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MONACO YACHT SHOW PREVIEW:
SPECIAL EVENTS FOR VIP GUESTS

STYLE AND SUBSTANCE WITH
LUXURY SUVs

DREAM DESTINATIONS IN THE
INDIAN OCEAN

GREEN WITH ENVY: SPECTACULAR
EMERALD JEWELLERY



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A dramatic underwater scene where a massive, dark blue wave is crashing over a small clownfish. The clownfish, with its characteristic orange and white stripes, is perched on a patch of purple and blue coral. The water is dark and turbulent, with the wave's surface showing white foam and deep blue troughs. Sunlight filters through the water from above, creating a bright, cloudy sky at the top of the frame. The overall mood is one of scale and resilience.

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DESIGN PORTRAIT.



Tuffy-Time, seat system designed by Patricia Urquiola. www.bebitalia.com

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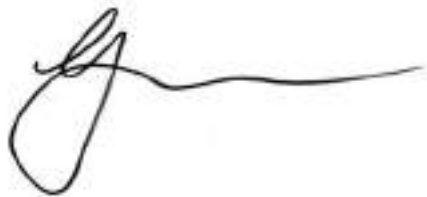
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ITALIA

WELCOME

September marks the start of the busy end-of-the-year social season. The Monaco Yacht Show once again promises to be a highlight on the premium maritime calendar – turn to page 44 for our show preview. From 26-29 September, Port Hercules will play host to the world's finest superyachts. And on page 35, Temi Otedola, our style columnist, offers her tips for perfect yachting style – the onboard dress code is easy to nail with the right outfits and accessories. Meanwhile, in South Africa, *Elite Living Africa* will be present at the Africa Polo Open on 23 September. This year, South Africa takes on Nigeria (page 40) in a much-anticipated match, with a glamorous social scene guaranteed to take place between chukkas.

Speaking of glamour, we take a look at some truly stunning emerald jewellery from page 30. There are five pages of spectacular sparklers guaranteed to make everyone around you green with envy. Then on page 36, we showcase the wonderful work of the emerging African designers those in the know are watching in our special showcase from Africa Fashion Week London.

For those seeking a luxurious sunny getaway, we take a look at the latest ways to make the most of the magical destinations of the Indian Ocean (page 50). Whether you plan to make memories on a family getaway or have an adventure in the Sri Lankan surf, there is a perfect escape for you.



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Managing Editor



Enjoy our current issue online at www.elitelivingafrica.com

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ELITE DIARY DATES

Whether you're a fashion buff, a connoisseur of fine jewellery, art of furniture, or you would like to cast your eye over some stunning yachts in gorgeous Monaco, the next few months offer some wonderful events from around the globe.

New York Fashion Week

The Big Apple has long been one of the world's great fashion capitals so front row seats at New York Fashion Week remain among the most sought-after style tickets around. This year, more than 70 designers will be showing off their wares to a discerning crowd, from emerging designers right through to the established style leaders, such as Carolina Herrera and Badgley Mischka.

www.nyfw.com



6-14
September

The Elite New York Show

The Elite New York show will be held at Essex County Airport, New Jersey. The exclusive event will be a tremendous display of the latest in luxury lifestyle brands for discerning customers. There will be the Marine showcase, Supercar showcase, luxury brands and private jets. Meet leading names in the luxury world and enjoy fine cuisine.

www.theeliteevents.com

8-9
September

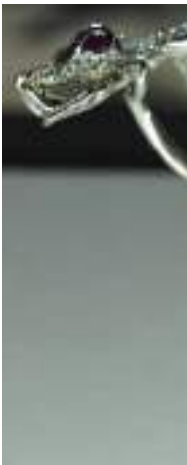
Lapada Art & Antiques Fair

One of the most prestigious art showcases will be held at Berkeley Square in London from 14-19 September. There will be 100 exhibitors presenting antiques, jewellery, furniture, ceramics, fine art and many other works. Highly in-demand pieces range in price from £500 to £500,000 and above.

www.lapadalondon.com



14-19
September



Vincenzaoro: International Jewellery Boutique Show

The International Jewellery boutique show will be held at the beautiful Via Oreficeria in the Italian city of Vicenza VI from September 22-26. More than 1300 brands from 35 different countries will be showcased at the event, displaying a range of designer watches and many other precious accessories.

www.vincenzaoro.com



Africa Polo Open
South Africa will take on Nigeria in this stunning competition of African polo might. Held at the picturesque Rosefield Polo Club, it promises to be an exciting day on and off the pitch. Gates open at 10am, the ladies' match will be held at midday, and the South Africa-Nigeria match starts at 3pm with the traditional divot stomp at half time before the second half commences at 4pm.

www.africapoloopen.co.za



23 September



26-29 September

Monaco Yacht Show

The Monaco Yacht show is on at Port Hercules from September 26-29. One hundred and twenty of the world's most amazing superyachts will be on display, with 40 making their global debut. Step into the docks of luxury, enjoy a chilled champagne and admire the spectacular yachts, vehicles and accessories that are essential for life on the high seas.

www.monacoyachtshow.com



Art Basel Miami
Miami Beach Convention Center will host the Art Basel show. Galleries from North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa will exhibit magnificent works of art. Sculptures, paintings and many other creations will be celebrated at this festival of contemporary art. More than 250 leading galleries participate each year.

www.artbasel.com



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Opera singer FRANCESCA CHIEJINA reaches for THE STARS

Nigeria-born soprano Francesca Chiejina has had a glittering start to her opera-singing career, having already performed at the Royal Opera House. She shares her advice to those looking to follow in her footsteps.

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

Where did the passion for becoming an opera singer come from?

My music has always been a consistent part of my life. Some of my earliest memories are musical and I think the earliest musical memory I have is sight-reading piano in Lagos and feeling so excited. I was learning how to read the white and black dots and making music by pressing these 'things'. One of my first musical memories. My dad started me off with lessons when I was really young.

So your father had an influence on your musical ambition?

Yeah, he loves music and wanted me to take part in it. I think a memory that sticks with me is cleaning on Saturday mornings doing chores and listening to my dad's Motown records.

What roles have you taken at the Royal Opera House?

The past two years I have been a Jette Parker Young artist and those duties are to sing small supporting roles and cover big roles. If they get sick you can jump in. You learn so much from them by just watching. They keep you very busy, I learnt a total of 12 new roles and that's a lot – six per season.

How many hours do you put in to learning those certain roles?

◆
Some of my earliest memories are musical and I think the earliest musical memory I have is sight reading piano in Lagos and feeling so excited.
◆

RIGHT: Rising soprano Francesca Chiejina.

When I'm on a tight schedule – 5-6 hours a day. You can't sing healthily on more than two hours a day. Usually it's two hours of singing, eight hours of study and that's lucky if you don't have a rehearsal. With rehearsal you're looking at 12-14 hours a day. It's intense.

What kind of feedback have you received from people?

Feedback is overall positive actually. With the voice it's very subjective – some people love you and some people will never like you. I keep it in mind it's a taste thing. Overall, feedback is positive since I'm developing. It's a sign and people in the business know I'm growing – and I'm grateful people notice that.

Where does your inspiration come from for performing?

There's a Malian singer, Oumou Sangare, that I saw at the Roundhouse [in London] and she's been singing since she was 10 and her voice it still fresh – it blows my mind. She's incredible. I like Laura Mvula, she's from Birmingham and she's a composer and singer. I like all sorts of singers – opera-wise I like Leontyne Price. I listen to them on a tough singing day – those voices inspire me.

Can you tell us more about your African heritage and how it was growing up in an African family?



I grew up in Lagos. My parents are from Delta state. I've been there a few times and I've been to Lagos a lot. They showed me their school and the roads they walked along. It's emotional to see where they came from and I'm very proud and curious about what it was like to grow up in rural Nigeria. It really humanises my parents.

It's not common to see singers emerging from the continent, do you think this will be a new trend?

I hope it's a new trend. I feel it becoming a new trend. I feel it will take time. There are a few of us coming from the continent. There's a strong tradition in South Africa creating incredible singers. There's a few of us in the UK, Germany, Italy and the US waving the flag. I think it will take people like us sharing music with the world and bringing it back home and sharing it. There's so much talent in Africa.

What advice do you give to people in the continent who may want to follow the same career path?

I think YouTube is a valuable source. There's so much opera on YouTube – take it all in. If you are able to

take up languages, then I would. If you have the money I would take up classes at the MUSON Centre where I started piano. It would be good to learn an instrument along side training your voice. Learn music and art history too. There are master classes on YouTube where you can listen to some of the best voices in the world.

Have you performed in Africa?

2015 was the last time I performed in the continent. I shared a recital with two other Nigerians, Agatha and Prisca. It was really fun and I did a private performance where I sang *Ave Maria*. Now that I am free of this contract hopefully I will be singing a lot more.

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

I'll be 37, and at 37 the human voice is beginning to approach its peak form. I think 35-45 delivers the juiciest part of your voice – so hopefully I'll be really good at singing. I'll be working and trying to stay healthy. At 37, hopefully I will be singing all around the world but you never know where you're going to be in 10 years time. Perfection is unattainable but you can strive. ❖



Pendant Light, Halo C9 Round Mixed, White And Brass

\$9,454, www.arteriorshome.com

The Halo C9 round pendant lamp is imagined and made by the famous Canadian designer, Matthew McCormick. The lamp makes the perfect statement piece. The white ring contrasts with the brass, offering a trendy, elegant design. The rings can be suspended in a multitude of compositions to create a unique artistic effect.



SAKI Suspension Light

\$19,359, www.arteriorshome.com

SAKI brass suspension light pays homage to the unforgotten island group in the Sakishima Islands, part of Ryukyu Islands chain in Japan. This piece is reminiscent the almost-extinct bamboo roots harvest, which once upon a time ago were part of the region's landscape. The composition of matte brass canes is inspired by nature, bringing this essence to the room to create a relaxing ambience.

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WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU



Arteriors X Celerie Kemble Cleo Chandelier

\$4,470, www.arteriorshome.com

This chandelier certainly has the wow-factor. It is handmade using stainless steel and features six opal globes positioned carefully in a pretty scallop design. It features an antique brass finish and the goldtone is hand-applied, fitted for six candelabra candles. It can also be used for covered outdoor areas.



Pendant Light, Aria, Gold

\$4,547, www.nedgis.com

The Aria pendant light, created by Zaha Hadid, captivates with its sleek, fluid design. It is made up of 50 layers, all different from each other that surround the light source, creating a three-dimensional volume. This lamp can be suspended to create a cosy atmosphere whether you're entertaining guests or simply relaxing.



LIFE FITNESS FS6 ADJUSTABLE-STRIDE CROSS-TRAINER

\$5,770

The cross-trainer combines a compact footprint and furniture-inspired design to create a machine that complements any home. With 20 resistance levels, 12 built-in workouts and an adjustable stride length, the FS6 offers vast customisation to suit all users.



DESIGN THE ULTIMATE SUPERYACHT GYM

We share our favourite pieces of gym equipment for superyachts.

WATERROWER CLASSIC

\$1,541

The WaterRower Classic has long been one of our favourite pieces of home gym equipment. Meticulous care is taken in the creation of each rowing machine and ensures the WaterRower ethos of elegant design and American craftsmanship is evident whether in use or in storage. The soothing sound of the patented water resistance is both blissful and motivational. Available with various accessories and starter kits, this rowing machine is the perfect addition to any gym space.



HOCK

\$2,050

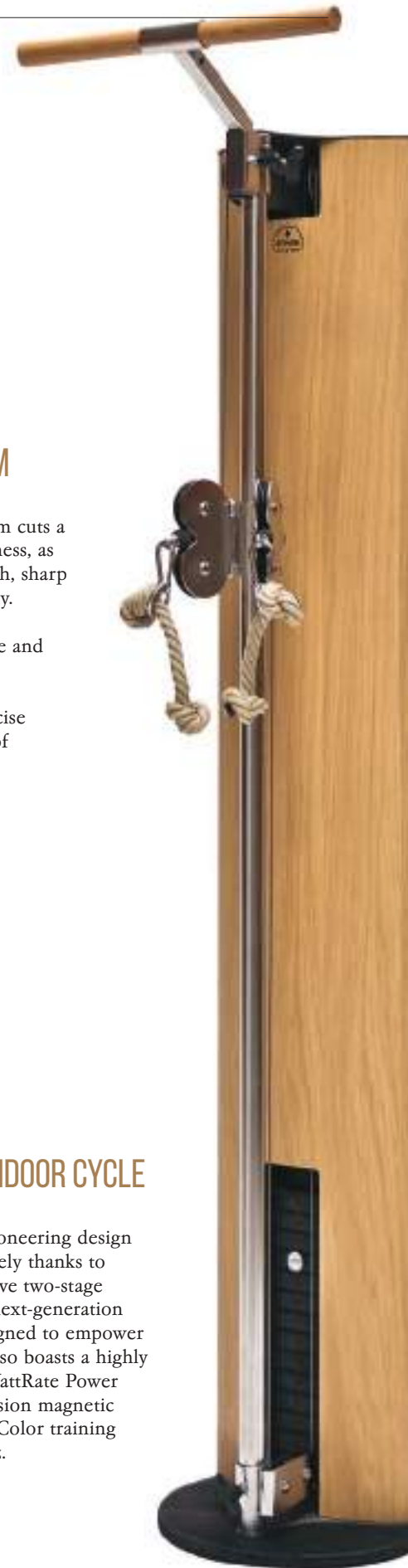
The DISKUS dumbbell is for serious arm and upper body training. Perfect for personal trainers, luxury spas and gyms, as well as yachts and private villas. Hock is renowned for its high-end fitness equipment 100 per cent made in Germany, and with a combination of supreme quality and unique organic design, the Hock DISKUS dumbbell range is sure to be appreciated by the discerning fitness fanatic.



NOHRD SLIMBEAM

\$5,770

The NOHRD SlimBeam cuts a fine figure in home fitness, as well, combining a stylish, sharp design with a sleek body. Thanks to its slender silhouette, curved shape and high-quality wood, the SlimBeam delivers a professional cable exercise station for every kind of functional training.



LIFE FITNESS IC7 INDOOR CYCLE

\$2,947-\$4,482

The Life Fitness IC7's pioneering design and functionality are largely thanks to Indoor Cycling's innovative two-stage drivetrain. The physical next-generation look of the bike was designed to empower its users – and the bike also boasts a highly accurate (+/-1%) direct WattRate Power meter. Its 100-level precision magnetic resistance and Coach By Color training console add to its pizzazz.







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South Africa vs Nigeria
23 September 2018 | Johannesburg
africapoloopen.co.za

5 celestial- INSPIRED WATCHES

Midnight blue and black designs are reminiscent of constellations in the starry night sky, as seen in these elegant, astronomy-inspired timepieces for men and women

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU



Girard-Perregaux 1791- The Cat's Eye in wonderland

The Cat's Eye Day and Night is an exceptional high jewellery timepiece. Its dark blue aventurine dial stretching like an endless sky is irresistible to the wearer. The depth and intensity of its colour immediately catches the eye and is lit up with gold speckles. The crown is framed with multi-sized diamonds enhancing the femininity of this collection, shaped in a circle nested in an oval. The watch is driven by a mechanical self-winding GP330-00900 movement providing 46-hour power reserve. The transparent case-back provides a allows the wearer to admire fine craftsmanship. It is fitted with a dark blue alligator leather strap and a white gold folding clasp set with brilliant-cut diamonds.

MeisterSinger - Lunascope

If we travel back to the Middle Ages, tower clocks emulated astronomical models, seeking to recreate the mechanics of heavens on Earth rather than displaying minutes or seconds. MeisterSinger crafts mechanical watches that does just this. The Lunascope features a dynamic cut on the upper half of the dial, where you see the movement of the moon. Its available in two versions – one with a sunburst dial on a dark blue background and one with a silvery opaline dial.



De Bethune - Starry Varius

The Starry Varius is an evolved version of the DB25T Milky Way model and is in limited edition. Its named after the world-famous violin-making family, Stradivarius. The timepiece presents a central galactic theme and features a 42mm 18k white gold case. The dial boasts a star-studded sky in blue and polished titanium with hand-fitted white gold pins depicting the stars can be customised to show view of the night sky. The watch has an alligator strap with a titanium buckle.



Frederique Constant, Slimline Moonphase Stars

The timepiece transports you offers two dial variations; silver-colored and black and comes in either rose gold-plated or polished stainless steel. The 38.8mm 3 parts-case case holds a convex sapphire crystal and see-through case back revealing the inner workings of the FC-702 caliber, and offers a 42-hour power reserve. The elegant curved dial merges seamlessly with the case showcasing hand-applied indexes and hand-polished hands. The dark brown or black alligator strap completes the look.



Rolex, Cellini Moonphase

An elegant classic from Rolex, Cellini features a subsidiary arc shaped moonphase dial. It's 39 mm in diameter, with a round shape and the case come in 18ct gold – cast by Rolex in its own foundry – are marks of tradition. An emblematic Rolex feature, this fluting is also present on the screw-down case back, which is domed. The dials will be adorned with gold applique hour markers, they are either lacquered, or embellished with a classic “rayon flammé de la gloire” guilloche motif.



ABOVE: Davide Cerrato, managing director of Montblanc

MONTBLANC'S MD TALKS MINERVA WATCHES

This year Montblanc launched its 1858 collection, which pays homage to the 'Spirit of Mountain Exploration', while also a celebration of 160 years of the Minerva Manufacture. *David Cerrato, managing director of Montblanc Watches talks to us about its vintage-inspired collections for 2018.*

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

Can you explain the theme behind the novelties you are presenting this year?

This is a very important year for us because already we are celebrating the 160th anniversary of Minerva. If you take 1858, which is the big launch of the year, the product line is inspired by vintage military. We are really celebrating the design cues of the military chronograph from the twenties and the thirties and we have associated it with a very nice concept, which is the spirit of mountain exploration. Historically, military watches have been used for exploration because of the functional characteristics they have – robustness, precision, reliability. They become survival tools for explorers.

The 1858 collection takes inspiration from Minerva pilot watches and it's celebrating the 160th year anniversary. What do you think sets the collection apart from the rest?

It's design – we have added very nice elements to this design like the straps. Both with an aged leather strap made in Italy – always with a lot of craftsmanship using a supplier that is in Saint-Etienne East of France. It was a district for textiles, they have the last weaving machines from the 19th century. The small lines are knotted by hand and just to make the setting – the result is an incredibly soft to wear strap. It doesn't fade in the sun, you can swim with it and it will dry very quickly and it has a beautiful look, you can really see the weaving in this, giving it a completely unique look.

There are two new additions to the TimeWalker collection. What inspired these creations?

The TimeWalker collection is really linked

to the spirit of racing. We have a new level of chronograph inside the collection which is chronograph with a new calibre, completely made in-house. We always use a ceramic bezel but this time a fixed one, not rotatable. The alligator band strap gives the watch a more sporty, masculine look.

We are also presenting Geosphere, a multi timezone exploration watch with a rotatable bezel with a cardinal sign so you can use it as a compass. The bronze version is a limited edition, with 1858 pieces and it also comes in stainless steel. The watch is very unique. I think we would love it and young kids would, as it's a bit of an Indiana Jones watch.

How does Montblanc separate itself from other watch brands in the market?

We have a motto 'fine watchmaking with character' – that expresses the difference between Montblanc and other watch brands. When we say character we mean both unique design, identity, unique history. The Minerva one, both unique technical content like all the new calibres – it allows us to have a unique way to display time and in terms of value. We have put in effort to ensure it's affordable and the value of watches has become very strong and important one.

The brand is constantly pushing the boundaries. How do you see Montblanc evolving over the next five to 10 years?

We are going to enhance all the classical lines like here with star legacy, so they will be fresh with a stronger design and more sophisticated touches. I see the brand becoming more strong in terms of desirability of the product and uniqueness. It works for both the younger generation and the older generation. ❖



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Precious **GREEN** *gemstones*

From emeralds to tsavorites, these brilliant coloured gemstones are bound to leave you green with envy.

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

The global gemstone market is worth an estimated \$23 billion, with rubies, emeralds and sapphires making up just \$2 billion. The sector is dominated by governments and informal operators, which control 90 per cent of the market. With diamonds overvalued in the opinion of many people and new gemstone production coming on line in Colombia, Mozambique and elsewhere, the market could be poised for a shift.

A report from the Natural Resource Governance Institute revealed that prices have increased 100 per cent in the last decade. But as the sector is dominated by informal operators and governments, it is affected by under-capitalisation and a lack of technological expertise. Large finds go undeveloped for lack of investment. For example, Colombian emerald production

fell from a high in 2004, even as exports increased nation-wide. The country has suffered from decades of conflict over its rich resources, particularly its emeralds, yet it remains a major source of precious stones.

For centuries, coloured stones were viewed as the rarest and most precious of gems. They have now become the go-to accessory for A-list celebrities. Earlier this year, French actress Juliette Binoche wore earrings from the Precious Chopard Collection in 18ct white gold set at the César Awards held in Paris, France. A rise in jewellery designers crafting pieces in coloured gemstones at all price points means women have the ability to purchase something for themselves, whether it's for a special occasion or for every day wear.

We bring you a few of our favourite emerald pieces with black rhodium plating from





Hessa Al Shafar, an Emirati entrepreneur, who has created a buzz among contemporary jewellery design scene. Following her studies in public relations, Hessa created her own jewellery brand, Savolinna. Combining skills in creative management with gemstone expertise acquired from the International Gemological Institute, Savolinna Fine Jewellery was launched in Dubai in 2017. Also, we feature a selection of beautiful jewellery pieces from Chopard, De Grisogono, Istana, Kohinoor, Susana Martins and MUSE on pages 33-35.

ABOVE:
1. Istana private collection 16ct yellow gold cufflinks, www.istanauae.com.
2 & 3. Kohinoor Jewellers emerald and diamond pendant. Kohinoor Jewellers emerald and diamond drop earrings, www.kohinoorjewellers.com.
4. GFG Jewellery by Nilufer Project 20/20 18ct gold emerald and diamond earrings.
5. Sylva & Cie 18ct yellow gold emerald anchor charm, www.musexmuse.com.
6. Liv Luttrell spear tip claw sugarloaf 18ct gold emerald ring, www.livluttrell.com.



1. Liv Luttrell bespoke diamond and tsaavorite garnet earrings, www.livluttrell.com

2. Chopard red carpet collection 2018 Emerald and diamond necklace, www.chopard.com

3. Precious Chopard earrings, www.chopard.com

4. Chopard Red Carpet Collection 2018: Emerald and diamond earrings and necklace, www.chopard.com

5. Chopard Red Carpet Collection 2018: Emerald necklace www.chopard.com

6, 7, 8 & 9 De Grisogono:
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The Art of de Grisogono, Creation 1
Folies collection sapphire and emerald earrings.
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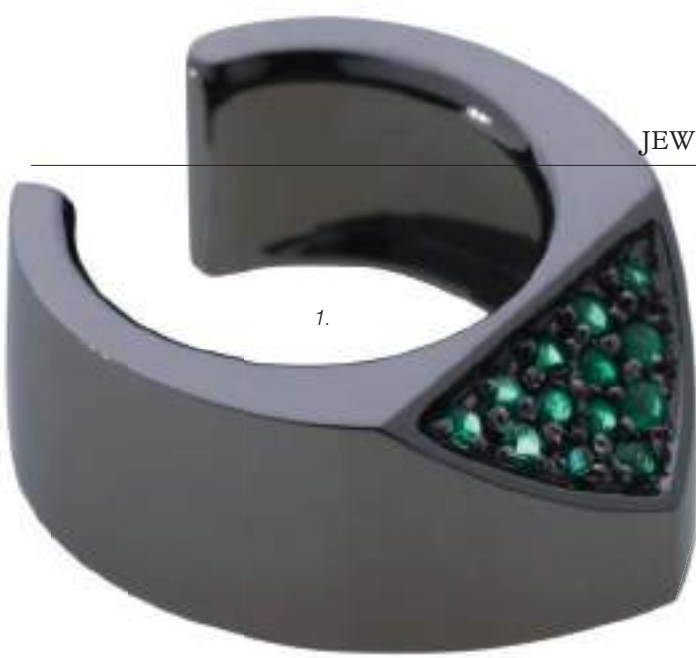
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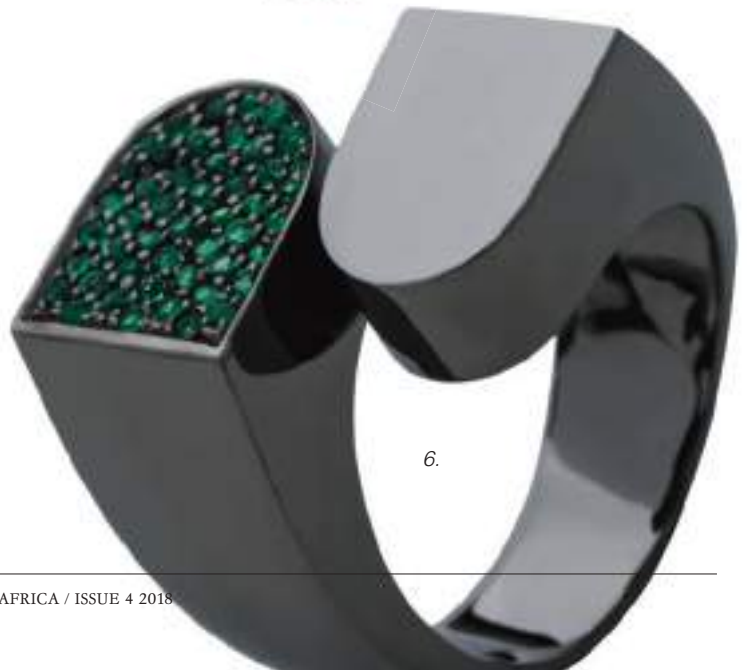
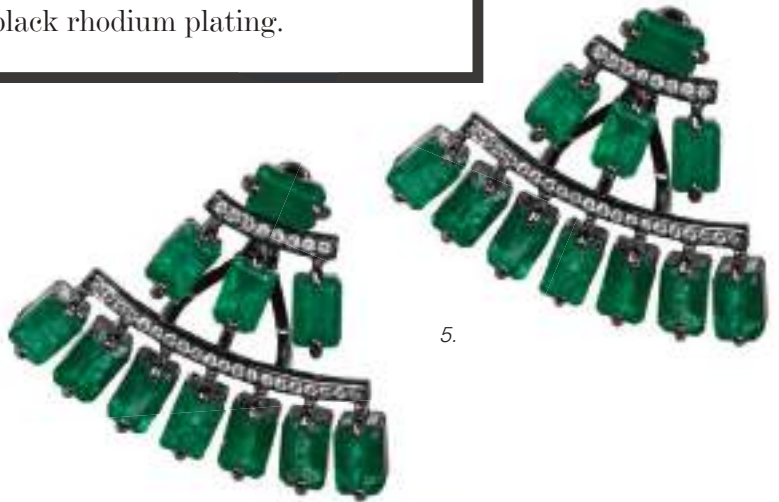
7.

8.



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1 & 2 Susana Martins Jelly Bean Ear Cuff 18ct gold with black rhodium and emeralds.
www.susanamartins.com
3-5: Left to Right: Savolinna: Long Earrings Studs in 18ct Gold and Black Rhodium Plating, Zambian Emerald and diamonds.
4: Scala Ear Climber 18ct gold with black rhodium plating Zambian Emeralds and diamonds
5. Alessandra Linna Collection, Emerald fan earrings 18ct gold with black rhodium plating
6. The One Ring 18ct gold with black rhodium and emeralds.
www.susanamartins.com

SAILING in style

With the Monaco Yacht Show just around the corner, Temi Oteldola, our style columnist, shares her tips for looking great on the high seas.

WORDS BY TEMI OTEDOLA

My nautical essentials for sailing in style range from kaftans, to raffia accessories – here’s everything you’ll need when stepping aboard any Sunseeker.

CLASSIC WHITES: This is an obvious, yet understated staple. There’s just something intensely romantic about a crisp, pristinely white outfit, against a luxury yacht. White always makes a statement whether it’s in the form of a beach dress or an evening gown. In particular, Oscar de La Renta and Rodarte do their whites really well.

THE STATEMENT KAFTAN: If you prefer for your clothes to speak volumes, the all-white trend may not be for you. Instead, why not go for an intricately beaded or loudly patterned kaftan – it’s perfect for an onboard lunch, or a sunset glass of champagne. Be sure to check out classic statement kaftans made by Camilla, and of course, Missoni.

TIP-TOP TOES: Normally, when stepping onto a yacht, the captain will ask you to remove your wedges in order to keep the decks clean and land-free. Therefore, I would always suggest getting an indulgent pedicure pre-Monaco. I usually tend to choose a marine blue to keep in line with my surroundings. I usually make sure to book in advance at the Corinthia Hotel, they do a great mani-pedi that always keep my toes in check.

ACCESSORIES: As you’ll be sans Manolo Blahniks, I recommend that you focus on your accessories. Straw hats, bangles, personalised beach bags, are all hit trends on every European Riviera. Make sure your bag is big enough to throw in your Sunday Riley SPF, Gucci shades and Leica Camera. With these in tow, you’ll be the most stylish vessel on the seven seas. ❖



Temi shows how to wear an all-white ensemble for true oceangoing style.



All images credited to Simon Deiner / Group of Creatives

AFWL 2018: *A celebration of* COLOUR & CULTURE

In August, Freemasons' Hall in Covent Garden transformed into a colourful showcase of African-inspired design. The two-day event presented a unique, fashion-forward catwalk collective. Guests were treated a vibrant and exciting runway shows and exhibitions.

WORDS BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

Africa Fashion Week London (AFWL) brings together lovers of fashion and industry professionals from around the globe to Europe's largest African-inspired fashion event. Since debuting in 2011, the event has served as a platform for new and emerging designers who are inspired by the rich culture of Africa and incorporate this in their designs.

Created by Ronke Ademiluyi, Africa Fashion Week London (AFWL) highlights well known names in the industry and emerging African designers. The event aims to capture the surge of the African inspired trends in the fashion industry.

Luxury Menswear brand, Erenti by British-Nigerian Osborne Ojarimoni presented contemporary fashion and African traditional designs the event. Speaking to *AFWL* he said: "When I was in Nigeria I observed that those who were genuinely wealthy wore simple luxury – things that were not too 'loud', such as the likes of business tycoons Femi Otedola

and Aliko Dangote who always are always in native wear but are some of the richest men in Africa – whereas those who weren't and/or pretended to be would. I wanted to capture this concept in my own brand: confidence in simple luxury, wearing luxury but not allowing it to wear you. This is where our motto 'confidence is silent' comes from."

Taking inspiration from prominent Nigerian figures such as Fela Kuti and Wizkid, as well as luxury and contemporary high street stores such as Zara, Osborne told event organisers, "the brand is a fusion of my culture and my environment".

The event welcomed big names designers who showcased their designs on the catwalk including Abby Lewis, VanElse and Preline. More than 50 designers showcased their pieces on the catwalk and more than 60 exhibitors worldwide. Visitors had the opportunity to shop the exclusive and artisan pieces from a variety of boutique stalls before and after each show. ➤

LEFT: Model wears a piece from Van Else's collection.

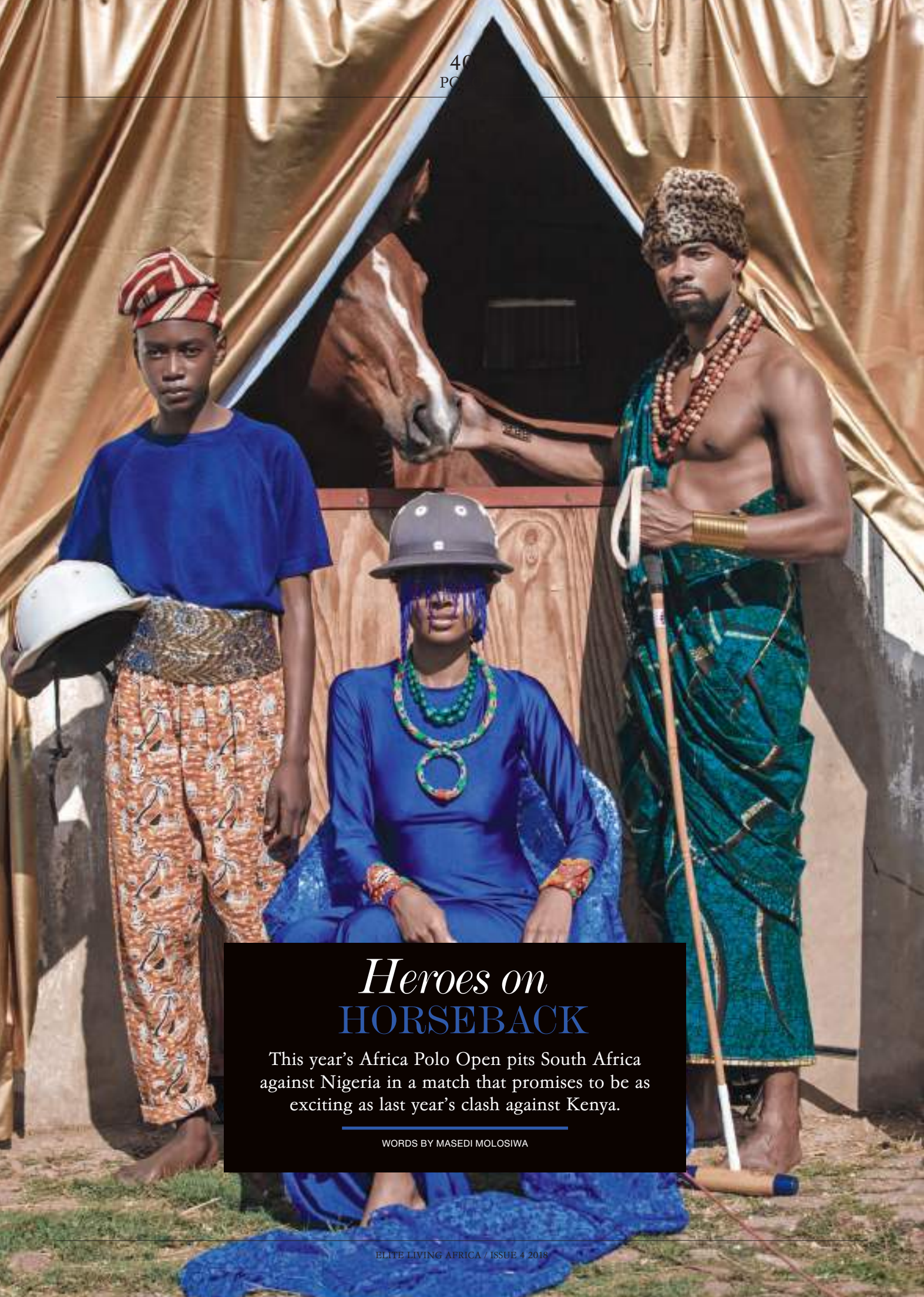




Left: Models stormed the runway wearing bold, ethnic prints from Van Else. The ethical fashion brand from the Netherlands showcased its range of business suits, jackets, skirts, trousers, robe manteaux and casual pieces as well.

Colourful pieces were seen in the Rainbow Space Dye Collection by Abby Lewis. The collection is inspired by the striations of colour found naturally in tropical climates and features rainbow colours and patterns through original twill fabric designs. The pieces are handwoven out of 100 per cent Tanzanian cotton in Dar es Salaam. Meanwhile, Zimbabwean designer, Preline Martha presented her bright and bold prints for this season. Her Prelim label is inspired by cultures and traditions taught by her Zimbabwean grandmother as well as living in inner city London. ❖

All images credited to Simon Deiner / Group of Creatives



Heroes on **HORSEBACK**

This year's Africa Polo Open pits South Africa against Nigeria in a match that promises to be as exciting as last year's clash against Kenya.

WORDS BY MASEDI MOLOSIWA

Africa's grandest polo tournament, the Africa Polo Open, is a prestigious continental event. It is the only continental tournament in Africa that pits the South African national polo team annually against another African country.

In 2017, an 11-goal South African team took on the Kenyan polo national team on a perfect day of African sunshine and blue skies at the scenic Rosefield Polo Club in Johannesburg. The expansive polo field overlooks the picturesque Magalies mountain, the oldest mountains in the world, almost 100 times older than Mount Everest in the background. The day attracted fans of polo to those yearning to learn more about the sport of kings. Thirty-one ponies were at hand to provide an evenly matched duel between the economic

match will be history in the making as Africa's giants are decided at the 12-handicap polo match on 23 September 2018. For the first time, South Africa will duel continental rivals Nigeria. The teams will be announced on 8 September.

The ladies' match will feature Neku Atawodi-Edun, a Nigerian professional polo player who stars in this year's Africa Polo Open advertising campaign. Neku was raised in a traditional family in Nigeria's north, with a history of polo and horse-riding. She was a teenager when she started riding and dreaming of playing polo. Neku started her polo career at age 21 and has travelled worldwide with the sport. She was the country's only female player, becoming the face of Nigerian polo. She studied equestrian sport science in the United Kingdom.



giants of the south and east Africa. It was a close match – the lead changed hands several times and both teams squandered chances to seal the game.

So tight a match it was that it was left to an extra time sudden goal from South Africa to clinch victory. The final score was 7-6 to South Africa. The Most Valuable Player award went to Tiva Gross who had a sterling game, while the Best Playing Pony award was won by Davey Evens' steed Cartoon, played by Jamie Murray.

This year, the tournament will take place at the pristine Rosefield Polo Club, Johannesburg, and attract polo fans, seasoned aficionados, business people and newcomers looking to experience the sport of kings in a discerning African setting. The

Polo is played in Gambia, Egypt, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Malawi, Benin, Botswana, Nigeria, Lesotho, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania Kenya, Sudan and Morocco. The players – four per team – get three-minute breaks between chukkas and a 15-minute half-time, typically using two ponies each in a game. The objective is to put the ball between the goal posts using a mallet, which can only be used on the right side of the horse. Players have a handicap to indicate ability, ranging from minus two up to 10. Both teams' sum handicaps are weighed up against each other, and the team with the lower handicap is given a few goals which are calculated according to the number of chukkas played. ❖

ABOVE: Singing the national anthems at last year's event.

FACING PAGE: The polo event is a showcase of African style.

www.africapoloopen.co.za



POLO LESSONS IN THE SPANISH SUNSHINE

Sotogrande, home of European polo, is the perfect place to learn to play.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

With polo increasing in popularity in Africa, particularly in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, it is little wonder that more people are keen to learn to play as well as enjoy the social delights of attending a match. If a family holiday in stunning Spain could be combined with personalised polo lessons, all the better.

In Sotogrande, Polo Valley offers wonderful accommodation in either a guesthouse or villa and polo lessons that are suitable for players of all levels. Sotogrande, in the spectacular Andalusia region of Spain, is considered to be the home of European polo – it is a privately owned residential development and home to the Santa Maria Polo Club, where many a glamorous game is held over the European season.

ABOVE: Entire groups of family and friends can learn polo in Sotogrande.

The polo programme runs over five days with activities including riding lessons to improve technique and confidence, polo lessons and instructional matches to get beginners ready to play this exciting sport.

For any children who are still too young for polo lessons, they can still join in the fun with age-appropriate riding lessons.

There is a focus on group learning so it's a wonderful way to enjoy Spain and bond with friends or family in a relaxed setting. As well as polo lessons, there are opportunities to ride in the magnificent local countryside. ❖

www.polovalley.co.uk

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STARS OF PORT HERCULES

Elite Living Africa previews the Monaco
Yacht Show for 2018.

WORDS BY VANNESSA KADZIYA



Port Hercules will host the Monaco Yacht Show (MYS), Europe's largest display of superyachts, from 26-29 September. Since 1991, the show has welcomed private owners who have the most splendid yachts, in the world. This year, 40 new superyacht models will be presented and a total of 120 yachts will be exhibited.

Gaëlle Tallarida, general manager of MYS said: "The Monaco Yacht Show has a worldwide reputation for the exceptional collection of superyachts. About half the yachts exhibited are less than two years old."

Among the new yachts on show at MYS are the 43.7m Cyclone, designed by Tansu Yachts and made in 2017, and the 49.9m Flying Dagger. Designer Serkan Borancili said: "Let's be honest – Monaco and the Monaco Yacht show is the sacred land for yachting by all means. If you're selling or buying a yacht above 35 metres, your destination is the Monaco Yacht show. There's no doubt. I found my yacht there

and also sold my yacht there. This small country is so magical for yacht owners, and I believe this relationship will continue for many decades."

MYS organisers will ensure visitors have "the best possible experience, with the supreme quality of the yachts on display, whether on the quays or in the water, as one of the leading criteria", said Gaëlle Tallarida. This includes the Sapphire Experience, which is for VIPs and involves a chance to attend the Monaco Yacht Summit, a tour of Monaco Bay, a courtesy car service lunch in the Upper Deck lounge, a personal concierge and an invite to the opening ceremony of the show.


The summit will be held at Meridien Beach Plaza Hotel, the day before the show starts – Sapphire guests will be able to engage in discussions about purchasing or chartering yachts, and expert mini lectures will be held. In the Upper Deck Lounge the MYS official champagne, Lanson Black Label, will be served.

A new addition will be the MYS Art Pavilion. All MYS participants will be able to admire collections from 10 galleries. The artists will be on hand to present their creations and meet collectors. An exhibition of luxury vehicles will be on the Car Deck.

The Starboard will host an exhibition of yachting lifestyle, such as go-to destinations and luxury products, and the Tender and Toys area will showcase all the essential accessories for one's yachting experience.

This year at Quai Jarlan, will exhibit part of Tender and toys, such as the latest sport tenders and inflatables. Other accessories will consume more space at Quai Antoine. Water toys have always been a major part of the yacht show and, in response to this demand, the zone will be extended at this year's show. A total of 580 exhibitors will be at the show presenting their specialities, meaning every need is considered for a visitor who is buying or building a yacht. ❖

www.monacoyachtshow.com



Port Hercules is the spectacular location for the Monaco Yacht Show and this year's event promises to be better than ever.



KEEPING IT CLASSIC FOR DISCERNING CLIENTS

Yacht designer Christopher Seymour
on timeless craftsmanship.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

Christopher Seymour is not one for unnecessary flash and bling. He favours a timeless, classic approach to yacht design.

Elite Living Africa (ELA): How did you become a yacht designer?

Christopher Seymour (CS): Growing up, the family and extended family have always been involved with boating and sailing, plus I studied and enjoyed architecture, so it was an easy decision to combine the two forms and become a yacht designer.

ELA: What has been a major challenge you encountered and how did you overcome it?

CS: Double Century comes to mind – the internal volumes are huge and getting that to work was a huge achievement, I really had to think outside the boating industry and think resorts and hotels. Plus we needed a propulsion system that would work for a vessel of this size – we had to look at the military ships.

ELA: Tell us more about Double Century project.

CS: It's just huge... She's 200m in length, nine decks, eight elevators, a theatre that can seat 126 guests, a hanger bay with its own waiting lounge, two helipads, library, submarines, cafes... Where do you stop? Each guest gets their own iPad to allow them to know where they are when exploring the vessel. There are so many stats about this concept that it is just extraordinary, to say the least.

ELA: What should people look for when deciding to buy a yacht?

CS: This can be a difficult decision though I have a simply question: "What's your destination?" This answers a lot of questions and, more than likely, will be the determining factor on the boat you choose. For example, you shouldn't buy a lightly built production boat if you are doing long ocean cruising.

ELA: What trends do you expect to see at the next Monaco Yacht Show?

CS: I expect to see more features around the boat – possibly something new in the stern area for beach clubs.

ELA: What makes your designs unique?

CS: I probably wouldn't say my designs are unique – I'd say I'm a versatile designer, and will try and give every design its' own DNA, so to speak. I'm actually trying to keep the portfolio as neutral as possible, and if a client or builder wants to create something different we can. The Griffin Range with Fincantieri is a great example – the concept showcases a timeless look that everyone can like and enjoy. Plus keeping the designs timeless ensures a positive resale value if a client decides to go up or down in size.

ELA: How do you see the superyacht market in Africa?

CS: I would like to see the African market more involved overall in the superyacht arena, plus the sub-100-foot market as I've only heard good things about the craftsmanship there. ❖

A rendering of the 200m superyacht, Double Century.



AFTER-HOURS AT THE MONACO YACHT SHOW

When the sun sets on Monto Carlo, the party scene heats up during the Monaco Yacht Show. Cipriani and Twiga are two of the places to be seen.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

Cipriani Monte Carlo and Twiga Monto Carlo have quickly become two of the hottest places to party during the Monaco Yacht Show, whether you seek fine dining or want to dance the night away.

CIPRIANI MONTE CARLO

Located in the centre of Monte Carlo Cipriani Monte Carlo opened in 2012 and soon became the meeting point of Monegasques and international jetset. The restaurant serves Italian cuisine, with the *à la carte* Cipriani Menu. The signature dishes are Tagliolini Cipriani, Veal Farfalle, fried zucchini – and their famous Bellini cocktail.

Cipriani opens nightly from 7pm during summer, and every night apart from Tuesday during winter.

The Twiga restaurant specialises in exquisite seafood.

Members can enjoy Club Cipriani upstairs from 12pm for lunch to midnight, with the *à la carte* Cipriani Menu, and a smoking area.

TWIGA MONTE CARLO

Originally located on a pontoon in the heart of Monaco when it opened in 2014, it is now located at the second floor of Grimaldi Forum. The seaview venue opens every day at 7 pm.

Guests can enjoy the restaurant menu with different types of cuisine: Japanese from Sumosan London, Italian, and seafood from Crazy Fish. The restaurant turns into a club after midnight with our resident and special guest DJs. Dinner shows and bands also feature on the entertainment itinerary. It is the perfect combo for a fun night. ♦

A passion FOR SEA

Dr Mohammed Al Barwani talks about diversifying from oil and gas to the maritime world.

WORDS BY ROMAN ZINCENKO

Dr Mohammed Al Barwani is a successful figure in the Middle East oil and gas business but a passion for boats and the sea drove him to invest in two shipyards.

Elite Living Africa (ELA): What made an oil and gas business owner invest in two shipyards?

Dr Al Barwani (DAB): I have always been passionate about the sea, when I was younger, my friends and I got together and built a small boat, but as soon as we put it in the water it sank. These days when I have free time, I spend it boating with my family. In 2010, I came across Oceanco by chance, I asked a banker if he knew any yachts for sale; he didn't but he knew of a shipyard for sale. I was not in the market for a shipyard but decided to take a look. I was extremely impressed with the Oceanco brand—the yachts they build, the facilities, and the management team. After doing due diligence, I happily invested in the company.

ELA: What do you enjoy about yachting lifestyle?

DAB: I love the peace and quiet that comes when you are out at sea, breaking from the daily routine and getting away from the hubbub of everyday life. My first boat was a Laser sailboat, which I purchased nearly 40 years ago. Twenty years ago I then purchased a Silverton Sport fishing boat and I still have it and enjoy it to this day. I also have a 32-metre Hatteras motoryacht named Sharifa, after my wife. I use it for weekend getaways with family and friends.

ELA: What are main differences between the Oceanco and Turquoise shipyards?



ABOVE: Dr Al Barwani has transcended the worlds of oil and gas and ship-building.

DAB: Oceanco builds custom super yachts in the range of 80-140 metres, and Turquoise focuses on yachts below 80 metres. The two companies remain completely separate from each other. Both are excellent yacht building facilities catering to different market segments.

ELA: What do you think of the African market's potential?

DAB: Yes, of course, we see potential in the African market. Our clientele is extremely diverse and international. We would welcome a client from Africa at both shipyards.

ELA: What trends you expect in the superyacht industry in near future?

DAB: Designers are continuously pushing the aesthetic limits, yachts are becoming more futuristic and are slowly moving away from the traditional layout we've become accustomed to.

Yachts are becoming more experience oriented and lifestyle focused rather than just being a status symbol. In addition, clients are becoming environmentally continuous and are interested in seeing 'green technology' from energy optimisation to the use of sustainable materials onboard. More yacht owners will want to travel to exotic destinations 'off the beaten path.' Yachts will have to be capable of travels and sustainability in remote destinations.

ELA: Tell us about your luxury hotel interests.

DAB: We currently have a number of hotels and resorts in Oman and Zanzibar, as the holding company has shares in a number of hotels in Oman, and not just in the city of Muscat. ♦

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www.elitelivingafrica.com



WHAT'S NEW *under the sun?*

There are myriad options for enjoying
Indian Ocean destinations.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS



Indian Ocean destinations have long been popular with African holidaymakers thanks to their proximity to the continent and myriad options for luxury getaways. Whether you are looking to marry in the Maldives or surf in Sri Lanka, there are great options across this glorious region.

A MATCH MADE IN THE MALDIVES

The Maldives has long been a destination for eminently Instagrammable weddings. It is almost impossible to take a bad wedding photo when the backdrop is endless white sands, clear waters and golden sunshine.

Velaa Private Island is a wonderful option for a romantic Maldivian wedding. Happy couples can walk down a fragrant petal aisle on a private beach before exchanging vows under a beautiful altar. A banquet follows the ceremony with fine Champagne for the toast and local delicacies cooked to perfection.

The reception can be further personalised with stunning flower arrangements on every table and a DJ or band to keep everyone entertained. And after the wedding day, the newlyweds are instantly on honeymoon without the need for further travel.

The Romantic Pool Residence is the dream villa on Velaa for honeymooners. Accessible only by boat, it is an ultra-private one-bedroom villa suspended above a lagoon with unimpeded ocean views. All rooms open onto terraces and couples can enjoy a Jacuzzi, private pool,

sundeck or sunken bath. There is a gazebo for over-water dining as well as a personal gym and spa treatment rooms.

Before the wedding itself, a bespoke proposal can be arranged at Velaa, complete with a laser show or fireworks for making that special moment spectacular.

Kandima Maldives has launched a range of wedding packages for small intimate affairs right up to 200-guest spectacles. Options include holding the ceremony on a floating platform over a lagoon with the Indian Ocean in the background or a barefoot beach wedding. Catering ranges from three-course dinners to sunset cruises with cocktails, and there are spa options for relaxing before and after the big day.

www.velaaprivateisland.com

www.kandima.com

FAMILY FUN IN THE MALDIVES AND MAURITIUS

Families and large groups can enjoy privacy and palatial luxury on the Maldives by taking the private villa option. Again, Velaa Private Island is a great option with a range of villas by the beach, a pool or both, as well as a private residence on its own pristine beach which can cater to groups up to 10 people. Smaller groups of families or friends might consider the Ocean Pool House, a two-bedroom villa with a private pool and ocean views from every angle.

A range of activities are on offer from water sports and diving to cruises and shopping as

well as a relaxing library for those seeking true tranquility on their vacation.

Golf lovers can improve their game at the Velaa Golf Academy. The course is designed by golfing legend, Jose Maria Oazabal and features nine different tees, six greens, seven bunkers and a lake, all with gorgeous Maldivian views. Golf lessons can be tailored to every player's level of experience.

Amilla Fushi meanwhile offers four-, six- and eight-bedroom mansion residences, stylishly decorated inside and located right on the beach.

Each of the eight residences are equipped with private courtyards with pools, high ceilings, living rooms with polished teak floors and master suites with custom-made furniture.

Butlers are on hand 24 hours a day to cater to every need. There are private chefs on speed dial, a gourmet marketplace brims with fresh produce, baked goods and ice cream and there is a collection of more than 8,000 fine wines and premium Champagne. At Amilla Fushi, there are unimpeded views across the private beach to the UNESCO Biosphere of Baa Atoll.

Another option for those wanting an undisturbed getaway for a large group is Niyama Private Island. It is a luxury resort designed with the needs of families in mind, including the Explorers Kids Club, the only kids' club in the Maldives to host guests aged under three. There is a high ratio of staff to children for peace of mind. Children can learn about the natural wonders of the sea and take snorkelling trips with the resident marine biologist.

Family experiences are a priority on Niyama with a family spa programme to ensure everyone gets pampered no matter how old or young. Offering a mix of quiet time for adults and movies and popcorn between treatments for the kids, the family spa programme concludes with everyone getting together at the end for cold-pressed juices and ice cream sundaes.

Meanwhile, in Mauritius, Shangri-La's Le Toussrok Resort & Spa, located on the east coast, offers gorgeous bay views, two large swimming pools, an 18-hole par 72 championship golf course, an ayurvedic spa and the T-Club, which is just for kids, as well as a club for teens to ensure everyone enjoys the holiday. The resort also features a private island, Ilôt Mangénie, exclusively for guests to enjoy its secluded white beaches and cabana.

www.amilla.mv

www.niyama.com

www.shangri-la.com



TOP: The Constance Lemuria resort on the Seychellois island of Praslin is an ideal base for a golf holiday.

ABOVE: Colourful festivals draw crowds to the Seychelles as well as the stunning beaches, golf courses and landscapes.



◆

Like the Maldives, the Seychelles is known for its glorious beaches but there are cultural events on offer too. Meanwhile, Mauritius offers protected lagoons and national parks and Sri Lanka is gaining a reputation as a luxury surfing destination.

◆



THE SEYCHELLES CULTURE CLUB

Like the Maldives, the Seychelles is known for its glorious beaches, aquamarine waters and luxurious accommodation but the country's tourism board is keen to promote the upcoming cultural events on offer this year.

In September, the Praslin Festival brings together gastronomy and art under the auspices of the National Arts Council. Local artists will collaborate with international artists from across the Indian Ocean countries to bring musical shows and artwork to the island of Praslin.

And in October, there are two lively events for those seeking to add culture and colour to their paradisiacal vacation.

The Creole Festival runs for six days on the main islands of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue. Dance, music, cuisine, customs and crafts will be on show and the main event will be a parade of colourful floats. There will even be a traditional wedding held so visitors can see how to tie the knot Seychelles-style. The Creole Festival runs from 23-29 October. For those who want to cram in two festivals while visiting the Seychelles, the Seychelles Carnival, which has been running since 2011 is on again, from 24-31 October.

The event is part of the Creole Festival and it will be held in Victoria. This event has an international

flavour with the cultures and cuisines of 20 countries represented. It is not one for the easily exhausted as all-night partying features prominently on the agenda.

While the carnivals of the Seychelles will certainly draw a lively crowd from all over the world, for those who prefer a more sedate holiday, the island group will host the Staysure Tour from 14-16 December.

Golf aficionados will know this was previously known as the European Senior Tour. At this tournament, leading veteran golfers will be competing for \$800,000 prizemoney.

The tournament will be the finale for the 2018 Staysure Tour season, held at the Constance Lemuria resort on the island of Praslin. It is an exquisite golf course on a natural archipelago with glorious natural surrounds - it is certainly one the spectators will be keen to try out after the tournament is over.

www.seychelles.travel

BLUE PLANET BLISS

David Attenborough's Blue Planet documentaries on life beneath the surface of the world's oceans received international acclaim. At Alphonse Island, Seychelles, the diverse aquatic ecosystems brought so vividly to life on television screens around the



world, particularly in Blue Planet II, can be experienced on a first-hand basis.

A swim, dive or snorkel in the pure waters of Alphonse Island means encounters with shoals of brightly coloured fish, green and hawksbill turtles, spinner dolphins and humpback whales, all in their natural habitat. Divers and snorkellers will enjoy the incredible coral formations, manta rays, eagle rays, and schools of batfish and parrotfish.

Located 400km from the main island of Mahé, it is a remote and unspoilt slice of natural wonder. For those keen to learn to dive, the Alphonse Island Dive Centre offers a full suite of PADI courses as well as courses in marine life awareness and identification. And if diving isn't for you, there are snorkelling boat trips on offer.

Guests at Maradiva Villas & Resort in Mauritius, on the west coast of the island nation, can also enjoy the beauty of nature in luxurious surrounds.

The only all-villa resort in Mauritius, it is known for its stunning sunsets, as well as easy access to unblemished sandy beaches, protected lagoons and the Black River Gorges National Park, which is home to more than 300 species of bird. Le Morne Brabant mountain is another well-known landmark of the area and forms part of the sites protected by UNESCO. Sheltered from the south-east trade winds and tropical rains, the west coast location of Maradiva means its serene all year round. And when guests return from experiencing nature, there is a spa and haute cuisine to enjoy.

*www.alphonse-island.com
www.maradiva.com*

FACING PAGE: Amilla Fushi is ideal for a private family holiday in gorgeous Maldivian splendour.

BELOW: Velaa Private Island caters to groups and romantic weddings in style.

SURF'S UP IN SRI LANKA

An eco-luxury surf resort which combines the adrenalin-pumping action of surfing with a respect for nature, all without sacrificing comfort – it sounds too good to be true, but this is on offer in Sri Lanka alongside a beach which has been attracting serious surfers from around the world for decades.

Jetwing Surf, located in Pottuvil Point, features award-winning low-carbon-footprint design by upcoming architect John Balmond alongside a pristine stretch of beach renowned for excellent surfing conditions.

Privacy is assured with only 20 beach cabanas, all made from wood, woven coconut palm leaves and reeds with design elements inspired by the seashells.

Each cabin has a spacious outdoor deck that opens out onto lofty coconut trees and the rooms are equipped with luxurious king-sized beds, comfortable couches, WiFi and a beach bag kitted out with all the essentials for a day by the surf, such as sunscreen and wraparound shades.

There is a chef on hand to treat guests to global favourites, as well as a pool bar serving cocktails and mocktails.

Nature lovers can indulge themselves with incredible sunsets over the lakes and plenty of bird-watching opportunities, as well as the chance of encounters with sloth bears and leopards, while history buffs can wile away the hours at ancient archaeological sites. ♦

www.jetwinghotels.com



The Dolce Vita 110 is a 34m luxury yacht built in Italy by Riva – and now it's available for charter in the Mediterranean. It can accommodate up to 10 people with five crew members, and its flybridge has a large open area for entertaining. The master suite is bathed in natural light and there are four staterooms on the lower deck.

www.ekkayachts.com



Sea life



STEP INTO THE SEA

The Seychelles is paradise for snorkellers and Anse Tanamaka beach is ideal for this thanks to its crystal-clear water and abundance of marine life.

Visitors should bring their own flippers and mask, as there is no equipment rental on-site. The water is shallow enough that children can enjoy the ocean without fear. Away from the sand, there is a popular Creole restaurant, Chez Batista, right next to the beach, as well as a giant tortoise pen nearby. Just be sure to turn the flash off on your camera when you photograph these amazing creatures.

Getting to the beach is simple thanks to the easy parking, ensuring that anyone staying on Mahé can reach Anse Takamaka with ease. Additionally, there are accommodation options near the beach. For more incredible Seychelles experiences, turn to our main luxury travel feature on page 50.

www.seychelles.travel



COME TO COMO

Mandarin Oriental has taken over CastaDive Resort & Spa on Italy's Lake Como. It will be rebranded as Mandarin Oriental Lake Como and will open in spring 2019 after a refurbishment. The resort features 76 rooms housed in nine palatial villas dating back to the 19th Century – two villas will be bookable in their entirety.

www.mandarinoriental.com



DREAMING OF A WARM CHRISTMAS...

For those who fancy a European escape this Christmas – but don't necessarily want the cold weather traditionally associated with a Northern Hemisphere festive season, pretty Puglia in southern Italy is worth considering.

With average temperatures of 14°C and no summer crowds, yuletide celebrations begin on 8 December when the Christmas lights are turned on, families decorate their houses and nativity scenes known as 'Presepi' go up. Christmas markets pop up selling traditional pastries, shop windows fill with chestnuts, walnuts, bay and rosemary branches and displays of dried salted cod, a local delicacy.

It is a truly magical place to be over the Christmas-New Year period and The Thinking Traveller offers nine gorgeous winter villas for cosy luxury for up to 12 people, so ideal for families.

www.thethinkingtraveller.com



The Huvafen Fushi resort in the Maldives will reopen this September after a year-long transformation. This glorious adults-only escape has a loyal following of luxury lovers and they will not be disappointed when they return to the new, improved resort. There are 44 stunningly refurbished villas, all with a private pool, beautiful new bathrooms and elegant, modern furniture. For those who truly want to push the boat out on their Maldivian escape, the new \$22,000-a-night PlayPen is an architectural hymn to pleasure with New York loft-style living, neo-Parisian penchant for vintage pieces and an eclectic handpicked furniture. The fine dining options remain as brilliant as ever.

www.huvafenfushi.com

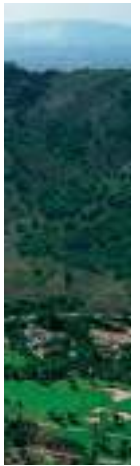
Maldives revival



Spanish fairways

This December, Spain's La Manga Club will be a haven for golf lovers as the resort hosts the 18th edition of the La Manga Club Golf Open. Men and women will compete over 54 holes in a number of different categories for a range of top prizes. There is a range of great luxury accommodation packages on offer so that golf fans can enjoy the tournament as well as the wonderful food, wine and scenery of the Mediterranean and the magnificent Calblanque National Park.

www.lamangaclub.com



A chauffeur-driven car can be eco-friendly as demonstrated by Blacklane. The company is offering emissions-free chauffeured rides in Adelaide, Amsterdam, Auckland, Austin, Basel, Birmingham (UK), Denver, Dublin, Edinburgh, Hong Kong, Honolulu, Lisbon, London, Milan, Montreal, Munich, Paris, Phoenix, Sydney and Zurich, with the Tesla Model S and Model X added to these fleets.

www.blacklane.com



ECO-RIDES

THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

Alaska's Yukon River Valley is a prime spot for viewing the Northern Lights. And the Northern Lights Resort & Spa in the valley is now taking bookings for the 2018-2019 winter season, with Aurora viewing packages available from 1 December. Their Aurora Glass chalets are available all year round but have been especially designed with Northern Lights viewing in mind. Guests can experience the wintry starlit sky and the Northern Lights, while lying in a warm bed.

The large floor-to-ceiling wrap-around windows open to the Northern Sky. All the chalets are designed for double occupancy with a queen bed, cosy recliner chairs behind the floor-to-ceiling windows, under floor heating and an elegant replace, a small kitchenette, and beautifully appointed bathroom with tiled walk-in shower. Just a few steps away from the chalets are the resort's other services including a spa, an outdoor jacuzzi, lounge, bar and dining room and other catering services. There are also four traditional log cabins, with the same comfort and amenities as the glass chalets.

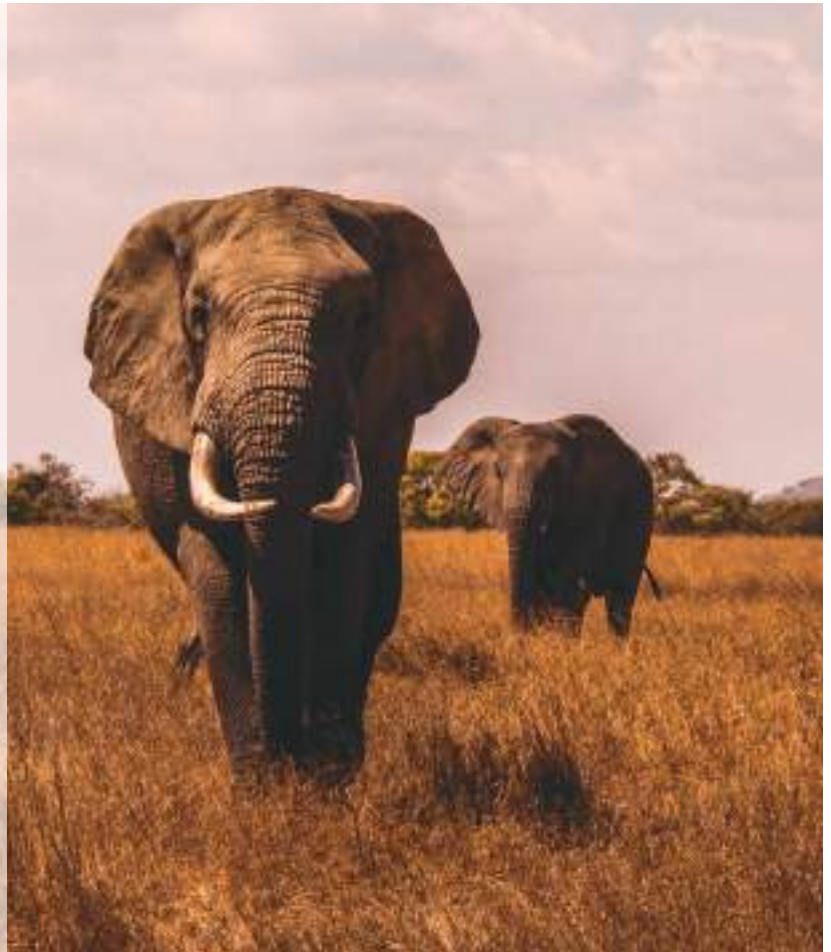
www.magneticnorthtravel.com



SAFARIS TO SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

Responsible tourism is more than a niche industry or a fad – it is fast becoming a priority for holidaymakers everywhere. When seeking out a safari holiday, it is reassuring to know that operators such as SafariBookings.Com blend conservation with premium experiences. The company offers safaris in Botswana, Malawi and Kenya and protecting elephants is part of the itinerary. The safari experiences on offer include opportunities to see elephants in the wild, working closely with organisations such as African Parks, which have an incredible track record for elephant conservation across the entire continent, working in some of the more challenging regions such as Zacouma in Chad and Garamba in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

www.safaribookings.com



Costa Mujeres leads the way

TRS Coral Hotel, a premium adults-only property in Costa Mujeres, north-east of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula will open in autumn 2018 – and it has been included in The Leading Hotels of the World, an exclusive collection of distinctive luxury hotels. The TRS Coral Hotel has 469 rooms, each with a balcony or terrace and direct access to swim-up pools.

www.palladiumhotelgroup.com



Just in time for the 2018-2019 ski season, Hotel Sassongher will be offering guests grand new rooms, a wellness area, gym, children's room, cinema, sun terrace and sky spa with open whirlpool and panorama sauna. Hotel Sassongher is a traditional South Tyrolean family-owned hotel located in the Alpine town of Corvara in the heart of the Alta Badia region of Northern Italy.

www.sassongher.it



Ski season sass



RUGGED LUXURY



We cast our eye over the latest offerings in the luxury SUV market.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

The luxury SUV market has grown in the last two decades, ever since automakers such as Porsche and Mercedes entered the market with a vengeance. Now these plush road beasts are popular with buyers seeking a serious presence without compromising on luxury or performance.

BENTLEY BENTAYGA

The Bentayga divided opinion enormously when the concept was first unveiled. Then the production models were seen in the metal at motor shows and, finally, they are now seen on the streets of cities around the

world. Therefore, people are happy to buy this controversial SUV and the more it is seen, the less incongruous it looks, in much the same way the Porsche SUVs have become increasingly more acceptable to the eye.

As well as the unmistakable luxury inside, it can't hurt that the Bentayga has broken a few records. Driven by Rallycross champion Rhys Millen, the Bentayga completed the 12.42-mile Pikes Peak course in just 10:49.9 – taking nearly two minutes off the previous record by averaging 66.5 mph.

ABOVE: Bentley Bentayga.
RIGHT: Lamborghini Urus, Porsche Macan GTS, Tesla Model X.



LAMBORGHINI URUS

Just as the market got used to the idea of a Bentley SUV, the Lamborghini Urus came along to turn heads and baffle minds in equal measure. But those in the know, those who have actually taken the Urus for a spin can attest that this is a mighty machine with plenty of fun on offer.

Design-wise, it is a far cry from the LM002, Lambo's 198-s attempt at an SUV – although anyone who held on to one of these bad boys will have the last laugh as one sold at auction last year for \$467,000.

PORSCHE MACAN GTS

When Porsche came out with the Cayenne back in 2002, there were rumblings that the German automaker was straying too far from what it does well. But in the intervening 16 years, Porsche has proven that there is a solid market for its bigger beasts, as well as the sexy, sporty little numbers.

The Macan GTS is fitted with a 3.0-litre 360hp twin-turbo V6 petrol engine with 500Nm of torque. The Porsche Traction management system ensures variable power distribution to all four wheels and the sports exhaust system means it announces its arrival in suitably raucous style.



TESLA MODEL X

The Tesla Model X is a zero emissions, all-electric SUV with performance to rival any of its petrol-powered competitors - it does the 0-100km/h sprint in 3.2 seconds and, appropriately, was launched at the 2016 Goodwood Festival of Speed to an appreciative crowd.

It comfortably seats seven adults and it combines practicality with green credentials. Like many a luxury SUV, it is uncertain as to how many dirt tracks or dunes it will ever negotiate, but in the big scheme of things, it doesn't really matter.

All these vehicles are equally at home in big cities, at the polo or parked outside a five-star hotel with a patient chauffeur waiting in the driver's seat.



Reaping the BENEFITS of DOMINICA citizenship

The Commonwealth of Dominica is an attractive destination for citizenship by investment. *Elite Living Africa* outlines the many advantages.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

Since 1993, the Commonwealth of Dominica has been offering a Citizenship by Investment programme – it has myriad benefits including affordability, integrity and opportunities for investors and their families.

Located halfway along the Eastern Caribbean Archipelago, Dominica (as distinct from the Dominican Republic, which is further north) is a stunning mountainous island nation offering incredible natural wonders as well as a great lifestyle. The island is known for its hot springs, tropical rainforests and a magnificent 148km of

coastline. The Morne Trois Pitons National Park features the famous volcanically heated Boiling Lake, Trafalgar Falls, which are 65m high, and Martinique to the south and Guadeloupe to the north. Roseau, the pretty capital, is known for its colourful timber homes and botanic garden.

A wonderful lifestyle is on offer – food lovers are impressed by the wonderful range of restaurants and bars on the island. Dominica Yacht Club, meanwhile, boasts a 100-berth marina with capacity for super-yachts.

There are great beaches, with Champagne Beach, named for its bubbly waters thanks to volcanic hot springs on the seabed, popular with divers and snorkellers. Batibou Beach was one of the picturesque filming locations for Pirates of the Caribbean but it is not overrun with tourists, thanks to its remote location. And Mero Beach, close to Roseau, is a popular choice for those seeking an active beach scene as well as a few lively bars and restaurants for when the sun goes down.

Dominican citizenship is for life – citizens are entitled to live and work in the country, pass citizenship on to future generations by descent, and dual citizenship is permitted. One of the major benefits of Dominican citizenship is visa-free travel to 120 countries, including Europe's Schengen Area, the United Kingdom, Singapore and Hong Kong.

A low tax regime protects citizens from net worth, inheritance, gift, foreign income and capital gains tax. The application process is fast – only taking a maximum of three months – and transparent with no interview requirement, no previous business experience requirement and no need to reside in Dominica before, during or after the application process. Family members can be included on the application for a significant discount.

In terms of the types of investment that lead to citizenship, there are two paths that can be taken. Applicants can invest into the Dominican economy either by making a contribution to the Economic Diversification Fund or as an investment in local, pre-approved real estate. ♦

CS Global Partners are mandated by the government of Dominica as the official marketing promoter. www.csglobalpartners.com

How much does it cost?

MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION

Main applicant: \$100,000
Main applicant and spouse: \$175,000
Main applicant with up to three dependants: \$200,000
Per additional dependant: \$25,000

DUE DILIGENCE FEES

Main Applicant: \$7,500
Spouse: \$4,000
Dependant aged 16 years or above: \$4,000

PROCESSING FEES

Per application: \$1,000



SHOOTING STARS

Emerging African photographers are making a big impact.

WORDS BY JENNYFER IDEH



Yellow fabric accentuates a magnificent backdrop of cobalt blue. Shooting stars frame the protagonist, and a crown-like sun completes the composition. Ad'da Mulunch's *For All They Care* (2016) is a striking image, evoking quiet strength and beauty. Fresh from the *New Photography 2018* exhibition at the MoMA this summer, the Ethiopian artist is part of a group of contemporary African photographers whose star is rising.

Photography tends to hover around the accessible end of the African art market, permitting those new to the medium to collect works of value even as they begin to establish their tastes. Like any object of value, there are some general ideas that can serve the photography collector well.

Initial hesitation often arises regarding the 'original' work – and quite rightly too. Fine art prints appear in limited editions, and aside from the artist who issues single-edition prints, or whose practice sees her modify or enhance individual prints, each print is not a unique work. Although not unique, each print is an original work, however, and should be signed and numbered by the artist. Posthumous prints require another degree of care, and it is a good idea to seek the advice of a specialist gallerist or consultant.

In most cases, and in the case of contemporary photography, the collector can typically enjoy a limited edition print, the value of which will remain or increase in line with the artist's career, and – and this is where collectors can have some fun – demand for that particular edition. Indeed, the total number and style of each edition is produced with the artist's consent, and it is quite possible for the same image to appear in different formats across one or two editions. Some artists may avoid re-editions, while for others, special re-editions can form part of the artist's message. Generally speaking, the smaller the edition number, the higher the value of the print – an edition of five being rarer than an edition of 500. However, some editions, in a larger size or on particular paper, for example, can become highly sought after.

Some dealers smile at the scramble for low edition numbers and, while edition 1 of 3 carries a certain cachet, the prints at the end of a particular edition, or even the very last print, can be just as rare. The artist may also wish to offer the AP, or artist's proof, which is generally considered to be the first perfect print of an image. Variables abound, and the ➤

potential grey areas are something to bear in mind, or, for the collector so inclined, to be embraced enthusiastically.

Collecting photography can be a treasure hunt of sorts. Sometimes, though, an image just grabs the eye. Fireworks and Cupid – for this type of collector, the best insurance against any loss in value is a carefully preserved piece, forming part of a collection put together with a steady passion. After all, provenance carries great weight when objects do appear on the market.



By sticking to limited edition, original prints and images that the collector can fall in love with time and again, it is hard to go wrong.

This September offers some golden opportunities to do just that. For contemporary photography, Unseen Amsterdam is a must. Now in its seventh year, Unseen presents the most significant developments in contemporary photography, and will bring together more than 300 emerging and established artists at the Westergasfabriek, a converted gasworks factory set along one of the canals.

This year, Amsterdam-based gallery, Ron Mandos will exhibit Ad'da Muluneh, while LhGWR, also based in the Netherlands, will show work by Somali artist Mustafa Saeed. London's Ed Cross Gallery is bringing work by Angolan artist Keyezua, and Brooklyn-based Red Hook Labs will showcase nine exciting photographers of African descent. We have our eyes on the following artists in particular: Nadine Ijewere for delicacy: soft focus and soft lighting with fashion influences (the London College of Fashion graduate has collaborated with Stella McCartney); Kyle Weeks for fantastic storytelling with technical precision; and Ruth Ossai — pure fun: enjoy colour and exuberance from the Yorkshire-based, Nigerian artist.

At auction, we look to Piasa. Back in March, the auction house saw positive results with contemporary African photography: Omar Victor Diop's Joel (2011) was hammered down at 6,500 euros against an estimate of 3,000 euros, while two 2016 prints by the young photographer, Gosette Lubondo, closed for 3,900 euros each against a low estimate of 3,000 euros. ❖

This September, Piasa will exhibit photography by Casimir Zagourski ahead of auction on 18 September. Zagourski is renowned for his documentation of Central African societies during the 1930s. His 'elephant' albums, containing hundreds of original photographs with hand-written captions, are the jewels in this sale.

PREVIOUS PAGE, LEFT: "For All They Care", Aida Muluneh.
PREVIOUS PAGE, RIGHT: "Keyezua 4", from the series FORTIA.
ABOVE LEFT: "M'bwaka Man" by Casimir Zagourski.
ABOVE RIGHT: "Two Men Smoking A Pipe" by Casimir Zagourski.

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH AFRICA

Trialys, an international business law firm with offices in Luxembourg and Brussels, has a global outlook and a human touch, as Alexandre Quenouille, an associate of the firm, explains.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

Luxembourg is known for its financial and investment sector as well as its outstanding quality of life, as Alexandre Quenouille, a rising young lawyer at Trialys, explains. Alexandre, an associate at the firm, said the country is a “great place to do business with highly qualified professionals in the legal and financial sector for which it is internationally known”.

He is an international business lawyer registered at the Luxembourg, Paris and New-York bars, and mainly practices as a transaction lawyer assisting high net worth individuals and companies set up and manage businesses in Luxembourg.

Alexandre believes that even in this era of technological change, it is important to retain the human aspect of the lawyer-client relationship: “The world has changed, human relationships included. We face more and more regulations to abide by, new technology accelerate the rhythm of transactions and emails places a shield between the client and the lawyer. The number of lawyers has increased exponentially with each one offering a different way of working, and clients have difficulties to identify the correct business partner – I have always believed that clients cannot just be treated as such, their files are not just files.”

“My main concern has always been to reintroduce some human aspect in the relationship. I have

always taken the time to know my clients,” he said “We do not consider each other as client/service provider but business partners. We work hand in hand structuring, nurturing, accompanying their ideas.

Choosing a lawyer is like buying a suit: you can go to your tailor or choose a ready-to-wear suit.”

For Alexandre, the sartorial analogy extends to his professional aims: “I always felt like I was not a ‘complete’ lawyer if I was not able to practice in parallel as a litigation lawyer. I believe I always dreamed of wearing a costume! Therefore, I have developed a practice in litigation, mainly business litigation although I also offer my voice to individuals.”

He said Luxembourg is a prime location for doing business and attracting foreign investment, with its “capacity to adapt to an always changing world” as well as its dynamism, tax competitiveness and public administration accessibility.

“Luxembourg offers many investment opportunities through private equity funds in arts and other exclusive products such as watches and cars, as well as asset protection and wealth management vehicles,” Alexandre said.

A freeport is another advantage to investing in Luxembourg, according to Alexandre: “This safehouse shelters works of art and other valuables. The high-security, climate-controlled rooms are available to store art collections under the strict control of the Luxembourg custom authorities.”

Despite being landlocked, Luxembourg has had a shipping flag since 1990 and now there are approximately 200 ships under Luxembourgish flags and almost 300 maritime companies.

Luxembourg offers favourable tax treatment and reliable business partners and infrastructures, making it interesting to investors and maritime companies. As an international law firm, Trialys is active on several foreign markets including Africa where its lawyers have assisted clients in mining transactions and arbitration proceedings. As a result, Trialys has acquired expertise in the OHADA regulations (Organisation for the Harmonization of Corporate Law in Africa) especially with company and securitisation laws.

“Luxembourg is a member of the African Development Bank and has always built bridges between our two continents,” said Alexandre. “We have noticed that African investors are looking for quality services and the African continent has a lot to offer business-wise.”

Despite the ever-increasing bank scrutiny in relation with know-your-client procedures that may be difficult to overcome, Luxembourg has a lot to offer to African investors and businesses as it can be used as a point of entry to European investment through its banking and finance industry, as well as offering private equity structures/ investment vehicles that may be interesting for African clients. ♦

Contact Alexandre on +352 661 72 92 47 or alexandre.quenouille@trialys.com www.trialys.com



ABOVE: Alexandre Quenouille is committed to retaining the human aspect of the law firm-client relationship.

A BITE OF THE BIG APPLE

Fifteen Hudson Yards is designed by
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collaboration with Rockwell Group.



www.livehudsonyards.com/15-hudson-yards/vr-tours

- Bulthaup kitchen
- Private elevator
- 5,161 sq ft
- 6 1/2 baths



FIFTEEN HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK

\$32m

The duplex penthouse wraps the southwest corner with a stunning arc of floor-to-ceiling glass spanning 116 linear feet and offering an uninterrupted 270-degree panorama of never-ending views of the Hudson River, New York Harbour, the Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline from the Freedom Tower to Madison Square.





www.search.savills.com

CHERRY HILL, WENTWORTH ESTATE, SURREY

\$38.2m

Built in the 1930s by the visionary British architect Oliver Hill, this former country estate of US Ambassador John Hay Whitney represents a unique restoration of one of the Wentworth Estate's most historic homes. Situated in an impressive 4.1 acres, Cherry Hill's architecture is as striking today as when it was first built. The infilled east courtyard has been rebuilt and now houses a basement cinema, study, laundry and wine cellar with a subterranean link to a new single-storey, stand-alone pavilion which provides guest accommodation, a new plant room and a large garage. To the west, a completely new wing has been constructed beyond the defining curved wall of Hill's original design.





GREYBROOK HOUSE, BROOK STREET, LONDON

\$31.2m

The penthouse is spread over two floors with a large roof garden and a sensational wrap-around reception terrace, which provides incredible views over Mayfair and the City of London. The upper level of the apartment is laid out for entertaining, with large open rooms and access to the terraces. The principle reception space is a grand L-shaped drawing room with dining area and furnished terrace.

- Private roof garden
- 5 bedrooms
- 4 large guest suites
- Duplex penthouse



- Landscaped gardens
- Underground indoor swimming pool
- Two guest bedrooms
- Prime location





LE REVE, DUBAI MARINA

\$12.2m

Situated in the most luxurious and lavish Le Reve tower in Dubai Marina with sweeping 360-degree skyline views of the Palm and Marina development, this property offers breathtaking views from all the areas. The apartment is fitted with the latest in smart home technology and security alarm systems. All the bedrooms have ensuite bathrooms and built-in wardrobes.

www.engelvoelkers.com



www.luxhabitat.ae



- 5 bedrooms
- 14,594 sq ft living space
- Smart home technology
- Ensuite bathrooms





- Mediterranean garden
- Swimming pool
- 5 bedrooms
- 7 bathrooms

DEIA ESTATE, MALLORCA, SPAIN

\$26.1m

This stunning finca enjoys one of the best positions in this area, offering inspiring open sea and mountain views which extend over to the iconic village of Deia. The property is spread over a plot of 26.78 acres and is completely private.

Furthermore, access to the finca, which is located approximately five minutes' drive from the village, is via a private road. Originally constructed in 2002, the architecture maintains the classic Mallorquin style of country houses of the island's Sierra Tramuntana region (now a UNESCO World Heritage Site) with traditional stone faced façade and light green shutters. All the rooms lead out onto the terraces.

www.onesothebysrealty.com



ONE THOUSAND MUSEUM, MIAMI, UNITED STATES

\$5.65m

One Thousand Museum Residences is the late Zaha Hadid's first residential skyscraper in the Western Hemisphere. Rising to more than 60 stories, this incredible luxury development is comprised of over 83 half and full floor residences, duplex townhomes and two single penthouses. Designed by the architects renowned for The Dubai Opera House, The London Aquatic Centre and The BMW Central Building in Germany, the east-to-west floorplans captures the mesmerising panorama of Biscayne Bay, Atlantic Ocean views and the Miami skyline. The project features an aquatic centre, a multi-media theatre for private movie screenings, and a concierge and valet service.

- Sculptural sun & swim terrace
- Bank-quality vault
- Sky Lounge
- Wellness & spa





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