

Dries Jacobus favorites

A quick bite: I just LOVE a good pita. I would almost kill for it. If my doctor wouldn't stop me, I could eat it every day...

A serious Tête à Tête: anywhere in the sand. Laying down on the beach listening to the waves or around an open fire in the desert watching the stars and the full moon... What more can you ask for?

Business-Business-Business: Hotel Drongen (Van Der Valk) in Drongen, near Ghent. Just off the E40 highway and near the crossroads with E17. So you can travel to Antwerp, Bruges, Kortrijk, Gent and Brussels in no time. After the renovations it has become a modern building. Food is great and affordable.

Good value for Groups:

Up to 50: Beer restaurant Den Dijver in Bruges. A great selection of unknown beers with exquisite food! A family-run business where you still find a true smile on people's faces. Maître and owner Filip is a walking encyclopaedia. The great thing about this place is that the same food comes with either wine or beer. Ever had tiger prawns with Belgian Beer? Or Belgian Beer as digestive? This is definitely the place!

Up to 70: Bistro Zwart Huis in Bruges. This is about the most flexible place in the Northern Hemisphere. A great partner to work with. Anything can be discussed, and the value for money is the best you can find. They recently installed a wonderful lounge bar in the cellar.

When I travel abroad: If it's local, I will do it. I always try the local food. I had my obscure grilled chicken wings from a street vendor in the back alleys of Bangkok, the dog in Vietnam, BBQ with the "Gauchos" Argentina, the spicy food from Southern India, but also the (almost burned) hamburger in the States. If it's local, I will try it.

Other favourites: no particular place, but when staff have a smile, a great feel for service and the food is delicious: that is where you will find me.

Hotel: I don't have a particular hotel (or chain) as my favourite, but I do appreciate authenticity. For that reason I love the African lodges. Not necessarily the 5-star products, but the ones which are genuine. We did an incentive trip to Kwa Zulu Natal and stayed in a lodge without electricity or running water. It was absolutely great.

City: There are 2 cities where I particularly feel at home and where the atmosphere is vibrant: Rio de Janeiro and Sydney. One you get into these cities and you are no longer a visitor the feel is great. It helps to know locals who show you places where tourists don't come. These underlying layers of these cities are so interesting. I could easily live there.

Country: From all the countries I have seen, Namibia definitely left me breathless... Waaw, what a place! I can't stop talking about it. The nature is overwhelming, the people are so friendly and the weather is truly fantastic. Only downside is that the sea water is too cold... A pity.

Incentive destination: the whole of South-East Asia. For the simple reason that the value for money is fantastic. Costs/quality for staff, printwork, food, music bands etc. is so outstanding that we can offer a truly perfectly organised incentive product for a decent budget. People in that region also still understand the true meaning of service. It is in their blood, they are born with it. It is so hard to find in the western world.

Beste Kept MICE-secret: Contact us and we will organise the perfect event for you there...

MICE-personality: Patrick Delaney (Patrick is former president of SITE International, owner of Ovation Ireland and now joint owner of MCI/Ovation). Despite of what people's opinion is on how his business evolved over the last few years, he is a fantastic PR-manager. He perfectly blends Irish humour with the art of understanding people. At the end of the day he still has both feet on the ground and stayed the warm human being he has always been.

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