

**Elke Van Zaelen –**

**Managing Director Uniglobe Incentive & Group Travel**

I was as turrep in Thailand that I started in this fascinating industry. After Thailand followed China & 2,5 years later I was back in Belgium.

Not knowing what I was going to do, I ended up in the MICE business and found my ideal job. Since 2008 I am running UNIGLOBE Incentive & Group Travel, a small but quickly growing agency.

Elke lives between Brussels & Antwerp, a perfect location when it comes to different cultures, different languages & great cities in 20 minutes distance.

---

**For a quick bite**

Elke loves an apple, a little salad, an EXKI sandwich, cote d'or or any other kind of chocolat ☺, a Moroccan sweet or the neuzekes in her colleague his drawer.

When in Berlin I cannot miss having a quick bite at Monsieur Vuong. The ideal place to remind me of the wonderful kitchen of Asia. Hope one day Mrs. Vuong comes to Belgium.... <http://www.monsieurvuong.de/>

When in Antwerp I love going to Pasta Hippo Vino. A great pasta restaurant in 3 concepts: Bar & quick bite, restaurant and brasserie - <http://en.dinnersite.be/toprestaurants/meest-bezocht>

When in Mechelen, Le Cirque is the best place to be. They have wonderful taco's!

In Leuven, I love Zoff. Great interior & good food, but a little bit overpriced - <http://www.zoff.be/>

**For a serious tete a tete**

I love to go to Lola in Brussels. It's a nice restaurant in the city centre with good food and a great atmosphere - <http://www.restolola.be/lola-sablon-eng.html>

I would also recommend La Crèche des Artistes in Brussels. Located in the Matonge quartier, this Italian restaurant serves great dishes! - <http://www.resto.be/ware/sendto.jsp?businessid=356&lg=EN>

In Leuven I often go to Voltaire. One of the favorites of my mother-in-law. And yes, she absolutely has a good taste when it comes to food. Voltaire has a lovely terrace in the summer and the food is excellent - <http://www2.voltaire.be/>

In Noordwijk aan Zee, in the Netherlands, I had a serious tete a tete with some colleagues and this was at Villa de Duinen - <http://www.villadeduinen.nl/> . A nice boutique hotel with a great, unknown chef. I strongly appreciate his kitchen and would not hesitate if I am in the region again.

In Antwerp, I also love Cringos Cantina. A little Mexican restaurant with very limited seats were making reservations is not done. The food is excellent! This is absolutely the best Mexican restaurant in Belgium - <http://www.resto.be/ware/details.jsp?businessid=1403&lg=EN>

### **Business, Business**

For Business I would also recommend Lola, but also Belga Queen in Brussels. I have been there a few times with clients and it was always a great experience - <http://www.belgaqueen.be/>

The restaurant Wit Goud in Leest is also a good one. It used to be Dorp 5, but changed owners. Wit Goud can definitely compare to Dorp 5. Service is great, food is nice and I love their modern interior - <http://www.twittegoud.be/>

### **Outside of Belgium**

I love Lemon Grass in Bangkok. A great place with excellent Thai food in a little piece of nature in the busy city centre of Bangkok - [http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-2768306-lemon\\_grass\\_bangkok-i](http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-2768306-lemon_grass_bangkok-i)

When in Paris, I always go to 7eme Sud. This place was recommended by a friend/ex-colleague and after all these years I still go there. Thanks for the tip Sofie! - <http://www.zagat.com/Verticals/PropertyDetails.aspx?VID=8&R=87389>

In Barcelona, I recently discovered restaurant Windsor. A very nice place. Good quality, good service and very nice patio - <http://www.restaurant-guide.com/windsor-16.htm>

El Viajero in Madrid is another must go Spanish restaurant. I love Madrid and El Viajero! - [http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-3168118-el\\_viajero\\_madrid-i](http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-3168118-el_viajero_madrid-i)

### **Some other favorites (hotels)**

- W South Beach hotel in Miami - <http://www.southbeachluxuryhotels.com/w-south-beach-hotel-miami.shtml>
- Villa Aminta at Lago Maggiore - <http://www.villa-aminta.it/en/home.php>
- Villa De Duinen in Noordwijk aan Zee - <http://www.villadeduinen.nl/>
- The Palace hotel in Sun City - <http://www.suninternational.com/Destinations/Resorts/SunCity/Hotels/Palace/Pages/Home.aspx>
- Casa Franko in Slovenia - <http://www.hisafranko.com/>
- Hotel The Gray in Milan - <http://www.hotelthegray.com/>

### **Cities that I love:**

- Madrid (great city trip destination)
- Dublin (wonderful memories, because my husband asked me to marry him on the Liffey bridge)

- Stockholm (I was there in 2009 and fell in love! Great atmosphere, nice restaurants, lovely design, close to nature,...)
- Ljubljana (I love Slovenia! The nature is so overwhelming, the food with the locals is great and Ljubljana is very trendy)
- Shanghai (one of my favorite cities! Shanghai has it all! The river, the skyscrapers, the French quarter, the food,...)
- Bangkok (my second home and this counts for Thailand in general)
- Yunnan-province in China with cities as Dali, Lijang, Zhongdiang,... (one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen)

### **Still on my list:**

Peru, West Coast of US, Namibia, Botswana, Argentina, Puerto Rico & New Zealand.

### **Venue**

It is the art of an incentive planner to match the request of a client to a good idea and a venue that suits that idea.

### **MICE Secret**

Let me know if there are still secrets in our business...

### **MICE Personality**

There are so many great people in this business that I do not want to pick one out.

---

**5 likes**

- The people close to my heart: my husband Nico and daughter Stien and my best friends Anna & Truus
- Spending time with family and friends – I love making dinner for them or organizing parties
- Asia: I love the people the food, the scenery,...
- Shopping: shoes, bags, clothes, furniture, design objects, clothes for Stien,...
- I love my job

### **5 dislikes**

- Cleaning & ironing
  - Changing diapers
  - I dislike people that always talk about themselves and never ask how you are doing
  - Discrimination, extremism & racism
  - I dislike people that always say yes, but never do what they should do
- 

### **Favorite Quote**

Ever thine, ever mine, ever ours,...

---

### **People I'd like to have dinner with**

My husband Nico, because we do not always have the time to go out for dinner .

Guy Verhofstad & Karel De Gucht – I love their way of thinking and their way of achieving their goals.

The leaders of the world, to convince them about climate actions that need to be taken.

The grandmother of my husband, because I heard so many great stories about this lady.

Barack Obama, because I believe we all can