

WHERE NEWS & BUSINESS MEET GLAMOUR & GOOD TIMES

#16 / MARCH 2010

# Together

magazine

## LIVING THE DREAM

**ANTWERP'S ADVENTURER**  
Marc Sluszny

**PARIS FASHION WEEK**  
Renzo Rosso  
and Vivienne Westwood

**MARRAKECH**  
'Red City', red carpet,  
fantasy hotel

**COMPETITIONS**  
Alexandre de Paris  
and davidrose

# Perchance to dream

'Living the dream' – it's a concept that may seem singularly at odds with the dark, cold days of the new year's beginning, but we at *Together* disagree, and we want to share what we've learned about making your dream life a reality.

**W**hen it comes to living dangerously and 'who dares wins', there are few who know more about living on the edge than Antwerp-born

commodities-trader, author and adventurer **Marc Sluszny**. In his own words: "I want to taste all the dreams and big adventures of this world – that would be something extraordinary to accomplish in one lifetime." David Mc Gowan (that's me) grabs the chance of an interview with Belgium's answer to Bond – don't miss it, either in the magazine or online at [www.together-magazine.eu](http://www.together-magazine.eu).

And, when it comes to practical advice about making your dreams reality, you could do a lot worse than take the advice of *Together*'s 'Go Get It Specialist' **Natasha Abudarham** – in another new column, our Brussels-based expert offers practical pointers on dream living. It's part of our new section, **Health Wealth**, which also features advice from Brussels' Royal La Rasante Sports Club's **National Fitness and Wellness Manager Richard Earney** on turning resolutions into reality.

Elsewhere, *Together* founder Jérôme Stéfanski takes us on a dream trip to the heart of the Alps, namely the village of **Arc 1950** – a car-free hamlet that blends itself into the shape of the mountains at 1,950 metres, under the benevolent gaze of Mont Blanc, cradled by the Aiguille Rouge. For snow-sports and après-ski enthusiasts, the village brings holidaymakers a new art of living.

For another fantastic journey, editor James Drew had the chance to visit Marrakech recently, where he strolled the red carpet at the **Marrakech Film Festival** and enjoyed the sublime hospitality at what must be

Morocco's finest hotel, **Sofitel Marrakech**.

And, can a country 'live the dream'? Well, Emma Portier Davis takes a look at how **Belgium is making a comeback on the world stage, big-time**, following its much-heralded near-demise of not so long ago.

In a new column, **Sensual Secrets**, Kimberley Lovato takes a look at the trials and triumphs of seduction, and, in **Eat Together**, discusses her soon-to-be released culinary travel book, **Walnut Wine & Truffle Groves**, about the Dordogne region of France, with our co-editor Colin Moors. Colin also casts a cold eye over two of the latest 'dream' gadgets, in **Must-Haves**.

As usual, there are interviews galore – Michael Gaio speaks with fashion giants **Andrea Cannelloni** and **Jeremy Hackett**, and Federico Grandesso chats to **Reinze Rosso** and **Vivienne Westwood**.

Of course, we have our customary choice of great giveaways – world-renowned coiffeurs **Alexandre de Paris**, who recently opened a boutique in Brussels, are offering ten wonderful tonsorial teasings (that's 'haircuts') for our readers, while leading optician **dauidrose** gives you the chance to win a year's supply of contact lenses.

Plus, there's all the fashion, culture, art and style that you've come to expect from the Capital of Europe's leading magazine – so, what are you waiting for? Let's dream, *Together*! ☺



*David Mc Gowan*

**David Mc Gowan**  
Publisher

*David with Together's  
special guest Marc  
Sluszny (right)*

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# Visual virtuosity

Check out the latest online treats from Armand-Richelet Kleinberg.



## 1. LIVE YOUR DREAMS

*Together's* publisher David Mc Gowan talks to famed Belgian adventurer Marc Sluszný – and you can check out the interview in print on page 16.

## 2. ELF

A European cultural project that's somewhat out of the ordinary – fairies do exist, you know?

## 3. HOTEL VIEUX MOULIN

Charm and culture near Hautes Fagnes.

## 4. HOTEL EDOUARD IIV, PARIS

Be carried away by history.

## 5. HOTEL MICHELANGELO, BUCHAREST

Luxury and high living, for tourism and business.

## 6. PALAIS DE TOKYO, PARIS

The spring/summer 2010 'Counter of Cotton' procession.

To enjoy these great videos and more, go to [www.together-magazine.eu/videos.shtml](http://www.together-magazine.eu/videos.shtml)



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# A cut above

For more than 50 years, the Paris-located salon of Alexandre de Paris has been synonymous with style and class, offering some of the very best hairdressing available to man or woman.

Already the name of choice for the worlds of fashion

*Together* teams up with leading coiffure Alexandre de Paris, which has recently opened a boutique in Brussels, to offer readers ten sublime hairdressing sessions.

and showbiz, Alexandre de Paris, under the safe and sure stewardship of its President Michel Dervyn, has made the move from French to Belgian capital city, installing a new boutique, which has been open since late 2009, in the prestigious surroundings of Brussels' Boulevard de Waterloo.



Not by chance did Michel Dervyn choose Brussels to open the marque's first Alexandre de Paris salon outside Paris's borders – Europe's capital is renowned for its exceptional cosmopolitan clientèle, with gentlemen of refinement and ladies of elegance.

Modelled on the sublime Avenue de Montaigne salon's 'Living Room' template, Alexandre de Paris Brussels is a 500-square metre gold, black and ivory creation, utterly devoted to the last word in hair design. Exquisitely comfortable, calm and classy, to arrive here is to enter the inner sanctum of hairdressing excellence, festooned only with the very finest hair-care and make-up products available.

As Alexandre de Paris' motto has it: "Every client is unique when they sit in our chair." You will find no quasi-military seating arrangements here, but rather four 'islands' that allow clients enjoy an ambiance that is at once discrete and convivial. In addition, there are two separate areas allotted to hair care and colouring, with the first emphasizing relaxation, with massage seats and pleasant fragrances. The second is a little more hi-tech – why not discover for yourself? In addition, Alexandre de Paris Brussels offers beautiful, private cabins, reserved for celebrities or simply for those who require a little more privacy. And, for the first time, the Brussels boutique devotes a Living Room to masculine elegance, one in which the sharpest haircuts and shaves are paramount. As Michel Dervyn himself explains: "We want to promote the culture of 'Alexandre Man' and, to help us in our quest, we have the peerless services of Philippe Denoyelle."

So, take our word for it – a visit to Alexandre de Paris ensures you are in the best possible hands. Enjoy! 🍷



## THE PRIZES

*Together* has teamed up with Alexandre de Paris to offer five shampoo/blow dries for ladies, and five gentlemen's shampoo/cuts, and believe us when we say, you haven't been coiffed until you've been to Alexandre de Paris. Send us your name, address and daytime telephone number to [info@togethermedia.eu](mailto:info@togethermedia.eu), labelling your email Alexandre de Paris Competition. The deadline for all entries is 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010, when the winners will be selected at random. Good luck!

Alexandre de Paris  
Boulevard de Waterloo, 36  
1000 Brussels  
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Open Monday to Saturday, 8h30-18h30.  
[www.alexandreparis.be](http://www.alexandreparis.be)

Competition organized under the supervision of a bailiff. Full rules available on request. Organizer: **Together Magazine**, Boulevard Saint-Michel 47, 1040 Brussels.



# Vision, on!

Read on to find out about a new online contact-lenses initiative, and how you could win a year's supply of lenses, thanks to Lens Online and leading Brussels optician davidrose.

**L**ens Online ([www.lensonline.be](http://www.lensonline.be)) – it's your first chance to get your contact lenses at internet prices, combined with the customer service of a qualified optician – an obvious choice.

## THE PRINCIPAL

Lens Online is the first online contact-lenses supplier, and also the largest network of qualified contact-lenses specialists, offering the best products and the best service at the best prices.

Lens Online offers very attractive prices on a wide range of lenses and lens solutions. But that's not all – thanks to Lens Online, you also benefit from the expert advice of opticians, who are qualified in term of adaptation, follow-up and maintenance of your lenses.

## THE PROOF

A customer who is already convinced by Lens Online's service is Bertrand, 29, who was recommended to try them by his optician: "Buying from Lens Online meant that I was able to get my lenses and lens solutions cheaper than anywhere else." And, because all onsite products are well-known brands, you can buy in complete confidence.

## FAST AND SAFE SERVICE

Marie, 37, underlines the site's simplicity and the speed of delivery: "Lens Online allows me to order my lenses every month in just a few clicks – it couldn't be simpler!"

All lenses are delivered to the customer's specifications, either to their home or to their Lens Online optician. Payment can be safely made either on site, or upon collection of your order.

For Christine, 52, it was the optician-service bonus that drew her to Lens Online: "Your sight needs regular attention and follow-up – I was afraid to purchase from the internet without knowing which style or strength of lenses to order, because your sight capability can change so quickly. But, on the advice of my optician, I was able to place an order on Lens Online, following a complete check up, so I could benefit from his invaluable advice and enjoy internet prices!" To benefit from low-cost lenses in complete confidence, go to [www.lensonline.be](http://www.lensonline.be), or talk to your Brussels Lens Online recommended optician, davidrose. ☺

**'BUYING FROM LENS ONLINE MEANT THAT I WAS ABLE TO GET MY LENSES AND MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS CHEAPER THAN ANYWHERE ELSE'**



## THE PRIZES

Together has teamed up with Lens Online and davidrose to give you the chance to win a year's supply of contact lenses, worth up to 1,000€ (not including lens solutions). All you have to do is send your name, address and daytime telephone number to [info@togethermedia.eu](mailto:info@togethermedia.eu), labelling your email Lens Online Competition, and answer the following questions:

- (i) Provide two brands of monthly lenses available on [www.lensonline.be](http://www.lensonline.be).
- (ii) What is the price reduction on the purchase of four boxes of the same lens-type on [www.lensonline.be](http://www.lensonline.be)?

The deadline for all entries is 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010, when the winner will be selected at random. Good luck!

## davidrose

Rue de Trèves, 16  
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Open Monday to Friday, 9-19h, and available Saturday by appointment only.

Competition organized under the supervision of a bailiff.  
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# Popping in

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Who's been here?

## SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY

Sir Paul McCartney visited the European Parliament on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 to attend the Global Warming and Food Policy: Less Meat = Less Heat hearing. As the former Beatle explained: "I grew up as a kid not eating meat on Fridays, it was part of the rules of the school." Sir Paul McCartney also met Rajendra K. Pachauri, head of the UN's global climate change panel in Brussels.



## MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

The European Parliament's Joint Committees for Foreign Affairs and Development met on 27<sup>th</sup> of January for an exchange of views with former US secretary of state Madeleine Albright, who is now the chairwoman of NATO's Strategic Concept Expert Group. Albright discussed issues such as the new international security environment, NATO's relations with Russia and the importance of winning public support when redefining NATO's role in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with MEPs, and also underlined, during her speech, the importance of co-operation with Europe. "The examples of the Balkans and Afghanistan show the need to combine the military and civil capabilities of NATO and the EU and how they can work together to avoid duplication, including costs, especially in a time of economic crisis when national budgets are overstretched," she said.



## TOKIO HOTEL

German group Tokio Hotel appeared on 25<sup>th</sup> February in Forest National, where Billy, Tom, Georg and Gustav presented their third album, *Humanoid*, produced by David Jost. Their first single, *Automatic*, is a powerful example of the group's modernist style, and the on-stage special effects were astounding.



## 50 CENT

US rapper Curtis James Jackson III, alias 50 Cent, hit Forest National on 26<sup>th</sup> February, where fans had the chance to travel into an urban American atmosphere and enjoy the artist's fourth album, *Before I Self Destruct*, which was recorded in collaboration with Dr Dre and Eminem. 📍



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*“Dreams surely are difficult, confusing, and not everything in them is brought to pass for mankind. For fleeting dreams have two gates: one is fashioned of horn and one of ivory. Those which pass through the one of sawn ivory are deceptive, bringing tidings which come to nought, but those which issue from the one of polished horn bring true results when a mortal sees them.”*

– **Homer (800-700BC), The Odyssey**

*“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you’ve imagined. As you simplify your life, the laws of the universe will be simpler.”*

– **Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), American philosopher**

*“All of us failed to match our dreams of perfection. So I rate us on the basis of our splendid failure to do the impossible.”*

– **William Faulkner (1897-1962), American author**

*“So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.”*

– **Christopher Reeve (1952-2004), American actor**

*“The biggest adventure you can ever take is to live the life of your dreams.”*

– **Oprah Winfrey, American chat-show host and author**

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LIVING  
THE DREAM

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# MARC SLUSZNY: IT'S HOW GOOD YOU WANT TO BE

WRITER: DAVID MC GOWAN

When it comes to 'Living The Dream', Marc Sluszny is an inspiration. We talk to the Antwerp-born adventurer for whom being alive is all about overcoming fears and achieving goals.

**M**arc Sluszny, 48, is a man who has achieved just about everything he's put his mind to – his curriculum vitae is more than inspiring, and confirms the long-held notion that it is possible to achieve whatever we set out to, as long as we follow certain disciplines. Sluszny focuses, overcomes his fears, pays the price and therefore achieves his goals. And his motto? "It's not how good you are, it's how good you want to be."

Sluszny has much to offer those who dream of greater things – our cameraman Armand Richelet-Kleinberg (himself, by coincidence, the author of the play *Pour Elise: Si vous enterrer vos rêves, vous êtes déjà mort* (For Elise: If You Bury Your

*Dreams, You Are Already Dead*) has recorded our interview with Marc, which is now available online at [www.together-magazine.eu/videos.shtml](http://www.together-magazine.eu/videos.shtml) and offers a more in-depth understanding of this great achiever's personality and how you too can reach your goals.

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

**Together:** At what age did your professional career begin?

**MS:** I went to university at 18, then I played professional tennis from the age of 20-22. Then, when I was 23, I was offered a job as a commodities trader in London – that is where my professional career started, and I did that until just a few years ago

**What was it like playing for the 1982 Belgian Davis Cup team?**

*My dad always wanted to play tennis. But after the war, unless you had enough money to join a club, it was hard to play professionally, so he encouraged me to play. I started at 10 or 11 with the goal of being a world champion. My hero was Björn Borg. I played Wimbledon, and the French Open, and that was great then, around the age of 22, I realized I had reached my peak and that it was time to try something else.*



© Yvan Barbera



**You swam the English Channel – what inspired you to do that?**

*I was looking for a new challenge. I read about someone else who had done it and I realized that it dated back to the 1800s, when an English officer escaped France by swimming back to England. I trained for a few years, and was lucky to have a great swimming coach. He didn't really trust my ability, but after a while we became friends, and I eventually achieved the crossing. It was very hard. You can train for everything, but you can't prepare your body for how cold the water is.*

**In 1994, you tried bungee-jumping for the first time?**

*After my swimming adventure, I went to the movies and saw the movie **Point Break** (1991) with Patrick Swayze and Keanu Reeves. I thought: "How cool would jumping out of a plane be?" Then a friend and I did our first jump – it went very well, but I was really scared, and that was my first experience with real fear. We eventually gained our skydiving licences – I kept practising and improving, and I wanted to get into*

*sky-surfing. Eventually, a Belgian movie producer approached me about doing a bungee-jump out of a hot-air balloon – the world record at the time was 4,800 metres, and the producer wanted me to break the record, so we went to 6,900 metres, and claimed the highest bungee jump ever, then, after my jump, the balloon rose to 9,000 metres and the pilot set his own record for highest-ever hot-air balloon flight.*

**So, tell us about your 'sky-surfing' experiences?**

*I started skydiving, and was doing more and more 'air acrobatics' – I was one of the first people in Belgium to begin sky-surfing and I became something of a pioneer because it was so new. I finished fourth in the world championship that year, but the winner ended up dying in a skydiving accident a year later. In fact, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers ahead of me also got hurt. I was afraid that I might be next on the list.*

**There must be times when you think this is all too dangerous, no?**  
*I have broken quite a few bones*

*– quite often, when you participate in speed sports as I do, you get the feeling that you are invincible, and that can be very dangerous.*

**You have also done extreme mountain-climbing without oxygen?**

*During all these adventures, if your mind is open and you look for opportunities to expand yourself mentally, physically and spiritually, you will meet people looking to do the same. I met a mountaineer who was going on expeditions to Nepal, and I wanted to join him. We went on an expedition with the Belgian military – we didn't make it to the top, but we reached 8,000 meters without oxygen. You're in pain the whole way, you're freezing cold, you're starving, you're thirsty, you can't get any oxygen – not a pleasant experience. We even survived an avalanche along the way – it came while we were sleeping in camp. It sounded like a train barrelling toward us – when we woke up in the morning, we had to dig ourselves out of the snow.*



**So, your scariest moment?**

*I've had a lot of very scary moments. I was at the doctor's one day, and he was checking me out. He examined my heart and said he could see a scar on my heart. He asked me if I had been scared in my life – he told me that the scar was not a scar from cutting, but from my heart stopping, and I told him that I believed it had stopped more than once, in fact. I've been stuck in an underwater cave while scuba-diving at 100 metres, I've been in an avalanche, and I've had my parachute not opening for a couple of seconds during a base jump. There have been several moments when I've been really, really afraid.*

**What has been the most difficult thing you've faced?**

*Well, I think it was difficult to achieve the level of self-confidence so I could continue even when others said I wouldn't make it, and overcoming the fears that we all have within is a constant challenge. Such fears are excuses to not try something, because we are afraid of failure, and are still the biggest hurdle I have to overcome.*

**And your relationship with Mumm Champagne?**

*I was lucky to be introduced to them in 2009. After meeting the Mumm people there, they were surprised at how their mottos and values were very close to mine. For them, achievement, taking it to the limit, overcoming boundaries,*

*and being the best are very important – they thought we could pass on that mentality together, to give the feeling of achievement, of surpassing their limits. That's how it all began.*

**Your proudest moment?**

*In the beginning, when I started playing tennis, playing for my country was my proudest moment. Since then, I've achieved so many fantastic things and I've been able to experience so many amazing adventures, that I'm happy to say I'm proud of almost everything I've done.*

**What's your biggest challenge now?**

*Passing on a little bit of the knowledge and the view I have of life, and to try to explain to people how they can motivate themselves and motivate others to reach greater heights.*

**How would you like to be remembered?**

*I definitely would like to be remembered as someone who was courageous, as someone who was righteous, as someone who maybe was enlightened and was able to pass it on to people around him. I would like to be remembered as someone who lived at 200 miles an hour, and enjoyed every moment that he lived. 🏎️*

[www.marcluszny.com](http://www.marcluszny.com)  
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# Dreaming for real

WRITER: NATASHA ABUDARHAM

Our 'Go Get It Specialist' shares her secrets on how 'living the dream' need not be only for the lucky few.



There can't actually be that many people who are really living their dream, can there? Living your dream is just for the lucky few who know what their dreams are, right? And besides, what are dreams anyway; they never really come true, right? **Wrong!**

**'IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DO A THING OR YOU THINK YOU CAN'T DO A THING, YOU'RE RIGHT'**

Living the dream can be the reality for each of us – but I lived a life without dreams for many years. I thought that unless you were born with 'Lady Luck' on your side, there was no way that you could expect your life to be in harmony.

## DREAM FOR REAL

This way of living, as common as it is for most people, is only a rule because we allow it to be. We've learned that we simply can't have everything we want, and most of us probably stopped dreaming long ago. If this is you, then let me share something that's vitally important.

Living the dream is for every single one of us, if we choose – and it begins with the right mindset. Just as Henry Ford once famously said: "If you think you can do a thing or you think you can't do a thing, you're right." The great news is, you can change your mindset to one that allows you to experience life beyond what you believe possible – you just have to learn and implement the 'hows'. 📌

**1. Dream big, dream often:** Imagine you are at the airport five years from now, and you bump into an old best friend. You have two minutes to brief them on your life as it is today. In an ideal world, what would your life look like, what would you be doing, who or what would be in your life?

**2. Go back to childhood memories:** What did you love to do, what made you happy? It's very likely that you still enjoy now what you did then, but haven't made them a priority. Bring them back into your life, and start having fun again.

**3. Take your big dream in hand:** Start setting goals to help you get there. A dream life doesn't arrive overnight and it certainly won't happen without targets. Break the dream down into bite-size goals, for example three years, one year and 90 days – the latter are a great way to keep you moving forward and achieving.

**4. Do something every day:** It doesn't matter how small or big. Every little thing will contribute to the final result.

**5. You can have it all:** Just believing opens your mind to the possibilities.

**6. Find proof that it's possible:** Look at people you know who are living their dream,

and remind yourself, often: "If they can do it, so can I."

**7. Take off your blinkers:** Open yourself up to the opportunities that surround you. Often, your dreams are right in front of you and you're the only person standing in their way.

**8. Hire help to bring out your best:** We often need guidance to help us achieve the life of our dreams, so find an expert, mentor and coach.

**9. Clear away the clutter:** What beliefs do you have that are preventing your dream life from materializing? Question these beliefs, challenge them, change them.

**10. Make a commitment:** You can live a brilliant life, doing what you love.

'Go Get It Specialist' **Natasha Abudarham** lives in Brussels and provides private courses, group workshops and is a motivational speaker. She is also the host of Europe's **Secret to Success** internet radio show every Monday at 17h. For more information, go to [www.natashaabudarham.com](http://www.natashaabudarham.com)



# RADIANT RÊVES

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Dress:  
ESSENTIEL  
Jewellery and bracelet:  
SWAROVSKI

DRESS TO IMPRESS



Lingerie:  
MARIE JO



DRESS TO IMPRESS

Dress:  
ESSENTIEL  
Jewellery:  
SWAROVSKI



DRESS TO IMPRESS

**HIM**  
Suit:  
YVES SAINT LAURENT  
Polo:  
RALPH LAURENT

**HER**  
Dress:  
BLACK AND WHITE AUDE THE WOLF





DRESS TO IMPRESS

**HER (LEFT)**

Dress:  
HIRIPSIME AFSAZR  
BIBI INDRESS

**HIM**

Suit and shirt:  
HUGO BOSS  
Sunglasses:  
RAY BAN

**HER (RIGHT)**

Dress:  
PATRIZIA PEPE

# The Italian's job

WRITER: MICHAEL GAIO

Designer Andrea Cannelloni had been working for Hugo Boss for ten years. He enjoyed his time there, but recently decided that it was time for a new challenge – he talks to *Together* about joining Italian outfitter Napapijri as vice president.

Cannelloni is not only a designer but, since May 2009, he has also been in charge of management. "The position I was offered, it was really attractive to me," he explains.

As he approaches the end of his first year, Cannelloni is truly embracing his new role. "This is my dream. My vision is to make even Napapijri bigger than it is now."

Napapijri is a brand that prides itself on its historic roots – they hired Cannelloni in the hopes of bringing their design styles back to their early traditions. The Italian outfitter, founded in 1986, records annual sales of around 128€ million – Cannelloni's goal is that the brand's sales will double within five years.

*Together* caught up with the world-renowned designer to discuss his progress, position and what the future holds for Napapijri.

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

*Together:* What was your motivation to join Napapijri?

**AC:** My motivation came on two levels. The first was that, after ten years, I needed to do something different. The second was that I liked the opportunity. As a designer, I

*was always frustrated when my ideas never quite made it to the high street. My aim is that our entire brand shares the same vision throughout the whole process – I want our original idea to be the one you see in the stores.*

What are you like as a manager?

*I am always myself. I don't ever pretend to be someone I am not. I am true to myself and those who work with me – I know that without a team you cannot do anything. Therefore, I respect, encourage and lead the team. Of course, when the team is not doing something right I say something, but I stay positive. I'm transparent. When there is a time to say bravo, I say bravo. If we need to do better, I say so.*

What is your mission for the brand?

*I want to keep the brand's 'DNA' high, to respect the brand, respect our mission. We feel we have more to offer. We can make Napapijri more recognizable. That is what Napapijri deserves.*

Tell us about Napapijri's efforts to help the environment.

*That's something that is really in the soul of the brand – not only discovering and protecting the environment, but also sending the message about how we live in this world. We sponsor initiatives with different organizations to make the*


'I AM TRUE TO MYSELF AND THOSE WHO WORK WITH ME – I KNOW THAT WITHOUT A TEAM YOU CANNOT DO ANYTHING'

*environment issue more visible. We also use materials in our clothes that are sustainable and are better for the environment.*

What are your plans for the Belgian market?

*The Belgian market is very important – right now, our main markets are Germany, Italy and France, but we want to grow in markets such as the UK and Belgium. We are there now, but we can do better. Without losing our soul, we can internationalize our approach to appeal to more people.*

Where do you see Napapijri in five years?

*Our aim is to double the amount of business we currently have in the next five years. We also want to take our brand to new places, such as Eastern Europe. The Middle East, China and Japan are also all places into which we have the potential to expand. If we move like we're capable of moving, it will be easy. *

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

**NAPAPIJRI**  
SINCE 1986



# Hackett hits Brussels

WRITER: MICHAEL GAIQ

Jeremy Hackett has had a passion for fashion ever since he was a teenager – leaving school at 17, he started a small shoe shop with a friend, which became the world-renowned Hackett clothing company, a leader in authentic British clothing and style. *Together* met the fashion expert to discuss the recent opening of a Hackett store on Boulevard de Waterloo in Brussels, and the future of the brand.

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

**Together:** So, tell us a bit about Hackett's history?

**JH:** In 1979, my friend Ashley Lloyd Jennings and I owned a shoe shop, which we had opened in an area filled with old warehouses. While it was a lovely little outlet, it was all we could afford at the time, and it eventually turned into a vintage-clothing company. It proved so successful, we eventually thought: 'Why not expand?'

**What has been central to your success down the years?**

*I'd like to sit here and tell you that there was a business plan, but there really wasn't – we could always see what customers wanted. We catered to their needs, and things just fell into place. I think one of the keys is, no matter how good the clothes are, if you don't give people good service, it's irrelevant. I think that men in particular appreciate good service, because they are often in a hurry. All they want is efficient, straightforward service. We have really nice customers and we look after them. Of course, the clothes have to be good too. I would say also that I am focused on what I like and how I like things to be. In England, there is an expression, 'stick to the knitting', which means stick to what you know. Rather than try to be all things to all men, this is what we do and this is how we do it. Our customers have a clear vision of what Hackett is, and that helps us too.*



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**What has been your greatest achievement, do you think?**

*I think our opening a store on Sloane Street was a pretty major thing – it showed that we had become a 'grown-up' business. We already had our little shops, and that was very nice, but when we came to Sloane Street, suddenly we weren't just a group of small outlets – we had become a brand, and people started to take notice.*

**'I THINK ONE OF THE KEYS IS, NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE CLOTHES ARE, IF YOU DON'T GIVE PEOPLE GOOD SERVICE, IT'S IRRELEVANT'**

**And your toughest trial?**

*In late 1991, we opened a shop in Boston. A great customer of ours was a developer, who was building some outlets there. We got carried along, and it was very romantic and we all believed Boston would be great, but we never really had things right. It cost us a fortune, and that was tough, but also a good learning experience. We won't make those mistakes again.*

**How long have you been planning to open a shop on Boulevard de Waterloo in Brussels?**

*This shop had been in the planning process for about a year – we had been thinking about it for a long time, the opportunity came up, and it was an excellent fit. It's a good address, a good location and a good street. We've already done well with our Knokke store, so that prompted us to open one in Brussels.*

**Where would you like to be five years from now?**

*I'd like to have a nice house in the country, not too far from London. As for Hackett, we're just getting started in Japan, and we have businesses in Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Mexico. We're growing but, at the same time, I think it's still a fairly niche brand, one that won't be on every high street in the world. I think America will be our next big push. We'll open a shop in New York, and this time we'll do it properly. ☺*

**Hackett Brussels**

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



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BRUSSELS-ANTWERP-PARIS-GENEVA



# From football to furniture

WRITER: MICHAEL GAIO

As a famous Belgian footballer, Bobby Dekeyser knew all about success – and 20 years after retiring from the game, Dekeyser has scored in a completely different field.

**F**ollowing his departure from football, Bobby Dekeyser founded the outdoor furniture company Dedon in 1990. The firm prides itself on making the highest-quality outdoor furniture and, thanks to the materials used, Dedon's products are not only fashionable, but also very durable, being resistant to extreme temperatures, salt-water, chlorine, even spilled wine.

Dedon now employs around 3,000 people in 80 countries across five continents, with showrooms in Barcelona, Paris, Milan and Antwerp. Their furniture can also be found in some of the finest hotels across the globe.

*Together* checks in with the talented chairman to talk about his business, life and the future.

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

**Together:** You have three children, aged 21, 18 and 12. How do you balance your family with your professional life?

**BD:** *That has been a big challenge. Sometimes, things in your life go so fast, you really have to slow down and enjoy life. I've found this to be especially true. Having a family and balancing work does not always have to be as stressful as it sounds.*

**Where did the inspiration come from to start a furniture company?**

*After football, I looked at becoming an*

*entrepreneur as a way to feel free again. I didn't want to wait around for people to tell me what to do. I wanted to do something myself. To begin with, it was a business plan in which we said: "Let's do nice things for family and friends, in a nice environment and let's create nice products," and that was our plan for the next five years. We had some struggles along the way, but we always tried to have fun. At Dedon, we don't worry about who is more important, we just have fun and see where we can take our ideas.*

**Did you have mentors or people that you looked up to?**

*I would have loved to have had a mentor, but I never had one. There are certain people or things that I draw inspiration from, but not one specific person. I am inspired by a great dance, for example. My inspiration comes from daily things more than it comes from other people.*

**Was there ever a time you thought about giving up and going into a more traditional profession?**

*Oh yeah, every day, in the beginning. It's one thing to have an idea, but it's hard to know where to go from there. I had no clue how to start. But one thing I always said was: "Let's prove the critics wrong." I liked the challenge of it. Eventually, it all worked out.*

**What is Dedon all about?**

*Professionally, it's all about performance. You always have to bring your best performance. In the end, you have to trust your feelings and surround yourself with others who feel the same way. It's all about friendship and energy. It sounds easy, but it is what is missing in this world.*

**And what do you think is the key to your success?**

*The definition of success is up to the individual. Different things suit different people. Young people today need to ask themselves: "What is success?" They all seem to think it is about making quick money, having a great wife, four kids and a nice car, but it's not just that. It's about being committed. Success is driven by*

*values – being honest, being together, staying true to yourself. In our company, we may disagree on things, but we always find ways to work together. It makes things easier. We base our company on the way we want to live, it's not just something to be done once and then be done with. It's something you have to do every day, it requires daily effort. At Dedon, we always try to challenge ourselves and that's what keeps us alive. ☺*



**‘SUCCESS IS DRIVEN BY  
VALUES – BEING HONEST,  
BEING TOGETHER, STAYING  
TRUE TO YOURSELF’**

# Escalpade: For the children

We highlight the work of Escalpade, an institution based near Brussels, which provides invaluable education and support for children with motor-neurological deficiencies.

## WHO THEY ARE

Escalpade is a non-profit-making organization that was launched in 1997, to support the parents of children with motor-neurological deficiencies. In 1999, a type-4 elementary school was

**IN ADDITION TO ENSURING THE OPERATION OF THE TWO EXISTING SCHOOLS, WHICH COSTS UP TO 50,000€ PER YEAR, ESCALPADE'S OTHER PRIORITY IS TO INCREASE THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAPACITY TO 60 CHILDREN**

created, which fulfilled a critical need for such education in the Brabant Wallon region. Escalpade financed the building of a new adapted infrastructure in Louvain-la-Neuve, which officially opened in 2005 to accommodate around 40 children.

But the number of enrollment requests rapidly exceeded the places available, so

prefabricated classrooms had to be added to the car park, which proved the urgent need for this kind of adapted education in the area. There are now 52 children registered at the school.

## WHAT THEY NEED

In 2009, following a year of brainstorming, Escalpade decided to

open another type-4 secondary school, on the premises of the former Gai Savoir school in Limal, to offer a solution for families with older disabled children, who were often left out of the 'education loop'. Escalpade rents the building at present, but is looking to buy it, with purchase and renovation works estimated at 1,100,000€. To date, the school has 19 students and another ten are already registered to start in September 2010. In addition to ensuring the operation of the two existing schools, which costs up to 50,000€ per year, Escalpade's other priority is to increase the elementary school capacity to 60 children by building an annex to the existing building in Louvain-la-Neuve, at an estimated cost of 350,000€.

So, in 2010, Escalpade is organizing its fifth 'Opération Briques', in which it sells pretty boxes containing three delicious Corné Port-Royal chocolates, for 5€ euro, until 2<sup>nd</sup> April. They will be selling the chocolates in NATO in Brussels, and will also be maintaining a presence in the European and international institutions during the next two months. And here's where Together readers can help – fancy organizing a sale of chocolates in your work place? For more information, contact Lisa Mc Gowan on +32 (0)476 213 193. ☎

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

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# Westwood leading

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Legendary designer Vivienne Westwood talks to *Together*.

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

**Together:** What was the inspiration for your Paris Fashion Week collection?

**VW:** I just do what I like and then I find explanations later but this time I wanted to talk about climate change and especially about the rain forests. We have all to run very fast if we want to stay cool and to keep the world cool; we have to act immediately. We also want to collect signatures, Prince Charles has a structure in place to save the rain forests and I was, a few months back, on a TV show speaking about that – we received 30,000 signatures in one night. Concerning my frog here, it's the mascot of Prince Charles's

project. Another idea you can see in my collection is pinning a plastic bag onto your t-shirt, or your own graphics, a message that you care about, a collage, a picture of your boyfriend, a newspaper cutting...

**Do you have a special message to women with this collection?**

This is an appeal to the eco-warriors to dress up

and to show how much you love this world and for these reasons you want to be engaged and try to save it. Maybe there isn't time but you have to look great because you are the most amazing species the world created. It's incredible who we are.

**Your wigs are amazing, as usual!**

My wigs are from the baroque theatre, the period even before Louis 14<sup>th</sup> feeling and I took inspiration also from the English architect Ingo Jones. Of course we all recycle our own design

so there is quite a lot of bondage in there.

**What do you think about other designers' 'social message'?**

Nothing. I don't follow other designers, I don't read magazines and I don't watch TV, but I would like to have my own TV programme to spread my message. I just use fashion to try and to say something.

**Tell us about the colours and prints you've used?**

People say I have nice colours, I think it's just something you do and for me it's difficult to explain why. If we talk about the prints in this collection, I looked at the picture *The Laughing Cavalier* from the Dutch painter Frans Hals with his brocade jacket and this metaphysical and renaissance atmosphere. Then I found a tapestry from a hunting scene, where we set the forest on fire by scribbling over the scene. ☺



Vivienne Westwood Spring-Summer 2010  
© Yvan Barbera

# A round with Rosso

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

And Diesel owner Renzo Rosso chats during Paris Fashion Week.



presented during the Milan Fashion Week. These are two of the very few brands that are actually growing.

Renzo Rosso  
© Diesel Press Office

**You work a lot with various designers and styles from all over the world – can you tell us a little about Sofia Kokosalaki, which you presenting here in Paris?** Sofia will become an independent brand and it will be more and more a niche product and with this brand we continue to follow a very intellectual approach, not forgetting the research of the fabrics.

**'WE ARE ALL ENTHUSIASTIC, BECAUSE OUR CREATIONS ARE VERY MODERN'**

For this reason the collection

will be distributed only in selected boutiques around the world.

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

**Together:** Renzo, your brands here in Paris are dictating the trends even in a difficult moment for the fashion industry – you must be happy about that?

**RR:** This is a difficult time for the market, and we are trying to combat this with our creativity, producing something that is more fresh and modern. We are all enthusiastic, because our creations are very modern and more contemporary than the 'true luxury' of other brands; for this reason, we are gaining on market shares with Maison Martin Margiela and Dsquared2, which we

**One of your keys strengths is the quality of your fabrics. How do you manage to keep up such high standards?**

We work very closely with our suppliers, with the objective of creating new fabrics. We have a strong, quality production system, and this unique know-how is the best asset that we offer to the brands with which we work. ☺

# Unrationed fashion

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

He gets everywhere, does our FG – check out how next season is shaping up with his report from Paris Fashion Week.

When you arrive at Paris Gare du Nord from Brussels, you really have to search Paris Fashion Week (30<sup>th</sup> September-8<sup>th</sup> October 2009) out but, when a certain moment arrives and you find a group of bodyguards and heavenly creatures dressed as if they were on the moon or in the

savannah, you know your search is over. From that moment on, it's a question of joining the circus – if you have enough energy, obviously!

ANOTHER COLLECTION INSPIRED BY SHORT SHARP SHOCKS WAS THAT OF RUSSIAN DESIGNER IGOR CHAPURIN, WHOSE EFFORTS ARE INSPIRED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE MYTHICAL NYMPHS

In these times of economic crisis, it was certainly good to see first-timers on the catwalk, especially if they are Belgians like Cédric Charlier, who interpreted Cacharel with a modern and sporty twist, putting aside the romantic allure of the marque's tradition somewhat. The colours began with white and pink, were sweet and very

**Cacharel**, while the white shirt-dresses, the perfect oversize T-shirts and the superb cotton-printed dresses were a feast for the senses.

## STRONG CONTRASTS

The contrast is strong, however, when we met our second first-timer at the Louvre, world-famous actress Lindsay Lohan (with Spanish designer Estrella Archs) sporting **Emanuel Ungaro**. The collection was certainly striking, for the woman who wants to be seen and

photographed on the red carpet. The use of colours such as pink heightens the glamorous mood and philosophy of the collection, which features very short dresses, bra-tops and boleros.

Another collection inspired by short, sharp shocks was that of Russian designer **Igor Chapurin**, whose efforts are inspired by the beauty of the mythical Nymphs. And who better than Naomi Campbell (who opened and closed the show) to interpret such sensuality on the catwalk? The image is one of sexuality and confidence, featuring lots of drapes, transparent corsets and corseted body-suits, while not forgetting the brand's favourite colours of beige and also chocolate and creamy brown.



1. Cacharel Spring-Summer 2010  
© Yvan Barbera



2.



3.



4.

2. Costume National Spring-Summer 2010  
3. Chapurin (Naomi Campbell) Spring-Summer 2010 © Yvan Barbera  
4. Emanuel Ungaro Spring-Summer 2010 © Ungaro Press Office



The **Yohji Yamamoto** show also offered an exceedingly innovative collection. There's a change of direction afoot among the first-timers, with mini-skirts, corsets and high heels all on show. Black skirts, both short and long, were also well matched with white shirts, while not forgetting the possibility of a total black look. Interesting, then, to see trousers with holes and T-shirts sporting a rock tradition, with rose prints on skirts at the other extreme.

### JAPANESE GIRL

Less sexual but equally attractive was the collection from **Limi Feu**, the daughter of **Yamamoto**. Black was king of the show, which was dominated by wide, comfortable trousers and ever-more triangular silhouettes. Nor does Limi overlook mini-skirts and a touch of red with her collection, which is devoted to the intellectual, cosmopolitan woman who's also ready to play.

Leaving the Japanese mood behind, we find the hippy-traveller of Marc Jacobs, with his **Louis Vuitton** show. On the podium was a new-age woman – open minded, a fan of streetwear and tribal-punk atmosphere who also loves relaxed, comfortable skirts and trousers and cowboy boots, Navajo-style.

And, if you were looking for a party, **Sonia Rykiel**'s show was the perfect spot for highly unconventional joy, colours and disco music. In the Saint-Germain boutique, one noticed beautiful shorts in satin, black leggings and rampant colours for girls who are free to party all night. To finish, Ennio Capasa, the Italian designer of Costume National, sees women wearing precious silk micro-shorts during the day and black and blue oriental-style evening dresses for night-time. Phew! ☹

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

1. Louis Vuitton Spring-Summer 2010 © Louis Vuitton Press Office



2. Yohji Yamamoto Spring-Summer 2010 © Yohji Yamamoto Press Office

3. Limi Feu Spring-Summer 2010 © Limi Feu Press Office

4&5. Sonia Rykiel Spring-Summer 2010 © Sonia Rykiel Press Office

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With thanks to our photographer **Yvan Barbera**.



# iPad-ing the job

WRITER: COLIN MOORS

The best place to begin is with the iPad. Any self-respecting gadget freak who hasn't been living in an Afghan cave for the last six months will have witnessed the near-frenzy as Steve Jobs, Apple CEO, unveiled the new product to a drooling audience of geeks in San Francisco in late January. Put simply, the iPad is the best computing product,

Gadgets have gone from being small, insignificant tools and fittings to a multi-billion euro industry. *Together* takes a look at a couple of the latest toys for those who simply must have the must-haves.

iPhone software, it's a joy to look at, with a touch screen and a resolution of 1024x768 pixels. It does Wi-Fi and Bluetooth out of the box, and is compatible with all existing iPhone/iPod applications, either in standard mode or a special enlarged mode to fit the iPad screen. Top all this off with a built-in compass, GPS and the option to attach a regular keyboard, and it should be a winner.

## I WON'T BE BUYING ONE

So, what's the problem? It depends how you look at it, really. Unlike the iPhone, you'll need to shell out 130\$ (93€) for the cellular phone upgrade. If you want a machine that can surf at high speed when not Wi-Fi connected, you can't just plug it in to a network port. It requires an account with the iTunes app store, so you are locked in to Apple's system of buying and installing applications. Some don't mind this, but as a die-hard geek, I like to hack and mess around with my toys.

Even if you do buy the cellular upgrade, it won't do voice. You'll still need to get your iPhone out. Taken from a business perspective, the lack of multi-tasking is a major drawback. There will be no flipping out of your spreadsheet to consult a

web page or make a note in a text editor. It's not a business machine – a huge part of the portable computing market – and it's not really anything more (in this jaded geek's eyes) than an over-sized iPhone.

Until the lack of GSM voice, multi-tasking, and even the inability of the Safari browser to show Adobe Flash files are taken in hand, business won't like it. That said, the thing will fly off the shelves. Apple could bring out an iGuillotine, and suddenly beheading aristocrats would be the new big thing. It doesn't make it right, but they know how to sell. For me, it's style over substance. ☹

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

ever. Or is it? I'm going to go against the tide of rabid gadget fans here with an emphatic 'No'. It certainly looks pretty, as all Apple gizmos tend to, and the inclusion of solid-state memory (which is more resistant to many of the problems to which a regular hard disk falls victim) is a step in the right direction. The prices are unexpectedly low, too – 499\$ (357€) will see you walking away with the 16-gigabyte version, while the top-end 64-gigabyte model will set you back 699\$ (500€).

It weighs in at around 730 grams (if you include the cellular 3G option), has dimensions of 242.8mm x 189.7mm and is 13.4mm thick. Running a version of the



# Timex on your side

WRITER: COLIN MOORS



## GOT A MINUTE?

Do you remember the days when all you needed from a watch was the time? Nope, me neither. Watches fall into two categories nowadays. The first is the simple, elegant timepiece. The second is the nuclear-powered digital affair that will tell you the time in Minsk while cooking you a pasta meal.

The new thing for this year from the people at Timex is the clumsily titled Ironman Global Trainer. It's sporty, yes, but is also not too hard to look at. While being packed with enough gadgetry to keep you amused for days, they have put some thought into making it look desirable too.

In terms of technical specifications, the list is pretty impressive. Having a built-in GPS unit, it can tell you exactly how far you've run, cycled or swum (it has a 50-metre water resistance as well). As well as distance, it will tell you your pace, split times and can remember up to 100 waypoints for the ultra-obsessive. It will happily talk to your chest

strap to give you heart rate, and is fitted with ANT+ wireless technology. This means it will also record data from your bike sensors and aggregate your speed and cadence (pedalling power). Of course, all this information is useless if it can't be analyzed, so the Ironman has a USB port by which all the data may be downloaded to your computer for analysis. Plugging it in will also charge it, so you won't run out of juice in the middle of a marathon.

How sexy is this device? Let's put it this way, I don't even like having to run for a bus, or cycle anywhere unless it's all downhill, and I really want one of these. It's so good, I may even take up running. Sadly, I'll have to wait. The Ironman will be released to the US market early in the second quarter of 2010, with its appearance in Europe tentatively touted as being around October. No details of price have yet been released. ☹

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

# Create vitality

With this time of year usually devoted to putting your health regime in order, our 'wellness' expert, who is also the National Fitness and Wellness Manager at Brussels' Royal La Rasante Sports Club, offers some pointers on how to turn those dreams into reality.



health-related problems, weakened immune system, insomnia, fluctuating mood levels, irregular breathing patterns and lack of motivation, to name but a few common problems.

## WAYS TOWARDS WELLNESS

The good news is that you can reverse the negative trends, and it may not be as hard as you think. Stress reduction is a facet of vitality in which healthy living will prove to be an invaluable asset. The key is to manage when your stress response system kicks in and channel its energy when it does. We're all individuals; we all handle stress differently and have differing levels of tolerance. What causes you stress may not even make your colleague or friend even flinch. It's all about recognizing the signs and having strategies to deal with the symptoms.

Usually we begin with the best of intentions, yet often feel swamped with new-year pressures at work, the demands of partners and children and, come the end of February, we're just as stressed, tired and overloaded as we were last year. Hardly living the dream, is it?

## ADDRESS STRESS

Stress is one of three main factors contributing to the state of your health, along with physical and nutritional balance and well-being. With this in mind, let's look at stress, its symptoms, how to handle it and how to ultimately build your vitality. Contrary to nature's original intentions, the level of stress inherent in simply being alive in today's modern, fast-paced cities can trigger the body's 'flight or fight' survival mechanism almost continually. Rushing to catch the bus, being late for a meeting or sealing that business deal can overload your system. Whether it is mental or physical, stress can be exhausting. Exhausting your body will eventually, whether in the short- or long-term, lead to a myriad of

Exercise is tremendously beneficial in countering the effects of stress and building vitality. I've never met someone who regrets exercising - the hard part is starting. The low-impact, breathing-based exercises such as Yoga, Pilates, stretching and Tai Chi are all centred around grounding and centring the body's energy systems. Take the time to hit the 'reset' button and aim towards a healthy, whole nutritional programme, exercise, postural re-education, and relaxation for stress reduction. With a balanced approach to wellness, all is within your grasp. Invest in yourself now, and you will find yourself progressively experiencing more energy, higher-level wellness, improved fitness and personal wellbeing. You'll have a zest for life and will ultimately have the body to help you live the dream. ☺

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# Shouldering seduction

WRITER: KIMBERLEY LOVATO

Let's face it – love and lust make the world go round. For our first edition of 2010, *Together* proudly presents the first of a regular feature devoted to 'sensual secrets'. Take it away, Kimberley!

**T**wenty years ago, I was on a date in a bar in San Francisco. It was a typical weekend night, with nondescript music and the din of chatter the soundtrack for a crowd of twenty-something hipsters scattered

underneath soft lighting in the hue of red. In the corner, a couple, older than most there, caught my eye. The woman was in a black sheath dress and heels; elegant; her golden haircut in a modern bob that whispered at her collarbone. The man she was with was also smartly dressed, in a jacket and button-down shirt. They were obviously not on a first

date; they seemed too comfortable for that, swivelling easily between conversing with one another and those around them. Despite the fact there were dozens of other people in this bar, these two transfixed me.

## CLASS KISS

Then, the man did something I still remember to this day. While his date was talking to someone else, he moved in behind her, gently slid her hair out of the way with two fingers, leaned in, and kissed her on the top of her shoulder. He lingered there for just a second more, eyes closed, as if taking in the smell of his lips on her skin. It was over in five seconds but, two decades later, I am still thinking about it.

There was something extremely provocative about the scene. My secret (not any more) voyeuristic tendencies aside, I was totally aroused. This seemingly simple act awakened an emotional response in me that I couldn't understand until I was much older, but at that moment, I knew I wanted to be THAT woman being kissed by THAT man. That was the start of understanding my own desires. My date, more the knuckle-dragging, mouth-breather type, was not that guy. He left in a cab.

## POINTLESS POINTERS?

When I did a casual search on the internet for 'seduction', I was bombarded with 95 million options, the majority of which were techniques on how to seduce a woman. Ridiculous headlines I came upon: Looking to get a woman naked? (Yeah, that'll work), Fast Seduction 101 (fast and basic – that sounds fun), and my personal favourite, Seduction Labs For Men (nothing says 'I want you' more than being likened to a biology experiment). And the pages went on and on and on along these lines, offering pointers on anything from what kind of flowers to bring to pick up lines that work! It's safe to say, there is a lot of bum


information out there, but more frightening is the prospect that a lot of people actually arm themselves with this gibberish – and use it!

I mean, come on – are there really women who fall for 'mood' lighting and a romantic comedy soundtrack, or who swoon at the line: "You must be the reason for global warming because you're hot"? There probably are, and good for them – whatever works! And it must be working, otherwise how can you explain the thousands of cyber-tomes out there dedicated to teaching seduction techniques that seem better suited for a spoof of *The Bachelor*? For me, seduction is more of a subtle art.

## SIMPLE AND SENSUOUS

Gentlemen, ladies, I am going to make a sweeping generalization – seduction is not about the sex, it's about the sensuous. A touch; a scent; a lingering, unexpected kiss on a bare shoulder; a taste. Igniting the five senses is key to seduction. Make the other person feel as if he/she is the only person in the room at that particular moment, and you have yourself a potent intoxicant. More often, it's not the formulaic words and clichéd settings that seduce, but rather the simple and sensual gestures bestowed when you think no one is watching, or maybe when you know everyone is, that deliver the ultimate aphrodisiac.

Just ask the woman in the sheath dress who was kissed on the shoulder. She felt it too. I saw it. She looked back at him with a sly affirmative smile, took him by the hand and led him from the bar, no doubt to a night they'd never forget.

*Kimberley Lovato is a freelance writer and author (but not of any books about 'Seduction Labs' – check out our interview with her on page 80).* 

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



# Arc 1950: A skier's dream

WRITER: JÉRÔME STÉFANSKI

*The Arc village 1950*

**I**naugurated in December 2007 and located in High-Tarentaise (Savoie), Arc 1950 is a splendid, typically Savoyard vacation resort, near the Vanoise National Parks, facing Mont Blanc. From the moment of your arrival, you are very pleasantly surprised, as I was – there is not a single car to be found in Arc 1950. A vast underground car park enables holidaymakers to leave their vehicles in full security for the length of their stay. This is practical if, like me, you have to return to Geneva airport in your rented car.

## RESIDENTS FIRST

Built entirely from wood and stone, the village has as its centrepiece a large square on which activities are organized on a daily basis – there are wood fires on which to toast marshmallows, children's theatre and games, torch-lit skiing parties meet here in the evenings. Everyone travels by foot or skis (it takes less than five minutes to cross the village), which contributes to the overall sense of calm and well-being reigns on the station.

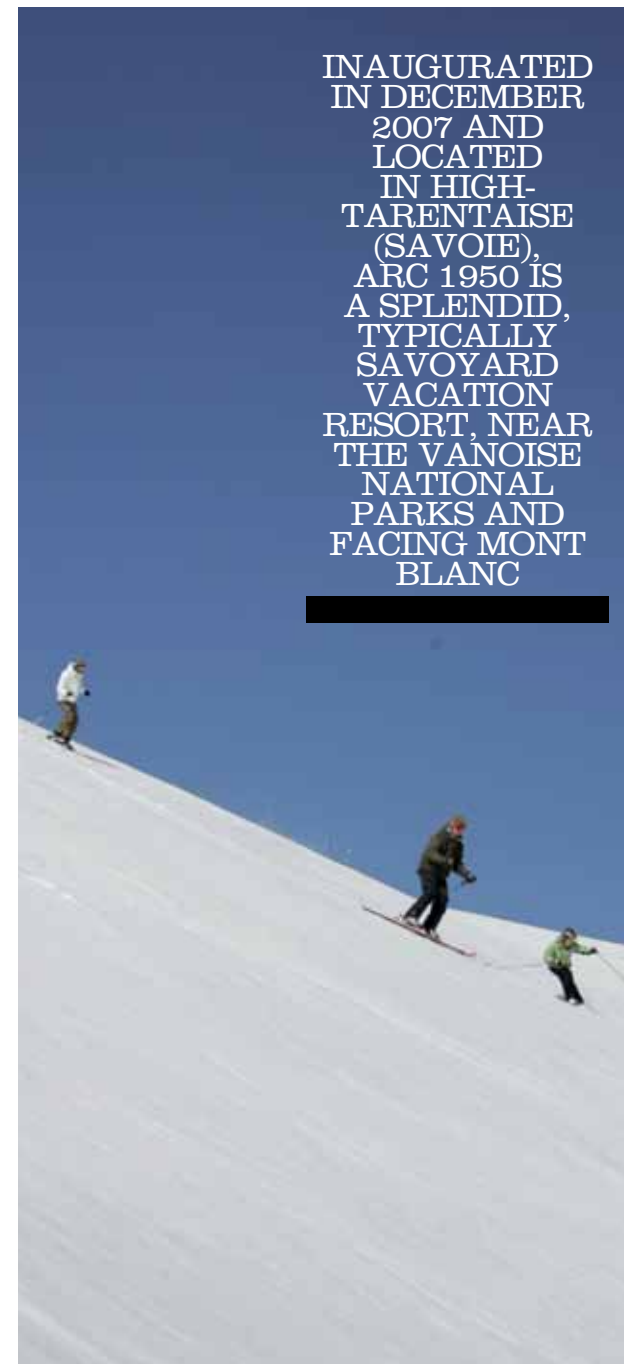
Activities Director Vincent Barthélémy explains: "Arc 1950 is built completely around residents' requirements, from both an aesthetic and practical point of view. We have maintained this ideology and thus have strict rules for all tradesmen who operate in the village. For example, we take 2 per cent of every sale made, and these funds are transferred to the Tourist Bureau, which doubles the amount and re-invests it in the village – a superb formula which allows our visitors to enjoy exceptionally high-quality events and activities."

Moreover, the village's traders (there are around 30) do not compete with each other, as there is a 'sectoral exclusivity' rule – thus, there is one pizzeria, only one Savoyard restaurant, one English pub, only one baker, one photographer, and so on. This also benefits visitors, as advice offered is always objective. It is an innovative approach which nevertheless has borne fruit, judging by the large numbers of tourists who shop in the village, day in, day out.

## IDEAL LOCATION

Affiliated to the Paradiski skiing resort, one of Europe's largest, Arc 1950 is perfectly positioned, with access to hundreds of kilometres of piste, ideal both for beginners and expert skiers. One of the resort's unusual features is the number of different types of pistes that are available – from glaciers to tracks, snow parks and even forest skiing. At almost 2,000 metres up (1950 metres, to be precise) it's easy to start skiing just a few minutes from your door, without having to negotiate kilometre upon kilometre of ski lifts. And there's a superb panoramic view of the Swiss, French and Italian Alps, but keep your wits about you – the pistes goes as high as 3,226 metres.

INAUGURATED  
IN DECEMBER  
2007 AND  
LOCATED  
IN HIGH-  
TARENTAISE  
(SAVOIE),  
ARC 1950 IS  
A SPLENDID,  
TYPICALLY  
SAVOYARD  
VACATION  
RESORT, NEAR  
THE VANOISE  
NATIONAL  
PARKS AND  
FACING MONT  
BLANC

*A skier's paradise, with more than 425km of pistes*





## DE LUXE LODGING

The resort comprises eight lodges, with hotel service included, each with its own decor, style and authentic charm. With more than 700 apartments, ranging from 45-120 square metres, there's excellent accommodation for all. The reception is available round the clock, beds are made daily with spare cots available for shorter stays, a caretaker is constantly on call, and there's access to the seven heated external swimming pools with saunas, hammams, hot tubs and gyms. There's also Wi-Fi connectivity, available throughout the village.

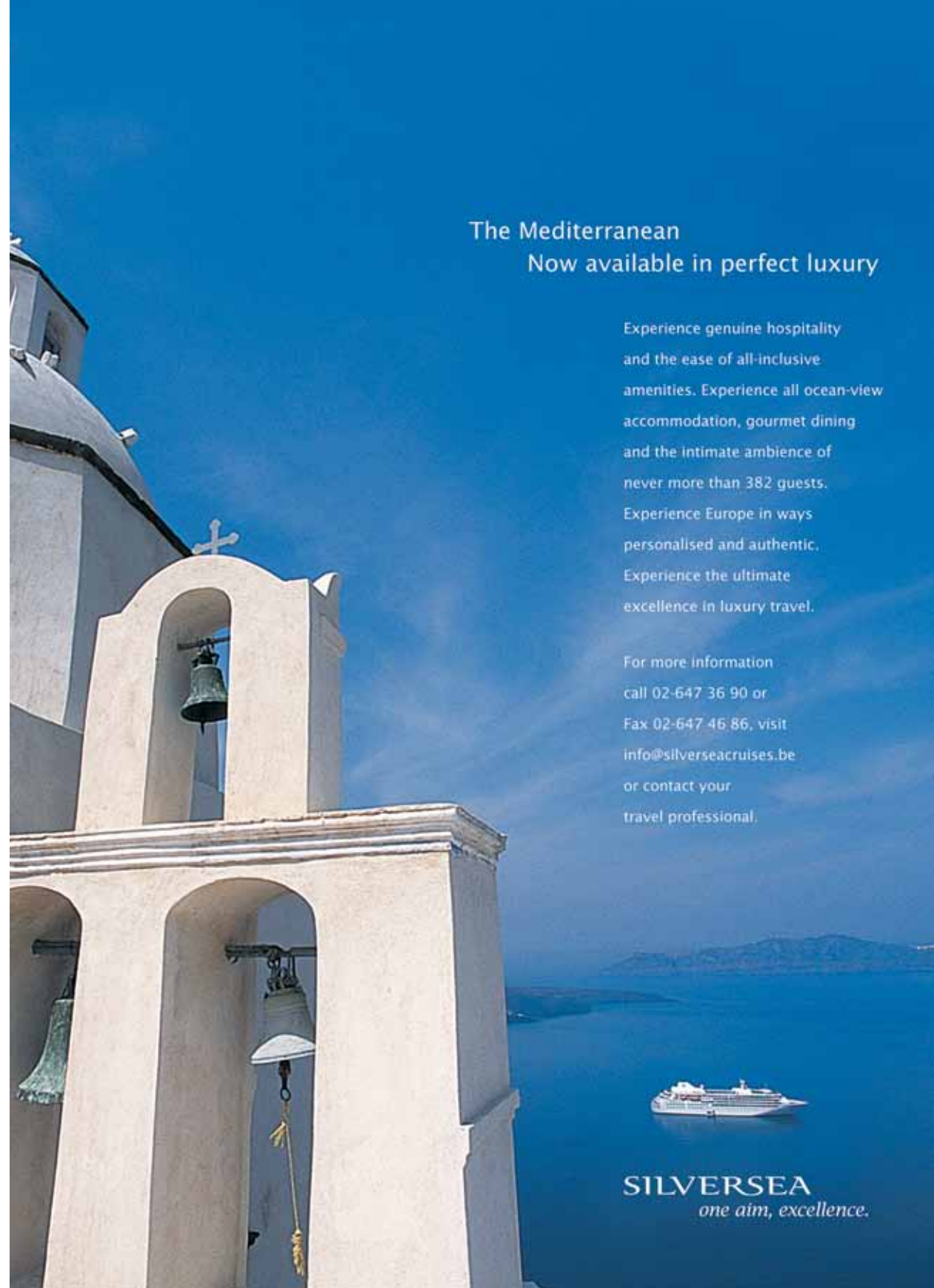
Now, a personal recommendation, from me to you – a stay in the Radisson Blu Arise Lodge is ideal for lovers, friends and also families with children. Roomy apartments, decorated with taste, and an exceptional location – as my dip in the heated external swimming pool, which gives a splendid view of the roof of Europe, Mont Blanc, proved. A dream vision, a reminder that nature is beautiful and so is life, particularly in Arc 1950. To be discovered, post haste, be it winter or summer! ☺

[www.pierreetvacances.com](http://www.pierreetvacances.com)  
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# 'Red City', dream hotel

WRITER: JAMES DREW

Our co-editor enjoyed the weekend of a lifetime, courtesy of the Hotel Sofitel Marrakech Palais Impérial and the 9<sup>th</sup> Marrakech International Film Festival.

**E**ver stayed in a place, in a hotel, that you just knew from the get-go was going to provide everything that anyone could wish for when it comes to luxury, relaxation and simply a chance to unwind and allow oneself almost to be transported to another world?

Well, this correspondent can gratefully concede that his stay in Hotel Sofitel Marrakech Palais Impérial, during the 9th Marrakech International Film Festival from 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009, was all of the above, and much, much more. So, please forgive me if this gets too gushing, but take my word that mere words won't do full justice to the experience.

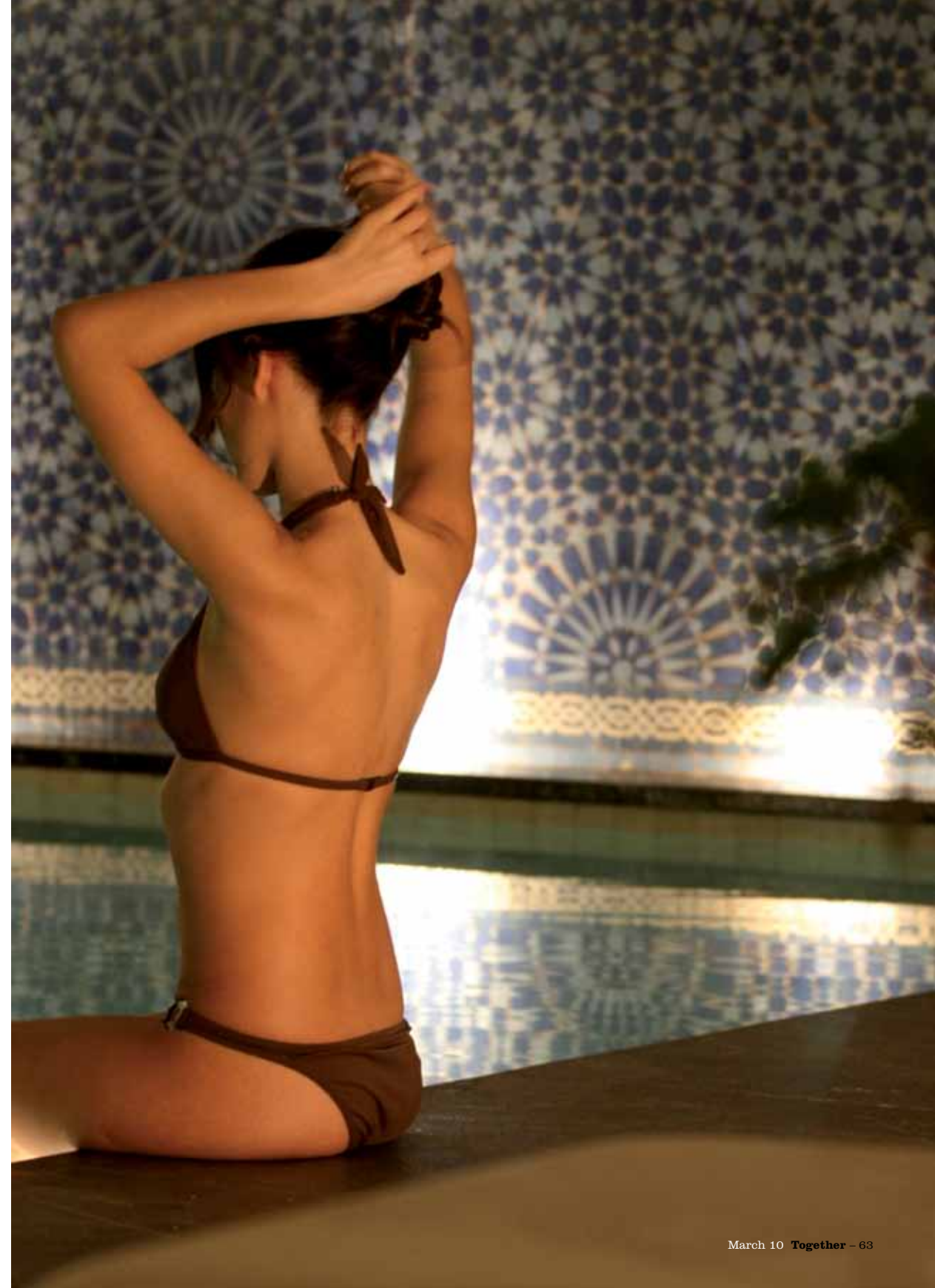
## LAND OF GOD

Marrakech (Marrakesh, Murakush, Murrakush) is known as the 'Red City' because of the colour of many of its building's stonework, and is an important and former imperial city in Morocco. The probable

origin of its name is from the Amazigh (Berber) words mur (n) akush, which means 'Land of God' – divine, certainly.

Marrakech has the largest traditional market (souk) in Morocco and also has one of the busiest squares in Africa and the world, Djemaa el Fna (the Medina) which bustles with acrobats, story-tellers, dancers, musicians and hawkers – by night, food stalls turn the square into a huge, open-air restaurant.

Until a few decades ago, Morocco was known as Kingdom of Marrakech by Arabs, Persians and Europeans. Its world-famous Koutoubia Mosque was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and, prior to the advent of the Almoravids in the 11th century, the area was ruled from the city of Aghmat. The Almoravid leader, Abu-Bakr Ibn-Umar decided Aghmat was becoming overcrowded, so and chose to build a new capital in the plains near the Tansift river, in neutral territory between two tribes who were vying for the honour of hosting the new capital. Work began in May 1070, but Abu-Bakr was recalled to the Sahara to put down a rebellion in January 1071 and the city was completed by his deputy and eventual successor, Yusuf ibn Tashfin. The city experienced its greatest period under the leadership of Yaqub al-Mansur, the third Almohad sultan. A number of poets and scholars entered the city during his reign, and it was he who began the construction of the Koutoubia Mosque.





## BEYOND KINDNESS, BEYOND CLASSY

So, what brought your man to Marrakech? Well, the opportunity, thanks to the kindness of Sofitel Luxury Hotels and the 9<sup>th</sup> Marrakech International Film Festival (FIFM), to spend a few heady days and long nights with other journalists from France and Belgium was simply not to be missed, at any price.

Greeted at the airport by the quite lovely Nezha Filali, the Sofitel Marrakech Palais Impérial's Director of Sales who allowed me to cool my brow (even in early December, the temperatures were around 25 Celsius) with a fresh towel, we were just a 15-minute chauffeured ride, through streets that gave new meaning to the word 'bustling', from the hotel. Here, I was similarly warmly welcomed by Hamid Bentahar, the manager. Offered my first taste of the delicious tea for which the country is justifiably famous, I took in my first experience of this magnificent Moorish palace, set in the middle of luxurious gardens of palm trees

and bougainvillea. There can be no better introduction to the combined charms of Eastern hospitality and the excellence of the French way of life (French is the country's second language after Arabic, with English and Spanish also spoken) than the immense columns, sculpted ceilings, traditional zelliges and beautiful carpets and artwork of the hotel's lobby, from where you can hear the bustle of the Medina while looking out onto the snow-covered peaks of the Atlas Mountains.

And, just next door, designed in a contemporary Andalusian style and situated in sumptuous gardens, the Sofitel Marrakech Lounge & Spa is a place of calm and sensual pleasure. The art of well-being and absolute relaxation is raised to the highest levels of excellence, fashionable luxury boutiques, casinos, nightclubs and restaurants.

I could safely say that my holiday had begun, and I was settling in just fine, thank you very much.



# There is no airport like the friendly airport.





And what to say of the next four days? Well, there can be no doubt that Sofitel's Régine Le Brun and Lisa Weil, who had what might be considered to be the arduous role of taking care of a party of journalists, helped ensure that the stay was nothing short of impeccable throughout – never in 14 years of writing has this hack been so-well looked after, with seemingly nothing being too much trouble.

In fact, so overjoyed was I with the stay I was having, I kept my rather sadistic promise, made on the first evening in the Bar Le Lawrence (yes, named after Lawrence of Arabia, whom I also did an impersonation of during my stay), that I would be happy to sing Claude François's *Comme D'Habitude* for the 'enjoyment' of all in Le Lawrence, come Saturday evening. As I say, I kept my word, but you'll have to do your own investigative journalism to find out what the 'real' reaction to my performance was. Thankfully, there were also some superb musicians on hand, both to help

me, and take away everyone's pain, once I had finished. Thanks, guys.

And, as for the food – three restaurants, namely L'Oasis (fresh, indulgent, thematic cuisine for when you've just got out of the hotel's excellent pool), Le Jardin (perfect for lunch and representing the very best from around the world) and L'Orangerie (the very definition of the classic evening restaurant, elegantly combining Moroccan and French inspiration, with a superb wine list).

I could go on, and on, and on – but some things, you just have to experience for yourself, and you really, really should. Just the one thing – when you get to Le Lawrence, tell them Claude sent you. I thank you.

And how should I thank everyone at the Palais Impérial? Well, apart from doing just that, from the bottom of my heart, as I said to begin, words can't do the experience justice. Let's leave it at that, shall we?



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Christopher Walken (left)  
Rigoberto Perezcano (right) © www.image.net

## MARRAKECH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL – AND THE WINNERS WERE...

After nine days of exciting events from 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009, the 9<sup>th</sup> Marrakech International Film Festival (FIFM) culminated with its awards, in which the festival's jury granted the 'Gold Star' (the festival's highest award) to Mexican director Rigoberto Perezcano, for his movie *Northless*.

And the festival's jury, chaired by renowned Iranian director, screenwriter and producer Abbas Kiarostami, had a special surprise for Belgium, with their award of the Jury's Prize both to Belgian director Nabil Ben Yadir and to Malaysian Charlotte Lim for their movies *Les barons* and *My Daughter* respectively.

Dutch Lotte Verbeek Best Actress for her role in *Nothing Personal* by Urszula Antoniak, while Danish Cyron Melville too

Best Actor for his performance in Morten Giese's *Love and Rage*.

The 15 movies participating in the official competition represented 15 nationalities, including Morocco with *The Man Who Sold the World* by Swel and Imad Noury.

The jury also included French actress Fanny Ardant, Palestinian director Elia Suleiman, Italian actress Isabella Ferrari, French director Christophe Honore, Spanish actress Marisa Paredes, British director Mike Figgis, Indian actress Nandita Das, Argentinean director Pablo Trapero, and Moroccan dancer, choreographer and director Lahcen Zinoun.

The FIFM's 9<sup>th</sup> edition also paid tribute to Korean cinema, celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and special homage was also made to US actor **Christopher Walken (pictured)** and UK screen legend Sir Ben Kingsley, both of whom were in attendance. ☺

<http://en.festivalmarrakech.info/>

# Burma-bound, Together



More news of our exciting voyage for readers.

**W** edged between the sparkling waters of the Indian Ocean and the soaring peaks of the Himalaya Mountains lies the beautiful country of Burma – a great, but still largely undiscovered destination.

*Together* is inviting our readers to join us for a week in exotic Burma, where we will stay in some of the country's finest hotels and witness its awe-inspiring beauty. Exact dates are yet to be confirmed, but the trip will take place between October and November this year, and also offers a unique humanitarian opportunity. Check out our website for more information – we've uploaded a video that will tell you all you need to know. [www.together-magazine.eu/video\\_Burmabound.shtml](http://www.together-magazine.eu/video_Burmabound.shtml)

## ITINERARY

**Day 1: Arrival in Yangon** – After arriving, spend the day visiting ancient Buddhist monuments, or just relaxing at the five-star Traders Hotel. [www.shangri-la.com](http://www.shangri-la.com)

**Day 2: The Journey Begins** – We will take a short morning flight to Bagan, and will stay at the Thiripyitsaya Hotel. [www.bagan-thiripyitsaya-sakura-hotel.com](http://www.bagan-thiripyitsaya-sakura-hotel.com)

**Day 3: Mandalay** – After a 30-minute flight to see temples, Buddhist monuments and golden pagodas in Mandalay, we'll spend the night at the Mandalay Hill Resort. [www.mandalayhillresorthotel.com](http://www.mandalayhillresorthotel.com)

**Day 4: Fit for a King** – The day starts with a quick flight to the Shan Plateau, the former capital of the Shan Kings, where we'll spend the night at the five star Inle Princess Resort. [www.inleprincessresort.com](http://www.inleprincessresort.com)

**Day 5: Relaxation** – Take in the sights near Inle Lake, or enjoy a nearby vineyard.

**Day 6: A Final Farewell** – Day six takes us back to Yangon – visit the National Museum, or check out China Town and the Tao Temple.

**Day 7: Head for Home** – Back to Brussels after an exciting week.

## INTERESTED?

Contact our publisher, **David Mc Gowan**, [david@togethermedia.eu](mailto:david@togethermedia.eu), or call him on +32 (0)2 400 00 00. Please label your email **Burma Trip** and hurry, because spaces are limited – we will be organizing an information session soon for all interested readers, so keep an eye on our website and check our next edition for further details. ☺

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**FACT: BOYLE'S DREAM GOES ON...AND ON...AND ON**

Those who haven't yet had enough of British singing sensation Susan Boyle, who became a hit with her 2009 performance of *I Dreamed A Dream* from *Les Misérables* on TV show *Britain's Got Talent*, and whose debut album of the same name broke records in the US and UK as one of the fastest-selling of all time, with sales already at 5 million and climbing, will doubtless be glad to hear that two biographies of the unlikely diva have already been published. The first, *Living the Dream*, by journalist John McShane, hit UK stores on 25<sup>th</sup> January with a US release date yet to be confirmed, while the second, *Dreams Can Come True* by Alice Montgomery, was released in the UK on 28<sup>th</sup> February and in the US on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Both titles are unauthorized biographies – there is no confirmation as yet as to whether an approved tome will follow. No comment. [www.susanboylemusic.com](http://www.susanboylemusic.com)

**FIGURE: SIX YEARS**

That's the length of time, during a typical lifespan, that a human being spends dreaming, which equates to around two hours every night. It is unknown precisely where in the brain dreams originate, or if multiple portions of the brain are involved. Furthermore, we're still no closer to understanding the purpose that dreams serve for the body, or the mind. Who knows? Perhaps going quietly insane, every night, is what allows mere mortals to 'keep it *Together*'?

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# NEWS

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# Belgium is back

WRITER: EMMA PORTIER DAVIS

**Not so long ago, the international press was crowing over Belgium's inability to form a government and sounding the death knell for this pastiche of a country. How things have changed.**

**S**andwiched between the Latin and Anglo-Saxon worlds, linguistic tensions have threatened to tear this tiny kingdom apart. Added to this is the chasm of economic disparity between the French- and Dutch-speaking regions and the impracticable layers of bureaucracy of the federalist system.

In 2007, Belgium was declared all but dead. The failure by Prime Minister-elect Yves Leterme to form a government highlighted that Belgium was an impossible marriage, prompting *The Economist* to call for a 'praline divorce', echoing the velvet divorce which split Czechoslovakia.

Belgium, long the butt of jokes from its French and Dutch neighbours, was being lampooned by the international

press. It long ago outlived its purpose (Belgium was created to balance power in Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century) and seemed to be barely clinging on as a nation state.

## ENTER HERMAN, CLIJSTERS, HENIN

Fast forward to 2010: Prime Minister Herman van Rompuy, who stepped in to Leterme's shoes to end the political impasse, was appointed first president of the EU and Leterme formed a new government without the world press batting an eyelid. So much for the break-up of Belgium.

The nation is also about to take its turn leading the European Council of Ministers (it takes over in June) while outside of the world of politics, international tennis stars Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin stepped out of retirement, putting the nation's sporting endeavours back on the map.

Clijsters, a Fleming loved on both sides of the linguistic divide for her sunny personality, made a stunning comeback, winning the US Open and the accolade of tennis super-mum. At the time of going to press, Henin was showing that she too was top of her game at the Australian Open – she reached the final, but was beaten by Serena Williams.



**PRIME MINISTER HERMAN VAN ROMPUY, WHO STEPPED IN TO LETERME'S SHOES TO END THE POLITICAL IMPASSE, WAS APPOINTED FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE EU AND LETERME FORMED A NEW GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE WORLD PRESS BATTING AN EYELID. SO MUCH FOR THE 'BREAK-UP'**

## CRISIS? WHAT CRISIS?

There's nothing like a crisis to pull people together and after its summer of discontent which saw the nation without a new government for several months, Belgian politicians suddenly found themselves dealing with a problem of unimaginable magnitude: the credit crunch.

Belgian banks, due to their exposure to the United States market where Lehman Brothers had spectacularly gone belly up, were among the first to wobble in Europe, requiring the nation's army of politicians from both sides of the border to find a solution to a – for once – common problem.

"The financial crisis played a tremendous role in making people realize that the importance of the institutions required policy making at the federal level," said politics professor Kris Deschouwer from Brussels Free University.

As federal politicians stepped up to the plate, working day and night to save the banks and powerhouses of the economy, regional quibbles faded into the background. "Simply the fact we had this crisis meant the linguistic problems were swept away," explained Carl Devos, of the University of Ghent.

There was a dawning realization that this was best for the economy too.

"[The impasse] was quite negative for investors who saw Belgium as politically unstable," Devos added. Belgium is heavily dependent on external trade and both the French- and Dutch-speaking regions have spectacular marketing campaigns to attract foreign direct investment.

## WORLD STAGE

At the time of Van Rompuy's appointment as EU president, the world press decried the decision asking who was this 'unknown' Belgian? Clearly, he had been selected as a more palatable alternative to former British prime minister Tony Blair.

politicians who can do that," said Deschouwer.

As well as improving the international perception of Belgium, this is a good sign for its inhabitants.

"Politicians who earned a reputation in Belgium as consensus leaders are now statesmen on the international political scene", said Devos. "This could inspire Belgians if such a way of doing politics is appreciated abroad."

Of course, divisions remain and anyone who's spent time in Belgium will be aware that the French-speaking Walloons and Dutch-speaking Flemings will likely trade insults across the border for many years to come. But talk of a break-up is long gone: "There's not more unity," Deschouwer concludes, "but that does not mean that Belgium cannot survive." ☺

But the deft management of the political crisis and credit crunch by Van Rompuy, also derided for his elfin looks, made him perfect for a job where he will have to find unity among 27 disparate member states.

"Van Rompuy is an old fox who knows how to negotiate and bring very different people together. Belgium is now perceived internationally for what it is; a country that is difficult to govern but able to produce

**'VAN ROMPUY IS AN OLD FOX WHO KNOWS HOW TO NEGOTIATE AND BRING VERY DIFFERENT PEOPLE TOGETHER'**



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Dedicated to counselling, support and tailored solutions for your family and your professional and domestic assets, your financial adviser will assist with the simple and complex decisions of your daily life.

## SO, WHY OLIVIER HEIDERICH?

For speedy and sound solutions. Olivier has a strong financial background (Solvay Business School), and can offer advice about best placements, savings, tax-deductability and the best protection of family and assets. Essentially, he acts as an intermediary between the customer and his or her bank and insurance company – he does all that for you, so no more boring phone calls whenever there is a problem! He is always up to date on a range of Belgian bank-insurance companies, which gives him a good basis for comparison. Moreover, he is fluent in English, French and Dutch.

## WHAT DO HIS CLIENTS SAY?

**Ben C. (Business owner)**

*Olivier's advice is like gold! He offers solutions that ordinary advisers and accountants wouldn't even consider.*

**Olivier Heiderich**

T. +32 (0)476 497 463

[www.axa-adviser.be/About\\_Me.html](http://www.axa-adviser.be/About_Me.html)

[olivier@axa-adviser.be](mailto:olivier@axa-adviser.be)





# Live the dream but plan for the future

WRITER: GRAHAM REID



After 'living the dream', the moment may unfortunately come when you have to wake up and deal with the realities of life. Our expert offers his advice.

**A**s a financial adviser, it is saddening to reflect on the number of people who have come to consult me and who have made insufficient provision for their retirement, or who have recently lost a loved partner who had not anticipated his or her own mortality. In the expat world, the problems are compounded by cross-border complications if there are assets or pension plans in more than one country. In either event, what is frequently left is an unholy mess.

## HOLISTIC PLANNING

Avoiding such problems is something that requires a holistic approach. Even the most expert bankers, accountants and lawyers can usually only offer a partial solution. For this purpose, it can be more effective to consult a fully qualified independent financial adviser who specializes in life-time financial planning.

The process begins with completing a very detailed questionnaire, the data from which is then entered into a comprehensive software package. The program will make predictions of the financial implications of various opportunities, events or disasters that can occur, and identify what needs to be done about them. For example, it is all very well planning to work till you are 65 and retire with a large pot of money, but what happens if you become unable to do so due to events that are outside your direct control such as redundancy, serious illness, injury and the like?

Another objective is to create enough capital in your pension plan to ensure that when you do retire and start to draw down

income, the money does not expire before you do.


On the positive side if you plan to retire to some idyllic, but expensive, location you need a clear and realistic plan to create the wealth that will make it an achievable objective.

## TIME TO FOCUS

A properly drawn up financial plan will take all your objectives into account and enable you to focus on their achievement. When will you need the money, how much will you need, and what are the unknown factors that could prevent its achievement? Is the objective even realistic at your current level of disposable income?

The solution to many of these problems is insurance, and the most important area to begin with is protection. If you have family responsibilities, make sure that you have enough cover against premature death, critical illness and personal accident before you start looking at longer term needs such as retirement planning and saving for specific goals. You can make huge savings on the last of these by investing through plans that do not have a fixed contractual term or premium level, as the charges are so much lower.

Not surprisingly, financial planning becomes particularly complex for expatriates and EU regulations have made the situation even worse. It has become almost impossible to buy a financial product from another country without the product provider infringing local laws. As a result expatriates can be denied access to the most suitable products for their needs and can, in extreme cases, be forced to take an inferior one instead.

It is another area where sound professional advice is invaluable in seeking out a solution that will achieve the desired result. 

**IF YOU PLAN TO RETIRE TO SOME IDYLIC, BUT EXPENSIVE, LOCATION YOU NEED A CLEAR AND REALISTIC PLAN TO CREATE THE WEALTH THAT WILL MAKE IT AN ACHIEVABLE OBJECTIVE**

# Where the heart is?

WRITER: GERALD LOFTUS

Our crafty columnist returns to reassure expat readers.

Many *Together* readers are *already* 'living the dream', if the life of an expat is your idea of a dream. Unless, of course, you consider a transfer to Brussels as being the equivalent of a spell in the *gulag*. But you'd have to be a mite picky to snub your nose at the convenient location, the excellent food, the cosmopolitan

population, the great weather – sorry, that just slipped in there – the polyglot pubs, well, the whole 'Capital of Europe' thing.

## EXPAT FOR LIFE

Some of us have made this expat business our life's work. In public service (I'm most familiar with diplomats and the military), multiple postings abroad are often the norm.

And Brussels is brimming with semi-permanent expats

whose professional lives revolve around the EU institutions. But I've known lots of private-sector people too for whom a life overseas is the culmination of a dream, and who have trouble going back. It's an old problem.

*How 'Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm?* (After *They've Seen Paree*) put to song the dilemma facing American

soldiers who'd been sent to France in the Great War, survived the trenches, then met a pretty Parisienne on a weekend pass. Some, like Ernest Hemingway, stayed on for a while, and a similar thing happened after the Second World War. Less dramatic, but no less of a quandary: *How you gonna send 'er back to Swindon, after she's seen Ixelles?*

This expat thing gets into your blood, and it may be hereditary. Ever notice how many expats are children of expats? It comes from going to school with classmates from every continent, and from growing up with a different – if not downright confused – sense of nationality. There are strident nationalists in every grouping, but as a class expats are probably more inclined to see at least two sides to every question.

"Far away fields look green" goes the adage, which makes almost every destination potentially appealing. Born and raised in the United States, I've spent most of my adult life outside my native country. Mine is a conscious choice, a sort of "reverse migration" for someone whose parents came to the US from County Mayo. But I know a Frenchman, an interpreter, who chose to settle in the US because he finds it "exotic." And he lives in suburban Washington D.C. – not especially known for its exotic allure.



## HOME FIRES

"I've seen things you people wouldn't believe," reminisced Rutger Hauer's dying replicant in *Blade Runner* (1982); "All those moments will be lost in time, like tears in rain." And you don't have to be an alien to feel like you've come in from outer space – just be a typical expat returning home to family or old neighbours, who feign interest in your international life for a few seconds before changing the subject back to local matters. They probably don't share your reverie about the good life abroad. Which is why many expats befriend other expats, who can at least relate to a life lived outside the boundaries of 'home'.

Oh yes, home. Many of us have a clear, unequivocal notion of where that is. Others aren't so sure. *Where* home is, *when* home was a certain house, *who* was at home – home can be, as another old saying has it, where the heart is. Expats don't necessarily live out of a suitcase, but they often have a more flexible idea of what 'home' means.

## WHEN I CONSIDER BRUSSELS AS HOME, IT DOESN'T MEAN I REJECT MY PENNSYLVANIA UPBRINGING

When I consider Brussels as home, it doesn't mean I reject my Pennsylvania upbringing, and feeling at home in Ireland is more an emotional link to the memory of my parents than anything territorial.

All of this is not to build up the expatriate condition as a universal solution. After all, not

everyone can or should leave the land of their birth – you might not really want your embarrassing younger brother to show the flag abroad, at least not in your presence. I remember puzzling over some of my fellow diplomats who persisted in living abroad when their time there was spent largely in the company of their countrymen.

That can be a challenge, mind you – not just getting to know some locals, but actually befriending them. In a place like Brussels, people have seen scores of expats come and go, and may shy from establishing friendships that risk being broken by a subsequent transfer.

And if it's hard on the locals, it's also hard on the itinerant foreigner. Just listen to the BBC World Service programme *From Our Own Correspondent* and you'll hear the occasional heartfelt goodbye to a place a journalist has called home for years. Hard as it is to say farewell to foreign places and people, it shouldn't keep us expats from making local bonds, as the whole experience of living in another country is so much richer with the knowledge that host country friends and neighbours can provide.

So, is there a cure for the expat bug? I'm in my sixth decade, living in an adopted country, married to a French woman, with a dozen countries I've called home, and the siren song of foreign fields still beckons. Is that living the dream or postponing reality? Not sure, but it's in my blood. ☛



# A Kimberley diamond

WRITER: COLIN MOORS



Author  
Kimberley  
Lovato (right) with  
contributor  
Laura Schmalhorst

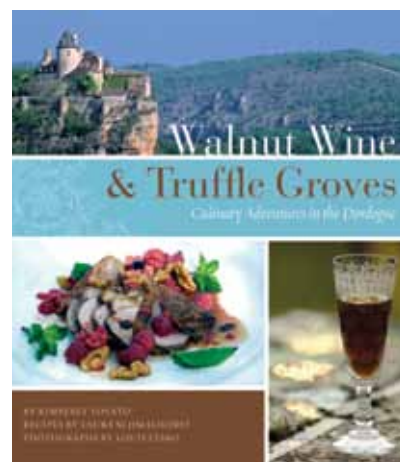
If you were lucky enough to receive the previous edition of *Together* (and if not, you can find it at [www.together-magazine.eu](http://www.together-magazine.eu)), you will have noticed a fascinating article on the truffles of Périgord, written by our own Kimberley Lovato. Kimberley is not only one of our regular contributors, she has also written a gastronomic guide to the Périgord (Dordogne) region of France, *Walnut Wine and Truffle Groves* (Running Press). Our co-editor caught up with

her to talk about travelling and taste.

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

**Together:** The first thing I noticed on meeting you is that you were obviously not from Europe. So, where are you from, and what's the big attraction to France?

**KL:** Did my accent give me away? Yes, I am American; from California. But for inexplicable reasons, I have always been drawn to travel, and to France in particular. As a kid, while most of my friends had pictures of rock stars or supermodels on their walls, I had posters of places I wanted to visit. The Eiffel Tower had a prestigious position on my closet door for many years. I was lucky enough to go to a school that taught French as a foreign language and my teacher was so passionate about it, I guess I was hooked from then on and have been a perpetual student of all things French since the age of 14.



You are not the only contributor to this book. Tell us a little about Chef Laura.

*Chef Laura Schmalhorst is from Tampa, FL where I lived for a time. We met while I was on assignment for a local magazine, sent to review the launch of Laura's culinary tour company Vagabond Gourmet. I knocked on a 500-year-old priory door in the Dordogne five years ago, and the rest, as they say, is history. She's master of concocting dishes and presenting them in a way that tell a story. This book is the perfect outlet for her creativity.*

**Now, be honest. Are the recipes in your book something for us mere mortals to cook, or are they strictly for chefs only?**

*Not at all. Casual cooks can easily follow most of these recipes though I admit, there are a few complex ones in the book, put there simply because they are traditional or they were given to us and we didn't want to alter it. But for the most part, they are easy to follow and any specialty ingredients can be found by checking out the resource guide in the back of the book.*

**In your book you recount your meeting with Danièle Mazet-Delpeuch, the chef to the French former president, François Mitterrand and a woman with very strong opinions about food and the time taken to prepare and eat it. What impressed you most about her?**

*Our day with Danièle is one of the most prized memories I have. She is, just as you deduced, strong and opinionated about food, but also a gracious and*

*kind mother, grandmother, and ambassador for her beloved Périgord. Her genuine benevolence is what impressed me most, as did her obvious tenacity and passion for living a full life. The book is full of characters just like Danièle who intrigued us for one reason or another, but whose common denominator is a love of their Dordogne heritage and desire to share their stories, and their food, with hungry and curious travellers like us.*

**Once you have whetted the appetites of your readers, what's next? Italy? Spain? Or maybe a short rest?**

*I'd love to write another book just like this one. Italy and Spain sound great, or even Belgium, since we have some of the best cuisine in the world here. But my love of France and keenness for discovering its four corners has me leaning towards something there. As they say in French: on verra!*

**To learn more about the book, go to [www.kimberleylovato.com](http://www.kimberleylovato.com), and Kimberley will be hosting her very own book-signing at Brussels' Expatica Café on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. ☺**

**Expatica Café**

*Rue Francois Gay, 152  
1150 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre  
Brussels*

*T. +32 (0)2 613 27 01 (Office)*

*T. +32 (0)2 613 27 00 (Bar and Grill)*

[expatica.cafe@expatica.com](mailto:expatica.cafe@expatica.com)

# Warm Cabécou with armagnac and honey-roasted apricots

And, as a special bonus, a delicious recipe straight from our gal's bestseller-to-be. Bon appetit!

A marriage made in heaven using two of our favourite market delicacies; fresh apricots and Cabécou de Rocamadour, a

goat cheese with coveted AOC status. AOC or appellation d'origine contrôlée (controlled term of origin) is the certification given to French agricultural products, guaranteeing their authenticity. If you can't find Cabécou de Rocamadour, any small goat cheese round will do.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C). Place the apricots, cut side down, on a baking sheet and drizzle with

the armagnac and honey. Bake until the apricots begin to soften but still hold their shape, 12 to 15 minutes. Meanwhile, lightly spread the butter on the baguette slices. place the baguette slices, buttered side

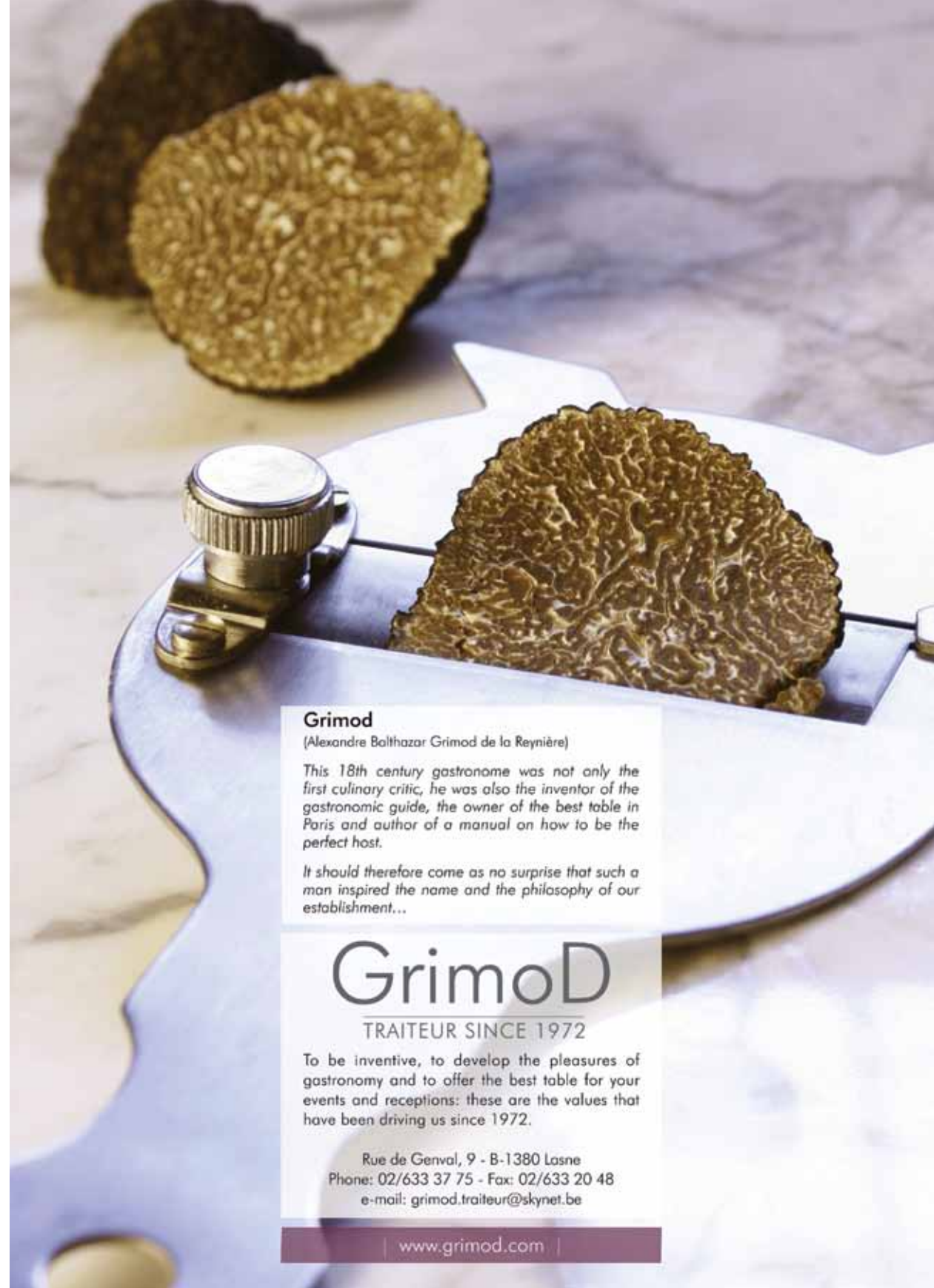
up, on a baking sheet and bake until lightly toasted, about ten minutes. Remove from the oven and top each slice with one cheese round. Return to the oven until the cheese begins to melt, about five minutes. To serve, place each warm baguette slice on a salad plate and garnish with four roasted apricot halves.

Serves four. 🍴



## INGREDIENTS

- EIGHT FRESH APRICOTS, HALVED AND PITTED
- ¼ CUP (60 ML) ARMAGNAC
- TWO TABLESPOONS (30 ML) GOOD- QUALITY HONEY
  - ONE TEASPOON (5 G) UNSALTED BUTTER, SOFTENED
- FOUR BAGUETTE SLICES, EACH ABOUT ONE INCH (2.5 CM) THICK
- FOUR ROUNDS CABÉCOU DE ROCAMADOUR OR OTHER GOAT'S CHEESE



## Grimod

(Alexandre Balthazar Grimod de la Reynière)

This 18th century gastronome was not only the first culinary critic, he was also the inventor of the gastronomic guide, the owner of the best table in Paris and author of a manual on how to be the perfect host.

It should therefore come as no surprise that such a man inspired the name and the philosophy of our establishment...

# GrimoD

TRAITEUR SINCE 1972

To be inventive, to develop the pleasures of gastronomy and to offer the best table for your events and receptions: these are the values that have been driving us since 1972.

Rue de Genval, 9 - B-1380 Lasne  
Phone: 02/633 37 75 - Fax: 02/633 20 48  
e-mail: grimod.traiteur@skynet.be

| [www.grimod.com](http://www.grimod.com) |



# A whirl around the world

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

A quick *Together* tour of the hottest nights out.



1. **Boris Becker**, Arsenal football manager **Arsene Wenger** and actor **Jean Reno** attend the IWC Schaffhausen Private Dinner Reception during the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie at the Espace Secheron on 19<sup>th</sup> January in Geneva, Switzerland. The IWC event was held to support the launch of the new Portuguese Collection, with its focus on Navigation and Instruments for Navigation.

2. **Kelly Rowland** and **Natalie Suliman** attend the Grey Goose Character & Cocktails winter fundraiser in aid of the Elton John AIDS Foundation at The Grosvenor House Hotel, London, on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

3. **Jennifer Carpenter** wears Basil Soda



at the 11<sup>th</sup> Warner Bros. In Style After-Party at the Beverley Hilton Hotel, Hollywood, during the 67<sup>th</sup> Golden Globes Awards on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

4. A stellar cast of international celebrities turned out for the Hugo Boss party, held during the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in Berlin (20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> January) including Hollywood A-listers **Hillary Swank** (pictured), Matt Dillon, and Aaron Eckhart Formula One drivers Jenson Button and David Coulthard plus, Japanese-American model/actress, Devon Aoki.

5. **Fernanda Tavares** at the Do Estilista show during São Paulo Fashion Week in Brazil, on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Photo: Mathias Coaracy /Ag. Fotosite. ©

# Whisky, galore

Glenmorangie has revived its tradition of annual limited-edition releases, with 'Sonnalta PX'.



From here on, a premier whisky will be released every year as part of the Glenmorangie Private Collection, and Glenmorangie Sonnalta PX is the first expression in the series.

Its name is taken from the Gaelic translation of 'generous' (Sonnalta) and PX (Pedro Ximenez) for the 'PX' former-sherry casks from Jerez in Southern Spain into which the whisky is transferred for extra maturation.

And the result?

Sonnalta PX is a great reflection of Glenmorangie's passion for innovation and exploration. Its name perfectly describes the beautifully absorbing, full-bodied and generous taste of this special single malt – an extraordinarily rich, dark and absorbing malt whisky. There are more rare, delicious releases to come – keep an eye on [www.glenmorangie.com](http://www.glenmorangie.com) ©

# Style, time, location

The best new arrivals that Brussels has to offer.

## HACKETT BRUSSELS

The world-renowned Hackett clothing company, a leader in authentic British clothing and style, opens its doors in Brussels. It's been in the pipeline for around a year – check out *Together's* interview with founder Jeremy Hackett on page 36.

### Hackett Brussels

Boulevard de Waterloo, 16

T. +32 (0)2 502 73 24

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



## RAIDILLON WATCHES

Charmed by the beauty of Brussels' most prestigious shopping gallery, premier watchmakers Raidillon moves from Avenue Louise to Galerie de la Reine, near Grand'Place. Time will most definitely be on your side when you pay a visit.

### Raidillon Watches

Galerie de la Reine, 32

T. +32 (0)2 387 48 70

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



## ODETTE EN VILLE

One of the most recent additions to Brussels' hotels, the emphasis here is very much on trendy – with the 'beautiful people' already populating the swish bar. It's feel-good all the way, as luxury combines with friendly, attentive service. Located in the heart of the Châtelain quarter, and formerly a private residence dating back to the 1920s, this is the essence of city pleasure and charm. Each room is unique – terrace rooms offer the chance to relax in fine weather, while the chambers with large dressing rooms and an open fire are the last word in luxury. Truly, you've arrived!

### Odette En Ville

Rue du Châtelain, 25

1050 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 640 26 26

[www.chez-odette.com](http://www.chez-odette.com)



## GRAANMARKT 13

Antwerp has added a new option to its impressive fashion scene. Graanmarkt 13 opened its doors on February 13<sup>th</sup> and features dozens of the top fashion shops spread across its three floors. The main floor features a restaurant that is open for lunch and dinner. Designed by Belgian architect Vincent Van Duysen, the owners describe it as "a dream come true".

And **Sandrina Fasoli** is one of the key brands stocked by Graanmarkt 13 – created by Fasoli and Michael Marson, it's a new approach to women's fashion. According to the company, their design concepts are based on "unveiled femininity and melancholic innocence". The brand has already received several awards at fashion shows across the world – be sure to discover it for yourself. 📸

### Graanmarkt 13

2000 Antwerp

T. +32 (0)3 337 79 92

[www.graanmarkt13.be](http://www.graanmarkt13.be)





# MICHAEL REIGNS SUPREME

WRITERS: JAMES DREW & HÉLÈNE NOËL

Photographer Michael Chia, with whom *Together* has enjoyed an excellent collaboration since the magazine's early days, is all set to launch a new Brussels exhibition of his work, *Happy Rain*, which will offer a rare chance to enjoy 'getting wet' in Brussels.

First, a word of introduction, writes James Drew. The earlier days of this magazine were graced by the work and presence of Héléne Noël, a Namur-born artist and writer, who also happened to be the love of this writer's life.

She was taken from us far too soon, in June 2008, but thankfully at least her work remains, including the joyful, intoxicating articles that she wrote for *Together*. We would take the opportunity to re-share one of her features with you now, about Michael Chia's *Happy Rain* images – as a winner of Brussels' Hotel Berlaymont Silken Photoplate award (in which artists' work is chosen to appear on commemorative plates), Michael came into Héléne's orbit, and no one could write about this artist better than she did.

Take it away, Héléne – we miss you very much.

“ Michael Chia was not only baptized with an angel's name; he was blessed with angels' eyes, too. On his way back from Mongolia in May 2007, he landed in Seoul. That particular day happened to be Buddha's birthday, 11th May. Michael unfolded his digital camera in order to immortalize the multi-coloured, incensed, buried-under-flowers, (not to mention holy) festivity.

That's exactly when everything went wrong, or might have, if Michael was not...Michael. A huge tropical rain decided to fall – if Siddhartha Gautama had been hanging around, he would certainly have smiled at the ensuing panic. Everything was cancelled, drowned, washed away. No procession, no incense sticks, not even an already fading single flower. All that was left was a few tonnes of warm water and an infinite field of Korean umbrellas.





## BOX OF TRICKS

But Michael is not just an angel, he's also a photographer. He held his breath, took his digital camera and opened his eyes. Wide open, Michael's eyes. And the magic puzzle, the Lemarchand Box, began to click. And unclick. And click again.

I must confess that I dislike the idea of commenting on images. If a picture needs a comment, the picture doesn't tell a story, and Michael Chia doesn't cheat. That said, I'm just a writer. You're probably in a hurry to an important meeting or business lunch and, if you're a little like me, you're on the verge of being late. So, if you're a little late anyway, look at that shower of umbrellas. Look carefully. If you're really attentive, you may notice a smile, discreetly translucent. And if you're very lucky, birthday candles, raining gently. *Happy Rain!*" ”



Michael Chia was born in Singapore – he now lives and works in ‘sunny’ Brussels. The inspiration for his abstract photography is drawn from personal recollection of childhood memories and has been exhibited internationally. *Happy Rain* is his second exhibition with Arthus Gallery. So, why was he drawn to ‘rain’ as a theme?

“As we do live in Belgium, I thought that rain could be something people could relate to. That rain does not need to always represent something negative, but could be experienced in a different way.”

The exhibition opens on 25<sup>th</sup> February, at the Arthus Gallery, from 19-20h, in the presence of the artist, and runs until 27<sup>th</sup> March. Michael has another show planned with McBride Fine Arts in Antwerp later this year.

Arthus Gallery  
Rue Simonis, 33  
1050 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 544 07 25  
[www.arthusgallery.com](http://www.arthusgallery.com)  
[www.michaelchia.com](http://www.michaelchia.com)  
[www.michaelchia.eu](http://www.michaelchia.eu)  
[www.creatifimage.be](http://www.creatifimage.be)



# Together's 'To Do' list

WRITER: JOHN SHERIDAN

More to see, more to do – take your pick.



*Eurantica Brussels*



*Riverdance Farewell Tour*

## JUSTJAZZIT #2 BRUSSELS 24>27.02.10

Following the success of last year's jazz festival, which took a Nordic theme as its inspiration, the organizers have chosen to delve into the sunshine of Italy for this year's event. The best of Italian jazz artists, alongside some of Belgium's very own talent, will help shake you off the winter blues.

**Beursschouwburg**  
Rue A. Orts, 20-28  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 550 03 50  
[www.beursschouwburg.be](http://www.beursschouwburg.be)

## HAPPY RAIN: PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL CHIA 25.02.10>27.03.10

Photographer Michael Chia was born in Singapore, and now lives in 'sunny' Brussels where he works as a photographer. The inspiration of his abstract photography is drawn from personal recollection of childhood memories and has been exhibited internationally. Happy Rain is his second exhibition with Arthus Gallery – as Michael explains: "Nowadays, I confuse rain with my memories. When it happens, I find myself drawn to it. Rain beckons me. Consumes me with a carousel of visual images. The feeling of wet

rain on dry skin gives me a tingling sensation. Like rebirth." The exhibition opens on 25<sup>th</sup> February at the Arthus Gallery, from 18-20h, in the presence of the artist.

**Arthus Gallery**  
Rue Simonis, 33  
1050 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)2 544 07 25  
[www.arthusgallery.com](http://www.arthusgallery.com)  
[www.michaelchia.com](http://www.michaelchia.com)  
[www.michaelchia.eu](http://www.michaelchia.eu)  
[www.creatifimage.be](http://www.creatifimage.be)

## RIVERDANCE FAREWELL TOUR 27>28.02.10

What began as a 15-minute interlude during the 1994 Eurovision Song contest is finally saying goodbye after 16 years of unprecedented success. If by chance you are one of a handful of people worldwide who has not seen this phenomenon, don't miss a final opportunity to witness this Irish dance sensation.

**Vorst National**  
Globelaan 36  
1190 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)15 295 900  
[www.livenation.be](http://www.livenation.be)

Boston University Metropolitan College  
Brussels

## A Night of Dining & Dancing with Boston University in Brussels

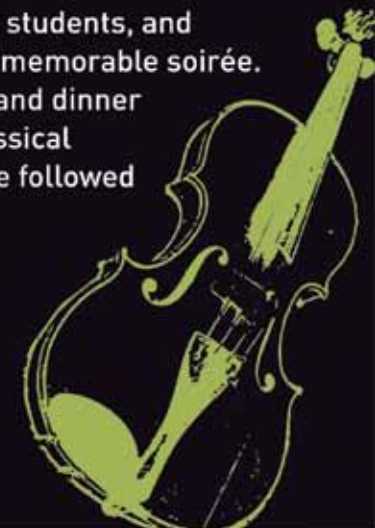
For details, e-mail [brussels@bu.edu](mailto:brussels@bu.edu)  
or visit [bu.edu/brussels](http://bu.edu/brussels).

Boulevard du Triomphe, 174,  
Triomflaan  
B-1160 Brussels  
+32 (0)2 640 74 74

An equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.

Saturday, April 24, 2010  
19:30

Join alumni, students, and  
faculty for a memorable soirée.  
A reception and dinner  
with live classical  
music will be followed  
by dancing.



## MUSEUMNIGHTFEVER 06.03.10

With 20 museums open late to choose from, DJ's, exhibitions and an after-party at Bozar, get your fill of culture early evening before pursuing more contemporary activities later on. The ultimate cultural/party experience!

**Bozar**  
Rue Ravenstein 23  
1000 Brussel  
T. +32 (0)2 507 82 00  
[www.museumnightfever.be](http://www.museumnightfever.be)

## EURANTICA BRUSSELS FINE ARTS & ANTIQUES FAIR 19>28.03.10

An absolute must for all antique lovers. More than 140 leading antique dealers and galleries are set to showcase their wares – this year's exhibit is based around three styles: 20<sup>th</sup> century, classic antiques and extra-European art and archaeology. Now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, this attracts thousands of knowledgeable collectors and young art

lovers, and entry is free for ladies on  
26<sup>th</sup> March.

**Brussels Expo (Heysel)**  
Place de Belgique  
1020 Laken  
T. +32 (0)2 740 10 11  
[www.eurantica.com](http://www.eurantica.com)

## NORMA-BELLINI 27.03.10

Set in 50BC, Norma tells the story of a three-way love affair between a Roman proconsul, his aging lover who has borne him two children, and a young temple virgin who just happens to be friendly with his lover. Treachery and love are the predominant themes of this opera and the score includes one of Bellini's finest arias, Casta Diva.

**De Munt/ La Monnaie**  
Place de la Monnaie  
1000 Brussels  
T. +32 (0)70 233 939  
[www.demunt.be](http://www.demunt.be)



# MusicBrussels: BE part of it

*Together* is happy to announce the launch of an initiative based purely on Belgian music – see you at the party!

**C**'est tout Belge, hein? MusicBrussels.com is a website and music initiative with Belgian beats very much in mind.

The brain-child of music journo **Suki Jenkins** and web designer **Andrew Colby**, MusicBrussels.com came about from Suki's obsession with the local music scene – she's an American, and has been here for years, while he had never even heard a Belgian band. Between them, the pair perceived a niche in the market and realized they were on to something.

Inspired by Suki's enthusiasm and vast collection of Belgian alternative rock CDs, Andy began building the site and asked her to be in charge, and also discovered that music searches were complicated by the lack of a relevant database. So MusicBrussels has decided to create exactly that, on which all talented Belgian alternative rockers could be easily accessed.

And the MusicBrussels opening party is already the talk of the town – on 27<sup>th</sup> February, from 19h onwards, **Churchill's** in downtown Brussels (itself an already well established music venue) is set to play host to leading Belgian bands **Garner**, **the dIPLOMAT** and **the Vogues**, as well as great music available via three video screens and a plethora of music business professionals in attendance.

And *Together* is in on the act, too – the magazine's editors **James Drew** and **Colin Moors** will be on hand, along with our video cameraman **Armand Richelet-Kleinberg**, to chat with MusicBrussels' creators and stars, and to make sure that no gossip goes astray

The party is set to rock on into the early hours – see you there! ☺

## MUSICBRUSSELS.COM LAUNCH PARTY

27.02.10. 19h.

Churchill's – The English Pub

Rue de L'Ecuyer, 29

1000 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 514 27 10

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

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

Churchill's is easy to get to by tram, metro or bus – it's just around the corner from De Brouckère, or a five-minute walk from Brussels Central Station. There's parking two doors down and taxis are readily available – get there on time, get home safe.



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