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A LEGEND FROM THE CREATORS OF CRISTAL

WELCOME

Gold, diamonds and pearls. At *Elite Living Africa*, we are getting ready for the festive season with some of the world's most beautiful jewellery and watch designs. Avant-garde jewellery designer Stephen Webster tells us about his obsession with gold (pg. 34) and we take a look at some of the most exclusive and luxurious holiday destinations to put in your calendar (pg. 70).

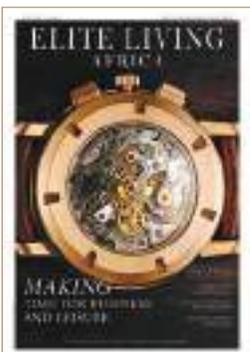
Gentlemen, look your best this new year by making sure you are up-to-date with the most chic new fashion trends (pg. 42) and take your new suit for a drive in the ultimate customised supercars (pg. 55).

For those looking to experience the best of fine dining in South Africa, our run-down of the region's top restaurants will make impressing company a breeze (pg. 74), while our review of the Monaco Yacht Show (pg. 62) and the best properties in New York (pg. 94), could prove food for thought for a New Year purchase.

Finally, don't miss out on our interviews with Ivorian footballer Salomon Kalou (pg. 20) and Bond Street's first West African jewellery designer Vania Leles (pg. 16). Our love of Creed perfume also seems to have gotten out and we meet the team behind this olfactory legacy (pg. 12).



Gemma Taylor
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Enjoy our previous issue online at www.elitelivingafrica.com

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A sense of LEGACY

The House of Creed perfumer Olivier Creed is the 6th generation of the Creed family, and, perhaps, the most influential. *Elite Living Africa* talks to Creed about how he and his family have created some of the world's most exquisite scents.

James Henry Creed founded the House of Creed in London in 1760 and it has been creating perfumes for notable customers ever since. Creed claims that Tabarome Millesime (2000) was originally commissioned by a legendary British statesman who loved fine brandy and the highest quality cigars, presumably Winston Churchill. However, Creed's mainstream breakthrough success came in the mid-1980s with the fresh fougère fragrance Green Irish Tweed (1985), an eau de parfum composed by Olivier Creed himself.

Elite Living Africa (ELA): How does the process of composing a fragrance begin for you?

Olivier Creed (OC): It can begin in so many ways: a moment of inspiration from a view, a smell, a flower, a book, fabric, a film, a piece of porcelain, or a concert of music. Anything to me can provide inspiration, any thought, any clue can make a perfume. Anything! The whole world is my inspiration. Or I can make a conscious decision, as with Vetiver Original, where I decide to explore a specific oil or raw material. This was the wish to turn the spotlight onto a certain perfume ingredient, to explore it in depth and to the full. In all its ways, in all its odours and complexities and beauty. And, of course, with all its interesting chemical difficulties too.

ELA: What are the first steps in creating a fragrance?

OC: Like a painter, I lay out my palette and then I smell the concept in my head and I select which oils I shall use. These may change as I proceed, but I always know in my mind exactly how I want the finished perfume to smell. I have the vision, always. It is constant before me. So then I have to work to complete that vision in reality.

ELA: How does the process continue?

OC: We try this, we try that. We have to wait a week, maybe a month, to see how the blending goes, how it matures, then we add a little, subtract a little...it is very

◆
“Like a painter, I lay out my palette and then I smell the concept in my head and I select which oils I shall use. These may change as I proceed, but I always know in my mind exactly how I want the finished perfume to smell.”
◆

slow and intricate and needs much patience. It's like cooking and all the work it takes to make a delicious meal. I like to try new oils and new ways to use them, new ingredients just arrived in the laboratory. It's good fun too. It's science, it is art and also fun; a big and splendid adventure. You need patience, a sense of exploration and a good imagination to make great perfume, and a sensitive nose. I have inherited my good nose from all those generations of perfume ancestors, all the Creed masters over 250 years.

ELA: How long does the process usually take?

OC: It varies, maybe weeks, months, even years. So much varies with each fragrance, it is like a painting. When I was very young, I painted a lot. Some pictures come together in a day; others go slow and take many months. Perfume is the same. All is to do with luck, inspiration, how my raw materials come together, how they "mesh", how they blend, how they work together. So much is different with each perfume - you never know how long it will be, how long it will take.

ELA: Do all fragrances take about the same time to compose or can it vary?

OC: It is different every time. Sometimes, like for instance, Love in White, it comes very quickly and easily. The fragrance makes itself, and comes together effortlessly, like magic. Others are not quick or easy at all. Aqua Fiorentina, we had to work on for a long time before the perfume became right.

ELA: How do you know you have hit upon the final version?

OC: It is an instinct. Again, like a painter, like a writer, it's a thing you feel. Something in your mind, you hope, says: "Now this perfume is finished. Stop". Suddenly, you sense that the perfume is ready, perfectly balanced with a beginning, middle and end. A perfume ready to tell a story, to be read like a book.

ABOVE AND RIGHT The Creed flagship store in Paris and Royal Princess Oud eau de parfum 75ml, \$318, www.creedfragrances.co.uk.



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ABUJA

BACK TO BLACK

When the man behind jewellery house de Grisogono, CEO Fawaz Gruosi, introduced his striking black diamond creations, the industry was in shock. Nevertheless, they became a resounding hit. We meet the man who breaks the rules.

WORDS BY ROMAN ZINCENKO



Ever since Fawaz Gruosi (pictured below) founded his exclusive jewellery house in 1993, he has pushed boundaries and taken risks, creating designs that have made waves in the world of precious jewellery. Today, with 17 boutiques around the globe, Fawaz has developed a reputation as one of the most dynamic forces in contemporary jewellery.

Elite Living Africa (ELA): How did you get into the jewellery business?

Fawaz Gruosi (FG): I have always been fond of jewellery; first working in a boutique with VIP clients and soon discovering that I wanted to sell my own creations and not someone else's. Then, after working for Harry Winston and Bulgari I was really ready to start my own company, and I have been working ever since.

ELA: What inspires you?

FG: I'm constantly inspired by the world around me. I'm inspired by the colours of the sea, the shapes of beautiful landscapes ... but my inspiration can also come from everyday objects like an etui of cigarettes which was the inspiration behind the shape of the New Retro watch (pictured above).

ELA: Why were your black diamonds so famous?

FG: I learned of the Black Orlov of 190k whilst reading a book and fell under its spell. I decided I wanted to work with it despite the challenges it came with, like its opacity and the difficulty to cut it. It was unconventional at the time but the beautiful creations we were able to achieve were convincing and our clients all over the world soon started appreciating the collection and buying the jewellery.

ELA: What other African gems do you use?

FG: The origin of the stones is not the criteria of choice. I choose stones whenever I feel emotionally attached to them.

ELA: Where is your favourite place in the world?

FG: I love my family, my friends, and I love to cook. This is where pretty much all my free time goes and my favourite place in the summer is my

lovely Sardinia, where I have spent my past 40 summers. I like Gstaad during winter, especially in Porto Cervo, where I have indelible memories. In the Swiss Alps, you can have fun and relax at the same time.

ELA: What do you treasure the most in your life?

FG: My daughters, Allegra and Violetta, and my little grandson.

ELA: What has been your biggest challenge?

FG: At first, I was unsure as to whether my bold designs would make it in the conventional jewellery industry, but then I realised as long as the quality of the jewels is high, my intuition is all that mattered.

ELA: What advice would you give young people today?

FG: I'm happy with the way the industry has become more tolerant towards more innovative ways of jewellery making, so I hope young people will take advantage of this and create something new. But my advice is: be bold, confident, and dare to make a place for yourself in this competitive industry.

ELA: Who do you admire?

FG: I really admire strong, powerful women.

ELA: What is important to you

in life and why?

FG: Freedom, good health and loved ones.

ELA: What is the secret to your success?

FG: To do what my intuition tells me to do, to do the unexpected.

ELA: What do you love about Africa?

FG: I believe Africa is a rich place in many aspects. As I love nature and especially animals, I dream of the experiences I had in its natural environments and with the magnificent wildlife – especially through a safari in the Masai Mara or Tanzania.

ELA: Any thoughts on the African luxury market?

FG: The luxury market in Africa shows great potential and an increasing number of luxury brands are turning their attention to Africa. I see possibilities for us there, so watch this space.

www.degrisogono.com



◆
“The luxury market in Africa shows great potential and an increasing number of luxury brands are turning their attention to Africa. I see possibilities for us there, so watch this space”
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TOP AND ABOVE The New Retro watch and Vortice ring in white gold and 4.45k white diamonds.

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DIAMOND FIND

West Africa-born jewellery designer Vania Leles, CEO of VanLeles Diamonds, is now the first woman of colour with a boutique on Bond Street. *Elite Living Africa* finds out how her love for precious stones has turned into a successful business.

WORDS BY GEMMA TAYLOR

The talented Vania Leles took an unusual route into dealing with diamonds. Born in West Africa and educated in Lisbon, Portugal, Vania moved to London in 1999 after two years in Paris, to start modelling. A dream come true, Vania travelled the world before happening upon her true passion on the streets of New York.

***Elite Living Africa* (ELA): What was your first taste of diamonds?**

Vania Leles (VL): One of my apartments in Manhattan was above a Bulgari store on Madison Avenue and I was fascinated by it. I was also shooting with a lot of fine jewellery and the more I started to dig in deeper, I realised that almost 80 per cent of the gems were coming from Africa. I was born there, so why didn't I get into it? We are not exposed to that side back home.

***ELA:* What were your first steps after deciding to pursue jewellery as a career?**

VL: I did a course in gemmology at the Gemmological Institute of America and specialised in diamonds and precious stones, like rubies, emeralds. I then did a hand design course and



a business course. I fell in love with the crystals and wanted to work for one company: Graff. I sent them my CV 15 times and eventually they thought we better give her a chance? It was the job of a lifetime for three years.

After that, I was lured to join De Beers, as I wanted to work for a big corporation and after three years, I joined Sotheby's heading up its jewellery department in London and Geneva. The most memorable thing we auctioned was a 24.79k pink diamond, sold to Laurence Graff for \$46m. It was already polished and cut and Graff set it in a ring in order to sell it on.

After Sotheby's, I set up on my own. I knew the suppliers, producers, workshops, and clients. My black book was enviable and I had always dreamed of branching out on my own.

***ELA:* How does it feel to have opened VanLeles Diamonds on Bond Street?**

VL: I was interviewed recently by one of the most respected jewellery editors in the world who said she had been reporting on jewellery 20 years and never seen a black African jeweller with their own brands. It made me wonder, as every time I worked at Graff or De Beers, all the diamonds and precious >

◆

*“I didn’t want to add value to
someone else’s company.
They just wanted my
contacts, so I secured some
seed capital investment
and launched the
bridal collection.
I was well-received
and people
started buying
from
me”*

◆



*VanLeles Dancing butterfly pendant necklace
in 18k white gold and round brilliant diamonds,
\$30,252*



VanLeles Dancing Butterfly,
18k Rose gold, diamond,
drop earrings, \$41,244

➤ stones we used came from Africa. What is stopping African woman and men owning their own diamond business? This fires my passion.

ELA: What made you want to start this venture?

VL: I didn't want to add value to someone else's company. They just wanted my contacts, so I secured some seed capital investment and launched the bridal collection. I was well-received and people started buying from me and I started with a small office in Bulgaria, moving to Mayfair last year, right opposite Graff where I first started. Mr Graff started with almost nothing as a bench worker 40 years ago and with the right help, work ethic, and ethically sourcing all the way through, he has built one of the biggest jewellers in the industry. It's extremely stressful and there isn't much success to be shouted about; the hard work is just beginning. Ask me again about success in five to 10 years time.

ELA: Tell us about some of your designs?

VL: I am not re-inventing the wheel. The butterfly motif is what I love, and the bows are in memory of a friend of mine. Everything is close to my heart, especially 'Legends of Africa', which is a work in progress and my favourite collection.

ELA: Where is your favourite place in Africa?

VL: I love Bijagós Arquipélago off the coast of Guinea-Bissau. My father's side all live there and I haven't been back in a long time, but have my most beautiful memories there. It is 20 little islands where my family used to go a lot on holidays when it was peaceful. There was a natural wilderness on the main island, which was called Bubaque, where we would live among the flora and fauna, watching the sea in the Atlantic. With the 1998 civil war, sadly, much of the infrastructure was destroyed.

ELA: Who has supported you on this journey?

VL: My family was very supportive; you need to be brave and persistent as it's a very Jewish and Indian male-dominated industry. I am going to start our

◆
"Have a good work ethic, determination, humility and grace. As I can not emphasise enough, in this industry, your reputation and honesty is your everything. If you have those in line, it would be hard for you not to succeed."
◆

own African family in the jewellery industry and hopefully inspire others to join.

ELA: What advice do you have for those looking at a similar career choice?

VL: I always say, firstly, get well-informed. You have to have your knowledge as your fist weapon. Have a good work ethic, determination, humility and grace. As I can not emphasise enough, in this industry, your reputation and honesty is your everything. If you have those in line, it would be hard for you not to succeed. Someone gave me a helping hand to be where I am today; my supplier who first lent me diamonds, so I'm here to give back my helping hand to whoever needs it. Women supporting women is so important and I have a soft spot for young African girls. I have two interns, so they can have the opportunity to see what I am doing, see how I talk to clients and the design process. I advise them to stay in school and break the circle of not achieving what you want. They live in a deprived part of London and when they come to Bond Street, it's like when you are exposed to an environment that is not your natural habitat – it can plant a seed of this is what you want to do.

ELA: What is most important to you in life?

LV: My eight-month-old son, Balthazar, and family are what I pray for at night and thank God for when I wake up. What inspires my jewellery is the modern woman. Any modern woman, regardless of her choices, as any choice they make is powerful, be it in a positive or negative way. What inspires me is their positive choices. I lived all over the world and, just to see what I read and what I've been told, we are so armed today to change lives and do whatever we want, and I see women who work out their own career and manage a family. They are modern day super-women and when I design something ultra-feminine and romantic, it is for all those women. ◆

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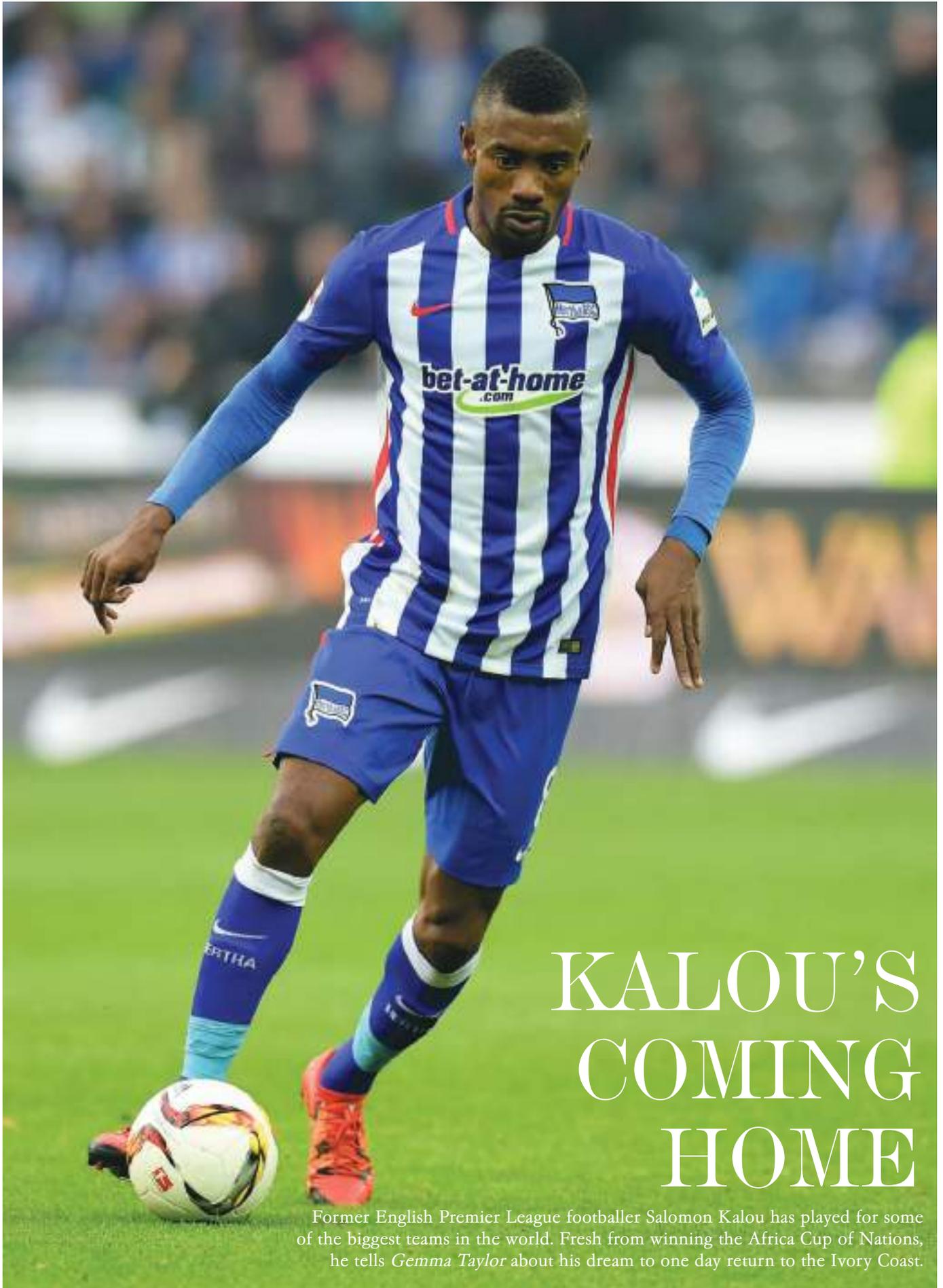
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KALOU'S COMING HOME

Former English Premier League footballer Salomon Kalou has played for some of the biggest teams in the world. Fresh from winning the Africa Cup of Nations, he tells *Gemma Taylor* about his dream to one day return to the Ivory Coast.

Often cited as one of the most affable men in football, it is no surprise that with a successful career under his belt, ex-Chelsea footballer Salomon Kalou now has his eyes set on a different goal. Heralding from Abidjan on the Ivory Coast, Salomon has been investing back into his local community since his first pay cheque, and in 2010, he set up the Kalou Foundation with his older brother, Bonaventure Kalou.

Elite Living Africa (ELA): You won the Premier League, UEFA Champions League, four FA Cups and the League Cup. How did you become so good at the beautiful game?

Salomon Kalou (SK): I grew up watching my father and my big brother, Bonaventure, playing and I followed their steps. It turned into something I love because I looked up to my brother. He was my inspiration and he was successful, so I tried to be better than him because my goal was always to be at his level. It's a good way to learn from the mistakes of a big brother.

ELA: That was many years ago, how is it playing for Hertha BSC now you've been playing professionally for almost 15 years?

SK: When you get older you have to reserve your energy for the job. Right now I'm in Berlin and we have just finished training for the day, so I am going to go home and watch a film starring Denzel Washington, as he is my favourite actor. If they make a film out of my life, I think he would kill it as my character; it would be an Oscar winner.

ELA: Isn't there a famous chant about you?

SK: Yes, some fans like to sing [chants]: He comes from the Ivory Coast! Kalou! Kalou! He doesn't do parties like Adrian Mutu! Mutu! He crossed the ball from in the left, it landed right on Riise's head! That's why we love Saloman Kalou!

ELA: What has been the most dramatic moment in your career?

SK: When I was playing for Chelsea and we lost the Champions League final against Manchester in 2008 in Moscow and when we lost the African Cup of Nations final against Zambia on penalties in 2012. When you lose, you feel sore, tired and disappointed because you have put all your energy and hard work into the game. You bounce back by motivating yourself, by remembering that if I did it before I can do it again. In 2012 we [Chelsea] won the Champions League and in 2015 won the African Cup of Nations,



◆
"When you lose, you feel sore, tired and disappointed because you have put all your energy and hard work into the game. You bounce back by motivating yourself, by remembering that if I did it before, I can do it again."
◆



which was a dream come true. It was a dream come true for everyone at home in Africa and you're also winning something special for yourself.

ELA: Do you have any pre-match rituals?

SK: I don't do pre-match rituals because I go to the gym. I know I train hard, so I just go and try to play my best. Sometimes it works and sometimes when it doesn't, I say to myself in my head, I'm living the dream of my life. Every time I get the chance, I go out there and enjoy myself.

ELA: What motivates you?

SK: I think everyone is aware of motivating themselves. Some people play because they have kids looking up to them and want to please their family. Mine is because it's a blessing, I'm living my dream.

ELA: Is football the thing you care about most?

SK: My family is what I treasure the most, and everything to do with family always comes first. Everything I have in life, everything I achieve. Sometimes you need to share that with people who love you.

ELA: Who have you connected with in the industry?

SK: I have a lot of good friends in football. Didier Drogba is probably my best friend because we're from the same country and share the same values and that made a good bond between us. We do a lot of things >

Offside Style

Kalou's style advice when he's not on the pitch is to keep things simple. A casual combination of sneakers and jeans from his favourite designer Dolce & Gabbana is a winner every time.

LEFT AND ABOVE Salomon playing for his current team, Hertha BSC, and the Ivory Coast.

RIGHT Salomon Kalou played as a striker and winger at Chelsea FC for six years.



➤ together, and visit our country - back in the Ivory Coast. It doesn't matter where I go when I'm home, I'm always happy to be back.

ELA: If you weren't a footballer what would you be doing?

SK: I would like to be a social worker, I like to give back. Giving is the best gift. It doesn't matter what position you have, if you give back to people, to people who need it most, then it's a great gift. I think that the best way to give back is to create a platform for people who need it most. For me, it's to build something that will be there forever, so when I leave this life, I will leave something for people who need it.

With the Kalou Foundation, the first thing we did was build a centre in Bouake, the second city of the Ivory Coast, where people can go and have dialysis. The centre opened in 2009 when I was named the ambassador. It was my promise to them that when I started the foundation, I would create the centre and work with orphanages and other departments.

I think in a couple of years I will retire. I have been blessed to win a lot of trophies and I can look back on a life I have dreamed about, having played for Chelsea for six years. As a footballer that's the dream. I'm looking forward to being 30 and being in this position, I can retire whenever I feel like it and move in another direction. No, I will not start a clothes line, or start a perfume, I want to do something that allows me be involved with and be a part of the community.

ELA: What advice would you give young people looking to get into football?

SK: Never give up on your dreams, go for it 100 per cent and every time you get to a wall or a different obstacle, carry on. For good things to happen, your comfort must be disturbed. When you are past that moment, you have reached a level you can achieve anything you want.

The advice I would have given to my 20-year-old self would have been to find someone to fall in love

with and build an empire with. I love David Beckham and Posh Spice, both are great together. For me they're the most glamorous couple; good at business and smart.

ELA: Who do you think is the best footballer of all time?

SK: The best footballer of all time is Lionel Messi because in this era it's hard to find footballers like that. Back in the day, I think Diego Maradona was good, but in football now, it's hard to go past five defenders, now they are harder and stronger and quicker. However, I think football is generally going in a good direction. The game, yes, the transfer market is a different game. I think the future is education, now footballers are not just footballers, they have the power to make a change.

For information on how to make a donation to the Kalou Foundation, please visit www.fondationkalou.com.

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"The advice I would have given to my 20-year-old self would have been to find someone to fall in love with and build an empire with. I love David Beckham and Posh Spice. For me, they're the most glamorous couple."
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Factsheet

DATE OF BIRTH – 05/08/1985

PLACE OF BIRTH – Abidjan, Ivory Coast

NATIONALITY – Ivory Coast

PLAYING POSITION – Striker

CURRENT CLUB – Hertha BSC



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ALLIGATOR LUGGAGE SET

\$122,960, Farbod Barsum,
www.farbodbarsom.com

Beverly Hills designer of couture exotic skin handbags and accessories, Farbod Barsum debuts his most luxurious travel set yet. Made entirely of sustainably sourced American alligator, crafting the bags for this set represented the ultimate in rarity by sourcing large premium-grade alligator, all complementing in size, texture, and quality.



DODO BASSINET

\$15,117,288, Suommo, www.suommo.com

This 24k solid gold crib, named the Dodo Bassinet Limited Edition, is what dreams are made of. Taking six months to build, the baby basket weighs in at 188kg, 114cm high and comes with bedding made of natural wild silk, Pima cotton and gold yarn embroideries. Have the cot engraved with diamond and white gold insignia, for an extra \$108,408, or diamond and pure gold embellishment for \$103,404, to make this a true family heirloom.





SEWING BOX CABINET

POA, Kiki van Eijk, www.kikiworld.nl

For a real conversation piece, Dutch designer Kiki van Eijk has designed a cabinet that opens like a giant sewing box. The mechanism is supported by springs so that pulling on one side opens up the whole structure, despite its weight, without a motor or electronic components. This unique piece of furniture took four years to perfect because the mechanics were so intricate.



CARTIER PANTHÈRE

\$195, Assouline, www.sassouline.com

Luxury publishing house Assouline has released a book tracing the evolution of world-famous jeweller Cartier and the iconic Cartier panther figure. George Barbier first sketched the outline of the now famous panther for Louis Cartier 100 years ago, and, after a century, the Cartier panther is now a symbol of beauty, craftsmanship and audacity.



THE GRAND PIANO

POA, Modenese Gastone,
www.modeneseastone.com

An antique piano full of history has been revived thanks to the bright vision of Paride Modenese, designer and marketing manager of Modenese Gastone. A personal dream come true, the ancient sound of the solid fir-tree sounding board hovers in the air again, but with a new balance of shapes, colours and notes. The skillful hands of Italian artisans have given this precious piano a natural elegance. The richness of the gold inlays is framed with an ivory background of soft floral decorations.



'LIKE IT OR NOT, WE LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES'

Watch expert Angus Davies takes a look at some of the most interesting timepieces he has seen this year.



When Robert Kennedy made a speech in Cape Town in 1966, he referred to a Chinese curse, when he said: "May he live in interesting times. Like it or not we live in interesting times."

Setting aside politics, Kennedy's famous speech could be applied to the current world of high-end watchmaking. The so-called rarefied heights of 'haute horlogerie' continue to embrace innovation, despite a reputation for conforming to tradition. This is an esoteric domain where perfection is absolute, heritage is highly prized and fine craftsmanship is practised by time-served hands.

In the early 1970s, the Swiss watchmaking

industry suffered serious decline with the advent of the super-precise quartz watch. The ubiquitous belief was that traditional mechanical watches were obsolete. Thankfully, this was not the case. Since 2000, Swiss watch exports have more than doubled, totalling \$23b in 2014 alone.

Kennedy's comments seem most apt with the recent changes witnessed in the watch industry. Whilst much talk is of 'smart watches', the majority of these watches occupy a significantly lower price segment. Nevertheless, the high-end mechanical watch industry is not being complacent. Innovation is much in evidence without eschewing fine hand craftsmanship.

ABOVE The complexity of a Ferdinand Berthoud chronometer open movement.

DUAL TIME MIDNIGHT BLUE FUMÉ VENTURER TOURBILLON

\$99,500, H. Moser
www.h-moser.com

Heinrich Moser, a third generation Swiss watchmaker, set up on his own at the tender age of 21, having trained in the watchmaking haven of Le Locle. Thereafter, he embarked on a treacherous journey to St Petersburg and established his longstanding company, H. Moser & Cie.

Whilst living and working in St Petersburg, Heinrich made his fortune, showing incredible entrepreneurship and crafting fine horological creations for the Russian Imperial Court. When Czar Nicholas I had a 'mechanical piece which needed to be repaired', the Heinrich Moser was reputedly the only person capable of undertaking the task.

Today, H. Moser & Cie operates near Heinrich's birthplace in nearby Neuhausen am Rheinfall. The company produces a relatively small number of watches, circa 1,000 pieces per annum, and freely

admits its timepieces are rare.

Part of the reason for the limited production capability of H. Moser & Cie can be attributed to the exacting standards it employs. The company is a 'manufacture' and well-known for its technical ingenuity.

The Dual Time Midnight Blue Fumé Venturer Tourbillon combines two complications, a 'dual time' and a 'tourbillon'. The dual time consists of an additional hour hand, used to display the prevailing hour at home whilst working overseas. In order to preserve the clean, uncluttered lines of the dial, the additional hour hand need only be revealed when required, otherwise it adopts a discreet persona, hiding behind the hour hand.

This watch combines a tourbillon and a double hairspring, augmenting accuracy and showcasing the technical capability of this small company.

Beyond the functionality of the Dual Time Midnight Blue Fumé Venturer Tourbillon, elegant styling is much in evidence. Leaf-shaped silver-toned

hands float above a sumptuous deep blue sea. The fumé dials, adorned with a sunburst motif, dance with light and sparkle with vitality while always exhibiting seemly behaviour. Few watches usurp H. Moser & Cie when it comes to graceful aesthetics and lucid dials.



ABOVE AND RIGHT The red hand can be set to indicate a second time zone.

WHAT IS A TOURBILLON?

The tourbillon was patented by Abraham-Louis Breguet, arguably one of the greatest watchmakers of all time. He realised that depending on the position in which a watch was held, gravity could adversely affect the balance which in turn influences the precision of the watch. His solution was to position the escapement, a collection of parts which includes the balance in a cage that rotates around its own axis once every 60 seconds, effectively countering any gravitational errors.

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ROYAL OAK PERPETUAL CALENDAR

\$99,900, Audemars Piguet
www.audemarspiguet.com

One of the grandees of haute horlogerie is Audemars Piguet, a company which can trace its roots to watchmaker Jules Louis Audemars who, in 1875, established his workshop in the family home. A few years later, Audemars called upon another watchmaker, Edward Auguste Piguet, someone he had known since primary school, to help him meet increasing demand for his timepieces. Descendants of these two families continue to own and operate the company to this day.

Audemars Piguet has always been located in Le Brassus within the Vallée de Joux, a region steeped in rich watchmaking tradition and known for crafting intricate complicated movements.

Audemars Piguet has recently unveiled its new Royal Oak Perpetual Calendar. This new 41mm watch is housed within the iconic Royal Oak case, first penned by design genius, Gérald Genta in 1972. Although offered in a choice of case materials, purists will no doubt be drawn to the steel case model with blue 'Grand Tapisserie' dial, which doffs its hat to the original sports watch conceived by Monsieur Genta. Priced at \$65,900 in steel and \$99,900 in 1k pink gold.



CHRONOMÈTRE FB 1

POA, Ferdinand Berthoud
www.ferdinandberthoud.ch

Horology and the navigation of seas have been closely aligned since the early 18th century. After the British Navy suffered a huge loss of life near the Isles of Scilly in 1707, when four ships were wrecked and 1,300 souls were lost, the British Parliament passed the Longitude Act 1714.

The need to safely navigate the seas was of national importance. The British Government offered a prize of \$30,000 for a solution which led to the determination of longitude within an accuracy of half-a-degree. English watchmaker John Harrison commenced a lifetime's work creating several marine chronometers, the latter term denoting high levels of precision.

On the other side of the English Channel, master clockmaker Ferdinand Berthoud, originally from Val-de-Travers, Switzerland, was working in Paris, also developing marine chronometers. It must be remembered that this was a time when supremacy of the seas was a matter of national pride. In 1768, marine chronometers No.6 and No.8 successfully completed sea trials aboard the corvette 'L'Isis'.

This year, the name Ferdinand Berthoud has re-emerged. The company, now owned by the Chopard Group, has been carefully nurtured and an era of post-dated classics now beckons. The inaugural timepiece, the Chronomètre FB 1, is not a contrived re-edition of an 18th century timepiece, but a breathtaking masterpiece, suffused with innovations, evincing a modern mien.

The timepiece is available in two variants, 18k rose gold with ceramic and 18k white gold with titanium. High precision is assured, courtesy of independently certified chronometer status (COSC). This watch is equipped with a suspended fusée constant force escapement, a unique tourbillon with central seconds and patented power-reserve display.

The complex construction features several sapphire crystals, including four windows gracing the sides of the case which accord a wonderful view of the fusée at work.



WHAT IS A COMPLICATION?

A complication is any function other than the display of hours, minutes and seconds. This wristwatch displays the hours, minutes, day, date, week, month, astronomical moon and leap year.

The perpetual calendar complication automatically adjusts the date each month for those months containing only 30 days or, in the case of February, 28 or 29 days. The date only requires manual adjustment every 100 years when the leap-year rule is not applicable e.g. 2100, 2200, 2300.



A small glass capillary encircling the dial is filled with two non-miscible liquids. One liquid is coloured, whilst the other is colourless. The meniscus between the two liquids, in conjunction with the adjacent scale, imparts the hour. The minutes are displayed on a subdial positioned below noon. Other indications include a small seconds display and a power reserve indicator.

H1 BLUE 2

\$69,000, HYT

www.hytwatches.com

HYT is a young, independent watch brand from Neuchâtel, Switzerland, which emerged into the world of haute horlogerie in 2012 with a wholly new means of imparting time.

The dial of the first model, the H1 Titanium, conveys hours, not with a customary hand, but by pumping a bright green fluid around the periphery of the dial. This technological know-how proved revolutionary.

HYT has continued to release new models, some of which feature alternative coloured fluids. This, on the face of it, may not sound remarkable. However, each liquid is subject to exhaustive testing to ensure it is not adversely affected by UV-light or temperature. The regal blue shade of the fluid encircling the aptly named H1 Blue 2, is especially eye-catching and contrasts wonderfully with the titanium and pink gold case.

Despite modernity, the exclusive hand-wound movement powering the H1 Blue 2 was made exclusively for HYT by the highly regarded team of Audemars Piguet Renaud and Papi (APRP), a company which also makes high-end watch movements for Audemars Piguet, Chanel, Fabergé and Richard Mille.

The expertise of APRP is manifest within moments of examining the movement at close quarters. Sitting adjacent the two unusual bellows pumps, visible in the southern hemisphere of the dial, are fabulous flourishes of hand craftsmanship. For example, the 'bridges' of the movement are hand-chamfered by an artisan deftly applying a series of files in order to create a 45° angle which sparkles in ambient light.

The juxtaposition of modernity and tradition demonstrated by HYT is most agreeable.

SKELETON PURE FIRE

\$46,000, Armin Strom
www.arminstrom.com

Armin Strom, a talented watchmaker began his watchmaking business in 1967. Initially, he restored clocks, but soon began open-working or 'skeletonising' watches. In 1990, his name entered the Guinness Book of Records for creating the smallest hand-skeletonised watch, measuring only 12.5mm in diameter.

Today, the eponymous Armin Strom AG is owned and operated by Serge Michel in collaboration with the highly talented Claude Greisler. The company is a 'manufacture' crafting its own movements to exacting standards in a small, state of the art atelier in Biel/Bienne.

The styling of the watches is contemporary and yet references the prowess of Mr Strom at open-working mechanical movements. The delightful outcome is a horological voyeur's dream, with many of the 146 movement components openly disclosed via the open-worked dial and transparent glazed caseback.

Recently, the stainless steel version of the Skeleton Pure received the prestigious 2015 Red Dot Design Award. However, it is its sibling, the 18k gold cased 'Fire' model which exudes the highest quotient of luxury. Moreover, its warm tones prove most agreeable and with an asking price of \$46,000, it makes a compelling argument for acquisition.



THE WINNERS

The world's largest and most revered watch award event, The Grand Prix d'Horlogerie (GPHG), celebrated its 15th anniversary this year. Attracting the industry's best brands, more than 200 watches were submitted, and this was narrowed down to these 16 showstopping timepieces.

CATEGORIES:

- AIGUILLE D'OR GRAND PRIX: Greubel Forsey, Tourbillon 24Seconds Inclined Vision.
- TECHNICAL INNOVATION: Prezioso Tourbillon of Tourbillons. This watch also won the Public Award.
- MECHANICAL EXCEPTION: Jaquet Droz Charming Bird. The automated watch features a bird with real feathers that moves its wings as it turns within its stunning sapphire dome.
- STRIKING WATCHES: Girard-Perregaux Minute Repeater Tourbillon with Gold Bridges.
- TOURBILLON: Ulysse Nardin, Ulysse Anchor Tourbillon.
- CALENDARS: Hermes Slim Calibre Perpetual Calendar.
- LADIES' CATEGORY: Hublot Big Bang Broderie - a truly unisex piece.
- LADIE'S HIGH MECHANICALS: Faberge Peacock.
- JEWELRY: Audemars Piguet Diamond Punk.
- REVIVAL: Piaget Manchette Diamond Cuff watch. This is a reinvention of a watch that was first introduced in the 1970's.
- PETITE AIGUILLE: Affordable Watches - value and quality watches retailing for less than \$8,000 Habring2 Felix.
- ARTISTIC: Blancpain Villeret Cadran Shakudo
- SPORTS: Tudor Pelagos
- MEN'S: Voutilainen GMR
- CHRONOGRAPHS: Piaget Altiplano
- REVELATION: Award to a brand 10 years or younger: Laurent Ferrier, Galet Square.

For images of the winners visit www.elitelivingafrica.com

ON THE OPEN ROAD TO GOLD

Daring jewellery designer Stephen Webster is a modern day alchemist who has managed to consistently shock and delight the industry for almost 40 years. He tells *Elite Living Africa* how his love of gold continues to inspire him.

WORDS BY GEMMA TAYLOR

Diamonds will never go out of style, but are too often trapped in traditional settings, which choke their potential to dazzle. For those who are looking to tell a story with their jewellery, Stephen Webster's witty and irreverent designs continue to put smiles on the faces of celebrities and royalty alike, and as his book, *Gold Struck*, explains, it's all down to the Au.

***Elite Living Africa (ELA):* Your jewellery collections are inspired by everything from your travels in Africa to musician David Bowie. What inspired you to write a book about your journey with gold?**

Stephen Webster (SW): My book is called *Gold Struck* for a reason. The perfect thing to work with is gold because it allows you to do what you want to do with it, and that can be so extraordinary. It can be beaten to something so thin it can stick to your fingers, like gold leaf, or stretched to a micrometre, which is a quality that the other precious metals don't quite allow. Silver is pretty good, but when it comes to jewellery, silver has complications. Silver wants to tarnish and platinum and palladium don't quite want to move. Eighteen-karat gold is your ultimate mix, which is three quarters pure gold and one quarter is alloy. Rose gold, you have to use a lot of copper, so working with it is a bit dirtier, while white gold has all sorts of problems, because the whitest white contains nickel and that can cause allergies. So you must use iridium-plated palladium and platinum as they aren't pure white. White gold has been 90 per cent of what we >

"Exotic and rare, tanzanite is the most beautiful blue stone with flashes of purple. The trip I went on to Africa was unforgettable and I have a whole chapter on the tanzanite mine I was invited to visit there. It was an extremely emotional experience"



ABOVE Stephen Webster on his beloved Russian motorbike restored from 1957 complete with plush leather interior sidecar.





TOP AND ABOVE 'Gold Struck' two-finger ring in 18k gold with agate, tourmalines, emeralds and diamonds; 'Magnipheasant' plumage two-finger ring set in 18k gold with tanzanite, aquamarine and diamonds.

> have used in the last 10 years, because people thought yellow gold was what their mother wore. I think this is changing, though.

ELA: You talk about an interesting trip to Africa in your book. Is this where you were inspired to start using tanzanite?

SW: Exotic and rare, tanzanite is the most beautiful blue stone with flashes of purple. The trip I went on to Africa was unforgettable and I have a whole chapter on the tanzanite mine I was invited to visit there. It was an extremely emotional experience. Going down that mine was one of the scariest things I've ever done. There's no one on this planet who could keep going down 1.5km without feeling anxiety. I went really pale. When you get down there, there's a lot of noise, it's hot, and there is constant dynamite going off, and self preservation kicks in.

ELA: You take a lot of risks in your work. How do you deal with criticism?

SW: I deal with it. It's not jewellery that is for everybody, or I would be Links of London or something. If I feel like we didn't do designs that are resonating with people, then that's when I feel awful. The biggest mistake that I've learnt from, is going into something unprepared, and thinking that your product is enough and not understanding the market or a sector you're entering. They're the things it takes time to recover from and it can be painful for you and your brand. If you've gone out there with a collection, it's an expensive mistake.

ELA: Russia has been a hugely successful market for you - where will you go next?

SW: Last year, my Russian market was affected by a situation that I had no control over. Russia got border wars and the world put sanctions on Russia, the ruble collapsed, and our last 14 years of growth had been in Russia. I was talking to a woman who runs jewellery in Harrods and she was confused as

she told me my number one client was now from China, and Nigeria was second. Russians aren't in the top 10 anymore. That was bad, so this year we won't be budgeting for that.

My focus is now on Asia. I need to understand the brands they do go for and that if it's all about Cartier and Graff, it's about prestige, which is also quite West Africa. In Shengzen, I learnt that out of 16m people, the average age is 25 years old, everyone is on WeChat, because the others are restricted, and if you want a business where they're all young and connected, you have to understand what they look for. My daughter is 16 years old and was shocked by how edgy everyone was.

ELA: Congratulations on moving to your new salon on the corner of Berkley Square in London. Who is ahead of the curve when it comes to luxury retail?

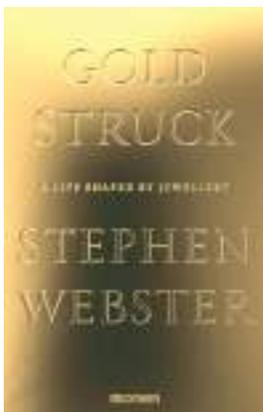
SW: I think luxury retail is all about entertaining people and allowing them up to the next level physically and metaphorically. In China, I was in a jewellery shop that was also a members-only club, where fashion and restaurants all come together in line with the shopper's personal brand. On Rodeo Drive, Los Angeles, our shop, No Regrets, has a similar vibe and was one of the first jewellery salons to throw parties. With this new venue, I want to invite people into the inner sanctum. I have clients that will travel from Texas if I've got an exhibition with an artist, because they trust my taste. I've got artist friends, such as Tracy Emin, loaning me pieces to decorate the space, including a chandelier by Fredrikson and Stallard, which is like a golden meteorite. I'm launching my book there and I want people to walk in and think, 'is this what his front room looks like?'

ELA: What's your most treasured possession?

SW: Most treasured possession my wife bought me for 50th birthday, when I told her that Harley Davidson motorbikes are for old blokes. I wanted a famous old Russian motorbike, which was used in the war and had a machine gun mounted on a sidecar. She's Russian and very resourceful, so goes out to our partner in Siberia and they find one. Fully restored from 1957, it's so regal, it feels like a carriage that should have a horse attached. I've taken all sorts of people for a ride in its plush leather interior. You can't not, it's a beautiful thing.

ELA: What advice do you have for young people?

SW: From when I finished my apprenticeship, I knew I wanted to do things differently. Taking an opportunity to apprentice in Canada, I saw exotic stones that I never could have seen in England. I encourage this in my kids. My eldest is in Berlin. It's an industry you've got to love it and not feel obliged to be in it by your family. You must remain true to the reason why you're doing something. You can get pulled all over the place otherwise, and if you start to lose sight of yourself, people lose sight of you. You have to think of why you're doing something and what you want to achieve. I would love to make more money, but I never do it for the money. Everyone who is in this company is here because they love the brand. We're all in business, but it's not all about margins. ❖



ABOVE Stephen Webster's book, *Gold Struck*, explores his journey with his favourite precious metal.

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Chris Hemsworth works hard and chooses his roles carefully. He handles pressure by taming it, and turning it to his advantage. #DontCrackUnderPressure was coined with him in mind.

I DO

Digital nature engagement ring,
\$24,317, Guy & Max



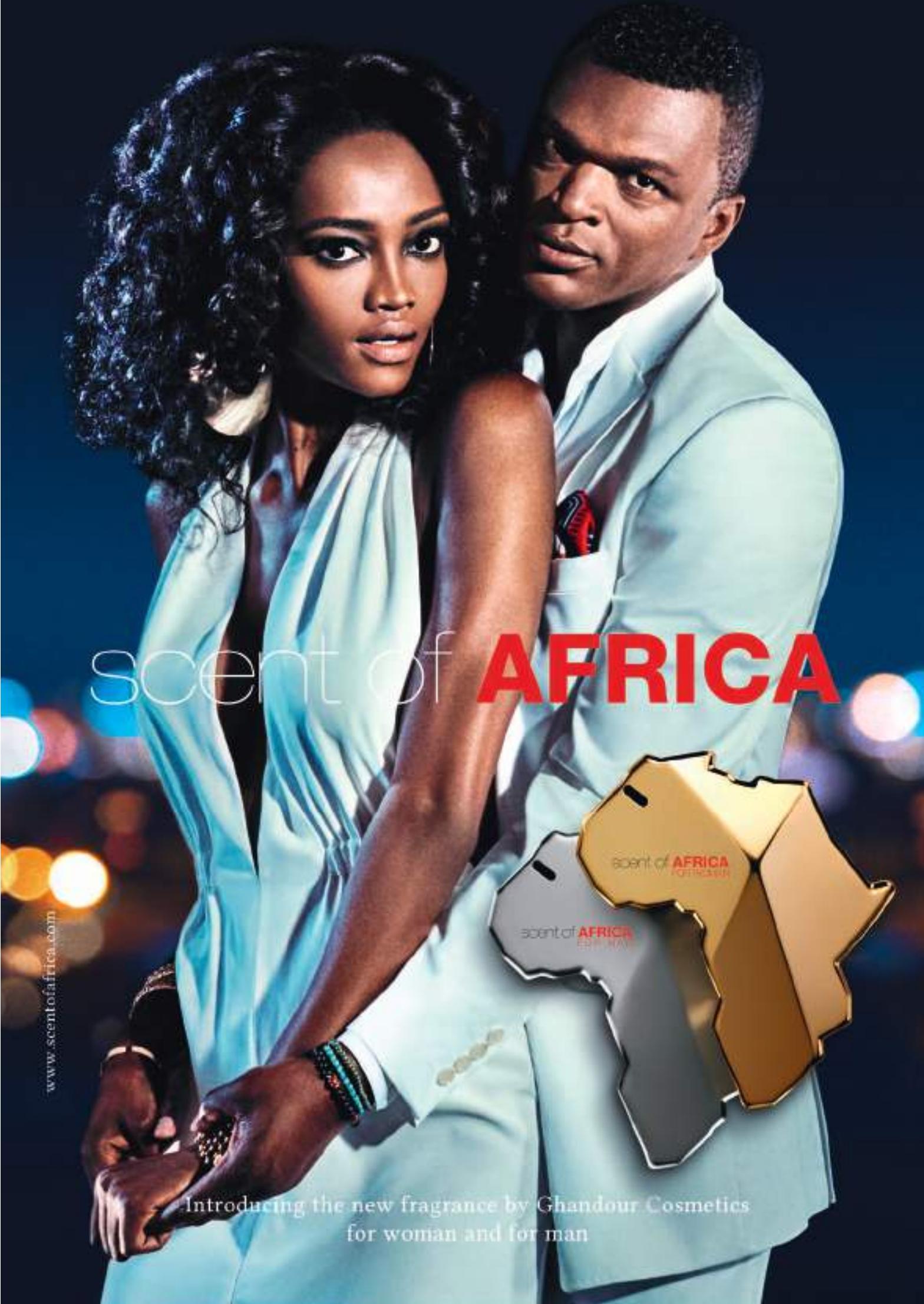
Diamonds are a fiancé's best friend and for those looking to propose with an unforgettable diamond setting, cutting-edge jewellers Guy & Max are working with something unique in the jewellery industry: three dimensional (3D) printing

More akin to sculptural art than jewellery, it's the design that gets to dominate the piece, not the gems. In the Digital Nature collection, inspired by science and the microbiology of cellular structures, such as honeycombs, rose gold

heptagons entwine around a 2.64k old cut diamond. This inspiration from organic forms means you can propose with a delicious reinterpretation of nature's bounty. More akin to digital goldsmiths, clients looking for totally bespoke models can have their visions made on screen using 3D software and then have prototypes printed off in resin.

This way of commissioning jewellery is just the beginning, as co-founder Max Shepherd wants to one day branch out into printing shoes.

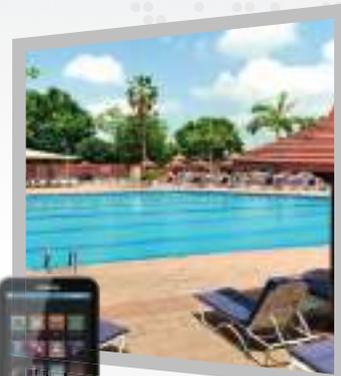
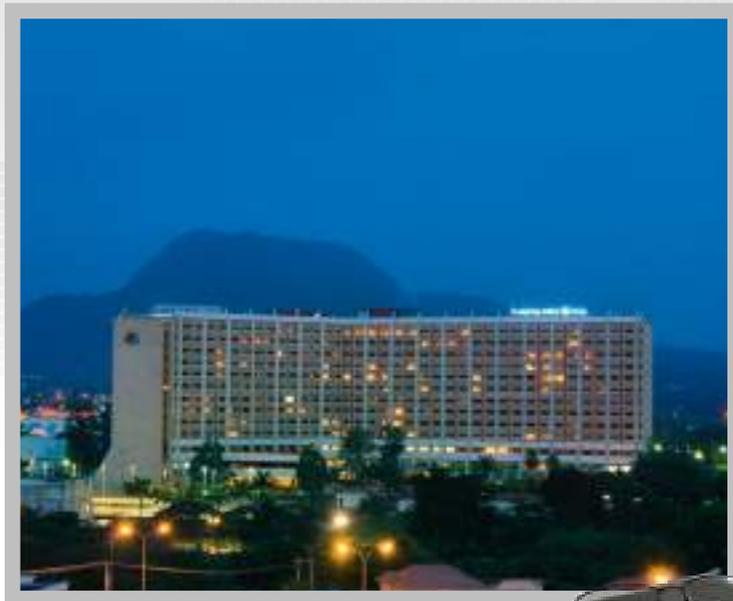
ABOVE Digital nature engagement ring in 18k rose gold with a 2.64k single stone old cut diamond, \$24,317, order from www.guyandmax.com



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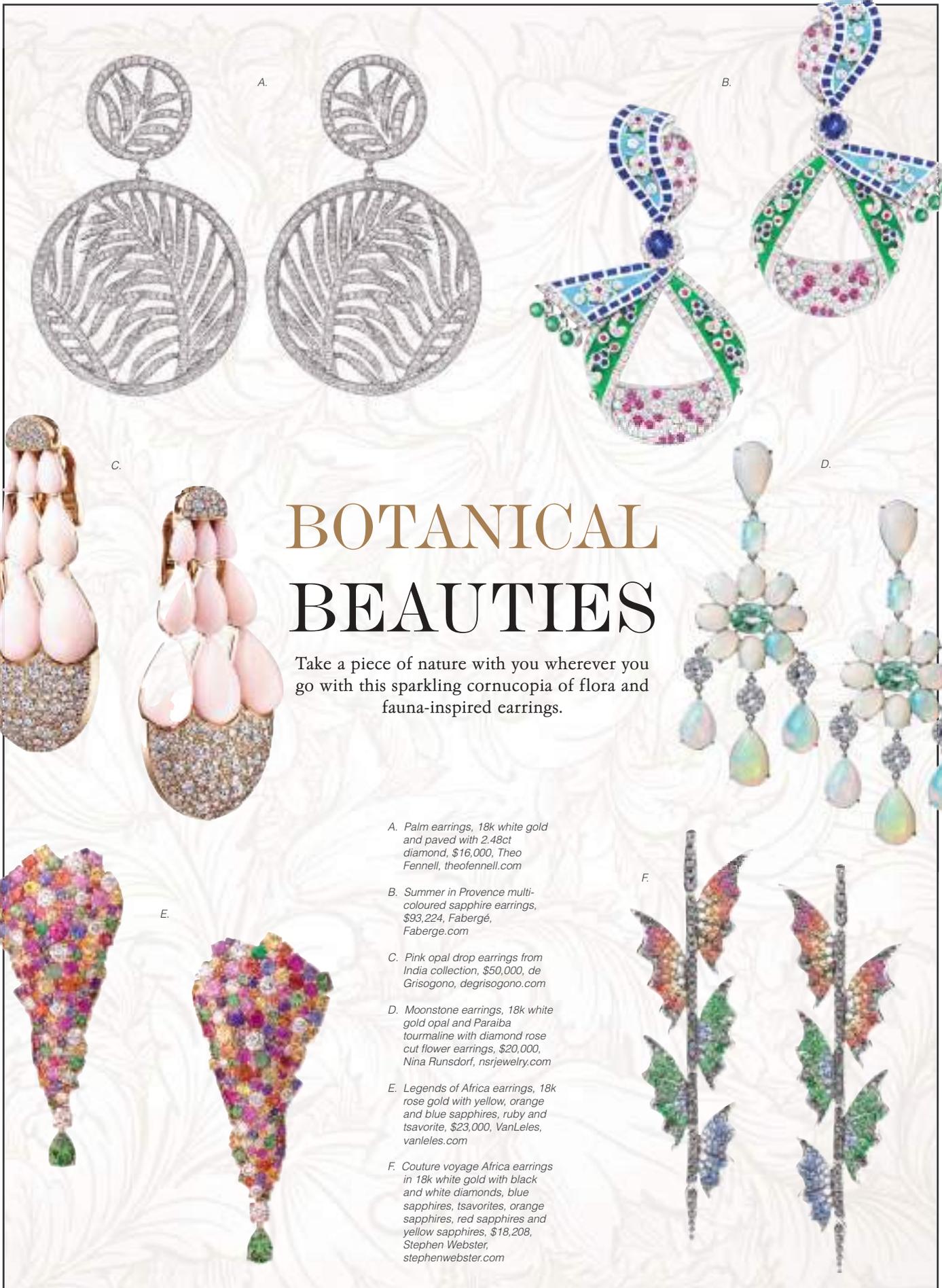
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A. Palm earrings, 18k white gold and paved with 2.48ct diamond, \$16,000, Theo Fennell, thoefennell.com

B. Summer in Provence multi-coloured sapphire earrings, \$93,224, Fabergé, Faberge.com

C. Pink opal drop earrings from India collection, \$50,000, de Grisogono, degrisogono.com

D. Moonstone earrings, 18k white gold opal and Paraiba tourmaline with diamond rose cut flower earrings, \$20,000, Nina Runsdorf, nsrjewelry.com

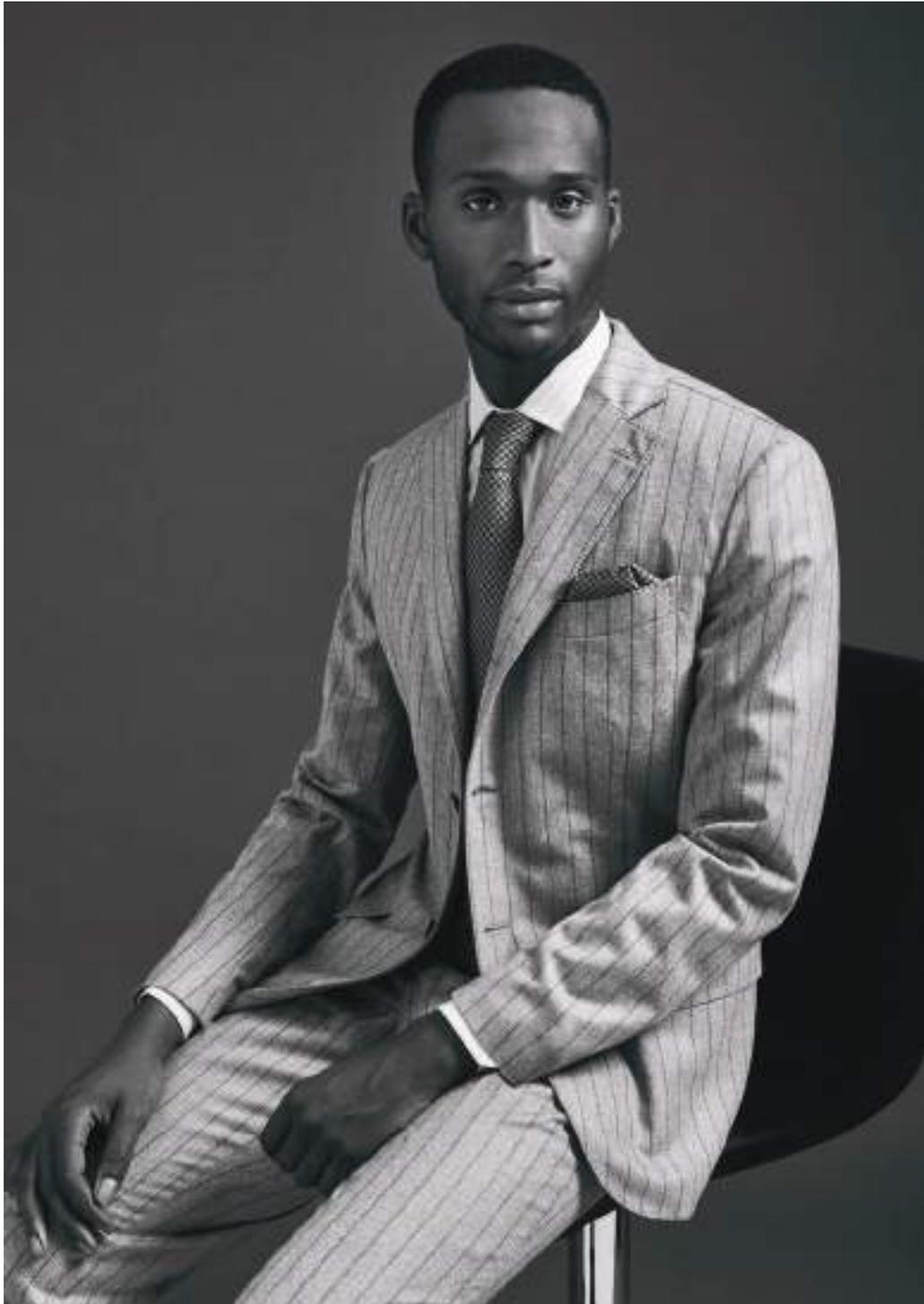
E. Legends of Africa earrings, 18k rose gold with yellow, orange and blue sapphires, ruby and tsavorite, \$23,000, VanLeles, vanleles.com

F. Couture voyage Africa earrings in 18k white gold with black and white diamonds, blue sapphires, tsavorites, orange sapphires, red sapphires and yellow sapphires, \$18,208, Stephen Webster, stephenwebster.com



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Bugatti suit, www.bugatti-fashion.com; Turnbull And Asser shirt, www.turnbullandasser.com; Brioni tie and pocket square both from Harrods, www.harrods.com



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UNDERWATER NIKON D810 DSLR

ABOVE AND BELOW The Nikon D810 DSLR and Ikelite TTL Housing along with our recommended Nikon AF-S Nikkor 85mm f/1.4G lens and the Ikelite 8" dome port.

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TRENDING TECH

The gadgets that can make life richer, as chosen by technology expert *Sid Pinzon*

Most of the world is getting to grips with the onset of winter, but thankfully those of us on the African coastlines are enjoying the kind of weather that wills us to venture into the water. Which is why in this issue's Trending Tech, we invite you to dive right in, if you will, by bringing you the best that the industry has to offer in marine-tech, to take your sea-based adventures to whole new depths.

However, if terra firma is more your scene, fret not, as we also bring you the latest in high-tech and high-fidelity home comfort technology that will surely make you the envy of the neighbourhood.



HP SPORT SUB 2

ABOVE The red sub measures 285cm/9.3ft in length, 235cm/7.7ft in width and 136cm/4.5ft in height.

The notion of a personal submarine is no longer quite as novel as it once was, but when a model is described as the "sub-sea Ferrari" - and with the substance to back it up, no less - then it's worth taking note. Dutch enterprise U-Boat Worx has taken its longstanding submersibles expertise and compressed it into a hot-rod-red two seater that definitely shares more in common with the Italian super car than the infamous Russian K-19.

Weighing in at just 2,200kg, the HP Sport Sub 2 is able to use its 21.6kWh power capacity to reach speeds of up to 5 knots at surface level and 3 knots when navigating under water, to depths of up to 100m/330ft. Thankfully, the **\$1.4m** price tag comes inclusive of full training and certification.



ASTELL & KERN AK500 SERIES

Additional features include a 100w power amp, ultra-high quality DSD audio file playback and wireless networking and streaming service options.

What happens when one of the industry leaders in high-fidelity audio systems decides to take design inspiration from the Matterhorn? The result is a hi-fi that looks like it belongs more a museum of modern art than in a living room, and with a sound quality to match - if not supersede - its striking visual presence. With its undeniably impressive AK500 Series Astell & Kern goes to innovative lengths to deliver what it calls Master Quality Sound, breaking with convention and powering its device with an on-board battery rather than a mains supply, thus eliminating the inherent noise of the latter in the process. As well as providing sound as pure as the mountain-air belonging to the peak to which it owes its rock-like facade to, the **\$24,000** unit comes with one-click CD-ripping, 4Tb of storage and a 7-inch iPad-esque colour display.

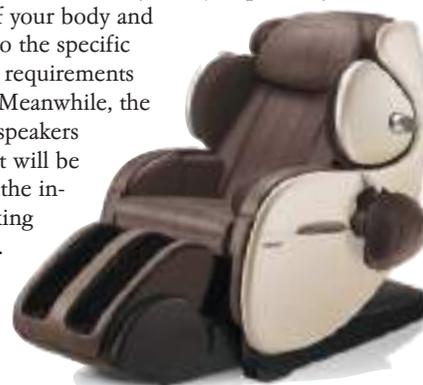
OSIM UINFINITY MASSAGE CHAIR

BELOW Pushing the boundaries of innovation, OSIM creates new downloadable massage programs for the uInfinity Luxe every few weeks.

When we promised home-comfort technology we meant it, and there's no gadget that will quite deliver on such a front as much as Singaporean brand OSIM's uInfinity Luxe Massage Chair.

Although it might seem self-explanatory, the extent to which this is the case definitely has to be experienced to be truly appreciated. You'll soon start to see the **\$7,988** price tag as a veritable giveaway. The chair delivers the sort of rejuvenating head-to-toe full-body massages - from the back of your head right down to the soles of your feet - that you are probably more used to receiving from a professional Swedish masseuse .

OSIM's cutting-edge design includes Human-Smart massage technology and 3D body scanning tech, which allows the uInfinity to adjust perfectly to the contours of your body and according to the specific massage or requirements requested. Meanwhile, the integrated speakers guarantee it will be every inch the in-depth relaxing experience.



BANG & OLUFSEN BEOVISION LOVE 85 TV

LEFT Complete your rose gold home-cinema set by adding the BeoLab 18 speakers (\$13,840 for the pair), also part of Bang and Olufsen's Love Affair Collection.

It might be famed for its audio equipment, but Danish sound connoisseur Bang & Olufsen also knows a thing or two about making incredible TVs.

Its BeoVision Avant range, as the name suggests, is as much a testament to high design as it is to high tech, but without compromising any of the latter to deliver the former. This being said, with its Love Affair Collection, launched to celebrate 90 years of brand excellence, B&O has upped the ante, upgrading its already stylish 85 model with rose gold framing and detail, producing a truly elegant and uncomplicated statement piece that stands out without being garish or over-imposing - which, for an 85" TV, is no simple feat. The 4k display and motorised wall bracket ensure that this **\$25,695** purchase will be as much an investment in both style and substance.







SEABOB F5 S, CAYAGO

If the depths of the ocean are not for you, then maybe the prospect of dashing and darting through shallower waters is more appealing. The Seabob F5 S from German luxury sea-toy manufacturer Cayago - and by that we mean - the underwater scooter variety, just to be clear - will allow you to swim with fishes, dolphins and maybe even mermaids as if you were part of their world. At **\$12,149** the Seabob F5 S packs more propulsion than any other similar piece of equipment, and at 35kg it's half the weight of the nearest high-end competitor on the market. All this provides for speeds of up to 15km/h underwater and 20km/h on the surface, and the increased agility and flexibility to twist and turn at will, enjoying the sea for all the freedom it has to offer.

ABOVE Cayago has produced an upgraded Quick Charger (\$2,000) that reduces the Seabob's charge time to 90 minutes, and will allow for an average of 60 minutes operating time.



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If you can imagine it, these car tuning companies can probably make it a reality. Alex Delmar-Morgan looks at the future of luxury motoring.

From Lagos to Luanda, Africa's wealthy elite knows what looks good when it comes to luxury, whether it's designer clothing labels or cars. Stroll around Victoria Island, the famously exclusive neighbourhood in Nigeria's second city, an array of high-end brands line the streets. Porsche Cayennes and other SUVs now snake their way around the pot-holed boulevards.

Stagnant economic growth in Europe and fears of a slowdown in China are pushing western luxury carmakers to look outside their core markets in Asia, the US and Russia to the African continent to tap a burgeoning middle class and a fast-expanding pool of self-made millionaires. When Porsche

opened a showroom in Lagos a few years ago, this was a statement of intent.

According to a recent AfrAsia Bank report on new world wealth in African cities, there are about 163,000 millionaires living in Africa as of June 2015, with combined wealth of \$670b – a figure set to increase. Capgemini's World Wealth Report last year tells a similar story: that Africa's High Net Worth Individual (HNWI) population rose by 5.2 per cent in 2014, compared to a mere four per cent in Europe.

Put simply, there are more people getting rich in Africa than in Europe, and this is reflected in brands such as Porsche, Mercedes and >

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“You can order the car with a wood interior, or aluminium or carbon. It’s whatever the customer requests and their wishes are all so different”



➤ Range Rover flooding the continent. With this, demand for vehicle personalisation has risen as businessman and entrepreneurs look at ways of enhancing the aesthetic appeal of their cars.

In particular, the 4x4, or SUV market has taken off, dictated in part by the state of Africa’s roads. In Gabon, for example, around two thirds of the 6,000 cars imported each year are 4x4s.

Roads aside, the trend among the super-rich for high-spec personalisation of 4x4s is also growing – and not just in Africa. While veteran South African house DJ, Black Coffee, drives a Mercedes G-Class, he is certainly not alone in the pantheon of global celebrities who own the car. Add Kim Kardashian, Floyd Mayweather, Sylvester Stallone and Britney Spears to the Mercedes G-wagen list and you will get an idea of just how much of a status-symbol this supremely powerful 4x4 has become.

And so it’s exciting times for leading car tuning and design companies in Europe. Firms such as

Germany’s Brabus and Hamann Motorsport, and other personalisation specialists like Ares, are upbeat on the prospects of the emerging African market.

Uli Schwarz, press manager at Hamann, said demand for 4x4 personalisation in Africa, particularly Range Rovers, is soaring. So much so, the company is looking at partners in Africa to sell its vehicles.

“Africa is a new but rapidly expanding market for us and demand there is rising very quickly. Many countries now on the continent have fast expanding economies, people are getting richer, and this is fuelling demand. Interest is so big at the moment, it’s increasing all the time,” he said.

Shwarz says demand is greatest from North African countries like Morocco and Algeria, but interest from sub-Saharan Kenya and Nigeria is also on the rise.

Its biggest seller is the Range Rover Vogue, while smaller models such as the Sport and Evoque are also proving popular. Like the

ABOVE AND RIGHT The new Kahn Flying Huntsman 110 WB 6x6 Concept based on the Land Rover has a huge 430 horsepower.



engineers, its dealers in Africa do everything from fitting extra parts to performing full engine, body and interior personalisation.

Head of PR, Sven Gramm said: "We want to develop our brand all over the world and Africa is one of the future markets."

The Mercedes-AMG G63 5.5 litre V8-turbo is the best-selling Brabus four-wheel drive vehicle, with the S-class Mercedes, also available as a lower slung 4x4. Brabus tunes the G63 from 554 bhp (brake horsepower) to more than 800bhp, clocking 0-100kph (kilometres per hour) in 4.1 seconds and reaching a maximum speed of 260kph. That's fast for a car with the normal aerodynamics of a shoebox.

Austria-based Ares might only be a year old, but it has already identified Africa as a major market.

CEO Dany Bahar puts it down to a buoyant African economy, partly driven by foreign investment from Asia and elsewhere.

"Where there's increased investment, there's always an increase in demand for luxury goods - Africa is no different in this respect.

For Ares, SUVs are the biggest sellers, especially Range Rover and the Mercedes G-Class.

"I think the nature of the terrain is behind the popularity of these particular models and what started out as a trend in Africa among dignitaries and sports personalities for luxury SUVs has become a much wider trend," Bahar said.

"With that comes the need to personalise your vehicle, which is where Ares comes in. The high net worth individuals in Africa don't differ from the extremely wealthy clients we have in other parts of the world - want something exclusive and something unique to them, reflective of their taste and personalities," he adds.

With this in mind, the market for ultra-luxury car personalisation in Africa is as healthy as ever. Demand for top-end SUV tuning and design in Nigeria, Angola and South Africa is on an upward trajectory, if economic growth is anything to go by. As a symbol of success, a personalised 4x4 almost beats a big house in Africa these days. ❖

Mercedes G-Class, a highly personalised Range Rover is a bold statement by those able to afford it.

"We do completely customised versions, we do aerodynamics, wheels and special exhaust systems," said Schwarz. "With 23-inch wheels and a new exhaust, the car looks much bigger, more exclusive and sounds better."

When it comes to engine tuning, Schwarz says that Hamann only upgrades the diesel-powered Range Rovers, increasing their performance by around 20 per cent.

"You can order the car with a wood interior, or aluminium or carbon. It's whatever the customer requests and their wishes are all so different," explains Schwarz.

Hamann's African clients have even demanded gold-plated and alligator leather interiors.

Germany's Brabus now has a large footprint spanning the African continent, with registered dealers stretching from Morocco and Algeria to Namibia and Tanzania. Trained by Brabus





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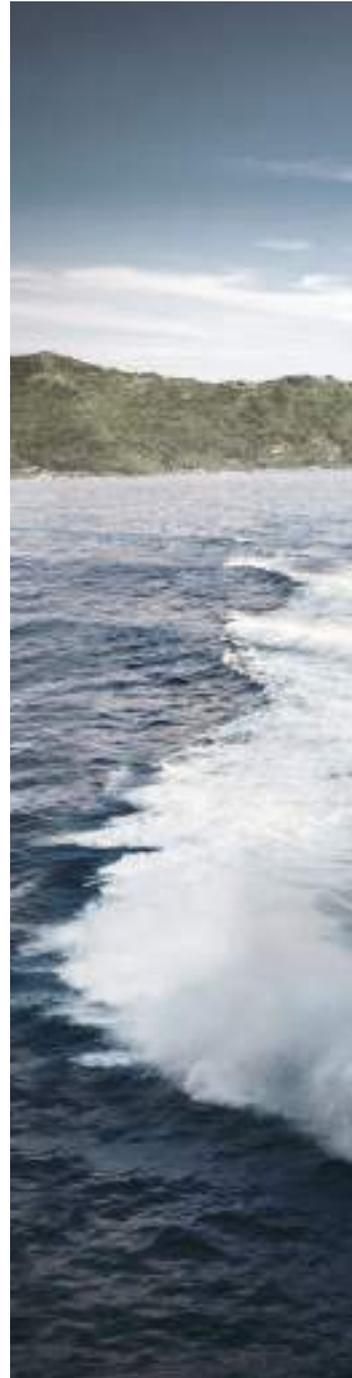
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BEST IN SHOW

The who's who of the yachting world gathered at The Monaco Yacht Show this autumn for its biggest year yet. With the new port extension came a record-breaking 121 superyachts and moer than 530 exhibiting companies. Here, we take a look at some of the best on offer.

M/Y SUERTE – S693-69.30M, TANKOA

Tankoa, based in Genoa, Italy, is the first boutique shipyard with a multi-cultural approach to yacht construction. It's global sales and marketing agent, Yacht-Ology, was particularly proud of its debut ship. As soon as Suerte reached the water, she showed perfect balance with zero degree lateral inclination. Interiors were modern, but warm and inviting, using only noble and natural materials. www.tankoa.it





PROJECT NOVA, HEESEN

This 163ft yacht reaches top speeds of 16.3 knots whilst allowing a peaceful experience on board. The Heesen team used research showing the brain's processing of taste is affected by a noise of 80 decibels or above, at which point it reduces the tongue's ability to detect salty, sweet and sour. Project Nova releases, on average, 46 decibels, creating harmony between noise and taste, and the perfect place for enjoying any food and drink. www.heesenyachts.com

GLIDER SS18, GLIDER YACHTS

The 60ft Glider Super Sports 18 (SS18) has been eight years in the making, with the luxury UK-based company using expertise from Formula One and the aerospace industry in the design, including a proprietary Stability Control System (SCS). Glider Yachts' unique hull form, propulsion and SCS tune to the sea conditions allowing SS18's passengers to glide over the waves in unprecedented comfort at up to a satisfying 56 knots. www.glideryachts.com

ABOVE: Building the most revolutionary high-performance sports boat in the world.

PROJECT ORCHID, LÜRSSEN

The latest yacht to leave the Lürssen yard is the 91-metre Project Orchid. Notable features of the yacht include a large waterside beach club, fold-down balconies in the VIP guest suites and spa facilities, as well as bright and elegant spaces throughout. The project co-ordination was undertaken by Y.CO, who worked closely with Lürssen and interior designers Reymond Langton.

www.lurssen.com



M/Y YALLA 73MM, FERRETTI

This is the first CRN yacht built on a naval platform 13 metres wide. Characterised by sleek and sporty lines, this jewel of the sea features advanced CRN design solutions conceived for fostering conviviality and social life on board. One example of many is the innovative wellness area on the lower deck featuring a beach club with a large pool and fitness area. Spanning four decks, CRN's Yalla mega-yacht was designed and built entirely in the Ancona shipyard in collaboration with Omega Architects, which designed the exterior, and Droulers Architecture, responsible for decor.

www.ferrettigroup.com



Everyone's talking about

At this year's Monaco Yacht Show, Nicholas Rudaz, Director of Franck Muller Group, gave an exclusive interview to *Elite Living Africa* about the inaugural presentation of the Franck Muller yacht:

Elite Living Africa (ELA): What else makes this yacht so unique?

Nicholas Rudaz (NR): This is the first time in history that a watchmaking company has started producing yachts. Franck Muller did it in partnership with the Italian Sea Group, which is an unprecedented collaboration of the master of watch complications meeting the master of yacht building. It's unique because our objective was not just to build a luxurious boat. Its design is based on curvex which is the signature shape of Frank Muller watches.

ELA: Why did Franck Muller start producing yachts?

NR: Franck Muller personally likes yachting and it's popular with many of our customers. A lot of our watches were made in relation to boats, so Franck got an idea to make the Rolls-Royce of the sea, the 55 feet long Franck Muller yacht, which was presented at the Monaco Yacht show. We might make a mega yacht in the future if we find the right client.

ELA: How successful was the launch of the boat?

NR: We already have sold four yachts, mainly to customers in the United States.

ELA: Is Africa a promising market?

NR: We would be interested in getting new customers from Africa, as we have a history of successfully selling our watches on the African continent. We are happy to be strongly represented in Nigeria and Angola, and South Africa is the third biggest market for us in the region.







ABOVE AND LEFT The Aerion flies at a massive 1,217 mph, compared to regular planes, which fly between 480-560 mph.



A FASTER FUTURE

Flying at 1,217mph, passengers on board the Aerion AS2 will be able to fly between Lagos and New York in less than four hours. Is this the new Concorde?

Ownership of a private jet is becoming the ultimate must-have status symbol. Bombardier predicts 22,000 business jet sales alone will take place over the next 20 years, so what does it take to stand out?

There is now a new plane in the works that is head and shoulders above the rest, not only in terms of comfort and luxury, but in a world where time is money, its speed can grant owners an edge in the competitive world of business.

The Aerion AS2 is the world's first supersonic business jet.

Made largely from strong, lightweight carbon fibre composite, with titanium alloy along the leading edge of each wing, the AS2 will have a top cruising speed of 1,151 miles per hour (mph) – 1.5 times the speed of sound, and 67 per cent faster than current long-range jets – slashing three hours from the length of a typical transatlantic flight.

Laminar-flow technology on the plane's wings also reduces drag by up to 80 per cent, giving the \$120m three-engine jet a range of 4,750 nautical miles – around 1,000 miles more than Concorde – enabling the owner to go faster for further, arriving in style and with a crucial business edge.

"We are offering a select group of forward-thinking business aviation users the opportunity to fly faster and to make history with us as we reintroduce commercial supersonic flight," said

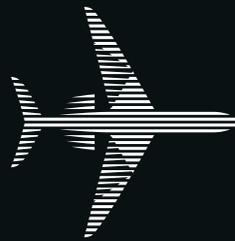
Aerion chairman Robert M. Bass.

Despite the breakneck speeds, up to 11 passengers and crew can travel in uncompromised

comfort in the 30-foot, sound-proofed bespoke cabin, the layout and design of which is built to the buyer's specifications.

Aerion recently began taking the first orders for the AS2, which is currently still in development but predicted to hit the skies by early 2020.

www.aerionsupersonic.com



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LAPLAND OF LUXURY

Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort, Finland



Nowhere could feel more like Christmas than in the snowy climes of Finland. Not only is this home to Santa Claus, but also the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis), often cited as one of the top things to see before you die. Reported to be a transcendent experience, to see Earth's magnetic fields dance across the Arctic sky, viewers can now escape the chill in Jussi Eiramo's Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort.

State-of-the-art heated glass igloos, mean guests can sleep under the stars in the lap of luxury with sensational sky views from the comfort of a fur-strewn bed. Made from the rare 'dead standing' pine known as Kelo, which need no machining, the wood retains all its natural texture colour and pine smell. The spacious Kelo-Glass igloos also feature a fireplace and sauna.

Of course, if you are opposed to all this genuflection to modernity and want to go for the real thing, there are also snow igloos, which maintain an inside temperature of between minus three and six degrees Celsius, and in which you bury yourself in a thermal sleeping bag for the night of dancing light.

The cabin village housing this celestial safari is probably Finnish Lapland's most exquisite example of deadwood log cabins. Also onsite is the world's biggest snow restaurant, The Snow Castle of Kemi, with walls of ice more than a 1,000 metres long, and the world's largest smoke sauna.

The glass igloos are available right through the Northern Lights season, from the third week of August until the end of April. Fly with Finnair to Ivalo, via Helsinki.

For more information visit www.visitfinland.com; www.finnair.com



BELOW AND LEFT From The Kaksilauttunen Hotel & Igloo Village, guests can view the dance of the Northern Lights in comfort. These curtains of light are caused when particles from Earth's atmosphere collide with those from the sun's atmosphere.



SUNSHINE STATE OF MIND

We pick our favourite sun-drenched destinations to check out next year



MEXICO CALLING

Presidential Private Jet Vacations has added a new Mexican itinerary to its range of holidays. This one-of-a-kind luxury travel experience uses a super mid private jet, such as the Falcon 2000LX, or a heavy jet, such as the Gulfstream GIV, that can comfortably carry closed groups of up to 18 travellers. The 10-day trip begins with the colourful façades of San Miguel de Allende and continues to Mexico City where guests are treated to a behind-the-scenes visit of the Palace of Fine Arts and a private tour of the Museum of Anthropology with dinners at the city's most sought-after restaurants, before taking in the crystal clear waters of Oaxaca. Like all Presidential Private Jet Vacations, the trip can be fully customised to the interests, tastes, and lifestyle preferences of guests – down to the selection of the private aircraft of their choice. For groups up to 16-18 guests, prices begin at **\$35,900** per person. www.presidentialprivatejetvacations.com

ABOVE CLOCKWISE Relax on the tropical beaches of Oaxaca; see the view from the Statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro; swim in the clear waters of Oahu in Hawaii.

BRONZE IN BRAZIL

The 2016 Olympic Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro may seem a long way off, but Brazil's top hotels are already filling up. Unlike London and Beijing, the luxury hotel inventory in Rio is limited, so make sure you don't miss out by contacting Canadian company, Roadtrips. With availability at several private villas in the city as well as five-star hotels with sweeping ocean views, and properties tucked away in the Montmartre-like hilltop neighbourhood of Santa Teresa, among cobblestone lanes and independent shops and restaurants. Roadtrips will coordinate every detail for customers from the moment the land. These completely customisable trips start from around **\$10,000** per person for four nights. www.roadtrips.com



HAWAII HEAVEN

From the lush, green, fertile lands of the Papakolea to the spectacular northern waves of Oahu, Hawaii's volcanic islands have been synonymous with unparalleled beauty for centuries. This unforgettable private jet tour will let you sun-soak on one of the many shimmering white sandy beaches of Oahu, experience Maui's pristine waterfalls, and take you to scuba dive with friends before dining on freshly caught fish in Kauai. Prices begin at **\$48,700** per person for a group of 12 guests. www.presidentialprivatejetvacations.com





(Photo: bikeriderlondon)

FIVE-STAR STYLE

South Africa is well-deserving of its gourmet destination status – here are some deliciously new, style-driven eateries to try.

WORDS BY VICKI SLEET

Greenhouse at The Cellars Hohenort, Cape Town

This exceptional eatery has been revamped, and with its dark, naked tables and simple, elegant tableware, it feels like an entirely new space. Chef Peter Tempelhoff is making magic with his unique blend of Afro-Asian cuisine where provenance is essential and a hint of molecularism adds a touch of magic. Try the 'Four Degrees of Cheese', a selection of South Africa's most awarded indigenous cheese, through a range of temperatures from freezing to hot, and don't forget to leave space for the African Single Origin Coffee tasting with accompanying sweet treats.

www.collectionmcgrath.com



PICTURED The sumptuous 'Flavours of Baklava' from the Greenhouse's winter menu.

Charango Grill & Bar, Cape Town

While it's not exactly a fine dining destination, the fact that the city's glossy posers are filling it to the rafters, puts this Peruvian-inspired eatery up there with other A-listers. Dramatic, rough-luxe interiors set the scene as does the Pisco Bar, we say a Pisco-based cocktail to start is a must. If you've dined at Nobu, you'll recognise the style of Peruvian-Japanese fusion cuisine served here – from dirt-rubbed tuna tacos to button mushroom ceviche and excellent Peruvian style skewered beef. Be sure to try the picarones doughnuts served with condensed milk dipping sauce, which are deliciously decadent.

<https://www.facebook.com/Charango-Grill-Bar-1629234990686321>

Signature, Pretoria

Great restaurants are a blend of sophisticated cooking, imagination and respect for the ingredients. Signature Restaurant Brooklyn offers the same exquisite fine dining mix for which Signature Morningside in Sandton has become renowned, in a more refined atmosphere. A well-appointed wine list, and blues and jazz sounds played live on stage are served to the backdrop of the sun setting over Pretoria.

www.signaturerestaurant.co.za

Seelan Restaurant & Bar, Cape Town

Much-loved restaurateur and chef Seelan Sundoo has opened a new concept in Sea Point. Seelan Restaurant & Bar is a contemporary Indian tapas bar that is beautifully dressed in silvers and greys and features striking black and white murals by renowned artist Sushaj Sudhakar. Seelan, whose family is originally from Kerala, has returned to his roots for the inspiration for his menu – guests can expect to sample tapas-sized portions of Tandoori-style chicken or quail as well as seafood or meat biryanis, all beautifully plated and delicately spiced to reflect Seelan's culinary heritage.

www.seelan.co.za



The Priva cigar lounge is the perfect place to sit back and listen to live jazz or smoke a cigar.

Priva Gastrolounge, Gauteng

Chef Fortunato Mazzone is a tireless worker, constantly on a mission to improve and provide a better experience for his patrons than the last one – it's why his famed eatery Ritrovo is one of the best in Gauteng. Priva is his newest venture, situated upstairs from Ritrovo in Pretoria. It's an intimate, opulently dressed space with private dining areas for those who prefer to stay hidden from view. Open from 4pm until late, there's a Priva Amplified Menu featuring fine dining options, a savoury tasting menu with smaller tasters and a late night lounge menu to be enjoyed while listening to the live jazz acts or smoking a cigar selected from the impressive on site walk-in humidor.

www.privalounge.com



La Colombe's vegetarian tasting menu features some of the freshest ingredients around.

La Colombe, Cape Town

One of South Africa's most loved restaurants has left the Constantia Valley and made its way over to Hout Bay. The new venue has spectacular views and chef Scot Kirton's new menus are equally impressive. Choose from a tasting or à la carte menu option and let the waiters, who are excellent, guide you in your choices. Some signature dishes, such as the seared scallops and pork belly combination, have remained, but new offerings reign supreme, from the sublime poached oyster with lemon, caviar and seaweed, to the confit pork shoulder with braised jowl and smoked apple and thyme. There is a vegetarian tasting menu too, and a series of utterly outstanding desserts.

www.lacolombe.co.za



L'Opulence, Gauteng

On weeknights and weekends, Joburg locals head to Sandton and now that L'Opulence is open, it's where many of the city's glamazons can be seen. This new eatery and lounge serves up global gourmet tapas, including the likes of their much-loved sushi stack and Hong Kong ribs, as well as cocktails and French champagne by the bucketload. They say they're all about Dubai-style opulence – so expect plenty of bling, both in the interiors and the fashion-forward crowd.

<https://www.facebook.com/LOpulence-1671297176435624>



The Springfontein's converted barn may look rustic, but the food is far from simple.

Springfontein Bar(n), Cape Town

Cape foodies in the know think nothing of driving two hours to Stanford to get to Springfontein Eats, lair of Michelin-starred chef Jürgen Schneider. Its new progeny, Springfontein Bar(n), looks set to woo fans too. Set in a renovated barn, the mood here is laidback and the menu about hearty eats served tapas style - Bavarian potato salad and sliced cold roast with remoulade, anyone? - the pedigree of the chef and attention to the ingredients used means its bound to be a destination of choice next summer.

www.springfontein.co.za

Oyster Box & Sushi Bar, Kwazulu Natal

The Oyster Box is arguably Durban's most luxurious hotel, and thanks to the opening of this new oyster and sushi bar, there's one less reason to leave its comforts. With its iconic ocean and lighthouse views and a suitably all-white and marble-clad interior, this sexy space is deserving of its status among the city's smart set. Chef Wenxiu Lu takes her inspiration from Asia and Africa, so you can expect to find the likes of perfectly prepared Mozambican prawn tacos and Ponzu crayfish alongside a slew of ways to enjoy oysters and sushi specialities. If you're not checked in, it's a must if you're visiting the city.

www.oysterboxhotel.com

Les Trois Canard, Gauteng

This bastion of French bistro cuisine is much loved by Pretoria foodies and once you've sampled the fare, it's really no surprise. A no-nonsense menu is peppered with specialities like deconstructed steak tartare and superb Fish Provençale, while the wine list celebrates local and French offerings in equal measure. The service is reassuringly understated, the venue too – choose from a table on the sidewalk, in the bistro itself, or the more formal dining room. While its all about the bistro goodness, the 'hauteness' comes from the simplicity and perfection of each and every dish.

www.facebook.com/
www.thethreeducks.co.za

BELOW The Oyster Box's fresh sushi and sashimi melts in the mouth.



ABOVE Using dry ice in food adds some food theatre at La Colombe.



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

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

WWW.THEZANZIBARCOLLECTION.COM

(Photo: Diaan de Beer)



Boutique *SPOTLIGHT*



Beautiful tailoring, luxurious fabrics and simple sensuality have always been Kat van Duinen's first loves. Using natural silks and exotic leathers, it was Kat's grandmother who sparked this love affair. For many years, Kat watched and learnt as her grandmother made her own linens from scratch. This European heritage and love for the vibrancy and richness of South Africa have been fused into a unique blend of European minimalist style with accents of striking African prints and electric hues.

A labour of love, every handmade piece is produced with painstaking care, showcasing skilled South African workmanship as Kat keeps her promise that every single item is proudly made in Cape Town.

Accessories include an ostrich-skin belt that cinches to reveal an alluring silhouette, a fringed crocodile-skin handbag that, draped over a shoulder, adds drama to sheer jet-black fabrics, and hand-beaded dresses that will have you shimmering brighter than the stars.

Available at www.katvanduinen.com; Cavalli Estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa; Shop 101A, The Old Biscuit Mill, Woodstock, Cape Town

LEFT Floor-length, backless, hand-beaded dress, \$320.
ABOVE Genuine crocodile skin vanity case with napa leather lining and gold clasp, \$5,600.

SUN,
SEA
&
GOLF

Voted number one in Africa by the *Top 100 Golf Courses*, Kenya's newest golf course, Vipingo Ridge, has climbed the charts with its commitment to fine Bermuda grass, spectacular Indian Ocean views and precision course design.



The first truly internationally recognised course in Kenya, the Baobab Golf Course at Vipingo Ridge, is a destination for everyone who enjoys the finer things in life.

It is built to international standards, with the world-renowned USGA specification being used for all aspects of the course, and was designed by European Tour director and former Kenya Open Champion David Jones. The course has beautiful ocean views to the east and the vast African interior with its stunning sunsets to the west.

A meandering system of waterfalls, lakes and streams runs through the course, giving a real risk-reward quality to many holes, while creating new natural habitats for birds and wildlife. Fine Bermuda grass on the fairways and greens, and a fully automated irrigation system guarantees the undulating course is in great condition at all times. Extensive planting of thousands of new trees has ensured that every hole has strategic elements to challenge even the most experienced of golfers. >

LEFT Watching the sun set over the 16th hole after a long day of some of the world's finest golf.

➤ Architect David Jones, in *Top 100 Golf Courses*, said the water and stream systems were the inspiration that makes the whole thing work. “Originally the site was quite dry, as it used to be a sisal estate. I decided to pump water up from the natural dam I created at the 16th and from there to the clubhouse. As I developed the water system, the 16th grew into a strategically challenging hole with a lot of character.”

Memorable holes include the 6th, which is a gem of a par five at just over 500 yards. A relatively easy drive up a gentle slope must be countered with a second shot, if attempting to reach the green in two shots, which needs to be judged to perfection due to a lake on the left and a long series of bunkers down the right side of the fairway. The 16th, the signature hole is a dogleg with water on its left at the point of the dogleg. The par three 17th is tough and long. The tee shot needs to clear a stream and creek before arriving on a two-tiered green where it is better to be long than short. The final hole is uphill, very narrow 450-yard-par 4, with a small brook on the

right edge of the fairway leading to a small pond guarding the right edge of the green. A par here and you deserve your drink at the bar.

For adventure lovers looking for a break from perfecting their swing, there is plenty to do in the surrounding lakes and woodland areas. Indigenous baobab trees dot the area with their sculptural beauty and a conservation area neighbouring the property is home to rare East African birds, such as the migratory woolly necked stork.

Sun, sea and sand are plentiful at the private beach club, about 15 minutes away from the clubhouse, with white sandy beaches that are deserted and ideal for evening strolls. Horse riding, swimming, and tennis are other options and the Sundowner Bar, not far from the clubhouse, offers a place to watch the amazing sunsets over the Chodari Hills, while enjoying a cool drink and a pizza from the wood-fired oven.

Golfer or non-golfer, this 2,500 acre estate is certainly worth a visit. The daily Safarilink flight to Vipingo Ridge’s private airstrip makes the journey hassle-free. Take the flight now. ❖



“The tee shot needs to clear a stream and creek before arriving on a two-tiered green where it is better to be long than short”



LEFT One of the most exclusive, scenic and tranquil places on the Kenyan coast.



Visiting Info

COURSE LENGTH: 7315 yards
PAR: 72
DESIGNER: David Jones

Getting to Vipingo Ridge has never been easier. Safarilink now flies direct into Vipingo's private airstrip from Wilson via Diani - a short 10 minute flight along the coast with spectacular views.

Visitors are welcome midweek and weekends and booking is essential. Nearest golf courses to play: Nyalı, Leisure Lodge

ADDRESS: PO Box 98 Vipingo 80119
Kilifi , Kenya
PHONE: + 254 737733336
EMAIL: mike@vipingoridge.com
Website: www.vipingoridge.com

WHISKY BUSINESS



Luxury whisky Chivas Regal is celebrating its arrival in Nigeria with a venture to help entrepreneurs launch socially responsible businesses.

In October 2015, Chivas Regal announced the launch of 'The Venture' in Nigeria. In its second year, this global initiative sees thousands of start-ups compete for a share of the \$1m prize.

Celebrating social entrepreneurs who run their businesses in a way that benefits society, not just shareholders, the competition is open to any for-profit start-up that creates both financial value and a positive impact on humanity.

Last year's search awarded businesses tackling social and environmental issues. These included a wireless field-monitoring system that makes irrigation in farming more efficient, and a Colombian enterprise that turns waste materials into stylish furniture.

To herald its launch in Nigeria, Chivas Regal, in partnership with Co-Creation Hub, has reached out to social entrepreneurs across all fields and identified exciting business ideas through three main choosing stages of the competition.

A shortlist of 15 is expected to make it to the semi final boot-camp, after an open assessment process with clear criteria. A final cut down to five will make it to the finals with a winning business expected to be announced in the new year.

Moderated by a panel of judges chaired by Audu Maikori, a renowned and successful social entrepreneur and president of the Chocolate City Group, the winner of the Nigerian edition will

proceed to the international stage of the competition, to engage with finalists from other parts of the world.

Audu Maikori leads a long list of inspirational African entrepreneurs who bring conscientiousness and social responsibility to enterprise and success. Audu's support for this nationwide search is a testament to his business mantra of 'doing good'. Audu will be helping the semi-finalists and finalists through every step of the search by providing advice, as well as mentoring alongside some of the biggest and most influential names in business.

For more information on the campaign and advice from Fast Company on how to launch a successful social enterprise visit www.theventure.com/global/en.



"In its second year, this global initiative sees thousands of start-ups compete for a share of the \$1m prize"

LEFT (from left) Samuel Odesanmi, Chivas Brand Manager; Sola Oke, Marketing Director; Audu Maikori, Co-founder, Chocolate City Group; Femi Longe, Co-founder, Co-Creation Hu.



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LIQUID ASSETS

Why building a fine wine collection has never been easier. *Elite Living Africa* looks at how to buy it, store it, and display it.

WORDS BY VALERIE HART

A cellar full of ready-to-drink fine wines is the dream of many oenophiles. For those passionate about wine, a personal collection can provide endless hours of enjoyment, which can be shared with family and friends. Many collectors today are buying to drink, as well as leaving wines to age under bond in premium storage as an investment.

South African wine lovers now have access to cutting-edge storage facilities in a new partnership between British wine merchant Berry Bros & Rudd and Standard Bank in South Africa. Berry Bros & Rudd has been a wine merchant for more than 300 years, supplying the British royal family. By paying a monthly fee, the bank's customers have access to Berry Bros & Rudd's state-of-the-art cellar in the UK, with worldwide door-to-door delivery using guaranteed temperature-controlled shipping, as well as expert advice on buying wines.

The wines are shipped to Africa when ready to drink. "You can order a small working stock of ready-to-drink wines to have in South Africa, or wherever you are, whilst the wines that will be ready in a few years are held in a secure, readily accessible place," says Matthew Tipping, fine wine sales manager at Berry Bros & Rudd.

For collectors who like their cellars to be self-funding, having the wines in the UK, which is the hub of the wine trade, provides the flexibility to be able to sell the wines whenever you want. "With fine wines, it is imperative to buy them with perfect provenance. This offers a risk-free way of guaranteeing the wines are stored and delivered in perfect condition," says Tipping.

He adds, "Once you are within the world of fine wine, if you are travelling to the UK, there are all sorts of entertaining opportunities, as well as enabling you to tap into hundreds of years of wine industry expertise."

Many collectors enjoy displaying their wines at home. With a purpose-built cellar, wine can be kept behind a glass panel at a constant cool temperature of 12 degrees, while you can sit with friends in a room at a comfortable 20 degrees, looking at and discussing the wines. >

LEFT In the 1983 James Bond film, *Never Say Never Again*, Sean Connery drinks a bottle of wine made by Chateau Cheval Blanc vineyard.



➤ The key to starting any collection is to choose things you like. Tastes can change, but new styles can always be added. Collectors have never had so much diversity and so many interesting wines to choose from. The quality of wines globally has never been higher, with far greater consistency, thanks to modern winemaking technology.

In South Africa, for example, some really top-end wines are emerging. “We are seeing a big movement of producers finding small parcels of old bush vines and making small cuvées from them. Also organisations like the Cape Winemakers Guild are championing really top-end wines,” adds Tipping.

BUYING AT AUCTION

Auctions can provide opportunities to buy fantastic wines, many of which are rare and in limited supply. The annual Nedbank Cape Winemakers Guild Auction in October showcases rare and unique wines that are produced in small quantities by Guild members exclusively for the auction.

Another important event is the Nederburg Auction held every September, which sells some of South Africa’s finest wines. This year, it opened to private buyers for the first time. A highlight was the 1800 Joubert-Tradauw Jaubert Family Muscat (275ml), which fetched an impressive \$3,041 on the day.

Tipping’s current favourites from South Africa include Mullineux & Leeu’s spectacular single vineyard Shiraz and Chenin Blanc wines, each of which illustrate the potential of the Swartland terroir. But with tiny volumes, availability is

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“Tradition is to invest in old world wine. Burgundy and northern Italian wines are now particularly in favour. But, Bordeaux, which still produces some of the world’s finest wines, is the mainstay of the auction market.”
◆

ABOVE Berry Bros & Rudd will store and deliver fine wines from their warehouses in the UK to Africa through Standard Bank.

extremely limited. Tipping also mentions Anwilka, which started as a joint venture between Bordeaux’s Bruno Prats, former owner of Chateau Cos d’Estournel, Hubert de Boüard de Laforest, co-proprietor of Chateau Angélu in Bordeaux, and Lowell Jooste of South Africa’s Klein Constantia Estate.

“Younger wines are gaining in popularity over older, more developed wines, which means that laying down wines does not necessarily increase their value,” says Anthony Barne, UK head of wine at London auctioneer Bonhams, who took up the hammer at this year’s Nederbug Auction. “The whole wine market has been turned on its head in the past five years – the Far East has been a big influence, particularly with its preference for young and perfect bottles, and with modern tastes more attuned to fruit-driven young wines.”

Tradition is to invest in old world wine. Burgundy and northern Italian wines are now particularly in favour. But Bordeaux, which still produces some of the world’s finest wines, is the mainstay of the auction market. Its classification system of ranked class growths makes it the easiest region to understand. Bordeaux saw extraordinary price rises in the past 10 years – boosted by huge demand from Asia – until 2011, when a crackdown in China on corporate gifts and entertaining led to a slump. Prices have partly recovered, but not to their previous heady levels.

At Sotheby’s, the world’s largest wine auctioneer, Bordeaux still makes up about 65 per cent of its wine sales, says Stephen Mould, European head of wine. Despite the general



Cheval Blanc 1947, magnums of 1959 Latour and a double magnum and imperial of Pétrus 1985 from single owners. While on 17 October, Sotheby's New York offered Chateau Margaux 1900-2010, representing the first time significant amounts of the historic First Growth have been auctioned direct from the chateau.

The finest Burgundy can also command extraordinary prices. This is a much more difficult market than Bordeaux, with its multiple producers having very small outputs. Burgundy helped Sotheby's break the world record for the most expensive auction wine lot ever – the Superlot of Romanée-Conte, which sold for \$1.6mn in Hong Kong (pictured left) in October last year. This May, Sotheby's sold one of the highest value, single-owner Burgundy collections – the Don Stott Burgundy Collection – in New York for \$8.4mn. The sale included mature Burgundies spanning more than 50 years.

STRONG DEMAND FOR CHAMPAGNE

Champagne remains a stalwart of the auction houses, with strong demand for the prestige cuvées. For the first time on 21 October, Sotheby's sold the 'Vertical Limit' Champagne Refrigerator – one of 16 wine fridges designed by Porsche – that comes with 12 magnums of Veuve Cliquot from the most exceptional vintages (1955 through to 1990).

Outside of France, Italian wines have become increasingly collectible. Barolo in the Piedmont region has always been a very highly rated wine, but it is those from Tuscany, widely known as the 'Super Tuscans', that have emerged as Italy's most acclaimed and coveted varieties. These winemakers started growing grape varieties that weren't authorised by the local DOC classification. Sassicaia was the pioneer in the 1960s, with its visionary proprietor Mario Incisa della Rocchetta planting classic Bordeaux vines. Since then, others have come along with different grape varieties.

Spain should also be considered. Historically, Unico, the top cuvée of Vega Sicilia, was Spain's first great wine and, until recent decades, the only Spanish wine widely collected overseas. Today, young producers all over Spain are dedicating more acreage to high quality wines. The end result being many regions are also winning plaudits internationally.

"There have been tremendous improvements since the 1980s", says Maria José Sevilla, Director of Foods & Wines from Spain at the Spanish Embassy in London. "Helped by the rescue of hundreds of small vineyards by those making quality wines; the emphasis is now moving from the establishment of quality wines toward fine wines."

In conclusion, it has never been easier to build a serious fine wine collection, either from the perspective of enjoying the wines oneself or for future financial gain. The many sources of fine wines, as well as the information and expertise readily at hand, mean that this has become a truly global market. ♦

downturn, Bordeaux can still command stellar prices for bottles of great rarity. In January, Sotheby's sold a collection of Chateau Mouton Rothschilds in Hong Kong, for \$4.1m, more than double the pre-sale estimate.

"Buyers at chateau sales tend to pay more. If the wine comes direct from the chateau or domaine, you know it has been properly stored and not shipped several times around the world," says Mould. This helped generate record prices for a bottle of Chateau Lafite 1869 as it fetched \$232,692 in 2010 and the Jeroboam of Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1945 at \$310,700 in 2007.

Similarly, single-owner sales generate considerable interest because of the perception that the wine is top quality and has been well looked after. Recent sales include Sotheby's Great Bordeaux cellar in London on 16 September. Highlights include the Haut Brion 1989, Pétrus and Cheval Blanc 2000, and the La Mission, Lafite and Mouton 2005.

RARE VINTAGES

On 25-26 September, in New York, Sotheby's auctioned rare vintages of Bordeaux, including cases of Lafite 1928 and 1982, a magnum of

◆
"Burgundy helped Sotheby's break the world record for the most expensive auction wine lot ever - the Superlot of Romanee-Conte, which sold for \$1.6m in Hong Kong (pictured above) in October last year."
 ◆

ABOVE The Superlot of Romanee-Conte contained 114 bottles of vintage spanning 1992 to 2010.



Nothing says luxury like sipping the finest champagne money can buy. What you drink is as important as what you wear.

When you sit down to lunch, you deserve to enjoy a status wine, and when you gift a client, we know you will be looking for only the absolute best master cognac. This is where Luxeria comes in.

Luxeria, formed in 2014, understands superior expectations, so they created a one-stop shopping experience, stocking the finest spirits and wines, specially sourced and selected from across the globe.



Owen Aisien, Luxeria's chairman and director at Josien Holdings, a family owned company with more than 44 years experience in the spirits distribution industry in Africa, says, "Luxeria provides, for the first time in a growing spirits market such as Nigeria, a service-led premium experience to a discerning clientele. Currently, there is no other avenue for consumers to buy prestige spirits in Nigeria apart from duty free abroad. Now we have provided a way for our clients to avoid the hassle of waiting to buy at duty-free by bringing superior products into Nigeria, and making them readily available to be delivered right to their doorstep with a secure, reliable luxury experience."

"Nigeria's spirits market has been increasing at a faster rate than in developed countries for several years. While locally produced spirits continue to lead the market, accounting for almost 75 per cent of annual spirit sales in this emerging market, serving as a more affordable option, they do not meet the standards of the increasing upper class and more sophisticated, brand-conscious consumers. Luxeria was conceptualised to cater to this growing market, by making such brands easily accessible in Nigeria," adds Director Maria Martinez, who has worked in the luxury spirits industry as the head of marketing and sales for Penord Ricard Nigeria, and, helped to build iconic brands such as Perrier Jouet Belle Epoque, Royal Salute and Chivas 25.

Luxeria has partnered with the top brand owners in the country, such as Moët Hennessy the producers of Dom Perignon, Diageo, producers of The Johnnie Walker King George V Whisky, and Brian Munro distributors of Macallans, the world's most expensive whisky, to provide customers with a wide range of luxury wines and spirits from its 2015 Collection.

In addition, express shipping and bespoke gift-wrapping options are also available. Also, watch this space for the Luxeria bar – coming soon.

For more information: visit: www.luxeria.ng

THE SPIRIT OF LUXURY

In Nigeria, buying champagne in duty free may now be a thing of the past as Luxeria brings together the world's finest spirits and wines all under one roof.



ABOVE AND RIGHT The first and only full service concierge wine and spirits dealer in Lagos, delivering right to your door. The Luxeria expert sales team are always on hand to give friendly advice about their extensive wine and spirits selection so you can make the right choice every time.



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POUR ME A GLASS

A closer look at some of our favourite drinks



ABOVE Chateau Fontpinto on its 315 hectare Domaine in the Cognac region of France.

A NEW COGNAC IN TOWN

The exotic Multimillétime No. 6

Cognac Frapin has released the latest in its award-winning 'Multimillétime' series; the sixth of the 'Treasures of Chateau Fontpinot' limited edition blends. Gold medal winner at this year's Global Cognac Masters, just 1,270 70cl bottles have been produced.

Patrice Piveteau, Frapin's cellar master, has skilfully combined the characters of the exceptional 1986, 1988 and 1991 vintages of these Grande Champagne premier crus to produce Multimillétime No. 6.

"This is a very fruity, fine, elegant cognac with a lot of evolution and complexity. The key is to have the best quality grapes that come from great terroir" says Piveteau.

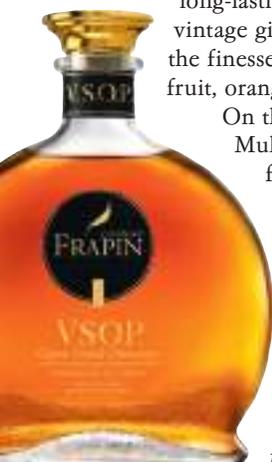
The collection began in 2008 and has been lauded by connoisseurs and specialists ever since. As before, this stunning cognac is a tribute to the ancient lineage of this Grande Champagne Cognac estate, which has been tended by the same family since the 13th century. Jean-Pierre Cointreau, CEO of Cognac Frapin, is great-grandson of company founder Pierre Frapin. The most famous family member is the 16th century author Francois Rabelais.

The Cognac Frapin Multimillétime No. 6 opens with finesse and subtlety to reveal remarkable strength and a lingering finish. The 1986 vintage has fruity notes as well as floral notes that give long-lasting aromas. The woody rancio notes of the 1988 vintage give it structure, while the 1991 vintage has provided the finesse and delicacy, with its aromatic accents of candied fruit, orange, apricot, honey and spices.

On the nose, the finesse and liveliness of the Multimillétime No. 6 are expressed through exotic fruit flavours, such as apricot and fig, which are then revealed. In the mouth, these aromas are combined with notes of vanilla and liquorice as well as rancio Charentais.

The packaging is as stylish as the drink itself – a distinctive classic bottle, based on an ancient cognac flagon, with a neck hemmed with cord and presented in a wooden gift box.

Stockists include Berry Bros, The Whisky Exchange, and Bordeaux Index.



BUBBLING TO THE TOP

Exploring the beauty of Champagne Bollinger

For almost two centuries, the Bollinger House has crafted exceptional wines that are also moments of beauty. In the finely woven golden bubbles an entire way of life is perpetuated, an ancient, yet highly modern story dominated by the protective figure of Madame Elisabeth Bollinger.

The radiant personality of Madame Bollinger, a Scottish-French aristocrat who, on the death of her husband, ran the family estate from 1941 to 1971, exemplifies the House's commitment to excellence. A pioneering businesswoman and a strategist gifted with a rare intuition, she imbued the House with her spirit of independence and exquisite style. "Less is more," said this visionary woman, with an almost austere elegance, if it had not been for her famous string of white pearls. Such is the golden rule which, even today, defies fashion trends and requires human expertise, nature and time to guarantee the quality of Bollinger champagnes. The British monarchy was quite right when, in 1884, it awarded the House the prestigious Royal Warrant, as official suppliers to the court.

The House's pioneering spirit draws its strength from the very land where it originates. The extraordinary quality and fertility of its vineyard, spans 200 hectares and produces some of the finest Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. This tittle was refined by the expertise of the House's artisans and master craftsmen. No training could teach such expertise as manufacturing secrets and ancestral techniques have been passed down through the generations – riddling of the bottles by hand, cork stoppers, vinification in wood, are passed down within the House.

www.champagne-bollinger.com



LEFT AND RIGHT Enjoy the finer things in life with a glass of these exquisite drinks.



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HOT PROPERTY: NEW YORK

A trend-setting city with a reputation for style as well as being a hub for global business, New York's status as a desirable destination for second home-buyers is well-established.





Corcoran Group

1 CENTRAL PARK SOUTH, THE PLAZA

\$75m

Home of noted fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger, the iconic Dome Penthouse at the legendary Plaza is rarely offered for sale. Perfectly situated on the 18th and 19th floors with a spectacular terrace overlooking the park, this is one of the most architecturally significant homes in New York City.

- 4 bedrooms
- 4.5 bathrooms
- Marble bath
- 5,655 sq ft



Manhattan is the most expensive and stable housing market in the US, ranking as the top real estate market in the world, according to Knight Frank's 2014 Wealth Report.

Its popularity has only continued to surge in recent times, with the city claiming the largest prime residential price rise in the world in 2014, at 18.8 per cent, and is

predicted to become the most important city in the world for the global wealthy elite by 2025.

"High net worth individuals rank New York alongside London as a hub for their business and social interests, and the prestige of a trophy pied-à-terre in prime Manhattan is well established," explains Knight Frank's Amy Williamson, who has

represented some of Manhattan's highest profile condominiums to international buyers. She added that African entrepreneurs have been counted among the city's most recent waves of wealthy newcomers.

Elite Living Africa uncovers some of the finest apartments the Big Apple has to offer.

Halstead



Corcoran Group



151 EAST 58TH STREET, MIDTOWN EAST

\$14.75m

This grand residence, atop one of New York's finest luxury condominium buildings, boasts 270-degree views, Venetian plaster finishes and silver-leaf ceilings throughout. It also has access to the Beacon Club, featuring a comprehensive fitness centre with exercise room, massage room, business centre, and children's playroom.



- 3 bedrooms
- 4 bathrooms
- Valet parking
- 2,700 sq ft



54 EAST 81ST STREET, UPPER EAST SIDE

\$33m

Although this looks like a turn-of-the-century classic limestone Upper East Side townhouse, it is newly built with the most modern conveniences, cutting-edge technology infrastructure and security systems. Finished with slabs of marble and onyx, a filigree spiralling staircase with oak risers culminates in a skylight above.



Halstead



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

1120 5TH AVENUE 10A, UPPER EAST SIDE

\$15.8m

Accessed by private elevator, this beautiful apartment in a 1925 building, designed by renowned architect J.E.R. Carpenter, is located on New York's exclusive Fifth Avenue, also known as 'Millionaire's Row', offering stunning views directly over Central Park.

- 5 bedrooms
- 5 bathrooms
- Gym access
- 3,790 sq ft



PENTHOUSE, MARATHON HOUSE, NW1, LONDON

Magnificent duplex apartment with beautiful views over Regents Park

This immaculate penthouse on the top two floors of a modern tower delivers stunning views in every direction. The leafy tranquillity of Dorset Square and Regents Park are to the north with magnificent skyline views.

Accommodation: Entrance hall, Kitchen, Double aspect open plan reception/dining room, TV room, Master bedroom with ensuite bathroom and dressing room, Bedroom 2 with ensuite shower room, Bedroom 3, Bedroom 4/study with ensuite shower room, Family bathroom, Utility room.

Amenities: Porter, Secure underground parking with space for four cars.



PRICE: £8,950,000

LEASEHOLD

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ESTATES





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