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group
present

VAL SAINT LAMBERT'S TWO-HUNDREDTH JUBILEE



VSL
1826 - 2026

PRESS KIT

APRIL 10, 2026

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For its bicentenary, on its historical site in Seraing, the Val Saint Lambert crystal-works will be putting on a programme drawn from its history, various spaces and identity. This season has been designed with the site in mind and builds directly on its existing character, drawing on the buildings, volumes and history to present a cohesive whole, in which exhibitions, immersions and performances all take place within a same setting.

From 11th April to 6th December 2026, the site will play host to a programme of events built around several high points. The exhibition entitled 'Living Crystal – 200 years of light, creation and excellence' will run throughout the entire period. An immersive experience will be open until 21st June and followed in the autumn by the performance 'Lumina Crystallis'. An inaugural weekend will open the season, followed by a series of events punctuating the year: an Italian festival in June, cultural events from the summer onwards, the Heritage Days in September, an autumn programme including Halloween and an electro music concert, a conference on glassmaking organised with the cooperation of ULiège, with finally a closing day for families in December.

The project was initiated by the Town of Seraing and is driven by the Uhoda Group. It draws on the specific characteristics of Val Saint Lambert – its architectural heritage, industrial history and glassmaking know-how – to strengthen its position as a cultural venue and to offer a seamless experience of the site through its various elements.

The Val Saint Lambert crystal-works

Val Saint Lambert's history is part of a long-term timescale, marked by successive transformations that have profoundly shaped the place. It began in the 13th century when the Prince-Bishop of Liège sold the land to a community of Cistercian monks. They set up an abbey in a small valley winding down towards the River Meuse and organised the area in keeping with a stringently respected layout: the church, cloister, conventual buildings, gardens and water features formed a cohesive whole that was spiritual, economic and agricultural in nature. This monastic settlement had a lasting impact on the landscape and the ways in which the site has been used.

As the centuries passed, the buildings were changed and transformed before deteriorating. In the middle of the 18th century, a major reconstruction campaign was undertaken. It gave rise to a more regular complex, characterised by classical architecture centred around an abbot's residence, streamlined wings, a farm and mills, all set within the walls of a vast monastic site. Part of the medieval structures were retained, in

particular the chapter house, though the general layout of the site was considerably reconfigured.

The French Revolution led to the disbanding of the abbey. The site was sold in 1797 and its church was destroyed several years later. A flax spinning mill briefly took up residence here, though the business never enjoyed stability. In 1826, a new phase began with the installation of the Val Saint Lambert crystal-works by two glassmaking engineers from Vonêche, Auguste Lelièvre and François Kemlin. The old conventual buildings were gradually transformed into workshops, cutters' workshops and storage space, while the abbot's residence became an administrative and residential centre.

The site's geographic location facilitated its swift development. The close supply of coal plus access to waterways and then the railway network allowed the factory to fully play its part in the industrial boom of the 19th century. Its facilities were modernised with the introduction of steam turbines, improvement of the furnaces, progressive



electrification and extension of the workshops. Industrial development intensified with the construction of large halls, several-storey cutting workshops, a crucible factory, a gasworks and a power station.

At the turn of the 20th century, Val Saint Lambert had achieved considerable production levels and international fame. The factory produced utility glassware, household glassware and crafted crystal – whether cut, etched or double-layered – exporting a significant share of its production. In 1914, almost 5,000 people directly earned their living from this activity. The works of Val Saint Lambert played a part in the major artistic movements of their time, from Art Nouveau to Art Deco, and were displayed at World Fairs. The quality of the creations and the technical expertise required to make them contributed to establishing a reputation that extended far beyond Europe's borders.

The economic crash in 1929 led to a tailing off. The company adapted its output, developing more accessible ranges, particularly with the Luxval brand, and introducing mechanisation to part of its workshops. During the Second World War, its business was

reduced and focused on producing utility glassware. The site was also hit by a bombardment leading to a significant loss of life.

After 1945, the factory continued to modernise by introducing new technology, such as tank furnaces, the use of natural gas and implementation of higher performance cutting tools. In spite of these developments, the international competition gradually undermined the site's economic stability. From the 1970s, its industrial decline quickened and production was refocused on prestigious items that were the result of craft know-how passed down from one generation to another. Collaborations with modern designers helped to revitalise the forms and uses of crystal.

Today, Val Saint Lambert is a heritage site combining monastic history and an industrial past. The site still bears the traces of these different phases and they can be seen in its architecture and layout. It pays witness to almost eight centuries of occupation, adaptation and transformation, as well as to the continued existence of expertise in glassmaking and the production of crystal.

The programme

Programme guide

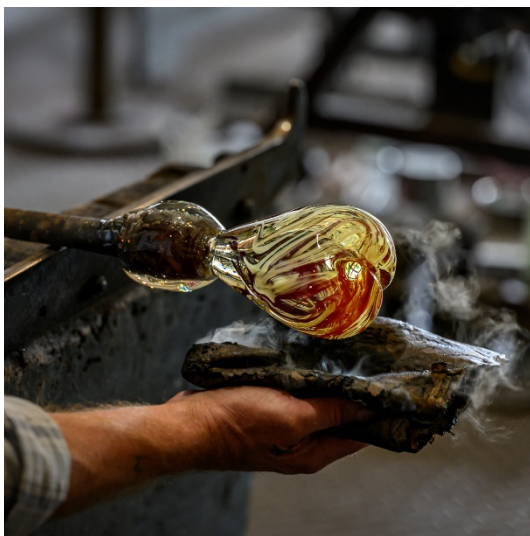
11th April – 6th December 2026	« Cristal Vivant » – the exhibition
11th April – 21st June 2026	« Cristal Vivant » - the immersive experience
11th April – 12th April 2026.....	Inaugural weekend
26th June – 28th June 2026.....	Bicentenary Italian festival
29th August 2026.....	The Val puts on a show (provisional title)
September 2026	« Lumina Crystallis », a show by Luc Petit
12 septembre – 13 septembre 2026.....	Heritage Days
17 octobre – 01 novembre 2026.....	Halloween in the Woods
Novembre 2026 (TBC).....	ULiège conference, « Le verre, matériaux du futur »
6 décembre 2026	Family Day & Closing

Inaugural Celebratory Weekend

11th and 12th April 2026, Val Saint Lambert Esplanade

To launch its bicentenary, Val Saint Lambert will be buzzing on 11th and 12th April 2026, from 10 AM to 7 PM, for its inaugural weekend. In addition to the anniversary exhibition and the immersive mapping experience, the site will be putting on an especially rich programme of events, combining demonstrations, shows, family activities and heritage discoveries.

The glassmakers will unveil the spectacular secrets of their craft that give life to crystal, providing visitors with a fascinating immersion in exceptional know-how. Introductions to glassmaking will also make it possible to learn the basics of this unique craft (by registration only).



The weekend is designed for everybody and will be especially family friendly. Alfonso the clown will be putting on an interactive and hilarious show, while the Chateau's park will be transformed into a vast leisure area with bouncy castles, facepainting, circus entertainment and stroll-through artistic installations. In front of the museum, a roaring

twenties inspired ambiance will encourage a friendly atmosphere with giant wooden games, relaxation areas and activities suitable for all ages, including the very youngest.

The event will also be an opportunity to dive into the site's history thanks to storytellers and guided tours offering a unique insight into Val Saint Lambert. Through a tour packed with fascinating stories, visitors will explore nearly 800 years of history, from the Cistercian abbey to the rise of the crystal-works, which is now emblematic of Belgian glassmaking expertise.

On stage, demonstrations, concerts and performances, notably by the Seraing-based company La Salamandre, will set the tone for the days in a festive atmosphere. On Saturday, the forty-strong Anima choir from Liège will showcase their vocal skills via a reimagined pop repertoire blending power and delicacy. On Sunday, Lemon Felixe will propose a gentler musical moment based around more sensitive and uplifting pop. Each day will be brought to a close from 5 PM with two free concerts by the Eupen Big Band, combining nuances of swing, funk, Latin, fusion and pop.

On Sunday 12th April, the site will also welcome a visit from the Spa-Francorchamps Revival, allowing the public the opportunity to admire classic and modern GT cars close up in a unique historical setting.



Throughout the weekend, Aurore Morisse, an emblematic figure of French TV show *Affaire Conclue*, will offer free expert assessments. Members of the public are invited

to bring their objects – glassware, jewellery, paintings, watches or antiques – to find out their value and, perhaps, have a pleasant surprise.

This experience will also benefit from a bar area and food-trucks, allowing everyone to fully enjoy an event centred on discovery, sharing and a friendly atmosphere. This inaugural weekend promises to be an unmissable event, as well as a fitting tribute to the sumptuousness and history of Val Saint Lambert.

The anniversary exhibition

« Cristal Vivant », 200 years of light, creation and excellence

From 11th April 2026 to 6th December 2026, Val Saint Lambert Museum

For the entire duration of the bicentenary, Val Saint Lambert will be hosting the exhibition “Living Crystal – 200 years of light, creation and excellence”, devoted to two centuries of glassmaking history, innovation and know-how. The tour through this retrospective exhibition is structured like a journey through the ages, showcasing the evolution of crystal as a material, technique and medium for creation. Since 1826, Val Saint Lambert crystal has established itself as an international symbol of prestige, underpinned by skills passed from one generation to another and thanks to a consistent ability to combine technical expertise with aesthetic innovation.

The exhibition even examines the origins of glass from the very first pearls crafted in Mesopotamia and continues right up to the present with modern creations. It highlights how the material is transformed, the technical progress that made it possible to expand its uses, as well as the shapes it has espoused throughout the ages. Glass and crystal are thus seen to be constantly evolving materials, at the crossroads between industrial innovations and artistic experimentation.

The exhibition brings together a series of works from public and private collections that pay witness to the diversity of Val Saint Lambert’s production and the sumptuousness of the artistic collaborations that have punctuated its history. Some designers have been long-standing partners of the crystal-works, while others have made more



occasional contributions. However, all these interventions have played a part in shaping the development of crystal’s formal language.

Among such items, the Vase of the Nine Provinces (1894), designed by Léon Ledru for the Antwerp World Fair, is an emblematic illustration of the technical and artistic skill achieved in the late 19th century. Its monumental scale and the delicacy of its craftsmanship show the high standard of excellence accomplished by the workshops during this period.

Three other works illustrate key moments of this history. The Owl Vase (1925), whose design was attributed to Léon Ledru or Joseph Simon, was displayed at the Paris

International Decorative Arts Exhibition and stood out thanks to the technique of crystal triple coated with uranium dioxide that successively revealed different layers of material thanks to high precision interior and exterior cutting. The Renovation Vase (1993), designed by Xavier Crespo, heralded a repositioning by the factory, combining glassblowing, cutting and polishing in a large-scale piece in which the effects of light were enhanced by a specific cutting technique. As for The Bell (1989), designed by Leo Copers for the Centraal Museum in Utrecht, it demonstrated the workshops' capacity to produce monumental pieces involving collective mastery of hot glass-working.

The exhibition also includes a modern dimension via the collaboration with non-profit

making association Spray Can Arts, which has created original designs reinterpreting crystal through contemporary practices. These interventions explore new possibilities in terms of form, while building on the material's inherent qualities, namely transparency light and precision.

The tour is prolonged by the reopening of an immersive experience in the basement that has been entirely revamped and which proposes a scenographic interpretation of the site's industrial history. Thanks to live demonstrations, it is possible to observe the various states of manufacturing, from working with molten glass to cutting and finishing, bringing to life the movements, rhythms and constraints related to this know-how.



The immersive experience

« Cristal Vivant », a journey that takes you to the heart of Val Saint Lambert's history

From April 11, 2026 to June 21, 2026, Val Saint Lambert Abbey

From 11th April to 21st June 2026, *Living Crystal, the immersive experience*, transforms the site into a backdrop of light. Under the artistic direction of Luc Petit, this 360° immersive experience combines monumental mapping, musical accompaniment and light effects to offer a sensory journey through two centuries of glassmaking history, craft and creation. For several months, this unique experience will enrich the visit of the site by providing a new emotional dimension to the heritage of Val Saint Lambert.

For this creation, Luc Petit has collaborated with the Dirty Monitor studio. Together, they will take over the monk's dormitory, whose architecture will become the main actor of this tale. Thanks to mapping, the walls transform, the vaults come to life and the space seems to breathe, as if animated by an energy returning from the past. Light becomes matter: it reveals the details, sculpts the volumes and conjures up images of melting

sand, the heat of the furnaces and the birth of the crystal.

The spectators are at the heart of the experience and are not simply observers: they are enveloped by a moving fresco. The history of Val Saint Lambert – involving stone, fire and light – takes shape in a visual narrative blending monastic memory, industrial power and the poetry of crystal. The narrative is focused on the theme of transformation, changing the materials but also the place, which is revealed from an entirely new angle.

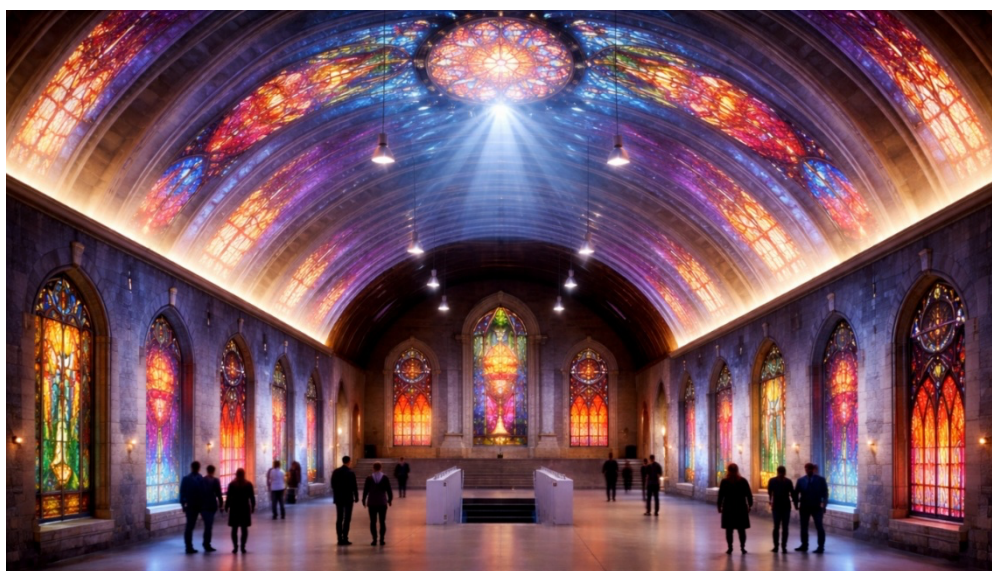
This immersion also pays tribute to the glassmaking craftsmen. Their silhouettes appear in the projection and their movements can be glimpsed in the flashes of light, recalling the precision, patience and passion that forged the reputation of Val Saint Lambert. Each action described is a reminder of the human strength at the heart of this centuries-old craftsmanship.

Dirty Monitor have been pioneers in immersive projection for more than twenty



years and have conducted meticulous work. Thanks to their technology, the monks' dormitory becomes a comprehensive visual environment: the images hug the

stone, echo the architectural lines, guide the gaze and create a series of spaces inspired by the site's history. The edifice becomes a narrative device in which heritage and digital creativity engage in a powerful dialogue.



The immersive show

« Lumina Crystallis » – a show by Luc Petit, in the heart of the Abbey

From 11th September 2026 to 27th September 2026, Val Saint Lambert Abbey

When darkness envelops the monks' dormitory, the site of Val Saint Lambert seems to hold its breath. The former Cistercian abbey returns to an almost sacred state, in which the architecture comes to life and reveals fragments of its past. The walls are covered with images, the vaults seem to vibrate and the history of an abbey that became a major crystal-works in Europe is written again in front of the gazes of the audience.

Lumina Crystallis is a fully immersive show involving a dialogue between living and visual arts. Dancers, actors and acrobats cut through space like flashes of light. Their movements are evocative of the glassmakers' traditional techniques: controlled breath, precise wrist movements and contained strength required to tame the molten material. They appear and disappear in the brightness of the monumental projections, as if shaped by fire themselves.

The story draws from the three elements that form crystal: sand, fire and

human breath. The heat colours the images, the light sculpts the volumes of the dormitory and the material seems to be transformed before our eyes. In this visual and choreographic ballet, the artists recreate the fragile alchemy which, for the last two centuries, has given rise to crystal at Val Saint Lambert.

From one canvas to another, spectators witness a veritable transformation: the quiet and still abbey becomes moving workshop, the workshop becomes a creative furnace and the furnace finally bursts into pure light. The entire history of the site unfolds before the spectators, from monastic contemplation to the heyday of industry.

Lumina Crystallis is a living fresco combining memory, creation and poetry. It is a vibrant homage to Val Saint Lambert, to the people who have worked there and to the beauty formed by the dialogue between stone, fire and light.

The projects sponsor : the Uhoda Group

www.uhodagroup.com

Founded in 1963 in Liège by Stéphan Uhoda through the creation of a first service station with a shop and automatic carwash, Uhoda gradually developed and diversified under the impetus of Stéphan Uhoda to become the Uhoda Group.

Today, its activities are centred on three main pillars: mobility, events and real estate. Faithful to its Liège roots, the group is also involved in projects that participate in promoting the region and its heritage.

It is with this in mind that it has joined forces with the Val Saint Lambert Bicentenary, taking part in highlighting a major site in the industrial and cultural history of Wallonia.

For two centuries, Val Saint Lambert has embodied the excellence of Belgian crystal-making and craftsmanship that has spread far beyond the country's borders. This place steeped in history, deeply rooted in the landscape of Seraing and in collective memory, is more than a heritage site: it pays witness to the audacity of the women and men who shaped its identity and passed on, from one generation to another, the passion for an exceptional profession.

For the Uhoda Group, it is a source of immense pride to help bring this bicentenary to life. This commitment is rooted in the values that drive us: promoting heritage, supporting creation, encouraging youth and participating in the cultural and economic dynamism of our region.

It is the opportunity to celebrate outstanding heritage while affirming our commitment to contributing to the future of this iconic venue. Blending history, craftsmanship and contemporary art, this project creates a dialogue between past and present to continue to nurture the inspiration and creativity of tomorrow.

This bicentenary is also a collective adventure that has been made possible thanks to the commitment of many Belgian partners and talents. Together, we are committed to promoting this unique heritage and breathing new life into it, so that its spirit and expertise may continue to thrive and be passed on.

May this year of celebration be, for everyone, an invitation to rediscover and share the spirit of Val Saint Lambert.

Stéphan Uhoda, CEO Groupe Uhoda

Organisation and know-how

Folks Events

Events design and management

Folks is an agency specialised in the design and production of events, corporate travel and brand activation. The agency is based in Belgium, is part of the Uhoda Group and assists its customers in creating tailor-made experiences, both in Belgium and abroad.

Folks is led by a team of enthusiastic professionals and stands out thanks to an approach combining creativity, thoroughness and operational excellence. Each project is planned down to the smallest detail, from strategic planning and creative design through to smooth and seamless implementation.

As part of the bicentenary of Val Saint Lambert, Folks is playing a key role in the design and production of the event. The agency is working in close cooperation with the project's various partners and is coordinating the entire events programme, from the inauguration to public and corporate high points.

Through this major project, Folks is putting its expertise to work in pursuit of a shared ambition: to make the bicentenary a living, immersive and unifying experience worthy of this exceptional heritage.

Folks
People creating events.

Europa Expo

Cultural immersion

Europa Expo designs, produces and manages international-scope immersive exhibitions held in particular in the museum space at the Liège-Guillemins high-speed TGV train station. It is a key player in the field of culture as well as tourism and the organisation stands out thanks to an original approach at the crossroads of set design, education and emotion, with the primary concern of promoting Belgian and international heritage, while highlighting historical, environmental and civic themes. Through accessible and educational content, Europa Expo's exhibitions reach a wide audience, from individual visitors to school groups.

Immersion is at the heart of its expertise. Far from traditional exhibition formats, Europa Expo develops sensory and narrative experiences that immerse visitors in the atmosphere of a specific theme. This approach is based on the use of human-scale staging, three-dimensional sets and the display of original objects that are often rare or unique, from all over the world.

This hallmark has taken on full significance within the scope of Val Saint Lambert's bicentenary with the exhibition 'Living Crystal'. Via an immersive experience combining heritage, modern creation and spectacular visuals, the exhibition offers a vivid and sensitive reinterpretation of two centuries of glassmaking know-how.



Practical information

Dates

From April 11, 2026 to December 06, 2026

Horaires

During school terms : from Wednesday to Sunday from 10 AM to 6 PM.

During school holidays : from Monday to Sunday from 10AM to 6PM.

Venue

Val Saint Lambert Crystal-Works

Esplanade du Val 1

4100 Seraing

Belgium

Tarifs

« Cristal Vivant » - exhibition

Children (<6 years)	Free	Additional child's ticket	7,00€
Juniors (6-12 years)	10,00€	Family (2 adults + 2 children)	40,00€
Students (12-25 years)	10,00€	Group (>15 people)	12,00€ pp.
Adults (>25 years)	15,00€	<i>Guides surcharge (>25 people)</i>	15,00€
Seniors (>65 years)	13,00€	School groups (free accompanying)	6,00€ pp.

« Cristal Vivant » - mapping

Children (<6 years)	Free	Additional child's ticket	10,00€
Juniors (6-12 years)	15,00€	Family (2 adults + 2 children)	60,00€
Students (12-25 years)	15,00€	Group (>15 people)	16,00€ pp.
Adults (>25 years)	20,00€	School groups (free accompanying)	8,00€ pp.
Seniors (>65 years)	17,00€		

« Cristal Vivant » - exhibition + mapping combination

Children (<6 years)	Free	Additional child's ticket	12,00€
Juniors (6-12 years)	20,00€	Family (2 adults + 2 children)	85,00€
Students (12-25 years)	20,00€	Group (>15 people)	24,00€ pp.
Adults (>25 years)	30,00€	School groups (free accompanying)	12,00€ pp.
Seniors (>65 years)	25,00€		

Tickets on-line : www.vsl-bicentenaire.be

Contact

Reader News

Phone : +32 (0)4 378 63 50

Email : welcome@vsl-bicentenaire.be

Press contact – CARACAScom

Phone : +32 (0)2 560 21 22

Email : info@caracascom.com

<https://caracascom.com/en/events/bicentenaire-du-val-saint-lambert/>

A shared commitment to cultural heritage

Our thanks go to the institutions
that made this event possible.



Organised by



In collaboration with

