

DEDICATED TO BRUXPATS&BUSINESS PEOPLE IN BRUSSELS

FREE-N°2/MARCH-APRIL 2007

# Together

magazine

SPECIAL  
FEATURES

## Fashion Virtual World

INTERVIEWS

**Eric Bompard**  
**Goran Bregovic**

BY THE GLASS

**Saint Emilion**  
**Grand cru**



# WINNING OVER EUROPE

The main objective that Together Magazine has set itself is to integrate the agents of Europe into Brussels life. Through carefully selected topics, we want to provide the reader with information that's both useful and enjoyable. In order to achieve that result, our first task is to get to know all about our readers. Getting to know them means listening to them, understanding them and anticipating what they want and need so as to create an interaction that benefits all those involved.

Following the publication of the first issue of Together Magazine, many of you recognised the importance of that interaction. On behalf of our whole team, I would like to thank you. Thanks to you, the readers, who have congratulated and encouraged us. Thanks also to the people who have offered constructive criticism regarding the editorial content of some of the articles. In particular, the piece on the income of European officials prompted disapproval from some readers.

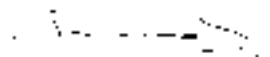
However, one merit of that article was that it emphasised the importance of being on the same wavelength as our readers with the subjects we tackle.

It also allowed me to meet some of you in person and to go into more detail in the search for complex information on what's happening now in the European institutions, with the aim of keeping our readers informed in a transparent and objective way.

Those meetings made me realise one essential thing: Europe and the architects who are building it day after day represent a rich and invaluable source of knowledge and contacts for anyone taking the trouble to win them over. From now on, that's how it will be.

Because Europe is worth taking an interest in "Together", looking in the same direction.

**Jérôme Stéfanski**  
*Editor in chief*



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# Frank the Charmer...

Frank Schwalba-Hoth

## TOGETHER MAGAZINE HAS SUCCEMBED TO THE CHARM OF A EUROPEAN ALCHEMIST

Many people have often caught sight of this charismatic character, who has no hesitation in cycling around the city, come rain, snow or gale, or even riding a scooter!

We were lucky enough to meet Frank Schwalba-Hoth. His curriculum vitae barely fits onto two tightly-packed pages. His title? It's easy to get confused, it as he's active in so many different fields. But we won't forget the fact that he's a former Euro-MP, that he was head of

the European office of Greenpeace, that he's a political adviser and that, once a month, he holds parties designed to bring people together, to establish important professional contacts as well as friendship, love and sharing. His nationality? German. His philosophy? The firm conviction that "alchemy" is precisely what's required in order to understand how to improve things: *"I like to put together the ingredients to create something new. So we can call it a win-win situation, finding a role for everyone in order to achieve something more satisfying."*

## THE FREE ELECTRON

Mr Schwalba-Hoth describes himself as a "free electron". For example, he works in the European Parliament most of the time in order to put in place key campaigns for the "Greens" but also to do other work close to his heart (Lester Brown's visit to Brussels, organising an event to pay tribute to the journalist Hrant Dink, murdered a few weeks ago, for example). He also helps with other events, independent of the European institutions, which he deals with in another office. He's a leading personality. And his career path? He says it's "logical". Frank Schwalba-Hoth

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explains to us that, for the young activist student he once was, in a Germany that was, somehow or other, coming to terms with the post-war period, it was "logical" for him to take part in founding the Greens in Germany. From then on, he was to be propelled into the arena of the battles that would challenge him in the future.

#### BRUSSELS AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: PLACES OF DISCOVERY

His area of activity is not unimportant. For our man, it's interesting to move within

**IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THERE'S NO ONE CULTURE THAT DOMINATES; MANY COMMUNITIES RUB SHOULDERS IN THE SAME WAY**

the European institutions because they offer a series of questions, particularly those regarding the relations the countries maintain between themselves. What could improve international understanding? *"Mutual respect,"* exclaims Frank. Moreover, that environment allows you to make countless discoveries every day: *"In the European Parliament, there's no one culture that dominates; many communities rub shoulders in the same way."* As for Brussels, "Frank" sees it as a capital where anything's possible: *"Brussels is a city that's still looking for its identity and it doesn't reject newcomers..."*

Frank Schwalba-Hoth's popularity doesn't surprise us. He understands the fascination aroused by the European institutions in our city and tries, when he can, to open them up to us. For those who so wish, he'll put together an absorbing guided tour on which, for a little while, you'll feel like the most important person in the world.

Arta Ertekin



# The euro, five years later

European Parliament

**T**he euro is five years old. A subdued kind of birthday for most users of the single currency. Is the euro responsible for price-rises or is it the perfect scapegoat? *Together* got the gen for you.

A bad thing. On this point at least, the customers of Jean Louis David, a hairdressing salon in Avignon (France) agree. *"Since the euro came in, all the prices have gone up. My bread now costs one euro when I used to pay 40 cents less before. The same goes for coffee. The cost of living is high,"* Geneviève, 47, declares emphatically under her perm. The young hair stylist from the Jessica Institute adds her own ten cents worth as she snips away. *"And that's not all, have you seen rents at the moment? It's become impossible to find a decent*

*place to live for less than 400 euro now. On my wages of 1000 euro, there's nothing left by the end of the month."* Everyone chips in with his or her conclusive proof. The elderly Mrs Campe tries in vain to take part in the conversation. The noise of the hair-dryer drowns out her soft voice. *"I still don't know where I am with it. I've got my pocket calculator with me. Sometimes, shopkeepers try to take advantage of elderly ladies,"* she explains before Sylvain, a man of around 40, interrupts her. *"Talking about shopkeepers, they've taken advantage of the euro to raise their prices. Look at Lucien on the corner, those vegetables are much dearer now."*

#### EUROPEANS AND THE EURO

Like many of the French themselves, the euro doesn't please everyone and the

trend is growing. A survey carried out by the Pèlerin (TNS Sofres December 2006), for example, shows that 52% of French people think that the single currency is a 'bad thing' for them, compared with 45% in 2004, for employment (53%) and for growth (51%). The phenomenon is not specific to the French. A Eurobarometer survey notes a similar scepticism among Italians, Greeks and Dutch. In fact, only the Irish (75%), the Finns (65%) and the Luxembourgers (64%) are still overwhelmingly in favour. *"For the most part,"* comments Jean Philippe Ducart, chairman of the Belgian consumer association *"Tests Achats"*, *"people recognise that it makes it easier to compare prices, gives Europe a stronger position in the world, makes prices more stable and reduces the costs of travelling*

abroad and, the best part for Europeans and particularly the British, it means that they don't have to convert currency any more." Conversely, it's blamed for increases in prices and unemployment levels and the weak economic growth rate.

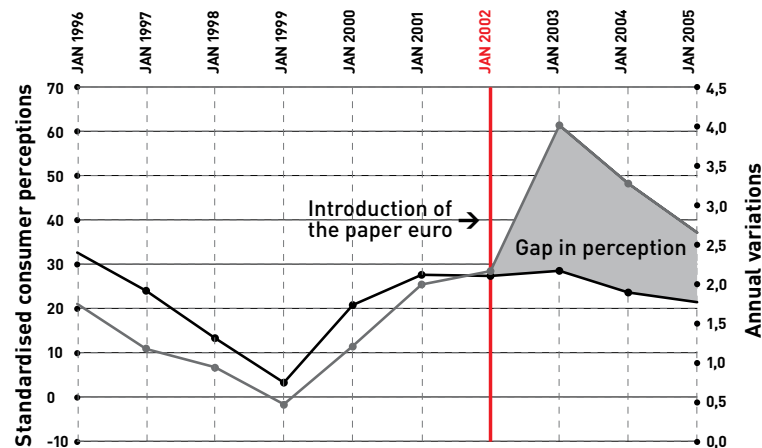
## PERCEPTION OR REALITY?

Is the euro responsible for the high prices we're paying today? "Yes, but only to a small degree," hammers out Paul de Gowe, eminent specialist in the single currency and researcher at the KUL (Catholic University) in Leuven. He reminds us that the escalation in prices is due to inflation (the cost of money) and, during the transition to the euro in 2002, it remained at around 2-3%, as in the previous year. "Inflation has never been so low in Europe.

Pre-2002, in some Member States, inflation reached 5% or even 10%. The effect of the transition to the euro manifested itself in an increase of 0.3%. That increase is linked to the rounding-up of prices and the mischief of some businesses, which have taken advantage of the transition to the euro to alter their prices, upwards of course. In any event, it was followed, in Belgium, by an increase in wages of approximately 0.5% a year. A slight increase in the purchasing power of Belgians has also been observed since 1999."

Yvan Roque, Belgian representative of Hotels, Restaurants and Cafés (HORECA), defends his sector. "People think that we've taken advantage of the arrival of the euro to get rich. That's not true. Our services cost

more because our purchases cost more. Coffee-roasting factories are laying out more for wages, oil and transport. In the end, the rise in production costs has an impact on the price in the shops." If the European Commission studies are anything to go by, the huge gap between actual inflation and our perception of it is magnified by two phenomena. The "decimal point complex", a little shifted decimal, a devastating "butterfly effect" on our bills. And the association of the euro with the escalation in the price of coffee, beer or bread. These everyday purchases influence how we view inflation. (See graph 1: Gap in perception). So we're witnessing a crisis of confidence that's shared all over Europe, even in countries where inflation has fallen.



**GRAPH 1**  
Gap in perception  
—●— our perception of inflation  
—●— actual inflation



## All you need to know about the process of finding a home in Belgium

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Finding a suitable home when you are coming to live in Belgium may seem difficult but there is nothing you need to know about making such arrangements. That's a task for the ING Home Services experts. Real estate agencies, home rental guarantees, residential finance/insurance and - most importantly of all - advice, are all available to you even before you arrive. ING's Expat Services have 40 years of experience to help make your stay in Belgium as financially smooth as possible.





### IT'S NO MYTH

Comparing the euro with our old currency when we spend is like comparing apples with oranges. In other words, a flexible rate with a fixed parity. There's a tendency to forget that prices would also have increased under our national currency. Worse still, any internal or external political crisis such as the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks or the war in Iraq would have had disastrous consequences for the Eurozone countries.

*"Without the euro, the lira under Berlusconi would have been devalued threefold. The single currency helps to cushion the impact of speculation. It has brought real stability because, now, the Member States can*

*no longer raise interest rates in order to stop speculation. This stability is fundamental; it gives investors confidence, saves us from a sudden halt in economic growth and, consequently, from job losses. What's more, instability or fluctuation in exchange rates would have given rise to internal and inter-Community competition in an already difficult period of recession,"* clarifies Paul De Gowe. The fact is that national governments have sold the euro as a step towards a social Europe when, in fact, it has merely fulfilled its role: to create monetary stability and manage inflation.

Jessica Jouve

**THE SINGLE  
CURRENCY HELPS  
TO CUSHION  
THE IMPACT  
OF SPECULATION**

# Did you know?



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## COUNTERFEIT EUROS ARE ON THE INCREASE

The number of counterfeits recorded since the introduction of the euro in 2002 is 350 000. The period from 2005-2006 easily takes the prize for year of the counterfeit, with 96 000 fake coins withdrawn from circulation. That's an increase of 30%. These figures are still well below those of our old currencies. However, counterfeiters are reported to be increasingly clever, to the point where their work is sometimes close to the technical standard of authentic coins. The 2 euro coin with the German national heads side is said to be the most reproduced. Europeans are also reported to mix Turkish coins with the euro.

## EURO CLUB: 13 MEMBERS.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January this year, Slovenia became the 13th member of the Eurogroup. What about the entry of the other Member States? They've fallen behind. Malta, Cyprus and Slovakia have set themselves the year 2009 as their objective. Estonia, Poland and Hungary have preferred not to fix a schedule. The first two do not fulfil the criterion of inflation, which is still too high. As for the Hungarian portfolios, they don't fulfil any of the five compulsory criteria of the Stability Pact. Sweden, which, by way of reminder, rejected entry to the euro by referendum in 2003, is compelled to adopt it. But there is a lack of political will. The UK and Denmark are still exempt from joining. An exceptional scenario.

## RISE IN INTEREST RATES, WHAT'S THIS?

Sixth rise in interest rates. A record for Jean Claude Trichet, President of the European Central Bank. In the past year, the euro key rate has gone up from 2%

to 3.5%. What does that mean in concrete terms? Quite simply, that money is more expensive. And that determines the price at which the commercial banks replenish their supplies from the Central Bank. If the increase is too high, the commercial bank avoids replenishing its supplies and draws on its reserves instead, thus causing a reduction in liquid assets. On the other hand, an increase in rates also goes hand-in-hand with reluctance on the part of investors and on our part, as consumers, to borrow. The main consequence of this being a sudden slow-down of the European economy. In any event, the rise in interest rates helps to avoid a crisis of confidence by preventing the currency from losing its value.

Jessica Jouve



Jean-Claude TRICHET,  
President of the European Central Bank

Brussels needs dreams  
as much as concrete.



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# THE LOFT PHENOMENON ARRIVES IN BRUSSELS

In each edition, the Uptown experts offer a clear-sighted view of the Brussels property market. Trends, changes, investments, town planning and interior design, are the subjects tackled in this section. This month, the spotlight is on a phenomenon that's very much in fashion: the loft. And, because property is supposed to make us dream, we invite you in for an exclusive look at a sumptuous Brussels loft, tastefully and extravagantly converted to the delight of its owners.

## FOR THE RECORD...

Most reinvestments in lofts go on conversion. Space is the crucial factor, taking into account the industrial past of the original building. In short, lofts are all the rage

among a certain set and, on the property market, prices are rocketing. New Yorkers, Londoners and Parisians probably feel quietly smug when they discover an infatuation for lofts in Belgium today and in particular in cities such as Brussels or even Antwerp and Ghent, which have led the way. Because it's more than 40 years now since renovations were first carried out on old printing works, warehouses, breweries and other disused factories standing in city centres, whether in Soho or Tribeca (New York), on the banks of the Thames (London) or in the various districts of Paris.

What's more, it would seem that, in contrast to what people say when they attribute the origin of lofts to NY city, the French capital is, in fact, the birthplace of these dwellings.

**LOFTS ARE CREATING A CRAZE AMONG A CERTAIN PUBLIC AND PRICES ARE SOARING**



"Sobriety, minimalism and purity are the main assets of this loft located in Brussels. The Uptown group aims to combine the beautiful with the functional by maintaining perfect control over the sober architectural style of the place.

This loft creates an impression of brightness, with lines delineating the space with energy, ethereal volumes and an interior decor forming an harmonious whole.

Contemporary luxury is very much in evidence, displaying elegance and refinement in all their splendour. The combination of comfort, purity of lines, daring architecture and appealing interior decor with intricate details lends a brightness and clarity to this delightful place.

Uptown is making, creating and developing a new trend in the property business with its team of architects and its "Home Interiors" department.



Photos © Serge Brison for Uptown

# LITTLE CORNER OF PARADISE LOST IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

"A few great masterpieces, decorative details and pieces of furniture combine comfort with purity. Whether it's Kartell, IPE Cavalli, Boffi or any number of others, good taste is always in evidence.

Contrary to popular belief, the contemporary concept of this dwelling is easy to combine with everyday living and can keep pace with developments in modern design."

Julie Peire

**A TREND IN WHICH STYLE, FASHION AND CREATIVITY GO HAND IN HAND...**

This two-storey dwelling standing in a leafy-green inner courtyard in a well-known area of Avenue Winston Churchill is hidden away, allowing the occupants to enjoy the tranquillity of the place while still being close to the city centre.





# WHEN VIRTUAL BECOMES REALITY

those close to us. In other words, we live in an increasingly virtual world. But at what cost?

Serge Minet, clinical therapist and scientific coordinator of the CHU Brugmann (teaching hospital) Games Clinic, sees a stream of people hooked on that other world, people who prefer to spend 10 hours in their bubble and to cut themselves off from reality. For 5 years, he has been coming to their aid.

## **"CYBER-DEPENDENCY" IS ESCALATING**

To this therapist, the reason is simple, *"The virtual world has become the new sanctuary, the new place to dream"*. A place where the trials and tribulations of daily life are pushed aside. A human need but, for some who are *"already psychologically fragile, virtual games, the Internet and chatting are becoming a drug in the same way as alcohol or tobacco"*. A way *"of forgetting their anxieties or depression"*. In some extreme cases, the Internet surfer *"can no longer distinguish between reality and imagination"*. He is caught in his virtual character and gradually *"shuts himself off from the rest of the world"*.

## **THE VIRTUAL WORLD, A DANGER?**

But Mr Minet doesn't see only disadvantages. Living another life in the evening helps us to forget our worries for a while. What's more, our *"imagination*

*is stimulated by it and we train ourselves to be competent more quickly, to be more efficient"*. The Internet is also a place to be *"sociable, which is accessible twenty-four hours a day"*. The world turns into a huge network in which it's possible to speak directly to people far away, to obtain information in record time. As for violent games, they can have *"a cathartic, liberating effect"*. For example, *"We can say to the other person things we couldn't say in reality"*. A way of letting off steam, of shrugging off our anxieties and fears.

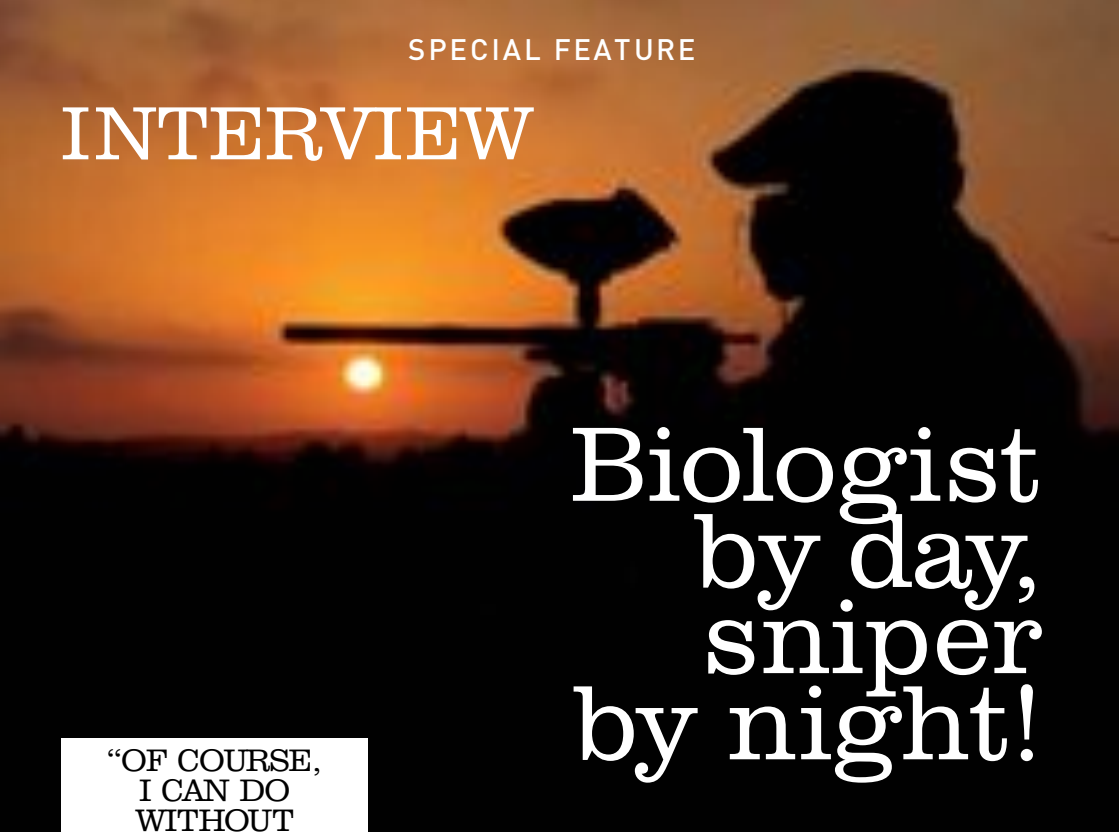
## **VIRTUAL THERAPISTS AS SAFEGUARD**

In a society of immediate gratification and excess, the virtual world meets our needs to the extent that it's sometimes more tempting to live our virtual life than experience our real problems. So how can we avoid crossing the boundary between simple everyday relaxation and dependency? Serge Minet suggests *"creating therapist characters"*, as in the real world. These would, for example, be responsible for controlling the playing time of some players who are more vulnerable than others. With a game such as *"Second Life"* or *"The Sims"*, the virtual already seems so real! Why not go one step further?!

Valérie Marchat

**"Y**ou've got mail." An alert that we receive everyday. What's more, it wouldn't occur to us to manage without it. We're constantly torn between the reality of our office and the virtual world on our screens. Nowadays, we flirt on the Internet, we can hold business meetings and we chat to strangers who seem to understand us better than

## INTERVIEW



# Biologist by day, sniper by night!

"OF COURSE,  
I CAN DO  
WITHOUT  
IT BUT I THINK  
ABOUT IT  
REGULARLY  
DURING  
THE DAY"

**B**y day, Florent Raffin is a biology research technician in a research centre in Grenoble. By night, he goes by the name of "Harkamyl" and has a slightly different job! He's a warrior specialising in defence and belongs to the "Gatecrash" guild. As you may have guessed, Florent is one of the millions of followers of World Of Warcraft, a medieval fantasy game on the Net.

**Together Magazine:**  
Why that character?

**Florent Raffin:** "I've been playing role-play board games since I was a teenager and I've always chosen warrior classes. Perhaps, deep down, there's a warrior's soul in me. I'm a Navy reservist."

**TM:** How much time do you spend playing a week?

**FR:** "It varies a lot but I'd say, on average, I play WoW around 20 hours a week. But that can go up to 70 or even 80 hours a week if I'm on holiday."

**TM:** What do you get out of it?

**FR:** "I've always been a fan of video games but WoW is different. You don't play on your own; there's interaction with other players. And, once you reach a certain level, you can be recruited into a "guild", a sort of brotherhood that carries out joint quests. And the designers are constantly adding something new to appeal: new quests, new instances or objectives. When I leave work, I really like connecting up to help me relax after the day. It lets me think of other things from time to time

and to shrug off the problems of the day."

**TM:** Could you stop?

**FR:** "To be honest, no. The only thing that would make me stop playing would be if I just got tired of it. Of course, I can do without it but I think about it regularly during the day. I think about the various strategies

I could use to succeed in my quest."

**TM:** Do you feel like you're living a double life?

**FR:** "Not really. WoW is very different from real life. So it's almost impossible to identify yourself with your character. So it's not like leading a double life. On the other hand,

with games like "Sims" or "Second life", you put effort and emotion into a character that you create in the image of what you would like to be. And you make that character live in a world that looks a lot like real life, while staying in a secure environment. That can become a palliative to real life."

Valérie Marchat

## WHEN SECOND LIFE BECOMES A POWERFUL MARKETING TOOL

**S**econd Life is a real societal phenomenon, now allowing more than two million Internet surfers to give themselves a second life, live on-line. In it, the players change their appearance as much as they want and create objects, clothes, buildings, sculptures, vehicles, plants, animals, gadgets, etc. Most of the virtual world is created by the players themselves. They have no mission to fulfil, are free to go wherever they like and to do whatever they want as long as they meet the conditions of access to Second Life. This ambitious platform encourages encounters and social interaction, artistic creation, socio-economic research and marketing and even the

design and use of communication tools. Thus many world-famous businesses, such as Reuters, Dell, Toyota and even IBM, see Second Life as an opportunity to develop large-scale advertising campaigns for less money. The latest innovation to date comes from Belgium. The on-line planning agency FastBridge, leader on the Belgian market (gross turnover of 25 million euro in 2006), recently opened a second office ... in Second Life! By way of exploring this virtual world, the whole FastBridge team held a party on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007 to mark the opening of their brand new offices situated on Meilan Bay, a mountainous plateau with a view over a magnificent snow-covered fjord. For the



The lively atmosphere at the function held in the new offices of FastBridge

occasion, cocktails, activities, goodies and other things were organised ... in an entirely virtual way. Find out more: <http://blog.fastbridge.be>

Jérôme Stéfanski



# “Is Brussels blogging?”

Ordinary people interested in Europe?  
A brief guide to cyber-militancy

Getting our bearings in the jungle of blogs and webzines takes patience. Usually, we skip blindly from link to link. The many directories (Pointblog, Touteurope.fr, Wikio, Annublog, Blogolist) reference articles relating to Europe, not blogs. A real headache! With the result that we end up favouring multilingual debating platforms.

Whether individual or group, staunchly pro-euro, euro-sceptic or euro-pragmatist, blogs attract by their outspokenness. Blogging buffs go for a concise Web writing style for a fickle audience. The watchwords are “reaction and mood”, which explains why blogs are criticised as “fast news”.

## AVOIDING FAST DEBATE

There are many information and discussion platforms that host arguments and debates on Europe. The most well-

known are Publius.fr, the Financial Times Brussels (<http://blogs.ft.com/brusselsblog/>) or The Brussels Journal by Paul Belien ([www.brusselsjournal.com](http://www.brusselsjournal.com)). Newcomer Newropeans magazine ([www.newropeans-magazine.org](http://www.newropeans-magazine.org)) has, in 18 months, become one of the ten most popular European media (Alexa Statistics). Its founder, Franck Biancheri, a French politician, was elected one of the twenty European heroes of 2003 by the Times Magazine.

The euro-optimistic magazine Cafababel.com is riding the wave of its popularity (nearly 400 000 pages read every

month) to launch a discussion forum: the E-community. The Brussels editorial office and its network of 500 young volunteers is intending to hold interactive debates with key political figures.

The political world also blogs. Margot Wallström (<http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/wallstrom/>), Communication Commissioner, was followed closely by Mariann Fischer Boel ([http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/blog\\_fischerboel/page/fischerboel](http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/blog_fischerboel/page/fischerboel)), responsible for Agriculture. They mix very official information with their personal views of Europe.



Margot Wallström's very well-designed blog mixes personal touches of humour with political issues in a very fresh style

© European Communities, 1995-2007

## MIND-BLOWING BLOGS

In principle, the number of comments per article indicates the popularity of a blog. Some articles by Jean Quatremer (<http://bruxelles.blogs.liberation.fr/coulisses>), correspondent with the French daily newspaper Libération, generate several dozen comments. His europhile political blog, “les Coulisses de Bruxelles” (Behind the Scenes in Brussels), has won the Louise Weiss prize for European Journalism (awarded by the Association of European Journalists). The criticisms on it are incisive. His audience unquestionably values his reliability and credibility as a journalist on Franco-European topics.

On the English-speaking side, you can visit “AFOE: A fistful of Euros” (<http://fistfulofeuros.net>). This webzine is run by a network of European thirty-somethings (journalists, translators) who have worked in the Balkans and Eastern Europe. It sheds light on the great enlargement and foreign policy of the European Union.



Riding the new wave of audiovisual blogging, A Fistful of Euros will soon be offering a radio programme that can be downloaded as a podcast

© A Fistful of Euros

Some bloggers fiercely defend their independence. Nosemonkey/Europhobia ([www.jcm.org.uk/blog](http://www.jcm.org.uk/blog)) is run by a former euro-sceptic, now a euro-pragmatist: J. Clive Matthews. Don't miss his article on the strengthening of extreme-right groups in the European Parliament, “Borat does EU”.

Dominique Aguilar, a French legal expert specialising in Community law explains on her blog, which monitors legal developments

(<http://quoideneufeneurope.hautetfort.com>): “Perhaps this blog will help to shed more light on Community law, (...) the opportunities that it offers. (...) Because the European Union concerns us all. As does knowing what it does.”

In the blog jungle, reputation usually depends on that of the platform. Blogs stem from the same sense of vocation: to explain and maintain the European debate. Ladies and gentlemen, please keep in step!

Clotilde de Gastines

Sibiu – panoramic view  
(in the background,  
the Carpathian Mountains)

# Sibiu: european capital of culture 2007

Sibiu is in a fever of excitement. This small Romanian city, situated south of Transylvania, has been elected European Capital of Culture 2007 together with Luxembourg. Journey to the centre of a medieval and cosmopolitan city at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains.

“**Y**oung old”, that’s how the inhabitants of Sibiu like to describe their city because it’s full of contrasts between its old architectural heritage and its present-day social life, imbued with modernity and dynamism. Good enough reason to honour it in 2007!

## A CITY WHERE THERE’S A LOT HAPPENING

According to Klaus Johannis, mayor of Sibiu, his city has been voted European Capital of Culture above all because of its close historic connection with Luxembourg. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, settlers from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg came to settle south of Transylvania, where they founded towns and villages. Today, the city of Sibiu still has

a heterogeneous population: Romanians, Romanies, Germans and Hungarians live side by side in harmony and offer a rich and complex cultural mix. Every year, the city hosts an International Festival of Theatre, Romania’s oldest jazz festival, a festival of young classical music performers and a documentary festival. This year, to mark its new status, the city will be organising 250 cultural events. Tourism, which hasn’t been very well developed in Sibiu, looks set to expand as the city is expecting nearly 500 000 visitors in 2007!

## DON’T MISS...

The city of Sibiu is an open-air museum displaying architectural treasures. It was once an ancient Roman city (Cibinium) that was to be colonised by the Saxons in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and fortified several times to repel Turkish invasions. If you walk through the alleyways of the old town, you’ll see that, here, Gothic as well as Baroque and Renaissance-style houses are still standing. **The Large Square** (Piate Mare) is the historic centre of Sibiu. That’s where the grain market used to be held in the 15<sup>th</sup> century but also where public executions and large popular gatherings took place. To the west stands **Brukenthal Palace** (1789),

built in an Austrian Baroque style. This was the residence of Baron Samuel Brukenthal, Governor of Transylvania in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Now converted, it houses the **National Brukenthal Museum**, which contains an outstanding collection of European and Romanian paintings from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Large Square leads to the **Small Square** (Piata Mica) and **Huet Square** (Piata Huet) through narrow alleyways. In the Middle Ages, this square was used for business and commerce.

**The Passage of the Stairs** is the most picturesque spot in Sibiu. Built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, it links the two parts of the old medieval town (Lower and Upper city). At the end of the passageway stands the oldest restaurant in Romania: **“The Golden Barrel”** (Butoiul de Aur). In the east of the city, **the citadel**, consisting of towers, bastions and ramparts which protected the old town in the Middle Ages, is very well preserved. Don’t miss the Orthodox cathedral, built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, in a similar style to that of Saint Sophia in Istanbul. Finally – and this should take you back to the start of your tour – **the tower of the town hall** gives you a 360° view over Sibiu from the top.

Jessica Nibelle

## INFORMATION

- Romanian Tourist Office in Belgium  
www.roumanie-tourisme.be  
+32 (0)2 502 46 42
- Events and information  
on Sibiu European Capital of Culture 2007  
www.sibiu2007.ro





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The National Savings Bank Palace built in 1900 by architect Paul Gottereau

SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE

# Discover Bucharest

**B**ucharest is surprising and exciting; one of the few remaining cities with adventure and charm in Europe's increasingly uniform urban landscape. You'll be enthralled by the rich diversity of art and culture in a modern bustling city, full of life and full of secrets.

Romanian legend has it that the city of Bucharest was founded by a shepherd named "Bucur", whose name means "joy". His flute-playing reportedly dazzled the locals and his hearty wine from nearby vineyards endeared him to the local traders, who gave his name to the place.

Together Magazine has found a great offer for you to travel to Bucharest. The deal is so good, we just couldn't keep it to ourselves! But take our

advice and book quickly; numbers are strictly limited.

With this unique Maxitours offer, you can enjoy 4 days exploring Bucharest for only 450€ per person. The package includes:

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\* Single room supplement for the 3 nights = 215€

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All other conditions are published in the Maxitours catalogue - Romania 2007

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# Going with the flow along the canal

Its rather dull appearance belies the gems that Brussels' canal keeps hidden away, because the very essence of Belgian culture thrives there. From the upper end of rue A. Dansaert and rue de Flandre to rue Notre-Dame du Sommeil, Together has explored some of Brussels' hot spots.

View of the canal



GALLERIES,  
STUDIOS,  
AVANT-GARDE SHOPS,  
TRENDY RESTAURANTS  
AND ELECTRO  
EVENINGS:  
ALL URBAN CULTURE  
CAN BE FOUND  
NEAR THE CANAL

Galleries, studios, avant-garde shops, trendy restaurants and electro evenings: all urban culture can be found near the canal. Nicknamed "little Chicago" twenty years ago, today the upper end of rue A. Dansaert is experiencing an exciting level of artistic creativity. But don't confuse Saint-Géry with the Canal! The lower, rather touristy part is quite distinct from the upper part, which is purely for connoisseurs.

In the shop *Le Bonheur*, Thierry Berleur explains his concept "of audiovisual grocery": "I'm an old-style shopkeeper. I choose my products conscientiously, I sell them and I know my customers." This very designer shop is aimed at people who like new-wave artists, DVDs, books and rare objects from all over the world; you'll find everything surprising. A short walk from there is *Alice-gallery*, a multi-faceted gallery and

trendy boutique, where urban culture reigns supreme. There you learn that art is all around us. From metro seats turned into canvases to customised Nike trainers, art intrudes into our everyday life for our enjoyment.

In this former industrial area, you can still see the remains of factories that have moved out. Now a place of innovation and creativity, many industrial plots have been transformed into galleries, cinemas, theatres and loft apartments.

## "THE HEART OF BELGIAN CREATIVITY"

*Crown Gallery* is one of the many galleries in the area. Located on rue du Houblon, it shows contemporary art of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The manager, Jacques Van Daele, exhibits paintings, photographs and sculptures from all over Europe. In March, seven painters are on show on the theme of "Dry and wet paintings". Jacques is rather fond of the canal. To him, it's "the heart of Belgian creativity".

And the streets lining the canal are certainly creative. First popular with fashion designers, rue A. Dansaert and the surrounding area were soon transformed into a thriving breeding ground. Flemish people wishing to live in the city have brought the centre of Brussels to life again.

Factories have made way for "studio boutiques". These shops are characteristic of Brussels and are what it does best when it comes to fashion. Between the milliner Christophe Coppens, the fashion designer Martin Margiela and the jeweller Marie-France Vankueken (see box), the canal gathers together the cream of Belgian designers. One of them, Nicolas Woit, fashion designer, is keen to design in "small quantities so as not to lose sight of quality". In his boutique on rue A. Dansaert, selling and design blend together. Sketches, piles of photographs and fabric samples spice up the interior. Thirties-style evening gowns hang alongside light silk blouses for spring. Going in there means having the chance to receive advice from the genius himself.

## AN AREA BEING TRANSFORMED.

To end your stroll, it's good to immerse yourself in the working-class history of the area again, through the street names that tell the story of the city. Impasse de la Cigogne, rue de la Clé, du Houblon, Remparts des Moines,... just some of the many evocative names that recount the industrial and rural past of the district.

Along these alleyways is the very chic restaurant *La Manufacture*. The cuisine there is modern and stylish, the setting intimate, around

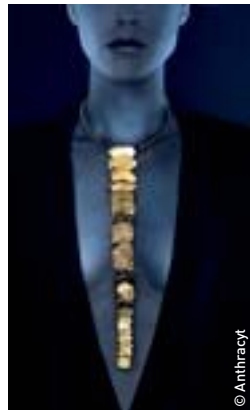
a light-filled patio furnished with exotic wood. For a slightly simpler ambience, *Henri*, rue de Flandre, is a good trendy place to go. The managers run a friendly and sociable establishment there.

In ten years' time, the canal area will be a "Bobo" district like the others. It's constantly changing today. The people there are approachable and genuine. When you go down there you see culture in motion: amazing!

Philomène Bouchon

© BTIC - O van de Kerckhove

Blake and Mortimer look down onto rue du Houblon. The ninth art is king in Brussels



© Anthracyt  
This "Tortoiseshell" necklace made Marie-France famous

## SPECIAL FAVOURITE: JEWELLERY BY MARIE-FRANCE.

After 63 years in the canal district, Marie-France, a bubbly and passionate woman, is still delighted to be here. "It's an enriching area because many designers are based here. It's also a place that's full of life and that has

*hidden gems you don't see from the outside.*" In the heart of "devil's corner" on rue du Houblon 63, Marie-France Vankueken's shop provides a delightful change of scenery. What strikes you first on entering the place are the dozens of paintings that cover the walls. Then your gaze is drawn by the jewellery. Each piece is unique and designed by Marie-France herself. Her speciality is playing with materials. To her, "The idea of evening jewellery is out of date. Women need jewellery that they can wear on any occasion." Marie-France's jewellery is a hymn to femininity. They give women the opportunity to be elegant everyday. Internet site: [www.lesbijouxdemarie-france.be](http://www.lesbijouxdemarie-france.be)

Philomène Bouchon

**"THE IDEA OF EVENING JEWELLERY IS OUT OF DATE. WOMEN NEED JEWELLERY THAT THEY CAN WEAR ON ANY OCCASION"**

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

[www.brusselsdowntown.com](http://www.brusselsdowntown.com)  
[www.brusselsinternational.be](http://www.brusselsinternational.be)  
[www.alicebxl.com](http://www.alicebxl.com)  
[www.lebonheur.com](http://www.lebonheur.com)  
[www.crowngallery.be](http://www.crowngallery.be)  
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# Organic, more than a fashion?

Eating organic, wearing organic clothes  
and make-up... consumption  
is determinedly natural in all forms.  
A simple desire to return to our roots  
or real health benefits?

**I**n the past ten years or so, organic shops have sprung up in all the "Bobo" areas of cities. From the Pâquis neighbourhood of Geneva to the Marais district of Paris, no tea room is without its organic coffee nor market without its 100% pesticide-free lettuce. And now organic is taking over our supermarkets. At present, one out of ten Belgians consume it on a regular basis.

## WHAT IS ORGANIC?

According to the European regulations of 1991, in order to be awarded "organic product" certification, the farmer must rule out pollution risks by using neither chemical fertiliser nor pesticides and by clearly separating his field from that of his neighbour. He also has to select species that don't require much water and to practice crop rotation and use natural fertilisers. To make sure of this, the product is

followed from the field to our plate. But according to the European conditions, the organic standard also means that production takes into account social criteria that promote partnerships and sustainable development. So an organic product is not only 100% natural but also fair.

## BUT WHAT ARE THE HEALTH BENEFITS?

At present, it's difficult to answer that question. There are a number of controversial debates within the scientific community. Some will say that an untreated piece of fruit provides fewer micronutrients and would therefore be less worthwhile from the nutritional point of view. Today, eating just organic food would not provide any extra benefit to health. Yet a QLIF (Quality Low Input Food) study carried out in 2001 showed that organic products did have a 30% higher nutritional quality than those produced by

conventional farming methods.

## "TO EAT ORGANIC OR NOT TO EAT ORGANIC, THAT IS THE QUESTION!"

Despite these debates, one thing's for certain, organic attracts fewer pollutants. Eating organic, for example, means eating a diet that's completely free from chemical products and residues. In fact, the accumulative effect of chemical residues can almost certainly have a harmful impact on health. Pesticides are reported to cause diseases affecting the hormone production system. It also appears to cause problems of sterility and congenital malformation. So eating organic seems to be a positive thing to do.

But there are still two very regrettable things: how backward Europe is in this field and the high prices charged, which make this kind of product difficult to afford.



# NOW, ORGANIC IS TAKING OVER OUR BATHROOMS

After organically-farmed food, we're now seeing increasing numbers of 100% natural cosmetics and cleaning products. What are the benefits of these products?

**A**ccording to experts, even organic brands or brands concerned about the quality and origin of their products find it difficult to dispense with all chemical products. First of all, because products containing plant extracts are susceptible to the risks of microbial proliferation, hence the use of chemical preservatives such as methylparaben (E218) and propylparaben (E216): two allergenic products suspected of being harmful to health. Next, because it would also be necessary to resort to chemical modifications to increase the bioavailability of the product, that is to say, its ability to be used by the skin. So organic does not mean 100% additive-free or 100%



risk-free. Even allergies are possible.

## QUALITY STANDARD MARKS TO GUIDE YOU

So, to limit the risks, there is a need to avoid chemical products suspected of being harmful, such as PGEs or parabens. The only solution is therefore to scrutinise

product labels and check the quality standard marks. There are three of them:

- the Ecolabel: a minimum of 50% plant-based ingredients come from monitored organic farming and they must account for at least 5% of the total ingredients.
- the Biolabel: a minimum of 95% of the plants used are organic and represent 10% of the total ingredients.
- the 'Nature et Progrès' label, the strictest one, as all the ingredients used must be organic.

To find out more, read *La révolution bio* (The Organic Revolution), by Marie-Odile Delacour and Jean-René Huleu (publishers: La découverte) and go to [www.quefaire.be](http://www.quefaire.be) to find all the organic places near you.

Valérie Marchat



# Eric Bompard, the Parisian master of cashmere

Who said that cashmere could only be worn in winter? The world's number one in cashmere granted us an interview to dispel the stereotypes of this beautifully soft, elegant and, above all, truly timeless material.

**T**he story of Eric Bompard and his encounter with this mysterious material is the story of a true love affair. "A combination of professional circumstances," on a trip to the Far East introduced Eric Bompard to cashmere. It was a revelation for this man, who would succeed in polishing this real rough diamond and shaping it into all its different forms until it became, as it is today, his work tool as well as his main adjective for quality, given the inseparable expression "Eric Bompard, cashmere".

## INTERVIEW

**Together Magazine:  
Mr Bompard, why cashmere  
in summer?**

**Eric Bompard:** "It's true that our Autumn-Winter collections are usually foreseeable – everyone knows that cashmere keeps the cold out – but we're designing Spring-Summer collections that have just as much appeal. In that case, the cashmere is refined by specific gauges. Great care and attention is needed because of the fragility of the material we're talking about. For that, there's a team that handles the cashmere in the best possible way. Expertise is very important. Quality standards, thread sizes, etc., have to be adhered to. We have a range of pullovers that we're making lighter for summer. The same goes for blouses, elegant T-shirts and we're also adapting some styles and offering cotton fabrics."

A close-up look at the collection, which, alongside the basics, the timeless heritage of the label, reveals some very trendy styles that are still extremely comfortable and elegant.

**TM: Your Spring-Summer collection doesn't have any particular title; what inspired you? And which is your favourite piece from the collection?**

**EB:** "There isn't really a title for this collection because there were many different sources of inspiration. Yes, there is the sun and la Dolce Vita in it; there's all that. As for my favourite piece, I don't necessarily have one in particular. On the other hand, some of the finishing touches, the lace, the buttons that have been intricately worked do appeal to me, I really like that."

**TM: What do you think of the big trends for the 2007 Spring-Summer collections? Is there a real return to the sixties?**

**EB:** "I'd like to remain very unassuming in respect to that question. I don't want to express a detailed opinion on the big trends of this Spring-Summer collection because, it has to be said, we do specialise in the collections that go from September to February. We're very happy with our Spring-Summer collection but I wouldn't want to assess the contents of the big trends. As far as the return to the sixties is concerned, I would say that, as in all fields, there are cycles. No-one invents fashion. What

*we do change is the structure of things, the content. Now, we have the tools to do the same thing as in that era but we can improve some of the broad lines and update them to today's tastes. Nowadays, the importance of detail is very significant. These buttons and collars that we're working on are proof of that, although the trends are there and are evocative of key style cycles from the past, the attention to detail is also there."*

**TM: Kundera spoke of "The unbearable lightness of being"; for you, is cashmere the inevitable voluptuousness of femininity?**

**EB:** "You know, I've been working with cashmere for more than 20 years now and I've never heard of or even seen a substitute in that respect. We're talking about a natural product that doesn't kill, we comb the skin, the down of the goat. The resulting softness, and "body" is the essence of well-being. Mongolian wool is fabulous. Cashmere is fabulous."

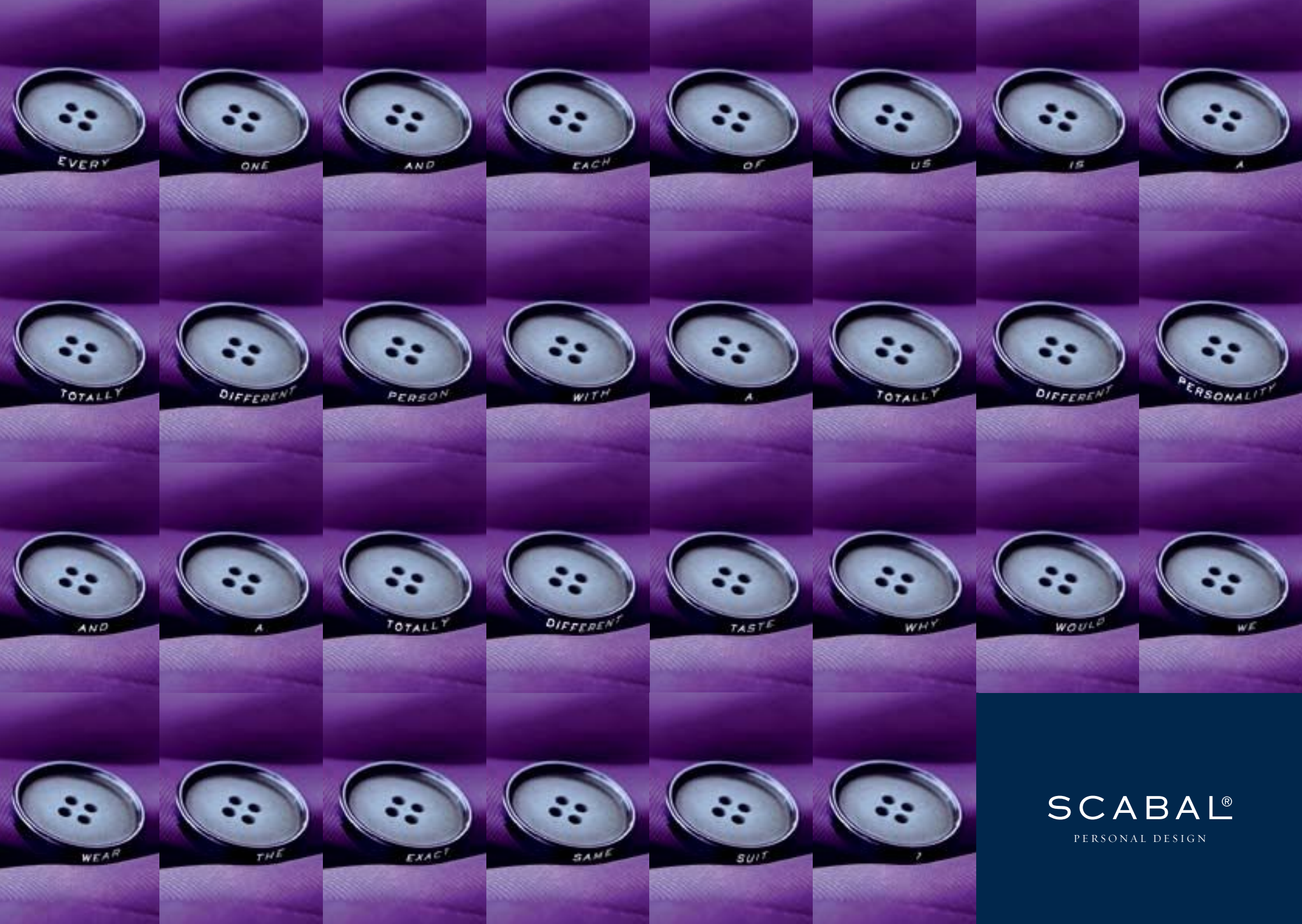
**Arta Ertekin**

For more information:  
[www.eric-bompard.com](http://www.eric-bompard.com)

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# Designers from the flat country

Just for once, this month the focus is on Belgian designers with the presentation of their 2007 Spring-Summer collections. From the most off-the-wall to the most classic, there'll be something for everyone. One thing's for sure: Belgium is brimming with tried-and-tested talents who are acting as real ambassadors on the international stage.

Véronique Leroy for 3 Suisses: shorts jumpsuit, available in khaki and distressed black, ref. 72747 (129D), & scarf, available in khaki, red and black, ref. 59187 (45D)

## COUTURE COURTESANS

There's nothing that Chine doesn't know about cotton, muslin, leather, silk, voile and crêpe. It has made these fabrics into countless shapes. Its "Couture Courtesans" are those women who will adopt the "courtesan" look with all the charm and seduction that it implies.

*For more information:*

[www.chinecollection.com](http://www.chinecollection.com)



Embroidered mini-hat in silver beads.  
Handbag in matt silver with built-in mirror

## THE ENFANT TERRIBLE OF DANSART

For the first time, Christophe Coppens is not working with a theme or general style. This year his starting point is the question: what does the modern woman need? Modernism is a subtle thread running through the collection. Black/fawn/beige/soft pinks/mink/silver/white/light blue all play a primary role.

*For more information:*  
[www.christophecoppens.com](http://www.christophecoppens.com)





### LUXURY TRAVEL

Scabal provides an array of solutions for businessmen who want to remain elegant while carrying out their everyday role. Here too, light materials, fabrics in low-key colours, including, of course, linen, will give the workaholic the freedom of movement to travel in style. The finish, particularly the buttons, reveals the art of subtlety and simplicity.

For more information:  
[www.scabal.com](http://www.scabal.com)



*"Made-to-Measure options: buttonholes and open sleeve slits with buttons that overlap, contrasting buttonholes and button thread, embroidered monogram, underside of collar in contrasting felt, mobile phone pocket, buttons."*



### BAKWANI7, A NEW PHILOSOPHY IS BORN

A new label created in September 2005, Bakwani7 wants to promote clothes that convey original messages, *"aimed at introducing people to 'Afro-Western' fashion and taking it all over the world. The result is a combination of materials and styles from African fashion with those from Western fashion to create eclectic clothing"*. Spirituality, Wisdom, Intelligence, Union, Solidarity, etc., are just some of the values you convey by showing off these symbols, according to your personality or your mood of the day.

For more information:  
[www.bakwani7.be](http://www.bakwani7.be)



Dress, available in print, black, red and violet, ref. 72260 [129D]

### LES 3 SUISSES INVITE VÉRONIQUE LEROY TO JOIN THEM

This mail-order institution presents a 2007 Spring-Summer collection which is more affordable while still offering the next big trends. "Carnet de Voyage": that's the title of the 2007 Spring-Summer collection from Belgian designer Véronique Leroy. In it, ladies, you'll discover very feminine and sensual colours and styles.

This collection asserts its combinations of sophisticated colours and luxurious materials. For more information:  
[www.veroniqueleeroy.com](http://www.veroniqueleeroy.com)

### STRELLI IN COLOUR

For his 2007 Spring-Summer collection, Olivier Strelli has not shied away from prints: flowers, polka dots and stripes adorn, just for you ladies, skirts and dresses full of colour, sometimes bright (*"acid green" or "flame red"*), sometimes subtle (*"shades of porcelain, soft grey, taupe and indigo"*). You'll feel elegant and carefree. Olivier Strelli drew inspiration from la Dolce Vita of Italy. And you'll undoubtedly assert your powers of seduction, which, this summer, will be at their peak.

For you gentlemen, the summer will be an energetic one. The couturier has had no hesitation in spoiling you with his light and comfortable materials. He's made use of *"that essential, 100% linen"* to make your life easier and more pleasant. To that he's added cotton, viscose and metal *"for a fine, light jersey fabric, with colour and fluidity or with pronounced creasing effect, which is worn next to the skin"*.

As far as colour's concerned, we're offered water shades as well as some, more neutral shades which Olivier Strelli has had no hesitation in *"spicing up"* with unexpected touches, particularly with *"kiwi green and optical white"*.

For more information: [www.strelli.be](http://www.strelli.be)



Arta Ertekin



# True Wellness...

**T**he "body-mind connection" and "wellness" are the buzzwords of the new millennium. People are increasingly stressed and wellness seems to be the answer. But what does true "wellness" or the body-mind connection actually mean and how do you work with them to change your life?

The body-mind connection takes a holistic approach to the individual. Within that vision there is, of course, a prominent place for the physical aspect that includes training, nutrition and stress reduction. This is something that professionals in this area, such as World Class, address with their specialist expertise.

There are several additional aspects that need to be addressed to complete this picture when we look at our individual needs. We have to keep in mind that anything that affects the body is going to have an emotional impact and anything that affects the mind is going to have physical manifestations.

Jet lag, sleep deprivation and poor nutrition, for example, have been proven to have a negative impact on

performance, judgement, reflexes and moods. Equally, deadlines, tension or arguments can eventually create a continuous stress cycle in which eating and exercise patterns change. Businesses often notice the effects of this kind of un-wellness in the form of lower productivity, high absenteeism, low morale and a decline in creativity. The reverse is also true: you can turn this around.

How do we work with this body-mind connection instead of being victims of circumstances? This is what Paul Schuchhard, nutritionist and personal trainer at World Class, and Marcie Sires, psychotherapist and holistic health counsellor, wanted to explore. They formed their coaching company, Life<sup>5</sup>, and created the SPIRE™ model, a scientific, holistic approach to chart and promote wellness. The SPIRE™ model identifies the 5 essential life vectors for health, wellbeing and happiness (Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Relational, Emotional).

Focusing on the actual causes of the stressors in our lives and dealing with them by developing specific strategies, you can attain

a level of optimal wellness and performance.

Run through this quick checklist below and try to write down (honestly :-)) how fulfilled you feel you are in each of these areas:

- Where does inspiration and joy come from in your life? (the Spiritual)
- Have you created a sustainable fitness and nutrition programme? (the Physical)
- Are you sufficiently challenged to explore your curiosity and grow intellectually? (the Intellectual)
- Are you satisfied with the quality of the relationships that you surround yourself with? (The Relational)
- Do you know how your emotional triggers work? (The Emotional)

**If you want to learn more, Life<sup>5</sup> organises free introductory sessions for businesses and small groups on request. Visit website [www.life5.eu](http://www.life5.eu) or contact Paul through World Class on +32 (0)2 551 59 90, or +32 (0)478 389 257 or Marcie on +32 (0)2 736 30 74**



# We create Shapes



## We create Shapes

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02-300 57 00



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# Waterstone's selection

Waterstone's Brussels is proud to present a selection of recently published titles currently receiving critical acclaim, as well as a flavour of our perennial favourites permanently stocked in our branch

It's springtime and the clocks go forward. This inevitably means more daylight hours to notice all the dust and clutter that has collected over the winter months. In order to help with the spring-cleaning we recommend this selection of books.

## THE CLEANING BIBLE, KIM WOODBURN & AGGIE MACKENZIE



Kim and Aggie's Complete guide to "Modern Household Management" by Kim Woodburn et al. This is the only helping hand you need for all tasks of a domestic nature. Every tip and trick from their combined cleaning experience of about half a century is included and they always use natural products where possible, so even your conscience will be clean!

**Published:** 5 April 2007  
**Publisher:** Penguin Books Ltd  
**Total pages:** 448  
**Format:** paperback

## DELIA'S KITCHEN GARDEN, DELIA SMITH & GAY SEARCH

Delia Smith has been a firm favourite on British TV and in British bookshops for years as one of the first TV chefs. She has always been concerned with the quality



and flavour of the ingredients she uses, and nothing comes fresher than fruit and vegetables from your own garden. When the opportunity arose for her to work with her longstanding friend and garden expert, Gay Search, to create her own kitchen garden, she seized the chance. This guide, now available in paperback, and

written by Gay with 56 recipes from Delia, is for those who are interested in good food - free from pesticides - and who want to try their hand at growing their own. It follows a year in the life of Delia's kitchen garden, with a chapter devoted to each month, containing detailed advice on sowing and planting, fruit and vegetable varieties and how to harvest. With failsafe recipes by Delia that use the produce at its peak, this guide is suitable for first-time horticulturists and cooks of all levels. The book is lavishly designed and has over 300 colour photographs.

**Published:** 23 September 2004  
**Publisher:** BBC Books  
**Total pages:** 168  
**Format:** hardcover

## CHINA SHAKES THE WORLD: THE RISE OF A HUNGRY NATION, JAMES KYNGE

The new China, the nation that in 25 years has changed beyond all recognition, is becoming an industrial powerhouse for the world. James Kyngé shows not only the extraordinary rise of the Chinese economy, but what the future holds as China begins to influence the world.

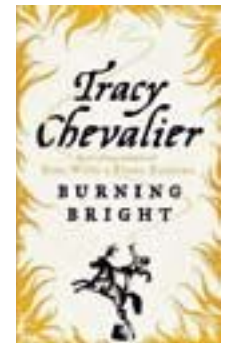


On the eve of the British industrial revolution some 230 years ago, China accounted for one third of the global economy. In 1979, after 30 years of Communism, its economy contributed only two per cent to global GDP. Now it is back up to five per cent, and rising. Although China is already a palpable force in the world, its re-emergence is only just starting to be felt. Kyngé shows China's weaknesses - its environmental pollution, its crisis in social trust, its weak financial system and the faltering institutions of its governments - which are poised to have disruptive effects on the world. The fall-out from any failure in China's

rush to modernity or simply from a temporary economic crash in the Chinese economy would be felt around the world.

**Published:** 1 March 2007  
**Publisher:** Phoenix;  
New Ed edition  
**Total pages:** 304 pages  
**Format:** paperback

## BURNING BRIGHT TRACY CHEVALIER



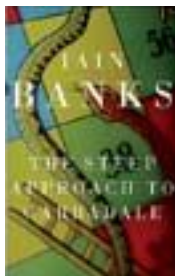
With flames and funerals, circus feats and seduction, neighbours and nakedness: Tracy Chevalier's new novel "Burning Bright" sparkles with drama. London 1792. The Kellaways move from familiar rural Dorset to the tumult of a cramped, unforgiving city. They are leaving behind a terrible loss, a blow that only a completely new life may soften. Against

the backdrop of a city jittery over the increasingly bloody French Revolution, a surprising bond forms between Jem, the youngest Kellaway boy, and streetwise Londoner Maggie Butterfield. Their friendship takes a dramatic turn when they become entangled in the life of their neighbour, the printer, poet and radical, William Blake. He is a guiding spirit as Jem and Maggie navigate the unpredictable, exhilarating passage from innocence to experience. Their journey inspires one of Blake's most entrancing works, "Songs of Experience". Georgian London is recreated as vividly in

"Burning Bright" as 17<sup>th</sup>-century Delft was in Tracy Chevalier's bestselling masterpiece, "Girl with a Pearl Earring". "Songs of Innocence and Experience" by William Blake is also available if you would like to explore or remind yourself of the works that made Blake so famous.

**Published:** 5 March 2007  
**Publisher:** HarperCollins Publishers Ltd  
**Total pages:** 400 pages  
**Format:** hardcover

### THE STEEP APPROACH TO GARBADALE, IAIN BANKS



Staying with new fiction, I am personally eagerly awaiting the release of the new Iain Banks novel. Dark family secrets, a long-lost love affair and a multimillion-pound gaming business lie at the heart of Iain Banks' fabulous new novel. The Wopuld family built its fortune on a board game called Empire!, now a hugely successful computer game. So successful, the American Spraint Corp wants to buy the firm out. Young renegade

Alban, who has been evading the family clutches for years, is run to ground and persuaded to attend the forthcoming family gathering, part birthday party, part Extraordinary General Meeting convened by Win, the Wopuld matriarch and most powerful member of the board, at Garbadale, the family's highland castle. Being drawn back into the bosom of the clan brings an inevitable and disconcerting confrontation with Alban's past. What drove his mother to take her own life? And is he ready yet to see Sophie, his beautiful, enchanting cousin and teenage love, at the EGM? Grandmother Win's revelations will radically alter Alban's perspective forever.

**Published:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007  
**Publisher:** Little, Brown  
**Total pages:** 400 pages  
**Format:** hardcover

And finally, in case you didn't know already, the release date for the latest and last in the series of Harry Potter novels by J K Rowling, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows", has been announced for 21 July 2007 but more about that in the next issue...

Sarah Higgs

Waterstone's  
boulevard A. Max 71  
1000 Brussels  
+32 (0)2 219 27 08



# February Snapshots

## RUSSIAN BALL

The 38<sup>th</sup> Russian Ball was held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February in the prestigious Concert Noble hall. Held in aid of the Vitiaz association in Belgium, this society event proved, once again, to be a great success. Don't miss the 2008 Ball, which will be held at the Concert Noble on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008. Uniform, dinner jacket and long evening gowns for the ladies are de rigueur.  
[www.balrusse.be](http://www.balrusse.be)  
[www.peopleattitude.be](http://www.peopleattitude.be)



Photos © PeopleAttitude

## NOCES ROYALES

The place to go for a night out in Brussels, the Noces Royales, once again had a full house on 9<sup>th</sup> February at the Mirano. A winter sports ambience for a night with white as its theme. Next dates: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April at the Mirano.  
[www.noces.be](http://www.noces.be)  
[www.peopleattitude.be](http://www.peopleattitude.be)



Photos © PeopleAttitude

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"JUST ROAD TOGETHER..."



# Europe blows out its fifty candles

Once the pause for reflection has passed, 2007 will be a year of action! The proof? Brussels is keeping up with the times by putting on a number of events on the theme of Europe, a great opportunity for a worthy celebration of the fifty years of the Treaty of Rome and the German presidency. Here's a quick overview.

**TöGethé®**  
SINCE 1957

The official logo of the EU for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rome treaties. The logo will be used by all EU institutions for the anniversary celebrations, events and publications. Designer: Skrzypczak Szymon (Poland) © European Community, 2006

## REGARD SUR L'EUROPE : EUROPE AND GERMAN PAINTING FROM THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY → 20.05

Palais des Beaux-Arts  
rue Ravenstein 23  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 507 84 44  
[www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)

For this six months of the German presidency, "Regard sur l'Europe" is exhibiting works from Berlin, Munich and Dresden. What's new? The exhibition proposes to make the link between German and European output. So you'll see Germanic works in interaction with Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, the UK, Spain, Poland and Belgium. Whatever you do, don't miss it!

## A VISION FOR BRUSSELS : IMAGINING THE CAPITAL OF EUROPE → 20.05

Palais des Beaux-Arts  
rue Ravenstein 23  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 507 84 44  
[www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)

How is the European capital perceived by the rest of the world? What image does it project of itself? You might find the answer in this exhibition, which presents the qualities of Brussels, a city undergoing constant transformation.

## LEONARDO DA VINCI : EUROPEAN GENIUS

9.04 → 4.11  
Basilique de Koekelberg  
Parvis de la Basilique  
1000 Brussels  
[www.expo-davinci.eu](http://www.expo-davinci.eu)

The largest exhibition on Leonardo da Vinci ever will be held in the fifth largest European basilica,



The European institutions are leaving the Léopold district and have gathered around gare Schuman © Bozar

over an area of 3000m<sup>2</sup>. The exhibition will show the inventions, paintings and writings of the master as well as European research and technology. The chief attraction of the exhibition is undoubtedly the presence of a painting presented exclusively and attributed by some to da Vinci. Why not take a look and see what you think.

## EUROVISIONS

09.03 → 01.07  
Musées royaux  
des Beaux Arts de Belgique  
rue de la Régence 3  
1000 Brussels  
T. + 32 (0)2 508 32 11  
[www.fine-arts-museum.be](http://www.fine-arts-museum.be)

Eurovisions opens in the same month as the fiftieth anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Rome. Find out about the twelve countries that joined the European Union in May 2004, through the lenses of twelve photographers. Exclusive to Eurovisions, two Magnum photographers from the new member countries of Bulgaria and Romania will be exhibiting their works.

## EURANTICA 23.03 → 1.04

Brussels Expo Palais 5  
place de Belgique 1  
1020 Laeken  
T. +32 (0)2 740 10 30  
[www.eurantica.be](http://www.eurantica.be)  
Around 130 antique dealers and art galleries selected by a committee of experts for the biggest antiques and antiquities fair in Belgium. Three main sections: Classic Antiques, 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and Extra-European Art & Archaeology.

## PASSA PORTA LITERARY FESTIVAL 19. 04 → 22.04

Passa Porta Bookshop  
rue Antoine Dansaert 46  
1000 Brussels  
[www.passaportabookshop.be](http://www.passaportabookshop.be)  
T. + 32 (0)2 502 94 60  
This international house of literature is putting on the first Passa Porta Festival. During this festival of European literature, you'll be able to meet a number of authors and, above all, consider some big European issues such as mobility, integration, etc. In many different venues: Dansaert, Kaaitheater, Bozar and others.



# Jonas Gallery Eclectic Contemporary Art in Downtown Brussels

Jonas Gallery  
opened in December 2005  
in downtown Brussels,  
near the trendy rue A. Dansaert.  
The gallery is named after  
Henri Jonas (1878-1944),  
a Dutch painter  
from Maastricht, and related  
to Pablo Jonas, husband  
to Najad Menouar – who together  
manage Jonas Gallery.

## INTERVIEW WITH NAJAD MENOUAR

**Together Magazine:**  
What is Jonas Gallery about?

**Najad Menouar:** "It's about  
breaking down barriers, making  
contemporary art accessible,  
fun and surprising. It's also  
about giving artists a platform  
because it's not easy to enter  
the "ghetto of galleries".  
We want to be different and  
make room for all kinds  
of expression."

**TM:** Do you show a certain  
type of artist?

**NM:** "We've had exhibits  
by diverse artists such as Knut  
Kersse, Willy Coppens  
and three amazing young  
painters from Antwerp: Jürgen  
Addiers, Wouter Steel and  
Mathieu Saelens, aka  
#221019613112. In April,  
we have Erik Vervroegen,  
a show you can't afford  
to miss. All this to tell you  
we don't have a particular  
style, we're talent-hunters."

**TM:** Past and future?

**NM:** "Well, I like to believe  
we've made an impact: three  
or four new art galleries have  
opened nearby since  
we started. Let's hope even  
more people will find their way  
to art in Brussels' centre."

**JONAS GALLERY**  
rue de Flandre 35  
1000 Brussels  
Najad Jonas-Menouar  
T. + 32 (0)496 53 54 09  
E-mail: najad@galeriejonas.be  
[www.jonasgallery.com](http://www.jonasgallery.com)  
Open every Friday  
2pm to 8pm,  
Saturday/Sunday 2pm to  
6pm and by appointment.

**EXHIBITIONS:**  
Generic Desire Inc.  
paintings by #221019613112  
From 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007.  
Paintings by Erik Vervroegen  
From 26<sup>th</sup> April  
to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007.



© Guy Bartschi, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer exhibition, 2006

# DIARY

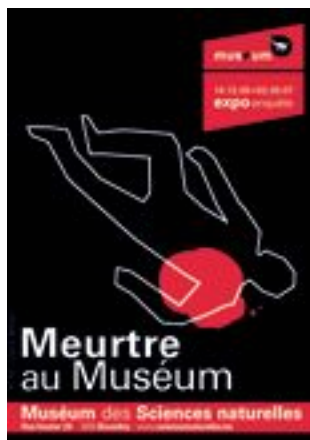
## 25<sup>TH</sup> ART BRUSSELS: CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION 20.04 → 23.04

Brussels Expo, Halls 11 and 12, Place de Belgique 1 1020 Brussels  
www.artbrussels.be  
What a long way we've come since the modest "Art Actuel" fair in 1968! For its twenty-fifth event, Art Brussels is presenting well-known and lesser well-known artists with just one thing in common: talent. The exhibition presents more than 2,000 contemporary works of art from twenty different countries. For its anniversary, the fair has been given a face lift and a number of projects have been put in place. Well worth seeing: the new talents in the "First Call" and "Young Talent" zones.

## MURDER AT THE MUSEUM → 2.09

Muséum des Sciences naturelles: Rue Vautier 29 1000 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 627 42 38  
www.sciencesnaturelles.be  
A fan of experts or bones? Then, this exhibition is made for you! Murder at the Museum will bring out the detective in you. The plot: this morning the museum director is discovered dead in his office under very strange circumstances. The police forensic experts are at the scene, picking up a number of clues: objects, traces of



Murder at the Museum  
© Muséum des Sciences naturelles

blood, etc. As investigators, you follow at close quarters the work of the lab specialists and the detectives questioning at the scene. The work simultaneously combines chemistry, biology, ballistics and entomology. Will you find the culprit?

## GREG, THE RETROSPECTIVE 20.03 → 24.06

Centre belge de la Bande Dessinée (CBBB)  
Rue des Sables 20 1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 219 19 80  
www.cbbd.be

The Belgian Centre of Comic Strip Art is presenting a retrospective of a comic strip star: Michel Régnier alias Greg. Cartoonist, scriptwriter, editor-in-chief of Tintin and novelist, when it comes to the comic strip, this man has done it all! He was the scriptwriter of more than three hundred albums: Spirou, Tintin, les Panthères,

Corentin, Luc Orient and more. And he was also the creator of Achille Talon. The exhibition looks back at the career of the great man over his last sixty years, from his first publication in the Walloon daily paper *Vers l'Avenir* through to his death in 1999. King of the gag and adventure, Greg will once again succeed in entertaining you.

## THE MASTERS OF PRE-COLUMBIAN ART: JANSSEN COLLECTION → 29.04



© Janssen Collection

Musée du Cinquantenaire  
Parc du Cinquantenaire 10 1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 741 72 11  
www.kmkg-mrah.be

With more than 350 world-famous works, the collection gathered over a period of thirty years by Dora and Paul Janssen looks back at more than 3,000 years of pre-Columbian history. This is the first time that the Janssen collection has been presented to the Belgian public. It brings together valuable ornaments, costume and finery, pendants, masks, stone and terracotta statues, and fabrics. There are also fifty or so pre-Columbian pieces from the collection of the Royal Museums of Art and History. Plus three other additional exhibitions are devoted to other aspects of the civilisations of the Americas: the Indians in Brussels: 1935

## FINE ARTS DIARY

exhibition, traditional costume of Mexico and basketwork from the New World.

## DIROSAFRICA, WORKS BY HERVÉ DIROSA → 8.04

Centre Culturel de la Communauté  
Wallonie-Bruxelles  
Rue Royale, 236  
1210 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 218 37 32  
www.botanique.be

*"My style is having all styles and so not having any one style. I don't want to be an artist, I want to be all artists, the good ones, the lousy ones, the generous ones and the others. It isn't about me, my ego, but about being the conscience of the world,"* explains Hervé Di Rosa in Bon Baisers. Di Rosa is a world-famous painter, sketcher, sculptor, engraver and founder of the "Musée d'Art Modeste" of Sète in the South of France. The exhibition will be devoted, above all, to the artist's works produced in Africa and will present paintings on animal skins (Ethiopia), bronzes and engraved wood from Cameroon.

## DAS NEUE BERLIN: THE CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE OF BERLIN → 29.04

Hôtel de Ville: Grand Place 1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 279 64 44  
www.brupass.be

Set off in discovery of the contemporary architecture of the German capital. Since the fall of the Wall, Berlin has undergone radical changes and has become a benchmark in international architecture. It owes its changes to renowned architects such as Johnson,

Renzo Piano, and Foster. For those who love Berlin, this virtual tour is bound to be a hit.

## BUTTERFLY EXHIBITION → 20.05

Musée royal  
de l'Afrique centrale  
Leuvensesteenweg 13  
3080 Tervuren  
www.africamuseum.be  
The Musée Royal de l'Afrique centrale has a very extensive collection of butterflies kept out of sight of visitors. Now you can admire this fabulously colourful collection until 20<sup>th</sup> May.

## THE FORBIDDEN EMPIRE. WORLD VIEWS OF CHINESE AND FLEMISH MASTERS 16.02 → 6.05

Bozar: Palais des Beaux-arts (Brussels) & Palace Muséum (Beijing)  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 507 82 00  
www.bozar.be  
This exhibition covering an area of 1,200m<sup>2</sup> brings together the greatest Belgian and Chinese artists. Its aim is to compare and contrast eastern and western works.

## DRAWINGS FROM THE DUTCH GOLDEN AGE: JEAN DE GREZ COLLECTION 20.04 → 1.07

Musée Royal des Beaux-arts  
Rue de la régence  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 508 32 11  
www.fine-arts-museum.be  
Through than more than 4,200 drawings from the Jean de Grez collection, you'll have the opportunity to explore Dutch art of the seventeenth century.

Roxane Michel



# Interview with Goran Bregovic

Goran Bregovic

Serbocroat Goran Bregovic is constantly surprising us. Following worldwide success as a rock icon, duos with big names such as Cesaria Evora and Iggy Pop, collaboration with film-maker Emir Kusturica, world tours with his Orchestre des Mariages et Enterrements and the composition of the opera *Karemen*, Bregovic has another surprise in store for us.

**A**lways turning up where we least expect him, he'll be appearing in Brussels on 25<sup>th</sup> April this year for a special concert entitled *Forgive me, is this the way into the Future?*, commissioned by the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO). He'll then continue this tour in the leading European capitals. Encounter an artist who's one of a kind.

## INTERVIEW

**Together Magazine:** Your next concert in Brussels was commissioned by ECHO. What's your view of the construction of Europe?

**Goran Bregovic:** "A united Europe is vital to peace and stability in the world. One of my

great dreams is, one day, for all the parts of my old country to become a part of it and participate in the process of learning to live in peace. I like to dream."

**T.M:** How did you meet the young conductor Kristjan Jarvi?

**G.B:** "It was his agent at the time, a young woman of Yugoslav origin, who was familiar with my music and thought that it would be a good idea to try working together. Kristjan took her advice. They put a proposal to us to collaborate for the Musikfest Bremen. That didn't happen but ECHO picked up the idea and here we are."

**T.M:** You went from rock star to classical music composer. How did you pull off such a transition?

**G.B:** "Most artists work on the same type of work all their lives. People can change their shoes, their hairstyle and even their language. But they can't change what's inside them. Music comes from that inner, immutable part. So, as strange as it may seem, I always think and do the same thing!"

**T.M:** In contrast to Bizet's *Carmen*, one feature of your opera *Karemen* is a happy ending. Why did you make that choice?

**G.B:** "When I began working on *Karemen*, I asked myself what the reaction would be of one of my Romany musicians who plays at weddings and funerals, if I took him to see Bizet's *Carmen*. My answer

was that he would say: if, in the life of a Romany woman – the life of this *Carmen* – God wanted freedom to be the only thing worthy of experiencing and for which you would die, and if that's impossible in real life, why at least in this opera, the only one in which the protagonist is a Romany woman, couldn't there be a happy ending? If I want Romanies to be able to perform my opera, and that's my main intention, it has to have a happy ending, not a tragic one. They have enough tragedy in their real lives!"

**T.M:** Will you, on 25<sup>th</sup> April, be performing your hits (*Kalasnikov*, etc.) to please your audience?

**G.B:** "If the public want to hear *Kalasnikov*, they could be disappointed. But if they come with an open mind to hear what I have to offer today, they'll be happy. I'm not an MTV icon and I don't have any obligation to maintain 'a consistent image of Goran Bregovic'. That gives me the freedom to compose as naturally as I eat. One day it's a grand formal feast, the other it's a piece of cheese which I share with friends. I hope that my public will have that same freedom to be open to something different."

Roxane Michel

Goran Bregovic, Orchestre des Mariages et enterrements, Kristjan Jarvi and Absolute ensemble "Forgive me, is this the way into the future?" → 25.04 Palais des Beaux-Arts Rue Ravenstein 23 – 1000 Brussels (Henry le Boeuf hall) T. +32 (0)2 507 84 44 www.bozar.be



# Artists into the ring!

The spotlight is on contemporary circus techniques in Brussels, in the Pistes de Lancement Festival (Clown Festival). There are no clowns, magicians or lion tamers here but a real artistic jigsaw combining talented tightrope walkers, trapeze artists and comic actors.



Catherine Magis : Madame Catastrophe

well as to make themselves known to the large cultural organisations." Madame Catastrophe is also in charge of the Festival programme. And when I ask her how she selects the applicants, she answers candidly: "I choose them for their talent, of course, but also depending on whether or not we hit it off. Because, although everyone has his or her own act, everyone is involved in setting up the other ones. It's team work and the Festival only works its magic if there's a good atmosphere among all those involved in the show."

Jessica Nibelle

**I**n March the ninth Festival Pistes de Lancement is moving into the Maison du Peuple of Saint-Gilles for three weeks. On show will be young circus artistes from all over the world, presenting twenty or so acts and inviting you to discover every aspect of contemporary circus. The festival offers a varied blend of clownish tragedy and acrobatic comedy with trapeze, high wire, juggling and aerial curtain. The show is presented by Véronique Castanyer dressed in her "Madame Pas Trop Loyale" costume, a beaming character who provides the link between the performances to the great delight of the audience.

## MEETING MADAME CATASTROPHE

To find out more about this Festival, which is attracting growing acclaim, I went to meet the bubbly Catherine Magis, the lady behind the event. Better known in the circus world by the name of *Madame Catastrophe*, in 1995 Catherine Magis formed Espace Catastrophe, a place for encounters and development of circus and street arts in Brussels. An artiste passionate about her trade, *Madame Catastrophe* doesn't like competition, "There are no judges and no-one wins a prize. The aim of Festival Pistes de Lancement is to give young circus artistes the opportunity to present their new acts to a wide audience as

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

9<sup>th</sup> "PISTES DE LANCEMENT" Festival  
8 → 25 MARCH 2007  
Maison du Peuple  
de Saint-Gilles  
Parvis de Saint-Gilles, 37  
1060 Brussels

- Tour de Pis(t)le / From Thursday 8 to Sunday 11/03  
- Piste<sup>2</sup> [Piste au Carré] / From Thursday 15 to Sunday 18/03  
- Piste SUR SCENE / From Thursday 22 to Sunday 25/03

(Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
> show at 10.30pm  
Sunday → show at 3pm)



© Bozar

Carolin Widmann

# DIARY

## BERLINER PHILHARMONIKER 08.03

Palais des Beaux-Arts  
rue Ravenstein 23  
1000 Brussels  
(Henry Le Boeuf hall)  
T. +32 (0)2 507 84 44  
[www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)

Formed in 1882, the Berliner Philharmoniker is a real institution. It's seen a succession of the most famous conductors including Herbert von Karajan, Hans von Bülow and Arthur. But since 2002, the orchestra has been led by Sir Simon Rattle. A graduate of London's Royal Academy of Music, this Brit will fill your ears with Symphony N° 7 opus 70 by Dvorak, Thomas Adès' Tevot and Leos Janacek's Sinfonietta.

## MINI-FESTIVAL TABEA ZIMMERMANN 12.04

Conservatoire Royal  
de Bruxelles

rue de la Régence 30  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 511 04 27  
[www.conservatoire.be](http://www.conservatoire.be)  
Arcanto Quartett presents the works of Bartok, Ligeti and Brahms. And it's worth noting that the German viola player Tabea Zimmermann will be performing. A virtuoso who began learning the viola at the age of three, she is well-known worldwide and has won several international first prizes in Geneva, Budapest, Paris and elsewhere. She has also performed with famous orchestras including the Berliner Philharmoniker and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

## POP ROCK DISCOVERY

13.04 FROM 7.30PM  
Festival Emergenza  
VK Molenbeek  
rue de l'Ecole 76

1080 Brussels  
[www.myspace.com/otherwiseive](http://www.myspace.com/otherwiseive)  
If you want to discover Brussels' rock, the "Otherwise" band needs your support! Because, as part of the Emergenza festival, you'll have a chance to familiarise yourself with Belgian rock as well as helping Otherwise to take another decisive step. Vote for them and come in large numbers!

## SAMSON AND DELILAH 21, 23 & 25.03

Théâtre de la Monnaie  
Place de la Monnaie  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)70 23 39 39  
[www.lamonnaie.be](http://www.lamonnaie.be)  
Based on the Old Testament story, this opera recounts the famous tale of Samson and Delilah. A work in three acts, first performed in 1877 in Weimar, it has often been

perceived as an oratorio opera because of its biblical subject matter. But the plot strays quite far from the original version. The opera is presented as a concert conducted by the musical director of la Monnaie, Kazushi Ono. Mezzo-soprano Olga Borodina plays Delilah, a role in which she has already shone alongside the famous Plácido Domingo at Covent Garden's Royal Opera House.

## VERGINE DEI DOLORI 29.03 → 31.03 & 3.04 → 5.04

Théâtre National de la Communauté française  
Boulevard Emile Jacqmain 111-115 - 1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 203 53 03  
[www.theatrenational.be](http://www.theatrenational.be)  
The composer Alessandro Scarlatti made a name for himself with opera but he also distinguished himself

## DRAMA DIARY

with the oratorio *La Vergine dei dolori* (1717). This work recounts the suffering endured by the Virgin Mary when her son was condemned and crucified. The conductor Rinaldo Allesandrini, a specialist in Italian vocal repertoire of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, has revived this work, which had sunk into oblivion, refining it and adapting it for the stage thanks to the director Ingrid von Wantoch Rekowski.

## STYLUS PHANTASTICUS 22.04

Eglise des Minimes  
rue des Minimes 62  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 507 84 44  
[www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)  
The Stylus Phantasticus ensemble presents the works of Dietrich Buxtehude, Johann Adam Reincken and Philipp Heinrich Erlebach, a concert of 17<sup>th</sup> century German Baroque music. The musicians trained in the performance of Baroque music at the famous Schola Cantorum Basiliensis. They offer, for our enjoyment, the winning hat trick, namely: technical mastery, virtuosity and interpretive skill.

## JAN VERMEULEN PLAYS SCHUBERT 17.03

Musée des Instruments de Musique – Montagne de la Cour Hofberg 2  
1000 Brussels  
[www.mim.fgov.be](http://www.mim.fgov.be)  
T. +32 (0)2 545 01 30  
Famous for his performances of Schubert on period instruments, Jan Vermeulen is not about to break with tradition. On Saturday, he is

playing the sonata in G (D894) on two Viennese grand pianos dating from the nineteenth century. A great opportunity to visit Brussels' Musical Instrument Museum at the same time.

## ICTUS 23.03

Kaaithheater  
20 Square Sainclettesquare  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 201 59 59  
[www.kaaitheater.be](http://www.kaaitheater.be)  
The Ictus formation will be performing an acoustic and electronic programme of Italy's Bruno Mantovani and France's Yan Maresz.

## CAROLIN WIDMANN (VIOLIN) 18.03

Palais des Beaux-Arts  
rue Ravenstein 23  
1000 Brussels  
(Henry Le Boeuf hall)  
T. +32 (0)2 507 84 44  
[www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)  
Carolin Widmann, a talented violinist, is playing Bela Bartok, Pierre Boulez, Mikael Jarrell and George Benjamin at 11am. Breakfast will be served and a musical creativity workshop and concert will be held for children.

## NICOLAS KENDE (PIANO) 15.04

Hôtel Astoria  
(Waldorf room)  
103 rue Royale  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)900 288 77  
[www.astoria-concerts.be](http://www.astoria-concerts.be)  
The works of Bach, B. Van Camp, Liszt, Prokofiev and Mozart will be played by the pianist Nicolas Kende.

Roxane Michel



# Saint Emilion Grand cru and its new 2006 rating

Exclusively for Together Magazine, Christophe Dufournier introduces you to the fascinating world of oenology, in which the news goes hand in hand with the seasons

**C**hristophe Dufournier is a true lover of great wines and founder of Chai & Bar Total Wine Experience. This exceptional and daring concept offers an impressive stock of great wines and champagnes kept at a controlled temperature. In the Entrepôt Royal of Tour & Taxi, Chai & Bar spreads out its stock for you over an area of 700 m²,

along with its Tasting Bar to share the pleasures of the vine with you. The welcome, outstanding setting, value for money and advice with a personal touch are the magic ingredients that make Chai & Bar work so well. The wines from Saint Emilion in Bordeaux are popular in Belgium. This region, with its beautiful countryside, produces wines called Saint Emilion and Saint Emilion Grand cru. "Grand

cru" is not a geographical definition. It is a qualitative criteria defined by a return of 40 hl/ha (hectolitres per hectare) instead of 45hl/ha in Saint Emilion, which gives a higher concentration to the Grand cru wines.

Saint Emilion vineyards were not rated until 1954, whereas Medoc vineyards have been rated since 1855. These ratings are helpful to the consumer, but the best

Christophe Dufournier's wine bar serves grands crus at affordable prices, served under the best conditions

## The rating system of the Saint Emilion Grand cru is unique

ratings are those that a wine-lover decides himself based on his own judgement and personal taste.

Since 1954, the ratings of Saint Emilion vineyards have been determined by agricultural, commercial and scientific criteria. Who judges? Initially, wine brokers who knew the wines and the market prices. Since 1996, oenologists, experts in the soil and the grapes, have sat on the panel of judges.

The rating system of the Saint Emilion Grand cru is unique, because it was initiated by the vineyard owners and because it is revised every 10 years. Within the Saint Emilion Grand cru estates, it differentiates between the "grands crus classés" and the "first grands crus classés". It's a challenging system for the owners, who work to maintain their rating or to improve it. This rating system is credible because it retrogrades certain wines and promotes others.

After 1969, 1984 and 1996, the most recent rating was published in September 2006:

- Cheval Blanc and Ausone are still the only two first Grands crus classés "A".
- Two new wines, Troplong Mondot by Christine Valette and Pavie Macquin by Nicolas Thienpont (a Belgian owner) and Stephane de Renoncourt (oenologist), joined the elite

club of first Grands crus classés "B" to make a

total of 13 "firsts", including well-known names such as Figeac, Clos Fourtet, Beauséjour Bécot and Pavie. - The Grands crus classés, which now number 48 (55 in 1996), elected eight new wines and demoted 13 others. Bellefont Belcier, Grand Corbin, Grand Corbin Despagne, Destoix and Fleur cardinale were promoted.

The decreasing number of wines elected ensures the viability and the credibility of this rating. A wine that has been demoted can reappear in the rating. Numerous properties with good soil go through periods of decline and then improve due to the hard work of a demanding owner and oenologist. At this price level, the consumer deserves constant quality. As wine-lovers, we can only applaud the re-evaluation of the Saint Emilion ratings, as well as of those of the crus bourgeois du Médoc, which attracted so much attention two years ago.

Should you abandon the wine of a demoted estate that you've been enjoying for years? Certainly not. It is your pleasure that's important. Nevertheless, it is interesting and useful to compare the value for money of your preferred wine with a wine of equivalent rating.

The wines of Saint Emilion, elaborated primarily with Merlot and Cabernet franc

grapes on clay soils, are excellent companions for winter and spring meals.

## CHAI & BAR'S SELECTION OF GREAT WINES FROM SAINT EMILION:

**Saint Emilion Grand cru:**  
 Château La Fleur de Jauge 2001 (14.50€)  
 Mondot 2000 (22.50€)  
 Château Bellefont Belcier 2003 (22.90€)  
 Château Ferrand Lartigue 2001 (26.50€)

## Saint Emilion 1<sup>er</sup> cru:

Château Pavie Macquin 2001 (51.50€)  
 Château Troplong Mondot 1999 (50.90€)

## CHAI & BAR IN FIGURES:

- A selection of 400 fine and exceptional wines from all over the world, including 200 great Bordeaux, starting at 6€.
- A stock of 65,000 bottles, sold by the bottle or by the case, available to the public.

Meet Christophe Dufournier at Chai & Bar, on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 9pm. (late-night opening), Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 12 noon to 7pm. and Saturdays from 10am to 7pm.

**Tour & Taxis,**  
 avenue du Port, 86C  
 1000 Brussels  
 T. +32 (0)2 421 60 80  
 Fax +32 (0)2 421 60 81  
 contact@chai-bar.be  
 www.chai-bar.be

**Chai & Bar**  
 TOTAL WINE EXPERIENCE



# Our selection

In close cooperation with [www.sensum.be](http://www.sensum.be), Together Magazine presents its selection of the great restaurants that add to the gourmet pride of our capital city. The principle is simple: in each issue, we invite you into very popular establishments that have one thing in common. This month, we're showing you three of the best restaurants that offer the option of dining after 10pm. For further information, please go to [www.sensum.be](http://www.sensum.be) the reference site dedicated to the art of fine dining. Also available in English, [www.sensum.be](http://www.sensum.be) gives you, free of charge, a host of recipes, places to go, interviews with chefs as well as a wealth of information and anecdotes about the seminal delicacies and drinks of our homeland. All illustrated with photos that can't fail to make your mouth water.

**YOMA**  
rue de l'Eclipse, 11  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 514 64 42  
Open from Tuesday to  
Sunday, 7pm to midnight.

**Owners:** Manon Gillet  
and Yoth Ondara  
**The chef is:** Yoth Ondara  
**Average price per head:** 40€  
**Set Menus:** on request  
for groups.  
**Bonuses:** Rooms for  
meetings or banquets -  
Private car park (6 spaces  
subject to booking) - Nearest  
parking facility: Parking 58 -  
Private lounge.

After some fifteen years  
of gaining experience and  
travelling, Yoth, who is of Thai  
origin, and Manon, who is  
Belgian, opened Yoma on  
14 September last year.  
The restaurant offers  
a very personal atmosphere  
and a place where  
East meets West.  
So what is the leitmotiv for

this sparkling young couple?  
Sharing their love of good food,  
taking their time over things  
and living in the here and now.  
As for the atmosphere, well,  
there's red everywhere you  
look, leading us from the  
invigorating, dynamic  
atmosphere of the bar into the  
tranquillity of the more  
streamlined restaurant dining  
room itself. As for your taste  
buds, Yoth combines a number  
of influences in a highly  
inventive cuisine. Even though  
there are some Asian touches,  
don't be fooled. He juggles with  
all the riches of French  
gastronomy, the flavours of  
Italian produce, adding a few  
Mediterranean touches  
without overlooking Asian  
finesse. And, just to make sure  
there's no fly in the ointment,  
they have an exciting wine list,  
full of discoveries - not just  
French but also Portuguese  
and even some Lebanese wines.  
So, this is a very promising  
restaurant, which takes you on a  
journey throughout the evening.

## TOUCAN BRASSERIE

avenue Louis Lepoutre, 1  
1050 Brussels,  
T. +32 (0)2 345 30 17  
Open 7/7 from 10am  
to 11pm every day.  
Closed on 25<sup>th</sup> December  
and 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**Owner:** Jean-Michel Hamon  
**The chef is:**

Jean-Pierre Gascoin  
**Average price per head:** 30€  
**Dish of the day:** 9€

**Set Menus:** on request  
**Bonuses:** Dining on the  
terrace - Room for meetings  
or receptions for up to 35  
people - Take-away service -  
Catering service on request -  
Easy access for the disabled  
(except toilets) - Easy parking  
in the street - Bar - Private  
lounge - Air-conditioned  
room - No-smoking area -  
Children's menus on request

- Vegetarian menus.

Take an owner with a feel for  
decor and modernism, who  
displays his works on the wall  
of a typical brasserie and has a  
well-developed sense of  
hospitality, a place that's the  
choice of smiling young women  
and has found a professional  
chef in Jean-Pierre Gascoin,  
an owner who offers daily  
suggestions and knows how  
to manage a cellar with  
numerous favourites, who has  
set up his brasserie at  
a strategic point, and  
you'll understand why the  
establishment keeps filling up.  
So, well done to Jean-Michel  
Hamon and please forgive  
him if the place is full on the  
day you drop in without the  
essential booking. We were  
won over by the red tuna  
tartare with ginger and Agen



prunes: yes, the owner is from  
the South-West. Origins that  
were not revealed in his  
sumptuous oven-roasted  
knuckle of ham spiced with  
grain mustard.

What's more, it's open from  
midday to 11pm, 363 days  
a year.

## IL GIARDINO

Chaussée de Waterloo, 1441  
1180 Brussels (Uccle)  
T. +32 (0)2 374 35 16  
Open every day from midday  
to 2.30pm and from 7pm  
to 10.45pm - 11.45pm.  
(weekends)

**Owner:** Yves De Boe  
**The chef is:** Laurent Spors  
**Average price per head:** 30€  
**Lunch:** 14€ (3 courses)  
**Music:** Lounge.



**Bonuses:** Dining on the terrace  
(100 people) - Rooms for  
meetings, receptions for up to  
40 people. Take-away service  
on request - Painting exhibition  
- Easy access for the disabled  
(including toilets)  
- Children's menu on request  
- Vegetarian menu.

## IRRESISTIBLE DISHES:

Selection of Antipasti, Scampi  
with garlic-baked gambas  
with truffle oil (wood fire) -  
Home-made "trio of ravioli" -  
Mixed grill of seafood in white  
butter - Escalope of veal "Val  
d'Aosta", linguine with truffle  
oil, parmesan and rocket.

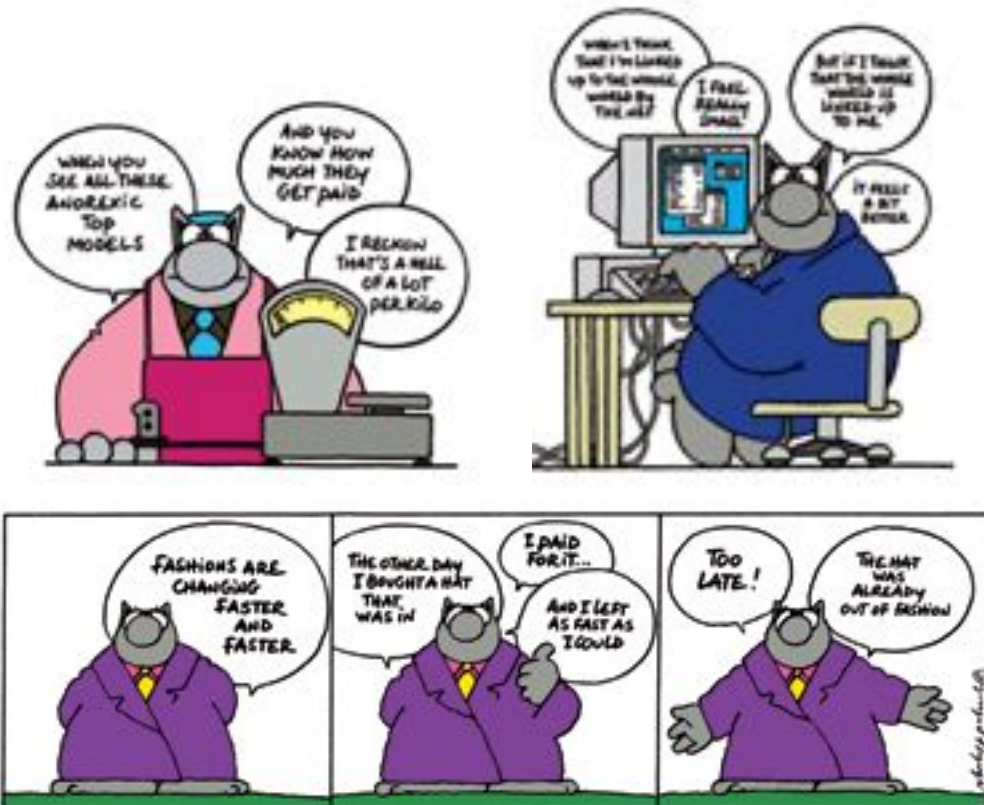
A table in the south of Brussels  
for Italian cuisine. It makes  
sense! On the chaussée  
de Waterloo, business is brisk!  
For more than ten years, Yves

De Boe has managed to make  
his establishment the "place to  
go" for customers loyal to the  
"transalpine-style of  
preparation" of Laurent Spors.  
The talented chef makes tasty  
Italian dishes, such as the  
warm Chavignol salad with  
acacia honey, linguine with  
saffron and scampi, escalope  
of veal "Val d'Aosta" or  
aubergine parmeggiana. Italian  
or French, the food is superb.  
For lunch or dinner,  
a generous buffet will satisfy  
your appetite. The trendy  
decoration combines wooden  
floor, blue stone and black  
leather chairs. Modern and  
convivial, this place is more  
than tempting. The spacious  
shaded terrace is also a  
special feature of this place,  
which is well worth visiting  
again and again.

# Le Chat

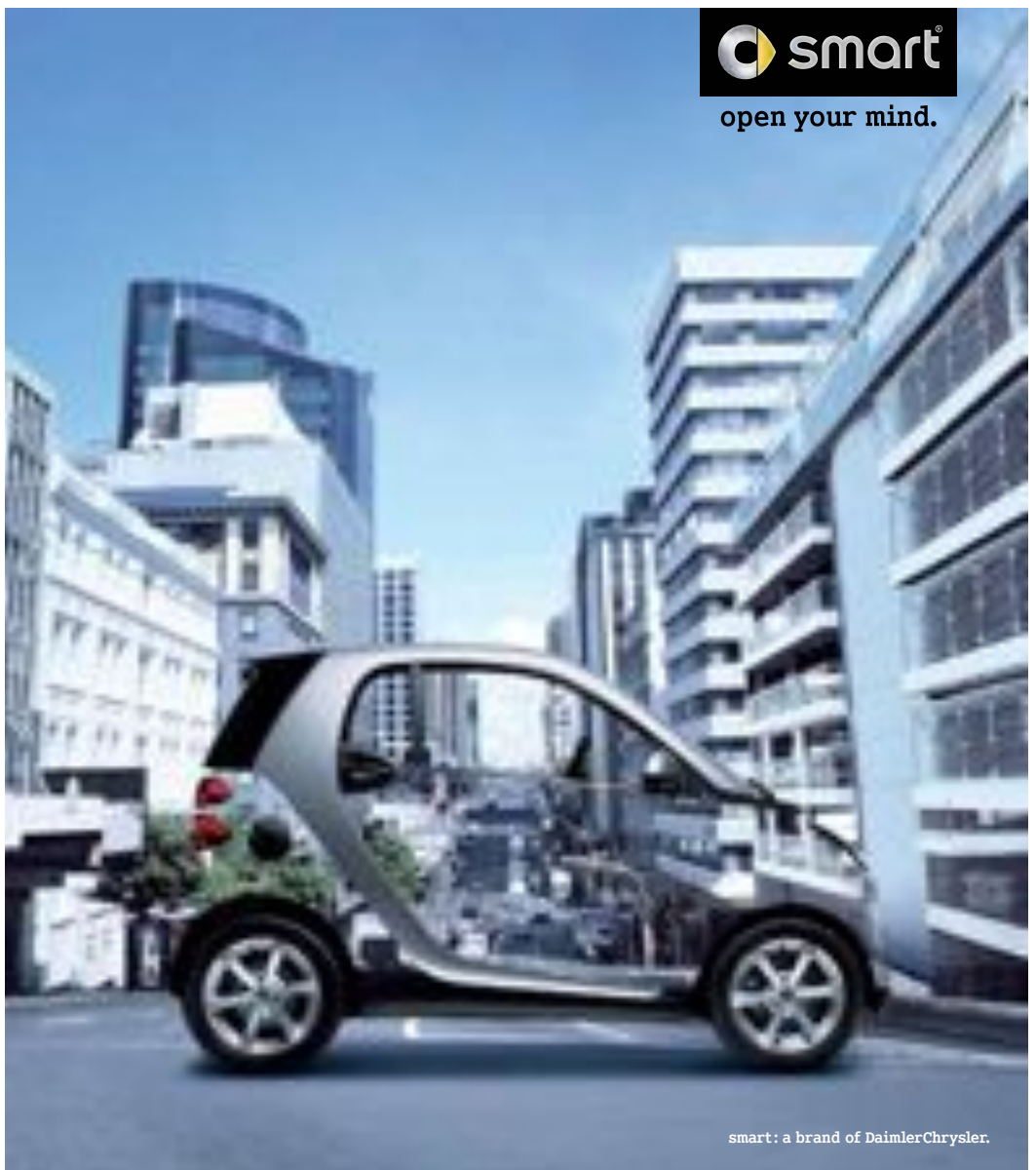
Everybody knows Le Chat.  
Even if you don't know his name,  
you can immediately warm to identify  
this strange and sweet animal

In our March-April issue, the focus has been on the themes of fashion and the virtual world. Exclusively for Together Magazine, Philippe Geluck reveals his view of these two worlds.





open your mind.



smart: a brand of DaimlerChrysler.

» The new smart.  
And the city breathes again.

Emission de CO<sub>2</sub> (gr/km): 88 - Consommation moyenne (l/100km): 3,3. Informations environnementales AR 19/03/2004: [www.smart.com](http://www.smart.com) - Donnons priorité à la sécurité.