

WHERE NEWS & BUSINESS MEET GLAMOUR & GOOD TIMES

#10/OCTOBER 2008

# Together

magazine

RECOMMENDS



EXPATICA



# BELGIUM

## INTERVIEWS

George Lucas  
Alain Courtois  
Martin Solveig

## POINT OF VIEW

Street  
protests

## EUROPEAN VICE

Smokeless  
tobacco

## REAL ESTATE

Housing  
explosion

CLUB MED HOLIDAYS, WHERE HAPPINESS,  
RELAXATION AND REFINEMENT ARE EVERYTHING

**UNIQUE LOCATIONS**  
TO EXPERIENCE  
THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE  
MOMENTS

**64 SUMMER VILLAGES**  
AROUND THE WORLD  
MALDIVES, MAURITIUS,  
BRAZIL, INDONESIA, ...

**RENOVATED VILLAGES**  
WELL-KNOWN  
ARCHITECTS  
AND DESIGNERS

**SPACE AND COMFORT\***  
DELUXE ROOMS OR  
SUITES WITH SEA VIEW

**WELL-BEING  
AND RELAXATION**  
PRESTIGIOUS SPA\* PARTNERSHIPS  
SPA\* NUXE  
SPA\* CINQ MONDES

**AN ATMOSPHERE**  
BOTH WARM  
AND REFINED

clubmed.be



**Club Med** Ψ  
WHERE HAPPINESS MEANS THE WORLD

\* Extra charge



# Be it ever so humble... there's no place like Belgium!

To have *Together* delivered free, subscribe at [www.together-magazine.eu](http://www.together-magazine.eu)

We work mainly with national and international advertisers. If you are interested in our rates, please contact.

**Bertrand de Moffarts:**  
bertrand@togethermedia.eu  
or T. +32 (0)475 41 63 62

Nothing in this magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher. The publisher cannot be held responsible for the views and opinions expressed in this magazine by authors and contributors. *Together* is neither responsible for nor endorses the content of advertisements printed on its pages. *Together* cannot be held responsible for any error or inaccuracy in such advertising material.

**Founder & Publisher:**  
Jérôme Stéfanski

**Sales & Marketing Manager:**  
Bertrand de Moffarts  
T. +32 (0)475 94 45 08

**Sales Manager:**  
David Mc Gowan  
T. +32 (0)497 543 672

**Translation & Editing:**  
ReadRight.be

**Graphic Design:**  
Vincent Van Meerbeek@

**Producers:**  
Writers:

Andy Carling  
James Christie  
Cillian Donnelly  
Magali Eylenbosch  
Federico Grandesso  
Jacqueline Harpman

Sophie Lagesse  
Kimberley Lovato  
Bertrand de Moffarts

Paul Morris  
Ludivine Nolf  
Natasha Sá Osório  
Jérôme Stéfanski  
François Struzik

**Cover Credit:**  
Sam Ahodikpe

**Together**  
magazine

Rue d'Alost 7 (Centre Dansaert - 2nd C)  
B-1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)475 41 63 62 [info@togethermedia.eu](mailto:info@togethermedia.eu)

Together Magazine recommends [Expatica.com](http://Expatica.com)



I have a growing suspicion, and I believe that I'm not alone. Allow me to explain. I have travelled the world, visited many impressive megalopolises and also explored peaceful regions far removed from the daily economic grind. And I've come to the conclusion – we're really not so badly off in Belgium!

Of course, there's the rain, the eternal squabbling between Flemings and Walloons, the traditional Rue de la Loi jams and, let's not forget, the national football team which, quite frankly, would be lucky to beat a team of one-legged players. But enough – you know it, I know it. We love Belgium, don't we?

In this Low Countries-dedicated edition of *Together*, Federico Grandesso looks at how Belgian Senator Alain Courtois is looking to organize the hosting of World Cup 2018 in Benelux. Andy Carling offers ten good (if slightly surreal) reasons to enjoy the aspects of Belgian life most frequently singled out for criticism, so that when your family asks you for the umpteenth time why you

On a sad note, *Together* would also take this opportunity to mark the passing of Hélène Noël, who died in June. Hélène was a gifted writer, full of life and love,

chose to live here, you'll have your answers at the ready! And that's not all – our fashion specialists, with their take on the end-of-studies work at La Cambre and the Antwerp Academy, highlight how young Belgian designers are looking to make it big on the international catwalks.

And, as 'Made in Belgium' is becoming ever-more synonymous with quality, Sophie Lagesse looks at the Belgian manufacturers and artisans honoured with the prestigious Royal Patent Suppliers seal.

Finally, our exclusive fashion shoot focuses on 'Black-Yellow-Red' clothing and accessories for the 2008-2009 Autumn-Winter seasons. And I nearly forgot the good news - from now on, it's official - *Together* and *Expatica.com* have joined forces to provide expats with even more quality news, views and leisure updates, absolutely gratis, with guest articles in both our magazine and on Expatica.

Happy reading!

Jérôme Stéfanski  
Publisher

who provided us with great articles on subjects as diverse as diamonds, fashion and art – we miss her very much. Adieu, Space Cadet.



## Double Turbo Double Fun

# TTiD



### Launch offer : "Pilot Pack"

- Satellite navigation system (DVD) with colour touchscreen, advanced voice recognition
- Audio system 150W/7LS
- Saab parking assistance
- Preparation for handsfree mobile phone.

€ 550 EX VAT\*  
Normal price : € 2.467 EX VAT

### Test-drive the new Saab 9-3 TTD at your local dealer.


The slow-moving lorry should be celebrated because the new Saab TTD boasts a two-stage turbo. Two sequential turbochargers generate huge amounts of mid-range torque – torque you can actually feel as you accelerate. So now you can approach overtaking with a sense of anticipation rather than trepidation. Who would have thought that being sensible could be such fun?

If you're an expat, diplomat or a member of the armed forces, special terms apply : more information at your dealership or at [www.saab-ids.be](http://www.saab-ids.be)

#### Saab IDS Dealers :

**A.B.A.** 1083 Brussels • **BALTIC MOTORS** 9052 Gent (Zwijnaarde) • **BEHERMAN ANTWERPEN** 2018 Antwerpen • **BEHERMAN BRUSSELS** 1050 Brussels - 1932 Sint-Stevens-Voluwe • **BEHERMAN LIEGE** 4020 Liège • **BORGEIND** 2900 Schoten • **BOURGEO** 8300 Knokke-Heist • **CALLENS-BOUCKAERT** 8790 Waregem - 9700 Oudenaarde • **CHOQUET-JANSSENS** 7540 Tournai • **DE PRETTE** 8800 Roeselare • **DI NITTO** 3650 Dilsen • **GILCON** 3001 Leuven (Haasrode) • **HENCKAERTS** 3590 Diepenbeek • **KEGELS** 2360 Oud Turnhout • **LIEVENS** 2440 Geel • **PEETERS** 1410 Waterloo • **TUTTO-MOTOR** 6001 Marcinelle • **WILLEMS** 7000 Mons



4	EDITORIAL Be it ever so humble... there's no place like Belgium!	10	FORTIS SURVEY Expats and money
8	COMPETITION Win 3 months' World Class Membership		
<hr/>			
NEWS	14 TOUCHY Sierra-Leone: Life expectancies?	22	POLITICAL CHESSBOARD Alain Courtois: Making Belgium big
	18 POINT OF VIEW Are street protests worthwhile?	24	BRUSSELS ON THE MOVE New terminal faces flak
	20 EUROPEAN VICE Debate heats up on smokeless tobacco	26	MEETING George Lucas: Sending in the clones
<hr/>			
BUSINESS	30 REAL ESTATE The Property Barometer Housing explosion	36	BACK TO SCHOOL The education minefield
	34 ADVERTISING SPACE Who is Van Piperzeel?		
<hr/>			
I LOVE  BELGIUM	40 INTRODUCTION Ten good reasons to be Belge	64	MARKET FORCES Rising Stockel
	42 DRESS TO IMPRESS Black, Yellow, Red	66	EAT TOGETHER Talking taste Delightful dining
	50 DISCOVERY By royal appointment	72	FRESH OPENINGS New niches
	56 MADE IN BELGIUM Fashion pioneers	74	FOR ART'S SAKE Eye on the skies
	60 TEMPTATIONS Totally Belge!	76	
<hr/>			
LIFESTYLE II	82 SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE Sofia: Angel or demon?	94	THE PLACES TO BE Upcoming parties...
	88 TO DO LIST Conventions and culture	96	HOROSCOPES An eye on the heavens
	92 THE PLACES TO BE 'My album is like a bonbon'	98	LE CHAT Paws for thought

We provide personal assistance in all administrative steps, such as getting your CD registration and arranging insurance. We deliver your personalised car anywhere in the world while respecting local specifications. With BMW Brussels, you are in good hands.

**BMW Brussels**  
Diplomatic Sales

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



**Sheer**  
Driving Pleasure

# BMW Diplomatic Sales.

## How fast can we help you?

For more information, please contact BMW Brussels' Diplomatic Sales:

**Clotilde Van Laethem**  
Tel.: +32-2-641 57 34  
E-mail: [clotilde.van-laethem@bmw.be](mailto:clotilde.van-laethem@bmw.be)

**BMW Brussels** Bd de Waterloo  
Branch of BMW Belux  
Boulevard de Waterloo 23-24  
1000 Brussels

**BMW Brussels** Evere Meiser  
Branch of BMW Belux  
Avenue L. Mommaerts 2  
1140 Brussels

# Win 3 months' World Class Membership

Inside World Class  
Health Academy,  
Brussels

© World Class

**Together** is giving you the chance to win three months' membership to World Class Health Academy in Brussels – we have five to give away.

**T**his inspirational package includes personal instruction with a trainer, group training classes, strength and cardio equipment, swimming pool and jacuzzi, saunas and steam rooms, complimentary towel, free parking and childcare.

Fancy winning three months of health and inspiration?

**All you have to do is go to [www.together-magazine.eu](http://www.together-magazine.eu) and answer the three questions below:**

**1. How many World Class Clubs are there in Belgium?**

- A. 1
- B. 3
- C. 6

**2. Where was the first World Class Club opened?**

- A. Stockholm
- B. New-York
- C. London



**3. What is the weight in grams of a copy of *Together*, excluding wrapping and perfume sample?**

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



If you can't read this... go to [davidrose](http://davidrose)

  
**davidrose**  
optometrist - optician

Rue de trèves 16 | 1050 Brussels  
(In the Leopold district)  
+32 (0)2 512 66 10 | [davidrose.optique@gmail.com](mailto:davidrose.optique@gmail.com)

Competition organised under the supervision of a bailiff. Full rules available on request.  
Organiser: Together Magazine, Rue d'Alost 7, 1000 Brussels.



# Expats and money

WRITER: JÉRÔME STÉFANSKI

In June, in collaboration with *Together* and *Expatica.com*, Fortis Bank published a wide-ranging survey, 'Expats and Money' - we reveal its findings.

**F**irst discovery - expats are very keen on effective online banking services. Indeed, **90 per cent** of respondents described this as "a very important factor" when it came to choosing a bank. Hardly surprising since, by definition, the expat is usually on the move and thus needs a widely accessible service.

Furthermore, the survey revealed that other essential components concerning expats' choice of bank are the interest rates paid on savings accounts, interest charged for credit and excellent customer service. Membership of a global network of banking facilities was also deemed important.

On the other hand, dealing with different banking representatives

does not normally pose a problem for expats, providing that all staff have a good understanding of English.

**80 per cent** of those questioned expressed an interest in being informed about general investment opportunities, of which **55 per cent** were also interested in Belgian housing investments, while a similar per centage wanted their bank to inform them about private banking services.

## 'THE SURVEY REVEALS A NEAR-COMPLETE IGNORANCE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE BELGIAN TAX SYSTEM'

80 per cent of expats declare themselves to be 'badly informed' on this subject. On the negative side, in response to the question 'If you were to leave Belgium, would you keep your Belgian bank account?', only 15 per cent of respondents answered 'Yes'.

But, to finish on a happier note, 40 per cent of respondents were already Fortis Bank customers, and almost all declared themselves to be satisfied with the banking chain's services. Congratulations Fortis! 🎉 [www.fortisbanking.be](http://www.fortisbanking.be)

\* Of those questioned, 38 per cent have lived in Belgium for more than five years, 36 per cent between one to five years and only 26 per cent for less than one year. Seventy per cent were 'in favour of the European Union'. Fourteen per cent were aged over 50, 33 per cent were aged 30-40, 24 per cent 25-30 and six per cent were aged 18-25. Fifty five per cent were married. Ten per cent were European civil servants, 55 per cent had employee status, ten per cent were independent and 25 per cent were 'other'.



## What flavour of investments do you like best?

Everybody's different. And that goes for the way we view our investments, too. Some of us like to put safety first, avoiding risk as much as we can. Other investors prefer to focus on returns, and so they're willing to embrace rather more risk when investing.

Fortis tailors your investments as closely as possible to your individual investor profile. Which is why we start from your personal preferences in terms of risk and return. You can then be sure that the investments you choose will be a perfect fit.

All you have to do is call in at your local Fortis branch. We'll ask you to complete a short questionnaire to help us determine your investor profile, which could be anywhere from 'conservative' to 'aggressive'. Then, guided by our specialist advice, you choose investments with precisely the flavour that suits you. It really is as simple as that. And rewarding, too!

**That's the Fortis Way of Investing.**

---

## FLASH

### BRUSSELS FOR EUROPE

That's the name for the new programme of intensive courses aimed at the expats working in Brussels' European institutions, which will begin in November. The goal? To improve expats' knowledge of the capital of Europe. Following a proposal by Ministers Charles Picqué, Guy Vanhengel and Pascal Smet, the Brussels-Capital Region government approved a 60,000€ subsidy to support the project. Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and l'Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), in collaboration with the Brussels-Europe Liaison Office, have joined forces to organize the classes, which cover 20 modules. The courses include four sections - Brussels' urban dynamics, excursions, institutions and cultural life.  
[www.blbe.be](http://www.blbe.be)

### FIGURE – 39<sup>TH</sup>

That is the position Belgium occupies in terms of cost-of-living for expats, according to an investigation commissioned by Belgian daily newspaper *La Libre Belgique*. The study was intended to help companies calculate their employees' expatriation premiums, based on the prices of housing, transport, food and clothing, for example. Capital cities Moscow, Tokyo and London take the top three positions, while Brussels has risen from 44<sup>th</sup> to 39<sup>th</sup>.

---

# NEWS

---





# SIERRA-LEONE:

## Life expectancies?

WRITER: FRANÇOIS STRUZIK  
PHOTOGRAPHS: STRUZIK / WWW.SIMPLYHUMAN.BE

In the year of World Food Day (16<sup>th</sup> October), Sierra-Leone has some of the worst statistics worldwide concerning its inhabitants' nutrition and quality of life. *Together* investigates, on location.

"How do you feed starving babies in your country?" The question comes from a girl of 17, with large and lost-looking eyes. Her 18-month-old baby boy has an intense stare, which contrasts sharply with the frailty of his tiny body. A few objects around their mattress is all the girl brought from her village – walking for days, carrying her child for treatment at the Magbenteh nutritional centre, district of Bombali.

The sun's glare is finally fading, and is reflected in the mosquito nets that are hung above every straw mattress.

There are many women occupying this dormitory, and each have one, two or three seriously under-nourished children. Healthier infants play in the red dust in front of the large low huts - some women also take the air, sat together on the porch staircases. With an air of resignation, they wait for the nurses who are struggling, day after day, to bring their children back to healthy weight levels.

### BLOOD DIAMONDS

Sierra-Leone's recent history has been marked by the savage civil war, which raged for ten years. The factions





involved waged a battle for control of the country's capital, Freetown, and for the nation's diamond and oil resources. Nearly five years have passed since the end of the war - the boy soldiers returned to their families and Charles Taylor, former president of Liberia, finds himself before the Sierra-Leone Special Court in The Hague, charged with crimes against humanity for his support of the RUF, while in the villages, vegetation has invaded the ruins of destroyed houses. Although reconciliation has begun, one in four children under five are dying. With an annual per capita income of only 240\$, its health and education systems completely undermined by the war and its economy in chaos, Sierra-Leone is struggling to save her own children.

### SUFFER THE CHILDREN

In the cramped classroom in the small village of Bandalahun (district of Punjehun), the pupils are singing with the headmaster: "If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands." But, in spite of the singing and dancing, there is little that's changing to make these children happier. Diarrhoea and other infections,

exacerbated by malnutrition, are the main causes of infant mortality - and hygiene, particularly the standard of the water, is very poor.

Not much bigger than the palm of his mother's hand, a six-week-old baby is being fed by a tube. Doctors at the Gondoma Nutritional Center do not know the baby's chances - he is being fed on cow's milk, diluted with water. The same story can be seen in bed after bed, room after room - but the near-starvation of the mothers and their children does not stop them from noticing - sometimes even with a smile - a stranger moving among them.

Far north, in the mountainous district of Koinadugu, a young woman is living what will probably be her last hours of life in a makeshift dispensary. Her breath hardly manages to raise the thin blanket that covers her emaciated form. Outside, children are playing in the ruins of a house - they ask to have their photo taken. Their future is very uncertain, but their faces are full of hope. ☹



## RESORT & SPA CHÂTEAU DE LIMELETTE



## the tranquillity of a seminar by the waterside

Our seminar package is available for groups of 6 or more people  
all our meeting rooms have been renovated recently  
and have a private terrace with access to the garden.  
For 67 euro per person, we provide coffee on arrival, the meeting room  
which comes fully equipped, a 2-course lunch or sandwich buffet and  
the drinks package (1/2 bottle of wine or 2 soft drinks or 2 beers)  
water and coffee, 2 coffee breaks (morning and afternoon)  
free parking with 280 spaces  
and, above all, free (Wi-Fi) Internet access.



Château de Limelette - Thalgo Limelette  
Rue Charles Dubois 87 | B-1342 Limelette | Walloon Brabant | Belgium  
+32 (0)10 42 19 99 | +32 (0)10 41 57 59

[seminaires@chateau-de-limelette.be](mailto:seminaires@chateau-de-limelette.be) | [www.chateau-de-limelette.be](http://www.chateau-de-limelette.be)



# Are street protests worthwhile?

WRITER: NATASHA SÁ OSÓRIO

**It's midweek, it's drizzling in Brussels and, on Rue de la Loi, there is the usual small group of protestors – welcome to Schuman.**

**T**imid rays of sunlight begin to illuminate the majestic Berlaymont through the rain, making the Justus Lipsius building look timid by comparison. And of course, you cannot miss the customary cluster of banner-waving, cause-supporting citizens. In this part of town, demonstrations are as much a part of the daily routine as morning coffee.

## DEMO GRAPHICS

There were 79 demonstrations in front of EU buildings in 2007 and, in only the first half of 2008, the number has reached almost 60. The truth is that from 2002, the average annual number of protests went from 50 a year to 80, which represents around two per week. Therefore, it is only natural that those who work or live close to the EU institutions have become somewhat

inured to the scenes. "I look at them, walk past and go to work," says Erno Heikki, a 55 year-old legal linguistic expert who has worked in the European Council for 13 years.

**'I LOOK AT THEM, WALK PAST AND GO TO WORK... IT'S JUST A NORMAL THING HERE'**

"They don't bother me, they don't scare or threaten me either, it's just a normal thing here."

## FLOWER POWER

Rudi Decostar, 44, who works as a florist on the stall in front of the Metro station, sees demonstrations as beneficial for his business. "[Protestors] once bought all my sunflowers because it was the symbol of their demonstration... Sometimes the police close the streets, but they always warn me in advance and so I take a day off to spend with my kids."

Demonstrating is, for many, a legitimate expression of public opinion and a way of exerting influence in the decision-making process. But just how effective is it? Success rates are practically impossible to measure in a city where protests have become so commonplace, it is easy to wonder if people notice - or care.

Joe Hannon, spokesman for European Commission Vice President Margot Wallström, representing DG Communication, explains that the EU finds other bases for their working papers. "The Commission broadly consults the public on its policy proposals and those consultations are a better means of expressing opinions than protesting outside buildings."

## 'ACTION' ADVOCATES

The EU branch of Greenpeace, for example, no longer stages demonstrations as frequently. Instead, the organization orchestrates 'actions', which are peaceful, symbolic acts of protest. In

*Making their point in Schuman*

© GREENPEACE

December 2007, for example, activists built a brick wall at the entrance of the European Council, where fisheries ministers were due to begin their annual negotiations over catch quotas. "We do this because we want to draw attention to an issue, to force people to take notice," said Greenpeace spokesman Mark Breddy. "That doesn't mean we won't use other means of political lobbying but actions are our trademark. It's something we have to resort to because we don't have the means of influencing a corporate body and these stunts convey important messages."

The 'actions' are not condemned by the Belgium police. "I don't judge Greenpeace, I sometimes even agree with them. They do what they have to do to draw attention to their cause," says Police Superintendent Michel Debaenst. Nor does he believe that the effectiveness of demonstrations is undermined by their high frequency: "In my personal opinion, it's better to have many than few - it's in the public interest that some people want to take the initiative to change things."

Protestors are eager to make a difference. Nikoleta Incze, 26, who is from Hungary but currently lives in Brussels, says she is proud to take a stand on what she believes. She has been involved in various marches, which she describes as "fun" and "all part of the process." Regardless of whether they're noticed or not, demonstrations in front of the European institutions seem likely only to increase. Perhaps as the old saying puts it - if you throw enough mud at a wall, some of it will stick. ☘





# Debate heats up on smokeless tobacco

WRITER: CILLIAN DONNELLY

**Smoking is under attack throughout the European Union, with country after country, including Belgium, issuing complete or partial bans in public spaces such as bars and restaurants and the prohibitions are leading to debate concerning the role that may be played by 'smokeless' tobacco.**

**H**ealth professionals see the bans as a move in the right direction, with the hope being that this will provide the catalyst for an overall reduction of smoking across Europe.

What place, then, for smokeless tobacco? Historically, it owes its lineage to snuff-

**'AS FOR BELGIUM, IN ZAVENTEM AIRPORT I'VE EVEN OBSERVED PEOPLE MIXING WHISKY WITH LOOSE SNUFF IN THE LOUNGES, WHICH IS A PRETTY DISGUSTING AFFAIR'**

the modern product is a relative of the old 'wet' and 'dry' snuff, which have strong cultural and historical ties in Europe.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, snuff signified social distinctions. The bourgeoisie would prefer smoking, while the traditional nobility, as well as seafarers and dock

workers, would prefer snuff (the practical reasons are obvious - you could not smoke if you were working on a wooden ship surrounded by tar, so snuff became associated with shipping and dock work).

## LIP SERVICE

The most common type of smokeless tobacco is snus, a form of chewing tobacco, most commonly portioned in small pouches, which is placed under the upper lip for an extended period, thus allowing it to slowly release nicotine into the bloodstream. Unlike old-fashioned snuff, snus is not spat out, making it more hygienic. This, say advocates, is the perfect solution: no smoke-filled pubs for non-smokers to endure, and those who do smoke need not go outside in the cold and wet to light up. There is only one problem; with the exception of Sweden, snus has been prohibited throughout the EU since 1992.

But, despite being most commonly associated with the Nordic countries (Sweden even made the continued legalization of snus part of its Aquis, its terms of entry to the EU), snus readily finds its way across borders. And with many expats on the move throughout Brussels, it is certainly not uncommon to find the product here, albeit surreptitiously.

"Finding snus abroad is a major coup for many Scandinavians, and some Americans," explains one Brussels expat, who identifies himself only as an 'ex-snuser', having just given up the habit. "In my experience, it is commonly

sold everywhere in Scandinavia, including Denmark and Finland, despite it being officially not legal for over-the-counter sales – although they don't put it on public display – but the amount of inter-Scandinavian travel makes it impossible not to have access of some kind."

"In most central and eastern European countries I've visited it is commonly sold by tobacconists. It is mostly in the continental EU15 that it is hard to get, not elsewhere. Only in Germany have I ever seen a customs officer not recognising what snus was, although a colleague immediately saw it and then reprimanded the other officer for asking what the snus box was!"

"As for Belgium, in Zaventem airport I've even observed people mixing whisky with loose snuff in the lounges, which is a pretty disgusting affair."

## SNUSS NEWS

With lobbyists and lawyers already proposing the removal of the snus ban, mainly on competition grounds, the debate surrounding the virtues – or lack thereof – of smokeless tobacco is one that is set to run within the European institutions. While snus is addictive and harmful to individual health, it cannot

pass on any second-hand smoke, eliminating the passive smoking effects of regular tobacco products. So, time for a change?


Sir Alexander Macara, spokesperson on tobacco for the Brussels-based Standing Committee of European Doctors is less than convinced by this argument. "I don't think that the argument that just because there are no passive effects it should be made legal," is his blunt assessment. "I do accept the argument that smokeless tobacco does not create secondary effects, but just because something is less dangerous, that does not mean it should automatically be allowed."

## DRUG CONTROL

Macara favours not a total prohibition of tobacco, but strict regulation – he condemns tobacco as a "dangerous drug", like heroin or cocaine.

And he does not want to see snus added to this list. "My ideal would be to control the use of tobacco in the long run," he says. "This is an ethical argument. As a physician, I believe all dangerous drugs should be controlled."

From a medial point of view, he continues, he acknowledges that instances of lung cancer is low among Swedish men, where snus is most popular, but points out that there are other, equally detrimental health consequences of smokeless tobacco, such as cancers of the mouth and pancreatic cancer, which, he says "there is a significantly increased risk of catching" through the use of snus, and cardio-vascular disease.

Summing up this particular vice, Macara does admit that it would be very difficult to maintain a complete ban on snus or other tobacco products. "That would be too hard to justify and apply. Sensible restrictions that are a logical extension of the current rules, however, would not only be justified, but also logical." 

Tobacco fields



# Alain Courtois: Making Belgium big

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Sometimes a country needs a reason to get behind the national flag - for a project, a challenge, a dream. We chat to Belgian Senator Alain Courtois, who knows this only too well - he's pushing for his country to host World Cup 2018.

**T**o best describe this vibrant '100 per cent Bruxellois', we must first acknowledge both his practical skills and his solid common touch.

Senator Courtois, after graduating in law, turned to politics, and this allowed him to enter the world of sport. The turning point in his career came during his term as secretary general of the Belgian Football Federation, and his subsequent appointment as director general of the Euro 2000 football tournament in Holland and Belgium. After his success at

international level, Senator Courtois is looking for other challenges and projects, and, as it was with the Brussels Expo in 1958, he wants to prove that a small country can efficiently organize impressive international events.

**'WE NEED  
A PROJECT  
TO SHARE AS  
BELGIANS,  
WE NEED  
A REASON TO  
BE PROUD AT AN  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEVEL!'**

## INTERVIEW

**Senator Courtois, can you explain why we need to host the 2018 World Cup?**

*First of all, we need a project to share as Belgians, we need a reason to be proud at an international level, and we have to prove, both to ourselves and to the world, that we are able to organize one of the biggest international events, the 2018 World Cup. We already have Euro 2000 on our CV, and we have seen the economic benefits in other European countries. For example, Spain, since the death of Franco, has organized events such as the Olympic Games, the World Cup and two international expos. As a result, the Spanish economy is now very strong and this is no surprise. Another example - Germany earned 2.9€ billion from the 2006 World Cup and now they are justifiably very proud of their improved infrastructure, modern stadiums and the country's revitalized image on the world stage.*

**What are the challenges facing your bid for a Benelux World Cup 2018?**

*Private investors will join forces to raise the budget for the bid. We expect to require a budget of around 8€ million, which is not colossal. I can already announce that we have our first sponsor - La Poste - and we plan on gaining three other major backers. Then, we have to undertake the fact that, according to FIFA regulations, the host should ideally have 10 stadiums*



Alain Courtois

© Kalut  
Vincent  
Photo News  
2008

available. Of these, three should be capable of accommodating at least 60,000 spectators, while the rest must be able to hold 40,000. As far as the Belgian regions are concerned, seven cities have expressed an interest in building a stadium: Antwerp, Brussels, Bruges, Charleroi, Genk, Ghent and Liege. After my meeting with Michel Platini, I believe we have a 50 per cent chance of winning the bid, although England will be our main competitor, and we have to take into account that England will be also organizing the 2012 Olympic Games. I can only say this - it will be difficult, but Belgium can win, Belgium will win!

**And you have another interesting international project in mind?**

*Yes, and it's not about sport. I think Brussels needs to become an international point of reference for contemporary art. We are in the centre of Europe, and it would be revolutionary for our city to have the Guggenheim museum here. If we look again at Spain and Bilbao, it's obvious why this is an excellent idea. We are looking at possible locations, and I will be able to give more details in the near future. As I told you before, we don't have to fear such international projects, because we need them to be competitive in our increasingly globalized world. G*



# New terminal faces flak

WRITER: LUDIVINE NOLF



Brussels Airport  
© Flickr.com /Michail

**A request for an environmental licence to begin construction on a new Brussels National terminal in February has met with stiff opposition from the Brussels-Capital Region and several communes.**

**B**russels Environment Minister Evelynne Huytebroeck (Ecologist) and Brussels-Region Minister-President Charles Picqué (PS) have declared: "It is feared

that this new terminal would bring a significant growth in air traffic and noise pollution. It is also disappointing that the owners of the airport did not consider that public consultation was necessary, particularly with Brussels Region residents."

The terminal, which was hoped to be operational by February 2009, is likely to raise further controversy with Brussels residents, particularly in the absence of a consultation procedure.

## BROUGHT TO BOOK

According to Flemish legislation, a request for an environmental licence can only be made following a public survey, as Picqué and Huytebroeck have declared. In the event of non-observance of this procedure, the ministers will take steps to oblige Brussels National to respect the environmental legislation, pointing out that the first priority will be to re-examine the population density of the areas under the flight path before considering any extension project at Zaventem.

In addition, the communes of Schaerbeek, Auderghem, Woluwe-Saint-Pierre, Woluwe-Saint-Lambert and Evere have collectively decided to bring legal action "in order to avoid the increase in noise pollution that would result from an extension to Brussels National. The low-fare companies involved enjoy great success but one of the factors that allow them to charge such low prices is that they can operate flights that run either very early in the morning, or very late in the evening." ☐

We create

# Shapes

Make a healthy choice **today!**  
We Create Healthy Friends



**Join World Class now and get an extra One Month Membership to give to a friend or colleague. And better yet, if your friend decides to join – you'll get an extra month as well!\***

Call: + 32 2 551 59 90 for more information

World Class Health Academy Brussels  
Rue du Parnasse 19  
1050 Brussels  
Ph: + 32 2 551 59 90  
brussels@worldclass.be  
www.worldclass.be

**WorldClass**<sup>®</sup>  
HEALTH ACADEMY

\* Offer valid until 31st of October 2008 and cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Conditions apply.

# George Lucas: Sending in the clones

WRITER: LUDIVINE NOLF

While in San Francisco, *Together* met up with legendary director and producer George Lucas – and very friendly, accessible and good-humoured he was too, sparing a few minutes for a chat about *The Clone Wars*, the first feature-length animated *Star Wars* adventure.

## INTERVIEW

### How did the idea of an animated *Star Wars* movie come about?

*The interesting thing about the clone wars is that in the normal course of the six Star Wars films that tell the Skywalker saga, that whole story of what happened during this time is not told – it's skipped over. We have a little bit of the beginning in Episode II and a little bit of the end in Episode III. But, obviously, during a war there are lots and lots of stories – very exciting action, drama, heartbreak, even humour. The idea of doing an animated version of the clone wars was intriguing to me because it really allows us to tell other stories, show other Jedi, introduce new characters and even tell stories about the clones themselves. Some of them have very interesting stories. It allows us to broaden the canvas of what Star Wars is about.*

### What does animation bring to the *Star Wars* saga?

*Right from the very beginning, we knew we wanted to use CG animation in a way*

*that hasn't been seen before. We think we've ended up with something that is very new and different. Stylistically, a CG-animated film is quite different from a live-action movie. Animation opens up the possibilities of what you can accomplish. Animation is like a sketchpad.*

### What can you tell us about the latest *Star Wars* heroine, Ahsoka?

*Anakin and Obi-Wan have a great relationship, but we've seen their dynamic in the movies. In the Star Wars films, there's a tradition of someone being taken on an amazing journey and learning to become a Jedi – Luke was a farm boy swept up in the Rebel Alliance. Anakin was a little boy on Tatooine. In *The Clone Wars*, Anakin is no longer a Padawan. He's a Jedi. So Ahsoka takes on that role of the younger person who is being taught, who adds the dynamic that a 'student' brings to the story. We bounced back and forth on a lot of ideas about her – would she be human or alien, male or female? We thought a girl would be just more fun to have in the story.*

### *The Clone Wars* gives you a great chance to explore characters outside of the Skywalker saga. Who are some of your favorites?

*I've always liked the Duros – the blue aliens from the cantina scene in *A New Hope*. They're a derivation of Neimoidians – Neimoidians are greener, wrinklier.*

### How would you describe the look of *The Clone Wars*?

*In *The Clone Wars*, all of the characters and the environments look almost like*



George Lucas – an accessible, friendly movie-mogul

*they're painted, which gives the movie a very distinctive look. We also drew some influences from manga and anime in our filmmaking style, which have very dramatic lighting and very aggressive framing. I think we've created some*

*unusual, cinematic-style storytelling, something completely different from anything else in animation.* 📺

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

## GEORGE LUCAS Executive Producer

George Lucas is the creator of the *Star Wars* saga and, with Steven Spielberg, the *Indiana Jones* series of films, as well as the founder of Lucasfilm Ltd, a fully integrated entertainment company based in San Francisco. In 1973, Lucas co-wrote and directed *American Graffiti*, which won the Golden Globe and garnered five Academy Award nominations. Four years later, his *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope* broke all box-office records and earned seven Oscars. The recipient of the Irving G. Thalberg Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Lucas has also

directed *THX 1138* (1971) and *Star Wars: Episodes I, II and III*, and has produced such acclaimed films as *Tucker: The Man and His Dream* (1988) and *Kagemusha* (1980). The American Film Institute has honoured Lucas with its Lifetime Achievement Award for his work. Lucasfilm Ltd., the company he founded in 1971, comprises motion picture and television production; Industrial Light & Magic and Skywalker Sound; LucasArts; Lucasfilm Animation; Lucas Licensing; and Lucas Online. Lucasfilm's feature films have won 19 Oscars and its television projects, including the acclaimed *Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*, have received 12 Emmy Awards.



---

## FLASH

### **FACT - New low-cost airline to arrive at Brussels National**

Dutch 'low-cost, low-fare' airline Transavia will soon be landing at Brussels National airport. The company will be offering flights to winter resorts, including Innsbrück and Salzburg, from 3 November. According to Transavia, their flights will serve the increasing public demand for travel to winter sports destinations. In addition, the company offers flights from the Netherlands to more than 90 destinations in Europe and the Mediterranean.

### **FIGURE - 1.5€ billion**

That's how much the three largest Belgian banks were down during the first quarter of 2008, as a result of the escalating worldwide financial crisis. Fortis lost 591€ million, KBC 463€m and Dexia 344€m.

---

# BUSINESS

---

# The Property Barometer

In partnership with renowned free weekly newspaper *Vlan*, we are proud to present The Property Barometer, THE assessment of real-estate fluctuations in Europe's capital.



This study is based on the asking prices of private individuals and estate agencies in their advertisements published in *Vlan*'s Brussels edition over a ten-week period (9,588 adverts). Obviously, prices at which properties are sold can vary. Check out thousands of adverts on [www.vln.be](http://www.vln.be), in *Vlan*'s property section and in *Vlan.be Immo Magazine* – your real estate rendez-vous, twice per month, in 90,000 homes.

AVERAGE PRICE PER SQUARE METRE (FIGURES IN RED INDICATE FORMER AVERAGE PRICES)	APARTMENTS		HOUSES
	RENT	BUY	BUY
1000 BRUXELLES (CENTRE)	10.10 € ↗ 9.84	2,614.86 € ↗ 2,536.82	1,708.07 € ↘ 1,724.23
1020 LAEKEN	6.94 € ↘ 7.61	2,115.08 € ↘ 2,147.10	2,009.09 € ↗ 1,939.04
1030 SCHAERBEEK	8.12 € ↘ 8.41	1,951.73 € ↘ 2,044.33	2,511.82 € ↗ 1,843.50
1040 ETTERBEEK	9.83 € ↗ 9.58	2,346.47 € ↗ 2,327.03	2,555.68 € ↗ 2,398.02
1050 IXELLES	9.20 € ↘ 9.22	2,773.38 € ↗ 2,823.81	1,986.88 € ↗ 1,962.56
1060 SAINT GILLES	8.86 € ↘ 8.96	2,322.66 € ↗ 2,284.82	2,199.11 € ↘ 2,417.66
1070 ANDERLECHT	8.26 € ↗ 8.19	1,999.26 € ↘ 2,025.04	1,957.87 € ↘ 2,096.00
1080 MOLENBEEK ST JEAN	7.15 € ↘ 7.17	1,634.03 € ↘ 1,640.68	2,030.18 € ↘ 2,180.10
1081 KOEKELBERG	9.66 € ↘ 9.79	1,766.58 € ↗ 1,760.85	2,052.92 € ↗ 1,999.90
1082 BERCHEM STE AGATHE	10.10 € ↘ 10.24	1,990.37 € ↗ 1,954.05	1,646.89 € ↘ 1,655.20
1083 GANSHOREN	8.04 € ↗ 7.99	2,202.05 € ↗ 2,173.64	1,813.01 € ↘ 2,126.65
1090 JETTE	8.59 € - 8.59	1,910.83 € ↘ 1,942.15	2,219.17 € ↗ 2,313.82
1120 NEDER OVER HEMBEEK	9.05 € ↗ 8.16	1,857.98 € ↗ 1,831.88	1,516.89 € ↗ 1,436.21
1140 EVERE	9.12 € ↗ 8.83	2,194.49 € ↘ 2,204.52	2,525.76 € ↘ 2,651.11
1150 WOLUWÉ ST PIERRE	10.24 € ↘ 10.43	2,949.48 € ↗ 2,896.17	2,781.00 € ↗ 2,604.45
1160 AUDERGHEM	8.87 € ↘ 9.25	2,626.02 € ↘ 2,639.34	2,376.25 € ↗ 2,271.51
1170 WATERMAEL BOITSFORT	8.65 € ↗ 8.64	2,437.94 € ↘ 2,628.39	3,639.28 € ↗ 3,423.86
1180 UCCLE	8.91 € ↗ 8.77	2,647.89 € ↘ 2,671.42	2,028.01 € ↘ 2,044.38
1190 FOREST	9.36 € ↗ 8.54	2,189.46 € ↗ 2,176.09	1,963.86 € ↗ 1,950.36
1200 WOLUWÉ ST LAMBERT	10.15 € ↗ 10.00	2,492.15 € ↘ 2,561.74	2,469.81 € ↗ 2,459.51
1210 ST JOSSE TEN NOODE	9.02 € ↗ 8.85	1,577.58 € ↘ 1,669.56	2,172.64 € ↗ 2,103.56



All you need to know about banking services on arriving in Belgium

Take advantage of our ING Expat Convenience Services  
+32 2 464 66 64 - [expat@ing.be](mailto:expat@ing.be) - [www.ing.be](http://www.ing.be)

Many banking services are available to expatriates living in Belgium but there is nothing you need to know about making such arrangements. That's a task for the ING Convenience Services experts. Your bank accounts and cards can be ready for you the moment you arrive in Belgium. ING's Expat Services have 40 years of experience to help make your stay in Belgium as financially smooth as possible.





# Housing explosion

WRITER: PAUL MORRIS

**As the self-proclaimed 'capital' of an enlarged EU, Brussels is witnessing a property boom.**

**I**t may not have the architectural chic of Paris or speculative edge of London, but the property scene in Brussels is really hotting up and nowhere more so than in the area known as the European Quarter.

## HIGHLY SOUGHT-AFTER

By 2009, almost 1,000 new homes will have been built in the area of the city that houses most of the EU institutions.

The construction work will provide residential accommodation for the scores of people who have moved to live and work in Brussels since the EU expanded in 2004.

Back then, no one was really sure exactly how big an impact the entry of a substantial part of the former Soviet bloc would have on the property scene in Brussels.

**MUCH OF THE DEMAND FOR PROPERTY - PARTICULARLY IN THE RENTED SECTOR - IS BEING GENERATED BY PEOPLE FROM THE TEN NEW MEMBER STATES**

However, real-estate agents say that much of the demand for property - particularly in the rented sector - is being generated by people from the ten new member states.

"A few years ago there was little interest in the area,

but we have seen some of the biggest rises in interest in the European Quarter," Intercontinental Brussels Properties spokesman Stavros Malaxos explains.

Minako Shoubuikie, of Eurohouse, says that the "enormous" influx of people from the new EU states - including civil servants, lobbyists, parliamentary staff and journalists - has "undeniably" had an impact on the property market.

## EUROPEAN QUARTER - 'HOTSPOT'

Many of the homes under construction will be luxury apartments, appealing to EU employees on generous salaries.

It means the rapidly rising cost of property in Brussels - and the average price of a two-bedroom property in the European Quarter is nearly 400,000€ - is of little concern to them.

Malaxos adds that many EU workers do not want to live near their office, preferring to bring up families outside the city, but a growing number of younger expatriates prefer to be nearer the action - and get enough green space by walking through the nearby Cinquanteenaire Park or taking weekend trips.

Caroline Ridderbusch, a 36-year-old German, bought a refurbished property near the Parliament.

"I must admit the price I paid was a bit high - 333,000€ for a one-bedroom flat - but property prices in Brussels are still relatively modest compared with places like Paris and London."

Brussels Housing Minister Francois Dupuis (Francophone Socialist PS) hopes to persuade the developers



Square Marie Louise  
© Vandewiele-BITC

to try to attract people on average incomes to buy some of the new flats.

That is probably just as well as many older Belgians still wince at the not-too-distant memory of good quality property being razed to the ground in order to accommodate buildings housing the EU institutions.

Says Xavier Eugene, a long-time resident in the area: "It is a bit ironic.

"They are building new properties in the same area where, a few years ago, they were demolishing them for the EU."

This article is provided by  
Expatica - [www.expatica.be](http://www.expatica.be)



# Who is Van Piperzeel?

WRITER: JÉRÔME STÉFANSKI

In Belgium, Van Piperzeel is the name given to Mister and Mrs. Everyman – like John Smith in the UK, or John Doe in the US. However, Van Piperzeel is now also the moniker of a new Belgian advertising agency. We talk to its founders.

So, could one create an identikit portrait of Monsieur or Madame Van Piperzeel? Well, yes and no. Van Piperzeel could be the Brussels dweller who sells frites from his fritkot, a wealthy Antwerp company chairman who drives a 4x4, or a petite Madame selling strawberries. So, why has an advertising agency (launched in February 2008) decided to adopt such a common-or-garden name? Because, according to its founders, advertising is supposed to reach everyone and, in their opinion, other agencies' allegedly creative ad execs tend to communicate only with each other – and that's not Van Piperzeel's raison d'être.

## INTERVIEW

**The three founders, Alain Frisson (strategic planner), Christophe Reiter (customer service director) and Jean-Charles (creative director) explain the route they took to create their own agency.**

**Alain:** *We all had around 15 years' experience working for other advertising*

*agencies and brands. During that time, we learned all the tricks of the trade, but we also saw, increasingly, that the customer was not the number-one priority. We'd had enough...*

**Christophe:** *Yes, for myself, during my time working for brands such as Sony, TDK, and Mercedes, I realized that ad agencies often produced campaigns without considering the real problems – they seemed motivated most of the time to merely sell a campaign that would win them an award and, certainly, their concepts were often very creative, aimed at award juries worldwide. But I wanted to target the customer!*

**Jean-Charles:** *Mea Culpa! I agree with what Christophe says – for myself, working as creative director for global-network agencies, I was guilty of doing this. But I had to! A creative director can only survive by bringing the money in, by hook or by crook. I won many awards, but I was not satisfied... I aspired to higher things.*

**Christophe:** *In short, our dream is to create ad campaigns that will remain engraved on the collective imaginations of 'Mister and Mrs Van Piperzeel'.*

**Alain:** *Yes, and to achieve this, we have set ourselves simple rules to produce consistent campaigns that are always loyal to the brand's true values, without ever using shock tactics merely for their own sake. It sounds simple, but take a look at the way that advertising trends are going...*

**Christophe:** *I have always loved this profession - I had wanted to be an advert*


*The Van Piperzeel team: From left to right, Christophe, Jean-Charles and Alain*

© VPPZ

*designer since I was 16 years old! I dreamed of creating adverts that people would still be speaking about 20 years later...*

**Jean-Charles:** *Me too, that was always my dream. But my vocation came later, during my military service when I was 23.*

**Alain:** *Now, together, we can finally achieve out what our earlier jobs prevented us from doing. We will talk to you again in three years. Then five. Then ten. You'll see! [Smiles].*

**Van Piperzeel Blog:** *To find out the reactions of the real 'Mr. and Mrs. Van Piperzeel' to the agency's advertising, Van Piperzeel has launched a blog. Make your voice heard:*  
<http://lapubetvanpiperzeel.blogspot.com/> 

**Van Piperzeel**  
Centre Dansaert  
Rue d'Alost, 7  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 213 36 53  
[www.vanpiperzeel.be](http://www.vanpiperzeel.be)





# The education minefield

WRITER: PAUL MORRIS

The state school system in Belgium can seem very complex to newcomers trying to make a choice for their children. In collaboration with *Together*, here's Expatica's guide to help you find your way through it.



*School daze?*

The first decision is whether to integrate the children into the local system or to take advantage of the many international schools in the country. This naturally depends on whether you are on a short contract or plan to adopt Belgium as your home country. The international option would allow your children to continue in the same education system once they return to their home country.

## LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY

While the state sets the laws regarding education, responsibility for schools lies with the language communities - Dutch in Flanders, French in Wallonia, both in Brussels and in some surrounding communes. As well as state schools there are subsidized 'free' and independent schools, often run on religious lines, though their curricula and certification are recognized equally within the system. The compulsory school age in Belgium is 6-18 years, though there is an opportunity for 16+ pupils to study part-time. Education is free, though at secondary level, parents may be expected to contribute to the cost of some text books. All schools are co-educational.

Children start school at the age of six, though they may be accepted at five if they are deemed ready. Before this,

**HOMEWORK IS SET FROM EARLY ON AND THERE IS A STRONG TRADITION OF PARENTAL PARTICIPATION**

nurseries are available for babies and children up to two-and-a-half years. Priority is given to mothers in full-time work. Kindergartens then take over until the child reaches school age.

Children stay at primary school for six years during which time they study the whole range of subjects, with an emphasis on languages. Homework is set from early on and there is a strong tradition of parental participation.

## GOING INTERNATIONAL

International schools are the choice of parents who wish their children to remain in a system they know, with a language they know and with the option of continuing the system back in the home country. With its burgeoning international community, Brussels has a raft of international schools following British, American, French and Dutch education systems, among many others. As they are all private, they are fee-paying, though many companies offer education costs as part of an overseas benefits package.

## GETTING IN

The European Schools are notoriously difficult to get into unless at least one parent works for an EU institution. Education is in mother tongue with a second language being introduced at primary level. Courses lead to the European Baccalaureate which is recognized for university entrance throughout the EU.

The Montessori schools in Brussels operate bilingually with two teachers, one who speaks only in English and the other in French, strengthening the concept that Montessori, educated children are problem solvers, self-sufficient and destined to have confident, enquiring minds. ☺

This article is provided by Expatica - [www.expatica.com](http://www.expatica.com)



# DEEPSENSES

## CLOSE-UP COVERAGE

*"Belgium - a vague terrain in which minorities dispute  
over two cultures that do not exist."*  
Jacques Brel, singer, 1929-1978

Dom Pérignon



21.11.08

TOUR & TAXIS | Avenue du port, 86 - 1000 Bruxelles

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

Concept & réalisation : Simplybetter

I LOVE  
BELGIUM



# TEN GOOD REASONS TO BE BELGE

WRITER: ANDY CARLING

**Together offers a sideways glance on why it's easy to love the flat lands!**

# 1

## BEST RAIN

Most countries measure rainfall by quantity, but Belgium's precipitation can also offer a bewildering breadth of forms. From the merest hint of drizzle to torrential downpours, nowhere beats it for getting wet. It's stated in the holy scriptures that paradise is 'a well-watered garden' and who would doubt that, even if we don't live in paradise, we at least have a very well-watered garden?

# 2

## BEST STEREOTYPES

Think of Belgium and most people will conjure up images of beer, chocolate and *frites*. What's so bad about that? Think of other nations - take the UK, for example, and binge drinking, football violence and the most miserable woman in the world, aka Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, spring to mind. Italy, on the other hand, is pizza and the Mafia, while Germany represents efficiency and an earlier slight tendency to offer the whole world a big fight. Beer, chocolate and *frites*. Works for me.

# 3

## BEST NON-EXISTENT GOVERNMENT

All too often, the headlines report Belgium as being in crisis. How do people react? There's no civil disorder, no panic in the streets, just people getting on with their lives. We'll simply discuss it all over a beer or three, secure in the knowledge that we'll muddle through somehow. We went for most of the year without a government. In many parts of the world, we'd have been called a failed state, but we found that, if anything, things worked a little better than usual. When we do get a prime minister, we take them on as a temp. Perhaps the next one will be a stagiaire...

# 4

## BEST TAX OFFICES

When I went to sort out my taxes last year I found the people there to be very friendly and helpful, so much so that once we had finished, I said I had a bit of an embarrassing question to ask them. That got their attention, so I asked: "So these are federal taxes, to the federal government?" "Oh yes, that's correct," they assured me. I went for the kill: "But we've had no federal government for a long time, so I would like a discount on my taxes because of this." They were stunned. I suggested a 50 per cent

discount as being reasonable. They looked at me as if I was mad. I told them I was only joking and they burst into relieved laughter. Of course I was joking, I'd settle for 30 per cent.

# 5

## NATIONAL ANTHEM? WHAT NATIONAL ANTHEM?

The average Brit starts mumbling after the first couple of lines of *God Save the Queen*, so it was with utter delight that I discovered Prime Minister Yves Leterme didn't know the Belgian national anthem either (it's called *La Brabançonne*, for those who don't know) when he so memorably burst into *La Marseillaise*. Can you imagine any other nation's leader being so bold? As I pointed out to my Belgian friends, at least he didn't sing *Deutschland über Alles*.

# 6

## YOU CAN KNOCK DOWN THE PM

In November 2002, then Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt was out cycling when he was knocked down by a car at a roundabout near Gent, breaking his elbow. It was treated as a normal traffic accident, and no big issue was made. Try crashing into Silvio Berlusconi and see what happens. Here's a clue - Bay of Naples, concrete overcoat.

# 7

## ZEN BUDDHISM IS BELGIAN

Now this may be news to many, but it is true. I know, I checked it in Wikipedia. Belgium contains two Zen koans - or instructional puzzles. The first is the country code, BE. What more concise exposition of Zen is there than the simple word 'be'? Be alive, be conscious, be Belge! The second is the last syllable, best illustrated by this ancient tale. A novice monk goes up to the Guru, who is busy contemplating a frite. "Master," he asks, "how may I find enlightenment?" The Guru replies:

"Child, canst thou explain the rules concerning whether Belgian establishments can or cannot allow smoking on their premises?" "Ummmm," said the young monk. "Just keep repeating that until you get enlightenment," states the Guru, and dismisses him.

# 8

## ANNOY EXTREMISTS EFFORTLESSLY

I'd only been in the country for a few days when I saw an old man shuffling along the street delivering free newspapers. As he came to my house he offered me a copy which I thanked him for. Then I noticed it was in Flemish. Demonstrating my newfound mastery of the bilingual system, I explained to him in my schoolboy French that I didn't know Flemish so could I have a copy in French. He looked angry and stormed off in a huff. I turned the paper over and saw it was the Vlaams Belang newsletter.

# 9

## THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

Priorité à droit exemplifies the line between madness and genius. Initially I thought it was the former, but now I finally understand. I get it. It's a fantastic experiment in Darwinian Theory, which also ensures that there is a plentiful supply of transplant organs...

# 10

## WE'RE HERE

Some expats whine and complain about Belgium, but surely it's wise to make the most of where you are and, if you look positively, Belgium is full of interesting places and people. What's more, we at *Together* will always bring you the best of La Belgique, in a handy-sized magazine. What more could you wish for? ☺



# BLACK YELLOW RED

Jacket:  
PAULE KA  
Skirt:  
ANEMIE  
VERBEECK  
Gloves & Boots:  
OLIVIER  
STRELLI  
Belts:  
FILIPPA K  
Tights:  
FOGAL







Jacket:  
PAULE KA  
Skirt:  
ANEMIE  
VERBEECK  
Gloves & Boots:  
OLIVIER  
STRELLI  
Belts:  
FILIPPA K  
Tights:  
FOGAL



Jumper:  
SYSTEM  
Skirt:  
LEVIS  
Gloves:  
OLIVIER  
STRELLI  
Belt:  
CARACTERE  
Tights:  
FOGAL





Lingerie:  
DIESEL  
Gloves:  
SCAPA  
Shoes:  
NEW LOOK  
Tights:  
CETTE  
Bag:  
PAULE KA



Jacket:  
ESSENTIEL  
Gloves:  
SCAPA  
Watch:  
PERRELET  
Scarf:  
PAULE KA

photos  
GAETAN  
CAPUTO  
styling  
GEOFFREY  
MASURE  
make-up  
Florence  
Samain  
for CHANEL &  
KERASTASE  
models  
him  
Julien  
Drapier  
© DOMINIQUE  
MODELS AGENCY  
her  
Celine  
Moniquet  
© NEW MODELS AGENCY  
art directors  
GEOFFREY  
MASURE  
VINCENT  
VAN MEERBEECK  
© PRODUCTOR

spasiba  
a Spa for body and mood



- 10% on all massages and treatments for EC Members

Discover our latest offers and new massages on [www.spasiba.be](http://www.spasiba.be)

Body treatments - Facials - Massages - Balneotherapy - Vichy shower - Hammam - Sauna  
Permanent hair removal - Watermass © - Aquafresh sunbed - Manicures - Pedicures - Make up

Spasiba - 47, Boulevard de Waterloo - Brussels, Belgium - +32-2 514 15 33 - [info@spasiba.be](mailto:info@spasiba.be)



# BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

WRITER : SOPHIE LAGESSE

*Together* throws open the doors of a dazzling and exclusive society – suppliers to the Belgian royal family. Suivez le guide !

**E**very year, the Association of Patented Suppliers to the Court of Belgium reveals the names of the tradesmen, companies and craftsmen who have been honoured with membership of this elite group. While the royal family uses around 5,000 suppliers, only 113 are officially recognized by this ASBL.

As tradition dictates, the inauguration ceremony takes place on 15<sup>th</sup> November - the King's birthday. On this day, the names of the artisans and companies are announced. This year, eleven new brands have made their first appearance as patented suppliers - in addition to world-renowned brands such as BMW and Nikon, other, more modest companies were also selected.

## RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

To be a patented supplier to the Court is indeed a privilege, but also a commitment. A privilege because the title, granted by His Majesty the King, is the highest seal of quality approval that can be granted.



*The haute-couture collection 'Au nom de la Rose', specially created by Edouard Vermeulen to commemorate Natan's 25 years in business*

© Natan



*Delvaux's celebrated  
'Brilliant' bag*

© Delvaux

But it is a commitment as well, because a Patented Supplier to the Court of Belgium must strive constantly for improvement in all areas under the company's remit – the suppliers represent the very best in Belgian quality.

## THE GENUINE ARTICLES

However, certain companies apply the Patented Supplier label without being granted the right to do so. In order to prevent such fraud, the ASBL has set up a website on which all 113 suppliers are listed. Go to [www.lesfournisseursbrevetesdelacour.be](http://www.lesfournisseursbrevetesdelacour.be) for more information.

## ROYAL ELEGANCE

### NATAN

For some years now, Edouard Vermeulen has dressed the women of the Court in a classically simple, feminine style. The purity of his designs have caught the eye of queens and princesses the world over - in addition to the Belgian royal family, the Courts of Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg have worn the robes of Edouard Vermeulen. The creator first came to public acclaim at the marriage of Philippe and Mathilde, producing the sumptuous white dress the bride wore. The pure curves and the beauty of the fabrics he uses are entirely suited to the active and refined women of Court.

#### *Natan*

*Avenue Louise, 158  
1050 Brussels  
T. +32(0) 2 647 10 01  
[www.natan.be](http://www.natan.be)*

### DEGAND

New to the list of Patented Suppliers this year, the house of Degand has nevertheless tailored for many years for the gentlemen of the royal family. "The Degand man is timeless, traditional and attentive to detail," Pierre Degand

declares. Since 1982, the brand has been well-established near Avenue Louise in Brussels. In addition to made-to-measure garments, Degand offers ready-to-wear, accessories and also sportswear clothing. Founder Pierre Degand has in fact tailored to gentlemen of taste since 1974: "It is a long story! I first met Léopold III and Liliane in my boutique on the coast - in 1982, we opened on Avenue Louise. I hardly knew King Baudouin, but for nearly ten years now we have served Albert II, Philippe and Lorenz. Philippe is a little reserved, but Albert is very jovial and pleasant." Concerning the Patented Supplier title: "It is a great honour. I am very proud of my company but also of my patriotism – my customers are the same." And, apparently, the royal patronage poses no security problems: "We asked if we would have to close the store when they visit, but we were told it wasn't necessary. Indeed, some of our other customers know them anyway, and they chat in the shop."

#### *Degand & Degand Sport*

*Avenue Louise, 145  
1050 Brussels  
T. +32(0) 2 649 00 73  
[www.degand.be](http://www.degand.be)*

### DELVAUX

A Belgian leather dealer that really needs no further introduction, Delvaux House, founded in 1829, is among the best in the field. It is the oldest leather manufacturer in the world, and most of its production takes place in Arsenal, Brussels. Not such a great surprise, therefore, that the ladies of the Court favour this emblem of national quality – all Delvaux bags and other accessories are characterized by their elegance and simplicity.

#### *Delvaux*

*Boulevard de Waterloo, 27  
1050 Brussels  
T. +32(0) 2 513 05 02  
[www.delvaux.be](http://www.delvaux.be)*





### TAKING THE BISCUIT

With five patented chocolate suppliers, (Neuhaus, Galler, Godiva, Mary and Wittamer), Belgians might think that their sovereigns eat chocolate morning, noon and night! However, the various suppliers are also on demand for the royal family's visits abroad, to offer a sample of our national speciality.

The same rules applies when other countries' royal families visit Belgium - the hosts set out a beautiful selection of the world's best chocolate.

### LES BISCUITS DELACRE

Established in 1870, Delacre is renowned for its chocolate biscuits. Thanks to their savoir-faire and highest-quality ingredients, their reputation in high society was quickly established.

Delacre biscuits are also presented to foreign delegations during their visits to Belgium, but it is easy to imagine that the royal family enjoy them as well - particularly the sovereigns' many small children! In addition, Delacre puts a Belgian accent on its products - their

boxes are frequently adorned with photographs of the royal family or another national hero: Tintin.

*Les Biscuits Delacre products are available in all good supermarkets - [www.delacre.com](http://www.delacre.com)*

### SUPER DESTROOPER!

More than 120 years experience have made the Jules Destrooper biscuit factory a Belgian institution. After the creation of his almond biscuits, Destrooper followed with his Galette butter delights. Loved in all Belgian homes, these delicacies are still made according to the Destrooper family's secret recipe. Patented Suppliers to the Court since 1999, Destrooper's creations doubtless accompany guests' coffee. As their website announces: "Happiness is a small biscuit..."

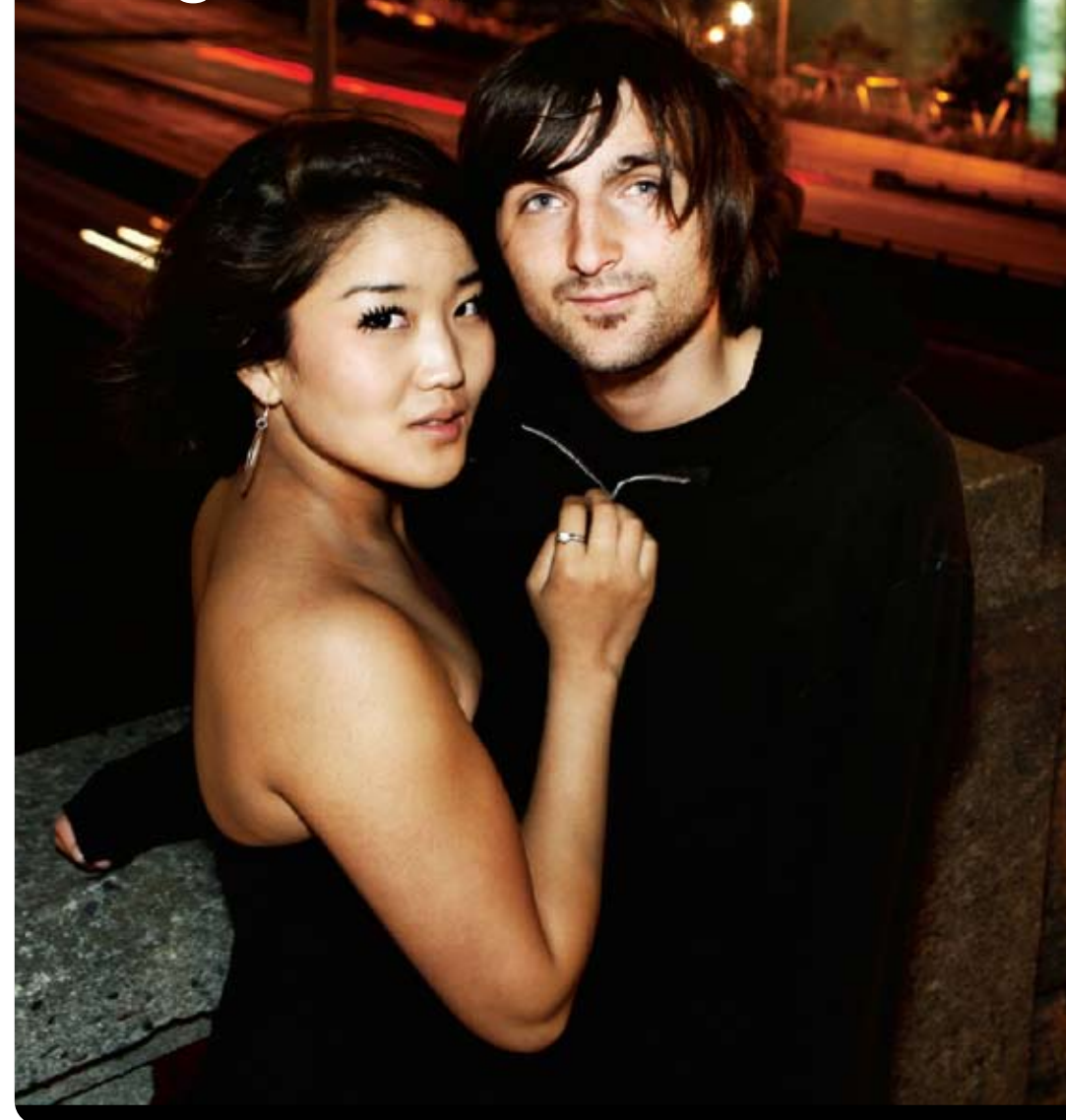
*Jules Destrooper products are available in all good supermarkets - [www.destrooper.com](http://www.destrooper.com)*

There are other institutions, in widely varied fields, which belong to this prestigious association - Astoria Hotel on Rue Royal, Plaza Hotel on Boulevard Adolphe Max, the Musical Box, a specialized classical music record dealer in Coudenberg, Hayoit, supplier of linen to the royal household on Chaussée de Louvain, the Libris bookshop, Roger Coiffure on Avenue Louise, and electrical manufacturers Sony and Philips.

So, there's nothing to stop you living like a king or queen! 🍷

*More information on [www.lesfournisseursbrevetesdelacour.be](http://www.lesfournisseursbrevetesdelacour.be)*

# Be enlightened.



## Happy living, abroad.

Living abroad is not always glamorous if you don't have the proper resources. Fortunately Expatica is there for you. Whether you want to find the best restaurants and clubs, meet other internationals, find a job or house, or get the scope on entertainment in your area, Expatica is your resource. Check us out today at [www.expatica.com](http://www.expatica.com) and light up your life.



# FASHION PIONEERS

WRITER: LUDIVINE NOLF

**Belgium's fashion schools are gaining renown – designers from mode academies La Cambre in Brussels, L'Academie de mode d'Anvers and elsewhere are extending their reputations far beyond the country's borders.**

**T**he country's growing pool of talented fashion designers is entirely down to the various 'style schools' established across its territory. Antwerp, Brussels, Tournai, Verviers, to name only the most famous, are home to fashion havens where the rattle of sewing machines is equally matched by the proliferation of new trends. For your pleasure then, a little background on La Cambre and L'Academie de mode d'Anvers.

## LA CAMBRE

La Cambre, tucked away for 20 years behind Place Flagey in Brussels, goes by the full name of École nationale supérieure des arts visuels de La Cambre, and prides itself on a hard-won reputation for training exceptional designers. Its luminaries have included such names as Olivier Theyskens, Xavier

Delcour, Laetitia Crahay, Sandrina Fasoli and Cathy Pill – thousands apply to register every year, but on the other hand, far fewer graduate – only eight pupils crossed the finishing line in June with diploma – the hard-earned fruit five years' intensive studies, on which the reputation of the entire institution depends. The course covers all aspects of fashion as a form of contemporary expression, centred around two axes: fashion styling and creation. As the facility's 'mission statement' puts it: "Styling answers precise requirements in a given context – it is incorporated into all aspects of marketing strategies, the product, communication, distribution, research, and cultural, social, and aesthetic tendencies. Fashion 'creation', which is less determined by economic constraints, is far more personalized and innovative."

Students set on cutting cloth are further advised: "In addition to a solid knowledge of modern fashion, a good general knowledge of art, history, literature and cinema as well as an open mind and limitless curiosity is absolutely essential."

*École nationale supérieure  
des arts visuels de La Cambre  
Abbaye de La Cambre, 21  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 626 17 80  
[www.lacambre.be](http://www.lacambre.be)*



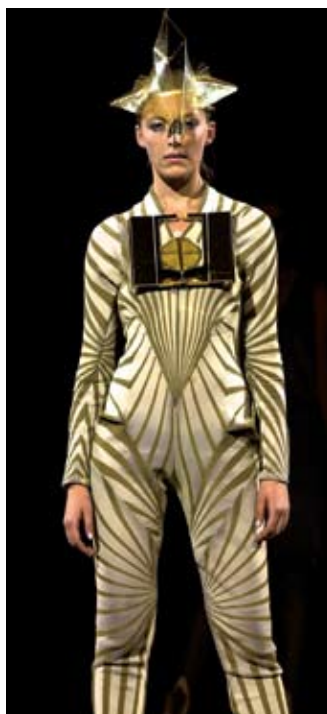
La Cambre's end-of-year 2007/2008 fashion show

© Hanifa Besisira




*L'Académie des Beaux-Arts d'Anvers' end-of-year 2007/2008 fashion show*

*© Show 2008 Department Antwerp - Etienne Tordoir*



## L'ACADEMIE DE MODE D'ANVERS

It needs perhaps even less of an introduction than La Cambre – world renowned since the 1980s, Antwerp Fashion Academy (the institution's full name being L'Académie des Beaux-Arts d'Anvers) is among the best institutions of its kind in the world - 130 students, 90 per cent of whom hail from foreign climes, sign up for a four-year course. Given that the academy produced the famous 'Group of Six' - Dries Van Noten, Ann Demeulemeester, Walter Van Beirendonck, Dirk Van Saene, Dirk Bikkembergs and Martin Margiela – it would be fair to say this proves the institution really has nothing else to prove. Of the more than 50 students who joined in 2004, only 16 gained their diplomas in 2008. More than 4,500 people attended their graduation, under the aegis of Director Walter Van Beirendonck, who has headed the

institution since 2006 and is overseeing the new generation of designers, who are making an international reputation for themselves. Luminaries such as Raf Simons, Veronique Branquinho, A.F. Vandevorst and Lieve Van Gorp all have a growing influence on the fashion trends of the world's most prestigious marques. 

*L'Académie des Beaux-Arts d'Anvers  
Nationalestraat, 28/3  
2000 Anvers  
T. +32 (0)3 206 08 80  
[www.modenatie.com](http://www.modenatie.com)  
[mode@ha.be](mailto:mode@ha.be)*

In addition to eight finalists from Antwerp and La Cambre, four other graduate students from London's St. Martin's College of Art and Design will also present their work.  
[www.brusselsinternational.be](http://www.brusselsinternational.be)

## THIRD FASHION WEEKEND

Fashion sirens will again be sounding in Brussels on 20<sup>th</sup> October - for the third consecutive year, *Weekend Vif/L'Express* will be organizing, along with *Weekend Knack*, an exceptional event dedicated to young fashion designers, in which 12 participants will do battle to

achieve the most original and stylish presentation of their work. All are students or recent graduates from fashion design schools, and their work will be evaluated by a jury comprising renowned fashion designers and other industry representatives. A prize of 10,000€ will be awarded to the competition winner.



# TOTALLY BELGE!

WRITER: MAGALI EYLENBOSCH

## Our love affair with the Low Countries continues...

### FOR HER

#### 1. FABIENNE DELVIGNE

A superb hat from the Fabienne Delvigne haute-couture collection. A supplier to royalty, she is absolutely one of our favourite designers. *'Sky Bird' - price available on request*  
[www.fabiennedelvigne.com](http://www.fabiennedelvigne.com)

#### 2. NATAN

To celebrate his 25 years spent in the service of elegance, Edouard Vermeulen created a haute couture collection, 'In the Name of the Rose'. Allow yourself to be allured... *'Tonus' - price available on request*  
[www.natan.be](http://www.natan.be)

#### 3. FLAMANT

Santo de Flamant - completely in the spirit of the season. *Santo de Flamant*  
550€  
[www.flamant.com](http://www.flamant.com)

#### 4. LES PRECIEUSES

For more than ten years, Pili Collado has accessorized, blending beautiful jewels to perfection. *'The Stendhal'*  
243€  
T. +32(0)2 503 28 98

#### 5. OLIVIER STRELLI

Smart and trendy trainers shoes from Olivier Strelli's 'October 22' line.  
69.90€  
[www.strelli.be](http://www.strelli.be)

#### 6. LILÙ

Lilù - a marque created in 2005 by Isabelle Gérardin and Emmanuelle Adam and their 'Ashley' model is perfectly proportioned. *'Ashley'*  
318€  
[www.lilu.be](http://www.lilu.be)

#### 7. CERRUTI 1881

A breath of modernity has blown on the house of Cerruti, since Jean-Paul Knott was appointed Artistic Director. Take this superb black leather belt, for example... *Price available on request*  
[www.cerruti.com](http://www.cerruti.com)

#### 8. GIRLS FROM OMSK

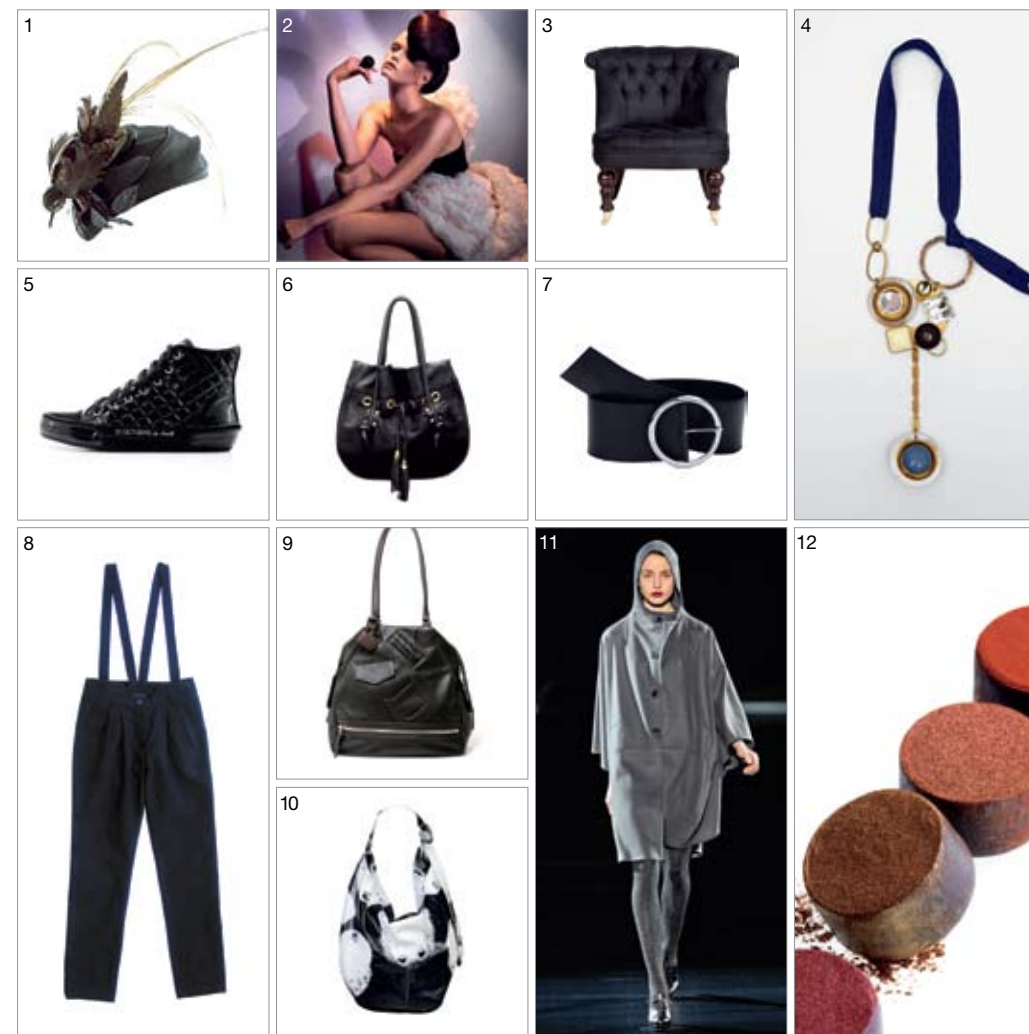
This Winter, Valéria Siniouchkina makes her mark with a collection that blends masculine and feminine, but which retains a resolutely 'funky' streetwear look. Winner of Prix Modo Bruxellae 2007. Snap up this trousers/overalls outfit...  
120€  
[www.girlsfromomsk.be](http://www.girlsfromomsk.be)

#### 9. DELVAUX

Delvaux – perhaps the most mythical leather that you can buy. The Perfecto bag, is packed full of details, with zip, pockets, padding and other surprises. Made from patented 'young leather', as are the boots...  
1,300€  
T.+32(0)2 738 00 40

#### 10. KIPLING

Trendy-casual specialist Kipling has developed, in collaboration with Cathy Pill, an exclusive 'mini-range' of bags for its haute couture PE09 collection – the artist's graphic style is immediately



recognizable. The range will be available from December only from Kipling and Cathy Pill outlets. Reservations strongly recommended – there may not be enough to go around!  
619.90€  
T.+32(0)3 298 20 00

#### 11. HUGO

Talented young Belgian Bruno Pieters has been appointed Artistic Director of Hugo Boss's women's range. Inspired by Bauhaus, he has brought sober, near-timeless lines that are nevertheless resolutely modern.

*Cape - 450€*  
*Shoes - 299€*  
T.+32(0)2 711 06 00

#### 12. MARCOLINI

Pierre Marcolini's 'Divine Coquillettes' will cover you with pleasure – small (6 grammes) tins of fresh, light chocolate in five flavours: ganache tonka, poivre sichuan, hazel nut pralines, citrus fruits and liquorice.  
T.+ 32(0)2 514 12 06  
[www.marcolini.be](http://www.marcolini.be)

And for the gentlemen,  
there are also plenty  
of surprises in store...

## FOR HIM

### 1. MARIE'S CORNER

Belgian chair-making specialist, Marie's Corner, celebrates 15 years in business in 2008.

*Carmel armchair* – 2,357€

*Matching pouf* - 716€

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

### 2. FLAMANT

Is his head forever in the stars? Why not treat him to a Flamant telescope?

189€

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

### 3. SCABAL

Scabal recently launched Scabal N°12, an ultra high-class range, in the purest traditions of Savile Row made-to-measure. A must-have for every elegant man.

T.+32(0)2 217 50 55

### 4. EASTPAK

After giving a to the Jil Sander range, Raf Simons, who is one of our most stylish creators, has joined forces with Eastpak to create a collection collection of bags in sober and very masculine tones.

100€

T.+32(0)3 298 20 00

### 5. BINÔCHE

In just ten years, the sunglasses range 'Made in Belgium' has gained a world-class reputation in the optical orbit, notably with its cool sport collection 'Bi-cool Sun'.

80€

T. +32(0)3 235 16 19

### 6. CERRUTI 1881

An outfit from the Autumn-Winter collection that plays the elegance card to perfection.

*Jean-Paul Knott for Cerruti*

*Price available on request*

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

### 7. CHRISTOPHE COPPENS

Impossible to be stylish without this headgear...

140€

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

### 8. LE FABULEUX MARCEL DE BRUXELLES

Behind the success-story of Le Fabuleux Marcel de Bruxelles are Christophe and Kaat. More 'must-haves' and 'unmissables' than you will believe...

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

### 9. DELVAUX

Designed by Bruno Pieters, the '1829' line includes five stars, of which 'Newspaper Bag', is characterized by its sober style and rigorous construction. Designed for the modern, discreet, elegant man.

1,350€

T.+32(0)2 738 00 40

### 10. DANDY

The graphic novel is an integral part of Belgian culture, as is the 'speculoos' biscuit is an integral part of Belgian culture. So, in 2009, homage will be paid - to commemorate the release of Frédéric Janin and Stéphane Libersky's new work, Froud et Strouf, renowned biscuit-maker Dandoy will be offering special commemorative 'coucouques' speculoos.

*Dandoy*

*Rue au Beurre, 31*

*1000 Bruxelles*

T.+32(0)2 511 03 26

### 11. BELLEROSE

Bellerose's mens range offers, as usual, all the urban-fashion casual classics – a perfect weekend outfit!

T.+32(0)2 539 44 76

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

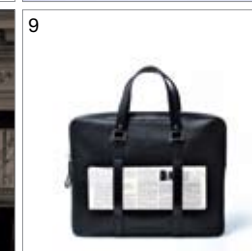
### 12. DEGAND

Be a poker-dice ace with these smart, sassy cufflinks.

*Price available on request.*

T.+32(0)2 649 00 73

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





# RISING STOCKEL

WRITER: GILLIAN DONNELLY

Located at the end of the Metro line in the laid-back environs of Place Dumon, where it nestles among smart suburban houses and even smarter shopping streets, Stockel market is well worth a visit.

Should you find yourself in this particular corner of the city between 8-13h on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday, as *Together* did one sunny August Saturday morning, you will find a market buzzing with life on the tree-lined Place Dumon, with a raft of flower stalls and other seasonal delights on offer to lure perusing market-goers.

The aroma of olives hangs in the air and an abundance of summer berries are on

display as fresh fruit, meat and vegetables of every description, varieties of honey and jams, homemade pizza, quiche and cake, all tempt passers-by. The sun is shining and everything feels all right; the market seems tailor-made for a day such as this.

**I SELL A LOT OF LASAGNE, BUT THE MOST POPULAR OVERALL IS PLAIN PASTA. YOU WOULD THINK THE ORIGINAL VARIETY WOULD NOT SELL LIKE THE OTHERS, BUT IT DOES'**

## ITALIAN STYLE

Among the stallholders, we find Salamone Roberto, who is very keen to share his passion for Italian wines. A relative newcomer to Stockel, but one who has enjoyed much success since joining its ranks, Salamone was drawn to the locale because, as he says, he "didn't have a typical place to be" among the big retailers and, after tasting some wines while on holiday in Italy, he decided to share his interest with the people of Brussels. "I see in Belgium that Italian wines can be difficult to find, that they are hard to buy in the shops," he explains.

On offer today are wines from Tuscany and Piemonte and, continues Salamone, customers are always keen to investigate the differences in each variety - a subject in which he is well-versed. He also offers evening tastings for those who wish to educate their palettes.

Sticking with the Italian theme, further down the market can be found the impressive wares of Pascal Lemaître, or, as he is also known, 'Pascal Pâtes'. For the past eight years, pasta has been Pascal's speciality - from lasagne and cannelloni to wholemeal and flavoured pastas, everything on offer is made with his own hands.

So which are the most popular? "I sell a lot of lasagne, but the most popular overall is plain pasta. You would think the original variety would not sell like the others, but it does. People seem to look at the most unusual types, but they



Stockel Market

© Patrick Rahie

always seem to buy the regular most often!" Among the "unusual" varieties is the black pasta, which is dyed with squid ink.


## QUALITY COUNTS

Lemaître is aware that he is operating in a difficult line of work: "It is a very hard business, because you have to compete

with the pasta 'industry'. If people feel the product is not the same, then there can be a price to pay. Sometimes, I think, people prefer ready-made meals, so this is maybe not what they look for first," and with the abundance of

cheap foods on supermarkets, small manufacturers and retailers face stiff competition.

"It is not good to compare products on price alone, but it is often the first thing that people do. But if you look at the quality, there is a big difference. If you buy a cheap lasagne, there is nothing in it, no meat, no cream, nothing."

Well, why not come on down to Stockel market and have your pasta preconceptions challenged? 

**Place Dumon**  
1150 Woluwe-St-Pierre  
Stockel

Every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 8-13h.

**I SEE IN BELGIUM THAT ITALIAN WINES CAN BE DIFFICULT TO FIND, THAT THEY ARE HARD TO BUY IN THE SHOPS'**

# TALKING TASTE

WRITER: KIMBERLEY LOVATO

For 'foodies', the abundance of fantastic restaurants is one of Belgium's biggest draws. From Michelin stars to hidden snack stands, there is always something delicious to try. But beyond the border, what do people really know about the cuisine? We pull up a chair with four Belgian chefs who are also making a name for themselves abroad.

## NICOLAS SCHUERMANS

Nicolas Schuermans, 'Nico' to his friends and family, studied at the prestigious CREPAC School of Culinary Arts in Belgium and apprenticed at La Villa Lorraine (two Michelin stars), before working at Comme Chez Soi, (two Michelins). Schuermans has cooked for many celebrities and has travelled the world working in prestigious kitchens.

### What is your fondest memory of Belgium?

*Spending summers at my grandparents' home near Barvaux (Ardennes).*

### Where do you like to eat when you visit?

*I make it home every other year to see family, and always eat at Le Passage (Uccle) and enjoy the wood-fired steak at L'Etable in Barvaux.*

### Who has influenced your cooking the most?

*My grandfather. He is a great lover of food and the ritual of dining - an aperitif, a great dinner followed by*

*cheese and a whisky. Chef Freddy Vandecasserie of La Villa Lorraine was the greatest influence in my professional career.*

### What's the most embarrassing thing that has happened to you in your restaurant?

*Having a Flemish guest speak to me, and only nodding and smiling because I had no idea what he was saying*

### What does 'Chambar' mean?

*My grandmother came up with the name - an old French phrase meaning 'when the teacher leaves the room, all the kids go crazy!' In French it is spelt chambard - the 'd' is silent.*

### What advice would you give to someone dining at your restaurant for the first time?

*Be open-minded and without expectations. Leave your day at the door and enjoy the experience of brave food, great wine and a vibrant atmosphere.*

### Chambar Restaurant

562 Beatty Street Crosstown  
Vancouver BC, US  
T. +1 604 879 7119  
[www.chambar.com](http://www.chambar.com)

## BART M. VANDAELE

Bart M. Vandaele was born in Roeselare and studied in Bruges. He has held various executive chef positions in the United States and Belgium and most recently for the Dutch Ambassador to the US. "When I arrived 12 years ago, I immediately knew I loved this place," he says.



Left:  
Nicolas Scheurmans



Right:  
Bart M. Vandaele

### What is your fondest food memory of Belgium?

*My dad's whole braised squab with baby potatoes. The best squabs always came from my granddad's pigeon house.*

### Who influenced your cooking the most?

*My dad. He had his own restaurant and raised me in his kitchen. I also had the privilege of having two important mentors, Piet Huysentruyt whose restaurant of the same name received one Michelin star, and Roger Soevereyns whose restaurant, Restaurant Scholtesh, earned three.*

### What is the most popular Belgian dish on your menu?

*Vlaamse stoverij (carbonades flamandes), a beef stew with a special beer sauce, served with fries and mayonnaise.*

### Washington DC diners are fairly sophisticated. Are they curious about Belgian cuisine or do they have preconceived notions?

*We definitely have much more to offer*

*than waffles and chocolate! For example, I have rabbit or pigeon on my winter menu, something Americans rarely eat. Shrimp croquettes are a favourite. We make them fresh, using baby grey shrimps imported from Belgium.*

### Do you ever let others cook for you?

*Of course! When I'm not working, I love to be invited for dinner. What I love most are the simple things.*

### Tell us something about you that would surprise those who know you. Do you have an Oreo Cookie fetish, for example?

*No, sour gummy bears and Cola bottle sweets! I also love raspberry jam on Gouda cheese or on peperkoek (Dutch spiced cake), but the rest of my fetishes are for another conversation...*

### Belga Café

514, 8th Street, SE  
Washington DC, US  
T. + 1(202) 544 0100  
[www.belgacafe.com](http://www.belgacafe.com)





Pascal Lorange

PASCAL LORANGE

In Verviers, Pascal Lorange is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Belgian chef, whose nephew has just taken over the kitchen at L'Art de Vivre in Spa, where all his relatives still live: "They are my breath of fresh air; they give me a lot of energy."

What is your fondest food memory of Belgium?

My father always eats at Le Grillon in Ostend. I love their croquettes de crevettes, mussels and sole. It's my favorite place to go when I come back to Belgium.

Do your Belgian roots have an impact on your cooking style?

My style has definitely changed from when I started. The creation of the Fig &

Olive menu with founder Laurent Halasz allowed a complete new way of cooking.

How would you describe your style of cooking?

I try to keep a Mediterranean inspiration and touch, and try to find the right olive oils that will complete the dish perfectly.

In your opinion, what makes a great chef?

Simplicity. You don't want too many flavours on the plate, but you want the right ones with the right ingredients.

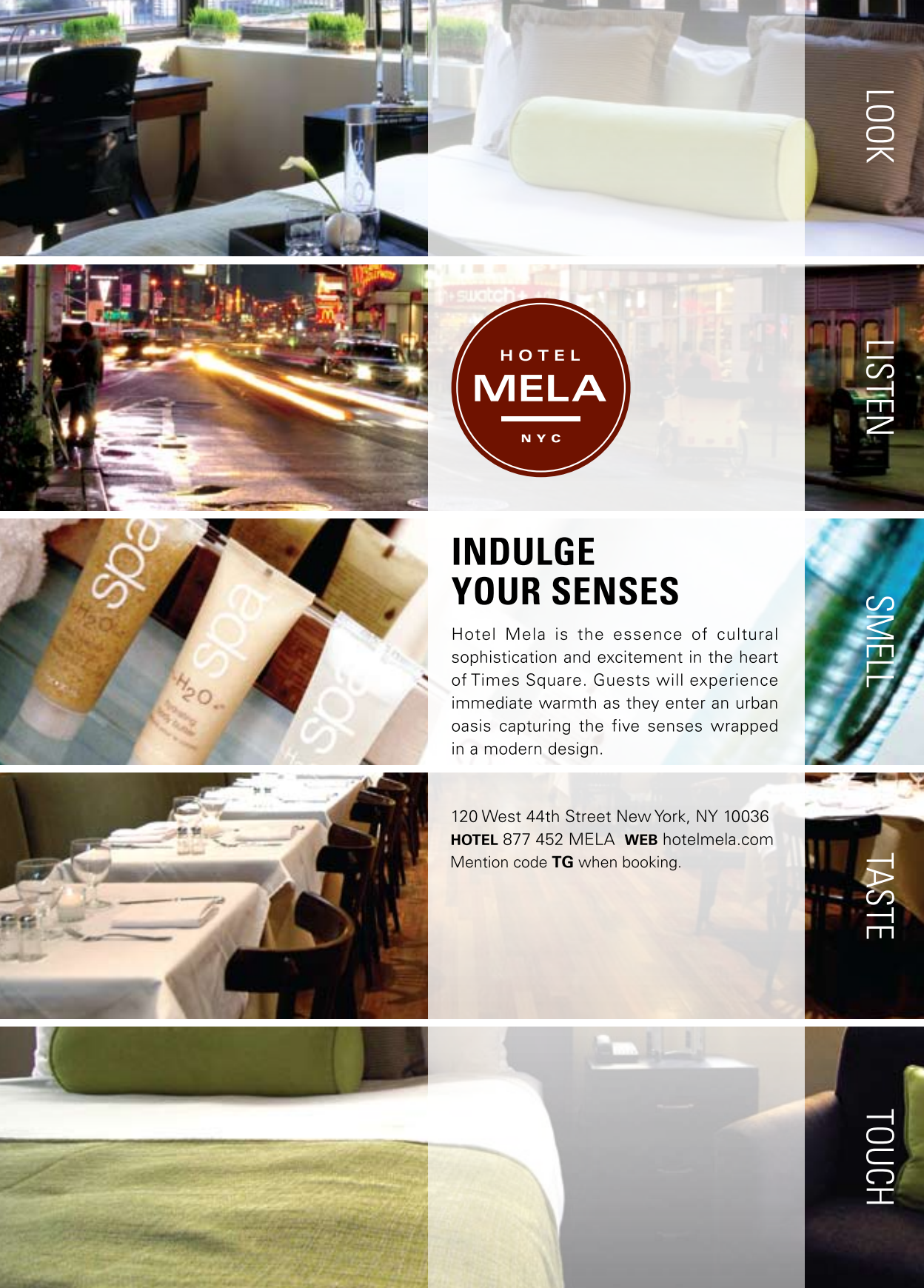
Which cooking tools or gadgets are indispensable to you?

I finally got a Berkel Manual Slicer - I now want one in all my restaurants. The customers love to see us cut prosciutto or jambon in front of them. The Pacojet is also an amazing creation. It makes fabulous ice cream and tapenade.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

I lived for seven years in the Canary Islands and loved it. I think I'll end up in the south of France or Spain, but I'm not ready for that yet.

Fig & Olive  
808 Lexington Avenue  
62nd-63rd Street  
New York, NY 10021, US  
T. +1(212) 207 4555  
www.figandolive.com



INDULGE YOUR SENSES

Hotel Mela is the essence of cultural sophistication and excitement in the heart of Times Square. Guests will experience immediate warmth as they enter an urban oasis capturing the five senses wrapped in a modern design.

120 West 44th Street New York, NY 10036  
**HOTEL** 877 452 MELA **WEB** hotelmela.com  
Mention code **TG** when booking.





Nicolas De Visch  
© Louis Lesko

## NICOLAS DE VISCH

This young energetic chef, born in Braine l'Alleud, Belgium, has clients clamouring to get into his restaurant in the Dordogne region of France. De Visch combines the fine ingredients of the Périgord with world spices and the local seafood, inspired by his love of travel and years as a chef at the opulent Burj Al Arab Hotel in Dubai.

### What is your fondest food memory of Belgium?

*Like everyone, my mother's cooking - tarte au sucre, boulettes sauce tomate, carbonade flamande and croquettes aux crevettes*

### How often do you get back to Belgium to visit?

*I don't go back that much, but at least once a year. We now have the line open between Bergerac airport and Charleroi. I can't wait to take a quick break after the season and fly over.*

### What's the most embarrassing thing that's happened to you in a restaurant kitchen?

*Calling Sheikh Mohamed al Maktoum,*

*the ruler of Dubai, 'Your Majesty' instead of 'Your Highness' in front of everyone when he visited my kitchen.*

### Who in your life has influenced your cooking the most?

*Philippe Cassart, of Le Piano de Julien, for my start in the job; Atillio Basso of Ecailler du Palais Royal, for a real taste of hard work; Yves Mattagne, Sea Grill, Radisson SAS Brussels, for finesse.*


### When you're not working, what do you do for fun?

*I love playing football with my local team and cycling. I also love to play Texas Hold 'Em with my friend and neighbour, Russ.*

### Do your Belgian roots have an impact on your cooking style?


*As a Belgian, I love taking pleasure in life and having the ability to laugh at oneself. Belgian is not a style; it's a way of life. ☺*

*La Brucelière  
Place de la Capelle  
24560 Issigeac, France  
T. +33(0) 5537 38961  
www.bruceliere.com*



*Wine & Spirit Since 1886*

## THE MOST EXCLUSIVE LABELS



## DE CONINCK Wine & Spirit Since 1886

Visit our cellars from Thursday to Saturday from 10 AM to 19 PM

Chée de Bruxelles 37  
1410 Waterloo  
Tél.: 02 353 07 65  
Fax.: 02 353 07 10


Avenue du Pesage 1  
1050 Ixelles  
Tél.: 02 640 44 65

Avenue Orbanlaan 3  
1150 Brussels  
Tél.: 02 772 40 65

Place Cdt De Blockplein 21  
1780 Wemmel  
Tél.: 02 460 44 65

**NEW**

info@deconinckwine.com



www.deconinckwine.com

LOUIS ROEDERER  
CHAMPAGNE

PAUL JABOUILLET Aîné  
1834 1834  
GRANDS VINS DES CÔTES DU RHÔNE

CHATEAU LA LAGUNE  
GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

Joseph Drouhin  
GRANDS VINS DE BOURGOGNE

HUGEL & FILS



# Delightful dining

WRITER: OLIVIER FREY (BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL TOURISM & CONGRESS), JÉRÔME STÉFANSKI



1. Evan's Beef & Sushi Bar
2. Le Mozart
3. Le Falstaff

## EVAN'S BEEF & SUSHI BAR

Closed Mondays.  
Parking on Place Poelaert, valet parking available at lunchtime and evenings.

Evan Triantopoulos has just renovated a dining locale - Evan's Beef & Sushi Bar has been given a completely new look over two floors and offers grill and teppanyaki, quality meat dishes of guaranteed origins, plus an exciting sushi bar. The creative chef first opened La Table d'Evan, in Wemmel, a gourmet tapas bar designed in the style of Parisian establishment L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon. But, far from resting on the laurels of his success, this grill specialist and master of light sauces has accepted a new challenge. Near to Place du Sablon, the visionary King Léopold II provided Brussels with some fine thoroughfares that offer splendid perspectives on Belgium's capital, such as Rue de la Régence, which runs from the Palais de Justice Place Royale, forming a gentle transition from the hectic commercial end of the city to the elegance of Sablon that's reserved for both antique bargain-hunters and enlightened tourists with a passion for the cocoa bean!

With its elegant façade, Evan's Beef & Sushi Bar is reminiscent of the pomp and splendour of the days of Léopold II. The interior, on the other hand, is firmly rooted in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with its variations on a black and white theme: contemporary furniture in snow white and crow black, charcoal walls, dark flowing silk curtains, with the whole effect set off by sparkling glasses hanging over the bar and the chrome of the cooking ranges. Linking the two floors, a spiral staircase shimmers beneath coloured lighting.

So, there are two floors: one dedicated to meat pleasures, European style, the other to the wonderful flavours of Japan.

Black or white, fish or meat, Evan's Beef & Sushi Bar is very much in keeping with the spirit of yin & yang. Upstairs, a long bar allows time to settle in and order (from 5€) sushi that's with freshness, all served with a teppanyaki grill, or perhaps watch the chef flash fry some turbot, beef, cod or black tiger prawns or try a tuna tataki? Feeling more carnivorous, perhaps? Then stay downstairs, where a raised piano has pride of place and the chef carefully prepares the best cuts of meat you could wish for: Argentine Angus, German Simmenthal, Aubrac beef, Sisteron or Pauillac lamb, Dutch veal, Iberico pork and Chaland chicken.

You can also order lamb cutlets, calf's sweetbread or Irish fillet steak (from 10-20€). And, although all the dishes come with vegetables, there's nothing to stop you switching side dishes and ordering a delicious pan of mushrooms, thick hand-cut chips, a gratin Dauphinois, or Béarnaise sauce or gravy (3€ per portion).

And, to accompany your meal, the cellar offers no fewer than 200 fine wines

priced from 50-150€, while for 6€ you can keep it simple and enjoy a glass of the house wine.

*Evan's Beef & Sushi Bar*  
Rue de la Régence, 25  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32(0)2 503 13 78

## LE MOZART

Open 12-15h, and 18h30-2h.  
Closed Monday and Saturday lunch,  
all day Sunday.

Le Mozart remains an institution in the world of night-time carnivores - the red meats on offer are prepared in the restaurant dining room grill, while the varieties of sauces offer tasty temptations. The fortifying Franco-Belgian cuisine offers a nicely balanced menu including classics such as carbonnade à la flamande, stoemp du jour with country-style sausage, braised rabbit and pickled shallots with mustard, blanquette of veal à l'ancienne sit very well alongside home-made chips!

But what would Le Mozart be without its famous atmosphere? Once you cross the threshold, a warm welcome awaits you from the staff and attentive host, Monsieur André who, more than anyone, protects the legacy of Remo Gozzi, who departed all too soon. It was Gozzi, with hard work and passion, who shaped the restaurant's character, which centres on good, honest, hearty dishes and also the eclectic décor on display - the mood is defined, among other things, by a radiator grille from a Cadillac, a piano and the fresco dedicated to Sarah Vaughan, Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald.

And look out for the magnificent bull, who keeps watch over the institution...

*Le Mozart*  
Chaussée d'Alseberg, 541  
1180 Brussels  
T. +32(0)2 347 09 17



## LE FALSTAFF

Passionate about architecture or simply seeking a sophisticated locale that's soaked with history? Head for Le Falstaff, a cultural beacon in Belgium's beautiful capital. For a drink among friends, a business lunch or to mark an occasion, this near-mythical establishment is your best bet. More than a hundred years of good times have been had here - and there are some that believe Le Falstaff is the best place to go in Brussels to understand how Art Nouveau evolved into Art Deco.

It's a treat for the soul and senses, and all just a short walk away from La Bourse. 📍

*Le Falstaff*  
Rue Henri Maus, 19  
1000 Brussels  
T: +32(0)2 511 8789  
[www.lefalstaff.be](http://www.lefalstaff.be)



With special thanks to  
Brussels International Tourism & Congress.  
[www.brusselsinternational.be](http://www.brusselsinternational.be)

# New niches

WRITER: MAGALI EYLENBOSCH

**In Autumn, as the rain tumbles, unmissable openings flower...**

## PATRIZIA PEPE FIRENZE

Hot colours, beautiful luminosity, Tuscan accents. For its first Brussels shop, Patrizia Pepe Firenze has opted for a resolutely Italian environment in which to offer beautiful women's ranges and accessories - the last word in glamour.

*Patrizia Pepe Firenze  
Rue du Grand Cerf, 22  
1000 Brussels  
[www.patriziapepe.it](http://www.patriziapepe.it)*

## DIANE VON FURSTENBERG

Hot on the heels of her successful shops in Brussels and Antwerp, Greta Halfin has gone to the Belgian coast to open a third outlet. The Diane von Furstenberg outlet has been redesigned by David del Villar - a window on a world of female elegance.

*Diane Von Furstenberg  
Kustlaan, 349  
8300 Knokke  
[www.dvf.com](http://www.dvf.com)*

**THE FAMOUS  
STARBUCKS  
'FRAPPUCINO'  
CAN SOON  
BE ENJOYED  
IN BRUSSELS  
AIRPORT**

## LOUNGE ART GALLERY

Rue de Namur has a new arrival, the Lounge Art Gallery, which will be showing work by many artists,

both known and new arrivals. The ultra-modern 'lounge' style is very much in keeping with a Manhattan loft apartment - a haven for fresh art talent.

*Lounge Art Gallery  
Rue de Namur, 65  
1000 Brussels  
[www.loungeartgallery.com](http://www.loungeartgallery.com)*

*Expo Kokian & Fichta runs  
until 11<sup>th</sup> October.*

## STARBUCKS

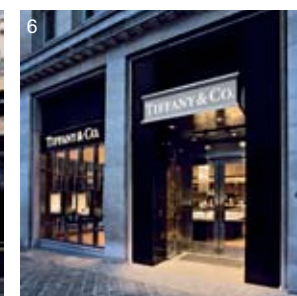
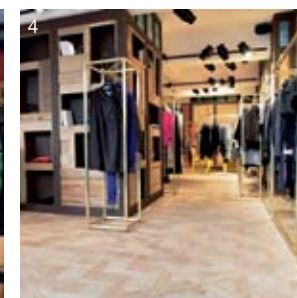
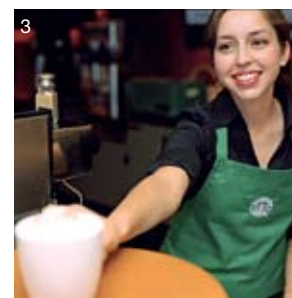
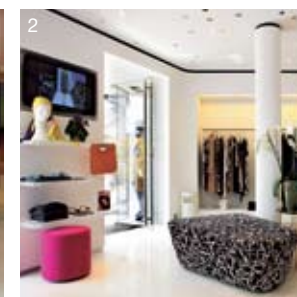
Starbucks Coffee in Brussels? We've been waiting a while, but apparently it's true - the famous Starbucks 'frappuccino' can soon be enjoyed in Brussels Airport. Details were still sketchy as *Together* went to press, but the US coffee chain will be holding an official unveiling in the near future. Keep your eyes peeled...

## ENES

Mode masters Hugo Denizli and Muriel Van Nieuwenhove have opened their Enes outlet in Antwerp, where the decorative talents of Gert Voorjans (who has previously worked with Dries Van Noten and Coccodrillo) have been put to excellent use. The marques on offer at Enes include Paul & Joe, Vandenvos House, See by Chloé, Coast, American Vintage and many more.

*Enes  
Lombardenvest, 60  
2000 Antwerp  
[www.enes.be](http://www.enes.be)*

1. Patrizia Pepe Firenze
  2. Diane Von Furstenberg
  3. Starbucks
  4. Enes
  5. Pepe Jeans
  6. Tiffany & Co
- © Serge Anton



## TIFFANY & CO.

The famous jewellery boutique has opened its very first Belgian shop in the heart of Brussels. The 200m<sup>2</sup> outlet of will be an emporium filled with splendid diamonds, platinum jewellery and the 18 carat gold, as well as rare pearls and clocks/ accessories by Elsa Peretti, Paloma Picasso, Jean Schlumberger and Frank Gehry.

*Tiffany & Co.  
Boulevard de Waterloo, 66  
1000 Brussels  
[www.tiffany.com](http://www.tiffany.com)*

## PEPE JEANS

Pepe Jeans began with three brothers in 1973 who opened a small jeans store on Portobello Road market London. Today, the brand is an institution on both European and worldwide markets - since 5<sup>th</sup> September, the brand has a store in Brussels.

*Pepe Jeans  
Zuidstraat, 26-28  
1000 Brussels  
[www.pepejeans.com](http://www.pepejeans.com)*



# EYE ON THE SKIES

WRITER: JACQUELINE HARPMAN  
PHOTOGRAPHER: GEORGES DE KINDER

It took Georges De Kinder nearly four years to capture the 128 shots of Brussels' 19 communes that will feature in a new exhibition in Halles Saint-Géry during November and December. The superb photos move you from the city's north to south, taking in Mont des Arts and Tour & Taxis en route...







George De Kinder takes us on an enchanting journey into the city's nooks and crannies. A Brussels resident by choice and a passionate photographer, he offers unexpected views of our urban environment, leaving banality behind to make our city a theatre of daydreams, emotions, surprises. His pictures remind us of the importance of taking in our surroundings, to see what's on offer. And the result? A kaleidoscope that redefines the capital of Europe - it's recognizable, sure, but also imposes questions on the viewer. Could this really be my city? My banal, daily environment? Georges De Kinder's perspective is also dominated by the sky - the sky that watches over the city.

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Georges De Kinder began his career as a freelancer in 1992, working in advertising. Quickly gaining experience, he opened a studio in 1995, specializing in still life and culinary photography. After moving to the north-west of Brussels, he was inspired to create a series of images of his new district, and from there began 'reinventing Brussels'. His work is marked by its dialogue between sky and urban construction, with the sky determining the mood of a place and a moment.

*See more of the artist's work at [www.georgesdekinder.com](http://www.georgesdekinder.com)*





Color C-Print mounted on Diassec  
70 x 100 cm - Edition of 7  
1 850€ (21% Taxes Included)

90 x 125 cm - Edition of 7  
2 250€ (21% Taxes Included)

110 x 150 cm - Edition of 7  
2 850€ (21% Taxes Included)



# Sofia: Angel or demon?

WRITER: JÉRÔME STÉFANSKI

On 24<sup>th</sup> July, Bulgarian Ambassador Hristo Georgiev and BSCA Board of Directors President Edmée De Groeve inaugurated the new airline connecting Brussels South Charleroi Airport to Bulgaria's capital – Sofia. An ideal occasion for *Together* to discover the city.

Sofia, viewed  
from the  
Kempinski  
Hotel

© Together  
Magazine

To be frank, I boarded my Wizzair flight to Sofia with some trepidation – some two-and-a-half hours distant lay a country and a people about which I knew very little, except for the stereotypes - poverty, prostitution, corruption, outdated public transport and the locals' often-hostile attitude towards outsiders. It's not exactly a ringing endorsement, I know, and, according to a good friend of mine, a native Bulgarian: "Bulgaria is fine, but it would be even better without the Bulgarians!" And the recent sanctions imposed by the EU against Bulgaria for its inability to fight corruption seemed set only to confirm my fears.

## TWO SIDES TO THE CITY

But, from the start of my cross-city excursion, it became quickly apparent that Sofia is not as gloomy or run-down as I had been led to believe. Walking along Boulevard Vitosha, it was possible to forget that I was in a former USSR satellite - the peaceful ambience of this town-centre thoroughfare, combined with the warm July sun and the many beautiful young ladies gracing the street reminded me, in fact, of Italy. In addition, all the major brands have outlets here, which makes Communism seem even more distant - Converse, Max Mara, Tommy Hilfiger, Levis, Replay.





Inside the  
Kempinski  
Presidential  
Suite

© Kempinski  
hotels

In Sofia, as in many of Eastern Europe's largest cities, the rich rub shoulders with the poor. A look at the varieties of cars ably demonstrates the gulfs between different sections of the populous - large German estates nestle alongside rusting Skodas. One thing's for sure - some people do have lots of money. By way of proof, the Mercedes SLR parked in front of Chervilo (one of the capital's best-connected clubs) is worth in excess of 500,000€ - a scandalous sum, when you consider that the average monthly salary in Sofia is only around 562 BGN (281€), compared with approximately 434 BGN (217€) in the rest of the country.

**'THE PEACEFUL  
AMBIENCE OF  
THIS TOWN-  
CENTRE  
THOROUGHFARE,  
COMBINED WITH  
THE WARM JULY  
SUN AND THE  
MANY BEAUTIFUL  
YOUNG LADIES  
GRACING  
THE STREET  
REMINDED ME,  
IN FACT,  
OF ITALY'**

#### CULTURE

Sofia is also a city of contrasts from an architectural point of view - ancient cathedrals are surrounded by grey Stalinist structures, while sprawling housing blocks stands next to pre-war edifices and tree-lined European streets. Meanwhile, all that remains of nearly 500 years of Ottoman domination is one small mosque.

A 'SightSeeing' bus trip (lasting around 80 minutes) is a good way to enjoy Sofia's cultural wealth - and the most impressive monument is without doubt the Alexander Nevski Cathedral, one of the world's largest Orthodox churches. Within its Neo-Byzantine exterior, the beautiful central dome is encircled by the Lord's Prayer, inscribed in delicate gold lettering. While outside old women sell flowers to tourists, orthodox rites and rituals are immaculately observed inside. The structure is a perfect example of symbiosis between monumental and decorative arts.

The 10th-century Boyana Church, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, can be found a little further out, in the Boyana district, while in the centre of the city (in the courtyard of the Sheraton Sofia Hotel, in fact) stands the Church of St. George, a late-Roman construction that dates back to the 4th century. And don't miss the early Byzantine Church of St. Sophia, the very Saint that gave the city its name - equally, the Parliament, Court of Justice and President's Residence are all definitely worth a visit.

#### PLACES TO BE SEEN

##### KEMPINSKI HOTEL ZOGRAFSKI

Designed by renowned Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa, this strikingly modern hotel is one of Sofia's landmarks. Situated in the city's most sought-after residential area, overlooking the Vitosha Mountains, the hotel leads the city's five-star hotel market and has recently undergone extensive refurbishment. There are 446 guest rooms, ten conference rooms, five restaurants, three bars, a fitness centre, swimming pool, shopping arcade and a casino.

*Kempinski Hotel Zografski*  
J. Bourchier Boulevard, 100  
1407 Sofia  
T. +359 2 969 2233  
[www.kempinski.com](http://www.kempinski.com)

# Wizzit the other side of Europe

From Brussels South Charleroi  
to Bucharest, Budapest,  
Katowice/Cracow, Sofia **new**  
and Warsaw.

€ **24**.99  
from

One way price including taxes, non-optional  
charges and payment handling fee.  
Number of seats at indicated price is limited.



  
wizzair.com

**W!ZZ**



### FLOCAFE

Located in the heart of Sofia, this restaurant and lounge bar is one of capital's most chic locations. In addition to its impressive range of coffees, the menu also offers a wide choice of cocktails at very accessible prices (around 3.50€ for a Mojito, for example). Its wide sunny terrace and its location make it the ideal place for a rest-stop during a shopping trip.

*Flocafé*  
Sveta Nedelya Square, 3  
1000 Sofia  
T. +359 2 950 6645

### SOUTH PARK

Near to the Kempinski Hotel, away from the town centre, South Park has a superb terrace with parasol-protected tables. The decor is very tasteful, not unlike the wine list, while the cuisine on offer is simple but succulent. And there's a choice of more than 15 vodkas on offer - but behave yourself!

*South Park*  
J. Bourchier Blvd, 124  
Sofia 1407

**'WHILE OUTSIDE  
OLD WOMEN  
SELL FLOWERS  
TO TOURISTS,  
ORTHODOX  
RITES AND  
RITUALS ARE  
IMMACULATELY  
OBSERVED  
INSIDE'**

*The Flocafé,  
one of Sofia's  
trendiest bars*

© Together  
Magazine

### CHEVERMETO

This classic Bulgarian restaurant provides everything for your pleasure – the service is very friendly, while tradition song and dance from talented artists is there to entertain you while you enjoy generous helpings of the local specialties. Try the cheese selection followed by the barbecued pork and chicken - a delight!

*Chevermeto*  
Cherny Vrah Blvd, 31  
Sofia South  
T. +359 2 963 0308  
[www.chevermeto-bg.com](http://www.chevermeto-bg.com)

### PROS

- The very affordable cost of living
- The impeccable service offered at the Hotel Kempinski
- The City Center Sofia, an imposing complex of shopping outlets over five floors, and the Maserati Quattro Porte
- Kamenitza, the local beer that's served everywhere!
- The nonchalant, stylish ambience of Boulevard Vitosha
- The natural elegance of Bulgarian girls
- The charming Wizzair hostesses
- The colour of the sky – at times, it looks like a Photoshop-tinted canvas!

### CONS

- Taxi drivers: always ready to ply you with the 'best' prostitutes' calling cards and inflate their prices as soon as they hear you speaking English
- The road to the airport – it's full of dirty, run-down buildings
- Elderly people scavenging through dustbins
- Stray dogs in the town centre
- The somewhat dilapidated and outdated Sofia International Airport
- Policemen hiding behind bushes
- The omnipresent sex trade

more than 3,500 properties available on [www.era.be](http://www.era.be) • more than 3,500 properties available on [www.era.be](http://www.era.be) • more than 3500 properties available on [www.era.be](http://www.era.be)



TOGETHER, WE WILL FIND YOUR PLACE.



PROFIDI

Rue Archimède 17  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 230 24 24  
[www.era.be/profidi](http://www.era.be/profidi)

Real estate  
in the heart of  
Brussels



# Conventions and culture

WRITER: BITC

Brussels is Europe's number-one convention city, attracting more than 55,000 international meetings, congresses, exhibitions and fairs every year - an irresistible meeting point. A selection, then, from the best events taking place soon in the capital of Europe.

## DESIGN SEPTEMBER Ends 30.09

The Design September festival covers around 50 design-related events, including furniture, light, object, industrial, graphic, food and landscape design. A host of associations, institutions and other independent organizations have joined forces to offer a highly diverse program, including exhibitions, private viewings, conferences, film projections, debates, visits to designer workshops, flea markets, urban trails - in short, it's where to be after the Summer holidays.

*Various Brussels locations*  
[www.designseptember.be](http://www.designseptember.be)

## FOOD FAIR 04 > 19.10

Brussels Fairs & Exhibitions (BFE) proudly presents the 78th edition of the Salon de l'alimentation - 171,206 visitors enjoyed the occasion in 2007 and this year, visitors can once again discover, over two weeks, innovations in food and comfort, two subjects normally very important to Belgians...

*Brussels Expo*  
Place de Belgique, 1  
1020 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 474 89 89  
[www.salonalimentation.be](http://www.salonalimentation.be)

## X-TREME - LIFE IN EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS 15.10 > 30.08.09

The X-treme exhibition will take you to the most extreme spots on our planet. In places where people have to use all sorts of cunning tricks to survive, even for a short time, we can find animals and plants that have turned survival into an art form. In X-treme, you will discover who the survival champions are.

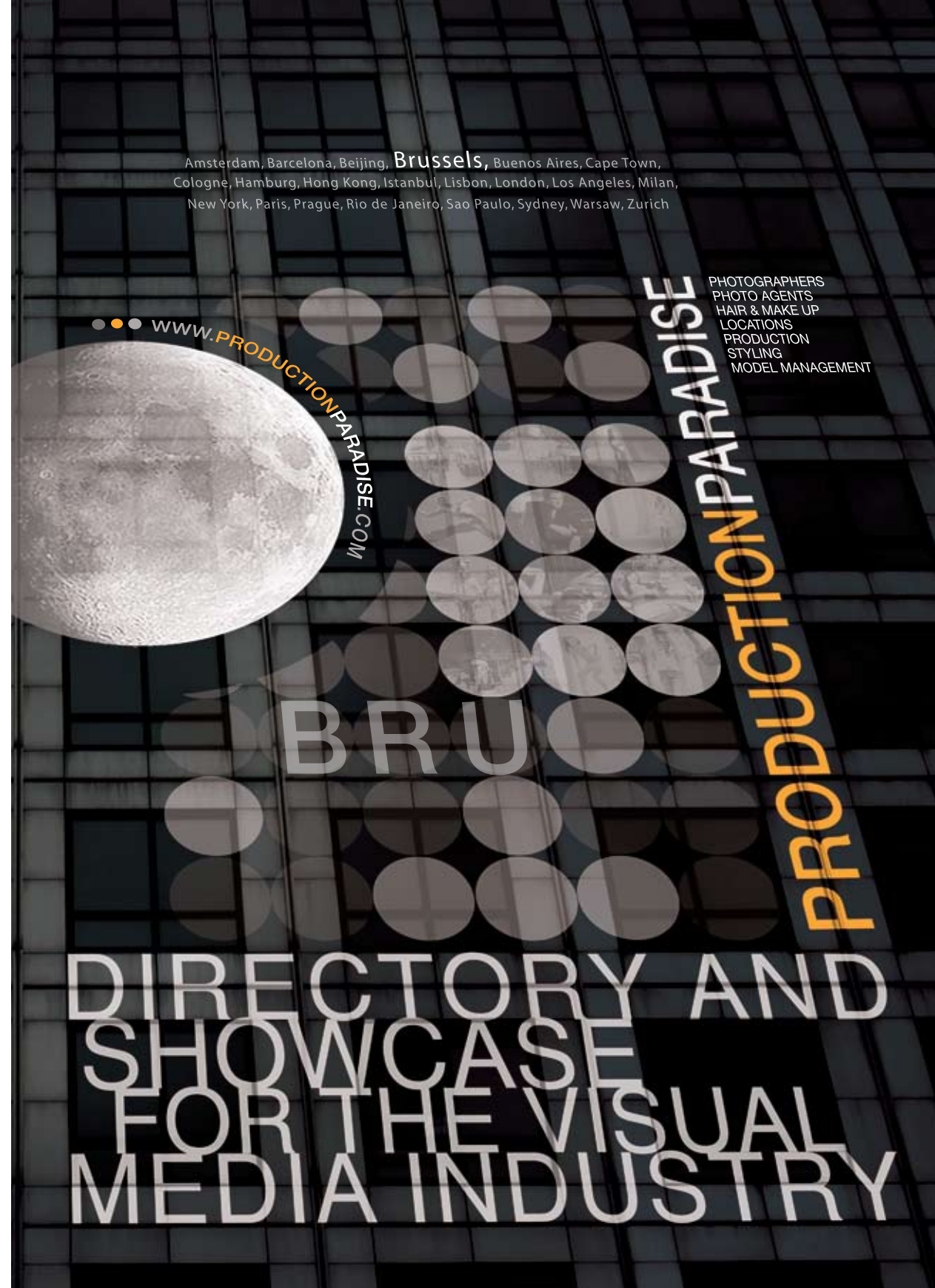
*Natural Sciences Museum*  
Rue Vautier, 29  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32(0)2 627 42 38  
[www.sciencesnaturelles.be](http://www.sciencesnaturelles.be)

## 26TH BRUSSELS RETRO FESTIVAL 17 > 19.10

A classic motor show that's streets ahead of the competition - the Brussels Expo plays host to some of the most gorgeous cars ever to take to the road. Time to get in gear!

*Brussels Retro Festival*  
Avenue Louise, 349  
1050 Brussels  
T. +32(0)2 582 08 57  
[brfestival@aol.com](mailto:brfestival@aol.com)  
[www.brusselsretrofestival.be](http://www.brusselsretrofestival.be)

Amsterdam, Barcelona, Beijing, **Brussels**, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Cologne, Hamburg, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Lisbon, London, Los Angeles, Milan, New York, Paris, Prague, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Sydney, Warsaw, Zurich



PHOTOGRAPHERS  
PHOTO AGENTS  
HAIR & MAKE UP  
LOCATIONS  
PRODUCTION  
STYLING  
MODEL MANAGEMENT



1. 26th BRUSSELS  
RETRO FESTIVAL

2. DESIGN  
SEPTEMBER  
© Danny Venlet

3. KORPERWELTEN



### BRUSSELS ACCESSIBLE ART FAIR (BAAF) 23 > 26.10

Highlighting the works of 20 international artists, there will be beautiful paintings, sculpture, photography, and prints on display, all priced between 50€-3,000€. The Brussels Accessible Art Fair is a unique initiative in Brussels attracting visitors ranging from first-time art buyers to art collectors on the lookout for new talent. Something for everyone!

*European Training Institute*  
Rue Froissart, 57  
1040 Brussels  
[info@accessibleartfair.com](mailto:info@accessibleartfair.com)  
[www.accessibleartfair.com](http://www.accessibleartfair.com)

### SMURF FOR ALL, ALL FOR SMURF Ends 16.11

Fifty years after their birth, the Smurfs remain among the most popular characters ever created by a Belgian comic strip author, Peyo. The Belgian Comic Strip Centre invites visitors to consider Peyo's work from a new and original angle - through their individual weaknesses, the Smurfs discover their strength...

*Belgian Comic Strip Center*  
Rue des Sables, 20  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32(0)2 219 19 80  
[visit@comicscenter.net](mailto:visit@comicscenter.net)  
[www.cbbd.be](http://www.cbbd.be)

### KORPERWELTEN Ends 11.01.09

In Korperwelten, the exquisite form and physiology of the human body is illuminated by more than 200 new authentic human specimens that show the latest advances in 'plastination' and dissection technology. The exhibit features original 'plastinates', including individual organs, transparent body slices, and whole bodies, transformed through the revolutionary preservation process.

*Caves de Cureghem*  
Rue Ropsy Chaudron, 24  
1070 Brussels  
[www.bodyworlds.com](http://www.bodyworlds.com)

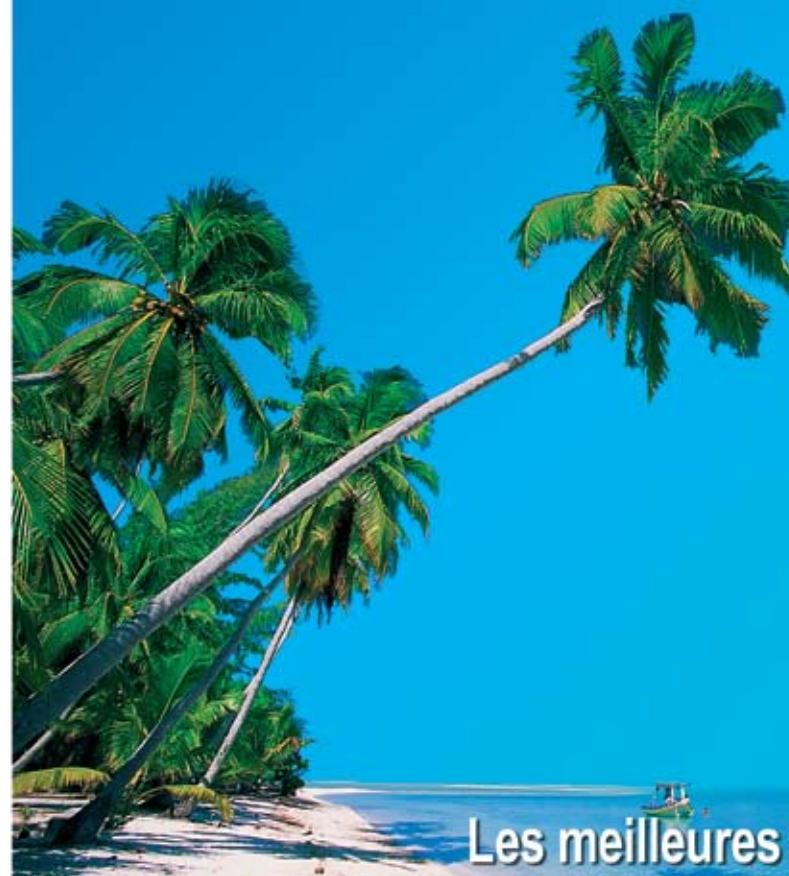


Special thanks to: Brussels  
International Tourism & Congress  
[www.brusselsinternational.be](http://www.brusselsinternational.be)

# libertyTV

## 070 / 22 22 44

Le n°1 des sites de vacances en Belgique  
[www.libertytv.com](http://www.libertytv.com)



## Les meilleures offres de voyages



# 'My album is like a bonbon'

WRITER: SOPHIE LAGESSE

DJ Martin Solveig returns to the scene with *C'est la vie*, a wonderfully joyous album, ahead of a DJ-extravaganza evening that will take place in Mirano Continental, Brussels, on 24<sup>th</sup> October. *Together* catches up with him, just for you.

**S**enowned DJ Martin Solveig released his latest opus, *C'est la vie*, on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The sounds are pure upbeat pleasure – electro, combined with the silky tones of Jay Sebag, Martin has once again proved he knows how to make people dance and smile. And, on 24<sup>th</sup> October, at 22h in Mirano Continental, Solveig and Co. (that is, several other DJs and guest stars Les Bloody Beetroots), will be overseeing one very hip soirée.

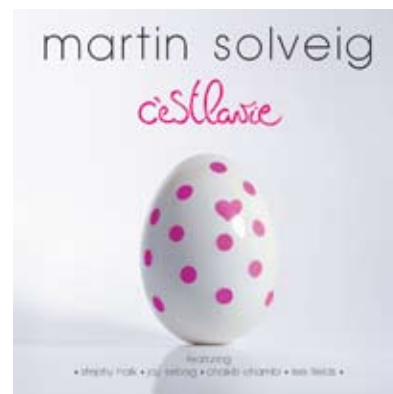
## INTERVIEW

### How would you describe your third album?

*The direction is electro-pop, modern pop with a definite electro sound. In fact, it felt like I produced it twice over a year and a half! During the first nine months I shut myself away to write it, then I produced it, which also took nine months.*

### That sounds like two pregnancies...

*Indeed! [Laughs]. It is music for girls. But not arranged around my own experience with girls... [Laughs].*



### Your sets can last three hours – how do you keep in shape?

*Three hours is the absolute max. My approach towards music is both physical and mental, so I do get very tired. To keep in shape now, I do sport – this is quite a novelty for me, so I am proud of it! [Laughs] I do cardio exercises as well.*

### The 11 songs are all very upbeat, as is your title, *C'est la vie*.

#### Are you an eternal optimist?

*I am normally a very positive person - I put all my optimism into my music. The album is a light confection - I would say that it is like a bonbon, but not like bubble-gum, which quickly loses its flavour.*

### You rarely give interviews...

*Well, more than previously - when I began in music, no one wanted to interview me, so, while I am not taking revenge by avoiding the press, I am selective about who I talk to, because with the rapid expansion of modern media, the number of 'pseudo-journalists'*



Martin Solveig

*is also multiplying. You need to sort the wheat from the chaff.*

### Do you have a favourite track on the new album?

*I rarely pick 'favourite' tracks. On the other hand, I can easily say which are not quite up to scratch – on this album, the 'lame duck' is Give it to me. Nice, but it could have been much better!*

### Music is your passion, but it's also your job.

#### What do you listen to at home?

*Music is NOT my job – it remains, above all, my passion, so I don't have any work constraints, which is an advantage. At home, I listen to a wide range of artists, such as Calvin Harris, Lenny Kravitz, Erik Satie and Nerd.*

### Do you listen to much work by other DJs?

*Of course. I am always very curious and I listen to all kinds of music. As soon as David Guetta releases an album, for example, I listen to it. You have to be aware of everything that's going on around you.*

### Where do you see yourself in ten years?

*I don't like to predict – you never know where you'll be in ten years. But I think I'll still be in music...*

*Martin Solveig's new album, C'est la vie, is available from Universal. He plays the Mirano Continental from 22h on 24<sup>th</sup> October. ☎*

**Mirano Continental**  
Chaussée de Louvain, 38 - 1210 Brussels  
[www.martinsolveig.be](http://www.martinsolveig.be)

# Upcoming parties...



1. Les Soirées des Compilations  
Hôtel Costes

2. Golden Fête  
Moët & Chandon

3. Martin Solveig:  
"Soirée  
C'est la Vie!"

4. The Backstage

## Les Soirées des Compilations

### Hôtel Costes

26<sup>th</sup> September, Concert Noble

Rue d'Arlon, 82

1040 Brussels

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

## Noce Cathodique

10<sup>th</sup> October, Mirano

Chaussée de Louvain, 38

1210 Brussels

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

## Golden Fête Moët & Chandon

11<sup>th</sup> October, d-club

Damplein, 27

2060 Antwerp

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

## Anarchic

17<sup>th</sup> October, K-Nal

Avenue du Port, 1

1000 Brussels

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

## Défilé des Petits Riens

17<sup>th</sup> October, Centre de Tri

Klein Bijgaardenstraat, 49

1600 Leeuw-Saint-Pierre

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

## Martin Solveig:

"Soirée C'est la Vie!"

24<sup>th</sup> October, Mirano

Chaussée de Louvain, 38

1210 Brussels

## The Backstage

24<sup>th</sup> October, Tour & Taxis

Avenue du Port, 86

1000 Brussels

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

## Crosse Royale

7<sup>th</sup> November, Mirano

Chaussée de Louvain, 38

1210 Brussels

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

## Golden Fête Moët & Chandon

11<sup>th</sup> November, Nanno

St Laureiskaai, 2

2000 Antwerp

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

## Appel d'Air Night

14<sup>th</sup> November, Tour & taxis

Avenue du Port, 86

1000 Brussels

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

## Deep Senses - Dom Pérignon

21<sup>st</sup> November, Tour & Taxis

Avenue du Port, 86

1000 Brussels

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

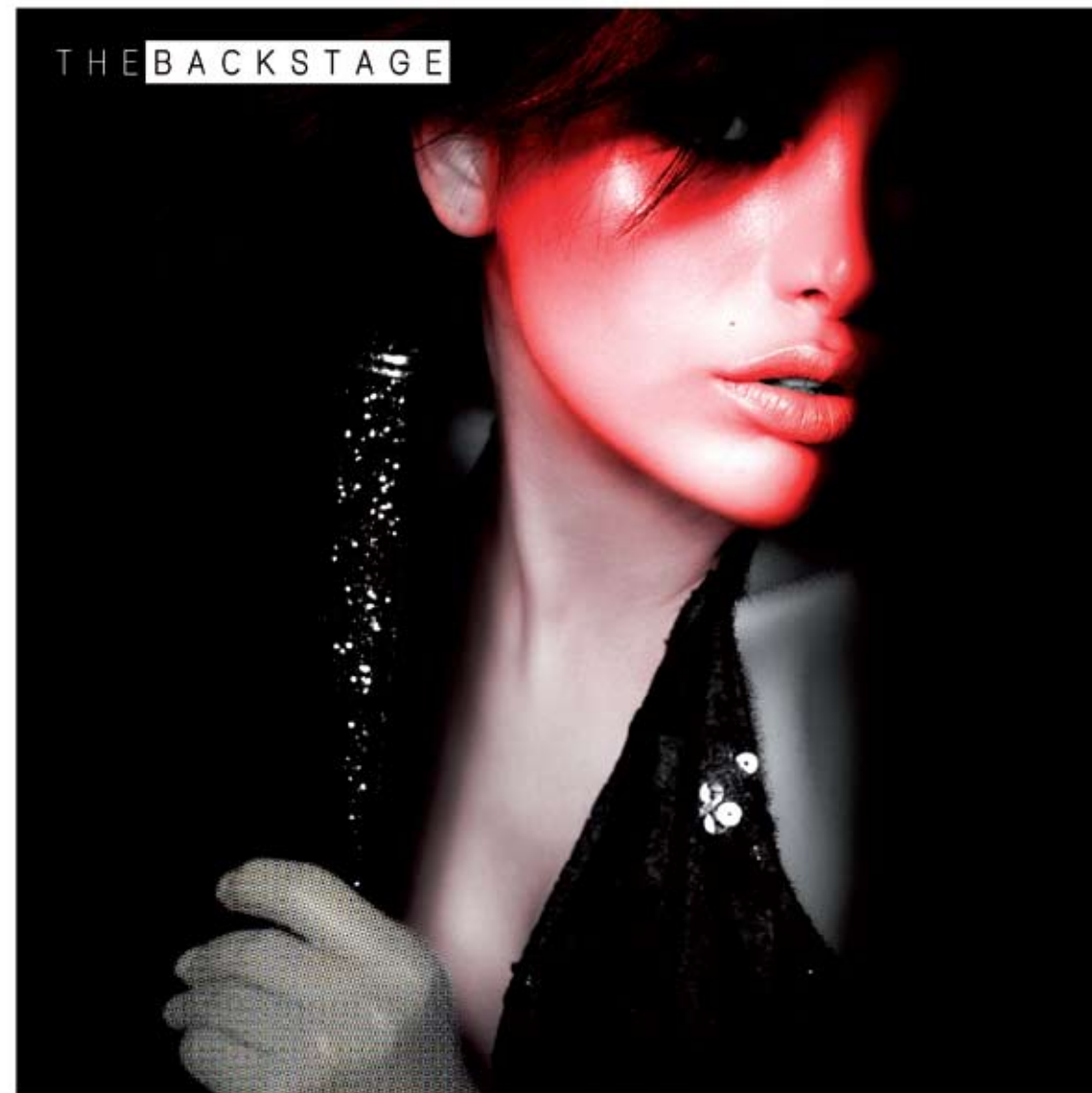
## Anarchic

21<sup>st</sup> November, K-NAL

Avenue du Port, 1

1000 Brussels

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



## FRIDAY OCTOBER 24th (from 11 p.m.)

For one night at Tour & Taxis, The Backstage will take you behind the scenes of the fashion world, placing the spotlight on a spectacular transparent cube in which models, make-up artists, hair stylists will all be working, along with well-known designer MADEMOISELLE JEAN - the secrets of their elegance and expertise will be revealed!

DJ's Lorenzo Ottati & Cosy Mozzzy will be manning the turntables.

More infos on: [www.thebackstage.be](http://www.thebackstage.be)

Tour & Taxis-Havenlaan / Avenue du port 86-1000 Brussels.



# An eye on the heavens

WRITER: JAMES CHRISTIE



## Our Starman takes a peek into your future...



### SCORPIO

23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER > 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER

There will be homecomings and important reunions. Deep meaningful conversations re-establish disconnected relationships and new ways forward are found. A removal of emotional (and sexual?) tension enables you to focus more clearly on business and career aspects and as such one would expect all professional matters to enjoy a period of renaissance. Expensive gifts could be seen as love tokens or subtle bribes!



### SAGITTARIUS

22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER > 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

A month of doing unusual deals and for some horse trading within the confines of your personal life. Females in particular will have to juggle with their different roles – the personal in conflict with the professional. Finances are improved by the payment of some kind of bonus and it looks like being a busy period on the home front when you have to make up a couple of extra beds beneath your roof.



### CAPRICORN

22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER > 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

This should be an auspicious period of fresh starts and new beginnings. Short term finances improve quite dramatically, but there may be some confusion with regard to longer term aspects. If you don't like somebody else's idea, then you'd better come up with a better one of your own! Lots of hard work ahead, but also quite a lot of

fun. Reunions, parties, fine wines in nice restaurants, and the feeling of being where you're supposed to be.



### AQUARIUS

20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY > 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

A very active time ahead wherein all travel aspects play a key role. There should also be "movement" in a major relationship as you become increasingly dependent on a partner's good will if your own plans are to be successful. One specific ambition comes one step closer when a door that has been closed suddenly swings wide open. A long standing debt will be paid, and the financial overview is very much in your favour.



### PISCES

19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY > 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Regardless of what might be happening on the business front it seems that family matters take top priority at this time. A partner's stubbornness will be a cause for irritation and concern and you will have to enlist the help of a "third party" to resolve this problem. Finances seem secure, but this is a period wherein you will be redefining priorities and dealing with more than your fair share of bureaucracy and red tape.



### ARIES

21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH > 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Not an easy period. You will want to run but circumstances dictate a walking pace. You will resent the need to be patient and will hate the feeling of having your hands tied behind your back. Given this powder keg mood, you need to relax more and enjoy what pleasures you can find. Definitely not the season for

finding short-cuts to the accumulation of vast fortunes.



### TAURUS

20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL > MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

A bright time for finding new inspiration – for trying out new ideas and for significantly improving your finances. Travel aspects are well starred and tie in with any artistic endeavours and ambitions. Work routines will be tiring and demanding, but provide you with a buzz of energy that augers well for the winter ahead. Romantic aspects are better now than at any time in the last twelve months, so make the most of your opportunities.



### GEMINI

21<sup>ST</sup> MAY > JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>

Your world is changing. This might be hard to accept, but trust me; these changes are to your advantage. Today's decisions, however difficult to make, lead you forwards to a greater degree of emotional delight and fiscal solvency, so don't be afraid of taking the bull by the horns, or stepping out of your safety zone and taking a few risks and gambles. With these thoughts in mind, when somebody offers you a new job, say yes.



### CANCER

JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> > 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY

A very definite change in the pattern of your luck – not that I believe in luck – is validated by welcome news from overseas, a tremendous surge of energy and activity in your love life, and the feeling that for the first time

in ages, you are totally in charge of your own destiny. Some critically important corners have been turned this year. Do not look backwards with regret, only forwards with enthusiasm and determination.



### LEO

23<sup>RD</sup> JULY > 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST

This is wonderful time of romantic and sexual opportunity. Do not close your eyes to the obvious and do not say "no" when favour slips between your sheets. Where families are concerned pregnancies and childbirth will be high on the agenda, and it is also a period of birth and regeneration where old friendships and new businesses are concerned. With regard to the latter, remember two heads think better than one.



### VIRGO

23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST > 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER

There is a cosmic inevitability of the "old" making way for the "new" and this energy is critical within the House of Virgo at this time. Go with the flow, and embrace change rather than putting up any resistance. Overseas travel links in with property deals, and where jobs and careers are concerned other people will be looking to you to solve some of their credit crunch problems. You may not be enthusiastic about this, but will acquit yourself well.

*For details about private readings, please contact [www.magepublishing.co.uk](http://www.magepublishing.co.uk) or T. +33 561 940 678.*



## SIGN OF THE MONTH

### LIBRA

23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER

22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER

Study and education are high on the agenda at this time, and within the framework of a broader learning curve, new job skills can be well employed during the

following weeks and months. Legal aspects take up some of your time, and in another context, some old injustices are sorted out to your advantage. A time of healing and forgiveness in all family and emotional affairs, and also for finding a greater degree of spiritual strength.

# Paws for thought

Our Belgian icon reflects on his home country...



## Time to take care of yourself? Time to meet our experts!

Stressful life? No time? Lack of motivation?... The reasons are numerous but the results are the same: you are not active enough and your body is not in condition - back pain, weight gain, general fatigue...

### At Aspria Club the experts can create a tailor-made solution for you

Come and discuss your objectives with our team of experts and start achieving your goals. They are all high qualified specialists and you can meet them all on [www.aspria-experts.be](http://www.aspria-experts.be)

Aspria Club:  
Expertise in Sports, Fitness, Group classes,  
Personal Training & Nutrition, Post-natal reshaping,  
Beauty treatments & Massages.

### At Aspria Club the experts motivate you

Our Experts will introduce you to a 3 step programme which will give you the best start to your Aspria Membership. If you accomplish the 3 step programme within 4 weeks of joining the Club you will receive €30 on your Membership Card - a gift that will allow you to benefit from the many experts and activities available at Aspria Club.

To take advantage of this exceptional offer, simply contact us on **02/508 08 12**.





Jean Paul  
GAULTIER

# MADAME

