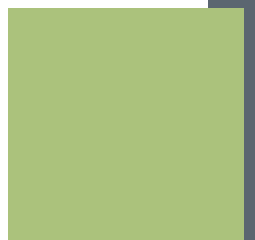
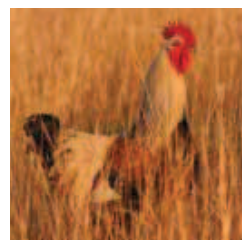
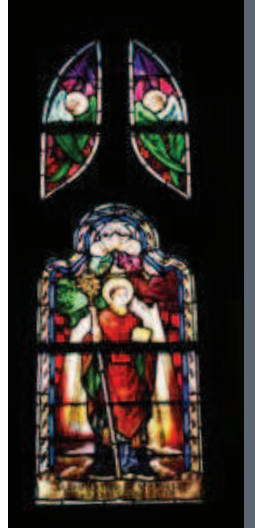
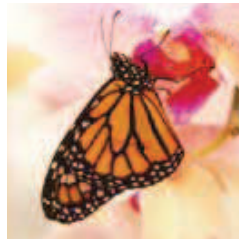
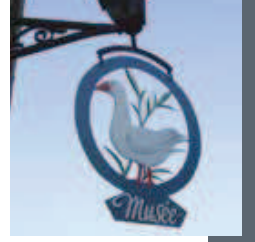


Visé, Capitale de la Basse - Meuse, Target the Goose!





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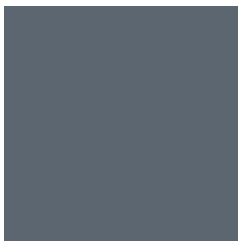
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VISE

CAPITAL OF BASSE-MEUSE, A FAMOUS TOURIST CENTRE

5

A beautiful city in the principality of Liege, capital of Basse-Meuse, Visé is comprised of six entities : Visé, Argenteau, Cheratte, Lanaye, Lixhe and Richelle, since these local authorities were merged in 1977. Its territory stretches along the Meuse and is situated halfway between Liege and Maastricht. This location means it occupies a privileged place at the centre of the Euregio region.

A beautiful city in the principality of Liege, capital of Basse-Meuse, Visé is comprised of six entities : Visé, Argenteau, Cheratte, Lanaye, Lixhe and Richelle, since these local authorities were merged in 1977. Its territory stretches along the Meuse and is situated halfway between Liege and Maastricht. This location means it occupies a privileged place at the centre of the Euregio region. The city has a history filled with joyous and tragic events which have shaped its look and shared in shaping its cultural richness. The town centre still bears numerous traces of this past; a multitude of treasures, a significant architectural heritage as well as many works of art.

The countryside offers great diversity. The urban town centre is a commercial and dynamic hub whilst the outlying areas of Lixhe and Lanaye offer both exceptional natural beauty and industrial locations. This same contrast appears in the older administrative areas to the south : Argenteau where we find the woods of the Julienne Valley and Cheratte with its old colliery. Amongst the notable natural sites, we'll mention just the best known : La Montagne St Pierre (St Pierre Mountain), in Lanaye, an age-old natural jewel with its network of walks and Les Etangs de la Julienne (The lakes of the Julienne) in Argenteau, a relaxing space in the middle of the countryside.

Another place not to be missed : Robinson Island. Situated a few hundred metres from the centre, it boasts a playground, with various sporting and fun events being held there throughout the year offering original and amusing distractions for everyone.

Visé has a reputation for festivals. The year is bursting with numerous local festivals, village events and Guild celebrations. Every summer, the city hosts a jazz festival and the city moves to a Dixieland beat.

Sport also has a place of honour with a cross-border marathon, an international judo competition, and a range of high-level teams including for example the RCS Visé Football team and the Visé Femina handball team.

The shopping centre in Visé offers a wide variety of shops and organises an annual summer street sale which runs at the same time as the jazz festival. During that period the town centre is closed to traffic and pedestrians can wander the streets in perfect safety.

Visé is a city of traditions, leisure, sport, culture as well as enjoying an undeniably healthy economy. To sum up, it's a little city with all the advantages of a big one. In this brochure you will find several suggestions about how to explore or re-explore it.

For an initial visit :
discover all the historical and
architectural richness of the
"City of the Goose", such as the
Town Hall, the Collegiate Church,
its urban features and many others
thanks to the walking circuits
A la Découverte
de la Capitale de la Basse-Meuse
(Discovering the Capital of Basse-
Meuse), available at
the Basse-Meuse Tourist Office.

Facts and Figures about Visé

Surface area : 6,916 acres

Territory : the greater city stretches along
the River Meuse from Cheratte in the south
to the Belgian/Netherlands frontier (Petit
Lanaye)

Population : around 17,100 inhabitants
Navigable waterways : the Meuse and the
Albert Canal

Motorways : The E25 from Liege to
Maastricht and the E42 from Liege to Aix-la-
Chapelle

Railway : SNCB railway Line 40 between
Brussels, Liege and Maastricht

Nearby airports : Bierset and the Maastricht-
Aachen airport

Nearby cities : Liege, Maastricht, Tongres
and Verviers

The greater Visé area is composed of six an-
cient communes, or administrative areas :
Argenteau, Cheratte, Lanaye, Lixhe, Richelle
and Visé.

The centre of Visé is on a plain, and the
ancient communes of Richelle and
Argenteau are up on the slopes.

As to Cheratte, we must distinguish
between Cheratte-Bas alongside the Meuse
and Cheratte-Haut on the slopes. Visé and
Cheratte represent the two urban centres.
However, we must note that Visé is the main
centre of the commune from a commercial
point of view (because it has more than 85%
of the shops), from a cultural point of view
(cultural centre, music school) and educati-
onal (secondary schools).

Assets

Secondary schools

The centre of Visé has four secondary
schools offering general academic studies
as well as technical and professional studies
(The Athénée Royal of Visé, The Saint-
Hadelin Collège, The Institute Sacré Cœur
and the Institute Saint-Joseph.)

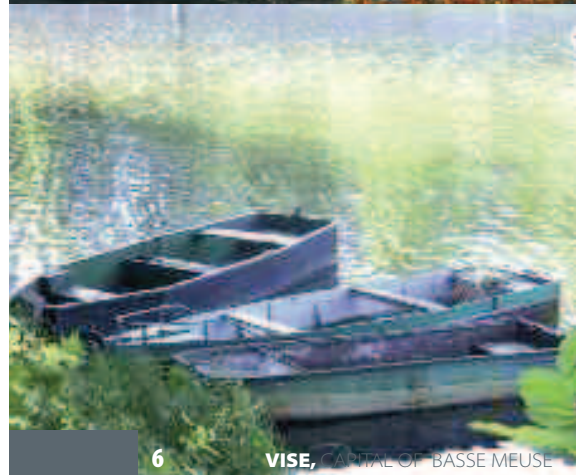
Commercial appeal

- The center of Visé

has a variety of different shops, several cafés,
restaurants, snack bars etc, and also a weekly
market on Wednesdays.

- Center of economic activity

Visé has three business parks : the first
is situated to the north of Visé and the other
two, managed by the Autonomous Port of
Liege, are in Argenteau and in Loën.



THE GOOSE, THE EMBLEM OF VISÉ

Close to Robinson Island and all along the Quai du Halage, you can see the mascot of Visé : the goose.

This web-footed bird became ennobled in Visé following a traditional tale that during the second half of the 14th century, the city fiercely resisted the mercenaries of Prince-Bishop Jean d'Arckel and among the besieged people was a young goose girl.

She tore their standard away from them.

The people of Visé have also created a dish based on goose. From one generation to the next the recipe has been refined to make today's L'oie à l'instar de Visé (Goose in the Visé style).

The recipe is a jealously guarded secret only known to a few cooks in the city and a few old-established families in the town.

Enjoy! (Recipe on page 16)



Twinned with Aiguillon,
in France, since 1958 :

Established in 1958, the twinning of Visé and Aiguillon is the oldest in the province of Liege, but the years have done nothing to erode the strength of the relationship because every 5 years, people from Visé and Aiguillon meet in one or other twinned city and enjoy numerous varied events.

More information from the Aiguillon
site

www.ville-aiguillon.eu







VISÉ, A CULTURAL CITY

Visé has history, traditions, customs and cultural activities which stretch back for centuries. Its heritage is alive and well with celebrations and different events throughout the year. Its architecture bears witness to its rich past. But it also has unique attractions like its Guilds, Brotherhoods, museums, its Walloon theatre festival, etc.

If you take a walk round Visé you cannot escape the traces of history and tradition. So come and explore its cultural heritage and its rich diversity.

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

The Hôtel de Ville

One of the most beautiful Mosan Renaissance buildings, the Town Hall, constructed between 1611 and 1613, has two floors and a roof with a wide roof ledge.

Seriously damaged in the First World War, it was reconstructed in 1925 according to the plans of the architect Paul JASPAR and restored in 2006.

The onion dome bell tower which is nearly 34 metres tall, is home to a ring of bells which play on the hour « Où peut-on être mieux ? » (Where could you be better off ?) by Grétry, on the quarter of the hour L'air du Tir des Arbalétriers ainsi que celui des Arquebusiers (The air of the Crossbowmen and the Harquebusiers), at the third quarter and at the half hour Valeureux Liegeois (Brave People of Liege) by Ramoux, hymn of the Liege revolution.

At the front entrance, above the portico are carved the arms of the two mayors, Frambach de la Haye and Denis de Marets from Charneux, who were responsible for its construction. Higher up, in two niches were placed the statues of the two Guild patrons : Saint George on the left and Saint Martin on the right.

The staircase, made of one piece of Belgian bluestone, leads the visitor to the Wedding Hall on the first floor. The neighbouring building, known as the Maison de Sluse, built in an "18th century style", is home to some public service departments.

We should also mention the other notable buildings in the Mosan Renaissance style : the Post Office building on the Place Reine Astrid in Visé, the Cultural Centre at 31 Rue du Collège, and the Château Saroléa on the Rue de Visé in Cheratte-Bas.

Documentation :
Christelle Claassens,
Heritage Notebook No 60 on Visé,
published by the Institute
of Walloon Heritage
This document is available
at the Museum of Visé,
rue du Collège, 31 à Visé
Info : museedevise@skynet.be

The architectural heritage of Visé also includes some private homes which are of interest, presented here below. We draw your attention to the fact that these buildings are private and not open to the public. Walkers are asked to respect the privacy of the residents.

The Ferme du Temple

This Knights Templar Farm, constructed in the 13th century, was one of the eight Belgian manors belonging to this religious and military order. The last prior Eustache d'Argenteau escaped to Zeeland in the Netherlands following the suppression of the Order in 1312. In 1318, the Knights of Malta took possession of the manor which was destroyed in 1675 by the armies of Louis XIV. The Knights rebuilt it and maintained it until the French Revolution. It is currently a model farm. The farm is still working (dairy and crops).

The château d'Argenteau

It was constructed in 1683 on the ruins of a 10th century fortified château, besieged several times and razed to the ground in 1674 by French troops. It belonged in the past to the family of the Counts of Mercy-Argenteau, the most well-known of whom was chamberlain to Napoleon 1st. Many famous people have stayed here including notably the Hungarian composer Franz Liszt. The château's parkland includes a beautiful Cedar of Lebanon planted in 1804.

TheManoir de la Tour de Lixhe

Neo-Classical architecture can be charming with its sense of proportions and its symmetry: that is the case here on the rear facade of the Manor of Gabrielle de Coune, the old house of the la Tour family, named after a mayor of Liege, who built, along the River Meuse his second residence between 1731 and 1734. The building passed to Clercx de Waroux then in 1874 to Edouard Paulmier. The building was left by Mademoiselle de Coune to the Foundation Roi Baudouin, for social use. Currently the Abbeyfield Residential Home, it has around ten residents

The Vouerie de Nivelles

The Vouerie of Nivelles farm was the residence of the Lord Voué, representative of the Bishop-Prince on the two banks of the Meuse with authority over Lixhe, Lanaye, Eijsden, etc. This quasi hereditary duty went from the Nivelles of Navagne family and then to the Prince of Warancelle, of du Bois, and of Massillon in 1616. After that, the title was often contested. This farm, where agriculture is still practiced today, was defended by a solid tower with corners built in alternating slabs of stone. The alternating of bricks and tufa blocks and the overhanging gable are typical of this area of Hesbaye.

The château Saroléa and the old Hasard colliery charbonnage du Hasard inCheratte-Bas

Constructed after 1905 in the Rue de Visé, this site was closed in 1977. The use of it therefore passed to the Charbonnage du Hasard of Micheroux and employed around 600 miners. This is the first mine to use electricity in Belgium.



HISTORICAL HERITAGE

The three Guilds of Visé

In the Middle Ages, the Guild was a military company formed by the inhabitants of a town to defend themselves against external threats and ensure internal security.

Today, these companies are still shooting clubs but above all possess a rich heritage and each one has its own museum.

There are three guilds : **the Arbalétriers** (the Crossbowmen, the oldest Guild in Belgium), **the Arquebusiers** (the Harquebusers) and **the Francs Arquebusiers** (the Free Harquebusers).

The best way to find out about them is to watch their parades on their patron saint's feast day or at their summer fêtes when you can have the pleasure of watching their official shooting matches to win the two titles of King of the Fête and to follow the "gast" where the members of the Guilds and their spouses parade, with great pomp and circumstance.

La Compagnie Royale des Anciens Arbalétriers Visétois

(The Royal Company of the Ancient Crossbowmen of Visé)



La Compagnie Royale des Anciens Arquebusiers de Visé

(The Royal Company of the Ancient Harquebusers of Visé)



La Compagnie Royale des Francs Arquebusiers Visétois

(The Royal Company of Free Harquebusers of Visé)



RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

The Church and Old Collegiate church of Saint-Martin and Saint-Hadelin

According to tradition, the first church was built in 779 thanks to the generosity of Princess Berthe, the daughter of Emperor Charlemagne. A short time afterwards, it was damaged during a Norman raid in 881.

The church became a collegiate church following the arrival of the canon of Celles in 1338, making it part of the town's integral defence system. It was located on the enclosure wall and its large square tower was fortified. It didn't survive the sack of the town by the Burgundians of Charles the Bold in 1467.

Reconstructed in several phases, the church was burned down again on 10th August 1914, by the Germans. Only the Choir, dating from 1524, was preserved and the windows of the apse were miraculously saved. The reconstruction was carried out following the plans of the architect Jamar in 1924. The venerable relics of Saint-Hadelin (not to be confused with the patron saint of the parish, Saint-Martin) are preserved in a shrine and a bust situated in the choir of the collegiate church.

The shrine of Saint-Hadelin

Hadelin, born at the beginning of the 7th century in Aquitaine, was a disciple of the founder of the Abbey of Stavelot, Saint Remacle. His peregrinations lead him to found an oratory himself at Celles on the banks of the Lesse. He died there in 690 and a chapter of a dozen canons devoted themselves to venerating his memory in the town.

In 1046, the Bishop of Liege, Wazon, had the remains of the saint moved into a reliquary decorated with silver relief work. The long sides were added around 1170 to this piece the treasure of Mosan art that we can still admire today in the Church of Visé.

At first kept in Celles, the reliquary was transferred to Visé in 1338 when the canons had to take refuge there. In 1414, the skull of Saint Hadelin was taken out and placed in a special reliquary, restored in 1654 by the goldsmith from Liege, Jean Goeslin.

Since 1788, every 25 years, the people of Visé celebrate, with a series of major events, the arrival of the reliquary in their city. The last time was in 1988, the next time will be in 2013.

The reliquary is also taken out every year, on the third Sunday of September.

Finally, we note that it has been listed as a heritage artefact by the Minister of Culture in February 2012.



The chapel of Lorette -1-

The 194 steps, more than a century old, lead the visitor to the alley of plane trees which lead to the Chapelle of Lorette, a replica of the Sancta Casa (Holy House) of Lorette near Ancona in Italy.

The chapel of 1684 constructed by a canon of the Chapter of Visé on his return from a trip to Italy was remarkably well-restored in 1964.

It was consecrated to Notre-Dame de Lorette (Our Lady of Lorette) in thanks for the protection she had given when the city was taken by French troops in 1675. In imitation of the house in Nazareth, this chapel has a Virgin Mary which is dressed and carried in procession every year on the eve of Assumption.

Opposite was constructed a hermitage, which accommodated the two guardians of the chapel; one of the last hermits was shot by the Germans on 5th August 1914.

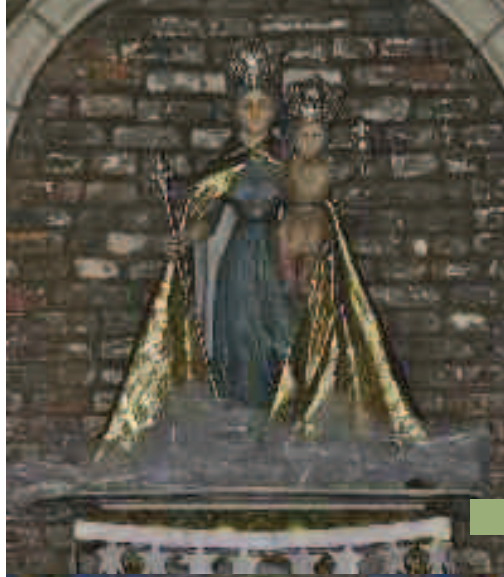
The chapel of Wixhou -2-

Dedicated to Notre Dame aux Bois Bénits of Argenteau, and surrounded by oaks several centuries old, it still offers a shelter in which to rest and recuperate.

According to tradition, the place was baptised "Wi-hout" (Blessed Woods) in memory of the miraculous discovery by a poor woman collecting wood, of a statuette of the Virgin Mary.

A once-popular destination for pilgrimages, it was also known for the fair held there.

However, a traditional Mass in Walloon is celebrated there once a year, on 8th September.



Other religious buildings with an architectural interest :

The Church of Saint-Joseph de Cheratte (Cheratte Hauteurs) -3-

The Church of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption de Sarolay -4-

The Church of Notre-Dame de Cheratte -5-

The Church of Notre-Dame du Mont Carmel de Devant-Le-Pont

The Church of Saint-Lambert de Lixhe -7-

The Church of Saint-Rémy de Lanaye

The Church of Saint-Firmin de Richelle -6-

The protestant Church of Cheratte-Bas -8-



ARTISTIC LIFE IN VISÉ

The city has been the birthplace of several great artists.

Cheratte is known for having watched the development of four famous comic strip artists and illustrators : Mittéï, François Walthéry, Georges Van Linthout and Stibane.

Another famous artist from the Sabaré area in Cheratte is Jean Donnay. He is an illustrator and engraver known for his landscapes of Basse-Meuse and his representations of industrial sites...

In the literary field, Marcelle Martin contributed to maintaining Walloon as a living language through poetry and plays for theatre. She is honoured every year thanks to a festival organised by the department of culture in Visé.



Georges Van Linthout

Comic strip artist and scriptwriter

Born 21st December 1958 in Hermalle-sous-Argenteau

His main heroes : **Lou Smog, Falkenberg**

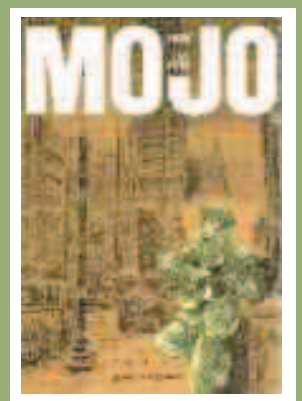
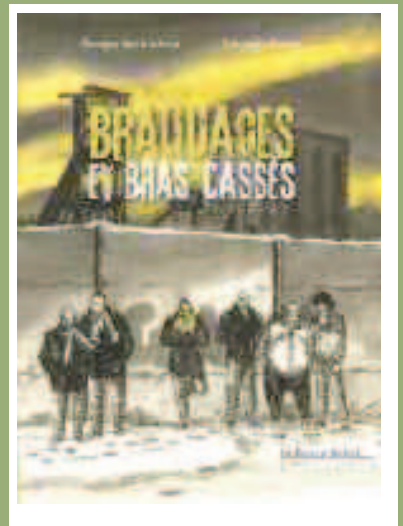
While a student at the Saint-Luc Institute in Liege, he sold his first comic strips to Spirou magazine.

In 1985, he created Lou Smog, an American police lieutenant for Tintin magazine, and collaborated on the production of several Natacha (Walthéry).

From 1997 to 1999, he drew three albums in the Falkenberg series. He also worked with Stibane (his twin brother) and Didgé on the album Jenny which came out at the end of 1995.

At Editions Casterman, he published the Twins series with Leclercq doing the scenario and wrote the scripts for Les Enquêtes Scapola series with Stibane drawing.

Since 1999, Georges Van Linthout has multiplied his collaborations and projects including the Polar comic strips in black and white (Braquages et bras cassés), the biography of T-Bone Walker, Conquistador, the biography of rocker Gene Vincent, etc



Luc Van Linthout, alias Stibane,

Comic strip designer and illustrator

Born 21st December 1958 in Hermalle-sous-Argenteau,

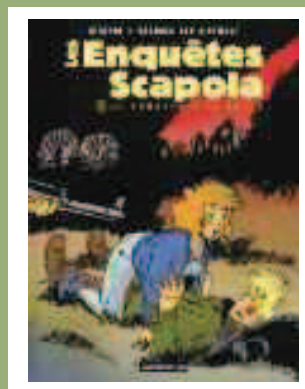
His hero : **Scapola**

Twin brother of Georges Van Linthout, just like his brother he studied at the Institute Saint-Luc in Liege. He began illustrating and drawing comic strips at the beginning of the 80s.

His work : The reworking of Petit Noël, directed by Franquin (Marsu Productions), the adaption of Sherlock Holmes as a comic strip with André-Paul Duchâteau in the scenario (Editions Lefrancq), the Les enquêtes Scapola series (three albums with Casterman) with his brother as scriptwriter, the adaptation of the televised series Caméra Café in collaboration with Didgé (five albums from 2003 to 2006), an album of comic strips about French humorists Chevallier and Laspales.

In collaboration with Bruno Di Sano, he published the first two volumes of Aventures of Fred and Jamy, an adaptation of the TV programme C'est pas sorcier.

As well as his work as author of comic strips, Stibane is also an illustrator for young people. He wrote and drew fifteen albums for children published by "Pastel/L'Ecole des Loisirs". Finally, Luc Van Linthout is also well known as an artist and a painter.



Mittéï

From his real name of Jean Mariette

Born 5th June 1932 in Cheratte, died 16th April 2001.

His main heroes : **Rouly-la-Brise, Indésirable Désiré, Bonaventure**

In 1957, he collaborated for several years with Greg to produce Junior, a supplement to the Belgian newspaper La Libre Belgique.

In 1959, he joined Studio Tintin, where he stayed for 17 years. Then he published various works with Editions Dupuis, including Les Lettres de mon Moulin (Letters from My Windmill) by Alfonse Daudet.

A great scriptwriter, notably at the Journal Spirou (from 1968 to 1979), he produced, amongst others, some Boule and Bill gags; participated on Gaston Lagaffe of Franquin; and was associated with Walthéry on Natacha.

Throughout his career, he was a great discoverer of talents : we speak of "The Cheratte School" : Walthéry, Dany, Seron, Hachel, Laudec, etc.

A talented watercolour painter, he also devoted himself to this passion producing more than 1,200 works.

To find out more about his life and his œuvre, follow the walking tour signs Dans les pas de Mittéï (In the Steps of Mittéï).



François Walthéry

Comic strip scriptwriter and artist

Born 17th January 1946 in Argenteau

His main heroes : **Natacha, Le P'tit bout d'chique, Rubine, Li vi bleu**

His career is linked to Mittéï's (who entrusted him with drawing the Pipo series in 1962) and to Peyo's (in 1963, Walthéry was employed as an assistant in the Peyo Studio).

In 1970, he created the **Natacha** series for the Journal de Spirou, with Gos and Delporte, which made him famous.

In 1972, he left the Peyo Studio and created a new series, **Le vieux bleu**, based on a play by Cauvin, whilst pursuing his collaboration with the Journal de Spirou.

In 1988, he went to Marsu Productions and continued to publish his heroine Natacha but also **Le P'tit bout d'chique**.

Preferring to work collaboratively rather than alone, he helped artists like Casten, Georges Van Linthout and De Lazare.

In 1993, he created the character of Rubine.



Jean Donnay

Painter, illustrator, and engraver

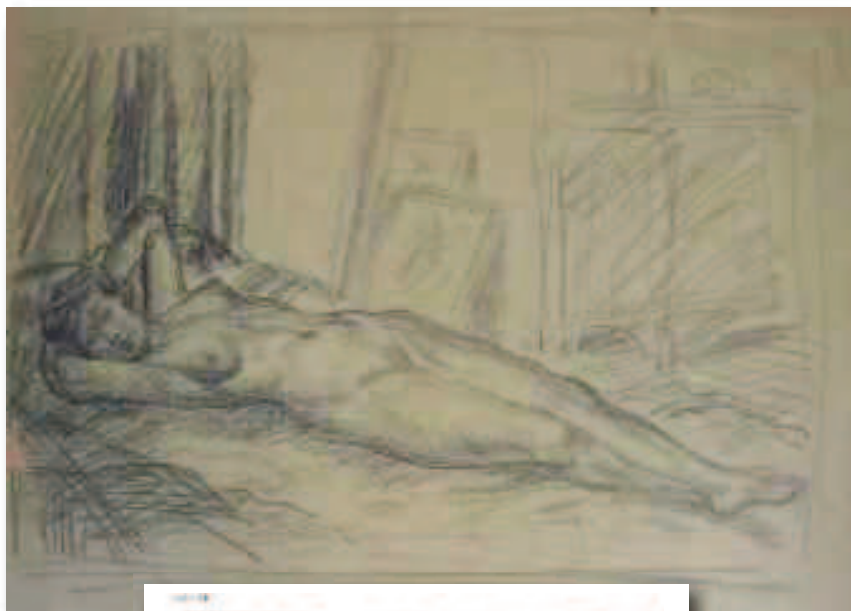
Born in Cheratte in 1897, died in Herstal in 1992.

A student in the decorative arts section of the Académie des Beaux-Arts de Liege, he worked as an engraver after 1916. After a period of teaching in the Academy he became the director of it in 1961. His favourite subjects were the surrounding countryside, industrial sites, religious scenes and cats.

To admire his work, visit the Société Royale Archéo-Historique de Visé (Royal Society of Archaeology and History of Visé.)

(For information about opening times see www.vise.be)

or the Cabinet des Estampes of the City of Liege which also has a rich collection.



Marcelle Martin

Born in 1926, died in 1995

Actress, author,
poet in the Walloon language,
Presenter of TV programmes in dialect

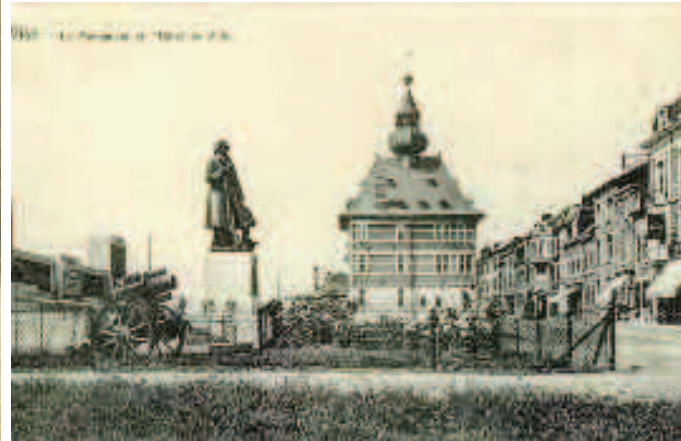
Marcelle Martin devoted herself mainly to theatre but also sometimes wrote poetry, songs and operettas. Her career and her work gained her numerous prizes, including the "Prix du Mérite Culturel de la ville de Visé" (Prize for Cultural Merit from the City of Visé) in 1993. She was also awarded the Grand Prix de la Littérature Wallonne by the city of Liege for her work "Planche de salut pour poèmes en détresse" (Lifeline for poems in distress").

The Festival Marcelle Martin Walloon Theatre Festival, supported by the City of Visé and the province of Liege was founded in 2000. It is held each year in Visé, over three days in January (see the agenda at the end of the brochure)

MILITARY HERITAGE

A martyred city of the First World War in 1914...

The Great War!



Visé that August was the scene of a great tragedy :
Visé, destroyed, burned.

In all, 600 houses and all public buildings (the Collegiate church, the Town hall, the Old Convent of the Sépulcrines) were devoured by flames.

The male population was taken prisoner, the women and children fled to Holland.

The tragic total : 42 people from Visé massacred, 10 died in captivity, 4 Belgian soldiers and 2 police officers were killed.

A sad title for such a beautiful city :
Visé was one of the first martyr cities of the Great War.



- The monument to those who died in the Great War, a work by the architect Falise, beside the Town Hall.

- The stele commemorating the death of the two police officers who fell for their country, on the Place Reine Astrid, near the front door of the Post Office.

- The monument in memory of the first two infantrymen killed at the entrance to the bridge to Visé.





EXCEPTIONAL SITES & NATURAL HERITAGE

18



The Arboretum

The local authorities decided to create an arboretum opposite the old Belle Fleur (see below) of the Cheratte Colliery. It was inaugurated in 2005.

On this land of one hectare, on the site of an old slag heap, Visé undertook the plantation of interesting species from a horticultural and ornamental point of view, a beautiful collection of Viburnum and Cornus (Dogwood) in particular.

Some species of plants were chosen for their scent, due to the construction of an educational centre with an interest in the study of bees.



La Belle Fleur

La Belle Fleur, the mouth of a ventilation shaft from the Hasard Colliery also served as a higher level entrance. It was most often used to take equipment down.

It was constructed in cement in 1927.

This "beacon" of industrial archaeology was classed as a monument in 1992 and was completely restored under the aegis of the city of Visé.



The site of the Julienne

In Argenteau, the site of the Julienne lakes offers an opportunity to breathe fresh air. There remains nothing but a private chalet and grounds in the centre of a vast park which includes woods, lakes, and a recreation centre, which is open to the public. It is a wonderful place for walks, as well as The Chapel of Wixhou in particular. The Julienne woodlands comprise around 200 acres.. The section in the valley has two lakes, a playground, and a welcome chalet run by the city of Visé which gives the local population a chance to breathe fresh air. There are beautiful walks towards Richelle, Sarolay, Cheratte and Housse making the area ideal for family leisure.

Leparc des Libellules,

(Dragonfly Park) Wade

Inaugurated in May 2010, Dragonfly Park is a space for relaxing and walking in the centre of a fast-growing district. An ideal place for walkers, joggers and children who can run around in complete safety, this new park has lawns, various plantations, a new swallow nesting tower and a wet zone which is home to dragonflies and ducks. Developed as part of a new neighbourhood, it is the creation of a piece of the countryside designed to maintain the balance between flora, fauna and the habitat. Even if it is a little bit outside the centre, it is worth the detour, especially on a sunny day.



L'échelle à poissons de Lixhe

A construction of high technical performance.

The fish ladder of Lixhe is part of the "Salmon 2000" project, the aim of which is to reintroduce salmon and sea trout into the Meuse basin (an operation launched within the framework of the European Year of Nature Conservation in 1995). The ladder reduces the physical obstacles to migration posed by the dam and the hydraulic plant, both going downstream towards the sea and migrating upstream in the breeding period. In fact, the sustainable reintroduction of large migrating fish into the Meuse basin necessitated the installation of effective weir crossings to re-establish or preserve the free circulation of these migrating fish.

The ladder at Lixhe comprises a succession of pools functioning on the principle of a staircase. The pools are staggered in height one above the other (according to the swimming and jumping capabilities of the fish concerned). The number of pools depends on the slope to be navigated.

The Nature Reserve of la Montagne Saint-Pierre, its recreational network and the Caster plateau



The limestone massif of the Montagne Saint-Pierre is situated on the frontier with Holland, Flanders and Wallonia. This exceptional region invites you to discover picturesque little villages, forts and chateaux, numerous water courses and an exceptional natural environment.

Some years ago, six local authorities and seven associations united to give a new boost to this fragile zone. In 2002, together they launched Montagne Saint-Pierre, entre Geer et Meuse (Saint Pierre Mountain, between Geer and Meuse), an initiative involving more than 30 projects and aiming to rehabilitate the countryside and the natural environment, recreation and information.

. The Nature Reserve

The western side of the Meuse is a mosaic of woods and chalk grasslands. Thanks to their microclimate, they shelter chalk-land flora with a southern character, composed of species with poetic names: yellow rockrose, spring buttercups and burnet. There are also spectacular orchids such as the military orchid, or the man orchid. There are also more than 500 species of hymenoptera, mainly bees and solitary wasps. But also moths, beetles and grasshoppers, including some rare species, often at the northern limit of their habitat range. In 2005, a new permanent exhibition was opened in Lanaye. The visitor can find out more details there, with interactive displays about the geology, history and ecology of this exceptional site. It is the starting point for guided visits and educational events in the nature reserve (see Maison de la Montagne Saint-Pierre - Saint Pierre Mountain House).

. The Caster Plateau

The Caster Plateau, the culminating and central point of Saint Pierre Mountain, is characterised by chalk fields and wooded slopes. Underground, lots of galleries have formed in the shale, making a veritable refuge for a dozen species of bats. As underground, and on the slopes, the woods, the fields and pastures comprise a wide variety of biotopes. The plateau is an ideal habitat for mammals, birds, amphibians and insects, including numerous species of rare butterflies. The wooded slopes shelter many badger sets, an endangered species. This shale plateau is not only remarkable for its ecological value. In fact, the Caster Farm is situated at the crossroads of three regions: Holland, Flanders and Wallonia. In 2004, the whole of this zone was given to Natuurpunt, à la Vereniging Natuurmonumenten and to the Walloon Region (Nature and Forest Division).

Info : www.vise.be/loisirs/espace-tourisme





TRADITIONS & FESTIVALS

20

The true folklore of Visé is, in the best sense of the word, popular. Its source is in the committees, also called "Jeunesses", in the different villages and neighbourhoods. Their existence goes back a long way in history

Thanks to them, from May to November, festivities invade the four corners of the city. Local harmony resonates all the time, and at each evening event, a dance attracts a good part of the population. The highlight of some fêtes is the decapitation of the goose, (which has previously been humanely killed), a cruel custom which is supposed to symbolise renewal, a purification by the blood of the animal. The swordsman, blindfolded, chops the head off with a sabre. (Dates of these fêtes: see diary on page 21 and 22)

Two villages have a different custom: Lanaye and Richelle. Here, it is a cockerel who is beheaded but this time by a woman, who is not blindfolded.

Another particularity that can be discovered in the area is the "cramignon". It is a sort of farandole or traditional dance, very popular in Basse-Meuse. It is danced through the streets of the village by couples in fancy dress, wearing elegant and smart outfits. As the dance goes by, lots of people invite the participants in and these pauses are an obligatory stage for quenching the thirst with the traditional peket (a drink made with juniper).

All these events have given the people of Visé a taste for parties but they are also attached to their habitual participation in all sorts of events, whether they are sportive or cultural.

Brotherhoods

The Visé Brotherhood «Confrérie de la Délicieuse Oie du Gay Savoir en Bien Mangier»

The Visé Brotherhood of the Delicious Goose of the Goodly Knowledge of Eating it Well was founded in 1987. Its aim is the preservation and development of the ancient recipe "Goose in the Style of Visé", a recipe which is part of the cultural and gastronomic heritage of our Good City of Visé. It also aims to promote goose products and organises many events to do this.

Info : www.confrriedeloie.be

The Notre-Dame de Lorette and Saint-Hadelin Brotherhood asbl

Info : www.ndloretteetsainthadelin.be



RECIPE FOR GOOSE IN THE STYLE OF VISÉ

Recipe for 4 serves

Some history :

This recipe is thought to date from the sixteenth century, but it's "creator" remains unknown.

In the eighteenth century, the National Regiment of Liege came to Visé on manoeuvres.

While the officers savoured the famous goose, the regular soldiers only got salad.

This is why soldiers from Liege during this period (the Ancien Régime) were given the nickname of "mangeurs de salad" ("salad eaters").



. INGREDIENTS :

- 1 goose under a year old (which hasn't started laying)
- 3 dl of crème fraîche (40% fat)
- 1/2 litre of milk
- 4 peeled cloves of garlic
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 a lemon
- 300 grams of white bread
- 150 grams of butter
- 100 grams of goose fat
- 1 dl vegetable oil
- flour
- salt, pepper
- grated fresh ginger
- Potatoes and other garnishes for serving (see end of recipe)

INGREDIENTS FOR COOKING :

- 600 grams of carrots
- 400 grams of onion (of which 2 halves browned and stuck with cloves)
- 50 grams green celery
- 100 grams celeriac
- 3 cloves of garlic (not peeled)
- 1 bouquet garni containing:
 - 50 grams of parsley stalks,
 - a sprig of thyme, a bay leaf
 - 2 cloves (for the browned onions)

LIQUID AND SEASONING

- 6 litres of chicken stock or water
- 20 grams of salt
- 1 pinch of black pepper corns

. PREPARATION

CUISSON DE L'OIE

To be done the day before (if possible)

- Remove excess fat from the goose (melt it, strain it, and reserve)
- Put the goose into a large high-sided casserole, add liquids and season it
- Bring to the boil
- Strain the liquid several times
- Add the vegetables and the bouquet garni
- Take care to cook slowly over a low heat
- Remove the goose after cooking (2 hours approximately)
- Strain the liquid and reserve (remove excess fat if necessary)
- Cut up the goose, separate thighs from drumsticks
- Cut each breast in half;
do not remove goose skin
- Dry meat with paper towels

The day

- Beat two eggs with a whip
- Dip thighs only into the eggs and fresh breadcrumbs
- Dip thighs only into the eggs and fresh breadcrumbs**

- Keep aside on a plate

NOTE: don't dip all the meat in the egg and breadcrumbs, only the thighs are breaded, the breast is not.

- Cook the 2 cloves of garlic in the milk
- Blend the milk and garlic
- Reserve for the sauce
- Reduce the liquids by half
- Make a light white sauce (50 grams of butter, 35 grams of flour)
- Add the liquids to the white sauce
- Beat with a whip
- Cook over a slow heat
- Add the cream and the garlic purée (according to taste)
- Reduce by half
- Remove the casserole from the heat
- Beat 25 grams of butter into the sauce with a whip
- Check seasoning
- Add a splash of lemon juice
- Keep warm over a bain-marie

. TO FINISH

- Put two pans of hot over a fast heat
- Put the pieces of goose into the hot oil, skin side down first
- **Take care to use one pan for the thighs and one for the wings**
- Let the pieces go golden on both sides
- Throw away the cooking oil
- Put the pans back on the heat
- Add one spoonful of butter and one of goose fat
- Heat, add meat and turn
- Put the pans in the oven (180°C, 2 min.)

TO SERVE

- Check seasoning one more time (strain sauce if necessary)
- Ladle a small amount of sauce onto a warm plate
- Sprinkle with a little grated fresh ginger
- Wipe excess grease off meat if necessary
- Arrange a piece of breast and a piece of leg on the sauce, skin up
- Put garnish around the meat

GARNISH

- Potatoes: roast or sautéed in their skins
- Vegetables: according to taste, young carrots, Brussels sprouts or turnips in butter

Recipe selected by

the Brotherhood of the Goose in Visé

Suggested and written by Jean Castadot, Chef at Agapes.





CULTURE, SPORTS AND LEISURE

22 MUSEUMS

Regional Museum of Archeology and History

Established since 1990 in the cultural centre, the Regional Museum of Archaeology and History of Visé is managed by the Royal Archo-Historical Society of Visé. Its historical documentation centre stores archives, books, journals, photographs, videos and all sorts of documents about the Basse-Meuse and Visé. Its areas of specialisation are archaeology and regional history; local traditions, industrial archaeology, family histories, regional artists, external heritage (local heritage, memory-based heritage), and the memory of the two World Wars and especially the First World War which made Visé the first martyr town of the Great War in Belgium. Its social aim is to make regional heritage accessible to all members of the public (general public, children, tourists) through its permanent collection on the first floor, temporary exhibitions, numerous publications, film or photographic records, and guided tours. The museum's documentation centre is open to the public. For more information please contact the museum.

Curaotor : M. Jean-Pierre Lensen

Address : rue du Collège 31 à 4600 Visé

Tél. : +32 (0) 495 496 391

Site : www.museedevise.be

Musée des Anciens Arbalétriers

(Museum of the Ancient Crossbowmen)

Visits by appointment only

Address : rue Haute, 46 à 4600 Visé

Tel. : Jean-Pol NIHON

+32 (0) 485 551 925

Site : www.arbaletriers-vise.be

Musée des Anciens Arquebusiers

(Museum of the Ancient Harquebusers)

Visits by appointment only.

Address : «La Renaissance»

rue Haute, 11 à 4600 Visé

Tel. : Eddy Bruyère

+32 (0) 477 753 301

Site : www.arquebusiers.eu

Musée des Francs Arquebusiers

(Museum of the Free Harquebusers)

Museum open on Bank Holidays: 1st Sunday of July or the Sunday preceding Saint Martin's Day (11th November) or by appointment. Entry is free.

Address : rue Dodémont, 3 à 4600 Visé

Tel. : Marc Poelmans

+32 (0) 495 122 909

Site : www.francs-arquebusiers.be

Musée des Miniatures 40-45

(Museum of Miniatures 40-45)

In the old hangar behind his house you will find Léon Damé's 220m² museum. Passionate about the 1940-1945 war, he displays recreated interiors and vehicles dating from the era of that war (2000 vehicles from all over the world; USA, FR, D, USSR). Everything is made with recycled materials.

Visits by appointment, for groups of max. 10 people. Admission Free.

Closed from 15/11 to 15/04

Address : rue des écoles, 58 à 4600 Visé

Tel. : Léon Dame

+32 (0) 486 293 830

Musée de la Montagne Saint-Pierre in Lanaye

Discover the Nature Reserve through an interactive exhibition. At the heart of the village of Lanaye, the permanent exhibition is "a jewel in an ancient natural setting" and goes back over time from prehistory to the present day to recount the evolution of this natural site. It is the ideal starting point to explore the region of Saint Pierre Mountain. Open every weekend and Bank Holidays from 1/04 to 31/10 from 2pm to 6pm or by appointment.

Adresse : place du Roi Albert à 4600 Lanaye

Site : www.vise.be



The Pedestrian and Cyclists' Network of the Montagne Saint-Pierre

Saint-Pierre Mountain's international network of footpaths has 20 beautiful nature walks built between Geer and Meuse.

The shortest trail is 2.8 km and the longest 13.5 km.

The footpaths are signposted in both directions using symbols on wooden poles. The signs try to remain the same, whether they're located in Netherlands, Flanders or Wallonia.

The necessary infrastructure has been put in place to make it possible to access the territory of Saint-Pierre Mountain; bridges, stairs, fences, ramps, gates, etc.

The valleys of the Meuse and Geer create a unique place for cycling: along the flat Geer, Meuse or the Albert Canal to picturesque villages, forts and castles, all in an exceptional natural setting.

For the more energetic, there are a few hills to climb connecting one valley to another.

The Saint-Pierre Mountain project has created a pedestrian and bicycle link on the Meuse between the Dutch commune of Eijsden, and the Walloon village Lanaye, which is part of Greater Visé.

At the moment, cyclists no longer need to use the dangerous Lixhe bridge in the summer. They can take the "Cramignon" ferry which transports them from one bank to another.

The Ferry -

Information point :

la Maison du Tourisme de la Basse-Meuse

Tel : +32(0)4 374 85 55

Site : www.basse-meuse.be

A box of maps containing all the walking and cycling trails is available for purchase from the Basse- Meuse Tourist Office, 7 Rue des Béguines, 4600 Visé



In the Steps of Mittéï

A tribute from the Director of Culture given to Mittéï (Jean Mariette), a multi-talented artist well-known for his comic books. Two circular walks (4 km and 4.5 km) are lined with reproductions of his works (watercolours or comic strips) placed in their original setting, helping you discover and learn more about the life and work of the artist.

Start of the "Mittéï Walk" from Rue Sabaré in Cheratte-Hauteur.

For more information contact the Basse-Meuse Tourist Office.

Discovering the Capital of Basse-Meuse

Visit the centre of Visé, and the surrounding villages, by means of pathways of between 2 and 5 kilometres in length, and discover the thousand and one natural, architectural and historical treasures of this beautiful region. A pouch of maps is available at Basse-Meuse tourist office.

Info : A pouch of maps is available at Basse-Meuse tourist office.



SPORTS

Visé, a city of sport

The town has around 50 sports clubs representing a wide range of disciplines; two nautical clubs, a swimming pool renovated in 2011, three multi-sports halls, one located in the Devant-le-Pont area, another in Cheratte-Bas and the largest in the Rue de Berneau, Visé. This last hall hosts the International Open Judo competition at the beginning of the year, as well as the women and men's handball team practices and games. Next to the hall is the football ground used by the CS Visé football team.

The list of contact details for local sports clubs and nautical clubs can be obtained by contacting the sports service.

Contact: info@visesports.be
Site: www.vise.be

Visé swimming pool

Address : rue Porte de Lorette, 15
à 4600 Visé
Tel. : +32(0)4 379 31 69
Site : www.vise.be/loisirs/espace-sports

Some of the larger Clubs

- ◆ Rugby
Rugby club Visé
Site : www.viserugby.be
- ◆ Football
CS Visé
Site : www.cs-vise.be
Contact : communication@cs-vise.be
- ◆ Handball
Women's team FEMINA Visé
Site : www.feminavise.be
Men's team HC Visé
Site : www.hcvise.be
- ◆ Boxe
Promotion Boxing Club GMG Visé
Contact : bc.gmg.cheratte.vise@skynet.be

Sporting Events:

- ◆ The Judo open
Site : www.openvise.be
- ◆ The Maasmarathon
Site : www.maasmarathon.com
- ◆ The Julienne Cross
Contact : info@visesports.be
- ◆ Zatopek for families
Site : www.lazatopekenfamille.be

LEISURE

Cultural Centers

Visé's cultural centres include the buildings at 31 Rue du Collège in Visé, and the Braham Hall at 129, Rue Sabaré, Cheratte-Haut. In Visé, the centre has a hall for exhibitions and conferences; La Chapelle des Sépulcrines, and a room for shows, Les Tréteaux. The centre also organises permanent workshops (pottery, painting, languages, etc) all year round.

Contact :
culture.vise@basse-meuse.be
ou
culture@vise.be
Site : www.vise.be/loisirs/espace-culture

César Franck Academy

Established in 1964, the Academy currently has more than a thousand students, a faculty of 39 professors, 1 director and 2 educational supervisors. Lessons in music, speaking, and classical dance are taught in a newly renovated building in the centre of Visé. Music lessons are also given in the Oupeye, Blegny and Saive areas. Organised by highly qualified teaching team, the courses aim to help students discover the fascinating worlds of these three arts.

Site : www.academievisé.be



SHOPPING

The Marina

The Marina located on Quai de la Basse-Meuse near the Promenade d'Aiguillon offers different services and facilities for pleasure boating such as: 50 resident places, 10 places for visitors, pontoons, free drinking water, electricity (electricity terminals with keys), bin bags, showers, toilets, laundry, a nautical store, grocery, bakery and bookstore 600m away, and a station 1km away in the town centre.

For all information about costs of places, contact Jean-Marie Raes

Tel. : +32(0)4 374 04 97

ou +32(0)497 920 776

Contact : portdevise@skynet.be

For all information about the possibility of navigation courses, see :

www.bateau-ecole.be

La Capitainerie de Visé

Just beside the marina, the Capitainerie café and bar offers a good place to relax beside the water

Site: www.la-capitainerie-vised.be

La Maison du Tourisme de la Basse-Meuse asbl

The Basse-Meuse Tourist Office is the tourist information bureau for all the communes of Bassenge, Blegny, Dalhem, Herstal, Juprelle, Oupeye and Visé as well as Blegny-Mine.

These places offer various natural sites, numerous rich historical places, gourmet pleasures, and a multitude of active or relaxing leisure activities.

Don't hesitate to visit us, our Basse-Meuse Tourism Office is right in the centre of Visé, or look at our website: www.basse-meuse.be, where you will find all the information you need for a successful trip or holiday.

The Basse-Meuse Tourist Office is open from Monday to Sunday 10am to 4pm, and is closed 1st and 2nd January, 1st November, 25th and 26th December.

Address : rue des Béguines, 7 à 4600 Visé

Tel.: +32 (0) 4 374 85 55

Contact : info@basse-meuse.be

Site : www.basse-meuse.be

The Shops of Visé: the pleasure of shopping

The Visé shopping mall is booming. The diverse boutiques, cafés and bars, offer high-quality shops on a human scale where know-how and competence are very much to the fore.

Two outstanding events have proved a great success for customers and visitors: Visé's "Fest'Oie" during the first Sunday of March, and the Festi-Visé Sales, during the third week-end of June. During these two events organized by the Visé trade association, visitors have the opportunity to make great bargains. During Festi-Visé, they can wander in safety along the streets which are closed to traffic for the occasion. And on Saturday evening they can taste the joys of Dixieland Jazz during the Abel Braham jazz festival.

A colourful and friendly weekly market

The centre of Visé has a weekly market on Wednesday morning held on the two main boulevards: "Rempart des Arquebusiers" and "Rempart des Arbalétriers". This market has been in existence since the 8th century and was for a long time the principal market between Hesbaye and the Ardennes.

Every Wednesday, the town centre is animated by colourful stalls offering traditional produce (fruit and vegetables, cheese, bread and handmade baking and confectionery, etc) as well as other products such as clothing, accessories, fresh and roast poultry, flowers and plants, etc.

A place for shopping but also for meeting people, this market sets the rhythm of local people's lives and attracts many visitors during the summer season. It is a market distinguished by its friendliness the quality of its products where it's nice to stroll around...



MONTH BY MONTH DIARY



January

- **The judo Open**
Info : www.openvise.be
- **The Marcelle Martin festival**
A Walloon Theatre Festival which runs annually at the end of January in honour of this talented Walloon playwright from Visé

Info : Director of Culture
tel. : +32(0)4 374 85 50
e-mail :
culture.vise@basse-meuse.be

March

- **Visé Fest'oisie**
Shops in Visé celebrate the spring
site : www.commercevisetois.be



April

- **Festival Couleurs Locales in Cheratte** (2nd week-end of April)
site : www.cqv.be
- **The Royal Company of Ancient Crossbowmen**
- **The Descent :**
The Sunday before the last in April
- **The Saint-Georges :**
the last Sunday in April
(Procession of the Crossbowmen in full uniform in the streets of Visé)

Mai

- **Le Maasmarathon**
site : www.maasmarathon.com
- **Open Day at the Communal Greenhouses of Lanaye**
site : www.vise.be



June

- **Festi-Visé, Summer Sales in the shopping center**
The third weekend in June, the shops in the centre celebrate with their annual sale. On Saturday and Sunday the centre is closed to traffic and shoppers can wander in complete safety.

Info : www.commercevisetois.be

- **The Abel Braham Jazz Festival**
The jazz festival has a great reputation in the region. This event happens in June during the Fête de la Musique (Music Festival). Various venues in the town centre welcome the bands who play all night long making the streets of Visé to the rhythm of Dixieland Jazz.

Info : Echevinat du Tourisme
+32(0)4 374 85 56
site : www.vise.be

- **La Compagnie Royale des Anciens Arquebusiers**
The Royal Company of Ancient Harquebusiers

Summer Festival: the last Sunday in June

July

- **La Compagnie Royale des Francs Arquebusiers**
Summer Fête:
The first sunday in July
- **Folies sur Meuse**
(Crazyness on Meuse)
at Devant le Pont
- **The DAX meeting**
Last Sunday in July



August

- **Visé-beach**
- **The Royal Company of Ancient Crossbowmen**
- **La Fête Dieu :**
Corpus Christi Festival: the second Sunday in August - Procession of Crossbowmen in full uniform in the streets of Visé
- **Flea market on the Plateau of Lorette**
15th August

September

- **Blue Moon Festival**
(1st Weekend in September)
Blues Festival in the Salle des Tréteau
Info : www.bluemoonfestival.be
- **Local religious festivals:**
- **Traditional Mass at the Chapel of Wixhou**
September 8th
- **Procession of Saint-Hadelin**
3rd Sunday of september



Octobre

- **Le Cross de la Julienne**
Info : info@visesports.be



November

- **The Royal Company of Free Harquebusers**
Fête : The Sunday before Saint-Martin
11 novembre
- **The Royal Company of Ancien Harquebuser**
Fête :
The Sunday after Saint-Martin
11 novembre

December

- **Christmas events organised by associations**
(Esplanade en fête)
and Christmas market



USEFUL NUMBERS

• Local Administration

Rue des Récollets, 1 à 4600 Visé
Tel. : +32(0)4 374 84 10
Fax : +32(0)4 374 84 11
Contact : ville@vise.be
Site : www.vise.be

• Emergency Services

Ambulances - Fire services : 100
Police : 101
EmergencyPolice Basse-Meuse : 0800 950 52
Red Cross: 105
Child Focus : 110
Anti-poison center: 070 245 245

• Duty doctors

General number : 0900 10 500
www.pharmacie.be

• Duty Doctors

Visé, Argenteau, Richelle, Lixhe et Lanaye :
+32(0)4 379 09 00
Cheratte et Sarolay : +32(0)4 362 66 62

• Post Office

+32(0)2 012 345 - www.bpost.be

• Transport

- Taxi

Hepp'Taxis sprl
Tel. : +32(0)4 374 21 24
Contact : giovanni.iovine@teledisnet.be
www.a-dj.be

- Bus

Tec : www.infotec.be
De Lijn : www.delijn.be
Veolia : www.veolia-transport.com
- Trains – SNCB

Timetable info : www.railtime.be

Tickets : www.b-rail.be

Traveller informations : +32(0)2 528 28 28

Visé Station : +32(0)4 241 65 08

• Businesses and Business parks

Visé Commercial Association
www.commercevisetois.be

Local Development agency
www.vise.be

Industrial Park of Visé
www.spi.be

• Tourist Information

Maison du Tourisme de la Basse-Meuse
rue des Béguines 7 à 4600 Visé
Tel. : +32(0)4 374 85 55
Contact : info@basse-meuse.be
www.basse-meuse.be

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Musée Régional Archéo Historique de Visé
Compagnie Royale des Anciens Arbalétriers
Compagnie Royale des Anciens Arquebusiers
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