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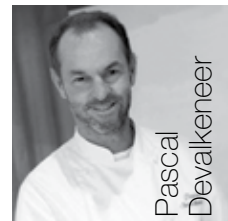
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# Publisher's letter

What it takes to stay at the top

**C**learly the world has gone Bond mad and **Together** have fallen under the 007 spell. **James Drew** delves into **Daniel Craig**'s world to try and winkle out what got him the top (secret) job and inspires him to keep going.

We are highlighting all manner of watches and **Kat Black** meets a master of the trade. Our regular fashion stylist **Nicholas Sirot** focuses on the latest trend of mixing and matching prints.

Relationship counsellor **Suzette Reed** follows up her Empty Nest Syndrome article with advice on what happens when grown-up children return home.

In our regular fitness column personal trainer **Patti Bruns** reveals the missing link in the training triangle. Yoga teacher **Natasha Gunn** takes a closer look at those eco labels.

**Colin Moors** tracks the rise and rise of **Bart De Wever** in Antwerp. According to **Dave Deruytter**, independent financial advice is not quite what it seems.

In our leisure section we head up into the trees with the **Trees and People** project and travel with **Rick Steves** beyond Istanbul to the village of Güzelyurt in Cappadocia. Our What's On listings will give you some ideas as to where to go in Belgium and beyond. **Alex Hewetson** salivates over Bond wines, and we visit a new Brussels restaurant where comedy is the main course.

Find more news and entertainment in the regular updates on our website, and look out for the next issue of **Together** in December when we'll be shining a light on the festive season. 🍷

David  
David McGowan  
PUBLISHER

## ON THE COVER



Cover portrait of  
**Daniel Craig**  
courtesy of  
xxxxxxxxxxx





80



91

# Contents

NOVEMBER 2012

- 11 Publisher's letter
- 12 Contributors
- 17 Starring in Belgium

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 21 **Fitness:** The Missing Link
- 27 **Self-help:** Eco-beauty
- 31 **Relationships:** Boomerang Kids
- 33 **Money:** Independent advice
- 35 **Politics:** Bart De Wever

## LIVING THE PART

- 40 **Cinema:** Daniel Craig
- 44 **Fashion:** Prints 'R Us
- 53 **Furniture:** Marie's Corner
- 57 **Beauty News:** New products for winter
- 63 **Housing:** V+
- 68 **Watches:** The Watchmaker

## LI FE OF LEISURE

- 76 **Travel:** Turkey beyond Istanbul
- 80 **Ecology:** Trees and people
- 83 **Cars:** Škoda in the 21st century
- 85 **Eating out:** Kings of Comedy
- 87 **Wine:** Vintage Bond
- 91 **Charity:** Dolls for Charity
- 93 **What's on:** Belgium
- 97 **What's on:** international
- 98 **Cartoon:** Le Chat by Philippe Geluck

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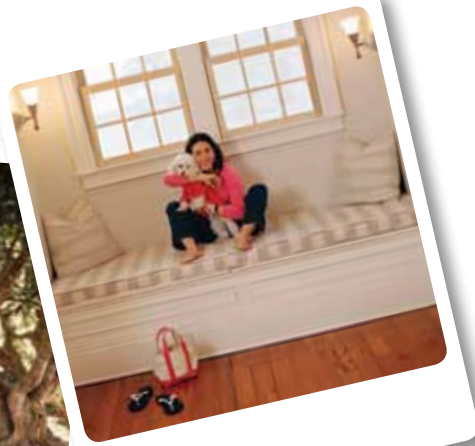
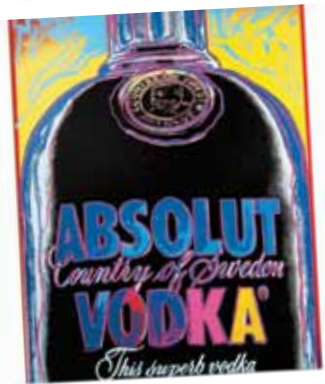
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# Starring in Belgium

A choice of entertainment  
compiled by  
**Emma Portier Davis**

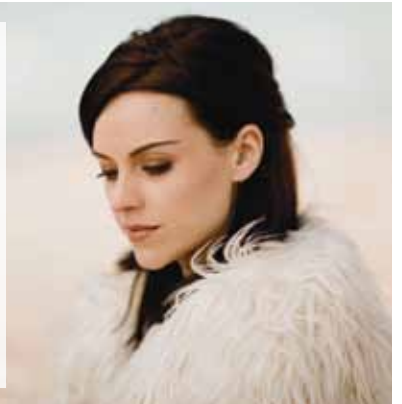
### SKUNK ANANSIE

English rock band Skunk Anansie, which reunited in 2009 and is on a comeback tour, will be in Belgium as part of a tour to promote their latest album *Black Traffic*. Antwerps Sportpaleis on November 23. Tickets from €42. [www.livenation.be](http://www.livenation.be)



### AMY MACDONALD

Scottish folk-rock singer Amy Macdonald will be back in Belgium to showcase songs from her new album *Life in a Beautiful Light*. Ancienne Belgique on December 2-3. Tickets from €35. [www.livenation.be](http://www.livenation.be)



### SEAL

Seal will be back in Belgium, belting out his richly textured soul music and treating the audience to hits from his eighth studio album *Soul 2*, a compilation of classics. Forest National on December 5. Tickets from €56. [www.gracialive.be](http://www.gracialive.be)



**SWEDISH HOUSE MAFIA** Dance music trio Swedish House Mafia, who have been electrifying the charts with hits like *Don't Worry Child*, will visit Belgium as part of their final world tour before the band takes a hiatus. Antwerps Sportpaleis on December 1. Tickets from €46. [www.livenation.be](http://www.livenation.be)



**DEEP PURPLE** Fathers of hard rock Deep Purple will be in Brussels as part of their European tour, performing a range of hits spanning almost five decades. Forest National on December 3. Tickets from €45.50. [www.livenation.be](http://www.livenation.be)



### BEN HOWARD

British singer-songwriter Ben Howard will be performing songs from his debut album *Every Kingdom* in Brussels as part of his European tour. Cirque Royal on December 10. Tickets from €32. [www.livenation.be](http://www.livenation.be)

Photographs: Ben Howard, Deep Purple, Swedish House Mafia, Amy Macdonald © LNE Press



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



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# The Missing Link...

Personal trainer **Patti Bruns** recommends rest and recovery as part of your training regime

**A**sk any person on the street what you need to do to get fit and healthy and the majority will say "exercise and eat right". Music to my ears! However, one essential element is missing in this otherwise foolproof plan – rest and recovery. Joe Friel, author of *The Triathlete's Training Bible*, says that recovery is the single most forgotten element of training plans, to the detriment of greater fitness gains. Don't get me

wrong, I'm not advocating naps over a brisk run. However, we all need to build in proper rest and recovery into our fitness regimes to ensure that we get the most out of each and every workout. The trick is to practice each element of the training triangle – training, nutrition and rest – with consistency.

Recovery is necessary to avoid overtraining, illness and injury, which all affect your ability to maintain consistency. If you feel under the weather and question whether or not you should skip your training session do a quick 'neck check'. If symptoms are above-the-neck, including sneezing, runny nose or a scratchy throat, you should feel free to start your session. Warm up well and if you don't feel worse after 10 minutes, continue at a low intensity for a short duration of time. If symptoms are below-the-neck, such as a chest cold, chills, achy muscles or a fever, do NOT work out. Exercise and viral infections are not friends – you could prolong your illness and potentially suffer serious, possibly life-threatening complications.

So after you've worked out, had a hot >

Photograph: © Colette Kotula



shower and a nutritious meal, how should you recover to ensure you are fresh and ready for your next training session? Here are three types of recovery to choose from:

### 1 ACTIVE RECOVERY

Recovery sessions include very light intensity workouts that raise your heart rate slightly, up to 55% of your maximum heart rate. These workouts can be done directly after a very high intensity workout (or race) or in the few days following a big effort. You should choose an activity that you are familiar with and that complements your normal training regime. Recovery sessions are a great time to cross train. Runners might head to an indoor cycling class, cyclists to the pool. Low-intensity active recovery increases blood circulation, whisking away accumulated blood lactate and other toxins, which in turn speeds muscle recovery. Studies show that active recovery leaves athletes feeling fresher, faster, than passive rest alone.

### 2 STRETCHING AND SELF-MYOFASCIAL RELEASE

Stretching is one of the most natural actions we do at all stages of life. Watch a baby waking up from a nap and you will recognize the movement patterns immediately! Aside from being part of our wake-up routines, stretching is an excellent way to recover from daily workouts. Stretching improves flexibility, improves circulation and improves balance and coordination.

Fascia is the soft connective tissue that lies just under the skin. It connects our bones, muscles, tendons, ligaments and the circulatory system together. Think of it as the microscopic netting that encases your body. Fascia is everywhere and it responds to stress by creating tiny adhesions that limit our freedom of movement. Self-myofascial release is a technique that involves active stimulation of the fascia by rolling on a foam roller or a myofascial release ball. Foam

**FASCIA IS EVERYWHERE AND IT RESPONDS TO STRESS BY CREATING TINY ADHESIONS THAT LIMIT OUR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT**

rolling, for example, releases fascial adhesions by applying firm pressure and gentle movements to sore spots along the muscles. By keeping the "fuzz" out of fascia we recover quicker and reduce the chances of developing incorrect movement patterns.

Stretching and self-myofascial release offer huge benefits for recovery and can be done directly after a workout or whenever you are feeling tight. Be sure to ask for help if you need a few tips on how best to achieve good results.

### 3 PASSIVE RECOVERY

Ahhh, this is the one you've been waiting for. An afternoon nap, a hot bath, a solid night's sleep – these are all essential elements in any rest and recovery plan. Hard workouts require quality rest, and anyone who is serious about their health should be sleeping more. Study after study shows that we are getting less sleep than ever before. The pressures of normal life (plus the stresses

of working out) can place intense demands on your wellbeing. Sleep allows the body to reset and our minds to relax. It is also when you gain the benefits of your workouts; yes, that's right, when we sleep the body absorbs the training stress of the day and you become fitter. Along with training and nutrition, rest needs to be consistent to give you the most benefit.

Rest and recovery, like hard training sessions and sound nutrition, are crucial to attaining your ultimate fitness goals. The recovery methods outlined here also share the added benefit of improving your overall sense of wellbeing. Enjoy your training and celebrate the gains you make in your fitness. What better way to reflect on your successes than with a well-deserved time out! 🍷

*Patti Bruns is a qualified personal trainer at Aspria Arts-Loi and Royal La Rasante in Brussels and has completed many triathlons, half marathons, and both the New York City and Stockholm marathons. Email for an appointment patti.p2b@gmail.com*



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# Living by universal laws

Yoga teacher **Natasha Gunn** pulls back the veil on eco-friendly living

**E**co-friendly is the current buzz word. Green, eco-friendly, sustainable, biological are all 'good' terms and living an authentic lifestyle is shifting from marginal to mainstream. Certainly, keeping your footprint softer on planet Earth is harder to fake than showing you have money. But where does an eco-friendly lifestyle begin and end?

## RESPECT FOR LIFE

First of all, let's look at yoga and how this is connected to eco-friendly living. As violinist Yehudi Menuhin wrote in his introduction to B. K. S. Iyengar's book, *Light on yoga*, yoga is "by its very

nature inextricably associated with universal laws: respect for life, truth and patience are all indispensable factors in the drawing of a quiet breath, in calmness of mind and firmness of will".

You won't pick up yoga and meditation quicker through going harder and faster. Take it easy and slowly and follow these three steps: Practice, practice, practice. Happily, you don't need props to practice yoga and it's free. Taking yoga classes with a qualified teacher helps you to learn safely and keep up the discipline of practice. If you think you don't have any 'free time' in your busy schedule, read my blogs *Making space when you don't have time* and *When saying 'no' makes all the difference*. Both blogs offer some tips on freeing up time.

## MAKING CHANGE

The process of change can start with a thought and progress into action as we engage in a different way of being and thinking. Being authentic to ourselves, listening to our 'inner voice' is the first step. Eventually your change of mind will be visible to those around you in the way you look, the expression in your eyes, the way you behave, your approach to consumerism and the things you say.

This doesn't mean turning into a saint overnight or losing your sense of humour or 'flaws', but it does mean developing awareness.

Friends of mine who practice yoga agree that yoga helps them to slow down and open their senses, and this remembrance gives a sense of reality,





especially when busy lifestyles are wearing us down. And burn-out and dulling of the senses through hectic living isn't a new concept. Leonardo de Vinci wrote that the average person "looks without seeing, listens without hearing, touches without feeling, eats without tasting, moves without physical awareness, inhales without awareness of odour or fragrance and talks without thinking".

You can also add 'purchases without thinking'. Before buying food and beauty products, or anything for that matter, ask yourself, 'Where does this come from and how was it produced?' Has the product you are about to buy been produced with respect for people, nature (the environment) and animals? The origins of products and what they contain can be confusing, with companies using tricks that can suggest to consumers that the products they are purchasing are 'eco-friendly', so let's look at some commonly used terms and labels.

#### ECO TERMS

Words such as sustainability, sustainable, biological and Fairtrade have featured big time in the media and will continue to do so. Let's run through their definitions in brief:

**ECO-FRIENDLY:** Environmentally friendly (also eco-friendly, nature friendly and green) are terms used to refer to goods and services, laws, guidelines and policies claimed to inflict minimal or no harm on the environment. Companies sometimes use these terms to promote goods and services by making environmental marketing claims and with eco-labels.

**SUSTAINABLE:** For humans, sustainability is the long-term maintenance of wellbeing, which has environmental, economic, and social dimensions, and encompasses the concept of stewardship, the responsible management of resource use. In ecology, sustainability describes how biological systems remain diverse and productive over time, a necessary precondition for human well-being. Long-lived and healthy wetlands and forests are examples of

sustainable biological systems.

**UNSUSTAINABLE:** In his book *The Great Disruption*, on how the climate crisis will transform the global economy, Paul Gilding writes: "If a system is being used unsustainably and behaviour doesn't change, then it will no longer be available to use. This is a practical issue; if we don't have enough fibre, food, or water, or if we don't have a stable climate, then we simply won't have the society we have now."

#### BIOLOGICAL/ ORGANIC FOOD:

Foods that are produced using methods that do not involve modern synthetic inputs such as synthetic pesticides and chemical fertilizers, do not contain genetically modified organisms, and are not processed using irradiation, industrial solvents, or chemical food additives.

**FAIRTRADE:** Although no universally accepted definition of fair trade exists, fair trade labelling organizations most commonly refer to a definition developed by FINE, an informal association of four international fair trade networks (Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International, World Fair Trade Organization, Network of European Worldshops and European Fair Trade Association): fair trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of marginalized producers and workers.

That's enough labelling for the time being, folks, and remember: think before you purchase! ♡

Check out Natasha's blog:  
[makingspace2change.com](http://makingspace2change.com)

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GREATER  
DANGER FOR  
MOST OF US  
LIES NOT IN  
SETTING OUR  
AIM TOO  
HIGH AND  
FALLING  
SHORT; BUT  
IN SETTING  
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# Boomerang kids

Relationship counsellor **Suzette Reed** warns of the problems when adult children return to the nest

**W**hen do we become adult? There are a range of milestones; significant birthdays, legal rights and rites of passage. For many young adults, leaving the family home marks their move into adulthood and, for a significant number, this change happens in their late teens as they go to university or into work and find their first flat or bedsit. They may be home for odd weekends and during the summer break but gradually parents and adult children adjust to a different lifestyle. So what happens when adult children come back to the nest and, cuckoo like, fill the space – plus some?

This isn't a new situation – census data shows that many households over the decades have included adult children remaining at home into their twenties and thirties and beyond. However, in 2011 nearly three million British adults aged 20-34 lived with their parents, an increase of 20% since 1997. Where does the increase come from? The difference now seems to be that adult children return to the family home having lived independently for a number of years.

The reasons for this are well documented. The unemployment rate for young people has risen dramatically, with the overall

European rate standing at 22.7%, but in some countries more than half the population under 25 is unemployed. Graduate unemployment has increased, as has student debt. For many families, adult children have nowhere to go but back to their parental home.

This is a major adjustment for everyone involved and needs negotiation and understanding.

## “THE LIFESTYLE OF A TWENTY- SOMETHING IS USUALLY VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE FIFTY- SOMETHING PARENTS”

Adult children can regress into a younger self and parents can retreat into old patterns and expectations. This can lead to resentment on both sides. It is important to foster independence and plan for the future. It may feel odd and artificial, but an agreed contract between both sides often helps.

- Set the ground rules,

recognising that you are all adults and should be able to make adult decisions. These should be realistic and mutually respectful – not as easy as it sounds as the lifestyle of a twenty-something is usually very different from the fifty-something parents.

- Adult children should pay their way. Ideally, this would mean paying rent and their share of food and utility bills. If this isn't possible then payment in kind should be expected, such as taking on responsibility for cooking or gardening and other household needs.

- All adult children, whether working or not, should take on their fair share of chores around the house.

- Many parents develop new interests and activities when their children leave home and it is important to keep these going. The returning child needs to recognise that changes have happened and parents have rights too.

- Keep looking to the future and foster independence. The boomerang child will bounce back out into the world. Talk about their plans and hopes and work on making it a reality.

There are opportunities for the family in the boomerang situation. Parents and children report that they have developed a new relationship with each other, and this can be very rewarding. ☺





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# The true independents

For **Dave Deruytter**, true independence is relative

**L**et me scotch some myths for you about independent financial advice. But we have to start with the proper definition of "independent financial advice". Personally, I think the following sums it up: independent financial advice is advice you receive from a professional, preferably a certified one, who is not tied to any company producing or selling financial services and to whom you pay for the advice itself without purchasing any financial product from him or her.

That is a bit of a mouthful. So, are there any such independent financial advisers out there?

Banks are obviously not independent financial advisers. Their staff is tied and they mostly sell products from the bank itself. Yet they typically offer a broad range of products such as savings accounts, direct investments in bonds and stocks, mutual funds and life insurance products. However to get real advice, not simply an explanation about financial products, estate planning and pensions, you often have to invest a certain amount of money with the bank. Private Banking typically starts at €1 million and Personal Banking at around a quarter of that. Furthermore, rare are the bankers who have a good view on cross-border expat needs. More often than not, they see only the local picture.

And most financial advisers in the market place are not independent. All too often, their aim is to sell you one of the financial products they receive a commission for. On the other hand you do receive pension and estate planning advice, but it is not always as complete as

your international situation as an expat warrants. Often, the software they use for analyzing your situation leads to a choice of only a few financial products. In some cases, you are offered almost a book with your analysis and you can either pay for it or take the 'ideal' financial product that their analysis produced. Too often the latter is a long-term, illiquid financial product designed to build up your pension capital.

For the super-rich there is the 'family office'. This might very well be the true independent financial adviser. A family office is either a financial company with experts or with access to experts working solely for one Very High Net Worth Individual (VHNWI) and his or her family and estate. It is rare to get through the door of such a private family office unless you have at least a few hundred million euros that needs managing. More common are family office services offered by a financial company to 10 or more 'regular' wealthy families.

Unless you have made your fortune already, were born very rich or cleaned up on Euro Millions, these family offices are no more than a pipe dream. All we 'common' financial investors can do is to listen to the experts on the internet, social media, television, specialized newspapers and magazines. Learn from them, keep our feet on the ground, spread our investments and manage them regularly. Please remember to first take care of your daily circumstances and those of your loved ones and your projects – and only then consider planning and taxes, not the other way around. ☺

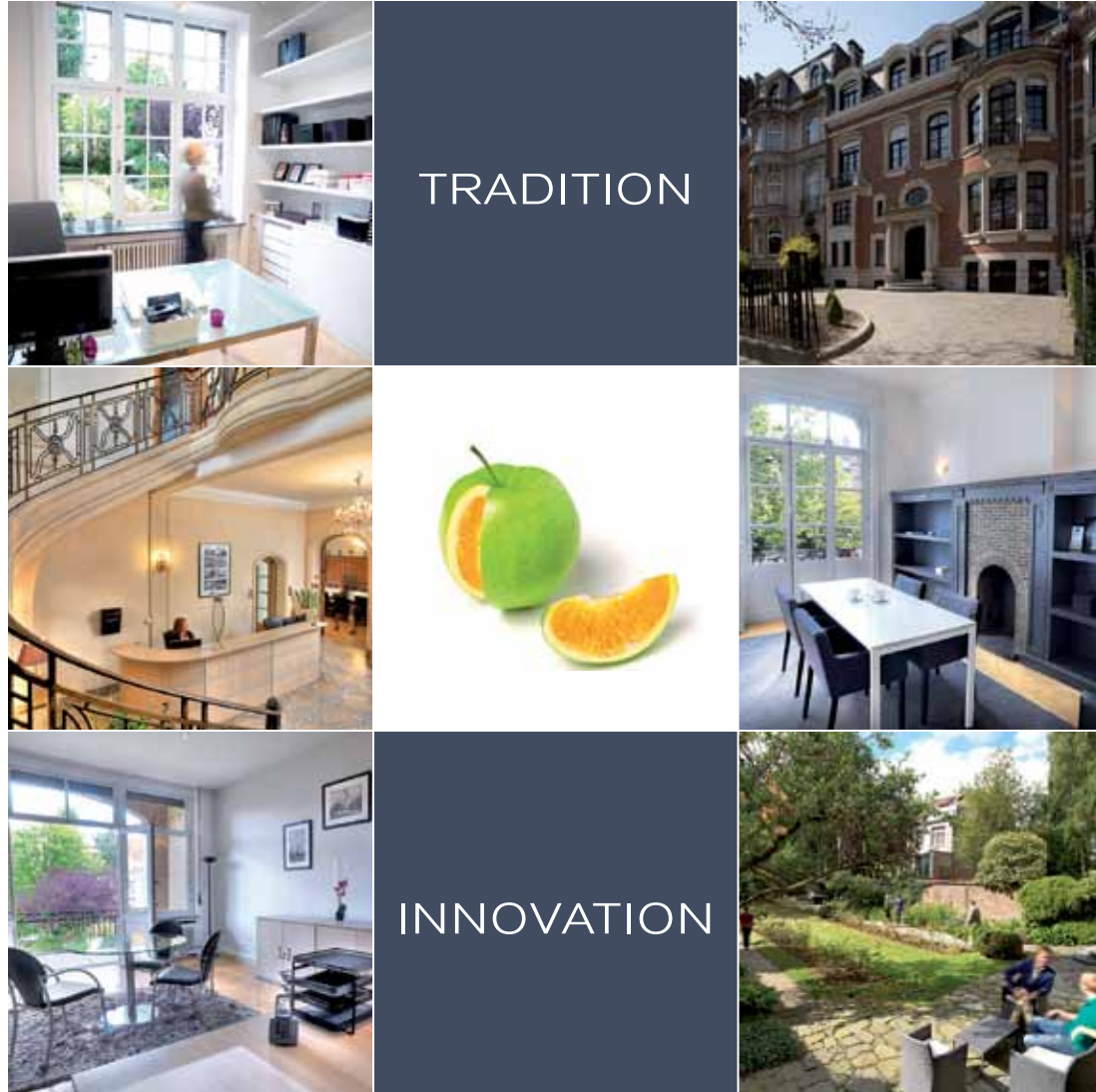
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



## The fall of ANTWERP

**Colin Moors** reflects on Bart De Wever's accession to the throne of Flanders' largest city

With secessionism being the 'in' thing to do from Spain to Scotland, the Flemish Belgians were obviously buoyed by the success of the high-profile demonstrations in Catalonia and the upcoming vote in which the Scots get to choose independence from the UK (or not). On October 14, Bart De Wever, a moderate right-winger, was voted in as mayor of Antwerp – a move in which he not only fulfilled a lifelong dream but one in which he may well have changed the face of Belgian politics altogether.

Whichever side of the political fence you sit regarding the union of Wallonia and Flanders, De Wever's achievement is something of a political success story. His party, the N-VA (Nieuwe-Vlaams Alliantie/ New Flemish Alliance) was formed in

2001 following a split in the old People's Union (Volksunie or VU). The 2003 federal elections saw a disastrous start to the new political party's campaign, with 5% of the vote (the electoral majority) failing to be reached anywhere except West Flanders, they had government funding withdrawn and were adrift with only one representative to speak for them in government affairs. Following a successful election cartel with the CD&V (Christian Democrat & Flemish) party in 2004, they bounced back and have spent the years since garnering more and more of the Flemish vote.

Although the policies of the NV-A may seem to conflict sometimes with the traditional notion of a right-wing party – their stance on ecology and climate change for one – it's the nationalist



element that defines them as a presence in Belgian politics. The other thing that affects their vote-winning run of success is that they are nothing at all like the far-right Vlaams Belang (Flemish Interest) party. Even if the N-VA does things that appear to be designed to irritate, such as refusing to deal in governmental or federal business in any other language than Dutch, their eclectic mix of policies and an insistence that Flanders not only becomes a state in its own right but a part of a united Europe makes it a far more sane choice for some voters than the Eurosceptic, send-them-all back rhetoric of the VB.

All this new-found popularity comes at a price and De Wever has made strident efforts to distance himself from not only the VB but also his own skeletons that have returned time and again to haunt him. He attended a conference held by French right-winger Jean-Marie Le Pen and the funeral of the Holocaust denier and founder of the Vlaams Nationale Partij (later to become the VB) Karel Dillen but what was perhaps his biggest gaffe was what he said about the people of the city he now represents. In WWII more than 1,000 Jews resident in Antwerp were rounded up by police and civil servants complicit with the Nazis and sent to the concentration camps. In 2007 the mayor of Antwerp, the Socialist Patrick Janssens, offered an apology for the treatment of the Jews during the war, a sentiment De Wever dismissed as "a gratuitous act" adding that "those who led Antwerp at the time had to make delicate decisions in difficult circumstances." He may have lost 60 kilos but no change in his physical appearance can alter history.

With mayoral control wrested from Patrick Janssens who served Antwerp for nine years, and the VB still marginalized by the other parties refusing to form any kind of coalition with them, the future looks bright for the NV-A. It also could mean a sea change in the way the nationalist agenda is viewed. Other Flemish parties now can't risk being too populist and trying to steal votes from the



THE IMPOSING  
BART DE WEVER  
BEFORE LOSING  
THE FAMOUS  
60 KILOS

**“HIS OWN  
SKELETONS  
HAVE  
RETURNED  
TIME AND  
AGAIN TO  
HAUNT HIM”**

N-VA by pushing an agenda that's too nationalist without wrecking the foothold they have in prime minister Di Rupo's coalition cabinet.

De Wever sees his comfortable victory as a springboard to propel him and his party into the Flemish elections in 2014. If the results are as good then as they were several weeks ago, it would mark the beginning of an earnest campaign to gain independence for Flanders. Lex Moolenaar, political analyst for the *Gazet Van Antwerpen*, reckons a convincing victory in the Flemish elections could be a turning point in the shape of Belgium as we know it today. Speaking to the *Financial Times*, he said: "It would enlarge NVA's power at the regional and national level... the next natural step would be towards seeking the independence of Flanders."

The new mayor of Antwerp has a charismatic personality, the weight of the Flemish people behind him and is presenting a real alternative to the extremist views of the VB. To paraphrase Theodore Roosevelt, De Wever is speaking softly – and the big stick he's carrying is the future of Belgium. 🇧🇪

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# LIVING THE PART

Bond on the run  
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DANIEL CRAIG IN CIVVIES

# LIVING THE PART

*Together* marks the release of Daniel Craig's third entry into the 007 cannon, *Skyfall*, with a look at how he has managed to immerse himself so completely into the role of the world's most renowned super-spy.

All of a sudden, 2006 seems like a long time ago – that was when Daniel Craig exploded into cinemas as a new James Bond 007 for the 21st century in Martin Campbell's *Casino Royale*, but with an incarnation that nevertheless brought Ian Fleming's original vision of the character back, namely a sophisticated, cavalier, merciless but scarred and haunted professional assassin.

As Craig told *Interview* magazine: "When I accepted the job to work on Bond, I genuinely did it to change my life. I knew that it would flip everything on its head... I've never made movies for money – I've always made them because I truly wanted to do them."

With Sam Mendes' *Skyfall*, Craig's third take on James Bond, currently cutting a swathe through the box office and being showered with critical bouquets, and Craig's contractual 007 obligations to two more films, it would appear that Bond is set to remain blonde for some time to come. But how has stepping into the shoes of the world's most famous secret agent changed Craig? As Sam Mendes told the *Financial Express*: "He puts 100 per cent of himself into it. He doesn't leave anything at home. But it's very odd, because I've never directed an actor in a role which, in a sense, he knows better than I do. Here it's like, 'Well he's played Bond already, so I'm the newcomer'."

## SO, IS CRAIG LIVING THE PART THEN?

As he told *The Times*: "In fact, I find it very easy playing Bond. I think he's hilarious."

He gets himself into some extraordinarily funny situations... The idea of regretting not doing this seemed insane to me. Sitting in the corner at a bar at age 60, saying: 'I could've been Bond. Buy me a drink.' That's the saddest place I could be. At least now at 60 I can say: 'I was Bond. Now buy me a drink.' "

It forms an interesting contrast with the Bond predecessor to whom Craig is most frequently compared, even increasingly as an equal or superior, namely Sean Connery, whose own attitude to the part, which became something of an albatross

for the great actor, he summed up as follows: "I have always hated that damn James Bond. I'd like to kill him."

And, while Craig has not toured with the media circus to the same extent as Sir Roger Moore or even Pierce Brosnan did when the role was theirs, he has certainly made his cameos count, not least of which with his guest appearance escorting Her Majesty Queen

Elizabeth II, no less, to the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony... by parachute. In fact, according to the *Daily Mail*, Craig was a little put out: "[Her Majesty] was fun, incredibly game," he told the *Mail*. "We had a short space of time and I was a bit grumpy as it was my day off and suddenly I am at the Palace with the Queen at her private chamber."

And even Sir Roger himself, while dismissing Craig's second film as Bond, *Quantum of Solace* (2008) as a "long, disjointed commercial", has written in his latest book, *Bond on Bond*: "I loved *Casino Royale* and Daniel Craig. He is a wonderful actor, certainly the best actor to play Bond."





DANIEL CRAIG AND SKYFALL  
CO-STAR BÉRÉNICE MARLOHE

For this writer, reviewer and confessed Bond-oholic, who grew up during Moore's reign, while there is no doubt that I loved the humour of that era, I am certain that the Bond who is now in town should be the franchise's template for the next generation – as Connery has by and large been declared the best Bond for most of the series' 50 years, Craig is bidding fair to be held in similar esteem well into the 21st century. As Orson Welles once famously said of Sherlock Holmes, "he is the man who has never lived, and will never die" – and it is only to be hoped that subsequent Bonds follow Craig's lead. What do you think of that, danielcraigisnotbond.com?

Of his immersion into the part, Craig has said: "I can't do all the things I'd like to do, but I have a normal life. My family and friends treat me as they always have. I want people to treat me as normally as they can. Anybody who doesn't, I feel awkward with."

And, according to Craig's recent interview with *Variety*, there are other more Bond-specific challenges: "It's amazing," he said, "how many times I've sat in interviews like this in a bar or a hotel, and it's 11 o'clock in the morning and someone sends a martini over. And it's like, really? It's 11 o'clock! Cheers! I'm not going to drink it."

"I've got to be high-class. I've done a lot of things in my life, but you have to think in that way, which is sad, because I like bars. I'm not going to be the poster boy for this. Although I *am* the poster boy." ☺

To read James Drew's review of *Skyfall*,  
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# 20 YEARS OF Marie's Corner

The Belgian hand-made furniture company has reached the end of its second decade

such as linen, bamboo, cotton and organic colours.

The theme of continuity is evident when you see pictures in the brochure of the couple's Brussels *maison de maître*, furnished by Marie's Corner and then interiors of their US home in Charlotte, North Carolina, where the company's products fill an entirely different space on the other side of the world.

Their presence in the US is underpinned by their new range called the American Eco-Friendly collection, a

family of seats and accessories developed by Marie's Corner "over there." (When will the day come when we don't have to differentiate between eco and non-eco?) The structure is in hardwood from certified sustainable forests and cushions made from 80% regenerated fibres.

But their European origins are still evident in the Mondrian-inspired "Jackson Crazy" (it was Pollack that initially sprung to my mind but the design is clearly not

his style). You can try out Marie's Corner furniture for yourself in the Michelin-starred Bono's restaurant in Brussels, designed by architects IGLOO and Michele Verhelst, including the new high "Manchester" chairs. In Namur, too, Hotel de la Poste at Ronchinnes boasts most of the flagship models of the brand—it's the former home of Princess Clementine, daughter of King Leopold II. 🇧🇪

Marie's Corner is celebrating 20 years in the tailored furniture business under the same ownership.

Laetitia Low founded the firm in the early 90s and husband Alain joined a few years later. When asked what the secret to the company's longevity was, Alain Low replied simply: "Continuity and luck." In modern business 20 years in the same ownership is a long time—there are many business that have lasted no longer than a Hollywood marriage. And as for luck, well, the old adage claims that you make your own.

The company's business is elegant, hand-made furniture. Each piece is unique and the customer gets to define the dimensions and custom finishes. They say that recently there has been a shift towards more natural fibres,

‘RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN A SHIFT TOWARDS MORE NATURAL FIBRES’





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# MASTERING PROPERTY

Clara Malaxos, co-managing director of the IBP Agency with her husband Stavros Malaxos, answers some pertinent questions about the agency's past and present

## CAN YOU BRIEFLY EXPLAIN THE ORIGIN OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE IBP AGENCY AND ITS PROFILE IN THE INDUSTRY?

The IBP agency was created by my husband Stavros Malaxos almost 25 years ago. He began working in real estate when he was a 16-year-old student and he hasn't stopped since. Property was and still is his life's passion. IBP has become over the years the ideal partner for expatriates—senior executives or managers in multinational companies, embassies and consulates—who constitute more than 75% of our customers! It's extremely demanding, constantly

pushing us to be the best performers in the 'expatriates' market. We have the advantage of having direct relationships with investors and property owners, and Belgian and foreign developers have entrusted us with the management of their property and real estate portfolio.

## WHAT DISTINGUISHES THE IBP AGENCY FROM OTHERS?

Firstly, sustainability. We have been present in the Belgian real estate landscape for almost a quarter of a century. We stand out from others by specialization in the 'premium' sector and our mastery of the Brussels market. We have a seasoned sales and rental team, speaking a minimum of 3-4 foreign languages—they're very cosmopolitan, very professional and attentive to our purchasers, tenants and owners. A



## IBP HAS BECOME THE IDEAL PARTNER FOR EXPATRIATES

structure is put in place around the expatriate's needs—we scan their lifestyle in order to find out their *modus vivendi*.

## WHAT IS THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN BELGIUM OF AN EXPATRIATE?

The average stay is between one and three years, just enough time to discover all of Brussels' hidden treasures. Brussels is very affordable and seems like a big village compared to other European cities, a place you can still find a good quality of life.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE INFLUX OF FRENCH BILLIONAIRES, ARTISTS AND ENTREPRENEURS INTO BELGIUM?

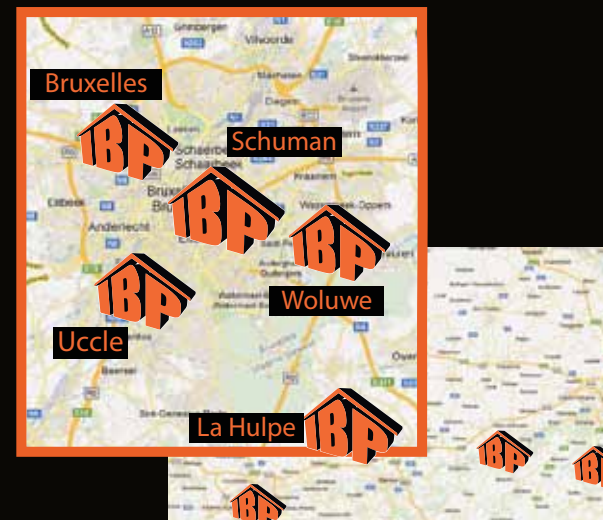
IBP has always been in close contact with French customers so it hasn't really changed the way we work. There are 200,000 French nationals in Belgium, making them the largest group in the foreign community. It's not just about tax exiles—French students have always been very fond of our colleges and universities. The French analyse the market in detail before making a decision so working for them is very challenging, but with our years of experience, our know-how and our total dedication, we have everything it takes to meet their requirements.



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
# Perforated LIVING

The **I Love Belgium** team came across an unusual reworking of the Brussels terraced house

A new house conversion drew the attention of the I Love Belgium team in a dense residential area of historic downtown Brussels. Architect office V+ reconceptualized an existing complex that extended across two parallel streets and was made up of several architectural elements. Next to the traditional town house the site housed an industrial building in the courtyard and a second 18th century industrial building, which today serves as an auction house.

The initial programme included the renovation of the mansion at the street front and the construction of an art gallery in the courtyard. Having reflected on the project, the architects suggested to the client that they create a second family home on top of the existing industrial building. In the images you can see the neighbouring gable end with the playful perforated face.

The project was handled with respect for the typology of townhouses in Brussels – the first family house is discreetly present on the street side, while the back points towards the courtyard and the small garden.

The other house, located on the existing industrial building, is designed in such a way that it completes the skyline of terraced houses. This three-sided playful volume not only offers its inhabitants beautiful views over Brussels but also adds a contemporary architectural value to the *Marché aux Poissons* in the historic heart of the city. 

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ADVERTORIAL

## Adventures in time

Creating a 'recession-proof' brand with affordable watches that are both elegant and sporty looking: this was the challenge that Alain De Nys set himself. A substantial challenge, which took more than just a few hours to meet. All aboard the time machine!

**Y**ou could say that Alain De Nys fell into the world of timepieces when he was young. The tick-tock of hands, faces, barrels, clasps and cases no longer hold any secrets for him. This timekeeping enthusiast inherited a passion for watch-making from his mother, who in turn inherited it from her father. Time for a flashback.

### FROM FATHER TO DAUGHTER, FROM DAUGHTER TO SON

Let's turn back the clock. We are in 1932. Alain De Nys' grandfather, Ali Kinsbergen, launched the famous Pontiac brand in Belgium. On the watch-making market at the time, Verdal and Pontiac were battling it out for the spotlight. Rodania would join them a little later in this race against the clock. At the end of the 1960s, Alain Nys' mother, Johanna Kinsbergen, took up the torch. In those days all the loudspeakers played the 'Tic-Tac Pontiac' jingle during Belgian cycle races. In 1980 the brand disappeared. Alain De Nys was twenty years old at the time, and the idea of setting up his own company was running through his head.

He took on his first challenge in 1986, when he developed the family company Alansphil with his brother Philippe and his mother. Our man was aiming high! He also brought the famous Breitling watches to Belgium and Luxembourg and represented them for 18 years. After a difficult start (he sold one watch in the year he launched the brand), sales went



**“THE IDEA OF  
SETTING UP HIS  
OWN COMPANY  
WAS RUNNING  
THROUGH  
HIS HEAD”**



through the roof five years on, with up to 17 watches sold each day! In 1999, his brother went off to set up his own business in Saint Barthélémy and Alain De Nys took control of the vessel alone. He lost the Breitling concession in 2003 because he kept his feet firmly on the

>

MORE INFORMATION ON [WWW.GMT-CHRONOGRAPHS.COM](http://WWW.GMT-CHRONOGRAPHS.COM)



ground and didn't want a completely unrealistic contract. It was just too bad, but only a year later, Alain De Nys was in Canada, negotiating with the Canadian giant Bombardier. Other than a passion for timekeeping, everything and anything to do aviation is equally close to his heart.

## FROM BOMBARDIER TO GMT-CHRONOGRAPHS

Armed with his experience in top-of-the-range chronographs, Alain convinced the Canadian company to make watches as well as its planes, trams, jet-skis and snowmobiles. Leaving the manufacturing to the pros in the Swiss Jura, Alain took care of the design, marketing and distribution of Bombardier: top-class technical timepieces with highly polished aesthetics. And of course exceptional watches require a high budget. A chance meeting would lead him to launch his own brand of watches.

We are now in France, at the Porsche Matmut Carrera Cup which Bombardier sponsors. At this event, Alain met Philippe Houtmans, a former Sabena captain and a big fan of watches. The two enthusiasts immediately got on like a house on fire. They shared a love of beautiful mechanics and stunning chronographs. In 2008, the economic crisis called for more affordable prices. Two years later, the two friends decided to launch a little brother for Bombardier, with more democratic prices but without skimping on design and quality. In 2010, the GMT-Chronographs brand, with prices ranging between €250 and €700, was born with the motto 'Elegance for Professionals'. The slogan says it all, these are sporty-looking watches within everyone's pocket, and more specifically dedicated to motor sports fans including aviators and drivers. A collection which combines the elegance and precision



## TOP-CLASS TECHNICAL TIMEPIECES WITH HIGHLY POLISHED AESTHETICS

of aviation and the professionalism of pilots with a very good quality/price ratio.

### 3 + 1 CHRONO' LINES

GMT-Chronographs consists of four lines of contemporary chronographs with something for everyone.

**SKYDIVER:** Available in silver or various colours, this line of sporty watches with 38 mm and 48 mm dials is designed for both men and women.

**URBAN:** More traditional, these chronographs with three hands are dedicated to urban and independent men who are both active and classy.

**GLIDER:** A sporty collection with generous sizes (dial of up to 52 mm) for men with a sense of adventure.

**VINTAGE 59 & VINTAGE 64:** The brand's latest models launched at the start of the autumn follow the current trend for vintage with their leather or Milanese mesh wrist straps. In the run-up to Christmas, a new top-of-the-range, more luxurious model will be released, a watch for professional pilots with a large date display at 6 o'clock. The perfect gift.

GMT-Chronographs plays an active role in the world of sports, and the brand is proud to be a sponsor & partner for various sports events such as tennis, golf and hockey tournaments, show jumping and all kinds of motor sports races. Watch this space...👁

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# THE Watchmaker

**Kat Black** applies an eye loupe for a closer view on the world of watches

Outside the impressive front door of the Christie Auction House in Paris, on the way to an event showcasing eight young watchmakers from the company Girard-Perregaux, I had a hard time picturing why someone young would want to be a watchmaker. I could only picture a watchmaker as an old man bent over a workbench, eye loupe attached to the socket, working patiently on the tiny inner mechanics of a watch. Maybe it was

something I had seen in a story book when I was little. Perhaps. But I hadn't given much thought to it until now. Just how interesting could it be? A watch is just something you use to tell the time, right?

Once inside, the first person I met didn't do much to change my perceptions. He looked to be around the right age of the watchmaker image in my head and I could definitely picture him working on intricate watch parts. The one

thing that did intrigue me was that he was wearing a watch on each arm – I thought, 'This could be interesting after all.'

French-born, Mr. Loiseau was studying Literature and Philosophy at a Parisian University in 1968. In May of that year, a student revolution began with protests spreading out across France. Being in the centre of this made continuing his education of such intellectual topics unthinkable. The revolution changed society as well as Mr. Loiseau's future

path. During the same time, he had made some deliveries to a local craftsman whose work he found quite inspiring. Feeling that he couldn't go back to studying in the same fashion as before, Mr. Loiseau forged a new path towards finding his own craft.

Enrolling at the renowned *l'Ecole d'horlogerie d'Anet at Dreux* in France, he began the task of learning all he could about watches. The focus was on restoration and he soon discovered that >



ROSE DES TEMPS



RENAISSANCE



he wanted to do more than just restore other people's watches. He wanted to design his own. In order to do that he needed to study contemporary watch making and the only place to be able to do that was at a school in La Chaux-de-Fonds in Switzerland, the heart of Swiss watch making. When he first arrived, one of the other students asked him what he was doing there as he felt mechanical watch making was a thing of the past. In the 1970s, the Japanese had invented Quartz. This technology was spreading throughout the world as a fast and industrial way to speed up watch production and bring down prices. Mr. Loiseau was undeterred. He carried on learning the mechanical techniques needed to make and restore handmade watches. His persistence paid off. An international watch museum in La Chaux-de-Fonds hired him as a teacher to pass on the mechanical and manual skills he had been studying. There had been a short supply of people wanting to learn these skills as Quartz technology had scared most away.

At the age of 27, Mr. Loiseau left the museum and opened his own shop. He continued to restore watches and, as one of only five people in the world able to restore such complicated mechanical watches, trade was brisk. Working on other people's watches, again, fuelled his desire to create something of his own. In 1981, Mr. Loiseau created his first watch, called *Resistance*. It was not well received by the press who thought that it would probably be the last mechanical watch which ever needed to be produced. Almost as if to prove the press wrong, the watch was sold for the princely sum of 450,000 Swiss Francs.

The next project was called *Rose de temps*. Inspired by the film *Citizen Kane* in which the opening scene includes the voice-over whispering, 'Rosebud'. In the shape of a rose and with references to literature, culture and sculpture, it toured the world billed as a masterpiece. This watch was sold in 1985 by watchmakers Omega to the Sultan of Brunei for a staggering 4,250,000 million Swiss francs.

Fast forward to the end of 2011, when the Swiss Watch company Girard-



ASSEMBLING THE WORKINGS  
OF A MECHANICAL WATCH

## ‘MR. LOISEAU FORGED A NEW PATH TOWARDS FINDING HIS OWN CRAFT’

Perregaux asked Mr. Loiseau to collaborate on some future projects and also to become a teacher and mentor to their young watchmakers. I can see why they asked him—besides being an obvious master of his craft, his enthusiasm in watches is contagious. I was finding Mr. Loiseau very interesting but I was still skeptical about these young watchmakers. I now understood that each generation could bring something new to traditional watch making just as Mr. Loiseau has done and continues to do. But could the world of watches be satisfying enough to young people in this advanced technical age?

As part of my continuing initiation into the 'watch world', I was shown some vintage pieces, dating as far back as the 1880s. I was also asked to put on a lab coat and assemble the workings of a mechanical watch. It was quite difficult at first but once I put the last screw in and saw the watch come to life, that was it for me – I was converted. There were no batteries, only a combination of tiny mechanical parts making this watch tick. I knew then that the answer to my question was Yes. To make something with your hands and to have it come to life before your very eyes is enough and I will be forever envious of these young watchmakers, bent over a workbench, eye loupe attached to the socket, working patiently on the tiny inner mechanics of the next watch. 🕒

Photographs: © Kat Black; © Mr. Loiseau



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**F**ans of car racing will no doubt know the course of the Spa-Francorchamps circuit and its famously daunting Raidillon uphill corner and the skill it requires to negotiate it properly. Bernard Julémont is one such fan, so much so that this Belgian entrepreneur actually named his watch brand after the famed and feared curve.

Just like the best racing cars, Raidillon chronograph watches go for beautiful bodywork and intelligent and reliable mechanics: the innovative design is made in Belgium whereas the highly precise mechanical movements are Swiss. Every model is numbered and part of a limited series of 55 watches. Indeed, some competitions only allow 55 cars in the race. And, it was in 1955 that the Belgian national

racing team saw the light of day.

Raidillon was established in 2001 and now, just over 11 years later, it has become a well-liked and established brand that is also breaking through internationally, in neighbouring countries as well as far-off places. Every year, new models are launched among the nine permanent collections like Casual Friday, Black Tie, Night Panel, Timeless, Cruise, Design and Racing. The fact that a Raidillon watch is always part of a limited edition makes it even more exclusive and wanted. Because, just like with racing cars, aesthetics and technicality combined make for precious and inventive gems. 🏁

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# LIFE OF LEISURE

Hidden cove on  
the Turkish coast  
© Yevhen Kulik



# Turkey Beyond Istanbul

**Rick Steves** returns to Turkey to find that modernization has not its sullied beauty- it's the perfect place to slow down

**T**urkey is changing fast. And it's modernizing fast. For a recent vacation, I hit the road in Turkey, with romantic memories (a few years old) of horse-drawn carriages and villages with economies powered by hay, dung, and ducks. While that rustic old world is tougher to find, the deep traditions and warm hospitality of the region are as endearing as ever, especially if you venture past the predictable sights and tourist zones. Turkey has a sparse and frustrating train system, but flights are cheap and competitive bus companies provide easy, comfy and inexpensive connections throughout the land.

At the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Turkey is looking West and getting there. It is a vast land, bigger than Texas and with a population of 60 million. Only half of Turkey's 42,000 villages had electricity in 1980. Now they all do. Does modernization threaten the beautiful things that make Turkish culture so appealing? An old village woman assured me, "We can survive TV and tourism because we have strong cultural roots." The Turkish way of life is painted onto this land with indelible cultural ink.

I followed my wanderlust to one of my favorite destinations in Turkey, the village of Güzelyurt in Cappadocia. Families here go about daily life as they have for generations. I walk down streets that residents from 3,000 years ago might recognize, past homes carved into rock,

enjoying friendly greetings of "Merhaba." Time is not money here. It's the perfect place to slow down and experience a true "back door" experience: playing backgammon in a smoky teahouse, downing cup after cup of tea.

With the help of a guide, I enjoy a home visit, the perfect two-way cultural exchange. A village woman serves me a simple, home-cooked lunch. Then, with the guide as translator, I get to really connect with my host. This is the best way to gain an insight into her world and village life in Turkey.

Cappadocia is rightly famous for its fantastic land formations and labyrinthine cave dwellings going back to early Christian days. And it's also famous for a breathtaking way to survey this exotic landscape: by riding a hot-air balloon. I enjoyed a dreamy early-morning glide over a scenic wonderland. Each morning, 50 to 80 balloons lift off, giving lots of travelers a fine memory and stunning pictures.

Ancient ruins litter the Turkish countryside, reminding visitors that the more archaeologists dig, the more they realize that Anatolia (Asian Turkey), along with Mesopotamia, is a birthplace of civilization. And travelers often forget that 2,000 years ago the west coast of Turkey was the heartland of ancient Greece — a region called Ionia. A relatively new excavation at Aphrodisias has uncovered an ancient city dedicated to Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love and beauty. There >



are ruins at Troy, mythical site of Homer's Iliad, and Pergamum, with its beautifully sited theater and Temple of Trajan. At the impressive ruins of Hierapolis, you can walk through a vast and fascinating necropolis — city of the dead — where tombs line a network of roads, and then take a quick dip in a natural thermal pool amid chunks of Roman columns.

But for me, the show-stopper is Ephesus. One of the biggest cities of the Roman Empire, Ephesus had a population of 250,000 and was a thriving seaport until its harbor silted up (it now lies five miles inland from the Aegean coast). It's famous for its once-spectacular, now-ruined Temple of Artemis — one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World — and the dramatic, partially restored Library of Celsus, one of the largest libraries of its time. A walking tour of the still-paved streets is the best way to peel back the layers of dust to understand the everyday lifestyles of the rich and Roman. As I strolled down the broad main drag, I just replaced my fellow tourists with toga-clad ancients to easily imagine the long-ago city, with its statues, bubbling fountains, arches and shops.

When I've had enough of blockbuster antiquities, I head for the coast. What better way to take a "vacation from vacation" than by sailing on the Turkish Riviera? Along Turkey's southwest coast, beautiful wooden boats (called gulets) cruise the azure waters, exploring coves and inlets. I capped off my trip with a day-cruise from the resort town of Bodrum, swimming and lazing while admiring striking views of jewel-like Aegean islands.

VIEW OF THE CELSUS LIBRARY THROUGH THE GATE OF MASZEUS AND MYTHRIDATES IN EFESUS, TURKEY



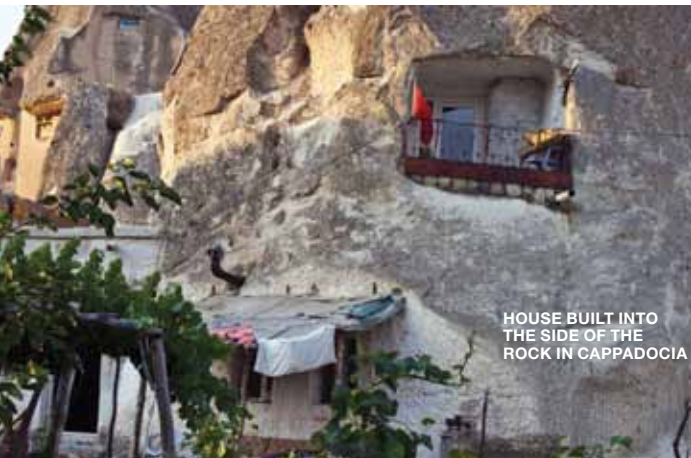
**‘IT GETS ME OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE AND CHALLENGES MY NORMS’**

Turkey is so rewarding as a destination because it gets me out of my comfort zone and challenges my norms. Experiencing the friendly charm of Turkey, I am like that balloon lifting off the wild Cappadocian field — free, at least for a while, from the bonds of my culture and ready to experience the world from a different perspective. ☺

*Rick Steves writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. (www.ricksteves.com)*

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HOUSE BUILT INTO THE SIDE OF THE ROCK IN CAPPADOCIA



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# TREES AND PEOPLE

**Paul Morris** talks to a tree specialist who wants us to join him among the branches

**S**urely, we all agree that a pivotal moment in mankind's evolution was coming down out of the trees but there is a man who wants us to go back up there—temporarily, of course. Bruno de Grunne is an entrepreneur, tree specialist and founder of the simply and aptly named project Trees and People. "We aim to force a shift from old habits to new attitudes in favour of nature, and so teach people how to coexist with trees in a reciprocal relationship and fulfil our primal dream of climbing to the top of trees."

Urban trees are a particular target for the project since they are constantly under attack as the outside world encroaches on their space. De Grunne insists we will miss them more than we realise when they are gone. "Trees and associated plants create local ecosystems that provide habitat and food for birds and animals. They offer suitable mini-climates for other plants that could otherwise be absent from urban areas. Biodiversity is an important part of urban forestry."

We know that on a summer's day trees provide essential shade but they also increase humidity in dry climates through evaporation of moisture, reduce glare from the sun and reduce wind speed.

Get them young has long been the

evangelist's motto and de Grunne is no different. "If we can teach the children to respect and love trees and their immediate surroundings, they can have an effect on their parents and more adults will come round to the need to act to build a better future, beginning from right here and right now."

What's unusual about Trees and People is the interactive nature of what they do. Old-fashioned climbing up into a tree is encouraged, where you can read a book or survey your kingdom from on high. But they have taken it a step further by creating and installing temporary installations, where not just tree surgeons can come closer and conjoin with the

forest. From tunnelled walks to web-like hammocks, they have created new ways of seeing the forest without damaging the trees—you are also allowed to hug them.

De Grunne calls his tree installations "ephemeral", creating "a playful and magical stage" where children and adults can

move along the inside of trees, walking along their branches. "We want to be pioneers of this new concept in Spain and in due time to implement it in other cities around the world, as a model of environmental education for large social groups."

"We provide information and learning

**“WE WANT TO BE PIONEERS OF THIS NEW CONCEPT”**



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methods through games aimed at getting to know the tree and its environment. We share experiences and knowledge on the preservation and recovery of the environment and raise awareness among parents about the necessity to act positively."

He's not the only one banging the drum for more care in the urban forest. In the US, Maryland's Forest Service notices that we often hear about global warming but they offer up several reasons why having trees in the cities can modify your local climate. "Trees help cool the 'heat island' effect in our inner cities. These islands result from storage of thermal energy in concrete, steel and asphalt. Heat islands are 3 to 10 degrees warmer than the surrounding countryside. The collective effect of a large area of transpiring trees (evaporating

water) reduces the air temperature in these areas."

And if altruistic messages don't sway you, the Forest Service also offers the tantalising notion of making more money from the sale of your house. They claim that trees add value to your property: "We all know that property that is well landscaped with trees and other plants is more desirable than property sitting on a barren landscape. Studies have shown that healthy trees can add up to 15% to residential property value and office and industrial space in a wooded setting is more in demand and is more valuable for sell or rent."

It appears that swinging in the trees gives a whole new meaning to the term "urban jungle". ☘

[www.treesandpeople.com](http://www.treesandpeople.com)  
[www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/publications/urban.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/publications/urban.html)



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Informations environnementales (AR 19/03/2004) : [www.volkswagen.be](http://www.volkswagen.be)

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**D'leteren Vilvoorde**

Mechelsesteenweg 586a  
1800 Vilvoorde

**D'leteren Meiser**

Chaussée de Louvain 510  
1030 Schaerbeek

**D'leteren Stokkel**

Avenue Reine Astrid 364  
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THE ŠKODA FELICIA (1962)



THE ŠKODA RAPID

# It cannot be a Škoda

*Together* takes a look at the rise and rise of Škoda – a car company associated historically with little more than mockery, but which is today in the process of successful reinvention.

A journey to Prague is a journey into the heart of Škoda history. The automobile company began in December of 1895; originally under the name of Slavia, which was tribute to the car's original country, Yugoslavia.

Ask any motorist and the response to what he or she thinks about Škoda will almost certainly be based on the car's reputation throughout the 1980s, when it was often described as 'the laughing stock' of the automotive world. As the old joke put it: 'How do you double the value of a Škoda? Fill up the petrol tank!'

But this perception in Western Europe has changed greatly since the 1991 joint-venture partnership agreement with Volkswagen, which was marked by the transfer of a 30% share to the Volkswagen Group. As technical development progressed and attractive new models were brought to market, Škoda's image began to improve.

In the UK, a major turnaround was achieved with the ironic 'It's a Škoda, honest' advertising campaign, which was

started in the early 2000s. In a 2003 advertisement on British television, a new employee on the production line is fitting Škoda badges on the car bonnets. When some attractive looking cars come along he stands back, not fitting the badge, since they look so good 'they cannot be Škodas'.

And, by 2010 Škoda was voted as the best European carmaker in terms of customer satisfaction for build quality and after-sales service. According to the UK's Daily Telegraph, not only are Škodas the best value for a customer's money, but also "top-notch to drive".

Driving a Škoda previously brought to life all the shortcomings and miseries of life under the Soviet regime, from the cars' repellent interiors to the atrocious on-road movement. But these assertions are now nothing but an afterthought, as Škoda is now one of the most respected car brands in all of Europe.

**TOP-NOTCH TO DRIVE**

*Škoda Car Factory & Museum in the town of Mlada Boleslav, near Prague*  
<http://new.skoda-auto.com/cs/experience/museum>





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Avenue Henri Dietrich 21

##### 1000 Brussels :

Avenue de la Renaissance 10

##### 1150 Brussels :

Avenue de Hinnisdael 39  
Avenue de Hinnisdael 28

##### 1950 Kraainem :

Avenue Reine Astrid 291

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info@kidfarwest.com  
www.kidfarwest.com



# Kings of Comedy

**Paul Morris** visited a new venue on the Brussels scene, where laughter is on the menu

**E**ven if you happened to be the generous type and invited me to dinner at a venue that boasted a tasty but limited menu and tables that are jammed so close together you might think they are conjoined, I wouldn't exactly bite your hand off—I would rather be strapped to the outside of the space shuttle. Normally...

Because a regular dining experience is not what the Kings of Comedy Club is all about—you could say it has a few jokers up its sleeve. The burger and steak we had were juicy (and I liked the *frites*), the

comedy group from the early 90s). That evening they were recording "capsules", little comedy slots to be aired on Radio Nostalgie. It was all generally of a very high standard, especially Honorez' clever, timely piece on the 60 kilos that Bart De Wever has recently lost (by means it appears of a US product banned from Belgian shores) on his way to taking over Antwerp—he spotted a young woman weighing just that: "De Wever's lost you!"

It is a high-ceilinged modern conversion close to the Ixelles cemetery and yet it has the cosiness of a New York night bar—the dead giveaway that we are in Brussels is the *mur-en-brique* wall behind the performers, which it so happens is ideal for the recording of sound.

**“YOU COULD SAY IT HAS A FEW JOKERS UP ITS SLEEVE”**

Listen out on Nostalgie and you may just about hear the sound of us guffawing at Liberski's dubious tale about the magic pond and the man with four testicles—but that's a story for another day. ☺

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PHOTOGRAPH: © Renaud Coppens





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# Vintage Bond

Alex Hewetson eulogizes over  
the wines that have starred  
alongside Mr. Bond

Reflecting on the 50 years of seeing Bond films as a boy, young man and back to a boy again in my 50s, there are two things that stand out.

One – the amazing cars. I still go weak at the knees when I see an Aston Martin DB5.

Two – the wines.

*Diamonds Are Forever* (1971), when Shirley belted out those notes and Bond

once again reduced M to a growling mass of envy, when he correctly spotted that the sherry they were drinking was an 1851 Solera. He recognized the founding year, the basis of the vintages that are then added. Further on in the movie he asks for claret, already sipping a red wine and the very unpleasant Mr. Wint (with the backing of the equally nasty Mr. Kidd) replies that they are poorly stocked in claret. Bond replies: "Mouton Rothschild" >



**CHAMPAGNE BOLLINGER  
HAS LAUNCHED IT'S OWN  
JAMES BOND TRIBUTE**

is claret." Oh dear... the downfall of a rather nasty couple. Not only is Mouton Rothschild a claret (Bordeaux), it is one of the greatest and was elevated to Premier Cru status in 1973.

Of course Bond is an aficionado who knows wines, women and cars to a level to which few aspire. Moving on a few Bond years, we are in *For Your Eyes Only* (1981) – he says that he prefers a Theotaki Aspero. Now, I had to ask a Greek hotelier what this was and, yes, it is a wine made on a Greek island, is very eclectic, dry and highly sought after... again the Bond touch, rare and known only to a few.

You can check all sorts of websites to see the wines Bond drank, but I rarely see a reference to a lovely moment in *The Living Daylights* (1987), when a Russian turncoat, who turns out to be the sub-villain, is brought some delicacies by Bond. Questioned on the expense, James says the only fizz worth drinking on the list from the famous shop (Fortnum & Mason's) was a Bollinger RD. That stands for 'recently disgorged', if you'll pardon my French. This is a wine that is left with its original stopper and all the yeasty must in it. Then it is liberated in one monster whoosh, re-corked and sold immediately. In 1990 I saw a Bollinger RD 1976 for £36, and I curse the day that I didn't buy it – it is a rich, toasty almost nutty and wonderful wine.

Now we are on a high speed train in *Casino Royale* (2006) and Bond is musing over a glass of red – look carefully, and you will notice it is a Château Angélus 1982. "So what?" I hear you cry. Well it is one of the very great St Emilion from Bordeaux, named after the bells that are rung at fixed times during the day in churches throughout Christendom. 1982 was a monumental vintage in Bordeaux and should be the wine he is sipping before the beautiful Vesper piques his soul.

**“NOT ONLY IS MOUTON  
ROTHSCHILD A CLARET  
(BORDEAUX), IT IS ONE OF  
THE GREATEST AND WAS  
ELEVATED TO PREMIER  
CRU STATUS IN 1973”**

And as Adele reaches those lovely notes in the theme song for the latest Bond, I am waiting to see what very classy, little-known number will be uncorked before our eyes. Please, Mr. Mendes, don't let us down. ☺



Photographs: © Johan Knelsen, © Champagne Bollinger



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Café**



Devenue une institution à Bruxelles, le Callens Café ne s'endort pas sur ses lauriers, Jean et Olivier Callens, innovent en permanence. Venez découvrir « L'Appart » un espace privatif pour des lunchs et diners, autant business que festif, dans un cadre hors du commun « comme à la maison » et oui encore une idée inspirée de Papy Callens qui dans les années 50 habitait au dessus de l'historique restaurant « Chez Callens » et prêtait son appartement uniquement à ses très bon clients en guise de salle de réunion privée.

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# Dolls for charity


A special Gala Dinner will raise money for a new children's burns unit at the Queen Fabiola Hospital

The home is still the place where most accidents are likely to occur and, unfortunately, children between the ages of one and three remain the most vulnerable. The vast majority of victims suffer from burns – a quarter of them are serious. Every year, the intensive care unit of the Queen Fabiola Children's University Hospital in Brussels cares for more than two dozen of these severely burned children, which represents 500 days of hospitalization and a significant use of medical facilities. Currently, there is no paediatric service specifically dedicated to this highly sensitive care.

The Traders' Association of Tour & Taxis in Brussels has organized a special Gala Dinner evening to raise funds for the creation of a new children's burns unit capable of intensive care for these injuries. The highlight of the evening is a fashion "parade" of Corolle dolls, dressed with some flair by Belgium's most prestigious designers. The dolls will then be auctioned – each model is unique and certified by its creator. Among the fashion luminaries taking part are Diane von Furstenberg, Sandrina Fasoli and Munana Gatera. The Corolle Company began making their classic dolls more than 30 years ago in France's Loire Valley, where they are still produced.

The money raised will go to the children's hospital, allowing it to buy medical equipment which is essential for

the care and comfort of these young patients. Some of the funds will help train nursing staff in care techniques specifically required by children, particularly in reducing the stress, pain and sorrow that inevitably follow such accidents. Staff will also be trained in hypnosis and self-hypnosis techniques oriented towards children. A hydrotherapy room and other specialised equipment designed to help reduce pain will be added.

Restaurateurs, wine merchants, jewellers and other Royal Warehouse traders have mobilized and made themselves available to help create a service that is urgently needed. Around 350 people will attend and the evening will be hosted by Lio and Gerald Watelet, designers close to the heart of the Belgian public. 



November 27, 2012  
 19h00 onwards

Royal Warehouse  
 Tour & Taxis  
 Avenue du Port 86c  
 B - 1000, Brussels  
 www.tour-taxis.com  
 Facebook - Dolls  
 for charity  
 violette@coditel.net



# What's on BELGIUM

Where to go and what to do – events chosen by **Emma Porter Davis**

## SWAN LAKE 4-7.12.12

The Moscow City Ballet brings its classic production of *Swan Lake*, Tchaikovsky's legendary romantic ballet, to Brussels. Cirque Royal December 4-7. Tickets from €27.

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



## BUBBLES IN BRUSSELS 1-31.12.12

Brussels Hotel Association is running a campaign through December to encourage people to meet up for drinks in hotel bars. Taste three champagnes before taking your pick. [www.brusselshotelassociation.be](http://www.brusselshotelassociation.be)

## ICE MAGIC 23.11.12

The theme for this year's ice sculpture exhibition in Brugge is *Ice Magic*, with creations inspired by *Harry Potter*, *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. Brugge station square. Tickets from €9 euros.



## DIE FLEDERMAUS 19-22.12.12

Brussels opera house La Monnaie presents its latest production of *Die Fledermaus* by Johan Strauss II, featuring Andrea Rost (pictured) as Rosalinde. Tickets from €12.

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



Photograph: Andrea Rost © Bettina Komenda

## COOK & EVENTS

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[WWW.COOKANDEVENTS.BE](http://WWW.COOKANDEVENTS.BE)





**STRONG MUSICAL STORIES  
23.11.12**

The National Orchestra of Belgium, featuring German-Japanese pianist Alicia Sara Ott, will perform a trio comprising Sibelius, Grieg and Tchaikovsky. Bozar.

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

**ARNO 20.12.12**

Belgian rocker Arno will perform songs from his new album *Future Vintage*, which comprises lyrics in both English and French. Ancienne Belgique. [www.livnation.be](http://www.livnation.be)



**PETULA CLARK 30.11.12**

Petula Clark of *Downtown* fame will be performing hits from her new album which came out in March. Kursaal Oostende. Tickets from €49.

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

**PARADE OF SAINT NICHOLAS 1.12.12**

Bringing candy for the children and a parade of followers, Saint Nicholas will wend his way through the streets of Brussels starting at 3pm at *Rue du Chêne* and finishing at the *Grand Place* at 4.30 pm.



**BROKEN TANGO**

**8-9.12.12**

Broken Tango, performed by Compania REA Danza, recreates the fiery atmosphere of this world-famous seductive dance. Capitole Gent on December 8 and Kursaal Oostende on December 9.

Tickets from €24. [www.musicall.be](http://www.musicall.be)

Photograph: Alicia Sara Ott © Felix Broede/DG



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# Light on and listen...



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# What's on INTERNATIONAL

A selection of events beyond Belgium's borders chosen by **Emma Portier Davis**

## LILLE CIRQUE DU SOLEIL ALEGRIA

21-25.11.12  
Kings' fools,  
minstrels, beggars,  
aristocrats, children  
and, of course,  
clowns make up  
the cast of *Alegria*  
– jubilation in Spanish  
– by Cirque du Soleil.  
Zénith Arena Lille.  
Tickets from €45.  
[www.cirquedusoleil.com](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com)



## LONDON HYDE PARK WINTER WONDERLAND

From 23.11.12

Hyde Park in London hosts its annual *Winter Wonderland*, including fairground rides, an ice-rink and a Christmas circus. [www.hydeparkwinterwonderland.com](http://www.hydeparkwinterwonderland.com)

## GENEVA

### BERLINER PHILHARMONIKER

24.11.12

Conducted by Sir Simon Rattle, the Berliner Philharmoniker will present a concert in Geneva of works by Wagner, Debussy, Ligeti, Ravel and Shumann.

[www.berliner-philharmoniker.de](http://www.berliner-philharmoniker.de)



## LONDON STATUS QUO

19.12.12

Music legends Status Quo will be rocking London as part of their 2012 *Quofestive* tour, with supporting act Bonnie Tyler of *Total Eclipse of the Heart* fame. O2.

Tickets £43/75. [www.livenation.co.uk](http://www.livenation.co.uk)

## DUBLIN BOOMTOWN RATS

7.12.12

As part of their 35th anniversary tour, punk rockers Boomtown Rats will be playing on their home turf in Dublin. The Village. Tickets €22.90. [www.thevillagevenue.com](http://www.thevillagevenue.com)



## AMSTERDAM PAUL WELLER

18.12.12

British rocker Paul Weller, dubbed the Modfather, will be in Amsterdam showcasing tracks from his eleventh studio album *Sonik Kicks*. Melkweg. Tickets €35.

[www.livenation.nl](http://www.livenation.nl)



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## D'Ieteren Expo

Avenue Houba de Strooper, 755 - 1020 Bruxelles - Tél.: 02/474.30.15

## D'Ieteren Mail

Rue Américaine, 143 - 1050 Bruxelles - Tél.: 02/536.55.11

## D'Ieteren Vilvoorde

Mechelsesteenweg, 586A - 1800 Vilvoorde - Tél.: 02/255.99.82

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