

Together

magazine

**DELICIOUSLY
DELUXE**

**JAMIE BELL
IS TINTIN**

STEVEN SPIELBERG
Movie mogul's vision

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EDITORIAL

Of make-up and makeovers

Lots of luxury products to peruse in this issue, plus an opportunity to take advantage of *Together's* exclusive special offer with **Giorgio Armani** of a make-up session with a top cosmetics artist – a chance to pick up some tips in time for the party season

Having a cartoon identity is one of the reasons why Tintin actor **Jamie Bell**, who posed for this month's cover and features on page 16, says he doesn't think he'll be recognized on the street. The other reason, he says, is that Tintin isn't as famous in the US – where he lives – as in Europe, and that's why *The Adventures Of Tintin* premiered here before being released in the States, to whet the appetite of American audiences. Read the story behind director **Steven Spielberg's** decision to make the movie on page 21 and an insight into the film's motion capture technology on page 23.

As you can see, I now have my own cartoon identity thanks to the London based Italian painter and illustrator **Domenico Cordua**. He and graphic designer **Achraf Amiri** spent the evening at a party given by **Salvatore Ferragamo** drawing caricatures of the guests. Amiri describes himself as "the hidden son of the Addams family" – reflected in hilarious

sketches which make everyone look as if they are blood relations of **Uncle Fester**. Visit our website www.togethermag.eu for links to both Cordua's take on the fashion world and the rest of Amiri's fabulous portfolio.

The Ferragamo party was held to celebrate the makeover of the chic Brussels boutique on the *Boulevard de Waterloo* and guests were served Ferragamo's own wine – we'll have more about the celebrity fashion for owning a vineyard in the next issue from our expert **Alex Hewetson**; in this issue on page 86 he recommends the new **Beaune** over **Beaujolais**, while technical writer **Colin Moors** dabbles in the worlds of fashion and design on page 64.

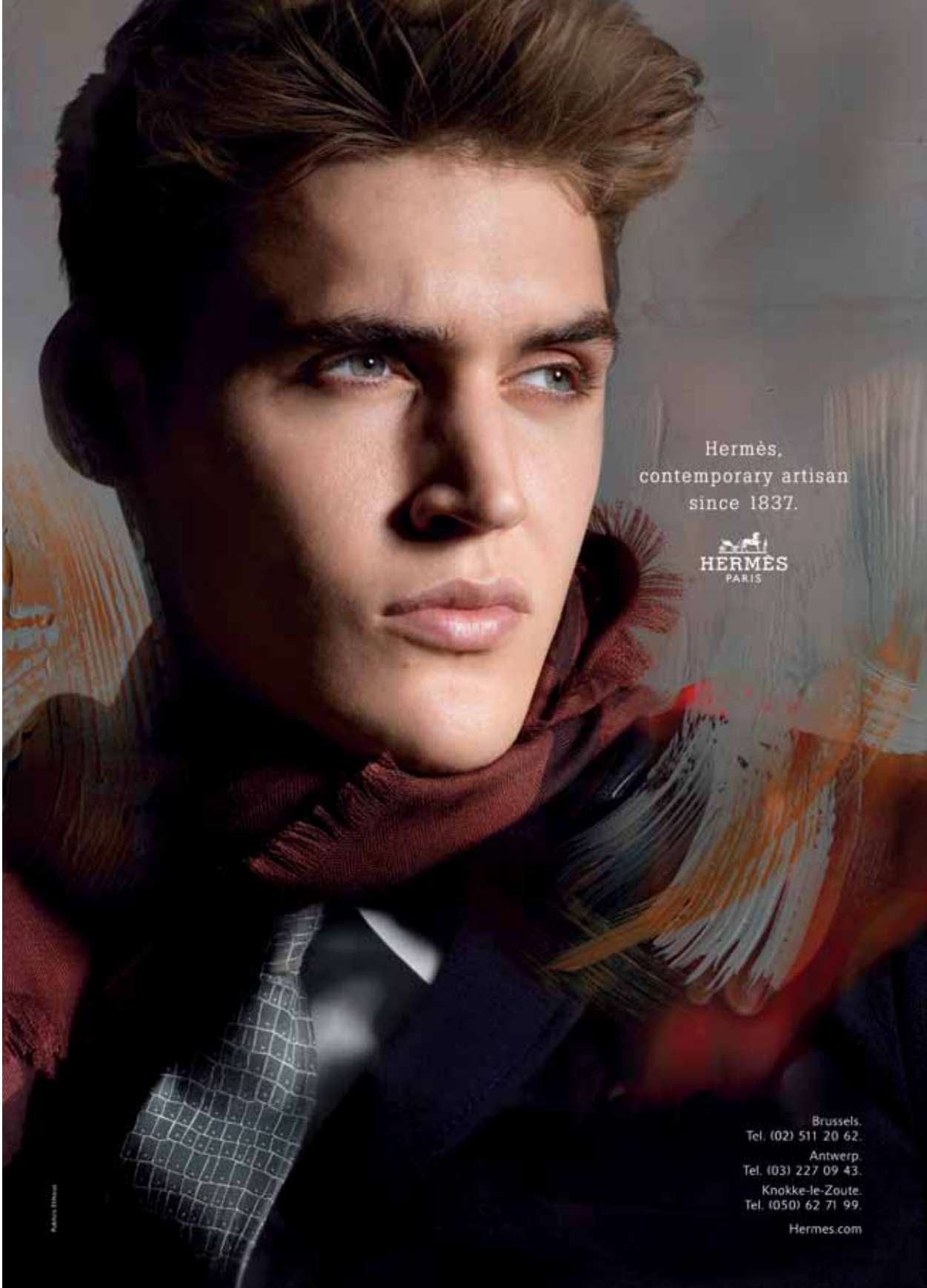
There's a rich diet of articles in this month's magazine, ranging from lifestyle issues and leisure, to business and finance. Publisher **David McGowan** and the *Together* team join me in hoping you enjoy the read. ☺



Patricia Kelly
Editor-in-Chief



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DATES

Wednesday, 23 November 2011, 14h30–16h30
Thursday, 24 November 2011, 12h30–14h30
Friday 25 November 2011, 12h30–14h30
Saturday 26 November 2011, 14h30–16h30

VENUE

The Board Room of *Together*'s prestigious offices in Boulevard Saint Michel

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

Just 12 readers per session

SPECIAL OFFER PRICE

The chosen participants will be asked for a €25 deposit up front to confirm attendance which will be redeemed in Giorgio Armani beauty products at the end of each session

HOW TO TAKE PART

Simply visit www.togethertmag.eu before midnight on November 18 and register your name and contact details, indicate the session you would ideally like to attend, marking second, third and fourth preferences. Readers will be selected on a first-come-first-served basis and will be

GIORGIO ARMANI
beauty

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magazine

Starring in Belgium

Here's **Federico Grandesso's** regular round-up of concerts to look out for

SCORPIONS

After a monumental 40 year career, the German rock group Scorpions kicked off on a final tour in March. As a fitting epitaph they will be playing songs from their unforgettable album *Sting in the Tail* – the band's seventeenth studio album released in Europe in March 2010. Forest National Brussels, November 26. www.forestnational.be



COLDPLAY

Chris Martin, Jonny Buckland, Guy Berryman and Will Champion have just celebrated the tenth anniversary of their first album *Parachutes* and have launched their fifth album *Mylo Xyloto* with the single *Paradise*, already a must have. Appearing at Antwerp's Sportpaleis, December 18. Tickets from €54. www.sportpaleis.be



GREGOIRE

With sales of one million copies for his first album *Toi + Moi*, Grégoire and his band will be presents songs from his follow-up *Le Même Soleil* during a tour through France, Switzerland and Belgium. Playing at Forest National on December 2. Tickets €38. www.forestnational.be



SADE

The Queen of Soul is back. The Nigerian-born British singer Helen Folasade Adu, better known as Sade, is the same mysterious and elegant diva after 25 years of success. Lotto Arena, Antwerp on November 20. Tickets from €44. www.sportpaleis.be



JAMES BLAKE

An international sensation from London emerging from the house, hip hop and techno scenes. On stage at l'Ancienne Belgique, Brussels on November 21- but there's a waiting list for tickets. www.abconcerts.be



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“Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers.”

– Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-92)

English poet; from *Locksley Hall* (1842)

“Errors, like straws, upon the surface flow;

He who would search for pearls must dive below.”

– John Dryden(1631-1700)

English poet, critic and dramatist; from *All for Love* (1678) prologue

“Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them. They must, they have no other models.”

– James Baldwin 1924-87

American novelist and essayist; from *Nobody Knows My Name* (1961)

“Everyone complains of his memory, and no one complains of his judgement.”

– Duc de la Rochefoucauld (1613-80)

French moralist

“I feel about airplanes the way I feel about diets. It seems to me that they are wonderful things for other people to go on.”

– Jean Kerr (1923-2003)

American writer; from *Please Don't Eat the Daisies* (1957)

“Never think that you're not good enough yourself. A man should never think that. My belief is that in life people will take you very much at your own reckoning.”

- Anthony Trollope (1815-82)

English novelist; from *The Small House at Allington* (1864)

Source:

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Quotations

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Spielberg and his boy hero

Heralded the most anticipated movie of the year, ***The Adventures of Tintin*** premiered in Brussels to resounding acclaim from Belgian critics for director **Steven Spielberg** and his portrayal of **Hergé's** intrepid reporter

Widespread approval greeted Steven Spielberg's adaptation of Hergé's comic book classic here in Tintin's home country and can only have come as a relief to those who feared the Hollywood treatment would render a national treasure unrecognizable. The verdict of the Belgian media was unanimous - "Bull's eye," was the headline in the Flemish *De Standaard* newspaper, while the front page of Francophone *Le Soir* proclaimed the film "A pure jewel".

For someone who didn't grow up with Tintin, and who first came across the stories in 1981 when he was in his thirties - "I wanted to make the movie even then" - Spielberg's portrayal of Tintin is delighting fans of one of the most popular cartoon characters of the 20th century. More than 350 million copies of the books have been sold, with translations into more than 80 languages.

"You're not supposed to do this when you're a journalist, but he kept putting himself into the stories he was supposed

to be reporting on, and he would become the story," says Spielberg of the tenacious Tintin, who made his first appearance in 1929.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Spielberg and Tintin's Belgian-born creator Hergé - real name Georges Prosper Remi - came to each other's notice following the release of Spielberg's Indiana Jones film *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, likened by a reviewer to the Tintin adventures. Indeed, Spielberg's Tintin is described by critics as being Indiana's animated cousin. Spielberg and Hergé are said to have had a mutual respect for each other's work, but Hergé died in 1983 the week they were due to meet.

Credited with capturing the spirit of the comic books, Spielberg bought the film rights 28 years ago, and the film remains faithful to the original stories. But it was always going to be a live-action adaptation until New Zealand director Peter Jackson of *Lord of the Rings* fame persuaded Spielberg to make Tintin into a motion-capture animated film using technology his company had created for James Cameron's *Avatar*. The results are considered to more accurately reflect Hergé's drawings - and the artist himself is depicted in a cameo appearance at the beginning of the film, much as he often drew himself into the stories he crafted. Co-producer Jackson will direct the second of a planned back-to-back trilogy of Tintin films.



Film director Steven Spielberg
at the Academy Awards earlier this year



BRITISH CAST

The first, *The Secret Of The Unicorn*, stars a mainly British cast – Jamie Bell (*Billy Elliot*, *King Kong*) stars as Tintin, Andy Serkis (Gollum in *Lord of the Rings*) as his boozy sidekick Captain Haddock and Daniel Craig (*James Bond*) as the Russian baddie Ivan Ivanovich Sakharine. Professor Calculus isn't in this film, but the bumbling British detectives Thomson (Nick Frost) and Thompson (Simon Pegg) have made it. Tintin's faithful canine companion Snowy – Milou in the original French version – is a completely animated character. But the rest of the cast, their features digitally altered to resemble the

original characters drawn by Hergé, act their roles as well as lending their voices.

SPIELBERG WAS REJECTED BY FILM SCHOOL

This is cutting-edge technology, and when it is done well the mind is tricked into believing it is seeing something real – although Jackson is on record as saying neither he nor Spielberg are very good with computers. “I can barely send an email” quips Jackson.

LEARNING CURVE

Spielberg filmed Tintin in this virtual world as if it were a live-action film, telling the *Los Angeles Times*: “It made me more like a painter than ever before.” He’s enthusiastic about the experience, describing it as a steep learning curve: “I just adored it,” he says, although says he believes that how a movie is made should be the least of an audience’s concerns. “I think five minutes into watching this movie people will soon see that the medium is not the message, that the characters and the story and the plot are.”

Passionate about his work, Spielberg – 65 in December – says he’s only really happy when he’s either watching films, or making them. A screenwriter, film producer, video game designer and studio executive as well as a multi-award winning director, Spielberg started making films as a young teenager. Rejected by film school, he started his movie career as unpaid intern at California’s Universal Studios. To date, his films have grossed in excess of \$8.5 billion and his personal wealth is said to be in the region of \$3 billion.





TRUST

With an extraordinary talent for film-making and a string of some of the greatest movies of all times to his credit - including *Jaws*, *Close Encounters Of*

The Third Kind, *ET*, *The Color Purple*, *Jurassic Park*, *Schindler's List*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Catch Me If You Can* - a Spielberg trademark is his use of music composed by John Williams in nearly all of his films, leaving viewers with a lasting impact of

the sound of the film. The soundtrack to the Tintin film, another Williams

masterpiece, is no exception. Spielberg also has a preference for working with actors and production crew he trusts from previous films.

Having once said failure is inevitable and success elusive, Spielberg says he thinks conquering fear is one of the most important things anyone can do - to overcome fear, block out negativity and push themselves to the limit. He admits he didn't think he pushed himself beyond what he thought he could do until he made *Schindler's List*. As far as the Tintin film is concerned, Spielberg says he identified with Tintin's character right from the start: "He does not take no for an answer, and that's the story of my life." ☞

"TINTIN DOES NOT TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER, AND THAT'S THE STORY OF MY LIFE"

From ballet shoes to boy reporter

Featuring on our cover, British actor **Jamie Bell** plays the lead role in *The Adventures Of Tintin*



Tintin actor
Jamie Bell

And here he is all these years later starring in a major film directed by the man.

Bell already had a professional relationship with Tintin's co-producer Peter Jackson, the man behind the innovative motion capture technology used in the film, from working on the 2005 remake of *King Kong* which Jackson directed. Andy Serkis, the actor who plays Tintin's sidekick Captain Haddock, had the role of the giant gorilla.

NOT JUST A VOICE

But Bell is annoyed when people assume he just does the voice of Tintin in the adventure animation. The technology requires the actors to play their roles in a motion capture studio wearing special suits, and Bell injured himself skidding across the deck of the ship to the extent of needing the services of a chiropractor for two days. But although he has the lead role, he is not the face of Tintin - all of the actors have had their facial features and bodies digitally altered to match the original characters as drawn by creator Hergé.

At the age of 25 with 18 films to his credit, Tintin is one of several films Bell is in this year, including *Jane Eyre*, playing Jane's cousin St John Rivers, and *The Eagle*, in which he plays Esca, slave to a Roman commander.

Landing the lead role of Tintin had a surreal quality to it for Jamie Bell - the first film he saw in a cinema was *Jurassic Park* when he was eight, and he says he told himself when the credits rolled that he would remember the name of the director, Steven Spielberg, mainly because of the dinosaurs.



Bell shot to stardom aged 14 as the dancer Billy Elliot in the film of the same name, the tale of a motherless 11-year-old working class boy set against the background of the 1984 miners' strike in a northern British town, who secretly attends ballet lessons, practising until he gets an audition with the Royal Ballet School. Plucked from obscurity out of two thousand hopefuls by director Stephen Daldry, an early mentor who

remains a close friend, he won a Bafta for the role.

The film mirrored aspects of Bell's own life – brought up by his mother, and from a

similar social background to Billy Elliot, he never knew his father and says he used to stuff his ballet shoes down his pants to

hide them from his friends. Oddly enough, like Tintin, Bell also has a little white dog, describing the fictional character he plays as “incredibly driven and morally correct”. Of the choice of motion capture technology as opposed to live action, he says: “For a motion picture of this sort, it is maybe the only medium in which to do it,” describing the experience as “like rehearsing for a play that you will never put on the stage”.

Bell says it was important to respect Tintin's iconic character, and be careful with how he was portrayed. Being British, his Tintin has an English accent: there is no trace of Bell's north east England roots.

“If Tintin had an American accent, I'm sure the rest of the world would have been very upset.” ☺

LIKE TINTIN, BELL ALSO HAS A LITTLE WHITE DOG

Tintin – the technology

Director **Steven Spielberg** used innovative motion capture technology to lift the boy reporter off the printed page and onto the screen



Finding a canine actor to play Snowy was impossible

The *Adventures Of Tintin* is based on the plots of three Tintin books – *The Crab With The Golden Claws*, *The Secret Of The Unicorn* and *Red Rackham's Treasure*. Tintin's Belgian creator Hergé drew an entire world from which Steven Spielberg and his filmmakers have taken images - a face in a crowd from one story, a car from another, a blue tin jug or a wooden artefact from the third. Behind the digital animation are Tintin co-producer Peter Jackson's New Zealand-based Weta Workshop and Weta Digital, with blockbusters *Avatar* and *King Kong* among their credits.

Stage one of the Tintin project was the creation of some 2,500 conceptual paintings by a team of eight artists with a brief to translate Hergé's drawings into the three-dimensional world. Every image was considered by Spielberg or Jackson who selected the ones they wanted developed.

A pre-visualisation team mapped out the film's complex action sequences in relatively crude 3D animations. While some were

simple re-workings of Hergé frames – experiments in mood and lighting - others were experimental renditions of an environment such as Tintin's apartment, adding the kind of clutter and detail missing from Hergé's minimalistic frames.

SPARKLING DOTS

Transforming these digital visual concepts into digital animation meant the real actors – Jamie Bell as Tintin and Andy Serkis as Captain Haddock – played their roles in a motion capture - mocap - studio. They had to squeeze into bodysuits covered in sparkling dots so all their movements could be digitally captured as they acted out the sequences.

The final stages of the facial and bodily actions of the actors were rendered via massive computer processing power into moving people, and teams of computer artists tweaked and fine-tuned the images into the finished movie.

It's not all about the actors however. Hergé's colour palette has been exhaustively analysed. He always coloured the sea green, so the same tint is used in the movie, albeit overlaid with digitally rendered shadows and highlights. Great care had to be taken, too, with body shapes. Hergé drew characters with distinctively skinny legs, big heads and chunky, short bodies. Those dimensions have been preserved in the movie.

Finding a canine actor to play Snowy, Tintin's dog, proved impossible and the digital animal was completely computer-generated. ☺

Weightlifting for the brain

Children or adults with attention deficits, stroke victims or just memory loss associated with getting older – help is at hand in the form of computer-based training to improve poor working memory



Cogmed – a computer-based training to improve working memory

Oliver is ten years old and has been diagnosed with AD/HD, or attention deficit disorder. He has trouble concentrating and is easily forgetful. Yet after following memory training developed by Swedish

neuro-scientists for just five weeks, his teacher reports “amazing results”, adding: “This boy would never finish a piece of work, yet now he is able to sit and focus his mind through to completion.” Oliver’s parents say that his previously disruptive behavior has greatly improved.

BRAIN RESEARCH

Oliver’s saviour was a combination of cognitive neuroscience combined with computer game design known as Cogmed, developed at Sweden’s Karolinska Institute in 2000. With serious brain research supporting the results, the method is now widely used across the world with Cogmed explaining the logic behind it as “very much like in the case of the fitness machines used for building muscle strength in a gym.

MEMORY FADES WITH AGE AND CAN BE ENHANCED BY REGULAR TRAINING

Cogmed is highly focused, cognitive weightlifting.” Adults are also benefitting from the programme; memory fades with age and can be enhanced by regular training. Anna, in her 50s said she was thrilled with the outcome: “It has given me my mental energy back.”

A clinical and child psychologist for more than 30 years, Rosamund Reuter is a strong advocate of Cogmed and has been offering the training to clients in Brussels for the past three years. “I can see that over and above the improvements in concentration and working memory, it improves children’s mental stamina,” says Reuter.

“Working memory is the ability to hold pieces of information in our heads and we use this in our thinking. We need it for mental arithmetic, for remembering what we just read in a text,” she explains. Clients are better able to stay focused, ignore distractions, plan ahead, remember instructions, and start and finish tasks.

FRIENDLY ROBOT

The programme – five weeks long with five sessions a week combined with close personal professional support - is rigorous and designed to improve working memory through intensive and systematic training. Done on a computer at home, in school, or at work, each session targets the different aspects of working memory. The main school-age programme is based on a friendly robot and a number of visual, auditory and spatial memory exercises stimulate the functions of the brain that deal with memory.

“Children learn to stay focused, to try again when they fail,” says Reuter. “The

exercises are fun to do and it gives them confidence,” she says, adding that no one has ever abandoned the course, a fact she attributes to the coaching system where the child receives weekly coaching telephone calls with parents offering supportive rewards for effort. Teenagers especially benefit, says Reuter, particularly when they lose confidence in themselves. “They are able to report exactly how they feel it is making a difference and enjoy the challenges of trying to remember just one or two more elements in each exercise.”

SYNCHRONIZED RESULTS

Results are synchronized daily with a central computer in Sweden so that the child, coach and parents are able to review the scores and chart progress. Adult training is based on the same principles and they also receive integral personal coaching and support. Long-term studies conducted by Tracy Alloway of the University of Stirling and published by the British Psychological Society show “verbal working memory at age five was the strongest predictor of learning outcomes at age 11 – outweighing the IQ factor.” Cogmed programmes have now been developed for 4-6 year olds to help children who show early signs of attention deficits. ☺

For more information visit www.cogmed.com or contact Rosamund Reuter, M.Sc., Clinical & Child Psychologist rosreuter@yahoo.co.uk T.+32(0)2 503 06 42

Eat yourself slim

Eating more to lose weight may sound like a contradiction in terms, but Aspria's Health and Well-being Manager **Richard Earney** explains how regular meals and a balanced diet will help melt excess body fat

So I am sure the title to this article has grabbed the attention of many: eat yourself slim – how could this be? It is the opposite of what can be read in many magazines encouraging short-term weight loss programmes and diets.

First, I want to point out that I strongly dislike the word diet: a lifestyle change is

THE BODY IS INCREDIBLY SMART

needed to lose weight and keep it off, not a short-term fix.

The first step many people take when they start a traditional diet is to drastically restrict the amount of calories or meals they eat per day. More often than not, this starts with skipping breakfast, often the easiest meal to go without. However, this meal is one of the most important, providing the body with the nutrients and

calories it needs to deal with the day's activities and tasks.

METABOLISM

Restricting calories drastically slows down the metabolism and, if anything, forces our bodies to hold on to unwanted body fat. Yes, you will notice a sharp decline in weight, but this is usually in the form of body water, not body fat, the opposite of the intended outcome. This is a primal response; although lifestyle has changed dramatically over the last few centuries, the body's responses - structurally, chemically and hormonally - have not. The body is incredibly smart, and when it feels it is not getting the nutrients and energy it needs to function correctly, it will start to store body fat. Basically, you have forced it into starvation mode, slowed down a burning furnace - your metabolism - to a smoulder.

On top of this, restrictive diets may limit the nutrients the body needs to function and this leads to bingeing, often late in the evening and usually on sugary carbohydrate (energy) foods. Coupled with a slower metabolism, this leads to yo-yo weight shifts and drastic energy fluctuations. You have basically confused your body.

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Ideal daily water intake is two litres, more if you exercise

Metabolism is therefore vital to sustained body fat loss. It is important to eat small, well balanced meals every three to four hours and focus on the following:

- low glycemic index (GI) carbohydrates (energy foods) to keep blood sugar levels balanced. This is imperative to maintain good energy levels throughout the day, ultimately encouraging weight loss (www.glycemicindex.com);
- quality sources of protein to build and repair tissue - if this comes from meat, ensure it's lean and preferably organic;
- fats: the body craves quality fats, but needs the right types of fats to feed the brain, lubricate joints, improve memory, concentration, rejuvenate the skin and maximize energy. Look for unprocessed polyunsaturated (essential) fats and Omega-3 and Omega-6 essential fatty

acids (EFA's);

- water: 75% of your body is made up of water and almost half of the brain. Water is a key ingredient in keeping the metabolic processes of the body ticking over, like oiling a rusty machine. Ideal daily intake is two litres, more if you exercise;
- portion size is also important. Keep it small - think of the size of a clenched fist for protein and carbohydrates. If you eat frequently, you won't feel hungry.

Overall, it is about making the best choices. You will be surprised at how much energy you have during the day, and as your metabolism starts to tick over, faster and faster, coupled with some exercise, the body fat will simply melt away. ☺

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Becoming a parent

The birth of a first child is a commonplace event, yet – as relationship counsellor **Suzette Reed** writes - for the two individuals who become parents, this transition is a major life change

Both men and women report that having children is the most intensely binding thing a couple can do, and having a child is the single most life-changing event for most couples. This, however, does not mean that having children will keep couples together; parenthood has the potential to challenge both men and women's feelings about themselves and their relationship.

During pregnancy, the mum-to-be experiences massive changes to her body, hormonal surges and, often, a change in desire and libido. The partner may feel as if they are playing catch up with the changes that are happening. For the first weeks of her pregnancy the woman is likely to feel very different, but appear to the world, and to her partner, to be the same as usual. As the pregnancy progresses, the physical changes

become apparent, but the impact of pregnancy goes way beyond the growing bump.

Once the baby is born, the learning curve for both parents is stratospheric, and there needs to be a commitment to real negotiation and understanding between the couple in the first weeks and months of parenthood. Usually one partner becomes the main carer, and this partner will focus their energy, time and attention on the baby.

DEPENDENT

Human babies are very dependent on adults for a long period of time - this may seem an obvious statement but, biologically and psychologically, it is important that a strong bond is forged in the first hours and days after birth. The intense relationship that the main carer develops with the baby is vital. Many parents, particularly the main carer, talk of "falling in love" with their baby and are amazed by the intensity of this relationship.

Yet the preoccupation that develops between the carer parent and the baby can leave the other partner feeling lost and emotionally abandoned. Is there enough time, love, and interest, for everyone's needs to be met? It is ironic that, at the very time a couple needs to support one another through this life-changing event, they are buffeted by such strong emotions.



Men talk of feeling unsure of their role as fathers

The changes for men when they become fathers has had relatively little attention by policy-makers and service providers, compared with the focus on women as mothers, and the impact and importance of motherhood. Many men talk of feeling confused and unsure of their role, both as fathers-to-be and in the time following the birth.

LACK OF SLEEP

It would seem that couples who 'make it' redefine how they show their love for each other during pregnancy and childrearing. Quality, effort, and keeping interested in each other replace frequency (of sex, talking or going out) as measures of success. It's easy to forget who your partner is, and what pleasures and understanding he/she's capable of providing. If the couple lose sight of their relationship and their needs – both of

which may have changed dramatically – a rift may appear. The baby's needs may seem ever-present - and lack of sleep doesn't help - but finding time to be adults, partners and lovers will support the relationship and the baby. Couples must talk and focus on each other; they need to have some fun, and this will help the new family find a healthy and balanced way forward.

Stephen Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families*, believes that a strong adult relationship between parents is essential to forming strong parent/child relationship. He says: "The greatest thing you can do for your children is to love your partner." It sounds obvious and simple, but can be hard to do when the arrival of a new baby has turned life upside down. Nevertheless, it is worth putting the work in. ☺

ONCE THE BABY IS BORN, THE LEARNING CURVE FOR BOTH PARENTS IS STRATOSPHERIC

Irish eyes almost smiling again

Global business leaders of Irish decent have pledged to get the Old Country up and running again; in Dublin **Cillian Donnelly** senses an air of optimism emerging from the economic crisis

A decade ago, when the so-called Celtic Tiger was at its peak, Dublin heaved with atmosphere and good times. The Temple Bar area of the city, which emerged from a failed attempt to build a transport hub just south of the Liffey River, became a focal point for nightlife and good times. It was a tale of transformation from the grimy, smog-enveloped town of the 1980s to the vibrant capital city that emerged from the economic boom of the latter

FORMER US PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON HAS ALSO AGREED TO DO HIS BIT

1990s, which saw Dublin elevated by culture, modernity, and new business, imbued with a confidence that infected the country as a whole.

When the bubble burst in 2008, an economy based on precarious property speculation finally collapsed. It was a swift descent. The tourists stopped coming - 2009 proved a disastrous year for the industry - businesses closed down, unemployment went up and wages were curbed.

Towards the end of last year, the centrist Fianna Fáil government that so boastfully took the credit for the good times, but by then wheezing towards electoral disaster, went cap in hand to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Union asking for help to pay its debts. It was a humiliating comedown for a country once held up as a shining example of how governments could lift their economies out of the mire, and the episode provoked more than one over-the-top newspaper editorial about lost independence.



Former US president Bill Clinton among those pledging to get Ireland back on its feet

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Dublin's Convention Centre reflected in the Liffey River

But the new Irish Taoiseach (prime minister), Enda Kenny, of the centre-right Fine Gael party, has vowed to get Ireland back on its feet. At the recent Global Irish Economic Forum, he confidently predicted Ireland would be the first of the three bailed-out Eurozone countries, the others being Greece and Portugal, to be free of the IMF. The Forum, the second such event after a less than successful one in 2009, is a kind of an old school network on an international scale, in which global business leaders of Irish decent have pledged to get the county up and running again.

Former US President Bill Clinton, now a globetrotting motivational speaker for hire, has also agreed to do his bit: next year he will convene a conference in New York on how to lift Ireland out of its present economic problems.

TOURISM PLAN

Tourism is a big part of the plan. It is still considered a vital part of Ireland's economy, accounting for about 6% of GDP and about 5% of employment, and the

government wants this to improve.

In 2013, when Ireland holds the EU presidency, the country aims to attract an extra 350,000 visitors to its shores through various local initiatives. The service industry, which Clinton claims the Irish do better than anyone else in the world, also continues to be promoted.

Hotels make a point of their ability to provide for any business or leisure occasion, and the new Convention Centre Dublin, a state-of-the-art centrepiece in the redeveloped docklands, aims to attract big, international trade.

Talk to people in the tourism or leisure industries, and there is a certain amount of confidence creeping back, while in the pubs and bars the optimism is mixed with a touch of cynicism as the future is discussed. The economic forecast is a little sunnier, but there remains an understandable reluctance to take politicians and business leaders at their word as they promise to restore national pride and confidence. ☐

Chinese thirst for European luxury brands

For Europe's makers of champagne, diamond watches and haute couture, financial writer **Laura Cohn** says the faltering recovery of the last two years has not been faltering at all

Thanks to China's new rich snapping up Old World brands, companies like Britain's Burberry and France's LVMH have seen their stock prices soar.

Despite the Asian boom, however, many major luxury goods manufacturers still get just over half of their sales from Europe and the US, which appear headed for a double-dip recession. Is it time for investors to sell high on high-end goods?

Most analysts remain bullish. Even with the economic funk in the West, go-go growth in Asia means shares of luxury-goods makers may still have room to run.

"Displaying wealth has become a trend in China," China-based HSBC analyst Erwan Rambourg says in a recent report, adding, "this will continue to translate into growing purchases of luxury goods." Indeed, consultants at McKinsey predict the luxury market in China will more than double to €20 billion in 2015, from €9 billion in 2010.

Take LVMH, the Paris-based owner of such names as Louis Vuitton, Dom Perignon and Tag Heuer. It now generates 28% of revenues in Asian countries outside of stagnant Japan, up from 19% just five years ago. Analyst Francois-Regis Breuil of Oddo Securities in Paris thinks that growth will continue, more than offsetting any slowdown in the US and Europe. In fact, he says the thirst for luxury in Southeast Asia is "exceptionally dynamic" and still in its early stages.



The new rich in China lust for European luxury goods, such as these Bulgari diamond earrings sported by American actress Gwyneth Paltrow

ROBUST SALES

Similarly, British luxury retailer Burberry has 60 stores in China now; analyst John Guy of the Royal Bank of Scotland expects that number to nearly double to 111 over the next five years. The maker of classic trench coats, cashmere scarves and other high-end clothing already has plans to add two flagship stores in Hong Kong, on top of one it recently opened on Canton Road,

Hong Kong's Fifth Avenue. But will the shoppers come? Analysts think so. Guy of RBS expects sales to remain "robust".

Even Burberry's stores in Britain are getting a

bump from the Asian boom. About 30%-40% of the retailer's demand in London comes from Chinese buyers on European shopping sprees; another 20%-30% is thanks to Middle Eastern and Russian customers, RBS's Guy estimates. Such shoppers are "less affected" by Europe's politics and economic crisis than locals are, he notes.

NEW RICH

Along with designer handbags and trench coats, China's new rich have a growing affinity for high-end jewellery – a boon for Switzerland's Richemont, which owns the Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels and Piaget brands. In fact, HSBC says Richemont now gets 38% of its sales from non-Japanese Asia. That's up from 26% just three years ago. If tourists from east Asia

buying bling when traveling abroad are included, the figure is closer to 45%, HSBC says.

Sales are not only booming. Name brands are so important to developing-world consumers that European luxury retailers face little price resistance. That means sellers have been able to command higher prices in Asia than in the West, goosing profits.

China's lust for luxury has to taper off at some point, so choose such stocks with care and keep an eye on nascent signs of overheating in the Chinese economy. If you want to bet on Chinese luxury, analysts suggest dedicating just part of your portfolio to the area, perhaps no more than a fifth or so.

UNTAPPED MARKETS

Even if Chinese growth slows, though, analysts think the number of new rich is so large, the pool of potential customers can continue to sustain high profits. In 2010, there were 1.16 million Asian rich – defined as those with \$1 million (€734,000) or more in investible assets – worth some €4.1 trillion, reports Swiss private banking group Julius Baer. By 2015, Julius Baer reckons, there will be 2.82 million worth €11.6 trillion. Some developing markets, such as India and Brazil, are still largely untapped. Says Rahul Sharma, retail analyst at London retail consultancy Neuv Capital: "The beauty of these companies is, they're only just scratching the surface." ■



BRUSSELS

One of the nicest view over Brussels, 15th floor, close to Brussels centre and European institutions by Metro, 2 minutes from Metro Yser, 2 balconies (one with south view on a farm Brussels centre, one with north view on the canal and the atomium), quiet neighbours, surrounded by parks.



SCHAEERBEEK

exceptional house at 2 min walking distance from the Rogierplace, near all type of transportation, at 5 min from the Damsaerstreet, large livingroom, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, separate storage/laundry room, 1 toilet, fully furnished kitchen. Nice view and access to large garden.



BRUSSELS



Centre Brussels near Damsaer area. Nice apartment DUPLEX 130m², 2008 parking place 1 car. Livingroom 45-50m², separate diningroom 16m², fitted kitchen 3 bedrooms (20m², 12m², 12m²) bathroom 1 shower room 2wc, individual gas heating. Apartment with a lot of light, in good condition. Excellent situation near shops, Damsaer area, metro (Yser) and ring.

WOLLUWE SAINT-LAMBERT



ANDERLECHT

Two steps away from the House of Europe, in a commercial district, this building located on 2 alleys proposes commercial ground floor with workshop 143 m²
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- 1 apt 1 bedroom of 66 m² and 1 flat of 30 m²
- 1 apt 1 bedroom of 66 m²

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Luxurious 1 bedroom apartments for sale with a view over Brussels. All the apartments have been completely renovated.



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structed and was sold to the European Commission. There are different luxurious 1 bedroom apartments for sale with a splendid view over Brussels. All the apartments have been completely renovated and are equipped with a wooden floor, fully equipped kitchen (microwave oven / dishwasher / fridge / ...), videophone, complete bathroom with shower, new window frames with double glazing, security door, airconditioning.



BRUSSELS

Facing the nice Parc Cinquantenaire, very spacious 4 bedroom house facing the Parc 3 bedrooms - fully equipped kitchen - garage. One large and nice living room, 2 quiet bedrooms, kitchen is equipped, all in good conditions. Quiet neighbors, surrounded by parks. A lot of light, in good condition. Excellent situation near shops, the...



house 3 facades of +/- 240m², completely renovated in 2004, living room 42m², fully equipped kitchen (microwave oven / dishwasher / fridge / ...), breakfast corner, 4 bedrooms, closets, wooden floors, bathroom, toilet, Jacuzzi, 2 shower rooms, garage - space in front of the house, garden, terrace, alarm system, security door, airconditioning.



FOREST

villa 4 facades of 300m², completely renovated in 2000, living room, wooden floors, fireplace, separate dining room, fully equipped kitchen, breakfast area, laundry room, 4 bedrooms, wooden floors, office area, bathroom, shower room, cellar, garden, nice terrace, garage 2 or 3 cars, alarm system.

The success of *Vendanges Louise*, the exclusive late night chocolate, champagne and shopping extravaganza hosted by the chic designer boutiques of the up town Louise district, has prompted retailers in the area to offer customers more after-work shopping opportunities. Most of the shops located in the galleries and lining the prestigious *Boulevard de Waterloo*, *Rue du Grand Cerf*, *Avenue de la Toison d'Or*, *Rue de Namur* and, of course, the *Avenue Louise* itself, will kick-start Christmas shopping on December 15 by staying open until 22h30. And whereas the *Vendanges* is by invitation only sent out by shops to their regular customers, Louise Christmas Night is an open to all.

DELICIOUSLY
DELUXE

When the shoe fits

On the face of it, hand-stitched shoes would appear to be somewhat of a luxury, yet the Managing Director of a top Italian brand told **Delphine Stefens** that nothing could be further from the truth

Diego Rossetti of the Italian shoe maker Fratelli Rossetti admits the family-run company is doing well, but adds mischievously that his is not a luxury brand and its shoes not a luxury product. It makes sense when he explains himself: shoes are a necessity in this day and age, not particularly indispensable as luxury products by definition tend to be. Rossetti's product, he argues, is an investment which gives a better return than others – in other words, quality.

Fratelli Rossetti is based in Parabiago, a small industrial town near Milan, and there

is definitely nothing luxurious about its surroundings. Known as the City of Shoes, due to the number of manufacturers established there,

everything from styling to sales takes place at Fratelli Rossetti's Parabiago headquarters.

MADE TO LAST

Lasts – the solid forms around which shoes are moulded – are now made of plaster, and

most if not all of the wooden ones dating back to the 1950s remain a valuable source of inspiration, carefully stored on easily accessible mobile shelves. Archived drawings include lots of miniature, precise details – the original Rossetti 'signature'.

The Rossetti brothers Diego, Dario and Luca, have carried on the family footwear business, established in 1953 by their late father Renzo Rossetti along with his brother Renato.

3D drawings are cut up and the paper patterns developed further by using a computer, not only to adapt them to different shoe sizes but also make the most of the leather skins when they are cut up. Skins are carefully selected twice a week by an in-house expert.



Luca, Diego and Dario Rossetti
© Giovanni Gastel



Every pair of shoes is a symmetric match
© Ferdinando Scianna

ARTISANAL PRIDE


There are plenty of machines, but none that could be successfully operated without a trained eye and pair of skilled hands. The employees are artisans who take pride in their work: the woman who manually punches holes for the stitching in a pair of brogues characteristic of the company's style; the man who cuts precious skins by hand making sure that the position of alligator scales are taken into consideration, so that every pair of shoes is a symmetric match.

"The most important details are the ones you can't see," says Diego Rossetti. "We are very proud to say that all our shoes are made by us in our own factory."

VALUE FOR MONEY

The fashioning of a Fratelli Rossetti shoe can take up to 150 different working phases, which will determine the price of a

particular model and explains why it can take up to a week to make one pair; shoes rest on lasts for several days and undergo an ultimate quality check before being boxed and shipped to retail locations the world over. The company boasts 27 single-branded stores and has a line in accessories, including handbags, repeating Rossetti's reputation for elegance, quality and style.

Does the person in the shop trying them on think about the work that went into the making of those shoes – do they care, or does it matter. According to Diego Rossetti, it is a resounding yes to all of that. After a period during which it was all about how a shoe looked, he says customers now seek comfort, as they did in his father's day, and they want shoes that last. Value for money, he says, is what the company strives for, and customers get what they pay for. 

DRESS TO IMPRESS

MODERN ELEGANCE

A colourful dress embellished with an on-trend necklace is the fastest route to up-to-the-minute elegance

Dress and handbag
NATAN COUTURE

Necklace and ring
SHANIA

JEWEL COLORS

Take the plunge and go for a touch of colour and elegance this season. With the accent on gold, invest in some alluring jewellery and high-end accessories. Glam up your silhouette in wide leg trousers for a 70's vibe and put some colour back in your life with these vibrant designs.

TOUCH OF COLOUR

Make it vibrant with a bright blue fox fur cape

Top
MONSIEUR BUL

Trousers
DIANE VON FURSTENBERG

Blue fox cape
LAMON-NUYTENS

Earrings and rings
SHANIA

WRITER: CÉLINE MARTIN

PHOTOGRAPHER: FRED CHAPOTAT
WWW.FREDCHAPOTAT.COM

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WWW.NICHOLASSIROT.COM

HAIR AND MAKE UP: DAVID BETTEGA
FOR L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONNEL AND YVES SAINT LAURENT
WWW.DAVIDBETTEGA.COM

MODEL: ORANE
WWW.DOMINIQUEMODEL.SAGENCY.COM

DRESS TO IMPRESS

GO GEOMETRIC

Drift about in this free flowing printed silk ensemble

Outfit
HERMÈS

Jewellery
SWAROVSKI

Perfume
HERMESSENCE



SOFT AND BRIGHT

Power dressing in an emerald green fur coat by Diane von Furstenberg

Trousers
DIANE VON FURSTENBERG

Top
LUC DUCHENE

Jewellery
SHANIA



DRESS TO IMPRESS



JUNGLE FEVER

Tropical print ensemble by Diane von Furstenberg

Bracelet
CACHÉMIRE COTON SOIE

Shoes
SONIA RYKIEL

TEEN SPIRIT

Dress to party with this suit jacket and glittering red trousers by Luc Duchene

Top
CACHÉMIRE COTON SOIE

Shoes
CHURCH (from Cachemire Coton Soie)

Handbag
LANCEL



DRSS TO IMPRESS

EIGHTIES TAILORING

Hot to trot in this pulsating pink blazer by Versace for Hennes & Mauritz

Brooch
CHRISTOPHE COPPENS

Leather Gloves
HERMÈS



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PANDORA
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

Bobby dazzler

Previously a successful hotelier, on the look-out for a challenge having sold his business, Roberto Coin turned to making jewellery. **Delphine Stefens** meets a man who literally turned his dreams into gold



Roberto Coin in his show room

Describing himself as “a businessman who fell in love with jewellery and creativity, rather than a designer or creator trying to do business”, Roberto Coin is a whirl of energy, his character as dazzling as the jewellery he designs. “I’m like a child,” he says. “I fall in love with something new

every day, and I’m especially fascinated by what I don’t know but want to learn.” In 1977, Coin founded his company in Vicenza, Italy’s epicenter for gold and jewellery production, known as the City of Gold. A newcomer to the trade, he was quick to learn the ropes and was soon supplying the prestigious and well established jewellery brands of the day.

HIT PARADE

In 1996, Roberto Coin went one step further and launched his own brand. An almost instant success, it was listed in the top ten of the best known brands in the United States within just four years. A few years later, it ranked among the top three on the international scene and number one in Italy.

HIDDEN RUBY

It all started with the Appassionata Collection of woven gold, each piece set with a hidden ruby in direct skin contact with the wearer. Some fifteen years later, as many as 600 new designs are produced annually. Coin says he has “every women in mind” and that he trusts and has continuously relied on “the intelligence of women” who choose his pieces because of their design and quality,

and not because they are visibly branded; hence his discreet signature use of a 0.3 carat ruby, a stone imbued in legend with magic powers.

The face of Roberto Coin jewellery is fashion icon Christy Turlington Burns, and Coin’s collaboration with the supermodel, entrepreneur and activist, benefitted charities YouthAIDS and CARE.

The key to his own success, Roberto Coin states without hesitation, is “being myself, being real” and he says he strongly believes “boredom is the killer of life”. According to him, there is always something to go aim for. No half measures or compromise for Coin, but living proof that, try hard enough, and dreams can indeed come true. ☺



Peach gold bangle and earrings with colourless and black diamonds from Roberto Coin's Scorpion collection

Lock-up jewellery

Long considered the premier jeweller in the United States, Tiffany has built an international reputation as the ultimate source of gifts for life's special occasions, writes **Céline Martin**

Photographer: **Victor Demarchelier**
Stylist: **Estee Stanley**

From pure and simple designs to sumptuous and elaborate jewellery, Tiffany craftsmanship has been capturing the spirit of the times for nearly two centuries.

The chic Tiffany Locks collection is based on designs found in the company's archives, vintage-inspired yet completely contemporary. Desperately desirable pendants, necklaces, bracelets and bangles come in feminine 18 carat yellow and rose gold, or elegant sterling silver, some pieces

set with diamonds, some functioning as actual locks, with prices ranging from hundreds to several thousands of euros.

This collection and others can be discovered at the Tiffany boutique in Brussels, where purchases are securely wrapped in Tiffany's trade mark blue gift box - or find out more online. be.tiffany.com

Tiffany & Co
66 Boulevard de Waterloo, B-1000 Brussels
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BOHEMIAN CHIC
Emblem lock pendant 18k gold
Yves Saint Laurent Evening dress



COMFORTABLE AND SEXY
Heart lock and Arc lock in 18k gold
Ralph Lauren top



COOL AND CONFIDENT
Heart locks and Arc locks in sterling silver or 18k rose gold
Row vest and Helmut Lang leggings



EVENING CALLS FOR DIAMONDS
Tiffany Locks in platinum or 18k gold and diamonds
Metro bangles
Oscar de la Renta cocktail dress



LOCKS AND LIPSTICK
Heart locks, Emblem locks, Vintage locks
Victor & Rolf strapless oxford shirt/red hot
Isabel Marant jeans



LADYLIKE RUFFLES
Locks in platinum with diamonds or sterling silver,
18k rose gold or platinum with diamonds
Classic Oscar de la Renta outfit



GO A LITTLE WILD
Heart lock in sterling silver
Lanvin leopard print jumpsuit



SUIT SAVVY
Arc lock, Vintage round locks,
Heart locks, Emblem locks
Gucci ensemble

Biotechnology to the rescue

Plants have long been an inspiration and resource for cosmetics; scientists estimate there could be as many as seven million plant species on Earth waiting to be discovered. Who knows – maybe a plant derivative of the future will turn out to be the Elixir of Eternal Youth and Beauty. In the meantime, **Delphine Stefens** points to some acceptable alternatives



Visionnaire Advanced Skin Corrector by Lancôme (€73.71/30ml and €94.96/50ml) has a delicate and fresh rose fragrance but its prime ingredient is actually LR 2412, a plant-derived molecule patented by the company. Designed to mimic the so-called signal molecule which activates healing and triggers defense mechanisms in damaged plants, it promises to smooth wrinkles, tighten pores and refine skin texture, and is suitable for all skin types and tones.

www.mylancome.be



Another remedy intended to improve the skin's natural healing process and protect it from external aggression is **The Concentrate** by La Mer (€290/30ml). As the name indicates, it's a concentrate of La Mer's signature Miracle Broth™ formulated by the brand's founder Dr Max Huber, a NASA aerospace physicist who was burned in a laboratory experiment and used sea kelp to heal his skin and diminish the appearance of his scars. Recommended for use in tandem with **Crème de la Mer** for optimal results.

www.cremedelamer.com



More recently, the renowned plastic surgeon Dr Michel Pfulg, founder of the prestigious beauty clinic Laclinic Montreux, teamed up with Helena Rubinstein to look for home treatments to lessen the effects of the skin's "age scars". One of the results is **Re-Plasty Age Recovery Night Cream** (€299.99/50ml); with its high concentration of Pro-Xylane, it claims to accelerate skin regeneration and act like a post-surgical intervention bandage; applied night after night it is intended to correct wrinkles, cutaneous damage and imperfections.

www.laclinic.ch

www.helenarubinstein.com

As for beauty from within, consider **Kusmi Teas** - they may or may not complement a skin regime, but they sure taste good. **Algotea**, a fortifying and remineralizing blend of Chinese green tea with spearmint and seaweed (€14.20/125g metal tin), or **Arch of Jasmine** blooming tea. This tea flower, made of seventy tea leaves attached together, joined to five chrysanthemum flowers at the centre, is also called the Elixir of Immortality (€14,40/six item bag). ☺

www.kusmitea.com





Stage
3/21

Stage 3/21 Filling the moulds

The moulds in which cuberdons are made are created individually and can be used only once. They comprise a wood frame on which a thick layer of natural starch powder is deposited, which gives the cuberdon its distinctive shape. Then, the moulds are filled with the handmade natural smooth syrup while it is still piping hot...

The Cuberdon

Since its creation, more than 150 years ago, the famous small, sweet purple cone, the 'cuberdon' has established itself as an ancestral delicacy of the Kingdom of Belgium but there are still many secrets concerning its origins and its jealously guarded home made recipe.

The original recipe of the true cuberdon is known to only very few Belgian craftsmen. Cuberdons Léopold are the ones that use only 100% natural ingredients, exclusively selected for their high quality and authenticity.

The creation of the Cuberdons Léopold requires patience, know-how and perfect alchemy. No less than seven days are needed to give life to these delicious sweet cones. In each of the 21 stages of the manufacturing process, craftsmanship and respect for traditions are of vital importance.



Available soon at:
www.cuberdonsleopold.com

Made in China takes on new meaning

“China” and “luxury” are the key words on everyone’s lips today; here are five things Shanghai-based luxury PR specialist **Chloe Reuter** says everyone needs to know about luxury in China

GOING DIGITAL

With the largest population of Internet users in the world, China is the ultimate playground for digital marketers. China’s luxury buyers are younger compared with those in traditional luxury markets. They are tech-savvy and spending an increasing amount of time on their computers and smart phones. In the next couple of years the dominant luxury buyers will be aged between 25 and 35. The potential of luxury online shopping is huge. Official online stores also play a part in reassuring customers that they are buying genuine items – not a small concern in a country full of fakes.

DIVERSITY

The sheer size of the country and huge disparities in economic and cultural development between regions means there is no single Chinese luxury consumer. It is a heterogeneous market with distinctively different groups. While most of the country is still in the process of being introduced to the concept of luxury, the most affluent and discerning consumers are going beyond fashion and accessories. Art collections, private jets, European-style private education and custom-made luxury trips are just a few examples of the luxury market in China becoming more mature and diverse.

OWN BRANDS

China has a long history but few Made in China luxury brands. That is changing with the introduction of new brands like Shang Xia. The brainchild of Artistic Director Jiang Qiong Er, the concept was realised with the backing of Hermes. Shang Xia gives new life to traditional Chinese craftsmanship in contemporary designs in furniture, porcelain, clothing and jewellery. Tapping into Chinese heritage has big potential: understanding Chinese heritage is smart and definitely resonates with a refined luxury consumer content to mix western and Chinese brands.

NORTH AND WEST

Luxury is moving away from the obvious premier tier cities. China’s rich do not only live in Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou. Luxury brands are waking up to this and beginning to focus on building brand awareness in other markets. Chongqing, with one of China’s highest GDPs, is becoming a mecca for luxury brands with Gucci, Prada and Louis Vuitton all setting up shop there. Prada will soon open in Chongqing. And don’t forget Harbin, Dalian, Wenzhou, Taiyuan, Urumqi - the battle of the luxury brands will definitely be played out in these areas as well.

PERSONAL SERVICE

The last two years have seen a spectacular increase in Chinese tourists visiting Europe and the US, stimulating interest and curiosity. As a consequence, luxury consumers in China are looking for new experiences. Luxury is not necessarily only about brands in China: witness the interest shown by Chinese visitors for Delvaux bags in Brussels. Key to success is going beyond the big numbers, and understanding what consumers are trying to achieve, thus helping them fulfil their dreams and goals. What makes the item luxurious is how it makes the consumer feel, and the message it sends to that person’s entourage.

Offering luxury in China, therefore, means offering a personal relationship, characterised by knowledge and expertise. For wealthy consumers, the big price tag and the label does not necessarily equate luxury. However, a personalised service, a unique experience, will give them the edge over their peers. ☛

www.reuterpr.com

Shang Xia Artistic Director Jiang Qiong Er



Clockwise from the top

MAURICE LACROIX

Masterpiece Calendrier Retrograde by Maurice Lacroix, limited edition of 50 - €17,000

JIMMY CHOO

A modern fruity cyprus, with green top notes, tiger orchid, sweet toffee caramel and Indonesian patchouli - for women with a sense of fashion and a taste for luxury - Eau de Parfum 60 ml/€70

UNISEX WATCH

Limited edition Ebel 1911 BTR 137, unisex chronograph in pink gold, only 100 pieces to celebrate brand's 100 years - at €21,200

BULGARI MON JASMIN NOIR

A floral, vibrantly woody and musky nougatine fragrance inspired by the lighter side of jasmine at dawn with citrus and lily of the valley top notes
Eau de Parfum 50 ml/€74

PALE SKI: ATISHA FOR HER

All mountain ski finished in African Bubinga at €1,690/pair; limited series recommended by the French Savoie resort Paradiski
www.boheme.fr

DARK SKI: GUIDE FOR HIM

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* requires a suitable and functioning wireless connection.

3D printing brings a new dimension to fashion

It is now possible to clone a three dimensional object by scanning it and printing it out – **Colin Moors** gets to grips with the technology behind 3D printing and a Belgian success story

Rapid prototyping has long been the preserve of the engineer – instant modelling of conceptual designs done in industrial units by draughtsmen, architects and scientists. Once a cheap alternative to making proof-of-concept pieces by hand from intricate drawings, rapid prototyping is about to set the worlds of fashion, interior design and even millinery on fire, thanks to the vision and innovation of Materialise, a Leuven-based company.

Materialise has 20 years of experience in additive manufacturing, the technology behind rapid prototyping – or 3D printing, as it is more widely known. From test pieces for manufacturing companies to replica skeletal structures for complex facial surgery, Materialise has many of the bases covered. Now the company, marketed as .MGX, has branched into retail.

The 3D printing process is complex in execution but simple to explain: it begins with a 3D drawing on a computer linked to the printer. Following the specifications of the drawing, plastics such as polyamide or epoxy are laid down in thin layers and hit with a laser that instantly hardens them. The process is repeated until a full model materialises.

Models can be put together in very thin layers (around 0.01mm), thus attaining a high degree of detail. It also means that items with many moving parts can be produced all at once, layer by layer, completely removing the need for final assembly.

STYLE AND BEAUTY

This technology provides the flexibility to create objects of outstanding style and beauty. A range of designs on display in the .MGX flagship store at the heart of the Sablon in Brussels is proof of how beautiful printed plastic can be.

Alessio Esposti, Art Director at .MGX explains: “Fried Vancraen, our CEO, was looking to keep the successful business-to-business part of the company growing but also branch out into something else, something that would bring our technology to the retail sector.” Esposti says lighting seemed the obvious choice.

“The materials we use lend themselves very well to lighting as they are lightweight, translucent and hardwearing,” he says. “We have worked hard to make the plastics more durable. In prototyping, we don’t expect a model to last very long but for our retail clients, it needed to be stronger.”



Elvis Pompilio and his high tech hat

Strength does not necessarily mean the lighting designs lose the human or artistic touch, and the pieces produced can often surprise. Polyamide produces lampshades which give off a soft, diffused light; the epoxy pieces, by contrast, have an almost amber glow, and create a warm, cosy atmosphere. Perhaps the most surprising

of all are some of the pendant lampshades I was encouraged to touch during my visit to the Sablon store – something I had studiously avoided for fear of breaking them. As I pushed a shade with my fingers, it gave very gently and had the feel of finely threaded lace – the whole thing printed in one shot, according to Esposti.



High tech light - Bloom



High tech light - Lily

UNIQUE PIECES

The nature of this production method has another facet: meta-design. Instead of churning out exactly the same thing on every printing, objects can be randomized, within certain parameters, creating a unique piece each time. This means nobody need ever own the same design.

Conceived by Lars Spuybroek, principal of the NOX architecture and design studio in Rotterdam, the Mylight range is one that will morph into other designs throughout the print run. Spuybroek is well-placed to be involved in such an undertaking, his specialty being the relationship between art, design and architecture. Of the meta-design concept he says: "Objects can now be a range of objects, like in a family or a species, like zebras or oaks or strawberries, or of course people. No one is the same but they are similar enough to be recognized."

An exhibition of 3D printed .MGX pieces - Industrial Revolution 2.0 - at London's Victoria & Albert Museum was recently extended, by popular demand, until the end of October. And the world of couture was treated to some high-concept items of clothing by .MGX at the Amsterdam International Fashion Week in July. There is more to follow, and fashion is certainly the stock in trade of the latest big name to collaborate with the brand - Brussels-based milliner Elvis Pompilio. World

renowned for his hat creations, Pompilio explains what brought about his interest in working with architects and scientists to create what must be the very cutting edge of millinery, the high tech Spirograph.MGX hat.

"It was the first time I have worked closely with such people - and with this material. For me, it was a new experience," he says. "I'm 50 now, and I thought it was a good time to experience something new and to work with different materials." He adds: "I love my work and I love to be surprised. To surprise me is difficult, but this has managed it."

This will be the beginning of a long-term working partnership with .MGX, so I asked Pompilio what he sees in the future. Is there a wider market for his creations? He replies: "When I make things, I don't worry about the market. I like to make something beautiful, something I love, something I care about. However, this method of production is ideal for creating a large quantity of items." So how would Pompilio feel if there were great demand and orders for 10.000 of his creations? .MGX's Alessio Esposti steps in with the answer: "I don't think anyone would have a problem with that," he interjects with a smile. ☺

.MGX by Materialise
Rue Joseph Stevensstraat 31,
B-1000 Brussels
www.mgxbymaterialise.com



Mylight range

The new face of St Sebastian

Sebastian was a Roman soldier born in the first half of the first century and depicted in art and literature ever since. **Céline Martin** visited a photographic exhibition dedicated to the Christian saint and martyr



Fashion designer Jean-Paul Lespagnard



Milliner Elvis Pompilio

Patron saint of archers, athletes and soldiers, venerated by both Catholic and Orthodox churches, the religious appeal to St Sebastian for protection against plagues.

French photographer Robin's dramatic black and white pictures depicting the martyr's suffering draw parallels between St Sebastian's work as a healer and the challenges of AIDS in contemporary society. Visiting the exhibition is akin to being in a gallery, museum or church rather than the Brussels hotel lobby where Robin's photos are currently exhibited.

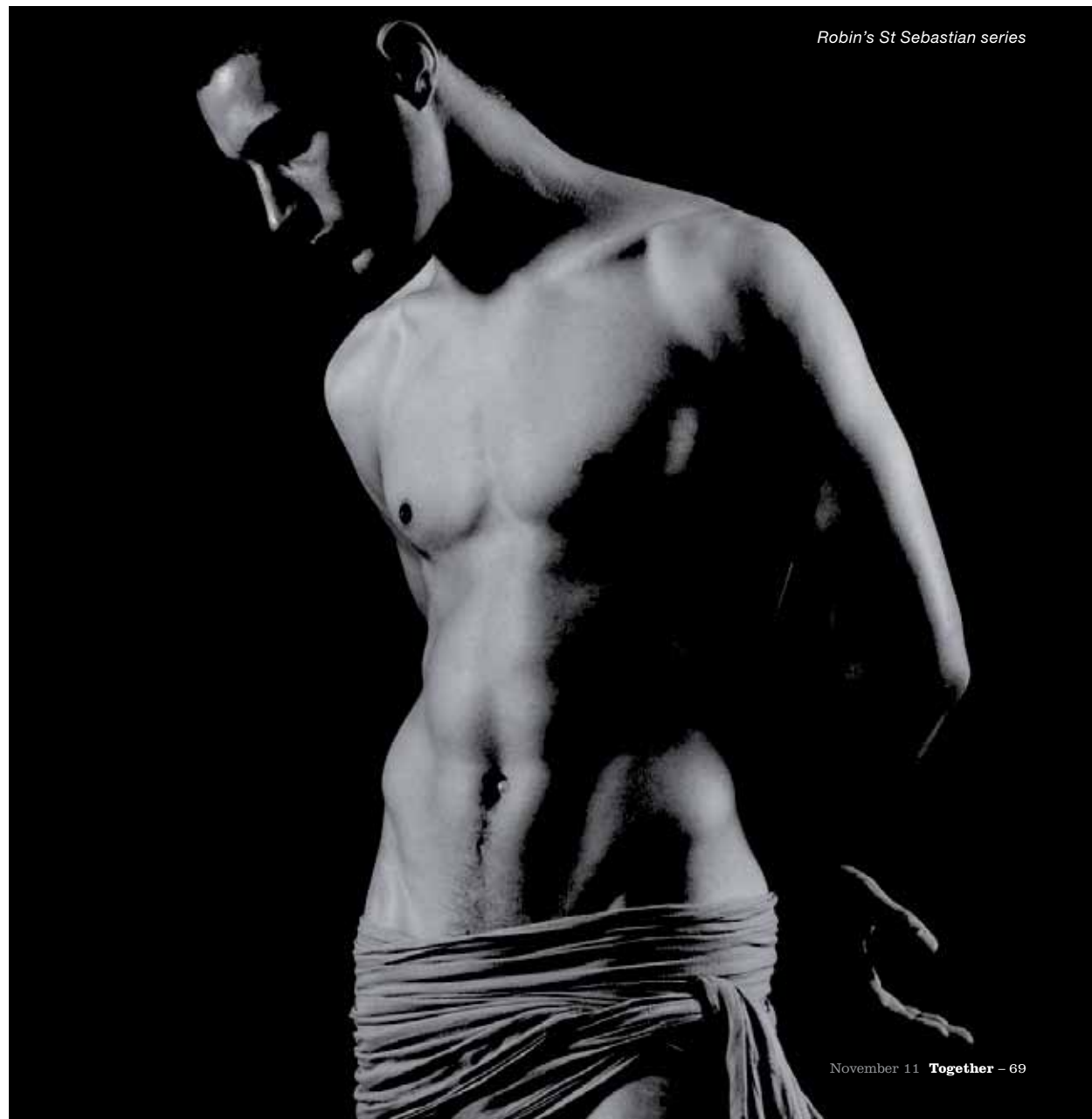
A shy and reserved man in his forties, Robin – it is the only name he goes by – started out taking photos of artists and musicians onstage and backstage. For the past 20 years he has worked with top names in the worlds of music, fashion and cinema, among them David Bowie, Amy Winehouse, Radiohead, Depeche Mode, Gérard Depardieu, Jean Paul Gaultier, Agnès B. Yet what makes his heart beat, he says, is the light of the Baie de Somme, the nature preserve and bird sanctuary on the coast of the English channel, halfway between Bolougne and Le Havre, where he spent his childhood photographing birds with a Nikon FE that he still cherishes.

The St Sebastian series questions the concepts of beauty and death, with the photographer's powerful use of light bringing out the strength of living bodies. Robin prefers not to influence his models, barely giving them instructions for fear of influencing the outcome, observing and waiting to capture the moment he feels is right. Among the models for this series, Robin persuaded fashion designer Jean-Paul Lespagnard and milliner Elvis Pompilio to pose for him.

The pictures, in limited editions of 15, are on sale for €900 with 20% of the profit donated to the Belgian association Ex Aequo in the fight against AIDS and HIV-related infection.

The exhibition is at Brussels Sofitel Hotel Le Louise, 50 Ave de la Toison d'Or, 1050 Brussels, until March 12. www.robin-photo.com

www.robin-photo.com



Robin's St Sebastian series

“Everyone’s going on about luxury – but luxury is walking through Battersea Park in the morning with two dogs that you love and a bacon roll and a cup of tea and a chat and looking at all the newspapers in the booth.”

– Philip Treacy (b. 1967)

Irish milliner to the stars; in an interview in *The Times*, September 2011

“Why is it no one ever sent me yet

One perfect limousine, do you suppose?

Ah no, it’s always just my luck to get

One perfect rose.”

- Dorothy Parker (1905-1967)

American critic and humorist; *One Perfect Rose* (1937)

“It is not that pearls fetch a high price because men have dived for them; but on the contrary, men dive for them because they fetch a high price.”

– Richard Whately (1787-1863)

English philosopher and theologian

“If all the year were playing holidays, To sport would be as tedious as to work;”

- William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

English dramatist; from *Henry IV, Part 1* (1597)

“Music is your own experience, your thoughts, your wisdom. If you don’t live it, it won’t come out of your horn.”

- Charlie Parker (1920-55)

American jazz saxophonist

Source:

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Quotations

LIFE OF
LEISURE

In Dublin's Fair City

The 1922 Irish Constitution was drafted in one of its rooms and the late Princess Grace Kelly was a great admirer – **Cillian Donnelly** stayed at Dublin's recently refurbished Shelbourne Hotel

Dublin's
Shelbourne
Hotel



Ireland's attractions are undeniable, from the nightlife of Dublin and Galway and the tranquil south-east to the hearty north; a myriad sentimental songs and Hollywood romance have undoubtedly made a lasting impression. But behind the Blarney and stereotyping is a country genuinely rich in discoveries. It remains a country proud of its heritage and keen to preserve its old world charm - American visitors would expect nothing less. But Ireland is as

equally keen not to be left behind as competition for tourist traffic becomes intense. This is perhaps no less in evidence than in the capital city, Dublin.

TASTE GUINNESS

Nestled between the mountains and the sea on Ireland's east coast, Dublin is a city famed for its free-flowing rambunctious nightlife. Drink, somewhat inevitably, is part of the Irish brand: the Guinness Storehouse, offering a potted history of the famous stout, as well as many opportunities to try it out, is one of the city's top attractions, and well worth a visit, if only to experience the Gravity Bar on the top floor, with its panoramic view over Dublin.

The Temple Bar cultural quarter also brings in the tourists, who flock to experience its parade of pubs and take in the hyper-real atmosphere. Or there's the more refined cultural pedigree of the city to discover: this is, after all, a UNESCO city of literature where visitors can follow in the footsteps of Leopold Bloom, hero of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, and trace his journey through Dublin.

In addition to leisure-seekers, Dublin is keen to attract the business traveller. During the economic boom, the city made increasing efforts to transform itself into the hub of a new services economy, as part of a 21st century makeover. Its redeveloped dock area, incorporating the highly impressive, architecturally stunning Convention Centre Dublin, catering for any kind of meeting, exhibition of convention, is a testament to the city's future plans.



The famous
stout is one of
Ireland's top
attractions

TASTE HISTORY

For a taste of history, the renowned Shelbourne Hotel, established in 1824 and located in the heart of the Dublin's Georgian splendour, is the place to stay, and the place to be seen. Recently refurbished, but without abandoning its heritage, the luxurious Shelbourne boasts 265 rooms, including 19 suites, and views overlooking the famous Saint Stephen's Green.

Offering great food, atmospheric bars and lounges, and service to match its five stars, with easy access to all of the city's top tourist attractions as well as upmarket shopping in nearby Grafton Street, the

Shelbourne can truly be said to represent the best of Dublin.

Bottom line: The Shelbourne is currently offering a special rate of €198 including breakfast, based on double occupancy, that will run for the remainder of the year.

How to get there: Aer Lingus from Brussels (Zaventem) to Dublin Airport direct starting at +/- €100

Shelbourne Hotel Dublin
27 St Stephens Green, 2 Dublin
T.+353(0)1 663 45 00
www.shelbournehoteldublin.com

London's three of the best

Tired of London, tired of life – or so the saying goes; any excuse is a good excuse to visit the English capital and *Together* founder **Jérôme Stéfanski** recommends a trip before next year's Olympic Games are underway



The reception lounge of The Landmark Hotel London

London is considered by young Belgians to be the coolest city in Europe, according to a recent survey. But the three questions that always need to be answered are, how to get there, where to stay and what to eat. For residents of Brussels planning to visit London it is obvious that Eurostar is the best and greenest solution, so no need for budget flights. The Eurostar train from the Midi station at the heart of Brussels arrives in the centre of London less than two hours later and costs just €88 return if booked in advance - more than competitive with low-cost fares offered by the airlines, once airport taxes, booking fees and excess

baggage are taken into consideration. Book online at www.eurostar.com

WHERE TO STAY

Finding the right hotel in London is less simple - London is similar to New York in several respects: hotel rooms are often small, unlike the prices, which are frequently huge. During a recent visit, I was fortunate enough to stay at The Landmark, one of London's most prestigious hotels. Having been told that the health club and spa facilities are astonishingly good for a hotel located in the heart of London, I have to concur; furthermore, the location, my room and the restaurant were also superb.



The Winter Garden Restaurant in The Landmark Hotel

Located in one of Central London's most up-market districts, this hotel is convenient for all main attractions and amenities such as Oxford Street, Piccadilly Circus and Wembley Stadium. A member of The Leading Hotels of the World, the rooms offered by the five star Landmark London Hotel are among the largest in the city, an average 55 square metres. Situated at the heart of the soaring eight-storey glass roof atrium, with impressive palm trees, the Winter Garden Restaurant offers a dining experience not to be forgotten, with regular live music and an unbeatable atmosphere.

Bottom line: rates start at £290 (+/- €330) for a Superior Room for one night.

The Landmark London

222, Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JQ
T. +44(0)20 7631 8000
www.landmarklondon.co.uk

WHAT TO EAT

There was a time when British cuisine was up there with the worst in the world – but that was before the rise to prominence of chefs such as Jamie Oliver and the Michelin starred Gordon Ramsey. London is the perfect place for foodies – I would even go so far as to suggest that the restaurants of Paris are overrated compared with those in London. It can sometimes be difficult to make the right choice – to be absolutely sure of returning with good memories, I have two suggestions.

OUT TO LUNCH

Byron Burgers is where real burgers are found – this restaurant offers five varieties of hamburger, as well as chicken and veggie options. Each one is cooked with just a suggestion of pink in the centre, never drenched in oil or fat, and is a perfect balance of herbs, spices and tasty beef. The service is fast and friendly, and the burger a serious contender for the best in London. Count £12 (+/- €13.60) for a burger with sauce and French fries.

Byron Burgers

33-35, Wellington Street, London WC2E 7BN
T. +44(0) 20 7420 9850
www.byronhamburgers.com

LONDON ITALIAN

Later in the day, once the burger has been completely digested, I recommend crossing Mayfair to Savile Row, the birthplace of bespoke tailoring. On the corner is what I consider to be one of London's best Italian restaurants, open since 1998. The decor is Tokyo-meets-Manhattan minimal, the service impeccable and the modern Italian menu seasonal and elegant: rich, creamy asparagus risotto, veal Milanese with rocket salad, lobster spaghetti and king scallops, pancetta, young beetroot and celery. Around £40 (+/- €45.60) for a three course meal. 🍷

Sartoria

20, Savile Row, London W1S 3PR
T. +44 (0)207 534 7000
www.sartoriabar.co.uk



Exterior view of The Landmark Hotel

Heights of luxury

The French alpine ski resort of **Courchevel** has the highest concentration of luxury mountain hotels in the world, with seven of its restaurants, run by the biggest names in cooking, boasting no fewer than ten Michelin stars between them



Les Airelles at Courchevel 1850

It is impossible to get bored in Courchevel, according to a French resident. Skiing is the most popular activity, but the resort offers an increasingly wide range of leisure and sporting activities to keep even the most resolute non-skier entertained.

With a reputation for being an expensive resort, it nevertheless offers a variety of accommodation - hotels, apartments, chalets - ranging from standard to luxurious, from two star to five star. Awash with swimming pools and spas, it boasts 45 hotels, 50 shops and 60 restaurants.

Made up of four satellite villages named for their altitude, each of them with their own identity, Courchevel 1850 is considered the most exclusive. Of just eight hotels in France that have been awarded the coveted sixth star rating, elevating them to Palace status, two can be found here - Les Airelles and Cheval Blanc.

This is the where the jet set flock to for the skiing and après-ski - a combination of exceptional snow cover and perfectly maintained slopes makes this picture postcard resort an appealing winter sports destination.



Mountain view at Les Airelles



Terrace overlooking the slopes at the Manali hotel



Le Chalet des Pierres ice rink



Les Airelles swimming pool



Le Chalet des Pierres



A horse-drawn carriage to Les Airelles

It does have a reputation for being an expensive resort, although a variety of accommodation is available - hotels, apartments, chalets - ranging from standard to luxurious, from two star to five star. Awash with swimming pools and spas, Courchevel boasts 45 hotels, 50 shops and 60 restaurants.

Courchevel has some of the most difficult black runs - fast, steep slopes - in the world, but the resort appeals to cross country skiers as well and welcomes beginners. Baby ski

lessons start at 18 months and a patented magnet system operated throughout the resort keeps young children firmly attached to chairlifts. One thousand ski instructors speaking 15 languages are employed during the season from December to April. 📍

www.courchevel.com

Bottom line: Ranging from €70 per night for two people including breakfast to €500+ for a 5*. A six day family ski-pass (2 adults + 2 children) is €637



Bedroom at 5* Le Saint Roch



Two Michelin stars for chef Michel Rochedy's at his hotel Le Chabichou

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PeakPerformance®

Take a break in Belgium

Consider the Belgian Ardennes for its crisp mountain air and skiing opportunities, says **Nigel Griffiths**



Rustic charm with modern comfort
©2010 Julie Caine

It takes just 30 minutes to drive from Liege along winding roads lining mountain river beds to the village of La Gleize, just a few kilometres from the town of Stavelot.

This is high up in the Ardennes mountains, knee-deep in snow in winter, and an opportunity to slip into the cosy rustic charm of **Aux Ecuries de la Reine**. A collection of old farm stables have been attractively converted into different categories of accommodation, offering a choice of charming rooms, apartments, holiday homes and a chalet with six rooms large enough for a dozen people.

PANORAMIC VIEW

Former cellars with low brick-lined vaulted ceilings have been converted into a medieval banqueting hall with a large roaring open fire big enough to cook on. Cosy lounges, also with open fires, offer deep armchairs for ultimate relaxation. A large outdoor terrace

offers a panoramic view over the valley; the complex also has an outdoor swimming pool – a bit chilly for this time of year.

The hotel is located close to the Francorchamps F1 circuit and the picturesque Coo waterfall with claims to be the largest waterfall in the country, but don't expect Niagara proportions. At its base stands, Plopsa Coo amusement park with 20 attractions for children including a chair lift and wildlife park. Visitors return to La Gleize to enjoy the beauty of its unspoilt surroundings. The surrounding area is ideal for walking, biking and other outdoor activities.

SERIOUS SKIERS

For serious skiers, when the snow falls, there are the slopes of nearby Mont des Brumes located between Francorchamps and La Gleize, a unique place to practice alpine skiing in Belgium. With its north west orientation and an altitude of 530 metres at the top - 350 metres at the bottom of the slope - the Mont des Brumes resort offers a 850 metre long red slope where the incline reaches 64% at its steepest part, as well as a 150 meters long beginner slope, an extension of the main slope. At 1,000 metres, it is one of the longest slopes in the country. There is no need to venture farther than this hotel for good food. The hotel brasserie Le Vert de Pommier offers a selection of international dishes as well as traditional French cuisine. The hotel also caters for seminars, conferences and events. ☎

Bottom line: From €70 per night based on double occupancy including breakfast

Aux Ecuries De La Reine
La Gleize 17, B-4987 La Gleize-Stoumont
T.+32(0) 80 785 799
www.ecuries.be



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The Invader

A Belgian-made film currently showing tackles the emotive subject of illegal immigration; **Federico Grandesso** spoke to the director



Issaka Sawadogo plays the character Amadou

After a string of award-winning, critically acclaimed shorts, this is Belgian director Nicolas Provost's first full-length feature film, a tale of one of thousands of illegal African immigrants landing on the shores of Europe. The story of *The Invader* takes place in Brussels and revolves around the two main characters: a beautiful married business woman and Amadou, an exploited African immigrant with a strong personality, played by Issaka Sawadogo.

Provost says he wrote the story for Sawadogo, an actor from Burkina Faso with whom he had worked before on several of his short films. He insists this is not a sentimental film about immigration.

"I didn't want to do a political film or to make any judgement," he says. "I don't give Amadou a positive or romantic image; he will become the monster in the movie."

Born in 1969 in the city of Ronse in Flanders (which, incidentally, boasts one of the oldest railway stations in Europe) Provost says he knows what it is like to be an outsider, having lived in Norway for ten years, where he says he never managed to totally integrate and always felt like a foreigner.

The opening scene of *The Invader* sees Amadou washed up on the shores of a nudist beach, which Provost says is supposed to be reminiscent of a painting, *The Origin of the World*, by French Realist Gustave Courbet.

"Amadou and his friends are the survivors of a desperate journey and they land on a southern naturist beach. The naked woman represents the beauty and the dream."

As for Brussels as the location, he says: "I chose Brussels because I think it is a very cinematic city, like Paris or New York. In all my films the city is a character in the film." 🗣️

Director Nicolas Provost's film is his first full-length feature



Exclusively Indonesian

Food writer **Hughes Belin** discovers that the only Indonesian restaurant in Brussels boasts good food and wine at bargain prices



Garuda
– where
simplicity
meets luxury

A passion for Indonesia, where his father was born, led law student Sydney Houyoux to launch his own Indonesian restaurant Garuda in Brussels a few years ago. To give his clients a taste of the country's beauty, he imported the entire decor in a 20-tonne container. The result is superb: clients dine in an exotic, fairy-tale setting of flowers, and wood and stone sculptures. The garden is amazing, not least because of its gazebo, an ideal setting for a truly romantic dinner when the Belgian weather permits.

MORAL SUPPORT

Garuda is the only Indonesian restaurant in Brussels and gets full moral backing from the Indonesian embassy, which supported

Houyoux's endeavours from the beginning. Chef Yudi Mochamat Yahya was hired in Indonesia and studied at the University of Bandung, so the restaurant specialises in food from the area of Sunda. But its menu of special suggestions, which changes every month, also offers typical dishes from other regions of the Indonesian archipelago. My dining partner and I loved the home-made chili peanut sauce, perfumed rice and *gule kambing* lamb.

ANOTHER ASSET

The food is not the only reason to recommend Garuda; it has another asset: an impressive wine list compiled by nearby wine merchant **Mouchart & Fils**. Carefully chosen to perfectly match the Indonesian cuisine, the wines are mainly French, but there are also bottles from the New World. Most of the wine is a bargain at the price - in the €20-30 range. The icing on the cake is Garuda's incredible quality/price ratio: with starters under €10 and most main dishes at €15-20, this restaurant provides an affordable culinary adventure. 🍷

Garuda

Avenue Adolphe Buyl 25, 1050 Brussels
T.+32(0)2 513 05 92
www.garudabrussels.eu

Hughes Belin is the co-author of Brussels' Eurodistrict Restaurants 2012, the second edition of an independent user-friendly guide in English and French to more than 350 restaurants, cafes and snack bars in the European quarter – out on November 16 and priced at €9.95

Savoury tastes for a sweet tooth

Discover Pierre Ledent's vibrantly coloured, melt-in-the-mouth macaroons

Master chocolate maker Pierre Ledent was given the accolade of World's Best Confectioner in Japan ten years ago; he continues to sell his own Belgian chocolates there, visiting two to three times a year and sharpening his skills with new creations,

TRUFFLE LOVERS LOOK OUT FOR PIERRE LEDENT'S SPECIAL HOLIDAY MARVELS

surprising chocolate and macaroon lovers the world over.

"There are few countries that don't base their

confectionery and chocolate on Belgium and France, and Japan is no exception," he says. His delectable ground almond and egg white macaroons sandwiched together

with tasty creams explore the palate with unusual flavours such as olive oil, green tea, balsamic vinegar, yuzu, wasabi and violet.

Among his creations, a range of classics, including chocolate, caramel, and strawberry plus weird and wonderful combinations like mint cream with lemon and rum, or pistachio cream with raspberry. This winter truffle lovers should look out for Pierre Ledent's special holiday marvels of white and black truffle macaroons, perfect gifts packed in smart black gift boxes resembling jewellery cases to complement their precious colours. 🍫

Pierre Ledent Master Chocolate Maker
Rue au Beurre 19, B-1000 Brussels
T.+32(0)2 513 99 14
www.pierreledent.be



Old, New, Auctioned and Cru

Banish the winter blues with a glass of something red recommended by **Alex Hewetson**

Above the low, grey swirling clouds of November, devotees of **Beaujolais Nouveau** are scuttling across the English Channel and the Atlantic Ocean, in aircraft of various sizes, giving themselves hernias trying to be the first to land the new red stuff in restaurants and wine bars. It is, let's face it, very clever marketing: this red juice has been sloshing around, mostly in steel tanks, for around two months. At best, it is light, fruity and jammy; at worst, acidic and metallic - no respectable battery would want it as a power source.

THERE ARE TWO EVENTS IN FRANCE THAT ARE BOTH FASCINATING AND WITHIN REACH OF BRUSSELS

However, it is incredibly popular, and no amount of disdain from wine aficionados will make it disappear. In fact, if you want to try a new, very young wine before Christmas, this year's **Cote du Rhone Noveau** is considerably better, although I have tried both and remain unimpressed.

As for what else going on in November in the wine world, there are two events in France that are both fascinating and within reach of Brussels.

WINE AUCTION

The first, in Beaune, is entering its 151st year and takes place at Les Hospices de Beaune, a beautiful edifice built circa 1450, the brainchild of Nicolas Rolin and

his wife, who had a great desire to build a hospital for the poor. Every year, hundreds of barrels of wine are auctioned on the third Sunday of November in aid of the hospital. Anyone can apply for a ticket to the auction and bid for something, bearing in mind the outcome is a barrel that gushes out about 300 bottles. In addition to the auction price is VAT plus a fee for bottling and storage. This and a lot of other useful information can be found on the website www.hospices-de-beaune.com



The famous hospice at Beaune, France



Fashion designer and former top model Inès de la Fressange presides over this year's Beaune wine auction

Beaune is about a five hour drive from Brussels; anyone planning to experience this great event and stay for a night or two should book early and expect to be staying outside the city centre. Even without attending the auction, there are many wine tastings with tasting tents set up in Place Carnot, the main square. My recommendation would be the tasting on Saturday afternoon at the Marché Aux Vins in Rue Nicolas Rolin, just across from the Hospice. Last time I went, in 2009, it was €25 for about eight wines, the last of which was a **Savigny Les Beaunes 1964**...sublime.

Book via the website www.marcheauxvins.com

BREAD AND WINE

Some 500 kilometres to the north in Lille, alas on the very same weekend this year, there is the Salon des Vignerons Indépendants in the *Grand Palais* where around 700 producers of French wine

gather to sell their wares. It is a truly remarkable experience and needs careful management if tasters opt to swallow instead of spitting the wine out. Wines can be bought directly from each stall and it is best to bring a little trolley, or buy one on the spot. For the hungry there are wonderful stalls selling sandwiches made from monster slices of bread, or there's the option of a dozen oysters with a glass of white wine for about €14. This is a tremendous occasion and I have bought some great wines here - it is simply a matter of trying them out at various stalls. But one thing I must stress, if making the journey from Brussels by car, designate a non-taster to drive - the police in Lille are strict.

So whether it is the young fermented juice of the **Gamay**, the venerable joys of the Hospice, or the cornucopia of Lille, November in the world of wine is anything but grey and dull. A votre santé! ☺

Giving cancer patients courage

The Mimi Foundation is dedicated to fighting cancer, writes **Delphine Stefens**, by helping sufferers feel good about themselves



Beauty specialists offer guidance to cancer patients

BEAUTY SPECIALISTS OFFER GUIDANCE

Myriam Ullens de Schooten was once a cancer patient. During her illness, she says she was fortunate to be surrounded by family and friends and, in addition to medical treatment, lucky enough to have a good wig and the care of a beautician, as well as the support of a psychologist. Now a cancer survivor, Mimi, as she calls herself, was determined to give other cancer sufferers similar opportunities to maintain their dignity during treatment, which she believes helps them fight the disease more effectively, and founded the Mimi Foundation in 2004.

HAIRDRESSING

The Foundation persuades hospitals to put two or three rooms at their disposal which they then decorate to give cancer patients, both male and female, the impression of visiting a wellness centre within an otherwise often austere oncology department. During their treatment patients are offered free counselling by a psychologist, specialist beauty treatments and hairdressing advice.

There are now four centres in Belgium and a fifth is scheduled to open. By the end of 2011, it is estimated some fifteen thousand people will have received care from the Mimi Foundation in Belgium which has also expanded activity to France and Switzerland.

Psycho-oncologists - psychologists specialized in the psychosocial aspects of cancer - provide patients and their families with support and follow-up, while beauty specialists offer guidance on make-up and hair as well as beauty treatments that address specific issues resulting from treatment. Or simply make patients feel better about themselves and their appearance. These care givers are all professional and salaried employees, which means fund-raising is a major concern.

DONATE

The Mimi Foundation organises several fund raising events per year and receives donations from philanthropists, corporations and private individuals. "Ideally," says Managing Director Marianne Wagner, "I would like everyone to donate €40 per year. I know I'm a dreamer but what would life be without dreams? It would help us tremendously and it's the minimum required

for any donation to be tax-deductible."

The Foundation is about to launch a new fund raising campaign and will hold its annual Saint Nicholas Party on Sunday November 27 at the Conrad Hotel in Brussels.

Wagner used to work in finance but found her way into the Mimi Foundation some two years ago.

"I'm incredibly motivated", she says. "It's a cause that's close to my heart and although it can get difficult at times, the feedback we get from our patients gives us the will and courage to carry on and continue giving." ☺

www.mimi-foundation.org

DONATIONS: ING 310-1658221-92

IBAN: BE12 3101 6582 2192

BIC: BBRUBEBB

Mimi Foundation founder
Myriam Ullens de Schooten



Dance the night away

Brussels has no fewer than 50 nightclubs and the cream of international DJs play here every weekend. Whether it's techno, electro, house, R&B, ragga, salsa or oldies, **Federico Grandesso** discovers the choice of venues is as varied as the music they offer



Spirito Martini was previously a church

The capital's cult venue **Spirito Martini** in *Rue Stassart* was a church before it became a nightclub. A combination of cosy corners, arches, high ceilings and dramatic lighting - dance until dawn if you like. Open Fridays and Saturdays.

www.spirito-martini.com

For a more sober luxury experience try the **Belga Queen Club** in *Rue Fossé aux Loups*. Located in the vaults of a former bank,

underneath the restaurant of the same name, the colonial ambiance of the Belgian Congo has been recreated. Enter through the old safe to be greeted with a wide choice of cocktails, spirits and luxury Havana cigars. Monday through Saturday, with a resident DJ from 10 pm Wednesday for the rest of the week. www.belgaqueen.be

A popular venue, the **Jeux d'Hiver** next to the roller skating rink in the *Bois de la Cambre* is reputed to be the place that yuppies go to be seen. The car park is full of convertibles. Open Thursday through Saturday night. www.jeuxdhiver.be

Located in the heart of Brussels, the **Fiesta Club** has quickly gained prestige. Catering for the international jet set, this is where the big stars come for a night out after gigging elsewhere. Offering disco, funk, dance, rap, hip-hop, soul, R&B, techno and house, it is located on the *Quai des Usines*. Open Fridays and Saturdays until 6 am. Smart dress code. www.fiesta-club.be

More casual is **l'Archiduc**, an atmospheric jazz bar that has existed since the 1930s, now located on the fashionable *Rue Antoine Dansaert* near the Bourse. Stan Brenders, a pioneer of Belgian Jazz, turned it into the city's jazz hot spot in the 1950s. Originally a classy and discreet art deco cafe use by brokers from the stock exchange, some of the original furniture remains. A place to drop in for a drink and listen to live jazz music from various eras. Regular concerts during the autumn and winter months. www.archiduc.net

The Curse of Obama

Rudi Vranckx - VRT-war reporter

Tuesday 6 December 2011, 8 p.m.

CC Het Bolwerk, Bolwerkstraat 17, 1800 Vilvoorde

9/11 caused shock waves that reverberated around the globe for a decade. Throughout those ten years, VRT journalist Rudi Vranckx (b. 1959) was virtually everywhere that things were happening. He travelled to Peshawar with alliance troops fighting the Taliban (2001), was in Baghdad shortly before war broke out (2003) and observed the Arab Spring at first hand (2011).

Vranckx' new documentary series *The Curse of Obama* illustrates how the world has changed for all of us. Not just in conflict zones, but here in Europe as well. Relive this monumental period at the next *Speakers' Corner**, to be held on 6 December 2011 at 8 p.m., where Rudi Vranckx will be the main guest. The discussion will be simultaneously interpreted for French, English and German speaking guests. You are also cordially invited to attend the reception at the end of the evening.

Register via e-mail (info@derand.be) or by telephone during office hours (02 568 01 78).



**Speakers' Corner* is held twice annually at the initiative of association 'de Rand' (www.derand.be). Discussions are simultaneously interpreted to give speakers of French, English and German the opportunity to become acquainted with fascinating Flemish people and their inspiring stories.



Together's To Do list Belgium

Where to go and what to do – our selection of upcoming events



Flemish TV journalist
Rudi Vranckx



The Indios no Brasil exhibition is a guided tour to the tribes of Amazonian Indians

EXHIBITION

>23.12.11

Back in the second half of the 19th century, three key City of Brussels figures - Mayor Charles Buls, architect Victor Jamaer, and archivist Alphonse Wauters - joined forces in a massive make-over and restoration of the Grand Place which even involved rebuilding some of the old properties. This exhibition displays documents from the time, such as letters, minutes of council meetings, and articles in the press about one of the largest renovation operations in the city's history. Entry €2 at the door.

Archives de la Ville de Bruxelles
Rue des Tanneurs 65, 1000 Brussels
T.+32(0)2 279 53 20
www.brussels.be

BOUGLIONE CIRCUS

>11.12.11

Enjoy the thrills and spills of the old time circus with the arrival in Brussels of the travelling Bouglione Circus Alexander. This Monte Carlo-based circus troupe was started by four brothers from the gipsy Bouglione family in the 1920s. In 1985, the head of the family, Joseph Bouglione, was made a Knight of the Legion of Honor by the French government.

Cirque Alexandre Bouglione
The Atomium
www.bouglione.be

EUROPALIA: INDIANS IN BRAZIL

>19.02.12

Europalia's exhibition Indians in Brazil provides a guided tour to the fascinating tribes of Amazonian Indians, bringing together exhibits provided by the leading Brazilian museums, primarily chosen to highlight the diversity, complexity and artistic expression of Brazil's indigenous peoples.

Indios no Brasil
Royal Museum of Art and History
Parc du Cinquantenaire 10, 1000 Brussels
www.europalia.be

WINTER WONDERLAND

27.11.11

Central Brussels is transformed into a winter wonderland with magical illuminations in the Grand Place, a Christmas market from the regions of Europe spread across the heart of the city, a baroque merry-go-round at *Place Sainte-Catherine*, and a big wheel and ice skating rink at *Marché aux Poissons*: plenty to see and do, and dozens of stalls for stocking up on gifts and treats.

Plaisirs d'Hiver
Central Brussels
www.plaisirsdhiver.be

CHRISTMAS MARKET

19.11.11

Beautiful handmade and original gifts for friends and family. Decorations, children's books, jewellery, quality toys, cards, cake and chocolate. From 10h-17h.

International Montessori 'Savoorke'
Bergestraat 24, B-3080 Tervuren
www.international-montessori.org

SPEAKERS' CORNER

6.12.11

Flemish television journalist Rudi Vranckx travelled to Peshawar with alliance troops fighting the Taliban in 2001, was in Baghdad shortly before war broke out in 2003 and observed this year's so-called Arab Spring at first hand. His new documentary series *The Curse of Obama* illustrates how the world has changed, not just in conflict zones but in Europe as well. Guest speaker of the *de Rand* association's twice yearly Speakers' Corner at 20h.

Het Bolwerk
Bolwerkstraat 17, B-1800 Vilvoorde
T.+32(0)2 568 01 78
info@derand.be

Together's To Do list International

Our round-up of events both near and far



The Louvre Museum, Paris



Westminster Abbey, London

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

29.11.11

The Choir of Westminster Abbey and St James's Baroque perform Handel's masterpiece, steps away from the composer's final resting place in Poets' Corner in the London abbey where Prince William married Kate Middleton. Booking via the Barbican box office. 19h. £10-40 (+/- €11-46)

Westminster Abbey

Parliament Square, London SW1

T.+44(0)20 7638 8891

www.barbican.org.uk

ANNE FRANK'S MOTHER

>15.03.12

Little is known about Edith Frank than what her youngest daughter Anne wrote about in her diary. Now she's in the spotlight with an exhibition entirely dedicated to her memory. Anne often wrote about her mother in unflattering terms, but eyewitnesses tell of the bond between mother and daughter, including when they were in Auschwitz, where Edith was incarcerated with Anne and her sisters. In the Amsterdam house dedicated to Anne Frank where she wrote the famous diary.

Anne Frank House

Prinsengracht 267, 1016 GV Amsterdam

T.info: +31(0)20 556 71 05

T.tickets: +31(0)20 556 71 00

www.iamamsterdam.com

CHINESE EMPERORS AT THE LOUVRE

>1.09.12

Exhibition dedicated to the evolution of Chinese Emperors and the Forbidden City and their links to France, with 130 major works including, paintings, vases, bowls and calligraphy loaned by Chinese authorities. €10 admission. Buy tickets and find the right entrance to this massive museum by the line.

Musée du Louvre

Rue Rivoli, Paris

www.louvre.fr

LISBON ART

24>27.11.11

The 11th edition of Arte Lisboa brings together a selection of works owned by 70 national and international contemporary and modern art galleries. Near the Tagus river, 16h-23h, €8.

International Fair of Lisbon

Pavilion 4, Parque das Nações, Lisbon

www.artelisboa.fil.pt

INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL BERLIN

15>20.11.11

Showcase for more than 400 short films and videos from two seconds in length to 20 minutes. The festival provides a meeting point for the international short film and video industry and covers fiction, documentaries and commercials.

Interfilm Berlin

Berlin, Germany

T. +49 (0) 30 25 29 13 20

interfilm@interfilmberlin.de

WORLD'S LARGEST DISCO

26.11.11

Takes place in the US at the Convention Center in Buffalo. In 1979 Gloria Gaynor and The Trammps played to a crowd of 13,000 and the *Guinness Book of Records* confirmed that it was an official world record. In 1994 the event was resurrected and is now an annual favourite. Revellers dress up 1970s style.

Buffalo Convention Center

Convention Center Plaza, 14202 Buffalo, NY, US

T. +1 716 635 8668

wldisco@roadrunner.com

www.buffaloconvention.com

DUBLIN HORSE RACING

26>29.12.11

Dublin's most famous race meeting, the Christmas Festival at Leopardstown Racecourse, begins on St Stephen's Day – St Stephen is the patron saint of horses - with the Bord na Mona Novice Chase. Jockeys, trainers and owners use the meeting as preparation for the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Leopardstown Racecourse

Leopardstown Road, Dublin, Ireland

T.353(0)1 289 3607

www.leopardstown.com

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We regret to inform readers that Together Website Editor Jeremy Slater died in September. Tributes are posted on the website and on Facebook.

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