MAY 2014 #48

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#### So Jennie : le luxe et l'élégance

Naturelle et sans alcool: levez votre coupe en toute liberté!

'So Jennie' est le fruit d'une recette issue d'un savoir-faire de vignerons traditionnels: pour créer ce nectar, Jennie Kergoat-Ruelland fondatrice du Manoir des Sacres, a été accompagnée dans sa recherche par un professeur d'œnologie et d'industrie alimentaire: plus d'un an de travail a été nécessaire pour finaliser cette première série de Luxury Bubbles Alcohol Free à son nom.

Le choix méticuleux des raisins blancs et rouges dans des cépages comme le Gamay, le Chardonnay, le Muscat, apporte subtilité à ce mélange et donne cette délicate couleur 'rosé'. En bouche, une extrême fraîcheur et une explosion de mousse fine pour ce nectar à la robe rosé pâle aux reflets argentés.

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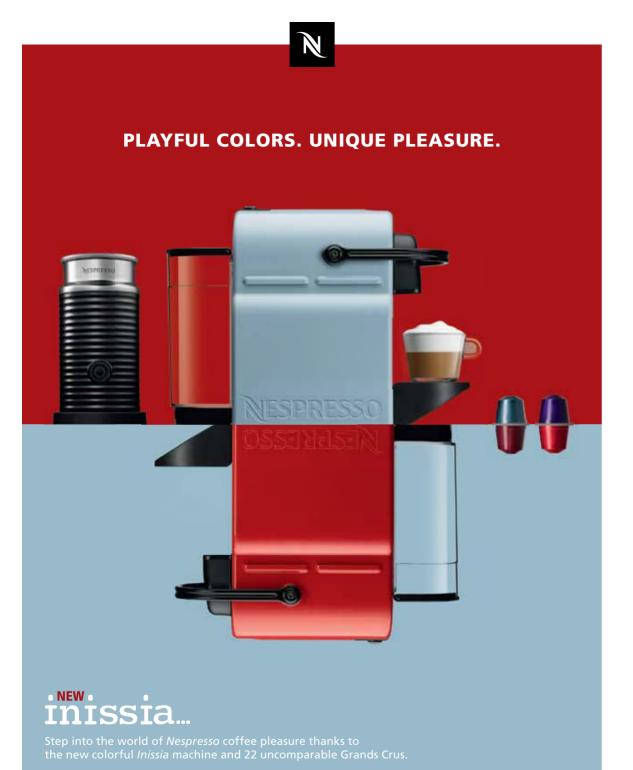
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#### NESPRESSO. What else?

#### **SMELL THE COFFEE**

#### Editor's LETTER

Together: Inspiring you to reach your dreams...

#### ON THE COVER



Angelina Jolie talks about joining the Disney family

There has been an explosion of new professional mentors over the last couple of decades. It's no longer the protected realm of the golf and tennis pro, or indeed the family doctor and the pricey psychiatrist. It goes without saying that you need to check the credentials of anyone offering life-changing advice – referrals from friends, colleagues and family can make the choice easier before you entrust your inner-most feelings to a complete stranger.

These coaches can get you out and about to jog the streets, or send you indoors to salsa classes that encourage you to shimmy your way through the night. They can improve your performance at work and after work as you learn extra socializing skills out there in the big bad world of work. They can even help you reach deep inside yourself to find seams of talent you thought you never had.

There's an expression "it takes a village to raise a child", and these dedicated individuals can be an important cog in your personal development. However, remember that village? It's just as important to surround yourself with friends and family and colleagues whose opinions you hold dear: they are the foundation that you can always return to. With a balance of that traditional bedrock and these new gurus, you can find both inner peace and the energy required to cope with a world that appears to be spinning faster than is astronomically and physically impossible.

Gautama Buddha – surely the original guru - once sat under a pipal tree and vowed never to arise until he had found the truth. Buddha means 'awakened one', and sometimes the simplest advice is the best - although there is no hard evidence that he ever said "awake and smell the coffee".

#### **Paul Morris**

**EDITOR** 









75 Travel: The thrills of the roadster



50 The Appearance: Our latest fashion shoot

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## Together online











#### 3/ Mauritius, then heaven: Soaking up the Shandrani Resort and Spa

Mauritius, part of the Mascarene Islands, lies in the Indian Ocean about 2,000 kilometres off the southeast coast of the Africa...

#### 1/ Obama fever grips the Belgian capital

American President's whirlwind visit to Belgium could not have been more timely as the Crimea crisis rumbles on...

#### 2/ Maurice Lacroix: Making time for authenticity

The world of luxury watchmaking is, by necessity, dominated by the microscopic work of craftsmen and women...

#### 4/ The state of health

Annually, the World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates World Health Day on 7 April...

#### 5/ Cirque du Soleil: Singing and dreaming

It's back and promises to be better than ever. Yes, Quidam, the latest Cirque du Soleil creation is set to hit town...



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## Starring in Belgium



#### **History of The Eagles live in concert**

The Eagles - Glenn Frey, Don Henley, Joe Walsh and Timothy B. Schimt – are back on stage with their classics, some of which have never been played live. The show is inspired by the remarkable documentary History of The Eagles. Sportpaleis, Antwerp. 25 May. Tickets from €59

#### **Paul Weller**

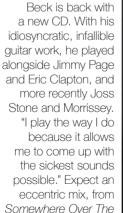
Paul Weller was the founder and figurehead of The Jam and The Style Council, legendary groups that have marked the history of rock music. He has built his popularity on music with many influences (often political), producing unforgettable tracks such as Going Underground, A Town Called Malice, Start and That's Entertainment, Ancienne Belgique, 9 June, Tickets from €36 www.abconcerts.be





#### Liz Green

Mancunian Green is a winner of the 'Glastonbury Festival Emerging Talent' prize. Her first album O Devotion was extremely well received. and her new collection is called Haul Away. This visit to Huis 23 will be solo, but the result will be "eccentric and magical", according to The Guardian. Huis 23, Brussels. 2 June. Admittance is free of charge but seats are limited. reservationshuis23@abconcerts.be (with 'Green' in the subject title) www.abconcerts.be



**Jeff Beck** 

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A Day In The Life. Ancienne Belgique. 26 May Tickets: €30 www.abconcerts.be





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## The joys of urban cycling

Anco Wiibinga, well-being manager at Aspria, offers up tips on cycling around town

owns are becoming more and more congested with cars, but cycling offers a relatively cheap and practical alternative.

Cycling in town often gets you where you want to be faster than driving. You won't be held up by traffic jams, and finding parking space is no longer a burning

> to the car. You don't burn gas or fuel, instead you burn calories, which will help you maintain or improve your physical

fitness.

#### Choose your bike

The type of bike you choose depends on the use you want to make of it, the distance you have to ride, whether you have to transport luggage etc. If you are a serious rider you may want to invest in a good bike. If you want to use it only for commuting a second hand bike may be all you need.

A racing bike is suitable if you have to do a fairly long distance - if the average road conditions are good and if you want to cycle fast. The gears on a racing bike allow you to take on hilly roads as well as flat ones. A racing bike, however, is not built to be comfortable.

Although you sit up high on your bike, the 'racing' position may not give you the best view of traffic. The narrow handlebars give you less control during slower manoeuvres.



Fitness

An **all-terrain bike** (ATB) has a larger handle bar, allows a slightly more upright position and may give you a better position to ride in the city traffic. It normally has more gears than on a racing bike and will allow you to climb even steep roads more easily. Full all-terrain tyres are not needed if you use your bike mainly for road use. Tyres with a mixed profile and slicks (no profile at all) can significantly improve the ride on the road.

A hybrid bike offers the best of both worlds, boasting the wheel size of a racing bike and slightly fatter tyres, usually with a road-adapted profile, allowing you to ride somewhat faster than on an ATB. On the other hand, the riding position is high like the racing bike, but somewhat more upright, making it more comfortable and allowing you a better view of the road. The handle bars are comparable to an ATB, large and allowing a lot of control, even at lower speeds. Also, the gears are comparable to an all-terrain bike, allowing you to climb the steeper roads more easily.

On all three types of bikes it is possible to mount fenders (to protect you against water and mud), luggage racks and lights.

A 'fixie' (fixed-gear bicycle) is a trendy vehicle, associated with the urban cycling in -crowd, but it is probably not the best choice if you want a versatile bike. This type of bike is suitable for experienced cyclists only. A fixie is based on a track racing bike, has a fixed rear chain wheel (like on a spinning bike, hence the name fixie), only one gear and only an emergency front brake. Fixies are often built from exotic bike parts and are usually custom-made (though recently several manufacturers offer new, great looking fixies). A fixie requires leg power (no gears), control (no brakes) and excellent anticipation in traffic. Fenders and luggage possibilities are not taken into account.

The **single speed bike** is also a very trendy, but safer alternative to the fixie. These bikes are similar to fixies. It has only one gear but boasts freewheel and brakes, requiring leg power and cycling skills – those brakes and freewheel make it less of a specialist bike than the fixie.



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#### Ride safely

Take care of your bike and make sure it is in a good working condition. The brakes have to function well, and wheels need to be well fixed, undamaged and mounted with the right tyres. Inflate your tyres at the correct pressure. Be visible by wearing a fluorescent vest over your normal clothes, and if you carry a rucksack, put a fluorescent cover over it.

Fluorescent arm and ankle straps increase your visibility, too. It's true that you may sometimes look like a Christmas tree, but better that than being struck by a car.

When you ride when it is dark and/or in conditions with only limited visibility such as rain or fog, make sure that lights on your bike are working properly.

Remember that you are not surrounded by a protective cage, so respect the traffic rules and be aware of what happens around you.

#### Protective gear

Wear a crash helmet. Bike helmets have evolved enormously. Nowadays, they are light, well vented and often easy to adapt to the size of your head.

Glasses protect your eyes from sunlight, dust and insects. Specific glasses for cycling (and other sports) surround your face and usually sit slightly above eyebrow level, protecting your eyes when you are slightly bent over. The lenses of sports glasses are often interchangeable, useful when you ride in foggy conditions.

#### PERSONAL

DEVEL OPMENT

Fitnace

#### Protect your bike

Make sure if you have a good bike that you can keep it indoors, and, even then, make sure to put a good lock on it. It's best to pass the chain or lock through the front wheel and frame and then attach it to something (traffic sign, tree etc). Avoid cheap cable locks and number code locks, since they are easy to break. The best locks are U locks, or big solid chains with a good lock. It will add weight to your bike, but that's better than having a weightless bike because it was stolen.

#### Traffic behaviour

Claim your place in the traffic. Don't ride too close to the sidewalks – be where car drivers are able to see you. Also, keep a safe distance from parked cars in order not to be surprised by doors that are suddenly opened by careless drivers.

When you are on a bicycle path, make sure car drivers have noticed you when they take a turn. They may not have seen you if many parked cars are placed between the driving lane and the cycle path. If you are sufficiently confident, it may sometimes be a better idea not to take to the cycle path, but ride visibly on the main road When you take a turn, look behind you, indicate with your arm which direction you go, look behind again and then turn.

To sum up: If you have the right material and adopt the correct behaviour on the road, you will find that cycling is a very good option for commuting in town. Brussels is not particularly flat, so for those who want to start easily or simply hate cycling uphill, take your bike with you in trams and metros at certain hours and cycle only on the flat and downhill. But, whatever the bike or wherever you ride, enjoy!

"A HYBRID BIKE
OFFERS
THE BEST OF
BOTH WORLDS"

## Getting comfortable with discomfort



am a bit of a self-help junkie. I read books on personal development, well-being, job hunting and dating. Titles such as The Antidote: Happiness for People Who Can't Stand Positive Thinking, Feel the Fear and Do It Any Way, The Jane Austen Guide to Dating, What Colour is Your Parachute' and F\*\*k It: The Ultimate Spiritual Way fill my bookshelves.

I get very involved in these books. I attack the exercises in them with gusto. I've identified the petals of The Flower: a picture of my dream job; I've set my ten standards for the ideal

relationship; I am an Elizabeth Bennett suitable to a number of Mr Darcys, Mr Bingleys or Henry Tilneys; I repeat mantras such as "ships are safe in the harbour but that is not what ships are made for" and most of the time I just say "f\*\*k it".

These books have helped or continue to help me get out of my comfort zone, to start conversations with strangers, to say, "Yes",, to ask more questions, to let go of the cares, to accept insecurity and to (hopefully) tell the difference between a man who is a keeper and



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#### PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Self-Help

one who isn't. The first flush of improving oneself is exciting. My adrenaline is pumping, I feel invincible. It's like I've unlocked the secret to the Universe.

And then rolls in the discomfort. What I've noticed is that I'm good at the getting out of my comfort zone bit for a while, but I am less good at staying there. We are constantly bombarded with messages to "try new things", "meet new people", "go on adventures", "change our lives", but I tend to find the follow-up is not so effective. These messages don't really tell us how to navigate the waters of conflicts, failure and vulnerability. Even if you change your life, you will always face discomfort.

Moving out of a flat share into my own apartment was probably my ultimate getting out of my comfort zone example. It was euphoric to think that I could live in complete freedom. But then I had to live with the discomfort of poor insulation and disrupted sleep as a result of the noise from my upstairs neighbours. Meeting new people rejuvenated my social life, but then I found myself attracted to people whose belief systems strongly opposed mine, or being disappointed by rejection. Exploring a foreign city on my own satisfied my thirst for something new but then came the sadness of doing it alone.

The discomfort that comes with life not going as planned is part of living the life that we desire. It's easy to try new things, but it's hard to sustain them especially when we reach an impasse. We can't bear the noise anymore, we find ourselves angered by another person's point of view, or we are on top of the Empire State building, alone. We instinctively think that the safer option is better for us: move out of the apartment; stop engaging in the conversation; vow never to go on holiday on our own again.

Buddhism believes in the idea that we are all one; that there is no separation between us as individuals and us and the Earth. The 'I' is just an illusion. Perhaps appreciating that we are connected in some way forces us to try harder with one another, our environment and with ourselves. When we are confronted with

discomfort, we need to use the virtues of tolerance, compromise, empathy and civility to cushion our journey through it. But we must go through it. And, most importantly, we have to recognize that this discomfort is part of living the good life. The vegan and the meat-eater can have a valuable and sustainable exchange of views; neighbours can respect each other's privacy, space and lifestyle; the lonely traveller can feel proud that she is pursuing her dream.

One book that also sits on my bookshelf is A.C. Grayling's *The Meaning of Things: Applying Philosophy to Life.* When it comes to perseverance, he writes: "All goes swimmingly; then suddenly one seems to regress, to lose what advance has been made. At this point most people give up. But if they were to persist they would find that each dip is followed by a higher rise, and the overall pattern is upward and onward, making true the Latin motto, Per ardua ad astra. "

It's natural to feel uncomfortable when trying something new or having to deal with the unexpected. Even if we cannot get comfortable with it, we can at least keep going and let it pass through us. We will end up somewhere new, and possibly with the stars. •

"IT'S NATURAL
TO FEEL
UNCOMFORTABLE
WHEN TRYING
SOMETHING
NEW"









Health

## Health: Pressure versus stress

**Tom Meyers** seeks out the differences between pressure and stress

"INSUFFICIENT
PRESSURE, ON
THE OTHER
HAND, ISN'T
WITHOUT
CONSEQUENCE,
EITHER"

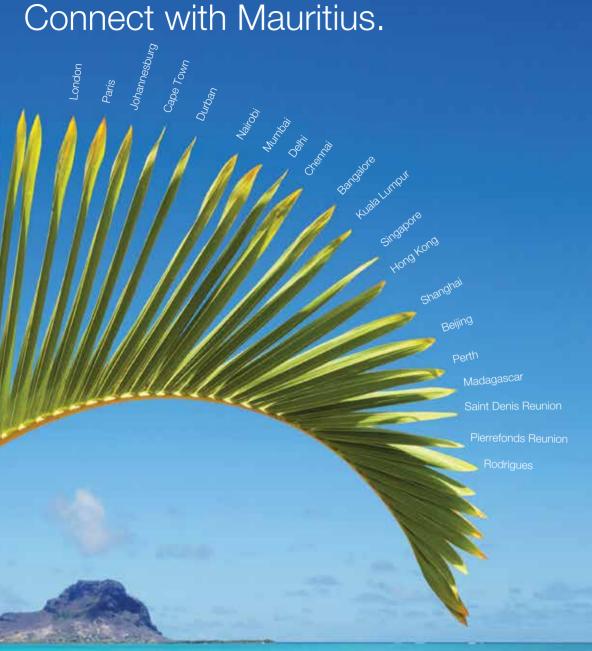
ressure and stress are words that are often used interchangeable, but what is the difference?

THE OTHER

Pressure is the feeling of urgency caused by the necessity of doing or achieving something, especially when there is a limited time frame such as a deadline.

Pressure can also be a force that you or others apply, motivating you to achieve your goals, pass exams or help you to perform better. We're hard-wired for pressure as it encourages us to continually grow and push our boundaries. Sometimes the term 'positive stress' is used to describe pressure.

However, pressure doesn't always lead to a positive outcome. Some forms of pressure can have the opposite effect of what was intended – they can demotivate, making you weak when you need to be strong or decreasing your performance. For example, you can feel the negative side of pressure when you unexpectedly have to give a presentation but you really don't like speaking in front of an audience. Another example could be when you're asked to perform a certain task but you don't have the skills or knowledge or just not enough time in which to do it.



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#### PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Health



This type of oppressive pressure, as well as too much unwavering pressure without time to recover, leads to stress and sometimes disease: flu-like symptoms, muscle pain. stomach ulcers, difficulty concentrating, memory loss, depression and burnout. Insufficient pressure on the other hand isn't without consequence either. Lack of pressure or challenges at work can lead to 'boreout' and not because the person is lazv.

Boreout is when there is not enough stimulus - there's not enough pressure, leading to lack of drive, inability to enjoy life, fatigue, underperformance and also stress.

On the other hand, when used to describe a subjective feeling, we experience stress when the demands put on us outweigh our ability to cope with them. Stress is regulated on a biological level by the stress response. Stress is often described as the 'fight and flight' mode, an adaptation response inherited from our prehistoric ancestors who had to protect themselves from physical threats. It is associated with an increase in the sympathetic nervous systems and the adrenaline and cortisol hormones.

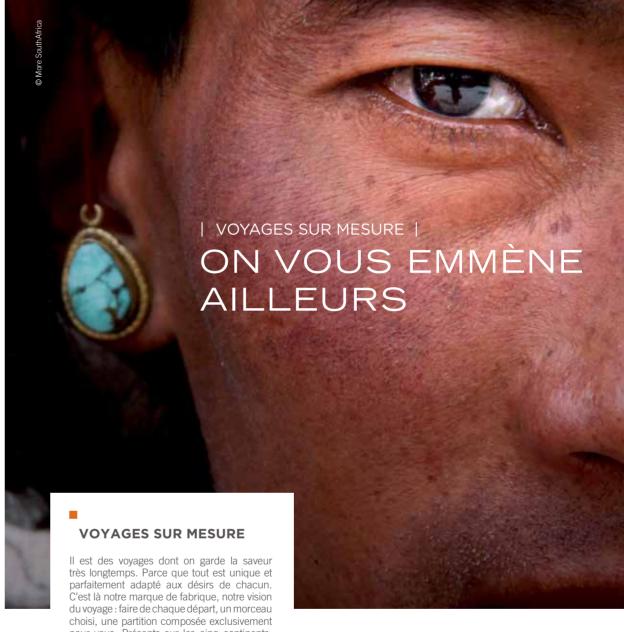
In other words, when it comes to pressure versus stress, pressure is a stressor that can act as a motivator. However, when pressure gets out of hand or isn't kept under control, it leads to stress that in turn becomes harmful for your health.

People's abilities to cope with pressure are different and depend on gender, age, genetics, previous experience, skills, knowledge, specific situation, etc. It is possible, though, to increase your resilience.

#### Tips to ease the pressure:

- Take a few minutes to identify a stressor in your life and find ways to
- Organize yourself and your time better
- Take more time to relax
- Follow stress management courses
- Implement stress management with relaxation and exercise
- Stay positive and keep things in perspective
- Take slow deep breaths
- Seek professional help

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# 2014: The year of living dangerously?

**Dave Deruytter** offers his latest overview of the world's financial state of health

lot has happened since the onset of the worldwide financial and economic crisis in 2007.

After a false start by letting Lehman Brothers go bankrupt, an impressive set of measures were taken by governments around the globe to stabilize the financial markets.

The results are positive. The US is seeing economic growth and has high hopes for a shale gas-led re-industrialization. In Europe, southern countries seem to be turning the corner. China is continuing its high-speed economic growth, but no longer at double digit growth rates. Japan has copied the quantitative easing model of the US and stock markets are up.

On the downside, fundamental changes to the financial and economic structure of the global economy seem to come slower or are less ambitious than anticipated a few years ago. Unemployment is at staggering heights in Europe and improving very slowly. Rock-bottom low interest rates are fuelling the stock markets and improve or sustain the real estate markets in many countries. China has an impressive stock of empty private apartments, held by speculators gambling on even higher real estate prices.

The hoped for inflation is not being seen where it is most needed: in the real economy. If there

is one place where inflation is very strong, it is sadly to be found in the debt levels of countries and central banks. The US Federal Reserve may well have lowered its threshold of purchases of debt under its quantitative easing program, but the total amount of several thousands of billions of dollars is still growing by tens of billions of dollars every month. It only adds to the already very high overall debt level of the country.

Having said that, optimism has returned to companies and consumers in certain countries, such as Germany. Its economy still relies heavily on exports to China, but consumer spending, helped by the introduction of a minimum wage, is on the mend.

At the same time, political stability is fragile in quite a few regions: North Africa, Syria, Thailand and Ukraine. China and Japan are at odds over a group of rocky islands. North and South Korea keep their long-lasting dispute.

#### Where should we look for structural improvement to the world economy?

Since debt levels are already unsustainably high, it will have to come from the private sector – the real economy. Currently, we see concerted efforts by many countries, led by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), to make sure that

#### MONEY



particularly large multinational companies pay a certain amount of tax and in the countries where they are active. At the same time overgenerous social systems are coming under strain, particularly in France, Italy and southern Europe.

A pair of other solutions could come from the internet.

Although the internet is the most magnificent revolution in the last hundred years, it has flaws that need to be mended. One of the most important of these is the fact that added value is freely available on the web, instead of paying for it. This is a contradiction in a capitalist system and should be tackled. Another flaw is related to the fact that surfers disclose their private details too cheaply on the web, unaware of what will be done with them and without fully understanding the possibly ever-lasting consequences.

The practical implementation of those solutions may be easier than it looks at first sight.

The first issue can be solved by taxing the added value that these currently free internet

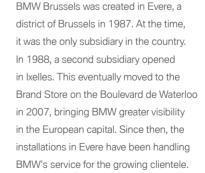
services produce (VAT). The result will be that those services will no longer be completely free. The privacy issue on the other hand can be solved by charging a privacy levy to companies asking for the disclosure of private details from their private clients. This will encourage these companies to give private users two options: a paying option for the service without disclosing their private details and an almost free option when they disclose their personal data. A governing body should to be created to keep privacy in check on the internet.

If one considers the huge number of surfers and internet services, the VAT and privacy levy need not to be high to have an important effect, and thus they should not deter surfers from continuing their active use of the World Wide Web

Whatever solution or combination of solutions is chosen, there is no time for complacency since the total debt levels of most countries are far too high. The other option is a debt haircut for all. But even that would not last without structural measures to reform the real economy. Time to act.  $\blacksquare$ 



A victim of its ongoing success, BMW simply had to expand! Stefan De Smet, General Manager of BMW Brussels, talks us through the totally new dealership that BMW Brussels will open in September 2014 - a dealership with an innovative structure and concepts.



To meet this constant growth, BMW is developing an ambitious project on the Chaussée de Louvain in Evere, beside our second-hand sales centre.

This new 30,000 m² dealership has been developed according to a new philosophy. Firstly, the showroom is large enough to present all the new BMW models, as well as the motorbikes (such as the electric

scooter and the new range of BMW i electric cars). But our clients will also receive a welcome worthy of a hotel.

140 vehicles can now be serviced per day on the 39 repair ramps in the new workshops.

Meanwhile, clients can enjoy the Business lounge or Lifestyle space, working in tranquillity or enjoying a light meal worthy of the premium world of BMW.

Put simply, the new dealership will not only welcome BMW owners and provide optimal technical services, it will also do so in a friendly atmosphere with personalized service that is both pleasant and efficient.



#### THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

BY VIPOFFICES

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: a situation or setting in which the advantages of two very different things are combined to gain on all levels.



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#### **POLITICS**



## Europe: Missing the target

EU Reporter's Anna van Densky assesses what the EU can now do to bridge its widening schism with Russia

he suspension of Russia's voting rights and representation in the leading bodies of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) as a reaction to Crimea's annexation marked a definite schism between Kremlin and the West, when in response the head of delegation Alexei Pushkov demonstrated scepticism about Russia remaining a member.

PACE's decision in Strasbourg did not push the Russians to change their minds, neither has it brought détente to mounting tensions on the ground as the Russian flag continues to fly over the south-east – Donetsk, Lugank, Kharkiv and Odessa, industrial cities that are up in arms – this is a bad omen for the integrity of Ukraine. While the EU flag in Kiev signified a wishful vector for integration, the Russian flag in the south-east is not a 'wannabe' claim, but an identity indicator: 'we want to be with the EU' versus 'we are Russians'. Not an easy dilemma to resolve.

It is even more complicated to explain to the coal-miners the European logic of 'good' revolutionaries at Kiev's Maidan Square and 'bad' ones in Donbass (Donetsk). Political inconsistency has led the activists of the self proclaimed Donbass Republic to consider themselves as victims of double standards. The longer Europe wrestles with Russia and neglects the grim economic realities of Ukraine,

the more the people of South-East will want to keep the key of their future in their own hands. The European opposition to an idea of Ukraine as a federal state does not attract sympathy there either. If Germany, the largest European state, is federal, why is Ukraine not allowed to choose the same path? It will take more than the PACE resolution to explain to the coal miners in Donbass why Europe denies them the very rights it flaunts.

The PACE decision to alienate Russia might have consequences beyond Ukraine – for decades Russian membership also meant obligations in the Strasbourg Court of Human Rights, a last resort for many victims of abuse by the Russian judiciary system. By preventing Russia's participation in the Council of Europe, the EU offers up an opportunity for the Kremlin to remove its title as top human rights violator, with an overwhelming 129 lawsuits in 2013.

So the biggest loser of the PACE move might be Russian civil society – they would be deprived of an effective instrument of influence on the Kremlin in their struggle against Putin's authoritarian rule. Aiming at Putin and blinded by their passion to promote democratic values, Europeans are hitting their faithful Russian allies hardest.

www.eureporter.co

#### CHARITY

## Relay for Life Kaisa Ventä-Roisin encourages us to

ioin Relay for Life

elay for Life began in 1985 with one person running around a track for 24 hours to raise money for cancer research. Some 25 years later it is now held in over 20 countries, with millions of volunteers coming together for the same purpose. As it

says on their website: "Relay for Life are life-changing events that bring communities together and help them honour those who have battled cancer. remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease."

In short, Relay for Life is a 24-hour walk-athon where at least one member of the team is moving around a track or course continually for the entire 24 hours. In addition to walking, team members also contribute by raising money, either through individual donations. sponsorship, fundraising parties, or by

bringing whatever talents they have to bear. All funds raised from Relay for Life go to the Foundation against Cancer. This money is used to support scientific research, provide social care to people affected by cancer, along with their families, and to promote prevention and healthier lifestyles.

A few examples shown below illustrate the tremendous amount of money and resources that are necessary to support just three core activities in the fight against cancer: Scientific cancer research:

- An average cost for a laboratory technician: €240 per day
- The investment in a fluorescent microscope is €50.000

Social care to patients, along with their families:

- While treatment is continued. participation for one child in a children's holiday camp for one week €1.000
- One consultation for psychological treatment: €37
- CancerPhone: €35 per hour

Promotion of a healthy lifestyle:

- One prevention kit for schools: €60
- One package 'wise sunbathing' for schools: €60

How you can become part of this: You can join the

Together For Life team and participate in the

www.relayforlife.be/teams/together-life

Or you can make a donation to Relay for Life by sponsoring someone in the team: www.relayforlife.be/teams/together-life

Please note that donations are tax deductible in Belaium.

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## Fleurs de ma Passion

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# Dr. Dombard: Master of aesthetics

Julia Bush met up with a man whose job is to make people happy

Then Dr. Louis-Philippe Dombard talks about aesthetic surgery, he leans forward earnestly. With his elbows on his knees and his hands gesturing right and left, it's as if he can't speak fast enough to express everything he wants to say. He rocks back and forth and tells story after story. His passion spills out with every word — it's clear he has limitless dedication to perfecting his craft.

Dr. Dombard's obsession with being the best started early, when he went to Germany to continue his medical studies. He read about Professor Ivo Pitanguy, a successful plastic surgeon and professor in Brazil, and knew he needed to pack his bags.

#### Dr. Dombard said: "I didn't know him, but I said. 'I will work with this man".

He flew to Brazil and went straight to the clinic. Pitanguy wasn't there. Dr. Dombard checked into a hotel and waited there for the weekend. When he went back on Monday, Pitanguy, who usually selects five surgeons from the 100 who apply to work with him each year, sent Dr. Dombard packing. "Learn Portuguese, get recommendation letters and take a placement test," he told Dr. Dombard. Then try again.

Two years later, Dr. Dombard was back in Brazil. This time, he was ready – he knew the language, took the test and was accepted into Pitanguy's program. For three years, he lived in Brazil and learned from the best.

Now, as the owner of his own 20-year-old private clinic in Brussels, Dr. Dombard credits Pitanguy not just with teaching him the technicalities of surgery, but with helping him understand the spiritual and philosophical side of being a surgeon. He learned the importance of the relationship between the patient and the surgeon — a surgeon must choose the patient just as the patient chooses the surgeon. "We make the choice together," he said. For Dr. Dombard, it's not about the money – it's about doing good, clean surgery and making patients happy.

Often, happiness comes from feeling comfortable with yourself. Lots of patients feel a loss of femininity or masculinity, Dr. Dombard said, and aesthetic surgery can help them gain or regain that part of themselves. A few years ago, a young man came into Dr. Dombard's clinic dejected and upset over his feminine nose and chin. He was unhappy, and it was affecting his schoolwork and personal life. Two

#### "A SURGEON MUST CHOOSE THE PATIENT JUST AS THE PATIENT CHOOSES THE SURGEON"



years later, with more masculine features, he came back into the clinic beaming. Dr. Dombard said the young man told him, "I am so happy. I feel so powerful – I have so much energy." He finished his degrees in law and economics and was thrilled to finally feel like himself

Dr. Dombard has a slew of stories of patients like this one, people who have turned their lives around because of his surgery.

Julia Bush sat down with Dr. Dombard in his clinic – which is connected to his home and feels like a cosy living room full of flowers, coffee tables and rugs – to talk about his unique practice.

**Julia Bush:** What are the most important lessons you learned from Dr. Pitanguy while you were in Brazil?

**Dr. Dombard:** First, you do it because you love it. It's dedication. You have to dedicate your life to what you do. Second, you don't think about money. You think about doing your work really well. He said to me: "Don't try to be the best surgeon. Try not to have complications." I'll see a patient and they'll say: "I need a facelift". If I just wanted the money, I'd say sure right away. But I have to tell them about

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#### "IT'S ABOUT DOING GOOD, CLEAN SURGERY AND MAKING PATIENTS HAPPY"





Clinique chirurgie esthétique Gemslaan 42b- 3090 Overijse +32 (0)2 687 22 85 Email: contact@chirurgiedombard.com

"IT'S ABOUT complications, take blood tests to see if they're in good health to do the surgery. I must feel I can help them.

J.B.: So you don't agree to do surgery for anyone who says they need it.

AND MAKING
PATIENTS

HAPPY"

Dr. Dombard: If you want to do the operation, I ask you to go to a psychologist and understand what has happened. This is the most important thing. The problem is not to do it – it's to understand why you do it.

Sometimes I do very difficult surgery because the patient says: "I want this and this is why". The change must bring happiness.

**J.B.:** When a patient decides they want surgery, how does the process work?

**Dr. Dombard:** There are three stages to aesthetic surgery. First, there's a consultation. We meet each other and look to see if it's possible. It's very important after this first consultation to take time — take two or three months or a year. Then, when you decide to do the surgery, wait two or three months. Then you're thinking responsibly. Second, there's the material surgery. Third, the post-surgery is to care for the patient. I need to do it for free because it's my surgery. Every complication is my responsibility.



**J.B.:** What is the key to your success?

**Dr. Dombard:** First, you love what you do and because you like it you respect yourself. You give the maximum to achieve your success. It's not complicated. It's the same everywhere. I treat the patient like my mother or my sister – people are a big family. If I couldn't operate on my sister, then I couldn't do it all.

**J.B.:** What kinds of positive outcomes have you seen in your patients?

**Dr. Dombard:** Happiness, happiness, happiness. When they come back to see me later, they sit down and smile. They are happy.

#### **ESSENTIAL TIPS**

For people considering surgery, Dr. Dombard has a few tips:

**1. Know why**: Make sure you know why you want surgery. Open discussion of your goals and expectations is the beginning of a healthy relationship with your surgeon.

- 2. Consult several surgeons: Visit as many clinics as you think you need to. You can have multiple consultations make sure you're choosing the right surgeon for you, and once you've chosen, take responsibility for your decision.
- **3. Never go alone:** Always bring family members, friends or a significant other to your consultation to make sure you don't miss anything the doctor says. It's easy to get caught up in the exciting possibilities and mishear or glaze over details. Having someone with you to remind you what was said relieves some of the pressure to ask every single important question and memorize every detail of the process.
- **4. Understand the price:** Dr. Dombard takes full responsibility for any possible complications after surgery, but many surgeons do not. If the initial price is low, it could be a marketing scam it's possible that the surgeon will continue to charge for further surgeries to adjust or fix the initial procedure.

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Beauty News

RELOOK YOURSELF

Beauty News

The art of remodeling

Our beauty expert **Delphine Stefens** points us all in the right direction when it comes to reshaping our figures

artine de Richeville – or one of her trained masseuses - plays your curves like a piano. Forte, And one that needs tuning. With a firm and precise grip. big and small fat rolls are lifted, drained, oxygenized and eventually reshaped. And while it's a full body treatment (€130 for 50 minutes and €1,100 for ten treatments), special attention is given to specific areas of concern, usually around the waistband for men and anything cellulite (to name the beast) for the fairer sex. The treatment may or may not hurt. Knots you didn't even know you had are relieved, while vour blood and lymphatic circulation is improved and the energy gets flowing. While it's so strenuous it's impossible to doze off, it's very relaxing. This is a key aspect according to Ms de Richeville, who initially studied psychology and is also a trained acupuncturist – she firmly believes it's essential to let go in order to feel good, both mentally and physically.

To beat cellulite, she says: "You need a healthy lifestyle and physical activity, obviously, but I believe you also need to regulate your energies. So we work on that too. Cellulitis is linked to saturation of the metabolism but also to a malfunctioning of the energetic system." And while she argues that slimming creams won't do the job for you by making cellulite disappear. she does think they may be of assistance. "They may actually improve the quality of the skin and reduce the appearance of dimples by facilitating the drainage of fat tissues. But, more importantly, since you need to make them penetrate your skin through massage, they allow a greater awareness, a moment to reconnect with yourself and your body."



The next time you apply your slimming cream avoid the feeling that it's a drag. Together has picked out the nicest newcomers for you – all of them are sure bets.

#### **Get started**

**Cellu Destok Serum Flash** by Vichy (€32/125ML)

Body-Slim Express Body-Contouring Program by Lierac (€38/100ML) Celluli Attack by Phytomer (€68/100ML)

#### Keep up the good work

Body Sculpt by Biotherm (€40/200ML) Contour Body Treatment Oil by Clarins (€50.50/100ML)

**Botanical Slimming Key Serum** by Yves Rocher (£16.95/150ML)

#### Treat yourself

**Body Shaping Bath Powder** by Maria Galland (€34/5x30G)

Martine de Richeville Avenue Louise 129A 1050 Brussels Tel. 02/534 51 11. www.martinedericheville.com

#### Get started



Keep up ood work





Treat yourself

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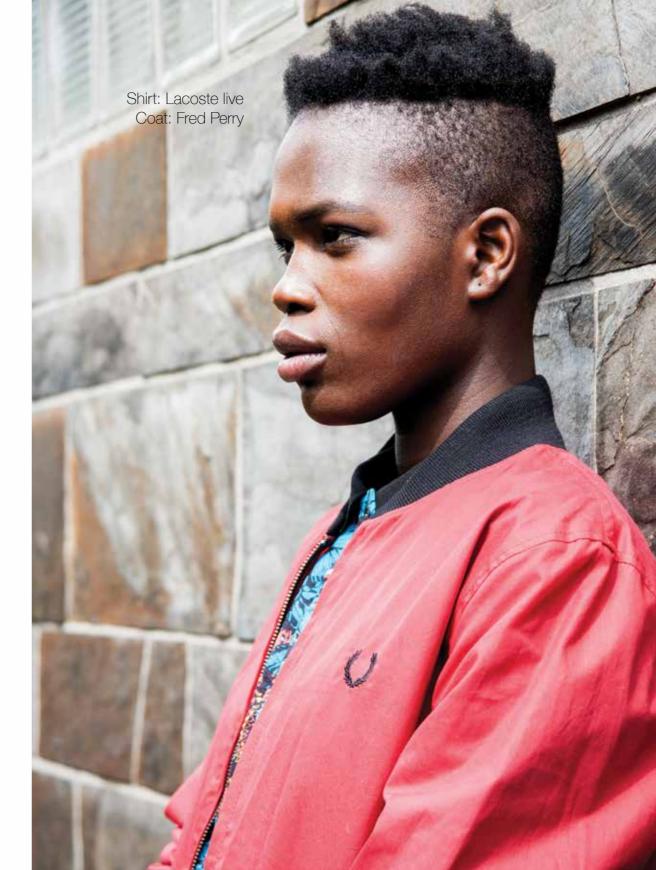
## Appearance

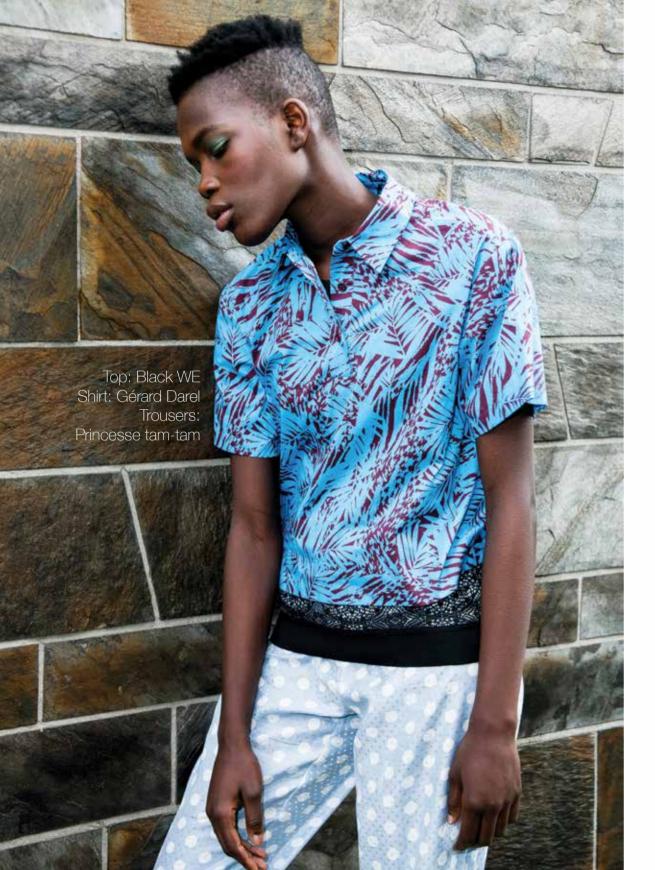
Photographer: Ayelen Torres Stylist: Nicholas Sirot Make up artist: Noel Inocencio @ Make Up For Ever Model: Nadège @ IMM





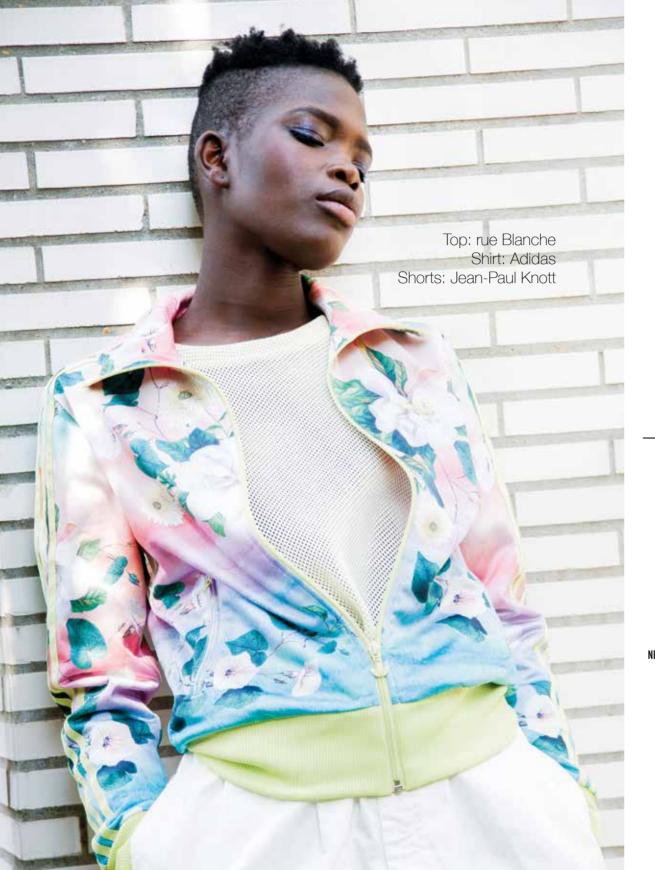






Grey sweatshirt: P.N.Q Shirt: Esprit Trousers: Julia June







#### **HD Blush Second Skin Cream Blush:**

This new creamy blush melts on the skin for an extremely natural flush of colour with a long lasting result. Its blendable, second skin texture allows for easy, controlled

application: €30.20

#### Glossy Full Natural:

MAKE UP

FOR EVER

GLOSSY FUL

This colourless gloss gives an ultrashiny vinyl effect to the lips. The collagen stimulator Maxi Lip replumps and reshapes the lips, which are rejuvenated and smoothed:

€24.30

#### **Aqua Smoky Lash** Extra Black Mascara, also in waterproof:

This is waterproof version of Smoky Lash, a mascara that provides volume, length and instant curl to the lashes: €24

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## Stanhope Hotel, luxury in simplicity

#### Assistance - Flexible team - Service

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From smaller basedrooms to theatre set up for 300 guests... our neceting rooms can host any type of event. The natural daylight and particular character creates a unique atmoss-phere. A wedding, an international conference or a gala dinner, your requirements are our challenge.







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#### Gastronomic - Artistic flair- Elegance

Wind down and be pampered while our Chef dazzles you with his artistic flair. Professional pride and respect for the natural flavours are combined with the very best of fresh seasonal ingredients to capture your pallets.

Do not be afraid to challenge as with your special or dierary requests.

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The Stanhope hotel is conveniently located in the heart of the European quarter and with public transportation just around the corner.

Fancy a walk? Shopping in Avenue Louise, the serene district of Sublon and the flourishing Grand Place, it is all within walking distance.

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Mother's Day

## Saying thanks to mothers

One in five women will buy gifts for their mother-in-law this Mother's Day

study by gift website www.findmeagift.co.uk has revealed that one in five women will buy gifts for their mother-in-law this Mother's Day. The most common reason given is to make sure their mother-in-law receives a gift, as their partner usually forgets. Almost a third of the men in question never know what present their own mother receives.

Twenty percent of married women admit they'll be buying their mother-in-law a gift this Mother's Day. Despite the stereotypical image of wives feuding with the in-laws, the survey has revealed that 75% of the women in question are happy to shop on their partners' behalf for their mother-in-law.

The most common reason for taking on the shopping responsibility (43%) is a forgetful partner who may miss the occasion altogether. 27% of women believed they had a better judgment than their partners in choosing the right gift and 17% stated their partner was too lazy to shop themselves. Whatever the reason, we suspect these wives are experts at keeping the peace and ensuring sons stay out of the doghouse with their mothers.

Although 20% of wives offer their husband a helping hand with the present shopping, the survey uncovered that almost a third of the men in question (29%) never find out what gift their own mum receives.

Fine Me A Gift's Emma Law commented on the survey: "Although Mother's Day is the perfect time to demonstrate how much you care for your mum, it's clear that some men trust their partners to make better decisions than themselves when it comes to finding a gift. It's nice that they want their mum to receive a gift they truly love, but if they're just dodging their responsibilities we think they should put some real effort in!" - www.findmeagift.co.uk





#### Thea

Designer Emilie Duchêne's 'mother ring' in black diamonds: price upon request www.thea-jewelry.com



#### RELOOK YOURSELF



#### Lilu Belgian handmade brown Steffi bag: €295 www.lilu.be

#### Beluga

Black candle set, small: **€55**, medium: €119, large: **€195** 



#### **Thomas Sabo**

New specially designed karma beads for Mother's Day, in Sterling Silver, Glam & Soul and Rebel at heart collections: €79 www.thomassabo.com



#### Cartier

'Unlock your wish' necklace, Yellow Gold, diamonds 3 cabochon onyx, black lacquer, gold chain and yellow diamonds. www.cartier.com © Cartier



#### Ice-Watch

Ice-Glow comes in small and



#### Dodo

Palm tree and boat charms earrings:

earrings €205, palm tree €490, boat €245 www.dodo.it





Mother's Day



#### **FREYWILLE**

This new FREYWILLE jewellery watch HELENA, decorated with fine enamel and 24kt gold powder, is named after the beautiful Helena of ancient Greek myths. Exclusively available in FREYWILLE Brussels boutiques: 6 Place Louise and 45 Grote Zavel. **€1,935** www.freywille.com



unisex. Four candy colors: Blue, Pink, Green, Yellow, with silicone bracelet: €79 www.ice-watch.com



#### RELOOK YOURSELF

Shopping

## Shopping



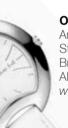
#### Clinch

100% georgette silk made in Italy Monkey Power Blue: **€99** www.clinchcollection.com

#### Les Interchangeables

Elastic bracelets from French designer Audrey Bot. Made in Paris. From €45 www.lesinterchangeables.com





#### **Olivier Strelli**

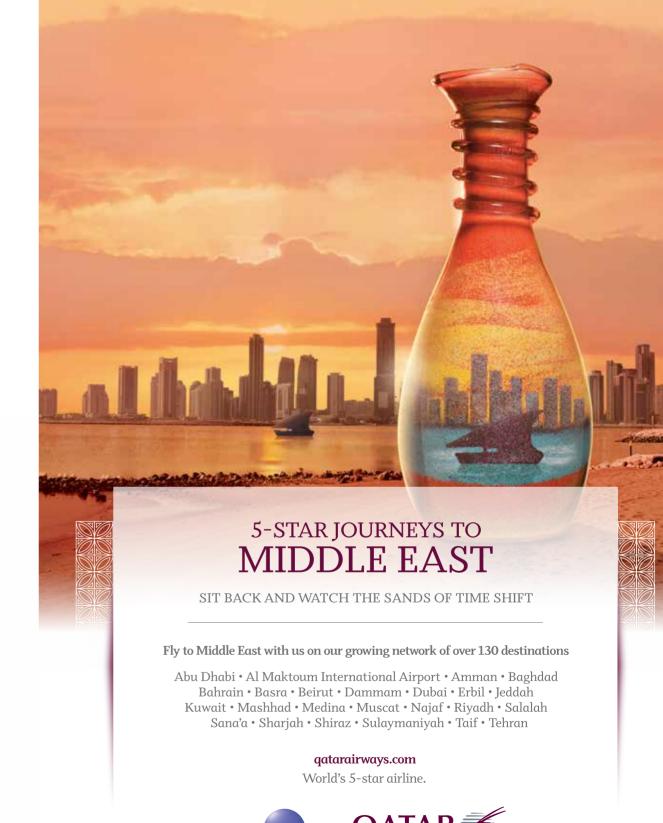
Among Belgian fashion designer Strelli's clients are Rolling Stones, Brigitte Bardot and Stevie Wonder. Allure timepiece: €199 www.strelli.be



I'Eau Brand-new from the house of Cartier, this is a bold, fresh eau de toilette, spicy and citrusy at the same time. 50ML €53, 100ML €76.50 www.cartier. com © Cartier









LEISURE

Interview

## Angelina Jolie: Harnessing the human spirit Together meets a remarkable actress who has risen to the very



he may be preparing to take a step back from her acting duties, but Angelina Jolie is about to enjoy the greatest success of her career with her new film, Maleficent. Playing the title role of the icy Queen who places a curse on the young Princess Aurora (Elle Fanning), Jolie is realising a long-standing dream to be part of the Disney universe. The \$200 million fairy tale blockbuster is expected to be one of the biggest films of the year, and will doubtless give the 38-year-old Jolie millions of new young

top of her profession

"I've long dreamed about playing a great Disney character like Maleficent," Jolie says. "She has fascinated me ever since I was a little girl. I was both drawn to her and terrified by her at the same time, and our challenge was to show what led her to becoming evil and cruel and understand her anger. It's the first time that a Disney film has really been centred around a villain, and I'm so happy to become part of the Disney world. I've always loved their films, and mothers can trust Disney movies not to be offensive or inappropriate for children. They understand how to create this wonderful universe for children and families."



In the meantime, Jolie recently finished directing her second feature film in Australia, Unbroken, a story of an American 1,500-metres runner who competed at the 1936 Olympics where he met Adolf Hitler only to become a POW during WWII while fighting the Japanese in the Pacific.

Scheduled for release late this year, the film could well mark Jolie's transition to full-time directing, having expressed her desire to spend more time with her famous fiancé Brad Pitt and their six children. "I find it hard to uproot the children or spend several months away shooting a film," she explains.

Angelina and Brad both feel that they have achieved most of their goals as actors, and Pitt, who recently won his first Oscar as producer of 12 Years a Slave, is particularly fond of developing projects like last year's zombie epic, World War 7

Jolie and Pitt divide their time between a home in L.A. and their sprawling mansion, Chateau Miraval, in the south of France.

#### Together: Angelina, do you think children will be scared of Maleficent?

She's the kind of character who is very compelling because she has this icy and charismatic demeanour. There's a mystery to her. Maleficent is someone who can be frightening but also seductive and alluring in different ways. She's a powerful woman.

#### Together: How did you approach the role? Did you work on your dark side?

(Laughs) It took me a while to find the right voice. I spent a lot of time at home working on her voice, trying out different variations of a British accent and also lowering my voice to make her seem more sinister. I would practice and see how my kids reacted and when they started to smile or pay very close attention then I knew I was on the right track.

#### Together: Your daughter Vivienne has a small part in the film, doesn't she?

Yes. She plays Princess Aurora as a young girl, and she had so much fun being on the set. Vivienne (5) was the only child on the set who wasn't frightened of me and the outfit and horns I wear. I guess she knows that it's mommy and

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Interview







not some scary character! (Laughs)

### Together: Is it fun to be able to watch your children grow up and work with you on your films?

It's so beautiful to see how they look at the world and experience so many things for the first time. Children have this incredible way of seeing things, and they make you also see things differently. They just have to smile and laugh and you feel overwhelmed by their ability to enjoy things in such a pure and uncomplicated way.

But Brad and I don't want to make a habit of having our children work on our films. We want them to study hard and have as normal a life as we can give them. We would rather they learn everything they can about the world before getting involved in our profession. When they're older they can make that decision.

### Together: As your children grow older, how does this impact your decisions when it comes to your work?

It gets harder for me to spend any length of time away from them and that's why I enjoyed having Vivienne and Knox (her five-year-old twins) on the set. It's not an ideal situation though when your other kids are in school and then you usually don't get back home for dinner. Brad is so good about taking over when I'm working so I don't worry that much, but I would rather be home for dinner and read my children stories at bedtime. That's one of the most beautiful times any mother can have.

Brad and I are trying to balance our lives so that we can raise them without too many distractions and without their parents' strange profession getting in the way of their leading normal lives. They don't pay much attention to photographers but it's still an odd thing to be photographed all the time when you're just trying to take a walk or stop for lunch somewhere.

#### LIFE OF

Interview

#### Together: Do the paparazzi ever become particularly bothersome?

We don't allow it to interfere with the way we live. I'm happy to have the recognition that enables me to promote humanitarian causes and my work (for the United Nations) for children. So I've never seen all the media focus as a real obstacle to what I do.

I have a big, wonderful family and I get to travel and be creative with my films and that's tremendously rewarding and satisfying. I've always loved being an actor and the ability to tell stories and express emotions and making a connection with audiences... I'm so used to them being around that I don't pay any attention to what they're doing.

#### Together: Do you feel that you and Brad have met all your expectations when it comes to creating the kind of family life you were looking for?

I don't know what our expectations were. We didn't have a clear idea about how we were going to manage as our family grew larger until we figured out a way to organize everyone and make sure that we would spend time with all the children.

Some of the kids feel closer to Brad and bond with him in a special way and some have a closer relationship with me. But it's always changing and what's beautiful about kids is how you just watch them grow and evolve as they learn more about themselves and the world.

Brad has always been such a wonderful and loving father that it's made me feel so much happier as a mother where you know your partner will always be as devoted and loving as you are.

### Together: Does that give you an added sense of security when it comes to your relationship with Brad?

Yes. It's such a beautiful and sexy quality in a man when he takes his responsibilities as a father very seriously and has so much love to give the children. I still get very emotional when I watch Brad play with the children and how

they all admire him and love him so much. It makes you appreciate how children look up to their parents and are so inspired and happy when a father like Brad is so naturally devoted and joyful around them. It's a beautiful thing to see.

#### Together: How have you evolved into your role as a mother?

It's been one of the great surprises in my life. When I was younger I never imagined being a mother and then those maternal feelings really evolved and deepened once I began adopting and started living with Brad which made me want to have children of our own.

My children give me a sense of peace and fulfilment when I see how happy and healthy they are. I feel truly at ease when I know I've helped give them a safe and hopeful life. A big family can generate a lot of chaos, but it's also a source of inner peace. At the end of the day it's the best feeling in the world.

#### Together: Do you feel you have greater serenity as a mother?

There's a sense of purpose to your life when you're raising your children and feeling so much love and joy in being around them.

It's changed me in so many ways. I try to treat them the way my own mother treated me. She was so caring and giving that I don't know if I can ever live up to her standard. My mother set a very good example for me to follow.

When you wake up and see they're healthy and happy, you know that that's the most important thing, so you have that peace of mind. They also come with a lot of chaos, but we're all searching for it. It's part of the human journey.

We all have moments of inner peace and we lose it and we look for it again. But really it's in knowing the people you love are safe and healthy. That's the best.

Together: Has it been important for you and Brad to have spent a lot of time living in France where you can feel more secluded?

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Interview

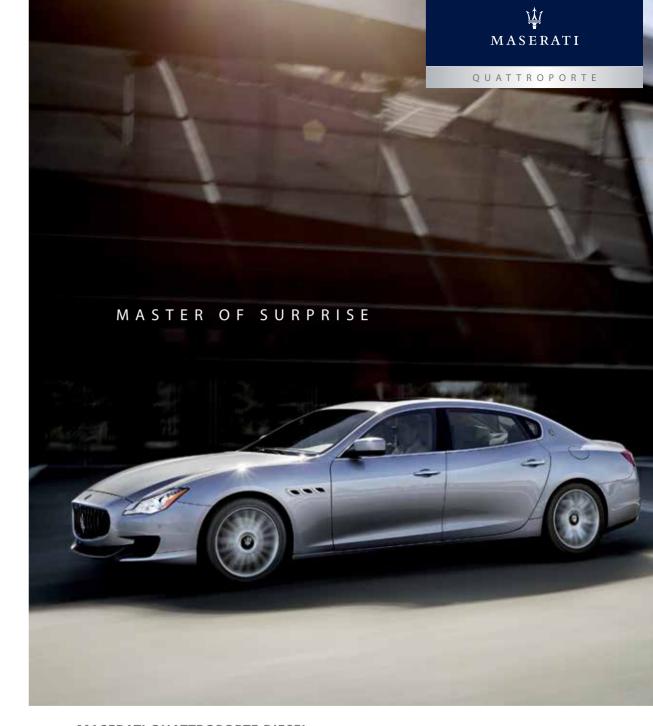


Europe offers a different kind of lifestyle for us. We don't feel as stressed over there, and we've grown used to taking long lunches and late dinners which we can't really have in the U.S. Over there we can live more freely and openly and do things like walking and exploring cities or small towns. We feel more relaxed. But in terms of schooling it's been more practical for us to stay in Los Angeles. The kids are happy wherever they are, and we just try to make sure that nothing interferes with that.

#### Together: You've now directed your second film. What was it about the story of Louis Zamperini that drew you to it?

I'd been looking for a good and compelling story, and when I came across his story I knew I had what I was looking for. I love and admire his incredible will-power and determination to survive. I'm very drawn to people who can stand up to difficult situations and not give up. The human spirit is an incredible thing. •

"THE HUMAN SPIRIT IS AN INCREDIBLE THING"



#### MASERATI QUATTROPORTE DIESEL.

Maserati has a long history of surprising the automotive world with technological innovations, unconventional thinking, and breaks with tradition; introducing its state-of-the-art V6 diesel engine into the Quattroporte is just the latest example. As one would expect, this 275 HP unit produces the kind of performance that befits the company's flagship (0-100 kph in 6.4 seconds and a top speed of 250 kph) whilst clever engineering has managed to reproduce the distinctive and much loved Maserati exhaust note. And the other surprise? Quattroporte Diesel prices start at just € 96.000.



## A mind-blowing Caroline Dierckx took on the thrilling challenge of riding a roadster trip



## "IT ALLOWS YOU TO HAVE FUN IN TIGHT CORNERS"

n Portugal, in the heart of the Algarve, I had an appointment with the CAN-AM Spyder Roadster for a unique outdoor experience. I was in for a fascinating ride, with no little thanks due to advanced technology.

There are some ways of discovering the open road that, for the most part, are reserved only for athletes and pros. When I got the opportunity to discover this, I found it difficult to think outside the box, no doubt due to apprehension of the dangers involved or the fear of not being up to the task of driving anything other my own comfortable car.

So, out there between earth and sky, it was not without some trepidation that I prepared to ride a Spyder RT Roadster – the experience was simply too tempting. New to this, I took my first outing as a passenger. Comfortably installed, I enjoyed the breathtaking landscapes. I love new sensations, especially the combination of driving at speed and in the open air. It was like discovering a previously unfound meteor. I was bowled over.

When it was my turn to take command of the vehicle, it took me half an hour to tame my Spyder RT. Only then was I ready for the ride. As I took to the highways, I felt



Travel



## "IT MUST BE SAID THAT THE SPYDER IS VERY EASY TO DRIVE"

totally confident. It must be said that the Spyder is very easy to drive. Here the B license is sufficient, and there is no need to have ridden on two wheelers to drive three-wheeled bikes. A ride on the Spyder is safe, stable and comfortable.

I felt as if the Can-Am roadster had given me wings, and I enjoyed every moment because it provided the confidence and assurance that I needed. Seven automotive technologies have come together to create it: antilock braking system, anti-slip acceleration, stability control, semi-automatic transmission, power steering, reverse and cruise control, making it optimized for control, comfort and performance. It was a pleasure sensing the CAN-AM Spyder sticking to the road.

Having experience the ride as passenger and driver, I found that the seating is equally comfortable for both. The Spyder boasts plenty of storage space, an electric windshield, power steering, fuel efficiency (count on refuelling every 406km with an average of 100km/hour), a high torque powerful engine using Advanced Combustion Efficiency (ACETM) and a six-speed gearbox for a smoother ride and better efficiency. With an ultra-chic, luxurious look, you will never go unnoticed on any terrain. This is escapism in its purest form.



Travel



# "IT WAS A PLEASURE SENSING THE CAN-AM SPYDER STICKING TO THE ROAD"

I was delighted with this combination of performance, comfort and style. It allows you to have fun in tight corners and also wander off for relaxing, longer trips. Recently the design panel has been redesigned to facilitate better air circulation. To complete the experience, equip yourself with the range of CAN-AM Spyder Roadster garments and customize your bike with equipment and accessories designed by the brand. And, of course, you can choose your colour.

To enjoy this little gem, it will cost you between €21,000 and €30,000. There are dealers all over Belgium: www.brp.com

BRP's vehicles span more than 60 sports, including SEA-DOO watercraft, SPARK SKI -DOO snowmobiles and CAN- AM quads.

Events such as the one I experienced take place organized all over Europe. Mmm... which one will I try next?

Getting there: TAP Airlines (Portuguese scheduled airline) www.flytap.com
Accommodation: Algarve- CONRAD
Reservations:
conradalgarve.reservations@conradhotels.com
www.conradalgarve.com - www.brpevents.com

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#### ASSISTANCE ANNUELLE L'assistance médicale indispensable pour tous vos voyages à l'étranger et en Belgique.

Plus besoin de vous soucier de la protection de vos escapades. Contractez l'assistance annuelle et partez en voyage toute l'année, seul ou accompagné, en toute tranquillité.

#### Pourquoi souscrire une assistance voyage?

Dès que vous quittez la Belgique, les habitudes et les cultures changent : que ce soit le fonctionnement des services de soins, les hôpitaux, les médecins, les autorités ou encore même la langue... Les démarches administratives ne sont souvent pas les mêmes, sans parler de l'organisation d'une assistance dans un pays étranger.

Lors d'un accident ou d'une maladie les conséquences sont alors généralement plus graves et plus coûteuses et vous ne pouvez pas toujours compter sur vos proches, votre famille ou vos amis restés en Belgique. Si vous voyagez accompagné, il faudra également prévoir une solution de logement et/ou de rapatriement pour vous et vos accompagnants. Avec une assistance voyage, vous passez un coup de fil et tout est réglé. Vous serez pris en charge en cas d'incident à l'étranger ou en cas de panne de votre véhicule, même en Belgique.

#### La formule annuelle: une tranquillité d'esprit totale et un plus financier!

La formule annuelle c'est une assistance médicale complète qui protège toute l'année l'ensemble de vos séjours à l'étranger (vacances, citytrip, voyages,...). Elle comprend l'assistance à la personne victime d'une maladie ou d'un accident, le remboursement des frais médicaux, le rapatriement, l'organisation et la prise en charge des accompagnants, la reconnexion avec vos proches restés en Belgique, l'assistance à votre domicile en Belgique et une aide administrative et logistique.

#### Les plus de l'assistance annuelle : parce qu'on est jamais trop prudent !

L'assistance annuelle vous permet de vous évader à l'étranger en toute sérénité. En plus de sa formule déjà complète, l'assistance annuelle vous propose des petits plus pour optimaliser le principe d'assistance à l'étranger. Vous pouvez contracter une assistance annuelle avec voiture vous assurant une assistance médicale complète pour toute l'année ainsi qu'un dépannage efficace en Belgique et à l'étranger.

#### La combinaison idéale pour voyager en toute tranquillité

Pour réserver vos vacances et partir en toute sérénité, nous proposons l'assistance annuelle combinée à l'annulation NoGo qui vous protège sur le plan médical mais aussi contre toute perte financière due à une annulation pour cause d'imprévus pouvant survenir avant votre départ.





#### Ainsi vous profitez de vos vacances en famille ou entre amis jusqu'au bout.

Parfois, suite à un accident ou une maladie à l'étranger, il est important de vous rapatrier le plus vite possible. Mais parfois vous préférez attendre la fin de vos vacances pour rentrer chez vous et profiter encore du soleil en famille, ou entre amis. Car un bras cassé ne signifie pas toujours des vacances complètement gâchées. Chez Europ Assistance, vous bénéficiez d'une solution personnalisée, non pas parfois mais toujours. Nous vous assistons 24 heures sur 24. Contactez-nous au 02/541.90.00 ou sur www.europ-assistance.be

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Travel

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## Roaming the Seine-et-Marne

Martin Banks discovers a French region that has more to offer than Disneyland



ourist offices and museums across Belgium and northern France are busy organising a host of events to commemorate the centenary of WW1.

Much of the focus this year will be on places such as Ypres and around the Somme, the areas usually associated with that awful conflict.

It is a little known fact, though, that the Battle of the Marne in 1914 was one of the opening campaigns in World War I – it was fought in the countryside around Meaux, in north-east France.

For those visiting the area this year for WW1 events, one must-see attraction is the exceptional Museum of the First Word War at Meaux, which opened just over two years ago.

It features an outstanding, 50,000-strong collection of WW1 artefacts, all assembled by Jean-Pierre Verney, a self-taught private collector. Amazingly, this is only 15% of his entire collection. Exhibits include 250 uniforms from the 35 countries that took part in the 'war to end all wars' and a documentation centre.

The museum, located in a bunker-shaped building, attracted 200,000 visitors last year, but only 10% were non-French and – much like the region itself – it is hoping to raise its profile among people from abroad, including Belgians.

Of course, everyone knows about Disneyland, but some may not know that this iconic attraction is actually located in the Seine-et-Marne region. If you're as unfamiliar with the area as I was, that's a shame because there's an awful lot going for this land of art and country houses.





Disneyland, which opened in 1992, continues to be a huge success, pulling in 16m visitors last year, nearly as many as the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre combined.

In July, Disneyland welcomes a brand new attraction based on the hit movie Ratatouille. It takes quests into the world of the Oscar winning film, which tells the tale of Remy - a talented young rat who dreams of becoming a renowned French chef. Disney story-telling and state-of-the-art technology will come together in this romantic, larger-than-life, Parisian experience.



Euro Disney Chairman Philippe Gas said: "The Ratatouille attraction symbolizes all of the creativity, innovation and emotion that guests associate with Disnevland Paris."

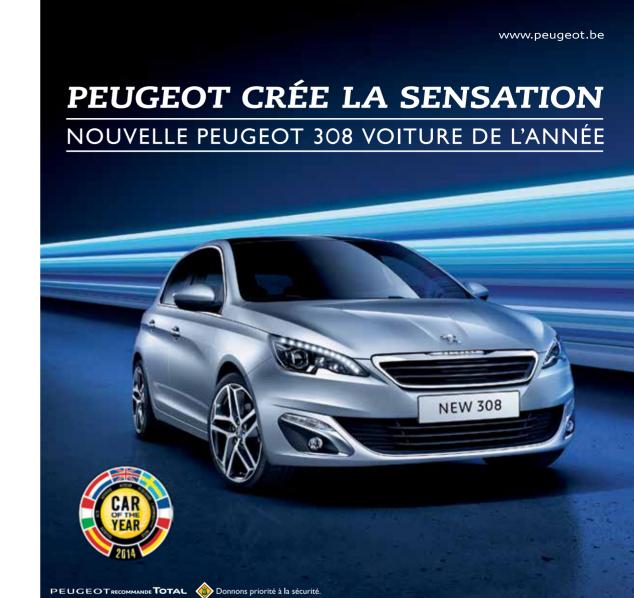
Disneyland aside, this is a region full of very pleasant surprises, and several wonderful visitor attractions await close to the theme park.

For instance, located just five minutes from Disneyland in the heart of the commercial centre Val d'Europe, is SEA LIFE aquarium. It now features a brand new exhibition, called CLAWS, featuring some stunning species of crabs from the amazing Tasmanian king crab (which can reach a mass of 13 kg) to the humble blue lobster. Built like miniature armoured tanks, these powerful, crusty **250 UNIFORMS** creatures of the deep are natural warriors, and guests can inspect them at close quarters in a FROM THE 35 the med area featuring quirky displays designed to resemble giant crabs. You can discover thousands of sea creatures from seahorses to rare Green Sea turtles, 13 species of stunning sharks and baby stingrays in the Amazonia

## "EXHIBITS INCLUDE **COUNTRIES THAT** TOOK PART" area.

If you journey a little into the heartland of Seineet-Marne you'll find Europe's largest big cat park, which attracted some 280,000 people last year.

If you like big cats you'll love this place. With 150 cats representing 36 different species, from the best known (tigers and lions) to the rarest (clouded leopards), this 170-acre park offers its



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animals a natural environment to ensure their well-being and reproduction. Included in the admission price is a visit to the charming Lemur's Island, home to 60 of the bushy-tailed little creatures.

Deputy Director and zoologist Gregory Breton says the large enclosures mean Les Parc Des Felins cannot remotely be compared to a traditional zoo. Over €1m is spent annually on the 5,000 chickens, 500 rabbits, 150 sheep and 300 cows needed to feed the park's residents – new for 2014 is a 4D movie and mini-train tour.

If felines aren't your thing, try the delightful Vaux le Vicomte, arguably France's most beautiful private chateau and location of Leonard DiCaprio's 1998 adventure. The Man in the Iron Mask.

After expanding so much energy you'll have worked up an appetite and C.Comme Ca in nearby Meaux is the ideal place to satisfy it. Boasting a particularly relaxed atmosphere and nicely situated in the market square in the shadow of the city's cathedral, it serves some terrific traditional brasserie cuisine but also fine gastronomic dishes too. Don't leave without tasting brie and mustard, the two local specialities.

For overnighters, the Vienna International-owned Magic Circus and Dream Castle hotels, both located near Disneyland and with themed rooms, make for a great base. The delightful 4-star Dream Castle, for example, provides numerous services such as a free shuttle for the parks and even a Disney shop. The restaurant staff wear period costumes and, if a day out at Disneyland proves a bit too much, the hotel also boasts a spa and wellness centre. Both hotels offer a reasonably priced range of pleasant international and French cuisine.

This delightful region, only about three hours' drive from Brussels, has moved on apace since those dark days of WW1 and makes for an excellent long weekend, irrespective of the time of year.

Further information is available at www.tourisme77.fr





"THERE'S AN
AWFUL LOT GOING
FOR THIS LAND OF
ART AND COUNTRY
HOUSES"



ive years ago, the Dolce La Hulpe Hotel, nestled in the heart of Brussels' Sonian Forest, welcomed the Spa Cinq Mondes, offering the perfect natural environment for relaxation of body and mind.

Spa Cinq Mondes was created by Jean -Louis Poiroux, a disciple of massages, aromatherapy and cosmetics. He spent 10 years traveling the world to discover ancestral rites, care and massage practices in the new cultures he came in contact with, in far-flung places such as Bali, India, Brazil, Japan and Polynesia. He opened his first spa in Paris in 2001 and launched a line of natural cosmetics products, based on unique hypoallergenic plants.

With his wife, Nathalie Bouchon, training and quality manager, Jean-Louis Poiroux opened Spa Cinq Mondes in dynamic urban places and other interesting locations. Places of calm and serenity, the Cinq Mondes Spas are currently present in 20 countries and offer a variety of treatments and massages based on traditions and rituals.

To celebrate its 5th anniversary, The Spa Cinq Mondes at Dolce La Hulpe Brussels is offering relaxation and pleasure stays, an opportunity to experience the joy of nature combined with physical and mental wellbeing.

The Anniversary Spa package includes:

One night in a double room

- Buffet breakfast
- A 1:30hr programme at the Spa
- A traditional Hammam Aromas and Colors
   ®
- A relaxing back massage
- A "Ritual Flowers of Bali ®" face massage
- Unlimited access to health and wellness centre (indoor pool with relaxation area and terrace, sauna, steam bath, multi-jet showers, cardio-fitness)
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www.dolcelahulpe.com

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Dinina

LIFE OF

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# Cooking up a storm

Together discovered a chef that takes you to market, helps you select the food, cook it and, of course, eat it

-star Le Châtelain Boutique Hotel is renowned for its excellence in gastronomy. They now allow amateurs to cross the kitchen for their very popular cooking classes. The concept takes advantage of its location near the Châtelain food market, which takes place every Wednesday. Accompanied by the chef, eager participants head for the market to choose their ingredients. They return to the hotel to cook with him and finally taste their own work. It's a very friendly environment and is accessible to everyone. Foodies will be delighted to be accepted into such a professional kitchen and to get to use top-of-the-line kitchen equipment when rustling up their dishes. Appetizers and wine are served during the workshop. A dinner room is set aside where they can join their fellow conspirators and enjoy the fruit of their labour.

The kitchen can cater for 10 to 50 willing chefs, every Wednesday for lunch or dinner. Various formulas and themes are offered to cook with friends, family or colleagues, and the size of a group can vary. The number of staff changes depending on the size of the group in order to ensure a perfect level of quality and service in a friendly atmosphere. Cooking classes are open to everyone – clients, visitors, beginners or qualified cooks.









#### Creative cuisine at La Maison du Châtelain

The chef organizing the cooking classes and in charge of the restaurant La Maison du Châtelain is Nicolas Gadomski, who hails from the north of France. He's been the Executive Chef of Le Châtelain Boutique Hotel for over two years now. His cuisine highlights the authentic taste of the quality products he is working with, particularly vegetables, herbs and flowers that bring a variety of flavours and colours. He revisits the standards of French and Belgian gastronomies by adding some creativity and a touch of whimsy. He revels in creating surprises, and his dishes are a feast for the eyes, such as his foie gras in candyfloss or his salmon tartar.

#### **General Information**

Wednesday only, food market day in Place du Châtelain

Package for lunch or for dinner from 18h00 Groups of 10 to 50 persons

Price per person: €79 all-inclusive.

The offer includes:

- Welcome drink and briefing by the General Manager about the planning of the cooking class
- Shopping at the place du Châtelain market, depending on the recipes (by groups of three or four persons)
- Pictures of the group during the entire workshop
- Explanation and supervision by the Chef
- Appetizers, snacks and drinks served during the Cooking Class
- Table service of all the dishes by the hotel staff
- Three-course meal homemade by the group and enjoyed by all
- Presentation and tasting of wines that suit the menu
- Souvenir photos and detailed recipes of the day given to all the participants

#### Booking

02 643 93 72 - 0471 83 45 67 events@le-chatelain.com Le Châtelain Boutique Hôtel 17 Rue du Châtelain, 1000 Bruxelles www.le-chatelain.com ●

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#### LIFE OF

Dining



#### **The Circuit**

The sun is out, so what better reason to venture slightly outside Brussels for a night out and a visit to this restaurant, opened six months ago? Be assured, it will not disappoint. The Circuit is so called because it is situated on what, back in the 1970s, was Belgium's Formula One track before it moved to its current home at Spa.

You sit reminded of its F1 memories, including a replica race track on the ceiling, videos pumping out F1 footage and photos galore of past and present racing stars such as James Hunt and Niki Lauda. But, of course, it is the food that really matters, and here you are promised some real 'turbo-charged' cuisine – all at incredibly reasonable prices.

The menu ranges from traditional brasserie dishes such as boulettes sauce tomate, frites, salade, priced at a mere €12.50 to slightly more refined (but still very affordable) items such as foie gras cuit au torchon and confiture d'oignons, plus rognon de veau. There are also some terrific steaks on the menu and for those visiting with children a small selection of items, priced from just €8.

It's next to a thriving business park and also offers a well-priced business lunch. As you sit overlooking the old race paddock, your mind will wander to the halcyon days of motor racing. One thing's for sure though: The Circuit gets the chequered flag for top-notch food.

Av Robert Schuman 1, Nivelles www.thecircuit.be •



#### MadZebu

Louvain la Neuve is arguably best known for its huge Catholic university, one of the country's biggest, which totally dominates the place. But there is another very good reason to visit this bustling town in Brabant Walloon – Resto/Bar MadZebu is that reason.

The restaurant was opened in October 2009 and aims to celebrate the best of the country's seasonal cuisine, using the freshest and best local ingredients. Whether it's traditional brasserie fare you favour or a touch of the gastronomic, this place will surely not disappoint.

Starters include delicious carpacio de thon rouge and cassolette de scampi, while the mains list features a particularly tasty Saint Jacques poelees, mouth watering Irish Angus beef and brochette d'agneau. All is carefully and lovingly overseen by Jerome, the chef. It doesn't matter if you're dining alone, with the family or in a large group... you are guaranteed a very hospitable welcome. Boasting an outdoor terrace, it has been totally refurbished with the interior refreshed in a delightfully contemporary way. Their philosophy is 'eat and drink well', and their cuisine is worthy of the best of anything you might find in Brussels.

Place de l'Universite 15, Louvain-la-Neuve 1348 www.madzebu.be •



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MAIS AUSSI VIANDES D'ÎRLANDE ET D'ARGENTINE ET QUELQUES PÂTES FINES









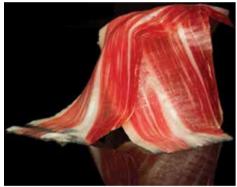
Dinina

## Spring flavours

Rob's The Gourmets Market has stepped into Spring to bring a collection of flavours that fit the season

## "A DELICIOUS DRY CURED HAM REFINED FOR 18 MONTHS ACCORDING TO A TRADITIONAL METHOD"





ob's April Gourmet Days offered up two days of pure, unadulterated pleasure as customers tasted seasonal produce, new products and high-quality specialties. These delicacies make the mouth water - specialties from the French and Spanish Basque Country, such as the famous Rosara roasted piquillos, gourmet tinned fish from Jean de Luz, the PDO cheese Ossau Iraty and a delicious dry cured ham refined for 18 months according to a traditional method.



And as if to further announce the change of season, the shop has lent its rooftop to the bees. The splendid St Ermin's Hotel in London is one of many establishments to do likewise, producing its own honey – and that's exactly what Rob plans for the future. But in the meantime you can delve into a selection of 70 honeys, each with its own authentic flavour. Looking further ahead, you can discover the secrets of caviar at a special tasting workshop on 16 May. There is something divine about caviar. It is venerated for its perfume, grain size, transparency, colour, the delicate quality of the skin of the grain, texture, oil content and, of course, taste. Appreciate the subtleties of caviar by participating in a special caviar workshop in the company of fine connoisseurs.

Another product to look for is the excellent olive oil from le Chateau d'Estoublon in the valléé des Baux de Provence.

www.rob-brussels.be



















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What's On

# What's on

#### Des gestes de la pensée

artificial. With Elias Crespin, Marcel Duchamp,





in Belgium

La Verrière is adorned with shagreen (rawhide) and polystyrene for an original installation by French artist Hubert Duprat, within his cycle Gestures of Thought. This new solo exhibition is built around a subtle play of textures, between the natural and the Hubert Duprat, Hans-Peter Feldmann, Michel François, Ann Veronica Janssens, Irene Kopelman, Corey McCorkle, Benoît Maire, Anna Maria Maiolino, Francisco Tropa. Verrière Hermès. Until 13 July. Free www.fondationdentreprisehermes.org

#### Fidelio (in concert) Ludwig van Beethoven

"Love inspires my endeavours, true love fears nothing." Leonora dresses up as a man and under the name of Fidelio, finds work in the prison where her husband Florestan is being held as a political dissident. Fidelio, Beethoven's only opera, is not only a musical miracle but also a superb humanist manifesto on love, on man in all his facets and depths, on liberation and self-realization, and on ethics and human duties. Philosopher Ernest Bloch has labelled it "a utopian opera". www.lamonnaie.be







Maiz qui ezt cette Fernande bon rang ???

Venez la découvrir place du Grand Sablon 15-16

Plat du jour : 10€ Accueil chaleureux garanti ;-)





C'est sur la place du Grand Sablon 15-16, en plein Coeur de Bruxelles, que notre honne Fernande de Bruxelles vous attend.

Une équipe d'hôtes chaleureux vous y accueillent dans un endroit original et vintage.

Chez Fernande, vous mangez ce que vous voulez et quand vous voulez! Craquez sur les pâtisseries home made, le famous Cheese Burger et ses frites maison, le Fish and Chips London style. Pour manger plus léger, dégustez nos délicieuses tartines ou salades fraîches. Des plats belges traditionnels sont aussi à la carte : le stoemp saucisse, les ribs ou l'américain préparé...

Fernande de Bruxelles, c'est l'endroit cosy pour petit-déjeuner, luncher, prendre l'apéro entre amis, diner ou boire un verre.

Prenez place sur la terrasse douillette avec chaufferettes, peaux de moutons et couvertures pour les frileux où vous boirez un bon café dans une tasse aux dessins vintage.

Deux espaces privés disponibles pour vos réceptions Menus complet de groupe (anniversaire - entreprise - walking dinner) à partir de 30€ par personne - Lunch du jour : 10€

What's On



Phillippe GRAMMATICOPOULOS - The Bellies, 2009, 3D animation, Courtesy the Artist

#### No Country for Young Men: Contemporary Greek Art in Times of Crisis

This exhibition brings together work by more than 30 leading contemporary Greek artists whose work addresses the impact of the economic crisis on their country. Their work transcends the everyday coverage of political and economic developments and offers an insightful look at what is going on in Greece today. The focus, however, is not only restricted to the negative effects: the exhibition also looks at the opportunities the crisis offers for a reinvention of the country.



#### Wunderkammer

In this exquisite cabaret of the senses, a diva melts into a rope, balloons and bubble wrap discover their artistic souls while bodies twist and fly. Seven performers of unbelievable ability bend the very fabric of reality. Sexy, funny and explosive, Circa presents a breathless cocktail of new circus, cabaret and vaudeville. Control and abandon, skill and humour, lyricism and anarchy all meld into a sinuous fugue of profound beauty. W:Halll, Woluwe. **22 May**. Tickets from €20 www.whalll.be



#### Hamlet v Hamlet

Guy Cassiers and Tom Lanoye continue their successful collaboration. Following Mefisto for ever, Atropa en Bloed & rozen, they are now focusing on 'the play of all plays':

Shakespeare's Hamlet.

For his adaptation of Hamlet, Tom Lanoye delves into the psychology of adolescence. Hamlet and Ophelia are on the threshold of adulthood. Unlike characters such as Romeo and Juliet, who are still young teenagers, Hamlet is old enough to detect the Machiavellian machinations going on around him. But he still cherishes the youthful desire for purity. Cassiers directs this adaptation with actors from Toneelhuis and Toneelgroep Amsterdam. This is the first of four collaborative projects by the two companies, which are planned for between 2014 and 2016. 28-31 May. €20/16/8



What's On

## Cinema

Picturenose.com's

James Drew offers up
his film choices for this
month



#### Robocop

So, is this remake going to be any good then? Well, 27 years on from Paul Verhoeven's subversive, sly and hilarious original, Brazilian director José Padilha (Elite Squad (2007)) has managed to cast Joel Kinnaman as Alex Murphy, a police detective who is injured in an explosion and transformed into the cyborg RoboCop, with Gary Oldman, Michael Keaton and Samuel L. Jackson along for the ride. My guess is the social satire will likely take a back seat this time around, but it's worth seeing just to say you have, right? 118 mins.

#### Godzilla

And, while we're in remake zone, there is no way that this can be anywhere near as bad as the last version of Toho's towering titan, made by Roland Emmerich back in 1998. This time around it would appear that British director Gareth Edwards has returned to the roots of the fictional daikaiju that first appeared in Ishiro Honda's 1954 film Godzilla, as a terrifying, absolutely MASSIVE force of nature. Likely to be fun – again, you're fooling no-one when you say you're not going to see it. 98 mins.

#### Deux jours, une nuit

The two-time Palme d'Or-winning frères Dardennes return with Marion Cottilard in the lead as Sandra, a young woman who has only one weekend to convince her colleagues to give up their bonuses so that she can keep her job. Likely to be very good and win loads of awards. 90 mins.

#### Maleficent

Disney revisits one of its scariest ever monsters, namely the Mistress of All Evil from Sleeping Beauty (1959) who, after not being invited to a royal christening, curses the infant Princess Aurora to "prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and die" before the sun sets on her sixteenth birthday. Angeline Jolie stars as evil personified, and it marks the directorial debut of production designer Robert Stromberg.

www.picturenose.com



### **TASTE** THE CULTURE

Film, concerts, theatre in the neighborhood



### **SPEAK**THE LANGUAGE

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## **MEET**THE PEOPLE

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www.derand.be



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### What's on International



#### 70.000 Years Just Like One Day

Currently, Alexander Kluge is dealing with the history of human civilization. The title of his work in progress is 70.000 Years Just Like One Day. He has held numerous conversations with paleobiologists, behavioral scientists, linguists, bioacoustic researchers- in other words with experts who trace the history of humankind. It's an enterprise similar to the stories in 1001 (Arabian) Nights. packed with suspense, driven by scientific curiosity, colourfully told and determined by the accuracy of facts and phenomenal theories that open new doors onto the world, Deutsche Kinemathek Museum, Berlin, Until 27 July 2014 - www.deutsche-kinemathek.de

#### La Pedrera: Nits d'Estiu (Summer Nights)

A visit to Casa Milà, popularly known as 'La Pedrera' (the stone quarry), gives us a better understanding and appreciation of architecture and take us to the period when Antoni Gaudí lived. The programme 'La Pedrera by day' includes a visit to the most important parts of the building: the Roof-Terrace, the Espai Gaudí (the attic), The Courtyards, and the Exhibition Hall. La Pedrera, Barcelona. See website for dates: €16.50 www.lapedrera.com







#### Palace of Miracles

The Palace of Miracles is a unique, interactive exhibition in the House of Future Centre. The Palace offers new thematic exhibitions a couple of times a year. The concept is to invite children to make experiments and to get to know the world in a playful but scientific environment. All year round. Family tickets from €17 www.csopa.hu

#### **Edinburgh International Film Festival**

For 12 days in June, the EIFF turns moviegoers from passive consumers into active participants in a great art form. "Our festival strives to connect our audiences in numerous ways with the world of cinema," says artistic director Chris Fujiwara. "Participating in cinema is not just an act of consumption but it's also a richly fulfilling process of creation." The programme offers 146 feature films and 172 shorts. 18-29 June - www.edinburghfestivals.co.uk



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