

Flanders Bulletin

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The Press and Trade newsletter of Tourism Flanders-Brussels

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Dear Reader,

After a long break, the team at Tourism Flanders-Brussels welcome you to the first 2010 edition of the Flanders Bulletin. As another year starts, we invite you to cast your eye over our round up of the 10 best festivals, exhibitions and event highlights that are taking place in Flanders this year. Some of the Top Ten events you certainly cannot miss include many notable music concerts: the increasingly popular Rock Werchter near Leuven, Pukklepop in Hasselt, as well as Maanrock in Mechelen. Other unique events include a wide selection of great art shows, not to mention the long awaited Bruges Central exhibition and the opening of the STAM museum in Ghent. Undoubtedly there is plenty to see and do throughout the year that is sure to cater to all tastes...Enjoy!

Not to be missed this year – Top 10



Ghent Floralties 2010 17-25 April 2010

Quite literally, Ghent springs alive with the five-yearly horticultural extravaganza - Floralties 2010. Boasting the largest garden in the world, this is a chance to visit some of the most contemporary, creative and colourful garden and floral displays ever seen. Designed and created to engage interest for all ages, Floralties draws inspiration from luxurious perfumes and peaceful well-being.

Contributions from 24 world renowned floral artists are expected to draw over 300,000 visitors to the region and city of Ghent. For more information about tickets and group reservations visit: www.aab-allaboutbelgium.be www.floralien.be

Brussels Jazz Marathon 28-30 May 2010

True jazz enthusiasts can enjoy modern and traditional jazz, blues and Latin, in-doors and out, during the annual Brussels Jazz Marathon. Local and international groups and artists flock to the main squares, bars and theatres of the Belgian capital.



Throughout the city, over 50 venues will be used in the musical celebrations, which draw in crowds from Belgium and beyond. An astonishing 125 concerts will be given by up to 400 artists. Outdoor gigs will be held on three public squares; the Grand Place, Place du Grand Sablon and Place Sainte-Catherine. And, as an addition to this year's event, a 'European Jazz @ Brussels' stage will be on the Place d'Espagne, where you can discover a range of new groups from Hungary, Spain, Italy, Estonia, Holland, France and Bulgaria.

Entry to the event is free so make the most of Eurostar and other inexpensive air fares to Brussels and blow your trumpet in a musical weekend extravaganza. www.brusselsjazzmarathon.be



STAM Museum Opening June 2010 18-19 Oct 2010

The newly renovated Bijloke Abbey will be home to Ghent's



newest city museum: STAM. The museum opens with an original exhibition entitled the "Light in the City" which looks at objects, documents, scale-models, paintings, drawings and installations to demonstrate how the concepts of light and dark are part of our everyday life. A new reception building is being constructed next to the Abbey and its walkway will start a

chronological trail with the help of multi-media applications, guiding visitors on a journey through time along Ghent's streets, squares, alleyways and neighbourhoods. The new museum is set to be a showpiece for the city and its opening will be a grand affair for this historical town. It is also a great starting point for groups to investigate the city. www.stamgent.be/en

Antwerp Pride

24-27 June 2010

After its success last year, Antwerp Pride continues to attract followers from all over the world, both straight and gay, for a fun-packed itinerary, bringing colour and vibrancy to Antwerp's busy social calendar. The event begins early on the Thursday morning and gradually unfolds to a full programme of busy socialising and revelry. The opening party on the Thursday night sets the tone for many other exciting gatherings. Events for the weekend include Navigaytion, with its nautical theme, and many more celebratory parties to follow. Full details of the weekend are yet to be finalised but the event is already gearing up to be another bout of raucous celebration! www.antwerppride.com



Rock Werchter – Taking Centre Stage Again In 2010

1-4 July 2010

Rock Werchter, Belgium's largest music festival is taking place this summer from 1st -4th July 2010. The event promises to be a stage for the very best that modern music has to offer.

The festival began in 1974 in the village of Werchter, as a one-day festival with performances from the likes of Banzai and

Kandahar, and has now grown to become an international event. Since 2003, Rock Werchter has become a party-pumping four day extravaganza and is now owned by American organisers Live Nation.

Two undisputed crowd pleasers "MUSE" (Thursday 1st July 10) and "PINK" (Saturday 3rd July 10) will definitely be attending, and "Pearl Jam" (Sunday 4th July 10) and "Green Day" (Friday 2nd July 10) have also confirmed their attendance at the 32nd Rock Werchter. Don't miss out!

www.rockwerchter.be/en/home

Pukklepop

19-21 August 2010

"Pukklepop", literally translated "spotty pop" – is a strange name for a music concert, but this musical attraction has grown in popularity and instead of catering just for a few zitty teenagers, has grown into one of the biggest open-air alternative music concerts in Belgium!



Attracting thousands of visitors from all over Flanders and beyond to its site near the city of Hasselt, the festival features approximately 200 live acts on its 8 different stages. Revellers are able to camp on-site and really enter into the party spirit with local DJ parties the night before it starts. Last year's line up included Little Boots, Arctic Monkeys, Florence and the Machine and 50 Cent. This year will mark Pukklepop's 25th anniversary and acts such as Snow Patrol, Kraftwerk and Razorlight are just some of the big-named acts already confirmed to take to the stage! www.pukklepop.be



Ghent Festivities – Taking Over The Medieval City

18-27 July 2010



This year, the Ghent Festivities will take over the medieval city centre for ten days. The enormous event includes a parade, music, dance, theatre and puppetry festivals, fireworks displays and much more. Typically, over a million people attend every year.

From horse races, traditional jousts and tournaments, to hot air balloons and parades of giants, the festivities have experienced many changes before arriving at their format of today.

No less than four separate international festivals add lustre to the overall programme: The Ghent Jazz Festival, the International Street Theatre Festival, the International Puppet Buskers Festival and the dance festival 10 Days Off. Don't miss out on this annual extravaganza – it promises to be a fantastic celebration! gentsefeesten.be

Maan Rock – Rocking In Mechelen **22-23 August 2010**

This is the largest rock festival in Flanders and originates from a small music concert organised in the Grote Markt in Mechelen in 1995. The following year, Maanrock was formally launched and resulted in great success. Over 7000 revellers attended and the city's Grote Markt was inundated with eager fans!

Nearly 15 years later, the concert has increased in popularity and draws a following from all over Europe. The line-up usually includes an eclectic mix of unknowns as well as rock veterans and is held in Grote Markt.

With more information about the line up for 2010 due to be announced, keep an eye out for further news! www.maanrock.be



Bruges Centraal – Van Eyck to Durer **29 Oct 2010 – 30 Jan 2011**

Discover the city of Bruges as it celebrates generations of Flemish art and its influence on artistic Europe in the fields of painting, sculpture and illuminated manuscripts. Such was its influence that its works of art rivalled the innovations of the Italian Renaissance. Dominating the art world from 1390 to 1528, The Groeninge Museum will examine the enormous influence the Flemish Primitives have had on their eastern neighbours. Steeped in history, this large scale exhibition will have major exhibits loaned from all over the world and is set to be an unforgettable cultural treat. As well as examples of art by Van Eyck and Dürer, works by Campin, Van der Weyden, Van der Goes and Memling will also be displayed. Work by less famous masters from

Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Estonia will also be present. The exhibition will show sculptures, illuminated manuscripts, drawings and illustrations as part of the main exhibition.

For trade contacts who would like to receive more information, please email trade@visitflanders.co.uk www.bruggecentraal.be

Modo Bruxellae Fashion Designers Trail 2010 **Dec 2010**

Modo Bruxellae promotes Brussels fashion to the general public, the Media and fashion professionals. All dedicated fashion followers flock to Brussels' Tour & Taxis to bag a bargain at the huge **Modo Bruxellae** designer sale. So there really is no excuse for not having something to wear as next Christmas party season looms!



Every season since 2003, the association Modo Bruxellae gathers the Brussels fashion professionals for the "NOTHING TO WEAR?" stock sale.

This December, over 80 Brussels designers and brands will gather in the Palace, formerly Pathé Palace surrounding the famous Rue Antoine Dansaert in the heart of Brussels. Young Belgian

fashion designers will sell their one-off creations at reduced prices during a two-day shopping frenzy. The designers selling their wares have included pieces by Azniv Afsar, Caroline Foulon, Eric Beauduin, Max & Lola, Sur ta tête, Tomoko Furusawa and Xavier Gigot.

Antwerp Bruges Brussels Ghent Leuven Mechelen Ostend & the Coast Ypres & Battlefields



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