

WHERE NEWS & BUSINESS MEET GLAMOUR & GOOD TIMES

#12 / MARCH-APRIL 2009

Together

magazine

WHAT WOMEN WANT

**FORWARD
TOGETHER**
Check out our
exciting new
videos online

INTERVIEWS
Sara Laschever,
Anna Ceccon,
Benita
Ferrero-Waldner

DRESS TO IMPRESS
Bahamas bliss

COMPETITION
Win 1,000€ of
David Rose spectacles

BY THE GLASS
All roads lead to Rhône



Working out women

It's apocryphal, to be sure, but it was one Sigmund Freud who was credited with asking, formally: "Woman, what does she want?"

Now, the latest edition of *Together* that you are holding in your hot little hands doesn't even pretend to come anywhere near to having *all* the answers – but, we can at least say that we've tried.

'What Women Want' is the theme of our first edition of 2009 – it's a broad church, to be sure, but I hope you will be as pleased as I am with the range of articles that we've brought together.


Emma Davis sets the ball rolling, relating her encounter with Belgian Hans Comijn, a man who claims to have all the answers – so much so, he runs seduction workshops to help gentlemen get on the right side of the fairer sex more quickly.

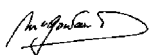
Elsewhere, Cillian Donnelly examines the way forward for gender equality in the EU, while Kimberley Lovato meets up with Sara Laschever, the successful author of *Ask For It* and *Women Don't Ask*, for a determinedly feminine response to Freud's query. In addition, *Together* is happy to have Democrats Abroad Belgium member and former diplomat Gerald Loftus joining the team on a permanent basis, with the first of a new column, *Gerald's Gaze*, in which he examines EU-US issues, beginning with a look at US women in power. Andy Carling, on the other hand, presents his wry study on how to keep ladies happy.

And that's not all – Martin Banks presents an exclusive interview with External Affairs Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner about her campaign aiming to ensure that women get fair representation among the EU's top jobs, while Colin Moors takes a look at boys being girls (that is, the rise of metrosexuality) and investigates the popularity of Touch Rugby – a game that both sexes can play together. And, of course, girls want to go places – Jérôme Stéfanski takes us on a trip to The Eternal City, Rome, while Federico Grandesso chats with La Perla Art Director Anna Ceccon in Milan. And Dave Derruyter, our expert on Asia, tips the Chinese boom as being key to helping the financial recovery of, well, the whole world.

Plus, of course, we have all the latest accessories to covet in *Temptations*, an exclusive fashion photo-shoot from the Bahamas for *Dress To Impress*, restaurant reviews in *Eat Together*, laughs with *Le Chat*, and much more.

Before I let you go, check out our news of radical changes afoot on our website on page 6. Over the coming months, we're aiming to make the site fully interactive, and we've begun with some exclusive *Together* videos. Do check them out, won't you?

Another quote to finish – from Bob Dylan, this time. "Women rule the world. No man has ever done anything that a woman hasn't either allowed him to do, or encouraged him to do." So you see, it's simple when you know how. Enjoy! 



David Mc Gowan
Publisher

ARMANI
code
the secret code of women

GIORGIO ARMANI





	3	EDITORIAL Working out women	8	COMPETITION Seeing is believing
	6	FORWARD TOGETHER It's a vision thing!	10	PEOPLE IN BRUSSELS Style and substance
WHAT WOMEN WANT	14	GERALD'S GAZE Over there, under-represented	46	TEMPTATIONS Spring spoils
	18	POINT OF VIEW Men going 'metro'	50	GOING PLACES La Dolce Vita Roma
	20	A Freudian trip	56	Simply Wizz!
	22	Seduction secrets	58	SOMEWHERE IN ASIA Asian ascendancy aids Western woes?
	24	SPORT FOR ALL Touch of class		
	26	INTERVIEW Fair shares for fairer sex		
	28	La Perla's diamond		
	32	Ask, and she shall receive		
	34	DRESS TO IMPRESS Bahamas bliss		
40	Keeping cool			
NEWS	66	TOUCHY Equality matters	82	EAT TOGETHER Rob: Restaurant expertise in your own home
	68	MONEY The Vatican, 'demutualized'	84	Fishing for compliments
	72	POLITICAL CHESSBOARD Sceptic ranks	86	THE PLACES TO BE Party people
	74	REAL ESTATE The Property Barometer	88	FOR ART'S SAKE Stars in his eyes
	76	FRESH OPENINGS Five stars to discover	94	DIARY Together's 'To Do' list
	78	BY THE GLASS All roads lead to Rhône	97	LE CHAT Wait, girls! I'm not wearing my swimsuit

ortel
MOBILE

NEW PROMOTION!

Every 2nd minute*
of international calls
FREE!!

UP TO **50% DISCOUNT**

FREE!!
Mutual calls from
Ortel to Ortel*

*ONE-OFF STARTING RATE FOR MUTUAL CALLS IS € 0.15 * THE MAXIMUM CALL DURATION FOR FREE MUTUAL CALLS IS 10 MINUTES * FREE MUTUAL CALLS ARE OFFERED EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN BELGIUM * FOR A SUMMARY OF ALL RATES AND FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO: WWW.ORTELMOBILE.BE

www.ortelmobile.be connecting the world

AVAILABLE AT:



BELCOMPANY



Carrefour

Express

GB



LUKOIL



Kruidvat

Press Shop RELAY



Moneytrans

It's a vision thing!

Cameraman and interviewer Armand Richelet-Kleinberg has been busy on *Together's* website. We now have the first of our exclusive interviews with various Belgian luminaries online... and here's a taster of three.

AXELLE RED LADY GODIVA

In the wake of her most recent album, *Jardin Secret*, Flanders-born diva Axelle Red has been chosen as the new face of Godiva – the prestigious Belgian chocolate marque, founded in 1926 by Pierre Draps. As Axelle explains to *Together*: “Godiva’s values are in perfect harmony with my own – I believe that today, we place the right emphasis on those businesses that retain *savoir faire*. That is the real luxury! Simple values, but they’re still very important. In life, everything begins with passion, and I think that the Godiva family has always had passion. It’s touching to know that, when you eat a Godiva praline, you know that it has

been made in the heart of Brussels by people who love their work.”

Godiva Chocolatier

Viviane Burgess & Andrea Nikolic
andrea_nikolic@godivachoc.com

top secret communication

Avenue Louis Bertrand, 125
1030 Brussels
T. +32(0)2 244 9326
www.top-secret.be

LANCÔME PARIS BOUZOUK, MAQUILLAGE MASTER

A man at the peak of his game, is our Bazouk – he talks about the challenges of creating the finest make-up for different cultures, different skin types. A man, it’s fair to say, who knows exactly what women want. Plus, there’s news of Lancôme’s latest innovation, GÉNIFIQUE Youth Activator. Intrigued?
www.lancome.com

THE CLUB MED II – SOPHIE JACQMIN, DESIGNER

Designer Sophie Jacqmin is purely motivated by passion – a creator who has worked with perfect intuition to create an ‘interior universe’ onboard cruise liner par excellence, The Club Med II. Sophie explains the inspiration behind her project: “I called it *L’Encre de Mer* [The Ink of the Sea]. The central theme was startlingly obvious to me – and I believe that the decor invites you to immerse yourself in the great maritime narratives, the poetry of Rimbaud, the magic of Melville.” For more information, check out Armand’s *The Club Med II* video and interview with Sophie.

To check out these and other videos, go to www.together-magazine.eu/videos.shtml

Discover
The Club Med II
with Together



More than meets the eye.



Masterpiece Squelette MP7138-SS001-030

MAURICE  LACROIX

Manufacture Horlogère Suisse

Information: +32.2.456.81.40 or info@mauricelacroix-belgium.be

The Maurice Lacroix collection is available in BRUSSELS at the following dealers:

1000: De Witte, Rue au Beurre-Boterstraat 22 • 1000: Tollet Fripiers, Rue des Fripiers 36

1030: Van Craenenbroeck, Place Daillyplein 26-27 • 1200: Tollet Joailliers, Woluwé Shopping Center

For dealers in other locations, please visit: www.mauricelacroix.com

Seeing is believing

It's one of the classiest 'spectacle shops' in town - davidrose teams up with Together to offer readers the chance to win glasses worth more than 1,000€.

ABOUT DAVID ROSE

Established in Brussels' Leopold district in December 2007, davidrose is fast gaining a reputation as the name to trust when it comes to the very best in spectacles and sunglasses.

And it's not just any old glasses that we have on offer for *Together* readers – davidrose has two pairs of martin&martin and two pairs of Lafont specs, with a 50€ lenses voucher for each winner. That's more than 1,000€ of visibly improved eyewear – how could you say no?

HOW TO WIN

So, fancy winning some classy glasses? All you have to do is go to www.together-magazine.eu

and answer the three questions below – colour of models offered may differ from those shown.

1. Where are martin&martin glasses made?

- A. Luxembourg
- B. Italy
- C. Germany

2. How old is Lafont?

- A. 30+
- B. 50+
- C. 80+

Tiebreaker: What is the weight in grammes of a copy of *Together* 12, excluding wrapping and gift?

And that's all there is to it – deadline for all entries is 1st May, so don't delay.

Good luck!

davidrose

Rue de Trèves 16

1050 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 512 66 10

davidrose.optique@gmail.com

davidrose
optometrist - optician



Models offered may differ from those pictured. Competition organised under the supervision of a bailiff. Full rules available on request. Organiser: *Together Magazine*, Boulevard Saint-Michel 47, 1040 Brussels.



Rue de Trèves 16 - 1050 Brussels
(in the Leopold district)
+32 (0)2 512 66 10
davidrose.optique@gmail.com

Style and substance

WRITERS: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Our usual round-up of the big names to have graced Europe's capital in recent weeks...

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

On 19th January, European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pöttering met with Turkish Prime Minister **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** in Brussels. During the evening, Erdogan joined a dinner-debate organized by Brussels think-tank Friends of Europe in the prestigious Cirque Royale.



TZIPI LIVNI

Israeli Foreign Minister **Tzipi Livni** attended a meeting with EU foreign ministers on 21st January at the European Council. They reached agreement on opening the crossing points to allow humanitarian aid to reach the Gaza Strip. Livni said: "One of the goals of this operation is to stop the smuggling of weapons being delivered by Iran to Hamas."



BILL GATES

Microsoft's **Bill Gates** arrived in Brussels on 27th January for a meeting with European Commission President José Manuel Barroso. The two met in the Berlaymont building ahead of the annual World Economic Forum in the Swiss resort town of Davos. Following the recent fines levied on Microsoft by the Commission, one might imagine that the atmosphere was somewhat glacial...



WEN JIABAO

On 30th January, Chinese Premier **Wen Jiabao** also held talks with Barroso in Brussels. Both sides agreed to focus on China-EU relations from a global and strategic perspective given that, in the present international situation, strengthening such co-operation would be of great importance. Both sides agreed to hold their 2nd high-level forum on economy and trade in April, and the 11th China-EU summit later in 2009. The meeting came following tension between the two sides as a result of recent the EU visit by Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama.



KARL LAGERFELD

Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes met with fashion designer **Karl Lagerfeld** on 11th February – Lagerfeld was in town to try to persuade internal-market regulators to keep the current restrictions on online retailers for luxury goods. Lagerfeld combined his new role of lobbyist with customary Parisian charm: "I'm happy with the current rules and do not wish to see a change," he said.



PRINCE ALBERT OF MONACO

Prince Albert was in the European Parliament on 12th February, to attend the Peace With Water conference. The aim of the event, organized by the World Political Forum, with the co-operation of Parliamentary political parties, was the drafting of a memorandum for a world water protocol. Prince Albert said: "We will never resolve water-related conflicts through bilateral agreements – we have to reach agreement consensus. In the Mediterranean basin, 30 million people don't have access to clean water."



MICHAEL GORBACHEV

Russian former president and head of Green Cross International **Michael Gorbachev** also took part in the Peace With Water conference – during his speech, he underlined Europe's role: "We have to give credit to Europe, which assumed a leadership role in the efforts to develop a new global environmental agenda. Large-scale water projects could become an engine for restarting the world economy on a new basis, and we need to do this."



MICHEL PLATINI

UEFA President **Michel Platini** attended a Brussels conference on the future of European football on 18th February. The discussions dealt with the sport's values and the issues raised by sporting activity at a professional level, such as the exploitation of children by teams seeking future players: "What I expect from the EU is that we work together to defend moral values, in particular concerning the interdiction of the transfer of minors." But, Platini maintained, soccer and sport in general could also set the template for respect and fair play.



FLASH

“Being a woman is a terribly difficult task, since it consists principally in dealing with men.”

- Joseph Conrad, 1857-1924

“A woman is like a tea bag. It’s only when she’s in hot water that you realize how strong she is.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt, former US First Lady, 1884-1962

“Nature intended women to be our slaves. They are our property.”

- Napoleon Bonaparte, 1769-1821

“What would men be without women? Scarce, sir, mighty scarce.”

- Mark Twain, 1835-1910

“When I have one foot in the grave, I will tell the whole truth about women. I shall tell it, jump into my coffin, pull the lid over me and say: ‘Do what you like now’.”

- Leo Tolstoy, 1828-1910

WHAT
WOMEN
WANT

Over there, under-represented

WRITER: GERALD LOFTUS

In the first of a new opinion column for 2009, *Together* warmly welcomes Belgium's Democrats Abroad member Gerald Loftus, who highlights the paucity of power for women in American politics, and how that may change in the wake of Barack Obama's Presidential victory.

A mini-quiz to begin: Who was the first female US Presidential candidate?

- a. Eleanor Roosevelt
- b. Hillary Clinton
- c. Geraldine Ferraro
- d. Shirley Chisholm
- e. None of the above

IT WASN'T UNTIL THE 20TH CENTURY THAT WOMEN WERE ENFRANCHISED, LET ALONE TAKEN SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO CAMPAIGN IN THE MAINSTREAM PARTIES

Attention - it's actually a trick question. Most people know that Hillary Clinton was the first woman to run for President. Except she wasn't. In fact, the mostly forgotten Victoria Woodhull (from as far back as 1872) takes that honour - her running mate, black anti-slavery campaigner

Frederick Douglass, is better remembered. Appropriately enough, they were candidates for the Equal Rights Party.

'You've Come a Long Way, Baby' - the 1960s vintage 'Virginia Slims' cigarette adverts (not Fatboy Slim's album) - have provided clichéd headlines for thousands of articles on the progress of women's rights during the past 40 years. In the American political battleground, 'Women in Power' remains a largely underachieved goal, with notable exceptions. More accurately, we might say 'Women For Power', as their vote is increasingly crucial to winning elective office for candidates of either sex.

LONG TIME COMING

It wasn't until the 20th century that women were enfranchised, let alone taken seriously enough to campaign in the mainstream parties. In the Democratic Party, Shirley Chisholm, the first black Congresswoman, ran unsuccessfully for President in 1972. In 1984 another Democrat, Geraldine Ferraro, became the first female Vice Presidential nominee of a major party, but met the same fate as Republican Sarah Palin in 2008.

So Hillary Clinton, though she got further than other American women, didn't invent female presidential politics. In fact, the US comes out rather poorly in some metrics: Rwanda is number one in elected women, while Belgium is number eight. The US ranks a lowly 57 in terms



Giving US women a voice

of female members of parliamentary bodies (for women in elective office, it is 70th in the world). Women have fared somewhat better in the US Senate and states, however - there are 16 women out of 100 senators, and women are governors in 11 of the 50 states.

In the Presidential succession lineup, Nancy Pelosi as Speaker of the House of Representatives comes after the Vice President. Pelosi wields considerable legislative power, which was strengthened in the recent elections.

ONLY 25 PER CENT OF US ELECTIVE OFFICE HOLDERS ARE WOMEN, THOUGH THEY COMPRISE 52 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is also highly placed in the succession order, as was her predecessor, Condoleezza Rice.

Rice wasn't the first female Secretary of State; Madeleine Albright

was, a decade earlier. And Clinton, who during husband Bill's tenure preferred a more overtly political role to the honorific duties of 'First Lady', was not the first Presidential wife to dabble in matters of state. Edith Wilson was catapulted into an unofficial 'secret Presidency' when her husband Woodrow suffered a stroke after WW I, and Eleanor Roosevelt survived her husband Franklin to lead the US delegation at the 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

THE FEMALE FACTOR

So, we've established that American women have been politically active for some time, even before they won the right to vote in 1920, but what has it got them? Under-representation, for one thing: only 25 per cent of US elective office holders are women, though they comprise 52 per cent of the population, and there's also the notion - often misconstrued - that there is a 'women's vote', that is, they vote



Left:
Hillary Clinton

Right:
Sarah Palin

monolithically, and that women vote for women.

The 2008 campaign was instructive - though most attention had been on Hillary Clinton's prospects, she had barely lost the Democratic Party nomination before the Republican Party came up with their own woman - Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska. John McCain's choice of Palin as running mate was both a bold move to corral the conservative base and a blatant bid for 'the women's vote'. All manner of supposedly disappointed 'Clinton women' were trotted out to testify how they were now going to vote Republican.

And we all know how it ended - despite the absence of Hillary Clinton on the Democratic ticket and Sarah Palin's seeming omnipresence on the Republican side, Barack Obama carried the vote of women by a wide margin. It may be that their vote was decisive - for years, millions more women have voted than men, well beyond their numerical superiority in the population. In the end, it was their preference, especially among younger and unmarried women, for Obama's stand

on issues - and not gender solidarity - that swayed women in 2008.

IT'S THE POLICY, STUPID

Beyond elections, women in the United States struggle to gain influence and power relative to their numbers. It's mostly an uphill battle, but some sectors stand out. Women now make up 14 per cent of the US Army, and 21 have attained the rank of general. In the State Department, Hillary Clinton presides over a diplomatic corps that includes more than 50 women of ambassadorial rank.

Barack Obama didn't win the Presidency by campaigning as the African-American or mixed-race candidate. In fact, he won by transcending racial pigeonholing. Obama's victory, Hillary Clinton's close-run thing, and Sarah Palin's flop should show American women that - more than race or gender - it's the policy, stupid. 'You've Got a Long Way to Go, Baby' - but at least the route to power for American women is no longer the road to nowhere. ☛

Check out Gerald Loftus's blog at avuncularamerican.typepad.com.

zeïn
oriental spa

THE ART OF HAMMAM

Discover Brussels' finest traditional Hammam. To be found on the inspirational Tour & Taxis site, Zeïn Spa invites you to take a fantastic voyage of the senses, in the heart of the Capital of Europe.

Hammam ~ traditional Hammam rituals (including black soap, face-scrub, application of Moroccan rassoul)
Massages ~ Aesthetic skin care ~ Hairdressing salon

OPENING HOURS

WOMEN

Monday and Wednesday : 11h ~ 21h
Tuesday ~ Thursday ~ Friday
Saturday : 11h ~ 17h

MEN

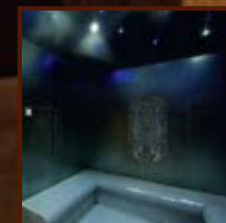
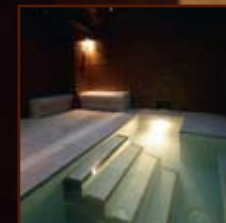
Tuesday and Friday : 17h ~ 21h

MIXED

Thursday and Saturday : 17h ~ 21h

INFO & RESERVATIONS

T. +32(0)2 424 35 22 ~ www.zeinorientalspa.fr ~ Free supervised parking



Men going 'metro'

WRITER: COLIN MOORS

You're a chap, you wake up in the morning – what next? Shave with a pocket knife and cold water, shower using one bar of soap for cleaning everything, push the hair out of your eyes and get on with the day? Sorry, but things have changed a great deal...



Take Germany, just for example. Their male cosmetics market is worth an estimated 800€ million, the UK's 550€m and China's, a country previously renowned for its no-nonsense, hard-working men, a very respectable 450€m. Celebrities, sports stars and, of course, musicians, lead the way in promoting not only the odd eyelash tint here and manicure there, but a whole raft of men's beauty and 'wellness' products. Nothing is even remotely odd these days about men discussing the latest exfoliating cream, skin rejuvenator or vitamin-enriched hair care product instead of V6 double twin-choke engines or the result of last Saturday's match.

MANY WOMEN APPRECIATE A SMOOTH, BOYISH, SYMMETRICAL FACE AND A WELL-CHOSEN COLOGNE

LOOK CLEAN, SMELL NICE

So, when did all this preening and pampering begin? Officially, in the late 1980s and early 90s. Men who grew up with the

'new romantic' music scene were used to wearing makeup and men generally trying to be 'yuppie' – young and upwardly mobile – began to take a lot more care about their appearance. The word 'metrosexual', a term first coined by British journalist Mark Simpson, was taken up by the public at large to represent such people – a clever cross-portrayal of a man being heterosexual (men are still very touchy when 'accused' of being gay), but who dressed and carried himself as homosexual men have done for as long as anyone can remember. It was also because the public needed to describe men who looked clean and smelled nice.

Take Patrick Bateman's monologue in Brett Easton Ellis's *American Psycho*, for example: "I use a deep pore-cleanser lotion. In the shower, I use a water-activated gel cleanser, then a honey-almond body scrub, and on the face, an exfoliating gel scrub. Then I apply an herb mint facial masque which I leave on for ten minutes while I prepare the rest of

my routine." This is what people needed a word for.

Why? Well, apart from not wanting to look and smell like they'd slept in a ditch, men began to realize that the days of the chest-thumping, club-wielding alpha male were over. Many women appreciate a smooth, boyish, symmetrical face and a well-chosen cologne over an unkempt ruffian smelling of industrial soap and wearing clothes off-the-peg from an army surplus sale. The equation was simple – more personal care equals more time with the ladies. Take a look at the stars of the silver screen, and you'll see. Leonardo di Caprio, Jude Law, Will Smith – they all take care of their appearance and you'd be unlikely to see them out and about without looking their best. This theory is borne out by a study published by Scotland's St Andrew's University in 2002. Women prefer a clear, unmarked complexion, apparently a visual cue that the man has no genetic diseases, along with a more rounded (and more

feminine) jaw line as well as facial symmetry and a chin free of stubble or a beard.

NOTHING IS EVEN REMOTELY ODD THESE DAYS ABOUT MEN DISCUSSING THE LATEST EXFOLIATING CREAM, SKIN REJUVENATOR OR VITAMIN-ENRICHED HAIR CARE PRODUCT

A DYING BREED?

Are women expecting too much, requiring their men to be more feminine? It appears not. In a frankly

worrying new report, released in 2008 by the charity CHEMTrust, the persistent use of unregulated chemicals such as phthalates (in cosmetics and food wrapping), flame retardants (sofas, clothing) and PCBs or polychlorinated biphenyls (pesticides, adhesives), is causing gender mutations not only in animals, but right the way up the food chain. Since the 1950s, the average male sperm count in humans has dropped from 150 million per millilitre to around 60 million today, making the human male well less than half as fertile as a domestic tom cat.

Other effects include smaller genitalia (sorry, guys), and lower fertility rates. Children born in those communities most heavily affected by hormone-disrupting chemicals have a birth rate of two girls to every boy. Mammals, fish and birds around the globe are being affected, and many species are in decline as a result of hormonal pollution and the mishandling of chemicals.

On the up side, the continuation of our species is not a lost cause. The EU is campaigning to restrict and regulate chemicals that interfere with hormone balance, although with 85 per cent of all known pollutants not carrying even the most basic safety information, there's a long way to go.

The ladies may want their men more feminine, and the men may revel in the idea of a three-to-one female/male ratio, but, as the old saying goes, be very careful what you wish for. ●

www.chemtrust.org.uk

A Freudian trip

WRITER: ANDY CARLING



‘The great question that has never been answered, and which I have not yet been able to answer, despite my thirty years of research into the feminine soul, is ‘What does a woman want?’ - Sigmund Freud
Our man went on a voyage into uncharted territory (the shops on a Saturday), to see if he could find out. Hmmmm...

© Callifreyray (Flickr)

Well, I think it's safe to say that women don't really want a coke fiend with a strange cigar obsession. Indeed, one can only feel pity for the object of his amour. In a letter to his fiancée, Martha Bernays, Freud outlined his seduction technique: “Woe to you, my princess, when I come... you shall see who is the stronger, a gentle girl who doesn't eat enough or a big wild man who has cocaine in his body.”

We're going to have to look elsewhere for an answer. I gathered together some of my women friends and asked them

**WOMEN
EXPECT MEN
TO KNOW WHAT
THEY WANT,
EVEN IF THEY
DIDN'T KNOW
THEMSELVES,
YET ALSO
EXPECT MEN
NOT TO KNOW.
PUZZLING**

what they really wanted. I now know this was a mistake. It was a bit like being in the eye of a hurricane as they went into a hyperdrive of gesticulating and frantic talking – I scrawled as fast as I could, but I was overwhelmed.

SEX, SHOES CHOCOLATE

Once the storm died down, I looked at my notes. Sex, chocolate, shoes. This made some sort of sense.

Sex is a universal drive, something pleasurable to do when there's no football on TV. Chocolate is also straightforward, because eating it, apparently, releases the same chemical mixture in a human brain as does a kiss.

Clearly, the answer to the great mystery lies in shoes. There was only one thing to do – visit Rue Neuve. On a Saturday afternoon.

I made my way through the river of bodies like a salmon swimming upstream. I examined several shops closely, noting that the more expensive a shoe was, the less there was of it, demonstrating one of the fundamentals of marketing.

However, it wasn't what I was looking for. There was something missing. Feeling stressed and confused, I made my way to Media Markt and looked at gadgets until I felt better.

RETAIL THERAPY

Refreshed, I went back into the fray and started looking at the people, not the shops. I noticed there were many groups of women going from shop to shop, but only occasionally buying. The penny dropped. It's not shoes, they are only the object, the real answer is retail therapy. The dictionary definition is clear: ‘Retail therapy is shopping with the primary purpose of improving the buyer's mood or disposition.’

Well, it has to be said that it didn't seem to be noticeably improving the mood or disposition of many of the shoppers I saw. Perhaps it's just something we men do better. It's a scientific fact that men are more efficient shoppers, but when we go out for a bit of retail therapy our partners call it ‘going drinking with your mates’, as though that's a bad thing.

**MEN ARE MORE
EFFICIENT
SHOPPERS,
BUT WHEN WE
GO OUT FOR
A BIT OF RETAIL
THERAPY OUR
PARTNERS
CALL IT ‘GOING
DRINKING WITH
YOUR MATES’,
AS THOUGH
THAT'S A BAD
THING**

Knowing I was on the verge of a breakthrough, I searched for somewhere quiet to think and, somehow, ended up in a bar where I found some of my male friends. Using the power of synchronicity, I asked them what they thought women really wanted.

Blank looks. Really blank looks. Looks that I've only ever seen before on Homer Simpson.

I called up a woman in her 40s for some advice, hoping life experience could enlighten me. She explained that women wanted to be looked after, cared for, to be independent and so on. There was a clue in here somewhere, if only I could find it. Then she said: “I'm in my forties and what I want now is different from what I wanted when I was twenty.”

Somehow all the pieces were there but, how could I complete this psychological jigsaw? More beer.

I'd learned that what women want changes, and more importantly, is contradictory in nature. Women expect men to know what they want, even if they don't know themselves, yet also expect men not to know. Puzzling.

Then there was a flash of enlightenment, a moment of nirvana.

We're using the wrong tools to try to discover what women really want. Psychology just doesn't work when you approach a woman's consciousness. We need a new psychology, a quantum psychology that can handle opposite states of mind and matter. With this exciting guide we can state that women really want more. More what? Whatever it is they really want.

Now, ain't that the truth. ●

Seduction secrets

WRITER: EMMA DAVIS



Belgian Hans Comijn runs seduction workshops - professionally and personally, he adores women. He tells *Together* what he thinks they really want...

Brimming with self-assurance, it's easy to see why the 33-year-old Hans Comijn has no problems in picking up the chicks. But is it just that (combined with the fact he's not bad to look at) or does he really hold some secrets as to what the fairer sex really needs?

Comijn, a former journalist and a doctor in anthropology, is between workshops which he runs with Canadian seduction king Zan Perrion, where they teach the lovelorn how to attract their heart's desire.

We meet in a Brussels bar – I'm hoping this rugged blonde, with his captivating smile, will provide some answers to this eternal question and, more to the point, that such answers make sense to his female interrogator.

INTERVIEW EXPRESS

Together: Tell us about your credentials.

HC: *I have no illusions that I know all the answers, but I do know that I ask good questions and the only thing I can say is that I've been thinking about it a bit longer than most people.*

What about your own successes?
I'm 33 and I've never been kissed.

Yeah, right. What about your successes?
I travel a lot but sometimes I think the travelling is a great solution to what I think is the basic paradox of relationships. But what do you think women want?

Er, real men who know what they are doing in life and who wash up – or is that wishful thinking?
And there you have the core reason why women are attracted to men – that's men who are going somewhere and invite that woman to come along. What you often see, however, is that

a man is on an adventure, a woman comes along, and he shifts his attention so that she becomes the adventure. Then the attraction is gone.

Why do men do this?

Because they are afraid to lose her, but in fact it's a sure path to losing her. In our workshops, we teach men to be purposeful and not to apologise for themselves. We apologize for asking a girl out. Do we need to apologize for that? We are so afraid of offending them – but girls are asking, where have the real men gone?

What do you do when you want to take a girl out?

I ask her out. I say 'you look interesting and I want to talk to you'. If I'm on a date with you, I'm very interested in you. I'm very curious about you, what are your dreams? What are your passions? You have these guys who say 'I don't know what to say' but you don't have to say anything, you have to ask questions. We create a space where we get to know each other and connect.

What about shy guys? How do they make a romantic move?

You get these situations where you have a guy who's sitting at home with her. They've been to a movie, laughed at each other's jokes and then he thinks, should I kiss her? But he has been acting like a friend all this time and all of a sudden wants to turn into a lover – we apologize for being sexual creatures. My advice to those guys is show her you are interested and don't apologize for being interested.

What do women want when they go on a date with a guy?

A girl who goes on a date with you, she is rooting for you, she's there. A girl just wants a guy to be authentic and make a true connection, just like a guy wants. But we don't do it, we play games.

What do you think about equality in the dating game?

Men and women are equal but they are hugely different.

Do women want men to make the first move?

Yes. And I do think it's their responsibility. This is because of double standards – women are judged for doing what they want while men are celebrated.

This sounds a bit primaeval – do women really want to be clubbed over the head and dragged back to a cave?

It's about finding a balance. You have, on the one hand, really nice guys who shrink back and are apologetic and then you have other men who are more like cavemen. You need a balance: a guy who is immensely interested in her, but doesn't apologise for being a man.

What about keeping a girl?

It's all about curiosity and adventure. We do not seduce our partners enough. That's what I mean when I say have your own adventure, then you are still seducing. You will still be interesting. She needs security (for some it's marriage and children) and on the other hand, she needs the adventure, spark, passion. If she doesn't have the adventure, she will go and look for it elsewhere.

How do you seduce your partner, then?

All the problems you see in relationships can be solved by people working on themselves. You have to be able to answer what do I want? What's my purpose in life? Why were you put on Earth? If the guy cannot answer this then there is nothing for the woman to grab on to.

Final tips for guys out there?

I would say honesty, authenticity and curiosity. I would say stop being so serious and remember that she's rooting for you. ♡

www.zanperrion.com

Touch of class

WRITER: COLIN MOORS

Fancy a sport that will give you a great workout, is fun to play, and is open to all, regardless of age or sex? Why not try Touch? *Together* spoke with Touch Belgium President Jonathon Ralfe, to find out more about this fast-growing sport.

Together: So, what's Touch Belgium?

Jonathon Ralfe: Touch Belgium is the national body responsible for

the promotion and development of the sport of Touch here in Belgium.

According to the international website, Touch is one of the fastest-growing sports around the world. Could you tell us a little more about it?

Touch (or Touch Rugby as it is sometimes known) is a minimal contact variant of rugby. It was originally devised as an out-of-season training exercise for rugby clubs, but has now grown into a recognized sport in its own right. The minimum-contact aspect of Touch makes it a very accessible sport, and means it can be enjoyed by all. On the international side, we saw Paris play host to the 7th European Touch Championships in 2007, and in 2011, Edinburgh will host the 5th Touch World Cup.

So, a truly international affair? Presumably there needs to be some experience at club level before you can go out and represent your country. How can people who are interested get involved?

For a start, they could contact us via our web site. There are now three tournaments running in 2009. The Blueprint Partners Summer Touch Tournament is into its fifth year this year, and will bring together 16 teams over an eight week period between May and June. This promises to be a great tournament, and the after-match burgers alone are worth going for! A little closer to home, Brussels Celtic Touch will run two smaller tournaments in March and September, each one packing 14 matches into 4 weeks. As well as these competitions, Brussels Celtic Touch also participate in club-level tournaments throughout

Europe and runs training sessions every Wednesday and Friday, all year round.

Brussels Celtic seems to be heavily involved. Does this mean that Touch is entirely concentrated in Brussels?

This is something we're working very hard to change. We recently set up training sessions in Liège, and will shortly be starting a similar programme in Ghent. We'd really love to hear from anyone who would like to start playing Touch elsewhere in the country - Touch Belgium has a lot of experience, and can provide considerable assistance in both setting up a club and in coaching.

You mentioned earlier that Touch could be enjoyed by all.

Does this mean you have men and women playing rugby together?

Of course! However, the similarities between Touch and rugby are not that strong. This is one of the reasons that the game is now establishing itself as simply 'Touch'. There are no rucks, no scrums and no maulings. A 'tackle' is made by contact in any way. It could be the gentlest touch on the body, clothing, ball or hair - I've been denied a score for a touch on my bootlace! Tackles cannot be broken, and there are no hard hits.

The more fleet-of-foot tend to fare better than the traditional huge rugby powerhouse. Our youngest and highest scorers and the member with the most international caps are all women.

How big is the international aspect of Touch, and how often do you get involved?

As I mentioned, there is a big international tournament every summer. For us, our first involvement was at the European Championship in 2006, followed by the Mainland Cup in 2007, then the European Championship again in 2008. This year, in July, we'll again be attending the Mainland Cup, this time in Germany. We'll be sending a men's team and a women's team, alongside our traditional mixed team. Touch in Belgium has been growing year on year, and we think that now is the time to take things up a gear.

Obviously, Touch is a popular sport. Where do you see yourselves in the next couple of years?

Our immediate focus will be domestic. We will work to expand our player base outside Brussels, certainly. Furthermore, we'd like to see at least two new clubs established in Belgium by the end of 2009, and then we can generate some inter-club competition. ●

Touch in Belgium

Contact Jonathon Ralfe
T. +32 (0)479 429 107
www.touch-belgium.be

Touch in Brussels

Contact Jonathon Ralfe
T. +32 (0)479 429 107
www.brusselsceltic.com/touch

Touch in Liège

Contact François Marcour
T. +32 (0)495 490 094

'WE'D REALLY LOVE TO HEAR FROM ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO START PLAYING TOUCH ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY'



Fair shares for fairer sex

WRITER: MARTIN BANKS

Benita Ferrero-Waldner:
'We still need more women in leadership positions'

© European Commission

A campaign aiming to ensure that women get fair representation among the EU's top jobs is gathering pace – in an exclusive interview, *Together* talks to External Affairs Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

As of 1st January, the Czech Republic assumed control of the EU Presidency, but few will yet know the identity of its EU ambassador.

Fewer still will be aware that in fact Milena Vicenova is the first woman in the post and also one of the few women in Brussels' mini-army of ambassadors.

GENDER IMBALANCE

An initiative, spearheaded by British Liberal MEP Diana Wallis and Danish Socialist Karin Riis-Jorgensen, aims to change all that by addressing what the two politicians see as a glaring imbalance in gender equality in top Union positions.

Jorgensen argues it is imperative that at least one of the jobs to be handed out after the change to the European Commission in spring, and June's European parliamentary elections, goes to a woman.

Indeed, the reality is that very few of



the most senior EU posts are currently occupied by women.

European Commission data shows that women make up just 4 per cent of presidents in the largest publicly quoted companies and 11 per cent of members of the highest decision-making bodies in those companies.

TOP JOBS

Austrian diplomat Benita Ferrero-Waldner occupies one of the few top EU jobs currently filled by a woman, that of the EU's external affairs commissioner.

In one of the most sought-after positions in the Commission, Ferrero-Waldner readily admits she was "fortunate enough" to be the first Austrian female foreign minister,

the first female head of UN protocol and now the first female commissioner for external relations.

She told *Together*: "That privilege, in my view, makes it incumbent on me to promote women's issues and to support those who do likewise. Rome, as the saying goes, was not built in a day. But bits of it were.

"Since the 1995 world conference on women in Beijing, the EU has been working to mainstream gender into all Commission policies. This is reflected in the adoption of several important framework policy documents, or communications, notably on gender equality. More than 70 Commission delegations have a specific gender focal point, and we aim to have one in all our delegations."

MUCH TO DO

Ferrero-Waldner added that the French EU Presidency 'reinforced' this work with its 'push' to get new EU human-rights guidelines on discrimination and violence against women adopted by the end of the year.

"So we are making headway," she said, "but we need to do more, particularly on implementation, which is why we are currently working with the council on a joint communication precisely on this issue.

"We also still need more women in leadership positions. The 11 EU special representatives promoting EU interests in troubled areas of the world are all men. Why? This need not be so. Of course, at the commission we must multiply our efforts to get more women into key positions, for example, as heads of delegation. The current situation, in which we have only seven women out of 91 as heads of delegations, is obviously far from satisfactory.

"We also need to fully exploit the new gender institute in Vilnius when it becomes operational next year. It should become the focal point for EU work in information gathering, analysis and monitoring of women's rights."

The commissioner likes to quote the 19th-century American civil rights leader Susan B. Anthony, who said that there will be "never be complete equality until female leaders themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers".

'GLASS CEILING'

Ferrero-Waldner adds: "I believe in the power of politics to get things moving and, in this context, it means ensuring that women's rights stay at the top of the political agenda. I am proud to say that more than 40 women political leaders have just joined me in proposing to the UN secretary general that a ministerial-level meeting be organized in 2010 to reinforce commitment to implementation of UN Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security".

"The creation of a possible women's envoy is clearly worth serious consideration. But this must not give those who don't want to incorporate gender into their work an easy opt-out, taking a 'there's a Mrs or Mr Women's Rights, so we don't need to bother' attitude".

"We have to have the kind of institutional setup necessary to enable the envoy to have a real impact across the spectrum of EU policy areas. Personally, I have always tried to ensure that women account for at least half of my cabinet or private staff. The problem, unfortunately, is that women often have to do more to climb the career ladder and sometimes they do not even try or dare to do it. They still have to break through the glass ceiling." ■

LA PERLA'S DIAMOND

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO



A selection of Anna Ceccon's beautiful work

While in Milan, Together met up with La Perla Art Director Anna Ceccon. A woman of many talents, Anna combines La Perla passion with responsibilities as a teacher, as well as her recently launched brand, Moi Multiple. So, we only had time for a few questions...

Together:

Let's start with your career...

Anna Ceccon: *My path has been very different from that of other designers. I didn't come from a 'design family', and I was never interested in fashion when I was a little girl. After high school, in fact, I applied to the Faculty of Physics to become an astrophysicist. After a few years and life experiences abroad, I recognized my passion for art, fashion, and design and I decided*

to dedicate myself to fashion, because

I wanted to be able to conceive a product from the first phase up to realization and sale.

PASSION FOR FASHION

So, I registered at the Istituto Europeo di Design, where I was chosen by my teacher to work as a fashion

researcher. First, I worked for Fabiola Lionello Fur and Leather, then for A+A (now an Italian fashion leader), and eventually I went to Peclers Paris. I love working as a fashion researcher, because it's a constant confrontation with external reality, and it is interesting to try to predict what will interest people in one, two, five or even ten years' time. However, after five years as a researcher, I felt the need to actually make the objects and garments that I was researching, so I decided to focus on becoming a designer. After winning some prizes and international competitions, including Mittelmoda, I went freelance.

After designing my 2004 collection of clothes, yarns and knitwear, I was lucky enough to be allowed to present my work to Anna Masotti, the daughter of La Perla's founder. First, I worked for her as a designer, then as image coordinator and brand product manager - I am truly honoured by this collaboration. In addition, from 2003 onwards, I have been working as a teacher with my old school, and am now a thesis supervisor.

So, tell us about La Perla's Autumn/Winter collection?

It is inspired by the seducing allure of the 1940s and the timeless style of Marlene Dietrich. They are timeless garments, very complex in construction but also pure and very elegant. Traditional lingerie garments have been re-elaborated and presented with a very modern style - the return of the high coulotte marks an emblem of seduction that doesn't always need to be ostentatious or uncovered. With sartorial details and precious finishes, Chantilly lace, soutache technique and chain motifs, the collection is elegant and unique.

'AFTER FIVE YEARS AS A FASHION RESEARCHER, I FELT THE NEED TO ACTUALLY MAKE THE OBJECTS AND GARMENTS THAT I WAS RESEARCHING, SO I DECIDED TO FOCUS ON BECOMING A DESIGNER'



And your new brand?

I decided to start my own fashion line to express my personal vision of today's fashion world, starting with an analysis of the diverse faces of contemporary society and seeking new ways to diversify a brand. The idea at the base of Moi Multiple is that of individual expression in continuous change that is typical of the contemporary woman. The dichotomy between movement and fixation, the relationship between irony and colour, the attentive study of new versatile models, the attention towards researched and unexpected details are the bases of the aesthetics of my brand.

So, what do women want from fashion nowadays?

I think that today, luxury and fashion are frequently diverse, according to the market of reference. European women, I would say, want to be seduced by a project, an idea, a dream. Fashion is no longer intended to be ostentatious or like the old idea of a status symbol, but it has become a style symbol, that is to say, describing taste and a way of being. For me, fashion today serves to communicate the personality of a woman, her determination and her complexity. The world of luxury creates new dreams with which to identify oneself. It gives a voice, force, and image to the women of the new millennium. 11

SCABAL®
MADE BY YOU



Request your copy of Scabal's magazine
"Bespoken" on www.bespoken.com
or fetch it at a Scabal store near you.
Store locator on www.scabal.com

ASK, AND SHE SHALL RECEIVE

WRITER: KIMBERLEY LOVATO

Is there life on other planets? Why is a boxing ring square? And what do women really want? Thankfully, the answer to the last question has become clearer - at a recent Brussels seminar, organized by 'intelligent entertainment' company Food For Thought, keynote speaker Sara Laschever put it thus: "Women want what they deserve. They just don't know how to ask for it."

And Laschever should know. She is the co-author of two books on the subject, the soon to be released *Ask For It* and its successful predecessor *Women Don't Ask* (Princeton University Press, 2003), a project initiated by her partner Linda Babcock, a professor at Carnegie Mellon, who noticed that more male graduate students were teaching their own courses while female students were assistants. She confronted the Dean, whose response was simple - the male students had asked for the positions, while the women had not.

"We (women) are great negotiators when it comes to our families, our clients or others, but where we run

into trouble is when it comes to negotiating for ourselves," says Laschever.

The reasons why women don't ask are varied and include media and television influences and societal stereotypes; even childhood chore distribution and compensation plays a role. Laschever met women of all professions and ages, and the phenomenon was evident. Whether it's for higher salaries, promotions, or more help at home, women find it hard to ask. Laschever's findings revealed that a woman earns, on average, 75-77 per cent of her male counterparts' take-home, that mothers who work full time still do two thirds of the housework and that men negotiate four times more often than women. She found the ramifications of not asking to be equally significant.

"By asking for as little as ten per cent more on your starting salary, over the course of a career this difference adds up. Employers usually expect you to negotiate and I have been told the act of NOT negotiating can reflect more poorly on the candidate because it shows she does not have this skill."

Laschever's new book seeks to minimize this discomfort by providing tips for better negotiation skills and growing confidence. *Ask For It* is due out in early 2009 and could be the key to unlocking that age-old mystery.



Sara Laschever: Helping women to 'identify aspects of their lives that could be changed by negotiation'

INTERVIEW EXPRESS

Together: How is your book different from other negotiating books on the market?

SL: Unlike other books, which tell you what to do and how to act once you're in a negotiation, ours starts earlier. It helps women identify aspects of their lives that could be changed by negotiation. We add specific guidance based on the latest research. It tells women how to ask for what they want in ways that work for them. We show

women how using a somewhat softer personal style can allow them to be tougher on the issues, to set ambitious goals, and get what they want without violating the expectation that they be likeable, sociable and nice.

If you could invite six women (living or dead)

to a dinner party, who would you choose and why?

Tina Fey [American writer, comedian and actress], because she's so smart and funny. Anne Frank, because it's always great to have someone at dinner who is young and earnest and original and not overly constrained by adult conventions. Isak Dinesen, because she was famous as a great dinner-table storyteller. Anne Hathaway [Shakespeare's wife, not the actress] to ask what really happened between the two of them. Irma Thomas, a great New Orleans rhythm and blues singer. Finally, Michelle Obama, because who has better tales to tell right now than she does?

What is your favorite journey? Motherhood.

What have you learned most about yourself while writing these two books?

It's rewarding to work on projects that make a real difference in people's lives. Choosing what you do based on what you care about will lead to all sorts of great experiences and opportunities. ●

www.womendontask.com

'WE (WOMEN) ARE GREAT NEGOTIATORS WHEN IT COMES TO OUR FAMILIES, OUR CLIENTS OR OTHERS, BUT WHERE WE RUN INTO TROUBLE IS WHEN IT COMES TO NEGOTIATING FOR OURSELVES'

BAHAMAS BLISS

Thanks to:
www.tan-dem.be
www.zekitriko.com.tr
www.patriziapepe.com
Special thanks to:
The private island of
COPPERFIELD BAY
www.mushacay.com

For addresses, see page 98



Left:
Dress:
Butterfly Bow:
PAULE KA

Right:
Dress:
PAULE KA



Right:
 Silk dress:
 PAULE KA
 Silk flower:
 PAULE KA
 Left:
 Bikini:
 LA PERLA
 Beach dress:
 ZEKI TRIKO



Left:
Swimsuit:
ZEKI TRIKO

Right:
Swimsuit:
PAULE KA
Blouse:
PATRIZIA PEPE
Bracelets:
CALVIN KLEIN
YVES
SAINT LAURENT

Photographer
and stylist:
ERCAN
Hair
and make-up:
SOFIE
VAN BOUWEL
FOR CHANEL
AND @TOUCHE
BY DOMINIQUE
Model:
CHLOÉ GOSSELIN
© DOMINIQUE
MODELS AGENCY



KEEPING COOL



Left:
Jumper:
HUGO BOSS
Trunks:
ICEBERG MEN
Diving watch:
BELL&ROSS
Sandals:
LES HOMMES
Ball:
CHANEL

Right:
Jumper:
HUGO BOSS
Trunks:
ICEBERG MEN
Bag:
LOUIS VUITTON
Watch:
SWATCH

Thanks to:
TAN-DEM
UNLIMITED PR
DOMINIQUE MODELS

For addresses, see page 98





Necklace,
rings:
DYRBERG
/KERN
Black
pendant:
SWATCH
Bracelet:
DIESEL
Short:
CONVERS
Briefs:
DIESEL
Trainers:
PALLADIUM

Cap:
FLEXFIT
Necklace:
DYRBERG/KERN
Sunglasses:
NAPAPIJRI
Watch:
RADO
Shorts
and trunks:
ICEBERG MEN
Bag:
ADIDAS
Towel:
HACKETT
Cap:
HUGO BOSS
Trainers
CAMPER TWINS



Left:
 Glasses:
 LAFONT
 Shirt:
 LES HOMMES
 Jumper:
 GENTI
 Shorts:
 FILIPPA K
 Watch:
 CHAUMET
 Socks:
 DIOR HOMMES
 Trainers:
 OLIVIER STRELLI
 Gloves,
 belt,
 golf bag:
 HUGO BOSS
 Golf club:
 PROSIMMON

Right:
 Waistcoat:
 HILFIGER DENIM
 Necklace
 and bracelet:
 DYRBERG/KERN
 Leggings,
 socks,
 trainers:
 DIESEL MEN
 Sport bag:
 HUGO BOSS



Photographer
 and stylist:
 ERCAN
 Hair:
 REDKEN
 Model:
 NICOLAS
 ANDRONIKOS @
 DOMINIQUE MODELS

SPRING SPOILS

WRITER: SARA BROWN

We've gathered the very best of the season for gents, kids and ladies.

FOR HIM

1. BORSALINO HAT BY CELIO

Ward off the April showers with this stylish fedora that's sure to match almost everything in your closet. 14.99€, www.celio.com

2. SUNGLASSES BY KARL LAGERFELD

For the man you'll never see without a pair of shades comes the perfect 'aviator' glasses for those rare sunny days. 199.95€, www.marchon.com

3. SILK TIES BY VAN LAACK

Brighten up for spring with a splash of colour. 65€, www.vanlaack.com

4. TEN YEARS OLD SCOTCH WHISKY BY ARDBEG

From Islay, a complex but enticing single malt scotch whisky. 30€, www.ardbeg.com

5. LA NUIT DE L'HOMME BY YVES SAINT LAURENT

A simple yet refined new scent for men, perfect for a night on the town. Eau de toilette spray 100ml: 77.90€, www.ysl.com

6. PAT JACKET BY PEAK PERFORMANCE

This lightweight sporty jacket revives the tradition of authentic sportswear. 179.95€, www.peakperformance.com

7. BRIEFCASE BY CORNELIANI

Whether for work or at home, keep it all at hand in this smart case. Price on request, www.corneliani.com

8. CUFFLINKS BY HUGO BOSS

For a little edge, surprise them with these square red cufflinks. 260€, www.hugoboss.com

FOR KIDS

1. RUBBER DOTS SHOE BY PALLADIUM

Your little princess will love this slip-on shoe with bright dots to match all her royal outfits. 49-65€, www.palladium.eu

2. STRAPKID SHOE BY PALLADIUM

The strap-and-go shoe for the boy on the move. 65-79€, www.palladium.eu

3. DRESS BY DKNY

Let your little one throw on this cotton dress and you're ready for a walk in the park. 100€, www.dkny.com

4. SWIMMING TRUNKS BY TIMBERLAND

With Spring holidays and Summer trips to the beach coming up soon, make sure to scoop up these adorable trunks for your little swimmer. 55€, www.timberland.com

FOR HIM



FOR KIDS



FOR HER

1. ENIRA 2006 BY COMTE VON NEIPPERG

Considered to be Bulgaria's finest wine, this blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah & Petit Verdot is an elegant addition to any dinner party. 11€, www.neipperg.com

2. NIGHTMESH COLLECTION BY SWATCH

The subtle harmony of nature and high technology is revealed in this jewellery set. Wear just one piece, or combine them all.

Pendant: 75€

Earrings: 50€

Ring: 55€

Bracelet: 75€

www.swatch.com

3. WATCH BY LACOSTE

Both sporty and chic, this beautiful watch will add sparkle to any outfit with its pave bezel.

195€, www.lacoste.com

4. IT BAG BY LONGCHAMP

The perfect canvas carryall for spring, with just a hint of humour.

270€, www.longchamp.com

5. FLEUR DE LYS SHIMMER POWDER BY ESTÉE LAUDER

Look naturally radiant with this shimmering pink powder.

39.15€, www.esteelauder.com

6. BURLESQUE GLASSES BY LAFANT

Add a little fierceness to your look with these snakeskin print frames. Who said you can't be wild at work?

240€, www.lafont.com

7. LASH QUEEN FELINE BLACKS MASCARA BY HELENA RUBENSTEIN

And for wild eyes without frames, try Helena Rubenstein's newest mascara from the Feline Beauty line. The name says it all.

32€, www.helenarubinstein.com

8. SUNGLASSES BY EMILIO PUCCI

Looking for that splash of colour without your winter scarves? Try these sunglasses - Spring has sprung!

294.95€, www.marchon.com

9. TRUFFES DESSERT COLLECTION BY GODIVA

Indulge yourself with Godiva's six new limited-edition truffles, crafted to taste like your favorite soufflés and puddings.

Box of 20: 26€

www.godiva.be

10. SHOES BY S. OLIVER

They've been wrapped up all winter, so let your feet free in these summery wedge heels.

55.95€, www.soliver-shoes.com

11. IRON SILK STRAIGHTENING SPRAY BY REDKEN

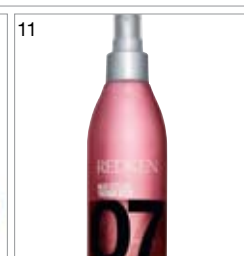
Get sleek, frizz-free hair rain or shine with this easy to use spray.

18€, www.redken.be

12. WHITE PATCHOULI FRAGRANCE BY TOM FORD

A modern reinterpretation of this classic floral aroma, it's the perfect Spring scent.

50ml: 83.50€, www.tomford.com



La Dolce Vita Roma

WRITER: JÉRÔME STÉFANSKI

How can we talk about women's desires without paying respect to one of the most romantic cities in Europe? *Together* took a lovely trip to Rome to offer up ten of the very best locations for an unforgettable stay – and not just for her!

The Trevi Fountain. The Pantheon. Vatican City. The Coliseum, Place Saint-Pierre.

The Tiber river, the warm welcome, the Mediterranean climate.

The passion. All the stereotypes that universally symbolize Italy's capital with its romantic name, 'The Eternal City'.

Better to say straight away – for the man of simple tastes, Rome would not normally seem to be the obvious choice. But you'd be wrong! The city, thankfully, is not limited only to classical culture and antiquity – there are many more macho attractions than you might think, such as the fresh pasta, the cappuccinos, pizzas baked to perfection in wood-fire ovens. Then there's the Vespas, the sports cars and the crazy drivers. The fashion, the models, the football. It's a city of 1001 faces, more than enough to satisfy mademoiselle's romantic passions and monsieur's more animal instincts. Follow our guide...

The Coliseum and Rome's famous hills

© *Together* Magazine 2009

MADEMOISELLE'S ROMANTIC URGES

1. Via Dei Condotti

As soon as you arrive in Rome, your first stop to keep your beloved happy has to be Via Dei Condotti. It is to Rome what Montaigne Avenue is to Paris – a must for fashionistas. It's found not far from Piazza Espana – an historic artery brings together all the great names of Italian and international fashion – the ideal place to fix up your Roma look from day one! Prada, Bvlgari, Gucci, Valentino, Armani, Ferragamo, max Mara, and not forgetting Dior, Yves Saint Laurent,

Chanel, Cartier, Hermes, Celine, Burberry and Louis Vuitton, they're all here!

Addresses:

- *Near the bottom of Via Dei Condotti at number 60, resides famous tailor Battistoni. Italian chic par excellence, either ready to wear or made-to-measure. www.battistoni.com*
- *Found at 86 Via Dei Condotti, Caffé Greco (or Antico Caffé Greco), is undoubtedly Rome's most renowned coffee house, which has accommodated, down the centuries, the great and the good. Stendhal,*

Goethe, Byron, Liszt and Keats – they have all drank here. www.anticocaffegreco.eu

2. Trevi Fountain

Everyone remembers the night-time dip that beautiful Anita Ekberg took in Trevi in Fellini's *La Dolce Vita* (1960). However, what you may not know is that the fountain was restored thanks to taxes levied on wine! For the superstitious – throw a coin into the fountain over your left shoulder, and you are certain to return, one day, to the Eternal City...

Addresses:

- *At Via della Panetteria 45, just behind the fountain, San Crespino is a tiny ice-cream maker as famous as any in Rome for the dazzling array of ices on offer, with their unique flavours such as ginger, cinnamon, caramelized nougat, or the irresistible meringue and chocolate nuggets.*
- *Between the Trevi Fountain and Piazza Espana, discover Italian gastronomy. Al Caminetto
Via del Nazareno, 3
T. +39 (0)6 679 3124*

3. La Piazza Navona and the Pantheon

Less than ten minutes' walk from Trevi Fountain, you're at the Pantheon. Once you've visited this glorious structure, why not take a while to traverse the small, charming streets that lead to Piazza Navona. Here, you will be surprised by the sumptuous, baroque frontages – reserved exclusively for pedestrians, the quarter is a wonderful, vibrant area that's appreciated by Romans and tourists alike.

4. Le Traversere

From the outset, these historical quarters, located on both sides of the

Tiber, will remind you of Paris' Latin Quarter, festooned as it is with innumerable bars and restaurants. In the days of the empire, Ravenna sailors and Levant Jews lived here – nothing has really changed, as foreigners of all nationalities live here still. The ideal location, perhaps, for a romantic ballad after a candle-lit dinner?

Addresses:

- *San Pietro in Montorio and the Bramante Temple can be found at Piazza di San Pietro in Montorio, 2. A renaissance masterpiece, this small circular temple, built in 1502 by Bramante, sits like a jewel. A little higher up, at the top of Janicule hill, there is a splendid panoramic view of the city, previously appreciated by Chateaubriand, Stendhal, Taine and, er, Zola.*
- *A few steps away from Traversere, cross the Tiber, and head for the small island formed by Piazza di San Bartolomeo All'Isola and Piazza Fatebenfratelli. There, you will discover a charming bar-restaurant that's normally drenched in sunlight and where, for less than 10€, you can sample a delicious salad followed by cappuccino.*

*Antico Caffé dell' Insulated
Via Ponte Quattro Capi, 17.
T. +39 (0)6 687 7662*

5. La Piazza di San Pietro and Vatican City

After leaving Traversere, stroll along the Tiber for 15 minutes, and you will arrive in the world's smallest country – Vatican City, symbolized by the world-famous Place San Pietro. It's impossible to describe in just a few lines so, the best thing to do, probably, is to check on Wikipedia to discover the details for yourself. The only thing I can say to you, without

The Traversere district

© Together Magazine 2009



fear of contradiction, is that Piazza di san Pietro is the place in Europe which, perhaps more than any other, symbolizes peace and Christian love. It's also a renowned location for marriage proposals – you have been warned!

MONSIEUR'S ANIMAL INSTINCTS

1. Rome from the air

First, you can appeal to your beau's orientation-ego by offering him the unique opportunity of locating his position in Rome with only one glance! With this in mind, take him in the Capitole's impressive panoramic glass elevator – for only 7€, you will reach Quadrigas Terrace, from where you can contemplate the most beautiful view of the city.

Quadrigas Terrace
Panoramic lifts
Piazza Ara Coeli
T. +39 (0)6 920 2049

2. The Coliseum

Once your Caesar has found the Coliseum, he will desire only one thing

– to get there as fast as possible, and pretend to be a gladiator. After five minutes' walking and probably around 20 minutes queuing, you will enter in the largest amphitheatre ever built by the Roman Empire. Holding between 50,000-75,000 spectators, its construction began in 70 AD. A symbol of physical force par excellence – there's no doubt that your man will appreciate this shrine to muscle...

Take time to stop awhile at the snack bar Valorani's Forum. The waiters are very friendly, and the espresso is quite simply perfect!
Valorani's Forum
Largo Corrado Ricci, 30
T. +39 (0)6 678 6207

3. Time for football

After your visit to an old stadium, why not try out a modern one? In Italy, Sunday means football! And in Rome, two big teams split supporters – Lazio and AC Roma. Tickets are in very short supply – it's much better to book in advance if you want to see a match, and, anyway the two big 2008-09 derbies have already been played. No worries – there are other enticing matches on offer, such as AC Roma-Juventus on Sunday 22nd March, 19h.

Go to Fnac's website to reserve your seats for this big match (prices start at 139€). www.fnac.be

4. Vintage soccer

Before taking him to the game, why not surprise your fella with a trip to a football temple, Old Soccer Nostalgia. Located very near Piazza del Popolo, this fascinating shop is entirely dedicated to the glorious past of Europe's biggest teams, and has vintage shirts and other collector's items in his favourite team's colours.



Double room with view

Mirabelle restaurant

© Hotel Splendide Royal

Old Soccer Nostalgia
Via Ripetta, 30
www.oldsoccer.it

5. Le Carni

As you leave Old Soccer Nostalgia, cross the street and visit one of Rome's most renowned butchers – Annibale. Established in 1896, Annibale reveals the secrets of meat that have established Italy's reputation worldwide.

Antica Macelleria Annibale
Via di Ripetta, 236
www.annibale.com

AND FOR HIM AND HER...

Hotel Splendide Royal Roma is all about five-star luxury, comparable with the best European hotels, in the noble heart of a noble city. Following its restoration, which took more than one year, the hotel, just off Via Veneto, is renowned for offering some of the best hospitality available in Italy's capital. The city of Bernini, Borromini and Pietro da Cortona, the city which tourists fall

in love with every day while walking in her streets and her square, finally has a hotel that recalls, with its refinement, elegant lines and furnishing, the characteristics of late 17th-century Roman nobility, while also reviving the sumptuousness and richness of Roman Baroque. A splendour that's waiting to be discovered, whether you're in love or on business... ●

Hotel Splendide Royal Roma
Via di Pinciana, 14
00187 Roma
T. +39 06 421689
www.splendideroyal.com
Superior Double Room from 280€

MARKS OUT OF FIVE

Welcome: 5
Service: 4
Comfort: 4
Facilities: 3
Location: 4

Many thanks to Brussels South Charleroi Airport, from where Ryanair flies to Roma Ciampino at very low prices. www.charleroi-airport.com

The Coliseum

© Together Magazine 2009



Simply Wizz!

WRITER: JAMES DREW



With Spring fast approaching, we take a look at the rejuvenated Brussels South Charleroi, and talk to Commercial Aviation Director David Gering about two of the airport's hottest destinations for early-bird holidaymakers, Prague and Bucharest.

Flights to Prague and to Bucharest used to be expensive - not any more. As part of the exciting transformation of Brussels South Charleroi Airport (BSCA), Wizz Air flights now service both historic, beautiful destinations, with flights to Prague increasing as of 29th June onwards to four times per week.

Wizz Air flights began from Charleroi on 18th July 2008, while Prague voyagers were able to fly from Belgium with Wizz Air from 19th February this year.

As BSCA CEO Marcel Buellens enthused: "Prague is a fantastic destination and very popular amongst Belgians for city trips. Bookings on this route are already above expectations,

which is why Wizz Air has already decided to increase the number of flights to Prague to four times a week."

Commercial Aviation Director David Gering agreed: "Prague and Bucharest are certainly gaining a reputation among young hipsters as being *the* party destinations, and we feel sure that the Spring holiday season will bear this out. With Bucharest in particular, we are finding that people are heading for the renowned 'hot spots' just outside the city - and it's fantastic that Wizz Air can offer such cheap, regular flights."

From 29th June onwards, Wizz Air will fly to Prague on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, and flights start from as little as 9.99€.

In 2008 alone, Wizz Air transferred 270,155 passengers from Brussels South Charleroi - and it's certainly an exciting time for the airport. Its new terminal, which opened at the beginning of 2008, signals the airport's intention to expand even further - there are flying times ahead!

Brussels-South Charleroi Airport
Building S 11 B - B-6041 Charleroi
T. +32 (0)71 251 211
www.charleroi-airport.com
www.wizzair.com

City - Wizzit

From Brussels South Charleroi to Prague, Budapest, Katowice/Cracow, Warsaw, Bucharest and Sofia **New!**

from €9.99 including taxes



One way price if paid by bank transfer including taxes and non-optional charges. For other payment methods a payment handling fee will be applied. Each piece of checked baggage is subject to additional fees. Number of seats at indicated price is limited.



wizz
wizzair.com



*Hong Kong:
Bustling
and booming*

Asian ascendancy aids Western woes?

WRITER: DAVE DERUYTTER

China's growth may help the world out of its deep economic recession.

Slumps come and go – obviously, people tend to be euphoric when they are near the zenith of an economic cycle and depressed at its nadir. The latest 'bubble', followed by the present deep recession, proves to be no different.

Is the world economy in a sore state? Yes, but what we know today shows there was no reason, a year or more ago, for euphoria. By the same token, with what we will know in a year's time will show that there was no reason to be as depressed as some are at the moment.

BRIGHT SIDE

Deep recessions are never as bad as they look, as long as the right measures are taken. And, frankly speaking, the US and European governments acted swiftly to protect the banking and financial system. Similar praise must go towards their efforts to cushion the negative economic effects of the asset-bubble bursts in property and stock markets. However, such measures will only temporarily stabilize the world economy and its financial system and, in the long run, there is a need for important structural changes to the world's economy.

I see two such changes on the horizon. Innovation and technological advances

are badly needed to lead a structural recovery in efficiency improvements and the development of new products and services. My job would have taken 15 people to manage ten years ago without internet, email, mobile phones and professional online networking services, so why should such technological advances cease? Because there are asset-bubbles exploding? I don't think so.

Moore's Law of IT capacity doubling every 18 months still applies and nanotechnology will also prove invaluable in medicine. Young people now live in a very different technological environment from that of their parents – their world has become so much smaller, with the instant availability of international communication and information sharing.

Luckily, there is a second, equally important, structural change that will help to pull the world out of economic misery this time around, from a source that would have seemed inconceivable during the 20th century.

CHINA IN OUR HANDS

I'm talking about China and, further down the road, India. The former has become so economically powerful over the past ten years that it can play a very useful role in this crisis. It is no longer the poor country of 30 years ago, when then-leader Deng Xiao Ping first proclaimed: "To become rich is glorious". Today, China has a sizeable economy, larger than Germany's. With a population some 1.3 billion, of whom 400 million can now afford an



apartment, a car, a flat-screen TV and mobile phone plus internet services, Chinese companies, increasingly, are selling their excess export stocks on their domestic market. When I was last in China, ten years ago, its middle class numbered no more than 200 million.

**CHINA HAS
BECOME SO
ECONOMICALLY
POWERFUL OVER
THE PAST TEN
YEARS THAT IT
CAN PLAY A VERY
USEFUL ROLE IN
THIS CRISIS**

In addition, China's GDP has grown by almost ten per cent per year over the past three decades – if it grows at 'only' seven per cent year on year over the next decade, its economy will double, along with its middle-class population, which

will reach around the 800 million mark, adding another 400 million to the world's 'middle class with spending capabilities', which is as much as the whole of Europe. If history is our guide, it may do just that, and thus help to save the world economy.

Of course, it will mostly be China and the other 'Asian tigers' that will benefit from these advances, which should strengthen the West's resolve to maintain the technological and innovative leadership it still has. Otherwise, the old saying may soon become: "Go East, young man, go East." ●

THE WRITER

Dave Deruytter works for an international bank and spent several years in Asia.



Looking for a furnished apartment?



Brussels Business Flats offers a wide range of furnished flats on different locations throughout the city. You can choose an apartment according geographical position, type or budget. Whether your stay is short or long term, BBF has the know-how and the experience to make your stay as easy and comfortable as possible.



www.bbf.be
Call 02/705 05 21

Selected
as one of
the sixty-five
most luxurious and
most trendy hotels
worldwide

Condé Nast Traveller



In the heart of Brussels, ultra contemporary five-star hotel ★★★★★ decorated by a collective of European designers. Sixty luxurious and very spacious rooms, wellness, terrace of more than three hundred square meters, restaurant be Lella with Belgian specialities,... Be welcome, Be Manos.

Located in the direct vicinity of the Thalys and the Eurostar terminals. Few minutes away from the historic Grand Place of Brussels and other special places of interest.

Square de l'Aviation 23-27 • BE-1070 Brussels • Tel +32 2 520 65 65
www.bemanos.com - stay@bemanos.com

be Manos

designed for a pleasant stay



FAMILY OWNED HOTELS MANOS

HOTEL MANOS PREMIER | HOTEL MANOS STEPHANIE | MANOS CONFERENCE CENTRE
www.manoshotel.com

FLASH

FACT: WOMEN AND MEN ARE EQUALLY INTELLIGENT.

The argument is finally over. Science has once again stepped in to prove some commonly held beliefs to be completely wrong. Research done at the University of California suggests that the only difference lies in the way information is processed. Men have around six times more grey matter (the sections of the brain devoted to information processing) than women, and women have ten times more white matter (which relates to informational connections, and how information is used) than a man. The authors of the study conclude that this may be the reason that men tend to be better at maths, which is a centralized processing task, and women excel in languages, which have a more abstract nature. The fact that the male and female brain are 'wired' differently was shown by the study to mean nothing in the case of overall intelligence – it's simply a different way of arriving at a conclusion.

FIGURE: 0.7

This is what makes a woman's figure the most attractive, apparently. First put forward by Dr Devendra Singh at the University of Texas as a complement to the BMI (Body Mass Index), it has also been used to measure the attractiveness of the human body to the opposite sex. 0.7 is the most attractive on a woman, and 0.9 on a man. The way to find this is to measure the waist, then divide that measurement by the circumference of the hip at the widest point. So, while the maths may be easy to do, it's still not a good idea to take your tape measure when speed-dating.

NEWS

Equality matters

WRITER: CILLIAN DONNELLY

Gender equality has been a much-discussed topic over the years, with the European Union, through its political and civil structures, aiming to eradicate discrimination and inequality through a series of ongoing policies determined to create a more equitable society. So, which way now?



While advocates of EU gender-equality successes can point to initiatives such as the principle of equal pay for men and women, access to employment and training and the equal treatment of women and men in occupational social security schemes as evidence of progression in society, for others it's not so simple.

With women now making up a significant proportion of the workforce, the European trade union movement has realized the benefits that women can bring to unions in terms of increased membership and diversity, but is also aware that an increase in women in the workforce does not automatically lead to an increase in equality.

WOMEN AT WORK

Women account for between 40 and 50 per cent of overall trade union

membership throughout Europe, explains Maria Jepsen, head of the Research Department of the European Trade Union Institute for Research, Education and safety (ETUI-REHS), but adds that this still does not amount to an accurate overall representation of women in the workplace. Employment is one thing, organization is another, she says, and each sector presents its own set of challenges.

Union organization in the public sector is well organized, says Jepsen, with a large pool of female talent and resources to draw on. The industrial sector is also quite good, she continues, but tends to be more male-dominated. Problems tend to arise in the services sector.

"In the private sector, retail or service jobs, it can be difficult to organize," explains Jepsen, "and a lot of these positions tend to be largely female. The difficulty is that there is a high turnover, and maybe a different

work culture compared with the public sector. There are also a lot of precarious workers, part-time or temporary employees, which makes it difficult."

Various trade unions throughout the EU, such as the Swedish Confederation of Trade Unions (LO), the Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (CGIL), UNISON and Solidarność have implemented numerous initiatives aimed at bringing gender equality and policies to the forefront of employment practises.

BELGIUM AT THE FOREFRONT

In this regard, says Jepsen, Belgium scores very highly. In 2004, the country's three main trade-union confederations entered into an agreement concerning gender mainstreaming, which the Council of Europe has defined as "the organisation, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policy-making".

In a ten-point charter, the three unions, the ACV-CSC, the ABVV-FGTB and the ACLVB-CGSLB outlined a set of priorities aimed at enabling female members to better participate in trade union decision-making processes.

'IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RETAIL OR SERVICE JOBS, [UNION INVOLVEMENT] CAN BE DIFFICULT TO ORGANIZE... AND A LOT OF THESE POSITIONS TEND TO BE LARGELY FEMALE'

While Jepsen acknowledges that some people might not see Belgium as being at the forefront of trade union innovation, she is quick to sing the praises of the country's efforts.

"The Belgian case is a very good

example of how things can work, and it has taken place in a country where this sort of thing is not seen as natural, as compared with somewhere like the Scandinavian countries, which have social welfare systems that are geared towards gender equality."


"Efforts like these are really, really important. Furthermore, in Belgium, huge attempts have also been made to reduce the wage gap that exists between men and women. In Scandinavia it is still at the high end. In Italy, also, they have done very good things."

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Throughout the EU as a whole, developments could move a little faster, says Jepsen. Despite commitments to uphold gender equality, progress on the issue has stalled in recent years. Policy tends to be quite ad-hoc when implemented through Europe, and often depends on individual Commission departments – or even individuals.

"Officially, gender mainstreaming is an automatic part of all policy, but instead it is not, either because it has not been properly understood or they are simply not doing it. Personally, I think it's because they are just not doing it!"

However, it's not all bad news, says Jepsen. "Directorate-General Research is good at it; policy-wise, they are the most important. Others are not so committed. With DG Employment and Social Affairs, where this all comes from, it actually depends on what the individual directors think. Really, they can do better."

"Sometimes it is a huge effort to change things. In the European Commission, it all varies from DG to DG, and this is why we have to keep fighting." 

The Vatican, 'demutualized'

WRITER: GRAHAM REID

Downward spiral in The Vatican?



Our financial expert takes a wry look at possible market moves being initiated in the Holy See...

Those of you who listened to the Christmas message by Pope Benedict XVI but turned off too quickly may have missed the important news item announced in the last few words of his discourse: "After a spate of demutualizations in the insurance industry, the Vatican has decided to follow suit. This will be achieved by floating itself as a public company in order to compete more effectively with other religions in the 21st century in securing a place in heaven for the faithful."

At a recent press conference (which lasted three days, due to its having to be delivered in 65 languages) the Pope (as president elect) confirmed that, from the date of the change, cardinals would in future be called 'directors' and bishops would be given the title 'vice-presidents'.

'AGGRESSIVE' TECHNIQUES

The Pope also stated that these changes would not have an adverse effect on Vatican employment. Monks and nuns would be retrained in marketing and aggressive sales techniques with challenging productivity quotas for new converts.

In response to questions from analysts about the over-investment in real property, the Pope stated that Vatican buildings and churches would be sold to a property company under a lease-back arrangement. Turnstiles would be placed at the church doors to combat falling revenues.

Subscribing shareholders will be offered a number of perks, including a year's supply of free Leffe, and entry to the company's new theme park – 'Il Paradisio' – although St Peter would still retain the right to refuse entry to undesirables.

George W. Bush has been offered the job of chief internal auditor, assisted by Tony Blair. However, this may be due to a mistake – the Pope's hearing is failing, and it is believed that he thought they had spent the past few years fighting a war on 'error'.

In conclusion, the Pope declared: "We will end up a fitter and leaner organization, thoroughly adapted to meet the challenges of the years to come." The market, however, reacted cautiously to the news, pending a referral to the Monopolies Commission and a more general concern about the Pope's new 50-year employment contract. However,

THE WRITER

Graham Reid is director of Classic Financial Solutions NV, 321 Brusselsesteenweg, 3090 Overijse.



*Trappings
of wealth?*

his decision to relinquish his right to a golden parachute on the grounds that he expected to be going in the opposite direction was received with satisfaction.

THE MARKETS REACT

The reaction of Protestant churches was predictable – the Baptists announced plans to corner the market in water companies to protect supplies in which to dunk the newborn, while the Chief Rabbi and Archbishop of Canterbury have also begun merger discussions to meet the new competitive challenge. They stated that minor doctrinal differences would not be allowed to interfere with the common good.

Asked to comment, Osama Bin Laden (through a spokesman) declared that

it was just another example of Western decadence that he would fight tooth and nail – if he had any.

The BBC said that it believed the situation raised grave doubts about future reporting requirements. Would it call for a religious affairs correspondent with financial experience, or vice versa?

Further information about these developments can be obtained from the Vatican's new call centre – in accordance with traditional call-centre practice and with training from a leading bank, staff whose English is unintelligible will be assigned the most complex questions, while those with full mastery of the language will play only a minor role and be permitted but a few words before having to transfer the call. ●



DON'T GET FLEECE BY AN UNREGULATED FINANCIAL ADVISER

Unfortunately expatriates are often the target for unlicensed financial salesmen usually offering offshore products that are of questionable benefit.

By the time you realize that they are not what they seemed the advisers have moved on.

Local advice from a well-established adviser with relevant professional experience is best.

Introducing Classic Financial Solutions N.V.

Living in Belgium, you face a range of financial issues and decisions which may have important differences from those in your home country.

Fully regulated, we have provided independent financial advice specifically designed for the individual expatriate since 1991.

Advice on investment matters is always given by a director or experienced senior executive and we pride ourselves on offering a highly available personalized service.

Our multilingual staff has been trained to understand your needs and we will be delighted to help you to build your personal financial security through sound planning.

Services include portfolio structuring, building a pension scheme, international tax and retirement planning, and advice to computer contractors -all designed to match your own profile and needs.

Initial consultations to clarify your personal goals are free of charge and do not involve a commitment on your part.

Classic Financial Solutions N.V.
321 Brusselsesteenweg
3090 Overijse

T. +32 (0)2 687 31 31
F. +32 (0)2 687 59 87
Email: cfsadmin@classic-fs.com
www.classic-fs.com

Regulated by the Banking Commission
C.B.F.A. number A41241



Sceptic ranks

WRITER: ANDY CARLING

With the approach of the 2009 European Parliamentary elections, there is growing concern that turnout will decline and the fortunes of Eurosceptic parties will increase. But just who are the Eurosceptics, and what do they want?



The UK Independence Party (UKIP) advocates a withdrawal from the EU, replacing it with a free-trade zone, not political union. Other sceptics, seemingly, advocate anything from a radical reform of the EU, to outright xenophobia. The main difference is geographical. British doubters are drawn from the width of the political spectrum, whereas mainland Europe's tend to come from either the extreme left or right.

OVERPAID, OVER HERE ?

In the 2004 European Parliamentary elections, UKIP pushed the pro-Europe UK Liberal Democrats into fourth place and proudly marched to Strasbourg with their star MEP, Robert Kilroy-Silk, formerly a daytime TV host. At a triumphant press conference Kilroy-Silk announced that he was going to 'wreck' the EU Parliament. Since then, Kilroy-Silk has left UKIP, formed his own party, left that party and is now apparently trying to wreck the EU by staying away from it, only turning up

to collect his expenses. Somehow, the Parliament has survived.

The biggest success for the Eurosceptics was the Irish rejection of the Treaty of Lisbon. This vote provoked much anguish and analysis from as far away as several kilometres from Schuman roundabout. According to highly placed sources, the 'Yes' camp were in terminal disarray. Commissioner Margot Wallström objected vigorously to the deliberately opaque and obtuse wording of the treaty – constructed to obscure its similarity to the previously rejected European Constitution according to insiders – and had pleaded with the Council of the European Union to release a clear and readable version, to no avail. The end result was that even the 'Yes' camp couldn't understand or explain the treaty.

TURGID TREATY

So, a deliberately obscure text was put in front of the electorate, who were meant to endorse it without anyone being able to explain what

it meant – you really don't have to be a Eurosceptic to feel that the pro-treaty campaign deserved to lose the referendum.

The great European project is at a crossroads, with reform paralyzed, an increasing number of member states and growing disillusion amongst Europeans. There is much talk of the 'democratic deficit' and ex-Commissioner Peter Mandelson's worrying assertion that we're in a 'post-democratic' age, whatever that may mean. Perhaps it's a reference to his ennoblement in the UK House of Lords?

The real issue is about how to adapt to the modern world. The European Union was founded by people who were shocked at the carnage of the Second World War and at how despots had led people down a nihilistic path. It was a 'we know what's best for you' paternalist outlook with the best of intentions that gave birth to the European idea. As the Union has developed and changed from an initial steel and coal treaty into political and monetary union, the outside world has also changed, as have the expectations

of the electorate. People no longer defer to 'the great and the good' nor seem content to give carte blanche to their governments to do as they will on the European agenda.

PEOPLE NO LONGER DEFER TO 'THE GREAT AND THE GOOD' NOR SEEM CONTENT TO GIVE CARTE BLANCHE TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO DO AS THEY WILL ON THE EUROPEAN AGENDA

'EU POLITICS IS FOR NERDS'

This led to a sense of distance between European citizens and the

European Union, which can be seen in the lowering turnout for elections and the lack of interest in European affairs. According to EU surveys, 75 per cent of the populace don't even know in what year the next European Parliament elections will be held, when they are, in fact, but a few months away. Only 30 per cent say they will definitely vote and 68 per cent of those who will not be voting say it is because it won't make a difference.

A leading commentator from the Socialist Group privately admitted to me that he is considering not voting in the 2009 elections: "It just doesn't matter who wins a seat. It makes no difference to what Europe does if my MEP is left or right. I can't see any real difference between when the Party of European Socialists was a majority, and now, when the European Peoples Party is the largest group."

Eurosceptics have a simple and clear message for the electorate; the EU has failed. The biggest barrier to their political ambitions is a disillusioned electorate that can't be motivated to go out and vote for them. The pro-Europeans have a much more complex message, one that hasn't been well articulated recently. They have one other major handicap, as Christian Leffler, Head of Cabinet for Commissioner Wallström explained: "European politics is boring. It's for nerds."

The 2009 election predictions are looking gloomy for Europhiles, with a lower turnout and an increased number of Eurosceptic MEPs on the cards. While a decreased turnout is a serious concern, a democratic process needs dissent and criticism and, without the sceptics, European politics would be even more boring. A frightening prospect. ■

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.vlan.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)	10.72 € ↘ 10.97	2 493.67 € ↘ 2,931.60	1,642.23€ ↘ 1,853.62
1020 LAEKEN	10.13 € ↗ 8.87	1,853.80 € ↗ 1,846.36	1,706.06 € ↗ 1,581.13
1030 SCHAERBEEK	8.97 € ↗ 8.60	1,786.99 € ↗ 1,726.78	1,724.78 € ↗ 1,605.98
1040 ETTERBEEK	9.59 € ↘ 9.98	2,465.77 € ↗ 2,322.53	2,188.89 € ↘ 2,220.38
1050 IXELLES	10.18 € ↘ 10.42	2,426.20 € ↘ 2,615.08	1,831.99 € ↘ 1,897.78
1060 SAINT GILLES	9.33 € ↘ 9.44	2,393.74 € ↗ 2,169.15	1,775.62 € ↘ 2,040.69
1070 ANDERLECHT	8.19 € ↘ 9.75	1,740.73 € ↘ 1,977.10	1,648.80 € ↘ 1,864.75
1080 MOLENBEEK ST JEAN	7.88 € ↗ 7.69	2,021.90 € ↗ 1,879.03	1,670.10 € ↘ 1,974.51
1081 KOEKELBERG	7.79 € ↗ 7.33	1,989.26 € ↗ 1,869.77	1,552.32 € ↘ 1,618.23
1082 BERCHEM STE AGATHE	9.18 € ↘ 9.50	1,775.28 € ↘ 1,806.23	1,807.69 € ↘ 2,006.24
1083 GANSOREN	7.99 € ↘ 8.27	2,059.30 € ↗ 1,931.30	1,893.39 € ↘ 1,982.85
1090 JETTE	8.41 € ↘ 8.73	1,906.38 € ↘ 1,936.53	1,635.08 € ↗ 1,495.50
1120 NEDER OVER HEMBEK	8.99 € ↗ 8.86	1,836.30 € ↘ 1,994.25	1,605.52 € ↘ 1,619.73
1140 EVERE	8.72 € ↘ 10.61	2,089.62 € ↘ 2,282.61	1,850.76 € ↘ 2,120.16
1150 WOLUWÉ ST PIERRE	9.61 € ↘ 10.15	2,914.49 € ↗ 2,888.05	2,448.45 € ↘ 2,598.73
1160 AUDERGHEM	11.35 € ↘ 11.55	2,576.32 € ↘ 2,580.32	2,170.63 € ↘ 2,529.68
1170 WATERMAEL BOITSFORT	8.90 € ↘ 9.87	2,709.66 € ↘ 2,711.22	3,883.41 € ↗ 2,981.82
1180 UCCLE	9.69 € ↘ 10.14	2,494.19 € ↗ 2,366.49	2,036.20 € ↘ 2,168.20
1190 FOREST	8.90 € ↗ 8.07	2,103.88 € ↗ 2,059.99	2,314.35 € ↘ 2,405.68
1200 WOLUWÉ ST LAMBERT	10.67 € ↗ 9.55	2,327.62 € ↘ 2,510.79	2,311.62 € ↘ 2,360.86
1210 ST JOSSE TEN NOODE	7.63 € ↗ 7.62	1,975.32 € ↗ 1,913.30	1,578.06 € ↘ 1,695.03



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 - 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.



Five stars to discover

WRITER: JÉRÔME STÉFANSKI/SARA BROWN



Spa Cinq Mondes
at Dolce La Hulpe Brussels
Chaussée de Bruxelles 135
1310 La Hulpe – T. +32 (0)2 290 9901
Cinq.Mondes@dolce.com
www.dolcelahulpebrussels.com

ZEÏN ORIENTAL SPA

To be found in the splendid locale of Tour&Taxis, this new establishment invites you on a voyage of Middle-Eastern discovery. From the moment you enter, you will fall under the spell of 800m² of sensual spa heaven, decorated with furniture and art imported exclusively from Morocco - after a few moments, you'll find it hard to believe that you're still in the centre of Brussels!

Zeïn Oriental Spa
Tour&Taxis, Avenue du Port, 86C
1000 Brussels – T. +32(0)2 424 35 22
www.bruxelles.zeinorientalspa.fr

Once again, *Together* takes you through the doors of some of the latest high-class soon-to-be-opened outlets. Enjoy!

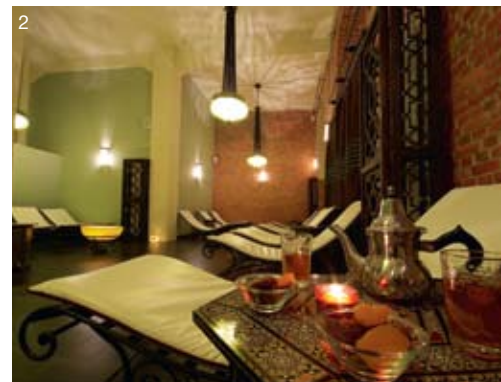
SPA CINQ MONDES AT DOLCE LA HULPE BRUSSELS

On the prestigious and enchanting site of Dolce La Hulpe Hotel, a splendid new 800m² spa opens its doors. The latest innovation from the Spa des 5 Mondes group, this new establishment is entirely dedicated to your well-being.

L'UNIVERSITÀ DEL CAFFÉ

From May onwards, coffee fans will have a new address to head to in Antwerp, following the onwards and upwards trail of Università del Caffé, from the world-famous Illy brand. For around 75€ (with breakfast and buffet-lunch included) you can spend a day surrounded by coffee experts. Unmissable!

UdC Antwerp
Illy Caffé - 1st floor, Bourlastraat, 3-5
2000 Antwerpen
T. +32(0)3 226 7554
www.illy.com



1. Spa Cinq Mondes at Dolce La Hulpe Brussels
2. Zeïn Oriental Spa
3. L'Università del Caffé
4. Restaurant Namaste
5. Espace 53 Brasserie

RESTAURANT NAMASTE

Experience the wonderful taste of clay oven cooking at Restaurant Namaste - delicious and healthy cuisine from India and Pakistan. Vegetarian dishes are available, and every meal is of the highest quality and yet very reasonably priced. How can you refuse?

Restaurant Namaste
Waalstraat, 10
1933 Sterrebeek
T. +32 (0)2 687 4460
Open Sun-Thurs 18h30-22h, Fri-Sat 18h30-23h. Closed Wed.

ESPACE 53 BRASSERIE

In this newly renovated brasserie, located just inside the historic Autoworld Museum, a gastronomic experience can be enjoyed in the unique surroundings of antique cars.

Espace 53 Brasserie
Autoworld Museum
Parc du Cinquantenaire, 11
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 779 4692
www.espace53.be
Open Mon-Sat 11h30-14h30 and 18h00 to 24h, Sun 11h30-14h30. 📍

All roads lead to Rhône

WRITER: ALEX HEWETSON

Our resident wine expert gets historical and hysterical, in roughly equal measure, on the joys of the Côtes du Rhône. Happy drinking!



Rolling out the barrels

In 1225, after the Albigensian Crusade, Gaspard de Sterimberg, a knight of the Holy Roman Empire, renounced war and obtained permission to build his hermitage and chapel.

As able with the plough as he was with the sword, he planted vines on the land granted to him. The wine he produced was later to become Hermitage La Chapelle, one of the best known producers produce today is Jaboulet, which now commands very high prices, commensurate with its long history and wonderful location. Whichever way you look at it, this is truly a wine of great pedigree and breeding - very well known long before even the oldest Bordeaux châteaux came on the scene.

THE ONLY RED GRAPE PERMITTED IS SYRAH, A VARIETY KNOWN FOR ITS WILD SPICY FLAVOURS AND THE WONDERFUL RICH WINES THAT IT BEARS, FULL OF HEADY FLAVOURS

TO SYRAH, WITH LOVE

Hermitage is a wine from the northern Rhône, a region characterized by a continental climate that has harsh winters but warm summers. In the Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC) wines from this area, the only red grape permitted is Syrah,

a variety known for its wild spicy flavours and the wonderful rich wines that it bears, full of heady flavours. Two other fine northern Rhône wines are Cornas and St Joseph. Some well-regarded producers from the area include: Vidal-Fleury, Rene Rostaing, Delas Freres, Chateau Grillet, Chapoutier, Guigal, Chave, and Jaboulet.

There are also a few renowned whites from the northern Rhône, made solely from the Viogner grape, such as Condrieu and Chateau Grillet. Both have soft but intense flavours, and a whiff of honey and melon; they're very delicate and are usually drunk quite young. These two AOCs continued to use Viogner, when the rest of Europe had almost forgotten it existed.

SEE OF TRANQUILITY?

Roughly 80 years after Gaspard planted his vines, the See of the Pope moved from Rome to Avignon in the Rhône valley, causing a vast schism and unheavenly ructions within the Catholic Church. This new papal enclave was named Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and gave its name to the most heralded wine of the southern Rhône. Its composition is as complex as the religious history surrounding it. There are 13 grapes allowed, and a red CNDP (forgive the acronym) can actually contain up to 20 per cent white wine, the white grapes used mainly being Roussane, Ugni Blanc and Picpoul.

Very recently, a 2005 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Clos Des Papes by Paul-Vincent Avril, was voted the best wine in the world by *The Spectator*. It beat all the mega-expensive greats such as Petrus and Lafite, coming first out of 15,000 wines, and it only costs around 45€ a bottle. If you like the sound of it, best of luck in your search, because now that it has won this great Olympiad and received barrel-loads of publicity, it will more difficult to find than a solvent high street bank.

IN THE VILLAGES

And so to my favourite AOC of the region, the Côtes du Rhône Villages. There are 18 wine villages that make up this appellation, and like the show-off that I was (am), I once knew the name of every village by heart. They conjure up the sun-drenched, honey-coloured stone of south east France; Visan, Seguret and Lirac, to name but three.

**[CÔTES
DU RHÔNE
VILLAGES]
WINES ARE
OFTEN VERY
INEXPENSIVE,
HAVE REALLY
WONDERFUL
RICH FLAVOURS,
SPICES, BERRY
FRUIT AND
ARE USUALLY
DARK AND THICK**

The principle red grapes are Grenache Noir, Syrah, Cinsaut, Carignan and Mourvedre. These wines are often very inexpensive, have really wonderful rich flavours, spices, berry fruit and are usually dark and thick. If you're looking for subtlety, then

these are perhaps not the wines for you. The white grapes are Clairette, Grenache Blanc, Marsanne Rousanne and Viogner; they're usually blended in varying proportions, depending on the vintner's style, to make soft enticing whites. My two favourite villages for red are Rasteau and the wonderful oxymoron Vinsobres, which, thankfully, never lives up to its name.

If you want to try some of these wonders in Brussels, I suggest you go to the excellent Winebar Oeno Tk in Ixelles, just behind the Trinité Church at the end of Rue du Bailli. They also have a shop with a really good selection of Rhônes; I know, from intimate experience, that they do a very fine Rasteau and you can find some of the more expensive northern Rhônes such as Cornas and St Joseph. They also have an excellent range of tapas. Even though it is a shop, it's open until 20h30 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and 22h30 Friday and Saturday. If, by chance, you should spy a dreamy-looking character in the corner, clasping a bottle of Rasteau, mumbling about Knights of the Holy Roman Empire and the tragedy of the Cathars, just wave politely and run... it may be me. ☺

Winebar Oeno Tk
Rue Africaine, 29-31
1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 534 6434
www.oenotk.be

Five Magic Formulas to help you embrace the Spring



energy for life

Our Spa Days are the perfect way to welcome spring and banish winter blues for another year. From only 78€, enjoy invigorating or soothing treatments, and spend time in the relaxing environment of Aspria Club: pool, hammam, sauna and jacuzzi, relaxation areas and lounge/restaurant - or for a change of pace, try our state of the art fitness area.

YOUR GOAL

Detox
Re-energise
Destress
Combat the aging process
A quick fix

OUR SPA DAY SOLUTION

The Definitive Detox
The Mighty Boost
The Definitive Destress
The Ultimate Rewind
Evening Sun Downer

For more information or to make a booking, please see the spa section on our website www.aspriacub.be.
Alternatively, please call **02 508 0800** to find out when you can book your Spa Day.
Aspria Club - Brussels' Finest Health and Fitness Club - Rue de l'Industrie 26 - 1040 Bruxelles



Rob: Restaurant expertise in your own home



We all know Rob
The Gourmets' Market
- we know the wide choice
it offers and the quality
of its products. But who
is hiding under the
Rob chef's hat?

GREAT CUISINE, A GREAT CHEF

"So, Alain, what do have to offer us
today?"

This is the question that greets Alain
Bergen, the chef at Rob, at the start of
each working day. With his impressive
stoves and his expert team, no creation
is beyond him. Season in, season out,
using the freshest produce available,
this cooking dervish, who acquired his
skills from some of the greatest names
in the gastronomic world, proffers an
inventive range of menus and recipes.
He has no need to search the markets
or the countryside; everything is within
easy reach in the store - the best
products from the best sources.



*Rob: Eating well
without the hard
work!*

PRACTICAL, GASTRONOMIC

All his the recipes are based on
products available in the store. As
he explains: "The ingredients are
chosen with care by our buyers
and ready-to-eat dishes are produced
and packaged in our new workshops,
and everything is available at the
self-service counter. In short, at
Rob, we respond to all the needs and
desires of life today: eating well without
spending too much time slaving over
the kitchen stove!"

The chef's palette is vast: traditional
recipes (such as Carbonnades à
la Flamande or Gent style Chicken
Waterzooi), great classics (Quenelles
of pike, Magret de canard with wild
mushrooms) and original dishes
inspired by the most fashionable
chefs of the moment - lobster lasagne
with baby vegetables, scallops with
sombrierinos, tagliatelli with morels
and spring onions, risotto with truffle
and parmesan, scampi in sweet
pepper cream sauce with tagliolini,
salmon cooked in olive oil perfumed
with ginger, and so on.

In addition to ready-to-eat dishes,
Bergen also has a selection of cooked
vegetables, mousses, quiches and
tapenades. While the quality of each



product and ingredient is an absolute
priority, the quality of the packaging
is equally important. Each product
is designed to meet the needs
of everyday life - ergonomic and
microwavable.

BON APPÉTIT!

So, all you have to do is lay the table.
And, yet again, Rob is there with flair!

You can sample Alain's excellent
cuisine every day in the Rob Gourmet
Area. Whether you're on the hoof all
day or desire a simple but gastronomic
lunch, whatever is available in the store
can also be sampled and what you
sample in-store can also be prepared at
home. There's also a private room for
50 diners, as well as the possibility of
creating customized menus according
to budget and seasonal produce. 🍴

*Open Monday to Saturday from 9-18h
except for national holidays.
For groups reservations call
T. + 32 (0)2 761 0162 or email
resto@rob-brussels.be.
200-space free car park available.*

Rob The Gourmets' Market
Boulevard de la Woluwe, 28
1150 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre
T. +32 (0)2 771 2060
www.rob-brussels.be

Fishing for compliments

WRITER: JAMES DREW

Our editor pays a visit to a Brussels classic, La Quincaillerie, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2008. So, is it still up to snuff?



Still retaining the name of the 'hardware' store that preceded it, La Quincaillerie has built up quite a reputation for itself since 1988, when it first opened its doors.

Now, in Belgium, and Brussels in particular, competition is fierce as to who serves the best seafood. To be fair, it isn't a gastronomic area in which this writer feels particularly specialized – I belong to the other Belgian male tradition, namely make it big, make it bloody and give me frites.

FLAT OR HOLLOW?

As quickly became apparent from a mere scan of the menu, I was going to have to do a little better than that, here. What, for example, is the difference (apart from the obvious) between 'flat' and 'hollow' oysters? The answer was to determine my choice of entrée, so I needed information.

Thankfully, Madeleine Deryhon, who has been the restaurant's proprietor for 15 years, was on hand and she guided over one of the truly exemplary waiting staff, who gave me the low-down.

"Essentially," he explained, "the hollow oyster is oviparous, which means that, under the summer sun, its shell is full

*La Quincaillerie:
Classic cuisine*

of its 'milk', and it will spread its reproductive cells in the water. Later, the flat oyster is allowed to grow on a flat surface, whereas the hollow oysters are further cultivated in 'pockets' or 'pots', before being fully matured in 'claires', which are ponds dug in mud or clay which is waterproof. In general, hollow oysters tend to develop a richer, broader flavour – hence why they are so prized."

I took his word for it, and he wasn't fibbing – they were possibly the finest oysters I have ever tasted. Rich, yet creamy in texture, with a back taste that was superbly complemented by the recommended Beunes Greves Louis Latour 2005. The price, as with most of the menu's offerings, might cause you to blanch somewhat (24€ for six oysters) but, then again, you get the impression very quickly that you are enjoying of the very best. As the plat principal was about to further prove...

SOLD ON THE SOLE

As previously explained, I am not normally a fish man but, with the recommendations thus far having proven very successful, I opted for the Sole meunière with assorted

vegetables and steamed potatoes. Once again, this didn't appear to be a steal at 32€ but, then again, I hadn't tasted it yet.

It was wonderful. Sole can be a fish that's too bony but, such was the succulence of the white, tender flesh, I might have been eating monkfish. In addition, the almost toffee-like quality of the sauce complemented the flavour perfectly. Fish simply doesn't get much better than this.

Only pudding was a touch disappointing – in as much as I am a steak-frites man, I have little time for anything to finish, apart from crème brûlée and, while the sugar was expertly caramelized and the flavour was creamy enough, there was little to my palate of the promised Madagascar vanilla. A pity but, seriously, it is unlikely that you will find a finer seafood restaurant in Brussels either now, or in the future. Prepare your pocketbook, to be sure, but get ready for a culinary master-class. 🍷

La Quincaillerie Brasserie
Rue du Page, 45 - 1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 533 9833
www.quincaillerie.be



Party people

© peopleattitude.be



ELLE STYLE AWARDS 2009

Everyone was dressed to impress at the Antwerp Expo on 6th February for the Elle Fashion Awards in Belgium's undisputed fashion capital.
www.antwerpexpo.be



ELITIST PARTY

Carnival was in full swing on 28th February at the Crystal Lounge, and it's anyone's guess who was hiding behind the fabulous masks.
www.crystallounge.be



[Mmmh!] 5TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

The 13th February was the day to look good, eat well, and party hard at [Mmmh!] in Brussels, as the culinary kings celebrated their 5th birthday.
www.mmmh.be



NUIT BLEUE

The night was blue and the trees were frosted at Hôtel Merode's terrasse d'hiver on 9th January, but that certainly didn't chill the good times.



Produced by Agent Elliott. Art Directed by Mark Lindley. Photographed by John Higginson - WWW.RANGEROVER-EYEWEAR.COM

RANGE ROVER
EYEWEAR



STARS IN HIS EYES

WRITER: JAMES DREW
PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHEL COMTE

Swiss photographer Michel Comte is set to hold court in Young Gallery, Brussels - a photographer whose name can be mentioned in the same breath as a Peter Lindbergh or Mario Testino, with his award-winning work for Armani, Dolce et Gabbana, Nike, Lancôme and Revlon. Now, he's in *Together*, and quite right too. Seize your chance to see his unique perspectives on famous faces and forms in this ground-breaking expo, which runs from 29th May to 1st August.

Penelope Cruz
Première
Magazine, 2001
© I-Management

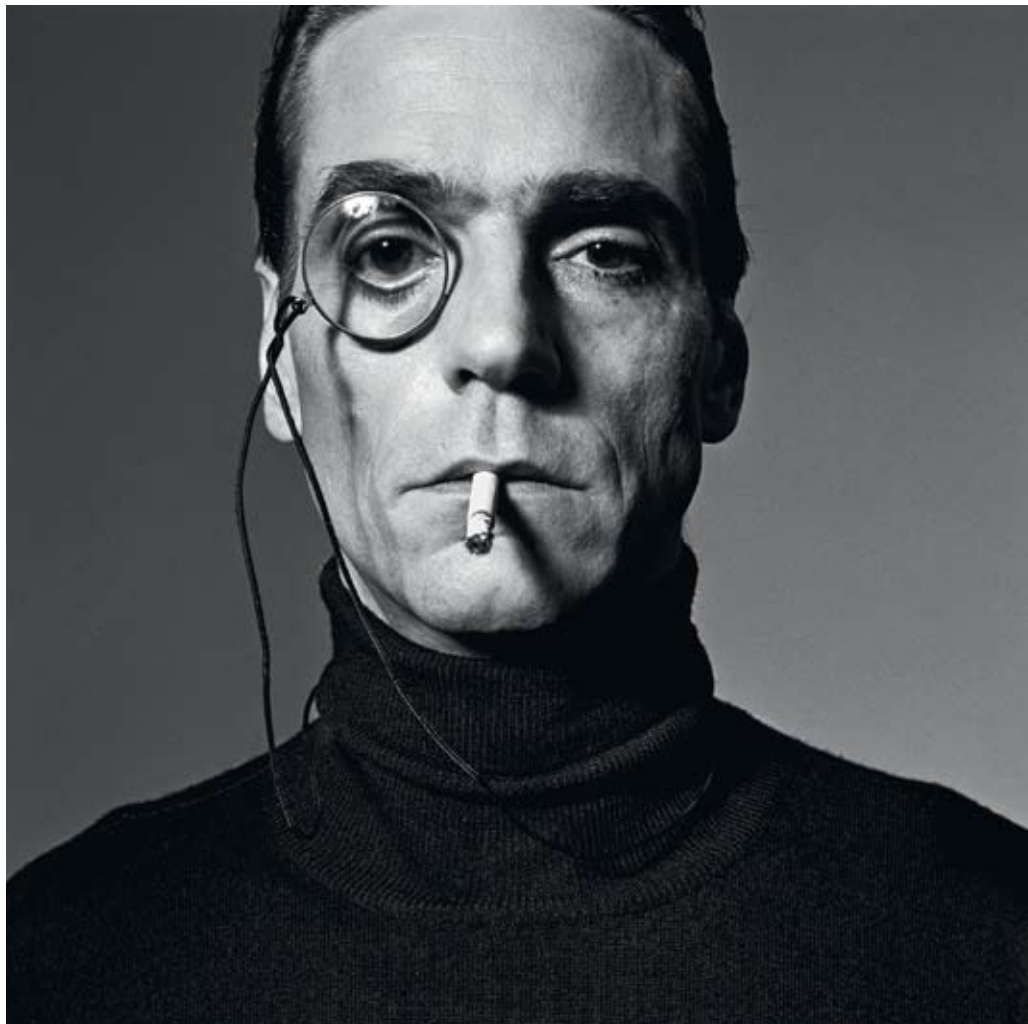




Helena
Christensen III
Safe Sex
Campaign, 1993
© I-Management



Jeff Koons
L'Uomo
Vogue, 1992
© I-Management



Jeremy Irons
Interview, 1990
© I-Management



Catherine
Deneuve
Pomellato, 1996
© I-Management

Together's 'To Do' list

WRITER: SARA BROWN

As Spring gets into full swing, enjoy the very best of Belgian culture with your favourite Brussels magazine.

ARS MUSICA

10.03.09 > 10.04.09

Now in its 20th year, this festival, taking place at various venues, features both indoor and outdoor concerts, meetings, films, and rehearsals open to the public. This year's theme is Plus Oultre or "further beyond, pushing back the Columns of Hercules", giving groups the chance to experiment with the newest sounds.

T. +32 (0)2 507 8200
www.arsmusica.be

EURANTICA

20.03.09 > 29.03.09

Collectors and admirers of antiques alike can indulge themselves at this fair. With 130 of the finest art and antiques dealers from all over Europe, discover anything from modern art to extra-European archaeology. Ladies should consider a visit on the 27th, as they will get free admission on Ladies' Day.

Brussels Exposition Centre, Palais 5
Place de Belgique, 1 - 1020 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 474 8263
www.eurantica.be

SEXYORNOT

21.03.09

An evening devoted to seduction,

prestige and luxury - Miss Belgium 2009 and models from the Dominique agency will be in attendance for the official launch of trendy bar L'Axess. The place to be seen, among la crème de la crème.

Entrepôt Royal

Tour & Taxis
Avenue du Port 86/C
1000 Brussels
T. +32(0)2 423 0910
www.sexyornot.be
www.laxess.be
www.tourtaxis.com

BAAF IN 1040

26.03.09 > 29.03.09

Brussels Accessible Art Fair (BAAF) are planning their next big show in June. In the meantime, Les Terroirs and BAAF are pleased to present the work of a different artist every last Thursday of the month, followed by an exhibition of the work lasting one month. This month, it's Emma Donaldson on display.

Les Terroirs

Rue Charles Degroux, 37/39
1040 Etterbeek
T. +32 (0)2 735 9924
www.lesterroirs.be
www.accessibleartfair.com

PASSA PORTA FESTIVAL

26 > 29.03.09

Discover literature and Brussels through this international festival of words. Written and spoken stories from all cultures and languages are celebrated at this annual festival, now in its third year.

1. *It's Our Earth*
2. *Robert Capa Retrospective*
3. *The Royal Greenhouses of Laeken*

International House of Literature

Rue Antoine Dansaert, 46
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 226 0454
www.passaporta.be

PLURAL PERSPECTIVES: THE BELGIAN COMIC STRIP

27.03.09 > 28.06.09

The latest event in the year long BD Comic Strip Brussels, explore this exhibition to see the evolution of 100 years of Belgian and international comics. Each of the 20 'personal museums' highlights the influences and work of renowned artists throughout the world. Let the child inside enjoy your favourite comics from days past.

Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium

Rue de la Régence, 3 - 1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 508 3211
www.brusselscomics.com

THAT'S OPERA

To 31.03.09

Catch this exhibition before it ends, and become a part of 200 years of Italian music from the Ricordi Archives. Step on stage and witness the making of an opera from first note to last. Become a part of the scenery, orchestra and production while learning the ropes of producing an opera.

Tour & Taxis

Avenue du Port, 86
1000 Brussels
www.thatsopera.com



THE ROYAL GREENHOUSES OF LAEKEN 08.04.09 > 10.05.09

Botanists and amateur gardeners alike will find this dramatic greenhouse full of awe-inspiring plants. Built in 1873 as an addition to King Leopold II's castle at Laeken, it is only open to the public for a few weeks each spring. Explore the rare and fascinating species while taking in the invigorating scents.

Domaine Royal de Laeken
Avenue du Parc Royal
1020 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 513 8940
www.monarchie.be

INTERNATIONAL FLOWER EXHIBITION 09.04.09 > 07.05.09

Join 100,000 flower lovers and discover over 500 varieties at this sixth annual exhibition at the castle of Groot-Bijgaarden. Among the hyacinths, violets, azaleas and rhododendrons, you can also encounter 300 types of tulip from many of the major Dutch bulb producers.

Het Kasteel van Groot-Bijgaarden
Isidoor Van Beverenstraat, 5
1702 Groot-Bijgaarden
T. + 32 (0)2 344 6273
www.grandbigard.be

ROBERT CAPA RETROSPECTIVE To 19.04.09

Examine and remember some of the most important conflicts of our time

through the eyes of the greatest war photographer. See the Second World War, the liberation of Paris and the Spanish Civil War through this visionary's lens in over 150 photographs.

Jewish Museum
Rue des Minimes, 21 - 1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 512 1963
www.mjb-jmb.org

IT'S OUR EARTH To 26.04.09

If you're looking to go green, start here at the largest ever exhibition on sustainable development. With interactive exhibits and works by renowned artists, learn the history of our planet, how humans have changed it, and what you can do to reverse the damage.

Tour & Taxis
Avenue du Port, 86 - 1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 549 6049
www.expo-terra.be

SHOPPING TIME To 18.10.09

When shopping and architecture combine, what do you get? A stunning exhibition of storefronts throughout history. Discover the art and aesthetics of shopping through this exhibition of life-sized storefronts and photographs from the Victorian to today.

Architecture Foundation
Rue de l'Ermitage, 55
1050 Brussels
T. + 32 (0)2 642 2480
www.fondationpourlarchitecture.be

Wait, girls! I'm not wearing my swimsuit



ADDRESSES

A

Adidas
www.adidas.com

B

Bell&Ross
www.bellross.com

C

Calvin Klein
www.calvinklein.com

Camper Twins
www.camper.com

Chanel
www.chanel.be

Chaumet
www.chaumet.com

Converse
www.converse.com

D

Diesel
www.diesel.com

Dior Homme
www.diorhomme.com

Dyrberg/Kern
www.dyrbergkern.com

F

Filippa-K
www.filippa-k.com

Flexfit
www.flexfit.com

H

Hackett
www.hackett.com

Hugo Boss
www.hugoboss.com

I

Iceberg
www.iceberg.com

L

La Perla
www.laperla.com

Les Homme
www.leshommesfashion.com

Louis Vuitton
www.louisvuitton.com

N

Napapijri
www.napapijri.com

O

Olivier Strelli
www.strelli.be

P

Palladium
www.palladium.fr

Patrizia Pepe
www.patriziapepe.com

Paule Ka
www.pauleka.com

R

Rado
www.rado.com

S

Swatch
www.swatch.com

Y

Yves saint Laurent
www.ysl.com

Z

Zeki Triko
www.zekitriko.com.tr

To have **Together** delivered, subscribe at
www.together-magazine.eu

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

David Mc Gowan:
david@togethermedia.eu
or T. +32 (0)497 543 672

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:
Jérôme Stéfanski

Publisher:
David Mc Gowan

Managing Editors:
James Drew & Colin Moors – ReadRight.be
james@togethermedia.eu / james@readright.be
colin@togethermedia.eu / colin@readright.be

Cover Credit:
Ercan

Writers:
Martin Banks / Sara Brown / Andy Carling /
Emma Davis / Dave Deruytter / Cillian Donnelly /
James Drew / Federico Grandesso / Alex Hewetson /
Gerald Loftus / Kimberley Lovato / Colin Moors /
Graham Reid / Jérôme Stéfanski

Together Media
Bd St Michel, 47
B-1040 Bruxelles
info@togethermedia.eu

Together
media

Nobody needs to know the price of your Saab



Saab builds exceptional automobiles. And there's no reason for anybody to know how much you paid for it, and especially, how much you didn't pay for it. On the other hand, what everybody should know is that now, if you're an expat, a diplomat or a member of the armed forces, very special terms apply on the 9-3 Sport Sedan, Sport-Hatch or Convertible, and the exclusive 9-5 Griffin. Discover your advantage! More information is available at your local dealership, or at www.saab-ids.be.

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION: 5.4 - 11.7 L/100 KM. CO2 EMISSIONS: 147-279 G/KM
BEHERMAN EUROPEAN MODEL SHOWN WITH OPTIONS AND ACCESSORIES

Saab International &
Diplomat Sales



BIOTherm HOMME

N°1 WORLDWIDE IN MEN'S SKINCARE*

BEHIND 2 OR 3 WRINKLES,
HOW MANY ARE IN THE GESTATION PHASE?



ANTI-WRINKLE REVOLUTION

Hyaluronic acid combined with an age-old plant, Centella asiatica, in an incredibly effective moisturizing anti-wrinkle formula.

SMOOTHES THE SKIN	84%**
NEUTRALIZES THE APPEARANCE OF WRINKLES	63%**
REINFORCES THE SKIN DAY AFTER DAY	81%**

INNOVATION
FORCE SUPREME
NEUTRALIZER

VISIBLE WRINKLES: CORRECTED
GESTATIONAL WRINKLES: NEUTRALIZED

www.force-supreme.com

*Euromonitor 2008. Selective market. 2007 period. **Consumer test - self-assessments - % satisfaction - 128 men - 4 weeks.