

# Flanders Bulletin

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Trade pages | Press pages | Image library | Press releases | Brochures

## Dear Reader,

Could spring really be here? The sun is now shining and you can now finally start to look forward to those long awaited summer holidays! And there has never been a better time to visit easily accessible Flanders this coming month. Look out for our special supplement in the Food and Travel Magazine due out in May, which covers the latest "must-see" places to chart a route around: Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges, Ypres, Mechelen, and Leuven. Please read on for further details of some exciting events that are happening across the region this season and from all of us here at Tourism Flanders-Brussels, enjoy the warm weather!

## Martin Margiela "20" The Exhibition – London

Flemish Fashion is brought closer to home with a new exhibition celebrating 20 years of the designer Martin Margiela, Antwerp's revered "deconstructivist"! Hailing from the city of Genk, Margiela studied at Antwerp's Royal Academy of Fashion along with the legendary avant-garde collective Antwerp Six. He started his career as an assistant to Jean Paul Gaultier and first showed his own clothing label in 1988. Famed for his low profile, he has never even had his picture taken and always remains backstage during his shows.

Famed for his alternative modern approach to fashion, the show has already been exposed in Antwerp's Fashion Museum, and to critical acclaim. The exhibition explores Margiela's unique artistic vision through the use of innovative installations, photography, video and film. The show takes place in Somerset House from 3rd June – 5 September 2010. [More»](#)



## Ghent Veggie Day – Anniversary

### **Green Ghent paves the vegetarian way!**

Last year, the Flemish city of Ghent, renowned for its gastronomy, became the first city in the world to become vegetarian at least once a week. Ghent, one of Europe's 370 climate cities, sought to make every Thursday a meat-free day by encouraging its inhabitants to go green and turn to vegetables at least once a week. This was a pioneering first step in the effort to tackle global warming, cruelty to animals and obesity. The city has since been dubbed by many as the veggie capital of Europe as it offers more vegetarian restaurants per head than Paris, London and Berlin.

Eating less meat is the largest step one can take to minimize your foods eco-footprint. Stock breeding and meat consumption has a very large impact on the environment and the former is responsible for 18% of the world's emission of greenhouse gasses. This is more than the entire transport sector! So, the city of Ghent continues on its green path and celebrates the anniversary

of Veggie day on Thursday 6th May 2010!

## **Museum Weekend – Zonnebeke**

### ***Two days of historical discovery...***

This month, on 24th and 25th April, the Memorial Museum Passchendaele of 1917 is organising an exceptional museum weekend for the sixth year in its succession. Held at the Zonnebeke Chateau grounds this promises to be a moving event, not to be missed.



Three main themes that will be highlighted this year are 'living history' and the historical evocation between 1914 and 1918, the new exhibition of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as well as ANZAC Day. What's more, on Sunday 25th April 2010, ANZAC Day will be remembered internationally for the 95th time, which is the same day that Flanders is holding Heritage Day. It will also be possible to go on 'attic treasures' and 'battlefield' tours throughout the weekend. [Click here](#) for more information on tickets.



## **Brussels Pride**

### ***Full of colour and bursting with gay pride!***

Fun and festivities return to the Flemish capital from Friday 7th – 14th May 2010 as the annual 'Brussels Pride' takes place again this year. Brussels Pride was born as 'Pink Saturday' in the 1980's and now marks the starting point of the gay and lesbian summer across Flanders. This year, in celebration of the great event, around 20,000 people will march through the Flemish capital in the main parade, which starts from the Bourse at 2pm.

Events supporting the parade include a Gay and Lesbian 'Rainbow village' in and around rue St Jacques, followed by a final party at Le You. There will be parties all over the city throughout the extravaganza, as well as lots of famous DJ's playing, exhibitions, poetry etc.

For more information, please visit the Belgian Gay and Lesbian Pride [website](#) for full details of the programme.

## **Antwerp Pride**

### ***Drawing international acclaim and a diverse crowd from all over...***

From Thursday 24th June until Sunday 27th June 10, the third edition of Antwerp Pride will break out again with a fiery four day festival bursting with a huge variety of exciting projects. The organisers of Antwerp Pride have put together a range of different activities including a networking event at the Diamond Museum, several dancing parties around the city as well as a 'Sing Along' aiming to reach thousands of participants.



For the first time, this year Antwerp will host the 'White Party' which is set to be one of the biggest in Europe. Since 1997, the concept behind this event has been known globally as the premier gay party in the world.

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



## **Antwerp Taste Festival**

### ***A veritable foodie's paradise...***

Antwerp's annual taste festival returns to the city in August this year and celebrates the very best of Flemish cuisine. Enter the gastronomic extravaganza for free and for less than two Euros per food ticket, sample many of the delicious treats that will be on offer throughout the Het Zuid neighbourhood.



To celebrate the event, twenty-five renowned restaurateurs and caterers will offer tasty tidbits of their own wonderful creations, at very reasonable prices. Food fanatics should descend upon Antwerp's Zuid neighbourhood which is found by the docks to enjoy the event. Local food produce will also be on sale. For more information on opening hours and the event itself, visit **Antwerp Taste Festival**.

## Culinaria Square – Brussels

### *Delectable dining on show*

Brussels' exhibition venue Tours and Taxis plays host to the Capital's top food show, dedicated entirely to culinary arts. Over 14,000 visitors are set to converge on this extravaganza, in which 16 national chefs and 50 exhibitors proudly prepare innovative and original cuisine. The chefs represent a total of 26 Michelin stars between them, making this event a truly "star-studded" occasion. Chefs are presented in four different groups, devising four menus with each preparing one special dish. Opportunities for the public to taste the various dishes are available at a fraction of the cost of dining in the individual chef's restaurants. There will be plenty of fascinating workshops to tantalise the taste buds during the event which looks set to be one of Brussels' premier foodie events. **More»**



## Retro Ronde

### *Retro overblown third round*

For something a bit different this season, why not take to your bike for the next edition of the 'Retro Bike Tour of Flanders' which will take place on 27th June 10. The 'Retro Ronde' bike tour of Flanders suggests that participants don their finest vintage cycling suits and take to the road, in a procession followed by vintage cars and motorcycles. For more information on registration and on the event itself please visit **Retro Ronde**.

## Plopsaland - De Panne

### *Fun just got cheaper!*

Belgium's premier amusement park in De Panne now offers some great savings to school groups and individuals. Situated just a 15 minute drive from Dunkirk and 40 minutes from Calais, this popular amusement park with over 40 attractions can be easily visited in a day via cross channel services. Special pre-booked deals start at just €10 per person for school groups exceeding 20. What's more, for every 8 pupils, 1 teacher goes free and this offer includes a free meal and parking for the coach driver!



Another great deal is with **Lastminute.com** who are offering a 50% reduction on usual admission fees starting at €14, as opposed to the usual fee of €28. For more information see **website**.

## Weekly late night shopping in Brussels starts!



Shopaholics will be happy with the introduction of late night shopping on Thursdays from 3 June 2010 to Friday 31 December 2010. Shop 'till you drop in over a 1000 shops situated in Naamsepoort, Nieuwstraat, Grote Markt, Grasmarkt, Kleerkopersstraat and Gallery Anspach. For more info about individual stores and districts visit **www.shopinbrussels.be**

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



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