

Globespotters

These are excerpts from recent posts in the Globespotters series, a travelers' guide to cities around the world, hosted on the In Transit blog. Full entries can be found at nytimes.com/globespotters.



SHUSTA

BERLIN: OLD STREET, NEW FASHIONS

Coming from Berlin's Hackescher Markt and heading northwest, the initial stretch of Rosenthaler Strasse has been a shopper's heaven at least since the first wave of post-Communist Berlin's urban renewal in the mid-1990s.

But beyond the street's second block or so, the pickings got pretty thin. Empty lots alternated with gray, Communist-era housing and a few surviving old buildings to create an uneven and unappealing streetscape. That is, until recently. Just last year, several attractive, affordable hotels opened, and they have now been joined by some promising new shops.

A number are foreign-born. From Britain, there's AllSaints Spitalfields (No. 52; allsaints.com), a three-story spot where dark cloaks with a decidedly early-'80s feel are for sale in an industrial interior, and, in another recently renovated building nearby, an outpost of the popular Ben Sherman label (No. 31; bensherman.de). A bit farther north, toward the bustling square at Rosenthaler Platz, Potipoti (No. 66; potipoti.com) sells graphic, loose-fitting clothing created by the Spanish design duo Silvia Salvador and Nando Cornejo. A store called 2701, an Italian import specializing in women's wear under the label Ethic, shares a building with Shusta (No. 72; shusta.de), above, where footwear labels like Waste or Caboclo are displayed on strikingly lighted shelving.

But not everything here is new. Calypso (No. 23; calypsoshoes.com) has been around for 12 years, selling funky vintage shoes and boots from jam-packed displays that reach the

ceiling. This might be the only place on the street where a customer can still haggle over prices — just ask Rosemarie, the woman you often find smoking behind the counter, for a better deal. **JIMBERLY BRADLEY**

LONDON: A FASHION BIOGRAPHY

At a time when it can be difficult to find that rare quality known as class, it is refreshing to see Grace Kelly back in the limelight. The late actress and her inimitable fashion sense are the focus of "Grace Kelly: Style Icon," an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum (Cromwell Road; 44-20-7942-2000; vam.ac.uk; free admission) through Sept. 26. The show traces her life from Philadelphia socialite to Hollywood star to Oscar winner, and finally to her fairy-tale role as Princess Grace of Monaco. Though classically beautiful, she achieved her status not simply by virtue of her features but with her sense of style. It helped, of course, that her outfits were designed by the likes of Dior, Balenciaga and Givenchy.

"We tell the story of her life through her clothes," said Jenny Lister, a curator of textiles and fashion at the museum. "Because she had worked as a model, she really understood them — how they were made and the effects one could get through certain looks. She dressed with classic simplicity."

Also included in the exhibition are outfits she wore in movies like "High Society," "To Catch a Thief" and "Rear Window," as well as her wedding ensemble, a grand gown of lace, silk, seed pearls and tulle, on loan from the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Complementing these displays are posters, photographs and film clips; along with screenings of the films she made with Alfred Hitchcock (including "Rear Window" and "To Catch a Thief") so visitors can see her fashion sense in action. As gorgeous as those dresses were, it took Grace Kelly to make them really sing.

VALERIE GLADSTONE



THE ESTATE OF IRVIN BLUMENFELD 2009

THE EUROPE ISSUE HEADS UP



The Piano Bar looks like a traditional Czech pub but serves a

Prague's Vital

By **CHARLY WILDER**

IT'S Friday night at **Termix**, a nightclub in Prague's affluent Vinohrady district, and the dance floor is clogged with unseasonably tanned Czech men in well-haunched shirts (Třebízského 4a; 420-222-710-462; club-termix.cz). Mirror-plated wine bottles hang from the ceiling, and the front half of a cartoon-pink sedan juts out over the bar, where three husky patrons shout over vintage Madonna.

Down the street are a number of other gay-friendly bars, cafes and clubs, including the multilevel disco **Valentino** (Vinohradska 40; 420-222-513-491; club-valentino.cz). Two decades after the fall of Communism, Prague's gay community seems to be making up for lost time, turning Vinohrady into the center of what is one of the most vital gay scenes in the former Eastern Bloc.

"Every gay friend I have lives here in Vinohrady," said Grant Maxfield, a student from Connecticut who moved to Prague two years ago and now helps run **Come2prague.com**, a gay-oriented tourist site.

Among this young community's fixtures are places like **Prague Saints** (Polska 32; 420-222-250-326; [.cz\), which has become a favorite of patriates and tourists a decade or more years ago. "Ten years ago, there were no gay bars here, but there are now," said Paul Coggles, a British expatriate who owns Prague's **Saints**, a colorful-lined streets of Vinohrady are peppered with gay bars.](http://praguesaints</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

Another hub is the **Sovska 10** (420-222-710-462; sovska10.sweb.cz), which looks like a traditional Czech pub but serves a gay clientele.

One of the newest is **Valentino** (Ická 28; 420-603-740-250; club-valentino.cz), a small basement club that opened last November and caters to a mostly Czech crowd. It features schmalzy Czech techno, and the club has ties like Hollywood nightclubs, travesty shows, which drag shows but more burlesque.

A couple of blocks away is **Bum Bum** (Ondrickova 15; 420-222-250-326; club-bumbum.cz), a gay club that opened last December and caters to a young, but with a mostly Czech crowd. It has several backrooms