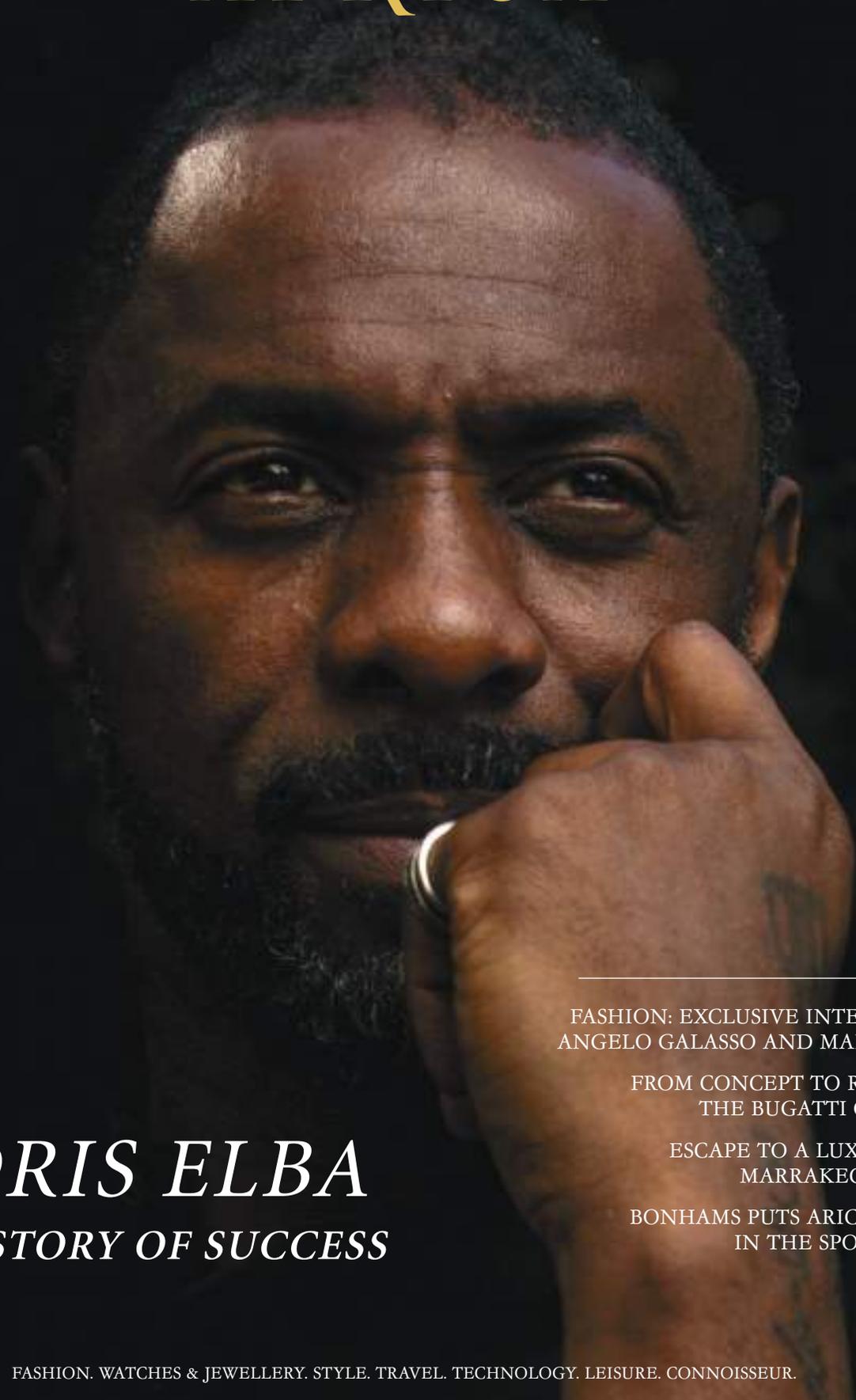


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## *IDRIS ELBA* *HIS STORY OF SUCCESS*

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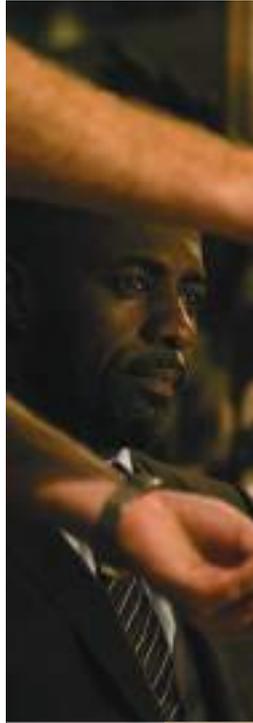
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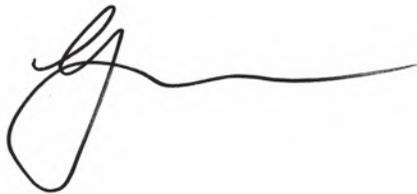
# WELCOME

**I**dris Elba's story is a classic case of overnight success that took at least a decade, but his commitment to his craft is inspirational. Playing Luther, the intense and brilliant murder detective in the TV series of the same name, made him famous across the globe, and he has gone on to play a host of memorable parts, in particular, Nelson Mandela in *Long Walk To Freedom*. Now there is serious talk of Elba as a contender to play the next James Bond. Regardless of what his next career move might be, we are delighted to feature the entertaining Mr Elba on our cover with an exclusive interview (pg. 14).

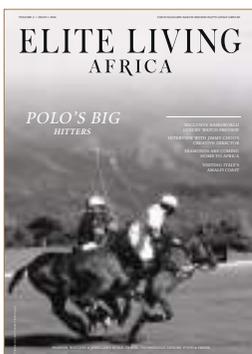
Proud of his Sierra Leonean and Ghanaian heritage, Elba tells *Elite Living Africa* about his early life in London, the twists and turns his career has taken – and how Prince Charles helped him on his path to success.

Elsewhere, men's fashion comes to the fore. Italian designer, Angelo Galasso talks about his African inspirations (pg. 32), and we debut a fashion shoot from Nigerian bespoke tailor, Mai Atafo (pg. 36), where he takes the tuxedo to the next level. We also preview the women's spring/summer collection by Prada (pg. 44).

Our travel pages take us to Morocco (pg. 62), we board a luxury yacht (pg.58) and get insider tips for fine cocktails (pg. 74). Motoring enthusiasts can revel in the latest designs from Geneva (pg. 50), and we examine the Nigerian art scene (pg. 80).



**Georgia Lewis**  
Editor



Enjoy our previous issue online at [www.elitelivingafrica.com](http://www.elitelivingafrica.com)

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Cover image: Idris Elba.  
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**June Men's Fashion Week, London,**  
June is the month for connoisseurs of men's fashion to pay attention. As the European summer heats up, so do the runway trends with Mens' Fashion Week taking place in three of the world's style centres. London shows of men's trends first from 10-13 June, then Milan from 18-21 June and the finale is in Paris from 22-26 June. [www.fashionweekonline.com](http://www.fashionweekonline.com)



## 10-26 June

### Musiques Sacrees D'Afrique Et D'Europe, Silvacane Abbey, La Roque D'Antheron

This new concert will juxtapose sacred music from Europe and Africa across the centuries. It will be conducted by Thuthuka Sibisi, and it premieres in Provence during Cape Town Opera's residency at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence. [www.capetownopera.co.za](http://www.capetownopera.co.za)  
[www.festival-aix.com](http://www.festival-aix.com)



## 17 June



Image credit: Kim Stevens

### Goodwood Festival of Speed auction

Lovers of luxury cars and art should have their chequebooks at the ready at this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed. On 24 June, Bonhams will be auctioning a Bentley Continental GT V8 S Convertible that has been painted with a one-off work by Sir Peter Blake, an icon of British pop art. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Care2Save Charitable Trust. [www.goodwood.com](http://www.goodwood.com)



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# ESSENTIAL ELBA

Idris Elba talks exclusively to *Elite Living Africa* about his road to success and the transition from Luther to Mandela.

WORDS BY RICHARD LUCK

“Of course, I owe it all to Prince Charles!”

Idris Elba’s in a very good mood. With two new films to promote – action thriller *Bastille Day* and Disney’s live-action adaptation of *The Jungle Book* – and his latest picture, *Zootropolis*, number one at the box-office, everything is excellent in the 43-year-old’s life. So good, in fact that he’s happy to laugh about a speech he gave to UK members of parliament about opportunities for black British artists in which he referenced his royal ‘patron’.

“I just thought it was important to give credit where it’s due,” he grins. “And it was the truth – as I got my first job fitting tyres courtesy of the Youth Training Scheme, so I got my first break in the creative industries from the Prince’s Trust. So, like I said, hats off to good old Prince Charles!”

Given £1,500 by the future king of England to subsidise his job at the National Music Youth Theatre, the road Elba since trodden suggests HRH would make a helluva gambler. From Hackney to Hollywood, from night shifts to Nelson Mandela, from the car factories of England to the halls of Asgard – few careers deserve to be described as journeys quite as much as Idris Elba’s.

Idrissa Akuna Elba was born in the now-fashionable suburb of Hackney on 6 September 1972 to a Sierra Leonean father and a Ghanaian mother. His pursuit of a career in acting included enough hard yards that one might prefer to measure them in furlongs. A role as a parachute instructor in long forgotten sitcom *2point4Children*, bit parts in police drama, *The Bill*, a part as a gigolo in *Absolutely Fabulous* – Idris Elba’s was the kind of ‘overnight success’ that was a decade in the making. ➤

*Idris Elba on the set of his latest film, Bastille Day.*

**“Did John Luther lead me to being cast as Nelson Mandela?” he ponders. “I think it had some bearing on it, sure.”**

➤ “The wait for big roles never bothered me,” explains the man who played Heimdall alongside Chris Hemsworth’s Thor and no-nonsense boss Charles Milner opposite Steve Carrell in the American version of *The Office*. “I was just thrilled to be acting. I’d done my share of terrible jobs and that, along with the fact that acting was all I wanted to do with my life, meant that parts that some people might now look at as insignificant were something I look back on very fondly.”

Of course, it didn’t hurt that the future star of *Prometheus* and *Pacific Rim* appeared in some superb programmes along the way, such as *Ultraviolet*, the acclaimed vampire drama, and medical drama, *Dangerfield*. It wasn’t until our man set foot in America, though, that people really started to get the message about Idris Elba.

And rather than hitting the jackpot in Hollywood, this Londoner struck it lucky on the drug-riddled streets of East Baltimore.

“I get asked about *The Wire* every day,” Elba says in a manner that suggests this doesn’t actually bother him too much. “And whether I’m working on location or playing a gig [Elba DJs the world over under the moniker ‘Big Driss’], the drug dealers always find me. ‘Stringer’ Bell really resonated with them for some reason. It’s a big compliment, really. I think, like anyone who has a particular trade, they were pleased to see it portrayed accurately. They just like to thank me for doing a good job.”

As Idris Elba isn’t your average actor so Russell ‘Stringer’ Bell wasn’t your standard direct-from-central-casting drug dealer. Sporting a nice line of suits and regularly reading Adam Smith, here was a guy who went to night school to better understand supply and demand and market saturation. So cool and savvy that he always seemed well above his sordid line of work, it came as quite a shock when with the HBO drama just over halfway through its five-season run, Bell was gunned down.



“I’ve said it a number of times now but I think it was so important that ‘Stringer died,” says Elba. “We’ve all seen these American films and TV dramas where the drug dealer is either a good guy who’s made a few bad choices but is desperate to reform, or someone who’s charisma compels you to empathise with them, even warm to them somewhat.

“But ‘Stringer’ wasn’t a hero. If you look at his foot soldiers, they’re all petrified of him. And he wasn’t as smart as he thought he was. The way he gets caught out at the end, that was a combination of stupidity and hubris. So, like I’ve said before, I’m glad he died. It was the ending he deserved.”

After *The Wire*, Elba’s career didn’t quite go stratospheric. In truth, what came next was a second period in the doldrums, comprised of roles in so-so American television shows and TV movies. Even a shift into cinema was to prove illusory with parts in quality pictures such as Ridley

ABOVE Idris Elba in a moment of contemplation while indulging in motorsport, an off-screen passion.

Scott’s *American Gangster* balanced out by less-than-stellar films, such as *Obsessed*, the shocking psychological thriller co-starring Beyonce Knowles.

As the noughties gave way to the 2010s, so the first traces appeared of the purple patch that Idris Elba is still enjoying today.

A guest role on the American version of *The Office*, an introduction to the Marvel Universe courtesy of Kenneth Branagh’s *Thor*, regular work in mindless but massively successful blockbusters such as *Pacific Rim* – Idris Elba had arrived. And while the movie work ensured wealth and fame, a BBC detective series brought him critical acclaim and awards.

Clad in his grey-checked overcoat and sporting a perpetual frown, John Luther isn’t like most cops – driven to the point of obsession, direct to the point of violence; oh yes, and he also has a thing going on with a psychopathic murderer (Ruth Wilson’s Alice Morgan). Columbo he ain’t. >



➤ “I love John Luther,” says Elba expressing affection for the character on a scale similar to the revulsion he feels towards ‘Stringer’ Bell. “I love the depth of the character and I love playing him. The funny thing is that, while I feel I know Luther very well, he’s such an absorbing character that it can be hard to separate myself from John when I’m playing him. It’s tough but as an actor you want challenges and Luther is as big and satisfying an acting challenge as you can get.

While Luther remains a going concern – a movie is in the offing – the role opened up all manner of doors for Elba, most notably playing the coveted part of one of the most influential figures in modern Africa.

“Did John Luther lead to me being cast as Nelson Mandela?” he ponders. “I think it had some bearing on it, sure.”

Arguably, the best thing about *Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom*, the recognition for Elba’s impressive acting chops – he received a Golden Globe for Luther – also landed him the lead in the underrated urban drama *Second Coming*.

And now here he is in *Bastille Day*, co-starring with Richard Madden who, as Robb Stark, experienced his own bloody graduation from an epic HBO drama (“We compared our scars,” chuckles Idris). Voice work has also grown into a lucrative sideline with *The Jungle Book* providing Elba with the chance to follow in the aristocratic paw-steps of George Sanders as the villainous tiger Shere Khan.

And the future? Well, it simply couldn’t look rosier. For if a major role in JJ Abrams’ next *Star Trek* movie wasn’t gob-smacking enough then the lead in the long-anticipated adaptation for Stephen King’s *The Dark Tower* would be worth several dozen drinks in its own right.

It really is enough to make you sick, or rather it would be were Idris Elba not as humble as he is effortlessly charismatic. He does, in fact, have much in common with another great London actor, Sir Michael Caine, who managed the transition from the British capital to Hollywood while remaining steadfastly true to his humble roots.

And if the above doesn’t give much insight into how stylish and attractive Mr Elba is, the following remark from a female film critic attending the London premiere of *Zootropolis* should tell you all you need to know about Idris’s appeal – “I know that it’s wrong, but I even fancy him when he’s playing a buffalo.” ❖

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## CHATSWORTH SOFA

POA, Osdin Shield, [www.osdinsshield.com](http://www.osdinsshield.com)

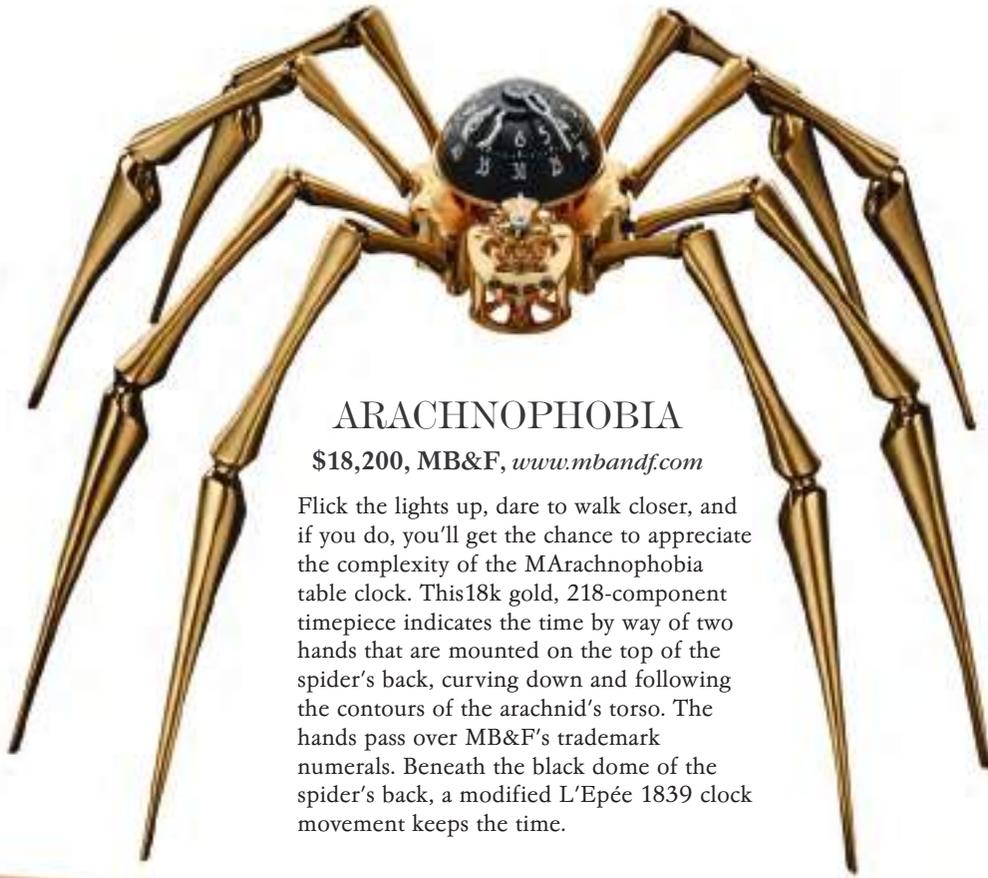
The Chatsworth is a sofa that is both stylish and safe. The classic shape works in modern and traditional decors, and Osdin Shield can also make sofas to order in a range of fabrics, including leather and elegant Designers Guild prints. A team of highly skilled craftsmen and women in Britain create Osdin Shield's sofas. And, as a bonus, this sofa, the Chatsworth, is bullet-proof. It has been tested to high ballistics standards and the technology is hidden from view.



## DIAMOND BATHTUB

\$25,378, Maison Valentina, [www.maisonvalentina.net](http://www.maisonvalentina.net)

Famed for its unique luxury bathroom designs, Maison Valentina has unveiled one of its most extravagant designs yet, the Diamond Bathtub. Featuring silver leaf, gloriously translucent black and a high gloss varnish, and gold taps that are delightfully extravagant, this is for those who take indulgent bathing seriously. And there is a wash basin to match, another diamond-inspired design in glossy black and gold.



## ARACHNOPHOBIA

\$18,200, MB&F, [www.mbandf.com](http://www.mbandf.com)

Flick the lights up, dare to walk closer, and if you do, you'll get the chance to appreciate the complexity of the MArachnophobia table clock. This 18k gold, 218-component timepiece indicates the time by way of two hands that are mounted on the top of the spider's back, curving down and following the contours of the arachnid's torso. The hands pass over MB&F's trademark numerals. Beneath the black dome of the spider's back, a modified L'Epée 1839 clock movement keeps the time.



## WARDROBE TRUNK

\$19,500, Ghurka, [www.gburka.com](http://www.gburka.com)

Ghurka was started in 1975 by an American called Marley Hodgson, when he bid for a set of luggage belonging to a gurkha officer at an auction in England. Unfortunately, his bid was not a winner, but he was inspired to create beautiful luggage instead. This wardrobe trunk is made of leather and twill with nickel hardware. Exuding a timeless elegance thanks to its luxurious craftsmanship, this is a stunning way to be an organised voyager. The compartmentalised design and high-quality materials hark back to the golden era of travel.

# TIME TO WATCH

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These divine horological achievements are sure to set hearts a flutter as a gift to a loved one or a treat for yourself, just because.

## SLIM D'HERMÈS POCKET PANTHERE

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**\$261,000, Hermès**  
*www.usa.hermes.com*

Hermès Watchmaker unveils a one-of-a-kind creation born from an association between engraving and enamelling. These techniques unite to create an artwork built on a delicate interplay of subtle shades and textures. The aptly named Slim d'Hermès Pocket Panthere is a white gold cased pocket watch with cord strap, safely housed in an elegant pouch made of matt Havana alligator leather. To recreate the design, which is the work of French artist and long-time Hermès collaborator Robert Dallet, the brand's Switzerland based watchmakers used both engraving and enamelling, combining two advanced crafts in a one-of-a-kind timepiece.



## LUC PERPETUAL CHRONOGRAPH

**\$95,630, Chopard, [www.chopard.com](http://www.chopard.com)**

This year marks an important milestone for Chopard: the release of its very first, all in-house, perpetual calendar chronograph, the LUC Perpetual Chrono, a 20-piece limited edition. The LUC Perpetual Chrono has, as its base, a movement that is only two years old – the Chopard LUC 03.07-L, which was introduced in the spring of 2014 in Chopard's 1963 Chronograph. This is a pretty high grade movement, as you would expect from the LUC line – a contemporary vertical clutch, column-wheel, hand-wound flyback chronograph movement, 5.62x28.8 mm, with a variable inertia balance (Chopard's own design) with a 60-hour power reserve, running in 42 jewels, adjusted to five positions. There is a moon-phase display accurate to one day's error every 122 years. The movement carries the Geneva Hallmark and its COSC certified as a chronometer, so it pretty much ticks all the enthusiast boxes.



## GRAND DECK MARINE TOURBILLON

**\$280,000, Ulysse Nardin  
[www.ulyssse-nardin.com](http://www.ulyssse-nardin.com)**

This is one of the most talked-about timepieces at this year's Baselworld, introduced as a sailboat for the wrist. The dial miniaturises elements of the deck of a yacht, including a wood deck, winches, lines and a mainsail boom. The dial is made of inlaid wood and a blue aluminium minutes hand that represents the boom, the horizontal spar used to angle the mainsail on a racing boat. It swings down from the 12 o'clock position, sweeping across a retrograde minutes scale that extends from 3 to 6 o'clock. It is literally pulled across the scale by strong high-tech fibres that wrap around two 'rigging screws' and two pinions designed to resemble – and function as – the winches on the deck of a racing yacht. The winches use a drive gear, a spiral tensioning spring, and two lock pins to 'tack' the boom.

## REFERENCE 57260

**\$8mn, Vacheron Constantine,  
[www.vacheron-constantin.com](http://www.vacheron-constantin.com)**

Vacheron Constantin has revealed the Vacheron Constantin Reference 57260 pocket watch, which, according to the manufacturer, is the most complicated watch ever made. Commissioned by one of the top collectors in the world and the result of eight years of research, development, prototyping, manufacturing and assembly all performed in Vacheron Constantin's Atelier Cabinotiers haute horlogerie workshop, this unique piece was conceived to be the most complex mechanical timepiece ever created – taking the title from another pocket watch, the Patek Philippe Caliber 89 pocket watch and its 33 complications and 1,728 components.



## MP-07 42 DAYS POWER RESERVE

\$276,000, Hublot  
[www.hublot.com](http://www.hublot.com)

At Baselworld 2016, Hublot debuted a new limited edition 'long power reserve' timepiece family with the Hublot MP-07 42 Days Power Reserve watch. Thematically, the Hublot MP-07 is like the new baby brother of the slightly more expensive MP-05 La Ferrari, which originally debuted in 2013. With that said, there is a diamond-covered version of the Hublot MP-07 42 Days Power Reserve that has a price very close to a million dollars. What the Hublot MP-07 42 Days Power Reserve shares the most with the MP-05 is the concept of the movement, which has a series of stacked mainspring barrels and time indication via moving discs along with a vertically-mounted tourbillion that is visible on the side of the movement.



## GEAR S2

\$15,000, De Grisogono  
[www.degrisogono.com](http://www.degrisogono.com)

Samsung recently announced a heavily embellished special edition of its latest smartwatch, the Gear S2 by de Grisogono. The Korean wearable maker teamed up with the renowned jewellery company in order to produce a smartwatch that looks more like a piece of jewellery than an electronic device. The watch has no less than 127 white and black diamonds on it, a rose gold rotating bezel, and a black galuchat bracelet. On the inside, however, it is identical to a vanilla Gear S2, sporting the same specs. This means, a 1.2-inch 360x360 Super AMOLED touch-screen, the Exynos 3250 Dual chipset with a 1 GHz dual-core Cortex-A7 CPU, 512 MB of RAM, 4 GB of storage, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC, a heart rate monitor, and a 250 mAh battery. It runs on the Tizen wearable platform.



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# *Diamond* **DEALS**

A close-up photograph of two diamonds resting on a dark, textured surface. The diamond on the left is a round brilliant cut, showing a complex pattern of facets and light reflections. The diamond on the right is a pear-shaped brilliant cut, also showing intricate facets and light play. The background is dark and out of focus, with some light bokeh effects.

With a little preparation and inside knowledge, buying diamonds becomes a pleasure.

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WORDS BY RACHAEL TAYLOR

**T**o the untrained eye, a scatter of transparent stones on a table can look much alike. Even if you are sharp enough to single out the real diamonds from the white sapphires and cubic zirconias, it can be hard to judge why one diamond varies in price from another of the same size.

While there are many jewellers out there with expert advice at the ready, it is always wise to go into any meeting prepared. To help you understand which questions to ask, which rules can be flexed, and the fatal flaws to look out for, read on for our guide on how to buy the perfect diamond. ➤

### 1. An excellent cut is non-negotiable

The cut of a diamond is one of the most important elements in determining the all-important level of sparkle it emits.

Cutting technology has progressed throughout the ages, something you can see by comparing a diamond from a vintage piece of jewellery, which might have a rose cut or old-mine cut, to a new round brilliant. The latter will dazzle, while the former will twinkle.

When a diamond is graded, the quality of the cut will be recorded on its grading certificate, with a score of poor, fair, good, very good or excellent. Cuts can also refer to the shape of a diamond. Round brilliants usually give the fieriest sparkle, but other cuts have their own merits, such as marquise diamonds which elongate the finger when set into rings.

Jewellers have also developed proprietary cuts, such as the Ashoka cut, which was created by US jeweller William Goldberg. Rounded rectangular Ashoka diamonds have 62 facets, compared to the standard 57, to increase the sparkle which is created by light bouncing off the cuts.

### 2. Avoid imperfections - but do consider the microscope effect

The more clear and free from inclusions – tiny specks of dirt trapped within the diamond – a stone is, the more valuable it becomes. The grading report issued with your diamond will determine where on the spectrum a diamond lies, ranging across 11 levels from Included stones to Internally Flawless and Flawless stones. The difference between the latter two is that Internally Flawless diamonds will have blemishes left behind by the polishing process, while Flawless diamonds have absolutely no imperfections whatsoever. What is important to note about inclusions, as classified by grading reports, is that these are determined by what can be seen under 10x magnification, so the majority of lesser inclusions will not be visible to the naked eye.

To get the best value for money, it can be worth prioritising an excellent cut and colour but relaxing your standards a little on the clarity unless, of course you plan to always view your jewel through a microscope.

### 3. Choose between vivid hues or glacial whites

When buying a white diamond, the challenge is to get as close to colourless as you possibly can. This will increase the price, of course, but it will be worth it to get a bright, clear, eye-catching sparkle.

Diamond colour grades range from D – which is considered colourless – graduating minutely through to Z, which will be a very yellowish stone.

While murky colours are of less value, there are certain colours of diamonds that are even more expensive than a D-colour white. These pricey stones are those of the rarest colours, such as pink, red, vivid yellow, green and blue.



◆  
“A small, flawless diamond may be a better investment than a huge, cloudy rock.”  
◆

ABOVE A platinum and diamond necklace from Boodles.

Fancy coloured diamonds have rocketed in value in recent years. A report released by the Knight Frank Wealth Report in 2015 showed that prices of pink diamonds have increased by 360 per cent in the past decade, while blue diamonds have increased 161 per cent and yellow have risen 56 per cent.

### 4. Big is not always best

Carat is the most famous of the Four Cs (carat, cut, clarity, colour) used to determine the price of a diamond because it is the easiest one for the untrained eye to detect.

The carat refers to the weight of the diamond, and with all other Cs being equal, the price of a diamond will increase with the carat weight due to the rarity of large diamonds. A metric carat translates to about 200mg, and each carat is divided into 100 points so that incremental differences in size can be measured, and priced accordingly.

Diamonds can be as tiny as 0.01ct (or 1pt as it's sometimes referred to), while The Golden Jubilee Diamond, which now forms part of the crown jewels at the Royal Thai Palace, is the largest cut diamond in existence, weighing in at 545.67cts.

David Morris is known for dealing in large diamonds. The bracelet, pictured to the right, has a 59.89ct cushion-cut diamond at its centre, and comes with a price well into the eight-figure range.

However, size isn't everything, and you will find that sometimes a small, but perfectly cut, flawless colourless diamond will be a better investment, and more sparkly jewel, than a huge, cloudy rock with a yellowish tinge and questionable facets.



4.

2.

# POWER OF PINK

Daring designs, featuring rubies, tourmalines and on-trend rose gold, prove that pink can pack a punch.

**1. Ring**, rose gold, tsavorites, green tourmaline and diamonds, POA, Lydia Courteille. [www.lydiacourteille.com](http://www.lydiacourteille.com)

**2. 'Nakata' bracelet**, rose gold, woven leather and diamonds, \$3,302, Damiani. [www.damiani.com](http://www.damiani.com)

**3. Graff Ring**, rose gold and diamonds, POA, Graff Diamonds. [www.graffdiamonds.com](http://www.graffdiamonds.com)

**4. 'Grapes' ring**, 22k gold and pink tourmalines, POA, Christina Soubli. [www.christinasoubli.com](http://www.christinasoubli.com)

**5. Ring**, inspired by Angelina Jolie's lips, rose gold and rubies, POA, Roberto Demeglio. [www.robertodemeglio.it](http://www.robertodemeglio.it)



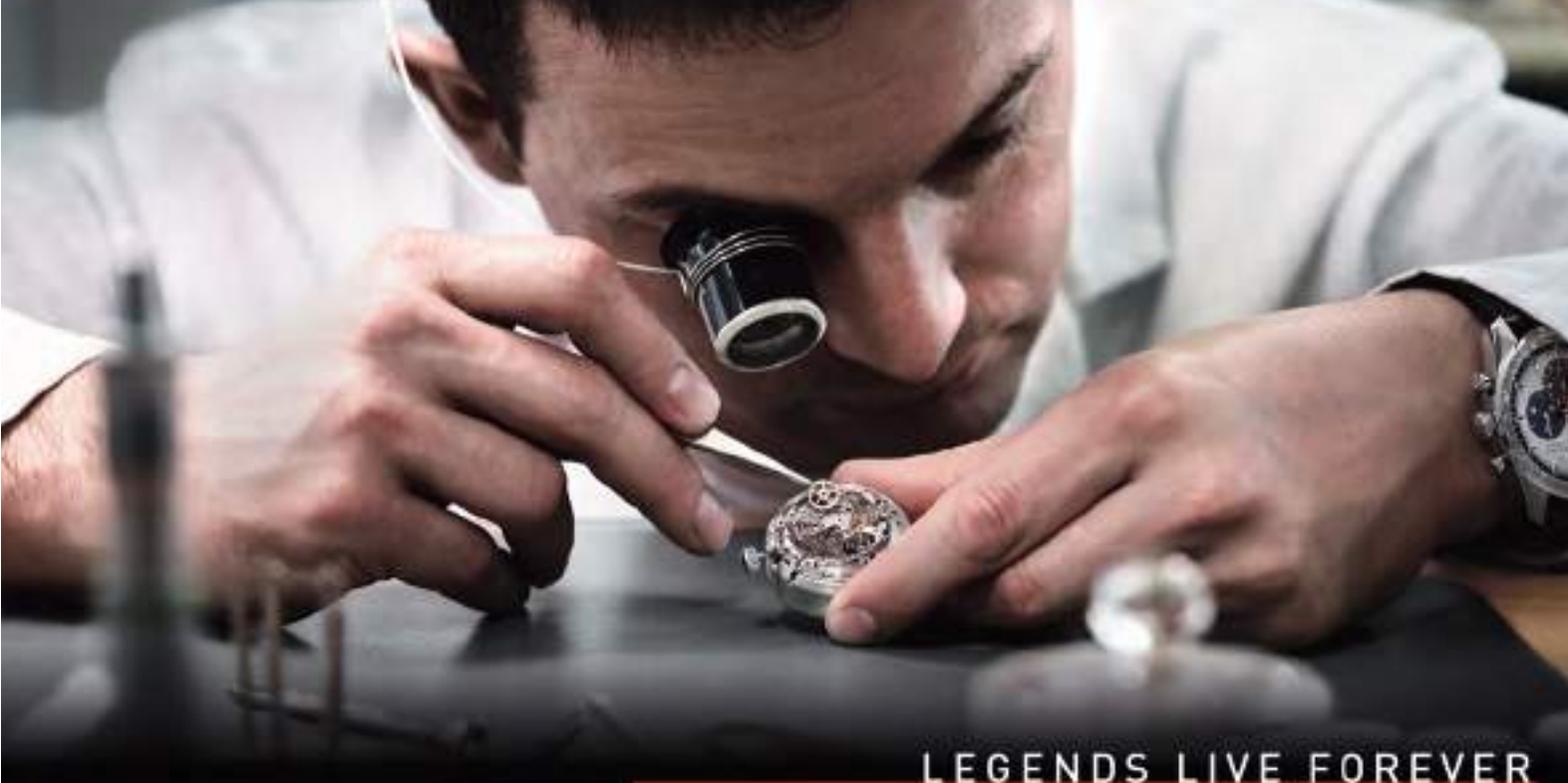
1.



3.



5.



LEGENDS LIVE FOREVER

EL PRIMERO  
| Chronomaster 1969



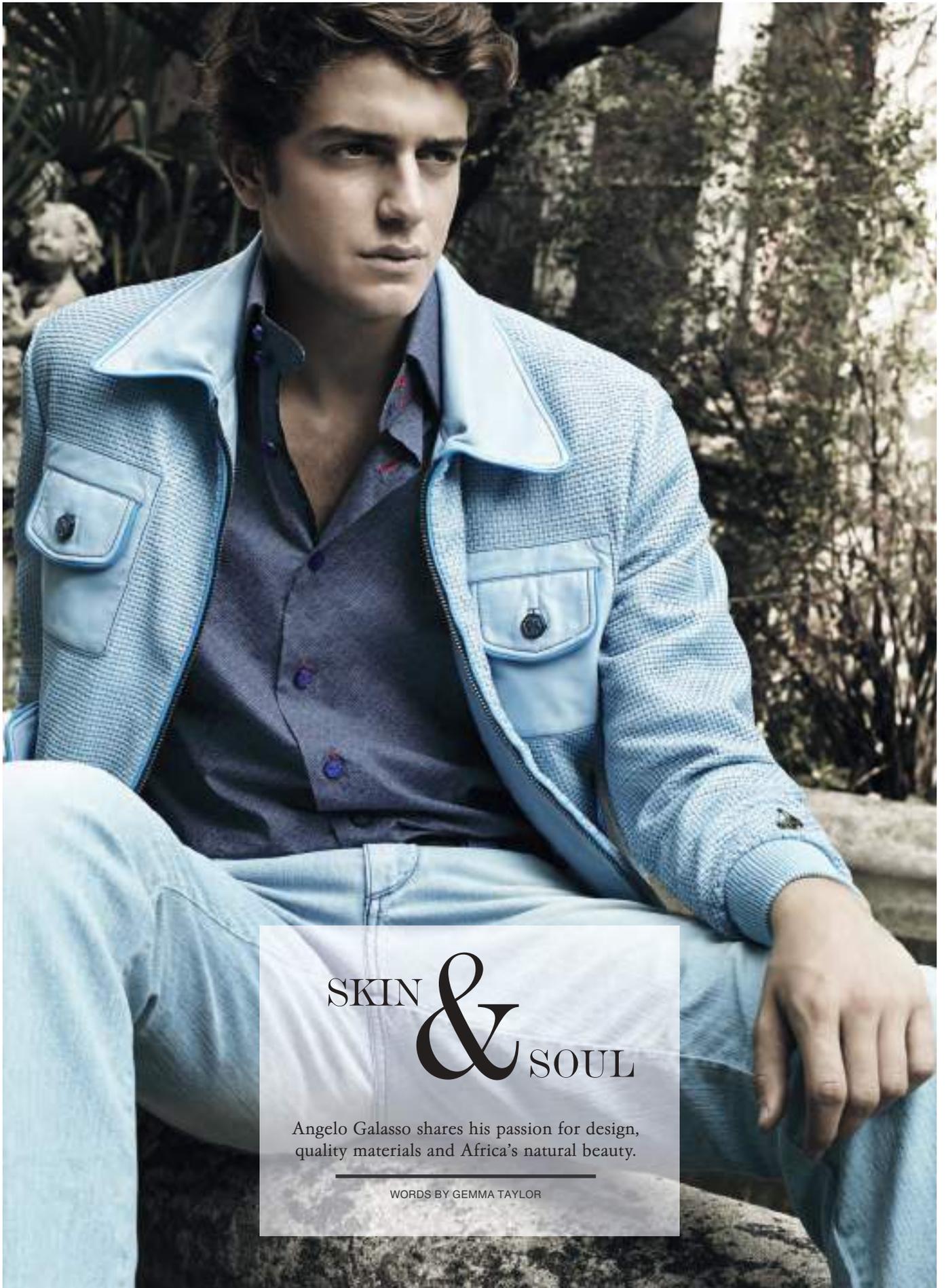
ZENITH

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SKIN & SOUL

Angelo Galasso shares his passion for design, quality materials and Africa's natural beauty.

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WORDS BY GEMMA TAYLOR

**How did you get into fashion design?**

In the beginning, it was game then it became a passion, now it is fashion. Everything started as a sort of game. My father was the chief policeman of our small town, Francavilla Fontana, in Puglia, and he forbade me to play in the streets because he didn't want me to become a lazybones. So, I started to spend my days in the small local artisans' workshops, becoming friend with the artisans, shoemakers and the tailors. From them, I had the great chance to learn about fabrics, colours, shapes and proportions and for sure it is thank to them that I picked up the very traditional Italian fashion style. That is something that I still treasure very much and you can still see it in my collections.

**Why do you think Italy have such a strong heritage in fashion design?**

I think that it is because of the great beauty that Italy has in itself. Whether you visit a little village or a big city, you will find yourself walking around in wonder and your eyes are full of beauty. There's beauty in everything: the landscape, the sea, the architecture, the art, the food and the people too! And the most important thing is that there is a very great variety of beauty: from the north to the south of Italy, you can't help yourself but being fascinated by all the small differences and peculiarities of every single village and, of course, when you have all this beauty inside and around you, you can only be inspired to create even more beauty.

**What makes Angelo Galasso shirts different?**

My shirts undertake 85 different stages in their manufacturing process. They are manufactured entirely by hand adhering to the traditional Italian methods of sewing technique and assembly procedure. They are then constructed using ten stitches to the centimetre. The penultimate buttonhole is always horizontal, so you have a streamlined look. The cuff is 12cm long with the internal lining made of pure cotton, specially strengthened to avoid creasing. The interlinings of the collar are glued and four collar stiffeners are sewn in, providing support and creating an utterly crisp finish. The entire shirt is sewn using the French seam method where the raw edges of the fabric are fully enclosed for a neater appearance. A tribute to the old tailoring traditions lies in the slight pleat of the shoulder line – the unique feature of a hand-made shirt. This is what makes my shirts so unique and precious.

**Did Gianni Agnelli influence you in any way?**

Gianni Agnelli was the person who actually inspired my most important design, The Polso Orologio shirt. Mr Agnelli used to wear the watch over the cuff due to a metal allergy, so I got inspired by this, and also because I was well aware of how important is for men to show off their most precious watch, I came up with this solution that has actually revolutionised the whole men's fashion world. It goes without saying that Mr Agnelli was a real gentleman and his style mirrored his personality: you would always see him wearing elegant and sophisticated garments and I certainly was inspired by it for every of my collections.

**How do you approach designing a new collection?**

I am a very curious man and I like very much going round looking for something new. I get inspired by the art, >

◆  
*“Africa is one of my favourite continents in the world ... Everything is so very amazing and surprising ... You can't be neutral to its beauty.”*  
◆



LEFT AND BELOW Exotic leather is a staple in Angelo Galasso's collections.



ABOVE AND LEFT Angelo Galasso advises men wear just the one out-of-the-ordinary item.

the markets and by the buzzy life of London. Also, when I travel what fascinates me the most is discovering new styles, colours and designs that then I assemble into new creations. Every garment that I design would be a "tradition in evolution" piece. In fact, I love mixing the classical Italian sartorial tradition with an international twist.

**What do you predict for the future of menswear?**

We are now at a turning point of our history, and in fashion too. When you are fed up with something, because it has been around for a long while, you really need and want a change. You need something that can help you stand out from the crowd, something unique that can make you feel special and different. We all want to show off and not to be one of the millions. That is why my creations are designed in a classic style with that twist of *extraordinaire*. I love creating something edgy and flashy, along with the more classical designs so that I can really anticipate and interpret the needs of the new generation of customers.

**What advice would you have to anyone looking to reach their goals?**

To stay focused, never give up, and always stay true to yourself. Don't be afraid of hard work, in fact the harder your labour will be, the more and better fruits you will reap.

**What is your favourite thing about Africa?**

Africa is one of my favourite continents in the World. I was so in love with it that I decided to dedicate an entire collection to the atmosphere of Morocco, for example. Walking along the streets of Marrakech, I found the right inspiration to create shirts in silk with vivid and bright colours and ethnic embroideries. In Africa everything is so very amazing and surprising that you can't be neutral to its beauty. The rhythm of Africa is something that comes from the inside and that shakes every single corner of the continent, its inhabitants, and the tourists like me. I love so much the colours of the clothes you can find there, the wilderness of the nature and the exotic perfumes that are always in the air. So when I come back home, I try to imitate everything that I have experienced in Africa and I let myself and my creativity go with the flow. That's why most of my garments are so loved and appreciated by African customers; because of this strong connection. Perhaps my connection to the African land is even stronger because it reminds me of my home town, in south of Italy. In fact, I think that Africa and Puglia have a lot of similarities. Take the sun, for example, or the energy of the people and their strong willingness for big changes. These are all things that inspire me in my creative process.

Africa is in continuous expansion, especially South Africa. Almost every day we receive messages on our social media from South African people, saying that they love the brand and asking when we will finally open a store there. Many of them fall so in love with our garments that they will fly to London only to

➤ come to our shop in Knightsbridge and buy some outfits. As a promising and quickly growing retail market, particularly for luxury fashion goods, we are looking to expand in Nigeria within the next three years. As a brand, we already have numerous Nigerian devotees who visit our London store, so it feels only right to bring the product to the customer – those with the right tastes to fully appreciate the AG products.

**What are the perfect accessories to wear with Angelo Galasso?**

The perfect accessory is without any doubt the watch, to wear with my watch cuff shirt, the Polso Orologio. If you are not into the mood for wearing a watch, you can always go for one of my belts; my favourite ones are made in exotic skins.

**Which high-profile person would you most like to collaborate with?**

It would be a very great honour for me if I could dress

Obama. I think he could be an excellent ambassador of my brand, in fact he is always very elegant and with an impeccable style. I have never met him in person; however my friend Al Pacino was wearing one of my suits during the National Medal of Arts Ceremony, at the White House when he received a prize from the President.

**What are your top tips for a stylish look?**

The full outfit should never look too flashy. When you wear something out of the ordinary, one single item is enough. If you exaggerate, the result will look kitsch.

**What is your most prized possession?**

The most prized possession I have is a Rolex that Carlotta, my wife, gifted to me quite a long ago now. It's a Datejust 36mm Lunetta Godronata and for me it is a very precious accessory, not only for the value in itself but especially for the great and sweet memories that it brings to my mind. ❖

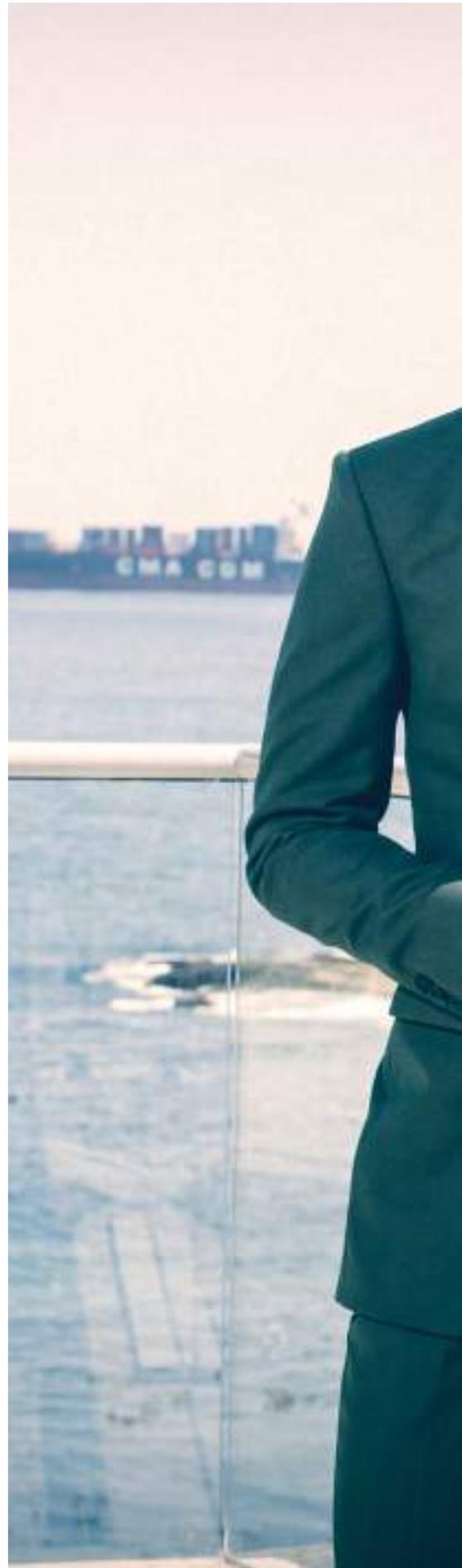
*The most stylish way for a gent to display his watch.*

# REGALLY CUT

Mai Atafo shares the story of how he moved on from dressing friends for weddings to becoming the king of tuxedos.

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WORDS BY GEMMA TAYLOR







**Fashion wasn't your original career path. How did you get into fashion design?**

I got into fashion simply out of the love of clothes, from as young as I can remember I always loved looking good and liked people that looked good. I had made waist coats and ties for five weddings of friends and with a ton of compliments and no payments, A few years later, I decided I could make a career out of my interest by building a sustainable brand in fashion – even though the decision came close to 10 years after a fulfilling career in brand marketing, which I still indulge in by the way.

**Where does your passion for clothes come from?**

Can easily say its from within, inspired a bit from my mum's flair for fashion – Lady sure knows how to dress. There is a certain pleasure I get and a way I feel when I dress up nicely and make amazing clothes for people, that is mostly my driving force. So I guess my passion is both internal and external.

**What makes your brand different?**

I would say it's my cut, fit, quality, customer service and lastly me. I have built my brand around myself, my personal style – I think I'm a pretty cool guy – and my insight into fashion over the years has also contributed in making my brand stand out.



**What are your favourite fabrics to work with?**

Superfine wool cashmere and worsted wool because of the smooth and breathable nature as well as easy manipulation for suit craftsmanship, and denim because it has no limitation.

**Where do you get your inspiration from?**

Mostly my inspiration comes from my travels around the world and life in general which has been an amazing source over time.

**What is the hardest thing about working in the fashion industry?**

In Nigeria, it's really the lack of support especially from the government based on their insufficient understanding of the industry and its enormous potential. As a result, there is no basic infrastructure especially power [electricity], distribution is hindered by inaccessible road network. Getting skilled personnel to work in the fashion industry is another thing that makes it really difficult. Also, the absence of a unified focused fashion council that can drive the development of fashion in Nigeria.

**What is your advice on how to wear colours?**

I experiment with colours a lot and it works for me, so I'd say go for it, don't be scared to express yourself with colours but know the limits.

**Who or what has inspired your great personal style?**

I like the way a lot of people dress so it is hard to mention one person, but my personal style is inspired by the tailoring of the Brits, such as Savile Row, the flair of the Italians and the edginess of the Sapeurs of Congo.

**How does the fashion scene differ from country to country in Africa?**

I can say with confidence that fashion in Africa is very strong in Nigeria and South Africa with the latter being more sophisticated in terms of structure and closeness to the international fashion industry. I will have to say that Nigerians designers are more creative and the customers are more stylish and have more buying power by volume and value. I would like to pay more attention to the continent in general and see how the fashion scene evolves to a global level.







**What African designers do you like?**

There are way too many... Lanre DaSilva Ajayi, Ituen Basi, April by Kunbi , Kosibah , Christine Brown, Taibo Bacar, Gert-Johan Coetzee, Sheria Ngowi...

**What are your favourite accessories?**

Shoes and definitely eyewear.

**How do you like to wind down?**

Creative content creation for films and corporate event – which doesn't sound relaxing but trust me it works for me. And I like watching movies and TV shows, sleeping, all in that order, with food of course, and playing with my daughter.

**What are your dreams for the future?**

Being on the frontier in giving an internationally recognised voice to African bespoke tailoring. ❖



# SURREAL STATE

Prada's spring/summer collection for 2016 takes a turn for the subversive, with a new take on layering.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS



Surrealism is the art movement, born in the 1920s with pioneers including Salvador Dali and René Magritte, and it has been influencing art, fashion and culture ever since. In Prada's womenswear spring/summer 2016 campaign, the influences which hark back to this experimental and decadent era are present.

Legendary fashion photographer, Steven Meisel, shot this campaign with rising Dutch-Surinamese model, Yasmin Wijnaldum joining Natalia Vodianova and Sasha Pivovarov, two models who have demonstrated it is possible to enjoy longevity in the industry.

Layering and subversive tailoring feature strongly in the collection, with bold fabric combinations such as sheer, almost weightless black floating delicately on top of heavier tweed. Patterns are brazenly thrown together with brash stripes happily sitting alongside abstracts and checks. Delicacy dances alongside metallics, which can be either frivolous or industrial in intent, to stunning effect. And there has been much playing with proportions, in particular with boxy jackets, A-line skirts which incorporate more layers.

*ABOVE Prada's latest collection is ultra-modern, but with retro nods.*



Another theme of the collection is curiously positioned netting, wide-open in style, an exaggerated take on hat veils, reminiscent of summer weddings. But there is nothing twee going on with the netting that features across this collection. Instead, it provides an additional contrast to bold prints and knits.

But the clashes of colour, pattern and texture make perfect sense for a spring/summer collection.

After all, Miuccia Prada is designing for an affluent audience that spends time in Europe at this time of year. On a capricious summer's day in Paris, London or Milan, layering is sensible, and this collection proves that sensible can still be stylish. This ethos shines through the clothes as well as the accessories in this collection.

*ABOVE Surreal proportions and interesting fabrics blend well.*

There are low-heeled shoes with twists aplenty. Effortlessly elegant, the proportions are lean and sharp but with quirky additions such as silver balls balanced gloriously atop black-and-white slingbacks. Prada has taken a classic spring/summer shoe style and once again made it unique.

For those who still prefer the more vertiginous heel, Prada does not disappoint. In particular, a silver-and-black confection with aggressive silver ankle straps and a design reminiscent of 1920s architecture is an especially clever piece.

The shoe is entirely modern as well as incorporating a nod to the very era when Salvador Dali was active in Paris and Madrid. Influenced by multiple eras, it is part of a campaign that is rich in rebellious juxtapositions.

## FIT FOR PURPOSE

Kitting out a home gym does not have to mean sacrificing on style. Here is a selection of fitness technology that will look in the part and make exercising a pleasure rather than a chore – and with equipment that can be customised to suit any decor, there has never been a better time to enjoy keeping fit in the privacy of your home.



### COLMIA WEIGHTS

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

Technology isn't always about the latest digital gadgetry. Sometimes, it is about going back to basics yet creating something truly luxurious. Pentfitness uses European oiled walnut in this weights set because it offers good grip and has antibacterial properties. Combined with sleek stainless steel, the Colmia weight set is ultra-modern in design. The weights range from 2kg to 10kg, weighing 48kg in total. Pentifitness also makes wall bars and luxury gym benches so an entire home gym can look harmoniously elegant.

### VELA CYCLE TRAINER

POA, LUNAR, [www.vela.lunar-europe.com](http://www.vela.lunar-europe.com)

LUNAR has elevated the exercise bicycle to an artform. Designed to look more like a stunning sculpture than a mere piece of fitness equipment, the Vela Cycle Trainer blends form and function. "Our goal was to create highly functional fitness equipment which, besides its sporting uses, will adorn any living room in the same way as an aesthetic sculpture," says Matthis Hamann, one of LUNAR Europe's managing partners.





## HUAWEI WATCH

\$425-\$875, Huawei, [www.gethuawei.com](http://www.gethuawei.com)

The styling is that of a traditional wristwatch but the technology inside is ultra-modern. As well as keeping perfect time, Huawei's range of intelligent watches are equipped with a heart rate monitor sensor and a motion sensor with a gyroscope and accelerometer which can distinguish between different physical activities. The range includes a choice of leather, rose gold and stainless steel frames to suit all tastes.

## VG EVOLUTION

\$10,000, VibroGym  
[www.react-fitness.com](http://www.react-fitness.com)

Vibrating platform technology has taken the fitness world by storm. The VG Evolution is a professional machine that generates harmonious vertical vibration to boost muscle activity during a workout. It is programmable with four frequency settings to adjust the intensity of the vibrations. The VG Evolution can be customised in black, silver, white or bronze, as well as other colours on request. *Elite Living Africa* readers can purchase this for the special price of \$10,000, including import duties, shipping and a two-year warranty if it is ordered via React Fitness.





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# DRAWN TO RULE

The stunners from the Geneva Motor Show start life on the sketch pads and screens of the world's best automotive designers.

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WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

Every year, the Geneva International Motor Show is the place where big reveals from the high-end manufacturers take place. And every year, jaws drop, car lovers sigh and gasp, and opinions are formed at the stands. Without the luxury of being able to take the cars on display for a test drive around the Geneva Palexpo convention centre, the strongest opinions are formed in relation to design.

The designers of these machines put their hearts and souls into creating the the lines and shapes we see before us at motor shows, acutely aware that the court of public opinion can be a brutal place – and there is so much at stake when the designs are meant to attract big-spending buyers from around the world.

Instead of joining the hubris, we have taken a step back from the mayhem of the motor show and share with you the cars as they look on the drawing board, or computer screen, as the case may be. From the relative tranquility of the designers' studios come these luscious images that were born far from the madding crowd.



## ASTON MARTIN DB11

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“We aspire to make the most beautiful cars in the world,” Aston Martin CEO Dr Andy Palmer told the Geneva Motor Show when the DB11 was unveiled. While the DB11 is unmistakably Aston, particularly with the iconic grille, the chief design officer, Marek Reichman led the team towards creating a car with some new design signatures. These include the front-hinging clamshell bonnet, lean LED headlights that sneer elegantly and profile that stays sleek because the roof strakes flow unencumbered from the A-pillar to the C-pillar. At the back, the tail lights are sculpted seamlessly into the aerodynamic design. Under the hood lurks a new twin-turbo V12 engine, the perfect match for such a sexy, streamlined body. As a result, it sounds every bit as good as it looks.



*The Aston Martin DB11 is breathtaking as a sketch and in real life.*



## BENTLEY MULSANNE GRAND LIMOUSINE

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Bentley stole the show at Geneva when it came to an unashamedly, gloriously over-the-top offering. The Bentley Mulsanne Grand Limousine by Mulliner, has a two-tone exterior in Moroccan Blue and Silver Frost and inside, it is a symphony of plush cream leather inside. It is a private commission which the team from Crewe, England, took to Switzerland to demonstrate what magic the bespoke division can create for its special customers. It is 5½ metres of pure luxury, a full metre longer than the standard Mulsanne. Mulliner, Bentley's in-house coachbuilders took charge of this commission and the attention to detail is superb. Look closely and you can see 21-inch wheels matched to the body colour, peeking out from the hubcaps. This is a car that is all about being driven rather than driving yourself so the powertrain, transmission and suspension were calibrated to make the ride as smooth as possible. Four passengers can travel in aviation-style comfort and, naturally, there is a glass partition screen between the rear and the driver which can be turned from clear to opaque with the touch of a button. Other comforts on offer include fold-out tables, a bottle cooler with crystal champagne flutes, a soft drink cabinet, bespoke tumblers, four iPad charging stations, a high-tech climate control system, and an intercom for communicating with the driver.





## FERRARI GTC4LUSSO

The shooting brake coupé body shape was a bold move for the maestros of Maranello but it has paid off with a design that manages to be aggressive and subtle all at once. It is not as pretty as the Ferrari California T, but prettiness is not the point here. This rendering from the designers, in brutalist metallic grey, with a cheeky hint of red brake callipers, makes it clear that this is not a shy wallflower of a car.

Ferrari Design offers a fresh take on this retro shape with the Ferrari GTC4Lusso. Indeed, the car's name is a history lesson itself, with a nod to its predecessors, such as the 330 GTC, 330 GT (which had a 2+2 seating configuration, like the GTC4Lusso and a favourite of Enzo Ferrari himself) and the 250 GT Berlinetta Lusso, and the "4" simply refers to the number of seats.

Streamlined and tapered, the GTC4Lusso recalls the fastback classics, such as the 1965 Ford Mustang. This is no bad thing. Seating four, it is more practical than a two-seater but this has not resulted in a compromise in either style or substance. The design announced that this is definitely a sports car with the lowered roof curve and the quintessentially Ferrari twin tail lights.

The muscular shoulders and chunky wheel arches emphasise the width, giving it a serious presence on the road. Chiselled crease lines dominate the length of the body and the rear design looks as if it has been slashed, albeit in a controlled manner, with a cutlass to create the brash shapes.

Of course, the engine is no afterthought and it offers thrills aplenty for the adventurous motorist. The GTC4Lusso is powered by a 6.2-litre V12 with a top speed of 335km/h and it does the 0-100km/h sprint in a mere 3.4 seconds.



## BUGATTI CHIRON

With order books for the Bugatti Chiron filling up well before it was launched in Geneva, the design sketches alone were enough to whet the appetite of supercar lovers for the latest offering from the Molsheim factory. Wolfgang Dürheimer, the company president said the brief for the Chiron was simple: “We want to make the best significantly better.” Up front, the familiar arch-shaped grille remains in place but the updated emblem is crafted from fine silver as well as enamel. The quadruple row of headlights on each side are more striking than those of the Veyron. But in terms of brave, bold design, it is all about the rear view for the Chiron. The rear light is a striking strip of red right across the back, instantly creating a design trademark. Beneath, the exquisitely shaped twin tail pipe fits seamlessly into the jaw-dropping new look. It is easy to see why more than 100 people signed up for a Chiron before the big Geneva reveal.

It is impossible to talk about any Bugatti without talking power. Beneath the exterior, the engine does plenty of talking all of its own with an 8-litre W16 engine pumping out 1,500hp, eclipsing the Veyron which famously offers 1,001 horses to play with. Louis Chiron, the legendary Monégasque racing driver for whom the Chiron was named, would be honoured to be associated with such a fine machine.





## ROLLS-ROYCE BLACK BADGE

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Rolls-Royce has taken an edgier turn with the design of the Black Badge Ghost and Wraith models. Giles Taylor, director of design for Rolls-Royce, said the Black Badge models “express a darker luxury sophistication”.

Aimed at demanding new customers, the Black Badge models retain the instantly identifiable Parthenon grille, albeit slightly modified, and the Spirit of Ecstasy “flying lady” is reborn as a high-gloss black vamp for this occasion.

The wheels are certainly less genteel than past models. Crafted from carbon fibre and a lightweight alloy, they offer strength and, visually, the five petals are not those of a shrinking violet. We expect to see more of these on city streets than country lanes.



## MCLAREN 570GT

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Gullwing doors and the designer’s choice of an audacious red interior for this rendering are sure signs that this Geneva-launched McLaren is here to make a visual splash as well as offering the expected supercar performance (0-100km/h in 3.4 seconds, in case you were interested). The rear spoiler on the 570 GT is 10mm taller than the 570 Coupé models, although both models share a front end design.

Overall, the lines are clean, there is nothing fussy going on here, and the distinctive tail lights are a revelation. The feline angles offer personality to match the performance.

# MCLAREN DESIGN TOUR

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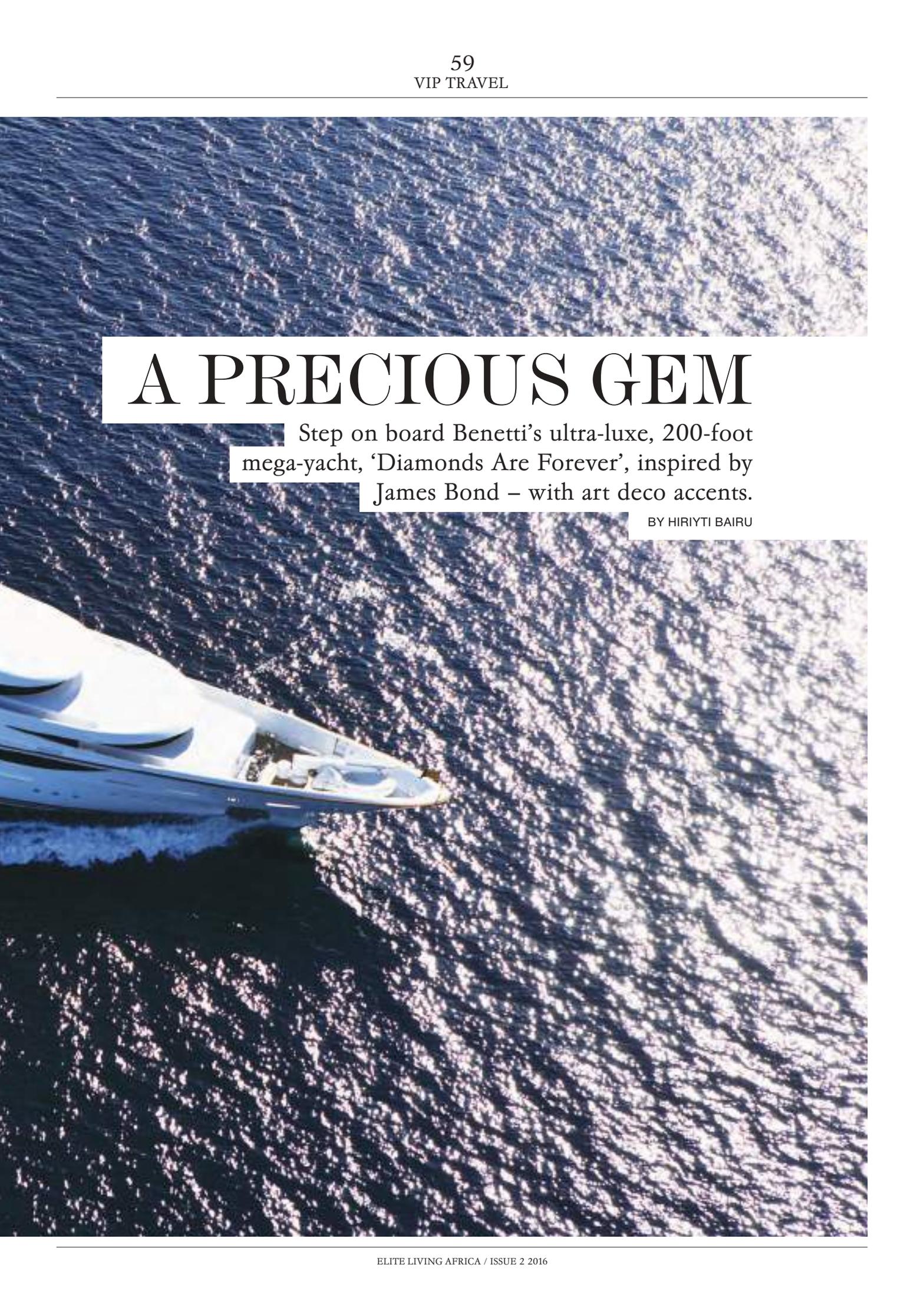
## BEHIND THE SCENES FOR VIPs

Lovers of automotive design can get up close and personal with the secretive McLaren design team at a series of VIP events across Europe. The events celebrate McLaren winning the coveted Best of the Best prize at the Red Dot Awards for product design. The invitation-only tour launched in Paris on 3 May and visits Dusseldorf on 20 May, Zurich on 26 May, Monaco on 16 June and concludes on 2 July at the Frankfurt Motor Show.

“Beautiful design has always been an integral part of McLaren DNA,” said Jon Pollock, McLaren Automotive’s regional director for Europe. “Through events like this, we can ensure that our discerning customers continue to stimulate us from the design standpoint.”





An aerial photograph of a white yacht on the ocean. The yacht is positioned in the lower-left corner, moving towards the center. The water is a deep blue with a textured, shimmering surface. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

# A PRECIOUS GEM

Step on board Benetti's ultra-luxe, 200-foot mega-yacht, 'Diamonds Are Forever', inspired by James Bond – with art deco accents.

BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

◆  
*“No expense has been spared with the interior while the upper deck and sky lounge are perfect for al fresco drinks and dining on the high seas”*  
◆

**F**or US\$60 million you can buy yourself a James Bond-themed yacht which embodies a perfect equilibrium of comfort and ultimate luxury.

There is a strong sense of history behind this cruiser. A historical Italian shipyard, Benetti came into existence in 1873 and offers customers timeless design combined with world class quality.

‘Diamonds Are Forever’, Benetti’s latest spectacular yacht, sleeps up to 12 guests in six rooms, including a master suite, a VIP stateroom, three double cabins and one twin cabin. Not forgetting the members of crew, it provides further space for up to 15 people to sleep in comfort.

The super-luxe yacht has a number of defining features includes a beauty parlour, a massage area, a sauna and a gym.

‘Diamonds Are Forever’ features a modern stabilisation system which reduces roll motion effect and ensuring a smoother more comfortable cruising experience. ‘At anchor stabilisers’ work at zero speed to increase onboard comfort at anchor and on rough waters. The helicopter landing pad enables guests to arrive fast and in style.

Stunning design is combined with powerful performance, operating at a cruising speed of 12 knots, a maximum speed of 16 knots and a range of 4,800nm from her 115,912-litre fuel tanks.

Inside, no expense has been spared with the classic interior. The design is intricate, using special Italian





marble, onyx, Madrona burl wood, gold leaf, mother-of-pearl and Marieux crystal.

Interior designer, Evan K Marshall honours its original art deco Erte sculptures, and adds etched-mirror panels created by Mariuex to the mix. The timeless sculptures have been placed in the four corners of the lounge, with the idea inspired by the Quattro Fontane in Rome.



The upper deck and skylounge is perfect for *al fresco* drinks and dining on the high seas.

And technology plays its role in making this space truly special. At the push of a button, circular glass doors open up from the lounge, creating an outdoor feel as it adjoins the aft outdoor seating. The 12-seat table offers ample space for guests onboard to socialise.

An observation deck provides guests panoramic views in a private setting. There is even more space up here for relaxation, as there are more sun loungers, a stylish sofa and coffee table. This deck is served by the central lift, giving guests ease of access throughout the entire vessel.

Every Benetti yacht offers full customisation and is built all around the customer's specifications. ❖

*LEFT* The ultimate in luxury cruising for US\$60 million, from Benetti with 'Diamonds Are Forever'.



# Sultan Of Sun

If it's sunshine you seek, then a five-star riad in Morocco is the place to be.

WORDS BY GEMMA TAYLOR

**H**idden away from the heat of the meandering streets of the jewel-lined souks, an oasis of luxury resides in Marrakech. Hotel La Sultana, located in a quiet lane within the bustling medina, is a stunning hotel constructed from four linked riads. There are many exquisite little riads in Marrakech, most with sun-dappled swimming pools and hammams attached, but La Sultana, regularly frequented by celebrities and politicians, is by far the most resplendent.

This five-star hot-spot is a hidden gem owned by a French couple, and it has an elegant style, which is traditional, grand and Moroccan – but with a chic edge. The Elephant suite is the finest, with a huge bed flanked by large elephant tusks, an ornate bathroom and a large open-plan sitting room with a bijou balcony overlooking the pool.

Up one of the winding labyrinthine marble staircases you find the roof terrace. Here you can look out over the city and enjoy the midday sun with the backdrop of the majestic snow-capped Atlas Mountains. Breakfast, lunch and a lantern-lit dinner are served here and there are also sun beds and the essential plunge pool.

The food is divine, with an accomplished Moroccan tasting menu to choose from, which takes in a variety of local cuisine including traditional Harira soup with dates, tagines of couscous and vegetables, juicy monkfish, prawns and tender braised beef with almonds.

Small tasting portions means you save space for the homemade ice creams and chocolate ravioli, designed for the most dedicated chocolate lovers. Meals can be enjoyed to a >



- background of lilting music of the talented resident oud player who sings and strums classic Moroccan tunes as well as more contemporary songs.

Reflecting its setting, the spa features two hammams, a pool surrounded by stone arches, jacuzzi, sauna, balneotherapy baths and therapists who do strong massages to eliminate any fatigue caused by excessive souk shopping.

The hammam massage is a signature treatment and will leave you with a complexion like a newborn baby. This traditional cleanse will deep-clean the skin, while an oil massage moisturises and relaxes muscles. First, you led to a steam room, where hot water is poured all over your body to open the pores. Then, a thick, black body scrub is applied with an exfoliating kessa (a rough glove), to remove grime and dead skin. The session concludes with nourish, tension-easing rose oil.

This kind of exfoliation is great for dull, dry skin. This is because as skin cells develop, they move towards the surface of the skin and eventually die. These layers of dead skin cells act as a barrier to protect the developing skin cells underneath. However, as people age this process becomes uneven and can result in the skin becoming dry



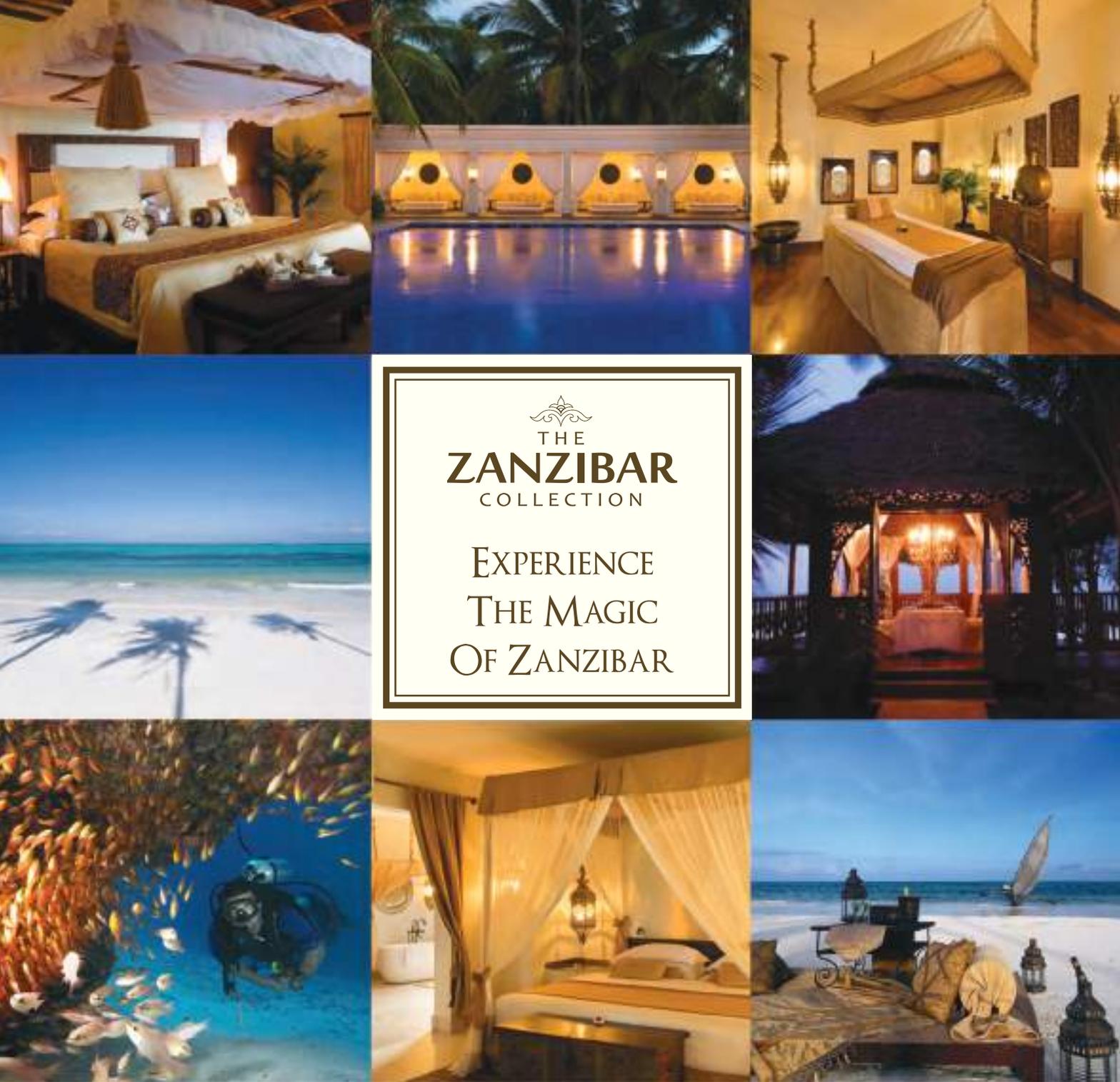


◆  
*“This five-star hot spot is a hidden gem – it is traditional, grand and Moroccan, but with a chic edge. You can enjoy the midday sun with the backdrop of the majestic, snow-capped Atlas Mountains.”*

◆



ABOVE AND LEFT: Experience traditional Moroccan style with a chic edge.



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➤ and rough in appearance. Exfoliation evens out this process. However, it is important to remember that after exfoliation, the skin is more sensitive because its protective barrier is reduced. Excessive sun exposure should be avoided and sun-protection cream worn after this special treatment.

The service is faultless and the accommodating staff seem to know what you need at all times, often before you realise yourself. This is the perfect location for Marrakech first-timers, honeymooners, sun-worshippers and adventurers.

Little details in the palatial suites include fresh rose petals scattered every day, and Moroccan sweets left for you to enjoy. Visitors are guaranteed to arrive exhausted and leave radiant. ❖

*ABOVE AND RIGHT* Instant tranquility is guaranteed at Hotel La Sultana in Marrakech.

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

Lazing on a hammock while the sea gently laps the sand is all well and good, but some travellers enjoy a spot of undersea exploration while on holiday. At St Lucia's Anse Chastenet resort, divers can take their passion one step further with lessons in underwater photography. The resort is a SeaLife Underwater Photography Teaching and Rental Centre. Perfect to try underwater photography before investing in the kit – and creating unique souvenirs.



## Undersea action

### OLHUVELI ODYSSEY

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

With villas suspended over the Indian Ocean, organic cuisine prepared by world-class chefs, outdoor spa treatments in secluded gardens, and a thrilling 45-minute speedboat ride to the resort, the Olhuveli Beach & Spa Resort is a true jewel of the Maldives. Western & Oriental is offering special seven-night packages for luxury-loving families including all flights, speedboat transfers to the island and accommodation for two adults and one child until 30 September 2016.



## Seychelles swoon

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

From now until the end of the year, the decadent Banyan Tree resort in the Seychelles is offering a special pampering package for couples. Romance is not just for Valentine's Day and the Banyan Tree celebrates true love all year round with an offer that includes Swedish massage, body wrap treatments, extra spa sessions, massage classes, relaxing yoga, and all meals at the property's fine restaurants.



## Barbados brilliance

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

Turtle Beach, Barbados, ensures that family holidays do not skimp on luxury or fun. Kids and teens can learn surfing and paddleboarding from professionals, there are movie nights under the stars, and go-karting. For adults, jazz and calypso music is the perfect backdrop to sundowners – and all this takes place at one of the world's most stunning beach resorts, complete with the famous turtles. (Photo: Flickr/Connie Ma)





## In African skies

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

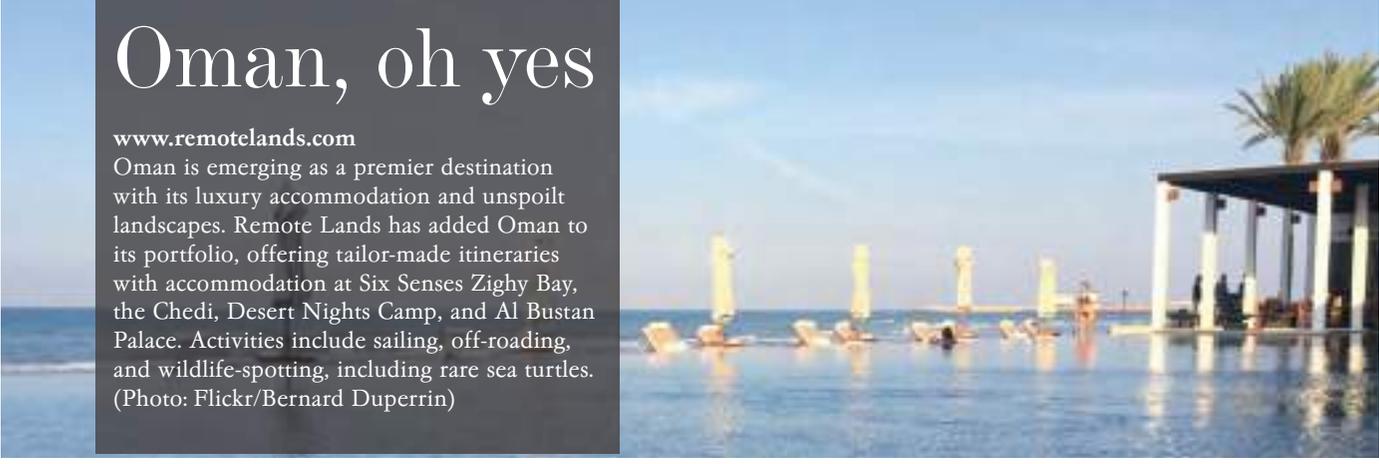
Luxury experiential travel company &Beyond will start private jet expeditions from September 2017. The jets will fly up to 12 guests in comfort and luxury over some of Africa's most glorious scenery, leaving from private terminals. Itineraries include a 19-day odyssey throughout East and Southern Africa for US\$116,500 per person, and a 15-day tour over South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia for US\$75,000 per person. (Photo: Flickr/Magalie L'Abbé)



## Tailored touring UAE

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

Artisans of Leisure's new UAE tours range from two to nine nights, focusing on Dubai, with one taking in Abu Dhabi. Activities include shopping, galleries, desert safaris, and beaches. The tours feature VIP airport assistance, luxury vehicles, great restaurants and sumptuous hotels, including One&Only The Palm, Al Maha Desert Resort, Emirates Palace Burj Al Arab, and the St Regis Abu Dhabi. (Photo: Flickr/Chuckas\_McFly)



## Oman, oh yes

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

Oman is emerging as a premier destination with its luxury accommodation and unspoiled landscapes. Remote Lands has added Oman to its portfolio, offering tailor-made itineraries with accommodation at Six Senses Zighy Bay, the Chedi, Desert Nights Camp, and Al Bustan Palace. Activities include sailing, off-roading, and wildlife-spotting, including rare sea turtles. (Photo: Flickr/Bernard Duperrin)



## Breakfast club

[www.maldives.park.hyatt.hadahaa.com](http://www.maldives.park.hyatt.hadahaa.com)

The Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa has debuted a truly opulent breakfast. The Champagne Breakfast features herb pancakes with caviar and quail eggs, truffle-scented potato, eggs served with king prawns and dishes garnished with gold leaf. There is a choice of champagne on offer with Dom Perignon 1999, Cristal 2005 and Laurent-Perrier. The breakfast can be enjoyed on its own or as part of an all-day dining experience.

# A driving FORCE

The Links course transformed featureless land into a South African masterpiece that throws down the gauntlet to serious golfers.

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WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS





**G**ary Player, Dr Hasso Platner and Phil Jacobs joined forces to create a golf course that is as challenging as it is picturesque. This was the inevitable result of combining expert input, and plenty of passion, from a legend of the sport, the course owner and a leading course designer.

Once upon a time, the course was an airfield, bland and featureless, but today, it is South Africa's number one course, as voted by *Golf Digest South Africa*, as well as featuring in the *Golf Digest* US edition's list of the world's top 100 courses.

The course is laid out so that the golfer rarely sees another part of another hole. This clever design means a golfer feels as if they are alone on the course. Yet it is still a championship-standard course, having hosted some of the most prestigious tournaments in the world, including the 2003 Presidents Cup, the 2005 SA Open and the 2012 Volvo Golf Champions European Tour.

A once-anodyne landscape has metamorphosed into a symphony of hollows, bumps, slopes, dunes and water features with each hole having a personality all of its own, complete with entertaining names.

From the very start, it is clear that The Links has been inspired by the most famous links courses of the British Isles, while being an unmistakably rugged South African course. "On Ye Go" is where golfers tee off. It is a wide hole but it's not very deep so good judgement is required from the outset. Next up, "Lang Drop" is an large, undulating hole where a two-putt is rare.

"Calamity" is the third hole, one for long hitters with a large bunker cutting into the fairway. Another large green, it is a tough one for putting from back to front.

In contrast to "Calamity", the fourth hole is called "Tranquility" – it is a long hole at 452 metres, but the green is open and expansive.

"Wetland", the fifth hole, is invitingly wide but with wetlands to the right and bunkers to the left, the golfer is not guaranteed an easy ride. This is the first hole of the course where golfers will experience the predominant breeze, unless the weather gods are being capricious - when the hole plays downwind, the challenge is to stop the ball on the green.

"Five Penny Piece" offers yet another contrast. As the name suggests, it is a tiny hole where golfers will usually be hitting into a gentle breeze, taking care to mind a steep slope to the right and a small bunker to the left.

Hole 7 is simply named "Wide" and offers some respite to the golfer as it is a flat green with a straightforward putt to the centre. "Bonny View" continues the respite, playing downwind, although there is a wetland to the right that might penalise a careless shot. "Long", the ninth hole, confronts golfers with a cross-wind, usually from the left and a steep slope on the right.

"Kilimanjaro" is, appropriately, the highest point of the course. And just as climbing the famed African peak is a challenge, this hole does not let players off lightly. It features a deep fairway bunker set into a steep dune and a green that, if it is overshot, offers a difficult recovery.

"Valley", the very pretty eleventh hole, is a pleasant antidote to the challenges of "Kilimanjaro" and the ball is usually easily stopped on the green. >



➤But The Links is back to its old tricks on the twelfth hole with the evocatively named “Sheer Murrdr”. This is the most difficult hole on the course. Once the golfer has mastered a long, accurate tee shot, the approach shot is aimed at a green that is small and undulating with a wetland to the left and a low drop to the right.

Hole 13, “Outeniqua”, named for the nearby mountain range, has multiple bunkers to the left and right of the fairway as the first obstacle, followed by a cross-bunker which is 40 yards short of the green. It is advisable to err on the side of being short of the green on “Outeniqua”.

“Wee Wrecker”, is another aptly named beast of a hole. Even after a successful tee shot, the long hitter can then be penalised by finishing just short of the green or veering too far to the left or right. This hole in particular offers the blissful sensation of being alone on the course as the green is set in a small amphitheatre where the golfer is completely isolated from the rest of the course.

Hole 15, “Roon the Bend”, is a dogleg that plays from right to left. On the left, there is a wetland from tee to green and an aggressive tee shot is recommended to make the second shot to a peninsula-style green easier.

◆  
*“This is  
 a course where  
 the likes of  
 Ernie Els, Justin  
 Rose and Retief  
 Goosen have  
 tread its  
 greens.”*  
 ◆

“Westward Ho!”, the sixteenth hole, often plays out with the breeze to the golfer’s back, making the tee shot easier. It features contours to make it not-quite-as-straightforward as it might appear.

By the time golfers reach the seventeenth hole, they may well be seeking a spot of divine intervention and this one is called “Prayer”. This hole looks intimidating because of a burn to the front and left of the green and the L-shape. Go too far right and the ball ends up in the bunker, hence conservative play is rewarded here.

“Near the Dram” is the name of the final hole – and there are luxurious facilities at The Links for nineteenth hole refreshments – but before then, there is one last challenge. It’s another undulating hole with an upwards tee shot. A carefully placed lay-up shot makes for a better birdie opportunity and a much swifter trip to the bar for a well-earned snifter.

Membership is by invitation only, but tee times are available for guests staying at the adjacent Fancourt Hotel or Manor House. Membership is also offered to buyers of the nearby properties on the Links Avenue and Links Ridge developments. All properties offer views of the Outeniqua Mountains, the stunning namesake of the thirteenth hole.

*“By the time golfers reach the seventeenth hole, they may well be seeking a spot of divine intervention.”*



Naturally, members benefit from all the perks one would expect from a course that has seen the likes of champion players, Ernie El, Justin Rose and Retief Goosen tread its greens. As well as the pleasures and rigours of the 18-hole course, there are putting greens and a practice range for honing one's strokes before taking on the demanding signature holes, such as “Sheer Murrder” and “Wee Wrecker”.

And after the weary golfer has mastered everything The Links has to offer, aching muscles can be soothed in a Roman bath, an outdoor pool, or steam and sauna rooms.

Dining options range from relaxed to silver service, with the best wines South Africa has to offer available to sample with gastronomic delights. Henry Whites is the flagship restaurant at the Manor House, a luxury accommodation option.

Henry Whites head chef, Petrus de Kock steers the menu toward spectacular seafood and an innovative tasting menu.

The elegant ambience of the restaurant is enhanced by a permanent collection of artworks by celebrated German artist, Klaus Fussman. How entirely appropriate for a restaurant attached to a course that is a testament to design creativity. ❖



*ABOVE & RIGHT The course is ruggedly beautiful and the facilities are excellent.*



# THE ART OF THE BAR

Sebastian Loeffler, bar manager at London's Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, talks five-star service and creative cocktails.

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BY HIRIYTI BAIRU

***Elite Living Africa (ELA):*** What inspired you to begin a career in bar management?

***Sebastian Loeffler (SL):*** I started my hospitality career working as a barback. Working with bartenders in that environment when you are very young is very influential, you want to become the person shaking and mixing up cocktails.

I have always tried to keep that element of the bars with me as I progressed with my career – I worked in this hotel, I worked in Bar Boloud, in banqueting and in restaurants that had quite good bars. It has always been with me and been something I always aspired to do. I was thrown into the deep end with this job. I did not apply to work, I was asked if it was something I would be interested in and I pounced on the opportunity. I said yes, then and there, on the spot.

*ABOVE* Sebastian Loeffler's menu features some of his own cocktails.

You have all the ingredients you ever want to work with here – all the brands want to work with you. You can get any ingredient, any fresh produce, any time in the world in an establishment like this.

***ELA:*** What do you find most challenging about your job?

***SL:*** The most challenging thing about my job is trying to satisfy the customer as people are becoming more educated on their drinks and the big challenge is to stay on top of that – not only the trends but also the wants and needs of the customer. This bar has been around for 15 years. It has been one of the most popular bars in Knightsbridge for a very long time and you do not want a customer to come back and have the same experience every time – you want to challenge them a little and give them something slightly

different. You need to separate yourself from the rest. There is an abundance of great hotel bars in London. So challenging myself by changing the menu or making sure the service is top notch is the biggest challenge for me.

**ELA: How do you make sure you keep up with new techniques in cocktail making?**

*SL:* The best way for me is to go out and explore London – London as a city stays on top of all the trends – or I read about them online or in a bar newspaper or see it in a bar. There are new bars popping up in London and everyone is doing something slightly different.

There are a lot of places that have been the top bars in the world for a long time and they keep re-invent themselves as well. Especially when it comes down to techniques, there are a lot of very talented people working in London at the moment and they have been working here for a long time. It is good to see what other bars are doing in terms of their cocktail list or service. It gives you an idea of what people are interested in as well.

**ELA: What ingredients would you use to make the perfect cocktail?**

*SL:* The perfect cocktails for me are the classics made the correct way using classic ingredients that have stood the test of time, no newly produced ingredients. Just very fresh and seasonal produce – for example, you do not use just any kind of lemon, you have to use a Buddha's hand lemon that has a big peel to give the drink extra zest. If someone orders a mojito, they want a mojito not the bartender's interpretation of that drink.

Proper cocktails should be made with proper ingredients. If a cocktail calls for a rye whiskey, then do not use a bourbon or a malt, use a rye whisky. When we make cocktails for guests, someone will always ask for something different and we try it and see how it has come out differently. There is a massive difference between dry martini shaken or stirred – the way they taste, the way they look and the way they feel in your mouth.

**ELA: In your line of work, what does a typical day at the hotel involve?**

I work from the afternoon until the early hours of the morning. My day to day is looking after the operations, managing the bartenders and the beverages side and making sure the cocktails are up to standard and that they come out on time. They have to look right and taste right. Apart from that, I also organise the service of the floor to guests, making sure that they



are well looked after. We also have hotel guests and a lot of regulars who we make sure feel at home too.

**ELA:** Do you often have guests at the Mandarin ask for cocktails off the menu and if so how do you deliver their request?

**SL:** We do not even list the classic cocktails so we get requests for those every day. We also get people who do not find anything they like on the list and they tell us, "Actually I prefer vodka to gin and I like apples." So then we come up with something. We have a very talented bartending team who honour most of the requests and ensure that the customers are happy when they receive their cocktails. We also have a fantastic range of ingredients and most of it available to us on a daily basis. So the bartenders have the freedom to create – that is what we want them to do.

**ELA:** When you're not at work, what other bars in London do you frequent?

**SL:** My absolute favourite is called Dukes, an old-style, classic hotel bar where Ian Fleming used to sit and get drunk before he started writing the James Bond books. They have a little martini trolley, they freeze their spirits and put their vermouth straight into the glass and throw it onto the floor and fill your glass with any spirit you want. It has a great old English feel. It is the kind of the place I would take my bartenders or my mother and I know everyone would enjoy it.

**ELA:** What do you enjoy most about your job?

**SL:** The company keeps challenging itself. Every day you get asked the question – is there some way you can improve this? It is a great environment to work and grow in because they are striving to be better than anyone else and to satisfy the guests.



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Many people store layers of fat in their “problem zones” – the stomach, and for some women, the hips and thighs. Reducing these layers is often quite difficult, even with regular exercise and proper nutrition, causing many people to seek invasive solutions such as liposuction and other painful and expensive procedures.

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

## TechnoShape changes everything

When you wear the TechnoShape pressure chamber while performing gentle cardio exercise on a treadmill or an upright bike, you increase the blood flow to the localised area of the midriff – your problem zone. By applying pressure pause therapy, alternating pressure to fat layers while you exercise, it increases circulation thereby making fat available as the primary source of fuel required by the working muscles during the simultaneous exercise.

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

Let’s be honest. Not everyone likes to do push-ups or work out at high levels of intensity. You don’t have to be in great shape to get visible results with TechnoShape.

Just exercise at moderate intensity wearing the TechnoShape pressure chamber 3 -4 times per week for 40 minutes and fat will be noticeably reduced. Most users lose up to 3 inches in just 4 weeks.

## “I lost 29cms in just 5 weeks”

Maria

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- **With regular use of TechnoShape in the comfort of your own home - you can still party, stay in top shape and not feel guilty**



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We deliver direct to your location



**Joe** “I am a golf pro and find it difficult to lose from my stomach area. With TechnoShape I lost 14cms from my belly area in just 4 weeks! Without the aches and pains of the gym TechnoShape changed my body image for the better!”



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



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➤ And those two are very important – it creates an enjoyable atmosphere to work in and it gives you the freedom to challenge what you are doing. It also gives you the freedom to look after your guests and make sure they feel at home. There are always expectations from the customer – but expectations here are at a completely different level. I have never worked with so many people who are striving to make themselves better. It does not make for a competitive environment – there is a lot of team spirit here.

**ELA: What keeps the menu fresh and appealing?**

*SL:* I have final say in the menu but I work with all my bartenders. We give everyone an opportunity to put their cocktails forward. I have cocktails in the menu that are actually from service staff who are not bartenders, but those are very good cocktails. If we like the cocktail or the concept, we work on them and tweak them and then they go on the menu. A few of my cocktails are on the current menu.

While deciding the menu, first we look at the numbers – what are people actually drinking? We sell a lot of classics in this bar, martinis, old fashioned manhattans, mojitos and classic cocktails. We review the other cocktails on a monthly basis and see which ones have sold and which ones have not sold and get feedback. We work seasonally – during winter we have heavier cocktails that use ingredients like cream or spicier flavours, anything from cardamom to chilli, and in the summer we use a lot more of fresh vegetables. Winter is all about whisky and rum while summer calls for tequila – you want something thirst quenching. ❖



# NIGERIA RISING

Giles Peppiatt, Bonham's director of Modern and Contemporary African Art, talks about the growth of Nigerian art market.

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WORDS BY VALERIE HART

*Nigerian works have appreciated very strongly over the past six years.*



**B**onhams 'Africa Now' art auctions sell the best of post-war and contemporary art from across the African continent. Giles Peppiatt, who has been with Bonhams since 1989, presented the first London sale of Contemporary African Art in April 2009, establishing the auction house as the market leader in this area. Today, a major proportion of the sales is dedicated to Nigerian art.

**Elite Living Africa (ELA): How has Nigeria's art market developed?**

Giles Peppiatt (GP): The tradition of collecting in Nigeria, in terms of what one would call the western aesthetic, such as oils on canvas and sculptures, only really stems back to the post-war period. Prior to this, only tribal art and ritual objects were being collected. Also, very little was being produced.

Very much at the forefront of the development of the Nigerian modern art movement as we know it was Ben Enwonwu – one of Nigeria's best-known artists – and who was in many ways the cheerleader. He was trained in London at the Slade School of Fine Art in the late 1940s. Through him many wealthy Nigerians began to collect modern post-war Nigerian art.

**ELA: What is the world record price for a piece of Nigerian art?**

GP: The world record for any Nigerian work is a set of sculptures that we sold two years ago called the Mirror sculptures, which fetched £370,000. So,

although lagging behind prices for South African art, it's still an extremely strong market. We have been holding sales here in London for seven years now, and we are fortunate that most Nigerian collectors want to come and buy these works. This is understandable as its part of their heritage and some of these pieces are also incredibly attractive works of art.

**ELA: Are these pieces also good investments?**

GP: They buy for their own personal collections. However, I suppose one of the modern characteristics of collecting is that everyone now looks at art as an investment, and it's difficult to get away from that.

Nowadays, art is very much thought of as an asset, like wine. Whether that is healthy or not is debatable since once you start regarding art in that way, it has all sorts of unfortunate consequences. Why, for instance, would you want to invest in an art fund and not have a work of art on your wall?

But, certainly, these Nigerian works have appreciated very strongly over the past six years, and I think a lot of this has to do with holding these sales in London. Bringing this art to London, displaying it here, auctioning it here, and showing it to the international community has increased interest significantly, and hence the prices achieved. So, I think in a small way, Bonham's has been part of that story. ➤



> **ELA: As well as Nigerian buyers, are you seeing more international buyers for Nigerian art?**

GP: Yes, and no. Yes in certain areas. We hold an annual sale very much focused on Nigerian art called Modern Africa and another called Africa Now: Contemporary Africa, which is very much contemporary art – i.e., conceptual paintings, sculptures and installations.

A lot of Nigerian collectors are not used to the language of contemporary art, they have not been exposed to as much contemporary art as we have in London, and in New York. Here, we see it all the time through the media and exhibitions, and so we are used to the form and accept it for what it is; and, therefore, value it more highly. Collectors in Africa don't have that exposure, and don't value it as highly, and so perhaps, are more interested in traditional representational art.

So, for the Modern Africa sales, which have more traditional post-war modern art – a lot of the buyers are from Africa. For the contemporary sales, it's the other way round, and most of the buyers are probably outside Africa. Although the Modern Africa show covers art from around the African continent, around half of it is Nigerian. This is deliberate, as Nigeria is one of the strongest economies in Africa.

**ELA: Who are the most established artists?**

GP: Nigerian masters include Ben Enwonwu and Yusuf Grillo. There are a handful of other artists, such as Uche

Okeke, Demas Nwoko and Ben Osawe, that are fetching good prices, and every year the market seems to grow, and there are more buyers. At our sale last year, several world records were set, highlighting the buoyancy of the market.

It's a very interesting market in that many of these artists have not been seen internationally, which is what I find so rewarding in showing them in London. Every year we get a strong reaction from the arts press and collectors as they haven't seen these pieces before. Rightly or wrongly, novelty sells – people love things that are new and fresh and different.

**ELA: Who are the up and coming artists?**

GP: Up and coming is a very difficult term, as if you say they are up and coming, it can be the kiss of death – a bit like backing a horse in a race.

I would say there are some very good artists coming up. Babajide Olatunji, for instance; his speciality is very large format super real portraits, one which is almost two metres across, so it's an enormous painting. In order to stand out, you have to be doing something no one else is doing, which is what he's doing.

Take El Anutsui, for example. Although he's Ghanaian, he lives in Nigeria. Again he's unique – no one else is creating works like him. And that's what makes him so wonderful. His hangings are just the most sumptuous works.

Before he did these hangings, he did woodworks, which are exquisite too although they don't fetch as much. He is probably the highest-priced contemporary African artist today. One of his works 'Peju's Robe', a visually stunning hanging made from thousands of pressed bottle tops and measuring nearly three metres square, was sold by Bonhams in February for £806,000.

Apart from the two upcoming auctions – Modern Africa in May and Contemporary Africa in October – we sometimes hold other auctions for African art. We sold a corporate collection last year for the oil company Afren PLC when it went into administration. This was a very interesting sale, with 97% of the lots sold – an excellent result.

**ELA: Any final thoughts on how the African art market is evolving?**

GP: Having these sales in one of the centres of record in the art world – whether its London, New York or Hong Kong – shows collectors that a work of art that previously only had a value in Nigeria now has a value on the international market. This has given great confidence to the market for Nigerian art. And the centre for buying Nigerian art has shifted from Lagos to London because obviously the prices are higher in London. ❖

**AFRICA NOW: Modern Africa, 25 May 2016 and Contemporary Africa, 6 October 2016**





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## FAMILY HISTORY

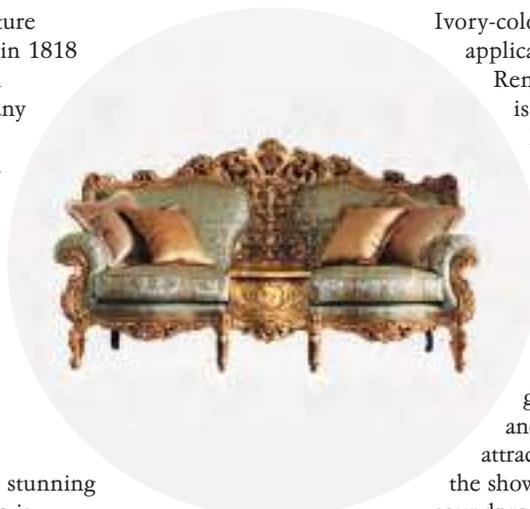
For almost 200 years, Modenese Gastone has created high-end interiors using time-honoured Venetian woodworking skills.

BY JESS COUTTS

The Italian factory of luxury furniture Modenese Gastone was founded in 1818 in the north of Italy, not far from Venice. For nearly 200 years, the company has created high-end interiors according to the Venetian woodworking traditions.

Skills have been passed from father to son for many years, creating a fine tradition. The sophisticated pieces created by Modenese Gastone are carved manually from the most precious types of solid wood and decorated with genuine gold and silver leaf and other materials of the highest quality.

Now Modenese Gastone has launched a stunning new kitchen, the Royal. This masterpiece is handmade in Italy by skillful Venetian artisans and only the top quality materials have been used.



ABOVE The Royal kitchen represents ultimate opulence.

Ivory-coloured solid wood and gold leaf applications feature in a blend of Corinthian, Renaissance and Baroque styles. The worktop is backlit marble, which gives a sparkling lava effect. All accessories are made with blumotion© technology and fireproof materials. It is the perfect setting for the art of Mediterranean cooking.

In April, Modenese Gastone took part in the international interior design show Salone del Mobile 2016 in Milan, exhibiting the new collection. The gorgeous classic office with a golden safe and a secret exit hidden behind a vase attracted the most attention. Another star of the show was the luxury home cinema with soundproof Boiserie wall and ceiling panels, a bar fridge hidden inside the coffee table, and a wide HD screen. [www.modeneseastone.com](http://www.modeneseastone.com)

# OASES OF LUXURY

*Elite Living Africa* peruses the global property market to bring you a selection of the finest luxury real estate from around the world.

This time round, we have honed in on four favourite destinations for global elite – Cape Town, Houston, Dubai and London. These sprawling cities attract the world's finest with their reputations not only as centres of trade and commerce, but as hubs of art, culture and leisurely pursuits.

Our newest destination, Houston, is a shining example of both. With its world-leading oil, aeronautics and energy industries, it draws business high-fliers from around the globe. But hard workers also like to play hard and the city boasts an array of leisure activities to take your mind off the hustle and bustle, including its famous theatre district which has the second highest concentration of theatre seats in the US.

Likewise, Dubai is the business capital of the Middle East, but boasts beautiful beaches, fine dining and unrivalled shopping. The very definition of a global city, the majority of the population here is foreign-born, and it is always moving onwards and upwards. Set between the ever-shifting desert sands, so too the city is constantly evolving and growing, and you will get the feeling living here that you are right at the forefront of human innovation.

Voted as the top travel destination on TripAdvisor for 2011, Cape Town's credentials as a city to visit are well established. Its breathtaking views and stunning natural beauty caused European explorer Sir Francis Drake to describe it as "the most stately thing and the fairest cape we saw in the whole circumference of the earth". But the city is also a great place to set up on a more permanent basis and was recently named the most liveable African city by Africa.com.

One of the cities Cape Town is twinned with is London – another place with a rich history and a global hub for culture, music, fashion and business alike. This old world city has long been a magnet for the rich and famous and is well established as one of the world's 'places to be'.

## EMIRATES CROWN, DUBAI

\$12.25m

Located right next to Dubai Marina with its shopping and nightlife, this stunning penthouse apartment offers incredible views across the city's most famous and beautiful landmarks – including the Burj Khalifa and the Palm Jumeirah. But spanning 7,800 sq ft, with a double reception room, a wine cellar and a cinema snug, you needn't worry that living in an apartment in this urban metropolis would be cramped!



- 5 bedrooms
- 6 bathrooms
- 24-hour security
- Swimming pool



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## FRESNAYE, CAPE TOWN – PAM GOLDING

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\$5.4m

This stylish, modern home boasts breathtaking panoramic views across the whole of Cape Town. Looking down from the pool deck across the private vineyards that come with the home, you will see as far as historic Robben Island and beyond. You're also a stone's throw from the beach with its bars, restaurants and the internationally renowned V&A Waterfront shopping centre.

- 6 bedrooms
- 5 bathrooms
- Swimming pool
- State-of-the-art media room



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## WINNINGTON ROAD, LONDON

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\$12.37m

Forget everything you think you know about living in London. The location of this spacious home enjoys all the convenience of being situated in one of the liveliest cities in the world, but with none of the hustle and bustle. In its peaceful setting between Hampstead Golf Course, the artisan food shops of Highgate Village and the idyllic green spaces of Hampstead Heath and Kenwood, you'll feel like you're in a country retreat.



- 7 bedrooms
- 5 bathrooms
- Garden
- Private parking



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## FAZIO WAY, HOUSTON

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\$2.99m

Sprawling Mediterranean-style home built in 2009 and designed by renowned architect Patrick Berrios, whose portfolio covers several continents, including projects in Africa. With grounds stretching 40,967 sq ft and a pair of two-storey living rooms, this property offers plenty of space to play.

- 6 bedrooms
- 10,309 sq ft
- 10 bathrooms
- Games rooms



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## WILLOWICK, HOUSTON – GREENWOOD KING

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\$12.8m

·Classic 1950s Georgian mansion located in one of Houston's most prestigious areas. Close to the exclusive River Oaks Country Club and private St John's School, this beautiful home places you right at the heart of Texan high society. The property also features lit tennis courts and an underground wine cellar – perfect for connoisseurs.

- 5 bedrooms
- 5 garages
- 5 bathrooms
- Swimming pool



## ST. JOHN'S WOOD, NW8

### Stunning penthouse with panoramic views of Primrose Hill and Regent's Park

This elegant Penthouse is finished to the highest of standards and offers the very best in luxury living. Set within a brand new architecturally designed gated development with landscaped courtyard gardens, this property is enviously positioned on the park's edge benefitting from unrivalled views.

**Accommodation:** Entrance hall, vestibule, open plan kitchen/breakfast room, reception room, dining room, gallery, master bedroom with ensuite bath and shower room, dressing area, 3 further bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, guest cloakroom and wrap around balcony. **Amenities:** 24-hour concierge, private lift access, plant room, store room, utility room, spa & leisure facilities, swimming pool, steam room, gym, underground parking.



£18,000,000

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