



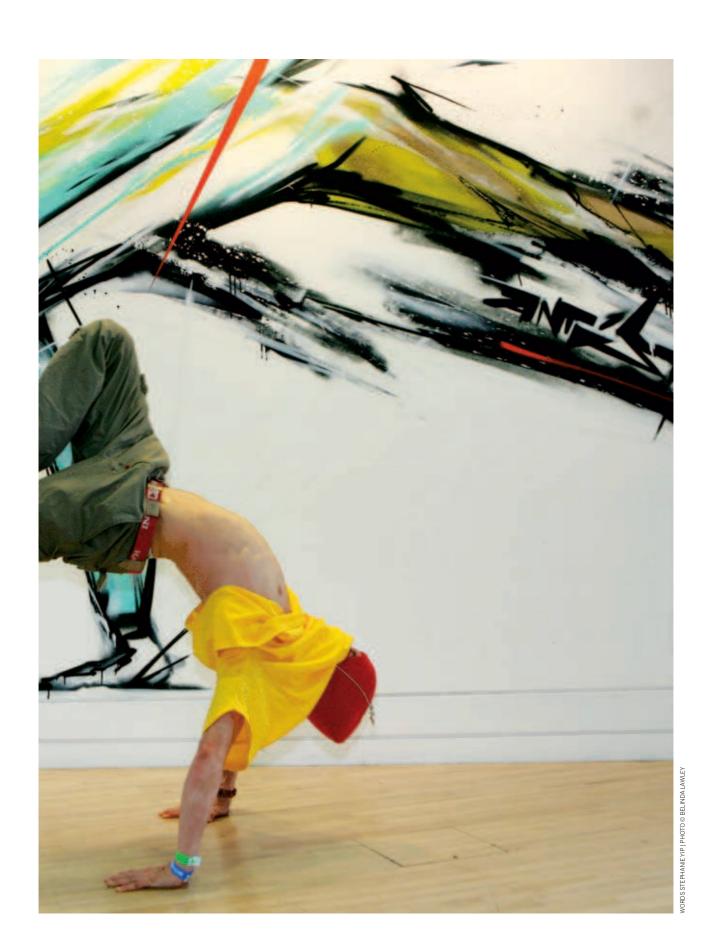


THE BUZZ

Breakin' Convention

UK (VARIOUS)

Move to the groove of a different beat with some of the best b-boys and b-girls on this year's Breakin' Convention national tour. Busting onto London's Saddler's Wells' stage on 5-7 May before heading off, the tour will feature great performances from more than 40 of the world's very best hip-hop dance acts, including the current world champions, French wonderkids Vagabond Crew, and artists from Korea, Japan and Ghana. Plus, you can learn to pop, lock, hype and boogaloo at freestyle workshops with live hip-hop DJs. Catch all the action in London, Birmingham (14-15 May), Edinburgh (18-19 May), Inverness (22 May) and Bristol (31 May). Tickets start from £15. breakinconvention.com



What's going on? STAR TOURS



UNTIL 25 OCTOBER

The Cézanne Sites

MARSEILLE Aix-en-Provence less than 30 minutes from Marseille - was once the hometown of postimpressionist Paul Cézanne. Now weekly tours (10am on Thursdays) here allow visitors to walk in his footsteps to see the studio (above) of the man whom Picasso said was "the father of us all". €8 per person; aixenprovencetourism.com.

NEW LAUNCH

Marvin Gaye's app

BRUSSELS The city of Ostend, a 75-minute drive west of Brussels, is famous for two things: strong winds and Marvin Gaye. The tragic soul singer braved the breezes to live here in 1981 and now you can follow his footsteps around the Belgian seaside town by downloading an app from the tourist office website. €5; visitoostende.be

SUMMER 2012

Christopher **Isherwood Tour**

BERLIN Isherwood's 1945 novella, The Berlin Stories, conjured a night world of dancers and dreamers later crystallised into the much-loved musical Cabaret. Now a risqué new walking tour, inspired by his life in the city, uncovers a 1930s Berlin rich with the decadence of the Weimar era. €10 per person; cabaret-berlin.com



The Queen Spotter's Guide

As the UK gears up for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, here's our handy guide to identifying the right one...



THE QUEEN Elizabeth Regina Characteristics Lady of a certain age. Waves a lot. Elaborate plumage. Wears a lot of headgear, from muted pastel creations to big, gold crowns, plus a natty perm-and-sensible-shoe combo. Environs State occasions, palaces. **Spot** Thanks to celebrations marking her 60th year on the throne, there will be sighting opportunities in London on 2-5 June (thediamondjubilee.org).



DRAG QUEEN Leggus maximus **Characteristics** Lots of make-up, flamboyant, rainbow-coloured dresses and bags of attitude. Not afraid to break spontaneously into song. **Environs** Soho, mostly. This nocturnal bird favours anywhere with loads of glitz, glamour and large cocktails. **Spot** Floridita Nightclub (floriditalondon.com) runs regular Drag Queen Dance Classes.



PEARLY QUEEN Buttonus mostus Characteristics Heavy clothing, shiny buttons. Speaks in rhyming slang. Tirelessly fundraises for charity. **Environs** Street parties in east London, markets and working-men's clubs. **Spot** Spy her carrying out charity collections: try Covent Garden's Jubilee Market (jubileemarket.co.uk) on the third weekend of every month (19-20 May).



QUEEN Rockus megastarus Characteristics Big hair, big guitars, big voices, big on leather. **Environs** Stadiums, festivals and anywhere else that's fit for rock gods. Spot Sadly Queen's reunion gig at Knebworth has been cancelled, but you might still spot them in the audience at the Dominion Theatre on 14 May for the 10th anniversary of the band's musical We Will Rock You (wewillrockyou.co.uk).





AUGUST

La Route du Champagne

LILLE/BRUSSELS

Despite the growing popularity of cava and prosecco, many still believe that nothing but the French bubbly will do. For these folk (and, yes, the rest of us), La Route du Champagne weekend of 4-5 August is a little piece of heaven. More than 20 top producers - including Demilly, Drappier, Favier Hubert and Cheq Gaston - in villages around the famous Champagne triangle will open their doors for free tastings. Buy a special-edition flute for €10 from one of the visitor centres that's your key to try a snifter of their wares - and you're off on a tasting adventure. By night there are dinners, dances and live music too. 2012.routeduchampagne.com

SEPTEMBER

Reeperbahn Festival

It might be Europe's most raunchy destination but for one weekend, on 20-22 September, the Reeperbahn – and the St Pauli district around it - will become the centre of a cool arts-and-music celebration. The Reeperbahn Festival showcases bohemian culture through spoken

word, comics, films, talks and exhibitions, while by night there are gigs by hot, upcoming bands in the venues along the legendarily debauched strip. It confirms what the citizens of Hamburg already know: that theirs is one of the most cutting-edge, coolest cities in northern Europe. reeperbahnfestival.com

