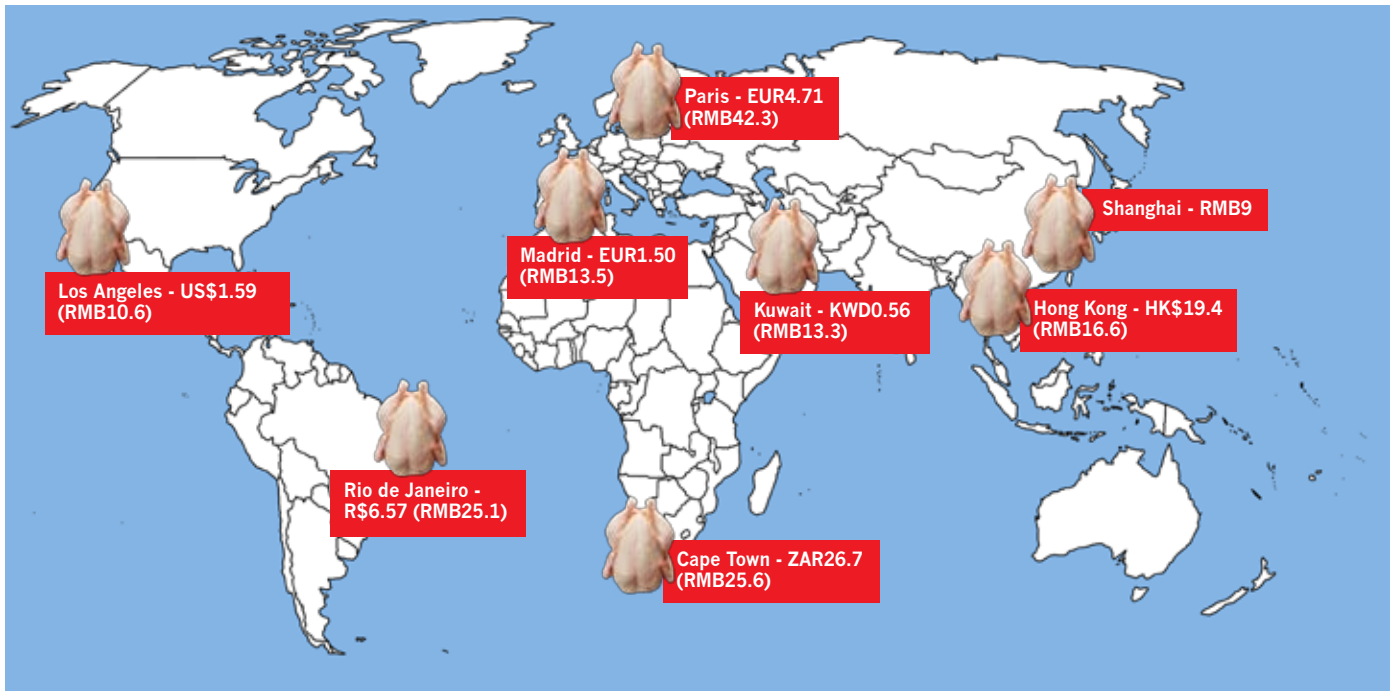


PRICE COMPARISON

How much does 1 lb of whole chicken cost in... ?



城市

Verdict: You won't find a cheaper chicken to put in your pot than right here, Shanghai

TRAILBLAZERS By Ned Kelly

Party Like It's 1984

Local publisher H.A.L. puts out first book

Poetry, prose, screen plays, essays, epiphanies or pornography – that's what H.A.L. Publishing says they'll print. A self-described "postpat colonist publishing house promoting China-based works by exceptional authors," the company was set up in September 2009 by, Swede Björn Wahlström, and his Canadian business partner, Nathan Fischbacher, in response to what they perceived as a cultural emptiness in Shanghai.

"Here in Shanghai we have music, magazines, clubs and bars, but little to nothing going on in the literary arena, apart from the high-end stuff," explains Wahlström. "We decided it was time to do something new – part publishing, part workshop and part events. We are a publishing house but we aspire to be locally founded."

Along with their website and fortnightly workshops, they hosted their first Slamhai slam poetry event in September and are set to stage another with live art and music on December 18 to celebrate the launch of their first book, *Party Like It's 1984: Short Stories From The People's Republic*

Of, a collection of 15 works from British, Swedish, American, Canadian and Chinese writers, covering an equally diverse range of topics and themes.

The book was born out of H.A.L.'s ongoing series of workshops, called Groupthink, where every fortnight writers come together at Bell Bar in Tianzifang to share their work on a topic contributed by one of their number. "The response since we launched has been huge," says Wahlström. "Every second person in Shanghai seems to have finished a couple of novels."

They aim to publish their first full length novel next year, alongside a smaller edition of "postpat Chinglish and Engnese poetry," as well as keeping up the workshops and hosting five to six Slamhai events. It all seems pretty organic, with talk of film scripts and an essay collection being banded about. So there you have it: a creative outlet for all you wannabe wordsmiths out there. // *Party*

Like It's 1984: Short Stories vs Shanghai Slamhai round II and artLIVE takes place at 8pm on Sat, Dec 18 at the River South Art Center, 1247 Suzhou Nan Lu, by Xinzha Lu. Admission RMB84 including a copy of the book and a drink. For more on H.A.L. Publishing visit www.haliterature.com

