

# benvenuto

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING WOMEN OF MILAN | JANUARY 2020



# BENVENUTO

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The Benvenuto Club of Milan welcomes English speaking women from all over the world. The Club helps newcomers settle in Milan and fosters international fellowship through its various activities. Benvenuto is non-profit, non-denominational and apolitical.

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# Editor's message



WELCOME to 2020! In this particular issue I would like to welcome our new President Teri McMahon wishing her all the best of luck with Benvenuto.

I hope everyone has spent a happy holiday, had a good time to meet family and friends, and is now ready to open the calendar, marking the first plans for 2020.

A new year always marks new beginnings, new possibilities, new adventures, and new plans. Some people look back reformulating their plans; others look forward searching for better resolutions; either by quitting something they were not satisfied with, or to maintain something they used to do.

Here comes Benvenuto to maintain its promise to you, and to promote friendship through its cultural, charitable and social activities for its members. For many ladies, Benvenuto has started as an inspiration; getting in touch with ladies of different backgrounds which has unintentionally opened up new possibilities creating genuine relationships. This can open for us the chance to try new things differently and participate in more Benvenuto activities which you haven't tried before! Why not?! It's worth giving a try!!

I wish everyone a rewarding, joyous new year and look forward to seeing you in many Neighbor to Neighbor gatherings, Main Coffee, monthly activities and language exchange.

Sharing your experience with us is highly appreciated.

*Heba*

*Farewell Wanda!*



For the last couple of years Wanda Haynes has supported our club being Benvenuto vice-president. Now she has left Milan to go back to the States. We wish you, Wanda, and your family, all the best of luck and a boundless success wherever you go.

The Benvenuto Magazine is looking for new sponsors, who will be able to support the magazine on a long term basis, in return for regular and prominent advertising not only in the magazine but on our facebook page and Website.

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# President's message

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Happy New Year! This January of 2020 we celebrate a new year and the beginning of a new decade, so it feels only fitting that I introduce myself as your new Benvenuto Club President! I am honored to fill this position for the remainder of the 2019/2020 year, and I look forward to meeting in person those of you whom I have not yet had the pleasure to meet.



Since my election to the President's position in December, I have been reading old Benvenuto Club magazines and listening to members about what makes Benvenuto Club so special. I arrived in Milan in August of 2018, and with the steady guidance of longstanding member and former President, Irene Gambino, I was immediately introduced to the Benvenuto Club of Milan and warmly welcomed by everyone I met.

Through neighbor to neighbor coffees in Porta Romana, main coffees at Circolo A. Volta, educational lectures and tours around Milan organized by the OA and Special Activities groups, participating at the American table at the Christmas Bazaar, attending Language Exchange coffees at Villa Necchi, and joining the Newcomers coffees around the Duomo, I have discovered the magic of Milan and the incredible resources of our members. The central theme of so many members, when expressing why they participate and love the Benvenuto Club of Milan, is the same for me; it is the joy of friendship and fellowship among our fellow members, and the interaction with intelligent women from all walks and places of life.

We all want to be a part of a group - we are social creatures, after all - and the genuine love and interest I have felt by so many of our members makes my time in Milan extra special. Many of you have been members for a number of years, and a number of you are newcomers. We are blessed to know one another and I have learned so much from you.

My view of taking on any leadership position, whether in America or here in Milan, is that I am a servant leader. I humbly offer my services and simply give of my talents as I hope each of you will give of yours. Together we can continue to make this organization one to be proud of, with its rich history and our collective desire to continue the legacy started over 50 years ago. I kindly ask you to review the mission of the Benvenuto Club that has graced the front of this magazine in some form or fashion for many years - we welcome English speaking women from all over the world and help newcomers settle in Milan and foster international fellowship through our various activities. I also ask each of you to reflect on how you can further this goal, through your attendance at events that perhaps you haven't tried before, or through your volunteering for committees or positions in need of your talents and enthusiasm. We are so blessed with a rich and diverse group of women- let's spread the word to others in Milan and contribute to the Club's richness with our minds and our presence.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to contribute in whatever way I can help, and I also thank you in advance for your consideration and increased involvement in the many activities supported by the Benvenuto Club. Read the magazine and scan the upcoming events described in each publication: consider participating in a new activity. My hope is that you will enjoy something new, and other participants will be richer through your participation. I know your participation will enrich my life - it has already been made richer by the members I've had the pleasure to meet so far.

Warmly,  
*Teri McMahon*

# 14 TUESDAY

## Main Coffee

**date:** Tuesday, January 14

**time:** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**where:** Circolo Volta, via Giuseppe Giusti 16

Join us for the first Main Coffee of 2020. Come have a cup of coffee or tea and participate in the Silent Auction to win a return flight to India!

*As the winner of the airline ticket donated by Air India is unable to take up the prize we will be offering it to members to bid for at a Silent Auction at the January Main Coffee. The proceeds of the auction will go directly to the Christmas Bazaar fund so we can raise even more money for our charities.*



### NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR

**Once-a-month** informal meetings of Benvenuto members living within the same neighborhood zone.

Sometimes these personally hosted gatherings are held in someone's home, sometimes they are hosted at a neighborhood eatery.

Read about unique NtN meetings and see the calendar for dates and locations on the **Neighbor to Neighbor** page 7.



### DROP-IN COFFEE

Come have a cappuccino with us! We meet **every** Wednesday morning and all are welcome. Our new venue is the Café Piccolo, via Rovello 2 (slightly off via Dante).

**time:** 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

**when:** every Wednesday



### ALL-SORTS

Various groups meet for shared hobbies and interests. There is something for everyone! See the list of groups and specific information on page 9.



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# New Activities for January

## 16 THURSDAY

### **The Thannhauser Collection: from Van Gogh to Picasso**

*The Art Historian Serena Spinelli will guide you in the discovery of this Exhibition at Palazzo Reale, Milan.*



A special delegation of 50 little known masterpieces from the mythical Guggenheim Museum is coming to Milan! A precious and fleeting opportunity to see and understand the expressions and styles of many great European Masters from the Post-Impressionist period and beyond; meet and marvel at Paul Cézanne, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Paul Gauguin, Edouard Manet, Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh and discover an important nucleus of works by the unforgettable Pablo Picasso.

For an improved viewing experience the tour is limited to 16 participants

**cost:** 22 euro. Includes booking, entrance ticket, organization, earphones and guided tour in English. Tour will last approx. 90 minutes.

**sign-ups:** There are still a few places left. For additional information and booking please write to [info@artandthecity.it](mailto:info@artandthecity.it) or [fbetournay@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fbetournay@yahoo.co.uk)

## 23 THURSDAY

### **Oriental Abroad Monthly Meeting**

**time:** 10-12.30 pm. Coffee/tea and brioche for 30 minutes, then Club announcements before the talk begins at 10.45 am.

**venue:** Circolo degli Ufficiali, Palazzo Cusani, via del Carmine 8

**sign-ups:** kindly sign up at the Main Coffee on January 14th. (Palazzo Cusani are very strict about entrance regulations: names of attendees should be on the list that I have to send them two days before the meeting, and you also need an ID.)

**cost:** €5

**topic:** "Brazil, my country and its culture", of course with a short CD.

**speaker:** Ms. Ana Luisa Maya, wife of the Consul General of Turkey in Milan.

For more info see page 8. Maya has also prepared a nice surprise for us, suitable for all. I can't tell you more about it...

## Gudrun's QUIZ

*Can you name a forward-thinking, self-taught woman who was productive in both science and art and who disregarded sexist norms of the 18th century in China?*

*See answer on page 11 .*

## BENVENUTO

### FASHION SHOW

MAY 12, 2020

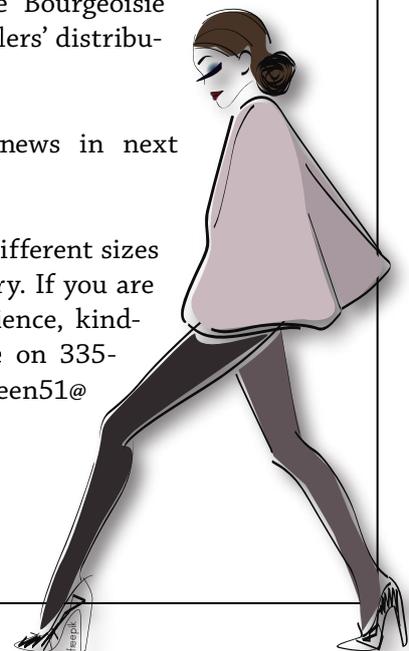
SAVE THE DATE!

**CAN YOU GUESS** which Italian Brand is well known by the Milanese "Haute Bourgeoisie" with a very selected retailers' distribution all over the world?!

See you with further news in next month's magazine!

Casting for modelling - different sizes - will start end of January. If you are interested in this experience, kindly get in touch with me on 335-6455525 or mail to [maureen51@libero.it](mailto:maureen51@libero.it)

Maureen Pardo Roques  
PR Director Events



# Neighbor to Neighbor (NtN) Calendar

May we have a wonderful New Year filled with hostesses for our Get-Together!

**Loredana Mandelli**, NTN Chairperson: tel. 02 8139540, email: loredana.mandelli@alice.it

| NEIGHBORHOOD                                     | CO-ORDINATORS                           | WHERE   | WHEN   |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>CENTER</b><br>Zone 1                          | Marilyn Tambling<br>Marti Biles         | Home of Giovanna Dodero<br>Tel. 02 5468719                                    | <b>Fri. Jan. 17th</b><br>3,30 p.m.   |
| <b>LORETO</b><br>Zones 2/3                       | Nawal Felippone<br>Ernesta De Laurentis | Home of Mara Busseda<br>(newcomer)<br>Tel. 335 6183818                        | <b>Tues. Jan. 21st</b><br>From 3,00 to 5,00 p.m.   |
| <b>PORTA ROMANA/<br/>SAN DONATO</b><br>Zones 4/5 | Maria Tieghi<br>Laura Cafagna           | Home of Grazia Masala<br>Tel. 338 6737825                                     | <b>Wed. Jan. 22nd</b><br>4,30 p.m. Tea Party<br>with talk in English:<br>"Cinema dream and<br>Reality", given by Mr.<br>Paolo Guido Spinelli,<br>movie blogger |
| <b>WASHINGTON/FRUA/<br/>NAVIGLI</b> Zone 6       | Marianne Schuck<br>Marilena Ciolina     | Visit Exhibition "Accenti di<br>stile" at Armani Silos (Via<br>Bergognone 40) | <b>Thurs. Jan. 23rd</b><br>11,00 a.m.  |
| <b>BUONARROTI/<br/>SAN SIRO</b><br>Zone 7        | Alessandra Felicetta<br>Marta Zanotto   | Home of Marta Zanotto<br>Tel. 335 6710657                                     | <b>Tues. Jan. 14th</b><br>4,00 p.m.  |
| <b>FIERA/SEMPIONE</b><br>Zones 8/9               | Lois Elaine Heckman<br>Giuliana Anni    | Home of Bianca Dal Bianco<br>Tel. 02 33602624                                 | <b>Thurs. Jan. 23rd</b><br>3,30/6,00 p.m.  |
| <b>MILANO DUE</b>                                | Bruna Laviani<br>Svetlana Pikuz Pavlov  | Home of Luisanna Fantacci<br>02 2640756                                       | <b>Fri. Jan. 24th</b><br>10,30 a.m.  |
| <b>SAN FELICE</b>                                | Fiona Betournay<br>Anne Marie Ellis     | Home of Anne Marie Ellis  | <b>Friday, Jan. 17th</b><br>10,30 a.m.   |



**SHERATON**

Milan San Siro

Urban oasis experience:

Enjoy a relaxing getaway weekend for two people in a Double/Twin room at Sheraton Milan San Siro, inclusive of buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant. The facility, surrounded by parks, is only 25 minutes away from the center of Milan and features a fantastic outdoor pool area, an amazing bar and a prime elegant Argentinian restaurant, El Patio del Gaucho by Javier Zanetti.

*Maureen's Words of*  
**WISDOM**

I have chosen  
to be HAPPY  
because  
it is good  
for my health.

*Voltaire*

# Oriental Abroad (OA) News

The month of December, a month of festivities where the hectic days passed quickly between Christmas celebrations, searching for the last gifts for relatives and friends and making the important decisions where to spend New Year's Eve.

Going back to Thursday, December 19th., when we celebrated OA's traditional Christmas lunch at the elegant Sala Banchetti of Doria Grand Hotel in the presence of 45 members, guests and husbands/partners, I'd just like to remind you of the simple words during the lunch of our newly elected Benvenuto President, Ms. Teri McMahon, that she expects from all of us members: good cooperation during her term of Presidency.

Let's all extend our help to Teri to make sure that the Year 2020 is a "Successful Year".

To avoid overlapping of events, the Monthly Meeting at Palazzo Cusani scheduled on Thursday January 16th was postponed to January 23rd and we are quite fortunate that the change was accepted by both our Speaker, Ms. Ana Luisa Maya, and Palazzo Cusani administration.

I had met Maya (the name she prefers) on more than one occasion during the meetings for the Bazaar preparation as she had organized the table for the Turkish

Consulate. She very kindly accepted my invitation to give a presentation of her country, Brazil, at the January Meeting at Palazzo Cusani. *For details see page 6.*

I have prepared the following summary about Brazil which I hope will give our readers an idea of the immense country our speaker, Ms. Ana Luisa Maya, will present to our members and guests.

Brazil is a Presidential Republic, with Brasilia as its capital. Portuguese is the official language and its currency is the 'real'. After 300 years of Portuguese dominion, it became an independent nation in 1822 and a Republic in 1889.

Starting with the discovery of Brazil, in April 1500, the Portuguese navigator Pedro Alvares Cabral arrived at present day Pôrto Seguro (Safe Harbor) in the state of Bahia on the Brazilian coast and named the new territory Ilha de Vera Cruz, Island of the True Cross, believing he was on an island.

A year later, Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci sailed to Brazil on a voyage commissioned by the Portuguese crown and returned home with a cargo of hard, reddish wood. The wood was similar to an East Indian variety called pau brasil, which was then popular in Europe for making cabinets and violin bows.

Because of its size and diversity, Brazil is one of the nations most deserving of the name "land of contrasts." The Northeast has the greatest proportion of people of African descent, the South and Southeast are home to the bulk of Brazilians of European and Japanese ancestry, while indigenous peoples live largely in the North and Central-West. Still, regional migration and extensive racial inter-breeding has made Brazil one of the most racially diverse nations on earth.

Nevertheless, Brazilians share a national culture - making Brazil a true case of unity in diversity. The legacy of the Portuguese in language, religion, and law serves to unify this vast land and its people. Until the mid-twentieth century almost all Brazilians were - at least nominally - Catholic and today, virtually all speak Portuguese and identify with the dominant Brazilian culture.

Brazil, the world's fifth largest country in geographical expanse and the largest nation in Latin America, comprises slightly under half the land mass of the South American continent and shares a border with every South American country except Chile and Ecuador. It is the size of the continental United States, excluding Alaska.

Brazil is a land rich in natural resources, principally iron ore, bauxite, manganese, nickel, uranium, gold, gemstones, oil, and timber.

Brazil is probably best known as the land of the Amazon, the world's largest river in area drained and volume of water and second only to the Nile in length. The Am-

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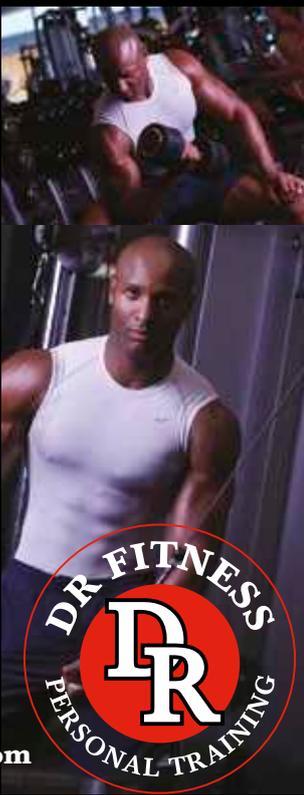
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azon forest contains the world's largest single reserve of biological organisms, and while no one knows how many species actually exist there, scientists estimate the number could be as high as five million, amounting from 15 to 30 percent of all species on earth.

The population of Brazil is about 207,660,929 million (est. 2017), the sixth largest in the world. Despite its large population, Brazil's demographic density is relatively low.

Along with OA Organizing team, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to welcome you at our first activity of the Year 2020.

Sincerely,

*Nawal Felippone, Maria Tieghi, Mariangela Corbetta, Qin Fu, Gemma Kim and Seiko Kerube*

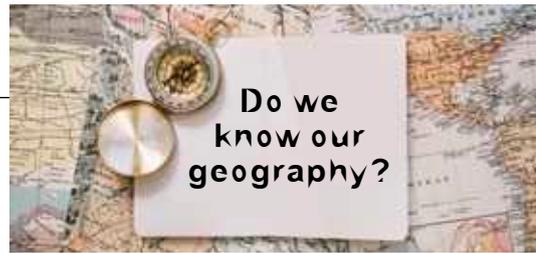
## BIOGRAPHY

Our Speaker, Ms. Ana Luisa Maya provided us with a very interesting biography.

*I am Ana Luisa Maya, 43 years old. I was born in Brasília, the capital of Brazil. My hometown is a very peculiar city, was projected by a famous architect called Oscar Niemeyer. In the beginning of the 80's, my dream was to become a 'ballet dancer' in the municipality theatre, a dream that I pursued for a long time. At the age of 9, I moved with my family to another city close to São Paulo. In "Campinas" I had contact with a different south eastern life, finished my high school studies and at 17, I moved to Salvador, Bahia, and the first Brazilian capital. There I studied and graduated from law school, but most important, I learned more about my cultural heritage and history. I also revitalized my ballet dancing dream and took lessons from diverse artists and styles. Yoga came to my life; I became a dedicated yoga teacher and decided to move back to my origins: Brasília. There I practiced law again, but continued to be a dance and yoga teacher as well. I met my husband, a Turkish diplomat, and from the first days together I knew that my life would change completely! As it is, we got married and soon had our first child. Then the time to move for my husband's job, which took me, my husband, our baby girl and cat to Ankara. We spent 2 years there, the family grew with my second baby girl and we all had the privilege of being surrounded by family in a wonderful country. Posted to Santiago, Chile, our new adventure started. Three years in a beautiful country, yet full of contrasts. Then Lisbon, Portugal followed, where we left our hearts...*

*Back to Turkey for a short period and a new assignment to Milan. Now here in Italy, I confess that the expectations are very different from reality, but in one year I am learning how to love the city I am living in and this amazing country, Italy.*

*I hope to continue learning and travelling around, being the most important part of me and my family's lifestyle.*



How many land borders does Italy have?

- a) 4   b) 5   c) 6   d) 8

Answer c) France, Switzerland, Austria, Vatican City, San Marino, Slovenia

## ALL SORTS GROUPS

*All current special interest groups featured below are free of membership fees and therefore are called all sorts groups:*

### CENTRAL BOOK CLUB

Meets once a month, usually every 1st Tuesday.

**Contact:** Betty Manfre

### ORIENTALS ABROAD

Benvenuto members exploring Asian cultures.

All attendees pay 5 euros for coffee and brioche at their monthly Main meeting - every 3rd Thursday at Circolo Ufficiali.

**Contact:** Amal Salvatore or Nawal Felippone

### BURRACO - ITALIAN CARD GAME

Players meet every Tuesday from 3-6pm at Passerini Pasticceria, on the corner of Via Spadari and Via Cantù.

**Contact:** Lucia Wicks

### LANGUAGE EXCHANGE

This international group of Benvenuto members meets every Monday afternoon from 3.30-5.30 pm with a coffee break, at Villa Necchi Caffeteria on via Mozart 10. Our aim is to exchange points of view on various topics using both English and Italian. English mother tongue newcomers are encouraged to attend.

**Contact:** Nawal Felippone

### MAHJONG FOR FUN

Mahjong is a game that originated in China. We play for fun, it is a few hours to relax in good company. Beginners and experienced players are welcome or, just come and watch to see if it's for you! We usually play on Wednesday afternoon, at the Rotonda della Besana.

**Contact:** Shirley Rossetti, shirleyros@gmail.com



**Porta Romana/San Donato NtN coffee at Siobhàn O'Connor's home**



**San Felice NtN Pot Luch Lunch at Fiona Betournay's house**



**Drop-in coffee at Café Piccolo**



**Oriental's Abroad Christmas Lunch**



**Christmas Lunch by Irene Gambino for Washington/ Frua/ Navigli and Buonarroti/San Siro NtN**



# Gudrun's QUIZ ANSWER

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## WANG ZHENYI

1768-1797

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The International Astronomical Union recognized Wang Zhenyi's achievements by naming a crater on Venus after her. Wang was born in 1768 but the recognition came only in 2004. Who was she?

Under the Qing Dynasty women had no legal rights and yet Wang Zhenyi became an accomplished astronomer, mathematician, textbook writer and poet. Her grandfather, who was a noteworthy intellectual with a vast library, was her first teacher but being an avid reader, she studies on her own.

Most of her works are expositions and explanations of mathematical theorems and trigonometry.

She explained the movements of equinoxes, analyzed the movement of the moon and described the solar and lunar eclipses. She also wanted to replace the ancient lunar calendar with the Western solar calendar.

Since she herself was an autodidact, she developed a simple method to explain scientific knowledge to her students. She also rewrote complex mathematical treatises into a easy-to-understand language and she developed and wrote volumes on multiplication and division methods for beginners. Several biographies note that she tutored male students, something unheard of for a woman at that time, because she believed in equal opportunities for both women and men.

*It's made to believe,  
Women are the same as Men.  
Are you not convinced,  
Daughters can also be heroic?*

Demonstration was the basis of her teaching. In one famous exhibit she used a spherical lamp to represent

the sun, a mirror to represent the moon and a round table for the earth. Using this set-up she could accurately simulate the lunar eclipse, a phenomenon then thought to have been caused by gods.

Wang Zhenyi was an educated and well-travelled woman for her time, living in a feudal monarchy. She could also express her innovative ideas in poetry (see above) which was not only based on the classics and history, but also on her experiences during her travels. Although many of her works have been lost, she is still identified as a remarkable scientist, a dedicated educator and a fierce reformist in the 18th century China. Her short life, she died at the age of 29, was filled with the mysteries of the universe and her legacy carries on.

*Written by:* Gudrun Herzog-Balzer

*Edited by:* Jean Chaloux Miani

*Sources:* Internet

“Notable Women in China”

by Barbara Bennett Peterson

## Classifieds

SILVIA CIPRIANO

Italian mother tongue teacher

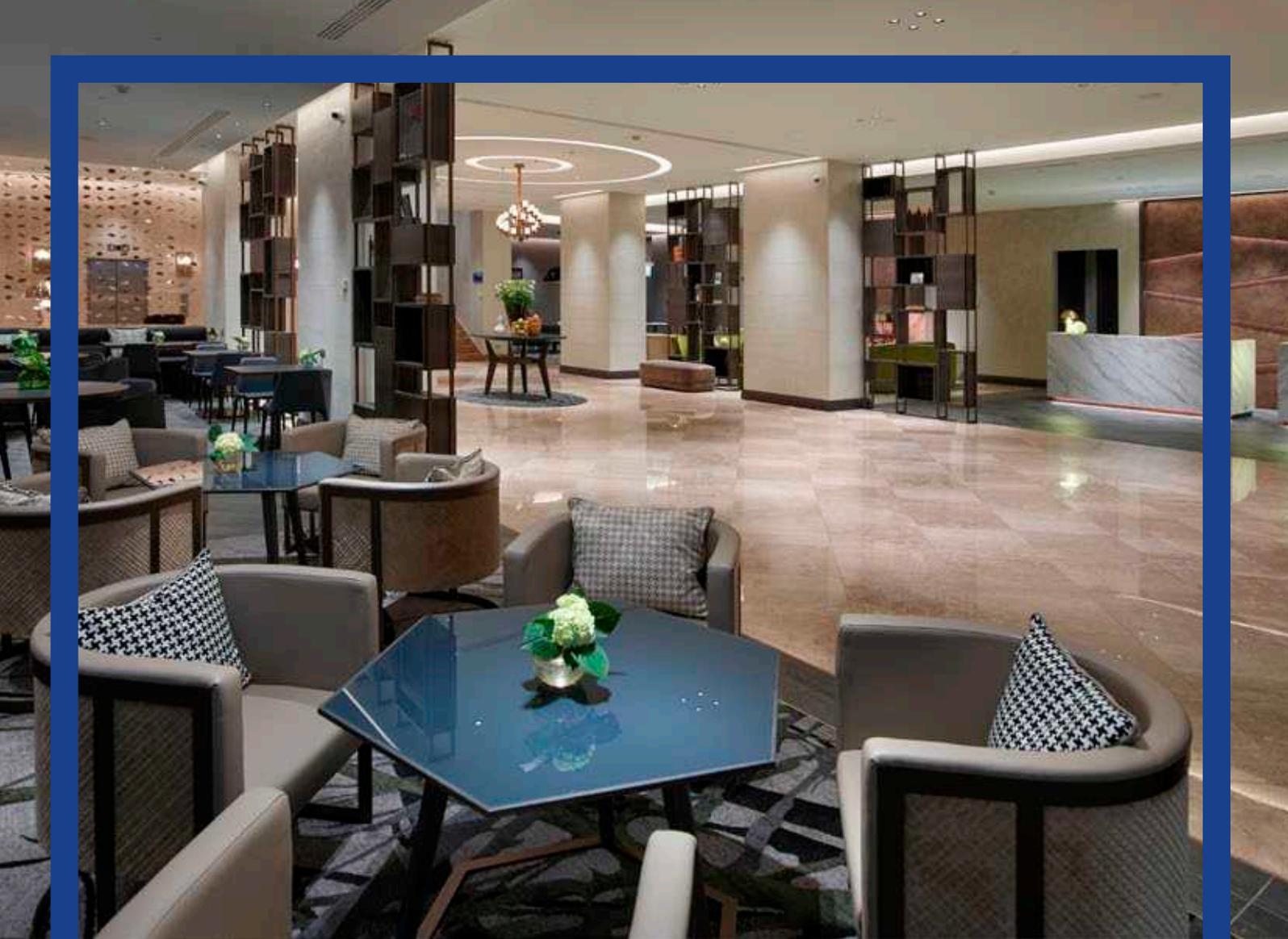
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