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# Rome

Rome's legendary **Pyramid of Cestius** or *Piramide Cestia* is once again accessible to the public following an extensive reconstruction. The 36-metre-tall structure can be found near the Porta San Paolo and the Protestant Cemetery. To get there, get off at the appropriately named Piramide metro station. Built during the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, the pyramid is the only Ancient Egyptian-styled edifice in Rome and was erected to serve as a tomb for Roman magistrate Gaius Cestius. Thanks to its recently completed restoration, the structure once again gleams in a brilliant light shade and its interior has become accessible to the public for the first time. Visits must be arranged in advance and take place on the second and fourth Saturday of each month ([archeoroma.beniculturali.it](http://archeoroma.beniculturali.it)).

Meanwhile, Rome's largest interdisciplinary exposition complex, the 19<sup>th</sup>-century *Palazzo delle Esposizioni* (Via Nazionale, 194: [palazzoesposizioni.it](http://palazzoesposizioni.it)), has allocated its space to one of the world's most eccentric contemporary photographers – American David LaChapelle. Best-known for his fashion, advertising and art photographs, LaChapelle is also a video and film director. He uses this directing skill to meticulously plan out the composition of his photographs, which often look more like movie shots or paintings than photographs in the classical sense of the word. Since 1987, the artist has collaborated with such well-known publications as *Vanity Fair*, *The Face*, *Vogue* and *Rolling Stone*, to name a few. **David LaChapelle – After the Deluge** features 150 works that the photographer has created from 2006 until quite recently, including his legendary portraits of celebrities as well as religious scenes and interpretations of famous artworks. On view until September 13, the exhibition reveals the essence of LaChapelle's visual experiments in concentrated form.

If after visiting this exhibition you wish to add something more to your already rich series of impressions, then there is no better place to spend the night in Rome than the new **G-Rough Hotel** (Piazza di Pasquino, 69; [g-rough.com](http://g-rough.com)). Located in a historical 17<sup>th</sup>-century building not far from the legendary Piazza Navona, the hotel has only ten rooms and its interior is like a shell whose time-worn features co-exist with refined decorative elements. The walls have been stripped of their layers of paint, exposing their starkly bare surfaces for all to see. The original oak ceiling beams and parquet floors have also been retained, their rough and robust presence complementing works by Italian design icons from the 1930s-1970s. A more contemporary atmosphere is induced by artworks that 20 contemporary artists created specifically for the hotel.







Zoom Hotel



© Ronald Stoops

Raf Simons S/S 1998

During the month of June, all fashion-lovers' roads lead to Brussels. **The Belgians. An Unexpected Fashion Story** (BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, June 5 - September 13, Rue Ravenstein 23) is the largest ever exhibition devoted to Belgian fashion, showcasing the works of over 100 successful Belgian names, including the legendary Antwerp Six – Walter Van Beirendonck, Ann Demeulemeester, Dries Van Noten, Dirk Van Saene, Dirk Bikkembergs and Marina Yee – who generated a new fashion revolution during the 1980s and placed Belgium onto the world map of fashion design. Although the designers of the Antwerp Six later parted and went their own ways, they established a harsh and untamed Belgian "look" that is aesthetically powerful and cannot be mistaken for any other. The lack of flashy logos imparts a sense of anonymity, yet the style is immediately recognisable. The exhibition provides an extensive look into the history of Belgian fashion design, from the very beginnings to the present day, when Belgian designers are continuing to enjoy success on the international design scene.

Another outstanding embodiment of Belgian design is the new **Zoom Hotel** (Rue de la Concorde 59-61; zoomhotel.be), located just a stone's throw from the glamorous Avenue Louise. Everything in the 37-room hotel centres around photography. The interior reminds one of a photo studio, complete with historical photo cameras, projectors, lenses and a whole series of other photo accessories. The industrial brown and grey colour palette is complemented by more than 400 photographs of Brussels chosen from a competition that the hotel held on its *Facebook* page. The two men responsible for the look of the *Zoom Hotel* are local architect Olivier Hannaert and designer Michel Penneman.

If you wish to supplement your senses with a memorable gastronomic experience, then the **Jack O'Shea Chophouse** (Rue Sainte Catherine 32; jackoshea.com) is an excellent choice, as long as you are not a vegetarian! Serviced by one of the best butchers in the country, this is currently the most talked-about steak house in Brussels. Here you will come across Wagyu beef T-bone steaks and Angus beef ribeye, along with a wide assortment of sausages and other superbly prepared meat dishes. The restaurant can be found on St. Catherine's Square, a lively location that is well known to gourmets.



Jack O'Shea Chophouse







Beyond the Score®:  
A Portrait of Pierre Boulez

# Amsterdam

This month, Amsterdam is living in the ambience of the **Holland Festival** (until June 23, [hollandfestival.nl](http://hollandfestival.nl)). Established in 1947, the festival is one of the oldest art forums in Europe and a showcase of outstanding works in opera, theatre, dance and the fine arts. Among the highlights of this year's programme is the kaleidoscopic music and theatrical performance *Beyond the Score®: A Portrait of Pierre Boulez*, in tribute to the famous French composer and conductor who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. The sets for the show have been designed by Canadian architect Frank Gehry. Another branch of the programme is devoted to Turkish music, while a third examines the influence of state leaders on people's lives in *Power and the People*. To many, this theme is particularly relevant in the context of current socio-political events.

One of the festival's special guests is William Kentridge, a South African painter, cartoon creator and regular participant at the *documenta* art forum and Venice Biennale. During the past few years, Kentridge has also been working as an opera director, and here viewers will be able to appraise his version of a modern opera classic, Alban Berg's *Lulu*.

One of the newest hotspots in the city is the **Morgan & Mees** hotel and restaurant (Tweede Hugo de Grootstraat 2; [morganandmees.com](http://morganandmees.com)), which is a favourite destination of both locals and visitors alike. The former enjoy stopping in for a drink or dinner, while the latter come to spend the night in a stylised setting. Located at the edge of the bohemian Jordan district, the 19<sup>th</sup>-century building in which the hotel is housed once served as a shelter for girls. There are only nine hotel rooms, each with a different interior, and each elegantly incorporating both historical elements and modern-day amenities in a contemporary style.

The **Rijksmuseum** (Museumstraat 1, [rijksmuseum.nl](http://rijksmuseum.nl)), for its part, beckons visitors with a comprehensive exhibition of costume sketches and fashion illustrations. From June 12-September 27, the museum's Philips Wing is showcasing **New for Now. The Origin of Fashion Magazines**, where more than 300 unique drawings illustrate the twists and turns of fashion history and the development of fashion magazines from 1600 to the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. **BO**



Morgan & Mees



Modes et Manières d'Aujourd'hui, 1915

