

BBT Online's readers favorites

Profile Yolanda Logt – Commercial Director CWT Meetings & Events - Netherlands

I'm working for many years in the travel industry of which the last 15 years in MICE business, starting as a senior to be Manager of CWT Meetings & Events in 2002. Since January last I'm Commercial Director of the same business unit. Further I try to be active in our market segment, being in the Dutch Board of SITE for 2 years and as member of several MICE associations.

I live in Lisserbroek a small town in the flower and coastal region of the Netherlands, close enough to cities like Haarlem, The Hague and Amsterdam to enjoy city life but still in the countryside to bike to the beach and walk through the woods and dunes. Besides that you can find me in my free time in Noord Brabant where I originally come from and still have lots of friends and family or in Friesland where we enjoy sailing on the IJsselmeer and through the Friesian lakes on our small sailing boat.

Yolanda Logt's favorites - Restaurants

A Quick Bite:

Difficult to answer, never have a quick bite. I like to take my time for dinner and hate fast food so no scores there. We love to have dinner at Il Mulino at Lisse. <http://ristoranteilmulino.nl/>, an Italian restaurant where the atmosphere is excellent, so is the food. The chef Marco and host Carmelo are a great mix and each time is a feast. For a lunch near the office, I can recommend Blok4, just of the ring of Amsterdam.

Others: At Southern Cross in Heemstede, <http://www.southern-cross.nl> you can enjoy Australian food and excellent service. Last but not least café 'de Fles' at the Prinsengracht in Amsterdam - <http://www.defles.com/>.

A Serious Tete a Tete:

Restaurant De Vier Seizoenen also in Lisse - <http://www.restaurantdevierseizoenen.nl> for a full night haute cuisine food and ambience. Vis en Zo in Woudsend (Friesland) for fish food - <http://www.restaurantvisenmeer.nl/>. Enjoy fine Italian dining at Roberto's at the Hilton in Amsterdam - http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/AMSHITW-Hilton-Amsterdam/index.do. For Japanese food: the Okura hotel in Amsterdam, still the top - <http://www.okura.nl/>. Not to forget Blauw aan de Wal, a hidden secret in the middle of the Red Light district of Amsterdam! - http://www.diningcity.com/amsterdam/blauwaandewal/index_nl.jsp

Business, Business, Business:

Depending on the occasion and the person(s), can be near our office in Ouderkerk a/d Amstel where there are many choices or in Amsterdam itself.

When I travel abroad:

So many!! Last recommendation: Mc Carthy Lodge, Alaska: in the middle of nowhere in the St Elias Wrangel NP, only reachable by plane or a 2 hours gravel road, Haute Cuisine (even choice out of 150 wines) offered in a 19th century setting.

<http://www.mccarthy lodge.com/mccarthy lodge.php>

Some other favorites:**Hotel:**

Many lodges in SA. Some specials to me are:

- Hoyo Hoyo Tsonga Lodge (a three cities venue) a real hidden treasure located at Kruger NP, decorated with fabrics and art of the local Tsonga community. Only a few beehive suites with a viewing deck to see the game pass by. <http://www.hoyohoyo.co.za/hoyo-hoyo/index.jsp>
- The Garonga Safari Camp , tented rooms at Makalali GR near Hoedspruit. How to create a bush experience with wellness and top class food. You even can have your bush bath in the open air looking at the stars and hearing the elephants pass. <http://www.garonga.com/>
- Shidshidzi & Nungabane lodges at Waterbergen / Marakele Game Reserve. Everything is best... <http://www.waterbergreservations.com/Marakele.asp>

Further the Pan Pacific in Vancouver centrally located and with view on the bay seeing the cruiseships coming by or docking next to the hotel. -

<http://www.panpacific.com/Vancouver/Overview.html>

The Explora hotels at Eastern Island and Patagonia because of their special concept, food and bubble baths in each room! Guests at Explora can join a wide range of carefully developed explorations, each day you can pick what you want to do and get your personal guide with you. Exploring the history and nature in a unique and sportive way. -

<http://www.explora.com/explora-patagonia/>

The Oberoi Rajvilas in Jaipur India gives you the feeling of being a princess in former days what a luxury. - <http://www.oberoirajvilas.com/Hotel/Hotel-Overview.aspx>

And last if I may add a tented camp: best place to be when enjoying wildlife and quietness: Mashatu tented camp in Botswana on the border of South Africa. - <http://www.mashatu.com/>

Closer by I would like to recommend the Lauswolt hotel of the Bilderberg group in Beesterzwaag (NL) - <http://www.bilderberg.nl/hotels/lauswolt/> and in Bruges hotel De Tuilerieen - <http://www.hoteltuilerieen.com/>.

City:

Each because of its different features: Vancouver, Capetown, Copenhagen, Rome, Seville, Oporto, Gent, Maastricht and Amsterdam unique in its kind. Every year I visit a city with one of my best friends as a tradition. This year it will be Valencia. It starts to get more difficult as we both have seen so many in the mean time. Hope to visit St Petersburg once.

Countries:

For sure South Africa and other African countries like Namibia and Botswana! But close encounters are Chile and Alaska. In Europe: Norway, Andalusia (Spain) But there are so many....

Still on my 'list' are Tanzania, Madagascar, Galapagos, Vietnam and Antarctica.

Incentive Destination & venues:

See MICE secret, every destination is suitable with the right concept.

Talking about venues, from a full service venue where the atmosphere is already enough to have a great event, to a shed which you can change completely in the style/theme of your event, it's all about what the client wants and fits with the concept.

Airline:

None, at the moment. Every airline tries to lower cost, which is understandable but please airlines don't forget to offer service to the passengers. Some examples: when flying back home last June, breakfast was a banana (after a 10 hours flight) because there were not enough breakfasts brought aboard. A connecting flight had no headrest covers, they were cut down etc... This cannot be the future! I don't like flying, I don't sleep on board and find it a time wasting and a necessary must to explore the world. Wouldn't it be nice to peep in the future: beam me up Scotty!

Best kept MICE secret: A secret must stay a secret

However the best way of thinking is out of the box. I'm a supporter of Imagineering, it's not a destination/ venue or whatever you sell it's the idea, your solution for what the client is asking. That concept can fit everywhere at every place. To often you see people making the mistake to hold on to a country or city, but that's not important it's the message you want to bring and the solution you give to achieve clients goals and let the participants have the experience of their life's.

MICE personality:

Our market is full of personalities, that's the strength of our market, you either love it or you hate it!

But if I must mention some names, together with 6 professional MICE ladies we have our own "club" We call it the 007, started some years ago with a regular get-together for socializing, exchanging what's happening in the market etc, now becoming more serious. We even had our first mini conference with DMC-s in June. Now we are discussing how to move forward, do we want to go international, what will be our mission and goals etc. It's a challenge to play this 'game' with such a great personalities as Kim Alderden, Ingrid Valks, Marijke Vink, Anette Wezenberg, Loes Nauta and Monique Sajet.

LIKES & DISLIKES

5 Likes/loves

My greatest love: my husband Willem, who I only met 2,5 years ago and married a year ago It sounds real sugary, but he is the guy for me!

Friends/ family: I am privileged to have good friends / family who you really got to know when you have a tough time. Real friends are there for a smile and a tear.

Africa in general, South Africa in particular: country, scenery, wildlife, people, wines, food, must I go on? I really thought of moving there when I was single for a while, instead I took a ranger course in the bush. Awesome!

Going out for dinner/ making dinner for friends and family: which I do plenty, either going out or having friends/family coming over, it's always a feast. And... Indonesian food, wake me up for it!

Shoes, bags and clothing: every woman knows why.

Good wine & cheeses, a good book, favorite music, open fire..... You got the picture?

For sure travelling and my work in general, but I guess that's a fact for everyone in our business.

5 Dislikes

On top: Unfairness & Laziness.

Indolence and people who don't take their responsibility.

The 'Yes, but...' phrase, it means no and you can start all over again...

Buffet meals: standing in a queue for a meal and seeing people with piling up their dishes with food, not for me.

Crocs & Birkenstocks: for me a real shock they call this fashion!

Grocery shopping & cleaning the house.

The 5 people I should like to invite for a dinnerparty:

Paul Fentener van Vlissingen: I admired him because of what he did for wildlife in Africa. He was one of the founders of Stichting African Parks Foundation, starting with bringing back wildlife in the Waterberg area in SA, resulting in Marakele NP and not forgetting the local people but involving them. Further he was an inspiring and unusual business man, who died to early.

Mandela, who needs to say more! *"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination"*

Wilbur Smith: a great writer, all his books can be read in one breath...Brings you back to earlier days and provides you understanding why things go as they go now in for example African countries (politics etc)

Ines Suarez the first and only female conquistadora in history. She came to the Americas in the 16th century searching for her husband. Finally ending up as mistress of the conqueror of Chile. Her dedication, courage, passion and wisdom in a time when women had nothing to tell, is admirable.

More Personal:

My mother in law and grandfather, who I never got to know as they both passed away before I was in the picture. It's maybe nostalgic but you hear a lot about them and wonder how it would be in real life.