

Together

magazine

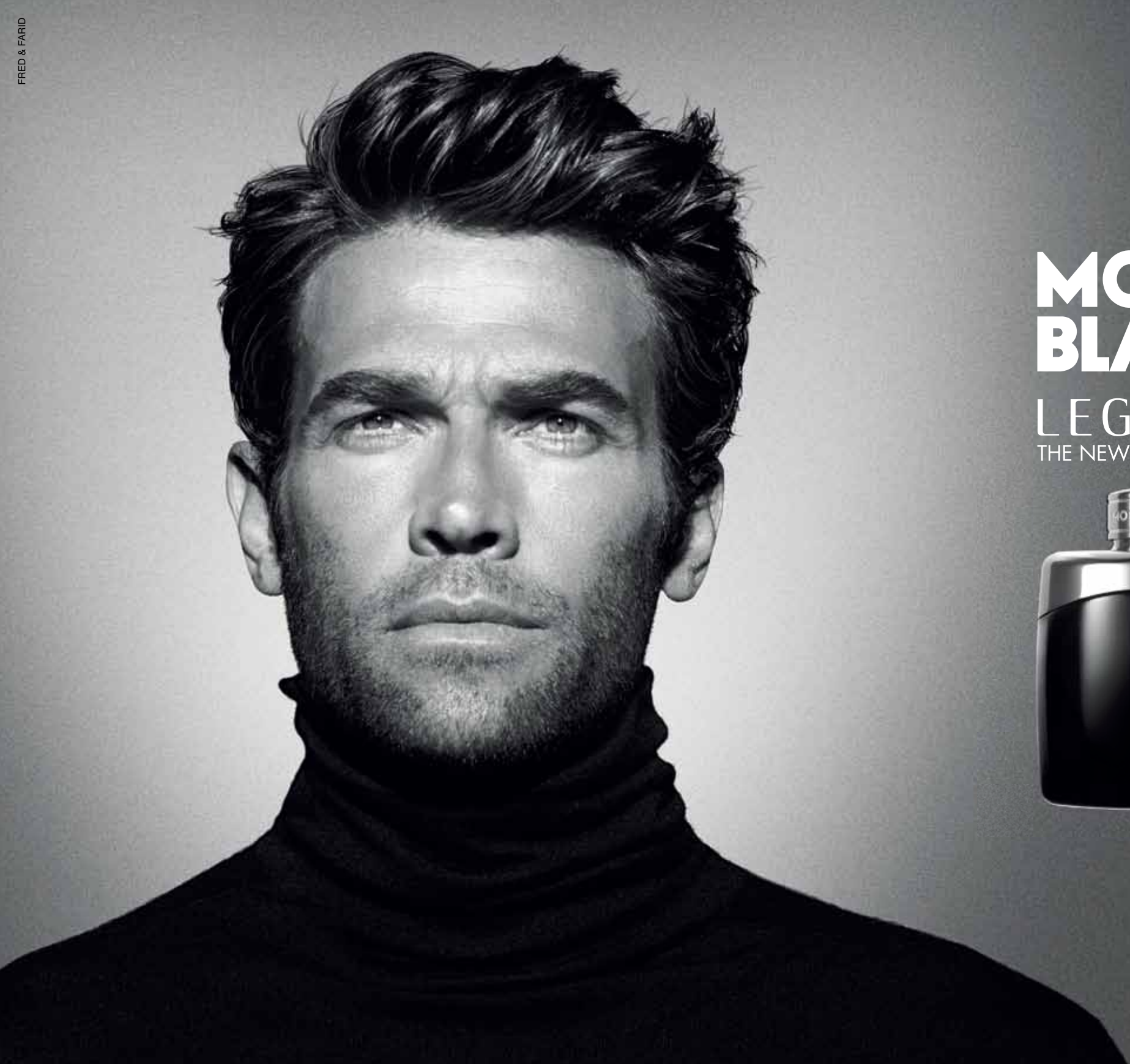
Summer colour

FILM FESTIVALS
IN FOCUS

Holiday homes
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Publisher's letter

This is our sunshine issue – in the hope
that the weather follows suit

ON THE COVER



2D digital portrait
Cheetah, 2011
by Dutch artist
and photographer
Ingrid Baars;
see more of her
work inside

Forget pastel, this season's colours are bright and zingy and jostling for attention as illustrated by the eight pages of beach and poolside fashion in this issue styled by **Nicholas Sirot**. Designer labels have won a place at the Olympic Games, according to writer **Annie Claire Bergeron-Oliver**, who takes a look at what the world's athletes will be wearing in London this summer.

Digital artist **Ingrid Baars** uses colour to stunning effect in her photographic sculptures; with her kind permission we have featured one of her works on the cover and there are more pictures inside, along with details of where to catch her latest exhibition.

Staying at home for the summer or leaving on holiday, there's something for everyone in this issue, from where to find the best ice-cream in Belgium and the best baked potato in Brussels, to buying a second home in one of Europe's summer holiday destinations: financial writer **Laura Cohn** talks to the experts who tell us now is the right time to buy, in spite of the woes of the euro. Personal trainer **Patti Bruns** has some advice on keeping fit during the summer break, and relationship counsellor **Suzette Reed** gives tips on navigating the family vacation and how to keep everyone happy while on holiday.

As with every issue, the magazine offers a rich diet of features and information, including articles on leisure, travel, fashion and entertainment, illustrated by excellent photography. Find more in terms of news and entertainment in the regular updates on our website.

Whether you are in the garden, on a beach somewhere or sitting on a city terrace, here's to a happy – and sunny – summer holiday. ☺

David

David McGowan
PUBLISHER



/togethermagazine



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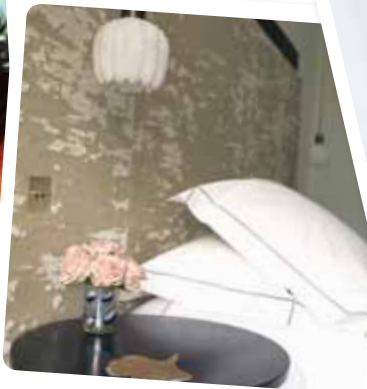
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LADY GAGA

Lady Gaga, known for her outlandish on-stage antics and outfits, dedicated fan base and hugely popular music, is playing a two-night engagement in Antwerp as part of her *The Born This Way Ball* tour. Playing September 29 and 30 at Sportpaleis, Antwerp. Tickets from €50.50. www.livenation.be



THE STRANGLERS

English punk/rock music legends The Stranglers will play on stage in front of the Palace August 12 during the Brussels Summer Festival, a ten day celebration of all kinds of music at venues around the city featuring bands and musicians from across the continent. August 10-19. www.bsf.be; www.stranglers.net



TRIXIE WHITLEY

Belgian-Born Trixie Whitley is coming home to perform in Antwerp in August. The songstress and multi-instrumentalist is anticipating the release of her first full-length album, due out soon. August 18 at Openluchttheater. Tickets from €18. www.trixiewhitley.com



NORAH JONES

Nine-times Grammy winner Norah Jones is making her way to Brussels as part of an international tour to promote her latest album *Little Broken Hearts*. Forest National on September 12. Tickets from €50. www.livenation.be



TOMORROWLAND

This is one of Europe's largest music festivals, with a crowd of 120,000 expected to watch popular artists such as Avicii, Steve Aoki and Fatboy Slim performing on multiple stages. Concert goers can reserve a campsite for up to four days. Boom, Belgium July 27-29. www.tomorrowland.be



NICKELBACK

Canadian recording stars Nickelback will be in Brussels for one night only, appearing September 6 at Ancienne Belgique and playing hits such as *Photograph* and *Rockstar*. www.abconcerts.be



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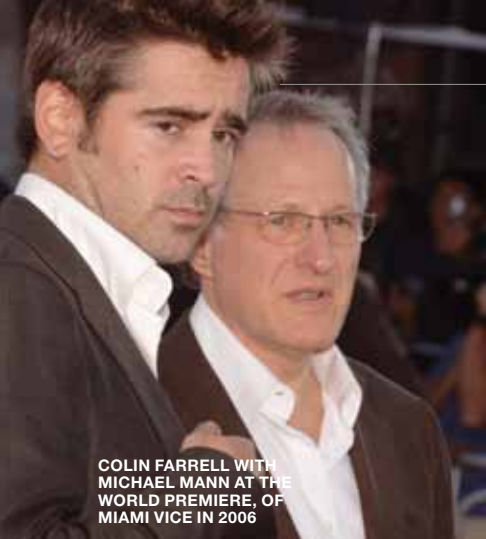


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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

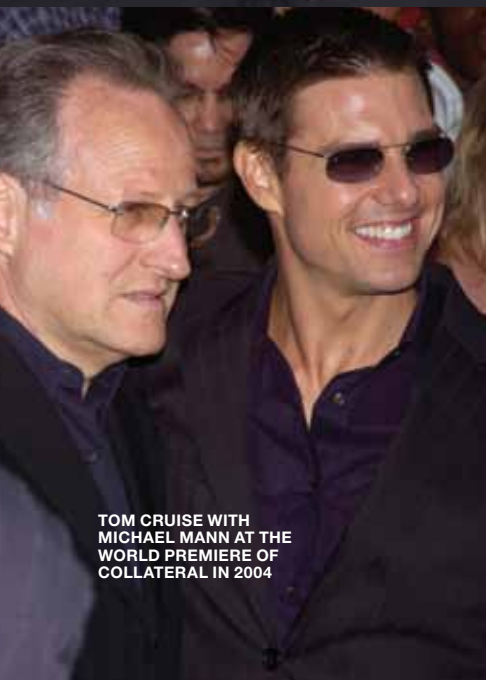
Summer in
Lasne, Belgium
Photograph by
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COLIN FARRELL WITH
MICHAEL MANN AT THE
WORLD PREMIERE OF
MIAMI VICE IN 2006



RUSSELL
CROWE WITH
MICHAEL
MANN WHO
DIRECTED HIM
IN THE INSIDER



TOM CRUISE WITH
MICHAEL MANN AT THE
WORLD PREMIERE OF
COLLATERAL IN 2004



Photographs: © Featurefish;
Michael Mann © Helga Esteb

DIRECTOR,
SCREENWRITER
AND PRODUCER
MICHAEL MANN

The right Mann for Venice

The job of heading up the jury at this year's Venice Film Festival has gone to American director, screenwriter and producer Michael Mann, profiled here by Together Online editor **Nigel Griffiths**

Two years ago the Venice Film Festival drew criticism when the main prizes were handed to directors with whom head Quentin Tarrantino had personal relationships, in particular his former girlfriend Sofia Coppola, whose drama *Somewhere* was awarded the coveted Golden Lion. Last year's edition went more smoothly when jury chief Darren Aronofsky (*Black Swan* director) gave Venice's top prize to Aleksander Sokurov's adaptation of Goethe's tragedy *Faust*.

Currently in a period of transition, the 2012 festival is moving in a more sober and less glitzy direction with the awards under the control of Michael Mann, widely

recognized as one of the most influential and representative figures in contemporary American cinema. Mann is no stranger to Venice, where he picked up a major award in 2004 for his film *Collateral*.

As president of the jury, Mann will help decide on the winners of Venice's main prizes, including the coveted Golden Lion award for the best film among the festival's 18-film lineup.

The Venice event is also launching a small film market segment this year to help it compete with Cannes and Berlin, where the buying and selling of titles is a key ingredient to their success.

Getting the mix right is vital for its survival in an increasingly competitive area.

>

GANGSTERS

Born in Chicago in 1943, Mann studied at the London Film School in the UK. He is now known primarily as a feature film director and is considered one of America's top filmmakers. With a distinctive style often featuring violence and gangsters, his trademarks include unusual musical scores, such as Tangerine Dream in *Thief* or the New Age score to *Manhunter*.

Mann's interest in making films was kindled by Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove*, which told him that it was possible to make an individual statement of high integrity yet have the film that carried it seen by a mass audience at the same time. He learned it was possible to work in the main stream film industry, yet still make serious films carrying a message.

Writing for popular television shows such as *Starsky and Hutch* in the 70s, the first film Mann directed was the multi award-winning prison drama *The Jericho Mile* in 1979, a television special which brought him an Emmy for outstanding writing and an award from the Directors Guild of America. Contrary to popular belief, Mann is not the creator of TV shows *Miami Vice* and *Crime Story*, but the executive producer, yet his cinematic influence is felt throughout both in terms of casting and style. But in 2006 he wrote, produced and directed the film *Miami Vice* starring Colin Farrell and Jamie Foxx as the legendary Crockett and Tubbs.

In 1981 Mann directed *Thief*, his first full-length cinema feature film, starring James Caan as a safe-cracker who works with the mafia. Widespread recognition came with *Last of the Mohicans* in 1992, followed by *Heat* with Robert De Niro in 1995 and *The Insider* in 1999.

GUNS

Guns play a crucial part in his films and *Heat* was certainly no exception, featuring numerous gun scenes. Yet Mann insists that he has absolutely no fascination with weapons. Talking to the *Guardian* newspaper recently, Mann explained that what he is really interested in portraying is not guns, but conflict and extreme conflict.

"I like to portray men who find



MANN PRODUCED THE AVIATOR STARRING LEONARDO DICAPRIO



GUNS FEATURE HEAVILY IN MANN'S FILM HEAT STARRING ROBERT DE NIRO

themselves in extreme circumstances. What interests me is how a villain thinks about his fate, as the last man standing when the cops surround him. Should he go to jail? Should he die in a hail of bullets? How should he think about his life."

Mann produced the BAFTA-winning film *The Aviator*, about the life of recluse Howard Hughes, in 2004, developed with the film's star Leonardo DiCaprio, but asked Martin Scorsese to direct.

In 2009, Mann wrote and directed *Public Enemies* for Universal Pictures, about the Depression-era crime wave, based on Brian Burrough's nonfiction book, *Public Enemies: America's Greatest Crime Wave*

"I like to portray men who find themselves in extreme circumstances"

and the *Birth of the FBI*, 1933-34.

Starring Johnny Depp as John Dillinger in the film and Christian Bale playing Melvin Purvis, the FBI agent in charge of capturing Dillinger, Mann was able to draw from his own background in

Chicago with its gangland past. "These kinds of stories are endemic to a native of Chicago," he says.

For the shootout scene in *Public Enemies*, Mann took his film crew to the original location, a lodge in a forest.

Depp was filmed in the same bed, in the same room, in the same place as when the assault started. Mann explains: "The real magic of the film is not guns going off. It is the real story about how he (Dillinger) reacted to these events. For me the film is always about the characters. I try to make it as actual as I can.

"When I plan a film I ask myself how the story should tell itself. How do I want to impact that audience. I want the audience to feel they are right in that period of 1933, as if they were right there with him. This determines for me how we create the look, the lighting, where the cameras are placed."

VIDEO VERSUS FILM

Mann's recent productions use high definition video rather than film which he believes brings more immediacy to the production.

"When making *Public Enemies* we experimented with film as well as with video and set them up side by side. Video was our choice as it made me feel I was actually there."

The film *Collateral* was also shot in video for this reason.

"When I make a film I want to help the audience penetrate the mind of the bad guys. And perhaps also try and understand the dualities of these bad guy personalities. I challenge the audience to work out for themselves what is evil and what is heroic in these people." 🗣️

The Venice Film Festival runs August 28 until September 8

Navigating family vacations

Families need to work at making sure their annual summer holiday is a joyous event, says relationship counsellor **Suzette Reed**

Holidays are a precious commodity, delivering time with the family, a chance to relax and unwind, recharge batteries and recoup energy to tackle the next set of challenges; they are an opportunity to have fun and build memories. But exposure to sun, sand and sea in the company of family members can often lead to the happiest individual becoming grumpy, bored and peeved.

Relationship counsellors and life coaches consistently report there are two periods in the year when their help is particularly sought: after Christmas and New Year, and after the summer holiday break, and they do share certain key pitfalls.

EXPECTATION

The summer holiday equals special family time together and there is pressure to make it as near perfect as possible. But it is helpful to check with other family members what their wants and needs are before arranging anything. Even young children can contribute and will often respond with interesting ideas. Some level of compromise is inevitable, but being clear about what is possible will make things easier for everyone.

For most families, weekly schedules are clearly defined – work, school, sport and leisure,

and social events. Summer holidays throw all of these patterns to the wind, which can be liberating but may also be confusing and irritating. Be realistic when planning activities and be prepared to be flexible and negotiate.

‘GOOD FUN IS NOT ABOUT SPENDING MONEY’

Being together in a different environment can deliver an opportunity to have conversations that get pushed to one side in everyday life. Family rules can be waived and new situations explored. These can challenge the view of relationships, so staying open and receptive can be positive.

OVERSPENDING

It is easy to get carried away and spend more than intended. Set a budget and stick to it. A happy time together is more about what you do and how you do it and less about how much was spent.

Part of the joy of taking a holiday is the memories that the

family build together. Memory building isn't always about ideal times, it can be about funny or strange events. Good fun is not about spending money and it may be about doing something that none of the family has done before. Children love being part of a new experience, and enjoy the special time when the whole family has done something new together.

GENERATION GAP

Bringing the generations together can be a real bonus but make sure the whole family have a say in what is happening, and pitch the holiday to take into account the age and stage of everyone. Each family needs to find its own recipe for success and this will evolve and change over the years, so keep talking and negotiating.

Why not slip reminders into the luggage, write yourself some postcards with a few key words and pop them in among the clothes. Notes to self could be things like “simple pleasures”, “expect less and enjoy more”, and “there is no perfect holiday” – whatever helps. They might make you or other family members laugh, but where's the harm in that? Let each moment matter. Holidays are special and have huge potential, so don't waste them. ☺

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Be More



WHY NOT
PARTICIPATE
IN A LOCAL
ROLLER
PARADE

A guide to staying mentally and physically fit while having fun compiled by personal trainer **Patti Bruns**

Summer is here and it is time to ditch the treadmill and head outside for some fun workouts that feel more like play than training. A 2011 study in *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise* found that people who walked on a track outside moved at a faster pace, perceived less exertion and experienced more positive emotions than those who walked inside.

CHILD'S PLAY

Do you remember being a child? Hopping on your bike after breakfast and not coming home until dinner? What is to stop you from doing that again? Summer is a great time to act like a kid and do things that get you moving while having fun. Get back on that bike, hop on a skateboard or take up water skiing. Summer sports are fantastic because they get us outside and encourage us to move in ways that we normally don't. Skateboarding, for example, is excellent for the lower body and builds core strength. By introducing new movement patterns we challenge our bodies to adapt and get stronger, while increasing mobility and stability. Run, jump and play away the summer days by trying new activities or returning to an old favorite that makes you feel young again.

LIGHTEN UP

Being outside definitely improves the mood and outlook on life. MRI scans reveal that when people are shown images of landscapes the area of the brain associated with happy memories lights up. Keep that happy feeling all summer by ensuring that dress is appropriate: choose breathable fabrics that are light in weight and colour; black absorbs light and heat which can lead to feeling uncomfortable. Hot days require extra attention – invest in a light hat and find a sunscreen that is sweat-resistant. Hydration is key, so keep plenty of water on hand when playing at your favorite activity. Afterwards, why not relax with a glass of icy water infused with fruit, vegetables and herbs such as lemon, cucumber, basil and mint to replace lost fluids.

EXERCISE TOYS

When looking for inspiration, try observing children at play; participate in a local roller parade or head to the beach and join in the fun. After that delicious barbecue, get everyone moving with a



GETTING EVERYONE
MOVING WITH A
GAME OF SOCCER

game of frisbee, catch or soccer. Try taking a few pieces of functional training equipment outside for a workout. Resistance bands for instance are compact, lightweight and can be used anywhere. Medicine balls and dumbbells are more difficult to travel with, but provide endless possibilities for fun sessions outside the gym.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Time away from the stresses of everyday life, whether a few days or a few weeks, is very important for recharging energy levels. Leaving routines behind and focusing on relaxing is imperative to maintaining a balanced lifestyle and sense of wellbeing. Approaching daily exercise from the perspective of play is a wonderful way to connect with family while on vacation. Simply choose activities that everyone can do and enjoy. Remember this basic guideline – get the body moving in a playful activity every day for 40-60 minutes. This allows the maintenance of current fitness levels while still allowing for a few summer treats. 🍷

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

Photograph: © Lana K

PATTI'S PLAY-INSPIRED CIRCUIT TRAINING FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Set up three to four stations, one per person
- Spend one minute at each station, rest one minute and then rotate to the next station
- Complete 2-3 circuits to music

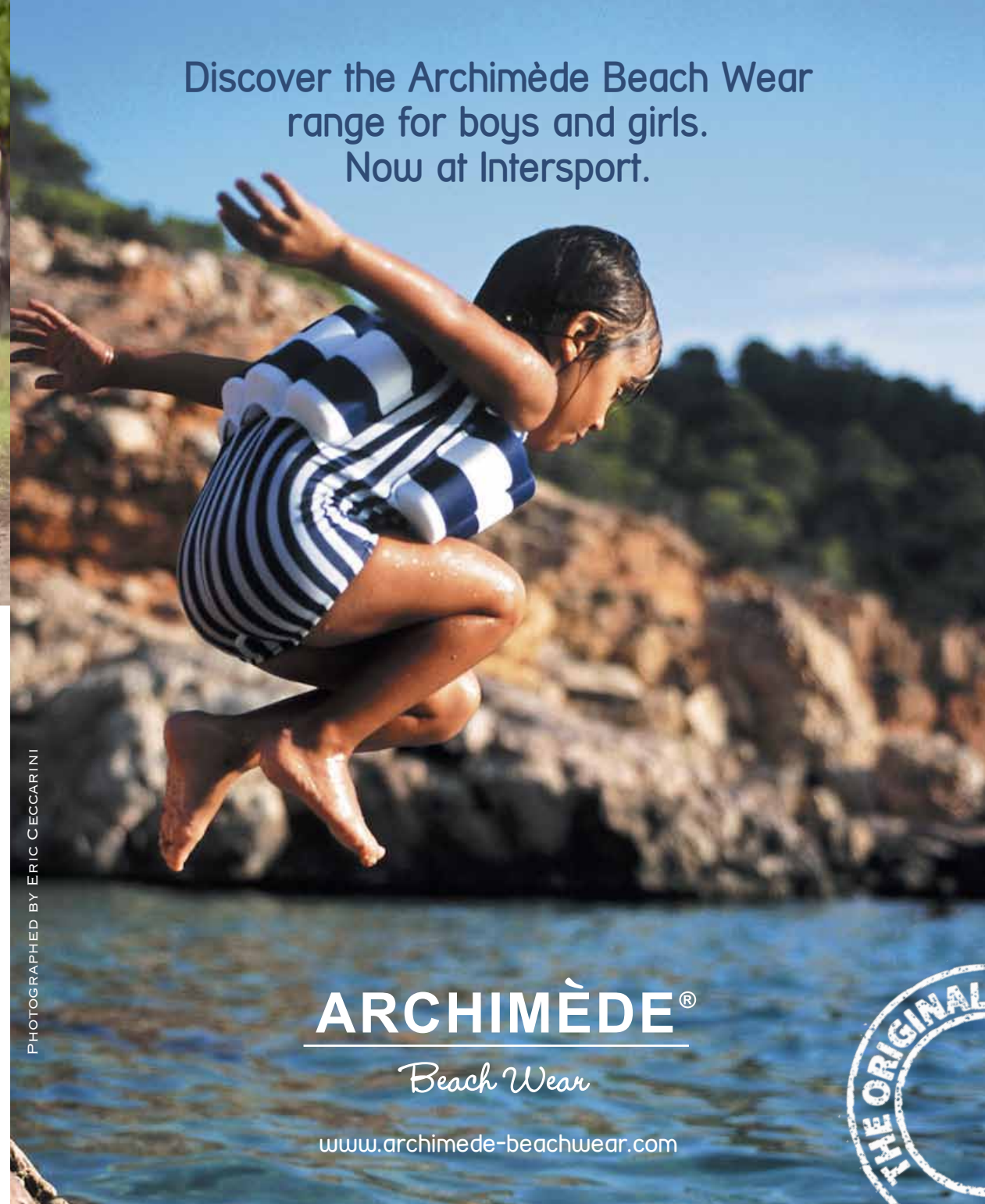
STATION 1
skipping rope

STATION 2
push-ups of any style

STATION 3
burpees (push-ups followed
by a jump with arms in the air)

STATION 4
jump lunges
(changing legs mid-air)

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Home sweet (second) home

Dreaming about owning a second home in one of Europe's prime summer holiday destinations? Financial writer **Laura Cohn** suggests that now may be the time to buy

ABOVE: THE ALLURING CÔTE D'AZUR

Thanks to uncertainty related to the ongoing eurozone crisis, high-end villas in Tuscany and Umbria, homes with guest houses on the French Riviera and 18th Century castles on the road to Brittany, are essentially on markdown, with prices off 5 percent to 20 percent or more from levels seen only a few years ago.

"Most markets are buyers' markets," says Philippe Rosy, chairman of the upmarket estate agent Engel & Völkers, France-Belux. "If you've got the money to do it, it's the right time to buy."

Austerity measures, rising debt levels and an oversupply of new construction have all weighed on Europe's housing markets. As a result, not only are there fewer buyers looking to spend, the number of properties on the market has increased.

PLUMMETING PRICES

France's second-home market is perhaps the best case in point. On the alluring Côte D'Azur, renowned for its scenic hills and luminous waters, the number of luxury villas and apartments on the market is up by 21 percent from last year, to more than 9,700, says Estate Net France, a real estate agent specializing in luxury properties in the area.

As a result, prices in the area – famous for the coastal resorts of Saint Tropez, Cannes and Cap Ferrat, and hilltop towns of St Paul de Vence and Mougins – have plummeted. Last year alone, prices in the region declined by as much as 10 percent, according to luxury estate agent Knight Frank in London.

So far this year, conditions have improved. In January, the average price for a luxury property on the French Riviera >

Photograph: © Kathleen Blake

fell below €2 million for the first time in years, to €1.93 million, says Estate Net France. While it has since gone up slightly, to €2.03 million this past spring, it remains 9 percent below last year's prices.

Likewise, in Italy's Tuscany and Umbria, prices dropped by 5 percent last year, and should stay flat this year, says Knight Frank. The high end of the market appears to be holding up, however. Villas in the €2 million to €4 million price range have drawn buyers, as have those in the €5 million to €15 million range.

NO QUICK PROFITS

Areas that are always hot, such as the Chianti region around Siena and Florence, have retained interest due to nervous eurozone investors looking to sink their cash into hard assets and enjoy *la dolce vita*.

Prices may be low now, but don't buy if thinking about turning an investment around for a quick profit. Given the questions hanging over the eurozone and its teetering banking sector, there's no guarantee of being able to re-sell that second home right away. For investors in it for the longer term, opportunities abound.

"People buy properties here for the lifestyle – they want to enjoy their money," says Fredrik Liloe, chief executive of Estate Net Prestige, a Mougins-based portal for international second-home buyers.

Looking for a 350 square metre home at the top of a hill in Saint Tropez, with a guesthouse and a pool? Two years ago it was listed for €5.4 million; now it's available for just €4.2 million, a 22 percent reduction. A 500 square metre villa on Cap d'Antibes with six bedrooms and six bathrooms, a pool, and a panoramic view of the sea, has recently been cut by 12 percent, to €16.7 million.

Not all countries in Europe are ripe for buyers just yet. Spain is suffering a glut after speculators built too many holiday



CAP D'ANTIBES, FRANCE: VILLA WITH POOL AND FOUR BEDROOM SUITES MARKED BY ESTATE NET PRESTIGE (PRICE ON REQUEST)

homes too quickly before the property bubble burst four years ago. The end of the boom not only led to prices collapsing, but it also wiped out many of the banks that financed the building spree.

TIME TO BUY

Though prices dropped 11 percent last year, some experts, such as those

at independent London think tank Open Europe, believe prices still have far to fall, and are predicting another 35 percent drop.

Still, outside of Spain, real estate agents report interest is beginning to pick up as long-term buyers in healthier economies are dipping their toes in. Scandinavians,

Russians and increasingly China's new rich have started to step up.

"From an expat's point of view, it's a better time to buy now than it was six months or a year ago," says Matt Hodder, an associate at Knight Frank in London.

"You can get a lot more for your money, and 'core Europe' is a good place to buy." ☺

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EUROPEAN COUNCIL



TONY BLAIR,
FORMER UK
PREMIER



PRESIDENT OF EUROPE

The country of EU

An elected leader of the European Union in a post-crisis Europe is one of many ideas fermenting in committees, lecture rooms and think tanks – the most eye-catching proposal, but also the most improbable, according to **David Haworth**

Little noticed during the European Union's troubled summer are the efforts by some politicians to plan a true political union once the current crisis, or even the next, is behind us.

Ten of the EU's 27 foreign affairs ministers have been discreetly erecting the scaffolding of a continental superstate. With their report due out in September, the "Future of Europe Group", as might be expected, is not blessed with any modesty of ambition.

MORE EUROPE

Led by German foreign affairs minister Guido Westerwelle, the group makes no bones about its opportunism. "We should take advantage of the crisis to take an historic step towards more integration," states Westerwelle. In this he echoes his boss Chancellor Angela Merkel who sees the crisis as an overwhelming argument for "more Europe", by which she means a transfer of responsibilities from

member capitals to Brussels.

What is proposed is a shift from intergovernmentalism to supranationalism: the European Commission, it is suggested, should become a government, the European Council should be its second chamber and the European Parliament evolved into a proper Parliament with full budgetary and legislative rights. Also thrown in is the idea of a finance minister for the whole of Europe, which would also have a European Army, one seat at the United Nations, and a lending facility like the International Monetary Fund.

The former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder states the view that structural problems are the reason for the current crisis and therefore competition in EU economies can only be restored by structural reforms – that is, further political integration which would morph into a “European Federation”.

PRESIDENT OF EUROPE

Crowning these changes to existing structures would be a President of Europe, who would combine the job of the President of the European Commission President, currently José Manuel Barroso, a former Prime Minister of Portugal, with that of the President of the European Council, who is Herman Van Rompuy. Such a figure would be directly elected with the freedom of choosing his or her own cabinet, ie the European Commission.

The idea of an EU suprema briefly inflamed political imaginations when the full-time presidency of the European Council was first mooted and it became known that former UK premier Tony Blair had looked in the mirror to find exactly who that person should be. The prospect

prompted second thoughts in many capitals and the job went to Herman Van Rompuy, a former Prime Minister of Belgium, who has neither rattled the coffee cups nor disturbed anyone's sleep patterns.

DEMOCRACY

Should these reforms begin to be realised, much of the focus would inevitably be on who this European Leader should be rather than the effect on the Union's democracy, just as it was when Van Rompuy's name emerged from capital-to-capital discussion about his current post. And as an example of what could happen when such proposals are exposed to rude electoral consideration, a recent poll in Germany asked a sample of voters about the definition of Europe and found the majority to be “floundering in the dark”. Worse, most of those who were quizzed said the EU's institutional leaders had “contributed significantly to the weakening of political enthusiasm for Europe”. In other words, the Marley's ghost of the Union's “democratic deficit”

is present from pubs to parliaments and back, wherever the topic of Europe might be raised.

As the Nobel prize-winning economist Amartya Sen put it in the *International Herald Tribune*: “The most troubling aspect of Europe's current malaise is the replacement of democratic commitments by financial dictates.”

This, he added, is a far cry from the “united democratic Europe” which the pioneers of European unity aspired to. The President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Klaus, put it thus: “We should forget anti-democratic ambitions to politically unify Europe. We should return to democracy, which can exist only at the level of nation states.”

“MUCH OF THE FOCUS WOULD INEVITABLY BE ON WHO THIS EUROPEAN LEADER SHOULD BE”

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2D digital sculpture
***Sphinx*, 2012**
by artist and
photographer
Ingrid Baars

Baars bares all

Powerful and intimate photographic sculptures of the human body by digital artist Ingrid Baars are heavily influenced by African art. **Ann Cordell** reviews her collection, currently showing in Brussels



^ COIFFE, 2011 BY INGRID BAARS

Dutch artist and photographer Ingrid Baars has already won prizes for her *L'Afrique c'est Chic!* series, currently exhibiting in Brussels until mid-September when it moves to London, then Paris. Baars plays with the contrast between classic African art and contemporary creation. The results are an attractive jumble of the human body, nearly all female figures, embellished by antique African wood sculptures, with accessories borrowed from famous stylists and designers, such as Jean-Paul Gaultier. The only male form depicted so far is in the work entitled *Heaven*. In some of the photographs in this series, the artist has also recycled her own oil paintings from an earlier period. The photography is all her own, the final objects in 2-D created on computer from thousands of original photographs. Originally a drawer and painter, Baars, 42, who lives and works in Antwerp, says that photography is something she has always dabbled with, the medium becoming a major element of her artistic creation during the last ten years. In this series, wooden artefacts evolve into flesh, lending each photograph a sculptural dimension, with different accessories, textures and shadows chosen to reinforce one another. This is an ongoing project; Baars has completed 25 works, but says she is aiming for a total of between 50 and 60 images that will be published in a book. Each picture is for sale in a limited edition of seven, starting at €5,500. 

Fine Art Studio, 13 rue des Sablons, B-1030 Brussels until September 16; London, Whitford Gallery, October 2012; Paris, Fine Art Studio, November 2012

SCARABÉE GAULTIER, 2011 BY INGRID BAARS >





^ HUNTER, 2012 BY INGRID BAARS

LA REINE, 2012 BY INGRID BAARS >



in the SWIM

A selection of this season's beach and poolside fashion and accessories for both men and women chosen by stylist **Nicholas Sirot**

PHOTOGRAPHER
Yenci Kiss

HAIR AND MAKE-UP
David Bettega
for Yves Saint Laurent and
l'Oreal Professional Paris

MODELS
Sarah W
IMM International Model
Management, Brussels
Isabel B, Corbin
and Chris O
Dominique Models Agency

SARAH WEARS BIKINI
BY **PETIT BATEAU**,
BLOUSE BY **AGNÈS B.**,
HAT BY **HERMÈS**



ISABEL WEARS
SWIMMING COSTUME
BY **ERES**, HAT BY
ELVIS POMPILIO



Summer colour

CHRIS WEARS SCARF BY
EDC BY ESPRIT, SHORTS
BY **HENNES & MAURITZ**,
SUNGLASSES BY **LACOSTE**



CORBIN (LEFT) WEARS
CARDIGAN BY **GANT**; CHRIS
WEARS JACKET BY **AGNES B.**
SHORTS BY **FILIPPA K.**
SUNGLASSES BY **PRADA**



SARAH WEARS BLOUSE BY
MONSIEUR BUL, BANDEAU
TOP BY **ERES**, SHORTS BY
MANGO, SHOES BY **MELLOW**
YELLOW, HANDBAG BY
HENNES & MAURITZ

Summer colour

ISABEL WEARS SWIMMING
COSTUME AND HAT BY
SONIA RYKIEL; CORBIN
WEARS TRUNKS BY **HOM**
BY **ALEXIS MABILLE**.
SUNGLASSES BY **ADIDAS**.
NECKLACE BY **DODO**



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Photograph: Sand © Shutterstock

MONROE MANIA

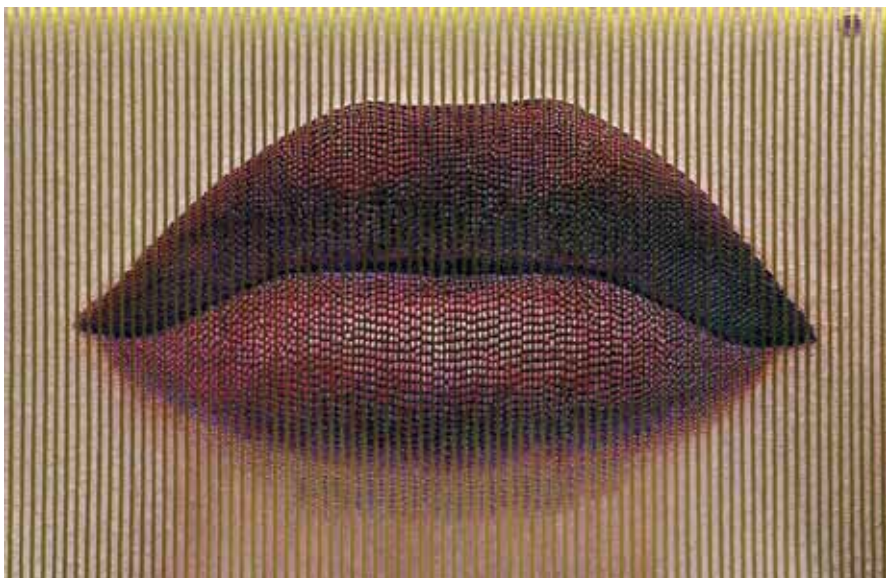
With the 50th anniversary of Marilyn Monroe's death coming up in August, **Ann Cordell** reports on homage being paid to the iconic Hollywood legend

Earlier this year the Rhythm'n'Blues star Rihanna commissioned a portrait of Marilyn Monroe made from 65,000 Swarovski crystals by artist Claire Milner, a sparkling work of art that changes with the light. A pair of curvaceous skyscrapers in Canada known as "Marilyn Monroe" and "Monroe Mate" were recently nominated as being among the best new tall buildings in the world. And there are exhibitions being held all over the world to mark the anniversary of the movie star's death on August 5, 1962. Had the troubled actress lived, she would have been 86 years old in June.

FERRAGAMO SHOES

In Italy, the Salvatore Ferragamo museum in Florence has opened a retrospective exhibition dedicated to Monroe, who used to buy Ferragamo shoes from the Park Avenue store in New York. On display until the end of January next year are film clips, photos, international magazine covers, Monroe's original writings, outfits she wore on the set of her movies, and shoes designed by Ferragamo especially for her.

The United States has its fair share of exhibitions dedicated to the memory of Monroe. Running until September 2 in Hollywood at the Hollywood Museum is a celebration of the star's short life *An Intimate Look At The Legend* featuring some of her clothes, personal cosmetics, artwork and photos including the infamous red velvet nudes shot by photographer Tom Kelly.



ABOVE LEFT: *THE MISFITS*, OIL ON CANVAS BY FRANÇOIS BARD; ABOVE RIGHT: *BABY ALONE*, PHOTO PRINTING UNDER DIASEC BY LE TURK; LEFT: *THE WAITING*, ACRYLIC AND COATING ON CANVAS BY SON SEOCK; REPRODUCED WITH KIND PERMISSION OF THE MAZEL GALLERY

Fort Lauderdale in Texas is hosting a new exhibition of lost photographs by Hollywood paparazzo Frank Worth at the NAC Gallery until the end of July. The pictures include one of the film director Billy Wilder positioning Monroe in the famous pose with her skirt blowing in *The Seven Year Itch*.

STATUE

A 26-foot tall statue of that image of Monroe in the film by the American artist Seward Johnson will be on display in downtown Palm Springs, the city where Monroe was discovered in 1949, until June next year. The Forever Marilyn sculpture is just one of a number of Monroe-related activities and events planned by the Palm Springs Tourist Board

THERE ARE EXHIBITIONS BEING HELD ALL OVER THE WORLD

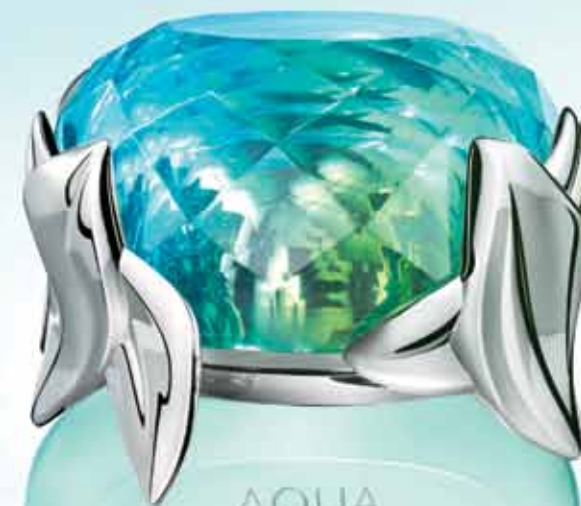
including a celebrity tour and the opportunity to stay in the house she lived in.

On this side of the Atlantic in the UK in Hull, Artist Andy Warhol's instantly recognisable portraits of Marilyn Monroe are included in an exhibition on loan from the Tate and the National Galleries of Scotland. Running until mid-January at the Ferens Art Gallery, it includes more than 80 artworks by Warhol.

Closer to home in Brussels, the Mazel Gallery in Rue Capitaine Crespel is displaying a number of works depicting Marilyn Monroe – some of them reproduced here with kind permission of the gallery – by 17 different artists until July 13 and again from August 28 until September 8. 📍

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The designer Olympics

Fashion designers are also competing in the London 2012 Olympics, according to **Annie Claire Bergeron-Oliver**



TEAM GB: LONG JUMPER
PHILIPS IDOWU

Thousands of athletes will appear on television sets and computer screens around the world this summer, waving to the cameras as they parade into London's Olympic Stadium. And when the red carpet is rolled out, dozens of designer outfits will make their debut on the backs of the sporting stars. Just like the Oscars, it is not so much about what they are wearing, but who.

Catwalk familiars such as Armani and McCartney are not usually associated with high performance athletic gear, but this Olympics is different. Armani has created the opening ceremony and village wear apparel for the Italian team. Upon arrival, athletes will receive a suitcase with 50 Olympic specific articles of Armani clothing, including a midnight blue or white jacket or polo and track pants.

BEST-DRESSED

Cedella Marley, daughter of Jamaican reggae singer Bob Marley, designed the Jamaican team's gear, which was inspired by the use of colors and patterns in Jamaican and African culture.

"To have a role in creating the outfits for our Olympians is a thrill," said Marley at the launch of her Olympic line. The men, in banana yellow pants with an emerald green t-shirt and tie, and the women in black skirts with a banana yellow pattern and black jacket with emerald green accents, may well top the >



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PART OF JAMAICA'S OLYMPIC 2012 UNIFORM; JAMAICA'S SPRINTER USAIN BOLT; US' BASKETBALL PLAYER KEVIN DURANT; CANADA'S TABLE TENNIS KIT; TEAM AUSTRALIA MODEL THE OPENING CEREMONY UNIFORM



best-dressed list at the opening ceremonies.

Sprinter Usain Bolt and his teammates will definitely stand out in competition and not only for their athletic performances. Their Olympic dress features a two-tone competition jersey that fades from green to yellow, a bright yellow warm-up sweater, black track pants with a mustard yellow strip down the leg, and a pair of black shorts with green piping.

TEAM GB

Stella McCartney, daughter of former Beatle Paul McCartney, is the creative director behind the Adidas 2012 Great Britain Olympic team outfits, inspired by the Union Flag. Each sport features a different section of the distinctive flag, but all the clothes have a pale blue and white base color with red piping and shoes.

McCartney's kit has drawn criticism for failing to accurately portray the flag as well as for being too busy. "Little disappointed! Doesn't look very GB!! It just needs more RED," tweeted Scottish pentathlete Mhairi Spence. McCartney, however, says her intention was to use the Union Flag in a new, subtler manner. "If you look at the history of Team GB kits, it is the most prominent use of the flag and the colour red since 1984," she wrote on her Facebook page. "It's not a conventional way of looking at the flag, but one still interprets it as the Union flag."

TOP-NOTCH TECHNOLOGY

Although the kit is derided for not being visually appealing, the materials and technology used by Adidas are top-notch. Many of the 2012 uniforms feature material and designs that are created to maximise athletic performance. Team USA, for example, has partnered with Nike to create a line of track and field clothing that can reportedly shave a twentieth of a second off a 100 metre race. That small improvement can be the difference between standing on the

medal podium and watching it from afar. "Our overriding design principle is superior lightweight performance, and we've created innovations that can help make the athlete faster," said Nike Global Olympic Creative Director Martin Lotti.

RECYCLED

The outfits themselves are fire engine red with the letters USA written in navy blue on the front. The basic design is the same for basketball too, but players will be wearing knee-length white shorts made from recycled polyester and a white jersey made from recycled plastic bottles. Many items in Nike's Olympic collection, which includes clothing for countries

such as China, Estonia and Germany, are made from eco-friendly, renewable material. "I also really appreciate the commitment to the environment and the fact that the uniforms are made with recycled plastic bottles," said

Chinese national basketball player Yi Jianlian about his uniform.

China's kit contains a series of dark red pieces with a mustard yellow Nike Swoosh on the left side and various yellow accents on numbers and side panels. Their competition uniforms are made from the same material as those sported by members of Team USA.

Australia, Jamaica and Great Britain have also produced competition wear that are lightweight, reduce aerodynamic drag and feature compression and cooling materials. Adidas stated that the compression material used in Team Australia's boxing, rowing and weightlifting attire was designed to generate maximum power output, and muscular endurance.

"Our athletes will be representing the nation in front of a global audience so we wanted to ensure they are the best equipped team through a combination of leading technologies," said Cam Baranski, the Adidas Australia Head of Sports Marketing. While the chosen

“IT IS NOT SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE WEARING, BUT WHO”



shades may not be the most appealing, the designers have kept with the tradition of using Australia's national colours, gold and green, in international events.

For the opening ceremonies, however, the Australian athletes will be dressed more traditionally in emerald green blazers over a pair of white pants, or a knee-length white dress. In a similar fashion, athletes from Germany will ditch their baby blue and pink track jackets for a waist-length tangerine colored blazer with either white pants or a white skirt. And, as expected, Team USA will wear red, white and blue polo shirts with white pants, all designed by Ralph Lauren.

VOLUNTEERS

For many armchair athletes, wearing the attire is as close as they will ever get to being involved in the Olympics, except for the volunteers at the London Games. Their Adidas uniforms call up iconic images of the Beatles, Grenadier Guards and the Henley Regatta, and consist of a

dark purple coat with red trim, a black jacket or a deep aqua track jacket and beige pants. Female volunteers involved with the medal ceremonies will sport a grape-colored, form-fitting dress with a

cone-shaped hat, and the men will wear a matching dark purple pants and jacket set. As with the sporting attire, the uniforms have not struck a popular chord with the British public.

The Olympics may only last a month, but design houses expect to

make profits for weeks afterwards. Nike was the mastermind behind the attire of at least four countries, Puma one and Adidas at least three. Many major department stores across the world have entire floors dedicated to Olympic merchandise. Designer labels have won a place at the Olympic Games – but let's hope the fit, material and design are created with high performance athletics in mind rather than the catwalk. ☺

**LOUIS SMITH
MODELLING TEAM
GB'S GYMNASTICS
UNIFORM**

**INSET: STELLA
MCCARTNEY WHO
DESIGNED TEAM
GB'S OLYMPIC KIT**

Photographs: GB © Adidas; USA © Streetball.com; Australia © James Morgan; Stella McCartney © S. Buckley

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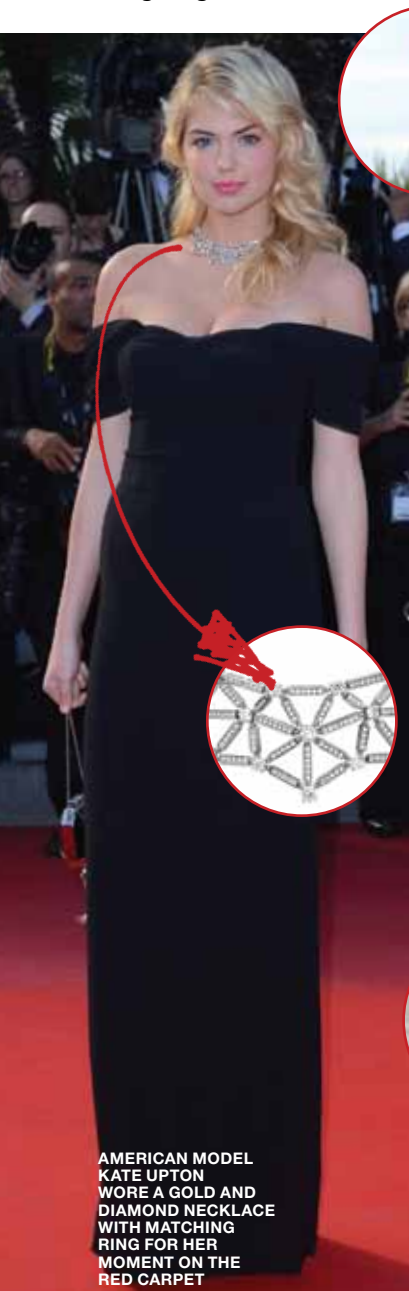


SPARKLING

Founded by a Greek in the late 19th century, the Italian brand Bulgari quickly made a name for itself with sumptuous jewellery for the rich and famous. Bulgari gems worth millions – recently auctioned – were owned by the late

IN CANNES

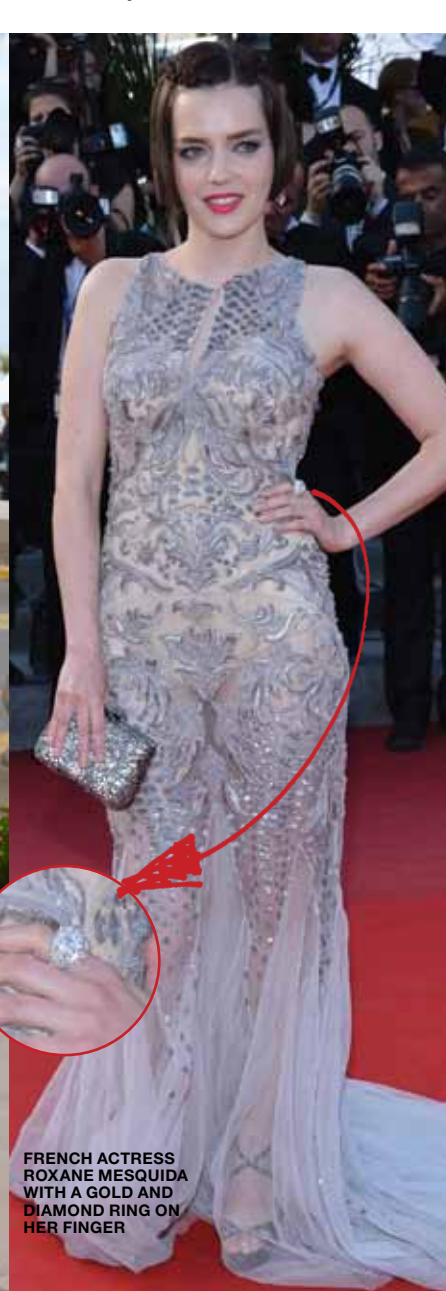
actress Elizabeth Taylor, and the new generation of the glamorous are following in her footsteps, if this selection of Bulgari baubles spotted at the Cannes Film Festival is anything to go by.



AMERICAN MODEL KATE UPTON WORE A GOLD AND DIAMOND NECKLACE WITH MATCHING RING FOR HER MOMENT ON THE RED CARPET



CHINESE ACTRESS YAO XING TONG AT A PARTY AT THE HOTEL CARLTON IN WHITE GOLD AND DIAMOND EARRINGS AND BRACELET WITH CLUTCH BAG FROM THE SERPENTI RANGE



FRENCH ACTRESS ROXANE MESQUIDA WITH A GOLD AND DIAMOND RING ON HER FINGER



SPANISH ACTRESS PAZ VEGA WORE EARRINGS OF YELLOW GOLD, EMERALDS AND DIAMONDS TO THE VANITY FAIR PARTY AT HOTEL DU CAP AND A ROSE GOLD, CORAL AND DIAMOND BRACELET



FRENCH ACTRESS LAURA WEISSBECKER DISPLAYS A WHITE CERAMIC AND ROSE GOLD RING FROM THE B ZERO 1 RANGE



BRITISH ACTRESS AND MODEL KELLY BROOK WITH A SERPENTI WHITE GOLD AND DIAMOND BRACELET ON HER WRIST AT HER PHOTO CALL AND SPORTING WHITE GOLD AND DIAMOND EARRINGS

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**ERES VERNIS NAIL
LACQUER** IN **DAMAS**

LIFE OF LEISURE

Blue skies and
palm trees –
summertime
in the Florida
Keys, USA

© Kathleen Blake



Truffles

NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH

Ask Italophiles what the best time of year is to visit Florence and chances are they will recommend spring or the autumn; **Delphine Stefens** explains why she tries to make a habit of going there in August and recommends the truffles

Florence in August is hot and humid with average day temperatures in the high 30s, but that means there are fewer tourists and more room to breathe. The beauty and cool of museums and *palazzi* can be enjoyed in a more relaxed manner, and hotel rates are cheaper. Not all restaurants and shops are open, but that doesn't mean there aren't plenty of wonderful places to indulge both mind and body.

Invited to stay at the Relais Santa Croce last summer, I was welcomed as if I were a house guest in an historical private residence but with all the amenities of modern comfort. Commissioned in the early 18th century by the Marchese Baldinucci, a Florentine aristocrat and treasurer of the Pope, the palace was acquired by the Baglioni Hotel Group in 2009 and became a member of the Relais & Châteaux collection shortly afterwards, two reliable references that make for a unique hotel experience.

ELEGANCE

Built to impress, the large windows in the facade are illustrations of the original owner's wealth and power, as are the imposing granite columns at the entrance

that Baldinucci had sent all the way from Rome. Inside, the feel is more intimate, with a beautiful little courtyard and elegant staircase (or alternatively a modern elevator) to the main floor where guests are welcomed with refreshments.

With 24 rooms of varying sizes and styles, all are decorated in a mix of modern and antique. I was given a junior suite under the roof with a cosy salon with doors and an antique table, a couple of chairs and a sofa bed that could easily be turned into a second bedroom for children or used to work, relax or eat breakfast. My bed was made up with marvellous Pedersoli linen sheets and a duvet. Spurning the air conditioning, I was given a Cecci & Cecci summer blanket and slept like a baby.

RESTORATION

During a recent restoration of the building, great care was put into preserving as many original architectural and decorative elements as possible, perfectly illustrated in the music room with its original hardwood flooring, vaulted ceiling, bright stuccoes and white marble fireplace, and by the frescoes and antique rugs in the smoking room.

The hotel's Guelfi e Ghibellini restaurant >

Truffle Photograph: © O. Bellini



RELAIS SANTA CROCE:
BUILT TO IMPRESS

also strives to blend tradition and modernity; it serves a seasonal *à la carte* menu as well as daily specials and includes many Tuscan specialities that are reinterpreted with a contemporary touch by the Florentine chef Fabrizio Innocenti. Featuring an *il povero ma buono* (poor but good) section with bread and anchovies, pasta and beans and braised veal cheek with mashed potatoes, the menu is simple and good. I was left wishing I could return in September for white truffle dishes and have since been dying to try out the Enoteca Pinchiorri restaurant in the same building which is closed in August and whose self-taught chef was the first woman in Italy to earn three Michelin stars.

WHITE DIAMOND

Truffles are underground mushrooms that look like knobby or rough and wrinkled potatoes and they come in various shapes, sizes and colours. Made of water and minerals that the fungi absorb from the tree roots they live on, the French boast of the black Périgord truffle, but the Italians rave about the "white diamond of Italy" and hunting for the prized white truffle peaks in the autumn.

The most famous is the white truffle of Alba in the Piemonte region. Tuscany also has a significant truffle

production, mostly of the white variety, some of which can be found in the Florence province. They are referred to as white (or black) diamonds or gold because of their scarcity and subsequent expense. On a yearly basis, the truffle business in Italy represents some €400 million. There are strict rules and regulations about how and when to dig them up. Truffle hunters know where to find them but need well-trained dogs that can sniff them out before they are unearthed with a tool called a *vanghetta* that resembles a hoe.



BEDROOM WITH TERRACE

TRUFFLE TERROR

An image of gentlemen hunters with their loyal dogs and secret treasure maps of misty valleys passed down through generations readily springs to mind, but the reality is less romantic. Being the most expensive food in the world has led to a black market in truffles and truffle crime - truffle hunters are assaulted and car-jacked, their dogs are poisoned, and restaurants broken into. And there is an even more virulent plague: the Chinese truffle. Of inferior quality, it is a lot

cheaper, and mixed with genuine terroir truffles may actually smell okay but is said to remain tasteless.

But whether in summer or autumn, dining on white truffles or the black, there is always something to do and enjoy in and around Florence with an abundance of art exhibitions,

music, theatre and cinema, food and wine festivals and, need it be said, great shopping. For a complete view of what's on, visit www.firenzeturismo.it or simply make your way to the historical Caffè Gilli on the corner of the Piazza della Repubblica and the Via Roma, order a cappuccino or prosecco, depending on the time of day, indulge in *dolce far niente* and await inspiration. ☺

Relais Santa Croce, Via Ghibellina 87
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www.relaissantacroce.com
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A perfect destination spa for a day or a weekend, Martin'Spa - in the Château du Lac, a five-star hotel, 20 km south of Brussels - is a temple of revitalisation. You can expect an ultra-sensorial journey of beauty and wellbeing with a full palette of face and body treatments ranging from hydromassage baths and balneotherapy to bespoke facials, exfoliation, massages and more. Or you can simply relax by the heated pool, sauna, steambath or Jacuzzi. All help cleanse and release tensions, so it's just the retreat for stressed out urbanites.

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Detox your body and mind and inhale serenity



TEE OFF into summer at the Martin'Spa Bodywealth!

Reputed for its sensational spa treatments but also for its fitness facilities, this summer, Martin'Spa Bodywealth, situated on the roof of the illustrious Château du Lac, invites you to taste the pleasures of its **After Golf** programme!

Martin'Spa Bodywealth is taking to the "Greens" by offering you a personalised coaching programme, specially devised for golfers!

Golf is a sport that makes a lot of demands on the body. It is therefore important to prepare and protect it and, above all, to keep in shape throughout the season.

What's more, to reward you for your efforts, you are also guided towards specific body treatments that will avoid side-effects such as heavy legs, aching muscles or cramps ...

N.B.: Whatever your sport of choice (tennis, rugby, ski, windsurfing,...), we can always come up with a programme tailored to meet your needs!

Scenic summer holiday

Located on the north west coast of France in Brittany, Tregastel is an ideal spot for families to nurture great vacation memories, says publisher **David McGowan** who was a guest of Belambra Clubs



PINK GRANITE BOULDERS ON THE SANDY BEACH AT TREGASTEL



Located on the northwest coast of France in Brittany, Tregastel is bordered by an archipelago of seven islands, a protected site and classified nature reserve hosting 27 different species of birds and more than 24,000 nesting pairs.

PICTURESQUE

The city's rich architectural heritage dates back to the 12th century. Picturesque beach houses and hotels line Tregastel's legendary pink granite coast of alternating sandy beaches and rocky coves, surrounded by lush greenery. Looking out to sea, large ships dotted on the horizon of the English Channel flank smaller boats closer to land.

PINK GRANITE

Tregastel boasts 12 sandy beaches, a wonderful natural mix of warm sand and >



“A PLAYGROUND FROM PARADISE FOR CHILDREN”



smooth pink granite boulders lapped by sapphire blue waves crashing gently on the shore. Extraordinary rock formations line the coast and layers of rock tower over the sea topped by a large, cube-shaped boulder of pink granite giving the appearance of balancing on the smaller rocks that lay beneath. This is a playground from paradise for children, with spectacular views of the ocean, plenty of sight-seeing opportunities and cultural and sporting activities, along with the prospect of a holiday they will never forget.

WHERE TO STAY

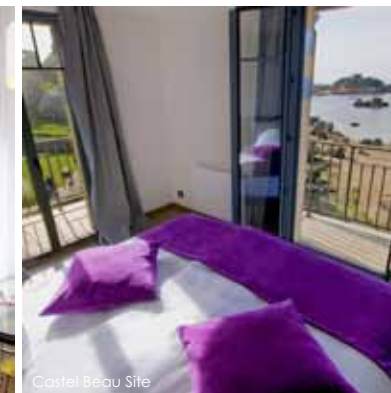
Belambra has recently had a facelift, and completely re-thought the comfort of holiday guests. The company now offers a number of accommodation options, allowing guests to customise their holiday. Ranging from half board or full board clubs, self-catering clubs and self-catering residences to half or full board leisure hotels, Belambra offers greater wellness and relaxation activities, fully refurbished sites and a new standard of service and catering. With sites all over France, the clubs represent a “new generation” of Belambra, operating at a high level of comfort. 📍

www.belambra.com

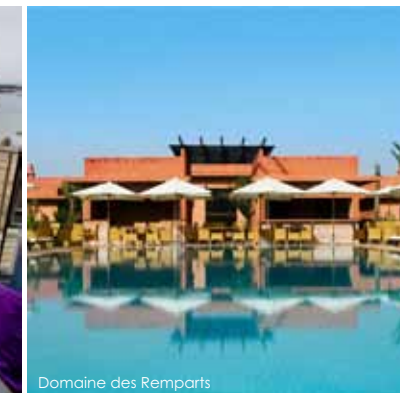
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andel's Lodz



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Domaine des Remparts



Château de la Pomarède



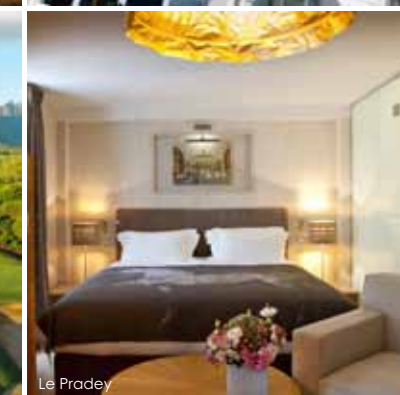
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The peaceful side of the French Riviera



Do you plan to visit the French Riviera this summer? Here is an exclusive and original place to stay, a peaceful location where you can enjoy the best pleasures that the South of France offers: fine wine, Mediterranean food, sun and sandy beaches.

ONE DOMAIN, TWO ADDRESSES

The Château de Valmer and La Pinède Plage are located at La Croix Valmer, a small and unspoilt village situated just a few kilometres from Saint-Tropez and only a 90 minute drive from Nice International Airport. On the edge of the beach of Gigaro, in the heart of the Provence countryside, the Château de Valmer is a former stately home with a winery, which has been restored and re-decorated with care and finesse. This family-owned hotel, member of the Châteaux & Hôtels Collection association, offers all the facilities of a refined French chateau: 42 large and comfortable rooms, spa and fitness centre, outdoor and indoor swimming pools, water sports, gastronomical restaurant and so on. The icing on the cake? The domain produces its own wines, a fresh rosé, a white and a light red bearing the Côtes de Provence certificate. These wines are available at the restaurant and you can also buy bottles at the boutique as a holiday souvenir. The guests who stay at the Château de Valmer enjoy privileged access to La Pinède Plage, a wonderful private beach resort also owned by the family. Those who prefer the seaside may book one of 23 rooms offered by La Pinède Plage. Located on the edge of a sandy beach, overlooking the Iles d'Or, in the shade of magnificent maritime pines, the hotel enjoys exceptional conditions, right on the water.

SO ORIGINAL AND SO ROMANTIC: THE CABANON

Two exclusive private wooden huts have been built on the top of hundred-year-old oaks, in the middle of the vineyard. One hut is reserved for couples, the other one is a family hut, offering separate bedrooms. Both of the huts offer a private terrace with a stunning view of the Château de Valmer and the vineyards, Internet access, large bathroom, air conditioning and the comfort of a four star hotel at the heart of nature. Breakfast can be served in the huts for those who want to enjoy the full experience of 'living in the trees'.

STRENGTHS

- Quality of service and amiability of the team
- Natural environment and peaceful atmosphere
- Direct access to the beach

LE CHÂTEAU DE VALMER – LA PINÈDE PLAGE

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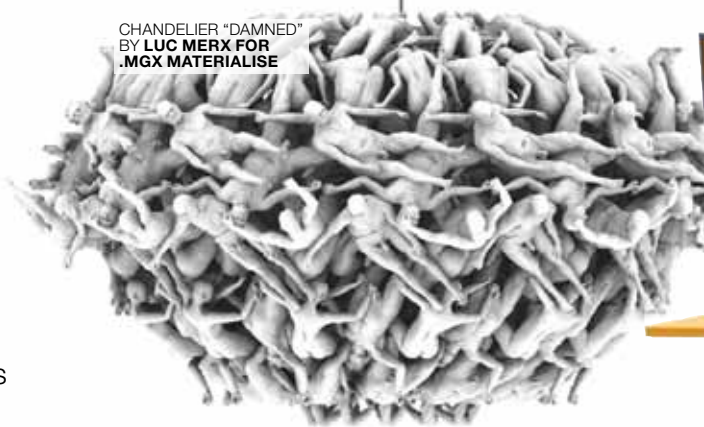


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Home ideals

Draw inspiration from this assortment of distinctive furniture and accessories spotted in city stores

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Ice cream TREAT

A selection of artisanal ice cream checked out by **Ewelina Kawczynska**

Glacier Zizi, in Rue de la Mutualité close to the Place Vanderkindere, has been established in Brussels since 1948. Offering homemade ice cream in a family-friendly atmosphere, the current owner Christophe Pacitti says only fresh ingredients are used and no artificial flavouring is added. "You can only get strawberry ice cream in May or June when the fruit is in season," he says.

There is competition in the same street from *Il Gelato* with ice cream made by Maurizio Boccia to a recipe that originated in the Italian region of Calabria. Boccia, who learned his trade in Italy before introducing his ice cream to Brussels in 1990 also owns three other ice cream parlours in city shopping centres.

The more adventurous among ice cream lovers will appreciate *Capoue* with its 10 salons in Brussels, including one on the Place St Josse and another in Rue Lesbroussart, just off Place Flagey. Proprietor Alain Boribon experiments with flavours, creating original combinations such as chocolate and red pepper, lychee and rose, strawberry and basil. *Capoue* also caters for diabetics and customers with milk allergies, as well as offering a range of personalised ice

cream cakes for special occasions.

Believe it or not, a Belgian glacier, Frederik Van Isacker, started the chain of ice-cream shops *Australian* with its golden kangaroo logo and there are now more than 30 outlets throughout the country. Creamy and slightly heavier than most, the company first set up shop in the Belgian seaside resort of Knokke where there are two shops, in Avenue Dumortier and the Place Albert; among a number of shops in Brussels, there's one in the Toison d'Or and another just off the Grand Place.

Those wishing to venture south should try *Le Mont Blanc Cinacien* in Ciney, a town near Namur. In the Avenue de Namur, this shop offers a wide variety of chocolate goods and cakes as well as ice cream and sorbet. In the same area, on the banks of the Meuse, is the town of Wepion where Belgian strawberries come from: *Fleur de Lait* in the Chaussee de Dinant is a gastronomic delight just waiting to be discovered by ice cream aficionados. ☺

“HOME-MADE ICE CREAM IN A FAMILY-FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE”



Photograph of Fleur de Lait ice cream cone: © Laetitia Bazzoni

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Crazy about potato

A long-established Brussels restaurant where the humble baked potato has been elevated into a gastronomic art form is reviewed by Together Online editor **Nigel Griffiths**



Nestled in an 19th century house in the heart of Brussels – just a few minutes from the Grand Place and the Sablon – *Bleu de toi* (translated by the restaurant as “crazy about you”) has been serving authentic Belgian cuisine for more than 20 years.

Under the creative guidance of owner Corine Ceulemans, the restaurant has developed a style of food she describes as “bistro-nomic”, by which she means fresh and flavoursome produce served up in an intimate bistro atmosphere at democratic prices.

STUFFED WITH SURPRISES

The food, like the restaurant itself, is stuffed with surprises. The blue-painted entrance to an old red-brick house leads into a remarkably long and spacious restaurant with tables on two floors and an outdoor terrace leading off the first floor.

An artistic touch by Corine in the decor with modern paintings and an open fire extends to the cuisine where the

specialties are stuffed baked potatoes – bio of course – and lobster. Corine has specially selected large oval *Bintje* potatoes, a variety which hails from the Netherlands. When baked, the *Bintje* gives up a soft interior held in place by a firm skin.

At *Bleu de toi* the bio baked potato has become a succulent platform for 17 different dishes, each crowned with a range of seafood, vegetarian or meat concoctions invented by Corine. The house special is the *Bleu de toi Bintje* stuffed with crayfish, butter sauce and fresh herbs. The Ostend variation highlights small brown shrimps mixed with white butter sauce and chives. The adventurous diner can opt for the grilled Canadian lobster *Bintje* with white butter sauce and fresh herbs.

TANTALISING

Other variations include smoked salmon, scampi, crab meat and snails, while vegetarians can delight the palate with themes based on mushrooms and goat cheese or perhaps the European *Bintje* which is stuffed with three different cheeses, onions, pickles and white wine.

Meat lovers might want to try the Brussels *Bintje* with smoked and salted bacon and cream, while the Toulouse variation fills the potato base with duck giblets, chicken livers and beans.

Before getting to the *Bintje*, temptation lies in the form of Corine's proposed lobster meat starter in a tartare of quinoa. Her homemade desserts featuring variations of chocolate and ice cream are a tantalising end to a meal.

Accompanied by a reasonably priced wine list personally selected by Corine, the restaurant offers a

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SERVED UP
IN AN
INTIMATE
BISTRO
SETTING**

lunch menu with main course and starter for just €15. A more copious three course menu of the month is available at €30. The prestige lobster menu offers three courses for €40 euro. 🍷

Closed Sundays and Mondays
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glace saphir. Cadran-bague en SuperLuminova blanc
argenté. Bracelet en alligator havane foncé aux coutures
assorties aux aiguilles SuperLuminova rouges.



www.info-fulltime.be

When Knokke-Le-Zoute becomes Switzerland-on-Sea

Summer is here, and with it, the season of aperitifs with friends, long evenings on the beach and unforgettable moments with the family

To mark the Swiss national holiday on August 1, the seaside resort of Knokke-Le-Zoute will be flying the Swiss flag for the weekend of August 3-5 and there will be plenty going on in this little Belgian paradise to make the most of a holiday by the sea.

The festivities begin August 3 with **Zoute Night**. The first port of call will be at Flamant (Kustlaan 110-114, 8300 Knokke-Heist) for a chance to taste **Swiss Emmentaler AOC** cheese during the cocktail.

In addition, ten partners chosen to be Swiss ambassadors for the Swiss weekend will offer a cheese tasting to share a delicious moment while you are having a good time.

The **Swiss Mini-Golf Trophy** will be held on August 4-5 (Prins Filipaan 1, 8300 Knokke-Heist) and will be a lot of fun for young and old. Can you think of a better way to relax? This 18 hole mini-golf tournament is organised in partnership with *Fromages de Suisse*, which will also offer a tasting of Emmentaler AOC throughout the event. Our ten ambassadors will also offer exclusive invitations to families, giving them free access to the Swiss Mini-Golf Trophy.

At cocktail time on August 4 and 5, you can have a taste of **Swiss Emmentaler AOC on three selected beaches**: the Zoutestrand, our beach partner, fully decorated in the colours of Switzerland, the River Woods Beach Club and the Siesta Beach. Children will come away not only with their taste buds tingling, but also with hats and sunglasses adorned with red and white crosses that will protect them throughout the summer.



Also, a **petanque tournament** will be held at the Zoutestrand beach over these two days, with magnificent bicycles on offer for the winners.

This Swiss weekend will allow you to discover this country of mountains while enjoying the seaside. A paradox that offers an opportunity to enjoy fun activities and share in the party and a perfect way to start or continue a holiday.

So that everyone can have an enjoyable time, *Fromages de Suisse* is offering several types of Swiss Emmentaler cheese for you to try out during this weekend: **Classic Emmentaler AOC**, and the tender **Cave Emmentaler**, which has benefited from 12 months of ripening in caves dug deep into the sandstone, as well as a new variety that is an ideal complement: the **Rahmtaler**, which is incomparably mild and creamy. The secret of Rahmtaler lies in its particular mixture of fresh milk to which fresh cream is added; a mixture which becomes very soft and tender. You will find it in all the best cheese shops from autumn 2012.

www.fromagesdesuisse.be
www.emmentaler.ch

PRESS CONTACT
Sparkies
Géraldine Hubot
ghubot@sparkies.be
02/346 90 85



GET YOUR WEEKEND BUZZING. WITH MARTINI ROYALE.

Where's the best place to enjoy a refreshing Martini Royale? Invite your friends or colleagues to kick the weekend off with you on a sunny terrace. Or invite them to your place and stun them with your cocktail mixing skills in the garden. This stylish drink couldn't be easier to make. Just mix 50% Martini Bianco and 50% Martini Brut and that's it!

You'll find the recipe for Martini Royale and all the Martini Bars on facebook.com/martini.



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BIANCO

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BRUT

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ORIGINAL BACARDI DAIQUIRI
Pre-chill a glass; add 2.5cl fresh lime juice, 5cl Bacardi Superior white rum, 2 teaspoons sugar and ice to a shaker and shake vigorously. Strain into the cold glass.

MARTINI BIANCO FIZZ
Add 6cl Martini Bianco, 2cl cane sugar syrup and 4cl fresh lemon juice to a shaker with ice, shake vigorously, strain into a glass, decorate with a slice of lemon and add a straw.

JUST FOR YOU
Mix 1cl Monin rose syrup, 1cl Monin raspberry liqueur, and 10cl Esterlin Brut champagne in a glass, garnish with a fresh raspberry.

VIRGIN MOJITO
Mix up 8 mint leaves, 2cl Monin rum syrup, 2cl Monin mojito mint syrup, 2cl fresh lime juice, add ice cubes and fizzy water, stir with a long spoon.

BLACK ORCHID
Fill a shaker with ice and add 4cl Grey Goose l'Orange vodka, 3cl fresh lemon juice, 2cl Crème de Violette, 1cl simple syrup, dash of peach or orange bitters. Shake vigorously and strain into a martini glass. Decorate with an edible orchid or violet flower.

MARTINI ROSATO ROYALE
Fill a wine glass with ice, add 5cl Martini Rosato, 5cl Martini Brut, squeeze a wedge of orange into the glass then drop in the orange, stir and serve.

PINK CHAMPAGNE
For those who don't like mixed drinks, Esterlin sells three half bottles of champagne in a casket which doubles as an ice bucket.

PERFECT GIN AND TONIC
Pour 5cl Bombay Sapphire gin over ice cubes, squeeze a wedge of fresh lime into the glass then drop in the lime, top up with tonic water to taste and finish with a stick of licuorice for a swizzle stick.

Cocktail recipes supplied by Bacardi-Martini and Bar Connector. Esterlin champagne and Monin products available from Bar Connector, 604 Chaussee de Bara, 1410 Waterloo

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Open from midday until midnight until July 20, there's a full programme of events and concerts with a DJ every Wednesday, Happy Hour on Friday and Aperitivo on Saturday. Try the brunch on Sundays from 11am until 3pm.

This year, customers can come and celebrate Belgian National Day with us until the small hours on the evening of July 20-21.

Lunch or dinner is available every day at the Vittel restaurant – to book a table simply email vittel@la-terrasse.be or call 02 354 72 00 for a reservation.

For every drink bought at one of the evening concerts, a donation will be made to ROMEO, an association set up to support autistic children.

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What's on BELGIUM

Where to go and what to do – here's a selection of upcoming events

GRAND PLACE FLOWER CARPET 14-19.08.12

Every two years, for a short time, the Grand Place in Brussels is transformed by more than 75,000 flowers strategically placed in the historic square to create a colourful carpet of flowers. The plans for the floral carpet are developed more than a year in advance. www.flowercarpet.be



MODEL CAR EXHIBITION

20.07-26.08.12

Journey through history during the summer holidays at Autoworld's miniature museum on the mezzanine floor of Belgium's biggest automobile museum in Brussels. Featuring more than 5,000 model cars by big names such as Dinky and Corgi Cars ranging from hand-built limited editions to mass production models, tin toys and pedal cars.

Tickets €4,50-€9. www.autoworld.be

BRUSSELS MIDI FAIR 14.07-19.08.12

The giant Midi funfair springs into action again this summer near the Midi railway station. www.foiredumidi.be



Painting: Lemons by Gordon Hopkins

ACCESSIBLE ART FAIR 21-23.09.12

Get up close and personal with 50 international artists and their work at the annual Accessible Art Fair showing at the Conrad Hotel in Brussels.

www.accessibleartfair.com

LOUISE NIGHT 20.09.12

The Louise district in Brussels is rolling out the red carpet for an evening of late night shopping. The shops, chic designer boutiques and galleries of the prestigious area will stay open until 22h30 allowing patrons to enjoy art tours, cultural demonstrations, and lifestyle and gastronomic events among the planned surprises. www.brussellslouise.be



BRUSSELS URBAN BBQ 18.08 and 19.08.12

The annual Brussels Urban BBQ is an open air picnic session offering gourmet tapas-style dishes for €10 prepared by Michelin-starred chefs. Stands are set up on the esplanade of the Mont des Arts in between the Place Royale and the Grand Place.



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What's on INTERNATIONAL

Where to go and what to do – upcoming events in other countries

AMSTERDAM FESTIVAL

26.08-28.08.12

Uitmarkt is the opening of the national cultural season and the largest cultural festival in the Netherlands, with more than 500,000 visitors every year, featuring 2,000 performers at more than 30 venues. Known as “the mother of all cultural activities in Amsterdam”, activities will be staged at numerous theatres and museums and at venues near the three primary locations of *Museumplein*, *Leidseplein* and the *Vondelpark* and include a book market, child-friendly performances, street theatre, movies and a host of workshops and interactive events. www.iamsterdam.com



LONDON PROMS 13.07-18.09.12

Billed as the world's greatest classical music festival, this year's Proms features more than 70 concerts performed by musicians from around the world. The goal of the festival is “to present the widest possible range of music, performed to the highest standards, to large audiences”. The world-famous Last Night of the Proms celebrations spill out from London's Royal Albert Hall, and people come together at venues across the UK to be part of the magic of the last night with the event broadcast live on big screens in London's parks. www.bbc.co.uk/proms



PARIS BEACH 20.07-19.08.12

The banks of the river Seine will again be transformed into a beach this summer. The Paris beach will have refreshment stands, beach chairs, sandcastles and scheduled events such as ballroom dancing, Tai Chi and concerts. There will also be mini-golf, table football, a marina and the Olympics will be broadcast live starting 27 July. www.paris.fr

LUXEMBOURG BLUES AND JAZZ RALLY 21.07.12

Take in one or as many as 50 blues and jazz concerts in Luxembourg City suburb of Grund and Clausen against the backdrop of the fortress ramparts. This free, one-night musical marathon attracts more than 25,000 fans amid a friendly atmosphere every year. Concerts are held in bars, cafes, concert halls and on 14 different open-air stages.

www.bluesjazzrallye.lu; www.lcto.lu

ITALY HORSE RACE 16.08.12

The historic *Il Palio* bareback horse race, dating back to the 16th century, is the twice-yearly culmination of days of celebration and banqueting. Held in the ancient Tuscan city of Siena, the race is witnessed by thousands of onlookers. Restricted to ten riders to avoid accidents, participants in the 90 second race represent rival city districts and must complete three circuits of a dirt track laid down in the city's main square *Piazza del Campo*. The event is preceded by the *Corteo Storico*, a magnificent medieval pageant that attracts visitors from around the world. www.ilpalio.org

LE CHAT

by Philippe Geluck



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