

# ELITE LIVING AFRICA

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BOLD TRENDS AND DARING  
DESIGNS IN MEN'S WATCHES

GLORIOUS GOWNS FOR  
WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

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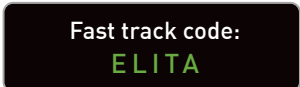
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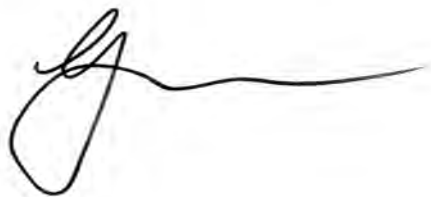
# WELCOME

We are in holiday mode here at *Elite Living Africa* for this issue. At this time of year, it doesn't matter if you're in the northern or southern hemisphere – it is a great time to visit a glorious destination. Whether you're keen to check out mountains in South Africa at their wintry best or seek out the sun in the parts of the world that are warm mid-year, there are many great options for discerning holidaymakers.

Porto Cervo on the Italian island of Sardinia is blissful in summer and that is our cover story. Turn to page 52 to find out more about this dream-like destination. On page 35, Temi Otedola, our style columnist shares her favourite holiday destinations, complete with her recommendations for the perfect trip.

We also help you get into the holiday mood at home. With wonderful outdoor living ideas on page 10, party technology on page 40, and all the kit you will need for a home bar on page 61, a luxury staycation could be an alternative to long-haul travel.

Elsewhere in the issue, we feature stunning wedding dress trends (page 30), take a high-speed trip down an automotive memory lane as Mercedes-AMG celebrates 50 years (page 44), and we talk exclusively to Nigerian basketball star-turned-travel entrepreneur Obinna Ekezie (page 8) and Sierra Leonean jewellery designer Satta Matturi (page 18).



**Georgia Lewis**  
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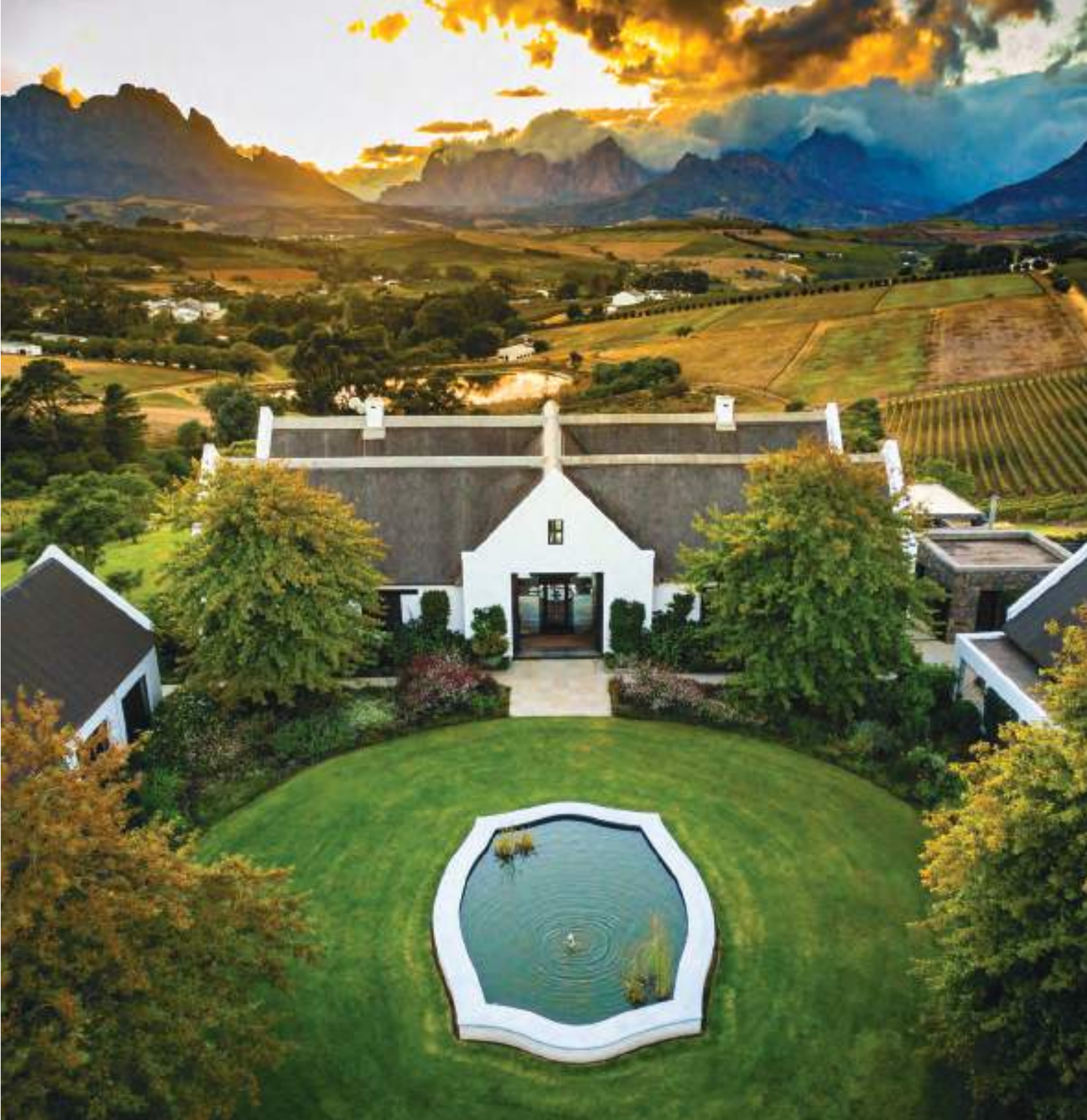
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## GREAT HEIGHTS

Obinna Ekezie retired from the NBA and launched Wakanow, an online travel business. He shares his success story.

WORDS BY MARTIN CLARK

**F**ormer NBA basketball star Obinna Ekezie is back in his native Nigeria and seemingly destined for more great things. Originally from Port Harcourt, Ekezie hit the big time in the USA when he was signed up to play in the professional leagues while studying mechanical engineering and business at college there.

He made a name for himself playing for the likes of Dallas Mavericks. And, at 6'9" tall, he cuts a striking figure. It's a world he remembers fondly. "I've been into basketball since I was 15 years old," he says. But it was his education that took him across the Atlantic, a move which was to open up a pathway to the professional sport. "I got into a good school at Worcester Academy in

Massachusetts, which was the first time I was coached in basketball. I went there for about two years, and improved very quickly." Eventually, after moving on to college, he found himself playing in the NBA for about five years.

"I think the biggest thing for me was the opportunity basketball gave me. Going to the NBA was a tremendous experience, playing against the best players in the world." Among other opponents, he cites former NBA legends such as Shaquille O'Neal and Tim Duncan. "Around that era, these were the best players in basketball at that time, so it was a very exciting period and it made a big impact on how I viewed the world and business, and helped shape my thinking."

*ABOVE: Obinna Ekezie proves there is a successful business career to be had after retiring from top level sport.*



Now, as head of Africa's fastest growing online travel retailer, Wakanow, he's back in Nigeria and making a new name for himself in the business world. The name, Wakanow, comes from the Nigerian pidgin English expression meaning 'Go Now'. It was started in 2008 by Ekezie with his business partner Ralph Tamuno. Together, the pair are helping to change the face of travel in Africa by becoming the first Nigerian agency to aggregate flights, hotels, visa procurement and packaged travel under one platform.

"I've always been interested in business from a young age," says Ekezie. "My dad was very successful. He founded his own business in the oil and gas industry in the early nineties, so I do come from a business background."

During his years in professional sport he also invested a lot in real estate in the US market and began to explore other technology-based ventures and opportunities. Later, when he returned to Nigeria, he saw that there was no online travel agency, which resulted in the creation of Wakanow. Among the people he admires in the corporate sector are the likes of Kevin Plank, the creator of sportswear maker Under Armour, and Mark Cuban, the billionaire owner of the Dallas Mavericks, among others. "So I did learn quite a lot while I was still playing, and I picked up a lot of inspiration."

As well as an interest in the online space, technology and travel, the idea for Wakanow came out of Ekezie's own experiences in trying to book flights out of Nigeria; a more fraught process than the slick services offered by the likes of Expedia while he was in the USA.

Now, with his company growing fast, it seems Ekezie received all the right training - both from his mentors and time at business school and on the basketball court. Wakanow recently launched in the UK market, offering flights and hotels to destinations across Africa. Ekezie says this was in recognition of the rise in bookings on its Nigerian portal that were coming from the UK. "It's a natural progression for Wakanow to extend into this market," he adds. "We are delighted to be able to offer something different to UK customers when it comes to travelling to Africa."

The UK becomes Wakanow's sixth market, with existing offices in Nigeria, Dubai, Ghana, Kenya, and the USA. Further expansion is planned this year in Uganda, Rwanda, Senegal, Ivory coast and Tanzania, he says, underlining a continuing appetite for more success.

◆

*"Going to the NBA was a tremendous experience, playing against the best players in the world. It was a very exciting period and it made a big impact in how I viewed the world and business."*

◆

As the only online travel agent run by Africans focusing exclusively on Africa, Ekezie's mission is to extend the continent's famous warm welcome to customers every step of the way. Under the Wakanow umbrella is DestinationsAfrica, a specialist platform aggregating holiday packages to over 23 African destinations, which showcases the company's "vast knowledge of the African space and wealth of untapped destinations," he says.

Above all, he remains optimistic about the long-term future of the continent, and his home country of Nigeria. "There is progress, definitely." Yes, he cites common challenges - most notably, in Nigeria's case, a continued dependence on oil and gas and militant troubles in the Niger Delta region - but there are equally many positives.

In his own case, one of Wakanow's priorities is making travel more affordable for all Africans, where purchasing power has long been a stumbling block. The company is constantly exploring new ways to help people around this issue, especially young millennials who may have entered the job market but may not hold a credit card. "The Africa market is quite sizeable anyway, but we believe that we can create a new market if we can help increase purchasing power for travel."

He says the development of travel and tourism in Africa holds huge potential. There is also a need for more tourism infrastructure, especially in Nigeria, another area that Ekezie is keen to explore. And, naturally, this travel entrepreneur likes to move around and see new places for himself too. When he's with family in the USA, he likes to take trips to popular holiday spots like Miami or the Bahamas.

And there are still plenty of destinations in and around Africa that he's waiting for the chance to visit. "I'd love to go to Zanzibar, I've not been there before, and the same for the Seychelles. I'd also like to go to Morocco and Tunisia at some point." It's not all holidays and fun, however, for this successful family man. "I have young kids now so traveling is not that easy!"

Nonetheless, Ekezie is a winner, someone who will always find a way. His motto for business - and for life, in general - is pretty simple: "Always look yourself in the mirror - that was one that really resonated with me," he says. "You know, what could I have done to make this better?" It's a mentality instilled by his coaches early on, to not blame others for anything that goes wrong. Right now, things are going just right. ♦

## BUY IT NOW

Transform your outdoor living space into a relaxing sanctuary. Words by Hiriyti Bairu

### MEDIUM POOL SURROUND

**\$5,248, Haddonstone, [www.baddonstone.com](http://www.baddonstone.com)**  
For a truly elegant garden, the Haddonstone pool surrounds provide a gorgeous centrepiece and is available in various combinations of kerb, vase and plinth sections to suit individual tastes. The vase section, designed in the shape of a conch shell, flanked by two dolphins, is decorated beautifully with palmettes and scrolls along the base. It can be used as a fountain, a planter, or both. The kerb section has a continuous moulding enriched with ovolo and palmette designs. The plinth lends appeal to the overall appearance of the pool, raising it from ground level. Tech Sheets for pool assembly and recommended plumbing layout drawings are available.



### TRIBU PURE CORNER GARDEN SOFA

**\$6,366, Go Modern Furniture, [www.gomodern.co.uk](http://www.gomodern.co.uk)**  
If its simplicity you are looking for, then this beautiful sofa may fit the bill. The strong square frame is made from A-grade teak, which comes from East Javanese plantations where every piece is carefully chosen. The teak offers durability and weather resistance, offering excellent protection without compromising on style. It features outdoor cushions in two different styles, either the casual set, which offers extra soft filling or the Miami Set which features triangular cushions. This corner sofa includes Miami cushions covered in linen, with scatter cushions in matte olive, linen and luxury brown.







## INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND KITCHEN

**\$14,995, Indian Ocean, [www.indian-ocean.co.uk](http://www.indian-ocean.co.uk)**

Bring the cooking experience outside by dining *al fresco* in the summer months. What better way to enjoy the experience than with this free-standing outdoor island kitchen. Featuring all essential appliances, the outdoor kitchen can be delivered and installed in a matter of hours. The modern and chic design offers a grey granite work surface, with a contemporary white HPL finish and hermetically sealed cabinets.



## SHENZHOU X FLOATING BED

**\$6,914, Sweetpea & Willow, [www.sweetpeaandwillow.com](http://www.sweetpeaandwillow.com)**

Transform your garden into an oasis with this floating bed from Sweetpea & Willow. You'll be on cloud nine as you lie back and relax in the summer sun. The Shenzhou collection evokes the feeling of floating with natural tones of light and the use of darker browns. It offers the best in security and quality, thanks to its strong aluminium structure. The hand-woven rattan provides a stable structure and also creates a stunning visual aesthetic.





## GRAND DESIGNS

Chijioke Nwamara, managing director of Orpheus Music in Lagos, talks us through some tuneful trends.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

The piano market is remarkable for its consistency. Chijioke Nwamara, managing director of Steinway Music in Lagos, shares his thoughts on the demands of his discerning customers.

Steinway Music sells more grand pianos than upright if the customer is buying a Steinway, according to Nwamara. However, he says the reverse is true for other brands which they sell. He attributes this to “the uniqueness of the Steinway piano and its users, as well as the peculiarity of our environment.”

“The clients who prefer the Steinway pianos are usually more affluent and usually buy the pianos for dual purposes, namely, for its sound and its beauty,” he told *Elite Living Africa*. “The grand piano is definitely more grandiose than the upright piano.”

When it comes to trends in pianos, he said it is “beautiful” that the acoustic piano has “pretty much remained the same except, of course, with the occasional innovation intended to enhance the sound of the piano.”

“But, on balance, there has been consistency in terms of its production and materials,” he said of acoustic pianos over the decades.



ABOVE AND LEFT: Chijioke Nwamara, managing director of Orpheus Music

When asked about the latest technologies in pianos, Nwamara cited the self-playing acoustic piano, known as the piano-player: “Even though it has been in the market for some time now, Steinway has also brought its own unique and extraordinary sense of perfection and precision to this type of piano through the introduction of the Spirio piano, which has quickly become a household name for those who want the best in piano sound and technology.”

As for whether customers prefer contemporary or traditional piano designs, Nwamara said it depends on the client and their needs.

“Some customers are more focused on the sound and output of the piano, and for them, the finish is really of secondary importance,” he said. “Others however, would like an ornamental piece to accentuate the beauty of their home or office.”

Of the piano market in 2017, Nwamara said it is “fairly stable” and that volatility is not a major concern: “Our customers are drawn from the more affluent as well as upper middle-class circles. Schools that are patronised by the children of these customers also buy our pianos as well. And finally, middle class families buy our less expensive pianos. So we have a really broad spectrum of the customer base that we depend on for business.” ♦





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# *Bold & daring* TIMEPIECES

*A selection of funky and fantastic men's watches that promise to turn heads this season*

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WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU



## JACOB & CO. ASTRONOMIA FLAWLESS

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\$1,000,000 [www.jacobandco.com](http://www.jacobandco.com)

Jacob & Co. Founder Jacob Arabo brings together the intricate world of luxury jewellery with that of haute horlogerie to introduce the latest addition to the brand's Astronomia collection, the Astronomia Flawless. There is multifaceted meaning behind the name of this one-of-a-kind timepiece. "Flawless" does not just describe the watch's stunning appearance, but is also referring to the highest grade of diamond clarity, says the Gemological Institute of America's diamond grading scale. The Astronomia collection comes to the market since the introduction of the first Astronomia Tourbillon in 2014.



## KONSTANTIN CHAYKIN JOKER

\$7,829 [www.konstantin-chaykin.com](http://www.konstantin-chaykin.com)

Konstantin Chaykin's mechanical timepiece – Joker – is a kinematic piece of pop-art. The watch features disk hours and minutes indicators as well as moonphase display. 'Five of a Kind' the highest poker hand can be seen on the bezel of the watch case. There are no standard watch hands on the dial and the eyes and the Joker's mood depends on both current time and Moon phase. Especially for the Joker timepiece, Konstantin Chaykin had created module with double-disk time indication (hours and minutes as Joker eyes) and moon-phase display (Joker's smile). The module features eight jewels to lessen the amount of friction, it is mounted on tried and tested 'workhorse' automatic winding Caliber ETA 2824-2. The new 'Joker' watch is available in a stainless steel and is a limited edition with only 99 pieces available.



## ANDERSEN GENEVE MONTRE À TACT

\$61,000 [www.andersen-geneve.ch](http://www.andersen-geneve.ch)

The Montre à Tact Poker is truly unique, the timepiece doesn't have hands on the dial and offers a personalisation service from hand painted scenes to any type of hand guilloché, or precious stones. The watch features a bi-colour white and yellow-gold case. There are nine different scenes of dogs playing poker that can be hand painted on the dial. Svend Andersen launched his own workshop in the late 70's after having spent nine years at Patek Philippe in their Atelier des Complications. Satisfied with the high quality of the work, the watch collectors started to ask for their own bespoke timepieces (called "pièce unique"). Since then Andersen Genève has been developing complicated watches like the annual calendar, perpetual calendar, and jumping-hour calendar. One of Andersen Genève's most complicated watches developed is the Secular Perpetuel Calendar.



ROMAIN JEROME  
DEEP BLUE OCTOPUS

\$20,950 [www.romainjerome.ch](http://www.romainjerome.ch)

Romain Jerome experimented with steampunk ideas for this timepiece which celebrates one of the most fascinating sea creatures – the cephalopod – featured on the dial. The Deep Blue Octopus, features all characteristics and aesthetical features of the animal, with careful care taken on every detail. The 47mm case comes in black PVD-coated steel and its relief has been filled with luminescent material. The number ‘eight’ is used across many features including number of screws and the fact that it is water resistant to 888ft.





## VISCONTI W108 ABYSSUSS URBAN CAMO 300MM

\$5,443 [www.visconti.it](http://www.visconti.it)

This edgy diver's watch is a limited edition with only 29 timepieces and comes in a camouflage finish. The watch's display presents the hours, minutes, sweep seconds and date window at two o'clock. The case comes in stainless steel, micro-shot blasted and satin-finished and a bayonet-mounted crown at two o'clock with patented system for unlocking from movement. There are four AISI316 lugs, satin-finished; 5mm thick, flat-convex sapphire watch glass; rotating AISI316 bezel with engraved time scale; luminescent coating for the indexes; external aluminium bronze sawtooth; sliding rotation bloc at 4 o'clock, and automatic helium escape valve at 6 o'clock. The strap is water-resistant leather with an exclusive satin-finish stainless steel buckle.



# Satta MATTURI *fine* jewellery

*Elite Living Africa* speaks exclusively to African jewellery designer, Satta Matturi about her fine jewellery collection

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

Satta Matturi began her career at De Beers where she worked for 16 years as a key account manager in the sales department. Her role was focused around selling unpolished diamonds at a wholesale level. She then slowly began designing her own costume jewellery. “I started making my own jewellery and it began with family and friends. I thought to myself, why not actually create a brand? And there was no African lady out there doing fine jewellery.”

Having worked in the diamond industry for 16 years and being knowledgeable about diamonds (both rough and polished), this was a natural path for Satta to take. “I love art, I love fashion - my father was an architect. He worked as a resident director for West Africa for De Beers that’s how I got into it after university.

“I thought I had a good story to tell – originally I am from West Africa, Sierra Leone which is synonymous with diamonds anyway or be it there is the blood diamond issue with it. However, we moved on from that. And I think it’s nice for an African woman and someone who worked in that level – De Beers and looking after big clients – Tiffany and Graff, to actually be out there and do something and create something that people can actually cherish.”

At first, Satta refrained from moving to Botswana to work on her brand but later moved to Botswana from the London offices with her fiancé who



ABOVE AND RIGHT  
Founder of Satta Matturi, models wearing Satta Matturi jewellery, Pengusa 18ct white gold, diamonds, south sea pearls, rubies necklace.

would head up global sales for De Beers Botswana. “We are living there now and we have a beautiful home - it’s synonymous with diamonds. All the big diamondteers fly into Botswana every five weeks to buy their diamonds so the De Beers sales and distribution arms sits in Botswana. Satta’s talents do not end there as she has also set up a rough procurement consultancy. “I only do private sales - I started working with the first lady of Sierra

Leone who has bought a couple of pieces from me – so it’s by word of mouth. I don’t mass produce at all – my first collection was 20 pieces and that’s it, and if I sell that and no longer have any stock, it’s not an issue for me.”

All the pieces in Satta’s collection have been hand-set to ensure that they are of the highest quality. “My main stone is diamond but I also put in rubies and emeralds and aquamarines and citrons to make it quite elegant and fun, but I don’t mass produce - I have artisans who actually do the cast and then set the stones in because what I don’t want is for the stones to start falling off – I’m huge on that and I’m big on the procurement because I have a background in diamonds and sourcing of stones - I know where they are coming from.” Sourcing ethical gems is also very important to Satta, revealing why this was she notes, “I source from people who actually themselves buy from De Beers and other rough suppliers, so I do know there is an ethical side as well and I am very aware of who I’m buying from and who manufactures for me. And there are only





two people: one here who manufactures for me, and another artisan in India, so that's what I do."

Satta Matturi's jewellery has been designed to be worn on any occasion with strong, empowered women in mind, whether they're going on holiday, or attending a party. "If you're going off on a holiday you don't have to worry about it, you can take it – it looks elegant and you're taking your jewellery and your elegance with you."

Featured in the fine jewellery collection is a Pengusa 18ct white gold, diamonds, south sea pearls, rubies - Satta's favourite piece in her fine jewellery collection. "There is a story behind every piece - the Pengusa is inspired by the Pengusa clan of women from my mother's chiefdom in Sierra Leone." Other pieces include: Kola, a pair of 18ct yellow gold, rose quartz, diamond earrings and Bou Bou, a pair of 18ct white gold, diamond and kunzite, south sea pearl earrings.

When asked what her favourite gemstone was, Satta responded, "Diamonds. I want women buying my jewellery to find it accessible. I want it for the right woman who is elegant, who is strong, who believes in herself. You don't have to be a high-flying executive."

Now that summer has arrived it's also wedding season and Satta Matturi has the perfect pieces for that special day, including beautiful engagement rings for those men who are planning to get down on one knee. "I also do bridal jewellery but it's a bit more bespoke so for people who want an engagement ring – that's a bit more basic, so solitaire – maybe one stone, with twin stones or other designs they have.

"Many people go for the Tiffany type of setting which they like, but I like to put a twist on it if I can. I also work with south sea pearls." ❖

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

# Daytime DRAMA

When the occasion is casual and the mood is relaxed, the jewellery should reflect that. We showcase some of the stunning trends in premium daywear.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

Sometimes it is better to leave the precious stones at home and adorn oneself in something better suited for a casual occasion. But jewellery for daytime dressing does not have to be cheap and it certainly does not have to look cheap either. There are classy, contemporary designs to suit all tastes on offer.

The designs of Adèle Dejak (on this page and overleaf) epitomise not just the trend towards investing in stylish and creative pieces for every occasion, but also the innovation that is coming out of Africa today.

Her work proves that Africa can do luxury. After starting her career in typographic design in England and Italy, she set up in Nairobi in 2005, turning her hand to accessories design.

Inspired by the natural beauty of horn, she started out by experimenting with different jewellery-making techniques to create truly unique pieces.

As well as her own luxury brand, she collaborated with Salvatore Ferragamo and Samsung. In March, she participated in South Africa Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, with her pieces being displayed at the Designer Boutique in upmarket Camps Bay.

As well as Adèle Dejak's innovative jewellery, other brands, both new and established, are making their mark with more laidback designs, from the delicate to the dramatic. >







*Jewellery by Adele Dejak.  
www.adeledejak.com*



The word “iconic” is freely bandied about these days, but in the case of Cartier’s jewellery, it is apt. From timeless classic watch designs, such as the Tank and Panthere, to the amazing pieces created for Wallis Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor, it is a brand that continues to stand test of time. The Juste un Clou range by Cartier, takes a different direction entirely to some of the baubles for which the brand is better known.

Juste un Clou is jewellery inspired by nails. The inspiration comes from the first nail bracelet, created in New York in the 1970s, an emblem of a carefree era. It’s avant-garde, it’s bold and it can be worn by men and women.

Over the page, the jewellery selection is more demure overall, but they are still unique and creative pieces of outstanding quality. There is no need to save the premium materials for evening events.

London Road, as the name suggests, is an emerging British brand that seeks to fill the gap in the market between branded silver and traditional 18-ct gold jewellery with fashionable, eminently wearable pieces that use premium materials.

Sohavi, meanwhile, takes a soulful approach with Nicci Dhamu, the designer, taking inspiration from such diverse places as her Kenyan family history, Sikh symbolism, Kundalini yoga and the divine beauty of women.

The pieces use such materials as rose gold vermeil, sterling silver, cultured freshwater pearls and semi-precious gemstones and Nicci herself says they are designed to be worn every day.

Of her jewellery collections, Nicci says they embody and define “unique elements of style, an elegant and sophisticated expression of the magnificent self.” And of her clients, she says her pieces are “chosen by and for those with an eclectic taste and a desire to wear spiritual symbols with beautiful meanings.”

Emma Goodsir is an Australian-based designer whose pieces are sold through e.g.etal, the company of which she is the director. As well as her own designs, e.g.etal showcases and sells the work of 34 other designers, based mostly in Australia, apart from José Marin, who is based in Valencia, Spain. Her pieces are simple and dramatic while still being unashamedly feminine. Her inspirations are often found in nature and her pieces deftly blend precious metals with semi-precious stones.

Of course, there will always be those who insist on wearing the family jewels for all occasions, but for those who prefer to keep things casual, there are plenty of stylish options. ♦



Jewellery by Adele Dejak, except for top left, the bracelets are part of the Juste Un Clou range by Cartier.  
[www.adeledejak.com](http://www.adeledejak.com)  
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## Delicate Daylight

*These pieces seamlessly blend unashamed femininity with imaginative design, using premium materials such as yellow gold and rose gold, along with sparkling stones, to great effect.*

- 1. INFINITE STYLE:** Yellow gold “Carnaby” infinity drop earrings by London Road. [www.londonroadjewellery.com](http://www.londonroadjewellery.com)
- 2. SOUL MATE:** Rose gold and pearl “Heart of Rose” necklace, featuring the Ik OanKar symbol by Sohavi. [www.sohavi.com](http://www.sohavi.com)
- 3. TWISTS AND TURNS:** Mixed gold rope stack rings by London Road. [www.londonroadjewellery.com](http://www.londonroadjewellery.com)
- 4. CIRCLE OF LIFE:** Rose gold and ruby “Meridian” bracelet by London Road. [www.londonroadjewellery.com](http://www.londonroadjewellery.com)
- 5. CARNABY STREET:** Yellow gold “Carnaby” infinity pendant by London Road. [www.londonroadjewellery.com](http://www.londonroadjewellery.com)
- 6. FULL BLOOM:** Sterling silver and rose quartz “Flower of Life” earrings by Sohavi. [www.sohavi.com](http://www.sohavi.com)
- 7. DAYDREAM BELIEVER:** Gold and heliodore “You Are My Sunshine” ring by e.g.etal. [www.egetal.com](http://www.egetal.com)



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# Discover the world's finest niche fragrances

Express your individuality with these expertly created  
fragrances housed at Fragrance Du Bois

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

**L**uxury fragrance house Fragrance Du Bois has become a leading brand on the international fragrance sector in less than five years. In its creations, the niche fragrance house uses sustainably produced, 100 per cent pure oud in many of its signature scents.

Fragrance Du Bois has dedicated fans across the world, be it the quiet connoisseur or royalty, with boutiques in Singapore, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Geneva, Malaysia, Geneva, Qatar, Zurich, Marbella, Los Angeles, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur. Despite many perfume brands around the world claiming to use real oud in its scents, the level of supply chain control at Fragrance Du Bois enables the company to guarantee exactly where the oud comes from, how it is produced and its level of quality.

"It's a relatively simple formula," said Fragrance Du Bois' brand director, Nicola Parker. "We have a huge advantage in the industry as we can guarantee

the source, consistency and quality of our pure, sustainable oud oil, thanks to our supply agreement with Asia Plantation Capital. They supported us when we started the business, and have been a constant source, if you excuse the play on words, of inspiration. We wouldn't be where we are today without them, but independence was always going to be something we strived for, and something that would enable us to expand as a company."

The Shades Du Bois range from the Prive collection combines olfactory immersion – the isolation of individual senses centring around the scents used – with the concept of colour personality profiling. Colours reflect moods and create connections with certain aromas and French perfumers created seven fragrances inspired by seven colours (Rouge, Rose, Violet, Bleu, Vert, Jaune, Orange), each presenting a variety of moods and characteristics. In 2016, Fragrance Du Bois released two new collections, including "Lite

ABOVE AND RIGHT *Fragrance Du Bois store front, Inside the Jovoy store, the Lite Attars collection.*

[www.fragrancedubois.com](http://www.fragrancedubois.com)  
[www.jovoyparis.com](http://www.jovoyparis.com)



Attars”, an olfactory self-expression which presents the raw, basic form of each profile that is offered in the Shades and Prive ranges. The second collection ‘Nature’s Treasures’, features an original collection of hand-blended perfumes created by master perfumers using bold and subtle while also light and fresh.

Fragrance Du Bois unique, tailored approach with its personal consultation sessions, where a perfume expert will take the customer on a journey to match their personality to the right scent using olfactory immersion and a colour fragrance wheel. The client will then have their chosen fragrance hand blended for them. Other products in the Fragrance Du Bois collection include perfume travel sets, serum pens and agarwood bead bracelets.

As part of its expansion plans, Fragrance Du Bois partnered with perfume house Jovoy in 2016, a relationship that shares similar core values. Jovoy has stores across the world including an exclusive boutique in London’s Mayfair.

“We have very specific values at Jovoy,” said Francois Henin. “Quality is key, of course, but we are also looking for something a little bit different. The global fragrance market has become somewhat generic in recent years, and we pride ourselves on encouraging brands that show originality and creativity. We’re delighted to be able to debut Fragrance Du Bois in Paris at our ‘embassy’, as we share the same ethos.”

Fragrance Du Bois has also recently invested in Oud Essentials – The Real Oud Company which uses pure, organic oud in all of its products.

“This will be the first time in the world that the substance has been used in the ultra-competitive market, and gives Oud Essentials a cutting-edge advantage in the industry,” said Henin.

“I have been fascinated by Oud for many years,” said Oud Essentials’ founder and CEO, Europe, Jean-Marc Dufat, “and when I discovered that it wasn’t being used in the skincare industry, I couldn’t believe it.” ❖

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



# Wedding gown trends for spring / summer 2018

*Every bride-to-be wants to be the belle of the ball on her big day. Here's a round-up of beautiful gowns to inspire your fairytale wedding.*

---

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

With wedding season upon us, it is the perfect time for brides-to-be to get inspired and start planning their own spring/summer wedding for next year. And we're sure that just about every bride-to-be would agree that the dress is on top of their list of priorities when it comes to organising their big day. For 2018, wedding dress designers are following a number of trends: modern twists to romantic styles, colours other than white, and embellishments of diamonds and pearls.

Award-winning designer, Yemi Osunkoya, talks to *Elite Living Africa* exclusively about his couture bridal and eveningwear label, Kosibah. "I create couture gowns from scratch for each client," says Yemi. "And my aim is always to flatter and enhance the figure of each client regardless of size, I am therefore inspired to recreate the classical hour glass silhouette to celebrate the female form."

Yemi has relocated to New York from London, although he still uses his London studio for regular client consultations and fittings. Clients he has worked with include: actress Louise Rose, Sheila Ferguson formerly of the Three Degrees, Hollywood actress Indra Ové, Miss World Agbani Darego, and singer Stephanie Benson. The choice of fabrics, he notes, are endless because of the couture nature of the service he offers.

"At the moment, I'm absolutely loving using soft fabrics such as chiffon, tulle and delicate laces to

create deceptively ethereal dresses that belie the corseted structure beneath that achieves the cinched in waist."

Yemi has a many clients from Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa and Tanzania, with all his creations bespoke pieces for each client: "When I eventually create a ready to wear line, it will be easier to expand my reach on the continent and beyond."

The Justin Alexander Autumn/Winter 2017 collection features four central themes: new clean, cut-outs, graphic treatments, and abstract beading. New fabrics are featured, including crepe, organza jacquard, buttery satin and Mikado. Intricate detailing, including an oversized bow and beaded lace, add stunning twists.

The design team experimented with soft construction and illusion bodices in this collection using fine detailing to balance comfort and striking appeal. Gowns and veils are accented by flowers, dreamy sculpted train shapes, and floral and deco beadwork to add a romantic touch with the Justin Alexander Signature Autumn/Winter 2017 collection.

"We introduced a new power-mesh – a spandex-like fabric – to sculpt the body and add construction to slim gowns without adding bulk," says the fashion house. This range features beautiful shapes emphasised by striking details. The Lillian West Autumn/Winter 2017 collection ➤



A wedding dress from Justin Alexander Signature  
Autumn/Winter 2017 collection.  
[www.justinalexanderbridal.com](http://www.justinalexanderbridal.com)





ABOVE Models wearing wedding dresses from Kosibah.

lets you travel around the world from Ibiza to Bora Bora bringing together bohemian style and 60s chic. The ethereal collection features fabric patchworks, kaftans, fringe and cut outs with a palette of champagne, nude and sand, creating soft romance with modern flair. The Autumn 2017 collection showcases beautiful fabrics, including soft crepes and chiffons; unique laces and ruffled and tiered skirts so brides can glide elegantly down the aisle – all while keeping true to the collection’s graceful romance.

One of the leading bridal fashion firms, Pronovias welcomed more than 2,000 guests at its catwalk show at the MNAC in Barcelona, where it showcased the Atelier Pronovias 2018 Collection. The dresses were presented under a theme called ‘WISH’ with a wishing well centre stage. Guests at the event included models Kate Upton, Marie Ange Casta, and Karla Mora, entrepreneur and girlfriend of Antonio Banderas. The audience were wowed by the latest trends from the Atelier Pronovias 2018 Collection which experiments with silhouettes and innovative designs, from mermaid and flared designs to full length ball gowns. The dresses, crafted in organza, crepe, soft satin and French lace, are decorated with white gemstone embroideries that give the collection great sophistication and delicateness. The Sweetheart Autumn 2017 collection encompasses all trending in bridal: soft construction, plunging backs and fronts, illusion cut-outs, fun and flirty skirt interest, and simple gowns to which adding accessories will compliment the look.

For Mariage Spring/Summer 2018 fashion artists Viktor Horsting and Rolf Snoeren present an individual, autonomous character, each with her own striking silhouette. The dresses featured graphic A-line dresses, elegant column dresses, voluminous ballgowns, sharp tailored jumpsuits and flirty short dresses, features a further development of iconic Viktor&Rolf design elements such as graphic bows, volants, and bold embroideries. Tulle volants, embroidered layered tulle flowers, graphic embroidery and bows are explored to create bold, yet feminine and unfussy silhouettes.

Glamour is added to each of the gowns with jewelled embroideries, flocked sequins and crystallised necklines. This season also marks a deeper exploration of tulle techniques. The grand, tulle couture gown is a staple of the Viktor&Rolf vocabulary. Tulle is pleated, layered, ruffled and worked to create voluminous, yet airy, contemporary gowns full of movement. Designed by hand, soft tulle flowers are featured on gowns and accessories. Statement back detailing is highlighted with a variety of open backs, graphic bow treatments and bold embroideries. ➤





TOP LEFT Model in Kosibah  
TOP RIGHT Model in Justin Alexander  
BOTTOM LEFT Model in Justin Alexander  
BOTTOM RIGHT Model in Pronovias  
[www.kosibah.co.uk](http://www.kosibah.co.uk)  
[www.justinalexanderbridal.com](http://www.justinalexanderbridal.com)  
[www.pronovias.com](http://www.pronovias.com)



ABOVE AND LEFT Models wearing two different designs from Kosibah.

On Mariage Spring/Summer 2018, Viktor Horsting and Rolf Snoeren stated: "We are excited to continue our exploration of the wedding dress. While designing, we are looking for something bold, architectural, unfussy yet spectacular, with an emphasis on a precise, outspoken silhouette. To support this vision, we favour compact, structured fabrics and graphic bold, outspoken embellishments".

NOYA created by the internationally renowned bridal designer Riki Dalal, launched her new ready-to-wear collection as part of a stunning re-design intended to reach brides on a global level. Fans of Riki Dalal Haute Couture will be drawn to the fresh new looks. NOYA was created to meet a rising demand from brides and boutiques for her cutting-edge

designs. The entire collection was inspired from the most popular pieces from Dalal's haute couture line. Every piece was drawn from a RD signature style and re-imagined to create an updated look for her NOYA bride.

Each piece is timeless and special with intricate details and spectacular fabrics. Riki's fearless and passionate style spearheads her designs to be unique. With a stunning range of silhouettes, this season's collection aims to invent styles that transform while on the body by using the perfect combination of laces, tulle, and one-of-a-kind appliqués. Every dress in the collection is unique in its own way, from a form-fitting strapless mermaid gown, to a more conservative long sleeve trumpet piece. ❖





## Picture-perfect GETAWAYS

Our style columnist, Temi Otedola, turns her thoughts to a summer holiday with her dream destination recommendations.

WORDS BY TEMI OTEDOLA

As the long summer months approach, many of us will begin planning that summer vacation we have been dreaming of the entire year. Despite the hordes of like-minded tourists and peak travel prices, summer is still a great time to take a week off, or even a weekend, discovering a new part of the world. I spend many of my Christmases in London or Lagos, and then autumn and spring are spent in Paris, Milan, and New York for Fashion Week, so summer is the ideal time for me to venture into unknown territories and experience an entirely new culture. I've listed my top three recommendations, just in case you're currently deciding where to escape for your next adventure.

### Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat

If you're looking for somewhere secluded, but oozing French Riviera glamour, Cap Ferrat (as the locals call it) is for you.

**Where to stay:** Four Seasons Cap Ferrat.

**What to eat:** Seafood. Most restaurants source their fish and shellfish directly from the coast.

**Why you should go:** For the coastal hiking paths.

### The Maldives

I was lucky enough to visit the Maldives four years ago with my family, and it's still the most beautiful place I have ever visited.

**Where to stay:** One&Only Reethi Rah.

**What to eat:** Fresh fruits and salads – it's too hot for anything else.

**Why you should go:** For the sky blue water and charming locals.

### Accra

The city at the forefront of tourism in Africa, Accra has the thrill and pulse that any visitor looks for in an African capital.

**Where to stay:** Kempinski Hotel.

**What to eat:** Buka.

**Why you should go:** Great food, scenery and energy.





# PARADE AT THE PORT

Once again, the spectacular craft of the Monaco Yacht Show will descend on Port Hercules.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

**T**he Monaco Yacht Show (MYS) is a 27-year tradition. For four days, Port Hercules, the sparkling jewel of the tiny principality, is crammed with the world's most luxurious and spectacular yachts.

Visitors to the MYS will be able to inspect 125 vessels, as well as partaking in prestigious events, which are aimed at private and trade buyers alike. The MYS runs from 27-30 September.

The momentum for this year's MYS has been building since the start of May, when the organisers hosted two private events in New York and one in London for its high-profile guests. The evenings in New York took place in the St Regis New York Hotel, and in the Consulate of Monaco. The

participants were residents of St Regis hotel, VIP guests of the Consulate, members of American associations of asset managers for wealthy clients or the personal assistants of celebrities from Los Angeles and New York.

In London too the MYS joined up with the Monegasque Embassy to receive its guests and the members of two London-based associations of personal assistants to wealthy individuals or celebrities from the United Kingdom.

A premium visitor programme called the Sapphire Experience will cater to the elite superyacht customers. The invitation-only visitors will take advantage of a concierge service to plan their stay in Monaco, organise private visits to the participating





*The stunning vistas of Monaco are the perfect backdrop to this prestigious yacht show.*

superyachts. The Sapphire Experiences takes place on 26 September, the day before the event opens. For the first part of this exclusive programme, a group of hand-picked visitors has been invited to the Monaco Yacht Summit.

This is the second time the summit has been held as part of the MYS and it is a one-day event taking the form of workshop discussions limited to an audience of people specifically interested in purchasing or managing a superyacht.

On the evening of 26 September, 400 guests – including top managers of yachting companies and private clients – will be invited to the opening ceremony. The ceremony will incorporate the show's fourth yachting awards presentation.

For this year's show, the exhibition zones have been reconfigured after two years of construction work at Port Hercules. A new Quai Albert Ier tent will offer 1800 square metres of air-conditioned exhibition space. This will provide a natural route for visitors between the Parvis Piscine tent and the Boulevard Kennedy exhibition quays. On Quai Antoine Ier, the reconfiguration of the zone will create a new epicentre for activities – as well as the pavilion of the Dutch exhibitors HISWA, there will be a new exhibition area devoted to the superyachting lifestyle, the Starboard.

In an exclusive interview with *Elite Living Africa* (see page 38), MYS managing director, Gaëlle Tallarida, said that water toys are very popular with visitors. To cater to this growing market, the Tenders & Toys Show will exhibit the latest nautical accessories on the the market.

And it's not just yachts and water toys that will be on show in Monaco. Following on from its successful launch last year, the Car Deck is back for 2017. There will be around 15 luxury vehicles on display with some models available for test drives. ♦

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





## SUCCESS *at sea*

Gaëlle Tallarida, managing director of the Monaco Yacht Show, talks to *Elite Living Africa* about the show's lasting appeal.

WORDS BY ROMAN ZINCENKO

**G**aëlle Tallarida is looking forward to this year's Monaco Yacht Show (MYS). With plans for an impressive fleet and high hopes for increased interest from the African market, this year's event will showcase all the major industry trends.

### **What are you most excited about in regard to this year's Monaco Yacht Show?**

I must admit I am first excited by this amazing enthusiasm expressed by the global superyachting community to trust the MYS for delivering the world's greatest annual superyacht event. The Show has become a real luxury brand, a top destination for yacht owners and privileged guests interested in entering the superyacht world and live a new experience. Since 2014, the Show's premium clients can enjoy the MYS Sapphire Experience, a made-to-measure experience, which includes a VIP programme of activities at the Show or private visits to the exhibiting superyachts, in coordination with the exhibiting brokers and shipyards. On the eve of the MYS, we will invite a delegation of new hand-picked visitors to the second edition of the Monaco Yacht Summit. They will meet distinguished experts from the yachting industry who will share inside and unbiased information for a first experience in charter or purchase.

### **Why has the MYS been such a great success over the years?**

The Show has managed to deliver a top-of-the-range event at each edition. My team and I closely work with the 590 exhibitors and partners to understand and fulfil their needs to display their best products and services. This close relationship with the Show's customers to offer them high qualitative services, to permanently develop the show with solutions for attracting new prospective clients are the main success factors of the MYS. Our organisation also has the honour to receive the support of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco and His Government to position the Principality of Monaco as a natural home of superyachting.

*Gaëlle Tallarida welcomes African clients to the Monaco Yacht Show.*

### **Can you tell us what you think will be the showstoppers at this year's event?**

Every year, the MYS presents an extraordinary fleet of 125 superyachts and megayachts in Monaco's Port Hercules. Forty of them will make their world debut, unveiled by the most respected shipyards. From 25 to 100 metres in length, all yachts will be one-off models with their own specifications and cutting-edge technologies and innovations. If the MYS superyacht awards will distinguish four of these giant vessels at the Show's opening ceremony, would you believe me if I tell you that there'll be 125 showstoppers this year?

### **How important is the African market to the show?**

The African market may be considered as a new market in future years. Discussing with a few builders or designers about opportunities in this continent, there is a potential market with people that could be interested in discovering the lifestyle of owning a superyacht. And for sure, we would be happy to invite them to the Monaco Yacht Show.

### **What trends have you noticed in the global superyacht industry?**

For a couple of editions, we've been receiving an increasing demand for exhibiting new generations of luxury tenders, outstanding – and fun – water toys or revolutionary innovative solutions to upgrade the lifestyle experience of superyachting. There's a coming generation of younger owners that want to enjoy a superyacht with families, kids and friends in every aspect. Today, one of the first questions when chartering a yacht is, "What are the water toys included?"

### **How would you encourage our readers to attend the show?**

The Monaco Yacht Show is the only occasion in the year and in the world to visit an outstanding fleet of 125 superyachts and megayachts in the glamorous backdrop of Monaco. Every year, the fleet is different. You have one chance in a year to admire all these yachts. Don't miss it. We look forward to seeing you this September. ♦



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## PRO-IDEE DRINKS COOLER

\$400, MonsterZeug, [www.proidee.de](http://www.proidee.de)

Volkswagen has officially licensed this retro-tastic way to keep the party drinks cool. Ideal for house parties, the deck of a yacht or a fun gathering on a private beach, this can keep more than 26 litres of your favourite beverages at the perfect temperature for warm weather partying.

Excellent, this cooler comes with front wheel steering so it can be easily moved around on its wheels like a real Kombi van. It is made from steel, so the quality is as sturdy as the original 1960s icon. Those days may be long gone but you can still hark back to the era of peace and love with this fabulous cooler. It comes in the classic colour combination of red and cream and features chrome gloss trim, solid tyres and chrome-plated wheel covers for added authenticity. The double-walled cooling chamber means it can keep drinks cool for up to 12 hours.



# ULTIMATE SUMMER PARTY

It is always sunny somewhere in the world. Therefore, now is the best time to plan your ultimate summer party.

Words by Kestell Duxbury





## APPLIQUE MURAL D'EXTÉRIEUR OUTDOOR LIGHT

\$4,400, Nedgis, [www.nedgis.com](http://www.nedgis.com)

Just because the sun goes down, the party doesn't have to stop. The giant outdoor lamp will certainly turn heads with its aluminium construction and iconic Anglepoise design. It delivers excellent flexibility via the intelligent articulated arm. When not in use, it can be folded against a wall. The shade is 44cm in diameter, and the maximum reach of the arm is 230cm, allowing it to illuminate your party once the natural sunlight has dimmed. The Applique Mural will assure that you will not have to suspend your gathering, and can keep going into the early hours in style.

## MAZE RATTAN WINCHESTER DELUXE CORNER SET

\$3,400, Maze Living, [www.mazeliving.co.uk](http://www.mazeliving.co.uk)

The Maze Winchester Deluxe Corner Dining set is the most modern and luxurious garden furniture set that you must have to accompany your summer party. Based on a traditional English country house style, you can be assured that the Maze Winchester set will be a feature of your parties to come. Being fully waterproof and with an industry leading five year guarantee, there is no need to hide away the beautiful aesthetics of the Winchester Deluxe set. As an outdoor dining area, the Maze is one of the best looking and best performing outdoor furniture sets out today.





## BOSE FREE SPACE 51

\$700, Bose, [www.bose.co.uk](http://www.bose.co.uk)

The Bose Free Space speakers are the best non-wall mounted, outdoor speakers in the world. Placed on a patio, on decking or even lightly buried in soil, the Free Space delivers 360-degree sound coverage so no-one will miss a single beat at your garden party or barbeque. Its reliable performance is underpinned by its waterproofing and resistance to rain, heat, sunlight, ice and water. The Free Space has also been designed to withstand up to 159kg of pressure, so there is no need to worry about some of your more outgoing party guests ruining your speakers. These will be your perfect speakers for your next outdoor summer party.

## ULTIMATE MERCEDES G63 12V KIDS CAR

\$25,000, [www.kidselectriccars.co.uk](http://www.kidselectriccars.co.uk)

Kids can be hard to entertain, but the new Custom Ultimate Edition Super-Premium Mercedes G63 will certainly do the job. It features xenon lights, touchscreen tablet interface and Bose sound system and features hyper-glamorous styling options including a steering wheel encrusted with real diamonds. Under the bonnet, it has high performance dual motors and an upgraded four point hydraulic suspension system. Inside, the kids will be treated to real monogrammed leather seats with an advanced programmable tablet display. Frankly, kids can't roll in anything cooler than this.



## AQUALITE OUTDOOR TV

\$11,000, Pro Idee, [www.proidee.de](http://www.proidee.de)

This waterproof 42-inch TV is the absolute perfect accompaniment for any summer party. Being temperature resistant from -20 °C to +46 °C, and resistant to rain, snow, sleet, dust and humidity, this TV will withstand most weathers. Its high-resolution images, even in direct sunlight, will mean that you can watch the Aqualite whenever you want, and your guest can enjoy the latest shows in the sun or even better, from the pool.





## NAPOLEON PRESTIGE PRO 825

\$5,350, Napoleon, [www.napoleongrills.com](http://www.napoleongrills.com)

This is the daddy of the grilling world. With a rotisserie turning spit set, two infrared burners and four stainless steel main burners, this propane grill can do the lot. With Napoleon's lifetime warranty, this barbeque will not only make your summer days taste better, you'll be able to grill whenever the mood takes you.



## KILLERSPIN REVOLUTION TABLE TENNIS TABLE

\$2,699, Killerspin, [www.killerspin.com](http://www.killerspin.com)

This heavy duty table tennis is sure to be a fan favourite at any summer party. The Killerspin Revolution is covered in an anti-glare coating, so it is suitable for either indoor or outdoor use. The elegant arch design of Revolution will easily fit in to style of decor, and with the removable premium Killerspin Apex Net and Steel Post, the table can be used as a fashionable table for food and drink, the perfect versatile table. Just make sure that you let your guests have a go.

# A POWERFUL TRADITION

Mercedes-AMG celebrates 50 years of creating high performance cars – and they are showing no signs of slowing down.

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WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

**M**ercedes-AMG, the high performance division of the German automaker, has been around for 50 years. The brand has marked this occasion in fine style with the new AMG GT Concept making its British debut at this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed.

Famous AMG models, past and present, took to the famous Goodwood Hill, including the new models, the 612 hp E 63 S 4MATIC Saloon, the GT C Roadster and C 43 4MATIC Estate. Other AMG stars of the track at Goodwood included the GT C Roadster, the GT R and the SLS AMG Black Series.

A replica of the 300 SEL 6.8, affectionately known as the Red Pig, headed up the Hill in fine style. The original Red Pig competed in the 1971 24-hour race at Spa and made history when it finished in second place overall, seeing off a field of sports cars.

And history is important, not just to the Mercedes-Benz brand overall, but to the AMG part of the business. It's not just about selling cars – indeed, the AMG badge is not for a mass market consumption – it's about creating experiences for discerning lovers of high-performance driving. It all started back in 1960s.

So where did the AMG initials come from? "A" is for Aufrecht, "M" is for Melcher and "G" is for Großaspach – Werner Aufrecht and Erhard Melcher started tinkering with engines at Aufrecht's Großaspach house, honing engines in their spare time. >





*The E 63 S 4MATIC Saloon, one of the current models in the AMG line-up.*



When they weren't in Aufrecht's garage, they were employees of the Daimler-Benz Development department, working on the 300 SE racing engine until the company discontinued motorsport activities. But the dedicated duo were not deterred and kept plugging away after hours. In 1965, Manfred Schiek, a colleague from Daimler, raced in the German Touring Car Championship with the 300 SE engine that had been Aufrecht and Melcher's baby. He won 10 times.

In 1966, Aufrecht and Melcher left Daimler-Benz and went into business together. In 1967, AMG was born, albeit as Aufrecht Melcher Großaspach Ingenieurbüro. Konstruktion und Versuch zur Entwicklung von Rennmotoren – even in translation from German into English as “Aufrecht Melcher Großaspach engineering firm, design and testing for the development of racing engines”, it was not as snappy as the AMG acronym we know today.

TOP: The 300 SEL 6.8 AMG at Spa in 1971.  
ABOVE: The C 36 AMG from 1993.  
FACING PAGE: The AMG GT Concept.



The newly formed company set up shop in a disused mill in Burgstall, the next town along from Großaspach, and soon they were doing a roaring trade in reconditioned engines for private racing teams. Fast-forward to 1971 and they achieved their first racing milestone at the 24 Hours of Spa race. An AMG Mercedes 300 SEL 6.8 was the champion in its class and, in echoes of Manfred Schiek's touring car success, won second place overall.

In 1976, Mercedes-AMG, now boasting about a dozen employees, moved to a purpose-built workshop and office space in Affalterbach. By 1984, AMG was an engine manufacturer thanks to the independent cylinder head with four valves per cylinder, as developed by Melcher. Then, in 1986, AMG put a 5.0-litre V8 under the hood of an E-Class coupe – the potent car was affectionately known as “the Hammer” and it has become part of AMG legend.

By the late 1980s, Daimler-Benz and AMG started working together, first as an official racing partner. During this period, the 190 racecar was the stand-out machine. It won 50 DTM victories between 1988 and 1993. A corporation agreement with Daimler-Benz was signed in 1990 and in 1999, AMG was incorporated into the DaimlerChrysler Group.

Today, there are more than 40 models in the AMG line-up and the selection on show at this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed is just a taste of what the brand has to offer. ♦



A high-angle photograph of a Gulfstream G500 private jet in flight, banking sharply to the left. The aircraft is white with a dark blue stripe along the fuselage and a dark blue tail section. The number 'G500' is printed in white on the dark blue tail. The background shows a vast, rugged canyon landscape with layered rock formations in shades of red, orange, and brown, and a deep blue river or lake winding through the valley. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

# *GULFSTREAM TAKES ON EUROPE*

Gulfstream's G500 has been setting records and making its stylish presence felt across Europe.

---

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

*The G500 cuts a stunning aeronautical figure as it traverses stunning landscapes.*





**T**he Gulfstream G500 has made its European debut in Paris in record-setting style. In a nod to aviation pioneer, Charles Lindbergh, Gulfstream marked the 90th anniversary of his first non-stop trans-Atlantic flight, which took place on 21 May, 1927.

In commemoration of Charles Lindbergh's groundbreaking feat, and to mark another milestone in the G500 flight-test programme, the jet achieved a flyover city-pair record between New York and Paris. The aircraft flew 3,166 nm/5,863km at Mach 0.90 in six hours and 21 minutes. This remarkable flight was conducted in the first fully outfitted Gulfstream G500 test aircraft.

The same G500 test aircraft made its European debut by setting a city-pair record from Savannah to Paris. The aircraft flew between the two cities in seven hours and 40 minutes, covering a 3,788nm/7,015km distance at an average speed of Mach 0.90. Pending approval by the US National Aeronautic Association, the records from these two flights will be sent to the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale in Switzerland for recognition as world records.

Providing travellers with plenty of creature comforts is a staple of Gulfstream's jets and the G500 is no exception. Scott Neal, senior vice president, worldwide sales, Gulfstream, says the G500, as well as the G600, were designed with the help of customers.

"We want them to see the results of their feedback and to showcase our commitment to delivering cutting-edge technology, outstanding performance and remarkable cabin design," he said. "The fact that the G500 is mature enough to complete trans-Atlantic city-pair records while simultaneously testing the outfitted cabin says a great deal about this aircraft's capabilities."

Gulfstream's practice of embedding innovation with design is inherent in the G500. While the G500 was in the early stages of development, Gulfstream built an integration test facility to evaluate the flight deck and cabin interior in real-time flight scenarios on the ground. As a result, advancements made in the lab have been implemented on the outfitted test aircraft, giving the cabin thousands of hours of testing long before its first flight. >



In flight, the outfitted G500 will be used to assess the complete passenger experience for fit, flexibility, durability and comfort. As with all Gulfstream aircraft, each G500 cabin will be tailored to an individual customer's design preferences and mission requirements. Seating up to 19 passengers in three living areas, the G500 has forward and aft lavatories, a galley that can be situated forward or aft and 14 signature Gulfstream panoramic windows. The G500 is on track to enter service later this year.

Gulfstream used customer feedback to shape and design the G500 interior, which features new comfort-enhanced seats, forward and aft lavatories and a full-sized galley that can be located forward or aft. Flexibility is woven into the interior with the ability to customise selections, such as an optional steam oven, interchangeable beverage maker and a refrigerator that can be placed above or below the counter. Customisable flooring options, such as stone and wood, can be selected for the entry, galley and lavatories.

As well as the two record-setting flights, the G500 made its debut in Geneva in May. It was the jet's first voyage to the European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (EBACE). The aircraft was featured at Gulfstream's static display alongside the Gulfstream G280, the stalwart Gulfstream G550 and the ultra-luxurious Gulfstream G650ER, which comes kitted out with four living areas.

"The G500 flew its maiden voyage before EBACE two years ago, and we have worked methodically since then to expand the test fleet and move the aircraft toward certification later this year," said Mark Burns, president, Gulfstream. ♦

*BELOW: The G500 has a reputation for offering home comforts for discerning travellers.*



◆  
*The G500  
has set records  
in honour of  
aviation pioneer  
Charles Lindbergh  
as it makes its  
European debut in  
a flight from  
Savannah to  
Paris.*  
◆



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# *In the* **FOOTSTEPS** *of the* AGA KHAN

Experience true luxury and a little slice of history amid outstanding natural beauty in a glorious corner of Sardinia.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

**F**ifty years ago, the Aga Khan happened upon Costa Smeralda in the north-east of Sardinia. So enamoured by the beauty of the region, he decided to build a luxury resort there, centred on the created waterfront town of Porto Cervo. It is a part of the world that has attracted travellers for centuries, thanks to the natural wonders, but when the Aga Khan moved in, it became a haven for the international jet-set. Obviously, the beautiful weather and bountiful yachting facilities helped Porto Cervo's reputation with the rich and fabulous and it has become one of Europe's most sought-after getaways. ➤





*THIS PAGE: An aerial view of the Colonna Pevero resort  
NEXT PAGE: Arriving in style in Sardinia*



In the early 1960s, Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, the spiritual leader of some 20 million Ismaili Muslims worldwide and a jet-setting billionaire in his spare time, formed a consortium of cronies to purchase and develop the Costa Smeralda – the name is derived from the translucent green hue of the sea. After vast stretches of coastal land were purchased from Sardinian herders and fishermen, imaginations were set free.

He gave the Costa Smeralda its luxury-brand name. He hired top French and Italian architects to fashion, from scratch, an ersatz medieval-Moorish village, that being the town of Porto Cervo.

#### THE YACHTING SCENE

Prince Karim Aga Khan IV erected an exclusive yacht club with Prince Rainier of Monaco on the board. Surrounded by a moat of Mediterranean water, his Xanadu quickly became a popular upper-crust hideaway for the likes of King Juan Carlos of Spain, Catherine Deneuve and Brigitte Bardot. Decades later, the Costa Smeralda remains one of Italy's flashiest summer escapes.





Spiaggia del Principe was the beach that reportedly did it for the Aga Khan, and it still attracts a designer crowd. Spiaggia Liscia Ruia is larger and, like many of Sardinia's beaches, it's wonderful for snorkeling and swimming. Capriccioli's two beaches can get crowded, but Spiaggia Romazzino and Spiaggia Pevero are hidden away.

To entertain the yacht dwellers, a social season has arrived too – the Sardinia Cup tests sailors in September. The nightlife too is super-glitz. Sottovento Kultclub is an oddity, but a successful one, which has survived the arrival of the jet-set crowd despite not seeming to make any concessions to their desires – check it out. Phi Beach has a young and beautiful crowd while Billionaire, famously owned by Flavio Briatore, former head of the Benetton Formula One racing team is, as you would expect, and expensive.

#### WHERE TO STAY

Along with the Costa Smeralda's top historical hotels, such as Cale di Volpe, Pitrizza, and Romazzino, the Colonna Pevero Hotel is a five-star

haven of relaxation and harmony. It offers front row seats for the town's breathtaking panorama.

It was built on rolling hills in a peaceful park where the intense perfumes and colours of the Mediterranean create a unique atmosphere. The hotel's architecture is cutting edge, and it is located only 250 metres from Porto Cervo's famous crystal clear waters.

All 100 rooms strike a perfect balance between modern and tradition, boasting spacious terraces and wonderful panoramic views over the Pevero Bay. The five swimming pools are hidden in the hotel's lovely gardens, creating discreet shaded areas for relaxation. The pools and solarium cover an area of 3,000 square metres and are an oasis of tranquility.

At the top end of the scale, discerning clientele can land on the helipad and easily access the presidential suite, which boasts two bedrooms, dining room, bar, large living room, three bathrooms and an expansive verandah with private swimming pool. >



Fine dining is another top priority for the hotel. Guests can choose from three restaurants, as well as three bars including a private lounge. For this holiday season, the menu has been reviewed. There are new, high-end vegetarian dishes in one of the three restaurants, as well as a supply agreement with a company known for organic and macrobiotic products. Along with the hotel's luxury wellness, beauty and fitness facilities, equipped with with state-of-the-art Technogym equipment, health-conscious guests can enjoy a holiday focused on health and wellbeing.

Porto Cervo has adapted well to the arrival of the super-rich. It's now one of the best designer shopping destinations in Europe. As such, the Colonna Pevero is close to the vibrant and fashionista Porto Cervo village with its fashionable night clubs.

#### GOLF

Golf is important to the resort town. The Aga Khan brought in Robert Trent Jones to conjure up a world-class golf facility, the Pevero Golf Club. Opened in 1972, Pevero Golf Club straddles a promontory separating the Bay of Pevero and Cala di Volpe.

So unyielding was the hilly, obdurate terrain that Jones, his arm twisted by necessity, was forced to shelve his usual trademarks and follow the natural rise and fall of the land in his routing. The expense of dynamiting fairways from the rock accounts in part for their narrowness. Jones still managed to engineer a fine layout at the Pevero Golf Club, though the stellar views tend to put the individual challenges of each hole in the shade.

The golf course is just a few kilometres away from the Colonna Pevero Hotel. This year, the Colonna Pevero trophy has been launched, perfect for those with a competitive streak on the golf course. ♦

[www.colonnapeverohotel.it](http://www.colonnapeverohotel.it)



ABOVE: The resort is magnificently appointed for discerning guests.



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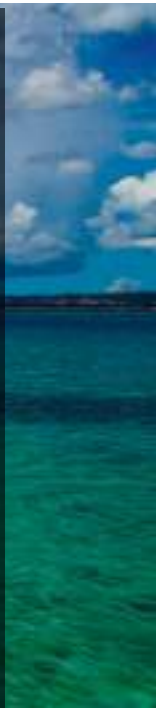


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## RITZY PLANS FOR ZANZIBAR

The Ritz-Carlton will have a stunning new presence in Zanzibar in 2021. Located on the Zanzibar Archipelago, it will be a 90-room property entirely comprised of suites and villas, including over-water villas, each with private pools. As well as the glorious water views, the Ritz-Carlton will be in easy reach of Zanzibar International Airport, as well as Stone Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, often referred to as the cultural heart of the region. The hotel will be part of the Amber Resort complex expected to be the largest mixed use development in Africa on 1,750 hectares of Indian Ocean coastline.



## In Bruges

The northern hemisphere summer is a lovely time for a city break in Europe. Bruges is one such example of a city that truly shines in summer. For an intimate experience in this beautiful Belgian destination, The Pand, which bills itself as a “romantic luxury hotel” is a great choice. The hotel is in a converted 18th Century carriage house and it only has 26 rooms. The location is a major selling point – it is positioned in a quiet street but it is still just moments away from the historic marketplace, Burg Square, the canal and the city’s best museums and finest luxury boutiques. The Pand offers a shopping service for busy guests with staff happy to find that perfect gift, souvenir or fashion must-have, purchase it on your behalf and have it gift-wrapped for you to take home. While Bruges itself is a delightfully pretty city, the rooms at The Pand are equally easy on the eye. With sumptuous decor, bathrooms in marble or granite, and Hermés or Asprey toiletries, a comfortable stay is guaranteed. For those staying in the master suite, junior suite or Charming Plus rooms, there is a jacuzzi as an added treat.

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



The Regent Porto Montenegro Hotel offers luxurious accommodation, stunning views, indoor and outdoor pools, and some of the finest food, wine and culture Europe has on offer. With Italian influences in the architecture and the menus, as well as being handily located for the attractions of beautiful Boka Bay, it is a hidden gem that is well worth considering for a European escape this summer.

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



## Balkan bliss



Bahrain is a popular Middle East business destination but the small Middle Eastern kingdom also has ambitions of growing as a leisure destination. Events such as the Bahrain Grand Prix attract international visitors and the luxury hotel scene is expanding to keep up with this demand. Now a 210-room luxury hotel, the Hilton Bahrain Bay Hotel & Residences, is getting close to completion. It is under construction and expected to open in 2020. It will be located at The Avenues, a soon-to-open retail destination in Manama, the Bahraini capital. The new Hilton will provide easy access to Manama's new 1.5km Corniche. Once completed, the 210 rooms will be divided up into 150 apartments and 60 studio suites. There will be four stand-alone restaurants, a swimming pool, and spa and fitness facilities.

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



## SRI LANKA CHIC

Luxury Sri Lankan-style means superb service, elegant architecture and amazing food, all served with some of the world's most amazing views on offer. KK Beach, located at Habaraduwa, near the famous town of Galle on the south coast, opened last December and it is a wonderfully chic retreat for those seeking beach-based relaxation.

Whether you want to chill out by the pool or spend a day at a pristine sandy beach, KK Beach is the perfect complement to Kahanda Kanda, the KK brand's luxury jungle hideout. There is a shuttle service between the two resorts so that guests of both properties can make the most of the beautiful beach and verdant jungle. And if you can drag yourself away from the beach or pool, check out KK By George, the brand's boutique at Galle Fort.

KK Beach is ideal for those seeking privacy with just six suites for an exclusive experience. The restaurant offers an eclectic range of cuisine, including fresh seafood, barbecues, traditional Sri Lankan curries, thalis and biryani.

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





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*Exquisite*  
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*Elite Living Africa brings to you a taste of history as we explore the unique blend of tradition and technique behind Domaine Clarence Dillon wines.*

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WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

Château Laville Haut-Brion is the combination of the names of two separate domains – the Clos Laville of Léopold Bibonne and the Château La Mission Haut-Brion. The two domains merged in 1931, following the acquisition of the Clos by the owner of La Mission, Frédéric Woltner. During this time Clos Laville, representing 2.5 hectares, was producing a white wine that was awarded the ‘Premier Cru’ classification - a label only given to wines of a superior grade or to the vineyard that produces it. Mr Woltner harvested four vintages of Château La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc between 1927 and 1930. As a result of two regions coming together, a wine was created, first commercialised under the name of

“Chateau Laville Terroir du Haut-Brion”, until 1934 when it became known as Château Laville Haut-Brion.

Domaine Clarence Dillon went on to buy Château Laville Haut-Brion together with Château La Mission Haut-Brion in 1983. Renewing with the feminine tradition which came to exist at the start of the seventeenth century by Marie Laville, Madame la Duchesse de Mouchy, granddaughter of Clarence Dillon, who managed the vineyard until the end of July in 2008. Her son HRH Prince Robert of Luxembourg a member of the management team of the Domaine since 1997, succeeded her and was appointed president of the company. >

“As a result of two regions coming together, a wine was created, first commercialised under the name of ‘Chateau Laville Terroir du Haut-Brion’, until 1934, when it became known as Château Laville Haut-Brion.”



The 2008 vintage was the final one for Château Laville Haut-Brion as in 2009 vintage, this wine, produced exclusively since 1927 in the Château La Mission Haut-Brion cellars took back its original name: Château La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc.

The “mission” in the La Mission Haut-Brion name infers vocation rather than duty, according to Domaine Clarence Dillon.

#### THE VINEYARDS

In 1977, Haut-Brion planted a collection of clones from three grape varieties, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot, partly chosen from collections from the French National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA), as well as approved, commercially available clones, and clones from old Haut-Brion plantings. There are 140 parent plants,

a group of 370 clones and 36 undergoing yield tests in different part of the estate, making a total of 546 individual vines monitored every year, as well as wine produced by micro-vinification – this allows for comparison tastings of the wines made. This research enables wine producers to eventually remove poor quality clones and sterile plants, and above all identify those which best suit the Haut-Brion environment. As red wines are more complex, they cannot be produced by a single clone, hence the need a wider selection and the best marriage in the lines chosen.

Within the clone all plants are twins offering the same quality and the same yield. Appropriate pruning when managing the vineyard ensures over-production does not occur, which can affect the quality. A number of steps are involved in this



Château Haut-Brion.



extensive work – initial selection, groups of studies on premultiplication and final planting - are the work of a generation. The Haut-Brion for the 21st century is now under preparation.

#### THE WINEMAKING PROCESS

Despite the hustle and bustle of the town at Haut-Brion, wine producers in Pessac, Bordeaux, France will never forget the ripening process. Every day they observe the rise in sugar level and the fall in acidity from carefully selected grape samples. In Bordeaux, harvest time has always been given the greatest importance.

During the Fronde uprising in October 1650 Louis XIV, aged 11 at the time, was present at the attack on the Place de Bordeaux, which his marshal, M. de Meillaire, was unable to capture. “I won’t always

be a child,” said Louis XIV, “and these Bordeaux rogues won’t be laying down the law for long.” Around that time, harvesting season was nearing and members of the “Parliament” of Bordeaux told the rebels, “Don’t worry about it. We’ll restart the war after the harvesting.”

Harvesting season can be quite an emotional, stressful time. Special equipment is used to carefully remove the stalks, the woody part, from the bunches, leaving only the flesh of the grape, together with its skin and seeds. The barely burst fruit falls into the vats, sinking into its own juice. Through slow maceration the great mass of skins and seeds, the liquid is soaked out. In this oxygen-free environment each grape cell dies and releasing the intensity of its colour. Once all the other processes are complete and the wine is completely >

clear, its time to start the slowest process of all - the ageing process. This is an extremely slow phase during which the aromatic properties of the wine are slowly released. During the ageing process, the wine gradually loses all the particles in suspension which it contains, and through a number of decantings, known as rackings, carried out four times a year, the clear wine is filtered from the deposit which settles at the bottom of the barrels.

#### DOMAINE CLARENCE DILLON WINES LE CLARENCE DE HAUT-BRION

A lighter version of Château Haut-Brion Rouge, this wine offers all the traits of the Grand Vin in a dimension that will allow you to enjoy it sooner. Its recommend waiting five years on average before tasting this second wine instead of 10 years recommended for the Grand Vin. The Clarence de Haut-Brion is a great learning opportunity to enjoy as a prelude to wine tasting.

#### CHÂTEAU HAUT-BRION PREMIER GRAND CRU CLASSE EN 1855

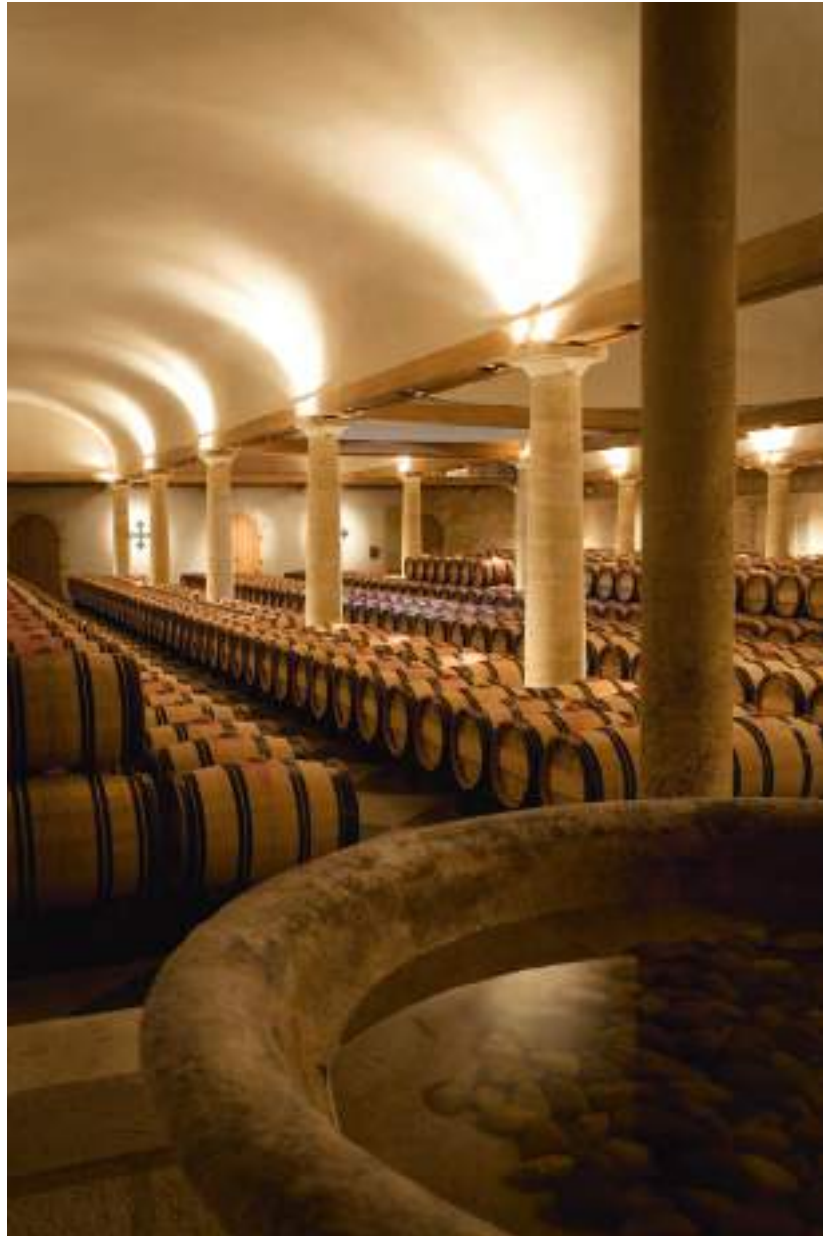
This is oldest of the Bordeaux classed growths where, in the 17th century, a new style of wine emerged. Château Haut-Brion embodies five centuries of tradition and plays a key role in the worldwide history of wine. In every swirl, new aromas are revealed, which build up into great complexity. The terroir is expressed in this wine through a unique signature with an empyreumatic bouquet (similar to evocative scents as Havana cigars, chocolate, roasting and cedar wood). The attack has the same restraint with precise, exceedingly velvety tannins. But the power of this wine is seen in the surprising long mid-palate and even longer finish. This aromatic persistence is one of the qualities found in a truly great wine.

#### CHÂTEAU HAUT-BRION BLANC

Combining Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc in nearly equal proportions, this wine reflects the vision of the Larrieu family, owners of the property in the 19th century: creating the aromatic fullness of the finest dessert wines in a dry white wine.

This wine is a mystery because it is rare, and thus difficult to obtain, and because it has a very distinctive expression. The average blend (part-Semillon, part-Sauvignon Blanc with a touch of Sauvignon Gris) gives this wine grown in the gravelly soils of the Graves terroir a concentration and breadth that is unusual for a dry white Bordeaux wine.

In its youth, its aromas will take the drinker on a journey of discovery - Alsace or Burgundy, depending on the vintage. The generous palate will amaze connoisseurs with its length. Bordeaux can also produce great white wines.



ABOVE Direct from the cellars of Château La Mission Haut-Brion.

◆  
*In 1977, Haut-Brion planted  
a collection of clones from three grape  
varieties, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet  
Franc and Merlot, partly chosen from  
collections from the French National Institute  
for Agronomic Research.*  
◆



Château Haut-Brion Rouge 2009,  
Château Haut-Brion Blanc 2009.



#### LA CLARTÉ DE HAUT-BRION

This blend is effectively the offspring of two of Domaine Clarence Dillon's white wines: Château Haut-Brion Blanc and Château La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc.

A new name was chosen for this second-label white wine beginning with the 2009 vintage. Before production that year, the second-label wine featuring plots chosen from both Château Haut-Brion Blanc and Château La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc was

referred to as Les Plantiers du Haut-Brion.

This wine is the result of the blend of two second wines from the two estates.

Even when still maturing, it will give wine lovers the opportunity to get to know the expression of the Semillon grape in a dry white wine.

Fruity and floral aromas reveal great freshness and unique complexity to this wine, which is a fine introduction to its elders. ♦

# STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

A French photographer pays homage to Africa at an exhibition in London, using the time-honoured wet plate technique.

---

WORDS BY JENNYFER IDEH

**N**icolas Laborie wants to take us on a journey. If we will follow his lead, we are afforded a glimpse into the artist's world of unconventional portraiture. We meet immaculate sapeurs from Brazzaville; Japanese lolitas performing innocence in school uniform; Wild Ones wearing tattoos like armour; British chavs in Burberry stripes as loud as their voices. Crucially, though, Laborie wants us to journey with him through time.

The French-born, London-based photographer has just unveiled his latest body of work. Entitled *Tin Tribes in the Garden of Ether*, Laborie returns to the origins of photography; he works with wet-plate collodion – a 19th century technique developed by Englishman Frederick Scott Archer, it is one of the first photographic processes ever invented. With *Tin Tribes*, Laborie presents a series of prints and original artworks, as well as a linen-bound photographic book.

As he brings images to life in his darkroom, Laborie is part creative, part chemist. Smartly dressed, yet armed with an apron and face-mask, he first prepares a highly volatile and highly flammable liquid – a mixture of ether and silver nitrate crystals which the artist combines in the just quantities. This emulsion-like liquid is then transferred to a plate, ready for exposure of an image captured by the artist's eye. ➤







*The artist, Nicolas Laporte with the tools of his trade*

In the earliest versions of wet plate photography, the colloid is spread across a clear glass plate, producing a negative image once exposed. With tintype photography, Laborie uses opaque plates so that each image produced is a direct positive. Once developed, the image can be appreciated immediately – and indeed, each metal plate is an original artwork in its own right. The wet plate process is lengthy, sophisticated, very expensive and highly dangerous – the final image is testament not only of the photographer’s eye, but also of his dexterity with chemical substances. It is also historically significant.

In Laborie’s case, the result is a happy anachronism: vintage process, contemporary subject matter. At the heart of *Tin Tribes* we find a number of international cultures – those stylish Congolese sapeurs, Japanese lolitas and wild rockers. By capturing groups of individuals who have chosen to self-define through their alternative lifestyles, Laborie’s work explores greater themes of identity.

A poignant social commentary runs through the series, connecting disparate, international tribes with universal concerns. *Tin Tribes* seems to ask us: who is worthy of having their picture taken? Who should have their image immortalised for future generations to contemplate? “During the Victorian times, it was mainly wealthy, powerful people who were in the position to have their portraits taken...”

Laborie is making his way through the Royal Academy when we speak via telephone. He has just finished varnishing his work, *African Queens*, an original tintype from the series, which will be exhibited as part 1 of 2 of the RA’s Summer Exhibition. We speak at length. He is enthusiastic when talking about the sapeurs, and how their uniforms of three-piece tailoring and bespoke leather shoes were borne out of political resistance.

We also speak about his *African Queens*, whose traditional dress and jewellery is contrasted against the hand-painted backdrop of a 19th century English garden. With their regal postures, however, his queens do not look one bit out of place. In an age of digital photography and photo retouching,







◆

*“We are taken back to a time when having one’s portrait done was an event. A poignant social commentary runs through this series.”*

◆



Laborie’s work is exciting. We are taken back to a time when having one’s portrait taken was an event – and with the dangers and margin for error that come with wet plate photography – each successful portrait is indeed an event to be celebrated.

*Tin Tribes in the Garden of Ether* is available as a photographic book in a limited edition of 70 copies, while the African Queens original tintype is on view at the Royal Academy from 13 June to 20 August 2017. ♦

*Jennyfer Ideh* is based between London and Lugano, and founded Curus Art Consultancy. [info@curus.ch](mailto:info@curus.ch)

TOP LEFT: “African Queens IV”  
TOP RIGHT: “Sapeur du temps perdu XII”  
BOTTOM LEFT: “Sweet Lolita V”  
BOTTOM RIGHT: “Wild Ones III”





# POLO'S SOCIAL SUMMER

The world's best polo players, their fine steeds, celebrities, royalty... They descended on Guards Polo Club for exciting matches and, of course, a spot of socialising in the British sunshine.

WORDS BY ANNIE MAKOFF-CLARK

It's where the biggest names and the most influential personalities mingle with royalty, the Cartier Queen's Cup is one of the most sought-after sporting events in the British social calendar. Forget Ascot – this is the *crème de la crème* of high society. And for the 300 privileged individuals on the much-coveted Cartier VIP guest list for finals day, it was, again, an event to remember.

Ever since the Queen's Cup was played for the first time at the UK's Guards Polo club in 1960, the 22 high-goal tournament has become a popular social occasion for the rich and famous – and with good reason. One of the top five polo tournaments in the world attracting society's biggest names, the Cartier Queen's Cup is also attended by members of the British Royal Family, including the Queen herself, who has been presenting the Queen's Cup trophy since 1960.

Indeed, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Prince Charles have competed in the competition, with HRH Prince Charles winning the silver trophy for his team Les Diables Bleu in 1986. But the prestige around the Sport of Kings and the Cartier Queen's Cup in particular, is all the more intriguing when considering polo's origins in North Persia 600 BC when it started out as a training exercise for war.

Fast-forward a few thousand years and the sport is now a prestigious event across the world from Argentina to Santa Maria. The Queen's Cup especially, has become even

more glamorous in recent years. So what brought about this transformation? What turned an already well-to-do sport into something even more lavish?

The answer lies with world-renowned French jewellers, Cartier, famous for their elegant wristwatches and enchanting jewellery which has been popular with royalty for well over a century. It's no surprise then, that when Cartier began sponsoring the International Day at Guards Polo Club in the early 1980s, the event soon became synonymous with luxury. At its peak, it attracted well over 25,000 affluent spectators.

Cartier ended their long-running deal with the International Day in favour of title sponsorship of the Queen's Cup in 2012, adding an extra layer of gravitas, opulence and status to the tournament. Since then, 10 or more of the best polo teams across the world are brought together every year and Cartier's star-studded guest list for the competition's finals has become the pinnacle of the British high society calendar.

"The Cartier Queen's Cup heralds the start of the UK's high-goal season," says Diana Butler, media manager at the Guards Polo Club. "On finals day, Guards Polo Club opens its doors to non-members, ensuring everyone can enjoy a first-class day of sport and hospitality. Cartier hosts more than 300 VIPs from the worlds of sport, stage, screen and literature to their own marquee where an invite is always greatly coveted." ➤

*This year's Cartier Queen's Cup featured plenty of dramatic action on the pitch.*





The VIP guest list is always a closely guarded secret until the morning of the finals. This year's event was again well attended by celebrities and elite members of British high society, such as Lady Kitty Spencer, Lady Violet and Lady Alice Manners, and Viscountess Weymouth. The celebrities who attended this year included Dutch model, Lara Stone, Australian model, Jessica Hart, Olympic athlete Victoria Pendleton, and actresses Lily Cole and Ella Purnell.

This year, 10 teams entered the 2017 Cartier Queen's Cup competition, which opened on May 23 and concluded on June 18 in the grounds of Windsor Great Park. Players from 12 countries across the globe competed in the tournament, including Argentina, America, Canada, Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, Iran, Italy, France, England, Sri Lanka and Thailand. There were no players representing Africa this year – South African Dirk Van Reenan was tipped to play, but his place was taken instead by Argentine Martin Podesta. However, South African Chris Mackenzie competed at the prestigious Bentley Motors Royal Windsors, the UK's leading medium-goal tournament, in June this year. He represented the Park Place team, which defeated Twelve Oaks in the final, 8-7.

◆  
*The star-studded guest list ensure the event is the pinnacle of the high society calendar, as much a social occasion as a sporting fixture, attended by London society and Hollywood stars.*  
◆

But even without African sports personalities in this year's Cartier Queen's Cup, the 2017 tournament was an exhilarating competition. By day four, all eyes were firmly fixed on the mighty Adolfo Cambiaso, dubbed the world's best polo player, who is now playing for RH Polo, after more than a decade playing for Dubai.

The first two weeks saw three wins for both RH Polo and La Indiana, with La Indiana managing to defeat newcomers Monterosso on day two and RH Polo's Cambiaso securing a strong win against King Power Foxes which Guards Polo Club called the 'battle of the Titans' on day four.

On finals day, La Indiana played RH Polo in a thrilling encounter. In a see-sawing match, RH Polo won 10-9 with Adolfo Cambiaso scoring the winner on the bell.

It's as much a social occasion as a sporting fixture and it's attended by much of London society and Hollywood. Indeed, there are many who travel across the world to experience the quintessentially English event. Guests all follow the strict dress code, which makes the event the most elegant polo fixture in the UK. It's the day for Christian Louboutin heels and diamond-



*FACING PAGE: Celebrities, such as model Lara Stone (far left) and members of the aristocracy, such as Viscountess Weymouth (left) attended this year's tournament.*

*THIS PAGE: The Queen (top) is on hand to present the winning team with their trophy every year. International teams (middle) are always represented, and the event attracts an elite and eclectic crowd. Skepta chats with Hugo Heathcote (bottom).*



encrusted clutch bags, high-collared shirts and panama hats. No heel is too high, no tailoring is too sharp.

A champagne reception greets guests on arrival while lunch is prepared, ready for 1pm. The finals begin at 3pm sharp followed by the finals presentation and afternoon tea.

No finals day is complete however, without the traditional divot-stomping at half time, where spectators tread down the mounds of earth which have been torn up by horses' hooves. Although this tradition was developed to help smooth out the playing field, it's become an important opportunity to mingle and socialise with other guests.

For many, the delights of the finals doesn't end with the Queen's presentation of the silver trophy. A large number of guests round off their experience at the nearby five-star Dorchester in Coworth Park or the four-star Macdonald Berystede Hotel & Spa. And for those with a long flight home, taking the leisurely route back via an opulent country house hotel boasting extensive grounds and gardens, is sometimes an absolute necessity. ♦











## FRANSCHHOEK ESTATE, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

\$5.4mn

Pam Golding Properties

Located only 75km away from the cosmopolitan city of Cape Town, Franschhoek the “French Corner” is one of South Africa’s most beautiful historical attractions. In the heart of this quaint town lies this masterfully designed home by architect Richard Townsend. A modern interpretation of the Cape vernacular style, this property is centred around a living space off which radiates a series of private ‘pods’ offering luxurious accommodation and generous recreation areas. The home is open-planned and configured over a number of different levels. The heart of this retreat is accessed via an impressive double-volume entrance hall, with a spacious communal living and dining room area leading out to an extended terrace, pool deck and 14m swimming pool. The Franschhoek Valley is known as the fine food capital of the Cape. With multiple dining areas, both inside and out and a state-of-the-art family kitchen, this home pays homage to Franschhoek’s culinary reputation. The living areas are linked by walkways with gallery spaces and covered terraces, including a series of enclosed zen-like tranquil courtyards. In every room, the oversized glazed panels frame unrestricted views of the magnificent Franschhoek Valley and mountains beyond. Everything about this home truly captures the beauty of Franschhoek.

- 7 Bedrooms
- 7 Bathrooms
- Chef’s kitchen, cold room and utility room
- Study
- Staff room
- Swimming pool
- Stunning views





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## ZIMBALI COASTAL RESORT, KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA

**\$2.73m**

Pam Golding Properties

Aptly named 'valley of flowers' after its Zulu meaning, Zimbali is set on the most exclusive coastal stretch along the Dolphin Coast of

KwaZulu-Natal, endowed with lush vegetation teeming with wildlife. Here, the dream of living in luxurious style amidst a world-class golf estate becomes your reality.

Designed with great sensitivity to the surrounding environment, this beachfront home is your backdrop to uninterrupted views of the ocean. Balmy breezes flow through the open-plan, Balinese inspired architecture of this modern four-bedroom masterpiece. Impressive entertainment, extensive wraparound patios and spacious upstairs suites, offer generous accommodation with endless views.

- 4 Bedrooms
- 4 En suite bathrooms
- 3 Reception rooms
- 2 Garages
- Swimming pool
- Tennis court

## CAPE TOWN, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

**\$3.84m**

Pam Golding Properties

Fresnaye is a wind protected and exclusive location of Cape Town, yielding some of the city's most expensive properties. With all of the above and easy access to the CBD and Cape Town's Blue Flag Beaches, this is a truly exceptional home. Perched on the leafy slopes of Cape Town's Lions Head, this north facing property boasts 360-degree views of the ocean and Atlantic Seaboard. The main suite is positioned on its own level with terrace, dressing room, lounging area, private study and kitchenette. With a further three bedroom suites plus a separate guest apartment, this grand home offers generous proportions. The designer open-plan kitchen and living rooms flow to a sunny terrace, level lawn and sparkling pool.

[www.pamgolding.co.za](http://www.pamgolding.co.za); Web Ref# AS240364



- 5 Bedrooms
- 5 Bathrooms
- 7 Garages
- Separate dwelling
- Elevator access to all levels
- Swimming pool

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# SERENGETI GOLF ESTATE, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

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\$1.17m

Pam Golding Properties

With a design vision that embraces a sense of wide uncluttered spaces, modern aesthetics and spectacular views, this property offers a front-row seat and unparalleled access to the resident wildlife, while enjoying all the conveniences and luxury any modern mansion of this magnitude can offer.

The lifestyle offered by this indoor / outdoor living encourages one to simply be content while surrounded by the nature, tranquility and blissful serenity this home exudes. The highlight of the property is its sought-after location within this coveted estate and its excellent accessibility – just half an hour from the Johannesburg city centre and 10 minutes from OR Tambo International Airport.

- 5 Bedrooms
- 4.5 Bathrooms
- 4 Garages
- Golf & wildlife estate
- Wine cellar
- Swimming pool







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## GEORGE, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

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**\$1.8m**

Pam Golding Properties

Nestled amid the picturesque water lilies of the Fancourt Hotel and Country Club estate, this authentic Cape Dutch home is embraced by the panoramic backdrop of the Outeniqua Mountains. Timeless class and style have been etched into every brick, offering serene comfort and ultimate luxury.

Expansive living rooms open to a covered patio and extended entertainment areas, flowing through to the private garden and glass enclosed splash pool.

The exceptionally beautiful master bedroom has a dressing room and all four of the luxurious bedrooms are full en suite. The house offers varied temperature control installations, an outstanding water filtration system, state-of-the-art, energy-saving water heating cylinders, an underground 25,000-litre rainwater tank, battery back-up inverter, and storage space.

- 4 Bedrooms
- 4 Bathrooms
- 4 Garages
- Swimming pool
- Gym
- Library



- 6 bedrooms
- 6 bathrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- Traditional façade
- Balcony
- Garden

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## WILTON STREET, BELGRAVIA, LONDON

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**\$16.4m**  
Knight Frank

Situated on the south side of this sought-after Belgravia address, this immaculately presented house has been completely refurbished to the highest of standards and offers generous reception space and well-balanced bedroom accommodation. This period house is three windows wide and has a traditional, elegant facade of brick construction and white stucco, and imposing Grecian style pediment.

The ground floor comprises a reception room, which leads through to a kitchen and breakfast room with bi-fold doors that lead onto a terrace and maturely planted garden. There is another large reception room on the lower ground floor, providing more informal living space. The first floor features a luxuriously appointed master bedroom suite and there are five further bedrooms all with en suite bathrooms.





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## CADOGAN PLACE, LONDON

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\$50.87m

Savills

Originally constructed in the mid 19th century, Cadogan Place is located on the Knightsbridge and Belgravia borders and is one of London's premier residential addresses.

This freehold sale includes the main house and the mews house to the rear, which has been seamlessly incorporated by leisure facilities with swimming pool and gym on the lower floor and a paved courtyard off the family room. The accommodation has been carefully planned to suit both formal and family living.

The elegant first floor reception room has views to the front of Cadogan Place gardens and to the rear opens out to a 24ft terrace.

www.savills.com



- 9 bedrooms
- Cinema
- Gym
- Swimming pool
- Terrace and patio
- Adjoining mews house



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## THE ROYAL ATLANTIS RESIDENCES, PALM JUMEIRAH, DUBAI

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POA

Knight Frank

The Royal Atlantis Residences are destined to become a world-renowned address. Located on the Palm Jumeirah, adjacent to the iconic Atlantis, the residences feature architecture from the finest international designers and benefit from uninterrupted views of the Ocean and Dubai skyline. Stunning architecture, sophisticated interiors and a la carte service await you at the residences. Private outdoor terraces with pools are sprinkled though the apertures of the building. The building also features a 90m-high infinity Sky Pool, designed by David Mexico.





## ACACIA ROAD ST JOHN'S WOOD NW8

A FANTASTIC FAMILY HOME SET IN A SOUGHT AFTER ST. JOHN'S WOOD STREET

Designed to offer state of the art living and leisure facilities with an elevator servicing all floors, this impressive freehold residence is completed by a westerly facing rear garden and secure parking for 5 cars. Set over 9,989 sqft, this fine home is located in East St. John's Wood minutes from the amenities of St. John's Wood high street.

**Accommodation:** Entrance hall, reception hall, drawing room, dining room, family room, kitchen/breakfast room, guest cloakroom, cinema room, study, master bedroom suite with dressing room, 5 further ensuite bedrooms, study, 4 guest cloakrooms, 2 shower rooms. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, steam room, utility room, staff accommodation comprising bedroom, sitting room, kitchenette and bathroom, garage, ample parking.





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