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TRENDING NOW

On the way – Abbeys of Europe

LOCAL Kimberly Local 3 days ago REPORT





Belgium with two stops, the Abbey of Scourmont and that of Orval, will be the destination of the sixth and seventh appointment of “On the way – Abbeys of Europe”, the special event conceived and promoted by Livia Pomodoro which from 2023 to 2025, year of the Jubilee, it will cross Europe, touching 7 countries (England, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy) and 14 of the most prestigious Abbeys on the continent, many of which are Unesco heritage sites. Scourmont and Orval are two Trappist Abbeys that well represent the spiritual and agricultural world that revolves around the daily activity of the monks, whose productive work is aimed at bio-sustainability and a non-invasive

impact on nature, with crops and livestock that favor renewable sources in full respect of the surrounding environment. It is no coincidence that the word we have chosen and which will accompany us along these two stages is: Water.

In the Abbey of Notre-Dame de Scourmont, located near the town of Chimay, our sixth stage will begin on Monday 22 April 2024 at 4 pm with a guided tour inside the monastic complex, famous for the production of beer and a cheese – Poteupré – considered one of the best Trappist cheeses. At the end of the visit, there will be a meeting on the reflection of spirituality in water, opened by Livia Pomodoro who will welcome the guests present, followed by a greeting from HE Federica Favi, Ambassador of Italy in Brussels. After the greetings of Xavier Pirlot, General Director of Bières et Fromages de Chimay, and Alessandro Bonin, Chimay Export Area Manager, there will be a speech by the R. Father Armand Veilleux, theologian, former Abbot of Scourmont.

At 5.30 pm, at the Hôtel de Ville – Grand’Place 1, Chimay – the meeting “The shape of water” will begin in the lives, experiences and professional worlds of: Veronica Manfredi, Director of Zero Pollution and Green Cities in the Directorate General for the Environment of the European Commission; by the Belgian poet, actress and director Laurence Vielle; by the professor of history and analysis of cinema Wouter Hessels. Michele Cercone, Deputy Director of Communication of the European Committee of the Regions, coordinates the debate, supported by Tonino Bettanini, Director of GIUBILEO 2025 – No’hma in Cammino, and Claudio Serafini, Director of Organic Cities Network Europe.

The following day, Tuesday 23 April, it will be the turn of the seventh stop: the Abbey of Notre-Dame d’Orval, also famous for the production of the Trappist beer of the same name. Here at 11.30, after the visit to

the monastery, the conference will be held in the room of the Florentin Hôtel in Florenville: “Reflections in water. From Matilde of Canossa to the climate emergency: history, science and current affairs of a primary good for humanity” chaired by Livia Pomodoro, holder of the UNESCO Chair “Food Systems for Sustainable Development and Social Inclusion” at the State University of Milan. After the institutional greeting from Allegra Iafrate, Regent of the Italian Cultural Institute in Brussels, the conference will begin which will see the participation, among others, of: Pietro Pizzuti – actor, director and playwright exponent of the “Charte mondo des artistes pour l’eau”, Valter Quistini, Grand Master of the “Italian Embassy Sossons d’Orvault” and Pier Beretta – Knight in toga “Italian Embassy Sossons d’Orvault”. Salvatore Carrubba, Honorary Consul of Belgium in Milan, will send a video message. The Councilors of Florenville Nathalie Lejeune, Philippe Lambert and Xavier Lecat will be present. At 6 pm, the show will be held in the hall of the Florentin Hôtel: “Eaudyssée: l’eau en concert”, with Arthmony (Emanuel and Donata Vilardi), Mattisix and Thomas Arnett, where the protagonist will be water with its most hidden sounds. “In this second year of our journey, we have chosen as the sixth and seventh stop two Trappist Abbeys which are emblematic not only for their beer production – stated Livia Pomodoro, President of the Spazio Teatro No’hma in Milan and creator of the event – but for also be centers of prayer and work with respect for Man and Nature in all its forms. And water, a precious element for life, unites the eco-sustainability choices of the monks of both Abbeys. At Scourmont, it in fact feeds the work that takes place within it in a virtuous manner and without waste; as well as in Orval, where it is also at the origin of the myth of Matilda of Canossa and the Aurea Vallis”. After the first 4 stages of 2023, which saw our project touch Canterbury, the point of origin of the Via Francigena, the Chiaravalle Abbey in Milan, the abbey district and the Library of San Gallo in Switzerland, to close the year with the Certosa di Padula in

Salerno, the first appointment of 2024 was in Germany, with the fifth stop: the Plankstetten Abbey.

In each of the three years “On the way” will retrace the three main experiences of the journey: leaving (2023), transiting (2024), arriving (2025). In every single stage, in collaboration with the Treccani Institute, a word is proposed that guides the activities of the format of each meeting. In Canterbury the word selected was “Pilgrimage”, in Chiaravalle “Spirituality”, in San Gallo “Silence”, in Padula “Beauty” and in Plankstetten “Earth”. A pilgrimage translated into a modern key which will have as its destination these symbolic places of European history and spirituality, ending its journey in Rome on the occasion of the Holy Year. In each Abbey, in addition to bringing shows, artistic performances and ad hoc concerts based on the history, spiritual vocation and cultural heritage present in these thousand-year-old buildings which are still vital points of reference for the community today, conferences, round tables and conferences will be organised. dedicated to the territories and their excellence, produced both with traditional methods that respect nature and environmental impact and with modern bio-sustainable techniques. “On the way” is among the events selected by H.E.R. Mons. Rino Fisichella for the 2025 Jubilee, whose motto is Pellegrini di Speranza. We are accompanied on our journey by the European Vie Francigene Association (EAVF), sponsored by the Council of Europe, and the network of Organic Cities engaged in the dissemination of good bio-friendly practices for the circular economy. Over the three-year period, stage after stage, an orchestra will be formed involving musicians and students from the conservatories of the territories of the Abbeys. The “In viaggio” orchestra will have the Archimia string quartet as its initial nucleus, until it arrives in Rome in 2025 with an orchestra that will perform an original composition written for the occasion by Maestro Fabio Vacchi, one of the most appreciated

and awarded internationally. “On the way” is sponsored by the European Commission.



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