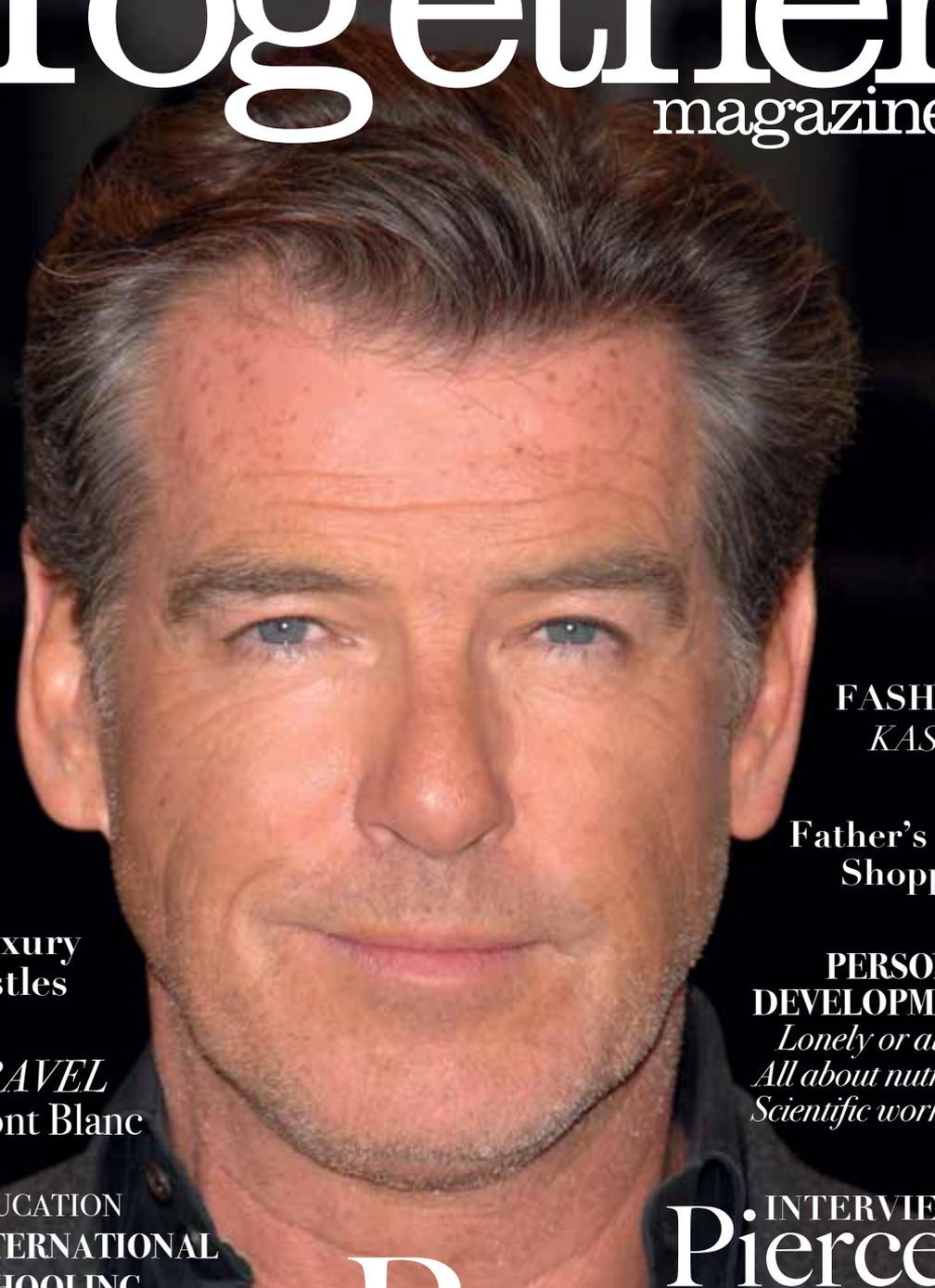


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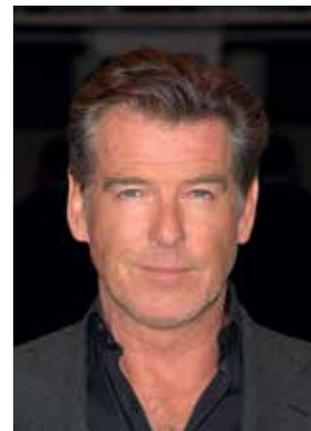


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Editor's LETTER

*Together:
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ON THE COVER



Pierce Brosnan plays the evil Watchmaker in *Survivor*

NO RULES

We live in a world where advice is given out willy-nilly, mostly on social media. Every day a new jpeg appears with a wise saying pasted over a cute image of a stunning sunset or a cute kitten. More often than not they are trite, sometimes downright cringe-worthy. But every now then someone introduces you to a new thinker or the heartfelt reasoning of Nelson Mandela and his ilk.

I have read all of F. Scott Fitzgerald's work at some point in my journey, so I stopped scrolling when I saw a quote attributed (incorrectly as it turns out) to him as part of his short story *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, written in 1922. But, in the presence of a gem, I instantly forgave all those blurry, Hallmark-inspired but less-than-inspiring images that seem to flood my Facebook pages.

The quote in question was in fact written by screenwriter Eric Roth while working on the screenplay version of the story, in which the main character is played by Brad Pitt. The full quote reads thus:

"For what it's worth: it's never too late or, in my case, too early to be whoever you want to be. There's no time limit, stop whenever you want. You can change or stay the same, there are no rules to this thing. We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. And I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you never felt before. I hope you meet people with a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of. If you find that you're not, I hope you have the courage to start all over again."

living your life backwards — as Button did — might just be the only sane thing to do.

Paul Morris
EDITOR



INVESTING IN A NEW PROPERTY? IT'S MORE CHILLED THAN YOU'D THINK.

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Residential real estate in Belgium is attracting more and more new investors. Investors who want to protect their money and increase it at low risk. On the economic front, the lack of visibility in financial markets pushes these investors into swelling the ranks of landlords whose investments generate stable returns.



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Structurally speaking, high quality housing is favoured by a highly active rental market, bolstered by strong demand. Indeed, given it has become increasingly difficult to qualify for a mortgage, aspiring house-owners are finding it more and more difficult to get financing and thus turn to renting their main residence instead. However, potential investors in real estate are hampered currently by the heavy admin required when managing multiple assets. And this doesn't exclude risk factors such as unpaid rent, rental damage or vacancies...

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This is why Bouygues Immobilier Belgium has developed Invest&Zen, offering a complete range of warranties and services which respond to the needs of this new generation of investors, ensuring maximum peace of mind without sacrificing profitability. New house buyers already benefit from extensive protection, in terms of construction risks, thanks to the Breyne Act as well as a number of standards and requirements in terms of energy performance, sound and thermal insulation etc...

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Invest&Zen is just as relevant to those who are already very familiar with rental investment but



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are reluctant to repeat the experience, and newcomers who are eager to invest in bricks and mortar for the first time and are looking for more guarantees for greater peace of mind.

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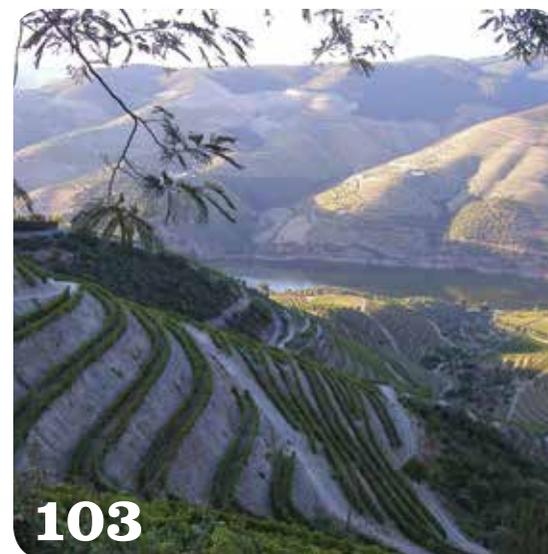
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@ PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



Setting goals

Gemma Rose believes the less goal-oriented we are, the more likely we are to achieve them

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Louis Vuitton:

Born to roam and reign - Shannon Robb traces the journey of a fashion icon

@ TECHNOLOGY



Innovations: To Infinity and Beyond

In our second innovations article, Colin Moors goes off the rails

@ NEWS



Investing your money

Dave Deruytter looks at the many angles when it comes to investing

@ TRAVEL



Down among the Cannois

With the Cannes Film Festival fast approaching Paul Morris marks your card on ...

@ ART AND CULTURE



Interview: Will Smith

Together sat down with a man who is re-evaluating his life and career

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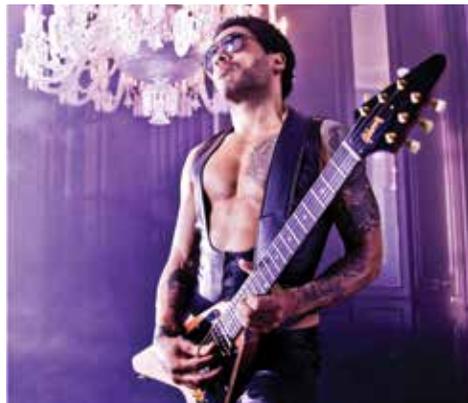
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Starring in Belgium



Sérgio Mendes

Up for a sultry evening out? Brazilian superstar Sérgio Mendes is the creator of the timeless *Mas Que Nada* – his work is probably more familiar to our readers via the version featuring The Black Eyed Peas. **11 July**. Ancienne Belgique. Tickets: €33 - www.abconcerts.be



Rock Werchter

The four-day 2015 edition of Rock Werchter includes a raft of excellent bands. For the price of your combi ticket you will see Elbow, Alabama Shakes, Florence and The Machine, Kasabian, Lenny Kravitz, Mumford and Sons and many more. **25-28 June**. Werchter. Tickets: check the website. www.rockwerchter.be

THE NEON JUDGEMENT – TIME CAPSULE 1980-2015



The Neon Judgement

The godfathers of Belgian electronic music are throwing in the towel with a brief 'TNJ Farewell Tour' – the very last concert will be an XL-night in the AB. Expect a barrage of mechanical beats, industrial synths and sharp guitar lines. **26 September**. Ancienne Belgique. Tickets: €28 - www.abconcerts.be



The TW Classic

The TW Classic one-day festival brings back what Rock Werchter used to do – a single stage in a festival field and a select group of some of the biggest names in pop and rock, including Faithless, Robbie Williams, Anouk, Anastacia and Texas. **July 4**. Festivalpark, Werchter. Tickets: 81 - www.twclassic.be

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Can your team go the distance? The first edition of Trailwalker took place in 1981 in Hong Kong. It was an initiative of the Gurkha brigade, part of the British colonial army. In 1997, when Britain restored Hong Kong to China, the Gurkha returned to British soil. Oxfam Hong Kong resumed the organization of the march on Chinese territory.

Since then the Trailwalker has grown to become one of the largest sporting team events around the world. Currently, it is organized in nine countries.

Your team has to walk 100km in a limited time – usually 48 hours – in all weather and across some rough terrain. You must all work together to cross the distance within that time. It's a true test of teamwork and determination, and those who make it emerge with an immense sense of achievement.

This is not just a physical challenge though, you will be raising money to overcome poverty and injustice around the world and at the same time acting as an ambassador for Oxfam's work.

There are sixteen trails to choose from in eleven different countries. They go through some spectacular locations including the mountains of Barcelona, rugged Australian bush and through a volcanically active national park in Japan that finishes at the foot of Mt. Fuji.

Since it began in 1981, thousands of walkers around the world have successfully taken on the challenge. In 2012, more than 22,000 people collectively walked over 2.2m kilometres and raised over \$18m.

If you think you have the team to take on the challenge then take a look at our upcoming events and support resources. **29- 30 August** www.oxfamtrailwalker.be



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**PERSONAL
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Fitness

How to approach keeping fit

Julie Fairclough offers various ways of improving your health and fitness



Nowadays, busy lifestyles and an increasing external focus on healthy living have a major impact on our approach to fitness.

There's plenty of thinking behind today's training programmes – workouts have never been as scientific, technologically sophisticated and engaging as they are today. The new trends in fitness are giving us an astonishing view of what the human body can reach in a session by training smarter (not longer) and challenging oneself to the extreme. Without further ado, let's learn about these new concepts in fitness.

First is the High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT), such as Crossfit, P90X3, Focus T-25 and Insanity, offered by so-called 'box gyms'. This approach has taken the fitness world by storm

with its circuit-style workouts, involving short bursts of intense activity that provide improved athletic capacity, conditioning and fat burning. Depending on your stamina and willingness, the results can yield the body of a gladiator or an Amazonian. Not bad at all. However, be prepared for constantly sore muscles.

Another significantly fun and sexy new trend is the Pole Workout. Without a doubt, this can provoke some flare in your training. Experts confirm the pole classes are sweat-inducing super effective fat-torching workouts, with the added advantage of learning how to show off your curves and glorify your body.

Next we have team-based workouts. This is a fun way to build muscles and experience a sense of fellowship – burn calories while you

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fitness



bond with teammates, letting the excitement and accomplishment of teamwork take over. These competition-based classes involve games such as catching the flag, tree climbing, carrying logs, tag and overall endurance training.

Another current trend is Core Fusion Express. This new method of working out your core and improving coordination is based on the traditional Pilates and yoga abdominal exercises – specific ballet postures offer fast-paced, full-body training, adding a major cardio component with the sole aim of sculpting your muscles. All exercises require complete engagement to correct imbalances due to poor posture and bad movement patterns established during previous workouts. It helps you recognize your weaknesses and so customize your training.

Then we have Power Yoga as Recovery Class. You have certainly heard the slogan 'Train hard. Recover harder'. The boom in high-intensity workouts means people are getting sore and need a complementary stretching program. This is where the self-care workouts come in. These courses help stimulate recovery and

embellish overall sport efficiency as well as longevity in training, whatever your goals might be. Round out your weekly routine with yoga training to get more out of your time at the gym, which helps to avoid injuries and incorrect posture.

Another trend is a very hi-tech device called 'telemetry'. Have you seen those wristbands that track your daily activity, heart rate and more? Now it's used in group classes where performance metrics are displayed on a board in the room, synced up with apps in your smart phone. There are hundreds of other helpful fitness apps that tell you what food you eat (soon enough these apps will chew the food for you). These innovating concepts will be offered in the traditional gyms, where people can choose from an array of classes, instructors and machinery that help you restore, heal and maintain overall fitness. This ancient concept – it comes the Greek tele, meaning remote, and metron, meaning measure – has been proven to work. Ultimately, all trends come on go. We all know that variety is the spice of life, so we certainly need to keep trying new concepts. 📌



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Nutrition: What is it all about?

Nutrition expert **Sophie Bruno** discusses our dietary needs

In this day and age, we are increasingly exposed to the concept of 'nutrition', whether through hype in the media, a new trendy diet that everyone is talking about or even the run-of-the-mill food shopping at the supermarket. So, what exactly is nutrition? Put simply, nutrition is the science of food at work in our bodies after it has been broken down via the digestion process, generating our primary source of energy. Think of nutrition as the building blocks of life and the interaction of nutrients that deliver observable health effects.



The essential nutrients for life include macronutrients such as carbohydrates, proteins and lipids (fat), as well as fibre, micronutrients such as vitamins and minerals and water. The absorption of nutrients starts the moment we begin to digest our foods, as they are transported to assist all the metabolic processes in the human body.

Optimal nutrition translates into getting the right amount of nutrients from foods in the right combinations in relation to our body's dietary needs – it often boils down to balance. Having a certain level of nutrition knowledge empowers you to make smart, healthy choices about the foods you eat on a daily basis and will help you achieve optimum health over your lifetime. Optimal nutrition is also key to avoiding poor health and combating many of today's most prevalent chronic diseases, including obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Nutrition represents an important element in achieving and maintaining good health. Good health is defined as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing – a healthy mind, body and spirit. Nutrition is of vital importance throughout our entire life-cycle – from childhood to adolescence, adulthood and in our senior years, with slightly differing nutritional requirements depending on which stage of our lives we are in.

The nutrition world is extremely interesting but can also be quite complex and confusing. We are constantly learning new things about the food we eat and are often bombarded with contradicting messages in the media. Despite this well-known complexity, there is an emerging trend nowadays where people



oversimplify nutrition and focus on individual components, or individual 'superfoods' and nutrients rather than taking a holistic view of nutrition.

A factor that adds a layer of complexity is that we consume food, not nutrients. Health professionals may encourage certain foods to be increased/decreased in order to improve someone's overall diet and health; however, there is no such thing as a perfect food or the perfect diet. What is right for me may not be right for you, and neither would it suit every person in the world because each person is different – we all have differing lifestyles, activity levels, medical histories, body composition and nutritional requirements. Nutrition is often very personal. However, there are main lines and general healthy eating advice that can be extracted and that apply to everyone.

Our choices in food and drink are deeply

interwoven within the fabric of our culture, our emotional status and our habits, and they play an important role in social interaction. Whether it is a drink with friends in a bar, a dinner date or catching up with your best friend over dinner and a glass of wine, we bond and connect with each other while eating and drinking together. Remove the food and we take away our connections.

Nutrition also translates into health, and health represents a form of freedom. Being healthy doesn't just make us look and feel great — it enables us to enjoy and experience life to our fullest potential. Conversely, a poor diet can have serious implications for health, and result in the inability to enjoy life to its potential.

The bottom line: food represents so much more than simply the sum of the nutrients it contains.



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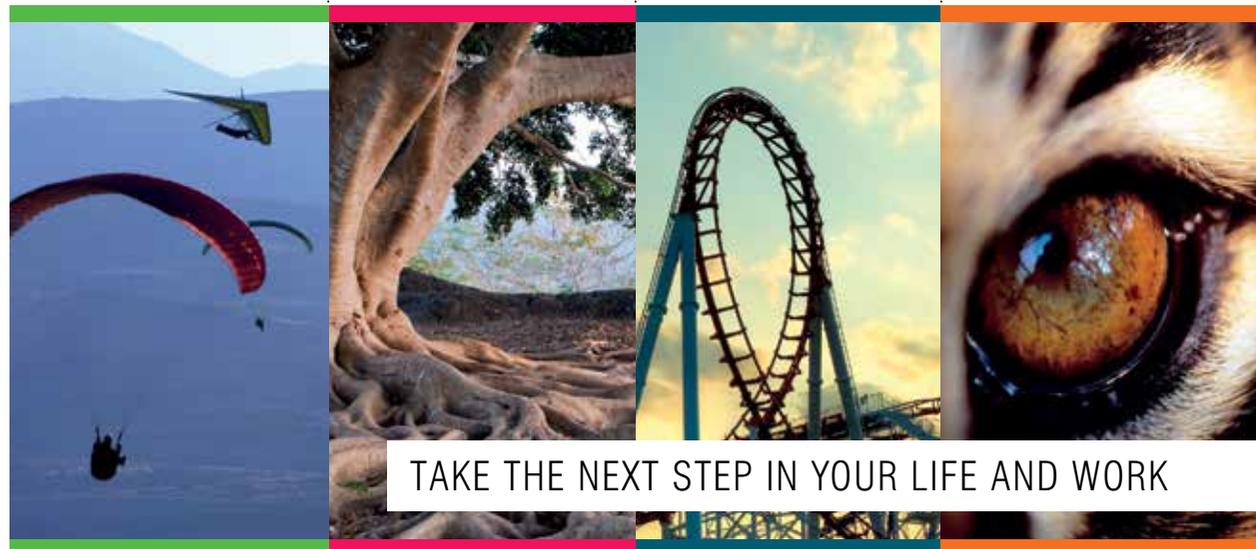
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Being ok with being alone

Gemma Rose thinks that to be so is our key to survival

At around 6 p.m. on Saturday 11 January 2014, I burst into tears, despairing at the depths of my loneliness. I was in my flat; I had made no plans for the weekend. I was both alone and terribly lonely.

That episode really struck me. I like my own company: I've been on holiday alone, I've relished in days and nights to myself, and I've spent many a sunny afternoon by myself in the park. Coming up to that weekend, I was actually glad that I had no plans since I reasoned that I would be open to anything. So why had I reacted so badly to being on my own?

I came up with a lot of explanations: I was suffering from the January blues, the downer after the merriment and cheer of Christmas and New Year; the obscure black sky outside had an unusual dark effect on my mood; I was hungry; I felt disconnected since I had lost my phone a few days earlier and so I couldn't make a last-minute arrangement with a friend.

Being alone is something that many of us have difficulty with. According to research conducted this year by the Universities of Maryland and



Georgetown, published in the Journal of Consumer Research, people are fine with doing activities by themselves if they serve a purpose (such as shopping, working whilst in a café) but are far less comfortable with doing activities just for the pleasure of it, like eating in a restaurant or going to a concert. They feel that they would be judged harshly by observers for not having anyone to accompany them.

The paradox is that we are less comfortable doing things alone for hedonistic purposes, yet we appear to be spending more and more time alone. In the US, more than a quarter of households are lived in by one person. I felt particularly saddened to read that last Christmas in Britain, half a million elderly people spent the day alone Sherry Turkle, an American cultural analyst who has spent over a decade



**“ HUMANS
MUST ADAPT TO
BEING ALONE ”**

studying how technology shapes our culture, concluded in her TED talk 'Connected, but alone?' (2012) that we are withdrawing more and more from face-to-face interaction and substituting this with technology.

Since the future is pointing towards more aloneness, perhaps learning how to be alone is the key to our survival, which seems to be a shift from an evolutionary perspective. Contrary to popular belief, the anthropologist Robert Sussman finds that humans did not evolve as hunters, but rather as easy prey for predators. There was a safety in numbers out of fear of being eaten. If the trends today are showing more isolation amongst individuals, then humans must adapt to being alone.

But learning how to be alone is not the same as learning how to live in solitude. Rather, it's about finding enjoyment in doing things by ourselves, like going to that concert you've always wanted to see but found no-one to go with. As the Georgetown and Maryland study found out, people who did a hedonistic activity on their own actually enjoyed it far more than they predicted, and almost as much as they would have had they gone with someone.

As for the fear of others thinking you were a loser for being on your own, research has usurped that notion. For a study conducted in 2000, Cornell University students were

requested to enter a public space wearing a cringe-worthy Barry Manilow t-shirt. It was predicted that half of the observers would notice the shirt when in fact it was only less than a quarter. The reality is that most people are so caught up in themselves or in the attention of their companion(s), that it's unlikely that they even notice the loner in the restaurant or gallery. The Georgetown and Maryland study also identified that we tend to judge ourselves harsher than we do others. Therefore, it's actually not what other people think that affects us, but what we think they think.

My meltdown in January 2014 knocked me into getting out more, and not just with friends, but also by myself. I was more sociable when I went to an event or participated in an activity on my own, because I was forced to be. But sometimes, even if I didn't make a connection, I was happy that I did something I really wanted to do, instead of missing out because I had no-one to go with.

I haven't cured my spells of loneliness and, honestly, there is no cure. I've just accepted that there are times when I am alone + lonely, and other times when I am alone + not lonely. The best thing to do is embrace the formula in which I find myself in at the time and let it pass. My survival depends on it. 🍷

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Let the people speak

Gerry Callaghan discusses the ramifications of a 'Brexit' from the EU

A Conservative victory in the UK General Election guarantees the country will now hold an 'in/out' EU referendum. This poses a headache for both the UK government and the European Union alike, as the debate will be drawn away from their control and into the public sphere through the increasing importance of social media.

Last year, the mainstream UK parties fought for their survival and narrowly won a vote on Scottish independence. However, social media allowed the debate to be dictated not by politicians and the media but by the Scottish people. Through social media, the UK referendum on EU membership will awaken British and European citizens and let them discuss what they not only want from their own country but what they expect from the EU in the future.

Before the election, senior Labour figures, political pundits and almost all pollsters gave Ed Miliband a fighting chance of becoming the UK's next prime minister, but on the night the Tories swept to victory by taking 331 seats, 99 more than Labour. Ed Miliband failed to own up to New Labour's past mistake of overspending under Tony Blair's government which created insecurity among the electorate about the current recovery. Yet, there was no clear alternative for disillusioned Labour voters in England, as there was in Scotland. UKIP offered many former Labour supporters a protest vote against the current Westminster system, but all that achieved was to cement victory for the Tories.

The UK Independence Party of Nigel Farage, managed to get around four million votes, almost double that of the Lib Dems but gained just one MP, compared to the Lib Dems' eight. However, despite winning only one seat, the rise of UKIP has ensured that the UK will hold a referendum on membership of the EU. UKIP pushed for it, the Tories guaranteed it and now it will go ahead in 2017 after interim Labour leader Harriet Harman said they would "not oppose" a referendum – rather Labour will focus on campaigning for the UK to remain part of the EU.

At the moment, UK voters are split on the question of EU membership. Pro-EU advocates have slightly more support in Scotland, where the Scottish First Minister is pushing hard to obtain a clause that would see Scotland retain its EU membership if the majority of Scottish voters support it – if at the same time the rest of the UK reject it, presenting a further headache for the UK government. However, it can be argued that Scotland's recent referendum on independence generated a political awakening. The left-wing anti-austerity/anti-trident/pro-NHS rhetoric of the SNP and their supporters in Scotland was left wanting in England, where talk from the main parties focused mainly on discrediting their opponents and immigration. This referendum, like the one in Scotland did, will hopefully lead to calls from voters for a change in the political narrative of the country.

The UK now has an opening where debates and discussions can take place to decide on



what the UK people think the EU is, and ultimately what it should be. The referendum on Scottish independence did the same for the electorate north of the border. It motivated and engaged people from all backgrounds that had never really had a political voice up until that point. Most UK parties support EU membership and will campaign for the country to remain, with the exception of UKIP, but the result is far from guaranteed.

First of all, Cameron will seek to secure a renegotiation of the EU treaties with a particular focus on the freedom of movement. However, the EU is unlikely to budge on this issue with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker already saying: "We have a treaty. Freedom of movement since the 50s is the basic principle of the European way of co-operating. These rules will not be changed. What can be changed? The national rules against abuses." Therefore, Cameron now faces the task of deciding what powers he wants returned to London from Brussels. It is more than likely that his main focus will be on immigration. Immigrants will receive a tougher

time in gaining benefits after their targeting by the UK government and media.

However, the debate that will ensue, after the date and question are set by the UK government, will grow and grasp the attention of the population, move past the narrow focus of immigration and open up debates on social justice, equality, the role of government and environmental preservation.. It will likely mirror the debate on Scottish independence where the prevalence and importance of social media allowed the mainstream narrative to be challenged. People will be relying less on what the mainstream media are saying. Social media will, therefore, shift the debate away from the dictated terms and focus of the media and open up a space for UK and EU citizens to discuss and decide on the future they want to create.

So, whatever the result of the referendum, the EU can expect to emerge with a politically focused and motivated population that will change not only the direction of the UK, but the EU as a whole. ●



I love being in BSB's French/English bilingual class and am learning Italian and Spanish as well because I have so many friends here from around the world."

Noé

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International schooling

Martin Banks talks to the principals of three international schools in Belgium

The British School of Brussels

The British School of Brussels (BSB) at Tervuren is an international school with 1,350 students from 70 countries and the only school in Belgium to offer three pre-university 'routes', either via A Levels, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and BTEC vocational courses in Business, Hospitality and Sport.

Founded in 1969, the campus, a 20-minute drive from Brussels and Leuven, is set in a beautiful 10-hectare site surrounded by woodlands and lakes.

The school is diverse and multicultural. It boasts a bilingual French-English programme starting in primary school while its secondary school students have the opportunity to study a wider range of languages from German to Russian.

Exam results are an essential indicator of performance for all schools and, every year, its internal 'value-added' analysis from the University of Durham underlines that its results consistently exceed expectations. For example, in 2014, BSB students achieved 100% pass rates at A Level, IB Diploma and BTEC, no mean feat given that BSB has students from all abilities and national education systems. In GCSE and (I) GCSE examinations, its A-C pass rate of 91% was well above that of the UK (68.8%).

It has the lowest fees overall, including application fees, compared to schools of a similar size and almost all of its extensive range of extra-curricular activities are free of charge. Another important plus is that 96% of its students go on to a university of their first



choice. By 2016, it will be the only international school in Belgium to have its own swimming pool.

The pool is part of a new €25m state-of-the-art sports facility, including gymnasium, opening at BSB in September 2016 which will also be available to local special schools and selected Belgian charities.

Sue Woodroffe, who has worked at BSB for 11 years and been its Principal since 2011, says: "We are very excited about this in

particular and hope it will be one of the best indoor sports facilities in Europe."

The Friends of BSB group, consisting mostly of parents, will, from this September, also have their own base (a restored villa in the school grounds) from which to coordinate their many activities.

Sue adds: "At the British School of Brussels, we believe that learning should be academically centred but sensitive to the wider needs of students and their families.

"Our goal is to create young adults who rise to the challenge of the modern world. We want to inspire and motivate responsible, engaged students who have respect for themselves and each other."

BSB, she says, prides itself on offering a "fantastic" pastoral system and for being both a "classic" British and international school. "An international education is very enriching both for the children and staff who learn from each other. When our children leave for higher education they are incredibly popular with universities and employers because of their vision and breadth of understanding." ❶

St. John's International School

For Ray Holliday-Bersegeay, St. John's International School at Waterloo is "special" because its philosophy is rooted in the Christian tradition and it highlights three core values - companionship, respect and integrity.

For Ray, the school's head teacher, this approach makes St. John's "stand out" from the other international schools where he has worked.

He says: "Where I find it stands out is in the extent to which students are really living the three values of the school: companionship, integrity and respect. The way they treat each other, listen to each other, the respect that they give to each other - I've been very impressed with that."

He adds: "Even though we really embrace our Christian values, we are open to all faiths and cultures so it is a very strong mix of nationalities, cultures and religious backgrounds."

Ray, originally from a mining village in the North East of England, says students at St. John's are "not noisy, neither in formal times nor on the playground. They are measured, they are relaxed, they are thoughtful. When I've gone into the classrooms, they are totally focused, they listen to each other, to the teacher, they're on task."

The vast majority of its students are expats (only 16% of students are Belgian). As a result, the importance of the school as a community builder for the forging of friendships is, he believes, "vital" in their integration into the host country.

International schools like his offer a place where students of different nationalities, religions and



cultural backgrounds "live, work and play together".

In St. John's for example, there are over 55 nationalities and Ray says it helps to develop an "innate sense of tolerance, understanding and a breaking down of barriers".

Ray says he is always learning from his own students. "I have a sense of humility when I listen to our students. I understand from them that we are all learners together. They have the knowledge in certain areas - certainly in technology - and by

respecting that, we become a team of learners together."

This year marks the 50th anniversary of St. John's serving the expatriate and local communities of the greater Brussels area. Over the years it has built its reputation for excellence on a foundation of exceptional academic programs as well as athletics and the visual and performing arts.

The prestigious Ivy League universities in the US as well as Oxford and Cambridge have a well-established tradition of St. John's students on their graduation roster. The school also has a tremendous sports and performing arts history of achievement.

More than 725 students from over 55 countries attend St. John's and more than 93% of its graduates achieve the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma.

Turning to the future, says his "fundamental aim" is to continue the "successful St. John's tradition of holistic Education and further enhance its position "as a school of choice for host-country and expatriate families who can commit to and live to its fundamental values". www.stjohns.be 

The European Communication School

The European Communication School (ECS) in Brussels is an international school with a difference. The number one difference is that it does not employ professional teachers. Rather, its 'teaching' team is gleaned from the ranks of professionals with private companies. None are professional teachers and have other jobs. These might include, for example, a marketing manager at VW or public relations expert at RTL, the TV network who will visit ECS to teach a couple of hours a week.

Another difference is that ECS students must undergo an internship, usually lasting two months, in the very first year of their studies with more to follow during their three-year degree course. For ECS director Barbara Claeys this approach gives its students a distinct advantage over what she calls more "classic" universities.

She said: "We do not employ teachers as such. The people doing the teaching here all have other, usually full time, jobs and come from an assortment of professional backgrounds. They are very close to what is happening in the world of industry, finance, commerce and suchlike. This means that our students are, in turn, getting a very direct, hands on experience of the real world virtually from the off. This represents a big, big difference from traditional universities and, of course, sets us apart from them."

Having spent over 20 years in the media and advertising industry, including six years at RTL, Barbara herself had full experience of the 'real world' before taking up her current position at ECS three years ago.



Opened 20 years ago, ECS is a Paris-based network with similar educational establishments in nine cities around the world, with the latest, in Shanghai, opening this summer. There are a total of 2,000 students scattered around the world, with 200 based at the Brussels campus. Some courses are given in English and, among the students in Brussels there is a broad range of nationalities, with half being Belgian and 30% from France. The rest,

though, come from all over the world with more and more from Eastern European countries, including Russia and Romania.

"This," adds Barbara, "makes for a very rich mixture. Again, ECS tries to reflect a world of multiculturalism which, I think, is rather appropriate with Brussels being such a multicultural city."

Students at ECS take a three-year bachelor degree in communications which can then be followed up with one of several Masters programmes offered by ECS.

Looking to the future, Barbara says ECS wants to "develop and extend" the work it does in the field of digital communications and everything related to e-marketing and new technologies. She adds: "But this must always be related to marketing and communications as that is very much our core business." ecs-bruxelles.com 

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Education

International Montessori Schools (IMS)

The emphasis at its school at Tervuren (and others elsewhere in the world) is on what is known as "divergent thinking" – developing both sides of the child's brain in order to "obtain good academic knowledge and emotional intelligence".

That, basically, is the Montessori approach, a kind of hands-on way of doing things based on the philosophy of its founder, Dr Maria Montessori, an Italian physician and educator.

The Montessori Method is most frequently applied in pre-secondary school education, and its classrooms, designed for children aged one to 11, are constructed specifically to meet the child's needs at different stages of development. Children are allowed to choose their activities, with whom to work and length of time to work. The child also has the freedom to get up and find what he or she needs.

They are given guidance to become "independent thinkers", who are able to choose, reflect and make decisions. "These," said an IMS spokesman, "are very important life skills to have in our ever-changing society".

Standard tuition fees include additional services such as after school hour programmes, music instrument instruction and special needs assistance. In keeping with the philosophy, the Brussels school has its own Parent Cafe, which also includes a library.

The school also offers a "complete and consistent" bilingual English-French environment with each group staffed by two teachers – one addressing the children in English, the other in French. Students can also choose Dutch, German or Spanish language lessons.

Another plus at Tervuren is the "beautiful and aesthetic surroundings", including a recently renovated farmhouse.

"A classroom," says the spokesman, "does not need to be a square box with nothing more than an interactive whiteboard, tables, chairs and some posters. Beautiful surroundings give energy and energy is what students need."
www.international-montessori.org

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LIFESTYLE

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LIFESTYLE

Luxury homes

Luxury homes: Live the dream

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Medieval castle, Piedmont

A stunning fortified castle dating back to the eleventh century immersed in a wonderful park of secular trees and overlooking the Monferrato hills. In the eighteenth century the oldest part of the castle was renovated to create a large neo-Gothic dining room and a theatre above it decorated with frescoes showing episodes from *Don Quixote*. Inside the courtyard a small chapel was constructed which is still consecrated today. The estate is surrounded by 19 hectares of grounds subdivided between park with trees and hedges and a beautiful swimming pool and grounds used by the farm. Price: **Less than €10m**



LIFESTYLE

Luxury homes

Luxury castle in Tuscany

A prestigious ocean-front castle for sale near Livorno on the Tuscany Coast, this property was built in the early 1900s, four floors and two towers. The castle is a stone's throw from the coast, has an incredible view of the area and has direct private access to the sea. There is a charming circular gazebo, perched on a cliff overlooking the sea. This gazebo has distinctively Neo-Classical architectural characteristics (as opposed to the Castle, which instead has a Neo-Gothic style) and columns with floral capitals. Price: **Less than €10m**



Castello di Tavolese, Tuscany

Castello di Tavolese dates back to the first half of the year 1200 and the oldest inhabitants of the castle were the Farinata degli Uberti, followed by the captain of Manfredi, King of Naples. The current owners have restored this luxury home to its ancient beauty. It boasts five floors culminating in a striking watch tower over a total of 1400m². It also has a farm extending over 62 hectares, planted with olive trees and vineyards producing Colli Fiorentini Chianti. Price: **€18m**



LIFESTYLE

Luxury homes

Castello in Lombardy

This impressive castle near Milan is surrounded by a circle of medieval walls, protected by a typical moat, with six crenellated towers. The castle has 8,800m² of indoor space with adjoining stables, chapel and private cemetery. Outside, there is an Italian-style garden and a large swimming pool set in a nineteenth-century bath. Price: **More than €10m**

These castles are for sale from Lionard Luxury Real Estate, founded in 2008 by Florentine entrepreneur Dimitri Corti.
www.lionard.com



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Glam Bronze GG Cream by L'Oréal Paris (€14.99).
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Bronze Goddess Powder Bronzer by Estée Lauder (€41.37). Available in four shades.



LIFESTYLE

Beauty



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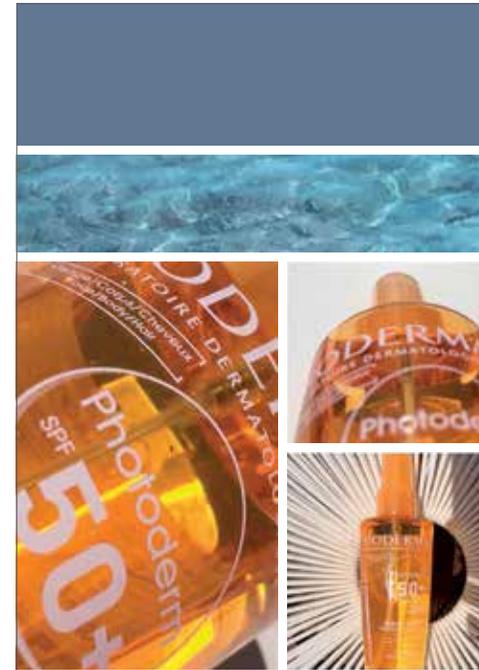
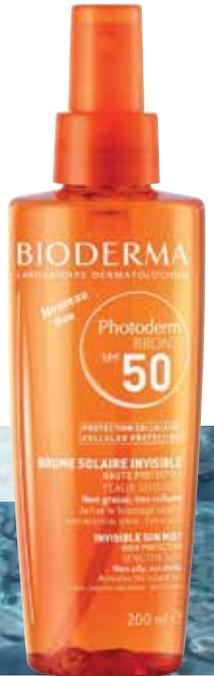
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Bespoke class

Since early 2015, Olivier Bernard and Harry Mariette, the partners of the Confidential BESPOKE brand that was launched last September and previously featured in *Together*, have given impetus and a dynamic Le Tailleur, the tailor's that they believe is the place for bespoke garments in Brussels.

The term bespoke in fashion is reserved for individually patterned and crafted men's clothing, analogous to women's haute couture, in contrast with mass-manufactured ready-to-wear. The term originated from Savile Row, a street in London considered as the 'Golden mile of tailoring'. Bespoke clothing is cut from a pattern drafted from scratch for the customer, and so differs from ready-to-wear, which is made in finished condition and standardized sizes.

From Ariston, through Scabal, Drapers and even Loro Piana, Le Tailleur dresses every client with elegance and expertise in a bespoke tailor's dedicated to craftsmanship.

According to Olivier: "Our welcome, measurements, the cutting of the fabric... everything is intended to make you feel confident that you will be given advice on how to best wear your new suit, tips that that are solely dedicated to the development of your garment."

"The secret of the elegance of a distinguished man lies in the quality of the fibres of his garment and the expertise of his tailor."

Formerly, most gentlemen were dressed by a master tailor. Today, with the advent of ready to wear, this trade is less and less common. To silence the prejudice that the art is only available to wealthy clients, a new brand was born in the heart of Ixelles.

"I was initially captivated by the scenic setting," recalls Olivier. "From trousers to shirt to jeans, we focus on every male sartorial detail, and we develop a relationship based on trust. With our hundreds of beautiful fabrics imported exclusively from Italy (Loro Piana, Zegna, Vitale Barberi, Cerutti) and with some from across the Channel, these are fabrics that match both the client's personality and his preferred style of clothing."

There's no doubt, Le Tailleur is for tailoring purists! **1**

Le Tailleur
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Kasino



Photographer: Kris de Smedt
Stylist: Nicholas Sirot
Make up artist: Crystal Die
Model: Wendy @ Ulla Models
Special thanks to: Mon & Josée for the location

Top : American Vintage
Skirt: Paule Ka



Polo: Lacoste
Sweatshirt: Adidas



Bag: Rabeanco
Photo, dress: APC



Dress: Diane Von Furstenberg
Shoes: APC



Total look: Cos
Shoes: Zadig&Voltaire



Polo: Lacoste



Dress: APC
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LIFESTYLE

Shopping

Happy Father's Day

Like Christmas, Father's Day comes but once a year. After the success obtained by Anna Jarvis with the promotion of Mother's Day in Grafton, West Virginia, the first observance of a 'Father's Day' was held on July 5, 1908, in Fairmont, West Virginia to "honour fathers and celebrate fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society".

Here are some gift ideas to keep the old man happy...



Giorgio Armani

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Gravity: the Swiss company has repeatedly sought to conceive interesting timepieces which depict time in thought-provoking ways. Its latest model, the Maurice Lacroix Masterpiece Gravity, is the first timepiece to feature a fully silicium assortment. Price on request

www.mauricelacroix.com



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www.cartier.com



LIFESTYLE

Shopping



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www.ice-watch.com



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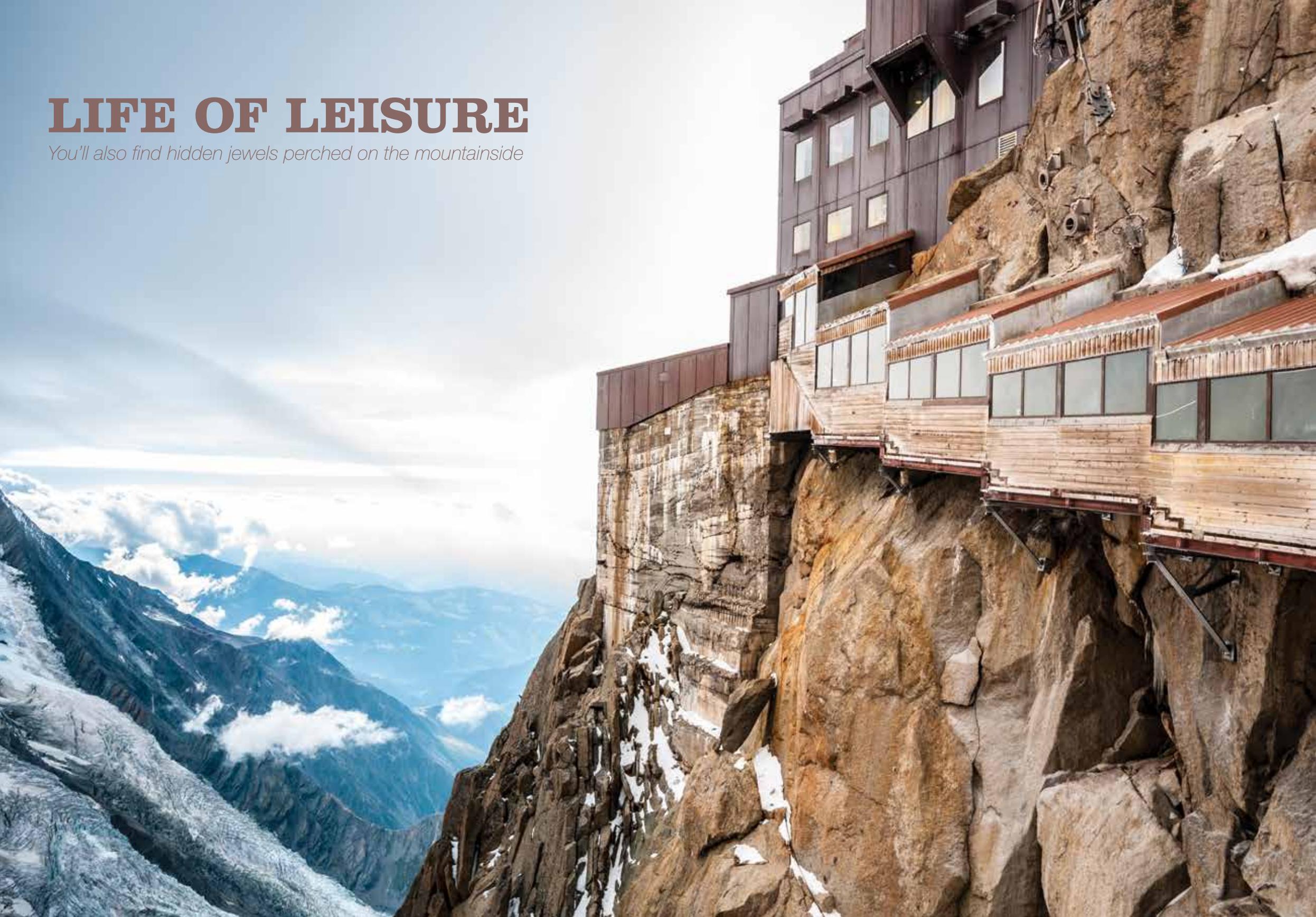
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LIFE OF LEISURE

You'll also find hidden jewels perched on the mountainside



Pierce Brosnan: Survivor

Together chats to an Irish actor who has shaken off the 007 tag with no regrets



With his pale eyes, rugged pallor and dashing swept locks, he remains an enduring sex symbol and iconic Hollywood hunk. Pierce Brosnan is keen to rubbish such fawning praise. He even has rather colourful language to describe his ageing looks.

"I'm an old fart and that's plain and simple," he laughs, while speaking from his home in Hawaii. "There's no other way to dress it up. It's the harsh truth and I'm OK with that. But such is life and I don't think I'm doing too badly."

A big-screen favourite for nearly forty years, Ireland's favourite son is undoubtedly best known for his seven-year tenure as James Bond, rejuvenating the franchise in the 90s with smash hits *Goldeneye*, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, *The World is Not Enough* and *Die Another Day*.

When 007 producers bumped Pierce for Daniel Craig, he channelled his super fame into a string of critical and commercial hits [*The Ghost Writer*, *Percy Jackson*, *Remember Me*] and even gave his less than stellar singing talents an airing in *Mamma Mia*.

In the last three years alone, he's worked on 14 movies, with seven due for release, including Asian political drama *No Escape*, period fantasy *The Moon and The Sun* and romcom *How to Make Love Like an Englishman* alongside Jessica Alba.

His latest however, will see the 61-year-old explore his dark side for the very first time as a ruthless assassin in new film, *Survivor*.

Facing off against *Resident Evil* vixen, Milla Jovovich, Brosnan plays The Watchmaker, who pursues a secret service officer across London after she inadvertently foils his terrorist plans.

Married to Keeley Shaye-Smith, [mother of sons Dylan and Paris] after first wife, Cassandra Harris [mother of children Christopher, Charlotte and Sean, who sadly died two years ago] passed away in 1991, the actor talks new challenges, his peace with ageing, workaholic tendencies, envying Daniel Craig and encouraging his children to follow their dreams.

Together: In *Survivor* you play a villainous watchmaker. It's not often we see you as the bad guy.

Brosnan: Do you know what I'm enjoying and appreciating the most about right now? Diversity. Choice. Opportunity. Getting the chance to work on films I've never done before. Have fun, playing assassins with sawn-off rifles and dark sunglasses.

And this for me was real challenge but one that Avi Lerner [exec producer] knew I would be up for, so here I am, chasing after poor Milla through the streets of London.

It's everything we don't know you for - a brutal Russian hitman, a

mercenary, a terrorist. Were you overwhelmed by the task?

I was more excited if anything. You're right, it's so far removed from anything I've done before and that chance to discover your dark side, to climb into the mind of a cold-hearted assassin was fascinating. To terrorise and frighten was simply a great deal of fun.

You could say Bond was a cold-blooded assassin, not a million miles away.

Technically true, I see where you're coming from but 'The Watchmaker', what a splendid character name for starters, don't you agree.

The Watchmaker, he's built of other clay.

“ YOU KNOW, PROBABLY ONE DAY I’LL WAKE UP AND I WON’T RECOGNISE MYSELF ”

Turning 62 this year and you're in remarkable shape, as demonstrated in *Survivor*. How do you do it? Really, I need tips.

I try to maintain as best as possible. You know, probably one day I'll wake up and I won't recognise myself, my whole face will have caved in [laughs].

I play tennis, I try to play tennis, every other day I go to the gym, I have a gym. I ride my bike and I have a wife who looks after me,

my darling Keeley Shaye, who's done nothing but look after me with the greatest of love. I'm a blessed man and I've a job I love to go to, love my bit of acting and getting away with it.

You'd previously mentioned being approached to appear in the new *Expendables* film, have there been any developments there?

None that I'm aware of but it's still something I'd be keenly interested in exploring. I might have another word with Avi [Lerner, who directs *The Expendables*] and see what's happening.

Interview

You seem quite jocular when it comes to talking about age. Unusual for your industry?

I look at it with the greatest humility. To have lived this life, to have come down the old road, sixty one years of it and get away with it. I followed a young boy's dream, a boy from Navan to London and out of school at fifteen and not knowing where you're going or what you're going to do. And then to fall in love with acting and fall in love with movies and be able to do that – a man becomes what he dreams.

It doesn't sit heavy on my heart – it certainly embraces my heart, the acknowledgement of my age, the acknowledgement of times past and times present and the work that needs to be done. God willing, he'll give me some more time.

You're worked on something like 14 films in the last three years, don't you want a break?

I haven't really taken a break. I enjoy it, I enjoy the opportunity coming my way, I love the opportunity I'm making for myself. But when I do, I take longer breaks at home. I love being out here in our house in Hawaii. And my boys are at that great age where you want to be with him, 18 and 14. So I just take my time, but sometimes jobs come one after the other. I start my next job here in May and I finish that and go straight into another one.

As I said, I'm enjoying my career now, I'm enjoying this diversity that I maybe didn't have years ago and it's fulfilling and rewarding.

Where would you be if you hadn't gone into acting?

I probably would have ended up being a social worker, caring for people. And I trained as a commercial artist so art is very much a part of my life.

But you know, when I found the acting, I was part of a youth group, a youth club theatre, and we did work for the school and youth clubs and I really enjoyed that work and it was the start of my career.



If it wasn't acting, it was going to be something artistic, or something of service to the mankind.

They're shooting the new Bond right now, will you go see it? Have you seen any of Daniel Craig's work?

Skyfall. I did, I did [laughs], I'd never seen any of Daniel's work before that, but I had to see *Skyfall*. While I was shooting *Survivor* in London last year, every which way I turned, I'd bump into Daniel Craig; he's there on the side of the road, or I'd be crossing the road and Daniel's good old mug would jump out in front of me on the side of a bus. I'd go to the pictures and he'd be there. So I saw it and enjoyed it enormously. I thought it was magnificent, and thought what a celebration for the world really. It was fantastic to see it come out of the box with such panache and grace and storytelling.

Was it sad for you to see him in your role?

Yes there's was poignancy to that. Especially up there with Judi.

So that was the most difficult part for you?

We had such a trusting bond. I still to do this day remember our first day together, sitting there around a gas heater, in the dead of winter on a sound stage [of *Goldeneye*]. Both mildly terrified at the work at hand, because it was our first day together. She is such, such a beautiful woman and a captivating actress.

Yet she dies in Daniel's arms...

I will admit it, I felt just a tad envious of Daniel in that respect, to play out that scene with her and to have that moment. But it's another man's job and that man does it brilliantly and everyman has his dawn in the sun. It's a small group of men who've played this role and needless to say, it will go on for another fifty years.

Barbara Broccoli once said Craig was the best Bond.

Well she's not going to get a Christmas card from me [laughs]. Daniel is the best Bond ever, he is a great Bond. My Bond was of a generation, I would be putting my feet in my mouth if I said otherwise. For me Connery was



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LIFE OF LEISURE

Interview

Bond, everyone has their favourite Bond, Connery was mine, I belong to some people and Daniel belongs to many people.

It's still your most recognisable role, does that bother you?

It's always there, James Bond. You know, it's just there, you celebrate it, it's nothing but a gift, and it's nothing but the deepest gratitude making such a mark on the landscape.

Did you ever worry Bond had typecast your career?

I was acutely aware of the mantle of Bond around my shoulders and how I was going to create another world for myself. It takes time and patience and hard work to have a career and create longevity as an actor. To find the right, best directors and the best scripts. You know, luckily I have Irish Dreamtime [production company] that was a great gift that came out of the James Bond era and I've been able to produce my own films like *Thomas Crown* or *The Matador* or *Evelyn* or *The Greatest*.

What remain your career ambitions?

As an actor, I haven't done any of the classics. That's something that's gone through my mind at times. Do Shakespeare on film or Chekhov, I've never been offered those kinds of films. I like small independent films; I really enjoy that world very much.

And directing, I have considered it but made no inroads as such. It is still being considered.

Your son Sean is following in your footsteps, does this make you proud?

It does, very much so.

Do you try to give him advice, help in any way you can?

You cannot help but pass on your philosophy of life and what you know about this world, especially about the world of filmmaking.

I love to just share with him in the passing of a conversation you're working on, he's working on. You talk philosophically; you talk emotionally and practically, economically. But I don't tell him what to do, that's his own path to make. And

Interview

he's doing it very well.

He's writing and producing his own films. And his brother Dylan, who's 18, he's becoming a fine writer himself. He adapted a Joyce Carol Oates story when he was younger and it's really quite wonderful to see this creativity in the next generation.

Dylan's modelling now too. He is and my god those genes didn't come from my side. They're all his mother [laughs]. He's a very handsome young man and I encourage him to follow every opportunity that comes his way.

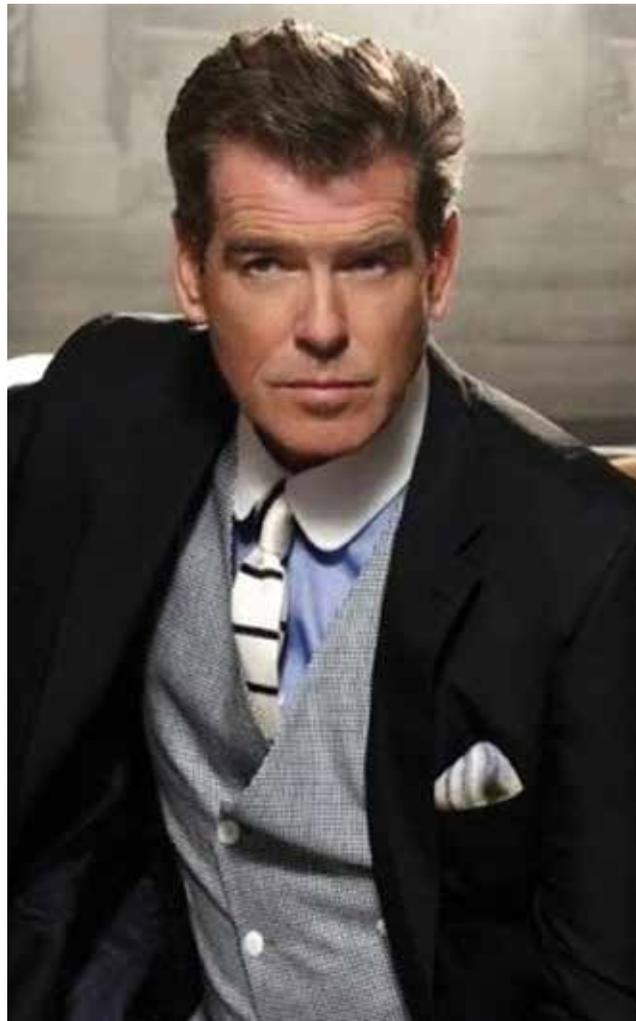
You're an Irish citizen, as well as American, how much do you children know about their ancestry?

They're very aware of Dad's Irishness. It's evident in every day of their lives that I'm an Irishman. They know of their heritage, and they're very proud of it, and they know something of the tapestry of the land having visited as kids. And just me talking about the writers I enjoy, Samuel Beckett, Joyce and Yeats and the poetry of their lives. They know because I make sure they know.

It's so important to know where you came from. It's something I would never neglect and I know they find it fascinating. ●



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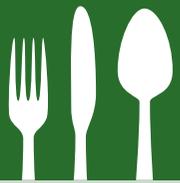


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Au Repos des Chasseurs



A l'orée de la Forêt de Soignes, le Repos des Chasseurs est un incontournable rendez-vous des gourmands et des amateurs de gibiers. C'est un lieu-dit bien connu des Bruxellois pour la chasse et les promenades.

Une des plus belles terrasses ensoleillées de la capitale vous y accueille d'ailleurs à la belle saison. Plusieurs salles de réceptions et de réunions ainsi qu'un hôtel 3 étoiles - Logis de Belgique (le seul à Bruxelles).

Spécialités : «Anguilles au vert», «tartare de bœuf», etc.
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LIFE OF
LEISURE

Travel

Summer in the heart of Savoie

Caroline Dierckx took a trip that guarantees a rich heritage of culture and discovery

Photo © PDS_M.Vitre_Rando_Passportes



Most of the time, the mountains resonate with skiing and snow. But this trip to Portes du Soleil in the heart of Savoie proved that there is just as much to do in summer months – share moments of relaxation, discovery, surprising encounters and sports at all levels, with the dramatic backdrop of the floral pastures of summer.

After a fine lunch at the heart of the vineyards, we visited a place that is the pride of the region: The House of the Vine and Wine in Apremont. Savoie wine is popular in the region and beyond, and we discovered several winemakers and grape varieties. You can even take a course in oenology, to get closer to know the subject at hand!

You'll also find hidden jewels perched on the mountainside. Little ones and adults head for the Château de Miolans, a spectacular fortress dating from the middle ages. Stroll amid the medieval garden terraces with spectacular views of the valley and the majestic mountains. The castle was once home to one of the haute Savoie's most feared prisons – with a little imagination you can hear the plaintive echoes of the inmates. Activities are organized in the castle ruins (egg hunts at Easter by example). www.chateau-de-miolans.com

The taste of adventure between lake and mountain

The Savoie Mont Blanc region boasts an extraordinary amount of water. With hues of emerald, Lac du Bourget is among the largest natural lakes of glacial origin in France, offering a multitude of activities, such as swimming and water sports, sailing, boat rides, pedal boating or fishing and, of course, the beaches.

Lovers of thrills and discoveries should head for Portes du Soleil and Les Gets station for a mountain bike hike. Every year, the Pass'Portes du Soleil is held, and it is the largest

mountain bike trail in Europe. Between 1,000m and 2,450m altitude, straddling France and Switzerland, the event is a great way to discover a fabulous area. Mountain lovers from about thirty nationalities gather –80 exhibitors with more than 200 brands are present, including free mountain bike tests in Morzine, 15 lifts, eight refreshment points and 80km of mountain bike riding. The courses are suitable for beginners and pros. Don't forget to show a little recklessness!

Savoie gastronomy

On the heights of Bourget-du-Lac, a beautiful gourmet restaurant clings to the mountainside with stunning views of the lake. The Atmosphere restaurant, 1 Michelin star, offers a refined and delicate cuisine with a daily market menu concocted by Chef Alain-Périllat Mercerot and Delphine Pontet. A little tip: some rooms can be rented to prolong the pleasure of this exceptional place.

In another style but equally charming, Château des Allues is located in St. Peter Albigny, in a beautiful park overlooking Belledonne, Chartreuse. With bed and breakfast and charming cottages, the castle offers comfortable suites and rooms, which, depending on the location, offer views of unspoiled nature and an extraordinary garden.

The place is renowned for its organic vegetable garden, cultivated in squares. Fruit, vegetables, herbs and aromatic plants will end up in dishes prepared with loving by the owners. They highlight former and forgotten vegetables and aromatic herbs, with a rich diversity of colours – here, pesticides and other harmful substances are strictly banned. And you can take a workshop to find out more. It really is a magical place, where time stands still for a few hours and where all senses will be awakened.

Practical information and links

Get there by car, train or fly to Geneva airport
Mountain biking: www.passportesdusoleil.com
Accommodation: www.chateaudesallues.com
Gastronomy: www.atmospheres-hotel.com
The region: www.savoie-mont-blanc.com 📍



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Seven unusual wonders of the travel world

Together has trawled Responsible Travel's guide to find some unusual destinations

Responsible Travel is dedicated to small and tailor-made holidays, all screened for their commitment to responsible tourism. Their Unusual Holiday Guide has 850 potential holidays. Their mission is simple: "By their very nature, all holidays are meant to be unusual. They were created out of a relatively modern desire to go in search of 'the other'. Meaning, the quest for something different from

the banality of everyday life. They respond to that desire for a holiday to be a 'dream come true.'"

Here are seven destinations to whet your appetite – next month we'll have another seven for you in case you haven't got round to booking your summer holiday yet.



Cruising in Burma, the Mergui Archipelago

Already off the beaten track, go that little bit further as you explore the wonders of Burma island hopping. Located in the remote southern part of Burma, the Mergui Archipelago is home to some beautiful white-sand beaches. The area receives very few visitors and the islands are largely inaccessible unless you take to the seas and explore the area by luxury yacht – which is exactly what this tour does.



Photo © marocco-camels

Live with a Berber family in the Moroccan Sahara

Experience authentic day-to-day Berber life while helping to provide a sustainable future for the family. Take a camel trek to experience the full contrast of a desert ecosystem, explore the stark lunar landscape of the Black Desert and the romantic towering dunes of the magnificent Erg Chebi where you can watch the shooting stars in the clear night sky.



Archaeology holiday in Greece

This holiday takes you 3,500 years back in time, to the birthplace of science and the great growth of the arts. Visit some of the most important ancient Greek sites, including the Acropolis of Athens and Delphi, and mainly in the area of Peloponnese: ancient Olympia, ancient Epidaurus, Mycenae, Nafplio, Sparta, the hidden monasteries in Loussios gorge and ancient Tegea.

Holiday with Dracula in Romania

We dare you to step into Vlad the Impaler's homeland of Transylvania and discover the culture, the landscapes, the castles and the architecture and local people; on an innovative Dracula tour that includes the Ritual Killing of the Living Dead and accommodation and candle lit dinner in Dracula's Castle!



2017 solar eclipse holiday in the USA

The solar eclipse on 21st August is the obvious highlight of the trip, but with Yellowstone National Park, home to more geysers and geothermal pools than anywhere else on Earth, and lesser known Grand Teton National Park, also on the itinerary, there's a chance it could be overshadowed!



Family volunteering with monkeys, South Africa

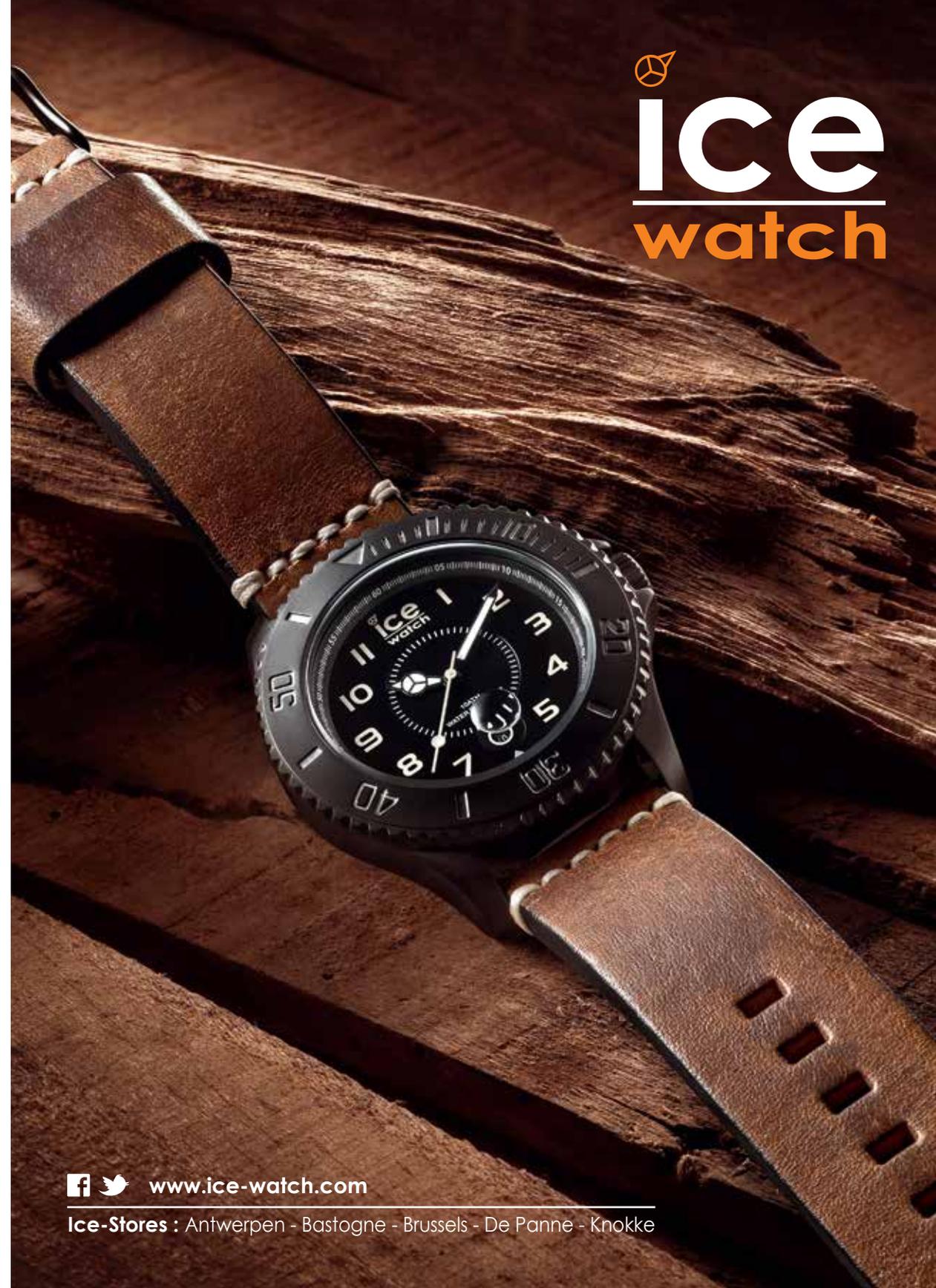
Take your family off the beaten track and into this life changing primate rehabilitation centre. Work hands on with baby monkeys and baboons to help prepare them for life in the wild. Both kids and adults alike love the volunteering, the location and the pace of life in the African bush.

Swimming with dolphins in the Azores

Wearing mask and snorkel, swim in crystal clear waters as you encounter these very curious, playful mammals. Watch their exquisite movements and listen to a symphony of sound as you feel part of their magical world. Suitable for families, with expert guidance provided by fully trained aquatic guides.




ice
watch



Le Domaine de Beronsart

You don't know a country or its people until you've been to its countryside



Nestled in the Belgian countryside is a place that offers a uniquely Belgian experience. Le Domaine de Beronsart is a cosy, idyllic gem in the central Wallonia region of Condroz, 15 minutes from Namur. The owners of this 17th century mill have tastefully restored it, retaining the authentic architecture, to offer it up as a multi-purpose events venue which provides an environment where city dwellers can unwind and play. It is here that business types can come to have company meetings, hold conferences for their clients, or participate in team-building exercises; couples can host their wedding reception or wedding anniversary; and families can attend events organized for children.

Since opening in 2007, the concept of Le Domaine de Beronsart has been to create an ambiance where you feel like you are at your own place, says client relations manager and founder of the business, H el ene Alvarez, who runs it with her partner Daniel Neuret.

"It was set up to be an atmosphere where people feel as natural as they would if they were at home. We really want people to feel welcome because we think to be effective, whether it's a party or a seminar, people have to feel relaxed and at ease in order for it to work."

The location is indeed welcoming: the Samson flows alongside the six hectare property, the greenhouse venue boasts a year-round Mediterranean-style garden which yields fruit and aromatic herbs, and the windmill's



thoughtful, warm interior design act on the spirit like coming home to the smell of freshly baked bread.

"The calm and serenity here is a marriage between the old building, the gardens, the two ponds and the river. The combination of all these elements is what people love about it. The place is magical and they find it very heart-warming and friendly."

At Le Domaine de Beronsart's two main venues – the mill and the greenhouse – visitors can choose their ambiance. The mill is set up in much the same way a house would be (minus the bedrooms): a living room, a dining room, and a bar, but there is also a 42m2 seminar room with all the technological bells and whistles, a 52m2 reception hall and a work space area so that business people can get down to work. It strikes the right balance between the calm 'work from home' feeling ideal to reflect on important company decisions, but with a stimulating environment.

"It's an environment favourable for exchanges and is meant to inspire," Alvarez said.

Indeed, it would be hard not to feel a sense of tranquillity when gathering around a wood stove after an intense meeting, giving a presentation against the backdrop of lush foliage, or riding in a horse-drawn carriage through the woods with your boss as part of a team-building exercise.

At the larger of the two venues, the 700m2 greenhouse accommodates up to 500 people with a standing room capacity or 350 seated, and for larger parties. Le Domaine de Beronsart can install wedding tents, and a bride and groom planning a ceremony have everything they need at their disposal in a wedding package – their choice of six caterers, an exhaustive list of the nearby hotels and cottages, lighting and sound customized to the theme, and even à la carte services like babysitting, coat check and parking attendants. They even provide the name of a wedding dress designer who makes delightful, one-of-a-kind creations with a touch of lace, à la Belgique.

The added bonus is that you have the place to yourselves. There is only one event running at a time so that the staff cater exclusively to you. Activity programs are tailored to clients' needs, desires and budget.

The venue is in operation all year round. The location also lends itself well to activities such as wine tastings, cooking courses, cultural activities and workshops. Alvarez has even hosted events where people camp out on the property in tents, either in the greenhouse or in the yard, where grown-ups have terribly important conversations while sitting around a camp fire in their pyjamas and slippers, as if revisiting their Scouts days.

A little over an hour's drive from Brussels and about an hour and a half from Luxembourg City, Le Domaine de Beronsart has engendered a reason to leave the city because it's luxurious haven providing people with a fun, bucolic location to host events while at the same time offering a chance to get in touch with nature, so they can let loose.

Le Domaine de Beronsart
H el ene Alvarez et Daniel Neuret
rue des Carri eres, 7
B-5340 Gesves
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www.domainedeberonsart.be



DNY Restaurant

Colin Moors heads for the Terhills

I'm sure regular readers of *Together* will have heard about the country's finest outlet shopping village in the border town of Maasmechelen. You'll be pleased to hear, then, that there's a new place to rest your weary legs and indulge yourself yet further after a hard day's retail therapy.

The Terhills hotel has only been open for less than three months but the reputation and the inclusion of a ready-made, Michelin-starred restaurant have seen guest numbers building steadily. If you're planning a pre-season shopping trip, or even a pre-Christmas one, you'd do well to book now – it's going to fill up fast when the word gets out.

Terhills is a little different from usual hotels but not in an attempt to be terribly hip, nor as a money saving exercise. Opting for a policy of understated service and comfort, the focus is on keeping the customer satisfied. We walked into the main entrance and headed straight for reception. There wasn't one. However, within seconds one of the hotel staff was there. He took our names, showed us to the tastefully designed waiting area and offered us a glass of Cava, which we thought would be rude to refuse. Our keys were ready around a minute later and we were told to take as long as we liked finishing our bubbles.

The room was bright and airy, fitted to a very good standard and the bed was a good size and comfortable. The rainfall shower is something you'll be reluctant to get out of once you're in – another touch of simple luxury.

The restaurant represents not only a bold move by Michelin-starred chef Danny Vanderhoven but a life-changing decision. He decided to run the DNY Restaurant in the Terhills as a separate venture but as the popularity of the restaurant increased with clients from the hotel and



outside, he took the decision to focus entirely on bringing his (and his wife Ineke's) brand of Michelin-starred food, casual yet exemplary service and dare I say it, fun, to the hotel exclusively, closing the doors on his own place.

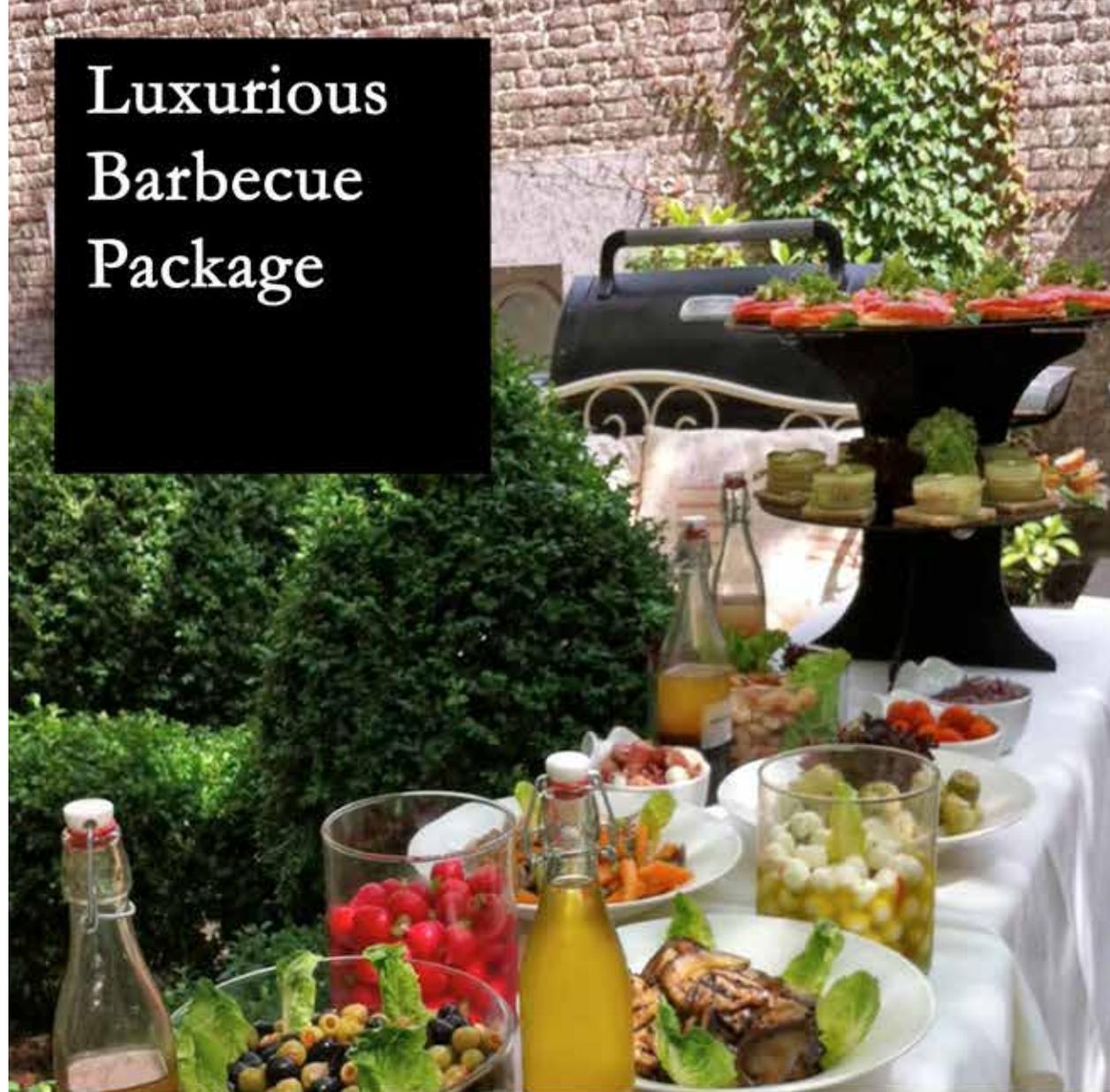
If the food is anything to go by, they made the right decision to bring it to a bigger audience. While all the dishes we tried were superb, the opener, a veal carpaccio with crab meat, cucumber and green apple sauce was not only the best meal of the evening but quite honestly one of the best plates I've eaten this year.

So, in the space of a square kilometre, you have a wonderful hotel, a sublime restaurant and designer shopping. In case that wasn't enough, try a walk around some of the pre-prepared routes in the 5,000 hectares of the Hoge Kempen National Park, situated right next door to the hotel.

Maasmechelen is a classic example of old mining village reborn. Go and unearth some of its pleasures for yourself.

www.terhillshotel.com

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Wine of the month: Portugal

Geoffroy van Lede of vin du mois continues his journey in the southern European countries and discovers an unjustly neglected wine area

Of course, we all know the Porto (first AOC created) and Madeira but behind these two leaders there are many appellations of great quality in the vineyards of the seventh top wine producer in the world.

Regions

The Portuguese vineyard can be divided into two large areas, each with its own climatic influence: continental and Mediterranean for the south and Atlantic for the north, with 15 AOCs. So you will find wines with a good variety and from a multitude of grapes. The best known grape varieties are Touriga National, Tinta Pinheira, Tinta Roriz and vinhao for red wines and Loureiro, the Trajadura and the Arinto Malvasia for white wines.

The wines

White wine: the Vinho Verde represents 20-30% of domestic wine volume. The vinho verde is the only white wine that truly crosses borders. Literally 'green wine', the vinho verde charms by its bright side and by the fact that it is slightly sparkling, going perfectly with local dishes.

The red wines of Portugal are mainly from the Dao, Douro and Alentejo regions. They are powerful, tannic with fairly high alcohol content. We can compare them with the wines of the Rhône and the south west of France.

Our selection

Vinho Verde " Grande Escolha " 2013



Photo © Bernard bills

Quinta de Gomariz (€9.50)

The color of this wine is yellow gold, with aromas of exotic and yellow fruits on the nose. In the first mouth, this wine is lively and fresh. You find the slight sparkling from wines of the region. Before its mineral final note, we detect notes of citrus and white flower. This goes perfectly pair with cod and vegetables.

Lybra (Syrah) 2013 Quinta do Monte d' Oiro (€10.50)

This wine has a beautiful cherry red color. It is bright and has a nice depth. On the nose it is woody, peppery (green and black) with red fruit notes. Its palate is fruity, round and well-balanced. Pair it with a roast veal or Iberico pork.

Find these wines and our subscription concept on our site www.le-vin-du-mois.be or call 0498 586 545. 

What's on

What's on Belgium



International athletics meeting JOKER PLUS

The 29th edition of the international athletics meeting JOKER PLUS of Nivelles will take place at the end of June, allows athletes to participate in the world senior championship and in the European juniors championship. The meeting will take place on a renovated synthetic track.

Last year more than 300 athletes attended this international meeting, representing 35 different countries. **June 27.** Nivelles.

Ticket: **€7**

www.cabw.be/Meeting

Paradise City

The festival's baseline is green, indie and electronic music and fine cuisine, an environmentally friendly event that mixes good music with refined festival food.

The organizers' goal is to create a positive buzz about sustainable innovations in a fun and relaxing setting.

The first artists that have been confirmed are a mix of live acts and DJs: Kölsch, Art Department, Tout Va Bien, Flight Facilities, Aeroplane, Monkey Safari, Hydrogen Sea and Robag Wruhme. **4-5 July.** Perk, next to the Castle of Ribaucourt. According to the website: "Visitors of Paradise City don't just buy a ticket, they become citizens of the City of the future. Every visitor of this first edition will get a Green Card instead of an entrance ticket. These first settlers will always get priority in the following editions." Green Cards from **€80**
www.paradisecity.be.



The Belgians: An Unexpected Fashion Story

BOZAR and MAD Brussels are presenting the major fashion exhibition about the rise and success of Belgian fashion designers. The exhibition takes a closer look at the DNA of Belgian fashion and sheds light on the work of around 100 designers, from the first pioneers to the new generation of today. **5 June – 13 September.** Tickets from **€12**
www.bozar.be



Summer of Fashion

This summer BOZAR is also joining forces with MAD Brussels to organize the Summer of Fashion festival in a variety of locations in Brussels. Visitors can go on a fashion walk that has been specially mapped out from Rue Dansaert to the Brussels fashion school La Cambre.

In the course of the walk they will discover numerous surprising installations by Belgian fashion designers. - www.bozar.be

Together Golf Day

Together Magazine's 6th annual Golf Tournament is set once more for a great day out at the beautiful Golf de Pierpont, located just 30 minutes south of Brussels city centre. There are watches, golf clubs and champagne to be won. Golf initiation is always very popular with beginners. For Together readers there is a special price of €50. If you are interested send an email to david@togethermedia.eu. **Saturday 4 July**



What's on



Rubens In Private –The Master portrays his family

Even though Rubens is said to have disliked painting portraits with a passion, and painting portraits was not highly regarded in art theory either, Rubens is one of best portraitists of his time. His finest and most intimate portraits are undoubtedly those of his relatives: both his wives, Isabella who died young and beautiful Helena, his children, from Clara-Serena's mischievous head to the life-sized portraits of lanky Nicolaas and Albert. He also painted his sisters-in law and brothers-in-law. TFor the first time, these amazing works are exhibited together. **Until 28 June.** The Rubens House. www.rubenshuis.be



Laundry Day

With 65.000 visitors, Laundry Day claims its spot between Belgium's biggest festivals. Laundry Day traditionally takes place on the first Saturday of September and celebrates its 18th birthday in 2015. The lineup combines national and international artists from the world of electronic dance music. **5 September.** De Middenvijver, Antwerp. Tickets from **€38** www.laundryday.be



Summerfestival 2015

Since 2009, Summerfestival has been organized as summer starts. Young people celebrate the end of the exams and the start of the summer vacation to the sunny beats of Belgian and international DJ acts. The main assets of this annual dance festival are the line-up with leading artists and the appeal of Antwerp. **4- 5 July.** De Middenvijver, Antwerp. Tickets from **€48** www.summerfestival.be

Photo © Jan Krickle



Jazz Middelheim

The Jazz Middelheim festival is a fixture on the national and international jazz scene. In August Antwerp's beautiful Den Brandt Park becomes the meeting place for a wide audience that appreciates good jazz. The place to be if you enjoy music in a pleasant atmosphere. The splendid location is thrown in as a little extra. **13-16 August.** Tickets from **€29** www.jazzmiddelheim.be

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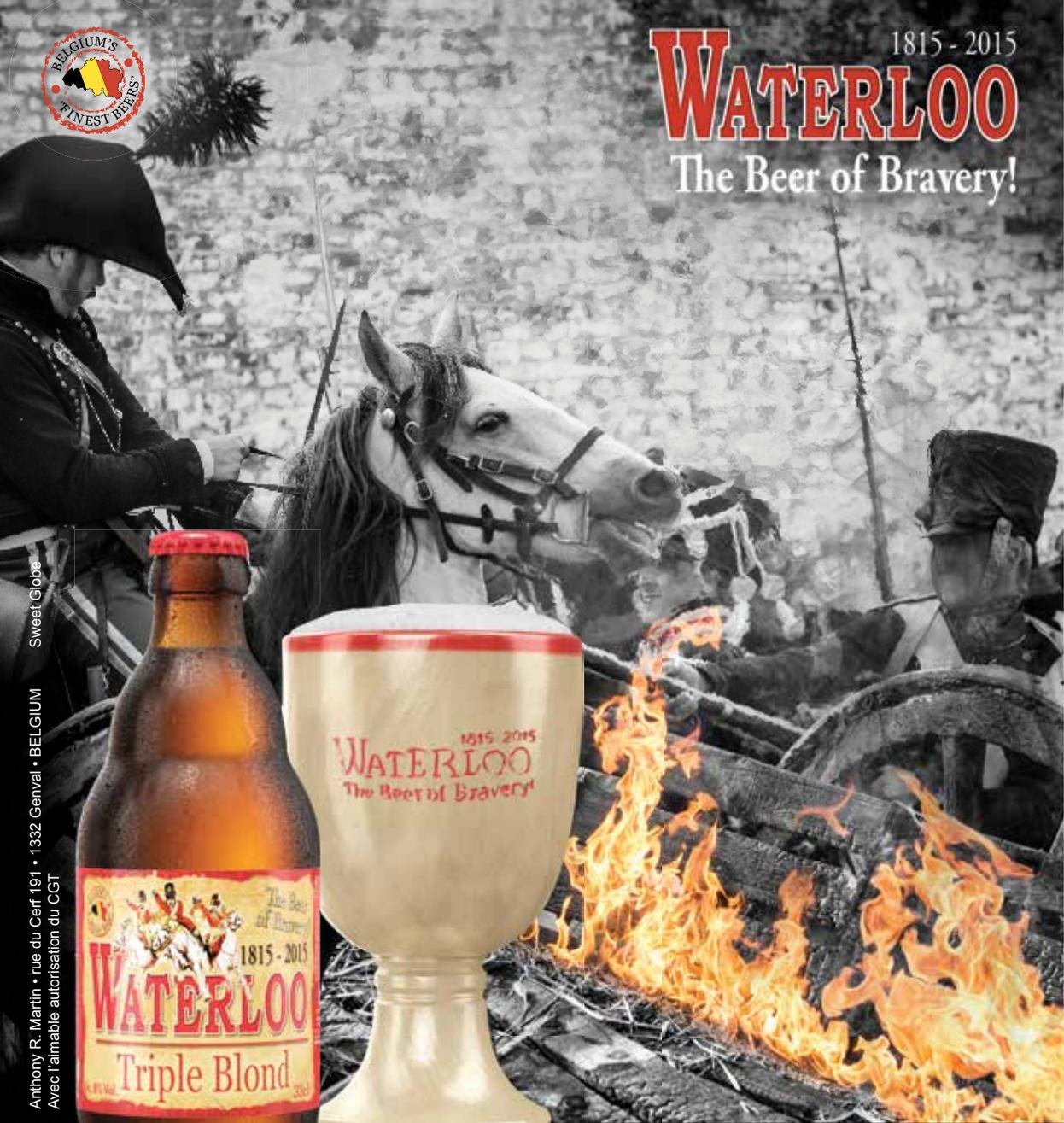
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LIFE OF
LEISURE

What's on

Summer magic in Wallonia

Together offers just some of the activities and festivals in Wallonia

The sun has finally shown its face again and the Wallonia region once more offers a multitude of activities for this summer, with music festivals, live unique experiences, major events and summer activities.

Music in the heart of the summer, the most famous discoveries

Have a great time discovering a musical journey through time in Wallonian cities. From classic to contemporary, you will find them all. At the Musical Festival of Namur (re)discover the city to the rhythm of 10 prestigious concerts, with 200 musicians (July 2-11).

Don't miss the Esperanzah Festival. Music, film, street art – so many ways in which artists can express themselves while showing acts of resistance to denounce injustice or describe their journeys off the beaten track. (31 July, 1 & 2 August) Floreffe Abbey. www.esperanzah.be

In another style, choir and chamber music will entertain the public during the Festival of Stavelot (2-15 August), an event with a very special atmosphere.

On the must-see list is the Dour Festival, the biggest music and tourism event in francophone Belgium, a huge party where thousands of festival-goers discover a varied programme of international acts (15-19 July).

Les Ardentes in Liège offers four days of madness – a careful selection of Belgian and international artists will get festival-goers on their feet, to the sound of rock, folk, house, soul, hip-hop and chanson française (9-12 July).

Les Francofolies, with mostly francophone artists, is another festival that gets people up to dance. It has been held in the city of SPA since 1994. This year sees an exceptional series of gigs, including Sharko and Christophe Willem. Mark it in your diary: 17-20 July.

Photo © Gerald Feret



What's on

“ A UNIQUE FESTIVAL FULL OF IMAGINATION, WHERE STORYTELLERS TAKE YOU BEYOND YOUR DREAMS ”

In a completely different style, a unique festival full of imagination, where storytellers take you beyond your dreams, takes place in Chiny, a small village nestled in the heart of the Semois, where surprises and activities are offered to children and adults. The Intercultural Storytelling Festival of Chiny runs between 10-12 July.

Regulars will already have snapped up their tickets, so if this is your first time visiting the region in festival season book now.

Summer activities and events

Enjoy a day with family or friends in the region's recreational parks by exploring, getting around or swimming. Le Domaine Provincial de Chevetogne offers a variety of activities and entertainment: walks, themed playgrounds, outdoor pool and an unusual museum, Nature Extraordinary Museum, which interprets nature. Thrill seekers should head for Walibi in Wavre or Plopsa Coo.



Some must-see events

Villers-la-Ville is a town that has big plans this summer: first, The Night of The Choirs at the Abbey of Villers-la-Ville, a night-time journey in a majestic site for a concert-walk with internationally renowned vocal groups. The night ends with a spectacular fireworks display (28-29 August).

And then there are the theatre pieces which take place in the ruins of the Abbey, with an atmosphere as if it is from another time. The next performance is a well-known play by Molière, *Le Malade Imaginaire*. www.deldiffusion.be

It's always ready, steady, go at the Spa Francorchamps circuit. The Grand Prix takes place at the end of August. Check the calendar on their website: www.spagrandprix.com.

Wallonia promises a magical summer of discoveries, laughter and emotions.

www.tourismewallonie.be

Photo © CGT - A. Kouprianoff



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TOURISM

Double the wellness

Together takes a look at two exclusive health and wellness centres in the orbit of Brussels.

Thermae Grimbergen

For sisters Tine and Joke Vanderzijpen, their father's dream became their own. Around 20 years ago, when the Thermae project began, there were in fact very few wellness centres to be found in Belgium: "I see my father, my sister and me as being among the pioneers of wellness in this country," explains owner-manager Tine.

"Plus, for my father, it was all about finding the perfect location – and, for Thermae Boetfort, he certainly did that, with a 400-year-old castle in Melsbroek, but that came later, five years ago to be precise. Thermae Grimbergen was our first, and we can now look back on 18 years' experience of providing what we believe to be the very best massage, beauty and all-over body care that money can buy."

According to Tine, Thermae Grimbergen is located in a superb, early 20th-century manor house. Here, there are saunas, jacuzzis and steam baths to be enjoyed, both in swimsuits or in the nude, and all may be combined with a relaxing massage or an invigorating body treatment.

"We encourage our guests to stay overnight or longer at our hotel – why not make a beneficial wellness weekend of it?" says Tine.

And the accommodation would certainly appear set up to put body and mind at rest – the Thermae Grimbergen Hotel offers four types of rooms (Budget, Classic, Superior and Deluxe) and the breakfast room, all situated a stone's throw from Thermae Grimbergen.

And Grimbergen itself is a pretty village near



Photos © Luc Viatour

Brussels, not far away from Zaventem Airport (12 km), EXPO Brussels at Heysel (7 km), and only at a few kilometres of the A12 and the Brussels Ring.

"Thermae Grimbergen has 18 years of experience in wellness and related packages," Tine explains. "Day after day, our professional staff are ready to give you various facial treatments and a great diversity of massages, from a short back or foot massage to an extensive body massage or even special massages such as a bamboo or herbal stamp. Thermae Grimbergen is an oasis of relaxation and has all the necessary facilities to pamper you to the full. Make sure you look at our packages for a bargain package! For all our treatments we use only high-quality products from the Sirène range, a line of products which have been made exclusively for Thermae.com and are on sale only in our centres or via the web shop."



Thermae Boetfort

"You would not believe the work we had to do to get a 400-year-old castle into shape as a wellness centre, but it was worth every effort," says Tine proudly.

And that's just where Thermae Boetfort is located – it's a historical wellness centre in a 400-year-old castle estate.

As with Grimbergen, the options are there for you to enjoy yourself for a few hours or several days, and combine public saunas (again, nude or swimsuit, as you prefer) with a beneficial massage. Boetfort also offers Classic, Superior and Deluxe rooms, with Classic to be found in a new building, while the Superior and Deluxe are within the castle walls in the original outbuildings.

"All our rooms were fully restored with respect for their history; here, you can imagine yourself

as the mistress or master of the manor!" laughs Tine. "You can even go and perspire in the castle's old ice-house!"

"Of course all our rooms avail of the necessary, modern facilities to guarantee you a dream stay and both business clients and leisure guests are welcome. What we wanted to achieve was a locale that was as far removed from industry, or factories or retail environments as possible, and I think that is exactly what we have achieved here!"

Thermae Grimbergen
74 Wolvertemsesteenweg - Grimbergen B-1850
Tel: 02 270 8196
www.thermae.com/grimbergen

Thermae Hotel Boetfort
42 Sellaerstraat - Melsbroek B-1820
Tel: 02 759 8196
www.thermae.com/boetfort/en/home

Abarth with



What's On Cinema



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

Jurassic World

Well, it's all aboard for the first big blockbuster of 2015 – set 22 years after the events of Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* (1993), chapter the fourth sees Isla Nublar as a fully functioning dinosaur theme park, as was originally envisioned by its creator John Hammond. Owen Grady (Chris Pratt), a member of the park's on-site staff, conducts behavioural research on a group of velociraptors, which really doesn't sound like a very good idea. And neither does the creation, by the park's geneticists, of a hybrid dinosaur known as Indominus Rex to boost visitor attendance. Claire Dearing (Bryce Dallas Howard) is the park's operations manager and her nephews, Zach (Nick Robinson) and Gray (Ty Simpkins), are visiting the island when the hybrid escapes and goes on the rampage. Uh, oh. Spielberg is not involved at all this time around, by the looks of things, apart from it being released through his Amblin Entertainment. I wonder if he will be missed? *124 mins.*

Poltergeist

Another one that Spielberg had a hand in its original version, back in 1982 – he was its producer and, it is rumoured, semi-director along with Tobe Hooper (*The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (1974)). The new *Poltergeist* is in 3D (grrrrr), is directed by Gil Kenan, written by David Lindsay-Abaire and produced by Sam Raimi. Sam Rockwell, Rosemarie DeWitt, Jared Harris and Jane Adams are set to star, and advance word is that it's pretty scary. So that's something then. *93 mins.*

Mr. Holmes

It's 1947, and the long-retired Sherlock Holmes (Sir Ian McKellen), aged 93, lives in a remote Sussex farmhouse with his housekeeper, Mrs. Munro, and her young son, Roger. Holmes reflects on his life while writing in his journals, tending to his bees and dealing with the deterioration of his once incredible mind. As Orson Welles once famously said of Conan Doyle's amazing character: "He's the man that never lived, and will never die." One hopes, believes, that this will provide a poignant and intriguing epitaph. Bill Condon (*Gods and Monsters* (1998)) directs, from Mitch Cullin's 2005 novel *A Slight Trick of the Mind*. *104 mins.*

www.picturenose.com

Zurich

After her partner and great love Boris dies, Nina (Wende Snijders) discovers that he led a double life. Sacha Polak directs this road movie about Nina struggling with her feelings, when she discovers an almost unforgivable deed on the part of Boris and hits the road. *89 mins.*

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What's on

What's On International



Innsbruck Summer Dance

Austria's biggest dance festival takes place every summer and encompasses modern dance performances as well as workshops for adults and children. The festival has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 1995. Some of the world's most famous dance companies have participated and renowned musicals such as STOMP have featured in previous years. Over 30,000 visitors attend the festival each year. June and July. Dogana Congress, Innsbruck. Tickets: check the website www.tanzsommer.at



Trailerpark Festival

Every year in August, Copenhagen Skatepark arranges the three-day Trailerpark Festival which presents a programme of music, art and performances. 30 July to 30 August. The website says: "Trailerpark offers more than 40 live concerts, a stage dedicated to kick ass DJ's, and a festival area unlike anywhere else. This is all topped off with old trailers transformed into otherworldly hangout places, outstanding scenography, a live art gallery and the sweetest and sexiest community." Tickets: DKK 225. - www.trailerparkfestival.com



Aarhus Jazz Festival

Aarhus Jazz Festival has been an annual summer event in the city since 1989. The festival is bent on featuring new talents in jazz as well as both local and international stars. From the beginning, the festival has featured many notable and world-renowned international jazz stars and bands such as Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie and Herbie Hancock. Check website for ticket and gig info. - www.jazzfest.dk



Photo © Christian Michalides

The Salzburg Festival

The Salzburg Festival (German: Salzburger Festspiele) is a prominent festival of music and drama established in 1920. It is held each summer (for five weeks starting in late July) within the Austrian town of Salzburg, the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. One highlight is the annual performance on the steps of Cathedral Square of the Everyman (Jedermann) dramatization by Hugo von Hofmannsthal. 18 July to 30 August. Tickets: check the website - www.salzburgerfestspiele.at

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