

# Elegant rarities on four wheels

Over 30 vintage cars take part in *Oldtimer-Minsk-2013* rally

By Sergey Maximov

On June 1st, Minsk's Oktyabrskaya Square hosted a vintage car rally: the fifth in a row. Clearly, Minsk residents and guests love classic cars; it's a sight to behold when so many legendary cars gather in one place.

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Classic cars draw crowds to unique rally



Wedding photos taken with rare retro vehicles

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*Oldtimer-Minsk-2013* brought together owners of the cars pre-dating 1970, in good working condition. Of course, these aren't museum exhibits, since all beauties had passed technical inspection for use on public roads and were all worthy of display — offering a

spectacular show.

Meanwhile, the competitions boast their own regulations which are obligatory for each entrant. When announcing the event, the organisers said that the participation of three-dozen cars is expected: from Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States and Poland, as well as Belarus. Among them were such Soviet classics as the Zhiguli VAZ-2101, and famous Volga cars, with figures of deer on the hood, a UAZ off-roader, and, even, a comical Zaporozhets. While everyone laughed at the time, many now regret how rare they have become. Of course, there were classic foreign vehicles too. Cleaned to shining, with glittering chrome and impressive beauty, those streamlined shapes and automatic transmissions had visitors sighing with delight.

The *Oldtimer-Minsk-2013* rally saw crews of two (driver and navigator, with only the driver permitted to take the

wheel if the navigator didn't have a driving license). Each paid \$100 to take part, being given start numbers, the event logo and advertising stickers. The crews which have passed registration were given routing documents: a checklist and a control card. Naturally, the entrants had to observe regular traffic rules when driving along public streets, without interference to other drivers. Passengers were permitted during the race, which took part on a 170km set route.

Additional competitions were envisaged during the rally and accuracy and 'speed' prizes were awarded, with crews monitored by judicial time keeping and control points. Besides the top three speediest crews being awarded prizes, others were also offered for special events. For example, the 'Contest of Elegance' was also envisaged by the rally's programme, for which the crew — either a

driver or a navigator — took the microphone to give a two minute presentation on their car: technical characteristics, the story of its creation and history of acquisition, among other interesting facts. The judges evaluated the performance using a five-point system, including marks given for crew outfits suiting the spirit, style and time of their vehicle. There were three contest nominations besides the Grand Prix in the 'Contest of Elegance'.

The first car set off from Oktyabrskaya Square at noon, honking and followed by the others at short intervals. Everyone had the chance to admire these rare cars in action while also taking photos: all for free. Despite the crowds, true enthusiasts had the opportunity to chat to crews before the race began and people's enjoyment was obvious. Smiling faces said it all. The event was a resounding success.

## Draniki universally enjoyed

Chain of Belarusian cuisine cafes opening in Moscow

Traditional Belarusian draniki will soon be available at a new cafe in the centre of the Russian capital, explains the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Russia, H.E. Mr. Igor Petrishenko. He tells us, "We're working with the Bela-

rusian diaspora and business circles to develop a chain of Belarusian cafes in Moscow."

At present, Belarusian cuisine is represented very modestly in the Russian capital, with only four restaurants operating. Mr. Petrishenko notes, "The niche is yet to be fully occupied and the issue is acute, so we invite businesses to move in this direction." He foresees

great potential in such cafes, since Russians tend to enjoy Belarusian cuisine. Outlets should attract visitors, despite there being serious competition in Moscow. He emphasises that the lack of border and customs restrictions between Belarus and Russia should ease the organisation of logistics regarding the supply of food for the chain.

## Green-and-yellow week launched in all its beauty

Belarusian forecasters paint what's to come

On June 1st, Belarusian weather forecasters began using a colour-coding system comprising green, yellow, orange and red — denoting the severity of conditions. Of course, green indicates that all is safe. Meanwhile, yellow warns of normal rainfall, thunderstorms and gusts, with some temperature fluc-

tuations — which may affect certain pursuits. Orange denotes adverse weather conditions, possibly leading to substantial damage and human casualties: squalls, cold or heat, hail, torrential rain, snowfall and snowstorms. Unsurprisingly, red indicates very dangerous weather: very heavy rain or extreme snowfall, large hailstones, hurricane strength wind or forest

fire.

Summer temperatures are expected to be 1-2 degrees above normal this year, with the average daily temperature in June hitting 1 degree above what is considered usual; rainfall is expected within the normal range, being quite abundant, although northern regions may see 15-20 percent less rain than the rest of the country.

## Open air *Black Square*

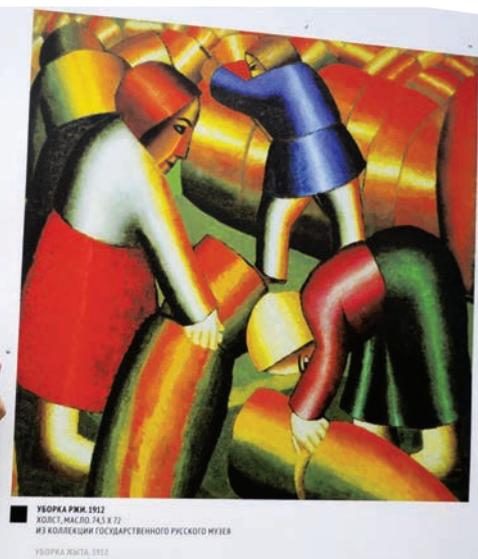
Artist and the City. Kazimir Malevich art project kicks off in Minsk

By Olga Melekhova

An open air exhibition of Kazimir Malevich's reproductions is being hosted by Minsk's Yanka Kupala Square, showcasing 17 pieces. The works in impressionist, post-impressionist and Cubo-Futurist style have been provided by the



Tretyakov State Gallery (Moscow) and the State Russian Museum (St. Petersburg). Among the works copied are *Black Square* (1915), *Red Square: Painterly Realism of a Peasant Woman in Two Dimensions*



Malevich's pictures on display in Yakub Kolas Square

(1915), *Girl with a Comb in Her Hair* (1932) and *Self-Portrait* (1910).

Kazimir Malevich revolutionised art by founding the trend of Suprematism. He was also a pedagogue, a theorist and

a philosopher. According to Professor Igor Malevich, a Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, a writer and the artist's grand-nephew (who spent many years studying and examining archives), Kazimir Malevich is a national Belarusian artist — born in Kopyl.

This is the second phase of the *Artist and the City* art project, having begun with an outdoor exhibition of Marc Chagall reproductions, which remain on show in the centre of Minsk until late September.