is.

Dr. Volker Hassemer is CEO of the Stiftung Zukunft Berlin (Foundation for the Future of Berlin). He was previously Senator for Urban Development and Environmental Protection, and later Senator for Cultural Affairs in West Berlin. For The Berlin Times he sketches out a future for the whole of Berlin based on civil engagement.



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LIFE IS FOR SHARING.

GERMANY'S SUPERSTAR

When he sings, an entire soccer stadium joins in

His is the voice of the nation. The musician Herbert Grönemeyer has set “Faust I and II” to music – to be seen and heard at the Berliner Ensemble theater. | *By Frank Hubrath*

His music stays with you. His lyrics speak to the heart. His hits are titled “Männer” (Men), “Alkohol” (Alcohol), “Mensch” (Human) and – “Bochum”: Herbert Grönemeyer (59), Germany’s most successful musician. The singer with the ash blonde hair, whose albums have all topped the charts since the release of “4630 Bochum” in 1987, has always known what makes his compatriots tick.

Bochum’s most famous son, who’s been living in Berlin and London for years now, has a relaxed take on things: People often overblow his lyrics, says Grönemeyer. “It’s time to stop attaching any great meaning to each and every one of my words. Sometimes a word’s only there because there was a gap there before,” he adds.

Asked about his relationship to his home country, he says: “25 years after reunification, which was of course absolutely laudable, it’s important that Germany swiftly develops an awareness of the fact that it is a part of Europe, and accepts that responsibility.” The singer, a man now very accustomed to success, says it is important not to allow arrogance to prevail again.

Grönemeyer, who scooped the Echo music prize for the 10th time in 2015, on this occasion as best national artist, released his 14th studio album “Dauernd jetzt” (Constantly now) last fall. Asked about the meaning of the album title, he replies: “It’s time to stop always grubbing around in the past. We just need to appreciate that we’re living in the here and how, and enjoy the moment.”

He’s been touring with the new songs since May. Until June 23, his schedule foresees a total of 28 concerts in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and The Netherlands. Some 450,000 tickets have already been sold. The tour is to be continued next year to meet the huge demand.

In addition, the singer has just completed a joint project in Berlin with US theater director and playwright Robert Wilson (“The Black Rider”) – an inventive and amusing musical version of “Faust I and II” for the stage.

When the venerable director Peter Stein staged a full-length production of “Faust” at

the Expo 2000, the spectacle lasted 21 hours with no edits. Wilson’s version now runs to the length of a typical Richard Wagner opera: at four hours, 15 minutes. Goethe’s drama of all dramas may keep up a brisk pace at the Berliner Ensemble theater, but in true Wilson fashion, the visual interpretation is stunning.

The Faust musical with 19 actors and eight live musicians is a tour de force. This was evident from the postponement of the premiere: The scope and complexity of the endeavor had been underestimated, said Berliner Ensemble director Claus Peymann.

At the end of the abridged “Faust” mara-

thon and 13 minutes of applause at the premiere, the singer who is always clad in black took hold of the microphone – to perform the last song from his “Faust” soundtrack as an encore, in the presence of Faust, Mephisto, Gretchen & Co. Songs were not Grönemeyer’s sole contribution, he composed all the music for the entire evening’s performance. Whether jazz, blues, flamenco, ballads, chorales or music hall tunes: Herbert’s Faust jukebox has a bit of everything in it.

Grönemeyer and Wilson have already worked together in the past, on a joint theater project 12 years ago: Their poetic version of

Büchner’s comedy “Leonce und Lena” was well-received at the time. The music star and the theater wizard met back in the 1980s in Cologne – where Grönemeyer’s late wife Anna Henkel was performing on stage – she died in 1998.

Herbert Grönemeyer’s career began in 1976, as a theater musician for the acclaimed artistic director Peter Zadek at the Schauspielhaus in Bochum. Later, the successful actor (appearing in movies such as “Das Boot” among others) decided to pursue a profession in music.

The musician has a special relationship with Berlin. The first time he lived in the city on the River Spree was back in 1977, when he worked at the Freie Volksbühne theater. He’s owned a house in the neighborhood of Zehlendorf since 1993. Today he commutes between Berlin and London. The singer stresses how much he loves being in the German capital. He can relate to the mentality of Berliners. “The expanse of the city fascinates me,” says Grönemeyer. “These immense streets, this openness and this sky everywhere. There’s nowhere else like it anywhere in the world.”

The pop star also still raves about two special concerts: “To have played in Berlin’s Olympic Stadium, that was really something,” he says. The last time he played in the huge arena was in 2011, in the presence of more than 55,000 fans. He dedicated the concert to the Bundesliga success of soccer club Hertha BSC Berlin: “Two hearts are beating in my chest,” Herbert Grönemeyer admits. Not just for the city of Bochum extolled in so many of his songs, but also for Berlin.



Frank Hubrath (50) is a highly experienced typesetter and proofreader. He has worked as a journalist for various Swiss media, including Blick and SonntagsBlick. From 1996 to 2001, he was editor-in-chief of the listings magazine TR7, and from 2001 to 2011 he sat on the executive board of TV broadcaster 3sat. Frank Hubrath lives in Switzerland.

Singer and soccer fan Herbert Grönemeyer.

The currywurst divides the nation

Berlin just wouldn’t be Berlin without it. The currywurst is the capital’s culinary symbol. But Hamburg is also claiming credit for its invention.



It’s the icon of German food culture. It even outstrips car production at the Volkswagen plant in Wolfsburg, with 6.3 million sausages churned out annually by the factory’s very own butchery. In comparison, the plant “only” produces 6.1 million cars every year for export around the globe.

The currywurst has long been regarded as the culinary figurehead of the German soul. It’s sold at hundreds of kiosks in Berlin – from Kreuzberg to Charlottenburg, from Marzahn to Mariendorf. In the Ruhr valley the sausages are prepared on the barbecue, in Düsseldorf they’re given a good dusting of golden seasoning. In Bavaria, they’re washed down with a glug of Maibock beer.

The currywurst story has even found an incarnation as a literary best-seller: Uwe Timm’s novel “Die Entdeckung der Currywurst” (The Discovery of the Currywurst) has so far sold 700,000 copies and been translated into 28 languages. In his “Currywurst” saga, Timm relates a love story set at the end of World War II.

Germany’s most successful musician Herbert Grönemeyer dedicated a song to the currywurst, detectives featured in the television crime drama series “Tatort” eat them on the banks of the Rhine in Cologne, prefer-

ably after solving a crime. Ex-Chancellor Gerhard Schröder would regularly ask his chauffeur to make a stop on the way to work, so that he could guzzle a currywurst – far from the hawk-like gaze of his wife at the time, a strict vegetarian.

But who actually came up with the idea of serving a sausage with curry sauce? Best-selling author Uwe Timm claims to have eaten currywurst during his Hamburg youth pre-1949. He expresses his memories through the character of Lena Brücker, who sold bratwurst with curry sauce from a snack stand on the Grossneumarkt square in bombed-out Hamburg.

Berliners on the other hand believe the original inventor to be Herta Heuwer, an East Prussian woman from Königsberg, now Kaliningrad. According to this particular account, the first ever cult sausage was sold at Herta’s Imbiss in Berlin-Charlottenburg on Sept. 4, 1949. She created what was called a “chillup” sauce for her sausage by mixing together tomato puree, water and exotic spices – the word “chillup” was used to describe this blend of chili and ketchup.

Ten years after the creation of this German delicacy, Heuwer had the cult sauce patented. The successful businesswoman took the original recipe for this ingeniously clever

dish with her to her grave in 1999. However, since 2003 there’s been a memorial plaque marking the site of her first imbiss, or snack stand, on Kaiser Friedrich Strasse.

Selling sausages is a tradition upheld in the capital to this day. In post-war Berlin, bombed out streets were dotted with mobile sausage stands. It’s little wonder that the German Currywurst Museum is based in Berlin.

The multi-award winning exhibition in Schützenstraße is devoted to the German national dish with all its associated legends and stories on an entertaining tour with the ambience of a real imbiss. The object of desire can be explored with all the senses in the form of interactive and multi-media exhibits. A sample is included in the ticket price.

Poor old currywurst. It’s really been through the mill. Gourmets alienated it with gold leaf and saffron. Michelin and Gault&Millau snobs created de luxe sausages refined with oysters or caviar served on gold-rimmed plates. Fast food chains coerced sausages into soulless own-brand creations.

No matter: A bitter conflict over its origin has been smoldering for years between Berlin and Hamburg. But against Berlin’s trump card named Herta Heuwer, the Hanseatic

argument, represented in literature, is looking ever more flimsy.

The nice people of Hamburg should wash their mouths out and celebrate their victory over Berlin’s Olympic bid. Preferably with a currywurst, made in Berlin.



7 famous currywurst stands in Berlin

Curry 195
Kurfürstendamm 195, 10707 Berlin

Curry 36
Mehringdamm 36, 10961 Berlin

Konopke’s Imbiss
Schönhauser Allee 44B, 10435 Berlin

Witty’s
Wittenbergplatz 1, 10789 Berlin

Curry mit Biss
Tauentzienstraße 9-12, 10789 Berlin

Curry Baude
Badstraße 1-5, 13597 Berlin

Langes Imbiss
Holzhauserstraße 1, 13509 Berlin

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