

Together

magazine

SEPTEMBER 2017 #81

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\$1m holiday

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water

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design

**PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT**
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Bootcampbunch

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forever

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Michael
Fassbender

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Bouygues
Immobilier
Belgium



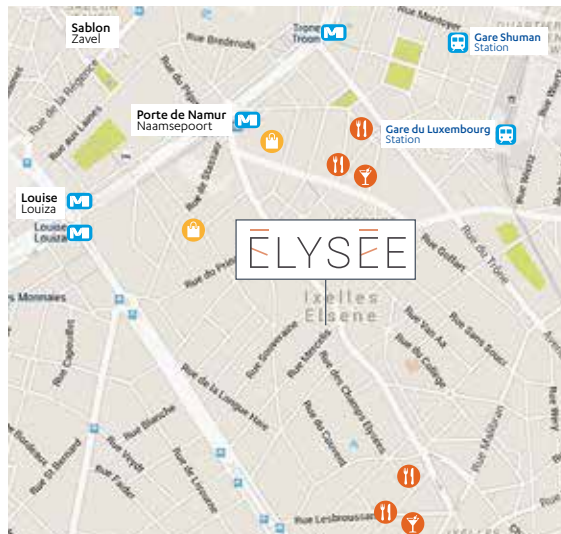
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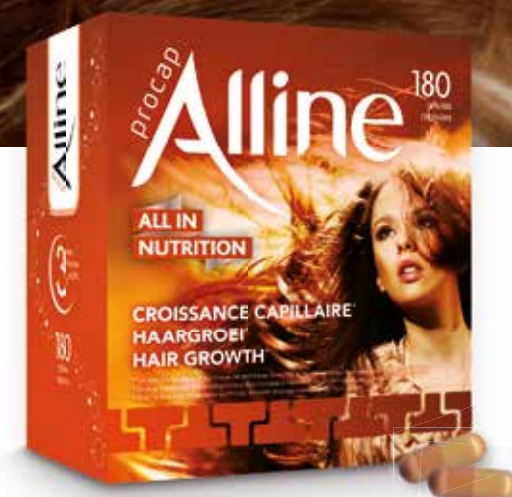
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Editor's LETTER

*Together:
Inspiring you
to reach your dreams...*

ON THE COVER



Michael Fassbender stars in
The Snowman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO... US!

If you happen to be in the neighbourhood of Saint Michel you might just hear the popping of champagne corks. *Together* is celebrating its 10th anniversary, no mean feat for printed publications these days.

Through the years we have increased the number of pages and continue to improve the content and over all quality of the magazine. You may also know that we have branched out – *Together Africa* is preparing its fourth issue as we speak and there are plans afoot for several more *Togethers* in Europe and on the other side of the pond. And our popular *Healthy* (in French and English) supplement will be back again next year, alongside other supplements that are in the pipeline.

Our covers over some 84 issues have been graced by some of Hollywood's finest, many of whom have picked up Oscars for best actor or best actress, such as Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Eddie Redmayne, Emma Stone, Cate Blanchett, Kate Winslet, Jennifer Lawrence, Marion Cotillard, Hilary Swank and Charlize Theron.

And for us it's onwards and upwards – and a great thank you to all of you for taking the journey with us!

Paul Morris
Editor



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Be inspired on www.togethertmag.eu

Designer hotel: BenBo living pods

Paul Morris checks out a new space-saver designer hotel in Naples. I looked recently at the digital clock that ticks away displaying the world population – it's heading rapidly toward the 7.5 billion mark. Designers and architects the world over are rising to the challenge of making better use of our urban space. We have to live in smaller spaces but that doesn't mean they can't be cool. Meet BenBo (Bed and Boarding), Italy's first capsule hotel. Dorelan and DorelanHotel, the company's contract division selected to provide high-quality rest for the guests of 42 capsule rooms opened in January...

Self development: The dark night of the soul

This poem does not refer to the difficulties of life in general but rather in the purgation that is the road to the divine. How far can we relate this to our contemporary world and everyday life? For me it couldn't explain better the feelings we can go through during the long months of winter, when energies are low, and we spend a lot of time in our houses, waiting for the Spring to emerge and bring back it's (de) lightful odours, flowers and smiles. In shamanic culture, according to Jamie Sams, a Native American shamanic healer and author of the book *Dance your dreams...*

AXL Jewelry: A means of communication

Jeanie Keogh meets a woman who turns the past into the present at AXL Jewelry. From the street, the ivory glow emanating from AXL Jewelry store makes the round Art Nouveau window look like pearls. Stepping into Brussels' first high-end jewellery concept store on rue Mignot Delstanche has an immediate luxuriating effect. Axelle Delhaye sits down with me on the divan and I'm instantly drawn in by the hypnotic combination of her poise, soft voice and piercing eyes, to say nothing of her beauty. She is the personification of a precious gemstone and I take an instant shine to her.

Motoring: Bentley Mulsanne Extended Wheelbase

Malicious tongues in motoring may say that this is the first true Bentley designed in the Volkswagen era. It is certainly the only model which sports the mythical 6.75 litre V8 engine. In any case, this Mulsanne encapsulates what the prestigious British manufacturer does best! Bentley cars are not simply luxury limousines adorned with leather, precious woodwork and chrome: these English cars won the 24 Hours of Le Mans on five occasions in the 1920s... ❶



KNOKKE-HEIST OPEN FOR SUNDAY SHOPPERS



Starring in Belgium

Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit plus Tift Merritt

Jason Isbell is a Grammy Award winning American singer-songwriter and guitarist from Alabama. He is best known for his solo career, his work with the band The 400 Unit, and as a former member of Drive-By Truckers. His album *Something More Than Free* debuted at number 1 on Billboard Magazine's rock, folk and country record charts. More of his sublime songs can be heard on his latest album *The Nashville Sound*. **3 November**. Ancienne Belgique. Tickets: **€26** www.abconcerts.be



Chuck Prophet & The Mission Express

Chuck Prophet bring their raucous, glorious and majestic show to Brussels – he's a crowd-pleasing showman with a top-notch American songbook behind him to deliver big style rock 'n' roll. He will play tracks from his latest release, *Bobby Fuller Died For Your Sins*, his 13th solo effort. There's a lot of humour around when Chuck hits the stage. **30 October**. AB Club. Ancienne Belgique. Tickets: **€15** www.abconcerts.be



KT Tunstall

KT Tunstall is a Scottish singer-songwriter and guitarist. She broke into the public eye with her song *Black Horse and the Cherry Tree*. She has enjoyed commercial and critical success since, picking up three nominations before winning a BRIT Award and a Grammy Award nomination. Her third studio album, *Kin*, is out now. **24 October**. Orangerie, Botanique. Tickets: **€23** www.botanique.be



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CHARITY

Humans of New York

This month we look at an
unusual, remarkable initiative to
help people express their lives

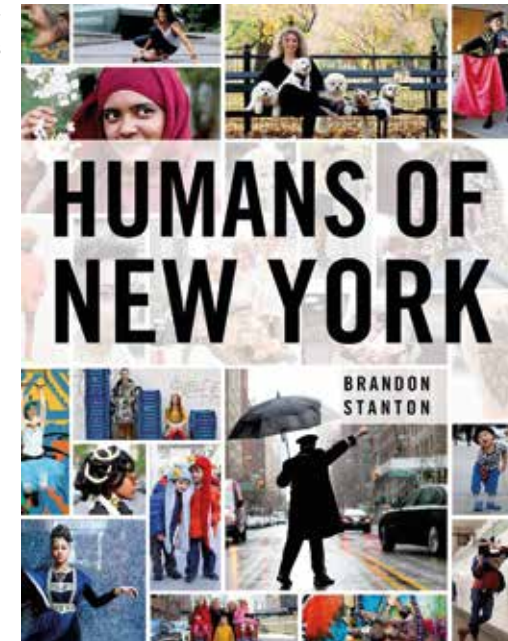
Humans of New York (HONY) is a photoblog and book that features street portraits and interviews collected on the streets of New York City. Started in November 2010 by photographer Brandon Stanton, *Humans of New York* has developed a large following through social media. The blog had over 18 million followers on Facebook and around 6.2 million followers on Instagram as of November 2016.

Stanton explains: "*Humans of New York* began as a photography project in 2010. The initial goal was to photograph 10,000 New Yorkers on the street, and create an exhaustive catalogue of the city's inhabitants.

"Somewhere along the way, I began to interview my subjects in addition to photographing them. And alongside their portraits, I'd include quotes and short stories from their lives."

Taken together, these portraits and captions became the subject of a vibrant blog. HONY now has over twenty million followers on social media, and provides a worldwide audience with daily glimpses into the lives of strangers on the streets of New York City.

Over the past five years, it has also expanded to feature stories from over twenty different



countries. The work is also featured in two bestselling books: *Humans of New York* and *Humans of New York: Stories*.

Stanton has collected portraits in nearly 20 different countries including Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan. In January 2015, he interviewed U.S. President Barack Obama in the Oval Office. Also in 2015, Stanton covered the European migrant crisis in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to capture and share the emotional experience of

refugees in Europe fleeing wars in the Middle East. In September 2016, Stanton interviewed U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

But it is the ordinary people that get a chance to let their stories shine. This from a young woman in Moscow: "I don't get to live the life of a seventeen year old. My mom is always working and I have a six-year-old brother. So I have to do everything that a mother would do. I take him to kindergarten, pick him up, feed him, clean up after him. I don't get to take breaks. I can't play sports after school. I can't get extra tutoring. But it's not my mom's fault. She's trying to save money for me to go to college. And she tells me every day that I'm a wonderful daughter..."

Read all the stories on the blog.
www.humansofnewyork.com

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Dark or luminous energies conveyed
by this moon may prove interesting*

**PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Fitness

Walk on water

myAspria's **Nils Courcy** reports on
a new fun fitness trend



You will no doubt be familiar with the idea of fitness in the water, but now there's a new trend in town: fitness on the water.

Love the pool, but fancy a change from swimming lengths or doing aqua aerobics? Aspria has introduced a brand new aqua group exercise concept to the timetable – WATFIT® – which involves balancing on an inflatable mat while you do a series of exercises.

Nils Courcy spoketo Isabelle Humberot of aqua fitness specialist Poolstar – the company which has designed this new workout – to find out more.

Nils Courcy: How would you describe WATFIT®?

Isabelle Humberot: The name WATFIT® comes from an abbreviation of the words 'water' and 'fitness', as it's a group exercise class that takes place in the swimming pool.

There are already many aqua fitness classes – such as aquabike, aquajump and aqua gym – but we wanted to push the concept of water training even further.

Inspired by yoga, Pilates and fitness, WATFIT® is therefore a brand new activity that uses an inflatable PVC floating mat (AquaFitmat) on top of which the exerciser performs a series of exercises.



with a wonderful new sensation of flotation, which is guaranteed to make you feel relaxed.

Above all, though, it's great fun! The concept was launched at the International Swimming Pool Show in Lyon, France, in November 2016 and already has many fans across Europe.

What are the benefits of WATFIT® for the exerciser?

In developing WATFIT®, we brought together the expertise of instructors in yoga, Pilates

and aquafitness, and as a result the class offers you the best of these three worlds.

It offers full-body training that's effective but also great fun, bringing together movements from Pilates and yoga along with muscle-building sequences, postural work and cardiovascular training to strengthen both body and mind.

One key area of focus is the core, as the instability of the mat on the water means our core muscles have to kick in to compensate and help us stabilize. This playful but permanent challenge lies at the very heart of the WATFIT® workout.

Meanwhile, the diverse choreography used in the classes ensures WATFIT® delivers a complete and varied workout. It combines functional movements with endurance work; posture, proprioception and co-ordination; and even relaxation and breathing.

So the benefits are very diverse. Plus of course you have fun while exercising, which is a benefit in its own right. ❶

The thickness (12cm), the stiffness, the non-slip surface and the dimensions (2.2m x 80cm) of the mat make it possible to perform many exercises on it. However, although the mat is moored in place so it can't drift around the pool, nevertheless there's an element of instability which ensures all the exercises challenge the individual's balance.

Who should try WATFIT®?

We set out to develop a workout that is as appealing to men as it is to women. The intensity can be adapted to different audiences and fitness levels, and the wide range of exercises means there's something to challenge everyone. It's quite possible to do squats on the mat, for example, while attachments can be used to work the muscles in the arm, as well as to stretch.

At Aspria, certified coaches deliver three different styles of WATFIT® training, ranging from a very calm, relaxing, Zen class through to a high-intensity session. Each class lasts 45 minutes, including warm-up.

Members who take part in the cross-training classes will work their way through a wide range of highly effective exercises. Meanwhile, the yoga classes combine deep concentration

**“ IT’S QUITE
POSSIBLE TO
DO SQUATS
ON THE MAT ”**



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PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Self-help

OMG, it's full moon again!

Sarbani Sen gives us tips on how to surf the hormonal waves



Every month we experience the same phenomenon, and every month most of us forget that it's that time again when people become a little more nervous – we sleep less or worse, we pick fights or become gloomy. Whether we believe in it or not, there are natural phenomena that show us clearly that the moon does affect our bodies – after all, we are made up of 75% water.

Miranda Gray, creator of the Moon Mother concept and author of the *Red Moon*, draws on this science to help women align

themselves with their deepest energies and live their lives with more harmony according to the menstrual and lunar cycles. This is a gift for men and women as it helps us understand the varying energies in most women (unless they are on a pill or hormonal activator, in which case their natural cycle and hormones are no longer working to this pattern).

According to Gray, women go through four stages every 21 days: the expressive phase, the creative phase, the reflective phase and the dynamic phase. They also have more



poetic nicknames, linked to the archetypes that characterize them: the enchantress, the witch, the mother and the virgin. Each phase is linked to particular symptoms and abilities, as well as down moments because of certain customary habits.

In terms of energy, the phases of the moon are of great importance for all of us, both men and women. Indeed, the energies diffused and favoured by the lunar star vary greatly during its cycle. It may therefore be useful to know the phases which are most favorable to us in our energetic and magical actions.

The New Moon

The energies conveyed and favoured by the new moon are ascending energies and often

overwhelmingly positive. Be careful, however – to benefit from these positive energies, one must oneself be willing to evacuate the energies charged and dated. This period favours this evacuation. Meditation at the new moon can make it easier and more effective to purify oneself. For those who are connected to the invisible, any magical action aimed at blessing and protecting will be amplified by these gentle but powerful and beneficial energies.

The First Crescent Moon

The energies carried by the moon during this phase continue to be predominantly ascending and positive. But there is no light without shadow. During this phase it can be very interesting to look internally, at our inner dark

sides. It is possible to bring out what is buried there with greater ease. This moon pushes the 'inner shadow' out, to show itself for the best for those who know how to work with it. However, this can be double edged – the experience may go too far, and be painful at the time, but in the end it will always be beneficial. Meditating under the influence of this phase can prove to be instructive.

The First Moon Quarter

A particularly interesting phase for the sorcerer, the first quarter offers the possibility of attracting positive energies, evacuating others and recharging easily. The rituals are facilitated. Unlike the New Moon, the energies here are lighter, less charged but not less powerful. So for meditation the benefit that can be drawn is less important, but magically it is the opposite. The rituals must be all the more reflective and precise.

The Growing Gibbous Moon

This is a period when the energies are again very, very heavy. It can be difficult to remain calm at this time when you are sensitive to the phases of the moon. The lunar star takes charge as it approaches its state of fullness. Meditating here is not highly recommended unless you want to know yourself better. The energies are heavy enough to allow one to get deep down inside. Magically, certain rituals will be favoured, those concerning the material or affective demands in particular.

Full Moon

The lunar energies reach their peak here. Some months they are exceptionally pure. During those months the nights are soft and soothing, the energies are felt effortlessly. Meditating during a full moon is a great idea. This is the perfect opportunity to address requests to the universe as well or to honour the 'sacred femininity' in itself and to celebrate the goddess. On a ritual level, feel your own power! This is a good moment to charge the mineral world – exposing all your stones to the

full moon will charge them with new energy.

The Decreasing Gibbous Moon

An excellent time to relax and rest, this phase is perfect for gentle meditation, relaxation and releasing inner tensions. On the magical level some personal or plant-based magic rituals are perfect. Their energy and the energy of this moon work perfectly together.

The Last Quarter of the Moon

Shadow and light mingle here but it is the shadow that prevails. This does not mean that bad energies take precedence. This phase can be very interesting as this moon is perfect for evacuating heavy energies after having taken the trouble to analyze them and understand them. Magically,

if you have doubts about someone's loyalty to you, it's time to check!

The Last Crescent of the Moon

The New Moon is close but is not yet there. These energies are mixed with electricity but it is not necessarily an unpleasant experience. Shadow and light tend to gently find a balance for the coming renewal. This phase is neutral from a magical point of view. All rituals can work equally, unless you know how to manipulate them to attract the energies that one desires. Dark or luminous energies conveyed by this moon may prove interesting if you know how to concentrate them. To meditate, to concentrate on oneself and its worries will help to raise awareness.

To sum up, it is quite interesting to build our calendar of activities based as much as possible on the lunar calendar. It could be interesting to brief your better half too on the various stages... ❶

“ MEDITATING
DURING A
FULL MOON IS
A GREAT IDEA ”



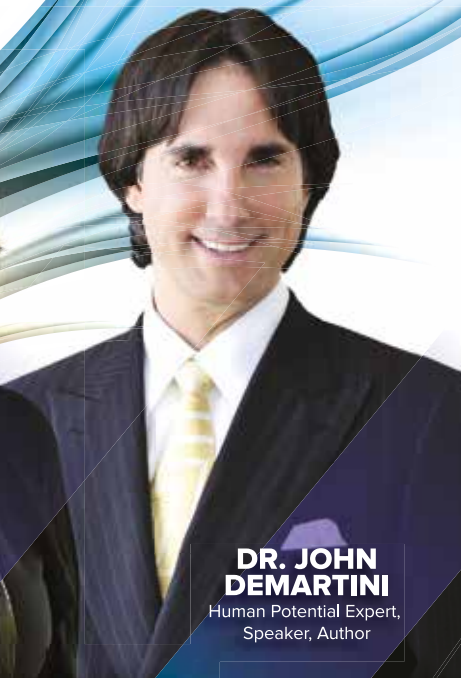
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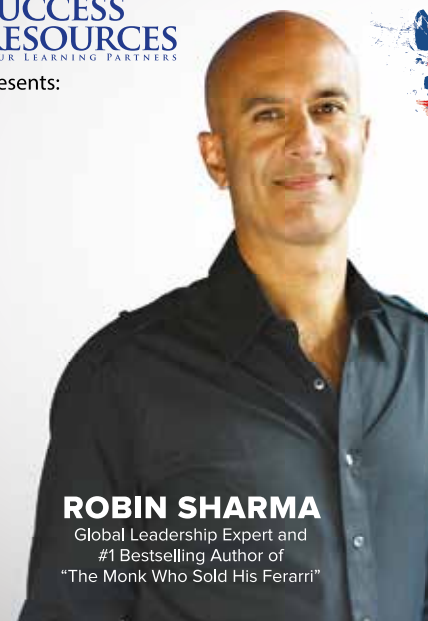
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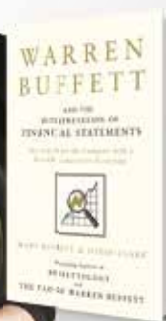
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Be successful

Tony Robbins: Business Mastery

We look at the latest event by a master of coaching



There appear to be an increasing number of personal trainers, coaches, gurus etc but one of the most

successful and enduring is Tony Robbins. Robbins is an American motivational speaker, personal finance instructor and self-help author. He is well-known from his infomercials and self-help books, *Unlimited Power*, *Unleash the Power Within* and *Awaken the Giant Within*. He has become a phenomenal success – in 2007, he was named in Forbes magazine's 'Celebrity 100'

list. Forbes estimated that Robbins earned approximately \$30 million in that year.

**“ THE MORE I
KNOW, THE MORE
I REALIZE I KNOW
VERY LITTLE ”**

Together's publisher David McGowan chose the slogan 'Together: Inspiring you to reach your dreams' and he is a big fan of Robbins, whom he has seen in action several times. David found Robbins through listening to Robbins' tapes at a time in his life where he needed direction. More recently a friend mentioned that she was going to see him live at his *Unleash the Power Within* (UPW) show.

And so David went along and was blown away, and he had found a way into the personal development world that has been a large part of his life ever since.

And now Robbins is back in Amsterdam – a place he loves to visit – with a 5-day very intense seminar for anybody who aspires to be a business leader, CEO and entrepreneur.

Business Mastery is held once a year in Europe, where Robbins and his team will cover all aspects of business, from sales to marketing to finance to accounting. He will bring in the top leaders in each field - some are billionaires and they will come and share all their knowledge and experience.

David says: "There are very practical exercises to be done in groups – it really is a unique opportunity. It is very intense because it starts early around 8.30am and can go on till midnight every day. Though the investment in the seminar is €6,995 euro for the five days, everybody I talked to told me that they got the value for money back the very first day. I felt the same way. You receive a syllabus that you can take home which is useful as the load of information can be very overwhelming.

"It is also a great networking opportunity as people from all over the world come to



Amsterdam for the event. The ambiance is very forthcoming, making it extremely easy to meet and interact with people. There are 1,500 people at the seminar which is a reasonably small enough number to have access to Tony to ask questions.

"My thoughts at the end of the seminar were: 'The more I know, the more I realize I know very little.' Hence the importance of surrounding ourselves with the best people."
www.tonyrobbins.com



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Jean Callens



Tombé dans la marmite quand il était petit, Jean Callens a créé, en 2004, avec son frère Olivier, le Callens Café, le dernier opus d'une partition familiale presque centenaire.

Tradition et classicisme s'harmonisent avec cette étincelle d'originalité inhérente à l'équilibre de la fratrie qui les unit et les guide. Cela se ressent dans les ambiances habilement composées d'un décorum aux multiples facettes. De la «Brasserie», dans la plus pure tradition, à la salle «Premium» plus feutrée, en passant par le bar event de «L'Appartement», tout invite aux réjouissances et à la découverte. Côté fourneaux, Jean Callens orchestre avec raffinement une cuisine cosmopolite qui fait la part belle à notre terroir pimenté, avec l'art et la manière, par des saveurs bigarrées... une incitation au voyage...

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Financially free by the age of 28, Arnon Barnes is a Serial Entrepreneur, Peak Performance Trainer, International Speaker and Business Mentor. He has successfully trained and

mentored tens of thousands of people in many different arenas of business, from over 52 different countries. Marcus de Maria is a well respected stock market and wealth educator and financially independent. But it was not always like this. Not too many years ago Marcus was living on his brother's floor and over £100,000 in debt.

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Fitness, food and fun!

James Drew speaks to the people behind Bootcampbrunch



So, really, what is it that keeps you from getting to the gym and getting your fitness sorted? Could it perhaps be the frequently repetitive nature of gym work-outs, the uninspiring location and the lack of social interaction?

If so, the brain child of co-ordinator Christoph Van Isacker, Bootcampbrunch, an innovative combination of fitness, good food and outdoor fun, could be just what you are looking for.

"My inspiration simply came from the idea of working out in nature," Christoph explains. "Here in Brussels, we are surrounded by all

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this greenery, all this urban nature. It is all there for all of us, so I wanted to do something beneficial in it and feel better by doing so!"

A bit of background – traditional 'boot camps' are designed to build strength and fitness through a variety of intense group intervals over a 1-hour period of time. Originally popular in the US, they were brought over to Europe in around 1999 and have been growing in popularity ever since. It is called 'boot camp' because it trains groups of people and, essentially, Bootcampbrunch combines an intense combination of strength-training and aerobic activity, with lots of sprints and drills, leg lifts and lunges, stomach crunches, sit-ups, and push-ups, and it is based on the 'eight claps theory' - an innovative fitness regime.

There are no age, weight or fitness restrictions – from beginners to the super fit, Christoph is keen on accentuating the 'togetherness' of the event, to allow you to concentrate on your own personal goals, either in a team or as an individual. Add more than a splash of fun, and the fact that you can then balance your work-out by fuelling up with the necessary nutrition to recover to the fullest, namely a brunch or a dinner with natural sports foods and electrolytes in the liquids that are provided. "We believe that when you eat well, and you know why you are eating something, you don't need a complex and expensive diet," says Christoph.

In addition, Christoph is very keen to stress the importance of 'mindfulness' when it comes to personal training.

In a nutshell, mindfulness is the psychological process of bringing one's attention to experiences occurring in the present moment, which can be developed through the practice of meditation and other training. The term 'mindfulness' is a translation of the Pali term sati, which is a significant element of Buddhist traditions. In Buddhist teachings, mindfulness is utilized to develop self-knowledge and wisdom that gradually lead to what is described as enlightenment or the complete

freedom from suffering. The recent popularity of mindfulness in the West is generally considered to have been initiated by Jon Kabat-Zinn, professor of Medicine Emeritus and creator of the Stress Reduction Clinic and the Centre for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care and Society at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

"Practicing mindfulness, as instructed at Bootcampbrunch by Steve Savels, means being aware – in each moment – of your body, your thoughts, your emotions and your reactions," Christoph explains. "It can teach you to recognize and respect the limits of your body more easily, but also to recognize when you're going too hard or too fast, for example. It helps you to develop sharper focus and more endurance."

“ ‘MINDFULNESS’ IS A TRANSLATION OF THE PALI TERM SATI ”



And it is len Vitse who is responsible for the nutritional aspects of Bootcampbrunch. "It is very more important to ensure that people who want to get fit are encouraged to enjoy healthy, natural foods."

And len is very well informed concerning food and fitness – according to her, each food group has its place and correct timing in a healthy diet. Beginning with carbohydrates: "After intensive exercise, the body stocks of carbs (in your muscles and liver) are depleted, so it's time to restock. The slower carbs, which can be found in bread, pasta, potatoes, rice, corn, chickpeas, peas, all kind of grains (like buckwheat) and lentils take some time and effort from your body to get their energy into your blood and muscles. This may sound like a bad thing, but it really is not. The slow carbs release their energy at a slower pace for hours. They will help you survive until your next big meal."

Proteins, len explains, are to be found in foods such as meat, fish and eggs: "Also, some lesser known sources of proteins are nuts and seeds and legumes like lentils, chickpeas and so on. You need some proteins to maintain the muscles, but not a lot. I'm talking about approximately 20 grammes of protein per day, which equals a piece of meat of roughly 60 grammes.

"And fat, while frequently vilified, in fact gives you energy. A lot of it! For comparison: 1 gramme of carbs or proteins equals 4 calories, but 1 gram of fat provides you with 9 calories. So, fats provide you with a lot of calories, but your body has to turn them into carbohydrates before it can make them useful for your muscles. This process takes a while, so fat wouldn't come in handy just before a 100 metre sprint, for example, but it is in fact very helpful during a long bike ride. So, don't be shy, add a good splash of vegetable oil when you're at your stove."

The upcoming dates of Bootcampbrunch are 24 September and 1, 8, 15 and 22 October – trainer Fausto Polese, a former first division rugby player and full time fitness coach, will take you through speed, endurance and calisthenics training in a beautiful Brussels location, Parckfarm Tour & Taxis, as well as overseeing introductions to different kinds of sports. After the workout, as the title would suggest, brunch is offered – Bootcampbrunch, bringing the fun back to fitness.

Full details of dates and rates, all of which include a work-out, brunch, nutritional advice and three 'mindfulness' sessions, are to be found on www.Bootcampbrunch.be.

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Mobile phones: A thing of the future?

Our tech guy **Colin Moors** explains radical changes to our communication tools



Do you remember the old days of mobile phones, when around one in a hundred of your friends had one and you could both make calls **and** text? These days, of course, we can do anything from turn our home heating on from the car, to 'augmented reality' where we can walk down the street and see the shops and bars on our phone in real time – all of which we take pretty much for granted. As technology moves on, we simply accept it and move along with it. It's a far cry from playing Snake and having a choice of three ringtones. Will the smartphone as we know it still be around in 20 years' time – and will we be just as blasé about the cool new features as we are today, or will the smartphone take the next big step and become a truly indispensable part of 21st century life?

The way things are moving forward, it's getting very hard to tell what will catch on and what won't. I strongly suspect that the first time a man (sorry guys, it was usually a man) donned his Bluetooth earpiece in the frozen pizza aisle of the supermarket, nobody believed they'd be a big thing. Perhaps the concept that's captured the imagination of the public most is the holographic display, in the style of *Minority Report* or *Iron Man*. Both Apple and Samsung have toyed with the idea and teased with prototypes. The possibility of a display you can 'beam' onto a flat surface, or even your own body that you can interact with without touching is tantalizingly close. You could beam several applications at once and control them all with a wave of your hand, without so much as even touching your phone. If you think that'll never catch on, I draw your attention to the aforementioned earpiece. Train journeys of the

future could be a veritable hell of people's holiday snaps, annoying music videos or their porn collection.

3D digital trickery aside, a major factor in any mobile of the future will be its ability to stay on and working for a day or so with all the fancy bells and whistles they'll be packing. Swedish company Dymond Solar have that covered. While the project is still in the pre-production stage, they have proved scalability and practicality on what is a truly ingenious product. Put simply and to avoid filling these pages with squiggly signs few of us will understand, they screen-print photovoltaic cells onto cloth or other thin materials. This cloth can be wrapped around the case of a phone (for example) and will generate power not only from the sun but also from home lighting, effectively 'recycling' some of the power. Basically, if your phone is not in your pocket, it's charging. Using a T-shirt printing process to power a mobile device seems pretty unlikely but I'm pretty certain we'll hear a lot more about this in the very near future, as phone manufacturers scramble to bolster their climate-friendly credentials.

Now we can all be Robert Downey Jr. and have the power to back it up - what next? Logically, we can be Robocop, or at least, have our phones physically implanted into us. Don't be too sceptical – at least you wouldn't leave your mobile in a taxi. Like it or not, futurologists and tech experts are estimating that this kind of tech will be not only available but in broad use by the mid-20s. Apple are looking to build a glucose monitor into their wearable gear soon, in order to provide statistics for those with diabetes. We already have fairly sophisticated heart rate monitors built into watches and fitness trackers. There's very little reason why such devices couldn't be built into the skin and bone of people and send vital information over GPRS to medical data centres for analysis by computer and, ultimately, a doctor.

If not worn internally, there is also a better-than-evens chance that your new phone in five years' time could be rolled around your wrist, sewn into your suit or bag, or just rolled up and slipped into your pocket. Ultra-thin wearable screens seem to be the nearest 'next big thing' in terms of time and progress in a field that is picking up pace. Patents are already filed for such technology, so it really is almost upon us. Rather than carry around a bulky tablet, just roll it up and throw it into your bag. Coupled with the projector technology, it's going to be interesting times in the consumer market soon.



In line with everything getting smaller over time, the phone SIM is no exception. From the credit card sized SIM of yesteryear to the impossible-to-find nano of today, the size just keeps decreasing. Well, how about if I told you they could become extinct? The future appears to be one of virtual SIMs. The little plastic thing you get with your subscription details on it is really only a very small data store holding personal information and a few contacts, should you decide to

store them there. Instead of messing around trying to get the tiny SIM into a slot, some current phones will already reserve a small area of their built-in memory to hold all these details. The advantages of such a system are many - chiefly, that there is no card to lose down the side of the car seat when changing SIM. You can still secure access with a PIN and whatever other security your phone employs. The idea is simple, yet effective and it also means you could have any number of SIM cards stored virtually in your phone, giving you the best deal on calling or data, no matter where you may be in the world.

There's plenty to look forward to in coming months and years. You could say that the future is bright, the future is...nah, they get enough free advertising as it is. Call me, we'll do lunch. ●

Taxing wealth

Our financial expert **Dave Deruytter** takes a look at the planned new securities wealth tax in Belgium



Surprise during the summer in Belgium

While many Belgian residents were on holiday, the federal government reached a broad budget agreement, including the introduction of a securities wealth tax.

For decades Belgium had been known for its absence of wealth tax. That fact, among other things, drew crowds of rich people, particularly the rich French and the rich Dutch, to come and live here off their wealth, paying low taxes or no taxes at all. Belgium does not have a

capital gains tax, save for exceptions, and until now did not have a wealth tax either. This absence of taxation of wealth and capital gains was in sharp contrast to high Belgian taxation on professional income, particularly for employees. Indeed, if you count in the uncapped social security charges, labour in Belgium is among the highest taxed in the whole world.

What is this new securities wealth tax all about?

Further details are still to be expected, but the

“ THE RISK IS HIGH THAT THE RATE WILL BE INCREASED IN THE FUTURE ”

headline is that securities accounts that hold more than €500,000 will be taxed at 0.15%. Securities here are shares, bonds and mutual funds. Thus, life insurance, pension savings and regular savings would be out of scope. Also, there will be no wealth tax on direct real estate investments, unless you invested in them through a listed company or a mutual fund.

It is expected that the tax authorities will look at the threshold of €500,000 per taxable person. So, someone with €250,000 on two securities accounts at one or two banks would also be in scope, probably even if these securities are held outside of Belgium. Of course, this measure will only apply to fiscal residents in Belgium, not to fiscal non-residents here. The timing is expected to be as from the first of January 2018. This will not leave the banks with a lot of time to adapt their IT to administer and apply this new securities wealth tax.

How did this tax come into being?

One of the Flemish political parties, CD&V, has been demanding a taxation of ‘the rich’ for a very long time. Given that the capital gains tax on short term financial capital gains of 2016 was not a success, and was withdrawn this year, CD&V kept on holding back the federal budget talks and the corporate taxation reform until a worthy successor was found. Also, the EU had been pointing to the fact that Belgium was not taxing wealth or financial income enough compared to labour and consumption. That is why the government has come up with a securities wealth tax.

As is often the case it will be the banks and other financial institutions who must apply the new rules, for and on behalf of the federal government and its administration. A lot of

programming will need to be done, plus the task of informing customers.

This securities wealth tax was not the only news on the investment front in the budget agreement. On the negative side, there also is the proposed halving of the tax-free ceiling of interest income on regulated savings accounts from €1,880 to €940. Given the current low interest rates, this is not seen as a big deal by savers. On the positive side the first €627 of dividends per year will no longer be taxed. That amount should also be per person, and dividends received in another country would probably be included. The latter measure could compensate a bit for the securities wealth tax. The first echoes from rich people and other stakeholders are that they would have preferred a capital gains tax over a wealth tax. Because then the income on their capital is taxed, not the fact of having capital itself. But in general, the feeling is that if the Belgian government administration would be more efficient and if there would be effective control on collecting the due tax revenues on the one side and monitoring social spending on the other, such securities wealth tax should not even be needed.

Where do we go from here?

Once a wealth tax is introduced, the risk is high that the rate will be increased in the future and that the scope might be increased. Look at the Belgian withholding tax on interest and dividends for clues. Once upon a time that withholding tax was 15%, in several stages it has been increased to 30%. Furthermore, given this precedent of a wealth tax, the temptation for the government is high, when it needs money, to also increase the scope and add, for example, direct real estate to the taxable base.



As we all know, Belgians have a brick in their stomach and dream almost from birth about owning at least their own house. Tax on purchase of real estate is high in Belgium but typically not on the rent and there is currently no capital gains tax if you keep the property for at least five years and land for eight years.

In conclusion, most stakeholders are not happy with this securities wealth tax. They would have liked the government to have made extra efforts to be more efficient, fewer layers of government, and to exercise more control on tax income and to pay social welfare only to the needy. If there was really a need for an extra tax on financial assets, then a capital gains tax, not a securities wealth tax, would have been favoured.

Hope is still there that these wishes will be taken into consideration, but the chances are not high. ❶

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Welcome
to the
neighbourhood.



LIFESTYLE

A plethora of enriching activities on and around the island await the privileged guests.

LIFESTYLE

Luxury

A million dollar luxury break

Our luxury pages this month are graced by a remarkable one-week holiday



Luxury launches website VeryFirstTo.com is offering a once in a lifetime trip to Calala Island, a luxury, private island resort nestled in the undiscovered part of the Caribbean just off the coast of Nicaragua – for the princely sum of one million dollars. The week-long trip caters for up to 10 guests across four luxurious villas on the secluded island paradise.

Participants of this über luxurious getaway will fly to Nicaragua on an Embraer Legacy wide-bodied private jet from any US city of their

choice – and can be brought here from any part of the world. Upon landing, the group will be whisked off to the paradise island in two Bell helicopters. Other than the helicopters used to transport the guests, a no-fly zone around the island will be created for the weeklong experience to ensure maximum privacy.

Once settled on the lush island a plethora of enriching activities on and around the island await the privileged guests. Water-babies can make use of unlimited scuba dives around the



untouched reefs and get their adrenaline pumping with motorised watersports.

Tim Wickham, Owner of Calala Island says, "Calala Island was historically a pirate's playground, so participants of the trip will be invited to step back in time and embark on a specially curated treasure hunt. With a hidden treasure chest containing gold bars and coins worth at least \$150,000, the stakes are certainly high."

Culinary connoisseurs are well catered for with a programme of outstanding gastronomic delights. Guests will indulge in a remarkable sushi experience when they see fish go from the ocean to plate within minutes. In this activity the group will head out on the island's fishing boat to catch their supper. The freshly-caught fish will be prepared onboard the boat by the island's Itamae Sushi chef and guests will be lavished with a spectacular spread of the world's freshest sashimi and maki rolls.

Another exclusive Calala Island experience includes a caviar tasting and cooking master class for its very special guests. Showcasing

some of the world's most premium caviar, the master class will demonstrate the use of caviar in gastronomy.

The final culinary offering on the paradise island is a 12-course gala dinner for all 10 guests. This exquisite banqueting experience will be prepared by Calala Island's Executive Chef. The food throughout the stay will be complimented with unlimited fine wines and Dom Pérignon champagne. Every taste, craving and palette is catered to with bespoke dinner menus every evening.

The spectacular package also offers one the rare opportunity to design one's very own cigar, which will be produced and presented shortly after the trip. Nicaragua's world-class cigar maker, Joya de Nicaragua, will send an expert team to Calala Island to help guests find their perfect cigar blend. Once they've crafted their perfect blend, and shortly after their stay, guests will receive 20, limited edition, boxes containing their own brand of cigars.

Marcel Knobil, founder of VeryFirstTo, Superbrands and Cool BrandLeaders says:

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LIFESTYLE

Luxury



"Naturally a trip of this magnitude will want to be remembered so who better to capture the special moments throughout the extravagant holiday than a Hollywood videographer and at the end of the trip guests will be presented a fully edited video and bound photo book."

This trip also allows people to help contribute to the lives of underprivileged children on the mainland.

\$100,000 of the \$1m will be donated towards building a new school close to Calala Island. The lead guest will be invited to meet with the President and Mayor of the region to unveil the new school, which would be named after the guest for generations to come; a humbling way to leave one's mark on the country.

The experience is priced at \$1 million US dollars (£775,635/€852,270) for seven nights

and accommodates up to eight adults and two children. The following activities are included:

- Private jet flights and helicopter transfers to the Island
- Exclusive hire of the island for only you and your guests
- 7 nights of accommodation in 4 beachfront suits for eight adults and two children

**“ THE GROUP WILL BE
WHISKED OFF TO THE
PARADISE ISLAND IN TWO
BELL HELICOPTERS ”**

- All water sports including unlimited scuba dives around the untouched reefs
- A no-fly zone created for the duration of your stay to ensure

complete privacy

- A one-of-a-kind island treasure hunt with a hidden treasure chest containing gold bars and coins with a current market value of \$150,000
- Unlimited fine wines and Dom Pérignon champagne throughout your stay
- All meals including fine dining and bespoke



evening menus

- A 12-course gala dinner for all 10 guests, prepared by Calala's Executive Chef
- A fishing trip and sushi tasting on the Island's fishing boat with Calala Island's guest sushi chef
- A caviar tasting and cooking master class
- A spectacular firework display exclusively put on your eyes only
- The chance to design your own cigar brand with Nicaragua's world-class cigar maker, Joya de Nicaragua.
- A minimum of 25 staff on hand to exclusively cater for your party
- A Hollywood videographer and professional photographer to capture as much or as little as your stay. Includes a fully edited video and bound book to mark the occasion after your stay
- \$100,000 will be donated towards the building of a Nicaraguan school, built to your specifications and named after you for generations to come. This includes a meeting with the Nicaraguan President and Mayor to mark the occasion.

(Travel to US will incur an extra cost.)

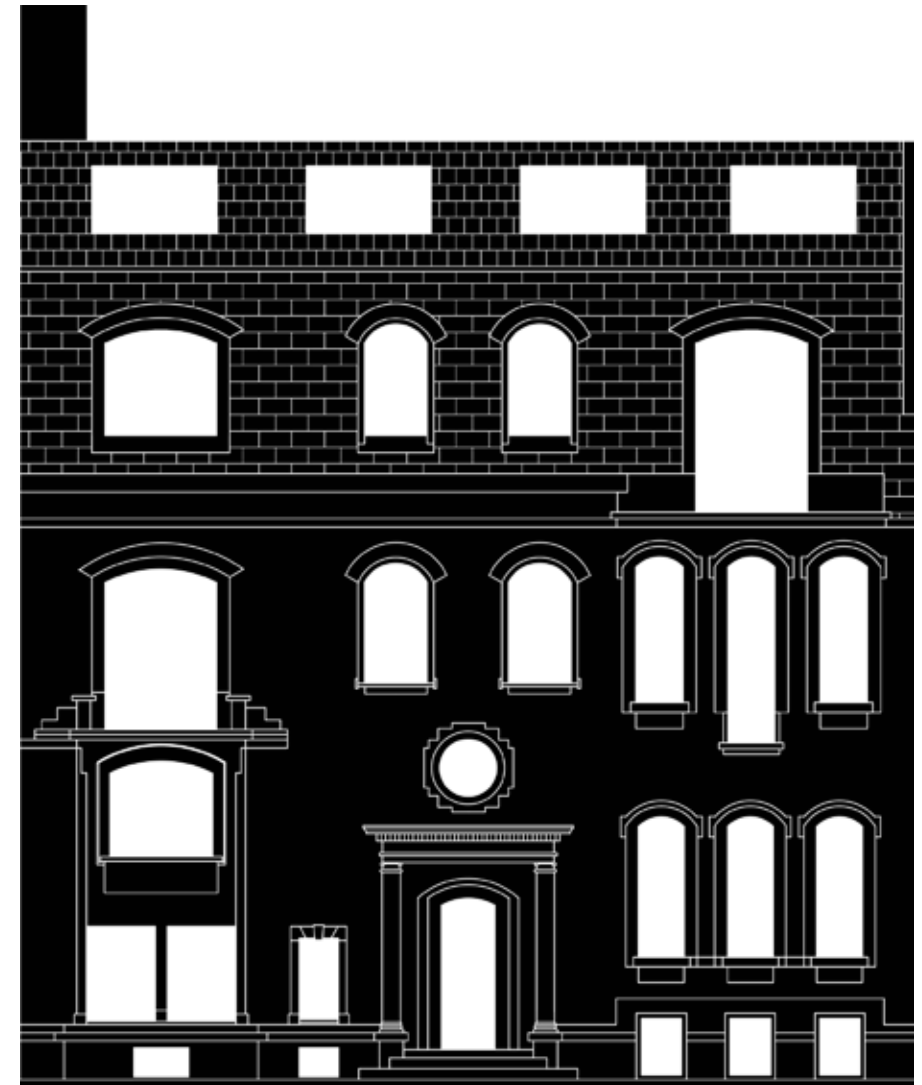
Calala Island

Calala Island is a luxury, private Island resort – a place to discover the coming together of unspoilt paradise and barefoot luxury. Recently dubbed “The Caribbean's new frontier” and rated one of “The 10 Best Private Islands in the World”, Calala Island is nestled in the undiscovered part of the Caribbean. Think Barbados 50 years ago. Jamaica 40 years ago. Welcome to the ‘NiCaribbean’, a term coined by the team at Calala Island to pinpoint the area. And while it may be going back in time to unspoilt paradise, it hasn't stopped short of 5-star luxury.

VeryFirstTo.com is the world's only website that enables individuals to be the first to know about, and have, the best of newly launched luxury products and experiences. It showcases the most desirable luxury items within technology, fashion, home, leisure, health & beauty and beyond. ①



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Casting director: Griet Troch @ www.theprofiles.be
Models: Tijger, Charlie and Loewis
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Cap: Scotch&Soda
Charlie:
Total look: Scotch&Soda
Red shoes: DR Martens
Sunglasses: Ray-ban
Loewis:
Trousers: Twin-set
Coat: Pepe Jeans Kids
Shirt: Scotch&Soda
T-shirt: Petit Bateau
Hat: Scotch&Soda
Gold shoes: DR Martens





Charlie
 Top: Howling
 Waistcoat: Scotch&Soda
 Loewis:
 Jacket : Scotch&Soda



Charlie
 T-shirt: Vintage Market
 Jacket: abc123me for Mercredi shop
 Trousers: Scotch&Soda
 Trainers: Vera



Shirt: Fred Perry



Tijger: - Shirt: Vintage Market - Jacket: Pepe Jeans Kids - Cap: Scotch&Soda
 Charlie: - Total look: Scotch&Soda - Red shoes: DR Martens - Sunglasses: Ray-ban
 Loewis: - Trousers: Twin-set - Coat: Pepe Jeans Kids - Shirt: Scotch&Soda
 - T-shirt: Petit Bateau - Hat: Scotch&Soda - Gold shoes: DR Martens



Sunglasses: Ray-Ban



Charlie:
T-shirt: Vintage Market
Trousers: Scotch&Soda



Loewis:
Trousers: Twin-set Kids
Coat: Pepe Jeans Kids
Shirt: Scotch&Soda
T-shirt: Petit Bateau
Hat: Scotch&Soda
Gold shoes: DR Martens



Tijger:
Jacket: American outfitters
T-shirt: Vintage Market
Charlie
Top: Howling
Waistcoat: Scotch&Soda
Sunglasses: Ray-Ban
Loewis:
Vest: Scotch&Soda



Loewis:
Sweat: ABC123me for Mercredi shop
Jacket&Trousers : Scotch&Soda



Loewis:
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Story to Line: New tales

This month we feature a Belgian fashion initiative with a difference

We like stories about young entrepreneurs and creators making a difference in the world and this is certainly one of them.

Belgium has had quite a few designers recognized worldwide: Dries Van Noten, Ann Demeulemeester, Delvaux, Nathan and others. Now it's time to introduce you to a new generation of creators who represent the new ambassadors of the Belgian spirit. Story to Line invites you to get to know today's and tomorrow's talented designers – let yourself be touched by their creativity and their vision.

A story of stories

Story to Line wants to give voice to the new fashion creators in Belgium, to put their talents as well as their passion and soul in the spotlight.

Behind each collection created, a passionate artist expressed himself. All have their own history: from experience and personal expertise to the early morning rituals, discover what inspires them to create unique pieces. Because fashion only makes sense when it is told, Story to Line takes you into the heart of Belgian creativity.

Conscious consumption

Story to Line is committed to give meaning and soul to matter in times of mass-consumption leading to collections on-the-go, missing creativity, quality, production ethics.

Story to Line is bringing its support to the edifice of responsible consumption by



“ PUT THEIR TALENTS AS WELL AS THEIR PASSION AND SOUL IN THE SPOTLIGHT ”

enhancing the production of exclusive pieces designed in Belgium, made in Europe. Each designer presented on Story to Line made it a point to take the time to select the finest materials and to assemble them in local European workshops. For product traceability and an exclusivity of what we wear, let us be aware of what we buy and act responsibly.

Millie, the founder

Story to Line is all about stories. So what's the story of Millie, the founder? Where does Story to Line come from?

“Young teenager, I entered a luxury leather goods shop. Then fascinated by a bag in a window display, the saleswoman came forward to me, put on her white glove and began to tell me the story of the bag that had attracted my look: the handle that recalls the shoulder strap of the guitar of its creator to the lining of the bag that discreetly reveals the names of iconic French places — just matter filled with meaning and emotions! For the first time, I was bewitched by the world of fashion.

“So it was quite instinctively that I joined the



fashion industry and had the chance to have been welcomed into the fascinating world of beautiful leather goods houses first and then the ready-to-wear realm.

My experience has led me to beautiful encounters, those who make fashion so desirable, who are not so far and who surround us, those of our young Belgian creators. All of them have told me stories that are different from each other but all are driven by a common passion: to give life to their thoughts and inspirations through their creations."

Head for the site and blog and spot the hot designers of the years ahead in Belgium.
www.storytoline.com



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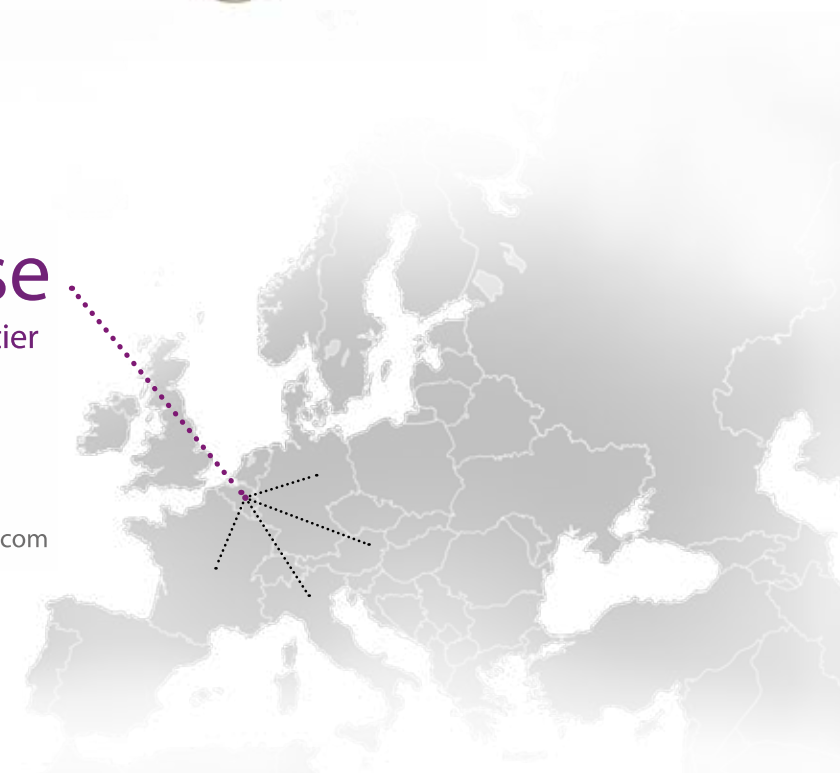
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LIFESTYLE

Beauty

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Our beauty expert **Delphine Stefens** marks our cards for autumn and winter

While the beauty trends for autumn/winter 2017-2018 go from heavy metal to - yet again - stark graphic eyeliners, dark gothic hues to flashy pop colors, very dramatic to barely there make-up... it's not easy to take your pick. Unless of course you fully indulge in the biggest trend of this year and go for fierce eighties glamour! Enhance your summer glow with Dior's new One Essential Skin Boosting Super Serum that promises to detox your skin from inside out as well as energize, nourish and hydrate it.



**One Essential Skin
Boosting Super
Serum** (from
30ML/€94.30) by **Dior.**

**Gabrielle Chanel
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LIFESTYLE

Beauty



**High Impact™
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Available from
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Next to your radiant skin, put the focus on your eyes with elevated or, why not, shiny lashes and divert attention with bold and luscious berry lips with a matte or shiny finish and a touch of ombre for a modern touch. Finish with a spritz of the long-awaited new feminine fragrance Gabrielle Chanel – after all she did like to say: "Luxury is what you don't see."

**Ecstasy Shine 602
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**Giorgio Armani
Beauty**. At Galeria Inno
in Brussels, Parfuma in
Antwerp and Planet
Parfum in Bruges.



**Palette KissKiss
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**Le Rouge 326 Pourpre
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Available from
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Design

Panorama: A history of Modern Design in Belgium

Our design pages this month are dedicated to a remarkable exhibition at ADAM



Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Modernism: since the early developments of design, Belgium has a long tradition, sometimes little known, of innovation and pioneering. For the first time at ADAM, the most emblematic Belgian creations and their creators are displayed and explained to the public. From 23 June 2017, come and discover this exhibition dedicated to design in Belgium from the end of the 19th century to the present day.

Panorama: A history of Modern Design in Belgium brings an overview of a hundred years of modern design in Belgium. Starting with the world-famous Art nouveau style at the turn of

the nineteenth century, it covers the social aspirations of the interwar avant-garde movement, the pedagogical experiments at La Cambre school, the postwar design craze, the promotion of modernist Belgian design by the Brussels Design Centre and the impact of the environmental crisis in the 1970s.

The exhibition covers 5 subjects:

Searching for a national design culture

After its formation in 1830, Belgium developed into one of the most industrialized and richest countries on the European continent. To legitimize the young nation there was the will to develop a national design culture and so the



A FRIENDLY LIGHT, A LIFESTYLE!



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search started into historic styles that once flourished on the Belgian territory. Forms inspired by the Flemish Renaissance, Gothic, and styles from the Ancien Régime became popular to give shape to the new Belgian cultural identity.

Between tradition and modernity

In the interbellum the Belgian state increasingly called on modern design to represent itself abroad. Not that there was a single defined style. In the 1920s it fluctuated between the commercially successful art deco designs and avant-garde experiments with modernist traits. In the 1930s the moderate modernism of Henry van de Velde found solid foundations in Belgium and spread in official circles.

Design as an economic panacea

In the fifties, the discipline of design gained official ground in Belgium. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Jean Rey (1902-1983), introduced a powerful design policy in 1954.



He organized the first Belgian industrial design demonstrations in Liege and at the Xth Triennial of Milan. He supported the creation of two new government sponsored design institutions: the 'Instituut voor Industriële Vormgeving' (Institute for Industrial Design) and the 'Het Gouden Kenteken' (Golden Badge) prize.

The Golden Age

Belgium was an important production centre of modern design in Western Europe after the Second World War. A large number of foreign multinationals founded a European branch. The most famous names from that time are undoubtedly Tupperware (Aalst), Samsonite (Oudenaarde) and Philips (Brussels). Belgian companies also counted on design such as Meurop, they were the first to produce large-scale plastic furniture in Belgium and were known for the affordability of their modern furniture. An Ikea avant la lettre.



THE PERFECT COMBINATION BETWEEN LUXURY AND FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Since 1861, the Beau-Rivage Palace has stood proudly facing the Alps on the Swiss shores of Lake Geneva.

The hotel offers 168 rooms including 26 junior suites and 8 executive suites.

At the Beau-Rivage Palace, kids are kings: personal welcome with toys, balloons and coloring books upon arrival, outdoor playground, indoor recreation area, creative activities, spa with mum, child menus, etc.

Not to be missed: the spa Cinq Mondes and the the two Michelin-star restaurant Anne-Sophie Pic at Beau-Rivage Palace.

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MORE INFO: LITTLEGUESTCOLLECTION.COM



CastaDiva Resort & Spa

★★★★★

Lake Como, Italy

THE PERFECT COMBINATION BETWEEN LUXURY AND FAMILY HOLIDAYS

The 5-star CastaDiva Resort & Spa benefits from an exceptional location on the eastern side of Lake Como in Lombardy.

The Resort consists of 9 villas for a total of 73 rooms, 58 of them are suites and junior suites, and 2 private villas, surrounded by a luxuriant botanic park.

The family is at the centre of the CastaDiva Resort & Spa. In addition to spacious rooms for extra beds, suites and villas, the hotel provides many facilities for its guests: shuttle with a child seat, baby bed, bottle warmer, stroller loan, babysitting service, welcome gift, healthy and varied children's menus etc.

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LIFESTYLE

Design



Belgian design in the limelight

In 1964, the Brussels Design Centre was opened in the Galerie Ravenstein with the support of the Belgian Foreign Trade Service. The new organization derived from the ambitions of all the existing design organizations founded in 1956: The Institute for Industrial Design and the design competition Het Gouden Kenteken (The Golden Badge).

Following the example of renowned Italian, Scandinavian and German design, the Design Centre was to put Belgian design on a pedestal through a carefully orchestrated promotional campaign. Through objects, graphic material, pictures and original film fragments, the exhibition *Panorama: A history of Modern Design in Belgium* showcases the multiple faces of modern design in Belgium: infused with social ambitions to improve everyday life, as an economic tool to boost the national economy and as a marker of the Belgian nation on large exhibitions worldwide.



The economical, technical and artistic aspects inherent to these disciplines are innovatively explored. The thread of the exhibition and its scenography is to feature how the social, economic and political circumstances but also concerns, aspirations and questions of our history have shaped art and design in Belgium.

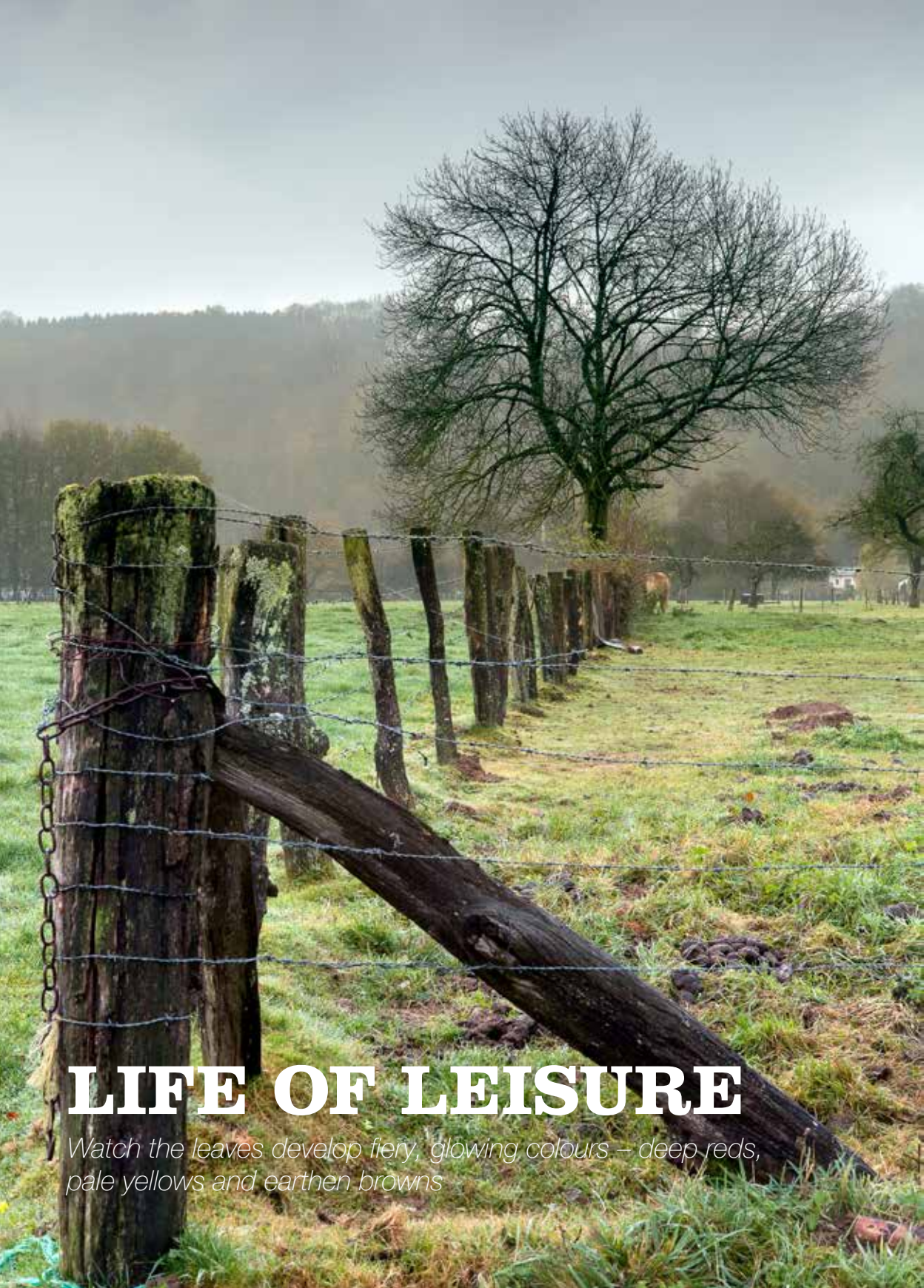
There cannot be a how without a why: it is this link which is highlighted by the ADAM.

Until 7 January 2018. ADAM Brussels Design Museum, 1 Place de Belgique, Brussels 1020.

Opening hours: Daily from 10am – 6pm (closed on Tuesdays)

Curators: Katarina Serulus and Thierry Belenger

www.adamuseum.be



LIFE OF LEISURE

Watch the leaves develop fiery, glowing colours – deep reds, pale yellows and earthen browns

LIFE OF
LEISURE

Interview

Michael Fassbender: Keeping a low profile

Together chatted to Irish-German movie star Michael Fassbender about films, bikes and surfing



Michael Fassbender may be one of the biggest stars in Hollywood, but he maintains a very low profile. He still lives in the same flat he bought in Hackney, London over a decade ago – although he's planning on finding a new place – and he would rather get around in a motorcycle than make his way through traffic in London or L.A. in a Porsche. Apart from the fact that his girlfriend is the sublimely beautiful Oscar-winning actress Alicia Vikander, and his occasional presence in the pit boxes at Formula One races, one would be hard pressed to find anything exotic about his lifestyle.

But that's the way the very grounded and self-effacing Fassbender likes things. Having often struggled to pay his bills during his early acting



days, the Irish-German actor embraces frugality as a way of life.

"I still remember not having enough money to ride the tube some days," Fassbender recalls. "I grew up under modest circumstances. I had to work if I wanted some spending money and at the age of 12 I was working odd jobs on weekends and in the summer. When I was 15 or so I was a dishwasher at a 5-star hotel. Then I worked as a bartender in London while trying to find acting jobs. I never had much money and I still find all I need to be happy in life is to have some good books to read and to be able to travel as much as I can."

In the meantime, Fassbender is back at his high-paying acting job in *The Snowman*, a crime thriller based on the international best-seller by Norwegian author Jo Nesbø and directed by Sweden's Tomas Alfredson (*Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*). Fassbender plays Harry Hole, an unconventional detective investigating the disappearance of a woman whose scarf was wrapped around a snowman and could well be the latest victim of a notorious serial killer. Fassbender jumped at the chance to be part of the project (Martin Scorsese is one of the co-producers) and it was shot entirely in Norway in the cities of Oslo and Bergen and the area of Rjukan.

"It's got that Scandi-noir element to it, for sure," Fassbender said. "I think it's going to be very rich. I love working with Tomas Alfredson. He's

an absolutely great filmmaker. And I think it's going to be scary, and I think it's going to be edge-of-the-seat stuff. I like it because Harry Hole's a very flawed genius in his department of work. He's an excellent detective. But he kind of goes off the rails. He's very human."

The 40-year-old Michael Fassbender lives primarily in London with Swedish girlfriend of the past three years, Alicia Vikander. He recently, and finally splurged (by his standards) on a new residence when he paid a reported two million euros for a spacious villa in Lisbon's prestigious Alfama district overlooking the Tagus

river where he and Vikander have spent much of the past summer. The villa boasts a swimming pool and large garden terrace.

"I HAVE AN ENORMOUS APPETITE FOR WORK"

Michael, you continue to enjoy a very active and interesting career. You also like working a lot. Is it hard for you to turn down a good

project?

I find it very hard. You can't predict what's coming down the road so if I have the chance to be part of an interesting story it's hard for me to say no.

Does some of that have to do with your early struggles to find work in your twenties?

It's something that stays in the back of your mind. I love acting and from the age of 17 when I first got started in this business until I was 27 I couldn't find any work. So when a good project winds up in my lap my instinct is



to take it. I have an enormous appetite for work and over a three-year period I made ten films without having much of a break in between. I can always take some time off later if I need to and I have done that.

What do you do when you're not working. Do you have a routine?

I love to travel. I love indulging in things like riding motorcycles and lately I'm trying to become better at surfing which I enjoy although I've decided not to ride waves which are higher than I am.

Otherwise I'm pretty lazy when I'm not on a set. I'm not very attentive to details and doing things like remembering to pay bills and looking after my house.

Does your dedication to work also have something to do with your competitive nature?

I like to push myself. I'm very passionate about acting and I think having a healthy sense of ambition keeps you moving forward in life.

When I was 18, I directed a stage version of Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs* which my friends worked on with me. We did it out of pure love and artistic inspiration. I still feel the same kind of spirit when it comes to my work today.

You've said in the past that you don't really like talking about the acting process itself?

I don't find that there's anything that special you can say about the work itself. When I start preparing for a role, I lock myself in my flat and read as much as I can and do whatever research I think might be necessary to help me in playing the character. I try to look for different things that are going to inspire me and add some layers to it.

Afterwards, once the film is finished. What can you say about your work? It's not really for the artist or the actor to talk about the work – it's not going to change your reaction to the work. That's why I often find it difficult to answer certain questions because once the film is

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over it's really up to the public to analyse it and react to it.

Many actors refuse to see their films once they've finished working on them. Do you watch your own movies?

I usually see each of my films twice. The first time is always the most difficult. You see everything from a very technical perspective and you're constantly noticing certain things about your performance which you like and a lot of things you don't like and wish you could have redone. Then the second time I see it I'm able to relax more and I try to appreciate the film as a whole.

Most actors say that observing other people is one of the keys to developing your craft. You spent several years working as a bartender – that must have given you ample opportunity to study human behaviour?

It was a great way of studying people's characters. If you want to be good at

bartending, you need to be able to listen and engage with people in a very real way. It's almost like being a priest because often you will have customers sit at the bar and use that time to tell you things that are very personal because they need to unwind and talk about their lives.

I worked at a bar which was right in the middle of an area with lots of offices and after work these businessmen would come in and at first you would see their more formal sides but after several drinks and a few hours have gone their true personalities began to emerge. As a bartender you learn a lot about human psychology. You meet all types.

Can you still mix a good drink?

(Laughs) I'm a bit rusty but I think the basic skills are still in me!

Do you have any nostalgic regard for your time as a bartender?

No! It was a job that allowed me to survive and that was it, really. It was a frustrating time more

**“ I TRY TO LOOK
FOR DIFFERENT
THINGS THAT
ARE GOING TO
INSPIRE ME ”**



than anything else because I kept wondering 'how long will I have to keep doing it until I can start earning my living as an actor?' That was the only thing that mattered to me.

Apart from acting, your other great passion in life is speed. Have you always been addicted to speed?

I loved driving as a young boy where I would sit at the wheel of my father's car and I was allowed to drive a little bit behind the back of our house. As I got older, I noticed that I loved to go a lot faster than other people and I probably took a lot of risks I shouldn't have but when you're a teenager you don't worry about death.

But I love the sense of relaxation that riding a motorcycle or driving a car at high speed gives me. Your entire concentration is focused and the rest of the world disappears.

Any close calls?

A few times on a motorbike when I was doing around 220kmh. I'm half Irish, half German. I apply my disciplined German side to my work and my Irish side is what draws me towards the crazier and riskier side of life. ❶



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Tropical luxury

Sarah Blennerhassett sought out a Thai island with a great deal to offer



Photo © Hathawan Saen_Chai

Koh Samui is the most southerly island in the Gulf of Thailand. Boasting white sandy beaches and azure water, it has long been a tourist favourite. But the island offers tourists far more than just sunbathing and snorkelling, as those who can tear themselves away from their sun loungers will discover.

By far the most lustrous gem on this island of treasures is the Four Seasons. The resort is located on the north western tip of Koh Samui. On our descent into Koh Samui airport, my travel partner and I were positively giddy in anticipation of our stay, but no amount of perusing the website could have prepared us for the incredible service and luxury we experienced.

On arrival we were greeted with a beaming Thai smile, a delicious Dragon Fruit smoothie and a traditional Thai flower garland. While the friendly staff completed our check-in, we were

invited to take a seat, enjoy the tropical island breeze and soak up the glorious jungle and sea views.

The resort has the look and feel of the very best five star hotel but with a truly Thai identity. It has been constructed with a dual design philosophy: exquisite luxury and a sincere appreciation for the surrounding environment. Practically every corner of the resort consists of both an indoor and outdoor space or can be converted to encompass the outdoors. Local flora features throughout from the flower garlands presented on arrival to the beautiful gardens, the bedside art to the cocktail glasses adorned with vibrant orchids. Native teak is ubiquitous across the resort, used in construction of buildings and growing naturally on the jungle slopes. This is a resort that truly embraces nature.

We stayed in a deluxe garden villa perched atop a lush jungle hill. Set amongst hills and



Photo © Hathaiwan Saen Chai

enveloped by palm trees, each villa affords guests total seclusion. The villa itself was larger than most modern homes. It comprised a bedroom/study area with a bed fit for the King of Siam, a vanity room with his and hers dressing areas and a luxurious stone bathtub with fantastic sea views. And finally, the *piece de resistance*, every villa boasts a private infinity pool and veranda which beckon guests to relax in style.

You could happily spend the duration of your stay within the confines of your own villa. But if you somehow tire of your Edenic paradise, there is plenty to keep you occupied in the Four Seasons Koh Samui.

On our first afternoon, we attended a traditional Thai fruit carving class with one of the resident chefs. The beautiful Thai flora featured again as the chef demonstrated how to create a flower arrangement from a host of local fruit. Although we failed to emulate the chef's masterful flower arrangement, it was a wholly different experience from the usual resort activities and was a pleasant respite from the midday sun.

“ A BED FIT FOR THE KING OF SIAM ”

Our first evening was spent at the Four Seasons poolside bar and restaurant, CoCoRum. Set on the edge of the 50 metre infinity pool and overlooking the resort's private beach, it is the perfect place to unwind. Specializing in Latin American cuisine and killer cocktails, you can really get into the tropical island vibe here. We sampled the restaurant's most popular dishes including White Snapper

cerviche, quinoa chipotle and Jamaican criollo salad and King Crab. The food was light and zesty leaving plenty of room for CoCoRum's signature rum cocktails. Everything we tried was terrific but the instagram worthy 'Missionary's

Downfall' served in a pineapple is not to be missed. Just remember, this cocktail is made for sharing!

Following a day of relaxation, we decided to shake a leg and sample some of the many activities on offer within the resort. In the morning we were introduced to the world of Thai boxing at the brand new outdoor Muay



Thai ring, located on an idyllic peak overlooking the resort. Our enthusiastic instructor really put us through our paces starting with an intense warm-up, followed by a demonstration of the basics and finishing with a sparring match with my travel partner. By the end of our session we felt truly deserving of our gluttonous buffet breakfast.

In the afternoon we paddle-boarded from the beach to a floating sea platform located a short distance offshore. This is the perfect spot to top up your tan and take a dip in the balmy sea. Following our afternoon at the beach, the resident gardener took us on a tour of the resort grounds, identifying the multitude of tropical plants and trees which call the resort home. In the evening we played tennis on the resort's spectacular floodlit courts bounded on all sides by rolling hills. Our final morning was spent at the resort's serene outdoor yoga 'sala'. After an active two days, it was wonderful to stretch our limbs to the soothing sounds of native birdsong.

“ POSITIVELY GIDDY IN ANTICIPATION ”

With such an array of fun-filled activities, it can be easy to forget that there is an entire island beyond the resort's front gates. However if you do manage to venture out, you will quickly see why Koh Samui is at the top of every Thai travel itinerary. The island has something for everyone with beautiful beaches, cracking nightlife and chilled-out towns.

Chaweng is the island's most popular beach and it is easy to see why. With its white sand, crooning palm trees and sparkling sand spits, Chaweng is straight out of a postcard. In order to cater to the crowds, Chaweng boasts the biggest concentration of bars, restaurants and shops on the island which can keep tourists busy from morning till night. Although Chaweng beach is picturesque, Chaweng town is party central on Koh Samui and a Mecca for the many backpackers who visit the island each year.

If bright lights and loud music aren't your thing



Photo © Hathaiwan Saen_Chai

then not to worry - Bo Phut is a charming fishing village located on the north of the island and is just the ticket if you are looking for something a little more laid back. This is the yin to Chaweng's yang. Like Chaweng, Bo Phut has many bars and restaurants but the village moves at a far slower pace than its more energetic neighbour. The well-kept streets are resplendent with local craft and souvenir shops and tasty treats can be sampled from street vendors for next to nothing.

Located in the south-east of the island, Hin-Ta and Hin Yai are stunning natural stone formations which jut out into the tropical waters of the South China Sea. The formations are said to resemble certain parts of the male and female anatomy and therefore provide beautiful and amusing photo opportunities. Get there early to avoid the crowds and see this natural beauty at her best.

For those looking to experience even more natural beauty, day trips can be taken to the nearby Ang Thong National Marine Park. This pristine collection of islands provides excellent kayaking and snorkelling opportunities with

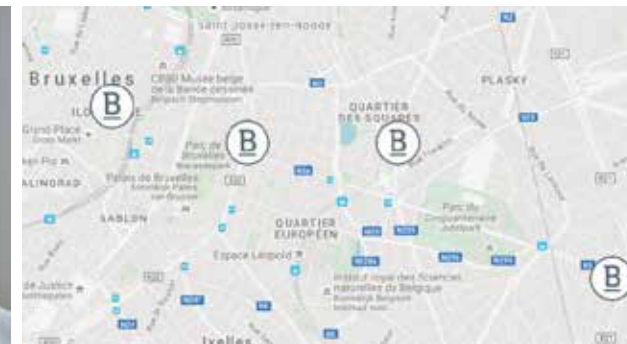
beaches, lagoons, caves and coral reefs galore. Hike to the viewpoint on Ko Wua Talap for an incredible panoramic view of the entire archipelago.

The Four Seasons Koh Samui is a paradise within a paradise. If you want to experience the type of luxury normally reserved for movie stars, then this is the place to go. Thailand is known as the land of smiles and after our stay at the Four Seasons we could certainly see why - we haven't been able to wipe the smiles from our faces since we left.
www.fourseasons.com/kohsamui 📍

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Messing about on the river

Travel experts at **Continents Insolites** encourage you to go with the flow...

Photo © Maravic



When you take to the river you indulge yourself by adjusting to its unique indolent rhythm as you observe the life that animates its banks: the children bathing in the water, the wonderful point of view on the fauna and the flora... Continents Insolites, specialists in tailor-made travel for 40 years, present a selection of cruises: on the Mekong, the Amazon and the Irrawaddy. The boats they have carefully chosen are all little gems in their own right and are dedicated to the intimacy of their guests and to offering them refined enjoyment.

On the Mekong

A mythical river, the Mekong boasts a rich and varied ecosystem that nourishes diverse cultural and natural regions.

This cruise offers the opportunity for you to discover the river of the Mekong Delta, in Vietnam, sailing as far as the Tonle Sap and the temples of Angkor – these are certainly the highlights of this exceptional trip. Day after day, the scenery slides by as you are tempted by a course of tai chi on the boat deck and a ride aboard a traditional sampan in the heart of the



Photo © Pascal Mannearts



Photo © Dana Allen

floating market...

Safari on the river in Botswana

You have marvelled at the Victoria Falls, flown over the Okavango Delta and surveyed the bush as you trailed the lions. To end your trip to Botswana, we offer a short 3-day cruise on the Chobe River. This is a rare moment in Africa, which offers another point of view of the fauna and allows you to soak up some of the most beautiful sunsets in the world.

Along the Irrawaddy

This waterway is ideal for discovering Burma, since Irrawaddy is the country's main axis of communication. Your boat will be able to sail to remote areas and reach magnificent sites – discover pagodas and forgotten villages at the bends of the Ayeyarwady River and the Chindwin River. Your boat, a genuine 5-star boutique hotel, has 20 suites that combine local craftsmanship and

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This 5-day cruise offers travelers a chance to take the waters of the Amazon on a small boat with just a few suites. The boat navigates through the heart of the protected environment of five million hectares of flooded forests which make up the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve in Peru.

On the programme: exploration of the wild life (pink dolphins, river wolves, hummingbirds and much more), excursions under the canopy, gastronomic discoveries and the simple pleasure of life on board...

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Together headed to a five-star German hotel that has it all



Victor's Residenz-Hotel Schloss Berg proudly boast that it is "the dolce vita hideaway in the heart of the vineyards" and that's exactly what this sumptuous residence offers.

On the banks of the Moselle River, charmingly tucked away among vineyards that run like a ribbon through the region, Victor's Residenz-Hotel Schloss Berg is ideally suited for pastoral pleasures and lavish luxuries alike.

The moment you first feast your eyes on the impressive ensemble of Roman-style Mediterranean villa and fairy-tale Renaissance castle, you'll know that a whole new world of splendour and serenity lies before you. Thanks to its exclusive location, in the very heart of the border triangle between Germany, Luxembourg and France, this 5-star superior establishment offers a colourful palette of possibilities to create lasting memories of your stay – enjoy wine

tastings at local wineries, for example, or excursions on foot or by bike to explore the scenically stunning surroundings. Let yourself be inspired in the historical ambiance of this magical retreat.

You'll dream of this for years to come, of your time in one the 105 times stylish rooms and exclusive suites, the Roman villa that oozes genuine Mediterranean elegance, the Renaissance castle welcoming you into the same enchanting ambiance in which knights and noblewomen once lived. The seven divine suites (Götter-Suiten) will have you feeling as if you were floating on clouds. Enjoy moments of blissful relaxation on your balcony or terrace, overlooking the charming courtyard, or soak in the romantic views across the vineyards.

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Enjoy a delicious dining experience at our Bacchus restaurant, where you take an extraordinary culinary voyage along the Mediterranean coast, from scrumptious starters and flavoursome fresh fish all the way to sinfully sweet crème brûlée.

Victor's rustic country tavern Die Scheune is perfect for you. Regional specialties and seasonal delicacies are served in charming, cosy surroundings in front of the crackling fireplace or in the lovely beer garden. Feel like relaxing in style with a glass of fine wine or a cool cocktail in hand? The Lobby-Bar is the place to be. And after a long, but beautiful day, come unwind with a refreshing drink in the loungy atmosphere of Caesar's Bar.

For perfect gourmet try pleasure Victor's FINE DINING by Christian Bau – the name speaks for itself has, and little wonder it has been crowned with 3 Michelin stars since 2005..

Christian Bau, and sommelière Nina Mann will whisk you away to new horizons of culinary indulgence. The mouth-watering menu includes

compositions conjured up with first-class ingredients and unparalleled creativity, from exotic seafood and select variations of fish and meat to the perfect dessert – all courses are accompanied by excellent corresponding wines.

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Autumnal Ardennes

As the seasons change we are encouraging you to head down south into the rolling hills

Photo © Ardennes-Etape



The Belgian Ardennes are renowned for being hilly and very green. But autumn is surely the time to head south and watch the leaves develop fiery, glowing colours – deep reds, pale yellows and earthen browns flourish on the branches and fall to form a new soft blanket for the soil.

The specialists in accommodation in the region

are Ardennes-Etape who offer an impressive range of properties in towns and villages and out in nature.

And this region where you can so easily disconnect from your work is very close by – driving through it or taking the train offer changing vistas that will soothe any traveller's soul. With the choice at hand, you can easily

Photo © Ardennes-Etape Durbuy 104757-02-000



picture yourself with your feet up in front of a roaring log fire, or taking a walk in a peaceful wood where you can concoct special activities for your children and breathe fresh air. Of course, after all that walking you can relax in a sauna and just let the minutes pass.

Just some of the destinations worth a visit are: **Durbuy**, known for its stone houses, cobbled streets, and the cliff-top Belvedere viewpoint overlooks the Ourthe River Valley; **Malmedy**, famous for the cathedral and the carnival; and **Dinant** with its stunning backdrop, cookies and cruises on the river Meuse. ak or paintball.

Photo © Ardennes-Etape Dinant 105726-02-024



We have chosen a few properties to give you a taste of what's available.

Durbuy - Charming holiday house with wellness area

In the heart of a village typically of the Ardennes and at a few km from Durbuy, this charming house was the former grocery of the village, which has been transformed by owners who are really fond of decoration – a place to set down your bags and enjoy! Accommodates 8. Ref: 104757-02

Photo © Ardennes-Etape Malmedy 105773-01-080



Dinant - Authentic holiday house.

A holiday house full of charm and with a very nicely decorated, situated in a large remote property and on top of a steep hill dominating the Haute Meuse, with exceptional views. This former farm is perfect for families and you can enjoy the outdoor swimming-pool (located about 30 metres away from the house). Nearby is a state-owned forest where you can go for long walks. Accommodates 12. Ref: 105726-02

Photo © Ardennes-Etape Dinant 106270-01-001



Malmedy - Superb 5-star luxury holiday villa

A modern luxurious holiday home, with swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna, covered terrace... It has very comfortable beds and quality bathrooms are at your disposal. Situated in a very quiet and wooded area, there are numerous hikes possible from the property. Accommodates 8. Ref: 105773-01

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Stanhope Hotel: A new touch to old charm

Brussels' very first 5-star hotel has undergone an extensive renovation

Stanhope Hotel unveils extensive guest room renovations

Stanhope Hotel in Brussels has undergone an extensive renovation. The luxurious boutique hotel has kept many of the 19th century details, but has updated the interior, décor and facilities of guest rooms.

"We are very happy and excited about the refurbishment of Stanhope Hotel. We have kept the old charm and unique details, but have added a new touch to the guest rooms. Our guests can enjoy luxurious king-size beds and exquisite design," says General Manager, Frédéric Hill.

Stanhope Hotel offers 125 guestrooms, suites, luxury apartments, a fitness centre and sauna, a restaurant, a library bar and nine conference rooms perfect for events and meetings.

One of Belgium's best luxury hotels

In January 2017 the Stanhope Hotel was named as one of the 10 best luxury hotels in Belgium on TripAdvisor, and is labelled as "Travellers' Choice" on the website.

"Stanhope is one of our exclusive and unique hotels in Brussels. Stanhope's location is very central, but is in a quiet neighbourhood, making it a hidden gem. We look forward to providing exceptional guest experiences and to show off the refurbished hotel rooms to visitors," says Executive Vice President of Thon Hotels, Morten Thorvaldsen.

Situated on 9 Rue du Commerce, Stanhope Hotel is within walking distance of the Grand Place and Sablon Square. Nearby attractions also include the Royal Palace and the European Parliament.



Classic five-star hotel

The hotel façade was renovated in 2016, and this year an extensive refurbishment programme began under the supervision of Olav Thon Gruppen's head designer Sissel Berdal Haga and Ramsøeskar Interior Architect's Trond Ramsøeskar.

Sissel Berdal Haga and Trond Ramsøeskar explain: "Stanhope Hotel is a classic five-star hotel in the heart of EU's capital, Brussels. 48 of the exquisite guest rooms have been renovated to a high standard. Our goal was to combine a classic style with a modern touch. The exclusive Stanhope heritage has been kept, and we have added a new palette of colours, giving the hotel a contemporary brush. The wallpapers are elegant and classic with regards to colours and patterns, and the headboards in the guest rooms are framed with dark mahogany. This contributes to keeping the traditional design."

The new interior and décor stays true to the Stanhope's classic style, and fuses contemporary design with timeless details and

the property's heritage.

"The modern elements give a refined finish to the guest rooms. The walls now have a pale turquoise colour, the Italian curtains are lime-coloured with a golden shimmer, and the furniture is elegant and bold with yellow and indigo. History, culture and tradition have been kept. Our guests can enjoy the new and renovated rooms at Thon Hotels' five-star Stanhope Hotel in Brussels."

Stanhope Hotel first opened its doors in 1991. The hotel consists of three connecting 19th-century town houses: The House of Presidents, the House of Lords and The House of Ambassadors, as well as a newer building, The House of Queens.

The Stanhope Hotel offers parking, room service, free WiFi and an extensive breakfast buffet. Guests, tourists and locals can enjoy a variety of dining options at the hotel's Brighton Restaurant which also offers additional outdoor seating and a glass canopy for rainy days. www.thonhotels.com/Stanhope-hotel 1

"THE EXCLUSIVE STANHOPE HERITAGE HAS BEEN KEPT"

Hulencourt: A golf academy vision

James Drew speaks to Hulencourt golf club's head pro Jérôme Theunis about the Hulencourt Golf Academy



When a golf club is as established as Hulencourt (it stands on historic grounds that date back as far as 930 AD), and as highly rated (it is deemed to be one of Belgium's finest courses), it takes something fairly special, a vision thing, to add to its illustrious achievements.

And that is exactly what the club's head pro Jérôme Theunis - who also runs the Jérôme Theunis Golf Academy - has in mind for the Hulencourt Golf Academy, which will be gracing the club before the end of 2017.

And Jérôme certainly knows a thing or two about the most beautiful of all games - a

former Belgian Junior Champion, Jérôme's professional career developed on the European Tours, eventually winning the Neuchatel Open in 2004. Retiring as a playing pro in 2008, Jérôme became coach to Belgian Ryder Cup star Nicolas Colsaerts, helping him become one of the best players in the world. Alongside his continued work with Nicolas, Jérôme advises and mentors his clients at his Jérôme Theunis Golf Academy, which helps players of all levels achieve their golfing goals.

So, what was the inspiration behind the imminent Hulencourt Golf Academy? "Well, I lived in America from 1998-2003, and I was part of an academy there, and I came to



appreciate the way in which people would embrace a particular way of playing golf, and I learned a lot about how best to approach training people.

"My mentor in the states, Randy Smith, was a very well-known golf teacher, and he first highlighted to me how important physical fitness and training are behind the game, and that cultivating personal goals for people in these areas is the best way to encourage improvement in their golf.

"This is what I intend to bring to the Hulencourt Golf Academy - there will be fitness rooms with physios on site, which will complement the outstanding latest indoor technologies that the academy will offer, such as a 400 metre-square indoor putting green and the latest simulators powered by the very latest software.

"It is vital to assess where our visitors are in their game now, and show them where they could be. That is what I am after."

The Hulencourt also has two immaculately maintained courses, 'Le Vallon' and 'Le Verger' - Le Vallon is the Championship course and is widely acclaimed as being one of the best conditioned courses in Belgium, designed by French architect Jean-Manuel Rossi, while 'Le Verger' is a 9-hole course that suits beginners and younger players.



"A lot of love has gone into this course. It has the tone of a big British club, with its value of fairness, elegance and sport. But it still has a family feel.

"The course is very strict, it needs a lot of application and attention, but it is said that Hulencourt is the best maintained course in Belgium.

"PEOPLE WOULD EMBRACE A PARTICULAR WAY OF PLAYING GOLF"

"And, as far as I am concerned, it is all about 'social' golf - you arrive, you are looking forward to a game, but also to talking about your game afterwards, and looking at how you can improve.

"And that is why Hulencourt is so perfect for so many types of players - we have everything here to keep everyone happy, no matter their level of golf or age!"

Hulencourt is also active in cultural activities through the Hulencourt Art Project, which includes the acclaimed Chamber Orchestra of international young soloists, a music school and exhibitions.

So, it is just 30 minutes away from Brussels, and you will be hard-pushed to find a better golfing experience anywhere in Belgium. Tee-time!

**15 Bruyère d'Hulencourt
B-1472 Vieux-Genappe
Tel: 067 79 40 40
www.golfhulencourt.be**

Enjoy! Brussels food Relish! Bordeaux wine

James Drew took to the park to sample some of Bordeaux's finest

The sixth edition of eat! Brussels drink! Bordeaux was an unqualified success, running from 8-10 September.

In its truly ideal, picturesque location (Parc de Bruxelles, just across from the Palais Royale), the festival served more than 25,000 delicious dishes and 90,000 tastings of Bordeaux wine and, given its undercover, tented approach, the occasionally inclement weather did nothing to dispel the ambience of fine food and drink.

Its interesting approach is noteworthy, and should be noted by all prospective visitors to future events - aiming for a completely cashless environment, all visitors were given an individual charge card, to be loaded up with their own credits, namely €9 per food serving required, and €14 in advance, €18 on site for a wine pass which, along with 11 tastings, enabled visitors to benefit from a 'wine school', as well as an eat! Brussels drink! Bordeaux tasting glass, a mini Duvel (18cl), a Vittel water and a Pellini coffee.

And the tastings, it should also be noted, are 5cl of wine, to ensure that you can try as many of the wines as possible, without becoming too carried away.



And, what a range of food and wine - 18 Brussels chefs, representing 18 of the city's restaurants, come together to offer a range of delicacies and the wines - wow!

For this visitor, top of the range for wine was undoubtedly the Pomerol Domaine de la Pointe 2012 - a beautifully elegant, rich red that complements game, red meat, duck and foie gras superbly.

And for white? That would have to be the Cuvée Gaia 2016, a wonderful yellow drink, with crisp notes of white and exotic fruits and citrus, simply marvellous with oysters and other seafood.

And those are but two of the many that were on offer, and will be again - roll on eat! Brussels drink! Bordeaux 2018!

www.eatbrussels.be

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**LIFE OF
LEISURE**

What's on

What's on Belgium



Photo © Michel Fiquet

Atelier Relief - Élévation

For its second anniversary, Atelier Relief presents *Élévation*, a dialogue of forms between five photographers. A series of extreme reliefs, photos of building facades, stairs, high built motorways and flyovers, a look upon the soaring constructions of mankind, where the volume of reliefs echo the volume of the structures themselves.

Atelier Relief conceives and creates sculpted images 'Reliefs', where everything is relief. As the architect's structure rises from the ground, the Atelier's is built upon a photograph. Shifting from two to three dimensions, recomposed in its three planes, photography renews its ties with its source: the real world. A rebirth. The Relief exits from any frame. It sets photographs free, unframing and unfolding it. Worked on as a flat surface upon a table, studied, cut-out and divided into strips or sections, it takes shape along its focal lines. The Relief divides an image without weakening it. It multiplies the image. It animates it, making it stand out like a pop up. **Until November 11.**

www.atelier-relief.com/en/

HOME WORK

Hors-Tempsia is an independent art space located inside the sharp lines of a 1930s villa near the Vallée des Artistes in Linkebeek, where founder and owner Agnes De Man will host exhibitions of work by individual artists and groups from May 2015 onwards.



tablecloths...

Remembering the tradition of our grandmothers who embroidered their household linen and handkerchiefs, Agnes took her works to Gujarat, India, where she asked immensely talented local craftswomen to embroider them.

For her new exhibition HOME WORK, Agnes observed people who have a phobia about cleaning. She then opened her cupboards and took out the basic materials for new work: floor cloths, drying up cloths, sponges,

This resulted in unique garments, but can you wear them? Discover for yourself at her new exhibition.

hors-tempsia.be/en/



Photo © Julian Mayor

Richard Höglund and Julian Mayor

Flore de Brantes and Amaury de La Moussaye have a wide eye, and they love the conversation between worlds and eras. For their big annual event at Hangar Art Center the dialogue will be transatlantic, between New York and London, between the canvas on the wall and the furniture on the ground, between drawing and volume, between Richard Höglund (the American) and Julian Mayor (the British). The first one starts from writing, the second from the structure, but both attach themselves to matter. "With Julian as with Richard, matter has all its presence", says Flore. Hangar Art Center, Brussels.

Until 7 to October.

www.h18.be

www.galerieflore.com



Photo © Jorge Hortua -
Chaussee de Charleroi, Charleroi Steenweg - 2017

Jorge Hortua: La Stroet

Hangar presents a curated selection of renowned international artists and promising young talent, contributing to the development of the appreciation of contemporary art and photography in Brussels. Each year Hangar houses three to four major exhibitions, one of which is dedicated to contemporary photography, PhotoBrussels Festival.

In its new space Petit Hangar, Jorge Hortua presents La Stroet (street in in Brusselseir, the Brussels dialect). "Jorge doesn't show the obvious Brussels of guide books, he has spent hours and day walking the streets - la stroet - to discover another face of Brussels, in search of its soul." P.Easton. Hangar Art Center, Brussels.

Until 7 to October.

www.hangar.art

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What's on

European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture

The EU Mies van der Rohe Award is an architecture prize with a European vocation that celebrates urban excellence.

This itinerant exhibition reflects the discussions held by the 2017 jury. The selected works emphasize the importance of Europe's urban character. The 40 shortlisted works are organized according to the urban fabric where they are found: Exo-urban, Periphery, Consolidated and Historic Centre. Together they construct an imaginary city, the City of 40.



Photo © Philippe Ruault

The different projects of the 2017 winners and finalists, and how these are experienced, illustrate the nature of Contemporary European Architecture. The issues that emerge from them will continue to be discussed on social media and at different events connected to the 2017

prize over the next two years. This exhibition, together with the EU Mies Award Catalogue 2017, will kick off this fascinating discussion. BOZAR/Centre for Fine Arts. **Until 22 October. Free entrance.** www.bozar.be



Opera: *Tancredi*

Against the backdrop of the power struggle between the Byzantines and the Saracens, the city state of Syracuse is divided by internal conflicts. The hoped-for reconciliation between the rival families is undermined by distrust and by the secret love between Amenaide and the banished knight Tancredi. *Tancredi* was an important step in Rossini's early development

as a serio composer, as demonstrated by his dynamic treatment of the form and a number of structural innovations. Inspired by Voltaire's drama, he composed one of his most lyrical works – and according to Stendhal quite simply his greatest masterpiece. **11-14 October.** BOZAR/Centre for Fine Arts. Tickets from **€18 to €74** www.lamonnaie.be/en

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13/11 Rag'n Bone Man

14/11 Texas

22/11 Gorillaz

26/11 Loïc Nottet

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16/12 Notre Dame de Paris

20/01 Music Show Schotland

03/03 Apassionata

18/03 Toto



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LIFE OF LEISURE

What's on



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www.businessrebelmasterclass.com



DS Brussels Fashion Days

Beautiful fashion, Belgian fashion! Save the date - the DS Brussels Fashion Days are coming in October. The 6th edition will be unique with a hitherto unseen energy, great challenges and new partners. The prestigious Square Brussels Meeting Centre (Mont des Arts) has honoured us by hosting the event for a second consecutive year. There are all manner of events including of course fashions show, pop up stores, a fashion talk inspired by Star Wars and even a fashion brunch. You can check out the full schedule on the website. **20, 21 and 22 October**. Square Brussels Meeting Centre.

dsbrusselsfashiondays.be/en/ 

AU REPOS DES CHASSEURS



Située aux abords de la forêt de Soignes, cette auberge restaurant comble de bonheur les papilles des gourmands et des amateurs de gibier. Dans son restaurant aux allures de brasserie ou sur la terrasse, une des plus belles de la capitale, vous savourerez des spécialités italiennes et françaises, comme les anguilles au vert, le foie gras, et, en saison, un grand éventail de produits de la chasse. Le restaurant propose toute l'année, le menu du chef à 24,50 € et le menu du patron à 41,50 €. De plus, l'établissement offre plusieurs espaces complémentaires tels qu'une taverne avec petite restauration l'après-midi, 6 salles de banquets ou de séminaires (idéal pour les communions) et un hôtel ***

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CICCIO BELLO



Ce restaurant, situé au coeur de la commune de Watermael-Boitsfort, propose une cuisine italienne aux saveurs du sud, un large choix de pizzas cuites au feu de bois et de délicieuses pâtes maison. En été, vous profiterez d'une vaste terrasse au soleil pour vous échapper le temps d'un repas. Chaque midi, optez pour notre lunch à 12,50 € (une entrée + un plat). Pour vos fêtes familiales telles que mariage, communion, fêtes d'anniversaires ou autre, le Ciccio Bello dispose d'une lumineuse salle de banquet, pouvant accueillir plus de 40 personnes, avec une agréable vue sur la place Wiener. De plus, l'établissement offre 6 appartements hôtel de 45 à 60 m2 entièrement meublés et équipés.

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**LIFE OF
LEISURE**

What's on

What's on international

Floating Worlds – 14th Biennale de Lyon

The Lyon Biennale stems from a project by the Lyon's Museum of Contemporary Art, directed by Thierry Raspail in 1984. Following the Paris Biennale's closure in 1985 the Biennale proceeded by an annual event from 1984-88 entitled *October of the Arts*. This event gave rise to the Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art in 1991, which was inaugurated by the City of Lyon and the Ministry of Culture within the framework of decentralization, aiming to move the French Biennale of Contemporary Art outside Paris. Since 1991, the Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art has been financed in equal parts by the City of Lyon and the French Ministry of Culture.



The organizational model of the Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art is to create events of artistic self-renewal while also building a stable, long-term project, bonding with its host territory. For each edition the Artistic Director builds the event's identity, choosing a curator or curatorial team to devise an artistic project in close collaboration. Each edition of the Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art provides the opportunity to explore a specific theme such as history, globalization and temporality.

This year's curator is Emma Lavigne. Raspail says he chose her because: "The 'enlarged modern' which characterizes the contemporary situation has led to an increase in fields, networks, superposition, poetics and politics. It is a universe with porous edges and augmented realities. Emma Lavigne is one of the few curators who has grasped the highly variable range of this reality, and look at all the exhibitions she has put on, such as Floyd Interstellar and Warhol Live."

Lavigne says: "I wanted to moor the Biennale in central Lyon, a city whose identity has been

shaped partly by the ubiquity of water. The Biennale will unfurl like a voyage around an archipelago of islands, which by turns are theatre stages or stopovers conducive to slowing down; and which by turns will generate wonder, realization, contemplation or reflection."

La Sucrière and maLYON from **20 September 2017 to 7 January 2018**
Le dôme, place Antonin Poncet from **20 September to 5 November 2017**

www.onlylyon.com/en/
www.biennaledelyon.com/uk/



Twelve Foot Ninja

Australian outfit Twelve Foot Ninja described themselves as a mix of nu-metal, djent and reggae. Practically, Twelve Foot Ninja took all of their musical influences and put them together to make something equally as puzzling as it is wholeheartedly enjoyable. Try to picture a more straightforward, but decidedly more metal Mr. Bungle whose members grew up listening to nu-metal bands like Korn, and that's as close we can describe the band. They debuted with the groundbreaking *Silent Machine* in 2012, and did it all over again with 2016's *Outlier*. **3**

October. Melkweg, Amsterdam.
www.melkweg.nl/en

Photo © Laurie Ashbrey

Glasgow Americana

It's that time of year again in Glasgow for a heavy dollop of America. The annual Glasgow America has once more gathered a bunch of sterling singer-songwriters and musicians to play during the five-day event. Among this year's performers – local and international – are Adam Holmes & The Embers and Rachel Sermanni, Slaid Cleaves, James Edwin & The Borrowed Band, Mark Olson plus Ags Connolly, Martha Fields and Roseanne Reid, My Darling Clementine, Jefferson Hamer and John Taylor, Jill Jackson, Dean Owens and Gareth Dunlop.

Opening the festival is a very special tribute show to The Late Great Townes Van Zandt, an event that Townes' son, John has given his blessing to. **4-8 October.** Various venues in Glasgow.
www.glasgowamericana.com



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Cinema: All the latest movies playing in Belgium

Brussels' leading film critic **James Drew** looks ahead to films that will adorn the cinema screens in Belgium

The Dark Tower

It really is Stephen King season, big time, as the year draws to a close – and this is among the most eagerly awaited of his adaptations. Produced by King himself and directed by Nikolaj Arcel (*A Royal Affair* (2012), who also co-writes, this stars man-of-the-moment Idris Elba as Roland Deschain, a mythical gunslinger from the mythical Mid World, who is on a quest to find the Dark Tower, which represents the nexus of time, space, and everything. Jake Chambers (Tom Taylor) is spirited into Roland's world, and Roland finds he needs the boy to help him complete his voyage. But... the Man in Black/Walter Paddick/Randall Flagg, a vicious evil sorcerer, who wants the power of the tower all for himself, is also on the trail. It is being touted as a sequel to the events of King's seven books – and hopes are very high that it will be marvellous. *Running time TBC*

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power is a 2017 US documentary film directed by Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk about former United States Vice President Al Gore's continuing mission to battle climate change. It is the sequel to the 2006 film *An Inconvenient Truth*. The follow-up documentary addresses the progress made to tackle the problem and Gore's global efforts to persuade governmental leaders to invest in renewable energy, culminating in the landmark signing of 2016's Paris Agreement. *99 mins.*

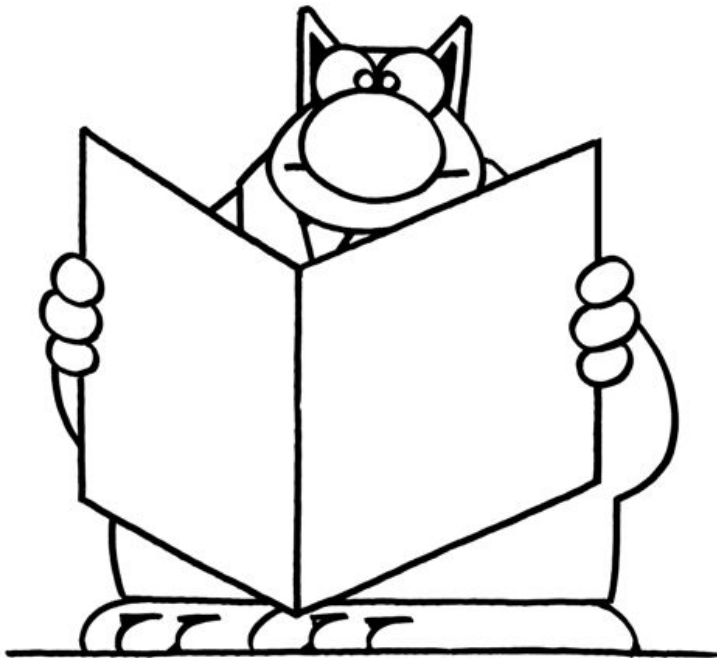
It

And this, with the exception of the *Dark Tower* series of novels, is probably still yours truly's favourite King book. The last adaptation was Tommy Lee Wallace's really-not-very-good 1990 TV movie – hopes are much higher for this, the first of two planned films, which is good, because *It* is still King's longest book. Set in the summer of 1989, a group of outcast kids discover that a shape-shifting entity, It, is claiming the lives of other children who are disappearing from the town. Starring Bill Skarsgård as the demon's favourite incarnation, Pennywise The Clown (brrrr), this could easily be one of the best King adaptations to date. On verras...Andrés Muschietti (*Mama* (2013) directs. *Running time TBC*

American Made

Potentially very nice to see Tom Cruise in a film that isn't about things exploding - it stars Cruise as Barry Seal, a TWA pilot who is recruited by the CIA to help counter the emerging communist threat in Central America. Seal's role in this major CIA covert operation led in turn to his involvement with the Medellín cartel, which ultimately embarrassed the Reagan White House after the Iran-Contra scandal became public. Directed by Doug Liman, and it is his first film for Universal since *The Bourne Identity* (2002). *114 mins.* ①

No news is good news



LE CHAT by Philippe Geluck



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