

DEDICATED TO BRUXPATS&BUSINESS PEOPLE IN BRUSSELS

FREE-N°3/MAY-JUNE 2007

Together

magazine

BruXpats: who are you?

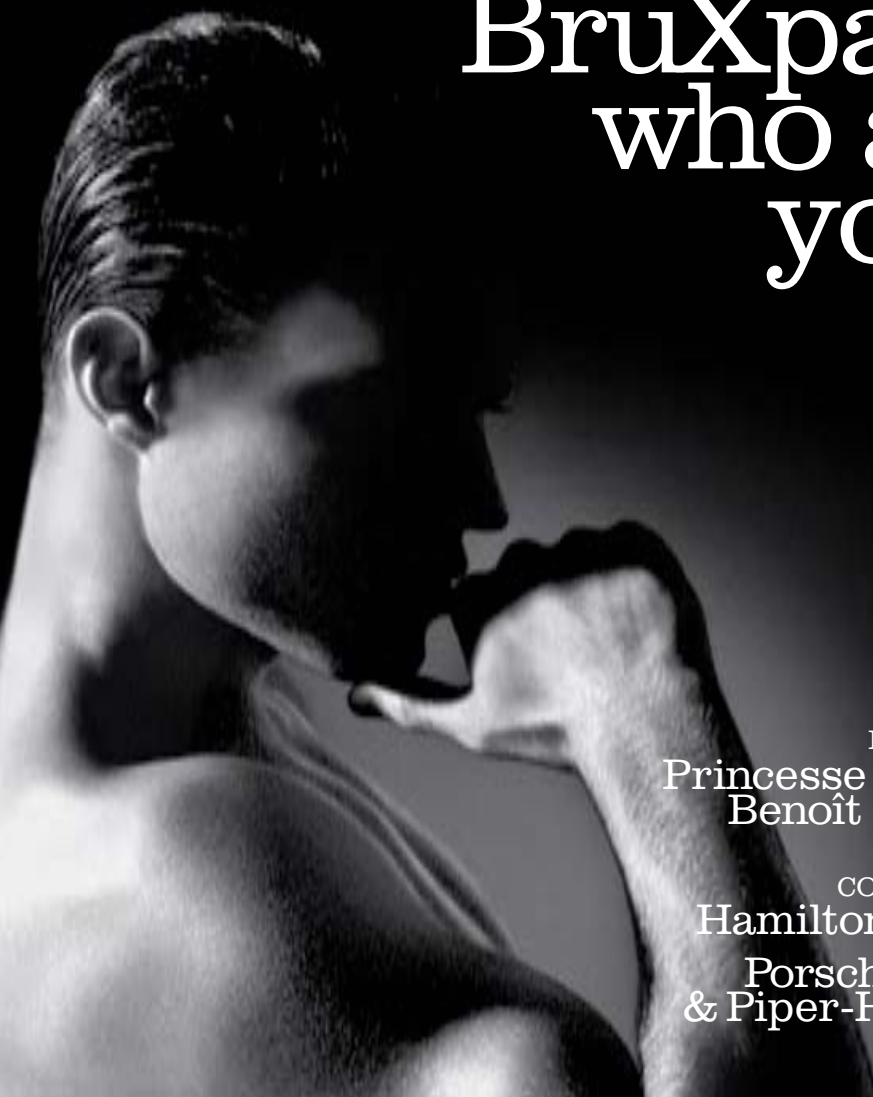
INTERVIEWS

Princesse tam-tam
Benoît Meurens

COMPETITIONS

Hamilton & Tollet

Porsche Centre
& Piper-Heidsieck



BMW X5



Sheer
Driving Pleasure

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The pleasure of driving a Sports Activity Vehicle is now heightened thanks to the arrival of the new BMW X5. While this entirely new vehicle's appearance remains compact, its longer wheelbase and greater overall length make for more passenger comfort (up to 7 people) and greater load capacity. From a technical point of view, BMW has also raised the standard. The new and larger BMW X5 consumes less fuel with reduced CO₂ emission, thanks to an even more powerful and efficient engine.

The numerous high-tech extras such as Active Steering, are unsurpassed in this vehicle category. Thanks to its integral xDrive traction system, the BMW X5 is unequalled when it comes to agility and providing a safe ride, whatever the road conditions may be. An experience that we warmly recommend, and which can start by visiting www.bmw.be/X5.

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KNOWING EACH OTHER TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE SAME DIRECTION

“**K**now Thyself.”
Inscribed on the doorway

of the Delphi Temple, this famous adage was adopted by Socrates to form the basis of his philosophy. The Delphic motto implies that we don't really know ourselves, that self-knowledge is not an immediate element of the consciousness. It therefore invites us to embark on a quest, an exploration of the depths of our inner selves to find the essence of our being.

This led us to publish the study carried out by Arjan Van Daal on the concept of the “Bruxpat”. Far be it from us to compare ourselves with the most famous of Greek philosophers; the main reason for publishing this previously unpublished work is the same as the one that

made us launch “Together Magazine”: to help the builders of Europe integrate into Brussels life.

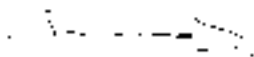
From this point of view, “Know thyself and make thyself known”. Because the lack of integration affecting European workers in Brussels is, mostly, merely a reflection of how uninformed the people of Brussels are about this international population. The reverse is also true. The odds are, for example, that if the “Bruxellois” and the Bruxpats had a better knowledge of each other, they would live even more harmoniously. And the respective prejudices affecting both these communities would no longer exist.

As a media player, the role of “Together Magazine” is to encourage the union of the social participants living and working in Brussels. After all,

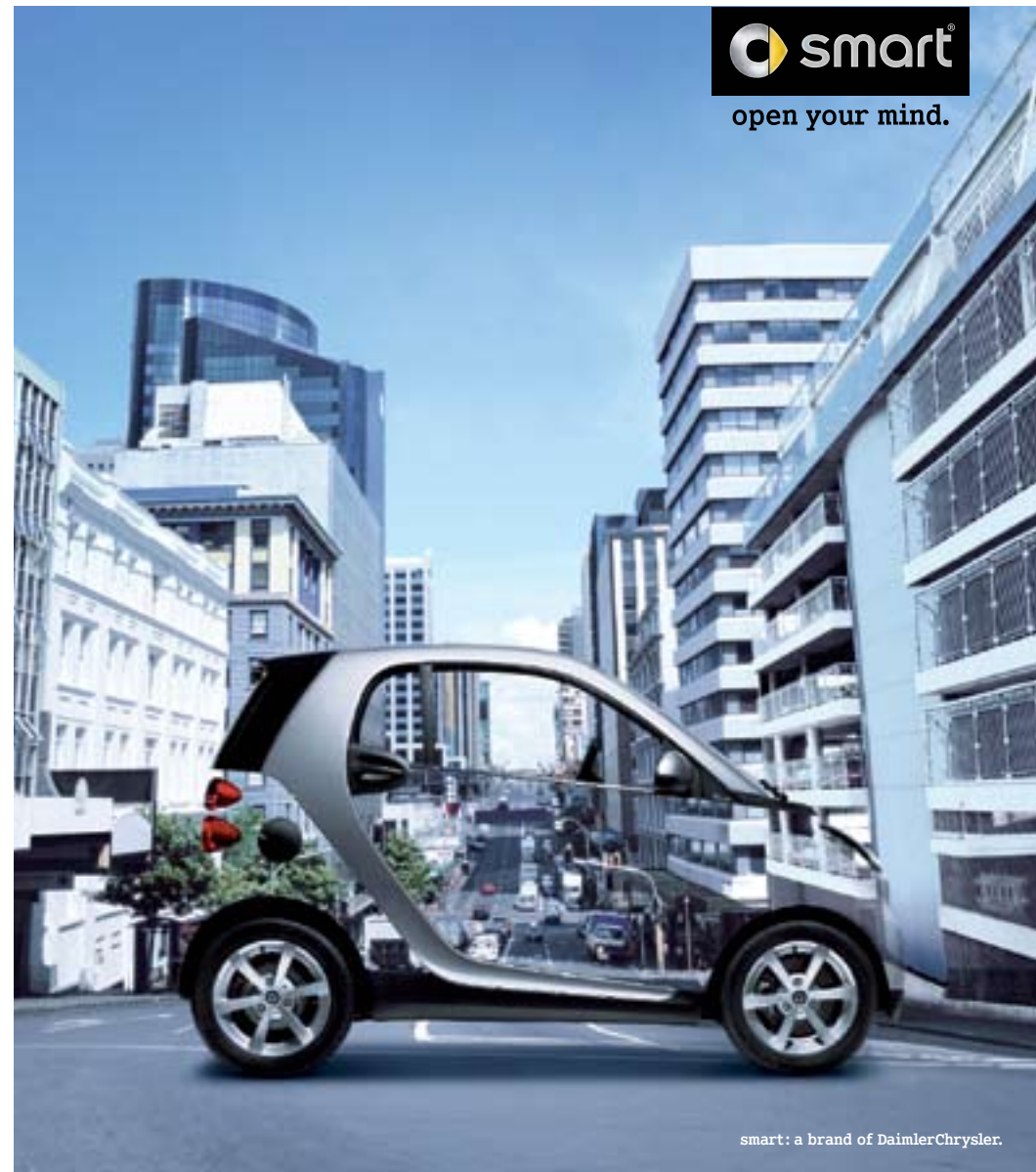
let's not lose sight of the fact that before being Belgians, Spaniards, Romanians, Swedes, Germans, French or Irish, we are first and foremost citizens of the capital of Europe, our capital. And as you will discover from Arjan Van Daal's study, this similarity is far from being the only thing we have in common.

Enjoy your reading and happy summer holidays. ☺

Jérôme Stéfanski
Editor in Chief



smart
open your mind.



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Competition:

Porsche Centre **Brussels**

171034

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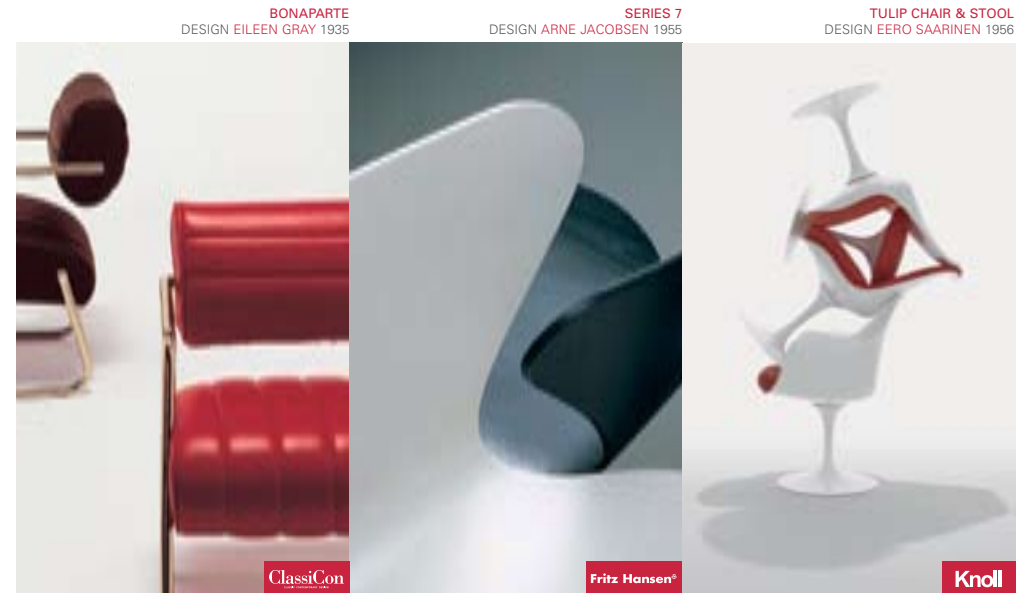
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© Vilebrequin

HAMILTON & TOLLET

S

WIN A FABULOUS HAMILTON WATCH

The history of Hamilton watches is as captivating as the meticulous manufacturing process that produces these time-keeping marvels.

"Together Magazine" is delighted to share Hamilton's story with readers, charting a century of impassioned, value-led innovation. In our future editions, we will reveal another chapter of the fascinating Hamilton story, and give you the chance to win an exclusive Hamilton watch.

PRECISION ON LAND, SEA, AND IN THE AIR

Since its foundation in Lancaster USA in 1892, Hamilton has been a ceaselessly authentic pioneer. From its inception, the brand was recognised as a manufacturer of precise watches, which helped the early railroads bring an end to their chaotic and accident-stricken early years.

Hamilton watches were then given a baptism of fire on the wrists of soldiers in Europe, in the trenches during the First World War, and in 1919, the first American mail service chose Hamilton to equip its Washington-New York planes with chronometers. Follow

the story in the next edition of "Together Magazine"...

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A KHAKI GMT AIR RACE BY HAMILTON

Hamilton and the celebrated Maison Tollet are giving you the chance to win this prestigious automatic watch, equipped with sapphire glass, and water-resistant to 200 metres. Striking in its daring design and mechanical precision, Khaki GMT Air Race is the essential accessory to make you the envy of the beach this summer! **The lucky winner will receive his or her watch from Tollet Joailliers, rue des Fripiers 36, 1000 Brussels.**

Maison Tollet recently acquired the Hamilton range, available in five of its Brussels outlets. For more information, go to www.tollet.com and www.hamiltonwatch.com

For your chance of winning the prestigious Khaki GMT Air Race by Hamilton, **answer the following two questions at www.together-magazine.eu ***:

1. What colour dominates the Hamilton decor in the Tollet establishments?

- A. Green
- B. Blue
- C. Orange



Khaki GMT Air Race by Hamilton

2. Hamilton American Classic is divided into two categories. What are they called?

- A. The Pioneers & The Classics
- B. The Pioneers & The Old Times
- C. The West Side & The East Side

3. How much does the May-June 2007 edition of Together Magazine weigh (to the nearest milligramme) without its plastic cover and samples? Ⓢ

* Competition organised in collaboration with Jean-Marc Devosse, Huissier de Justice for Brussel - Full rules available on www.together-magazine.eu

JOAILLIERS
TOLLET
HAMILTON
THE AMERICAN BRAND SINCE 1892

Jewels & Bubbles

Porsche Boxster S

Fancy something a little different from a banal weekend city-trip? In September, Together Magazine, Porsche Centre Brussels and Champagne Piper-Heidsieck would be proud to invite you to L'Assiette Champenoise, Chateau de la Muire, a luxurious castle located near Reims, in the Champagne region of France, during the grape harvest

We have already reserved two nights in a double room with terrace for you, with breakfast included. And, to take you there, we thought that a Porsche Boxster (with a bottle of Piper-Heidsieck, naturally) would do nicely.

There is no need to introduce Porsche: the perfect shapes and ultimate elegance are more eloquent than any mere technical description. You go to the **Porsche Centre Brussels in Drogenbos**, just on Brussels' doorstep. With its immaculate workshop and cosy waiting room, the "circular jewellery box" welcomes you. You enter this sunny place and ask everyone around (nicely) to be quiet, as you browse the amazing collection on show. Eventually, you find the Boxster and, then, you simply contemplate. Please, be our guest. Take a drive. Even if we strongly recommend that you respect the speed limits on your way to Champagne, you'll still have an extended, delightful spin with your hands on this marvel's wheel.

With the gorgeous early Summer we have enjoyed since April, we've tried a selection of refreshing drinks, suitable for summer corporate events, cocktails, parties and, yes, barbecues.

Champagne Piper-Heidsieck, a "Maison" founded in 1785 by a certain German gentleman called Florens-Louis, won the first prize for its "Cuvée Brut". It seems that the man was French in soul!

In one word: European. Inspirational, with its fragrance of petals falling from trees, soon replaced by a light fruity taste, the "Cuvée Brut" will win your heart too. Our test methods are really very strict, so we feel suitably confident in advising you to taste and buy some of this nectar.

Fancy a glass of Piper-Heidsieck to celebrate a personal success story or simply to celebrate summer? How about European staff meetings and parties?

All right! The telephone number for Champagne Piper-Heidsieck, Co Maxxium Belgium, is +32 (0)2 715 20 60, and there's a special offer available for European institution staff, available for a minimum order of 120 bottles.

Tempted by our prize too? Let's answer a couple of questions on **www.together-magazine.eu** then, and enjoy an unforgettable weekend!*

1 How many Boxster models are available at Porsche Centre Brussels?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3

2 How long is the ageing period for Piper Heidsieck Cuvée Brut?

- a. 10-14 weeks
- b. 12-18 months
- c. 24-29 months

3 What is the total weight of a Porsche Boxster S with a Tiptronic S gear box and with six 75cl bottles of Piper

Heidsieck Cuvée brut Champagne in the boot (to the nearest gramme)?

For help, go to www.porschecentrebrussels.be and www.piper-heidsieck.com to find the answers. Good luck, and good driving!

* Competition organised in collaboration with Jean-Marc Devosse, Huissier de Justice for Brussels - Full rules available on www.together-magazine.eu

Find more details on the internet:

Porsche Centre Brussels
www.porschecentrebrussels.be

Champagne Piper-Heidsieck
www.piper-heidsieck.com

Le Château de la Muire
www.assiettechampenoise.com



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51430 Tinqueux
France
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SUMMER'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER... AND SO ARE THE BRANDS

Summer's coming. This delightful season is synonymous with lazy days, good humour and long intoxicating evenings as well as with attractive new products from the big-brand names. "Together Magazine" has selected some of the essential new products for you, which will be all the rage this summer

FOR HER...



1 **Dior Stronger 1**
These Dior sunglasses, made in Italy, will give you a unique touch of style and are bound to draw envious glances on the beach this summer. Available in several colours. **290€**
www.dior.com



2 **Terracotta Sun Elixir**
Once again, Guerlain will appeal to many a lady, with this new tan-enhancer available as a limited edition. This deliciously scented solution of micro mother-of-pearl beads highlights your natural tan and raises the sensuality temperature by several degrees, when the sun goes down. **48€**
www.guerlain.com



3 **Hpnnotiq**
Go on, it won't hurt for once: this summer, swap your Guinness for a bottle of Hpnnotiq. Direct from the United States, where it has proved a phenomenal hit, this new liqueur based on Premium Vodka, Cognac and natural exotic fruit juices, has now arrived. From **4.5€** for a 5-cl bottle
www.hpnnotiq.com



Azzaro Now Women
This new product from Azzaro is designed to appeal to young adults, with a fun bottle in elaborate shapes

and with a scent of white tea and frosted passion-fruit fragrance. Also available in a men's version. Eau de toilette 50 ml: **45€**
www.azzaronow.com

FOR HIM...



1 **Moorea Squelette automatic stopwatch**
With this new design, Pequignet has proved once again that he is very much the leader in the field of "haute couture watchmaking". Masculine and sporty, the Moorea Squelette watch is the essential accessory for the fine days of summer which go by so quickly. **Price not provided.**
www.pequignet.com



2 **Armani Attitude**
Once again, Armani hits the right note with the launch of this new fragrance. A real collector's item, the bottle stands out for its absolute elegance, functionality and masculinity. As always, Giorgio Armani has taken great care with the form and content. Bold and natural, the top note of Lemon of Sicily exudes freshness and radiance, contrasting delightfully with the touch of bitterness of Coffee Absolute. Finishing with a green and subtly sharp freshness, it's a daring harmony.

Cardamom of Ceylon then reveals the full extent of its richness and intensity. With depth and elegance, Chinese Cedarwood is the hallmark of the unforgettable character of Attitude. Direct and daring, it grows more captivating and striking with the effect of Indonesian Patchouli. A marriage of strength and sensitivity, this harmony symbolises the qualities of the modern man. Armani Attitude, THE perfect gift for Father's Day. Eau de Toilette 50ml: **62€**
www.giorgioarmanibeauty.com



3 **Fasten your seatbelts the Grand Prix chair is back!**
During the 1950s, the famous

Danish designer Arne Jacobsen designed a range of unique chairs that have since become design icons renowned for their sculptural forms and timeless appearance. A special chair was introduced in 1957 and was simply called "3130". Shortly after its introduction, it won the Grand Prix at the XI Triennale in Milan. Thereafter, it was always referred to as the "Grand Prix Chair". Due to an increasing global demand for its reintroduction - the chair

was taken out of production in 1995 - manufacturer Fritz Hansen has re-introduced the design classic in a special 2007 version (black lazur wood and metal legs).

The Fritz Hansen collection is available at Espace Dominique Rigo:
210 rue de Stalle - 1180 Brussels (Uccle)
T. +32 (0)2 649 95 94
www.dominiquerigo.be
www.fritzhansen.com

A SHORT HISTORY OF A VERY SMALL COSTUME



© La Perla

La Perla - Summer 2007

Since it first came into existence (and that's only since the advent of railway and seaside jaunts in the mid-1800s), beachwear has always had a connection with the sea and sun, but not as we understand it now.

Then, the purpose of a bathing suit was to protect its user from the sun and the outfits were not designed to swim in at all. However, the Roaring Twenties saw the introduction of a new material, namely jersey, with a new design, more comfort and, consequently, giving more freedom to the young sirens with their classic bob haircuts.

Under the reign of Mademoiselle Chanel, the rules of elegance were drawn up in her studio. Then came 1948 and a revolution. A certain Louis Breart launched a brand new idea called the "bikini".

Since then, we have learned how to tan, swim and surf and a world without our versatile bikinis is now beyond our imagination. Let's see how we'll look this summer on the most beautiful beaches of our little blue planet.

VILEBREQUIN AT DEGAND

On the most popular beaches, an impressive parade of Vilebrequin swimwear is on show: from Knokke to Saint-Tropez and including Biarritz, there's no escaping it. You'll find these delightful mosaic-print Villebrequin trunks at Maison Degand for the price of 115\$. Pierre Degand sells menswear for all occasions: bespoke tailoring at Degand Tailleur, semi-made-to-measure at Business and sportswear at Sport.

Degand Sport
rue Saint-Georges 4
1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 649 23 00

RASUREL DESIGNED BY LEJABY

Rasurel is resolutely glamorous this summer with deep tones, huge printed flowers and also a certain ethnic, if not pictorial, inspiration evoking all the shades of cinnamon carnations on remote desert islands. Details such as pearls, a necklace of shells or a single ring provide the essential finishing touches.

The collection is available at:
Onatex - Warnaco S.A.
Atomium Square BP 92
Frankfurt 105, 1020 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 479 99 39
www.rasurel.com, www.lejabby.com

THE ADVENTUROUS ART OF BEING A DAD

Men, not unlike their female loved ones, delight in exploring wild and colourful jungles full of huge venomous snakes, especially when carrying teddy bears, not to mention crocodiles with long eyelashes and other monsters far beyond my inadequate understanding of inventive zoology.

I have a theory about this: you have babies, they become children and then you have a great excuse to be a kid again for the sake of parenthood and with the general blessing of everyone.

In fact, you're in great shape, laughing and adored by cute little monsters who call you "Daddy". This is what Arthur's Beachwear Collection is all about this year: pretending you're Indiana Jones and family. The line is bright and colourful, co-ordinated to suit the whole family and is designed to play in until it's time for the seafood barbecue on the beach.

I have a second theory but this time it's not about dads. Wear an Arthur's Beach outfit o



Rasurel by Lejaby

and it will put a permanent smile on your face, not to mention giving you a spontaneous instant tan.

Arthur

Galerie de la Toison d'Or 381
1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 512 79 96
www.arthurbenelux.be

WOMEN'S SECRET

The bikini-girls' invasion of my hard-disk memory continues. Fresh and modern, sometimes printed, sometimes plain, sometimes golden. Good moods, gentle humour and eternal prettiness are the key words for this year's new designs. You can co-ordinate your bathing suit with matching bags and flip-flops, or mix them up if you prefer. For women of all ages, including little angels: Women'Secret clothes kids as well as their mums and big sisters. Available in four shops in Brussels and also online.



Women'Secret - Summer 2007

Women'ssecret

Rue Neuve 2
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 217 10 28
www.womenssecret.com

LA PERLA

Sophistication is the first word that comes to mind but is, on reflection, almost inadequate. Couture would be more appropriate. La Perla offers subtle variations on the desert theme. The designs are more like jewellery or even sculpture than most run-of-the-mill beachwear. The creations come in sand beige, black or rich brown, audaciously draped veils offset with turquoise stones, coral or constellations of minuscule crystals twinkling on the surface of an oval golden brooch. Pure beauty.

La Perla

Boulevard de Waterloo 47
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 502 30 71
www.laperla.com



Arthur, only for him



MEET PRINCESSE TAM-TAM

Princesse tam-tam - Summer 2007

IN THE MOOD FOR SUMMER

If you're lucky, you soon get used to it. All those beautiful days in early spring were particularly conducive to premature fantasies of pristine beaches lazily washed by undulating tides and disturbed only by the graceful fall of huge petals. I might dream of countless shades of ultramarine 365 days of the year, but I don't usually start looking seriously at bathing suits and flip-flops until a few weeks after April. But this year, circumstances and meteorology – the most inexact science – decided differently. Thus, I was drawn to Princesse tam-tam. While Loumia Hiridjee is away somewhere, probably looking very much like what I secretly imagine, a horde of perfect-looking people in elegant bikinis suddenly invade my computer's desktop. Her creator may be on holiday, but it doesn't prevent Princesse tam-tam from materialising. The brand is now 22 years old and more stunning than ever. Looking at her, I remember Josephine Baker and one or two questions come to mind.

INTERVIEW

Together Magazine:
Princesse tam-tam is the title of a French comedy from the 1930s, starring Josephine Baker. In the central scene, Princesse tam-tam joins the orchestra, removes her dress and starts to dance joyfully. So, manifesto or humorous allusion?

Princesse tam-tam:
"Humorous allusion, definitely. Princesse tam-tam doesn't

make any references. The title of the film just appealed to us. But it's true that the brand values can also be found in Baker's personality and in the storyline too: freedom, audacity, energy, vitality, the feminine touch and a taste for contrasts without provocation."

To begin with, underwear and beachwear is unusual. On top of that, in the 1980s, the general taste for women's underwear and beachwear was for minimalist and monochrome outfits. But you decided to launch a line of mischievous colourful underwear, non-coordinated, a departure from the accepted taste of the time. Success was instantaneous. Was this choice guided by something in particular?

"When the two sister-creators were still students, they opened a gift shop where they sold printed boxer shorts for men – which were very trendy – ... to young women! That's what led to the idea, in a context of hidden, colourless, plain lingerie. A Parisian reminiscence 'à la Française' of colourful fragrances from a childhood spent among flowers in Madagascar. It is indeed unusual but that's mainly where the DNA of the brand comes from: creativity. The expertise and technical mastery came later."

Princesse tam-tam is now a prestigious label that has been awarded prizes and recognition for its success. A big Japanese group now owns the company. What are your projects in this context?

"Making the label international."

Your current line still has that distinctive touch of nice mischievousness blended with vitality, but it's still practical. It's, you cater for women on the move. How do you solve the "seductive and comfortable" equation?

"The 'looking good' factor is fundamental in corsetry if we want to continue long-term. Comfort is equally important because it's true to the label's vision of being a woman: free, sparkling, an actress of her own life, mother, woman and friend all at once. It's the label's promise and we must keep that promise."

Creative designers often give titles to their work. If you had to give one to this year's beachwear line, what would it be?

"This year, we'll be the most beautiful label to go swimming in."

For yourself, on the beach, do you prefer bikinis or one-piece bathing suits? And for town?

"A sober and dark one-piece for Loumia, with meaningful detail. Chic and sober in the city with a cashmere pullover, men's trousers and Repeto ballerinas."

The sun has already gone down and, while I look at the burning sky mirrored a thousand times in Brussels' windows, my delightful apparition gives me an amiable smile and fades softly. Nobody will ever believe me, but I still have the hibiscus she removed from her hair and left on my desk while we were talking.

Princesse tam-tam
Rue A. Dansaert 9, 1000 Brussels
T.: +32 (0)2 511 07 01
www.princessetam-tam.com

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The World's Most Comfortable Boxer Shorts.



B BUSINESS

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- Money
- Real Estate



Meet Enrico

Enrico at work

The European Union influences 80% of political decisions taken in Europe.

The size of the lobbying arena in Brussels outweighs that of Washington, with more than 1,000 organisations representing business or companies, 500 consultancies and law firms, around 750 NGOs, some 1,500 journalists as well as some 3,000 interest groups, employing around 150,000 people in a town of only one million people

Despite his German family name, Enrico Mayrhofer is an Italian journalist who has been living in Brussels for nine years, working as a correspondent for an Italian regional TV

channel and as Press Officer of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (www.cpmr.org). This Association of European Maritime Regions is a lobby group bringing together 155 presidents of regions along Europe's shorelines.

"We ensure EU institutions take account of maritime interests," he says.

08.30

Radio 21 wakes Enrico up with the Belgian news. In Brussels, there is a big international community not

"SOMETIMES WE'RE GHOSTWRITERS"

integrated into Belgian life, but still trying its best to understand Belgian politics. A few years ago, a Belgian journalist asked him: "What do you think about this wedding?" "I didn't know she was talking about the Belgian Prince! I was ashamed not to know and to tell her the only thing I knew about the monarchy was that the Queen is Italian."

09.15

Enrico is at work (15 minutes late) after walking five minutes from his home. Brussels is the only capital in Europe where, with affordable rents, you can live close to your office. "If it wasn't for the rain that we seem to get every morning, I wouldn't miss having a car."

10.30

Enrico has to rush to the European Parliament after reading several magazines in different languages. He has to meet an MEP involved in maritime issues, who wants to be briefed before his speech. "Sometimes we're ghostwriters".

12.00

Press conference in the Berlaymont, headquarters of the European Commission. President Barroso is

presenting the EU budget to Member states. This topic cannot be missed by Enrico's TV channel. Que pensez-vous du future de L'Europe? Pensa che con questo nuovo bilancio l'Europa andrà più lontano? O que você acha do orsamento comunitario? Mi Magyarország álláspontja, in Europe, everybody speaks several languages and, despite press conferences being only in English, French and German, people can informally express themselves in their own language.

Enrico speaks Italian, English, French, Spanish and Portuguese and he uses a mix of them. "My English is broken! I learned to speak English talking with Greeks, Scandinavians, Polish or Hungarians. Brussels is a unique town for that. If you go into a shop asking for something in French, they can easily answer in your own language just because of your accent!"

Lunch Time

Enrico has a working lunch with a few journalists to explain the next steps of his association. He likes Italian food and, around the EU area, there are some of the best Italian restaurants in Brussels. "Do I miss my country? Not really! When I go into a shop, there are products from all over Europe. Brussels looks like a big airport where you can choose where you want to be on a daily basis.

Only the grey weather never changes."

Afternoon

Press Release to prepare, speeches to translate, newsletter to edit, articles to write, position paper to circulate. "I work a lot, also because it takes time to communicate with different cultures. People usually understand English or French, but if you approach your contact in his own language, it is much easier to create a nice atmosphere. Sometimes the way you approach a person is different depending on the country. Scandinavians get straight to the point. People from the Mediterranean play with words."

Evening

"There is a new Cypriot restaurant to try! After the last enlargement of the EU, we have more opportunities to try the taste of different cultures. Before coming to Brussels, I didn't even think about differences between Greek and Cypriot dishes; then I discovered Cypriot Halloumi cheese. Yum."

Night

"Why not try a concert at the Flagey Theatre? Brussels is one hour away by train from Paris and two hours from London through the Eurotunnel. Every artist stops one night here to give a concert. It's close to the main European capitals and musicians are welcomed by different nationalities."

Martin Banks



Relocation issues

Brussels, an ideal place to locate an international business

Located in the heart of Europe, Belgium is an ideal place to establish an international business, and many international companies have taken advantage of the availability of Belgium's well-educated multilingual workforce

Relocating individuals and families is a natural consequence and there is a constant movement of people both in and out of Belgium.

However, when relocating expatriate staff to Belgium, employers usually provide the bare information needed to start the employee working, but rarely give adequate help with tackling the personal financial implications and

routine problems of daily life that follow.

To start with, most employers consider that estate-planning advice and help with personal wealth management are the personal, and purely private, responsibility of the expatriate. But is this really being socially responsible towards the employee?

It is all very well for an employer to structure an individual's payroll to get the best situation for both parties, but, what about his other taxes, such as death duties and capital gains taxes, if it happens that Belgian rules are very different from those in his home country? How many expatriates arriving for the first time in Belgium have even been warned that some of the personal tax-planning techniques that were widely and successfully used at home could be disastrous in Belgium? A few examples will illustrate this:

- Most expatriate couples with young children assume that all they have to do is cross-will their estates to each other so that the surviving spouse will inherit and that no death duties or other taxes will be due. Some countries may exempt inter-spouse transfers of assets from inheritance taxes or death duties, but Belgium does not. The estate of an expatriate who dies during an assignment to Belgium

does not escape Belgian death duties.

- Even more disturbing for those who have been raised in an Anglo-Saxon legal jurisdiction is the impact of the so-called Napoleonic Code on transfer of property. Basically, this provides that a proportion of the assets owned by the deceased spouse must pass to the children, and this can include those of a previous marriage. This means that you cannot simply leave your entire estate to your spouse. A proportion must be divided among the children. Obviously, if they are adults, they can waive their rights, but a child who is still a minor has no legal right to do so.

- The effect of buying a house in joint names is often misunderstood. When a house is bought in joint names in Belgium, it is as if the house is divided, and each spouse (or partner) owns his or her own part. The equivalent under Anglo-Saxon law is called tenancy in common. If one of the joint owners dies, the result is that his/her share passes to the heirs under the rules mentioned above and does not pass automatically to the survivor.

- The Belgian community is relatively litigious and the practice of putting the family home in the name of a non-working spouse will not •



The effect of buying a house in joint names could be devastating

necessarily prevent creditors or other litigants against the one spouse from making a claim against the assets of the other.

- If an expatriate leaves Belgium but retains his former home here, then the outstanding mortgage may no longer be deducted from the value of the property in calculating death duties. Again, since there is no exemption from tax on estate devolving to the surviving spouse, this creates a major risk for the family.

- Countries such as the USA and the United Kingdom continue to treat the estates of their citizens as

subject to inheritance tax long after they have emigrated. As there is no tax treaty between Belgium and the UK covering death duties, there is a risk of double taxation of the estates of UK expatriates who die while living in Belgium.

- In Belgium, the retail banks have a virtual monopoly on the distribution of financial products. One should have a degree of healthy scepticism to some of the recommendations made. Unfortunately, the average bank branch manager is now little more than a sales supervisor for the bank's own products and is not encouraged to recommend those of other product

providers even though they may be far better or more suitable. Not all the advice given takes into account the tax implications of the expatriate returning to his home country and unnecessary tax costs can be the result after the expatriate has returned home.

- Another area that often causes concern is the number of "financial advisers" who operate in the expatriate community, many of whom are neither authorised to sell financial products nor regulated in any European jurisdiction. Expats are the main targets of these companies, so if you suddenly get a friendly phone call offering financial products or advice - beware. Note that the website of the Banking Commission (CBFA) carries very specific warnings about these operators in English as well as in French and Flemish.

These kinds of problems demonstrate that it is just as important to take account of an expat's personal situation as it is to organise his work situation. Issues such as these do not create insurmountable problems, provided you get qualified advice so they are addressed before making any firm commitments.

Professional relocation companies have become experts in solving many of the immediate issues of settling, but they are



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still subject to the ethical requirement not to abuse their position by channelling business towards their own providers of additional services. Lawyers, accountants and insurance brokers are subject to similar regulatory or ethical requirements not to offer advice outside their own discipline. Unfortunately, it is also very rare to find an accounting firm that can give good cross-border tax advice at an affordable price.

Conscious of the problems caused by this fragmentation, some professional firms have recently formed alliances to provide an integrated solution, while each firm retains its own professional identity and adheres to its own regulatory and ethical constraints.

Each member of the alliance works to develop a sufficient knowledge of the skills and strengths of the other members, so that advice given will complement, in a consistent manner, that given by another member.

Understanding the potential risks is the first step towards resolving the problems... 

Graham Reid



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Contemporary architecture is a reflection of changes in our society. It is the logical extension of cultural and artistic heritage, the role of which is to stimulate sentient intelligence, critical thought and semantic landmarks in an increasingly fast-moving world

Inside an Uptown loft

Today's architecture frequently comes up against a backward-looking opposition to change in terms of both town planning integration and materials.

Contemporary architectural language is based, above all, on the dialogue that the architect introduces between the formal style of a time gone by and the rationality of a constructive, determinedly innovative vocabulary. Sometimes this controlled and careful dialogue gives rise to eloquent and creative

confrontations of contrasts. Contemporary architecture is the general expression of a dream, of a functionality and of a clarity of spaces and volumes through a film of sensitivity.

It has a duty to leave the overly traditional and sedentary cultural landmarks behind it so that each project, each place occupied becomes the genesis of a new world and opens up the doors to new perspectives of architectural semantics.

This contemporary architectural style is based

CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE IS THE GENERAL EXPRESSION OF A DREAM

on the development and soberness of line and detail, on interpenetration, the confrontation of spaces and functions and on the lasting nature of the materials highlighting the surface and function. It affects the senses, including emotion, through that ability to translate into 3 dimensions our capacity for



integration, interpretation and new design in the development of our society. This style tends to confront new technology with references from our architectural and artistic memory. An explosive mixture arising from the juxtaposition

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Taming that language of tomorrow and living it in the present day, in the setting of our daily lives. ☺

Christine Renoirte
Interior Designer

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Photos © Serge Brison for Uptown

to personal expectations. Channelling a creative energy that fluctuates between the rational and the kitsch, the functional and the creative. Developing, in unison, an innovative, bold and sensitive global way of thinking. Changing the boundaries of a stressed and hyperactive urban world, creating a harmonious and original living space around good living and 'consumer passion' remains the main focus of our company. In other words, with Uptown,

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Julie Peire



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FLUCTUATES
BETWEEN
THE RATIONAL
AND THE KITSCH,
THE FUNCTIONAL
AND THE
CREATIVE**



Contemporary design

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as much as concrete.**



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WAY OF LIFE

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- Special Feature

BruXpats, who are you?

Together Magazine is proud to publish the results of an important study carried out in 2006 by Dutchman Arjan van Daal as part of his training at the Brussels-Europe Liaison Office, a governmental institution that advocates the integration of European workers in Brussels

BruXpats, a new social group

At just 35 years of age, Arjan van Daal can already boast an impressive CV. A town planner by training, he made his debut in the civil service in 1996 as government official in the Regional Development Ministry of the Hague. Since 2001, he has been working for the City of the Hague (Gemeente Den Haag) where, since the summer of 2006, he has been assigned to the department of Urban Education. In 2005, driven by

a desire to improve his skills through further education and training, he embarked on post-university studies at the Netherlands School of Public Governance on the subject of the governance of cities. As part of this course of study, which will end this month, Arjan completed a six-week work placement at the Brussels-Europe Liaison Office. There, he carried out an extensive study of expatriates living in the capital of Europe. *"I chose this very topical subject because of the growing number of*

expatriates migrating to the Hague to work in the new international and European institutions that are springing up in this city. The study of expatriates living and working in Brussels allows me to work out a reference model intended to serve as a basis for analysis for looking at the expatriate populations living in cities where a large number of international institutions have taken up residence." Without further ado, let's hand over to Arjan Van Daal and get straight to the heart of the matter in order to shed

**"‘BRUXPATs’,
A WORD
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ARE IN: BEING
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CITIZEN BUT NOT
BEING A BELGIAN
CIVILIAN"**

light on the conclusions drawn from this ambitious study.

THE BRUXPATs CONCEPT

This study is about "Bruxpats": expatriates living in Brussels and its surroundings. "Bruxpats", a word I made up, refers to the ambivalent situation expats are in: being a Brussels citizen but not being a Belgian civilian. Expats are sometimes referred to as a "transnational class", not belonging to any country. So, Bruxpats ... Who are they? Why do they come? What position do they have in Brussels? How are they welcomed? What expat facilities exist? What are mutual images of Bruxpats and other citizens like? This study arose from my interest in international cities. What interested me in particular was: what does an international city have to do or to offer to be a good host for expats? There is hardly a better place to do such a study than in Europe's capital: Brussels.

The Brussels Europe Liaison Office, a small not-for-profit organisation founded by the Brussels Capital Region administration to take care of the welcome given to expats, offered me the opportunity to do this study. I was there for six weeks. The main question of the study is: what does Brussels, as an international city, have to offer to expats to make them feel welcome and at home? The study is based on three kinds of sources. Firstly, I examined a selection of relevant studies, policy documents, expat guides, statistics and articles from newspapers and magazines. Secondly, I held interviews with more than twenty people. The interviewees work for organisations that play a key role in expat facilities (government agencies, not-for-profit organisations, commercial services), organisations that represent groups of expats, and some academics. Many of the interviewees were expats themselves. Thirdly, I was allowed to participate in some special expat activities, for instance the two-weekly introduction of new EC employees.

EXPATS

An interesting definition of "expats" can be found in *Van Amersfoort's* essay about transnationalism (2001). He considers an expat "the man (or woman) who stays in a country, explicitly not being a civilian of that country but representing another country". I took this definition as a starting point and added three elements.

→ Expats move to a foreign country to work for an organisation that operates and recruits internationally. For Brussels, I distinguished the following groups of organisations:

- International governmental organisations;
- Diplomacy (Permanent Representations);
- Representations of European regions and main cities;
- International NGOs;
- Multinational enterprises having their worldwide or European headquarters in Brussels;
- International business-to-business services;
- International press;
- International schools and research institutes.

→ Expats sometimes intend to stay, sometime they don't. Some settle for a specified period of time: one year, three years, five years etc. Others stay for an undetermined period of time. Whereas some of them stay for only a very short period, others stay till they retire. Meanwhile, they all keep their nationality.

→ If expats have a partner, children and/or other family members and staff members, they move together.

BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL

In the late 19th century, Brussels was the capital of one of Europe's leading internationally-oriented economies. During the late



THE EU ISN'T THE ONLY PILLAR OF THE INTERNATIONAL CITY

fifties of the 20th century, the city broke through on the international scene: the EU's predecessors and NATO were founded and set up their headquarters in Brussels and in 1958 the World Fair took place in Brussels. Since then, Brussels has been an important seat of international organisations. The EU and NATO presence had and still has a significant spin-off effect: many NGOs, lobbyists, diplomats and business-to-business services settled in Brussels. Nowadays, Brussels is widely known as Europe's capital. The non-official first city, since the European Union doesn't have an official first city. Yet, the EU isn't the only pillar of the international city: foreign

enterprises provide the majority of employment of all internationally operating organisations.

THE INTERNATIONAL NATURE OF BRUSSELS

The composition of Brussels' population reveals its international nature: a significant number of the population originates from a foreign country. The number of expats in Brussels Capital Region and surrounding parts of Flanders and Wallonia can only be estimated. According

to my estimation, there are around 160,000 expats. I based this on three sources:

The expat community is far from homogeneous. A distinction can be drawn among several groups. Firstly, newcomers tend to group with fellow countrymen. Nationality is an important parameter in expat grouping. Secondly, social bonds often derive from professional contacts, simply because colleagues are the first ones that expats meet. Organisations expats work for are another grouping parameter. Thirdly, migration motives among expats differ. Favell studied this phenomenon in *Free Movers in Brussels (2001)* and defined two groups. "Sojourners" are young people, 25 to 35 years old, staying for just a few years and then moving on. "Settlers", on the other hand, are people over 30, looking for stability: having their own house, having children, having a career. These two groups behave quite differently. But they do have one thing in common: they live in Brussels, but they aren't Belgian civilians. ●

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL:

- 77 international governmental organisations;
- the world's largest number of foreign diplomats;
- the world's largest number of foreign journalists;
- 300 representations of European regions and cities;
- 1,750 international interest organisations and federations of national NGOs;
- 2,000 foreign companies;
- Three European schools and 26 international schools.

NUMBER OF NON-BELGIAN INHABITANTS OF BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (NATIONALITY)	NUMBER OF NON-BELGIAN EMPLOYEES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION	HOLDERS OF THE SPECIAL IDENTITY CARD
European Union 158,500 EU-15 (pre-enlargement) Member States, excluding Belgium 144,000 - France 38,000 - Italy 28,500 - Spain 20,000 - Portugal 15,500 - United Kingdom 9,000 - Germany 7,500 - The Netherlands 5,500 - Other EU-15 Member States 20,000 New EU Member States 14,500 Other countries 105,000 Main immigrant countries: - Morocco 42,000 - Turkey 11,500 Congo (former colony) 7,500 Main western countries - USA 3,000 - Japan 2,500 Total 263,500	European Union 16,500 - European Commission 12,000 - Council of Ministers 2,000 - European Parliament 1,600 - Economic and Social Committee 400 - Committee of the Regions 200 - Other (including agencies) 300 NATO 900 - International Staff 550 - Military Staff 350 Eurocontrol 750 Other governmental organisations (e.g. Benelux) 450 Permanent Representations to NATO, EU and Belgium 3,250 - Diplomats 2,200 - Non-diplomats 1,050 Representations of European regions and cities 900 International NGOs 5,600 - Interest organisations 1,000 - Federations of national NGOs 4,600 International enterprises ? - Headquarters - Local offices Foreign press 1,700 - Accredited journalists 1,200 - Non-journalists 600 International education and research - European schools 650 - International schools ? - Universities and research institutes ? - Language and training institutes ?	56,000
Sources: - Brussels Instituut voor Statistiek en Analyse, 2004 - Federale Overheidsdienst voor Economie, KMO, Middenstand en Energie, 2004	Sources: - Iris Consulting, 2001 (adapted figures) - Interviews	Source: - Interviews

WHAT ELSE TYPIFIES BRUXPATS ?

- On average, they stay for five years.
- During their stay, many of them experience a change in their personal life (having a partner, children).
- Most Bruxpats are highly educated.
- Their income is well above average.
- Though they stay temporarily, half of them are house-owners.
- Bruxpats mainly live in the wealthier parts of Greater Brussels: the central and south-eastern part of the Brussels Capital Region (Brussels City, Ukkel, Elsene, Etterbeek, Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe, Sint-Pieters-Woluwe, Oudergem and Watermaal-Bosvoorde) as well as surrounding areas in Flanders and Wallonia. Sojourners prefer central, metropolitan parts, whereas settlers prefer south-eastern suburban communities.
- Recent newcomers tend to be younger than their predecessors. As a result, Brussels' central areas tend to attract more newcomers. For instance, Schaarbeek, an area that hasn't traditionally attracted many expats, is becoming more and more popular.
- Many Bruxpats participate in Brussels' cultural life: they frequently go to restaurants, museums, theatres, concert halls, etc.
- According to surveys, two-thirds of all expats speak at least three languages (English, French and a third).



Business area near Gare du Nord

Some trends are likely to be relevant in the future. EU institutions are growing at a slower pace than in past decades. But their spin-off effect remains impressive. For instance, the number of regional representations is growing rapidly, from fewer than 300 now to some 350 in the near future. The number of expats from Central and Eastern European countries is expected to rise

significantly. And since newcomers tend to be young people and the pioneer generation of EU civil servants will retire in the next few years, the expat community is likely to be found increasingly in the central areas of Brussels. Multinational enterprises are expected to recruit more of their staff members from the local labour market in order to cut costs. In particular, ☛



The famous Berlaymont

EU INSTITUTIONS ARE GROWING AT A SLOWER PACE THAN IN PREVIOUS DECADES

the number of US expats has been declining since 2001. People coming from neighbouring countries will increasingly spend weekdays in Brussels, from Monday to Friday, and be at home during weekends.

EXPAT FACILITIES

Many facilities concentrate on the first stage of being an expat: moving, settling and being welcomed. Moving to a new country obviously has administrative, material and financial consequences. It also has significant social and emotional repercussions but, in my interviews, I was told several times that these are often underestimated. Four categories of facilities concerning this first stage can be identified:

- Welcoming facilities of employers. Large

organisations such as the EU Administration have their own professional welcoming units (AdmInfo). Multinational enterprises often recruit relocation agents, directly or via 'global providers' (for human-resources activities), to take care of the relocation of foreign managers. Depending on the available budget, a tailor-made package of services is provided (such as housing, school, moving, permits, administrative duties, etc).

- Administrative support. The Brussels Europe Liaison Office, BELO, supports any expat needing any advice on administrative issues, such as housing rental contracts and registration. In 2004, BELO assisted some 4,400 people. AdmInfo provides more or less the same kind of support.
- Social support. Apart from activities organised by employers and local

government, civil society predominates in initiatives aimed at social support. There are up to 200 expat clubs and associations in Brussels, most of which are based on nationality. For instance, the American Women's Club of Brussels organises a "Hints for Living in Brussels" course. International churches and schools play a key role in social support. They are more than just places of worship and education; many friendships and contacts are made there.

- Media and information. There's an overwhelming supply of information for newcomers: websites, guides, brochures, newsletters, etc. Expat clubs and associations, churches, schools, local and regional government, local cultural facilities, employers: they all have a great deal of information for newcomers. And then there's the professional expat media. Ackroyd Publications is by far the largest expat media company, publishing "The Bulletin" (a newsweekly, 65,000 readers) and an annual expat guide, holding two annual expat fairs and running a popular expat website.

Once expats are settled and welcomed, feeling at home is the next step. Obviously, expats themselves are primarily responsible for this. But expat facilities can help to support them. It depends on the needs and wishes of individual expats ☛

whether they use them or not. The facilities mentioned above don't stop being relevant after the initial period: for many expats, they remain a crucial part of their lives. In particular, the clubs and associations, schools and churches, "civil society", so to speak, form a sort of social foundation for expats.

In my interviews, two types of stay-related facilities were frequently mentioned: schools, privileges and immunities. Greater Brussels has three European schools and 26 international schools. Many children from expat families attend these, rather than go to Belgian schools. Usually, the schools aren't open to Belgian children and fees are often paid by the employer. They are highly concentrated in the south-eastern part of the region, the area in which the children and their parents also live. "Privileges and immunities" refer to specific rights of employees of diplomatic representations and international governmental organisations. These rights were agreed upon in (bilateral and multilateral) seat treaties. One of these privileges is the Special Identity Card for EU employees, distributed by a federal government agency.

As perfect or as poor as any expat facility may be, feeling at home in a foreign city is also a matter of appreciation of the city's quality of daily life. Facilities and amenities available to ALL inhabitants of Brussels determine how

pleasant it is to live there, regardless of nationality. Favell said something very interesting about Brussels' quality of life in his 2001 study: *"Very few cities are so forgiving of indifference to the nation state around it, while so open to cultural diversion. Very few European cities are so easy on a practical level (in terms of finding housing, social networks, setting up an everyday life) or have such a vast range of expat services. Without these conditions, we can scarcely expect free movement to develop dramatically in Europe."* Brussels is praised for its cultural climate, affordable housing, public transport and multilingualism. On the other hand, it should be mentioned that there is some tension between the local population and the expat community. Expats sometimes don't feel welcome. "Eurocrats", as EU employees among them are often referred to, encounter entrenched prejudices: they have sky-high salaries, they don't pay any income taxes, they force up housing prices, they have an arrogant attitude. For this reason, BELO is putting an increasing amount of effort into positive "awareness-raising" in order to make Brussels a hospitable capital of Europe.

ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN WELCOMING EXPATS

Thanks to the large numbers of expats, facilities are extensive and well developed. Government agencies, NGOs, commercial organisations, ●

voluntary organisations - many are involved in some way or another. They contribute to the existence of a very professional expat infrastructure. Yet, any form of direction, of leadership, seems to be lacking. As a result, the expat infrastructure is very fragmented. An example of this is what happened in 2001: European commission president Prodi and Belgian prime minister Verhofstadt launched an initiative to strengthen Brussels' position as Europe's capital city. The initiative failed due to a lack of backing on both sides. To put it bluntly, it reveals the inability of Belgium's political system to mobilise and combine forces for Brussels as (Europe's) capital city as well as the introversion of international governmental organisations such as the EU towards their host city.

WHAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT THE KEY PLAYERS ?

- *Brussels Capital Region* doesn't have specific expat policies. The existence of BELO, a not-for-profit agency founded and funded by the Region, is its main expat policy instrument. The Region's policy responsibilities in other domains, such as urban planning, are used to influence Brussels' position as an international city.
- *BELO* is a key player on the public side. Whereas administrative support remains a solid asset of BELO, awareness-raising in terms of "Brussels, capital

- of Europe" is winning ground.
- *Brussels Enterprise Agency*, also founded and funded by the Region, plays a modest role in the domain of expats, specifically for foreign enterprises setting up in Brussels and for their employees.
- *Federal government* is responsible for seat treaties and for bringing privileges and immunities into effect, such as issuing the Special Identity Card. On a more strategic level, that of mobilising and joining forces for Brussels as an international city, its role is very weak. This is outside its area of competence.
- *Municipalities* are responsible for first-line contacts with expats. Some expats, however, don't need to go to the town hall for these first-line contacts since federal government distributes the Special Identity Card.
- *Larger international organisations* have impressively professional expat facilities themselves. Yet, agencies like BELO and AdmInfo (EU Administration) do more or less the same work, without really cooperating with each other.
- *Relocation agencies* primarily work for multinational enterprises. There are about twelve of them in Belgium. Their work is very sensitive to economic changes.
- *The Xpat media* is highly professional. Ackroyd Publications is by far the largest media organisation.



The Brussels-Europe Liaison Office on www.blbe.be

- The media provide a great deal of relevant knowledge about the expat community but contacts with public authorities seem to be minimal.
- *Civil society* is very much alive in the expat community: more than 200 volunteer-based *clubs and associations* exist and organise all kinds of activities (sports, culture, courses, etc.). International churches and schools are meeting points for expats and also organise activities.
- *Local cultural facilities* (museums, theatres, restaurants, etc.) are obviously aware of the strong presence of expats in Brussels. But, apart from providing information in English, they don't pay specific attention to expats.
- *Some local associations* have recently launched small-scale initiatives to bridge the gap between Belgians and foreigners, both immigrants and expats. ●

TIES

Being a Brussels citizen and being an expat at the same time puts the Bruxpat in an exceptional position. His or her ties with Brussels, with Belgium, are necessarily partial. During my stay in Brussels, I was often told that expats “don’t integrate” into local society. From a social and economic participation point of view, this simply is not true: expats have well-paid jobs, are mostly very active during their spare time and use the city’s cultural facilities intensively. On the other hand, we cannot ignore the fact that they tend to stick to their own organisations (schools, churches, clubs, associations) and that they live in a concentrated way in specific areas. So I think it is more accurate to speak of separation to a certain extent, rather than lack of integration. Cailliez, a ULB academic, carried out an interesting study about the position of British people in Brussels: “Schumann City”. It proved that many British came to Brussels with the intention of playing a full part in local society, instead of primarily being in touch with their fellow countrymen. Yet, the latter is what has happened to many of them. Why? Because it is so easy, thanks to the sheer number of British people and the fantastic facilities available. The tension between locals and expats mentioned previously reveals the need to strengthen solidarity. Initiatives of BELO and other NGOs are increasingly aimed

THE TENSION BETWEEN LOCALS AND EXPATS MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY REVEALS THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY

at that. The fact that expats have their own organisations is a phenomenon that can be observed worldwide in international cities. Their existence indicates that expats need a comfort zone, a place where they feel at ease amidst their fellow countrymen. They are crucial for them to feel at home. To strengthen solidarity, efforts should be aimed at the external orientation of these organisations.

IMAGE

Expats and locals: during my stay I heard quite a few mutual prejudices. Some elements might be true, but the fact is that the presence of international organisations and expats is heavily associated with (EU) bureaucracy and a waste of money. As a result, Brussels’ status as Europe’s non-official capital city has a negative connotation. As Magosse (2005) strikingly pointed out, its image is primarily founded on the institutional dimension of being a capital. He suggests exploring ways of branding Brussels as Europe’s capital in a more cosmopolitan ☉

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Charlemagne area

sense. I think this is an interesting idea. However, one should take into account the fact that Brussels isn’t a megapolis like London, so being cosmopolitan has to fit in with Brussels’ size and nature.

TEN CONCLUSIONS

1. There isn’t a stereotypical Bruxpat. There are probably 160,000 expats in Greater Brussels. A distinction can be made among different groups. Nationality, professional environment and migration motives are grouping parameters.
2. The hospitality of an international city is necessarily a combination of specific facilities for newcomers and a pleasant quality of daily life for all citizens. Accessibility (of society and its facilities) and solidarity (among citizens with different backgrounds) can be considered keystones for the perceived quality of life.
3. In Brussels, many organisations are involved in welcoming Bruxpats and helping to facilitate their stay. They play specific roles but these aren’t explicitly defined. Public sector and private sector facilities are primarily separate worlds. Nobody takes the lead: there isn’t an inspiring, pioneering main actor in Greater Brussels that mobilises all of these organisations involved in making Brussels an hospitable city at
4. BELO is much appreciated and has a central position in the field of facilities for welcoming expats and facilitating their stay, particularly in terms of administrative support. BELO could draw more benefit from its position if it developed it.
5. Bruxpats are highly organised: they have their own clubs, associations, churches, schools and media. The large numbers of Bruxpats enables them to be highly organised. Separation is an inevitable result of this. The often heard criticism that Bruxpats don’t participate and don’t integrate should be qualified as an exaggeration. In general, Bruxpats make a positive contribution to Brussels society. Their organisations create a socially important “comfort zone” for living in a foreign country.
6. Unfortunately, the large number of facilities and organisations affects the adventurous and pioneering side of being an expat. Young Bruxpats, whose numbers are growing, seem to avoid that situation. They prefer a less organised way of moving around and living and increasingly they settle outside Brussels’ traditional residential areas of expats.
7. The Expat media in Brussels is highly professional. *The Bulletin*, a weekly expat magazine, symbolises Brussels’ highly-developed expat media.
8. Some international organisations, notably ☉

governmental and diplomatic ones, tend to separate themselves from their host city. This is detrimental to the accessibility and fellowship needed for an open city climate.

9. Brussels can be considered the international showpiece of Belgium. Governmental bodies involved should join forces to draw maximum benefit from this position. Yet fragmentation of Belgium's governmental system obstructs any efforts to join forces.
10. Brussels' status as Europe's capital city is strongly associated with institutional and bureaucratic aspects. This is a pity. Branding Brussels as Europe's capital in a cosmopolitan sense would be a great challenge.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS TO BELO

- Continue administrative support for expats (as it has a great deal of valuable expertise in that area) but focus more on raising awareness, bridging gaps and mobilising strategically important parties. Use enthusiasm and debate as instruments.
- Widen the scope: BELO is there for expats from all over the world, not just the ones in your name.
- Intensify cooperation with federal government and international governmental organisations, based on the concept of Brussels as a hospitable city. Initiate a debate about a "Brussels, Europe's capital" strategy from this new point of view.

- Develop and implement a strategy together with municipalities and the Brussels Capital Region for improving first-line contacts with expats. Use the annual seminary for municipal civil servants as an instrument for this.
- Initiate the exchange of knowledge, good practices and ideas with international cities abroad.
- Combine forces with AdmInfo and similar organisations. (Literature: see full report in Dutch on www.blbe.be)

Arjan van Daal,
*City of The Hague,
The Netherlands, 2006*



European Parliament



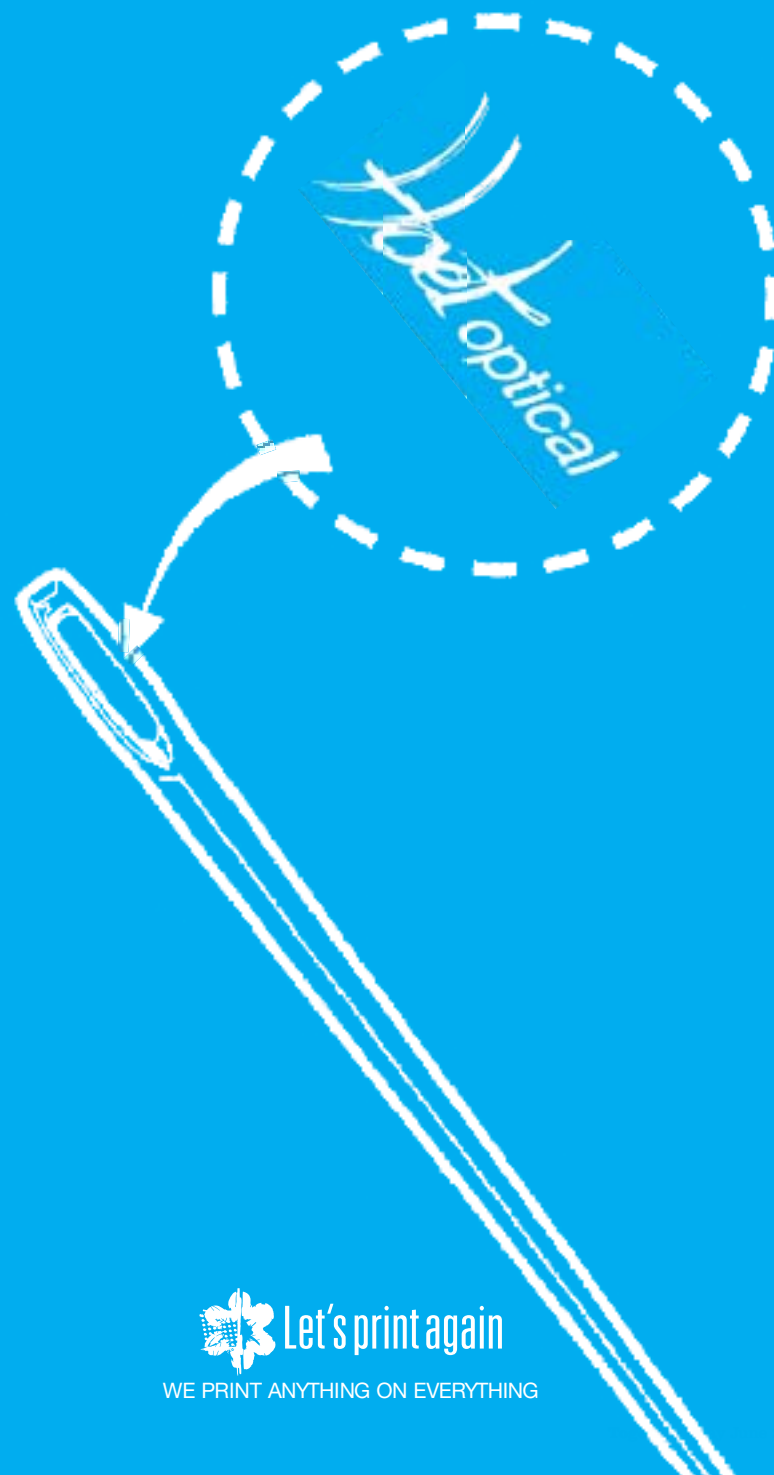
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ESCAPE

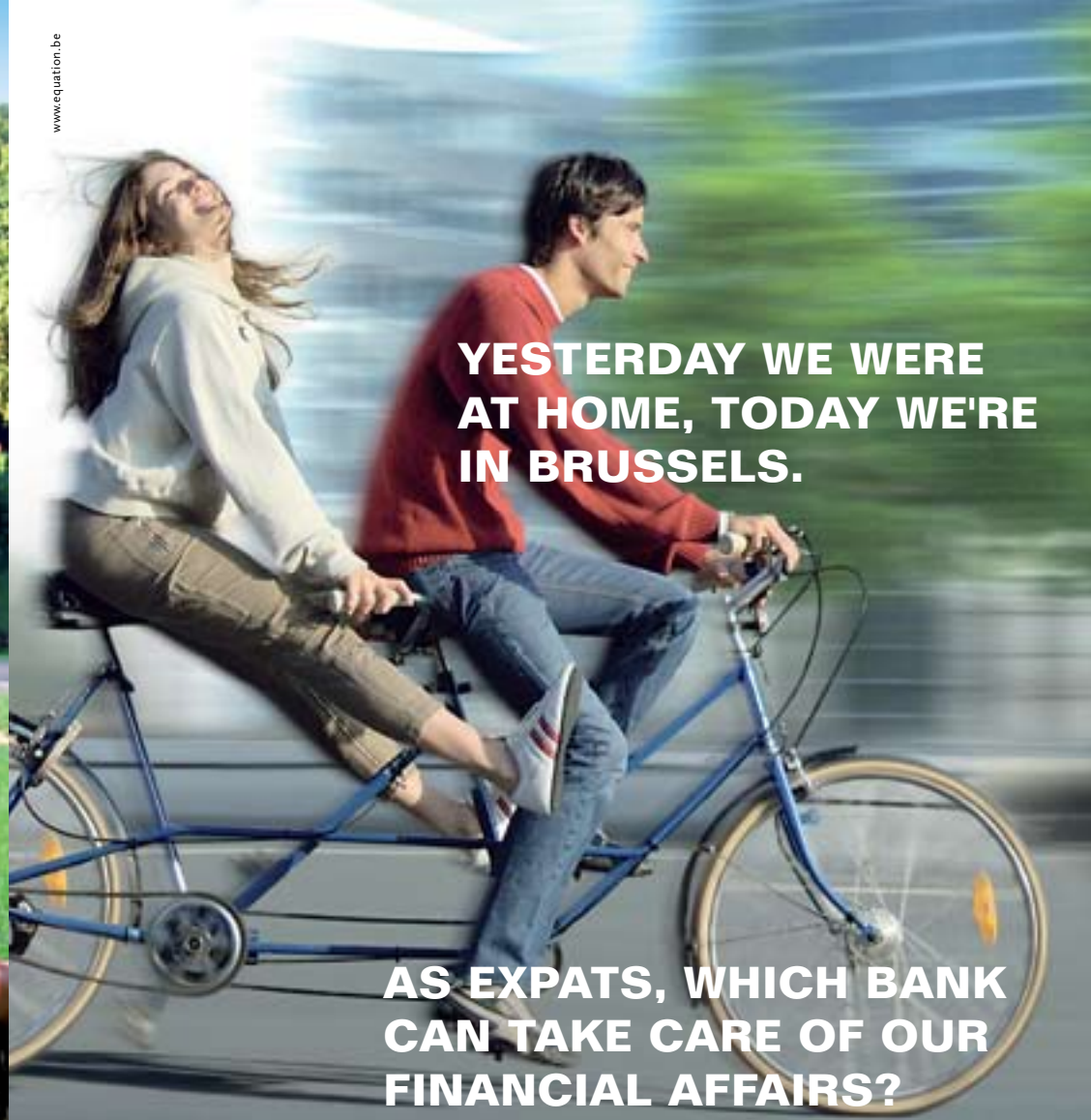
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- Somewhere in Brussels
- Somewhere in Europe
- On the Road
- Waterstone's Selection
- Fitness
- Golf

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www.equation.be



**YESTERDAY WE WERE
AT HOME, TODAY WE'RE
IN BRUSSELS.**

**AS EXPATS, WHICH BANK
CAN TAKE CARE OF OUR
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS?**

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BRUSSELS: METROPOLIS OF EUROPE, CAPITAL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels is known worldwide as the capital of the European Union (EU) because it is home to the EU's principal institutions. The link between Brussels and the EU is so close that the former is often used to denote the latter: "Brussels has decided..." is a phrase that we often hear from the media...

Charlemagne by night

Brussels is in fact a metropolis, the smallest world-city. The wars and alliances between the European powers over the centuries have profoundly influenced the city's development, as has the commercial growth of continental Europe. Brussels bears the imprints of all the major religious, artistic and technological movements that have shaped European civilisation.

In addition, one sixth of the city's population were born in other European countries, and another sixth in countries outside Europe: this cultural cross-fertilisation has greatly enriched the city.

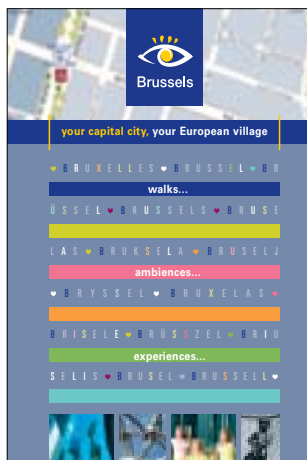
This brochure's extract invites you to discover two aspects of Brussels: the institutional capital and the city which loves fine food and drink and is famous for its exceptional *art de vivre*.

Let's take a walk on the European side of Brussels!

THINGS TO EXPERIENCE ...

Take a seat among the crowds of EU officials on the café terraces of the Place du Luxembourg and feel the pulse of Europe beating in 22 languages!

Stand in the middle of the Schuman roundabout and do a 360° turn. You will see the Cinquantenaire Arch, the Berlaymont building,



This guide is available for free in FR | NL | ENGL | GERM | IT | SP | POL at the Tourist Office - Town Hall - Grand Place

the Charlemagne building, the Justus Lipsius building and Rue de la Loi!

Fancy some chips? Then head for "Chez Antoine" on Place Jourdan, a five-minute walk from the Schuman roundabout. The chips sold here are regularly voted the best in Brussels, and the cafés around the square will cheerfully let you eat your chips, washed down with a beer, or any other drink you fancy, while sitting at one of their terrace tables. A friendly market is held on this square on Sunday mornings.

Let the naturally attractive view of the Cinquantenaire arches work its magic and follow the flow towards the park, designed with elements of French and English styles to celebrate fifty years of Belgian

independence in 1880. The halls linked to the arch house a national exhibition of Industry and the Arts. As you jog or stroll around the 45 hectares of lawns, ornamented with a remarkable collection of statues, you will come across. Pavilion of Human Passions, a Neo-Classical building by Horta that houses a huge, white marble bas-relief sculpture of intertwined bodies by Jef Lambeaux, and the Brussels Central Mosque, originally a building that housed a superb panorama of Cairo, converted to religious use in 1978.

Walk through the arches for a surprising change of scenery! On the left is one of the largest military museums in the world (containing, among other things, exhibitions of medieval weapons and armour, the technical development of arms, armoured vehicles and ships and an aviation section with more than 80 models of aircraft, which always fascinate younger visitors in particular). Entrance to the museum is free, and also gives access to a very fine sweeping view of the capital from the top of the arches. Opposite the military museum is the Autoworld motor museum, where you can travel back in time to see cars dating from the Belle Epoque until around 1934. Autoworld's collection is one of the most amazing of its kind in Europe, and includes a Minerva, a Vivinus and even a 2CV! ☺

Have a copy of a favourite statue made in the plaster-cast studio of the Museums of Art and History. Set up in the 19th century by King Leopold II, the studio has a collection of nearly 4,000 moulds used to make plaster casts of works of art dating from pre-history to the eighteenth century. While conserving this heritage, the studio also promotes art by offering high-quality plaster casts to the public at affordable prices.

Stand under the arches and admire the Avenue de Tervueren that runs East in front of you: its construction was the dream of King Leopold II, the "Builder King" to link the Cinquantenaire site with the Royal Museum of Central Africa at Tervuren, built to promote the Belgian Congo colony. From Montgomery metro station, tram 44 takes you to the very stylish Woluwe park, the Brussels Public Transport Museum (closed for redevelopment in 2007), the Mellaerts ponds (crazy mini golf course, boats and pedalos), the cycle path and footpath along a disused railway line (including a pretty footbridge that crosses the avenue) and, at the very end, after a ride through the Soignes forest, the Royal Museum of Central Africa. Trips to Tervuren are also available in vintage trams from the Cinquantenaire park.

Thanks to:
Brussels International,
Tourism & Congres.
www.brusselsinternational.be ☺



Map published in "Brussels your capital city, your european village" by BITC



Place du Luxembourg

Springtime in Rome

Springtime in Rome. What finer place could there be? Trees are bursting into life and the eyes of the world have recently been focused on the city, as the European Union celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, which paved the way for the creation of the EU

Over dinner, some will argue that Rome is not really Italy at all and they may have a point - Rome itself is enjoying a seven per cent rise in GDP while the rest of the country is sinking faster than former Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi in the latest opinion polls. But don't let that fool you. Rome is no booming modern metropolis either. Romans, in the main, shy away from the hedonistic temptations that cities such as Paris, London and, of course, New York have long embraced - cosmopolitanism, immigration, Starbucks. Instead, they've been concentrating on the things Rome has done best for millennia: art, architecture, fashion, and food. New shops are springing up almost daily on Governo Vecchio and Via dei Prefetti. The scaffolding is finally coming down on the first new structure to be built inside the Aurelian Wall in 70 years and Romans have their first set of three Michelin stars in the white-glove restaurant La Pergola (+39 06 350 92152). Sometimes, change is good, but some things never change and, thankfully, the Eternal City is one of them.

Rome is actually a heady mix of artistic and architectural masterpieces, classical ruins and extravagant baroque churches and piazzas. The city's 2,700 years of history are on display, everywhere you look. The ancient rubs shoulders with the medieval, the modern runs into the Renaissance and the result is something like an open-air museum. Julius Caesar and Nero, the Vandals and the Borgias - they and countless other political, cultural and spiritual luminaries have left their mark on the city. More than Florence and even Venice, Rome is Italy's treasure trove, packed with masterpieces from more than two millennia of artistic achievement. This is where the metropolis once bustled around the carved marble monuments of the Roman Forum, where centuries later Michelangelo painted Christian history in the Sistine Chapel and where an empire of gold was worked into the crowns of centuries of rulers. Today, Rome's formidable legacy is upheld by its people, their history knit into the fabric of their everyday lives. Students walk dogs in the park that was once the mausoleum of the family

THE ANCIENT RUBS SHOULDERS WITH THE MEDIEVAL, THE MODERN RUNS INTO THE RENAISSANCE AND THE RESULT IS SOMETHING LIKE AN OPEN-AIR MUSEUM

of the emperor Augustus and priests in flowing robes walk through medieval piazzas talking on cell phones. Modern Rome has one foot in the past, one in the present, a charming stance that allows you to have an espresso in a square designed by Bernini, then take the metro back to your hotel room in a renovated Renaissance palace. In spring, the Eternal City looks better than ever, making this a good time to visit. Must-sees include the Colosseum, the symbol of Rome and the world's best-known amphitheatre, St Peter's Basilica, the biggest Christian church in the world, which lies with the Vatican City, and the Pantheon, Rome's best-preserved ancient building. ❷

Martin Banks

The Colosseum

Even Smarter!

New Smart Fortwo Cabrio

After months of waiting and a few false reports, the replacement for the legendary first generation Smart Fortwo has at last been revealed. More roomy, more comfortable and more efficient, the new version is an improvement on the original concept in every way.

And yet, at first sight, there is nothing very revolutionary about it. The little city car has retained its diminutive proportions and unusual styling. But like any new generation, it has grown a few centimetres: it now has an overall length of 2.70 metres compared with to the

first generation's 2.50 metres. So it has been scaled up slightly but not just for the comfort of the two passengers. Those added inches were also dictated by the increasingly strict safety standards. The car will be marketed in the US from 2008 and Smart has taken every step to ensure that the Fortwo does not fail on any count. As a result, it was awarded no fewer than four stars in its EuroNCAP crash tests.

CLEANER

Smart will produce three different petrol-engine versions with outputs of 61, 71 and 84 HP, enough to soup up the Fortwo to a top speed of 145 km per hour, 10 km

per hour more than the old version. To say nothing of the Brabus version, unveiled at the Geneva Car Show in March. The diesel model has also been modified and the power of its 800 CC engine increased to 45 HP, while it consumes even less fuel (less than 3.5 l per 100 km) and emits fewer pollutants. So Smart can boast the cleanest production-car on the market, with even lower CO₂ emissions than the Toyota Prius! This Fortwo has also gained a new sequential five-speed Getrag gearbox, much quicker than the old one.

BETTER EQUIPPED

On top of all this, the microcar comes with a plethora of equipment as

standard: front airbags, automatic air-conditioning, ABS with electronic brakeforce distribution (EBD), and even trajectory correction (ESP); also emergency brake assist, seatbelt pre-tensioners and effort limiters, and central locking. Optional extras include side airbags, power-assisted steering, a six-CD audio player with MP3 connection and even a portable GPS. What's more, the cabriolet version has a fully remote-controlled canvas hood that can even be opened on the move, at the flick of a switch, while the roof bars can be stowed in the boot. And to prevent you from catching cold as you drive along with the wind in your hair, the rear window is now heated!

SAFER

Apart from its compactness, one of the Smart Fortwo's main selling points has always been safety, largely due to its virtually indestructible Tridion survival cell. Certainly, the second generation does not disappoint on this front. Tiny as it is, the car meets every legal standard worldwide and, as mentioned above, this is mainly why its size had to be increased. For example, the new standards prescribe a "soft" front section in case of collision with a pedestrian. To be approved for the American market, the car must also be able to resist a rear impact at a speed that is constantly adjusted upwards. The 2007 Smart is infinitely safer and has been tested in all terrains all over the world. It is quite

amusing to think that while customers might buy a Smart mainly for use around town, the car has undergone several weeks of testing on rough tracks in South Africa...

This new generation improves on the inspired concept that allowed the Smart Fortwo to rule the cities. And when you have the option of getting

rid of the roof in the blink of an eye, as with the Cabrio, the Fortwo becomes absolutely indispensable for any city-dweller! Better all round, it is certain to enjoy the same success as the first generation - except that this time it is going cross-Atlantic! ☺

www.smart.com

Pierre-Benoît Sepulchre



New Smart Fortwo Cabrio

Waterstone's selection

Get ready for
the final instalment of Harry Potter!
21st July 2007

The seventh and final part of J.K. Rowling's wizarding series is almost upon us and fans are already in a nervous state of excitement (as are we booksellers). As part of the general launch Waterstone's will be having a gigantic party from midnight on the eve of publication and the book will be on sale from 1 am. We will also be celebrating the next day (and yes, probably reading it too if possible!) with magicians,

face painting and other fun activities for children and grown-ups alike.

Published: 21st July 2007
Publisher: Bloomsbury;
Children's edition
Total pages: 608 pages
Format: Hardcover

If you loved Harry Potter and don't know what you're going to read once you've read the seventh and final book, here are some suggestions to keep the magic alive...

LEVEN THUMPS AND THE GATEWAY TO FOO BY OBERT SKYE

Fourteen-year-old Leven Thumps has a miserable life in a boring town... until he learns about a secret gateway bridging the real world and the world of Foo. Foo was created at the beginning of time, a dream-world that makes it possible for humans to hope and imagine. But Foo is in danger and Leven alone has the power to save it and bring



its rightful heir back. Full of imaginative magical beings and humour, this is a fantasy like no other! Read this if... you want something different from elves and dragons; you want a spell-binding adventure to take you out of this world; you're a dreamer!

Published: 2nd January 2007
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Children's Books
Total pages: 400 pages
Format: Paperback

THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET BY BRIAN SELZNICK



This isn't quite a novel, not quite a film and not quite a graphic novel but something in between. Illustrations help tell the story of twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living in the walls of a Paris metro station, who discovers a secret to do with a mechanical man, a robot which broke down in the act of writing a message. Will Hugo get the robot working and what will the message say? This is a stunningly original book, full of mystery and excitement. Read this if... you love mysteries; you love comics and graphic novels; you like BIG books!

Published: March 2007
Publisher: Scholastic Press
Total pages: 544 pages
Format: Hardcover



THE DEAD DAYS OMNIBUS BY MARCUS SEDGWICK

Boy has no name. He is the bullied servant of Valerian, a magician who made a pact with Evil many years ago. As Valerian struggles to save his soul, Boy and the girl called Willow are caught up in a magical struggle to find the Book of Dead Days. Read this if... you like mysterious, orphan heroes; you like quite scary magic; it's nearly Christmas! (The Dead Days are those between Christmas and New Year).

Published: 21st September 2006
Publisher: Orion Children's
Total pages: 528 pages
Format: Paperback

THE INVENTORS BY ALEXANDER GORDON SMITH AND JAMIE WEBB

Imagine you're a talented inventor. Imagine that you, and fifty other kids like you, win a special scholarship to spend a year inventing anything you

want to in the top-secret laboratory complex of the world's most famous genius inventor – Ebenezer Saint. Imagine that you get there and you discover Saint has got a plan to destroy the world, and the only thing standing between him and his awful goal is you, your best friend – and the small, farting robot you just invented. Read this if... you love funny, exciting adventures; you're a bit of an inventor yourself; you love books where best friends save the world.

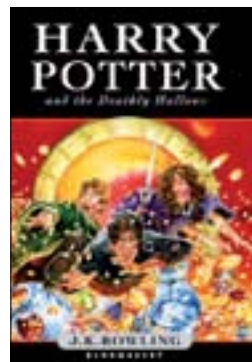


Published: 5th April 2007
Publisher: Faber and Faber
Total pages: 385 pages
Format: Paperback

And you could also try:
MAGYK BY ANNIE SAGE;
CHARMED LIFE
BY DIANA WYNNE JONES;
ENDYMION SPRING
BY MATTHEW SKELTON. ☺

Sarah Higgs

Waterstone's
boulevard A. Max 71
1000 Brussels
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GETTING IN SHAPE FOR THE SUMMER SEASON

Spring is finally here! Trees are blossoming, thick winter jackets are being put away and stores are advising us on the best summer outfits to invest in. If you haven't been keeping your New Year's resolutions, chances are that you're beginning to panic about putting on beachwear again. No need to worry! There's still plenty of time to get in good shape for the summer but it means putting your mind to it and, most importantly of all, starting today!

Getting in shape for the summer season can be fun and is easy to achieve at home, outdoors or in a gym or fitness centre. The following pointers will tell you how some simple changes can help you get your body in swimsuit shape:

1. Slowly but surely. If you're not currently exercising, start with a low-to-moderate intensity workout such as walking or jogging. Thirty minutes three times a week is a good start!

2. Add resistance training to your workout. In addition to the toned body you'll get, strength training also helps speed up weight loss. Your muscles need fuel to function, even when they're not being used actively. This means that the more muscles

you have, the more fuel is needed and therefore the more calories are burned, even when you're not working out. Aim for a minimum of two sessions per week to start with, where each session should include all your major muscle groups. Make sure you complete 2-3 sets per exercise of 8-12 repetitions. By the final repetition your muscles should be tired and it should be almost impossible to complete the exercise. Always start with your larger muscles and finish with the smaller ones.

3. Buy a ball. If you decide to do fitness training at home, one of your best (and least expensive) investments is a fitness ball! It's perfect for abs and leg-toning exercises, and is suitable for both beginner and advanced level exercises, which will keep boredom at bay and also ensure you challenge your body. There are good instruction books available in book shops, which will show you plenty of different exercises you can do.

4. Interval training. After your first few weeks of cardio training, try adding interval training to your cardio workout, which is one of the most effective ways to burn calories. Interval training is short, high-intensity exercise periods alternated with periods of rest.

5. Evaluate your eating habits.

The easiest way to deal with diet concerns is to cut back portion sizes. Eat two-thirds of your normal amount and stock up on seasonal fruit and vegetables. They are full of fibre and will also fill you up and satisfy your appetite. Combine your favourite fruit with natural yogurt, cottage cheese or milk for an excellent morning or afternoon snack.

6. Maximise with cross training.

As much as possible, try to spread out your different programmes during the week, for example cardio training on one day and strength training on the next. With this method you can manage an intensive workout without overtaxing your body. And the results will show faster!

7. Take one step at a time! If you try to get fit at the last minute, you run the risk of injuring yourself from doing too much exercise too soon. Your body needs time to adapt to a new exercise regime so remember to increase duration and intensity gradually.

For more information on how to achieve your desired shape, please contact your nearest World Class club. We will be happy to help you reach your goals!
www.worldclassfitness.netbelgium @

World Class

We create
Shapes



We create Shapes

At World Class, we believe that exercise should lead to more than just beautiful shapes. Your body is your temple, and it needs to be treated in the best possible way. It is the finest and most valuable instrument ever created – but it also has to harmonise with the inner you. We believe in exercise that shapes and strengthens both body and soul.

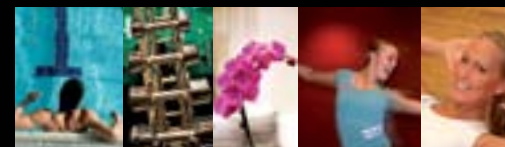
Contact your local club for more information or visit: www.worldclassfitness.net

Fitness Center Berchem
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berchem@worldclass.be

Fitness Center Diegem
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De Kleetlaan 5b-5c, 1831 Diegem
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World Class[®]
BELGIUM

GOLF: PRIVATE ADVANTAGE AND PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS

Golf Chateau de la Tournette is one of the most popular clubs with businessmen. For many years now, the Nivelles Club has been offering tailor-made memberships to companies. Their new concept, Business Club, is the best example of this. Explanations from Denis De Wagheneire, Sales & Marketing Director

Golf Chateau de la Tournette

INTERVIEW

Together Magazine: What's the philosophy behind this "Business Club"?

Denis De Wagheneire:

"La Tournette is the pioneer of "golf business" in Belgium. With "the Corporate Club", it was already offering tailor-made memberships to more than 120 companies. With the new "Business Club", it goes much further. Golf remains, of course, the main basis of the concept but incorporated into a very professional environment. Businessmen and women have an increasing need for connectivity and networking. We can now fully respond to this demand in an idyllic and

peaceful setting, 15 minutes from Brussels."

In concrete terms, how does it work?

"The member companies can, of course, always enjoy the use of our two magnificent 18-hole courses ("l'Anglais and l'Américain") and of our smaller 9-hole courses. But most of all they benefit from the use of a complete infrastructure; ultra-modern meeting rooms, ISDN lines, general Internet access and a high-quality restaurant. The "Business Club" goes beyond golf. A company can even become a "Corporate Member" without any golfing involvement. With this formula,

we are clearly establishing our position as an independent "Business Club".

You talk about networking. How will that work in practice with the "Business Club" of La Tournette?

"We organise about 30 activities a year. There are, of course, a few golf competitions. There, we give priority to making contacts and building good relations. Members have the option of inviting a client or, for beginners, becoming acquainted with the joy of swinging a club. In addition, every month we hold lunches, conferences or themed evenings with prestigious speakers. These "networking

events" and these B2B get-togethers are proving to be a big success."

What kind of companies do you want to attract?

"La Tournette has a lot of experience in the field and can respond to almost every request. Our infrastructure is quite sophisticated and can host big multinationals as well as smaller companies or even the professions. No matter what the size of the company, our know-how is at their disposal."

Why is golf so well-appreciated in business?

"It holds certain values dear, such as fair play, ethics and etiquette. It also develops competitive spirit, a sense of personal

challenge and the search for excellence. It's a sport for passionate people: it's conducive to forming good relations. Where the atmosphere might be very formal in an office, it will become much more relaxed on a golf course or in a Club House. Connections and connectivity are crucial in today's world. Golf can facilitate several kinds of synergy. It creates opportunities and we, at La Tournette, do everything we can to build bridges. Private advantage is combined with professional interest. All you need to do is take that first step." 

INFORMATION:

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tournette.com

NETWORKING ON THE GREEN


With After-Work-Golf.net, Europe's largest Business Golfing network, you can combine business with pleasure! The concept of AWG, expanding your business network in the unique atmosphere of golf has already convinced more than 11,000 members worldwide, from Brussels to Shanghai via Dubai!

"Networking on the green" with AWG was created by Martin Burmeister in 2001

in Hamburg. In 2004, the AWG network expanded with the launch of After-Work-Golf.net in Benelux.

With Premium Golf Clubs in Brussels (Captain Karin Seidel), Antwerp (Captain Steven Pauwels), Luxembourg (Captain Päivi Kallio) and Amsterdam (Captain Colette Räder), AWG is hosting rounds of golf every (second) Tuesday of the month as well as Golf tournaments.

Become a member of AWG and you'll discover benefits, discounts and deals in and around golf thanks to AWG Premium Partners.

Come and enjoy networking outside the formality of an office, meet new people and discover new greens! 

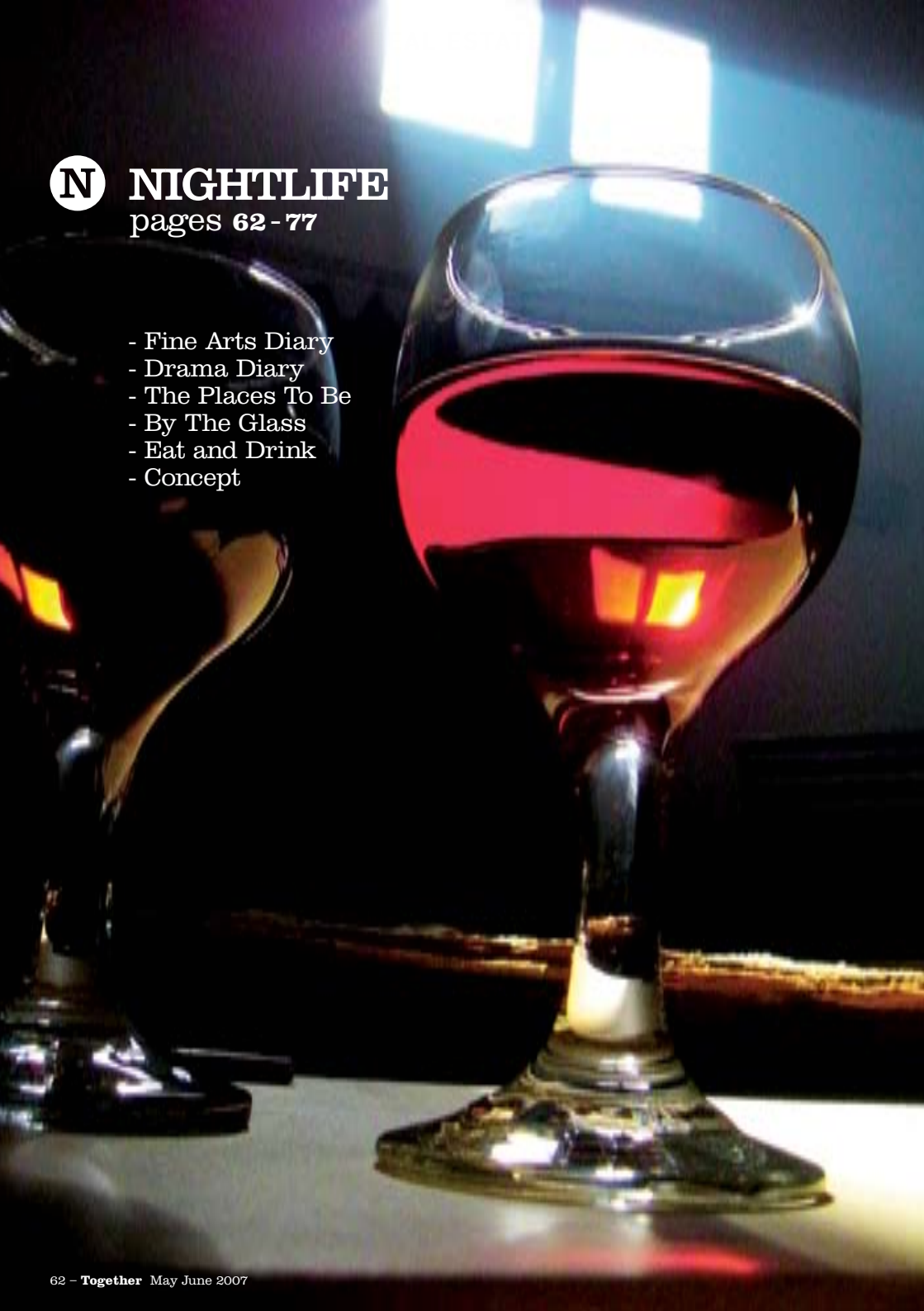
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N NIGHTLIFE

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- Drama Diary
- The Places To Be
- By The Glass
- Eat and Drink
- Concept



KALEIDOSCOPE BIRTHDAY PARTY

The vernissage of the exhibition

Hélène Noël gets intimate with Gabriela Kukučková, House Of Slovak Regions Communication and Information Officer, about the art of being two years young.

For once, I'm a little early. As I jump out of the taxi, I suddenly remember something I'd forgotten completely when we spoke to each other three days ago I've never actually met Gabriela Kukučková before. How will we recognise each other? Panicking slightly, I choose a seat right in front of the entrance door of

"La Fontaine Bleue" café, where we agreed to meet. When Gabriela crosses the street, I know immediately that it's her. This is an exceptional phenomenon, but Gabriela looks exactly like her voice sounds on the phone: springy, sparkling and crystalline. Gabriela and I sit to speak about a happy and beautiful event: this year, Slovakia celebrates its second birthday within the European Union and is determined to have all of Brussels at the party. I mean at the exhibition. Or both? I ask my charming guest.

Together Magazine:
How did the project begin?

Did the art galleries in Slovakia or COBALT International Gallery start it?

Gabriela Kukučková: "We initiated the project here in Brussels, in the House of Slovak Regions, for which I work. Our organisation has existed since Slovakia entered the EU, two years ago."

How did you select the artists to be shown in Brussels?

"In Slovakia, we have eight regions, each one hosting its own art gallery, except Bratislava, which - being the capital - is a centre for many"



Slovak contemporary art: Armand

SLOVAK CONTEMPORARY ART: PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE

Under the patronage of
Stefan Zajicek, curator COBALT
International Gallery
04.05 → 27.05

Rue Vandernoot 23 B/2
1080 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 772 08 27
M. +32 (0)476 771 661
www.cobaltgallery.be

Under the patronage of Jan
Figuel, European Commissioner
for Education, Training, Culture
and Multilingualism
European Commission -
Berlaymont
06.06 → 15.06
Rue de la Loi 200
1040 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 29 52426
http://europa.eu/index_sk.htm

of them. The criterion was
being a living contemporary
artist, born in the sixties.
Actually, some are a little
older or younger. Each gallery
director has complete
freedom."

**I understand that all
the works are paintings
or sculptures. There are
no videos or installations.
Is that deliberate?**

"No. It just happens to be so.
I would describe them – except
one or two which are more
mischievous – as classical
contemporary."

**Most of the time,
the institutional channel
and the commercial galleries
are quite separate.
The exhibition will be shown
in COBALT International
Gallery and then in
the Berlaymont. Could you
tell me more about this?**

"We wanted to be seen
by everybody here – European
officials and citizens too.
For most of the artists
in the event, it's their first
opportunity to exhibit their
work outside of Slovakia."

**Any hope of bringing
Jan Fabre or Luc Tuymans
to Slovakia?**
(I seem to be specialising in
historical cultural exchanges
recently. Gabriela looks
a little puzzled.)

"Why not?" ☺

Hélène Noël

DIARY

ARMAND WARIN → 31.05

Building of Charax
Rue de Namur 8
1000 Brussels
His paintings reflect his life:
expressive and colourful.
Owing to his success, Reist
Consulting Group decided
to bring him back to Brussels
in May 2007. This time Reist
is hosting a vernissage in the
heart of Brussels near
the Modern Art Museum.

**A4:
HELL'O MONSTERS
→ 03.06**

BOZAR,
rue Ravensteinstraat 23
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 507 82 00
www.bozar.be
The idea is not a new one
but it still works. I mean,
Jean-Michel Basquiat used
to live in a cardboard box on
the street before becoming
a huge, distressed and
self-destructive lonely
superstar. There's
something to see here,
quietly. Something we used
to erase, quickly. These
guys love us. So love them
back, for a change.

**BENOIT FELIX CE QUI
ARRIVE... TEKĒNEN?
DESSINER ? → 03.06**

Galerie budA ,
1730 Asse
Buda 14/16
T. +32 (0)2 306 50 95
www.budart.be
Entangled when not
inextricably bound up in lines,
Benoît Felix continues his

dry dream of femininity.
According to Felix, the
nuances between black and
white are shades of flesh
pink plus occasional tiny
curls. Subtle, and only for
the easily offended.

**INSIDE A DYSLEXIC
WORLD – HOW I SEE IT
→ 11.06 & 15.06**

European Parliament
1000 Brussels
Altiero Spinelli Building
Ground Floor
Surface 00G
In front of the restaurant
Entrance from Place
Luxembourg
office@ditt-online.org
www.ditt-online.org
The European Parliament is
hosting an exhibition of eye-
catching works by dyslexic
artists. The exhibition is
sponsored by MEP Robert
Evans and organised by Jee
Hirsch, Christopher James
Ian and Simon Fenaux in
association with other
Dyslexia International Tools
& Technologies (DITT)
volunteers.

**VISIT(E)
CONTEMPORARY
ART IN GERMANY
SELECTION FROM THE
CONTEMPORARY ART
COLLECTION OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY → 01.07**
BOZAR
rue Ravensteinstraat 23
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 507 82 00
www.bozar.be

Post-Second World War
first-class German artists
come together like magic
in Brussels. Such a myriad
of stars, for once, beneath
our city's polluted skies.
From Joseph Beuys to
Rebecca Horn, including
Gerhard Richter. Still, there's
someone missing. Where's
Anselm Kiefer?

**CEMBALO ATELIER
D'UN FACTEUR DE
CLAVECINS → 01.07**

Musée des Instruments
de musique. Montagne de
la Cour Hofberg 2,
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 545 01 30
www.mim.fgov.be
Ivan De Halleux retired
from making harpsichords
sometime in 2003.
This exhibition is a tribute
to his precise and exquisite
body of work. Extended.
Probably for an eternity of
black and white notes.

**KENDELL GEERS
ALLEN & OVERY → 26.08**
S.M.A.K - Stedelijk Museum
voor Actuele Kunst. Gent
Citadelpark, 9000 Gent
T. +32 (0)9 221 17 03
www.smak.be

The power of words and
the infinite beauty of dreams,
in 3D. Flirting constantly on
the verge of endings and
frontiers, kamikaze-artist
Kendell Geers questions
terror. Beyond politics, there's
something to say to humanity.
Beyond words. ☺

Hélène Noël

STROLLING THROUGH THE KINGDOM OF THE ELVES

The Abbaye de la Cambre

Such amazing luck is only supposed to happen in children's daydreams. After a certain age, it's not like you're walking down the street as usual and then, suddenly, come across the gates to a secluded, forgotten, enchanted place. Enchanted places are always secluded and forgotten, as a renowned Oxford professor of the past century demonstrated in several volumes. However, by charm or by chance, they can come to life late on summer evenings, even in the middle of busy cities, or so I was recently told. Don't misunderstand me: I'm not a sceptic. But I had to check for myself

I had to... this is when my mobile rings. The display reads "Carmen". "Hello, Carmen!" I say, without hesitation. But it's not Carmen. It's Mr Benoît Meurens, co-founder of Tour des Sites Organisation with Paul Licot, who co-created the event Solistes au Domaine three years ago and will be presenting the 2007 version once again this summer in the secret domain of Abbaye de la Cambre. I definitely seem to have a gift for blunders but the voice in my ear is smiling, so we talk.

INTERVIEW

Together Magazine : This question has probably been asked a million times before but how and why do you become a "dusk-dream maker" ?

Benoît Meurens : "It happened in 1990, when Paul and I were students. The entertainment manager of a small town in the Pays de Herve, the region where I was born, asked me if I could organise a Son & Lumière event for the yearly feast. I agreed. Paul and I assembled a team of talented students, including artists, and we did it. Of course, it was totally DIY but we were impressed by the public's reaction. It was completely different from the Son & Lumière events being shown in Belgium or even in France. The setting was resolutely nonconformist; people had complete freedom to move around, to experience the event to the full, instead of being just passive observers. They just loved it. So, we decided to do it professionally."

When someone is so sensitive to the beauty of places, it often begins with a personal story. Do you have one to tell us ?

"I was always sensitive to the quality of places. The Pays de Herve is an extraordinarily rich region from the landscape point of view and is also well-known for its architectural heritage. I studied at the Petit Séminaire de St Roch, an ancient stone building surrounded by trees, and I used to retreat to Abbaye d'Orval to prepare for my exams. I believe that if we can modify environment, environment certainly modifies us. I believe in the memory of certain trees, buildings, places."

Another question about your places – and all of them are gorgeous – there are indeed a lot of trees in them but also ruins. It's very nineteenth century. What guides your choice ?

"It doesn't really have anything to do with any particular era. For a start, taking a leisurely stroll is already a romantic thing to do. But there's also something else : European culture is full of ruins. We cherish them. When they endure, they develop another side, they create another picture. It's the same when we cover them with lights."

You invite world-class artists to take part in your creations. How do you pick them ?

"It's a joint decision. Most of the time, we sit around the table and certain names come up again and again. That was the case with Roger Hodgson,

for example. Supertramp is part of the collective subconscious and his voice is very distinctive. As far as Maurane was concerned, the choice was obvious. She's now at the peak of her maturity. She has mastered her voice and has a large tessitura. She is strong enough to stand alongside José Van Dame and sing a classical repertoire without the slightest trace of anxiety."

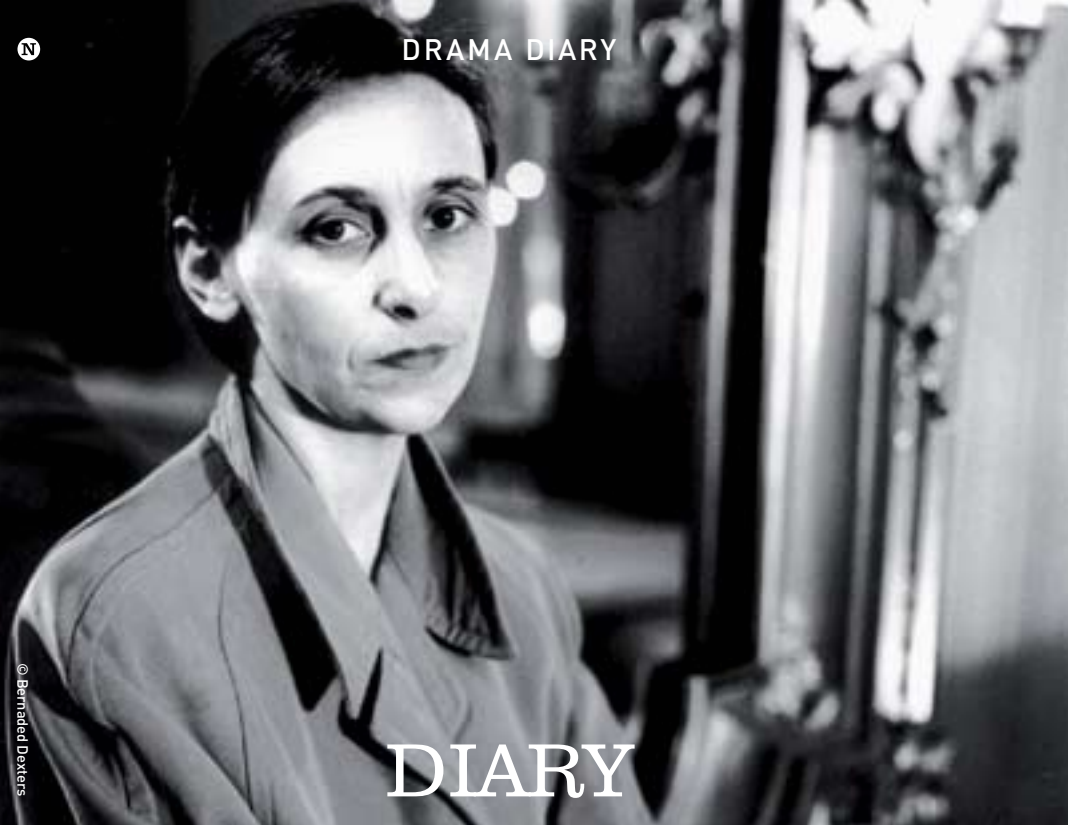
This question might sound strange, but do you believe in magic ? I mean, the magical quality of places ?

"Of course I do ! Very much so !"

While Benoît and I speak about this topic, a crowd of hysterical assistants start to laugh behind a door, at the other end of the mobile phone line. When you come to Solistes au Domaine next September, don't be surprised if you sometimes have a feeling that you can see sylph-like creatures with long golden hair and flowing dresses among the trees. Don't be surprised either if, while descending the steps of the hanging gardens, you come across two tiny barefoot creatures. If you listen carefully, you'll probably hear a tiny voice saying: "It's elfish, Mr Frodo." ☺

Hélène Noël

SOLISTES AU DOMAINE
→ 08.09
Doors opening 6.30pm
Abbaye de La Cambre
Rue du Monastère
1050 – BRUSSELS
T. +32 (0)2 736 01 89
F. +32 (0)2 734 25 35
info@solistes.be
www.solistes.be



© Bernadot Dexters

DIARY

Keeping still - Rosas

KEEPING STILL – ROSAS

22.05 → 26.05

La Monnaie
place de la Monnaie
1000 Brussels
Box Office, rue Léopold 23
1000 Brussels
From Tuesday to Saturday,
11am to 6pm
T. +32 (0)70 23 39 39
(from 12am to 6pm)
www.lamonnaie.be
Anne Teresa Dekeersmaeker's
reflections on the paths
we follow in life and tiny
peregrinations in time
continues. While she dances,
the ever-changing stage
space designed by visual artist
Ann Veronica Janssens
transforms itself. The journey
is the destination. Let's follow
these two ladies on their

extraordinary inner journey.
Diamond.

**QUEEN ELISABETH PIANO
COMPETITION 2007 –
WINNERS' CONCERT**

→ 13.06

Bozar
Ticket office at the Centre
for Fine Arts.
rue Ravenstein 18
(opposite the Centre for
Fine Arts) 1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 507 82 00
From Monday to Saturday,
11am to 7pm
www.bozar.be
Of course, it's impossible
to say exactly who will be
playing but Yoel Levi will be
conducting the Vlaams Radio
Orkest. As always, the event
will take place at the Centre

for Fine Arts, Henri Leboeuf
Hall. A unique opportunity for
us to witness young virtuosos
- who will probably be a sellout
- from all over the world.

**FAUST – WILLEM
BREUKER KOLLECTIEF**

→ 15.06



© Willem Breuker

Kaaaitheater
Square Sainclette 20
1000 Brussels
rue Notre-Dame ➤

du Sommeil 81
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 201 59 59
info.tickets@kaaitheater.be
www.kaaitheater.be
Jazzy closing event of
the season at the Kaaaitheater.
A new musical presentation
for F.W. Murnau's classic film,
based on Goethe's masterpiece.
Composed by Willem Breuker
and his band in 2003 for
the Cité de la Musique,
this opus highlights the
tragedy with new nuances
through the wide range
of their musical idiom and
vocabulary. If you don't speak
German, don't worry, the film
is subtitled in English.

COULEUR CAFE 2007

29.06 → 01.07

Tour & Taxis
rue Picard 3
1000 Brussels
www.couleurcafe.be
Officially, summer starts
somewhere around 21st June,
I believe. Actually, in Brussels,
summer starts for real a few
evenings later, when
the doors of the Couleur Café
festival open. Taking place
at the Tour & Taxis historical
site, the 18th edition of our
brightest festival marks
the change of season. A huge
and more-than colourful
celebration of diversity,
the former alternative-musical-
soul is now an internationally
acclaimed multi-disciplinarian
artistic event, assembling
musicians, visual artists,
fashion designers, great world
cooking and also you and me.
The title of this year's
"millésime" is "First Name".
The programme includes
Ziggy Marley, Johnny Clegg
and Ismael Lo as well as
lesser-known artists from

all over the world...even
from Belgium.
Children are welcome
and there are always areas
and activities for them.
Oh! I nearly forgot
"Los Magnificos" and
the fireworks... But better
see for yourself and enjoy!

ARNO

01.06 → 02.06

AB
boulevard Anspach 110
T. +32 (0)2 548 24 24
1000 Brussels
www.abconcerts.be

You know, I know people
around the Place
du Luxembourg who think
that Belgium's monuments
are (in order of preference):
Tintin, Jacques Brel, Magritte
and Manneken-Pis. They
forget the man who's been
the living monument "of the
moment" for 25 years now:
Arno Hintjens, the flat
country's Rock'n'Roll hero.
I'm not joking: the man has
recorded albums in Nashville
and had several sell-out
concerts in Paris, at the
Olympia. Swaying constantly
between American blues
and "chanson Française",
the Flemish Tom Waits is not
to be missed. Especially when
covering Leo Ferré, Jacques
Dutronc and David Bowie (in
no particular order). Stylish.

**DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE
WILLIAM KENTRIDGE**

08.06 → 19.06

La Monnaie
place de la Monnaie
1000 Brussels
Box Office, rue Léopold 23
1000 Brussels
From Tuesday to Saturday,
11am to 6pm
T. +32 (0)70 23 39 39

www.lamonnaie.be
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's
last and most cryptic opera.
Kentridge's highly plastic
interpretation of it caused
fierce controversy when it
was first performed in 2005 -
the remains of the critics'
vitriol are still to be found
on the Internet. The opera
consists of the difficult
exercise of visual, theatrical
and musical combinations:
neo-expressionist, vesper
and melancholic tableau. ➤

Hélène Noël



© Johan Jacobs

Die Zauberflöte William Kentridge

March-April Snapshots

THE 6TO9 CLUB

The 6to9 Club offers an exciting new venue every Thursday for having fun and meeting lots of new people while discovering changing seasonal themes and styles. This club is co-ordinated by an international team that understands and has experience in how to get the best out of living in Belgium. From 6to9, relax after work, discover the latest lifestyle trends and get privileged-

access to great deals. After 9, groove to the DJ's latest music trends and mix of 80s tunes. Join the club right now! Stay informed and register at www.6to9.be

*The 6to9 Club
Grand Prix (Autoworld)
Parc du Cinquantenaire 11
1000 Brussels
www.6to9.be*



Photos © 6to9



Photos © PeopleAttitude



NOTWORKING PARTIES

Networking parties are a new kind of "after work" rendez-vous held every

Thursday evening for Brussels' residents who combine a head for business with a feel for partying.

A relaxing get-together but one that gives professionals a chance to meet by offering each of them

the opportunity to discover and use the power of its

hidden network.

A date that starts early and in which the atmosphere gradually turns from that of a "comfortable London club" to a "lively bar in Madrid" then to a "trendy Parisian nightclub".

*Claridge
Chaussée de Louvain, 24
1210 Brussels
www.notworking.be
www.peopleattitude.be*

Jérôme Stéfanski



Porsche Centre Brussels advises **Mobil 1**

 **DONNONS PRIORITÉ À LA SÉCURITÉ.**

Where sport begins. The Boxster.

Porsche Centre Brussels

Grand'Route 395
1620 Drogenbos
Tel : + 32 (0)2 37 17 991
Site Web : www.porschecentrebrussels.be
e-mail : info@pcb.porsche.be



PORSCHE

Average fuel consumption (l/100km): 7,9 - 16,3 / Emission CO² (g/km): 254 - 262

Quality rosé wines

Christophe Dufournier is a true lover of great wines and founder of Chai & Bar Total Wine Experience

This exceptional and daring concept offers an impressive stock of great wines and Champagnes kept at a controlled temperature. In the Entrepôt Royal of Tour & Taxi, Chai & Bar spreads out its stock over an area of 700 m², along with its Tasting Bar to share the pleasures of the vine with you. The welcome, the outstanding setting, value for money and advice with a personal touch are the magic ingredients that make Chai & Bar work so well. Exclusively for Together Magazine, Christophe Dufournier introduces you to the fascinating world of oenology, in which the news goes hand in hand with the seasons.

LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Rosé wines are not always treated kindly by wine-lovers. I quote: "It's not real wine", as if rosé did not deserve to be included in the noble process of wine-making. "It gives me a headache", as if good-quality rosé gave headaches. "My wife loves it", as if rosé was only a woman's wine, not good enough for a true wine-lover.

Stop right there! Rosé is a real wine, just like a white or a red. It doesn't cause headaches unless there is too much sulphur added to mask its defects. Finally, certain rosés are complex enough to accompany fine cuisine and to improve with age.

It's true that a mediocre rosé served chilled in

an atmospheric spot in Provence always seems better than it is; however a truly good rosé, served in Aix en Provence, Brussels or London, is always delicious.

In Belgium, and particularly in Brussels, rosé is a favourite drink on the café terraces in springtime. Rosé accounts for more than 10% of the wine consumed in the kingdom.

Personally, I enjoy rosés when the weather's warm but also all year around with Asian and Italian food. These gastronomic rosés, such as Château de la Grille from Chinon or the Claret from Hauts de Smith in Bordeaux, are faultless in any season. ☉

PRODUCTION PROCESS AND CHARACTERISTICS

How is a rosé or claret (light red Bordeaux) made?

There are two techniques:

- By direct pressing: red wine grapes are treated as if to make a white wine. The light pressing gives a pale tint to the wine.
- By the bleeding technique: starting with a red wine-making process, after several hours a certain quantity is removed, which makes for a lighter coloured wine than a red. This technique creates stronger and more tannic rosés than the direct press technique.

The colour of rosé wines varies greatly. Bandol and Provence rosés, made with Mourvedre and Grenache

grapes, are pale orange with copper reflections. Languedoc and Roussillon rosés, made with Carignan, Cinsault, and Grenache grapes, range from pale pink to candyfloss pink. Chinon rosé and Bordeaux claret are raspberry coloured.

Good rosés, like all good wines, have intense and straightforward aromas of fruit. This is natural sin lightly pressed. The vinification of rosés is very basic so the better the grape, the better the wine.

The texture of rosés is more or less rich but certainly it is freshness and lightness that we're looking for when the weather is good. ☉

Christophe Dufournier

CHAI & BAR'S SELECTION OF QUALITY ROSÉS, FROM SIMPLE TO SOPHISTICATED :

- Vin de Pays d'Oc, Domaine de l'Engarran 2005 (6€)
- Vin de Pays de l'Hérault, Guilhem 2006 (6€)
- Chinon, Château de La Grille 2006 (8€)
- Bordeaux, Claret du Haut de Smith (10€)
- Côtes de Provence, Château Rimauresq 2006 (11€)
- Côtes de Provence, Ile de Porquerolles, Domaine de La Courtade 2006 (13€)

A magnum of rosé makes a festive addition to any summer dinner party:

- Côtes de Provence, Château Rimauresq in magnum (23.50€)
- Claret of Château Giscours in Margaux in magnum (20€)

Christophe Dufournier

Meet Christophe Dufournier at Chai & Bar, on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 9pm (late-night opening), Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 12 noon to 7pm and Saturdays from 10am to 7pm

Chai & Bar in figures :

- A selection of 400 fine and exceptional wines from all over the world, including 200 great Bordeaux, starting at 6€.
- A stock of 65,000 bottles, sold by the bottle or by the case, available to the public. ☉

Tour & Taxis
Avenue du Port, 86C
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 421 60 80
www.chai-bar.be

Chai & Bar
TOTAL WINE EXPERIENCE



Le Chalet de la Forêt

In close co-operation with **www.sensum.be**, Together Magazine presents its selection of the great restaurants that add to the gourmet pride of our capital city. Available in English, **www.sensum.be** offers you, free of charge, a host of recipes, places to go, interviews with chefs and a wealth of information and anecdotes about the seminal delicacies and drinks of our homeland.

LE CHÂLET DE LA FORÊT

Drève de Lorraine, 43
1180 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 374 54 16
Open from 12:00 to 14:30
and from 19:00 to 22:30
Closed on Saturday
and Sunday

Owner: Pascal Devalkeneer
The chef is: Pascal Devalkeneer
Average price per head: 80€
Lunch: 27€ (3 courses)
Set Menus: 54€ (4 courses),
79€ (5 courses)

Five years have already passed since Pascal Devalkeneer fell in love with

a near-abandoned chalet on the edge of Soignes forest, barely five minutes away from the city centre. His wife - an interior architect - has given the place a steadfastly contemporary décor, with refined modernism that includes perfect osmosis in the elegance of its proportions. A wonderful echo of the cuisine, which gives preference to being natural and to balance, nurturing the flavours of high-quality produce, but never crushing them. Still under 40 and with talent to spare, Pascal Devalkeneer already has a fine career behind him. The Truffe Noire, the Scholteshof with Roger Souvereys, the Osteria del Vecchio Ponte in Milan (from which he has taken a rather Mediterranean spirit), the Bistrot du Mail (his first restaurant) and now the Chalet de la Forêt.

Following his true taste for organic delights, the menu changes with the season. And, every day, there are off-menu suggestions, depending on what the chef happens to come up with, spontaneously. Here,

everything is a question of mood, of aroma and of flavour. And as for the wine, the cellar has around 700 gems from which to choose, with renowned classics and the wares of more than a few smaller producers who are well worth checking out. Why not let your heart decide? Undoubtedly, one of the best restaurants in the country!

Special Extras: There are rooms available for meetings, banquets, receptions and seminars. Takeaway food is available on request, and there's a full catering service, a large private car park, bar and private lounge.

NOTOS

Rue de Livourne, 154
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 513 29 59
Open from 12:00 to 14:30
and from 19:00 to 23:00
Closed on Saturday midday
and Sunday

Owner: Constantin Erinkoglou
The chef is: Constantin Erinkoglou
Average price per "à la carte" meal: 40€

Day's special: 12€
Lunch: 17€
for a 2 course meal
Lunch menu: 29€ (3 courses)
Dégustation: 35€ (4 courses)

There is no better place than Notos to forget everything you thought you knew about fluorescent, tarama style Greek cuisine. Brussels has - together with London and New York - the privilege of having one of the three places in the world that pays tribute to the subtlety and flavour of Greek food. An outsider to the world of catering, Constantin Erinkoglou, the owner, sought his inspiration in home cooking and the great variety of traditional Greek produce. His creations may look minimalist but they are in fact cooking at its best, including preparations in which aubergines, lentils or peppers find their true and vividly



Notes

precise expression. It's almost like a culinary anthropology that expresses itself in the art of this man, so passionate for flavour, and so keen on staying as close as possible to untouched tastes. In terms of geography, he is at the crossroads between East and West, in a place where all gourmet mixtures are possible. His compositions are based on meticulous alchemy and delicate - almost homeopathic

- touches. Don't go looking for similar dishes elsewhere, they are unique and come straight from Constantin's world of gourmet cooking. His wine list is also not to be missed, as the master of the house takes grape lovers on a journey through sunny Greece, to prove to them that his homeland is also a magnificent location for marvellous vintages.

Special Extras: There is a room available for cocktails, meetings or private parties (as well as 80 seats in the restaurant), and open kitchen, with take-away available on request. The full catering service can handle your events with ease, and there's good disabled access (toilets excluded). There's also a private function room (ten seats), children's menus/dishes (upon request) and a choice of vegetarian dishes.

LES 2 FRÈRES

avenue Vanderaey, 2
1180 Brussels (Uccle)
T. +32 (0)2 376 76 06
Open from 12:00 to 14:30
and from 19:00 to 23:00
Closed on Saturday noon
and Sunday

Owner: Patrick Roth
The chefs are:
Paulo Botelho Feireira,
Michael Neumark
and Frédéric Ponet
Average price per head: 50€
Lunch: 13€
Dish of the day: 9,5€
Set Menus: 30€, 40€ and 50€

"Les 2 Frères" (The 2 Brothers) have been bringing souls together, mixing artists with businessmen, with various

generations rubbing shoulders with one another for a more than ten years - they've pulled the trick off by simply offering good food at very reasonable prices.

This spirit of openness is evident in the menu, which offers French brasserie cuisine, while the chefs are always on the lookout for new produce and flavours from all over the world. Human, full of charm and soul, this restaurant is owned by Patrick Roth, a former maths teacher, and hints at his previous life in that the menu offers dishes in the manner of hypotheses, theses and other demonstrations. But that was all a long time ago! Nowadays, this hyperactive

gentleman has given up equations and algebra in favour of the far more alluring geometry of an establishment that plays various roles in turn: a modernist night bar, a café-theatre and, of course, a restaurant.

This indefatigable entertainer has gradually swapped his café-theatre rank and file for a team of flavour designers. The scenery is the same on both sides of the stage: friendship and human warmth always top the bill!



les 2 Frères



kaviardesign

© JC Decaux

CONCEPT

T

Brussels by bike

Cyclocity

Since September, cycle stations have sprung up all over the city. The "Cyclocity" concept of the billboard company, JC Decaux, is beginning to win a lot of fans. How and why?

With the agreement of the city of Brussels, JC Decaux has set up 23 cycle stations within the "Pentagon" (old city walls). These cycle points are attached to metro stations to enable the users to cover short distances easily. You can now tour the centre of Brussels on two wheels.

From gare Centrale to porte de Flandre, through Parc, Sablon, Arts-Loi or Louise, there are a number of "cyclocity" stations. At present, 250 bicycles are available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day.

JC Decaux provides the bicycles. In exchange, the city pays for their maintenance and allows JC Decaux to set up new advertising spaces. So far, the company's project is hitting the spot across Europe.

Brussels is not the only city to let itself be tempted by the generosity of JC Decaux. Vienna began the experiment in 2004. In Lyon, the Vélo'v have been proving popular with local people since 2005, with 20,000 users per day. Marseille has also signed a JC Decaux contract and Paris should soon be equipped with 20,000 bicycles.

For the time being, "Cyclocity" has won over many of the Bruxellois. In five months, around 10,000 users have mounted Decaux bicycles and 1,000 people have bought a season ticket. 🚲

Philomène Bouchon

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Cyclocity works on a season-ticket basis, with long-term and short-term season tickets available. Once equipped, the user pays only for the time spent on the bicycle. It's possible to buy a season ticket at any of the 23 terminals currently spread around Brussels.

The long-term ticket is valid for one year and costs 10€. The first thirty minutes will cost 0.50€ and for every hour thereafter the cost falls to 0.50€ per hour.

The short-term ticket is a weekly one with, one week costing 1.50€. The first thirty minutes are 0.50€ and per hour thereafter it goes up to 1€.

Information: www.cyclocity.be or 0900 11 000 (0.45 euro/minute)

Lola is alive, Lola is happening.

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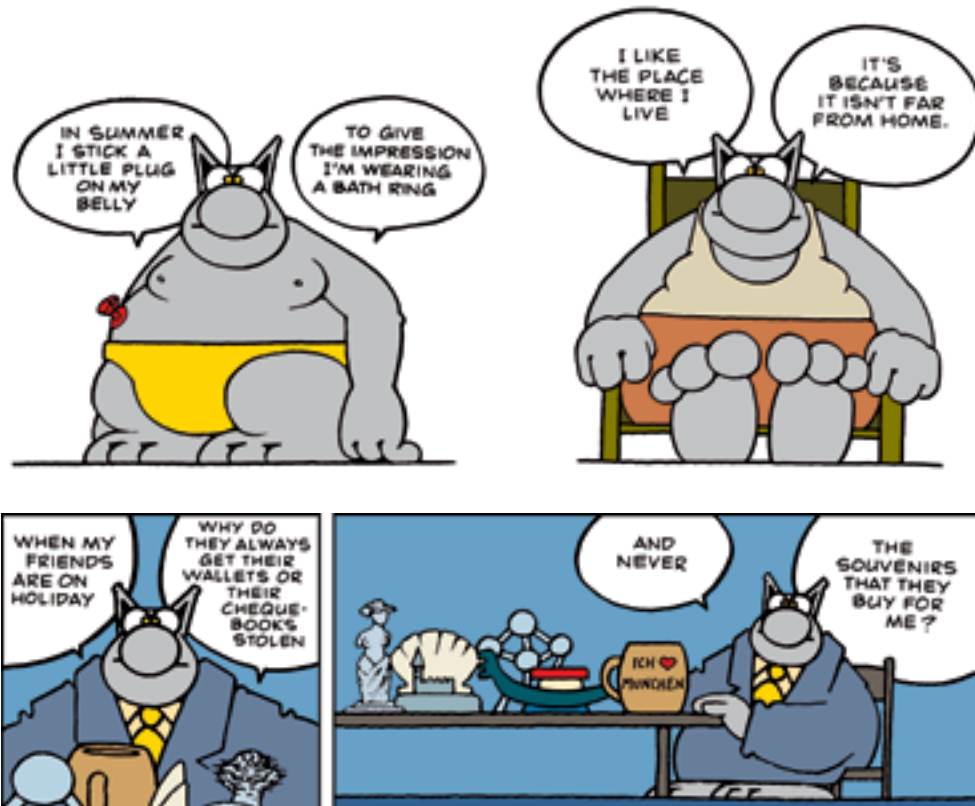
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As the summer holidays draw near, Philippe Geluck shares his crazy view of this time of year with us. As usual, this slice of laughter is exclusively for Together Magazine readers.



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