

ELITE LIVING AFRICA

200 YEARS OF HISTORY: CELEBRATING
WITH HENNESSY VSOP

BOLD COLOURS FROM FERRAGAMO
AND VERSACE

WORLD PREMIERES AT DUBAI
INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

OPULENT LEATHER ON THE
LATEST SMARTPHONES



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4
CONTENTS



20

WATCHES
The best of
Baselworld 2018



32

FASHION
Divine dresses
from Versace



42

MOTORING
Classics and new
models in Geneva



48

YACHTING
Dubai International
Boat Show



68

PROPERTY
Luxury homes in
South Africa

CONTENTS

8

CALENDAR
Dates for the diary

10

HIGH FLYER
Gary Formato
and Vernon François

14

CONNOISSEUR
Hennessy VSOP turns 200

16

BUY IT NOW
Essential indulgence

19

STYLE
Temi Otedola writes

26

JEWELLERY
Baselworld sparklers



30

FRAGRANCE
Luxury from Lalique

36

FASHION
Ferragamo accessories

40

TRENDING TECH
Stunning smartphones

54

LUXURY TRAVEL
Voyages to space and
Gulfstream jets

58

LUXURY ESCAPES
Idyllic destinations

64

ART
African art at auction



Gulfstream



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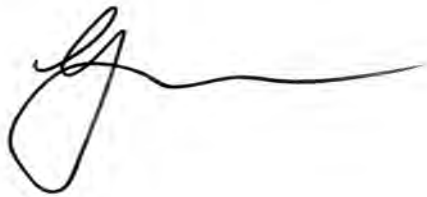
WELCOME

Cognac is one of life's pleasures and in this issue we celebrate it in fine style. *Elite Living Africa* travelled to Lagos to mark the occasion of 200 years of Hennessy VSOP. We were delighted to meet Maurice and Roch Hennessy, both of whom were proud to share the brand's heritage with us and offer their insider advice on how to best enjoy this premium spirit (page 14).

With the northern hemisphere summer almost upon us, not only is it the season for serving cognac on ice – it is also the perfect time to inject some colour into your wardrobe. In this issue, we feature bold looks from Versace (page 32) and sensationally eye-catching accessories from Salvatore Ferragamo (page 36).

The first quarter of 2018 has been a busy time for high-end shows. Turn to page 20 for the hottest trends in luxury timepieces from Baselworld, such as the hypnotic Histoire de Tourbillon 9 by Harry Winston. See page 26 for highlights from the Baselworld jewellery exhibition, including a cavalcade of coloured gemstones.

Elsewhere in this issue, we review the highlights of the Geneva Motor Show (page 42), where the latest luxury and performance cars rubbed highly polished shoulders with glorious classics. We also dropped in on the Dubai International Boat Show just in time for some spectacular global launches (page 48).



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ELITE DIARY DATES

As the northern hemisphere summer heats up, there will be tennis, motorsport and outdoor opera events in London and Monaco – and elsewhere there is art and fine wine to be enjoyed.

The scene in Senegal Dak'art 2018

The Biennale of Contemporary African Art, DAK'ART will be held from May 3 to June 2, 2018 in Dakar. The artistic director will again be Simon Njami, after his excellent work in 2016. Guest curators for this year's event will be Elvira Dyangani Ose, Marisol Rodriguez, Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung, Alya Sebti and Hou Hanru, with 75 artists from 33 countries represented.

www.biennaledakar.org



3 May-2 June

4-6 May



Africa in NYC 1-54 New York

Brooklyn is a hive of creativity in New York and more than 60 African artists will be on show at Pioneer Works this May. As well as the diverse exhibition, an extensive experiential programme is planned, with talks curated by Omar Berrada. More than 8,000 visitors are expected with 7,000 people VIP guests invited to the opening night.

www.1-54.com



Street circuit Monaco Grand Prix

The Monaco Grand Prix is the most glamorous of the Formula 1 events. It is famous for its stunning street circuit and, of course, the glittering parties which take place on land and on the yachts which descend on the principality each year for the champagne-drenched affair. It's a must-not miss for the beautiful people.

www.formula1.com



27 May



Open air opera La Traviata, Holland Park

London's picturesque Holland Park comes alive this summer with a series of outdoor opera performances. The season starts with La Traviata, Verdi's only opera on a contemporary subject. The tale of forbidden love in Paris scandalised the authorities when it premiered in 1853. The decadent and tragic story still resonates with audiences today.

www.operahollandpark.com



29 May-23 June



29 May

Cape cheers Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show 2018

The best wines from South Africa's Cape region will be put to the test again with more than 1,000 fine wines tasted, sniffed and inspected by a dedicated and rigorous panel of judges. After the judging, the wines will be taken on a roadshow across eight cities in South Africa where 2,500 wine enthusiasts will be able to sample the wines for themselves and see if they agree with the judge's verdict.

www.trophywineshow.za



Parklife polo Chestertons Polo in the Park

The British polo season means a full diary for players and spectators alike, and Chestertons Polo in the Park, held in London's Hurlingham Park, is a popular day out. Teams descend on the British capital from all over the world, hoping for fine weather, while spectators divide their time between watching the fast-format matches and socialising.

www.poloontheparklondon.com



8-10 June

Tennis, anyone? Wimbledon

Every summer, tennis lovers descend on London to see the world's best players vie for the most coveted trophy in the game. The traditions of all-white attire, court etiquette, eating strawberries and cream and quaffing Pimms are all maintained and 2018 will be no exception.

www.wimbledon.com



From
July 2

THE WHEEL DEAL

Racer, entrepreneur, TV presenter and co-creator of Global Touring Car championships, Gary Formato lives and breathes motorsport.

WORDS BY MARTIN CLARK

A racing driver turned race director, Gary Formato's passion for the sport he loves – and the cars out on the track – is palpable. Formato, 43, lives in Johannesburg and has two children, aged 11 and five – but after chatting to him for a few minutes, it's easy to see that his other 'family' is motorsport.

A competitive star of South Africa's touring car series years ago (winning titles three years on the trot from 1998 to 2000), he's now almost single handedly reviving the sport he loves back in his home country. The Sasol GTC series he helped create just three short years ago is now South Africa's premier motorsport championship. The third season got underway again at the end of March this year at the Kyalami Grand Prix circuit in Midrand amid much fanfare.

The GTC events are bringing in a whole new generation of racing fans.

"When we first introduced GTC, I think it's fair to say that professional motorsport in South Africa was at a pretty low ebb, but in a short space of time we've really managed to turn that around. We're quite proud of that," he says. "The cars are now, from a performance point of view, basically where we want them to be. They've got 500 horsepower engines so I think we're happy with the speed. We've also introduced a 'push to pass' functionality this year which means a lot more overtaking – so from a pure show point of view we're excited about that."

A connoisseur of cars, as you'd expect, his own favourite drive – apart from an Alfa Romeo QV

as his everyday runaround – is no surprise: "The Ferrari 458 V8 with its naturally aspirated engine was a hell of a car. We've done a couple of track days with that. I just love good sounding cars."

One of the downsides to his success putting together GTC, however, means there's little time left for competitive driving. Yet he still holds many happy memories from his time on the track. Winning the International Sports Car race in front of his home crowd at Kyalami against top teams from the United States and Europe stands out.

"To beat the best in the business in that type of racing at that time was fantastic," he said.

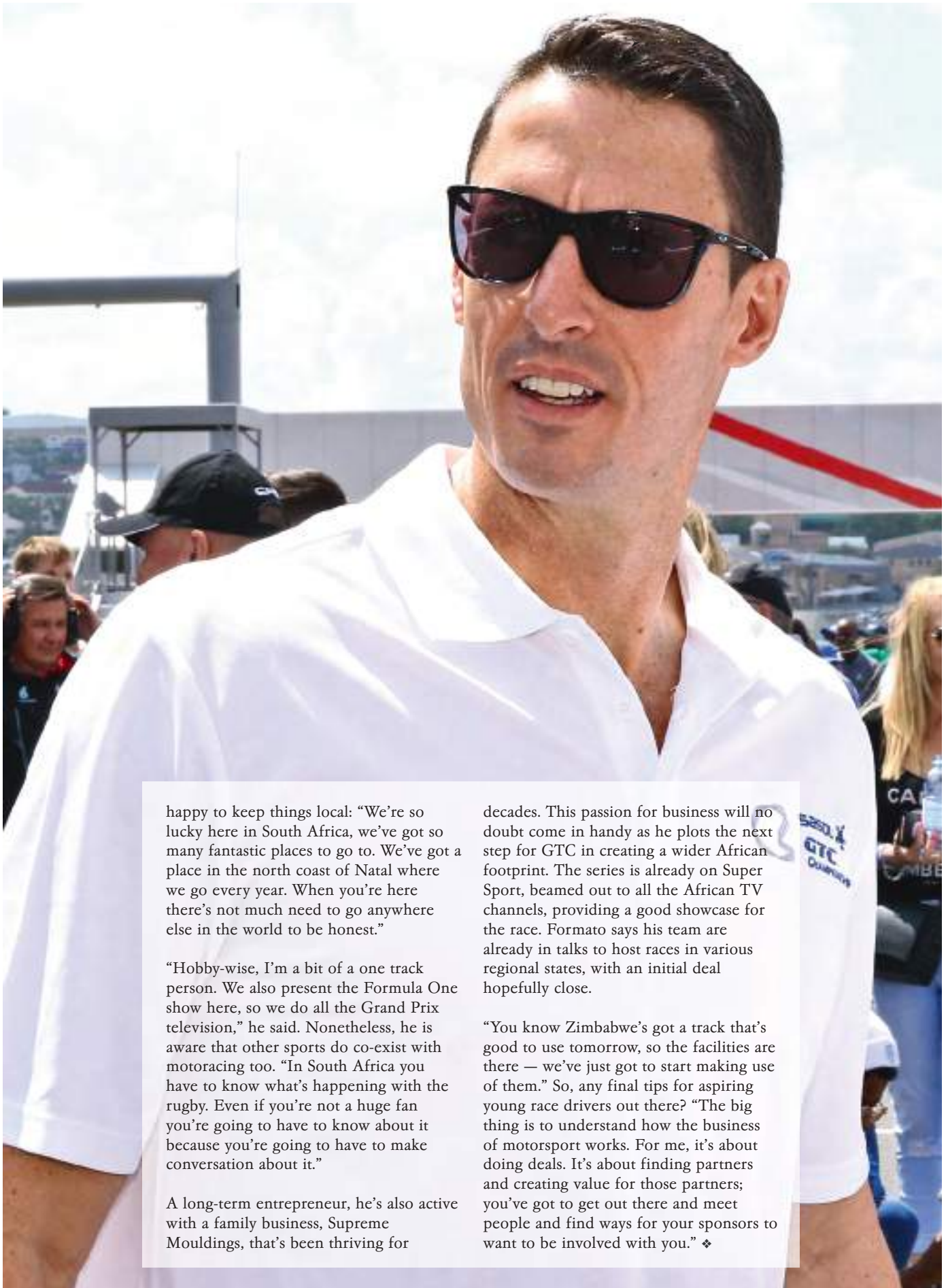
While he's not in the hot seat himself, he's still living and breathing the sport, helping other petrolheads come through the ranks through the championships.

"The intention now is to produce a platform where our young drivers can actually build a career in motorsport – and not just the drivers, but also technical people. So that's the focus."

Potentially, that includes his young son. "I'm hoping that my little boy is going to start taking an interest in motorsport too. He's turned five now, so maybe it's time to get him a kart, so we'll see. I started racing when I was eight years old – karting. Now they start when they're so young."

Formato still gets to travel the world visiting important events in Europe, Australia and the USA. It means when it comes to holidays, he's





happy to keep things local: “We’re so lucky here in South Africa, we’ve got so many fantastic places to go to. We’ve got a place in the north coast of Natal where we go every year. When you’re here there’s not much need to go anywhere else in the world to be honest.”

“Hobby-wise, I’m a bit of a one track person. We also present the Formula One show here, so we do all the Grand Prix television,” he said. Nonetheless, he is aware that other sports do co-exist with motoracing too. “In South Africa you have to know what’s happening with the rugby. Even if you’re not a huge fan you’re going to have to know about it because you’re going to have to make conversation about it.”

A long-term entrepreneur, he’s also active with a family business, Supreme Mouldings, that’s been thriving for

decades. This passion for business will no doubt come in handy as he plots the next step for GTC in creating a wider African footprint. The series is already on Super Sport, beamed out to all the African TV channels, providing a good showcase for the race. Formato says his team are already in talks to host races in various regional states, with an initial deal hopefully close.

“You know Zimbabwe’s got a track that’s good to use tomorrow, so the facilities are there — we’ve just got to start making use of them.” So, any final tips for aspiring young race drivers out there? “The big thing is to understand how the business of motorsport works. For me, it’s about doing deals. It’s about finding partners and creating value for those partners; you’ve got to get out there and meet people and find ways for your sponsors to want to be involved with you.” ♦

Pro secrets for ACHIEVING PERFECT HAIR

Celebrity hair stylist Vernon François has transformed the locks of A-list stars from Lupita Nyong'o to Ruth Negga. He shares his tips on how to achieve a salon professional look at home.

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

What inspired you to become a hairstylist and to go on to create the Vernon François haircare collection?

As a young child, aged just eight years old, my mother challenged me with doing my own hair in braids one day. I taught myself not only how to braid, but also how to loc and twist hair. I have always been completely passionate about working with textured hair. Not just creating with it, but also supporting people on their hair journey as they embrace their true texture. With over 15 years experience, I then knew it was time to create my collection in response to hearing my clients frustrations. It was very clear to me and my clients, that the range of choice available for all types of textured hair, in the high-end beauty space, had been too limited for too long.

The oils used in your hair products are ethically sourced from Africa. Do you believe this is something that sets your haircare products apart from others in the market?

What I believe is that we have carefully crafted these formulas to enhance each hair texture for their specific needs, which I'm very proud of. I always wanted to mix traditional ingredients with modern technology.

For the launch of Black Panther and the more recent Academy Awards you styled Lupita Nyong'o's hair, taking inspiration from Amasunzu hairstyles. What was that experience like for you?

Every time I have the opportunity to collaborate with any of my clients for a red-carpet event, I'm always bursting with excitement. The opportunity that we have to showcase the strength and versatility of the kinky, coily, hair textures never gets old.

Where else do you take inspiration from when it comes to styling your client's hair?

The dress, the occasion and most often how much time I have in order to create a beautiful and exciting final look.

What at-home hair tips can you give to our readers so they can maintain their locks in an easy and manageable way?

Instead of using heat or a traditional bath towel to dry hair after shampooing, patting and squeezing it dry with a 100 per cent cotton t-shirt, or even better a microfibre towel, is much kinder. It stresses the strands a lot less, reduces pulling and stretching, meaning less breakage. Curly hair will benefit from treating with a little oil. You can buy empty spray bottles from most pharmacies. I like to mix my own combinations of oils and water so that they are less heavy and more easily absorbed by the hair. Good ones to try are either one or a combination of black Jamaican, jojoba and Argan oil. Wearing a silk bonnet at night, or wrapping the hair with a silk scarf, instead of a cotton one helps to reduce friction and maintain moisture levels while you're sleeping. Your diet and lifestyle play a huge part when it comes to maintaining healthy hair. Good nutrition, a variety of vitamins and oils like omega 3, found in oily fish and seeds

like flaxseed, which you can find in health food shops or online. It's also important to drink plenty of water. Finally, my personal trick is less is more. It's a myth that textured hair needs lots of product. If you usually go heavy on the conditioner, creams, pomade or whatever, try halving the amount that you'd usually use, take time, be patient, work it through properly, and you will probably find that this allows your kinks and curls to be freer. Embrace, don't suppress, your texture!

What challenges have you faced working in the industry and what has been your career highlight to date?

Working with kinkier hair textures, we are often up against somebody else's idea of what our hair should look like. The challenge for me and my clients has been to stay consistent and stand within our truth, trying to educate while doing so, with the goal of everyone else understanding it's ok for our hair to look this way. My hair looks different on camera because I have depths in places you may not be familiar with, so let's find ways to bring that out together, and in doing so we can all celebrate greatness.

Can you tell us about the academy you run at Smith's salon in London?

The primary goal for the Academy was to allow young children to express their feelings to their parents on how doing their hair makes them feel, and to find other ways for parents to apply themselves differently when doing hair so the whole experience becomes more enjoyable. Listening to these young children speak was so mesmerising, I often say if you take the time to listen and really think about how you're making somebody else feel when you are touching their hair it can be life changing. This experience also plays a key role as you develop in life, in building confidence and exploring greatness within your hair. ❖



LEFT PAGE: Celebrity hairstylist Vernon François.

ABOVE: Vernon François styled Lupita Nyong'o's hair at the 2018 Academy Awards.

A double century of HENNESSY VSOP

Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya celebrated the 200th anniversary of Hennessy VSOP cognac in fine style.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

Maurice Hennessy, global brand ambassador for the Hennessy brand, and Roch Hennessy, the Business Development manager for Hennessy in China, visited Nigeria in April in the last leg of their tour of Africa as part of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Hennessy VSOP cognac. Their African excursion, dubbed “the Heritage Tour”, is the first time they have travelled together to promote the brand.

Maurice and Roch represent the eighth generation of the Hennessy dynasty. They are two polyglots who are passionate about the world around them and driven by the spirit of family.

“Two hundred years is amazing when you see what has happened in the world in that time,” said Maurice Hennessy.

In 1818, VSOP, which stands for “Very Superior Old Pale”, was established as a royal order and, ever since, it has set the standard for other VSOP cognacs.

Hennessy has a long, proud history. Its Irish founder, Richard Hennessy, was so delighted with the Cognac region in south-west France that he established a trading firm in Cognac in 1765.

Genuine cognac can only be made from white wine grapes grown in that particular region – Maurice Hennessy himself owns one of the vineyards which supplies grapes for the spirit.

“I am a farmer,” he says with characteristic humility. Under the leadership of Richard’s son James, the company expanded swiftly and eight generations later, the Hennessy family still travel the globe to build up the brand’s universal reputation. They



have been successful at this too – today only one per cent of Hennessy cognac is sold in France, reflecting the international nature of the brand.

Maurice last visited Nigeria in the late 1970s while this is Roch's first time visiting Africa's largest economy. According to Roch: "It has been a really good experience – there is passion around the brand and everyone has been welcoming."

The cousins explained how, as Hennessy has become a global brand, every market appropriates the brand according to local culture and tastes. They noted that Nigeria remains an important market for the brand and it plays an important role in its growth across sub-Saharan Africa.

"We are present everywhere around the world [with a] vision of open-mindedness with every single market's culture," said Roch. "We don't fix the rules – we leave that up to the market."

Elite Living Africa caught up with Maurice and Roch in Nigeria and asked about how different markets enjoy Hennessy VSOP. When mixing cognac, Maurice said that it is "great with ice" and a range of mixers, such as tonic, ginger ale, soda water and cola which is a popular mixer in Nigeria.

"A good mixologist can make suggestions for cocktails," said Maurice, before suggesting Hennessy VSOP works well in a mint julep, a caipirinha, or mixed with rum.

In African markets, where the climate is often warm, Roch and Maurice said that adding ice and soda water is popular, as well as serving it with orange.

The Nigerian event concluded with a dinner at the Eko Hotel's Sky Lounge to celebrate local dynasties as well as other personalities that have contributed to shaping the country's legacy and future. It was hosted by media personality Idia Aisien.

Over dinner, guests enjoyed Hennessy cocktails and a bespoke menu that was created to pair with the cognac. Among the guests were public figures Femi Falana, Oliver Enwonwu and Amaechi Okobi, Hennessy Artistry headliners Olamide and Falz, DJ Jimmy Jatt, current Miss Nigeria and women's rights campaigner Mildred Ehiguese, Afrobeat artist and son of Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti, Seun Kuti, businessman Charles O'Tudor, actress Eku Edewor, radio personality and author Toke Makinwa, Bolanle Olukanni and TV presenter and actress Vimbai Mutinhiri. ♦



TOP: Roch and Maurice Hennessy proudly show off the 200th Year Anniversary bottles. MIDDLE AND BOTTOM: A cross-section of A-list guests at the Sky Bar dinner in Lagos.

BUY IT NOW

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU



BOAVISTA SOFA

\$2,457, www.casamagna.eu

Boavista is a modular eclectic sofa inspired by mid-century upholstery, with a seductive brass stripe on the base and refined details. Since the outstanding feedback of Casa Magna Collection and exposure at the latest Maison et Objet Paris edition, the Boavista Sofa is one of a number of products to complete the Living Room Selection. The collection features natural stone hues and metal accents.

MARGHERITA ARMCHAIR BY EDRA

\$10,580, www.chaplins.co.uk

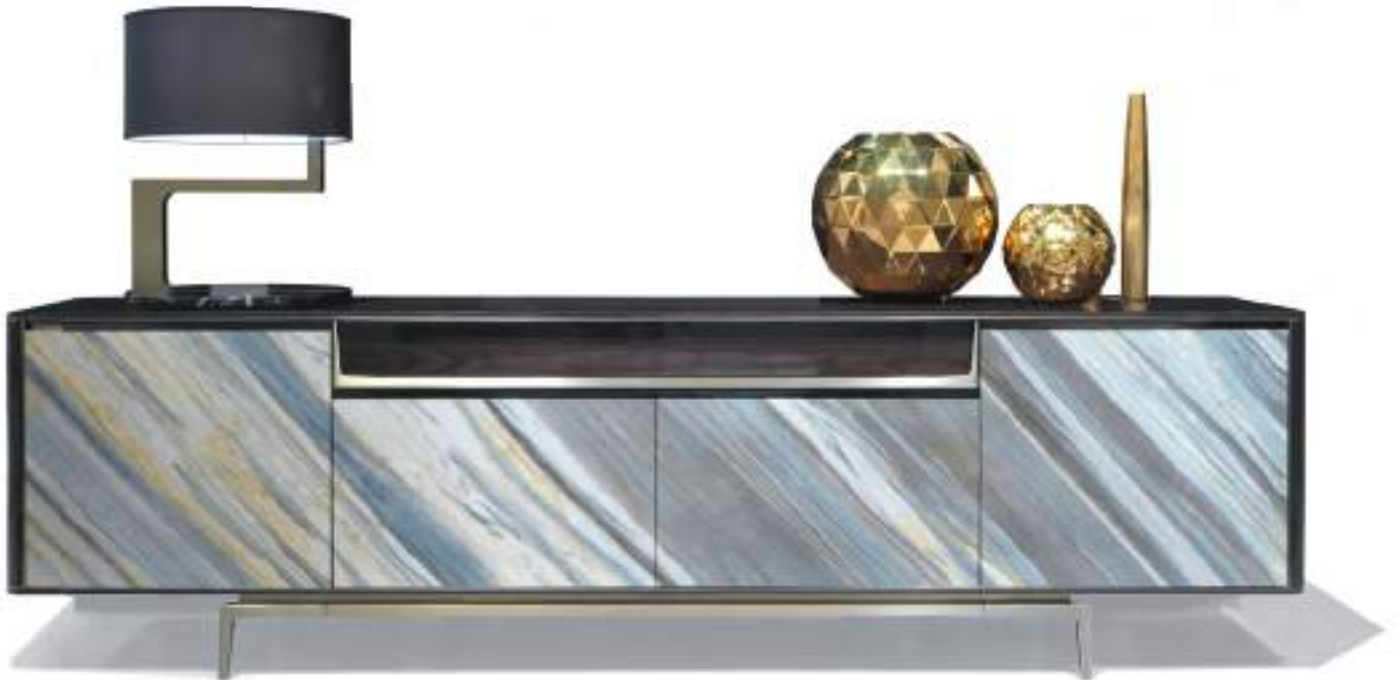
The perfect chair to sit back and relax in, the shell of this luxurious revolving armchair showcases extraordinary Italian craftsmanship. Woven polycarbonate gifts its intricate yet visually light appearance catches the light from all angles. Designed by Jacopo Foggini, Margherita, like many of his designs is named after a woman: "I like to call them by the name of people I love or have loved. And Margherita will always have a special place in my heart."



LIQUEFY DINING TABLE

\$7,793, www.chaplins.co.uk

This oval-shaped table by Patricia Urquiola, captures fluidity in motion. The unique veined decoration changes in accordance with your viewpoint, offering a slice of living art for the modern home. Available in two relaxing hues, sea greens or pinky-beige, this versatile offering from Glas Italia can be purchased as a side table, coffee table or luxury dining table.



BARNEY - LOW UNIT

POA, www.visionnaire-home.com

If you need a touch of glamour and sophistication in your home, look no further than Visionnaire's low cabinet in flamed grey veneer. The internal parts of this stand-out piece are finished in black lacquer, front doors in Crema Cielo marble and feet in satinised champagne lacquered steel. It features four doors and one drawer, covered in veneer with inserts in satinised stainless steel embedded in the wood.

NEWTON GOLD MYRTLE DINING TABLE

\$67,654 www.bocadolobo.com

Perfect for entertaining guests, this gold dining table seats 8 to 10 people. It has luxurious gold plated brass spheres finished in high gloss varnish and myrtle burl veneer. The design was inspired by Newtons Law of Attraction mass, force and energy, each sphere and half sphere and gives the illusion of defying gravity. The piece has been designed in Portugal, where each sphere is dipped, varnished and cut before the Myrtle tree found in the region is treated, sliced or veneered inside the half spheres that form the dining tables.



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Sheraton Hotel, Jabi Road, Abuja, Nigeria
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COME ALONG WITH YOUR ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

The best Of Dubai

Our style columnist shares her recommendations for making the most of a luxurious visit to Dubai.

WORDS BY TEMI OTEDOLA

Dubai is undoubtedly the UAE's capital of luxury. The spotless beaches and spectacular hotels have made it a world-famous tourist destination for pristine indulgence. Following my trip to Dubai, I thought I'd share my new, and old, favourites for eating, shopping, and experiencing the best this city has to offer.

If discovering a new city means eating your way through its streets, then you'll be spoilt for choice in Dubai. From contemporary hotspots like Zuma and La Petite Maison, to the overtly decadent, like Reflets par Pierre Gagnaire and Al Hadheerah – be prepared to eat out every night of your trip.

Dubai is distinctly unique in being a city that is incredibly modernistic – with its rows of newly built skyscrapers – while situated in a desert landscape. So, if you're a thrillseeker then why not tick off the ultimate bucket list activity by skydiving over the Palm Jumeirah. Or to experience the snow in the desert, head to Ski Dubai, the Middle East's only indoor ski slope, complete with real snow.

And if there's any city in the world that takes shopping malls seriously, it's Dubai. Shopping becomes an adventure here, and an entire day can be spent walking around Dubai Mall (there are more than 1,200 stores including Valentino and Chanel). Alternatively, for a souk shopping adventure head to the Bur Dubai Souk. The Souk is teeming with intricate fabrics and local jewellery stalls, so be ready to head back home with a suitcase filled with all your textile discoveries. ❖

Temí enjoying the pristine beaches of Dubai.

Luxury WATCH trends at BASELWORLD 2018

Exhibitors descend on the Messe Basel showgrounds to create a showstopping display of the world's most innovative, luxury timepieces at Baselworld 2018.

WORDS BY HIRIYI BAIRU

Hublot's Classic Fusion Chronograph Berluti Scritto in Ocean Blue

The Classic Fusion Berluti chronograph is simply stylish. The timepiece is available in the vibrant colour of burgundy red with King Gold, and the depth of ocean blue with titanium. There is no end to the possibilities open to Berluti's bespoke expertise in leather and Hublot's mastery of metals.

Both Berluti and Hublot are luxury brands that define trends, without ever betraying the rules of elegance and asserting their influence on men's fashion with originality and personality. Calf leather features writing inspired by the calligraphy of the 18th century and has been treated with exclusive mineral and vegetable tanning to create a palette of colours, created by hand, based on essential oils and pigments. The first shade is known as wine-coloured or marsala red, a bold colour, burgundy is always a symbol of ultimate elegance. Blue is the second colour, the most common colour in menswear, it opens up to new horizons, lending an oceanic hue. Two metals have been cut by Hublot, King Gold, the alloy developed by the manufacture and titanium for chronographs that reach across Hublot x Berluti, timeless materials.



ABOVE AND LEFT Hublot's Classic Fusion Chronograph Berluti Scritto in Ocean Blue.

De Bethune DB28 Steel Wheels

Presented for the first time at the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie Genève, the DB28 Steel Wheels is the best known timepiece from De Bethune. Issued in a limited edition of 25, the piece surprises observers by the light feel of its case, entirely crafted in titanium, and by the presence of De Bethune's patented floating-lug system adjusting to wrist size and movements.

Rolex GMT Master II

Oyster Perpetual GMT-Master II is the perfect watch for travellers. It allows the wearer to read the time in two different time zones simultaneously. Three new versions of the GMT-Master II with a brand new movement were launched at the show. The first new version, in Oystersteel, brings together an Oyster case and Jubilee bracelet with a bidirectional rotatable bezel. The GMT-Master II range sees two new additions, 18 ct Everose gold along with a two-colour Cerachrom insert in brown and black ceramic.

Omega Seamaster Diver 300M

Omega has revamped this watch for 2018, revealing 14 unique models, including six in stainless steel and eight in a mix of stainless steel and gold. The new version comes in 42mm and each new Diver 300M has been given a Master Chronometer Calibre 8800, instantly taking the collection into a higher realm of precision, performance and magnetic resistance. The dials are also made from polished ceramic and are available in black, blue or PVD chrome colour.

Le Rhone Hedonia Grande Phase de Lune

The Hedonia collection is the perfect blend of technics and aesthetics. This particular model embodies elegance and refinement with its 41 mm diameter and moon phase complication. In addition, the Hedonia with hour, minute and second hands has a Côte de Genève certified dial with a vertical guillochage done to perfection by Swiss craftsmen. The magical stellar night blue sky lets your mind drift, almost forgetting about the complexity of the piece.

Bulgari Octo Roma

A simple and sophisticated design, this timepiece from Bulgari showcases fine watchmaking. It features mechanical manufacture movement with automatic winding and instantaneous date, Bulgari caliber BVL 191. It offers 42-hour power reserve and a 38mm steel case with transparent case back. The crown is set with ceramic and the watch is water-resistant up to 100m. >





Hublot Big Bang Unico Red Magic

A bold and daring timepiece from Hublot, The Big Bang Unico Red Magic is a symbol of power, passion and glory. The ultra-resilient ceramic watch is full of fire, coming in a 45 mm case and bezel made from Hublot's patented red ceramic, boasting a polished finish.

The flange, indexes, minute and seconds counters, Arabic numerals and hands all match this hue and are presented in the same red to highlight the contrast with the mechanism of the Unico HUB124 manufacture movement and its column wheel, which is visible on the dial side through the sapphire crystal. This theme encompasses the timepiece, matched with a lined structured red rubber strap.

This red ceramic on this timepiece is what makes it a real showstopper, drawing attention from every angle, and captivating all who see it. A Hublot masterpiece, it is a limited edition with only 500 pieces released.

Bvlgari Piccola Lvcea Tubogas

A luminously feminine watch, the slinky links of the Tubogas bracelet add a pleasing symmetry when contrasted with the perfectly round face of the Lvcea. The watch pays tribute to the sundial, one of the oldest timekeeping instruments dating back to ancient Roman tradition. This piece is available in 28 or 33mm models.



Bvlgari Divia Finissima

Beautifully crafted in 18kt rose gold 37mm-diameter, this is the world's thinnest wristwatch minute repeater. Also water-resistant to 30 metres it has a total thickness of 9.42mm and has a transparent caseback. The crown is set in 18kt rose gold with a faceted diamond.



Hublot Big Bang Sapphire Tourbillon

The new Big Bang Sapphire Tourbillon is an ideal watch for everyday wear. It is completely transparent, including the case, dial, strap and tourbillon movement. The crystalline connections disappear to reveal the skeleton mechanics of the tourbillon, for which the cage is held in place by a strip cut from sapphire.

In this timepiece we see Hublot's innovation and research come to life through the usage of sapphire crystal in \$48,550



Bvlgari Serpenti Twist Your Time

A very elegant watch, in this Twist version, Bvlgari experiments with personalised 'skins' with a wealth of sensual, joyful and colourful leather straps for daily wear; or with a bracelet featuring several dainty rose gold chains, wrapping perfectly around the wrist.

The four-tour straps for two of the models come in indigo-topaz blue and wisteria jade, both with shimmering metal accents. Gold is the ultimate colour of the Italian jewellery as featured in the new Serpenti Twist models. The snake tamed by Bvlgari wraps itself around the wrist with a double tour golden strap adorned with an antique bronze patina. The bands are all interchangeable, enabling the Serpenti to be personalised at will, the watch can change its skin yet again.

Links form a dainty chain bracelet, featuring a unique design. The piece can be further personalised, where the customer can choose the elements composing her Serpenti Twist on the My Serpenti app developed by the brand. ❖

MESSIKA *unveils* DIAMOND *whirl collection*

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

THE SNOW QUEEN

Valérie Messika has unveiled six new creations inspired by the home of the Snow Queen. The pear cut, traditionally a round and indulgent shape, takes on a new power and strength to pay homage to the heroine of this fairy tale. The pear cut is a work of art that files like a coat of ice with gorgeous movement, thanks to its special stacking technique.

A more minimalist version of the larger single earcuff is offered in the form of a Diamond Whirl mini hooped earring using pear-cut diamonds. The designer will deliver a matching pair, adorning a woman's facial features with two miniature spirals of starlight. The piece presents 32 pear cut diamonds from 0,10ct to 0,48ct for 4,9ct.

An elegant collier crafted in delicate pear-cut stones gives the illusion of a whirling, blizzard-like composition of free-moving pear cut diamonds, it is perfectly positioned on a diamond thread enhanced with the technical elasticity of the Skinny range. The piece whirls around the neck, creating hypnotising pear cuts that ripple and glitter in the light.

The collection also features two other pieces to compliment the earrings and necklace: a ring and bracelet. The Diamond Whirl bracelet is proof of the undeniable technical mastery of Messika. The ring in the Snow Queen collection is très chic, presenting pear-cut diamonds. The wearer will be captivated by the free-moving drop-bead diamonds beam with explosive intensity, adding an even greater level of allure to the Diamond Whirl set.

Polo Luxury is now selling Messika in Lagos. Visit www.pololuxury.com for more information. ❖



BASELWORLD 2018: Shining the spotlight on coloured gems

Jewellery exhibitors wowed the crowds, presenting a mesmerising array of coloured stones. Discover a selection of new pieces unveiled for the 2018 edition of Baselworld.

1. Atelier Swarovski Fine Jewellery collection earrings

Made of Swarovski Created Diamond, created ruby, created star ruby, topaz and 18K fair trade gold.

www.atelierswarovski.com

2. Swarovski Fine Jewellery collection ring and bracelet

Made of Swarovski Created Diamond, created sapphires, created star sapphires, topaz and 18K fair trade gold.

www.atelierswarovski.com

3 & 4. Melody of Colours collection by de Grisogono

Earrings in 18K white gold set with cushion-cut amethyst, white diamonds, blue sapphires, amethysts and black diamond.

Bracelet in 18K white gold set with, mint-green tourmaline, Paraiba topaz stones and tsavorites.

www.degrisogono.com

5. Aquamarine earrings from Doppia collection by de Grisogono

Earrings in 18K white gold set with 230 white diamonds, 16 aquamarines.

www.degrisogono.com

6. Atelier Swarovski Fine Jewellery collection ring

Made of Swarovski Created Diamond, created ruby, created star ruby, topaz and 18K fair trade gold.

www.atelierswarovski.com





FLORAL scents perfect for SPRING

Now is the perfect time for an olfactory spring clean. It's time to swap your winter scent for something lighter. Lalique's Mon Premier Cristal collection could be the ideal scent for the Northern Hemisphere summer.

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

The Mon Premier Cristal collection features three floral scents: Sensuel, Tendre and Lumiere, encased in a unique bottle featuring a contemporary design by Lalique's creative director Marc Laminaux. A trio of feminine fragrances composed by three women perfumers, each scent expresses her own distinctive style. This year Lalique for its 130th anniversary presents Hironnelles, a limited edition of 130 numbered pieces, engraved on the base with the logo.

MON PREMIER CRISTAL SENSUEL

In Sensuel, perfumer Karine Dubreuil-Sereni transforms the scent's melting warmth into a voluptuous woody oriental. She has a love for opera and sings a full lyric soprano repertoire, "light, transparency and legibility" in her formulas – the very qualities of crystal. In the Mon Premier Cristal Collection Karine's composition opens with flame-coloured fruit: juicy sweet, crystal-bright mandarin and orange. The velvety softness of peach feature in opening notes of the oriental accord: the vanilla and almond accents of heliotrope. To express the glow of crystal, the composition opens with flame-coloured fruit: Juicy, sweet, crystal-bright

MON PREMIER CRISTAL TENDRE LALIQUE

A signature of Lalique's refined style, satin crystal suggests the powdery softness of a petal or a woman's skin. In Tendre, perfumer Sidonie creates a delicate floral oriental. A perfumer since 2006 with the grasse-based natural materials producer

Robertet, Sidonie favours concise formulas in which each ingredient has its purpose.

To transcribe the sensory appeal of satin crystal into scent, she has picked the most beautiful, quintessentially feminine flower: the rose. "And more specifically the idea of the rose petal, because of its velvety, skin-like feel" she explains.

Sidonie takes the soft petals of a freshly bloomed rose. An overdose of essence of Turkish rose, the most luminous and fruity of the perfumer's palette, is made more radiant still by playful, crystal-clear pear. Tendre leaves a delicate, satiny-soft veil of vanilla and white musk in its trail. Sidonie said: "I chose the theme of satin crystal because I love the material. It makes me want to touch it. I love that velvety feel. I wanted to draw a parallel with the velvety texture of a rose petal. To me, this fragrance is a very tender, delicate scent, like a second skin."

MON PREMIER CRISTAL LUMIERE

Whether inspired by nature or more abstract, the elegant motifs that adorn Lalique pieces turn crystal into a dazzling sculpture of light. In lumiere, Alexandra Monet transforms it into a strongly contrasted floral chypre. It is with tuberose, the most captivating of white flowers that she translates the fascinating brilliance of crystal into fragrance. The radiance of the regal bloom is accented by Jasmine Sambac. "A very modern note that is both green and narcotic," Alexandra explains. Knowing that every light has its dark side, the perfumer sculpts this lush white floral heart with a nocturnal



accord, as addictive as it is unexpected: licorice and a natural extract of bitter almond, underlined by a subtly leathery black saffron effect. A sumptuous woody drydown intensifies the contrast. Patchouli, a perfume in and of itself, unique, vibrant so sensual", says Alexandra, is faceted with an overdose of Cashmere wood. "A very mineral note, both hot and

cold, with a 'crystal dust effect", rounded off with musks as soft as satin crystal. "Crystal is an extremely interesting material, as it is both transparent and of every colour. To reflect this contrast, I wanted to play on darkness and light. In this fragrance, modernity meets tradition, and simplicity meets sophistication." ♦

MODERN ROYALTY: *the* CLANS *of* VERSACE

“The Clans of Versace know that today nothing is acquired through birth, but rather earned through what they achieve: this is why these women are all Queens to me” - Donatella Versace

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

Some of the world's top models sashayed down the catwalk earlier this year for Donatella Versace's Autumn/Winter 2018-19 show held in Milan, Italy. Kai Gerber, Gigi Hadid, and Anja Rubik were just some of the models that took centre stage to form a clan of model royalty. The Clans of Versace are crowned as the true modern royalty. Why you might ask? Well firstly they're fierce - always speaking their mind and unique in their style choices - always wanting to stand out from the crowd. The Clans of Versace rule their own life, while also looking out for each other. The models on the runway displayed a plethora of colours and prints. It is evident Donatella was not afraid to experiment - the mix and clash of prints and colours are sure to leave anyone mesmerised.

Daring and edgy. Two words that come in mind to describe these runway looks. The pieces have been created for the woman who isn't afraid to walk her own walk, and talk her talk, never forgetting that

they were born to be bold. The Autumn/Winter range screams strong, loud and confident. There are no mid-ways. No compromises. Donatella presents a mix of cultures that generates friction and contrast between past and present - old and new, trendy and subculture, sneakers and stilettos. Different clans are represented by their print of choice. All played out on the Versace Fall Winter 2018 catwalk.

We all know family always comes first and this collection, represents just that and sees Versace women stand together unified. Football-style scarf fringe inserts on dresses give the right amount of 'look-at-me' sass to evening wear. Groups of tartans are mixed together in a seemingly random manner, representing the clash of subcultures.

The collection presents prints named after 'the greater Versace family' pay tribute to kinship. The models on the runway are a celebration of the deep bond between each member of this royal family, >

FACING PAGE & FOLLOWING
PAGES LEFT TO RIGHT: Models
wearing Versace from
Autumn/Winter collection.





where diversity and inclusivity reign. And the love does not stop there. Versace's creative director recently spoke out about the treatment of animals and the fashion's label's stance on using fur in its products. In a recent interview with *The Economist's* 1843 magazine Versace's creative director said: "Fur? I am out of that," Versace said. "I don't want to kill animals to make fashion. It doesn't feel right."

The Autumn/Winter 2018-19 collection is reflective of Donatella's Spring/Summer 2018 range that paid homage to her brother Gianni Versace and featured 1980s prints and logos. Gianni's most beloved prints and boldest looks, updated for a modern age in Donatella's Tribute Collection were seen both on models who walked down the runway in his original designs, and on those who grew up aspiring to be like



them. The fashion house described the tribute as, “A celebration of beauty that has no age limit, no fear, no restraint.” At the time of its launch Donatella said: “This campaign represents the link between past and present. You need to know who you are, and where you are coming from, to build your future. She continued: “And when you are at the head of a brand with such a strong heritage as mine, you can only embrace

it.” Versace’s principles of creativity, empowerment, inclusivity, and that inimitable Versace sense of daring that have resonated down the decades is seen in both these collections. For the Autumn/Winter collection Donatella has taken inspiration from Gianni to bring four decades into one collection, effortlessly channelling eighties and nineties party girl looks. ❖



FERRAGAMO

pre-spring 2018 collection

Italian fashion house Salvatore Ferragamo has dug deep into its historic archives to get inspired and create its pre-spring 2018 collection, fusing feminine elegance with a playful twist.

WORDS BY HIRIYI BAIRU

The collection offers an overwhelming sense of ease with an engaging colour palette from sharp black and gold to saturated brights, such as begonia and very pale green. The contrasts feature architectural elements and soft silhouettes. The silk foulard - a Ferragamo mainstay - takes a starring role in both ready-to-wear and accessories. While iconic symbols of the house, like the Gancini, can be seen throughout the collection. If we focus our attention on footwear, the pre-spring collection showcases floral designs in various iteration, building on last season's signature flower heel. Women's creative director, Paul Andrew, discovered 15,000 designs in Salvatore Ferragamo's archive. In his designs he applied striking gold hardware as trim on wedges and as the placket on bow shoes. Digital prints originate from photos Andrew took while in London flower markets, inspiring the design on singletoe pumps or as the ankle wrap on patent leather sandals. "There's a spontaneity and energy to these graphic flowers printed on silk," says Andrew, "but when you wrap and tie them, the print becomes almost abstract and a softness emerges."

Florals are also woven into the textured motif of a rib-knit lurex bootie and create part of the laser-cut design of a strappy sandal. Ferragamo's iconic Vara pump takes on a new shape with a multi-layered, oversized grosgrain bow inspired by Andrew's favorite flower, the peony. The signature "F" wedge has also been realised for spring as a tie-front sling-back, a sleek satin evening mule in all-over colour and performance platform sandals with ridged edging. "My idea has been to turn the attention back to founder Salvatore Ferragamo's original approach and build upon it," says Andrew. "My aim is to marry innovation and craftsmanship."

The handbags in the collection come in a rainbow colour palette for the new season. A new model includes a contemporary top handle tote crafted in leather with contrasting side panels and architectural hardware. Throughout the line, intricate design details >

ABOVE: Vara Rainbow bags from Salvatore Ferragamo.



Above: Women's floral inspired shoes from Salvatore Ferragamo.

emerge, like the silk foulard, which is laced around the season's leather tote or the subtly embossed Gancini on small leather goods. The Vara Rainbow bag featured in mini-size is complimented by an ultra-feminine palette - bonbon, opal, begonia and black for calfskin models, red for the patent leather version. The collection connects past, present and future for pre-spring 2018.

The Sofia Rainbow has been given a fresh look using a series of rich hues, such as jade, vine and lipstick. If you want the perfect bag to compliment any look, Salvatore Ferragamo's signature bags with oversized Gancini is back with a bolder look - bright colours with contrast flower motifs. ♦

ELITE LIVING AFRICA

The magazine for Africa's international elite



ELITE LIVING AFRICA ONLINE

The new-look Elite Living Africa website has been optimised for smart phones and tablets. You can keep up with the latest trends in fashion, jewellery, watches and cars, as well as receiving the latest news on prestigious art, auction and sporting events no matter where you are in the world.

www.elitelivingafrica.com

Trendy SMARTPHONES

We bring you three smartphones from Vertu, Bellperre and Lamborghini that combines high-end design with superior performance.

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

Bellperre Unique

Starting at \$1,980, www.bellperre.com

This ultra-slim smartphone measures only 8.44mm at screen level and offers excellent shock resistance to protect the phone from accidental drops and impacts. The frame is reinforced with surgical steel that perfectly blends with the shock-absorbing interior. Industrial toughness is combined with luxury refinement. This phone has a meticulous finish and its steel black and gold frame will not corrode, even in humid climates.



Vertu Constellation

\$6,000 www.vertu.com

Designed for the global traveller, Vertu Constellation includes dual SIM and support for 34 international bands and protocols. The phone features Vertu's renowned platform of dedicated services. A stunning high-resolution 5.5" WQHD AMOLED display, with over 3.6 million pixels, delivers perfect colour and detail, protected by a sixth generation sapphire crystal screen.



Alpha One

\$2,450
www.lamborghinimobile.com

This phone combines technology with pure luxury. Created using the finest materials, including handcrafted Italian leather and a liquid alloy, it is resistant to corrosion. Key features include the fast fingerprint sensor for security and usability, a dual-SIM slot, a front-facing 8MP camera and a main 20MP camera with optical and digital image stabilisation and a high-quality audio system using a Dolby dual speaker.



GENEVA'S DREAM MACHINES

This year's Geneva International Motor Show offered plenty of new eco-friendly luxury cars as well as plenty of bold designs – and a few retro treats for the purists.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

The Bentley Bentayga is Bentley's first-ever hybrid so this was certainly a talking point at the Geneva International Motor Show. But amid the news from assorted automakers about hybrid and electric powertrains, there was still room in Geneva for car lovers to celebrate the art of design. >



Ferrari Supersport, Two is one of the showstoppers from Geneva for 2018.





The Rimac Concept_Two manages to combine slick hypercar design with the latest electric technology for zero-emissions thrills. Its predecessor was the cover star of an earlier issue of Elite Living Africa and this latest model from the Czech company picks up where the Rimac Concept_One left off. The Concept_One offered 1,224bhp, 1,180lb-ft of torque and a 0-62mph dash of 2.5 seconds. Rimac claims the Concept_Two can sprint from 0-62mph in 1.9 seconds in its slowest mode. It is equipped with a 200kWh battery pack.

Other stars of the show range from the household names such as Aston Martin and McLaren to the smaller, less well-known badges, such as Italdesign and Technrules.

Aston Martin did not disappoint with the Valkyrie AMR PRO on show in outstanding lime green racing livery. It made its world debut in Geneva. Fast car fanatics are still awaiting full technical details but expectations are high for a car that weighs 1,000kg but can generate more than its own weight in ➤

TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Pagani Zonda HP Barchetta; Aston Martin Valkyrie AMR PRO; Koenigsegg, MIDDLE ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: McLaren Senna GTR; Italdesign Manta; Icona Nucleus. BOTTOM ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Ferrari 488 Pista; Technrules RenRS



downforce. We do know that it will be blessed with a 6.5-litre V12 engine and at least 1,100bhp will be expected from this bad boy.

McLaren can always be relied on to bring drama and menace to any given motor show and the McLaren Senna GTR certainly attracted attention. Designed in honour of the late, great Ayrton Senna, who was killed in 1994 at the San Marino grand prix, McLaren Automotive CEO Mike Flewitt confirmed that up to 75 examples will be hand-built at its factory in Woking, England during 2019. A magnificent indulgence, the Senna GTR will only be for track driving. It will have more power and torque than the road-legal McLaren Senna, which has a 4.0-litre twin turbo V8 engine with 800Nm of torque. Race-style transmissions, an upgraded double wishbone suspension and Pirelli slick tyres. Like the Valkyrie, it's another downforce demon with up to 1,000kg of downforce to make it one for posting some seriously swift lap times.

Ferrari joined in the fun with the 488 Pista in classic red with the two-tone racing stripes in black and white running from the

bonnet all the way to the back of the car. It was a pleasingly retro touch, one of a few that gave Geneva a little soul. But it's not just about the cheeky good looks - the 488 Pista is the most powerful V8 Ferrari has ever made with 770Nm of torque, 10Nm more than the 488 GTB. The gearbox has been enhanced with shifts faster than ever in the RACE position.

Another attractive Italian is the Italdesign Manta. While Italdesign has been around since 1968, its presence at this year's Geneva show has brought it's incredible designs to a wider audience. Billed as a "space wagon coupe", and in an eye-catching turquoise colour, this is not a new model. It was in Switzerland for its gorgeous history. However, the \$2 million ZeroUno is Italdesign's new model and it was also on show. Owned by Audi, the owner of Lamborghini, it uses the Audi R8 5.2-litre V10 engine and sits atop the same platform as the R8 and the Lamborghini Huracan.

Further upping the ante with sky-high pricetags is the Pagani Zonda HP Barchetta at \$25 million. The 1.250kg beast has a

ABOVE: The Ford Mustang Bullitt brings back many happy cinematic memories for many car lovers
FACING PAGE: The Eadon Green Eclat is a triumph of eye-catching design.



7.3-litre Mercedes AMG V12 powertrain but Pagani isn't sharing the power output with the public. The exterior is a thumping mass of curves and angles while inside, the white and plaid textiles seem almost genteel in comparison.

China made a foray into the supercar market with the unveiling of the Techrules RenRS, a hybrid single-seat race car that is designed for the track. The RenRS is powered by a diesel-electric hybrid – there is a 28.4 kWh lithium-ion battery, two motors at the front and four at the rear to deliver 1,287bhp and a range of 1,170km from 80 litres of fuel. The design is Transformers-meets-Star Wars stormtroopers but there is nothing subtle about the RenRS on any level – then again, that is probably the point.

While Geneva is wonderful for checking out the very latest in design and technology, there was something comforting about the show offering an opportunity to check out a true icon of motoring. The Ford Mustang Bullitt was on display in all its dark green glory – one can't help but wonder how many of the new cars on show this year will make a comeback in Geneva in the decades to come. ❖

◆
“The Geneva Motor Show is all about the latest in technology and design in luxury and performance cars – as well as a chance to see a few classics of modern motoring.”
◆



"Majesty" by Gulf Craft.

A new HOME for Dubai BOAT show

The Dubai International Boat Show moved from Dubai Marina to Dubai Canal for 2018, attracting a keen, global crowd.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

Dubai Marina has been home to the Dubai Boat Show for along time but this year, the oceangoing proceedings were moved to the new Dubai Canal development. It was the 26th edition of the boat show and, once again, it attracted big industry names and, as ever, the superyachts proved to be very popular.

An impressive line-up of superyacht builders descended on Dubai including Heesen, Lurssen, Amels, Baglietto, Benetti, CRN, Feadship, Fincantieri, SanLorenzo and Oceanco. Visitors and buyers travelled to Dubai for the show from

across the Middle East and further afield. Emirates-based Gulf Craft reported steady levels of interest from visitors as well as impressive sales to clients from across the region and beyond. Gulf Craft CEO Erwin Bamps reported a successful boat show with five vessels, worth \$23 million, selling at the 26th edition of the show. The company welcomed 55 of its worldwide dealers to the show and introduced three vessels to the international market. The three yachts making their debut for Gulf Craft in Dubai were the tri-deck Majesty 140 superyacht, the owner-manageable Majesty 62 family yacht and the limousine Touring 48 vessel. ➤



“The new temporary location on Dubai Canal has given a different atmosphere to the boat show this year and we are delighted to have made five sales during the show,” Mr Bamps said. “The show not only provides key networking and sales opportunities for Gulf Craft, but also allows us to premiere our latest masterpieces such as the Majesty 140 superyacht and also showcase our wide range of models.”

While the Majesty 140 generated a lot of buzz at the show with its striking revolutionary design and stunning exterior lines as well as opulent interior, the elegantly styled Majesty 62 attracted the attention of yachting enthusiasts who enjoy cruising with friends and family, as the new high-tech yet user-friendly yacht can be handled by its owner without the need for extra crew.

Notis Menelaou, Vice President of Sales at Gulf Craft said, “We not only continue to invest greatly in research and development, but also gain a lot from our 36 years of experience. Every time we move in a new direction, we keep our customer’s requirements at the forefront. This astute approach helps us to develop premium crafts that are trend-setting.”

ABOVE AND RIGHT: The Dubai International Boat Show had a new home for 2018.

Sunseeker International, meanwhile, used the Dubai show to make three debuts – the 95 Yacht, Manhattan 66, and 68 Sport Yacht.

Oceanco unveiled the new 115-metre Tuhura in Dubai. Conceived in collaboration with the Lobanov Design studio, BMT Nigel Gee and interior designer Achille Salvagni, it was launched by His Excellency Saeed Hareb, Secretary General of Dubai Sports Council, Vice President and Chairman of Dubai International Marine Club - Mina Seyahi, and Senior Advisor to the Dubai International Boat Show.

Tuhura’s design harks back to ancient times, while still providing the very latest technology and luxury facilities. The exterior styling is reminiscent of early canoes, used hundreds of years ago by indigenous people all over the world. The thinking behind revisiting basic primal forms is to evoke a sense of exploration and discovery, with the vessel’s name Tuhura derived from the Maori verb meaning: to discover, bring to light, unearth, open up, explore, and investigate.

The hull has been conceived with multiple horizontal windows, utilising an advanced glass



technology that consists of a series of dots, allowing the view from within to be completely transparent, while from the exterior, the windows appear the same colour as the hull, disguising their appearance. Glass features further in the impressive black superstructure made up of flat glass panels.

Ivor Lobanov's exterior design works well with the interior and is inherently flexible so that the yacht can be designed in any size from 80-120 metres in length. Inside, the design inspiration is taken from East Asia and the Pacific islands. Achille Salvagni refers to the interior as a "brushed teak habitat" (floors, walls, ceilings) including thin reveals in gunmetal and natural bronze with tatami floors.

"Tuhura is a megayacht conceived for a dynamic owner, nevertheless the timeless sense of peace and calmness are the main characteristics," says Salvagni. "This softness and dynamicity are reflected in the humble elegance and sensuality of the primitive organic shapes echoed throughout."

Fitting a modern propulsion system in the canoe form was a challenge and the team opted for a hybrid Azipod CRP contra-rotating (CRP) propulsion system from ABB.

◆
*The new
location for the
Dubai
International
Boat Show has
proven to be a
fantastic
success.*
◆

James Roy, Yacht Design Director at BMT, said: "The hybrid CRP system is inherently efficient and perfectly suited to the canoe form, there is a synergy between the efficiency of the hull form, and that of the propulsion system, leading to a yacht which marries an evolutionary simple hull with an evolutionary advanced propulsion system."

The technology on board ensures it is a "smart boat" – not only are there controls for HVAC, lighting, audio, video, curtains and such, but controls will also monitor behavior aboard regarding preferences such as music and temperature.

Theo Hooning, General Secretary of Superyacht Builders Association (SYBA) praised the organisers of this year's event.

"Despite the short time-frame and undeveloped location, the organisers' efforts paid off," he said. "Superyacht Avenue, where our member superyacht builders exhibited, was rightfully located at the heart of the show and our members were pleased with both the quantity and quality of visitors."

Jalboot, the UAE distributor for Wajer and Mastercraft, reported a good volume of positive >



queries for a wide range of vessels that could secure post-show sales for the international and business-to-business sectors.

Mohamed Shaik Roestali, General Manager at Jalboot Marine Services, said, "The Dubai International Boat Show was undoubtedly a success for us, given that both the demand for our products and our potential sales almost doubled as a result of participation this year."

As ever, there was entertainment at the show, as well as the stunning craft on display. The weekend saw performances by famed Arabic singers and thrilling slackline displays by World Champion Red Bull Pro Athlete Alex Mason.

For those who preferred their entertainment to be more sedate, adult visitors enjoyed the Nikki Beach Lounge and experienced culture with the return of the Marine Art Gallery, where stunning Emirati art was on display. ❖

The tranquil owners' balcony of the superyacht, "Majesty".



EUROPEAN STYLE AT SEA

Azimut Yachts chose Triennale Design Week in Milan to launch the S7, as the brand celebrated its 50th birthday.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

The S7 is a 21-metre yacht which took pride of place at the Palazzo dell'Arte at Milan's Triennale Design Week, held in April.

To show off this beauty to its best advantage, the yacht was the star of a light design performance created by FeelRouge. This showed off its outline and style details to great effect.

In its 50-year history, Azimuth has gained a reputation for fine craftsmanship combined with cutting-edge technologies.

Quality is essential as the yacht builder skilfully transforms the finest raw materials, including marble, wood and fabrics, into best-of-breed surfaces, furniture and accessories. The interior was

created by Francesco Guida and the exterior by Stefano Righini.

As well as marble, wood and opulent fabrics, S7 uses carbon fibre to excellent effect, for light weight and durability. On S7, carbon fibre laminate has been applied to the superstructure, radar arch and pivoting platform.

For ease of operation, the boat is controlled by a Volvo Penta joystick. It makes for comfortable, safe operation with an intuitive and user-friendly interface for optimum response and control. The integrated control panel, designed by Raymarine, has been customised for the S7 so it controls everything from the sound systems and air conditioning to the engine room ventilation. ❖

The S7 is a triumph of luxury materials and the latest technology.



THE FINAL FRONTIER

Could holidays in space become a reality?
Orion Span is boldly going where others have
tried to go before.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

Could space travel become a reality one day? It might be the ultimate holiday for wealthy and adventurous travellers.



The world's first-ever luxury space hotel is already attracting enormous interest from travellers who are wealthy and adventurous in equal measure – and the hotel has not even been built yet.

In April at the Space 2.0 Summit in San Jose, California, Orion Span announced that Aurora Station was slated to host its first guests in 2022 and 72 hours later, four months' worth of reservations had been sold, with travellers from all over the globe placing an \$80,000 deposit towards their future holiday in space.

Aurora is named after the stunning light phenomenon that dazzles the Earth's polar skies and the hotel is being developed by space industry veterans with more than 140 years combined human space experience.

So what are the logistics of such a hotel? It's not as simple as simply checking in to one's preferred luxury digs. The Aurora will host six guests at a time, including two crew members. The packages – with prices starting at \$9.5 million – include an immersive 12-day trip, described by Orion Span as “a completely authentic, once-in-a-lifetime astronaut experience with extraordinary adventure”.

It will certainly be a voyage that requires commitment. Before lift-off, the guests will take part in a three-month Orion Span Astronaut Certification, with the first phase of the certification programme done online. The next portion will be completed in person at Orion Span's state-of-the-art training facility in Houston, Texas. The final certification is completed during a traveller's stay on Aurora Station.

During their stay on Aurora, travellers will experience zero gravity and fly freely throughout the station. They will be able to see the northern and southern aurora through the many windows, spot their home towns and cities from on high, and even take part in >



research experiments such as growing food while in orbit – which they can take home with them as a holiday souvenir with a difference.

Additionally, there is a virtual reality experience on the holodeck, and guests will be able to livestream their adventures with their loved ones back home via high-speed wireless internet access.

While in space, Aurora Station guests will soar 200 miles above the Earth's surface in Low Earth Orbit, or LEO, where they will be able to enjoy stunning views of the Earth. The hotel will orbit Earth every 90 minutes, meaning those on board will see an average of 16 sunrises and sunsets every 24 hours. On return to Earth, guests will be treated to a hero's welcome home, to complete the authentic astronaut experience.

"We developed Aurora Station to provide a turnkey destination in space," said Frank Bunger, chief executive officer and founder of Orion Span.

"Orion Span has additionally taken what was historically a 24-month training regimen to prepare travellers to visit a space station and streamlined it to three months, at a fraction of the cost."

Aurora Station is incredibly versatile and has multiple uses beyond serving as a hotel," Bunger added. "We will offer full charters to space agencies who are looking to achieve human spaceflight in orbit for a fraction of the cost – and only pay for what they use. We will support zero gravity research, as well as in-space manufacturing. Our architecture is such that we can easily add capacity, enabling us to grow with market demand like a city growing skyward on Earth. We will later sell dedicated modules as the world's first condominiums in space. Future Aurora owners can live in, visit, or sublease their space condo. This is an exciting frontier and Orion Span is proud to pave the way." ❖

Space travel may not be merely in the realm of science fiction for much longer.



LAS VEGAS sizzles for SUMMER

It will soon be summer in Las Vegas and for luxury lovers, there are some great options for enjoying the sun in between living it up.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

Las Vegas is a city renowned for its lively party scene and high-rolling casinos, but a trip to the desert city can exhaust the weary traveller and some much-needed chillout time may be required. Just as well then that, as well as the famous nightlife, Las Vegas is well equipped with some of the best pools for soaking up the sun.

Perhaps most famous of all is the Temple Pool at Caesar's Palace, a hotel best known for its celebrity residences, such as Celine Dion.

The pool forms the opulent centrepiece of the Garden of the Gods Pool Oasis, a collection of exclusive watering holes, decadent cabanas and luxurious spots for sunbathing. Designer sunglasses and swimwear are a must here.

The Temple Pool at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas.

The Citrus Grand Pool Desk at Downtown Grand is another popular spot for relaxing and playing poolside. If you are feeling energetic, there are outdoor games on offer, but if you prefer to rest before enjoying the nightlife, there are grassy sitting areas and a relaxing infinity pool.

Celebrity chef Scott Comming has created a delicious menu which is a perfect match for the Downtown Grand's legendary cocktails.

Atop the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas is the Boulevard Pool. It offers panoramic views of the city and a vibrant poolside social scene. And if you prefer a sedate session in the sun, the Chelsea Pool is a haven away from the city's bright lights and madness. ❖



SEYCHELLES FOR SUMMER

This year, the glorious Seychelles will be more accessible than ever, particularly for those who want to extend their summer holiday from London. British Airways is now offering direct flights from London to Seychelles and once you land, there are options for fast domestic flights, ferry transfers and even boat hire to take you to your dreamiest destinations. As well as offering some of the world's most breathtaking accommodation choices, adventurous visitors can experience the endless summer weather with crystal-clear ocean waters. This is perfect for uncrowded diving and snorkelling expeditions, sailing, fly-fishing and cruising on catamarans. Back on terra firma, there are plenty of natural wonders to enjoy, such as giant tortoises. And for art lovers, the cultural scene is vibrant.

www.seychelles.travel



RHÔNE RIVER DELIGHTS

The rivers of Europe offer a range of holidays for those seeking a summer break where the weather is temperate and the scenery is truly spectacular. Why not consider a cruise down the Rhône? In 2019, Avalon Waterways will be launching its all-suite fleet with all rooms offering guests open air balconies and sweeping views. Guests can tailor their holiday to match their interests and activity level. Discovery excursions offer specialist experiences such as cookery classes, while energetic guests might prefer the Active programme including hikes and cycling. Classic options mean guests can meet local experts to learn about culture.

www.avaloncruises.co.uk

Rhodes is a fabulous destination for lovers of beaches and culture and the Lindos district offers this and more. Caesars Gardens Hotel & Spa has been nominated for Greece's Leading Boutique Hotels for 2018. The property offers exotic gardens surrounded by the rugged Krana hills, the architecture is distinctly Aegean, and the Magnolia Spa is the ideal place to enjoy a massage before experiencing the best of Rhodes.

www.caesarsgardens.com



Garden paradise

MAKING MEMORIES IN MOZAMBIQUE

The East African country is making great strides in developing its tourism industry and White Pearl resort is one of the new jewels in the Mozambican crown. This luxury beach boutique hotel is pristine and romantic, ideal for weddings and intimate getaways. As well as stunning accommodation and stunning sea, the resort offers animal experiences such as the opportunity to swim with dolphins, witness endangered turtles in mating season and go on safari at Maputo Special Reserve.

www.whitepearlresorts.com



Santorini is sexy, stunning and stylish and at Carpe Diem, guests can enjoy privacy and personalised service. There are only 10 suites at the property and guests can enjoy butler service to make their stay truly special. All the suites have breathtaking 270-degree views and private pools and terraces. This allows you to enjoy sunrise and the sunset each day from your room. The views are so spectacular because Carpe Diem is in Pyrgos, the highest village on the island.

www.carpediemsantorini.com

Seize the day...



VINEYARDS AND A VILLA

South Africa's Franschhoek wine region is rugged and idyllic all at once. And one of the best ways to experience the region's viticultural and culinary treats is at a glorious private villa. La Rive is a luxurious six-bedroom villa in the Franschhoek region. All bedrooms are en-suite and the whole house is a treasure trove for art lovers with an eclectic mix of furniture and architecture in Victorian, Cape Dutch and Georgian styles, as well as works from South African artists such as Neil Ridger, Dylan Lewis and Gregoire Boonzaier.

www.larive.co.za



If you are travelling to Britain this summer and looking for something away from the noise of London, Tyram Lakes Hotel, Spa & Resort could be the perfect antidote to the chaos. Located in the scenic town of Hatfield in the county of Yorkshire, a region renowned for its great natural beauty and wild landscapes, Tyram Lakes is designed for getting away from it all. There are 325 luxury eco-lodges spread over 65 acres of tranquil lakes and among the trees. For those who really want to get back to nature, there are 100 acres of natural woodlands to explore. The lodges themselves feature rooftop gardens fitted with solar panels, deck areas with sunken spa baths and a choice of classic or contemporary interior designs, as well as floating lodges or lodges in the woods.

www.tyramlakes.co.uk



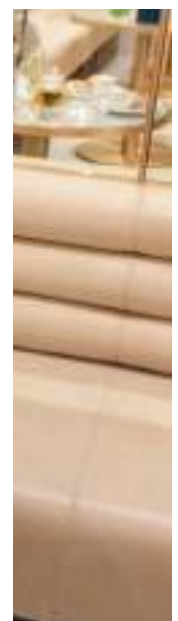
Lakeside
Luxury



High tea for the high season

Visitors coming to London for the Chelsea Flower Show – or simply to enjoy the pleasant early summer days – can treat themselves to the “Bloomin’ Brilliant Afternoon Tea”, available from 2 May until June 2018 at the Royal Lancaster Hotel. The theme is distinctly botanical with such delights on offer as freshly picked strawberry tart with lime curd and baby basil and orange blossom and ginger macarons. The hotel has a great central London location too.

www.royallancaster.com





Crete has long been a popular Greek island destination for travellers seeking sun, great food and a spot of pampering. Creta Palace sets new standards in spoiling yourself with signature spa treatments using organic herbs, with the therapists drawing inspiration from a range of indulgent treatments from around the world. Indian therapists are on hand to offer ayurvedic face and body treatments, and there are specialised body treatments for soothing aches and pains. The Elixir Beauty Spa takes service to a new level with facilities such as an indoor pool with Jacuzzi, whirlpool, saunas, steam rooms and an open-air atrium with relaxation gallery. Or, if you prefer, you can be treated in the privacy of your gorgeous room or experience an open-air massage in a beach gazebo. There is also a fitness centre equipped with the latest Technogym machines. It is newly opened with first guests coming through the doors on 26 April.

www.cretapalace.com

Fit for royalty



CARIBBEAN SWING

The Reef by CuisinArt is a resort that takes golfing holidays to the next level. Located in Anguilla, the Cuisinart Golf Club is one of the finest in the Caribbean. It is a Greg Norman Signature Design 18-hole championship course with great views, challenging holes and a design where sand and water blends with the natural environment. The course experiences refreshing breezes to keep players cool on an 18-hole game while still providing tests of skills for golfers of all skill levels.

www.thereefbycuisinart.com



LUXURY on display

Gulfstream showed off two of its finest luxury aircraft at the Abu Dhabi Air Expo earlier this year.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS



Gulfstream showcased two of its award-winning aircraft at the Abu Dhabi Air Expo. Held in February this year, the static display featured the new Gulfstream G500 and the company flagship Gulfstream G650ER.

Africa and the Middle East are important markets for Gulfstream with 180 aircraft based across these two regions. The G500 and G650ER are particularly well-suited to these markets because of their long-range capabilities.

“In addition to being well-suited for our customers’ long-range and large-cabin needs, the G500 and G650ER are simply the best in their class,” said Mark Burns, president, Gulfstream. He said that the Abu Dhabi Expo was the “perfect chance for business-jet customers in the

region to tour the new G500 and record-breaking G650ER and experience the Gulfstream difference firsthand.”

The G650ER on display featured a high-contrast, automotive-inspired sport aesthetic, as well as four versatile living areas that allow for seamless transitions between work, entertainment and rest.

Meanwhile, the G500, a highly customisable aircraft, featured a natural and elegant interior, including three living areas to accommodate 13 passengers. The G500 has entered the final stage of its flight-test programme, with anticipated U.S. Federal Aviation Administration type certification this year. It is capable of flying 5,200 nautical miles/9,630 kilometres at Mach 0.85.

PERFECT HARMONY

Visionnaire is creating contemporary furniture with a balance between material and shape, with a focus on fine craftsmanship.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

When selecting collaborators, the team at Visionnaire keeps a set of strong values in mind. Craftsmanship is the value on which Visionnaire continues to focus its efforts to stand out: products with technical content summarised in style with strong personality.

The commitment to Italian excellence and style is powerful, as well as looking further afield for inspiration. If Italy has always represented the inspiring element for the collections, from history of art, to cinema and the visual arts in general, then this year the creative direction looks

on with a wise and refined mix, also to the East. The colour palette draws on tones from the earth and forests, rendering the natural element the true protagonist. A symbolic nature that is suggested this year by bamboo, a symbol of rebirth and energy potential, inspired by Zhang Yimou's scenography in the 2004 film, "House of Flying Daggers".

"A cinematographic experience that I was interested in recreating in the new collection," said Eleonore Cavalli, Art Director for the brand. "A vertigo at the visual level, so rich in shade and contrast that it

often becomes surprising, fluid and emotional. There's no need to involve symbolism if we allow ourselves to be transported by the poetry and the strength of the images."

The 900 sq. m, 15-room space is a contemporary loft, perfect for bringing the collection to life. This year, collaborating designers are joined by new faces: Roberto Lazzeroni, Marco Piva, Armando Bruno, as well as previous collaborators such as Alessandro La Spada, Mauro Lipparini, Giuseppe Viganò, Fabio Bonfá, Maurizio Manzoni, Roberto Tapinassi and naturally, Steve Leung. ♦



The JASON dining table has three types of marble, stainless steel inserts and lacquered wood legs.



HIGH ACHIEVERS

The African art market is going from strength to strength and canny investors and connoisseurs are taking notice.

WORDS BY JENNYFER IDEH

The year has started with much excitement for African art. A long-lost painting by Ben Enwonwu of the Ife royal princess, Adetutu Ademiluyi — an image with great cultural significance in Nigeria — was rediscovered to great surprise in a North London home. The painting went on to set a new world record for the artist's work at auction, achieving \$1,680,000 at the Bonhams Africa Now sale in London in February 2018. The result makes it the most valuable modern Nigerian painting sold at auction, exceeding its estimate of \$280,000-£420,000.

What do we have? With a celebrated artist, enigmatic sitter, London auction house and, perhaps most crucially, the passage of time, Ben Enwonwu's Tutu has all the elements of the perfect art story. Hailed as Africa's Mona Lisa by Booker

Prize winning novelist, Ben Okri, Tutu is a quiet muse, serving as a catalyst for the international market of modern and contemporary African art.

Bonhams has long been instrumental in the development of this market, and has been one of the first auction houses to hold sales exclusively dedicated to African art since 2009. February's sale was pioneering as it was broadcast live to a Bonhams auction event in Lagos, and bidders were able to participate in real time. This points to a positive trend among collectors in Nigeria and across Africa, who are looking to the international market when building their collections.

Paris-based auction house, Piasa recognises a similar trend. Christophe Person, the head of the contemporary African art department told us: >



FACING PAGE: "Tutu" (1974) by Ben Enwonwu.

THIS PAGE: "A la Warhol" by Njidelea Akunyili Crosby.



“Our collectors are European, American, North African — there are many strong institutional buyers in Morocco ... and we are seeing more and more West African collectors.” In response, Person and his team are tailoring their auction sales with subtlety and innovation, for example by emphasising the various periods of artistic production that are free from Western influences. The department began on solid terms in 2014 with a sale put together with specialist dealer André Magnin, and this month sees the sixth sale at Piasa of modern and contemporary African art. The auction house has plans to host three sales this year, up from the usual two. While they offer a broad view of the different schools in Africa and the diaspora, Piasa is particularly strong in their offering of high quality works by Moroccan artists.

In London, Sotheby’s has expanded their modern and contemporary sales program to two sales a year. The most recent sale this March achieved £1,802,750 against a pre-sale estimate of £1,167,500 - £1,707,000. Consistently popular, a work by Ben Enwonwu, *African Dances* achieved six times its high estimate, selling for £187,500. We reported on her ‘breakout’ solo show at Victoria Miro Gallery in the issue 5, 2016 edition of this magazine, and at Sotheby’s Njideka Akunyili Crosby achieved over double the high estimate for a silkscreen self-portrait work inspired by Andy Warhol. Simply titled *À La Warhol*, the work was hammered down at £200,000.

One of the most remarkable indicators of market strength is the result of a work by the young Congolese artist, Eddy Kamuanga Ilunga. *Mangbetu*, a large and detailed acrylic and oil on canvas that was exhibited at Saatchi Gallery’s *Pangaea II* exhibition in 2015, achieved £65,000 against a pre-sale estimate of £8,000 - £12,000.

At the Sotheby’s sale 14 records were set, buyers came from 33 countries, a third of which were



FACING PAGE: "Maquette" by Bodys Isek Kingelez.
TOP: "Hommage aux anciens createurs".
BOTTOM LEFT: "Mangbetu" by Eddy Ilunga Kamuanga.
BOTTOM RIGHT: "J'aime la Couleur" by Cheri Samba.

bidding from Africa, and 19% of buyers were new to Sotheby's. It is important to note that this was only the second sale of African art at Sotheby's.

According to Piasa's Christophe Person, this upward trend in the market is "well-deserved", and while established names dominate at Bonhams and Sotheby's, Piasa presents some opportunities with works that are "strong" and yet "undervalued". The next series of auctions in the autumn will indicate where the market is heading. ❖

THE CALL OF THE MOUNTAINS

Bona Dea Private Estate is nestled against a fynbos-covered mountain slope and overlooks Babylonstoren mountain range and Hemel-en-Aarde Valley.





HEMEL-EN-AARDE – BONA DEA, OVERBERG

\$3.6m

Pam Golding Properties

Surrounded by world-class wine estates, Bona Dea is an ultra luxurious 5-star venue recognised by TWA Vendor Weddings Awards as a “Top Country Wedding Venue”. The expansive estate consists of two classic manor houses and three quaint cottages. Dendrobium House, an elegant Cape Dutch styled venue, is set on an elevated position amid beautiful vineyards and orchids surrounded by a terraced garden. Cynaroides House is an open-plan private residence with breath-taking views from all rooms. Olive, Fynbos and Protea cottages are tastefully refurbished for private accommodations within the Estate.

- Greenhouses and Protea fields
- Landscaped garden
- Catering and bar facilities
- Four minute drive from Hermanus



www.pamgolding.co.za

17 ORIOLE CLOSE, LAKE MICHELLE ESTATE, NOORDHOEK

\$1.03m

Pam Golding Properties

This well-appointed home on the lakefront can operate almost entirely off the grid. Greenhouse emissions are kept to a minimum by using a 12KW solar power system, hydronic underfloor heating and Bonaire evaporative cooler. The Herz pellet boiler ensures hot water throughout the home. Windows are double-glazed to maintain a consistent temperature. There are significant monthly savings on utility costs from using energy-efficient features. The property blends effortlessly with its wetland habitat. With Lake Michelle's top-notch security – regular patrols and strictly controlled access – there is no need for unsightly bars and electric fences.





STEYN CITY, GAUTENG

\$2.8m

Pam Golding Properties

Designed by illustrious architects of SBE Africa, this breathtaking modern home is set in The Lakes – one of the most exclusive neighbourhoods in prestigious Steyn City.

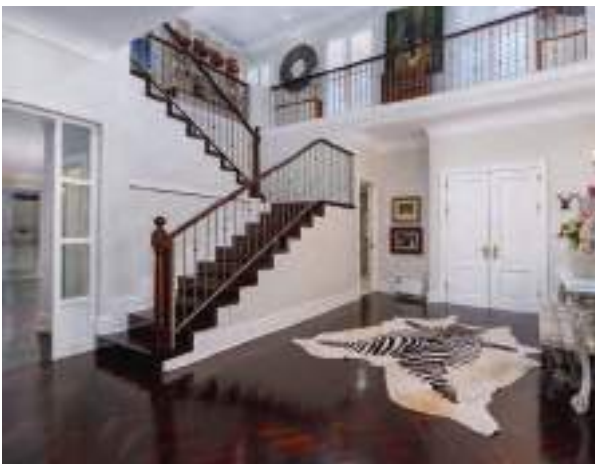
Perched above the green expanses of an exclusive golf course, this entertainer's delight comes to life as the sun sets over the rugged Magaliesberg Mountains, emphasising the bold angles and cool colours of this luxury home. The continuous flow of light contrasts with the solidity of the concrete, which adds a subtle touch of modernity.

Steyn City combines luxury living with exquisite outdoor lifestyle features that include children's playgrounds, walking and running paths, beautifully landscaped parklands, sculptured art pieces, and a verdant oasis.

- Rooftop putting green
- Lush garden with Koi pond
- Pyjama lounge
- Kitchen with Caesar Stone finishes
- Indoor braai area with sliding doors



- Contemporary architecture
- Excellent indoor/outdoor flow
- Open-plan gourmet kitchen
- Luxury main bedroom suite



www.pamgolding.co.za

WESTCLIFF, GAUTENG

\$1.8m

Pam Golding Properties

This sophisticated family residence is a perfect union of symmetry and elegance. From the dramatic double-volume entrance foyer to the glamorous living spaces, this house defines style and comfort.

Living and dining areas stream seamlessly towards the entertainment terrace overlooking the finely manicured gardens. The open-plan gourmet kitchen is tailor-made for cosy get-togethers.

The opulent master suite features a luxurious bathroom, private dressing room and personal study, ensuring maximum comfort and privacy. The house is equipped with a games room, wine cellar, gym and excellent staff accommodation.





SANDRINGHAM, SOUTH AFRICA

Pam Golding Properties

Amid the prestigious borders of two iconic private reserves, is the breathtaking Sandringham. This magnificent 4,464ha private game farm – located between Thornybush in the west, Timbavati in the north and the east, and the Orpen Gate Road to the south - sits in the Greater Kruger.

Portion 1 offers an established road network throughout its 859 ha, as well as an earthen dam, borehole and drainage line. It's the most north-westerly portion, bordering the Timbavati to the north and Thornybush to the west.

Portion 2 offers an unsurpassed stretch of Malewane River along with a newly refurbished dam totaling 858ha in size.

Portion 3 has two titles and offers the greatest degree of development. An old colonial-style farmhouse, an airstrip, staff accommodation, two dams, an impressively equipped borehole, a farmhouse and hunter's camp all sit within its 872 ha.

Portion 4 borders the Timbavati River and benefits from the impressive river frontage. Sandringham is home to a diverse array of prime, indigenous wildlife including all of the Big Five, as well as several types of buck, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest and hyena.

Portions 1 - 6 (4,464ha) – \$26.5m

Portions available from \$1m



www.pamgolding.co.za





ITALIA IN GHANA

B&B Italia has opened a stunning store in Accra, Ghana, offering stylish design options for indoors and out.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

B&B Italia opens in Accra, Ghana – a new monobrand store over two floors, entirely dedicated to B&B Italia and Maxalto. Located on the Liberation Road, the new store recalls the exhibition mood of the company showroom in Novedrate (Como), and presents the international lifestyle of B&B Italia's collections with proposals for indoor and outdoor. At the opening B&B Italia also announced its partnership with Westone. The new store not only presents B&B Italia's collections, but also a holistic service, sharing with the client the latest trends in home living.

The stylistic choices, the interior project, the blend of architectural details and materials, and the interplay of light and shadow, give rise to a setting with a strong, original and international image rich of ideas, proposals and solutions. Black and white wallpapers, black ceilings, sophisticated dividing

elements in metal mesh and elegant visuals contribute to create a unique atmosphere. The layout presents multiple areas of different styles that range from the minimalist to the decorative, but always with the accent on contemporary living. A sophisticated interplay of architecture and graphic design, monochrome and colour, create the perfect setting for presentations with deep impact and intense atmosphere, initiating a harmonious dialogue with nature. The aim is to create ambiances evoking moods, trends and emotions rather than arranging the spaces as conventional rooms. The setting is spontaneous, intuitive and welcoming at the same time and the resulting mood is surprising, spectacular, and expresses the refinement and elegance that is so typical of B&B Italia. ❖

www.bebitalia.com



 *EKO Signature*  EKO SUITES  EKO HOTEL  EKO GARDENS

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...nesting international standards with African hospitality





EXCLUSIVELY, AUTHENTICALLY ROLEX.

Only official Rolex retailers can offer the authentic Rolex experience. No one else can provide the most diverse selection of Rolex watches and guarantee authenticity. Furthermore, only an official retailer has the skill and equipment to service a Rolex, ensuring Rolex's standard of quality as well as a lifetime of appreciation.



OYSTER PERPETUAL DATEJUST 41

Polo
the spirit of success

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