

30/01/08

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### Shopping Bliss in 10 delightful shops

As our credit and debit cards “dry out” after the heady spate of spends before Christmas and January sales, shopaholics will be relieved to know that there are still fantastic bargains waiting to be snapped up in nearby Flanders.

Famed for their cutting edge designers and elegant accessories, shoppers can find excellence in quality and variety in the beautiful heart of Flanders. Home to designers such as Dries Van Noten and Ann Demuelemeister, there are some unique and refreshing collections available for a considerably decent price. Stylish accessories such as the upmarket Delvaux and popular Kipling both hail from Flanders and have great prices to match.

Shopping isn't just limited to clothes, there is a wealth of quaint speciality shops with their own unique appeal. We've compiled a list of the top ten shops to visit while you are on your travels there and if your credit card is still in recovery, remember it's still free to window shop!

#### **1. Huis A Boon - Antwerp**

Located in the heart of Antwerp, this independent shop dates back to 1884 and stocks nearly 10,000 pairs of gloves. Beautiful gloves for every occasion and a few more.

Lombardvest 2-7, Antwerp

#### **2. Tierenteyn - Verlent -Ghent**

Ghent's speciality Mustard shop serving a delectable selection which can be sampled before you buy. Housed in a charming old townhouse, a visit to this quaint store is a definite must.

Groentenmarkt 3, Ghent

[www.tierenteyn.be](http://www.tierenteyn.be)

#### **3. Hexagoon - Leuven**

Take a stroll on the delightful shops along the Bondgenotenlaan. Nearby is this quirky little shop full of drawers, nooks and crannies, all filled with sequins, beads, buttons, ribbons and more.

Ravenstraat 81, Leuven.

#### **4. Paté du chef -Mechelen**

A trendy shop selling original keepsakes and memorabilia from the 1950's and 1960's. Situated by the banks of the river Dijle on the Vismarkt. Located in a characterful house and objects are scattered all over in no particular order.

Vismarkt 24, Mechelen

#### **5 .The Chocolate Line - Bruges**

This is no ordinary chocolate shop. The owner, Dominique Persoone creates innovative chocolate concoctions with ingredients such as chilli peppers, peas cauliflower and even cheese...It all sounds terrible but wait until you try!

Katelijnestraat, Bruges

#### **6. Daniel Ost - Florist - Brussels**

Even if you don't buy any flowers here, a visit to this beautifully designed "Art Nouveau" shop is worth visiting. Flower displays are made into impressive art forms which adorn an already beautiful façade.

Koningstraat13, Brussels

[www.danielost.be](http://www.danielost.be)

#### **7. Labels Inc - Antwerp**

A small "tucked away" shop that sells catwalk clothes and other designer wear at the fraction of the original price.

Aalmoezeinerstraat 4, Antwerp

#### **8. De Kaarsengieterij - Bruges**

A speciality candle shop which designs and makes candles to order. All their designs are handmade and hand painted for weddings, christenings, anniversaries or for any occasion in general.

St Amandsstraat 30, Bruges

[www.dekaarsengieterij.be](http://www.dekaarsengieterij.be)

#### **9. Priem - Ghent**

A real blast from the past with the most retro-seventies papers to the latest "must-have" wall coverings. Remember wallpaper is back in fashion and visitors come from far and wide to buy really unique wall coverings here.

Zuivelbrugstraat 1, Ghent

#### **10. Pompoen**

##### **Ostend**

A second-hand clothes shop which sells nothing but the best in the name of designer brands. International and Flemish brands are sold for affordable prices.

Iseghemlaan 80, Ostend

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## **Notes to Editors:**

Tourism Flanders is the government tourist authority for the northern Dutch speaking Flanders region of Belgium and its capital Brussels. The aim of Tourism Flanders-Brussels is the promotion of tourism within the Flemish region of Belgium.

Flanders is famous for its historical cities: Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, Leuven and Mechelen. Brussels is not only capital of Europe and Belgium but of Flanders as well. The region is renowned for its superb gastronomy and local food delicacies. Apart from its obvious fame relating to chocolate and beer, there are countless delicious specialities available to sample in abundance. Charming restaurants and eateries sprawl across cities and countryside offering quality and value for money. From boutique B & B's to sleek cool and trendy city hotels, there's a range of accommodation to suit every taste and pocket.