

INSPIRING YOU TO REACH YOUR DREAMS

#21/DECEMBER 2010

Together

magazine



FASHION FEVER

HATS OFF TO ELVIS

**Monsieur Pompilio,
milliner extraordinaire**

DESIGN DOYEN

Karl Lagerfeld

COUP DE CINÉMA

**Sofia Coppola, Wim Wenders
and François Ozon**

BRUSSELS' MARTIN'SPA

**Win an Anti-Jet Lag de
Terraké Ritual**

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Together develops

Regular readers may notice a few changes in this edition of your favourite Brussels high-class leisure guide – read on, to find out more.

Together has been around more than four years now; during that time, we hope that we have provided an interesting, stylish and entertaining magazine about classy living in Brussels and beyond.

But what is our magazine really about? Well, it is in attempting to answer this question that we have decided to formalize our approach – we recently changed our mission statement to 'Inspiring You To Reach Your Dreams' and, from now on, that will be *Together's* aim in a nutshell.

From this edition onwards, our articles will be divided into three categories – **Life of Leisure**, which will feature all your usual favourites such as *Together's* 'To Do' list, **Must-Haves** and **Temptations**. Our central thematic section this edition is **Fashion Fever**, which we hope is self-explanatory enough and, finally, our latest innovation – **Personal Development**. In this new section, you'll find the best features, interviews and viewpoint articles, all with one aim in mind – making your life better.

As ever, we'd be very interested to know what you think about this new approach, so

please feel free to drop us a line on info@togethermedia.eu.

I don't really want to spoil any more of the surprise, so I invite you to turn the page and discover what we have in store for you – we hope you'll be pleased. And don't forget to pick up the next copy of *Together*, which will be the final edition of 2010 – **Festive Cheer** will be devoted to the end-of-year festivities and available on 15th December.

Finally, I would take this opportunity to offer my thanks to our co-editor **Colin Moors**, who is leaving our magazine for pastures new after two years' excellent work – I wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

It remains only for me to wish you all happy reading – be sure to interact with us at our website, www.togethermag.eu, on Facebook and Twitter, and thanks for keeping it *Together!* 📧



David Mc Gowan

David Mc Gowan
Publisher

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Together

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In the Spotlight

Natan Debuts New Collection



ART & CULTURE

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Our Man in Habana



TRAVEL

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Things Will Get Emotional



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Diamonds a Major Export in July



LIFESTYLE

In the Spotlight

Five Reasons Brussels Is Not Boring



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In the Spotlight

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FASHION

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Ritual relaxation



Together has teamed up with Martin'Spa in Brussels to offer readers the chance to win a Anti-Jet Lag de Terraké Ritual, combined with entry to the fitness and wet area (sauna, steam bath, hot tub and relaxation and swimming pool).

Martin'Spa Bodywealth, the temple of revitalization, an ultra-sensorial earthly journey of beauty and well-being, awaits you. There is a full range of expert face and body treatments on offer, some of which are especially designed for men, which distill the pleasures of the senses and the serenity of the spirit: Thermo-Spa, balneotherapy, exfoliation, massage and beauty rituals and chromotherapy are all available to release tensions and cleanse your body and mind profoundly.

NEW AT MARTIN'SPA

Both refreshing and invigorating, the Anti-Jet Lag de Terraké Ritual takes you to the peaks like a reinvigorating walk. Jet lag is nothing more than a vague and distant memory. Fatigue takes flight, the body feels light and the mind drifts away, in a 90-minute treatment for the whole face and body.

THE PRIZE

Together has teamed up with Martin'Spa to offer 12 Rituel Anti-Jet Lag de Terraké Rituals (each worth 165€). All you have to do is send us the answers to the two simple questions below, along with your name, address and daytime telephone number to info@togethermedia.eu, labelling your email **Martin'Spa Competition**. The deadline for all entries is 31st December 2010, when the winners will be selected at random. Good luck!

(i) According to their website, www.martinspa.com, in which hotel is the Martin'Spa Bodywealth located?

- a) Martin's Patershof in Mechelen**
- b) Martin's Klooster in Leuven**
- c) Château du Lac in Genval**
- d) Martin's Central Park in Brussels**

(ii) What is the title of our lead story on www.togethermag.eu today? ☺

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Open Monday to Sunday from 9-19h, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-20h.

Competition organized under the supervision of a bailiff. Full rules available on request.
 Organizer: **Together Magazine**, Boulevard Saint-Michel 47, 1040 Brussels.

Stars and statesmen

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

There's no shortage of famous faces in Europe's capital as the year draws to a close.

AMY MACDONALD

Amy Macdonald, one of the most successful British female singer-songwriters, was on stage in Brussels on 17th November in Forest National, following a sold-out UK tour. She began her career with the successful album *This Is The Life* and is now promoting *A Curious Thing*, which went to number one in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and reached the top five in the UK, Holland, Belgium, Greece and Sweden.



DMITRY MEDVEDEV

Russian Federation President Dmitry Medvedev will attend the 26th Russia-EU summit, which will take place in Brussels on 7th December – such meetings take place twice annually, once in Russia and then in the country holding the EU's rotating presidency. The summit is likely to focus on achieving decisive progress on Russia's accession to the WTO and outstanding bilateral issues such as trade, investment and co-operation in the energy sector.



MANMOHAN SINGH

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be in Brussels on 10th December for a high-level meeting with European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy. The EU-India Business Summit will be organized in parallel with the annual summit of political leaders from the two regions – around 250 participants and more than 20 high-level speakers are expected to attend.



ELTON JOHN

UK music icon Elton John is set to enchant the Brussels public on 1st December at Forest National, and will be joined on stage by his good friend musician Ray Cooper, who has worked with legends such as George Harrison, Eric Clapton and Mick Jagger. 🎵



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“Self-development is a higher duty than self-sacrifice.”

– Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902)

American social activist, abolitionist, and leading figure of the early women’s movement

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, and the right to make that of another miserable by thrusting upon him an incalculable quantity of acquaintances; liberty, particularly the liberty to introduce persons to one another without first ascertaining if they are not already acquainted as enemies; and the pursuit of another’s happiness with a running pack of strangers.” – The Devil’s Dictionary

– Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914)

American editorialist, journalist, short - story writer, fabulist and satirist

“The aim of life is self-development. To realize one’s nature perfectly – that is what each of us is here for.”

– Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

Irish writer, poet, and prominent aesthete

“All growth depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work.”

– Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)

30th President of the United States (1923-1929)

“Books...are like lobster shells, we surround ourselves with ‘em, then we grow out of ‘em and leave ‘em behind, as evidence of our earlier stages of development.”

– Dorothy L. Sayers (1893-1957)

English crime writer, poet, playwright, essayist, translator and Christian humanist

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Facing up to yourself

WRITER: RALPH QUINLAN FORDE

Magazines, books, workshops and therapies are full of 'live the dream' sentiments. But what if you don't know how to? Our writer is on hand to help.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

The five answers to the following question are probably the most important answers you will ever make. Pay attention. Wait for a quiet time to ask and answer this question. Here it is. Write down five issues in your life you need to deal with. Then write down three consequences that will happen if you don't. These eight answers can radically change your life. Without

facing these issues you are just existing and not living.

AWARENESS, ACCEPTANCE, ACTION

In order to fundamentally change our lives we need to go through a three-stage process. First, we need to become aware of our problems and difficulties and secondly we need to accept them. Many people fail at this stage. They know they have a difficulty in their marriage and even that it's over but don't accept it and then live in silent pain. Can you really handle these consequences? When you accept your life as it truly is, the strengths and weaknesses that you have, then you will take action. The action you take will transform your life and bring you to a life of your dreams. The key to dreams is action.

ARE YOU WORTH IT?

If you don't feel you're worth it you will sabotage all the good things that will come your way. You will make excuses to delay your happiness. A person who is living their dreams has indestructible self-esteem. They are not dependent on other people, especially attention from the opposite sex, to provide it. Their self-esteem is self-generated. Traditionally male and female self esteem was different. Female self esteem was based on being 'ornamental' and male self esteem was based on being 'instrumental'. This has changed quite a bit and is now a mixture of both. Women now want to be seen as instrumental as much as they are ornamental and so do guys. You have to increase your self-esteem, which will raise your standards about what you will and will not accept in your life and its quality.



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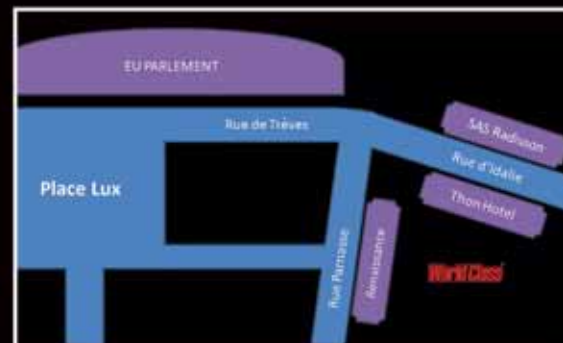


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THE COUNCIL OF EVERYBODY

There is not a person alive that does not have an 'everybody council'. This, in most cases, stops them from revealing their human excellence because of what 'everybody' would say. I often ask my clients to look at who is on this committee – in many cases, we pass a vote of no confidence and fire who is there. My clients often go on to appoint amazing people to the Ministry of Everybody. Madonna is in charge of their social lives, Anthony Robbins is minister without portfolio, Dr Phil dealing with the family, Richard Branson for feeling the fear and doing it

anyway, the potential combinations are endless. What would your life would be like if they were on the organising committee?

WHAT IS YOUR SELF CONCEPT?

Who are you? Do you really know where you are going? If you don't – then any direction will do. There is more reason for people to have a mission statement than a company. What is your mission statement? What are you here to do? Write down a paragraph of what your life is about and means.

What are you waiting for? Go get it! 🏃



Take the gym with you

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR

Together profiles the Technogym, the latest treadmill development.



This spring, Technogym will be releasing two new home products. The first, the Run Personal, is a treadmill featuring a 19-inch interactive touch-screen monitor with the capabilities of TV, iPod, and, new to workout machines, Internet access. The other product, the Kinesis Personal, is a workout machine offering more than 200 workouts in less than one square metre of space. The machine uses resistance of co-ordinated movements to deliver a workout.

For Technogym though, things like touch-screen monitors and internet capabilities are just selling points. They are the means to an end, but it's the end that matters.

When the iPhone first came out, sure, the new capabilities astounded people – it epitomized many of the technological achievements of the time – but what differentiated it from all the other phones, and

'FEATURES ARE IMPORTANT, BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT THE FEATURES, IT'S ABOUT THE SOLUTIONS'

continues to do so, was not what it could do, but what it felt like. It was sleek, it was sexy, and more than anything, it felt good to just hold it. Though not many people are going to be

'just holding' the new Technogym treadmill, they can appreciate a similar aesthetic beauty, and enjoy the numerous benefits it has to offer.

"Features are important, but it's not about the features, it's about the solutions," explained Technogym International Public Relations and Media Relations Manager Enrico Manaresi.

GET WELLNESS

The idea of solutions highlights a current shift in the approach to health. There are two leading values to this solution, according to Manaresi. The first: it's no longer just about fitness, it's about wellness.

Brussels' Royal La Rasante Fitness and Wellness Manager Richard Earney has 17 years in the fitness industry. His definition of wellness incorporates all areas of well being; taking into account physical, nutrition, environmental and emotional influences.

Because wellness is a harmonious culmination of these various influences, Manaresi views the two newest products as twin products – they work as ying and yang. At a basic level, the Run Personal trains the interior – mainly the heart – through cardiovascular training, while the Kinesis Personal trains the entire exterior including strength, flexibility and balance.

Appealing to the masses, whether it's the yoga crowd or the body-building crowd, is at the heart of Manaresi's second value. Technogym created two different products, with that mentality in mind, especially the Kinesis Personal.

"People need enough variety in their programming to inspire them and to keep them guessing," said Earney.

'PEOPLE NEED ENOUGH VARIETY IN THEIR PROGRAMMING TO INSPIRE THEM AND TO KEEP THEM GUESSING'

Some of these programs include the ability to do yoga, Pilates and Tai Chi on the Kinesis Personal. Alternatively, the machine can give enough resistance to do a heavy-duty lifting routine.

This gives Olympic athletes (who've trained with these products) and

people looking to just stretch equal opportunities to enjoy the benefits.

DESIGN IN MIND

The days of treadmills and workout equipment being banished to rarely seen cobweb collecting corners of basements and garages might be over.

Design trade shows, not just fitness shows, have featured Technogym's two newest products. With Antonio Citterio as lead designer, this doesn't come as a much of


a surprise. Citterio is a renowned architect and designer. His work has won numerous design awards, and he even has some pieces featured in the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The Kinesis Personal looks like modern art meets elegant home decor. And though the treadmill looks like a treadmill, its monitor looks more iPad-like than a simple distance tracker.

"If performance is fantastic, but there is no design, only sporty people will use the product," said Manaresi.

Manaresi believes both are products that people are going to want to use because it's fun and enjoyable, not because it's a way to get into shape. It's with this thinking, he believes, that will attract the most people.

The portable smart key is another important innovative component of both machines. It stores information from workouts, including everything from calories burned to the amount of repetitions done, and can be input into a centralized database. With this database, people can not only track their own progress, but bring their information to a trainer or a doctor for even further analysis and personalization of their workout routine.

This key also opens up opportunities for the frequent traveller. With it, a person can continue their workout regime, even if they are thousands of miles away from home.

Until now, machines that serve strictly practical purposes have populated workout equipment. According to Manaresi, Technogym's chief inspiration doesn't align with that status quo: "It's all about innovation, innovation, innovation." 

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Winter nookie

WRITER: BELLE DE BRUXELLES

Our columnist tells us how to keep romance alive during the grim cold months.

Late November-early December is hardly a time that one associates with romance. The nights are drawing in, depression is high as the sun is low, barely peeping out from that grey mantle that lingers over Belgium and Christmas parties are, alas, just too far around the next corner to get excited.

It's also the least popular time for people to get married. Who can blame them? Give me a blue sky and sunshine as a backdrop for a wedding photo any day (did I mention how

grey it is already?). And whoever heard of a couple getting engaged at this damp, dreary time of year?

But, my glass is half full and, if there was ever a time to snuggle up with your lover, this is it. Not only is it the

best way in my book to banish depression, it's an ideal time to re-ignite affection with your partner or lure a new one. "Are you cold? Would you like to share my blanket?" You get the picture.

MELTING TOGETHER

I've just been to a wedding of a couple who got together during November. After weeks of

meeting as friends, the nervous lady invited her crush back for a hot chocolate. It was freezing cold and, as they crept closer for body warmth, they both plucked up the courage to go a little bit further.

Superstitious is obviously not a word in their vocabulary, as they chose to marry on 11 September, which is now the least popular date in the West to wed. Theirs' is clearly a love that doesn't need fuelling by the joys of spring or a sultry summer night – now you don't get more romantic than that.

Out of doors, you might not feel at your sexiest tramping through the leaves in the forest, but it will help you work up an appetite for more than a hot chocolate and waffle. And while Brussels may be dull at this time of year, it does have exceptionally beautiful woodlands.

Aside from the raw beauty of nature stirring some primal desires (for me it's that wonderful smell of fresh air-soaked skin that wakes my passion), and getting some daylight, it's also great for lifting us out of the blues.

A study by UK health charity Mind, which wants to put eco-therapy at the heart of the government's health agenda, found that after just one country walk, 71 percent of people reported a decrease in depression and 90 percent had increased self-esteem.

RELIGHT MY FIRE

It's a cliché, but clichés are there for a reason; they work in the majority of cases. And before you protest, show me a person who wouldn't melt like butter on hot toast at the prospect of a warming beverage in front of an open fire (if yours is a storage heater, humour me and use your imagination).

And how often do we sit on the floor in front of the fire anyway? Most of the time we humans

gravitate towards the same seats. Creating a distraction (anyone for a carpet picnic?) helps us break away from our hard-bitten habits and who knows what other barriers could come down after that?

Less daylight triggers our appetites (for food this time). Rather than fighting it, I like to while away the gloomy nights by cooking up a feast

with my lover. Remember that the Dutch speakers here do talk about neuken in de keuken ... best translated by a friend of mine as 'nookie in the cookie'.

When I'm tired of cooking (which rarely happens when I can enjoy it with my lover), one thing where Belgium does good is the cosy restaurant and comfort food. How about this itinerary? Walk in the forest – bar – roaring fire – beer – candle-lit table – steaming food – and the rest I leave to you.

GETTING AWAY

Whenever it's too much for me, I find there's something kind of naughty about heading off to the sunshine in November. Probably it's just my sadistic streak as I think about all those suckers back home suffering the weather (well

the ones who haven't found better ways to spend their time). Sunshine helps us process Vitamin D, giving us a burst of energy while the daylight breaks through any harboured thoughts of depression. It's the perfect cure for the pre-party season glumness. We also appreciate a break in the sun much more after weeks of deprivation.

As Nick Bayliss writes in his book *The Rough Guide to Happiness*: "You don't need a clinical diagnosis of Seasonal Affective Disorder (a form of mood depression, the sole cause of which is the brain receiving insufficient daylight) to benefit from ensuring your eyes receive at least an hour's broad daylight in the gloomier months of the calendar."

Home or away, this is a season which stirs our primal need for human warmth. After traipsing through the chilly darkness to get home, who doesn't need an affectionate embrace from a loved one? I say indulge. ☺



Mild frontier

WRITER: PAUL STUMP

Some of Belgium's most beautiful and intriguing landscapes lie along the French frontier; our writer sings the praises of bilingual Heuvelland, where two cultures become one.

It was the dictum of old St Benedict that the brothers and friars in his mendicant order 'live by the work of their hands'. Thus it is not quite as incongruous as one might suppose to find monks concocting powerful Benedictine liqueurs in France, or massively flavourful, equally intoxicating ales of formidable sensuality and sophistication on the borders of France and Belgium.

The beer of the Trappist monks of the Priory of St Sixtus, far out on the pan-flat, silent, mist-hung polders that mark the morphing of

French Flanders (La Flandre) into Belgian, Dutch-speaking Flanders (Vlaanderen), are ciphers not only of one of Belgium's most enchantingly rural corners but of a fusion of regional styles in all cultures that is almost unique in 21st-century Europe. It is all the more poignant for being rooted in a land of meandering waterways, where bitterns sway among the reeds and rushes, a colossal sky is pinpricked by the spires and towers of belfries and the horizon has a marine opalescence, where the summer sun brings out glossily burnished gouache and the autumn rain a shadowy matte.



POWER BLOCS

It is also, paradoxically, a countryside blasted to hell a century past by 'the war to end all wars'; the leaders of the warring parties of the inevitable successor conflict of 1939-45

fought there; Hitler at Langemarck, Churchill at Ploegsteert. Along the dazed zig-zag of the Western Front's trenches from Poperinge in the north to Loos, the blithely arable fields are spotted with Lutyens' throat-catching sober Commonwealth War

Graves, their white headstones like scatterings of mushrooms.

This was a land in which power bloc collided with power bloc in the name of culture; the 'Kultur' of Wilhelmine Germany, all Wagner and Schiller, versus the elegant caprices of France and the waxed-moustache Imperialism of England. Cultures across boundaries sprang up along this belletristic

fault-line; while Alsace may be more heterogeneous, wearing its French and German antecedents with equivalent pride, its neighbour Lorraine is visually Teutonic (check out that half-timbering!) but linguistically entirely French.

Belgium has its own confluence with Germany, in the Ardennes around Eupen, where tumbling cliffs and elm-lined cataracts are straight from the canvases of Caspar David Friedrich, greatest of the German Romantics. Then, in the Alps, there are the peculiarly hybrid lands of Trentino, the Tirol and Alto Adige; Mahler composed the greatest of his symphonies, the Third, in a lakeside retreat, in Dobbiaco (or is it Toblach?). Here is a cultural arc stretching down from the Inn to the Adriatic via the Tauern and Karawanken mountain ranges, where the shadows of detached campaniles and onion-domed churches can easily cross each other on crowded town squares. North of Passau on the Danube the dark groves of the Bohemian Forest are known in Bavaria to the south as 'The Bavarian Congo'.

‘LAND OF LITTLE HILLS’

The joys of what tourist chiefs term the Heuvelland – the land of little hills – are the more remarkable for the increasingly bellicose nature of Flemish separatism, yet the co-dependency has long roots; a French friterie will serve fare just as appetizing as a Flemish frituur – as the Bintje potato serves frite-lovers in both linguistic camps, this is unsurprising. The place names in La Flandre (Hazebrouck, Socx, Strazeele, Morbecque, Steenwerck (home to a superb museum of folk life) say it all. It's only a short hop, geographically and linguistically, from Oostduinkerke to Dunkerque-ouest. Surnames such as De Scheermaeker, d'Huyghe, de Greef etc are equally common in leper and in nearby Armentières, the French town where in the Great War, soldiers who called it Armenteurs claimed the girls 'cut up their skirts for souvenirs' with an 'inky-pinky-parlay-voo' (a tradition that the current writer can attest, sadly, no longer

pertains). This linguistic fusion is signal; for nationalist Flemings; their language is everything and, even in the borderlands, more Flemings speak French than vice-versa.

Yet tensions are minimal; there has been too much shared down the centuries for that. Identical economic and social realities have ignored those boundaries as well as cultural goods. Cultural and local differences are not immune to factors bigger than they, after all. But along this frontier, one is reminded that crossovers can help foreground the identity of their constituent parts and not nullify it. Here there is, unaffectedly, an invigoration of the senses, the spirit and the intellect that few places can match. And the picturesqueness of it all is an enchanting bonus – it's an afternoon's drive or a two-hour train trip from Brussels, so break for the border. Now. 📍

www.heuvelland.be



Guess who likes to welcome you?



Facial hair: In the public's eye

WRITER: CILLIAN DONNELLY

As the month of 'Movember' draws to a close (which was, we hasten to add, a very worthy highlighting of men's health issues via the deliberate growth of moustaches, www.movember.com), our correspondent assesses why looking good as a politician is still the bottom line.

There is a scene in the film *The Candidate* (1972) when the protagonist, Bill McKay, played by Robert Redford, is approached by Democratic

Party operator Marvin Lucas to discuss

politics. Looking him up and down, McKay says to Lucas: "I thought beards were taboo in your profession."

What McKay was getting at here is that people, the voting public, just don't trust politicians with facial hair; it makes them appear shifty, like they have something to hide, and as much as we like to think politics is about the triumph of ideas, in reality it is a lot shallower than that. It is all about style

over substance. It is about not straying from the sound bite, not allowing oneself to be photographed in the wrong pose or place, and, perhaps most importantly, looking better than the other guy.

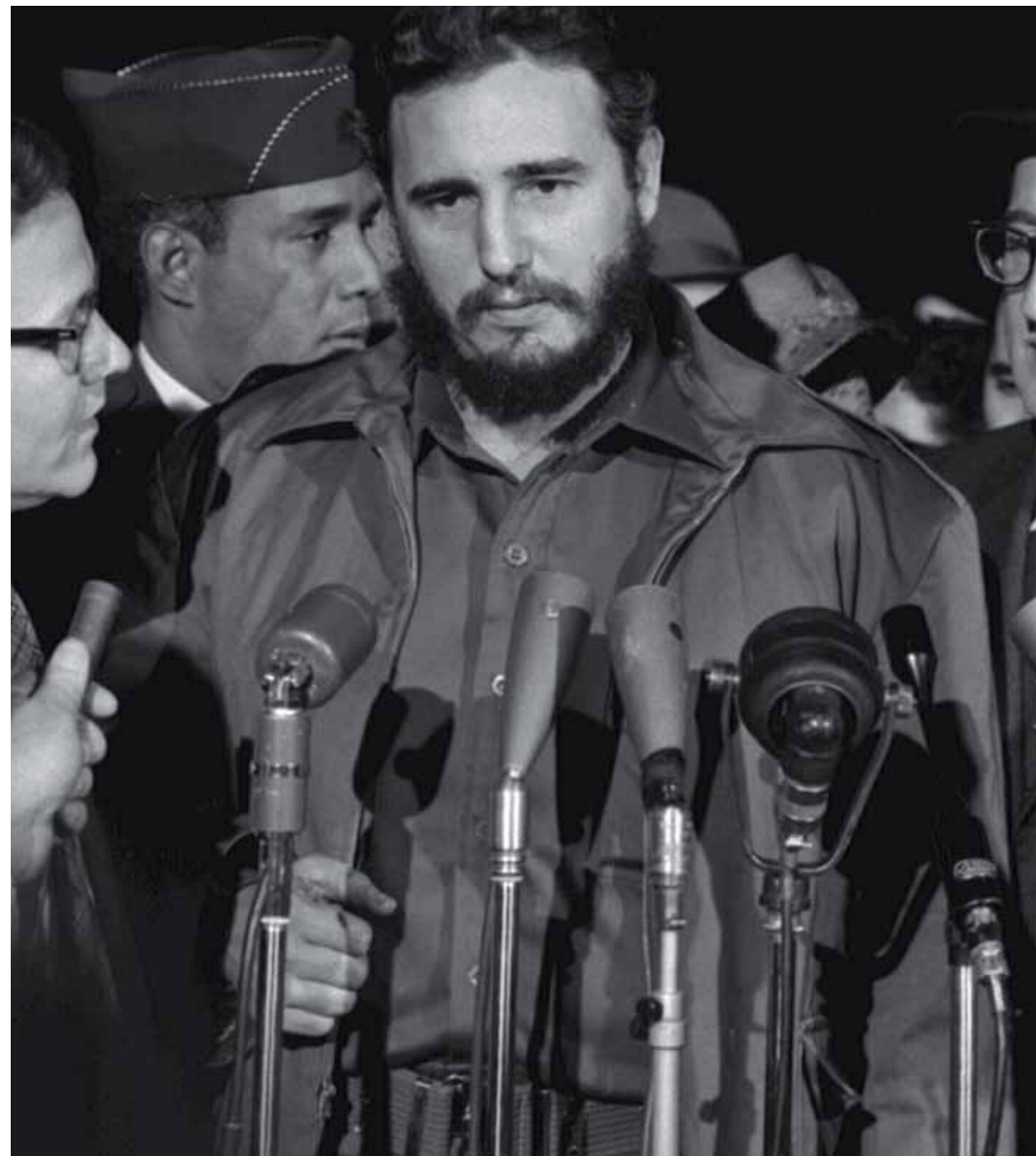
HAIR'S BREADTH?

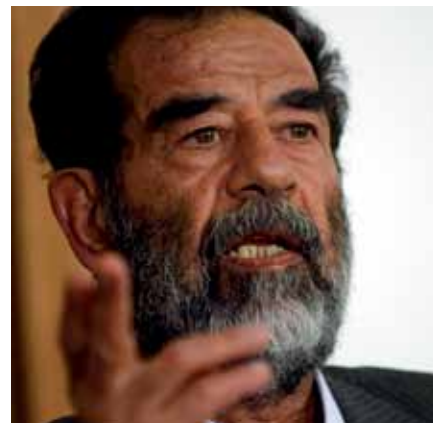
The template for all this is the famous Nixon-Kennedy debates in the run-up to the election of 1960, which Kennedy won by a suspiciously narrow margin. Nixon, with eight years experience as vice-president to Dwight Eisenhower, was a formidable presence in the debating arena, something that was confirmed when opinion polls revealed he was thought to have out-argued his younger, less experienced rival. Well, that was the radio audience; the TV crowd – judging exactly the same debates – felt that Kennedy had won out over his jowly, sweaty, shifty-eyed opponent.

History was made and the lessons were learned; the most important being, always wear makeup if you're going to take part in a televised debate.

Since then, it has been vital that each US president carefully cultivate an image, some kind of leadership style, often as a reaction to an immediate predecessor; Carter was down-home, so Reagan was showbiz razzmatazz, Bush Sr. was insipid, so Clinton was virile and fun; Bush Jr. was dumb, so Obama is lofty, and so the cycle goes on.

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Nowadays in the US, there tends to be an emphasis more on personality than on style, categorized in the past as that one iconic piece of clothing that comes to represent the office-holder in a single item. Formerly, there has been some notable political

no one was ever going to ridicule Idi Amin for wearing a kilt if they knew what was good for them.

Facial hair is another thing that tends to be favoured by leaders of one-party states. Hitler is an obvious example, but also to be considered are Franco's clipped, pedantic upper lip, Castro's unkempt vagrant look, Saddam Hussein's manly 'tache, which was later transformed into the greying beard of his trial appearance, and, of course, the magnificent comedy barman stylings of Joseph Stalin (not that, say, James Finlayson ever ordered the mass killing of his own people – unless there's a director's cut of *Way Out West* that we haven't seen yet).

But, with a few exceptions, for example, Hugo Chavez and his quasi-military look, the notion of individual style seems to be missing from today's political arena. Politicians are forever being warned to look smart, say the right thing, and be media-savvy. Largely they succeed, but in the process all meld together into one big gloopy mess.

No one these days wants to look or say something that might make them a target for the pundits; the fear of ridicule is as powerful as it ever was. It was Coco Chanel who said that fashions change but style remains. In politics, this seems not to be the case – unless we define style as the fear of standing out. 🗣️

FACIAL HAIR... TENDS TO BE FAVOURED BY LEADERS OF ONE-PARTY STATES. HITLER IS AN OBVIOUS EXAMPLE, BUT ALSO TO BE CONSIDERED ARE FRANCO'S CLIPPED, PEDANTIC UPPER LIP, CASTRO'S UNKEMPT VAGRANT LOOK, SADDAM HUSSEIN'S MANLY 'TACHE

iconography of the sort that is rarely seen these days such as Lincoln's hat, Churchill's cigar or Thatcher's handbag. For today's entire crop of style-over-substance generation of politicians, this generation has yet to produce that one standout leader brave enough to expose that idiosyncratic fashion accessory to the world's media. Unless, of course, a major miracle happens and Elio di Rupo and his bow tie becomes Belgian premier – but I wouldn't hold your breath.

FASHION TYRANTS

It is now probably a good time to bring up dictators. From Mussolini's

impeccably-ironed uniform, to the voodoo-chic of Duvalier and Mobutu's leopard skin hat, crazy leaders often equate with crazy fashions. Being the supreme ruler of a nation means you can get away with a lot;

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FACT: A BIG PLUS

With full-figured models on runways and appearing on the covers of chic fashion magazines, retailers are beginning to hear, both in dollars and in words, that full-figured women crave more options. Sonsi, a new shopping and social destination for women wearing plus sizes, responded with the addition of 300 brands, including some of the biggest names in the apparel and accessories industry, such as eBags, BUYSEASONS, Sydney's Closet, IGIGI by Yuliya Raquel, Spiegel and ShapeFx. Sonsi caters to the nearly 60 per cent of women in America who wear size 12 or above in everyday casual and career wear to occasion dressing such as prom dresses, wedding attire and even themed party and plus size Halloween costumes, to holiday gifts, bags, jewellery, shoes and more. www.sonsi.com

FIGURE: 30,000,000\$ (42,252,000€)

That's how much the most expensive dress in the world costs, a creation by Malaysian dress designer Faisol Abdullah, which is decorated with 751 sparkling diamonds, which in turn were acquired from legendary Middle Eastern jeweller Mouawad, who has been associated with celebrities such as Nicole Kidman, Angelina Jolie, Britney Spears and Jennifer Lopez.

FASHION FEVER

Karl and Hogan

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Together met German fashion designer, artist and photographer Karl Lagerfeld for a brief chat in Paris recently, during the presentation of his new Spring-Summer 2011 Collection.

establish such collaborations; I've worked with H&M previously and, even before I started my own line, I really believed in co-branding. I have already worked for Chanel and Fendi, I had the feeling that I simply had to do it. This project, Hogan, can be described as an 'occasional work' – I want to be accessible and inaccessible at the same time, but I don't want to be in an ivory tower of haute couture.

INTERVIEW EXPRESS

Together: What can you tell us first about 'Hogan by Karl Lagerfeld', the collection you're presenting, and your collaboration with this Italian brand?

KL: *The Hogan project is a collection that consists of six unique pieces: sneakers, a cowboy boots, a clutch bag, a messenger, a trench coat and a jacket. We used fine materials such as parachute silk, leather, suede and tulle. In addition, I've known Diego della Valle for a long time, and I'm very happy to be working with him. He has succeeded like Renzo Rosso did with Diesel, whom I also admire greatly. In Italy, the*

atmosphere is different, and the result is that a project like this can be successful. I like to

'THIS PROJECT, HOGAN, CAN BE DESCRIBED AS AN 'OCCASIONAL WORK' – I WANT TO BE ACCESSIBLE AND INACCESSIBLE AT THE SAME TIME'





You are also showing your new film, *The Letter*. What role has cinema played in your life? Do you foresee other movie projects in the future?

I have made a number of short films in the past, particularly for Coco Chanel, but I have no time at the moment to invest in making a feature film.

How was it working with Baptiste Giabiconi and top model Magdalena Frackowiak, who appear in *The Letter*?

Normally, I like to work with non-professional actors, as I find it difficult to work with

*established stars. There have been some exceptions, such as with *Remember Now*, my new short film for Chanel that I shot in St. Tropez. In this movie, I worked with the actors Pascal Greggory and Elisa Sednaoui but in general I prefer working with debutants, as was the case in *Paris-Shanghai*, the short movie I made for Chanel in Shanghai.*

And *Together*'s standard question – what is the secret of your success?

You have to have the lock first, and later you can find the key. 🔑



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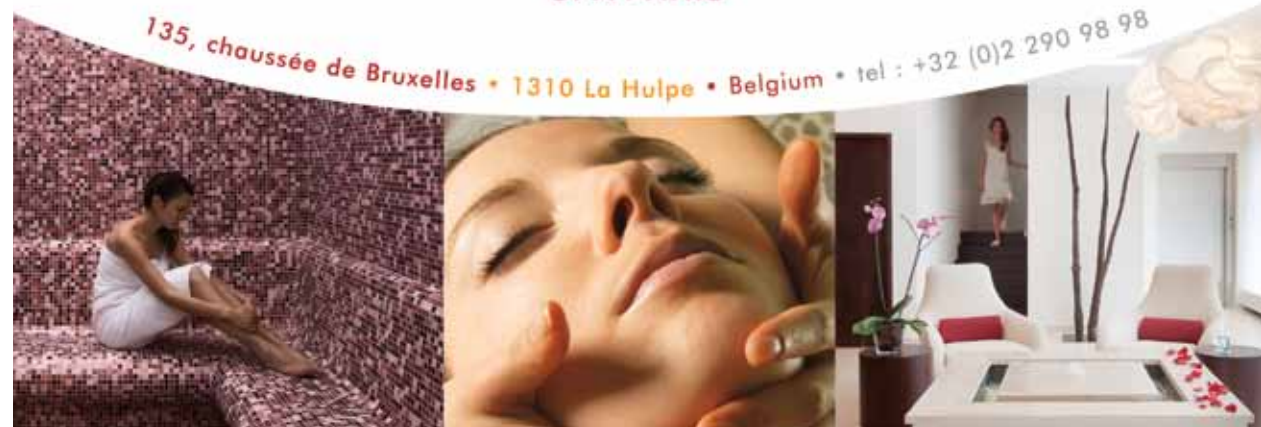
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Fratelli Rossetti: The shoe still fits

WRITER: DELPHINE STEFENS

The 10th anniversary of the Fratelli Rossetti boutique in Brussels is yet another milestone in the shoe manufacturer's successful history and reason for the family-owned company to celebrate.

**'BRINGING VALUE
FOR MONEY TO
OUR CUSTOMERS
IS WHAT WE
CONTINUOUSLY
STRIVE FOR'**

On 7th October, a large and loyal crowd gathered at Tour & Taxis to raise a glass of champagne to the continuing presence of Fratelli Rossetti in Brussels. The venue fitted the purpose perfectly and the host fulfilled expectations gracefully. Indeed, Diego Rossetti had come from Italy to welcome his guests in the company's signature style, warmly and personally.

SECOND GENERATION

Diego Rossetti belongs to the second generation now at the helm of the company established in 1953. Since

its inception, Fratelli Rossetti has stood for elegant, high-quality footwear thanks to excellent craftsmanship based on more than a hundred working phases – all of which are executed in Parabiago just outside of Milan – and constant investment in technical research. Add a touch of truly Italian flair that is beyond fashion, and you

have a product of timeless beauty and heavenly comfort.

This blending of tradition and innovation also translates into the ever-important price-quality ratio. "Bringing value for money to our customers is what we continuously strive for," Diego explains. The clientele includes men and women alike – indeed, Fratelli Rossetti was a pioneer in making genuine masculine styles such as oxfords or moccasins available to the fairer sex. And, while these are once again very much in vogue, Fratelli Rossetti carries ultra-feminine models too.



© Rossetti
Store Manager Pino Onali,
CEO Diego Rossetti and guests.



'EVOLUTION, NOT REVOLUTION'

The women's accessories line is also expanding. Currently, the iconic Elisa bag, a homage to Rossetti's mother, is available in a limited anniversary edition sold exclusively at the Boulevard de Waterloo store in Brussels. As if quality and style were not reasons enough to love the Elisa bag, readers will rejoice to learn that half the proceeds will go to Apeiron, an Italian non-profit organization providing educational opportunities for women in Nepal, which Fratelli Rossetti supports enthusiastically.

Passionate about the brand and its image, Diego Rossetti ceaselessly reflects on the company's illustrious heritage, on what to transform and what

to maintain. When asked about the **key to his success**, Rossetti says he believes in "evolution rather than revolution".

This philosophy explains how Fratelli Rossetti skillfully merges old and new – the latest illustration being the collaboration with the acclaimed Los Angeles shoe designer George Esquivel. The expertise of Fratelli Rossetti and Esquivel's joyful interpretation of its classics is a pleasure for your eyes and bliss for your feet! 🍷

Fratelli Rossetti

Boulevard de Waterloo, 65
1000 Brussels
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www.fratellirossetti.com
www.apeiron-aid.org



Hats entertainment

WRITER: PATRICIA KELLY

Elvis Pompilio cuts a dapper figure, his natty camel waistcoat up-to-date, yet reminiscent of a 1950s country gent. Personal style is only to be expected of one of the modern milliners who's credited with bringing hats back into mainstream fashion. Our writer talks with a man who knows all about getting ahead.

The hat glut of the first half of the 20th century was replaced by several decades of bare heads, until a new generation of hatters emerged in the 1980s – and Elvis

Pompilio's name stands alongside such luminaries as Phillip Treacy and Stephen Jones.

Describing it as "more a gallery than a shop", Pompilio has packed two floors of a Brussels townhouse in the Sablon with creations for

'I THINK IT'S SAD TO SEE THE SAME THINGS EVERYWHERE, I'D LIKE TO SEE A RETURN TO A MORE ARTISAN WAY OF LIFE'

both men and women, ranging in style from frothy and fantastic to the sensible; all of them eminently wearable, none of them the same, apart from miniature cashmere jumpers and trousers designed to be worn on the head. Comfortably seated on squishy brocade chairs positioned either

side of a gilt mirror, visitors are surrounded by a forest of hats perched on branches that appear to sprout from the floor.

'WELCOME TO MY WORLD

"I think it's sad to see the same things everywhere, I'd like to see a return to a more artisan way of life," he says, decrying a

consumer society whose disposable habits – "I never throw anything away" – he finds strangely at odds with the clamour for a more ecological way of life.

Pompilio's hats are made to last: "I like people to get as much wear as they can from one hat that can be worn in different ways so that it can be turned from something sophisticated into something sporty and then back again."

His trademark is the flexi-hat, worn in several ways to suit different moods or occasions that can be stuffed in a pocket or packed in a suitcase yet keep its shape.

"I love using different materials and beautiful materials, but I don't like fragile things," explains Pompilio. "Even if something looks delicate, it has to be solid."

'DOIN' THE BEST I CAN'

He demonstrates with a hat that starts out as flat as a pancake, miraculously transformed with a flick of the wrist into a traditional trilby. A confection of feathers trimmed with a little spotted veil bounces back into its original shape, as if it were a bird with a life of its own after Pompilio screws it up in his hand and then releases it.



With two collections per year, Pompilio prefers winter hats – “They’re easier and take less effort” – and reveals he’s always anxious about the summer collections, trying to think of something new. But he claims to have surprised himself by already coming up with next summer’s headgear – styled in rubber-coated fabric originally made in Switzerland, they’ll be designed to withstand water whether it falls on the wearer’s head or the wearer falls into it.

A small workshop towards the back of the main room gives on to a courtyard, the doors left open on a fine day. Seated at his sewing machine, pincushion bracelet on his wrist, Pompilio makes all the hats and does everything himself from the window displays to the gardening during the three days a week the shop opens – apart from the accounts, he adds with a grimace.

“This isn’t work for me,” he declares.
“It’s my passion.”

‘I LIKE TO FIND THE RIGHT HAT FOR THE RIGHT PERSON. I DON’T LIKE TO MAKE PEOPLE LOOK SILLY’

Pompilio’s rise to prominence in the 1980s led to shops in Brussels, Antwerp, London, Paris and Japan. He was a media darling, working with haute couture names Louis Feraud, Chanel and Thierry Mugler. Bergdorf Goodman, Barneys and Saks sold his hats, museums collected

them and the Belgian King bestowed a knighthood upon Pompilio.

Eight years ago, overrun by admin and management, he gave it all up. He slowed down, got rid of the commercialism; he travelled, bought a house in Sicily.

It worked, he says; his love for his craft returned.

Out of the spotlight, Pompilio had time for introspection and made attempts to come to terms with a childhood which, while not unhappy, was full of resentment. Born to Italian immigrants in Liège, his father a miner – Pompilio retains Italian nationality – he accuses his mother of indifference towards him, claiming

not to have been wanted by either his parents or his three older sisters. A biography (*Vie Privée* by Jean-Paul Masse de Rouch) states his parents gave him away to a Belgian teacher who couldn’t have children. She returned him when he refused to stop crying for days on end. Pompilio admits he was consumed by jealousy of his nephews and nieces, just a few years younger than him, who were given the love and affection he so craved for himself.

‘WHO NEEDS MONEY?’

The first hats he made, at the age of ten, were for them to wear with their carnival costumes. For him, there were no costumes; Pompilio says he can’t remember ever being given presents or celebrating his birthday, or Christmas or St Nicholas. At school he says he signed his own reports and it was his own decision to study fine arts at secondary school. “No-one cared about me,” he says. Of his late parents, he adds he can never forgive them that.

Approaching 50 in January, Pompilio’s customers range from European royalty to Hollywood royalty; Madonna is said to have travelled from Paris to Brussels for the sole purpose of buying one of his hats. But he has no single muse, claiming to be inspired by anyone who interests him.

“I like to find the right hat for the right person” he says. “I don’t like to make people look silly – my reputation was made by people who wear my hats.”

Pompilio vows to now stick to one boutique in one location, working on his collections and collaborating with designer friends like Ann Demeulemeester, Veronique Leroy and Veronique Branquinho. He says he doesn’t need to be part of a large enterprise to be successful. “I was never in it for the money.”

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Blouse and golden skirt:
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KURT GEIGER



Red dress:
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COS



HIM

Suit:
CAFÉ COSTUME
Shirt:
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Shoes:
COS

HER

Leather black
dress and clutch :
PAULE KA
Shoes:
KURT GEIGER



*Fur, tweed bolero
and golden harem pants:
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Aroma therapy

WRITER: DELPHINE STEFENS

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BVLGARI: MAN

Bvlgari's new scent, Man, is a celebration of masculine charisma and so it comes as no surprise that actor Clive Owen is its ambassador. The fragrance was developed for Bvlgari by Alberto Morillas and is an innovative olfactory experience. Presented as the interpretation of a new ideal of masculinity, it has a very intense woody accord – traditionally found in

LOVE, CHLOÉ

The perfume was developed by Louise Turner and Natalie Gracia-Cetto who kept the Chloé tradition of elegant chic very much in mind. Love by Chloé is airy and powdery, light and sensual. The fragrance is a floral composition, iridescent and musky with talc and powder rice. The bottle flirts with transparency and metal, its nectar is pinkish and the base engraved, the cap has a little golden chain reminiscent of Chloé bags. Top model Raquel Zimmerman is the perfect face for this chic and vintage perfume that radiates femininity and natural grace. ❶

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6.

From Futurism to Orientalism

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR

Together takes a look at two upcoming Brussels exhibitions.

JULES SCHMALZIGAUG 29.10.2010 > 06.02.2011

At the break of the 20th century, Futurism originated in Italy under the guidance of writer Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, who coined and launched the movement. Marinetti, and the various followers, embraced fascism, and the paintings of the time reflected the feelings of anarchy, often using warm colors to depict frenzied scenes. Jules Schmalzigaug, who was raised in Antwerp, studied art at various schools and first discovered futurist painting at an exhibition in Paris, where he was living at the time. In 1912, invigorated by what he saw from the Italians, Schmalzigaug re-located to Venice and immersed himself in the Italian movement. For two years, he studied and produced evocative paintings in Italy. The passion in his abstract scenes is apparent and dominated by vibrant colors and wild brush strokes. Schmalzigaug's tale, though, isn't a long and lucrative one. Five short years after discovering futurism, Schmalzigaug committed suicide. Starting at the end of October and going until 6th February, The Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium will honor the highly talented and unfortunately short-lived artist.





color contrasts with the dull tans and browns in the rest of the piece. The foreground is marked by the chaos of scurrying people. The perils of the desert, the allegorical scene, all of it captures the essence of this Oriental period of art. 📌

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Regentschapsstraat, 9
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www.fine-arts-museum.be



EUROPEAN ORIENTALISM 15.10.2010>09.01.2011

In the 19th century and the early parts of the 20th, painters such as Delacroix and Renoir assumed a fascination with Oriental themes and eastern culture. From western points of views, this period featured artists portraying an array of topics, many concerning the sexuality of women, desert landscapes and ancient civilizations. A collection of works from this era goes on display at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium until 9th January. Muted, soft colours, dominate many of the paintings, evoking a mystic feel. The work is at its most poignant with desert landscapes, such as the painting *The Simoun. In Memory of Syria* by Jean-François Portaels, there is an enigmatic desert landscape and what looks like a looming tornado. In the background, a bright yellow



“Nothing is as certain as that the vices of leisure are gotten rid of by being busy.”

– **Seneca (5BC-65AD)**

Greek philosopher, statesman and dramatist

“Leisure is the mother of philosophy.”

– **Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)**

English philosopher

“Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to get leisure.”

– **Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)**

American author, satirist, politician, scientist and statesman

“The more we do, the more we can do; the more busy we are the more leisure we have.”

– **William Hazlitt (1778-1830)**

English writer and philosopher

“To be able to fill leisure intelligently is the last product of civilization, and at present very few people have reached this level.”

– **Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)**

British philosopher, mathematician, historian, pacifist, and social critic

LIFE OF LEISURE

Romantic Monschau: Hiking in the hills

WRITER: DAVE DERUYTTER

Monschau is a small and beautiful old city, just one-and-a-half hour's drive away from Brussels. Our writer goes exploring.



Monschau is situated just across the border in Germany, in its Eifel Region. Liège is about half way the distance and the time to get there. A visit is all about strolling through a romantic, well-preserved medieval city and discovering a host of healthy hiking and biking tours in the immediate neighbourhood. Aachen is only 40 kilometres away, and suits for a day trip, shopping or strolling through its old city centre.

EASY ON THE EYE

What a treat to the eye the little city of Monschau is. The there-still-narrow Ruhr river divides the city in two, flowing fast between green hills on both sides, with a few rapids near the city centre. A castle and a few old towers dominate the hill flanks. Magnificent streets with typical German half-timbered buildings, shops, restaurants, hotels, coffee houses, snack corners, museums and a church provide excellent opportunities for visitors. Some well-preserved romantic living quarters, often on the other side of the river, make the scenery complete.

TIME TO YOURSELF

Then there is a luxury of hiking, biking and cycling trails for all tastes, and levels of effort, starting from the Monschau city centre. A few things all these trails have in common: the hikes are always hilly and the views are so grand that you will lick your lips and

'THE VIEWS ARE SO GRAND THAT YOU WILL LICK YOUR LIPS AND FINGERS SITTING ON A WELL-PLACED BENCH TO ENJOY THEM'

fingers sitting on a well-placed bench to enjoy them. It is not only in Monschau that you can stroll or enjoy a hike. In the immediate neighbourhood, there are many little towns from where equally pleasant hikes of 6-10 kilometres begin. The trails take you up and down the hills, into the woods and

out. On most of the paths you see nobody, except perhaps a lost 'soul mate' or two, and it can be very quiet as if it is just you, your party and the flora and fauna who are out there. What a great way to de-stress, to unwind along these lovely long and winding paths. An occasional bench on a well chosen spot is a welcome place

to rest, drink, or have bite to replenish your batteries for yet another roller coaster ahead. In the evening, after a refreshing shower, swim or sauna, you are ready for a gorgeous dinner, perhaps in your hotel or in one of Monschau's many very pleasant restaurants. Don't forget to taste the apple strudel, with or without ice cream, and other local delicacies.

The next morning, having finished your breakfast, you are all set to take on the next day of the great outdoors in the Eifel region. In winter, when there is enough snow, you can also go out skiing, but watch out for the crowds. In summer, why not try a glide or two on the nearby summer bobsled track?

There are many good value-for-money hotels, rooms and apartments in the Monschau region, and the local shopping is competitive. I put my money on the fact that, if you visit here once, you will return to this little gem of a romantic city, that's so near to Brussels yet still in another country. 🍷

www.monschau.de



Fun for all ages

WRITER: ANDREA NENOW

Parc Astérix offers families a getaway inspired by the popular French cartoon character.

IT STARTS WITH A COMIC

The Adventures of Astérix is known to be one of the most famous Franco-Belgian comics in the world. Originally written by René Goscinny and illustrated by Albert Uderzo, the series relates the adventures of the primary character, Astérix, and his loyal friend Obélix, as the pair resists Roman occupation with the help of a magic potion. The series, which first appeared in 1959, has been translated into more than 100 languages and serves as the inspiration for Parc Astérix, which opened in

1989 and can be found roughly 30 kilometres north of Paris.

INTO ANOTHER WORLD

Hoping to bring out the kid buried in all of us, Parc Astérix plays host to a wide variety of attractions that are sure to please every member of the family. Whether you are traveling with young children, thrill-seekers or the farthest thing from it, there is something for everyone here. The park is divided into five different 'worlds,' each with their own amusement rides, including the largest

wooden roller coaster in Europe. In La Gaule, visitors can test the effects of Astérix's magic potion or take a ride on the Menhir Express. The high-speed water ride is made up of unexpected twists and turns, just like the journey of any Menhir deliveryman, and finishes with a 13-meter drop. When your stomach catches up with you afterwards, travel over to L' Empire Romain and the kids can enjoy a scenic train ride through the forest of the Druids or a spin on the merry-go-round. La Grèce is quite the hot spot thanks mostly to Beauty, Baily and young Galéo, the three dolphins that entertain visitors with performances of their best tricks.




One tip, don't sit too close unless you want to be splashed by a dolphin tail or two. It is said that every visitor's courage is put to the test in the Les Vikings region, where the most frightful rides are housed, but no worries, more relaxed activities await you in A Travers le Temps. There, you can take a turn on the Oxygénarium to experience fresher air near the top of the trees. Food of various kinds is available throughout the park, ranging from full service restaurants to just a quick bite, ideal for running from one adventure to the next. You will not find major fast food chains here; Parc Astérix opts for traditional French cuisine instead.

A PLACE TO REST YOUR HEAD

After a hectic day fighting off the Romans and testing magic potion, a good night's rest will be in order. Parc Astérix's Hotel of

the Three Owls is positioned in the middle of the forest and is equipped with a game room perfect for the children, a library and a bar with a terrace. The building is well suited for its surroundings with its exterior of rugged wood and large-scale chimney. While the hotel is conveniently located on the park grounds, it provides guests with a much-desired feeling of seclusion. In addition to the Hotel of Three Owls, there are a number of other hotels in close proximity to the park.

EUROS AND CENTS

Parc Astérix offers visitors a variety of pass packages at differing costs as a way of meeting every family's needs. To learn more about the different options, make your reservations for any time between April and October at www.parcasterix.fr 

Cuisine as high art

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO



Italian Ambassador in Belgium S.E. Roberto Bettarini

© Gualtiero Marchesi press office

World-renowned chef Gualtiero Marchesi begins his European tour in the Italian Embassy Residence in Brussels.

The chef who pushed Italian cuisine into the modern times, Gualtiero Marchesi, presented Great Italian Cuisine on 25th October during a gala reception at the Italian Embassy Residence.

Italian Ambassador S.E. Roberto Bettarini first welcomed both Marchesi and European Commission Vice President Antonio Tajani for a private lunch and then for dinner with many EU diplomats, officials and journalists.

'THE LOGIC OF SIMPLE THINGS'

During the evening, Bettarini stressed Marchesi's role as the ambassador of

Italian cuisine excellence, and the colourful dinner came to a climax with Marchesi's famous *risotto*. The following day, the exhibition was inaugurated in the European Parliament where it was on show until 29th October, before it moved to Espace Banca Monte Paschi in Avenue Auderghem, close to the European Council, from 5th to 12th November.

For the occasion, the first of the Marchesi Foundation's books was also presented – entitled *The Logic of Simple Things*, written in both Italian and English, it stresses the concept that Marchesi has made the manifesto of his cuisine: form is matter. A claim that, in times such as these, which are equally divided between aestheticism and vulgarity, rings as a warning and is strengthened by the man's other important claim – that what is good is also beautiful. 🍷

www.gualtieromarchesi.it



Rebecca Bettarini, Gualtiero Marchesi, European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani

© Gualtiero Marchesi press office

Potty over *Potiche*

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

After its success in Venice and also recently at the Gent Film Festival, *Potiche*, directed by French filmmaker François Ozon, is travelling well around Europe. *Together* met the director in Venice.

‘PERSONALLY, I DON’T LAUGH SO MUCH, BUT I DO SMILE.’

‘Potiche’ is a colloquial term for a trophy wife, whose job it is to look after the house and look pretty. Ozon’s vibrant comedy begins when tyrannical manager Robert

(Fabrice Luchini) is taken hostage by workers demanding new toilets in one of his factories. Suzanne (Catherine Deneuve), the wife, must take over the business during her husband’s three-month convalescence and trouble starts when he comes back and wants to take charge once more...

INTERVIEW EXPRESS

Together: Can you describe the genesis of *Potiche*?

FO: Firstly I had to keep my film French, because the audience has to recognize the genre. In France, people enjoy comedy but, if you want to touch, the audience you have to speak about what you really know. I also love the 1970s, its music, style and fashion. I was inspired by characters interpreted by

Louis de Funès during the 70s, but the base of this movie was the play *Potiche* by Barillet and Gredy. You need real rhythm and to stay attached to reality. I also wanted some melodrama, because I liked the idea of mixing different genres. Personally, I don’t laugh so much, but I do smile.

Why do you never film in America?

In France, the director is the king, whereas in the US the producer has a bigger role and has the final cut. It’s another way of working, and I know that I couldn’t adapt myself to such interference.

How do you work?

Normally, I don’t have a strategy, I’m free, and I can’t tell you what my next project will be. I’m filming for pleasure because I like what I do; I’m not a ‘hard worker’. I feel bad when I see colleagues of mine who are suffering the pressure of lack of freedom. What I like about movies is the variety, I like to work in different genres and I try to adapt to the story. During the production, it’s important for me to be close to the producer because I want to understand the economy of the movie.

How did you approach the Cannes and Venice festivals?

The movie was ready for Cannes, but they have an internal procedure and they have to see a movie three times. With Venice, the Festival Director Marco Muller called me and asked Catherine to be at the festival – Muller only needed to see my movie once to give his approval.



Ozon and Deneuve
© Yvan Barbera



Why did you choose Deneuve and Depardieu?

I think that for the French public, they represent the perfect couple. We love to see them together, because there is chemistry between the two, a magical alchemy. Deneuve is open, now she is freer than before and has a beautiful ironic style. On the other hand, Fabrice Luchini, who was the husband in the movie, has a more theatrical acting style while Deneuve is more cinematographic; the big challenge was bringing their styles

together. Concerning love affairs, which are a big part of the movie, I think that the French are proud of having affairs.

Why did you make the film in Belgium?

I like the ambiance there. It was perfect to represent the period, you don’t find such atmosphere in France so easily, and I liked the faces of the extras. ☺

www.labiennale.org
www.filmfestival.be

Coppola conquers Venice and Gent

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Together's talks to the Academy Award winning director, who also lifted the Golden Lion at Venice 2010.

INTERVIEW EXPRESS

After the Golden Lion was unanimously awarded by the jury, chaired by Quentin Tarantino, during the Venice film Festival 2010 to *Somewhere* by Sofia Coppola, the director landed in Belgium to show her film

'I LIKE STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE, THE TRANSITION PERIOD IN THEIR LIFE; FOR ME THIS IS AN INTERESTING THEME'

as the closing movie at the Gent Film Festival. The film is about the dissolute character of Johnny Marco (Stephen Dorff), a bad-boy actor who's living in an artificial world in the legendary Chateau Marmont hotel, Hollywood. He has a Ferrari to drive around in, a constant stream of girls and pills to stay in with.

Then, his 11-year-old daughter Cleo (Elle Fanning) from his failed marriage arrives unexpectedly, and this forces Johnny to face up to where he is in life, to face reality for the first time. So, when the time comes for Cleo to leave, his sense of loss is palpable...



Venice, where she spoke a little about the movie and its genesis:

"I like stories about people, the transition period in their life; for me this is an interesting theme. I was also interested in exploring modern culture, the world of showbusiness world in modern Los Angeles. And, concerning about the father-daughter relationship in the movie, for sure there are some memories of my relationship with my own father, though the character of Steven is different."

And the film industry at the moment?

"It seems that it's a hard time to make small films that are a little bit different. I was fortunate to have relationships with companies that I had worked with in the past that allowed me to make this movie with complete creative control, to make the film I wanted to make. I was lucky – it's a hard time now for filmmakers to find the finances for projects." ☺

www.labiennale.org
www.filmfestival.be

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Jaeger-Le Coultre: Time of your life

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Together's man on the scene was invited to one of the swishest parties during 2010's Venice Film Festival.

Arriving by boat at a secret location for an event in Venice gives you that touch of mystery and excitement until, little by little, you emerge from the darkness and land on Planet Jaeger-Le Coultre.

Guests and VIPs are welcomed by a gondola that embodies the solid link

between the city and the Venetian museum that was our venue.

Over a cocktail, craftsmanship displays the beauty of the gem-setting art, as well as the Venetian tradition of hand-crafted masks, and much more.

We are drawing nearer

to dinner and the event's key moment, the presentation of four time-pieces. When the

sipario opens, two sumptuously decorated long tables are waiting for the guests. I have the chance to talk with Janek Deleskiewicz, artistic and design director, a kind, cultivated man who is also passionate about cinema and, as this is the 6th year of partnership between master timekeepers Jaeger-LeCoultre and the Venice Film Festival, Biennale President Paolo Baratta obviously wasn't going to miss this unique annual event.

After dinner, the presentation was made by Jaeger-LeCoultre CEO Jerome Lambert – extraordinary, wild, precious and celestial were the epithets bestowed on each creation but, if we want to be accurate, we should call the four timepieces as follows: **Montre Extraordinaire La Rose**, the **Reverso Squadra Art**, the **Master Tourbillon Wild** and the **Master Grande Tradition Grande Complication Venice Edition**. Each of these pieces epitomizes the very best in fine watch-making, including gem setting, enamelling and engraving.

THE MONTRE EXTRAORDINAIRE LA ROSE, WITH ITS WHITE GOLD BLOSSOMS, IS A WORK OF ART CONCEALING A FULL-SET DIAL BENEATH ONE OF ITS PETALS



1. Olga Rodionova
2. Jeremy Renner, Rosamund Pike and Clive Owen
3. Unique and exclusive piece presented during the Jaeger-LeCoultre VIP evening: La Rose
4. Christina Capontondi, wearing a Jaeger-LeCoultre 101 Manchette

© Jaeger-LeCoultre

WATCH THIS SPACE

The Montre Extraordinaire La Rose, with its white-gold blossoms, is a work of art concealing a full-set dial beneath one of its petals. This in-house movement shimmers with 18 carat diamonds arranged in an intriguing 'snow-setting' pattern. The second snow-set model presented was the mysterious Reverso Squadra Art, which is created with around 2,870 stones. The while the Master Tourbillon Wild has an avant-garde soul, with its clean-cut lines lightly softened by the rounded curves of the case. And, to finish, we have the Master Grande Tradition Grande Complication Venice

Edition – a complete stunner; the watch features three superb refinements: a minute repeater, a flying Tourbillon and a sidereal perpetual calendar.

As Lambert explained: "We wanted to link the concept of craftsmanship with the city of Venice – there are many references to the city, for example the zodiac signs you see in the watch are homage to the zodiac clock of Piazza San Marco, while the four creations themselves each embody four different types of craftsmanship." 📸

www.jaeger-lecoultre.com

www.labiennale.org

5. Jérôme Lambert,
CEO of Jaeger-LeCoultre,
Jeremy Renner,
Rosamund Pike and
Clive Owen)

© Jaeger-LeCoultre



5.



6.



8.



9.

6. Astrid Munoz, Amber Le Bon and Yasmin Le Bon

7. Micky Green

8. Isabella Ragonese, wearing a Jaeger-leCoultre Reverso Neigee

9. Jaeger-LeCoultre Art Director Janek Deleskiewicz and Marc Newson, designer

© Jaeger-LeCoultre

Wim and verve

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO



Together meets renowned German movie-director Wim Wenders in the European Parliament to discuss the cinematic challenges facing the EU in the years ahead.

'THIS IS A PERIOD OF INCREDIBLE CHANGES – EVERYTHING WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT FILM AND DISTRIBUTION IS ABOUT TO BE CHANGED'

INTERVIEW EXPRESS

Together: What are the differences between working in the US and Europe?

WW: It's almost as if it's different professions; in America the movie is a product and it's an industrial process – some of that also applies to European films, but only

specifics. In the US, most movies are unspecific even though there are some great

films made by, say, Woody Allen, who seems to have learned everything he needed to know from Ingmar Bergman. The industry in the US wants to reach the greatest number of people, and specifics get in the way. In Europe, films are extremely personal and have local colour; the job is very different. In the US, most of the directors are hired and exchangeable, unless you are someone like Steven Spielberg, who is a director, author and executive.

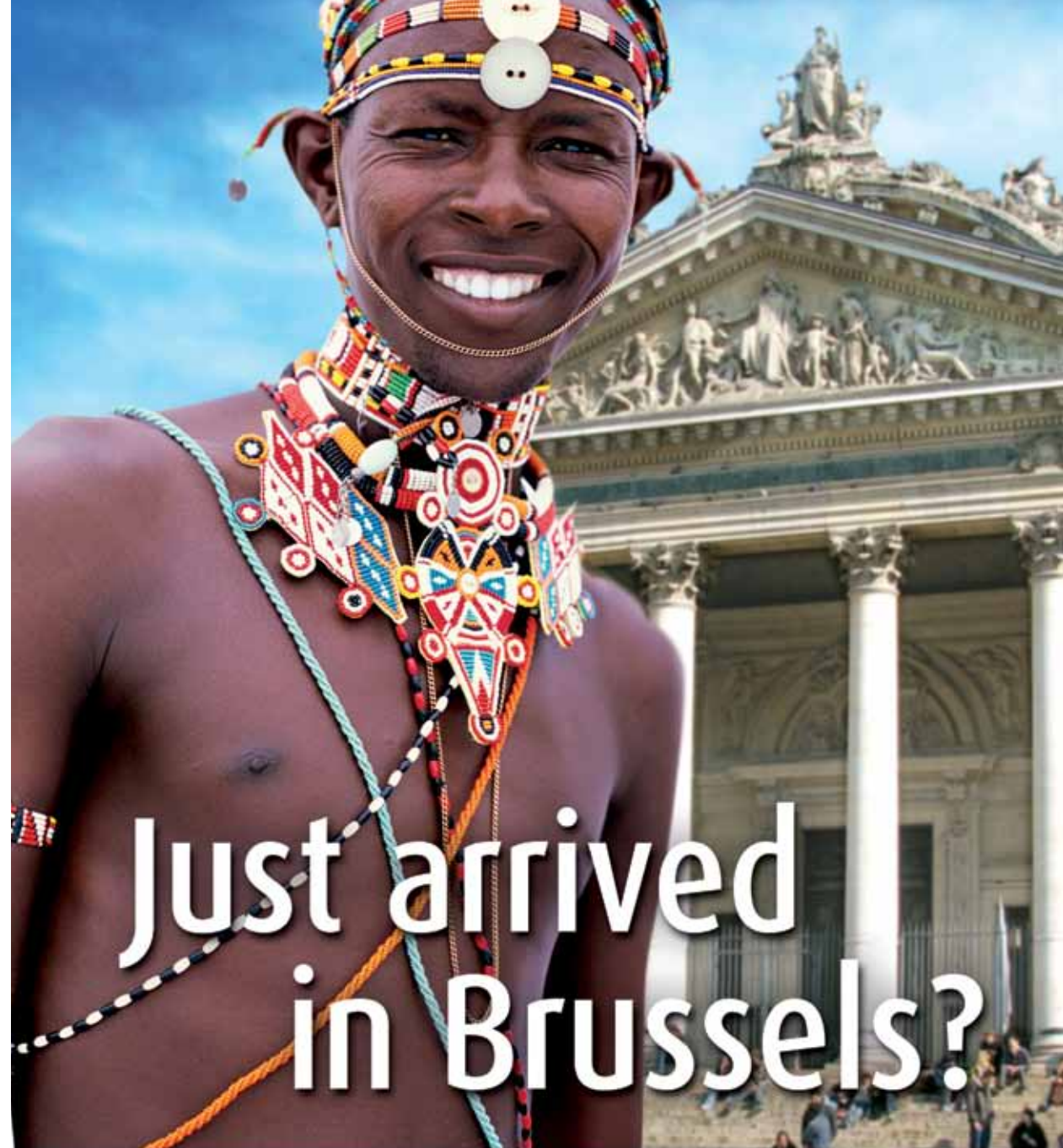
Do you think that the EU plays a role in supporting European cinema?

The film landscape in Europe would look extremely different, both in production and distribution, if it wasn't for the Media programme and the help coming from the EU. I don't even want to start to imagine where we would be without it.

The digital revolution – is it a threat to European cinema?

This is a period of incredible changes – everything we have learned about film and distribution is about to be changed, the digital revolution is a much bigger than we initially thought as it is changing not only the form of distribution but also the content of what is being distributed. I think that the great question now is whether European cinema can survive to these changes, how much will we still be able to provide content in the future of digital cinema? Education is crucial, because the gigantic American industry is devoted mainly to adolescent audiences, and our cinema is not so much – our young audiences have become used to a certain kind of cinema, which allows them to appreciate what we have to offer. ☺

www.wim-wenders.com



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10

coolest cars in history

10

ways to look **smart**
in an art gallery

10

worst mistakes on a first date

5

best friteries in Brussels

The venerable bean

WRITER: ANDY CARLING

Our man sings the praises of Ethiopia's Lalibela and its coffee.

If it wasn't for coffee, I don't think I would have found the Ark of the Covenant. I've regarded a good cup of coffee to be one of life's greatest pleasures, although I often drink it out of need.

Ethiopia is unlike any other African nation. Although it is associated with famine and war, thanks to the media looking for dramatic and simplistic headline news, there is far more to the country.

To find the roots of the bean and its special place in Abyssinian society, we must turn to spiritual matters.

The Ethiopian church traces its roots to an official of the Queen, who was baptized by Philip the apostle, the event being recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, one of thirty three references to the nation in the Bible. In the fourth century, the King of the northern Axemite kingdom converted to Christianity, thus establishing the church.

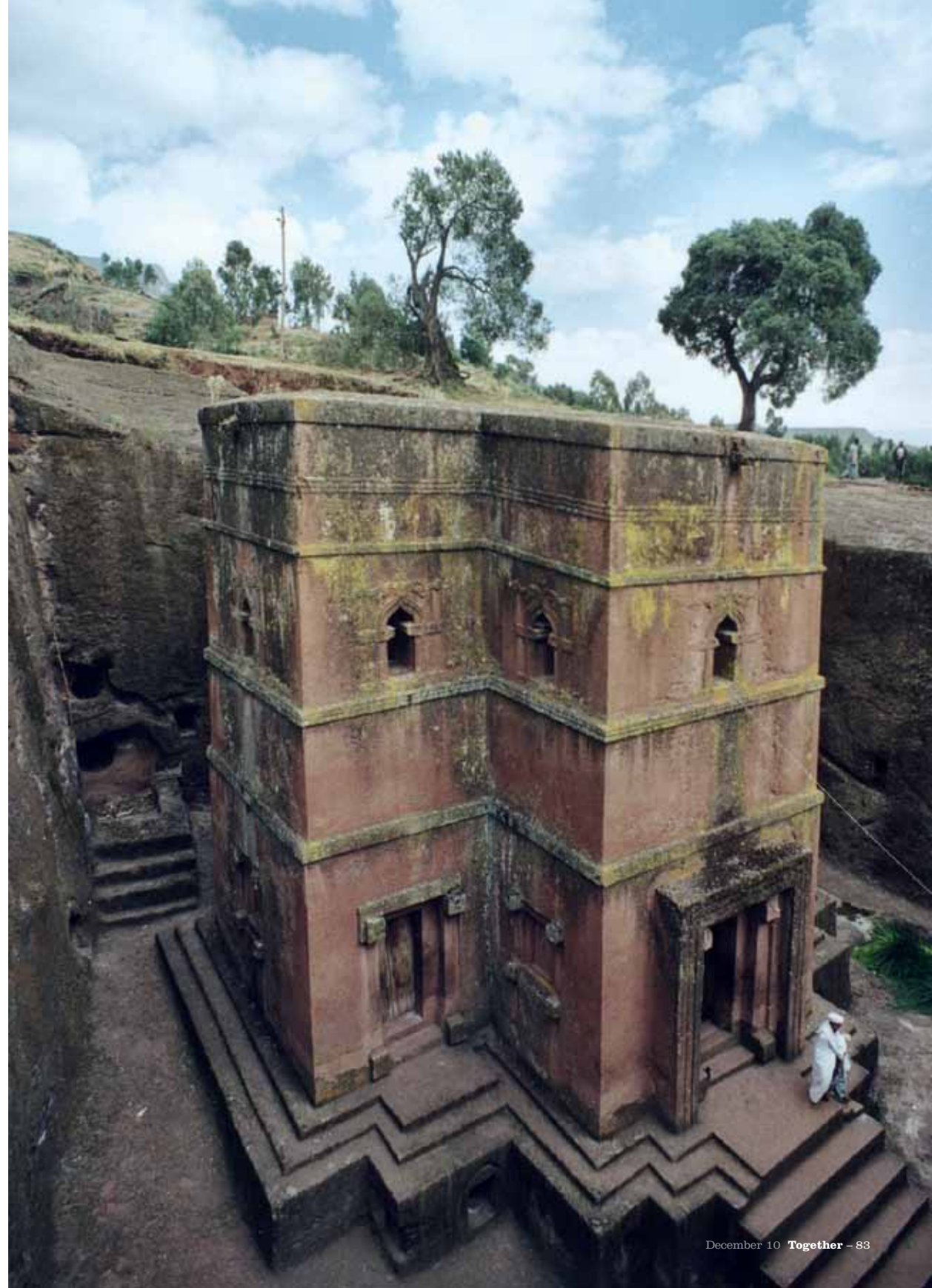
This long history of an ancient form of belief has brought a realm of myths and mysticism to the country, making it a land of kings and saints, where angels tread.



ETHIOPIA IS THE OLDEST COFFEE EXPORTER IN THE WORLD, TRADING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES SINCE 1500, BUT IT WAS IN THE 19th CENTURY WHEN THE TRADE REALLY TOOK OFF

caravans of mules, camels and donkeys. Export was dominated and facilitated by foreigners of more than 140 different nations.

The trade is revitalized today, after decades of conflict decimated fields and the ability to sell the produce. Today it is a major export for the nation, but production methods have changed little since the tenth century.



The best example of this is the story of Lalibela.

The small and isolated town, 3,000 meters up in the mountains was the birthplace of King Lalibela, and the town now bears his name, which in the Agaw language means, "The bee recognizes his power to rule."

At his birth, a swarm of bees gathered over his cot, which was taken as a sign that he

EXACTLY HOW THE CHURCHES WERE BUILT REMAINS A MYSTERY

would become Emperor of Ethiopia. A rival for the throne poisoned him, but this introduced a three day coma, where he had visions of Jerusalem, which

had just been captured by Muslim armies, and received a commandment from God to recreate the holy city.

It is how he achieved this that makes Lalibela such an incredible and mysterious place as well as a centre for pilgrimage.

He supervised building eleven churches out of the mountains, from layouts and designs given to him in his vision. Each church was carved out of solid rock, some are three stories high and all exterior and interior decoration comes from one piece of stone.

Exactly how the churches were built remains a mystery. In one of the churches there is a carved column that, supposedly, explains the construction, but this has been covered for centuries, keeping the mystery literally, under wraps.

The legends say that angels helped in the building. This may seem far fetched, but

the sheer volume and quality of the work involved defies rational explanation. This is a place where superlatives fail.

These are no museum pieces, as each of the churches are still places of worship and dotted around the complexes are small nooks and cells, where monks sit and pray.

There is one more treasure in Ethiopia. In a small building next to the Basilica in Axum, there resides, according to the Church, the Ark of the Covenant, brought to the safety of the land, by the first King of Ethiopia, Menelik I, said to be the child of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

In the small courtyard, one monk guards the Ark, never leaving it, never being able to retire. As he dies, he nominates his successor, who cannot refuse the calling.

These monks also discovered coffee. They used to chew on the beans to allow them to pray and chant for longer – this confirms my belief that decaffeinated coffee is sinful.

There is a ceremony associated with coffee. A woman will come and prepare the beans in front of you, slowly roasting them, grinding them and, finally serving you three small bowls of rich coffee, sometimes flavoured with ginger.

It's overwhelming, breathtaking and infinitely subtle, just like Ethiopia. To sit in the evening sun after a day of exploring the mysteries of Lalibela, enjoying the scent and taste of the coffee is an experience that will transform you, putting you where King Lalibela intended, between this world and Heaven. ☕

www.lalibela.net

Coffee culture

WRITER: JOHN SHERIDAN

Andrea Illy, CEO of world-famous Italian coffee giant **illy** is continuing his family's proud tradition into a third generation, following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps. He took time out of his busy schedule to meet *Together*.

INTERVIEW EXPRESS

Together: Stakeholder not shareholder is one of your company's main mottos – can you explain the difference?

AI: Stakeholders are people who have a direct or indirect association with the company. In this case, we are talking about customers, retailers, employees, suppliers, communities and the shareholders in that

order of importance. In our case, a stakeholder company, you have to balance the general interest of all stakeholders and the shareholder holds the least value as it is only one entity and is at the service of the company not the other way around, which is the constitution of shareholder companies. Shareholder companies are driven by profits and dividend payments first, while we are driven by balance.

destroy where the coffee plant is grown. We need to work in partnership through education and reinvestment in the areas where we do business.

Are you still trying to improve the taste of your coffee?

We have reached a position where we are happy with the taste of our coffee, although we are still trying to isolate the different processes in developing the flavour. The roasting process is very complicated and, at present, we are only able to isolate clusters of chemical changes which, through research and development, we are trying to isolate even more in an attempt better to understand the process.

'WHY SHOULD THE EXPERIENCE OF ENJOYING A CUP OF COFFEE BE ONLY ABOUT FLAVOUR? WE TRY TO ENCOURAGE OUR CUSTOMERS TO USE MORE OF THEIR SENSES WHEN HAVING A CUP OF ILLY'

Sustainability and ethics seem to be the core values of your company, can you tell us a little about this philosophy?

The philosophy is that there are more reasons than profit to run a company. There must be a social scope higher than just profit. There is also a practical reason; our goal is to produce the best coffee in the world. To do this we need to work together with our growers. If you squeeze the suppliers, they will not produce quality beans and if you destroy the environment you





Tell us about the university that your company operates?

We founded the **University of Coffee** with two goals. The first was to teach the grower how to improve their agronomical practises and to bring more consistency to their produce. The second reason was to teach the retailer how to make the perfect cup of coffee and to improve their business practices to benefit the consumer. It is fundamental for our establishments to offer premium quality. We have added a third department for connoisseurs to discover the wonders of coffee much like wine courses. We educate more than 15,000 people per year in our many campuses in cities such as Paris, Shanghai and New York to name but a few.

illy has strong associations with the art world, why? And do red and white have particular significance to your company?

Why should the experience of enjoying a cup of coffee be only about flavour? We try to encourage our customers to use

more of their senses when having a cup of illy – art began as an attempt to replicate the beauty that surrounds us. By incorporating art into our outlets, we hope to stimulate senses other than taste. We encourage young artists with various prizes throughout the year, including the **Young Artist illy Prize in Brussels**. Concerning our logo, it comes from the colours of the Trieste flag, our home city. Red is a symbol of passion, and we are passionate about creating the best cup of coffee in the world, so it fits perfectly.

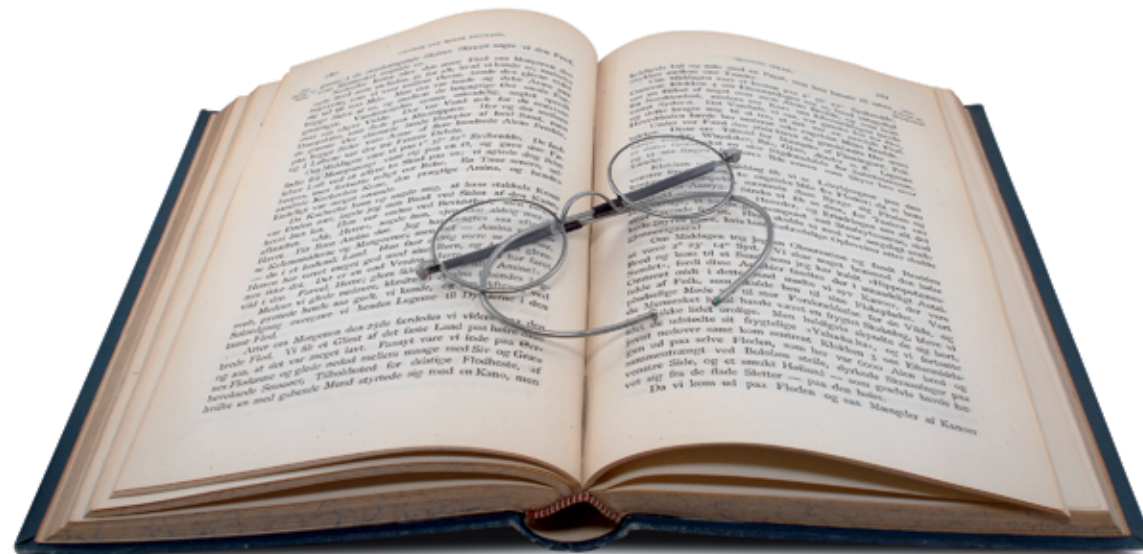
Andrea, what are the secrets of your success?

Hard work and remaining loyal to the company's tradition of producing the best cup of coffee in the world. When my grandfather set up illy, he did so with three goals - to manufacture the best coffee, to sell it everywhere and to develop the technologies to create the wonderful flavours. We still follow exactly the same principles, nearly eighty years later. My grandfather searched for excellence and beauty in everything he did. My success is due to learning from him and my dad, and following the principles and morals that they instilled in me. ☺

www.illy.com



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Does Android dream of electric apps?

WRITER: COLIN MOORS

Following on from last issue's shameless plugging of all things Apple, in which our man assured you he was no fanboy, our writer here sets out to prove that fact by giving his entire technology piece over to apps written for Google's 'Android' operating system.

Has your touch-screen phone or mobile device got Android? The chances are that if it isn't an Apple device, it probably has.

OK, that's possibly an overstatement, but the way things are going, there's little or no distance between the two computer-industry giants. So, what apps simply must be on your Android-powered toy? Read on.

FOR THOSE WHO MISSED THE MICROBLOGGING REVOLUTION THAT IS TWITTER (IS THERE REALLY ANYBODY OUT THERE?) THE OBVIOUS APP DU CHOIX WOULD BE TWIDROID

LAYAR CAKE

Aside from the 'usual suspects' Facebook, Skype, etc., there's a wealth of interesting, fun and often just plain useful software out there, and a lot of it free for the taking. For starters, **Layar** (free) offers a unique view of the world around you – and I mean *around*

you. Using its funky named Augmented Reality concept, it will attempt to show you all the stuff in your immediate vicinity – something like the iPhone's *Around Me* app,

but much prettier. Hold it up to a street view using your GPS-and-camera-equipped toy and it will begin to mark out things other people found interesting, exactly where you are standing. Apart from all the obvious things – ATMs, bars, clubs, etc. – you might get to stumble across the world's largest elastic band ball, the birthplace of someone famous, or any number of other things the Layar community has submitted. New layers can be added, informing you of things like crime hotspots, houses for sale and music festival guides. The only downside at the moment appears to be a fairly small, but ever-growing database and the drain on battery power.



For those who missed the microblogging revolution that is Twitter (is there really anybody out there?) the obvious app du choix would be Twidroid. The points they lose for a clumsy portmanteau of the words **Twitter** and **Android**, they make up for in functionality. Twidroid (free) will do many Twitter-related things; posting tweets, retweeting, photo posting, saved searches and even geo-location. If you want even more features like video posting and bit.ly integration for shortening URLs, there's a pro version for about €5 or so. Don't leave home without it.

If you're the sort of person who starts dribbling at the thought of being 'always on' and jacked into the feed 24/7 William Gibson style, you'll be wanting **Meebo**. This little freebie will connect all your instant messaging (IM) platforms in one tidy interface, making it possible to carry on multiple conversations on multiple IM clients. If you suffer from a glut of friends, here's the thing to collate your Facebook Chat, AIM, ICQ, Jabber, MySpace, Google Talk and Yahoo! Messages and make some kind of sense out of it all. Whoever would have thought popularity could be so complicated?

SWYPE EASY

Swype is something that has a broad appeal, and comes as part of the Android base package on many newer devices. Instead of the old 'hunt and peck' style of typing on miniscule on-screen keyboards, you simply trace your finger through the letters you want in a swirly pattern, and the built in database of words will, in a surprisingly accurate fashion, decide what the word was. It was co-invented by Randy Marsden, inventor of Microsoft's on-screen keyboard and Cliff Kushler, who is responsible for the T9 predictive text on mobile phones. I don't think I have heard anyone say a bad thing about it, so why not visit the Swype site (swypeinc.com) and give it a go?

I couldn't finish a geeky piece without a throwaway trinket at the end, and this time is no exception. If you're one of those people who can be found in bed, cowering under the duvet, unable to ascertain if it's Tuesday or not – fret no more. Keep your device loaded with the free *Is It Tuesday* app, and you'll never have the fear again. There is also an app to tell you if it's Friday or not, but that's just a ridiculous concept. ☹

Together's 'To Do' list Belgium

WRITER: ELLEN DRAKE

Our round-up of the very best events.

ELTON JOHN & RAY COOPER

1.12.10

Sir Elton John's appearances on stage are becoming rarer, but his concerts still bear the exceptional quality that made him one of the most successful artists of all time. Along with Ray Cooper, this British duo will prove how harmoniously piano and percussion go together in the Belgian installment of their 14-city European tour.

Forest National

Avenue Victor Rousseau, 208
1190 Forest - Brussels

www.eltonjohn.com/concerts



DECEMBER DANCE

1.12.10

Bruges Central will host the fourth annual International Dance Festival featuring a programme of top dancers from central Europe. Enthusiasts best not miss this show, as renowned choreographers Sasha Waltz and Josef Nadj will be the anchor figures for the event, and will undoubtedly deliver an unforgettable performance.

Concertgebouw Brugge

't Zand, 34 - Bruges
T. +32 (0)50 44 30 60

www.decemberdance.be



MODO BRUXELLAE

Ends 31.12.10

Every December, Belgian designers gather at the Brussels' Palace to offer their creations at greatly reduced prices. Whether you are Christmas shopping for friends, family or for yourself, you are sure to find a bargain at this annual sale.

Le Palace

Boulevard Anspach, 85 - 1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 502 52 64

www.modobrussels.be



NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH THE GIBSON BROTHERS

31.12.10

The exclusive Viage Casino and Hotel will host the Gibson Brothers on the most extraordinary night of the year. This world-famous trio, who made their mark with popular disco hits *Come to America* and *Non-Stop Dance*, will be giving a live performance, followed by an all-night after-party. Reservation packages include the show, a four-course menu, and glasses of champagne throughout the night.

The Viage

Anspach Boulevard, 30 - 1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 300 01 00

www.viage.be



OOSTENDE'S NEW YEAR'S DIVE

1.1.11

Hundreds of participants gather on Oostende's Groot Strand Beach for this annual plunge. Whether you decide to take a swim in the freezing waters of the North sea or have a laugh as part of the large audience who watches the madness, this event gives an exciting kick start to the New Year.

www.oostende.be



WINTER WONDERS

Ends 2.1.11

Brussels comes to life during the dreary winter months at the annual Winter Wonders event. The Grand'Place and Place Sainte Catherine are transformed into a picturesque Christmas market complete with an ice-skating rink, wooden chalets, and festive lights that illuminate the city.

www.winterwonders.be



CORTEO CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

4>16.1.11

Cirque du Soleil returns to Brussels with a fresh troupe of dramatic poets and graceful trapeze artists. The Corteo version of the show carries the unique storyline of a clown's imagination of a festive parade, and will draw the audience into an irresistible theatrical world of drama, comedy, and acrobatics.

Kart Expo

Alfons Gossetlaan, 11
1702 Dilbeek - Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 467 28 00

www.cirquedusoleil.com



Together's 'To Do' list International

CHRISTMAS SOUND & LIGHT SHOW

1>31.12.10

Watch the nativity story come to life at the historic Notre Dame Cathedral. The performances include recordings of the cathedral's organs and choirs, as well as a fantastic light show. For even more holiday spirit, take a stroll along Avenue des Champs-Élysées, which will be decorated with millions of fairy lights.

Notre Dame Cathedral

Place du Parvis de Notre Dame, 75004 - Paris

T. +33 (0)1 531 00 00

www.notredamedeparis.fr



GREAT CHRISTMAS PUDDING RACE

4.12.10

This annual relay race is a quirky and fun way to help raise money for the charity Cancer Research UK. Teams of six tackle a series of odd obstacles while carrying a tray of Christmas pudding. Gather your friends for a team or simply come out to support the cause and enjoy a frantic but hilarious day at London's Covent Garden.

Covent Garden Piazza

Westminster, London

T. +44 (0)79 1860 8499

www.xmaspuddingrace.org.uk



MILLIONAIRE FAIR AMSTERDAM

9>13.12.10

This December, Amsterdam's RAI complex will house this exclusive event featuring high-end exhibitors of everything from jewelry to private aviation. Stand alongside well-heeled Europeans as you sip champagne and browse through the most luxurious products on the market.

Amsterdam RAI

Europaplein, 22 - Amsterdam

T. +31 (0) 205 49 12 12

www.miljonairfair.nl



GREAT WINES FAIR

10>11.12.10

The Carrousel du Louvre of Paris welcomes 20,000 visitors to sip the world's most premium wines at a series of exhibitions and tastings. With the expectance attendance of over 100 wineries, it is a wonderful opportunity to savor your favorite merlot, or to sample a commendable newcomer.

Carrousel du Louvre

Rue de Rivoli, 99 - Paris

www.grandtasting.com



KINGS OF LEON

21.12.10

Alternative rock band Kings of Leon achieved initial success in the UK with their first album *Youth and Young Manhood* before reaching chart success in their native United States with the singles *Sex on Fire* and *Use Somebody*. The band calls in London in December as part of their UK tour.

O2 Arena

North Greenwich, London

www.kingsofleon.com



TANGOMAGIA

26>30.12.10

Come share the passion, tradition, and avant-garde of tango. Amsterdam's annual international tango festival is held at venues throughout the city and features performances by both Argentinean and European Dance couples, as well as workshops for novice dancers wishing to improve their 'corte'.

www.tangomagia.com



WE ARE FAMILY: NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE SUPPERCLUB

31.12.10

Make your New Year's Eve a night to remember. The glamorous Supperclub restaurant will be featuring live performances, renowned DJs and bottles and bottles of champagne. Your ticket will cover appetizers, champagne and a goodie bag from the restaurant.

The Supperclub

Jonge Roelensteeg, 21 - Amsterdam

T. +31 (0) 203 44 64 00

www.supperclub.com



Winter wonders

WRITER: DELPHINE STEFENS



JUGGLE ANGELS

This is the story of a friendship: two creative and passionate mothers, Christine-Aurore Neyroz-Magnée and Simona Grassi-Ingravallo are two mums who have just embarked on a new thrilling adventure, Juggle Angels, which provides great outfits online for children aged from two to ten. As Simona explains: "This concept was born quite naturally and spontaneously. Christine-Aurore had just created the first prototype for her daughters, she showed me her creations and we soon realized this concept was both compelling and workable on a larger scale, because it meets specific needs and current trends. So this is how the adventure started." Says Christine-Aurore: "We will involve our beloved little devils wearing our creations in the direction of our future collections: ideas, feedback, participation in the next casting... we aim to follow closely today's needs and trends. This is the way we see the evolution of our brand."

www.juggleangels.com

PLANET PARFUM FORT JACO

This location perfectly illustrates Planet Parfum's new take on perfumery. The setting is beautiful and the display practical. Besides the usual suspects, you will find everything you will wish for from select natural and organic brands such as Décléor and Kibio to the Japanese cream of the crop like Annayake or Sensai by Kanebo International which are available exclusively at Planet Parfum. The new beauty salon offers all the classic treatments, as well as Clarins wellness rooms and treatments.

Planet Parfum Fort Jaco

*Chaussée de Waterloo, 1361 (1st floor)
1180 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 375 79 04*

www.planetparfum.be



PETIT BATEAU

The iconic label has totally renovated its store to better serve comfort and cotton lovers. The boutique carries quality items for babies, children and grown-ups alike, in timeless styles. And, the company is already thinking about the next generations considering 'Eco-Friendly' issues such as product traceability and clean energy factories. 'Petit Bateau Forever!'

Petit Bateau

*Avenue de la Toison d'Or, 50
1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 545 76 50*

www.petit-bateau.be

ÜTERQUE

The brand was already present at Brussels Airport and has now opened a flagship store on Toison d'Or. The boutique's subdued lighting and sober interior create an intimate and welcoming atmosphere – you will feel like you are browsing in a gallery where elegant clothes and playful accessories are exhibited. There is something for every woman, both for work and play, especially if you are looking for something exclusive.

Üterque

*Avenue de la Toison d'Or, 47a
1050 Brussels*

www.uterque.com



How to cook with chocolate, how to succeed in business.



Richard Branson's autobiography, a personal favourite of our publisher, is a 600-page disclosure of Branson's all-or-nothing rise to become the prominent billionaire of the Virgin Group. His goal, above all, is fun, and with his crazy, playboy lifestyle it's no surprise that his stories rival the best of them, including near-death experiences and noteworthy celebrities doing not-so-elegant things. However, this isn't just a collection of excesses drawn from a lavish lifestyle – this book is at its best when it explores Branson the businessman. These sections are inspiring and insightful accounts into his often seemingly unwise business ventures. From a very young age, Branson has followed his

PIERRE MARCOLINI
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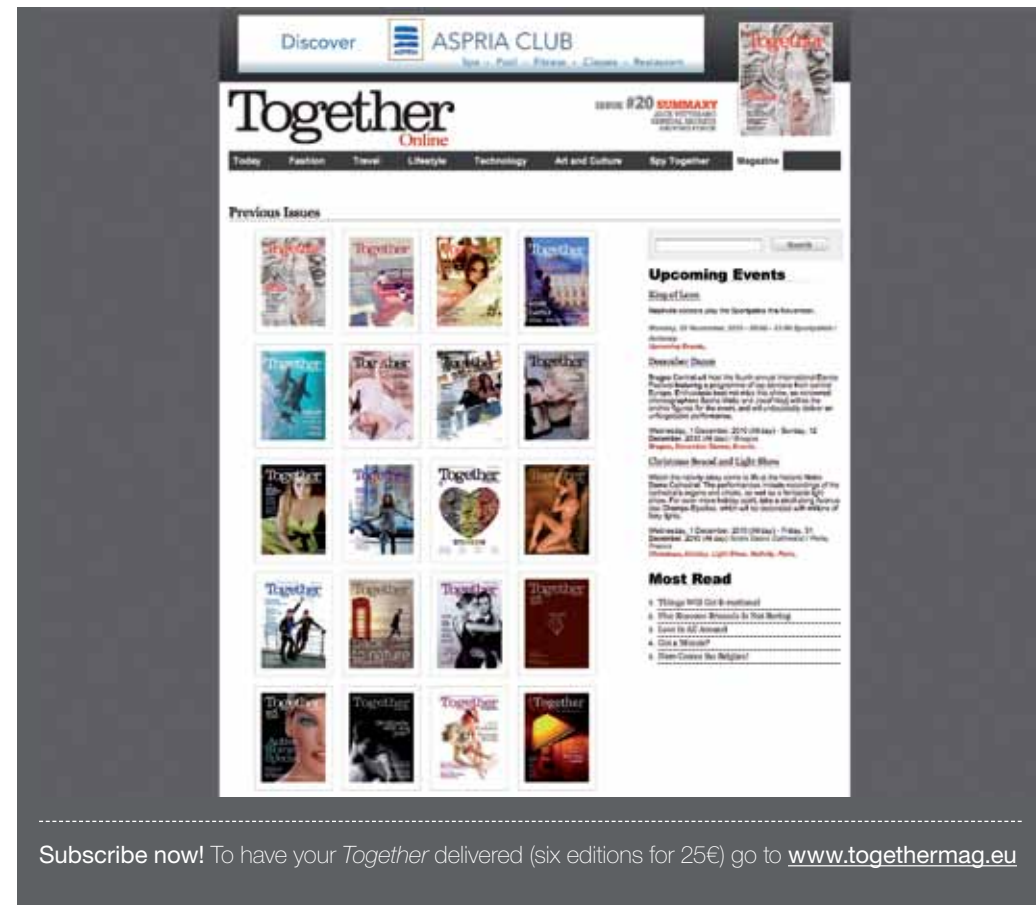


Les Éditions

DIX PETITS DOIGTS PLEINS
DE CHOCOLAT
PIERRE MARCOLINI

Pierre Marcolini, the acclaimed chocolatier, has released a fun new cook-book for children. Marcolini takes some of his favourite dessert recipes, and adds what he does best: chocolate. Recalling memorable recipes from his time as a child, there are 30 easy-to-make recipes, all accompanied by photographs. His book strikes a balance between professional presentation and instructions that children can understand. So, grab a copy, and eat your little heart out. 🍫

www.marcolini.be



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Paws for thought



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*Euromonitor 2010. Selective market. Période 2009. **Auto-evaluation test on 53 subjects.