



SUPERCHARGED

THE INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE FOR TESLA OWNERS AND ENTHUSIASTS

MARCH 2020 N°14



A woman with a mission to Mars

Up-close and personal experience and ride along in the Tesla Cyber Truck



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DEAR READERS,
DEAR TESLA OWNERS AND CLUB MEMBERS,
DEAR RESERVATION HOLDERS,
DEAR SHAREHOLDERS,
DEAR EV ENTHUSIASTS,
DEAR SPACE TRAVELLERS,**

On behalf of Tesla Owners Club Belgium, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and all the Best Wishes for 2020! We thank you all for a Fantastic year. 2019 saw some major enhancements, events and news in the quest of "accelerating the world's transition to sustainable energy". Look no further, 2020 is looking great ahead too. With your support and enthusiasm, we'll achieve even more.

6



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- AS ADVENTURE

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Welcome to your fourteenth edition of SuperCharged, your independent Magazine for Tesla Owners, Reservation holders, Club Members, Shareholders and EV enthusiasts.

WELCOME TO ALL new Owners! The more the merrier, we get more everyday! We are delighted to have you onboard and we look forward to our exchanges! Supercharged is a great way to break the ice and join the Community.

New readers or simply wanted to read past editions?

SuperCharged is available online, with past editions here: www.teslaclub.be/supercharged

We may sound 'like a broken record', still, but Supercharged is only 'as good as the energy' we are putting in along with qualitative content. We welcome as always your topics proposals and your invitation for collaborating with the editorial team. We look forward to hearing from you, contact us through our Club website. Thank you for your ongoing support and trust.



ON BEHALF OF TESLA OWNERS CLUB BELGIUM VZW/ASBL



Byron Soulopoulos
President
@soulopoulos



Gwenn Schoovaerts
Managing Director
@gwenn85



Martin Gillet
*VP Global Communication
and Marketing*
@mgillet



**Christophe
Duponcheele**
Network Evangelist
@duponcheele



Kelly Van Eekel
Event Manager
@KellyVanEekel

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For this fourteenth edition, we have lined up a great agenda for you. We have wrapped up the major events & news, including version 10 getting rolled out to all Owners.

We have the lowdown for you on the Global Leadership Summit, that recently took place in California. Some of the participants that helped make it happen, shared their insights on this well-driven event.

We also debriefed your Champagne Tour edition 2019 where we reached out to our EVents Managers and several guests in order to review the key highlights of this fantastic weekend.

Despite its small size, Belgium has some key initiatives. We reached out to Koen Vermout -CEO AZTEQ- regarding the Pioneering Solar Hear Project [Antwerp Petchem Terminal Installs Solar Thermal Power System with concentrated solar thermal energy (CST)]. which was launched at the end of last year.

The ongoing projects and launches of Space X have turned the spotlight on Mars. Who better to turn to for more information than Professeur Véronique Dehant from the Royal Observatory of Belgium (ORB). Véronique is one of the world's leading authorities on the subject of Mars. She told us about her involvement with ExoMars, the exciting new mission to be launched this year.

With all the current 'hype' around the markets, we reached out to Hubert Dekock to get a clearer picture. He shared some of his expertise in investing, particularly in \$TSLA stock.

Julian Hakes from the Tesla Owners Club UK was onsite during the Cybertruck unveiling, his shares with us his review and insights on a rich presentation with an 'epic fail' that kept all of us entertained!

As more and more Model 3 are seen on the roads, we also wanted to share some insights from Jeffrey Kuttering driving his beloved Model 3.

Future is Electric! We also cherish new initiatives with electrification. As we have many pilots amongst Tesla Owners, we were very pleased to see the World's first electric race plane unveiling at Dubai Airshow. What a journey, quite challenging. Learn more about it in this article.

As always, we look forward to your impressions, stories, article ideas and feedback as well as welcoming you during our monthly events. Keep up the conversations online through social media, 'share the Love' using hashtag #TeslaClubBE Best pictures are featured in our Instagram feed.

Once more, we wish you an Amazing Year, with Family, Friends and your Tesla of course. Safe travels and journeys, we look forward to meeting you during our EVents and to hear about your stories.

On behalf of Tesla Owners Club of Belgium vzw/asbl,

Martin Gillet

Vice President Global Communications and Marketing Tesla Owners Club Belgium asbl/vzw.

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CLUB EVENTS AND MORE

Club is always looking for great venues and ideas to organize cheerful events and memories. Feel free to submit ideas and locations, Community at work, the more ideas, the more creative, the merrier. Team Work! All our events are listed under eventbrite, join us and plan ahead as places might be limited: <http://TeslaClub.eventbrite.com>

eKarting - 2019 EDITION

We have been enjoying eKarting for awhile; last year we planned a joyful eKarting edition. this fine evening with Tesla Owners The changeable track setup made it even more playful. We look forward to next editions in 2020.



Source Tesla Owners Club Belgium Credit Kelly Van Eekel



TESLA RANGER ON DUTY! SEQUEL! MEET & GREET AT EDEGEM SUPERCHARGER

After a fruitful Tesla Ranger visit in Wavre, Tesla Belgium, led by the Leadership of Zaventem Service Center has organized on December 12th 2019, a visit of the Tesla Mobile Service team at the Supercharger in Edegem.

It was an opportunity for us, customers, to meet and greet the Mobile team along with getting acquainted. They were present with their Mobile Cars and Vans in order to support our Customers requests (12V battery changes, door handle adjustments or replacements, New key learning, Wiper replacement on all models, Model 3 spoiler installation and more).

It was a moment to connect and get answers on our Technical questions, but also a moment to have our cars serviced at a location outside of the busy traffic around the city. Appointments were made through the app so that if needed, spare parts could also be ordered.

As v10 was just rolling out, a Marketing car was available onsite with the latest Firmware, so one could gaze at the future and what's to come.

NEXT EVENTS & CLUB EVENTS

All Club events can be found under www.teslaclub.be/events

Join us! The more the merrier!

Electrifying and cheerful moments as always!

Have an idea or would like to host one of Club Event? Get in touch with our Event Manager kelly@teslaclub.be



SAVE THE DATE! TESLA WORLD IS BACK! WELCOME TO TESLA OWNERS WORLD!

Since our first Conference 'Tesla World' and the amazing Agenda and speakers lined up, we have been giving a lot of thoughts on the next Conference. We gave birth to Tesla Owners World.

Save the date! Ter Helst, Edegem Supercharger: 10 October 2020! More information to follow soon through our newsletter and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TeslaOwnersWorld/> - Registration <https://teslaowner-world.eventbrite.com> All Events details to follow in your newsletter. Not registered yet (Free registration) Register here: www.teslaclub.be/ > Menu > Newsletter

More Events to come! Watch this space: <https://www.teslaclub.be/en/events>

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

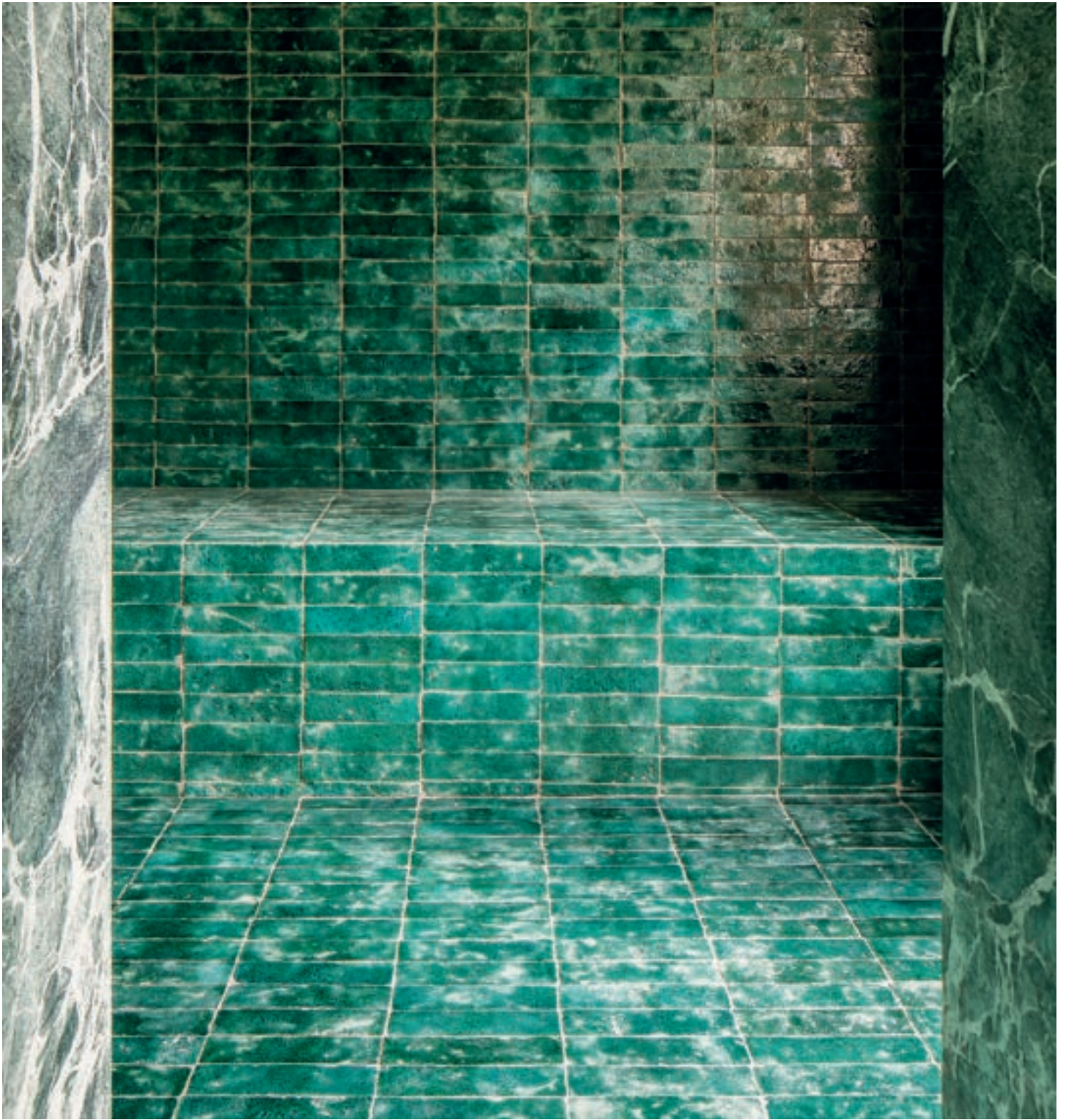
CYBERTRUCK UNVEIL

Earlier in November 2019, Tesla unveiled its newest offering, the Cybertruck, at an event near the SpaceX facility in Los Angeles. Like it or not, it did entertain the social media for quite a while with an 'epic fail' for the great pleasure of all! Via Business Insider (Source and Credit): Watch Tesla unveil its pickup truck in under 6 minutes www.businessinsider.com/watch-tesla-unveil-cybertruck-pickup-truck-fail-2019-11?

More insights from Motortrend (Source and Credit) <http://motortrend.com/cybertruck>

GIGAFACTORY 4 WILL BE IN BERLIN AREA, GERMANY

In november 2019, Elon Musk confirmed that "Tesla is going to build Gigafactory 4 in 'Berlin area'". This is great news for Europe. Read the full story from Electrek (Source and Credit) <https://electrek.co/2019/11/12/tesla-giga-factory-4-berlin-germany/>



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NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

TESLA Q4 2019 VEHICLE PRODUCTION & DELIVERIES

Further to the Press Release, "Tesla has achieved, In the fourth quarter, a record production of almost 105,000 vehicles and record deliveries of approximately 112,000 vehicles. In 2019, we delivered approximately 367,500 vehicles, 50% more than the previous year and in line with our full year guidance." This is a job well done, Congratulations to all parties involved in towards this result and Achievement. Read the full story: <https://ir.tesla.com/node/20341/pdf>

TESLA IS THE DECADE'S BEST-PERFORMING AUTO COMPANY

According to Bloomberg: "Anyone who bought the stock when Tesla went public in 2010 has a bonanza of 1,190%. Among the biggest surprises of the past decade was the initial public offering of the Palo Alto company that outperformed every automaker from Detroit to Toyota City to Wolfsburg and is now the undisputed champion of total return, sales growth and long-term shareholder value."

Read the full story (Source and Credit Bloomberg) <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2019-12-23/tesla-is-decade-s-best-performing-automaker>

BRUSSELS MOTOR SHOW 2020

Brussels was the place to be as it kicked off the 98th Brussels Motor Show. It opened to the Grand Public from January 10th until 19th. Over 100,000 m2, 160 exhibitors, 18 'World Première'. According to Press, 1/5 of all cars on display are Electric and/or Hybrid. All manufacturers involved in Formula E are displaying their racing car. EV's certainly made it this year... Tesla was ready and Teams were pleased to meet & greet in Hall 6. Model S, 3, X were on display on the showfloor.



Credit Tesla Owners Club Belgium & Source: Martin Gillet

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NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

TESLA CHINA: DELIVERIES STARTED!

Yipikaye! Excellent news! Tesla continues its expansion and has started delivering its Shanghai-made Model 3 cars to the public in China earlier this January 2020. According to CNN "The first step in CEO Elon Musk's much bolder plan for the world's biggest market." Read the full story (Source and Credit: CNN) <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/01/07/tech/tesla-elon-musk-china/index.html>

TESLA OWNERS CLUB NETHERLANDS

Excellent! Our next door neighbors are finally welcoming an official Tesla Owners Club. Tesla Owners Club Belgium welcomes Tesla Owners Club Netherlands! We have reached out to John Timmer: "In 2019 the Tesla Owners Club Netherlands www.teslaownersclub.nl was founded by a group of Tesla enthusiasts that had been active in the community for a long time (E-Rally since 2014, Road trips to Norway, Switzerland, Austria and Italy) and they concluded that because of all the new drivers in the Netherlands time had come to start the Club to make sure that as many drivers as possible will be able to participate in the future! The first months were all about getting started, website, administration, first members, first events... Highlights were certainly "the scavenger hunt" in the beautiful Kempen, incl. the break at the abbey of Postel, the drive in cinema event (see pics), and the Model 3 delivery experience 2019 in Amsterdam! The first steps have been made to work together on several events and we are looking forward to our cooperation!"



T&EMAGAZIN

Congratulations to the Tesla Owners Club Switzerland and the T&Emagazin. We do know how much energy and Passion it takes to energize such publications, we wish you all the best! "T & Emagazin sees itself as a project of the community. Supported by Tesla Driver and Friends e.V. and the Tesla Owners Club Helvetia in media partnership with the Federal Association eMobility, the aim is to promote the electrification of mobility and to provide information on related issues." They can be found at <https://shop.temagazin.de/kategorie/magazin/>

CES 2020

CES 2020 was in the books with many great presentations. It took place at the Las Vegas Convention Center. From the TOYOTA immersive experience of the new Wovency to the Amazon vehicle display f. Rivian and Bosch multiplex, etc. Review the "CES 2020: highlights, video and everything announced at the world's biggest tech show" (Source and Credit TechRadar) <https://www.techradar.com/news/ces-2020-day-3-all-the-latest-news-analysis-and-cool-new-gadgets>

Join the daily only conversations and news on twitter with the Community and over 10500+ peers, join us <https://twitter.com/teslaclubbe> Hashtag #TeslaClubBE and Facebook www.facebook.com/TeslaClubBE/ Share your stories and report news. Sharing is caring! Already own a Tesla, join the extended Family and join our Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/TeslaOwnersBelgium

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TESLA GLOBAL SUMMIT ARTICLE IN LA - THE LOWDOWN

The international Global Summit for Tesla Owner Clubs took place in Los Angeles in October. Around 150 board members of Tesla owner clubs from all over the world were there. We chatted with four very active club members who took part in the summit – Sean Mitchell, Dennis Pascual, Eli Burton and Gwenn Schoovaerts...

TEXT: JOANNA PAYS

PHOTOS: TESLA OWNERS CLUB BELGIUM AND SUMMIT GUESTS



Dennis Pascual

NETWORKING EVENTS

The Global summit was big on social networking and Dennis Pascual was in charge of organising the fun-focused events. The summit kicked off with a welcome reception on the first evening. This informal get together was hosted by Unplugged Performance, a company that specialises in Tesla tuning and modifying.

“We arranged food and drinks outside, like a barbecues but a lot better, with a professional caterer specialising in vegetarian food” says Dennis. “We also had fun things to liven it up, like flame throwers. Another event we organised was an electric go kart race on the final day. About 50 people took part, so that was great. It was pretty competitive and we had all kinds of skill levels. I ended up winning first of the lowest group!”

Besides the main events on the agenda, Dennis organised plenty of other gatherings and happenings, including a visit to a Lakers game for some of the European visitors. “It’s amazing how many people from Europe attended” said Eli. “Starman made an appearance on the last day. Sadly I missed him though, as usual!”

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH TESLA DESIGN TEAM

The informative part of the sessions began with a fireside chat, with insights from leaders from the Tesla design studio. These included Javier Verdura and David Imai. Javier is the Director of Product Design and has worked on a variety of projects, from vehicle components and Superchargers, to the Solar Roof and Powerwall. David Imai is Senior Manager of Exterior and Interior Design. The discussions included a questions and answers session, where Tesla owners were able to give some feedback on things that they would like to see changed.

“For me, one of the most enlightening parts of the summit was hearing from Tesla’s Director of Design” says Eli. “It was interesting to hear him speak about the reasoning for the design behind the Cybertruck.”



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Kris Baele beheerst als een van de weinige juweelontwerpers zowel de goudsmeedkunst als de verlorenwastechniek. Daarom kan hij perfect inspelen op de vraag van elke klant.

VAN OUD NAAR NIEUW

Wilt u eer doen aan het verleden, maar toch mee zijn met de toekomst? Kom dan zeker eens langs om de mogelijkheden te bespreken voor nieuwe creaties van bestaand materiaal!



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ABOUT THE DELEGATES

SEAN, DENNIS, ELI AND GWENN

SEAN MITCHELL – DENVER

Sean heads up the Denver Tesla Owners Club and drives a Model S 75D from 2013. The Denver club now counts over 900 members and is one of the largest globally (visit www.denverteslaclub.org/). “We get people reaching out to us from around the world, as we are pretty active online. It’s all part of our work on improving the Tesla owner experience, so we always try to give a really quick response. Sometimes we help them by contacting other experts we know, or we may even ask Tesla in Fremont directly for help on their questions.”

Sean works in real estate but in his spare time also creates content on YouTube with a lot of interesting discussions on all things EV, renewables and energy storage. Visit www.youtube.com/user/seanmmitchell “So many Tesla owners know that the real estate business and the Tesla activities kind of cross-pollinate each other” says Sean. “EV clients are some of the greatest clients to work with as they are typically looking for someone who understands the nuances when buying a house as an EV owner – like the amount of power to the garage and solutions for home energy storage.”

GWENN SCHOOVAERTS - BELGIUM

Gwenn Schoovaerts, founder and board member of Tesla Owners Club Belgium (www.teslaclub.be), was one of the four delegates representing Belgium at the 2019 summit.

“This was the first time I’ve attended the Summit” says Gwenn. “I already knew a lot of people from some of the European clubs and I got

to meet a whole load more from the Chinese, Singaporean and US clubs. Another thing that developed from networking with other clubs at the summit was that we hope to plan some joint events with the UK club – so watch this space!”

“2020 will be a big year for us as we will be hosting the summit in Belgium” says Gwenn. “It is scheduled to take place in October and we are already very busy preparing for that.”

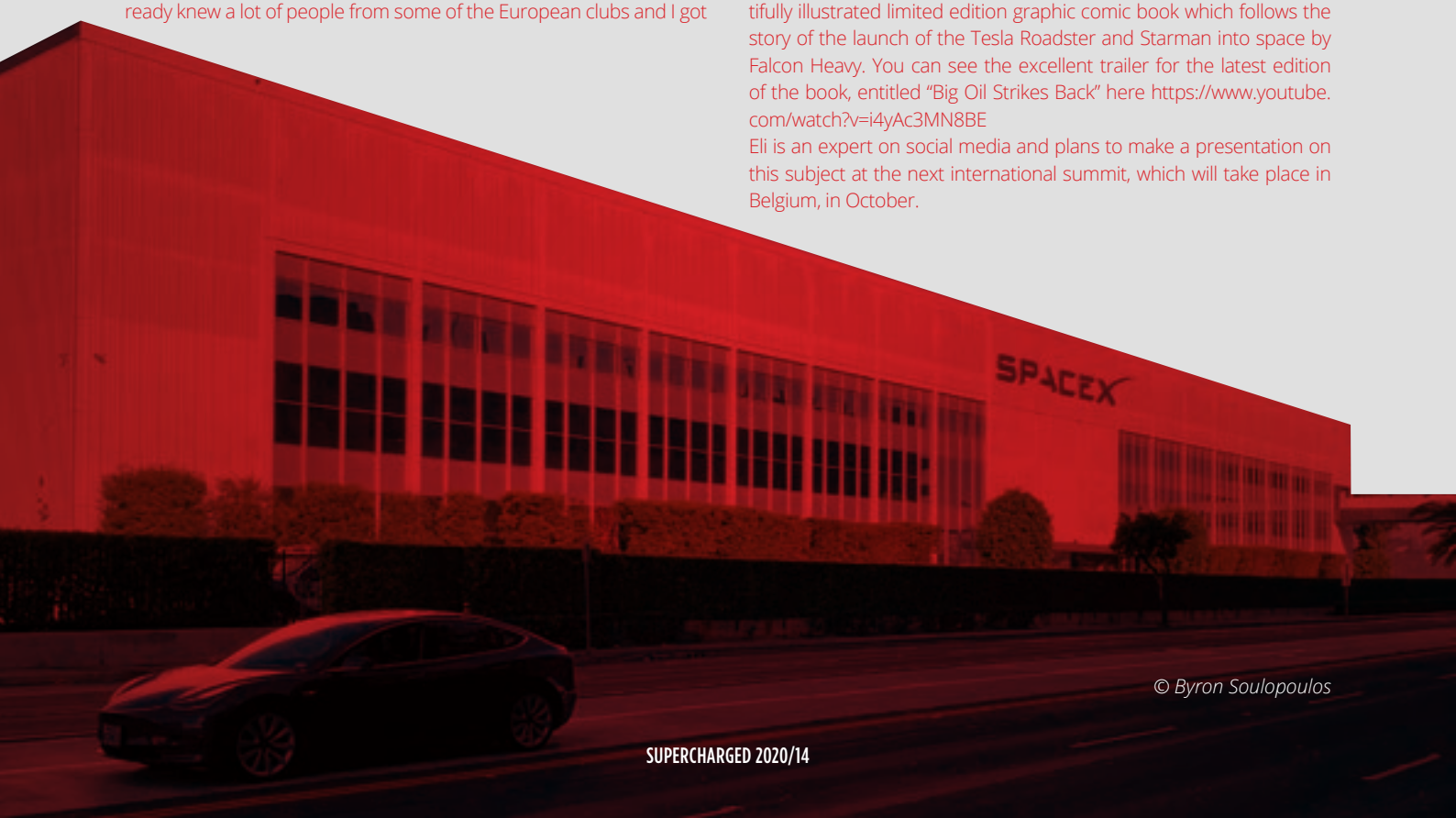
DENNIS PASCUAL – ORANGE COUNTY

Dennis Pascual has also been seen in the pages of Supercharged magazine before. He is from the Orange county club, an active club which organised events at least once a month (see <http://octeslaclub.com/>). “Because of our location near Fremont, we are probably one of the most international clubs. This has given me the opportunity to make friends from all over the world. The annual summit is a great opportunity to work on public relations for our club and the rest of the Tesla community. We are also looking to see how Tesla can help us more with our mission. One of the good things we are seeing is that Tesla has definitely formed a closer relationship with the clubs over the years.”

ELI BURTON

Eli Burton is the president and founder of My Tesla Adventure, an international club based in Sacramento (see <https://myteslaadventure.com/>). He is also the creator of the Adventures of Starman, the beautifully illustrated limited edition graphic comic book which follows the story of the launch of the Tesla Roadster and Starman into space by Falcon Heavy. You can see the excellent trailer for the latest edition of the book, entitled “Big Oil Strikes Back” here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4yAc3MN8BE>

Eli is an expert on social media and plans to make a presentation on this subject at the next international summit, which will take place in Belgium, in October.





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DISCUSSION PANEL WITH TESLA INFLUENCERS

A big highlight of the summit was the discussion panel with some of the leading social influencers on Tesla, held at the Tesla Marina del Rey store. Sean Mitchell was the moderator for the panel discussion. "I spent a lot of time preparing the panel event to make sure it really brought something to the attendees" said Sean. "On the panel we had three important Tesla influencers. There was Bonnie Norman – an early Tesla Roadster and Model X owner, Ryan McCaffery – the man behind the Ride the Lightning unofficial Tesla podcast series and Leilani Münter, racing driver and environmental activist. All three are Tesla community veterans who are in direct contact with Elon Musk."



© Byron Soulopoulos

BREAKOUTS AND WORKSHOP SESSIONS

The following day was dedicated to presentations in the morning and workshop sessions in the afternoon. Board members from the different clubs shared best practice on topics such as events organising, fundraising, sponsorship and social media.

"The breakout sessions were a great opportunity for the newer clubs to gain from the experience of clubs that have already been around for several years" said Sean. "The number of clubs is growing quickly and I believe that we are at over 100 clubs now. That means that Tesla owners are really well represented. The clubs have also been extremely useful for Tesla to get direct feedback from owners in real time, on their experiences with new products. There has definitely been a turning point in terms of how much Tesla is getting more involved."

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SOCIAL MEDIA AND PORTAL FOR TESLA CLUBS

“The way the sessions were set up meant that you could attend nearly all of them – which I did” says Eli. “One of the workshops I took part in was on social media” says Eli. “That was something I was able to contribute to quite a lot. There are a lot of people in the Tesla community who want to learn more about social media. It was also pretty exciting to hear about the upcoming portal planned for all clubs. This will be a really cool tool. It’s being built by Tesla and all accredited clubs will be able to use it.”

Tesla is finally getting closer to the clubs and that’s great to see” says Eli. “The owners clubs are really part of the Tesla owner experience and they do generate a lot of sales for Tesla. This is one of the most exciting events of the year and a very special experience.”

“The workshop sessions were a lot of fun and games” says Dennis. “The summit is an opportunity for us to brainstorm and improve what we are doing with the clubs. As our club (Orange County) is an international club, our challenge is slightly different. We are looking to see how we can speak with one voice, as we are all spread out. There were also some suggestions that came out from the workshops that we form an American national club. We discussed how that could work, as the US clubs vary from state to state. It could work as a national organisation with chapters. We have already formed an online discussion group about this.”

“One of my lasting impressions was how close knit the Tesla community is. Tesla Owner Clubs are much more than just car clubs” said Sean. “They are helping to promoting a much bigger message, to all, about the importance of sustainable energy and transport. There is clearly a much more important mission and purpose with these clubs which is unique to the Tesla brand.”

A big Thank you to all parties involved in the successful delivery of this Summit, from Tesla Teams to all Clubs Boards and Members. True definition of Team Work !.





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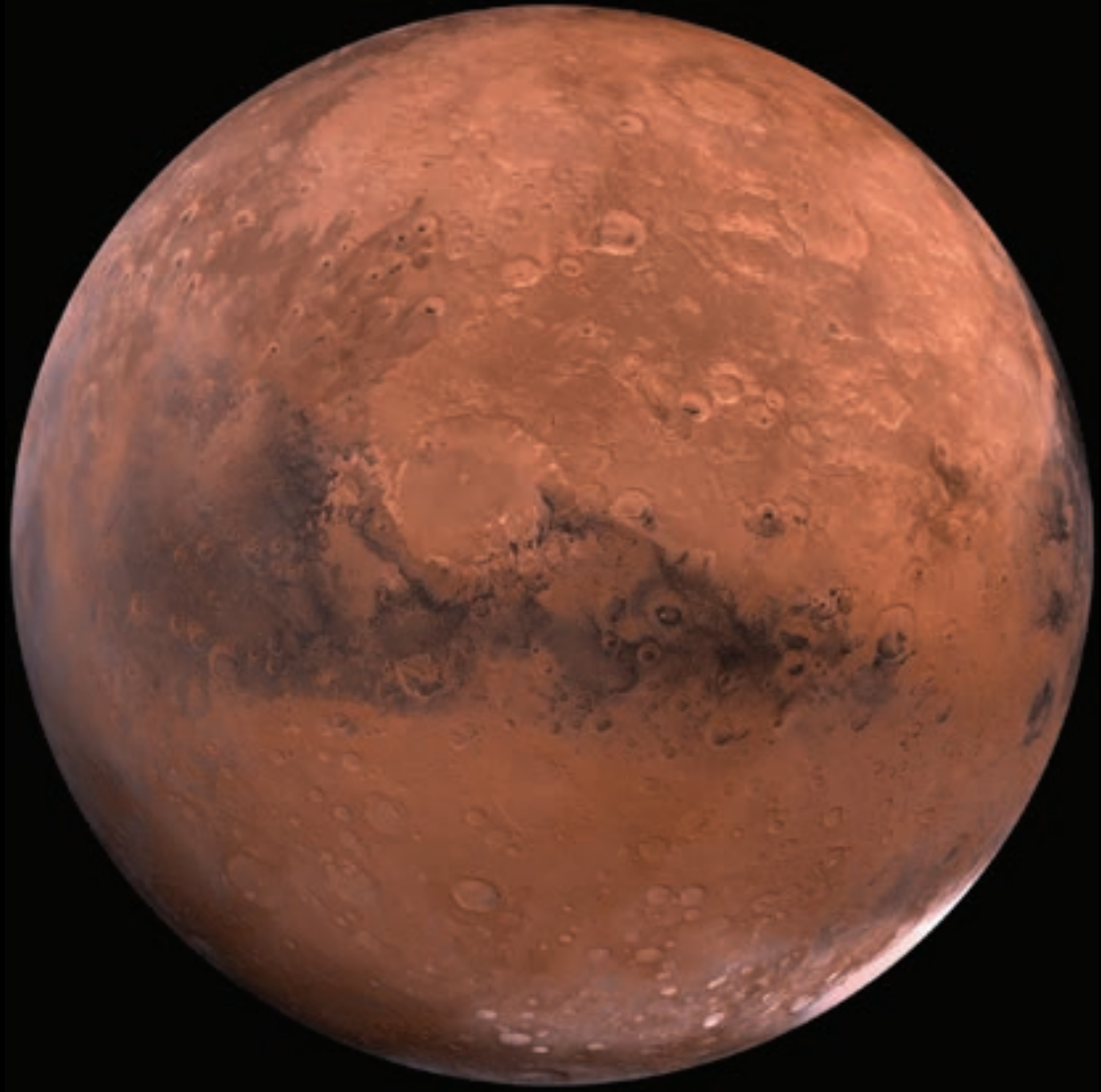
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VÉRONIQUE DEHANT

A WOMAN WITH A MISSION TO MARS

Véronique Dehant is one of Europe's leading researchers in astrophysics. Based at the Royal Observatory of Belgium (the ROB), she heads up the operational directorate (department) on reference systems and planetary science. Véronique and her department at the ROB are currently participating in ExoMars – the exciting new astrobiology programme which is looking for signs of past life on Mars. The mission is jointly led by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Russian space agency, Roscosmos.

TEXT: JOANNA PAYS - PHOTOS: VÉRONIQUE DEHANT

HOW THE JOURNEY BEGAN

Interested in astronomy from a young age, Véronique completed a bachelor degree in mathematics and physics, before going on to achieve a PhD in geophysics. In parallel to her work at the ROB, she is also a university professor at the Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain), where she has several PhD students.

“For many years I focused my research on the Earth’s rotation, the make-up of its interior and how these affect the Earth’s orientation in space” explains Véronique. “When I joined the ROB twenty years ago, to head up research on planetary science, I decided that it would be interesting to extend my research to learn more about the rotation of other planets in our solar system. During this time with my colleagues here in Belgium, industries and academia, I have developed an instrument to measure the rotation of the planet Mars. The instrument is called LaRa, which stands for Lander Radioscience.”



Véronique Dehant

EXOMARS MISSION

LaRa has been selected to join the ExoMars mission, with a launch date planned for July 2020. The ExoMars mission is sending two main elements to land on Mars – a platform that will be fixed to the planet’s surface and a rover, for robotic exploration.

The ExoMars platform will be fitted with several scientific instruments, including LaRa. LaRa will be able to communicate directly between Mars and the Earth – a distance which varies between approximately 60 million and 400 million kilometres, depending on the two planets’ respective orbits. For all of this, LaRa will only be using a similar amount of energy as a household electric lightbulb.

“LaRa will receive and return radio signals from telescopes located on Earth” explains Véronique. “On Earth, we will then measure how the frequency of radio signal has changed. This is what is called the Doppler shift. We will then be able to measure how LaRa moves with respect to the Earth – and thus more about how Mars rotates. This information will in turn be used to understand more about the structure of the core of the planet Mars. For example, how large is the core, and what are its components in addition to iron? We also want to find out how liquid the core is. As planets gradually age, their cores turn from liquid to solid. This in turn affects the planet’s rotation and wobbling effect, just as a raw egg and a cooked egg with a solid centre would rotate differently. When there are enough motions in the liquid core, a magnetic field can be present, which is important as it protects the atmosphere from Solar wind erosion. The presence of a magnetic field (and thus of a liquid core) also affects the planet’s protective atmosphere and its ability to sustain life. All of these will give information on how Mars was formed and at what state of evolution it is.”



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architectuur met respect voor historische elementen, ruime woongedeeltes en een overdaad aan groen. Uit het lijstje van troeven kan je maar één conclusie trekken: de Weylerkazerne is een once-in-a-lifetime project.



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Véronique in the clean room with an Antwerp Space engineer and a Russian engineer

“Like the Earth, Mars is a terrestrial planet, with a rocky exterior around an iron core. Mars was formed at about the same time as the Earth, about 4.6 billion years ago, but as it is smaller than the Earth, one thinks that it has aged more quickly. It no longer has a magnetic field, but it did a very long time ago. However, Mars is very different than Earth as Earth has plate tectonics. This changes the way the planet get cold as heat evacuate more easily inside the Earth. As Mars is monoplate, the heat stays inside and the thick lithosphere is acting as a cover. We want to know what is happening deeper insider the planet. For example, is the core still liquid? We are interested in all of the elements that make up Mars.”

“In Belgium our expertise on Mars is two-fold. In addition to the research that we are doing at the ROB, there are scientists at the Royal Belgium Institute for Space Aeronomy working on the atmosphere of Mars and they have developed a spectrometer to measure all the gases present in the atmosphere.”

FINALLY, COULD THERE EVER BE LIFE ON MARS?

“The ExoMars rover will be driven remotely around the planet to try to find traces of ancient life. It would have been habitable in the past, as it had liquid water. This can be seen from the surface of the planet as there are traces of water, like river beds.”

“Looking to the future, we have a lot of research to do via robotics before we can ever land on Mars. The technology has still to be developed and it would be very dangerous for humans as the temperature is extremely low (between -150°C and -200°C and as there is no atmosphere, thus no protection from radiation. The next steps in Mars exploration will be to bring samples back to Earth to analyse and that will be very interesting.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LARA, THE EXOMARS MISSION AND VÉRONIQUE'S WORK AT ROYAL OBSERVATORY OF BELGIUM VISIT:

<https://lara.oma.be/>

<https://exploration.esa.int/web/mars/-/48088-mission-overview>

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LOEWE.

CHAMPAGNE TOUR DEBRIEFING

CUVÉE 2019

Kelly Van Eekel, our Club Events Managers comes back to debrief us on our yearly amazing Champagne Tour. "From 23rd to the 25th of August 2019, the Tesla Owners Club Belgium spent an amazing weekend in the beautiful region of Champagne (France).

TEXT: KELLY VAN EEKEL AND GUESTS



It all started with a gathering at the supercharger in Nivelles. In order to be noticed as one team, we did put a sticker on the Tesla's of our participants. (Months later, it is great to see that the stickers still remain on some of the Tesla's)

On our way to Reims, we passed the south of Belgium and north of France in a convoy. We took the occasion to charge both our inner batteries as the ones of the cars. Early evening, we arrived in Reims (Novotel Tinquieux). After check-in, we gathered for a welcome drink (with the first glass of champagne of the weekend). The participants received the program of the weekend, some merchandising and the necessary information to get the most out of the weekend. After this introduction, we went for a 3-course dinner at a very nice location on the center of Reims.

After dinner, we took another drink at a square in the city as the weather was so nice... and the company too.

The next day, the program was different for each group. At the end of the weekend though, each and anyone of us had the same experiences. We visited two famous caves, Mumm and Veuve Clicquot. Interesting to get to know the particular history, the process and the tasting of course. During the weekend, the participants had some free time to visit some "smaller" champagne houses or to visit the beautiful city of Reims.

One of the most exclusive experiences of the weekend, was the lunch at Mumm's Mill of Verzenay. The view is breathtaking: as far as you can see: vinyards! Imagine driving through these vinyards with your Tesla!

At this very special location, we had the chance to enjoy a 4-course lunch, prepared by a top chef. Each dish was joined with a very high end champagne of Mumm. The uniqueness of the champagnes was explained by the fact that you can only buy them at the shop next to the Mumm house. In former times these special champagnes (RSRV)



© Kelly Van Eekel



© Kelly Van Eekel



© Xavier Criel



© Byron Soulopoulos

were given by the family of Mumm on special occasions to friends/family/loved once. We all enjoyed the delicious lunch, champagnes and the views!

In the evening, we gathered for a diner in the "garden" (Jardin) of a beautiful Castle. After diner, we had the chance to see the light show at the cathedral of Reims.

It was again a great weekend with amazing participants! We are looking forward to spend another great Champagne weekend in August 2020!"

Enjoy the full video debriefing: <https://tinyurl.com/TOCBSC14Cheers>

We reached out to some of your Guests and asked them to describe their experience in a 'testimonial'. **Servaas and Esther Kokkelmans** said it was "A bubbly weekend to always remember". Indeed: "We had the pleasure to join the Tesla Owners Club Belgium this year with the Champagne tour.

We already heard good and tasteful stories about the weekends and so wanted to go and experience it ourselves...

What an amazing time we had together. The weekend was filled with wonderful moments that (in)directly had to do with Champagne and there was also enough time for ourselves between those moments...During those times we enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of the area we were staying, the endless fields with vines, the beautiful small villages that exist because of the Champagne and everything that comes with creating this liquid gold...The very kind people living there and working very hard, and the hidden treas-

ures, sometimes even between the vines (we found a very old, small church on a hill surrounded by nothing but vines). Of Course our loyal Model S took us everywhere, which enhanced the experience. The group of participants was so big this year that they had to split them up. Two groups enjoying all the good things the weekend has to offer but on different moments. We enjoyed the company of the group we were having all the fun with but also appreciated the fact that we did have moments together with the other group included as well. We learned about Champagne by visiting a few different houses. Very interesting to hear how they work, create and what the philosophy and history is behind it all. Veuve Clicquot was by far our favorite of the weekend, the taste, the people and the location





© Jonathan Palmaers

were all amazing. As far as food is concerned the TOCB really put in a lot of effort to offer us something special. From a nice and cosy brasserie to a very high end (literally) starchef made dinner at the Moulin de Verzenay. I was able to decapitate my first bottle of Champagne, with a sword of course, and was very pleased to be successful the first try ...I kept the cork for good luck...We feel very happy that we joined this amazing weekend and will try to join again next year. We are thankful to have been able to meet such wonderful people in the groups, enjoyed such great food every meal and drink the best Champagne that France has to offer. Thank you TOCB, keep up the good work and definitely let us know when the next weekend is going to take place!"

Daiva Riaubaite and Wim Pelgrims highlighted that *"The Champagne tour was for us a unique experience to meet other Tesla lovers where we can exchange experiences, in and outs about Tesla cars and a great platform to connect with like minded people about technology, IT and science.*

Driving around the Champagne region in France with a line up of Tesla S, 3 and X cars is a great feeling to be part of the future of electric driving. Driving around the magnificent landscape, enjoying the good food of the region and of course delicious champagne tastings, makes that all our sentences were fulfilled. The connection between all the participants was great...we definitely made some new friends. Looking forward to the next Tour in 2020...We're in!"

Don't drive and drive. Enjoy responsibly'.



© Xavier Criel



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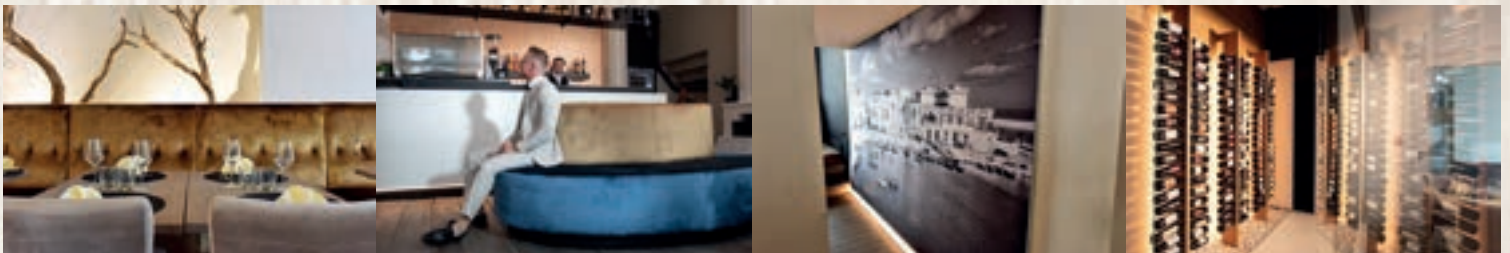
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Investment in new and more ecological forms of technology extends beyond the field of mobility. The industrial sector, too, is working on these issues. The Port of Antwerp, the Flemish Government, and ADPO (Antwerp Distribution and Product Operations) are putting their weight behind a pilot scheme involving 1,000m² of solar mirrors, which have been shining on the premises of the logistics services company in Beveren since October. Filip De Dijcker, managing director of ADPO, tells us how his company has been endeavouring for years to be a pioneer in renewable energy.

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TEXT: JEROEN COTEUR - PHOTOS: ADPO





ADPO, based in the section of the Port of Antwerp located in Beveren, is a logistics service provider for the petrochemical industry. Filip De Dijcker tells us: 'We receive ocean vessels, which are loaded and unloaded here by order of third parties. Our clients come mainly from the processing industry and include names like BASF and Bayer. They send commodities here from all over the world and we are responsible for receiving those commodities and distributing them to their various European production plants. We also offer a fully integrated service and transport. We are still a family business with about 350 employees.'

FROM SOLAR PANELS TO LNG TRUCKS

As a player within the logistics and chemical sectors, ADPO aims to show society that these sectors can also be part of the solution by providing solutions for climate challenges. 'Ten years ago, we started to install 4,000 solar panels, which yielded 700MWh annually. We've also introduced a good number of electric vehicles to our vehicle fleet. We have about sixty company vehicles and are opting more and more for hybrid or 100% electric vehicles. For instance, we're now building a new car park with thirty charging stations, which can be powered by electricity from our solar panels. We also try to operate as sustainably as possible for heavier transport. 15 of our 40 trucks run completely on LNG (liquefied natural gas). To that end, five years ago, we even built our first on-site LNG fuel station.'

GREAT ENERGY NEEDS

Liquid chemicals which arrive at ADPO are discharged into huge storage tanks. 'Those tanks have a capacity of 1,000m³ (i.e. 1 million litres). Electric coils are connected to those tanks to ensure that products are kept at the right temperature. Many of those products have to be stored between 50 and 60°C. Lots of energy is needed to maintain that temperature constantly. That's energy which we prefer to generate as sustainably as possible. That's why, in recent years, we've entered into a pilot scheme together with the Port and the Flemish Government to support this energy transition.'

SOLAR MIRROR TO GENERATE POWER

In October, the first solar mirror farm in the Port of Antwerp opened at ADPO. This comprises 1000m² of solar mirrors, parabolas to be precise, which absorb sunlight and channel it to one central point. That central point is a pipeline through which thermal oil flows, which absorbs the heat and can reach temperatures of up to 350°C. In turn, this thermal oil exudes its heat (in a container with a heat exchanger) in water. This creates steam, which we inject into our internal steam network and which we can use to heat the tanks. Moreover, we've also installed the solar mirrors on supports so that they are located above our tracks and car parks and trucks can simply be driven under them. That means we haven't sacrificed any expensive square metres of business premises.'

VERY HIGH OUTPUT

The pilot scheme will be assessed after one year, but Filip De Dijcker already has high hopes. He says: 'The output of solar mirror parabolas is three times greater than that of commercial solar panels. Solar panels are photovoltaic and are used to generate electricity. We use solar mirrors to generate steam. We can use that steam, for instance, to drive a steam turbine, which generates electricity. If we see after a year that it operates efficiently, we can upgrade it. Not only on our site, but also in the processing industry where a great deal of heat is needed to bring about chemical processes.'

REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT

ADPO aims to be socially relevant as a company and therefore pays a lot of attention to climate challenges. Filip De Dijcker concludes: 'We have to enthruse young people to work in our sector. That's why we want to show that we're ahead of the game in that energy transition by investing in breakthrough technology. Yet at the same time we also reduce the carbon footprint of our clients, something which is also important. The entire processing industry has to pay emission rights. These new forms of technology can reduce these emissions considerably, whereby those companies will pay less CO² tax and will therefore be more competitive.'

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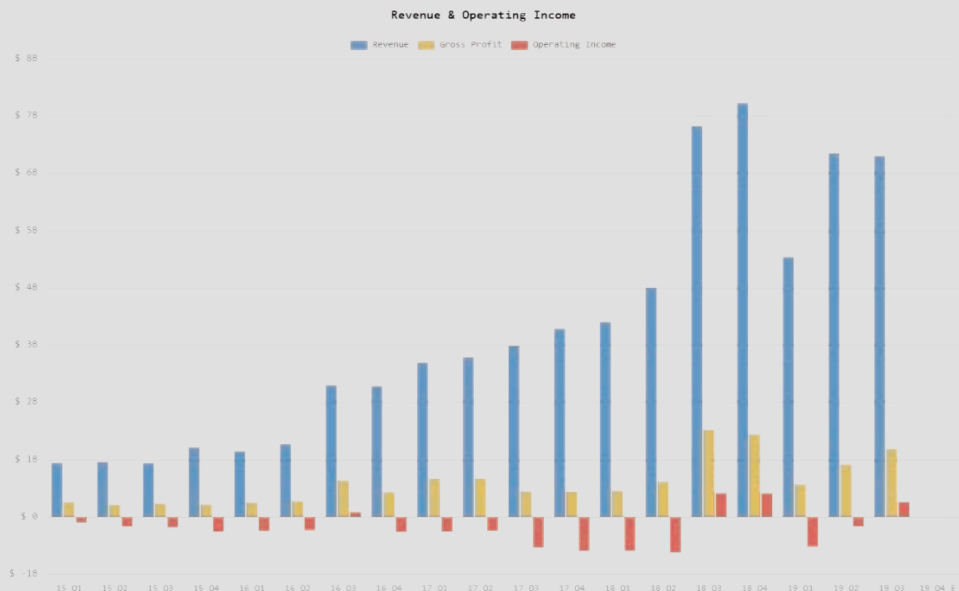
INVESTING IN TESLA

INSIGHTS FROM AN EXPERT

Thinking about investing in Tesla but want to understand more about it first? We turned to Hubert Dekock, investor, trader and member of Tesla Owner Club Belgium, for some advice. He shared with us some explanations on general financial terminologies and gave us his insights on investing in Tesla.

TEXT: JOANNA PAYS

As a chart can say a thousand words, take a look:



As a background, Hubert purchased his first Tesla, a Model S P85D, in 2014, but he had already been investing in the company for some time before. He began his financial career over 20 years ago, during which time he was a Senior Portfolio Manager at ING Belgium and at ING Investment Management, managing over €1 billion. An expert in the telecoms and IT sector, he also launched an investment fund for ING and set up several start-up companies of his own. After a period with Deutsch Bank, he decided to dedicate his skills to his own personal investments and that of his family. It was through his interest in tech companies that he began investing in PayPal and subsequently Elon Musk's other ventures. Hubert is also an active member of the Tesla Owners Club Belgium.

Q: What are the TESLA Financial Statements and what do they tell us about the company?

The income statement is one of the three important financial statements used for reporting a company's financial performance over a specific accounting period. The other two key statements are the balance sheet and the statement of cash flows. Also known as the 'profit and loss' statement, the income statement primarily focuses on the company's revenues and expenses during a particular period. It starts with the details of sales, and then works down to compute the net income and the earnings per share (EPS). It is reported quarterly for US listed companies. In Tesla's case, I mainly focus on the underlying top line growth and on margins to gauge the quality of the underlying business trend.

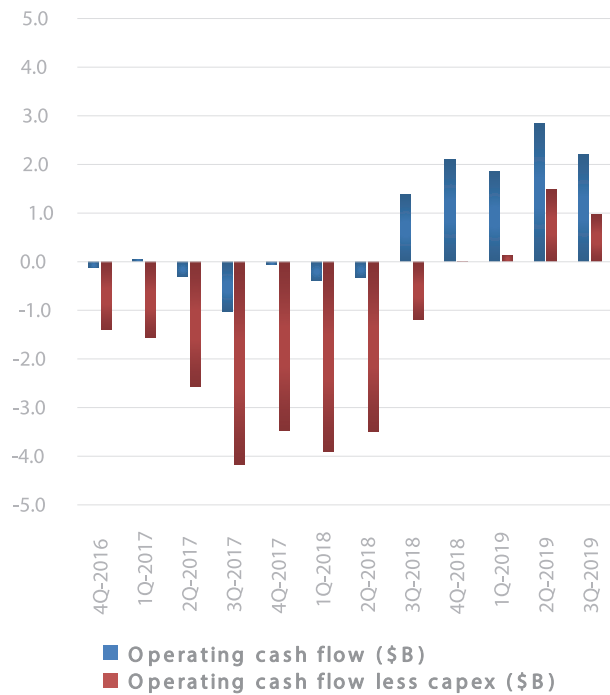
Source for the charts: <https://hypercharts.co/tsla>

The bottom line of these charts is that we can see outstanding growth, but lumpy margins. This is normal for a company that launches new products every couple of years.

The balance sheet is a financial statement that reports a company's assets, liabilities and shareholders' equity at a specific point in time. It is a financial statement that provides a snapshot of what a company owns and owes, as well as the amount invested by shareholders. In Tesla's case, I mainly focus on the total debt level and the net cash position (how much money is left in the bank to fund future growth projects). I also take a look at the 'deferred revenue' line (when a company sells a "promise" of a future product rather than the product itself, they cannot recognize the revenue for that product immediately). Indeed when Tesla sells FSD (Full Self Driving), they are not able to book these sales in the Income Statement as it is deferred. You can view these as future revenues when FSD is rolled out (with software-like margins!). Another interesting item in the balance sheet is the 'Customer deposits' line. This is where you will find the total amount of deposits for people reserving the Tesla Model Y, Cybertruck, Tesla Semi and Roadster 2.

The cash flow statement is often viewed as the most intuitive of all the financial statements. This is because it follows the cash made by the business in three main ways—through operations (such as selling cars, powerpacks/powerwalls and solar), investment (capital expenditure), and financing (did the company issue new shares and/or increase/reduce its debt?). The sum of these three segments is called net cash flow. In Tesla's case, I usually focus on the operational cash flow (basically: how much cash is the business producing?) and the capex (capital investments). Capex is investment on future growth projects, for example new product lines in Fremont, expanding the Gigafactory #1 in Nevada and adding new Gigafactories in China and Europe.

TRAILING 12 MONTHS



Source: Tesla Q3 2019

When you look at the 3 statements together and over the years, you can see that Tesla has been turning the corner, following several years of heavy investment financed by issuing more equity and debt. Tesla can now finance its next growth phase through its own operations (its operating cash flow). There were some doubts about its ability to do so a few months back – as there were questions raised on whether the margins on the Model 3 were sufficient. The last reported quarter (Q3 2019) showed that the gross margins on the Model 3 were good (gross margins superior to 20%). This is a major blow to Tesla's naysayers! On top of this, Tesla now also has more than \$5 billion in cash at the bank, which is a nice cushion to accelerate its expansion with the Gigafactories in China and Europe.

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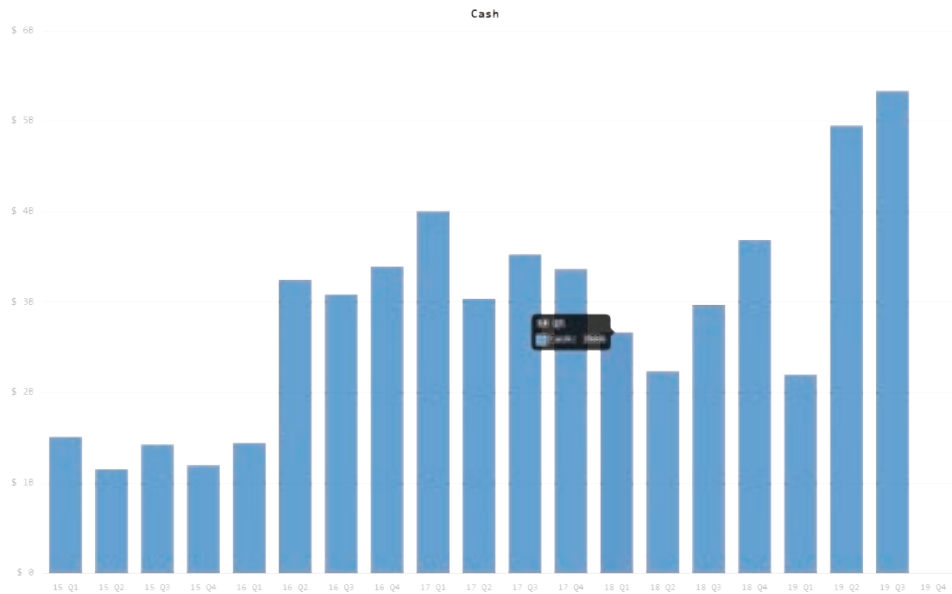
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Source: <https://hypercharts.co/tsla>

Q - Can you define the notion of shorters?

Shorters (or short sellers) are traders (mostly hedge funds) who speculate on the decline in a stock. They think that a stock is overvalued (its price is too high) and will go down in price eventually. What is commonly misunderstood is that they can do this for multiple reasons and using multiple strategies (see the following link for a quick intro to the subject: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/shortselling.asp>). This is not a problem in itself if you are a long term investor into a stock (it even allows you to buy the stock at a discount from time to time). However, it can become a problem if these speculators try to spread false and misleading information (FUD - see below) that could impact the real business of a company.

Q - What are your views on 'fake news' concerning TESLA?

Short sellers like to spread all kind of FUD (an acronym for Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt) news about Tesla. They use traditional media outlets to help them, as negative headlines are known to generate clicks. You should just ignore them and stay focused on the real story, as the products speak for themselves. Customers love their Teslas, even if they are not perfect and can still be further improved. There's enough fake news out there about Tesla and EVs (Electric Vehicles) on the internet. Enough said. Listen up to this video of Steve Jobs from 1997 about the press and the stock price. It is pretty much on point about Tesla today: <https://twitter.com/tesletter/status/113308355999156226>

Q - What is your feeling for the upcoming end quarter results?

The last quarter of 2019 should be good for Tesla. In 2020, Q1 and Q2 will be tougher for multiple reasons, but Q3 and Q4 should be outstanding. This is what Elon Musk explained during the 'Q2 2019 Q&A Webcast' and I believe him.

Elon Musk: "(...) demand in Q3 will exceed Q2. It has thus far and I think we'll see some acceleration of that. So -- and then I think Q4 will be, I think very strong. So we expect that quarter-over-quarter improvements. I think Q1 next year will be tough. I think Q3 or 4 will be good, Q1 will be tough. Q2 will be not as bad, but still tough. And then I see like Q3 and Q4 next year will be incredible."

You can listen to Tesla Q&A Webcasts here: <https://ir.tesla.com/events-and-presentations>.

Transcripts are also available on the web for an easier understanding:

Q3 2019: www.fool.com/earnings/call-transcripts/2019/10/24/tesla-inc-tsla-q3-2019-earnings-call-transcript.aspx

Q2 2019: www.fool.com/earnings/call-transcripts/2019/07/24/tesla-inc-tsla-q2-2019-earnings-call-transcript.aspx

Q- What should we bear in mind in the short or medium term?

2020 is an election year in the US – so I'm expecting more volatile markets ahead ("What if democrats win and undo Trump's tax cuts?"). Investors should never forget that the primary market force influencing the stock price of any company is the general market mood. It's totally normal and expected to have healthy stock market corrections from time to time. On top of this, interest rates are super low (I would even say abnormally low) across the world. I would not be surprised to see long term interest rates rise, impacting the credit markets and the general stock market in a negative way (multiple contraction).



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Q - Anything else you would like to add?

People often ask me if they should buy \$TSLA stock. Obviously, an investment professional would tell you first that it depends on your risk tolerance and investor profile and objectives. But that's not what you want to hear, right?

My honest answer would then be "Yes". If you believe in Tesla's products and its mission, you should probably buy some shares. In that case, the right question to ask yourself is more "How much of my investment portfolio should I have in \$TSLA?"

Let me explain. The range is obviously between 0% and 100% (theoretically). If you put a very low percentage (around 1% for example) of your portfolio in \$TSLA, it won't make much of a difference for you at the end. If it gains 50% you will have made a +0.50% return on your total portfolio. The same if it falls by 50%, as you will only have lost 0.50%. So why would that even matter?! Because buying too many small positions (over 30) is what I call over-diversification. If you want to diversify excessively, then just buy an index fund, as it will be cheaper.

On the opposite extreme, if you have 100% of your portfolio invested into \$TSLA, you're taking too much risk. Will you be able to handle corrections of -30%, -50% or more along the way? Probably not and you will probably end up selling at the worst time, in panic. Major corrections (-30%, -50% or more) happen with any stock, believe me, even the strongest ones. This is even more so when it comes to growth and technology stocks. Just take a look at Apple, Amazon or Netflix over the last few decades.

So, in practice, you want this percentage to be high enough to make a difference for you, but not too high either, so that you can still sleep at night if and when the stock falls substantially. I would start with a 3% to 5% starting position for novice investors, and build that up towards 20%-25% range for the more experienced investors, who can stomach the volatility along the way. And remember, investing is a long term game!

DISCLAIMER:

Hubert is a stockholder in \$TSLA (long position). He only answered these questions to help demystify financial markets for the general masses, and he expressed his own opinion. He is not receiving any compensation for this information and he has no business relationship with any company whose stock is mentioned in this article.

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Article written on Dec 12th, 2019. \$TSLA at 359.68 USD. You can reach Hubert at Hubert.dekock@gmail.com

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IKEA OF AUTOMOTIVE WORLD? OR CYBER PUNK'D?

UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND RIDE ALONG IN THE TESLA CYBER TRUCK

Hi, I am Julian Hakes and I have a Tesla addiction. It has been less than 20 minutes since my last ludicrous launch.

TEXT & PHOTOS: JULIAN HAKES

I was very honoured and excited to be invited to the Cyber Truck reveal and test ride at Tesla design studio in Hawthorne, Los Angeles last week. It was a great event and whilst they were all out of kool-aid the charcoal infused beer was really good.

I am a long time Tesla owner and had one of the first model S's in the UK. The Tesla mission resonated with me because in the mid 90's, following completion of my RIBA postgraduate degree, I was awarded a scholarship to read an Mphil in Environmental design at the Martin Centre, Cambridge University.

Even then it was clear that from historic CO2 levels in historic ice cores from Vostok that the writing was on the wall, human activity on the planet was having an increasing negative impact on our planet. Never before had the world seen such a rapid rise in green house gas emissions and these were synced exactly with the dawn of the industrial revolution and rise of personal transport.

Over the next 20-25 years scientists kept shouting and world governments and industry kept ignoring. Then a single, bold, brave teenager captured the world's hearts and minds and highlighted this is now a 'climate emergency'. We must act now.

With this in mind and with the start of UN Climate talks in Madrid this week I could not help but feel a little dismayed with Elizabeth Bisley's review of the Cyber truck in Dezeen last week. Having attended the incredible reveal event the only thing 'Status Quo' about the Cyber truck is how many amps and drum kits the roadies can get in the back.

Cyber truck is not an exercise in aesthetics, form or fashion; it is a simple expression of planet saving pragmatic engineering with wheels.

Then the Cybertruck was revealed like a scene out of Mad Max with less pyro but more lasers. Following the initial shock came the analysis and assessment of the challenge. The pickup truck is one of the USA bestselling vehicles with 1.5million sold this year to date whilst the design form has remained pretty much unchanged for over 100 years. With this type of vehicle dominating such a large sector of USA market they have a huge impact in terms of emissions.





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Not content with a 'hard core smack down to the petrol sports car' (Musk on Model S and Roadster 2.0) Tesla has made another bold attack deep into the heart of American vehicle car culture. You could almost feel the traditional pick up community screaming as they threw their beer at the monitor but slowly pieces of the puzzle were starting to fall into place.

As with the other vehicle classes Tesla's brief is always to make the best vehicle in class, the very best truck, not just a great electric truck. With the absence of any legacy combustion technology the Tesla team are able to start with the flat battery skateboard architecture. From here they first needed to protect the battery and provide a load bed capable or supporting a heavy load, then add 2 rows of seats in a crew cab configuration and then the skin or shell.

The challenge for Tesla is that the battery tech, whilst getting cheaper month on month, is still expensive and that in order to provide an affordable sustainable alternative to the traditional truck the rest of the vehicle has to be super practical, efficient and economically viable.

Ford, GM and others are very experienced at mass production and have tooling at the ready for truck lines. Their investment will be amortised over many years and many millions of vehicle units. Tooling is hugely expensive and takes years to perfect, amend and adjust.

Making a vehicle body which is predominately a flat sheet could introduce huge savings not only in production but in warehouse storage allowing for more plant production in the same footprint. The Cybertruck's production and shipping would then also have a lower carbon footprint.

Taking the opposite approach to the traditional 'body on frame' approach the Tesla engineering team used a stressed skin approach which we are familiar with in architectural circles as they are used in plywood structures, slim curved roofs and sculptures.

This transfers the strength to the external face to the skin giving more space inside for people, load and most importantly batteries. Whilst the bullet proof images were impressive and dramatic this misses the real point; to have a pick up tuck strong enough to resist falling timber, steels and rocks is a very useful asset for a tough working site vehicle.

Rather than relying on stamping and forming body panels, Cyber truck sheets could be water laser cut relatively quickly and multiple body parts could be produced from flat material stock. With some clever nesting one cut could even produce more than one part to cut down on cycle time.





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To try and argue that Cybertruck is somehow a retro aesthetic design study misses the point. The design and engineering team at Tesla and Space X are simply too smart to be simply 'inspired by' stealth bomber design aesthetics or glass facade buildings. The images shown by Elon at the event were presented to help us mere mortals rationalise the design aesthetic so we didn't feel so uneasy.

So much inefficiency and complexity has crept into mainstream auto manufacturing over the years in the pursuit of things which look fast, powerful, dynamic. This was such a disruptive reveal. From an engineering design point of view it was such a moment to witness, it felt like Tesla just revealed the IKEA flat pack of the automotive world.

This may well be Tesla's manufacture master stroke, for example, if you crash or damage a model S, X or 3 you need a body work specialist or an expensive replacement body part made in Fremont, California and then shipped to the UK. With Cyber truck tech you could email the CNC file to a laser cutting workshop and make a replacement part in say, Blackburn or Scunthorpe.

The raw steel skin doesn't even need a paint shop stage so savings are also made on finishing and paint control and if you scratch a panel in production you simply polish off the mark.

But one question stood out: could a shape like this still be aerodynamically efficient or more efficient than a standard truck shape? I used a simple app on my ipad called 'wind tunnel' to study the drag, lift and turbulence around the outline of the Cyber truck compared it to a Ford F-150 shape. The results were impressive.

On first viewing, the Cyber truck, side on, looks like a symmetrical triangle but it is actually slightly forward biased. This seemed to allow much more laminar flow of air over the cab body and combined with an enclosed load bed was significantly better than the F-150.

Around the same time others in the Tesla forums world started to also explore this same question but with CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics) software and found similar results. One of the key benefits is the smooth underbelly of the battery bay of a Tesla, which offers far less drag than a piston car with its exposed exhaust, sump, petrol tank, drive shafts and differential.

Now to the glass elephant in the room - yes it was a shock and unexpected and no I don't think it was a PR stunt. Elon dropped a few choice words and his body language showed it was real. The show must go on and if you can release your own video meme about crashing a multi million pound rockets on takeoff and landing you can handle a little bit of broken glass.



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We had heard that the design team had been testing the glass all day and it was fine. Elon even published a video to twitter with Franz (Von Holzhausen- Tesla lead designer) demonstrating the steel ball bouncing off the windows. However they had not done the sledgehammer door test then the glass test in close succession.

The word on the street was that the 2 large hammer impacts caused the glass to drop in the frame just enough so its edges were not fully restrained. As we know from architectural glass technology if the edges are unrestrained it allows the loads to travel around the surface of the glass to the back face and multiply the effect of any impact. As Elon said 'still some room for improvement'.

As the legacy automakers slowly transition to EV power systems many of their trucks will still look the same as they try to use up all the spare parts and maximise their historic investment in tooling.

The Cybertruck brings so many benefits to the pickup truck space. It will be tough, powerful, efficient, strong, quiet and clean and as a result of its engineering it looks like nothing else.

Combine this with the ability of builders to access Cyber Trucks huge battery means the vehicle is essentially a mobile power source for both air and power tools reducing the need for onsite petrol generators which means quieter and cleaner building sites.

I say, bring on the Cyber revolution and let's save the turtles!

Confirmed fan boy out, mic drop, boom etc....

Footnote: If you can't wait 2 years and you need a Cybertruck fix - we made a free downloadable paper art file here <https://oscarandhamish.com/products/cyber-truck-download-pdf-build-your-own>

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“WORLD’S FIRST ELECTRIC RACE PLANE UNVEILED AT DUBAI AIRSHOW”

This Sunday November 17th, 2019, the world’s first electric race plane has been unveiled on day one at the Dubai Airshow, showcasing custom modified technology built by one of the racing teams set to take part in the inaugural Air Race E event next year.

TEXT: MARTIN GILLET

ABOUT AIR RACE E

“Air Race E will become the world’s first all-electric aeroplane race when it launches its inaugural series of international races in 2020. Run by Air Race Events and led by world-leading air racing promoter Jeff Zaltman, the man behind the globally successful Air Race 1 World Cup, the race is set to revolutionise air racing and pioneer innovations in electric aviation. Air Race E will see electric aeroplanes race directly against each other on a tight 5km circuit just 10m above the ground and at speeds faster than any land-based motorsport. The demand for speed, performance and power management under the rigours of a competitive race environment provide the perfect platform for the development and promotion of cleaner, faster and more technologically advanced electric engines. The Light Aircraft Association (LAA), has committed its support in developing the technical regulations and providing design oversight for the sport, soon to be sanctioned by the Formula Air Racing Association (FARA) and its counterpart in France, the Association des Pilotes D’Avions de Formules (APAF).”

Sunday 17th November, Dubai: The world’s first electric race plane has been unveiled on day one at the Dubai Airshow, showcasing custom modified technology built by one of the racing teams set to take part in the inaugural Air Race E event next year.

Air Race E, a pioneering electric air racing series headed by international air racing promoter Jeff Zaltman, made history when it revealed the plane on display at the airshow, in association with the series’ Official Founding Partner, Airbus.

Speaking at the unveiling, Air Race E CEO and Founder Jeff Zaltman said, “This is a pivotal moment not only for Air Race E, but for the aviation industry as a whole. Our aim by establishing an electric racing series is to develop a unifying platform for the development of cleaner, faster and more technologically advanced electric aircraft. The racing series will provide a testbed for innovation and accelerate the journey towards electric commercial travel. We’ve



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now shown it is possible and are on track to again create history when planes like the one on display at the Dubai Airshow take to the skies for the race next year."

The E-Racer Model is the first-ever example of an electric race plane, built by Team Condor in their Yorkshire-based workshop in the North of England using a highly-modified Cassutt aircraft with a rich history in formula air racing dating back to 1979.

The custom Cassutt racer named White Lightning was once a regular on the formula one racing circuit in Europe throughout the 80's and 90's, with owner and pilot Andrew Chadwick earning a number of podium finishes to add to White Lightning's racing pedigree. Chadwick has since donated the aircraft to Team Condor to compete in the upcoming Air Race E series.

Team Condor leader Martyn Wiseman and his crew have spent the past months converting White Lightning into a fully-electric racing machine, utilising a Contra Electric twin motor and contra-rotating propeller powertrain.

The customised electric motor will enable the plane to race at speeds of around 300mph. During the races, the combined max continuous power will be set at 150kW, according to the electric

formula. Over 100kg worth of lithium batteries installed under the fuselage of the plane will provide power for five minutes of high-intensity racing and around 10 minutes of reserve flying at reduced power.

ABOUT WHITE LIGHTNING BY TEAM CONDOR

- **Power: 150 kW max continuous**
- **Battery: ~20kWh**
- **Aircraft type: Cassutt Racer (modified)**
- **Engine type: Fully electric**
- **Wing span: 4.6m**
- **Length: 4m**
- **Weight: 375kg**

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© Air Race E – Jane Jarvis

As Official Founding Partner, Airbus providing teams, including Team Condor, with industry insight and research as they build and modify their racing aircraft.

The E-Racer model on display at the Dubai Airshow, nicknamed White Lightning, is one of two electric race planes nearest to completion, the other is being built at the University of Nottingham's Aerospace Technology Centre in the UK as part of its £13M Propulsion Futures Beacons of Excellence research programme. Project lead Richard Glasscock, a University of Nottingham engineering fellow, has also been instrumental in the development of White Lightning and expects to have his model in the air by early next year.

Air Race E will be a series of head-to-head international air races, showcasing the skills, expertise and ingenuity of the best pilots and engineers from around the world. Unlike similar racing events which operate on a time trial basis, Air Race E events will see eight planes fly simultaneously around a tight 5km circuit at just 10m

above the ground and at speeds of up to 450kph – faster than any land-based motorsport.

Air Race E will announce the first eight teams to contest the inaugural race on Tuesday 19th November. The racing field includes strong representation across Europe and North America, with team leaders coming from diverse backgrounds in aerobatics, manufacturing, air racing, the military and robotics.

Currently, a tender for the first host city is underway, with the successful bid to be announced in due course. Air Race E remains open for parties to register their interest in entering or sponsoring a team or hosting a future race.

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Op tocht door het verre noordoosten van Rusland

Kamchatka

Land van extremen

Tekst & foto's: Asteria Expeditions

Kamchatka, het verre noordoosten van Rusland, een mix van beren spotten, prachtige meren en rokende vulkanen. Een streek waar ijs vuur ontmoet. Uitbarstende vulkanen en verrassende natuurwonderen maken het tot een van de laatste onaangetaste grote wildernissen. Dit schiereiland is met zijn 400.000 inwoners zeer dunbevolkt. De helft leeft in de grote havenstad Petropavlovsk.

Dit verlaten gebied, gelegen aan de overkant van Alaska, is van noord naar zuid 1.000 km lang, bijna 14 keer zo groot als België. Samen met o.a. Fuji in Japan en Alaska vormt het de Ring van Vuur, een keten van vulkanen rond de Stille Oceaan. Hier voelt u zich een met de natuur. Tot 1992 mochten toeristen Kamchatka niet binnen en ook inwoners van de voormalige Sovjet-Unie hadden een speciale toelating nodig. Hierdoor kon de natuur ongestoord zijn gang gaan.

Ontdek nu onze 11-daagse Nederlandstalig begeleide reis met vertrek op 24 juli 2020.





1. Door de aanwezigheid van rode zalm vormt het Kuriskoye meer een uitstekende plaats om bruine beren te spotten.
2. Kamchatka is een van de meest opvallende vulkanische gebieden in de wereld.
3. Vanuit een Russische helikopter is het dramatisch vulkaanlandschap nog indrukwekkender.
4. Onze eigen gids/natuurkenner Yan steekt het kampvuur aan en zorgt voor een heerlijk kopje koffie.
5. Vanop de top van de Gorely-vulkaan hebben we een mooi zicht op de vulkaankraters met azuurblauwe meertjes.

Ontdek het volledig programma en prijzen op www.asteriaexpeditions.be/kamchatka

ONTDEK SAMEN MET ONS KAMCHATKA, EEN STUKJE NATUURWONDER OP AARDE

De biodiversiteit, vulkanische landschappen, uitgestrekte wouden en ongerepte natuur vormen een van de laatste grote wildernissen op onze planeet

'S WERELDS LAATSTE WILDERNIS

Kamchatka herbergt een ongelooflijke biodiversiteit. Hier vinden we 1.200 verschillende plantensoorten en komen 240 vogelsoorten voor. Daarnaast vormt het ongerepte schiereiland een ideale leefomgeving voor zeldzame dieren zoals vossen, lynxen, wolven, bevers, otters en elanden. Sinds het uiteenvallen van de Sovjet-Unie in 1992 ging hier een waar paradijs open voor avontuurlijke reizigers en natuurliefhebbers.

GROOTSTE POPULATIE BRUINE BEREN

De bekendste inwoner van Kamchatka is de bruine beer. De naar schatting 14.000 beren vormen de grootste populatie op aarde. De bruine beren zijn vooral te bewonderen langs het Kurilskoye kratermeer. De dieren worden aangetrokken door de overvloedige hoeveelheden rode zalm. Vanop platformen kunnen we zien hoe de beren zalm uit het meer vissen en de Stellers zeearenden zich tegoed doen aan de restjes.

ACTIEVE VULKANEN

Kamchatka herbergt meer dan 200 vulkanen waaronder 28 actieve. Jaarlijks barsten er een zestal uit. Sinds 1992 is een deel van het eiland erkend als UNESCO-Werelderfgoed. Via wandeltochten en trekkings langs spectaculaire geisers, lavavelden en meertjes bereiken we de krater van de Mutnovsky-vulkaan, een van de meest actieve vulkanen. Vanaf de Gorely-vulkaan kijken we neer op 3 vulkaankraters met azuurblauwe meertjes.

STROMEND BERGWATER

Warmwaterbronnen, rivieren en meren zijn in de regio alomtegenwoordig. De meeste ontspringen aan bergen en gletsjers. Hier zijn maar liefst 14.000 stromen en rivieren, 100.000 meren en 414 gletsjers. Tussen de vele vulkanen ligt een gebied met weelderige bossen, warmwaterbronnen, geisers en een indrukwekkend dierenleven.

HELIKOPTERVLUCHTEN

Vanuit de lucht is het vulkaanlandschap nog indrukwekkender. Per helikopter vliegen we over de ongerepte natuur met diverse vulkanen zoals de Mutnovsky en de Gorely. Bij goed weer wordt een tussenlanding gemaakt in Khoduta, de grootste natuurlijke warmwaterbronnen van Kamchatka. Hier is het heerlijk baden in het thermisch water.

BEGELEIDE RONDEIS

Tijdens dit 11-daags programma reist u in een kleine groep onder begeleiding van een eigen Nederlandstalige gids/natuurkenner. U logeert in tentenkampen en hotels. Vertrek op 24 juli 2020.

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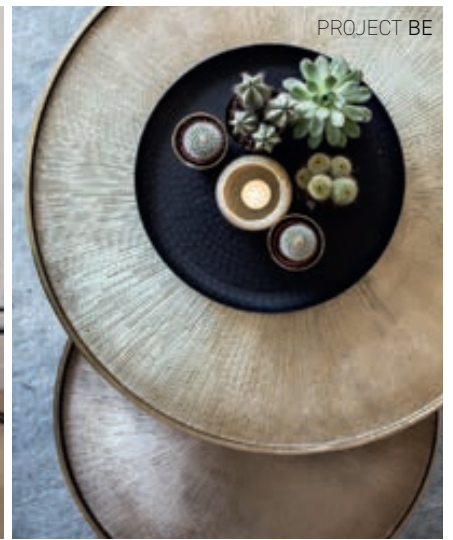
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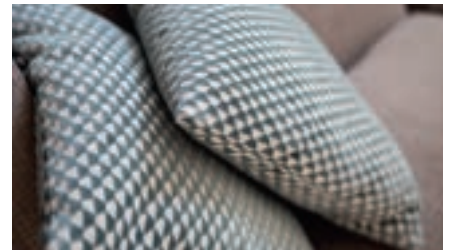
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CHALKIDIKI, WHERE GREEN AND BLUE MEET

Our holiday began on 31 October (just in time for All Hallows Eve or Halloween) in Thessaloniki, where we landed after a pleasant flight with Aegean Airlines. In contrast to many other European low-cost airlines, Aegean Airlines served us all in all with a really tasty Greek dish during the flight. A shuttle bus punctually awaited us at the airport to take us to hotel for the next few days, Ikos Oceania in Mea Moudania in the region of Chalkidiki.

TEXT: DOMINIQUE SERGANT

HOTEL IKOS OCEANIA: SIT BACK AND RELAX

The journey from Thessaloniki to Ikos Oceania in Mea Moudania took about fifty minutes, but was anything but tedious. We gazed at the hilly landscape. It was beautiful clear weather, the sun was shining brightly, and the temperature was about 20°. What more can you ask in late October?

At the hotel the staff welcomed us warmly and, after a welcoming drink, we were taken by buggy to our room. Hotel Ikos Oceania does things in style. Comfort, service, and all inclusive take on a whole new meaning. Here you find all the answers to the question as to why you are on holiday. The philosophy behind the concept is to harmonise body and mind.

The ride through the gardens of the resort to the rooms immediately gave us a first impression. They have made a beautiful and charming hotel down to the last detail in traditional Macedonian building style. All rooms have a bathroom (with hair dryer, bathrobe, and slippers), tiled floor, turndown service, individual air conditioning/heating, telephone, free WIFI, satellite TV (flat-screen), CD/DVD player, mini-bar (free), coffee and tea facilities, a Nespresso coffee machine, and a safe (free).

A ROOM TAILORED TO GUESTS – FROM A PROMOTIONAL ROOM TO THE LUXURY JUNIOR SUITE FOR MEMBERS OF IKOS DELUXE COLLECTION

Guests have the choice of a superior room with a lateral sea view or frontal sea view, a junior suite, or a luxury suite. The resort also has a few family suites, junior panorama suites, and a promotional room. And so, there's something for everyone!

Included in the luxury junior suite for Ikos Deluxe Collection members are exclusive check-in/out, concierge service, access to the private swimming pool with a children's pool, free spa treatment (one neck and back massage for two adults), a private section on the

beach, superior service at the beach and swimming pool, one private evening meal on the beach, a bottle of champagne on arrival, premium drinks in the mini-bar, luxury toiletries in the bathroom, an extensive room service menu, pillow service, a library with DVDs for children, and Xbox/PlayStation on request.

AN OASIS OF BLUE AND GREEN

The hotel lies in magnificent natural green surrounds of olive trees and pine forests. You see vineyards everywhere, as this is a major wine producing area. The golden-yellow beach and the crystal clear seawater make up the perfect location for Hotel Ikos Oceania. It's fantastic to spend a day on a sun bed at the beach, whilst it's also the perfect place for children to play. It feels delightful to walk barefoot on the beach, hear the waves of the water, smell the scent of the pine trees, and feel the warmth of the sun.



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Chris, Sammy, Daniel, Guy & Peter.

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SUN, SEA, BEACH, SPORT, AND RELAXATION

After a dip in the infinity swimming pool from where you can look out over the dazzling sea, you can dry out on your sun chair under the Greek sun. Children can surely amuse themselves in the toddlers and kids clubs. The clubs are divided up into various age categories with enjoyable activities for children of all ages. They can bake cakes, go on a treasure hunt, and play various games.

There are three freshwater swimming pools (heated, with one infinity swimming pool for those aged 12 and above), a private swimming pool with a children's pool (heated, exclusively for the Ikos Deluxe Collection), a children's bath, a paddling pool (20cm deep), and a sun terrace. There are free sun loungers, parasols, and hand-towels available at the swimming pool and beach. Moreover, the hotel also has a separate children's playroom, a hair dressing and beauty salon, a discotheque, a laundry, and buggy hire. There is free WIFE available in the entire resort. Sports enthusiasts at Ikos Oceania can enjoy (for a charge) tennis and swimming lessons, football academy (for those age six and above), and water sports (catamaran, banana, waterskiing, jet skiing, ringo, diving, private boat trips, and sailing and windsurfing lessons).

Apart from soaking up the sun at the swimming pool or on the beach, you can also opt for me-time in the wellness centre with covered swimming pool with children's pool and bubble bath (heated, for those aged 16 and above, only between 8.00a.m. and 1.00p.m. for those under 16). You can relax completely in the Oceania Spa. Should you opt for a fine facial treatment or do you prefer a body massage? The spa uses products and treatment methods from Anne Sémonin and their philosophy is that every person is unique. And so, this is the place to be completely pampered!

INFINITE LIFESTYLE

The all inclusive formula has been proclaimed as the best in the world. As well as the buffet, which is provided daily in the restaurant, you can also tantalise your taste buds in four à-la-carte restaurants. The menus are prepared by chefs with Michelin stars and the dine out programme (we went out to eat in a typical local restaurant in Néa Moudania) means you can discover the best local restaurants. Don't just say all-in to the all-in inclusive formula of Ikos Oceania, because here you enjoy an Infinite Lifestyle, a unique formula which goes be-

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yond the standard all-in. The menus here are the crème de la crème, room service is included 24 hours a day, and you can also engage the services of a wine steward in the à-la-carte restaurants. The resort has at its disposal no less than a main restaurant (meals in buffet form, Mediterranean cuisine, and an adults only section) and four à-la-carte restaurants: Italian (evening meal), Asian (evening meal), Greek (breakfast, snacks, and midday and evening meals), and French (breakfast, snacks, and midday and evening meal). For the youngest guests there is a children’s menu available in each restaurant and Fresh baby food on request. There is a selection of wine with wine steward

in the à-la-carte restaurants and for after dinner or a drink at the swimming pool there is a main bar, beach bar, pool bar, Deluxe Collection bar, and a bar club.

CHALKIDIKI. DISCOVER THIS UNKNOWN PART OF PARADISE THANKS TO THE MINI DRIVE ADVENTURE FORMULA, WHICH IS FREE FOR HOTEL GUESTS!

Chalkidiki (with the stress on the last syllable) is one of the most attractive regions in the district of Macedonia in Northern Greece. If you look on the map of Greece, the shape sticks out at once. This unique region of Greece consists of three





elongated peninsulas stretching out into the blue Aegean Sea. Chalkidiki is largely unknown, possibly because it isn't an island and therefore captures the imagination less, but if you visit the three peninsulas of Kassandra, Sithonia, and Agion Oros, you will certainly be impressed by this beautiful part of Greece. It resembles a spot in paradise at the very least. Although the three peninsulas more or less resemble each other from above when seen from an aeroplane, they are actually very different. Magnificent sandy beaches and the sea is crystal clear. There are also some historic places, picturesque fishing villages, and unique areas of natural beauty. With the MINI Drive Adventure formula, guests from Ikos Oceania can drive around there freely for one day with the MINI vehicle which is on offer free of charge!

KASSANDRA

Kassandra is the first leg, as they call it in Chalkidiki; in other words, it is the most western peninsula. The first town on the peninsula is the historic Nea Potidea. This is a bathing resort with a nice sandy beach. This was the site of the city of Kassandra in ancient times. It is the narrowest point of the peninsula and this is where Emperor Kassandros had a channel dug out for the erection of a long wall with two castles at the ends. The ruins of the castles can still be seen in the water and, as for the walls, although they are partly dilapidated, they are still prominent in various spots in the town. Via the eastern side of the peninsula you encounter several attractive bathing resorts as you travel southwards. At Nea Fokea you can see the medieval tower near the sea and, directly beyond that, you arrive in Afytos. Afytos is a picturesque village built at a height and with a fantastic view of the beach, the Aegean Sea, and the opposite peninsula of Chalkidiki, Sithonia. The village of Afytos is really nice; the stores, pubs, restaurants, it all fits together in harmony. At the edge of the steep rise there is a road to various restaurants next to each other, which offer their guests a panoramic view.

THE PENINSULA OF SITHONIA

Sithonia is the middle peninsula of Chalkidiki (or 'the middle leg'), an area which is much quieter than Kassandra as regards tourists. This peninsula, too, has roughly the same features as Kassandra. The big difference with Kassandra is the natural beauty, which consists here almost solely of splendid pine forests. There are also large vineyards and olive groves, but the forests take up the biggest area. Sithonia is also known for the Porto Karras area, a territory of no fewer than 18,000 hectares with vineyards, luxury hotels, pine forests, and marinas. Last but not least, Sithonia is also known for a rugged coast with superb white sandy beaches and turquoise sea to arouse the ultimate holiday spirit.

AGION OROS

Agion Oros (Holy Mount Athos) is the most eastward peninsula of Chalkidiki. This peninsula is unique in the world. The border is precisely under the touristic little town of Ouranoupolis with its splendid beaches. As you cross this border, you enter the world of Agion Oros, which means Holy Mount in Dutch. This is a monastic state which is autonomous within Greece and the EU. The residents are all monks, so women are not allowed to enter this area. The territory has twenty monasteries where monks live in seclusion. North of the border, from Ouranoupolis, there is the touristic world with luxury hotels, splendid beaches, and scores of tourist attractions and villages.





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SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

Our trip was much too short and is now over. We leave on Sunday morning 3 November. Just in time, as the resort closes its doors on that day until next year in April. Oddly enough, we didn't really get the impression that hotel staff were running out of steam at the end of the season after a period of long and busy days. The staff were friendly and polite to the very end and, let's admit it, that certainly contributes to the ultimate holiday spirit. A spirit which we will take home with us for a while in order to defy the long and cold Belgian winter.

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TENERIFE: 100% VIDA!

The new Tenerife slogan ('100% Vida') highlights the unique character of the biggest Canary island with its beautiful beaches, varied landscape, and mild climate. This piece of Spain in the Atlantic Ocean is a paradise for sun lovers. All year round you can enjoy an average temperature of about 20°C on Tenerife. At any rate, we're certainly pleased that we can put the depressing Belgian late summer behind us and still expose our brown legs to the warm summer sun. Two of the nicest places on the island served as our base during the trip whilst we explored the island. Those places were the Ritz-Carlton Abama and the Royal Hideaway Corales Suites.

TEXT: DOMINIQUE SERGANT





ABAMA BEACH

FROM UNINHABITED ISLAND TO SPANISH SETTLEMENT

The Canary Islands were uninhabited until about 500 AD. It is not absolutely clear when anyone visited Tenerife (and the other islands) for the first time, but there are documents which indicate that the Phoenicians arrived there first around 1100 BC. The first inhabitants on Tenerife were originally Berbers who came from the north-west of Africa towards the Canary Islands. They called themselves Guanches and they lived together peacefully on Tenerife until the start of the fourteenth century.

This changed when Europeans visited the Canary Islands en route to Africa and Asia. They tried for decades to subdue the island inhabitants by force. In 1496, this finally led to Spanish occupation of the islands. The islands became a major stopover for Spanish ships on the way to and from America.

For centuries the French, British, and Dutch all made attempts to intercept boats on the way to and from the Canary Islands and 'to seize' the islands from Spain, but without success. In the 1960s, tourism on Tenerife began to grow. This tapped into a new major source of revenue alongside farming and fishing. A second positive twist in the history of Tenerife was the admission of Spain to the European Union in 1986. Since then, Tenerife and the other Canary Islands have attracted considerable European subsidies. At present, Tenerife is a highly popular holiday destination which can move with the times.

THE ISLAND OF THE ETERNAL SPRING

Tenerife is sometimes called the island of the eternal spring. Those who look at the statistics will notice that for a reasonable part of the year the island certainly does have spring temperatures and summer levels for the period from June to October inclusive. Tenerife has a Mediterranean climate with a warm steppe climate locally in the south. Further inland the climate is predominantly cooler, greyer, and wetter.

The north of the island of Tenerife is the wetter part of the island, but it is thereby greener. The higher regions of the north of Tenerife are often in the clouds. In particular, you often encounter clouds on the route from Puerto de la Cruz to the Teide. Severe weather is also possible in the period from October to March inclusive.

The south of the island of Tenerife is dry and sunny. Almost all year round the daytime temperature is between 20 and 30 degrees, whilst at night it cools down levels from 15 to 22 degrees. There are good reasons why tourists come to the south of Tenerife throughout the year to enjoy their summer holiday. Within Europe, Tenerife, together with Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura, and Lanzarote, is one of the most popular winter sun destinations.

Central on the island of Tenerife is Mount El Teide, where snow can lie on the peaks in the winter. This mountain forms the natural border between the dry south and the wetter and green north of the island. In the higher areas on and around the Teide it is therefore much colder than in the lower regions. Big differences in temperature can occur particularly in the winter and the spring. And so, anyone wanting to visit the central part of the island would be well advised to take warm clothing.



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Residentie Le Roulis situeert zich op een uitgelezen locatie in De Panne. De combinatie van frontaal zeezicht met de nabijheid van het levendige centrum verleent dit project extra charme. Het gebouw oogt eigentijds en tijdloos. De materiaalkeuze en het ontwerp focussen op uitstraling, onderhoudsgemak en wooncomfort.

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'BEACHES' ON TENERIFE: NOT BAD AT ALL!

Many people who book a holiday in the sun simply must have a beach on their list of requirements. Tenerife, too, is blessed with a fairly wide range of beaches in all types and sizes. Some people think that Tenerife only has black lava beaches, but that's not true at all. Tenerife also enjoys a number of golden yellow sorts. The fact that a large portion of them aren't natural, but have been touched up won't bother most tourists. On many charming tropical beaches there are workers during the night or very early in the morning to keep them in top condition. They remove seaweed and washed up dirt, level the beach where necessary, and eliminate all elements which could spoil the perfect picture. And so, why make a fuss on Tenerife about the fact that the beach you're lying on comprises imported sand from the Sahara?

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Apart from leisurely sunbathing, Tenerife also guarantees lots of fun in the water. You can go wakeboarding, surfing, sailing, and kayaking as you wish. Or what about whale and dolphin spotting?

Tenerife is also an ideal shopping destination. The island enjoys a good mix of shops. Anyone wanting to shop on Tenerife will see that here you can buy just about everything that you can buy in Belgium, and not just in Santa Cruz, which is the capital.

Santa Cruz de Tenerife is the biggest city on Tenerife. Together with Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, it forms the capital city of the autonomous

region of the Canary Islands. With about a quarter of a million inhabitants, Santa Cruz is a real city. You can see that from the residents in the street. They stand out from many inhabitants in other places on Tenerife due to a different style of clothes, a different body language, and a different pace of life. People here are more 'urbanised' than elsewhere on the island. However, you do notice that the relaxed way of life which permeates the Canary Islands is also a part of daily life here. People love to chat with friends or neighbours in the street over a cup of coffee and enjoy lunch on the many terraces.

THINGS NOT TO BE MISSED ON TENERIFE

The top of volcano El Teide is the highest point of the whole of Spain at 3718 metres. Although this volcano is officially dormant, experts do not rule out the possibility of it ever erupting again. It's an awesome experience to go to the top of Mount Teide. The cable car can take you to a height of 3550 metres (provided it isn't closed due to severe winds). Anyone wanting to reach the very summit of 3718 metres needs a special permit which has to be obtained in advance.

On the territory of Güímar on the eastern coast you find the Pyramids of Güímar, six pyramids consisting of stones which are stacked onto each other in square shapes. What is remarkable is that the stones do not come from the immediate surrounds, but consist of lava rock from elsewhere on the island. As yet, it is not known for sure when and by whom the pyramids were built.

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EL MIRADOR - TERRACE AT NIGHT

The volcano El Teide and the surrounds form a national park with a wide variety of landscapes. In the west you see jet black rocks, and just under the Pico del Teide you have a splendid view ('mirador') of well-shaped volcanic rocks and immediately to the east of the peak you see the landscapes which are coloured green in this way by sulphur which will make you feel like you're on another planet.

The Parque Ecologico is an ecological park on the road to Arona with a surface area of no fewer than 75 thousand square metres. In the splendid tropical landscape you can enjoy free-flying eagles, parrot shows, crocodiles, and hippopotami.

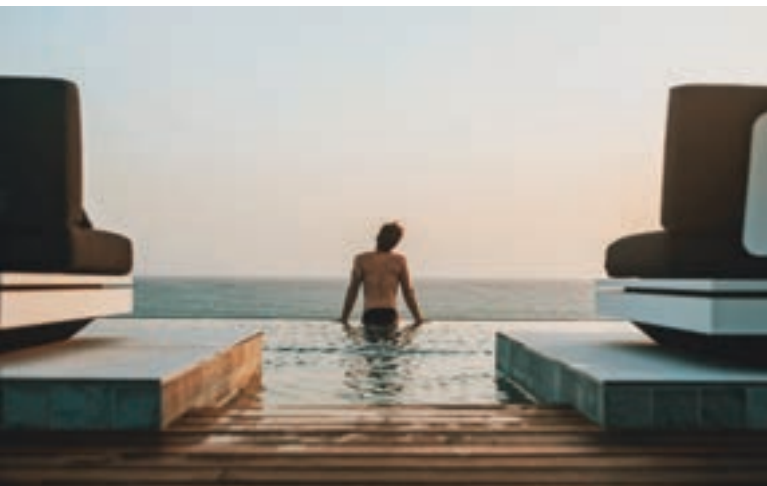
One of the most authentic places on the island is Garachico on the northern coast, where the street scene is partly filled in by historic buildings such as the church, some cloisters, and traditional homes.

The pirate village of Masca also makes for a popular excursion on Tenerife. A visit to this mountain village with a splendid panoramic view usually means a descent covering a difference in height of about six hundred metres. The walking route, which runs partly through the Masca gorge, ends after about three to four hours on a small rocky beach. From here you can take a boat to Los Gigantes.

The Loro Parque in Puerto de la Cruz is a magnificent tropical garden with a large collection of parrots, tropical plants, and various tropical animals. For those who wish, there is a free train ride from the centre of Puerto de la Cruz to the park.

Party lovers should visit Tenerife in the spring when the carnival is in full flow, especially in the cities of Santa Cruz and Puerto de la Cruz. In particular, the carnival procession in Santa Cruz full of floats, dancers, and musicians is well worth seeing.

The spectacular Aqualand Costa Adeje water park lies on the TF-1 motorway near Costa Adeje. Water slides with impressive names such as Tornado, Twister, and Kamikaze amuse visitors who can come here every day of the year for some fun in the water. For those wanting to go a little more steadily, there's the tranquil Congo River where you can relax in the sun on an inflated tyre over a length of five hundred metres. In the dolphinarium in the park you can enjoy the dolphin show on a daily basis.



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THE RITZ-CARLTON, ABAMA - ENTRANCE AT NIGHT

RITZ-CARLTON ABAMA

One example of world class accommodation on Tenerife is undoubtedly the Ritz-Carlton Abama. The resort combines the natural Canarian charm with international elegance and style.

The luxury hotel is situated in a quiet side street in an idyllic location near the sea. The resort has a sandy beach of 500m and can be accessed using a lift. The entire hotel complex lies on a hill with a spectacular 18-hole golf course with superb views of the Atlantic Ocean and the island of La Gomera.

The hotel numbers no fewer than 459 rooms. You can contact reception 24 hours a day in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, or Spanish. Obviously, free WIFI is available in the entire building.

You certainly won't die of starvation or thirst here. The 10 restaurants will make sure of that. We will list them briefly for you. An à-la-carte Martín Berasategui restaurant/gourmet restaurant with two Michelin stars, an à-la-carte 'Kabuki' restaurant with Japanese cuisine (one Michelin star), an à-la-carte restaurant/fish restaurant 'El Mirador' with panorama terrace, an à-la-carte restaurant '20/20 Steakhouse', the à-la-carte restaurant 'Verona' with Italian cuisine, a buffet restaurant 'Veranda', the à-la-carte restaurant 'Los Chozos' with regional cuisine, and the à-la-carte restaurant 'TXOKO'. Before and after dinner or in between times, you can visit the lobby bar or sports bar.

The outside area is particularly good looking and fully equipped with seven heatable swimming pools (including some for adults only) surrounded by the necessary sun beds and parasols. On site you can also visit the bank/exchange office, the boutique, a cash dispenser, the hairdressing salon, and the souvenir shop. The necessary meeting rooms are available for groups.

You can work on your fitness in the gymnasium, on the golf course, or over a game of paddle tennis or table tennis. The less sporty can try a game of billiards.

The spa (2,500m² in size) is most certainly worthwhile. You can easily spend a few hours there and forget all your worries. In the meantime, the children can visit the mini-club Ritz Kids, because everything is provided for them, too, from baby bath and children's meals to buggy hire.

You can book several types of rooms or villas, but they are all equipped with every comfort without exception. Guests looking for the ultimate luxury and extra service can best opt for the Club Rooms and/or the Tagor Villas.

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ROYAL HIDEAWAY CORALES



POOL

ROYAL HIDEAWAY CORALES SUITES

From the rather stately Ritz-Carlton we move on towards the hyper-modern, but still extremely convivial Royal Hideaway Corales Suites. Together with the Adults Only section of Royal Hideaway Corales Beach, this hotel forms one resort. The hotel opened its doors only eighteen months ago and you can see that everywhere. One high-tech gadget alternates with another and the entire resort exudes a delightful freshness combined with contemporary architecture.

The resort is located about 50m from the sandy/pebble/rocky La Enramada beach. The town of Adeje is about 5km away (Playa de las Americas about 8km, and Los Cristianos about 9km). In the vicinity there are several bars and restaurants (300m) and a discotheque (8km).



ROYAL HIDEAWAY CORALES - PENTHOUSE SUITES

This five-floor, five-star, and second row beach hotel numbers 121 rooms in total. Moreover, the hotel also has a reception, a lobby, five lifts, air conditioning, a hairdressing salon, a kiosk, various other shops, a car park (paying), and an exchange office. The gastronomic section comprises three restaurants (with air conditioning) and two bars. Hotel guests have free use of WIFI. Moreover, the accommodation also has a conference room to seat 100 people, Internet access, and a catering service. For guests with a physical disability the accommodation offers a lift which is accessible for wheelchair users, bathrooms which are partially accessible in this way, and entries with no barriers.

The complex numbers two freshwater swimming pools with parasols and loungers available free of charge. Guests can order refreshing drinks directly from the swimming pool bar.

Apart from a gymnasium, tennis, and aerobics, about 5km away guests can take part in various water sports (partly on offer from local sports clubs and for payment). The area of Royal Hideaway Corales Suites is popular with golfers. The 18-hole Costa Adeje golf course is 1km from the hotel. The spa room with sauna, solarium, whirlpool, steam bath, hammam, and massages is accessible by payment.

ROOM WITH A VIEW

It is absolutely clear that people on Tenerife live mainly outdoors. Furthermore, although the life of leisure on the island can hardly be described as tiring, a good night's sleep is all part of the ultimate holiday feel. This resort certainly guarantees the latter. There is a range of well designed rooms and suites available, all invariably with a view of the sea or a sight of the beautiful gardens and with their own balcony or plot of garden. You wake up to a dream!



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The possibilities are legion and far too many to mention here. We ourselves were fortunate enough to have a splendid room with a fully equipped kitchen, a separate living room with flat-screen TV, and a bedroom with a big flat-screen TV and a bathroom en suite. To call it a 'room' fails completely to do justice to this magnificent and luxurious mini-villa!

THE GOOD LIFE

One thing's for sure: in the Royal Hideaway Corales Suites you won't die of starvation or thirst. The various restaurants and bars will make sure of that!

The crème de la crème is Maresía The Restaurant by Hermanos Padrón. This is a splendid restaurant with airs and graces and a three-star menu to make your mouth water. A unique experience!

TILL WE MEET AGAIN

And so, we can say with hand on heart that this beautiful island certainly did not disappoint us and our top class hotels certainly lived up to their reputations.

Weren't there any downsides at all? Obviously, there were a few here and there, but they hardly compared at all with the quasi perfection of our experience as a whole. If we get the chance, we will most certainly return. Adios, Tenerife!

THE RITZ-CARLTON, ABAMA - JUNIOR SUITE OCEAN VIEW FROM BED





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INDIAN SUMMER IN SLOVENIA:

ECOLOGICALLY RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL AT A PLEASANT PACE

Slovenia is a small country in Eastern Europe with just two million inhabitants. It borders on Italy in the west, Austria to the north, Hungary to the north-east, and Croatia in the south and east. The country also has a 47km stretch of coast on the Adriatic Sea. Slovenia is mountainous in the north-west and flatter further east. There is a lot of forest and attractive rugged nature. Over 10% of the population lives in the capital city Ljubljana, but with about 280,000 inhabitants, it's hardly a big city.



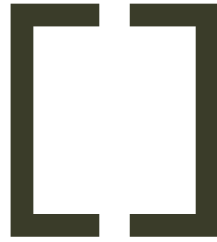


Slovenia is one of the greenest and most densely wooded countries in Europe. This makes it a highly attractive destination in the autumn due to the multicoloured landscapes which provide a special sphere. Moreover, Slovenia is the only country in the world where the national anthem includes an ode to wine. That is no coincidence at all because each year 40,000 wine growers produce 125 million bottles of wine. A taste obviously goes down better together with good food. Thankfully, the Slovenian cuisine has an outstanding reputation, with prices considerably lower than in Belgium. Did you know that Slovenia is now amongst the leading countries in wine and cuisine? That they also supply the most exclusive truffles as well as the best olive oil? Did you know that even our top chefs get their 'salt blossom' from Slovenia? Did you know that there are also excellent orange wines apart from red, white, and rosé? And that Slovenia is one of the leaders in that field?

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Slovenia also occupies a prominent place in the field of ecological travel. Caractère has marked out three individual trips for you to show you the most charming places from this top class destination at a pleasant pace. Below you will find a foretaste of the many charming tourist attractions which you can admire on these trips!



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THE RENOWNED LAKES OF BLED AND BOHINJ

The region around Bled is an ideal destination for lovers of oxygenic forests and idyllic villages where time seems to stand still. An exploration of the finest corner of Slovenia at the foot of the Triglav Alp border triangle peak yields masses of photogenic spots. Here, in this fairly thinly populated area which once belonged to Austria, nature is pure, unspoilt, and plain. The charming photogenic white Church of the Assumption of Mary near Lake Bled, breaks all records. When the clock sounds here, you can make a wish! The crystal clear mountain lake of the idyllic and peaceful Bohinj might even beat its neighbour for beauty; and so, this is the ideal spot for nature lovers and walkers.

FROM THE TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK AND SOČA VALLEY TO THE SLOVENIAN COAST

Via the impressive Vrščipas you come into one of the most beautiful valleys and to the clearest river in the Alps, namely the Soča. You can visit the Triglav National Park Museum and a little further the Alps botanical gardens. Yet the most memorable experience is a stop in Kobarid (Caporetto in Italian). During World War I, this was the scene of some of the most appalling and bloody battles fought with shifting opportunities between the Kingdom of Italy and Austria-Hungarian army. The human devastation as a result of the 'biggest mountain battle of all time' is comparable to that of the Somme or the Yser Front. The museum emphasises the inhuman and fierce fighting in this region. Ernest Hemingway has described this in 'A Farewell to Arms'.





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Sea, wind, Mediterranean aromas, palm trees, and roses: a few key words to typify the busy seaside resort of Portorož. With its marina, casino, and beaches, the 'port of roses' has been a concept in Slovenian coastal tourism for many years, especially since the discovery of therapeutic salt and mud in the region in the 19th century.

THE STUD STABLES OF LIPICA AND/ OR THE SLOVENIAN COAST

In the Slovenian interior you can visit the stud stables where the renowned Lipizzaner horses are bred and/or attend a performance at the classic riding school. Afterwards, you can enjoy a drink in lovely coastal places such as Izola or Piran.

THE CAVES OF POSTOJNA AND/OR ŠKOCJANSKE

A visit to the world famous and spectacular caves of Postojna and/or the less popular and somewhat more desolate caves of Škocjanske Jame (UNESCO world heritage) is certainly worthwhile. On an electric train, you can explore the chain of underground lakes and erratic rock formations hidden under the ground.

LJUBLJANA

In recent years, this superb university city has grown into one of the most charming capital cities in Europe with a lively atmosphere. The old inner city around the old market square and Preseren Square form a mix of splendid baroque and art deco buildings connected by typical bridges.

THE PODRAVJE WINE REGION – THE SLOVENIAN TUSCANY

Maribor is a university city with a medieval city centre. A recommended detour from here is to the Mecca of the wine regions Podravje and Posavje, via Radenci, Ljutomer, Jerusalem, and Ormož to Ptuj.

Podravje, which borders on Austria and Hungary, is an ancient wine region. Nowadays, it is the biggest Slovenian wine region. According to connoisseurs, its wines are amongst the best in the country. The warm climate and the specific soil composition make the wines richer and more aromatic. The wine cellar of Ormož, which covers about 600ha. of land around Jerusalem, produces top wines from Riesling and Pinot to green Silvaner and Gewürztraminer.

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Via Celje and the health spa of the similarly named beer Laško, the road takes you along the River Sava. You can also cross the Carthusian Monastery of Pleterje (a visit is possible only to the monastery church). Further towards Novo Mesto, at the steep bank of the River Krka and surrounded by seven hills.

You will also be surprised about the vast number of thermal springs and health spas in the region! For instance, Radenci is an old health spa with the similarly named water, which is situated idyllically between hills with vineyards.

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EXCLUSIVE DISPLAY OF THE LATEST JEWELLERY CREATIONS FROM MARCO BICEGO

On the invitation of Juwelier Vanhoutteghem, the colourful Italian designer Marco Bicego was the guest in The Boutique Gallery in Sint-Martens-Latem for an exclusive display of his latest creations. The art gallery made a unique setting to highlight Marc Biego's colourful hand-made jewellery.

TEXT: WIM VANDER HAEGEN

120

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HAND-MADE IN ITALY

Marco Bicego has been a permanent fixture for years at Juwelier Vanhoutteghem which treated its customers with appropriate pride and conviction to a display of the magnificent jewellery showcase in The Boutique Gallery. Driven by passion and great imaginative power, the ever charming Marco Bicego never lacks inspiration. Bicego comes from Veneto, near Venice, one of the richest regions in the country when it comes to historic, natural,





artistic, cultural, musical, and culinary heritage. It is precisely that rich and versatile heritage which is reflected in Bicego's work, in which he aims to honour his rich heritage. Bicego likes to stress one main point: his designs, inspired by nature and emotion, are 100% hand-made in Italy.

COLOURFUL JOURNEY

The guests in The Boutique Gallery were happily won over by the inventive combination of old traditions and modern design. Bicego's latest collection also stands out with unique jewels which are characterised by imperfect shapes and traditional handicraft. Its luxurious items with organic shapes took all the guests on a colourful journey to the four corners of the world.

Those interested are most welcome at Juwelier Vanhoutteghem where they can admire the dazzling Marco Bicego collection in all its glory.

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Wollongong, Australië. Ruby, net 15 geworden, brengt een nieuwe mascara aan. Ze vindt hem goed en zet een filmpje online. Honderden followers geven direct likes en commentaar. Maar de ouders van meisjes zoals Ruby letten ook op hun online veiligheid. Hierdoor stijgt de vraag naar databeveiliging en worden er veel programmeurs opgeleid, die nieuwe algoritmes ontwikkelen die amper nog te kraken zijn. Door de bescherming van alle gegevens groeit het digitale vertrouwen bijna net zo snel als het aantal followers van Ruby. Daardoor kennen we een explosie van het online shoppen, waardoor de hele logistieke sector groeit en het aantal distributiecentra toeneemt. Op hun beurt moeten die op-en-top beveiligd worden. Digitaal en door veiligheidsagenten. Want van hieruit vertrekken alle goederen die via internet verkocht worden. Zoals het nieuwe, trendy Australische make-upmerk voor jongeren met de naam Ruby.

Om die redenen adviseren onze Private Bankers om onder andere te beleggen in de zeer veelzijdige sector van de veiligheid.

Dankzij de informatie van onze specialisten in 70 financiële centra wereldwijd, kunnen ze rechtstreeks inspelen op marktevoluties en weldoordachte beslissingen nemen. En dat maakt een groot verschil voor uw vermogen.

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Designing and building luxury villas tailored to clients' needs: With this concept, M VILLA has set the standard for the development of high-end projects. Business manager Kurt Vanbecelaere explains: 'Our years of experience and carefully acquired know-how give us the right expertise to complete top class projects according to the client's needs. The ultimate goal of M VILLA is to relieve people of stress and see them come home happy.'

TEXT: WIM VANDER HAEGEN





LUXURIOUS ATMOSPHERE

You can rely completely on M VILLA to achieve your dream project. Kurt Vanbecelaere touches on the successful corporate philosophy: 'Our collaboration with top class architects has taught us an efficient approach towards luxury villas. Together with the building partner, we draw up a clear timetable and budget, which we always communicate transparently to clients. We provide a luxurious sphere finished down to the last detail according to our clients' specific preferences. We work together solely with professional partners who use only the best materials. M VILLA is the central point of contact throughout the completion process of the villa. We offer a complete service from the planning to the completion and from the first stone to the final delivery inclusive. We invariably monitor the whole process closely and guarantee that everything runs smoothly, so that clients come home happily to their dream world.'

THE CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

'Stress relief' might be a relatively modern term, but for M VILLA it is a theme which has been embedded for years in our proven approach to each project. 'We guarantee a unique approach with one aim in mind: the perfect completion of each building project within the agreed time and with the required finish. In the choice of materials we strive for an optimal price-quality ratio. Clients always have complete freedom in the choice of materials and they themselves make changes depending on their budget, taste, and outlook. People with building plans opt for M VILLA because they want the crème de la crème. We give them that by means of a proactive approach, the use of sustainable materials, and a luxurious degree of finish. That, together with our vast experience in energy-saving projects, the personal guidance, and our outlook on architecture, results in a complete and luxurious finish for every modern or country villa.'

ENERGY-SAVING CONSTRUCTION

The traditional building working method guarantees compliance with today's and tomorrow's strict energy standards. 'At the present time, we already have experience in Almost Energy-Neutral Building ('Bijna-Energieneutraal bouwen'; BEN norm). The homes which we build ensure a maximum E-grade of 30, so that the value of the villa is already assured for the future. The E-grade depends strongly on various factors, such as the orientation, design, or volume of the home. We already take account of that in our specifications. Hardly any changes in the standard implementation of the specifications would improve the E-grade.'

FUTURE-ORIENTED BUILDING

Collaboration with a top class architect is a key element in the process. 'We have absolute faith in our architects. They design each villa with a timeless and, in particular, stylish look. That applies to both the interior and exterior, to give the villa gets an added value format. The architects give priority to all requirements for maximum living comfort. Designing a luxury villa revolves around the needs and wishes of our clients, but also around inspiration and new building techniques.'



TERRE BLEUE®



MORE INFO:

M VILLA
Rijksweg 65
8520 Kuurne
T 056 90 55 20
E info@mvilla.be
W www.mvilla.be

PERSONALISED SERVICE

During the entire building process, clients can count on committed and personal service. 'After a visit to the urban planning services for consultation, we, together with the architect, consider what the possibilities are for building a dream home. The architect makes a preliminary design sketch on which we can build further on a solid partnership and completion. The project manager from M VILLA then assists the project supervisor in the next steps of the building process. He or she offers advice on the choice of material and closely monitors both the technical and administrative aspects of the file. This approach means we can be sure that we meet all demands for completing the dream villa. We are still available for questions or comments after the delivery. We ensure an excellent after-sales service with full respect for the guarantee periods prescribed by law and we also cover the ten-year liability.'

THE RANGE

The M VILLA range is based on three pillars. 'If customers don't yet have any plots of land, that is no problem. We invariably have an attractive range of available plots of land. We then work together to design and complete the luxury villa on that land. If clients prefer a

different location, that, too, is no problem. Thanks to our extensive network, we can search for the perfect plot of land. If clients have a plot of land at their disposal, our architects will design a personal dream home or we work together with the client's designer and together complete the perfect building. We offer a third possibility under the title 'Project according to plan'. Since time is sometimes a valuable asset, we develop draft proposals proactively on our own available plots of land and in diverse styles. This saves clients time and gives them a more immediate insight into the possibilities. Obviously, it is always possible to give the draft proposals a personal touch.'

EXPERIENCE

Experience in luxury villa building is an obvious requirement. 'M VILLA emerged from Menato, in which we have worked for years with highly renowned architects such as Glenn Sestig Architects, Laurence Bourdeau, Bart François, PVM Architects, Rood 3, and 10 architecten. Just like M VILLA, they set the very highest standards. Everything is designed to yield a perfect result time after time!'



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FRANCK MULLER

GENEVE



“Fond ouvert“ de wijzerplaat van dit horloge is open gemaakt om het bijzondere mechanisme te tonen. Een chronometer gecombineerd met een grote datum, ook wel “grand guichet“ genoemd.

8083 CC GD SQT

De Cintrée Curvex collectie van Franck Muller is wereldwijd bewonderd door zijn elegante horlogekasten, prachtige wijzerplaten en complexe binnenwerken. Het zijn stuk voor stuk meesterwerken en voorbeelden van haute horlogerie.


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