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AND AMBITION

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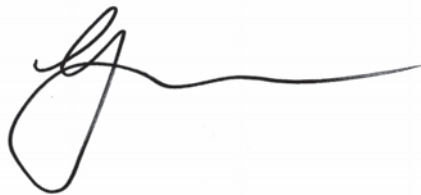
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WELCOME

Romance and the high seas are the themes of this issue of *Elite Living Africa*. Indeed, the two themes go hand in hand – treating someone special to an indulgent adventure on a superyacht is a wonderful way to show your affection. In this issue, we take a look at the Savannah, a stunning achievement in terms of luxury and technology by custom superyacht-maker Feadship (page 40) and preview the Dubai International Boat Show, now in its 25th year (page 38). On page 42, there is an exclusive interview with Espen Oeino, a leading superyacht designer based in Monaco.

Elsewhere in this issue, there is plenty of inspiration for those who prefer to say “I love you” on terra firma. Heart-shaped jewellery sparkles on page 22, fragrances for men and women from Bond No. 9 can be found on page 30 and we check into some of the world’s most luxurious spas on page 60. Our correspondent travelled far and wide to bring you serene and stylish spas in Las Vegas, Milan, Bali and the stunning Swiss village of Vals.

And for those whose love affair is with speed and sizzling Italian style, the Ferrari J50 can be seen inside and out on page 48. It is jaw-droppingly glorious, continuing the work pioneered by Enzo Ferrari in creating machines that effortlessly combine automotive sex appeal with astounding technical achievement. It’s true, we are all about romance in all its forms in this issue of *Elite Living Africa*.



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Printed by Buxton Press
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ISSN: 2059-7134

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POWER & PASSION

John Legend – musician, producer, actor, activist
– talks about his aspirations, ideals and
commitment to creativity.

WORDS BY SUSAN HORNIK

With five Grammy awards and an Oscar under his belt, John Legend could easily rest on his laurels, basking in the glow of these achievements. But he is a tour de force, with music, acting, producing all strings to his bow, as well as a passion for activism.

A proud African-American, he explains the name by which he is best known: “I was born John Roger Stephens in Springfield, Ohio. It was a nickname that some friends started calling me in the studio and kind of took on a life of its own. I kind of reluctantly took it on as a stage name, but I don’t think of it as a character that I feel distant from because when I’m writing songs, when I’m performing, I don’t feel like I’m another person. I feel like I’m myself. I’m telling the truth as I see it.”

His passion for activism and making a difference has informed his work, with inspiration coming from many other African-American celebrities, all of whom achieved recognition for their civil rights work as well as their performances on stage and screen.

“I have always had aspirations of activism,” he said. “I always thought that part of the role as an artist was to tell the truth about what is happening, what they see and what kind of change they want to see. I have always listened to artists who did that, like Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Paul Robeson, etc. People who used their platform to fight for justice. So I always thought that’s >

FACING PAGE: John Legend has diversified his career beyond music.





➤ what being an artist was, and I still that's what it is, for me.

"That doesn't mean that every single song I write is about my activism; I write about the things I am interested in, that I experience myself. I use the success that I have gained in some part to highlight issues that I think are of concern, and hopefully, galvanise people to make changes."

Legend's passion has again come to the fore in light of political upheavals in America and was not afraid to share his views when he presented at the Producers Guild of America (PGA) awards. He was an executive producer and co-star in this year's popular Oscar contender, *La La Land*. When he presented a PGA award, he described *La La Land* as "a film about love, about dreams and about this lovely city we call home, Los Angeles, California".

"Los Angeles is the home of so many immigrants, so many creative people, so many dreamers. We are the voice, we are the face, of America. Our America is big, it is free, and it is open to dreamers of all races, all countries, all religion," Legend said

◆
"I write about the things I am interested in, that I experience myself. I use the success that I have gained to highlight issues that I think are of concern and, hopefully, galvanise people to make changes"
◆

at the ceremony, adding that he rejects the vision of the current president.

He also used his platform at the PGA awards to announce that he and his wife, model Chrissy Teigen, "wanted to put our money where our mouth is, and we donated to the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) and other organisations who are committed to fighting for freedom in the land of the free."

As well as the success of *La La Land* and a 2015 Academy Award for Best Original Song with "Glory" from the civil rights film *Selma*, Legend has found success on the small screen. He is one of the producers of *Underground*, a television drama centred on a group of slaves planning a 600-mile escape from a Georgia plantation.

At the Television Critics Press Tour, he spoke about how events in America have impacted the series.

"I think what we're learning as we react to this election is that, even when there's progress, even when our main characters achieve freedom, that



freedom is not guaranteed to stay in place. We have to be vigilant to maintain freedom, to free others, and, when we see injustice, to fight for justice,” Legend noted. “And even after the Civil War, when so many slaves were freed, after that time, we went through a period where the South basically rebelled again and said, ‘We’re going to institute Jim Crow. We’re going to institute lynching.’ So whenever we’ve made progress in this country, it’s been great, but there have also been forces that have tried to take us back to a previous era when we weren’t as free.

“And that means the people who believe in freedom have to be vigilant and have to keep fighting for freedom,” he acknowledged.

“Even when we make progress and have accomplishments that we’re proud of, we can’t take it for granted that that’s going to stay in place,”

While the heady worlds of television, film and politics have all kept Legend busy, he has still found time to share his musical talent with the world. At the last Grammy Awards, he captivated

◆
*“Even when we
make progress
and have
accomplishments
that we’re proud
of, we can’t take it
for granted that
that’s going to stay
in place”*
◆

ABOVE AND RIGHT John Legend performed when he gave a TED talk. (TED Conference/Flickr)

the audience with his tender rendition of the Beach Boys’ classic, “God Only Knows,” during the memorial segment to honour artists who died over the last year. The next day, he released a full version of the song.

It is all part of a bigger creative process for Legend and it matters little to him whether he is singing, acting or producing. While he last toured Africa in 2014, fans will be able to see him in 2017 as he embarks on an extensive tour America and Canada in May and June.

“I think all of it is performing to some extent. It’s a very different style of performing, though, because when I’m writing songs, I’m speaking in my own voice, and I have a lot of individual control over the product itself. And when it comes to TV and film, there are a lot more moving parts. There are writers, directors, other actors. There’s less individual control on my part. So it’s interesting to kind of submit to that process and allow these great creative people to help shape how I’m seen. It’s a really interesting difference, but it’s been fun for me to do.” ◆

Of CLASSICS & COMPLICATIONS

Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie 2017 offered an eclectic mix of technology, classic revivals and extreme creativity.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS



MB&F HM7 AquaPod

www.mbandf.com

The HM7 AquaPod is the latest radical piece from MB&F. Following on from watches created with themes such as space with the HM2 and aeronautics with HM4, the AquaPod is distinctly seafaring in its design. This is one of the watches from Geneva which offers intense technology and great style in equal measure.

With a unique shape inspired by a jellyfish, the tourbillon, with a pink sapphire at its centre, is in the middle of the unique stacked movement.

The titanium rotor is inspired by the tentacles of the jellyfish and the blue ceramic bezel continues the nautical theme. There will be 66 examples made in red gold at a price of CHF 118,000 and 33 with titanium for CHF 98,000.

Greubel Forsey Grand Sonnerie

www.greubelforsey.com

Just as Cartier is unashamedly design-led, Greubel Forsey is proudly technology-led. At SIHH, Greubel Forsey launched the Grande Sonnerie, a watch that they can expect to make for perhaps four or five discerning clients. It features a visible tourbillon, a chime every quarter of an hour with cathedral gongs, 11 securities and a 72-hour power reserve.

Nine hundred and thirty-five parts were used in the creation of this watch. The asymmetric design adds character to technical achievement and, unlike some complications-laden watches, it is easy to tell the time. Also limited to maybe four or five pieces per year is the Greubel Forsey Art Piece Edition Two with double tourbillon, a decorative dial and push windows.



Piaget Altiplano

www.piaget.com

If any brand at SIHH embodied the move towards retro elegance it was Piaget. The Altiplano celebrates 60 years in 2017, with the elegant style first being launched in 1957 and in 1966, it was famously worn by French actor Alain Delon, cementing its credentials as a watch for the debonair.

The minimalist style has been rendered in both men and women's designs, making it a unisex classic.

At SIHH, the new looks included green with yellow gold, pink gold with a white band, an elegant dark blue, a rich ruby red and, most intriguing of all, an Altiplano with feather marquetry.

To create the effect of a painted pattern on the fabulously feathery women's watch, artists used tiny fragments hand-cut from the feathers of peacocks, ducks and roosters.



H. Moser & Cie

www.h-moser.com

Fifty pieces all sold before SIHH. This was the pleasing reality for H. Moser. The Purity Collection. In red gold and white gold, with simple indices at three, six, nine and 12, and shades of fume and funky blue, the 100 pieces again all sold. The Swiss Alp watch, pictured, was one of the more detailed designs on show in Geneva this year.

As of 2017, a law was passed requiring 60 per cent of a watch's value to be created in Switzerland to earn the "Swiss-made" stamp. While up from 50 per cent, H. Moser says this is too low and loopholes mean some "Swiss-made" watches have little content from the landlocked alpine nation. H. Moser has created a one-off Swiss watch with a case made of hardened Swiss cheese mixed with a composite. The design is Swiss flag-inspired and it is on sale for the symbolic price of CHF 1,081,291, which refers to the date of the signing of the Swiss Federal Charter on 1 August 1291.



Richard Mille RM 50-03

www.richardmille.com

This ultralight chronograph has been created in conjunction with McLaren F1. With rubber accents galore, there are plenty of nods to grand prix style with this tourbillon split seconds creation.

Combing racing good looks with Richard Mille's horological technology, the RM 50-03 is built for action as well as posing. It weighs just 40 grams and has the brand's new comfort strap to make it user-friendly as well as an amazing technical achievement.

The light weight is courtesy of carbon TPT, yet another nod to the light, aerodynamics of motorsport.



Christophe Claret Maestro

www.christopheclaret.com

The Maestro was Christophe Claret's star at SIHH, a high complication watch with an attractive CHF 68,000 price tag. The model pictured is in on-trend rose gold with gemstones throughout.

In creating the Maestro, one of the aims was to produce an intricate timepiece for less than CHF 100,000.

The challenge was met admirably with its elegant style coupled with technical achievements such as a seven-day power reserve, a cone-shaped date function with sapphires, a reminder function and a playful attitude. The Maestro is a fine statement from this independent company.



Romain Jerome RJ X Donkey Kong

www.romainjerome.ch

While the technology behind this Romain Jerome timepiece is seriously top-notch, it is also a great opportunity for those nostalgic for the 1980s to reminisce about the good old days of gaming.

At \$16,500, this will set fans back slightly more than their old Nintendo but there will be plenty of fun-loving grown-ups happy to pay for this brilliant slice of nostalgia.

Limited to just 80 pieces, the RJ X Donkey Kong has a 46mm titanium case and integrated ball-and-socket joints for better movement. Previously, Romain Jerome launched watches inspired by Tetris, Pac-Man and Super Mario Bros.





Cartier

www.cartier.com

Panthers have long been a feature of Cartier's designs. Wallis Simpson, the famously scandalous divorcee who caused Edward VIII to abdicate the throne in 1936, presented the maison with a huge sapphire that was turned into a blue ball on which a panther pounced in a spectacular brooch. The playful panther appears on a gem-encrusted watch playing with a diamond ball as the hour hand while its paw, chasing the ball, is the minute hand.

Meanwhile, another classic was relaunched at SIHH. The Panthere was launched by Cartier in the 1980s and it has been relaunched with the square dial, Roman numerals and slinky bracelet-style strap unchanged. The only changes are tweaks such as waterproofing to meet modern standards. Available in entry-level stainless steel, combinations of stainless steel and gold, as well as gold and lacquer, a whole new generation of women will be able to experience this classic, inspired by the grace and movements of the panther.

Unashamedly making technology fit design, a feminine maison first and foremost, Cartier's SIHH offerings for women consisted of stunning watches that are pieces of jewellery on their own right.

Hautlence Vortex

www.hautlence.com

At this year's SIHH, Hautlence launched the latest in its series of Vortex watches. The Vortex 1 came in titanium and the Vortex 2 in rose gold, while the Vortex Primary timepiece with Eric Cantona, launched at SIHH in 2016. Now the Vortex 8 in bronze has been released, and it looks particularly fetching with a tan strap.

The case and horns are bronze and the crown is Grade 5 titanium polished with a micro-machined Hautlence logo. The glass is made of six three-dimensional sapphire crystals and the entire watch weighs 75 grams. The hours are displayed by a 12-link chain hinged on a pallet system and the speed regulator ensures that the hour display changes in a smooth, controlled manner.

Only eight examples of the Vortex Bronze will be made and it is priced at 170,000 euros.

Hautlence intrigued watch watchers last year with the Labyrinth, a wearable maze, and at SIHH, the diamond-adorned Labyrinth was launched, with a ruby ball to chase through the puzzle.



SWISS PRECISION

Expectations are high for Baselworld 2017 after a successful 2016 event bringing in prestigious watch and jewellery brands from around the world.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS



Last year's Baselworld was a tremendous success, attracting not just the world's finest horologists and jewellers but also the top names in gemstones, pearls, machinery and supplies. It maintained its reputation for showcasing global trends.

Baselworld 2016 was attended by more than 145,000 people from more than 100 countries.

Creativity is the overriding theme of Baselworld with François Thiébaud, president of the Swiss Exhibitors' Committee, explaining why it is such a unique event: "Within these halls, you don't just get to meet everyone that matters, equally importantly you get to meet the spirit of creativity that you find only at Baselworld."

"It is only here that one gets inspired not only by the novelties showcased but also by the spectacular atmosphere that exudes pure ingenuity," he said.



Eric Bertrand, president of the Baselworld Exhibitors' Committee, commented on the event's significance to the watch and jewellery industry: "I have witnessed how just eight days of exhibiting at Baselworld can infuse the industry with immense positivity. The favourable feedback we've received, the outstanding business opportunities available, and the massive press interest will drive us forward constructively."

The big names in watches and jewellery agree with optimism abounding among industry leaders. "Participation in Baselworld is important as we meet the entire world, and Baselworld is the gathering of all sectors of our industry," said Jean-Claude Biver, president of the LVMH Watch Division and CEO of TAG Heuer.

Karl-Friedrich Scheufele, co-president of Chopard, said that Baselworld allows him a "unique window" to meet international partners in a short period of

time, while Philippe Mougenot, former president of Chanel Horlogerie/Joaillerie said it is "essential".

"Year on year, this event is an unmatched opportunity to expose our creativity and know-how to a qualitative gathering of international opinion leaders and high profile watch retailers," said Mougenot.

Willie Hamilton, chief executive of The Company of Master Jewellers, describes Baselworld as "the centre of the universe for eight days because it's where everybody from the watch and jewellery industry comes together on a positive note."

"It gives us a flavour of what's ahead of us as all the brands are launching new products, and it's also great to see the emerging brands which will be with us for the future," he said. ♦

Baselworld 2017 runs from 23-30 March.
www.baselworld.com

The HEART *Of* the MATTER

Love is in the air and what better way to celebrate the season inspired by St Valentine with heart-inspired treasures.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

The story of the real St Valentine is a tragic one. When Emperor Claudius ruled Rome, marriage between young people was forbidden because it was believed that soldiers would fight better if they were single rather than worrying about wives and children at home. Valentine, a priest in the very early days of the Christian church, secretly married young couples. Unfortunately for him, he was caught by the authorities and put on trial for performing secret weddings. It is believed that 14 February 278 AD was the date of his execution.

There are at least three different versions of St Valentine's story but they all centre on his commitment to true love and martyrdom. It is just the location that changes – some believe he was a priest in Rome, others believe he was a bishop in the Italian town of Terni, while another version of the St Valentine story centres on him being a martyr in the Roman province of Africa.

In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius declared that 14 February should be celebrated as St Valentine's Day. The rest, as they say, is history and in 2017, the annual celebration of love is as popular as ever.

The heart motif predates St Valentine. The ancient Egyptians believed it was a moral compass, while the ancient Greeks believed the heart contained one's soul. In medieval art, the heart – either in a literal interpretation or in the more stylised shape we recognise today – grew in popularity and endures today. We celebrate the timelessness of the heart motif with these glorious jewels, perfect for celebrating true love in February, or at any time of year.



1.



2.



3.



4.

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Yellow gold, mother-of-pearl and diamond earrings by Mimi Baldwin;
Diamond earrings by Chopard; Yellow gold, diamond and amethyst earrings by Mimi Baldwin;
White gold, blue topaz and diamond earrings by Mimi Baldwin.

Le coeur CURIOS

Baubles of bliss abound with these heart-shaped jewels.



1.

1. Chopard

Rose gold and diamond bangle
www.chopard.com

2. Frost of London

Yellow gold, sapphire and diamond ring by Anita Ko
www.frostoflondon.co.uk

3. Faberge

Rose gold and diamond ring
www.faberge.com

4. de Grisogono

White and pink gold, diamond and ruby ring
www.degrisogono.com

5. Chopard

Rose gold, red enamel and diamond ring
www.chopard.com

6. Faberge

Rose gold and purple enamel ring
www.faberge.com

7. de Grisogono

Pink gold, diamond, pink sapphire and rubelite ring
www.degrisogono.com

8. Leo Pizzo

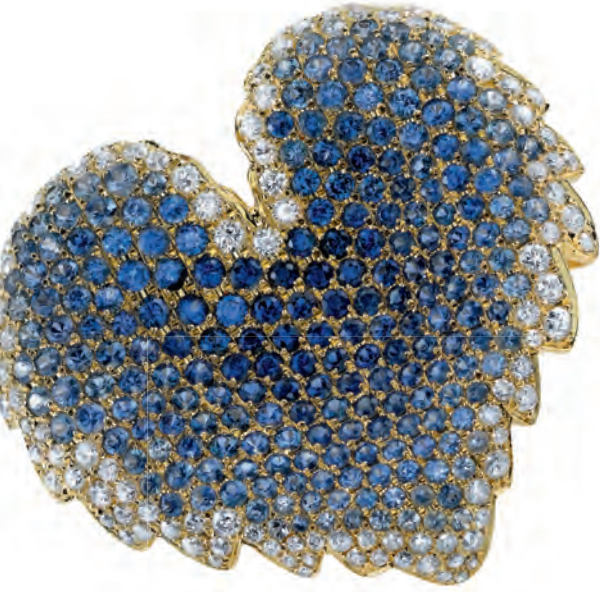
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7.



8.



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5.



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4.



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\$38,633 amara.com

This Bloomsbury London bespoke desktop bar designed by Jo Sampson is the ultimate home bar solution. Embossed in a navy blue faux crocodile pattern with faceted crystal detail, it is perfect at home bar to entertain guests. The London bespoke desktop bar collection is a colour themed presentations, each featuring extravagant, singularly selected materials to add sheer a touch of elegance and luxury.

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Opulence meets modern luxe with this stylish piece which features two well-crafted doors leading to a gold leaf interior with shelving and two drawers. The exterior of this piece is in silver leaf finished with a vibrant shade of translucent amethyst high gloss varnish. The fanciful lion's head feet are hand carved from mahogany and completed with gold leaf.





PARADISE CIRCLES POLISHED BRASS CRYSTAL CHANDELIER

US\$16,183 touchedinteriors.co.uk

Add a touch of sophistication to your home with this wonderful chandelier. Expertly crafted, this statement piece is as enchanting as it is mesmerising.

Decorative circles are individually wrapped in brass and executed with intricate detail. The stunning piece exudes a shimmery glow that fills the room.

EMERALD CABINET WITH FOUR DRAWERS

\$49,555,
touchedinteriors.co.uk

Give your living area a lavish look and feel with this majestic emerald cabinet. Made from poplar, this cabinet features four drawers and two shelves. The standout piece has been carefully crafted to a high standard, giving it character and making it a truly unique addition to any home. Not only does it feature stunning contrasting emerald green colours, its elegantly gilded in gold leaf.



A season TO SPOIL

Our style columnist shares a few romantic secrets, perfect for anyone planning an amorous escape.

WORDS BY TEMI OTEDOLA

It's that time of year again. The season of romantic dinners, gifts of sentimental jewellery, and champagne is here. Valentine's Day is not exactly my favourite holiday, but still, every year I can't help but be swept up in the declarations of romance and devotion.

But why should Valentine's Day be celebrated as the single day where we commemorate love? Why shouldn't you spoil your loved one in more than one way, or even through the year?

Everyone loves flowers and chocolate, but a thoroughly contemplated and original present is even more special. To make your Valentine's Day – or any other day special – here are my suggestions to spoil your significant other in new ways.

For those of you who are particularly amorous, a romantic weekend away could be the perfect way to spoil your partner. It is also the ideal way to spend quality time without the distractions of family and friends.

Paris is an obvious option. Spending a weekend in the City of Love walking the Seine, eating pastries in Café de Flore and padlocking the Pont des Arts is idyllic in its own way, but also very predictable.

Instead, I would suggest a weekend in the equally romantic, but less formulaic city of Vienna. The culture, architecture, and historical opera are enough to make anyone fall in love. A stay at the Palais Hansas Kempinski, a trip to Schonbrunn Palace and dinner at Tian Wien will have you covered on the the culture and romance front.

If you are unable to get away for the weekend, a staycation is equally effective. For those based in London, a spa day at the Bvlgari Hotel or Corinthia Hotel includes couple's treatments, private spa suites and unlimited champagne. There's nothing more indulgent than a day of relaxation before a candlelight dinner at La Petite Maison or Ciccetti.

If you are a self-professed traditionalist and would rather opt for Valentine's Day clichés, you should at least add a quirky twist. If you want to buy your loved one chocolate, how about a macaroon basket from Pierre Hermé? Or a bespoke bouquet from Wild at Heart?

Whatever you decide on, the effort devoted to that special someone is what counts the most, and if the special someone is the key missing, then you have the best excuse to spoil yourself. ❖





BOND NO.9 :
His & Hers
SCENTS
FOR THIS
true romance

Elite Living Africa looks at an array of sultry, sweet and smoky scents from New York-based fragrance house Bond No.9

The first and only niche New York fragrance company when it launched in May 2003, Bond No.9 has seen huge success thanks to its founder Laurice Rahmé who has perfected the art of perfumery and fragrance blending, using only high, 18-22 per cent concentrations of pure eaux de parfums – the long-lasting concentrations of the vintage scents that appeared in the 1920s and 1930s. Rahmé's love for New York helped her push the boundaries of past and present fragrance trends, with each scent from Bond No.9 being blended in New York, with the help of perfumers who share the same love for the city.

ABOVE A truly masculine treat for the senses.
RIGHT: The Dubai collection.

Bond No 9 offers a range of romantic scents. The collection features Bond No.9 Signature Perfume, a sultry oud, accented with rose, an ingredient which has been used as an aphrodisiac for centuries, with notes of musk and tonka bean. The fragrance is utterly divine – but the bottle that encases it is a treat in itself. It features a beautiful amethyst adorned in sparkly purple crystals.

Another popular scent in the collection is New York musk, a smoky scent suitable for men and women. This unisex fragrance is infused with rosewater, cinnamon, honey and orris and comes in a neutral emerald green bottle.

For a scent that has a more romantic element, then you will fall head over heels for Madison Square Park. 'Spirited and romantic' - it features hints of rose, hyacinth, teakwood, and prairie grass, the scent is encased in a Northern Lights-inspired amethyst bottle.

If you are looking for something truly special, the star-studded Swarovski Galactic Coffret features a triple-tier bijoux keepsake box, decorated with 4,000 hand-applied Swarovski stones. The collection, which contains nine of Bond No.9's most-loved scents, each in a refillable bottle covered with a unique set of Swarovski crystals, is available for \$14,000.

◆
Sultry oud, a unisex smoky scent, rose, hyacinth, teakwood, seaweed, raspberry, plum, spicy-mellow saffron, beeswax and piquant pink pepper can all be found among the scents in the collection.
◆

Bond No. 9's Dubai III collection takes you away from Bond No 9's New York city inspired scents to the opulence and glamour of Dubai. Launched in 2015, the collection became an instant success. The scents combine ancient with the ultra-new: centuries'-old Eastern essences: exotic resin, musk and tropical spices with ultra-contemporary fragrance notes: seaweed, raspberry and plum. Dubai Black Sapphire is a masculine scent has a mellowness will compliment a feminine woman features top notes of citrusy neroli blended with spicy-mellow saffron and beeswax, Dubai Garnet, meanwhile, is a romantic floral bouquet of citrusy bergamot, musky blackberry, cardamom, seaweed, and pink pepper to invigorate the senses.

For men, Dubai Encore is a must-have collection. Dubai Amethyst is a gender neutral scent featuring top notes of lily and rose. But for a distinctly masculine scent, Sutton Place brings together topnotes of citrusy bergamot and tangerine combined with piquant pink pepper, fresh but intense cassis, and tropical pineapple. It also features strong base notes of warm amber along with animalic musk and leather and vanilla.

The Sutton Place bottle comes in a deep rich cigar-toned maduro brown, with a touchable texture reminiscent of reptile skin. and is priced at \$350 for 100ml. ◆





SUITS
FOR ALL
OCCASIONS

Finding the perfect suit can prove to be a struggle these days when there are so many to choose from. Sit back and relax while we take you through our top picks.

A good suit is often described as a man's body armour, so finding a good fitting one is truly important. There are many factors to consider when buying a suit. Is it the right style? And is it the perfect size? A bespoke suit is one solution that takes away the hassle of trying on many before finding the right one.

Henry Herbert Tailors was introduced by Charlie Baker-Collingwood to continue the tradition of fine English tailoring by Henry Herbert, the once master of the royal wardrobe to both King Charles I and King Charles II. Based in Central London, the quintessentially British tailors handcraft the finest bespoke suits and shirts to the highest standards of traditional Savile Row tailoring.

"True to the highest standards of traditional Savile Row tailoring, we use the finest fabrics, the finest tailors and, hopefully, the finest service," Charlie told Elite Living Africa. A very smart and slim fitting three piece suit from Henry Herbert features a slim pair of trousers, a double breasted waistcoat and single breasted two button jacket. Designed in England, most of the suit has been hand tailored and will take 8-9 weeks to make – with a half way baste fitting and then a forward baste fitting before the suit is finished and delivered. The cloth is made by Holland & Sherry using 100 per cent wool and the lining from Dugdales in Huddersfield with working buttons and horn buttons.

A selection of different designs and styles of cufflinks from Henry Herbet compliment the suit perfectly. As Spring approaches, Henry Herbert has consulted its customers on what they are looking for. "So, Spring/Summer 2017, like the years before, I'd say our customers are looking for classic, smart, sharp style. As a small independent tailoring firm, we take our direction from our customers, and we seem to see a traditional rhythm every year."

The tailor offers busy customers a Savile Row by Scooter service, where a Henry Herbert tailor will bring a full range of fabric samples right to their door and all the materials they need for the initial consultation or subsequent fitting. "And so Henry Herbert Tailors and our Savile Row by Scooter service was born - using a custom built fleet of Vespa scooters, using full trained tailors, to meet customers around the clock." >



Faberge sapphire blue enamel cufflinks.



Chopard Mille Miglia cufflinks.



Faberge pavé diamond cufflinks.

Charlie rightly notes that the bigger fashion houses have decided on their Spring/Summer collections a year or two in advance. Versace for instance. The fashion house's Spring Summer 2017 collection features a wonderful selection of men suits. 'Lightweight, layered, fluid, functional' - the 2017 collection reflects the way men live their lives today, says Versace. "Tailoring is about functionality" - from the unstructured jersey suit jacket that keeps its shape, to the tailored pants with elasticated waist and cuff. Commenting on the collection, Donatella Versace says "I love change. I want to push Versace forwards, and capture the spirit of individuality and creativity in the men that I love." The Versace suit is refreshed and lightened in the Autumn/Winter 2017 collection. The strong silhouette is now neat to the body, with a soft constructed shoulder for the way men wear tailoring today.

Joseph Abboud recently showcased his Autumn 2017 collection at New York Fashion Week: Men's. "We continue to celebrate the American man, American production, and the masculine individuality that is inherently Joseph Abboud," states the designer. Speaking about what inspired his collection Joseph adds, "I was deeply inspired by the striking architecture of Gothic cathedrals, which is reflected in the construction of the clothing—lapels are exaggerated, coats are sweeping, cape-like, and our signature Traced Fit is slightly relaxed to allow for ease of movement."

Burberry has a range of versatile suits for all tastes. The star-studded Fashion Awards 2016 held at The Royal Albert Hall in London saw a number of guests dressed head-to-toe in Burberry attire. Presenting the awards, British comedian Jack Whitehall welcomed a host of celebrities, opting for a classic Burberry tuxedo for the event. Domhnall Gleeson, actor and star of Burberry's recent Christmas campaign 'The Tale of Thomas Burberry' wore a black silk jacket, tuxedo trousers and silk scarf by Burberry. While Derek Blasberg was daring in pink sporting a rose pink velvet jacket teamed with a pair of black tuxedo trousers by the fashion >



ABOVE : Henry Herbert suit and shirt with Union Jack cufflinks.
ABOVE AND RIGHT: Joseph Abboud Autumn 2017 runway show.





Visionnaire rose gold and diamond cufflinks.

house. British actor Douglas Booth and previous Burberry campaign star wore a textured cotton silk tuxedo by Burberry, while Bulgarian tennis player Grigor Dimitrov was also in attendance, wearing Burberry's navy wool notch lapel tuxedo. Christopher Bailey, Burberry chief creative and chief executive officer was behind Burberry's Tudor collection unveiled in September 2016. The pieces featured were inspired by Virginia Woolf's "Orlando," and included a pair of wide leg wool trousers and a ruffled high neck stripe shirt to compliment a bespoke blazer, offering the perfect pieces for a more relaxed look.

For the February collection, Christopher took inspiration from the work and process of British artist Henry Moore. His take on scale, shape and texture is reflected in the form of sculptural silhouettes and asymmetric designs. "Moore's work on display will be a shining example of the creativity and enormous contribution he made to the development of contemporary art in the UK and way beyond, and I'm excited to be showing our February collection alongside the remarkable work of the artist that inspired it," says Christopher. The February 2017 collection will be unveiled as part of the brand's second straight-to-consumer show on 20 February, following which the collection will be available to purchase immediately.

Lagos-based men's clothing line, Caesar Couture, has a variety of men's suits for all occasions that can be tailored to the client's specifications. Founded back in 2000 by Esosa Ogedegb, the fashion label showcased their collection at Africa Fashion Week London in September last year. Commenting on the collection Caesar Couture says, "We were able to stand out because our fabrics have till date, been specially handpicked from the best textile designs worldwide to suit each individual client's needs. For this reason, our clients are assured of that exceptional uniqueness. We are very detailed and because we know that not everyone can wait five weeks for a bespoke suit, we pay attention to timelines and ensure we get it to our clients in just three weeks." ❖



ABOVE Derek Blasberg wearing Burberry at the Fashion Awards 2016.



HOME PHILOSOPHY
visionnaire



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visionnaire-home.com

| Saloni Fair 2017 | Pavilion 5 - L15 M18

ARABIAN SAILS

Over 25 years, the Dubai International Boat Show has become essential event for the boating community in the Middle East and beyond.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

After a quarter of a century, the Dubai International Boat Show stands proud as an important event for boat owners and businesses in the Middle East and beyond. It is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy Dubai at its best, perusing fine craft at the Dubai International Marine Club. This location is set to become part of Dubai Harbour, the latest waterfront development for the dynamic UAE city.

Slated for completion in four years, the Dubai Harbour project will feature a 135-metre tower, a lighthouse housing a luxury hotel, observation deck, cruise liner terminal, residences, a shopping mall and yacht club. Super yachts up to 85 metres long will be able to berth at the new facility, which is set to be the largest marina in the Middle East.

As well as being a wonderful opportunity to look at super yachts, the event also showcases smaller leisure boats and water sports. Trixie LohMirmand, senior vice president, events management, Dubai World Trade Centre said the show will continue to have an impact on the city's "reputation as a globally recognised marine hub."

On the subject of the ongoing development of Dubai Harbour, Ms LohMirmand said: "These developments will inevitably add to the appeal of the Dubai International Boat Show for yacht and boat owners, water sports enthusiasts, industry figures as well as contribute to the





event's growth in stature alongside the marine industry's other top events in Monaco, Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Cannes." Feadship will be a VIP sponsor of the event. (For more on Feadship, please turn to page 40).

Emirates-based Gulf Craft, one of the world's leading superyacht manufacturers, will be at the show. The company's CEO, Erwin Bamps, said: "Dubai's ambitious waterfront projects are quickly transforming the UAE into the next global leisure marine destination."

Gulf Craft will be showcasing innovations across its diverse range of luxurious Majesty Yachts, long-range Nomad Yachts, Silvercraft fishing boats and family cruisers, and Oryx sport yachts and cruisers at the Dubai International Boat Show.

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The Dubai International Boat Show runs from 28 February until 4 March. www.boatshowdubai.com

Dubai's constantly evolving waterfront precinct will again showcase the very best of yachts, leisure craft and water sports activities at this year's boat show.

Blue & Green

Feadship has launched the world's first hybrid motoryacht, an eco-friendly way to experience luxury on the high seas.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

Innovation has always been essential to Feadship's ethos and with the launch of Savannah, that fine tradition continues. It is a brilliant blend of the very latest in superyacht technology with premium comforts.

First, the technical specs... Savannah is the first motoryacht to feature an eco-friendly blend of single diesel engine, three gensets, batteries, propeller, azimuthing thruster and streamlined hull shape. It offers excellent fuel economy thanks to its pioneering electro-mechanical propulsion platform.

Propelled by an efficient medium-speed Wärtsilä main engine instead of two higher-rev diesel motors, Savannah has a single central propeller shaft installation on the centreline and three gensets. Redundancy is ensured by fitting a large contra-rotating and azimuthing sternthruster just aft of the main propeller. The design of the aft ship allows for a propeller that is 40 per cent larger than the norm. Combined with the power supplied by the thruster, the load on the propeller is only half that of a conventional twin screw yacht. This contributes to higher efficiency and fewer vibrations. Additionally, the large sternthruster also ensures excellent manoeuvrability in marinas.

Ted McCumber, the owner's project manager says: "Feadship has leveraged on all the options available in the marine industry today to bring this hugely innovative system to completion. The possibility to choose between diesel, diesel-electric or fully electric is truly exceptional."

This technology marries Feadship's past experience and forward thinking approach within a luxurious custom creation.

Inspired by Feadship's 2010 Future Concept, Savannah effortlessly blends the ultra-luxurious features its discerning clients expect from their superyachts, along with the very latest in



ABOVE Feadship is making its mark with stunning craft, blending technology and luxury seamlessly. Image courtesy of Feadship.

environmentally sensitive technology. Along with the hybrid engine, Savannah boasts such features as an underwater lounge.

Great exterior design is essential to Savannah. The exterior profile, created in partnership between Cristina Gherardi Design and Feadship's designers, includes a floating superstructure. The exterior colour scheme is Sea Foam metallic green and it is the first superyacht to be entirely painted in a metallic, with the exception of the mast domes, including the ceilings and fixed deck furniture.

To create this stunning colour effect, Feadship developed a special spray nozzle technique to attain the all-metallic look which had to be achieved in one sweep to avoid any colour

discrepancies. The outside staircases are jet black and the steps covered in teak.

The glass and composite panels appear to float thanks to complex visual trickery involving polished stainless steel strips, aluminium supports and teak. The stainless steel doors form part of the yacht's continuous line and appear to be floating as part of an intricate design feature.

The main deck areas have been designed as single, generously proportioned inside/outside spaces, enclosed by weathertight sliding doors. With the sides of the main lounge open, the entire space from the swimming pool to the salon is perfect for al fresco experiences.

"The owner of Savannah loves to be at one with the water," explains McCumber. "This phenomenal design allows him to run from the main salon and dive straight into the sea." ♦

"The owner of Savannah loves to be at one with the sea. Its phenomenal design allows him to run from the main salon and dive straight into the sea."

HIS LIFE'S WORK

Espen Oeino, leading luxury yacht designer and founder of Espen Oeino International, talks about achieving his childhood dreams.

WORDS BY ROMAN ZINCENKO

Espen Oeino shares his yacht-designing story, a nautical adventure that has lasted almost a lifetime and won him international acclaim.

Elite Living Africa: How did you become a leading designer of superyachts? When did you draw your first boat?

Espen Oeino: Since I was five years old I never had any other inspiration but to design yachts. I grew up in Norway around boats and was always interested in yachts and design. My dad has even tape-recorded me talking about my desire to design yachts as a kid. Actually, I drew my first boat way before that – I was perhaps seven or eight years old. It was a 25-foot boat, I still have the drawings. My parents suggested that I study something related to ship design, so I studied naval architecture and offshore engineering. I graduated 30 years ago and then started working with Martin Francis. The first project I was a part of is superyacht Enigma built by Blohm+Voss. It was an amazing work to be involved in, she is a timeless masterpiece.

ELA: Tell us about your career path. Has Africa influenced your works?

EO: Yes, actually, when I started working for myself back in 1994, my first project was a big refit of the boat called Amazon Express. Her owner was a collector of African art, Mr Jean Pigozzi. So the whole colour theme of that yacht was related to Africa.

ELA: What was the most demanding project you have worked on?

EO: Every project is demanding, some are very complex. For example, Skat – I made my name with this boat. She's still considered one of the most uniquely designed yachts. Or one of my projects with the shipyard Luerksen [which was] an explorer yacht Octopus. She carries two helicopters, a submarine, and many tenders including a 60-foot long one. She even has a recording studio. This is a real James Bond-style superyacht.

ELA: What are main challenges in designing superyachts?

EO: There are many challenges in my work but the biggest of them is to find common

understanding with a client. In this business you always have to make sure you meet the customer's expectations. The other challenge is technical – it may appear simple at first glance but there is a lot of complexity under the surface, because everything in a yacht is controlled by computers, it's just like a cancer in the body of a boat. The nature of the yachting industry is changing so quickly, but luckily today we have 3D modelling tools which make designing boats easier.

ELA: With all those challenges, where do you get inspiration from? What helps you stay on top of the game?

EO: I get inspiration from everywhere and anything, from military and commercial ships to fishing boats, from cars to pieces of furniture. When I travel I always take pictures of the things I like, this helps with new ideas.

ELA: Tell us about your recent successes, such as Dilbar.

EO: I am very proud of Dilbar, which was built by Luerksen – she has the biggest tonnage of all megayachts. And she also has one of the largest swimming pools that were ever built inside a vessel. It took four years to build Dilbar. Another project is Galactica Supernova built by Heesen. She's one of the largest and fastest aluminium yachts in the world and has three engines. It was actually a fast project – it took only three years. The recently launched superyacht Mistral is also a very impressive project with very complex exterior design details. This very unique 106-metre yacht was a great collaboration with the owner who was heavily involved in the process of designing her.

ELA: Have you ever been to Africa? And what do you think of the African yacht market potential?

EO: I have visited South Africa and some North African countries. I know that there are not many big yachts in this region but I hope that this will change. I've already had some enquiries from potential customers in Africa, so your readers are welcome to contact me. It would be nice to have this new market. ♦

ABOVE Espen Oeino stays focused on quality design. (Photo: Guillaume Plisson)



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LÜRSEN

The difference.



LUXURY LISTENING

To listen to the finest music, we must have the best equipment. Whether it's Bach or the Beach Boys, music deserves the best.



Devialet Phantom Gold

\$2500,
devialet.com

The Phantom Gold embodies the phrase, the best things come in small packages. The Devialet packs a mighty punch with 4500W and a maximum sound 108dB/m sound pressure level, more than enough for any domestic use. With Wi-Fi and Bluetooth wireless capability, this is the ultimate home speaker. It is programmable with a second Phantom to create a stereo speaker system, more than powerful enough and definitely stylish enough to replace any Hi-Fi or home cinema system.



KRK Rokit 10-3 G3

\$700,
krksys.com

Ask any producer or musician about Rokits and you'll know how respected these monitors are. These are the powered studio monitors to have. Each monitor contains a 1" dome tweeter, a 4" midranger driver and a 10" woofer, built into the most iconic package, respected by music producers all over the world. While Rokits are known among musicians, the 10-3's will integrate into any system configuration. In short, you will hear every detail in the music through these monitors.



Bowers & Wilkins P9 Signature

\$900,

www.bowers-wilkins.co.uk

These are probably the finest headphones on the market. The large over-ear design of the P9 Signature headphones exemplify the finest in audio engineering and design. The stamped Saffiano leather is produced by Scabrenta, highlighted by the trademark cross-hatch finish. Partnered with the Alcantara carry case, the Bowers & Wilkins P9 Signature headphones will exude luxury when you are listening to your favourite music, as well as when you are not.

Reeloc RP7000

\$500,

www.reeloc.com

The RP7000 is a club-standard, professional-level high-torque turntable. The metallic finish and precise build of Reeloc's systems are designed for DJs but is built for anyone. The RP7000 has three pitch ranges and a variable start/stop time to cope with all manner of applications. However, the quality and aesthetics mean that they will fit into any music or entertainment setting.





Bang & Olufsen Play H9

\$600,
www.beoplay.com

You can't mention luxury listening without thinking of Bang & Olufsen. The H9s feature active noise cancellation, over-ear fit and wireless via bluetooth making these an ideal home and travel headphone. The side wheel means you can control all of your music from the headphone. However, the real quality of the H9 lies not only in the sound, but also in the soft lambskin, leather and polished aluminium finish. Enhanced by the B&O PLAY app, the H9s are among the best mobile headphones on the market. With extreme comfort and great battery life, they are a must for travelling.



Pioneer DDJ-RZX

\$4000,
pioneerdj.com

This is the most complete professional DJ controller ever. Not only can you mix music on the RZX, you can also mix videos. Using the RekordBox video system, this controller can be used as a standalone system, with video transition and sound effect entirely built into the unit. This 4-channel mixer also teams up with three 7-inch monitors, giving the user the most complete experience of any controller in history. With mic, sound colour, and release FX, nothing is comparable when it comes to the ultimate in DJ equipment features and customisation.



Denon MCX8000

\$1500,
demonjdj.com

In the DJ Tech Awards, the MCX8000 was awarded the ultimate DJ controller of 2016, therefore, we could not leave it out. Denon has produced what it calls 'the engine.' The software within the MCX8000 is of the best quality, allowing DJs to play without a computer, without risk of stalls and faults.

The XLR, USB and PA outputs allow for the unit to plug into almost any set-up. Even if this set-up is just used to play one track after another in a local party, or used for an entire nightclub, the Denon will perform brilliantly.



Audio Technica LP1240USB

\$449,
audio-technica.com

While the LP1240 is not the catchiest name, nor is it the most beautiful product, the performance and quality of the AT-LP1240USB is unprecedented. It is designed for use in nightclubs, touring and mobile applications, but can also be used with home stereo systems. It also gives listeners more control than ever before. Not only does it play vinyls, but it can also offer USB output. This allows direct connection to a computer for easy LP-to digital conversion. The S-shaped tone arm and adjustable tracking makes this one of the most reliable, desirable and party-proof record players on the market.



THE SPIRIT OF ENZO

THE FERRARI J50 EVOKES MEMORIES OF
THE MARANELLO MARQUE'S MUCH-LOVED
ROAD CARS OF THE 1970S AND 80S.

WORDS BY MARTIN CLARK



The Ferrari J50 is the latest lust-inducing machine from Maranello.



When American jazz singer Louis Armstrong famously sang his song, 'What A Wonderful World', it would be easy to picture him behind the wheel of a Ferrari. Seeing life in all its glorious splendour and technicolour is not so difficult when you're seated in one of the finest driving machines man has ever created.

Of course, there's no 'Ferrari red' among his 'trees of green' or 'skies of blue', but if there had been – wow – what a flash of vivid brilliance it would've been.

Ferrari's remarkable ability to create cars of such astounding beauty through the decades has long captivated drivers the world over – since the 1940s, in fact – when the Italian sports car manufacturer produced its very first vehicles.

Now one of the world's most famous brands, it is the de facto choice for lovers of fine engineering,

those who appreciate a thing of great beauty, as well as all self-respecting stylish daredevils. Luckily for us, the spirit of founder Enzo Ferrari lives on in the production of all new cars.

INTRODUCING THE J50

The spirit of Enzo is certainly evident in the latest offering from the maestros of Maranello, the Ferrari J50, which was launched in December 2016, making a few selective appearances to announce its entrance to the world.

Ferrari revealed the strictly limited series of bespoke cars during a special celebration held at the National Art Centre in Tokyo to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Ferrari in Japan. No one was disappointed.

The Ferrari J50 is a two-seater, mid-rear-engined roadster that marks a return to the targa body style evocative of several well-loved Ferrari road cars of the 1970s and 1980s.

ABOVE: A sleek and sexy side profile for the J50.



It's certainly exclusive too if you can lay your hands on one. Created by Ferrari's special projects department and designed by the its styling centre team in Maranello, just 10 examples of the J50 will be built and, in the spirit of Ferrari's fuori serie tradition, each one will be tailored specifically to the customer's requirements.

The J50 presented at the Tokyo launch was finished in a special shade of three-layer red with a red-over-black interior trimmed in fine leather and Alcantara. Naturally, it went down a storm with the crowds.

NIMBLENESS AND AGILITY

While there is a strong nod to the glorious past, the bodywork of the new J50 is all new and heralds a radically futuristic design language, with a highly distinctive personality that suits the tastes of a clientele that seeks the utmost in innovative styling. The design approach was led by the desire to create a very low-slung roadster, encapsulating intrinsic

Ferrari values of nimbleness and agility. To achieve this, a strong dynamic was imprinted on the flank of the car by the converging interplay between two main guiding lines: the slanted top edge of the side window, continuous with the windscreen, and the raked black swage line which dramatically rises from the low-set nose until it vanishes in the air intake aft of the doors.

While the 'helmet visor' effect, which spawns from the window graphic, is reminiscent of Ferrari's open competition barchettas going as far back as the 1950s, the black dividing line is a novel interpretation of a recurring styling cue seen on iconic models such as the GTO, F40 and F50.

Circling around the front of the car below knee height, it is a key element which alters the perception of the beltline, setting it at a much lower height than usual, transforming the J50 into a barchetta. ➤



And then there's the power behind it all. Based on the 488 Spider, the J50 is powered by a specific 690 cv version of the 3.9-litre V8 that won the overall International Engine of the Year Award last year.

A WORK OF ART

The J50 also benefits from detailed aerodynamic development with a number of significant functional solutions to help you on your way. Firstly, the radiators have been positioned closer together, and the front bumper has been completely redesigned. The windscreen header rail has been lowered allowing more airflow over the aero foil and thus over the rear spoiler.

The bonnet section itself is lower at the centre with raised wheel arch crests giving the emphasised muscularity typical of Ferrari mid-engined sports cars. Two carbon fibre air channels in the front bonnet create an even more diminutive and sharper looking front mass underlined by the full LED headlights that feature a specific and very dynamic profile.

To be fair, nobody would mind at Ferrari if you called their latest offer more a work of art than a motor car. Inside the cabin, specific trim adorns the sports seats, echoing the design of the rear bonnet contour to provide an unmistakable signature feature. The carbon fibre hard targa top is divided



ABOVE The interior is sharp and sporty.
FACING PAGE LaFerrari has proven popular among lovers of Italian style and speed.

into two pieces which stow conveniently behind the seats.

Stroll around to the back and you'll see that the rear is decidedly aggressive in nature, with the quad taillight design widening the car visually under a high downforce wing profile. The rear diffuser features an extractor shape inspired by jet engine afterburners, giving the car a powerful stance.

LOVE AND MONEY

A thing of such great beauty does not come cheap, however, although that goes for all Ferrari models through the ages.

The most costly vehicle to date is reportedly the 2012 sale of a Ferrari 250 GTO for over \$35 million to American communications tycoon Craig McCaw. The car was originally built in the 1960s for racing driver Stirling Moss, who never raced the car. But such is the love for Ferrari that high prices are always worth paying, especially so when the end

result is supporting those in need. Beautiful cars certainly make for a beautiful sentiment.

At the end of last year, at a charity auction in Miami, Florida, a prized LaFerrari donated from the company's own collection, was sold for \$7 million to benefit the reconstruction of Central Italy in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes of 2016. The auction was held in conjunction with RM Sotheby's and in collaboration with the National Italian American Foundation's Earthquake Relief Fund. The sale represents a record price for the most valuable 21st century automobile ever sold at an auction.

With the new J50 set to join them, these sports cars already grace our roads, bringing a burst of the famous Ferrari red to our world. That such a thing of great beauty - and man-made no less - can exist in this world alongside the sweetness of nature is truly something to behold. Yes, Louis, what a wonderful world this truly is. ❖





THE LONG VIEW



GULFSTREAM IS
OFFERING THE ULTIMATE
IN TECHNOLOGY,
LUXURY AND CREATURE
COMFORTS FOR
DISCERNING CLIENTS ON
LONG JOURNEYS.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS



Nic Robinson, Gulfstream's regional vice president of sales for Africa (above), talks to *Elite Living Africa* about the evolution of the company's long-range jets and meeting client demands.

Elite Living Africa (ELA): Gulfstream has a long history of making long-range jets. How have the jets evolved over the decades?

Nic Robinson (NR): Gulfstream has a more than 50-year history of building business jets and is credited with a number of firsts, from building the first large-cabin business jet with the GII, to designing and building the first business jet to land at Lhasa, Tibet, with the GIV. From the introduction of the GII in 1967 onward, each new Gulfstream jet has offered enhanced performance, improved efficiencies, more comfort and reduced environmental impact. >

The G650ER cuts a fine aeronautical figure wherever it flies.

The GII, for example, had a typical cruise speed of Mach 0.80 and was capable of traveling just 2,389 nautical miles at that speed. Compare that to today's G650ER, with a typical cruise speed that's nine-tenths the speed of sound and the ability to fly 6,400 nautical miles at that speed.

Engines have also become both more efficient and more capable. The Rolls-Royce BR 725 engines offer 16,900 pounds of thrust each, with the ability to propel the G650 and G650ER to a maximum speed of Mach 0.925. Yet they also use less fuel, make less noise and emit less nitrogen oxide.

It's not just performance that has evolved. So, too, have the flight decks. One need only look at our two in-development aircraft to see the transformation from one generation of aircraft to the next. The G500 and G600 offer active-control sidesticks, which are a first for business aviation. The aircraft also replace conventional controls, switches and displays with touchscreens to operate aircraft systems, flight management, navigation and other functions for aircraft startup, taxi, take-off, routing and arrival.

Interior enhancements are also part of the evolution. The G550 had the largest windows in business aviation. The G650's windows surpassed those by 16 per cent. Gulfstream's newest aircraft share those same windows. Cabin altitudes have gotten lower, too, with a cabin altitude of just 4,850 feet at flight level 51,000 feet for the G650ER.

ELA: What technologies are essential for long-range jets to be able to cope with the workload?

NR: The Gulfstream Symmetry Flight Deck – available on the Gulfstream G500 and G600 aircraft – offers a number of advances in terms of workload, including an automated checklist procedure capable of initiating multiple system start-ups that previously could only be done sequentially by manual entry. The cascading effort shortens the aircraft's start-up procedures while also providing color-coded alerts to the pilot to show the status of every step of the pre-flight process.

This is part of Gulfstream's operational-based menu philosophy called Phase of Flight, which was made possible by using touch-screen technology. The screens provide the crew with the functions most needed for each phase of aircraft operation. The touch-screen software follows the aircraft through start-up, taxi, take-off, en route and arrival phases.

The G650 (top) and the G550 (bottom) have excellent long range abilities.





ELA: What interior features are important for making long-range travel comfortable?

NR: With our ultra-long-range jets, passengers can spend up to 15 hours on board, so it's important that the interior exceeds expectations as far as comfort. We deliver on the promise of a customised and comfortable cabin experience through a number of key features, including a low cabin altitude, panoramic windows, 100 per cent fresh air and the lowest cabin sound levels.

Additionally, we offer a number of seat styles, each one geared toward providing variety, flexibility and personalisation. Various degrees of bolstering are used to achieve ideal comfort for sitting, leisure and sleeping. The new seats feature innovative design techniques to include more contouring of the foam to reduce fatigue levels, a new layering technique that reduces pressure points, ergonomically enhanced armrests and improved seat depth.

ELA: What features do business travelers often demand in long-range aircraft?

NR: Business travelers want to stay connected with what's happening on the ground, so we provide them with a number of connectivity options. The latest is Jet ConneX, a worldwide, high-speed satellite communications network available for our large-cabin aircraft. Jet ConneX provides high-speed Wi-Fi service that is up to 30 times faster than previous technologies. Passengers can stream videos, make and receive phone calls on their personal smartphones and watch live television almost anywhere.

ELA: What features do leisure travelers often demand in long-range aircraft?

NR: Leisure travelers want many of the same things business travelers do. They want to be comfortable, so they can arrive at their destination relaxed and refreshed. They want connectivity options, so they can stay in touch with family, friends – and maybe, the office. They want high-definition entertainment systems with the ability to watch and do what they want, whether it's taking in the latest movie release or playing a video game.

In short, they want their Earth-bound lifestyle recreated at 51,000 feet. And we can do that!

ELA: What is the longest non-stop flight a Gulfstream jet has ever undertaken?

NR: The longest published flight on a Gulfstream jet was 8,010 nautical miles or 14,835 kilometres by a customer-operated Gulfstream G650ER. The aircraft flew nonstop from Singapore Changi Airport to McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas with four passengers and three crew members on board. >



The trip took 14 hours and 32 minutes at an average speed of Mach 0.85 and tail winds of 76 knots.

ELA: What are the most popular Gulfstream models for long-range travel?

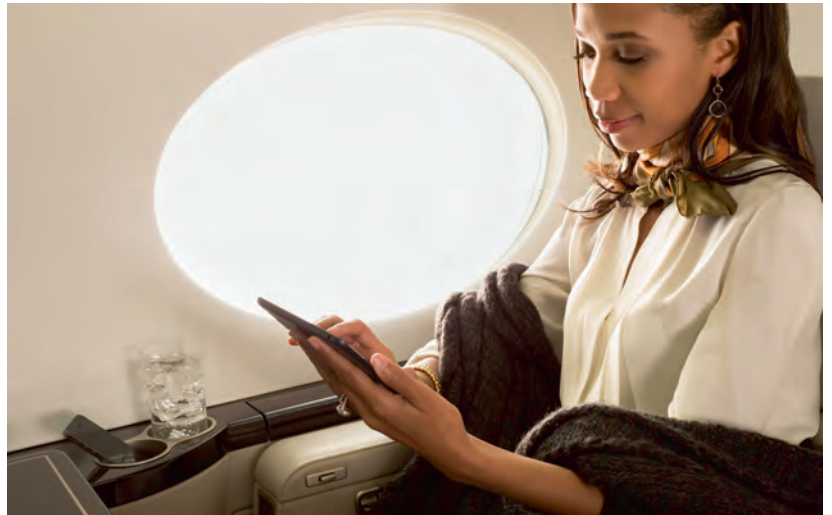
NR: Our large-cabin jets – the Gulfstream G450, Gulfstream G550, Gulfstream G650 and Gulfstream G650ER – are the most popular for long-range travel. The G650ER, which travels farther faster than any other aircraft available today, is especially popular, with more than 200 aircraft in service. The aircraft can fly 7,500 nautical miles or 13,890 kilometres at Mach 0.85, linking almost any two cities in the world nonstop.

ELA: How important are African customers for the long-range market and where are the growth markets in Africa?

NR: Because of its size, Africa is ideally suited for our long-range aircraft. We have seen steady growth of the Gulfstream fleet in Africa, with a mix of new and pre-owned aircraft.

The continent as a whole is rife with growth potential. In particular, we see South Africa, Angola and Nigeria as the countries with the greatest potential because they represent the area's leading centres of commerce and industry.

As such, they also have the infrastructure necessary to support increased business-aviation traffic. But we're also seeing signs of growth in North Africa and the sub-Saharan region. ❖



ABOVE Life is very comfortable onboard the G550, with plenty of room to relax, do business or enjoy fine dining.

Gulfstream

G650ER G650 G600 G500 G550 G280



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A world OF BLISS

We travel to four diverse corners of the globe to find the very best luxury spa experiences, taking relaxation to the next level.

WORDS BY EMILIA ANTONIA DE VIVO

The word spa comes from the Latin phrase *salus per aquam*, which means “health through water”. This concept is based on the experiences across the ancient world, in the Orient and within the Roman Empire, that certain waters have special health-giving properties. Beyond that, there was a common belief across cultures in holistic well-being, a blend of the physical, mental and spiritual wellness that only water could give.

But going to a spa is more than going for a regenerating massage or a relaxing bath; it’s also a way to discover new cultures. So, why not consider the idea of combining a wellness break and a cultural trip during your holidays? It doesn’t matter if you choose a refreshing sojourn during the summer, a warm, soothing break during the winter or simply a relaxing, regenerating experience to overcome jetlag. Even one hour in a spa can help you reconnect your senses. Your creativity will flourish, and the world will seem brighter. If the atmosphere is appropriate and the staff expert in applying the skills of the antique rituals, the experience will be unforgettable.

We will visit some of the most prestigious spas that have sagely blended comfort, elegance and quality of services with new concepts, settings and interior design. Often, these have been conceived and developed by world-renowned designers and planners. Unique architectural design always helps to amplify the physical and mental sensations conjured up by some of the world’s best spas.

SAHRA SPA & HAMMAM, LAS VEGAS

The Sahra Spa & Hammam at The Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas gives the impression of going into the gorge of a canyon, as you make your way between breathtakingly high walls made of slabs of sandstone with reddish streaks.

Along the hallways you feel as if you're being drawn in a desert, with its unexpected beauty and the illusion of space and time, a sensation that contrasts with the glorious madness of Las Vegas. The stone walls absorb all the sounds, and you find yourself catapulted away from the city, immersed in a relaxing silence.

Further down, the shimmering light reflected by the water falling slowly from the ceiling recalls a light rain in a deep cave. This is the door to the wellness area. Here you may receive various treatments whose health-giving properties derive from the curative plants and minerals found in the rich desert soil. This experience is by itself worth the trip.

The treatment lasts approximately 150 minutes and can be done alone or in groups of two or four people, in a generously proportioned ritual space dedicated to the hammam. After relaxation on a heated, monolithic, marble block, there follows a series of massages, scrubs, clay masks and seal with honey applications. The ritual culminates in a surreal sailing in fluffy clouds of suds, skillfully generated by personal assistants with the aid of an air-filled cotton sack.

Your body will be gently rinsed with water, rhythmically falling from a brass bowl, typical of the traditional Ottoman style.

A Turkish bath, shower, relaxation in a lounge and a salutary herbal tea concludes the treatment in the meditation area.

The Gentleman Soak program is the treatment reserved to men: a combination of essential oils, a vigorous salt scrub and a soak to loosen tight muscles, completed with a massage with a revitalising gel will definitely release all stress and fatigue.

www.cosmopolitanlasvegas.com

A serene escape from the bright lights of Las Vegas.



SHISEIDO SPA EXCELSIOR GALLIA, MILAN

In Milan, the European capital of style and design, you will find the Shiseido Spa Excelsior Gallia. Every detail talks of elegance, honouring the refinement and design of the finest Scuola Milanese.

Arranged over two floors in the very heart of Milan, Shiseido is the best that Italy offers, having won three prestigious awards received at the 2016 World Luxury Spa Awards: the Luxury Emerging Spa, the Luxury Fitness Spa and the Luxury Urban Escape.

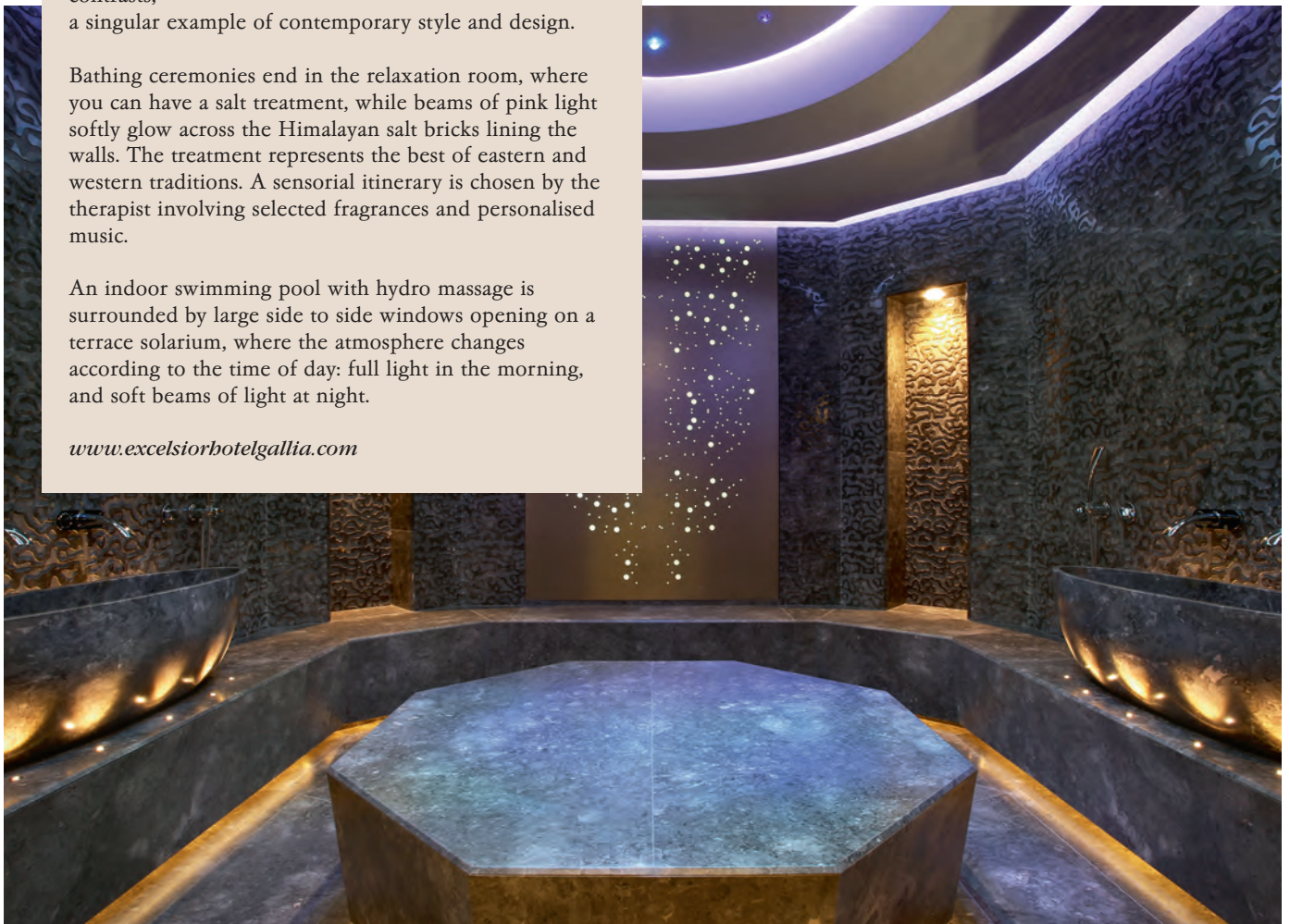
The hammam offers a perfect harmony of atmosphere and geometry. Its proportions reflect the ancient concepts of spatial distribution of traditional Turkish baths, revisited with good taste and discreet luxury.

The slate surfaces of black stone display sophisticated laser-engraved patterns inspired by oriental arts, creating a unique effect of tactile and chromatic contrasts, a singular example of contemporary style and design.

Bathing ceremonies end in the relaxation room, where you can have a salt treatment, while beams of pink light softly glow across the Himalayan salt bricks lining the walls. The treatment represents the best of eastern and western traditions. A sensorial itinerary is chosen by the therapist involving selected fragrances and personalised music.

An indoor swimming pool with hydro massage is surrounded by large side to side windows opening on a terrace solarium, where the atmosphere changes according to the time of day: full light in the morning, and soft beams of light at night.

www.excelsiorhotelgallia.com





COMO SHAMBHALA, BALI

Bali's Como Shambhala spa is based on ethical concepts which are followed by all of the brand's 14 resorts spread in four continents. At the spa, the philosophy is about care for the person for a healthy life. A sojourn at the Como Shambhala Estate in Bali aims to be a real retreat for lifestyle change, using the best of oriental and western techniques in more than 20 different treatments.

A team of 18 resident experts provide a holistic, individual approach to regenerating treatments, varying from yoga to massages, to activities where you can connect with nature, such as hiking and climbing. The core of the programme is the cuisine – according to Como, there cannot be any wellness without foods that are appropriate for physical and emotional metabolism.

A resident nutritionist and an ayurvedic physician assist you in creating an individual diet programme, based on well-balanced and pure nutritional elements of fresh biological foods. The rituals, which use fragrances, oils, yoghurt, and Javanese Royal Lulur Bath flowers, are unmissable. These recall the ancient tradition of the Royal Palace of Java.

Como has its own line of cosmetics, based on the restorative value of essences and fragrances that once used, become part of one's lifestyle.

www.comohotels.com/comosambhalaestate



ABOVE Traditional Balinese treatments are on offer at Como.
LEFT Milan boasts a stunning spa as well as being a global fashion capital.

7132 THERME, VALS, SWITZERLAND

Visiting the 7132 Therme in Vals, Switzerland, is like travelling in time, while time stands still. The hotel and the spa offers a sensational sensory experience of contrasts – warm and cold, light and dark, silence and sounds, materials and evanescence, indoor and outdoor... It becomes a trip within a trip.

The construction is barely visible from the outside, nestled as it is in the hillside and with a grass-covered roof. The various shapes and textures of the grey-green quartzite slates create outstanding chromatic effects along the walls and pavements, a discreet presence in perfect harmony with the mountains and alpine landscape.

Thermal baths gather the mineral-rich waters that flow at a temperature of 30°C in the Vals Valley. The natural stone, along with the pleasing temperature of the waters (the indoor pool is 32°C, while the outdoor pool ranges from 30°C to 36°C) and the surprising light effects that change continuously during the day help create the mystic atmosphere that surrounds the 7132 Therme.

Ayurvedic treatments, lomi lomi massage, oriental massage, blossom baths, the sound grotto, cold and hot water pools, steam baths and mineral-rich water springs are among the marvellous things you can find here. The stone building is the first in Switzerland to receive protection as a listed monument, which happened shortly after its construction. 7132 Therme is a favourite destination for experiential visits by architects from around the world. Peter Zumthor, the architect of the received the Pritzker Prize and the Royal Gold Medal for this project, two of the most important awards for architecture worldwide.

www.7132.com



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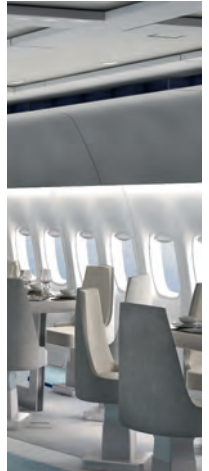




CRUISE BY AIR

If a cruise by sea doesn't appeal, there is now the option of a cruise by air, an opportunity to take in multiple prestigious destinations in one luxurious journey. Crystal has reinvented opulent air travel with aircraft that holds 48 guests. The seats are designed for maximum personal space, converting to flat beds and the lounge includes a stand-up bar and table seating. Peninsula Hotels is the accommodation partner and the first air cruise travelled from New York to Paris with 10-city stops en route.

www.crystalcruises.com



Firenze flair

Via della Piazzuola is just a few kilometres north of the cultural heart of historic Florence. It is here that you will be able to stay at Leeu Collection's latest property, a luxury hotel in what was the former Collegio Alla Querce. The hotel is scheduled to open in 2021 and the redevelopment promises to be worth the wait with spectacular views, an unrivalled food and wine experience, art collections, glorious gardens and a restoration that will honour the building's past lives as a boarding school and hotel. Florence has long attracted discerning visitors with such cultural icons on offer as the Uffizi Gallery and spectacular Renaissance architecture.

www.leeucollection.com



REMOTE ROMANCE



In beautiful Bhutan, Como Hotels presents Como Uma Punakha, a remote yet fabulous retreat with just nine hillside Valley View rooms and two freestanding luxury villas. The restaurant serves divine international and local cuisine and the spa offers traditional holistic therapies. Meanwhile, the more adventurous guests can enjoy white water rafting, mountain biking and helicopter adventures.


www.comohotels.com



Belle of Belize

Known for tropical rainforests, pristine mountain views, Mayan ruins, and sugar-sand beaches, Belize, located on the eastern coast of Central America, is a stunning spot for those who want to truly escape with their beloved. The Matachica Resort introduces, to coincide with Valentines Day, signature romantic tours with options such as snorkelling and swimming in crystal clear water, and champagne dinners by sunset on the beach. Located on a secluded reef, this resort is perfect for lovers. A romantic getaway to the Matachica Resort is a brilliant introduction to this seductive land of low-lying islands.

www.matachica.com



It will be drinks all round at OZEN by Atmosphere at Maadhoo, a stunning corner of the Maldives. The Over-Water Suite comes complete with a 24-hour private bar. And what better place to raise a glass than from a suite surrounded by panoramic views of the expansive turquoise lagoon. The bar is well-stocked with excellent wines, spirits and champagne and naturally there is a butler on hand to cater to one's every whim. Cheers!

www.ozen-maadboo.com

WATERING HOLE

BUBBLES RISING IN AFRICA

Growing markets in Nigeria and South Africa are showing great promise for iconic champagne label, Veuve Clicquot.

WORDS BY MATT POMROY

Annual global champagne shipments out of France are worth more than \$5 billion, but sales have remained virtually static in the last few years in all but a few regions. Veuve Clicquot's president and chief executive Jean-Marc Gallot has noted, however, that while Brazil is bucking the trend to set strong growth at present, it is Africa that holds the key in the longer term.

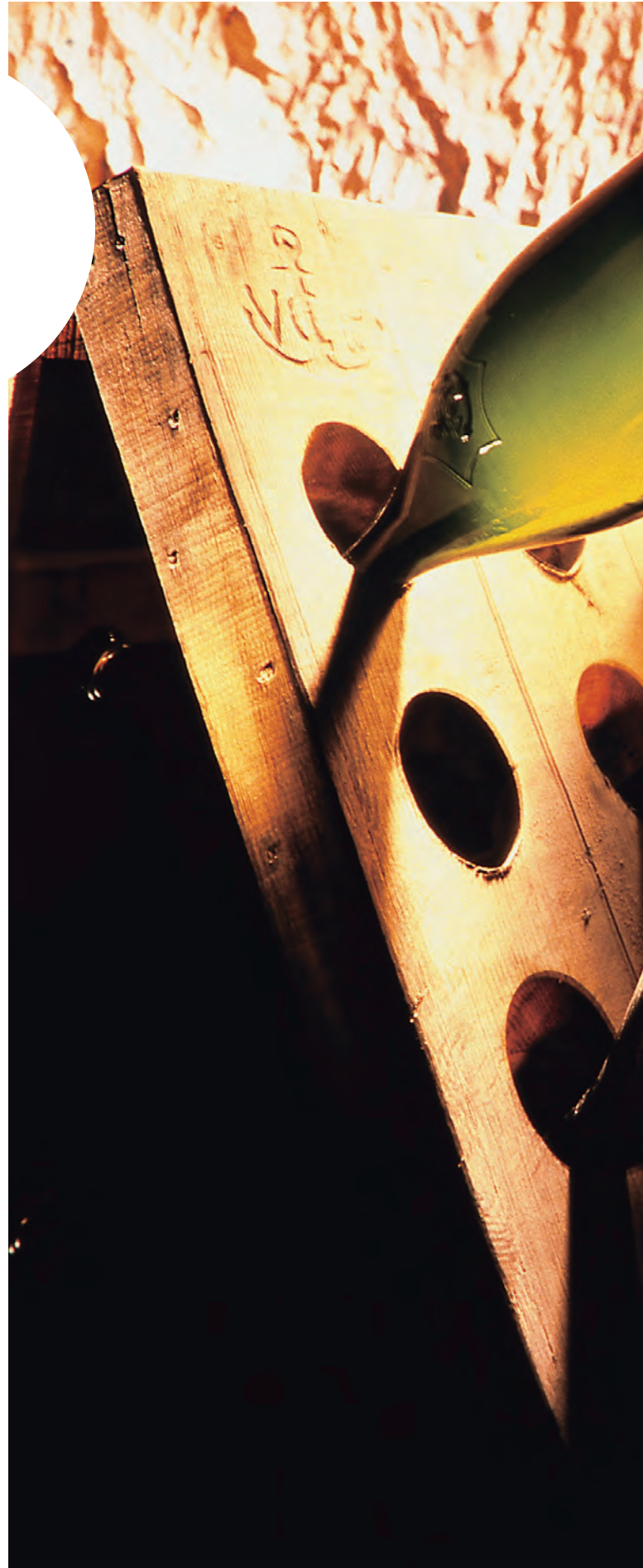
Nigeria, followed by South Africa, is currently the biggest importer of champagne in the continent. But more significantly, figures from research company Euromonitor found that Nigeria has one of the fastest growing rates of new champagne consumption in the world. With Africa as the new frontier for luxury goods, champagne is playing a big part in that rise as the desire for signifiers of wealth and pleasure increases.

The first thing you need to know is that champagne is only actually champagne if it comes from the champagne region in France – if it comes from anywhere else then it's merely sparkling wine.

Of course, some sparkling wines are excellent but for the genuine thing, you have to go to the little region in France where it all started. And Maison Veuve Clicquot has not only been making champagne there since 1772, it was one of the revolutionary maisons in the entire industry.

Founded by Philippe Clicquot, who was born into a family of textile traders and vineyard owners, his ambition was to “cross borders” and take their wine to a bigger market. Not only did they achieve this with exports around the continent, but they are also credited with establishing Champagne as the preferred >

Veuve Clicquot has a long and proud history dating back to 1772.





drink of the upper-middle class and nobility throughout Europe.

As the company grew, Philippe's son Françoise took over, but in 1805 he died aged just 27. His widow, Barbe-Nicole Ponsardin insisted that she carry on his work and became not only the first woman to run a champagne house, but one of the first women anywhere to run such a large and male-dominated company. In fact, *Veuve* means widow in French, but rather than a sombre, black-veiled moniker it would become a celebration of the incredible woman who led the company.

Over time, she proved her entrepreneurial genius and charm, leading the company to become one of the most celebrated luxury brands, and elevating herself to the upper levels of society.

Ambitious and forward-thinking, she led the company during difficult times. Europe was at war and the naval blockade of trade routes severely hampered trade.

Sales had dropped from 60,000 to 10,000 bottles a year but by circumnavigating blockades she succeeded, in 1814, in shipping the wines from her famous 1811 harvest to St. Petersburg. She was first in and the Russians loved it.

During the war, she would give bottles of champagne to the soldiers and while riding on horseback they would open the bottles with their sword. *Sabrage* – the art of opening a bottle of champagne with a short sword – comes from this and goes on today, more as a way of showing off than anything else, but if you're a champagne drinker then showing off is probably right in your wheelhouse. The sword takes the top of the bottle off at the neck, rather than removing the

cork, and the pressure of the champagne flying up ensures that no bits of glass fall into the bottle. It's a decadent way to open a bottle and perfectly fits in with the celebratory nature of the drink.

In a matter of years, Madame Clicquot became known as the "Grande dame of Champagne" among the industry. *Verve* was a wild success. When she died in July 1866, sales had reached 750,000 bottles a year.

The techniques used then remain the same now, but the brand has begun targeting millennials with its first digital advertising campaign comprising three short films and drawing from inspirational former owner, Madame Clicquot. In addition, the launch of *Rich Reserve* is a clear move towards a different drinker, with a champagne that is sweeter and designed to be used in cocktails.

It's a product that endures, both in reputation and the upholding of the traditional methods and in longevity of the finished wines.

In July 2010, a shipwreck was discovered of a schooner that had sunk in the mid-19th century, 50 metres down in the waters surrounding the Åland islands, near to Finland. The ship was believed to be heading towards Russia or Finland, which were both big markets for *Veuve Clicquot* champagne at the time.

Divers recovered 47 bottles of *Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin* from the wreck, laying undisturbed for over 150 years. In the dark stillness of the sea bed, away from light and in ideal low temperatures of the Baltic Sea, 60 percent of the bottles were perfectly preserved. Some of the bottles were put up for auction and in 2011 >





PICK OF THE VINES

Veuve Clicquot, Brut: Adorned with the famous yellow label, this non-vintage Champagne is the brand's flagship wine. A blend of around 50 cru village and reserve wines from different vintages it's a classic Champagne with a yeasty bouquet.

La Grand Dame: Released in 1972 to celebrate the bicentennial year, Veuve Clicquot launched its first La Grande Dame, a prestige cuvee named in tribute to Madame Clicquot, it's a blend of eight historical grand crus.

Rich Reserve: Veuve Clicquot introduced a new sweeter cuvée to the market, the Rich Reserve, created to be paired with gourmet food and used in cocktails. Wines that were blended for greater sweetness were customarily described as "rich".



a bottle of Veuve Clicquot from the shipwreck went for a record-breaking \$37,000.

Acquired in 1986 by the French conglomerate LVMH, Veuve Clicquot's vineyard has grown to one of the most extensive in the Champagne region and the house produces over 10 million bottles per year, with an annual turnover of more than a billion Euros.

It's a vast empire that, with new directions such as the Rich Reserve, is adapting to millennial tastes, but still continues to uphold centuries-old values. Events like the Veuve Clicquot Masters Polo Cape Town continue its association with the upper classes and nobility as the expansion that Philippe Clicquot wanted and his idea of "crossing borders" goes on, with Africa increasingly becoming the new frontier of what Veuve has to offer. ❖

LEFT AND BELOW The Veuve Clicquot Masters Polo is a glamorous event which attracts a gorgeous crowd in Cape Town each year.



2017 Veuve Clicquot Masters Polo

Held in Cape Town on 4 March, the 2017 Veuve Clicquot Masters Polo promises to be a glamorous event and this year's tournament has a decidedly global theme.

"Clicquot Journey" is the theme and guests will be able to sample food inspired by the amazing cities where Veuve Clicquot's iconic Yellow label champagne can be found, including Los Angeles, Tokyo, Paris, London and Cape Town. Val de Vie estate will be transformed with the globe-trotting theme at the event's seventh incarnation. Socialites and the crème de la crème of African influencers will descend on South Africa's most prestigious polo estate for the occasion.

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Fabric of SOCIETY

Nigerian artist Victoria Udonian's thought-provoking fabric pieces have won her acclaim on an international scale.

WORDS BY JENNYFER IDEH

Victoria Udonian weaves a narrative as deftly as she does two pieces of fabric. The Nigerian visual artist combines textiles, repurposed materials, and her singular brand of humour to explore themes such as post-colonial identity and globalisation – and in the process she creates powerful stories to entertain and inspire.

Hailing from Akwa Ibom State in Nigeria, Udonian received a BA in Painting at the University of Uyo and completed her MFA at

Massachusetts. Each stop has helped to shape the artist's practice, and the ways in which she views herself – a Nigerian artist producing in a thoroughly international context.

Udonian trained as a fashion designer before studying fine art, and the manipulation of fabric remains dominant throughout her work.

The artist describes her recurring interest: "Some of the fabrics that we associate with



Columbia University last year. A series of residency programmes have taken her to Venice, Italy, Winterthur in Switzerland, Johannesburg and most recently Provincetown,

Africa – through our clothing, for example – have been imported. They are shipped in from the West, and China is also producing a lot for Africa. We absorb all of these imports >

ABOVE AND LEFT Victoria Udonian's works are challenging, entertaining and inspiring.

➤ and construct some sort of identity through our dress sense.”

We take a look at two important works by Victoria Udondian where textiles, identity and global trade systems intersect.

Aso Ikele (1948) is a monumental wallhanging measuring 285 by 290 feet. The title of the work signifies ‘cloth that protects the home’ in the Yoruba language, and consists of numerous swatches of fabric, painstakingly woven together.

The sheer size and intricacy of the work inspires comfort: a sophisticated patchwork quilt that draws spectators in and sparks a desire to discover the stories behind each layer. Udondian plays with this impulse, revealing unexpected histories and creating her own myths to accompany the work.

While the production process references traditional African craftsmanship, a large proportion of the fabrics come from England — they are archival textiles, industrially produced in Manchester during the Victorian era for export to Africa. These Western fabrics are combined with West African burlap for a truly hybridised work of art.

Aso Ikele (1948) was exhibited at the Whitworth Art Gallery, part of the University of Manchester, on the occasion of the city-wide exhibition *We Face Forward* in 2012.

The Centre for Contemporary Art in Lagos celebrated 50 years of Nigerian independence with a group exhibition at their Yaba art space.

Artists were invited to engage the theme of independence and produce an artwork in green — the national colour. *Green Badagry* was Udondian’s contribution.

A tidal wave of textiles, *Green Badagry* referenced the influx of second-hand clothes from Europe to Nigeria and other African nations, and explored the lasting effects on the local fashion and textile industries. For Udondian, this mass importation led to the dwindling of local industry — and her sea of green casts a satirical eye upon this aspect of independence.

Green Badagry was revisited in 2013 with a project carried out at Badagry market itself. It is one of the largest second-hand markets in Lagos, and market goers regularly hand their purchases over to the many tailors who station themselves there, earning a living making on-the-spot alterations.

Udondian works through this process, acquiring clothing and engaging a group of tailors to stitch them together into art. The resulting works were installed at various locations within the market.

The artist remembers, “It was interesting because the people in the market didn’t quite understand what we were doing. We had video cameras to document the process so some thought we were shooting a film for Nollywood... Some thought that we were from the government and were afraid we were coming to screw up their business. Others explained that they had to sell



Nigerian national colour.



second-hand clothes to survive. But all in all we had a lot of support from the market people.”

When Green Badagry was exhibited again in a gallery setting, Udondian brought the market with her. “I collected sounds from the market and played them with the installation as part of the piece. You would enter the piece and hear all the random noises, people screaming, advertising their second-hand products. I think we had good responses to that when people came to the exhibition.”

Udondian will return to Lagos this Spring to complete a residency at Art House Contemporary. This is one exciting artist to watch as her career develops, in Nigeria and abroad. ❖

Jennyfer Ideh founded London-based Curus Art Consultancy. www.curus.co.uk



Circle of LIFE

Ghana-based Kafaroff Jewellery is 100 per cent African. *Elite Living Africa* speaks with the founder, Ramazan Kafarov.

WORDS BY ROMAN ZINCENKO

ELA: Ramazan, your brand Kafaroff Jewellery is the new bright name in the world of jewellery. What is so unique about your approach?

RK: Our uniqueness is that we were able to close the cycle – we have been manufacturing jewellery in Ghana, but it is only one of the chain links in the group of our companies. The complete cycle is as follows: at first stage we prospect precious minerals, then we mine them, after that we refine those precious minerals, then manufacture jewellery and sell it to consumers.

This integrated approach allows us to achieve the highest quality of our final product with the ability to provide adequate prices for our products to our clients .

ELA: We have heard about your work with diamond cutting. Can you tell our readers more about your plans in this area?

We have launched a new centre for diamond cutting in Ghana. In fact, it is a complex jewellery manufacturing facility with living quarters for the company's customers with an unprecedented level of security. Our clients, who want to cut diamonds on its modern equipment, have the opportunity to stay in the territory of the enterprise in the luxury apartment in a unique natural area located in Aburi, a suburb of Accra. In our center, we have gathered local and foreign experts to combine the leading experience from



ABOVE Ramazan Kafarov has built a unique business.

around the world by providing it with the comfortable conditions for diamond cutting and jewellery manufacturing for our precious customers.

ELA: What modern technological solutions do you use at the manufacturing of your products in Ghana?

RK: We use Italian equipment for the precious metals refining and the world's leading examples of cutting and polishing equipment. We pay a lot of attention to each of our customers to offer the best solution tailor-made according to their needs.

ELA: Could you tell us more about the complex that you have built in Aburi? It sounds very impressive.

RK: We had to do a lot of work to turn it into a truly unique place. This is an eight-storey complex with light industrial and residential premises. Manufacturing is located on the lower floors of the building, the comfortable apartments with terraces are on the upper floors of the building, they offer a stunning view of Accra. At the premises, we are engaged in jewellery manufacturing, gold refining and diamond cutting. We use the production facilities both for the needs of our company Kafaroff Jewellery and for other businesses involved in the processing of precious minerals and jewellery. ❖



Kafaroff O.R.

JEWELLERY



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HISTORY CLASS

Miami Beach Golf Club and Normandy Shores Golf Club have long histories and the courses offer fine rewards for keen players.

WORDS BY MARTIN CLARK



Miami has long been a favourite destination for sun-loving golf enthusiasts. Miami Beach Golf Club and Normandy Shores Golf Club are two destinations with a strong sense of history as well as offering challenges and rewards for those who step onto their time-honoured greens.

Miami Beach Golf Club

Miami Beach Golf Club's history dates back to 1923, when it was known as Bayshore Golf Course. Carl Fisher, a pioneering developer of Miami, was responsible for the Alton Beach sub-division, an ambitious project designed to draw in wealthy people who wanted to spend their winters in the Floridian warmth, away from the chillier climes of cities such as New York, Indianapolis and Detroit.

The club's most recent transformation was guided by the City of Miami Beach using Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest and Associates. Arthur Hills is one of America's leading golf course designers, having been the driving force behind more than 160 courses across the country as well as being hired to refine or restore more than 100 courses, including PGA and USPGA courses. His speciality is creating courses that are enjoyable for golfers of all skill levels.

Before the redevelopment, the old Bayshore Club was looking tired and was underused. Now it has emerged as an elegant and popular club with expansive greens, city skyline views and the city's famous beach only a stone's throw away.

Over the course of the 20th century, the site that is now Miami Beach Golf Course had an interesting history. After opening in 1923, it was one of three courses that become popular with tourists. During WWII, the US Army rented the course for just \$1 per year as a training ground. Immaculately clad golfers were replaced by fatigue-wearing soldiers carrying rifles. Smoke grenades added a rather different ambience to that created by sea breezes and warm weather.

Controversy erupted in 1944 when Chicago investors tried to buy the course as a site for 650 luxury homes but angry neighbours convinced the City of Miami Beach to condemn the site, buy up the land and keep the golf course.

In 1954, Fisher's original Mediterranean-style clubhouse was replaced by a new one. Forty-eight years on, the course had its latest makeover at a cost of \$10 million. All grass and trees were replaced, lakes drained and restored, new irrigation was out in place and bunkers were bulldozed then resculpted. The club's third new clubhouse was also built.

The course starts with a demanding par 5, while the second hole is dominated by a large water hazard. Challenging hole 3 is a rolling green, straddles two water hazards and is dominated by wind. A well-positioned tee shot will make the more relaxed hole 4 less demanding, while the fifth is considered an easy hole with only a small water hazard standing between the player and frustration. Hole 6 also offers respite from water and wind as the shortest hole on the course, a gentle par 3.

Hole 7 is a slender hole but more challenging than it looks. It is essential that the tee shot misses the multiple bunkers for this one to be a realistic prospect. A tricky par 4 awaits on the eighth with a large bunker on the right-hand side. Once you've landed the tee shot on the left of the fairway, the second shot needs to clear the water. Hole 9 is an uphill narrow green where going short is recommended by the pros. The tenth is described the course pros as the first hole's older brother - a >

The city of Miami offers an iconic backdrop to two very special, history-laden golf courses.



winding par five dotted with bunkers and three water hazards and finishing with a small, elevated green. Hole 11 is a demanding par four that is best navigated by avoiding the out of bounds to the right. A picturesque par 5 is the reward at the twelfth, as long as the 100-yard sand waste area is avoided with careful shots.

The thirteenth hole will be lucky for some if the two water hazards are studiously avoided, while hole 14 is demanding and long. As well as three water hazards, this hole is bedevilled by South Florida breezes.

Hole 15 is not quite the signature hole, but it is the one considered by the pros as the course's best par 5. A long uphill hole, it is surrounded by natural wetlands and bunkers, making it beautiful as well as challenging. It is best to place the tee shot left of centre for a full view to the remaining yardage. Birdies are hard to come by on this one.

Visibility is great on hole 16 with golfers able to see the whole picture as they tee off. It overlooks one of the course's largest lakes and makes for a brilliant par 4 hole for the long hitter.

The signature hole is at number 17, a demanding par three at which many a player has come to grief. It has five teeing areas to suit a range of conditions with a tee shot over water into a sloping green surrounded by a horseshoe bunker.

Finally, the game is rounded off with a straightforward par 4 that allows for aggressive play and a good number to end the day.

Normandy Shores Golf Club

Normandy Shores Golf Club boasts a rich and colourful history – the US Army used to train here during the Second World War – as well as being both a pretty and testing course.

Located in the serene residential community of Normandy Isle, just off 71st Street on the northern end of Miami Beach, it's easy to reach and occupies a truly fabulous position.

On a secluded island in Biscayne Bay, its soothing breezes and tropical wildlife provide the backdrop for an enjoyable round of golf for the novice or the pro at this beautifully renovated hidden jewel.

Although all the facilities are first class, the golf course, designed by one of America's foremost golf course architects, Arthur Hills, is well worth the visit on its own.

Hills is now personally responsible for many of the country's finest courses, having designed over 160 throughout the USA alone, and is renowned for making them playable and enjoyable for golfers of all skill levels, a feat he has without question achieve in Miami.

As it happens, Hills is only the most recent designer to make their mark on the golf course here, with Normandy Shores Golf Club's proud and sometimes chequered history dating back the best part of a century.

The origins of the club date back almost 90 years when the land for the golf course was donated to the City of Miami Beach back in 1928.





From that point officials worked hard to dredge the land to create the manmade island for the golf course, employing Howard Toomy and William S. Flynn in 1937 as the original golf course architects. By 1939, the city's dredging efforts had paid off and created Normandy Shores Isle.

Two years later, by 1941, the golf course and clubhouse were be completed and opened to the public. That same year, however, the USA entered World War Two following the Japanese bombing o Pearl Harbor. Thus, most of Miami Beach was transformed into a giant training camp for the armed forces with 85 per cent of the hotel rooms in the area leased by the military to serve as barracks.

Fortunately, it was to be a short-lived period and, after the war, the years of the post-war boom were to be Normandy Shores Golf Club's heyday and, in 1956, the City of Miami Beach hired another expert, Mark Manahah, to redesign the course to propel it forward.

After the renovation, Normandy Shores became a hot spot for both the famous and sometimes the infamous. Legendary professionals like Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer, and Peter Thompson were just few of the names that played at Normandy Shores on a regular basis. Some of the other regulars to grace the same course went by names such as Stork, Charlie the Blade and Three-Iron Ward.

In that time, Normandy Shores Golf Club has gone on to establish itself as a famous spot for all levels of golfer, including the hosting of a number of

important tournaments, where it continues to make progress in establishing its name.

For the last 50 years the golf course has been maintained by the City and because of the easy access of the 79th street causeway, it became the perfect spot for Miami Beach, Miami, North Miami and Miami Shores golfers to enjoy a round.

And it was in 2008 that the City spent a further \$9 million to renovate the now spectacular Normandy Shores Golf Club, after sitting fallow for four years, bringing in Arthur Hills to bring back the club's glory days.

Leading golfers have happily followed. In 2011, the Inaugural South Beach International Amateur (SBIA) was held at Normandy Shores and Miami Beach Golf Clubs, becoming the highest ranked inaugural amateur tournament since rankings were first introduced.

A year later, the SBIA became a 'major' worldwide amateur event, with a top 25 ranking, and by 2014, it became the 14th ranked field in the world. In 2015, it moved up two spots to number 12 in the world, further continue an upward trajectory.

It's not just for top amateurs though and even high handicappers will enjoy the facilities here.

The course itself is in great shape, well maintained and the fairways are beautiful, with well kept, pacy greens. Except for a couple of more challenging holes, the course is not overly taxing, which makes it suitable for all levels. ❖

ABOVE AND LEFT The Miami Beach Golf Course offers sweeping city views as well as magnificent greens for players of all skill levels.

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HOUGHTON UPPER, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

\$8.25m

Chas Everitt International Property Group

The magnificent four-level Gatsby Mansion, which provides spectacular views over the City of Gold, was created by the Pellerade Design

Group and took more than six years to complete. The Palladian architecture evokes the glamour of the Belle Epoque and the formal terraced gardens are based on the Peterhof Palace. Infused with contemporary finishes, it boasts the latest home automation, security and surveillance technologies and environmentally efficient features. Recently featured on *Top Billing*, it has eight en suite bedrooms and several lavish living and dining rooms as well as a private nightclub, a spa, a library, a gymnasium, boardroom/conference facilities and indoor and outdoor pools.

- 2 pools.
- 8 Bedrooms
- 11 Bathrooms
- 24-hour security
- Private nightclub
- Spa
- Gymnasium





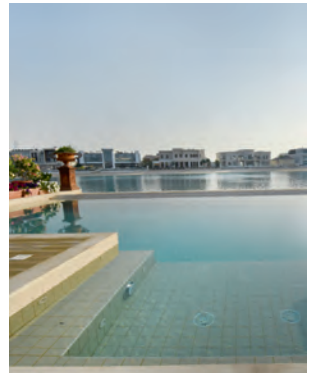
SANDHURST, SANDTON, SOUTH AFRICA

\$6m
Sotheby's

This brand new modern contemporary triplex is breathtaking in its sheer artistry and design with spectacular 360° views over Sandton's skyline. A synthesis of clean lines, quadruple volumes and stunning proportions created in glass, steel and stone. The property is enveloped by a natural haven of beauty. The house is designed with five free flowing reception areas ensuring a harmonious indoor/outdoor flow ideal for grand entertaining and comfortable living centred around the elevated rim flow pool, patio and awe-inspiring views.

- 5 Bedrooms
- 5 Reception rooms
- Private study
- Parking
- Swimming pool
- Patio

www.knightfrank.com



PALM JUMEIRAH, DUBAI

\$17.6m
KnightFrank

Masterfully designed with contemporary style and a touch of sophistication, this beachfront house on the Palm Island is surrounded by breathtaking sea views with an impressive outdoor patio and swimming pool. With a highly sought-after location on the Palm Jumeirah, this brand new seven bedroom villa combines contemporary architecture with chic design. Set on a 16,500 sq ft plot, the villa's ground floor flows elegantly with an open-plan living layout. The floor-to-ceiling Swiss glass windows and doors throughout the home flood the property with natural light and offer expansive beach views and lead you to the impressive outdoor deck which includes an infinity swimming pool and landscaped gardens.



www.luxhabitat.ae

CARAT CLUB VILLA PALM JUMEIRAH, DUBAI

POA
LUXHABITAT

These beachfront villas (above) offer pleasant views of Palm Jumeirah and the best of luxury lifestyle in the heart of Dubai. XXII Carat of Club Villas, an exquisite property development consisting of 22 Mediterranean-style luxury villas, is an ambitious project aimed at giving limited families and individuals the choice of ultra-exclusivity. Each villa boasts of seven en suite bedrooms, complete privacy, calm surroundings and security for the residents, children and visitors. It also offers unparalleled access to a wide array of elegant facilities, such as beachfront bars, gourmet dining and spas. All the villas are built with uncompromising quality foremost, including high-specification European-style finishings created by established French and Italian designers.

- 7 bedrooms
- 8 Bathrooms
- 3 terraces
- Swimming pool
- Concierge service
- Valet parking



- 7 Bedrooms
- 8 Bathrooms
- 3 Reception rooms
- Spa
- 24-hour security
- Swimming pool

www.savills.com



CANNON LANE, HAMPSTEAD, LONDON

\$28m
Savills

This spectacular, contemporary design by world renowned architect, Claudio Silvestrin, is situated in one of Hampstead's most sought after locations. The newly built property occupies an elevated site commanding superb views of the London skyline from the upper windows. Befitting a house of the 21st century while fusing a stunning interior with sustainable materials, this magnificent home pays due regard to its impact on the environment and takes advantage of its inclined site affording high degrees of privacy from the street and copious amounts of light into the sublime interior. A combination of wonderful outside spaces incorporating traditional balconies, extensive terracing and a lawned garden, make this house a home for all seasons and worthy of close inspection.

www.knightfrank.co.uk



- 6 Bedrooms
- 6 Bathrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Mews
- Patio/Terrace
- Swimming Pool



- 6 bedrooms
- 4 bathrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- Swimming pool
- Gym
- Lift



BOURDON STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON

\$21m

KnightFrank

Located in Bourdon Street in the heart of the trendy lanes of Mayfair, this sleek and modern home is an urban haven. Behind the original facade, three adjacent houses have been joined together creating one spectacular, 53 ft wide, contemporary house with a swimming pool and parking. This beautifully interior designed property boasts voluminous entertaining space, luxurious bedroom suites and informal family areas. Finished to the highest standard, this house also has a whole floor dedicated to leisure facilities including a swimming pool, gym and a steam room.



THE OLD GARDEN, EAST TWICKENHAM, LONDON

\$55m

Savills

The Old Garden is a truly remarkable family home that nestles idyllically on the banks of a particularly scenic stretch of the River Thames, 10 miles up-river from central London. It was built in 2011 to an uncompromised level of build quality and specification by world-renowned architect Quinlan Terry. The house occupies three acres of stunning riverside gardens and beautifully encapsulates Terry's classic Palladian architectural style. Hand crafted and traditionally constructed from French Anstrude limestone, with bespoke hardwood windows and a traditional Welsh slate roof, all materials, reference and detail have been carefully considered to reflect the prestige of the residence.

- 8 Bedrooms
- 5 Reception Rooms
- Indoor and outdoor
- Tennis Court
- Gymnasium
- Study





CAMBRIDGE GATE, NW1

An exquisite apartment with views over Regent's Park

This 2nd floor apartment of some 3,630 sqft has been decorated with great care and attention to detail creating a truly luxurious home in the traditional style. The drawing room and the dining room open directly onto the library and are wonderful rooms for entertaining on a grand scale with five balconies overlooking Regent's Park.

Accommodation: Entrance hall, drawing room, dining room, library, master bedroom with ensuite bathroom, ensuite shower room and dressing room, guest bedroom with ensuite shower room, guest cloakroom, kitchen and utility room. **Amenities:** Passenger lift, 24-hour porter, communal heating and hot water, safe, five balconies, garage (one car), residents parking.



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