



Buff's first  
Belgian city,  
the college  
town of  
Leuven





On our way into Leuven we stop by the  
Kasteel Arenburg





And Buff meets the first  
of many 'trees of note',  
this one's a beech





I am always  
happy to be in  
this lively town





Away  
from the  
bustle,  
within the  
walls of  
the  
beguinage





The river Dijle  
runs through  
the precinct





The Beguine  
community well  
from 1684





A lovely breakfast on our "terrace"...





then a walk among the stinging nettles...





...up through the woods and fields to Falcon Rock





Our walk carried us through the little river village of Hony





On another  
day's walk, more  
open country





A stroll  
though  
Belgium's  
pastoral  
beauty





The white one is the leader  
of the chorus



A small  
churchyard  
with an  
ancient oak  
standing  
guard





A  
photograph  
cannot  
convey the  
majesty of  
this sentinel





The image shows two large, ornate, cross-shaped headstones made of light-colored stone, set against a background of a rough, multi-colored stone wall. The headstone on the left features a central oval medallion with a cross and the letters 'I.P.S.' inside, surrounded by a laurel wreath. Below this, the stone is inscribed with 'ERAW DURA DE SEA VAG' and 'T.M.P. ALIEN'. The base of the stone is a large, teardrop-shaped pedestal containing a carved skull and a crossbone. The headstone on the right has a more intricate design with a central star and floral motifs. Its inscription reads 'MARGUERITE DEBOYANIE DEBARUE'. The base of this stone also features a carved skull and crossbone. The overall style is highly decorative and somewhat macabre, characteristic of certain historical or regional burial practices.

The churchyard contained many of these unusually styled headstones

















Big daddy and little man









The three women are off again, this time to Villers Abbey, pictured as it was in its heyday in the 1300's





and seen as it is today

































We take Pats to her brother's house...





Phillip and family were staying at the Manoir de Capitane





A 17th century  
estate just south  
of Brussels



And this  
moated  
chateau is in  
the same town,  
Feluy







The  
draw  
bridge  
and  
entry  
tower





Still  
moated  
after all  
the  
centuries





Another day, another chateau...





This day we are visiting  
Chateau Modave



Scenes from  
the interior,  
the dining  
room













The chateau is perched above the river yet still draws its water from there!









We head  
out on a  
walk along  
the drive  
lined with  
copper  
beeches







On another day we try a sampling of Flemish kasteels





First one in Belgium...





.. called Alden Biesen and built by the Teutonic Knights





Inside the first of two large courtyards





And inside the other courtyard









Such an unusual fireplace





Welkome op Kasteel Hoensbroek!





We cross into Holland to visit another moated kasteel











A loggia is one of the many comforts this castle offers







Like huge  
fireplaces...





..and 12  
built-in  
toilets!





Let's not forget fun things like hidden stairways and rooms...





..and sing-a-longs around the piano forte.





See  
this  
tower?





Of course we climb up as far as possible.





As always, the views are worth it!













The interior views as well.





A beer in the garden tops off a most interesting day.





A picnic at the foot of this ancient linden tree...





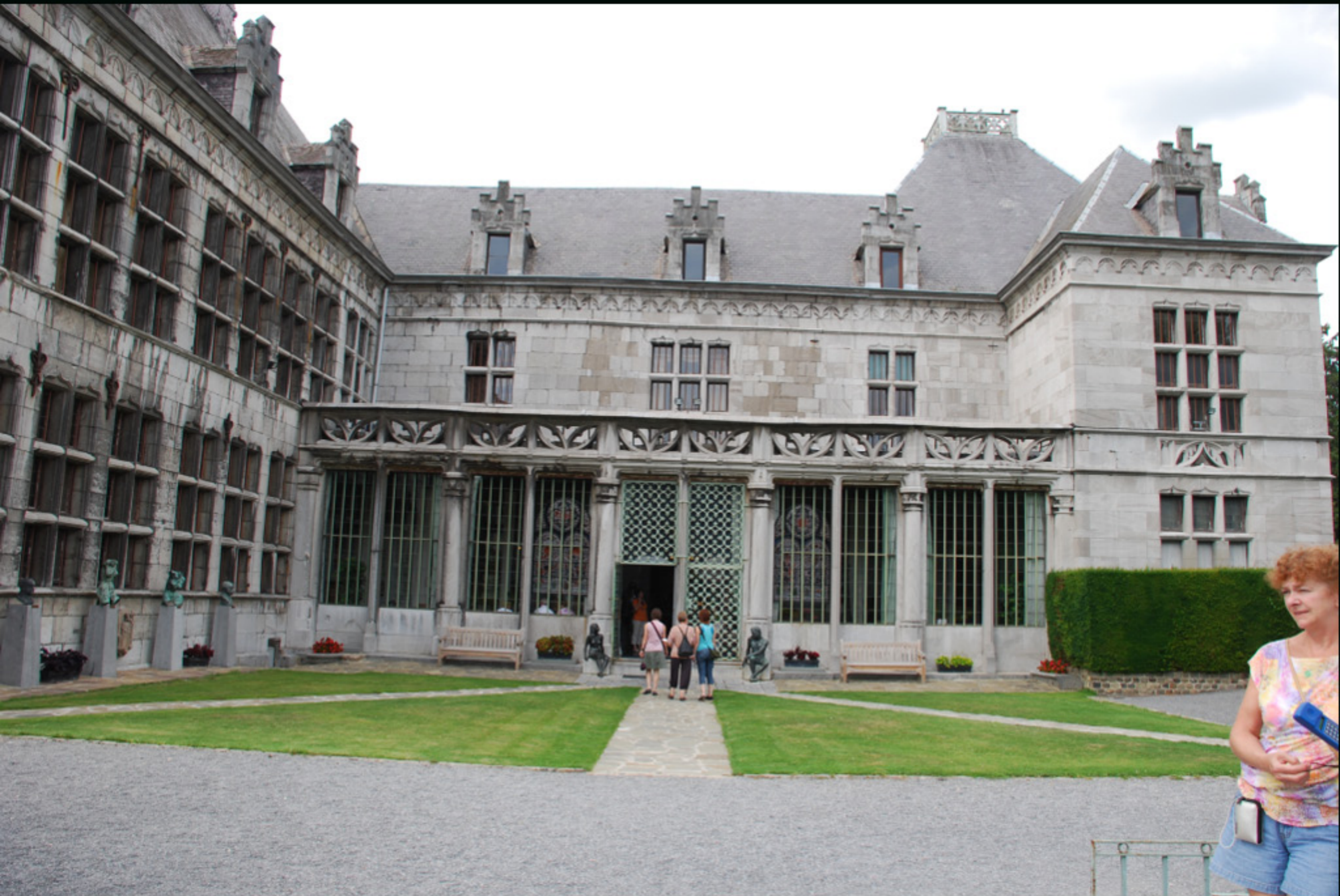
..leads one's imagination on a trip back in time





The lovely Chateau Jehay







Home of  
the  
sculpture  
of Guy  
Van der  
Steen







A  
self-portrait











Another  
self-portrait  
adorns the  
halls of Van  
der Steen's  
home



along with  
other  
treasures...

1. Cyprien est actuellement hors de la collection.  
2. Cyprien à momentané hors de collection.

























A work in progress, Chateau Neuville





..with much left still to be renovated.





The home of Luxembourggoise hobbits





Schloss Vianden, built from the 11th to the 16th centuries





viewed from a tower in the town walls









A fantastically recreated gallery that overlooks the valley below



















A street sign  
on the  
pilgrim's  
way to St.  
Iago de  
Campostello,  
Spain



which  
signals  
the end  
of our  
journey.