

# Together

magazine

**FASHION**  
*Faith  
in strangers*

**Battle  
of Waterloo**  
*200 YEARS AGO*

**TRAVEL**  
Dubai

**FENG SHUI**  
YOUR HOME

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the 20k**

**PERSONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
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Cate  
**Blanchett**

**INTERVIEW**



## THE ART OF PERFORMANCE

La Jaguar XJ. Jamais auparavant le design, l'innovation, le luxe et les performances n'ont formé ensemble aussi homogène. Sa carrosserie monocoque issue de la technologie aéronautique est en aluminium. Son moteur turbo (240ch) est époustoufflant. Et son équipement ne laisse rien à désirer.

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## Editor's LETTER

*Together:  
Inspiring you  
to reach your dreams...*

### ON THE COVER



Cate Blanchett is  
Cinderella's wicked  
stepmother

## LIFE CHANGERS

As the man said...in this case it was one Elbert Hubbard, writing in *Cosmopolitan* in 1902, who coined the term 'the school of hard knocks'. It's an expression often used by people who failed academically but claim that 'out there', on the street, is where one learns the most about life. But no matter your job, education or background, life can at times feel like a series of blows.

We have a regular charity page and this month's focus is on a man with a remarkable story. Luc Huberty was enjoying a career as an entrepreneur when a serious accident changed his life forever – his right leg had to be amputated, and he had to rebuild his life.

Not only did he return to his first sporting love swimming, he wanted to run again. And, with the help of a special prosthesis, he has done just that and now competes in all manner of competitions. But he has taken it further by setting up an initiative to help people who have gone through a similar hard knock and make it possible for them to take to the running tracks again.

Old clichés are like some old wives tales: some are true. And being grateful for what you have because you never know what's round the corner is clearly one of them. But, as Elbert Hubbard also famously stated: "Don't take life too seriously. You'll never get out of it alive."

**Paul Morris**  
EDITOR







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Cate Blanchett



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For advertising sales rates please consult

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### Astrology: Seeing stars

Life coach and astrologer Sarbani Sen gets personal with the planets

## @ LIFESTYLE



### Dragon eggs for sale in Ireland

New advertising campaign to showcase Northern Ireland to Games of Thrones fans

## @ TRAVEL



### Mauritius: Paradise found

A stay at the Dinarobin Hotel in Mauritius is well worth even the longest journey.

## @ NEWS



### Family time in Wallonia

Wallonia is the ideal place in Belgium for a family adventure

## @ TECHNOLOGY



### Apps to help you keep your resolutions

Our tech guy Colin Moors runs the rule over some apps ...

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### Ten Worst Case Scenarios In A Relationship

Some things are too big to keep a couple ...

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# Starring in Belgium



## Couleur Café 2015

"Couleur Café is an apt reflection of the city it calls home, Brussels, with its cultural mix that makes travelling the world as easy as looking out your front window." The very popular event has the usual mix of world and urban music. Check the website as they are announcing new acts almost daily. **3-5 July**. Tour & Taxis Brussels. - [www.couleurcafe.be](http://www.couleurcafe.be)



## Jose James: Yesterday I had The Blues

Billie Holiday – one of the most unique voices of the jazz world – was born a hundred years ago. 'Yesterday I had The Blues' is the embodiment of a production AB set-up with José James in '12. Jose James has now recorded it for the Blue Note label. The version of *Strange Fruit* – that he recorded with a loop station – is worth a listen alone. **17 May**. Ancienne Belgique. Tickets: **€23** - [www.abconcerts.be](http://www.abconcerts.be)



## Mario Biondi

Mario Biondi is an Italian soul-funk-chanson sensation. A star in his homeland, with millions of YouTube viewers, but already discovered in the countries near us too, up to and including selling out two North Sea Jazz Club shows already. **10 June**. Ancienne Belgique. Tickets: **€28** - [www.abconcerts.be](http://www.abconcerts.be)



## Graspop Metal Meeting 2015

Graspop Metal is celebrating two decades with an impressive line-up if metal is your favourite element, including the likes of Marilyn Manson, Alice Cooper, Slipknot, Motorhead, SLASH and Judas priest. **19-21 June**. Festivalpark Stenehei, Kastelsedijk, 2480 Dessel. Tickets: from **€89** for a single day. - [www.graspop.be](http://www.graspop.be)

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# Leg's Go: Getting moving again



**L**uke Huberty is one of those individuals whose life suddenly changed. In 2001, the Belgian entrepreneur had a serious accident: 27 fractures, 400 stitches, and finally the amputation of his right leg. To cope and move forward, Luke turned to sports. A former high-level swimmer, he literally took the plunge and began intensive training in 2004. Two years later, Luke became an elite performer in parasports and participates in both able-bodied and disabled competitions in Belgium and abroad.

In 2012, he learned that the triathlon would be an official Paralympics discipline. Luke began a meticulous and intensive preparation in order to participate in high-level competitions. To do this, the athlete had to make several major investments, such as purchasing a prosthesis that allows him to run and material for swimming, cycling and running.

On the eve of his 50th birthday, Luke plans to offer the possibility of running to an amputee of the lower limb. Luke chose to implement a project that will give other people with the same disability the chance to get up and go. And he has called it 'Leg's Go'.

Luke says: "Sports prostheses cost a lot of money! I would like others to be able to rediscover, to pick themselves up again through sport."

Support Luc Huberty by investing in 'Leg's Go' and help support others who would like to get on the move again.

How to contact Leg's Go:  
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# **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*According to Feng Shui, the house is divided into nine sections,  
which correspond to different areas of life*





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# Brussels 20k: On your starting blocks

**Monica Schettino**, Wellbeing Manager at Aspria, offers vital tips for anyone taking part in this year's race

**T**he 2015 edition of the Brussels 20k will be held on 31 May. The run, which started in 1980 with 4,659 participants and reached a record number of participants last year with more than 40,000 participants, will again see men and women of all ages on the starting blocks, ready to challenge themselves in a wonderfully enthusiastic atmosphere.

Some of you are regular participants, others may have put the 20k in the good resolutions basket for 2015. Some of you know exactly what to do to be there in great shape, others need a little bit more support.

First of all, you need to avoid the common running injuries which every year prevent some runners from participating in the run at the very last moment. Running injuries typically happen because of repetitive micro-trauma, injuring the weakest anatomical location of a vulnerable structure. Summarizing the research, 45%-70% of endurance athletes suffer from a running injury within a period of 12 months. And for recreational or novice runners this is even worse. Experienced runners tend to have a lower risk of injury because they develop an innate ability to recognize the onset of an injury and prevent it from worsening.







The most common running injuries are knee-related injuries, followed by foot, ankle and lower leg, but the hips and the back also may suffer from running. Common training errors that lead to running injuries are:

- Rapid increase in weekly distance
- Continuous long distance
- Abrupt change in running surface
- Failure to follow hard training days with light training days
- Wearing inadequate sport shoes
- Returning to a previous distance too fast after a break
- Running several months without a break
- Too much interval training
- Muscles imbalances and/or inadequate muscular strength or range of motion

So how do you avoid most of these injuries?

### The right equipment

If you've got a good pair of shoes and the right clothing, you've already achieved part of your goal. Given that everyone has a different stride, it's essential to choose a good pair of shoes which suit you. They won't just ensure your comfort, they'll also help you avoid muscular injury and damage to the bones or arteries of your feet, as well as your ankles, knees, pelvis, back and even your shoulders. To do this, you need to consult specialists who have the machines available to analyze your stride.

For clothing, you don't need to reach immediately for high tech fabrics when you start running. The main thing you need is a windcheater or a pullover to ensure you don't catch a chill after training.

### The training

You need to pay close attention to your overall training progression, moderately increasing distance and the number of harder running days. Multiple studies suggest the 10% rule works: increase distance no more than 10% each week.

It is also important to schedule days off for recovery and avoid excessive downhill running on consecutive days.

For the first four weeks, if you train three times a week with a rest day between each training session, 20 to 30 minutes of activity is enough. During your training session, you should alternate running with walking. It could be that, at first, you need to walk more than you run. Don't worry, because this will gradually be reversed as you continue with your training. To stay motivated, some people wear intelligent bracelets, a pedometer equipped with a GPS allowing you to visualize your effort or to log the number of calories burnt while running.

From the fifth to the seventh week, increase the sessions by 10 minutes and the intervals of walking by a maximum of one to two minutes. Your workouts will become more intense, but you'll be making real progress. Ideally, you should use a heart rate meter during your training sessions to establish a target heart rate which allows you to talk without getting out of breath while you're training, so that you don't push yourself too hard.

During the final three weeks, the aim is to reduce the number of intervals of walking, until you no longer have any at all.

Finally, you'll be running for about thirty minutes, you'll cover 5km and your body will thank you because both your physical and mental condition will come out of it much improved. ●



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## Domo-therapy: Clean up and awaken the sleeping energy in your home

**Sarbani Sen** explains the benefits of a beautiful yet very secret art



**W**hat is domo-therapy? Well, going back to the ancient sacred texts of Vastu Shastra or the more popular Feng Shui in the Chinese world, we realize that our houses and interiors are crossed by various energies that come from electro-magnetic fields, light and wind energy, and even stagnating energies. According to Feng Shui, the house is divided into nine sections, which correspond to different areas of life: career, love, friendship, health, prosperity, fame, external aid, children and spirituality.

These energies can be balanced to enhance peace, prosperity and success. We read in ancient books: "If a house is made according to these principles, the inhabitants enjoy all the

happiness in life. If it is against vastu (or feng shui) principals, it will be a place for all sort of problems, worries and have no peace."

So how does a domo-therapy session occur? First, like all coaching sessions, we need to agree on a goal, for your home this time. You might lack dynamism, feel tired and stressed, leaving some areas of your house disorganized (kitchen cupboards, bathroom cupboards). Or you might not be satisfied with the internal organization of your wardrobe – you would like more clarity and Zen in your mind and in your space. Or maybe the ambient energy no longer fits and you want to revitalize, harmonize or brighten up your home.



Now we start analyzing your entire place in order to get a first general impression, and then we'll focus on the area that causes the stress. What is the mood when we go in? How do we feel? How would someone else entering the space feel? What does the visitor see first? What shows that is important for you? Is it coherent with who you are today? Are there objects that belong to your past that are not relevant today anymore? How are the rooms? Is the parent room romantic or dull? How do you sleep in it? How do you see your married life? (our house tells us a lot about us). So many questions that will help organize and harmonize the space.

After this one-hour tour, we observe "loaded" areas, areas that are packed or that have unused objects, or broken objects. We clean those spaces "free", that is to say, it is important to regularly dispose of what is no longer useful, not working or just sits in a corner. This will liberate a lot of energy and space in your mind. You will immediately feel the difference.

We will then proceed to check that your internal organization is "consistent", that the office documents and material is in your office area, that kitchen and dining utensils are together, that children have their specific storage area, that their room is well appointed and practical in a joyful way (which corresponds to them) etc... This is a fun moment where joy is re-injected in places you would have never thought of in a very creative way. Why not hang a beautiful dress on the wall in the kids room if it's too small yet they love the colour and don't want to throw it away? Put up a nice picture of you and your other half in your bedroom that you really love and represents you as a couple.

Creativity and joy go together – this is a moment to dare and play with colours and fabrics. At the end of this first meeting (which lasts about three hours) you already have a clearer vision of your space: the areas are defined and consistent and the style you want to give is strengthened. Usually, it ends with a list of things to do, such as throwing things in the recycling centre (remember to sort it), or going to Petits Riens to give away some things

## **“ THIS IS A MOMENT TO DARE AND PLAY WITH COLORS AND FABRICS ”**

you don't use enough to keep, or a trip to a nice decoration store to buy those nice hangers you've always dreamed of, and that little lamp that would (now) fit perfectly in the "turquoise" room. This of course can be done in your office space, too, including olfactotherapy, the art of defining the smell you want in the different areas of your house or office.

So much to enjoy – how can it get any better? What would it take for you to feel perfectly well in a balanced environment? Are there people around you that could help? What would be the best moment to do this? Project yourself in this beautiful new environment that is you and feel the energy that flows from it. ❶



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# Finding love online

**Gemma Rose** reflects on the life lessons of internet dating



“ AT FIRST, I  
WOULD JUST BE  
A ‘PASSIVE’  
DATER, LETTING  
THE GUY  
CONTACT ME ”

**W**hen a friend of mind suggested that I try internet dating, I was pretty appalled at the prospect. I was an online dating snob. I thought it was just for desperate people. I was put off at the thought of hunting for dates, as you would jobs. I couldn't fathom why after a full day's work in front of a computer screen, anyone would want to spend the evening in front of it too.

But I finally gave in. Last year, I made a big effort to meet more men and go out on dates, using

the traditional (i.e. offline) ways. Although I enjoyed meeting lots of different guys, I failed to meet the right guy. After a break-up with someone who just wasn't that into me, I decided that maybe it was time to date in the 21st century.

When I signed up I made quite a few internet dating rookie mistakes: my profile pic was cute, but frankly it didn't make the most of what God gave me. I was also too descriptive in my profile, hence saying much more than





person doesn't respond: one being that they are no longer subscribed but the dating site still keeps their profile. Nevertheless, whatever the reason, it had nothing to do with my worth.

The second lesson was that I got better at trusting my instincts. I made an effort to be open and give people a chance. Yet, when one guy (whom I had only been on one date with previously) told me on the phone how much he liked me whilst in the middle of

necessary. Matthew Hussey, of the New York Times bestseller *Get the Guy* advises that less is more when it comes to writing your profile. I agree. I much preferred short and succinct profiles, to ones which were either like a CV or a monologue. Once I changed my profile picture and shortened my description, I got far more attention.

Matthew Hussey also recommends combining online with offline dating. He says that focusing solely on internet dating can lead to depriving ourselves of getting out there, having fun and meeting people in the real world. So I tried not to spend every evening in front of the computer, in my pyjamas, slippers, sipping a cup of hot cocoa.

I also attempted different techniques. At first, I would just be a 'passive' dater, letting the guy contact me. But then I realized that if I wanted to find the right person for me, I would have to start choosing, instead of waiting to be chosen. I consequently started contacting guys with simple, friendly messages, picking out something from their profile to strike up conversation. Sometimes the guy wrote back, sometimes he didn't.

Over the course of internet dating, I learnt surprisingly a lot of life lessons. The first is not to take rejection personally. I figured out quite early on that I wasn't going to be everyone's cup of tea, as not every guy was going to be mine. There may be a whole host of reasons why a

ordering a Chinese takeaway, I knew something didn't add up. I was right: after a disastrous second date, he kindly texted that he was not "made for me".

I got very good – very quickly – at identifying what type of person I was looking for. I knew that I didn't want to date a divorcee, or a single Dad. Moreover, I wanted someone who had a very good command of English to be able to laugh at my bad jokes (they are simply abominable in French). With all the practice in dating, I got better at asking the guy the right questions to figure out whether his values were compatible with mine.

There's a great Ted Talk by Amy Webb (digital futurist, CEO, journalist, all-round incredibly talented, entrepreneurial and successful person) called 'How I hacked online dating' where she basically collects data to help find her Mr. Right. She makes the poignant conclusion that we make our own algorithm when it comes to finding love. We choose.

And I guess this is the most important lesson from internet dating, or dating in general: that our love life is in our hands. We need to put in the hard work of figuring out what we want and how to get it. Then we have to go out there, try to find it and keep going until we do. ❶



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Belle de Bruxelles

# Belle de Bruxelles: Renaissance

In part four of our seduction series Belle de Bruxelles by sexologist **Caroline S.**, Amanda discovers new emotions...

**T**he sheets caress her skin like velvet. A soft and feminine scent of jasmine hangs in the air. Outside, the rain violently strikes the windows. Amanda lies on the bed, completely naked, a breathtaking beauty. Her pink skin has a delicate, fragile purity, giving her an adolescent air.

Leah caresses her breasts with her fingertips, making her shudder with pleasure. Amanda closes her eyes, confused by her emotions. Slowly, she kisses her lower stomach, and Amanda feels a wave of desire rising in her that she tries in vain to control. The atmosphere is warm and soft in the room, illuminated by dozens of carefully arranged candles. The tenderness of her gestures is comforting. Leah kisses and caresses with infinite delicacy, inch by inch. Carried away, transported, Amanda lets herself go and forgets all sense of time and space. It's so good to be with her... Their complicity is natural and sincere. Their eager bodies brush together, seeking and intertwining in a frantic dance. Hearts and bodies are in unison.

Burning with desire, Leah guides her in this journey of initiation, and when she puts her lips to her parted lips, a powerful and violent wave seizes her. Unable to restrain her desire, she

seizes Leah's hands, turns her over so that she is now astride her: "I want you!"

Consumed by desire, she shamelessly gives herself to her without restraint. The passion drives them further into their intimacy. Amanda, inexperienced, is guided by the expert hand of Leah in the discovery of these new erotic sensations. They are linked by an invisible thread which unites them and soon they will be no more than the extension of one another. Panting, with reddened cheeks, Amanda lets out a moan of pleasure. The excitement has reached its height. Leah's devouring sensual mouth rises back and forth up her thighs in an irresistible game. Eyes closed, she savours these kisses, subjugated by the

emotion of their bodies, fascinated by the expression on her face and the intensity of her gaze. Drunk with pleasure, their frantic bodies press against one another loudly and then give themselves up simultaneously.

Amanda, confused, troubled by events, pulls back the sheet mechanically. Timidly, Leah takes her hand, stares into her eyes, hoping to provide comfort – thoughtful, expressionless, she is speechless. The seconds pass. Amanda lifts her head with a smile on her lips. She breathes out and in a whisper says: "Again." **1**



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# Energy Union: Getting interconnected

**Gerry Callaghan**  
looks at how the  
EU is trying to lower  
our electricity bills

*Whitelee's wind farm with Arran in the background  
Photo © Bjmullan*



**C**ompanies and campaigners have told EU member states that an interconnected North Sea energy grid should be one of the 'building blocks' of the EU's Energy Union. In a letter to ten EU member states' energy ministers, the group said the grid would boost interconnection and renewables capacity, help fight climate change and bolster the EU's energy security, which are the central goals of the Energy Union.

The Energy Union is the EU's response to a dependence on unstable gas supplies from Russia. The majority of Russian gas imports to Europe, currently standing at around 30% of the EU's annual usage, is piped through Ukraine and, therefore, when Russia decides to stop that flow – as in 2009 – it causes major shortages in EU supply.

Strong winds blowing across the North Sea have the potential to generate around 10% of

Europe's electricity needs by 2020. MEPs have backed the project, which aims to connect Ireland, Scotland, the UK, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Scottish Conservative MEP Ian Duncan and Dutch Green MEP Bas Eickhout hosted an event in March promoting the plan. Duncan said the 2016 Dutch Presidency was the perfect opportunity to "stop talking and start delivering". It was vital that the ten ministers backed the grid, he added.

"If we are to make progress toward a common electricity market, with reduced costs and lower bills for consumers and industry then we have to act now," said the Scottish deputy.

"We have an opportunity to connect up our domestic grids, which in the short term will provide jobs in construction and in the long term in maintaining the cables. Such opportunities would inject a much needed lift



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## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Politics

### “ WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT UP OUR DOMESTIC GRIDS ”

to many ports struggling with the economic downturn.”

Despite support from parliamentarians in Europe, offshore wind companies are more concerned there is not enough political support from individual member states to get results and deliver investment. The group – including businesses like Siemens, DNV-GL, Alstom, RES and Scottish and Southern Energy – stress that collaboration is needed to create an investment platform to attract vital private sector funding. The group wrote to the ten energy ministers in the North Sea region outlining concerns that references to offshore grid collaboration were left out of the final text of the European Commission’s Energy Union strategy framework.

The letter highlights grid collaboration as “key” to achieving the Commission’s vision for an “integrated and interconnected European Energy Union”. The letter states: “Coordination on planning and building a regional offshore grid infrastructure, market access and reserve sharing in the North Sea region could lead to cost savings of €5bn to €13bn per year by 2030 through a better integrated and more competitive regional market?” It continues: “However, in order for this work to achieve tangible results, including delivering the investment at the lowest cost possible, stronger political support is needed from member states.”

The group has asked for three key discussions to take place, including looking at an endorsement of the North Sea offshore grid as a key focus for “enhanced regional cooperation” as part of the European Energy Council. They have also called for a proposal to agree on a legal framework during the 2016

Dutch presidency that will define a shared electricity strategy. Furthermore, the industry group also wants the possibility of establishing a multi-country investment platform to increase future visibility of a project pipeline that will in turn “attract private investors and enable a lower cost of capital”.

Maroš Šefčovič, Commission Vice-President in charge of Energy Union, has also signalled his support for the network, saying that he believes the project is one of the “most impressive” he has seen “in a long time”.

“I would really see it as an example for the future and I would say the pattern is one we have to study very closely and maybe use more widely [throughout the EU],” he added.

Furthermore Maria Donnelly, the European Commission’s director of Energy, has echoed Ian Duncan’s call by saying she also wants the grid prioritised when the Netherlands holds the rotating Presidency of the EU in 2016.

However, advocates are concerned that the North Sea grid initiative was left out of informal Energy Council talks in Luxembourg last month and that while arrangements such as the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan were specifically cited in the Commission’s Energy Union communication, the North Seas Countries Offshore Grid Initiative was not.

By citing the advantages, European officials, MEPs and industry leaders united to tell the Commission that there is cross-party support and a common vision for a connected North Sea, and that for too long it has been overlooked and hasn’t got the political priority it deserves. For businesses and consumers bills will fall because electricity will be exported and not wasted. Meeting peak demand will become easier with large exporters like Norway involved, our CO2 emissions will decrease as offshore wind, tidal and wave power get a boost from interconnectivity and, a North Sea Grid could be an alternative to importing more and more gas from the ever uncertain Russian market. ❶



# A tightrope balancing act

**David Deruytter** looks at investing in an era of high stock markets and low interest rates



**W**ith stock markets globally at record high levels for many years, the prudent investor starts to wonder how long this bonanza can go on. In the US the Dow Jones index stands at all-time highs, in Japan the Nikkei index reaches levels not seen for more than a decade and in Europe the Eurostoxx 50 index flirts with the highest levels

since the financial crisis of 2007/2008.

Should you cash at least a bit of the capital gains in your investment portfolio and stay on the sideline for a while, waiting for lower prices, to step in again?

The alternatives of savings accounts or bonds

do not look attractive as an alternative to investing in shares of companies. Today, you get near zero interest on savings and not much more on investments in bonds, unless you take a lot of risk or go into minor currencies of selected countries. On top of that there is the threat of a rate hike in the US which could lead to capital losses on bonds.

Real estate then? In principle, yes, given the low interest rates on mortgages, which help buyers to cheaply finance property purchases. If you invest in property directly you need tenants. As unemployment, at least in Europe, stays stubbornly high, tenants will not always be able to pay their rent or have troubles to pay it regularly on time.

The US may be the exception, but even there the growth engine is not as strong as was anticipated a few months ago. China has an issue to keep on growing at 7%, a very nice figure as such, but not what we are used to, and it also has problems creating sufficient employment for the population. Its exercise to change from 'export-led-growth' to 'domestic-consumption-led-growth' is a good one though, but it will take at least five years to accomplish. India, under its new government, looks promising, but its economy is still too small to make a real difference globally.

Until recently company profit figures were also supportive of stock prices. Sadly, there is a degree of hesitation as to whether this growth in company profitability is sustainable.

In the current climate, investors should accept that, since savings and bonds have such low yields, maybe they should be ready for lower yields on their stock or real estate investments, too. Wanting double digit yearly income from stocks or real estate is out of line with yields of one or a few percentages on savings or bonds. Before, when savings accounts yielded 5% and long term bonds 8% or more, expecting a yearly return of plus 10% on more risky assets was warranted, but probably not at today's low interest rates.

Positive areas for investments remain the

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## “ THE ALTERNATIVES OF SAVINGS ACCOUNTS OR BONDS DO NOT LOOK ATTRACTIVE ”

innovation companies in all economic sectors, but especially the Uber and Airbnb type of companies that disrupt existing mature business sectors. Biotech, new materials, new production processes such as 3D printing all look promising.

On top of that countries where the population can invest in a house, a car, a Smartphone, a TV or tablet are to be favoured since the local producers, real estate developers and distributors may grow fast. Also, the online sales platforms should perform well there: remember the strong performance of the 'Alibaba' stock in China.

In Europe, general support for the financial markets can still be expected from the European Central Bank's recent Quantitative Easing (QE) program. This program should keep interest rates in the euro zone low or even lower them further. However, the purpose of QE schemes has not been to inflate the financial markets, rather the real economy: increase the sale of houses, cars, travel packages, TVs, mobile phones, etc. With the ultimate aim of bringing inflation back to around 2% per year as compared to the current nil or negative rates.

Indeed, deflation is very bad especially for countries that are highly indebted. If an economy does not grow, it is almost impossible to make the income of the state grow, leading to issues in repaying debt. Luckily, servicing the debt, paying the interest on the debt, is easier since interest rates come down, but even that is only true for new debt, not for the existing debt.

All in all, prudence is a good stance towards investments today. Diversify, maybe take a few capital gains, check out promising new technology companies or growing countries. Even more than ever, do not borrow to invest in the financial markets. Borrow to start or grow your own business. Last but not least, spend some of your money. After all hoarding it does not bring happiness, nor does being greedy for the highest possible return. Investing today is a tightrope balancing act between not taking too much risk on the one side and still having a decent return on the other side. It may also be a lesson for the people who want to retire from active life early or even for regular retirees. With low interest rates or financial returns, it takes a bigger capital to be able to be able to pay for a decent standard of living without working. ●

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# LIFESTYLE

*Use the flat edge for a softer look  
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## LIFESTYLE

Motoring

# D'Ieteren Car Centers: The story continues...

D'Ieteren Car Centers is a group of concessions dealing in Volkswagen, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, Audi, Seat, Skoda, Bentley, Lamborghini and Bugatti. Located in the Brussels region, it is a key player in this important market. The 9,500 vehicles D'Ieteren Car Centers sell each year is proof positive of the quality of the service they offer. In addition, it is the only dealership in Brussels representing all the brands of the Volkswagen Group.

Now a benchmark in automobile sales in this part of the country, D'Ieteren Car Centers enjoys an excellent reputation and it is very well deserved. The high quality of customer service is a model. "Our staff is trained to help customers. They are coached in finding different solutions to suit all needs." The services range from the sale of new and used vehicles through mechanical maintenance and repair of vehicles and also bodywork repairs. No less than 159,760 customers trust their after-sales to D'Ieteren's professionals every year!

But D'Ieteren Car Centers have no intention of resting on their laurels and continue to evolve. In order to adapt to the conditions of the automotive world and despite the current unfavorable economic conditions in the automotive sector, D'Ieteren Car Centers continue to invest to best meet the needs of the inhabitants of Brussels and its outskirts. This is why the company strives to create real centres of excellence to further increase customer satisfaction. So, four main centres at strategic locations in the capital are emerging to facilitate access and further improve customer care. By

grouping the different brands in the same geographical location, the D'Ieteren Car Centers improve even further their expertise in after-sales for all brands.

Zaventem, Drogenbos and Anderlecht and the Mail site at Ixelles will become the flagships of D'Ieteren's activity. By groupings these various activities it creates a synergy of automobile trades in both sales and after-sales. The bodywork business will also see significant investments to focus its activities on two sites by 2018. Improvements to these industrial flows will increase the capacity of the workshops while maintaining a high quality service and respect for people working daily in this important division which is vital to the group's overall viability. D'Ieteren Car Centers's body shops are already very efficient. They are the only body shops in Belgium to be approved by the Bentley and Lamborghini brands – now that's a guarantee of quality!

The signs of the redeployment of D'Ieteren Car Centers in the Brussels region are already visible, as can be witnessed by a brand new Audi dealership opening at the beginning of July this year. It is located in the municipality of Drogenbos, just off the ring. As previously mentioned, the various combinations of activities will be completed by 2018.

But despite this significant facelift, the D'Ieteren Car Centers reaffirm what is engrained in the company's genes: the customer will always be the highest priority.

[www.dieterencarcenters.be](http://www.dieterencarcenters.be) 



# Dream cars: Part Three

Our motoring correspondent **Bob Monard** opens the bonnets of another three luxury vehicles

## Lamborghini

In aluminum and carbon, the Lamborghini **Huracan** is simply a success. This sleek, refined Italian feline purrs with a 5.2-litre V10 block and at 610hp. The Avantador and Avantador Roadster, both with 700hp, shine with exuberance.



## Ferrari

With the **California T**, Ferrari has opted for a 3.8-litre turbo instead of the 4.3-litre, giving 560hp and 0 to 100 k/h in 3.8 seconds. The 458 Spider 571 hp and F 12 T 740 hp also have their fans.





### McLaren

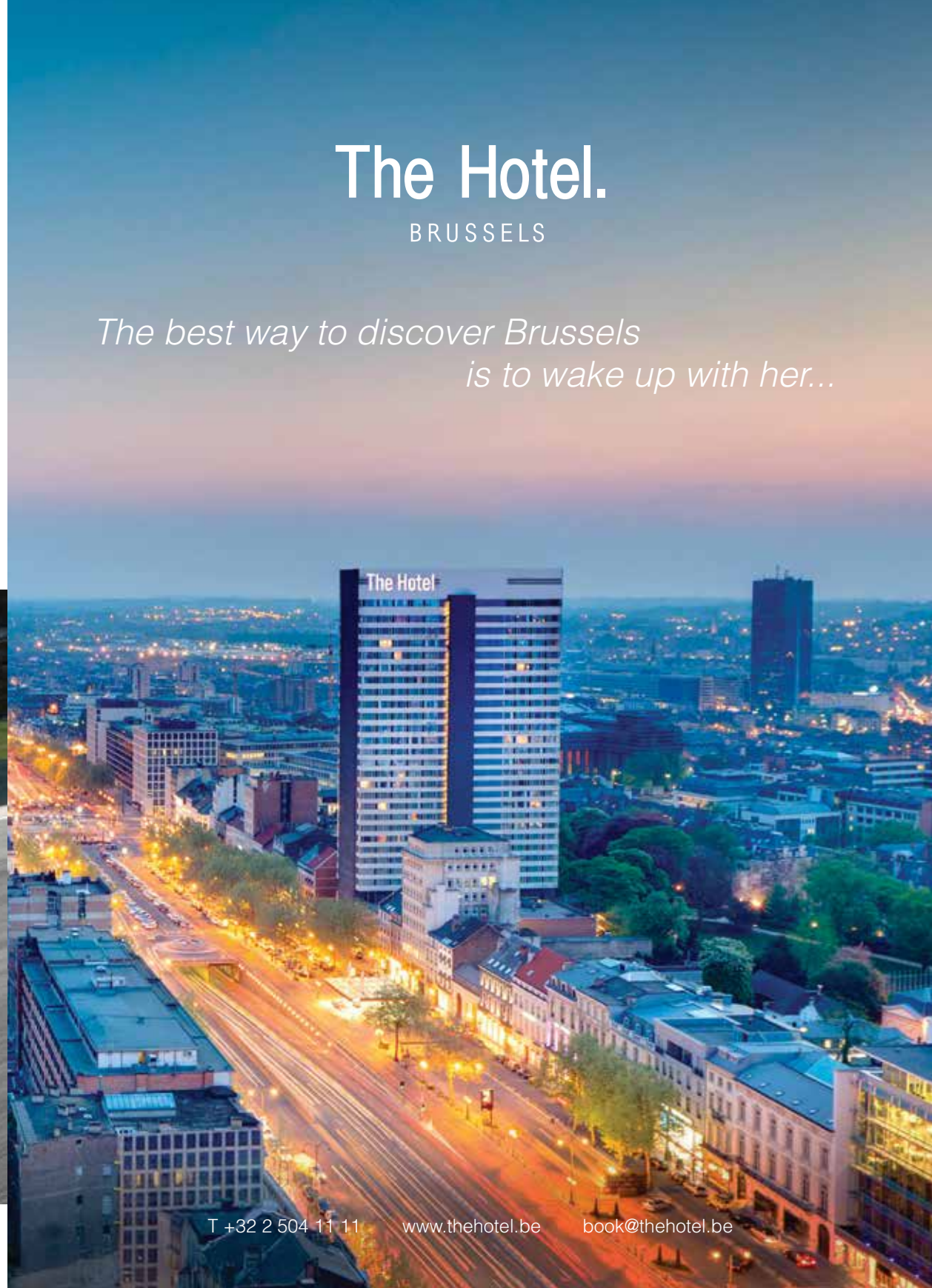
Another leading player in the Formula 1 circuit, McLaren delights fans of power and hair flying in the wind. The **S 650 Spider** is an authentic super-car, available in coupé or spider with electric roof. The engine is certainly enough, a V8 3.8 litre with 650hp.



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## LIFESTYLE

Beauty

# Beauty news

Our beauty expert,  
**Delphine Stefens**,  
suggests hair removal  
treatments and how to liven  
up those brows

### Smooth summer legs

**Illuminage Touch** (€499) promises at-home professional hair removal technology for all skin tones and for both face and body. It combines Intense Pulse Light (IPL) and radio frequency for permanent hair reduction. A shaver or epilator accessory that snaps onto the main applicator to prep the skin while treating it is also available separately. For best results, Illuminage Touch recommends using the device on targeted areas once a week, for seven treatments over a period of six weeks with periodic touch-up treatments as needed. The quartz cartridge is meant to last for 200,000 pulses or an average of nine years and can be replaced. Available at Vanden Borre, Kröfel and Media Markt.



### Wow brows

Hollywood's favorite lash booster

**Revitalash** takes on the brows with a serum aptly called **RevitaBrow** (3ML/€74.95). One conditioner is said to last for four months if used daily, which should be plenty of time to enhance the natural beauty of your brows. [www.revitalash.be](http://www.revitalash.be)





**Eye & Brow Maestro** (€35) and **Eyeshaper** (€21) by Giorgio Armani Beauty work as an eyeliner, eye shadow, brow shaper and can also be used to sculpt the face through highlighting and contouring as well as colour a stray grey hair. A fast and foolproof product inspired by the sense of urgency experienced backstage at fashion shows. Available in nine shades exclusively at Galeria Inno in Brussels and Parfuma in Antwerp.



The new **Perfectly Defined Long-Wear Brow Pencil** (€39) by Bobbi Brown is a roll-up and precise brow pencil with a 16-hour wear that's sweat and water-proof and so ideal for sunny days. Bobbi Brown recommends using "the flat edge for a softer look or the pointed tip for a more defined brow". Definitely use the attached brush when going for a more natural look. Available in eight shades exclusively at the Bobby Brown store and at Smets in Brussels and at Parfuma in Antwerp and Wijnegem.



An already well-established backstage favorite is the professional yet user-friendly **Powder Eyebrow Pencil** (€26.79) by Dior with built-in brush and separate sharpener. Available in five shades.

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Au-delà du haut pouvoir nettoyant des micelles qui captent et emprisonnent les impuretés, les eaux micellaires dermatologiques de BIODERMA présentent une parfaite analogie biologique avec la peau, pour une tolérance et un confort maximums. Le Laboratoire BIODERMA utilise :

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\* Source : IMS Health - Pharmatrend & Paratrend base MPPEC - Marché des nettoyants sans rinçage, des eaux nettoyantes anti-séborrhéiques et des fluides nettoyants bébé - cumul mobile à Décembre 2013 - en valeur.



# Faith in strangers

Photographer: Kris de smedt

Stylist: Nicholas Sirot

Hair and Make up: Sabine Peeters For Redken and Mac

Model: Lidian @ Rebel



Total look: Zadig & Voltaire



Horse skull: Espèces  
Shirt Blanc Kelly



Shirt: Blanc Kelly  
Ring: Espèces

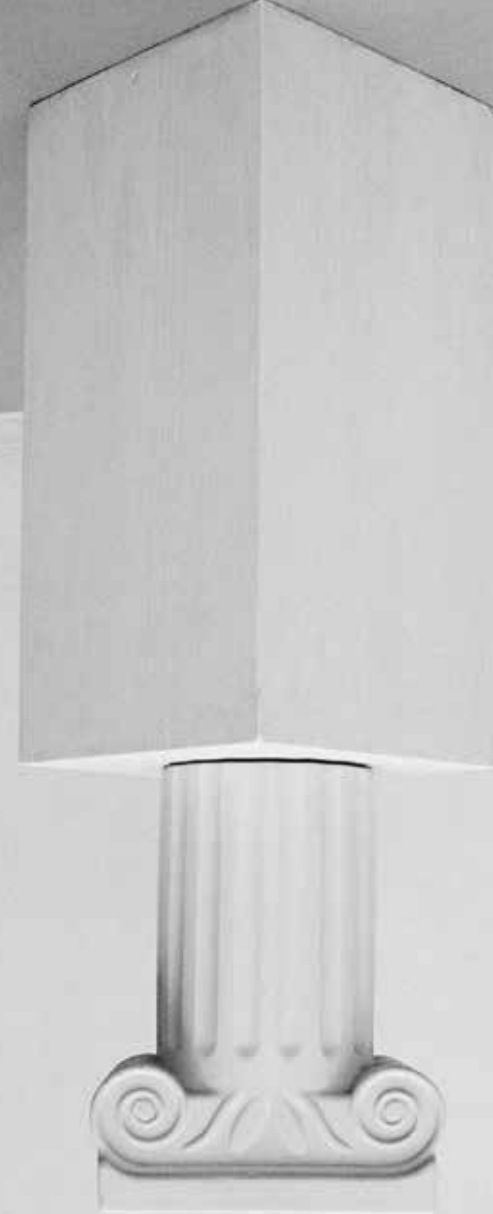




Top: Marjorie Vermeulen  
Shirt: Blanc Kelly  
Trouser skirt: Cos  
Ring: Espèces



Coat: Hermès  
Shoes: New look  
Socks: Cos



Leather scarves: Olivia Hainaut





Dress: Gioia Seghers  
Necklace: Olivia Hainaut



Dress: Gioia Seghers  
Veil cape: Paule Ka  
Necklace: Espèces  
Socks: Vans  
Shoes: Minelli



Top: Zadig & Voltaire  
Bracelet: Olivia Hainaut  
Make-up artist used:  
Mac highlighter 'Shell'  
Mac eyeshadow  
Mac lipglass



Dress: Cos  
Veil cape: Paule Ka  
Socks: Vans  
Shoes: Exit



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Shopping

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Shopping

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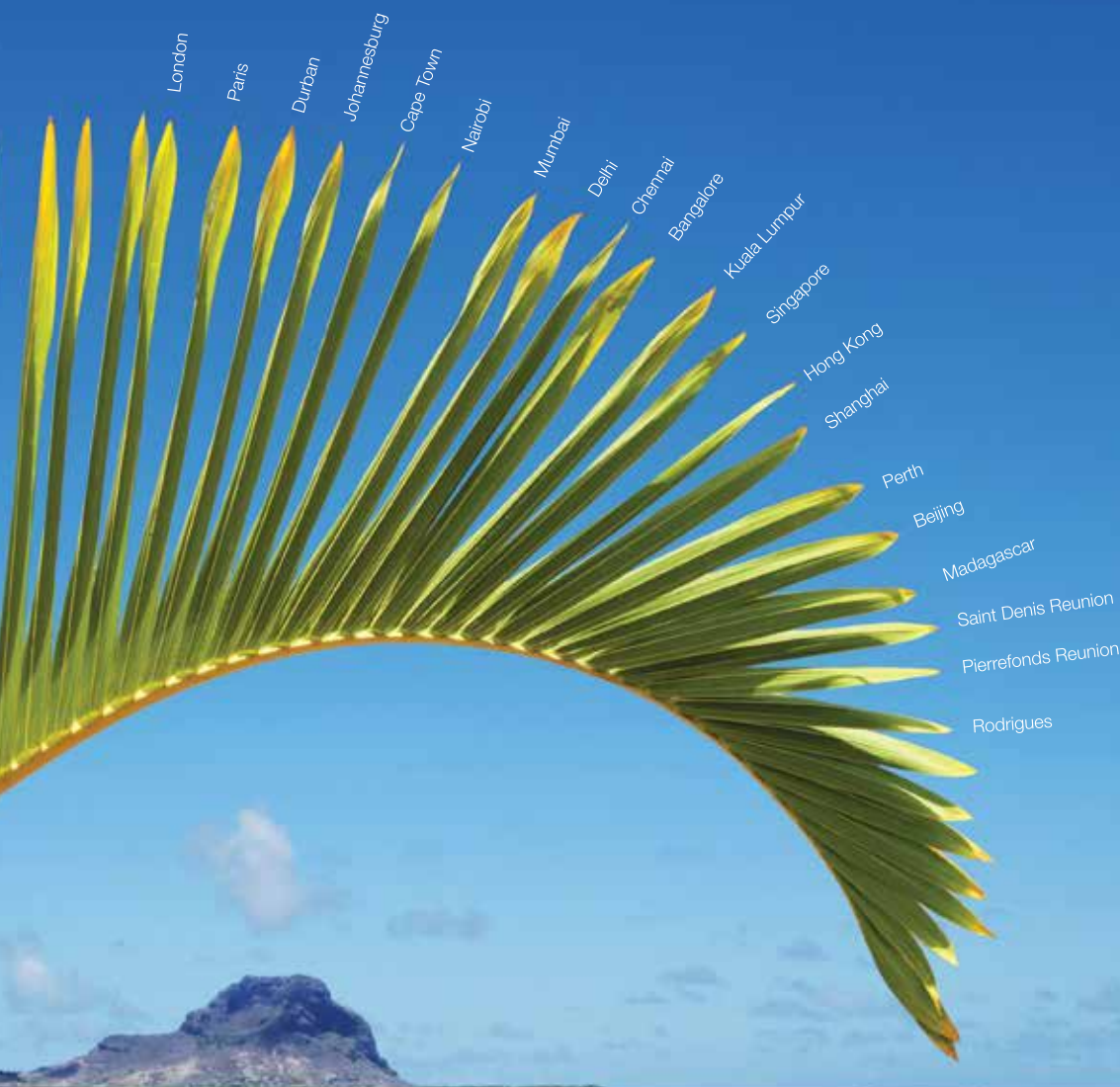
*The battle saw 25,000 French troops killed or wounded as the Duke of Wellington led Allied troops to victory*





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**LIFE OF  
LEISURE**

Interview

# Cate Blanchett: Finding your way

*Together* met up with the luminous Cate Blanchett to talk about one of the greatest fairy tales ever told



**C**ate Blanchett is a great believer in fairy tales. She believes they teach children that the world can be a "nasty place" and that often in life one needs to overcome terrific obstacles and challenges before finding one's way. That is part of the power of *Cinderella*, one of the classic fairy tales of all time. Beyond that, it's a legendary Disney animated feature that is beloved by generations of children and adults.

With the new screen version of *Cinderella*, premiering at this year's Berlin International Film Festival (aka Berlinale), director Kenneth

Branagh has mastered the task of bringing both drama and enchantment to the timeless tale. With Lily James (Lady Rose in *Downton Abbey*) soaring in the title role, Cate Blanchett lends venomous depth to her portrayal of Lady Tremayne, the wicked stepmother. It's a performance that once again serves notice that the Oscar-winning actress is capable of summoning the kind of magic that adds new layers to a generally despised character.

"It was interesting for me to try to explore what makes the stepmother so ugly and jealous because no one is born purely evil, there are





circumstances behind what makes her so wicked," Blanchett says. "The stepmother had tried to start a new life and then after her husband dies she sees in Cinderella as everything she is not - good, young, and more beautiful – and that's why she becomes her nemesis."

The interplay between James' ethereal Cinderella and Blanchett's harridan stepmother packs terrific intensity and pathos amid spectacularly beautiful sets that Blanchett herself said made her feel like she "was part of an MGM Technicolor production from the glory days of cinema." The impressive cast also includes Helena Bonham-Carter as the Fairy Godmother, Richard Madden (*Game of Thrones*) as Prince Charming and Stellan Skarsgård as the Grand Duke.

In Berlin, critics and audiences alike were generally overjoyed by the way Branagh captured all the essential elements of the fairy tale and created the kind of glorious Disney spectacle that will undoubtedly make this one

of the most popular films of the year.

Wearing a mosaic Givenchy dress, the 45-year-old Australian actress cast a stunning presence while being escorted by Branagh into the gleaming Berlinale Palace for the world premiere of *Cinderella*.

Blanchett also teased crowds and the army of photographers that lined the red carpet by mischievously removing her three-inch stilettos (an ironic tribute to Cinderella's losing her glass slipper?) and bare-footing her way along the carpet and up the stairs into the theatre. Cate Blanchett won an Oscar for best actress for her performance in Woody Allen's *Blue Jasmine* last year. She and Andrew Upton, her writer/director husband of the past 17 years, make their home in Sydney, Australia together with their three boys, Dashiell, 13, Roman, 10, and Ignatius, 6. Last year she ended her term as joint artistic director of the Sydney Theatre Company leaving her husband as the sole director.



**Together: Cate, you've been to Berlin several times before to present your films. Are you a fan of the city?**

**Cate Blanchett:** I love Berlin. I love coming here as often as possible and this time I'm here with a very different and special kind of film. The Berlinale is a very diverse film festival and I feel very honoured to be part of it.

**Do you enjoy travelling for your work even though it means often being away from your husband and children?**

It's the same as for any actor, male or female, or any working parent. I'm very fortunate to having a partner who is caring and supportive and engaged and who helps me with organizing everything.

It's hardest when you're away for three months at a time while the kids are in school and your husband is running a theatre company. You try to make the best of arrangements because you can never plan everything perfectly. There will always be many little compromises involved which working mothers and fathers and families

always need to make.

**Let's talk about your new film, *Cinderella*. Do you see the character of Cinderella and her story as one which should inspire young women?**

Most films often have male heroes and this is one of the rare times where Cinderella is a female-centric story and where, unlike male-driven superhero films, kindness and goodness are her superpowers.

Her story is that of a young woman who is able to withstand terrific abuse and the horrible behaviour of her stepmother and stepsisters.

Yet, Cinderella still retains her good nature and dignity and refuses to lower herself to their level. She's a very noble and admirable figure and I think Lily does such a great job as the character... She glows in the role and was a breath of fresh air the moment she walked onto the set.



**Can a story like *Cinderella* still have a huge impact on young audiences the way it has in earlier, less cynical eras?**

Oh, I think so. I've always been a great lover of fairy tales and even though I have three boys I made it a point to read them stories like *Cinderella* and *Beauty and the Beast* and *Snow White*. These kinds of fairy tales contain many themes and messages that are a lot more complex than the kinds of stories most young people are used to today where these superheroes can pretty much overcome anything.

*Cinderella* explains that the world can be a nasty and dark place at times and if you want to make something of your life you need a lot of courage and resilience to overcome all the obstacles that lie in your path. Children need to learn how to face up to challenges because as they grow older things become more difficult and they need to fend for themselves more and more.

**“ NO ONE IS BORN PURELY EVIL, THERE ARE CIRCUMSTANCES BEHIND WHAT MAKES HER SO WICKED ”**

**What was the challenge for you in playing the wicked stepmother?**

She's a very embittered woman who has had all the goodness ripped out of her spirit. She lashes out at Cinderella because she represents who she once was and no longer is and because she despises the kind of woman she has become. The stepmother is badly disillusioned by life and regards Cinderella with intense jealousy and resentment as someone whom she felt her husband loved more than he did her up until he died.

**Was it at all hard at times not to give in to the natural tendency to turn the wicked stepmother into a drooling villain?**

There is a fine line you have to observe especially in a film based on a fairy tale with an iconic kind of evil character like the stepmother. But in talking to Ken it was clear that he wanted to avoid the high camp and aim for the truth of the story while also respecting the theatricality of the story. It's a balancing act to set the proper tone and I think Ken got it right.



Ken created an atmosphere that is sweet and enchanting but also has a dark and sinister side. It's not easy to be able to take a legendary story that is a Disney classic and one of the most beloved animated films of all time and still give a unique take to it.

**What was your favourite scene in the film?**

I was overwhelmed when Richard (Madden) and Lily (James) were dancing in the ballroom scene. I know what it's like to dance in a corset and it was an Olympic feat for her to be so graceful and effortless dancing in a dress that was four-feet wide. It was so beautiful to watch them play that scene that they worked very hard in preparing and then were so focused and into the moment. I was crying with joy while watching them.

**Do you feel more relaxed since you've given up your position (as co-director) at the Sydney Theatre Company?**

It's much easier. I like being able to concentrate

on my acting and I have more time now for my children. I find great comfort in being home with the kids and doing ordinary things like making school lunches, cooking dinner and walking the dog.

People might imagine that my life is far more glamorous than it actually is because there's this image of actors that's been created in the media. But apart from living in hotels and getting to travel a lot, my daily life with my family is very ordinary. There's no driver or chef or nanny working for us. We like being able to manage our own house and be very much part of our children's lives.

**Do you feel happiest at home in Sydney?**

I'm happiest wherever I'm with my husband and kids, although Australia is a very magnetic place to live. I appreciate everything I have in my life. ①





# 1815 - 2015 WATERLOO

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LIFE OF  
LEISURE

Waterloo

## The man who would be Emperor

**Martin Banks** introduces the man who will be Napoleon in a historic re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo

**I**n a few days, Frank Samson will lay down his lawyer's hat and gown and don a 'uniform' of a very different kind. The French attorney has landed the plum role of Napoleon in the keenly-awaited upcoming re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo.

This isn't any old re-enactment of course but the one that marks the 200th anniversary of the occasion when Bonaparte really did meet his Waterloo. And, as tens of thousands from all

over the world descend on Waterloo on the weekend of 19 and 20 June, it is the 47-year-old Samson who will take centre stage.

One item missing from his attire though will be Napoleon's original hat, one of 19 of his hats still in existence. The iconic two-cornered headpiece will, instead, be on display until July 31 at the new Wellington Museum near the Waterloo battlefield where Napoleon met his demise as Emperor of the French in 1815.



En 1815, pendant la Bataille de Waterloo, les troupes furent approvisionnées en bière de haute fermentation, leur donnant force et courage. Deux siècles plus tard, la bière Waterloo est encore aujourd'hui au cœur d'un projet exceptionnel : la rénovation de la «Ferme de Mont-Saint-Jean», haut lieu historique qui abrita l'«Hôpital des Anglais». C'est dans cette ferme classée qu'est revenue la microbrasserie artisanale de Waterloo. Découvrez-y également son orangerie impériale, ses salles de réceptions, son espace dédié aux produits du terroir et son espace expo. Suivez notre histoire sur [waterloo-beer.com](http://waterloo-beer.com)



Even without the original hat Samson, from Orleans, will very closely resemble Napoleon in just about every other way. In the words of the organizers, Samson is “worthy of the exceptional nature of the re-enactment, the greatest that has ever been held.”

It was his physical appearance to the Emperor that persuaded judges to select Samson over an American actor Mark Schneider, who had been his closest rival for the much-coveted role.

The commemorations are being organized by asbl Bataille de Waterloo 1815 and, according to event coordinator Laurence Nelis, “not everyone can be a Napoleon”.

Laurence says: “In fact, apart from a physical resemblance to the Emperor, you have to have the human qualities that mean that you are appreciated by as many people as possible, have a knowledge and a mastery of the history of the Napoleonic period, be able to speak French, be sufficiently competent in uniformology to be able to reproduce it in exact detail, and, above all, be a good public speaker.”

Laurence adds, “These are all qualities that Samson possesses. However, the factor that really made the difference in comparison with his rivals was, without a doubt, his attention to detail.

“He rides a horse better than anyone and is very concerned to reproduce both the behaviour and the habits of the Emperor: the Corsican expressions, the habit of regularly pulling on his sleeve, the way in which he taps his whip on his boot, and even those Homeric outbursts during which Napoleon would trample on his hat!”

The legal trade may be Samson’s profession, but his passion for the Napoleonic era plays a major part in his already busy life and, in fact, he has been playing the role of Napoleon since 2005.

When it comes to re-enactments he is by no



*Frank Samson will play the part of Napoleon  
Photo © Chantal Crèvecoeur*

**“ EVEN WITHOUT  
THE ORIGINAL  
HAT SAMSON,  
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**“ THE  
NAPOLEONIC ERA  
PLAYS A MAJOR  
PART IN HIS  
ALREADY BUSY  
LIFE ”**

means a novice having already participated in more than 100 such events. Notably, he assumed the role of the Emperor during the coronation at the Basilica of Boulogne in 2011, in the XIIIth Napoleonic Encampment in Waterloo in 2012 and during the re-enactment of the Battle of Leipzig in 2013.

But Samson does not only play the role of the Emperor – he is the sovereign of a micro-nation himself. In 1996, well before he began to play the role of Napoleon, the lawyer started practising on a grand scale by founding the micro-empire of La Basse Chesnaie in the depths of Ille-et-Vilaine in Brittany. This little nation even has a 53 article constitution and the national flag is adorned with an ‘F’, for Frank.

He has also passed his passion on to his family: it is expected that encamped by his side at the upcoming re-enactment will be his wife and two sons, respectively taking on the roles of Josephine de Beauharnais, a page and an imperial rifleman.

Samson has only a short time left to prepare. There have been no rehearsals scheduled but, rather, several rallies throughout the year. Four times a year – in the French towns of Golfe-Juan, Brienne and Boulogne-sur-Mer plus Eckmühl (Germany), Samson removes his glasses, dons his wig – he himself has little hair – puts on the celebrated bicorne hat and uniform of Colonel of the Guard so that he can carry out the famous military manoeuvres of the time and celebrate the legend that is Napoleon.

Napoleon declared himself Emperor in 1804 and waged war against European powers, conquering much of the continent before his defeat in 1815. The battle saw 25,000 French troops killed or wounded as the Duke of Wellington led Allied troops to victory, along with General Blücher, from Prussia.

Like Bonaparte, who abdicated in 1815, Samson is expected to give up both his uniform and the role having played his part in the bicentenary celebrations. It will be a good way to say goodbye for one who humorously calls himself “Sire”!



While Samson will very much be the centre of attraction, the 5,000 other re-enactors, or volunteers, who will also take part should not be forgotten. They include people like Jan De Coster, who lives and works in Brussels and whose life revolves around his passion for military re-enactments. He is one of the founder members of the Association Belge pour la Recherche et la Reconstitution Historique, responsible for organising the military side of the bicentenary.

Aged 56, his passion began with the little tin soldiers he played with as a child, and he was particularly attracted to the Empire period "in all its glory". He says: "It is true it takes up a lot of my time. In fact, I prefer not to count. I do not play a character but a role, that of the Colonel of the 8th Line Regiment who has to lead a unit but that is as far as it goes.

"Of the 5,000 re-enactors who will be present there will be some who are convinced that they have to embody certain protagonists, right down to their individual character traits!"

Organizers believe the commemorative events for the Battle of Waterloo, which will last four days from June 18, should draw in approximately 200,000 people. Tickets have been selling fast for the various

events, mainly the two re-enactments of the battle on June 19 and 20. They will involve as many as 5,000 participants, 300 horses and cavaliers and some 100 canons, a figure that has never before been achieved. More than 100,000 tickets have already been snapped up, a third by foreign tourists. The total budget for the commemorations hovers around the €5m mark. Performances, events for the whole family, and an official ceremony with several international personalities are planned over the four days.

Organizers say preparations have "run very smoothly" and groups from as far away as Australia and New Zealand have organized trips, while the bicentenary has been the subject of intense activity on the internet with 'Waterloo 200' committees set up in the UK and the Netherlands. Regular meetings have helped plan and put in place mobility, accessibility and security measures to cater for the tens of thousands of visitors.

As for the actual memorial monument, building work at the base of Butte du Lion is virtually complete and is due to be opened this month. At the same time, Napoleon's last HQ, the Hougoumont farm, as well as several battlefield monuments, will be renovated in time for the bicentenary.  
[www.waterloo2015.org](http://www.waterloo2015.org)



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# Les Lacs de l'Eau d'Heure

**Martin Banks** offers the low-down on Wallonia's most popular holiday destination

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**A**dmit it: who would not fancy living in a wooden chalet in the beautiful Ardennes?

For most of us such fanciful musings remain, sadly, a pipe dream but a vacation park in the heart of Wallonia offers something resembling the next best thing.

Nestled around five picturesque lakes, Les Lacs de l'Eau d'Heure is a holiday village that each year attracts scores of visitors in search of

the Great Outdoors. With great accommodation and plenty of activities, this is reportedly the biggest tourist attraction in Wallonia and makes for a great 'nearby' destination" for people in Brussels.

In 2015, the park, just south of Charleroi, got even bigger with a refurbished aquacentre (newly-opened in May), wellness (opening in July) and bike-park. That's not to mention numerous other things to keep you busy, including walking, stand-up paddles and





Photo © Jean-Pol GRANDMONT



Photo © kevinmcgill



kayaking. There's also a dam which you can scale to enjoy a particularly good panoramic view. For the seriously energetic, you can try sailing, water skiing, jet-skiing and diving.

And if you thought you had to trek to the Belgian coast to surf you'd be wrong because you can do that here too.

There are also 300km of sign-posted paths for walkers, horse riders, cyclists and mountain bikers. Other facilities include hard tennis courts, mini golf course, jeu de boules pitch and beach volleyball.

During the Dutch and Belgian holidays there is also a full entertainment programme.

If that wasn't enough the area's local vicinity offers a fascinating range of places to visit, such as Stavelot Abbey and the spring museum and thermal baths in Spa. It also makes a good base for Formula One fans with the famous Francorchamps circuit not too far away.

At the heart of it all, though, is the Golden Lakes Village and those aforementioned chalets, each located on the banks of the largest of the five lakes (Lac de la Plate Taille), with its very own beach and promenade.

Designed by architect Philippe Valentiny, the comfortable wooden chalets are cleverly integrated into the tree-lined surroundings and boast all home comforts, including electric heating. There's an open kitchen and partly-roofed patio with garden furniture. Many of the tastefully-furnished villas also offer a terrific panorama of the lakes and countryside.

The uncluttered lay-out of the site, a blessed relief from so many holiday parks, lends itself to a peaceful break. Thanks to landing ramps and pontoons the resort also allows guests the chance to attach non-motorized boats right across from their rented property.

Les Lacs de l'Eau d'Heure, a comfortable 90 minute drive from Brussels, is an ideal place to re-energize and get away from it all... albeit for a few days.

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**LIFE OF  
LEISURE**

Travel

# Dubai through my eyes

**Dave Deruytter** recalls  
a family trip to Dubai



**T**he garden of the Sheraton Jumeira Beach hotel resembles an oasis in the desert. Green grass and palm trees create a luxurious atmosphere and the cool sea breeze adds to the pleasant feeling. In fact this is a double oasis, both in terms of the sand desert and the brick and concrete 'desert' surrounding the hotel garden.

The coastal front here at the Jumeira beach in Dubai reminds me of the Atlantic wall at the Belgian coast, but the buildings here are at least twice as high and with space between each and every one of them. Between those very high-rise buildings and the sea there is not only a white sandy beach, but also a winding walkway with low-rise restaurants with all kinds of food and shops, so there is more air, making it a pleasant place to stroll away from the crowds. The shops sell many luxury items but it was a surprise to realize that fur coats are popular ladies in the desert.

Dubai is a place to visit in spring or autumn, when temperatures vary between 20 and 35 degrees centigrade, leading to cool mornings and evenings, with nice warm, still not too hot,

middays. Avoid the summer because then it is really too hot here, with midday temperatures easily climbing above 40 to 45 degrees centigrade in the shade.

There are many attractions in Dubai and taxis are not very expensive. The Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world at over 800 metres high (2.5 times higher than the Eiffel tower) is the city's landmark. 'Normal' skyscrapers, at more than 100 metres high, are dwarfed by it. Around the Burj Khalifa there is an immense shopping centre with an aquarium, an ice skating ring and 1,200 shops. Next to the many restaurants there also is a huge food-court where you can dine outside with a view of the Burj Khalifa.

In between the Dubai Mall and the tallest building in the world, there is an artificial lake with surely the greatest musical fountain show on earth. The water is propelled up to more than 50 metres high. Even though the fountains are ten metres away, a gust of wind can soak you. Around the lake there is a pleasant walkway and many restaurants with stunning views on the spectacle and the giant tower. In





the middle there is a traditional style bridge allowing you to pass over the lake from one side to the other. We went back to the Burj Khalifa and its surroundings, if only for my son to try the A380 flight simulator.

It is remarkable how the city of Dubai continues to advance in terms of modernity and efficiency. We took the sky train from the Jumeira Lakes, where our hotel was located, all the way to the old centre of the city. Deira, with its many souks, is a big contrast whether for commerce or for living with the new high rise quarters or the artificial islands that have made the city so famous worldwide over recent years.

Here, alongside the creek, there is a bustling harbour where small boats (dhows) unload all kinds of goods - air-conditioners, refrigerators, micro-wave ovens unloaded for sale to locals. The souks themselves are still very traditional. Lots of herbs, clothing, shoes, scarfs, or souvenirs are on sale. Haggle (having first converted into your own currency) and you will see that it is very good value for money.

You can stroll a bit along the creek, but better to cross on a local boat to the other side and discover another part of Deira – it's also a pleasant experience on a basic but very efficient wooden boat – for a quarter (US) you can simply relax and enjoy the quality slow-time. Embrace the scenery, the atmosphere and the other boats passing by. Occasionally a

far larger ship will pass by on the creek and make you realize how big such boats really are or how small a creature we humans are.

No trip to Dubai is truly complete without a trip through the desert. The sand dunes in the neighbourhood of Hatta are particularly high and nice to visit. In ancient times such trip would have been done by a camel caravan - these days you take an air-conditioned jeep convoy. To our delight, we were taken there in a red Hummer. If you have an experienced driver who knows what he is doing, dune-bashing is great fun for all because there are no abrupt shocks,

only smooth but fast gliding over and against the dune tops. In fact, I prefer to call it sand-wave-riding as I do not want to bash anybody or anything. The dunes do not seem to mind at all - they return to their pristine forms in no time with the wind.

After the dune ride you can continue your trip, camel riding, henna painting, water-pipe-smoking or watching a belly dance performance whilst eating a buffet dinner in a Bedouin camp surrounded by sand hills. If you like peace and quiet you can even stay there for the night in a tent.

My last day in Dubai: I enjoyed the beautiful white sandy beach, the clear and calm water, the clean stretch with kilometres of white sand. It is rarely very busy on the beach, so you can walk the length of it and back. On the dyke next to the inlet to the Dubai Marina, you have a clear bird-eye's view of the entire Jumeira Beach, including its low-rise restaurants and shops, with the high-rise towers in the background.

That evening my family and I went for a walk around the Dubai Marina or at least part of it. From one of the bridges crossing the Marina there is such a great view of the pleasure-boat harbour.

Dubai, I will definitely be back, my family too. ●

# Etihad Airways: Dreams in the sky

Etihad has taken modern air travel to new heights



**T**his time, Etihad Airways has gone even further – it's offering you the one and only 'three-room suite' in the sky! With its brand new Airbus A380 and Boeing 787, the United Arab Emirates' national airline Etihad Airways is once again at the forefront of the best airlines in the world.

## A little history

Etihad Airways began operating in 2003 from the international airport of Abu Dhabi and now serves 111 announced and impending destinations worldwide, with a fleet of 109 Airbus and Boeing aircraft offering passenger and cargo transport across the Middle-East, Europe, Asia, the Americas, Australia and Africa. What's more, there are 200 aircraft on order, including the famous A380 – Etihad Airways is one of the fastest-growing airlines in the history of commercial aviation.

The company has further enhanced the prestige of Abu Dhabi as a hub between the East and the Middle East – it reflects the very best of cultured, considerate and warm Arabian hospitality, keeping pace with aeronautics' ever-evolving standards of service and luxury in the 21st century.

## Travel around the world with exclusive connections

With an international network covering 325 destinations worldwide, Etihad offers its partners a single gateway to the Abu Dhabi hub from the Middle East, Asia and Australia (serving Jet Airways, Virgin Australia, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, Airberlin and Alitalia).

Passengers are offered a wide range of connections through a single easy booking, with the always-guaranteed Premium benefits of Etihad.

### The A380 and B787 – new colours for the 'facets of Abu Dhabi'

"As we have already done many times during our short history, we are reshaping the landscape of air travel in our own way," said Etihad Airways President and Chief Executive Officer James Hogan.

Indeed, the company is entering a new era of unsurpassed luxury, comfort and service. The two new planes boast beautiful interior cabins, including 'Residence' by Etihad, the only three-room airline suite in the world! Located on the upper forward deck of the A380, the suite has a living room and a shower for one or two people, with a butler specially assigned to the suite – a first in the airline industry!

Premium travelers will also enjoy the First Apartment, a living area with reclining seat and bench that opens to become a separate bed (204cm long).

The B787 First Suite offers complete privacy for its customers and central seats that fit together to create a double bed. The suite also has a refrigerated mini-bar.

There are also 70 Business Studios on the upper deck of the A380, and 28 studios on the B787 Business.

Of course, with its Smart Economy Seat the company has also taken comfort to the next level, with a single headrest for each seat, and a babysitter service for medium and long-haul flights, with varied and balanced menus available.

### New flight attendant uniforms, at the forefront of fashion

More than ever, cabin crew uniforms show unique characteristics, with Etihad making it a point of honour to observe elegance and excellence. The collection was created by Ettore Bilotta, a famous fashion designer who has mixed wonderful elements of 1960s couture from Paris and Rome with more contemporary styles seen on the catwalks of London, New York, Milan and Tokyo.



This magnificent collection of rare elegance matches perfectly the image of Etihad as a symbol of excellence in customer service.

### Taking off with Etihad Airways

Suffice to say that on the world stage the company's year has proved to be particularly memorable.

Etihad Airways is constantly committed to excellent, exceptional service, confirming its position as a leader in sophisticated air travel.

The A380 operates daily flights to London Heathrow, and the B787 to Düsseldorf. It's time to start a journey where dreams become reality...

Thanks to its airline partners, you can enjoy an extensive and convenient network of destinations with one reservation, for a single price. You will retain your Etihad flight number but, for a portion of your journey, you will travel on a plane operated by one of the company's exclusive partners. While extending its international network to more than 325 destinations around the world, the Abu Dhabi hub is, for the partners, a gateway to the Middle East, Asia and Australia. Thanks to these airline partners, you have a larger and more convenient network of destinations, all in one.

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



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Spring inspired the Chef Marc Pâquet for the creation of the new BE Café Marché Jourdan menu. Featuring local ingredients as a tribute to the Sunday grower's market, the Chef selected the finest seasonal products and imagined a healthy and colourful menu.

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# Dining

## La Terrasse

For the twelfth year, La Terrasse will be setting up home at the Hippodrome in Brussels. And this year they promise innovation. According to Benoit Marquézy, co-owner of the company Simply Better: "This year we are offering a contemporary atmosphere, created by young Brussels architects. The ambience and the setting are deliberately wooded and green. This new design is contemporary and subscribes to ecologically responsible values."

Every detail has been redesigned, from the décor to the restaurant menu. As well as offering the traditional dishes, La Terrasse is also adopting an organic and gluten-free emphasis. Marquézy says: "The chef can pick fresh herbs directly from the mini-kitchen garden provided!" Smoothies and fruit juices have joined the selection of drinks and cocktails.

It's an eclectic venue, and once you're there you feel as if you're on a little island, far away from the rest of Brussels. It's a pop-up venue

– it lasts two months - but it doesn't feel like it. Marquézy puts it this way: "You can find yourself at the heart of an oxygen bubble, a breath of fresh air in the city, and allow yourself to be transported by the summer atmosphere."

There is a genuine mix of people on La Terrasse, with colleagues meeting after work for a glass of champagne, or families and friends gathering to soak up the good weather while it lasts. It also offers a range of events throughout the two-month period.

It is open seven days a week, from midday to midnight, 21 May until 20 July (with a closing soirée on the final evening).

## La Terrasse

51-53 chaussée de la hulpe  
Brussels 1180  
[www.la-terrasse.be](http://www.la-terrasse.be)  
[www.facebook.com/terrasse.de.l.hippodrome](https://www.facebook.com/terrasse.de.l.hippodrome)  
Booking & info: 0470 86 62 10  
[info@la-terrasse.be](mailto:info@la-terrasse.be)



## Marcel Burger Bar

There's a new kid on the block in the Châtelain neighbourhood, and to the delight of locals it specializes in burgers, a rarity till now. It opened at the beginning of April on the trendy rue Américaine, a stone's throw from the lively place du Châtelain. There's a fun feel to this place – the logo is a cartoon British bulldog. The burgers range from the classic Marcel burger at €11 to a menu of cheeseburger, fries and beer at €18. In between there is the cheese and bacon and the very popular crispy chicken.

The focus is on the choice of products: the meat comes from the butcher Metzger, renowned for its expertise and exceptional meat, and the cheese is carefully chosen from an artisan Belgian producer. The brioche bread used for burgers, deliberately irregular, is manufactured using a house recipe. The bun's diameter fits the diameter of the meat so that all ingredients remain perfectly in place. And you can wash it down with some fine beers.

The welcome is warm and immediate, with an open kitchen so you can watch your burger being put together. The retro deco look is bright and modern. Check the Facebook page for opening hours.

## Marcel Burger Bar

87 rue Américaine, Ixelles.



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# Going for a gaufre

Restaurant Icones @ Martin's Brussels EU is taking the humble Brussels waffle in a new direction.

**R**estaurant Icones @ Martin's Brussels EU's chef Dimitri is a man with a mission – he's taking one of Belgium's most noble exports, the waffle, and he's turning it deliciously savoury.

And he's not just offering it to happy diners in Icones, Martin's gastronomic heaven – he will also be presenting it at the Visit.Brussels stand at the IMEX tourism conference in Frankfurt on 18 May ([www.imex-frankfurt.com](http://www.imex-frankfurt.com)).

Dimitri believes that the waffle has of late apparently become a somewhat under-appreciated aspect of Belgian cuisine: "When people talk about Belgian culinary exports, they talk about fries, steak-frites, moules, but less and less about the waffle. I think that showing how it can be as much a part of a delicious lunch as a dessert is the way forward.

"The organizers were surprised, when they conducted their research on the waffle, that very few Brussels restaurateurs offer the waffle, either as a savoury or sweet dish. I want to change this, and I hope my gaufre salé will prove to be successful."

It is flavoured with fresh asparagus and crevettes grise. Dimitri explains: "Waffle batter, of a proper Brussels waffle, is in fact not very sweet – its flavour allows for it to be savoury as much as sweet. So, I felt that asparagus combined with seafood was the way to go."

But fear not, sweet-waffle lovers – for the new May menu in Icones, Dimitri will also be offering a macaroon-style Brussels waffle, with blueberry compote, white chocolate espuma and pistachio chips.

And the culinary innovations at Icones for May



are not all waffle-oriented – Dimitri will also be presenting beef carpaccio 'involtini' roulade filled with a sardine mousse, rocket, Parmesan, sun-dried tomatoes and pine nuts; sole filets in Timmermans Kriek Lambicus with shrimps and shimeji mushrooms, pomelo, ginger and fresh coriander; marinated mackerel ceviche with crispy fennel; and pan-fried duck foie gras escalope in a cheese crumble with creamy rhubarb mousse.

And if that is not enough to set your mouth watering, nothing will.

You don't have to be a guest in the hotel to enjoy Icones' culinary delights. And now that the weather has changed for the better enjoy the peace of the delightful garden with your meal.

Restaurant Icones @ Martin's Brussels EU  
Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels  
Tel: 02 230 8555  
[www.martinshotels.com](http://www.martinshotels.com) ❶

Photo © Peter Forster



## Wine of the month: Viva Italia

**Geoffroy van Lede** of vin du mois discover the wonders of Italian wine

Further south, the Apennine Mountains welcomes Emilia Romagna, Umbria, the Marches, along the Adriatic Sea, but especially Tuscany, the most popular vineyards in Italy, with its famous Chianti wine. In the southern part of the country lie the vineyards of Abruzzo, Lazio, Molise, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata and Calabria. Finally, the heart of the Mediterranean, Sicily and Sardinia produce excellent wines, as does the island of Pantelleria, between Sicily and Tunisia.

We offer our taste notes for just two of Italy's finest:

Negroamaro - Duca Carlo Guarini Taersia 2013: Surprising!

A white Negroamaro, a beautiful straw color with vegetal reflections. Surprising nose, loaded with aromas of white flowers with delicate white fruit, mineral notes. Mouth taste full of fresh grapes which crunches under the teeth with a long and intense flavour.

Primitivo Di Manduria - La Torre 2013: Powerful! Deep purple red colour with intense violet hues, fruity and velvety with beautiful notes of black fruits and spices.

The palate is balanced, round and elegant. A beautiful structure with a strong taste and lasting aroma.

Find these wines and our subscription concept on our site [www.le-vin-du-mois.be](http://www.le-vin-du-mois.be) or call 0498 586 545. ❶

**I**t is a fact that Italy is the world's largest wine producer with more than 50 million hectoliters annually. France is very close to the same impressive volume of production. Unlike France, where wine regions are concentrated in certain areas, Italy has vineyards in all areas, from the border with Switzerland down to the islands of Sicily, Sardinia and Pantelleria (just off the Tunisian coast).

One could easily believe that Italy is covered with vines, but it is not. Only a few regions concentrate the bulk of domestic production, such as Piedmont, Veneto and Tuscany. Others have a more marginal production. On the other side of the Alps, the multiplicity of landscapes and climates gives Italian wines a wide variety of styles – what a difference between the Aosta Valley wines developed on the slopes and the Marsala wine in Sicily!

Tuscany: The most popular Italian wine. The main wine regions are grouped by areas. In the north-west is Piedmont and just above, on the border with Switzerland and France, Val d'Aosta. The vineyards of Liguria are located around Genoa, while Lombardy's are dotted around Lake Garda. Further east, you'll find the regions of Trentino and Alto Adige, the latter territory bordering Austria. And between Trieste and Udine are the vineyards of Friuli Venezia Giulia and the adjoining Veneto, one of the country's first wine-growing areas.



# What's on Belgium

## ★ THE ICE-CREAM ★

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### Boris Charmatz: Manger

Boris Charmatz turns the stage into a laboratory for ideas and a playground for the body. As choreographer and director of the transgressive Musée de la danse, he is continually testing the foundations of contemporary dance. Having created vast group choreographies in 2011 and 2012, Charmatz is now adopting a completely different approach to the body. His latest project is a mobile installation that directs our gaze to the inside and explores the everyday action of eating. How do we eat? How do we digest reality? **29 and 30 May.** BOZAR. Tickets:

€16, €13 (-25/65+) - [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)

### Marc Chagall

An overview of the painter's career in a selection of 120 works, with a special focus on his Russian period. It presents the main themes of his work, including his connection with Jewish culture, the iconography of the Jewish shtetl or village, and folk traditions, as well as his relationship with 17th-century writers such as La Fontaine. It includes works on loan from international museums such as Tate London, the MoMA in New York, the Centre Pompidou, and the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza. **Until 28 June.** Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium. Tickets: **€14.50** [www.expo-chagall.be](http://www.expo-chagall.be)



### Opera: Rachmaninov Troika

Rachmaninov represents the waning of Romanticism in Russia yet, even by Russian standards, he was extremely fatalistic. His three one-act operas with libretti based on writings by Pushkin and Dante are linked by their theme: fate follows in the footsteps of sin, whether it be a matter of jealous murder, greed or illicit passion. This triptych, conducted by Mikhail Tatarnikov and directed by Kirsten Dehlholm, is the first project outside La Monnaie theatre while it is being renovated. **16-30 June.** Théâtre National, Brussels. Tickets: **€20-€120** [www.lamonnaie.be](http://www.lamonnaie.be)



Photo © Kunstmuseum Basel



### **Exhibition: Lego Battle of Waterloo**

Discover in a playful way the architectural and cultural heritage of monuments and places and the main buildings of the Napoleonic era: Malmaison until the Invalides through the most famous monuments of the battlefield of Waterloo. But also objects and works of art that marked the Empire, Napoleon and Josephine, all through hundreds of thousands of Lego bricks to discover with friends and family. **29 May to 31 July.** Écuries de Waterloo.



### **Shrimp Festival**

In former years the sight of southwester capped fishermen riding on draught horses was commonplace along the shores of Belgium. During the last weekend of June, the tradition of horseback shrimp fishing is highlighted during the Shrimp Festival, an ode to the sea and to shrimps, and focuses on the fishermen on horseback. Numerous activities are planned for the weekend, including the Shrimp Parade on Sunday afternoon, when 'Miss Shrimp' and her ladies of honour parade through the streets of **Oostduinkerke**. - [visitor.koksijde.be](http://visitor.koksijde.be)



### **Dries Van Noten**

For the very first time in his career designer Dries Van Noten discloses his oeuvre in an exhibition. No classical retrospective, but an intimate journey into his artistic universe, revealing the singularity of his creative process, which he illustrates with his numerous sources of inspiration. The exhibition brings together various artistic fields through an assemblage of historical, pictorial, ethnic, cinematic and geographic references. **Until 19 July.** Mode museum, Antwerp. - [www.momu.be](http://www.momu.be)



### **Beer Passion Weekend 2015**

32 breweries will propose ou more than 200 speciality beers to taste at the event, open to beer aficionados as well as beer professionals. The main purpose of this event is to offer a cultural and educational approach to beer, a complex drink that is aromatic, sensual, natural and the timeless fruit of an art that dates back to antiquity. The beers can be tasted in an exclusive village, accompanied by live Brass Band concerts and live Dixieland Jazz bands. **26-28 June.** Groenplaats, Antwerp. [www.beerpassion.com](http://www.beerpassion.com)



### **2015 European Challenge Tour**

Rightly, the Wallonian region is making a big noise – a very big –about the two-hundred year anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, with, among events, an unprecedented re-enactment on the battle site. And there's another cause for celebration in the very heart of this historical neighbourhood: Golf de Pierpont has been chosen to host the 2015 European Challenge Tour in early June.



designed by Johan Dudok van Heel in 1991 and seamlessly integrated into the landscape – has now been perfected in detail. Its renowned dryness makes it well playable, with summer greens in all seasons. This long 18-hole

course can be quite tricky when the wind blows. You'll need a good solid hit, a long carry and some basic skills in fighting the ball through the wind, otherwise consistent scoring will be a really tough proposition. The new 9-hole course 'Little Pierpont' is perfect for beginners but also for more experienced players trying to improve their short game.

The course also boasts a stylish clubhouse - with a terrace in the midst of the course -and a charming 20-bedroom hotel in a converted 17th century farmhouse.

A golf academy with comprehensive training facilities is an important part of the golfing infrastructure. The complex is just 15 minutes from Waterloo and Charleroi and 30 minutes from Brussels. **June 11-14.** [www.golfpierpont.com](http://www.golfpierpont.com)

Pierpont's Director of Public Relations Bart van Stokkum said: "We are so proud that Golf de Pierpont has been selected to host the 2015 European Challenge Tour, Belgium's most prestigious tournament. This is a great honour and an important confirmation of our Club's new position in the national and international golf communities, following the recent renovation of its Courses, Clubhouse and Hotel."

Golf de Pierpont has undergone a complete revision since 2011, with a significant upgrade that marks a new era for the club. The championship course 'Le Grand Pierpont' was



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Cinema

## What's On Cinema

Picturenose.com's **James Drew** takes his customary pick of the movies being released in the month ahead



### Big Game

Reasonably intriguing Finnish action flick, starring Samuel L. Jackson (remember him?) and Onni Tommila – *Air Force One* is shot down by terrorists, leaving the president of the United States (Jackson) (US presidents in films are always black these days, eh?) stranded in the wilderness of Finland, and there is only one person who can save him...a 13-year old boy called Oskari (Tommila). With really, really bad terrorists closing in to capture their own 'Big Game' prize, the unlikely duo must team up to escape their hunters. Directed and written by Jalmari Helander, who made the extremely intriguing Christmas horror tale *Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale* (2010), this could well work as a prelude to the blockbuster season. 90 mins.

### Dark Places

Gilles Paquet-Brenner (*Sarah's Key* (2010)) offers a mystery thriller featuring the usually excellent Charlize Theron as Libby Day, who was the only surviving witness of a horrific massacre that took her mother and sisters in a farming town in Kansas. In believing a Satanic cult to be responsible for the murders, Day testifies in court against her own brother but, 25 years later, her past will confront her once more, when she meets a group of amateur investigators who call themselves 'The Kill Club', who believe that Libby's brother was in fact innocent of the crime... 113 mins.

### La Tierra Roja

Directed by Diego Martinez Vignatti, and starring Geert Van Rampelberg and Eugenia Ramirez, *La Tierra Roja* tells the tale of multinational company in Misiones, northern Argentina, which is burning and cutting down trees and dumping agro-toxic products on forest land to increase profits. But with the births of numerous malformed babies, mentally disabled children and cancer victims the locals revolt... 100 mins.

### Cinderella

Now, Kenneth Branagh became one of my least favourite directors, following his \*appalling\* remake of *Sleuth* in 2007 - it would appear that he has improved since then, however, as *Cinderella* has met with positive reviews and marvellous box office (\$458 million). It is apparently not a direct remake, but nevertheless borrows many elements from Walt Disney's 1950 animated musical film of the same name. The beautiful Lily James stars as Ella ('Cinderella'), and there is the mouthwatering prospect of Cate Blanchett as Lady Tremaine (the Wicked Stepmother), with Richard Madden as Prince Charming and Helena Bonham Carter as the Fairy Godmother. What's the odds on 'happily ever after'? Rather good, I would venture... 105 mins.

Read more reviews: [www.picturenose.com](http://www.picturenose.com)

# What's On International

## Brighton Fringe Festival

The Brighton Fringe is one of the largest fringe festivals in the world and runs until **31 May**. Here are just a few of the shows on offer. [www.brightonfringe.org](http://www.brightonfringe.org)

### The Bald Prima Donna

Brand new absurdist theatre company Slip of the Lip are performing Eugene Ionesco's *The Bald Prima Donna*, an "utterly bonkers comedy of manners and (lack of) communication", following a sell-out run at The Network Theatre in February. The Purple Playhouse, Brighton. 25 and 26 May. **Tickets: £10 (£8 concessions)**, Brighton Fringe Box Office: 01273 917272



Photo © Paul H. Lunn

### Greywing House by Mary Beth Morossa

Mary Beth Morossa is a cabaret artist and theatre maker making her debut at this year's Brighton Fringe Festival with her second solo show, *Greywing House*, a multi-artform hour of dark storytelling using beat poetry, puppets, dance and film. The show looks at mental health and human connection, through a classically British Gothic lens. She won the Dark Chat Best Actress award for her debut Edinburgh show *Carnival of Crows* in 2012. 22-24 May. The Warren: Theatre Box, Brighton. **Tickets: £9.50 (£8 concessions)**, Brighton Fringe Box Office: 01273 917272



Photo © Michael Delaney



Photo © www.beckphotographic.com

### Linking Rings

1926: Houdini's right-hand man deals with the death of his boss. A half century later, a Blackpool joke shop proprietor takes on a wide-eyed young protégé. *Linking Rings* is an affectionate look at a misspent youth and unsung heroes; a touching

true story of interlocking lives. This new work is an exciting change of direction for Brighton-based Paul Zenon who has made appearances everywhere from *Countdown* to *La Clique* and is known as the UK pioneer of Street Magic. **16, 17, 23, 24 and 25 May**. The Brunswick, Brighton. **Tickets: £10 (£8 concessions)**, Brighton Fringe Box Office: 01273 917272 [www.paulzenon.com](http://www.paulzenon.com)



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