

© Studio Dann - Trends Manager of the Year



**FOCUS**  
Wallonia stands  
for culture

**BIG PICTURE**  
Sébastien Dossogne  
Manager of the Year

**GASTRONOMY**  
Third gold medal for  
two Walloon pastis

# SUNSHINE!

This will be our sunshine issue. Not just because the sunny days of summer are coming, but because we are highlighting people in this issue who are moving towards a sustainable world, and benefits for humanity, with sunshine in their smiles, and great promise for the future.

Spread the word, Wallonia is looking towards the future! Gantrex is offering the rail solutions of tomorrow, today, and is helping pave the way for Ariane 6 rocket to reach the stars. UCB is continuing to invest in gene therapy to treat the world. Sébastien Dossogne, a forward-thinking Manager of the Year, is applying ethics and sustainability to the industrial activities of Magotteaux. Vanessa Colignon's Design for Resilience, as the name suggests, uses resilient design to make our everyday lives better.

On the subject of responsible enthusiasm, we also give pride of place to the lighter side of life, with a vibrant, floral pastis from Liège, as well as a sassy pastis from Tournai, happy rivals of their Provencal cousins. Fancy a hike first? Jean-Pierre Englebert is there to take us along some of the most astonishing byways, and our beautiful countryside is reaching out to us — make the most of it with the Visit Wallonia Pass!

Finally, we'll be able to enjoy some summer festivals again! We offer you an overview of the most diverse events before affectionately greeting one of our best global ambassadors: Frédéric François. He has brought together 19 multicultural, francophone talents - fans and friends of his - to give us an album that is pure gold.

Dynamic, joyful, and full of song, our Wallonia never ceases to amaze us!

*Pascale Delcomminette*

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Discover the summer issue of the WAB magazine | Wallonia.be



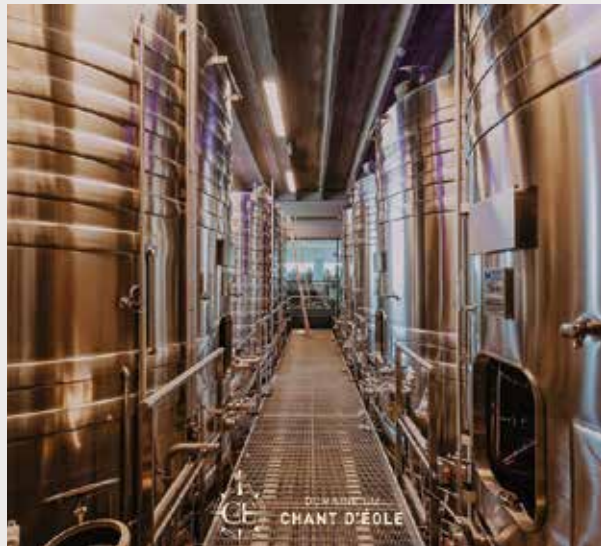
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**THE DOMAINE DU CHANT D'ÉOLE WINS GOLD ONCE AGAIN**

The 29th “Chardonnay du Monde” International Chardonnay wine competition saw the Domaine du Chant d’Éole (Hainaut) bring home yet another gold medal. This international recognition, the Domaine’s twentieth, was awarded by an international panel of 200 experts for its Blanc de Blanc, which was chosen from among 546 samples from 32 countries.



**MICHAËL GILLON, EXOPLANET RESEARCHER AND WALLOON OF THE YEAR**

Liège astronomer and astrophysicist Michaël Gillon received the title of “Walloon of the Year 2021”, in recognition of his conception of the Trappist and Speculoos telescope networks as well as his discovery of exoplanets. In 2021, he also won the prestigious Prix Francqui, known as the “Belgian Nobel Prize.”



**FRENCH VETERINARY SCHOOLS CHOOSE CYTOMINE**

Specialising in digital pathology in the field of biomedical imaging, Cytomine offers an innovative and collaborative solution that is available anywhere and at any time. Its software allows all users to share and analyse images, with no size or format limitations. The four French national veterinary schools, ENVA in Maisons-Alfort, ENVT in Toulouse, Oniris in Nantes and VetAgro Sup in Lyon, chose this virtual microscope to offer a new educational dimension to their students.



**MAISON DIOR MAKES USE OF LEVITA MAGIC**

Liège company Levita, headed by Philippe Bougard and Clément Kerstenne, used its technological (and magical) expertise to celebrate the reopening of Dior’s iconic address, on one of the most emblematic swanky avenues in Paris. The bags, perfume bottles and jewellery seem to be literally floating in the windows of the boutique at 30, Avenue Montaigne. The company is already announcing “the launch of a brand new product in 2022.”





## SÉBASTIEN DOSSOGNE

THIS MANAGER OF THE YEAR  
IS LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

**Selected as Manager of the Year 2021 by Trends-Tendance, Sébastien Dossogne (CEO of Magotteaux) is pursuing and achieving professional, social, environmental and ethical objectives.**

An electromechanical civil engineer and ULiège alumnus, Sébastien Dossogne is above all a “frank, tenacious and charismatic” man with a great sense of humour. He first joined the Générale de Banque, then the Fortis Investment Bank, where he learned the importance of psychology in case management. He then landed the positions of Chief Financial Officer, then Chief Sales & Marketing Officer and, finally, CEO at Magotteaux.

The company is a world leader in grinding process optimisation solutions for industrial sectors such as mining, cement works, quarries and the recycling of building materials and metals. The group’s decision-making centre is located in Vaux-sous-Chèvremont, in the Liège region of Belgium. “Magotteaux wants to use natural resources in the best ways possible, in particular via recycling, while still generating ethical, profitable and sustainable activity,” he explains.

Under his leadership, the company aims to sell value to customers, innovate and foster collaboration while focusing on 5 of the 17 SDGs defined by the UN in 2015 for the 2030 horizon. Specifically,

it “focuses on the goals of ‘Good Health and Well-Being’, ‘Climate Action’, ‘Responsible Consumption and Production’, ‘Gender Equality’ and ‘Decent Work and Economic Growth’”.

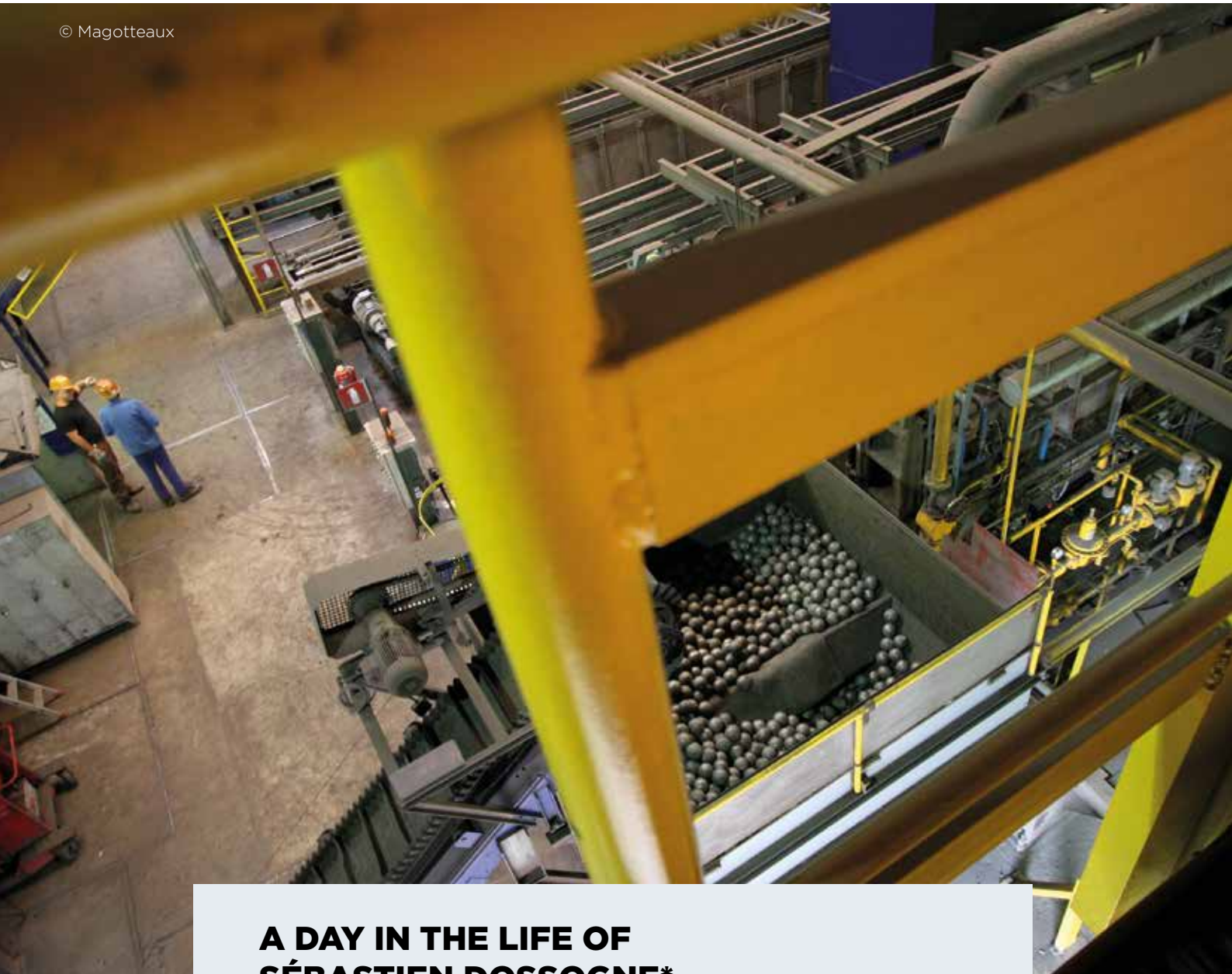
Sébastien Dossogne further says, “The group has a very positive culture, combining openness, enthusiasm and a strong sense of belonging.” This is an excellent starting point for carrying forward its collaborative management, re-industrialisation and permanent innovation projects. “My personal satisfaction is dependent on meeting the challenges of profitability and this duty of innovation while maintaining our high standards for people, the planet and ethics.”

What he may not tell you is that he is co-founder and member of “2030”, a “think & do tank” created to think about and, above all, to act on, the issues of sustainability in companies, and to actively involve them in social responsibility and action on sustainability topics.

The things he’ll never turn down? A family meal, a drink with close friends, and a motorcycle trip.

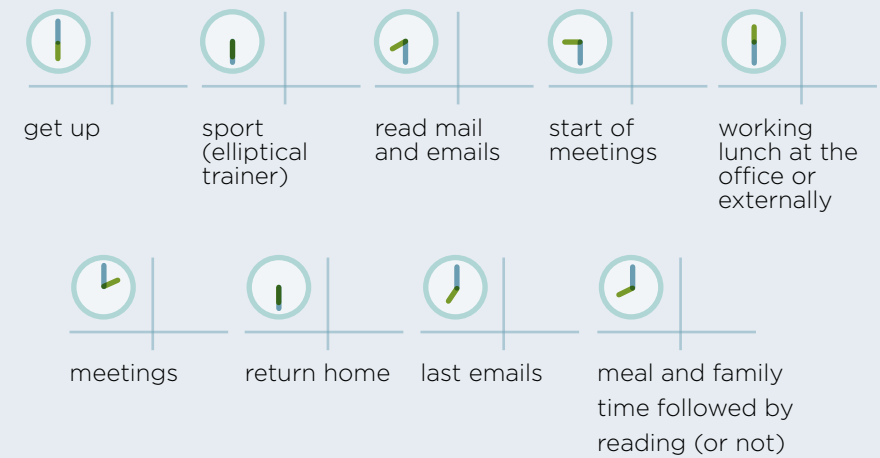
“I am demanding of myself, but also of others. I push people to use their own brains to come up with solutions to problems. I am a firm believer in the superiority of teams over individuals.”





-  US\$717.325 million
-  + 100 years of innovation experience
-  22 production units across 12 countries
-  +150 countries covered through its sales network
-  +1 million tons of product capacity
-  +3,000 employees around the world, 10% in Belgium
-  Sigdo Koppers Group, listed in Santiago (Chile)
-  94% satisfied customers

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF  
SÉBASTIEN DOSSOGNE\***



\* EXCLUDING TRAVEL, 50% OF THE TIME





**GANTREX**  
A GLOBAL BUSINESS





“We have been supplying rail fastening systems since 1971, and for that whole time our passion, expertise and capabilities have continued to grow,” said Maarten Impens, CEO. The company, which started in Nivelles, has spread across the world and now has more than 20 locations. But the nerve centre, like the “good ideas”, remains Walloon: the Research & Development department is rooted in the buildings of the Nivelles base, cultivating “national pride: a Belgian, Walloon SME has been able to assert its experience and expertise to become a reference in the entrepreneurial world.” And it has also become a leader in its field.

“Gantrex is the global market leader in the production, distribution, installation and maintenance of high-quality industrial rail solutions,” he said. “Our products are used in a wide variety of industrial applications and end markets, including ports, shipyards, steel mills, aluminium smelters, railway depots and heavy industries. But they are also used in more attention-grabbing industries: Gantrex had a

role in the rails that brought the Ariane 6 rocket to its launch base. Our products are also in use in the Tottenham and Madrid stadiums, which must be able to accommodate football events, basketball events or concerts. Our brand enjoys an unrivalled reputation and is trusted by our clients and partners, and our supply chain covers the entire globe.”

With 350 employees worldwide, and production centres in Belgium, Canada, China and Spain to ensure fast deliveries, Gantrex continues to dream big. In Spain, it has just acquired a company which will also allow it to shine in the development of services for port cranes, and to take the first step in the execution of its new “Gantrex 4.0” strategic plan. This plan aims to “create a closer relationship with the client through the use of specialised mechanical services and new digital solutions and, in doing so, increase overall revenue in line with the company’s ambitions.”

-  **50 years of experience**
-  **Over 3,000 customers worldwide**
-  **More than 100 active patents**
-  **€90 million annual turnover**





More than 100 new highly skilled jobs are expected to be created here, making the campus “one of Belgium’s most attractive hubs for visionary minds and anyone willing to push the boundaries of what is possible in order to bring about positive change in patients’ lives.”

Jacques Marbehant, Senior Vice President, Head of Global Manufacturing, Engineering and Health, Safety & Environment - UCB

## UCB ANNOUNCES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GENE THERAPY FACILITY

Active in 34 countries, the biopharmaceutical company UCB is investing €300 million in an innovative and sustainable facility for the clinical production and development of gene therapy processes, at its high-tech Belgian site in Braine-l’Alleud. This significant investment is proof of UCB’s ambition in this field.

“Gene therapy is now seen as a promising procedure capable of initiating a fundamental change in the way diseases are treated, moving beyond the mere treatment of symptoms towards the modification of the disease, or even the discovery of a cure, in defined patient populations,” said Jacques Marbehant, head of manufacturing and industrial investments at UCB. “By 2030, we want a quarter of our treatment options to come from this type of research.”

The new clinical production and development facility, called Genesis, will give UCB full control of its Chemistry, Manufacturing and Controls activities in Wallonia, “guaranteeing agility, flexibility, unrivalled knowledge of products and processes, scalability and improved performance,” he added.

As of 2024, the facility, covering a 17,000-square-metre area, should be added to the list of UCB innovation infrastructures, which already includes locations in Belgium,

China, Japan, Switzerland, Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom. More than 100 new highly skilled jobs are expected to be created here, making the campus “one of Belgium’s most attractive hubs for visionary minds and anyone willing to push the boundaries of what is possible in order to bring about positive change in patients’ lives.”



€5.8 billion



28% invested in R&D



8,600 employees worldwide



94 years of experience





## KIOMED STRAIGHT AHEAD!

A spin-off of ULg and KytoZyme, KiOmed is developing a vegetable polymer with amazing properties. Chitosan is an ultrapure polymer that can treat osteoarthritis, but also skin ageing and dry eyes. These three markets have a combined worth of around US\$11 billion.

Delivered via injection, hyaluronic acid helps lubricate joints affected by osteoarthritis, knees especially. It is also used on a large scale in aesthetic dermatology and ophthalmology. The non-animal and less allergenic chitosan is ready to carry out the same functions.

“Osteoarthritis affects more than 300 million patients worldwide. This is the first field in which we are showing our expertise. Marketed in Europe in early 2020, our product is getting positive feedback: after a single injection, the results obtained are really excellent from the first weeks onwards, both in terms of pain reduction and joint stiffness. We are observing effectiveness lasting up to 10 months! This major innovation was introduced in the Emirates recently, and other countries outside Europe will follow,” said Houtai Choumane, CEO of KiOmed.

With its differentiating properties, chitosan can reduce oxidative stress. “It makes sense to use this molecule to fight against skin ageing and dry eyes, since it is also a question of countering the degeneration of cells,” Choumane said.

KiOmed is now joining forces with the British company Sinclair Pharma, a major player in dermatology and aesthetic medicine, to market its innovative treatment in 4 distinct forms by 2024. “The first clinical trials were conclusive. In particular, we see a much longer preventive effect on skin dryness,” Choumane said.

As for the ophthalmology market, KiOmed is expected to make its official entry there in 3 to 5 years, when clinical studies should confirm the first tests. The company, which has grown from 2 to 30 employees in the space of 8 years, is “constantly looking for new talent” to support this expansion and meet demand.





## WHAT MAKES WALLOON FESTIVALS UNIQUE?

“There are many challenges: increasing the number of both artists and audiences, investing in iconic sites that are part of Wallonia’s architectural heritage, throwing a spotlight on some unique places and, above all, bringing the arts absolutely everywhere in the region. And this is what all these Walloon festivals are about: putting the region in the spotlight through the selection of representative places (fields, abbeys, churches, villages, etc.), the drive to promote Belgian artists, sharing, and celebrating, as only we know how.”

It’s a mad world – Madness is the theme for the 2022 Festivals de Wallonie, as a starting point to ignite the regional scenes and flood the entire territory of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation with classical music (and other genres too!). Phobias, obsessions, amorous passions, creativity, resistance, innovation, escapades, whims and oddities: this is the chaos that has inspired the 150 concerts that make up this set of seven festivals. Shake up your everyday life with everything from minor deviations to great excesses!

The Festivals de Wallonie team

© JPB.

# ALL SUMMER LONG

## FESTIVALS ACROSS WALLONIA

JUNE TO OCTOBER

**This summer, a multitude of festivals in our beautiful Wallonia will thrill locals and visitors alike. Countless opportunities to celebrate the music, literature, cinema, theatre, dance, circus and delicacies that have built our international reputation, as well as the small regional treasures that have been kept (almost) secret.**

YOU WOULD BE MAD TO MISS IT!



# JULY



## LES ARDENTES LIÈGE

July 7-10

Since 2006, Les Ardentes festival has been firing up Liège, known as “la cité ardente - the ardent city”, which gave the festival its name. Centred around urban and hip-hop music, it has become one of the largest of its kind in Europe: this summer, it will welcome 200,000 people for 4 days at its brand new site in Rocourt. The 6 stages will see performances from French headliners such as Stromae, Damso, PNL and Orelsan, and international stars such as Tyler The Creator, A\$ap Rocky, Burna Boy and more.



## 33<sup>RD</sup> FESTIVAL INTERCULTUREL DU CONTE DE CHINY CHINY

July 8-10

Every year, this intercultural storytelling festival is held in Gaume, a marvellous land of dense and game-filled forests where magical stories are born. Visit mysterious places or take a storytelling walk through the villages that dot the banks of the Semois. This weekend festival is timeless and the perfect moment of whimsy and authenticity to connect with your inner child.



## STATUES EN MARCHE MARCHE-EN-FAMENNE

July 16-17

More than a hundred human statues, from all over the world, bring the streets, parks and squares of Marche-en-Famenne to life during the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of July. Come and see the overflowing imagination of world-renowned urban artists. A free festival, entirely devoted to wonder and awe. A family experience that won't turn you to stone.



## LASEMO PARC D'ENGHIEN

July 8-10

Immerse yourself in an unforgettable experience at LaSemo, a festive getaway. This extraordinary festival includes a multidisciplinary programme, a special welcome for families and a sustainable ethos. Well-being and nature are at the heart of LaSemo, which turns the bucolic parc d'Enghien into a place where you can relax and switch off.





# AUGUST



## LES FRANCOFOLIES DE SPA

📍 SPA

**July 20-23**

The unmissable meeting place for lovers of French music, whether locals or international visitors. For 4 days, the Francofolies offer dozens of exciting performances, family entertainment and a warm atmosphere in the heart of Spa, “the Pearl of the Ardennes”, recently listed by UNESCO. This year again, the voices of the French-speaking world will make the heart, the hill and the streets of the town beat faster. Will you be one of the 150,000 lucky festival-goers?

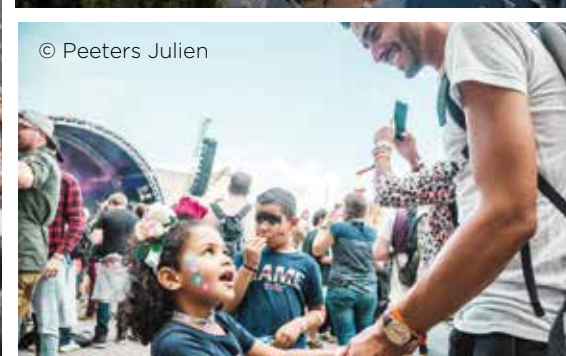


## THE RONQUIÈRES FESTIVAL

📍 RONQUIÈRES

**August 5-7**

A benchmark European festival set in an exceptional canal-side location, next to the famous control tower of the Inclined Plane. The festival brings together diverse superstar artists from Wallonia and around the world. The Ronquières Festival is back for the 10<sup>th</sup> time and promises evenings of pure fun. If you want to dance to some crazy rhythms, you know where to go.



## ESPERANZAH!, WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

📍 ABBAYE DE  
FLOREFFE

**July 28-31**

A festival of sounds, aromas and colours from around the world, which takes place in a stunning abbey that is more than 900 years old. Enjoy a friendly festival with a proven environmental track record, an eclectic musical programme and engaging family entertainment. Esperanzah! 2022 promises to be more comfortable, more grounded than ever, with the artists who have made it famous, as well as other sound bites.

## THE GAUME JAZZ FESTIVAL

📍 ROSSIGNOL

**August 12-14**

For the 38<sup>th</sup> year, the Gaume Jazz Festival is offering a quality programme with 25 concerts on 5 stages: stars to discover, new projects, original creations and some big names. It will take place in the Parc de Rossignol, in the Gaume village of Tintigny, famous for its cultural life. With a varied musical selection, this popular and family-friendly festival sets out to help a wide audience discover the world of jazz: from the amateur to the aficionado, and from the youngest to the most experienced.



## INTERNATIONAL STREET ARTS FESTIVAL

📍 CHASSEPIERRE

**August 20-21**

The Chassepierre Street Arts Festival offers 200 original and varied performances of theatre, dance, music, circus, and more, all set in a friendly and authentic village atmosphere. Step right up and enjoy not only amazing displays, but also a craft market where you can taste mouth-watering local products and (re)discover the flavours of the region. Experience two fun days and create some unforgettable memories, enjoy the humour, and, above all, fantasy in a place judged one of Wallonia’s Most Beautiful Villages. Come one, come all!

VISIT  
**Wallonia**  
**.be**

GO TO VISITWALLONIA.BE TO FIND OUT ABOUT ALL THE FESTIVALS IN WALLONIA AS WELL AS ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR SUMMER STAY IN WALLONIA!







© Bruno D'Alimonte



© Kris et Siska Struyf Willems



© Steve Collin



## COULD YOU PASS ME A PASS?

From July 2022, VISITWallonia (Wallonie Belgique Tourisme ASBL) is giving out free passes allowing you to (re)discover Wallonia at a reduced price!

The VISITWallonia PASS is an easy to use and multilingual mobile application, offering a range of discounts, bonuses and offers from numerous service providers in the region. It brings together the offers of several platforms in order to coordinate initiatives and to make life easier for tourists. The offers will be either permanent or one-off, with special offers valid for Valentine's Day or at Christmas, for example.

Enjoy a 3<sup>rd</sup> night's free accommodation at a well-known hotel, enjoy discounted admission to a famous amusement park this summer, get a free bottle from a local producer during your visit or rent an electric bike at a reduced rate and explore the streets of the city of your choice.

**Online application form on [www.visitwallonia.be/pass](http://www.visitwallonia.be/pass)**



© WBT



© WBT

DON'T PASS UP THIS OFFER!





## THREE CHEERS FOR A SUNNY, PASTIS-FILLED SUMMER!

Two Walloon pastis have won the gold medal at the Lyon international competition and carved out a place for themselves in the world rankings.



© Noblesse 1882

The organic Pastis Ardent BIO won a gold medal for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year. In 2017, brothers Guillaume and Édouard Noblesse took over the Sprimont family business which had closed its doors during the Second World War. Today, they offer a smooth and surprisingly fresh pastis with spicy and floral notes that combines an ancestral recipe with seasonal organic ingredients.

The Patinette pastis also won its 3<sup>rd</sup> gold medal. Originally created in 1976 by Mr. Stievenart, the Gervin distillery in Tournai is now managed by Vincent Stievenart, his son. It offers, once again, an intricate flavour skilfully composed of 24 aromas, including star anise and green anise, distilled in the same way as Belgian beer. Best served neat, on the rocks or with a dash of water, la Patinette will delight your taste buds!



© Noblesse 1882

© Distillerie Gervin

## OFF THE BEATEN TRACK WITH JEAN-PIERRE ENGLEBERT

His parents gave him a taste for the great outdoors and hiking by taking him camping in the Ardennes from the age of 2. From long-distance Grande Randonnée (GR) footpaths to mountain trails, across Germany, France and Italy, Jean-Pierre Englebert has followed this passion over thousands of kilometres. At the age of 62, he still supervises walks and tourist visits, publishes articles and has joined the Greeters project (volunteer guides) in the Liège region.

Now retired, Jean-Pierre considers himself a “research archivist of the history of hiking”: he works, on a daily basis, on documenting old walks and unmarked pedestrian routes in the greater Liège area, in particular from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Anyone who has walked with him knows he has no shortage of interesting anecdotes.



© WBT - Olivier Legardien



© Jean-Pierre Englebert



© WBT - Olivier Legardien



# VANESSA COLIGNON'S DREAM

Design for Resilience



## A RISING STAR

After working in fashion and textiles, Vanessa Colignon, born in Charleroi in 1989, decided to tackle the environmental issues of the fashion and clothing industry. She turned to natural, ecological and European fibres, analysed the textile production chain, and completed her training with studies in agro-ecology and naturalism. In 2019, she launched the Design for Resilience brand. Today, she is appealing to investors to help her develop the project.

## LET HER SHINE

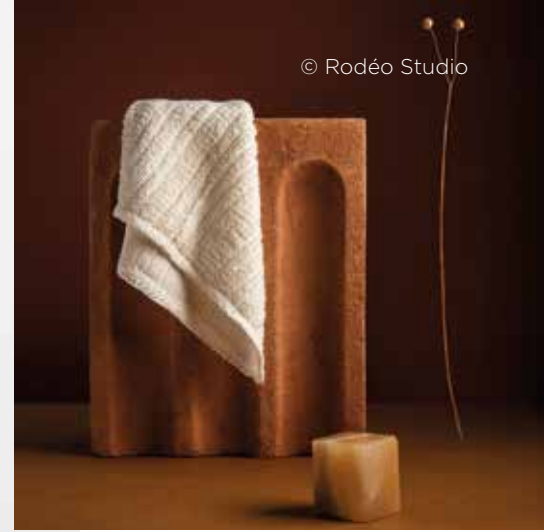
She is already marketing her gentle and natural products, a body care range and a second range of home care products, as well as bulk bags, entirely made in Belgium and generating less than 1% waste. She has received several awards for her commitment and for the quality of her products, and she is also proud to offer a fair wage to her workers, and to preserve local expertise.

© Rodéo Studio

© Rodéo Studio



**A GUTSY STARTUP THAT DESERVES TO BE SUPPORTED!**



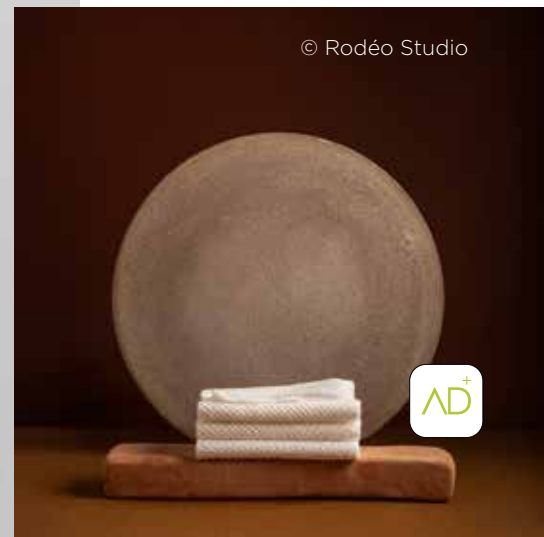
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© Rodéo Studio





## THE SOLAR ORBITER IS TAKING A LITTLE PIECE OF LIÈGE INTO SPACE

How do planets change over time? What causes life to appear? How does the solar system function? What are the origins of the universe and its fundamental physics? The Solar Orbiter mission, equipped with an EUI (Extreme Ultraviolet Imager), was created to help answer these questions that have always fascinated scientists. DELTATEC, a Liège-based company, designed the electronics for its cameras. The Solar Orbiter - whose mission will continue until 2030 - returned spectacular images during its first close encounter with the Sun, in March 2022.

© ESA-ATG medialab





## FRÉDÉRIC FRANÇOIS, PURE GOLD!



© Capitale Music

In spite of 500 songs over a career spanning more than 50 years, he retains the capacity to marvel, and the ability to say truthfully and enthusiastically: that's pure gold! The so-called "chanteur de l'amour" has brought together 19 other singers and friends for an incredible album "En duo" which includes new versions of his biggest hits.

Based on one of Benabar's (AKA Bruno Nicolini) ideas, a man who always dreamt of singing "Je t'aime à l'italienne" with François, the latter worked on this project over several months. "Repeating? No, this is much more: updating, integrating other sounds, and above all, imagining for these artists. For Jean-Baptiste Guegan, in particular. I adapted the rhythm of "Juste un peu d'amour", and made it a slow rock song. I actually recreated a song for him."

Not just an artist, but an entrepreneur too, François conducted these talented individuals with a unifying goal. "I direct them, these artists. They must enter my world. Just as I enter theirs. I work with them, I remix, I give them something as well. For this album, something you only do once in your career, it's a new, joint creation, a new life that begins."

This album is also a beautiful story of the Italian diaspora in Belgium. Francesco Barracato (François' birth name), who went from Sicily to Wallonia, and then from Wallonia to the world, is one of our best ambassadors.



© Europa Expo

### I LOVE JAPAN in Guillemins

From 2 April, make an immersive trip to the Land of the Rising Sun, by simply walking through the gates of the Exhibition Hall in the Liège-Guillemins station. Tread the grounds of this legendary land of contrasts, relax in the famous zen gardens, and wander through bustling streets of an energetic neighbourhood, all without getting on a plane!

### Mima: Invader, major figure in art of the new Millennium

From 24 June, the Millennium Iconoclast Museum of Art (MIMA) in Brussels will present Invader Rubikcubist, a personal exhibition by Invader. The artist, who remains anonymous but is world-renowned for bringing computer pixels into the real world through ceramic tiles, creates paintings and sculptures with that famous colourful puzzle, the Rubik's cube.



© Invader

### Spa-Francorchamps: a centennial worth the wait!

"The most beautiful circuit in the world": Spa-Francorchamps owes this title to its hilly terrain, its sharp turns, and its famous and unique Raidillon, but also to its majestic natural surroundings amid pine forests. The circuit will roar and purr with delight this summer, to the tune of the Spa Summer Classic, the Spa-Francorchamps 24H, the 25 Hours VW Fun Cup, the Formula 1 Rolex Belgian Grand Prix, as well as many other races and events. A season to discover all this area has to offer, both on and off the circuit!



© Michael Dautremont

© Le Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps



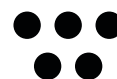
# Wallonia, the land of **SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION**



- ✓ **Circular materials** eco-design, industrial symbiosis, encouraging the reuse and repair of these materials within the economy, recycling innovation, etc.
- ✓ Innovations for **enhanced health** biotechnologies, medical equipment, eHealth, mHealth, silver economy, prevention, etc.
- ✓ Innovations for agile and safe **design** and **production methods** (IoT, 3D printing)
- ✓ Sustainable **energy** systems and **housing**
- ✓ **Agri-food** chains of the future and innovative management of the **environment**

CONTACT US TO EXPLORE GREEN OPPORTUNITIES IN WALLONIA

[welcome@investinwallonia.be](mailto:welcome@investinwallonia.be)



Wallonia.be