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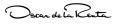


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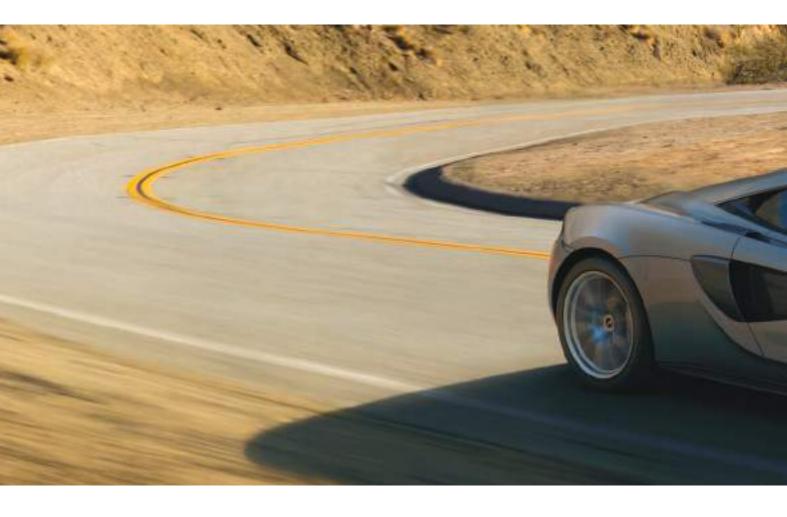
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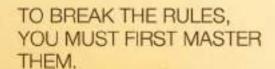
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THE VALLEE DE JOUX, FOR MILLENNA & HARSH, UNVIELDING ENVIRONMENT, AND SINGE 1875 THE HOME OF AUDEMARS PIGUET, IN THE VILLAGE OF LE BRASSUS. THE EARLY WATCHMAKERS WERE SHAPED HERE, IN AWE OF THE FORCE OF NATURE YET DRIVEN TO MASTER ITS MYSTERIES THROUGH THE COMPLEX MECHANICS OF THEIR CRAFT. STILL TODAY THIS PIONEERING SPIRIT INSPIRES US TO CONSTANTLY CHALLENGE THE CONVENTIONS OF FINE WATCHMAKING.



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WELCOME

harlize Theron joins *Elite Living Africa* this issue, just in time for the end-of-year holiday season. In our exclusive interview on page 12, the Academy Award-winning actress proves to be an appropriate choice for the cover of this very festive edition of the magazine. Our journalist reported back after the interview that talking to the South African superstar was very enjoyable and it is easy to imagine she would be the life of any party.

And speaking of parties, our fashion feature for this issue (page 32) includes gorgeous dresses for the endless whirl of glamourous events that take place every December. All are best accessorised with a glass of champagne. Our jewellery feature is unashamedly celebratory as well. End-of-year festivities, particularly Christmas and New Year's Eve, have a tendency to bring out our romantic side, so we've sought out superb engagement rings for perfect proposals and wedding rings for brides who are looking for an individualistic alternative to the plain gold band. Turn to page 22 to see the stunning sparklers.

Our travel pages (page 54) look ahead to the December 2017 party season with the launch of departures from gorgeous Cape Town by Crystal Cruises, while our Connoisseur pages showcase some of the finest limited edition vodkas, perfect for convivial occasions (page 68). Whatever your plans are for the 2016 holiday season, all of us at *Elite Living Africa* trust you and your loved ones will have a wonderful time and we look forward to you joining us in 2017.

A ...

Georgia Lewis Editor



Enjoy our current issue online at www.elitelivingafrica.com

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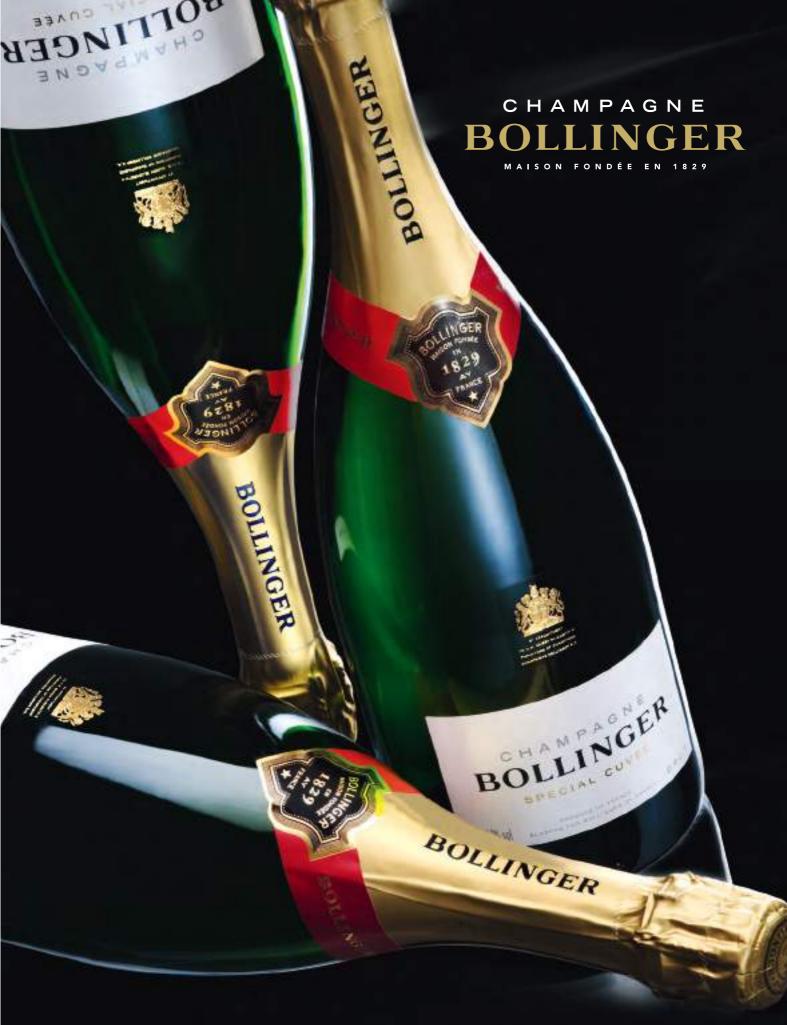
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LIFE CAN BE PERFECT

Cape 2 Rio Yacht Race 2017 Cape Town

Keen sailors from Africa and beyond will be setting off from Cape Town on New Year's Day for an epic yacht race to Rio. For those who prefer to enjoy the spectacle from Cape Town's gorgeous shores, there will be plenty of vantage points for the city's socialites. The organisers have also planned open days so that spectators can view the boats up close.

www.cape2rio2017.com

1-22 January

Giselle, English National Ballet London

For those who plan to extend a festive trip to London into the new year, the English National Ballet's production of Giselle is well worth considering. The evocative story of love, innocence and betrayal makes it one of the great romantic ballets. The title role will be performed by seven different dancers hailing from Romania, Ukraine, Brazil, Britain, Spain and Australia. It will be performed at the London Coliseum.

www.ballet.org.uk



27th Salon International de la Haute Horologie,

The must-attend event for horological aficionados. SIHH is an annual showcase of the very best the world of watches has to offer. It is a great opportunity for visitors to meet horological professionals, spot future trends and meet the stars of the industry. The event is open to industry professionals from 16 January and the open day is on 20 January.





Snow Polo World Cup

Suvretta House, a landmark heritage hotel in St Moritz, has reopened its doors after a stunning refurbishment and a busy calendar of winter events has been planned. The Snow Polo World Cup will bring together leading players on St Moritz's frozen lake. As well as the snow polo, other events include a vintage car rally (18-21 January), snow golf with Maserati (27-29 January), FIS Alpine World Ski Championships (6-19 February), and a Red Arrows aeronautical presentation (17 February). www.suvrettahouse.ch







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Place in the State

In an exclusive interview with *Elite Living Africa*, Charlize Theron talks about an extraordinary past and an exciting future.

WORDS BY RICHARD LUCK

13 INTERVIEW



harlize Theron is in pensive mood. "My greatest fear..." she ponders. "Well, I suppose that would have to be seeing my life up on the screen.

I've said it before, but my greatest dread is to be at an event like, say, the Cannes Film Festival and there are all these important people gathered together to watch 'The Charlize Theron Story'. I'm sure for some people that's their dream, but for me, that's the stuff of nightmares."

It's easy to understand why the actress might prefer that her story not be turned into a big-budget biopic. But while the most remarkable thing about Charlize Theron's past – that her mother shot and killed her abusive alcoholic father in self-defence – could easily have defined her life, it says much for this proud daughter of Benoni that the childhood tragedy is more an unfortunate footnote than a life-defining incident.

Should you need evidence that the horror the teenage Charlize encountered is firmly in the past, you need look no further than the Oscar-winner's wicked sense of humour. "I do a superb impression of a goat," she giggles before demonstrating that this is no idle boast. She is so much fun, in fact, that you wonder why she hasn't appeared in more comedies.

"It's strange, isn't it?" she chuckles. "I did A Million Ways To Die In The West with Seth MacFarlane, who I completely adore, and that was a blast. But for the most part, I don't get offered the parts. Not that I've been stereotyped – I've been asked to play all sorts of parts. I guess producers simply don't associate me with being funny."

At least the same execs have been sufficiently wise to realise that there's a lot more to Charlize Theron than just a pretty face.

"I think any actress who has a past in modelling goes through that period of playing girlfriends or being on-screen eye-candy," she sighs. "But even when I was starting out, I was getting parts that asked more of me than to simply stand about and look ravishing. [Laughs] And, of course, there was nothing in the least bit glamorous about *Monster* or *Mad Max: Fury Road* which I imagine are the movies I'm now best known for."

The modelling career Ms Theron refers to started when she was a teenager. "I trained as a ballet dancer but there wasn't much call for South African ballet dancers at that time," she says with a smile. "And then I was offered some modelling work and it seemed downright rude to refuse."

Fast forward several years and the girl from the Transvaal had become the face of Christian Dior. She has been appearing globally of late as a gold-clad goddess in the latest campaign for the J'Adore fragrance, a role she has held since 2004.

It's a transformation she's still amused by. "It's weird to be the face of anything, let alone a fashion giant like Dior. And it's stranger still that the year I signed with Dior was the same year I won the Oscar for Monster."

A forty-something prostitute with upwards of seven homicides to her name and a post-apocalyptic barbarian with a mechanical arm – not roles one would earmark for a woman regularly declared one of the planet's sexiest movie stars, a red carpet favourite for magazine editors around the globe, with her dedication to the most glamorous gowns from Dior (naturally a big favourite of hers...), as well as the likes of Givenchy, Chanel and Lanvin.

But then there's always been more to Charlize Theron than the flawless perfection and those jadecoloured eyes. This is, lest we forget, an actress who forged a friendship with none other than Nelson Mandela, a man who continues to inspire her.

"What can you say about Nelson Mandela?" she says with another of her sighs. "It was after *Monster* came out that he asked if I'd like to meet him. Naturally, I was overwhelmed. I've been around famous people much of my adult life but nothing can prepare you for meeting a true legend – and I even think that label underrates him. 'Starstruck' just doesn't do it justice.

"But what was extraordinary was how unextraordinary the man was, if that makes any sense. He wasn't a walking embodiment of human goodness or a beacon of justice – he was just a lovely man with a wonderful smile and a keen interest in young people. And he gave me a koeksister! [A South African doughnut] Was it tasty? I don't know, I didn't eat it! When you're that overcome, you forget all sorts of things, including how to eat!"

Madiba aside, Charlize Theron's life has been coloured by two well-documented relationships – one with the Irish actor Stuart Townsend that lasted nearly a decade, the other with fellow Academy Awardwinner Sean Penn which ended in the summer of 2015. As it seems impolite to ask about her current dating status, so it also seems wrong to enquire about the happy home life she shares with her two adopted children, Jackson and August, of whom she is very protective against the intrusive glare of the paparazzi. >

15 INTERVIEW





What *is* up for discussion is a future that includes the soon-to-be-released *The Last Face*, a humanitarian drama directed by Penn and costarring Javier Bardem, and four further films that are in different stages of post-production.

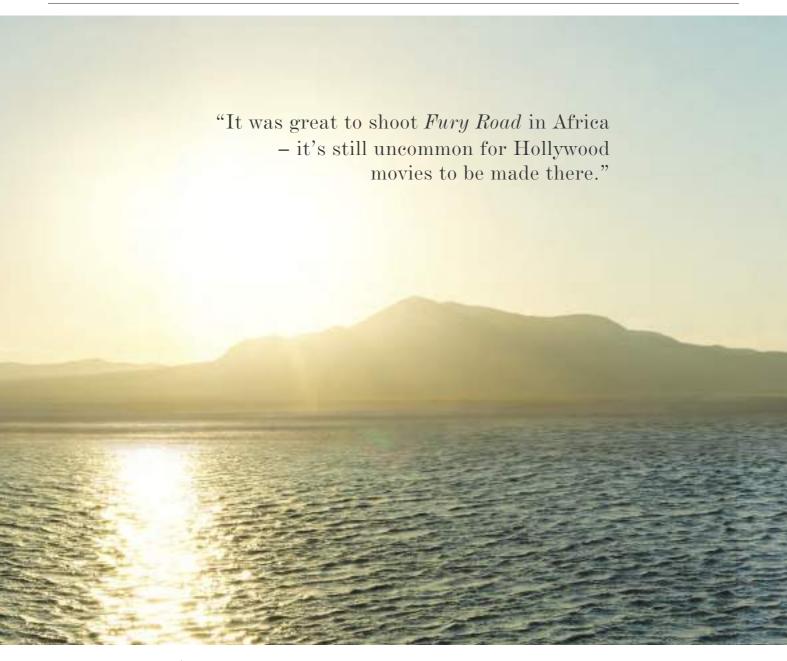
"I've been a busy girl," laughs the 41-year-old. "I've made a film with the Edgerton brothers, Joel and Nash, I'm in Jason Reitman's *Tully* and I'm appearing opposite James McAvoy in *The Coldest City*, which is about the Cold War. As you might have gathered from the title!"

All this and a leading part in the eighth film in the Fast And The Furious saga. Charlize Theron breaks out her positively dirty laugh yet again.

"The simple fact of the matter is, if you're not a fan of me, please look away as I'm going to be everywhere! To those upset to hear this, I cannot apologise enough!" Although she has action movies in her past – the underrated *Aeon Flux*, the Will Smith superhero comedy *Hancock*, the abysmal remake of *The Italian Job* – it's hard to imagine our heroine would be starring in Fast 8 were it not for her career-redefining role as warrior woman Furiosa in the fourth *Mad Max* movie. It was bona fide game-changer, the part is clearly very close to Theron's heart.

"That role and that film were wonderful for so many reasons. For one thing, it was great to be shooting in Africa [much of Fury Road was filmed in Namibia] – it's still uncommon for Hollywood movies to be made there. But Imperator Furiosa as a role for a woman in an action movie is without precedent. The first time I read the script, I couldn't get over how much of the movie's emotional drive came from her rather than Max [Tom Hardy]. This was no damsel in distress – this was me as an actress being asked by

ABOVE: Charlize Theron has long been representing Dior.



[writer-director] George Miller to reveal the truth of being a woman, to show that we thrive on adversity, that we're just as complicated and conflicted as men. It's a line I've trotted out before but I really do believe that women are better at embracing the dichotomy of the yin and yang than men."

So strong was her performance that there was talk of Theron picking up another Oscar nomination, but such honours are not her *raison d'etre*.

"That was very flattering," she continues, "although I don't know how serious that sort of talk really was. I think it was just fans and critics taking that character to their hearts. What I think those people found so refreshing was the fact that, for once, an action movie didn't end with the guy getting the girl – rather this is a film where the only thing the guy and the girl have in common is the need to survive.

"As for the awards side of thing, I was delighted for George that the movie did so well at the Oscars [Fury Road won six Academy Awards from 10 nominations]," she says.

"Whether I deserved to be nominated is by-the-by. I'd just like to think that, in years to come, actresses can take on roles like Furiosa confident that the Academy will be willing to take those performances as seriously as ones that call on women to don corsets and period dress. It shouldn't matter whether you're wielding a rifle or a fan – great performances are great performances."

Mid-sentence, she then realised there was nothing but silence from your humble reporter.

"You're thinking about corsets, aren't you?!" she exclaims in mock horror. And with that, she laughs her biggest laugh. �

Amoster. STROKE Morology

Fabergé reimagines the mechanics of horology with its new Agenhor movement dual time zone wristwatch, which brings together the elegant, the utilitarian and the whimsical in a single beautiful creation.

BY VANI VENUGOPAL

abergé, one of the most renowned jewellers of the 19th century, memorable for its intricate and distinctive *objet d'art*, has created a niche for itself in the horological world with it latest masterpiece, Visionnaire DTZ.

The self-winding Fabergé Visionnaire DTZ uses a movement created exclusively for Fabergé by Agenhor manufacture and designed by master craftsman Jean-Marc Wiederrecht. The model adopts a logical and intuitive method of displaying two time zones simultaneously, perfectly suited to the

lifestyles of those who need to keep track of the time in a more than one location.

This unique timepiece presents the hours and minutes of the local time zone with peripheral, open-worked hands rotating around a raised, decorated dome located at the centre of the dial. The hour of the second, remote time zone is viewed through an aperture at the centre of the dome, optically amplified for a bold finish, a feature designed to surprise and delight. The second time zone uses a 24-hour scale, thereby eliminating the need for a day and night indicator. To add >





even greater animation and theatre to the dial, the collection features a dial side rotor, visible beneath the dial's colour-matched sapphire crystal hour ring with applied indices.

Celebrating the Fabergé spirit, Agenhor has created a peacock-shaped mechanic hidden within the movement, paying homage to Fabergé's signature element of surprise. Every time the second time zone hour jumps, the motion of the mechanism resembles a peacock feeding from a bushel of wheat, revealing the whimsical side of the creation.

"We wanted to create a Fabergé surprise in the middle of the watch, but a surprise with a technical purpose. A second time zone is a very useful and quite-common function but the Fabergé interpretation is totally unique; it required months of development to allow the user to discover the second time zone indication through an aperture in the middle of the timepiece," Fabergé global timepieces director Aurelie Picaud said.

Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève

Fabergé Visionnaire DTZ has been awarded the much coveted 2016 Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genčve (GPHG) – the Swiss watch-making

industry's highest honour – in the 'Travel Time' category. Fabergé's Lady Levity watch was also shortlisted in the 'Ladies' category. The Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genčve is an award tradition intended to salute excellence in worldwide horological design and craftsmanship, which presents awards to the finest creations and the watch-making houses behind them

he watch-making houses behind them under 12 categories.

Speaking about the watch's achievement, Fabergé CEO Sean Gilbertson said, "Winning the 'Ladies High Mechanical' category last year was a source of tremendous inspiration for our entire team. To win another GPHG award this year is an honour and privilege that we will not take lightly as we approach 2017, a year that marks both the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution and the 175th anniversary of the founding of Fabergé in 1842. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the jury for their recognition of the spirit that is embodied in Fabergé Visionnaire DTZ."

The watch comes encased in either a 43mm 18 carat rose gold and titanium case or a white gold and black treated titanium case.

The watch comes encased in formidable family a making this award 1 mechanical and artiful articles.

the Fabergé Visionnaire DTZ."

"I thank and congratulate the entire Fabergé team, together with Jean-Marc Wiederrecht and his formidable family and posse at Agenhor, for making this award possible by embracing a spirit of mechanical and artistic adventure." he added. *

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Rings of DESIRE

A superb selection of engagement and wedding rings for bold brides who are not afraid to stand out from the crowd.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

he traditions of exchanging rings on the occasions of engagement and marriage are here to stay. But respecting tradition can go hand in hand with the evolution of jewellery trends. While the diamond solitaire will always be an engagement ring favourite, modern brides-to-be are seeking out new twists on a time-honoured classic.

Square cuts, pear cuts, marquise cuts and hearts are making diamond rings more interesting (Busatti rings, left). And coloured stones, such as rubies and emeralds (Busatti, left; Chopard, page 24) and sapphires (de Grisogono, facing page) have made a comeback.

Chopard, meanwhile, turns the diamond ring concept on its head with its collection of rings with floating diamonds and interlocking, diamond-lined circles (page 25). de Grisogono's "Vortice" collection also has fun with diamonds, stacking mini rings on the ends of a deliberately broken band (page 25).

Vintage-inspired rings are also making the ring fingers of engaged women more interesting. Buccellati (see pages 24 and 25) has created a range of diamond rings with olde worlde charm with its Romanza collection inspired by women of mythology.

Alternatively, de Grisogono has crafted an emerald-cut diamond ring surrounded by black diamonds (page 24) for a luxurious, impossibly glamorous update on the Art Deco-era marcasite baubles.



Wedding bands, meanwhile, are not always plain, unadorned partners for their blingier engagement ring counterparts.

Anna Davern has created a range of gold bands studded with either diamonds or coloured stones (page 25) which can be paired with an engagement ring or a few can be worn as a stack, and can be custom-made.

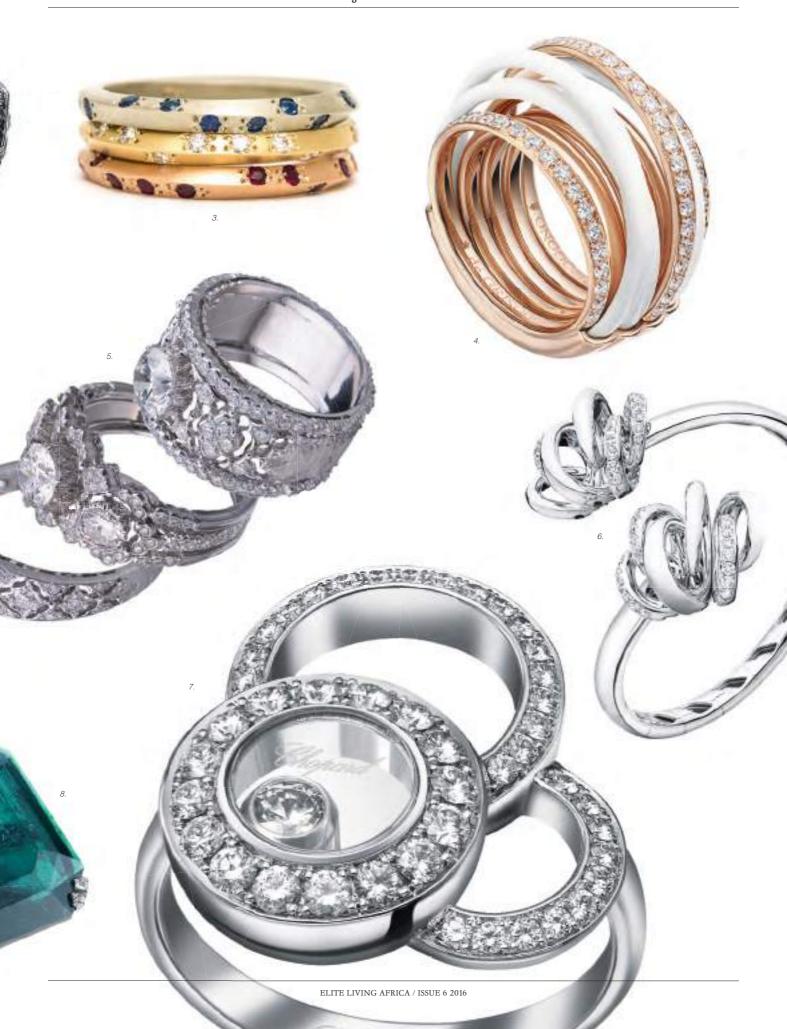
A band-style ring which does not require an engagement ring to steal the show is another option for a stylish entry into married life. de Grisogono's range of stacked rings, an exaggerated take on the

classic Russian wedding ring style, stand alone as a statement of commitment (page 25).

And the married woman who prefers a minimalist yet still eye-catching approach to her wedding jewellery can always opt for another de Grisogono ring. The simple, thick gold band with its striking convex curve is a fabulous distortion of the traditional plain gold wedding band (page 24).

With the holiday season approaching, a favourite time for proposals, we can look forward to seeing fingers adorned with some truly special rings in 2017.







Tis the season to be lavish! Sejal Bhat shares some festive joy.



HAPPY DREAMS NECKLACE

POA, Chopard, www.chopard.com

The "Happy Dreams" collection is inspired by clouds and delightful reveries. The bubbly shapes and whimsical shades of the pink and raspberry-hued rubies make this necklace a fun, frivolous addition to a Christmas stocking. Finished with a solitary diamond that appears to float on its mother-of-pearl backdrop, it is the kind of piece that is designed to make the wearer smile as soon as the clasp is fastened. If your beloved isn't into rubies, the range also features pieces set with twinkling emeralds.

DIAMOND EMERALD SIDEBOARD

\$26,975, Boca do Lobo, bocadolobo.com

The sideboard is made from wood finished with a luxurious shade of translucent emerald green and high gloss varnish. Cut like a gemstone, the new sideboard also features three highly sculptured doors leading to a gold leaf interior with shelving and two drawers. The base is made from mahogany lined with bronze mirror. It is guaranteed to be a conversation piece in any house – and it could even be used as a drinks cabinet that will be the talk of any holiday party. Cheers!





NYMPH SCONCE

\$1,755, Koket, bykoket.com

This depicts the innocent drama of a delicate butterfly through the enchanted journey of life. The Nymph sconce embraces the wild side of this rare and beautiful animal that so gracefully bejewels the lighting fixture. Delicate brass butterflies hover in the air in perfect harmony composing an overblown dramatic silhouette, which gives shape to a luxurious golden sconce.

CLIVE CHRISTIAN NO. 1

\$865, Lucky Scent, luckyscent.com

The one designated for men can be categorised as a unisex fragrance. Starting with intensely green herbal notes of bergamot, lime and mandarin, No. 1 for men soon imbues a sensual world of cardamom-spiced rich vanilla, amber and Mysore Indian sandalwood. Although categorised as an Oriental Amber, there's no ignoring this perfume's aromatic freshness, aided by subtle grapefruit and artemesia notes over its warmer base. A diamond-embedded version of the bottle is said to be the most expensive perfume in the world.



Enchanting ESCAPES

Our style columnist, Temi Otedola shares her favourite destinations for perfecting the art of relaxation this holiday season.

WORDS BY TEMI OTEDOLA

amily, food, fun and laughter – it's Christmas. The one time where staying in pyjamas until midday is expected. But outside the tradition of staying at home, sometimes a change of location calls. Lagos is one of my homes so every December I often find myself in Nigeria, but past Christmases have been in Dubai, Monaco and Alberta. It is always amazing to spend this special time in a place less familiar to you. It sparks off a new sense of adventure. So if you are looking for fun in the sun, a white Christmas or a festive shopping spree, here are my top Christmas getaways.

The Grand-Hotel du Cap-Ferrat on the French Riviera is a classic for the holiday season with milder winter temperatures compared to northern Europe. But if you are in search of sun, sea, sand and adventure, the One&Only Ocean Club in the Bahamas is perfect. The Resort boasts a sunset tradition of champagne and strawberries, Versailles-inspired garden and dozens of white beaches. The contemporary-yet-colonial-style cottages and villas offer privacy.

If skiing into the New Year sparks your interest, the luxurious Hotel Kulm in St. Moritz is a winter paradise. Frequented by Liz Hurley and owned by the Niarchos family, the Kulm offers everything from an all-inclusive spa to five inhouse restaurants. Who even has time to ski?

If you seek culture, late nights and sun, Rio de Janeiro should be your next destination. I thoroughly enjoyed my stay at the Fasano on Copacaba Beach, but would often end my days in Ipanema for the lively bars and restaurants.

My final luxury location is tucked away at the edge of Flamads Beach. The Hotel Tadwana in St Barthélemy is everything you want, from a south of France hideaway – 22 individually designed suites, private atriums and beachfront views. With destinations as enticing as these, Christmas to New Year *must* be a time to indulge in faraway luxuries.

www.jtofashion.com

Temi relaxes at the Grand-Hotel du-Cap on the French Riviera. Top by Natasha Zinko, shorts by BDG, shoes by Louis Vuitton, bag by Chanel, earrings by Prada.



RICHARD MILLE

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The ylang-ylang flower is one of the most widely used essential oils. We look at how this has overtime become a key perfume ingredient.

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

lang-ylang, pronounced 'ilang-ilang', is a plant native to the Maluku Islands and the Philippines. It originates from the Anonaceae plant family and its oil is distilled from the freshly harvested flowers of the Cananga odorata tree. The name 'ylang-ylang' is said to have been derived from a local Philippine dialect "Alang-ilang" which means "fluttering" or "hanging" and literally translates to mean 'flower of 'flowers'. In 1770 production of the ylang-ylang spread to Reunion Island and at the beginning of the 1900s planting of the tree started in Madagascar and then the Comoros Islands.

What truly makes the ylang-ylang flower unique, is its health benefits - the plant is widely used as an antidepressant, antiseptic and aphrodisiac. Ylang-ylang essential oils are also said to help increase bloodflow, improve moods and enable healthy intestinal function.

Artisan perfumer AbdesSalaam Attar mentions the benefits of ylang-ylang on his website, 'Profumo'. "The tree of the Ylang Ylang is cultivated in large areas and produces beautiful white yellow flowers whose intoxicating and invigorating perfume reaches sailors on the sea even before they see land. It is

a highly valued essence both in perfumery for the power of its delicate flowery note, and in aromatherapy for its action on the nervous system in all symptoms derived from stress."

Nowadays, ylang-ylang is commonly used by a wide number of fragrance brands. Irisss by Xerjoff has a rich woody softness to it and features ylang-ylang middle notes. It is composed of rose, jasmine, ylang and violet leaves, while the woody part features notes of vetiver and cedarwood. Amber Star, Xerjoff's rich and balmy perfume from sweet amber, brings together notes of resin and ylang-ylang.

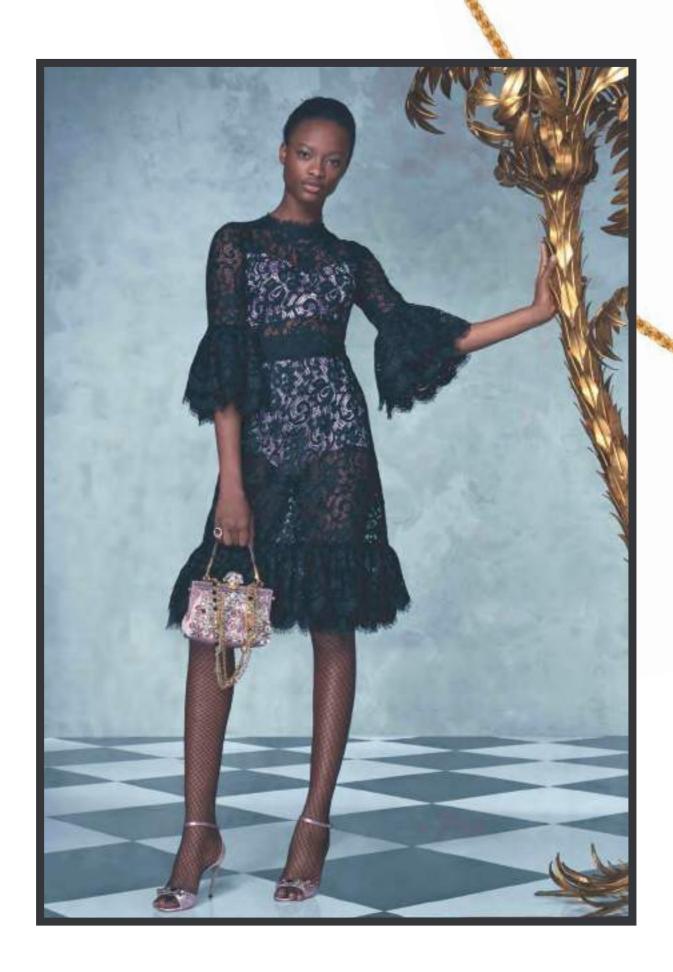
François Demachy, creator of J'adore by Dior, focuses on floral femininity in his fragrances and creates his own signature. J'adore Le Féminin Absolu, the new fragrance by Dior uses essence of ylang-ylang from the Comoros – the world's top producer of the ylang-ylang essential oil, a commodity which reportedly makes up one-tenth of the African island's total export revenues. It also includes notes of jasmine sambac and rose damascena.

"J'adore is an extraordinary perfume as it takes up the challenge of being readily seductive while having an original signature; being sensual without being heavy," says François. "It's a composition that combines opposites, and renders iconic floral notes as an attractive, original and mysterious whole. J'adore invents a flower that doesn't exist".

Master perfumer, Roja Dove also uses ylang-ylang in his Amber Aoud Absolue Précieux fragrance, an oriental spicy fragrance for women and men which he launched in 2012. The fragrance features top notes of bergamot, lemon and lime and middle notes of jasmine, rose, ylang-ylang and fig. "My Aouds capture the mysterious exoticism of the Middle East. Rich, exotic, and complex fragrances of unparalleled luxury - they allow us to discover a world of secret pleasures coveted by all." ❖

RIGHT: Essence of ylang-ylang plays an important role in Dior's classic J'adore fragrance.







Dazzlingdresses for the party Season

Tis the season of festive gatherings, Christmas parties and New Year's eve celebrations. From glittery designs to intricate lace detailing, we bring you a selection of party dresses and accessories that will turn heads this season.

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

obody can argue that Donatella Versace didn't put on a spectacular line-up at The Atelier Versace 2016 couture show held earlier this year in Paris. The Italian designer admitted to toning down Versace's signature super-sexy look to incorporate intricate draping, wrapping and folding in her fall/winter 2016 collection. >





The floor-sweeping gowns were glittering at the Versace runway show, with the models sporting messy chignons, thanks to Guido Palau and ice blue cat-eyes and shimmering burgundy lips by Pat McGrath.

The collection of women's dresses from Versace were not too risqué and embodied a more of an elegant and sophisticated look. All eyes were on supermodel Bella Hadid who stole the show in a stunning red periwinkle silk asset that hugged her curves. She stormed the catwalk in a red form-fitting dress – the perfect outfit for the Christmas season to make you stand out from the crowd. A silky light blue fabric trailed down on the floor from her gown and she wore contrasting black and purple Mary Jane heels as she walked the haute couture runway show.

Fitting well with this season's trends, the dresses from Versace were adorned in glitter and consisted of blacks, reds purples and blues, featuring glacier shards cut through dresses, while oversized sequins create jagged patterns on shimmer dresses. The most elaborate gowns in the collection feature pleats and folds to create a strong silhouette.



ELITE LIVING AFRICA / ISSUE 6 2016







For a more chic look, perfect for a black tie New Year's Eve party, a simple LBD can be teamed with the black Dolce & Gabbana clutch, as seen on page 33, embellished with floral jewels. A simple, classic dress is the perfect foil for bolder accessories.

Or if you are looking for something event more elaborate this New Year's Eve why not ring in the new year with a striking piece in the collection – a black knee-length lace dress with puff sleeves flared at the bottom, which is perfect paired with a brash, pink Dolce & Gabbana clutch and shoes, as seen above left.

For the animal lovers, Dolce & Gabbana's leopard pony purse and pump adorned with precious stones, as seen at left, is a must-have from the collection, which is a far cry from the pieces exhibited at Dolce & Gabbana's fall 2016 show earlier this year in Milan, which transported the crowd to a whimsical fairytale. Gold is always a party season winner so why not try the blingtastic gold shoes with matching boxy clutch, as seen at bottom left, for some serious evening glam, again courtesy of Dolce & Gabbana.

Oscar da La Renta's new creative directors Laura Kim and Fernando Garcia have put an effortless yet elegant spin on the Spring 2017 collection. The show opened with models in a number of loose and flowy white dresses with long sleeves for an angelic look.

If you are planning an all-white themed Christmas party, Oscar da la Renta's white silk faille gown with champagne threadwork will certainly wow your guests. The decorative gold beading and bullion adds a magical touch and, teamed with a pair of Neoalto Loboutins, you can work this Spring look for the festive season too. �

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Stellar SUCCESS

Judy Dlamini is celebrating 20 years of success in South Africa, with the Luminance luxury boutiques among her many achievements.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

"What you wear represents who you are without saying a word, it's an extension of yourself"

udy Dlamini trained as a doctor, worked in the medical profession, started her business career in the healthcare sector with the Mbekani Group and today, the business has grown to cover multiple sectors, including luxury retail. This is where Luminance has been a shining star for the group, with four stores opening since 2013. The first store was opened in Hyde Park, Johannesburg, followed by Luminance Sandton at Nelson Mandela Square, a Jimmy Choo monobrand store and, most recently, Luminance Pretoria, which opened this year. Judy is executive chairman of Luminance. She talks exclusively to Elite Living Africa about her secrets of success and the importance of taking care of her valued customers.

Elite Living Africa (ELA): What led you to pursue a career in the business of fashion?

Judy Dlamini (JD): I've always loved fashion and classic pieces. I just couldn't afford it when I was younger. What you wear represents who you are without saying a word, it's an extension of yourself.

ELA: Tell us about being part of the Mbekani Group. How did this come about and why is this so important for Luminance?

JD: Mbekani celebrates 20 years in business this year. Being part of a

profitable group is always beneficial for a start-up. Start-up companies tend to require more financial resources than originally anticipated and more investment in time and effort. Mbekani gives all that to Luminance.

I started the Mbekani group in a sector that I'm familiar with, the health sector. Although the group still has a bias towards health, such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices and sterile services, it's grown into other sectors as well, including commercial property, facilities management and tourism. Fashion is the baby in the family.

ELA: How do you choose the brands that are represented in the store?

JD: We did market research before we started the business, which informed us on what brands to select. We also have a loyal customer base who like certain brands. Over time we've listened to our customer requests on certain brands that we have introduced at different times. We pride ourselves in having local and international designers sitting comfortably next to each other.

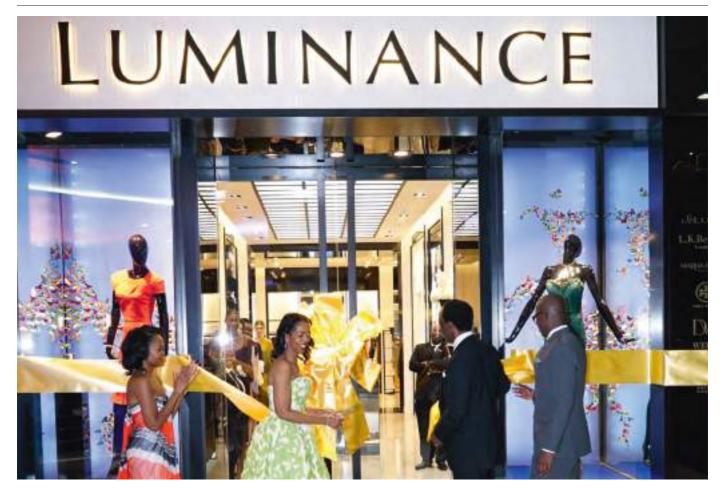
ELA: What brands are the best sellers?

JD: We stock contemporary and luxury brands, both local and international. Each brand appeals to different clients. This makes the shopping experience we give to our customers unique. Our service and product offerings are second to none. >





LEFT: Judy Dlamini wears Oscar de la Renta. RIGHT, TOP AND BOTTOM: Inside the Luminance store in Sandton.



ELA: You have launched Kiton in the Luminance stores. How did this prestigious partnership come about?

JD: We listened to our customers who requested Kiton. Balenciaga menswear was also per our customers' requests. We started off as a women's brand, but our men's section has grown over the past year. Our Sandton store has a good representation of good menswear brands, both contemporary and luxury. We also have an in-store magazine, which is our special gift to our customers. For the first time, in our fouth issue that we've just published, we have half the magazine dedicated to menswear. We recently introduced a local brand called Row-G. We also offer made-to-measure from Corneliani, Kiton and Row-G.

ELA: Tell us more about the in-house St Lumi brand. What is the inspiration for the bags?

JD: St Lumi is luxury made affordable. The St Lumi bag is your everyday bag in the right size and right price. It's made of quality leather and excellent craftsmanship.

ELA: Any plans to expand the St Lumi range?

JD: We have launched two online platforms, luminanceonline.com and stlumilux.com – the latter is all about off-season items that are luxury but at affordable prices. We pride

ourselves on quality products, whether it's mainline, Luminance, or your online Woodbury Common [a premium outlet retail centre] equivalent. With stlumilux.com, the market will dictate to us what range of products St Lumi should carry.

ELA: Tell us about your personal style. What labels do you love to wear?

JD: I love fitted, classy items. The cut, style, and fabric quality are what I get drawn to. I am as comfortable wearing Thula Sindi, Clad Chic or David Tlale as I am wearing an Oscar de la Renta dress, a Givenchy suit or Vince pants. I think fashion in the '50s and '60s was timeless.

ELA: What do you like to do in your spare time? What are your favourite places to visit when you're on holiday?

JD: I love spending time with family, no matter where I am in the world. As long as I'm with my family, that place feels like home. We have a beautiful country with diverse cities, each with its own beauty. However, it's difficult to beat Cape Town. Marbella in Spain and Miami have a special place in my heart.

ELA: What is your most precious possession?

JD: Pictures of my family and memories of good times shared with them. ❖

ABOVE: At the opening of the Luminance Sandton store. Judy wears Oscar de la Renta and her daughter, Nkanyezi, wears Alexander McQueen.





Google Pixel

\$1,100, www.madeby.google.com

The most exciting phone of 2016 kept us waiting the longest. The brand new Google Assistant phone, the first phone built for Virtual Reality from the ground up, the highest ever camera rating on a phone and a seven hour charge in 15 minutes. The Pixel is the latest, and possibly best phone ever made. It is sure to put a cat amongst the pigeons of the traditional Apple and Samsung faithful. With unlimited storage via Google Drive, it may make sure many switch to the Google alternative.



SMARTEST SMARTPHONES

Phones are no longer just phones. We live another life online, and our phones are a means to this. Therefore, smartphones must be intuitive, elegant and personal.

WORDS BY KESTELL DUXBURY



Apple iPhone 7 and 7 plus

\$800 - \$1,200, www.apple.com

Apple's flagship iPhone got even better when the 7 and 7 plus were released in September. The new, brighter, clearer screen will illuminate and clarify every aspect of the iPhone. The battery life and overall performance of the 7 has greatly improved, even on the tremendous iPhone 6. The best camera on any iPhone to date, the most powerful speakers internal speakers and a splash and water resistant unit makes the iPhone 7 the best carnation of the Apple phone ever. In addition, the quirky feature utilising either the lightening port or the latest in bluetooth headphones will fire the iPhone into a new era of mobile music enjoyment.



BlackBerry Porsche Design P9983

\$1,300, www.us.blackberry.com

The more traditional QWERTY keyboard that comes with the Blackberry is now wrapped up in the elegance of the Porsche Design casing.

With either the carbon fibre or leather hand-wrapped back, the BlackBerry Porsche Design P9983 will be right at home on the office desk. The specialised Porsche Design BB pin makes users stand out from other Blackberry device users. It will also make business communications easier and faster than traditional email or text, particularly across borders.





Marshall London

\$600,

www.marshallbeadphones.com

The classic guitar amplifier makers are not known for their phones, but the London is not your normal smartphone. Two front facing speakers, two 3.5mm headphone jacks, the golden 'M' music button and some of the best included headphones make the Marshall London potentially the loudest phone in the world. For people who want the best music player, this is the smartphone for you.



HTC 10

\$600, www.btc.com

The left-of-centre choice from the South Korean giants have turned heads over the last few years. A full metal casing, smooth back, stereo sound and an amazing 'selfie' camera, many have been presently surprised by the latest offering from HTC. A great battery, and user friendly interface make the 10 a real alternative to traditional Samsung and Apple enthuisasts. If you are a music lover, the built in HTC BoomSound by Dolby Audio will be the unique selling point that pushes you towards the HTC 10.



OnePlus 3T

\$550, one plus.net

The lesser-known OnePlus 3T is a smartphone that will do absolutely anything you want it to. However, unlike the Samsung or HTC, the Android driven phone can do it all, for an entire day, on a 30-minute charge. They call this 'dash charge.' In addition, a great camera, smooth, elegant finish with a clean, understated back, the 3T is definately a smartphone to consider for Android users. With 6GB of ram and a Snapdragon 820 processor to boot, it is a very able competitor to the big boys indeed.



Samsung Galaxy Edge S7

\$700 - \$900, www.samsung.com

The biggest thorn in the side of Apple has bene delivered by Apple's biggest rival, Samsung. Irt comes in the form of the Galaxy S7. The curved screen and elegant metalwork sets this phone apart from conventional smartphone visuals. However, the Samsung Gear ranges, which feature the new Gear 3 smartwatch and the Gear VR (Samsung's innovative virtual reality headset) moves the Samsung into a league of its own. Dust resistance and new, intuitive shortcuts make the S7 one of the more user friendly and personalised phones on the market.

Sony Xperia XZ

\$650, sonymobile.com

On the outskirts of the mobile market, Sony have been quietly getting on with producing some amazing phones. The top-of-therange Xperia XZ is the phone for budding photographers who need to catch the best images on the go. With quick launch and triple image sensing technology, the Sony features some of the best camera technology, allowing users to take great pictures in an instant. A clean, metal finish, smart battery management and expandable memory that can handle up to 256gb, the Sony is a great all-round smartphone that deserves attention.





SECURITY DETAIL

DEMAND FOR HIGH SECURITY VEHICLES FOR VIPS AND EXECUTIVES IS RISING, AND MANUFACTURERS ARE RESPONDING WITH BESPOKE TOUCHES.

WORDS BY MARTIN CLARK



ullet-proof tinted glass, advances in lightweight armour, and materials that counter landmines and hand grenades - it may all sound like the stuff of James Bond, but armoured vehicles with these features are now commonly sold worldwide.

Security conscious drivers can now request an eyewatering array of features for their vehicles to protect them from a multitude of diverse threats, from bullets to cyanide gas. The big car manufacturers – the likes of BMW, Mercedes and Audi, among others – have responded to this niche but growing market with new innovations to make their cars the toughest, baddest car out there.

Audi is making great strides in the market that caters to security-conscious buyers.

But why do people need bullet-proof cars in the first place? In some locations the answer is obvious and, increasingly so, in many parts of Africa. Where there are gangs carrying guns or high incidents of gun crime or a proliferation of weapons, it's certainly a reassurance knowing that there's a protective barrier between yourself and the outside world. For VIPs, executives and senior officials of state, then the stakes can be even higher. Carjacking and robberies from occupied cars, using force, even kidnappings, are also common in parts of Africa and other volatile territories worldwide.

Land Rover's own armoured car expertise falls within its military-sounding Special Vehicle >



Operations Division – akin to the British government's World War Two Special Operations Executive, the precursor to today's secretive SAS regiment. The company's recent output includes the Range Rover Sentinel, dubbed a 'mobile fortress'. Hand-built at Land Rover's UK facilities, the vehicle is based on the standard wheelbase Range Rover Autobiography but provides the highest levels of protection for an SUV.

Designed to withstand all manner of possible damage, the vehicle is verified to VR8 standard against ballistic threats, meaning it can withstand armour piercing incendiary bullets and the blast from DM51 grenade explosions. And yet, inside, the car offers the same, true luxury and refinement as any other top Range Rover model.

Its protective shell includes a six-piece armoured passenger cell, made of super-high-strength steel and multi-laminated armoured and bullet-proof privacy glass. Other features include an anti-tamper exhaust, a self-sealing fuel tank, an auxiliary back-up battery and run flat inserts on the tyres, which allow the vehicle to be driven even if the tyres are deflated.

There's no 007-style ejector seat though, as the whole point is keeping threats, intruders, and ballistics damage very much on the outside of the vehicle.

German car maker Audi recently offered its Q5 model for the first time in an armoured vehicle version,

ABOVE: The Audi A8 L cuts an imposing figure on the roads. FACING PAGE: High-tech gadgetry as well as a secure structure are equally important to Range Rover.





although it has identified South America as the initial pilot market.

It says the Audi Q5 security vehicle is the world's first SUV in the segment to be offered in an armoured version straight from the factory floor.

On the outside, it's practically indistinguishable from other production line models, but it offers total ballistics defence, with the ability to resist attacks by handguns up to 44-magnum in calibre, one of the world's most powerful handguns.

The inside is constructed so that occupants are protected even if attackers shoot into the seam areas, while the car's windows consist of multi-layer bulletproof glass.

And yet despite the heavy armour it's fast off the mark too, sprinting from 0 to 100 km/h in 7.9 seconds, with a top speed of 235 km/h.

All the while, VIPs inside get to enjoy the comfort of a three-zone automatic air conditioning system and a state-of-the-art Bang & Olufsen 3D sound system.

Another model, the Audi A8 L, which it describes as the 'most secure Audi ever' equally offers an incredible amount of protection for drivers and passengers. Launched in April 2016, the armoured security sedan integrates various innovative and resistant materials such as aramide fabric, special aluminium alloys and a hot-formed steel armour that offers even greater protection despite its lower weight.

The company manufacturers each order entirely under its own supervision in a partnership between its Neckarsulm plant and a secure, top-secret factory.

Another feature is the car's fire extinguishing system, which is activated at the press of a button

or by heat sensor, and can eliminate threats underneath with nozzles spraying into wheel arches, onto the underbody and fuel tank, and into the engine compartment.

The car's defence systems also include pressurised cartridges housed in a protected zone to deliver emergency fresh air in the event of a gas attack, and prevent the infiltration of toxic substances.

Driven by demand, many companies now specialise in building cars fit for the apocalypse – and not exclusively for the rich and famous. Among them is US-based International Armoring Corporation (IAC), which has facilities in Africa where it creates bespoke vehicles for high net worth individuals and other customers. Its South African unit Armormax works with all major car brands and uses the latest in high tech lightweight armour to offer options for all safety-conscious citizens.

Its analysis of hijackings in South Africa show that by far the majority of incidents are committed with handguns, which in armouring terms are a relatively easy threat to negate.



The company can install its armour as an aftermarket solution to pretty much any vehicle, which means you can easily convert your Jaguar, Bentley or Mercedes at the Armormax workshop given enough time and money.

It also says demand for bullet resistant vehicles among the public in general is very much on the increase; it's research shows that South Africa is beaten only by Somalia for kidnappings within Africa. The proliferation of illegal firearms has been a major contributing factor in the rise of violent crime. Of course, how much protection any individual needs is open to question.

BMW categorises three risk situations for its armoured vehicles: street crime (attacks with blunt objects and handguns up to a calibre of .44 Magnum), organised crime (attacks with the most commonly used automatic weapon in the world, the AK-47) and attacks with explosive devices and armour-piercing weapons.

Its armoured car division, BMW Security Vehicles, says how much protection you need depends on your circumstances - where you live and work,

what your job involves, and how high your public profile is.

And, as you'd expect, there's a price to pay for such extreme safety measures, especially for state-of-theart new models rolling off European factory floors. The Range Rover Sentinel, for instance, which is aimed primarily at export markets and built to special order carries an indicative pricing in excess of \$400,000.

Nonetheless, many of these cars are now routinely deployed at flagship ceremonial, government and private sector engagements worldwide.

These include the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where a whole fleet of armoured vehicles are made available to ferry VIPs between venues.

In the case of presidents and prime ministers then clearly only the very best will do. But with more ordinary citizens in countries like South Africa and Nigeria increasingly concerned for their safety amid rising gun crime then this is very much a growth industry. •





Lürssen Yachts produces a limited number of yachts each year. Michael Breman, the company's sales director, talks to *Elite Living Africa* about how they make truly special vessels for their discerning clientele.

WORDS BY ROMAN ZINCENKO

ürssen Yachts has launched two superyachts, Azzam and Dilbar, which are both recordholders in their own right. And now Mistral, the latest in the German shipbuilder's fleet, is preparing for a 2017 launch. *Elite Living Africa* talked exclusively to Michael Breman, the sales director of Lürssen, on board the Coral Ocean yacht at the Monaco Yacht Show.

Elite Living Africa (ELA): Tell our readers about the history of Lürssen Yachts.

Michael Breman (MB): Our company is 141 years old. Its history began when Friedrich Lürssen started building little rowing and pleasure boats. Now the business is managed by the fourth generation of the Lürssen family and one member of the fifth generation. Since then the company has built over 13,000 vessels. The most notable period was between the world wars when we built the so-called commuter boats for the US market – these were the boats fitted with Maybach engines made for wealthy Americans. We also have

built, and are still successfully building navy and coastguard vessels of all kinds. Nowadays, we build yachts from 60 to over 200 metres. Another business we are very active in is the repair and refit of yachts With the recent acquisition of the Blohm + Voss yard in Hamburg, these two activities are further enhanced. Navy ships and yachts are built and refitted at our wholly owned shipyards located across northern Germany.

ELA: What trends do you see among yacht buyers?

MB: It is difficult to see a particular trend when you only make two or three megayachts a year. However, we have noticed that in recent year,s our clients like to have the latest communications solutions, spas, banyas [Russian saunas] and other facilities for healthy spacious living. They want to have more outdoor facilities reflecting an active lifestyle. Also, there is a clear tendency to use glass more and more and to make the windows larger.







ELA: What have been some of the most interesting projects Lürssen has worked on?

MB: They are all interesting because they are all individual creations designed for very demanding customers. All our boats are bespoke. For example, yachts like Pelorus, Azzam, which is the world's longest, and Dilbar, which has the world's highest tonnage. The clients expected the highest quality in every detail and, depending on size, it takes up to four to five years to build a boat like this.

ELA: What geographical regions are experiencing the strongest growth in yacht sales?

MB: Typically, the biggest markets are North America, Europe, and Russia with other CIS countries where yachting is a tradition. In Africa and Asia, where it is unusual to enjoy yachting, it takes more than just wealth to become a yacht owner. There are certain people in these regions that enjoy yachting, specifically in countries like Nigeria and South Africa. It is, however, only a matter of time for Africa to discover the wonderful lifestyle yachts can offer. If you own a yacht, you can take your house on a boat, and you can pick a different view for yourself to wake up to every morning.

ELA: What exciting plans does Lürssen have for the future?

MB: Our mission is to make sure that we deliver the highest quality boats, because you're only as good as your last yacht. That's why in this business you have to excel every time. Talking about our newest plans – the yacht Mistral, which is more than 100 metres long, is going to be delivered in early 2017. Mistral was designed by Espen Oeino, a designer we have worked a lot with in the past. But what is always important is to reflect the Lürssen DNA in each of them. ❖

LEFT: The Coral Ocean, where Elite Living Africa spoke exclusively to Michael Breman. ABOVE LEFT: The Mistral, due to be delivered in early 2017. ABOVE RIGHT: Michael Breman talked about the importance of excellent customer service with bespoke vessels, and international markets.



ANEW ERA AT SEA



REALITY IN 2017 WITH VOYAGES AIMED AT SEEKERS OF SERIOUS OCEANGOING LUXURY.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS







travel trends among ultra high-net worth individuals (UHNWI) and high-net worth individuals (HNWI).

Crystal Symphony will be the ship that launches the company's first Cape Town launch, with a variety of itineraries of differing lengths on offer. High end dining is high on the agenda for the cruises with a Nobu Matsuhisa-run restaurant and the Crystal Dining Room, which offers a choice of classic or molecular cuisine every night.

Christmas 2017 could be spent at sea with a 22 December Cape Town departure for a cruise that takes in the Mozambican capital of Maputo, Richards Bay, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth in South Africa, and Namibia's Walvis Bay and Luderitz.

There will also be a cruise in December 2017 that starts in picturesque Port Louis in Mauritius, calling in at Reunion Island, Madagascar, Mozambique and then South Africa's Richard Bay, Durban and Port Elizabeth, before docking in Cape Town.

Pan-African cruises can eliminate the need for multiple visas, and the Cape Town launch point means that for many discerning travellers, the need for a long-haul flight to a far-flung departure point is no more.

A cruise from Cape Town offers a great opportunity to experience one

of Africa's most stunning cities. With majestic Table Mountain as a backdrop, Cape Town's V&A Waterfront is one of the most scenic ports to sail to or from. Recently awarded preferred bidder status by the Transet National Ports Authority for the development of a cruise terminal at the Port of Cape Town, the V&A recognises that cruise liner tourism is one of the fastest-growing areas of tourism.

For the intrepid explorer, innovative shore excursions and private off-ship adventures such as cage-diving with sharks in Cape Town, can be customised, further personalising the experience.

It is truly a stereotype-breaking venture for the cruise market. As well as the commitment to fine cuisine, the onboard activities for Crystal Symphony are aimed at the mind and body, as well as the desire to be decadent. There are stunning bars and a casino for those who are keen to live it up.

But there are the more sedate – yet equally luxurious – options such as a feng shui-themed spa, a spacious gym, one-on-one golf lessons and a cinema.

To feed the mind, there are language classes and interesting lectures on topics as diverse as natural history, wine, literature, theatre and archaeology, with speakers chosen for not only their expertise but their >

ABOVE AND LEFT: Prepare for a cruising Christmas on the Crystal Symphony for 2017.

The traditional cruise has been reimagined to attract younger travellers and multigenerational holidaymakers seeking family time as well as luxury.







CRYSTAL SYMPHONY: The vital statistics

Builder: Kvaerner Masa Yards -- Turku, Finland Entered service: 3 May, 1995 Length: 781 ft (238.1m)

Width: 99 ft (30.2m)
Weight: 51,044 gross registered tons (approx.)

Cruising speed: 20 knots Maximum speed: 21 knots

Cost: \$250 million

Major redesigns: 2012, 2009, 2008, 2006,

2004, 2001, 1999

Guest capacity: 922 Crew size: 545

Guest-to-crew ratio: 1.64:1

Decks: 12 Staterooms: 461



LEFT: Once on board the Crystal Symphony, guests will experience all the five-star facilities one would expect of a luxury hotel, including the finest cuisine.

fascinating anecdotes. This is part of the Crystal Visions Enrichment programme - speakers have included ambassadors, diplomats, chefs, destinationoriented historians, humourists, journalists and popular authors, such as Flags of our Fathers author, James Bradley.

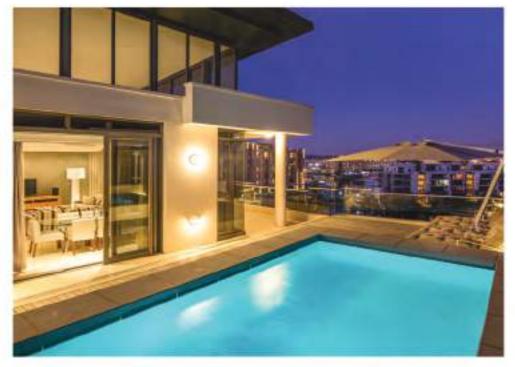
Other leading speakers have included General Richard Myers (America's 15th chairman of the Joint-Chiefs-of-Staff), Modern Family casting director Jeff Greenberg, political consultants, James Carville and Mary Matalin, and former CIA and NSA director, General Michael Hayden.

And even the most hardened cynic would struggle not to raise a smile at the entertainment. Bret Bullock, Crystal's vice president, entertainment says variety is essential for the clientele, with "discerning theatre-goers, concert-lovers and dance aficionados" among the guests. "We're creating an environment that is stimulating, participatory and visually dazzling," says Bullock.

The Galaxy Show Lounge is the main entertainment venue, with Broadway-style shows a speciality. Crystal Symphony's newest shows include the New York dance-and-light spectacular, iLuminate: The Tourist and iLuminate: Imagine.

The Starlite Club is Crystal Symphony's evening cabaret venue, as well as a place for dancing, winetasting and guest lectures. Palm Court, the top deck observation lounge is home to dancing, parties and classical music concerts, while the Avenue Saloon is the classic cocktail and piano bar for a retro vibe. The Connoissuer Club, meanwhile, is the cigar and smoking lounge for pre- or after-dinner drinks and conversation. Crystal Casino offers slot and video poker machines, roulette, craps, baccarat, Blackjack tables, 3-Card Poker, Ultimate Texas Hold'em and, on request, Mini-Baccarat.

In short, it's a new era for cruising from Africa, and Crystal hopes to attract an elite new clientele. �



Recently voted 'South Africa's Leading Serviced Apartments* in the World Travel Awards 2016, Lawhill Luxury Apartments offers travellers a taste of luxury living at the frottest address in Cape Towy! It's the ideal base to explore the Mother City and all it has to offer, with easy access to the Waterfront's shopping malls and is a stone's throw from the Aquarium and other exciting entertainment venues.

Quests at Lawhill can enjoy elegant accommodation with a real 'home-away-from-home' feel, whilst enjoying complete privacy. Large exclusive balconies and paties afford breath-taking views of the marina and the canal. A dedicated reception deak, concierge service, daily housekeeping and 24-hour socurity ensure that guests are left wanting for nothing.

Reservations: +27 (0) 21 418 2138 reservations@lawhittlaxuryapartments.com www.lawhilliusuryapartments.com









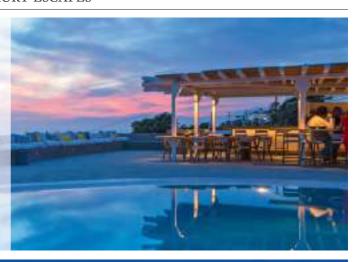




Aegean dream

For an intimate experience, the Boheme Hotel on the Greek island of Mykonos is hard to beat. With just 20 suites, it is a crowd-free break. As well as being a glorious spot to enjoy a European summer, the relatively mild winter weather makes it worth contemplating for Christmas or new year celebrations. And if you can drag yourself away from the hotel, there is a quaint town nearby to explore.

www.bohememykonos.com





SNOW SHOW



The Austrian alps are among the most spectacular mountains in the world and the ski resort of Obergurgl is among the prettiest. Whether you are serious about skiing or just fancy a winter wonderland during the northern hemisphere's chilly season, the Hotel Bergwelt offers a great blend of tradition and modernity. While the exterior offers Christmas card charm, the interior is chic and modern. The hotel boasts a spa with the highest swimming pool in the Alps, a panoramic restaurant, and a bar with fireplace. Accommodation ranges from romantic hideaways with four-poster beds through to contemporary rooms with modern decor.

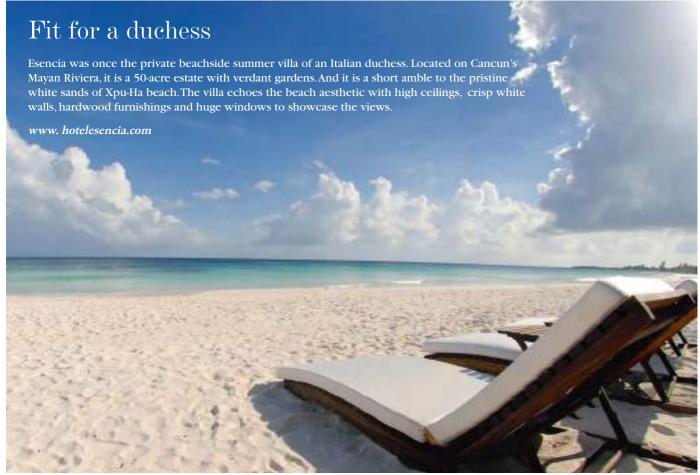
www.hotelbergwelt.com

WAKE UP TO BLISS

Experiencing Barbados in a private villa with a view at the foot of your bed of a magnificent beach is a pleasure that can never be underrated. Blue Sky Luxury offers 120 villas at prime locations along the west and south coast of Barbados. As well as the blissful beach views, there are also villas on offer with absolute ocean frontage or lush greenery at the inland properties. There are four styles of villa on offer -Essential, Classic, Luxury and Flagship - and the experience can be customised to suit your needs. Dedicated staff are on hand to prepare sumptuous meals, and personal concierges are happy to organise activities and itineraries for exploring the area. As well as stylish decor and furniture, the villas are kitted out with private pools and facilties may include tennis courts, staff accommodation, in-house cinemas, gyms and access to equipment for water sports.

www.blueskyluxury.com







HEAD FOR THE HILLS

High on a Goan hilltop, Summertime is a luxury villa which has just won the Best Romantic Boutiwue Hotel 2016 prize at the World Boutique Hotel Awards. The villa is wonderfully hidden away, surrounded by natural greenery and overlooking paddy fields, with two acres of private gardens where birds and butterflies abound. As well as enjoying the comforts of the villa, Summertime guests can charter the Solita, a luxury yacht that is perfect for exploring Goa by sea. And after a day of dolphin-spotting, enjoy the infinity pool, the sea breezes and the delightful birdsong.

www.summertimegoa.com



Blue waters, green landscapes and eco-friendly accommodation combine to make Six Senses Ninh Van Bay in Vietnam a marvellous getaway. Located in a discreet bay that is home to magnificent rock formations and a mile-long stretch of private beach, The 35 villas have been refurbished and feature bathrooms with floor-to-ceiling windows, outdoor rain showers, swing seats and surround-sound systems. Environmentally conscious travellers will be pleased to know the solar hot water panels mean relaxing baths and showers are powered by renewable energy.

www. sixsenses.com



SAFARI FOR THE SOUL

Uganda's pristine forests are utterly unspoilt and can now be enjoyed from superb lodges. The wild and remote Buhoma landscape is home to rare mountain gorillas, who roam freely in the Bwindi Forest, part of the Virunga National Park, which is also famous for its majestic volcanoes. Boutique bandas are now open here for adventurers who still like a touch of luxury. Built using grass thatching, stone and bamboo, they blend in seamlessly with the natural surroundings. The eco-luxe resort started life as a simple tented camp and now it has evolved to offer idyllic accommodation for discerning travellers. The views can be enjoyed from extensive verandahs or via the picture windows by a roaring fire on a cooler day. Bwindi Lodge guests can take advantage of a range of activities, including gorilla tracking, hiking, bird-watching and visiting community projects. The lodges are a one-hour flight from Entebbe International Airport via an 11-seater charter flight with Aerolink.

www.volcanoessafaris.com









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Ring Road, Palms Shopping Mall Tel: 08100953486







At Whistling Rock golf and country club, ancient tea ceremonies are as much a part of the experience as the perfect drive.

WORDS BY MARTIN CLARK

Outh Korea may be one of the buzzing tech centres of the world, but step onto the glorious fairways and greens of the Whistling Rock Country Club and you're a world away from all the big city's hustle and bustle.

One of the region's premier golf resorts, this is a destination where guests come to unplug and unwind, as well as to enjoy some of the best golf that South Korea has to offer. Located in Churcheon, about one hour northeast of Seoul in the foothills of the Gangwon provincial mountains, it is a world-class private golfing facility that celebrates the character of the surrounding landscape.

Whistling Rock's astounding look is the vision of renowned international golf architect Ted Robinson Jr. who sought to create a venue that would inspire awe in all those who visit. Robinson's 27-hole routing is defined by pristine lakes, roaring streams, deep forests and bold rock formations native to the property. It's pretty to look at, fun to play on, and leaves a lasting impact on guests.

An upscale, private country club, Whistling Rock has three nine-hole loops, each possessing its own distinctive traits. Each nine is named after the signature tea houses that grace each course, the Cocoon, Temple, and Cloud.

These spaces offer an oasis of calm for guests and golfers alike, and indeed an inviting sanctuary when the weather turns outside.

Resting gently atop a rugged mountain ridge, the venue's luxurious clubhouse is designed to carefully fit with the look and feel of the overall site. >

Enjoy the opportunity to play in picture-perfect surrounds at Whistling Rock.



With 21
bridges and
artistic
bunkers that
blend
effortlessly
into the
natural
surroundings,
this is a course
of striking
aesthetic
beauty.

The elongated white building stands out as a floating belvedere, with an extensive glass and timber-framed facade giving visitors commanding views of the golf course and surrounding nature. Inside, there are a multitude of diverse spaces, indoor and outdoor courtyards, and sculpture gardens, each with its own identity; it's easy to spend a lot of time inside, especially when it's cold outdoors. Contrasting elements – light and dark, soft and hard, smooth and rough, natural and crafted – trigger all the senses.

In fact, there are aspects of Whistling Rock's look and feel that take guests on something of a cultural journey, with uniquely Korean elements added to enhance the experience and identity of the resort.

There's also a modern twist, provided by Dutch architecture firm Mecanoo, which was engaged in the design of the resort's clubhouse and teahouses.

The clubhouse itself resembles a museum where members and visitors are invited to celebrate culture as well as nature; it's also a venue where business meetings take place and deals get done. Simple forms and white floors and ceilings ensure balance, peace and calm throughout the building. Inside there are fine restaurants, meeting rooms, a plush spa, plus a wine cellar stocked with more than 100,000 bottles of wine, something for every palate.

And, of course, dotted along the route of the golf course are the three wonderfully charming teahouses that offer scenic stops for players to rest. The teahouses themselves are designed as sculptural objects and serve as visual icons in the landscape; they offer a magnificent experience in their own right where the ancient ritual of the tea ceremony truly comes to life.

The 27 hole golf course itself is world-class, with a routing that follows strategic elevation changes along the mountain hillsides and takes careful account of the area's other natural elements and diverse landscape, which includes 15 lakes connected by 2.5 km of streams and seven breathtaking waterfalls.

You'll also find 21 bridges and numerous artistic bunkers that blend effortlessly into the natural surroundings; the striking aesthetic beauty and elegance of it all stands out.

Golfers will enjoy testing themselves with a creative combination of choices and challenges. Course







architect Ted Robinson Jr. – an American who's list of credits back home includes courses in California and Hawaii, among other overseas projects – wanted to create a genuine golf 'adventure' that poses enticing risk-and-reward scenarios throughout each nine and for players of all levels.

"If you are playing the golf course from the back tees, it has every challenge you can possibly think of," Robinson says. "It will test your skills. But it is also straightforward, with sets of tees for every player to have an opportunity to succeed on a golf course that is fun to play."

During the development of the course, Robinson created new corridors along the modified valley floor that follow natural elevation changes from tee to green and are artfully woven into the landscape.

The Temple course is routed through the highest elevations of the site. Here, you'll find the most challenging shots at Whistling Rock, but you'll also get to enjoy the most breathtaking vistas. That means that while you'll need to focus on your game a bit more, it's essential not to miss the incredible views.

In contrast, the Cloud nine-hole course is somewhat secluded from the rest of the golfing experience, a place for calm and composure perhaps. Then there is the Cocoon course, hidden in the rocks, set in the lower elevations of the site.

If the course itself is easy on the eye, then you won't want to miss out on the other facilities, especially the signature tea houses that grace each of the nines. All offer a different experience, but a favourite has to be the Cocoon Tea House, which is situated between the fifth green and the sixth tee on the Cocoon course.

All offer a different experience, but a favourite has to be the Cocoon Tea House, which is situated between the fifth green and the sixth tee on the Cocoon course.

For the golfer, of course, there's plenty more to discover as well, with a pro shop, practice greens and other facilities including a caddy system that allows the caddy to bring their cart up to the hole from afar by remote control, keeping it on the path to keep the grass in good shape.

Owned and operated by Taekwang Group, a large South Korean conglomerate, Whistling Rock Country Club is a destination in itself for visitors to this part of the world. If you're looking to escape the hustle and bustle of Seoul there's no better place for a golfer's retreat.

ABOVE: The Whistling Rock course has been designed for high terrain. When golfers pause for refreshments, they can still enjoy the stunning beauty of this special course.

In the Clear

Premium vodka is rising in popularity in Africa and with the party season upon us, now is the time to indulge with special editions.

WORDS BY GEORGINA WILSON-POWELL

hile gin might be all the rage in Europe and the US, in Africa, vodka's star is on the rise. The potent clear liquid, which can made be made with a range of base ingredients, including rye, barley and grapes, sits second only to whisky in South Africa and is finding new popularity amongst female drinkers and cocktail lovers all over the continent, as drinking trends have evolved. What is also clear is that the more premium and more luxurious the brand, the more popular it is in Africa.

Earlier this year, Charles Gibb, president of Belvedere vodka, told *FinTech24* in an interview, "Vodka has an exciting future, in particular in Africa, since it's the most dynamic and flexible spirit, suiting consumers' tastes on multiple occasions and being the most dynamic of all categories."

Amit Datta, Category Head at Grey Goose, spoke to *Elite Living Africa*, and agreed with the Gibb's sentiments: "Luxury brands are seeing an upswing in the African continent. The affluent African consumer is well travelled and is definitely brand savvy. For Grey Goose we are optimistic about building our business across all major economies in Africa. Grey Goose is truly a globally iconic brand and we are committed to win in Africa."





High-end vodka brands are offering pure spirits and stylish bottles.





THE LUXURY LINE-UP

If you're looking to impress at a party this festive season, it's worth knowing how the luxury labels stack up.

Grey Goose: French vodka Grey Goose, founded by the billionaire who invented Jagermeister, uses wheat and filtered water from the Champagne region in France that has been drawn from a well for a completely fresh, unpolluted taste.

Ciroc: Ciroc is made in the South of France from grapes and distilled five times, using a tailor-made copper pot still. The brand is partly owned by the American singer and rapper, P Diddy and the vodka is distilled by French wine makers who can trace their vineyard-based heritage back to the 15th century.

Ketel One: Unlike other vodka brands, Ketel One has 325 years of experience to fall back on. For all that time it's been owned by the Nolet family, now in their 10th generation as vodka makers. Ketel One is created in Holland using wheat and a fusion of modern and traditional distilling processes.

Belvedere: One of the first in a new wave of luxury vodkas to emerge in the past two decades, Belvedere uses rye and a 600-year-old Polish distilling tradition to make its additive-free, clean-tasting clear liquor.

If you want to really push the spirit boat out, try these three ways to make sure you have the bottle to stand out.

GO BIG

When it comes to vodka, does the old adage about bigger being better ring true? Ciroc and Grey Goose seem to think so, as both brands have released mighty big bottles of their premium vodka. The whopping six litre Grey Goose bottle is subtly named the 'Methuselah' while Circoc's smaller 1.75 litre bottle calls itself a Magnum. It's six-litre offering however is just a 'really big bottle'.

GO LOCAL

This September, South Africa-owned Distinkt Vodka launched. It was created by four friends from Kagiso, a township outside Johannesburg. First time distiller Sibisiso Sibisi told news portal site SME South Africa: "We realised that there is a significant market opportunity for a proudly South African high-quality vodka, which is attractively priced and is also a premium brand. We believe it is time for Africans to consume what is made in Africa."

Having achieved the SA Bureau of Standards certification, the black bottled brand hopes to begin shipping and distribution soon. ▶



Belvedere has partnered with Ndebele artist Esther Mahlangu on a limited edition bottle for its #makeadifference campaign. The usual Belvedere bottle artwork has been replaced with traditional Ndebele symbols, which mean security, support, change and unity – all central tenants of the (RED) campaign which supports the fight against AIDS and HIV. Belvedere has supported (RED) for the last five years.

"Belvedere is delighted to continue the (BELVEDERE)RED campaign with the help of these passionate artists, who are as dedicated as we are to spreading awareness and being a part of the change to end the transmission of HIV from mother to child. Together, we can Make the Difference," says Charles Gibb, president of Belvedere Vodka.

Mahlangu has been a celebrated South African artist for the last three decades but still uses the Ndebele method to paint, using soil based colours and twigs and feathers as brushes.

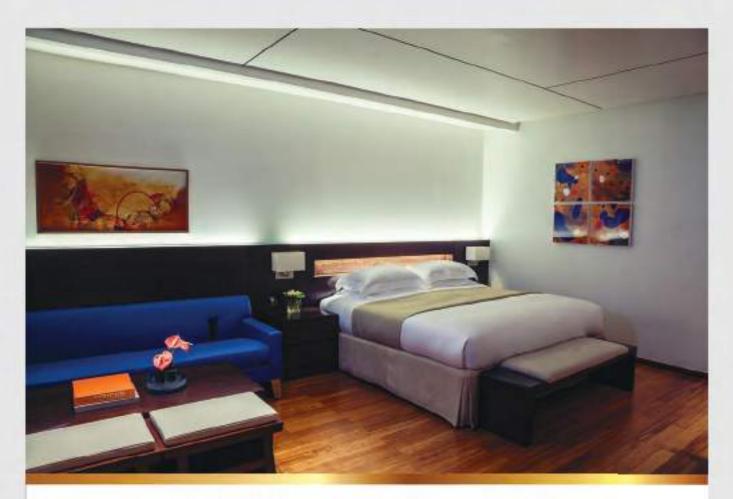
Another designer taking to the bottle is Roberto Cavalli. His limited edition Chameleon designer vodka has been designed so the black bottle changes colour depending on how you turn it in the light. It's definitely a striking start to a party.

Ciroc has introduced a new mango flavour to its vodka line up. The flavour strutted its stuff for the first time at London Fashion Week. Nick Temperley, head of Diageo Reserve GB, commented: "Ciroc's success is built on innovating to ensure it remains ahead of the game, creating new and exciting variants that consumers will love.

The Ciroc audience are trendsetters, constantly looking for new products, eye-catching launches and the next big thing. I am certain that the addition of Mango to the Ciroc range will be a big favourite." >

The Esther Mahiangu special edition for Belvedere.





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...nesting international standards with African hospitality

PICKETON OF TO PICKETON OF TO PICKET

TOP TIPPLES FOR TRAVELLERS

For those who are passing through duty free or hitting the shops abroad this festive season, these unusual, luxury brands are hard to come by in Africa but can be found elsewhere.

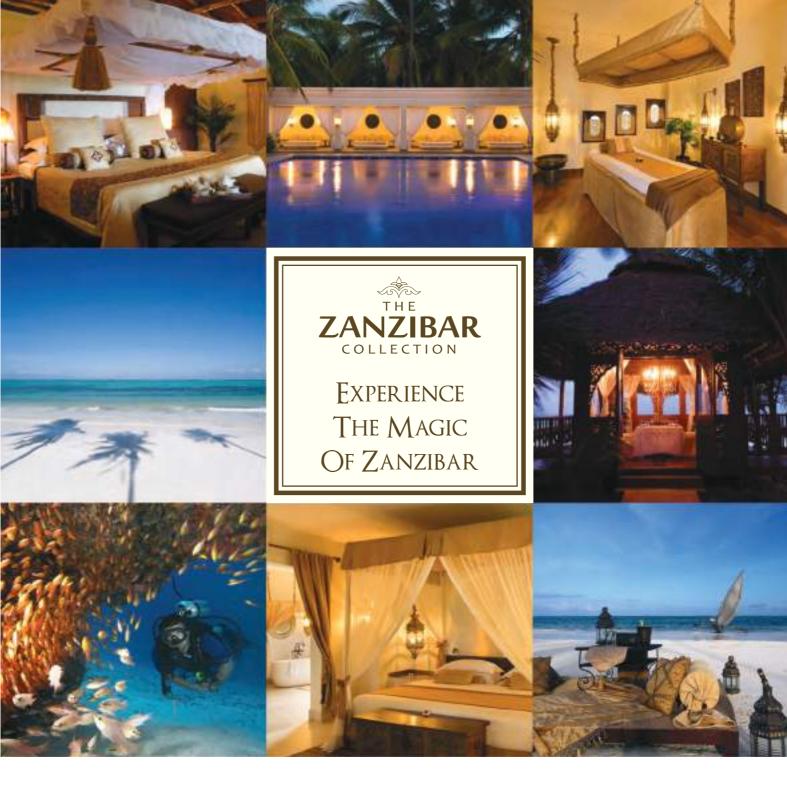
Kauffman Soft Private Collection Vintage Vodka: Upping the distilling and filtering game, Kauffman distils a single year's wheat harvest 14 times before being filtered through birch wood and quartz. It has an exceptionally soft and mellow taste.

Crystal Head Vodka: You can't miss this one, as it literally is a crystal skull filled with alcohol. Made from peaches and cream corn it's filtered seven times, including through semi-precious crystals three times. www.crystalhead.com

Black Cow Vodka: Made from milk from Dorset herds of cows in the UK, Black Cow is an unusual but clean tasting vodka from dairy farmer turned distiller James Barber. www.blackcow.co.uk �

BELOW: A mango cocktail is a perfect party starter for the festive season.





The Zanzibar Collection is a privately owned collection of beautiful boutique hotels inspired by the magic of Zanzibar, lying on one of the Top 30 Island beaches in the world. Offering a range of water sports, stunning Spas and East Africa's only National Geographic affiliated PADI 5 star Dive Centre.

Baraza Resort and Spa was chosen as one of the World's 60 Best New Hotels on the Condé Nast Hotlist and among the top 10 resorts in Africa and the Middle East!

WWW.THEZANZIBARCOLLECTION.COM



The Art Of living

Art investment meets property investment meets luxury travel at a visionary development in Miami.

WORDS BY JENNYFER IDEH

rt Basel Miami Beach might never be the same again. In fact, the entire city is poised for a cultural renaissance following a billion dollar development on a former derelict site in the Mid Beach area. Faena District Miami Beach is the result of that development: the lively new neighbourhood is spread across six blocks which run along a majestic strip of ocean. The area marks the second official designation of a district in the city's history, and with a master plan firmly rooted in art and culture, the ambitious project aims to change Miami Beach forever.

Alan Faena, the visionary Argentine real estate developer, is the catalyst for that change. Together with businessman and philanthropist Len Blavatnik, the partners plan to revive Miami's cultural scene with a programme of hospitality, retail, residences, wellness, fine art and culture. The project began with the Faena Hotel – the much celebrated renovation of the former Saxony Hotel was inaugurated last year.

The Saxony was a landmark of the post-war era in Miami, famed for its opulence and a favourite among Hollywood stars. The Faena Hotel standing in its place today maintains its luxury heritage, while pushing the boundaries of the hotel experience.

Described as a living art installation, the space features works by artists such as Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons, Alberto Garutti,

and Juan Gatti, whose site specific murals line the walls of the hotel's grand foyer. The hotel is complemented by Faena House, a block of luxury apartments where residents are greeted by a giant Jeff Koons installation in the entrance atrium. Owners of the exclusives residences also enjoy membership to Faena Arts, the arts and cultural programme curated by Ximena Caminos, Faena's wife and the Artistic Director of Faena Group.

The final phase of the district opened to the public during this year's Art Basel Miami Beach to great fanfare. Three new spaces complement the hotel and residences, completing the neighbourhood project: Faena Forum, Faena Park and Faena Bazaar.

Across the street from the hotel sits the Faena Forum, an imposing cultural centre intended as the nucleus of the District. Created in collaboration with Rem Koolhaas' OMA, the space evokes the ancient architectural and civic concept of the forum and will be home to a rolling programme of cultural events including art exhibitions, concerts, lectures, dance and theatre performances. The 43,000 square foot forum is designed for ultimate flexibility and is also open for use by private companies, institutions and individuals.

From 27 November until 4 December, the Faena Art opening programme was held with a series of new commissions and site-specfic >

76 CONNOISSEUR





works during Miami Art Week. The programme involved art installations, performances, discussions and introduced the Faena Forum building as Miami's latest cultural landmark.

Faena Park combines practicality with cutting edge design. The aesthetics of the luxury parking garage tie in seamlessly with the rest of the spaces in the District. The building includes underground floors - a feat of engineering rarely attempted in locations between the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Creek. Covering 28,000 square feet, the structure is completely automated, and features a mechanical system for maximum efficiency. The façade references the tropical, modernist architecture found throughout South America and a clear glass panel offers a view on the sports cars that enter and leave the garage via an elevator system. The park is operated by valet service and has capacity for 235 cars.

The bazaar presents a novel retail concept for Miami. A series of open spaces are home to a carefully curated selection of boutiques and pop-up stores, which change on a quarterly basis. Each change will represent an

experience itself, and provides a platform for emerging talents to share prime retail space with internationally renowned brands. On the ground floor, further retail spaces are merged within lifestyle and hospitality areas, ensuring the bazaar also become an integrated, living part of the neighbourhood.

The Faena District is a playground for new experiences, both luxury and cultural. Take Tide by Side, the colourful street parade which celebrated the newly completed neighbourhood. Hundreds of dancers, musicians and artists formed a procession on foot and float through the streets of the district. Local performers were joined by the Brazilian artist Ernesto Neto, and Havanabased collective Los Carpinteros.

Miami is seen as the gateway between North and South America, both geographically and culturally. In a period of enormous change for the Americas, piqued by the US presidential election and the passing of Fidel Castro, the unifying ambitions of the Faena District couldn't have come at a better time. •

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

PREVIOUS PAGE: The Faena Hotel murals are a truly special feature. ABOVE: The architecture of the Faena development adds a new dimension to Miami's streetscapes.

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Every now and then, a product comes along that really makes a difference — That product is a revolutionary exercise tool called TechnoShape.

Many people store layers of fat in their "problem zones" — the stomach, and for some women, the hips and thighs. Reducing these layers is often quite difficult, even with regular exercise and proper nutrition, causing many people to seek invasive solutions such as liposuction and other painful and expensive procedures.

This phenomenon is caused due to poor blood circulation in the subcutaneous fat layers. Maybe you have experienced this for yourself. Try taking this simple test: touch your belly area after you finish a cardiovascular workout. You will notice that these areas are still cool to the touch as compared to other parts of your body.

TechnoShape changes everything

When you wear the TechnoShape pressure chamber while performing gentle cardio exercise on a treadmill or an upright bike, you increase the blood flow to the localised area of the midriff – your problem zone. By applying pressure pause therapy, alternating pressure to fat layers while you exercise, it increases circulation thereby making fat available as the primary source of fuel required by the working muscles during the simultaneous exercise.

"Its patented technology of pressure/pause therapy combined with gentle cardio exercise tranforms the body's ability to burn fat around the midriff"

Let's be honest. Not everyone likes to do push-ups or work out at high levels of intensity. You don't have to be in great shape to get visible results with TechnoShape.

Just exercise at moderate intensity wearing the TechnoShape pressure chamber 3 -4 times per week for 40 minutes and fat will be noticeably reduced. Most users lose up to 3 inches in just 4 weeks.

"I lost 29cms in just 5 weeks" Maria

- Fast results melts away fat from the stomach & back
- With regular use of TechnoShape in the comfort of your own home -

you can still party, stay in top shape and not feel guilty









Joe "I am a golf pro and find it difficult to lose from my stomach area. With TechnoShape I lost 14cms from my belly area in just 4 weeks! Without the aches and pains of the gym TechnoShape changed my body image for the better!"

Katy "The results have been superb. I noticed weight loss on my waist really soon. I quickly had my definition back. Within weeks I was back to my normal size 8. Without these sessions, I know I wouldn't have lost the weight so soon."

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The two directors of Panoba talk to Elite Living Africa about the importance of taking care of their VIP clients.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS



ebbie Gispan and Nicky Sakpoba are the directors of Panoba Executive Lifestyle Services. They specialise in education, property, relocation and events services for high net worth individuals.

How did the Panoba business start?

Debbie Gispan (DG): I lived in Nigeria for four years when my husband was posted in Abuja in 2010. My children were two, six and eight, and while my young son attended a nursery school, my older daughters attended the Regent Primary School and were very happy, making friends and great progress academically. Many Nigerian parents asked my advice on UK schools – where they should send their children, which are the best schools, how and when to start the admissions process. When I returned to the UK, Nicky and I realised there was a gap in the market for a bespoke 'handholding' service to access UK schools and other lifestyle services for discerning families.

Nicky Sakpoba (NS): We bring different skills to the business. Debbie worked in investment banking in London, whereas I studied languages and worked in high end property management. But for the education business, our experience as mothers and navigating the complex school admissions process for our children has given us the greatest knowledge and expertise.

How did you decide what areas to specialise in?

DG: Our relationship with many of our clients stems

from their need for educational consultancy, but we felt that our service to a family shouldn't end once a school place is secured. We pride ourselves on following up on the child's progress and families often retain our services in an academic guardian capacity. This involves overseeing the child's academic development, attending parent evenings and liaising with staff on the family's behalf, especially when they can't attend in person.

What do clients expect from your education business? DG: Our typical client is very busy and expects the highest levels of discretion and customer service. For the education part of the business, clients are putting their trust in us to find the best possible school that is the right fit for their child on academic, social and pastoral levels.

NS: We understand that no two families are the same. Clients expect a service tailored to their requirements. We don't limit our search to a set number of schools so our clients have the widest possible choice of schools. With so many facets to a school search it's essential that the final choice is right. We take care of everything from registration, exam preparation, liaising with schools and organising entrance exams, accompanying the family on school visits, all the way to final choice and preparation for starting school.

How are tutors selected?

DG: There's a plethora of tutors and tutoring agencies in the UK, but the experience and success rate can vary

enormously. We only select the brightest and best -not only those that have been educated in the best institutions and achieved the highest grades themselves, but also who have an innate ability to teach and engage others. Mentoring and instilling a love of learning is equally as important as the curricular knowledge.

NS: We are often asked to not only supply tutors in the UK but also for tutors to join families abroad or accompany them on holiday so the support can continue even while away. When selecting tutors for residential placements outside the UK, we always send the most suitable and able tutors to stay in families' homes who are experienced and respectful of the countries and families with whom they will be living.

For clients seeking a base in Britain, what areas are the most popular and what properties are favoured?

DG: London is by far the most desirable UK location - the choices depend on whether they're looking for an apartment for when they're in town, an investment or family home. Central areas like St John's Wood, Kensington, Chelsea and Knightsbridge are ever popular but we've seen a shift to leafier parts of northwest London and home counties like Surrey or Hampshire, just over an hour's drive from London.

NS: Our property search consultancy saves clients a lot of time and research as we will have already taken a full brief from them, including location and type of property. We can then have a few properties lined up

for them to look at when they fly into town. We also have rental requests especially from families who need a holiday home or half term retreat. This often leads to a purchase once they have decided on an area.

How important is the African market?

DG: We've always seen our core market as Africa, and we make regular trips to meet with heads of schools, parents and clients. There's a long history of African parents sending their children to UK boarding schools and schools in the UK are keen to have an intake of African students. It's been interesting to see how UK boarding schools turn to us as specialist consultants for the African market and often ask our advice on how they can market themselves better in Africa.

NS: Kenya, Angola and South Africa are growth markets - we're working with partners who have a presence in these countries to establish ourselves.

What plans does Panoba have for the future?

DG: We attend a lot of school shows and conferences and one of our biggest goals is to run our own events in Africa, bringing UK schools and local families together, and to establish our brand as a lifestyle event service provider, bringing together top global service providers and luxury brands under one roof.

NS: Whatever an individual's lifestyle requirements, a strong education is always a good place to start. Or in the words of a Swahili proverb: 'Wisdom is Wealth'. *





NEW LOOKS FOR THE NEW YEAR

The founder of Vava Furniture makes some bold predictions about how homes will be decorated in 2017.

WORDS BY MICHAEL TAWADROUS





hile it seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the 2016 new year, trend forecasters and designers are already thinking well into 2017 – and there's a big shake-up of interior trends predicted.

Terracotta: Warm materials, such as terracotta tiles, will replace cool and white tones. While terracotta was popular in the 1980s for border tiles, this time they will have a natural matte finish and be used as feature walls in bathrooms or fireplace cladding.

Dark green: Dark shades of green will become the new must-have dark interior colour as we farewell navy and midnight blues. Try dark green on bedroom walls as a wintery backdrop for leathers, reindeer furs, brass lamps and natural linen.

Upholstered bedheads: Upholstered bedheads are set to replace the timber bed frames currently dominating the market. Whether you opt for a classic neutral colour with buttons, or plush velvet, a fabric-covered bedhead adds instant glamour.

Escapism: Homes with nooks and crannies will become more popular as we react to our increasingly technological lives.

Declining trends: Subway tiles, 'quote' artworks, open plan living and marble are on the decline.

In recent years, modern bathrooms and kitchens have frequently featured the subway tile due to its versatile look. However, the proliferation of this look will see its popularity decline.

Another trend that has experienced years of popularity is 'quote' artworks. And again, because of their sheer proliferation, consumers will predictably move away from these wall adornments. We have all seen the 'Keep calm and...' posters everywhere from living rooms to bathrooms and beyond, and they have had their day.

Defined living spaces are returning to modern homes as consumers seek more private home layouts. As people have lived with the open plan living areas incorporating kitchen, living, dining and even study areas, they have found problems with acoustics through the space.

With marble homewares all the rage in the massproduced homewares market, we can soon expect a sharp decline in interest. Marble has had a good run, but it's time for a change. ��

ABOVE LEFT: Kitchens may become more defined spaces.
ABOVE RIGHT: Terracotta tones



hijioke Nwamara, managing director of Orpheus Music in Lagos, offers his advice for discerning customers in the market for a prestigious piano.

What should customers look for when choosing a piano?

A piano purchase is an investment, and a rather long-term one at that, so quality and durability are important. A fair return on investment translates to a long-lasting, increasingly richer sound, as well as a consistency in the finishing, such as the wood and polish. Practical considerations include: what the piano is going to be used for. Is it going to be a decorative item for the home? Is it going to be used for music lessons for the kids? Is it going to be used for recording music in a studio? Is it going to be used for worship? Or at a concert hall or conservatoire? Once we have made that determination, we consider space limitations and budget.

How important is the design of the piano to your customers? Very important. The customer who wants to buy a piano from the Steinway stable is very particular, and wants a unique piano that will provide unmistakable evidence of class, refinement and success. There is attention to detail and specification. Steinway's unique designs and finishes include the Crown Jewels, which provides grand pianos with exquisite finishes and polishes.

Are the grand pianos or the upright pianos more popular?

The grand pianos are definitely more popular. Most customers use the Steinway as an ornamental piece for their beautiful homes. Even if these pianos are also used for lessons, recitals and parties, the primary aim of the piano is to accentuate the home's beauty.

Tell us about the history of the company.

Orpheus was established in 1989 with a small office and three pianos from Asia. My father, an electrical engineer, always had a special place for music in his heart, music he believed to be

ennobling and spiritually uplifting. This motivated him to set up Orpheus. The company was a pioneer because nobody else in the market offered these products and services. Many considered it an indulgence because what we were offering was novel. Many thought the company would not survive because at the time there wasn't a substantial market for our instruments and services. But my father had a strong belief that there was a deep need for ennoblement and refinement in our country, and that Orpheus was uniquely suited to meet that need. His convictions turned out to be true. In Nigeria today, the music we champion is now commonplace. The company is the country's preeminent provider of musical instruments and associated services. It boasts distribution rights to leading manufacturers, such as Steinway, Yamaha, Rodgers and Samick.

What other musical instruments do you sell?

We sell all kinds of instruments to meet the needs of a wide range of customers. We sell all the string instruments, acoustic and semi-acoustic guitars, woodwind and brass instruments. We also sell church organs. We also sell publications, CDs and DVDs, and provide accessories and maintenance and repair services for all of the above mentioned instruments.

Why are you passionate about pianos?

I started playing the piano at the age of four. The piano is the embodiment of our love for music as a family. My father and brother also play, and I remember many an evening of hours of music making with myself on the piano, my father on the flute, and my brother on the piano. The piano was central to those joyful times. It was natural to start the business with pianos. It was easier for us to communicate our passion for this instrument because of our intimate interaction with it, as well as because of our deep love for it. The piano business is still the largest and strongest part of our business. �

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THE TOWER HOUSE, CARLTON HILL, LONDON

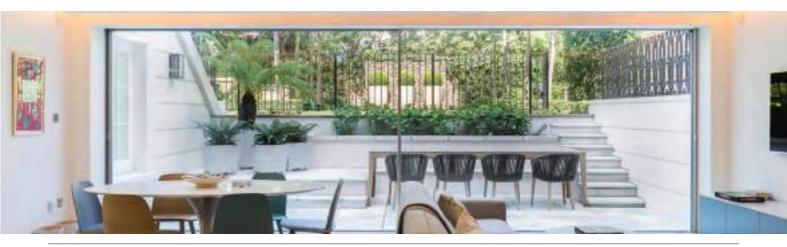
\$23m

Savills

Originally built in 1850, the Tower House has undergone an extensive refurbishment and renovation programme under the creative direction of Tarquin Bilgen and Mathew Bray Decorative Arts. Tarquin Bilgen, a Chelseabased antique dealer of 19th-century English and continental furniture, established the Axel Vervoordt inspired mood for the interior design of the Tower House. The property is tastefully decorated with exquisite antique furniture that dresses the house. This unique mansion located in Carlton Hill, which was for many years the home of a group of actors, producers, directors and film-makers associated with the nearby Kay Carlton Film Studios, comes to the market 'turn-key'.

- 4 Reception rooms
- 5 Bedroom suites
- 3 Terraces

- Landscaped garden
- Swimming pool
- Sauna



www.knightfrank.com



PONT STREET, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON

\$14.8m

KnightFrank

This stunning and newly refurbished three bedroom apartment is located on the north side of Pont Street, set behind the original red brick facade and provides grand entertaining space, a porter, air conditioning and direct lift access. Situated on the second floor, the apartment has been the subject of an extensive renovation by renowned designers Wilben. The quality of finish, design and specification is second to none. The apartment provides the perfect space to entertain, with an elegantly proportioned reception room along with a formal dining room, both of which enjoy views over Cadogan Square. This 'turnkey' apartment, with exquisite craftsmanship and luxurious finishes, can be occupied immediately.

- 3 Bedrooms
 - 3 Bathrooms 2 Reception
- rooms
- 255.4 sq m
- Porter/Concierge



WILTON CRESCENT, LONDON

\$37.3m

Savills

A Grade II listed home at one of London's most elegant addresses, this exquisite property spans six stories and overlooks the central gardens. The property comes with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms, seven reception rooms, and not one but two mews houses to the rear – plus three garages. It also has a beautifully designed garden terrace and roof terrace. This home has recently been refurbished under the direction of internationally acclaimed interior designer Robert Kime, who has worked extensively for Prince Charles by Royal appointment and has become well known for his "classic English look" with touches of rich textiles from the East.

- 10 Bedrooms
- 7 Reception rooms
- 10 Bathrooms
- 2 Mews houses
- 3 Garages
- Garden terrace and roof terrace









CROWN YARD, FULHAM, LONDON

\$15m

Savills

An exceptional, contemporary, semi-detached freehold house of 11,722 sq ft set in a private gated location in the heart of Fulham. Crown Yard is discreetly hidden behind a sliding security gate and few people, even local residents, know that it exists. It was designed by Collett Zarzycki, which is renowned for their classic contemporary style using quality materials, intricate detail and stream-lined space-planning. The architecture of the building maximises the use of light, affording each room a bright atmosphere, and encompasses clean lines, glass and lateral space across each floor.

- 4 Bedrooms
- oms
- Playroom
- 3 Reception rooms
- 1,089 sq m



PALM JUMEIRAH, DUBAI

POA

KnightFrank

Located towards the tip of the frond in Palm Jumeirah, this modern designed property enjoys un uninterrupted views of the Burj Al Arab and open water. The precision and extravagance of design is evident throughout the home from the smallest details like the tiling, to the superb kitchen specification and fine attention to detail. The open plan living design with bi-folding doors lining the rear elevations maximise light and space throughout the property. It has been fully refurbished and extended to offer a built-up area of 13,750 sq ft to include a triple garage, staff accommodation, gymnasium and a spectacular outdoor area integrating refreshing sea views, beautiful gardens and a private infinity pool.

www.knightfrank.com



EMIRATES HILLS DUBAI

\$24m

Savills

This modern contemporary villa spans over three floors with a beautifully landscaped garden overlooking the lake. The villa benefits from six bedrooms incorporating three master suites, basement parking, a gymnasium and extensive staff accommodation. Dubai's Emirates Hills is synonymous with America's famous Beverly Hills, enveloped in a lush tasteful landscaping overlooking the stunning 18-hole Montgomerie Championship Golf Course and the vast sparkling lakes. The upscale community offers an ultra-exclusive, private neighbourhood boasting huge mansion-like villas, each unique in layout and design.

- 6 bedrooms
- Wood-burning fireplace
- 8.5 bathrooms
- 8,147 sq ft



www.luxurvnortfolio.com



BISHOPSCOURT, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

POA

Luxury Portfolio International

This magnificent home is one of the most luxurious masterpieces in Bishopscourt on almost an acre of prime land. The outstanding panoramic views of the Table Mountain and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens give this property a beautifully serene atmosphere. Extensive accommodation includes six spacious luxurious en-suite bedrooms that lead out onto balconies overlooking the spectacular views. The house offers impressive spaces that are wellproportioned and lend themselves to both grand entertaining and informal relaxation.

- Gym

- Sauna

Fireplace

- Security system
- Heated swimming pool
- Tennis court



www.luxurvportfolio.com

LLANDUDNO, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

\$3.2m

Fine & Country

This opulent property comes with the promise of a spectacular lifestyle. The idyllic Llandudno beach below offers the most inspiring sunsets Cape Town has to offer. This capacious home comes with five large bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, each with its own stunning views and balcony. Chic dining areas, lounges, kitchens, entertainment areas and rooms make up the five regal floors. The second floor opens into a beautiful garden and entertainment deck, complete with a gorgeous pool and uninterrupted views.

- 5 Bedrooms
- 6 Bathrooms
- 4 Lounges
- 3 Kitchens
- 2 Dining rooms
- Sea and mountain views





CONSTANTIA UPPER, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

\$3.25m

Luxury Portfolio International

Situated in one of the most sought after spectacular wine producing areas of South Africa, with views of False Bay and the back drop of the famous Table Mountain, this Dutch, Cape-style villa offers luxury with a view. The property comes with seven spacious, magnificent suites, leading to award-winning, landscaped gardens, beautiful garden decks and wine-producing vineyards. The abundance of luxury lifestyle is completed with a splendid temperature-controlled wine cellar, flood-lit tennis court and heated rim flow swimming pool. This truly magnificent home is centrally situated to a host of world-class restaurants, beaches and wine estates just 15 minutes from Cape Town.









CLABON MEWS, CHELSEA, SW1

A newly refurbished 4 bedroom house in the heart of Knightsbridge

Set over 4 floors, Clabon Mews boasts a wealth of features throughout, with custom made furniture and the finest Italian joinery on all doors and frames. The house benefits from high ceilings which provide an airy and light feel throughout.

Accommodation: Entrance hall, drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, master bedroom with ensuite bathroom and dressing room, 3 further bedrooms, guest bathroom, shower room, study. **Amenities:** Guest WC, garage.



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£6,950,000

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EATON MANSIONS, CLIVEDEN PLACE, SW1

An immaculately presented four bedroom luxury apartment

This newly refurbished apartment features a double reception room and large kitchen/ breakfast area that enjoys an abundance of natural light throughout with far reaching views towards Eaton Square. Benefitting from 4 bedroom suites, as well as a separate study and utility room, Eaton Mansions also offers a resident porter, a good sized lift and a communal rooftop garden.

Accommodation: Entrance hall, reception room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, master bedroom with ensuite bathroom and dressing room, 3 further bedrooms, 2 shower rooms, bathroom, guest WC, study, utility room. Amenities: 24-hour porterage, lift.

£8,750,000

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