





ing.be

ING 🌺

With ING Private Banking I can manage my assets as I like: with my Private Banker and now online too.

Customers want a modern bank. A mobile bank which allows you to manage your assets as you like. ING Private Banking understands your wish and is doing its utmost to make life easier for you. In addition to discussions with your Private Banker, now you can bank on your tablet via the ING Smart Banking app and consult your Private Banking portfolio*.

You can also access a new secure page on our website, with information on asset management and the Private Banking publications. In a nutshell, an online and personalised service: the best of both worlds.

ing.be/privatebanking

^{*} Consultation of your Private Banking portfolio only on iPad.
ING Belgium SA/NV –Bank/Lender –Registered office: avenue Marnix 24, B-1000 Brussels –Brussels RPM/RPR –VAT: BE 0403.200.393 –BIC: BBRUBEBB –IBAN: BE45 3109 1550 2789 – Publisher: Inge Ampe –Cours Saint-Michel 60, B-1040 Brussels.





FOLLOW THAT INSTINCT

Infiniti Q50

Where can instinct drive you? To a world of thrilling possibility – with a turbo-charged 2.2l direct injection Diesel engine that achieves 170 PS and 400 Nm of torque with only 114g/km of CO₂. To world-first technology like Direct Adaptive Steering, and our dual touch screen Infiniti InTouch infotainment system. Let instinct lead you to the Infiniti Q50.

Book your test drive now at infiniti.be



Model displayed: Infiniti Q50 2.2d. Official fuel economy figures for the Infiniti Q50 2.2d in I/100 km: combined 4,4. CO_2 emissions: 114 g/km. Environmental information: A.R. 19/03/2004: www.infiniti.eu. *Give priority to safety







COME FLY WITH ME

Editor's **LETTER**

Together: Inspiring you to reach your dreams...

ON THE COVER



Richard Branson Businessman & Philanthropist

Look around vou in modern life and vou will see other than Nature's handiwork - mostly things we have fabricated, things we have bought, things sold by someone making money from them. From the fireside armchair we sit on before a roaring fire to the icecream cone melting in a child's hand on a hot summer's day, it's all man-made. Behind all this mass commerce, however, lies a strange creature, someone out of the ordinary. The entrepreneur. It's a term that sounds very modern but it was first used in 1723. Team-building, leadership and management ability are essential qualities for the entrepreneur.

But the ones we at Together like to celebrate are not just any old businessmen or women raking in a fortune from sales or stocks and shares. We're fond of individuals who build their businesses with energy and know-how but also with a great dollop of passion. In our pages this month you'll find us chatting to a few of these adventurers.

Richard Branson is a world-wide phenomenon who started his career selling vinyl and now wants to fly us all to the moon and back. But we also stay closer to home to meet Belgians who have carved their businesses from scratch, following their chosen passion: shoes, banking, interior design and bespoke tailoring.

What they all have in common is that they took risks, searching for something that others may have said was unreachable. In his *Meditations*. Roman philosopher Marcus Aurelius said: "Watch the stars, and see yourself running with them."

Paul Morris EDITOR









Fitness: Seven steps p23



Travel: South American way p85

Contents

13 Editor's letter

14 Contents

18 Starring in Belgium

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

23 Fitness: Seven steps to fitness 29 Health: Reflecting the World **33 Self-help:** The art of conversation

37 Politics: EU-Azerbaijan **41 Money:** Helping expats

45 Charity: Greenpeace in Europe

LIFESTYLE

49 Fashion: Mad about shoes **52 Fashion shoot::** Urban graphic

63 Beauty: A fresh start **65 Shopping:** Top brands

73 Interior design: Céline Blanc

LIFE OF LEISURE

78 Interview: Richard Branson 85 Travel: Compagnie du Ponant 89 Travel: Royal Palm Hotel 94 Travel: In 'Geordieland' **98 Dining:** In the borderlands 101 What's On Belgium

108 What's On International 110 What's On Cinema

114 Cartoon: Le Chat by Philippe Geluck

PUBLISHER

David Mc Gowan

david@togethermedia.eu

KEY ACCOUNT DIRECTOR

Renaud Philippart

renaud@togethermedia.eu +32 (0) 494 64 67 93

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Caroline Dierckx

caroline@togethermedia.eu +32 (0) 479 47 47 77

EDITOR

Paul Morris paul@togethermedia.eu

ART DIRECTOR

Xavier Bostem

carafe.xavier@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Martin Banks: Rob Beal: James Drew; Philippe Geluck; Federico Grandesso; Tom Meyers; Paul Morris; Shannon Robb;

Gemma Rose; Delphine Stefens; Linda Thompson

STYLIST

Nicholas Sirot

ONLINE EDITOR **Paul Morris**

paul@togethermedia.eu

FOUNDER

Jérôme Stéfanski

Together Media

Boulevard St Michel, 47 B-1040 Brussels

+32 (0)2 400 00 24 info@togethermedia.eu

www.togethermag.eu

For advertising sales rates please consult www.togethermag.eu

Together magazine France LMedia - 201/203, rue de Vaugirard 75015 Paris - www.lmedia.fr Director: Jean-Baptiste Leprince

ibl@lmedia.fr Business development director: Damien Delachaux

damien.delachaux@lmedia.fr

Nothing in this magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher. The publisher cannot be held responsible for the views and opinions expressed in this magazine by contributors. Together is neither responsible for nor endorses the content of published advertisements, nor can the magazine be held responsible for any errors or inaccuracies in the same



Together online



FASHION
Franck Mesnel opens Eden Park store
in Waterloo



LIFESTYLE Infiniti: Simply the best



TRAVEL
Antwerp's maritime history



ART AND CULTURE
Patrice Leconte's 'A Promise'



LIFESTYLE
Outdoor adventures in the Alps



TECHNOLOGY
Travel gadgets for your next trip



BMW Brussels - Branch of BMW Belux

Chaussée de Louvain 864 - 1140 Brussels - Tel. 02 730 49 11 - marc.moncousin@bmwbrussels.be - www.bmwbrussels.be

Jean-Michel Martin East

Rue François Desmedt 96 - 1150 Brussels - Tel. 02 772 08 20 - jean-francois.monteiro@jmmartin.net.bmw.be - www.jmmartin.bmw.be Jean-Michel Martin West

Boulevard Industriel 125 - 1070 Brussels - Tel. 02 521 17 17 - zakaria.aaenaya@jmmartin.net.bmw.be - www.jmmartin.bmw.be

Ginion Waterloo

Chaussée de Bruxelles 54 - 1410 Waterloo - Tel. 02 352 03 30 - yves.diant@giniongroup.be - www.ginion.bmw.be

Ginion Overijse

Brusselsesteenweg 403 - 3090 Overijse - Tel. 02 687 91 40 - yves.diant@giniongroup.be - www.ginion.bmw.be

Davo nv

Maastrichtersteenweg 529 - Exit 32 - E313 - 3700 Tongeren - Tel. 012 23 71 55 - peter.weekers@davo.net.bmw.be - www.davo.bmw.be

Philippe Emond s a

Route de Bastogne 394 - 6700 Arlon - Tel. 063 23 05 60 - yannick.rosenbaum@emondarlon.net.bmw.be - www.emond.bmw.be

Vanneste Motors Mons

Rue des Sandrinettes 48 - 7033 Mons-Cuesmes - Tel. 065 40 02 00 - olivier.noel@novautomons.net.bmw.be - www.novautomons.bmw.be

Starring in Belgium



Imelda May

Razor-sharp, stylish and snappy in rockabilly clothes, Imelda May is a dominant singer, but with a really tight band around her, including Daniel Higham. She has been heavily influenced by rockabilly and the blues, up to and including Billie Holiday. Her latest CD, *Tribal*, is out now. **28 October 2014**. Ancienne Belgique. Tickets: **€25** www.abconcerts.be

Kylie Minogue - Kiss Me Once Tour

The Kiss Me Once Tour is the upcoming thirteenth concert tour by Australian recording artist Kylie Minogue, due to take place from September 2014 to March 2015. **6 November**. Palais 12 - L'Esplanade Brussels Expo. Tickets: From **€46** www.livenation.be





Paolo Nutini

The Scottish singer, songwriter and musician's first two albums have been certified quintuple platinum by the British Phonographic Industry. His new album, *Caustic Love* has been called "the best UK R&B album since the 1970s". It debuted at number one in the UK Album Charts and was certified platinum by the BPI in June 2014. **12 November** Forest National. **€46** www.livenation.be



Yann Tiersen

French musician/composer Yann Tiersen's soundtrack *Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain* made him instantly famous. His latest album '∞' is his 8th piece of studio work, but he recorded the album on various islands, such as the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Ouessant, the island on the coast of Brittany where he lives. **26 October 2014**. Ancienne Belgique. **Tickets: €30** *www.abconcerts.be*





Seven steps to fitness heaven

Post-holidays, Rob Beal says it's back to life. back to health and wellbeing



of us are quite happy to commit to exercising three times a week, but which forms of exercise are best. given our limited schedule? And what else should we be doing to give ourselves the best chance of losing those extra kilos, building that extra bit of muscle or simply improving our overall health?

There are seven steps that will give you a great start, and they fall into one of the three main categories - Exercise, Nutrition and Recovery.

Nutrition: Eat a balanced diet, with around 40% of your calories in the form of carbohydrates, 30% protein and 30% fat. Most of us are taking as much as 75% of our calories from starchy carbs (including bread, pasta, rice and

potatoes) and consuming very few calories in the form of protein (as little as 10%). This causes blood sugar levels to rise, producing insulin which converts the excess sugars into fat. If this is repeated – four to five times per day - then our bodies become fat storing machines, gaining weight over time and potentially triggering long-term health consequences such as diabetes and heart disease.

Step 2

Nutrition: Eat little and often - the more often you eat, the more calories your body burns, especially if each a meal contains sufficient protein and is based on the 40:30:30 principle above.

We see incredible results in fat loss and energy

togethermag.eu I 23



SIGN UP 2 FOR THE PRICE OF 1 VALID FOR THE 100 FIRST PEOPLE

THE COMPLETE FITNESS CENTER AT THE BEST PRICE!

- 2500m² State-of the-art cardio and strength equipment 60 Group exercises/week 'live instructors'
- oump, Pilates, Zumba, Cycling and many more)
- lern Lockers with sauna
- onal Training, Bootcamp, Trx and High intensity weight classes

- 30 Freezing days and NO JOINING FEE

Opening hours: Monday - Friday 6:00 - 23:00 | Saturday - Sunday 8:00 - 22:00

VALID UNTIL 30th SEPTEMBER 2014



World Class Fitness Center

Rue d'Idalie 10

1050 Brussels | Phone: +32 2 503 15 57

www.worldclassfitness.be







Shapes

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fitness



levels when people move from three meals a day to three meals plus two snacks. The total amount of calories can be the same, but spreading them out speeds up the metabolism, which helps increase results, when planned alongside regular training.

Step 3

Nutrition: Eat after training – there is a small window of around 45 minutes after a workout in which you'll benefit most from the foods that are essential for the repair of tissues and muscles. Basically, the sooner you consume quality protein and carbohydrate after exercise, the quicker your muscles can repair, grow and strengthen.

Step 4

Nutrition: Drink - water that is! Most of us simply don't consume enough regular fluids, which means we are often dehydrated. This weakens performance, not only during a workout but throughout the day.

Between two and three litres of water per day (depending on your size and the amount of exercise you do) is an established vardstick, with extra water whenever you increase the duration or intensity of your exercise.

"SPREADING THEM OUT SPEEDS UP THE **METABOLISM**"

Step 5

Exercise: Lift weights. This doesn't mean that you have to start bench-pressing in the freeweights area, but some form of resistance training using either free weights, fixed machines, cables, body resistance or the functional pieces of gym equipment - ViPR™, Kettlebells and TRX – is a great way of working muscles.

Step 6

Exercise: Stop the long bouts of cardio - most people will take to the treadmill, cross trainer or bike for hours hoping to burn calories and lose fat. With 3,500 calories per 500gr of fat, most of you will burn at most 500 calories per cardio workout. To lose 500gr of fat, you'd have to endure seven sessions every week.











Préparez chez vous l'épreuve

à laquelle vous participerez

dans 2 mois à 500 km de

Street View

Terminez des épreuves

mythiques (la montée du

Galibier ou du Tourmalet,

final du marathon de

New-York, etc)



Satellite View

Faîtes du tourisme (sillonnez

la célèbre Route 66, ou les

rues de Rome, Barcelone,

New-York, Tokyo ou Sydney,



i.Concept by BH et qui vous permettra

de réaliser des entraînements 100% MOTIVANTS

compatible avec les appareils

Voir la vidéo



Modèles BH compatibles

Map View













et RÉALISTES.





The Bluetooth word mark and logos are registered trademarks owned by Bluetooth SIG. Inc. and any use of such marks by Exercycle, S.L. is under license. Other trademarks and trade names

The Android robot is reproduced or modified from work created and shared by Google and used according to terms described in the Creative Commons 3.0 Attribution License. IPad, IPhone, IPod, IPod classic, IPod nano, IPod shue and IPod touch are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. "Made for iPod", "Made for iPhone", and "Made for iPhone", and "Made for iPad" mean that an electronic accessory has been designed to connect specifically to iPod, iPhone, or iPad, respectively, and has been certified by the developer to meet Apple performance standards. Apple is not responsible for the operation of this device or its compliance with safety and regulatory standards. Please note that the Fitness

DEVEL OPMENT

Advertorial



A more efficient way of shedding the fat is to do shorter, more intensive interval training; for example moving between a jog and a sprint for 20 minutes. This is because you'll be using both anaerobic and aerobic systems, which raises the metabolism for up to eight hours resulting in a far higher calorie burn.

The fitness benefits of this type of interval training are enormous, so try adding time on the rower, cross trainer, bike or treadmill for better results.

Step 7

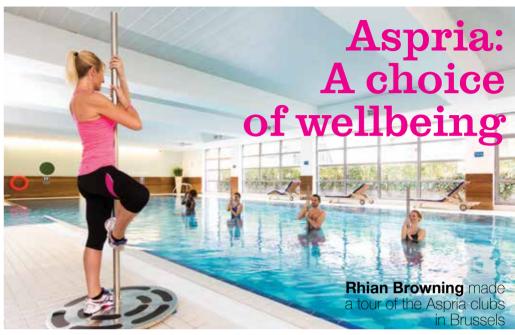
Recovery: Sleep for eight hours. There are two key benefits to maintaining your full sleep guota. Firstly, you'll be fully rested so you can push yourself harder in the gym, the pool or on the tennis court - meaning higher calorie burn and improved performance. Secondly, reduced sleep often results in an excess of the hormone cortisol, or the 'stress hormone' as it's commonly called. Too much cortisol can make losing fat or gaining muscle difficult.

Avoid watching TV within an hour of bedtime, and avoid sleeping with a mobile phone or

LEDs on in your room; darkness will further improve the quality of your sleep.

Good luck implementing the seven steps above!

Rob Beal is Group Wellbeing Director at Aspria



eptember is not always the most cheerful month. The holidays are over and we're back into the daily routine of work and school. The days are getting shorter and colder, but it still seems a long time until Christmas. So, imagine my delight when I was invited to explore Aspria for the weekend: here was the perfect way to restore that holiday feeling. And the good news is that if you live in Brussels, you could do this every day!

Aspria has three private members clubs in Brussels. Each is different, so one of them will suit you whether you're a young professional or a parent with lively children. I was lucky enough to spend time at each of them.

I began at Aspria Arts-Loi in the European quarter, where I met a Wellbeing Advisor, Michael, for my induction and to create my personalized training programme. We often get into a rut with our workouts, and Michael opened my eyes to the opportunities at the club: of course, there's a fitness area with all the apparatus you'd expect, but there's also a functional training room, a pool and more than 120 weekly classes. I was impressed.

I'd never tried functional training and the club is a good place to start, because they have equipment that's unique in Brussels as well as expert instructors to help you achieve your goals guickly and enjoyably. Unlike traditional gym exercises, functional training works several muscle groups at once, so you burn more calories. I walked out feeling energized.

I wanted to try a class, and Aspria Arts-Loi offers some Belgian exclusives in that area too. Michael recommended the AcquaPole®. involving acrobatic and dance movements performed around a vertical pole placed in the pool. It's not as difficult as it sounds because the water supports you, as well as offering resistance for a toning or cardio workout.

Time for relaxation, so I headed to Aspria Avenue Louise, an award-winning oasis of tranquillity. The spa is the most beautiful I've ever visited: with its sauna, hammam, Jacuzzi and relaxation area, it really was like being on holiday. I treated myself to the new Brazilian massage for an experience of total escapism - tropical fragrances, bossa nova music, and a therapist working magic on my tired muscles.

26 I togethermag.eu togethermag.eu | 27

Advertorial



Luckily, the weekend coincided with Italian Night at Aspria Royal La Rasante, the family club at Woluwe with gardens and outdoor sports. Aspria members come from more than 70 countries, and staff can welcome you in many different languages from English to Indonesian! The clubs pride themselves on offering a varied programme of social and cultural activities, an excellent way to meet people and make new friends. The evening included entertainment and a delicious buffet of fresh, healthy, seasonal food, You'll find the same at the next event, Greek Night, on 20 September.

After a busy day, I didn't have far to go: Aspria Royal La Rasante has its own hotel in a restored farmhouse. My room was a million miles from the anonymous boxes of ordinary hotels, combining character, comfort and the modern amenities we all rely on. Hotel quests have access to the club too, so you can start the day with a swim or a run round the outdoor fitness trail. Not many hotels can provide that!

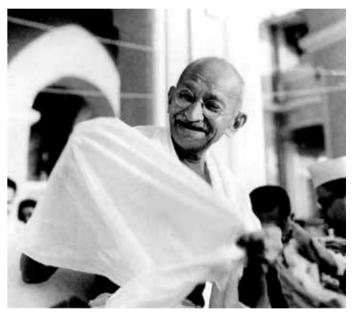
My husband and daughter joined me to find out what the club offers for families. My girl loves making things so the new jewellery class was ideal. She came out beaming, with sparkly bracelets and several new friends. Together, they joined the modern jazz class, exploring music through dance and movement, while we had a game of tennis. Aspria's team will look after your children as if they were their own, giving you the chance to enjoy your favourite activities too.

Whether you've just arrived in Brussels or you're a long-standing resident, Aspria's clubs are the perfect places to meet like-minded people, get fit, relax and have fun. After the weekend, we felt revitalized, just as if we'd been on a mini holiday. You could feel that too, whenever you

www.aspria.be

The world is a reflection of you **Tom Meyers** searches for change that comes from within

" HOW DO YOU FEEL AND WHAT DOES THE **WORLD LOOK** LIKE?"



only I had...". "If only I was..." Stop right there and reflect on the phrase coined by Professor Stefano D'Anna, author of the personal development book The School for Gods: "The world is a chewing gum: it takes the shape of your teeth."

The essence of this quote is that you are the creator of your environment, and your environment is the sole creation of your beina. your thoughts, mind and body. When you are constantly living outside of yourself, when you're never satisfied with what you have, you'll never find true happiness or peace within.

You are the only one that can change when you are not happy with what you have and with the people and things you have surrounded

28 I togethermag.eu

Health

"BECOME PRESENT, MINDFUL AND RECLAIM YOUR RESPONSIBILITY"

yourself with – create that change within. To illustrate this with a famous quote that is attributed to Mahatma Gandhi: "Be the change that you want to see in the world." Some people contest that Gandhi really said this, but, from personal and professional experience, I know that the deeper meaning of the message is true.

To illustrate this, imagine you weigh 70 kilos, and it makes you feel depressed. How do you feel and what does the world look like? Now, you are that same person weighing 70 kilos but you're happy. How do you feel and how does the world look like now?

The same person but with a different state of body and mind experiences the world very differently. I invite you to take some time and reflect on this and come up with a few examples from your own life when you felt happy or sad and how you looked at the world in the different dynamics.

The world exists because you do. Taking control of who you are and appreciating what you have are central to living the life you want to live. Live in the present, become mindful and reclaim responsibility for your health and wellbeing, thoughts and actions – the world around you will shape itself like a mirror image. So it is what it is, within and without. Your outside world is really the exact reflection of your inner world.

Now is the time to stop and allow what I call a

'return to ease' (which helps you in times of stress) by not wanting more or being different than you are. It's time for integrity to return, to look again within and bring out the dream you want to see in the world by nurturing that dream within and in the present.

During days when it all seems impossible, when a veil of clouds blocks the light, take timeout, focus on your breathing for a few minutes and add a mantra (from the Hawaiian practice of Ho'oponopono), which is a phrase you repeat consciously out loud or internally. This mantra is very simple and helps to dissipate gloom or powerlessness through reconciliation and forgiveness of yourself.

Start focusing on your breath and slow it down to a cycle of six breaths per minute, then add the mantra 'I'm sorry, Please forgive me, thank you, I love you'. Feel the words spoken to yourself and repeat until you feel tensions dissolve and ease return.

"The best years of your life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You do not blame them on your mother, the ecology or the president. You realize that you control your own destiny."

Albert Ellis, psychologist

For more health and wellness tips, tune in to the feature Health Matters on www.radiox.eu or visit www.tommevers.be



BELGIUM'S # 1 RANKED BUSINESS SCHOOL

JOIN OUR INFO SESSION ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2014, 6 PM VLERICK BRUSSELS CAMPUS

WWW.VLERICK.COM/ EXPERIENCEVLERICK

PERSONAL

DEVELOPMENT

A little bit of conversation

Gemma Rose suggests that conversation should be treated as an end in itself

Matthew Hussey is a New York Times bestselling author and matchmaker on NBC's Ready For Love.



" I SOUGHT KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO 'PUT MYSELF OUT THERE'"

n January. I made a pledge to meet more men. My dating history was a bit chequered. I was often flummoxed as to why I wasn't meeting manv men in general, let alone decent ones. I lamented to my girlfriends over all the good guys being taken and so consigned myself to spinsterhood. Sick of hearing my dating woes, a friend floated the simple, yet ingenious idea of having fun with single people instead of drowning my sorrows with smugmarrieds. My ears plucked up; I awoke from my stupor. The year 2014 would be the year of more dates, which meant meeting more men.

I sought knowledge on how to 'put myself out there' from the New York Times best seller Get the Guy by Matthew Hussey. Unlike other dating books that are

International Montessori Schools

International Baccalaureate MYP and DP section

Children aged o to 19 years old

Experiencing unique learning environments!

Attractive buildings

High ratio teacher-student

Multilingual and multicultural

Individualised learning styles and approach



Performing Arts Unique productions

Musical instruments for all students



Open Day

Friday September 26: **Scheduled Tours**



Vast and interesting

Logical and critical

curriculum

thinkers



Tervuren – Sterrebeek – Wezembeek – Woluwe www.international-montessori.org 02-767 63 60 / 02-721 21 11



PERSONAL

DEVELOPMENT

Self-help

either akin to the Ten Commandments (*The Rules*), or summarize all disingenuous male behaviour into one line (*He's Just Not That Into You*), Matthew Hussey's approach differs: take the focus off him and put it back on me by living a life that I love, true to my values and my worth. Being sociable is part of loving life. So if I wanted more dates, I needed to meet more men. If I wanted to meet more men, I needed to start talking to them.

The first step was to start conversations with anyone. I asked the security guard at work about his day; I discussed the dangers of processed carbohydrates with the dinner lady at the canteen; I got life tips from the elderly lady at the hair salon. I started complimenting

people more, from strangers to friends, ranging from their shirt to their character. A little conversation and a smile went a long way.

This practice made me more at ease and confident when starting conversations with attractive men at parties, in bars, in the supermarket or on a plane. The key to building connection and seeking compatibility, according to Matthew Hussey, is to "seek values, not facts". It is fine to launch into the "What do you do? Where do you come from?" type of questions, but the values lie in the 'Why?' guestions: "Why do

you do what you do? Why did you move to this city? Why did you decide to quit your job and go travelling? Why did you have a sex change?". 'Why?' gives you the clues to probe more, to respond, or to subtly move the topic on. It opens the door to let the other person out, and to let you in.

It soon dawned on me that great conversation was not just for meeting men but for all the encounters in my life. With more opportunities to talk to people, I became more authentic in the questions I asked and the answers I gave. If I was stuck in a boring or difficult conversation, I made a bigger effort to be interested. I studied

the person's facial expressions and voice, I asked for clarification when needed. I placed myself in my companion's shoes. My frustration, annoyance or boredom soon faded. I made a connection.

There is a wealth of information on how to have good conversations. The book *How To Talk With Anybody About Practically Anything* by Barbara Walters is lauded as one of the finest books on the subject. It's dangerous to believe that some people are blessed with good conversational skills and that a good conversation arises by pure chance. Beliefs like these give us an excuse to be lazy and complacent in our interactions. A good conversation takes work, practice and

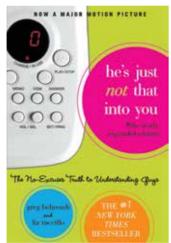
cultivation. It requires listening, understanding, openness and creativity; it demands the communication of our views, the clarification of our thoughts and the confirmation of who we are, all under the auspices of politeness, care and respect. Making conversation is about adding value to that person at that moment, whether that moment lasts a minute or an eternity.

As we conduct more of our lives over the internet, never have our efforts to have good conversations been so vital to our wellbeing and for living the good life. If we don't force ourselves.

we risk becoming as banal, soulless and disconnected as a 140-character tweet.

In the book *The Four Loves*, C.S. Lewis defines the love of friendship by this question: "Do you see the same truth?" He writes that a friend is someone who agrees with the question, yet may not necessarily agree with the answer. This is what a good conversation should be based on: the willingness to see the same truth, irrespective of whether you actually do.

Gemma Rose writes at livingroomphilosophy. com. Follow her on Twitter @livingroomphilo and Facebook.com/LivingRoomPhilosophy.

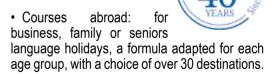




With more than 30 years' experience, LSI offers a multitude of programmes that are suitable for everyone!

- Language courses for professionals and expats: language courses during the day or evening, course module 'Life in Brussels', linguistic preparation for job interviews and European institutions concours, development of written and oral communication, language courses tailored to personal needs and professional requirements.
- Preparation for official language exams: Cambridge, IELTS, TOEFL and TOEIC in English but also French, German, Dutch and

Spanish. And also SELOR language tests (recruitment for the Belgian government, communities and regions).



- Marshall Plan Obtaining a grant for young people from the Wallonia region.
- LSI is partner of ACTIRIS Language courses for job seekers.
- Financing vocational training in the European Parliament (see conditions*).

www.lsi-be.net • info@lsi-be.net • +32 (0) 2 217 23 73
Boulevard Clovis 83 • 1000 Brussels



Kiddy & Junior Classes

Learning is fun

French, English, Dutch, Spanish, Chinese, Greek, more than 10 languages. For children between 3 and 18 years old. 4 possible options: courses throughout the year, summer camps and courses in Brussels and summer residential courses in Belgium or abroad.

For more information visit www.kiddyclasses.net





L'AVENTURE EST UN ÉTAT D'ESPRIT



Nouvelle Jeep. Cherokee. Built free.

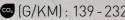
À partir de 31.990€ et plus de 6.500€" d'avantage. Motorisations 2.0L diesel 140cv • 8.4" display touch screen • Système de navigation •

Système audio Alpine Premium Sound System avec 9 haut parleurs • 5 étoiles EURO NCAP, classée la plus sûre de sa catégorie • Disponible en 2 ou 4 roues motrices





Follow us on [] /JeepBelux [] (L/100 KM): 5,3 - 10,0 @ (G/KM): 139 - 232 @ Demonstr Presented in Line Security in Line Securi





(1) Offre TVAC valable sur Jeep, Cherokee 2.0 MJD 140ch MTX 4x2 Longitude, prime de base (3.910€) et prime de stock (1.000€) déduites et avec Pack Business gratuit (valeur 1.600€), réservée aux clients particuliers, valable jusqu'au 30/09/2014 dans la limite des stocks disponibles dans le réseau participant, Annonceur : Fiat Group Automobiles Belgium, Rue Jules Cockx 12 a - 1160 Bruxelles, Informations environnementales; A.R. 19/03/2004 - www.jeep.be - photo à titre illustratif et non-contractuelle. Jeep est une marque déposée du Groupe Chrysler LLC.

EU-Azerbaijan: Challenges and

EU Reporter interviews Fuad Isgandarov, the head of Azerbaijan's mission to the FU

paradoxes



Photo © MarshallBagramyan

ne rising death toll at the Armenia-Azerbaijan front line is a tradic result of the violation of the ceasefire. which is causing serious concerns for the international community, as both conflicting countries are close neighbours and members of the Eastern Partnership initiative (EaP). EU-Azerbaijan relations have survived despite an intense relationship. Meanwhile, the EU institutions have consistently criticized human-rights issues in Azerbaijan, with the two-track approach provoking tensions. The head of the mission of Azerbaijan to the EU, Fuad Isgandarov, shared his thoughts on the current state of affairs.

EU Reporter: Lately, an exchange of rather tough statements took place between the EU and Azerbaijan. It came as a surprise to many, especially after a recent visit of Commission President José Manuel Barroso to Baku. It seems that the DNA of the relationship has changed.

Fuad Isgandarov: Azerbaijan has been a reliable partner in all its engagements – our relationship with the EU is no exception; we have been a committed participant in all chosen endeavours. However, there has always been this duality in our ongoing dialogue with the EU, with a certain penchant from their side for a relentless search for negative, sometimes grounded, sometimes false aspects, and we always kept a philosophical approach towards this peculiar EU attitude. The violation by Armenia of the ceasefire regime and tragic loss of life does not leave us any space for meditation - we expect to feel the shoulder of our friends but not a kick in the teeth - a wrong moment and a wrong case.

ALWAYS BEEN THIS DUALITY IN OUR ONGOING

"THERE HAS

DIALOGUE

What are your expectations from the EU?

We expect the EU to live up to their own declarations: back in October 2013, the European Parliament aligned EU policies with the UN resolutions on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Moreover, they stated that within the EaP

POLITICS

the occupation of a territory of one country by another is inadmissible. I presume the EU executive body of the EU should follow the political guidelines of the elected representatives of 500 million Europeans. We are missing a common approach from the EU side vis-à-vis the settlement of the protracted conflicts and aggressions in its Eastern Neighbourhood.

Didn't the EU support your struggle for territorial integrity?

The Spokespersons of the EEAS and the European Commissioner for Enlargement and ENP have released nine pessimistic statements since July 2013; all of them are very critical and non-objective, dedicated to domestic issues. And there has been no single document supporting the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

What do you expect from the European Commission?

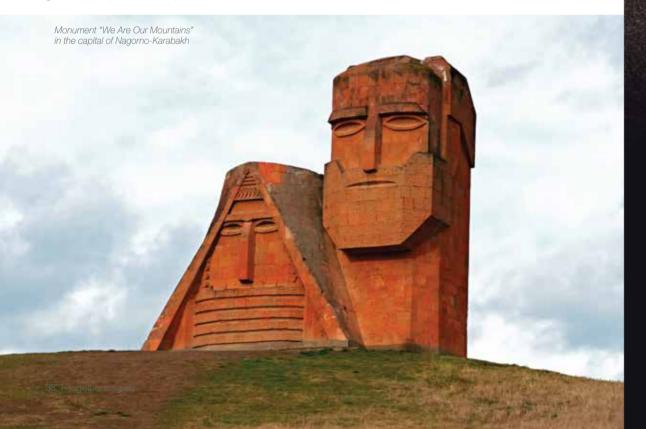
Nothing out of ordinary, just to stick to their own guns and respect the independence of the

iudiciary in Azerbaijan – the idea of influencing a legal system in a non-EU member state is bizarre. I'm not sure the EU member states would appreciate such a bureaucratic zeal concerning their own judiciary.

What is your perception of political interaction?

I believe that in spite of current turbulence our relationship has great potential. In a world that is becoming increasingly dangerous and explosive, we stand for genuine strategic partnership with the European Union in facing the new challenges. It is not only our wish, but a pragmatic need on behalf of the EU, taking into consideration Azerbaijan's historical and strategic disposition in the region. I am sure there is enough wisdom to reach a strategic partnership, but not to lose each other as partners. We hope to create authentic ties between our people based on equality, respect

www.eureporter.co





Prominent and powerful

Volvo has served the international community with beneficial offers for more than 50 years, and we thrive on developing cars tailor-made to satisfy your needs down to the very last detail. Whether you have just arrived on the diplomatic scene or you are an established representative, this vehicle has everything you need to excel. With uttermost passion and cuttingedge expertise, we have created a car that you will find it hard to live without, once you have experienced its many addictive features.

In order to build a truly indispensible car, we have added an impressive number of extra features to the Volvo XC60 Diplomat Edition. But - most impressive of all is the price tag.

£29 995 (XC60 D3 Automatic, with Summum trim level, Diplomat package, and more - all the features listed below)

- Automatic gearbox
- Metallic paint
- Audio system "High Performance Multimedia" with
- 7" colour screen
- USB connectivity
- · 8 speakers and Bluetooth handsfree
- Active bending xenon lights
- · Décor inlays with shimmer graphite aluminium
- Power foldable door mirrors
- · Electric lumbar support
- · Rain and tunnel sensor
- Décor inlays on Manequin and air vents
- · Stainless luggage threshold
- Chrome décor side windows
- · Leather steering wheel (3 spoke) with décor inlays Auto dimmed rear view mirror
- Power driver seat with memory

- · Leather upholstery
- · Chrome lower door moulding
- · Silver roof rails
- 18" alloy wheels
- · PCC Personal Car communicator with key less drive
- Adaptive digital display with chrome
- · Textile floor mats Power tailgate
- Park assist front and rear

Similar offers are available for Volvo V40 (starting price €17 995), Volvo V40 Cross Country, Volvo S60 and Volvo V60. Please note that the images may show cars with extra equipment. While we try to make sure that all data are accurate, we are not responsible for typographical and other errors that may appear

Go Anywhere, Go Gosselin





Chocolatiers have mastered the truffle, diamond cutters have mastered the marquise style, and Gosselin has mastered the art of moving. With a completely integrated range of in-house specialists, we'll get you wherever you need to go, and we'll do it all with an expert Belgian touch.







go-group.com

Excess Baggage . Shop . Courier . Flights. Visas . More!















+32 (0)3 360 55 00 +32 (0)2 752 21 60

moving@gosselingroup.eu

Headquartered in Belgium, local offices in 32 countries

Follow us to keep up to date







BNP Paribas Fortis: The expat's partner

Linda Thompson talks to Salvatore Orlando, who heads up a department looking after expats

rom his office on the twelfth floor of a high-rise, stately building opposite the North train station in Brussels, Linda Thompson talks to Salvatore Orlando, who heads up a departmentlooking after expats clientele of BNP Paribas Fortis banking group in Belgium. Or, as he likes to quip, goes about the humble task of "making the lives of expats easier".



"I know how difficult it is, honestly, to be an expat," he says. "Whatever age you are, it's difficult because you're starting a new experience in your life."

Yet in those first few weeks after their arrival.

newcomers in this country typically find many priorities tugging at their time and attention, ones that Salvatore describes as the "sideeffects of the move". Those include looking for an apartment, taking out rent insurance, opening a bank account and registering in the town hall. "These things are very important, critical even, but you didn't move for this of course," he says. "So what I wanted to do was to, at least for financial, bank and insurance

matters, be there for expats to help them."

If Salvatore comes at this from such a pragmatic vantage point, that's because he's been there and done that. Like many expats in this country, Salvatore first came to Belgium as a student. In 2006, he travelled from Toulouse in France (where he studied for one year) to complete a two-year master's degree in European studies at the Institute for European Studies at the Free University of Brussels.

After graduating, he moved to Prague in Czech Republic, where he would spend the next three years working for consulting firm Accenture, intermittently also staying in Spain, Scotland and England on shorter professional stints – until a traineeship at the heart of continental policymaking and Belgium called again. And this time, Salvatore decided to stick around. In 2010, he joined BNP Paribas

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

"WE HAD TO

PROVIDE THEM

OFFER AND

SERVICE "

Money

Fortis and has staved put since then. By virtue of not just the European and international institutions, but also the many multinationals, lobbying firms and NGOs headquartered here, Brussels is obviously an important city for expatriates. According to Salvatore, more than 70% of the expats in this country live in Brussels, and more than 52% of them stay in this country for more than seven years, while, at three years, the average duration is much lower in most countries. It was such figures that led him and his colleagues to try out something new in 2013.

Salvatore and his then supervisor, a French expat who oversaw the bank's private and retail banking activities in the Brussels, both saw the same story behind those numbers - an expat crowd in need of a better service, but also a

business opportunity, "We said we have to work with these expats," he remembers. "We had to provide them with a specific offer and service."

One year later, the results of the bank's local pilot project for expats were so encouraging that the initiative was extended countrywide.

Today, BNP Paribas Fortis has 21 expat branches across the country that differ from the bank's other branches in both the services and expertise available to international customers.

With financial, banking and insurance products tailored to the particular needs of expats, Salvatore says, BNP Paribas Fortis aspires to be a one-stop shop for expats, and not just at a skin-deep level.

In May, BNP Paribas Fortis renewed their banking service offer for expats. One of the most touted features of the new programme is the option for customers to remotely request/ apply for an account with the bank from anywhere in the world with a few simple clicks and smooth their arrival. And this novelty is important because, in Salvatore's view, everything begins with a bank account.

Newcomers to Belgium need an account to pay their rent deposit, to take out health insurance. to register at their local municipality, and so on. "It's a vicious circle," he explains, "But when they arrive they have to think of so many things," he says, so that setting up a bank account probably doesn't top their to-do list.

His own experience was a case in point. At one time, when still studying in Brussels, ready to pay for his groceries at a local store, his debit card was declined. To this day, Salvatore remains thankful that he had cash on him that day. When he contacted his bank, he discovered that his account had been blocked because between unpacking, settling into the city and registering for courses, he had failed to provide them with a definitive proof of address. It's those kinds of small things that often trip up

expats, he says.

Allowing customers to launch the request for opening an account online even before they have set foot in their WITH A SPECIFIC country of destination solves such conundrums, "You arrive, everything is ready for you, you're happy, you leave," Salvatore says. "You start working and studying and you don't think of any banking or

financial issues anymore because we set up everything for you."

Along with its digital and online services, one aspect of the bank's service that Salvatore is eager to emphasize is the personalized contact offered. "When you open an account in Belgium, a bank staff member is charged with being your personal advisor throughout your

BNP Paribas Fortis is the most international bank in Europe, represented in more than 80 countries worldwide. Salvatore points out: "This allows us to 'introduce' our clients within the group, making setting up in a new country so much easier."

www.bnpparibas.be





We assist you in all aspects of wealth management. Based on a global analysis of your personal situation, your private banker proposes you customized solutions.

We offer value-added services to private clients:

- Open architecture (In-House Funds as well as Third Party Funds)
- Estate, Wealth & Tax Planning
- Sustainable investments (exclusive partnership with Triodos Bank)
- Tailor-made credit solutions with attractive rates
- Art advisory services (appraisals, conservation, transmission, ...)

Brussels | Antwerpen | Hasselt | Liège | Meise | Namur | Sint-Martens-Latem | Waregem

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.

TRADITION



Charity

Greenpeace European Unit

"THE LOCAL OFFICE

IS ALSO INVOLVED

IN EXPOSING

WIDESPREAD

ILLEGALITIES"

Part of Greenpeace worldwide, the European Unit has a very special remit













WITH PRICES STARTING FROM 1996/MONTH, A VISIT IS WORTH YOUR TIME.

BUSINESS ADDRESS • VIRTUAL OFFICES • TAILORMADE OFFICES • APPLE EQUIPPED MEETING ROOMS • CORPORATE, CULTURAL & PRIVATE EVENTS • VIDEOCONFERENCING • PRIVATE 250m² GARDEN • ALLIANCE MEMBER [OFFICES IN NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, ABU DAHBI, ...]

reenpeace states its goal is to "ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all its diversity" and focuses its campaigning on world-wide issues such as global warming, deforestation, overfishing, commercial whaling, genetic engineering, and anti-nuclear issues. It uses direct action, lobbying, and research to achieve its goals. The global organization does not accept funding from governments, corporations, or political parties, relying on 2.9

million individual supporters and foundation grants. People who donate or get involved enable Greenpeace to investigate, campaign, document and lobby for a sustainable balance between humans and the environment worldwide. Funding helps expose

environmental abuses by carrying out nonviolent direct actions to raise awareness of our need for protect our oceans, forests, water supplies and our climate – the very life support systems of our planet.

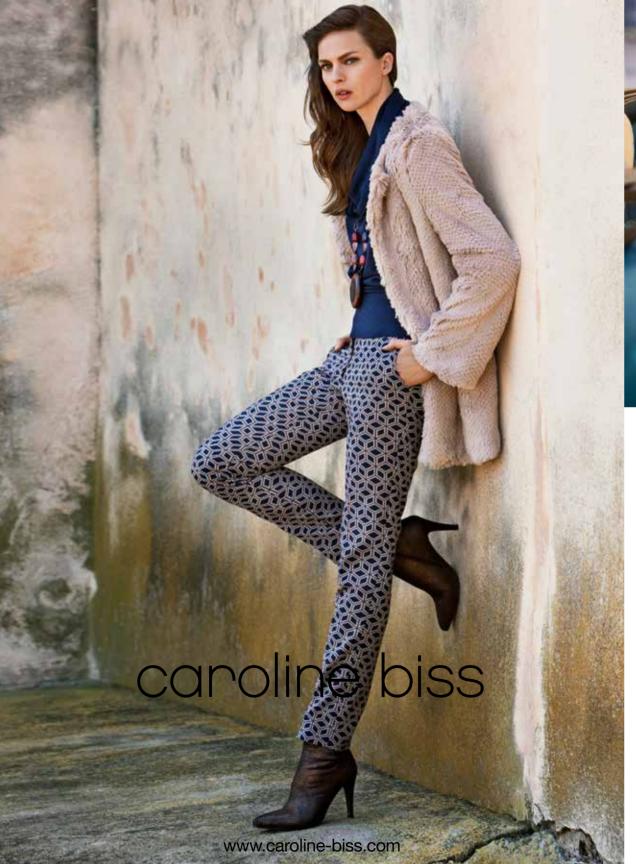
It's a global effort but right here in Brussels the Greenpeace European Unit monitors and analyses the work of the EU institutions, exposing deficient EU policies and laws and challenging EU decision-makers to implement progressive solutions. A recent Greenpeace European event drew 8,000 people from all over Europe to gather at the Polish-German border to form an eight-kilometre long human chain joining two villages, Grabice and Kerkwitz, both endangered by massive lignite mining projects.

The local office is also involved in exposing widespread illegalities and manipulation of the system, as in the case of laundering of illegal timber with legal paperwork. This timber is then sold all over the world, with one third going to Europe, despite laws being in place for years. Greenpeace is the only

global environmental charity that accepts no corporate or government donations so it can maintain a much needed independent voice, but it means it relies totally on individual supporters to fund its work in protecting the planet and finding the solutions to our most important environmental issues.

www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/







Martin Banks chatted with the man behind Sweet Lemon

" YOU CAN
HAVE UP TO
50 PEOPLE
WORKING ON
ONE PAIR OF
SHOES"

ome people are passionate about sport, others about food. For Arnaud Vanderplancke there is one standout passion: shoes.

Arnaud is the man behind an exciting new brand of shoes, called 'Sweet Lemon' which are already proving popular, not just in Belgium but in other countries.

At the relatively tender age of just 28, Arnaud has risen to be general manager of Manexco, a Belgium-based quality shoe wholesaler. The company was founded by his grandfather Jacques Maniet in 1961 and Hush Puppies, the famous American brand, account for about 75% of sales.

But it is the Sweet Lemon brand launched a couple of years ago by Arnaud that they are particularly keen to promote. Around 18,000 pairs were sold in the first year of manufacture, but by last year this had rocketed to 40,000. This figure is still ten times less than for the Hush Puppies the company makes and sells, but Arnaud says the Sweet Lemon brand is catching on fast.

"They are trendy but quality shoes which are also affordable," he says. "Maybe that is the secret of our success."

LIFESTYLE

Whereas the average price for Hush Puppies is around €79, customers pay about €140 for a pair of Sweet Lemon shoes. Arnaud says: "Hush Puppies are comfortable shoes for all the family. With the Sweet Lemon brand we are trying to produce something a bit more fashionable."

The higher price for his new brand reflects the particular care and attention that has gone into their production.

"It is a rather complicated process – you can have up to 50 people working on one pair of shoes. You have to find the right leather and textiles, and this is something else you have to bear in mind when considering the price," he says.

Another factor is that, while Sweet Lemon footwear is designed in Belgium (at a workshop overlooking La Hulpe on the outskirts of Brussels), they are actually made in Italy. For Arnaud and others this seemed natural as he believes the Italians, perhaps uniquely, share his passion for shoes.

"There is something about Italy and shoes. For many Italians it is almost an art form," he declares. "They eat, drink and sleep shoes, and I am exactly the same."

It was mostly for that reason that Arnaud, just like his grandfather when he started out, chose Italy for his shoe production. They are made at three sites, and every single Sweet Lemon shoe reflects the care and attention of the finest Italian craftsman. After they leave the factory, they are not sold direct to customers but, rather, to quality shoe shops, 75 % of them in Belgium. France accounts for 15% of sales, and Spain about 8%.

About 500 stores across Belgium and Luxembourg, both independents and large chains, sell Manexco products, including Sweet Lemon. There are some 200 different styles of Sweet Lemon alone and the new autumn collection is characterised by what Arnaud calls "warm, rich colours".

Arnaud now has plans to expand distribution, with Germany on his immediate horizon. Shoppers in the UK, though, are less likely to be able to see the Sweet Lemon brand in their high street because Arnaud says the UK is a "particularly difficult" market to enter.

The story of Sweet Lemon is really a story about a man who, even as a young child, has always had a love affair with shoes. After completing his studies and spending a year or so in China, he joined the family business (Arnaud's father is also heavily involved), and two years ago he decided to launch the new brand, partly because it meant the company not having to pay royalties to Hush Puppy.

"Most of our sales are here in Belgium, and I also wanted to go into other countries which, with France and Spain, we have managed to do with the new brand."

No pun intended, but it is no mean feat as the company has made a success of Sweet Lemon on the back of a general slump in sales, mostly due to the economic crisis. It reflects his never-ending quest for perfection, surrounding himself with only the best designers and shoemakers. He is also a frequent attendee at events such as the Milan fashion show where he endeavours to seek inspiration for future styles.

I was curious as to why he chose the name Sweet Lemon.

"I wanted to involve everyone in the company in the new launch so we asked staff to take part in an online poll to choose a name. A female employee came up with Sweet Lemon, and that was the overwhelming winner, receiving 25 votes against its closest competitor with 16 votes."

For our interview, Arnaud is wearing a pair of standard trainers, something that may have been alien to his grandfather. But, when it comes to shoe production, it is clear this entrepreneurial young Belgian is a step ahead of the rest.



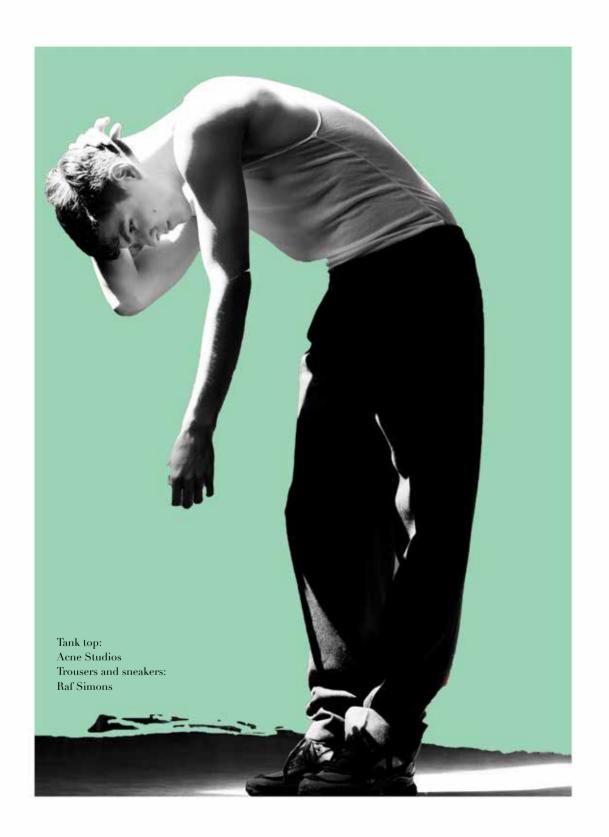
J B A PHIC GRAPHIC

Photo: Aylen Torres Styling: Nicholas Sirot

M-up: Noel Inocencio FOR MAC

Model: Thibault Lac

Suit jacket: COS Shirt: H&M Earrings: H&M

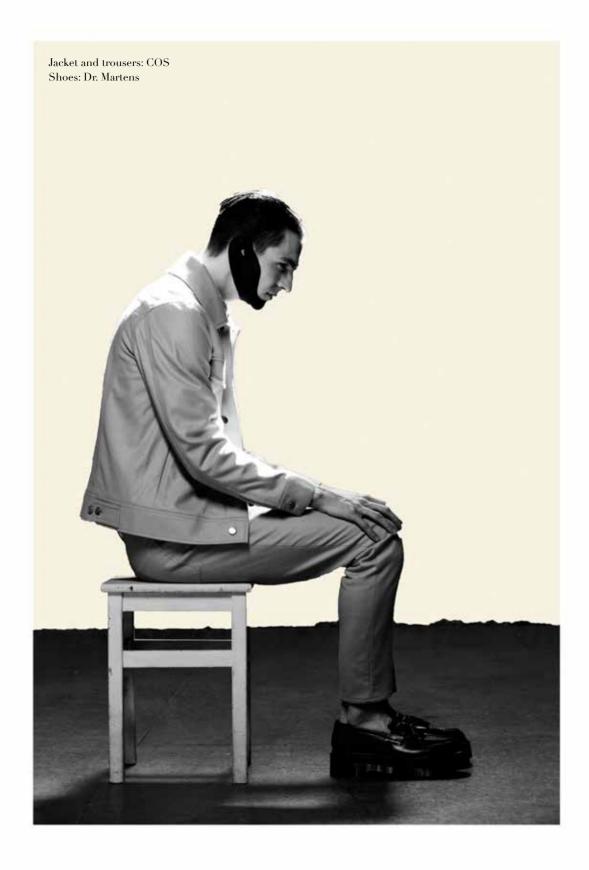












Polo shirt: Fred Perry Trousers: COS Coat: Ben Sherman Shoes: Dr. Martens



GRAND DÉSTOCKAGE CHEZ PEUGEOT BRUXELLES ET SES AGENTS

Profitez des offres de l'année sur 600 véhicules d'occasion, de direction et sur toute la gamme des véhicules neufs*



WEEK-END PORTES OUVERTES LES 13 ET 14 SEPTEMBRE

PEUGEOT RECOMMANDE TOTAL Donnons priorité à la sécurité.



Action valable du 01/09 au 30/09/2014 inclus, * Voir liste et conditions auprès des revendeurs.



MOTION & EMOTION



3008 () 4,2 - 6,7 L/100 KM () 110 - 155 G/KM 207 () 4,6 - 7,4 L/100 KM () 119 - 171 G/KM

PEUGEOT MEISER

Avenue Jacques Georgin, 15-19 1030 Schaerbeek Tél.: 02/702.62.11 http://meiserfr.reseau.peugeot.be

PEUGEOT UCCLE / DROGENBOS

Rue de Stalle. 290 1180 Uccle Tél.: 02/333.33.33 http://uccle.reseau.peugeot.be



Filorga **Anti-Ageing** Micellar Solution

LABORATOIRES

FILORGA

SOLUTION MICELLARS

ANTI-AGEING MICELLAR SOLUTION

PERSON OF THEIR TAGE PERFOR





A fresh start

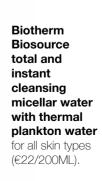
LIFESTYLE

Our beauty expert **Delfine** Stefens wants to send your skin to rehab

ether it's the sun or the A/C blasting in the office, the picnic season takes its toll inside and out, and chances are your skin is very dehydrated. Post-summer skin rehab entails some gentle scrubbing and plenty of moisturizing. But a gentle cleansing routine that does not involve hard tap water may come in handy as well. A micellar water is such a gentle solution with a three-in-one no-rinse formula containing micellar particles that efficiently attract makeup and impurities as you wipe your face and eyes clean with a cotton pad.

Besides its bestseller Sensibio H2O, trendsetter Bioderma also offers a micellar water specially formulated for sensitive dehydrated skin with a biological complex for better regeneration of the skin: **Bioderma** Hydrabio H2O Micelle Solution (€13.40/250ML).

More sure bets and newcomers:





togethermag.eu | 63

LIFESTYLE





Uriage L'Eau Démaquillante Soluté Micellaire for normal to dry sensitive skin (€15.20/250ML)

> **Garnier Eau** nettoyante Micellaire for sensitive skin (€5,99/400ML).





L'Oréal Paris **Sublime Soft Pure Micellar Cleansing** Water (€4.29).



LIFESTYLE

Shopping

Shopping









Ice-Watch

Just released from the prolific Ice-Watch company, sunglasses in all manner of shades: €69. www.ice-watch.com

Veritas Jewels

Necklace made from woven rope and decorated with gold cylinders and black pendants in the form



LIFESTYLE

Shopping

Souvenirs de pomme

De Witte

Solitaire ring from the Ma Vie en Rose Collection, 1 carat white gold with brilliant cut diamond: €10.535 pdewitte.be

Belgium designer Delphine Cordie's Aragog necklace from the Autumn/Winter Collection. www.souvenirsdepomme.be



Bulgari Man in Black





Baume 27

Baume 27 is a daily global anti-aging treatment that brings complete skin re-balancing and energizing action and effectively stimulates cell repair. 50 ml: RRP: €119 www.cosmetics27.com





From the family-owned (since 1895) Austrian company the Crystalline black rose gold watch: €329

www.swarovski.com

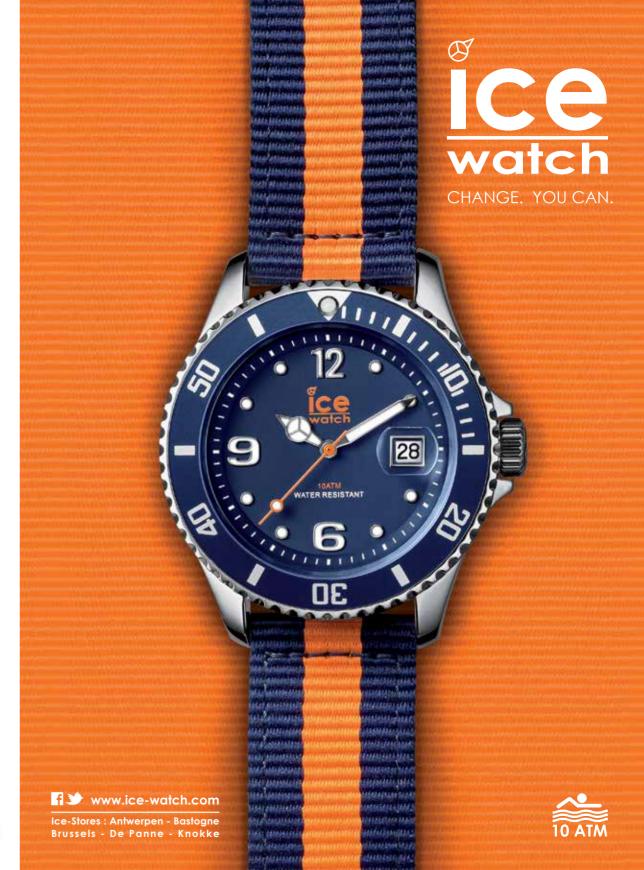




Photo © NASA

MEGA, the Swiss uxurv watch brand. celebrates the 45th anniversary of the first lunar landing with the launch of OMEGA Speedmaster Professional 'Apollo 11 45th Anniversary Limited Edition'. On July 21, 1969, two NASA astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. became the first human beings ever to set foot on the surface of a celestial body. The feat has been described as one of mankind's crowning technological achievements and OMEGA was on hand on this historic occasion.

Buzz Aldrin had an OMEGA Speedmaster Professional chronograph strapped around his spacesuit, while Neil Armstrong had left his own Speedmaster aboard the Lunar Landing Module as a reliable backup to the electronic timekeeping system. The OMEGA Speedmaster Professional Apollo 11 45th Anniversary Limited Edition wristwatch features a 42 mm completely brushed grey grade 2 titanium case with a touch of gold, colours recalling the Landing Module. It sports a brown coated nylon fabric strap which was inspired by the NATO straps that have equipped the timepieces issued to military personnel since the Second World War. Only 1,969 models of this timepiece have been produced, reflecting the momentous vear of the Apollo 11 mission.

The screw-in caseback is embossed with the iconic Seahorse emblem and the outer circle is engraved in black with "FLIGHT QUALIFIED BY NASA FOR ALL MANNED SPACE MISSIONS", "THE FIRST WATCH WORN ON THE MOON" and "APOLLO 11, 45th ANNIVERSARY, LIMITED EDITION, 0000/1969".

www.omegawatches.com



BMW Brussels

Branch of BMW Belux
Marc Moncousin
Chaussée de Louvain 864
1140 Evere
Tel. 02 730 49 11
marc.moncousin@bmwbrussels.be
www.bmwbrussels.be

Advertorial



Value, service, excellence

Together talks with Olivier Bernard, the brains behind Brussels' latest bespoke tailoring boutique

he word bespoke itself is derived from the verb to bespeak, to 'speak for something' – bespoke and ready-to-wear have existed since the end of the 19th century, garments for which the customer was measured, but that were then made up to the closest standard size, often in a factory. The distinction now being made is between bespoke, which is created without the use of a pre-existing pattern, and made-to-measure, which alters a standard-sized pattern to fit the customer.

Bespoke clothing is traditionally cut from a pattern drafted from scratch for the customer, and so differs from ready-to-wear, which is factory made in finished condition and standardized sizes, and from made-to-measure, which is produced to order from an adjusted block pattern. This opposition of terms did not initially imply that a bespoke garment was necessarily better made, but since the development of ready-to-wear in the beginning of the twentieth century, bespoke clothing is now more expensive and is generally associated with high-quality tailoring construction.

A bespoke service may require an individually cut pattern, which is then kept should further suits be required – but for Confidential BESPOKE's Olivier Bernard, there's a great deal more to tailoring a man's bespoke suit of clothes than merely taking his measurements.

"We feel that our clients appreciate the attention to detail that every Confidential BESPOKE fitting brings – in tailoring a gentleman's suit, we want to know his job, respond to the Belgian weather, where he will want to wear his clothes, how it fits in with the rest of his wardrobe and, of course, his budget."

This, says Olivier, enables his team to properly advise the client on what he should, and shouldn't be going for ("it can almost be described as a 'didactic' process", Olivier explains), in an ambient, friendly atmosphere that allows for a more intimate relationship with the client.

"The aim is to make this a friendly environment, a place where the words service, sincerity and passion resonate," Olivier adds. "We specialize in excellence. In many well-known gentlemen's clothing shops, it's a question of everything being on offer, all at the same time. With us, it's not just about the client coming to our boutique to buy, and nothing else – it's about establishing a relationship based on trust with the customer. This is what will ensure he will return."

As well, one would assume, as the choice of high-class Italian fabrics that go into every garment and the top-range brands Herno (who make the suits) and Del Siena shirts that are also available – and the range on offer includes traditional half- and full-canvas suits.

Olivier's love of all things à la mode began early: "From my teens, I have had a passion for fashion but, alas, it had no interest for my parents, who wanted me to pursue more mathematical studies.

"But that did not end my interest in the medium, be it TV shows, magazines and also wearing great quality clothes whenever I could. I finished my studies and soon left for foreign climes – the USA and France, where I went into Façonnable, one of the great French fashion houses. I learned with my first tailor, Albert Goldberg, then, for family reasons, I decided to return to Liège and Belgium.



"Here, I joined Pierre Thonon, the place for refined fashion in the city. After this, I was able to work in Brussels with Pierre Degand. But soon, my desire to start a store began to grow, and then I met Yves

concept of Confidential BESPOKE."

Olivier wants to share his love of materials, cuts and trends with each of his clients, and learn

Reding. From this meeting was born the

their individual stories – why does the customer want a bespoke suit?

Client involvement is also encouraged via the on-site tailor's workshop, where Olivier's partner

on-site tailor's workshop, where Olivier's partner Yves and the tailor provide constant updates on the work in progress, and also to update your wardrobe by restoring old suits and jackets. The aim is for clients to discover the tailor's love and passion for his craft.

"Each of our products is a product of excellence," Olivier explains. "Having said that, excellence can be affordable – our range of clients includes not only established gentlemen of maturity, but also 25- to 30-year-olds who are looking perhaps to buy a bespoke outfit for the first time.

"In gaining the trust of younger clients, we hopefully ensure their continued custom as they mature.

"We base our business on value, service and excellence, and we hope that this is what our clients will respond to."

Coming soon Olivier 0032 475 58 67 87 confidentialbespoke@gmail.com www.confidentialbespoke.com



Interior design

A tone of personality

Interior decorator Céline Bland reveals her inspirations to

Shannon Robb

Nouveau!

My outlet Home complète déjà sa très belle offre avec la venue d'une architecte d'intérieur. Forte de ses 25 années d'expérience, elle vous aidera dans vos choix avec tous les conseils personnalisés dont vous avez besoin! Offre spéciale sur toute commande passée avant le 31 août. Voilage, tenture, garnissage, confection main à vos mesures, avec de très belles marques comme Carlucci, Delfosse, Güell Lamadrid, Casal, Diabolo, Pierre Frey... Et tout cela à prix doux.













Chaussée de Bruxelles 315A- 1410 Waterloo (A proximité de Krëfel direction Joli-Bois) 02/351 51 34 - www.myhomeoutlet.com Du lundi au vendredi de 11h00 à 18h30. **Ouvert le dimanche de 14h00 à 18h00**

espite its seemingly straightforward name, Le Show Room is hardly a typical design showroom. Many feature numerous scenes, variations on the basic formula of a few pieces of furniture, an area rug, maybe a lamp and some coffee table accessories. But where are the walls? The

fireplaces? The life of each 'room'? Fach scene is beautifully staged, but disconnected from a greater whole - the home. It can be difficult to transplant the image of these sets into walls of vour own home.

Le Show Room, on the other hand, is a carefully crafted design gallery housed in an 1860 renovated apartment in Forest. Having worked as an interior designer for twelve vears, Céline Blanc finds design inspiration everywhere from the web to her travels, and she had a clear vision in mind for Le Show Room, which has been open since April 2012.

"I decided to stage the furniture in a real apartment to make the projection of installations easier for people," she says. "The visitors discover the furniture in an interior that

resembles theirs. Then, it is more alive than a boutique."

Le Show Room also serves as an art gallery for exhibitions compiled by Blanc and Alexis Vanhove.

> "For the artistic expositions (photos/ illustrations/ceramics), it was the notion of the democratisation of art that came to me. The exhibitions in an inhabited place recall the idea of accessibility. comprehension and acquisition for all, even to a novice."

Visits to Le Show Room are by appointment only because Blanc says she prefers that clients have a time devoted completely to them to browse the selection of furniture, lamps and artwork and to begin making a new vision for

When you are working with a client, how do you begin? What is your design

their own home.

The process is four steps in general. A first meeting at Le Show Room to discover my

LIFESTYLE

"AWELL-

GIVES A TONE OF

PERSONALITY TO

THE GUESTS"

品质品质品品品

Interior design

staged inspirations and to exchange the client's expectations. Then, a second meeting at the place to be decorated (two hours) to talk about the space, about the manner of living in the space, about their tastes and cultural references — like music, cinema. photography — the relationships with materials and colours. and finally to define the desired modifications and creations. The third step is the delivery of a notebook of trends. which includes ideas for the plan and explanatory text, And finally, the fourth is the physical realization of the 'construction site'. including the walls. floors, ceilings, furniture

Corbusier, Charlotte Perriand, For the pure lines, beautiful but also functional,

Why is it important to have a welldesigned home?

The home is a place of life where one shares with others what we accept that they are, with their appreciation. A welldesigned space gives a tone of personality to guests, the gift of 'a DESIGNED SPACE

little of oneself' during parties. And especially when one lives there, one feels good there thanks to the colours, the materials and the

objects surrounding us. a cocoon of comfort and beauty.

Is there a typical Belgian design style?

and artwork.

The Belgian style would be a mix between contemporary design and vintage notes, marked by designers such as Jules Wabbes or by Scandinavian inspiration.

What are some of vour favourite design trends at the moment?

My tendencies are in the mix of 'tapisserie jungle', exotic woods, blue and yellow on the walls and ailded lights - a little bit of a 'Do Brazil' ambiance, but there is, perhaps, something about the summer season that cries out for it.

What is your favourite design style? Is there a style that you often find yourself drawn to?

My favourite design is mid-century French: Le

Thinking of redecorating? Whether vou're looking to make some small changes to one room or want an

home.

entirely new look from front door to attic, Blanc's simple tips will help you find a place to start and carry out the vision for your

> 1. Define your favourite materials and colours

2. Think of the functionality of the room and the use of furniture (for example: adapted lighting)

3. Think of how the space can move agreeably within itself a 'purified style'

4. Surround yourself with photos, objects and artwork that touches you

5. Imagine the completed renovations before applying them

www.celineblanc.com



Profession: Property Hunter



What is it that makes you different from an ordinary estate agent?

Firstly, we offer a made to measure service exclusively aimed at buyers or tenants. Secondly, we are in a position to search the entire market. We already work with all our individual clients, but we also work with no less than 700 professional partners in the property market. Our researches allow us to find 30% of the properties outside the market, before they have even been advertised. We don't have a portfolio of properties. We have information, and a very big address book.

So anyone with a property to sell can get in touch with you about it?

Absolutely. Our web site www.propertyhunter.be lets anybody, an individual or a professional, to offer us a property – which might be just what one of our clients is seeking! No commission is due, because we are paid upstream by our buyer and tenant clients.

What motivates your clients to use your services?

Our clients are people who either don't have time to hunt for themselves or who don't know about the market – or people who aren't in a position to search for property because they live abroad. There are 9 of us working together, and each of us only works on 3 to 4 dossiers at a time, which means that we are devoting at least 25% of our time to each dossier. We are offering quality, not quantity.

"We are not an estate agent, we are specialists in property research"

Interview with Julien Dessauny, Marc-Olivier van Bellinghen and James Goffin.



So in a way you are offering time and opportunities to your clients?

Absolutely; but our work includes many other things. As consultants, we advise and assist our clients so that they can make their purchase in complete safety, and we accompany them through the whole process, right up to signature of the final agreement at the notary's office. Also, we help them buy at a fair price, because as we are experts in the property market, we know how to estimate the value of a property. And we know how to negotiate too.

How many properties do you show your clients on average?

3 to 8 visits are enough on average. Before that, we would have visited between 10 and 40, according to the nature and the difficulty of the search. During that time, our clients can relax and keep an eye on the progress of our search, and give us their feedback through their personal space on line. The aim is that they only visit the best ones! And of course that's another area where we bring our expertise to bear.

What are your results after five years of operations?

The figures speak for themselves: two offices, with a third coming soon, more than 500 satisfied clients, and a success rate of 9 out of 10, with an average time of 6 weeks to find the property. We're also proud to have been elected the best property hunter in Belgium for four years running. What could be better?

Schuman +32 (2) 280 07 00 Brugmann +32 (2) 344 61 47 www.propertyhunter.be





Interview

Travelling out of this world

From selling records to space travel, Together meets the man behind the unstoppable Branson brand

" I'M AS INTERESTED AS I WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO"

ir Richard Branson has plenty to be proud of: from starting a mail order record business when he was just 16 and turning it into the iconic Virgin Records, to laughing in the face of the competition to launch Virgin Atlantic in the mid-80s, the entrepreneur is an inspiration to many. The 64-year-old Branson is the founder and chairman of Virgin Enterprises and according to Forbes magazine, he is the sixth richest UK citizen - with a net worth of reportedly \$4.6 billion.

When *Together* meets Branson in Shoreditch, East London, it is at an event to showcase the brand new uniforms for Virgin Atlantic, designed by none other than British fashion icon Vivienne Westwood. The entrepreneur spoke of choosing Westwood because "she can come up with the most outrageously exciting clothes. Our cabin crew need clothes that will make them feel either very handsome or very beautiful".

Speaking of his proudest moment, Branson speaks of striving against adversity during the launch of his transatlantic airline, Virgin Atlantic, in 1984. "I never expected that British Airways would go to such lengths to put us out of business. That they would get people to go through my rubbish bins to try and find damaging things about us. They went to the nightclubs I visited to look for needles, so they could get a story about drugs in News of the World; they tapped into our computer information and would ring up our passengers, pretending to be from Virgin, saying that Virgin's flights were cancelled but they could switch onto British Airways. And so it went on. Fortunately, people who worked for BA were so upset by what they were doing that they came to us. We managed to win the biggest court damages in history, which became known as the 'British Airways Christmas Bonus': we distributed it to all our staff at Christmas."

Even with triumphs like his win over British Airways, it would be unusual for Branson to have navigated his career without regrets.



78 I togethermag.eu

LIFE OF LEISURE

Interview

However, he is famously renowned for stating that he has none. Even when he has found himself in dire straits, he has remained unflinchingly optimistic. "[British Airways] came that close to driving the Virgin empire over the cliff, to the extent that my bank manager got completely panicked and on the Friday told me they would close us on the Monday. Somehow over the weekend we managed to scrape through: there's a thin dividing line between success and failure and we managed to stay the right side of that line."

Branson is a firm believer that passion is a must in any business model, and he is as enthusiastic about everything Virgin does today as he was when he first started the company. "I'm passionate about life and I'm passionate about all the things that the team at Virgin have created. It would be very sad if everybody else was working enormously hard to make sure that the company they work for is the best in the world and I wasn't equally as excited and passionate. I'm as interested as I was thirty years ago."

Branson attributes his success, in part, to the importance he places on branding and attention to detail. "Your brand is your reputation; it's almost your everything. If people trust your brand then you're going to do well, but if they don't you won't." He is convinced that attention to detail is absolutely crucial. "It sounds like a simple thing your Mum would tell you, but it is really important and too many companies forget that. For example, if you're on a plane and you need gluten-free food, so you preordered it but the airline forgot to put it on the plane, you're going to be pretty pissed off, because you're going to go hungry. From a customer service perspective, getting all those little details right in a company is critical."

The businessman and philanthropist knows exactly what he's doing when it comes to starting a successful company, and isn't short of advice for up-and-coming business



Interview

owners. "Right now in Great Britain it's about the most exciting time for entrepreneurs there's ever been. We lobbied the British government for years to try to introduce start-up loans for people wanting to become entrepreneurs rather than just loans for people going to university. And the government's gone along with that, so companies like Virgin are finding mentees to work with. There are thousands of people beginning to get those start-up loans, so it's an exciting time."

Branson's newest venture is Virgin Galactic, which aims to provide the first commercial space travel flights, with Katy Perry, Justin Bieber and Professor Stephen Hawking already signed up as civilian astronauts. Although tickets are currently \$250,000, Branson hopes that will change over time. "Nine out of ten people would love to fly on Virgin Galactic and go to space, so it's really up to us to try and get the price down in the years to come to enable hundreds and thousands of people to be able to become astronauts. We don't expect people to earn \$250,000 dollars to buy tickets," he says, implying that eventually, you won't have to be as wealthy as Branson himself to travel out of this world.

" MY BANK MANAGER **GOT** COMPLETELY **PANICKED** AND ON THE FRIDAY TOLD ME THEY WOULD **CLOSE US** ON THE MONDAY"







Discover our

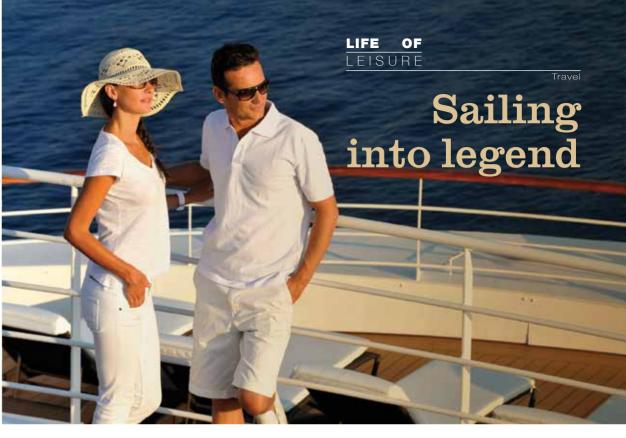
Wonderful World of Wellness

at www.thermae.com



THERMAE BOETFORT Sellaerstraat 42 B-1820 Melsbroek Tel: +32 (0)2 759 81 96 Thermae.com

THERMAE GRIMBERGEN Wolvertemsesteenweg 74 B-1850 Grimbergen Tel.: +32 [0]2 270 81 96



Together caught up with a company that is expanding... on the ocean waves

or 15 years Compagnie du Ponant has been whisking passengers off to the far reaches of Antarctica and the Arctic. This year the company has announced new destinations, such as Kamtchatka, Oceania and South America.

" DELVE
DEEPER
INTO THE
MYSTERIES
OF THESE

OF THESE

PROMISED

LANDS"

And it's South America that really stands out. From the wilderness of Patagonia to the rainforests of Panama, the region offers an astounding variety of landscapes and a mosaic of sites where the imprint of the past remains visible. When you board the Boréal and Soleal yachts, you are sailing into the stuff of legend, into waters conquered by early explorers such as Francis Drake, Ferdinand Magellan and Amerigo Vespucci – now anyone can sail off and discover a mouth-watering list of countries: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Argentina.

From stopover to stopover, passengers discover South America's most precious locations from the 5-star comfort and elegance of these vessels. On board, a team of passionate experts - historians and tour guides – are on







hand to help passengers delve deeper into the mysteries of these promised lands. With comprehensive land excursions and programs in beautiful UNESCO heritage sites, this is much more than a cruise: it's a true travel experience, with a touch of the glamour and romance of another era.

Among the South American cruises on offer are:

'Panama Canal: 100 years':

From Netherlands Antilles to Colombia, via Ecuador and Peru. with a trip through the legendary Panama Canal, a masterpiece of engineering that will take from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

'Chilean Fjords':

The Pacific coast of South America and colonial style of the cities of Chile, immortalised by Pablo Neruda, between the Andes and the Ocean, and down to Tortel, a Patagonian village at the end of the world, before rounding Cape Horn.

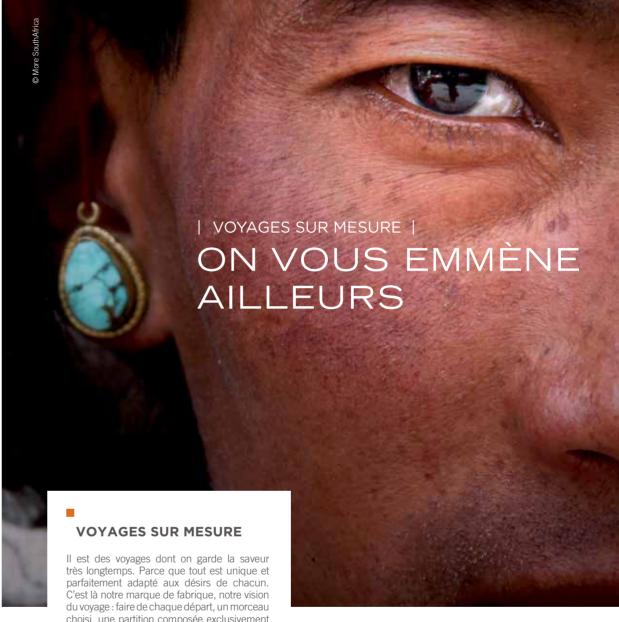
'Along the Andes Cordillera':

From Callao (Peru) to Valparaiso (Chile). The highlight is a chance to discover Machu Picchu, a mythical and secret town located at the edge of the clouds.

'Over the Amazon & Orinoco':

Explore these two legendary rivers, two universes teeming with life, aboard Le Lyrial and during the daily excursions in Zodiac® dinghies.

For more cruises and more detailed information explore the Compagnie du Ponant website: en.ponant.com



choisi, une partition composée exclusivement pour vous. Présents sur les cinq continents, nous faisons rimer exigence et excellence.

Dans notre maison de Bruxelles, nous vous accueillons pour préparer votre voyage. Discuter, écouter, proposer... un interlocuteur spécialisé est là pour vous guider dans l'élaboration de votre projet, la sélection de vos étapes, votre envie de partir en solo, à deux ou en groupe, sur terre ou sur mer, lors d'une fête ou d'un festival, pour découvrir les incontournables ou ajouter des touches d'insolite... Pour donner à votre voyage, le parfum de l'exclusivité.



LA MAISON À BRUXELLES

rue César Franckstraat 44 a | 1050 Brussels Belgique Tél. +32 (0)2 218 24 84 | bruxelles@insolites.com

Traval

A tropical reports Junder avertion

n a stretch of beach sheltered from the trade winds of the Indian Ocean, a renovated luxury hotel embodies the Mauritian spirit.

White sand stretches into blue waters that eventually melt into the horizon of the captivating sky. 2,000 kilometres off the southeast coast of Africa, beyond the eastern coast of Madagascar, the island nation of Mauritius sits serenely in the heart of the Indian Ocean.

Situated on the northern coast of the island, the Royal Palm Mauritius, part of the Beachcomber luxury hotel family, is currently taking its own vacation and



Designed for world-class journeys

FLY DAILY FROM

BRUSSELS ON

Qatar Airways award-winning crew will make you feel at home as you sit back and relax in a spacious seat. Larger electronically dimmable windows create dramatic vistas and provide natural light. Full spectrum LED lighting will set the mood and help you adjust to changing time zones. You'll arrive to your destination feeling refreshed due to the lower cabin pressure, improved air quality and optimal humidity. Four Celebrity Chefs and a Master of Wine have been chosen to create a unique and diverse menu. Delight in extraordinary cuisine and an on-demand service that allows you to enjoy sweet or savory delicacies whenever you like.

A seat above the rest

Every seat is an aisle seat in Business Class. The cabin configuration forms a unique diamond shape, allowing you to adapt your personal space to suit your needs. You can catch up on sleep in a fully reclined seat or make productive use of your time at a large work surface. Our customers can also enjoy more space in Economy Class than ever before. A full 76cm of personal space with a 78cm seat pitch means more room for everyone to stretch out.

Stay connected in the sky

The world's first dual-screen interface allows you to multi-task. Our innovative entertainment and communication systems gives you access to hundreds of entertainment possibilities. Best of all, onboard WI-FI makes it easy to stay connected to the world.

Hamad International Airport, your new gateway to the world

Comfort. Convenience. Choice. These are the things that matter most to today's traveller and are at the heart of Hamad International Airport, Qatar Airways' new home. Enjoy a smooth transfer via our new home, where the concept of hospitality underpins the entire Qatar Airways experience.













Travel

undergoing a renovation. The hotel closed its doors for a five-month hiatus in May and is set to reopen on 11 October 2014.

"This renovation will allow the Royal Palm to be adorned with a new and necessary modernity without betraving the incomparable and timeless atmosphere of this magical place," said general director Jacques Silvant.

When it reopens its doors, the Royal Palm Mauritius will feature 15 new Ocean Suites, a completely renovated reception area and bar and an Italian trattoria that will accompany the hotel's current restaurant, Natureaty.

The flight from Brussels to Mauritius takes around 12 hours without layovers, but Air Mauritius, the island's own international airline. operates more than 30 weekly flights to the island out of most major European cities, including Brussels. Once the plane has landed, it's not difficult to stretch out the kinks and cast off the worries of the life briefly left behind.

The island itself, a true tropical getaway, is perfect for relaxation or adventure. The white sandy beaches make for the perfect escape. Then there are national parks with hiking paths to be trekked, islands to be explored and speed boats to be rented for a day out on the water. Botanical gardens, a geological formation known as the Seven Coloured Earth and the Coin de Mire cliffs, home of famous white-tailed tropical birds, offer a haven for nature-lovers.

History enthusiasts will be pleased by Mauritius's old sugar factories (sugar cane was once the island's main source of income) and colonial residences and by the naval museum at Vieux Grand Port, the location of the island's first settlement and of the Grand Port naval battle fought between the English and French during the Napoleonic wars. Numerous local markets and the capital city of Port Louis buzz with the Mauritian culture, a blend of Indian. Chinese, African and European traditions.

The Royal Palm Mauritius works to enhance the feelings of serenity brought by the island and

capture the essence of the Mauritian way of life. and its October reopening marks a renewed investment in bringing the best of a relaxing. luxurious holiday to its clients.

The hotel's new Ocean Suites combine modern amenities with the incomparable atmosphere of the sea. The suites comprise a bedroom, large separated lounge, bathroom and a double terrace that looks out toward the sea. Decorated in beiges and turquoise, the rooms reflect the natural colours of Mauritius and wash away any stress or anxiety.

An on-site fitness centre and facilities for tennis, squash and table tennis, plus an array of water sports including kayaking and snorkelling are available to the hotel's guests, allowing them to stay in shape and take advantage of the island's tropical climate and refreshing waters. In the Royal Palm spa, guests can enjoy saunas, yoga and massage among numerous other treatments until they are refreshed and ready to explore the island.

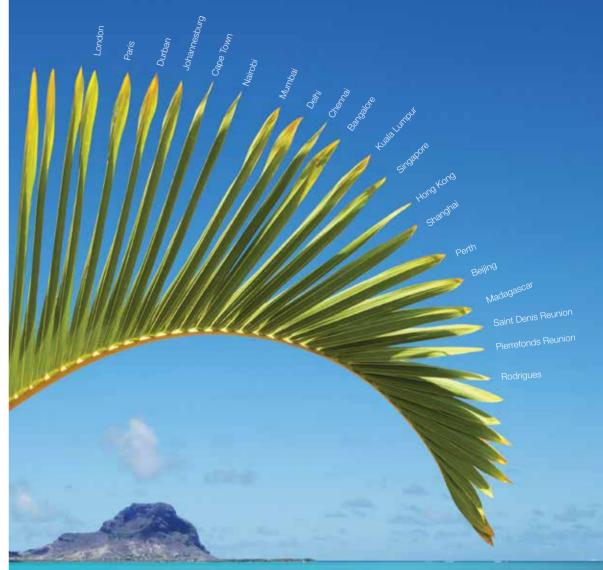
A member of The Leading Hotels of the World. Ltd. and a 2014 winner of a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence, the Royal Palm Mauritius has served visitors for nearly 30 vears, and with the completed renovations, the hotel aims to continue offering a destination of luxury and serenity to quests who come to explore all that the tropical island boasts.

What to do and see in Mauritius

1. Explore the capital.

Founded in 1735 by French governor Bertrand-François Mahé de La Bourdannais, Port Louis is home to the Central Market, a prime example of the bustling Mauritian spirit; the Champ de Mars, the oldest racecourse in the Indian Ocean region: and a number of historical landmarks. The Theatre of Port Louis, modelled after the style of classic London theatres, is the oldest in the Indian Ocean, and the Aapravasi Ghat (Hindi for 'immigration depot') is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. When you've finished seeing the cultural attractions, the capital city also offers great shopping opportunities.

Connect to the world. Connect with Mauritius.



Air Mauritius connects you to 64 destinations with 20 flights

Air Mauritius gives you the world: London, Paris, Johannesburg, Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Perth, and so much more. Each time you step on board you experience something wonderful and unique. It's the natural calm and friendliness of our island in the skies. Experience it on your way across the world. www.airmauritius.com







Travel

2. Sugarcane fields and tea plantations.

Sugar was once the main source of the island's economy, and it is still one of the island's four main pillars of economic stability. L'Aventure du Sucre is a museum built in an old sugar factory. During tours of the converted building, visitors can learn about Mauritius's history as well as the process of sugar manufacturing and its commercial effect on the island over time. Sugar and rum tastings also await visitors at the end of the tour.

3. The scenic views of the Seven Coloured Earth in Chamarel.

The Seven Coloured Earth is a geological formation of sand dunes that have captivated visitors with its — you guessed it! — seven colours of sand. Even more intriguing is that the lavers of red. brown, blue, violet, purple, green, and vellow, even when mixed together. eventually separate once more and evade erosion despite downpours and other weather conditions. If you can, try to make it to the dunes at sunrise for the most spectacular view of the natural phenomenon. And if the seven colours of the Chamarel dunes aren't enough. Mauritius is never lacking in the scenery department. The Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden, the Coin de Mire cliffs, the Black River Gorges National Park and the dazzling beaches, waterfalls and mountainous regions all make for postcard-worthy pictures.

4. Learn about the colonial history of Mauritius.

A visit to Euréka, a preserved Creole residence built in 1830 in Moka, is a step back into the Mauritian colonial era. The mansion was built with 109 doors and a wrap-around veranda, and now serves as a period museum featuring antique furniture and photographs, as well as pavilions, brick houses, and an old kitchen with wooden stoves. The residence, one of the largest on the island, not only provides a glimpse into the lives of Mauritian colonial aristocrats, but also at the island's history of slavery.

5. Experience one of the islands many festivals.

One result of the island's complex blend of cultural and religious traditions is a number of festivals throughout the year. A visit to the island in early March coincides with the national holiday on 12 March, during which celebrations, full of Mauritian pride, are held across the island. Small clay lamps light up streets and yards in October and November during the Divali festival, a celebration of the victory of Rama (light/truth) over Ravana (darkness/ignorance). A celebration of Creole culture is held every year in late November and early December. Numerous other festivals, pilgrimages, and public holidays mark the Mauritian calendar.

www.tourism-mauritius.mu www.beachcomber-hotels.com www.airmauritius.com





MAURICE **1** LACROIX

Manufacture Horlogère Suisse



De Witte

FC BARCELONA OFFICIAL WATCH PARTNER

Travel

Heading north

Martin Banks seeks out the wonders of 'Geordieland'



ity, coast and countryside... the North East of England has it all and this relatively undiscovered region has suddenly got that much closer to Belgium.

A new flight route between Newcastle International Airport and Brussels Airport has just been launched – the only direct flight between North East England and Belgium's capital.

Operated by BMI regional, the service offers business and leisure travellers twice-daily flights of just 75 minutes from Belgium's largest hub airport.

Stitched together by seven awe-inspiring bridges, Newcastle Gateshead forms a cultural hub and makes a great starting point for a trip to the North East. Home to a host of icons including the Angel of the North and the

towering figure of ex-UK Prime Minister Earl Grey, this chic destination was recently named the 'hipster capital of the northeast' in the influential Lonely Planet Great Britain Travel Guidebook.

The Hilton Newcastle Gateshead makes an excellent base. With 254 bedrooms, no other venue captures the breathtaking views over the Quayside and the Tyne Bridge. What's more, you can unwind each day in the Living Well Health Club in the swimming pool, whirlpool spa. sauna or steam room.

Nearby is Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books, the only place in the UK dedicated to the art of children's books. They welcome more than 70,000 visitors annually and there is something to enjoy 360 days a year.

Close to Newcastle Central Station you'll find the award-winning Life Science Centre where science is explored through hands-on displays, interactive games and demonstrations. The Life Science Centre encourages curiosity about science by uncovering new things about life and the world around us. ingredients from around the world.

Another option is The Herb Garden, Newcastle's newest pizza kitchen, specializing in fresh, stone-baked pizzas. Look out for the giant model horse in the doorway!



If you have time head for Beamish: The Living Museum of the North to experience a real sense of the past and discover what life was like in North East England in Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian times. Beamish is a living, working museum, set in 300 acres of County Durham countryside where costumed demonstrators bring to life the Edwardian Town and Pit Village, complete with original drift mine.

Also worth a visit is the Blue Reef Aquarium, boasting an amazing range of sea life on display, including seahorses, sharks and stingrays as well as otters, seals and a colony of monkeys.

A flurry of restaurants have recently opened in Newcastle's Grainger Town, featuring well-known brands such as Las Iguanas, a bolt of Latin American energy using top-quality, fresh British produce with carefully sourced

A few kilometres north of Newcastle on the A1 takes you to arguably Britain's finest stretch of coastline which, at Bamburgh, is dominated by the quite magnificent castle. Northumberland is, in fact, full of such places and, further inland, is Alnwick Castle which, along with its wonderful Alnwick Garden, makes for a great family day

Just off the mainland in the North Sea (cut off twice daily by fast incoming tides) is Holy Island, epicentre of Christianity in Anglo-Saxon times. A Billy Shields seal cruise to the world-famous Farne Islands from nearby Seahouses is a must. Here you can get up close and personal with seals and a huge variety of sea birds.

For people travelling with kids, try to pencil in a visit to the family-run Whitehouse Farm Centre nearby where you can meet animals in all shapes and sizes.

94 I togethermag.eu togethermag.eu

Travel Photo © Dr.Haus



A lovely base to explore Northumbria is the Golden Sands Holiday Park, near the coastal village of Creswell, offering a choice of delightful self-catering luxury caravans. All are spacious and boast contemporary interiors. On its doorstep you'll find kilometres of beaches and country walks.

A couple of fantastic local eating options include The Plough at nearby Ellington, run by a very friendly local, Katrina Robinson, and featuring a range of classic pub favourites, plus a few kilometres away at Cramlington the local branch of Prezzo, which has just celebrated its first anniversary of being the only North East branch of this popular national chain. It serves a wide range of terrific pasta, meat and fish.

After exploring city and coast, why not sample the delights of the region's lovely countryside by venturing into Tyne Valley? Here you will find Kielder Water and Forest where there's lots to do, including crazy golf and, for the more energetic, hiring a bike via The Bike Place which has bikes suited to all the local types of riding. More great family activity can be found at the 'Go Ape' outdoor treetop adventure site at nearby Matfen Hall.

This part of Northumberland is also home to Hadrian's Wall, a World Heritage Site, and a couple of unmissable tourist attractions: Vindolanda, the most exciting local archaeological site, and the Roman Army Museum where you sample life under Roman occupation of Britain.

The region is also world famous for beautiful mineral specimens and you can sample life in another bygone age at the award-winning North of England Lead Mining Museum at Killhope.

Allen View, a former school house built in 1856, makes for a truly splendid base for the mine and other local attractions. Updated to a beautiful self-catering cottage at Ninebanks, near Allendale, it is just the place if you seek a bit of peace and tranquillity. It comfortably sleeps four and nestles in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

After an energy-sapping day spent cycling and walking you might also appreciate the innovative service offered by Country Concierge run by former schools inspector Deb Humble who aims to deliver fresh and locally-sourced food right to the doorstep. Why bother cooking or looking for somewhere to eat when you can sample the undoubted delights of Deb's delicious dishes?

The new air route aims to open up the North East to the whole of Benelux, but those who prefer a slower pace of travel should opt for the very pleasant overnight P&O Ferries North Sea crossing from Zeebrugge. Arriving just after breakfast, it takes you to Hull which is a leisurely 90-minute drive to Newcastle. One-way fares are from €249 for two people for an inside cabin, plus car.

The North East is one of Britain's least populated but, geographically, biggest regions and you'd be mad not to give Geordieland a try. It makes for a fantastic short break and, as Geordies would say, is "Alreet, Pet."

Factfile

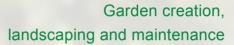
www.visitnorthumberland.com www.NewcastleGateshead.com www.newcastlegateshead.hilton.com www.allenviewholidaycottages.co.uk www.poferries.com/ www.northumbrianleisure.co.uk (Golden Sands)



ARCHITECTES PAYSAGISTES . LANDSCHAPSARCHITECTEN

Keperenberg, 22 • 1701 Itterbeek † 02 569 04 54

devallee@skynet.be • www.devallee.be



Terraces • Swimming pools
Water features • Spas • Saunas
Hammams • Lighting • Watering
Vertical gardens • Fountains











Dining

Fine gastronomic paul Morris toured either side of the Belgian-Dutch border, soaking up the luxury of Relais & Châteaux hotels



Hostellerie La Butte aux Bois, Lanaken

You reach La Butte aux Bois through a quiet avenue of fine houses, past the pond that gives you the first view of the beautiful garden, whose lawn is adorned with dancing nymph statuettes. Surrounded by trees, the property was originally built for the knight, Sir Lagasse de Locht and, though thoroughly modern, it retains much of that bygone charm.

Its terrace is exceptional, hugging the exterior walls of the hotel, restaurant and bar and always in sight of the garden, beyond which lies the Hoge Kempen National Park, where extensive pine forests alternate with purple flowering heather, offering breath-taking views over the region.

I decided to eat 'local' in the hotel's Binnenhof restaurant, where the chef uses Limburg produce, such as local veal and chicken, and 'Ommersteyn' goat's cheese. For dessert I had the five Belgian cheeses since I don't have a sweet tooth but the cheesecake made with Limbourg cherries, pistachio and white chocolate is very popular. The waiter was very helpful when it came to explaining the wines, especially the local Belgian Wijnkasteel Genoels-Elderen Haspengouw wines.

The Aquamarijn Wellness Centre is tucked within the Hostellerie – it was recently voted 'Best Wellness Centre in Flanders'.

This rural estate may feel like the heart of the country but it is a short distance from Maastricht, Aachen and Liège. And if shopping's your thing, Maasmechelen Village Chic Outlet Shopping is very close by.

Château St. Gerlach

My next stop was across the border, and in the shape of the wonderful Château St. Gerlach I found two common elements with my previous hotel. First, the countryside, since St. Gerlach Estate is tucked away in the unspoiled natural environment of the Geul Valley and the Ingendael nature reserve (popular with hikers). And second, local produce, except the chefs' produce here is only a short walk away – it does help if you run your own farm.

I didn't realize I was a trendsetter but I stayed in the Chateau before the greatest rocking roll band in the World. Mick, Keith, Charlie and Ron stayed in the hotel apartment suites when The Rolling Stones performed at the Pinkpop Festival.

The entrance is dramatic – as you drive down the narrow lane the huge expanse of lawn and the elegant, deep-red buildings come in to view. The former monastery dates back to the year 1200, built to accommodate pilgrims who had come to pay homage to hermit Gerlach of Houthem. It boasts its own vineyard, herb garden, orchard, rose garden and, best of all,

keen eye for interior design and art, too, with new works from their collection adorning the walls on a regular basis.

And this artistic bias is matched by her husband Jannis Brevet in the kitchen. He was born in Zeeland and his inspiration comes from the nearby delta, allowing him to make quiet remarkable seafood dishes. They don't just taste great, they are works of art in their own right. Have a look at the special cookbook they produced with photographs of dishes designed to echo famous works of art. It's not all about fish though – the suckling lamb is delicious and he uses cheese and fruit from the reclaimed





its own church with stunning 18th-century frescoes.

Such is the composition of the buildings it's a surprise to come across the modern spa and the Roman indoor swimming pool. There are two choices gastronomy-wise: the restaurant with its dramatic, aristocratic decor, serving fine French cuisine; and the more informal Bistrot de Liège, whose menu is made up of dishes from the region.

Manoir Inter Scaldes

The moment you enter the manor you know you're looking at a labour of love. Claudia Brevet has designed the interior to perfectly match the beautiful walled garden beyond. And she has a

land in Beveland.

It's hard to believe that fire destroyed the main building in 2004. The renovation perfectly matches the older buildings. To properly enjoy the feast it's a good idea to stay over and leave the car in the parking lot. There are 12 very comfortable rooms and each one has a balcony or patio looking out onto the garden, which in season is alive with flowers. Located in Kruiningen, the hotel is perfectly placed for the spacious Zeeland beaches and nearby Yrseke, famous for its mussel production.

Relais & Châteaux is an association of the world's finest hoteliers, chefs and restaurateurs. www.relaischateaux.com

98 | togethermag.eu | togethermag.eu | togethermag.eu | togethermag.eu | 199

What's on in Belgium

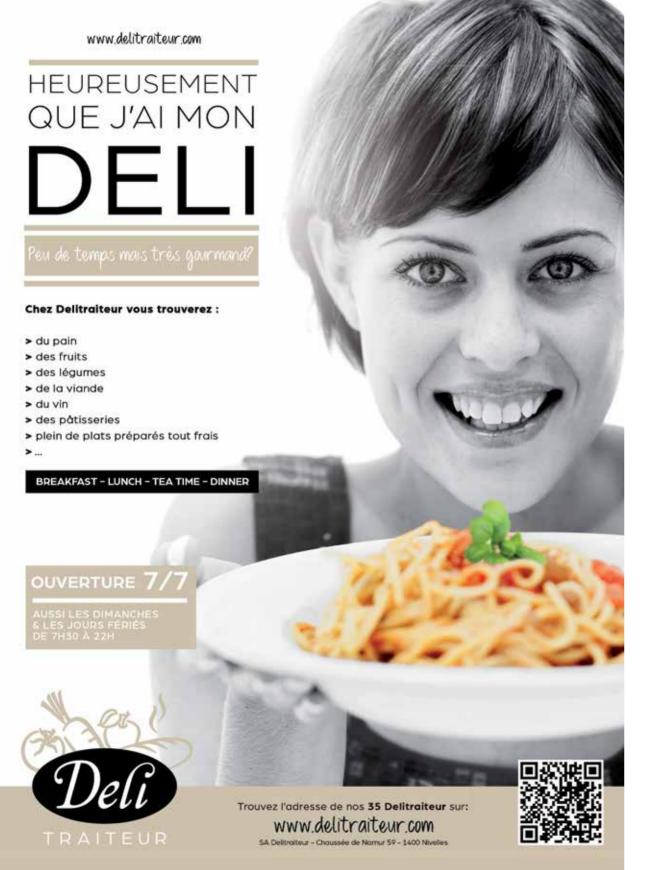


Harry Benson: The Beatles on the Road 1964-1966

Harry James Benson is a Scottish photographer whose pictures have appeared in publications including Life, Vanity Fair, People and The New Yorker, Benson was assigned to travel with The Beatles on their inaugural American tour in 1964. One of his most recognizable images shows the band in a gleeful pillow fight in a hotel room. For 50 years, he has photographed Michael Jackson, Elizabeth Taylor and political figures, including every US president since Dwight D. Eisenhower, and covered war zones. Until December 2014. Loui Bar, Steigenberger Grandhotel, Avenue Louise 71, 1050 Brussels. en.steigenberger.com

Photo © Orrling





Sunday Shopping Flanders has agreed

togethermag.eu | 101

LEISURE

What's On

Antwerp Live Comedy Festival

Live Comedy Festival is an international comedy festival, running for a couple of weeks in four theatres in Antwerp. Already announced are Hans Teeuwen, highly popular in the Netherlands and Flanders, Jack Dee, who won his first British Comedy Award in 1991 and Stephen

Merchant, famous as the co-writer and co-director of the award-winning sitcom The Office, starring Ricky Gervais. More dates are being be added so check the website for details.

26 September-19 November

pers.livecomedy.be



Accessible Art Fair invites the public to view and

Dates: Friday 17 to Sunday 19 October: open to the public

Thursday 16 October: VIP Preview event Entrance fee: €10 advance sales/€12 at the door www.accessibleartfair.com

BOZAR Electronic Arts Festival

After just two editions, the BOZAR Electronic Arts Festival (BEAF) is already a reference for lovers of the electronic arts. BEAF attracts both specialists and the general public with artists who exploit the lightning pace of technological developments in order to express their ideas. BEAF mixes music, performances, installations, workshops and conferences into a fascinating whole. World-famous names will appear, such as Nils Frahm, Ben Frost and Mondkopf. 27-29 September. Centre for Fine Arts. Brussels. Tickets: check the website www.bozar.be



purchase high quality, original works of art directly from those who create them. This year, the 11th edition of the Accessible Art Fair will take place at the prestigious venue 'Cercle de Lorraine' and, for the first time, designers and young art galleries will be handpicked by a new jury of professionals and connected with a discerning public. 16-19 October. Cercle de Lorraine, Place Poelaert 6, 1000 Brussels





The Brighton Restaurant presents the Intelligent Nutrition - I.N.

IN eating is a lifestyle as much as an art of living combining pleasure, social interactions, well-being, health and responsible commitment. Read more on thonhotels.com/brighton-restaurant



Brighton Restaurant - Stanhope Hotel: Rue du Commerce 9 Handelsstraat, B-1000 Brussels Tel.: 02/506.90.31 - brighton@stanhope.be - facebook.com/stanhope-brussels

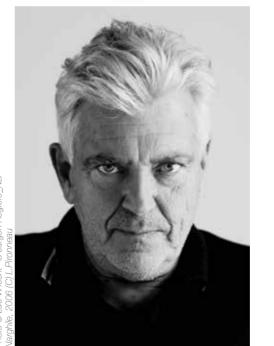


he Power of Object(s), an exhibition that's set to hold court at the ING Art Center in Place Royale, seeks to address the key questions of design, namely what is design? And what is Belgian design? When does a product become an icon, the image of which sticks in everyone's mind and, perhaps most important, both for the designer and the brand, how does it become a bestseller, and why is it that not every icon becomes a bestseller or vice-versa?



James Drew enjoys a sneak preview of an exhibition that highlights the growing success of Belgian design SOBJECT: SUCCESS







Managing (but only just) to keep up with the number of talented designers in Belgium who are also internationally acclaimed, the organizers have chosen a group of 25 current Belgian designers deemed to be as representative as possible, and the objects on display have been limited to furniture, household goods and product design accessible, after all, is key. In addition to their iconographic and iconoclastic styles, the designers were chosen particularly for the number of products they have already brought to the market in the course of their careers. As Venlet says: "After all, designing without creating a product that actually ends up with the target

Following the inspiration of Danny Venlet, himself a leading Belgian designer and the exhibition's curator, Mode and Design Center (MAD) Brussels and ING Belgium are joining forces and the exhibition will open during the coming Design September Festival -

www.designseptember.be.

group, is really pretty futile."

And it is what constitutes the essence of design, namely the "lowest common multiple" of the ideal that the designer originally envisioned.



A FRIENDLY LIGHT. A LIFESTYLE!

LES ATELIERS DE LA CAMBRE



852 CHAUSSÉE DE WATERLOO À UCCLE - TÉL : 02.375.76.46 LIGHTING COLLECTION BY STÉPHANE DAVIDTS WWW.DAVIDTS.COM



contrasting with the numerous and frequently opposing desires and interests of the many for whom the design is ultimately intended, that is at the heart of the show – the process from designer to producer and user is what determines the essence of design, and the aim of *The Power of Object(s)* exhibition is to highlight these aspects for the first time.

For each designer, three designs have been chosen that are allocated to the same number of categories. A first category, icons, consists of products that are considered by the designer as emblematic of his or her own body of work, or through public opinion are most readily associated with the designer. The other two categories go under the heading 'bestsellers'. One of these categories displays the product that has sold best according to the designer, and the other, the product with the biggest profit margin.

As designer Luc Vincent, 62, explains: "My aim has always been to 'dynamize' an economical form, such as a chair – I hate 'formality'. It is a fact that in Belgium, where people like to enjoy the good life, the design market is very different from, for example, the Netherlands with its Calvinist past, and designers here are much more driven by the obsession to work for the market."





Alain Berteau concurs: "At the moment, there seems to be no place for Belgian design identity – it is the hybrid, mongrel nature of Belgian work that fascinates."

Designers presented at the exhibition:

Marina Bautier - Alain Berteau - BIG-GAME - Bram Boo - Jean-François D'Or - Nathalie Dewez - Anthony Duffeleer - Nedda El-Asmar - Axel Enthoven - Alain Gilles - Davy Grosemans - Vincent Jalet - Charles Kaisin - Bart Lens - Xavier Lust - Christa Reniers - stefan schöning - Diane Steverlynck - Piet Stockmans - Maarten Van Severen - Danny Venlet - Luc Vincent - Sylvain Willenz - Dirk Wynants - Michael Young

The Power of Object(s)

Design Bestsellers in Belgium
Open from 4 September 2014 to 11 January
2015, 10h00-18h00, Wednesdays until 21h00.
On 24 and 31 December 2014 open from
10h00-17h00.

Check website for ticket prices

ING Art Center Mont des Arts, Place Royale 6 1000 Brussels www.ing.be/art T. +32 (0)2 547 2292



INTRODUCING THE NEW MASERATI GHIBLI.

The new Maserati Ghibli offers all the style, luxury and dynamic performance that you would expect from a Maserati, combined with a unique, exclusive appeal. The Ghibli is powered by a range of advanced 3.0 litre V6 engines including, for the first time, a V6 turbo diesel engine. In addition, the Ghibli is available with Maserati's innovative Q4 All Wheel Drive system.



ACG Maserati - Brussels LEUVENSESTEENWEG 860, 1140 BRUSSEL

ACG Maserati - Gent IJZERWEGLAAN 101, 9000 GENT

F.M.A.

DIESEL ENGINE: V6 60° 2987 CC - MAXX POWER: 275 HP AT 4000 RPM - MAX TORQUE: 570 NM AT 2000/2600 RPM - MAX SPEED: 250 KM/H - ACCELERATION 0-100 KM/H: 6.3 SECS FUEL CONSUMPTION (COMBINED): - 6 L/100 KM - CO, EMISSIONS: 158 G/KM.

What's On

What's On International

Zagreb Film Festival

The twelfth Zagreb Film Festival will be taking place in the usual venues in the city: Cinema Europa, Cinema Tuškanac, Zagreb Dance Center, Zagreb Puppet Theater and Zagreb Museum of Contemporary Art. Once again, the festival program will include numerous cinematic delights in the main competition (in the feature, short and documentary categories). At the same time, the competition programme Checkers will provide a selection of the latest short films made in Croatia. There will also be the regular side programmes.



19-26 October. *www.zagrebfilmfestival.com*



Strings of Autumn

The Strings of Autumn festival is a musical crossroads where genre meets genre, and tradition meets experiment. The festival presents a selection of jazz, classical music, crossover, early music and world music, performed by some of the most important figures on the contemporary music scene. In addition to nine concert evenings it offers the weekend for children and their parents Strings Kids and Spoglight – String of Autumn Club Night. Spotlight is a mini-festival showcasing cutting-edge artists from the Czech and international scenes. Prague. **Until 9 November**. www.strunypodzimu.cz

Jenny Holzer - Benches

Jenny Holzer is one of American's most important middle generation artists and was an award-winner at the 44th Venice Biennale in 1990. In the mid 1970s she abandoned abstract painting and chose text as her primary artistic medium. She disseminates artistic statements through means and mechanisms created for use in advertising and the public 'iconosphere' of consumer society. Holzer adorns electronic light boards, posters, billboards, T-shirts, as well as stone benches with pronouncements and aphorisms that reference the realm of clichés and stereotypes. CCA, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw. **Until 31 Dec**.



csw.art.pi



#Drivethebest

Be the first to drive the new Peugeot 308 SW

europcar.be



What's On

Cinema

Picturenose.com's

James Drew takes a
look at the flicks coming
your way



The Salvation

Interesting Danish/Western hybrid from Kristian Levring and writer Anders Thomas Jensen, starring Mads Mikklesen as Jon, a Danish settler in 1870s America, who kills the outlaws who have murdered his family. This sparks the wrath of Baron Dalarue (Jeffrey Dean Morgan), and Jon is then betrayed by his cowardly townsfolk, leaving him to face off the Baron and his rogues alone. High Noon (1951), anyone? 100 mins.

The Trip to Italy

Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon return as fictionalized versions of themselves, in this follow-up to *The Trip*, which was released to great acclaim in 2010. This time around, Rob and Steve are commissioned to do a restaurant tour in Italy, from Liguria to Capri, following in the footsteps of the great Romantic poets. While on the tour, Rob wins a part in an American Michael Mann film – Steve will not be happy. *108 mins*.

Deliver Us From Evil

Jerry Bruckheimer does crime-horror, shockhorror. Scott Derickson directs this 'based on a true story, no, honest' tale of New York cop Ralph Sarchie (Eric Bana), who is dragged into a case involving demonic possession. It all sounds a trifle silly, but who knows? 118 mins.

The Equalizer

Based on the old Edward Woodward TV series of the same name, Denzel Washington plays Robert McCall, a solitary, ex-special ops, monastic figure who despises injustice and devotes himself to helping victims of criminals. Working at a small home improvement store by day, he befriends a girl (Chloë Grace Moretz) in his off-time at a local diner who is nearly killed by gangsters. After an initial battle, he learns they are members of the Russian mob, whom he begins a one-man war against, along with their partners in crime. 131 mins.



TASTE THE CULTURE

Film, concerts, theatre in the neighborhood



SPEAKTHE LANGUAGE

Dutch courses, workshops for children, practice opportunities



MEETTHE PEOPLE

Clubs and activities for children and adults



DISCOVERTHE REGION

Randkrant and local information

www.derand.be



Check out our English, French and German pages or pay a visite to our centres

Interview

Together took a pen and a camera along to meet Joshua Oppenheimer, winner of the Venice Film Festival's Grand Jury prize for 2014

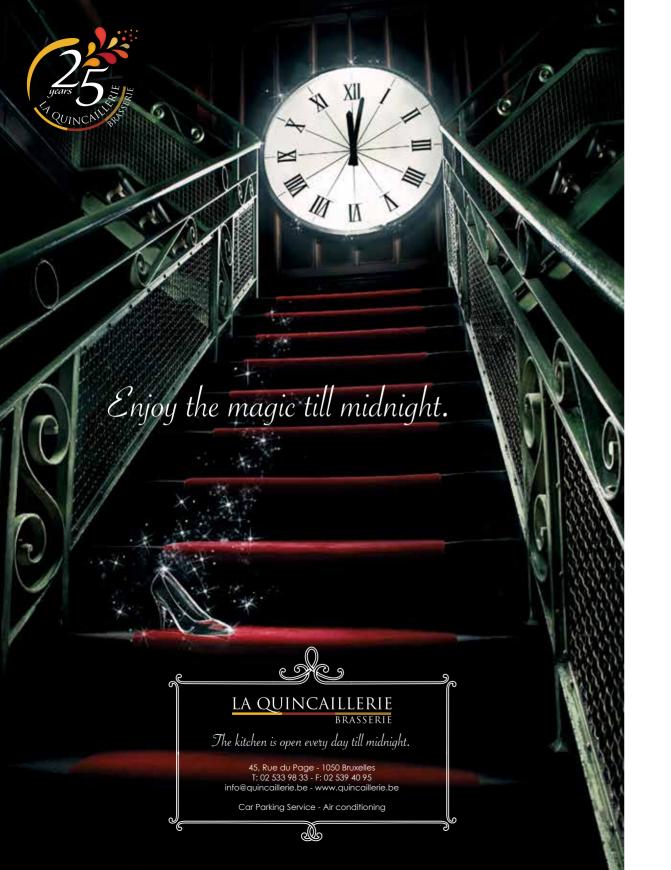


scar-nominated movie director Joshua Oppenheimer's Look of Silence is a powerful and shocking documentary about a family of Indonesian survivors who discover how their son was murdered and are determined to confront the men responsible for his murder. It was a project fraught with difficulties.

Oppenheimer said: "After the Oscar nomination this project was the opportunity to deepen the debate on Indonesia and to force the government to acknowledge that what happened in 1965 was a crime." The documentary aims to show ordinary Indonesians that reconciliation is necessary, and it approaches the subject gently, but is still as tough to watch as Oppenheimer's previous film *The Act of Killing*.

"Lots of precautions were needed during the preparation of some parts of the documentary." he explained. "It was much more frightening to shoot The Look of Silence than my previous one because we were threatened about working with the survivors. So when we were going to meet the politically powerful perpetrators, I didn't bring my Indonesian crew. I brought my producer and cinematographer who are both Danish. Adi, the protagonist, came with no ID. We brought only one mobile phone with no data in it apart from the numbers of the American and Danish embassies, just in case we needed help. We brought two getaway cars so we could leave the location and change cars immediately."

Interview: Federico Grandesso



Top Cat



LE CHAT by Philippe Geluck

EXPATS: one address for all your banking and insurance needs. It's not surreal.



BNP Paribas Fortis, the number one bank in Belgium, offers you every essential banking and insurance service, whether you are on your way or already here. We offer you all solutions customised to your needs, from day-to-day banking to savings & investments, from insurance to loans and advice.

Simplify your life: visit bnpparibasfortis.be/expatinbelgium or your nearest BNP Paribas Fortis branch.



BNP PARIBAS FORTIS



The world's greatest designer boutiques. All in one place. With savings of 30% to 60%.*

BA&SH COMPTOIR DES COTONNIERS ESCADA ESSENTIEL FURLA GEOX GUESS HUGO BOSS ICE

WATCH KAREN MILLEN LACOSTE LE CREUSET LIU JO MAJE MAX MARA PRINCESSE TAM.TAM PEUTEREY

7 FOR ALL MANKIND RIVER WOODS SANDRO TED BAKER TWIN-SET SIMONA BARBIERI UGG® AUSTRALIA

VERSACE AND MANY MORE

Enjoy free travel on the Shopping Express[®], our daily coach service from the centre of Brussels to Maasmechelen Village, using the promotional code 'TOGETHER'.*

For more news and offers, please register by emailing Int.Community@MaasmechelenVillage.com

LIKE SHOPPING. BUT BETTER.



ChicOutletShopping.com | MaasmechelenVillage.com f 💆 🖺