

ARTISAN: Hassan teaches the technique to young enthusiasts



CRAFTSMANSHIP  
Bahraini artisans  
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HONOURING BOUNTY  
Al Riwaq display  
SEE PAGE 3

**CULTURE REPORT**  
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**B**AHRAIN is home to many picturesque villages, each specialising in its own traditional craft.

As we mark World Rural Development Day this month, we take a look at the kingdom's heritage crafts, honouring the artisans, who produce diverse handiworks, from textiles to baskets and clay pots, underpinning the importance of preservation.

The annual international observance on July 6 seeks to elevate rural voices and spark developmental efforts with a clear emphasis on voluntary contributions and locally driven strategies.

Earlier this year, Hoorat A'ali, Buri, Karranah and Budaiya villages won global acclaim for their innovation, traditions and culture during the FAO World Conference in Rome, nodding to Bahrain's significant efforts in developing and modernising its historic villages.

Initiatives like the Cities and Villages Development Project and Made in Bahrain are steps in the right direction. Among the many programmes launched to support traditional village crafts is the

Naseej Factory in Bani Jamra. Inaugurated six years ago by Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, the mill continues to honour the 3,000-year-old weaving legacy native to the village.

Pottery is another historic traditional craft, dating back more than 5,000 years to the ancient Dilmun civilisation. Archaeological discoveries have uncovered numerous clay vessels in the Dilmun burial mounds, many of which are now displayed at the Bahrain National Museum in Manama. These remarkable artefacts stand as a testament to the rich history and cultural significance of Bahraini pottery.

Sitra Social Development Centre operated by the Social Development Ministry hosts specialised workshops for ceramics and pottery. Another initiative is the Productive Families Services at Capital Mall

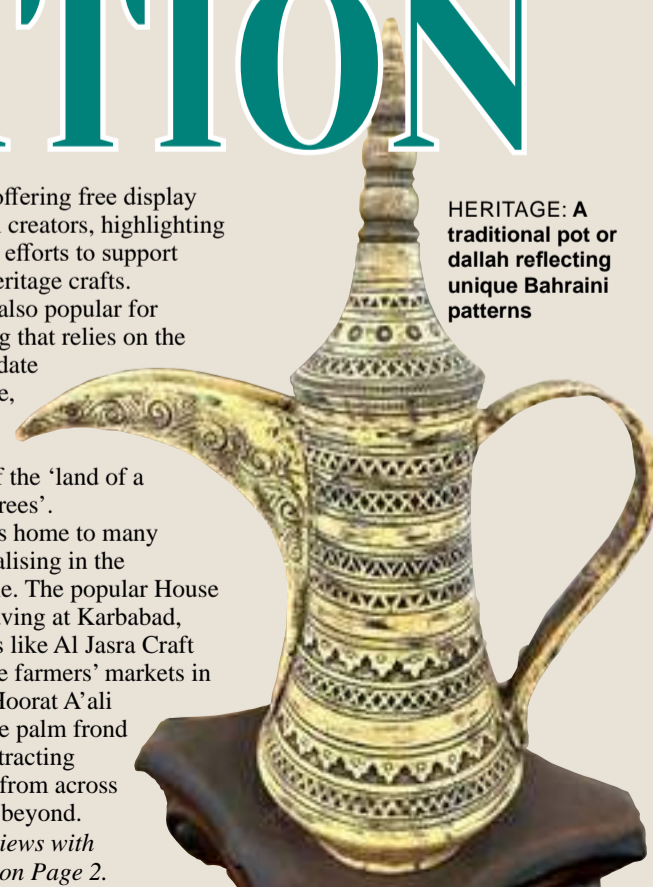
in Karbabad, offering free display space for local creators, highlighting the kingdom's efforts to support artisans and heritage crafts.

Karbabad is also popular for basket weaving that relies on the abundance of date palm trees here, earning the region its historic title of the 'land of a million palm trees'.

The village is home to many families specialising in the traditional style. The popular House of Basket Weaving at Karbabad, cultural spaces like Al Jasra Craft Centre, and the farmers' markets in Budaiya and Hoorat A'ali showcase these palm frond handicrafts, attracting culture lovers from across the island and beyond.

●Read interviews with local artisans on Page 2.

HERITAGE: A traditional pot or dallah reflecting unique Bahraini patterns



## PRESERVING TRADITION



LEISURE SCENE  
World cup fun  
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PULSE OF POP  
Movies, TV & more  
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# Honouring their legacy

THREAD HEAD: Habib at the factory



**L**OCAL artisans in the kingdom have highlighted the importance of preserving the traditional crafts of historic villages, marking World Rural Development Day this month.

**COMMUNITY REPORT**  
By MELISSA NAZARETH  
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### Major Bahraini villages and their specialities and heritage crafts:

- **Al Jasra:** Home to the Al Jasra Handicrafts Centre, where craftspeople demonstrate multiple ancestral trades, from pottery, boat making, textile weaving and traditional sadou ("bedouin weaving")
- **A'ali:** Traditional pottery-making and burial mounds that were once used as a support structure for traditional kilns
- **Bani Jamra:** Traditional textile weaving
- **Budaiya:** Agritourism experiences
- **Buri:** Natural village promoting eco-friendly agriculture
- **Hoorat A'ali:** Sustainable farming
- **Karbabad:** Basket weaving and palm water (liqah) distilled from palm pollen
- **Karranah:** Home to traditional Bahraini food cultures

Habib Abdulredha, one of the weavers at Naseej Factory in Bani Jamra, noted that while there were once more than 100 textile factories, only few remain today.

"The craft of textile making is one that I inherited from my father and grandfather," the 39-year-old told *GulfWeekly*.

"I began when I was just 13 and helped my father, who taught me the tricks of the trade," he added.

One of their traditional designs is the bridal veil, known as Rida Saibi'i, as Abu Saiba village specialised in this garment in the past. It eventually disappeared there but Bani Jamra has kept the tradition alive, revealed Habib.

The veil is woven from wool in bright, celebratory hues of red, green and black. Golden thread is also added, reminiscent of the Al Naqda craft using metallic thread.

"Another garment is Zurda, a black piece with golden thread work traditionally worn in Manama and parts of Saudi Arabia. It used to be an abaya but today we design it as scarves," he added.

As fast fashion and modern alternatives emerged, many artisans were forced to rethink their products. Fifth generation potter Abdulnabi Al A'ali revealed that they now design more decorative items like vases.

"My journey began under the guidance of my father, Haj Abdulrahim, who was my first teacher," recounted the fine arts and interior design professional, who taught ceramics and fine arts at Bahrain University for more than 25 years.

"Until the 1960s, our

village was home to nearly twenty pottery workshops. At the time, pottery products were an essential part of every household."

The 61-year-old continues to teach Bahrainis and expatriates across ages at Dilmun Pottery Factory in A'ali and revealed that the craft is formally taught in middle school across local institutions.

Pottery in Bahrain dates back more than 5,000 years, with some of the designs reflecting Dilmunian seals. Other styles unique to the kingdom include distinct geometric patterns, Arabic calligraphy and verses from the Holy Quran, which are either carved or painted on the wares.

The pots, Abdulnabi revealed, are mostly made from locally sourced clay, however sometimes they mix it with clay from the UK and Egypt.

Zahra Abdullah from Sitra specialises in pot carving and currently teaches the craft at the factory in A'ali.

"We first draw the pattern on paper and then carve it onto the piece," said the 47-year-old, who trained at the Sitra Social Development Centre.

"Learning pottery was a spontaneous decision, as the centre is close to our house and at the time there



STRIKING: Fabrics for sale at Bani Jamra

was a lot of buzz around the workshops held there.

"Throughout my career I have trained both young students and the elderly, and they all took great interest in the craft. They enjoyed playing with the clay and expressed willingness to continue pursuing pottery," she added, pointing to a widespread enthusiasm for heritage crafts in the local community.

Echoing her sentiments, Karbabad resident Hasan Al Shajjar noted how more and more families in his village have been wanting to learn basket weaving.

Known locally as Saf Al Khoos, this generational art relies on the abundance of date palm trees, earning the region its historic title of the 'land of a million palm trees'.

The House of Basket Weaving in Karbabad opened four years ago, as part of the Bahrain Authority for Culture

and Antiquities' development plans and is dedicated to encourage the promotion of basket-making centered in the village. Additionally, Al Jasra crafts centre also has workshops on basket weaving.

The craft dates back thousands of years and is deeply intertwined with the socio-economic life of Bahrain. Historically, palm trees provided everything from food and fuel to shelter. Building on the functional use of the palm fronds, artisans then wove them into essential household items such as dining mats (sofa), storage baskets, handheld fans (mhaffa), small dishes, and even traditional chicken coops.

Among the creative households was Hasan's family, introducing him to the style at the tender age of 13.

"My whole family does basket weaving including my mother and siblings. My late father also did.

"There continues to be a great interest in the craft among Karbabad's residents. Some only do small creations at home but what is important is to keep it alive and going.

"We adapt with modern times by creating new designs, as well as mixing the old with the new," added the 48-year-old.

Some interviews for the story were conducted in Arabic by Aziz Alshawoosh and Rima Alhaddad.



TALENT: Abdulnabi with his creation

## BRAIN-BUSTERS

**Q**uizmaster and Radio Bahrain host Shannon Crockett, who has been entertaining people across the island with his brain-teasing quiz night sessions, has offered to put *GulfWeekly* readers' general knowledge to the test. Join in the fun every Thursday with Shannon's seven brain-busters.



- 1) What is the name of the football club in Ted Lasso?
- 2) Who succeeded Colin Powell as US Secretary of State?
- 3) The body of the Egyptian sphinx was based on which animal?
- 4) In which sport would you go to a basho?
- 5) Which actor, who played the role of James Bond, was once the best paid male model in the world?

- 6) What colour shirt does Winnie the Pooh wear?
- 7) He was born in 1856 and died in 1939. He was an Austrian by birth and specialised in psychoanalysis. Who was he?

1. Richmond
2. Condoleezza Rice
3. Lion
4. Sumo wrestling
5. George Lazenby
6. Red
7. Sigmund Freud

## ANSWERS



## ART REPORT

By NAMAN ARORA  
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**B**AHRAINI culinary storyteller Yusuf Qamber has been thinking about how food can communicate, when it is no longer meant to be consumed, in his latest art installation, now on display at Al Riwaq Art Space.

In *Apocalypse Buffet*, which can be seen at the *Residual Spaces* exhibition until July 23, the chef and artist steps beyond his comfort zone of preparing food for people into the territory of food as a reflection of waste, preservation and collapse.

"The project was largely inspired by the uncertainty and anxiety that followed the Iranian attack," the 32-year-old Riffa resident, originally from Muharraq, told *GulfWeekly*.

"Like many people, I found myself thinking about vulnerability, preparedness, and the fragility of the systems we depend on every day.

"The initial concept focused on abundance during moments of crisis and how people respond when they feel resources may become scarce.

"As the work evolved, it became less about the event itself and more about humanity's relationship with consumption, preservation, and waste.

"The final piece became a reflection on what remains after fear, excess, and survival instincts shape our behaviour."

In Al Riwaq's Bank House 2, *Apocalypse Buffet* centres on a dining table, set with hallmarks of feasts in Bahrain and the Khaleej – plenty of bread, fish, vermicelli and fruit, but none of it is meant to be eaten.

It invites viewers to instead reflect on the amount of food that is wasted at every special occasion and feast.

"*Apocalypse Buffet* explores abundance at the edge of collapse," Yusuf explained.

"The work presents preserved and vacuum-sealed food as artefacts from a civilisation obsessed with consumption, excess, and convenience.

"By removing food from its natural cycle of preparation, sharing, and eating, the piece asks viewers to reflect on waste, preservation, and what future generations might discover about us through the traces we leave behind."

According to a *GDN* news story earlier this year, food waste in Bahrain has risen by 23 per cent since 2022, rising from 400 tonnes per day to approximately 493t and soaring to more than 600t

SPOILED: Bahrain wastes  
493 tonnes of food every day

# Food for thought



APOCALYPSE BUFFET:  
Yusuf with his piece

during every day of Ramadan.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Food Waste Index Report 2024 revealed that nearly a fifth of food produced each year is squandered before it can be consumed, and the total cost of food loss and waste for the global economy is estimated at roughly \$1 trillion (BD377bn).

While earlier generations in Bahrain relied heavily on seasonal ingredients, local agriculture, fishing, and preservation methods shaped by necessity, today, globalisation has made ingredients from around the world available

year-round.

While this expanded culinary possibilities, it also distanced many people from the realities of production, seasonality, and scarcity.

"What surprised me during my research was how much waste is connected not to hunger or necessity, but to cultural ideas of generosity and abundance," Yusuf added.

"In many cases, excess food becomes a symbol of hospitality and social status.

"The research made me think about the gap

between our appreciation for food and our treatment of it, and how easily something valuable can become disposable."

Yusuf joined the Al Riwaq residency to challenge the boundaries of his practice.

The young chef has always seen food as a storytelling medium, but was curious about what would happen if food was removed from the dining table and placed within a gallery context.

"As a chef, my entire career revolves around transforming ingredients into something that nourishes people and creates connection," Yusuf added.

"Food is usually at its most meaningful when it is shared and eaten.

"With this project, I was doing the opposite.

"I was preserving food, removing its purpose, and turning it into an object.

"In many ways it felt like embalming. That discomfort became an important part of the work itself.

"It forced me to confront how often food is treated as a commodity rather than something

precious, and it highlighted the strange relationship we have with abundance and waste."

Initially, Yusuf had wanted the food in *Apocalypse Buffet* to remain exposed, so that the visual decay and smell emphasised the inevitable deterioration of excess.

However, he realised the smell in particular could negatively affect other artists exhibiting there and decided to vacuum-seal it.

"Interestingly, that decision introduced another layer to the project," he added.

"The sealed packaging made the food resemble museum artefacts or emergency supplies, reinforcing themes of preservation, control, and containment."

The *Residual Spaces* art exhibition opened last month and also features installations by Ghalia Abdul Jawad, Mahmood Alsharqawi, Maram Al Suliman, Mariam Alnoaimi, Samar Aleskafi and Sara Redha.

The exhibition which explores the ideas of memory, emotion, and social encounter runs until July 23.

For more details, follow @yqamber and @alriwaq on Instagram.



EXCESS: A selection of the embalmed food at the buffet



SEALED: Yusuf vacuum-packed fish and preserved some of the other elements to ensure it did not ruin the environment for others

# Leisure Scene



What's on guide by  
Olivia Middleton



DELECTABLE: The Golden Créma Trilogy menu

## FIFA IN THE RITZ-CARLTON

**IMMERSE** yourself in a spectacular lineup of culinary events and live entertainment at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain.

Sporting enthusiasts can dive straight into the action at La Med's Football Fanzone. Designed as the ultimate match-day hub, guests can view screenings across multiple large displays while enjoying a tailored à la carte menu. The culinary selection features casual light bites alongside breakfast favourites heavily influenced by the flavours of Mexico, Canada, and the US. For groups wanting a more secluded environment, exclusive private viewing areas can be booked at La Table Krug for gatherings of 10 or more people.

Head to Nirvana for The Great Indian Thali experience. The venue serves a grand, multi-dish platter crafted to culinary perfection. Diners can sample a vibrant array of aromatic curries, tender tandoori specialities, and fragrant

rice, all complemented by a refreshing glass of lassi. The experience is priced at BD24 per person. Running every Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from midday to 3pm and again from 7pm to 11pm.

Those in need of a sweet treat can find pure satisfaction at Café Gourmandise, which presents its artisanal Golden Créma Trilogy menu. This à la carte selection features meticulously crafted sweets designed to bring warmth and sophistication to your daily coffee or tea routine. Available daily from 8am to 11pm.

As the sun sets, Thai Lounge welcomes you to its 'Savour Sushi Sunday' event, featuring an unlimited buffet of freshly prepared Uramaki rolls and premium house bites. Guests can indulge in an endless rotation ranging from classic California rolls to vibrant, spicy salmon selections for BD18.500 per person. Operating from 6pm to 9pm every Sunday.

Over at Cantina Kahlo, the Weekend Brunch Fiesta brings a lively burst of Mexican culture to the resort. Served family-style to encourage a shared, interactive dining experience, the set menu features authentic heritage dishes alongside modern adaptations made with fresh, traditional ingredients. The afternoon features a festive energy that builds with free-flowing beverages, priced at BD35 per person with soft drinks or BD45 per person with selected beverages. Running every Friday and Saturday from 1pm to 4pm.

Finally, experience 'The Perfect Ending' dessert ritual at Primavera. This elegant digestif concept pairs handcrafted cocktails with artisanal cakes, offering a sophisticated dessert experience for BD12 per person. Available Sunday to Friday from 7pm to 10.30pm.

For more information or bookings, call 17580000 or email [rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com](mailto:rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com).

**F**OOTBALL enthusiasts and food connoisseurs alike can look forward to a packed schedule at the InterContinental Bahrain this season, with an array of summer promotions, live tournament screenings, and curated culinary experiences.

Elements Pool and Lounge is the ultimate destination to catch the FIFA World Cup action. All the way until the highly anticipated final on July 19, fans can experience every single moment live on massive screens. The high-energy lounge atmosphere is paired with an exciting food menu, beverage specials and more, creating the ultimate social hub for friends to gather.

Adding to the match-day thrill is the Match Prediction Challenge, giving guests a chance to test their football knowledge by guessing the winning team and final score before kick-off to win exciting prizes.

The venue is also introducing its 'Pool Sunny Vibes' event on July 3 starting from 3pm onwards. Guests can soak up the sunshine and unwind to uplifting House DJ beats. The experience features a curated dining menu showcasing starters like Almond Crusted Shrimp and Mini Chicken

## FOOTBALL ACTION AWAITS

Tikka Skewers, followed by mains including Angus Beef Sliders, Pit Smoked Brisket Burgers, and Chipotle Lime Chicken Quesadillas.

The afternoon wraps up with sweet treats such as Basque Cheesecake, Coffee Cake, or refreshing ice cream. Guests can opt for the package priced at BD25net, which includes a three-course menu and four premium beverage vouchers, or the one at BD20net, featuring the three-course menu, unlimited soft drinks, and a luxurious shisha experience.

Meanwhile, Legendz SteakHouse is set to host an absolute feast with its signature Brunch Affair, merging fine dining with live entertainment. Guests can savour a bespoke menu of premium dishes served à la carte, including Surf and Turf beef fillet with béarnaise sauce, Teriyaki Glazed Duck Leg, and Miso Hamachi finished with Korean chili.

Complementing the table service is a vibrant buffet selection featuring seafood, barbecue, and burrata stations, alongside expertly crafted beverages. The brunch is priced at BD28net with soft beverages, or BD38net inclusive of endless selected beverages.



CHEERS: World Cup screenings at InterContinental Bahrain

Guests under six dine for free, whilst children aged six to 12 receive a 50 per cent discount. Running every Friday throughout July and August from midday to 4pm.

Legendz will also introduce a touch of European flair with its brand-new 'Bastille Day Brunch' on July 17, celebrating the heritage of France.

Diners can enjoy live entertainment alongside authentic French favourites, including traditional gallettes, croque monsieur, and premium charcuterie boards. Pricing

remains at BD28net for the soft package and BD38net for the selected spirits package, with the same discounts applying to children.

For a more relaxed pace, Noor Lounge is offering an array of unique seasonal treats. Guests can discover the Summer Sips Collection. Priced at BD4.500 per beverage, the trio includes a tropical Coconut Affogato served in a fresh coconut shell, the Avocadoria fusion blending avocado and sweet mango, and a smooth Coffee Jelly Float topped with

vanilla ice cream. Available daily from 8am to 11pm throughout July and August.

Rounding out the venue's offerings is the 'Mango Afternoon Tea Summer Edition.' For BD8net, guests can dive into a five-tier tower of sweet and savoury Alphonso mango-inspired creations, starting with a refreshing Mango Blossom welcome drink. Available from Thursday to Saturday between 1pm and 5pm.

For more information or bookings, call 17227777 or 36967701.

**U**NWIND in a world of exquisite culinary artistry and mindful wellness at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay, where premium dining concepts, innovative seasonal menus and revitalising lifestyle experiences come together in spectacular fashion.

Celebrate the carefree spirit of the season, at the July 4 Summer BBQ Social evening, at CUT by Wolfgang Puck. Featuring house-made favourites ranging from signature hot dogs and smash burgers to nostalgic sweet treats and handcrafted beverages, it offers the perfect backdrop for lively conversation over lunch, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, or dinner, from 7pm to 11.30pm, priced à la carte.

On July 18, executive chef Brian Becher joins forces with ORLA Hospitality co-founder and executive chef Bahadır Abul to present a specially curated à la carte menu. Merging the bold, contemporary identities of CUT with inspiration drawn from the rich culinary heritage of Türkiye, the lunch and dinner services promise premium ingredients, Mediterranean influences, and exceptional craftsmanship. Lunch runs from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, with dinner served from 7pm to 11.30pm.

Those looking to elevate their weekend can head down every Friday for the Bubbly Brunch at CUT by Wolfgang Puck. Running from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, the afternoon features

# Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

## HILTON FANZONE



ON: La Med's Football Fanzone

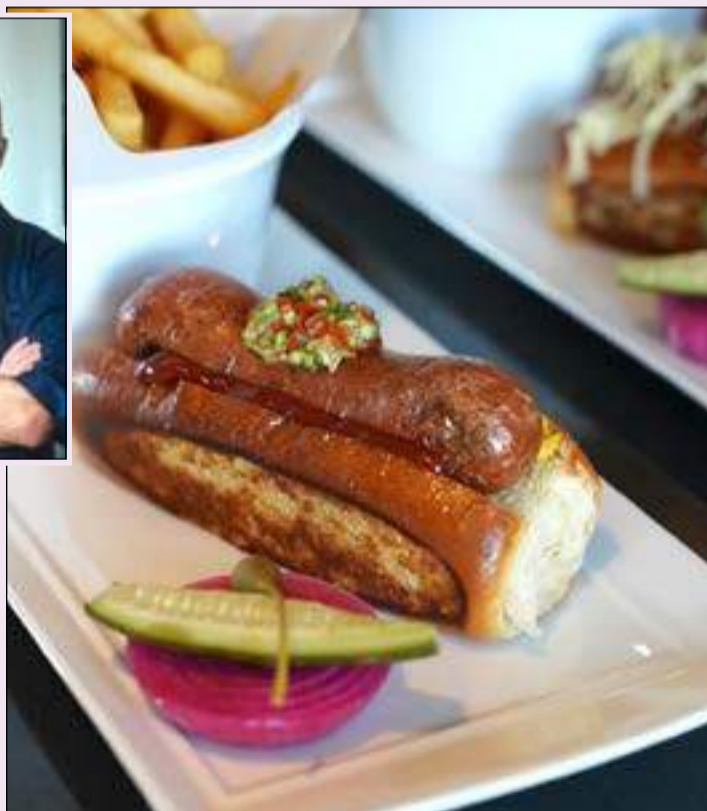
## FOUR SEASONS' SMOKY SUMMERS



COLLABORATION: Chef Brian, right, and chef Bahadir join forces

beats and a trolley pouring bubbly tableside to accompany menu of iconic favourites like Slowtail Hamachi Ceviche, Beef Sliders, and Line-Caught Black Bass. The package is priced at BD70 inclusive of free-flow bubbly beverages.

Your sweet tooth can then be thoroughly satisfied at Bay View lounge, which transforms World Chocolate Day into a week-long celebration of pure indulgence from July 5 to July 11. Available throughout the day from midday 11.30pm, the exclusive à la carte menu features handcrafted desserts alongside specialty beverages infused with notes of coffee, caramel, and ripe fruits. Bay View lounge is also launching its Gelato and Affogato experiences until October 31.



TEMPTING: Flavourful hotdogs at the hotel's Summer BBQ Social

Available daily from 11am to midnight, this menu features artisanal gelatos inspired by the four seasons paired with unexpected textures, alongside sophisticated affogatos featuring Espresso, Karak, or Matcha. Affogatos are priced at BD4.500 each, and gelatos at BD5.900 each.

To restore total inner calm, the hotel invites guests to

experience its Moon Yoga series. It will take place on July 14, followed by a Full Moon Session on, July 29. Both guided movement and breathwork classes run from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, priced at BD6 per person for hotel guests and members, and BD12 for outside guests.

For more information or bookings, call 17115500.



JUICY: Burgers at CLAW BBQ

## GAME-DAY GALA

**S**OAR to new heights at CLAW BBQ, at Hilton Bahrain, the ultimate 44th-floor social hub framing spectacular views of the Bahrain skyline.

This high-energy spot fuses hearty food, interactive gaming, and live entertainment into unforgettable experiences. It is the ultimate stadium-style atmosphere to gather your friends, lock down a prime table, and view every goal, pass, and heart-stopping moment of World Cup action unfold.

The venue also anchors a packed weekly schedule of promotions and themed happenings. On Sundays, hospitality professionals can enjoy two hours of unlimited selected beverages from 4pm and midnight for BD12.500, with an option to extend the experience for another two hours for BD10.

Early birds can dive into Happy Hour running from opening time until 8pm every Saturday through Thursday, with select beverages starting at just BD2.

Mondays belong to the ladies, who receive four free drinks from 8pm to 11pm, alongside a curated sharing platter for BD15. Ladies can also enjoy a 30 per cent discount on all standard-priced food and beverages all night.

Taco Tuesdays serve up a Mexican-style feast, delivering bottomless tacos

and selected beverages from 6pm until midnight for BD16. Guests can upgrade their package for BD3.500 to secure unlimited selected beverages.

Midweek brings Wednesday Madness, treating patrons to a fast-paced two hours of free-flowing select beverages from 7pm to 9pm for BD12.500.

And then ease straight into the weekend with the infamous Friday Brunch, from 12.30pm to 4pm, followed by an immediate after-party Happy Hour continuing until 6pm. Packages start from BD24.

Elsewhere at Hilton Bahrain, Origin Kitchen and Culture invites you to fuel your day with an extensive breakfast buffet. The morning spread is available Saturday to Friday from 6.30am to 10.30am, and extends until 11.30am on Saturdays for BD13net.

Seafood lovers can also book a table on Thursday evenings for their premium seafood night, from 7pm to 10pm, showcasing a variety of fresh ocean catches for BD30 inclusive of soft drinks.

And finally, don't miss their green menu, featuring premium, vibrant Matcha Lattes starting from BD3.500.

For more information or bookings, call 33692013.



VIBRANT: Matcha latte



**E**NJOY some of the English language films being screened at Cineco Seef this weekend.



### SUPERGIRL (PG-15)

When an unexpected and ruthless adversary strikes too close too home, Kara Zor-El, aka Supergirl, reluctantly joins forces with an unlikely companion on an epic, interstellar journey of vengeance and justice.

**Actors:** Milly Alcock, Jason Momoa, Matthias Schoenaerts

**Timings:** 12.15pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm

### HUNGRY (PG-15)

A group of holidaymakers on a Louisiana bayou tour find themselves stranded in dangerous swamplands when they become the prey of a ferocious rampaging hippopotamus. As survival turns into a brutal fight against nature and fear, the group must work together to escape before becoming the creature's next victims.

**Actors:** Madison Davenport, Tracey Bonner, Joaquim de Almeida

**Timings:** 11am, 3pm, 7pm, 11pm

### BLACK BOX (15+)

Vero Airlines Flight 298 from New Orleans to Seattle becomes the centre of a chilling supernatural mystery.

**Actors:** Tom Brittney, Asa Ali, Anton Trendafilov

**Timings:** 1pm, 5pm, 9pm

### TOY STORY 5 (PG)

Woody, Buzz, Jessie and the rest of the gang's jobs are challenges when they are introduced to electronics, a new threat to playtime.

**Actors:** Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Keanu Reeves

**Timings:** 11.45am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 11pm

# Pulse of Pop

AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC, TV, BOOKS AND MORE - BY RIMA ALHADDAD

**C**OMEDY television series *Elle* is out now on Amazon Prime Video.

From the world of the *Legally Blonde* franchise, the eight episodes serve as a prequel to the 2001 namesake film, which followed Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon), a sorority girl who attempts to win back her ex-boyfriend by getting a Juris Doctor degree at Harvard Law School.

In the process, she overcomes stereotypes against blondes and triumphs as a successful lawyer.

Now portrayed by newcomer Lexi Minetree, the new series explores Elle's teenage years in the 1990s as a highschool student in Seattle long before she became the ambitious Harvard law student.

In an interview, the film's executive producer Reese shared her feelings on the 25th anniversary of the original production.

"It's surreal and really nostalgic for me to remember being a 23-year-old girl playing that part," she said.

## THE MAKING OF ELLE

"It's incredible that people still love the film; it still finds a new audience, and we are here today with Elle. I can't wait for everyone to see the show."

The Academy Award-winning actress also cited the *Netflix* original series *Wednesday* as an inspiration, as she loved how The Addams Family character was brought back.

"When I saw that, I called Lauren Neustadter, my producing partner, who said that we should really seize the moment and find out who Elle Woods was in high school and how she became such an ambitious young woman," she recounted.

"And with all the 90's nostalgia going on right now, it seemed like the perfect time to do it."

Lexi shared her experience working with Reese, saying that she went from being initially intimidated to the two now having casual conversations.

GIRLHOOD: Lexi brings Elle alive on screen



"Because she's Reese Witherspoon and enough said," she remarked.

"But she's been so incredible this whole journey. It's weird that

I can just send her a voice memo and then she responds back, and I'm like, 'One sec, Reese sent me something. Let me listen to it.'"

Based on Amanda Brown's 2001 novel, the *Legally Blonde* films are well loved for showcasing how a woman's life does not have to be defined by romantic

relationships, but rather by friendships, self-worth and accomplishments, making it stand out among other similar female-led media at the time.

## MUSICAL RITUALS



LEGEND: Madonna

**A**MERICAN singer Madonna drops her fifteenth studio album *Confessions II* tomorrow.

Conceived as a sequel to *Confessions on a Dance Floor* (2005), the project continues the 67-year-old artist's exploration of dance and electronic music, as she collaborates with modern-time producers Martin Garrix, Cirkut and Andrew Watt, and reunites with original producer Stuart Price.

Ahead of announcing the release date, Madonna and Stuart published a manifesto explaining the album's concept. It read: 'The dance floor is a ritualistic space. It's a place where you connect — with your wounds, with your fragility. It's about pushing your limits and connecting to a community of like-minded people...'

Madonna Louise Ciccone, dubbed 'queen of pop', is known for her continual reinvention and versatility in music production, songwriting and visual presentation. She is regarded as one of the most influential musicians of all time for breaking gender barriers in mainstream music and having a significant socio-cultural impact across her career.

*Confessions on a Dance Floor* stood out for being structured like a DJ set, with the songs sequenced and blended to play continuously without gaps. It was ranked the sixth biggest-selling album of 2005 worldwide by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, with sales reaching USD6.3 million.

It remains one of the best-selling albums of the 21st century and by a female artist.

## PAINTING THE TOWN YELLOW

**A**MERICAN comedy film *Minions & Monsters* is out now in theatres.

Set in the 1920s, the story follows the mischievous yellow henchmen, voiced by film director, writer and animator Pierre Coffin, as they become Hollywood sensations upon crashing a film set.

However, their 15 minutes of fame are cut short when sound is introduced to film.

Unable to follow a script in their Minionese language, the characters roam the streets of Tinsel Town looking for a new purpose. However, Minions James, Ed and Henry break away from their tribe, and attempt to make an awesome monster movie of their own.

In an interview, Pierre expressed how the third instalment in the *Minions* prequel series and seventh overall in the *Despicable Me* franchise, came together after initially moving on from the animated universe.

After *Despicable Me 3* (2017), Pierre told Illumination studios founder Chris Meledandri that he wanted out as director, as he found the creation process spanning four years to be exhausting.

That is until he received a call from Chris



ACTION: A scene from the film

with the idea of a Minion that sets out to make a monster movie, resulting in the creative talent having a 'billion ideas'.

"If they're making movies, why not set it in Hollywood's golden age, the 1920s, at the dawn of cinema's industrialisation," he remarked.

"There is something very specific about the Minions: in the way they move, in the way their gags are constructed; they are heirs to the silent-film stars — Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd. So the period allowed me to do two things. I could introduce new Minions in a new context and I could pay homage to the people who invented a certain kind of visual comedy," he added.



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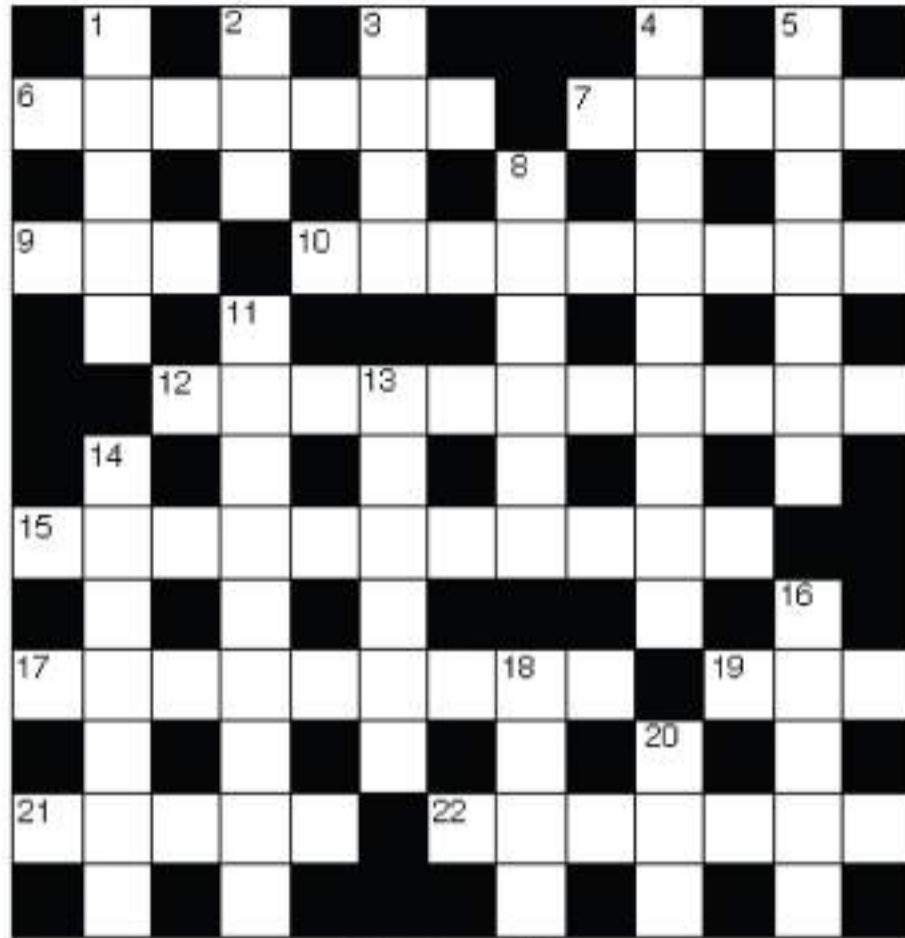
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# Time Out



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## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

- 6. Cautious (7)
- 7. Excursion (5)
- 9. Mine (3)
- 10. Obnoxious (9)
- 12. Thoughtful (11)
- 15. Bestiality (11)
- 17. Admonish (9)
- 19. Bashful (3)
- 21. Swift (5)
- 22. Furtiveness (7)

### DOWN

- 1. Madness (5)
- 2. Fresh (3)
- 3. Trick (4)
- 4. Washerwoman (9)
- 5. Foolishness (7)
- 8. Abrupt (6)
- 11. Build (9)
- 13. Serious (6)
- 14. Income (7)
- 16. Value (5)
- 18. Jotting (4)
- 20. Merry (3)

### who, what, where, when

**WHO** ... knocked Martina Hingis out of the 2006 Australian Open women's singles tennis championship?  
**WHAT** ... was the debut record album by the US group R.E.M.?  
**WHERE** ... was the fashion designer John Galliano born?  
**WHEN** ... did Tessa Sanderson become the Olympic women's javelin champion?  
**WHO** ... authored the volume *A Jar of Honey from Mount Hybla*?  
**WHAT** ... nationality is the golfer Edoardo Molinari?  
**WHERE** ... in Europe is Middelburg, the capital city of the province of Zeeland?  
**WHEN** ... was William Congreve's play *The Way of the World* first published?

### just so

a pit

SSPPYY



X □

## darn tough sudoku

So you think you're good enough at Sudoku to crack this baby? Remember, we were the first in the Gulf to bring you this bit of Japanese mayhem...so we don't kid around

### Last week's sudoku

8	4	3	7	9	1	2	5	6
9	2	7	4	6	5	8	1	3
5	6	1	3	2	8	7	9	4
6	9	5	1	3	7	4	8	2
3	7	2	8	4	9	5	6	1
1	8	4	2	5	6	9	3	7
4	1	9	6	8	2	3	7	5
2	5	6	9	7	3	1	4	8
7	3	8	5	1	4	6	2	9

2	6	9	4	7	8	1	3	5
7	4	3	9	1	5	2	6	8
1	5	8	2	6	3	4	9	7
6	3	4	5	8	2	7	1	9
5	8	2	1	9	7	6	4	3
9	7	1	3	4	6	8	5	2
3	2	6	8	5	4	9	7	1
8	1	7	6	3	9	5	2	4
4	9	5	7	2	1	3	8	6

### darn tough sudoku

6	4	2	7	1	9	3	5	8
1	7	9	5	8	3	6	4	2
3	8	5	2	6	4	7	9	1
2	5	7	8	3	1	9	6	4
9	1	8	6	4	7	2	3	5
4	3	6	9	5	2	1	8	7
7	9	4	3	2	8	5	1	6
5	2	1	4	9	6	8	7	3
8	6	3	1	7	5	4	2	9

Sudoku

		8			1	7	3	
7		1	2	6				
4			7			6		
				7	3		4	
1			9	8				
3		2	1				8	
	9			2			6	
				8	6	4	5	
	7	6	4			1		

Sudoku

				1	2	9		
	3	8						
1			6	2	3	7		
	1				9	5		
5				9			8	
8	6		7			4		
3		8	5		4		1	2
		1		2		8		
	2	4	3					

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

#### CROSSWORD BREAK:

**Across:** 7 Unaccompanied; 8 Relegate; 9 Else; 10 Tissue; 12 Detain; 14 Urgent; 16 Detail; 18 Plea; 20 Mechanic; 22 Parenthetical.

**Down:** 1 Inferior; 2 Access; 3 Sofa; 4 Splendid; 5 Intent; 6 Mess; 11 Estimate; 13 Inimical; 15 Eraser; 17 Tragic; 19 Leap; 21 Chef.

#### JUST SO:

Every dog has his day, Social climber, See eye to eye, The agony and the ecstasy.

#### WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Richard Nixon; Madeley and Finnigan; Armenia; January 26; Perrie Mans; Bleak House; The island of Funen; 1992.

### Darn Tough Sudoku

		6		3		5		
3								8
			9		1			
		9	5		2	8		
	4	3				6	7	
		8	4		3	9		
			1		8			
2								6
		7		9		1		