

# ADVENTOURS

WHAT DO WE OFFER YOU IN THIS PDF?

- WHAT ELSE TO DO IN BRUSSELS
- CITIES TO VISIT IN BELGIUM
- GASTRONOMY RECOMMENDATIONS
- BELGIAN CHOCOLATE

# WHAT ELSE TO DO IN BRUSSELS



DURING THE FREE TOUR WE WERE ABLE TO ENJOY MANY OF THE CITY'S MOST CHARMING SIGHTS. HOWEVER, BRUSSELS HAS SO MUCH MORE TO OFFER!

WE'LL TELL YOU A BIT ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE PLACES BELOW, IN CASE YOU WANT TO GO. IF YOU CAN STILL ENJOY A FEW MORE DAYS IN THE CITY, YOU CAN'T MISS THEM!

## HOW TO GET THERE?

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# ATOMIUM

THE ATOMIUM IS THE SYMBOL PAR EXCELLENCE OF BRUSSELS AND BELGIUM, A UNIQUE MONUMENT, WITNESS OF THE UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION OF 1958.

THE ATOMIUM IS TODAY ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS ATTRACTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL.

A BIT OF HISTORY:

BUILT FOR THE 1958 UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION, THE ATOMIUM WAS NOT MEANT TO LAST MORE THAN 6 MONTHS, BUT ITS POPULARITY AND SUCCESS MADE IT AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE BRUSSELS LANDSCAPE.

WITH A HEIGHT OF 102 M, ITS 2,400-TONNE STEEL STRUCTURE CONTAINS 9 SPHERES JOINED TOGETHER AND CLAD IN ALUMINIUM. IT REPRESENTS THE 9 ATOMS OF THE IRON CRYSTAL, A REFERENCE TO THE SCIENCES - AN IMPORTANT THEME OF EXPO 58 - AND TO THE USES OF THE ATOM WHICH WERE IN FULL SWING AT THE TIME.

# PARC DU CINQUANTENAIRE

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THE PARK IS MADE UP OF A LARGE COMPLEX OF GARDENS FILLED WITH MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS. IT IS NOTABLE FOR ITS TRIUMPHAL ARCH MADE UP OF THREE ARCHES. THE PARK HOSTS NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR: EVENTS, CELEBRATIONS, FIREWORK DISPLAYS, SPORTING EVENTS, CONCERTS, ETC.

THIS LANDMARK WAS BUILT IN 1880 TO MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BELGIAN INDEPENDENCE. ITS WIDE AVENUES LEAD TO THE TEMPLE OF HUMAN PASSIONS, DESIGNED BY VICTOR HORTA, THE ROYAL MUSEUM OF THE ARMED FORCES AND MILITARY HISTORY, THE ROYAL MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY AND AUTOWORLD. AT THE TOP OF THE THREE TRIUMPHAL ARCHES IS A CARRIAGE AND A BREATHTAKING VIEW OF BRUSSELS.



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# JEANNEKE PIS

JEANNEKE PIS IS A STATUE AND FOUNTAIN LOCATED NEAR THE GRAND PLACE. IT IS THE FEMALE COUNTERPART OF THE MANNEKEN PIS, THE SYMBOL OF THE CITY, BEING LOCATED APPROXIMATELY THE SAME DISTANCE FROM THE GRAND PLACE AS THE MANNEKEN PIS, BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE. THESE TWO MONUMENTS ARE CONSIDERED SIBLINGS.

THE STATUE WAS SCULPTED BY DENIS-ADRIEN DEBOUVRIE IN 1985 AND UNVEILED IN 1987. ABOUT 50 CM HIGH AND CARVED IN BLuish-GREY LIMESTONE, IT DEPICTS A GIRL WITH HER HAIR IN PIGTAILS, URINATING IN A SQUATTING POSITION, APPARENTLY VERY CALM AND MOCKING.

# PORTE DE HAL

THE HAL GATE, IN THE ROYAL MUSEUMS OF ART AND HISTORY, IS A MONUMENT MORE THAN 600 YEARS OLD, WHICH IS THE MOST OUTSTANDING TESTIMONY OF THE MIDDLE AGES IN BRUSSELS.

THE LAST REMNANT OF THE SECOND WALL OF BRUSSELS, THE HAL GATE NOW HOUSES A MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION OF WORKS OF ART AND MANY TEACHING AIDS, HIGHLIGHTING ITS HISTORY AND THAT OF THE BRUSSELS FORTIFICATIONS.

THE NEO-GOTHIC FAÇADE AND THE HIGH CEILINGS ADDED BY THE ARCHITECT HENRY BEYAERT IN THE 19TH CENTURY HAVE NOT PUT AN END TO THE SPLENDOUR OF THE MEDIEVAL ROOMS INSIDE THE BUILDING.

AT THE TOP OF THE TOWER, FROM THE CRENELLATED WALKWAY, YOU CAN ENJOY SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF BRUSSELS AND ITS REGION.

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# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

BRUSSELS IS HOME TO THE MAIN OFFICES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. VISITING THE CHAMBER IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO ENTER THE EXCITING ATMOSPHERE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST TRANSNATIONAL PARLIAMENT AND LEARN ABOUT ITS POWERS AND ROLE.

BOTH INTERACTIVE GUIDES AND MEMBERS OF THE TEAM OF SPEAKERS, ALONG WITH A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION, WILL EXPLAIN HOW THIS CENTRE OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY WORKS, WHAT ITS POWERS ARE AND WHAT HISTORIC VOTES HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHIN ITS WALLS. AND IF YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME, YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW A PLENARY SESSION FROM THE VISITORS' GALLERY.



# LAEKEN

LOCATED ON THE VERTE PROMENADE, LAEKEN PARK IS PART OF A VAST LANDSCAPE COMPLEX THAT INCLUDES THE ROYAL DOMAIN AND SEVERAL SURROUNDING PARKS IN THE NORTH OF BRUSSELS (OSSEGHEM, JARDINS DU FLEURISTE, SOBIESKI, COLONIAL, ETC.).

THE SITE FEATURES A FRENCH-STYLE LANDSCAPE (ONE OF THE FEW EXAMPLES IN BELGIUM), WITH WIDE AVENUES, WINDING PATHS, EXTENSIVE LAWNS, FLOWER BEDS, GROVES AND LAURELS. WHEN THE SUN RISES, THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE TREES CREATES A SCENERY AND A PLAY OF LIGHT AND SHADOW. THE HIGHLIGHT IS THE DYNASTY MONUMENT (PHOTO), WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH TWO WINDING ALLEYS.

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# BOIS DE LA CAMBRE

AT THE END OF AVENUE LOUISE IS THE BOIS DE LA CAMBRE. THIS ENGLISH-STYLE PARK WITH THE APPEARANCE OF A FOREST OWES ITS NAME TO THE NEARBY CAMBRE ABBEY. IT IS A UNIQUE JEWEL OF BRUSSELS' HERITAGE, WITH NOTHING TO ENVY TO NEW YORK'S ICONIC "CENTRAL PARK".

THE BOIS DE LA CAMBRE IS A BRANCH OF THE SOIGNES FOREST. IT COVERS AN AREA OF 123 HECTARES. IN 2004, THE FOREST WAS DECLARED A SPECIAL CONSERVATION AREA BY NATURA 2000. MORE THAN 80 TREES ARE INCLUDED IN THE INVENTORY OF REMARKABLE TREES OF THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION.



# CITIES TO VISIT IN BELGIUM



BRUSSELS IS NOT THE ONLY BEAUTIFUL CITY IN BELGIUM. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VISITING OTHER CITIES IN BELGIUM, HERE ARE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON OUR OWN EXPERIENCES.

BELGIUM HAS A LOT OF HISTORY IN THESE CITIES, SOME SMALLER THAN OTHERS, BUT NO LESS CHARMING - YOU CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT VISITING THEM!

# BRUGES

WHEN ONE THINKS OF BELGIUM, ONE OFTEN THINKS OF BRUGES. CANALS WIND THROUGH THE CITY LIKE A STRING OF PEARLS, GIVING RISE TO ITS WELL-DESERVED NICKNAME OF 'THE VENICE OF THE NORTH'. WITH COBBLED STREETS, BRICK ARCHES, STONE CHURCHES AND PICTURESQUE BRIDGES, IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE A BAD PHOTO. ADD SWANS ON THE WATER, HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGES IN THE STREETS AND DAFFODILS IN THE PARK, AND THE RESULT IS ALMOST MAGICAL.

BRUGES, A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE, HAS THE BEST-PRESERVED EXAMPLE OF A MEDIEVAL CITY CENTRE, DOMINATED BY THE BELL TOWER IN ITS MAIN SQUARE. AS THE CENTRE IS CLOSED TO CARS, ALL THE STUNNING BEAUTY AND CULTURE OF THIS UNFORGETTABLE CITY CAN BE EASILY EXPLORED ON FOOT OR BY TAKING A BOAT TRIP ALONG THE TRANQUIL CANALS, A MUST-SEE.

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# GHENT

THE HIDDEN FLEMISH JEWEL BOASTS AN OPERA HOUSE, A HANDFUL OF MUSEUMS, THE OLDEST CHURCHES AND MANY BRIDGES OVER THE TWO RIVERS THAT RUN THROUGH THE CITY. THE REAL JOY OF GHENT IS TO BE FOUND IN SPENDING AN AFTERNOON IN AN OPEN-AIR BAR. WHETHER SIPPING A COFFEE IN WINTER OR SITTING IN THE SUN IN SPRING WITH A BELGIAN BEER, YOU'LL MINGLE WITH THE LOCALS AND ENJOY THE GOOD ATMOSPHERE THIS CITY HAS TO OFFER. IF POSSIBLE, FIND A SEAT AT GRASLEI, A PICTURESQUE SPOT ON THE CANAL IN THE CENTRE, WITH AN EXCELLENT VIEW OF BRIDGES, HOUSES AND MEDIEVAL BUILDINGS.

HOP ON A BIKE AND EXPLORE THE NEARBY PATERSHOL QUARTER, A SMALL MAZE OF CHARMING COBBLED STREETS, THE IMPOSING GRAVENSTEEN CASTLE (CASTLE OF THE COUNTS) AND THE UNESCO-RECOGNISED BELL TOWER. THE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE INVITES YOU TO ENJOY THE VIBRANT NIGHT-TIME ILLUMINATION OF A UNIVERSITY TOWN AND SIP CAVA AT THE FLOWER MARKET THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY MORNING.

# ANTWERP

ANTWERP, AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL CENTRE IN THE EARLY 17TH CENTURY, HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TRADING CITIES IN NORTHERN EUROPE. TODAY IT IS THE SECOND MOST POPULOUS CITY IN BELGIUM AFTER BRUSSELS.

ANTWERP IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PORTS IN EUROPE THANKS TO THE SCHELDT (SCHELDT) RIVER, WHOSE DEPTH ALLOWS THE NAVIGATION OF DEEP-DRAUGHT MERCHANT SHIPS.

ANTWERP IS ALSO WORLD FAMOUS FOR ITS PRODUCTION OF ROUGH DIAMONDS, APPROXIMATELY 85% OF THE WORLD'S PRODUCTION. THE 35,000 PEOPLE WORKING IN THIS SECTOR MAKE ANTWERP KNOWN AS THE 'DIAMOND CAPITAL OF THE WORLD'.

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# NAMUR

YOU CANNOT MISS A VISIT TO THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE CITY, THE CITADEL. FROM THE TOP OF THIS SPUR, PROTECTED BY ONE OF THE LARGEST FORTRESSES IN EUROPE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONTEMPLATE THE MOST IMPORTANT ATTRACTIONS OF YOUR VISIT.

RETURN TO THE HISTORIC CENTRE TO DISCOVER SOME ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES: THE SAINT-AUBAIN CATHEDRAL, THE THEATRE, THE BELFRY... DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR CAMERA, YOU WILL TAKE MANY PICTURES FOR YOUR COLLECTION.

THE CHIP WAS BORN IN NAMUR. AND YES, THIS CITY ON THE BANKS OF THE MEUSE WAS, IN THE 18TH CENTURY, FOND OF FRIED MORRALLA, A SMALL FISH FISHED BY THE NAMURIANS. UNFORTUNATELY, DURING A VERY COLD WINTER, THE RIVER FROZE AND PREVENTED FISHING. IT WAS THEN THAT THE NAMURIANS DECIDED TO CUT PIECES OF POTATO INTO THE SHAPE OF FISH AND FRY THEM. THESE NAMURIANS ARE VERY CLEVER!

# DINANT

DINANT, A REAL PICTURE-POSTCARD TOWN, OFFERS A CHARMING IMAGE WHEN, ON THE BANKS OF THE MEUSE, YOU LOOK UP AT THE CITADEL AND THE DOME OF THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH BELL TOWER, WITH ITS ROW OF HOUSES AND SHOPS. IF YOU WANT TO ENJOY THE VIEW, DON'T HESITATE TO TAKE THE CABLE CAR TO THE CITADEL.

THE CITY IS ALSO INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS THANKS TO ONE OF ITS SONS: ADOLPHE SAX! THE FAMOUS INVENTOR OF THE SAXOPHONE WAS BORN IN DINANT, WHICH HAS DEDICATED A MUSEUM TO HIM IN HIS BIRTHPLACE. SEVERAL STATUES PAY TRIBUTE TO THE BRILLIANT INVENTOR. OTHER MUSEUMS, SUCH AS THE MAISON DE LA PATAPHONIE, COMPLETE THE CULTURAL VISITS TO THE TOWN.

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# GASTRONOMIC RECOMMENDATIONS



BRUSSELS' GASTRONOMY IS VERY LIMITED, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T ENJOY IT. YOU'LL FIND MANY SMALL STALLS OFFERING TYPICAL FOOD OF THE CITY - YOU'LL SEE ONE IN EVERY CORNER! THERE ARE WAFFLES, POTATOES, ICE-CREAM,...

HERE ARE OUR FAVOURITE PLACES WHERE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ENJOY THE BEST BELGIAN FOOD.

# BRASSERIE OMMEGANG

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BRASSERIE OMMEGANG IS AN ICONIC RESTAURANT THAT CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF BELGIAN CUISINE, AND ITS SIGNATURE DISH, THE CARBONNADE FLAMANDE, IS A CULINARY GEM.

THIS TRADITIONAL STEW IS MADE WITH TENDER CHUNKS OF BEEF SIMMERED IN A RICH SAUCE OF DARK BEER, USUALLY A BELGIAN ALE, GIVING IT A DEEP, ROBUST FLAVOUR. THE MEAT IS COMBINED WITH CAMELISED ONIONS, MUSTARD AND A TOUCH OF SPICE, STRIKING THE PERFECT BALANCE BETWEEN SWEET AND SAVOURY. AT OMMEGANG, THE CARBONNADE IS SERVED WITH CRISPY FRIES, OFFERING A COMFORTING AND AUTHENTIC TASTE EXPERIENCE THAT HONOURS THE RESTAURANT'S BELGIAN ROOTS.



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# FRITLAND

WHAT IS IT ABOUT 'LES FRITES BELGES' THAT MAKES THEM UNIQUE? IT'S ALL IN THE WAY THEY ARE MADE, AND IN THIS PROCESS, THE BELGIANS ARE THE MASTERS WITHOUT A DOUBT. AUTHENTIC BELGIAN FRIES ARE MADE FROM A VARIETY OF POTATO KNOWN AS BINTJES.

THE TRICK TO THEIR INCOMPARABLE TASTE LIES IN THE CHOICE OF FAT OR OIL USED AND THE DOUBLE FRYING PROCESS, WHICH GIVES THEM THEIR CHARACTERISTIC GOLDEN BROWN AND CRISPY APPEARANCE.

OF ALL THE FRENCH FRY STALLS IN BRUSSELS, WE RECOMMEND 'FRITLAND'. IN AN EXCEPTIONAL LOCATION (STOCK EXCHANGE BUILDING), YOU CAN ENJOY SOME OF THE BEST FRIES YOU'LL FIND ANYWHERE IN THE CITY, A DELICACY NOT TO BE MISSED!

# DELIRIUM

A YEAR AFTER ITS OPENING, THE DELIRIUM CAFÉ WOULD WIN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS WITH ITS MORE THAN 2,000 VARIETIES OF BEER, A FIGURE THAT TODAY IT HAS FAR EXCEEDED, AS IT CURRENTLY HAS MORE THAN 3,000 TYPES OF BEER ON ITS MENU. FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. A DREAM PLACE FOR BEER LOVERS, WHERE THEY CAN SAMPLE EVERYTHING FROM TRAPPIST BEERS, THE FAMOUS BELGIAN ABBEY BEERS, TO SWEET OR FRUITY BEERS SUCH AS PÊCHERESSE OR KRIEK. EVEN FOR THOSE WHO DARE TO EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT TASTES, THERE ARE BEERS FLAVOURED WITH CHOCOLATE, SPICES, PEPPER OR FLAVOURED WITH THE FAMOUS SPECULOOS BISCUITS.

ALL THIS IN A MULTI-STOREY SETTING, ALONG THE ALLEY AND INSIDE, 8 BARS WHERE BEER IS THE UNDISPUTED PROTAGONIST, WITH A DECORATION THAT USES SOUVENIRS, OLD ADVERTISING POSTERS, TRAYS, GLASSES... HUNDREDS OF BEER-RELATED ELEMENTS. THE PLACE HAS AN ATMOSPHERE EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR UNTIL WELL INTO THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING. IT IS THE BEST BREWERY IN BRUSSELS AND A MUST FOR EVERY VISITOR TO BRUSSELS. DA OBLIGATORIA PARA TODAS LAS PERSONAS QUE VISITAN BRUSELAS.

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# BRUSSELS WAFFLES-MAISON DANDROY

BELGIAN WAFFLES, OR BRUSSELS WAFFLES, ARE MADE WITH YEAST DOUGH. THEY ARE USUALLY, BUT NOT ALWAYS, LIGHTER, THICKER AND CRISPIER AND HAVE LARGER HOLES THAN OTHER WAFFLE VARIETIES. THEY ARE EASY TO DISTINGUISH FROM LIÈGE WAFFLES BECAUSE OF THEIR RECTANGULAR SHAPE.

## MAISON DANDROY

IN 1829, JEAN-BAPTISTE OPENED HIS FIRST SHOP IN RUE DU MARCHÉ-AUX-HERBES. THIRTY YEARS LATER HE MOVED TO LE BEURRE, WHERE HE TAUGHT HIS SON PHILIPPE THE TRADE. THIS IS WHERE THE DANDROY DYNASTY WOULD FLOURISH. 150 YEARS LATER, BUTTER AND SUGAR ARE STILL MAKING LAW UNDER THE GAZE OF THE LAUGHING SAINT NICOLAS.

# BELGIAN CHOCOLATE



THERE ARE ALWAYS FRIENDS OR RELATIVES WHO ASK US FOR SOUVENIRS OF OUR TRIP TO BELGIUM... AND WHAT BETTER THAN A GOOD CHOCOLATE!

AFTER TRYING MANY OF THEM, WE'LL TELL YOU WHICH OPTIONS WE LIKED THE MOST AND WHICH WE RECOMMEND.

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ADVENTOURS

# NEUHAUS

HIS GRANDFATHER FOUNDED HIS OWN PHARMACY IN 1857 IN THE GALERIE DE LA REINE, A SECTION OF THE GALERIES ROYALES SAINT-HUBERT. HE ORIGINALLY SOLD PHARMACEUTICAL SWEETS: COUGH DROPS, LIQUORICE TO CURE STOMACH ACHE, ETC.

IN 1912, HIS GRANDSON JEAN NEUHAUS JR HAD THE IDEA OF DISGUIISING THE UNPLEASANT TASTE OF THE MEDICINE BY ADDING A THIN LAYER OF CHOCOLATE, AND SO PRALINE, THE FIRST CHOCOLATE WITH A SMOOTH FILLING, WAS INVENTED.

JEAN NEUHAUS JR'S WIFE, LOUISE AGOSTINI, CREATED A SOPHISTICATED BOX TO TASTEFULLY DISPLAY DELICATE CHOCOLATES, SHOWING THEM OFF LIKE LITTLE JEWELS. THIS BOX, KNOWN AS A 'BOLATINA', WAS TO BECOME THE ULTIMATE GIFT. IN THE HEARTS OF BELGIANS, THE BOX OF CHOCOLATES REMAINS AN EXCEPTIONAL GIFT AND, FOR MANY OF US, IT IS STILL AS GOOD A GIFT TO GIVE AS IT IS TO RECEIVE.

# PIERRE MARCOLINI

TRANSFORMING THE FINEST COCOA BEANS INTO A DELICATE CHOCOLATE COUVERTURE TO ENHANCE THE PLEASURE OF CHOCOLATE LOVERS: THAT IS PIERRE MARCOLINI'S MISSION, TO COMBINE AROMAS TO CREATE INCOMPARABLE TASTE SENSATIONS.

EXCELLENCE IS THE STANDARD. PIERRE MARCOLINI GAINED FAME AND PRESTIGE AS A PASTRY CHEF BY WINNING THE WORLD PASTRY CUP IN 1995 IN LYON AND THE EUROPEAN PASTRY CUP IN 2000 IN ROME. MARCOLINI IS BASED IN BRUSSELS, BUT IN RECENT YEARS HE HAS ALSO OPENED SHOPS IN OTHER BELGIAN CITIES.

CHOCOLATE LOVERS CAN BOOK A TASTING SESSION AT THE MARCOLINI SHOP IN ANTWERP AND, FOR AN AFFORDABLE PRICE, CAN SAMPLE TWO CREATIONS, PERHAPS WITH A CUP OF HOT CHOCOLATE, COFFEE OR TEA, WHILE LISTENING TO A SHORT TALK ABOUT CHOCOLATES AND THE MARCOLINI CHOCOLATE COMPANY.

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# LAURENT GERBAUD

LAURENT GERBAUD IS A TRADITIONAL CHOCOLATIER WHO HAS BEEN MARRIED TO CHOCOLATE, FRUITS AND SPICES FOR 11 YEARS. DURING AN EXTENDED STAY IN CHINA, HE DISCOVERED THE RICH REIGN OF ASIAN FLAVOURS AND SMELLS AND BEGAN TO COVER DELICIOUS KUMQUATS (SMALL CANDIED ORANGES) WITH BITTER CHOCOLATE, AN UNEXPECTED DELICACY. BACK IN BELGIUM, HE CONTINUED TO PASSIONATELY CREATE DELICIOUS COMBINATIONS. THE INGREDIENTS THAT MAKE UP EACH OF HIS CREATIONS ARE SELECTED FROM THE BEST OF THEIR KIND AND EACH DELICACY IS HANDMADE.



THE LAURENT GERBAUD LOGO FEATURES A RED SEAL WITH THE WORD 'CHOCOLATE' IN CHINESE. THESE CREATIONS ARE PRESENTED IN SOPHISTICATED PACKAGING THAT VISUALLY ENHANCES EACH PRODUCT AND TURNS THEM INTO IRRESISTIBLE TEMPTATIONS: PRECIOUS GIFTS OR A WONDERFUL PERSONAL TREAT.