

Last Thursday those beauties from Bel Ami were in London spreading some homosexual titillation in Soho. "Where can I find one of those?" we hear you scream...

# EAST BLOCK

# BOYS

**Are you Bored of Czeching out the boys in Prague? Then get Hungary for love in Budapest or perhaps Polish them off in Warsaw! This week, QX guides you around Warsaw, one of the lesser known gay capitals of Eastern Europe.**

WHY on earth would anyone, not least a chic gay chick, want to visit Catholic, post-Pact Warsaw? In the depths of winter especially, surely it's some kind of giant concrete Eastern European Hull-on-ice!

Well firstly, you'd be being 'different'; and secondly, it's not like that, not really. It's the very fact that not everyone has been seduced and homogenised by the latest fashions, that makes the Warsaw scene - where boys are fresh and winners raw - so interesting and genuine. And hurry, before the tourists flock.

something quite hot. Its more modern rival, the **Galla Sauna** (ulica Ptasia 2, T: +48 22 652 19 86), lies just to the north on ulica Ptasia and is about the same size, also simmering with Polish males, young and old.

Relatively new kid on the bar block **Utopia** (Jaśna 1, T: +48 22 827 15 40), back near **Paradise** (ulica Wawelska 5, T: +48 502 222 208) swells on Fridays and Saturdays into Warsaw's main gay club, a large space in a tennis club social hut that plays tunes from techno to pop while young'n's bob.

There is also a number of great eateries where gays hang out. Central **Szpilka & Szpilka** (Plac Trzech Krzyży 18, T: +48 22 628 91 32) are a pair of trendy, galieried, modern messes offering hot and cold food long after most bars have shut but gays are still going. **Stop Klatka** (ulica Wspólna 27, T: +48 22 628 31 83) down is a small, cosy restaurant serving traditional Polish food - worth a visit. Or further south still, **Bastylia** (ulica Mokotowska 17) has turned into a right old lesbian crêperie - extremely friendly.

Because of the underground nature of the scene, it's hardly surprising a lot goes on in dark rooms, saunas and bushes. Park life is vibrant, especially during the day, but beware: nights can be dangerous, so watch out! You can readily find boys in the bushes in the magnificent **Skaryszewski Park** on the other side of the Vistula, not least by the lake. But the busiest outdoor action at any hour of day or night is in the **parkland straddling ulica Książcza east of Plac Trzech Krzyży**, a short walk from the bars.

The only gay place to stay in Warsaw, in every sense, is **Friends Guest House** (ulica Stenkiewicza 4/28, <http://gaystay.net/Friends/Warsaw/>): bang in the centre, in the shadow of the proudly phallic Palace of Culture and Science. It is spanking new, clean and well-equipped, and just a spit and a spunk away from all the gay fray.

