

àmare 2023



We would like to welcome you to Àmare from July 1 to October 31, 2023.

Àmare is a unique cultural concept with the region of the Brugse Ommeland as its backdrop. The iconic landscape of the Damse Vaart, with one of the most majestic rows of trees in the country, is a picturesque panorama and therefore the ideal setting for this new and unique art project. Àmare is all about the love for the region and its products, the romance of the landscape and the connection of the Damse Vaart with the sea (à mare).

This innovative initiative comes from local entrepreneur Luc Beke, owner of the Global Estate Group as well as De Blauwe Zaal. This also houses the wine estate of the Belgian wine Mérula and recently also acquired the boat De Lamme Goedzak. Luc Beke says he lost his heart in the region between Bruges and Damme and saw a lot of potential in the local established values.

For Àmare, he joined forces with Annelies Ysebaert, owner of the modern art gallery Gallery Ysebaert in Sint-Martens-Latem. Annelies Ysebaert acts as an exclusive curator of the art project, bringing 22 renowned artists to the region of the Brugse Ommeland.

Àmare, art in the open air

The art route takes you around the area of the Damse Vaart and lets you enjoy the work of renowned Belgian and International artists in more than twenty places. By bike, on foot or with the nostalgic boat De Lamme Goedzak, you will come face to face with more than 20 amazing artworks. The artists, each in their own way, bring their art closer to the people. Unique to the art route, of about of 5 km, is that it is open to the public and therefore completely free. You will find all artworks in atypical places, making the experience of each artwork unexpected and intriguing.

The participating artists are: Willem Boel, Athar Jaber, Stijn Cole, Sylvain Patte, Jan De Cock, Stief DeSmet, Jan Fabre, Nadia Naveau, Kris Martin, Katleen Vinck, Eudald de Juana Gorriz, Caroline Coolen, Wim Delvoye, Nick Ervinck, Arne Quinze, Stefaan Van Biesen, Atelier Van Lieshout, Catherine Thiry, Marius Ritiu, Koen Vanmechelen, Ronald A. Westerhuis, Yves Velter and Philippe Timmermans.

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Tourist attraction

Ideally, you start the art route at De Blauwe Zaal domain, which is located in Blauwezaal hoek in Sint-Kruis. You will find all the information about the route and there you have ample free parking. The first works of art can be discovered there as well and you cross the vines of the Mérula wine estate. From here you walk along a mapped out route from artwork to artwork towards the center of Damme. After you have discovered everything in the idyllic village, there is the possibility to take the boat De Lamme Goedzak back in the direction of Bruges to continue the art route towards De Blauwe Zaal.

The town of Damme is also particularly keen on the project.

"This art project highlights our landscape and our town and fits particularly well with our vision," said Mayor Joachim Coens. "We are committed to relaxation. We want visitors of our city to take the time to explore. What could be better than touring around our rural surroundings during the summer months and taking a moment to reflect on the distraction that art brings us. Àmare is a beautiful initiative and means synergy between art, nature and city."

Experience Àmare - Mérula

Àmare offers unique formulas for visitors who want just that little bit more. Continuously during the opening of Àmare, between July 1 and October 31, 2023, you can also participate in the walking formulas of the association De Naturen Blomme with whom Àmare has an exclusive cooperation. Different experiences are offered:

àmare experience with guide

20€

The trail:

Start at De Blauwe Zaal, ample parking available

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Discover the artworks of Stief Desmet, Jan De Cock and Sylvain Patte on the site of De Blauwe Zaal

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The walk goes through the Mérula vineyard along the works of Jan Fabre and Nadia Naveau

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At 't Apertje you will see the intervention of artist Stijn Cole

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We end with a Mérula wine tasting in the winery on the site of De Blauwe Zaal

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The guide will give you a map of the complete àmare route

Who wants to discover even more art can then continue the walk to the center of Damme

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Enjoy art, fine wines and the beautiful region!

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àmare experience DELUXE with guide

GROUPSTICKET € 990

/ max.10 persons

The trail:

10:30 am at De Blauwe Zaal, ample parking available

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Discover the artworks on the site of De Blauwe Zaal by Stief Desmet,
Jan De Cock and Sylvain Patte

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The walk continues on via the Polderstraat to Damme along the artworks of
Jan Fabre and Nadia Naveau

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In Damme we will see the works of Katleen Vinck, Wim Delvoye, Nick Ervinck,
Stefaan Van Biesen, Kris Martin, Athar Jaber, Yves Velter, Sylvain Patte,
Caroline Coolen, Catherine Thiry, Arne Quinze

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3-course menu at De Smisse in the center of Damme
(choice of a fish, meat or vegetarian dish, drinks included)

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Walk in Damme past the artworks of Marius Ritiu, Koen Vanmechelen,
Ronald A. Westerhuis and Joep Van Lieshout

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Coffee or tea with refreshments

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Boat trip along the Damse Vaart with De Lamme Goedzak,
when approaching in Bruges we will see the work of Willem Boel

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Mérula wine tasting at De Blauwe Zaal with an àmare praline,
as well as an àmare goodie bag offered with regional products,
the àmare magazine and other surprises

See you soon in Bruges and Damme!

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Contact and more information:

www.àmare.be