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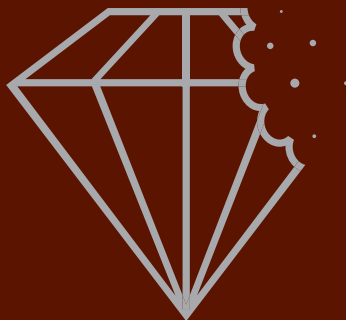
FREE-N°5/NOV. DEC. 2007

Together

magazine

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Saab 93



FIRST LAST WORD

2007's fifth and final edition of Together Magazine celebrates our first year of publication. A time for us all to take stock. Following the not-so-auspicious first edition, we managed to find our natural rhythm – a constant dialogue with our readers and partners has enabled us to position the title as a significant player on the expats leisure magazine scene.

Our success has inspired several opportunists, eager to take advantage of our publication's position, to launch copycat versions. To our would-be competitors (and they know who they are)

we offer good luck wishes for 2008 and some free advice – make getting up early one of your New Year's resolutions!

From our perspective, such competition in fact pushes us to keep providing our readers with top-quality, fascinating features. With each new edition, hundreds of subscription orders have been placed at www.together-magazine.eu – why not join the happy 'BruXpats' who receive the magazine free in the post every month? Keep those subscriptions coming, because that greatly encourages the team too.

2008 will be a key year for us: the approaching official

launch of our website will bring even more exclusive (and regularly updated) content, and we are also aiming to increase our publication frequency, to make the move to monthly. Join us in January, for a further update on our innovations. Until then, the Together Magazine team wishes all our readers a very merry festive season and a Happy New Year – Joyeux Fêtes! 🍷

✍

Jérôme Stéfanski
Publisher

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NATIONAL DEBATE, FROM THE BOTTOM UP

If you're reading this, our photograph must have shocked, amused or, ahem, captivated you. No doubt, it will have provoked a reaction...

The three best behinds - in the centre, winner Fiona Butorac's beautiful bottom

“It matters not that one speaks good or ill, only that one speaks about me.” It would appear that Sloggi underwear has made this maxim its leitmotiv. You may recall, some weeks ago, that the brand caught the attention of motorists and pedestrians alike, with its national advertising campaign. The by-now notorious posters presented numerous young ladies posing with Vespa scooters, showing off their splendid derrieres. Feminist organisations and consumer associations immediately expressed their (perhaps

understandable) outrage, on (also, somewhat predictable) ethical grounds. Regardless of these non-too-favourable opinions, Sloggi has once again pushed the boundaries, with its announcement of the results of its recent national contest to honour 'Belgium's most beautiful bottoms'. While the country's Flemish- and French-speaking citizens play their respective moves on Belgium's political chess-board, the winner, young Flem Fiona Butorac, from Mortsel, has achieved national accord, thanks to her perfectly formed gluteus maximus. A Flemish victory, then?

Whether you are for or against this kind of advertising, one thing is certain: the campaign is certainly a worthy subject for debate. But which? The place of women in Belgium? The role and impact of advertising? For my part, I believe that one should perhaps instead reflect on the reasons why girls would want to exhibit their bums in public. Perhaps the answer lies with Andy Warhol's oft-cited theory concerning the universal need for fifteen minutes of fame? Over to you... ☺

Jérôme Stéfanski

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Above all, Belgian!

With Belgium peering into the abyss of a national split and opinion divided according to taste and territory, we present a compact guide to showing national colours with a little more flair than merely hanging a flag in your window. Declare your allegiance in style!

S SHOPPING pages 8 - 24

- Belgian Temptations
- Temptations
- Dress to Impress
- Special Feature



'VIVE LA BELGIQUE'

At first glance, 'Vive la Belgique' is a marine/grenadine silk tie that fits neatly into the Pierre Degand tradition of easy elegance. Take a closer look – there's also a lesson in patriotism. Embroidered at the top of the tie, a discrete Belgian flag reveals the wearer's passion – Belgium forever! Pierre Degand gives the term 'stylish expression' new

meaning, combining chic with an authentic passion for nationality. 'Vive la Belgique', is available exclusively from DegandTailleur for 200€.

DegandTailleur
Avenue Louise, 415
1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 649 00 73

representing the national symbols. Hence, we have the black lion, the yellow iris and the red coq – the colours of pride!

Jewellery De Greef
Rue au Beurre, 24-26
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 511 95 98

James Drew

'UNITED COLLECTION OF BELGIUM'

And Jewellery De Greef is making a point, too – in reaction to the current Belgian political climate, which seems anathema to taking stands or making decisions, the renowned Brussels bijouterie is offering a way to express yourself with certainty in a country divided by a lack of the same – three beautiful key-ring lockets



PERSONAL WARMING

The weather's caprices won't prevent a certain esteemed gentleman in red having insomnia. Let's see what he might leave under your Christmas tree, which may soon be a Palm tree...

FOR HER...

1 Longchamp Légende

Not only did she model Longchamp's last 'It Bag', Kate Moss has since worn it so often that the accessory is already a myth. Hers is the black one in the famous picture, but the impeccable carrier is also available in, among other shades, a tint called "Amour". www.longchamp.com



2 Lash Queen Feline Blacks by Helena Rubinstein

It's no longer a dream; it's a miracle. This eye-dressing tool combines volume, length,

suppleness and lightness. The result is spectacular and very smooth, thanks to the cottonseed, jojoba and palm oil ingredients. www.helenarubinstein.com



3 Emporio Armani Diamonds

A liquid version of Marilyn and Beyoncé's best friends, Emporio Armani's latest perfume is a crystalline floral fragrance with a slightly malicious touch of lychee and raspberry. As fresh and spicy as its ambassador, whom you can see on YouTube. www.emporioarmani.com



4 Chrono Moorea Squelette by Pequignet

A 'squelette' model is a must in every respectable jeweller's collection, but it is extremely rare for the gem to be a chronometer. In this very limited edition, the small treasure is more a surprising jewel than a clock, but is also a technological marvel. www.pequignet.com



FOR HIM...

1 Altamir by Ted Lapidus

Ted Lapidus's ambition has always been focused on purity, no matter how much work, to obtain elegant simplicity. This new eau de toilette for men is a savant fugue in precious wood scents, with a detour into jasmine and cyclamen. Pineapple and orange give the final fruity line to this discreet and sophisticated golden-shaded ensemble. For gentlemen with the souls of travellers. www.tedlapidus.com



2 Biotherm Ultra Confort

This skincare product is no ordinary after-shave; it's an authentic moisturising balm, containing a cocktail of oils, ceramides and amino acids called 'Cashmere Technology'. Relief and soft sensation are among the immediate effects but, most importantly, the daily use of the unguent reinforces the skin's natural defences and helps it to be better prepared for shaving. www.biothermhomme.com



4 Montblanc StarWalker Cool Blue

Dream-writing quill magician Montblanc has created a deep ice-blue lacquered variation of the StarWalker. The collection comprises a cartridge fountain pen with a rhodium-plated 14-carat gold nib. Clip and fittings are coated with polished platinum. The cap top is transparent and reveals the famous little white star, floating. You will also fall in love with the ballpoint pen and the fineliner, which evoke a clear night sky. www.montblanc.com



3 Dunhill Members Green Holdall

Dunhill's cricket holdall is a classic and deserves its reputation. This washed-cotton canvas and soft tumbled leather version of the luggage makes it an impeccable sports bag, which could also accompany you on a lazy weekend in the country. Conceived for maximum convenience, it's roomy and features one zipped and three flat pockets, plus two pen loops, easily accessible thanks to its large circular zip. www.dunhill.com



Hélène Noël

Chine in your hands

Nathalie Gabay & Guillaume Thys

Nathalie Gabay is the artistic director for Chine Collection and I am going up the mauve staircase. Suddenly, the gloomy afternoon left behind, I find myself in a bright white place, populated with dresses fresh from a Poiret dream.

INTERVIEW

Together Magazine:
Where did Guillaume Thys, Chine's creator, find his inspiration for this Winter collection?

Nathalie Gabay:

In a movie, 'The Gangs of New York'. This is why the collection's main theme is 'Madonna of the Gangs'. Each collection tells a story. Tales and fabrics are central for Chine. The theme of next Spring's collection is 'Indochine'.

Shushhh...

How did you become an artistic director for Chine and what does it mean?
I'm from an artistic

background. Now I organize the shows, the communication, I design the accessories. Sometimes, I draw a dress. We are all very polyvalent, including Guillaume. For example, he's deeply interested in fabrics. He has an exacerbated feminine sensitivity, always busy with a billion details. The garments are perfectly finished outside and on the inside.

You were there from the beginning?

Yes, it was 15 years ago, in 1992. There were three of us; our first collection was 20 designs, in four colours, made of silk. That year, we sold 12,000 outfits.

Now, we present 500 designs on the catwalk twice a year.

While she speaks, she takes a jacket. Nathalie turns the broken white cloth inside out. I discover marvellous label, lining, diminutive pearly buttons and a silvered chain so thin I did not notice it at first. "You should wear it that way," she says.

Next Spring, I'll buy a beautiful (Indo) Chine suit conceived by a billion-details gentleman, and I swear I'll wear it inside out. ☺

Hélène Noël

Yes, something for the winter



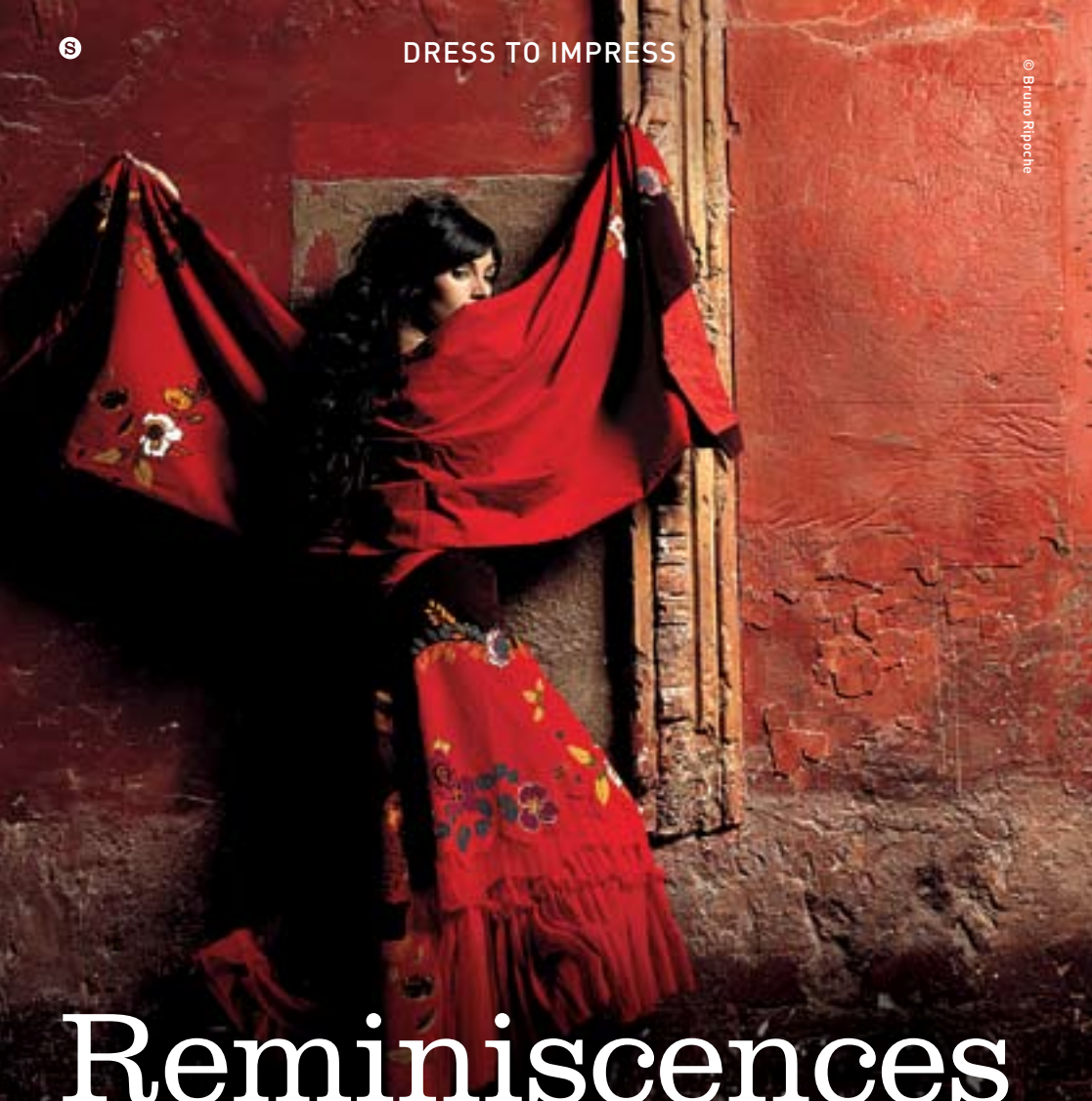
CLASSIC

Self-winding mechanical movement. "Sun" bezel set with 62 diamonds. Sapphire crystal, screw-down crown. Waterproof to 50 m. Steel case 39 mm.

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TUDORWATCH.COM



Reminiscences

Chacok: simply magic

Why do we remember certain shapes, shades, scents, sensations more acutely than others? Sometimes, something is remembered before it actually occurs. Ambiguous perception of moments and places that we knew once, maybe? Cherished with nostalgia, like Christmas...

WOMEN

CHINE COLLECTION

As Chine's designer Guillaume Thys has obviously daydreamed, he could dress Our Lady of the Angels. Grace breathes through every embroidery and drape. Definitely vaporous; even the 'Gang Madonna' line – a cute variation on the previous theme – is the most shamelessly romantic outfit you could ever wear, angelic mood or not.

Chine Collection

Avenue Louise 82-84
1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 512 45 52
www.chinecollection.com



Chine Collection: definitely vaporous

CHACOK

One or two Russian Ballerinas' coats and fairies' dancing dresses, both covered with enormous roses and lilies. Unconventional but never outrageous, simply magic, this decidedly delightful winter collection has everything to seduce passionate souls who are also unconditional lovers of fiery reds and Christmas's frozen windows. Where western winds whisper on the infinite steppe.

Chacok creations are available at:

Du Vent dans les Voiles
Rue B. Braffort, 31
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 735 55 59
www.chacok.com

RIZAL

Fur, fur, fur, forever. Even under our climate-hesitant latitudes, where we can cross the four seasons in a single day, it still freezes, especially very early in the morning or late at night. Which, all things considered, sometimes means the same at the end of the year. So, if you are in a Polar Bear frame of mind or longing for a snow carpet, Rizal's spectacular, soft creations can now be found in the city centre and are easy to curl around your shoulders.

Rizal has its corner at:

Francis Ferent
Galerie Louise 49-50
1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 511 83 87
www.ferent.be



Rizal's spectacular creation

MEN

CORNELIANI

An Italian eye never fails when it comes to detail. Cornelianian's reputation has been established worldwide for some 60 years; even if they're always contemporary, they've never surrendered to extravagant fashion sirens. Deliciously discreet and classic from head to toe, the winter collection accentuates dark tones from chestnut to deep black, with perfect outfits for all circumstances, indoors and out.

Domano Diffusion

T. +32 (0)3 226 73 51
domano@skynet.be
www.corneliani.com



Cornelianian's interpretation of 'fun men'



Dunhill: determinedly vintage

DUNHILL

Determinedly vintage, Dunhill's black needle cord suit, combined with piquet-front white evening shirt, black satin bow tie and FacetSquare sterling silver with onyx dress studs is more than a mere definition of 'cool' – the elegance it exudes will trail your evening movements like a meteor's cascade. Loosen the bow tie – you know it makes sense...

www.dunhill.com

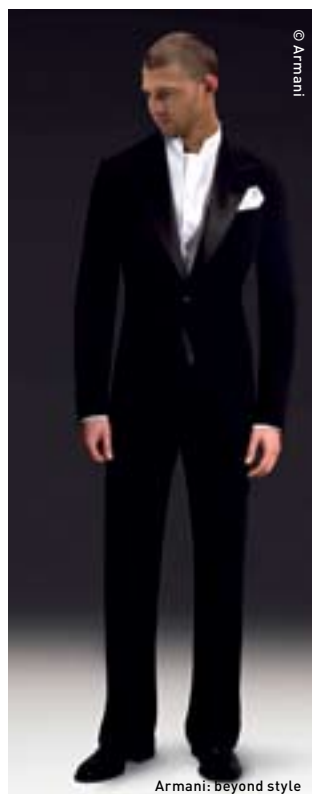
ARMANI

Purity of lines and subtle shifts from dark and light... gangster chic, gun unnecessary. What is it about the turn of that collar, the contrast of that shirt with that jacket? Who can say? Simply above and beyond style – a cool winter beckons.

Giorgio Armani

Boulevard de Waterloo 28
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 310 43 50
www.armani.com

Hélène Noël



Armani: beyond style

SAFEGUARD YOUR INTERNET PURCHASES.



They're there, hanging out behind the motherboards, hiding behind friendly aliases, lying in ambush in every nook and cranny. Hackers. Happily, Banca Monte Paschi Belgio, in collaboration with

MasterCard, has invented the Multi Card. A rechargeable and prepaid payment card which can be used all around the world, like a traditional card, but less expensive. Ideal for all the family, the Multicard isn't a named card and you charge it when and how you like, which limits risks from theft or fraud. And you don't have to be one of our customers to benefit. So you can buy that signed Beatles album you missed out on to that weirdo who spoke that strange language. For more information about this new payment method, go to www.multicard.be

Multi Card. The first rechargeable card which adapts to your needs.

Frozen star fragments

A long time ago, Sir Bob Geldof and I used to have at least one trait in common. We did not like Mondays. But now, I have questions concerning a percentage and – in reverse alphabetical order - diamonds, conflicts and blood. •

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www.eurocar.be

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WHAT IS THE KIMBERLY PROCESS?

Conflict diamonds, the so-called blood diamonds that finance war and terror, are primarily from Sierra Leone, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and the Ivory Coast. The United Nations and other international organisations have committed to blocking such gems from the worldwide diamond trade, with a government-certification procedure known as the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). The KPCS originated from a meeting of Southern African diamond producing states in Kimberley, Northern Cape in May 2000 - participating nations must confirm that legitimate mining and sales activity are the sources of all their rough diamond exports, via certificates stating that the diamonds were produced, sold and exported through legitimate channels. Retail customers buying a cut diamond are encouraged to insist upon a sales receipt proving that their diamond originated from a conflict-free area, so their purchase does not finance war and human rights abuses.



TODAY...

... It's Thursday, 8th November 2007. Today, the Kimberley Process Plenary closes at the European Commission and the EU passes the yearlong chairmanship to India, with new rules on the agenda and the re-admittance of the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville). The point is very similar to the eternal young children's favourite question: where do they come from? Not babies, but diamonds.

ONCE UPON A TIME...

... It is told that during a monsoon afternoon, in the 17th century, under the shadow of a Hindu temple, a certain Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, merchant-traveller, removed the huge dark-blue eye from the forehead of the goddess Sita. This is how the Hope - and its curse, like many famous diamonds - made its way from India to Europe.

Legends about the origins of diamonds are myriad. They all begin on the subcontinent, where

DIAMONDS REMAIN A SYMBOL OF ETERNAL BONDS

the first diamonds were probably found in sand and gravel surrounding rivers, almost certainly around 800 BC. The geological source of legendary stones as exceptional as the Hope is still unknown and remains a secret for the gods, but they probably originated from the Golconda fortress.

Documented history is somewhat sketchy, but we know that the first diamonds to be mentioned by Venetian merchants were - as in the tales - of Indian origin. Until the 15th century, only kings were allowed to wear diamonds, the modern term coming from the Greek word 'adamas', meaning 'invincible'. At the time, Venice had the monopoly on diamond trading in Europe and Bruges was at one of the far ends of the route. Diamond craftsmanship rapidly expanded along the canals, before the knowledge moved to Antwerp when



Top diamond mining countries:

Botswana
Russia
South Africa
Angola
Namibia
Australia
Democratic Republic of Congo
Canada



Diamonds are also mined in these countries:

Brazil, Guyana
Venezuela, Guinea
Sierra Leone
Liberia
Ivory Coast
Ghana
Central African Republic
Tanzania
China, Indonesia
Zimbabwe
India



Traditional diamond cutting centres:

New-York, USA
Antwerp, Belgium
Tel Aviv, Israel
Mumbai, India
Johannesburg, South Africa



the direct sea route to India was eventually discovered. Soon, Antwerp became the European diamond capital.

The ancient Greeks also believed that the sparkling light of diamonds was the reflection of the immortal flame of love. Today, diamonds remain a symbol of eternal bonds. In the meantime, a decade ago, those priceless stones became the currency of dirty wars. Invincibility, undocumented treasure finding and, yes, curses had returned.

BUT WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

One scientist in Canada believes that diamonds are formed beneath the ocean and even that the black variety - the most rare on Earth - comes from supernovae explosions in outer space. More commonly, it is generally acknowledged that diamonds are composed of carbon and crystallise

some 200 km beneath the Earth's surface. Rough diamonds are found in alluvial deposits and opencast or underground mines. The stones may be up to three billion years old. Next time you look at a real diamond, keep it in mind: you are looking at the oldest mineral you will ever see.

CUT IN ANTWERP

After World War Two was over, the Jewish community, who had taken refuge in London, debarked in the port of Antwerp and remained there. In time, eastern European and Indian communities joined them, and today the small neighbourhood near the central station must be one of the most cosmopolitan on the planet.

Sixty-something years after WWII, two weeks ago, the Antwerp police arrested five people at Peri Diamonds on charges of forgery and

fraud. They also seized an estimated 140 million worth of suspected 'blood diamonds', probably from Côte d'Ivoire, which may have been falsely certified in Ghana, a Kimberly Process Participant.

(NOT SO) FAR AWAY IN AFRICA

Before blaming Ghana or any other Côte d'Ivoire neighbour country, consider that we're not in Botswana's industry in that part of the continent - most of its diamond production is largely informal. Borders in the region are porous. However, in recent months, Ghana has made considerable effort to adapt and has started to license miners and collect accurate data. According to Ian Smillie, research coordinator at Partnership Africa Canada: "The easiest way to hide illicit traffic is to take diamonds straight to a cutting and polishing factory." ●



The diamond stock exchange in Antwerp

© Karl Bruninx

'ANTWERP IS A DIAMOND CENTRE, NOT A JEWELLER'S CITY'

INTERVIEW

In a previous life, Freddy J. Hanard was a leading banker. He took his retirement in January 2006, but not for long. A few months later, he was appointed Antwerp World Diamond Centre's CEO. The stones hold no secrets for Hanard, but I had a few questions for him.

Together Magazine: Antwerp is renowned as the world's leading diamond centre. Why?

Freddy J. Hanard: We have a long tradition of craftsmanship, which has lasted for seven centuries. We also enjoy a very stable social and political context. That is very important for the diamond community, with its multi-cultural diversity.

Antwerp is not a city coloured by religion, for example. It's a secular place. All these people, coming from all over the world, with their traditions and faith, are peaceful neighbours. You would not imagine this tranquillity in other big diamond centres such as Tel Aviv or Dubai. Antwerp has the economic critical mass, in terms of scale, but also in the number of large companies that are established here. In Diamonds are Forever (1971), Sean Connery declares that Amsterdam is the world's diamond capital. For once, James Bond was wrong. It's definitely Antwerp.

How many companies are located here?
Two thousand. 30,000 people

work in the local diamond industry, directly or indirectly. The sector represents 7% of Belgian exports and 12% of Flemish exports.

Other factors necessary for success?

Our strict ethical standards are certainly a key factor. We scrupulously follow the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and track the origins of each imported stone. Transparency is a top priority for our organization. Kimberley Process Participants produce 99.8% of rough diamonds. All the stones cut in Antwerp are certified. It's an important economic activity; we insist on the quality of our production, not only from the

four C's point of view (colour, clarity, cut and carat weight) but also from the three P's perspectives: product integrity, proof of performance and ethical principles.

Which countries are the biggest producers of rough diamonds?

The first producer is Botswana with an annual turnover of 3 billion dollars. Then comes Russia, followed by Canada for the past 15 years, Angola and South Africa. However, Australia is the first carats producer.

How much does a carat weigh?

A diamond of one gram weighs five carats and each carat is equal to 100 points. With one

single carat, you can cut up to 300 diamonds. These minuscule stones are often used for making luxury watches. You also have what are called 'near gems': those are stones of 18 points. There are used to make jewels that are more affordable than proper diamond jewellery. This is why only 40% of rough diamond production is for industrial use.

Speaking of jewellery, how does Antwerp rank?

Jewellery is about creation. Antwerp is a diamond centre, not a jeweller's city. The most beautiful creations continue to be designed and crafted in renowned cities such as Paris and of course Italy, with Vincenzo. Antwerp is traditionally the place of diamond-cut craftsmanship. Thirty years ago, there used to be 30,000 craftsmen here. Now, they are 1,500. In India, there are one million, the same in China. Actually, Antwerp has evolved from cut-diamond production to cut-diamond trade. For ten years, we have been Suppliers of Choice.

You have just come back from China. How do you see the future of the diamond in Antwerp? What are your projects?

Since 1984, we have encouraged young creators to use diamonds in jewellery with the HRD Awards, an international competition. This year, we had 800 participants, 40 nominees and five finalists. Antwerp has surfed on the fashion wave for twenty years and I'd like to see young jewel creators working with our fashion designers.



© AMDC

Next year, I'll be organizing an exhibition reassembling famous diamond jewels.

Diamonds are rare. Tonnes of rock, mud, sand and gravel of all kinds is searched, ditched, displaced, sorted to find a single carat. And rivers of blood have been shed. I had a question for a certain Nobel Prize nominee about the annual Diamond Conference, where he was invited by my Freddy J. to give a speech. Sir Bob Geldof is rumoured to have said that barely 80% of the world's diamond production is traceable. But I didn't speak to him, after all: rock stars' mobile phone numbers have a trait in common with diamonds - they're rarities. But was, I wondered, the story really about mining, cutting and trading marvels? What if it was about abject poverty, brutal conflicts and weapons smuggling? Sir Bob and M. Hanard may disagree on figures, but they have key points in common: they are fond of transparency, they travel the world, talk, and they don't carry a gun. ☛

Hélène Noël



BUSINESS

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- BruXpat Story
- Money
- Real Estate



VIKTOR & ROLF
PIPER HEIDSIECK

CHAMPAGNE ROSÉ SAUVAGE

NOTRE SAVOIR-FAIRE SE DÉGUSTE AVEC SAGESSE

Bringing BruXpats together

Elisa Laterza

For public-affairs specialist Elisa Laterza, the 'village intimacy' of Brussels is the perfect environment to help single business people forge contacts and chemistry.

Originally from Argentina, 35-year-old Elisa Laterza first arrived in Brussels seven years ago – and the lessons that she quickly learned in the fine art of diplomacy were to firmly fix her career direction.

In the beginning

Elisa, sitting in the restaurant La Table d'Upignac in AutoWorld Museum on Parc

du Cinquantenaire, explains: "I was a diplomat when I arrived, so for the first three years, I was constantly attending public-affairs related meetings. I decided to stay in Brussels and start my own business, because I really enjoyed the city so much.

"My friends all said to me 'You're not going to survive in Brussels, you're going to be very bored' and I was like 'OK, if you say so', but, in fact, I loved it, and I stayed.

"Because it's a transition place – people come and go constantly, like being in an airport lounge – this teaches you a certain sense of detachment. Brussels maintains its friendly 'little town' environment. This is why I love it so much, and also because I rediscovered nature here – it's so easy to go the countryside...you can very easily go to a forest here, and spend a relaxing day with your friends."

Already having event management skills, Laterza saw that there was always a demand for event venues in Brussels, but that a vital factor was missing.

Elisa the businesswoman

"I said, I'm going to provide a more cultural, informal place for people to interact, and I saw that AutoWorld and Espace 53 was an excellent place to do it, being centrally located, near Schuman. I quickly perceived that many single people, and many business people, were looking for contacts. When it's a big event, which is very frequently



© EuroLunch

Getting people together, for business and pleasure, is Elisa's speciality

the case, it's difficult to introduce people to each other, because they often become overwhelmed by the size of the group, they need intimacy and privacy to talk. I decided to put them together, for lunch or for dinner and, understanding exactly the kind of people they

mate or I've found a really good friend, or we have made a deal."

So what does the woman with the magic touch do on her own nights (and days) off in her beloved Brussels?

"There's so much to choose from – a healthy 'resto' such as Soul, a good (healthy?) drink in the bars of Place du Luxembourg, Chatelain, Louise or Flagey, a great meal at Cospaia, Belga Queen or Point Bar and, for a really fun night out, it has to be Havana, Mirano or Les Jeux d'Hiver."

And then, by way of a comedown? "Well, I certainly recommend massage, singing lessons and relaxation therapies with Xanthippe Lazaridis (www.xanthippe.info)."

Spoken like someone who knows all about event management...

www.eurolunch.eu @

James Drew

MY FRIENDS ALL SAID TO ME: 'YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SURVIVE IN BRUSSELS, YOU'RE GOING TO BE VERY BORED'

wanted to meet, I could make the perfect match. That is how the idea of EuroLunch, launched earlier this year, came about.

"And what's really rewarding, already, are the emails and phone calls I get, saying 'Thank you, I've found a soul

Chocolate, jewellery and retirement

Don't let time trickle away – prepare for your retirement early!

OK! So you have enjoyed eating Belgian chocolate and decimated your bank account buying an immorally ostentatious amount of jewellery and other personal adornment; a period of austerity and mature reflection might now be appropriate.

Thinking about your retirement planning is a good start. Not fattening, not immoral,

moderately good for the soul in small doses, and with the full legal backing of our beloved European governments.

It is important to address retirement issues early and if you find you have not saved enough you need to optimise your investments to provide a decent lifestyle during retirement: this means having a retirement plan. The best approach is to draw

up a detailed plan of action to facilitate your withdrawal from your occupation or from active working life and to address issues like these:

When will pay cheques cease?
What country do you expect to retire to?
What do you want from retirement?
When do you expect that to be?
What would be enough money to do this?
How to raise the money?

Providing for your retirement is a matter of striking a balance between a number of factors,

and those factors are constantly evolving. You can't simply settle on a plan, pat yourself on the back and forget about it.

FOR EXAMPLE:

What if I get made redundant in my early fifties and can't find another job?

What if I have a new partner or a late surge of fertility with my present partner leading to more children, and the need to take career breaks?

What if my pension fund does not grow as quickly as

A GOOD RETIREMENT PLAN MUST BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO COPE WITH CONTINGENCIES

I'd expected, or is outstripped by inflation?

If you are able to answer a few of these "what if" questions ahead of events, then you'll be in a far better position to deal with things if the possibilities actually come to pass.

A good retirement plan must be flexible enough to cope with contingencies. So, at every stage of planning, you must think not only about what you expect to happen, but how likely it is that things will work out differently and by how much. The plan has to be monitored and tweaked.

You probably have some expectations of pension from the state or from past or present employers. If they are adequate, then you can be more relaxed. If they are not, then your objective clearly has to be to supplement your defective existing pension arrangements with sufficient extra money to compensate for any shortfall in those arrangements.

Assuming that you have identified as closely as possible how much you will need, and when that will be, we can move on to other questions.

If you have always worked in your country of origin for one employer you will usually have a relatively clear idea of what

pension you can expect. However, if you are an expatriate in Belgium, you face some additional complications in the future, because your state pension will be derived partly from contributions made in your country of origin and partly from Belgium.

Your existing rights from previous employers in your country of origin may also be fragmented and dispersed over several different schemes. One useful step is to make enquiries about combining all these separate company pensions into one manageable plan with the objective that the value of the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE IN BELGIUM?

Outside the confines of the state scheme:

A retirement savings plan

You can contribute up to €800 per year and, unlike the next three items, it is available even if you have no professional income, so even a non-working spouse or partner may take one out.

Individual Pension Life insurance

Depending on your income you can contribute up to €1920 per year, regardless of whether you are employed or self-employed.

Complementary Free Pension Plan for the Self-employed

This is only available to the self-employed and you can deduct up to a maximum of €2,571 per year.

Group Insurance

Must be set up by a company but is available to employees and also to salaried directors. So creating a one-man company will enable you to have a valuable tax deduction. ▶



A well-prepared retirement will be full of magic moments.

The deductible contributions depend on your monthly salary and there is an overriding limitation that the total pension provided from all sources may not exceed 80% of the prospective final salary. In all these cases, the tax on



maturity is far lower than the tax relief on the contribution. Long-term plans are a two-edged sword; if you only expect to stay in Belgium for a few years it is not advantageous to lock your savings into one. A better solution is to invest in lump sum or regular premium life-assurance policies. Although the premiums are not tax deductible, the accumulated capital is exempt from tax and will enable you to pool resources. However, be particularly careful to avoid policies that involve a commitment to save for many years. Punitive charges levied early will continue to reduce your growth long after you have stopped contributing.

A GOOD SOLUTION IS TO INVEST IN LUMP SUM OR REGULAR PREMIUM LIFE-ASSURANCE POLICIES

What about tax?

There might be tax to pay on your eventual retirement income and there might be tax to pay on your savings. You need to consider the rules both in Belgium and of the country where you may become resident and have an awareness of the tax treaties of each. ☺

Graham Reid

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In conjunction with KBC Bank, Classic Financial Solutions N.V. will be presenting a seminar on January 24th 2008 in Overijse on retirement planning and how to release money locked up in pension schemes of previous employers. This seminar will interest any one, British or non-British, who has previously worked in the UK and built up pension rights in one or more company pension schemes. It will also offer a useful insight into this subject for accountants, lawyers and wealth planners in Belgium who advise clients in this situation. If you would like to receive an invitation please advise us at the address shown below.

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'Master plan' for EU-quarter facelift

Sky's the limit: Commission architecture will fill an additional 400,000 m² with skyscrapers a possibility by 2008

The European Commission wants to improve its institutions in the city's Leopold district by moving towards larger buildings with 'strong architectural standing', while expanding and improving the quarter's main thoroughfare, to accommodate Brussels' ever-rising numbers of EU workers.

Between 2004-2008, around 3,350 new fonctionnaires (in addition to the 20,000 already in Brussels) have arrived in 'Europe's capital.' According to plans seen by *Together Magazine*, the European Commission aims to stay mainly in the Leopold district, but with more large buildings with 'strong architectural standing' in addition to Schuman's Berlaymont, an ambition



Parc du Cinquantenaire: the jewel in the heart of the EU quarter

that will be facilitated by an additional 400,000 m² along Rue de la Loi, the possibility of skyscrapers and a move away from the smaller 'satellite' buildings that have characterised EU institutions during the past decade.

The 'master plan' is not yet etched in stone and may not be implemented, as corporate real estate service CB Richard Ellis development spokesperson Theresia Landell and head of research Kim Verdonck are quick to point out: "At present, it's an unwritten urban-planning initiative between MEPs and Commissioner Siim Kallas," Verdonck explains. "In terms of implementing the full accessibility programme, 2017 is being cited as a realistic ambition."

IT'S ALL ABOUT 'ENVIRONMENTAL URBANISM'

Brussels is often cited as the 'political capital of Europe' – the rapid expansion of the EU's working space, perhaps unsurprisingly, began in the 1950s. In 1956, the first EU Brussels building was occupied – today, a little more than half a century later, that space has grown to roughly 1.8 million m².

INSTITUTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND LOBBYISTS

The European institutions have some 23,600 employees, and occupy 14% of the Brussels office market. Brussels also houses numerous Belgian federal and regional administrations and has a strong presence of representations, lobbyists and other EU-affiliated interest groups. Naturally, there's a cost attached – although their individual office needs are often small in terms of floor area, EU-affiliated groups are willing to pay top rents for Brussels' most prestigious locations, which can be up to 300€/m²/year. **©**



Park life: the EU executive wants more parks to 'lighten up' the concrete density of the district

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

In terms of mobility, the proposals entail the upgrade of Schuman's train station into a fully intermodal facility (again, an estimated 2017 delivery date), while underground tunnels into Rue de la Loi and Rue Belliard, a change of Belliard-Loi car direction and an extra subway/tram line into the Leopold district (around 2020, according to STIB) should herald much-reduced car traffic on Schuman roundabout.

It's all about 'environmental urbanism', says Verdonck:

"Office projects larger than 10,000 m² (public and private) will be subject to international architecture contests, with moves towards an increased mixture of functions and retail developments on the ground floors of office buildings also in the pipeline.

"In addition, the 400,000 m² planned for the Commission will be partially compensated by around 135,000 m² of residential projects, with the prospect of more parks to lighten up the 'concrete density' of the district." And skyscrapers?

"They're possible, but only if suitable for the nearby environment and with the potential shadows that may be cast on existing residential areas taken into account."

"To sum up," Verdonck concludes, "it's about 'less but larger', and creating an environment that is less of an 'institutional ghetto' and more the attractive, functional Brussels of the future."

So, here's to the facelift! ☺

James Drew



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ESCAPE

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- Special Feature
- Somewhere in Brussels
- Somewhere in the World
- Discovery
- Waterstone's Selection
- Tee Time

Sculpted Mercurius above the east entrance of Tour & Taxis.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME TOUR & TAXIS GOT UNDER YOUR SKIN?

Was it when you visited the Cirque du Soleil, the Foire des Antiquaires or Couleur Café?

Or when spending a very special evening at the Tasso restaurant?

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Chocolate: Bringing Belgians together

If the country divides, the lip-smacking phrase 'Belgian chocolates' might soon be a thing of the past. Here then, for your enjoyment, a seasonal reminder of why Belgium still leads the world when it comes to the brown ambrosia, a chat with a chocolate maker, plus a different way to savour fine chocolate - a Brussels Leonidas shop combined with café...



Beautiful Belgian chocolates

BEST OF BELGIUM

Tensions between the Flemish and Walloon groups have never been so ratcheted - the talk of Belgium splitting into two countries recently prompted Vlaams Belang leader Filip Dewinter to put it thus: "We have nothing in common except a king, chocolate and beer." Still a beautiful thing to share though, surely? Its

historical roots go way back in this small patch of earth. The first trace of cocoa in what is now Belgium dates to 1635, when records show that some was purchased by the abbey of Baudeloo. Chocolate production flourished at the beginning of the 18th century, a time when cocoa was so valuable that one pound was worth 15 loaves of bread and only the upper classes could afford chocolate drinks.

Today, with the possible exception of Switzerland, no country is so closely associated with chocolate; Belgium produces 172,000 tonnes of chocolate per year with more than 2,000 shops throughout the country. Belgian chocolates are justly famous the world over - and it would be a great pity if the present political crisis were to render the phrase obsolete. **C**



Côte d'Or: Belgian gold

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CÔTE D'OR!

Côte D'Or is one of the oldest chocolate bar trademarks, and its rich history has left a legacy of delicious Belgian chocolate bars in many varieties. Charles Neuhaus, a traditional Belgian chocolate-maker who opened a chocolate and sweet factory in 1870, created and registered the Côte d'Or brand on April 24th, 1883. The brand was named after the "Gold Coast" (present-day Ghana) where he selected a portion of his cocoa beans. In 1898, the factory became the property of Léopold Bieswal, who bought it for their son, Joseph. The year 1899 marked the start of a fruitful

co-operation between the Joseph Bieswal Co. and S.A. Lambert Michiels. It was not until July 16th, 1906 that they founded S.A. Alimenta, under the Côte d'Or trademark. At the beginning of the twentieth century, with colonial expansion, the Belgians discovered new horizons as well as new tastes. They became wild enthusiasts of the "elephant chocolate", which has been famous ever since. The elephant, along with the palm tree and the three pyramids, has become the symbol of the Côte d'Or brand. A powerful symbol, still with us today – and 2008 will mark the marque's 125th anniversary, with Côte D'Or set to return to the heart of Belgium's capital:

a new boutique will open its doors during January on Place du Petit Sablon. What better excuse do you need to get the chocolates in for New Year's Eve?

LAURENT'S LOVE

What makes Belgian chocolate unique is the quality of ingredients and an almost fanatical adherence to Old World manufacturing techniques. Even in today's world of automation and mass production, most Belgian chocolate is still made by hand in small shops using original equipment. Take Laurent Gerbaud, for example – a former medieval historian who decided to follow in the artisanal footsteps of his

grandfather, who was a pastry craftsman. Based in the centre of Brussels, Gerbaud captures the most savoury fresh ingredients and carefully combines tastes and textures in unexpected and pleasing blends. He insists on the authenticity of his ingredients, and his chocolate is extracted from rare cocoa beans from Ecuador and Madagascar.



In the middle: Spirit of Christmas

BELGIUM PRODUCES 172,000 TONNES OF CHOCOLATE PER YEAR

"For my chocolate, I insist that there is no added sugar, no butter, no alcohol, no artificial flavourings and no preservatives," he explains. By way of an example, take a look at his seasonal offering, 'Spirit of Christmas', a dark chocolate with 70% cacao content. "For a long time,

I wanted to create a chocolate that would instantly teleport me to the Christmas period." And he's right – as soon as you take a bite, you feel like a child, plunged back into the warmth of the festive season... the mixture of chocolate cinnamon, candied oranges, ginger, pepper and a pinch of cardamom, plus Belgian speculoos from Dandoy is simply irresistible. Check out www.chocolatsgerbaud.be for more information on Laurent's charming chocs. ☛

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INTERVIEW

Heart-melting moments

The 'drinking chocolate' establishments of yesteryear are making a comeback – and Leonidas is leading the way, giving chocolate lovers treats in the ambience of a smart city centre café. Together Magazine enjoyed a coffee, choc and chat with a friendly Leonidas spokesperson, ahead of the Christmas rush...

Together Magazine: This is the first time we've been to a Leonidas Chocolates & Café – tell us about your vision?

Leonidas: The idea is to create an atmosphere all around chocolate – only our chocolate is used in our drinks. This café [it's at 32-34 rue des Tongres, near Parc du Cinquantenaire] was the first of its kind to be opened in 2005 – now, we're opening several worldwide, in Canada and Vienna, for example.

What was the inspiration behind the concept?

Our brand is trying to create what we call 'Moments of Generosity'; those times when people choose to offer a gift, be it to themselves or others. The nice thing for people who come to Chocolates & Café is

that they can discover for themselves, over a drink, how our range is changing – we've recently added ice-cream, for example.

And very tempting it looks too – the Manon Glacé creation being a standout.

I think that it's also a way to show customers that they have to look a bit further, and see what else we do...we also sell recipe books, for example, to show what you can do with our chocolate at home.

The festive season's on its way – what do you have lined up?

For Christmas, we've designed our very first range of chocolate Christmas Tree balls – chocolate has been used to decorate the festive tree for a long time, but I think that this is the first range of full-size 'baubles'. Our competitors aren't doing the same range yet – I'm sure that next year, they will! ☺

Leonidas Chocolate & Café
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07.00 to 19.00
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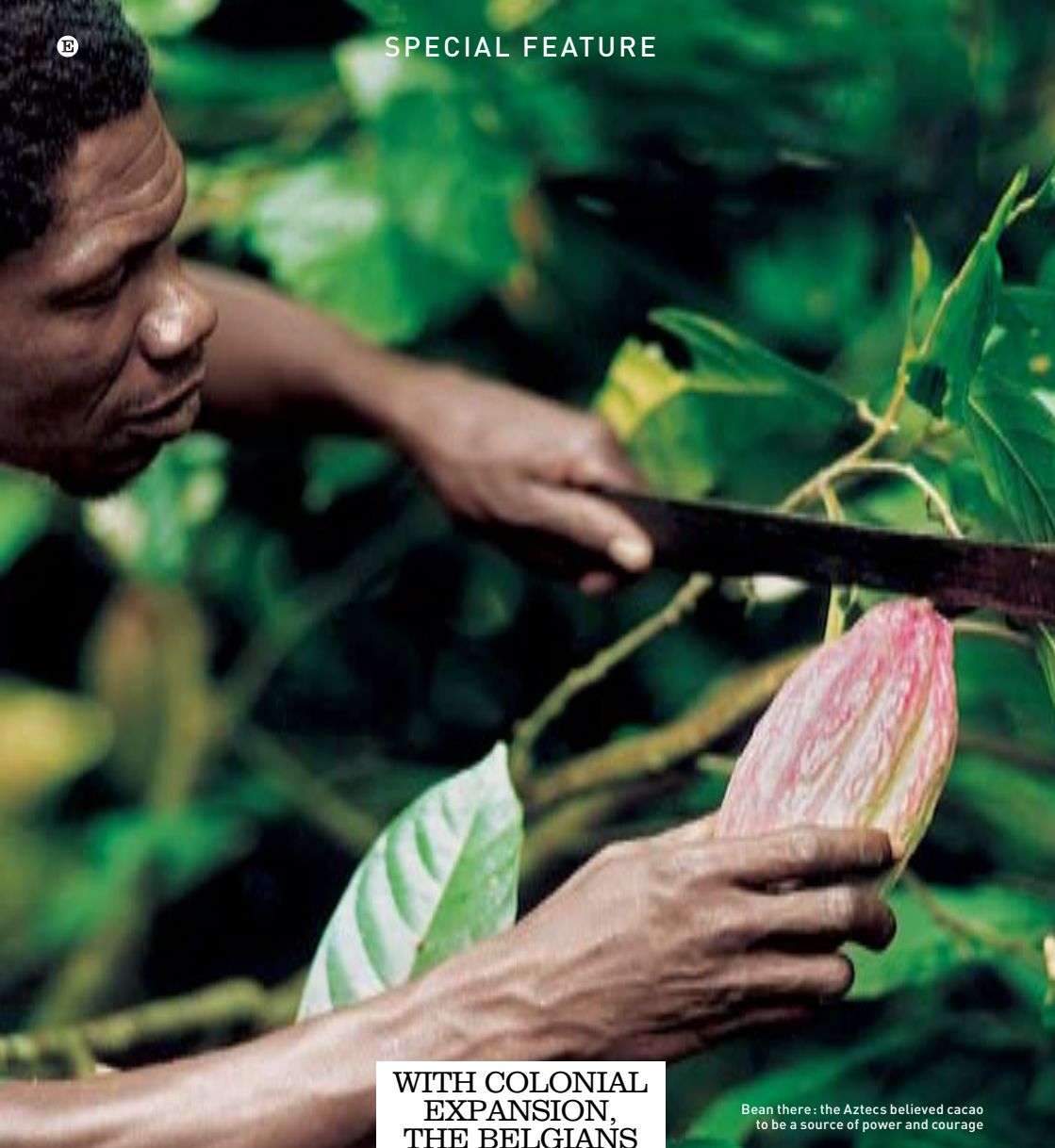
Cup winner: cappuccino par excellence

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AS WELL AS
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Historically (in ancient Aztec times, in fact), chocolate was perceived as a powerful substance that could replace fear and helplessness with spirit and courage. So, who knows? Perhaps Belgium's political crisis can be resolved if the Flemish and the Walloons

eat more of their beloved national product? After all, it doesn't say much for European unity if Belgium,

Bean there: the Aztecs believed cacao to be a source of power and courage

European Union's headquarters, can't even keep itself in one piece. And maybe the feuding factions should consider this: would 'Wallonian' chocolates ever have the same caché as 'Belgian'? 

James Drew



THE CHOCOLATE PENTAGRAM



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A GUIDED TOUR & TAXIS TOUR



Is there anywhere in Brussels that's more magical than Tour & Taxis? Let us guide you through its history and take a look at the events coming soon to this protected site with such a proud architectural heritage.

View of Tour & Taxis

Tour & Taxis at the end of the 19th century

A unique urban experience

It brings together exceptional architectural heritage, very selective shopping and a high-profile choice of occupants. At Tour & Taxis, there are astonishing events to delight young and old.

The history of a famous family

The Von Thurn und Taxis family, who founded the European postal service, owned marshy grazing lands that bordered the Port of Brussels.

At the end of the 19th century, when Belgium became the 5th most important economic power in Europe, the site became the central hub for merchandise transit in the capital.

The Tour & Taxis customs and warehouse complex was constructed between 1902-1907: a masterpiece of

the Golden Age of Industrialisation, when brick and hard stone were the preferred building materials. A rationalist design that allowed direct access by water, road and rail, it ensured three vital functions: the speedy reception of goods, their storage in bonding warehouses and the collection of tax and excise duties. Today, thanks to Project T&T (a joint venture between Exstensa and

Robelco), and the efforts of La Fonderie and sympathetic organisations at home and abroad, Tour & Taxis has not only been restored to its former beauty, but is also now a protected site with a promising future as an urban experience.

And, beneath the surface of the central hall, the thick glass floor allows a view of the old Tour & Taxis railway, along which trains no longer rattle... ◀



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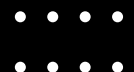
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DAZZLING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The emblematic building of the Tour & Taxis Royal Depot sits like a pink jewel on one of the largest open parking lots in Brussels. From Gare du Nord station, you can be there in five minutes.

Tour & Taxis dates from before World War I. Today, it represents a public-private collaboration project between the Brussels Region, Brussels City and the owners of the T&T project.

Their plans offer a dazzling

insight into how the site will truly become Brussels' 'ultimate urban experience'.

Attractive living quarters will encourage the 'beautiful people' to settle once more in the district, and bring back swinging city life. A large recreation area is

planned to link the site with Laeken and Molenbeek and, best of all, a public swimming pool is scheduled for construction along the banks of the Brussels Port.

The site will buzz with tourist attractions that will complete

ATTRACTIVE LIVING QUARTERS WILL ENCOURAGE THE 'BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE' TO SETTLE ONCE MORE IN THE DISTRICT

Tour & Taxis' already impressive events agenda. All this, around the astonishing 'ark' into which some 1,200 employees arrive every weekday to work in 40 offices, who are in turn replaced at dusk by visitors of high-class business events. ●

Tour & Taxis: You'll be back

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Joséphine Overeem



Back in Beijing

In 2008, Beijing will host the Olympic Games. More than ten years after he left China's capital to work in Belgium, Dave Deruytter returned in March, to rediscover a city that has undergone enormous change.

I was curious to see and feel what had really changed in Beijing and what, if anything, had remained the same. Now, I could take a direct flight from Brussels to

Beijing; that much has certainly changed. And, when I arrived, it was obvious that many more skyscrapers were touching the clouds than when I left in 2000. How will they ever fill them

up? And, if they manage it, will the investors ever get paid? With a population of 1.3 billion, loading up buildings should not normally pose a problem. But does the average Chinese citizen have

enough money to pay for it? The fact that the Olympic Games are en route has produced a deep sense of pride and euphoria in both the city and country. Hence, there's even more activity in the construction sector than before. It is amazing to think that there are around 1,000 skyscrapers at least 20 storeys high under construction in Beijing – these alone would make a decent-sized city. The sector is a driving force behind China's astonishing economic growth – its GDP has recently grown by 11%

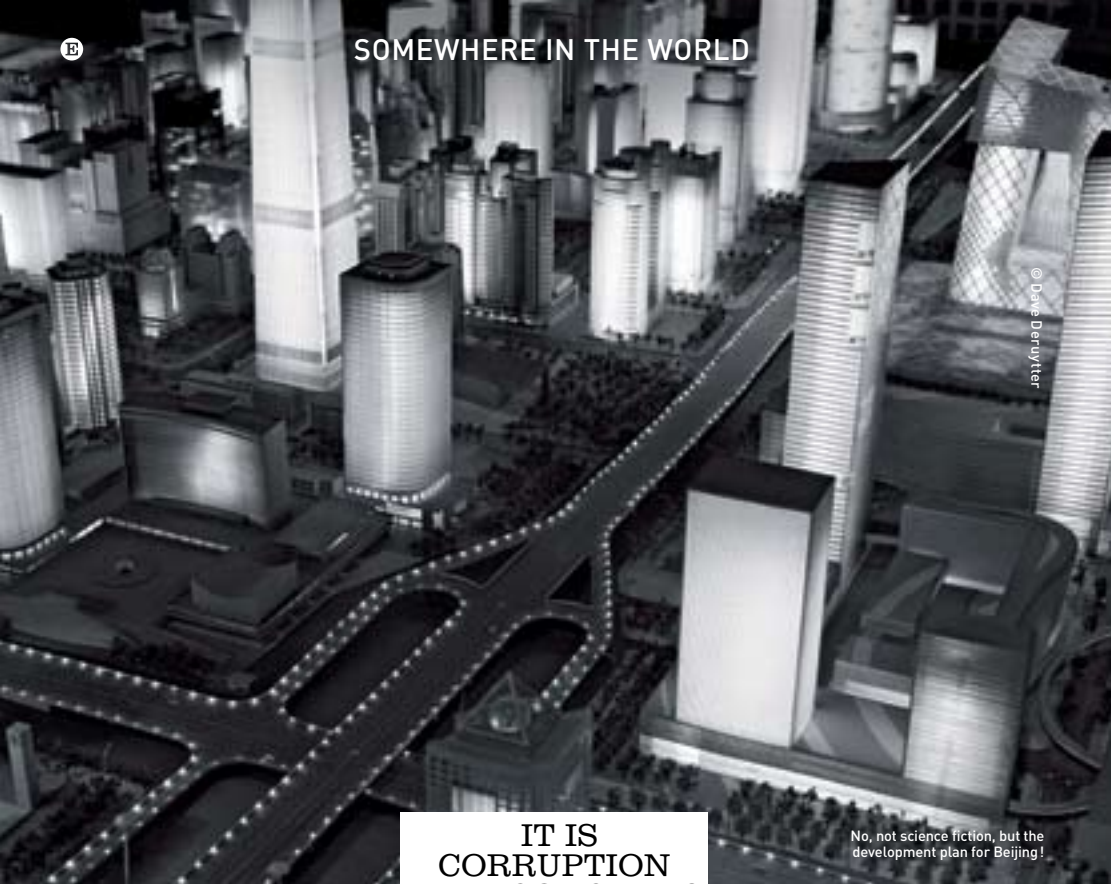
IT IS AMAZING TO THINK THAT THERE ARE AROUND 1,000 SKYSCRAPERS AT LEAST 20 STOREYS HIGH UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN BEIJING

annually. However, it is in exports that the country is most renowned: in textiles, electronics (from musical greeting cards to washing machines, televisions and personal computers).

'Lenovo' may already be a familiar name. Just a few

The Chinese and Europeans share a common interest in food of all colours and tastes

years ago, it bought IBM's PC division and is now thriving. The service sector is also booming. One may be hesitant about the quality of Chinese banks' assets, but all those that have had an IPO in recent years have at least doubled, often tripled, their share prices. The question is, who is gaining from all this business activity? The gap between rich and poor is unfortunately still growing in China, even as the government is trying to increase the income of the less well-off. In particular, ►



© Dave Deruytter

IT IS CORRUPTION THAT CONCERNS CITIZENS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE

many farmers living in the country, far from the rich coastal areas, remain in dire straits. A few hours drive out of Beijing, and you can still find farmers working with ox and cart to plough the land. However, given that their income is also rising, although more slowly than along the coast, they seem to be happy with what they have and proud of their country's advances. As with many other countries around the world, it is corruption that concerns citizens more than anything else, assuming that they have enough food and a minimal standard of living. Back to Beijing, where the breathtaking economic

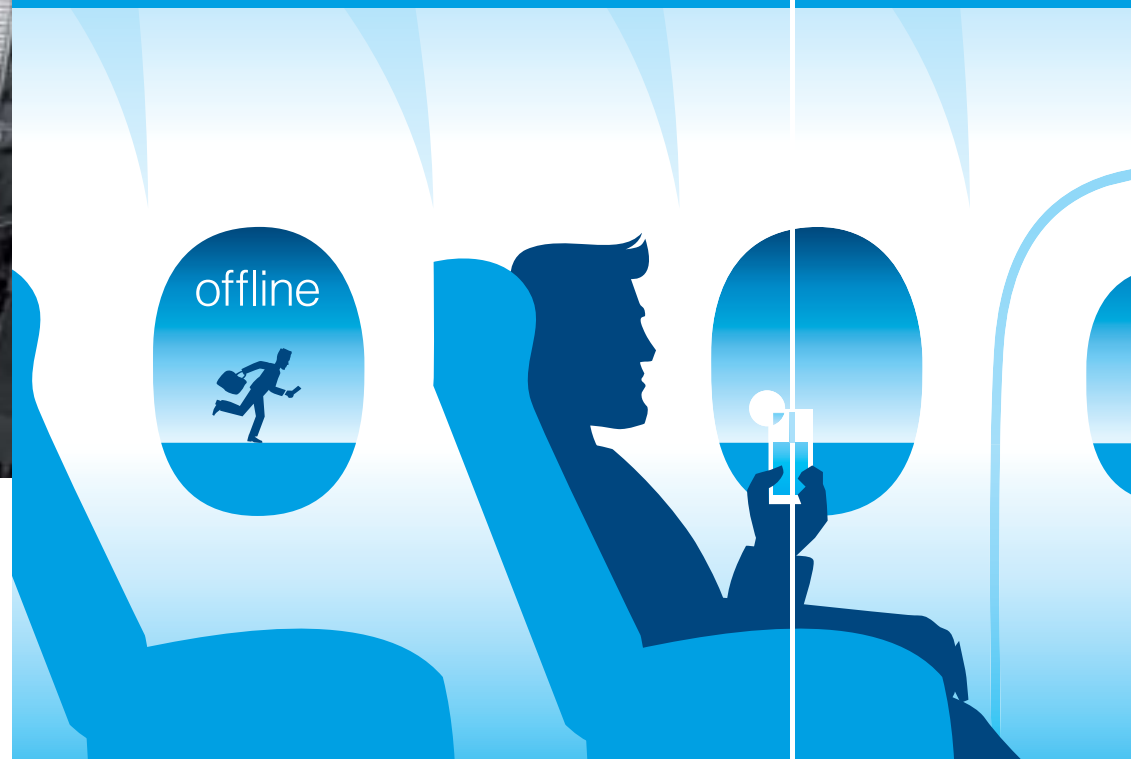
advances have changed the city dramatically. Yes, the 'Forbidden City' and 'Tiananmen Square' with Mao's mausoleum are still there, but they are now often covered by thick smog, caused by factory and construction activity. What's more, many of Beijing's living quarters have undergone radical change; scores of the famous 'Hutongs', the typical previous accommodation for the average Chinese citizen, have gone. A price of progress, perhaps, but it has

No, not science fiction, but the development plan for Beijing!

brought better and more hygienic housing for the people. All in all, though I clearly noticed the material changes Beijing has undergone over the past seven years, not in the least because of the mushrooming high-rise buildings, its heart and charm are obviously there to stay. To visit Beijing is a must from cultural, social, historical and economic viewpoints. Just go and be surprised and pray that there is enough wind to clear the smog from the 'Temple of Heaven', the 'Summer Palace' and the 'Great Wall'. You just can't be indifferent about Beijing. ⑦

Dave Deruytter

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favourite seat
check in online



km.be

The Reliable Airline **KLM** SKYTEAM
Royal Dutch Airlines

Secret Château, secret garden

Swimming in splendour

It's not often that you find a cocoon of luxurious comfort that feels like it's hiding from the world, but that was the impression that Hotel Château de Limelette made on a grateful James Drew. He recounts his first visit to this Ottignies jewel...

We all discover somewhere like Hotel Château de Limelette from time to time, if we're lucky; it's the type of haven that you're glad that you heard about and decided to pay a visit, but also hope (just a little selfishly) that word doesn't spread too fast – it's meant to be your secret getaway, after all... With my other secret delight (my girlfriend, that is) accompanying me, and with the weather marvellous for late September, a short (around 35mins) train trip to Ottignies from Brussels' Gare du Midi followed by a taxi, brought us into the beautiful Château de Limelette, still splendidly attired in its 19th-century trappings.

Once settled into our comfortable double room, my beloved (who is nature-loving and artistic) was enthusiastic about the tranquil beauty of the woodland, while bemoaning the absent battery that meant she couldn't capture the beautiful flowers and fountains that form the backdrop to this oasis.

All well and good – but I was hungry and thirsty... and my best excuse was that I would need some strength for tomorrow's lengthy walk. This turned out to be the truth, in fact (we were still searching for somewhere that sold camera batteries, and traipsed lengthily up hill, down dale, without success). However, for Mark Twain's '



**BEAUTIFUL
FLOWERS AND
FOUNTAINS
FORM THE
BACKDROP TO
THIS OASIS**

a good walk spoiled', an excellent golf course is close by. An attractive heated indoor swimming pool is also on hand, along with the Thalgo Limelette Balneotherapeutic Centre, where aches and pains are soothed with seawater, apparently. We'll try it next time, promise. Now, the meal...

And it was absolutely splendid – the maitre d', immaculately polite (as were all the staff), was even forgiving enough to find us a table, even though we hadn't booked. Take a tip – a reservation is strongly urged, especially at the weekends, as the gastronomic restaurant, Saint-Jean-des-Bois, is also open to non-residents. My vegetarian better half was very pleased that, although there is no formal dish choice on the carte, all it took was a polite request, and a mouth-watering concoction was

presented at the same time as my delicious duck, which was beautifully lubricated by a reasonably priced 1999 Margaux from the wide-ranging wine list – it was a treat weekend, after all.

So, the secret's out. Keep it to yourself, won't you? ☺

James Drew

HOTEL CHÂTEAU DE LIMELETTE

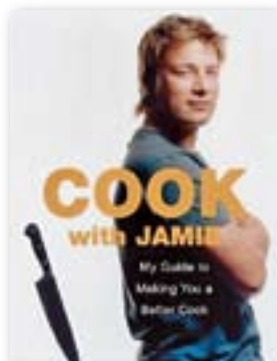
87 rue Charles Dubois,
1342 Ottignies
Limelette, Belgium
T. +32 (0)10 42 19 99
www.chateau-de-limelette.be

Restaurant reservations:

Tel: +32 (0)10 42 19 91
E-mail: reservation@chateau-de-limelette.be

Waterstone's selection

As the nights draw in and the leaves turn to autumnal oranges and reds, we turn our thinking caps to Christmas and the joys of giving and receiving a great book...



COOK WITH JAMIE BY JAMIE OLIVER

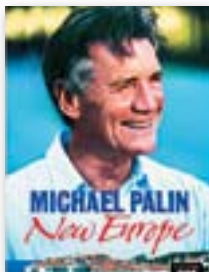
I like Jamie's recipes – his simple, enthusiastic style motivates you to try new meals with international influences or attempt to make an old favourite by yourself from scratch. His aim here is simply to make you a better cook, and he also gives shopping tips on how to choose the best ingredients for his dishes.

Published: 2007

Publisher: Hyperion

Total pages: 448 pages

Format: Hardcover



NEW EUROPE BY MICHAEL PALIN

In his latest, Michael Palin has decided to explore closer to home, to the countries that were formerly cut off from the public eye by the Cold War and the Iron curtain. Accompanied by established photographer Basil Pao's images, New Europe takes us on a journey through 20 countries, encountering painful memories and exuberant celebrations as he courageously and enthusiastically samples unusual traditions of the locals whom he encounters on his journey.

Published: 2007

Publisher:

Weidenfeld & Nicolson

Total pages: 288 pages

Format: Hardcover



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2008

Arranged by category, this book charts the weird and wonderful extremes of life, the universe and everything and this year includes 'glow in the dark' features for the night owls among us. Be warned, you'll have to be quick with this, as it is a one-off print run and usually sells out before Christmas every year.

Published: 2007

Publisher: Guinness

Total pages: 288 pages

Format: Hardcover



BOOK OF THE DEAD BY PATRICIA CORNWELL

The titular 'book' is the morgue log, the ledger in which all cases are entered by hand. For Kay Scarpetta, however, it is about to take on a new meaning. Fresh from her bruising battle with a psychopath in Florida, Scarpetta decides it's time for a change of pace. Moving to the historic city of Charleston, South Carolina, she opens a unique private forensic pathology practice, one in which she and her colleagues offer expert crime scene investigation and autopsies to communities lacking local access to competent death investigation and modern technologies.

Published: 2007

Publisher: Little, Brown

Total pages: 400 pages

Format: Hardcover



EXIT MUSIC BY IAN RANKIN

It's late autumn in both

Edinburgh and the career of Detective Inspector John Rebus. As he tries to tie up some loose ends before retirement, a murder case intrudes. A dissident Russian poet has been found dead in what looks to be a mugging gone wrong. Coincidentally, a high-level delegation of Russian businessmen is in town, keen to bring business to Scotland. The politicians and bankers who run Edinburgh are determined that the case should be closed quickly and clinically. But the further they dig, the more Rebus and his colleague DS Siobhan Clarke become convinced that they are dealing with something more than a random attack – especially after a particularly nasty second killing. Meantime, a brutal and premeditated assault on local gangster 'Big Ger' Cafferty puts Rebus in the frame. Has the inspector taken a step too far? Only a few days shy of the end to his long, inglorious career, will he even make it that far?

Published: 2007

Publisher: Little, Brown

Total pages: 400 pages

Format: Hardcover



THE WHISPERERS BY ORLANDO FIGES

Drawing on a huge range of

sources – letters, memoirs, and conversations – Orlando Figes tells the story of how Russians endured life under Stalin, brilliantly conveying the reality of their terrible choices. This is Figes's masterpiece. It is both a gripping and emotional account of lives lived in impossible times and a remarkable example of the power and value of writing history.

Published: 2007

Publisher: Allen Lane

Total pages: 740 pages

Format: Hardcover

In fact, there are too many interesting books to mention in so few pages. Why not pop down for a browse – or on a Sunday, when Waterstone's is open all day from 10.30am to 6pm and parking restrictions aren't so extensive. Alternatively, visit www.waterstones.com for tips and ideas – most books mentioned are available, if not in the shop, then to order. Waterstone's recommends placing your orders before 1 December, in order to ensure no disappointments on the big day.

With that, I wish you a happy festive season and look forward to giving you a taster in the next Together Magazine of literary treats in store for 2008. ☺

Sarah Higgs

Waterstone's
Boulevard A. Max 71
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 219 27 08

W
Waterstone's

STAY MOTIVATED AND REACH YOUR GOALS

Autumn is a time when many people decide to join a fitness club, with the aspiration of changing old habits and getting in shape. During the first weeks of a new fitness programme, motivation is high and the reasons for wanting to change are still fresh in the memory.

However, the new habits can all-too-often become a routine that lacks variety, and motivation levels may drop. This happens to most people at some point and, when it does, you need to be armed with solutions.

Do it different: If you have a total-body programme, break it up into upper and lower body, or, if you have been working on separate sections, try training the whole body in one routine. If- you normally stay on just one machine for your cardio workouts, use different machines in your session.

Two's more fun than one: An exercise partner helps you to stick to your routine. Together, you can commit to turning up for workouts, push each other to do more than you would on your own, and keep on track with your

goals. Choose a partner at a similar fitness level and with similar goals.

Join a group: If you have been working out in a gym or running on the treadmill, why not inject a little variety and take a group-training class. You'll not only have the motivation of an instructor and energizing music, but also the variety and support of your group.

Reduce the time: Do the same workout more quickly. Lightening up the weights a little and reducing your breaks so that there's only minimal rest between exercises can accomplish this. Or, try completing the same distance that you would normally cover on the treadmill or bike over 45 minutes in just 30mins. At all World Class clubs there are plenty of 30-minute classes, which can provide endless variety for your workout routine.

Book a PT: Personal trainers have a huge range of exercises that can be used in your routine. You'll find that a monthly session with a trainer adds a continuous flow of new exercises, to keep boredom at bay.

Support is power: Surround yourself with like-minded people. A fitness club is a great resource for people striving towards similar goals.

Recognize your progress: Measure your progress, and reward your accomplishments. If you have a week that did not go as you wanted, look at what went wrong, acknowledge your learning and then move on. Let your progress be a positive motivation toward your goals. Want to know more about how to stay motivated and reach your goals? Get in touch with us at World Class – we'd love to hear from you! ☎
www.worldclass.be



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.

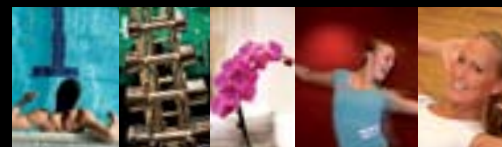
Contact your local club for more information or visit: www.worldclassfitness.net

Fitness Center Berchem
Covellierstaet 15,
2600 Berchem
Phone: +32 3 281 20 06
berchem@worldclass.be

Fitness Center Diegem
Pegasus Park,
De Kleetlaan 5b-5c, 1831 Diegem
Phone: +32 2 300 57 00
diegem@worldclass.be

Health Academy Antwerp
Gerard le Grellelaan 10,
2020 Antwerp
Phone: +32 3 259 75 05
antwerp@worldclass.be

Health Academy Brussels
Renaissance Hotel,
Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels
Phone: +32 2 551 59 90
brussels@worldclass.be



World Class[®]
BELGIUM

It's all in the timing: The Hamilton Trophy



Golfers practice before The Hamilton Trophy

Golfers gathered for Value Added Golf's final tournament of a very successful season.

They numbered 100 men and women, ready to take on the hills and creeks of this demanding course. The welcome, as always, was friendly, which is just one reason for the organisation's success, an alchemy that turns formal into informal.

A charity benefits – on this occasion, the worthy recipients were the Mediclowns of Queen Fabiola Children's University Hospital in Brussels, who entertain very sick children. Competitors were offered the chance to buy a golf ball, initial it and attempt to get 'nearest to the pin' on a designated short hole. And golfers gave

BRUSSELS' ESTABLISHED EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY LOOKS FOR STRONG ORGANISATION, COURTESY AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

a bunch (more than 1000€ was raised by the end of the evening). It did help, of course, that two splendid

Hamilton watches, worth in the region of 800€ each, were up for grabs – everyone raised their game.

It was fitting that the watchmaker that first manufactured the "Watch of Railroad Accuracy" should sponsor a golf tournament; tee-off times have to be strictly adhered to, or chaos ensues.

The day rolled by as it does when the participants are in the countryside for at least four hours, attempting to tame the landscape, chatting with partners in the natural lulls of the game. There really is no better way of meeting people, 'shackled' as one is to their company for hours on end.

Then, they joined their fellow golfers for a well-earned drink and the lucky winners walked off with everything from a coveted Hamilton watch to green-fee certificates.

Brussels' established expatriate community looks for strong organisation, courtesy and local knowledge. That's the key to an event such as this, organised by people who know the town and are in touch with its constantly evolving community.

Value Added Golf wants to take the organisation beyond the confines of the course, beyond the greens to networking and social events and to hone it into a powerful business club which combines work and fun for golfers and non-golfers alike. ☺

Ken Reist

Cold comforts

Lift your spirits in the chilly winter months, with our seasonal selection of good times...

N NIGHTLIFE pages 66 - 82

- Winter Pleasures
- The Places To Be
- By the Glass
- Eat and Drink
- Fine Arts Diary
- Spectacles Diary

SKATE INTO CHRISTMAS!

01.12 > 01.01.08

The Christmas market – immediately, images of red-cheeked Europeans warming their cold hands with a glass or two of mulled wine come to mind. **The Brussels Christmas Market**, with its 220 rustic pine chalets, cheerful lights and delicious aromas, promises a true holiday atmosphere. Located around the Bourse, Place St Catherine and Place du Marché aux Poissons, the stalls offer a range of Christmas gifts, decorations, food and drinks. Just a stone's throw away, the Grand Place will once again host the giant Christmas tree and the Nativity. The real festivities begin when **St Nicholas** arrives on 6 December. Enjoy the festive delights on Place St Catherine, festooned with decorations, lights, an ice rink and a truly spectacular

Big Wheel; it's even more impressive after nightfall, when lit by 18,000 light-bulbs!
www.plaisirsdhiver.be



© Ottmar Hörl

FUCK CHRISTMAS

07-31.12

German artist Ottmar Hörl expresses his frustration with the world in general and Christmas in particular, with this charmingly titled invasion of provocative dwarves/gnomes (all of them 'giving the finger', hence their title, 'Le Stinkefinger') created especially for the festive season.

Jonas Gallery
Rue de Flandre 35, 1000
Brussels

Open Thursday 14-18h

Friday 14-20h

Saturday 14-18h

T. +32 (0)2 503 50 55

www.jonasgallery.com

TOP OF THE CROPS

The grape crop is in – it's the time of year when the latest vintage begins to ferment. It's also a perfect opportunity to enjoy the wines of earlier years – expect more 'Christmassy' tastings in December. A wine bar that offers frequent tastings is the **Amfora** on 68 Rue de la Montagne, 1000 Brussels. It is also an art gallery, so the atmosphere is funky and elegant. And, once you're settled into 2008 and feeling confident, there's also the **Fourth Professional Wine Tasting Fair** at The Sheraton Hotel, Place Rogier, Brussels, on 25 February.

www.amfora-winery.be

Jeremy Slater



© Together Magazine

Christmas magic in Brussels

WINTER'S KNOCKING AT THE DOOR

©peopleattitude

The end of the year is fast approaching and opportunities to go out are abundant. Indisputably, the New Year's Eve party comes top of your list, but in the meantime, you mustn't forget all the other preparatory events that we now invite you to discover.

The 6to9 Club in Espace 53 is a welcome break from old-fashioned Schuman and the mêlée that invades the terraces of Place du Luxembourg. Now that 6to9 has firmly established itself, Thursday nights will never be the same again.

6to9 Club,
Espace 53
Parc du Cinquantenaire, 11
1000 Brussels
www.6to9.be

101 FRIENDS ON ICE:

At the 101 Friends on Ice evening, sample a sumptuous dinner in the Conrad Hotel transformed into an Ice Palace, followed by an enchanting show before warming yourself up again to the frenzied rhythms of the dance floor. Next: 30 November

Hotel Conrad
Avenue Louise, 71
1050 Brussels
www.jjcom.be

©peopleattitude



©peopleattitude

THE ROYAL PARTIES:

Once a month under a different theme, the Party Queen invites her court to strut its stuff in the catacombs of the Mirano. Each time, you are invited to start the evening with an Avant-Soirée Gratinée, a gourmet feast to thrill the taste buds. Next: Fashion Noces, 7 December, Noce...talgie, 18 January 2008.

Mirano
Chaussée de Louvain, 38
1210 Brussels
www.noces.be

©peopleattitude



© 6to9

© 6to9



©peopleattitude



© 6to9

PERFECTLY BALANCED.



JAMESON
IRISH WHISKEY

Taste our know-how wisely.

www.jamesonwhiskey.com

Stylish singles

Our resident wine expert Alex Hewetson guides us through the grape varieties from 'over here' - Old Europe - that contribute to some stunning wines from 'over there' - the New World.

ORIGINS OF EXCELLENCE

For many years, we have enjoyed champions from Italy and France, many of which are blends of a number of grape varieties. The wines from the Médoc appellation in Bordeaux are made from an assemblage of mainly Cabernet Sauvignon, with some Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Chateaufort Du Pape in the Rhone Valley can have as many as 13 varieties blended to make a wine. Over the years some varieties that were used for blending became less popular and eventually disappeared. This can happen for a number

of reasons, but often it is because the variety is difficult to cultivate or just doesn't seem to bring anything significant to the wine. This happened to a white grape used in the Rhone valley called Viognier, where it was almost in danger of disappearing off the face of the wine lover's landscape. But it didn't, because something happened to it called the New World, in this case in particular, Australia. They saw the potential of this soft spicy darling and vinified it to bring out its distinctive qualities. There you have it, the first of our stylish singles.

When everyone else is going for a 1er Cru Chablis and asks what you think, say gently, but firmly: "We'll have a bottle of the D' Arenalberg The Last Ditch Viognier 2005." Soft yet firm fruit flavours with a whiff of spice, strong but not overbearing, everyone will nod as they taste it...as your kudos and mystique go up 100%.

Another white contender, originally from the Rhone, is even less well-known: the Marsanne...the name simply rolls off the tongue. Again, Australia started producing it as a single grape wine that has also become

popular; it is very drinkable with no sharp corners. Delicate and difficult to produce, but, when well made, can bring out flavours of almonds mixed with citrus and perfume, and becomes a deep-coloured wine.

CUTTING A DASH

Imagine that you are astride an Arab mare in the rolling hills of the Maipo valley, Chile, your custom poncho and wide-brimmed hat cutting a dashing figure. You gaze out over hectare upon hectare of vines - somewhere among the Cabernets and Chardonnays there is another

candidate, which again, until recently, was largely forgotten. Come closer, I will whisper the secret in your ear - Carmenère. It was a grape that used to be in Bordeaux blends; difficult to grow in the region, but in the 1850s was taken from its homeland and planted in Chile.

EXPONENTS FROM THE NEW WORLD ARE EXCITING, FRESH AND UNKNOWN

This means that the vines are of European stock and pre-phylloxera. "To give its full name, phylloxera vastatrix is a nasty little root-eating parasite that arrived in Europe in the 1860s

and ravaged almost every vineyard well into the 20th century. It came over when American vines, *vitis labrusca*, were brought back to the 'old world'. All very well, but the European vine *vitis vinifera* had no immunity to it. The only way to stop it was to graft *labrusca* on to *vinifera*...hence eliminating the original European species. Purists argue that pre-phylloxera fruit was denser and had more oomph; all this to explain why Carmenère from Chile is so highly thought of. It has a thickness and natural richness, jams and spices... intense flavours.

And so we dash across the Maipo Valley...in fact we dash a hell of a long way... right across to Argentina to discover our last secret. The Bonarda originally hails from Italy, though experts are still debating if it is actually

the Bonarda, to further complicate matters, as there are three types. I have tried a 2002 organic Bonarda and, let's face it, organic is 'in'. Whether it evinces true style I know not, but an organic wine made from a relatively unknown single grape is highly individual and when it is really delicious as well, delivers that indefinable quality of distinction.

Four grape varieties that have left their ancestral seats in Europe, and, like so many discoverers and explorers, gone to far-off lands to seek fame and fortune, to find adventure. Some of their family stayed behind - Condrieu, for example, is a beautiful white Rhone made from Viognier. However, it seems to me that the exponents from the New World are exciting, fresh and unknown...they have style, they are single, and they stand out.

D' Arenalberg The Last Ditch Viognier 2005
13.50 £ Australia

Michelton Winery Marsanne 2007
7.00 £ Australia

Santa Julia Bonarda 2006
5.50 £ Argentina

Santa Inés Carmenère Gran Reserva 2004
11.40 £ Chile

www.migsworldwines.be ☎

Alex Hewetson

Gastronomic discoveries

From phenomenal modern cuisine and a restaurant where wine is king, to a brasserie with gastronomic élan, a great Italian and a refined Thai, Sensusum.be takes your taste buds on a stroll through Brussels and beyond...



© Sensusum.be

L'air du Temps

L'AIR DU TEMPS

Carine and Sang-Hoon have taken a demure house on a main road and created one of our country's hidden treasures of haute cuisine. Some find the style of furniture, the colours and the lighting arrangements somewhat surprising, but we like their daring. Starting out as a wine waiter, Sang-Hoon Degeimbre took his innate love of wine with him when he transferred to the kitchen a few years ago. Skilfully combining dishes and wines, herbs and spices, moving from discovery to creation, he offers diners a wealth of surprises. He is incessantly thinking, creating, inventing. From his kitchen that opens

onto the restaurant, his dishes fill us with wonder; veritable explosions of flavours, cleverly arranged into sensitive and refined symmetrical designs. Then, of course, there are the wines. Like any self-respecting chef, he visits all the wine-producing continents to offer his guests superb bottles from all corners of the globe. L'Air du Temps is a precious and sumptuous address. A diamond.

**Chaussée de Louvain, 181
5310 Noville-sur-Mehaigne
(Eghezée)
T. +32 (0)81 81 30 48
Open from 12:00 to 14:00 and
from 19:00 to 21:00, 21:30 at
the weekend.
Closed on Wednesday,
Thursday and Saturday midday.**

VINOLUBILE

This could be your perfect daily spot, it's the one local joint that we would all love to have nearby. Drop in and try the day's special for just a few euro; it's not just any special that's served here: the cilantro sardines and the red wine onion jam are to die for, and there is also the seared red tuna steak with diced tomatoes and lemon juice or the pork loin chop Basque style with hazelnut oil, potato cake and pickled onions. Here, life is gentle and not really like anywhere else, thanks to the happiness of Romain and the craft of Mathieu. We already knew Romain's wine passion and knowledge when he worked at Un des Sens or the Winery in

Brussels; back in those days, Mathieu was working in the kitchen in Wavre, in places such as La Table du Marché. Their meeting gave birth to Vinolubile. Here, the idea is clearly to share and discover beautiful things, be it food or drink. Between the obvious quality of the wine list and the (re)discovery of sometimes forgotten produce and vegetables, feel free to allow the artist waiters to tell stories about the many cheeses on offer.

**Rue Constant De Raedt, 26
1300 Wavre
T. +32 (0)10 24 70 24
Open from 12:00 to 14:00 and
from 18:30 to 22:30
Closed on Sunday and
Monday. ◉**



Vinolubile



Brasserie De La Paix

BRASSERIE DE LA PAIX

When your name is David Martin, when you have manned the stoves at the Epicerie, been head chef for Alain Passard and at the Jules Vernes in Paris or even at Bruneau in Brussels and you take up the reins of the Brasserie de la Paix in Anderlecht, standards are obviously going to be high. But the man who has achieved great success by combining the best ingredients with divine imagination has met this challenge without taking anything away from the traditional tavern feel, the root of La Paix's phenomenal success since 1892. This keen enthusiast of ingredients produces dishes that could fit in almost anywhere, but tasting his pot-roast Landais chicken on a hay bed or Bavarian Simmenthal beef rib and dairy-butter Béarnaise sauce is simply supreme gourmet pleasure. The man is a phenomenon. To understand what such a talent is doing in a more than one hundred-year old tavern with a deliciously kitsch décor opposite the Anderlecht slaughterhouses, you simply need to sit at a table and have a taste. Bliss.

Rue Ropsy-Chaudron, 49
1070 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 523 09 58
Open from 12:00 to 13:30 and
Friday from 19:00 to 21:30
Closed on Saturday and
Sunday.



Ristorante Bocconi

RISTORANTE BOCCONI

In the heart of Brussels, the Ristorante Bocconi has long won over food-lovers through its authentic and sophisticated Trans-Alpine cuisine. The restaurant soon became a meeting place for the most esteemed gourmets, VIPs, actors and pop stars. Its claim to fame is Italian gastronomy orchestrated with a masterly hand by the talented Giuseppe Colella, crowned Belgium's

top chef in May 2006 and member of the select Euro-Toques club. Giuseppe offers a new angle on Mediterranean cuisine: simple ingredients, cooked just right and the pleasure of southern flavours. A dining room in shades of yellow, dotted with hand-painted porcelain plates and a modern design immediately puts diners in a good mood. Nestled in the intimacy of its semi-circular benches,

indulge yourselves in the advice of the head-waiter and discover the wine menu. This is an out-of-the-ordinary place, where a team driven by detail takes care of you. The pampering begins as soon as you walk through the door.

Rue de l'Amigo, 1
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 547 47 15
Open every day from 12:00 to
14:30 and from 19:00 to 23:00. ☛



Bois Savanes

BOIS SAVANES

Bois Savanes, a Thai restaurant, is among our favourites. This eatery has had a makeover, not just superficial changes, but an in-depth transformation. The verdict? Magnificent. As soon as you enter, the tone is set. Visitors set foot on a genuine cobbled alley, particularly reminiscent of Asia. Right away, guests grasp that allusions to Thailand will be subtle and tasteful. Next, you pass by an embossed wall painting in

Thai writing before arriving at the first floor, dominated by an easy-on-the-eye harmony of colour shades we would call taupe. The furniture, the walls covered by fine wood panelling and finely lit ambiance all contribute to placing diners in the best mood to enjoy their meal. There are two more attractively designed rooms: a smoker's bar on the ground floor and a mezzanine enhanced by roof decking and beams. Without a doubt, if the essential criterion for a restaurant's success

is wanting to return there, then Bois Savanes passes the test with flying colours. In fact, are we going back soon?

Waterloosteenweg, 208
1640 Sint-Genesius-Rhode
T. +32 (0)2 358 37 78
Open from 12:00 to 14:00 and from 19:00 to 21:30, 22:00 at the weekend.
Closed on Monday and Saturday midday.

MORE RESTAURANTS ON
www.sensum.be

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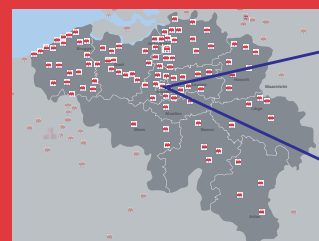
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Sensual sculpture

There are two golden fishes swimming in a suspended globular bowl in the window, when one enters the lounge of the Atelier 340 Muzeum. President-caretaker Wodek (who's Polish, hence the singular title), speaks about his love affair with contemporary sculpture.

An Atelier 340 installation

© Atelier 340 Muzeum

Together Magazine: The Atelier 340 has been around for a long time now. When did you start the project?

Wodek:

I left Poland 34 years ago and the Atelier will be 29 years old in 2008 – it was created in 1979. We have always shown artists from all over Europe, and we have always paid! Atelier 340 Muzeum is an independent art centre for the study and promotion of sculpture and three-dimensional art in Belgium and abroad.

TM: Your institution went through financial trouble recently. How did you deal with the issue?

W: *It was not the first time. But, this time, I decided to*

exclusively manage the crisis with our public's support. The result was amazing and immediate. I received so many emails that we have decided to cover a wall with their printouts. This is a perfect time for us to take stock of our activities – we discovered that we have actually built not just a museum, but also an entire street. In summertime, we put sofas and couches outside, and people come here to have a chat.

Atelier 340 Muzeum also houses a Documentation Centre specialising in contemporary sculpture and a Stone Cell. It will be organising an extensive show of its permanent collection from the end of 2007 to early 2008 [dates tbc].

ATELIER 340 MUZEUM

Drève de Rivierendreef, 340
1090 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 424 24 12
Exhibitions: Tuesday to Sunday and bank holidays, from 2 to 7 p.m.
www.atelier340muzeum.be
info@atelier340muzeum.be



Armyde Peignier - Variations

© Atelier 340 Muzeum

VARIATIONS Armyde Peignier 07.11.07→30.12.07

Photographer Armyde Peignier's space is a space lived in, a subjective reappropriation of the landscape; his work is about personal freedom and diving into the heart of the matter. His photographs mark the moments shared to experience life, to face the fear of the unknown, to lose oneself, for the better. A mythical space.

Espace Photographique
Contretype
Avenue de la Jonction, 1
B-1060 Bruxelles
T. +32 (0)2 538 42 20
www.contretype.org
contretype@skynet.be
Wed-Fri 11-18h,
Sat-Sun 13-18h, except holidays.



Adalbert Gans

© Chaos 07

CHAOS 07 Paintings and drawings by Adalbert Gans 16.11.07→05.01.08

Gans's paintings and the artist's self-descriptions ('I am an astronaut, train

driver, drug dealer, police officer, hitman and pimp. Yes... I am a hijacker, bank clerk, Gandi, Hitler, Jesus, Mohammed, Stalin, Napoleon, Mother Theresa...') hint at a spiritual inspiration. Too often this kind of work is soft, sweet and amorphous. One also expects clichés and the obvious use of symbols. Definitely not the case with Adalbert Gans. His actions are: pouring, splashing and stirring the materials – the essence of chaos.

Jonas Gallery
Rue de Flandre 35
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)479 98 37 63
www.jonasgallery.com

ALECHINSKY: FROM A TO Y 23.11.07→30.03.08

Retrospective exhibition in tribute to Pierre Alechinsky, a famous Belgian artist, now aged 80. An important series of works will be gathered by the Royal Museum for Fine Arts of Belgium in close co-operation with the artist: paintings, drawings, engravings and book illustrations from national and international collections.

Musée d'Art Moderne
Bruxelles
Place Royale 1
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 508 32 11
www.kmskb.be



Alechinsky: From A to Y

KATYA LEGENDRE Inside 14.12.07→16.02.08

"Go inside, go to the centre of Anatole". Katya Legendre's iconic baby-doll represents new horizons, infinite possibilities. One is born, one leaves life, one returns – Legendre's images point to a world rearranged from day to day. A journey that you are welcome to join...

Young Gallery
Avenue Louise 75b
(Wiltcher's Place – Conrad Hotel) – 1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 374 07 04
www.younggalleryphoto.com



Katya Legendre

Hélène Noël
James Drew

© Musée d'Art Moderne

© KL



'I' Is Memory

LA HISPANOFLAMENCA

29.11, 8pm
Enjoy a classical concert with oomp with Ensemble La Hispanoflamenca in Brussels. Under the watchful eye of conductor Bart Vandeweghe, Hispanoflamenca specialises in their choral repertoire, with its celebration of Spanish and Flemish roots.

Eglise des Minimes
Rue des Minimes 62
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 519 78 99
www.classictic.com/venues/169.html

RODRIGO Y GABRIELA

03.12, 8pm
Think you've heard guitar? Think again. What Rodrigo Sanchez and Gabriela

Quintero can't do with their strings isn't worth worrying over. Two fast-fingered Mexicans (normally based in Dublin), with a unique sound created on acoustic guitars. Their music is difficult to define, straddling both world and rock, and often imbued with timeless Hispano-classical influences. The pair are adamant that it's NOT flamenco - but that won't stop you having a great deal of fun with your clothes on, such is their energy and passion. Duelling guitars, like you've never heard...

Ancienne Belgique
Boulevard Anspach 110
T. +32(0)2 548 24 24
1000 Brussels
www.ab.be

IL GARDELLINO

13.12.07, 8pm
Belgian baroque ensemble Il Gardellino can always be relied on to come up with a well-constructed programme. An evening devoted to concert life in 18th-century Berlin, for example, or an introduction to the instruments of love - or, as in this evening's concert, a selection of solo concertos from the Italian Baroque, by the great Vivaldi and by two of his somewhat overshadowed colleagues, Giuseppe Tartini and Baldassare Galuppi.

Centre for Fine Arts
Rue Ravenstein 23
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 507 82 00
www.bozar.be

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

13 & 19.12, 8pm
Under the musical direction of Piers Maxim, the Chambre de la Monnaie Orchestra ushers in the with the haunting strains of Camille Saint-Saëns' Oratorio de Noël (1858), with contralto Natascha Petrinsky and tenor Dovlet Nurgeldiyev, followed by Ottorino Respighi's Lauda per la natività del Signore (1928-30), with Nurgeldiyev again as Pastore and Hélène Guilmette as L'Angelo. A beautiful introduction to Yuletide.

La Monnaie
Place de la Monnaie
1000 Brussels
T: +32 70 23 39 39
(from 12 am to 6 pm)
www.lamonnaie.be

WOODY ALLEN AND HIS NEW ORLEANS JAZZ BAND

21.12, 8pm
Woody in Brussels? How lucky can you get? His second European tour and his first visit to Belgium as a musician, the renowned director really is pretty handy with a clarinet. A great passion of his life (apocryphally, he didn't even turn up to collect his first Oscar because it clashed with his 'music' night) good, unadulterated old-style jazz is what the man will be offering, with the peerless backing of the New Orleans Jazz Band. Want tickets? Better move fast, boy...

BOZAR
Rue Ravenstein 18
T. +32 (0)2 507 82 00
1000 Brussels
www.bozar.be

'I' IS MEMORY

13 > 14.12, 8.30pm
Both hailing from Montreal, dancer Louise Lecavalier and dancer-choreographer Benoît Lachambre study the "impulse of movement that precedes all human communication and in which you can read the soul" in this breathtaking, quasi-meditative dance discipline that confronts the body with its own movements, which is no longer guided or

propelled forward by the mind but by an 'inner explosion' that radiates through the whole body and spreads in bones, muscles, organs and joints. Pictures with movement.

Kaaitheater
20 square Sainctelette
T. +32 (0)2 201 59 59
1000 Brussels
www.kaaitheater.be

Hélène Noël
James Drew



Gabriela Quintero and Rodrigo Sanchez

Le Chat

Le Chat by Philippe Geluck is always there to make us laugh. Savour sans moderation!



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