



HAPPY SPRING FESTIVAL

READING
DELIGHTS IN **BDS**

外交e家
THE DIPLOMATS'

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北京外交人员服务局
BEIJING DIPLOMATIC SERVICE



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Dear Readers,
the New Version of the BDS Website Makes Its
Shining Debut!

You are welcome to Beijing, and You are welcome to BDS!

If you newly arrive in Beijing travel stained, then warm and comfortable guest rooms of the Beijing International Club (with St. Regis Beijing as part of it) will wait for you entering a sweet dream; if you want to engage an employee for your embassy so as to get a local assistant for yourself, high-caliber professionals of various types and using different foreign languages will provide you with satisfactory service; If you wish to learn Chinese and get some ideas about the Chinese culture, interesting and practical Chinese language courses suitable for seniors and juniors will beckon to you; if you want to use a car with or without a driver, cars in different grades for rental will be delivered to you; if you want to do some shopping, both affordable and superior quality commodities will throw themselves into your embrace. Log onto www.bds-cn.com right now to enjoy all the niceties we could offer to you!



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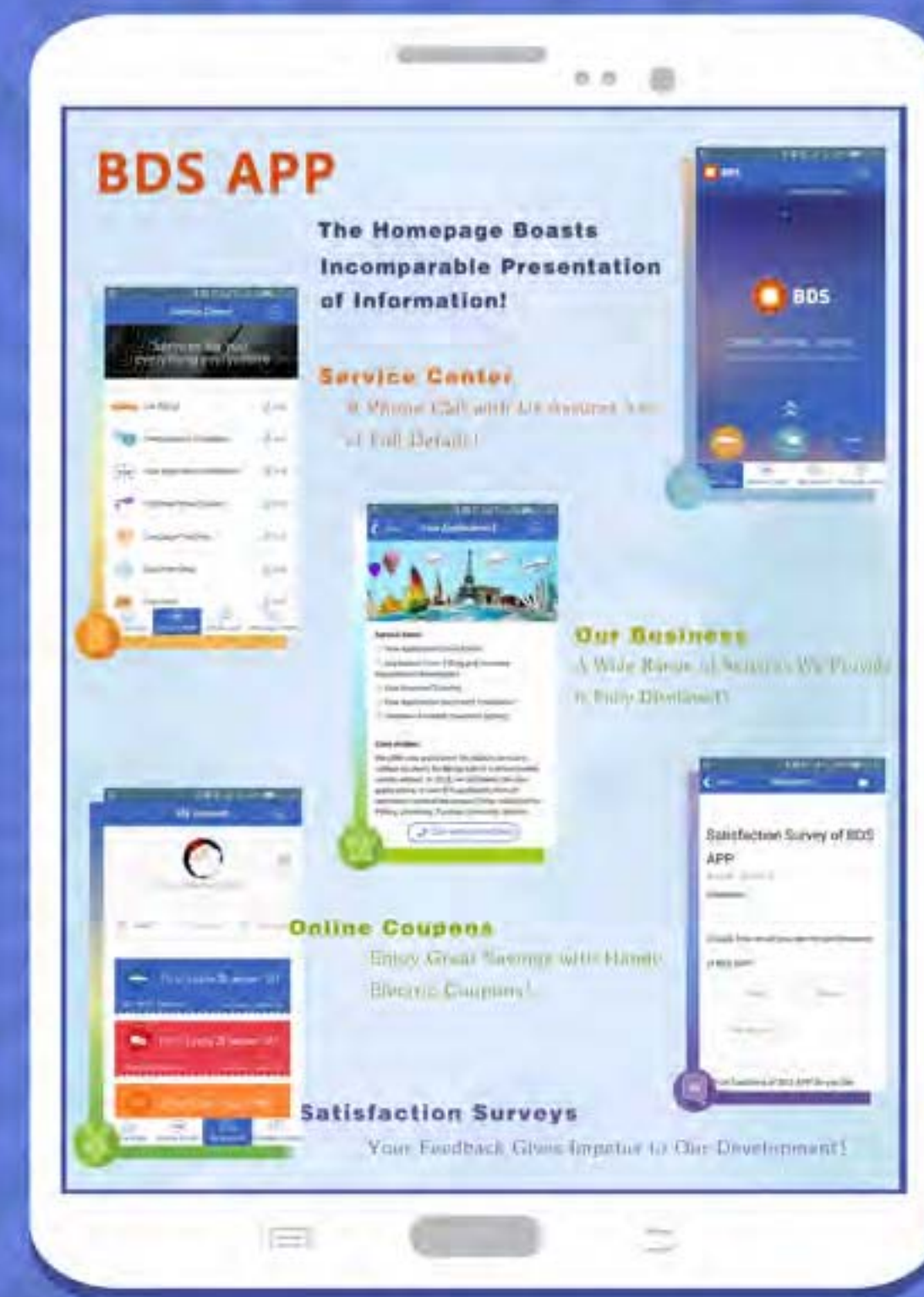


Highlights

Due to our deeper understanding of your needs, BDS considerably pushes latest promotional information about your favorites at the 'Highlights' section without any disturbance.



"BDS APP" is Online!



Download via bds-cn.com



Download via android.com

Available on Android System
To install, scan the two-dimensional barcode.
SCAN FOR THE RIGHT APP



"It's totally beyond my expectation! This e Community Service APP is so user-friendly. Apart from its complete range of functions, it's also easy to operate. With this APP, one can not only make various payments and receive notices from the property management office at any time, but also take pictures of and report on equipment and facility breakdowns for timely service and repair. What a convenient gear!" Madame Zhang, who sets her home at Liangmaqiao Diplomatic Residence Compound (DRC), exclaimed.

Madame Zhang is an enthusiastic resident of DRC. Not too long ago, DRC property management invited her to experience an APP titled "BOC e Community". Taking it simply

as a trial, Madame Zhang downloaded the APP and registered her name. Afterwards, she went to the property management office for the real-name confirmation, thus becoming formally an end-user of the e Community Service. Soon, the simple and clear-cut service interface and its rich and colorful service contents attracted her.

Madame Zhang's husband is based abroad all the year round and she herself often travels to other cities on business. Her busy schedule keeps her fully occupied, making it difficult for her to cope with household chores. Since her registration as a user of the e Community Service, she has already experienced personally the conveniences brought by internet-linked e commerce. Now she can not only make various payments just by a click, but also get to know what is going on in the whole

DRC community in good time. She will never forget the incident which happened last week. At that time, she was just attending a conference away from Beijing when her daughter called her all of a sudden. However, it was inconvenient for her to answer the call. So she turned to WeChat to look at the pictures sent by her daughter. It turned out that there appeared some water logging in her kitchen. She immediately relayed the pictures to DRC property management office through the APP calling system for repair and service. Very soon, her daughter reported to her through WeChat that the property repair staff was already on hand at her home. She called back home as soon as the conference was over. Her daughter told her gladly that the problem had already been solved. Today, Madame Zhang has already become a faithful fan of the BOC e Community.

In this winter, the BOC e Community APP is getting increasingly popular in DRC, with a growing number of residents experiencing this APP convenience. e Community of BOC is an all-in-one intelligent multi-functional community service system hooking up the community property management, the residents, nearby shops and companies and the bank, and the system has been elaborately developed by the Bank of China. Through this system, the four parties can reap mutual benefits and win-win results. This system can uplift the property service standards, expand the border of community life, improve the life quality of the community as a whole and build up the eco-environment for the common development of both the bank and the clients. It

can also facilitate the accumulation of the authentic data resources of the clients and shops in the hook-up, coordinate in depth the diversities of life online and the authenticity of the business deals offline, explore O2O commercial mode of the intelligent community and provide one-stop community financial and commercial services for the clients.

July 2015 witnessed the official access to e Community of BOC by DRC. Through their joint efforts in the development lasting for almost half a year, the BOC e Community App has finally been established, which are in keeping with the demands of the DRC residents. After downloading the APP and through simple operation and the off-line real-name authentication, the clients can do many things through their mobile phones such as receiving notice information from the property management office, making inquiries and payments of various sorts, 24 hours on-line calling for repair and maintenance with both texted message and image, browsing sales information released by the surrounding shops and companies and also on-line service booking and commodity purchasing, etc. In the next stage, DRC and the Bank of China will continue their cooperation and constantly perfect the APP function so as to offer even better and more convenient services to the DRC community.



Here Comes the New Year!

"Little kids, little ones, for a few days just wait, after the laba (the 8th day of the 12th lunar month) and with all the meat and cake, the Chinese New Year will soon knock at the gate!" Amid merry laughter and kids' rhyme and holding red lanterns high, the Chinese New Year's Eve is approaching us with big strides. The happy life with authentic Chinese flavor passed down from generation to generation will shortly commence!





People would start to get busy with the new-year's day preparations upon entering the 12th lunar month. On the laba day, glutinous rice porridge with a variety of ingredients would be cooked in every household. This porridge is also called "7-delicacy and 5-flavor porridge". The folk custom of eating laba porridge has been carried forward for over 1000 years. In addition to eating laba porridge, people would also preserve laba garlic, i.e. immersing garlic in rice vinegar in a small jar for the use of the New Year's Eve feast to go with the dumplings.



The 23rd day of the 12th lunar month is observed as the "Little (or preliminary) New Year's Day". The primary activity for this day is to make sacrifices to the Kitchen God. People have the folklore of worshipping the Kitchen God. They believe that the Kitchen God would ascend to the Celestial court on the day to report to the Jade Emperor on the various households on the earth. Therefore, people would buy some sticky malt sugar for the offerings in the hope that the Kitchen God

would put in a good word for them or at least do not speak ill of them. In the small hours of the Chinese New Year's Day, people who have just stayed up for the night would invite the Kitchen God to come back so as to bring along with him blessings for the whole family. There is an antithetic couplet describing this allusion, which says, "Going up to the heaven to put in a nice word; coming back home to bring along good luck." Sacrifices to the Kitchen God are a reflection of people's ardent wishes and beautiful aspirations for peace and happiness.

It's hard to say whether the Kitchen God's teeth have enjoyed or been glued by the sticky malt sugar or not, but kids would definitely find the moment most pleasurable. Chewing the malt sugar, they would sing for all their worth: "The 23rd, making sugar sacrifice; the 24th, cleaning the house; the 25th, grinding glutinous millet; the 26th, hanging cured meat; the 27th, slaughtering a chicken; the 28th, leavening dough; the 29th, steaming buns; the 30th, staying up for the night; and the New Year's Day, dancing the yangge style in spirits high." Such a kids' rhyme serves as the summing up of all the folk customs ahead of the Chinese New Year.

As the popular saying goes, "Of all the nice food, the best are the dumplings." Particularly in northern China, eating dumplings on the Chinese New Year's Day means a good omen. Tracing back to the Ming and Qing Dynasties, it had already become prevalent as a folk custom to have dumplings for the Chinese New Year. The dumplings would be ready on the New Year's Eve and before the turn of the year, but people would hold eating until after the 12 p.m. which signifies the advent of the New Year. In the Chinese language, dumplings are homophonic with the Chinese characters of 更岁交子, which implies "complete happiness and family reunion" plus "good luck and all the best".





Activities on the Chinese New Year's Eve

In terms of traditional Chinese culture, the last night of the 12th lunar month is referred to as the New Year's Eve. This festival time is the moment for us to say goodbye to the old year and in the meantime to usher in the new. Chinese people, particularly those who have been far away from home would rush back for the family reunion. Now let's just adopt the festival mode and count a little bit what to do for the Chinese New Year Eve. The following are a few handy tips compiled by this editor of the Diplomats':



Making Dumplings

On the 30th of the 12th lunar month, dumplings would be prepared by each and every household. The whole family gets together around the table, mincing the meat, rolling dough and wrapping in the dumpling fillings. All the family members, chatting and laughing heartily, would relieve themselves with such reunion of their longings for seeing the kin folks. As a matter of fact, making dumplings looks more like a ceremony. What is actually "wrapped" is not only *jiaozi* (dumplings), but also people's tender sentiments and profound feelings of longing. The white and silver ingot liked dumplings carry the motto of bumper harvests and



increasing prosperity for the year to come. When making dumplings, "ingredients" such as coins (implying wealth), chestnut (homophonic with having a son) and Chinese jujube (symbol of a happy and sweet life), are also mixed into the fillings. One can just imagine how excited those who have the luck to touch these lucky "ingredient s" could be!



Keeping Vigil

Keeping the night watch refers to the folk custom of staying up the whole night on the last day of the outgoing lunar year so as to meet the advent of the New Year. This custom of keeping a vigil is popularly dubbed “burning the midnight oil”. In the ancient times, such a custom contained twofold implications: As for the seniors, it was meant to bid farewell to the previous year as the seniors should particularly treasure the fast passing days; as for the youngsters, it was meant to prolong the life of one’s parents. Since the Han Dynasty, the midnight has been taken as the exact timing for the turn of the year. On the New Year’s Eve, every household is ablaze with lights with the whole family sticking together to do the night watch and praying for their relatives and friends.



Setting off Firecrackers and Pasting up the Spring Festival Couplets

The legend has it that in the remote era of the prehistoric times, there was a demon called 年 (pronounced as nian). It would come out every last day of a year to harm human beings. So people would tightly close their doors on the evening to fend off the demon of nian, or put it in another way: just stay indoors. In a certain year and on the very last day, the demon of nian again entered the village to look and seek when two kids clad in red set off firecrackers in the courtyard. The ping pong sound of firecrackers and the brilliantly red color scared this demon and sent it fleeing into the open country. Since then the demon has never cropped up. And also since that time the folk custom of hanging red colored Spring Festival antithetic couplets and setting off firecrackers has been



carried forward. Apart from the Spring Festival couplets, the Chinese character 福 (pronounced as fu, meaning good luck) in all sizes would also be pasted up at home. Sometimes, some people simply and intentionally put up this character upside down (the description of this posture in the Chinese language 倒了 is homophonic with the Chinese phrase 到了 (meaning “has arrived”). In so doing, people want to derive the auspicious meaning of having good luck (fortune) knocking at their doors.



Lucky Money (Lunar New Year Gift Money)

To kids, the best thing they would have apart from the delicious food and exciting firecrackers is the lucky money given by the seniors as a New Year gift. Originally this lucky money was called “Ghost-Expelling Money”. People at that time thought that kids were prone to the harms of the ghosts, so they used this sum of money to ward off this disaster and thus bringing safety to the kids. Nowadays, seniors pin their infinite expectations and all the good wishes for the juniors onto the red packet of lucky money.





Brand Quality Products Await You in Celebration of the 30th Birth Day of the Diplomatic Duty Free Shop

In celebration of its 30th anniversary and to user in the Chinese New Year, Beijing Duty Free Shop for Diplomatic Missions now makes a Special Offer within the Limited Time of some elaborately chosen hot commodities for the readers of The Diplomats' (Reading Delights BDS)! This special offer will be valid until February 29, 2016. Please hurry up and get some specialty New Year's Goods



Chilean Michael Doris Series of Wine:

Finca Negra Gran Reserve

As for the excellent quality of the wine, you just need a simple tasting to know it all.

Place your order online and you will enjoy the favorable treatment of buying one box (6 bottles) and getting one box (6 bottles) for free!



Scan the two-dimensional (QR) bar code for the purchase of Chilean Michael Doris Series of Wine Finca Negra Gran Reserve Online

Selection dry red wine, original price 149 yuan/bottle

Collection dry red and white, wine original price 185yuna/bottle

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Place of Origin: Central Valley, Chile, from the Michael Doris Family

Raw Material: Single grape variety

Taste: Rich and profound fruit aroma and Silk-like smoothness

Just inform our customer service personnel of your ordering number and specify that you have obtained news about the Special Offer through The Diplomats' (Reading Delights BDS), then come to the Duty Free Shop for your self collection.

Customer Service Telephone Number: 13811350042

Address: No.44, Guanghua Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing Beijing Duty Free Shop for Diplomatic Missions



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“Longdaoxiang Organic Rice in Gift Box”
by China Jiaoyuan Corporation for International Economical and Technical Cooperation

Sales Promotion starts from today and will end on March 31, 2016



Varieties	White rice with two varieties (organic fragrant rice and ecologically-green long grain fragrant rice); black organic rice with a single variety.
Place of Origin	Zhaoyuan Farm, Daqing, Heilongjiang Province; We guarantee that all the varieties of rice turned out here are ecologically-green, originally ecological and pollution-free products.
Nutrition and Medical functions	The white colored rice, with glistening luster and mellow fragrance, smooth and pleasant to chew, provides rich and lingering taste, boasts medical functions of strengthening both the spleen and stomach in addition to smoothing and nourishing lungs, and it can also help improve one’s eyesight and kidney function.

Booking Hotlines: 65249514/65120775/65122200-8616
Please contact Gao Zhuying or Jiazhe

Special Offer

78 yuan per box

Net Weight: 6 kg



New Spring Gift

If you buy one box of rice you’ll get one bottle of olive oil imported directly from Spain and bottle-packed for free (500 ml)

Stock Quantity:
Only 200 boxes, first comes first serves till the end of the stock.





Where to Go During the Spring Festival

For observing the traditional Chinese lunar New Year's Day (Spring Festival) in Beijing, visiting temples and temple fairs could be counted as the most featured folk custom events. The traditional cultural events with their full appeals are always so attractive that people cannot help carrying on with them. Then, let's lose no time in making the fullest use of the Spring Festival holidays to experience some of the special features of the time-honored traditional culture of Beijing. This editor is most willing to serve as a guide for our dear readers.



Yonghegong (the Lama Temple) — Try to Be the First Pilgrim of the Day

Many Beijingers believe that the Lama Temple is the most ideal venue to burn joss sticks and do the pilgrimage. Particularly, on the first and 15th days of the first lunar month, the scene would be most spectacular with the temple shrouded in thick smokes produced by the great number of pilgrims burning joss sticks.

Early in the morning of the very first day of the Chinese New Year, monks would pass through various courtyards to reach the Hall of Dharma Wheel amid melodious and profound bell ringing where they recite Buddhist sutras to pray for world peace, national prosperity and bumper harvests throughout the year.

Disregarding the most appalling crowd, the worshippers bow and kowtow with concentrated mind, they pray for themselves and their families as well with great hope for peace and happiness. Moreover, the most pious pilgrims would start to wait in the line three days prior to the New Year Day in front of the temple, making light of all the hardship. As soon as the temple gate opens, they would dash in, leaving most of the worshippers behind. They simply want to be next to none in burning the joss sticks to express their sincerity to the Heaven. Thus, the first day of the Chinese New Year starts with the blessing of the immortals and the worshippers' murmuring of praying.



Address: No.12, Yonghegong Street, Beixinqiao, Dongcheng District, Beijing





Baiyun Taoist Temple — Touching the Stone Monkey

Baiyunguan, i.e. the Baiyun (White Clouds) Taoist Temple is the largest Taoist monastery in Beijing, also called No.1 Taoist Monastery of the Quanzhen Sect. The Baiyunguan Temple Fair mainly features events such as “Meeting the Immortal”, “Playing with the Money Eye” and “Touching the Stone Monkey”.

The year of 2016 is the Year of Monkey according to the Chinese lunar calendar, so it is all the more a must for visitors to Baiyunguan to touch the stone monkey. Stepping into the temple, one should no doubt first proceed to the central arch gate. On the relief sculpture on the east flank of the gate, tucks a stone monkey of the size of a palm, which has already been polished smooth by the touching of numerous visitors. There is a time-honored legend in Beijing which goes something like “The immortal did not intend to leave any trace at all, so there is only a stone monkey left to be watched for enjoyment by the mortals.” So this stone has already become an incarnation of the immortal. Visitors to Baiyunguan would all go to touch the stone monkey to get its blessing, to fend off disease and disaster, and to obtain safety and all the good luck. Well, just remind you that the temple boasts more than one “monkeys”. If you want to find all the stone monkeys so as to have an extra good luck for the coming year, you just need to try your luck throughout the Baiyun Monastery.

 ***Address: The east side of the Baiyun Road, Fuxingmen, Xicheng District, Beijing***

Ditan (The Earth Altar) — Watching the Memorial Sacrifices

With the first session run in 1985, this once-in-a year Ditan Spring Festival Temple Fair will have been staged for 31 years by the Spring Festival of 2016. As the earliest temple fair in Beijing restored after the Cultural Revolution, Ditan Spring Festival Temple Fair is well known throughout Beijing for its rich content of traditional and authentic folk customs. Going to Ditan Temple Fair has also become part of the customs for Beijing commoners, so it has been carried forward for so many years.



The imitation play modeled on the Qing Dynasty custom of making sacrifices to the Earth God is the exclusive and traditional feature of the Ditan Temple Fair. This play, with its magnificent scenes, resurrects the sacrifice-making by the Qing emperor to the Earth God. Through such sacrifices, the emperor prayed for the blessings by the Earth God in the hope that the country would be prosperous and the people would live in peace. Such imitation plays have attracted numerous Chinese and foreign visitors.

Another major characteristic of Ditan Temple Fair is its gorgeous snacks. Nearly 200 varieties of snacks from both north and south China would converge at the fair. And of all the snacks, Beijing flavored ones are most famous. Rounds after rounds of peddlers’ yelling for sale would be heard all over Ditan Park, the venue of the fair, and the prestigious yelling of food sellers has carried the Temple Fair’s brand



name for its delicious snacks far and wide. Holding meal boxes of cooked trip of sheep, starch sausage, seasoned miller much and golden-colored glutinous rice roll with red bean layers in between, visitors, all smiles, eat with great relish in spite of the freezing wind. Many foreigners also join the Chinese crowd and enjoy the Chinese festival with great pleasure. The aged and the young can both be seen conspicuously at the fair with their families against the background of the red lantern lights.

 ***Address: No.2 Andingmenwai Dajie, Dongcheng District, Beijing***



Daguan Yuan (The Grand View Garden) — Intoxicated by the Dream of the Red Mansions



The Dream of the Red Mansions written by the Qing Dynasty novelist Cao Xueqin presents a variety of vivid characters, reveals multi-facets of the mundane life and depicts in full the vicissitudes of life. For hundreds of years, hundreds of thousands of Red Fans have been carried away by the master piece and became unable to pull themselves out of the fascination. How many fans have been deeply moved and they cannot but sigh with profound feelings!

Beijing's Grand View Garden is exactly an ancient-styled architecture built according to the descriptions of the Grand View Garden in the novel of the Dream of the Red Mansions. Therefore, the Red Mansions Temple Fair staged here annually could offer you a golden opportunity to get a feel of the Dream and further understand the Chinese culture as a whole. Large-scaled and excellent imitation shows such as "The Imperial Concubine Visits Her Parents", "Jia Baoyu's So-Called Marriage with Lin Daiyu" and "The dowager of the Jia Family Celebrates Her Birthday" would enable you to follow Cao Xueqin's wonderful writing brush and get intoxicated in the profound charms and great appeals of the Red Mansions.

 **Address: No.88 Nancaiyuan Street, Xicheng District, Beijing**



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Special offer for Chinese New Year: free for registration (RMB100/person)

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

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- ◆ Advanced reservation is required and the offer only valid for stay from 4 Feb to 14 Feb, 2016.
- ◆ Complimentary upgrade subject to room availability.
- ◆ The offer not applicable to group.
- ◆ Not to be combined with other offers or promotions.



BUY THE “INSURANCE GOODS FOR THE NEW YEAR” TO HAVE A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS SPRING FESTIVAL

The Spring Festival is just round the corner. In this joyous holiday season, should foreign diplomatic officers working and living in China also consider adding some guarantees for themselves and their families to enjoy the Spring Festival with ease of mind? Don't worry! The Insurance Agency for Diplomatic Missions and Foreign Organizations will help you purchase “Insurance Goods for the New Year”.

During the holiday season, life could get irregular with lots of food and drinks, and people are prone to various diseases. Therefore, it is quite important to select some suitable medical insurance. **“Healthy Family”** is a world wide medical insurance product developed by the Ping'an Health Insurance Co. China's mainland and many parts of the world only except for North America could be selected as the insurance area scopes with the network hospitals covering a wide range. Direct settlement of accounts with the designated medical institutions will be applied for various diseases so as to make sure that you will enjoy the authoritative and quality medical treatment and service.

The Insurance Agency for Diplomatic Missions and Foreign Organizations has signed agreements with well-known insurance companies such as Ping'an, Allianz, MetLife and MSH. Further inquiries for specific insurance programs are most welcome.

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We Will Launch Super Class Self-guided Tour During the Spring Festival. *Are you ready?*

Special Offer for the Lunar New Year

To greet the coming New Year, CTS-BDS (BJ) International Travel Co., LTD (a jointly funded enterprise by Beijing Service Bureau for Diplomatic Missions and China Travel Service), will launch warm-heartedly and exclusively for readers of the Diplomats’ Club-Med super class and preferential self-guided tour to Guilin during the Spring Festival!

Club-Med Guilin Holiday Resort will provide you with a One-Price-for-All program, i.e. an all- inclusive and perfect vacation. The Holiday Resort’s multi-language staff offer you all-stage service around the clock. Rich and colorful events and activities will be available for both kids and adults. You may take your whole family to come and enjoy the beautiful natural sights of Guilin dubbed “the Best in the World”. Tourists can also feel for themselves the special folk customs of the ethnic minorities. What a perfect vacation you could expect to have!

Welcome to contact us for details on the Touring Items:

Inquiry Hotlines: Ms. Jin 13810237740 / 010-85321792
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TO YOUR HOME**



Are you still annoyed by the fact that you have to be thickly dressed for the winter season, thus inconvenient to move around? The Ring-Do Car Rental Center now delivers something warm especially for you, our respected clients so that you can bravely say “No!” to the winter freeze and cold. The program of Specially Preferential Price for the Festival is now right on hand to make it possible for you to go out as if in a warm spring. Just dial the car rental hotline No. 010-85322043, and you can immediately enjoy the service of the high-end Greely B-ray limousine designated for foreign service driven by a Choice Chauffeur to you home.

The Ring-Do Car Rental Center was set up in 1993. This car rental corporation designated for the use of foreign affairs specializes in the upscale car and driver services for foreign diplomatic missions, offices of international organizations and news agencies, the global top 500 enterprises, foreign affairs offices of various provinces and municipalities and other circles as well. Now the Ring-Do fleet boasts limousines of Mercedes, Audi, BMW, Business Buick and cars independently developed by China such as Geely B-ray and Roewe. The Ring-Do Center has made great efforts to promote the “Going out Green” campaign by purchasing the new energy and purely electric BMW ZINORO and Beiqi Saab. The Ring –Do Car Rental Center has contributed its share for the blue skies of Beijing while providing diversified car rental services, both long and short terms.

The Ring-Do Car Rental Center boasts a professional management team and experienced drivers who have engaged in foreign related service for many years and are able to speak daily used English and thus provide bilingual service related to car rental business.

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR THE SPRING FESTIVAL PERIOD

Daily rental	400~950 yuan /per day	Containing the driver's service charge and the fuel cost
Monthly rental	4500 yuan/per month	Containing car insurance and normal service and maintenance (specially preferential car model)

REMARKS: PLEASE CALL 010-85322043 FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES ON THE MOTOR VEHICLES.



Chinese New Year
The Year of
Monkey

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