



The Alliance

Bulletin

Providing key information in a no-frills format for professional who travel to write, edit, broadcast or create images.

July 2014

Ashley Gibbins

Ashley@itwalliance.com
www.itwalliance.com

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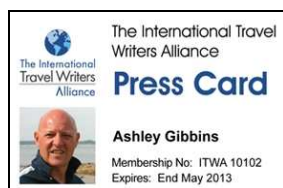
Annual or special events, celebrations and commemorations.

Registering with the Alliance

To register with the Alliance visit : www.itwalliance.com, and register as a :

- **Member** : travel writers, broadcasters and photographers
- **Editor** : commissioning editors
- **Partner** : travel and tourism industry organisations, or
- **Agency** : agency representatives with travel or tourism clients

The Alliance press card



The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card now provides Alliance journalists with formal recognition of their status and standing in the profession and a range of opportunities from Alliance travel partners.

For more information contact Ashley Gibbins at Ashley@itwalliance.com.

Join and follow



http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2978414&trk=hb_side_g



@writersalliance

Reasons to write about

More detailed information on potential features

A place to stay

New, unusual, interesting or convenient accommodation worldwide.

An Alliance focus on :

- The Edinburgh Festivals, Scotland
- The Lea Valley Regional Park, London, UK, and
- Summer music festivals in Brussels and Flanders

Travel guides

Travel guide publishers offering review copies to Alliance members.

Job shop

Here are some of the professional opportunities available on [The International Travel Writers Alliance Job Shop](#).

The **Job Shop** has been created to enable the Alliance's partners to place - and journalists to receive - information on in-house jobs, special assignments or one-off projects.

The Alliance's travel journalists can also :

- set up **Job Alerts** so as to be notified if a job is posted that matches the journalists skills or interests
- create an anonymous job seeker profile or upload a CV for potential employers to search through, and
- access job searching tools and tips

We hope the **Job Shop** will become a valuable addition to the range of services offered by the **International Travel Writers Alliance**.

Current jobs include an editor position with *Mashable* and a deputy editor at TF Global Recruitment both based in London.

Also :

Technical Editor and Writer
Baltimore, Maryland

Assistant Editor - Editorial Features
New York, New York

Technical Editor
New York, New York

The site also features other US, UK and international job opportunities.

Visit : www.jobtarget.com/home/home.cfm?site_id=14773

Working with the Alliance

The following travel industry partners and agencies have registered with the Alliance and are keen to work with Alliance travel writers, editors, broadcasters and photographers.

Other Alliance partners and agencies can be found at www.itwalliance.com.

Partners

McKenzie News Service

McKenzieNewsService.com distributes press releases on events to online media, newspapers, magazines, journalists, syndicates and broadcast media: Festivals & Fairs, Events, Performing Arts, Arts & Culture, Music, Museum Exhibits, Food & Wine/ /Culinary, Entertainment, Attractions.

Visit : www.mckenzenewsservice.com. Contact : Paul McKenzie at paul@mckenzenewsservice.com.

New Hampshire Travel and Tourism

The New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development works with the state's seven travel regions to increase visitation, travel and visitor expenditures.

Visit : www.visitnh.gov. Contact : Tai Freligh at tai.freligh@dred.state.nh.us

Volunteer Expeditions

Volunteer Expeditions is a nonprofit travel-planning agency that organizes group volunteer vacations. Current trips include rebuilding New Orleans, tutoring children in Jamaica, and helping the homeless in Chicago and Washington DC. Each trip is customized to the time frame, budget, and interests of the travelling group.

Volunteer opportunities can include building homes, serving meals in soup kitchens, sorting and distributing supplies for food banks, restoring the ecosystem, and much more.

All meals, tours and stops at local attractions are also included to ensure a meaningful, fun, and well-rounded experience for everyone.

Visit : www.volunteerepeditions.org. Contact : Allison Bernstein at allison@volunteerepeditions.org.

The San Francisco Travel Association

The San Francisco Travel Association is an independent, not-for-profit destination marketing organization with more than 1,600 business members.

Its mission is to enhance the local economy by marketing San Francisco and the Bay Area as the premier destination for conventions, meetings, events and leisure travel.

To accomplish this goal, SF Travel courts a highly qualified list of national, regional and state meeting planners; domestic and international tour packagers, wholesalers, operators and travel agents; leisure travelers; and local, national and international media.

Visit : www.sanfrancisco.travel/about/about.html. Contact : Harold Hoogasian at harold@hoogasian.com.

Destination North Wales

Destination North Wales is the entry point for all things tourism related into the stunning destination of North Wales, UK

Home of Snowdonia National Park, Isle of Anglesey (where Prince William works), beautiful beaches, 5 World Heritage Sites, a unique language and culture and so much more, we are a hidden gem yet to be discovered by many of you!

Visit : www.destinationnorthwales.co.uk. Contact : Carole Startin at carole.startin@tpnw.org.

Agencies

Preddy PR (USA)

Preddy PR is a full-service marketing and public relations firm based in Naples, Florida.

Founded in 1997 by Beth Preddy, Preddy PR creates and implements marketing campaigns and single promotions tailored to the needs of its hospitality and non-profit clients.

Visit : www.preddypr.com. Contact : Beth Preddy at beth@preddypr.com.

News

Fred. Olsen launches 'You Choose Your Cruise' in 2015

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is to offer its Braemar's 15-night 'You Choose Your Cruise' sailing, which departs from Southampton in October 2015.

Guests on board will get to 'tell the Captain where to go', as they vote for the next port of call as the cruise progresses, with two choices on offer every 48 hours.

The first decision that guests will make is whether to point Braemar towards Vigo in Spain, or Leixoes in Portugal.

Other choices are between :

- Andalucian Malaga in Spain or Gibraltar
- Barcelona (Spain) or Palamós, on the Spanish Costa Brava
- Valencia or Palma
- Cartagena or Alicante
- Andalusian Cadiz (Spain) or the Algarve region of Portugal, and
- Ferrol or La Coruna, both in Spain.

Visit : www.fredolsencruises.com. Ruth Ryland at ruth.ryland@fredolsen.co.uk.

Fred Olsen Cruise Lines

Fred Olsen Cruise Lines is also offering guests the chance to experience some of the most vibrant, colourful and unique gardens and flower festivals on two exciting cruises in 2015.

The 880 berth *Boudicca* will embark on a 14-night 'Madeira Flower Festival' cruise from Dover on 14 April 2015, followed by an 11-night 'Floral Britannia' cruise from Dover on 28 April 2015.

Visit : www.fredolsencruises.com. Contact : Rachael Jackson at rachael.jackson@fredolsen.co.uk

Azura Retreats

Azura Retreats, which owns and manages luxury boutique hotels in Mozambique, has announced that it is expanding into Tanzania.

The first of three new projects in the country will be Azura Selous Game Reserve.

Azura will be taking over and refurbishing an existing top end property, Amara Selous, which has 12 luxury tented suites on the banks of the Ruaha River.

The Selous, the largest game reserve in Africa, is 60 minutes light aircraft flight from Dar es Salaam, and famous for its lion, elephant and wild dog.

Visit : www.azura-retreats.com. Contact: Julie Hedley at julie@smallworldmarketing.co.uk.

The Vale of Rheidol Railway, Wales UK

The Vale of Rheidol Railway is celebrating the 150th anniversary by re-launching locomotive No.9 'Prince of Wales'.

It is painted in black Cambrian Railways livery that applied to the Vale of Rheidol's locomotives between 1913-23, the locomotive. A rake of coaches have been repainted in traditional carriage livery of the 1920s and original station buildings at the halts and stations along the line have been reinstated.

Visit : www.rheidolrailway.co.uk. Contact : Duncan Foulkes at duncan.foulkes@btinternet.com.

PocketGuide

PocketGuide is a GPS based, audio city guide application for smart phones, which guides the through the chosen city by voice like a real tour guide or local friend introducing the best stories, insider tips on bars and restaurants or must see cultural and world heritage sights in a very interesting and entertaining way.

The service is available in more than 115 cities on 5 continents.

Košice now on Pocket Guide

Košice, Slovakia's second city is now available on the Pocket Guide smart phone app.

The first Košice route on the app is the Traces of European Capital of Culture 2013 as well as the most significant historical and cultural monuments in the city centre

Pocket Guide provides online and offline mapping of 115 cities and tourist destinations on five continents.

Visit : www.pocketguideapp.com and www.visitkosice.eu. Contact : Ivana Takcsova at ivana.takacsova@visitkosice.eu.

Oscar Wilde Tours : Gay History for gay travelers

Oscar Wilde Tours has entered the high-end gay travel market with a tour to Oscar Wilde's Dublin, London and Paris that aim to connect gay travelers with their heritage.

The tour uses the life of Oscar Wilde as a way of examining the broader culture of homosexuality at the end of the 19th century, when the Victorian Era was giving way to the modern age and sexual attitudes were undergoing a revolution.

It will take its guests on a journey through the capitals of Ireland, England and France to explore places of importance to gay history and illustrate the relationship between the cultural movements of the time and the birth of modern ideas of sexuality.

Oscar Wilde Tours was founded in 2014 to provide luxury tours that focus on gay history.

Visit : www.oscarwildetours.com. Contact : info@oscarwildetours.com.

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum, Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum opens in Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia on 2 August 2014.

This Smithsonian Institution-affiliated Museum will be dedicated to preserving the legacy of the 1927 Bristol Sessions and their lasting influence on American popular music.

Johnny Cash referred to the famous Sessions (also known as the 'Big Bang of Country Music') as "the single most important event in the history of country music.

Visit : www.birthplaceofcountrymusic.org. Contact : Jo Thomas at jo.thomas@kbc-pr.com.

Transcendent Tokyo

Bespoke excursions led by Japan's leading art experts are the basis behind a new three-night stay package called Transcendent Tokyo, offered by the Palace Hotel Tokyo.

In an exclusive arrangement, members of Blouin Artinfo Japan Bureau will consult with guests prior to their arrival to design bespoke full- and half-day art tours entirely tailored to their interests.

Visit : www.en.palacehoteltokyo.com. Contact : pr@masonrose.com.

Jakarta, Indonesia introduces free hop on hop off tour busses

Visitors to Jakarta can see the city's major tourist sites, aboard one of five new double-decker tour buses introduced by the Jakarta City Government.

Operating from 7am to 7pm daily, the air-conditioned buses loop around the city centre and take tourists within walking distance of major attractions, shopping malls and entertainment hot-spots.

The hop-on buses can be boarded – free of charge – by domestic and international tourists from designated bus stops throughout the city.

The government plans to roll out another 15 buses onto an expanded tour of the capital, enabling visitors to discover the Dutch colonial town of Kota Tua in the north as well as the highlights of the Blok M shopping quarter in south Jakarta.

Visit : www.tourism-indonesia.co.uk. Contact : Sarah Habicht at sarah@humewhitehead.co.uk.

The Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project

Jumeirah Group, the Dubai-based luxury hotel company has celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project with the release of 110 critically endangered hawksbill turtles.

The turtles had all been rescued from the shores of the UAE and nursed back to health by the Project, which is run in collaboration with Dubai's Wildlife Protection Office.

It is estimated that only one out of 1000 sea turtle hatchlings will reach sexual maturity and, to date, 692 rescued sea turtles have been rehabilitated and returned to the UAE's waters.

Visit : www.jumeirah.com. Contact : Louisa Levison at llevison@thecomunicationgroup.co.uk.

Cavtat, Southern Dalmatia, Croatia

The town of Cavtat in Southern Dalmatia has been included in Fodor's Travel "Ten Places To Go" list.

Cavtat was third on the list, with other top destinations including Barbados, Istanbul, Aspen and Vienna. Located ten miles from Dubrovnik, Cavtat is a walled city, with a harbour and fine beaches.

Visit : www.adriatica.net/destinations/hrvatska/juzna-dalmacija/cavtat-dubrovnik_en.htm. Contact : Ellen Thom at ellen.thom@rooster.co.uk.

The Hotel Royal, Lake Geneva

The 5-star Hotel Royal, the so-called Grande Dame of the Evian Resort, will re-open on 01 July 2014 following a refurbishment that has seen the entire 6th floor transformed into stunning suites.

Public areas within the Hotel Royal have also been remodelled and restored in keeping with the traditional Belle Epoque style of the property which has views over Lake Geneva.

Guests of the hotel over the years include the Aga Khan, Queen Elizabeth 11 and actor Errol Flynn.

Visit : www.evianresort.com. Contact : Li Boatright at li@storringtoncommunications.com.

The Edinburgh Movie Map, Scotland

A new Edinburgh movie map highlighting key locations seen in films such as *Trainspotting*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and *The Da Vinci Code* has been launched to celebrate the city's glittering history on the silver screen.

A collaboration between *VisitScotland* and Film Edinburgh, the map features 32 locations around the city which were used in 21 cinema releases.

Visit : www.visitscotland.com/edinburghfilmmap and www.thisisedinburgh.com. Contact : Tom Maxwell at tom.maxwell@visitscotland.com.

Leads

Andaz Liverpool Street, London

Located in the heart of the City of London, Andaz Liverpool Street is a 5-star luxury boutique hotel. One of London's original railway hotels, it opened as the Great Eastern in a redbrick Victorian building dating back to 1884.

As the Andaz, the property has been transformed into a 21st century hotel, with 267 rooms and seven London restaurants and bars.

A Room With A View

The Andaz Liverpool Street has teamed up with four distinctly diverse British artists: Chris Price, Patrick Vale, ILoveDust and Patrick Morgan to launch *A Room With A View* – a series of four East London street art rooms.

Each artist will hand paint in one of the rooms, their depiction of East London's.

Visit www.andazliverpoolstreet.com. Contact : Nadia Walford at nadia@grifcopr.com.

Aruba on a Harley Davidson

Harley Davidson's are available for daily, morning or afternoon small group tours of the Caribbean island, with experienced tour guides, through Aruba Motorcycle Tours.

Four types of machine are offered :

- the Roadking, ideal for the experienced rider
- Heritage Softail, which offers easy handling
- the powerful Dyna, with sporty riding position, and
- the Sportster, with 1200cc of power, easy to handle and a shorter build, making it ideal for women riders.

Visit : www.arubamotorcycletours.com. Contact : Joanna Walding at j.walding@aruba.com.

Coral Spawning in Saint Lucia

Each year, coral release millions of packets of egg and sperm cells that appear underwater as massive pink and white clouds.

They slowly drift to the surface where fertilization occurs.

The next day the sea will be partially covered by pink slicks of coral larvae which represents the next generation of one of the ocean's most vital organisms.

Within a few weeks the larvae will settle on the bottom and begin the process of reef building.

In Saint Lucia the spawning takes place off the beaches of Anse Chastanet and the resort's scuba diving team accurately predicts the night spawning and prepares to take divers to observe the remarkable phenomenon.

In 2014 it will take place between 16 and 18 August.

Scuba St. Lucia is offering special night dives during the predicted period to allow guests to witness this magnificent spectacle. Snorkelers can also participate.

Visit : www.ansechastanet.com and www.scubastlucia.com. Contact : Martha at Martha@moranopr.com

Mashatu, Botswana

Mashatu, Botswana's largest private game reserve, covers 72,000 acres of wilderness in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve in Eastern Botswana.

The reserve borders South Africa and Zimbabwe, where the Limpopo and Shashe Rivers meet, and forms the heart of the proposed Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area.

The reserve has over 700 elephants, Africa's largest population on private land and is a birders' destination with over 350 species. There are also cheetah, leopard and daily sightings of eland, ostrich and bat-eared fox.

Accommodation is in the Mashatu tented camp and main camp. Activities include adventure, walking, cycling and horse.

Visit : www.mashatu.com. Contact : Kevin Keating at kevin@ethosmarketing.co.uk.

The Belfry, Wishaw, Warwickshire, UK

The Belfry, a former manor house dating back to the 12th Century, is located within 550 acres of English countryside.

The hotel has 319 bedrooms and 14 suites, three PGA approved golf courses and a wide range of leisure facilities.

The Belfry's spa has recently undergone a grand facelift, which marks the completion of a £26 million refurbishment at the resort. Spa guests can unwind with champagne whilst enjoying personalised treatments, such as 'The Golfer's Recovery' or 'The Fire and Ice Experience' both unique to the hotel.

The resort also has a new Ryder Grill restaurant and Brabazon Bar, as well as refurbished Sam's Clubhouse.

De Vere Hotels, which owns the Belfry, has a portfolio of nine hotels :

- Mottram Hall
- The Grand Brighton
- Cameron House on Loch Lomond
- Carden Park
- The Belfry
- Oulton Hall
- Slaley Hall
- Dunston Hall, and
- Belton Woods.

De Vere also operates 19 championship golf courses.

Visit : www.thebelfry.co.uk and www.devere-hotels.co.uk. Contact : Janelle at Janelle.moore@wildcard.co.uk.

All Aboard Yacht Charters, Alaska

All Aboard Yacht Charters offer tours and charters to Alaska from Seattle, go through Alaska's inside passage, where passengers can catch salmon, halibut and crab, walk in rain forests, visit Sea Lion Rookeries, watch Brown Bears feeding on spawning Salmon, spot Humpback Whale and eagles.

All About Yacht Charters use smaller yachts to allow passengers to travel to places where the larger ships cannot go.

Visit : www.alaskacharters.com. Contact : John Swanson at allaboard@htct.com.

Alacati, Turkey

The Aegean town of Alacati combines traditional Turkish hospitality with stylish boutique hotels, high-end fashion, independent art galleries and lively beach clubs.

Alacati's village ambience and the preservation of its historical feel has long attracted artists and there are a number of galleries with paintings, sculptures and ceramics to explore and exhibitions.

Visit : www.explorealacati.com. Contact : Serra Celikkan at alacati@redmintcomms.co.uk.

Wilderness Safaris Savuti Camp, Botswana

Wilderness Safaris Savuti Camp has introduced a sleep-out option on outdoor decks overlooking the wildlife-rich Savute Channel in the Okavango's Linyanti Concession.

Situated a 20-minute drive or 45-minute boat trip away from the camp, the two new 'sleep-out' decks offer guests a wilderness experience and the chance to sleep under the stars in the Okavango Delta.

Famous for the fact that between 1980 and 2008 it stopped flowing altogether, the Savute Channel is now a deep, clear waterway that attracts a variety of wildlife and anything can be seen from the deck, including hippo, kudu, buffalo, waterbuck, impala, baboon and good birdlife.

Visit : www.wilderness-safaris.com/camps/savuti-camp Contact : Charlotte Rous at charlotte@grifcopr.com.

What's on

New Zealand events

F.A.W.C! Food & Wine Classic, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

Annually June

The F.A.W.C! Food & Wine Classic is a boutique food festival featuring a selection of seasonal food and wine events which is held twice a year throughout Hawke's Bay.

Being the premium producer of some of New Zealand's finest wines, Hawke's Bay also claims to be 'the food bowl of New Zealand'.

Guests can enjoy a foodie weekend featuring all of New Zealand's finest, from local lamb to BBQ fondue and not to mention Hawke's Bay full-bodied Chardonnay by the roaring fires.

Visit : www.fawc.co.nz.

The Queenstown Winter Festival

Annually June

The Queenstown Winter Festival is the region's most iconic annual event and the official kick off to New Zealand's winter. Running for ten days it has with live music, comedy shows, markets, sporting and alpine events and street parades

Visit : www.winterfestival.co.nz.

The Chocolate Carnival, Dunedin

12 to 18 July 2014 (annual)

The small South Island city of Dunedin's annual Chocolate Carnival ends in the Cadbury Jaffa race, which sees giant Cadbury Jaffas (balls of orange sugar coated chocolate that have been made in New Zealand since 1931) hurtle their way down Baldwin street – the world's steepest street with a gradient of 1 in 2.86.

Visit : www.newzealand.com/uk/event/dunedin-cadbury-chocolate-carnival.

Visa Wellington on a Plate

15 to 31 August 2014 (annual)

Wellington celebrates its status as the, so-called, culinary capital of New Zealand with two weeks of gastronomic events during the annual *Visa Wellington on a Plate*.

There are more than 100 different food and drink events, including Beervana – a showcase of the country's craft beers - and the New Zealand Chocolate Festival.

Visit www.wellingtononaplate.com.

Visit www.newzealand.com. Contact: Paul Charles at newzealand@verypcc.com.

August events in Frankfurt, Germany

Frankfurt's Apple Wine Festival

8 to 17 August 2014

Frankfurt's apple wine culture is an important part of the city's joie de vivre and, at the Apple Wine Festival, folklore and dialect poetry performances combine with Hessian cult bands and apple wine in all kinds of variations is available for tasting at the festival's many stands.

The Museum Embankment Festival

29 to 31 August 2014

On the final August weekend of every year, Frankfurt stages the Museum Embankment Festival, during which the museums along the northern and southern banks of the river keep their doors open late into the night, while a stage programme presents music and dance from all around the globe.

Visit : www.museumsuferfest.de/start-en.

Visit : www.frankfurt-tourismus.de. Contact : Mira Berkova at berkova@infofrankfurt.de.

Summer events in Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate, UK

Margate Carnival Soul Weekend, Margate Old Town

1 to 3 August 2014

This is regarded as the UK south east's biggest soul music festival with the town's piazza and Old Town clustered with street parties, live acts and DJs. On Sunday 3 August Margate's annual carnival takes place with marching bands, floats and carnival courts.

Visit : www.margatesoulweekend.co.uk.

Broadstairs Folk Week

8 to 15 August 2014

Broadstairs Folk Week has over 500 events with visitors able to play the ukulele or East European dance, join in the Spoon Orchestra or a ceilidh, or enjoy the song and dance around the pubs.

Visit : www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk.

Margate Masters Beach Volleyball Finals

16 and 17 August 2014

The grand finale of this year's Volleyball England Beach Tour will provide spectators the chance to witness some top class beach volleyball players battle it out to become National Beach Tour Champions 2014.

Visit : www.volleyballengland.org.

Ramsgate Week – Royal Harbour, Ramsgate

17 to 22 August 2014

Ramsgate Week, organised by the Royal Temple Yacht Club, is promoted as the friendly regatta and alternative to Cowes Week. It includes the 'Round the Goodwins' race and the IRC East Coast Regional Championships 2014.

Visit : www.ramsgateweek.com**Wheels and Fins Festival, Joss Bay, Broadstairs**

12-14 September 2014

An event built around live music and DJs but with a skateboard mini ramp competition and demonstrations, stand up paddleboard demonstrations and fun race, beach volleyball tournament, soap box derby, skateboard slalom and downhill.

Visit : www.wheelsandfinsfestival.comVisit : www.visitthanet.co.uk. Contact : Julie Edwards at Julie.edwards@thanet.gov.uk.**Events in Aruba**

Aruba is an island located about 1,600 kilometres (990 mi) west of the Lesser Antilles in the southern Caribbean Sea and 27 kilometres (17 mi) north of the coast of Venezuela.

Together with Bonaire and Curaçao, it forms a group referred to as the ABC islands.

Annual events on the island include :

28th Annual Aruba Hi-Winds

3 to 7 July 2014

The largest amateur windsurfing event in the Caribbean, making great use of Aruba's trade winds.

Windsurfing and kite boarding competitions in various categories off the beach at the Fishermen's Huts at Hadicurari.

Visit : www.aruba-hiwinds.org.**Aruba Regatta**

15 to 17 August 2014

Competition among international yachts, catamarans, sunfish and windsurfers during the day and music, parties and dinners by night.

Visit : www.arubaregatta.com.**20th Annual Aruba International Pro-Am Golf Tournament**

21 to 25 August 2014

Professional and amateur golfers team up in a two-day, 36-hole tournament, featuring gifts, prizes and special events at the Tierra del Sol course.

Visit : www.tierradelsol.com.**Electric Festival 2014**

3 to 7 September 2014

The largest electronic music festival in the Caribbean, featuring some of the biggest name from this scene. Various venues adjacent to Nikki Beach

Visit : www.electricfestival.com.

Aruba Food, Wine & Art Festival

12 and 13 September 2014

A tasting event featuring a pastry extravaganza with invited chefs showcasing their talents.

Food presentations with a Caribbean touch are paired with excellent wines and champagnes. This culinary event in Aruba is combined with a local art exhibition showcasing some of Aruba's best artworks by residential artists and photographers.

Visit : www.aruba.com/things-to-do/aruba-food-wine-festival

Annual Battle of the Food Trucks

26 and 27 September 2014

Experience Aruba's food truck culture combined with live musical performances from local bands and deejays.

Visit : www.aruba.com. Contact : Joanna Walding at j.walding@aruba.com.

The Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival, Aruba

3 and 4 October 2014

The Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival is staged at the Renaissance Festival Plaza in island capital Oranjestad. This will be the eighth annual festival, with up to 6,000 visitors a day expected.

Visit : www.caribbeanseajazz.com. Contact : Joanna Walding at j.walding@aruba.com.

1000 Voices for peace, Various locations in Flanders and the rest of Belgium

5 to 9 November 2014

Flanders Festival commemorates the Great War in its own way a great Oratorio for peace that aims to bring people together from all over the world.

People from countries who were fighting each other to the death a hundred years ago will be singing together for peace.

On 9 November 2014, choirs from Belgium will be joined by choirs from the four corners of the world to sing the Oratorio for peace – a new composition by the great Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki.

Visit : www.1000voices.be/en. Contact : Anita Rampall at anita@visitflanders.co.uk.

Reasons to write about**Tobago, the Caribbean**

Tobago is the smaller of the two main islands that make up the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

It is located in the southern Caribbean, northeast of the island of Trinidad and southeast of Grenada. The island lies outside the hurricane belt.

Live the Culture Tobago style

A new awareness campaign : *Live the Culture Tobago Style*, has been launched to draw on Tobago's rich history and colourful culture.

The strap line has been devised to emphasise the 'unspoilt natural beauty, accessible authenticity and individual splendour that sets the island apart from other regional destinations'.

Tobago's attraction

Tobago's attraction lies in the unspoilt, natural beauty of the island with its beaches, protected rainforest and waterfalls and exotic wildlife.

It enjoys an ecological system that enables tropical rainforests, mangroves, wetlands, lowland forests and coral reef systems to flourish and seabird-nesting islands for visitors to explore.

Tobago also offers scuba diving and snorkelling and bike trails to complement friendly people and varied cuisine.

Tourism represents 47% of Tobago's gross domestic product and is the second largest employer on the island.

A place to stay in Tobago : Castara Retreats

Eco resort Castara Retreats is doubling its wooden 'haiku' lodge accommodations, designed to optimize the views and cooling breezes.

From summer 2014, Castara Retreats will have 12 luxury eco accommodations constructed from sustainably sourced timber from local suppliers, and constructed by a local Tobagonian team of craftsmen.

Visit : www.castararetreats.com

Bird watching, coral diving and turtles

Tobago's flora and fauna offers excellent bird watching experiences with over 400 species of birds, making it one of the richest birding countries per square mile.

Tobago is also home to the world's largest brain coral with divers able to spot 80 species of tropical reef fish. From 1 March to 31 August visitors to Tobago can see the Leatherback turtle, the largest of all living turtles.

Visit : www.tobagonaturetours.com

Annual events in Tobago

Tobago Heritage Festival

17 July to 1 August 2014

An island wide celebration of Tobago's cultural mix with art, music and dance.

The Tobago Cycling Classic

29th September to 5 October 2014

An international stage race held annually that takes in the whole island. Trinbagowheelers.com

The Blue Food Festival

19 October 2014

A twist on the traditional culinary event with a focus on the commonly used ground provision, dasheen. Low in sodium and gluten-free, the root crop will be the inspiration for twenty-five cooks who will create dishes from dasheen crême brulee to dasheen kebab.

Visit : www.tobagostyle.traveland www.visittobago.gov.tt. Contact : Nell Hegarty at nell@amgltd.biz

Cycling in New Zealand

New Zealand is one of the best cycling and outdoor adventure destinations with stunning scenery and thousands of miles of trails for the novice or expert cyclist.

Clutha Gold Trail

Officially opened in October 2013, the 73 km long Clutha Gold Trail is in the region between Roxburgh and Lawrence, to the west of Dunedin on New Zealand's south island.

It winds through a series of diverse landscapes from rugged semi-arid areas to lush green contoured farmlands, with much of the trail following the waters of the Clutha Mata Au River.

Geared to those of a moderate fitness level, the trail is accessible year-round with a smooth, wide and well-formed path undulating through the rural heartland of the country on a journey of discovery taking in the region's gold mining history.

The Heaphy Track

The Heaphy Track from Aorere to Karamea in the Kahurangi National Park is a mountain bike trail that is open in the winter season from May to September.

The 78.4 km track is a tough ride, taking visitors over numerous swing and suspension bridges; up and down steep slopes; along coastal paths; along stunning backcountry paths through a variety of landscapes, with well-maintained huts and campsites dotted along the route to stay for the night.

The track is suited to riders with advanced skills, which can increase to expert when factoring in distance, remoteness, and the technical skills riders require in adverse weather.

Riders are only permitted to ride the track during the day to protect two threatened nocturnal species found in the area including the Powelliphanta giant land snail, whose shell can measure up to 9cm across, and Roroa (otherwise known as great spotted kiwi) which can be found in the area.

The Otago Central Rail Trail

The 150km long Otago Central Rail Trail winds its way between Clyde and Middlemarch in the Otago region of the south Island.

Suitable for all but the very unfit, the four day complete ride can be easily be cut down by choosing a section of the trail.

Riders travel on well prepared gravel trails; through tunnels and over bridges that were once the secret preserve of railway workers, and all through spectacular landscapes typical of the region.

Visit : www.newzealand.com and www.newzealand-indepth.co.uk. Contact: Mark Hayward at mark@swaycommunications.co.uk.

Vintage road trips through Provence in a Citroen 2CV

Travellers looking to discover 'back roads' Provence can opt for a classic Citroen 2CV convertible on tours organized by Maisons & Hotels Sibuet.

The trip takes in :

- Tourtour, a village once home to famed French artist Bernard Buffet
- Menerbes, a walled medieval village in the foothills of the French Alps, and
- Saint-Tropez, the hot spot for the rich and famous.
- Maisons & Hotels Sibuet offers three day and a five day vintage road trips through Provence until 5 October 2014.

Accommodation on the 2CV road trip

Domaine de la Baume, Tourtour, Provence

The former residence of French Expressionist painter Bernard Buffet, Domaine de la Baume soft launched in summer 2013 as an intimate eight-room hotel in picturesque Tourtour.

Visit : www.domaine-delabaume.com.

Bastide de Marie, Menerbes, Provence

Located among 20 hectares of vineyard and gardens, in the heart of Luberon Natural Park, Bastide de Marie is a fully restored 18th century farmhouse estate, with 14 suites.

Visit : www.labastidedemarie.com.

Villa Marie, Ramatuelle, St Tropez

Resembling a private house, Villa Marie sits in a three-hectare pine forest just outside the village of Ramatuelle, which is 10 minutes from the action of Saint Tropez. *Rates from 330 EUR.*

Visit : www.villamarie.fr

Maisons & Hotels Sibuet

Owned and run by the Sibuet family for 31 years, the Maisons & Hotels Sibuet portfolio includes nine hotels in the French Alps, Lyon and the South of France.

Visit : www.maisons-hotels-sibuet.com. Contact : Julia Perowne at Sibuet@verypcc.com.

Ski New Zealand

On the ski slopes

Keen skiers and boarders can visit New Zealand's 13 snow sure ski fields including key areas in the South Island around Christchurch, Mount Cook, Wanaka and Queenstown.

The North Island holds the country's only skiable volcano at Mount Ruapehu.

Heli ski wellness

Skiers and boarders can also choose from two new heli-ski retreats at New Zealand's leading new luxury wellness retreat, Aro-Ha.

Alpine enthusiasts will stay in Zen inspired Aro-Ha on the shores of Lake Wakatipu near Glenorchy and surrounded by majestic peaks laden with snow.

A typical heli ski wellness day will start with sunrise yoga followed four to seven heli ski runs, before a lunch served in the mountain.

Visit : www.aro-ha.com/events/heli-ski-wellness

Night skiing

Night skiing at Queenstown's Coronet Peak will be bigger and better this season with double the amount of terrain under lights and new night freestyle features.

Work is underway to install approximately 80 new lights on the mountain, adding over four kilometres of trails and doubling the accessible terrain on Friday and Saturday nights.

Visit : www.nzski.com/mountaincoronetpeak

The Remarkables ski area

A multi-million dollar chairlift development at Queenstown's The Remarkables ski area will have a high-speed six-seater chairlift.

Visit : www.nzski.com/mountaintheremarkables

Visit www.newzealand.com. Contact : Sarah Rigler at newzealand@verypcc.com.

A place to stay

The Villa Meneghetti hotel, Bale, Istria, Croatia

The Villa Meneghetti hotel in Croatia has been listed in Booking.com's 'The Best of Booking's Best' list for 2014.

Located in Bale, Istria, the secluded retreat was ranked number eight in the world on the website, having been given an average score of 9.5 out of ten from visitors.

Visit : www.meneghetti.info. Contact : Ellen Thom at ellen.thom@rooster.co.uk.

Bellevue Plantation House, Bridgetown, Barbados

Bellevue Plantation House is located in Waterford just outside Bridgetown in the South East of Barbados.

Bellevue was built between 1735 and 1750 and is thus one of the first plantation residences on the island. It is ten minutes from the beach and local Hometown with its shopping and dining options and lively nightlife.

Set within three acres of private grounds containing a pond and a variety of indigenous tropical vegetation and mahogany trees, the House comprises six guest rooms and a separate self-contained Cottage.

Guests of Bellevue Plantation House are invited to access the facilities and services of the island's exclusive Apes Hill Golf Club, and separate private beach clubs Aquamarine Radisson and Port St Charles, located ten minutes from the House.

The Bellevue is offering a two-month 'Crazy Caribbean Family Fun' package fun in the sun for the whole family and friends during the school holidays.

Visit : www.bellevuebarbados.co.uk. Contact : Pauline Saunders at paulinehans2@gmail.com

Palace Antillas, Aruba

Riu Hotels & Resorts new Aruba property, the 482-room Palace Antillas, will open on Palm Beach next winter.

Formerly the Westin Aruba, the Riu Palace Antillas is undergoing a US\$60 million (£37.5 million) renovation and will become an adults-only all-inclusive resort. Facilities will include a buffet restaurant and three speciality restaurants, bars and lounges, a 24-hour patisserie café, live entertainment, nightclub and casino.

It is adjacent to its sister property, the Riu Palace, and guests at both resorts will have access to facilities at each hotel.

Visit : www.riu.com/en. Contact : Joanna Walding at j.walding@aruba.com.

Gravetye Manor Hotel & Restaurant, West Sussex, UK

Set within a 1,000 acre estate in the heart of the West Sussex countryside, Gravetye Manor Hotel & Restaurant is an English country house hotel with globally-recognised historical gardens.

Home to 17 recently restored rooms and an intimate restaurant – now under the helm of ambitious new Head Chef George Blogg - it provides a luxury retreat for weekend breaks.

Created by William Robinson, Gravetye's estate – incorporating 35 acres of formal gardens – is one of its greatest allures.

A thoughtfully-constructed melange of floral banks, wild flower meadows, orchards, manicured lawns and a kitchen garden, entices guests and horticultural students from around the world.

Visit : www.gravetyemanor.co.uk. Contact : Louise Swanne at gravetye@rivapr.co.uk

Island resorts

Carlisle Bay, Antigua, the Caribbean

Carlisle Bay is a luxury Caribbean resort located on the South coast of Antigua looking out over a bay of white sand and palm trees with a backdrop of the lush rainforest.

Visit : www.campbellgrayhotels.com/carlisle-bay/home.

Forte Village, Sardinia

Forte Village is a beach front resort located next to Cagliari, on the Southern coast of Sardinia.

The resorts extensive leisure and sports activities include the Thalassotherapy & Spa and dining options, including a Michelin-Star Restaurant as well as a Gordon Ramsay restaurant.

Visit : www.fortevillageresort.com.

Amirandes Grecotel Exclusive Resort, Crete

Situated 18 km from Heraklion International Airport, the Amirandes Grecotel overlooks the Mediterranean Sea and is designed in the style of ancient Minoan palaces with a modern twist.

It has three secluded sandy beaches, over 58 private pools, nine different restaurants and bars, the Elixir Spa. There are also excursions to ancient Palace of Knossos and daily cruises to Santorini.

Visit : www.amirandes.com.

Mykonos Blu, Mykonos, Greece

Mykonos Island is known for its landscapes, whitewashed buildings, windmills, small churches and picturesque harbours, where fishing boats are moored next to luxury yachts.

The 5-star Grecotel's Mykonos Blu overlooks the Gulf of Psarou, featuring an Elixir Spa and Aegean Poets, held as one of the best restaurants in Greece.

Visit : www.mykonosblu.com.

Viceroy Maldives, Shiviyani Atoll, Maldives

The Maldives are known as one of the top diving locations in the world.

The Viceroy Maldives is located on the remote Vaguru Island in the Shaviyani Atoll, in the uncharted north, where the water and reefs are at their most pristine. The resort is suited for experienced and novice divers and from May to September manta rays pass through the archipelago.

Visit : www.viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/en/maldives.

Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi, Yas Island

The Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi is an island destination for the active.

Events include :

- the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (21-23 Nov 2014) which passes through the Viceroy, and
- the Volvo Ocean Race (17 December 2014 to 3 January 2015).

Yas Mall is due to open towards the end of 2014 and will be the second largest in the UAE, while Ferrari World has the world's fastest rollercoaster.

Visit : www.viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/en/abudhabi.

Contact : Tanya Rose at Tanya@masonrose.com.

The Brazilian Court Hotel, Palm Beach, Florida

The Brazilian Court Hotel in Palm Beach has been recognised as an 'Enduring Classic' hotel in Fodor's 2013 Top 100 Hotels in the world.

Fodor's says of the hotel that : "This posh boutique hotel, stomping ground of Florida's well-heeled, is full of historic touches and creature comforts—from its yellow facade with dramatic white-draped entry, to modern draws like the renowned spa and Daniel Boulud restaurant."

Previously known as the "Fodor's Choice Gold Awards," which recognised only U.S. lodging properties, the list was re-launched in 2011 as a global list of top hotels.

Chosen by Fodor's senior editors, the list recognized 100 hotels worldwide in eight categories.

For the complete list of 2013 Fodor's 100 Hotel Award winners visit : www.fodors.com/hotel-awards/2013.

Visit : www.the.braziliancourt.com. Contact : Maureen O'Sullivan at MOREPB@aol.com.

Huntsham Court, Devon UK

Built in 1868, Huntsham Court is a baronial mansion, available for exclusive mid-week and weekend hire for weddings, parties, family get-togethers and corporate functions.

The property is located in the Devon countryside, close to the town of Tiverton and the Exmoor National Park.

In 2012, Huntsham Court was purchased by Damian Llambias and Chris Badham who have undertaken an extensive restoration and refurbishment of the house.

Visit : www.huntshamcourt.co.uk. Contact : Jardine Howlett at Jardine.howlett@whitetigerpr.com.

The Inn at Willow Grove, Virginia

The Inn at Willow Grove is a 37-acre plantation located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and 90 minutes from Washington, DC.

The Inn is a base for touring Virginia's wine, horse and Civil War heritage.

Nearby activities include wine tastings at local vineyards, antiquing, horseback riding, hot air ballooning, hiking, fishing, steeplechase races and tours of historic sites.

The on-premise Vintage, is a 60-seat fine-dining restaurant and tavern.

Visit : www.innatwillowgrove.com. Contact: Rebecca Widness at rebecca@widness-co-pr.com.

An Alliance focus on

The Edinburgh Festivals, Scotland

Edinburgh is the world's leading Festival City, presenting an unforgettable and unparalleled mix of cultural experiences set in a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most historic and iconic cities in the world.

Edinburgh's reputation as the world's leading Festival City has deep roots. In 1947, the Edinburgh International Festival was established as a much-needed 'platform for the flowering of the human spirit', the same year saw the origins of both the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and The Edinburgh International Film Festival.

Other festivals followed, from military grandeur to intimate jazz and blues, fascinating science and underground theatre to children's entertainment.

As these festivals grew into world leading celebrations, international excellence in art, culture and science became a permanent and inescapable part of Edinburgh's identity.

Distinctively Scottish yet, profoundly international.

Edinburgh's 12 festivals represent Scotland at its most confident, its most open and its most creative. Edinburgh's Festivals offer an unparalleled international platform and springboard for Scottish artists and companies from around the world.

Every year the festivals bring together artists, audiences and performers from every continent and over 70 countries, transforming Edinburgh into the world's favourite Festival City and creating one of the most vibrant stages for global entertainment, debate and the performing arts.

Festival City

Edinburgh's combination of medieval closes, cobbled streets, underground vaults and 18th and 19th century Georgian grandeur offers itself to visitors as soon as they arrive; but to truly see the city behind doors there is no better time than during one of Edinburgh's 12 festivals.

The festivals literally and distinctively inhabit every corner of the historic city; from old university halls to private Georgian gardens and from residents living rooms to the Castle Esplanade, the city is in every way the festivals stage.

The Edinburgh International Science Festival

4 to 19 April 2015

Edinburgh's annual Science Festival is the world's first celebration of science and technology, and one of Europe's largest science events.

The two-week event places emphasis on giving audiences amazing experiences through a programme of innovative and inspiring events.

Imagine Festival

2015 Dates TBC

With a week full of Scottish and international theatre, dance and performance for children and young people, the Imagine Festival is now the UK's largest festival of performing arts for this group. The festival also goes on tour throughout Scotland after its Edinburgh run.

Edinburgh International Film Festival

June 2015

The Edinburgh International Film Festival pioneered the showcasing of the best international film and documentary genres.

Past premieres have included Dr Zhivago, Taxi Driver, Manhattan, Blade Runner, Back to the Future, Pulp Fiction, ET: The Extra Terrestrial, The Motorcycle Diaries, and Oscar® triumph The Hurt Locker.

An Alliance focus on the Edinburgh Festivals (cont)

Edinburgh Jazz and Blues festival June 2015

The biggest festival of its kind in Britain presents over 140 gigs at 13 venues over 10 days. The best international musicians rub shoulders with top Scottish talent to present unique collaborations and outstanding musicianship.

Highlights of previous programmes include Roy Hargrove, Joe Temperley, Chick Corea, David Murray, China Moses and Van Morrison.

Edinburgh Art Festival 31 July to 31st August 2015

More than 40 museums, galleries and pop-up spaces come together in August to programme the Edinburgh Art Festival, with free entry to most exhibitions. It presents the best, most exciting and intriguing work in visual arts practice.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 1 to 25 August 2014

Theatre, comedy, dance, physical theatre, music, children's shows, exhibitions, musicals, street performers and much more take place in more than 299 venues in Edinburgh.

The programme depends entirely on the entrepreneurship of its participants.

Anyone with a show to produce and a venue willing to host them can take part; there is no artistic vetoing of the more than 3,000 shows on offer.

Edinburgh International Festival 8 to 31 August 2014

Inaugurated in 1947 as a celebration of peace through the arts, the Edinburgh International Festival showcases the very best and most prestigious international companies.

Featuring opera, music, theatre and dance from around the world, the International Festival is one of the most accessible events of its league, with tickets starting at £8.

Edinburgh International Book Festival 9 to 25 August 2014

The Edinburgh International Book Festival is the largest celebration of ideas and the written word in the world.

Over 900 participants from 47 different countries flock to the elegant surroundings of Charlotte Square Gardens in the historic heart of Edinburgh, the world's first UNESCO City of Literature.

More than 220,000 people come to the gardens to soak up the atmosphere, take part in creative workshops and attend meet-the-author events.

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 1 to 23 August 2014

Set against the dramatic backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, this 90-minute performance is a unique blend of music, ceremony, entertainment and theatre, hosting over 1,000 military and civilian performers every night.

Past performances have included dancers, steel bands, flag-wavers, drill teams, zulu warriors, camels, elephants, cavalry, motorcyclists, and police dogs. It ends with a spectacular firework display.

Edinburgh Mela 29 to 31 August 2014

The Edinburgh Mela is one of Scotland's biggest and best celebrations of world music and dance. The Mela has South Asian roots and celebrates cultural diversity through theatre, music, visual art and performance alongside a food and craft market in one of Edinburgh's green parks.

Scottish International Storytelling Festival 24 October to 4 November 2014

For centuries live oral storytelling, blended with music and song has carried Scotland's voices from generation to generation - and round the world.

The Festival is Scotland's annual celebration of traditional and contemporary storytelling, bringing together artists and audiences from Scotland and beyond.

Visit : www.edinburghfestivals.co.uk. Contact : Kate Bouchier-Hayes at kate@festivalsedinburgh.com.

An Alliance focus on

The Lee Valley Regional Park, London

The Lee Valley Regional Park is a 10,000-acre, 26 miles long linear park, much of it green spaces, running through the northeast of Greater London, Essex and Hertfordshire, in an area generally known as the Lea Valley.

Greater London's largest park, follows the course of the River Lea (Lee) along the Lea Valley from Ware in Hertfordshire through Essex and the north east of Greater London, through the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to East India Dock Basin on the River Thames.

It is made up of a diverse mix of countryside areas, urban green spaces, heritage sites, country parks, nature reserves, lakes and riverside trails and leading sports centres.

Lee Valley White Water Centre, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire

Lee Valley White Water Centre, near Waltham Abbey, is heralded as the 'best white water course in the world'.

It provides an opportunity to ride the rapids on the same course that the world's best athletes faced during the London 2012 canoe slalom event.

The centre offers activities on the white water including rafting, kayaking and canoeing and Hydrospeeding, similar to bodyboarding, or Hot Dog sessions, which are held on two person inflatables.

Visit : www.gowhitewater.co.uk.

Lee Valley VeloPark, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London

Lee Valley VeloPark on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is an exciting cycling venue with four types of cycling to be experienced.

Ride the fastest track in the world inside the iconic velodrome, fly around the remodelled Olympic BMX track, race across the 1.6km, flood-lit road circuit or tackle the 8km of mountain biking trails available for all ability cyclists.

Visit : www.visitleevalley.org.uk/velopark

Visit : www.visitleevalleypark.org. Contact : Contact : Joanne Curtis at joannecurtis@leevalleypark.org.uk.

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, Eton Manor, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre has four indoor and six outdoor tennis courts as well as two of the best hockey pitches in the country.

Visit : www.visitleevalley.org.uk/hockeytennis.

Lee Valley Caravan Park, Dobbs Weir, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire

Lee Valley Caravan Park is 30 minutes from London by train and surrounded by the countryside of Hertfordshire and Essex.

This campsite offers touring and camping pitches and deluxe and classic pre-pitched tents.

Visit : www.visitleevalley.org.uk/wheretostay.

Lee Valley Camping and Caravan Park, Edmonton, London

Lee Valley Camping and Caravan Park, Edmonton is a peaceful site within easy reach of both central London and the many attractions of Lee Valley Regional Park.

Visit : www.visitleevalley.org.uk/wheretostay.

Lee Valley Campsite, Sewardstone, London

Lee Valley Campsite, Sewardstone is a family friendly campsite for tents and caravans, or cocoon or family woodland cabins.

The 1,000 acre River Lee Country Park is on the doorstep, with its traffic-free cycling and walking trails, boating, rare wildlife and even white water rafting, and Epping Forest with its mountain bike tracks is also close by.

Visit : www.visitleevalley.org.uk/wheretostay

An Alliance focus on

Annual summer music events in Flanders and Brussels

Classical music

Leuven Bells, Leuven

July and August

For those interested in the peel of bells, Leuven treats its visitors to the sound of the city's four big carillons.

On Thursdays visitors are treated to a rendition of the M-bells from the rooftop terrace of the M-Museum.

On Sundays of the Vanden Gheynbeiaard bells at the Abbey of Sint-Geertrui can be enjoyed from their gardens and on Saturdays the city's enchanting Beguinage or Leuven's Library garden provides a fabulous backdrop to enjoy the city's bells.

MAfestival – Flanders Festival Bruges, Bruges

1 to 10 August 2014

Founded in 1963, the MAFestival focuses on the historical practice of early music and is always renewing and extending the concept.

For the ten days of the festival, the world's most exciting performers appear in Bruges and as well as concerts, the festival also organises lectures and classes, a competition for young musicians and an exhibition that focuses on historical instruments and musical accessories.

Visit : www.mafestival.be/EN/program/MAfestival_2014

Laus Polyphoniae 2014 "CLAUDIO", Antwerp

22 to 31 August 2014

Claudio Monteverdi introduced the world to an expressive Italian baroque style. Concert goers are treated to the oeuvre of Marenzio, Ingegneri, Gombert, de Wert, Caccini and Willaert, played by different musicians at various historical locations in Antwerp.

Visit : www.amuz.be/en/node/2399

Jazz

Gent Jazz Festival, Ghent, Bijlokesite (Godshuizenlaan)

10 to 20 July and 17 to 20 July 2014

The Ghent Jazz Festival, scheduled over two separate weeks, is one of Belgium's best known jazz festivals.

Visit : www.gentjazz.com.

Brosella Folk & Jazz festival, Brussels, Théâtre de Verdure - Parc d'Osseghem

12 and 13 July 2014

Brosella is an international folk and jazz festival held on the second weekend of July. It presents traditional and contemporary jazz and folk music.

The line up dedicates one day to Jazz and another to folk music during the weekend. www.brosella.be

Jazz Middelheim, Antwerp, Park den Brandt

14 to 17 August 2014

This annual jazz festival, held in the Middelheim Park in Antwerp, celebrates its 45th year.

Visit : www.jazzmiddelheim.be/en

World music

Afro Latino Festival, Bree

June

Afro Latino Festival presents African, Latin-American, Caribbean and south-European artists for a unique three day festival

Visit : www.afro-latino.be/en

Sfinks Festival, Boechout, Molenveld

24 to 27 July 2014

The Sfinks festival features exotic music and delves into different cultures. It attracts over 40 000 visitors with a line up of up to 40 different live bands

Visit : www.sfinks.be

Annual summer music events in Flanders and Brussels (cont)

World music (cont)

Antilliaanse Festival, Hoogstraten, De Blauwbossen

8 and 9 August 2014

The Antilliaanse feesten is a music festival in Antwerp that puts the focus on Latin music. This year they celebrate their 32nd anniversary!

Visit : www.antilliaansefeesten.be.

Afro Caribbean festival, 't Paelsteenveld, Bredene

August 2014

This is a free Afro Caribbean festival bringing varied music on three different stages.

Visit : www.afrocaribbean.be/.

Folk

Festival Dranouter

1 to 3 August 2014

Dranouter's annual four-day folk music festival has over 50 artists performing live.

Visit : www.festivaldranouter.be/nl/programma.html.

Rock and heavy metal

TW Classic, Leuven, Werchter

June

A one day festival, at the end of June organised by and using the same location of Rock Werchter (below).

One stage showcases performances by successful international and national artists. The 2014 line-up included the Rolling Stones.

Visit : www.twclassic.be/en

Graspop Metal Meeting, Antwerp, Dessel

June

Graspop is a three day festival, held the last weekend of June, with a focus on heavy metal.

Visit : www.graspop.be

Rock Werchter, Torhout Werchter

3 to 6 July 2014

Rock Werchter is a pop/rock festival in Flanders which takes place the first weekend of July. It started out as a one day festival and has grown into four days.

Visit : www.rockwerchter.be/en.

Cactusfestival, Bruges

11 to 13 July 2014

The Cactusfestival is a three day music festival focusing on rock and world music.

Visit : www.cactusfestival.be/2014/programma_en.asp

Suikerrock, Tienen

1 to 3 August 2014

The name Suikerrock (Sugar-Rock) refers to the city in which this festival takes place. Tienen is home to the biggest sugar refinery in Belgium and this festival is part of the European Talent Exchange Programme, which encourages artists to play at festivals, outside their own country.

Visit : www.winforlifesuikerrock.be/en/sugarrock.

Ieperfest, Ieper (Ypres)

8 to 10 August 2014

Ieperfest is a three day hardcore festival now into its 22nd year. This concert offers a variety of bands from all over the world and a variety of genres such as: old school hardcore, metalcore, doom, emo, metal and many more.

Visit : www.ieperfest.com

Dance

Summerfestival, Antwerp

27 and 28 June 2014

Summerfestival focuses on electronic music with performances on nine different stages. Visitors can book transport on one of its party buses which depart from a large variety of towns and cities in Belgium.

Visit : www.summerfestival.be

Annual summer music events in Flanders and Brussels (cont)

Dance (cont)

Tomorrowland, De Schorre in Boom (near Antwerp)

18 and 20 July 2014 and 24 to 27 July 2014

One of the biggest music festivals in the world, *Tomorrowland* started as a small music festival in Flanders and has grown to a world leading dance festival.

Visit : www.tomorrowland.com

WECANDANCE, Zeebrugge Beach

9 and 10 August 2014

WECANDANCE is a daytime festival on four different stages. One of its attractions is its own Food Market and visitors can camp, with a festival after party taking place on the pier at Blankenberge beach.

The festival guests are encouraged to dress up with the theme (2014 Egyptian).

Visit : www.wecandance.be

Laundry Day, Nieuw Zuid, Antwerp

6 September 2014

Laundry day is a dance music festival held in Antwerp at Nieuw Zuid. It started in 1998 as a street gathering and has grown into one of the biggest dance festivals of Belgium attracting over 60,000 participants.

With 13 stages, 150 DJ's and plenty of new and emerging talent, Laundry Day closes the Belgium festival summer.

Visit : www.laundryday.be

Other Genres

Brussels Summer Festival 2014

8 to 17 August 2014

A cultural festival taking place in various venues around the city. Artists from all over the world perform on three different venues.

Visit : www.bsf.be/en.

Ghent Festival

18 to 27 July 2014

During this ten day festival, the city of Ghent gives in to a non-stop celebration of music, local food and drink and city revellers. Small stages appear in the most unlikely locations all over the city and part of the river which flows through its centre, is transformed and covered into a giant stage.

Visit : www.gentsefeesten.be.

Visit : www.visitflanders.co.uk. Contact : Anita Rampall at anita@visitflanders.co.uk

Travel guides

The following travel publishers will provide review copies to Alliance members.

AA Travel Guides

www.shop.theaa.com/store/travel-guides. Katie Stephens at katie.stephens@theaa.com.

Anova Books

www.anovabooks.com. Helen Ponting at hponting@anovabooks.co

Bradt Travel

www.bradtguides.com. Rachel Fielding at rachel.fielding@bradtguides.com

Brit's Guide

www.foulsham.com. Margaret Lashbrook at margaret.lashbrook@lineone.net or Sue Wilkins at wilkins@foulsham.com.

Cicerone

www.cicerone.co.uk. Sarah Spencer at sarah@cicerone.co.uk

Eland Publishing

www.travelbooks.co.uk. Barnaby Rogerson at barnaby@travelbooks.co.uk.

Fisher's Travel SOS

www.fisherstravelsos.com. Furgan Syed at furqan.syed@fisherstravelsos.com.

Global Travel Publishers

www.africa-adventure.com. Kate Bandos at kate@ksbpromotions.com.

Globetrotters LogBook

www.globetrotterslogbook.com. Giedo Claes at giedo@globetrotterslogbook.com

Hudson's Historic Houses and Gardens

www.hudsonsheritage.com. Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk

Inn House Publishing

www.innhousepublishing.com. Kathryn McWhirter at kathrynmcwhirter@btopenworld.com.

Insight

www.insightguides.com. Julia Spence at julia.spence@ukonline.co.uk.

In your pocket guides

www.inyourpocket.com. Craig Turp at editor@inyourpocket.com.

Jane's Smart Art Guides

www.JanesSmartArt.com. Jane McIntosh at MJM@JanesSmartArt.com

Jonglez Publishing

www.jonglezpublishing.com. Alexandre They at alexandre@editionsjonglez.com.

Kuperard Publishers

www.kuperard.co.uk. Geoffrey Chesler at geoffreychesler@btinternet.com.

Morris Communications

www.themilepost.com. Kate Bandos at kate@ksbpromotions.com.

Odyssey Books & Guides

www.odysseypublications.com. Caroline Eden at caroline@odysseypublications.com

The Official (UK) Tourist Board Guides

www.visitor-guides.co.uk. Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk

Oxygen Books city-lit

www.oxygenbooks.co.uk Malcom Burgess at malcolm@oxygenbooks.co.uk

Rough Guides

www.roughguides.com. press@roughguides.com

The Signpost

www.signpost.co.uk. Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk

Summersdale travel publications

www.summersdale.com. Dean at dean@summersdale.com.

Take two Books

www.taketwobooks.com. Sarah Duvall at Sarah@taketwobooks.com.

Turnleft

www.turnleftguides.com. Nick Buteau at nick@turnleftguides.com

The International Travel Writers Alliance



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Ashley Gibbins FCIPR, MCIOJ
0776 419 8286
Ashley@itwalliance.com

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