

Thomas Sjöberg takes the seaside health cure of Jurmala.



Sensational red wines, tasty tapas, crazy Gaudi architecture and lots of sun.

# Treasure hunting

“A tale of love, hate, war, evil and hope.” That’s how senior editor Thomas Sjöberg describes his story *The Baltic Treasure* in this issue. Going a bit further, the article has all the right ingredients for a television mini series: an upper-class family with a political background that is forced to go into exile thanks to war and enemy occupation, a resort town on the coast and a buried treasure that may or may not be just a family myth or even still around after 40-some years.

**IT ALL TRULY SOUNDS A BIT TOO MADE FOR TV, BUT THIS IS THE REAL-LIFE STORY OF THE ČAKSTES FAMILY FROM LATVIA.** The setting is a seaside town outside Riga called Jurmala and Thomas traveled there recently to investigate the tale and check out our Baltic neighbors and their countryside. In addition to meeting a fantastic family and hearing of their journey to reclaim their heritage, he finds that he is pleasantly surprised by this beautiful holiday spot on the Baltic. Find out more about this dramatic family story and these georgious Latvian locations in the *Discoveries* feature.

While we’re talking about gems, Barcelona has long been a favorite city of mine (and many others) for a huge variety of reasons. Sensational red wines, cava and sangria, tasty tapas, the Mediterranean, crazy Gaudi architecture, cafe-lined streets, and of course, lots of sunshine. These are just a few of the many treasures that this city has to share.

But if you are like me, you are probably familiar with many of these as well as the most touristy aspects of Barcelona. And once you have been to the city a few times, you begin to want to seek out more and discover the more intimate local restaurants and hangouts. In short, you want a local to share their secret spots with you. So that’s exactly what we seek out for you in our *Destination* guide. This new article series launches here with Barcelona and we will follow it up with a new destination next month, all described from a local point of view.

Enjoy the journey!



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