



Press release

Val Saint-Lambert celebrates its 200-year anniversary: a rich programme for a new lease of life

From 11th April to 6th December 2026

In 2026, the Val Saint-Lambert crystal works will celebrate its bicentenary. This emblematic factory was founded in 1826 and occupies a place of central importance in Belgium's history in terms of industry, art and heritage. For two centuries, it has embodied the excellence of Belgian crystal and the international influence of know-how that has lastingly shaped the site's and region's identity.

From 11th April until 6th December 2026, Val Saint-Lambert will be putting on an exceptional programme to make the Bicentenary a major high point for the site. This programme is designed to be a celebration that looks both back and forwards, based on three complementary pillars: a major exhibition devoted to two centuries of creation and know-how, modern artistic reinterpretations via an immersive experience and a immersive spectacle, as well as an extensive programme of events designed to bring the site to life throughout the year, ranging from modern art to tableware based initiatives, including other cultural offerings accessible to all audiences, some of which will be part of major cultural and heritage events, such as the Heritage Days.

The Bicentenary project was initiated by the Municipality of Seraing and its driving force is the Uhoda Group. It is part of an overall initiative aimed at enhancing and redeveloping the site. It is also intended to be a civic and collective project, open to all cultural, economic, associative and institutional players who wish to get involved. As a result, the Bicentenary seeks to bring together the region's partners and driving forces behind a shared ambition: to make Val Saint-Lambert a major cultural, heritage and tourist hub in Wallonia and beyond.

Cristal Vivant

An anniversary exhibition combining heritage and modern creation

The anniversary exhibition will offer a completely new experience, dreamed up and designed by Europa Expo, including the refurbishment of the permanent exhibition and the reopening of the immersive scenery experience (in the basement). It will celebrate two centuries of creation and international influence through a selection of emblematic items produced by the great designers who have shaped the reputation of Val Saint-Lambert since the 19th century.

The exhibition tour will trace the major milestones in the industrial, artistic and human history of the crystal works, highlighting the innovations, expertise, plus women and men that have contributed to building this exceptional adventure.

Beyond the works on display, the tour will also offer visitors the opportunity to discover crystal in the making, thanks to live glass-blowing demonstrations performed by the craftspeople still exercising their skills at Val Saint-Lambert. These ancestral practices, passed down from one generation to another, will provide visitors with a unique immersion into the very depths of the living know-how that makes the site so unique and internationally renowned.

Two major immersive events by Luc Petit

Cristal Vivant

From the launch of the Bicentenary and for several months, the Val Saint-Lambert Abbey will be transformed to offer a 360° immersive exhibition imagined by Luc Petit, called Cristal Vivant. This sensory and emotional voyage, combining video mapping, sound and light, will bring two centuries of innovation, action and memory to life, forming a spectacular complement to a visit to the exhibition.

Lumina Crystallis

In the autumn, Lumina Crystallis, which is an original and immersive creation dreamed up by Luc Petit, will transform the abbey into a backdrop of light and poetry. Designed as a live and living performance, it will be interpreted by artists on stage, where bodies, voices and music will be at the heart of the experience. In this universe, fire, crystal, transparency and reflections will become genuine stage props. Monumental video projections will mould around the abbey's architecture, not as a static backdrop, but as a living element, integrated into the creation's dramaturgy and narrative.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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