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**Subject:** News from VISITFLANDERS - October 2023



## **News from VISITFLANDERS - October 2023**

In the midst of fall, in this newsletter, we bring news of some fabulous exhibitions and openings in the run-up to Christmas. The autumnal months provide a great reason to travel to our region with plenty of cultural offerings. We bring news about Antwerp's Rare and Indispensable exhibition, celebrating masterpieces from all over Flanders, under one roof at the MAS museum-opening at the end of October. It is also the season when thoughts turn to visiting festive markets in December- Bruges, Antwerp, and Ghent will be hosting some of the biggest celebrations. And a place where a delicious brew is never a few paces away, we bring some information about two new openings - The Belgian Beer World in Brussels, as well as a new visitor center at the St Bernardus brewery, in Flanders Fields. And speaking of Flanders Fields, last month, its cemeteries and monuments were been listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List- an accolade the region had sought after 15 years! Enjoy reading on.

### **Arts and Heritage:**

**Rare and Indispensable -  
Masterpieces from Flemish collections**

**ROSE, ROSE, ROSE, À MES  
YEUX!**

**October 31,  
2023-  
25, 2024**

**February**

**MAS museum Antwerp**



Image credit: VII-e\_Kunstkamer\_Cornelis\_van\_der\_Geest\_Rubenshuis[

Magritte, Bacon, Ensor, Moore, Jordaens, Rubens ... These are just some of the world-famous names on display at the MAS in Autumn 2023. ['Rare and Indispensable'](#) brings a unique selection of masterpieces from the Flemish masterpiece list. Works of art you would otherwise have to travel all over Flanders to see, or which were never even publicly accessible, will be temporarily brought together in one museum hall. All in honor of the 20th anniversary of the 'Flemish Masterpiece Decree'.

**Find out more**

**James Ensor and the Still Life in  
Belgium 1830-1930**

**December 16, 2023- January  
14, 2024**



Image credit: (c) collectie KMSKA, Rik Klein Gotink, public domain

The most original figure of late 19th century Flemish painting, Ensor is known for his unique portrayals of grotesque humanity, painting individuals as clowns or skeletons or replacing their faces with carnival masks. 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of his death. To mark the occasion, Flanders is celebrating the life and works of this prolific painter starting with a series of major events in his home city of Ostend by putting the artist in the spotlight with a multifaceted city festival, numerous exhibitions, and events that reveal the true face of "the man behind the masks". From September 2024 onwards Antwerp will provide the venue of this year-long celebration of this very inspirational Belgian artist.

[Find out more](#)

## Cycling News

### The Cyclocross Season

#### has started in Flanders

The cycling cross season spans from October to February, featuring premier competitions such as the UCI Cyclo-cross World Cup and Belgium's Superprestige championship. Mid-December through to the first week of January is the busiest time for cyclo-cross racers, with a full schedule of events for elite and master competitors. In Flanders, cyclocross, also known as "veldrijden", is the most popular winter sport. Each of the sports stars has a devoted fan club and is a household name. The sport is taken very seriously in Flanders where the stars can attract salaries that exceed other winter sports like football! Cyclo-cross bikes differ from other bikes in that they feature all-terrain tires which are thicker. The sport caters to all ages, males, female, and abilities. For a



Image credit: © hendrik alpers

### Six Days of Ghent

**November 14-19, 2023**

#### Kuipke - Ghent

The **Lotto Six Days of Flanders-Ghent** is a cycling event which takes place at the Kuipke cycling track located the Citadel Park in Ghent. An annual event since 1922, takes part on the covered track with two teams. The two riders with the highest number of rounds after a period of six days, or who obtained the most points from each individual auxiliary competition, wins.

[Find out more](#)

round-up of what races are due to take place this autumn and beyond, see our calendar of events [here](#).

Find out  
more

## Flanders Fields News

### **UNESCO World Heritage Listing for Cemeteries and Monuments in Flanders Fields.**

After a 15-year campaign from various partners in Flanders, Wallonia and France, UNESCO finally awarded 139 sites recognition and added them to their World Heritage List on 20 September 2023.

In Flanders, this included memorable sights that many visitors might visit during a pilgrimage to Flanders Fields such as Tyne Cot Cemetery, the Menin Gate memorial together with all the other major memorial sites, in total, 27 different locations.

The sites are powerful symbols of reconciliation and equality and honor every soldier irrespective of their geographical or social origin. The recognition from UNESCO is a fitting

### **Armistice Day Events 2024**

#### **Flanders Fields /Westhoek region**

The First World War finally came to an end at 11 o'clock on the morning of 11 November 1918. Every year, numerous commemorative activities take place in Flanders Fields around 11 November.

As well as Commemoration ceremonies in Ypres and Tyne Cot, this year visitors wishing to pay their respects at this time can also take part in a range of other activities. In Passchendaele, a poignant torch parade takes place the night before Armistice.

Elsewhere, in Messines, as well as marking the 25th anniversary of the

and relevant representation of the meaning of peace.

*Image credit: © visitflanders*



[Find out more](#)

Irish Peace Park and Tower, visitors can immerse themselves in an art project aimed at connecting nationalities via religion, culture and music. Music also makes a powerful expression via a series of different concerts in Ypres and Poperinge too.



*Image credit: (c) westtoer*

[Find out more](#)

## Gastronomy and Beer

### St Bernardus Visitor Centre Open now

St Bernardus Brewery has been offering authentic guided tours for over a decade but as 2021 drew to a close, these came to an

### Brussels Beer World opens in Brussels

#### Old Bourse Building - Brussels

Belgian Beer World has finally opened to the public in Brussels. The interactive

end with a quest for the development of a new visitor experience as a substitute of their previous tours. The Brewery Tour is a genuine museum 'experience' which tells the unique story behind St. Bernardus whilst immersing visitors in the history of the brewery, its product range, and the brewing process as a whole. Visitors are treated to an exclusive peek behind the scenes in the production hall with a beer tasting at their new Bar Bernard rooftop bar at the end.

Apart from a bike rental service, the brewery also offers overnight accommodation at Guesthouse Brouwershuis to assist with a complete brewery experience. The brewery aims to attract 80,000 to 100,000 visitors per annum with its new visitor experience.

Credit image © St Bernardus



[Find out more](#)

museum tells the story of the art of brewing in Belgium from the history of Belgian beer in the Middle Ages to the present day and examines the diversity that surrounds Belgian beer. Proud of their brewing heritage, around a hundred Belgian brewers have been involved in Belgian Beer World.

An interactive tour concludes with a finish at the center's brasserie, a terrace and a unique viewpoint over the center of Brussels on the roof of the Bourse and the spire of the Hôtel de Ville. The perfect opportunity to round off the tour with a refreshing Belgian beer or soft drink.



Credit Image © Belgian Beer Centre

[Find out more](#)



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