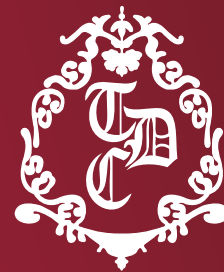


# The Diplomatic Club



September 2009



## PEOPLE

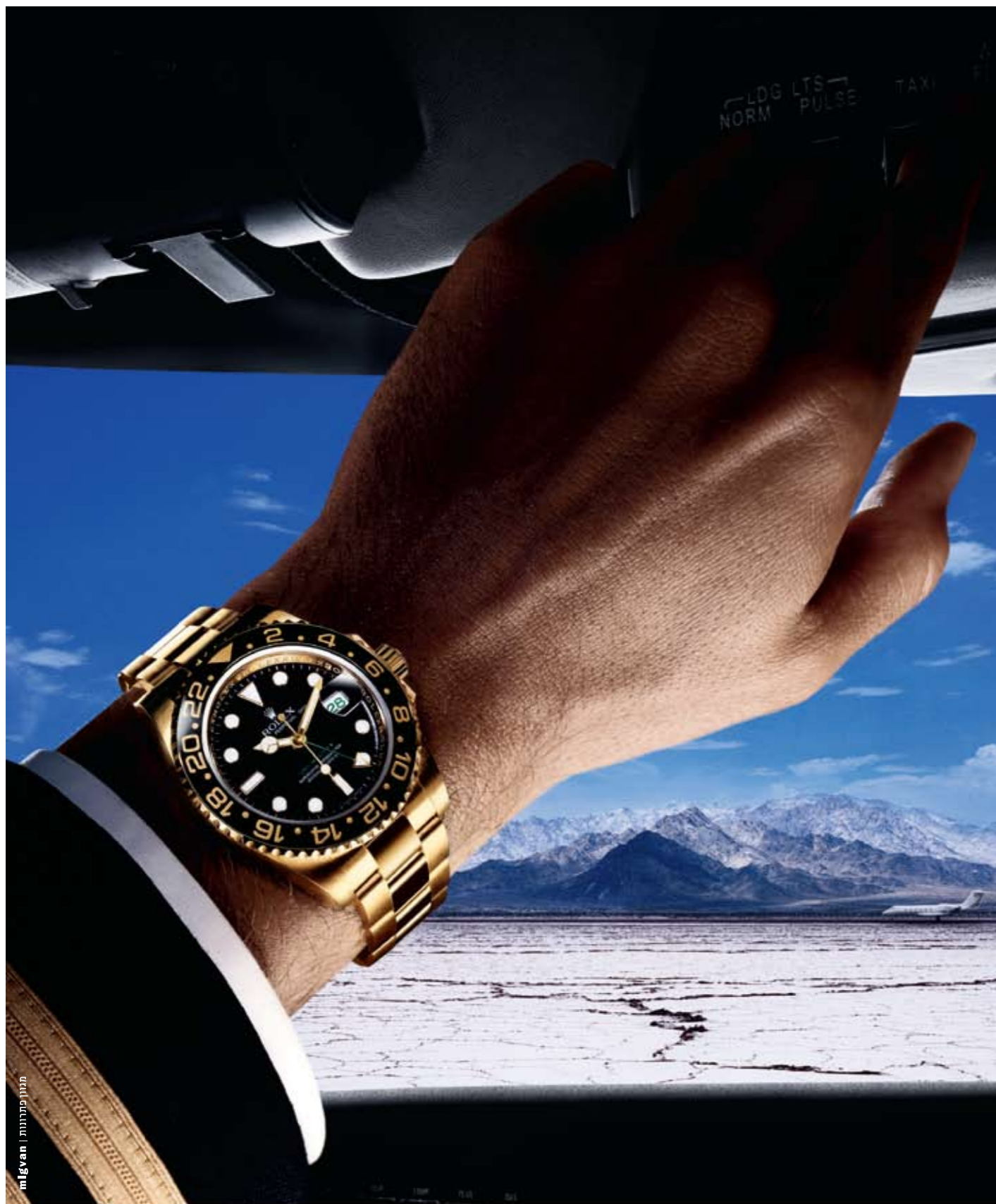
RUSSIA'S  
AMBASSADOR  
TO ISRAEL

## DIPLOMATIC EVENTS

THE SWISS  
NATIONAL DAY  
PARTY

## CULTURE

PORTUGUESE  
FILM WEEK



## OYSTER PERPETUAL GMT-MASTER II

The speed and elegance of modern flight require precise instrumentation. In 1955, Rolex created the GMT-Master to meet the demands of professional pilots. Now redesigned, the new GMT-Master II features a 24-hour graduated ceramic bezel, which is scratch-proof and virtually indestructible. With three separate time zones, it's designed to keep you on time – no matter where your journey may take you. [ROLEX.COM](http://ROLEX.COM)



ארו-אסיה יבואנים בלעדיים - רח' אבן גבירול 17, תל אביב 64077, טל. 03-6857520, פקס. 03-6850750  
 ROLEX SHOW - אבן גבירול 17 ת"א, 03-6857520 ROLEX SHOW - ירושלים אלרוב, שדרות ממילא 02-6255882 ROLEX SHOW - אילת, שדי-לה-בולבארד מלון רויאל גרדן 08-6337002 ROLEX SHOW - אחוזה 88 רעננה 09-7463046  
**Euro-Asia - Official representative 17 Ibn Gvirol St. Tel-Aviv 64077 Tel: 972-3-6857520, Fax: 972-3-6850750**  
 ROLEX SHOW - Ibn Gvirol 17 Tel Aviv 03-6857520 ROLEX SHOW - B.L.V Mamlila Jerusalem 02-6255882 ROLEX SHOW - La-Boulevard Rd Royal Garden hotel Eilat 08-6337002 ROLEX SHOW - Achuza 88 Raanana 09-7463046



10 Karlibah St., Tel-Aviv  
 P.O.Box 20344, Tel Aviv 61200, Israel

708 Third Avenue, 4th Floor  
 New York, NY 10017, U.S.A

Club Diplomatique de Geneva  
 P.O.Box 228, Geneva, Switzerland

Publisher	The Diplomatic Club Ltd
General Manager	Julia Verdel
Writers	Barry Rubin Anthony J. Dennis Patricia e Hemricourt, Israel Ira Moskowitz, Israel Bernard Marks, Israel Christopher Barder, UK Ilan Berman, USA
Reporter	Neil Sandler Ksenia Svetlov
Advertising	Tel: 972-3-562.20.61/2 info@diplomacy-club.com
Layout	Egor Kutikov Tanya Leschinsky
Accounting	Roded Rinegold
Legal Support	Mati Simchovitz Law Office

The Diplomatic club Magazine  
 Printed monthly

Tel: 972-3-562.20.61/2  
 Fax: 972-3-562.02.12  
 info@diplomacy-club.com  
 www.diplomacy-club.com

### Dear Members,

Like every year in the diplomatic community, summer is the time of changes. So we are happy to welcome all new diplomatic staff to Israel. And to wish our regular members a fruitful year starting straight after the summer break.

As always, the Diplomatic Club is happy to help all his members with adjusting with life in Israel. Whether by publishing for you the Medical Directory, by opening channels to insurance deals or by offering you discounts in many shops, theatre and concert halls, air tickets and duty free boutiques, not to say anything about the phone deal the Diplomatic Club has secured for its members to shield them from the steep rise in the costs of international phone calls these last two years, the Diplomatic Club is here to help you.

As the summer is now over, it is time to go back to work. And the Diplomatic Club will work harder than ever to bring its members new and improved services. We would like to draw the attention of our new members and remind our regular ones a special offers and rubrics that available on our site [www.diplomacy-club.com](http://www.diplomacy-club.com) under the names Restaurant guide, Medical Directory and Website guide.

Please note the opening of a new site "Mall - on-line" will provide additional service for the convenience of the diplomatic corps, easy shopping and TAX REFUND according to the law of state of Israel.

The Diplomatic Club and staff wish you a successful academic year.

*Yours sincerely,  
 Julia Verdel  
 General Manager  
 And the Editorial Team*

We are pleased to invite you to participate in  
 The Diplomatic Club golf Competition

## THE COMPETITION WILL BE HELD AT GAASH GOLF CLUB

ON 22/11/09 Start at 8:00.

This is a 9 or 18 HOLES STABLEFORD COMPETITION

Open for up to 100 players, Shotgun start (all players start at the same time).

**2 handicap divisions: 0 - 20, 20 - up.**

Prizes will be given to 1st 2nd and 3rd places from each division and for closest to the pin at hole 4, longest drive (men and ladies) at hole 2 and "hole-in-one" no 9.

During the competition there will be a 2-hour golf clinic (lesson) held by professional instructors, for members of families, novice and students of American and French schools for free.

**R.S.V.P.:** 10 Karlibah St., Tel Aviv

Tel: 972-3-5622061/2 Fax: 03-5620212

E-mail: [info@diplomacy-club.com](mailto:info@diplomacy-club.com)

# RUSSIA'S AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

By Neil Sandler



Petr Stegny, Russia's Ambassador to Israel, seems to be always on the go. Immediately after this reporter interviewed him at the Russian Embassy, he was off to meet with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Our interview began with the trained historian's overview of the history of Russia-Israel diplomatic relations. The Soviet Union was one of the first countries to recognize the new State of Israel in 1948. Relations were broken off in 1953 when a bomb was set off behind the fence at the Soviet Embassy, then on Rothschild Boulevard, and several wives of the Soviet Embassy diplomats were injured. The break resulted from a combination of "misunderstandings", one of the occurrences surrounding the tragic events occurring at the end of the Stalin Era in the Soviet Union. The break in 1967 was a result of the 6-Day War and relations were not re-established again until 1991, although consular relations were established in the interim. Ambassador Stegny sees the 1967 break as being motivated by politics and ideology, something to be analyzed strictly in the atmosphere at the time. But in retrospect, he is certain that it did not serve the interests for either the Soviet Union or Israel. The Embassy was re-opened at the present site on Hayarkon Boulevard, although the Ambassador says that the current location is no longer sufficient for the Embassy staff, which needs a superior building.

At this moment in time the Ambassador sees the relationship of Russia and Israel as an "advanced partnership". Russia and Israel have a very "active and intensive political dialogue" between the heads of governments, varied Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs. There are structured consultations between the Foreign Ministries, and the Ambassador said that Russia and Israel need to understand the role of each other in the region clearly, because the two countries' roles complement each other, in the changing realities of the globe. Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov comes to Israel two times a year for consultations, his last visit was in February, and Deputy Foreign Minister Yakovenko comes to Israel every two months for meetings. Former Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni visited Moscow for meetings in October 2008, and the new Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman recently visited Moscow, within his first month in the post.

There were two rounds of talks, one in the early 1990's and later talks, with talks between Russia and Israel's Foreign Ministries culminating in the registration of the Russian Federation jurisdiction over the Sergei Compound, two major church properties in the area known as the Russian Compound, in Jerusalem, at the end of 2008. There had been 22 other Russian properties that were legally sold to Israel in 1964, but the Sergei



Ambassador Petr Stegny

Compound was not one of them. The Chairman of the Accounts Chamber of Russia, Sergei Stepashin, as head of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, passed messages between the Russian President and Israeli Prime Minister in that period to finalize the hand-over. Stepashin has visited Israel this year, as he does every year. The Russian Church owns properties all over Israel, but they deal by themselves with the Israeli authorities, the Russian Embassy helps in these dealings when called upon. The Ambassador appreciates the spirit of cooperation that prevailed in the last round of negotiations about property.

The Ambassador also answered questions regarding broader issues of current dialogue regarding issues facing the Russian Federation and internal policies, for example, the Chechnya situation. Russian constitutional law has applied to Chechnya as a part of the Russian Federation since 2003, accepting all legislation that rules every other part of the Russian Federation. There are some traditional areas, such as marriage and criminal law which are given autonomy. This has been applied not only in Chechnya but also in some other areas of the Russian Federation which have a predominant Moslem population. Russia insists on unconditional respect for Federal legislation, while at the same time trying to be tolerant of diversity in historical experience. In Tatarstan, for example, the government was able to dissuade the author-

ities from allowing women's photographs with headscarves to be put in passports, arguing that this would cause problems at airports around the world. Ambassador Stegny asserts that the Russian government does all it can to respect traditions of ethnic/religious groups within the Federation, while at the same time insisting on the general principles of civil legislation along with universal standards of human rights. Public law is applied the same all over the Russian Federation, so the consultations with Chechnyans are the same as with other local authorities.

The Ambassador stated that Russia has normal bi-lateral relations with Iran and it is a very important factor in Russia's foreign policy. The two countries have common interests in the South, in the Caspian Sea region, and Russia looks at Iran as an economic partner. Russia is involved with the international community in the attempt to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons in the Five Plus One Commission, and working with the UN Atomic Agency in this direction, which tries to set out a framework to prevent the appearance of nuclear weapons in Iran, as well as in a number of nuclear threshold countries. The Ambassador went on in saying that for Russia it is a proliferation issue, one of the most important challenges the international community faces. That is why Russia is very sincere in trying to solve the problem. Russia thinks that in the present global situation, when a new system of global security is being built up gradually, with deviations, with sometimes conflicting interests, or groups of interests, of East and West, problems with new dimensions of human rights, with all its implications, all nations must be extremely responsible as far as international behavior is concerned. Russia is trying to use the UN and international institutions in strengthening international law to control the negative processes and trends of international politics and put them into a legal framework according to generally accepted ethics of international behavior. Russia is also working very hard to use this process in maintaining stability on the European continent as well. The bottom line is that Russia believes in halting any "deterioration" in the Iranian crisis by political and diplomatic means.

Ambassador Stegny explained that because of the change in Russia from a centralized economy to that of a market one, the volume of trade exchange is still extremely low between Russia and Israel. Obviously this does not reflect the tremendous potential that exists for high-tech and nanotechnology industry cooperation between Russian and Israeli businesses. The Ambassador is keen on developing the common interests of individuals and businesses on common ground for cooperation where private enterprise and national interests meet. There was a successful visit to Israel some months ago by Anatoly Chubais, head of the state nanotechnology corporation in Russia. Chubais



Ambassador Petr Stegny and wife Margarita with Former Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni

is one of the founders of the market economy in Russia and an extremely efficient manager with many new ideas. He is promoting and working for financing of start-up private advanced high tech nanotechnology companies in Russia, Israel and other countries. He stipulates that the production must take place on Russian territory. They finance not Research and Development but production of the product. They give the projects only to private companies, maybe joint private companies, or purely Israeli companies, but companies that must work solely on Russian territory. It may be a kind of scientific institution, taking students, post-graduate students in nanotechnology. Israel is seen as the number two potential partner for Russia in this area after the United States, but Israel has some advantages, such as the vast availability of eligible personnel who speak Russian.

As Ambassador to Turkey the Ambassador was involved with issues surrounding the importation of Russian natural gas to Turkey through the Black Sea. It is highly-sophisticated technology. The technology was implemented by Russian, Italian and Turkish companies. While he was Ambassador to Turkey there were consultations among Russia, Turkey and Israel to extend the Blue Stream natural gas pipeline from Ankara to the Mediterranean, and then extend the pipeline in the Mediterranean to one of Israel's ports. There have been and are serious discussions between Israel's Infrastructure Minister and Gazprom, which are progressing, and a feasibility study has been finished. Implementation may be possible under a number of conditions, so it seems that there are practical chances to implement the project, the Ambassador thinks, due to his deep experience with natural gas

projects. One of the factors involved, and perhaps the most important, is the security stability in the eastern Mediterranean region, the Middle East. That is why there is a comprehensive political/economic effort to identify mutual interests.

The world-wide economic crisis has obviously affected Russia strongly, with the prices for its exported raw materials dropping and the devaluing of the financial markets, a good part due to them being not so well-developed yet. President Medvedev has expressed the great importance of maintaining government social programs and supporting the economy. Russia has been spending a greater percentage of GDP than other advanced countries to execute anti-crisis measures, in supporting the financial sector and supporting banks in bringing capital to the economy. Russia considers itself a full partner and participant in global economics. All anti-crisis decisions to stabilize the economy in Russia are in line with global trends. President Medvedev has spoken out against what he sees as a natural impulse for countries to turn to economic protectionism in times like these. However, Russia is ready to fight against protectionism in its own policies, and if any country can prove that measures taken in Russia are protectionist, and do damage to other world economies and producers, he is ready to fight for their revocation.

Ambassador Petr Stegny graduated with a Doctor of History degree from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1968. He was immediately posted to the USSR Embassy in Sudan. From 1973-75 he was posted to the USSR Embassy in Yemen, from 1975-80 to Egypt, and from 1986-90 to Libya. From 1992-98 Stegny was Russian Ambassador to Kuwait, and then 2003-07



*Ambassador Petr Stegny and wife Margarita with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and wife Sarah*

Russian Ambassador to Turkey. The Ambassador came to Israel direct from his Ambassadorial post in Turkey, and since he had been in the diplomatic service for 40 years, he was able to choose his posting, so he chose Israel, within the collective framework of his family. He had visited Israel several times since the renewal of diplomatic relations. He and his family enjoy all the tremendous social connections they have here, entertaining guests from Israel and from Russia at their home. The Ambassador's wife is Margarita, professionally she is a journalist. In Turkey she was the President of the International Women's Club. Now she is the Vice President of the International Women's Club in Israel. The Ambassador's son Dmitry recently visited here in Israel. Dmitry is a junior diplomat, he works for the Russian Foreign Ministry and will work as Human Rights Council Representative at the United Nations in Geneva. The Ambassador also has a daughter, Maria, who is a journalist, graduated from Moscow University and was scheduled to come for a visit as of this writing, with her four children. She is now working as a free-lance journalist after a prominent career, including work at a renowned radio station in Moscow, as an international journalist. The Ambassador enjoys most of all his social contacts, including so many friends, Rus-

sian-speaking and others (Ambassador Stegny also speaks English, French and Arabic), along with Ambassadors and others from the diplomatic corps, and they always have many visitors from Russia. Recently, for example, just by chance, he met the renowned cinema and theatre director Leonid Heifetz coincidentally at the Israel Opera. Heifetz was here for a visit from Moscow, and to celebrate his birthday with friends at Geshar Theatre, and the Ambassador was also able to spend some time with him. He often finds it much easier to meet with friends and acquaintances here than in Moscow because of the more intimate atmosphere and easier logistics of getting around. He can mix work and pleasure, the Ambassador describes Israeli society as being very open. He can meet people from different stratas of society easily. There is a basic agreement regarding cultural cooperation between Russia and Israel, but the Ambassador says that really, it is not necessary. In the cultural exchange area Russia is quite "self-sufficient", Russia certainly does not need any state sponsorship in promoting its cultural exports. Of course, because of family ties and solid personal and professional relationships, there are constantly theatre troupes, orchestras, musical artists, etc. coming to Israel to perform, going way beyond simple formalities

and protocol. For example, recently the Ambassador was out at the Israel Opera with some of his staff to see a performance of the Russia theatre troupe Satyricon, which he says would be virtually impossible to obtain tickets for in a performance in Moscow. A milestone in tourism between Russia and Israel came in October 2008, with the dropping of visas regulations between the countries, the increase in Russian tourists to Israel has been about 60% since then. An impetus for this freer travel has been to make life easier for the large Russian-speaking community in Israel. The Ambassador is also optimistic about attracting more Israeli tourists to Russia, with all of its splendid destinations such as Siberia, Sakhalin, Moscow-St. Petersburg, etc. Even though the Ambassador feels that there are not enough hotels in Israel to accommodate so many tourists from Russia, he has come to understand through conversations with people here, that most of the Russian tourists come to stay with relatives and friends when they visit here, symbolic of the great human relations interaction between the people of the two countries. Ambassador Petr Stegny sees his posting here in Israel as putting a final point on his Middle Eastern diplomatic career and is obviously tremendously gratified being here. ■

# Studding Golf at Gaash

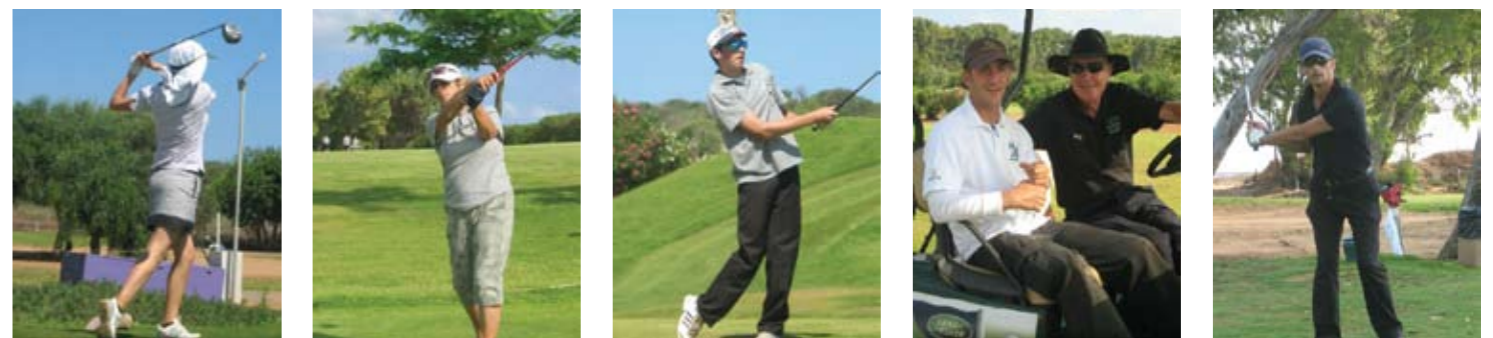
only 5 minutes from Tel Aviv

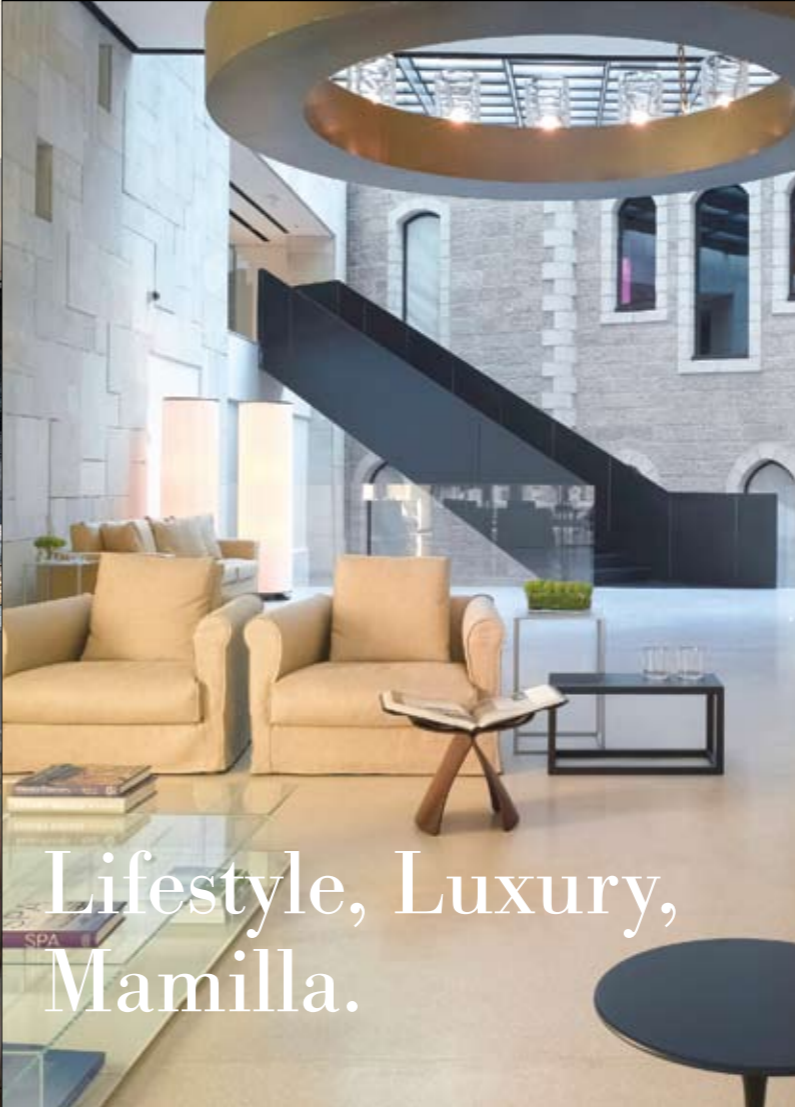
- Private Golf course – 8 lessons      1000 NIS
- Private Golf course – 16 lessons      1700 NIS
- Private Golf course – 24 lessons      2400 NIS



**THE GOLF CLUB IS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
**Call now 09-9515111**

Tel 09-9515111 | Website: [golfgaash.co.il](http://golfgaash.co.il) | E-mail: [golfgaash@netvision.net.il](mailto:golfgaash@netvision.net.il)





Lifestyle, Luxury,  
Mamilla.

Located in the heart of Jerusalem with magnificent views of the Old City and alongside the Alrov Mamilla Avenue, the Mamilla Hotel brings world-class superior design and lifestyle hospitality to Jerusalem and Israel.

Reservations 02.5482200

[www.MamillaHotel.com](http://www.MamillaHotel.com)

Special Introductory Rates



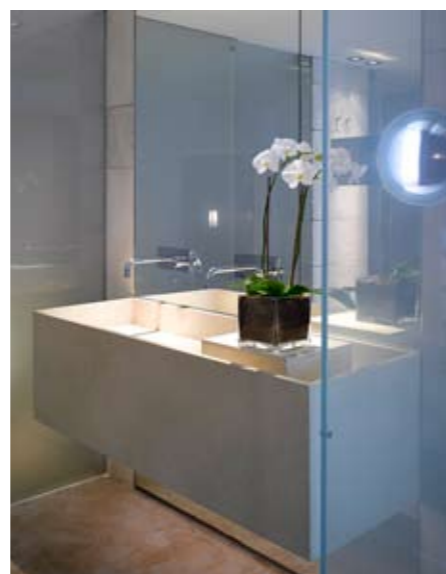
MAMILLA HOTEL  
Jerusalem

an  
ALROV  
LuxuryHotel

## MASSIMO IANNI ON THE MAMILLA HOTEL, JERUSALEM By Neil Sandler

Massimo Ianni, Chief Operating Officer of the Mamilla Hotel in Jerusalem spoke with this reporter about the new Mamilla Hotel, which opened in mid-June. Mr. Ianni was born in Italy, grew up in France, and currently lives in London. His hotel career in Israel began with his work with the Hyatt Regency in Jerusalem in 1986-87. The Mamilla Hotel is an Alrov Luxury Hotel property. The Project Architect of the Mamilla Hotel is Moshe Safdie, with Interior Design by Piero Lissoni. Alrov Mamilla Avenue, which is alongside the Hotel, is a spectacular shopping avenue, which overlooks the Old City Walls, the Tower of David and Jaffa Gate. The shopping avenue leads directly to the Jaffa Gate entrance to the Old City. Mr. Ianni explained that "Mamilla" was the original

name of this geographical site. During construction there were the usual problems of keeping the project on schedule and within budget constraints. He said the Hotel is certainly not simply a "bed and breakfast", nor "fashion hotel", which signifies something as simply trendy, but what he calls a "contemporary hotel", as well as being the "first luxury lifestyle" hotel in Israel. The Hotel's mission he said, is to bring together visitors from abroad with the local community in Israel. The Mamilla Hotel has 194 guest rooms: Studios, Executive Rooms, Mamilla Suites, Residence Suites, and the Presidential Suite. All rooms have dark wooden floors, bedside walls of exposed large Jerusalem Stone blocks, metal headboards, bespoke furniture and sleek and luxuriously simple bathrooms with



## MIRRORBAR

Design Bar  
Resident DJ  
Separate Cigar Lounge  
Outdoor smoking patio

Mamilla Hotel  
Jerusalem's newest and  
most fashionable Hotel  
11 King Solomon St.

APERITIVO  
EARLY EVENING TILL 21:00

T. +972.2.5482230  
[MamillaHotel.com/MirrorBar](http://MamillaHotel.com/MirrorBar)

ROOFTOP  
outdoor lounge & restaurant

Magnificent panoramic view • Brasserie style  
Relaxed informal atmosphere  
Live performances • Private events

Mamilla Hotel  
Jerusalem's newest and most fashionable hotel  
11 King Solomon St.  
T. +972.2.5482230

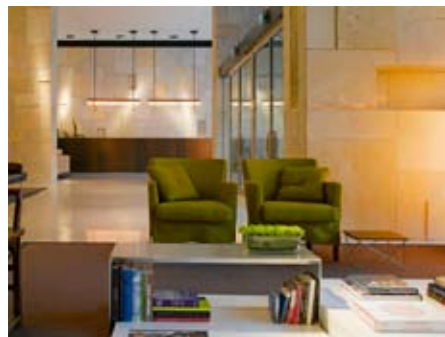
[www.MamillaHotel.com/Rooftop](http://www.MamillaHotel.com/Rooftop)



deep bathtubs and featuring liquid-crystal bathroom walls that frost over for "recreating the space". The Hotel also boasts its Mirror Bar, which includes, among other features, a luxurious enclosed cigar lounge, including a walk-in humidor, and impressive selection of cognac and whiskey. There is an aperitivo ("happy hour"), relatively new in Israel, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. In addition, there is a resident DJ and live local jazz bands playing. As well, there is the Winery, with antique wooden counters, 300-bottle wine rack, and wines selected from among the best vineyards in Israel.

The Lobby is a main hub for business and social meetings, with an Executive Lounge and Espresso Bar. The 1,000 square meter Holistic Well-Being Spa & Gym, which will open in 2010, is another feature that is open to all, hotel guests as well as locals, with gym and spa, pool hydro-treatments and hammam treatments. The Hotel has a spacious indoor heated swimming pool. And the spectacular outdoor Rooftop Restaurant, along with its brasserie, with perhaps the most spectacular views of any Jerusalem restaurant. There is also the Hotel Dining Room and the Mamilla Café. Chef

Roi Antebi, celebrated chef, heads the Hotel's food and beverage outlets. Mr. Ianni mentioned another unique service feature; the appointment of personal hosts to guests, who can assist guests with their interests in Israel, way beyond any tourist guide books. Mr. Ianni said the hotel is ready to begin hosting all kinds of events and hopes for diplomatic receptions soon. The Hotel had its "soft opening" mid-June and hosted a grand reception for the Jerusalem Cinematheque. The completion of the "soft opening" period of the Hotel is set for September.



Inform everyone that the atmosphere in Israel is more relaxed than ever...

**Electra Air Conditioners improve people's quality of life**

When you enter an Israeli home, you meet relaxed people. That's because those who wish to improve their quality of life choose Electra Air Conditioning Systems. Electra leads the air conditioning market in Israel with its unique innovations, professionalism and reliability. For the past 60 years Electra has been committed to using the most advanced technologies to design a large variety of quality products as well as to providing outstanding customer service. Electra, the best air conditioner your heart can desire. Creates a better atmosphere.

For further details and information:  
 \*358672 | 1-800-222-222  
 www.electra-ecp.co.il



# DINING AT CORDELIA



A narrow alley in Jaffa, not far from the famous flea market and the clock tower, contains one of the best restaurants in Israel: Cordelia.

## WHERE CHEF NIR ZOOK SERVES UP CLASSIC

French cuisine with a Middle Eastern touch that incorporates the many culinary styles he was exposed to.

The restaurant Named for King Leer's faithful daughter, "Cordelia" is designed like a palace fit for a princess.

Cordelia Located in an old stone building that is an example for classic Jaffa architecture.

Crystal chandeliers hang from the high ceilings, picturesque tiles line the floor, unique cutlery is laid on the tables, and an eclectic collection of objects and items from around the

World decorate the dining room.

## DINERS CAN ORDER:

A la carte from the menu, the dishes are updating every month according to the market ingredients.

Or

Enjoy the seven-course meal "Diguštasion menu".



The menu features Creative first courses that make use of

Seasonal and local ingredients, such as Okra Nicollet, lemon ravioli in champagne and Shrimp sauce, or a goat cheese platter from the dairy that Zook's brothers operate in the Elah Valley.

Zook's creativity is evident in the main courses as well;

Zook has been attracted to the kitchen since his childhood. The family meals inspired his brothers to open a dairy farm and him to pursue a culinary career.

Zook made his way to San Francisco and Paris to obtain a hands-on culinary education. After spending few years abroad He then returned to Israel and decides to open a restaurant.

In 1999 he opens Cordelia. It has been so successful that he opened other establishments alongside it: Noa Bištro, which is less formal, but no less impressive; and his bar "Jaffa bar"

Zook also is active in Israel's culinary scene.

He hosts television Shows, writes a weekly column in the

Yediot Aharonot newspaper, and has written two cookbooks.

He has been sent by diplomat mission to cook in special dinners in Austria, Germany and Kazhaſtan.

# RESTAURANT GUIDE



Cordelia: 30 Yafet St., Jaffa | Tel. (03) 518-4668 | Not kosher | [www.cordelia.co.il](http://www.cordelia.co.il)

## THE SWISS NATIONAL DAY PARTY TOOK PLACE ON TUESDAY, 28 JULY AT THE UNIQUE NALAGA'AT THEATRE OF DEAF-BLIND ACTORS LOCATED AT JAFFA OLD PORT

Multinational Jaffa Old Port hosted Swiss Embassy with about 450 outstanding guests from Israeli government, economy and cultural background as well as representatives of the diplomatic community and guests invited by the sponsors of this celebration.

Swiss specialities together with musical performances at unique Nalaga'at-Theater made this event unforgettable.

Nalaga'at-Theater, as there is no other deaf-blind theater ensemble anywhere in the world, is based on the philosophy of understanding, that all humans are created equal but different and that every person has a right to make his contribution to society.

Nalaga'at-Theater became a place where Jews, Muslims and Christians work together; a place where deaf and blind people find ways to communicate with each other. And it is also the home, if only for a short while, for thousands of people who have already paid it a visit.



Stage with Alpbhorn players from Switzerland



Actors of the Nalaga'at Café Capish presenting sign language



Festive gathering



Amb. Walter Haffner together with Mr. Avner Gordon, General Manager of Swiss International Airlines, Israel



Amb. Walter Haffner together with Mr. Gideon Hamburger, President of the Israel-Switzerland & Liechtenstein Chamber of Commerce and main sponsor



Ambassador Walter Haffner, Counsellor DHM Monika Schmutz Kirgöz and Attachée Sandra Murer in traditional costume

## SLOVENIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers. Photo: Council of Europe.

For the first time Slovenia is at the head of the Council of Europe. From 12 May to 18 November Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs is heading the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which comprises the Foreign Affairs Ministers of all 47 member states or their permanent diplomatic representatives in Strasbourg.

It is an intergovernmental body, where national approaches to problems facing European society can be discussed on an equal footing, and a collective forum, where Europe-wide responses to such challenges are formulated. In collaboration with the Parliamentary Assembly, it is the guardian of the Council's fundamental values, and monitors member states' compliance with their undertakings.

Currently, Holy See, United States of America, Canada, Japan and Mexico are the observer states at the Committee of Ministers.

Council of Europe was founded 60 years ago. Slovenia applied for full membership on 29 January 1992, and was admitted to the Organisation on 14 May 1993. Since then, Slovenia has become a successful member state, with an acknowledged high level of respect for human and minority rights, as well as established democratic institutions and the rule of law.

## SLOVAK EMBASSY CELEBRATED THE NATIONAL DAY



H.E. Dr. Ivo Hlaváček, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic holding his speech.

Slovak Embassy celebrated the National day on 2nd of September 2009 at Givataim Theater for few reasons: first, the anniversary of the Slovak Constitution's proclamation, second, the 20th anniversary of the regime change in former Czechoslovakia, third, the 65th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising and last but not least, the opening of the exhibition of Mr. Peter Pollág.



From left to right: Mr. Michal Tombauer, Consul and Cultural Attaché of the Slovak Embassy, H.E. Dr. Ivo Hlaváček, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Mr. Stas Mizezbnikov, Minister of Tourism of the State of Israel, Mr. Peter Pollág, author of the exhibition Exploiting the Sources.



## TOURISM MINISTRY ENCOURAGES CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOTELS IN ISRAEL AND LAUNCHES A NEW TRACK FOR ENTREPRENEURS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF "SPECIAL HOTEL ACCOMODATION"

The Tourism Ministry announced an update to the directives regarding "special hotel accommodation" that allows for an additional possibility regarding the construction of new hotels in order to increase the supply of hotel rooms in Israel.

The global economic crisis and the credit crunch have created difficulties both in raising finance for the construction of new hotel rooms and for entrepreneurs in marketing hospitality units for sale within the framework of "special hotel accommodation" (as opposed to regular hotel accommodation whose units are not for sale). Given the situation and the goal of accelerating growth in the economy and increasing the number of hotel rooms in Israel, the Tourism Ministry has created another track that is expected to offer an answer to the difficulties experienced by hotels seeking finance from banks and other financial institutions, while aiming to incentivize the entrepreneurs and facilitate the construction

of additional hotels.

The existing track within the framework of "special hotel accommodation" allows entrepreneurs to sell all the accommodation units in a hotel, with the buyers able to use the purchased units for three months a year. During the rest of the year, for at least 9 months, the units are made available to the general public as regular hotel rooms.

In the additional track, at least half of the project will be a regular hotel whose units may not be sold and will be made available to the general public throughout the year. In the remainder of the project, entrepreneurs may sell the units and the buyers may use the units for up to six months. For the remaining

half year, these units will also be made available to the general public as regular hotel rooms. This formula falls in line with the directives passed by the Supreme Court on the matter, while at the same time facilitating the construction of hotels within the current financing constraints.

Despite the global economic crisis, the Tourism Ministry is preparing for an increase in incoming tourism once the crisis has passed and has set an objective of 5 million tourists from 2015 onwards. Today, the hosting capacity of the existing 45,000 hotel rooms in Israel is restricted to about 3.5 million tourists annually. In 2008, a record year for incoming tourism in Israel, about 3 million tourists visited the country, producing a shortfall in hotel accommodation at certain times of the year and especially in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The Tourism Ministry estimates that the new track will facilitate the construction of hundreds of hotel rooms in the areas with the highest demand.



## PORTUGUESE FILM WEEK ISRAEL, SEPTEMBER 2009

In the last few years films by some of Portugal's leading directors have regularly been shown in the major Film Festivals in Israel, as a result of the increasing attention Portuguese cinema has been receiving worldwide. The Portuguese Film Week, held each year during the month of September in Cinematheques around the country, is yet another opportunity to expose the Israeli public to a variety of contemporary films made in Portugal. In this year's edition, a selection of recent films (2004-2007) by some of Portugal's leading directors and actors or featuring new and promising names will be screened.

Widely acclaimed as one of the best Portuguese films of the last few years, Alice (Marco Martins, 2005) depicts the desperate attempts of a father to find his missing daughter. Shot in a dark and poignant undertone, the film unveils a city (Lisbon) whose mists, colours, alleys and moods have a different dimension, despite the familiarity of the locations. All seems odd, silent and cruel, as cruel is the disappearance of a child from the path she had travelled every day in apparent safety.

Portugal's recent past of dictatorship and oppression and the way the Portuguese still dwell on matters of justice and revenge is the focus of Lionel Vieira's *The Trial* (2007). Set in 21st century Portugal, the focus is nevertheless on the early 1970's, when the dictatorial regime became increasingly ruthless, perhaps because it too felt the approach its end. The film deals with the crimes committed by agents of the political police and with the lack of punishment of most of the responsible, in spite of the fact that the country became a democracy in 1974.

Set in another period of great political and social agitation in Portugal and in Europe, *The Miracle According to Salome* (Mário Barroso, 2004) focus on the surprisingly liberal new set of moral values of the still very young Portuguese Republic and brings a very accurate reconstitution of the Portuguese society of the early 20th Century. The film also presents an intriguing theory for the miracle of Fátima, widely accepted to have happened in 1917, at a site near the village of the same name.

A comedy centred on the sudden appearance in today's Lisbon of a fictional character of the silent movies of the 1920's,

*Manô* (George Felner, 2005), deals with a relationship between an attractive and eccentric photographer and a old-fashioned psychiatrist, turned into disaster by the materialisation of black-and-white *Manô*. The script is a metaphor for the rapid changes in Portuguese society vs. old habits and mentalities and deals mainly with the difficulties many feel in adapting to the new reality in Portugal.

*Sleepwalking Land*, (Teresa Prata, 2007), is a film about the civil war that broke out in Mozambique shortly after the Portuguese ex-colony gained independence in 1975. The film tells of this country's 16 years brutal conflict and shows the world that war creates, a dreamscape of uncertainty where characters and viewers alike wonder about the way people come to accept the impossible as reality.

The Portuguese Film Week is also a tribute to Manoel de Oliveira, one of the most imaginative and innovative filmmakers the cinema has ever known and the oldest film director active today in the world. Born in 1908, Manoel de Oliveira has been an incredible creative force, taking bold and increasingly unexpected risks with each new project, such as the two films selected for this event: *Magic Mirror* (2005) and *Christopher Columbus - The Enigma* (2007).

In *Magic Mirror* (2005), Manoel de Oliveira has created a mysterious satire of religion and the idle rich which result is a sophisticated comedy and a deeply philosophical work. Incidentally, some of the films' scenes were shot in Jerusalem. In *Christopher Columbus - the Enigma* (2007), the director returns to subjects that are very dear to him, such as empire and myth, and attempts to shed light into a historical mystery – was Christopher Columbus actually Portuguese?

All films are original versions in Portuguese (occasionally with excerpts in other languages) with English subtitles. *The Trial* and *Alice* will be shown in the Cinematheques of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa with Hebrew subtitles.

The Portuguese Film Week is supported by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Ministry of Culture, IC - Instituto Camões, and ICA - Instituto do Cinema e Audiovisual. The Embassy of Portugal extends its gratitude to Tel-Aviv Cinematheque.





# CAROUSELLA

## FURNITURE - HOME STYLING

### GAMES - AND PURE JOY

Carousella – a magical design center for kids and youth, placed at the heart of Rothschild Boulevard in Tel-Aviv.

The designers, Yael Uliel and Michael Sasson, are both graduates of “Bezalel” Academy of Arts and Design, in Jerusalem. Yael has a bachelor degree in design, and Michael completed a degree in architecture, with distinction.

After working many years in various fields of design, and as art directors in advertising, films and television, they had decided to fulfill their joint dream and opened Carousella – a life-style design concept store for children and youth.

In the store one might find fully-designed unique children's and youth's rooms, including: furniture, drapes, beddings, blankets, games, accessories, lightning bodies and much more.

Carousella is a design center for furniture, which emphasizes a linkage between the new and the restored. This linkage is expressed in the precisely chosen items, collected from around the world and combined together to create a unique atmosphere along with a strong personal statement.

The Carousella designers provide full interior design services at the customers' house. A personal fitting to the area and life style of each individual and family, and the custom-made carpentry enables uniqueness and high quality.

Great attention is given to the quality of the materials of which the pieces of furniture are made; Carousella uses only the finest imported materials.

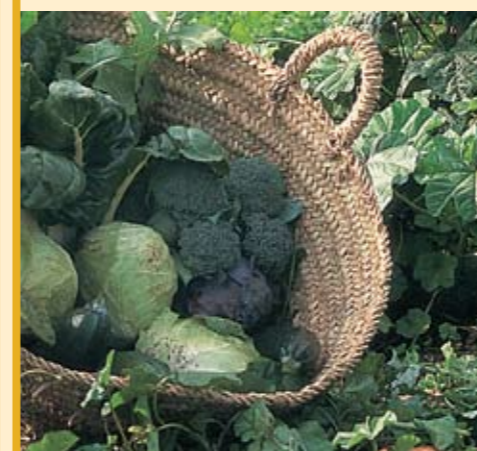
Another guideline is the meticulousness on safety issues – for example, non-toxic paintings, round corners, precise heights, all are of exquisite levels of execution and finish.

In addition, Carousella contains a large variety of home and fashion accessories, collected from fashionable design brands around the world: Zid Zid (Morocco), Room Seven (Netherlands), Lakefarm

(Denmark), TAJ (Germany), Harmony Ball company (USA), Vlaemisch (Belgium), and many more.

Carousella's exclusive textile line is designed and sewn here in Israel. The collections change twice a year, with the seasons.

An integral part of Carousella's perspective is creating an adventurous experience even upon your visit to the store. The magical backyard of the historical house might be used for various activities, and can be rented for birthday parties, special occasions and launching events. ■



## Discover The Art of Living in Israel

*Mizpe Hayamim is the only member in Israel of the prestigious French Hotel Association*  
**RELAIS & CHATEAUX.**

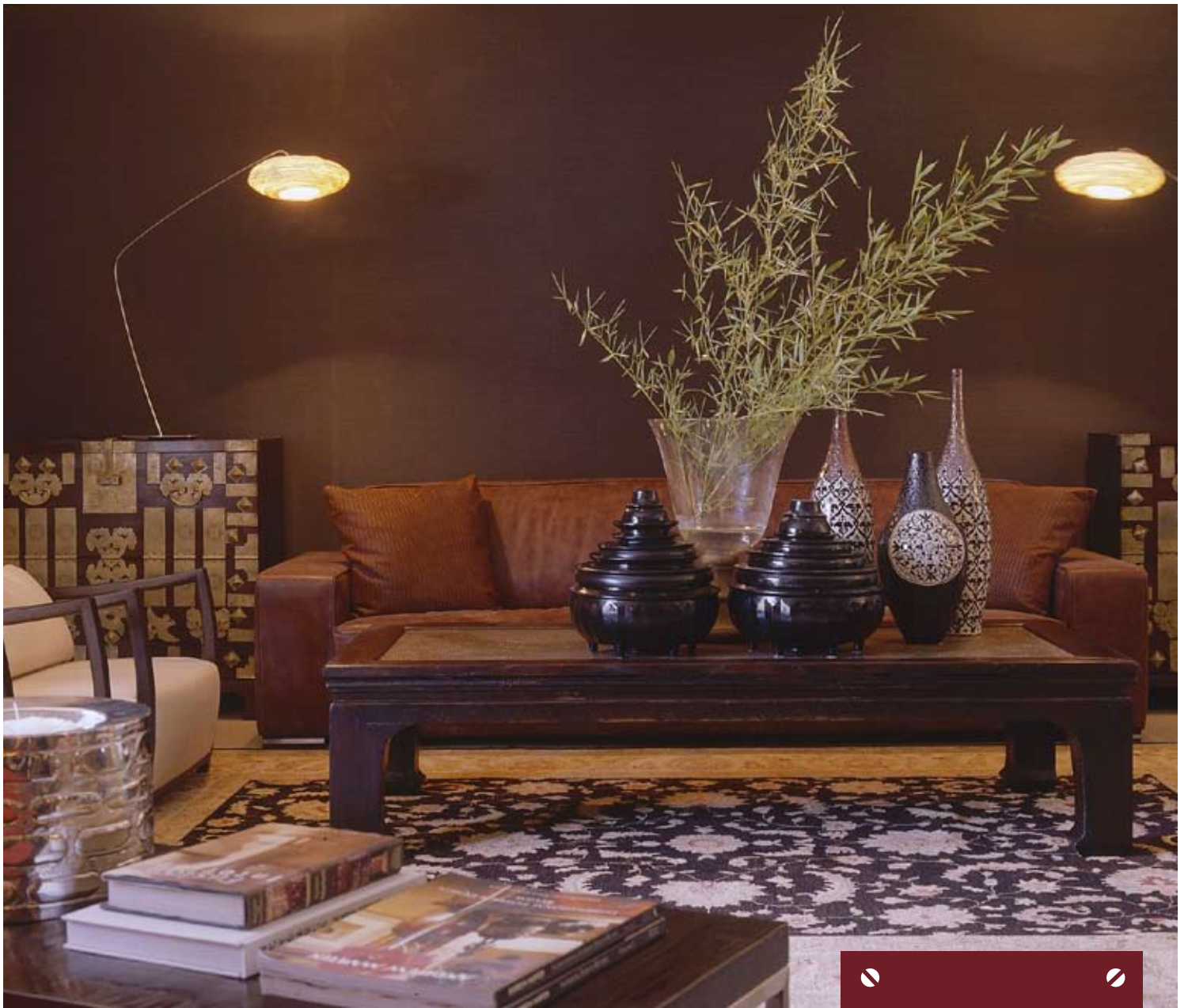
*Overlooking the Sea of Galilee, The Golan Heights and located between Sefad and Rosh Pina with Luxurious Rooms, Suites and Junior Suites, Health Spa with a wide choice of treatments, A Vegetarian Organic restaurant and "Muscat" gourmet meat restaurant, an Organic Vegetable, Fruit and Dairy Farm and Half Olympic Swimming pool.*

Yael Dranov

HOTEL MIZPE HAYAMIM  מלון מצפה הימים  
 HOTEL • SPA • ORGANIC FARM • מושק אורגני • ספא • מלון

P.O. Box 27, Rosh Pina 12000 Israel Tel:972-4-6994555, Fax:972-4-6999555  
[www.mizpe-hayamim.com](http://www.mizpe-hayamim.com)    [sales@mizpe-hayamim.com](mailto:sales@mizpe-hayamim.com)

You are invited to our website to see a short video of our organic farm and the unique charm of the hotel.



Furniture & Object

15 Galgalei Haplada St. Herzelya Pituah | 09 9552106

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 9:30 – 19:30 Fri 9:00 – 15:00

loft@013.net | www.loftglobal.com

P a r k i n g