

**Re: THE 2019 RAY CONNIFF CONVENTION IN ROUBAIX AND LILLE (October 25 – 27, 2019)**

Dear Ray Conniff Fans and Friends,

Here comes information about this year's convention. In fact, this is a first draft of the schedule of events as suggested by our organiser, Francis Charrière, whom I cannot thank enough for his initiative and efforts. At the end of February, Francis and his wife Ann went to Roubraix and Lille, did research and made tentative reservations there. Here are the results of his findings:

**TRAVEL:** As Lille does not have an international airport, it is advisable to book flights to Paris (Charles de Gaulle airport) or Brussels and continue your travel by train to Lille. The journey from Charles de Gaulle to Lille by TGV or OUIGO SNCF takes about 1 hour. (Prices range from € 10 to € 30, depending on the time of day.) There is public transport (metro or tram) from Lille to Roubraix. The ride takes about 20 minutes. People from The Netherlands, Belgium or the UK can easily travel to Lille by train.

**ACCOMMODATION:** This year it is difficult to find reasonably priced accommodation in Lille (especially for a larger group like ours) because of its tercentenary, Francis made reservations at the Mercure Hotel in Roubraix. A single room is € 99 plus € 2.48 tax per night, a double bedded room is € 112 plus € 2.48 tax per night.

**THE RECEPTION** on Friday night will be held at the restaurant "Le Vieil Abreuvoir". The total to be paid for room rent and service is € 520.00. On the basis of ca. 30 persons, food and drinks during the reception will be € 8 per person. Dinner will amount to € 24 per person. For details please see menu attached. Of course, they will also cater for vegetarians.

**SATURDAY:** Francis suggests a guided tour of Lille, which will take about two hours. (The guide will charge € 160 for a group of about 25.) We can go there by metro or tram. A group ticket for 10 people is € 15. We can have lunch in a typical "brasserie". After that at about 2 pm. we'll return to Roubraix, where we will visit a very original museum, named "La Piscine" (website: <https://www.roubaix-lapiscine.com/>). Entrance fee is € 9 (without guide); alternatively € 95 for a guided tour of a group of 20 (that's € 4.75 per person). The items planned for the evening include dinner and a concert by Francis and his Big Band. Dinner will cost € 26.50 (menu will follow soon).

**SUNDAY:** A guided tour of Roubraix, which will take about one hour. We will be joined by members of the band, and so our group size will be about 50. The guide will cost € 160.

I hope I forwarded all the information Francis gave me, correctly. Anyway, you now have a rough idea of your expenses.

I will send you further information as to how to make your reservations etc. in due course.

Thanks again, Francis and Ann. Best wishes to you all,

Manfred



## OUR GROUP MENUS

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### **STARTER – MAIN DISH - DESSERT + DRINKS PACKAGE: €32.00 VAT Included per person**

#### Entrée :

Endive and Cheddar Tart  
Cod Accras, Chives Cream  
Mushrooms Fricassee, Egg at low temperature, green Coulis

#### Plat :

Today's Fishing, Mashed seasonal Vegetables and crisps, white Butter sauce  
Pork Filet Mignon with Maroilles Cheese, Vegetable Sautee (Potatoes, Carotts,  
Green Beans)  
Carbonnade Flamande au Pain d'Epice, gratin Dauphinois

#### Dessert :

French Toasts of Brioche, Vanilla Ice Cream  
Chocolate Tiramisu  
Appel Pie, Orange Toffee

#### Drinks Package :

Mineral Water, Wine (1 Bottle for 3) & Coffee