

WHERE NEWS & BUSINESS MEET GLAMOUR & GOOD TIMES

#13 / JUNE-JULY 2009

Together

magazine

LIFE OF LUXURY

TOGETHER
IN CANNES
Full reportage,
photos and video
coverage from
cinema's most
glamorous festival

EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW
Commission
Vice-President
Margot
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bows out

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Crisis? What crisis?

Unless you're a member of an undiscovered South American tribe, you'll have noticed that the financial world is having something of a bad time balancing the books. Naturally, we at *Together* understand that things are tough out there, and that people are improvising and economizing – even if the banks (or UK MPs) aren't.

With this in mind, we also understand that occasionally you need to reward yourself, or simply to feel pampered and relaxed for a while. So, it is without fear that we bring you this edition of *Together* devoted to luxury and the finer things in life.

Our man in the Orient, Dave Deruytter, offers us a glimmer of hope for market recovery, explaining how the emerging economies in China and India could put things back on track with raw spending power. See? It's not all bad. In yet more good news, Martin Banks reveals how the Belgian wizards of Indian cuisine at *La Porte des Indes* are performing a task previously thought to be impossible – making airline food appetizing.

"But what about the luxury?" I hear you cry. Well, apart from our regular *Temptations* for men and women and, of course, all the fashions from top designers, *Together's* very own international jet-setter Federico Grandesso tells us all about the

high-maintenance lifestyles of some of the wealthiest women in Monaco. Our doyen of the grape Alex Hewetson gets misty-eyed over some very special tipples, including Tokay – 'the wine of kings'.

As I'm sure you're aware, luxury is not only about buying expensive things, eating in good restaurants and the like (although these things won't necessarily make you unhappy!) For some, luxury comes in a different package. Jérôme Stéfanski talks to Belgian master chocolate-maker Pierre Marcolini about his latest 'Evolution' (the best things come in small packages), and financial expert Graham Reid assesses how best to maintain a luxury life in your latter years. Meanwhile, Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström is looking forward to the luxury of retirement (at least from political life), as she tells Andy Carling in an exclusive interview.

As if all this wasn't luxurious enough for you, we have our very own pictures and reportage from the recent Cannes Film Festival and some ideas on where you should be heading this summer.

Don't forget that, as ever, you can see our exclusive videos and interviews online at www.together-magazine.eu.

As we now know that time off doing your own things is the ultimate luxury, your *Together* team will also be taking a short summer break. See you soon – perhaps sooner than you think! ☺

David Mc Gowan
 Publisher



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In our sights!



He's at it again – Armand Richelet-Kleinberg, our cameraman, IT wizard and roving reporter, has uploaded more video treats onto the *Together* website, including exclusive coverage from the Cannes Festival.

BIOThERM: BEAUTY BY 'LASER'

With its new 'Celluli Laser' range, Biotherm is offering 'laser'care for your skin – a high-precision treatment with quickly visible results. *Together* offers a behind-the-scenes insight from a Biotherm expert.

BELGIAN FASHION: MICKEY MANIA

Disney Paris has thrown down to gauntlet to a number of renowned Belgian stylists. Their subject? Mickey Mouse's ears. Say no more, but check

out the work of Sofie D'Hoore, Fabienne Delvigne, Mademoiselle Jean, Elvis Pompilio, Véronique Branquinho, Olivier Strelli, Tim Van Steenberghe, Edouard Vermeulen (Natan), Didier Vervaeren (Delvaux) and Christian Wijnants online.

'ALL ABOUT CANNES'

Together opens the door on some of the festival's hottest scenes...check out the guests, enjoy the Martini beach, sing along with a pianist, attend the opening of a prestigious boutique, take lunch by the sea and, finally, end your day aboard a yacht with a typically Belgian star-studded bash.

CRYSTAL ON THE CARPET

At cinema's most dazzling festival, the stars weren't the only ones shining on the red carpet. Swarovski Crystal, for the tenth consecutive year, was also there – see for yourselves. 📺

To check out these and other videos, go to

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illy: No more daily grind

Every day, around the world, more than 6 million cups of coffee are prepared using illy's unique blend – we look at the story behind one of the world's favourite brews, and give readers the chance to win one of four state-of-the-art illy Francis Francis X7 iperEspresso machines.

Established in 1933 by Francesco Illy, the company produces and markets a leading-quality blend of espresso coffee, made using nine types of pure Arabica. From the balance of these ingredients from South and Central America, India and Africa arises the unmistakable flavour and aroma of illy coffee, consistent in every cup and in any part of the world. Currently, the blend is sold in more than 140 countries and is served in more than 50,000 restaurants and bars.

VIRTUOUS CIRCLE

Sustainability, according to illy, is economic, social and environmental. The virtuous circle of sustainability starts with the cup of coffee and goes back to the countries of origin that provide the raw material, all in accordance with a precise strategy. On the one hand, there is the stress placed on the outlet where the coffee is consumed, to ensure an excellent result everywhere, and on the other the care taken as regards the methods and locations of production, in order to highlight and increase the cultivation of the finest coffee. This is a long-term process, in which technology, coffee-cultivation and the respect for man and the environment play leading roles.

FROM BEAN TO CUP

Espresso coffee is a complex beverage made up of 1,500 chemical substances (of which 800 are volatile), which must blend harmoniously to form a complete aroma, and over 13 chemical and physical variables, which affect the correct preparation. While it takes 50



coffee beans to prepare an excellent espresso coffee, it needs only one bad bean to ruin it. For this reason, constant checks are necessary – from the supply, selecting only the finest lots, to the processing undertaken by the company itself, during which the product undergoes 114 checks before being packaged. illycaffè also has an electronic selection system for the coffee beans, which makes it possible to evaluate each one at the rate of 5,000 a second, eliminating any that are imperfect.

THE MEAN MACHINE

illy's iperEspresso System is a revolutionary way to prepare true café-quality espresso at home, thanks to a ground-breaking two-stage extraction technology that creates an extraordinarily smooth, full-bodied and intensely aromatic coffee with long-lasting *crema*. Designed by Luca Trazzi, the Francis Francis X7

is extremely easy to use and, because there is absolutely no contact between the coffee inside the capsule and the machine, the purity of each cup is assured and clean-up is kept to a minimum.

HOW TO WIN

So, fancy winning a fabulous Francis Francis X7 iperEspresso, worth 349€? It's first-come, first-served this time around – all you have to do is send us an email, marked Francis Francis X7 Competition, to info@together.eu, with your full name, address and daytime phone number. In addition, by way of a 'tie-breaker', we'd like to know what you think of *Together* so far – let's just say that the most interesting (and genuine) responses will have a much better chance of winning a prize, fair enough? **1**

And that's all there is to it – deadline for all entries is 1st August, so don't delay. Good luck!
www.illy.com

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1040 Brussels.

Notable and notorious

WRITERS: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Who's been here, and why? A few of the famous faces to have graced Brussels recently.

SIR BOB GELDOF

The hellraiser was in Brussels (by rare coincidence on St Patrick's Day, 17th March) to give a keynote speech at the World Biofuels Markets Forum. Perhaps not too surprisingly, Geldof also took the opportunity to sample a Guinness in a hostelry near the Berlaymont with European Commission President José Manuel Barroso. According to Sir Bob: "Biofuels have received far more than their fair share of negative press and yet there is tremendous potential for a sustainable biofuels industry to help Africa on the road to clean energy independence without having an impact on food production."



JOSEPH BIDEN

US Vice-President Joseph Biden visited Brussels on 10th March and met with EU Council Secretary-General and CFSP High Representative Javier Solana. Biden also met Czech Foreign Affairs Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner and NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Afghanistan was high on the agenda, and EU-US relations were also discussed meeting. Biden, in accepting Javier Solana's invitation, was also preparing the way for a visit from US President Barack Obama.



HILLARY CLINTON

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was in Brussels in early March for meetings with EU officials and for her first NATO foreign ministers informal meeting. She held a 'Town Hall' discussion at the European Parliament with hundreds of young Europeans called The Next Generation Takes the Floor – during the debate, while discussing climate change, she admitted: "Certainly, the US has been negligent in facing up to our responsibilities; we are making up the best we can for lost time."



BAN KI-MOON

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon visited Brussels on 23rd April, to push the climate-change agenda forward and to present a new global campaign, 'Seal the Deal'. During his press conference, Ban said: "I have asked for the leadership of the European Union to play the role of locomotive in the climate-change issue. We count on the EU's continued and committed support."



FRANZ BECKENBAUER

Franz Beckenbauer arrived in Brussels on 29th April to attend the DFB LIVE event held by the Permanent Representation of Baden-Württemberg. In a packed conference room, the football champion was welcomed along with other key figures from German football, such as German Football Federation President Theo Zwanziger, Uwe Seeler, Oliver Bierhoff and Steffi Jones, the president of the Organising Committee for the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany.

Photo: © www.n24.de



DIDIER DROGBA AND RUUD GULLIT

Chelsea's Didier Drogba (centre) and Dutch football legend Ruud Gullit were in town on 11th and 12th May, for a gala ceremony on 12th May, to present the 'Ebony Boot' award to Anderlecht's Mbark Boussoufa, honoured as the best African player in the Belgian league (see *The Places To Be* on page 84).



JOHNNY HALLYDAY

French singer Johnny Hallyday was back on stage at the Forest National in Brussels on 19th May, to present his new album *Le Coeur d'un Homme*, following his announcement that his next tour would be the last of his career. *Together* also met the French sensation in Cannes, where he was on the red carpet as the star of *Vengeance* (2009), by Johnnie To.



“Wealth is the parent of luxury and indolence, and poverty of meanness and viciousness, and both of discontent.”
– **Plato (427-347 BC), The Republic**

“We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us happy is something to be enthusiastic about.”
– **Charles Kingsley, author, (1819-1875)**

“There is a luxury in self-reproach. When we blame ourselves, we feel that no one else has a right to blame us. It is the confession, not the priest, that gives us absolution.”
– **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), The Picture of Dorian Gray**

“The ideals which have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been kindness, beauty, and truth. The trite subjects of human efforts, possessions, outward success, luxury have always seemed to me contemptible.”
– **Albert Einstein (1879-1955)**

“Luxury is the wolf at the door and its fangs are the vanities and conceits germinated by success. When an artist learns this, he knows where the danger is.”
– **Tennessee Williams (1911-1983)**

LIFE OF LUXURY

The rare and the beautiful

WRITER: ALEX HEWETSON



Our wine expert indulges himself.

Luxury – what is it? Any oaf can hang around the lobby of a five-star hotel but, for me, true luxury is indulging in something rare and distinctive – in some way, it must always involve the senses directly. So allow me be your guide and let us travel to some exotic, almost unknown, corners of the world and wallow in nectar known only to a very few.

EASTERN PROMISE

Fifteen miles north of Beirut in the Beqaa Valley, a family toils to produce a jewel of the Middle East – it is not a precious stone, nor 24 carat gold, rather, it is made from grapes. Its name? Chateau Musar. In 1984, Serge Hochar, the owner, harvested the grapes under Israeli gunfire; British wine magazine *Decanter* awarded him Wine Person of Year for his dedication. Now, the Syrian army looms and the glint of guns once again threatens the production of this little-known marvel.

The red wine, which is the most famous, is made from Cinsault, Carignan, Grenache, Mourvedre and Cabernet Sauvignon but, depending on the vintage, the quantities of each grape vary. It is deep and has profound dark fruit notes, beautifully smooth and can last for years. In London, during the mid 1980s, shortly after it was discovered by the pundits of the

wine world, I found a 1972 for around £6. If you want the 1972 today, it will set you back nearer the 200€ mark, but you can still splash out and indulge yourself with a more moderate treat, as the 2001 costs around 25€.

CONDRIEU CHARMS

Now we head northwest to the Rhône Valley, where lies an AOC by the name of Condrieu – the wines from this appellation are soft, spicy dry whites with notes of peaches, made from the Viogner grape. In the heart of this region lies an even smaller AOC called Château Grillet which makes the most opulent Condrieu. It is tiny (just 3.8 hectares) and only produces 10,000 bottles a year; the 2005 is around 50€. It comes in a very distinctive elegant brown bottle and is best drunk quite young; the Viogner is not a grape that keeps for long.

Château Grillet has been owned by the same family since 1830 – the vines are on average 40 years old, so grape yields are low but the fruit intense. This wine is scarce, in drinking it you are joining a select group who relish its wonderful aromas and cherish the fact that its existence is known only to a few.

KINGS' TIPPLE

Now for a truly regal experience. On a plateau in Hungary, very near the Carpathian Mountains, a few dedicated wineries make Tokay, a dessert wine that has long been the favourite of exalted leaders; on most bottles of

Tokay Aszu, you will find the Latin inscription *Vinum regnum rex vinorum* – 'King of wines and wine of kings'. The sweetness is enhanced by adding spoons of grape paste or 'puttonyos' – the better the vintage, the more puttonyos they add. If you can find a six puttonyos Tokay, go for it – I found a 1983 around ten years ago, it must be at least 50€ a pop now, but you will be drinking something very rare and luscious. These wines will last decades, even centuries – the great 1811 or 'comet' vintage (referring to the Great Comet of 1811, which is also, for purists known as C/1811 F1) is still going strong, but don't even think about asking how much that costs.

Et voila – three wines that, for me, epitomize my understanding of luxury. But, wait a minute, I'm still in the Carpathians and my canine teeth are growing – I feel the urge for thick, bloodlike wines...and darkness is falling... ☾

Migs Wines

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Vision on!

WRITER: JAMES DREW

Together took time for a chat with David Rose, one of Brussels' best and trendiest opticians, about the looks that are likely to dominate the summer months.

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.

LOOKING CLASS

Rose's youth belies his experience in knowing how to find the right look for everyone who walks through his doors – so he's clearly the man to talk to about the trends likely to be on show as the year heats up.

"This year," he explains, "the feel is very much about Etnia Barcelona spectacles

[pictured] – they're absolutely the coolest glasses you're likely to encounter, with their New Orleans, Belfast and Lisboa ranges (for men and women) absolute stand-outs.

"Etnia Barcelona is what happens when you combine a young group with a passion for design and a yearning to create an eyewear collection that reflects their fashion forward spirit, a personal style, and above all, an individual expression. They express their vision in a brand that represents characters of international style, daring and imagination."

Check out the styles for yourselves on this page, then why not pay a visit to David's charming boutique? You'll be seeing things a lot more clearly. ☺

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For addresses, see page 96

Left:
Flesh-coloured
silk robe
Ostritch feather:
NATAN
Ivory bracelet:
SWAROVSKI
Silver necklace:
DELVAUX

Right:
Dress and knot
in cream silk:
HOSS INTROPIA
Handbag:
GIVENCHY



Dress:
PAULE KA
Accessories:
ROBERT CLERGERIE



Borsalino hat:
FABIENNE DELVIGNE
Silk scarf:
HERMES
Bracelet:
LES PRECIEUSES
Blouse:
OLIVIER STRELLI
Trousers:
TOMMY HILFINGER
Handbag:
DELVAUX



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PATRICIA PEPE
Necklace :
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Handbag :
LOUIS VUITTON
Bibi hat :
FABIENNE DELVIGNE



Belt :
HUGO BOSS
Watch :
OLIVIER STRELLI
Jewellery :
DYRBERG KERN

Lux living – Hotel Be Manos

WRITER: DANIELE DOSI

To be found but a few minutes away from the Eurostar and Thalys terminals at Gare Du Midi, Hotel Be Manos is among the very best of Brussels' luxury experiences. We talk to the chain's director, Constantin Poulgouras, who's keeping it very much in the family.



Three hotels, each based on different concepts – tradition, family style and design. A total of 165 rooms, service from 65 skilled staff members, who have mostly been 'part of the family' for more than ten years, and who take very good care of very demanding customers. For whatever reason you end up in Brussels, either on business or a short, relaxing holiday, the family-owned Hotel Be Manos is definitely the place to be.

BEGINNINGS

It all began some 35 years ago, when Emmanuel Poulgouras, nicknamed 'Manos', fled the Mobutu regime in the former Zaire, to live in Belgium. He purchased a private mansion that he later transformed into a hotel – now, the business is run by his strong-minded son Constantin, whose latest is **Hotel Be Manos**, which was described by prestigious Condé Nast Traveller as being "one of the best European design hotels". Some famous name designers who have contributed to the décor : – Acerbis, for the low tables in the bar and lounge (Italy), Karol Cohen for the photographs (Belgium), Le Labo Design for light fittings and luminous Plexiglas (France).

And there are good reasons for Constantin to be proud of the Poulgouras family's latest addition. As he explains: "Be Manos provides something more than other similar hotels, since it is both 'technological' and at the same time very user-friendly – we wanted to avoid customers not knowing which button to push to turn the light on because it was too complicated. Furthermore, it is very environmentally friendly – we even use

rainwater for our plants as well as solar panels to provide clean energy."

SIMPLICITY

'Keep it simple' is thus the motto, a focus on space, light and comfort, while respecting the environment at the same time. But there's more... Be Lella restaurant, for example. Allowing your palate to be titillated by national dishes with a distinctive gourmet flavour, such as tomatoes stuffed with Zeebrugge prawns, antipasti of charcuterie gaumaise, mussels in wine or Ostend-style fish soup provided at luscious banquets on Pedrali tables is an unforgettable experience, as is time spent in the spa – what could be more enjoyable after a tiring journey?

A power-nap, perhaps, to recover from your jet-lag in one of the 60 deluxe rooms where senses are stimulated by plush black carpets, majestic leather headboards and heavy curtains with wide black and white stripes. Special attention is given to the comfort factor – everything, in fact, is geared towards pleasure, from the spacious rooms (40, 50 or 60 m²), the ultra-comfortable beds with their 30cm thick mattresses and the sophisticated yet simple technical equipment that's on offer.

You can be certain when staying here, that nothing more will be needed to ensure a productive business meeting in one of the two meeting rooms available or, instead, a simply delightful break. Be pleased, Be Manos. ●

Be Manos Hotel
Square De L'aviation, 23-27
1070 Brussels
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www.bemanos.com

Stylish skies ahead

WRITER: ANDY CARLING

Jet Republic, a new business aviation company, has placed the largest European business jet order ever – \$1.5 billion for 110 state-of-the-art Learjets. A brave move in today's economic climate? Not according to founder and CEO, Jonathan Breeze.



“As companies feel the pinch, they still have a need for executive transport and it makes economic sense to use us instead of bearing all the costs of having their own jet,” Breeze explains. “With 24 hours notice we can guarantee to fly them wherever they want and with a service that is unmatched.” The Jet Republic boss started out in the Royal Air Force flying Hercules transport planes, and has moved into the private jet business, climbing steadily up the ladder while acquiring a global concierge business.

COFFEE TIME

It all comes down to coffee. As we sit in the hotel, I'm drinking some unremarkable brew, while Breeze is sipping water. I'm glad about that, as he's the sort of person who seems to be naturally caffeinated. When the order was placed for the jets, they offered him a range of colours and fabrics. Not good enough for Jet Republic: “The problem with that is that the cabins were more suited to middle America, we needed something more stylish, more suited to Europe, so we redesigned the whole interior to make it more spacious, to fit in a flight attendant and to offer hot food and fresh espresso.” To do this, he went to the coffee machine's manufacturer

to make sure everything was just right, and that they could make them exactly how he wanted. It is this attention to detail that puts him ahead of the pack. “When Flight International magazine saw the photos of our interior, they thought they were from a prototype of the next generation Learjet!”

Jet Republic offer two schemes – you can either buy a share in an aircraft, or use a card on which members can purchase flying hours. Executives can work throughout the flight in comfort and, thanks to the latest in communications, use their Blackberrys while the on-board concierge service makes all their arrangements. In the past, private jets were seen as a perk, a sign of prestige and opulence. Jet Republic has calculated that, in leaner times, their services are seen as more economic time-use for business leaders.

When the company was launched, bookmaker Paddy Power offered odds against the company still trading in January 2010. They're no longer accepting bets. I'm not surprised. Anyone who bets against Jonathan Breeze is likely to lose out. ☐

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The time, the kitsch and the wardrobe

WRITER: JEREMY SLATER

The world has entered another major economic downturn, the third in 30 years, and with it we are seeing the rise of fashion that reflects the *sturm und drang* zeitgeist – how music reacts to the end of a ‘luxury’ era. Our ‘fashionista’ looks back at how it was ever thus.



Glamour is not usually the standard for street fashions, and as another recession starts, the glad rags are being thrown out as something darker starts to appeal more. Perhaps best exhibited by those original nihilists, the punks in 1977, a reaction to the floppy fantasy of the hippies who were borne on a happy economic wave of post-war growth. Punk and its slightly better-bred cousin, New Wave, raged against the lack of opportunities that people only five or ten years older had enjoyed. It was a contemptuous two fingers to education and delayed gratification of the bourgeois, which was not much use with no jobs around.

PUNK AND DISORDERLY

So, spitting, unfashionable since the tuberculosis pandemic of the 1920s, became de rigueur, even if aimed at people whom you admired, in fact, especially at people you admired. Unisex but tribal clothing, with both boys and girls wearing



Left:
The Clash

Above:
Kurt Cobain

make-up and adopting the martial style of spikes and tartan was the look during the summer of '77, and this, over the next few years, developed into several different styles including Ska and Two Tone – none of them glamorous, unless you consider The Clash the ultimate in punk cool.

By 1983, the bile and anger of punk appeared to have been drawn, as a slightly younger generation, oppressed by the weight of millions out of work, decided to dress up to get a job. And so a yuppie look was adopted

PUNK AND ITS SLIGHTLY BETTER-BRED COUSIN, NEW WAVE, RAGED AGAINST THE LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES THAT PEOPLE ONLY FIVE OR TEN YEARS OLDER HAD ENJOYED

by many, with some variations including the ‘casuals’ who liked to look as sharp as the blades they carried. Pastel colours and rolled-up sleeves were in, and Europe and America became happier and more contented places.

However, this blithe spirit would not last longer than the decade as another tide of economic gloom arrived in 1990, as the bouffant splendour of ‘happy rock’ ambassadors Bon Jovi was swiftly replaced by the grease, grunge and hypodermic chic of Nirvana and Mudhoney. Things were no cleaner on this side of the Atlantic, with the rise of ‘Madchester’ and baggy, baggy pants. Everyone was feeling the pain, including US presidential candidates.

FAME AND MISFORTUNE

So things remained the same for a while, but by the mid-90s much of the media had found a cure for the misery – the rise of the celebrity. During much of the past decade, there have many examples of people who have striven to be famous for no other reason than being famous. With the minimum of effort but a huge wardrobe, appearing on reality TV was the height of aspiration; or being a coiffed and waxed footballer and his makeup-caked WAG. Pop was airbrushed too, as boy and girl bands took to the airwaves.

But unhappy times are here again and people are becoming more introspective. Music has changed, becoming more serious, with the rise of styles such as indie folk. Prime movers are bands such as Seattle’s Fleet Foxes and, more recently, the London-based Leisure Society.

Perhaps soon, we will all be looking like G20 protesters. I know a couple of friends who do already, don’t you? ●

Marcolini: Between passion and 'Evolution'

WRITER: JÉRÔME STEFANSKI

Pierre Marcolini
© All rights reserved.



Belgium's most celebrated chocolate-maker has chosen Paris to launch his latest concept, 'Marcolini Evolution'. *Together* caught up with him at his Brussels home, where he explained his latest masterpiece.

Always seeking innovation and perfection, Pierre Marcolini never tires of re-inventing his range of chocolates and patisseries, each more surprising and delicious than the last. And he has made perseverance pay – in a little more than ten years, Marcolini has become an international chocolate reference point, so much so that it is rumoured he needs bodyguards when he visits Japan! With 'Evolution', Marcolini has turned a new page in the story of Belgian chocolate, and its success seems certain. A meeting with a man of passion...

INTERVIEW

Together Magazine: How would you define 'Marcolini Evolution'?

Pierre Marcolini: *To create this new range, I started with a very simple concept – specifically, that there is nothing more horrible than forcing yourself to eat chocolates that are too big. So now, our consumers can discover Evolution, a redefined, smaller form of chocolate, each weighing only 6 grammes. The flavours have also been revitalized, with more acerbic, sophisticated tastes and textures, which mix soft with crunchy.*

Did your customers expect this 'evolution'?

The most important thing for me is: "Do I still enjoy my chocolates?" To

be frank, I wanted something more; I wanted to ask questions of myself to push the brand forward. The Marcolini customer always expects creativity, surprise and quality. Since 1995, when I first opened my workshop in Brussels, I set these values for myself and have striven to push my own limits ever since.

Why did you choose Paris for the launch of your new chocolate?

Paris is a splendid city, but French competition and favouritism are tough – if you succeed in Paris, you can succeed anywhere. To be on the city's Right Bank, slap-bang in the middle of French history, was very important for us – a beautiful area. Here, we wanted to create a space for creation and expression.

And how did you go about creating this 'space'?

I worked with the Belgian architect-decorator Olivier Lempereur. He envisioned a 110 square-metre shop with an emphasis on black, grey

and white, by using dark wood, steel and glass. The area was divided into three sections – the first, dedicated to product presentation on the right with the self-service shelves and, on the left, a sales counter. The second, a wooden tasting area reminiscent of a jeweller's and, between the two, a counter reserved exclusively for pastries.

How would you describe the experience you offer the chocolate lover?

As customers select their chocolates, one by one, they are taking part in a wonderful experience – the Pierre Marcolini experience. Their black box, waiting to be filled, is the spirit of adventure and, once they have made their choices, customers can leave, happy, with their beautifully packaged creations.

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And the winners are...

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO



Charlotte Gainsbourg and Michael Haneke with the Palme D'Or
© Chopard



The stars gathered for the world's most glamorous film festival, Cannes, from 13th to 24th May. Guess what? *Together* was there, you lucky people!

Judging by the press conference in Paris at the end of April, held to launch the 62nd Cannes Film Festival, the list of notable directors in competition gave the impression that it was all going to be sewn up by the big names. Wrong! Come festival's end, your *Together*

correspondent had to reassess his forecasts in light of the unexpected (but deserving) winners.

HAPPY HANEKE

Indeed, I was very happy to see the Palme D'Or go to Michael Haneke's *The White Ribbon*, a black-and-white vision of a German village that forms a microcosm for the violence of totalitarianism and racism that took place during the first half of the 20th century. Austrian director Haneke is a previous Cannes winner, who scooped the Grand Prix Jury Prize in 2001 for *The Piano Teacher* and Best Director in 2005 for *Cache*. Jury president, the French actress Isabelle Huppert,

Right:
Helen and Martin
Scorsese

presented Haneke with his award, while another controversially themed movie, *Un Prophete* by Jacques Audiard, won this year's Grand Jury Prize. The film recounts the story of a 19-year-old boy of humble origins who lives in jail and has to undertake missions to prove his worth to the leader of a criminal gang.

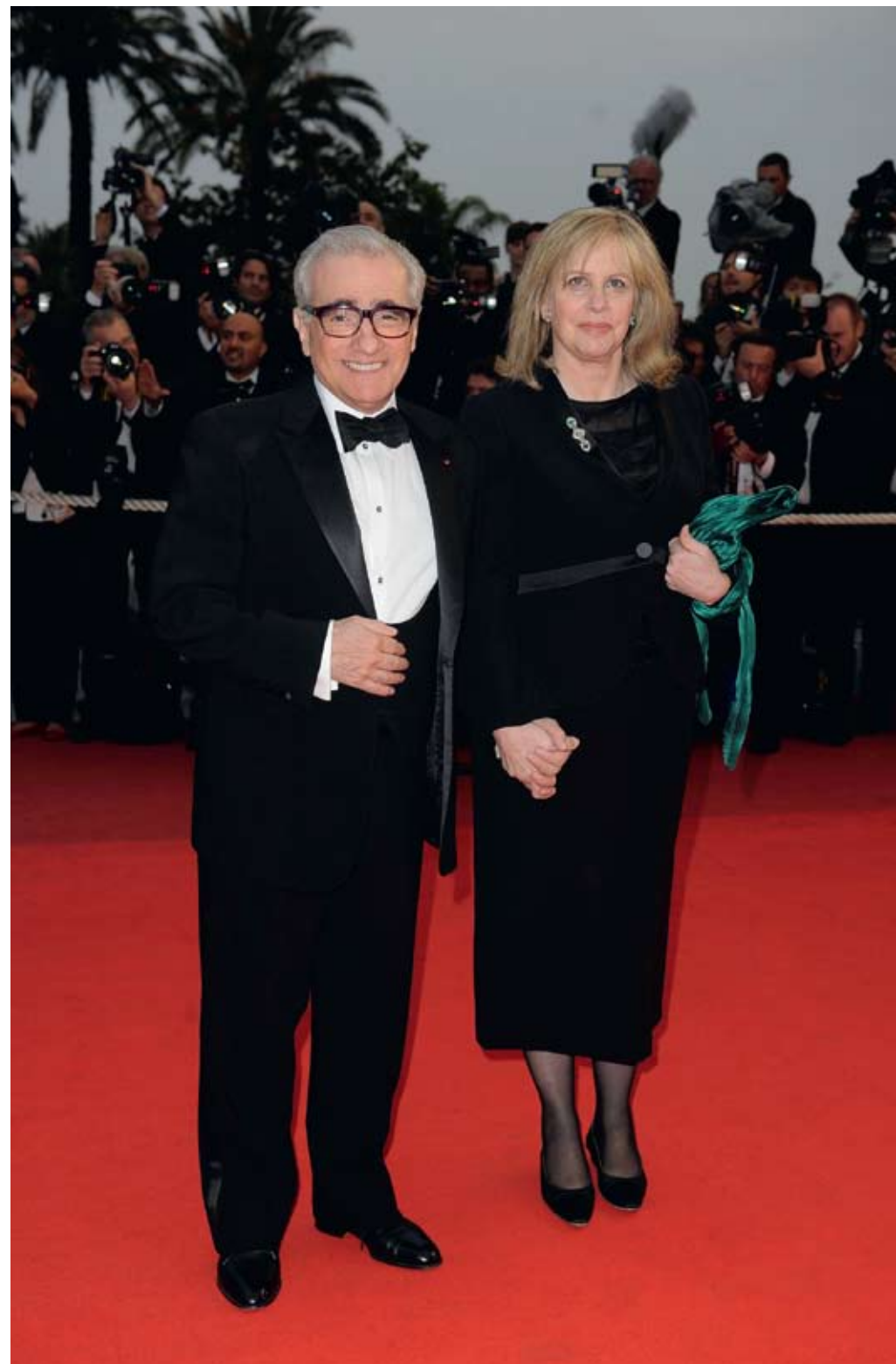
ACTING UP

Meanwhile, the prize for best director went to Philippine director Brillante Mendoza for *Kinathay*, a 'horror' movie dealing with urban violence. Another award went Austria's way, with the Best Actor gong going to Christoph Waltz for his role as a cruel Nazi colonel in Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds*. The movie, very much in the style of a 'spaghetti western', tells the story of a group of American Jews, led by Lieutenant Aldo Raine (Brad Pitt), who strike back against the Nazi regime. For Best Actress, Charlotte Gainsbourg beat fellow nominees Penelope Cruz, Giovanna Mezzogiorno and Diane Kruger in

her role as a diabolical wife in the controversial movie, *Antichrist*, by Lars Von Trier.

A Special Jury Prize for Lifetime Achievement was awarded to Alain Resnais, who this year presented *Les Herbes Folles* in Cannes. The Jury Prize Ex Equo went to *Fish Tank* by English director Andrea Arnold and *Thirst* by Korean director Park Chan-Wook, and Best Screenplay was awarded to Feng Mei for *Spring Fever*, which rounded off a superb year for Asian cinema at the festival.

Cannes was also graced by the presence of Belgian director-brothers Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, while another master of film, Francis Ford Coppola, opened 'La Quinzaine' with his movie *Tetro*. Martin Scorsese was invited as guest of honour in the Cannes Classics section and, for the first time, an animated film, *Up*, by Pete Docter, opened the out-of-competition festival. ❶



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The great and good dazzle for Belgium

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO



The stars shine on the Warren Yacht
© VIP Belgium

Our boys in Cannes report from a high-class bash held in honour of les Belges.

Belgians in Cannes have a reputation for being very glamorous – and this was certainly true of the guests at the VIP Belgium Warren Yacht party on 21st May.

Bringing together Belgium's beautiful people on the French Riviera, the party started at around 22h, with champagne (with gold leaf) and delicious chocolate from Brussels' 'maison', Duval. The music was mixed by special guest, French DJ Michael Canitrot – then, all of a sudden, the arrival of a Lamborghini brings the evening's special guest. Total chaos, as Jean-Claude Van Damme (JCVD) makes his entrance. After a crazy photo shoot, he crosses the bridge to the 40-metre yacht, there to be welcomed by Alexandre Bodart Pinto, the event organizer.

MAN OF THE MOMENT

As JCVD speaks with the press, our cameraman Armand manages to claim

a good spot amidst the multitude of microphones. JCVD confirms his love of Belgium, for the 'North Sea' restaurant, the abundant countryside and the ambience of Brussels' old-fashioned eateries.

After his intermezzo with the press, Jean-Claude took time to relax with other guests – he was in Cannes representing the Rodin Entertainment Company and his two current projects – *Karate* and *The Eagle Path*. Once he had left, the party continued with a live performance from 'Girl Group' J.A Yacht, and a fashion show by Belgian brand Smet, with models from the Warren agency doing their catwalk 'thang' on the bridge, with the collection a mixture of street and sexy fashion, faithful to the brand's tradition.

And the party carried on to the next day – in a fabulous villa complete with pool close to Cannes, all the guests enjoyed a VIP brunch. VIP Belgium will be holding court in St.Tropez later this summer, before heading to Marrakech for the international film festival from 4th to 12th December. 🇧🇪

To find out more about this fantastic event, go to the videos section of our website at www.together-magazine.eu

Party? Cannes do!

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Opposite,
left to right:
(Top)
Elizabeth Banks

Hilary Swank

Isabelle Huppert

(Bottom)
Claudia Schiffer
wearing Chopard
jewellery

© Chopard

Eva Herzigova
wearing Chopard
jewellery

© Chopard

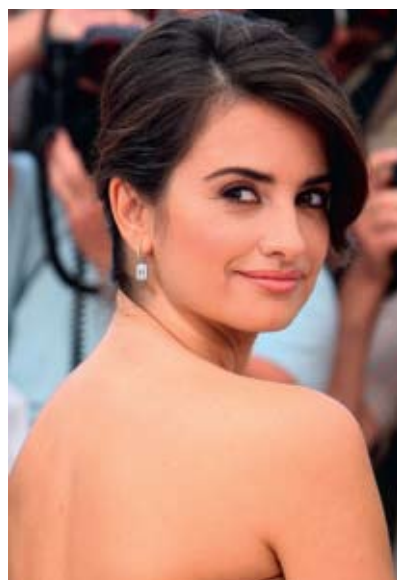
Juliette Binoche

Our boys taste the Cannes party scene – all for your benefit, of course.

First, make sure that you check out the *Together* website (www.together-magazine.eu), for the show-stealing arrival of Penélope Cruz, star of Pedro Almodóvar's *Abrazos Rotos*. We also rubbed shoulders with the beautiful people of Italian cinema at the Vincere party, in honour of the latest movie by Italian master Marco Bellocchio.

AHOY, MATEYS!

In the maritime-party stakes, Paul Allen, as usual, made a very good fist of things – the multimillionaire often visits



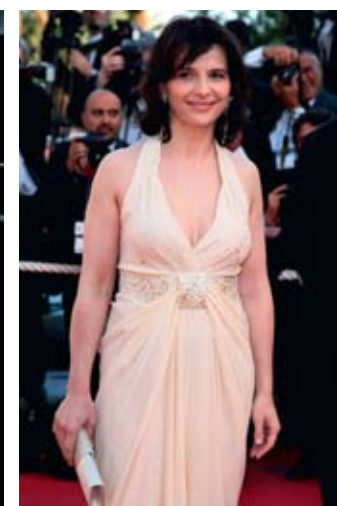
Penelope Cruz
wearing Chopard
jewellery.

© Chopard

Cannes or Venice to organize fabulous parties for the happy few on board his yachts *Tatoosh* and *Octopus*. And people are still talking about the bash onboard Robeto Cavalli's boat, where the paparazzi went crazy over guests such as Mariah Carey and husband Nick Cannon. But let's head for land, and the festival's three 'golden' parties: Chopard, amFAR and Dolce & Gabbana.

CHOPARD CLASS

In keeping with tradition, Chopard threw its glamorous star-studded party on 18th May at The Bâoli, a famous Croisette club and renowned hot spot for Cannes nightlife. Some 600 guests were in attendance – the theme of this year's event was 1980s glam-punk, and the venue came alive with vibrant 80s decor. Oscar winners Hilary Swank and Marion Cotillard (the Trophée Chopard winner in 2004) congratulated this year's winners, Léa Seydoux and David Kross, alongside a host of other famous faces, including Chopard Co-President Caroline Gruosi-Scheufele, and Jury President Isabelle Huppert. Other guests included Asia Argento, Eva Herzigova (the face of Chopard), prima ballerina Eleonora Abbagnato, Italian actress Moran Atias, French actress Vahina Giocante, English socialite Peaches Geldof, French actor and director Guillaume Canet, American actress Evangeline Lilly, Francesca Versace, Roberta Armani and Lady Victoria Harvey. At the stroke of midnight, models presented the Haute Joaillerie 'Red Carpet' collection, uniquely created for the Cannes Festival, before the





Left:
Pedro Almodóvar

Right:
Roberta Armani

© Chopard and
Dolce & Gabbana



guests danced the night away to hot dance and 80s music.

AIDS AID

Another sizzler was the 16th Cinema Against AIDS gala event, organized by amfAR (American Foundation for Aids Research) on 21st May. Strongly committed to the fight against AIDS, Chopard's Caroline Gruosi-Scheufele, who has faithfully supported amfAR for many years, presented for auction (hosted by Sharon Stone) a beautiful watch in rose gold set with diamonds on a chocolate coloured bracelet from the Elton John collection, in aid of the musician's AIDS Foundation. Stone was also accompanied at the podium by former US President Bill Clinton and Annie Lennox, who entertained guests with a memorable concert.

DOLCE & GABBANA

For the first time, the gala took place at the Eden Roc hotel in Antibes and

many of the stars attending chose to wear Chopard jewellery. Eva Herzigova, for example, sported a magnificent ring in rose gold set with a Burma ruby of 15.82ct and hoop earrings in rose gold made from 122 pink-brown asher-cut diamonds (22ct). Glamorous as ever, Claudia Schiffer looked stunning with her two-row platinum necklace consisting of 59 fancy-cut diamonds (80ct).

Finally, The Baoli was again the setting for the annual Dolce & Gabbana party ("Glamorous Cannes"), with its celebration of all things bling on 22nd May – revellers included Carine Roitfeld, Kylie Minogue, Kerry Washington, Pixie Geldof, Olivia Palermo and Cecile Cassel.

There were many more parties, of course, but your faithful correspondents are exhausted at the end of our big red carpet – get thee hence to www.together-magazine.eu, and see what you missed. Too chic! ●



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Putting FUN back into fitness

There's still time to get in shape before the summer season hits full stride – and the Aspria Club, on Rue de l'Industrie in Brussels, is the place for innovation and fitness expertise, combined with friendliness and state-of-the-art facilities. And that's why Aspria is very proud to present the FUNctional Training Studio (FT), the gym's latest development.

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WHAT IS 'FUN'CTIONAL TRAINING ?

Basically, these are exercises or movements that mimic the body's natural movement patterns – more specifically, your movement patterns. We are all different shapes and sizes and have unique medical and injury-based histories, so your exercise programme should reflect this. The equipment in the FT Studio takes all this into account – the



training employs multiple muscle groups, helps improve the nervous system and, ultimately, builds a stronger, more athletic body type.

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At first, it can seem a little daunting, but the studio has really taken off and members of all ages, shapes and sizes are enjoying what it has to offer. FUNctional group circuit classes, held twice a week, are very popular and the Rue de l'Industrie team of experts trainers are always available to help you familiarize yourself with this special room – why not let them design a tailor-made programme for your individual needs ? ●

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SILVER AND GOLD

WRITER: SARA BROWN

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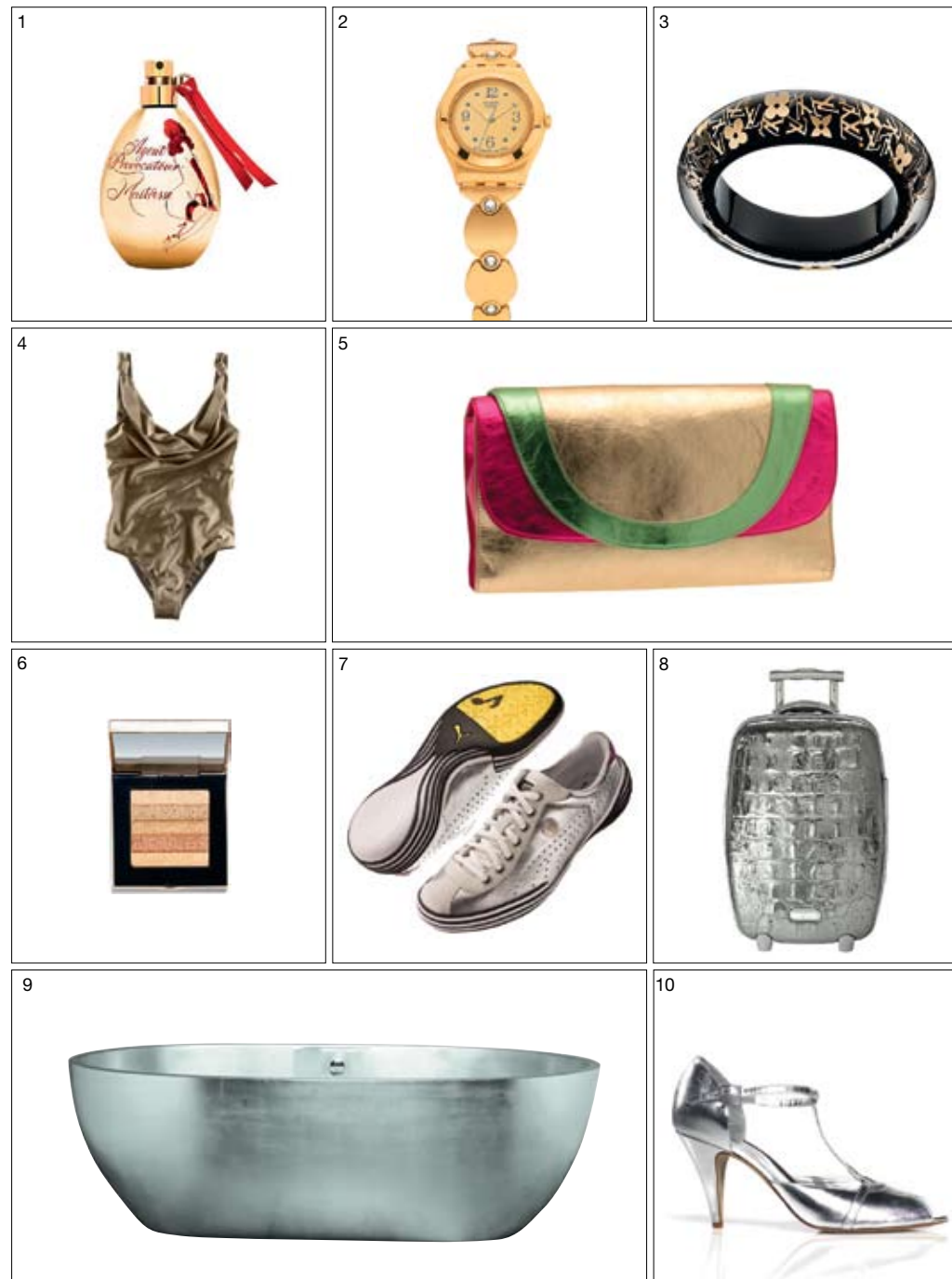
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Hong Kong: Ding dong!

WRITER: DAVID MC GOWAN

Our publisher travels to Hong Kong, to find out what all the hype's about.

Many of you may have preconceptions about Hong Kong – for example, is it really one of the fashion capitals of the world, is it far more advanced than Europe in terms of technology and general efficiency?

GOOD SIGNS

Upon arrival in Hong Kong, you can certainly feel the excitement. What will this huge city bring me, will I leave a changed person? I know only the

address of the hotel where I'm staying, and have no idea if I'll be able to get around easily with only English. But there's a good sign – all directions appear to be in my mother tongue as well as Cantonese, and the trains into Hong Kong city are very clearly indicated. We rush for ours, as you frequently do when you've just got off a 12-hour flight, only to find that we've missed it! But there are no worries, a helpful passerby informs us, as there will be another in ten minutes.

FRIENDLY LOCALS

And, indeed, precisely ten minutes later (our first encounter with Hong-Kong punctuality), another train arrives. We still have no idea where we should



be getting off but, once again, we are quickly assisted by some locals who happen to be picking up some friends. "Get out at Kowloon," we are told, "and then you may need to take a taxi to your hotel." Ours is the W Hotel – our route takes us through one of the most amazing galleries we've ever seen – Hermes, Chanel, Gucci, Tiffany, they're all there...

The hotel is an incredibly modern building, with a very sophisticated design scheme. The welcome is amazingly friendly – you can tell just by the smiles. And our rooms are among the most beautiful we have ever seen – the en suite facilities, with a TV and a waterfall (!) are astonishing.

ASTOUNDING ACCOMODATION

There's just enough time to unpack, before we head for a well-deserved

back massage. The W Hotel has the highest swimming pool in Hong Kong – it's on the 76th floor, and has a near-360° view of Kowloon. While you're swimming, take the time to admire the wall fresco, which was designed by Fabio Lugarato. Before our massage, we are escorted into a rest room, where we lie in a vibrating chair while admiring the breathtaking view of Hong Kong Island. And our back rub, provided by the famous masseuse Mama Letty is an uplifting experience – it sets the tone for the nightlife to follow.

Here's another great thing about Hong Kong – the taxis. You can just about hail a cab at any time and to anywhere, except if it's raining, when everyone has the same idea at the same time, so catch one if you can. Most drivers speak English, they are polite and efficient, and their fares are generally

very cheap. For example, from our hotel into Hong Kong took around 20 minutes, but cost only the equivalent of 3€. Hong Kong nightlife sparkles and flashes with fun and frivolity, and it's also a very safe city, which makes embarking on adventures so much more enjoyable.

PLACES TO VISIT

The New Lantau Island Experience: Take the Ngong Ping cable-car ride and, if you are lucky, you may even get the new 'Crystal Cabin' with glass floors, to make the experience even more exciting. Ngong Ping Village, the Wisdom Path, Po Lin Monastery and, without doubt, the main attraction – Lantau Island's Giant Buddha. No trip to Hong Kong would be complete without a visit to the world's tallest, seated bronze Buddha, perched serenely atop Ngong Ping plateau amid the spectacular mountain scenery of Lantau Island. Be sure to enjoy a vegetarian lunch treat at Po Lin Monastery.

Shopping: Jade Market, Sportswear Street, AV & Electronic Street, Ladies Market.

Views: Victoria Harbour, Kowloon, and Victoria Peak. Make sure you take the Peak tram!

Be sure to not miss Hong Kong's burgeoning food scene. From traditional Cantonese fare to modern westernized dishes, Hong Kong is known throughout Asia for its cuisine. Sample a traditional Cantonese delicacy like roast goose with plum sauce, or try a traditional Sichuan-style hot-pot. Also, Hong Kong seaside location makes it a seafood lover's Mecca, with fresh fish never too hard to find.

As far as nightlife is concerned, Hong Kong is a very lively, but safe city – if you get the chance, go to Causeway Bay, Wan Chai and the Tsim Sha Tsui neighbourhoods where you can find the likes of small local pubs, western style wine bars and the trendiest clubs. And there's so much more to enjoy – museums, horse racing, natural reserves, even Disneyland. The city also has a few small but perfectly formed beaches around its islands, if you need to relax and have a swim in the sea.

During our stay, we also had the privilege of staying in the very first hotel to be built in Hong Kong: The Peninsula. It's paradise – there are around 900 staff, a ratio of three servers to every guest. The attention is extraordinary, the service exceptional and, naturally, the fleet of 14 Rolls Royce that are available to take you from and to the airport are an excellent reminder of just where you are – a prince (or princess) in your very own kingdom.

Hong Kong is a fascinating blend of East-meets-West cultural influences that makes it a unique destination. The city has been called 'Eastern Manhattan, and they definitely have a lot in common – two incredible conurbations that vibrate like few others.

The main tourist season lasts from September to November, but there are great events all year round, so why not schedule your trip when it suits you best? 📅

Hong Kong Tourist Office

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www.discoverhongkong.com

HOTEL



THE PENINSULA HONG KONG

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The Peninsula Hong Kong
Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui Kowloon
T.+33 (852) 2920 2888
www.peninsula.com

W HONG KONG

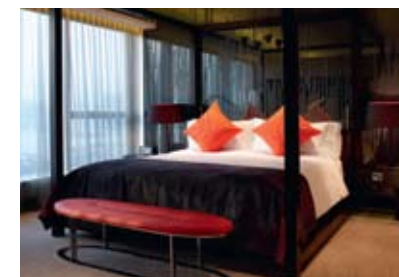
With palatial modern styling, acclaimed restaurants, and rooms straight out of the pages of today's most cutting-edge designers, the W Hong Kong puts a new twist on luxury. Start your night with a drink in two of the city's classiest and trendiest joints, the Fire Bar or Living Room, before moving on to the great Hong Kong nightlife. If you are still reeling from a night out, try the Hangover Herbie in the W's world-renowned BLISS spa, or spend some down-time in their relaxing steam rooms. Also, feel free to take advantage of the W's Whatever/Whenever service, guaranteed to provide you with whatever your heart desires, whenever your heart desires it (within the confines of the law, naturally.)

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SILVERSEA
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Divine madness

WRITER: JÉRÔME STÉFANSKI

Holidays, the time to forget it all. After a year plagued by financial and social crises, at last the summer hols are on the horizon. An excellent reason to forget your cash concerns – let *Together* be your devil and dangle a few destinations before your eyes. A word of advice – don't consult your bank manager before you go!

*The Kempinski
Hybernská garden
by night*

© Kempinski

1. THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE



WHERE?

The Kempinski Hotel, Prague.

WHY?

- Because Prague is renowned as being one of Europe's most beautiful and historic cities.
- Because the Kempinski is renowned as being one of Europe's most beautiful and historic hotels.

WITH WHOM?

With your three best friends, of course!

HOW MUCH?

5,000€ per night.

THE HOTEL

The Kempinski Hybernská hotel boasts

the most spacious luxury accommodation in Prague and is one of the best Kempinkis worldwide.

IBA (Ian Bryan Architects) respected the historical value of this listed building, which was first mentioned in writings from 1493. They preserved not only the building's original facade, but also some of its interior Baroque elements. Architects and interior designers created a style of timeless elegance – the furnishing of the complex's 75 apartments is the work of the London company, RPW Design, famous for its first-rate fittings, as can also be seen in the Ritz Carlton Hotel, the Gran Hotel Miramar in Barcelona.

The building has witnessed a colourful history – a member of Emperor's Privy Council and High Judge of the Land Court, one of the eminent lords of the Czech kingdom, lived here in the 16th century. After the end of Thirty Years' War, the house was acquired by an Emperor's sheriff, Baron Vratislav of Mitrovce, who linked several adjoining buildings and created a vast palace complex, which still surrounds one of the most attractive parts of the hotel –



The Presidential Suite

© Kempinski

an interior garden spanning 1,800m²; an oasis of calm in the busy city centre. The ground floor formerly housed five vaulted bedrooms, a master kitchen, utility rooms, stables and coach depots. The location's original splendour came to something of an abrupt end in 1834, when it was acquired by Count Jan of Lobkovice, who decided to adapt the abandoned palace into a utility building. In 1924-1927, František Kavalír designed a generous post-cubist reconstruction for the Gremial and the Commercial and Clerical insurance houses. In this state, as it was approved on 28th December 1928, it spent many years with only minor modifications made when it became a health centre.

And so, Kempinski Hybernská Prague is situated not only in the heart of Europe, but also in the very heart of the city, in close proximity to major historical and cultural sites, as well as key business and shopping districts.

THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE

The Presidential Suite is located on the seventh floor, and is unique. The largest apartment in the building, it is decorated in dark walnut and beige –

the two-bedroom/living room/dining room suite offers 186m² of living space, including a large terrace of almost 50m², which commands a superb panoramic view of Prague's famed towers and rooftops. Since the suite overlooks the garden and is south facing, it offers sunshine and absolute calm even in this busy part of the capital.

The suite consists of two spacious bedrooms, both with en-suite bathrooms, one living room with French windows (of which one half may be used as a dining room or boardroom for meetings) and a separate guest restroom. A kitchenette is fitted into the dining room area, and guests can enjoy the stunning views and soak in the Tahitian Jacuzzi, which is large enough for six, on the terrace.

The entire seventh floor of the hotel, where the Presidential Suite is situated, can be closed off to enable access to private parties and welcome VIP entourages. Enjoy! 🍷

Kempinski Hybernská Prague
Hybernská 12, 110 00 Prague 1
Czech Republic
T. +420 22 6226 111
www.kempinski-prague.com

SPA – 4,000 M2



WHERE?

Palmeraie Spa, Marrakech.

WHY?

Because this spa is the most gorgeous in Marrakech and the hotel in which it is located is simply magnificent.

WITH WHOM?

With your beloved or your best friend (if they're not the same person!).

HOW MUCH?

Two days/three nights stay with spa treatment starts from 505€.

THE HOTEL

The Palmeraie Golf Palace Hotel is located in the very luxurious Palmeraie complex in Marrakech, Morocco. Legend tells that, when they invaded the imperial city of Marrakech, the Barbarians ate dates, and left their seeds on the arid ground – and thus was born the Palmeraie (palm plantation), a true miracle of nature. Here, there grow more than 100,000 palm trees spread across 13,000 hectares – it is 1,000 years old and a magical and sumptuous location. An unmissable example of Moroccan luxury, the Palmeraie Golf Palace Hotel & Spa was built in 1993. It is set in the middle of a 70-hectare golf course, designed by famous architect Robert Le Trent Jones (who has 500 courses to his name) – the 27-hole range offers a beautiful panorama in which fairways, greens, bunkers and seven lakes are in perfect harmony. Unquestionably, it's one of Morocco's most beautiful courses, which can accommodate pros and amateurs alike. And, in the heart of the Palmeraie, the hotel itself is an invitation to relax and enjoy the serenity. A marriage between pure Moroccan architectural tradition and the comforts of an internationally renowned establishment, this five-star hotel is surrounded by exceptional landscapes; perhaps the most awe-inspiring is the snow-covered peak of the nearby Atlas Mountain. A genuine nature reserve, bougainvilleas, bay-trees, rose trees, jacarandas and hibiscus, with its beautiful scents, abound. There are five swimming

pools, each one set in a different landscape environment, two discos, 12 restaurants and snack bars mixing traditional Moroccan and world cuisine, tennis, horse riding, golf, of course, the spa and a mini-club for the children.

THE SPA

Open since November 2008, this dazzling new spa was developed by Susan Stein, international 'spa guru', who is known for her Jari Menari massage centre in Bali. Stein has created spas the world over – in Monaco, California, Mexico, the Caribbean, Malaysia, Japan, Oman, and South Africa. Located near the entry to the complex, the spa is spread over 4,000m² of luminous architecture in which, with fountains, swimming pools and Jacuzzis, water is omnipresent. The full treatment range includes two hammams with hot and warm rooms, a heated swimming pool, large Turkish baths, two eight-seater Jacuzzis, showers, restrooms, and 15 'care cabins', including 'couples' and VIP cabins. In addition, there are ultra-modern massage tables and, finally an exceptionally well-equipped gym. Susan Stein selected her team from Bali – 40 young professional Moroccans, including 20 masseuses. 🍷

Palmeraie Golf Palace & Spa
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YOUR CHILD'S BIRTHDAY IN BIARRITZ**WHERE?**

At the Belambra d'Anglet Club, not far from Biarritz.

WHY?

Because the club is perfect for young people and parents who want to enjoy the pleasures of the Basque Country.

WITH WHOM?

With your son or daughter's ten best friends, of course!

HOW MUCH?

Around 1,500€ for two adults and ten children for three days/two nights

THE CLUB

Basking in its exceptional high-altitude location, Belambra caters for everyone, with its all-inclusive holiday formulas for all ages.



Belambra is France's only holiday club that offers professional supervision of children aged from three months to 17 years (3-35 months, 3-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-13 years and 14-17 years) and, with its team of devoted and dedicated events organizers, you can enjoy your break safe in the knowledge that your child and his friends are in good hands. Built in 1970 and renovated earlier this year, the Club Belambra has 210 rooms and 784 beds and, another bonus, is very near the area's beautiful beaches.

WHY BIARRITZ?

Because it is THE destination for summer 2009. Far removed from the stress, strains and ostentatious luxury of the French Riviera, it is a true paradise to be found between France and Spain. The delightful Pyrenees mountain villages are a boon for hikers, and the Atlantic Ocean provides a surfing experience for pros and beginners alike. Biarritz is also world-famous for its thalassotherapy treatments – why not try one offered by

the famous Atlanthal Centre nearby? Enjoy golf? You won't be disappointed – the region has many world-renowned courses. If you want to improve your handicap or simply discover the sport, we recommend you visit the Ilbarritz range – a nine-hole course offering superb views of Spain and the ocean.

But, let's return to the little ones, as, after all, that's what your holiday is all about, isn't it? Your little angel's birthday? The facilities are specially designed to keep children of all ages happy, and the 'mini club' likewise accommodates all age groups. With games rooms, theatres, 'chill-out' zones, a park, swimming pool and sports areas, it's an absolute paradise for youngsters. And, let's not forget the excellent restaurant with terrace overlooking the ocean, which offers meals for large and small appetites! ⑤

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The Club Med II: Happiness is no longer a whim

WRITER: ARMAND RICHELET-KLEINBERG

During the 1980s, Club Med captioned its famous blue trident with the line 'Happiness, if I want it'. By the beginning of 2008, the promise had changed to 'All the happiness in the world'. We take a look at how the holiday experts have moved with the times, and how the company's flagship has been given a complete makeover.



Since the end of the 'mahogany bronzed' era of holidaymaker, Club Med's direction and motivations have changed accordingly. Since 2001, the company has stressed its new perception of happiness... out with the whim, in with the reality. The company now offers holidays that are based more on living in harmony with an open, vast and varied world. 'All the happiness in the world' thus marks a philosophy based not only on a commercial guarantee, but also on an opportunity to truly discover the world and its wonders.

And one of the most obvious indicators of this metamorphosis is the new-look flagship – *The Club Med II*. For three weeks, from October 2008, the huge cruise ship dropped anchor in the port of Genes, Italy, and was given a complete makeover by young designer-decorator Sophie Jacqmin who now has written a whole new chapter in nautical history.

L'ENCRE DE MER

Who has never dreamed of plunging into the Pacific's waves, as in Alessandro Baricco's fabulous novel, *Novecento: Pianist*?

One could begin by telling you about *The Club Med II*'s exceptional new features, including WiFi and Plasma Screen TVs in every cabin, the free champagne that's served from 18h every evening, the incomparable cuisine on offer... yes, one could, but it seems more important to tell you about the beautiful spirit that has re-invigorated the ship's very heart and soul.

'THE INK OF THE SEA'

Designer Sophie Jacqmin is purely motivated by passion – a creator characterized by perfect intuition,

who has created an 'interior universe' onboard *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."

Certain references are immediately recognizable – for example, the 'Moby Dick Bar', with a whale on its ceiling, or the 'Magellan' restaurant, decorated with ancient mariners' charts. Other niches are more subtle, and are just waiting to be discovered. On *The Club Med II*, cruising becomes once again an enchanted expedition combining luxury, charm and beauty. You will find no gambling aboard *The Club Med II* – the casino has been replaced by a Wellness Center, another Sophie Jacqmin innovation, transforming notions of profit into client care and well-being. In addition, once anchor is dropped, an 85m² nautical platform allows you to discover and benefit from a huge variety of water sports, including water-skiing and kayaking.

And there's space to enjoy aboard *The Club Med II*, as well as time – the 168 club cabins (each 18m²) all share a stunning view of the horizon, while port calls are punctuated by cultural discoveries and beautiful landscapes. Every day is a new adventure – when can you set sail? 11

For more information, check out Armand's *The Club Med II* video and interview with Sophie Jacqmin on the Together website:

www.together-magazine.eu/videos.shtml

Monaco mademoiselles

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO



We pay a visit to discover the pleasures, the haunts and the habits of the Principality's glamorous ladies.

'FLIGHT AF 4573 FROM PARIS...'

A beautiful young lady with a bombastic pair of glasses and a Gucci bag, followed by a little Chihuahua, heads for the main exit of Nice Cote-d'Azur Airport. Direction – the nearby heliport. In exactly six minutes, if no-one is on strike, she will land smoothly at Fontvieille-Monaco, and thus her day begins!

To discover what Monaco women want, we met with professionals who

helped us to discover the 'leisure queens'. First, the most important element is a well-located, beautiful hotel, obviously, as a meeting point for during the day or for something more, according to Hotel Metropole Director-General Luca Virgilio: "Women who visit are not necessarily staying with us – we welcome many local Monaco women, ladies of leisure, who take tea or coffee or something stronger. We live the club atmosphere, and our lobby is designed to make you feel at home. Women love that."

'SHELTER DE LUXE'

"My clients are searching for a 'shelter de luxe' – a very discreet place, they don't like to be over-exposed. We pay particular attention to ultra-personalized

service; true elegance for women with eclectic tastes, between the ages of thirty and fifty-five. Quite often, we see women travelling with their partner, but they also travel alone or with a girlfriend. We regularly host ladies' events such as charity functions, auctions and dinners. The high-class ladies who stay with us say that they want to enjoy privacy and not be bothered by paparazzi, to be in the coolest area of Monaco but also free to stay away from the crowd and enjoy a safe haven."

Following our introduction, we looked for a trendy eating spot, to spot some of Monaco's glamorous gals. Apparently, the latest place-to-be is a new Japanese restaurant named Yoshi – the chef is the famous Joel Robuchon, and the atmosphere is 'zen chic', with every dish on offer selected made by a committee chaired by Robuchon.

HIGH LIFE

After a light and healthy meal, we returned to the heliport, where we met Estelle Perez de Diego, sales director at Heli Air Monaco, who warms to the feminine theme: "Our ladies are mostly from Russia and the UK, because it's more in their culture to take a helicopter. Russians love to spend more...English clients in general are more cautious, but they are very friendly and faithful customers."

**'WE LIVE
THE CLUB
ATMOSPHERE,
AND OUR
LOBBY IS
DESIGNED
TO MAKE
YOU FEEL AT
HOME. WOMEN
LOVE THAT'**

"During summer, women are more fashion-orientated and they love to go to St.Tropez (790€, 20 mins), Porto Cervo (5,100€, 1h55mins) and Portofino, while during winter they favour Geneva

and Courchevel. Women adore our gastronomy and wellness packages and, as they can reach a spa or their favourite restaurant in a short flight, it's very easy."

We also bump into Claudia Batthiany, communication director at the Fairmont Hotel. She tells us: "Women in Monaco are searching for surprise, extraordinary experiences and memories. What's really great for them is the high level of safety we have in Monaco – a lady can go out at night wearing her Van Cleef necklace, or lose the keys to her Rolls-Royce, and have them returned, no problem. In the afternoon, she can discover the latest fashion and perhaps buy the latest Gucci bag – women in Monaco differ greatly according to their nationalities. Russian women, for example, want everything – yacht, limo, spa, etc, while Italians really enjoy life without thinking about the future. And the Americans? For them, everything must be big and, even if they are 70, they don't miss a party."

For more information about different national feminine traits, perhaps the fashion world can offer some advice? I go to Benedetta Bizzini, owner of the Eleven haute couture boutique: "Our glamorous clients like to spend their nights at Jimmy's and, for this reason, they are always searching for trendy but exclusive clothes. The women we serve here are a wide range – we have the Russian who spends easily, or the Italian lady who needs to have that particular touch just so."

Even though she may be tired after hours of shopping, our lady has to be ready for the night. A spa session is perfect. Marianna Heurtel, director of Metropole Espa, gives us an insight into her world of feminine pleasures: "My women guests are perfectionists, they

have time to relax and ask for all the details they need about every product. Half our female clients are Italian or French, and we have Russian and English ladies who mainly require specific treatments for body and legs, such as *gommage*, *enveloppement* or anti-cellulite treatments. They want to experience new things, such as a massage with hot stones, or Japanese yoshiki."

And there we have it – our girl is ready for a dazzling night out. In Monaco, there is no other. ❶



ADRESSES

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Yoshi Restaurant, Hotel Metropole

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Cbfaⁿ: 104432cA-Zeus sprl

FACT: ON SAIL NOW...

If you say the word “luxury”, many will immediately think of an ocean-going yacht, as sported by football-club owners and wealthy oil magnates. If you want to splash out and play with the big names in Cannes or Monaco, you may want to start saving your loose change – you’re going to need it. The Dutch-built *Alfa Nero* is not only in the top 25 of the 100 largest yachts in the world, but is also one of the most sought-after. Naturally, you’ll want to show it off to your friends, so its 82 metres will accommodate 12 guests in comfort, including en-suite facilities, private patios, hot tubs, steam rooms and, naturally, a pool. The crew area can reportedly hold 28 people – although doubtless not in such comfort. Still, you’ll always be able to get a sandwich. If you fancy one of these to get you about, the makers, Oceanco, will happily sell you one. They are very careful not to let on how much the *Alfa Nero* costs exactly, but the latest models to be delivered have cost well over \$100 million. You want it as a last-minute Christmas or birthday gift for someone special? Forget it. Waiting time is currently around six years for a brand new model. Some things, money just can’t buy.

FIGURE: 42.36\$

That’s how much extra it will cost you to land on the Luxury Tax (taxe de luxe) square on an American Monopoly board. The original game levied a 75\$ tax for landing there, while the first Belgian version was a comparative bargain at only BEF 1000 (32.64\$). In the French game, the stakes are raised – Luxury Tax would cost you the equivalent of 2006.77\$. Back in the modern world, the European edition of the game sets the tax at a nice, round 1€ million – or 1,316,256.55\$. Taxing times, indeed.

NEWS

Putting the 'mission' in Commission

WRITER: ANDY CARLING



As Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy, approaches the end of her time at the heights of EU political life, she speaks exclusively to *Together* about her decade's work and hopes for the future.

Margot Wallström has certainly made an impact. A senior UKIP figure told me that he thought she'd done a pretty good job, a European Commission official said she was the "Commissioner for sticking her head over the parapet", and a journalist friend whispered that she was "the only Commissioner who was an actual human being". Certainly, everyone agrees that she is exceptionally hard working and determined. As her time at the Commission comes to an end, she agreed to be interviewed – a chance for *Together*, then, to talk about her approach to her task of communicating the EU to its 500 million citizens.

PLAIN SPEAKING

"Communication is really about democracy, it has more to do with dialogue than just passing information. We've completely reformed how we work and put new people in position and we try to use plain language, but even that took a long time to get accepted. We've also used the internet, with web sites such as Debate Europe, to consult with people. Communicating also means listening to people who don't like the EU or who have different views."

She points to US President Obama's internet campaigns as being an inspiration and a vindication of her approach. I asked her how well she thought her own communication strategy was performing: "There was no structure for discussing

communication and I had to build my own constituency. In the beginning it was like shouting in the desert, nobody had any expectations and there were very few concrete ideas about how to create a better communications policy, so we had to go step by step. One failure was that we didn't get communication in the new treaty, we came in too late to make a difference and to have that written in."

CITIZEN POWER

There has been considerable opposition to Wallström, as the commissioner is only too happy to acknowledge: "The member states who, for example, feel it is their privilege to control information – we have to decide what is the role of the member states and what the institutions should do, but at least we have tried several measures, and I think the Citizens' Consultations have been a great success in every member state and the next thing I want to see are citizens' summits in parallel with political summits."

She feels that consultation has improved over the past ten years, and is pleased with responses to proposed legislation via the internet and by the national offices. She is also advocating a stronger role for women: "Can we afford not to listen to half our citizens? Can we do without their knowledge, their experiences? This is about democracy, about empowering people and making them part of the Europe project. For too long this project has been for a very small elite and this has to change."

FUTURE CONCERNS

Looking back at the beginnings of the EU, she sees changes in attitudes and perceptions from citizens. "Now, people are better educated, better informed and want to have their say. You can no longer just believe that people will trust politicians to do all the work."

As her second term comes to an end, her thoughts for the future? "I'm not one for looking back; I'm a privileged person to have been able to deal with such important things." However, she does have some advice for her successor, if there is one: "They should choose a combination of tasks and legislation, that you can also use the newsroom as a platform because we can see that the old guard of journalists has no regard for this strange task, preferring the hard issues of trade, commerce and so on. Communication is seen by them as being something fluffy, so you need both tasks and legislation."

She also believes that this 'old guard' doesn't understand, or take a real interest in, the new media and internet technologies Wallström has been using: "It's not enough to write an article in the *Financial Times* and say you've been communicating." And her concerns for the future? "I worry about how we can ensure the things we've started can continue, sometimes it can take ten years for initiatives to mature. This is why procedures are important, frameworks are important."

What next? Not the Presidency, that's for sure: "I'm not a candidate – after ten years, I'd like to do something else, to have more time with my family and I hope to find something at European or international level. I'm tired of being a public person, to have everything scrutinized. You have to accept that in politics. What I miss the most is not having the time to read something I don't have to read. I don't want to complain, but you've got to find your own time and sanctuary to recharge."

Anyone deserves a break after a decade in the Berlaymont – and few would bet against Wallström finding new ways of putting her legendary energies to good use. **11**

China and India: Spending out of the slump

WRITER: DAVE DERRUYTER



The first stars are appearing in a deep dark night, says our Asian expert. There may still be a lot of bad news on the economic front around the globe, but some good news is sneaking in – from China and India, in particular.

Even in the US, there is economic data pointing to the bottoming-out of the very weak economy, at least in some sectors. The best economic news, however, is coming from the third-largest economy in the world, China, which is currently the brightest star in the economic sky.

With a GDP growth figure of 6.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2009, it's outshining the whole pack.

BEST CHINA

How are they achieving this? By spending its government support money in a faster and more efficient way than its rivals. In the current economic climate, it is proving very efficient to have a state-controlled, state-steered economy, since then the state banks can be 'ordered' to lend money to companies, and state-owned manufacturing companies can be 'ordered' to increase production. On top of that, if there is the money, as China has, better and more efficient infrastructure can be built.

This makes a lot of economic sense, since China is still a developing country. We are not only talking about bridges, roads and railways, the country is also building hospitals and wants to improve its health-care system, including provision for its gigantic rural population of some 800 million people. The latter should, at least in the medium to longer term, have a positive impact on consumer spending. This, together with increased investments by the private sector and a restart of the export engine, should take over the economic lead again from the government. The Chinese picture looks encouraging and there is more than a fair chance the country will succeed in this exceptional trick. The future bodes really well for

the Chinese economy – March 2009 was its best month since the Beijing Olympics of August 2008. If China can build on that momentum, the coming quarters may show an even stronger economy and yield the much-treasured 8 per cent GDP growth rate for the whole of 2009, which is the widely accepted threshold to avoid excessive unemployment and social trouble in China.

BURNING BRIGHT?

And how is the other Asian giant, India, doing compared with the leader of the pack? Being the largest democracy in the world and still dominated by the caste system is not a recipe for speed. However, India's 'mini Enron accounting scandal' caused by Satyam has been settled, and Tata Motors'

very cheap 'Nano' car is selling like hot cakes on the domestic market. On the infrastructure side, there is still enormous room for improvement – as well as more and better roads, bridges and railways are badly needed, but India has fewer resources than China to quickly pump

AS WELL AS MORE AND BETTER ROADS, BRIDGES AND RAILWAYS ARE BADLY NEEDED, BUT INDIA HAS FEWER RESOURCES THAN CHINA TO QUICKLY PUMP VAST AMOUNTS OF MONEY INTO ITS ECONOMY



vast amounts of money into its economy.

Luckily, opportunistic China has seen the obvious win-win for its export sector and is willing to lend a helping hand with the financing. Furthermore, next to China, the second-largest economy of the world Japan is also willing to provide its support via untied loans and the vast engineering and building capabilities of its industrial armada. That might just be the winning combination that Asia needs to bounce back from this severe recession to ever-greater economic global clout. And who knows what will follow next? ■

THE WRITER

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

Your pension: Whose life of luxury?

WRITER: GRAHAM REID

He's back from 'demutualizing the Vatican' (*Together* #12) – now, our money man examines problems with keeping yourself in the manner to which you are accustomed, once the gold watch and golden handshake have been delivered.

I trust readers will forgive me for coming back down to earth after my flight of fancy in our previous edition.

MOW BETTER BLUES

If I were to come to your house and offer to mow your lawn for 10€, you might be inclined to accept if you felt the price was reasonable for the job.

LONG-TERM CONTRACTUAL PLANS FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS OR MORE... ARE USUALLY A VERY POOR DEAL WHEN COMPARED WITH NON-CONTRACTUAL PLANS

If I did so every month for a year at the same rate you would pay a total of 120€. After ten years you would have paid me 1,200€ and after 20 years it would be 2,400€.

However, if I arrived and asked for the 2,400€ immediately, and promised to come and mow your

lawn every month for the next twenty years you would certainly not accept. Why pay now for a service to be rendered years into the future without even knowing if it will be provided for 20 years? What if I do not cut it properly? If you were not satisfied, how could you cancel a deal for which you have already paid?

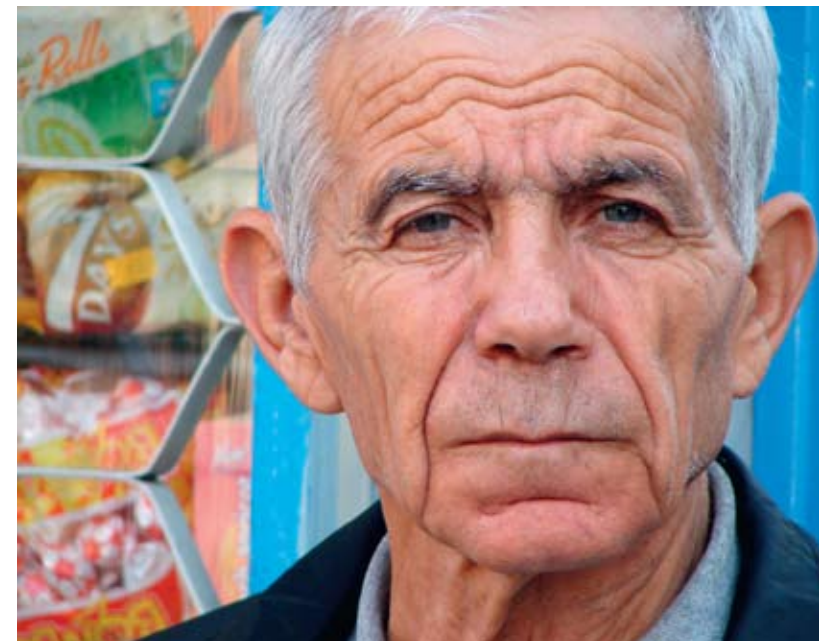
Now, let's adapt this approach to the world of insurance and pensions.

Many people who become expatriates do so to improve their standard of living, both now and in retirement. An element of that process is to contribute additional money into a personal pension plan to enhance one's lifestyle in retirement and provide a few of those little extra luxuries.

The type of international pension most often sold is a long-term contractual plan for a period of ten years or more, heavily promoted by offshore life insurance companies. Unfortunately, they are usually a very poor deal when compared with non-contractual plans.

Why is this? Look no further than the commission structure offered to the salesman by the insurance company. You can reckon that up to 12 months of your savings will be paid in charges, most of which is commission.

In other words, as in my lawn-mowing example, these charges are based on what you have promised to contribute in future and not on what you actually pay as you go along. If you do not continue the policy, you have already



paid these commission charges. They will remain there as a cost in your policy and you will never recover them.

What does this mean in practice?

ABEL AND MABEL

Let us compare two expatriates – Abel, and his more savvy twin sister, Mabel – two freelance IT contractors.

Abel commits to pay 2,000€ per month for twenty years under a long-term contract. Mabel makes no such fixed commitment and just saves the same sum regularly over 20 years with no contractual commitment to do so. We will assume that the rate of growth is 5 per cent and that contributions are continued uninterrupted for 20 years.

The best long-term contractual plan we have found will only produce 740,000€ at the end of 20 years at 5 per cent, whereas a non-contractual plan will

produce 811,000€. The difference is entirely due to the charges levied in the early years on the former. What happens if they both lose their contracts and have to stop contributions after ten years? Mabel will get 309,000€, whereas Abel will get about 265,000€ which will be further reduced by other penalties for not completing the remaining term.

Unfortunately, Belgium abounds with expatriate financial advisers, many of whom are not regulated, deriving their income by selling offshore life insurance and pension products that are seriously deficient in what they offer the investor. The only justification for committing to a long term contract is if major tax advantages are available – and few plans offer them. ●

THE WRITER

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

A new language: Live it, learn it, love it

Increasingly valued both in work and leisure, learning another language is a life-transforming experience. At CERAN Belgium, it's all about total immersion, as Quality and Product Development Manager Marion Meurant explains.

The CERAN method – it's called QRI®, which stands for Question-Response-Intonation, but there's much more to CERAN than mere method and dry grammatical exercises.

COURSES FOR ADULTS

Just one week of genuine complete immersion gives you more than 30 hours of lessons backed up by more than 30 hours of practical use of the language with tutors. Students take control of the style of their course – you can choose from a week of small-group lessons, private lessons or a combination of small-group and private lessons.

Says Marion Meurant: "I believe that CERAN's real strength lies in the fact that our students are able to take away what they have learned and convert it to genuine, long-term language application and use. Immersion means just that – from 8-22h, the students

study, eat and socialize in an environment that is completely devoted to their chosen language. Thus, everyone is in the same boat and confidence grows – overcoming confidence problems is key to mastering another language."

COURSES FOR CHILDREN

The principle is exactly the same for the younger students but, in gorgeous Spa where CERAN Belgium is to be found, full social, entertainment and sporting activities are provided, to help children learn in an environment that is not rigid or 'academic'. With six lessons per day, in classes of nine students maximum (as opposed to nine lessons and four students for adults), the young people's learning is set in the framework of a very enjoyable holiday. Targets are adjusted as students progress and, at the end of their course, their abilities are assessed again and compared with the targets that were set, with a detailed report of the child's progress then provided.

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Size: 175 square meters
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Bathrooms: 1 full+ 1 half
Cellar + garage with electronic with remote control
Rent: €2.200/month



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Size: 150 square meters
Bedrooms: 2+ 1 Dressing
Bathrooms: 1 with a shower and bath
Parking spot included in price
Building with concierge
Rent: €2.200/month



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)	10.11 € ↘ 10.32	2 507.63 € ↗ 2,398.71	1,717.67 € ↗ 1,494.76
1020 LAEKEN	8.78 € ↗ 8.76	1,912.18 € ↘ 1,990.45	1,728.01 € ↘ 1,774.78
1030 SCHAERBEEK	7.65 € ↗ 7.39	2,172.46 € ↗ 2,070.92	1,987.61 € ↘ 2,040.85
1040 ETTERBEEK	9.47 € ↘ 9.53	2,310.61 € ↘ 2,540.55	2,112.02 € ↘ 2,112.69
1050 IXELLES	9.99 € ↘ 10.02	2,722.07 € ↗ 2,552.72	2,349.11 € ↗ 2,057.51
1060 SAINT GILLES	9.01 € ↗ 8.30	2,318.18 € ↘ 2,681.95	1,202.08 € ↘ 1,256.41
1070 ANDERLECHT	8.01 € ↗ 7.59	1,710.26 € ↗ 1,706.26	2,134.91 € ↗ 1,904.01
1080 MOLENBEEK ST JEAN	8.72 € ↗ 7.88	1,924.21 € ↘ 1,977.22	1,528.31 € ↗ 1,513.54
1081 KOEKELBERG	7.57 € ↘ 8.01	1,832.37 € ↘ 2,032.57	1,769.22 € ↗ 1,672.65
1082 BERCHEM STE AGATHE	8.42 € ↗ 7.83	1,787.41 € ↗ 1,761.52	1,607.94 € ↗ 1,576.37
1083 GANSOREN	8.08 € ↘ 10.25	1,697.76 € ↘ 1,801.24	2,189.03 € ↘ 2,277.21
1090 JETTE	8.41 € ↘ 8.65	1,857.40 € ↘ 1,890.54	2,187.82 € ↗ 1,970.86
1120 NEDER OVER HEMBEK	10.58 € ↗ 10.04	2,019.44 € ↘ 2,332.81	1,357.65 € ↗ 1,330.24
1140 EVERE	7.80 € ↘ 8.55	2,255.35 € ↗ 2,129.72	1,965.75 € ↗ 1,808.33
1150 WOLUWÉ ST PIERRE	9.04 € ↘ 9.78	2,579.11 € ↘ 2,602.00	2,349.60 € ↗ 2,180.95
1160 AUDERGHEM	10.20 € ↘ 10.45	2,647.23 € ↗ 2,424.54	2,086.30 € ↗ 2,032.37
1170 WATERMAEL BOITSFORT	11.13 € ↗ 9.69	2,477.27 € ↘ 2,547.30	2,779.14 € ↗ 2,657.71
1180 UCCLE	10.13 € ↘ 10.27	2,545.05 € ↗ 2,395.63	2,246.67 € ↘ 2,246.78
1190 FOREST	12.31 € ↗ 12.05	1,901.47 € ↗ 1,895.91	1,845.23 € ↗ 1,842.76
1200 WOLUWÉ ST LAMBERT	9.73 € ↘ 9.80	2,369.16 € ↗ 2,271.19	2,322.66 € ↗ 2,188.76
1210 ST JOSSE TEN NOODE	8.95 € ↗ 8.20	2,158.61 € ↗ 1,831.50	1,405.03 € ↗ 1,366.70



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Six appeal!

WRITER: MARIE HOCEPIED

We open the doors of new or improved shopping hot-spots – why not join us and pose awhile?

1. DÉPÔT DESIGN

Feeling a touch constrained? Answer – expand! Thus, Dépôt Design has grown from 2,500 to 4,000 m² – happiness awaits in this huge arena dedicated to the very best in contemporary furniture at pleasing prices.

Dépôt Design

Quai du Hainaut, 19
1080 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 502 28 82
www.depotdesign.be

2. IKKS

IKKS offers Brussels a new fashion perspective in its beautiful Antoine Dansaert outlet, as it presents the new Women & Men collection. IKKS Men greets you first as you stroll in, with factory and living-room styles offering an exclusively male, urbane. Then, the Women's collection is resplendent in oak, metal and grey-white concrete. Dazzling!

IKKS Women & Men

Rue Antoine Dansaert, 29
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 502 66 48
www.ikks.com

3. EM72

And here's a surprise in a small package – amid the decor-styles of a well-maintained, swish apartment, discover a new environment in which art and accessories mix.

From the outset, owner Mathilde Danglade's jeans selection take us straight into summer and, not far from there, the beautiful ceramics of artist Laurence Deweer set us a-quiver. And, one flight of stairs later, check out the tableaux by joint-owner Elena Barenghi.

Em72

Rue du Page, 72
1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 538 81 16

4. MON AMOUR

In the Châtelain quarter, why not discover Mon Amour, a real Ali Baba's cave. Here, and perhaps only here, will you find a blend of Cacharel clothes, bio Doux Me moisturizers, Kusmi Teas, Astier de Vilatte candles, and much, much more beauty in store. A shop to charm all preferences and pockets and, moreover, owner Anne-Catherine is only too happy to offer a cup of tea while you shop. Love, indeed.

Mon amour

Rue du Page, 36
1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 537 70 31
www.chezmonamour.com

5. ROGGWILLER

It began with a man, Philippe Roggwiller. Famous in France, he has now launched a top-of-the-range female ready-to-wear outlet in Europe's capital – a 90m² boutique devoted to haute couture and exceptional leather goods. And there are also more than a few exclusive marques on offer here – Kriss Van Assche (Female), Cher Michel Klein, David Szeto, Giuseppe Patane,

Diane de Maria and Carlos Falchi, to name but a few.

Roggwiller

99-101 Rue de Namur, 99-101
1000 Brussels

6. SUPERGREEN ME

In the Dansaert district, a new concept-store built eco-bio principles has arrived – from cosmetics to children's

wear, taking in household linen accessories, nothing is missed out. A product of the imaginations of sisters Valerie and Alexia Berckmans – most welcome!

Supergreen me

Rue Van Artevelde, 10
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 513 32 20
www.supergreenme.be



RestoPass: Your passport to fine dining for less

WRITER: JAMES DREW

Eating out in Brussels doesn't have to be expensive if you have a RestoPass – and you can even treat your friends!

Here's a great new idea for those of us whose regular enjoyment of Brussels' excellent restaurant scene has been curtailed of late by the dreaded credit crisis. RestoPass is a stylish little book, a passport if you like, that gives you a 30 per cent discount at around 30 of Brussels' best-loved restaurants – up to a very generous maximum of 50€ per table.

EAT HEARTY

The scheme was tested successfully first in Singapore and has recently been launched in Brussels. RestoPass has the appearance of a passport, with one restaurant recommended on each page. The RestoPass is available on www.restopass.com, and is also sold through various Brussels-based partners, such as Filigranes, Waterstone's, Cook&Book and Sterling Books.

It costs only 35€ so, if you do the arithmetic, you'll see that it's a very good deal, representing an almost 50-fold return on your investment. But what's also great about the RestoPass is that the participating restaurants are all well-known and well-liked by both locals and expats in Brussels.

"We chose the restaurants based on an extensive survey," explains Jean-Charles Malherbe, RestoPass founder. "Those restaurants that people cited most often as being their favourite recommendations are the ones we approached to go into RestoPass."

"Restaurants don't pay to be in," adds fellow founder Nicolas De Ridder. "That means our selection is much more objective, based on what people actually say they like."

WIDE CHOICE

The line-up of participating eateries is impressive, representing a wide range of culinary styles, from gastronomic through trendy to both traditional Belgian and exotic, the list takes in such favourites as Rouge Tomato, Cospaia, La Manufacture, Le Mess, Blue Elephant, Les Larmes du Tigre... you name it!

The nice thing about the RestoPass is that it's designed to be a desirable extra, not a voucher system. Almost bereft of restrictions or conditions, it can be used any day of the week, for either lunch or dinner, and the discount is applicable to the entire table – excluding drinks, of course. So, rather than advising the restaurant beforehand that you're going to be looking for a discount, you just produce your pass with a flourish when the time comes to pay the bill, and bathe in the admiration of your fellow diners. Bon appetit! 🍴

www.restopass.com



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Cuisine in the clouds

WRITER: MARTIN BANKS

One of the world's top airlines has teamed up with a leading Brussels restaurant to keep customers' taste buds titillated at 33,000 feet.

We've all experienced it – that disappointment when faced with an in-flight meal. All too often, the food presented to passengers is dry and flavourless and, at worst, virtually inedible.

Well, one carrier at least is trying to restore order by linking up with a popular Brussels restaurant chain in a bid to ensure its passengers get top-notch cuisine on their long-haul flights. Indian airline Jet Airways has recently entered into an agreement with the Indian gourmet restaurant La Porte des Indes, based on Avenue Louise, Brussels, to provide its in-flight catering.

In future, all the Indian food available on Jet Airways long-haul flights departing from its Brussels hub, for first-, business- and economy-class passengers, will be supplied by the restaurant. And it's not the first time the airline has taken advantage of Belgium's gastronomic expertise.

FLYING GOURMET

Michelin two-star Belgian chef Yves Mattagne, who heads the highly-regarded Sea Grill restaurant in Brussels, is already responsible for the continental dishes served on board.

They have proved a big success with passengers and now La Porte des Indes, a restaurant founded by Belgian entrepreneur Karl Steppe, who also launched the international Blue Elephant Group, is looking to follow suit.

Known to foodies as the point of reference for Indian gastronomy in Brussels, Steppe hopes that the cooking skills of his restaurant chefs Mehemosh Mody and Rajesh Dalaya will also be appreciated onboard Jet Airways.

He said: "It is very pleasant to work with a company such as Jet Airways which shares the same quality objectives as we do.

"The awareness of quality is exactly what took our products to the heart of prestigious institutions such as Harrods in London, Les Galeries Lafayette in Paris and Rob in Brussels."

His comments are echoed by Tejinder Singh, a Jet Airways general manager responsible for catering in Europe.

He explained: "Where service is concerned, 'good' simply does not cover it and that also goes for our on-board meals, which will now be prepared by top-class chefs under the best possible conditions.

"In La Port des Indes we have found a Belgian partner who can perfectly realize our vision of Northern Indian cuisine and convince even the most demanding of Indian guests."



As far as the restaurant is concerned, preparation of its in-flight catering for the airline has reached an advanced stage. Most of the food will be prepared at a workshop it runs in Tubize, on the western outskirts of Brussels. At present, it has a 27-strong team based on the premises which, following

the success in landing the Jet Airways contract, is likely to be expanded in the near future.

VARIETY AND HYGIENE

The restaurant in Brussels is run by Mr Steppe's son Kim, who says that variety and an emphasis on hygiene are the secrets of its success.

"Our chefs have a tough job because Jet Airways changes its in-flight menu every month. Our people have 96 different recipes to choose from and each month the menu offered to passengers changes, whether they are travelling in first class, business or economy.

Guillaumede Syon, a history professor at the UK's Albright College who has written about the history of airline meals, said that the higher altitude alters the taste of the food and the function of the taste buds.

According to Syon, the food – traditionally frozen and heated on the ground before take-off rather than prepared fresh – may be dry and flavourless as a result of the pressurization and passengers drinking alcohol instead of water.

Food safety is also of paramount importance in the airline industry – mass food poisoning among passengers on a plane could have disastrous consequences.

'THERE IS ALSO A GREAT EMPHASIS ON HYGIENE, SOMETHING WE REGARD AS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AS WE ARE PRODUCING MEALS TO BE CONSUMED ON LONG-HAUL FLIGHTS TO CANADA AND INDIA'



For example, in February 1992, shrimps tainted with cholera were served on an Aerolineas Argentinas flight. An elderly passenger died, and other travellers fell seriously ill – an experience that Kim Steppe and his chefs will obviously be hoping to avoid.

“There is also a great emphasis on hygiene, something we regard as particularly important as we are producing meals to be consumed on long-haul flights to Canada and India.”

He adds: “Our business has been inspired by the Indian cooking of the former French trading post of Pondicherry and we aim to produce traditional Indian food with a diverse touch.

“Our aim for the airline is to provide fresh – repeat, fresh – individual portions of easily digestible Indian

food to help make a long-haul flight that bit more pleasurable.”

Since its launch in May 1993, Jet Airways really has proved something of a soaraway success. Recently named best domestic airline in India in the 2008 TTG Travel Awards 2008, the carrier, Singh explains, is constantly striving to find new ways of re-inventing and improving its service to customers – not least on the culinary front.

“We are very proud to have been awarded this contract,” says Singh “and I am confident we can live up expectations.”

La Porte des Indes
Avenue Louise, 455
1050 Brussels
T. +32 2 647 8651
www.laportedesindes.com
www.jetairways.com



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Le bourgmestre Christophe Dierckx et Serge Kubla



Zeynep Sever "Miss Belgique 2009" et Juan Kiti



"De la plume au pinceau" l'événement a rencontré un franc succès où plus de 300 VIP ont été invités à l'avant-première...

Expo "De la plume au pinceau"

Exposées du 15 mai au 20 juin 2009 au Dolce La Hulpe Brussels, les oeuvres de Juan Kiti inspirées des best-sellers de Paul-Loup Sulitzer ont rencontrées un vif succès. L'événement people du mois de mai fut l'occasion pour l'artiste international Juan Kiti de nous étonner à nouveau, en nous présentant en première mondiale, sa nouvelle collection de sculptures contemporaines, très justement nommées les "Kiti Lady" !

"Sun Kiti Lady"
62x11x33cm"Kiti Lady"
21x35x28cm

Infos :
www.kiti.be



Catch that is fit for a king

If there is one counter that can fly the banner of freshness with pride, it's the Fish Counter. At Rob, this is not just a place where fish is sold; it's a place alive with the passion of a whole team that is familiar with the sea, the oceans and rivers.



A counter where fresh really means fresh!

"We cannot afford to sell anything that is not absolutely first choice", admitted Jean-Claude, the helmsman of this fish counter. So, fish is delivered fresh every day and the teams check each product meticulously. If there is the slightest doubt, the product is sent back, without mercy.

The secret behind the famous Rob quality is a very simple recipe: the person who selects and purchases the merchandise is the fishmonger himself. Products are delivered fresh each day, direct from the catch and from the sea; no intermediaries and spent in transport or storage!

An ocean of choice

No fishmonger's would be complete without the classics (Sole, Turbot, Cod, Red Mullet, Tuna, Swordfish, Monkfish, Bream, Calamari, etc.).

But what makes Rob so special, is that it also sells more exclusive products: Scottish Salmon from Loch Duart, farmed in the cold clear waters of Sutherland, smoked according to traditional methods and sliced by hand for example. Its quality lies in the perfect balance between its soft texture, its lack of fat and its perfect smoky flavour.

"We like being able to guarantee the origins of the pedigree products we offer." Whole, live scallops, authentic line-caught bass with its firm yet fine flesh that we only sell in season. And we could go on to quote hundreds more examples. "We do not choose according to quantity, but according to our ongoing quest for products of the best quality, whose origins we are able to guarantee and that are in season."



And let's not forget those special little treats

Our team is also gifted with a sense of inventiveness and creativity in its recipes : fish soup, crab salad, tartare of salmon or lobster that we cook according to an ancient recipe. And of course there is also an incredible choice of bouillabaisse, cod and herring roes and trout eggs. And the true little pleasure pearls: salmon eggs – perfect without any frills.



Fish are simply bursting with nutritional properties! They are good for the heart, health and the figure... No praise is too great!



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Tel. 02 771 20 60
www.rob-brussels.be

Alive and kicking

Together presents its customary round-up from Brussels' recent party nights. Jealous that you weren't there?

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EBONY BOOT AWARD

Chelsea's Didier Drogba (centre) with Anderlecht's Mbark Boussoufa (right), the winner of the Ebony Boot Award for the best African player in the Belgian league, and Olympic Games silver-medalist Kim Gevaert, at a gala ceremony in Brussels on 12th May.



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SONY



LONGINES



CLARKE: THROUGH A LENS DARKLY

WRITER: COLIN MOORS
PHOTOGRAPHER: BOB CARLOS CLARKE

*The Bob Carlos Clarke retrospective is at
The Little Black Gallery in London until 3rd July.*

© The Estate of Bob Carlos Clarke



Three years ago, the world of art and photography lost one of its most intriguing and iconic personalities. Bob Carlos Clarke, apparently very depressed over the death of his good friend and fellow photographer, Patrick Lichfield, checked out of the Priory Clinic in London and committed suicide.



Anyone familiar with his work could see that a proportion of it came from a very dark place indeed, but the allure and honesty of his pics always seemed to shine through, and many were not without their own brand of black humour.

Clarke photographed a wide variety of subjects, although he is particularly noted for his studies of women, from the straightforward to the slightly obscure. Marco Pierre White and Keith Richards were subjects – and his shot of Marco Pierre White, for example, looking very James Dean but cradling a

giant dogfish in his lap, shows that the photographer knew how to get the laughs, as well as getting the very best from his female subjects.

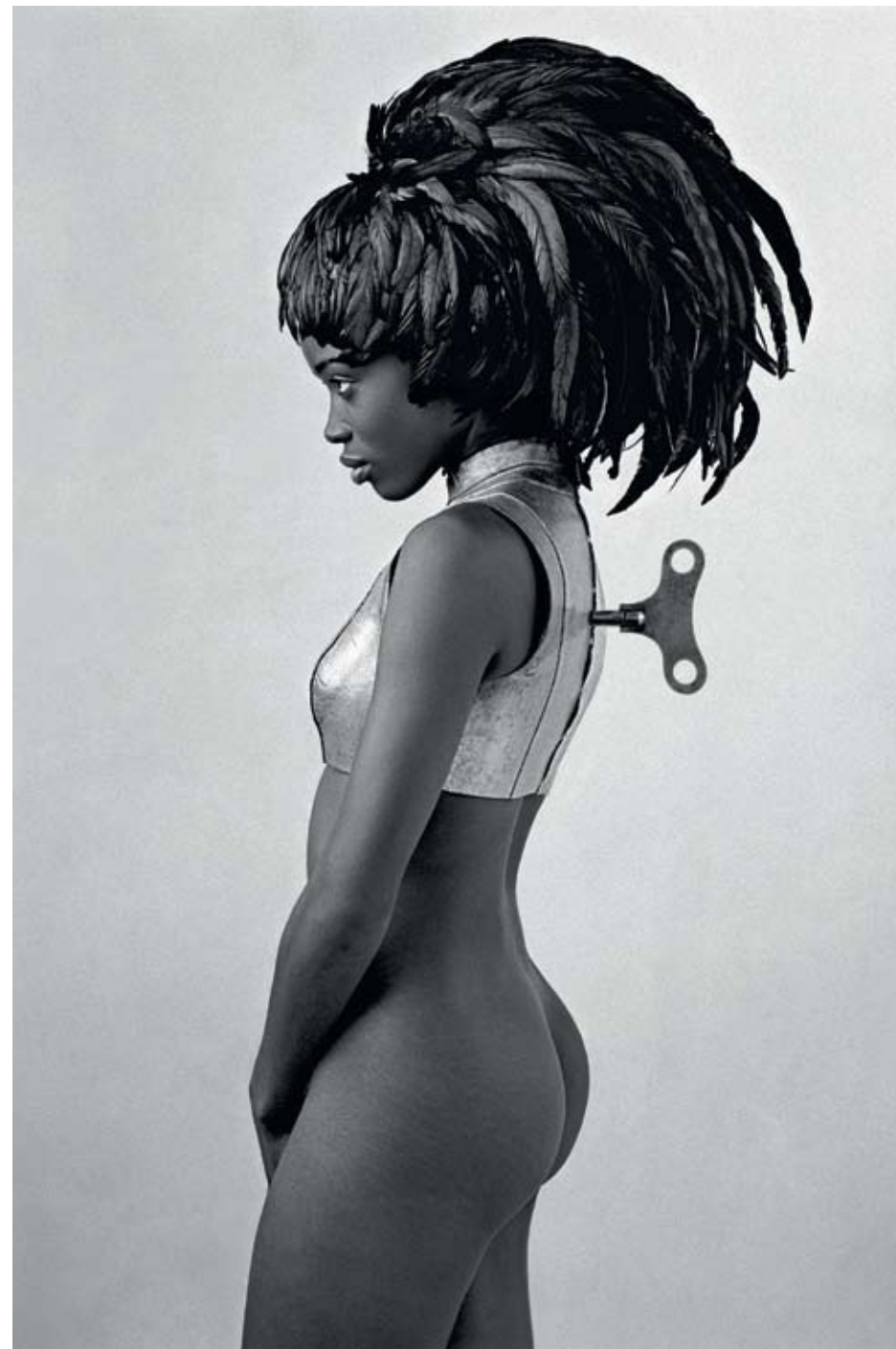
In recognition and celebration of Clarke's work, The Little Black Gallery in London is holding an exhibition drawn from his 30-year career, including some photographs never before seen. The exhibition coincides with the publication of his biography, *Exposure: The Unusual Life and Violent Death of Bob Carlos Clarke*. ❶

Go to www.thelittleblackgallery.com for more information.

The Bob Carlos Clarke retrospective is at The Little Black Gallery in London until 3rd July.

© The Estate of Bob Carlos Clarke





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© The Estate of Bob Carlos Clarke

Together's 'To Do' list

WRITER: JAMES DREW



More to see, more to do
as summer gets into her
stride. Enjoy.

1. SHUTTLE SERVICE : BRUSSELS- MAASMECHELEN VILLAGE 13.06 > 30.08

A new service is on offer all summer, to take you to the shopping paradise that is Maasmechelen Village. With daily stops at key Brussels hotels (The Hilton, Hotel Amigo, The Sheraton and Hotel Renaissance), there's no excuse to miss out.

*Tickets cost 20€ for adults
and 10€ for children under 12.
Booking is essential – call Open
Tours on +32 (0)496 404 000 for more
information.*

2. DE LA PLUME AU PINCEAU To 20.06 in Brussels

Renowned writer Paul-Loup Sulitzer (Money, King Vert, Cash!) and painter-sculptor Juan Kiti come together in an astonishing expo. Kiti takes as his starting point Sulitzer's 38 best-sellers, which inspire a dazzling range of art work which, once the exhibition has left Brussels, is bound for Paris, Rome, Barcelona and beyond.

*Dolce La Hulpe
Chaussée de la Hulpe, 135
13010 La Hulpe
T.+32 (0)487 748 155
www.kiti.be*

3. ACTION IN EMERGENCIES To 28.06 in Brussels

Become a 'Doctor Without Borders' and discover the reality of emergency humanitarian action – witness Medecins Sans Frontieres' emergency humanitarian action in a travelling exhibition, and dive into the heart of MSF's medical interventions. In a ten-minute journey through real-life visuals and sounds, you will deal with an influx of wounded patients and people displaced by heavy fighting and truly get into the skin of a real MSF volunteer.

www.acteursdurgence.be

4. TERRASSE DE L'HIPPODROME 12.06 > 21.07

Boistfort Racecourse is getting a new look this year – it is being transformed into a veritable oasis of pleasure in the middle of Brussels. What could be more agreeable than to sip a cocktail in the shade of a palm tree, with your feet in the swimming pool after a hard day's work? The Simply Better events team are making it happen – an enchanting setting with golden sand, gazebos, immaculate parasols, hammocks and reclining chairs that are there to help you take it easy.

www.la-terrasse.be

5. NOW OPEN MAGRITTE MUSEUM !

Magritte, the 20th century's most celebrated, surrealist painter, was born in 1898 in Belgium and died in Brussels in August 1967. Open from 2nd June, the new Magritte Museum, to be found within walking distance of Grand'Place, holds the world's largest collection of Magritte (200 works) plus letters written by the painter,

photographs and drawings. Guaranteed to amaze.

*Musée Magritte Museum
Place Royale, 1
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 508 36 81
www.musee-magritte-museum.be*

6. STEPHAN VANFLETEREN BELGICUM To 09.08

Renowned Belgian photographer Stephan Vanfleteren presents a remarkable selection of shots of his home country – a truly personal perspective, in black and white, on lives and locations less ordinary. A blend of the familiar, the strange, the banal and the exotic – Belgium will never seem the same again.

*Le Botanique
Rue Royale, 236
1210 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 226 1218
www.botanique.be*

7. BAAF IN 1040 25.06 > 29.07

The organizers of the Brussels Accessible Art Fair will exhibit the work of leading artist Lea Shabat, from Canada, beginning on the last Thursday in June and lasting for a month.

*Vinotheque Les Terroirs
Rue Charles Degroux, 37-39
1040 Brussels
T.+32 (0)486 634 676
www.accessibleartfair.com*

8. FADING 25.06 > 13.09

Concerning the topic of the 'fading' image, this expo brings together, for the



first time, the work of 45 internationally renowned Belgian artists. Via the 90 works on display, Fading examines how art, in confrontation with consumer and multi-media information society pushes the boundaries of visual language, to test the limits of pictorial space 'obliteration'. Among the artists on display? Luc Tuymans, Hugo Heyrman, Michael Borremans, Koen Van den Broek, Cindy Wright, Ronny Delrue, Jan De Vliegheer, Dirk Braeckman, Jan De Maesschalck, Bert De Beul, Tina Gillen, Gauthier Hubert, Stephan Balleux, Peter Weidenbaum...

Musée d'Ixelles
Rue Jean Van Volsem 71
1050 Brussels
T.+32 (0)2 515 6422
www.museedixelles.be

9. THE KRAZY MESS GROOVERS (KMGs) 26.06

No, you are not in Chicago or New Orleans, you're in Ixelles. But the atmosphere, the fragrance, the warmth and the music have the color of true, authentic jazz, and The KMGs are no exception – a Belgian band based in Brussels, they're nine musicians with jazz, rock, electro and funk background. Nice.

Sounds Jazz Club
Rue de la Tulipe, 28
1050 Brussels
T.+32 (0)2 512 9250
www.soundsjazzclub.be
www.thekmgs.com

10. BRUSSELS-ON-SEA 18.07 > 17.08 (not Mondays)

Brussels-on-Sea, on the banks of the Willebroek Canal, is a full-blown, albeit temporary, seaside resort, to let you get away from it all without even leaving the city. Straw huts and barbecues, oiled-up beach beaux and bikini-clad babes are not what you'd expect to come across in the capital, yet this tropical strip springs up every year during Belgium's (somewhat temperamental) summer season. Best of all, it's completely free, and that includes chaises longues rental, concerts, beach sports, and even a team of professional masseurs who are on hand to knead beach-bums' sunburned shoulders – Shiatsu, Thai or Swedish style. Life, as they say, is a beach!

Place Sainctelette
1000 Brussels
bruxelleslesbains@brucity.be
www.bruxelleslesbains.be

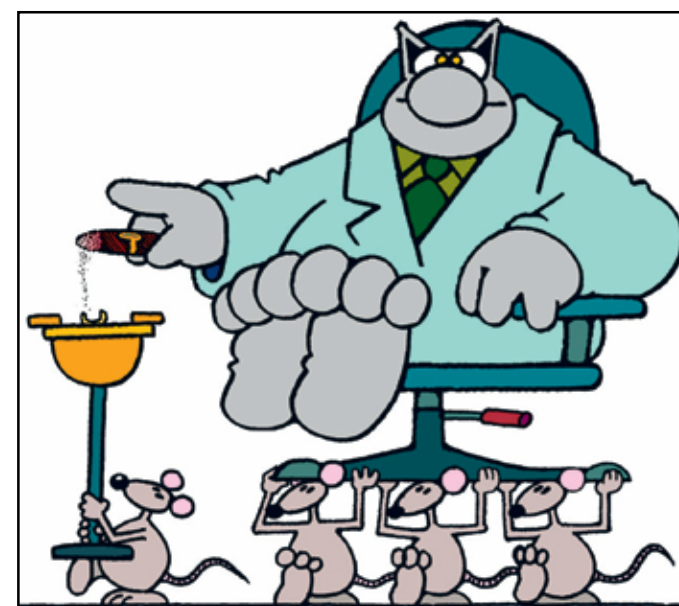
11. UNITY TAKES SHAPE 21.07 > 30.08

Black, yellow, and red – Belgium's national colours, but are they still the colours of Brussels? Fresh from celebrating the museum's 80th anniversary, BOZAR curator Jean-Marie Stroobants has placed the contrasts on the creative palette of an impressive panel of visual artists, tasking them to draw inspiration to trace the contours of a new, contemporary Belgian identity. Will they succeed? See for yourself.

BOZAR
Rue Ravenstein, 23 – 1000 Brussels
T.+32 (0)2 507 8200
www.bozar.be

Like the cat who's got the cream!

Philippe Geluck's feline hero reflects on the finer things.



ADDRESSES

D

Delvaux
Boulevard de Waterloo, 27
B-1000 Bruxelles
+32 (0)2 513 05 02
www.delvaux.be

Dyrberg/Kern
www.dyrbergkern.com

F

Fabienne Delvigne
Avenue Roger Vandendriessche, 25
B-1150 Bruxelles
+32 (0)2 735 90 41
www.fabiennedelvigne.be

G

Gicenchy
www.gicenchy.fr

H

Hermès
Boulevard de Waterloo, 50
B-1000 Bruxelles
+32 (0)2 511 20 62
www.hermes.com

Hoss Intropia
hossintropia.com

Hugo Boss
Avenue Louise, 43-45
B-1050 Bruxelles
+32 (0)2 538 03 63
www.hugoboss.com

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Les Precieuses
Rue Antoine Dansaert, 83
B-1000 Bruxelles
+32 (0)2 503 28 98



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David Mc Gowan:
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Founder:
Jérôme Stéfanski

Publisher:
David Mc Gowan

Louis Vuitton
Boulevard de Waterloo, 59-60
B-1000 Bruxelles
+32 (0)2 289 28 28
www.louisvuitton.com

N

Natan
Avenue Louise, 158
B-1000 Bruxelles
+32 (0)2 647 10 01
www.natan.be

O

Olivier Strelli
Rue Antoine Dansaert, 44
B-1000 Bruxelles
+32 (0)2 512 09 42
www.strelli.be

P

Patrizia Pepe
www.patriziapepe.com

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Swarovski
www.swarovski.com

T

Tommy Hilfiger
Avenue de la Toison d'Or, 18-19
B-1000 Bruxelles
+32 (0)2 513 67 87
www.tommyhilfiger.be

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

Cover Credit:
Styling: www.geoffreymasure.com /
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Writers:
Martin Banks / Sara Brown / Andy Carling /
Dave Deruytter / Daniele Dosi / James Drew /
Federico Grandesso / Alex Hewetson /
Marie Hocopied / David Mc Gowan / Colin Moors /
Graham Reid / Armand Richelet-Kleinberg /
Jeremy Slater / Jérôme Stéfanski /

Together Media
Bd St Michel, 47
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info@togethermedia.eu



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