

INSPIRING YOU TO REACH YOUR DREAMS

#22/JANUARY 2011

# Together

magazine

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

### LADY PENELOPE

Together talks with  
Ms Cruz, Spain's  
most stylish export

### THE BIG APPLE AT CHRISTMAS

We take you there

### THAILAND RELAXATION

A visit to a holistic  
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EDITORIAL

# In the holiday spirit, *Together*

Another year draws to its close and, as ever, it's a time for celebration, companionship and reflection.

And we hope that you will join us for all of the above, as *Together* proudly presents its final edition of 2010. So, what has Father Christmas left for you this year? Well, as usual, we have interviews galore – we are delighted to welcome the wonderful actress **Penelope Cruz** to our hallowed pages, and Federico Grandesso, our man on the scene *everywhere*, has had the chance to chat with fashion icon **Mario Moretti Polegato**, the CEO and founder of **GEOX**, as well as joining three European Commissioners in the kitchen!

*Together* founder Jérôme Stefanski, meanwhile, offers us a glimpse of the winter wonderland that is **New York City at Christmas** (as well as tempting us with a taste of **Sardinia**), **Delphine Stefens** sings the praises of the **Kamalaya Spa** in Thailand, the perfect place to put some zing into your New Year's resolutions, and editor James Drew tempts you with tales of festivities at **Dolce La Hulpe Brussels**, as well as looking forward to his first skiing holiday in 25 years at **Paradiski**, which he will enjoy (and report on) in early 2011.

Competition time – we've teamed up with **Beerens car specialists** to offer five lucky

readers the chance to win a weekend's hire of an **Abarth car** and an **enchanting expat's perspective on the holiday season** is offered up by Patricia Kelly. Our wine expert Alex Hewetson, on the other hand, throws caution to the wind to tell us what he really, *really* wants to quaff with his meal on the big day in **By The Glass**.

On a more serious note, we highlight the work of **Group 81** – Brussels' English-speaking Amnesty International group, and successful author and blogger **David Willows** offers his perspective, at this sometimes-stressful time of year, on how families can still be successful following a break up.

Plus, as ever, there's all the fashion, fun, art and exciting upcoming events that you've come to expect from *Together* – which leaves it only for me, on behalf of the team, to wish all our readers happy holidays, and the very best for 2011. See you then! ☺





**David Mc Gowan**  
Publisher





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# Karl Abarth: One hundred years of tuning

**Together teams up with Beerens and Abarth Center Brussels to offer a weekend hire of five fantastic Abarth cars.**

**K**arl Alberto Abarth was born in 1908 in Vienna, Austria – he was a sports car driver, constructor and tuner, but his greatest achievement was making sports cars accessible to everyone.

More than one hundred years after his birth, these values remain intact in the passion of so many fans of sports cars and finely tuned engines.

This is why an exhibition is being held at Torino Esposizioni in Turin, Italy, tracing the important steps in Abarth's life, from motorcycle racing to track records, silencers and tuning kits, culminating in today's cars, which are on show in the the display.

Innovation, technology, power and performance, these were keywords for Abarth yesterday as they are today, both for Abarth's own products and for those developed with other prestigious brands. And with this in mind, three important new products will be presented on the inaugural evening of the exhibition. The first is the Abarth 500 'da 0 a 100', a special, limited series created to celebrate Karl Abarth's centenary. The esseeesse kit is packed in the traditional elegant wooden box and it can be sold and installed exclusively by the Abarth official network of tuners, to guarantee the highest control and safety standards. With this kit, the 1.4 16v Turbo T-Jet engine achieves a maximum power output of 160 bhp (147 kW) at 5750 rpm and, in 'Sports Mode', a peak torque of

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## THE PRIZE

*Together* has teamed up with Abarth Center Brussels and Beerens to offer five of our readers the chance to win a weekend's hire of a superb Abarth car. To enter, all you have to do is send us your answers to the two simple questions below, along with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to [info@togethermedia.eu](mailto:info@togethermedia.eu), labelling your email Abarth Competition. The deadline for all entries is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011, when the winner will be selected at random. Good luck! ☺

- (i) What is the address of the Abarth Center in Brussels?**
- (ii) What is the title of the lead story on [www.togethermag.eu](http://www.togethermag.eu) today?**

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

# Stars in the city

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

As ever, our round-up of famous faces to grace the Belgian capital.

## SALAM FAYYAD

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister **Salam Fayyad** was in Brussels on 6<sup>th</sup> December to take part in European Development Days 2010. For his address, Fayyad was introduced by International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Response Commissioner **Kristalina Georgieva**.

[www.eudevdays.eu](http://www.eudevdays.eu)



## DOMINIQUE STRAUSS-KAHN

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director **Dominique Strauss-Kahn** was also at the opening ceremony of European Development Days 2010, and was involved in talks concerning the general economic crisis in Europe.



## LILIAN THURAM

Education, Culture, Multilingualism & Youth Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou welcomed the French football team's former captain **Lilian Thuram** on 17<sup>th</sup> November. Thuram, who manages a foundation against racism, presented his book *Mes étoiles noires*, which was recently awarded the 2010 Seligmann Literary Prize.



## AUBREY GRAHAM (DRAKE)

**Aubrey Graham**, also known as **Drake**, will be performing in Brussels at the Forest National on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. During the first part of the concert, Drake will be assisted by J. Cole, the rap world's latest shining star. Drake's tour *Light Dreams and Nightmares* will also be calling in Amsterdam on 19<sup>th</sup> January at the Heineken Music Hall. 🎧



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Venture Trust works with vulnerable and isolated young people who have experienced a range of difficulties in their lives, including homelessness, mental illness, addiction and crime. Its programmes offer 12-18 months of intensive personal development support for youngsters aged 16-24, characterized by learning experiences and activities in outdoor ‘wilderness’ environments, from camping to canoeing, underpinned by a personal outreach worker who is a trusted role model, friend and adviser.

Venture Trust says: “The wilderness environment gives youngsters time and space to think about their lives and the changes they would like to make. It presents them with physical, emotional and social challenges that take them into a personal ‘stretch’ zone where powerful learning takes place. We help young people to develop confidence, motivation and key lifeskills to support them to achieve more positive futures.”

For more information about Venture Trust, go to its website at [www.venturetrust.org.uk](http://www.venturetrust.org.uk), and its Scottish Charity register page at [www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk).

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# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

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# Decide your way to success

WRITER: NATASHA ABUDARHAM

Our columnist returns after a hectic few months to offer some more life-changing advice.

The past few months have been exciting and hectic, to say the least – I've planned my wedding in just under five months (by the time you read this, I'll be married to my partner of five years) and I've been organizing my impending return to UK.

As I look back on pre-married life, I've gained some valuable insights that are sure to hold me in good stead during my married life. One that I'm going to share with you today is all about making good, solid decisions that will allow you to achieve pretty much anything you want to in your life.

**'MANY OF LIFE'S FAILURES ARE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT REALIZE HOW CLOSE THEY WERE TO SUCCESS WHEN THEY GAVE UP'**

## DECISIONS, DECISIONS

I'm sure you can remember only too well some of the decisions you've made in

the past that didn't get past the words being uttered from your mouth. On the other hand, there were those decisions that you actually followed through with, and true brilliance and success came. So how can you turn every potential life changing decision into one that gets you where you

want to be in life? Here's some tips to help you on your way:

**(i) The strength of your decision is everything.** A half-hearted 'I'm gonna quit smoking and spend more time in the gym', probably isn't going to be strong enough to aid your health. When you make a decision to enhance your life in any way, the decision needs to come from a place of inner strength, power and commitment.

**(ii) What's your reason?** This is a really important question, so take your time to answer it. The more reasons you have, the greater the need to achieve. The greater the need to achieve, the more likely you are to stay on track until completion. As acclaimed inventor Thomas Edison once said: "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

**(iii) Have a plan of action.** If your decision is to reach your ideal weight, you definitely want to consider a food plan, an exercise regime and, most importantly, you need to get educated on the subject. Following through is the hardest part of your decision, it's easy to fall at the first hurdle, but when you have a plan of action that takes into consideration what you'll do when you do fall, it's easier to get back on your feet and continue to move forward.



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(iv) **Believe you can achieve and you'll notice opportunities everywhere.** When you believe in yourself and your ability to stand by your decision, you will be surprised at what suddenly seems to appear as an open door. This ties in well with having an optimistic nature, rather than your glass always being half empty.

(v) **Remember: The Law of Attraction is always in action.** The Law of Attraction has recently become more widely known and understood as a fundamental law of the universe. In short, you attract the people, the places, the circumstances and the events into your life depending on where you focus

your thoughts, feelings and attention. If you focus on the lack in your life, guess what, you will indeed experience more lack. If your glass is half full, then your life will be more full.

As the great American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson said: **"Once you make a decision, the universe conspires to make it happen."** Everything you need surrounds you, the people, the places, the circumstances and the events. When you make solid, strong decision to get to where you want to be, you open your mind to every possibility and you become receptive to that, which will ultimately lead to your success. ☺

# Wellness through integration

WRITER: RICHARD EARNEY

**W**ellness is a fairly new term – in the past, it was often used in alternative approaches to medical health and thrown around in alternative magazines. It was frequently frowned upon by traditional medical communities, as it came with no fixed terminology or reasoning.

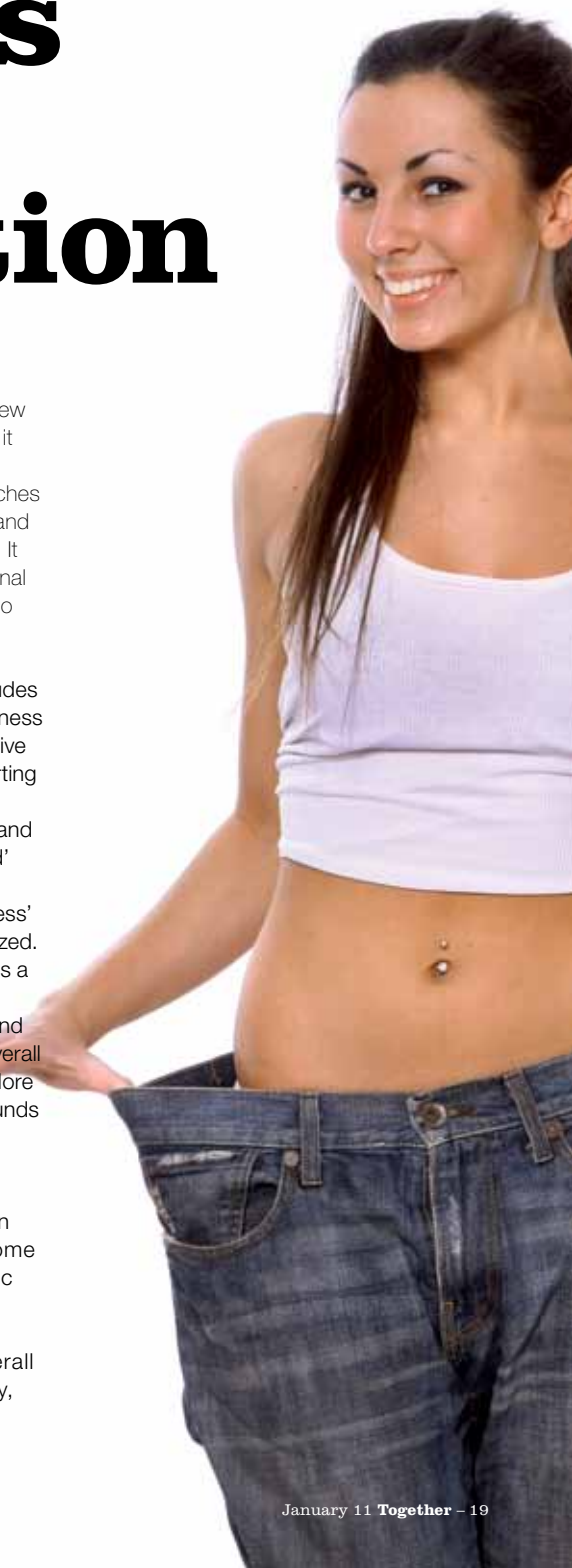
However, times have changed as attitudes have shifted and education and awareness has increased. The medical, rehabilitative and preventative professionals are starting to shift their focus from an 'isolationist'

## WELLBEING IS A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MANY LIFESTYLE COMPONENTS

approach of the body and health to an 'integrated' holistic approach that makes the term 'wellness' is more widely recognized. Wikipedia sums it up as a "combined balance between mind, body and spirit, resulting in an overall feeling of wellbeing". More

energy, more vitality, more clarity – sounds great, doesn't it? And it is!

A true feeling of wellbeing is not achieved through focusing solely on exercise or nutrition and it won't come from a packet or pill. It's a symbiotic relationship between many lifestyle components – exercise, nutrition, sleep, peer and family support, overall stress levels, leisure time and finally, I believe, posture.







### FIND A BALANCE

This sounds like a lot of things to focus on. However, if you were to list these headings and give yourself a rating from 1 (poor) to 10 (perfect) it would be interesting to see the 'areas' in which you need to focus your attention towards! The goal is to have symmetry or balance between all the areas, hopefully all above 6-7. Sure, things often come out of balance, but it's important to realize the impact it has on the other 'lifestyle' components, as most are related.

Let me give you an example. You stay up late, wake up tired (sleep), lack energy, reach for the caffeine and sugary foods to give you the drive for the day (nutrition) – tough day at work, under pressure (stress), too long at the desk and computer (posture) – you're too tired to do an after-work swim (exercise) – so

you come home cranky and exhausted (peer and family support).

Achieving this balance is not easy, but it only takes small modifications to your lifestyle to affect your overall vitality and wellbeing. Many health and fitness clubs promise 'wellbeing', but do they have the staff, facilities or products to deliver? Think about the 'lifestyle components' listed above and ensure that your health club meets these demands! 🍎

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# Embrace the clichés

WRITER: BELLE DE BRUXELLES

Our beautiful columnist explains how to circumnavigate the pressures of the season and make sure that you and your lover have a very merry time.

Anyone who approaches Christmas with the happy-go-lucky mentality of a five-year-old, I salute you. For mere mortals such as myself, it's a time of angst-ridden decisions – what to buy, where and with whom to celebrate, and how to avoid any bust-ups amid the pressure of trying to have a good time.

**BEFORE YOU SAY 'BAH HUMBUG', ACCEPT THAT MUCH OF IT IS ONE BIG CLICHÉ DESIGNED TO GIVE YOU A HEADACHE TO LAST INTO NEXT YEAR AND THROW YOURSELF IN WITH GUSTO. YOU MIGHT ENJOY IT**

negotiate all kinds of cultural clashes over when and how to celebrate. 'What do you mean, you don't eat Christmas pudding in Italy?'

For singletons, there's nothing more depressing than slushy Christmas movies (avoid *While You Were Sleeping* at all costs) and a trip back to your family for a grilling over your failures and painful comments to rival Bridget Jones' mother in the vein of 'Oh dear, another one bite the dust?'.

Even a romance guru finds it hard to overcome the challenges presented by the festive season but before you say 'Bah humbug', accept that much of it is one big cliché designed to give you a headache to last into next year, and throw yourself in with gusto. You might enjoy it. self-esteem.

## TREAT YOUR LOVER

The final days before Christmas usually witness hoards of people sweating under intense shop lights as they wait in a 50-person line to buy the only possible item left on the shelf. Repeat after me – preparation, preparation, preparation.

Ignore the following misleading guidance doled out by lovers in the run-up to Christmas: 'I'll like anything you buy me', 'Only buy me something small'; 'You don't have to buy me anything at all', 'Surprise me'.

These roughly translate as follows: 'I'll patronisingly accept whatever you buy, but make a mental note of your inattention to my likes and dislikes, 'Buy me something small and expensive – like the jewellery we saw the other day', 'Stop asking me because you're annoying me', 'Ditto'.



Listen for cues several weeks beforehand and remember that shop-bought presents (while essential unless you want to be accused of being a Scrooge) rarely excite a lover as much as an evening set aside for some serious lovemaking. Now that, for most of us hard-working souls, is a real treat.

Before you traipse off for another evening of seasonal platitudes, turn up the heat, tear off some layers and remind each other that Christmas is about giving. I've never looked at one elderly relative in the same way since she confessed that she once wrapped herself in gift paper...and only gift paper.

A well-chosen gift, even a simple box of chocolates, could be a subtle and non-committal way of getting your message across to an intended lover. Otherwise, grab a bunch of friends and hit the Christmas markets. Nothing like glühwein or clumsy ice skating to help along the flirting.

## AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS

A destination Christmas with your lover or friends would be the ideal solution to most people's holiday angst. Whether you head to warmer climes or snuggle up in a Lapland ice hotel, this is truly an occasion when everyone gets a well-earned break and is therefore relaxed.

For expats, the guilt of living in another country usually comes home to roost at

this time of the year, but there's nothing to stop you suggesting a trip away for all of you. Just make sure you book the hotel rooms so your parents are well out of ear shot.

If you're obliged to visit the in-laws, it's time for a united front and some devious behaviour to ensure that big-eared relatives and nosey parker kids don't cast a cloud over your feelings for each other and sabotage any chance of romance.

The best way to deal with the tensions created by family gatherings is for you to be on the same side. Collaboration, some shared glances as your mother force feeds you yet more of the festive spread and some giggles afterwards will bring you closer together.

Then there's the trickiness of scoring some time together, alone of course. Go for a country walk declaring it's of a length that no one else can manage or make it at a time when no one else could possibly brave the cold.

If there's no chance for passion, remember absence makes the hormones stronger. After a week in a full house where the bed creaked incriminatingly even with no action, my lover and I only made it to a field a couple of miles down the road when we finally escaped for an explosive trip home. ☺



# Cruz control

Courtesy of  
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for Lancôme  
© 2010

**Together** was very happy and honoured to have the opportunity to talk with acclaimed actress Penelope Cruz, the 'Spanish enchantress' – we hope you approve..

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

**Together:** You grew up in your mother's hairdressing salon, so you must have learned something there about what beauty means to women. What memories do you have of this experience? **PC:** I always regarded it as my first acting school, in fact, because I really came to understand what the women were after, and it wasn't merely a question of a hairstyle. The women often arrived in a certain mood, and left feeling more confident, closer to their own personal ideal. For me, it was enthralling to sit in the corner, pretending to work when in fact I was actually observing the women's behaviour. They often revealed very intimate aspects of their personalities, because they very felt safe in the salon. It was always lovely, especially at the end, when they looked in the mirror and you could see that they felt good about themselves.

**If someone slipped into your bathroom, would they find a lot of beauty products?**

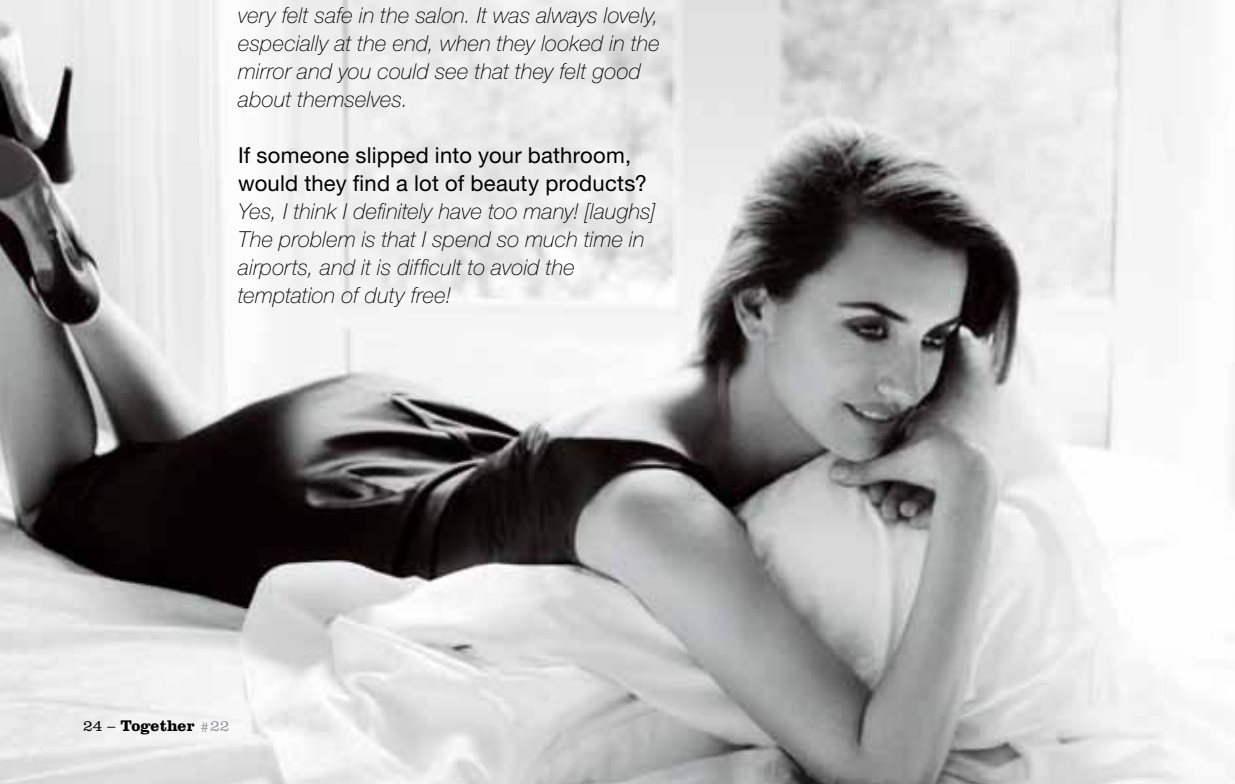
Yes, I think I definitely have too many! [laughs] The problem is that I spend so much time in airports, and it is difficult to avoid the temptation of duty free!

**Lancôme** chose you to appear in their advertising for their Trésor perfume – what are your favourite Lancôme products?

*I have used Lancôme products many times over the years, and I love the perfumes Trésor and Poème – often, I wear both. These scents evoke many memories for me.*

**Did you always want to be an actress?**

*In the beginning, I wanted to be a dancer. And then I started to enjoy going to the cinema, and to love the films of Pedro Almodóvar. I found an agent, I started to go to auditions, and then I began landing roles. I said to myself "After all, maybe this will work for me", and I haven't stopped since.*



**You have had the same agent for almost 20 years – loyalty must be important to you?**

*The loyalty works both ways – Katrina Bayonas has also remained very faithful to me.*

**When you began as an actress, who were your great sources of inspiration?**

*Meryl Streep – I always asked myself "how can she be so talented?", and I think that there is still really no other actress in her league.*

**How do you select your roles? What do you look for?**

*Variety. I do not want to play myself, nor to play the same character twice.*

**Is it important for you to remain close to your roots?**

*Very important. My family lives in Spain, my principal language is Spanish. I will never stop working in my own language, even though I have had many opportunities to*

*travel and work in other languages.*

**Do you spend much time at home?**

*Quite a lot of time, yes, but I am also in the United States a lot, and I prefer New York to Los Angeles, because you can walk around NYC a lot, which is impossible in LA.*

**Do you manage to remain anonymous in New York?**

*It is possible – it all depends on the kinds of places that I visit, and I prefer the quiet spots.*

**What else do you want to achieve in your career?**

*I would just like to continue to learn, to find characters that touch me and allow me to touch other people.*

**Finally, your preferred fashion designers?**

*John Galliano, Karl Lagerfeld, Oscar of Renta, Albert Elbaz, Dolce & Gabbana. 🇪🇸*





# Broken, but still successful

WRITER: DAVID WILLOWS

Author and a regular blogger of stories and reflections on modern family life, David Willows argues that families can be successful, even following a break up.



## FACING THE BRUTAL FACTS

Modern family life, even at the best of times, is a messy, complicated and unpredictable business. In fact, ask almost anyone to tell the story of their family and it is immediately obvious that they too are an exception to the urban myth of mum, dad and 2.4 kids living together as a harmonious, mutually supportive unit.

Once we start talking about it, in fact, it seems that we all have a 'mad' aunt tucked away in dusty photo albums, unresolved family feuds that occasionally explode into life (particularly around Christmas and at weddings), or children that, from time to time, push us to our limits and challenge us to our core.

In other words, if the myth-makers portray family life as a Sunday afternoon stroll in

the park, the sobering reality for most of us is in fact a cross-country marathon across difficult terrain. We're cold, tired, dirty, and it's as much as we can to do to keep everyone together, motivated, and out of harm's way.

Sadly, not all families cope under this kind of pressure. For whatever reason, one or both of the 'team leaders' simply reach a point where they choose to pull away from the group and follow a different path, more often than not leaving the children to pick themselves up, navigate the disruption, and carry on as best they can.

## THE TURNING POINT

My own turning point in the race occurred nearly ten years ago. Almost overnight, I went from being a Sunday-afternoon-walks-in-the-park type to being a 'Eurostar Dad', committing myself to the duality of a fortnightly journey across the Channel while being the link between two sets of fabulous kids. In other words, in the years that followed, I did what many dads do after a divorce: I simply held the various fragments of my life together and place them into some kind of meaningful whole.

Alternate weekends in London were spent at the park, sharing news about school, getting wet, shouting at one another, eating together, watching *Match of the Day* together and making each other laugh. It was almost always the same. But, then again, we liked our routine and it worked for us.

My embrace of one child, however, was always felt as absence for another. How could I forget those two little girls in Brussels, growing up with a father who wasn't always there, to take them to the park or simply support their mother in the tricky business of raising twins?

Even today, I seem always to be journeying, always somewhere in-between, but it seems to be the least I can do to show my children how forever precious they are to me.

## THE OPINION

In a recent conversation about this non-traditional tale of family life, a 'friend' declared to me that, in his opinion, I no longer had a family. Rather, he went on to explain, I had to

face up to the fact that I am now a member of a broken family.

**LET'S NOT SINGLE OUT ONE GROUP AS SOMEHOW BEING 'MORE BROKEN' AS OTHERS. WE'RE ALL HURTING**

Putting down the phone, the more I thought about his remarks, the more awkward and resentful I began to feel.

And here's why.

I'm open to other suggestions, but I'd dare to suggest that all of us are part of families that are intrinsically broken – not just those of us who have gone through the pain of separation and divorce. That's right! In one way or another, we're all messed up and scarred by the wounds that we have inflicted upon one another – as parents, children, brothers and sisters. Behind closed doors, all of us guard familial tales of hurt and disappointment, that make us feel ashamed and somehow different from the rest. So let's not single out one group as somehow being 'more broken' as others. We're all hurting.

On the flip side, though, I actually remain deeply optimistic about modern family life – in all its forms – and increasingly find confidence in the 'elasticity' of families to

accommodate all manner of stresses and strains over long periods of time. Even when stretched to their limits, modern family life reveals itself to be a positive, meaningful and, ultimately, successful social unit. At least, that is my story. Despite feeling stretched between two countries for a decade, I can honestly say that I have no regrets and nothing but heartfelt appreciation for every one of those precious moments with those I love the most – moments borne out of the complexity of all the journeys, all the hellos and goodbyes.

## A STORY THAT IS OURS TO CELEBRATE

Once upon a time, we were taught to believe in the perfect, circular shape of 'mum, dad and two point four children.' In reality, though, many of us found that our families don't hold this form for long. We had more children, or less. We found that we couldn't have children at all, or decided to adopt. Extended family members came and went. We hurt each other and the scars remained. Family members passed away, leaving a space where they should have been. Families broke up and attached themselves to other families.

Stretched by our history in all manner of directions, more often than not our stories completely break the mould of a traditional family. We break. We change. We adapt. We grow into something unique and generally get used to who we are. And if we're honest, some of us wouldn't have it any other way.

And, to me, that's success. 🍷

**DAVID WILLOWS IS AUTHOR OF *FRAGMENTS: STORIES AND REFLECTIONS ON MODERN FAMILY LIFE* (CREATESPACE, 2010). HE CURRENTLY LIVES IN BRUSSELS WITH HIS WIFE. TOGETHER, THEY HAVE SIX CHILDREN, LIVING BOTH IN BELGIUM AND THE UK. [DAVIDWILLOWS.COM](http://DAVIDWILLOWS.COM)**

# Small efforts to make a big difference

WRITER: NICOLA DAVENPORT

## An Appeal From an Amnesty Advocate

**F**or Olga, it was the sudden awareness, while still at college, of discrimination, and the desire to do something about this in the time she had available.

For Jan, it was the appalling human rights abuses in Darfur, an issue he came across while researching his university thesis shortly before his arrival in Brussels.

For me it was an opportunity to restart the voluntary work I'd started in my teens, and to hopefully meet likeminded people after I moved to Brussels.

**SOME MIGHT SEE LETTERS AS AN OLD-FASHIONED APPROACH TO CAMPAIGNING. BUT THEY WORK!**

The motivation for joining Group 81 – Brussels' English-speaking Amnesty International group – may have been different for each of its members, but ultimately all are driven by a desire to promote and protect human rights

worldwide. Some are able to devote a lot of time to following campaigns or organising events. Others, juggling a heavy workload and family, may only have time to sign and send letters via our mailing list. Together, we like to think that we are making a difference.

The eyes of human rights campaigners the world over have been on Belgium for the last

six months. When Brussels took the reins of the EU Presidency in July, Amnesty gave the country 180 days to prove that human rights are a priority, and outlined 10 concrete cases where EU action could make a difference. These include Saltana Ahmetovich, a 30-year-old Italian Roma who has lived all his life in camps. Since his family arrived in Italy in 1969, they have regularly been moved on. He now lives in a 'tolerated' camp, but the authorities are reluctant to provide electricity, let alone alternative accommodation. He has had several jobs, but discrimination makes it difficult for him to find anything long term. Amnesty is calling on the EU to push Italy to end discrimination against Roma people and to respect their right to adequate housing.

Three men took Petrija Piljevic, a 59-year-old Serbian woman, from her home in Kosovo in 1999. Her body was later exhumed from an anonymous grave, but nobody has been charged with her murder. Amnesty asks that the EU investigate her death so that those responsible can be brought to justice.

Congolese human rights defender, Pascal Kabungulu, was beaten to death in front of his family in 2005. A Commission set up to investigate his death failed to deliver a verdict, and included former members of an armed political group that he had criticised. Amnesty wants the EU to call on the Democratic Republic of Congo to carry out a full and impartial inquiry so that those responsible for Kabungulu's death are brought to justice.



Amnesty International was founded in 1961 soon after a British man named Peter Benenson read an article about two Portuguese students given prison sentences for honouring freedom. He published his own article, imploring readers to write to the Portuguese government to call for their release.

Letter-writing remains at the heart of the organisation today. Some might see letters as an old-fashioned approach to campaigning. But they work! When sacks of envelopes arrive in a government office day after day, they tell authorities that the world is watching. Amnesty has collected numerous examples of prison conditions improving, visitor rights being granted, torture ending and even prisoners being released once supporters have put pen to paper (or clicked 'send'). We know that the letters had a direct impact, because their guards have told prisoners so.

Lobbying authorities at home and abroad is just part of what Group 81 does. On Mothers'

Day in May, we were in Waterstones handing out roses to shoppers, along with postcards highlighting the high incidence of maternal mortality within the USA's black community. We have also shown films, organised debates and invited speakers to share their experiences of persecution or their work supporting the victims of human rights abuses.

For fundraising, the monthly pub quiz is a fun and effective way to collect money. 2010's other fundraisers included a concert by a Turkish musician and, of course, candle sales. Our group will be selling in the EU institutions once again this year, while other groups will be setting up stalls in stations and supermarkets around the country. Buy a candle. Buy several candles! Even such a small gesture can help defend the rights of someone, somewhere. ☺

**Amnesty International Brussels Group 81**  
[nicdav76@hotmail.com](mailto:nicdav76@hotmail.com)  
[www.aibfgroup81.webs.com](http://www.aibfgroup81.webs.com)



# When the fighting stopped

WRITER: CILLIAN DONNELLY

Our correspondent steps back in time to examine the different accounts of Christmas-inspired events during Word War I that have since become legend.

On Christmas Eve 1914, on the Western Front, the opposing armies of Great Britain and Germany held a cessation of hostilities. It wasn't an official ceasefire, no orders had come from any high command, but the spirit of the occasion prevailed. The following day, soldiers from both sides, separated only by the narrow strip of No Man's Land, tentatively stepped out of their trenches and moved forward to meet each other. From somewhere, reports differ, a football was produced, and the opposing armies became instead opposing football teams. The next day, they were back fighting again.

**WHEN THE GERMANS STARTED SIGNING HYMNS AND CAROLS, THE BRITISH RESPONDED WITH SONGS OF THEIR OWN AND SOON SOLDIERS BEGAN TO CAUTIOUSLY CROSS NO MAN'S LAND**

## FRIENDS OVER FOOTBALL

Germany won 3-2 in an event that has since passed into folklore; among many depictions, it was the basis for the 2005 film *Joyeux Noël*, surfaced in the

memorable final episode of *Blackadder Goes Forth* ("Remember the football match?" "How could I forget it – I was never offside"), has been told in song by Mike Harding and The Farm, and served as the narrative for the pop promo to Paul McCartney's *Pipes of Peace*.

It was not the only example of a Christmas-inspired truce during the Great War, but it remains perhaps the most poignant. It started when German troops, pegged down near Ypres in Belgium, began decorating their trenches with festive touches, including candle-lit Christmas trees, which were visible to the British trenches. When the Germans started singing hymns and carols, the British responded with songs of their own. Soon soldiers began to cautiously cross No Man's Land where gifts such as tobacco and badges were exchanged. The guns were silent that Christmas; and it is estimated that up to 100,000 troops were involved in this unofficial ceasefire along the line of the Western Front. In some areas the truce lasted just one day; in others up to New Year's Eve.



## SPONTANEOUS DECISION

Despite public pressure from, among others, Pope Benedict XV, who pleaded with opposing governments to hold a ceasefire over the Christmas period (by which time, it had been confidently predicted, the war



would be over), no government issued such an order. Instead, it was a spontaneous decision by those in the trenches, one which would be repeated the following year, and on the Eastern Front during Easter, 1916.

**'IT WAS A REMARKABLE SIGHT TO SEE OFFICERS AND MEN... BAREHEADED, REVERENT AND KEEPING SACRED TRUCE AS THEY DID HOMAGE TO THE MEMORY OF THE DEAD'**

happening at Christmas 1915, and that it was observed in different ways at different parts of the line. One eyewitness account of the

Christmas truce, reported in the *Daily Mail* on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1915, says that no actual football was used, but instead the game involved a scramble to catch a hare that was bounding across No Man's Land: "All at once the Germans came scurrying from their trenches and British from theirs, and a marvellous thing happened. It was like a football match, the hare being the football, the grey tunicked (sic) Germans on one side, and the kilted 'Jocks' on the other. The game was won by the Germans, who captured the prize."

The account also tells of how soldiers from both sides observed a service for the deceased.

## 'GENERAL KICKABOUT'

*Joyeux Noël* has the truce observed between French, German and Scottish regiments, suggesting inspiration from the above account. However with conflicting reports, it is difficult to pinpoint what exactly happened on the day and where. With the ceasefire in place all along the line from Flanders to France, one soldier, John Wedderburn-Maxwell, said that his particular section of the front was too uneven for any kind of sport to have taken place, while another private, Ernie Williams, insisted that a football match definitely took place. "The ball appeared from somewhere, I don't know where, but it came from their side," he recalled. "It was just a general kickabout. I should think there were a couple of hundred taking part. Everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves. There was no sort of ill-will between us".

Sadly this did not last, but for that one day, as the *Daily Mail* eyewitness account put it: "It was a remarkable sight to see officers and men who had been fighting and as I write are fighting against one another as fiercely as ever, bareheaded, reverent and keeping sacred truce as they did homage to the memory of the dead on Christmas Day, 1914".



**In need of inspiration?**

This month on [www.togethmag.eu](http://www.togethmag.eu)

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10

Top Belgian **designers**

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10

Things to do in **Brussels**  
before you leave

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10

Useful tips for **driving**  
in Brussels

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Things **expats** moan about

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*“Christmas is a holiday that persecutes the lonely, the frayed, and the rejected.”*  
– **Jimmy Cannon (1910-1973)**  
**American sports journalist**

*“An optimist stays up to see the New Year in. A pessimist waits to make sure the old one leaves.”*  
– **William E. (‘Bill’) Vaughan (1915-1977)**  
**American columnist and author**

*“The parent who gets down on the floor to play with a child on Christmas Day is usually doing a most remarkable thing – something seldom repeated during the rest of the year. These are, after all, busy parents committed to their work or their success in the larger society, and they do not have much left-over time in which to play with their children.”*  
– **Brian Sutton-Smith (1924-)**  
**New Zealand play theorist**

*“Aren’t we forgetting the true meaning of Christmas? You know, the birth of Santa.”*  
– **Matt Groening (1954- )**  
**The Simpsons**

*“Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right.”*  
– **Oprah Winfrey (1954- )**  
**American television host, actress, producer and philanthropist**

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HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

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# A winter warmer

WRITER: JAMES DREW

Our editor explains why a festive break at Dolce La Hulpe Brussels should be your first choice this year.



First, however, a little background, as I have been wanting to get this off my chest since the middle of summer – the last time that I enjoyed the delights of Dolce La Hulpe, a little corner of paradise that's just far enough off the beaten track outside Brussels to be well enough known to those in the know, but discreet and distant enough to feel like another world, your kind of world, Team England were busy playing well below expectations in a certain football tournament by the name of World Cup 2010.

Stirring memories, am I? Well, I wish that I had a few more stirring memories of the England game that saw while I was in situ at Dolce, but enough of that – the memories that remain with me are of an incomparable health and leisure resort, one that I feel sure only grows in stature as the year draws to its close

and the forest in which it is located becomes a veritable winter wonderland.

## JUST MAGIC

Here at *Together* Towers, we're only too aware of how depressing this time of year can be, with the days shortening, the temperatures plummeting, and (let's be honest here), Christmas and New Year can be very stressful times, can they not? Well, it really doesn't have to be that way – if you feel the need to escape from the hustle and bustle of bells 'jingling all the way', may we whisper a few words in your ear?

Dolce La Hulpe Brussels. Well, what, are you waiting for?

Nestled in the middle of the forest, this is the ideal location to celebrate New Year or (and you should still have time, assuming that this edition is in your hands on time) to rediscover a fairytale Christmas. Dolce La Hulpe Brussels is offering the chance for you to experience four exclusive options, according to your heart's desires.



## DOLCE WINTER ESCAPE (VALID UNTIL APRIL 20, 2011)

The fixed price includes, per person: • One night in a double room • Buffet breakfast for two people and children under 12 • Access to the Wellness Center, swimming pool, sauna, hammam and fitness room • Free parking and WiFi • Price: From 56€ per person

Celebrate the **New Year** in an exclusive atmosphere with close friends close and family without a care in the world, and awake in a brand new year, ready to start 2011 right. The fixed price includes, per person: • One night in a double room • A special New Year breakfast for two • Access to the Wellness Center, swimming pool, sauna, hammam and fitness room • Three-course dinner for two in any of the hotel's restaurants, including a glass of champagne, water, coffee and a half-bottle of wine per person) • Glass of champagne at midnight • Free parking and WiFi • Price: From 166.5€ per person in a double room including dinner at the Argan restaurant (35€ supplement per person for dinner at the gourmet Tree O restaurant).

## DOLCE B-CLUB NEW YEAR

The swishest night owls will love this all-in deal which combines a midnight supper



with a trip to B-Club (all transfers included) to celebrate the new year in VIP style! The fixed price includes, per person: • One night in a double room • Midnight supper in the Argan restaurant (drinks included, glass of champagne and bottle of wine) • New Year's breakfast from 10-14h (drinks included) • Shuttle return ticket to B-Club • Two VIP entries to B-Club with a bottle of champagne • Free access to the indoor swimming pool, sauna, hammam and fitness room • Price: From 225€ per person.

And take the opportunity to offer some wellness with a Dolce La Hulpe Brussels gift certificate, which are valid for one year – there is a wide range of gift certificates offered on [www.dolcelahulpe.com](http://www.dolcelahulpe.com)

And there you have it – just make sure that you send us a postcard, won't you? ☺

**Dolce La Hulpe Brussels Hotel**  
Chaussée de Bruxelles, 135  
1310 La Hulpe, Belgium  
T. +32 (0)2 290 98 00

[www.dolcelahulpe.com](http://www.dolcelahulpe.com)



# Christmas shopping, NYC style

WRITER: JÉRÔME STÉFANSKI

To spend the end-of-year festivities in New York is a dream for so many of us – let *Together* be your guide...

Going iceskating in Central Park, kissing and wishing under the huge fir tree at the Rockefeller Center, being dazzled by the illuminations on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, admiring Macy's Christmas parade... New York in the festive season brings dreams to mind. Of course, there is the down side to winter in the Big Apple – icy, slippery pavements, the wind biting your face, snowdrifts causing congestion, temperatures well below zero. But New York at Christmas is quite simply a fairy-tale – what good will it do to moan about the cold? Your heart will be so filled with wonder, it will warm the rest of you up and, anyway, mulled wine will always do the trick! There's not a minute to lose – get yourself some tickets, pronto, and let's fly away together to the city that never sleeps.

## HOW LONG FOR?

Travellers who never visited New York before should ideally aim to spend seven days there, at least. Indeed, the many tourist attractions and museums to which the city plays host will take a certain amount of time to visit. Using jet lag to your benefit, it is possible to enjoy New York intensely for four days and three nights – if you leave Brussels on Thursday morning (arriving in NYC around noon the same day) and leave New

York on the Sunday evening (arriving back in Brussels early Monday morning). We went most recently in November – the sky was blue, and the temperatures hovered between 10 and 15°C. Even New Yorkers said they had never known so gentle a climate at that time of year...

## IN THE FRAME

Opened at the end of 2009 in Times Square, American Eagle Outfitters offers its shoppers 15 seconds of fame. A 15,000 square foot LED display atop the retailer's new store in Times Square, which opened on November 2009, shows customers' pictures – anyone who makes a purchase can broadcast a photo and a 20 character-long message on the screen, which towers over the corner of 46<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway. Your humble scribe took the opportunity to ask his girlfriend to be his wife and... she said yes!

[www.ae.com](http://www.ae.com)

## TASTE THE LOCAL OYSTERS

To be found at 210 Spring Street on Soho's Sixth Avenue, Aquagrill is not just a seafood restaurant with an attractive heated terrace. The establishment also offers a very convivial bar, in which you can taste the area's oysters and relish a glass of excellent white wine from the vineyards of California or Europe. Open, airy and cheerful in the daytime, more sophisticated in the evening, Aquagrill is celebrating its fourteenth year, and maintaining the popularity that requires a reservation every night of the week.

[www.aquagrill.com](http://www.aquagrill.com)







## THE LEGENDARY 'HIDDEN' BURGER

Behind the frontage of very luxurious Parker Meridien (119 West, 56<sup>th</sup> Street) hides a famous address that serves the best burger in the city: Burger Joint. Enter the hotel, and let your nostrils and tastebuds be guided by aromas wafting from behind the large curtain – the place is compact, kitsch and the walls are decorated with film posters, strewn with the signatures of the famous customers who have enjoyed a burger here. No reservations accepted – count on 7.50\$ for a cheeseburger and 5\$ for a beer, for an authentic feast that will not kill your wallet. After this, you'll never want to return to McDonald's!

[www.parkermeridien.com/eat4.php](http://www.parkermeridien.com/eat4.php)

## AND GOD CREATED BARNEYS

Of course, all the tourist guides will tell you that Macy's is the shopping temple in NYC. Rubbish! Macy's is mere generic, with the clothes and products sold there often banals. Barneys is different – a host of products and exclusive brands are represented. Of course, the required budget is higher, but it is Christmas, right? Situated on the famous Madison Avenue, number 660, this huge store is our very favourite. Moreover, in October's Together, we informed you that Belgian brand Delvaux had set its stall out there during fashion week. So, still not convinced?

[www.barneys.com](http://www.barneys.com)

## BUILD YOUR BEAR

Thanks to Build-A-Bear Workshop, located at 46, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, your little ones can create the cuddly toy of their dreams. After choosing their animal (dog, cat, crocodile, tiger, elephant, bear, rabbit) your children, helped by a shop assistant, fill their new friend up themselves – how fat or trim is entirely their choice. Then, a small fabric heart, carrying their most special wish, is sewn into the toy. And why not select

some cool accessories? There are T-shirts, smart jackets, trousers, skirts, shoes, sunglasses, socks, caps – even cellphones, passports and mp3 players are available!

[www.buildabear.com](http://www.buildabear.com)

## ICE SKATING

Many outdoor skating rinks are open in NYC during winter – we advise you to try Bryant Park. This recently restored, eight-acre park behind the main branch of the NYC Public Library is a 'New York City Scenic Landmark'. A Christmas market surrounds the skating rink, where it is very pleasant to enjoy a hot wine with popcorn.

[www.thepondatbryantpark.com](http://www.thepondatbryantpark.com)

## VERY GOOD DEALS

We really recommend that you to try out the adventure in shopping that is Woodbury because, firstly, the bus will allow you to discover New York's greener suburbs. Then, once you are there, you can drown in the brands: Ralph Lauren, Gucci, Prada, Pink, Nike, Puma, Burberry, Converse, Puma, Chloe, Diane Von Furstenberg, DKNY, Hugo Boss, Lacoste, MaxMara, Missoni, Superdry, YSL, Zegna and so on. And, with the current euro-dollar exchange rate, the prices are really interesting too! Leave some space for your luggage, and avoid the weekend at all costs!

[www.premiumoutlets.com/woodburycommon](http://www.premiumoutlets.com/woodburycommon)

## BIG APPLE BY NIGHT

The city really is open 24/7, and the best time to enjoy it is in the middle of the night! Discover the fantastic Apple Square, an incredible illuminated glass structure located near 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, on the corner of Central Park and in front of the famous Plaza Hotel – its Christmas decorations are magical.

[www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

## UNIQUE DESIGN AT ACCESSIBLE PRICES

Artist and product designer Cec LePage runs a studio and gallery in New York City, where she lives, works and plays. Since moving to New York in 1984, LePage has evolved into a cutting-edge designer through her innovative work with Lucite (a solid transparent plastic). Though a gifted artist in many mediums, LePage has truly carved a niche for herself with her beautiful and functional sculptures.

### LePage New York

72 Thomson Street

[www.lepageny.com](http://www.lepageny.com)

In New York, two things are very important: to find a good hotel and to spend at least one evening in a renowned, well-connected restaurant.

## TWO HOTELS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

In the heart of New York's historic Murray Hill district, The Court and The Tuscany are located on East 39<sup>th</sup> Street, just steps away from Park Avenue, and within walking distance of the Theatre District, New York Public Library, Times Square and many other attractions. Having visited New York many times, I can honestly say that you'll be hard-pushed to find

somewhere so ideally located. Both hotels offer the very best hospitality, and feature all the signature St Gilles luxury standards. We were very impressed with the welcome, the courtesy and competency of the staff, by the hotel's cleanliness, as well as by the size and furnishing of the rooms. The Tuscany's continental breakfast will be enough to assuage diminutive appetites while, on the other hand, for the breakfast of kings, The Court: omelettes, viennoiseries, fresh fruit, fruit juice...nothing is too much trouble. After all, if you're tackling a winter's day in New York, better to do so on a full stomach! In the evening, don your glad rags and enjoy a sophisticated cocktail in the trendy bar and music lounge, which will make your New York night a happy one until its very end!

### St Giles New York: The Tuscany & The Court

120-130 East 39<sup>th</sup> St. New York, NY 10016

Rates range from 249\$-749\$ per room, per night, with winter hot rates from 199\$. For reservations, call T. +1 888 406 8588 or log onto [www.stgilesnewyork.com](http://www.stgilesnewyork.com) Check the website, as there are many special offers, including during the winter period.

St Giles Hotel, NYC







### ROUGE TOMATE: A STAR IS BORN

In Brussels since 2001, Rouge Tomate has been a restaurant of reference. Since October 2008, Rouge Tomate opened the doors of its second establishment, in none other than New York. The success of the Brussels restaurant was exported to the other side of the Atlantic and, barely a year after iopening, New York's Rouge Tomate was rewarded with a star in the Michelin Guide and, in 2010, it confirms its reputation by holding on to its star. In addition, New York's Harvard Club honoured the restaurant with its 'Most Promising Company of the Year' award on 13<sup>th</sup> November this year...

### ROUGE TOMATE CUISINE

New Yorker chef Jeremy Bearman, a former student of Joel Robuchon, works according to the principle of 'Farm to Table'. He makes a point of principal to use only seasonal and locally farmed ingredients, and also applies very precise nutritional and culinary techniques, to

ensure healthy cuisine. The wine menu was devised by Sommelière Pascaline Lepeltier, on which great classics rub shoulders with little gems from talented young vine growers.

### A MICHELIN STAR ALONGSIDE HOLLYWOOD STARS!

On the November evening that we dined at Rouge Tomate, actor Jim Carrey was filming in the district, and word was he was heading there after work - a week later, actress Halle Berry booked a table, and young fans of the successful TV series *Gossip Girl* already know that Blake Lively and her girlfriends just love to spend their evenings there! ☺

#### Rouge Tomate

10 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, NY 10022

T. 1 646 237-8977

[www.rougetomatenyc.com](http://www.rougetomatenyc.com)



# Paradiski: Seventh season heaven!

WRITER: JAMES DREW



**Together's (relatively) fearless editor will be taking to the slopes for the first time in 25 years in early 2011 – a full report will follow, naturally, but for now, a little appetiser concerning a ski resort such as dreams are made on, Paradiski.**

**P**aradiski – it's a ski domain created in 2003 comprising Les Arcs, la Plagne and Peisey-Vallandry, about to embark upon its seventh glorious season. An area reputed for the beauty of its landscape (in the heart of the Vanoise national Park), the immensity of its domain, the uniqueness of its activities (bobsleigh, speed-riding, ski joëring, ice climbing, biathlon) and its diversity of ambiances (chalets in the heart of the forest, hotels, residences

with spa and swimming pool). On top of all that, the ultra modern technology of its ski lift systems linking the three resorts. The famous Vanoise Express, with two double-decker panoramic cabins capable of carrying 4,000 people an hour, is of course unique in the world.

Paradiski is one of Europe's largest skiing areas, with altitudes of between 1,200-3,250 metres facing Mont Blanc, 425 km of pistes to explore (ideal for all range of abilities), with 70 per cent of the area situated above 2,000 metres and two fully equipped glaciers across Paradiski's three resorts. Very little more to say here but, as promised, Together Editor James Drew will tell you all about his experience in our first edition of 2011, which should be with you by mid-February. Doubtless we'll still have snow then – they certainly will in Paradiski. ☺

[www.paradiski.com](http://www.paradiski.com)



# Calm, karma, Kamalaya

WRITER: DELPHINE STEFENS

Our writer visits a wonderful wellness sanctuary and holistic spa in Thailand.

It's that time of the year again, when people are looking forward to a fresh start and thinking of ways to improve their lives. If improving your health and regenerating your (inner) self are at the top of your New Year's resolutions list, then visiting Kamalaya should definitely top your 2011 travel wish list.

Kamalaya is a wellness sanctuary and holistic spa resort overlooking the beautiful southern coastline of Koh Samui, Thailand. The name of this tropical paradise is Sanskrit for the 'Realm of the Lotus' which traditionally stands for the unfolding of the human spirit and life's potential. Indeed, Kamalaya is an inspiring place that will energize your heart and soul.

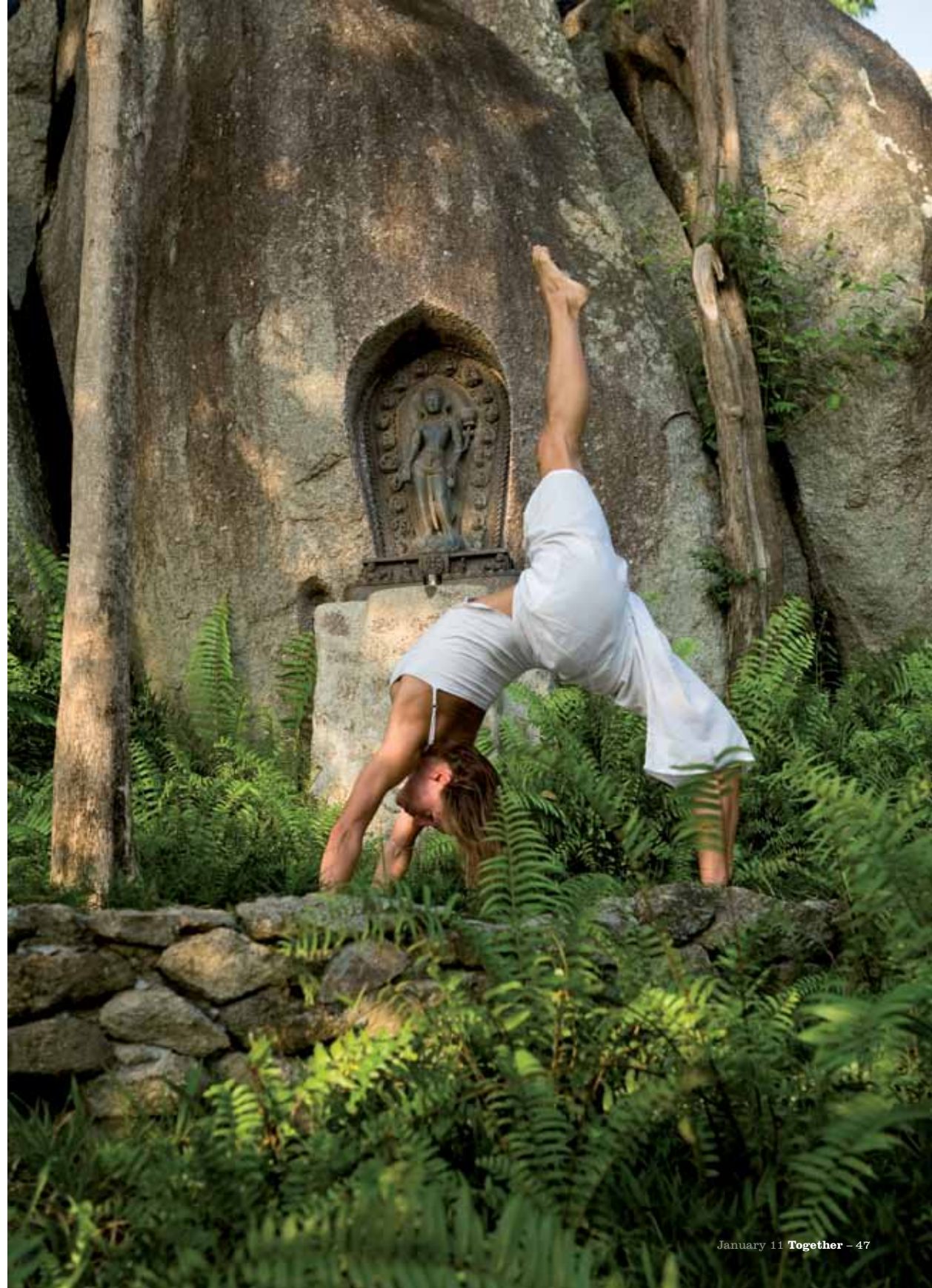
## LUSH AND EXOTIC

Located amidst a lush and exotic natural environment, Kamalaya was designed with a will to embrace its magnetic surrounding landscape. Existing trees and rocks were incorporated as key architectural features and the main pool is set within flowering lotus ponds and waterfalls. Semi-open bathrooms will have you shower under the stars and spacious terraces will let you relax to singing birds. One cannot help but feel a strong connection to the panoptic nature and the elements. Even sunbathing on the pristine white sand beach may trigger a reflective moment, and should that happen, there are actually some welcoming granite boulders along the water that seem meant to host the

meditatively inclined among you!

At Kamalaya, nature is indeed considered a nurturing and essential element to one's overall health. By enhancing your connection to nature, the place also means to help you reconnect with yourself. To achieve optimal wellbeing of body, mind and spirit, the holistic spa and wellness services integrate ancient wisdom as well as modern medical research and both the Eastern and the Western traditions of healing.

The complementary wellness approach includes more than 70 treatments some of which are given in quiet and breezy open air spaces from where you can hear the sea. Besides the usual spa protocols, the menu also includes therapies like Ayurveda as well as Traditional Chinese Medicine and Naturopathy. There are daily fitness group activities including Pilates, yoga and chi gong but personal one-on-one sessions are also available. Finally, there are multiple-day programmes and packages for detox, stress and burnout, healthy lifestyle and yoga. For those who do not wish a structured programme, it is possible to choose both treatments and therapies à la carte. And for those who are not entirely sure what they want or need, every experience at Kamalaya begins with a personal consultation that offers guidance in choosing the right programme or mix of programmes.







My preferred two options were Personal Yoga Synergy and Ideal Weight because I practice yoga and liked the idea of winter weight loss a lot more than the usual winter weight gain. After the initial body bio-

## AT KAMALAYA, THE YOGA VENUES, INCLUDING A SMALL SEMI-OPEN HILLTOP PAVILION, OFFER BREATHTAKING VIEWS

impedance analysis with a certified nurse and a consultation with a thorough naturopath, I opted for the Ideal Weight programme. Contrarily to what my mirror tells me, my Body Mass Index and other measurement results were actually good.

But choosing the Ideal Weight programme was more about putting everything I already knew into useful practice than it was about weight loss. It was about straightening out

the accumulation of information, advice and past experience to sort out what would work best for me and my lifestyle in order to improve long-term wellbeing.

Yoga, and more specifically a customized home practice, was still on my mind. The Ideal Weight package includes one-on-one sessions with a personal fitness trainer but the odds of me going to a gym back home – with or without a personal trainer – are close to nil. Therefore, I substituted fitness for yoga; I joined a couple of group classes to get to know the in-house instructors and then met one for private sessions to help me develop a couple of personalized routines. At Kamalaya, the yoga venues, including a small semi-open hilltop pavilion, offer breathtaking views and a truly serene atmosphere that I still call to mind when I practice.

Traditional Chinese medicine was also included with acupuncture and cupping, in addition to therapies such as the Thai abdominal massage Chi Nei Tsang and manual lymphatic drainage, detoxifying scrubs and wraps as well as a daily infrared sauna treatment. Across the spa, there are plunge pools, semi-open quiet zones and resting areas where your therapist will gladly come to you to remind you of your upcoming appointment should you have drowsed away. Once, the spa even had to fetch me at the main restaurant where a superb view of the azure lagoon made me lose track of time.

## FOOD AS MEDICINE

Or was it the food? Food is a medicine at Kamalaya, but an exceptionally tasty one. The Kamalaya cuisine is a fusion between Eastern and Western culinary traditions and it's delicious. There are two restaurants, one near the beach and the main pool for lunch, the other for breakfast and dinner where there is also a communal table for those who wish to share their thoughts and experiences with other guests. There is a regular menu and a detox one. Detox cuisine features only low allergenic, inflammatory and glycaemic dishes. My diet consisted of three hearty detox meals a day, always accompanied by a portion of animal protein.





The daily scoop of Tamarind sorbet I had may not have been on my prescription but it is Kamalaya's philosophy to inspire rather than dictate. And to further inspire guests to cook healthily at home, a cooking class is organized every Saturday. And should you wonder, I am still following the general dietary guidelines I was given, I feel absolutely fabulous and I did lose several pounds!

So if you don't want bad habits to follow you into 2011 or merely want to treat yourself to a piece of heaven on earth, the Kamalaya experience will pamper both your physical and spiritual sides and have long-lasting or maybe even life changing benefits that will definitely optimize your vitality and overall health.

#### Favorite Spa in Thailand

*SpaFinder Readers' Choice Awards 2010 & 2009*

#### Award for Enduring Excellence

*TATLER UK Spa Awards 2010*

#### Best Complementary & Alternative Medicine Wellness Centre

*Crystal Awards Asia Pacific 2010 & 2009*

#### Award of Outstanding Performance for Health Tourism Destination Spa: Nationwide

*Thailand Tourism Awards 2010*

#### Top 5 Worldwide for Favorite Destination Spa International

*Spa Magazine Silver Sage Readers' Choice Awards 2010* 📍

# Encouraging Thailand filmmakers

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

**Together** talks with Ms. Bussarakum Sriratana, who represents the Investment Section of the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Germany.

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

**Together:** The recent awarding of the Palme D'Or to Apichatpong Weerasethakul at the 2010 Cannes

Festival has focused attention on the Thai film industry in Thailand. How is the industry, and has it suffered with the recent political unrest?

**BS:** Despite the political situation, the overall Thai economy is growing strongly, and for the foreign productions on location in Thailand, which hit a high in 2008, business is brisk. According to the Thailand Film Office, there

were 116 foreign movies filmed in January and February this year, generating a total income of 213 million THB, despite the political unrest.

In April this year, Thailand was named one of the top production/location centers in the world, how is it possible? Creative Kingdom Business Development Director Berny Herrera, for example, is investing a reported 8 billion THB in a movie studio and mixed-use development project in Chaing Mai. Herrera indicated that, by 2014, six studios of varying sizes will be available to serve different scales of movie production. In 2015, the company expects its production facilities to attract around 35 productions worldwide, and the company

has received incentives from the Thailand Board of Investment (BOI).

So, has Thailand reached this pinnacle of success among filmmakers from around the world thanks to government incentives?

Yes, the success is largely due to government co-operation. Moving in tandem, the BOI, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and Sports, and the Thailand Tourism Authority has begun to promote the film industry to the extent that the government set up the National Creative Economy Policy Committee in 2009 to develop Thailand into a creative economy hub in the ASEAN.

And what is the outlook for Thailand as a filming location?

Looking past 2010, the Tourism Development Office Director-General Dr. Seksan Narkwong said that he expects more foreign filmmakers to come to Thailand, compared with last year. While Thailand is not yet the 'Hollywood of Asia', with the government incentives for foreign filmmakers to shoot their productions in Thailand that are in the works, increased BOI attention to investment in entertainment infrastructure and additional funds for Thai filmmakers and others in the industry, it will not be long before Thailand takes its place as the continent's entertainment capital. 📍

**'FOR THE FOREIGN PRODUCTIONS ON LOCATION IN THAILAND, WHICH HIT A HIGH IN 2008, BUSINESS IS BRISK'**



# Live like a king in Fès

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR

From the vibrant displays of the multicolored clothes sold in the markets to the seemingly endless floods of people combing through the narrow maze-like medinas, Fès is nothing if not lively.



A palace converted into a hotel – the Sofitel Fès Palais Jamai – elegantly captures the Moorish and Arabic architectural traditions present throughout Morocco.

Nestled into the heart of the city, the hotel is next door to lush gardens and within a kilometer of the breath taking University of Al-Karaouine. The latter is one of the leading spiritual and education centers, called madrasas, and

recognized as one of the oldest academic universities in the world.

All of this can be seen from a one of kind rooftop view that overlooks the city. From here you can see the gardens, the university and the quaint clay-colored buildings of the medinas that stretch into the horizon.

## BREATHTAKING

The rooms and suites, which have their own unique and breathtaking views, keep oriental traditions alive with festive decorations emblematic of Moroccan style. Furthering the decadence, the hotel has a lavish spa complete with Jacuzzis, heated indoor and outdoor pools, saunas and a range of oriental spa treatments that simply can't be replicated anywhere else in the world. With a bar and a restaurant – each, no surprise here, with an amazing view of the city – there's almost no reason to leave the hotel.

But getting sucked into Fès's charm is inevitable, and important. The winding cobble stone streets, sometimes no more than a metre wide, lead you to unearth ancient spiritual and religious traditions that are still highly important to the culture today. With a population of one million people, and a prevalent but not overwhelming tourist crowd, the city is bustling, but not congested like many major cities. An added bonus: the city is one of the largest car-free zones for any urban city in the world. Watch out for the motorcycles though!





## UNFORGETTABLE

While out exploring the city, don't miss the Bou Inania Madrasa – a rare opportunity (many Moroccan religious sites are closed to non-Islamic people) to appreciate and experience the culture. The building itself is beautiful, notably marked by colorful mosaics and highly detailed and elaborate engravings on the stonewalls.

A gem among luxury Moroccan hotels, the Sofitel Fès Palais Jamaï is an outstanding palace, located in the heart of the lively imperial city of Fes, Morocco's spiritual and

cultural capital, which dates back to 1879. The breathtaking views over the medina and riads, and patios in the lush Andalusian garden make this hotel an ideal stopover. This five-star hotel will offer you an unforgettable experience with a personalized welcome in keeping with Moroccan tradition. 📍

### Sofitel Fès Palais Jamaï

*Bab Guissa*

30000 Fès

Morocco

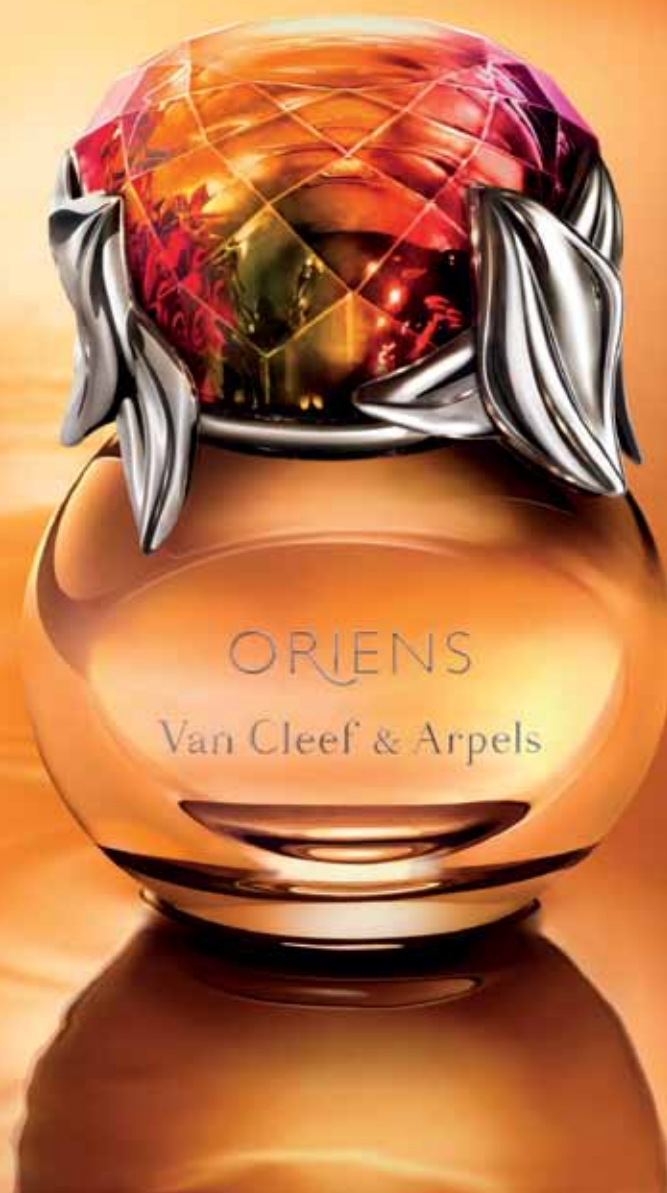
T.+212 535 634 331, +212 535 635 096

[www.sofitel.com](http://www.sofitel.com)



# Van Cleef & Arpels

HAUTE PARFUMERIE





# BEAUTY IN **THE EYES**

PHOTOGRAPHER: YENCI KISS - [WWW.YENCIKISS.COM](http://WWW.YENCIKISS.COM)  
STYLIST: NICHOLAS SIRROT - [WWW.NICHOLASSIRROT.COM](http://WWW.NICHOLASSIRROT.COM)  
HAIR AND MAKE UP: DAVID BETTEGA - [WWW.DAVIDBETTEGA.COM](http://WWW.DAVIDBETTEGA.COM)  
MODELS: ROMY VOLCKAERT AND FELIX SERVE@IMM MODELS AGENCY  
AND ASHLEY GALEYN (GUEST)  
THANKS TO STUDIO PHOTO LA FABRIQUE 22A - [WWW.LAFABRIQUE22A.COM](http://WWW.LAFABRIQUE22A.COM)



*Make up:*  
CHANEL

*Hair:*  
L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONAL

*Romy wears a Vera Mont dress*



*Make up:*  
YSL Foundation Perfect Touch (ivory)  
Eye shadow duo (heavenly beige/astral brown)  
Mascara (deep black)  
Rouge Volupté lipstick (fetish pink)

*Hair:*  
REDKEN 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NYC:  
Align 12 (protective straightening lotion)

*Romy wears a black shirt by Hugo Boss  
and glasses by Hackett*



*Make up:*  
ARMANI  
Lasting Silk UV Foundation SPF 20  
(warm beige)  
Eyes to Kill eye shadow  
(steel black)  
Eyes to Kill mascara  
Rouge d Armani lipstick (beige 102)

*Hair:*  
L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONAL  
Infinium Queen hairspray (regular)

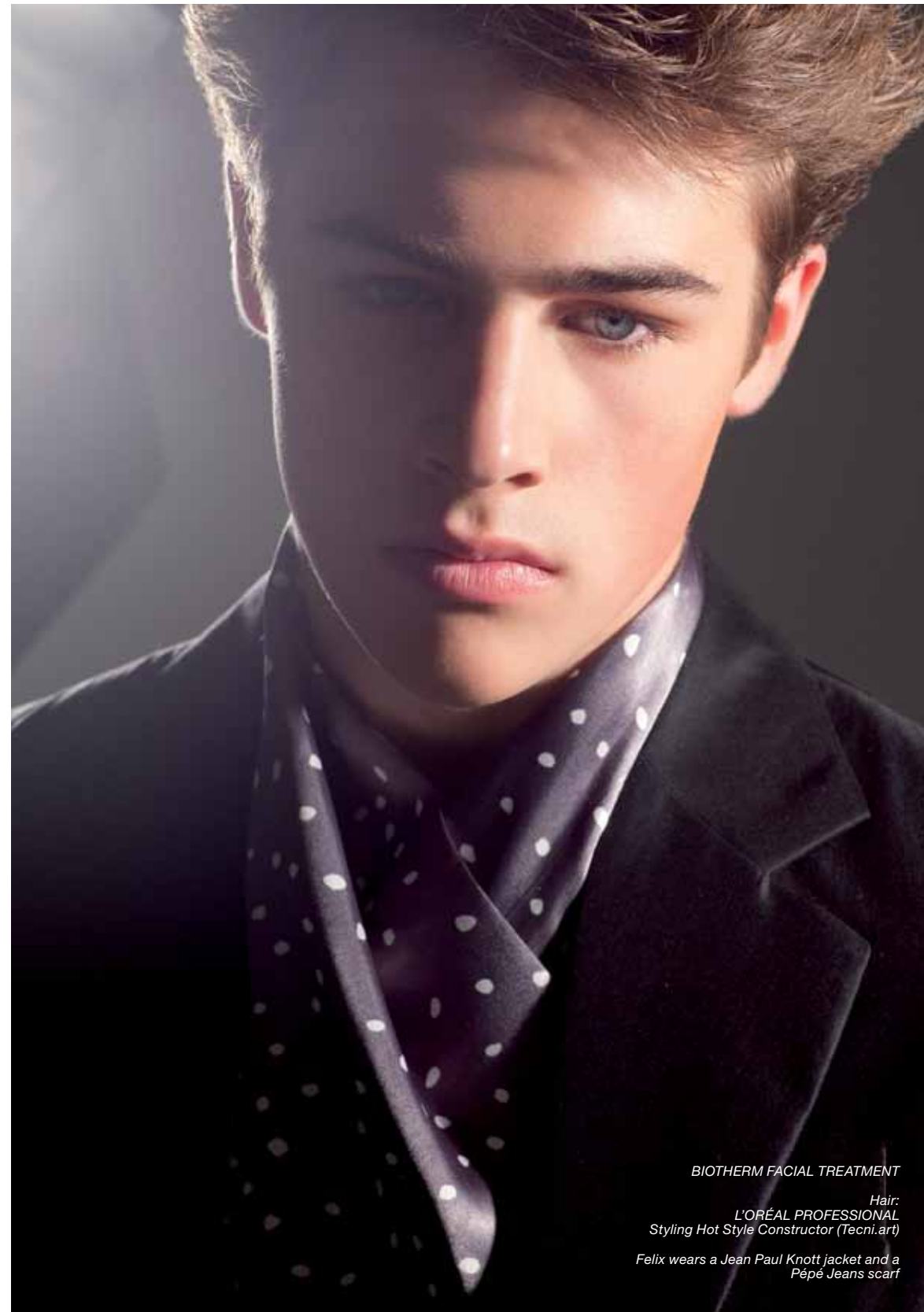
*Ashley wears a Paule Ka jacket,  
Hugo Boss gloves and a Shourouk  
bracelet by Collectors Gallery*



Make up:  
MAC Foundation Studio Fix Fluid  
SPF15 (NC 15)  
X4 eye shadow (burmese beauty)  
Plush Lash mascara (black)  
Kittenish lipstick

Hair:  
KÉRASTASE  
Cléo Relax Slim (volume control  
intense smoothing cream)

Ashley wears a Kris Van Assche black  
dress by Roggwiller and New Look  
bracelet



BIO THERM FACIAL TREATMENT

Hair:  
L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONAL  
Styling Hot Style Constructor (Tecni.art)

Felix wears a Jean Paul Knott jacket and a  
Pépé Jeans scarf





Make up:  
TERRY BY TERRY by Cosmetics  
Light Expert Foundation  
Rouge Délectation lipstick (No. 7)

Hair:  
MATRIX  
Height of Glam volumizing foam

Romy wears a Michel Klein trench  
coat by Roggwiller



Make up:  
ARMANI AND BOTHERM

Hair:  
L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONAL

Ashley wears Paule Ka  
and an Esprit handbag

Felix wears Hackett  
and a Tissot watch



# Christmas beauty products

WRITER: ELLEN DRAKE

*Together* caught up with Reza Zaimeche, the International Face designer for Giorgio Armani Cosmetics. He offered his strategy for creating the perfect 2010 holiday 2010 look.

## RED LIPS ARE BACK

Use a lip pencil for precision. The right shade for you is your personal preference. Experiment with different shades, tones, and textures to find what suits you.

## KEEP THE REST SIMPLE

If you choose a strong red color for your lips, keep your eyes, skin and cheeks neutral to avoid looking overdone. Remember that simple does not have to mean boring, these areas should still look polished.

## TAKE YOUR TIME

With your loved ones all around you, the holidays are the perfect time to look your best. Go slow, and be meticulous with your look. ☺

*The Perfume of the 2010 Holiday Season: Armani Privé Collection.*



1. GIORGIO ARMANI EYES TO KILL EXCESS MASCARA

€30

2. CHRISTIAN DIOR ROUGE LIPCOLOR

€31

3. CLINIQUE DEFINING LINER FOR LIPS

€11

4. ESTÉE LAUDER PURE COLOR FIVE COLOR EYESHADOW PALETTE

5. CHANEL LES TISSAGES DE CHANEL BLUSH DUO

€35

1. KENZO KENZOPOWER  
COLOGNE FOR MEN 60ml  
[www.kenzoparfums.com](http://www.kenzoparfums.com)

2. BVLGARI MAN  
EAU DE TOILETTE 100ml  
[fr.bulgari.com](http://fr.bulgari.com)

3. HUGO BOSS  
BOTTLED NIGHT  
EAU DE TOILETTE 100ml  
[www.boss-fragrances.co.uk](http://www.boss-fragrances.co.uk)

4. VAN CLEEF & ARPELS  
MIDNIGHT IN PARIS  
EAU DE PARFUM 125ml  
[www.vancleef-arpels.com](http://www.vancleef-arpels.com)

5. DOLCE & GABBANA  
THE ONE  
EAU DE TOILETTE 50ml  
[www.dolcegabbana.com/dg/perfumes](http://www.dolcegabbana.com/dg/perfumes)

Perfume for him

1.

2.

5.

4.

6. JUST CAVALLI  
I LOVE  
EAU DE TOILETTE 60ml  
[www.robertocavalli.com/en/cavalliJust.do](http://www.robertocavalli.com/en/cavalliJust.do)

7. HUGO BOSS  
ELEMENT  
EAU DE TOILETTE 60ml  
[www.hugo.com](http://www.hugo.com)

8. TOMMY HILFINGER  
HILFINGER EST 1985  
EAU DE TOILETTE 100ml  
[be.tommy.com](http://be.tommy.com)

6.

9. DKNY MEN  
EAU DE COLOGNE 100ml  
[www.dknyfragrances.com](http://www.dknyfragrances.com)

10. THIERRY MUGLER  
A MEN SUNESSENCE  
EAU DE TOILETTE 100ml  
[www.thierrymugler.com](http://www.thierrymugler.com)

7.

8.

10.

9.



Perfume for her

1, 2. GUCCI BY GUCCI - 3. GUCCI FLORA  
(2) EAU DE PARFUM - (1, 3) EAU DE TOILETTE

Purse spray and four refills 4x15 ml  
www.gucciparfums.com

4, 5, 6. DOLCE & GABBANA - (4) THE ONE  
(5) L'EAU THE ONE (6) ROSE THE ONE  
(4, 6) EAU DE PARFUM - (5) EAU DE TOILETTE 50ml  
www.dolcegabbana.com/dg/perfumes/

7. GIANFRANCO FERRÉ IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE  
EAU DE TOILETTE 50ml  
www.gianfrancoferre.com

8. ARMANI CODE  
EAU DE PARFUM 50ml  
www.giorgioarmanibeauty.fr



4.

1.

5.

3.

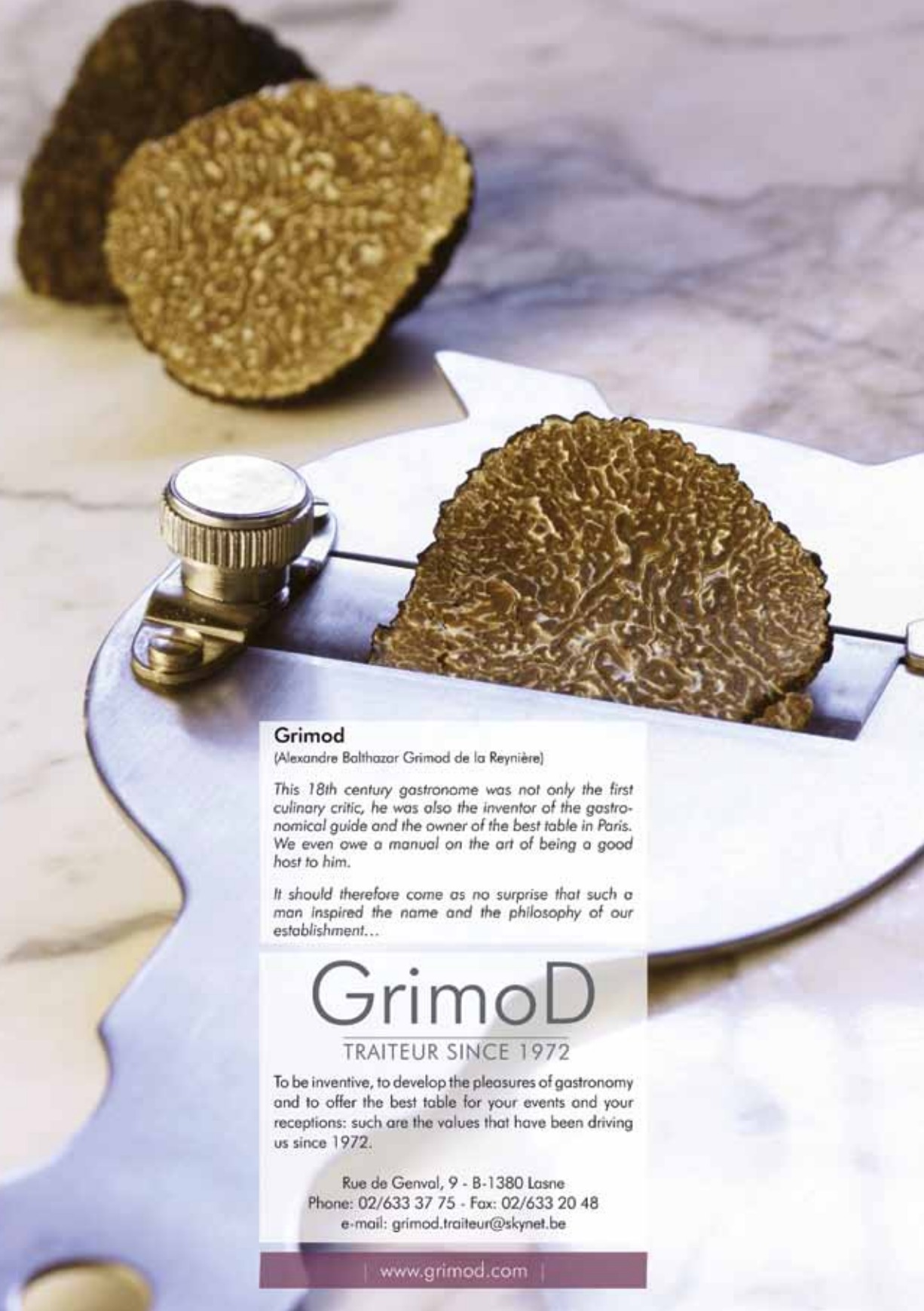
8.

6.

2.

7.

© photos and fragrances arrangement Yvan Barbera



## Grimod

(Alexandre Balthazar Grimod de la Reynière)

*This 18th century gastronome was not only the first culinary critic, he was also the inventor of the gastronomical guide and the owner of the best table in Paris. We even owe a manual on the art of being a good host to him.*

*It should therefore come as no surprise that such a man inspired the name and the philosophy of our establishment...*

# GrimoD

TRAITEUR SINCE 1972

To be inventive, to develop the pleasures of gastronomy and to offer the best table for your events and your receptions: such are the values that have been driving us since 1972.

Rue de Genval, 9 - B-1380 Lasne  
Phone: 02/633 37 75 - Fax: 02/633 20 48  
e-mail: grimod.traiteur@skynet.be

www.grimod.com



# A fresh look at two classics

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR

Two amazing paintings await your attention at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium.

## THE DEATH OF MARAT (1793)

The French Revolution, especially the Reign of Terror, was like a car accident – horrifying and awful yet incredibly intriguing. Jacques-Louis David's painting *The Death of Marat* captured a symbolic moment of that great wreck as the French, wrought with fear, were executing and killing potential conspirators in rapid succession. Among the casualties was the radical journalist Jean-Paul Marat, the subject of David's

painting, and a close friend of the artist. The Neo-Classicist David employed many techniques, drawing inspiration from genius works before him; the elongated arm is emblematic of Renaissance artists like Michelangelo, while the use of blending light and dark colors recalls Caravaggio's technique of chiaroscuro during the Baroque period. David, by painting a light glow around Marat's body, suggests martyrdom, depicting his friend as a hero. Interestingly enough, Marat's killer is scribbled on the letter that he is holding. Such detail, in combination with David's stunning technique, highlights the brilliance of the painting, and of David as an artist.



## THE MARTYRDOM OF SAINT LIVINUS (1636/1637)

Rubens, one of Belgium's greatest painters, was best known for his portrait work and allegorical scenes often containing nude women. *The Martyrdom of Saint Livinus* was made for the Jesuit church in Ghent. His impressive painting depicts the removal of a saint's tongue amidst great chaos where heaven and earth collide. The use of strong colors – a bold red calls immediate attention to the center of the painting – and great movement on a large canvas, heighten an already dramatic scene. Great passion, as evidenced by his brush strokes, is especially apparent in the

sweeping sky and the flowing clothing of the many subjects. Each character, whether it is an angel, animal or human, is captured in a specific point in time. This 'snapshot' is something Rubens was a master at. As these characters flow in and out of the scene, it adds not only movement, but also an ability to analyze the painting for hours, thinking what happened before this specific moment and what might happen after. With temperatures dropping and snow piling up, considering this work in the warmth of the museum might be the best way to spend a day. 🗓

[www.fine-arts-museum.be](http://www.fine-arts-museum.be)



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#### TALKING TURKEY

With the recent US Thanksgiving celebrations just behind us, and the next turkey massacre just around the corner, *Together* felt that it was only right to highlight the 'life of leisure' that certain gobblers can now look forward to.

As part of the US Presidential tradition, one turkey 'saved' by Barrack Obama on Thanksgiving (by the name of 'Apple') was honoured as the US National Turkey, and he began his life of freedom with an all-expenses paid trip to Washington DC stay at the prestigious W.D.C. Hotel, as did his feathered friend 'Cider'.

As President Obama explained, the turkeys came from the Foster Farms Wellsford Ranch, just outside of Modesto, California – they made a shortlist and then won “the big prize – life”.

And as the hotel's General Manager Ed Baten told [www.hotelchatter.com](http://www.hotelchatter.com): “As the closest hotel to the White House, we are just a short trot from Apple's meeting with Mr. Obama. Before he headed to his life of leisure at Mount Vernon, we were glad to offer him the 'Whatever/Whenever' service that we offer to all our guests.’

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LIFE OF  
LEISURE

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# Geox: A breath of fresh air

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO



**Mario Moretti Polegato, CEO and founder of Geox, talks to Together.**

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

**FG:** How did you enter the difficult Asian market?

**MMP:** The Geox case is not only a success story for the company itself – we created wealth, new jobs and a case history in the north-east of Italy which is studied all over the world – but it's an interesting case and a guide for the Italian industry in general. Geox teaches that it's not enough to create with the appreciated Italian creativity; you have to manage your ideas. We created various innovative products and more than 50 new

technologies, but all these technologies are patented. It means that no one can copy it for a period of at least 20 years or more with improvements. This is the key to export a product in the other countries, not only in Asia, but also all over the world. When you have a good product, other producers, not only from China, might try to copy it. If you want to export to China you have to present a product that is unique. The Italian ideas that turn into patented projects are not always entering into the Italian production chain, but they could be negotiated and sold as a feasibility project. Our 'Made in Italy' is not only the piece of furniture, the shirt or the pair of shoes, but it's also these projects that we are able to create. The foreigners would come to Italy to buy projects and not only objects. If we succeed to do that, our capitalism would become, a cultural capitalism, not just an industrial capitalism. We would invest more on the young people, the universities, the research and the patents. This is the key to win in the foreign markets because the competition will continue grow. In Italy, we should invest more in the research and collaborate more with the universities to help the patented idea to enter the market. Sometimes many good, patented project ideas are not working at the initial stage because the creator does not have the cultural and economic tools to experiment with the idea.



**Your creations are extremely hi-tech, but you don't forget the fashion touch, right?**

Fashion and technology have different forms of expression. Technology is more related to numbers and fashion is related to the glamour. We know that the two are not related. Geox's challenge is to translate the technology language into the fashion, because the global consumer can't forget fashion. Geox, on one side, has created techno-revolutionary

products. On the other, we have been using the positive name of "made in Italy", creating a unique language. In Belgium, like in many other countries, we are one of the first brands in the sector. At the beginning we were producing only "the

shoes that breathe". Then we enlarged our range of products by introducing men's, women's and children's collections. And finally we have created a "fashion" line with elegant shoes. We want to create a total look, so we also invented the "jacket that breathes". Our next slogan will be "Geox breathe from the head to the feet"

**Tell us about your brand and research team?**

Geox has its headquarters in Montebelluna (Veneto Region-Italy). We are the second brand in the world in the lifestyle category. We sell in more than 100 countries and have more than 1,000 shops positioned in the most important fashion-streets of the world. Last year we sold more than 20 million pairs of shoes.

Geox is investing two per cent of its annual turnover into research. In Montebelluna we have a team of fifteen engineers that are constantly studying the movement of the heat in the human body. For the moment, Geox has patented four technologies in the market, the most famous is related to the rubber sole, but we still have 50 more to put in place. Micro-holes in the rubber outsole let perspiration from the feet out of the shoes; the protective breathable membrane keeps water out and the feet dry. We have a good collaboration with many Italian, German and Norwegian universities and research centres that test our technologies. This year I received, in London, the CNBC EBLA European Business Leaders Awards 2010.

**From where do you draw your inspiration? Do you have any celebrities among your clients?**

I take my inspiration from young people; I have been invited to give lecture in a lot in different important universities: Columbia Univ., MIT, Vancouver U. and Cambridge where I present the Geox case history. I receive strong, positive energy and I'm always enthusiastic about these kinds of meetings.

I have direct contacts with important policy leaders like Shimon Peres, Duncan Niederauer (NYSE), Klaus Schwab (DAVOS), Christine Lagarde and various Italian leaders like Giulio Tremonti, Umberto Bossi and Emma Marcegaglia. Our policy is not to invest on the celebrities, but we know from the press that Peres, Angelina Jolie and the Holy Father are wearing our creations. ①





# Commissioners-in-‘chef’

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Under the auspices of a unique cultural and culinary initiative organized by the Belgian EU Presidency to highlight Europe’s cultural diversity and bring Flanders closer to Europe, *Together* had the rare chance to talk, in a relaxed atmosphere, with Commissioners Antonio Tajani, Karel De Gucht and Neelie Kroes about gastronomy.

**I**ndustry and Entrepreneurship Commissioner Antonio Tajani (Italy) was the prime mover behind a dinner organized on 17<sup>th</sup> of November at the residence of the Italian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, Roberto Bettarini. The proceeds of the evening went to Alinhi, a charity supported by the King Baudouin

Foundation and the Foundation Marie & Alain Philippson, which supports the empowerment of the role of female entrepreneurs in Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal.

**‘WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE ‘MADE IN EUROPE’ LABEL, AND I SUPPORT INDICATING THE ORIGIN OF FOODS’**

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

*Together:* Commissioner Tajani, what is the goal of this initiative?

**AT:** First of all, as industry commissioner, it’s a pleasure for me to support young female entrepreneurs who are trying to help their countries – Europe must not forget Africa. I was recently there with President Barroso to sign an agreement between the European

Commission and the African Union Commission. If we want to reduce illegal immigration, we have to support initiatives such as this one, because the future of Europe is linked to the development of the African continent. Then I think we have to protect our gastronomic tradition – *The Wall Street Journal* recently wrote that we [Europeans] are abandoning traditional cuisine for a fast-food culture, which I find extremely negative.

**Do you like to cook? What are you cooking tonight for us?**

Yes, I really enjoy it. I learned cooking when I was a scout and sometimes, at home, if my wife is late, I help in the kitchen. Tonight I will prepare a pasta amatriciana – this special pasta sauce comes from Amatrice, a village in the mountains of the Lazio Region, the region where I am from, as are many restaurants owners in Rome. You will also have the chance to try typical cheeses, hams, cakes and wine from Lazio.

**How can we protect our traditional gastronomy?**

We have to protect the ‘Made in Europe’ label, and I support indicating the origin of foods – recently, I took part in a high-level group meeting on agro-food politics and on the origin of the agro-food path. This event wants send out a real message to raise awareness of healthy, quality eating, because good gastronomy and fine wines are a magnet for tourists.



2.



1. Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht and Commission Vice-President Neelie Kroes, assisted by celebrity chef Roger Van Damme (centre)

2. From left, Italian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium Roberto Bettarini and Industry and Entrepreneurship Commissioner Antonio Tajani

For the second dinner, Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht and Commission Vice-President Neelie Kroes, who in charge of Digital Agenda, prepared on 18th November in the Dutch Embassy a menu centred on the links between Belgium and the Netherlands assisted by celebrity chef Roger Van Damme from Het Gebaar in Antwerp. Roger, the GaultMillau chef 2010, served at the end a delicious dessert based on tiramisu with Belgian chocolate and Dutch speculoos. The two commissioners prepared, respectively during the evening, a shrimp and a cheese croquet followed by an ‘eel in the green’ (paling in’t groen). At the end of the dinner, the two commissioners talked.

**Commissioner De Gucht, do you normally cook?**

I am really enjoying this experience, but I don’t cook so much because I’m supposed to work. I like Italian cuisine and when I travel to Tuscany on holiday, I enjoy simple pasta and meat dishes – I travel a lot, and for this reason I also like different food specialities from all over the world.

**And at home, what do you prefer?**

I enjoy traditional Flemish cuisine such as waterzooi, eel and chicken. I recommend the village of Berlare, where there are several good traditional Flemish restaurants, where you can taste real eel.

**And, Commissioner Kroes, when do you cook and which food do you prefer?**

At home, I normally cook for my friends – I like to prepare starters and desserts, my apple pie is famous in my family. Apart from that, when I’m in Brussels I hardly cook, because there are so many good restaurants. In general, I like fish and as far as national cuisines are concerned, I enjoy Italian and Indonesian if they’re done well.

**In a globalized world, is traditional cuisine still important?**

The EU is 27 countries and one single market; I think we should be proud of our gastronomy, which is also our culture. When I travel, I always like to find the typical place to eat and drink good wine also because I never drink beer! ☺



# Enjoy Winery, 'Together!'



Following the success of their first Brussels establishment in Place Brugmann, Winery has opened a second outlet in the European quarter, just 200 metres from Schuman, next to the Aloft Hotel – don't miss your chance to discover the latest venue to enjoy an excellent glass of wine and appetizers.

## TO EAT AND DRINK

The bar is luminous – natural-wood tables, a backdrop of wine racks, laden with marvellous bottles. There's no set menu – mine host **Frédéric de Thibault** posts new suggestions on his blackboard every day for wine and cuisine. So, every day means a new selection of savouries, sips and surprises, including the finest cheeses, sardines and other Bellota delicacies. Pure joy.

**WINERY IS  
ALREADY WELL  
KNOWN IN PLACE  
BRUGMANN,  
AND NOW IN  
SCHUMAN!**

## A KINGDOM OF WINES

Once inside the curtains concealing the cave, you step into another world, the Holy of Holies. For a nominal corkage charge if you want to drink in **Winery**, or to take home, it is from here that you can make your selection from the more-than 250 bottles on offer. Naturally, France is very well represented, but there also superb examples available from many countries around the world. Frédéric insists on offering an eclectic selection that represents excellent value for money.

## TOGETHER SAYS...

As far as we are concerned, Winery is equally enjoyable for a lunchtime visit or later in the afternoon and evening, to enjoy an aperitif with friends. The venue is also available to host your exclusive celebratory events and, at this seasonal time of year, the cellar is the perfect inspiration for gifts – Frédéric and his friendly, expert staff will be only too happy to advise according to your budget and requirements.

## TOGETHER AND WINERY SCHUMAN – A GREAT TEAM!

Together loves Christmas and New Year... and, to celebrate its opening, Winery Schuman has joined forces with your favourite magazine to offer readers one free goblet of champagne (no purchase necessary) or a 6<sup>th</sup> bottle of wine free when you buy five (non-sparkling) between 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011. It's easy to enjoy this exclusive offer – simply take your copy of *Together* to Winery Schuman. Cheers! ☺

\* Offer restricted to one per person, valid from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2010 to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and is exclusively reserved for the *Together* readers, no purchase necessary.



Winery Schuman: The new wine bar where you can also enjoy excellent food with your friends

**Winery (Schuman)**  
Rue Juste Lipse, 17  
(Ancienne Rue la Verveine)  
1040 Brussels  
Tel: +32 (0)2 231 69 89  
Open Monday to Friday, 11-20h

**Winery (Brugmann)**  
Place G. Brugmann, 18  
1050 Brussels  
Tel: +32 (0)2 345 47 17  
Open Monday to Saturday, 11-20h  
[info@winery.be](mailto:info@winery.be) [www.winery.be](http://www.winery.be)





# Charles Dickens and Baby Jesus

WRITER: ALEX HEWETSON

**Our wine man returns with a vision of his ideal oenological Christmas.**

**D**espite the fact that Christmas was originally a pagan Roman feast, the Catholic Church neatly used it as a vehicle for the birth of Christ and thus paved the way for what we celebrate today. However, the way we rejoice differs greatly – in the UK, our Yuletide is very much based on the Victorian Christmas, and it is easy to relate to Dickensian portrayals of vast plum puddings, fatted geese and even larger-

than-life characters radiating port and pop-eyed dignity.

In mainland Europe, however, it is more mediaeval and linked to the child Jesus; here in Belgium, the big feast for the children is St Nicholas on 6<sup>th</sup> December, when this venerable saint fills chimney places with all manner

of chocolates and toys. For the grown-ups, the big bash is Christmas Eve, with seafood, fine meats and, of course, wine.

Often, I go through the supermarkets to report on what I find that is suitable for the

festive season. This year, however, I'm just going to indulge myself and wallow in what I would like to see on my dining table on Christmas Day.

## BEST BUBBLES

Forget Buck's Fizz or Mimosa, as it is called by our cousins across the Pond – to begin, go straight for the real fizz and by that I mean vintage champagne, which should be at least eight years old with a light to mid-yellow colour. My personal favourite is a Moutard Père et Fils 1985 or 1990. If you can't find it here in Belgium, you can order it from Moutard themselves but remember, you are ordering champagne, not mustard...

## DEEP FLAVOURS

I am, let's face it, quite decadent, so there will be a red Bordeaux and a red Burgundy standing next to the mini Christmas tree on the table. DeConinck did have a 1990 Chateau Poujeaux for around 42€ – this is a lovely, mature wine with plenty of depth, and it's difficult to say if I will have it with the cheeses or the turkey. Decisions, decisions – whatever the case, the cork will also go on a 1990 Bouchard Premier Cru Beaune Grèves Vigne de L'Enfant Jésus, so called because the monks who originally made it said it went down like baby Jesus in velvet trousers. Now I can't help you with the name of a wine shop that might have it here, or with the price, but you won't get much change out of 60€ – well, it is Christmas after all.

**OUT COMES THE PUDDING, COMPLETE WITH A SPRIG OF HOLLY, I SWAMP IT IN PAGAN FIREWATER, SET IT ALIGHT... AND TAKE THE EYEBROWS OFF ANYONE WITHIN A 15-METRE RADIUS**

## SWEET END NOTES

After some fine cheeses, out comes the pudding, complete with a sprig of holly, I swamp it in pagan firewater, set it alight, incinerate the holly and take the eyebrows off anyone within a 15-metre radius. To calm people down, we'll need a bottle of Château Liot Barsac 2001 – perhaps a little young, but it was still but an amazing year for Sauternes, and this comes in at around 25€ a bottle, with very deep flavours of honey and dried apricots.

And so, everyone retires to the sofas, people start nodding off by the fire, but a few dedicated sybarites still have a long way to go – out comes the Quarles Harris 1977 vintage port. Mr. Dickens, I'm sure, would be very proud of us. Finally, I end the grand feast with a 1986 armagnac; La Maison Des Vins, just off Place Keym in Boitsfort, has a lovely selection of armagnacs for around 40-50€.

At this point I both look and feel like Mr. Pickwick and totter off to my bed chamber, hoping Baby Jesus will work wonders and spare me a hideous hangover upon the morrow. ☺

### De Coninck Wine

*Chaussée de Bruxelles, 37  
1410 Waterloo  
T: +32 (0)2 353 07 65  
Open Monday 10-18h, Tuesday to Saturday 10-19h  
[www.deconinckwine.com](http://www.deconinckwine.com)*

### La Maison des Vins

*Rue du Loutrier, 3 (Near Place Eugène Keym)  
1170 Brussels  
T +32 (0)2 660 18 94  
Open Tuesday to Saturday, 9h30-12h45 and 14-18h30  
[www.maisondesvins.be](http://www.maisondesvins.be)*

### For the Château Liot Barsac 2001:

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

### For the Quarles Harris 1977 Vintage Port):

[www.laywheeler.com](http://www.laywheeler.com)

# A Yule-expert expat

WRITER: PATRICIA KELLY

Our former CNN reporter offers her unique perspective on the festive season.

**H**aving interviewed Jesus, Mary and Joseph during the course of my career, as well as the real Father Christmas, I consider myself more qualified than most to pontificate on the subject of the festive season.

Accompanied by a long-suffering television crew one December, I was assigned to track down Father Christmas and eventually found him in Santa's Village at Rovaniemi in Finnish Lapland. An otherwise mild winter suddenly took a turn for the worse, and at -25 degrees centigrade up there in the Arctic Circle we

were obliged to wear all the clothes we had taken with us at once, layer upon layer.

## COLD COMFORT

Icicles hung from everything, including our eyebrows, and the reindeer allocated by Santa Claus to pull the sleigh that I was supposed to step into as I was talking to camera was rather impatient, deciding to dash off when I was

only halfway in – much to the merriment of all except me, who was suddenly half-buried head first in deep snow. Yet being surrounded by elves (truly) in the magical light

of stars and moon reflected off the pristine snow transformed an otherwise cynical crew into true believers, much to the astonishment of colleagues who witnessed our return from a gruelling weekend's work in hazardous conditions with smiles on our faces, a spring in our step and humming Christmas music.

## PASSION PLAY

The Biblical characters I spoke to were, of course, actors. Jesus was one of several in the role of Christ in the Passion Play enacted every ten years by inhabitants of the Bavarian town of Oberammergau. More than two thousand residents took part this year – they must all be native to the town. First performed in 1634, the Passion Play is the result of a vow by locals that if God spared Oberammergau the effects of the bubonic plague they would act out the suffering of Jesus of Nazareth every decade. Strictly speaking, this five hour costume extravaganza with daily performances between mid-May and early October is focused on the crucifixion and resurrection, not the birth of Christ. But many townsfolk not immediately involved in the production of the play are involved in the tourist industry that surrounds it – there were more than four million spectators last century alone. Accordingly, there are dozens of woodcarver shops which Oberammergau is also famous for, packed with pieces ranging from the religious to the humorous, and this is where I started my collection of Christmas cherubs.



## HERALD ANGELS

The cherubs, of all shapes, sizes and hue, are stored in bubble wrap alongside two huge boxes of mainly gold-coloured Christmas tree decorations amassed over the

## THE ANNUAL FALLING OUT OVER THE TREE IS AS MUCH A FAMILY TRADITION AS THE HOME-MADE STOCKINGS HUNG HOPEFULLY AT THE END OF BEDS ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND THE TURKEY WITH ITS TRIMMINGS

years – possibly all I possess in the way of heirlooms for the next generation. And although preparations for Christmas begin as early as August when the traditional fruit-packed English Christmas cake gets baked and stored in a tin, the tree doesn't go up until 24<sup>th</sup> December.

It has to be tall enough to reach the ceiling and the process of selecting it and getting

it home without damaging car, house or tree is enough to drain anyone of seasonal cheer and goodwill, and that's before the problem of getting it straight is addressed. All it takes is someone lying flat on their back under the tree to position the base, someone else perched precariously on a ladder to keep it upright and the rest barking instructions as if they were participating in 1960s TV game show: "Left a bit...right a bit...". Yet the annual falling out over the tree is as much a family tradition as the home-made stockings hung hopefully at the end of beds on Christmas Eve and the turkey with its trimmings and two kinds of stuffing on Christmas Day, and there was mutiny the year I suggested we do without one.

As well as stockings to open first thing on Christmas Day and presents under the tree for unwrapping later on, we were early converts to the continental St Nicholas and a few small gifts are also delivered on 6th December to children's shoes or slippers left by the fire, a hint of treats to come. We've adopted Belgium's Speculoos biscuits and its egg and raisin Cramique bread as part of our Christmas fare – both available throughout the year but which somehow taste better right now – and Belgian Christmas black pudding – boudin noir – stuffed with nuts and raisins always finds its way into the larder to wait its turn alongside the gammon and the Stilton cheese.

## 'STIR-UP SUNDAY'

Our main feasting and celebration is on Christmas Day itself, but since living here we've succumbed to joining the rest of the country and wining and dining on Christmas Eve as well, the Belgians mainly tucking into champagne, oysters and lobster. Yet our Belgian friends and neighbours look askance at our English Christmas pudding, cake and fruity mince pie fillings – perturbed by the fact they are made weeks and months in advance. The Sunday before Advent – 'Stir-up Sunday' – is traditionally when the family pudding is supposed to be made and everyone in the household has a go at stirring it. We once served up a seven year old Christmas cake with no ill effects – with a bit of brandy spiked into it and topped with a fresh layer of marzipan covered with royal icing, it was delicious. Which reminds me...I wonder where I put the cake I baked in August? ☺





# Christmas dinner: A perfect recipe

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR

Arnaud Brochier of GrimoD Catering takes us through a marvellous festive feast.



**F**or the foundation, wrap a jet-black tablecloth around a round table. Sprinkle light and peach scent into the air with different sized candelabras.

Adding dashes of flowers, preferably roses or something white, steadily mix in muted Chopin piano sonatas with lively conversation. Serve goose liver and salmon warm while the champagne chilled. Allow the main ingredient, family, to casually blend in and open up. And for caterer Arnaud Brochier, you have just made the perfect Christmas dinner.

Brochier has been around catering his whole life. In 1972, Philippe Brochier, Arnaud's father, opened up GrimoD in the same year that Arnaud was born. Though Arnaud had different aspirations growing up – he had dreams of being a motorcycle pilot – he came

to love catering, working under his father for seven years, before buying the company and managing it himself since 2003.

## HIGH CLASS

The company, whose name was inspired by the first and acclaimed food critic, Alexandre Balthazar Grimod de la Reyniere, has catered for an impressive set of clients, including many functions for the European Council of Ministers. They cater all types of events from business seminars to marriages to birthday parties, providing most of the components of the event: food, drinks, table decorations, etc. Customers can choose from an array of over 30 prestigious venues (Albert Hall, Tour & Taxis) or suggest a new one, including their own home.

While Brochier's personal taste favours goose liver, smoked salmon and homard for Christmas dinner, his available holiday menu features a range of options including dishes like roasted venison, lobster and smoked swordfish.

Although his hours can be demanding around the holiday season – he has to work a full day on Christmas Eve and put in time on Christmas day – he loves his work, especially the social contact.

"When I go somewhere to sell, it's not only to sell. It's nice to just meet very different people. I love that, especially when business partners become friends."



## 'EVOLUTION'

This evolution of a relationship, he says, is one of his favourite parts of the catering business. Another, is simply seeing people happy with what he has served, something not necessarily so easy as people have their own image of the perfect holiday dinner. Brochier tries to understand that and turn the thought into a reality. While Brochier can provide all of the finest food and elegant table settings, there are certain things that he can't avoid.

"A bad Christmas dinner? It's very simple – it's when you have some problem with your family."

As long as he is in charge of events though, people have been satisfied. His biggest reason for success, he says, is simple and purely aesthetic.

"It has to always be beautiful and nice."

As a caterer there is nothing else he can do. But as a family man, Brochier can provide an atmosphere where his family can relax and simply enjoy the best part of the holidays – giving back. Seeing his children unwrap presents, he says, is the best gift of all. 📺

[www.grimod.com](http://www.grimod.com)



# Jet-set jollies

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Hanging out with the beautiful people.



1. Bon Jovi receives the MTV EMA Global Icon award during the MTV Europe Awards 2010 at the La Caja Mágica in Madrid. (© Ian Gavan/Getty Images)

2. James Franco, Eva Mendes and Frida Giannini, October 30, 2010 in Rome (© Image.net)

## MTV EMA 2010

Pop queen **Lady Gaga** triumphed among the winners at the **MTV EMA 2010** in Madrid on 7<sup>th</sup> November, as she won the awards for Best Pop, Best Female Singer and Best Song. Gaga sent her thanks into the Caja Mágica stadium by satellite from Budapest, where she was performing on her smash-hit Monster Ball tour. On the hot Madrid night, new talent **Ke\$ha** also shined in the Best New Act category, but the climax of the event was the inaugural MTV EMA Global Icon Award, which was won by rockers **Bon Jovi**, who received their trophy on stage from the "self-confessed mega-fan" **Eva Longoria**.

## LANCIA CAFÉ

Lancia Café' was again the place to be for movie festival party-victims in Rome on 30<sup>th</sup> October. At the café's 'La Dolce Vita' Cocktail Party, **James Franco**, **Eva Mendes**, **Bianca Brandolini D'Adda** and Gucci's **Frida Giannini** were all in attendance.



3. Céline Nickmans, Isabelle De Proost, Catherine Limon, Bernard de Wasseige, Davina Leclerc and Caroline Ackermans.

4. The new flagship store © Cartier

5. © Press office Sonia Rykiel

## CARTIER

Luxury brand **Cartier** opened a new flagship store in Hong Kong on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The new Cartier boutique enjoys a commanding corner position in its mall, with a soaring 17-metre exterior facade resembling a large sugar cube. VIP guests were welcomed for the new **Panther de Cartier** collection, which is set to be released next year. On the red carpet, among others, were Cartier's Far East Managing Director **Nigel Luk** and Chinese actress **Carina Lau**.

## ELLE STYLE AWARDS 2010

At Tour & Taxis in Brussels on 10<sup>th</sup> November, the annual **Elle Style Awards** took place. This year, **Nica Broucke** and **Béa Ercolini** (the two editors-in-chief of *Elle* België and *Elle* Belgique) hosted the Belgian fashion ritual. Among the winners were **A.F. Vandevorst** as Best Belgian Designer, Best Belgian Artist **Selah Sue**, Best Belgian Model **Anouck Lepère** and Woman of the Year was documentary filmmaker **Diana Elbaum**.



## RYKIEL ON DUBAI CATWALK

Under the lights of a glittering Dubai night, the prestigious Dubai Mall Hotel was the perfect location on 24<sup>th</sup> November to unveil the Spring-Summer 2011 **Sonia Rykiel** collection. **Nathalie Rykiel** surprised the guests with a glamorous catwalk suspended in the centre of the pool, and at the poolside were host **Wissam Al Mana**, **Sonia Rykiel** International Commercial Director **Caroline Lumiel**, and Marie Claire's **Amine Jressati**. During the show, the gorgeous **Abu Khadra** twins were acclaimed on the catwalk by jet-set guests and photographers.





6. Aspria Pro-Celebrity Go Karting Challenge with Julie Taton

7. © Yvan Barbera

## ASPRIA PRO-CELEBRITY GO KARTING CHALLENGE

Aspria hosted the Pro-Celebrity Go Karting Challenge that raised over 1100 euro for the Televie Cancer Research on 24<sup>th</sup> November. Brian Morris, CEO of Aspria, hosted the event along with several celebrities, including Bertrand Baguette, who's raced in the IndyCar Series in the US. The race consisted of twelve different teams of four people (48 people in all), with each team being anchored by well known Belgians. Team Olivier Saxe, despite the absence of the well-to-do Belgian due to illness, won the event. Benjamin Bailly, of the Belgian Royal Automobile Club, and his team, placed second while fellow Belgian RAC member, Thierry Neuville, and his team placed third. Morris, in a press release, described his pleasure in working with Baguette for the last five years, calling him a great ambassador to the Aspria clubs. "He has commitment and motivation, principles that we share with him. It's even more rewarding that we come together for such a good cause."



## NATAN CAT WALK

Edouard Vermeulen, the designer behind the renowned clothing company **Natan**, presented his new collection on Tuesday night. With Prince Laurent of Belgium in attendance, clothing company Natan debuted its summer collection on November 9. For this chicly modern collection Vermeulen, the company's head designer, created a contemporary silhouette using delicate fabrics, the clothes feature gold and silver accents and a soft set of colors. Among designing clothes for the Belgian royal family, Vermeulen has also produced outfit for the royal court of Sweden and numerous noteworthy personalities and celebrities.

## WITTAMER 100 YEARS.

Wittamer, one of Brussels' s renowned chocolatiers, recently celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Founded by Henri Wittamer in 1910, the shop has since passed down to his grandchildren, Myriam and Paul Wittamer. What once started as a small shop in the trendy area of the Grand Sablon, Wittamer has now expanded greatly, serving an international clientele through the Internet along with being the official supplier to the Court of Belgium. They have also opened 15 shops in Japan. For a leisurely time, Wittamer opened up the Wittamer Cafe in the 1950s, under the direction of Yvonne, Myriam's mother. Decorated with an array of pinks (Wittamer's signature color) and nice Chinaware, the cafe is a great spot to people watch and enjoy fine dining, including their full range of chocolates and a breakfast and lunch menu. Whatever you do, don't miss out on the macaroons, they might be the best treat Belgium has to offer.

## SKODA GOES 'PINK' RECIPE

Car manufacturer Skoda Belgium has pledged its support for the 'Think-Pink' association in its fight against breast cancer, signing a three-year partnership with the organization and, to mark the occasion, launching a special series of Fabia Hatchbacks emblazoned with 'Think-Pink' decorations. For each vehicle purchase made, Skoda has promised to donate 200€ to the association, which is an ongoing public-awareness campaign concerning the most common form of cancer to affect women. The earlier that the disease is detected, the better the chances of curing it – this is the reason why Think-Pink maintains a near-permanent media presence, as well as organizing events and targeted actions. ①

[www.think-pink.be](http://www.think-pink.be)



# Together's 'To Do' list Belgium

WRITER: ELLEN DRAKE

## AN EVENING WITH BERTRAND DUPOURQUE

19h, 27.01.11

A Top Management Networking Event with Bertrand Dupourque, managing director at Pierre Fabre Benelux Group, who will speak on **The Worldwide Cosmetic Business: Key markets, key players.**

### Les Halles des Tanneurs

Rue des Tanneurs, 60 – 1000 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 539 41 62

[www.ltarelocation.com](http://www.ltarelocation.com)



## BRUSSELS FOR LOVERS BIKE RIDE

February 2011

During the most romantic month of the year, this three-hour bike tour of the city's most scenic spots is a great way to get your cardio workout while enjoying the company of your significant other or other local singletons.

### La Maison des Cyclistes

Rue de Londres, 15 – 1050 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 502 73 55

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



## ENSOR REVEALED

Ends 13.02.11

James Ensor, one of Europe's most influential realist painters, is best known for his innovative mask scenes. The exhibit will feature the mask paintings along with a range of his still-lives, portraits, and drawings.

### ING Cultural Center

Mont des Arts: Place Royal, 6 – 1000 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 547 22 92

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



## BRUSSELS BOOK FAIR

17>21.02.11

Thousands of publishers and more than 700 authors gather to showcase their latest work. In addition to the impressive selection of literature available for purchase, there are also various book signings, debates, and workshops.

### Tours & Taxis

Avenue du Port, 86c – 1000 Brussels

T. +32 (0)900 87 900

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



## MONS INTERNATIONAL LOVE FILM FESTIVAL

18>25.02.11

30,000 viewers will gather in Mons for this popular annual event – the festival, hosted by Imagix Mons and surrounding local cinemas, features premieres of new releases of both European and world cinema productions.

### Imagix Mons

Boulevard Initialis, 1 – 7000 Mons

T. +32 (0)65 567 510

[www.fifa-mons.be](http://www.fifa-mons.be)



## BINCHE CARNIVAL

6>8.03.11

Taking place the three days preceding Lent, this is one of the oldest surviving urban carnivals in Europe. Locals complete their marvellous costumes with ostrich-feather hats and dance away to the traditional *Pas du Gilles*.

### Binche

T. +32 (0)64 336 727

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



## INDOOR CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL

March 2011

Antwerp refuses to let the chilly northern-European weather of March prevent a warm celebration. Salsa and merengue music from around the Caribbean encourage dance lovers to shake off the winter blues.

### Sportpalais

Schijnpoortweg, 119 – 2170 Antwerp

T. +32 (0)3 400 40 40

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





# Together's 'To Do' list International

## LA BOHEME

22>27.01.11

Jonathan Miller's English National Opera will perform its final three performances of this production with conductor Stephen Lord.

London Coliseum

St Martin's Lane

[www.eno.org](http://www.eno.org)



## PARIS FASHION WEEK

20>27.01.11

After New York, London, and Milan comes the Paris Fashion Week, where buyers gather to witness the latest catwalk trends.

Carrousel du Louvre

Rue de Rivoli, 99 – 75001 Paris

T.+33 (0)1 4316 4710

[www.modeaparis.com](http://www.modeaparis.com)



## INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS FESTIVAL OF TOMORROW

27>30.01.11

The finest circus performers from around the world perform in a friendly acrobatic competition.

Pelouse de Reuilly

Bois de Vincennes – 75012 Paris

T. +33 (0)1 40 68 07 72

[www.cirquededemain.com](http://www.cirquededemain.com)



## RETROMOBILE

2>6.02.11

More than 300 cars, motorbikes, boats and accessories will be on display at this annual event.

Porte de Versailles

Place de la Porte de Versailles – 75015 Paris

T. +33 (0)1 4068 2222

[www.retromobile.fr](http://www.retromobile.fr)



## CHINESE NEW YEAR

06.02.11

London is transformed with lion dancers and colorful decorations into the largest celebration of the Chinese New Year outside of China. The large Chinese community puts on quite a show, and serves up a variety of delicious Dim Sum.

[www.londonchinatown.org](http://www.londonchinatown.org)



## KINETICA ART FAIR

4>6.02.11

Not just your typical art fair – come and check out kinetic, electronic and new media art in this unique contemporary trend.

P3

Marylebone Road, 35 – London

T.+44 (0)207 392 9674

[www.kinetica-artfair.com](http://www.kinetica-artfair.com)



## COLOGNE CARNIVAL

3>9.03.11

The old town, or Altstadt, of Cologne hosts one of the biggest street parties in Europe. Each day of the carnival brings a new theme or event, ranging from Women's Day to the famous Rosenmontag, a six-kilometre parade through the city centre.

[www.koelnerkarneval.de](http://www.koelnerkarneval.de)



## 5 DAYS OFF

2>6.03.11

This electronic music festival, which hopes to inspire workers to use their sick days, welcomes musicians from the Netherlands and around the world and celebrates dance, theatre and film with various performances and screenings.

Melkweg

Lijnbaansgracht, 234a – 1017 PH Amsterdam

T. +31 (0)20 531 81 81

[www.5daysoff.nl](http://www.5daysoff.nl)



## HISWA AMSTERDAM BOAT SHOW

1>6.03.11

Amsterdam's RAI hosts 350 exhibitors as they feature boats, equipment and sailing accessories at the annual boat show. Join thousands of enthusiasts to view the latest nautical gear and sailing attire.

Amsterdam RAI

Europaplein, 22 – 1078 GZ Amsterdam

T. +31 (0)20 549 12 12

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



# For Men



1. PHASE DE LUNE PONTOS DÉCENTRIQUE

€4.250

2. RODANIA FADO COLLECTION WATCH

€179

3. CALVIN KLEIN BLACK COLLECTION DELUXE WATCH

€190

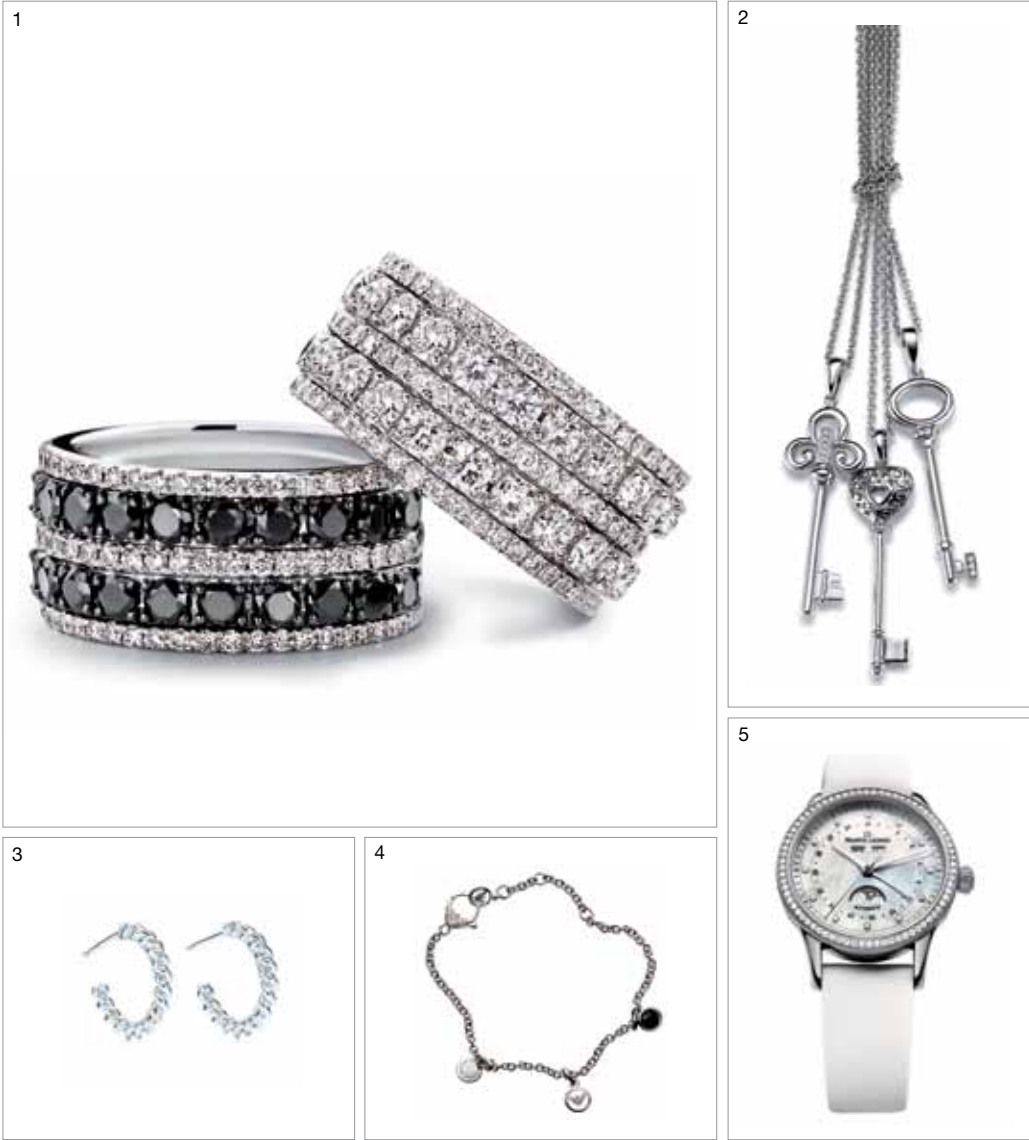
4. STORM SATURN WATCH

€154

5. BELL & ROSS 126 WATCH

€2,847

# For Women



1. INNOCENCE BILBAO COLLECTION RINGS

€3,949

2. TIFFANY AND CO TWIST HOOP EARRINGS

€170

3. VIVENTY FETES NECKLACE

€125

4. EMPORIO ARMANI STERLING SILVER EAGLE CHARM BRACELET

€118

5. AUTOMATIC PHASE DE LUNE CLASSIC

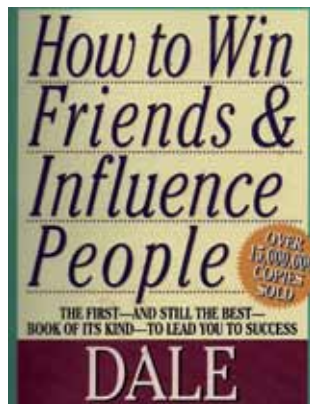
€3.400



# Read Together

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR

We take a look at two classic 'self-help' texts.



HOW TO WIN FRIENDS & INFLUENCE PEOPLE  
DALE CARNEGIE

€10

First published 73 years ago, Dale Carnegie's self-help book, which has sold more than 15 million copies, is still as poignant and important as ever. Although his tips come off as slightly conniving and manipulative (they sort of are) the book's suggested practices come from a place of benevolence – it's about making people feel good about themselves. Granted, you gain from their feelings of worth, but being nice along the way isn't necessarily a bad practice. Throughout, Carnegie's prose is approachable and thought-provoking. Take for example his idea of 'idea planting', a la Christopher Nolan's *Inception* (2010) - Carnegie writes that if you want someone to believe in your idea, it's best if they think that they came up with it themselves. Carnegie lays out how to do this, along with many other helpful business and real-world relationship recommendations, such as ways to make people like you and becoming a leader without causing resentment.

[www.dalecarnegie.com](http://www.dalecarnegie.com)



THINK AND GROW RICH  
NAPOLEON HILL

€15

Andrew Carnegie was a poor Scottish immigrant employed as a factory worker before becoming one of the most successful and wealthy businessmen ever. While his quintessential rags-to-riches story is well known, his inspiration that led to one of the most successful books isn't. Napoleon Hill, a journalist at the time, was writing a story about success and interviewed Carnegie. The steel industry tycoon proposed a challenge to Hill: write a book on how everyday people become successful. So Hill studied the characteristics and behaviors of over 500 of the most successful people of the time, including the likes of Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Thomas Edison, Theodore Roosevelt and many more. The result? One of the best selling books of all time and one of the most respected self-improvement books ever written. In it, Hill outlines the way to achieve success through a series of 16 laws and 13 steps that centers on a saying he made famous: "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve." 📖

[www.naphill.org](http://www.naphill.org)

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magazine

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