



Luci

Inspiring Travel Stories from Luxembourg

ISSUE 1/2020 - ENGLISH

Discover industrial heritage
**On the trail of
sweat and steel**

Head for the hills
**Three friends discover
the Lee Trail**

Unesco World Heritage
**Sightrunning through
1,000 years of history**



CRUISING THE WORLD AROUND US

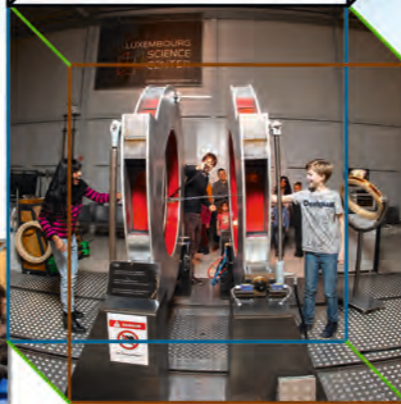
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EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS
in **5**
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in **4**
LANGUAGES



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DIFFERDANGE



Editorial

Moien and welcome, friends!

I'm often asked what characterises Luxembourg and why it's worth coming here. A European capital, urban culture, fantastic scenery, gastronomic highlights... it's got everything! But what impresses me most is the unique range of authentic experiences that move people and touch their hearts. That's the Luxembourg feeling. *Luci* in a nutshell!

Luci is the new tourism magazine for Luxembourg. *Luci* brings you numerous stories about people, ideas and places. *Luci* is like the country itself: cosmopolitan, varied, tolerant – and offering a thousand and one ways to stir your emotions. I'm sure it will inspire you to want to see the small but diverse country of Luxembourg for yourself one day. Get to know the country and its people from up close!

I hope you enjoy your own personal *Luci* experience!

Dr. Sebastian Reddeker
CEO Luxembourg for Tourism

PS: Did you know that the first recorded reference to Luxembourg was in 963: *Lucilinburhuc*, which means something like "little castle". The fortress has now gone, but *Luci* is here to stay and stands for modern Luxembourg.

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Sight- running

*Luxembourg's Old Town
has been a World Heritage Site
for 25 years: you can explore
it all on a Unesco walk.
Or you could put on
your running shoes and join
the FatBetty.Run running crew.*

Photos MIKE ZENARI

When it was added to the Unesco World Heritage list on 17 December 1994, Luxembourg's old quarters and fortifications joined a prestigious list of cultural and geographical landmarks that are of universal value and therefore part of the collective heritage of humanity.



The Pfaffenthal Panoramic Lift connects the upper part of the city centre with the Alzette valley. You get amazing views from the glass cabin as it stretches a vertical distance of 71 metres.

Everywhere in the city, you find impressive architectural evidence of Luxembourg's strongly defended past. You can even enter and explore the underground tunnels in the Bock cliff, the so-called Bock casemates.



Luxembourg City, Thursday, around 6 o'clock in the evening. Independent Café is filling up with lively chatter and an after-work atmosphere. The first runners are gathering around a big table, most of them wearing the black crew T-shirt saying "FatBetty.Run". No matter whether it's raining, snowing or sunny outside – "the Bettys" meet up every Thursday evening to run through the city. First comes the run, and then the after-run beer – or perhaps two or three. The mood is relaxed but a bit wild.

One little spark of madness

They communicate via Facebook, and the group is growing all the time. The aim is to run together through Luxembourg as a big, happy troop, sometimes with more than 50 people. The procedure is kept as straightforward as possible. Anyone who wants to take part can simply turn up and join the group. Runners can get changed in the back room at Independent Café, where valuables can also be locked away. They run 10 km in about an hour – "it's easily doable, and you can stop and take photos now and again," says Dan, one of the four founders of the group.

The FatBetty.Run is a really memorable way to experience the city – they call it "sight-running". Participants say that running together through the city is a great feeling; an energy is created that welds the group more strongly together each week.

It's easy to make new friends as you run. "It's simply more fun doing it in a gang!" says Ricky, who has been going along for the last two years. The run has already spawned many friendships.

"I always love going on the FatBetty.Run," raves Nikki. "You see the city in a quite different way in summer from in the winter, there's always a new perspective." The team makes sure that there are some nice sights on the way – including Unesco sites, of course. Neumünster Abbey in the Grund district is a firm fixture on nearly every run. "Some of the people who run with us are only in Luxembourg for a few weeks and through us they get to know corners of the city that they

would otherwise never see," says Nikki. "We're a sweaty, multicultural bunch," says Yves, laughing. "There's no hierarchy when you run. Your job, your age, your nationality or what languages you know – none of that's important. Newcomers are always right in there as part of the group from the very start."

Upstairs, Irina is freshening up. Born in Moscow and a passionate trail runner, she always looks forward to the run through Luxembourg City. "The town is so varied, the old and new architecture blend together perfectly," she says, straightening her head torch. She likes the district of Clausen and the Pétrusse valley best. When it goes dark early in winter, you

The runners meet at Independent Café to have a drink and something to eat, prepare for the run and share their news. There are sometimes over 50 runners.



sometimes see a whole procession of head torches moving along the Bock cliff as the FatBetty.Runners go past.

Then, at exactly 6.45 p.m., they're off. The runners start outside Independent Café, opposite the neoclassical justice quarter. The tempo is relaxed as they turn left along Boulevard Franklin D. Roosevelt. The runners pass the cathedral and the impressive Golden Lady statue with her laurel wreath, stood on a 21-metre-high obelisk on the Place de la Constitution. Some people are chatting, others are concentrating on the route and their rhythm.

They soon reach the Adolphe Bridge and dart on to the footbridge underneath it. Suddenly there's a bloodcurdling cry, but no-one seems particularly scared, some people laugh and others smile

quietly. It was just Dic, alias Stéphane, who's always good for creating a great atmosphere – and providing “a little spark of madness”. After Stéphane's shout on the bridge, the pace picks up a bit. On they go, uphill and down.

The “big hill” – at speed

Talking about going uphill, what's the reason for the name “Fat Betty”? At first, it doesn't seem a very obvious or appropriate name for a dynamic running crew. But that little, irritating incongruity is an integral part of the slightly mad concept. “We're often asked about the name as we run through the city with our T-shirts on,” says co-founder Guido with a grin.

The answer to the puzzle is as follows: “Fat Betty” is what the

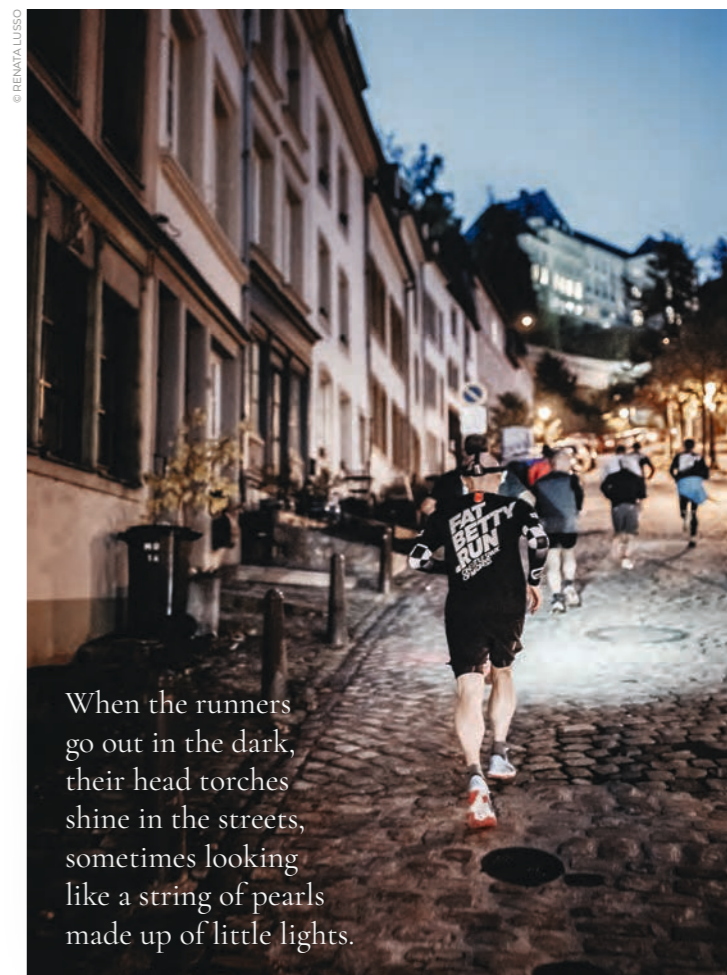
four “founding fathers” of the run used to call their 1-in-4-gradient (training) hill in Steinsel, the Montée Haute (“Décke Bierg” in Luxembourgish: “big hill”). And “Fat Betty” just sounded a whole lot cooler and more personal. Almost like the name of a mascot.

More and more locals, tourists and business people are joining in with the FatBetty.Run through the city. Samuel from Manchester has only been in Luxembourg for a few months. He thinks it's great that the runners are always considerate in setting the pace and that it's not a competition: “It's not about racing or pacing. It's about having some ‘run-fun’ together.”

“Sightrunning”, exercise and shared experiences in Luxembourg – it's as simple as that.

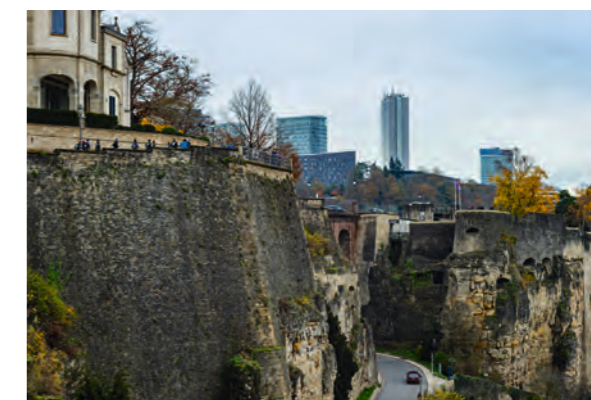
www.FatBetty.Run


A trip to the Dräi Eechelen Museum near the Mudam - Museum of Modern Art, is a journey through past and present.



When the runners go out in the dark, their head torches shine in the streets, sometimes looking like a string of pearls made up of little lights.

The old fortified walls built to withstand a siege are an integral part of the city. The buildings of the Old Town blend amazingly well with the modern backdrop of the Kirchberg district in the distance.





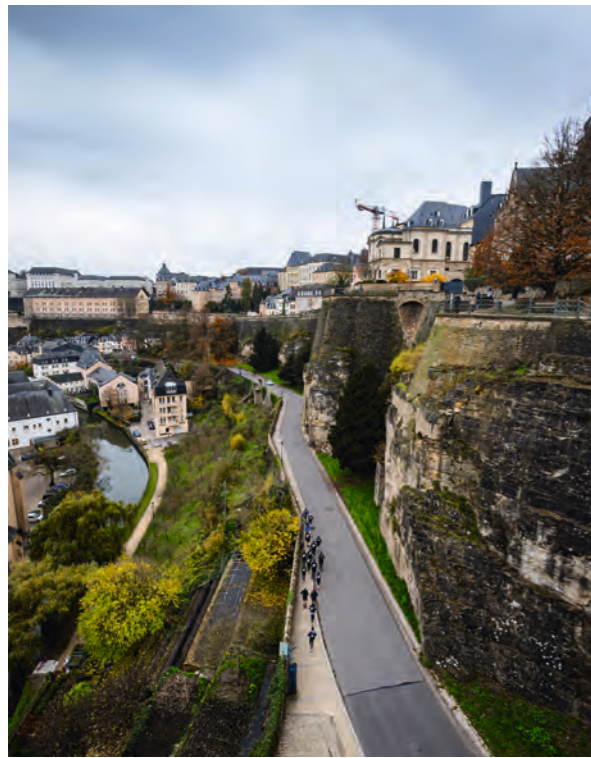
The 153-metre-long Adolphe Bridge (or “New Bridge”) – one of the longest stone viaducts in the world – was built in 1900 and links the upper town and the area around the train station. The 4-metre-wide suspension bridge for cyclists and pedestrians that has been constructed between the main arches offers excellent views over and down into the Pétrusse valley.

Mobility is an important subject in Luxembourg. There is an ultra modern tram connecting the city centre with the Northern district — just in case you don't feel like running there. It's no more expensive than running, because since March all public transport in Luxembourg is free.

The Old Town was awarded Unesco World Heritage Site status 25 years ago. Its inhabitants are very proud to mark that anniversary. And rightly so! Because in Luxembourg the mix of past, present and future is just right.

Experience Unesco:

→ **Unesco Visitor Center:** Unesco is brought to life at the Lëtzebuerg City Museum.
www.citymuseum.lu
 → **Unesco bike tour:** Ride 9.5 km through the city, up and down hills,



exploring the Pétrusse valley and the Grund, Clausen and Pfaffenthal districts the easy way by bike, discovering a whole host of interesting sights at the same time.

→ **Unesco Old Town and Fortifications walk:** In just 2.5 km, the Unesco walking tour offers an extraordinary historical experience in less than 90 minutes. It includes:

1. Place de la Constitution
2. Park in the Pétrusse valley
3. Plateau of the Holy Ghost Citadel
4. Grund gateway
5. Corniche
6. Casemates in the Bock cliff
7. City wall
8. Fëschmaart square and St Michael's Church
9. Grand Ducal Palace
10. Place Clairefontaine
11. Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin

www.visitluxembourg.com

→ **Casemates:** The casemates are one of the main sights in the city of Luxembourg. With 17 of the original 23 km preserved, they are the longest in the world. Over 100,000 visitors tour the underground former fortifications every year.

www.lcto.lu

→ **Urban Time Travel:** In the Pfaffenthal district, you can go on an exciting trip back to the time when Luxembourg was still a fortified town. Urban Time Travel is a virtual reality tour on which visitors use a VR headset to trans-

port themselves into the year 1867, just before the fortifications were razed to the ground. In this virtual world, coachman Jos tells his passengers interesting facts about his town; in reality, the visitors are bumping over the cobblestones in a minibus. It's a fascinating illusion.
www.urbantimetravel.com

Unesco – where else?

→ Every year on Whit Tuesday, the **Hopping Procession of Echternach** transforms the abbey town into a focal point for crowds of pilgrims and rhythmically hopping people; this is Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
www.unesco.lu

Open and diverse

Despite appearing such a peaceful place, Luxembourg, with its international flair and the many languages spoken on its streets, is a modern, dynamic metropolis. The current population is over 122,000 and rising. The inhabitants come from 164 different nations; just 29 per cent are Luxembourgers, all the rest are from other countries.

The FatBetty.Runners see a succession of stunning views as they run along. But you can experience the same fascination on a more leisurely walk, for example the Unesco Old Town and Fortifications walk, or the Bike Tour.



© BERNALUSSO

Art as a stroll



The compact capital truly makes museum visits a stroll. The so-called "MuseumSmile" is home to seven museums, a mile that forms a smile, and not just when plotted on the map.

Photo ERIC CHENAL

Even when just viewed from the street, the picture-perfect, stately town house casts its spell on you. And before you set foot in the **Villa Vauban**, with its collection of paintings, sculptures, photographs and other objects, the surrounding park captures your heart. Although the building has only been a museum since 2010, its history dates back as far as 1873, when it was built. Art lovers will find works from the 17th to the 21st century both in the lovingly renovated, historical part of the Villa and in the contemporary extension.

Art outside the mainstream

Material, sound, light – the **Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain** gallery exhibits vibrant contemporary art and nurtures young artists working well outside the mainstream. The forum celebrates the artistic creative process with all its risks and experiments, putting the spotlight on the creators themselves. Cool workshops, enthralling conferences and courses provide inspirational access to art. And occasionally dancing to a rock, pop and electro beat during the Night of the Museums.

The **Lëtzebuerg City Museum** brings more than 1,000 years of the city's history to life. "The Luxembourg Story" exhibition is particularly well worth seeing. In addition to numerous exhibits – from photographs to statues, to old cash registers and gloves made of leather tanned in

Before you even set foot in the Villa Vauban with its collection of paintings, sculptures, photographs and other objects, the surrounding park captures your heart.



© CALVIN LAPETOULE



© SVEN BECKER

the Luxembourg-Grund quarter – digital and multimedia kiosks also tell the city's exciting history. An especially interesting part of the museum this year is the Unesco Visitor Center. This is the place to immerse oneself in Unesco world heritage history, its significance and distinctive features. Kiosks, some of them interactive, display the historic Old City and fortifications. If you look out of the window you can compare the models and drawings directly with reality.

The Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain, a place for social gatherings for city leaders in the 19th century, today celebrates the creative process with all its risks and experiments and puts the spotlight on the creators themselves.



© GAUVIN LAPETOLLE

After extensive renovations the central exhibition rooms of the National Museum of History and Art are largely hidden under the refurbished Fish Market square.

The National Museum of History and Art – MNHA provides a "historical sweep" of archaeological finds on Luxembourg territory from the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, via the Gallo-Roman era to the Middle Ages. A historical and visual highlight is the enormous mosaic from the Roman villa of Vichten, built around 240 A.D. And just how creative are the Grand Duchy's craftsmen? Aficionados of beautiful things will for example discover art deco treasures from the Villeroy & Boch ceramics factory and furniture from indigenous craft workshops. A Benz Velo, belonging to the industrialist Paul Wurth, is the first vehicle licensed in Luxembourg back in 1895. And just how seductive a gaze Mrs. Condé Nast or silent film star Pola Negri were able to muster for the camera at the dawn of the 20th century has been captured by Edward Steichen – on display in the contemporary art galleries.

Nature at close quarters

Outsized plants, animals from the past or those one doesn't see every day – the National Museum of Natural History, or "Naturmusée" in Luxembourgish, is a place of discovery and surprises. This begins in the reception area when you need to look twice to realise that the bearded Stone Age man "Loschi" on the sofa isn't real, or when you marvel at the gigantic dandelion suspended from the ceiling. Fascinating, colourful worlds don't just reveal themselves here to curious children; an excursion turns out to be informative fun for all the family. Whether evolutionary history

© GAUVIN LAPETOLLE

The Mudam – Museum of Modern Art invites you to discover contemporary and avant-garde art in a magnificent structure.

The ancient Fort Thüngen is a fascinating place, now home to the Dräi Eechelen Museum.



© ANRI SALA



or miracle of science, this is a place where all can learn together and solve mysteries – possibly accompanied by experts in one of the many on site courses or outdoor excursions.

The view of the upper and lower town from the large green expanse of the Dräi Eechelen park is worth a visit and some souvenir photos in its own right. This is where the historic, imposing Fort Thüngen, whose venerable walls and subterranean passageways accommodate the museum, can be discovered one casemate at a time. From the very first second, one is immersed in history, moving from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, past original documents and uniforms, coats of arms and weapons. Without a doubt, in these surroundings, the journey is the destination.

Beauty everywhere

The Mudam – Museum of Modern Art brings cosmopolitan flair to the capital and for architectural reasons alone has long since been an icon. Aesthetes will revel in browsing the museum boutique or lingering in the café created by French designers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec. A weekend visit is particularly enjoyable when brunch extends to a family feast or meal with friends. Every Wednesday evening there are live concerts to dance to, performances to applaud or conferences to listen to. A permanent exhibit is the pseudo-Baroque garden fountain by Luxembourg artist Su-Mei Tse, from which black ink bubbles, flows and drips.

www.museumsmile.lu

© CHRISTOPH WEBER



More art and museum highlights

→ As part of International Museum Day, more than 40 museums in Luxembourg open their doors free of charge on Luxembourg Museum Days. An ideal opportunity to discover the Grand Duchy's extraordinary museum heritage. This year the weekend lands on 16 and 17 May.
→ Luxembourg Art Week in autumn involves international galleries and is always a magnet for aficionados and

collectors of contemporary art. This year it is from 18 to 22 November in the Victor Hugo Hall.
→ Anyone with the stamina can do the rounds of all the capital's museums during the Night of the Museums on 10 October.
→ Luxembourg Card: Visitors can enjoy free or reduced access to more than 60 museums and tourist attractions countrywide for 1, 2 or 3 days.
www.luxembourgcard.lu

The Dräi Eechelen Museum, with its permanent "Fortress, History, Identity" exhibition is in the restored redoubt of the Fort Thüngen. In the background stands the Mudam, designed by celebrated architect Ieoh Ming Pei.

Hugo and the bees

Each Luxembourg City neighbourhood has a distinct essence - in terms of its characteristic people and places but the diversity of its natural surroundings too.

Photos RAMUNAS ASTRAUKSKAS

"Even with the small distances between them, each district has its very own range of flora. This comes out in the honey made on the rooftops and in gardens of the city's neighbourhoods." Through 80 or so beehives and approximately 4 million bees, local beekeeper Hugo Zeler supports bees and biodiversity in urban areas. Whether the bees choose linden trees, privet hedges, rapeseed crops, home gardens or city parks, the city's varied vegetation produces a palette of honey flavours.

"Hunnekëscht" is all about sustainable agriculture, conserving urban biodiversity and quality local products. Everyone can assist pollinating insects by decorating balconies or gardens with certain herbs and flowers but for those who want to get really involved, Hugo rents out beehives mainly to companies around town interested in participating in a sustainability project, learning about bees, promoting biodiversity, and acquiring their own delicious honey.

Vibrant vegetation

Bonnevoie has been growing into the capital's alternative, underground district for some time. The buzz here is all about its independent shops, restaurants and cultural offering that reflects the variety of bees that call this colourful neighbourhood home. Its community makes it vibrant, and more importantly where bees are concerned, as does its vegetation! This is thanks to the many gardens in the district full of privets, as well as the particular flora along the River Alzette.

The bees of Limpertsberg are an assortment of academics, eccentrics and creative types. Consequently, the honey from this hood was never going to be plain. The clusters of fragrant cream to yellow flowers of some 180 linden trees planted here give the summer honey a notable minty taste. Along with an abundance of chestnut trees, and many public and private parks and gardens, its honey has a multi-layered character.

Each beehive produces an average of 20kg of honey and houses anything between a few thousand bees in low season and 50,000 in the high seasons of spring and early summer.



Busy business

Kirchberg's bees maintain a fast-paced modern lifestyle. These cultured bees work hard and work out, but also like a good dose of world-class music and have a weakness for modern art. Some may find it surprising that the honey from the rooftops of the capital's booming business district, also home to the EU and academic institutions, should have such strong notes of the countryside. Marked by the neighbouring rapeseed crops, the bees' Kirchberg honey reminds us of the fields that lay here not long before the extensive and ongoing expansion of the city.

Although in its prime, the capital's thriving commercial district **Gasperich-Cloche d'Or** currently offers a sweet, floral acacia honey. While buildings are popping up all over, the area will also soon be home to the city's largest park. This means that lots more trees and plants will be sprouting up forming a lush natural environment, keeping the bees happy and adding further aromas to the nectar.

www.hunnegesch.lu



How to spot the queen bee, amongst all those other worker bees? She is almost always larger, but often only slightly. The real distinction is the longer abdomen and legs. She also moves with purpose!



Golden rule: Never move a beehive. Or if you must, then either less than 30cm or more than 3km!



multiplicity

VILLE DE
LUXEMBOURG
www.vdl.lu

The *Tramsmusée* invites you to dive into the fascinating past, present and future of public transport in Luxembourg with motor cars and buses restored to perfection, as well as a display of many models on a 1:8 scale and a rich exhibition experience.

63, rue de Bouillon | L-1248 Luxembourg
Open Thursday from 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
and Saturday, Sunday and official holidays
from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The museum will remain closed on 1.11,
25.12, 26.12 and 01.01 as well as
the Christmas school holidays.
Visits possible by appointment.

Free entry

Tel: +352 47 96 23 85

trasmusee@vdl.lu | www.vdl.lu

GPS: 4935'57" N, 606'11" E

Craft beer is booming

In recent years, more and more people have started making craft beers with special flavours. In Luxembourg too, new, smaller stars are appearing in “beer heaven” alongside the major breweries.

Photo RENATA LUSSO

“Excitingly different beers”: that’s what Antoine Biasino and Joe Hallack-Wolff from Steinsel are introducing, according to their banners. That’s why, at their brewery, called “Stuff” (Luxembourgish for “lounge”), they make beers flavoured with, among other things, honey and ginger and with unusual names like Zingy, Revolution IPA and Black Widow. Joe and Antoine produce both classic and experimental beers. The pair, who met in a bar in Belgium, embarked on their craft beer adventure in 2015. “Someone in the bar was complaining about the beer, so we got the idea of brewing our own,” recalls Joe with a grin. To begin with, they used a 50-litre brew kettle in Antoine’s mother’s garage, but nowadays their vessels contain 300 litres; the production facilities have taken over the whole basement of the house and further expansion is planned. Antoine even gave up his job in a bank for the “Stuff” project, and Joe has done an extra training course to become a Master Brewer.

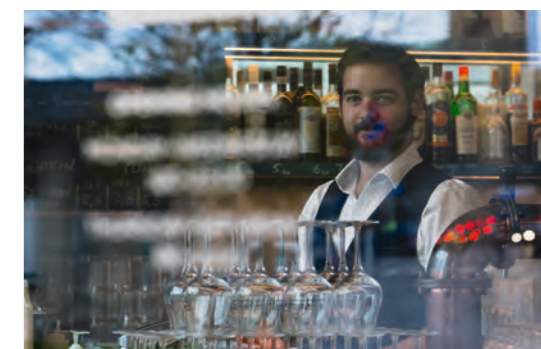
Pale ale, IPA, wheat beer, Bock, stout and many others: at Craft Corner in the Bonnevoie district of Luxembourg City, a wide range of craft beer both “Made in Luxembourg” and from all over the world, is served in bottles or on tap from twelve pumps. The menu at Craft Corner changes every day. In the early evening, the corner bar fills with people enjoying a refreshing after-work beer accompanied by a substantial cold platter or other snacks. The bar also serves homemade lemonade and, of course, last but not least, its own beer from the “Bouneweger Brauerei”.

The former railway station in Bech is now home to the “Echternacher Brauerei”, so where there used to be passengers getting on and off trains, there is now beer brewing in

Under the name “Stuff”, Joe Hallack-Wolff (left) and Antoine Biasino (right) brew beers that taste of honey and ginger, among other flavours.



© BIRGIT PEPAUS-RAVIDA



© SVEN BECKER

At Craft Corner in the district of Bonnevoie in Luxembourg City, Olivier Schaul serves twelve draught craft beers from Luxembourg and all over the world.



© SVEN BECKER

gleaming brew kettles. “We want it to be simple and high-quality, classic but still a craft beer,” says brewery owner Pol Wesner, who actually comes from a wine-growing family. So how did he get involved in the world of beer? “I went to pilot training school in Austria. I discovered the beers there and I thought they tasted fantastic – better than anything I’d ever tried before,” he recalls. Once he

had his pilot’s licence in his pocket, he couldn’t get the idea of making beer out of his head. Pol made his first attempts in the cellar of his home in Bech, and today he runs the Echternacher Brauerei with his father alongside a qualified master brewer. So far, they make pale ale, wheat beer and “Märzenbier”, a typical type of beer from Bavaria. Among other places, you can drink

their beers in the café just across the road.

They have been making craft beer at the “Béierhaascht” in Bascharage since 2002. This is where “Lëtzebéier” is brewed. The site belongs to the Meyer family of butchers, who decided they wanted to make more of their business. So now there’s a butcher’s shop and a beer shop there, plus a restaurant, hotel and the “studio” of the Master Brewer, Guy Majerus. He studied for his Master Brewer qualification in Ulm in Germany. He still feels he owes a great deal to the German beer-making tradition. “Even though it is permitted under our brewing laws, I don’t add any flavouring such as orange peel or ginger to the beers.” Guy Majerus prefers a classic pale ale. He is pleased that in general “the art of beer-making is being talked about and appreciated again today”.

Long conveyor belts, towering and impressively illuminated tanks, complete walls of beer crates: the biggest brewery in Luxembourg is the “Brasserie Nationale”, the umbrella brand and production site for the two leading brands, Bofferding and Battin. Bofferding is a family business now in its tenth generation. The traditional company in Bascharage has been in existence for over 250 years. But it also sometimes breaks new ground, for example with Funck-Bricher, a type of beer that dates from the 18th century, then disappeared in the 1970s and has now been revived as a vegan organic beer. For an insight into how beer is produced at the brewery, you can go to the modern visitor centre. There are guided tours, beer tastings and, of course, beer and souvenirs to buy.



Guy Majerus, master brewer at the “Béierhaascht”, which is a craft brewery, restaurant, traditional butcher’s shop and eco-friendly hotel, all in one.

Pol Wesner actually comes from a wine-growing family. He made his first attempts at beer-making in his cellar at home; now he runs the “Echternacher Brauerei” in the former railway station in Bech.

BRASSERIE NATIONALE

VISIT AND BEER TASTING

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- 🍷 Welcome by a professional guide
- 🍷 Guided tour through the brewery
- 🍷 Tasting session of 100% natural beers
- 🍷 Souvenirs
- 🍷 Duration: 2h (tasting included)

€15/PERS

Free for children under 16
Languages: LU / FR / DE / EN / CN



PRACTICAL INFORMATION AND RESERVATION:

- Visits on reservation from Monday to Saturday (without reservation on Saturdays at 3 p.m.)
- Booking by telephone: +352 23 63 64 - 217 or on our website: www.brasserienationale.lu
- Access by: 🚗 🚊 🚉 — Personalized transport service possible
- Enjoy food and drinks at our partner “An der Brauerei”



Make Koler Kooler

In Kahler (Koler in Luxembourgish) there is graffiti on every corner — and everyone in the village is delighted. That’s because the man wielding the spray can is one of them: the 26-year-old illustrator Alain Welter launched the “Make Koler Kooler” campaign. His aim was to introduce urban art to his home village.

Photos RENATA LUSSO



© ALAIN WELTER

“Make Koler Kooler” was actually only supposed to be Alain Welter’s degree project — but now it just keeps on getting bigger. No sooner had one farmhouse had its wall sprayed then the next one wanted a painting too. The story continues!



© BIRGIT PFAUS-RAVIDA



Lost in Kahler? No problem, just take a look at the map sprayed on the wall. The owner of the house, Victor Betz (left), loves it: “I end up talking to lots of people who are driving past.”



© LUSSEMBURCHINA





Take it easy! The owner of this house wanted to send a message to drivers who drive too fast through the village.

Other urban art hot spots:

→ Place du Théâtre, Luxembourg City. The mural “One City – One World” by Joël Rollinger is almost 140 m² and consists of numerous individually made aluminium plates.



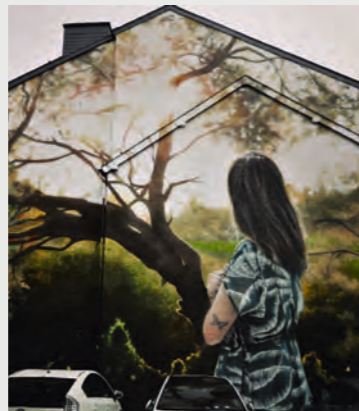
© FRANK HUINO / VDL



© VDL



→ Ettelbrooklyn. The town of Ettelbruck in the north of Luxembourg has picked up on the concept which started with the youth movement and has made street art its trademark – for example, this work by the French artist Mantra. The Ettelbrooklyn Street Fest party takes place every year in September – colourful, cool and multicultural.



© STADT ETTELBRÜCK

→ Rotondes, Luxembourg-Bonnevoie, lies directly behind the central station. “Ready to Play?” is a giant urban game, created by Jens Merkl, Ulrich Blum, Jean-Claude Pellin and designed by Alain Welter.



© ROTONDES / ANDRÉ CONNOR



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Walking with friends

*Head for the hills!
Luxembourg too has dizzying
ridge walks, spectacular cliffs,
lush meadows, whispering forests and
upland plateaus. The 52-kilometre-long
Lee Trail in the north of the country
is the first section of the long-distance
Escapardenne Trail which crosses
the border into Belgium.
Three friends explored it together.*

Photos ALFONSO SALGUEIRO

An aerial night photograph of a lush, forested valley. A river winds through the center, and a trail is illuminated by a series of warm, glowing lights that follow its path through the woods. In the distance, a castle sits atop a hill, and a road with a white van is visible. The sky is a deep, dark blue with some light clouds.

The three stages of the Escapardenne Lee Trail can be easily accomplished in three days by experienced walkers. So they sling their rucksacks on their backs and off they go. Disappear, leave behind their busy everyday lives, immerse themselves in an outdoor adventure in the Éislek.

The trail takes walkers up steep paths and along narrow rocky ridges through the wooded valleys of the Sûre and Wiltz. It starts in Ettelbruck and finishes in Kautenbach. There are a number of viewpoints to discover along the way, such as the view from the Gringlee of the loop in the River Sûre, and Lipperscheid.

The symbol for the Escapardenne Lee Trail is a white wave on a blue background. “Lee” means “rock”. In Luxembourg there are lots of villages and place names incorporating that word – especially in the north of the country and in Luxembourg’s Little Switzerland, the Mullerthal.



The three friends are keen hikers and love being outdoors. Alfonso Salgueiro, 49, is a freelance photographer who has been living in Luxembourg since 2001. Josh Dauphinee from Canada, 38, is doing the Lee Trail today for the first time. Ciarán Mackin, 36, from Ireland, is looking forward to getting to know the Lee Trail, which can be quite adventurous in places, with his friends. “We’ll see if I’m fit enough,” says Ciarán.

First stage: **postcard views** **and steep climbs**

Ups and downs are the order of the day right from the start. After a croissant in Ettelbruck, the friends start the walk in a leisurely style, passing the memorial to the famous General Patton, a key figure in the Battle of the Bulge. Their destination for the day is Bourscheid-Moulin, where they intend to dine.

As they walk through the quiet woods, climbing gently, the men get chatting. Josh always pursued a lot of outdoor activities in his native Canada. Ciarán, the Irishman, loves that there are so many forests in Luxembourg. “It’s not like that in Ireland,” he says. Then the men walk along in companionable silence again. They enjoy the tranquillity of nature – and the climbs are getting steeper. Every so often, Alfonso stops, whips out his camera, sets up his tripod and snaps leaves, mushrooms, trees, tiny details and expansive views. An old-fashioned sign that fascinates Alfonso points the way to the

“Priedegtstull” (pulpit in English) viewpoint, where St Willibrord is said to have preached to the faithful. From up here, they get their first picture-postcard view of the River Sûre as it winds through the green valley. After that, the Lee Trail continues to climb steeply, passing over a high plateau and then down again, past the village of Michelau.

The next picture-postcard view comes at the end of this stage of the walk, a view of Bourscheid Castle from the Gringlee, the “green rock”. In Luxembourg there are lots of villages and place-names, especially in the north of the country and in the Mullerthal, which incorporate the word “lee”, meaning “rock”. Last stop: Bourscheid-Moulin. If you make a short

detour to the campsite, you can enjoy another fine view of Bourscheid Castle towering over the landscape, with the Sûre in the foreground. Today there is a light mist hanging over the river. No wonder that the French writer Victor Hugo painted the castle in 1871 - castles, mist and romance go hand in hand!

Second stage: **Napoleon and** **the Finger of God**

The second stage is probably the most strenuous part of the trail, covering over 19 km and climbing more than 900 m. Starting at the campsite, the hikers cross the railway line and walk across a steep slope, past the village of Bourscheid

Alfonso, Josh and Ciarán in front of an information panel showing a map and interesting facts. You can rotate the individual sections, but somehow none of it makes sense. It’s a question of perspective: walk around to the other side of the sign, and suddenly the map looks right. That gives them the first laugh of the day.



to the first spectacular stopping place, “Napoleonsbeemchen” (Napoleon’s Tree) on the high plateau, also called “Napoleonsknäppchen” (Napoleon’s Mound). The wind whistles around the plateau, because, apart from the tree and the viewing platform, there is nothing to stop it. The original tree was planted in 1811 in honour of the Emperor Napoleon, but it was felled by the Nazis in 1940. In 1941, the people of Bourscheid secretly planted a new tree – the lime that still stands there today. Alfonso and Ciarán gaze into the distance. The sprawling view is amazing, with fields and meadows creating a picturesque tapestry.

Back in the forest, they focus on the walk again: it’s a steep climb, with safety barriers in places and you have to watch where you put your feet. The path takes them on past the Rouschert viewpoint to the “Doigt de Dieu”, a rock that is supposedly shaped like the finger of God. Alfonso is glad to have his wide-angle lens, so he can fit the whole of the unusual feature into his photo. Meanwhile, Josh lies in the shade of the “finger”, and Ciarán considers with a grin which of God’s fingers it might be and what God is trying to tell

hikers with it. The three friends are a bit out of breath by now, but still in good humour. Josh gets up and climbs a little way up the rock below the finger. It looks dangerous, but he comes back safe and sound.

The next viewpoint is another peculiar geological formation. The crumbling layers of slate are like puff pastry. If you scramble over them, you come to the Molberlee: a narrow, 500-metre-long path along a ridge, with the bare rock falling away steeply on either side. The Luxembourg Ardennes at their best. Many different species, some of them rare, grow around the Molberlee, including blueberries, called “Molbier” in Luxembourgish. They gave the ridge its name. Again, the men enjoy the peace and quiet – until a mountain biker whizzes past. So thrill-seekers come here too... The second stage finishes in the village of Hoscheid.

Third stage: sound trail and thirsty work

From Hoscheid to Kautenbach, it’s just 15 km. There’s a special highlight here for children and

the young at heart: the “Klangwee”, a themed sound trail with 17 different stopping points. It begins in the centre of the village. Some of the objects can be played with sticks, whether borrowed or improvised out of pieces of wood. Josh and Ciarán have great fun at the very first stop: if you hit the flat metal shape hard, it makes all kinds of crazy sounds – electronically. It even plays a German hiking song, which is very appropriate. There are also some more contemplative sound games, such as an impressive wooden structure, at the top end of which a wind chime moves gently. It’s very meditative. You also see families with children here, because you can walk the 6 km Klangwee separately from the Lee Trail.

Alfonso, Josh and Ciarán leave the instruments behind and the Lee Trail takes them on through the Schlinder valley. Here they find St Michael’s chapel, which has an air of romantic solitude – as does the ghost village of Oberschlinder, where no one lives any more. There used to be 20 houses, but now only two remain, and the last residents moved away in 1948 – after the privations of the Second World War. Even before the Battle of the Bulge, many of the residents had emigrated to the USA.

The third stage also lives up to expectations in terms of spectacular viewpoints. They have walked more than 50 km. Down below, a train goes by and stops at the station in Kautenbach – the end of the walk. Not much further now. The sun is going down, and they walk quickly down the hill.

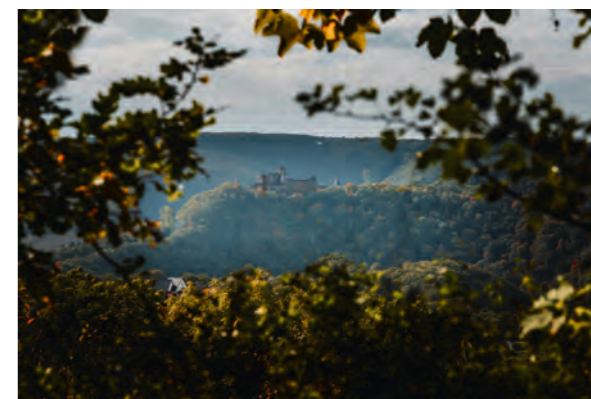
The second stage is probably the most strenuous part of the trail, covering over 19 km and climbing more than 900 m.



From the “Priedegtstull”, you get one of the postcard views of the Lee Trail: the Sûre, winding through the green valley.



The three friends enjoy a well-deserved picnic on the Hockslee. Sausage, ham, cheese, bread, some water to drink – happiness can be so simple.





The 52 km walk is classed as a “Leading Quality Trail – Best of Europe”. It winds through a varied, picturesque and unspoilt landscape, where you can slow down and let your mind wander.

If you make a short detour to the Bourscheid-Moulin campsite, you can enjoy a fine view of Bourscheid Castle towering over the landscape, with the River Sûre in the foreground.

The Lee Trail is on unsurfaced paths, with less than 20 per cent of the way asphalted, so you need to wear suitable walking clothes and comfortable boots.



Escapardenne Lee Trail:

- 2,000 m of combined ascent and descent over 52 km
- Stunning viewpoints
- Certified as a “Leading Quality Trail – Best of Europe”
- Outstanding landscapes
- The signposts: a white wave on a blue background; the same as those on the Escapardenne Éislek Trail, signposted in both directions

Three stages:

1. From Ettelbruck to Bourscheid-Moulin: 17.8 km
Category: difficult
2. From Bourscheid-Moulin to Hoscheid: 19.3 km
Category: difficult
3. From Hoscheid to Kautenbach: 14.6 km
Category: moderate

Upon arrival in Kautenbach, ambitious walkers can go straight on to the Escapardenne Éislek Trail, which starts from there. Both are classed as “Leading Quality Trail – Best of Europe” and the combined length is 158 km. In Luxembourg, the long-distance trail is never far from the railway line, so it is readily accessible, winding its way through the Ardennes range, and is a magnet for energetic walkers looking for unspoilt nature.

Highlights:

- General Patton memorial, Ettelbruck. Address: Avenue J. F. Kennedy, L-9053 Ettelbruck
- Bourscheid Castle (off the route)
- Napoleonsknäppchen viewpoint. The highest point on the trail
- View of the loop in the Sûre from the Gringlee, Lipperscheid. Parking at the Hotel Leweck in Lipperscheid
- Near-alpine ridge, the Molberlee, Hoscheid
- Hockslee panoramic viewpoint, Kautenbach

Practical information:

- Free parking at the railway stations in Ettelbruck and Kautenbach
- For train and bus services, see www.mobiliteit.lu
- Take a good supply of food and drink with you as there are not many places to stop for refreshments along the way
- “Walking without luggage” service available
- For detailed information, maps etc.:
Tel.: (+352) 29 04 04 1
info@escapardenne.eu
www.escapardenne.eu



The three friends have walked more than 50 kilometres and drink a well-earned beer in front of a rustic wooden pod at the Kautenbach campsite. To friendship!





Let it flow!

The Moselle, the Sûre, the Our, the Alzette – all these rivers are wonderful places to unwind. And what could be more relaxing than emerging from your tent or caravan at sunrise, seeing a slight haze over the water and casting your fishing line?

Photos MARCO LAGEMAAT

Nature waking up, birdsong in the peace of the morning. Perhaps a trout will bite, or a pike? You can enjoy being close to the water like this at many of Luxembourg's campsites, for example in the Éislek region at the Bissen campsites near Heiderscheidergrund, at Camping du Nord near Goebelsmühle or Camping Toodlermillen near Tadler. In the Müllerthal valley there is the peaceful Wies-Neu campsites near Dillingen or Camping de la Rivière near Reisdorf. Anglers can be found here throughout the season.

Of course, campsites right beside water also have much more to offer. Stand-up paddle boarding in Rosport and kayaking in Dillingen are just as popular as mountain biking and hiking. Most of the campsites are very close to the extensive network of footpaths that criss-crosses the Grand Duchy and extends beyond its borders. If you like, you can also use your campsite as a base for exploring the country by car or on public transport – free of charge since March – because

Camping near water always has a particularly soothing, relaxing effect – as shown here at the Val d'Or campsites.



Anglers are welcome guests at the campsites along the rivers. Here is one trying his luck in Bourscheid.

© BIRGIT PFAUS-RAVIDA





© CAMPING VAL D'OR



© CAMPING WIES-NEU



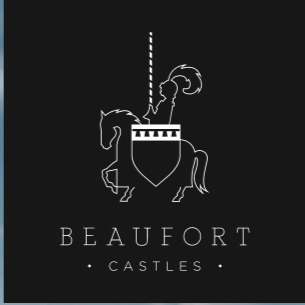
There's also lots of fun to be had on the water around the campsites, building dams or kayaking.

© CAMPING DU NORD

nowhere is so far away that it cannot be reached on a day trip. Among many other attractions, you can visit Vianden Castle, the abbey town of Echternach or, of course, the capital, Luxembourg City; there are equally well-equipped campsites everywhere. Or you and your family can simply stay on one of the more than 80 campsites, soaking up the beauty of nature and enjoying the excellent facilities. If you do not have a tent, caravan or campervan or you would like a bit more comfort, there are many kinds of other fun accommodation options, such as giant converted wine casks, pods, tepees, or cosy chalets like those at the Blesbruck campsite near Diekirch in Luxembourg's Ardennes region or at the Route du Vin campsite in Grevenmacher, right beside the River Moselle. There, you can also buy yourself a nice bottle of local wine to enjoy outside your tent in the evening, watching the sunset.

© CAMPING BISSEN

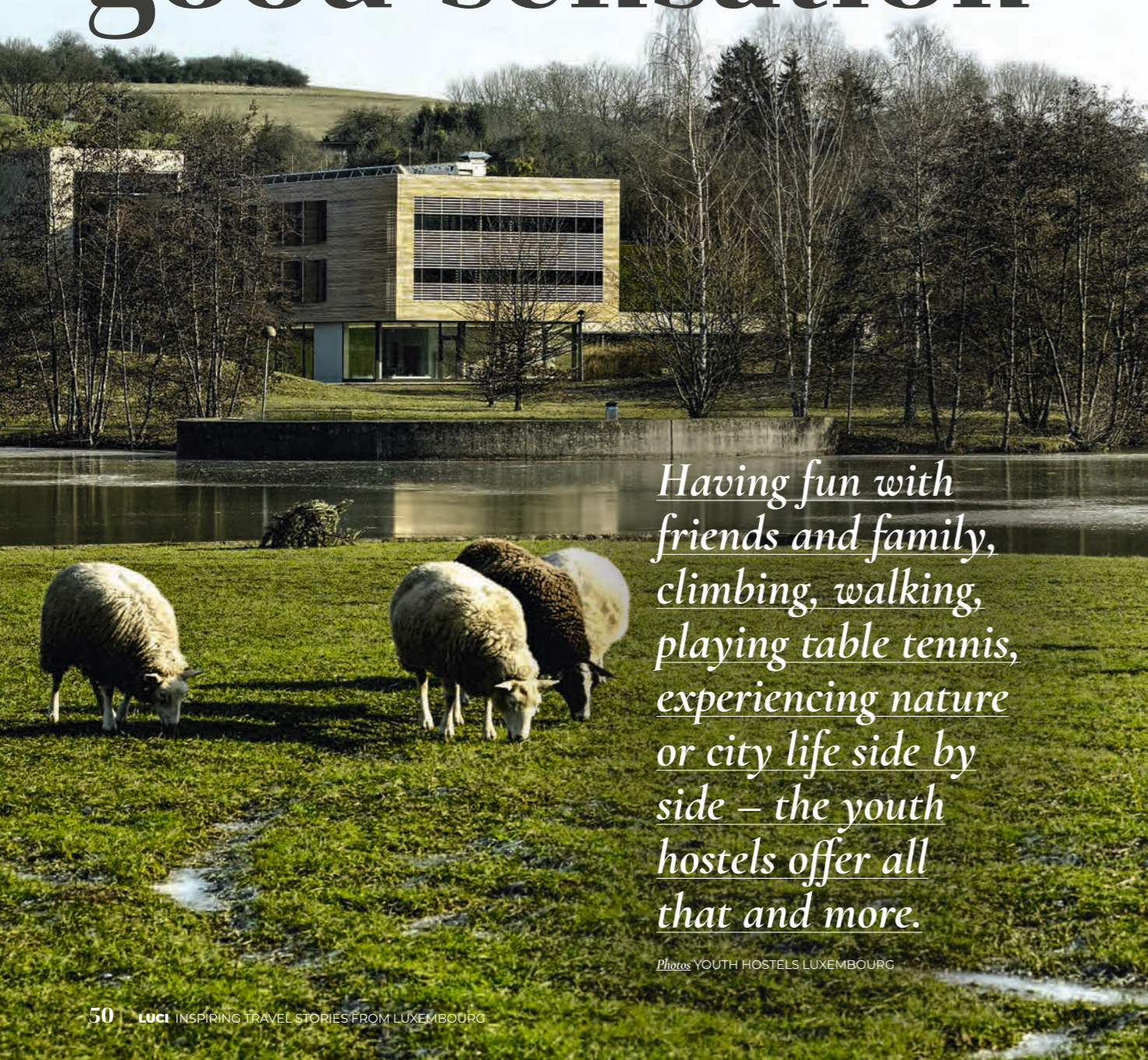
- Further information www.camprilux.lu
- Watersports and sailing school on the Upper-Sûre Lake in Lultzhausen www.basenautique.lu
- Pumped-storage hydroelectric power plant in Vianden www.seo.lu



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All-round feel good sensation



Having fun with friends and family, climbing, walking, playing table tennis, experiencing nature or city life side by side – the youth hostels offer all that and more.

Photos YOUTH HOSTELS LUXEMBOURG

The times when several overnight guests had to share a spartan room and a single toilet off a corridor are long gone. Nowadays, with their choice of different room sizes, fair prices and a fully comprehensive offering, including nutritious meals in the Melting Pot restaurants, youth hostels are an attractive alternative to hotels and other types of accommodation. “We also have business guests leaving our city youth hostels in the morning, sporting a suit, headed for Kirchberg”, says Peter Hengel, Director of the Luxembourg Youth Hostel Association. “But of course families and groups are still our main clientèle”, he adds.

Community experience

There are currently nine youth hostels in Luxembourg. Most of them are ultra modern and very well equipped. Each has its own unique features – be it a climbing wall or indoor playground. What all have in common is a philosophy that can best be described as an “all-round feel good sensation”. Facilitators organise events such as sightseeing, themed walks or climbing tours, with the educational aspect ever-present alongside fun and the community experience. Sustainability and environmental protection feature prominently within all youth hostels and are much more than just a fleeting trend. A fridge was installed in Hollenfels selling surplus cooked food from the hostel at low prices to avoid it being thrown away.



Action writ large: The Echternach sports youth hostel boasts a trampoline in addition to a 14m-high climbing wall. The nearby lake affords relaxation, fun and games.

The Remerschen youth hostel was built by the top architects’ team Hermann & Valenty on the remains of a former nunnery. Its dredged pond makes the small winegrowing village a popular destination for bathers in its own right. Anyone in search of outdoor peace and quiet will feel at ease in the “Haff Réimech” nature reserve, where they can learn interesting facts about fauna and flora in the Biodiversum nature reserve centre.





There are beehives in Esch-sur-Alzette and the capital, as well as in Marienthal close to the Hollenfels youth hostel, with the honey available for purchase in the hostel shops.

Eco awareness

Many of the country's youth hostels, those in the capital and Schengen for example, are popular choices even among locals for a quick and simple, tasty and low cost weekday lunch. Likewise with the food at the youth hostels, a holistic and sustainable philosophy is now gaining traction. As far as possible, care is being taken in all culinary aspects only to use regional, seasonal, fairly produced and traded products. When overnight guests set off on an excursion, there is no new plastic bottle in their lunch packet; instead there are stops along the way where they can refill their own bottles or bottles purchased at the hostel. And so each stay broadens awareness, by osmosis so to speak, without any pedagogical finger wagging.

www.youthhostels.lu

The youth hostel in Luxembourg City, with its large terrace with the old town as a backdrop, is also popular among locals – for a low cost and simple lunch.

An architectural highlight is the house in Esch-sur-Alzette in the south of the country, right next to the railway station and close to the vibrant scene of Esch-Belval with the Rockhal, University campus and a wealth of shops, bars and restaurants. With its palette of red hues, its façade reflects the "Land of the Red Rocks".



WELCOME TO THE UPPER SÛRE NATURE PARK, THE WATER REGION OF LUXEMBOURG!

Tourism and nature protection, an harmonic interaction.

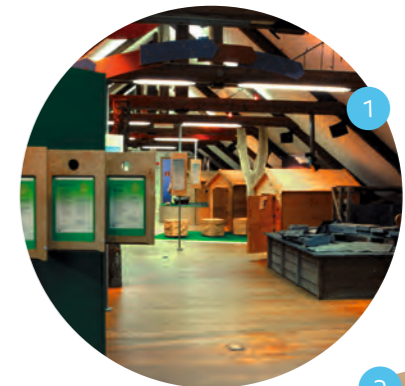
The Upper Sûre Nature Park comprises 5 communes and is situated around the Upper Sûre Reservoir. This lake supplies 70 % of the Luxembourgish households with drinking water and is therefore especially protected. Enjoy the diverse and harmonic landscape with its huge diversity in flora and fauna.

HARTELIJK WELKOM IN HET NATUURPARK BOVEN-SURE, DE WATERREGIO VAN LUXEMBURG!

Toerisme en milieubescherming, een harmonisch samenspel.

Het natuurpark Boven-Sure omvat 5 gemeentes en ligt rondom het stuwmeer van de Boven-Sure. Dit meer beleeft 70 % van de luxemburgse huishoudingen met drinkwater en wordt daarom bijzonders beschermt. Geniet U ook van het veelvoudige en harmonische landschap met zijn grote soortverscheidenheid van flora en fauna.

- 1 Interactive Nature Park exhibition
Interactieve natuurpark tentoonstelling
- 2 Textile museum (Cloth factory), Tourist Information and shop with local products
Textielmuseum, toeristische informatie en een winkel met regionale producten
- 3 Nature discovery tours with the solar boat on the lake
Natuur ontdekkings bootvaarten met de zonneboot op het stuwmeer



Poetic in conception, purist in execution

In the historic Bourglinster Castle, a stone's throw from Luxembourg's capital, René Mathieu conjures up star quality cuisine to enchant his guests. Plants and vegetables play the leading role – against a backdrop of imaginative stories in which the forest has a very special part.

Photos LÉMRICH

René Mathieu is in his element in the forest. Within the first 30 metres, he has plucked four or five edible treasures from the forest floor redolent with the fragrance of fresh earth. And the constant refrain is: "Here, try this!" Deftly he divides the narrow stem into several tasting portions. It has a herb-like taste, fresh, reminiscent of a familiar vegetable – and for good reason: "That is wild celery," the head chef in the historic Château de Bourglinster reveals.

Upon conclusion of the herb hunt, Mathieu will have presented a good dozen plants and herbs, very different parts of which will subsequently end up on the plate: sometimes he uses the sweet bitterness of the bracken fern root to lend aroma, sometimes flowers, leaves or stems are used.

Woodland walk

It is seldom the obvious possible uses that interest the chef: woodruff, he explains for example, can taste very similar to tonka beans, heather can be reduced to a jus, which goes wonderfully with pumpkin. And hazelnut leaves? Together with button mushrooms, pear and hazelnut, they make an absolutely fantastic mille-feuille.

The woodland walk is integral to René Mathieu's culinary philosophy. Several times a week and every day in summer he goes on the hunt through the hollows of the meadows and woods surrounding the castle. Or he stops at some of his favourite haunts on his way into work early in the morning. The regular mantra for the young

chefs in his team as well is: the forest beckons! For Mathieu, the plant hunter and gatherer, each season has its own appeal. Many plants taste best in spring and summer, but the autumn also has treasures in store. And in the winter? The chef patrols the frozen fallen leaves in search of especially beautiful fir branches to decorate his dishes.

Mathieu is a native of Belgium, a graduate of the "hard school" of haute cuisine, cooking in prestigious kitchens before coming to Luxembourg some 15 years ago.





Obviously, playing with expectations is part and parcel of this. For example, anyone who suddenly has an entire flowerpot set before them on the table correctly surmises that, in addition to the plant and flowers with a creamy filling, the soil is edible as well. The answer to the mystery: roasted black breadcrumbs.

It was in the restaurant “La Distillerie” in picturesque Bourglinster Castle, approximately 17 kilometres east of the capital, that the chef found the right venue for delivering his vision of a “cuisine végétale”: “I use a lot of vegetables and herbs,” René Mathieu explains, “but I don’t dispense entirely with fish and meat.” Instead, he simply reverses the usual proportions on the plate – turning the side dishes into the main courses. As such, it can easily happen that guests sample several completely plant-based dishes at once, despite having ordered the regular menu.

Aroma symphony

In selecting his ingredients, he sets great store by regional products, which he purchases from nearby farms and gardens. Herbs and plants come from the nearby forest, only the fish has to come from Belgium, where a friend of Mathieu’s runs a fishery, and what is caught is what is used, as the chef is at pains to stress: for him there is no such thing as bycatch; a good meal can be made from everything.

The Michelin Guide inspectors regularly award Mathieu’s cuisine a star and attest to his “masterful technique”, with which he conjures up wonderful surprises on his guests’ plates. The Belgian King and Queen visited recently, and Angela Merkel as well, the chef explains, has twice had dinner in the castle with its wonderful views.

He likes to sketch ideas for new dishes with crayons. This gives him an impression of how the ingredients’ colours, shapes and textures

combine on a plate. At some point he had the inspiration, he who “loves to invent stories”, for a dish about perfume. For Mathieu at least, playing with aromas is an everyday experience in the kitchen. The chef is constantly developing edible creations with a fragrance reminiscent of their namesake, and which also tastes of their essences.

For René Mathieu, working in the kitchen enjoys equal esteem with his forest walk and pondering what it might be possible to create from the individual ingredients. His cuisine is purist in execution, but poetic in conception. “Food is simple, but it comes down to implementation!” Then, the head chef says, it can be downright magical.

www.bourglinster.lu

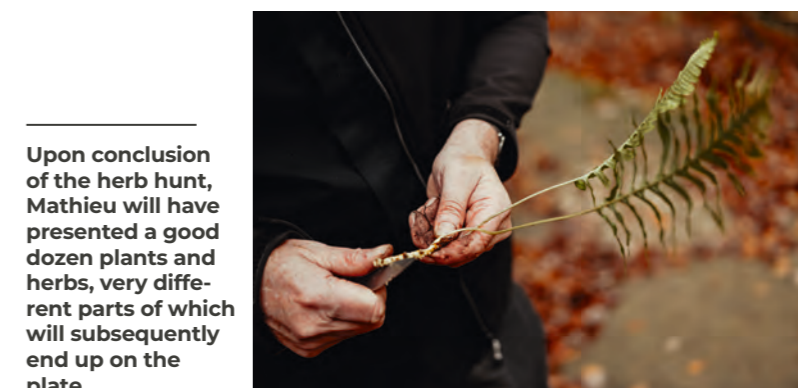
Cook like a chef

→ In *Kachen* magazine (in English: “Cooking”), aficionados of sophisticated and typical national cuisine will find a comprehensive range of recipes and articles on specialities, trends and personalities. The magazine is published online and as a seasonal print edition in three languages (German, French, English).

www.kachen.lu

→ Want to become creative in the kitchen and buy the best regional ingredients? Visiting one of the country’s numerous weekly markets is the way to go.

www.maart.lu



Upon conclusion of the herb hunt, Mathieu will have presented a good dozen plants and herbs, very different parts of which will subsequently end up on the plate.



There are often music festivals, craft markets, weddings and other celebrations going on here. The building is open to visitors upon application. www.chateaubourglinster.lu

Products from other worlds of pleasure inspire the Michelin-starred chef, such as the creations he enhances with evocative perfumes.



Fresh breeze in the vines

At the Luxembourg Moselle, a new generation of winegrowers is coming to the fore – with fresh ideas and a shared goal to make absolute top quality wines.

Photos MÉLANIE MAPS



Ahn is a charming village, sited where the Donverbach stream flows into the Moselle, and surrounded by highly photogenic hillsides. Looking down on Ahn is the Palmberg, one of the country's finest terroirs and also a nature reserve that can be explored by following the "Wine and Nature, Palmberg Ahn Dream Loop", an extremely popular hiking trail.

In the centre of the village is an estate which is now being managed by two young men: **Nicolas and Mathieu Schmit** (27 and 26). The brothers' father, Armand, is however always on hand to offer his invaluable advice. Although the estate is long-established (founded in the 18th century), it certainly moves with the times.

In 2017, Armand and Nicolas decided to start converting the whole estate to organic. They are convinced that by banishing synthetic chemicals, nature will provide them with better wines. "We're not fanatical about being organic!" Nicolas jokes. "It's just that we firmly believe that by allowing the vines to grow in a richer ecosystem, they'll flourish far better – which can only be of benefit to our wines." Visitors are welcomed in the new – and truly splendid – tasting room with a glass door at the back that opens into the cellar.

A little higher up in the village, **Jeff Konsbrück** (31) decided to take a mighty step in 2012. Up until then, his father Guy used to sell his grapes to other winegrowers. However, when the time came for Jeff to take over, he decided he wanted to produce his own wines. He already had some very fine plots in highly

esteemed terroirs (such as Palmberg and Göllebour) but he had no cellar. So, a new, modern and finely balanced building has risen out of the ground opposite the Palmberg's terraces.

Although enormous, the challenge has turned out to be a resounding success. In the cellar, Jeff has found his style by producing wines which give voice to their beautiful origins. His wines are modern, lively and always well-balanced.

The young winemaker also had a hunch that by taking a chance with wine tourism he could make a name for himself. He has therefore

built a lovely, large tasting room in his cellar with natural timber everywhere and large bay windows that open out onto Ahn and the Palmberg. What's more, his cellar is on the Dream Loop. Jeff says with a smile: "When the weather is fine, a hundred or more walkers will come past my cellar and many of them stop off to enjoy a glass of wine from the vineyards they've just walked through."

A little further to the south, in Remich, **Corinne Kox** also opted to return to the family estate after many years studying biology. In 2014, one of Corinne's first ideas was to bury two authentic Geor-

After three years of converting to organic methods at the Maison Viticole Schmit-Fohl, the first certified organic wines will come from the 2020 harvest.

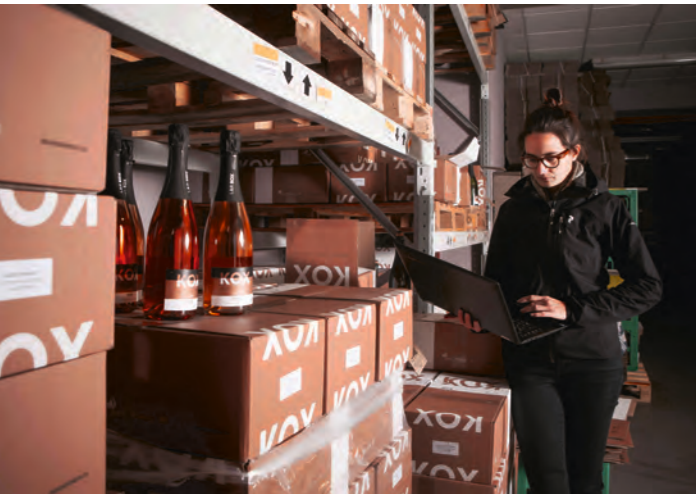




colorants from the skin, the wine has complexity, power and a slight tannin content. Given its structure, purity and dazzling mineral quality, this wine can be kept for a very long time indeed: ten years at least and no doubt much longer. A great Riesling to be enjoyed with fine food!"

Although Corinne Kox has one foot in the past, she is also firmly focused on the future! Last year, she was the first private winemaker to try using drones to spray her vines. The experiment, which was carried out on a few plots, was an emphatic success. There are many good reasons to use drones in vineyards, however, her primary motivation was to "cut down crop protection product dosage and spraying". Since drones can fly lower than helicopters, (organic) spraying doesn't spread beyond the plots. Not to mention that working up in the air, means there's no longer the need for tractors which compact the soil, harming the microfauna that keeps it alive, and which in wet weather can even skid. With her parents, Corinne regularly organises wine evenings and tastings in their gorgeous property in the heart of Remich.

Towards Mertert, up in the northern part of the Luxembourg Moselle, **Pit Leonardy** is a member of Domaines Vinsmoselle. He is even the President of Jongwënzer, the cooperative's section for young winemakers. At 28, he has taken over from his father, Aly, a prominent figure in the organization. However, Aly's help is always welcome since managing an estate with 29 hectares of vines (including 1.5 hectares grown for



Jeff Konsbrück has built a lovely, large tasting room in his cellar with natural timber everywhere and large bay windows that open out onto the Palmberg.

Corinne Kox works alongside her father, Laurent, a well-known Moselle personality and one of the first to produce crémant in the Grand Duchy.

gian earthenware amphorae in the estate's garden; these qvevris are 800-litre vessels and identical to those in which the first wines were produced 7,000 years ago. The grapes are simply destemmed and placed inside and, all that's left to do is wait: "It's nature that makes the wine!" Aromatic and complex, these extraordinary wines really need to be served with food, accompanying for example, fillet of duck breast.

Yohan Nguyen, 2018 Best Sommelier in Luxembourg, speaks of the 2015 Qvevri Riesling in glowing terms: "Because of the skin maceration, the extraction of flavour and

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table grapes) and a herd of 200 cattle (Charolais and Limousin) is no mean feat!

In 2014, the Leonardy family was the first to cultivate plots organically for the cooperative. "We had the opportunity to replant a terroir that had been abandoned over the decades, the Härenberg, in Mertert," Pit explains. These full south-facing terraces on steep slopes are ideal,

Pit Leonardy is a member of Domaines Vinsmoselle and the President of Jongwënzer, the cooperative's section for young winemakers.

but very difficult to work. Located in a Natura 2000 zone, the only way of being able to cultivate them was to go organic and the Leonardy family had no hesitation. Pit stresses: "Here, more than elsewhere, you have to listen to nature. The work is more complicated, but also far more interesting because you have to think carefully all the time!"

Since their move to organic, several other Vinsmoselle winemakers have opted to follow suit and farm their plots organically too. To showcase these wines, the cooperative launched a new range that was an instant commercial success.

Does this mean that Pit will farm more hectares organically? He explains: "For the time being we'll stick with our two hectares, but obviously we're thinking about developing the organic side further."

So, this is how this young generation views their work at the Moselle. Doing the same old thing, season after season, is simply out of the question - quite the opposite. Mathieu and Nicolas Schmit, Jeff Konsbrück, Corinne Kox and Pit Leonardy approach everything they do intellectually, the idea being that with each vintage they will achieve even greater things.



A beautiful region

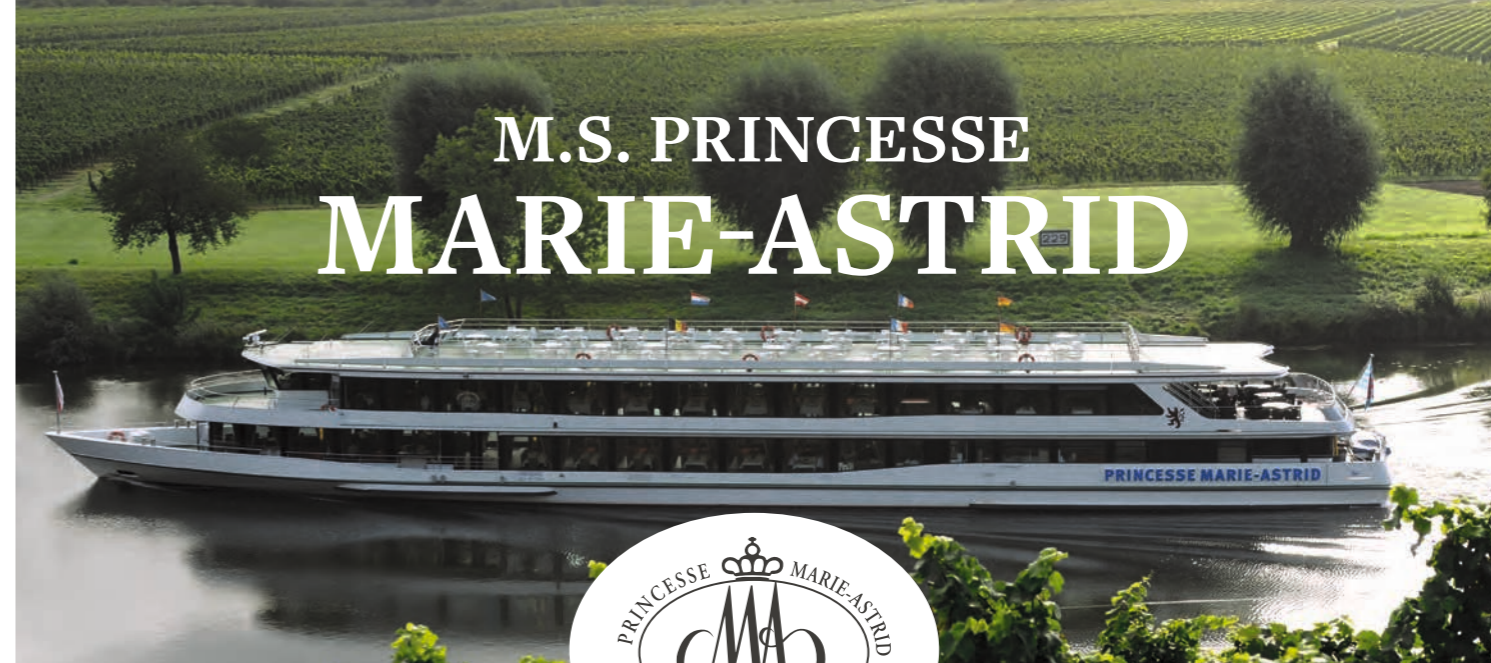
→ The **Route du Vin** (wine route) runs along a large part of the Moselle. There is no shortage of possibilities to stop and taste good wines at various winegrowers. Nine grape varieties are grown here: Riesling, Pinot noir, Pinot blanc, Pinot gris, Gewürztraminer, Auxerrois, Rivaner, Elbling and Chardonnay.

→ **Wine village festivals:** the Schwéidsbenger Wäifesch, the Grevenmacher Grape and Wine Festival, the Riesling Open in Wormeldange and the Hunnefeier in Schengen are all invitations to get involved in the local culture.

→ **Dream Loops:** beautiful certified hiking trails. There are three of them: Palmberg Ahn Wine & Nature Trail; Manternacher Fiels, and Schengen without borders.

www.visitmoselle.lu

With its 1,250 hectares, the Luxembourg Moselle is no giant player on the global wine-making scene; however, it does produce wonderful wines worthy of its terroirs.



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Guttland Road Trip

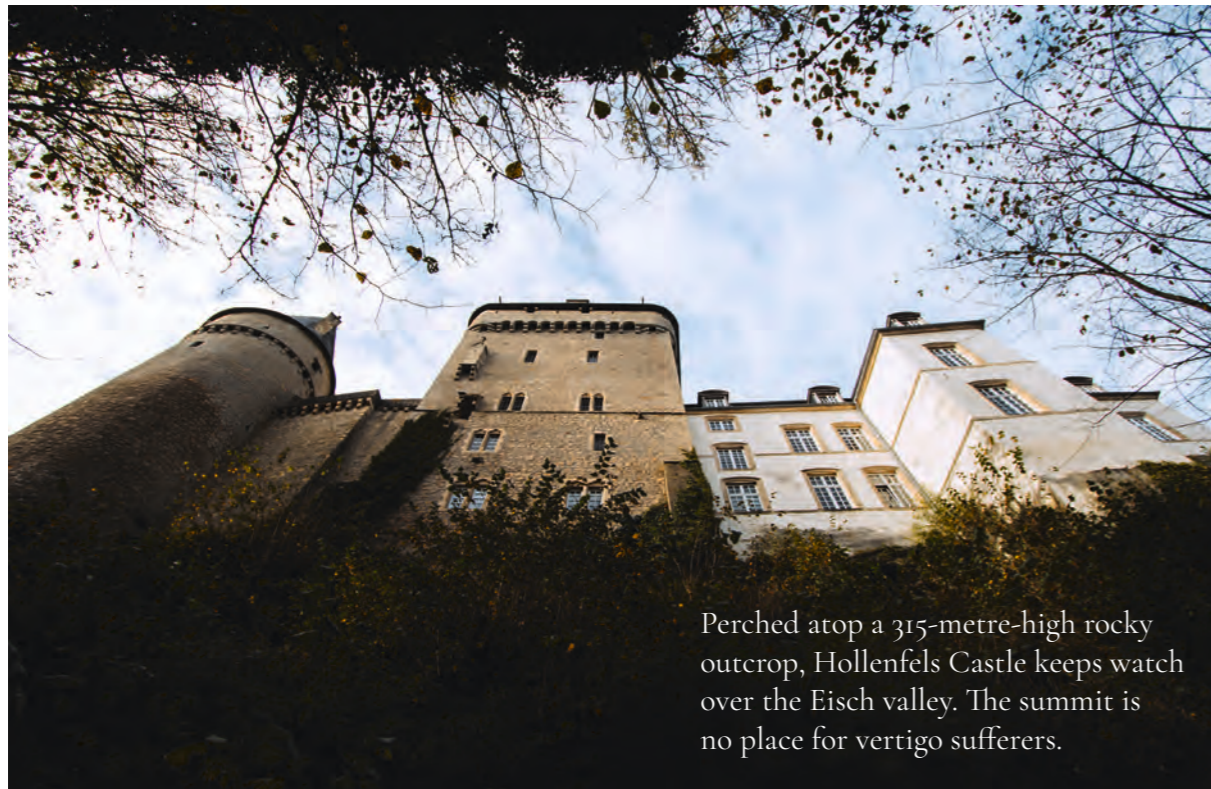
The car glides along, the asphalt humming beneath the tyres. Leisurely, unhurried. Past alleys of trees, castles, enchanting villages. Sun visor down, window open. Road trip through the Valley of the Seven Castles.

Photos OLIVER KERNER





The “Hunnebour” is associated with numerous sagas and legends. What lies beneath its surface? Perhaps only fallen branches, perhaps a dark secret...



Perched atop a 315-metre-high rocky outcrop, Hollenfels Castle keeps watch over the Eisch valley. The summit is no place for vertigo sufferers.

A trip right out of a road movie. Serge Gainsbourg and Brigitte Bardot are singing “Bonnie and Clyde” on the car radio of the Alfa Giulia 1600. A journey through the Valley of the Seven Castles is a true journey through time: one for unhurried contemplation, enjoyment and taking things easy. 24 kilometres of pure driving pleasure, fairy-tale castles as in a dream, beauty spots galore to stop at, a balm to the soul. Just follow the signs “Vallée des 7 Châteaux”.

It starts in **Mersch** with breakfast at Chocolate House, directly opposite the castle, which nowadays accommodates the town council. A fountain babbles, roses are in bloom; as you pass through the gate, you leave the busy main road behind you. On the “Mechelsplatz” is the statue of the seven-spiked dragon – one for each of the seven castles. Take tourist information with you from the tower and hit the road.

The route to Marienthal takes you past the enchanting **Hunnebour**. The popular picnic site is situated by a pond, where Attila the Hun is said to have watered his horses. The water is credited with healing powers. Stepping out of your car here and taking a few short paces through the woods is pure relaxation.

On the tour, the fortified tower of **Schoenfels** castle looms up in the very heart of the forest. The old keep is all that remains of the 13th century castle complex. The English garden invites you to wander around.

Not officially part of the valley, yet well worth a stopover, is the former

monastery in **Marienthal**. It lies nestled in the valley on the banks of the river Eisch. There is a tower not far from the castle with more than a passing resemblance to that in the tale of Rapunzel – except that it is a tower in honour of the blessed Yolanda, who dwelt and worked in

the monastery. Nowadays, the monastery walls accommodate a youth training centre.

The next official stop on the route through the Valley of the Seven Castles is the fortress of **Hollenfels**, whose almost 40-metre-high keep



The artistic and cultural town of Mersch is at the geographical centre of Luxembourg.

The 21-metre-high castle tower of **Schoenfels** is the most imposing fortified and inhabited tower in the area. Alfred Hitchcock would have loved it as a backdrop for his films.



“The Birds” in Koerich lend the fortified tower a mystical ambiance. Behind the walls, tourists encounter a modern information centre.



perches on a rocky promontory above the Eisch valley. The terrace of the “Burg auf dem hohen Fels”, the castle on the high cliff, affords a fantastic view. The fortress of Hollenfels, first mentioned in the 11th century, has been home to a youth hostel for many years. It is currently being completely renovated.

The large and magnificent gardens of the so-called **New Castle of Ansembourg** are fascinating. Very special rose varieties are to be found here, and visitors can stroll, breathe deeply, find peace. The castle was built in the 17th century by one of the early pioneers of the iron industry and exudes the spirit of the Renaissance. It is home to an annual festival.

Atop **Ansembourg** is the **Old Castle** and is home to nobility: Count Gaston-Gaëtan of Ansembourg and his family. The castle being privately owned, it can

only be admired from afar – but anyone checking into the exclusive “Temps d’Or” apartment complex will enjoy the young Count’s hospitality.

The idyllic village of **Septfontaines**, is situated at the very centre of the Eisch valley. The area was already settled in Roman times. Exactly when the castle came into being the historians do not know. Nowadays it is in private ownership. In Simmern itself the seven “fountains” invite you to take a break, and some photographs.

The terminus – or first stop, depending on the direction of travel – is the “Gréivelschlass” in **Koerich**. It is slap bang in the middle of the village. The castle may be a ruin but there is a modern information centre within. There are also concerts staged here all the time for you to enjoy, not least the medieval festival.

And after the tour?

Be it Luxembourgish specialities or international cuisine, Guttland is a popular gourmet hotspot. Venues worth stopping at include: “**A Guddesch**” (Beringen), “**Beim alen Tuerm**” (Mersch) or the “**Bricherstuff**” (Brouch). The cultural centre in Mersch is worth a visit of an evening, or the “**Kinneksbond**” concert hall and theatre in Mamer.

www.visitguttland.lu

Count Gaston-Gaëtan von Ansembourg, host of the “Temps d’Or” hotel, part of Ansembourg’s Old Castle.



© BIRGIT PPAUS-RAVIDA

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Me, human

*Scarcely beyond the entrance
and I'm already hooked. A swirl of stars
in the black universe, then the belly
of a pregnant woman, half in shadow,
half in light. The nucleus of life.
In black and white. The colours, though,
are there, in your head and your heart.*

*As are the emotions.
There's something big
going on here.*

*"The Family of Man" –
a personal experience.*

Story BIRGIT PFAUS-RAVIDA Photos ROMAIN GIRTGEN/CNA





© BIRGIT PFAUS-RAVIDA

The people in the room with me seem to be far away. What are they thinking about? Where do they see themselves in this exhibition? Each of us began as a speck of stardust and will be so again. Each of us was a pulsating bundle of cells in our mother's belly, before developing and being catapulted into the world as a human. Into a life that is colourful and monotone, noisy and silent, beautiful and dreadful. Welcome to "The Family of Man". I have to turn away from the other visitors at the exhibition briefly, because I have tears in my eyes.

A visit to "The Family of Man" exhibition is a highly intense experience. Perfectly staged, skilfully lit, it is an understated total artwork that appears to have grown naturally. Every visit reveals something new.

What should a portrait of humanity look like? What are the key themes? Each picture in the exhibition seems to hang exactly where it belongs, giving the impression of an organic entity. Accompanying the pictures are passages from Shakespeare, James Joyce, Thomas Paine and Lillian Smith. They're just there, alongside, with no explanatory captions. "Deep inside, in a silent place where a child's fears crouch." This quote from the writer Lillian Smith, printed in white on black, appears alongside pictures of children, girls and boys, who are obviously poor, who look at the camera in resignation or despair, standing behind barbed wire, in front of a bleak landscape, sometimes with their mothers, in whose eyes you can also see that

life is hard. Three little girls stand in front of a small, isolated house surrounded by an overgrown meadow. They grip the fence and stare at me gravely, the older two dark-haired, the youngest blonde. It makes me think of my own girls. Two tall brunettes, one small blonde. They are about the same age as the girls in the photo, about whom I know nothing. Neither what became of them nor how long they lived. And yet I feel a connection with them. Simply because I have seen them.

And so it goes on – through the exhibition and through the cycle of life. Childhood with or without schooling, hard work, but also parties and friendship, love and sexuality, faith, struggles and wars – every aspect of what it is to be

human is shown here. Steichen brought these people together, regardless of their race, gender or class. Through the photographs, he wanted to find a common language.

Some of the photographs were taken by well-known photographers of their time, others by amateurs. Steichen's friend Dorothea helped him to find the right ones. Out of millions of pictures, they and their assistants selected just over 500 photographs from 68 countries, and civil rights activist Dorothy Norman compiled the accompanying quotations from world literature and contemporary documents.

The pictures were first displayed at MoMA in New York and the



"The Family of Man" was curated by the famous Luxembourg-born American photographic artist Edward Steichen in 1955 for the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York. He did not take all the photographs for the exhibition himself; he collected, compared and collated them.





© BIRGIT PFAUS-RAVIDA

exhibition then toured the whole world. Steichen's work was successful, but he was also criticised, perhaps precisely because the general public liked the exhibition and elitist critics couldn't handle that. Following its years on tour as from 1966, the exhibition has been in Clervaux since 1994, and will probably stay there forever. Steichen, who was born in Bivange, wanted the pictures to remain in Luxembourg, his home country, and be on display here.

The second exhibition that Steichen curated, "The Bitter Years", is also in Luxembourg but at the other end of the country, in a former water tower in Dudelange. It was put together in 1962, also for MoMA in New York, and is an important complement to "The Family of Man", even though it was not so successful. "The Bitter Years" shows rural America during the Great Depression of the 1930s and is considered to be an homage to documentary photography. Due to shortage of space, only half the pictures can ever be displayed at one time in the water tower. But even this arrangement works, because of the interaction with visitors. The dark, round rooms create a concentrated atmosphere. "The Bitter Years" is manifestly more political than "The Family of Man", more accusatory, highlighting social wrongs.

And yet, when I'm here, my thoughts go back to the pictures in Clervaux. To the old couple on a swing, flying high together and laughing. And to the baby

snuggling up to its mother. Because it could be any baby. Including mine.

Birgit Pfaus-Ravida is a writer at Visit Luxembourg and mother of three.

Edward Steichen's legacy in Luxembourg:

- "The Family of Man" exhibition Clervaux Castle
- "The Bitter Years" exhibition Waassertuerm + Pomhouse, Dudelange
- Various works on display at the Luxembourg Musée national d'histoire et d'art (MNHA) www.steichencollections-cna.lu

"Me, Family"

- *Group show at Mudam*
A key highlight within the 2020 programme at Mudam Luxembourg, "Me, Family" is an extensive, international group survey of contemporary art. Devised by the renowned curator Francesco Bonami, it offers a portrait of humanity at the beginning of the 21st century. Inspired by the landmark exhibition "The Family of Man" (1955), "Me, Family" focuses on the great questions of our age. Presented on three levels of the museum, it is one of the most ambitious exhibitions organised by the Mudam to date. It features works by more than 30 artists from 16 countries and includes a selection of works from the Mudam collection. www.mudam.com



Childhood with or without schooling, hard work, but also parties and friendship, love and sexuality, faith, struggles and wars – every aspect of what it is to be human is shown here.

A whole city in sound

As pianist, composer and producer, Francesco Tristano spectacularly combines classical piano and Baroque music with techno and electro beats. His music constantly surprises. The artist with Italian roots travels the world, mixes styles, and explodes boundaries.

Photos SÉBASTIEN GRÉBILLE



From the first delicate rays of sunlight that shone into his hotel room to the traffic that hummed throughout the night – on each of his stays in Tokyo, Francesco Tristano was quite literally soaking up impressions. Music began to develop in him, electronic carpets of sound along with rapid piano runs, repeatedly interspersed with spoken words and sounds. “*The individual impressions came together to form images, and from that a film, a Tokyo which I had in my head, so to speak, following my visits. That turned into music – and after that, with the help of artist friends, choreographers, image and sound experts, back into a kind of film that is screened at my concerts,*” explains Francesco. His work, “Tokyo Stories”, once again demonstrates the diversity of the multi-talent that is Francesco Tristano – just as the music and accompanying image work, for their part, reflect his impressions of the pulsating Japanese megacity.

Anyone who sees, hears and experiences his “Tokyo Stories” performance live is experiencing a perfect interplay of image worlds on a vast screen and sound creations moving between minimalist and exuberant. Sometimes these are simply sustained tones combined with black-and-white screens, and sometimes they are people wildly dancing on the streets, as though seen through a kaleidoscope.

Francesco Tristano grew up in Luxembourg. Music was always playing in his mother’s house: modern music, but also classical – and a lot of Johann Sebastian Bach. Today, Francesco Tristano is a Bach expert, who performs the Goldberg Variations with spectacular

virtuosity. In the 18th century, Bach demonstrated an immense power to innovate, just like John Cage, a pioneer of new music of the 20th century. In his album “bachCage”, Francesco Tristano brought Bach and Cage together musically. Some listeners may be irritated and not immediately appreciate the things the two composers have in common. But if you allow yourself to enter this fusion, you will soon testify that musical boundaries shift, lose themselves – and ultimately disappear.

Francesco Tristano, born in 1981, is a pianist, composer and producer. He began playing the piano aged five, and gave his first concert featuring his own compositions at thirteen.



© MARIE STAGCAT

4 questions for Francesco Tristano

Do your Italian and Luxembourg roots also flow into your music?

Unconsciously, definitely. Generally, I have the feeling that my music and my whole personality are greatly influenced by my childhood. On the one hand, that comes from living with my mum, who taught me openness and tolerance and played a lot of cool music to me. On the other hand, my Italian grandma, my nonna, mainly looked after me in

the first five years of my life; she lived with us in Luxembourg. Her pizza and pasta shaped me too (*he laughs*). I am always searching for the “South”.

As a Luxembourg artist, do you have to go abroad in order to return changed and inject life into the scene here?

First off, I should say this: I am very, very grateful for the fantastic musical training I received in Luxembourg with my piano teacher and at the Conservatoire. But at sixteen I wanted to gather other impressions. I knew that if

I wanted to learn more, I needed to get away. As far away as possible. So I went to New York. That naturally influenced and enriched me, gave me my musical maturity. That’s where I also experienced cool electronic music in the clubs, being put out there by excellent DJs.

Where do you like to go when you visit Luxembourg?

In the evenings, I still very much like going to my favourite Italian restaurant, Dal Notaro. I was always in there as a child, and I learnt the right way to make pizza dough. And I would sit and play at the piano there. Whenever I’m in the country, it’s a fair bet you will find me there.

Your music transports the listener, and at times is reminiscent of club sounds. In an environment such as the Philharmonie concert hall, that can feel very unusual and boundary-breaking.

At a concert with a seated audience, there have been occasions when some people have come down in front of the stage and danced. You should and ought to simply to do that! Stand up, dance!

Music everywhere

- Siren’s Call festival, against the impressive backdrop of Neumünster Abbey; www.sirensrecall.lu
- Festival de Wiltz, in the amphitheatre and at the Hexenturm; www.festivalwiltz.lu
- Rockhal: The South rocks in the concert and events hall; www.rockhal.lu



Francesco studied in New York, Brussels, Riga, Paris and Barcelona. Today, he lives in Barcelona and Luxembourg.



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Where is Madame?

Seeing this chair, you would think that, just a moment ago, someone was sat here reading.

And all the other furniture, heavy wood with intricate carving made between the 18th century and the Jugendstil period, also appears to be in regular use.

The Renaissance chateau in Beaufort has a magic all of its own. Make an appointment for a guided tour that brings the past to life.

Photos VÉRONIQUE KOLBER



On the guided tours, visitors learn a lot about the somewhat complicated history of the chateau and of the nearby fortified castle that was built at the end of the 12th century and can also be visited: turbulent times, betrayals, struggles for independence.

A magazine about roses lies on the little table. Next to it, a vase containing blooms of the queen of flowers. You would think that, just a moment ago, someone was sat here reading. And all the other furniture, heavy wood with intricate carving made between the 18th century and the Jugendstil period, also appears to be in regular use. Everywhere there are pens and other writing materials, books, ticking clocks, fine crockery and silver cutlery. However, the lady of the house will not be coming back – Madame Anne-Marie Linckels passed away in 2012. Nevertheless, visitors to the Renaissance chateau in Beaufort still get the feeling that she may come through the door at any moment. Today, you can visit her rooms and walk in the footsteps of the chatelaine, who lived here until her ninety-eighth year. The black telephone with a dial that she used to use, the photographs – everything has been kept the same. You can literally feel the presence of Madame Linckels here.

That is without doubt partly thanks to Jacqueline Kuijpers, who looks after it all and guides visitors through the rooms. She knew the old lady very well; she was her housekeeper and she has lived in the chateau since 1980. Indeed, she has spent most of her life here and saw her three children grow up within its extensive walls; she knows every corner of the castle and, of course, the garden, too. “Madame Linckels loved roses. Right to the end, she used to go to the rose beds to make sure that the plants were being pruned correctly. Until the very end of her life, she prepared her food herself in the chateau kitchen. Then she would go to dine alone in the big

dining room. All with a little help from us, the staff, of course,” recalls Jacqueline Kuijpers with a smile.

Madame was a strict disciplinarian but also very kindhearted, says the housekeeper, who sometimes almost regarded herself as one of the family. She too grieved over the death of the Linckels’ only son, who died of cancer in the 1970s at the age of just 52.

Every walk through the chateau brings back many memories for Jacqueline Kuijpers, and visitors sense that. At the same time, of course, they learn a lot about the somewhat complicated history of the chateau and of the nearby fortified castle that was built at the end of the 12th century and can also be visited: turbulent times, betrayals,

struggles for independence. The round defensive tower offered good views of the surroundings, from which an attack could be expected at any time.

From the road, you first see the older fortified castle built in the Middle Ages. It has not been lived in for a very long time and has become derelict over the years. However, the “new” castle, which was built in the middle of the 17th century, is in very good condition. Madame Linckels’ husband Edmond became the owner of both castles in 1928, and from then on the ruined fortifications were also protected from further collapse.

Because there was no direct heir following the death of the Linckels’ only son, both castles are now

From the road, you first see the older fortified castle built in the Middle Ages. It has not been lived in for a very long time and has become derelict over the years. However, the “new” chateau, which was built in the middle of the 17th century, is in very good condition.



About 5,000 litres of blackcurrant liqueur are produced every year in the castle's vaulted cellars. The blackcurrants are grown nearby, between Eppeldorf and Beaufort.



owned by the state. However, the dowager Anne-Marie Linckels was allowed to live there until the end of her days. During the later years of Madame Linckels' life, Jacqueline Kuijpers and her husband took over the production of the famous blackcurrant liqueur made at Beaufort. The blackcurrants are now grown nearby, between Eppeldorf and Beaufort, after having been imported from France for a number of years. About 5,000 litres of the liqueur are produced every year in the castle's vaulted cellars. Visitors can taste and purchase the liqueur in the medieval castle. It can be enjoyed cold with mineral water, as a Kir Royal, or in hot water as a kind of grog.

A liqueur like that restores your strength – perhaps after a fascinating but scary visit to the castle dungeon, where the heavy chains on the wall give you an idea of just how terrible it must have been to be left to rot in this damp, cold, mouldy place. What a contrast to the magnificent rooms of the Renaissance chateau with their floral wallpapers, whence you take home a slight feeling of sadness – and the faint scent of roses.



Guided tours:

During the main season, from March until 3 November, guided tours of the Renaissance chateau take place regularly by appointment for groups of eight people or more. Visitors are welcome to explore the medieval castle ruins by themselves, but tours can also be booked for groups or individuals. The medieval castle is closed during the winter months. www.beaufortcastles.com

Three local tips:

→ Hike along the 112-kilometre-long **Mullerthal Trail**, acknowledged among the "Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe", which goes past Beaufort. www.mullerthal-trail.lu

→ **Blackcurrant liqueur**: you can taste and buy the famous Beaufort blackcurrant liqueur in the ruined medieval castle.

www.liqueurs-du-chateau.lu

→ **Rock'n Classics** is a series of concerts initiated by the Friends of Beaufort Castle. In the spring and summer, various bands, such as Suzanne Vega, perform here against the picturesque backdrop. www.beeforter.lu



Jacqueline Kuijpers, the former housekeeper here, has lived in the chateau since 1980 and guides visitors through its many rooms.



The Renaissance chateau of Beaufort in north-east Luxembourg has suffered no damage since it was first built and, apart from a few additions and alterations over the centuries, has remained largely unchanged for over 360 years.

Stay in a fairy tale

A night in a mushroom house like the Smurfs, in a tower like Rapunzel, in a treehouse as in childhood dreams — special options for overnight stays add an extra sparkle to a short break.

Photo ROMAIN-HOFFMANN-ARCHITECTES

EcoLodge on the riverbank

How do the Smurfs live in their mushroom houses? You can find out for yourself in the “mushrooms” at “EcoLodge Péitche Lauer” in Useldange. This unusual and original accommodation, in the form of three mushrooms, is located right on the banks of the river Attert and close to the medieval castle ruin. With their round external walls clad in wooden shingles, with grey hats for roofs and standing on stilts, these small little houses nevertheless each offer two floors for sleeping and living in. Visitors do need to have a certain degree of agility: the bathroom is accessed via an oval hole in a dividing wall, and the upper level can only be reached by ladder. Guests can replenish themselves right next door, in the Hotel-Brasserie EcoLodge Péitche Lauer.



Treehouses in the zoo

They look slightly crooked, seeming to float in the crowns of the trees, and it's almost as if you are journeying into a pixie fairy tale as you approach the “Escher Bamhaiser” in Esch-sur-Alzette. These unusual wooden houses are cosy and wholly special places for spending a short break in the south of Luxembourg, on the hill known as the “Gaalgebierg” (Gibbet Hill). Located in the heart of an animal park, they are accessed via wooden bridges, at heights of up to four metres. The group comprises three houses for overnight stays, connected to a café. It's an adventure, especially for families.



A romantic castle in a Nature Park

Romantic, magical, in a peaceful setting in northern Luxembourg's Our Nature Park: an overnight stay in Urspelt Castle is definitely treating yourself to a power of good. Lovingly restored with an eye for detail and offering 56 rooms and suites, it has facilities including a large gala

An adventure, especially for families: located in the heart of an animal parc, the “Escher Bamhaiser” are accessed via wooden bridges, standing at heights of up to four metres.

Urspelt Castle – romantic, magical, in a peaceful setting in northern Luxembourg’s Our Nature Park.



room for fabulous party celebrations, along with numerous rooms for workshops and seminars. The castle is set in magnificent park land. Given its historical, architectural and aesthetic significance, the castle has been classified as a protected national monument.

Relax in a spa village

One place for relaxation-seekers are the Chalets Petry, on the outskirts of the village of Bettel in northern Luxembourg. Tranquillity is the order of the day in these six chalets, furnished to a high specification and all named after rivers in Luxembourg. The wooden chalets, in the traditional South Tirolean style, are arranged like a small village around an open area with a pond, so guests can relax in comfortable wooden recliners with views over the water, after enjoying a sauna in their own chalet. They make an excellent base for walks and excursions, such as to Vianden Castle. And in the evenings there are regional wines to sample, in cosy wine bars.

www.visitluxembourg.com

The Chalets Petry make an excellent base for walks and excursions, such as to Vianden Castle.



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© CHALETS PETRY

Discover Luxembourg with us!



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LU LUXEMBOURG
LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN

On the trail of sweat and steel

*From the puffing steam train
via imposing blast furnaces
to gloomy mines
where miners once toiled:
feel the spirit of
Luxembourg's steel past
on the Minett Tour.*

Photos RENATA LUSSO



The new university library was incorporated into the old iron processing hall. The faceted windows are literally imprinted with the dust of the iron industry, borne by the wind in the days before filtration plants.

Soot, sweat, coal, heat, steel – these were the ingredients of economic success in southern Luxembourg. And today research is a driver for innovation and a beacon of hope for a modern society.

An absolute must in Belval is the visit to blast furnace A. One can ascend the steps to a platform affording a magnificent view of Belval and southern Luxembourg.



The men worked hard in the Land of the Red Rocks. They mined iron ore, or “Minett” in Luxembourgish, hewed galleries in the living rock, rode rattling railways into the heart of the hills and brought rock to the surface in wagons. The iron ore was washed, mixed, heated, and made into steel. And soot, sweat, coal, heat, steel – these were the ingredients of economic success in southern Luxembourg.

Because from the middle of the 19th century onward, steel was exported from Luxembourg worldwide, where it is still used – be it in the foundations of the One World Trade Center in New York City or in the world’s biggest skyscraper in Dubai.

Past and future

The blast furnaces have lain dormant since 1997, but visitors on the Minett Tour can still immerse themselves in this world. They can start in Esch-Belval, for example. Where the blast furnaces once spewed smoke, it is on the university that hopes of success are now pinned. Modern buildings are home to the sciences, with additional disciplines being added all the time – be it in the medical field, the humanities or computer science. But amid the university’s ivory towers, the rusty, weather-beaten blast furnaces still defy the present. They have been lovingly conserved for posterity. And they make for a very special atmosphere.

Visitors on a guided tour can scale blast furnace A and enjoy

the view of the campus. The headquarters of Esch 2022 as well will be moving in shortly, with Esch-sur-Alzette becoming the European Capital of Culture in 2022.

Adventure– packed stops

Esch-Belval is a mecca for architecture enthusiasts and only one of five venues on the 35 km-long Minett Tour. The former major mining area of Fond-de-Gras, for example, boasts several locations where there is something going on at the weekend. An excursion there is a journey into the past. People of all ages can take the steam locomotive “Train 1900” from Pétange to Fond-de-Gras

through the very heart of the Land of the Red Rocks. Ever since 1973, volunteer helpers have been keeping the train line alive. “I’ve been a regular here at weekends since I was a child, initially with my father. I love tinkering with trains”, says Romain Baumann. The 36-year-old is president of the “Association des musées et tourisme ferroviaires”, riding the “Train 1900” sometimes as a stoker, sometimes as a train driver. It’s true that in days of yore the train hauled iron ore from the vicinity of Fond-de-Gras, rather than people. But one shouldn’t be so historically prickly.

The small grocery “Epicierie Victor Binck”, which was in fact previously located in Differdingen, is now part of the Fond-de-Gras.



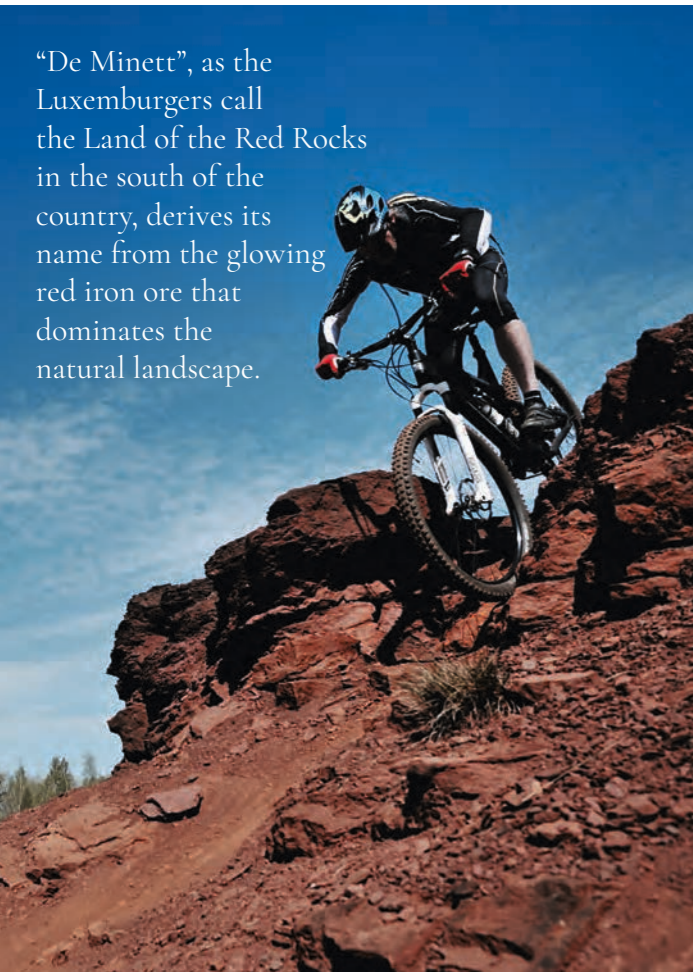
Belval was once the site of the biggest ironworks in Luxembourg and is now one of Europe’s most important urban development projects.



People of all ages can travel from Pétange to Fond-de-Gras aboard the Train 1900. It's true that in days of yore, the train hauled iron ore from the vicinity of Fond-de-Gras, rather than people. But one shouldn't be so historically pernicky.



Covering around 35 kilometres, the Minett Tour links five locations featuring different topics of interest, guiding visitors of all ages through the history of the Luxembourg steel industry up to the present day and indeed into the future. Throughout the year, folk festivals, music and art festivals, concerts and exhibitions, dance and theatre productions magically transform the locations, most of which are heritage sites.



© PIERRE PAUQUAY

“De Minett”, as the Luxemburgers call the Land of the Red Rocks in the south of the country, derives its name from the glowing red iron ore that dominates the natural landscape.



Throughout the Minett Tour you can see machinery and equipment associated with Luxembourg’s iron ore mining past.



The Museum of the Cockerill Mine displays miners’ tools, a large collection of old photographs of the strenuous everyday grind and fossils found while mining the ore.



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“It’s simply marvellous to see the old products and the traditional shop” says 82-year-old Lori Gatti, on a detour with friends to Fond-de-Gras. “My brother used to work in the grocery. The steel industry has left its mark on us”, says this daughter of Italian immigrants, who like many Italian immigrants used to buy ingredients for polenta in the shop. Because that too is “de Minett”: people who came to Luxembourg from the south to work and find a new homeland.

Wild woman and rumbling wagons

As too in the small village of Lasauvage, which owes its name to a “wild woman” who is said to have lived there in the old days. On the one hand she scared the living daylights out of people but on the other hand, depending on which version of the tale you hear, she is also said to have been a healer.

Later, long after the “wild woman” had died, Lasauvage was home to workers employed exclusively in the mines of the industrialist, Count Fernand de Saintignon. Houses, a school and a bustling community came into existence. The last mine closed in 1978. To this very day, a changing room with showers and hooks on the ceiling are testimony to how hundreds of workers washed themselves clean of the dust and grime after their shift.

Nowadays one can reach the enchanting small community of Lasauvage by car or with the



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“Minièresbunn”. In days gone by the “buggies”, the wagons, were used to transport iron ore, but today they transport visitors into the dark galleries. After a few metres of rumbling in the dark, they disembark and are then allowed to hew a little rock from the walls themselves. How would the workers have felt in the constant darkness? You can try it for yourself. At least a little. And then quickly back into the daylight. Where the rock is red.

The pithead baths “Salle des pendus” was once the mineworkers’ changing room and baths. The clothes hung on the hooks of a chain-driven roller system, enabling the clothes to dry quicker in the air and simplifying the cleaning of the floor.

With the steam locomotive to Fond-de-Gras: here you will find several restored historical buildings: a power station, a grocery shop, a rolling mill, together with the old railway station and various railway buildings.



Other stops worth seeing:

→ **Museum of the Cockerill Mine**, Esch-sur-Alzette: The restored Katzenberg mine site with the Museum of the Cockerill Mine displays the miners' tools and machinery, a large collection of old photographs of the strenuous everyday grind, transport material and fossils found while mining the ore. A working forge can be visited at the weekend.

→ **National mining museum**, Rümelingen: The bulk of the collection is to be seen in the mine's subterranean galleries where it was previously used. The traditional sightseeing tour starts aboard a small mine train. The train takes you through old opencast mines before entering the underground mine through the Langengrund tunnel.

→ **Nature reserve** with orchid treasures: Nowadays, the former opencast mining area "Prénzebiërg - Giele Botter" is a nature reserve covering several hundred hectares.

A discovery trail leads through the Land of the Red Rocks, where new habitats have come into being – after Minett extraction ceased. Here for example you will find rare orchid species. On the nearby Titelberg, excavations revealed an important settlement built by the Celts in the 1st century BC.

→ **Eat like the miners did:** Traditional hearty dishes are available in the "Bei der Giedel" restaurant in Fond-de-Gras. The former rustic style miners' café serves fondue, raclette, vegetable tarts and other specialities. The terrace is also a good place to sit and soak up the atmosphere.

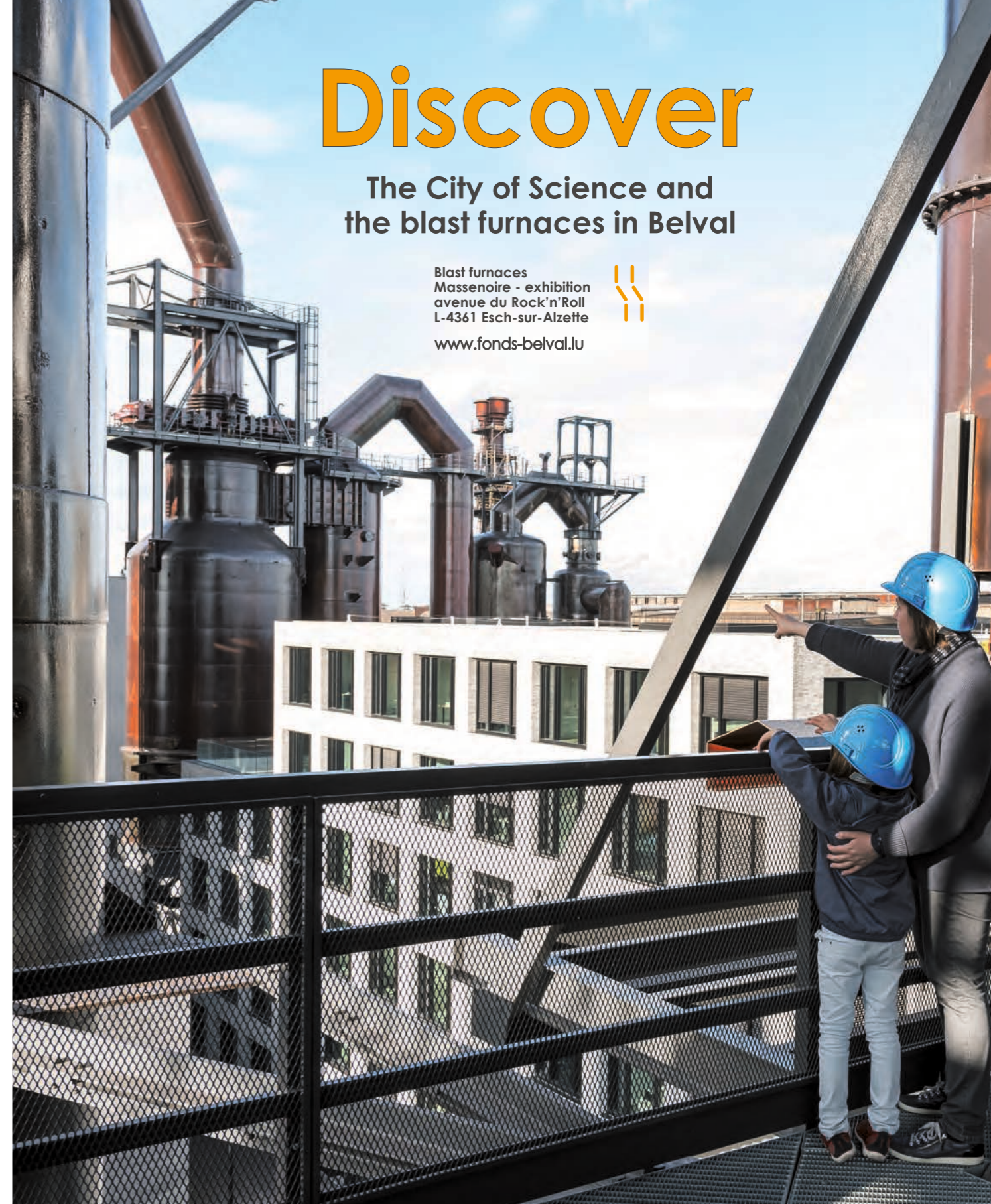
→ **Steam Punk Convention:** Once a year, in the early autumn, Fond-de-Gras hosts a spectacular Steam Punk Convention. It is inundated by fans of wacky, old-fashioned, techno-retro look clothing. There is street entertainment, concerts, a Victorian market, an exhibition of steam punk creations, historical steam engines and much else besides to discover.

www.minetttour.lu

Discover

The City of Science and the blast furnaces in Belval

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www.fonds-belval.lu





For this edition of *Luci*, we gave carte blanche to Luxembourg photographer **Mike Zenari**. In his expressive series of photos, the artist shows the *Schueberfouer* fair, first founded in 1340, as he sees it through the camera lens today. Luxembourg's biggest funfair attracts over two million visitors every year. www.fouer.lu











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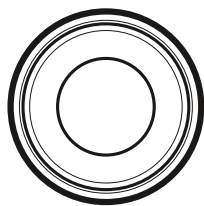


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