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## HOW THIS WATCH BROKE RECORDS

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A man with a beard and tattoos is sitting on a stone ledge next to a swimming pool. He is wearing a dark, tailored suit jacket over a dark t-shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is wearing white lace-up shoes with a speckled pattern. The background shows the blue water of the pool and some greenery. The brand name 'JIMMY CHOO' is overlaid in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

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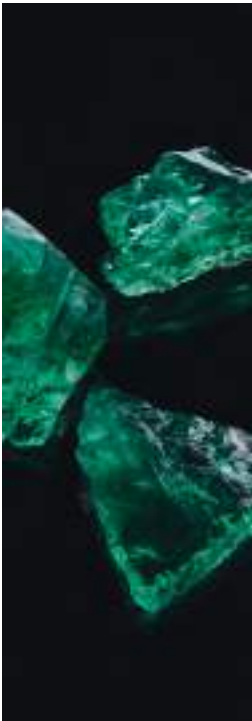


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# WELCOME

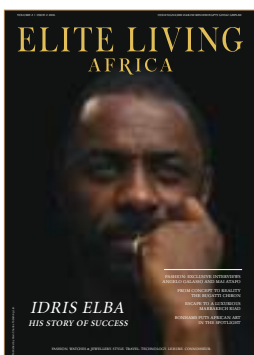
**A** watch is not necessarily a mere practicality, a convenient way to ensure one is not late to meetings or parties. For true connoisseurs, it can be an example of precision and fine craftsmanship, an intersection of art and movement. This appreciation of the prestigious timepiece reached a new pinnacle with an auction held by Christies in Hong Kong. An amazing Greubel Forsey watch broke records, selling for \$1,461,507. Turn to page 18 for the inside story.

In this issue, we also meet three brilliantly creative people who are committed to making the world a more glamorous place. South African fashion designer Gavin Rajah shares his latest collection with us (pg. 30). On page 10, Christina Banjo tells the story of her handbag business and Chrissa Amuah explains how she is bringing Ghanaian traditions to home interiors.

For those seeking a luxurious getaway, we take an indulgent tour across the Indian Ocean (pg. 54). As well as the traditional havens of the Maldives and the Seychelles, we've handpicked dreamlike destinations in Madagascar, Mauritius and Sri Lanka.

And whether you've been busy at work or play, there is nothing quite like relaxing with a fine whisky or cognac. Our dark spirits special (pg. 72) offers some tempting suggestions for filling your glass. We will certainly drink to that.

**Georgia Lewis**  
Editor



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Managing Editor  
Ben Watts

Editor  
Georgia Lewis

Online Editor  
Hiriyi Bairu

Contributing Writers  
Nnamdi Anyadike, Sejal Bhat,  
Jess Coutts, Annie Makoff-  
Clark, Rhonita Patnaik,  
Vani Venugopal

Senior Designer  
Nicky Valsamakis

Designer  
Miriam Brtkova

Production  
Nelly Mendes  
Sophia Pinto

Magazine Manager  
Steve Thomas

West African  
Business Manager  
Chidinma Anah

International Account Manager  
Roman Zincenko

Publisher  
Nick Fordham

Publishing Director  
Pallavi Pandey

Chairman  
Derek Fordham

Published by



University House,  
11-13 Lower Grosvenor Place,  
London, UK, SW1W 0EX  
+44 (0) 20 7834 7676  
[www.alaincharles.com](http://www.alaincharles.com)

Editorial:  
[georgia.lewis@alaincharles.com](mailto:georgia.lewis@alaincharles.com)

Subscriptions:  
[circulation@alaincharles.com](mailto:circulation@alaincharles.com)

Sales:  
[stephen.thomas@alaincharles.com](mailto:stephen.thomas@alaincharles.com)

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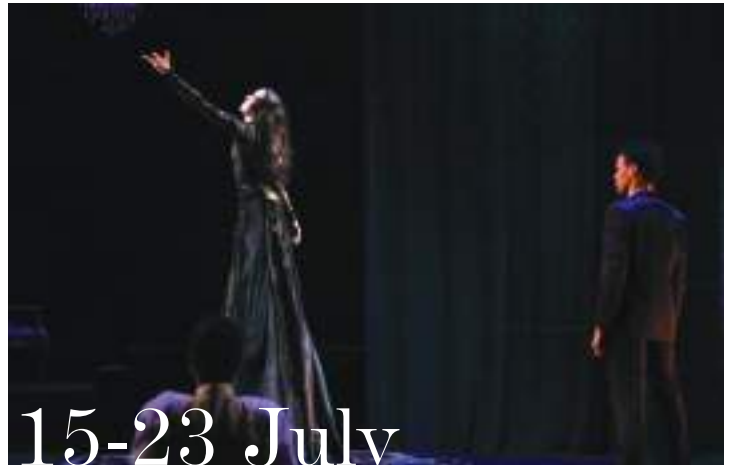


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**The Vortex**

The Cape Town City Ballet presents an innovative dance interpretation of Noel Coward's play "The Vortex". Set in 1920s high society, it follows a weekend in the life of a wealthy couple whose family is harbouring dark secrets. The play was adapted by Marc Goldberg. On the same programme, there is a performance of another contemporary ballet, "Of Gods and Men", which debuted in 2014.  
[www.capetowncityballet.org.za](http://www.capetowncityballet.org.za)



15-23 July

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**Prince of Wales Cup**

Polo lovers will converge on the Waterfall Polo Estate in Sunninghill, Johannesburg, for the Prince of Wales Cup. Competition should be fierce as it is a selection tournament for the South African national team. This selected team will then go on to compete in the BMW International Polo Series at Durban's Shongweni Club on 4 September and returns to Waterfall on 11 September. The Uruguayan Polo will be fielding a team at this prestigious event.

[www.sapolo.co.za](http://www.sapolo.co.za)



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The world's finest supercars will roll into the National Motor Museum in England's picturesque New Forest. More than 350 cars will be on show against a backdrop of stunning parklands and the historic museum. Admission to the event includes museum tickets so visitors can appreciate spectacular cars from the past and present. This is the museum's first supercar show.  
[www.beaulieu.co.uk](http://www.beaulieu.co.uk)

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**Monaco Yacht Show**

Since 1991, the world's wealthy have converged on Monaco for the Monaco Yacht Show. Held on the sparkling Port Hercules, this year there will be around 120 ultra-luxurious one-off superyachts for sale. Forty new launches will also take place at the event and more than 580 companies will be exhibiting, including designers, brokers and yacht builders.

(Photo: Flickr/Jeff1961)

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Lekki-Epe Expressway  
Lagos, Nigeria  
michael@ilbagnonigeria.com  
oyinlola@ilbagnonigeria.com  
+234 700 452 2466

#### Abuja Office

Rachel Court  
813 Guduwa District  
Abuja FCT, Nigeria  
michael@ilbagnonigeria.com  
princess@ilbagnonigeria.com  
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10  
STYLE



## THE POWER OF TWO

Chrissa Amuah and Christina Banjo are two London-based design entrepreneurs who are combining African pride with high-end style.

---

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS





Chrissa Amuah and Christina Banjo represent a new, exciting era in cross-cultural creativity. Both women are born-and-bred Londoners. Both are fiercely proud of their African roots. Both are fizzing with ambition. Both are making their mark in luxury design, albeit in different spheres. And both are determined to use their growing enterprises to make a difference to Africa.

Amuah is the founder of AMWA Designs, a company which she says has “grown organically” has a collection of homewares as well as providing a bespoke design service for clients. Most recently, Chrissa launched a luxurious wallpaper collection at Milan Design Week.

Banjo, meanwhile, has launched her first collection of luxury leather handbags, as well as accepting bespoke commissions and creating high-end, limited edition designs. Her first collection is a series of vintage-inspired bags that are deliberately bold in colour.

“I keep getting asked when I will do a black bag,” she says with a laugh, acknowledging that they do sell in large numbers. “Maybe, I will, but with some white or something!”

#### Inspirations

African heritage, in particular strong family ties, are important to both designers.

Banjo grew up in East London’s Docklands area and says her Nigerian grandmother is her inspiration and fostered her interest in fashion. Her grandmother moved to London in the early 1960s, studied at London Fashion College, worked at the famous Selfridges department store and was a seamstress for a central London clothing business. She also launched K Fashions, a Nigerian company.

“She would sew stuff that she saw in the magazines and give it an African twist or a European twist,” says Banjo. “My grandmother showed me how to sew and encouraged me to be more creative.”

While she started a career in human resource management – “the job I should be doing” she says wryly – it was not her passion and she sought to make a career in fashion. A friend was studying at Central St Martins College and she was impressed by his showcases, further inspiring her to move on from the corporate world.



FACING PAGE: The Maggie bag, in Spanish calfskin leather, by Christina Chi (top) is priced at \$840, and the Asanka coffee table, inspired by a traditional Ghanaian bowl (bottom), by AMWA Designs is \$3,480

THIS PAGE: Chrissa Amuah (top) and Christina Banjo (bottom) take great pride in their African heritage.

“Then I started researching - I’d always liked handbags,” says Banjo. “Mum always told me I had good taste, and I was told off for having expensive taste.”

Internships and temping with luxury companies, working at in luxury retail at Liberty and Selfridges, as well as studying a series of short courses at London College of Fashion followed. Banjo learned how to construct handbags and she already had experience selling handbags when she was a university student: “It was my side hustle,” she says.

When Banjo launched Christina Chi, the company name was a homage to her beloved grandmother.

“Chi is my middle name given to me by my grandmother – Chizoba, in Igbo, the Nigerian dialect,” says Banjo. “The name felt like what I wanted to represent, with meanings about good energy, and a cultural meaning of positivity.”

With a Ghanaian family, as well as a great grandmother from Benin and a grandmother from Togo, Amuah, who grew up in London’s Brixton neighbourhood, feels a strong connection to her African heritage. An important part of her designs is Adinkra symbology, which stems from a Ghanaian oral history tradition and is a visual way to communicate important values. These symbols are re-interpreted in her designs. In particular, the values of “wellbeing and social harmony” are powerful drivers in Amuah’s use of the symbols.

“They have heritage and cultural currency, it should never be forgotten,” she says.

Amuah says her business really started last year but it has been years in the making. When she completed her MA at Chelsea College of Art and Design, her work with different textile and surface types was a catalyst for her handmade products, which include cushions, furniture and throws as well as her latest foray into wallpaper, which features textures and a range of colours from neutral to dramatically bold.

“The wallpaper debuted at Milan Design Week, this year I exhibited there for the second time,” says Amuah, adding that she was delighted to have her range complimented by Rosita Missoni.

### Looking ahead

Neither Amuah or Banjo plan to rest on their respective laurels with both designers keen to expand into new fields and use their enterprises to make a real difference to the lives of African people, with ambitions for creating employment and sourcing materials from Africa.

“I want to start a foundation, it is a passion of mine,” says Banjo. “I want the foundation to be the legacy of the brand. I want to help people in Africa with entrepreneurship and invest in creativity.”



TOP: Christina Banjo collaborated with Aloha Paris on this limited edition bag. [www.christinachi.co.uk](http://www.christinachi.co.uk)

BOTTOM: Chrissa Amuah launched her range of wallpaper at Milan Design Week. [www.amwadesigns.com](http://www.amwadesigns.com)

Amuah’s next move is a range of outdoor furniture, which is currently in the development stages. She has been working with Mustard, an Accra-based architecture firm. Banjo is interested in branching out into stationery to complement her range of bags. She also collaborated with Aloha Paris, a French boutique to create a limited edition four-bag collection in white ostrich leather and gold.

Dreaming big comes easily to Amuah and Banjo. When asked about what her dream commission would be, Banjo responded that she would like to design a bag for Michelle Obama. Indeed, her “Michelle” tote bag in her debut collection, an elegant blue with classic lines, was named in honour of America’s First Lady. Amuah’s dream collaboration would be to take charge of the design of an entire house, a luxurious project with her stamp on it in every room and, in particular, using Adinkra symbology in creative ways, from the obvious to the implied.

Armed with infectious enthusiasm, ambition and commitment to high-quality design and African advancement, the world will surely see more of Chrissa Amuah and Christina Banjo.



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The method of crocheting was reinterpreted in this piece through the forging of 60kg of classic brass pulls by a local jeweller resulting in a mesh which adorns the sinuous silhouette of the piece. The solid wood frame consists of seven drawers finished with a darkened gold leaf that ensures a mystery and an elegance which contrasts with the vibrant jewel toned purple of the handles.

## Bentley Club collection

From \$4138, made-to-order, Bentley Golf,  
[www.bentleygolf.com](http://www.bentleygolf.com)

This golf collection features irons hand-forged in Ichikawa, Japan, a town with a historical heritage of forging which goes back to the period of Samurai sword production. Design influences from the rear arch haunch line of the Continental GT to the subtle curves of the Mulsanne's front wing can all be found in the range. Bentley's famous fine detailing, such as its distinctive knurling, can be found on the club end caps and the luxurious diamond quilting is a hidden delight within the bags and luggage.



# TIME *for* school

The inside story of the creation of a record-breaking, truly special watch.

---

BY JESS COUTTS

A record has been set. On 30 May 2016, the Montre Ecole, the first watch to be created as part of the Naissance d'une Montre project was sold at auction by Christie's in Hong Kong for US\$1,461,507. The low-end estimate for this truly amazing watch was US\$450,000.

The auction result marks a new milestone for the Naissance d'une Montre-Le Garde Temps project. It is certainly a powerful endorsement of the hard work of Robert Greubel, Stephen Forsey and Philippe Dufour, all committed to safeguarding and sharing traditional watchmaking knowledge and skills. This watch received a never-before-seen 100/100 points by the independent critic's guide, *The Watch Enthusiast*.

*This watch is a fine technical achievement and an example of the world's best craftsmanship.*

It is an achievement that has been at least 10 years in the making, not to mention the centuries of history which came before.

The commitment to passing down valuable and increasingly rare watchmaking knowledge and skills was first drawn up with the creation of Time éon Foundation. In 2006, Robert Greubel and Stephen Forsey, along with independent colleagues Philippe Dufour, Vianney Halter and others, set out to bring a predominantly product- and brand-centered industry back to its artisanal roots. In an effort to keep ancestral watchmaking techniques from being completely lost and replaced by automation, the team had to find a way to preserve, safeguard and transmit what was left of these traditional techniques for future generations.



This was done by finding a young watchmaker to entrust with the knowledge and skills necessary to handcraft a complete watch entirely from scratch. Michel Boulanger was that watchmaker.

Showing great promise in this rare craft, great patience in overcoming the many challenges posed by such an endeavour and great interest in acquiring the complex skills required made him an attractive candidate for this ambitious project. The fact that he was already a teacher at the Paris watchmaking school – thus in a privileged position to transmit his knowledge to the next generation of watchmakers – sealed the deal.

Several months later, the Naissance d'une Montre-Le Garde Temps project was

launched. Michel Boulanger was taken under the wing of legendary watchmaker Phillippe Dufour, who introduced him to ancestral techniques and traditional tools, many of which had to be especially made for the project.

For the next six years, Michel worked closely with Phillippe Dufour and specialists at the Greubel Forsey Atelier to handcraft this first watch. After presenting it in its various stages, the finished School Watch was finally unveiled in 2016.

Inspired by a late 18th-early 19th Century approach, the watch houses an inversed movement with three hands display. At its heart is a large tourbillon, with a frequency of 18,000 vibrations/ hour. The tourbillon cage is very much in the tradition of the great watchmakers of the 19th century,

## *The vital* STATISTICS

**Diameter:** 37.40 mm  
**Thickness:** 10.60 mm  
**Complete movement:** 251 parts  
**Tourbillon cage:** 71 parts  
**Weight of the cage:** 1.22g  
**Number of jewels:** 25  
**Frequency:** 18,000 vibrations/hour  
1 rotation per minute  
**Case diameter:** 45mm  
**Case thickness:** 15.09 mm  
**Water resistance of the case:** 30m

particularly Jacques-Frédéric Houriet and Abraham-Louis Breguet.

To provide an appropriate setting for the tourbillon mechanism, Michel and the project's initiators opted for an off-centred dial indicating the hours and minutes. The manual production of each individual part of the movement, irrespective of whether it can be seen or is hidden from sight in the interior of the movement, is of immense importance.

As observed by Philippe de Palma of *The Watch Enthusiast*: "We are in the presence of a watch which represents the best of what can be done in terms of nobility of the approach and by its very

high level of expertise required for its making.

The watch is equipped with a fixed mainspring-bridle; stopwork mechanism; winding system with double click and wolf teeth wheel balance; in-house variable-inertia with eight gold and titanium mean-time screws (14.50 mm diameter); F Balance spring; Phillips terminal curve; and Geneva-style stud main plate.

Only the highest quality materials are used, including nickel, nicket-palladium, gold, leather and synthetic sapphire crystal.

The School Watch ('Montre École') is the very first of eleven subsequent pieces to be made. ❖





## ON THE DOUBLE

At Baselworld 2016, Greubel Forsey launched Art Piece 2, a tribute to the pioneering Double Tourbillon 30°.

---

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS



Baselworld is always a very special event, the place where exciting new ideas are shared and launches are inventive. For Greubel Forsey, this year's Baselworld was the perfect place to unveil the Art Piece 2.

The Art Piece 2 pays homage to the Double Tourbillon 30°, which was the first invention by Robery Greubel and Stephen Forsey. It combines technical innovation with solid style.

Inside the case, an optical instrument allows the wearer to see a nano-engraved sketch of the Double Tourbillon 30° mechanism. This is the emblematic mechanism of the watch and the original artwork for the sketch was engraved by a secret process on a sapphire tablet.

The watch involves the wearer as it is necessary to activate a pusher that controls a bi-stable shutter mechanism in order to gain an indication of the hours and minutes. It makes the wearer take the time to consider its technical and artistic achievements ever time it is worn.

This is not merely a watch for its own sake. The idea behind its creation was to take this timepiece to the next level. It is not just a simple watch. Instead, it could become the distillation of an idea and a means of artistic expression.

Unsurprisingly, this watch, signed by Robert Greubel and Stephen Forsey, will be produced in a strictly limited edition of just a few pieces per year. ❖

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# GREEN *with* ENVY

Zambian emeralds are growing in popularity with jewellers and celebrities alike. Red carpets everywhere are turning green.

---

WORDS BY NNAMDI ANYADIKE



In May, the Cannes Film Festival played host to the world of international celebrity and media gathering to preview the latest batch of films from around the world. But at the private parties, smart hotels and restaurants along the Boulevard de la Croisette, an unlikely newcomer took to the world stage. This year, the festival was the occasion for the launch of a new emerald jewellery selection by the Swiss-based Chopard. The selection, which highlights the growing popularity of African emeralds, is the result of a unique partnership between Chopard, and Gemfields, the world's single largest producer of coloured gemstones.

On opening night, actress Julianne Moore showcased some of the new items. Stepping out on the red carpet, she wore statement earrings along with a ring, both crafted in Fairmined-certified gold and featuring emeralds from Gemfields.

"I love emeralds and Chopard jewellery, and am so fortunate to partner with Chopard on their journey to sustainable luxury," she said.

And where stars like Julianne Moore go others are following. Anna Gorham, Gemfields Head of PR and Anwsha Dutta at Gemfields Marketing & Communications London office told *Elite Living Africa* (ELA): "Among the many celebrities who have chosen to wear Gemfields Zambian emeralds on the red carpet are Taraji P Henson and Mila Kunis."

Many high-end jewellery brands have used Zambian emeralds in their collection, including Chopard, Fabergé, Cartier, Bulgari, Louis Vuitton, Van Cleef & Arpels and Verdura.

"Gemfields also collaborated with Bergdorf Goodman to launch their new jewellery room with 18 designers including Verdura, David Webb and Yeprem who created high jewellery pieces with Zambian emeralds," said Gorham. "Gemfields launched a jewellery collection with Muse showroom at Couture this year, through which emerging designers including Nikos Koulis, Carolina Bucci, Yossi Harari created jewellery featuring Gemfields Zambian emeralds."

Gemfields has also collaborated with emerging and established designers and high jewellery houses to create on-trend pieces with Zambian emeralds. Vania Leles, a designer of African descent, has just launched her "Legends of Africa" high jewellery collection, with Zambian emeralds featuring heavily.

But what exactly is driving this trend, one that could soon see Zambia overtake Colombia to become the world's largest supplier of gem quality emeralds?

Although the Latin American country currently leads the world in emerald production, Zambia is fast making a name for itself as a supplier of high quality stones. The beauty of its bluish-green emeralds is said by many to rival Colombian emeralds' distinct deep green colour. An additional positive factor for the savvy investor is that the price of Zambian emerald tends to be lower than those from Colombia. >



➤ However, according to the Israel Diamonds website, the price difference isn't due to a quality concern: "It lies more in the fact that Colombia is the world's biggest producer of emeralds and stones from Colombia simply have tradition on their side when prices are set."

Zambian emeralds are distinct in their colouration and are said to "carry colour" throughout, whereas those from Colombia tend to have a clear core. Zambian stones also tend to be a little less brittle and porous than emeralds mined in other parts of the world, making them a touch stronger. They rate between a 7.5 and 8 on the Mohs scale of hardness, which puts them just behind a ruby or sapphire's 9 and a diamond's 10.

Yet none of this would have been sufficient to propel Zambia's emeralds on to the world's gem stage were it not for the groundbreaking agreement between Chopard and Gemfields that includes a commitment to promote ethical practices at Gemfields' vast Kagem Emerald Mine.

Gemfields prides itself on its community program that includes the redevelopment of local schools, healthcare and a sustainable farming project.

Jack Cunningham, Gemfields group sustainability manager, says that all projects are undertaken in consultation with local stakeholders. Since 2008, Gemfields has owned 75 per cent of Zambia's Kagem mine. The open-pit mine in which the Zambian government retains a 25 per cent stake, supplies a large percentage of the world's emeralds.

A spokesperson for Lusaka-based Jewel of Africa (JOA), Zambia's leading jeweller, told *ELA*: "Two years ago, Kagem produced around 20 per cent of the global emerald supply, by recorded value, while Zambia as a whole was at around 30 per cent. Today Kagem produces as much as 30 per cent and Zambia's total is closer to 40 per cent, largely on account of Colombian production having declined."

The mine, formerly a debt-ridden underperformer, has been transformed into one of the world's most

◆  
*"Soon Zambia could overtake Colombia to be the world's largest supplier of gem-quality emeralds, but what exactly is driving this trend?"*  
◆

All jewellery is by Chopard, which has been using Zambian emeralds extensively in its collections.

progressive coloured stone suppliers. Kagem's 632 miners produce on average 25 million carats of emerald per year. Out of this, only the top tier will appear in the world's fine jewellery collections.

And the growth in Zambian mined emerald production has allowed a home grown jewellery sector, led by JOA, to take root and flourish. The Zambian emeralds used by JOA are saturated with chrome, similar to rubies, making them second only to diamonds in value. In the past five years, the emeralds have trebled in value locally and five times internationally, with many buyers purchasing gems above 80 per cent quality for investment purposes, while others tend to buy lower quality Zambian emeralds simply for national pride.

According to JOA, the emeralds used to only be used in earrings, pendants or royal crowns, but more recently, there has been a trend towards using them in engagement rings as well: "The diversity of the gem is endless so it all depends on personal preference of what exactly you would like to see your emerald set in."

Like diamonds, the value of emeralds depends on its colour and clarity. Natural emeralds tend to have internal faults, known as inclusions, which look like feathers, bubbles or abrasions. These qualities are used to identify where the stone was mined.

As an African enterprise, JOA makes efforts to operate in a culturally appropriate manner: "We are trying to integrate the use of emeralds jewellery into our African culture by copying the Columbians – every young girl who comes of age gets an emerald which increases the local recognition and respect for the gem. This respects their culture and recognises their efforts of marketing the gem globally."

In addition to Africa, the company has a wide international client base. However, it is understandably coy about identifying its global clients. It is, though, ready to share the fact that its big-spending clients come from the White House and Hollywood, as well as business people from the Far East and celebrities.

Meanwhile, Zambia's emeralds have chalked up some notable successes this year at auction. In March, Gemfields achieved a revenue of \$33.1 million through the sale of 469,000 carats of predominantly higher quality emeralds that were extracted from Kagem.

The auction, held in Lusaka, was the company's third during the current financial year in Lusaka, and realised a record \$70.68 per carat average value. Then in May, at an auction in Jaipur, India, Gemfields earned \$14.3 million through the sale of lower quality rough emeralds at an average value of \$5.15 per carat. This is a new record for lower quality emerald auctions and it pushed Kagem's overall revenues up to over \$100 million for the current financial year.

Zambian emeralds took pride of place at an exclusive auction in London's Bond Street when the auctioneer John Pye Luxury Assets held its first precious gemstone tender auction. The sale comprised a collection of 26 loose cut and polished natural emeralds from the Kagem Old Mine. The stones are both square and oval cut, and carat weights range from approximately two to 20 carats. It was an online tender auction where sealed bids are taken so the results are not made public but it appears to be the start of a promising line of business in the gemstone marketplace.

JOA told *ELA* that emeralds have definite advantages: "Unlike diamonds, you cannot price-shop emeralds. Each gem is unique."

By providing sought-after pieces from their unique, bluish-green-hued stones, Zambia's emeralds are at last shining on the world jewellery stage. ❖





1.

# FIERCE CREATURES

Discover your true nature with the animal adornments that come in brilliant gold and diamond. Bring out the beast in you.

- 1. **Eagle brooch**, white and yellow gold with pearl, white and brown diamonds and ruby eyes, POA, Buccellati, [www.buccellati.com](http://www.buccellati.com)
- 2. **Snake bracelet**, white gold, blue sapphires and diamonds, POA, Leo Pizzo, [www.leopizzo.com](http://www.leopizzo.com)
- 3. **Tiger necklace**, 18-carat yellow and white gold, encrusted with coloured stones, POA, Chopard [www.chopard.com](http://www.chopard.com)
- 4. **Snake bracelet**, 18-carat gold bracelet with brilliant cut and cushion cut diamonds, POA, Spiga Uno [www.spigauno.com](http://www.spigauno.com)
- 5. **Panther ring**, yellow gold, lacquer, diamonds, tsavorite garnet, US\$8,105, Cartier, [www.cartier.co.uk](http://www.cartier.co.uk)



2.



3.



5.



4.



CORNELIANI  
*Corneliani*



# FROM OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Gavin Rajah is an influential figure in the African and international fashion scene. Here, he shares photos from his latest collection and talks to *Elite Living Africa* about his work, from designing beautiful clothes to his charity events.

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WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS





**S**outh African fashion designer Gavin Rajah has shared with *Elite Living Africa* a series of stunning images from his latest collection. It features sleek suits for the men and a women's collection that manages to be feminine, ethereal and gothically glam all at once. Here, he talks about his influences, collaborations and why all his clients get the VIP treatment.

**Tell us about your career journey. How did you get to where you are today?**

I never studied fashion. I just loved it and started out by thinking that it was easy. If I knew back then what I know now I may have stuck to a legal career. Much of what I learnt I did so on my own and through trial and error. I do not know that when I had made a decision to pursue fashion that it was going to be a serious decision. I was not going to be in it for the 15 minutes of fame on a catwalk. I wanted to make a proper career out of it.

So my approach has always been to balance a great aesthetic with commercial sensitivity. It has been very important that we see our garments and not just make things which have a place only on a catwalk. I am most passionate about couture and as a result most of what we do is made to measure and by appointment.

Our ready-to-wear collections tend to be at the high end of the garment spectrum due to the many hand processes involved. I have built my studio from having one person other than myself to now employing a full atelier staff complement under one roof. My expansion has been slow and very controlled.

**Who or what have been your biggest influences?**

The biggest influences would be my parents who have supported my career choice and all my business decisions. Other than that I think I have not really had any 'fashion' influences as I have not grown up around it. I am very inspired by people

*Lace becomes sharp, daring and powerful while still retaining its intrinsic delicacy in Gavin Rajah's new collection.*



who have made a difference in the world, such as Nelson Mandela.

**Tell us about the Rag Benefit charity event.**

This is only one out of many charity benefits that I have staged. This particular one is for disadvantaged student scholarships at the University of Cape Town. I have created POSI+VE, which is the largest pan-African collaboration of art, music and fashion to raise funds to build HIV/AIDS hospices and clinics in vulnerable communities.

**What brands do you like to collaborate with?**

I have collaborated with everyone from Swarovski to Klein Karoo (an ostrich skin supplier) to create beautiful accessories and sometimes garments. I work with many graphic designers, such as British graphic artist Ben Li to Daryl Feril in the Phillipines.

**Who has been your dream celebrity client?**

Whilst I dress many celebrities I do not think that

one can place them over one's existing clientele. Everyone who comes to our atelier gets treated the same. For me, I do not treat people any differently.

**Is there a celebrity you really want to dress?**

I think I would enjoy dressing Rihanna as she is quite adventurous and an interesting personality.

**Do you get fashion week nerves or does it get easier the more you do it?**

I certainly get more organised but I think the nerves are always there. I have never find it easier. I suppose what's easier is having staff to assist in the preparation and lead up to the shows. Oh and having many hands backstage who know what they are doing does help!

**What exciting plans do you have for the future?**

We have branched out into homeware and amenities. Our next stop is London for trunk sales that we will be staging! ❖

[www.gavinrajah.com](http://www.gavinrajah.com)







# BREAKING BOUNDARIES

Prada has collaborated with an artist to create an eclectic collection for fall/winter that blends history with beauty.

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BY GEORGIA LEWIS



*The Florence store was more akin to a glamorous art gallery when the Christophe Chemin collaboration was on display.*



Prada has collaborated with artist Christophe Chemin for the fall/winter 2016 collection for men and women. Chemin is a Berlin-based French artist who was self-taught and he drew the prints for the collection.

As well as his art, he directs films, writes, photographs and designs. Rather like this collection by Prada, where boundaries have been swept away, Chemin himself defies categorisation.

The drawings commissioned by Prada embrace complex themes of history and time, with Chemin using his art to question the history of the world and idiosyncracies of modern life. "Banquet Thieves" is a traditional banquet scene that Chemin has turned on its head with an out-of-perspective table with a sliding cloth. He is

commenting on the modern obsession with food, especially when it is shared on social media. The image also features uninvited guests, hungry animal thieves and black strawberries to add mystery and poetry.

"Impossible True Love" features a couple kissing passionately but it's like a surreal film scene with Chemin referencing the work of German director R Fassbinder.

"The Important Ones" is a symphony of faces, the people who create history over the centuries. But again there is a twist with the faces Chemin has chosen to represent in this blue-hued rendering: Hercules wearing Hulk fists, Sigmund Freud holding a huge stick, The Greek Goddess Athena with a thunder bolt, Julius Caesar and a



laurel branch, Saint Francis of Assisi and a bird, Nina Simone wearing boxing gloves, Joan of Arc holding Maracas, Geronimo holding a golf club, Che Guevara holding an Oscar and Pier Paolo Pasolini holding nothing.

For “Survival Utopia Black” Chemin has replaced coloured pencils with ink. Chemin moves away from humans to focus instead on animals and revisit the story of Noah’s ark.

In his take on the ark narrative, Chemin depicts animals that once existed, exist, or never existed, gathering in an deserted industrial utopia. Some of them are wearing high heretic hats that refer to the inquisition, a dark era in human history, others are wearing Japanese Kabuki masks, some help each other by carrying

*ABOVE AND LEFT This eclectic collection blurs boundaries between art and fashion.*

the others on their backs. All are in pairs, like the Noah’s ark story, except a dove, and a crow.

The result is an eclectic, boundary-crossing collection that defies genre and convention.

As well as the fashion collection, Prada has launched a fragrances for men and women to complement the themes of fluidity of male and female archetypes. L’Homme Prada and La Femme Prada were launched simultaneously in a mirrored box space with interlocking rooms in black and white. At the launch, video screens displayed the fragrance campaign video featuring Dane DeHaan, Ansel Elgort, Mia Goth, and Mia Wasikowska, along with black and white fashion silhouettes, and a collection of dialogues from literature, theater, and film. ❖

# SMART SOLUTIONS

State-of-the-art technology can make a house a truly wonderful place to be. We check out an amazing smart home in South Africa and some of the latest products.





## PALAZZO STEYN, SOUTH AFRICA

[www.crestron.eu](http://www.crestron.eu)

The Palazzo Steyn, part of the luxurious Steyn City development near Sandton and Johannesburg, is the high-end estate's flagship property. Crestron, Panavision Evolve, electrical consultants CKR, and interior designer, Stephen Faulke collaborated to design a bespoke automated system.

Lighting control, climate control, audio-visual technology and a modernised version of the Roman aqueduct system were all part of the extensive brief for Palazzo Steyn. The lighting system is controlled by keypads, motion sensors save energy by activating lights only when rooms are in use, and the advanced air conditioning system can create different climates in different rooms.

The ultra-fast digital audio-visual system delivers music across the house, inside and out and the two home cinemas boast big screens and the latest surround sound technology.

Outside the house, the water control system features aqueducts that create a tranquil flow of water and can be adjusted to create a waterfall at the foot of the pool.





## MyFOX SECURITY CAMERA

POA, [www.getmyfox.com](http://www.getmyfox.com)

Proving that home security cameras do not have to be overbearing, intimidating contraptions, the MyFox range of security cameras are sleek, modern and subtle in their design. The cameras come with a motorised shutter, which can be closed when privacy is required, a two-way audio communication system, and the entire device can be controlled remotely using a smartphone. As well as the security cameras, the MyFox range includes motion sensors with infrared detection and image analysis designed to raise the alarm when there is an intruder, but to stay blissfully silent at all other times. This technology puts an end to disruptive and annoying false alarms.

## URBAN FRONT SMART DOORS

POA, [www.urbanfront.com](http://www.urbanfront.com)

Stylish front doors can also be secure. Urban Front's made-to-order doors look stunning in bronze and also come in a range of wooden and glazed options with a choice of bronze or stainless steel handles. As well as creating a great first impression, these doors come with the option of fingerprint identification to maintain control over who comes inside. Other high-tech security options include motorised locks, concealed overhead door closers and electric latches. The company also offers internal doors with the same stylish and high-quality finishes.







## NASTRI MAGIC CARPET CEILING LIGHT

\$13,930, [www.italian-lighting-centre.co.uk](http://www.italian-lighting-centre.co.uk)

This suspended LED-and-halogen ceiling light installation by Venini is crafted from strips of glass on a chrome-plated frame. The halogen lighting is remote-controlled and the adjustable, revolving LED display emits clear, red, blue and green beams. Several of these lights can be installed together to create different effects. Each light is 120cm long and the LED bulbs last 50,000 hours. The Italian Lighting Centre will ship products internationally from its British headquarters.

## WALL-MOUNTED TABLETS

POA, [www.manhattanview.com](http://www.manhattanview.com)

The Manhattan View at MiMA apartment development in New York City features smart technology such as wall-mounted tablets by iPort for controlling temperature. As well as the climate control tablets, the apartments offer keyless entry, high-tech switches for controlling lighting with precision, electronic smoke- and CO<sub>2</sub>-detectors, and smartphone-enabled locks and video entry for added security. The apartments, which range from studios to three-bedroom units, were designed by Jamie Drake of Drake / Anderson interior designers.





# TAKE THE ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH

The luxury 4x4 market is growing and the cream of the crop combine plush pleasures with genuine off-road abilities.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

It is easy to scoff at the very notion of a luxury 4x4. After all, surely the point of such a vehicle is to get down and dirty, to take on rough terrain, cross rivers, traverse deserts and to not care about trifles such as sumptuous leather interiors and somewhere to keep the champagne chilled?

But this market has grown. According to JD Power, seven out of 12 luxury brands' most popular models in the US were SUVs or crossovers, with the Range Rover Sport and Porsche Cayenne both featuring prominently. And Africa is following suit. While there will probably always be a market for trusty workhorses by the likes of Toyota, Nissan and Isuzu, the desire for 4x4s that don't skimp on creature comforts is strong across the continent. This has been a steady trend since 2012, when Porsche opened its first Lagos showroom with the Cayenne leading the sales charge. In the same year, Nigerian actress Genevieve Nnaji was named brand ambassador for the Range Rover Evoque.

And not only do luxury 4x4s continue to sell well among affluent Africans, but the brands are adamant their machines are proper off-roaders and are not designed merely for posing. If you're going to indulge in an automotive plaything, it may as well have all the bells and whistles as well the ability to cope on sand, rocks and in water. Stone chips might well be the new badges of honour.

## BENTLEY BENTAYGA

When the Bentley Bentayga (main picture) was launched as the EXP 9 F concept at the 2012 Geneva Motor Show, opinion was sharply divided on the design and even the need for a Bentley 4x4. But with a few careful design tweaks, a plush and roomy interior and polished performance on all

terrains, the EXP 9 F became the Bentley Bentayga and it has managed to humble many a naysayer.

The Bentley Bentayga underwent hot weather testing in South Africa's Western Cape region last year, with spy shots being released of a heavily covered car going through its paces in Franschoek. In March 2016, the first Bentayga customers took delivery of their cars at Bentley's headquarters in Crewe and the African Bentley dealerships are in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

## MASERATI LEVANTE

The Maserati Levante is the Italian automaker's first foray into the luxury SUV market, after 102 years in business. It has already attracted star-studded launch parties and it is set to be a more successful Italian luxury off-roader than Lamborghini's attempt in the early 1980s with the Lamborghini Militari, or LM for short. Plagued with handling issues, the LM, which was a reboot of the short-lived 1977 Lamborghini Cheetah, somehow managed to last until 1992 with a string of models including the 1986 LM002, the first example of which was sold to the King of Morocco. But the Levante is a different proposition entirely - the shape is streamlined rather than LM-boxy and, while the rear end is conservative, the grille is unmistakably Maserati.

At the UK launch, Giulio Pastore, Maserati's Europe general manager described the Levante as "a true and pure Maserati that has perfect on-road and off-road capabilities".

Maserati has collaborated with Zegna for a special edition of the Levante which features bespoke Zegna silk inserts on the leather seats, door panels, roof lining and sunshades. >



➤ **PORSCHE CAYENNE GTS**

Porsche has used the GTS badge since 1963 when it featured on the 904 Carrera GTS. The Cayenne GTS is a true sports car with a 3.6-litre V6 bi-turbo engine which pumps out 600 Nm of torque and can sprint to 100km/h in 5.2 seconds - or 5.1 seconds with the optional Sport Chrono package. Top speed is 260km/h. The sports exhaust is standard for the luscious roar of the GTS soundtrack.

While this one will almost certainly be involved in many an urban traffic light drag race, the Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM) will help take it off the tarmac. PASM means the suspension can be adjusted to provide a little extra clearance when required. There is also an off-road mode to improve traction on tough terrain, and an electronically controlled rear differential.

Unsurprisingly, the Cayenne GTS is all about sporty external styling with large air intakes and the option of a Sport Design package to include more contoured side sills and wheel arch extensions. Black is used for contrast on all lettering and the 20-inch wheels in the RS Spyder design, the tailpipes, and the inner apertures on the headlights.



Inside, the ubiquitous Alcantara leather features with GTS lettering on the headrests. There is also an interior package on offer which gives buyers the choice of carmine red or rhodium silver on the rev counter, decorative stitching and seat belts in contrasting colour.

### **RANGE ROVER EVOQUE CONVERTIBLE**

Ticking boxes at every turn, it's luxurious, it's compact, it's an SUV and - just in time for the northern hemisphere summer - it's a convertible. The Range Rover Evoque was launched with much fanfare back in 2008 as the LRX concept before going into production in 2011. In an episode of dubious flattery, it attracted a Chinese copycat in the form of the LandWind X7 which was launched at the same time as an Evoque model was unveiled in Guangzhou last year.

Now the latest incarnation, the convertible Evoque seeks to attract a new generation of affluent, outdoors-loving drivers. It seats four adults, features a ski hatch, a hood that stows in 18 seconds and sound system designed to be heard over the wind. ➤

*ABOVE LEFT: The Maserati Levante.  
TOP RIGHT: The Porsche Cayenne GTS.  
BOTTOM RIGHT: The Range Rover Evoque convertible.*

➤ While it's certainly one of the prettier off-roaders out there, Range Rover is keen to point out that the Evoque comes with the same all-terrain technology one expects in their bigger, beefier models. It is kitted out with a four-wheel drive powertrain, nine-speed gearbox, a terrain response system, all-terrain progress control and wade sensing for when it gets its shoes wet.

### MERCEDES G-WAGEN G 350 D

The legendary G-Wagen has long been popular among the elite, with Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum of Dubai one of the model's more prominent drivers. His white G-Wagen with the number 1 number plate is a common sight on the city's roads.

It debuted in 1979 as a purpose-built cross country vehicle designed to take a battering on rough terrain. These days, it is more of an all-rounder with the luxurious interiors as much of a selling point as the 4x4 capability.

For drivers who can access good quality diesel, the new G 350 d is worth considering. As well as the robust looks one expects from the G-Wagen line-up, the G 350 d with the professional off-road package is looks promising indeed.

Or for a seriously indulgent G-Wagen, albeit one with the same off-road skills as the rest of the range, there is always the V12 performance model from Mercedes-AMG.

While the AMG version does offer more speed camera-bothering opportunities on tarred roads, the G 350 d is being promoted heavily as the one to buy if you're serious about four-wheel-driving adventures and don't mind a few battle scars on your beast.

### JAGUAR F-PACE

It was only a matter of time before Jaguar joined the luxury SUV brigade with the Jaguar F-PACE launching this year. Already, Jag is overwhelmed by demand with bulging order books and long waiting lists in multiple markets.

Described by Jaguar as the brand's first "performance crossover" as it is an all-wheel drive rather than a four-wheel-drive, it will be interesting to see how many of these end up going on off-road adventures. After all, it comes with a wifi hot spot to allow eight devices at a time to be used

Like the Maserati Levante, the F-PACE looks more interesting and more true to the badge's design cues around the front, equipped with an inflated version of current Jaguar saloon and coupe grilles.

A limited edition model, the Jaguar F-PACE First Edition, has been unveiled and this will be limited to just 2,000 vehicles globally. With its design inspired by the C-X17 concept, it is being marketed as a pure representation of the original idea.



TOP LEFT: The Mercedes G Wagen has become a modern classic.  
BOTTOM LEFT: Offroad capability for the Bentley Bentayga.  
ABOVE: The F-Pace is Jaguar's impressive entry into the luxury SUV market.



The First Edition models get a unique colour, Caesium Blue, the same shade as the concept. Other design touches include double helix alloy wheels with a grey finish and contrast inserts, leather sports seats with houndstooth embossing, special mats and gloss black trim, again with the houndstooth pattern.

The luxury 4x4 market is becoming ever-crowded but as long as there is an appetite for adventurous motoring without the spine-jarring rigours of traditional all-terrain vehicles – or simply a desire to be seen in the kind of luxury vehicle that lets one be the master of all one surveys – these models will sell well for a while yet. ❖

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# HISTORY CLASS

With 200 years of boat-building heritage, Hodgdon Yachts is using its experience to create custom vessels.

BY GEORGIA LEWIS

Wooden schooners represented humble beginnings for the Hodgdon family when they started building boats for local fishermen in 1816.

Based in East Boothbay, Maine, Caleb Hodgdon started a business that has been in the family ever since with more than 400 vessels rolling out of the Damariscotti River shipyard.

From fibreglass yachts to lobster boats to defense composites, the Hodgdon family business diversified over two centuries. In 2011, Hodgdon Yachts has branched out into bespoke boat-building with the Hodgdon Custom Tenders division. This is aimed squarely at discerning customers seeking a yacht tailored specifically to their needs. Enter then, the 10.5-metre custom limousine tender, the tenth vessel built by Hodgdon Custom Tenders and the one that the company sees as a perfect way to celebrate 200 years in the business.

Offering a smooth, fast ride and exemplary attention to detail, this stylish stunner will be a head turner this summer.

Designed by Michael Peters Yacht Design, this is an example of the Venetian series of custom tenders.

The elegant pale turquoise, the exquisitely handcrafted wooden decks and the stainless steel hardware on the exterior conspire beautifully together to achieve a look that is both modern and with a retro nod to art deco.





*“The look is modern, but with a retro nod to art deco with an elegant pale turquoise exterior, handcrafted wooden decks and stainless steel hardware”*

Inside, it is luxuriously comfortable with leather reigning supreme. Eleven guests can enjoy the ride and the onboard facilities include a high definition entertainment system, a bar with refrigeration and climate control. Windows on both the port and starboard sides power down to make boarding easy.

Boarding is also assisted by a hydraulic system which lifts up the entire salon hardtop. This function also means that full-height headroom is on offer as well as 360-degree visibility.

Over the last 200 years, Hodgdon Yachts has grown, diversified, suffered a in 1954 and still the business prevailed. This latest yacht is testament to multiple generations of hard work, commitment to quality and making the most of modern and traditional techniques. Could there be a better place to raise a glass to the next 200 years? ♦

*Clean, sleek lines and exquisite craftsmanship make this gorgeous craft an excellent testament to two centuries of dedication.*



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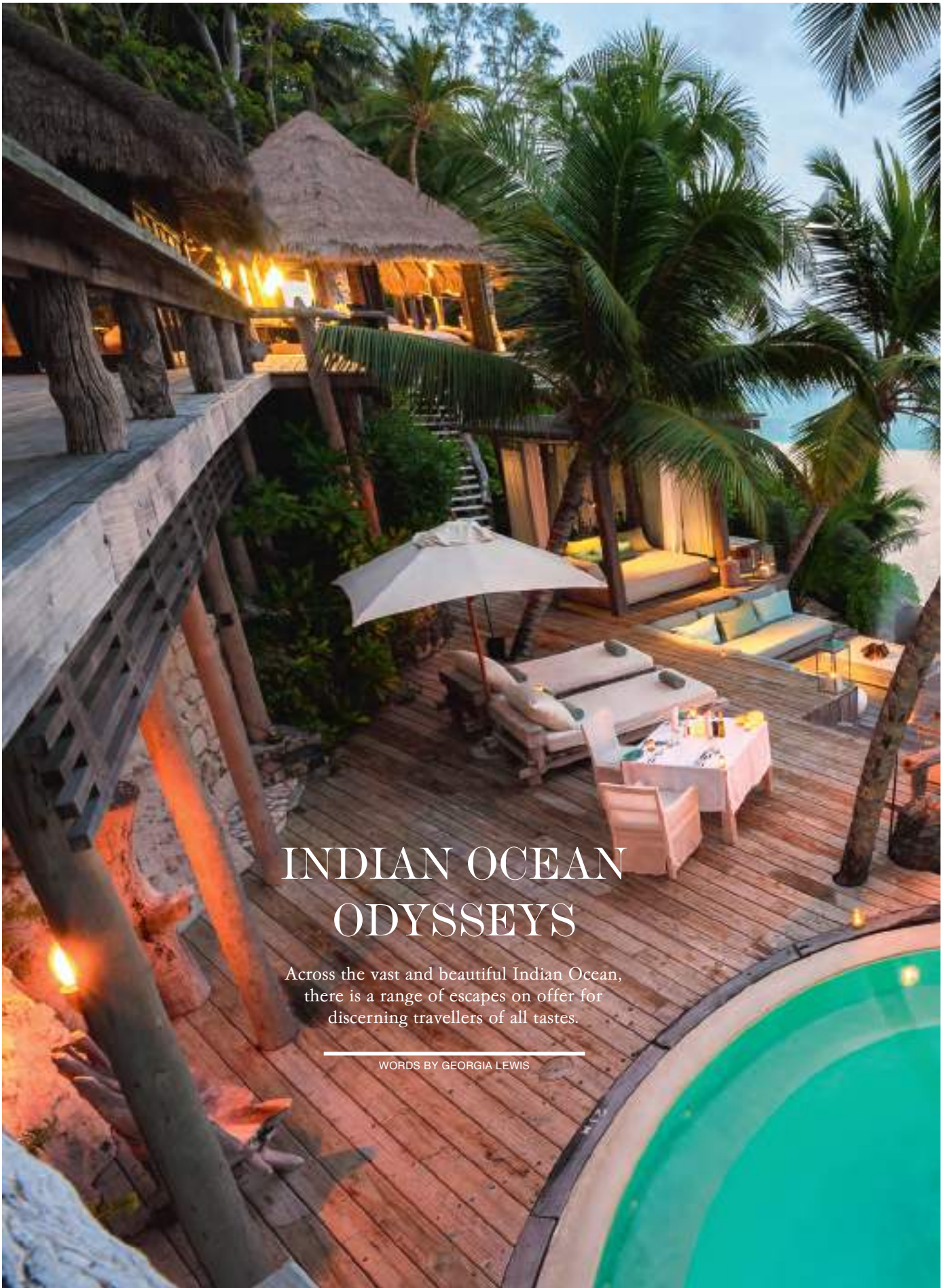
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## INDIAN OCEAN ODYSSEYS

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WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS



**T**he Indian Ocean offers travellers seeking luxury, warm weather and pristine swimming some of the planet's most perfect escapes. The Maldives and the Seychelles are two of the most popular destinations for discerning sun-seekers – and there are other less obvious but equally stunning destinations worth considering when planning an upscale escape. Mauritius, Madagascar and Sri Lanka also have much to offer in terms of luxury, unique experiences and breathtaking natural beauty.

#### **For tennis lovers**

Dhonakulhi Island, the second largest Maldivian island, is home to Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa. The resort's obvious attractions include a gorgeous backdrop of coconut groves, sugar-like sands, turquoise waters and villas perched over lagoons. For those who want to take the time to brush up their tennis skills between extended relaxation sessions, the resort has opened a tennis academy in association with tennis legend, Nikolay Davydenko.

The former world number three, who won 21 titles over the course of his career, was a consultant for the establishment of the academy and professional coaches are on hand to help guests of all skill levels brush up their game on hard courts.

And after a session on the court, there is always the freestanding bath, jacuzzi and infinity pool with a view to the horizon for post-tennis relaxation.

[www.hideawaybeachmaldives.com](http://www.hideawaybeachmaldives.com)

*North Island in the Seychelles offers the ultimate Indian Ocean escape for a private party with a large group of friends or family.*

### For seafarers

Island-hopping in the Maldives is typically done by seaplane but COMO is offering an alternative way for guests to travel between their two resorts, Cocoa Island and Maalifushi. The 'Cameron' is a 68-foot Hatteras yacht that can be booked for a few hours or for a multi-night excursion.

Using the 'Cameron' to hop between the two resorts is a great way to enjoy sailing the Indian Ocean as well as experiencing two unique Maldivian atolls. Cocoa Island, in the South Malé atoll, is surrounded by a private reef and offers spectacular diving opportunities. Thaa Atoll, meanwhile, is home to Maalifushi which is located amid a string of uninhabited islands.

Equipped with three luxurious cabins, the 'Cameron' comes into its own on multi-night itineraries where it can be used for surfers to catch specific waves, whale shark migration spotting, guided sport fishing, snorkelling trips with a marine biologist or romantic honeymoon adventures. [www.comohotels.com](http://www.comohotels.com)

### For wedded bliss

A destination wedding is a great way to combine stunning scenery for the ceremony as well as offering an indulgent and romantic honeymoon which can start as soon as the last glass of champagne has been emptied. Fregate Island, a private hideaway in the Seychelles, has a well-deserved reputation for offering couples a beautiful wedding and honeymoon that can be tailored to their taste.

There are just 16 residences of Fregate Island, the magnificent natural surrounds of beaches, jungle trails and reefs are home to giant tortoises, sea turtles and rare birds. All guests will have a private assistant to attend to their every need and Executive Chef Alan Larch oversees a bespoke menu including more than 120 varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs and spices grown by the resort, as well as local seafood.

For weddings, the island chapel is decoated in authentic Creole style, and the staff can organise all the details that make the day so special, such as photographers, floral arrangements, spa treatments and entertainment at the reception.

For the honeymoon, newlyweds can enjoy a plethora of luxurious treats, such as a sunset cruise, dinner on the beach, honeymoon high tea, breakfast in a tree house and the opportunity to adopt an endangered Aldabra giant tortoise. [www.oetkercollection.com](http://www.oetkercollection.com)

### For a private party

North Island is known for being the most expensive place to stay in the Seychelles, but plenty of satisfied guests can attest that the experience is well and truly worth it. Presidential villas start at \$3,420 per person per night and the exclusive Villa North Island is priced from \$5,390 per person per



TOP: Ruggedly glorious Madagascar is home to Anjajavy l'hotel. (Photo by Scott Dunn)

BOTTOM: The Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru in the Maldives is perfect for a spot of pampering.

night. But for that sort of money, guests can take friends or family along and have the whole island to themselves.

A private stay on North Island means the group will have access to all the villas, staff and activities on the island. The bar, the spa, the blissful beaches, the fine dining, the stylish shopping on offer at the island's boutique, and a wide range of water sports, excursions, fishing and guided walks are all available as part of the private island experience. [www.north-island.com](http://www.north-island.com)

### For golfers

Mauritius is a popular golfing destination and the course on the Heritage Resort is one of the prettiest on the island. The resort's championship golf course is flanked by the blue waters of a lagoon on one side and breathtaking mountains on the other. Rolling out over 100 hectares, there is a par-72 18-hole course, as well as a nine-hole course, a putting green, a chipping green and a driving range. The diverse course with hills, small lakes and streams makes every hole unique.





**For ultimate relaxation**

There is nothing wrong with devoting an entire holiday to relaxation, of winding down and perfecting the fine art of doing nothing.

The Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru on the Maldivian atoll of North Malé boasts a spa that takes advantage of the balmy sea breezes while offering a wide range of treatments based on traditional Asian healing philosophies which focus on a healthy body and mind.

Signature treatments include a herbal pouch massage with warm sesame oil and a soothing foot bath. The mantra for the treatments is “high touch, low tech”, celebrating the healing power of human touch and incorporating all-natural ingredients such as herbs and spices. Locally grown coconuts are used for healing balms during many of the treatments at the Vabbinfaru spa.

The spa received global recognition when it was awarded the Best Luxury Hotel Spa (Indian Ocean) in the 2014 World Luxury Spa Awards.

Extreme relaxation continues post-treatment with all-villa accommodation. Every villa comes with a private pool. The Oceanview pool villa is the ultimate in indulgence at Vabbinfaru. The pool, jacuzzi and outdoor tropical shower are completely private, the vista towards the Indian Ocean is majestic and a king-sized four poster bed with drapes will certainly help guests achieve a good night's sleep. [www.banyantree.com](http://www.banyantree.com)



As well as being an exceptional destination for a golfing holiday, the resort also offers 12 restaurants, eight bars, two spas set among the beautiful outdoor environment, and a beach club with waiter service to every sun lounger. [www.heritageresorts.mu](http://www.heritageresorts.mu)

**For the nature-lovers**

Madagascar is worthy of discovery. This Indian Ocean island is a treasure trove of natural wonders, combining rugged landscapes with beautiful beaches. Anjajavy l'hotel is a luxurious lodge located 120km north of the Madagascan city of Majuna on a peninsula on the island's north-west coast. It is accessed by private jet. There are just 25 rosewood villas, all facing the sea.

Nature lovers can enjoy the flora and fauna of the Mozambique Channel. Lemurs are a particular favourite among Anjajavy's guests. There is a remote fishing village to explore, deep-sea fishing trips can be arranged, and guided walks in the reserve are also on offer. [www.scottdunn.com](http://www.scottdunn.com)

TOP: Sri Lanka offers amazing cultural experiences as well as luxury at the Hertiance Kandalama Six Senses spa.

ABOVE: The St Regis Mauritius is a treat for the tastebuds.

RIGHT: Fregate Island in the Seychelles is a romantic getaway.

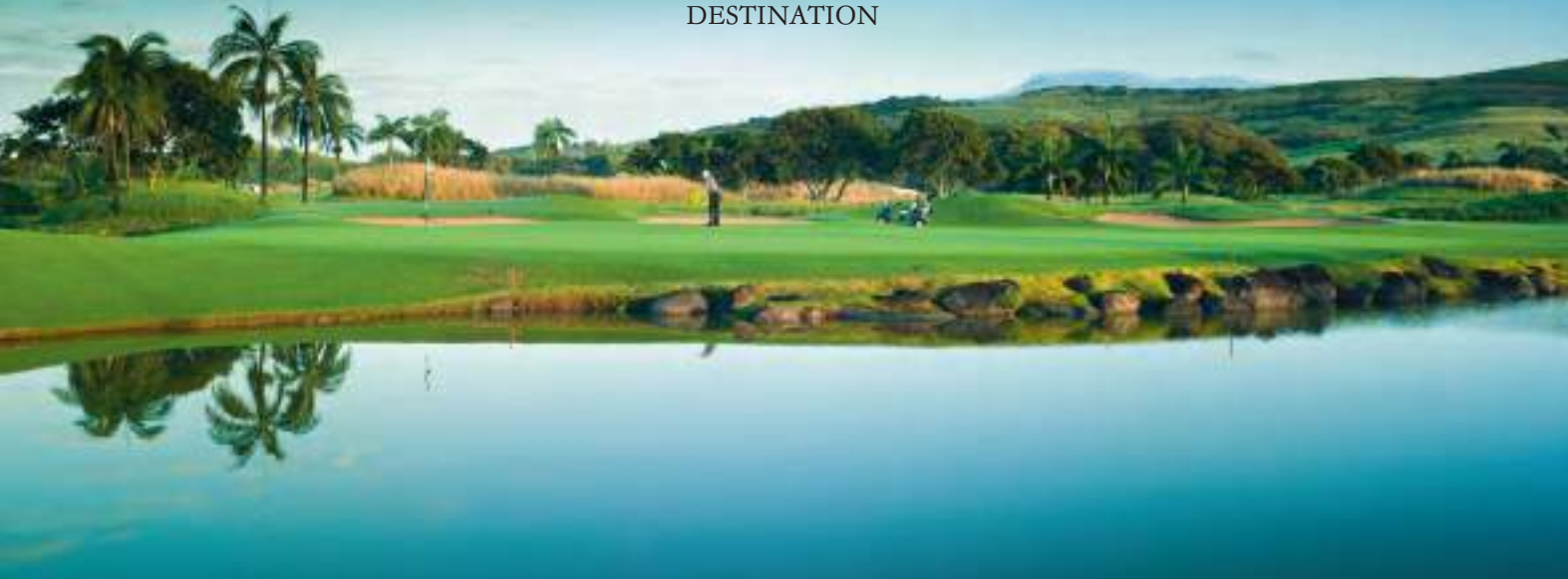


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**For culture and history**

Like the Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru, the Heritance Kandalama Six Senses spa in Sri Lanka offers an extensive range of spa treatments for head-to-toe pampering. But the location is something a little different for an Indian Ocean island escape. Instead of endless beaches, the Heritance Kandalama is located in a pristine tropical jungle setting, with views of mountains and a magnificent lake.

Heritance Kandalama is located in Dambulla, 160km from Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital. Guests can take excursions to nearby sites of cultural and archaeological interest.

The Dambulla area is famous for its historic caves, colourful architecture and examples of 18th

Century art in caves and in the local museum. There is also a lively produce market that offers a fascinating glimpse of Sri Lankan life. From Dambulla, day trips can also be organised to Sigiriya and Kandy.

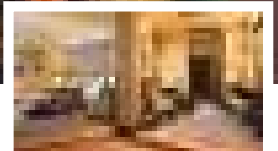
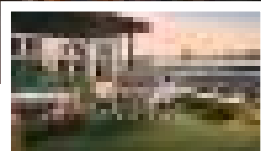
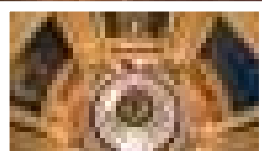
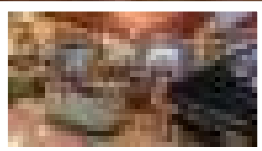
Sigiriya is home to one of Sri Lanka's most iconic sights – a dramatic rocky outcrop with almost-vertical walls and a flat summit which contains the ruins of an ancient civilisation. Kandy, meanwhile, is the perma-misty city that is home to busy street markets and historic sights from the last Sinhalese kingdom as well as the colonial era.  
[www.sixsenses.com](http://www.sixsenses.com)

**For fine dining**

As well as boasting the largest private villa of all the



*Hideaway Beach on the second-largest Maldivian island offers relaxation between tennis sets.*



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Mauritian resorts, the St Regis Mauritius is a brilliant choice for lovers of fine food with an international selection of world class restaurants.

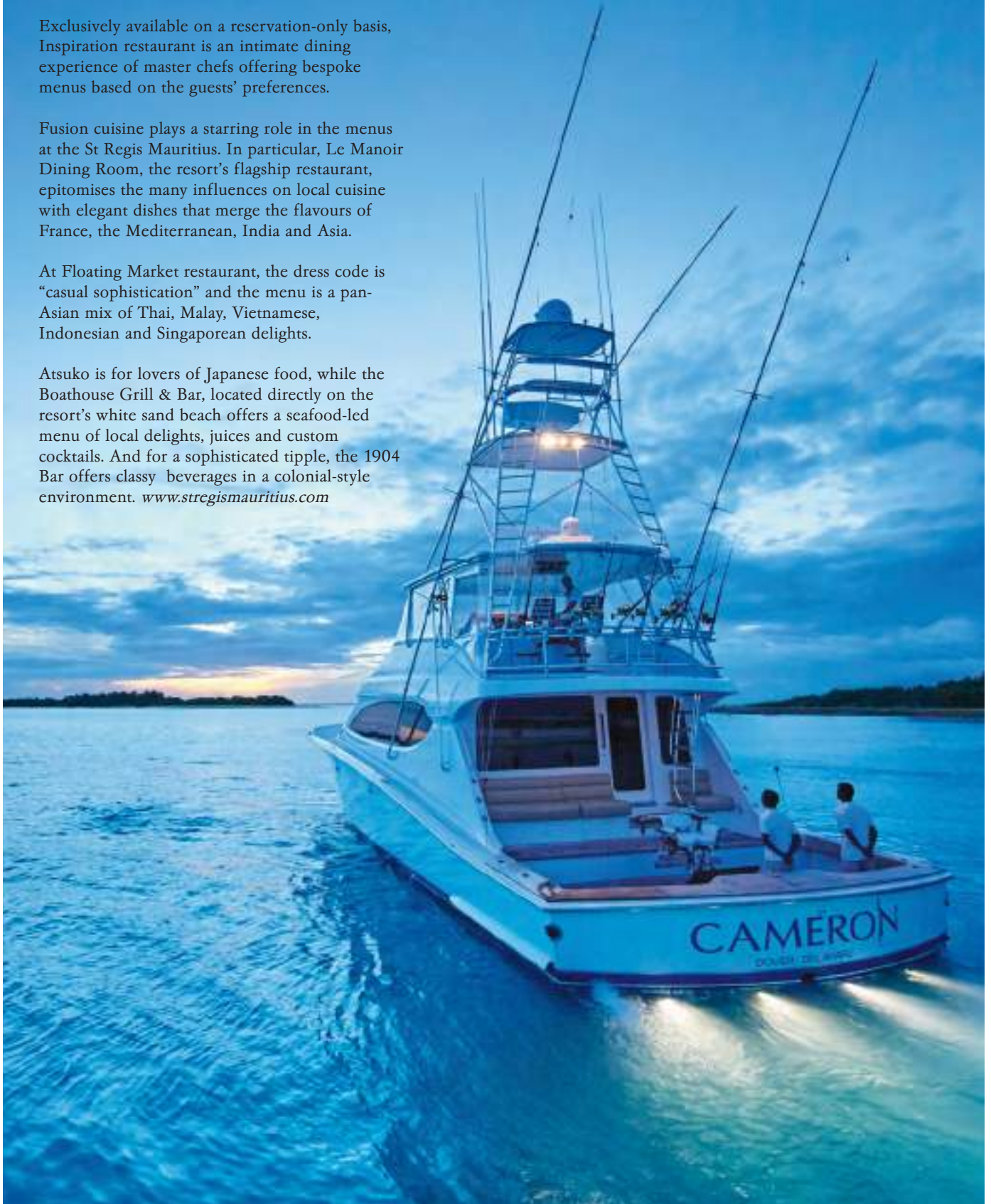
Exclusively available on a reservation-only basis, Inspiration restaurant is an intimate dining experience of master chefs offering bespoke menus based on the guests' preferences.

Fusion cuisine plays a starring role in the menus at the St Regis Mauritius. In particular, Le Manoir Dining Room, the resort's flagship restaurant, epitomises the many influences on local cuisine with elegant dishes that merge the flavours of France, the Mediterranean, India and Asia.

At Floating Market restaurant, the dress code is "casual sophistication" and the menu is a pan-Asian mix of Thai, Malay, Vietnamese, Indonesian and Singaporean delights.

Atsuko is for lovers of Japanese food, while the Boathouse Grill & Bar, located directly on the resort's white sand beach offers a seafood-led menu of local delights, juices and custom cocktails. And for a sophisticated tipple, the 1904 Bar offers classy beverages in a colonial-style environment. [www.stregismauritius.com](http://www.stregismauritius.com)

*Sail between two of the loveliest islands of the Maldives on the "Cameron" yacht.*



Peak luxury



[www.jademountain.com](http://www.jademountain.com)  
Jade Mountain combines spectacular architecture with fine cuisine, world class spa facilities and a truly glorious natural environment on St Lucia. For summer 2016, Jade Mountain is offering seven nights for the price of five with the summer romance packages, for travel up to 15 October, 2016. There are also special wedding and vow renewal offers available, with the resort taking care of all the organisation for a memorable and spectacular occasion.

## THE PLANS ARE A WYNNER

[www.wynnlasvegas.com](http://www.wynnlasvegas.com)  
The Wynn Resort, a landmark Las Vegas hotel, has announced plans to expand. These elaborate plans include the first and only recreational lake on the city's famous strip. Other plans include a 1,000-room hotel tower, a casino and more dining, retail and entertainment facilities. It is expected to open in Autumn 2017. The hotel already boasts a 40-foot waterfall. (Photo by Jessica Diamond)



## Skylarking in Accra

[www.skybar25.com](http://www.skybar25.com)  
Discerning visitors to Accra can experience high-end dining, brilliant bar service and magnificent 360-degree views of the Ghanaian capital at Sky bar 25. Located atop an ultra-modern luxury apartment development, memberships are on offer which includes access to the bar, pool, gym and wellness classes, such as sunrise yoga. It is a great venue for business or pleasure in the bustling, growing city of Accra.



[www.lanesborough.com](http://www.lanesborough.com)  
The Lanesborough, one of London's finest hotels, was relaunched last year and now the Lanesborough Suite has been reopened to guests. The four-bedroom suite features palatial design by Alberto Pinto and it is located moments from Knightsbridge and Hyde Park. Priced from \$16,975 per night. The suite comes with 24-hour butler access and personalised stationery and business cards.



## Suite treat



## A COVE OF DELIGHTS

[www.itcluxurytravel.co.uk](http://www.itcluxurytravel.co.uk)

The gorgeous Daios Cove resort on the Greek island of Crete has opened The Mansion, an exclusive villa with indoor and outdoor pools, in-house spa, staff quarters and Bang & Olufsen sound system - and access to a beautiful, quiet beach. With stunning design inside and out, this truly sets a new benchmark in villa accommodation. All villas at the resort have private seawater pools and incredible views of the sparkling water.



[www.stregisdubai.com](http://www.stregisdubai.com)  
Dubai is the latest city to enjoy the addition of a Bentley suite to a luxury hotel. The St Regis Dubai now has an elegant suite with subtle design nods to the Mulsanne model in muted shades of cream and beige. The hotel is located in Al Habtoor City, convenient to the famous Jumerah Beach area as well as Business Bay and the financial district. There are also Bentley suites at St Regis hotels in New York and Istanbul.



Bed down in  
Bentley bliss



## CITY LUXE

[www.thereveriesaiagon.com](http://www.thereveriesaiagon.com)

A sumptuous slice of brilliantly over-the-top Italian style can be seen in Vietnam's vibrant city of Ho Chi Minh City with the opening of the Reverie Saigon hotel. Leading Italian designers have been let off the hook inside with spectacular results. La Scala ballroom is a highlight with Swarovski crystal chandeliers and onyx walls. Located on Nguyen Hue Boulevard for a true city break.

(Photo by Matthew Shaw)

## Sandton romance

[www.legacyhotels.co.za](http://www.legacyhotels.co.za)

The Michelangelo Hotel in Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, is offering a romance package until 31 January 2017. This special offer includes a deluxe room, canapés and estate wine on arrival, a three-course dinner and breakfast spread in the Piccolo Mondo restaurant, as well as a spa treatment, such as a hot stone massage. The hotel itself is well located for business as well as high-end shopping, theatres and restaurants.



[www.anantara.com](http://www.anantara.com)

The Anantara Phuket Layan Resort steps up its reputation for some of the finest dining on the Thai island by taking their breakfast experience to the next level. Set on the beachfront, guests can now choose from a wide range of tasty and nutritious health foods from Vitality Corner, Parisian bakery-style treats, local Thai dishes such as khao tom, Chinese and Japanese breakfast foods made to order, as well as a traditional European breakfast selection.



## Early start



## I THEE WED

[www.tanjongjaresort.com](http://www.tanjongjaresort.com)

Tanjong Jara resort in Malaysia is offering a special “Treasured Moments” wedding package which includes an intimate ceremony, spa bath, couples’ massage, gourmet picnic, tree-planting ceremony to mark the wedding date, a champagne dinner on the beach, stargazing and candle-lit lovers’ bath. The trees will feature carved plaques with the couples’ names and wedding dates for posterity.





## Cottage chic

[www.jumeirah.com](http://www.jumeirah.com)

Baku is emerging as a tourist and business destination and the Jumeirah Bilgah Beach Hotel in the Azeri capital is offering a luxury experience for the summer. This experience includes access to Talise Spa, private beach and the water park, breakfast at the Uzuk Restaurant, and accommodation in a plush three-bedroom cottage. As well being a growing business hub, Baku was on the map this year with its first F1 grand prix.



## BAR STARS

[www.fairmont.com](http://www.fairmont.com)

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts has launched a global cocktail menu to give guests an elite mixology experience at all their properties.

Handpicked bartenders from around the world have joined forces to create new cocktail. The new creations were developed in consultation with Kathy Casey from Liquid Food Studios. Brands used include Remy Martin, Belvedere, Veuve Clicquot and The Botanist Islay. Drinks will be served in handcrafted Schott Zwiesel crystal glassware.



## Shore thing



[www.chateau-st-martin.com](http://www.chateau-st-martin.com)

Chateau Saint-Martin & Spa has partnered with Plage Joseph Keller, arguably the best beach on the Antibes, to give its guests access to a private area of the prestigious stretch of sand.

Bookings are made via the hotel concierge for access to luxurious sunbeds, the finest fluffy towels and cuisine from an Asian-Mediterranean restaurant. Back at the hotel, accommodation in classic rooms, suites and villas is on offer, along with three fine-dining restaurants and pristine pool bar.

## HIGH-FLYING CUISINE

[www.fourseasons.com/aroundtheworld](http://www.fourseasons.com/aroundtheworld)

Food lovers will be able to traverse multiple countries and sample cuisines in private jet luxury thanks to a new programme of tours by the Four Seasons group. From September 2016, the private jet culinary tours will start with a jaunt that takes in the Texas, Costa Rica, Australia, Mauritius, Portugal, Morocco, Malaysia and Hawaii. The plane is fully kitted out with flatbed seats. Prices start at \$106,000.





*THIS PAGE: A silver gelatin print by Zanele Muholi.  
FACING PAGE: Works by Moshekwa Langa and Barthélemy Toguo.*

# LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD

At Art Basel, there was a strong African presence with Stevenson gallery exhibiting works from 11 artists, both historic and new.

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WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

Art Basel 2016 brought together more than 280 galleries and 4,000 artists from around the world. Stevenson, a South African gallery with spaces in Cape Town and Johannesburg, made its Art Basel debut this year with an eclectic exhibition of 11 artists. Significant historic works from five artists – Meschac Gaba, Pieter Hugo, Moshekwa Langa, Robin Rhode and Viviane Sassen – rubbed shoulders with new works from Serge Alain Nitegeka, Nicholas Hlobo, Meleko Mokgosi, Zanele Muholi, Barthélémy Toguo and Kemang Wa Lehulere.



The Stevenson exhibition at Basel highlighted the diversity among African artists, as well as the quality of international artists who exhibit at galleries around the continent.

Photography played an important part in the Stevenson presence in Basel. Powerful African images from Viviane Sassen, an Amsterdam-based photographer were on display along with works from Johannesburg-based photographer Pieter Hugo in the historic section of the exhibition. Stevenson has played an important role in Hugo's career since the gallery opened in 2003, with six solo exhibitions. >



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Stevenson added some bold paintings to their Basel exhibition with Barthélémy Toguo's "Human Feeding", an acrylic-on-linen that is more than two metres wide manages to make an important statement while still being a piece of divine pulchritude. Also, in the section of new works, Serge Alain Nitegeka's "Black Mass" paint-on-wood series continued his commitment to simple but strong works (see pictures below).

In the historic section, Moshekwa Langa's "Monna", a mixed-media-on-paper creation was one of his many reflections on growing up in the remote town of Bakenberg. "Monna" is just a small part of Langa's diverse output, which includes photographs of Bakenberg residents, as well as drawings, installations, sculptures and videos.



ABOVE: Serge Alain Nitegeka's "Black Mass" series of paintings featured among the new works on display at Art Basel.

Benin artist Meschac Gaba's "Le Monde en Miniature et la Mode en Miniature" 2008 trio of works – "Hostilitie", "Violence" and "Toxique" – quite literally took the world of miniature fashion and turned it on its head with aggressive themes juxtaposed with juvenile themes. It is another challenging but important contribution to the Stevenson exhibition at Basel. This collection by Gaba was previously seen at Frieze London.

At the more delicate end of the spectrum, Nicholas Hlobo created a diptych so light-as-air and fragile, it looks like a light breeze may blow it all away – although this work is infused with an incisive social justice message. The two pieces are called "Inyanga Yesibini Echithayo" and "Inyanga Yesibini Ethathayo" and it is rendered in ribbon on canvas. Hlobo always titles his >

works in Xhosa, his native language and has a long history of creating works that challenge traditional attitudes towards gender. His use of ribbon, for example, is a means of challenging gender-based assumptions about divisions of labour and introduces a more ambiguous approach to sexuality. His work has been exhibited in London's Tate Modern gallery.

Another delicate work also demonstrates the maxim that appearances can be deceptive. The grey scratchings on wood of "Untitled (Bottle and Pipe)" by Robin Rhode are charcoal, saliva and acrylic. Rhode is a South African artist based in Berlin and has exhibited internationally, including New York's Museum of Modern Art and the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

Sculpture was also represented at the Stevenson stand at Art Basel with Kemang Wa Lehulere's "A, B, C", which is made from rubber tyres, wood and earth. Wa Lehulere sees his work as a form of performance and strong themes of the ongoing ramifications of apartheid feature heavily.

Another Cape Town and Johannesburg gallery, Goodman Gallery exhibited in Basel to celebrate 50 years of showcasing contemporary art and working with artists who challenge power structures and fight for social change. "Notes Toward a Model Opera" by South Africa's William Kentridge, was a project that came from the artist's research into the social history of modern China for an exhibition at Beijing's Ullens Center for Contemporary Art. The gallery presented "The Gift," a public intervention by Chile's Alfredo Jaar which focused on the immigration crisis in Europe, as well as "False Flag: A Deed in 2 Acts", a theatrical performance by South Africa's Tracey Rose.

African artists that were featured by galleries based outside the continent. The Jack Shainman Gallery, based in New York, will feature works by Nigerian artist, Odili Donald Odita, among others. Odita is best known for his large-scale, bright abstracts. Ghanaian artist, El Anatsui will also be presented by this gallery with a 2010 work called "Gli", meaning "wall". This comprises five hanging components made of recycled materials.

The Niels Borch Jensen Gallery, which has a presence in Copenhagen and Berlin, presented a collaboration with Ethiopian artist, Julie Mehretu. This consists of layered architectural drawings of buildings in Damascus. Columns, arches and porticoes, shown from multiple perspectives, are among the depicted architectural details of the war-torn city.

Julie Mehretu was part of Carlier Gebauer's exhibition. The Berlin gallery exhibited her "Eye of Ra" work, a largescale, freestanding wall drawing. The work draws its title from the ancient Egyptian myth of Ra.

London's Selma Feriani Gallery showcased works by Algerian artist, Massinissa Selmani, including a stand-alone work entitled "Sally", which explores the artist's progressive experimentation of the drawing as a medium in order to create moving images, combing drawing and photographic techniques.

Lettera27, a non-profit organisation based in Milan, supports the right to literacy and education, with a focus on the African continent. For their campaign, the organisation raised funds for At Work, a five-day workshop for young Ethiopian students and creative talents led by international curator Simon Njami. Students took part in discussions on issues such as identity, culture and community, and produced notebooks. These notebooks will be exhibited at the fourth edition of the Addis Foto Fest in Addis Ababa in December 2016. ♦  
[www.artbasel.com](http://www.artbasel.com)



THIS PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: "Menthe" by Viviane Sassen; "Untitled (Bottle and Pipe)" by Robin Rhode; "Inyanga Yesibini Echithayo" by Nicholas Hlobo.

FACING PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: "Le Monde en Miniature et la Mode en Miniature: Toxique" by Meschac Gaba; "A, B, C" sculpture by Kemang Wa Lehulere.





# THE DARK SIDE

Richly nuanced in flavour, elegantly presented, exclusive dark spirits are growing in popularity in Africa.

WORDS BY ANNIE MAKOFF-CLARK



Growing affluence in Africa is paving the way for a burgeoning luxury dark spirits market among the continent's elite. It's why prestigious brands, such as Johnnie Walker, The Macallan and The Dalmore, are flocking to Nigeria and South Africa where they know their products will be enjoyed in surroundings befitting the brand.

Indeed, speaking at this year's Africa Luxury Forum, Diageo's Jane Birkin who heads up Diageo Reserve told delegates that during 2015, Africa saw the second fastest growth of ultra-high-net-worth individuals.

"We passionately believe that our Reserve brands can lead the way in luxury drinking experience across the continent and shape the future of the luxury spirits industry in Africa," she told the conference.

Diageo Reserve, the luxury division of Diageo which also includes Johnnie Walker, Ciroc and Don Julio in its stable, experienced a 26 per cent growth in the African region in 2015, while the spirits market overall, particularly in



Nigeria, has increased by six per cent every year since 2007, according to the *International Business Review*. It is a testament to the growing demand among wealthy Africans and their thirst for premium-range spirits.

A far cry from modestly priced, bland liquids presented in old-fashioned decanters, these refined, top-of-the-range dark spirits can only be found on the top shelves of the world's most exclusive outlets. They are the spirits enjoyed by those in the know: triple-aged cognacs matured in virgin French oaks or fruity, full-bodied whiskies presented in decadent, yellow gold decanters.

Such is the nature of these exclusive spirits, the bottle's design is as much part of the experience as the liquid itself, and no price is too high. Take the \$2million Henri IV Dudognon Heritage Cognac Grande Champagne, dubbed the "DNA of cognac". First produced in 1776 to honour King Henri IV, the crystal bottle coated in 24-carat gold and sterling platinum is encrusted with 6,500 diamonds and holds one of the rarest, most expensive drinks in the world, having been barrel-aged for more than 100 years.

Mendis Coconut Brandy too, a 100 per cent all-clear brandy distilled from the essence of coconut flower and matured for two years in Hamilla wood casks, was sold initially for \$1 million in 2007. It is now available as part of a luxury private >



➤ Mendis Sensory experience including transport by private jet, chauffeur-driven car and luxury yacht.

And then there's The Macallan, synonymous with luxury, who are renowned the world over for their sophisticated, top-end spirits.

"Luxury is being redefined across the globe and a trend towards quiet sophistication and an appreciation of quality and craftsmanship as symbols of luxury is emerging," says Mac Mabidilala, marketing manager for Africa at Edrington who own The Macallan brand. "In Africa, our brand seeks to attract individuals of ultra-high net worth, who are well-travelled, purchase luxury goods and have an interest and affiliation towards super-premium spirits."

Macallan already has a strong presence in the world's leading cities, and its popularity among the

African elite, particularly in Lagos, is growing. The brand's finest offering to date, the Macallan M, is a six-litre single malt whisky presented in a crystal decanter. It is the product of creative director, Fabien Bowen, and crystal masters, Lalique who together, had one simple aim: to create the world's most sophisticated finest malt whisky.

The result is spectacular. The tall, slim design of the hand-crafted crystal decanter challenges the traditional decanter design with sharp, crisp angles reflecting the shape of the 'M'. And when held up to the light, the deep, rich colour of the whisky is brought to life.

The whisky is interwoven with rich, dried fruits, orange citrus and wood notes, and boasts a full flavour. As a limited edition, just 1,750 bottles of the Macallan M were released in 2013, each engraved with an individual number. ➤





➤ Yet it's The Dalmore which has attracted the most attention in recent years when Dalmore 62 was sold at Singapore Airport for \$250,000. And in July last year, The Dalmore released a single, precious bottle of The Dalmore Affinity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Singapore's independence, priced at \$105,645.

It's no surprise then that the brand is fiercely popular among discerning Africans, the ones who, according to Richard Paterson, master distiller of The Dalmore "demand the finest in all aspects of their lives and value quality and craftsmanship in every product they purchase".

"The Dalmore customer seeks out products with a rich heritage and story," says Paterson. "They relish the opportunity to take time to savour their malts. In a busy world, a moment of quiet is a rare commodity."

The latest top-end release, The Dalmore Constellation Collection, provides exactly this opportunity. Made up of 21 individually released vintages dating from 1964 to 1992, only true whisky connoisseurs will appreciate the subtle

◆  
*"These top-of-the-range dark spirits can only be found on the top shelves of the world's most exclusive outlets and enjoyed by the ones in the know"*  
◆

ABOVE: Courvoisier has a well-earned reputation for producing fine cognacs.

spectrum of flavours and aromas which erupt throughout. Nuances of honeyed pear, passion fruit, orange peel, lavender and patchouli emerge from the 1964 release, which boasts flavours of figs, spicy cinnamon and black forest fruits among initial sips. Buttermilk pancakes with whispers of Turkish delight are among the initial scents of the 1971 release, whilst the tastes itself resembles chocolate fudge, nutmeg and banana.

"Having a glass of The Dalmore provides the opportunity to truly take the time to savour the malt," says Paterson. "It commands the drinkers' full attention – only then will the whisky open up and fully reveal its flavours."

For the serious brandy enthusiast, the elegant Courvoisier brand and its newly released artisan edition is the luxurious cognac alternative to the single malt. Internationally renowned for producing the finest cognacs in the world, Courvoisier is a brand immersed in its François heritage.

Its Parisian-inspired celebratory releases were matured in ancient French oaks and aged, as with the XO Ultime, for two years in humid cellars along the Charente River. ➤



➤ These distinctive expressions hark back to the Parisian golden age of arts and architecture, where their cognac was the toast of choice at the 1889 grand opening of the Eiffel Tower in Paris 127 years ago.

There are three choices in the Courvoisier range that are proving popular with sophisticated drinkers – Courvoisier VS, with its aroma of spring flowers and fresh fruits and delicate, fruity taste, Courvoisier VSOP, with ripe peach and hint of jasmine scent with sweet caramelised flavours, and finally the Courvoisier XO: an intensely aromatic, velvety texture, laced with crême brûlée, candied orange and iris flowers.

And in our world of top-end dark spirits where experience is everything and price is nothing, let's not forget Johnnie Walker, who released their limited edition Private Collection 2015 edition in January.

Just 8,888 individually numbered bottles are available at exclusive outlets across Nigeria, although due to high demand among Nigeria's elite, it is likely this number is now significantly less

Described by whisky writer Charles MacLean as "flawless", the 29 bespoke, experimental casks capture the brand's signature smoky character amid top notes of rare fruit and hints of honey with a distinct Highland aroma of stewed apples and flora notes.

And let us not forget Glenfiddich. Enter any of the world's most exclusive bars and you're likely to find this Scottish favourite being enjoyed by the most ardent of top-end spirit drinkers.

"We attract ambitious socials with high incomes who are the new entrants to the middle class," says Robert Vupora, head of marketing for sub-Saharan Africa at William Grant & Sons, the owners of the famous Glenfiddich distillery, which is in the Scottish town of Dufftown, Banffshire.

"Our higher range products, like the 21-year-old Gran Reserva attracts discerning men aged 40 and over, who have reached the stage in their life where they can afford and enjoy such luxuries."

It's easy to see why. This whisky is the only malt in the world to undergo finishing in Gran Reserva casks which once contained premium Caribbean rum. The result is rich, sweet and exotic with a touch of oak, lime and ginger. Glenfiddich recommends enjoying with a few squares of dark chocolate or bread and butter pudding to bring out the signature soft and sweet flavours.

So, as they say in France, *à la vôtre!* ♦

# LIGHT & SHADE

From London to Loch Lomond to Yas Links, Kyle Phillips has created a course for sun lovers and night owls in Abu Dhabi.

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WORDS BY JESS COUTTS





Versatility with a view – that is the Yas Links golf course in a nutshell. Before designing Yas Links, Kyle Phillips, a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, has designed such well-known courses as The Grove in London, and Scottish stunners, Dundonald - Loch Lomond Golf Club in Troon and Kingsbarns Golf Links in St Andrews, as well as clubs across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, North America and South America.

The Yas Links course in Abu Dhabi was Phillips' first foray into course design for the Middle East. It opened in March 2010 and very quickly developed a reputation as a world-leading destination for keen players. By 2012, the course was ranked in the top 25 in the world by US magazine, *Golf Digest*, and on multiple occasions, Yas Links has been ranked the number one course in the Middle East. Not bad for a course that sprung up on a man-made island that didn't exist 10 years ago.

With a formula one track and a Ferrari theme park as neighbours, Yas Links had to be something special to stand out. With the UAE's deserts just a short drive away, the course stands out as an oasis of green located alongside a calm stretch of Arabian Gulf seashore, complete with 130,000 new mangrove plants. Eight of the 18 holes are played along the coastline and the views are spectacular right across the course.

With Abu Dhabi's reputation for long, hot summers, it was important to create a golfing facility that could be used beyond daylight hours and during the emirate's most scorching weather. As such, there is a floodlit practice area, nine-hole floodlit Par 3 Academy course, a golf academy with six covered hitting bays and two indoor swing studios.

#### **The signature hole**

Both beautiful and challenging, hole 17 is the course's signature hole. The tees of hole 17 are arranged at various angles playing across an inlet in the coastline that forms a tranquil bay, a far cry from the distant buzz of engines that can be heard from the formula one track or the screams of excitement from rollercoaster riders at Ferrari World.

Tee shots must traverse the water to a green that sits on a distant point, framed by dramatic dune bunkers. A shot played just over the bigger bunker on the right will land on a small patch of fairway to help feed shots towards the green. Here, coastal breezes come into >



➤ play and a canny golfer will have to take care to select the right club and nail the trajectory of the shot.

#### **A stroll through the course**

The opening hole is designed to offer a warm welcome to the course with the landing area wider than it appears. Hole 2 is the shortest of Yas' four par-five holes and it often plays into the wind. The green is well-protected on the right side but the second shot needs to be played wisely. Most golfers find success if the second shot cheats the right side of the fairway as a dune ridge on the left obscures views of the green.

The third hole is the first of the course's eight scenic coastline holes. The fairway bends left around the shoreline to a green tucked just behind a dune. Again, the wind plays a role with the tee short made more challenging when the coastal breeze is in your face.

Hole 4, the only inland par-four on the course, and it plays to a massive green nestled among the dunes. Two blind bunkers to the right of the green add to the challenge at this hole. Hole 5, meanwhile, plays from an elevated tee with views

◆  
*"Yas Links has been ranked the number one course in the Middle East on multiple occasions – not bad for a course on a man-made island that didn't exist 10 years ago"*  
◆

PREVIOUS PAGE: The views of Abu Dhabi by day at Yas Links.

back towards the coast, followed by hole 6 which plays away from the sea. To succeed at this hole, tee shots should avoid the left side bunker. The green is large and receptive to approach shots but many a ball has been gatehred in the large dune bunker at the front right end. There are also bunkers to the left of the green that may not be visible from the fairway.

Possibly the most unique hole on the front nine, the seventh is also the longest hole of Yas Links. With a distant view of the sea, golfers are better off to simply focus on the downhill drive, taking care to negotiate a bunker that juts out diagonally across the line of play.

Another seaside hole, the eighth plays slightly downhill to a green that is perilously close to the water's edge on the right. A shot that favours the left hand side of the green where the contours will feed balls back towards the centre is recommended here.

The front nine is rounded off with a tough par-four. A classic "Cape" style hole, where the drive must carry the water on the right. There is a long bunker on the water's edge which will suit long





hitters and an optical illusion bunker which is actually 35 metres from the green's edge.

The back nine kicks off with a short dogleg that plays downhill from the clubhouse. Hole 10 is one of the few holes where an aerial approach shot is favoured. Hole 11, meanwhile, is a classic tactical links hole with hillocks, hollows and bunkers and an amphitheatre of large dunes.

In the tradition of the famous Old Course at St Andrews, hole 12 shares a green surface with hole 15 so it's worth doing a recce here for later in the game. After the challenge of the eleventh, hole 12 has a friendly drive line into a valley framed by a large dune.

A wee par-three, hole 13 demands precision. With the coastline wrapping the front, right and rear of this peninsula green and bunkers guarding the left, this is a hole that demands a confident, direct aim.

Hole 14 is riddled with hazards to test even the most patient player. The shoreline runs the length of the hole on the right and the green is guarded by a dune that hides the majority of the putting surface from the tee. Beyond this dune, another big

◆  
*“Hole 17, the signature hole, has tees arranged at angles, playing across an inlet in the coastline that forms a tranquil bay and coastal breezes come into play”*  
◆

ABOVE: The course has been designed for night play.

bunker and a blow-out bunker make the front left approach tough.

If you took the time to check out the green at hole 12, hole 15 should be a little kinder. This hole turns back inland towards the clubhouse and marks the start of the four-hole journey home. This is not a hole for holding back with the driver and the nasty pot bunker that is hidden from the tee can easily swallow a shot that is too far to the left.

At last, hole 16 offers a picturesque return to the sea with water along the left side and ample fairway off the tee to the right. Bail out too far and the green begins to disappear behind a large dune on the right, leading to a difficult angle of approach. It is indeed a fine challenge to ready players for hole 17, the signature hole.

The 18th hole rounds off the course with a dramatic risk-or-reward par-five. There are shoreline winds to consider and the fairway landing area on the drive is the widest on the course, but it is divided by a long central bunker. It is a majestic way to finish Yas Links, a course that is truly leading the way for serious golfers in the Middle East and beyond. ❖

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

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*“Its patented technology of pressure/pause therapy combined with gentle cardio exercise transforms the body’s ability to burn fat around the midriff”*

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## “I lost 29cms in just 5 weeks”

Maria

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

# OPULENCE AT YOUR DOORSTEP

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Our focus this time is one of the most vibrant cities of the world, a cosmopolitan capital fuelled by finance, fashion, culture, and media, New York. The city's iconic social scene offers the finest in dining, style, arts and entertainment. The sophisticated lifestyle and limitless possibilities it offers makes New York a top destination for second home buyers.

From a Victorian home in Chelsea to a bay view villa in Dubai's Palm Jumeirah to a luxury apartment in Manhattan, our selection this time covers a wide range of styles and aesthetics. So, climb on the magic carpet as we take you around the world.



## OLD CHURCH STREET, CHELSEA, LONDON – KNIGHT FRANK

\$28.79m

This stunning property allows you a rare opportunity to own an expansive home in the heart of Chelsea. The property is made up of a main house that fronts on to the street, a studio house and a large underground car park.

The house is beautifully presented with interior design by Candy and Candy. A highlight of the house is the 9.65m first floor drawing room that overlooks the garden and studio house behind.

- 5 bedrooms
- 4 reception rooms
- Studio
- Private parking
- Garden patio/terrace
- 6,262 sq ft

www.elliman.com



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## ONE57, 157 WEST 57TH STREET, NEW YORK – DOUGLAS ELLIMAN

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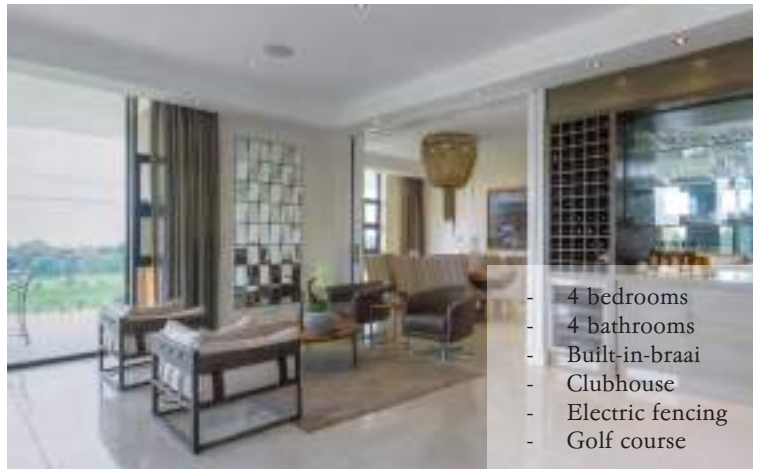
\$58.5m

This may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to purchase the last remaining full floor residence at Manhattan's New Crown Jewel, One57 Condominium. The building was designed by world renowned and Pritzker Prize winning architect Christian de Portzamparc. Located in the heart of the city on the premier 57th street corridor, this new tower sits steps away from Central Park. Towering 83 storeys above Manhattan, this full floor residence truly redefines luxury living in New York. The mesmerising 360-degree views of Central Park, the Hudson and East Rivers, Long Island Sound, the Empire State Building, the Atlantic Ocean and the Statue of Liberty, form the backdrop of this one-of-a-kind home.



- 4 bedrooms
- 4.5 bathrooms
- Water view
- Concierge
- Full-time doorman
- 6,240 sq ft

[www.ahprop.co.za](http://www.ahprop.co.za)



- 4 bedrooms
- 4 bathrooms
- Built-in-braai
- Clubhouse
- Electric fencing
- Golf course

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## HOUGHTON ESTATE, JOHANNESBURG – ADRIENNE HERSCH PROPERTIES

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\$1.94m

This unique corner apartment at the Houghton allows the discerning buyer a world of opulence. With a striking view of the golf course, every inch of this house spells sophistication. The open plan kitchen opens onto elegant yet imposing informal spaces, with a comprehensive lounge and sitting area featuring a custom-made bar. The elegant dining room makes dinner parties a luxurious affair, with stunning light fittings and views fit for a king.

[www.knightfrank.com](http://www.knightfrank.com)

- 7 bedrooms
- 8 bathrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- Swimming pool
- Terrace
- 8,469 sq ft



## PALM JUMEIRAH, DUBAI – KNIGHT FRANK

\$17.7m

Benefitting from a prestigious location on the world-renowned Palm Jumeirah, this seven-bedroom property will grant its owners a luxurious lifestyle with striking city skyline and sea views, modern design and a private swimming pool. Presenting some of the best Dubai Marina views, this villa strives to impress with an abundance of facilities, including a private cinema room and a fully equipped gym.



www.christiesrealestate.com



## 17 EAST 65TH STREET, NEW YORK – CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

\$40m

One of the first modernist townhouses in New York, this extraordinary 25-foot wide carriage house, known as the Sherman Fairchild Mansion, is distinguished by its incredible interior courtyard atrium soaring upward for three storeys, and capped with a giant skylight. The unique floorplan affords huge dramatic spaces as well as five bedrooms, six full baths, two half baths. Extended by the current owner on the plan of renowned industrial designer George Nelson, this house embodies his core concept: good design is timeless.

- 5 bedrooms,
- 6 bathrooms
- 1 study
- Skylight
- Private parking
- 8,890 sq ft



# QUEEN'S GATE PLACE, LONDON – KNIGHT FRANK

\$51.68m

Victorian opulence meets modern elegance in this grand end-of-terrace house. This stunning home in Queen's Gate is the first residential house in London to have been meticulously renovated, designed and furnished by Armani Casa. Built in the 1860s in the Italianate style, this house still retains its original grandiose Victorian atmosphere. It has a stunning roof terrace, perfect for summer soirées.



- 6 bedrooms
- 6 bathrooms
- 3-6 reception rooms
- Roof terrace
- 9,096 sqft





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## 3 PIERREPONT PLACE, NEW YORK – CHRISTIE'S REAL ESTATE

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\$40m

This magnificent mansion offers breathtaking panoramic views of the ever-changing tides of New York's extraordinary harbour and unimpeded views of Brooklyn Bridge Park and the Statue of Liberty. Originally built by the American Institute of Architect's founding member, Frederick A Peterson, this historic 1857 building replete with original detail is surrounded on three sides by terraces and park-like gardens covering more than 9,000 sq ft, anchored by 100-year-old trees.

- 15 bedrooms
- 16 bathrooms
- 9 fireplaces
- Grand central staircase
- Skylight
- 18,000 sq ft



## WILTON CRESCENT, BELGRAVIA, SW1

### Grade II listed six storey period house with two mews houses

Wilton Crescent is an exceptional grand residence set over six floors, 6,961 sqft. The property also has two Mew Houses at the rear of the garden offering superb accommodation for staff or extra guests. Wilton Crescent is located in the heart of Belgravia and is close Belgrave Square Gardens. This is one of London's most sought-after locales with grand 19th century squares and stunning Georgian architecture making this a charming and eternally popular place to set up home in the capital. The lush green spaces of Hyde Park and Buckingham Palace Gardens are on your doorstep and superb transport links include Knightsbridge and Hyde Park Corner tube stations.

**Accommodation and Amenities:** 7 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, 2 Mews houses to the rear, 3 garages, garden terrace and roof terrace.



PRICE: £30,000,000

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Gary Hershman

[gary@beauchamp.co.uk](mailto:gary@beauchamp.co.uk)

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