

ELITE LIVING AFRICA

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: RUTH
NEGGA ON AFRICA AND AMBITION

NEW WAYS TO EXPERIENCE
THE MALDIVES

BASELWORLD TRENDS IN
TIMEPIECES AND JEWELLERY

LUXURY AUCTIONS: FINE WINES
AND RARE EMERALDS



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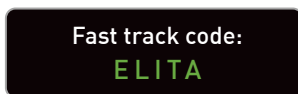
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WELCOME

We're in the mood for a road trip at *Elite Living Africa* – in the northern hemisphere, summer is upon and in the southern hemisphere, the weather is still perfect in many places for some top-down motoring, such as South Africa's glorious Stellenbosch wine region. And, hopefully sooner rather than later, we will be able to do such jaunts in an all-electric Bentley. With this in mind, our cover star is the stunning Bentley EXP 12 Speed 6e, a concept car that was launched at the Geneva Motor Show (page 44). It demonstrates not only what is possible from a technical point of view but also shows us what we can expect design-wise from Bentley in the months and years ahead. We like what we see.

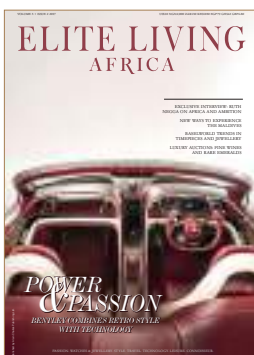
On page 8, we have an exclusive interview with Ethiopian-Irish star, Ruth Negga. She talks to us about her African heritage, her Hollywood success, which has resulted in an Oscar nomination, and her future ambitions.

Elsewhere in the issue, we report on the stunning watches and jewellery from Basel World (page 12), check out some amazing art from the Dubai International Boat Show (page 36), and indulge ourselves with magnificent haute couture (page 28).

In the meantime, we might just check out the latest on the global wine auction market (page 64) and raise a glass to the new issue of the magazine. Cheers!



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Enjoy our current issue online at www.elitelivingafrica.com

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ABOVE: Ruth Negga rocks sexy retro style in Shirley, a biopic about the life of Dame Shirley Bassey, the British-Nigerian singer. (Photography by John Keogh/Flickr)

The TRUTH about RUTH

Born in Ethiopia, raised in Ireland, living in London – Ruth Negga is a true internationalist. And following a Best Actress Oscar nomination for the powerful drama *Loving*, her fame looks set to become every bit as global as she is.

WORDS BY RICHARD LUCK

“Ah, the Oscars!” laughs Ruth Negga. “The simple fact is, nothing can prepare you for them. Not even other awards ceremonies. It’s just extraordinary to be in that theatre surrounded by people that you’re very familiar with but you don’t know in the slightest. You see these great actors whose films you’ve been watching your entire life and just as you’re about to go over and say ‘hello’ to them, you have to remind yourself that you actually know nothing about them and they sure as hell don’t know anything about you! Weird. But wonderful.”

Weird but wonderful is also a fitting description for what happened to Negga at the Golden Globes in January. For when Meryl Streep was presented with the Cecil B DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award, the grande dame of screen American acting used her time on stage to celebrate diversity in the arts. Cue mentions for the Canadian Ryan Gosling, the Israeli-American Natalie Portman and the Ethiopian-born, Irish-raised Ruth Negga...

“What a woman!” the *Preacher* star gushes unapologetically. “And what a speech! And as for her mentioning me, that’s the most flatteringly surreal moment of my life so far. She even did an Irish accent. Meryl Streep – the term ‘legend’ gets used far too often but it fits her like a glove.”

The year might have barely begun but 2017 has already been pretty extraordinary for Ruth Negga. Then again, everything about her life to date has been rather remarkable. Born in Addis Ababa on 7th January 1982 to an Ethiopian father and Irish mother, Negga left Ethiopia aged four for a life in London. The untimely death of her father, a doctor, three years later prompted her mother, a nurse, to relocate to Limerick. From there, she’d attend Dublin’s Trinity College, completing a degree in acting at the university’s prestigious Samuel Beckett Centre.

Now living in London with her partner and frequent co-star Dominic Cooper (*The History Boys*, *Mama Mia!*), some might imagine Ruth Negga had bid farewell to Africa. Say as much to her and she’ll put you right in double-quick time. “Ethiopia is a very familiar culture to me. Now, I didn’t go back to Ethiopia until I was 18 and I haven’t been back again in a very long time. But I grew up eating Ethiopian food and listening to Ethiopian music and reading Ethiopian history, so it’s big part of me.

“I’m always very careful to say I’m Irish-Ethiopian,” she continues, the passion spilling out of every pore. “I feel Ethiopian and I look Ethiopian and I am Ethiopian. But there are 81 languages in Ethiopia, and I don’t know any of them.” >



Passion, honesty, integrity – just some of the attributes that make Ruth Negga one of the most compelling performers of her age. Her acting career began with a bang when she received the Most Promising Newcomer prize at the 2003 Olivier Awards. Two years later, Crying Game director Neil Jordan, having been blown away by Negga's stage work, wrote her into his transvestite drama *Breakfast On Pluto*. A brace of Irish Film & Television Award nominations followed, together with substantial roles in quality TV dramas such as the BBC's *Criminal Justice* (later remade by HBO as *The Night Of*), RTE's *Love/Hate* and Channel 4's *Misfits*.

Factor in acclaimed work opposite David Tennant in the National Theatre's production of *Hamlet* and her pitch-perfect turn as the Welsh chanteuse in the BBC's Shirley Bassey biopic, and a move to Hollywood became inevitable. Certainly the role of Raina in *Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.* helped improve Negga's profile. However, the actress's joy at landing a part in Steve McQueen's Oscar-

winning *12 Years A Slave* would quickly evaporate when she learned that her part had landed on the cutting room floor.

"Was I disappointed?" she guffaws. "Now, that's an understatement. I was gutted. Three days of shooting in swamps surrounded by crocodiles – you know, it wasn't an easy shoot. But Steve let me down gently. As soon as I got the call from him, I knew what he was going to say. And, then again, if it wasn't for *12 Years A Slave*, I'd never have met [casting director] Francine Maisler. And if it wasn't for Francine, I mightn't have been cast in *Loving*."

Ah, *Loving* – the film one might call a game-changer had not that phrase been robbed of all meaning thanks to its overuse by lazy journalists and millions of millennials. Written and directed by Jeff Nichols – whose five films to date belong on any list of the best movies of the 21st century – it tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving who commit the terrible sin of getting married and having a child. Because in Virginia in the 1950s, a

“I grew up eating Ethiopian food and listening to Ethiopian music and reading Ethiopian history, so it’s a big part of me. I’m always very careful to say I’m Irish-Ethiopian. I feel Ethiopian and I look Ethiopian and I am Ethiopian. But there are 81 languages in Ethiopia and I don’t know any of them.”

wedding between a white man such as Richard and a black woman like Mildred was a criminal offence punishable by jail time or banishment from the Mother of States.

As horrific as it is extraordinary, the Lovings’ case prompted a landmark Supreme Court decision. But as Negga explains, Richard and Mildred’s tale is one that history would largely choose to overlook.

“Richard and Mildred changed the constitution. For that alone, they should be respected and recognised as important civil rights pioneers. So why is it that most of the people I know have never heard of them? I perhaps knew more than most as I read Mildred Loving’s obituary in 2008, after which I tracked down every article I could find about her and Richard. And then, when I auditioned for Jeff Nichols, he sent me Nancy Buirski’s [2008 HBO documentary] *The Loving Story*.”

Conversations with the award-winning documentary filmmaker further demonstrated the need to bring the Lovings’ story to a wider audience. As Negga continues, “Speaking to Nancy, I found out that, when she was making her film, she couldn’t find any information until she happened upon this contemporary documentary footage, which had never been used. Like me, she had heard about the story via Mildred’s obituary, a sliver of which stuck with her as it had resonated with me – ‘they changed the constitution.’”

Cast alongside Australian actor Joel Edgerton (*Warrior, Black Mass*), Negga and her co-star would accomplish the tricky feat of portraying Mildred and Richard as real people rather than symbols of a greater struggle. To this end, she argues it was a great help to shoot on location. Indeed, “we very often filmed near the actual places where events took place. The courthouse that you see in the film is the courthouse they were tried and convicted in. The prison is the same, the outside of the prison is the very same prison they were held in. Unfortunately, we couldn’t film inside Mildred’s

prison cell because it was too small to fit the crew in. But the field in which [Richard] proposes to Mildred is just a stone’s throw away from where they lived.

“It was very important to Jeff to film on location because it’s an integral part of the story, because it was their home and that’s what they were fighting for. It gave the whole thing an added depth and dimension.”

Shot for just \$9 million and premiering in May 2016 at the Cannes Film Festival, *Loving* was long thought to have a chance of performing well on the American awards circuit. Negga herself would scoop Best Actress prizes from the African-American Film Critics Association, the Alliance Of Women Film Journalists and the Santa Barbara International Film Festival. There was also the small matter of the New York Film Critics Online Best Breakthrough prize and those two surreal nights at the Golden Globes and the Oscars.

As for the future, her role as Tulip O’Hare opposite Cooper in ace graphic novel adaptation *Preacher* looks set to take up most of 2017. But after that, the possibilities seem endless. Perhaps her favourite TV show as a child hints at where Ruth Negga’s career might take her.

“I love the 1960s Adam West and Burt Ward Batman!” she bumbles. “Any episode with Eartha Kitt playing Catwoman – like I mentioned on Jimmy Kimmell’s show, we didn’t get a lot of TV in Ireland so I really used to cherish her appearances.”

With DC seemingly bent on rebooting all its intellectual properties, including *Batman*, we can think of no one better to step into the kitten heels of Eartha Kitt, Julie Newmar, Lee Meriwether, Michelle Pfeiffer, Halle Berry and Anne Hathaway. But whatever our heroine does next, you can rest assured that we will be paying close attention. For if loving Ruth Negga is wrong, we hope we’re never right. ❖

FACING PAGE: Ruth Negga resplendent in red Valentino at the 2017 Academy Awards ceremony. She was nominated for the best actress prize for her role in Loving.

BASELWORLD 2017

novelties: Watches

Watch manufacturers gathered in Switzerland for this year's Baselworld event presenting the most exquisite timepieces

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU



Baselworld 2017 welcomed major players from the watch industry at the Messeplatz exhibition centre in Basel, Switzerland. One of the Swiss watchmakers exhibiting was Tag Heuer. The Autavia from Tag Heuer, a most-beloved collectors watch, celebrates its 55th anniversary with a new timepiece that features updated functions and a proprietary movement. The timepiece is a rebirth of the first wrist chronograph with a rotating bezel designed by Jack Heuer in 1962. It reflects the spirit of the golden age of motor racing and is part of an interactive campaign called the Autavia Cup. More than 50,000 web users voted for a reissue of the Autavia Rindt, worn by the famous F1 driver Jochen Rindt. "Baselworld is not just a show of the best Swiss watch brands, but more importantly the showcase of the entire Swiss and

international industry. During eight days, people do not only enter into the heart of the industry, but also feel the pulse of it, getting a vision of the future," says Jean-Claude Biver, President of the LVMH Watch Division, CEO TAG Heuer and CEO Zenith.

Also from TAG is the Tag Heuer Carrera Heuer available in black, navy blue and cognac brown, and a new diameter of 43 mm. The Heuer-01 Skeleton Manufacture Chronograph is available in six new references in steel with a matching ceramic bezel. Keeping true to trademark of the Heuer-01, it features a skeleton dial, and the sapphire case-back to reveals the beauty of the mechanism. The chronograph operating levers and the date disc are open-worked on the dial side and the mechanism is equipped with a clutch with oscillating pinion.

Elite Living Africa spoke to master watchmaker, Svend Andersen, creator of Andersen Geneve, who gave us an insight into his long experience in watchmaking. He previously worked at the "Atelier des Complications" at Patek Philippe back in the 70's and restored one of the first World Time Watch made by Louis Cottier for Patek Philippe. For Svend the pure style and the easy and readable way to read the time all around the world were some of the standout features. Also another of Andersen Genève's iconic timepieces are the collection of Eros watches and Montres A Tact. The Eros watches carry the most complicated erotic automaton available on the market. The timepiece also offers different personalisation options on the dial of the watch or on the erotic scene.

The Spirit of Big Bang Moonphase from Swiss watch brand Hublot was also presented at the show. Perfect for anyone with a love of brightly colours the timepiece comes in blue, purple, orange and pink. Reflecting the brilliant intensity of the moon and intertwining with the season's on-trend colours – indigo blue, bold purple, vibrant orange - and bubblegum pink. A matching strap, quartz dial, sand-blasted moon phase disc, hands, indices and stone-set bezel all set the tone of this vivid monochrome collection. The quartz is coloured by the addition of a mixture of a lunar cycle is reproduced in a large round window that completes one revolution every two lunar months. The Spirit of Big Bang Moonphase alternates

FACING PAGE: An Albert Riele pocketwatch.

TOP TO BOTTOM: TAG Heuer Carrera Heuer-01 43mm, Romain Jerome Skylab 48 Red Engraved, TAG Heuer Autavia 1972





polished, satin-finished titanium or King Gold with coloured flat surfaces. Its bezel is set with 48 blue, orange or pink sapphires.

Romain Jerome's Skylab 48 Red and the Steampunk Auto Black timepieces were showcased at Basel. Both have been enhanced with a red gold bezel representing the universe each model comes from. Using chiseling on the red gold, the bezel depicts either the poetic side of Space or Steampunk features. Forming a circle, the bezel seems as if it was delimiting each timepiece and completes these models full of contrast between the black and golden colours. "The black chrome finish manual-winding skeleton movement of the Skylab model is like an open window to the galaxy represented on the bezel," says the watch manufacturer. The case has been designed to enable a clear view of the skeleton movement with straight lines and angles. The Steampunk Auto model features a bold 50mm black PVD coated-steel case and holds a self-winding movement with features such as the four functional pistons at 2, 4, 8 and 10 o'clock. The concept of steam power, which started during the industrial revolution era, portrays the artistic movement Steampunk. The ornaments on the bezel are inspired by steam engines: zeppelins at 12 o'clock, a steamboat at 3 o'clock, steam locomotives at 6 o'clock and a submarine at 9 o'clock. All machines are designed and linked by clouds or steam coming out of the machines. Using special techniques, each bezel has been created by hand.





Italian luxury house Fendi, showcased its new IShine watch collection. The new range features unique bright effects using a sophisticated colour palette ranging from white to pink and red reflecting the pure light of the sunrays, from sunset to dusk. Moving away from a new concave and convex case design emphasises the polished and satin-brushed case flanks. The watch comes in different styles - a black lacquered dial emphasised by a faceted white mother-of-pearl cabochon at the centre, while the second one is a polished and satin-brushed stainless steel version, presented with a white lacquered dial enhanced with a white mother-of-pearl central zone, a pink topaz-set crown and pink soft-touch flanks. The pink tone-on-tone stitched leather strap looks elegant in semi-matt alligator and features pink matt rubber, while calfskin leather is used for the lining. The second version comes in stainless steel and is presented in a white lacquered dial enhanced with a white mother-of-pearl central zone, a pink topaz-set crown and pink soft-touch flanks. Elegant and feminine, this new collection from Fendi celebrates the timeless elegance of precious stones in where traditional craftsmanship meets innovative technology. ❖

FACING PAGE: Hublot Spirit of Big Bang Moonphase collection
LEFT TO RIGHT Fendi IShine, TAG Heuer Link Lady Quartz, Bergstern Brilliance
BOTTOM Elixia Finesse

BASELWORLD JEWELLERY HIGHLIGHTS

This year's Baselworld show welcomed a host of jewellery designers at the Messeplatz exhibition centre in Basel, Switzerland. Gem dealers Faidee presented a show-stopping \$35mn bermese ruby necklace. "The Grand Phoenix is an exceptional masterpiece; a collection of flawless rubies spanning over four generations. To find a single exceptional ruby of this calibre is a daunting task," says Ravi Lunia, Faidee director.

The house of Messika Joaillerie Paris was also at the show presenting its beautiful jewellery pieces. One of the collections Glam'Azone, worn previously by singer Beyonce, is inspired by helmets, arrows and shields of warriors to instill their strength in 21st century women. Messika combines its Amazon-inspired collection with Skinny, the brand's technical innovation. The nano-springs make the jewellery elastic so it suits different sizes.

Magerit's stunning range of jewellery was also beautifully displayed at the event. The brand is inspired by nature that surrounds us, from wild animals to delicate flowers. The origin of creation is represented by Magerit's GEA collection. Genus (from the Latin birth) a ring and necklace in the collection takes inspiration from the original form adopted by multiple flowering births. ❖





1. Esencia Fortuna
Yellow gold 18kt, diamonds and lapis lazuli.

2. Wild Spirit
Yellow gold 18kt, black rhodium and black and white diamonds.

3. Hechizo
Yellow gold 18kt, diamonds and green tourmalines.

4. Sombra Blanca
Yellow and white gold 18kt, white diamonds, green diamonds, quartz and black enamel.

5. Veris
18kt gold, white diamonds and green diamonds.

6. Esencia Belleza
Yellow gold 18kt, diamonds and green agate.

7. Odette
18kt yellow gold, white diamonds, black diamonds and blue sapphires.

www.mageritjoyas.com



Marcial de Gomar
COLLECTION
of rare
EMERALDS
go up for
AUCTION

Elite Living Africa speaks to Arlan Ettinger, President of New York-based auction house Guernsey's about this fascinating collection of emeralds.

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

The Marcial de Gomar Collection of rare emeralds has gone up for sale at Guernsey's auction house on 25 April in New York city, with online bidding taking place at liveauctioneers.com. The lots featured in this unique collection include: La Gloria, at an impressive 887 carats it is one of the largest museum-quality emeralds in the world. Marcial de Gomar Star, another emerald featured in the lot is the largest of only eleven star emeralds known to ever exist and seemingly the first of its kind as a

double-sided star emerald, Tears of Fura, an stunning matched pair of large teardrop-shaped Muzo emeralds is also featured. The family have also announced a new lot in the collection - the Eye of Muzo, a pair of Colombian trapiche cat's eye emeralds. At 75.42 carats, these two-of-a-kind emeralds are believed to be the biggest matched pair of Colombian cat's eye emeralds in the world.

Speaking to *Elite Living Africa* about this unique collection, Arlan said, "This collection of emeralds

LEFT The Heart of Muzo emerald.

BELOW AND RIGHT Conquistadora necklace tiara, Epiphany platinum cross necklace, The Empress of Spain necklace, Cat's Eye Dream.



is a family-owned collection. We were approached by the family six or nine months ago. Clearly this collection has been building in the hands of the patriarch of the family. They liked the personal touch that we bring.”

According to Arlan, research conducted by Guernsey’s seemed to indicate this is the first auction ever held devoted exclusively to emeralds. “The fact that it is a state collection a one family collection makes it more compelling to most buyers,” says Arlan. Two important characteristics about this emerald collection, he adds, are the history behind them and the place from where they originate.” Emeralds can be found in all places all over the world but experts have agreed the most extraordinary emeralds come from the Muzo mine. And these all do with maybe only one exception,” says Arlan.

“The Muzo emeralds discovered on the ocean floor is part of the wreck of the Spanish galleon Nuestra Señora de Atocha – I recall in the 1980s when a man named Mel Fischer, who is the most accomplished of treasure hunters, a well-known character known here in the United States, used scientific methods to search for sunken treasure from ships that had sunk off the coast of the United States, way before there were navigational aids – and there was a long history of shipwrecks.”

The President of Guernsey’s revealed that some of the emeralds from the collection were mined in the twentieth century, while others came out of that mine sometime before 1620 because they found their way to Spain. Around three quarters of the auction lot is being sold without minimum reserve and Arlan welcomes international buyers to come and be present at the auction in New York City’s Park avenue.

Manuel Marcial de Gomar, treasure hunter and founder of Emeralds International LLC, put together the emerald collection. In his store in Key West, Florida he offers rough and cut emeralds – not only from Colombia, but also from Brazil, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Afghanistan, as well as the largest selections in the world of the rarest of all pearls.

Since Guernsey’s began dealing with the emeralds, the auction house has recieved a number of requests to auction other extraordinary gemstones, some of which include diamonds, sapphires and rubies. Now Guernsey’s is making preparations for a follow up event that would accommodate individuals who own rare and valuable gemstones and Arlan is extremely pleased by this. “Its looking like Guernsey’s is building a reputation for fine jewellery and fine stones – cut stones, uncut stones – that we are delighted to have that reputation.” ❖

Pearls Of progress

A string of pearls is a timeless classic but these creative pieces prove that sometimes pearls just want to have fun.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

Pearls have long been a source of mystery and superstition, as well as the staple of many a glamorous jewellery box for centuries.

According to the ancient historian, Pliny, Cleopatra owned the world's two largest pearls of the time as a pair of earrings. He recounts the rather astounding story of the Egyptian queen beguiling her lover Mark Anthony by dropping one of the pearl earrings in vinegar, watching it melt and then swallowing it, possibly believing the concoction to be an aphrodisiac. The tale takes an even darker turn when Pliny reports that when Cleopatra was captured by Roman soldiers after the death of Mark Antony, the second of her two pearls was cut in half so that the two pieces could be used in the ears of the statue of Venus at the Pantheon in Rome. Queen Elizabeth I was another well-known pearl lover, amassing a large collection in her later years after eschewing extravagant jewellery when she as a young woman. In one of her most famous portraits, she wears six long ropes of pearls along with further creamy baubles stitched onto her dress and pinned to her famous red hair.

The Tudor queen never married so she probably didn't worry about the superstitions that have surrounded pearls over the centuries. In some cultures, pearls symbolise tears which means they are seldom featured in engagement rings. Another pearl superstition dictates that if you receive pearls



as gift, you should hand over a small sum of money to the giver to turn the exchange into a financial transaction and break the curse.

The use of pearls in early medicine has been documented in multiple countries, including China, Germany, Greece and Japan. Depression, jaundice, snake and insect bites, indigestion and dry eyes are among the diverse ailments which have been treated using pearls, either by simply touching the affected area with a pearl, taking a powdered form of the stone or mixing with other ingredients, such as lemon juice and vinegar.

While the effectiveness of using pearls as medicine is debatable, one thing is certain – the pearly treasures on these pages prove that the prettiest parts of the oyster are not just reserved for staid, conservative jewellery. Whether it's black pearls, white pearls or mother-of-pearl, jewellery designers are having fun with this surprisingly versatile stone. Cartier adds its iconic panther to a traditional necklace, Tateossian introduces pearls to its futuristic range of men's cuff links as well as creating elegantly casual women's pieces, Brilliant Earth's pearl rings will make even the most superstitious bride-to-be think twice about whether pearls really do symbolise tears, de Grisogono blends pearls with a kaleidoscope of coloured stones, Fabergé's latest takes on pearl jewellery are opulent as one would expect, and Chopard has been using mother-of-pearl on watches and fun rings to glorious effect.

The matronly single strand of pearls has its place in any jewellery collection as a time-honoured classic, but the future is all about innovative design, unisex concepts and mixing with metals and other stones. ❖



ABOVE: Fabergé earrings, fit for a queen from any era.



1.

Pearls for her

1. Brilliant Earth ring
www.brilliantearth.com

2. Cartier panther necklace
www.cartier.co.uk

3. Fabergé bracelet
www.faberge.com

4. Fabergé earrings
www.faberge.com

5. de Grisogono ring
www.degrisogono.com

6. Chopard watches
www.chopard.com



4.



5.



6.

SUITS YOU, SIR

These cufflinks by Tateossian take pearl jewellery to a new level. The designs are innovative, perfect for a range of occasions and still intrinsically masculine.

1. Shift a gear

Gear motifs for the car-loving gent.

2. A rose by any other name

On-trend rose gold is not just for women.

3. The motherlode

Mother-of-pearl used to stunning effect.

4. A modern classic

Pearls pack a punch in this rectangular set.

www.tateossian.com



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The Vicenza cabinet is inspired by The Mondadori headquarters designed by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemayer. The piece features gold coloured glass tiles on the two towers and black lacquered legs giving it a sleek look, finished with intricate gold leaf details. Upon opening the cabinet, mirrored surfaces will put the spotlight on your beverages of choice. Black lacquered shelves complete the look.





VILLIERS TEMPEST DINING TABLE

\$14,986, www.luxdeco.com

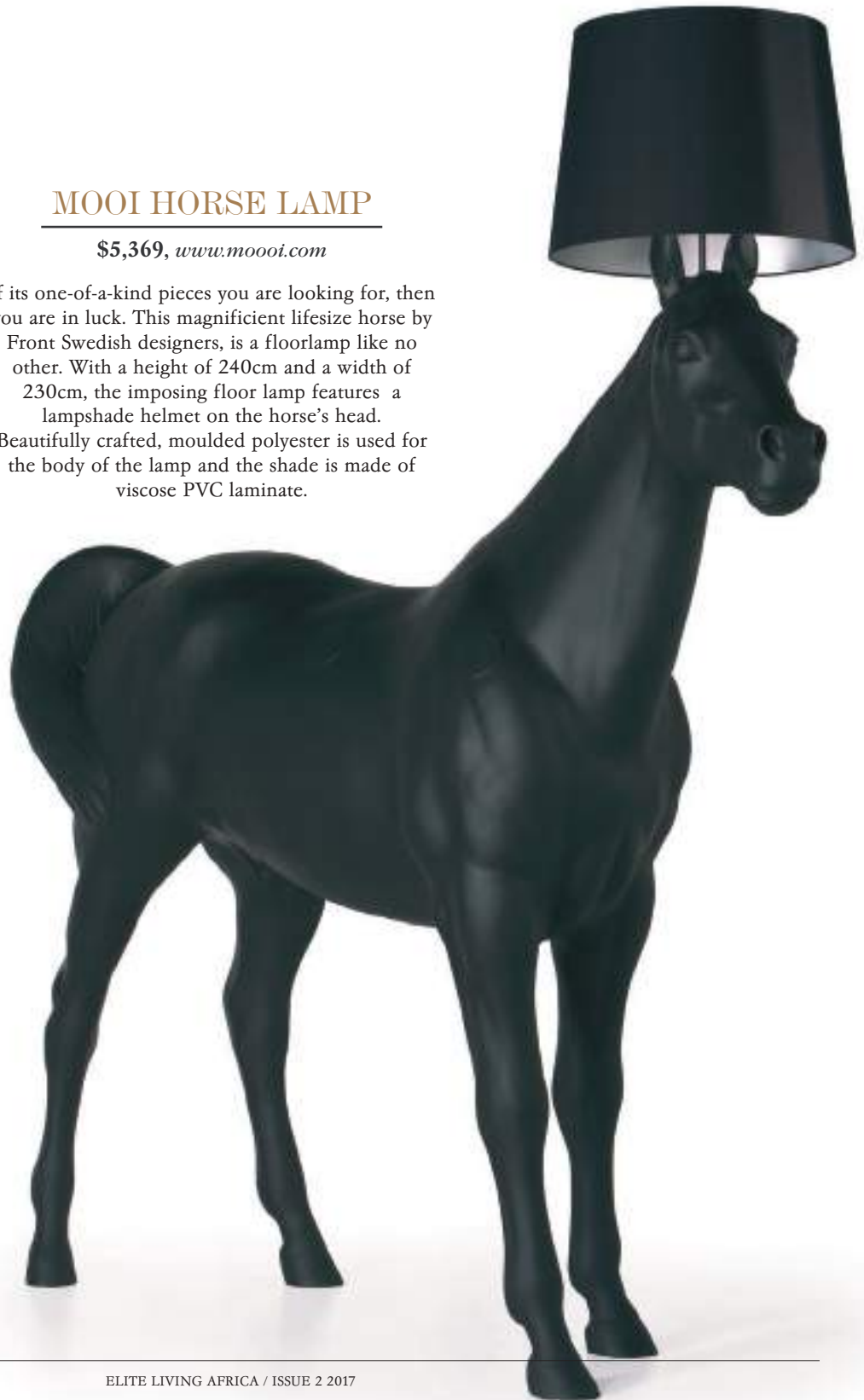
This sleek dining table from LuxDeco will add a touch of opulence to any living area. The beautifully designed piece features a steel base and a clear glass top with two luxurious metallic finishes. Combining both glamour and sophistication, this table seats a number of guests perfect for entertaining family and friends.

MOOI HORSE LAMP

\$5,369, www.mooui.com

If its one-of-a-kind pieces you are looking for, then you are in luck. This magnificent lifesize horse by Front Swedish designers, is a floorlamp like no other. With a height of 240cm and a width of 230cm, the imposing floor lamp features a lampshade helmet on the horse's head.

Beautifully crafted, moulded polyester is used for the body of the lamp and the shade is made of viscose PVC laminate.



BRASS & GOLD PLATED BLACK HIGH GLOSS BUBBLED BATHTUB

\$36,378,
www.touchedinteriors.co.uk

This funky piece makes a quirky addition to any bathroom. Creative minds were at hard work when creating this unique bathtub where futuristic style meets modern chic. The bathtub boasts black lacquer brass spheres with a high gloss varnish finish and features gold-plated spheres on the base. A beautiful centrepiece for your bathroom, the high gloss bathtub is a must for the truly indulged bath lover.



Spring FEBRUARY

Our style columnist shares the most joyous and inspiring trends from the spring/summer 2017 collections.

WORDS BY TEMI OTEDOLA

The flowers are blooming and the grass is looking greener than ever. Finally, it is farewell to our autumn/winter wardrobe. The latest trends from the runway shows have ignited an excitement in us all this year. Spring came with bold colours, and statement prints and I have my style for this season nailed down already. Here are my favourite must-have looks for this spring/summer 2017.

Deconstructed shirting

This was a huge trend on the runways for spring 2017. Designers have intentionally sewed things askew or entirely without matching the pieces and adding extra sleeves. Who would have thought this dysfunctional design would make it on the runway? If you don't grab yourself one, try an oversized shirt and button it up however you want. Everyone is talking about Alexander Wang's wraparounds which work perfectly for this season.

Swoon-worthy mini-bags

I attended the Louis Vuitton runway show in Paris at Musee du Louvre. This is where I knew my must-have accessory for this spring/summer 2017 is the mini bag. These investment pieces will add that authentic look to any outfits, allowing us to just carry the bare essentials.

Ruffle mania

Ruffles have once again found their way back in style. You can't miss them on shirts, tops, dresses and even trainers! Ruffled blouses and trousers are my favourite at the moment and designers have found the best way to make the most unfeminine pieces look feminine.

More stripes than Breton

If you are trying to make a statement, a striped outfit is a must this season. Stripes never really go out of style, but this year it will be everywhere. From head-to-toe sets, multi-coloured, different textures and sequins. My tip for wearing stripes is to stick to primary colours like red and blue, or go all out with rainbow colours – if you have the confidence to pull it off! www.jtofashion.com





Kafaroff O.R.

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THE ART OF perfume MAKING

Elite Living Africa speaks to the creator of Xerjoff fragrances who gives us an insight into the world of niche perfumery.

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

Founder of Xerjoff fragrances, Sergio Momo, was born in Turin in 1964 and graduated from art school with a diploma in graphics and design in 1982. Following completion of his studies at

the European Institute of Design, he relocated to London where he worked for various design and advertising agencies. He also collaborated on design projects for Bacardi, Ferrero, Lancome, Rolls-Royce and Ferrari.



Elite Living Africa (ELA): Milan is the fashion and design district of Italy. Do you find that Xerjoff is positioned well in Milan as a niche perfume label?

Sergio Momo (SM): Yes I believe so – Xerjoff is a brand which is sold to more or less all the regions of Italy. Of course Milan and Rome are particularly important because of their influence and because of the tourism attraction and the international tourism attraction. I would say Milan and Rome are the key cities for the customer to find Xerjoff.

ELA: Do you host events in Milan?

SM: Yes we do. Of course Milan is a city which in terms of tourism and awareness has been growing faster than Rome so perfume like fashion is something perceived more or less in the same universe. So Milan I would say is the key place for us to hold events at least twice a year.

ELA: Where do you draw inspiration from the perfumes you create?

SM: A bit from everything. Maybe two elements are history which is something I like very much when I create perfume lines - history is always an important factor. In the last couple of years I have made sure I take some time off and travel to places connected with nature. I have travelled to South America and I've been to India near Kashmir.

ELA: Where do you usually travel then?

SM: Well in our main market of course – Europe, Russia and the Middle East and recently in the Far East, so we have been travelling quite a lot. Also in various parts of China which has been very interesting.

◆
North Africa is becoming a key market for Xerjoff – Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt will always be a very important market for perfumery, despite recent times when political turmoil has affected the market.
◆

ELA: You mention history, and it seems there is quite some history behind your Casamorati collection?

SM: Being an Italian brand we decided it was important to add to our portfolio some real history – not something made up. It has been quite difficult to be honest as there was not a lot of information available. Also in physical terms, so we had to purchase objects from museums and do a lot of research on history.

ELA: Where does your passion for creating perfumes come from and when did you first realise you have this passion?

SM: Perfume has always been in present in my house and even my grandmother's house. I don't know if it's a passion it has always been there at the end of the day. I've been a designer for many years so when I created Xerjoff I actually combined the design experience with the passion of perfumery. Today what I really do is art direct I don't do the blending myself.

ELA: Do you have future plans to expand across other countries in Africa and beyond in the next few years?

SM: North Africa is becoming a key market for Xerjoff – Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt. Egypt will always be a very important market for perfumery, despite recent times when political turmoil has affected the market. In Africa people have a stronger connection with their land than we would have in Europe. And the perfume strengthens this connection which is very interesting. ◆

GET INSPIRED: haute couture runway TRENDS

A selection of some of the show-stopping haute couture gowns that graced the runway earlier this year at Paris haute couture fashion week.

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

In 1858 English couturier, Charles Frederick Worth launched the House of Worth, the first haute couture house in Paris. Often referred to as the father of couture, his designs are renowned for their elaborate fabrics and trimmings. In that era, Charles created one-of-a-kind pieces for his wealthy clients, while a number of his designs were shown on live models at the House of Worth. Nowadays, haute couture collections are seen at runways shows, such as Haute Couture Fashion Week, one of the biggest events in the fashion calendar. A number of prestigious fashion houses showcased their new collections for Spring/Summer 2017, producing some spectacular runway shows.

Georgian designer, Patuna, unveiled her 'All About Eve' Spring/Summer 2017 collection. Following a visit to Versailles Patuna saw her vision come to life. This enabled her to create a link between Paris and Tbilisi, the capital of her native Georgia. A woman of power then, and a woman in motion, Patuna extracts herself from her condition by acceding to the world. When silk and velvet satin fabrics appeared as a whole, it was evident to her

that the serpent she had designed on each creation was that knowledge to which Eve had acceded. Zikad Nakad also put on a stunning show for his second Couture collection presented at Westin hotel in Paris. In his collection, Ziad offers his own interpretation of a universal garden where butterflies and flowers feature as the main symbols of his inspiration. He brings together tradition and modernity to create each silhouette giving the appearance of a stunning bouquet of summer flowers. Laser cutting together with three dimensional shapes and sophisticated embroidery designs represent the structure of a butterfly its extreme delicacy. A gorgeous selection of pastel colours: salmon pink, sky blue, shiny gray is reflective of the colour of honey. Some of the dresses feature belts set with jewellery or bronze in shapes of butterflies decorated with Swarovski stones. The handbags featured in the collection complement the silhouettes. This extraordinary garden, sees a bride appears in a stunning dress embellished with butterflies. Ziad Nakad embodies elegance in this collection where he focuses on technicality and attention to detail. ➤



*Model wearing a Monika Dolna
Couture dress. (Photo: Monika Dolna)*





Celia Kritharioti, one of the most famous fashion designers in Greece, also showcased her new collection at the show. Celia, who owns the most ancient Greek fashion house which lies in the heart of the Plaka in the centre of Athens, has lived a life devoted to unspeakable elegance. Her collection is full of positive energy. The colour yellow is featured, representing solar and festive, while rose reflects the heart and love and blue azur symbolises creation and human ties. The colours white and silver represent innocence and generosity. Beautiful embroideries, tulle and ruffles, elaborate braids and then spring cotton lace are some of the features that make this collection truly exceptional.

The Atelier Versace Spring/Summer 2017 collection is inspired by metamorphosis what the fashion house calls 'the beauty of transformation'. Neutral colours are used in the collection - nude, grey, gunmetal - to keep its focus in the handcraft itself. Knots are featured around the silhouette, both knotted by hand in crystal mesh and silk chiffon, or trompe l'oeil knot embroideries. Swarovski crystal cords are then knotted by hand to create a cap-sleeve minidress with chiffon in pearl grey on a tulle base. >

RIGHT Halle Berry wearing a one-shoulder Atelier Versace gown. (Shutterstock)



The collection features a beautiful nude silk chiffon floor length evening dress embroidered through the body as if provocatively knitted. Pleated fabric is featured on the gown like waves around the body. An extraordinary pleat ball gown sits on a boned construction embroidered with 110 metres of metal mesh. The dramatic degrade tulle pleats contour the body, unmasking the cage beneath.

A pleated minidress in the collection is casually tied on the body, a crossover of pleated silk double organza featuring crystal embroideries wraps and reveals the body beneath. Metal mesh turns into crystals, or takes on another dimension with fluid liquid draping. Another minidress features long sleeves and a deep V décolletage - the garment is embroidered throughout with mirror fringes that transform into opulent rose gold metallic fringing. Vintage rose metal mesh gracefully drapes the body in a sleeveless column dress. Taking inspiration from the "chimera" of the Middle Ages, animals transform in a fantasy turned real: reptiles into mammals, snakes into creatures of flight. A halterneck evening dress is embroidered with light sparkling grey Swarovski crystals reflective of the scales of a python, before transforming to lime green feathers below the knee. An evening dress featuring reptilian lace with assymetric décolletage comes to life with embroideries of Swarovski crystal, organza knots and petals, creating the effect of snakes writhing across the body. "This collection is about the pure power of Atelier Versace," says the fashion house. "And the beautiful transformation of a woman when she puts on her Atelier Versace creation." ❖



ABOVE A selection of jewellery from Martin Katz.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Pink and Diamond Wide Cuff Bracelet, Amethyst Teardrop Earrings, Fancy Dark Gray Emerald Cut Diamond Ring



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THE *Art* OF THE *Craft*

A marine-inspired art exhibition at the Dubai International Boat Show added star power to the event.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS



Among the myriad superyachts and speedboats, an art exhibition debuted at the Dubai International Boat Show. The marine-inspired art collection featured 56 Bohemian crystal creations from Crystal Caviar. The most expensive piece in the exhibition was worth \$1.28 million.

Marek Landa, who started Crystal Caviar in his native Czech Republic six years ago, was invited to bring his unique pieces to the event on the recommendation of Ibrahim Farhat, managing director of Gulf Marine Services, a sponsor of the show.

“He told me, ‘Marek, you have so many fantastic pieces, you must go to Dubai. The Boat Show there is the perfect stage for you,’” said Landa. >



◆
*Czech glass sculptors
Jan Frydryck and
Vlastimil Beránek
featured prominently
in the exhibition,
with Beránek,
appropriately, the
creator of a collection
called “Ocean”.*

◆

Bill Clinton, Sir Elton John and royal families from around the world are aficionados of the creations, and the pieces at the Dubai exhibition attracted much interest from wealthy buyers.

The marine-themed sculptures have been created by international artists including renowned Czech glass sculptors, Jan Frydrych and Vlastimil Beránek, who has an entire collection appropriately called “Ocean”. Frydrych and Beránek visited the boat show for the exhibition. Frydrych’s work is displayed in many of the world’s most famous museums and is also found in the private collections of royal families, heads of state and celebrities, while Beránek is credited with creating the largest Bohemian crystal sculpture in the world at 260kg.

Emirati artist, Najat Makki, was another star of the exhibition – she has been a long-time fixture on the UAE art scene working in a range of media.

Landa said that Makki was inspired by her own visit to Crystal Caviar.

“When she visited us she fell in love with crystal and is now producing her own sculptures,” said Landa. “We were ➤

ABOVE: The artworks on show at the Dubai International Boat Show were true talking points among visitors, such as this amazing work by Vlastimil Beránek.

two people then, now we are 130, with 7,000 square metres of production space and galleries.”

Inviting Crystal Caviar along to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Dubai International Boat Show was a nod to the company’s already-extensive association with the world of luxury yachts. Starting out as a producer of Bohemian crystal chandeliers, there are now Crystal Caviar art sculptures on 66 superyachts around the world.

The Dubai event was a wonderful opportunity for visitors to see the artworks up close and plans are already afoot for next year’s boat show.

“Normally, there is no chance for the sculptures to be seen outside the yachts, so this was the perfect chance for visitors to realise one of the most beautiful of arts,” said Landa.

“This is the first time a gallery [in the UAE] is displaying marine-inspired art and it’s a fantastic start,” Landa continued. “We have a very serious enquiry from a GCC royal family for 56 pieces. Next year, while VIPs will of course be the main audience, we aim to open up part of the exhibition to other show visitors.” ❖

BELOW: A sculpture by Jan Frydrych, a glass artist from the Czech Republic.



TIME MACHINES

Sometimes the most desirable pieces of technology look like they should belong in the past. But this collection of cutting-edge kit will plant any user firmly in the future.

BY KESTELL DUXBURY

Linley Tectonic Bar

US\$170,000

Linley, www.davidlinley.com

Crafted from ebonised walnut with white gold leaf and nickel accents, the Tectonic Bar marries classic craftsmanship and exquisite attention to detail – and it hides a beautiful secret. Find the discreet button, and you will reveal the specialist Linley cocktail accessories, a built-in fridge and a hidden cigar humidor, which rises up as if from the centre of the Earth (see above). It embodies elegant stylistic qualities while still being entirely practical – in an utterly lush-like kind of way.



Kodak Super 8 Camera

US\$2,000

Kodak, www.kodak.com

Leading the charge against filming on smartphones, behold Kodak with the Super 8 camera. It cleverly keeps all best parts of analogue filming, while maintaining the quality of modern video. It shoots onto 8mm film cartridges, but has an LCD display to help frame shots, a mini-HDMI port to hook up to an external monitor, audio outputs, and an SD-port for recording sound. Kodak will develop the film and upload it to the Kodak Darkroom online for 21st century film editing, and they will even send you the 8mm film back to you too. The Kodak Super 8 camera also uses old-school C-mount lenses, allowing you to dig out those classic manual focus and aperture lenses.



Gramophone Mini with Bluetooth

US\$259

RH, Restoration Hardware, www.rb.com

Ever wanted to listen to the latest Kanye West song on a 1900s style gramophone without losing any of the sound quality? Well, now you can. The RH gramophone uses classic physics to amplify the sound generated by the internal Bluetooth speaker. The acoustically amplified sound harmonises modern age connectivity with the classic acoustic abilities of the early phonograph age. The walnut finish adds to the beautiful retro quality of this suprisingly modern soundpiece.

Synergy Elite

US\$5,000

Bespoke Arcades, www.bespoke-arcades.co.uk

This classic tabletop arcade machine is one of the best gaming media centres on the market today. Its retro looks are coupled with next-generation i7 PC processor, GTX graphics on a 20" HD display, four USB ports and the ability to run more than 50,000 games. Adding one of these to your home, games room or office will completely transform the space with a superb slice of gaming nirvana. Put simply, it is a must-have for any retro gaming fan.

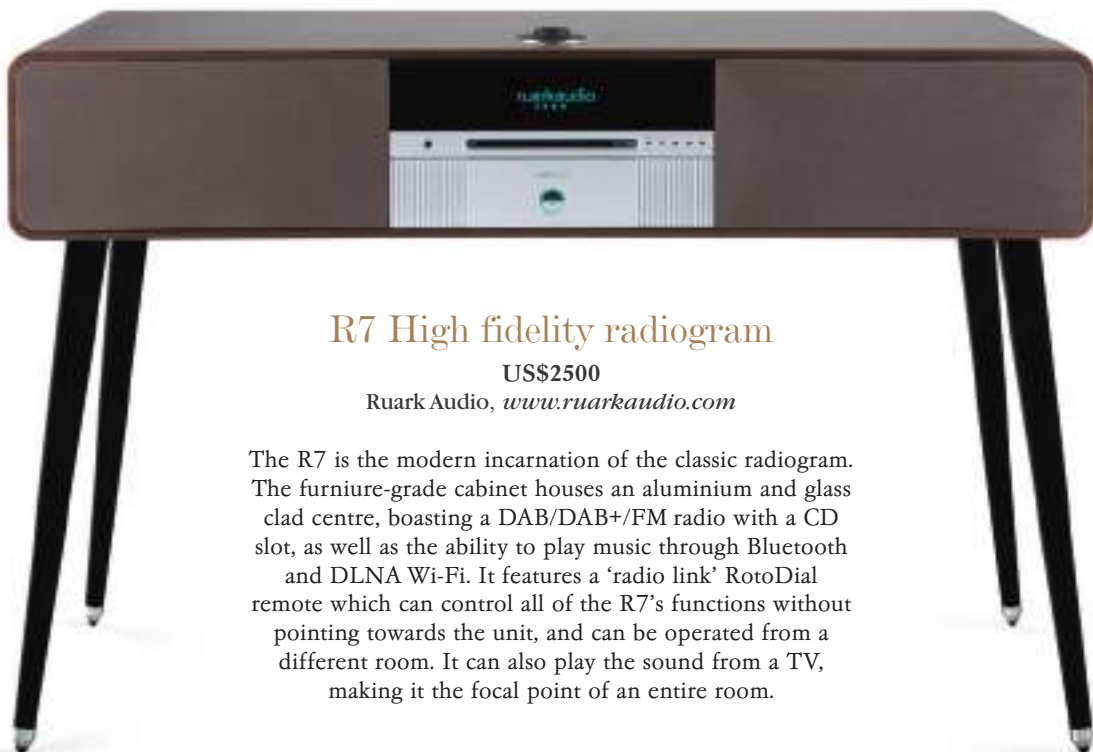


Arcade Neon Sign

US\$1,500

Liberty Games, www.libertygames.co.uk

The classic neon sign is made from hand-crafted, genuine gaslights, which will last 100 years, and can be filled with different gas to change the colour. The Arcade light is a tip of Liberty Games's hat to one of the most iconic names in video gaming history. It's a large, striking light which will add mood and ambience to even the darkest corner of your games room. At one metre tall, it can act as the centre piece in a living room, or even act as mood lighting when trying to create a nightclub atmosphere. For anyone who is a fan of the 1980s, this sign is a must-have.



R7 High fidelity radiogram

US\$2500

Ruark Audio, www.ruarkaudio.com

The R7 is the modern incarnation of the classic radiogram. The furniture-grade cabinet houses an aluminium and glass clad centre, boasting a DAB/DAB+/FM radio with a CD slot, as well as the ability to play music through Bluetooth and DLNA Wi-Fi. It features a 'radio link' RotoDial remote which can control all of the R7's functions without pointing towards the unit, and can be operated from a different room. It can also play the sound from a TV, making it the focal point of an entire room.

The Oracle

US\$2,200

Sage by Heston Blumenthal,
www.sageappliances.co.uk

The Oracle is everything you could want from a coffee machine. It's clean style holds nothing back in performance. The Oracle has automatic grinding, dosing, tamping and milk texturing, automating the two most difficult parts of manual espresso. You can extract espresso and texture milk simultaneously, enabling you to go from beans to latte in under a minute. Its stainless steel finish would fit into any retro kitchen, but The Oracle's performance is firmly in the future.



Freewrite Typewriter

US\$499

Astrohaus, www.getfreewrite.com

The Freewrite is the world's first smart typewriter. Its' smooth writing action and WiFi connectivity lets you leave your smart phone or laptop computer and home. With 256-bit SSL encryption, sync capability, and the Postbox web app, you can reply to emails or type up documents in secure comfort with this uber-cool writing tool.



A detailed photograph of the interior of a Bentley EXP 12 Speed 6e concept car. The image shows the front passenger side, featuring a rich red leather interior with white stitching. The dashboard is a mix of dark and light tones, with a prominent circular air vent and a digital display. The steering wheel is partially visible at the top, and the rearview mirror is in the upper center. The overall aesthetic is one of luxury and modern design.

ELECTRIC DREAMS

Bentley's EXP 12 Speed 6e concept lays down the gauntlet to luxury car makers with this stunner, which was launched in Geneva.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

The Geneva Motor Show is known for its exciting launches from premium brands and the 2017 edition was no different. One of the true showstoppers this year was the Bentley EXP 12 Speed 6e, which combines the finest examples of retro-inspired design with modern electric technology.

A stroll around the car reveals nods to classic elements of British car design. The “6” on the 3D mesh grille is reminiscent of the Caterham Super 7, another British marque created with driving pleasure in mind. The “6” lights up when the car is running.

The seams along each side are sexy and sporty, while the rear end takes a more aggressive turn with narrow tail lights and a large slab of metal for the boot lip. It is a muscular design with the designers taking their cues from a number of inspirations, including the natural >



The interior of the Bentley EXP 12 Speed 6e concept effortlessly combines joyous retro touches with modern comforts.

world, architecture and aviation. The twin bonnet scoops act as heat sinks that supply additional cooling to the battery and powertrain. Meanwhile, the wing mirrors – which are cameras rather than traditional reflective glass – are inspired by stealth aircraft fuselages.

It's a concept that is definitely going to inform the design of future Bentleys.

Inside, it is apparent that the designers have had a great time, with luxurious materials used to create a wonderful environment for drivers and passengers. The central console is hewn from a solid piece of curved glass with a high-definition OLED screen from which navigation, temperature and entertainment can be controlled. Cut glass features in the cut-away steering wheel and the two buttons at the top are not just for show – one offers an instant performance boost while the other limits speed for safer driving. Copper, meanwhile, is used on the gear selector.

As well as promising to be a blast to drive, the passenger is well looked after with their own control panel on the front fascia with access to entertainment, email and social media. The car's infotainment system allows access to many real world services using connected-car apps.

But it's the electric power that makes the EXP 12 Speed 6e a major technical achievement. While electric cars are traditionally associated with being cute little city cars, often with limited range, rendering them impractical for long drives, this Bentley breaks the mould in style. While this concept does not come with rapid inductive charging, that is part of Bentley's plan for future zero-emission luxury cars.

The ambition is for the factory at Crewe to produce all-electric Bentley production cars without sacrificing quality, style or performance. According to the company, Bentley's electric cars will benefit from instant torque and grand touring range. High-speed inductive charging is on the agenda with the aim of being able to drive between London and Paris or Milan and Monaco on a single charge.

Next cab off the electric rank for Bentley will be the Bentayga, with the brand's opinion-dividing SUV getting a PHEV model added to its line-up for 2018. The brand aims to target the growing number of affluent motorists in developing economies, meaning Africa has the potential to be a huge market for Bentley's future electric models.

Wolfgang Dürheimer, chairman and chief executive of Bentley Motors, said: "The EXP 12 Speed 6e is a concept to show that Bentley is defining electric motoring in the luxury sector, with the appropriate technology, high quality materials and refinement levels you'd expect from a true Bentley. This concept enables us to engage with luxury customers and gather feedback on our approach." ♦



◆
*This concept car
will definitely
inform the design
of future
Bentleys, with the
designers clearly
having a great
time inside and
out with the EXP
12 Speed 6e*
◆

FACING PAGE: The exterior of the Bentley EXP 12 Speed 6e pays homage to classic British design and, despite being a concept, it is looking rather close to being road-ready.



THE NEW POWER GENERATION

Premium SUVs were the order of the day at the Jaguar Land Rover stand at the Geneva Motor Show, with the I-PACE and Velar under the spotlight.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

The Jaguar I-PACE and the Range Rover Velar are the two latest SUV offerings from the Jaguar Land Rover Group with both vehicles being put forward as standard bearers for greener, cleaner high-end motoring.

Dr Ralf Speth, CEO of Jaguar Land Rover, described the cars as “revolutionary”.

JAGUAR I-PACE

The Jaguar I-PACE is the company’s first electric performance SUV concept car. First unveiled at the Los Angeles Auto Show in November 2016, the Geneva Motor Show gave Europe-based enthusiasts an early glimpse at the design and technology on offer. Long-distance range, fast charging times and superb performance are the three main promises made by Jaguar Land Rover.

It will be manufactured at Magna Steyr’s plant in Graz, Austria.

Dr Wolfgang Ziebart, group engineering director for Jaguar Land Rover, said the I-PACE is “an uncompromised electric vehicle designed from a clean sheet of paper”.

Performance is impressive for the I-PACE with a 0-100km/h sprint of around four seconds and an all-wheel-drive powertrain producing 700Nm of torque.

Range anxiety is eliminated with the ability to travel 500km on one charge. The electric motors and 90 kWh lithium-ion battery pack were designed in-house by Jaguar Land Rover for reliability on most daily journeys.

For rapid charging, using a typical public 50 KW DC charging network, a full charge will take a little over two hours, which is enough to deliver more than 500km, as measured on the European NEDC test cycle.

The I-PACE is no pie-in-the-sky concept car. With a design that is striking yet does not look over-the-top wacky – a common curse of concept cars – this is verging on being production-ready.

Jaguar has confirmed that it will be on the road in 2018 and the I-PACE that was shown at Geneva was described as a “production preview”.

“The I-PACE Concept represents the next generation of electric vehicle design,” said Ian Callum, Jaguar’s director of design.

“It’s a dramatic, future-facing cab-forward design with a beautiful interior – the product of authentic Jaguar DNA, electric technology and contemporary craftsmanship.”

The luxuriousness for which Jaguar is renowned certainly extends to the interior. This is not a drab or purely functional place to be. Callum says the interior is “finished with beautiful, premium materials and an unwavering attention to detail”.

“Throughout the interior you will discover a host of beautiful details to surprise and delight,” Callum continues. “From the expansive panoramic glass roof to the sporting, beautifully finished seats, every feature bears the hallmark of British craftsmanship.”



FACING PAGE: The Range Rover Velar performs well and looks elegant.



The Jaguar I-Pace is Jaguar Land Rover's first electric performance SUV concept car.

“And there is digital craftsmanship too, with two touchscreens serving up information when and where you need it, limiting distraction and improving the driving experience.”

RANGE ROVER VELAR

The Range Rover Velar has been designed to fill the gap in the market between the compact Range Rover Evoque and the chunky Range Rover Sport. This is a mid-sized luxury SUV and it goes on sale this summer.

Design-wise, the lines are clean. It is elegant rather than overbearingly bulky. The LED headlights are slim and unobtrusive, refined rather than brash. Inside, the premium features are subtle – hidden-lit controls and burnished copper-coloured details feature throughout.

Technology is important in this segment and the Velar is no exception with the intuitive Touch Pro Duo infotainment system making the experience a pleasure for drivers and passengers.

There are six different powertrains on offer, from the 2.0-litre Ingenium diesel with CO2 emissions from only 142g/km

through to the supercharged 3.0-litre V6 petrol version.

As well as being an elegant car-about-town, the Velar has all-terrain capabilities thanks to standard air suspension, all-wheel drive, optional active-locking rear differential and a light, stiff aluminium body structure for increased agility. Range Rover has been a leader in offroad technology to make driving adventures more accessible and the Velar is no exception. Terrain Response 2 and All Terrain Progress Control are options, and low traction launch, hill descent control and gradient release control come as standard.

If you need to get a friend out of trouble in a dune or perhaps you are transporting the polo ponies, the Velar comes with a towing capacity of up to 2,500kg with a tow assist function as an option. This option means the driver can reverse the Velar with the trailer attached using the Touch Pro Duo rotary controller, eliminating the need to counter-steer.

This year's Geneva showstoppers for the Jaguar Land Rover group demonstrate a long-term commitment to the growing luxury SUV segment. ❖



VISIONNAIRE PRESENTS NEW COLLECTION 'GREENERY'

Founded by the Cavalli family in 1959,
Visionnaire brings us the finest in
luxury Italian furniture

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

From luxury yachts to bars and hotels, the Visionnaire brand embodies ultimate in luxury - it combines timeless style with creative flair. For 2017, Visionnaire has unveiled its new collection, 'Greenery', a word that Visionnaire chose to tell the re-evolution of its new range, which premiered 4-9 April 2017 at the Salone del Mobile 2017 in Milan.

During the Salone del Mobile 2017, the collection preview took place at the "Fuori Salone", where visitors were given an insight into the two flagship stores in Piazza Cavour and Via Turati. Inspired by the origins of the brand, the new collection is a re-evolution that is based on a deep study of the world of luxury interiors, with a vision towards the future. Visionnaire takes up the challenge of re-telling itself using the language of contemporaneity, expressing with increasing force its unique DNA and its core features of attention to details and "haute-couture" workmanship, which has ensured its success so far.

During the Milan fair, symmetry and balance of materials and shapes were brought together in a continuous dialogue, a reflection of a tropical paradise - a place where one can escape from the ordinary world.

"For several years, we asked ourselves what luxury means today," says Eleonore Cavalli, art director of the Maison. "The most common answer among our customers and lovers of design and architecture, like us, is often: being able to enjoy 'a green heart'. Just take a look at the "Bosco Verticale" in Milan, named the most beautiful skyline in the world in 2014 and considered to be a

place to relax and escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life by people living in urban areas."

That's why, in this edition of the Salone del Mobile in Milan, Visionnaire decided to propose not only a collection of interior design, which aims at reading the contemporary world through the unique lifestyle of Visionnaire, but also a proposed architectural structure.

This collection proposes the same design of the products displayed in the fair, deliberately created in a second eco-friendly version. "Our research and development department has started to develop this eco-sustainability feature starting from those products which are closely in contact with the person, first of all sofas and beds, made by alternative materials with low environmental impact," says Eleonore Cavalli.

Visionnaire is also an advocate against animal cruelty, the reason behind why it chooses feathers such as hemp, cotton, wool, remy, kapock, already used in the past for padding of throw cushions, and seed padding (millet, flax) for pillows."

"Visions of the Future" will be the title of the first site-specific installation by the multimedia artist Enrico T. De Paris, highlighting the importance of people rights and dreams and to the future of all humanity. Also for 2017, Visionnaire reconfirms its collaboration with Steve Leung, Alessandro La Spada, the duo Maurizio Manzoni and Roberto Tapinassi and the architect Mauro Lipparini, together with new proposals designed by the style department of the brand. ❖

*Visionnaire's collection
was on display at the
Salone del Mobile
2017*



THE NEED FOR SPEED

Gulfstream will be showcasing a record-setting pair of jets – the G280 and G650ER – at this year's Paris Air Show.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS



The Paris Air Show has been running for 52 years and in that time, it has become one of the most prestigious events on the aviation calendar. This year, more than 2,300 companies will be exhibiting and Gulfstream will be among them, and it will take place from 19-25 June.

Two record-setting jets will be on display at the Gulfstream stand - the G280 and the G650ER.

This year has already been a busy year on the exhibition circuit for these two Gulfstream stunners. In February 2017, both jets, along with the G550, were on show at the Australian International Aerospace and Defense Exposition on the outskirts of the city of Melbourne. Then, in April, the two jets made a special appearance at China's Shanghai Hongqiao Airport for the Asian Business Aviation Conference and Exhibition.

In January this year, the G280 set a speed record between Carlsbad, California, and Kalaoa, Hawaii,

completing the overwater flight, a journey of 4,180km, in just four hours and 47 minutes. The flight from McClellan-Palomar Airport to Kona International Airport was at a swift Mach 0.84.

Another record was set by the G280 when it flew from Melbourne to Singapore in seven hours and 21 minutes.

Since 2012, the G280 has earned more than 50 speed records and is capable of flying eight passengers 6,667km at Mach 0.80.

It has proven a very successful jet for Gulfstream with the 100th customer delivery of the G280 taking place in October last year. A US customer was the 100th buyer. The G280 fleet has logged more than 70,500 flight hours and 43,000 landings.

As well as being a certified high-speed achiever, the G280 comes with all the luxuries and conveniences one expects from the Gulfstream brand. There are 19 ➤



The G650ER looks imposing on the runway. It will be one of the jets Gulfstream will exhibit at the Paris Air Show, to be held in June.

super-sized windows, inflight access to the baggage compartment, and cabin soundproofing.

The Gulfstream 650ER, meanwhile, claimed a Sydney to Los Angeles record in May last year for a flight that took place in March 2016. It made the 12,260 trip in 12 hours and 40 minutes at an average speed of Mach 0.86. Leaving Sydney Airport at 7:11am local time on 11 March, it touched down at Los Angeles International Airport at 1:51am local time, also on 11 March.

Two earlier records were set by the G650ER in 2015 - it set two city-pairing speed records while flying around the world in one stop. The jet travelled between White Plains, New York, and Beijing, a distance of 12,851km at a speed of Mach 0.87 and then flew from Beijing to Savannah, Georgia, a 12,171km journey at Mach 0.89.

Along with being a supremely luxurious and comfortable aircraft, the G650ER has the longest range at the fastest speed. It has travelled 13,890km at Mach 0.85, and 11,853km at Mach 0.90. The G650ER was launched in May 2014 and received type certification from the US Federal Aviation Administration five months later. The first fully outfitted G650ER was delivered in November 2014, ahead of the 2015 projected delivery date.

In February this year, Gulfstream announced another important milestone for the G650ER. Along with the G650, it was certified by the Civil Aviation Administration of China. This validation is one of the final steps required for an aircraft to be registered in the country. Attaining this certification in China means the G650ER is now certified in 16 countries, while the G650 is certified in 26.

Qatar Airways is among the high-profile clients Gulfstream has on its order books. In July last year, the airline converted three G650ER jets as part of a 30-aircraft agreement, which was signed in 2015. ❖

THIS PAGE: The elegant exterior and comfortable interior of the G280. It has achieved more than 50 speed records since 2012.



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DO MORE IN THE MALDIVES

While the appeal of lazing on the beaches of the Maldives cannot be denied, there are options for the more energetic holidaymaker.

WORDS BY GEORGINA WILSON-POWELL

It feels as though holidays to the Maldives have been an option forever, even though the first resort only opened in the 1970s. While the dream-like archipelago has been the domain of countless honeymooners over the past five decades, in 2017 things are changing. The islands are stepping up a notch to offer a wider range of experiences for guests who are better travelled and educated and expect more. Today, the Maldives are for anyone who wants a unique experience, especially if they want to engage mind *and* body.

TASTE WINE UNDERGROUND

Wine prices rocket in the Maldives but for those who want to taste the best, Per Aquum Huvafen Fushi has created a Vinum, private wine cellar, eight metres under the sea. There are 6,000 bottles to choose from and pair with a bespoke dinner – or a sommelier can lead you through a wine tasting. It's a welcome change from cocktails by the pool.

www.huvafenfushimaldives.org/

HAVE A POOL PARTY

Finolhu is to the Maldives as Cafe Mambo is to Ibiza. Well it will be in a couple of years. This new resort steps up the party pace in the islands and proves the Maldives aren't just for hand holding. Finolhu takes cues from the latest food trends – (think tacos served from a converted VW van – while the Baa Baa Beach Club kicks the party off slowly in the afternoon and gradually builds it with DJ sets and live bands. If you don't fancy a full-on party, you can drink cocktails in the spa. www.finolhu.com

LEARN ABOUT MALDIVIAN CULTURE

Cocoon somehow manages to be superbly stylish (think modern city break rather than kitsch island decor) and intent on educating guests on their holiday home. While many jet in and jet out without a thought for the local population, at Cocoon you can visit a neighbouring island where locals live, discover how integral the coconut palm is to everything from cooking to building and even dine at a communal table to share your experiences.

www.cocoonmaldives.com

PLAY A ROUND OF GOLF

The Shangri La Villingili has one of the most southern atolls in the archipelago. To get there you'll have to cross the equator by sea plane (and get a certificate for your trouble). Once you're there though the island is big enough for a compact round of nine holes of golf on the Maldives' only course. Most of the holes are par three or four but the danger really comes from losing balls into the ocean. www.shangrila.com

GO OUT IN A SUBMARINE

At Jumeirah Vittaveli, a 30-minute boat ride from Male, they have all the latest watersports toys to play with including Flyboards (which is like a water powered jetpack for wannabe superheroes) and one of the only glass bottomed submarines. The submarine sits like a deep V in the water, you head out at dusk, bubbly in hand of course, and sit in the submarine as it glides around the island, checking out the marine life at night. You'll see stingrays and turtles and a lot of fish.

www.jumeirah.com

MINGLE WITH MANTA RAYS ON MILAIDHOO ISLAND

Manta rays are one of the most impressive Maldivian locals but not every resort sits right next to one of their favourite places to congregate. In the Baa Atoll, Milaidhoo has the pleasure of being next door to the largest collection of manta rays in the world, it's sat on the edge of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and it's team of marine biologists can take you out to experience life as a manta.

www.milaidhoo.com

LEARN TO SURF

Pick up a board and hit the swell at Four Seasons on Kura Huraa. Despite what many believe it is possible to surf the Maldives and the water is perfect for beginners. Four Seasons has one of the top surf schools from Noosa, Australia, on board, plus they bring in championships surfers for clinics and surf tours and even have their own annual championships, which sees ex-pro surfers battle it out off shore.
www.fourseasons.com



SWIM WITH WHALE SHARKS

If you're a Maldives master you'll know that turtles, stingrays and even sharks populate the shores like nowhere else. First timers gawp at every coloured fish while you leisurely dive nonplussed. New Lux resort, at Lux South Ari Atoll, takes things up a notch with its marine biologists who will take you out to swim with whale sharks. These huge bad boys aren't sharks and they aren't carnivores – they're actually the biggest fish on the planet, docile and pretty blind – but still swimming with them is a humbling, once-in-a-lifetime experience.
www.luxresorts.com



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SURF'S UP IN SUMBA

For some holidaymakers, it's not simply about lying about perfecting the art of doing nothing. The active holidaymakers demand thrills that go beyond the sunlounger or the swim-up bar. On the remote Indonesian island of Sumba, the resort of Nihiwatu is a haven for surfers.

The island is best known for the famous "Occy's Left" or Nihiwatu wave and it attracts surfers from all over the world. For those who want to learn to ride this bucket list wave, Nihiwatu resort's Coconut Cove surf school is the place to do it in style.

Chad Bagwell, the resort's resident free dive and surf expert, is on hand to help surfers of all skill levels come to grips with the big waves. Located on a peaceful stretch of white sand, the surf school is the ideal place to learn all the tricks. As well as surfing, stand-up paddle boarding, wake-boarding, free-diving, snorkelling, spearfishing and kayaking are on offer at Coconut Cove.

And if the travel companions of the adventurous types prefer a more sedate break, Nihiwatu offers plenty of places to chill out, from sunloungers with water views to private villas, bars, restaurants and a jungle spa.

www.nihiwatu.com



Eiffel 2019

It is always wise to have a trip to Paris planned, and for those who really like to plan ahead, the Hilton has announced it will be opening a new and luxurious property in the French capital for 2019. The new hotel will boast views of the Eiffel Tower and with 118 rooms, it won't be an impersonal monolith.

The plan is for the Hilton Paris Eiffel Tower to be located in the 7th arrondissement, home to the National Assembly, some of the city's finest museums, the Invalides and, of course, the iconic tower. It will be perched on Avenue de Saxe, next to Place de Breteuil, and a stone's throw from the Champ de Mars.

Hilton is developing the property in conjunction with building owner Compagnie de Phalsbourg and renowned French designer Philippe Starck will be in charge of the interior design.

It promises to be an eclectic addition to the Parisian architectural landscape as the property will be the merging of two adjacent buildings, one from the 1900s and one from the 1970s.

www.hilton.com

Annaba spectacular



Annaba, known as the “pearl of east Algeria”, is the north African country’s fourth-largest city, and it draws tourists with its beautiful beaches.

With Algeria determined to be open for business, as well as attracting tourists from Africa and beyond, the Sheraton Annaba is an optimistic opening and a welcome addition to the north African luxury market.

The 201-room property features 15 executive suites and a presidential suite. Guests in the suites and club rooms will have access to the Club Lounge, which offers spectacular views of Annaba from the 19th floor.

Premium dining experiences are also on offer, including Sheraton’s signature paired menu, which matches fine food and wine, as well as Al Pesto, a high-end Italian dining experience.

www.Sheraton.com/Annaba

DIVINE VINES

Leeu Estates, located between the mountainside and river with views across the Franschhoek Valley, offers wine-loving visitors to South Africa a stunning place to enjoy award-winning wines, distinctive architecture and a working vineyard. The property comprises three historic farms which have come together to create a luxurious experience. It is little wonder this estate keeps making it to luxury travel magazine hot lists.

www.leeucollection.com



Chilled out Cairo

Westin Hotels has opened the Westin Cairo Golf Resort & Spa Katameya Dunes, which offers a scenic escape from the hustle and bustle of Egypt’s busy capital. Located in a prestigious residential community, the resort features a 27-hole golf course and a superbly appointed spa with 10 therapy rooms, two couple suites, a high-tech steam room, plunge pool, rain shower and sauna.

www.Westin.com/CairoKatatemyaDunes





A FRUITFUL MARKET

Wine auction results are healthy and this latest boom is helped by the advent of online technology.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS



Wine auctions remained popular as well, according to the Sotheby's report, posting sales in 2016 worth \$74 million, a 22 per cent increase on 2015. New York was the top spot for Sotheby's wine auction sales, with \$34 million worth of vino sold last year, a 29 per cent increase. Next was Hong Kong at \$22 million and then London at \$18 million.

Christie's, meanwhile, had a fine and rare wines auction in London in March 2017 which netted \$1,438,450, with the most expensive lot selling for \$189,780.

Records set by Sotheby's in 2016 include the \$22 million sale of the cellar of William I. Koch in New York, while the top price paid for a single lot was \$394,787 for a 225-litre barrel of Palmer 2015 with a private visit and dinner, which went under the hammer in Hong Kong.

The Koch sale, which set a new record for the sale of a collection, eclipsed the estimate of \$10,628,650-\$15,128,650. At the auction, which lasted 27 hours over three days, 2,729 lots were sold with 740 participants from 23 countries making more than 20,000 bids.

2017 is proving to be another lucrative year for Sotheby's. In Hong Kong, the Spring Sale series kicked off with two wine sales bringing in a combined total of \$11,934,589. Part III of A Monumental Collection From The Cellars of a Connoisseur achieved \$5,370,764. This concluded the trilogy of sales from this programme after parts I and II were sold in New York and London respectively with a grand total of \$9,320,531. Another Hong Kong auction, The Finest and Rarest Wines and The Macallan, achieved \$6,563,826, setting a new world record for any lot of whisky ever sold at auction, as well as being the third-highest value lot ever sold by Sotheby's Wine.

Whisky has proved to be successful for Bonham's in 2017 with The Macallan Whisky Sale achieving 100 per cent sell rate by lot and value in Hong Kong. The top lot at the online auction was a bottle of Macallan Vertical 1954-1986, which fetched \$86,610. The Macallan Selected Reserve 1964 52-year-old sold for \$13,385 against an estimate of \$9,600-\$12,212. Another auction showstopper was the Macallan Glenlivet-1938 Decanter, which sold for \$6,615, against an estimate of \$5,400-\$6,200.

And it's not just the established markets of Hong Kong, London and New York where wine auctions are bringing in big numbers. The Cape Wine Auction, held in February 2017, raised R22.3 million with all proceeds going to charities in the Cape Winelands. Limited edition wines from South Africa as well as a luxury experience in California's Napa Valley wine region went under the hammer at the event, which was sponsored by Nedbank Private Wealth.

In September 2016, auctioneers from Bonhams and Christie's were on hand to sell 10,506 litres of wine ➤

The last year may have seen some major economic upheavals across the world, but the international wine market has remained buoyant, with auctions still proving very popular for collectors and connoisseurs.

According to Sotheby's 2016 Wine Market Report, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti retained the number one ranking for the fourth year in a row, posting an 18 per cent increase in sales to \$12 million. This comes after a 16 per cent increase in 2015 and a 24 per cent increase in 2014, selling more than double its nearest rival, Lafite & Petrus. Krug, meanwhile, retains the top spot among champagne producers. Bordeaux remains the world's top-selling wine region, increasing its share of sales from 46 per cent to 52 per cent in 2016 in the auction and retail market.

FACING PAGE: The Mersault vineyard. (Photography by Donald Judge/Flickr).

ABOVE: A 2010 Montrachet.

at the 42nd annual Nederburg auction. While the volume was slightly lower than the 2015 auction, total sales increased by 23 per cent. The De Wetshoff Chardonnay Finesse 1993 vintage sold for R2,000 per 750ml bottle. Red wines performed very strongly with a 50 per cent rise in the average price per litre to R894. At the top of the red wine league table was a 1976 Zonnebloem Shiraz, which fetched R22,000 for three 750ml bottles.

The strategy for the Nederburg auction by Distell of making the auction more accessible as a platform for collectors buying in their own capacity clearly proved effective in drawing in the serious buyers prepared to pay serious prices. International participation also increased with buyers from outside South Africa totalling 18 per cent, a three per cent increase on the previous year. Tsogo Sun was the top buy in 2016, with just over R1 million, followed by the SPAR Group and the Singita group of luxury lodges.

Meanwhile, the Nederburg charity auction raised just over R500,000 for two community organisations with the top lot being a 750ml bottle of Petrus, 1988, signed by French winemaker Christian Moueix, selling for R70,000.

Preparations are now underway for the 2017 Nederburg auction, which will take place in September. The selection panel was announced in February. The panel of eight judges, who will test blind and submit their scores for independent auditing, are: Tim Atkin MW, Richard Kershaw MW, Kenichi Ohashi MW, Greg Sherwood MW, Cathy van Zyl MW, Roland Peens, Gareth Ferreira and Michael Fridjhon.

The future is looking bright for wine auctions. *Elite Living Africa* watched a live Sotheby's wine auction, Burgundy & Beyond: Two Great Continental Collections, via the auction house website. We saw in real time 810 lots selling via bids from the floor and online. The sale made \$1,506,813 against a pre-sale estimate of \$1.05 million. A six-magnum of Chambolle Musigny Les Amoureuses 1999 from Domaine Georges Roumier, sold for \$28,576. From the same producer, the 1990 and 1999 vintages of Bonnes Mares, also on offer in six-magnum lots, fetched \$21,809 each.

It is the future of auctions - the internet offers people from all over the world the opportunity to participate in some of the world's most prestigious sales. ❖

RIGHT: A selection of the fine wines auctioned in April by Sotheby's.







THIS PAGE: Simon and Michaela de Pury have long been a power couple in the international art world.

FACING PAGE: A work from the Venice Biennial, an event Michaela does not like to miss.

GLOBAL PASSIONS

Michaela de Pury, one half of a true art power couple, talks to *Elite Living Africa* about their eclectic world.

WORDS BY JENNYFER IDEH



Simon and Michaela de Pury form one of the most high-profile couples in the art world. After collaborating professionally for many years, the couple tied the knot in 2009, uniting two forces on the art and cultural scene.

The former director of Sotheby's Europe, Simon de Pury is perhaps the most famed auctioneer worldwide. Originally from an aristocratic Swiss family, he was the curator of the prestigious ThyssenBornemisza

Collection in Lugano before leaving for Sotheby's. He subsequently founded, together with partners, his own auction houses - de Pury & Luxembourg and Phillips de Pury & Company. Dubbed the 'Mick Jagger' of auctioneers, Simon defies convention: a reality TV star and deft Instagrammer, he DJs hip hop at art parties wearing immaculate Caraceni suits.

Dr Michaela de Pury combines glamour and fine art expertise with a refreshingly warm >

attitude. Growing up in an art collecting family, she began building her own collection at an early age and describes her collection as “eclectic”. Formerly Senior Partner at Philipps de Pury and Company, Michaela was also the CEO of Neumeister Auctions in New York, the leading Munich auction house founded by her father, Rudolf Neumeister. She sits on the board of the Africa Center in New York alongside Chelsea Clinton, Hadeel Ibrahim, Halima Dangote and artist Kehinde Wiley.

Today the pair continue to work together and run de Pury de Pury, a company specialised in curating exhibitions, benefit auctions, art advisory and discovering and mentoring emerging artists. Between hectic schedules and international flights, we spoke with Michaela de Pury on her way back from a trip to Lagos, Nigeria.

You are active in the art world in myriad ways. How would you describe yourselves and your current activities?

I have a thriving passion for art and contemporary culture in general — this makes me live it every day. Since Simon sold Phillips we now are free and neutral to embark on many different tasks and projects around art and design - such as curating exhibitions, art advisory, collection building, art investment, mentoring artists and their careers, organising charity-related art projects — and the list goes on!

You are also avid collectors. What inspires you to collect an artist’s work?

It has to do with the desire to own and live with a specific artwork. Good art enriches daily life immensely - it will be a new “family member” and looking at it will always be different and exciting: pleasing, challenging, calming, mesmerising...

What should every new collector keep in mind as they start to build their own collections?

Collecting is a journey during which the eye - and the mind - make a huge aesthetic development. I’d always advise to buy what you love, but be informed in the best ways. It is complex and depends on each individual — there are many ways to collect.

The art market is now global - which events around the world should every collector try to get to?

The absolute must is Art Basel in Basel - this is the mother of all contemporary art fairs with the best artworks on the market. Every dealer saves his best works for this fair. Then I would advise to visit Documenta in Kassel and Athens (the latter location a new addendum this year) as well as the



ABOVE: A David Adjaye building. Michaela greatly admires his work
ABOVE RIGHT: Art Basel, an essential event on the international art calendar, according to Michaela.

Venice Biennial. The Whitney Biennial in New York is also good. They all are more informative than commercial, but important to develop the eye and learn about contemporary art. It is great fun as well.

Auction sales make headlines — how much should a collector let the market influence their collecting?

Markets can go up and down and also highlight trends and fashions. For that reason it is important to focus on one’s favourite artists and their best periods, and within these the best works if one buys. It is also valid to keep in mind any institutional support from museums — only this brings long-term artistic standing and importance.

I understand that you are looking at contemporary African art — which artists stand out for you at the moment?

Traditional African art and culture always and in substantial ways have influenced the greatest of



artists - from Picasso to Mark Grotjahn today. There is outstanding talent also today — for example Mark Bradford, Julie Mehretu, Kerry James Marshall, Henry Taylor, Rashid Johnson, David Adjaye - I could go on. They produce some of the strongest, most relevant art and design of today. I also consider great musicians or for example makeup artists like Pat McGrath to be creative benchmark setters. In our daily perception of the world pan-African creative contributions and influences play an immense role - and we are enriched in manifold ways by them.

You recently travelled to Lagos, can you tell us about your trip?

Lagos was absolutely great and such a pulsating, energetic city. I did not have much time sadly but got the best in the shortest time and saw fantastic design and architecture. Being on the Board of the Africa Center in Harlem, New York, I travelled to Lagos for an unforgettable fundraising dinner to benefit the institution. The dinner was hosted by Halima Dangote and the Dangote foundation.

◆
“Lagos is a pulsating, energetic city. I was there for a fundraising dinner – witnessing the Emir of Lagos doing a virtual reality tour of a museum with Google glasses on was unforgettable!”
◆

Halima, together with Hadeel Ibrahim and Chelsea Clinton spearhead the museums board — the Africa Center is one of the most inspiring, exciting and relevant institutions in the making! Besides many elements of perfection and joy, my absolute highlight of the evening was witnessing the Emir of Lagos doing a virtual reality tour of the museum with Google glasses on - an unforgettable moment!

You know the art world inside and out — what’s your best anecdote?

Well, the Emir with virtual reality glasses was the last memorable one, but there are so many. Simon has compiled many in his book *The Auctioneer* which just came out. For me, studio visits and encounters with artists and creatives amount to so many great and inspiring moments. It is this “window to the future” that keeps me on the non-stop art rollercoaster! ♦

Jennyfer Ideh is based between London and Lugano, and founded Curus Art Consultancy. info@curus.ch

SPORT OF KINGS

Polo is thriving in South Africa, and across Africa, as competitors take to the saddle this year for a series of prestigious tournaments.

WORDS BY MARTIN CLARK



Known as the sport of kings, polo is also the sport of princes – or at least that’s true in the case of British heir to the throne, Prince Charles, and his boisterous son, Prince Harry, both keen polo players. On the field, highly skilled players – and all adept riders, no less – battle it out in an exhilarating match for glory at top tier tournaments across the globe.

Polo is now high profile in the USA and popular too in far-flung territories from Argentina to Spain, not to mention the UK of course. Add to that list South Africa, where polo is similarly gaining traction as a participant sport.

Prince Harry has helped the sport gain traction in Africa and the Middle East with polo tournaments in support of Sentebale, the charity he founded to support vulnerable children, particularly those across the African continent who have been affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

According to Clive Peddle, managing director of the South African Polo Association (SAPA), the sport is on the rise, despite South Africa’s current fragile economy.

“Polo is an expensive sport so when there is excess cash due to high economic growth it is much easier to attract new members,” he says.

SAPA itself has a long, proud history, established in 1906 at a meeting at the Officer’s Club in Pretoria, a reflection of the sport’s military origins years earlier. It is also an affiliate member of the Hurlingham Polo Association, the governing body of polo in the UK, and thus follows its playing rules as well as regulations governing discipline and pony welfare.

Certainly it is the glamorous side of the sport - the canapés and the cocktail parties – that predominantly catches the eye of the outsider. But beyond the glitz, there’s a true passion for horsemanship too – and all the mucking out that goes with it – as well as the steely determination to win on the playing field, in what many consider to be one of the world’s oldest sports.

Inanda Gold Cup

Famously, Sir Winston Churchill once coined a phrase that polo offers a passport to the world -

and it holds true in Africa too. The Inanda Gold Cup is a showcase annual polo event held in South Africa each year that attracts the great and the good from across the continent. Six other African countries will be represented at the tournament: Ghana, Egypt, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Kenya. The event takes place this year on 29 May at the plush Inanda Club, Sandton, with Land Rover’s support as the Cup’s sponsor.

Inanda Club boasts the only field in the heart of Johannesburg’s central business district, making this sport more accessible to all. Situated in the heart of Sandton, Gauteng, the Club, founded in 1935, is one of the most exclusive clubs in South Africa.

With prestigious trophies up for grabs, it’s an extremely well organised and fun event that highlights

*LEFT: Prince Harry has been a prominent fixture on the African polo scene, particularly with charity events.
BELOW: The Inanda Gold Cup is a prestigious tournament on the South African sporting and social calendar.*



the potential of the sport in Africa long-term; the participating countries show the diverse geographic spread, from north to south, east to west.

The Cup has grown dramatically over the past five years, the organisers say, to become a popular but competitive and much-contested tournament. Land Rover's sponsorship has been integral to this success, helping to raise the profile of both the event and polo generally. Other big dates on the Inanda Club polo calendar include the Development Cup (June), Africa Cup (August) and Playing For Pink (September).

Military history

International players do attend some of the other big polo events elsewhere in the country too, says Peddle.

"We do get overseas players visiting and playing in clubs in Cape Town and Plettenberg Bay. These two areas are popular destinations due to their tourist attractions."

SAPA itself is the governing body of all forms of polo in South Africa with a proud history dating back to the military whilst under British rule. Although polo was initially the province of the British cavalry regiments, it was the infantry that actually started the game in South Africa.

The 75th Infantry of the Line Regiment, also known as the Gordon Highlanders, was sent to the Cape Province, where it was employed in minor operations in the Lower Drakensberg. Around the same time the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, was deployed in South Africa from the island of Mauritius. Both regiments were garrisoned in King William's Town, near East London. Also quartered there was the Cape Mounted Rifles, a South African unit.

The first recorded game took place in October 1874 at the Parade Ground, between the Gordon Highlanders and the Cape Mounted Rifles. But





there is also an element of controversy in this sport's South African history. The Dargle Polo Club was believed to be the first civilian club in South Africa, a claim disputed by Mooi River Polo Club. The 1902 edition of the South African Polo Calendar, however, gives the foundation years 1886 for Dargle and 1889 for Mooi River.

Exclusive and inclusive

Fast forward more than 100 years and SAPA now has 43 clubs affiliated to it with a total membership of approximately 450 players. Sponsorship has been a vital part the sport's long-term development. In addition to Land Rover's support for the Inanda Gold Cup, BMW has been associated with SAPA for 27 consecutive years, annually hosting the BMW International Polo Series in Durban and Johannesburg.

And yet the sport is keen on moving in new directions, especially to raise awareness and to improve accessibility. SAPA recently engaged with strategy consultants to produce a five-year plan with a view to increasing polo's brand image and player base.

Away from the flagship, prestigious tournaments, there's a lot of serious work going on too behind the scenes to support the uptake of the sport among historically absent groups and communities. The association takes a keen interest in the development of players from previously disadvantaged backgrounds.

It's all a very long way from those nineteenth century days, and the first contest for the Champion Cup (as the Beresford Cup was then known), when the 5th Lancers beat the 18th Hussars in 1899, by five goals to nil. Despite tough economic times, South African polo is alive and well and is well regarded internationally. ❖

ABOVE & LEFT: The Inanda Gold Cup makes for a stunning spectacle and it is always well-attended. It continues South Africa's long polo tradition.





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Words by Vani Venugopal



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\$36m

Knight Frank

Situated in historic Chelsea and surrounded by the stately mid-Victorian architecture of the Boltons Conservation Area, Ashberg House has been conceived as the ultimate lifestyle home in Central London. Its progressive exterior styling is a striking juxtaposition against the area's notable houses yet pays homage to the evolution of a district renowned for its creativity, culture and celebrated residents. The contemporary façade, discreet but distinct in nature, belies the impressive scale of the living volume beyond. Not just a residence, from its inception the design of Ashberg House is very much part of the Chelsea way of life.



EGLON HOUSE, PRIMROSE HILL, LONDON

\$31m

Savills

Inspired by the iconic Art Deco Parisian Masterpiece “Maison de Verre” by Pierre Chareau, Eglon House is a new-build live/work residence constructed, detailed and designed to the highest standards. The site of this iconic building has interesting history, being previously home to a recording studio, a shell casing factory during WWI and even a milking dairy from the days when cows grazed on nearby Primrose Hill as recently as the 1950s.



- 2 reception rooms
- 2 kitchens
- Cinema/leisure room
- Indoor swimming pool
- Private roof terrace
- Lift



EMIRATES HILLS, DUBAI

\$16m

Luxhabitat

Located in P-sector of the Emirates Hills development, this villa boasts of a rare combination of golf course views and water views. This large villa is built and designed for those seeking luxury and style, and has a built up area of 22,000 square feet and sits on a comfortably large plot. This seven-bedroom villa was designed by leading architects and comprises of various pieces from Europe and America. Emirates Hills is a place of paramount wealth and beauty, each of its villas are unique reflecting the lives of the people that live there. Featuring a harmonious balance of well-appointed villas, handsome neighbourhoods and lush landscaping, Emirates Hills is the undisputed "Beverly Hills of Dubai".

- Golf course
- Open kitchen
- Cinema room
- 5 balconies
- 5 parking bays
- Private gymnasium



www.knightfrank.com

- 7 bedrooms
- 8 bathrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- 24hr security
- Swimming pool
- Sea view

FROND I, PALM JUMEIRAH, DUBAI

\$17.69m

Knight Frank

Masterfully designed with contemporary style and a touch of sophistication, this beachfront house on The Palm Island is surrounded by breathtaking sea views, with an impressive outdoor patio and swimming pool. With a highly sought-after location on the Palm Jumeirah, this seven bedroom luxurious villa combines contemporary architecture with chic design. The home welcomes you with a grand front door which displays the stunning panoramic sea views upon entrance. Set on a 16,500 sq ft plot, the villa's ground floor flows elegantly with an open-plan living layout encompassing the formal living areas, family spaces, and the three staff accommodation rooms, professional kitchen and laundry room.



PARKVIEW, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

\$1.06m

Pam Golding Properties

On entering this prestigious home set amongst lush surrounds, you are transported to another world; one in which style and eloquence are evident in the significant design of this impressive dwelling. Built to the highest standards with extended views over the fairways, this esteemed cluster is set in a sought-after golf estate within the leafy suburb of Parkview. The vast entrance hall with statement chandelier is configured around a sweeping staircase that leads up to the five ensuite bedrooms. Deep, inviting patios invite the outside in and the bespoke open-plan kitchen flows seamlessly to multiple entertainment areas. Additional features include a small plunge pool on the deck, fitted study, staff suite and 24-hour security. www.pamgolding.co.za Access code: HP1305851



- 5 bedrooms
- 5 bathrooms
- 4 garages
- 4 reception rooms
- Plunge pool
- Golf course



PLETTENBERG BAY, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

\$1.35m

Fine & Country

The Hill is an exclusive secure lifestyle estate developed by people who love, live and breathe Plettenberg Bay lifestyle. The estate enjoys an extraordinary panoramic view of the bay with breathtaking African sunsets. The classical facade of the property unlocks to sheer glamour and elegance as you enter through the front door. The design elements of the home with clean lines, a focal stairwell and enormous use of seamless glass capitalises on the perfect synergy between luxurious family living combined with exceptional views.



www.fineandcountry.com

- Coastal property
- 5 bedrooms
- 2 lounges
- 2 fire places
- Home theatre
- Sauna

ATLANTIC SEABOARD, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

\$6.44m

Pam Golding Properties

A gracious villa finished to the highest international standards, with spectacular ocean and mountain views. This unrivalled property offers generous accommodation, private balconies and expansive open-plan entertainment areas. Set in the tropical garden is an alfresco undercover patio and lap pool. This opulent masterpiece in the heart of Clifton, centrally located along Cape Town's coastline, welcomes you with its grand entrance hall adorned with show-stopping chandeliers, bevelled glass windows and oak floors. The large open-plan entertainment lounges lead seamlessly to an undercover patio.

www.pamgolding.co.za Access code: AS1294343

- 5 bedrooms
- 5.5 bathrooms
- 2 garages
- Garden
- Swimming pool
- Undercover patio





THE HENSON OVAL ROAD NW1

A UNIQUE TRIPLE ASPECT, DUPLEX PENTHOUSE APARTMENT

Set within the iconic Henson building this impressive 4 double bedroom penthouse offers 3,574 sqft of open plan living and 4 large terraces (2,183 sqft) ideal for entertaining. The Henson is located just a few minutes' walk from Camden Town tube station and Primrose Hill Village.

Accommodation: Large reception room, dining room, kitchen, second reception room, master bedroom with his and hers dressing rooms and ensuite bathrooms, 3 further bedrooms with ensuite shower rooms, guest shower room, utility room, guest cloakroom. **Amenities:** 4 Large terraces, covered terrace, off-street parking for 2 cars, 24-hour concierge, air conditioning.



£5,650,000

Leasehold approx 988 years

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