



Grace and flavours

Visit Buenos Aires – a new KLM destination – to eat, drink, dance and be merry, says Matt Farquharson

PHOTOGRAPHY: YADID LEVY

A dozen oiled and suntanned men are giddily dancing about Plaza San Martín, wearing nothing but tiny Speedos. Around them are a film crew, a few perplexed onlookers, and the giant, vine-like ombu trees that seem to reach out of Buenos Aires pavements like vast, grasping hands. The dancers, being filmed for a slot on local TV, are an incongruous sight among the city's grand monuments. A statue of revolutionary leader José de San Martín stares silently on, as a bearded director hollars "cut!" in accented English.

This is Retiro, a hub of broad avenues and grand monuments from BA's 19th-century golden age – an era that saw Argentina become one of the wealthiest nations on earth, richer than both France and Germany.

It's also the beginning of a tour with biketours.com.ar, though the free dance show is not typically included. Tour guide Santiago freewheels away, and half a dozen of us follow like little ducks.

Swinging down past the docks that first established the city in the mid-1500s, and



MAIN
The old-school
charms of
Café Tortoni,
founded in 1858