

# easyJet

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INFLIGHT MAGAZINE

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## Night RIDER

Head out to the floodlit slopes for the ultimate snow adventure



### The Payne Game

Cult role for  
Mark Wahlberg

### Boules of Steel

Enter the sphere of  
Pétanque's hometown

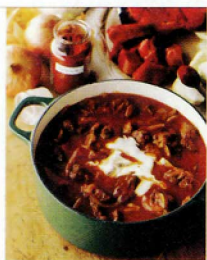
### Pedigree Chums

Italy's rescue dogs take  
the plunge



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## In the stew

Banish the cold this winter with a bowl of Hungarian goulash, the iconic beef casserole

**T**HE FIRST TIME YOU SAW IT IN A CUP OF SOUP, YOU KNEW THAT THE HUNGARIAN Goulash was a dish that had been around for centuries. It's a hearty, comforting dish that's perfect for the winter months. The recipe is simple and easy to make, and it's a great way to warm up on a cold day. The goulash is made with beef, onions, and paprika, and it's served with a slice of cheese and a garnish of herbs. It's a dish that's been enjoyed for generations, and it's a great way to bring a bit of Hungary to your table.

about whether goulash is a soup or a stew. There's no doubt that the thicker variety is more of the latter, and, according to Hungarian TV reporter David Szele, goulash is definitely a soup, albeit one that normally gets more like a stew as it cools off. "It's a bit of a mystery," he says, "because the name about this particular dish, if you really want to be pedantic, is a bit of a mess."

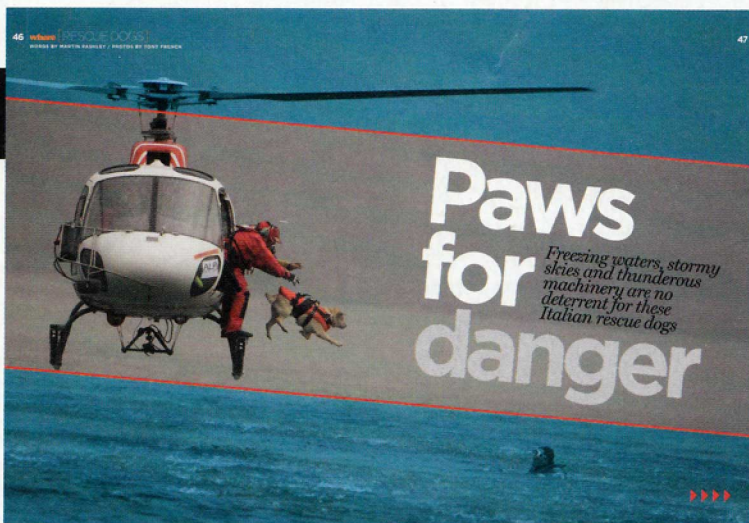
Nonetheless, the essential ingredient in the most traditional version of goulash (and it's not "stew," then, it's a soup) is paprika. It's a spice that's been used for centuries, and it's a key ingredient in many Hungarian dishes. It's a spice that's been used for centuries, and it's a key ingredient in many Hungarian dishes. It's a spice that's been used for centuries, and it's a key ingredient in many Hungarian dishes.

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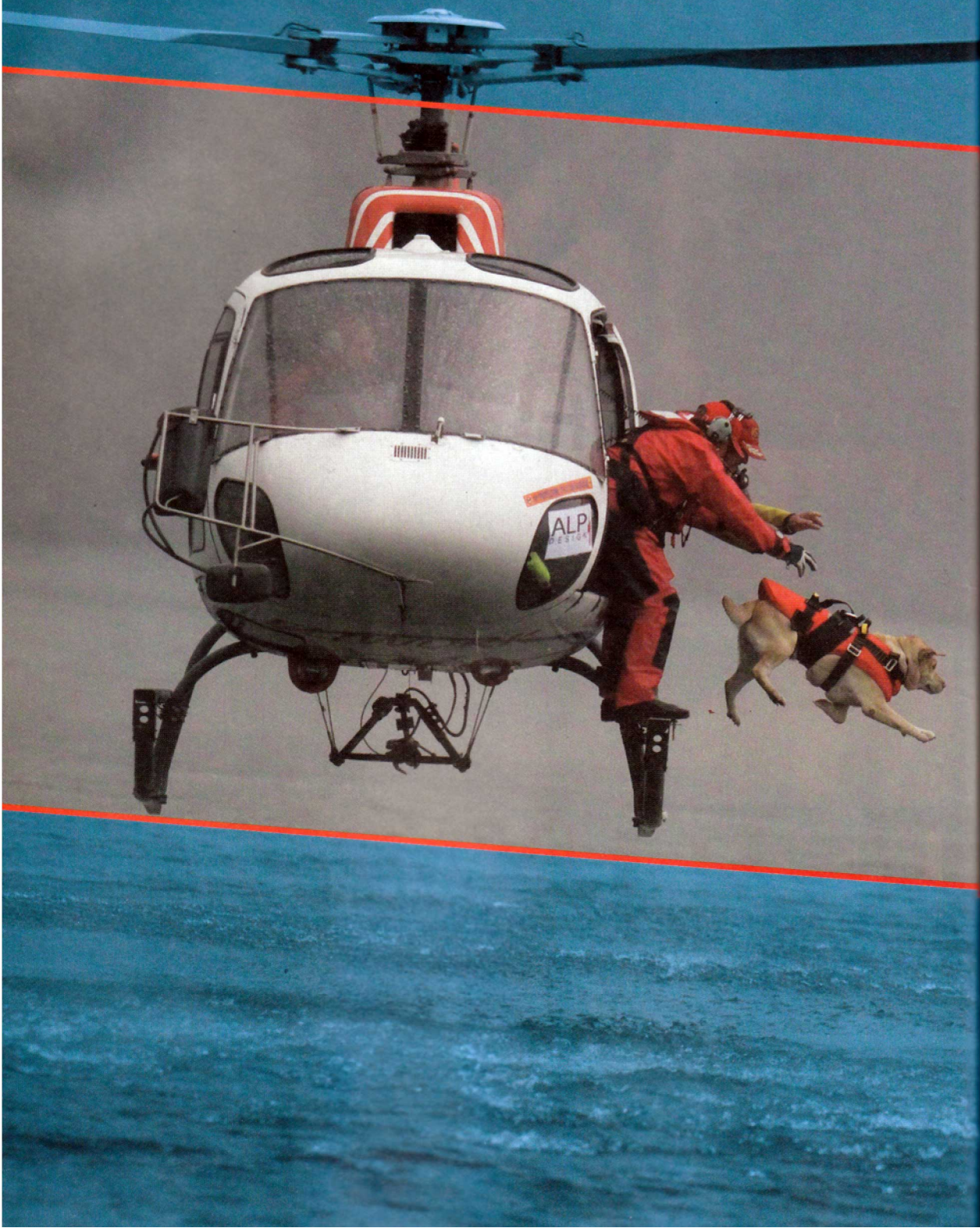


- 70 **EURO FOOD** From sweets to sherry, chocolate pudding to pesto, certain food brands have become synonymous with their country of origin.



New this season is a great offer on His & Hers fragrances from Emporio Armani (page 15), the new Ladies Aviator watch (page 18) and our new solar powered torch (page 21). So sit back with a hot drink, now with half price shortbread, and shop from your seat!







# Paws for danger

*Freezing waters, stormy  
skies and thunderous  
machinery are no  
deterrent for these  
Italian rescue dogs*







**N A COLD LAKE IN THE LOMBARDY REGION OF ITALY A SWIMMER IS GETTING INTO DIFFICULTIES.**

As she struggles

desperately to keep afloat, a rescue helicopter swoops down out of the clouds and hovers 2m above the grey water, whipping the waves into a frenzy. For a moment it appears as if the machine is going to hang in the sky as a passionless observer, but then suddenly a huge black dog wearing an orange life-vest leaps from the chopper's door and paddles towards the swimmer. The distressed bather stops splashing and grabs onto the dog, which pulls her towards the safety of the shore.

Welcome to examination day at the Scuola Italiana Cani Salvataggio (Italian Rescue Dog School). Founded in 1989 by Ferruccio Pilenga, the school pioneered canine water rescue in Italy and now has 10 branches dotted from Rome to Sardinia. Though breeds such as Labradors and Newfoundlands, with their natural aptitude for the water, dominate the service, any dog over 30kg that is good with people and other dogs can join the school. "Of course," says Ferruccio with a smile, "they must be very good in the water." If they tick all these boxes and prove themselves through training, they can even earn the coveted wings that advanced rescue dogs wear on their harnesses to show they are comfortable launching themselves out of a helicopter to carry out a rescue.

Today, Ferruccio's rescue teams (dogs train and work with their owners)



**It was in the ice-cold North Atlantic that the dogs earned their legendary status**

**Training day:** clockwise from above, rescue dogs and their handlers prepare for their final live test, where both must willingly jump from a helicopter into freezing waters



patrol much of Italy's lengthy coastline. However it took 10 years of battling scepticism before officials would recognise Ferruccio's water rescue dogs. He had a shining example, however, to win them over with: the school's first pupil and Ferruccio's own Newfoundland Mas, whose natural traits Ferruccio harnessed alongside his experience as a volunteer in the rescue services.

Ferruccio is not the first to utilise Newfoundlands and Labradors for work in the water. The story goes that Vikings introduced big black working dogs to the Canadian Maritime provinces (for which the dogs are named) in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, after which migrant Portuguese fishermen trained them as retrievers. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Newfoundlands in





particular had become standard kit for a thriving fishing industry. There was almost no end to their use—they were employed to haul nets out to sea and bring the day's catch back to the boat, and once back on land, were hitched to carts and used to ferry the fish back to the nearest town. However it was for their rescue abilities in the ice-cold North Atlantic that the dogs earned their legendary status. While some tales, such as that of "Rigel, hero dog of the Titanic", who supposedly saved a lifeboat full of passengers from the doomed liner, are exaggerated, if you are bobbing around in the water and see the domed head of a Newfoundland swimming towards you, your chances of survival have just gone up several notches.

## When handler and dog have learned boat and shore rescue they are ready for the final challenge



At the Scuola Italiana training begins at puppy stage. The first thing they learn is how to swim confidently beside their handler. Later they are introduced to the tools of the trade, such as the buoyant water harnesses that will aid their work. Then they are taught specific skills, such as the "dolphin" swimming stroke, which conserves valuable energy during a rescue. Finally, when both handler and dog have learned boat and shore rescue techniques and are confident enough to act independently of each other in any situation, they are ready for the final challenge—the helicopter.

Ferruccio points out that the majority of rescues don't involve helicopters, however in extreme cases, such as the scenarios played out on examination day, a rescue dog will be called on to leap from one and there will be no room for error. If it shows any hesitation in assessment, it must wait another year for a second chance.

The autumn morning scheduled for the test jumps has the perfect mix of trying weather conditions. As the handlers wait for their turn, torrential rain buffets the crowd, soaking everyone. Add a low ceiling of dirty grey cloud, reduced visibility and thunder cracks, and it's touch and go whether it will be safe enough for the chopper to fly.

As we wait for the helicopter to arrive, Paolo Bozza, an industrial designer from Milan and owner of two rescue dogs explains the reasons he got involved with the school. "I wanted to help people and I love dogs. I heard about Ferruccio's school and it seemed the perfect combination. It's great fun and you feel like you could actually help save someone's life. Plus (he grins), there is the added bonus that once your dog is qualified you can take it with you to the beach." In Italy dogs are banned from public beaches, but when they are rescue dogs, they can go anywhere.





▶▶▶ Though he owns a Labrador, Paolo has boundless admiration for the larger Newfoundlands and their unparalleled strength. "Apparently a Newfoundland once pulled a rope and the 50 people holding on to it out of the water." He goes silent for a moment, contemplating the spectacle. "Imagine a dog that is capable of that. It is nothing short of magnificent."

The conversation is cut short by the unmistakable thud of rotor blades signalling the helicopter's arrival. The atmosphere noticeably tenses as nearly 50 dogs and wet-suited owners line up and wait for the signal for their turn. It will be quick—the ride only lasts as long as it takes the chopper to sweep around the nearside of the lake and get in position to hover for 20 seconds a few metres above the water. The owners jump first ("they are often more nervous than the dogs," Ferruccio says) and the dogs follow. Once in the water it's a team effort to guide the struggling "rescuee" to shore. It sounds tricky, even on a bright summer's day by the Adriatic, but in the filthy conditions here on the lake, any wings awarded today will truly be earned.

## Before long the water is alive with orange-suited dogs and handlers pulling people to shore

"Go, go, go!" shouts Ferruccio as the first team rushes to the helicopter. All eyes are on the aircraft as it moves into position over the lake. The first team jumps without incident, as does the second and the third. Before long the water is alive with orange-suited dogs and handlers pulling people to shore.

Ferruccio is pleased with how the day is progressing—so far all teams have jumped. "We train people well. But once they are up there, it is different. It is for real. Today we have graduated some dogs that in the future might save lives." He smiles. "That's a good day's work in anyone's book, isn't it?" Before I have a chance to answer he runs to the helicopter and the next rescue mission begins.



## It's a dog's life

### SNIFFER DOGS

With their extra keen sense of smell, dogs have been trained to detect drugs, bombs, firearms and even bootleg DVDs. It's said a dog that specialises in body detection can pick up the scent of blood spilled more than 10 years ago.

### AVALANCHE RESCUE

Though the classic image of the climber rescued by a hefty St Bernard is no longer reality (they are far too large and lazy), dogs are still a vital tool in any mountain rescue team. Today Collies and Alsatians are used, and unfortunately for those needing a pick-me-up after a mountain has just fallen on them, they don't carry booze.

### HEARING DOGS

Trained to alert deaf or hearing impaired owners to important sounds such as the doorbell or smoke alarm, hearing dogs are vital, though relatively easy to train (as little as three months in some cases).

### SEIZURE RESPONSE DOGS

Employed to help people suffering from epilepsy, a trained dog can summon help by pressing an alarm or alerting others. It will also move dangerous objects away from the person having an episode and can act as a physical support to stop the person falling over or moving into the path of traffic if out on the street.