

ELIE LORES BLANES

After 13 years of teaching (physical education), interrupted by several stays in South America as a guide and tour leader for adventurous trips, and after 2 humanitarian expeditions in Africa with disabled people ("Leur Paris-Dakar"), Elie Lores Blanes decided to leave the educational sector in order to start a new professional life in the world of travel.

In 1991 he created his own company totally dedicated to corporate and incentive business and offering a wide range of services. Thanks to his extraordinarily diversified experience (he also obtained an IATA degree), Master Events very quickly reached its cruising speed.

DOMINIQUE VERMEIRSCH

Dominique Vermeirsch joined Master Events <http://www.masterevents.be/> in July 2002. Her professional career started in 1978 with Coca-Cola Belgium where she worked as a P.R. Officer for more than 10 years, until she decided to discover new horizons. After a short stay with Voyages King, she joined the incentive department of V.I.P. Travel International, which she managed for about 12 years. Her double experience as well on the corporate as on the travel side, is a big advantage in dealing with an international clientele.

Dominique and Elie met in the incentive travel industry and found each other as well in private as in professional life. They share a passion for incentives but also for restaurants and good life. Their preferences sometimes coincide and sometimes are a little different ...

QUICK BITE

ELIE There are no real "quick bite" restaurants in my working area but during week-ends and in the evening I like to please my 17-year old daughter Cécile and take her to her favorite places such as the CHEESECAKE CAFÉ, place de Brouckère and NEMO ... Asian food in a spectacular diving center
<http://www.nemo33.com/index/>

DO Quick bites during the day are best at home which is close to the office. When I worked in the Louise area, THE FRESH COMPANY was one of my favorites: healthy and original snacks. During week-ends it is nice to meet with friends at the outdoor fish counter from the NOORDZEE, a downtown fish shop, to taste various little titbits, such as fish soup, croquettes aux crevettes, kibbeling and many more other delicacies accompanied by a nice glass (bottle ?) of white wine.
<http://www.vishandelnoordzee.be/nl/home.asp>

TETE A TETE

ELIE For a cosy tête-à-tête I prefer to keep the secret to myself ... a very simple Brussels restaurant close to my home, known for its excellent meat. Don't insist, the address is only for very good friends ☺ !

A serious tête-à-tête place is the HOSTELLERIE SAINT-NICOLAS (2* Michelin) in Elverdinge, near Ieper. Excellent cuisine from a Jeune Restaurateur d'Europe in a nice environment. We have been there several times already ... just the two of us, with family and also with clients: a real success! <http://www.hostellerie-stnicolas.com/>

DOMINIQUE Apart from Elie's secret tête-à-tête place that I also share ... I love to spend some time at the LIPSIUS in Overijse, Roland Stas in the kitchen and his wife Annick in the restaurant: a perfect team. <http://www.lipsius.be/Index.htm>

BUSINESS

ELIE The CAFÉ DE LA GARE in Berchem-Sainte-Agathe, a real brasserie kitchen, perfect for a lunch with clients.

DOMINIQUE Depending on the area in Brussels and on the client's preferences ...

PLEASURE

ELIE The advantage of living in Brussels is that there is such a huge choice of different types of restaurants: LA CUEVA DE CASTILLA in Schaarbeek for its perfect Spanish food and its lovely wine menu, what would you expect from someone with Spanish roots? <http://www.cuevadecastilla.be/>

I also love Japanese food and KAMO is for me the place to be: true Japanese gastronomy but ... one has to book a long time in advance.

http://www.eupedia.com/belgium/japanese_restaurants_brussels.shtml
<http://www.gaultmillau.be/nl/aziat-van-het-jaar>

DOMINIQUE I have so many good memories of nice restaurants in Brussels. Just to name a few: SWITCH in the Rue des Flandres <http://www.switchrestofood.be/Switchrestofood/Welcome.html> and LITTLE ASIA <http://littleasia.be/> in the same downtown area for their friendly service and good quality/price menus. Not to forget CHEZ OKI, rue Lesbroussart, a true fusion between French and Japanese cuisine: what a delight! <http://www.chez-oki.com/rsp=1.html>

ABROAD

ELIE Thanks to my job I continuously discover new restaurants all over the world, from top class to small and simple. In the category of Michelin star rated restaurants I specially mention WOUT BRU the Belgian chef in Eygalières (Provence) who just moved to a superb new location. We got to know Wout and his charming wife Suzy rather well and try to drop by as often as possible. <http://www.chezbru.com/>

In the "surprise" category: THE LAGOON at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel in Colombo <http://www.johnkeellshotels.com/CinnamonGrandLocation.htm> and the GREEN HOUSE in Beijing http://www.beijing-travel.cn/Nightlife_and_Entertainment/Tea_Houses_Directory.htm .

Seafood being another of my little sins, I know plenty of good places. One of them is a tiny little neighborhood restaurant in Barcelona, called O RETORNO: plastic chairs, paper napkins, not tourist-friendly but perfectly fresh and daily delivered seafood <http://barcelona.lanetro.com/restaurantes-gallegos/o-retorno-21936> . And with Dominique, the OYSTER BAR in Grand Central Station in New York is an ever returning must. <http://www.oysterbarny.com/> - <http://local.yahoo.com/info-11090052-grand-central-oyster-bar-new-york>

DOMINIQUE Of course I do share all Elie's choices but I would like to add a few more like LA TABLE SAINT CRESCENT in Narbonne <http://www.la-table-saint-crescent.com/> and COMMERC 24 <http://www.comerc24.com/english/index.html> in Barcelona (both 1* Michelin) for their innovative, creative and avant-garde cuisine with a molecular touch.

My surprises abroad include THE SPICE ROUTE at the Imperial hotel in Delhi for its stunning décor and for its menu reflecting the journey of spices Asian. <http://www.theimperialindia.com/home.htm>

Sharing also Elie's love for seafood we very often drive to the Côte d'Opale to have lunch in LES PECHEURS D'ETAPLES near Le Touquet. The restaurant belongs to the Coopérative des Pêcheurs d'Etaples. No fancy décor, just a plain neon-lighted restaurant above the fisherman's stalls where the daily caught seafood is served on very kitschy plastic boats ☺. <http://www.auxpecheursdetaples.fr/>

And for a quick bite during shopping in Lille, you should absolutely try the fish tapas accompanied by a glass of white wine, seated on stools at the high tables in the fish store of restaurant l'HUITRIERE. <http://www.huitriere.fr/>

GROUPS

ELIE I have never been disappointed by the CABANA LAS LILAS in Buenos Aires, a very traditional choice but absolutely fabulous meat <http://www.laslilas.com/restaurant.php> . In New York, PIPA'S is a wonderful place for lunch in the Gramercy/Flatiron area. It is part of the ABC Carpet &

Home Store and is decorated with hundreds of chandeliers that are also for sale.
<http://www.pipa-nyc.com/>

DOMINIQUE Let's stay in New York: BRASSERIE 8 ½ serves an excellent Sunday Brunch, smaller groups sit in the main restaurant, bigger ones can have a private room.
<http://local.yahoo.com/info-11104380-brasserie-8-12-new-york>

And if ever you have a big group in Iceland, PERLAN remains a must. This revolving restaurant built on 6 huge water tanks offers a tasty classic cuisine, good service and excellent wines. <http://www.perlan.is/index.php?lang=en> - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUbCKj3uhuY>

HOTELS

ELIE Of course in our job, we all have the opportunity to overnight in 5* or palace properties, but I prefer to mention a charming place: the MAS SALVI hotel & restaurant in PALS, in the hinterland of the Costa Brava <http://www.massalvi.com/> . I had the opportunity to discover this delicious treasure during a short stay at the occasion of the Festival de Jardins de Cap Roig in Calella where we attended a concert of one of the most famous young flamenco singers and dancers: Estrella Morente ... yes my Spanish roots again.

And India being one of my favorite countries: amongst so many beautiful palace hotels, I have a particular souvenir of the superb Lake Palace in Udaipur ... romance, romance and again romance! <http://www.tajhotels.com/palace/Taj%20Lake%20Palace,Udaipur/>

DOMINIQUE Let me add another ideal place in India: DEVI GARH in Delwara Village near Udaipur, an ancient fortress restored to perfection, a perfect hide away in absolutely stunning surroundings. <http://www.deviresorts.in/>

And for the trendy lovers of the Provence: LE DOMAINE DES ANDEOLS in Saint-Saturnin-les-Apt, in the heart of the Luberon. The domain is composed of nine unique and original, independent houses. The delicious restaurant in the garden and the Body & Soul wellness add to its charm. <http://www.domaine-des-andeols.com/>,

CITY/REGION/COUNTRY

ELIE BARCELONA has become my second home as my family used to own a house in the region. I spent lots of my holidays discovering its hidden corners and I still love it! I am pretty sure that I know Barcelona better than Brussels.

Countries I love: GUATEMALA for its colors and friendly people – PERU because I started my life in tourism as a tour leader for adventure trips to this destination and had the opportunity to visit Macchu Picchu more than 10 times ...

and never got bored. MALI, the Dogon country, natural smiling faces, daily life around the Niger river, not spoiled yet by tourism.

DOMINIQUE NEW YORK, not very original but that's the way it is: I just love it !

A country that surprised me a lot is UZBEKISTAN: marvelous sites and fantastic monuments on the Silk Road. Not to forget LIBYA ... not easy (no alcohol ☹) but a magnificent desert of high dunes and the roman site of Leptis Magna is a jewel. And how can I forget ICELAND ... there are too many countries I love.

TOGETHER Of course the PROVENCE, the region where we spend our family holidays ... far away from hotels and airplanes, our choice to relax and enjoy family life with our dearest ones. And last but not least ... INDIA (did you have any doubts on that one?) as well for private visits as for incentives. Don't we say that a place you love and you know is THE destination for your incentive clients? The fact that we have been granted the Site Crystal Award for one of our incentives to India with Designer Incentives, proves this is right.

LIKE

ELIE Dominique, my partner in professional and private life
Cécile, my 17-year old beautiful daughter
True friends
My jobs (previous and actual) ... two passions

DOMINIQUE Elie, my partner in professional and private life
Cécile, my 17-year old step daughter
Family and close friends
My whole life : everything has been a passion

DISLIKE

BOTH Racism – Extremism – Lies – Unfairness (especially in business)

MICE PERSON

- ELIE Annick Debels from Gent Congres: not only for her work at Gent Congres but also for her availability at SITE Belgium, the association I presided for 2 years and especially for her friendly and positive attitude.
- DOMINIQUE Christophe Verstraete from EUROMIC: a passionate communicator having this extraordinary quality of being able to bring together various actors from the incentive industry in order to make them surpass themselves. I already learned a lot from him and I continue to do so.
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PERSONS WHOM YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A MEAL WITH

ELIE

- Robert de Niro, for the easiness to take up totally different roles with the same passion in his eyes.
- Sean Connery, the one and only James Bond to me!
- Guy Verhofstadt as a person, not for his political choices but for his passion for Europe.
- My father who disappeared long before I even had the opportunity to ask him out for a meal.

DOMINIQUE

- Lilian Thuram and Thierry Henry (foot against racism)
- Jan Mulder (ex-football player writing fantastic columns in Humo)
- Michelle Obama (how interesting, difficult or disappointing is the life of a president's wife)
- And George Clooney ... who else?