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th, snap!

Beijing is a visually arresting city, but how can you capture that in a photo? Read on for top photographers' tips on how to shoot the city at its best. Plus amazing readers' images, new photo tech and more. Edited by

Lee Williamson, additional content by Mat Gallagher





1 Shrimp Pasta at Switch! DSLR camera

Canon 5D MkII

This was tough, as the three main ingredients were all nearly identical in colour. I tried an up-close shot, but it cropped out the bruschetta in the background. Further away, using an 85mm f/1.2L lens, I could show the dish in its entirety, and accentuate that green basil – a small detail that adds to the lush colour palette and



makes the food look fresh. If I were shooting this dish on a smartphone, I would put the food in a darker area; this tricks the camera sensor into overexposing the subject for improved colour rendition.'

2 Strawberry tarts (homemade)

Smartphone iPhone 4S
'As complicated as it may look, this was relatively simple to achieve

by using surrounding objects to add to the scene. The two coffeecup saucers mimic the pattern of the tarts and create a diagonal eye-line in the shot. Strong natural light makes anything look more appealing and brings out the red of the strawberries. To reflect light and soften the shadows, you could have a friend hold a white napkin opposite the source of light out-of-frame to mimic the effect of a pro reflector. Finally, don't be afraid to get close-up to the subject. Show that texture!

3 Santa Fe Beef Salad at Switch!

Smartphone Xiaomi 1S
'Turn the dish towards the camera to showcase the most important ingredients – here, the sautéed beef and sliced avocados. Always try to focus on the more interesting colours or textures. I positioned the smartphone at a 45-degree angle – this often accentuates the presentation of food – so that the food almost fills the camera frame. You can steady the camera at around 45 degrees by balancing it on a coffee cup or something of a similar size on the table.'



Fagan's stock and assignment production company, www. shannonfagan. com, has supplied pictures to Getty Images and Shutterstock, and has shot the cover images of several issues of Time Out Beijing. Follow him on WeChat: shannonfagan.





