

Angel Fingers

Canada's youngest classical piano star takes center stage at the Auditorium Parco della Musica. **Tiffany Parks** has the details.

What could be more impressive than performing a solo recital to sold-out crowds at one of the most prestigious concert halls in Europe? Doing it when you're barely 19 years old. **Jan Lisiecki** is a Canadian pianist of Polish descent who is taking the classical music world by storm, being named Deutsche Grammophon's Young Artist of the Year and winning the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival's Leonard Bernstein Award last year alone. Lisiecki is certainly not the first piano prodigy to grace the world's most important stages, but mere technical ability and virtuosity are not enough to turn every child star into a life-long concert musician. Yet the wide acclaim Lisiecki has received from critics and peers for his artistic maturity attests that his talent is of the lasting kind. After beginning piano lessons at the age of five, Lisiecki made his orchestral debut just four years later. Since then, he has performed with some of the most renowned ensembles

around the world, including the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Orchestre de Paris, the BBC Symphony, and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. He has played under such notable conductors as Claudio Abbado, Antonio Pappano, Christian Zacharias, David Zinman, and Paavo Järvi, and collaborated with legendary artists like Yo-Yo Ma, Emmanuel Ax, and Pinkas Zuckerman. Lisiecki's ambitious program, like his most recent album, is all Chopin. It opens with the *Grande Valse Brillante*, op. 18, Chopin's first important piano waltz, and continues with *24 Préludes*, op. 28, a collection of short pieces, each written in a different key. Three *Nocturnes*, op. 9 will lull you into a hypnotic dream world, but the ebullient and energetic fanfare of *Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise Brillante*, op. 22 will snap you out of your reverie to conclude the recital on a high note. Catch the performance on 28 May at the Auditorium PDM (p53).

Sultry Nights

Spice up your night with a burlesque performance at Rome's trendiest retro hot spot, **Micca Club**. Upstairs you can twist the night away to oldies from the '50s and '60s, or pop down to the cozy underground lair where live, old-fashioned burlesque shows take place every weekend. Via degli Avignonesi, 73. Tel 3933236244. www.miccaclub.com

