

# ELITE LIVING AFRICA

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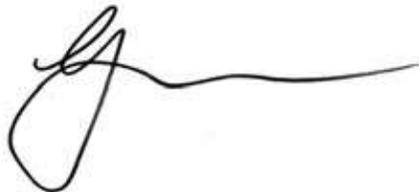


# WELCOME

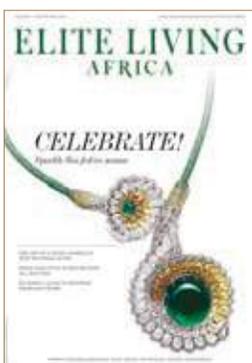
**J**ewellery makes the heart sing, whether it's a pretty little trinket that is worth in sentimental terms than monetary value – or a spectacle of precious stones that will turn every head when the lucky wearer walks into any room. Sometimes a precious bauble can be sentimental and spectacular. In this issue, we feature exquisite nature-inspired pieces from Chopard and breathtaking designs from TABAYER, just in time for the season of gift-giving.

Elsewhere in the issue, we take a look at the Monaco Yacht Show. On page 34, you can read all about the winners of the grand prizes for the most spectacular of superyachts, and on page 38, we look at one of Heesen's latest achievements – the sale of the stunning SkyFall superyacht and the launch of the Project Akira concept vessel, all of which happened in Monaco. As ever, it was a wonderful show at Port Hercules, perfect for lovers of fine yachts, terra firma toys such as performance cars and bikes – and a helicopter for good measure.

And on page 46, we travel to Kampala to visit a very special new hotel, Latitude 0°. It offers divine decor throughout, magnificent views over the verdant Ugandan capital, delicious food, elegant, comfortable rooms and stylish, functional spaces for doing business. The property heralds a new era in travel to Kampala, offering a relaxed yet luxurious alternative with personalised service and amazing African art at every turn. It is the type of experience that is best offered by boutique hotels. We can't wait to return.



**Georgia Lewis**  
Managing Editor



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

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## 1 November-1 December

### The Rome Jazz Festival

The soothing sounds of soft jazz music will be drifting from clubs and venues all across the city of Rome, as The Rome Jazz Festival returns for its 42nd year. Performances featuring the most praised among Italian artists and international stars alike, the fusion of different jazz styles makes for a festival to suit all tastes. For a month-long celebration of all things jazz, the festival has been a fixture in music lover's diaries with good reason, seeing greats such as Ray Charles and Bob Dylan.



### The Brazilian Grand Prix

A special event to mark on the motor sport calendar, the Brazilian Grand Prix has been a permanent fixture on the Formula 1 schedule since 1971.

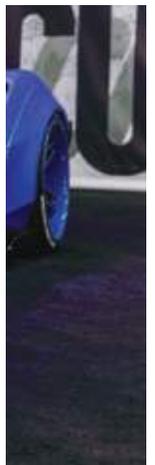
This year will see thousands of people descending upon Sao Paulo's Interlagos track for the F1 weekend. Racing fans will have the opportunity to explore the bustling city of Sao Paulo itself, a place that offers a number of great bars and restaurants to entertain just about anyone.



15-17  
November

### The Los Angeles Auto Show

Open to the public for 10 days each year, the Los Angeles Auto Show is an annual auto show that takes over 750,000 sqm of the Los Angeles Convention Centre. Attendees will have opportunities to test drive exotic supercars, shop for new vehicles or simply just marvel at the beauty of some of the best automobiles around. The show has been known to attract many celebrities each year for autograph and photograph meet-and-greets.



## 22 November-1 December

### The Sun Met Horse Race

One of South Africa's most celebrated sporting events of the year, the Sun Met Horse Race is back. Guests will join media personality Bonang Matheba, Miss South Africa, Zozi Tunzi, and internationally acclaimed DJ Black Coffee at The Sun Met 2020 taking place at Kenilworth Racecourse under the theme, African Luxury: Visionaries. Extra facilities will include a marquee village and picnic sites.



## 1 February



THE  
OTHER  
SIDE by Latitude

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[thelatitudehotels.com](http://thelatitudehotels.com)



Latitude 0°  
KAMPALA

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# TALK *that* TALK

In an exclusive interview with *Elite Living Africa*, Ghanaian communications specialist Miti Ampoma explains how the myth of communications as a soft skill is now a thing of the past.

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WORDS BY MARIAM AHMAD

**B**usinesses increasingly give total precedence to technology, causing the gap between automation and humanity to narrow. Miti Ampoma – a former journalist, coach and English language skills trainer, now a published author and award-winning communications specialist – reminds us that the heart of a business should always be people. She’s on a mission to create a global movement of game-changing communicators. Miti wants to, in her words, ‘bring the heart and soul back into communication’ so that we connect as humans, rather than just through the illuminated screens of our smart devices.

**Miti, tell me a bit about yourself and your background.**

I was born in Ghana. My education and upbringing there gave me a wonderful start in life. I went to school in Ghana until I was 11 then my family moved to Kenya, where we lived for four years. I’m lucky enough to have experienced the breadth of Africa early on! When we were older, my parents sent my siblings and I to Methodist schools in England. From there, I went on to Kent University where I studied Politics and International Relations. I then won a scholarship to study for a post-graduate degree in journalism at City University in London.

**Can you tell me, how did you get into the business of communications?**

I was Head of Public Relations at the University of Surrey before going on to be PR Account Director for EUTELSAT, one of Europe’s largest satellite operators. I got a heads-up about a communications specialist role at Railtrack – now known as Network Rail. My job was to create and implement a people-driven communications programme to help everyone build meaningful relationships and communicate effectively in a technology driven environment. I delivered a strategic, people-centred programme based on advanced communication and influence skills which, allowed the business to drive performance and create sustainable financial growth. I realised there was a gap in the market. I specialise in delivering the ‘sweet spot’ between people, process and technology so that businesses can thrive.

**Why communication in particular?**

Communication is thought of as a ‘soft skill’. This drives me mad. There’s nothing soft about the ability to communicate in a way that inspires others and leads change; that develops consensus and shared understanding; that builds and maintains valuable connections; and that as a result of all this, creates loyalty and drives consistent and sustainable improvements in performance. According to a 2019 report by IBM, 120 million workers globally need to be upskilled in behavioural skills in the next three years – a direct result of the impact of technology and artificial intelligence. An urgent skills-gap is effective communication. Yet meaningful communication is in danger of becoming a cliché because it’s so under-valued.

**Tell me more about Miticom, what services do you offer?**

Our services are inspired by my book, *The Innovative Communicator: Putting the Soul Back into Business Communication*. I coined the phrase ‘Innovative Communication.’ To understand this, think change and transformation meeting purpose-driven communication. Our advanced communication and influence training includes bespoke master programmes for CEOs and leadership teams, middle managers, front line staff, and young professionals. We also offer a bespoke master programme specifically for women. And we train clients on how to drive commercial advantage.

**What about communications in Africa, do you think this could be applied there?**

When it comes to Africa, we have a huge opportunity to learn the lessons of what’s not working in a technology-driven era as well as to embrace what we know is working. If we’re to gain sustainable competitive advantage on the world stage, we need to train our workforce to communicate in a way that’s relevant for the 21st century - and beyond. This means not just re-training, but upskilling.

Cross-cultural communication is a focus. We work in a global economy, so we can tailor our training to a specific country or region. My goal is to set up a communication skills centre of excellence in Africa. In this tech-driven world, highly effective communication skills that drive business performance need work.

**Looking back on your career so far, do you have any regrets?**

Well, it is a bit of a double-edged sword. My regret is that I didn’t do this 10 years ago because of my own doubts, when I knew in my heart that I was right. I was successful in corporate business and I should have started Miticom as a side business then. On the other hand, at the time I didn’t have the maturity, patience and experience I have now.

**What are your plans to come? Where can we expect to see Miti and Miticom in the future?**

We’re planning to take my programmes to the United States in 2020. It’s very exciting. As a Ghanaian, and as Africa is my next target market, I would also love to hear from African businesses. In particular I’m keen to work with French speaking Africa as they have a double whammy. English is their second language, but they need to communicate in it as if it were their first. They need to understand the nuances and subtleties of the English language which can be the difference between business success or failure. I love sorting out this challenge!

• *Download Miti’s free guide, Take It Offline: How to Break Your Online Habit and Why You Should, from the resources page on her website: [www.miticom.co.uk](http://www.miticom.co.uk)*

• *Miti’s book, The Innovative Communicator: Putting the Soul Back into Business Communication, is available on Amazon. ♦*

◆  
*I think effective communication as a phrase is in danger of becoming a cliché. There is a lack of understanding about its real value. And that’s where I come in.*  
◆

# LET THERE BE *LIGHT*

---

Lighting can transform a room. Here is the evidence, with some of our picks to brighten up just about any space.



## Empire XL Chandelier

\$80,861, [www.luxxu.net](http://www.luxxu.net)

Inspired by the bright lights and grandeur of the Empire State Building, the flamboyant Empire XL enhances any room with high ceilings. The body is complete with a glossy brass and crystal glass finish, complemented with a glamorous gold plating surrounding the entirety of the chandelier.



## Corbett Mont Blanc Chandelier

\$7,023,

[www.corbettlighting.bvlgroup.com](http://www.corbettlighting.bvlgroup.com)

Made from the finest Venetian glass, this fixture is the perfect fusion of form and function. An illumination of incandescent light is emitted when switched on thanks to a grand total of nine individual bulbs. Inspired by the aesthetic of the French Alps, the glass rods are suspended like icicles from a mountainside. Featuring a base made of hand-crafted iron material, the chandelier comes in the 'Modern Silver Leaf' finish.

## Da Vinci Pendant Light

\$3,623, [www.luxedecor.com](http://www.luxedecor.com)

Inspired by the great Renaissance man himself, Leonardo da Vinci, luxedecor's homage to the artist takes shape with this magnificent sphere of light composed of hundreds of crystal octagons. Streamlined and dense with the thousand facets of cut glass, this shimmering globe comes in a suspension form, as a standing luminary or table lamp.



## Tom Dixon Mega Pendant System Brass

\$11,041, [www.houseology.com](http://www.houseology.com)

A piece that will render all the art in your home redundant, this light fixture is a masterpiece in its own right. Said to be inspired by the logics of mathematics, the geometric lacquered brass exterior means that each fixture of this chandelier is a bold statement. When lit up, an atmospheric illumination is cast as well as lace-like adornments of intricate shadows.



# TECHNICAL AFFLUENCE

Stand out from the masses of generic iPhones, earphones and smart watches with some of our top picks for luxury tech accessories.



## D&G Chained Ring Case

\$1,033, [www.barrods.com](http://www.barrods.com)

Protect your phone in style with this Dolce & Gabbana cover. The case features a bespoke design that has been crafted in Italy using buttery-soft leather and a textured snakeskin aesthetic. For that added rock 'n' roll appeal, the back brandishes a chunky gold and logo-embossed ring.

## Berluti Smart Charger Kit

\$860, [www.berluti.com](http://www.berluti.com)

Born from the NATIVE UNION x BERLUTI collaboration, this smart charger has dual USB-A ports to charge two devices at once. The kit is made with premium Venezia leather and a Smart-IC tech, guaranteeing that your devices are charging at their maximum speed. Perfect for those on the move, the charger has a compact design with foldable pins which makes it pocket-sized.



## Tambour Horizon Connected Watch

\$2,550, [www.louisvuitton.com](http://www.louisvuitton.com)

Not your average smartwatch, the Tambour Horizon by LV is powered by Wear OS by Google and the snapdragon Wear 3100 platform; similarly, users can make their lives more functional vis a vis the “My Travel” itinerary function, the “LV City Guide” app, as well the “Pollution” function that monitors air quality. For that special touch of personaliation, users can design their own watch face using many options including display, canvas, stripes, colours and initials.



## Louis Vuitton Horizon Monogram Earphones

\$1,076, [www.louisvuitton.com](http://www.louisvuitton.com)

These luxurious, wireless, Bluetooth-enabled earbuds now mean that the iconic LV monogram is seamlessly paired with audio functionality. Including a silky smooth leather case and featuring a 10-hour battery life, the earbuds come in four colourways: black, white, and red monogram, and yellow and blue LV stripes. The intricate sound system is developed by audio specialist Master & Dynamic, allowing users 3.5 hours of listening time on a single charge and an intuitive touch control element.

# DRESS TO *IMPRESS*

A sure way to elevate your black-tie look, we have compiled a list of some of our favourite dress watches that make for the perfect accessory.

WORDS BY MARIAM AHMAD



## Jaeger-LeCoultre Reverso

\$100,047, [www.jaeger-lecoultre.com](http://www.jaeger-lecoultre.com)

An homage to the iconic art-deco style, the Reverso timepiece features a stainless steel exterior, complete with an elegant blue alligator leather strap. The silver satin and opaline of the dial against the black hour numerals is a stand-out feature. On the reverse of the dial, owners of the timepiece have the opportunity to express themselves with bespoke engraving.



### Vacheron Constantin Patrimony Automatic 40mm Watch

\$29,456, [www.vacheron-constantin.com](http://www.vacheron-constantin.com)

The timepiece features a calibre 2450 Q6 automatic movement and an elegant 18-carat pink gold case with a transparent sapphire crystal back, so the intricate circular guilloché and satin finishes can be seen. The deep blue sunray dial features a discreet date window. In a unique twist, the buckle on the alligator strap fastening is sculpted into the shape of the brand's motif.



### Rolex Cellini Date

\$17,461, [www.rolex.com](http://www.rolex.com)

A name that is synonymous with being the superpower of the watch world, the Rolex Cellini Date Watch features double bezel and polished lugs for a contemporary feel. The watch has a fine, circular 39mm frame around its guilloché dial, which contains hour markers and minute counters located close to its circumference. This model is driven by a self-winding mechanical movement entirely manufactured by Rolex, whose patented moonphase module is astronomically accurate for 122 years. The watch comes in everose gold and white gold, with the face placed on a glossy leather strap.



### Slim d'Hermés

\$7,518, [www.hermes.com](http://www.hermes.com)

The timepiece's slender silhouette, broad dial opening and aesthetic details of its lugs make for a contemporary yet classic feel. The original font of the numerals has been created by graphic designer Philippe Apeloig. Placed on an elegant black alligator leather strap, the watch features an in-house ultra-thin movement from Hermés and comes in a sleek 39.5mm case.



### Jaquet Droz Grande Second Moon Onyx

\$28,900, [www.jaquet-droz.com](http://www.jaquet-droz.com)

The brand's signature figure-8 dial incorporates a Moon Phase with the date nestled inside the geometry of the off-centered large seconds hand at six o'clock. The timepiece combines the day-to-day practicality of precise hour, minute, seconds and date displays with the poetry of a 22-carat gold Moon Phase. The watch comes on a rolled-edge, hand-stitched black alligator strap with an ardillon buckle made of 18-carat rose gold.



### Cartier Tank MC Blue Dial,

\$7,831, [www.cartier.com](http://www.cartier.com)

Introduced in 2013, the Tank MC cleverly gives the classic style of a Cartier Tank a more sportive edge. The 1904 MC automatic movement is visible through the transparent sapphire case back, and is encapsulated in a larger steel case. The timepiece features a silvered flinqué dial and a semi-matte alligator skin strap, with double adjustable folding buckle. Water resistant to 30 metres, the Cartier Tank MC is a perfect fusion of functionality and beauty.



### Glashütte Original Sixties

\$6,574, [www.glashuette-original.com](http://www.glashuette-original.com)

Add some flair to your watch collection with this vibrantly coloured Glashütte Original timepiece. The dial stamping to the lacquer painting is all done in-house and due to the fact that the face of the watch is handpainted, each dial's particular hue is unique. The new timepieces are powered by the manufactory's 39-52 (sixties) and 39-47 (sixties panorama date) automatic movements.

# FIT FOR A SULTAN

A regular fixture on the wrist of the Sultan of Brunei, Avantist Watches continues to surpass convention.

WORDS BY MARIAM AHMAD



Few new, independent brands work in collaboration with the finest in Swiss watch making technologies, fewer still have collaborated with many famous sportsmen and women, and yet Avantist, and its creator Keeran Janin, have already achieved both since the brand's conception in 2015. Made with the independent Swiss watchmakers, Etude de Style, Avantist's latest collaboration is a skeleton tourbillon made for Thai golfer Kiradech Aphibarnrat, who is currently ranked 42nd in the world, having 11 professional wins under his belt.

"Avantist means avant garde, pioneer or leader. We want the watches to be an experience for all our customers", Keeran tells *ELA*. Exclusivity could not be more synonymous with the brand,



having already captivated the most elite clientele any brand could hope for; royalty.

"We presented the La Majesté Tourbillon to his majesty The Sultan of Brunei on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee. He only wears the best, the gold standard of timepieces," says Keeran. "That is our inspiration for the creation of this watch, we asked ourselves, what would we do if we want to make a watch for a king?"

The La Majesté Tourbillon is already creating waves in the world of luxury watch competitions, and is featured as a runner up at this year's prestigious Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève.

Having achieved so much in such a short period of time, we will be watching Avantist with intent for time to come. ❖

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# ROLL OUT THE *RED* CARPET

The glamorous Red Carpet Collection from Chopard, inspired by the concept of love, features myriad coloured gemstones and dazzling diamonds, making for an evocative declaration.

WORDS BY MARIAM AHMAD

For the 2019 Red Carpet Collection, Caroline Scheufele, co-president and artistic director of the Maison, has chosen the emotion of love as her inspirational theme. Unveiled at this year's Cannes Film Festival, love is a theme that has become synonymous with the aesthetic richness of the many films and documentaries that the festival continues to celebrate each year.

A total of 72 pieces were unveiled, the dazzling, delicately crafted collection features a range of rings, necklaces, bracelets and earrings made with precious stones including tanzanites, amethysts, tourmalines and radiant diamonds. Nothing short of vivid, the collection offers an explosion of bright coloured hues, including pink sapphires, yellow diamonds and coloured titanium.

Here, we have picked just some of our favourites.

Declarations of love are almost always accompanied by flowers, and Caroline Scheufele has designed a set composed of a ring and a pair of earrings shaped like orchids in bloom. Vividly expressing the creative and technical brilliance cultivated by the Maison, the gold stem and buds of the orchids are adorned with set tsavorites and with immaculate attention to detail, the labella of the flowers bear white opals radiating the spectacular pinkish shimmer of tinted titanium. The petals on the earrings are entirely paved with diamonds and amethysts, while those of the ring are delicately adorned with pink sapphires and high-quality diamonds.

Next is a necklace and ring in which splendid heart-cut tanzanites, paraiba tourmalines, amethysts and diamonds meet and mingle inside light and airy circles made of white gold and titanium. The necklace alone required no less than 14 weeks of work, testifying to the quintessential jewellery-making embodied by the Maison. >





Next in the collection, Chopard embellishes the passing hours with a stunning jewellery watch. On a wide, finely wrought bracelet set with 60 carats of diamonds forming a sculptural lacework pattern, the watch dial – itself set with eight marquise-cut diamonds arranged like a windrose against a mother-of-pearl backdrop – is framed by two precious coloured stones. On one version, these are two three-carat Mozambique rubies.

The jewellery watches graced the wrists of the actresses who went to the Riviera to await the countdown of the Cannes Festival closing ceremony and its much-anticipated verdict.

Diamonds are forever, and Chopard's pieces in this collection are a true testament to this statement.

The cuff bracelet features volutes composed of more than 25 carats of diamonds, which required 340 hours of work by the Mains d'Art of the Maison.

A necklace and a pair of matching earrings join the line-up. Featuring white gold and diamonds forming fine jewellery lacework, their design is reminiscent of Chopard's classic Haute Joaillerie pieces. In line with the ethical criteria of the Green Carpet Collection, these three jewellery creations are crafted in ethical 'fairmined' certified gold and diamonds sourced exclusively from RJC approved suppliers.

Chopard plays a major role on the contemporary art scene, particularly through its ties with cinema, since the Maison has been a partner to the Cannes International Film Festival since 1998. Each year, Caroline Scheufele designs an Haute Joaillerie collection that meets the challenge of offering a number of jewellery creations matching the number of Festival editions.❖



# SEE NO EVIL

Nigora Tabayer on how her Central Asian heritage in conjunction with a passion for jewellery makes for the flawless formula that is TABAYER.

WORDS BY MARIAM AHMAD

Seen on celebrities like Mila Jovovich, Candice Swanepoel and Vanessa Hudgens, the TABAYER evil eye collection is no stranger to the red carpet. Having launched this year, the line was created in collaboration with the legendary jewellery designer, House of Graff. Not bad for a debut collection – Nigora Tabayer talks to us about how it came about.

**What inspired you to start the jewellery line?**

I launched TABAYER due to a combination of a lifelong love of jewellery, as well as being inspired by my childhood and upbringing. My mother was a fashion designer and my father was an architect. Even though I went to school for business, I never lost that sense of creative energy. I could always feel it, somehow. Once I started sketching the initial designs for TABAYER, I knew that was it! This was what I had to do. >



**Why the evil eye? What is the significance of the evil eye to you and your brand?**

The evil eye has a very important significance to me. When I was young, my mother used to dress me in one every time I left the house, whether this was as a bracelet or an anklet or, really, anything. She believed it was a talisman, having protective powers that would keep me safe. Now that I have children, I know what she felt, and I too believe that they are protective symbols. This is why the eye was part of the launch collection, and, additionally, it is why we integrated an eye into our logo.

**What sort of qualities do you think makes for the perfect piece of jewellery?**

To me, the perfect piece of jewellery is entirely dependant on what the wearer considers perfect. Jewellery should be personal and it should connect with the heart. A perfect piece, then, might be a necklace that your daughter makes, or a bracelet you buy yourself after your first big paycheck, or an extraordinary piece with diamonds and jewels that you fell in love with instantly. Of course, balanced and harmonious design is important, as well as gemstone quality, but ultimately, perfection is opinion-based.

◆  
*Even though I went to business school, I never lost that sense of creative energy. I could always feel it, somehow. Once I started sketching the initial designs for TABAYER, I knew that was it!*  
◆

**Do you have a particularly special or favourite piece from your collection? Why?**

While it's hard to pick just one, I'd have to say that right now, it's the "Natural" pendant. We assign a word to each pendant based on its letter. Naturally, pun intended, I also love it because the N stands for Nigora!

**What has been your greatest accomplishment as a jewellery designer?**

Getting this off the ground! Starting a business is hard in any capacity, and so far, it has been such a rewarding challenge.

**Where do you go for inspiration when starting a new line?**

I travel quite often, and this is where and when I am most inspired. Usually, I will remember things from different trips and adventures, all of which come together when I am sketching or developing new ideas

**How do you want women to feel when wearing your jewellery?**

Proud, individual, strong, confident, beautiful and ready to "own" the room! ◆

# THE CITY *of* GOLD

The VOD Dubai Jewellery show is back for its third instalment, as this year sees Africa dazzle under the spotlight, with a particular focus on the Kenya Gem & Jewellery Fair.

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WORDS BY MARIAM AHMAD





Promising to fulfil jewellery aficionado's wildest dreams, Dubai will shine as the global jewellery industry will descend upon the VOD Dubai International Jewellery Show, at the Dubai World Trade Centre. Featuring the finest curation of jewellery collections and gems, VOD is the MENA's only B2B and B2C jewellery industry event, seeing local, regional and international exhibitors gather under one roof to connect with decision-makers and trend-setters from the industry.

The appropriately nicknamed 'City of Gold' will see itself continuing to play a pivotal role in the world's fine jewellery scene, as the show is expected to draw in people from more than 83 countries. Last year's event saw more than 20,000 visitors, and this year is set to be even bigger, featuring opulent collections to give Elizabeth Taylor a run for her money. There will be four main sectors to this year's exhibition: global brands and innovators, fine jewellery, gemstones and diamonds, and packaging and technology.

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*Last year's event saw more than 20,000 visitors, and this year is set to be even bigger, featuring opulent collections worthy to give Elizabeth Taylor a run for her money.*  
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#### What to expect this time around

First launched in 2017, VOD 2019 will once again feature the massively popular 'Hosted Buyer Programme', which pairs top-brand local and international retailers and department stores with wholesalers and event exhibitors. This will ensure access to unique collections, a competitive advantage, and the chance to build new relationships in the industry.

Every aspect of the global jewellery industry will be promoted at VOD, including craftsmanship, production, distribution, precious materials, trends, and much more. Additionally, there will be a dedicated 'Trade Area' for exhibitors that are primarily focused on B2B markets.

#### On the road again

Designed to target the most influential among buyers, the roadshow's focus this year will extend to Africa. The VOD team has already kick-started its journey by travelling to Kenya, where it took part in successful networking sessions and business meetings with industry insiders at the Kenya Gem & Jewellery Fair.

The team will visit several other African countries before the conclusion of the roadshow in November.

In addition to this, the Gold & Gems Art Promotion Council of Pakistan, VOD's Regional Advisor for Pakistan, arranged two road shows to promote the show among Pakistanis, especially the jewellers' community across the Punjab Province. GGAPC Pakistan President, Muhammad Ahmad, welcomed all participants of the road shows, which were held at Lahore and Sahiwal.

#### A final word from the organisers

Commenting on the return of VOD DIJS, DV Global Link Director, Daniele Villa stated, "We are delighted to welcome back VOD Dubai International Jewellery Show for its third instalment, an event developed in partnership between Dubai World Trade Centre and the Italian Exhibition Group. The show plays a significant role in enhancing Dubai's reputation in the global jewellery market, as well as positively impacting the MENA region's jewellery industry as a whole."

He added, "During last year's edition, we saw 52 per cent of trade buyers visiting the show from the UAE, while the remaining 48 per cent came from 80 different countries – a true testament to the growing global significance of the show. This year will see further consolidation of the show's format to ensure VOD Dubai International Jewellery Show 2019 reaffirms itself as not only the definitive jewellery industry event in the region, but also a major force on the global scene."

*VOD Dubai International Jewellery Show takes place on 13-16 November.◆*

# AFRIQUE CHIC

Now in its ninth edition, Hub of Africa continues to tell the tales of top designers on and off the runway.

WORDS BY MARIAM AHMAD



Photo Credit: HAFW 2019



One of the African fashion calendar's most desirable dates – The Hub of Africa Addis Fashion Week – took place this year at the Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa Hotel. It was the ninth edition of the show.

What first started off as 'just' a fashion show has now become an annual lifestyle event that showcases the very best of African talent.

This year saw a total of 20 African designers from six countries, (Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Rwanda, South Africa and Ghana) showcased on the runway, while another 11 designers exhibited their work.

The fashion week featured several collaborations and partnerships with continental and international organisations, and included a workshop, exhibition as well as a pop up market for accessories.

The Italian Embassy along with the Italian Trade Agency kicked off the fashion week by hosting an exhibition of classic pieces by the fashion house, Maison Gattinoni: "Fernanda Gattinoni: Fashion and Stars in the times of Hollywood on the River Tiber."

Maison's Haute Couture was presented in the Italian Ambassador's residence, where over 200 guests were also able to admire elegant evening dresses, which have always characterised the unmistakable and irreverent Gattinoni style.

In a more unique twist, the showcase continued with a hosted workshop for up-and-coming designers. Three Ethiopian based fashion design schools participated with a total of 50 fashion design students. >

*Photo credit: HAFW 2019*





The official opening night featured two of the most desired Ethiopian designers MAFI MAFI and ZAAF with their “Runway at the Factory” showcase.

To offer a complete picture of the fashion industry and pay homage to those who work behind the scenes, the showcase featured the value chain of the industry, complete with a live display of spinners, weavers and seamstresses on the runway. The fashion week’s most publicised event, and the crown jewel of the Ethiopian fashion industry, culminated with the two-day runway shows.

Showcasing everything from brightly coloured hues, structured menswear and pieces inspired by Afro-futurism, the show saw models strutting down the runway in the most avant-garde of African designs. ❖



# THE POWER OF THREE

Three outstanding yachts stood out at the 2019 Monaco Yacht Show awards.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS



Sometimes small really is beautiful. While smallness is not really a word in the vocabulary of most superyacht designers and builders, when small implies exclusivity, it is a powerful thing indeed. And it was a very small number of yachts honoured at the sixth edition of the Monaco Yacht Show Superyacht Awards Ceremony, which was held at the Yacht Club de Monaco in September.

Four awards were presented at the ceremony but only three yachts were winners. In the presence of 350 guests celebrating the new vessels that made their world debut in the principality, three outstanding superyachts were chosen from 18 candidates.

Sustainability was in the spotlight, heralding a new trend which is here to stay for the superyacht industry. Environmental responsibility has come to the fore and leading yacht builders, designers and engineers are picking up the baton.

The MYS/RINA Award went to the 64-metre Attila, which is the largest yacht to date built by the Italian shipyard Sanlorenzo. Attila stood out from the crowd as the most eco-friendly superyacht, according to the environmental standards established by RINA, the Italian classification company, not to be confused with the Royal Institute of Naval Architects, although the two organisations work to achieve similar maritime goals. RINA acts on behalf of more than 116 flag states and has classified more than 5,500 ships.

Attila is a 64-metre, three-deck superyacht which can sleep up to 12 guests. The jury selected Attila for the green credentials prize based on its systems and technology which is in compliance with the highest international standards for the prevention of water and air pollution, as set by RINA.

What is on the outside definitely matters when it comes to superyachts and competition was, therefore, fierce for the MYS Exterior Design Award. This was presented to Excellence, the new 80-metre superyacht which was delivered by Abeking & Rasmussen with Winch Design last May. With her striking bow and her visionary, disruptive layout, she will certainly bring forward a new era for superyacht design according to the judges of the awards.

Excellence is an arresting vision of angles and large swathes of glass. There's an industrial art deco feel to the exterior and the CEO, Hans Schaedla, is rightly satisfied with this achievement. "We are very proud of this extraordinary yacht and our exceptional workforce, who mastered all requirements bravely. Never before have glass panels been installed in these dimensions. The unusual lines also repeatedly presented employees with major challenges. Now we have developed and successfully finished this masterpiece and can hardly wait for the sea trials," he said. >



Of course getting the interior of a superyacht not just right but perfect is essential. Once inside a superyacht, the owner wants to feel at home – and for the far-from-average superyacht owner feeling at home means feeling surrounded by the ultimate in luxury. The home on terra firma must be reflected in the home at sea in terms of design and creature comforts.

The MYS Interior Design Award was taken out by TIS, created by German builder Lürssen. TIS was the largest superyacht of the 2019 MYS and it stood out in Port Hercules thanks to its palatial classical interiors recreated by Winch Design and inspired by iconic hotels and residences around the world.

Measuring up at an astounding 111 metres and coming with two helipads and a 12-metre swimming pool, the playful blue and white tones of the outside are a fun contrast to the dramatic interior. There is a resort-inspired spa in the aft of the vessel and sweeping staircases usually only seen in palaces or perhaps an old Hollywood movie. There is a substantial private owners' deck, eight staterooms for guests and the ability to entertain 16 people in absolute luxury and comfort.

◆  
*Once inside a superyacht, the owner wants to feel at home, surrounded by the ultimate in luxury in terms of design and creature comforts. It is essential to get the interior not just right but perfect.*  
◆

ABOVE AND TOP LEFT: TIS won the interior prize in Monaco.





The six-deck vessel was spotted in August making her maiden voyage in the French Riviera alongside fellow Lürssen superyacht, the Dilbar which, at 156 metres, is a seriously imposing presence as well as an ideal sailing companion for TIS.

The win in Monaco is the highlight of a triumphant summer for TIS. Another Lürssen vessel Madsummer was expected to be on display at the Monaco Yacht Show instead of TIS, but her debut was moved to the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. For TIS to be a last-minute replacement for the show and to win the coveted interior award was a truly fairytale turn of events.

Excellence, already the winner of the exterior prize, kept the number of winners in Monaco down to just three by taking out the MYS Finest New Superyacht Award. It was the second triumph in the evening for this new masterpiece of futuristic exterior shapes and modern interior design.

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The role played by Winch Design in creating Excellence cannot be understated, and Andrew Winch himself echoes the sentiments of Hans Schaedla: "Excellence represents a huge milestone. A completely unique superstructure, she signifies an innovative and exciting new genre for Winch Design."

While there were just three winners at the awards ceremony, the Monaco Yacht Show was overall a festival of impressive numbers. There were 125 superyachts rubbing hulls in the harbour and, according to analysis by SuperYacht Times based on yachts of 30 metres in length or more, the total worth of the superyachts on display was around 4 billion euros. The average asking price of the yachts for sale at this year's show was 37.8 million euros.

Other impressive figures include 30,000 visitors, of which 87 per cent came from outside the principality. Forty-four new boats were launched and, for those who wanted to return to dry land, there were 30 cars and bikes and helicopter to peruse. Fourteen superyachts were more than 70 metres in length, eight were more than 80 metres long, four were more than 90 metres long, and the average length of the vessels was 49.5 metres. ♦





*An artist's impression.*

# POWER AND PASSION

Heesen had a triumphant Monaco Yacht Show with a special sale.

WORDS BY JESS COUTTS

**H**eesen commenced the boat show season by celebrating the sale of a new custom yacht at the Monaco Yacht Show.

YN 19959, Project SkyFall, is a 59m FDHF all-aluminium, full-custom motoryacht set for delivery in spring 2023. Her thunder will come from 22,000 horsepower. This extraordinary power will feed four water jets that will drive her at 37 knots in light load conditions – an impressive feat, particularly considering her significant 900GT volume. She is the most powerful project Heesen has created to date so she deserved a special occasion for her sale.

The owner appointed Omega Architects to design the striking profile of his yacht. SkyFall exudes power and speed in every single detail. The exterior design includes a fishing cockpit located at the stern for her owner, who is a keen angler. The aggressive paint scheme serves to further highlight her speed, power and characteristics that make this project so unique.

SkyFall's layout is tailored to perfectly suit the lifestyle of her discerning owner. Ten guests will be accommodated in four suites on the lower deck, while the owner has reserved for himself the bridge deck aft as his personal deck. A large suite facing aft opens on the private terrace equipped with a whirlpool and seating area, ideal for relaxation.

The main deck features a conversation area and alfresco dining on the aft terrace. Large sliding doors connect the outdoors with the indoor seating area and the large bar amidships. Further forward, the formal dining set up seats up to 12 guests around an elegant oval table. Forward, the media room features a cinema and a games table.

With tenders and a wide range of watertoys conveniently located on the fore deck, the lazarette is set as a luxurious beach club with wellness area. Heesen operates with a bold, short-delivery >



programme, which is key to its commercial success. Twelve yachts are currently under construction with deliveries that span through to 2023. In addition to the semi-custom yachts built on a proven engineering platform, Heesen is registering an increasing interest in full-custom yachts.

The order book includes 60m Project Falcon, due for delivery in 2021 and the mighty 80m full aluminium 29-knot Project Cosmos, scheduled for delivery in 2022. Project SkyFall is the confirmation of this trend that sees expert yachtmen, with a clear vision of what they expect from their boat, selecting Heesen to build their unique custom yachts.

As well as the triumphant SkyFall sale at Monaco, Heesen celebrated an exciting launch at Port Hercules this year, the new 5700 Aluminium class Project Akira luxury yacht concept. She is 56.7 metres long, has four decks for plenty of alfresco entertaining opportunities, can accommodate 12 guests in five staterooms and a capacious owner's stateroom, and is built from an aluminium hull, a symphony of eye-catching curves on the high seas.

The exterior, featuring spectacular use of glass for both form and function, was created by Frank Laupman's Omega Architects, and the interior was designed by Harrison Eidsgaard, with scope for further personalisation upon purchase. The full height windows will allow guests to experience spectacular views and the interior will enjoy plenty of natural light in daylight hours.

Project Akira is powered by two MTU 16V 4000 M65L engines with a top speed of 22 knots and a range of 4,400 nautical miles at a cruising speed of 12 knots. ♦



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# GREEN MACHINES

The Frankfurt Motor Show demonstrated that luxury motoring can be sustainable.

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WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS





**T**he luxury motoring sector has woken up to the importance of sustainability and environmentally friendly vehicles. If the truth be told, some premium motoring brands have been ahead of the curve for a while now.

Back in 2009, for example, Mercedes-Benz launched the S400 BlueHybrid, an elegant saloon. It was even launched in the petrol-powered Middle East market with the region's PR manager saying that it was important to be brave, to put the car out there so customers can try it, discover that the experience is just as comfortable and luxurious as driving a fossil fuel-guzzling machine. And in 2010, BMW launched the ActiveHybrid 7, while Porsche was busy getting the 918 Spyder plug-in hybrid on the road, complete with a V8 engine and two electric motors.

In the past decade, the market for hybrids and electric cars has expanded and while many policymakers around the world are trying to make it easier for drivers of all demographics to go green, it has never been easier to make a statement with a luxury car that treads lightly on the planet. Here are few models and concepts that were showcased at this year's Frankfurt Motor Show.

#### **Automobili Pininfarina**

A press conference ahead of the motor show saw the announcement

of a strategic collaboration between Automobili Pininfarina, Bosch Engineering and BENTELER. Michael Perschke, CEO of Automobili Pininfarina, along with Johannes-Jörg Rieger, CEO of Bosch Engineering GmbH, and Ralf Göttel, CEO of BENTELER, told the world about plans to jointly develop a high-performance electric vehicle (EV) platform. The three companies plan to evaluate the best technical concept as well as the market potential for a platform on which to create the Automobili Pininfarina cars of the future (*see top image above*).

"It is our ambition to see the EV market grow and expand with added offerings across the luxury and performance segments, something that we are confident will be received with much enthusiasm by car enthusiasts and environmentally conscious consumers alike," said Perschke.

#### **Audi**

With the African market surely in their sights, Audi revealed an all-terrain EV concept in Frankfurt. With four electric motors and the automaker's famous quattro drive system, the promise is emissions-free motoring in the great outdoors. The Audi AI: TRAIL quattro (*main image, facing page*) has a glass-surrounded cabin for strong visibility on scenic drives and ample battery capacity to reduce range anxiety when driving in remote locations. >

Audi is making a bold claim with the range – the stated target with its lithium-ion battery is 248 to 310 miles on roads or easy off-road terrain. On rough ground, where the almost constantly elevated wheel slip alone means that energy consumption is higher, the limit is still 155 miles. The body is combination of a mixture of steel, aluminium and carbon fibre. It weighs in at a fairly slight 1,750kg despite its high-capacity battery.

#### BMW

The Munich-based automaker was one of the early adopters of green technology, along with Mercedes-Benz, and the latest development, the BMW Concept 4 (*previous page, bottom image*) aims to combine design acumen with clean technology.

Instantly recognisable as a Beemer, thanks to the trademark kidney grille rendered brazenly large in this brash coupe, twin headlights, distinctive air intakes and sculpted surfaces, it is being lauded by the head of design as an important part of the automaker's aesthetic journey.

“The BMW Concept 4 embodies the aesthetic essence of the BMW brand. It combines perfect proportions with a clear and precise design,” says Adrian van Hooydonk, senior vice president, BMW Group Design. While BMW kept plans for the powertrain under wraps in Frankfurt, the industry is expecting hybrid options to be part of the line-up along with the traditional petrol and diesel engines.

#### Mercedes-Benz

The all-electric Mercedes-Benz Vision EQS (*bottom right image*) is futuristic in design and progressive under the hood. While this is a concept car – and the version that ends up going into production is almost always a watered-down version of the designer's shameless original – the design language suggests outgoing curves, generous proportions and drama for the next generation of Mercedes-Benz automobiles.

The Vidion EQS is kitted out with electric motors at the front and rear axles and the battery integrated into the vehicle floor. It has electric all-wheel drive with axle-variable torque distribution and a battery installed in the vehicle floor between the axles.

It pumps out more than 350 kW of output and has immediately available torque of around 760 newton metres. Demonstrating the electric does not have to mean a sacrifice of power, it sprints from 0-100km/h in under 4.5 seconds.

A common criticism of electric vehicles is that, while they may emit no emissions on the road, the battery production process can be less than eco-friendly. Mercedes-Benz has tried to address this with CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral production with some of the battery cells to be wholly produced using power from renewable sources. This is expected to reduce the carbon footprint of the battery production process by more than 30 per cent. >





### Porsche

Porsche's first fully electric sports car was launched with much fanfare. Like the love-it-or-loathe-it Panamera, the Taycan is a four-door sports saloon, continuing the brand's bold deviations away from the purist-satisfying, but not necessarily practical, two-door models.

And the Taycan (*top left image*) is part of a significant investment for Porsche, representing part of a spend of more than 6 billion euros on electromobility by 2022. The first models in the new series are the Taycan Turbo S and Taycan Turbo. Less powerful variants will follow this year. The first derivative to be added will be the Taycan Cross Turismo at the end of next year.

The flagship Turbo S version of the Taycan can overboost power in combination with Launch Control, and the Taycan Turbo up to 500 kW. The Taycan Turbo S accelerates from zero to 100 km/h in 2.8 seconds, while the Taycan Turbo completes this dazzling dash in 3.2 seconds. The Turbo S has a range of up to 412 kilometres, and the Turbo a range of up to 450 kilometres. The top speed of these all-wheel-drive models is 260 km/h.

"We promised a true Porsche for the age of electromobility – a fascinating sports car that not only excites in terms of its technology and driving dynamics, but also sparks a passion in people all over the world, just like its legendary predecessors have done. Now we are delivering on this promise," said Michael Steiner, member of the executive board of Porsche AG – Research and Development.

### Byton

A newcomer to the premium automotive segment, Byton announced details of its first electric production car at a press conference in Frankfurt. Design-wise, the Byton M-Byte SUV (*bottom left image*) offers a more subtle approach. It does not have the exaggerated lines of other brands. Instead, this SUV is elegant with a body shape reminiscent of the classic shooting brake, while offering more ground clearance than an estate car. The entry level M-Byte, with a single rear-mounted electric motor, will provide peak output of 200kW, which allows an average range of 360 kilometres or 224 miles. The 4WD high level configuration is rated at 300 kW (408 PS), with an average possible range of 435 kilometers or 270 miles.

Speaking in Frankfurt, Dr Daniel Kirchet, CEO and founder of Byton, said the M-Byte has been more than two years in the making: "Within that short amount of time, together we have taken a smart electric car from an initial idea on a white sheet of paper to series production readiness, while also building a coherent infrastructure with locations on three continents and an efficient Industry 4.0 production facility in China. We can rightfully be proud of this."







## CLEAN SPEED

Jaguar has used the virtual world to create an electric car with no limits.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

In the virtual world, anything is possible. This is why we can suspend disbelief in video games and transport ourselves to worlds and situations far removed from reality. And in the automotive world, it is at concept stage that designers and engineers have all the fun. Whether someone is creating a car on screen or making a clay model, the concept stage is where imaginations can run riot and barriers are truly pushed. It is in this virtual space that Jaguar has created an all-electric sports car, the Jaguar Vision GT Coupé – and it is set to join the grid as the latest addition to the Vision Gran Turismo line-up for the Gran Turismo video game series.

The all-electric Jaguar Vision GT Coupé has been inspired by the brand's racing lineage. The C-type and D-type influence its futuristic design, while Jaguar's I-TYPE 4 Formula E and I-PACE eTROPHY racing cars provide the technical foundations for its racing performance. Jaguar's designers were given complete creative freedom to develop the perfect proportions of this virtual Jaguar of the future.

Oliver Cattell-Ford, Exterior Designer, Jaguar Advanced Design, commented: "This was the dream project for a car designer, creating a futuristic sports car for Gran Turismo means our designs and ideas could be truly limitless. It has to excite future generations and most importantly, look and feel unmistakably Jaguar."

The virtual EV boasts three powerful, compact motors producing 750kW, propelling gamers from 0-100km/h in less than two seconds. It was first driven by professional gamers at Sony's Gran Turismo World Tour event at the Tokyo Motor Show, held in October.

Julian Thomson, Jaguar Design Director, said: "This project has been completely led by our young designers and represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them to create a vehicle steeped in our incredible heritage but pushing the boundaries of future design. The team have done an incredible job in creating something which is clearly identifiable as a Jaguar, inspired – but not constrained – by our iconic past."

We can see the future of Jaguar in a PlayStation game and we're already liking what we see.

*The Jaguar Vision GT is now available to download in Gran Turismo Sport for Sony PlayStation 4. ♦*

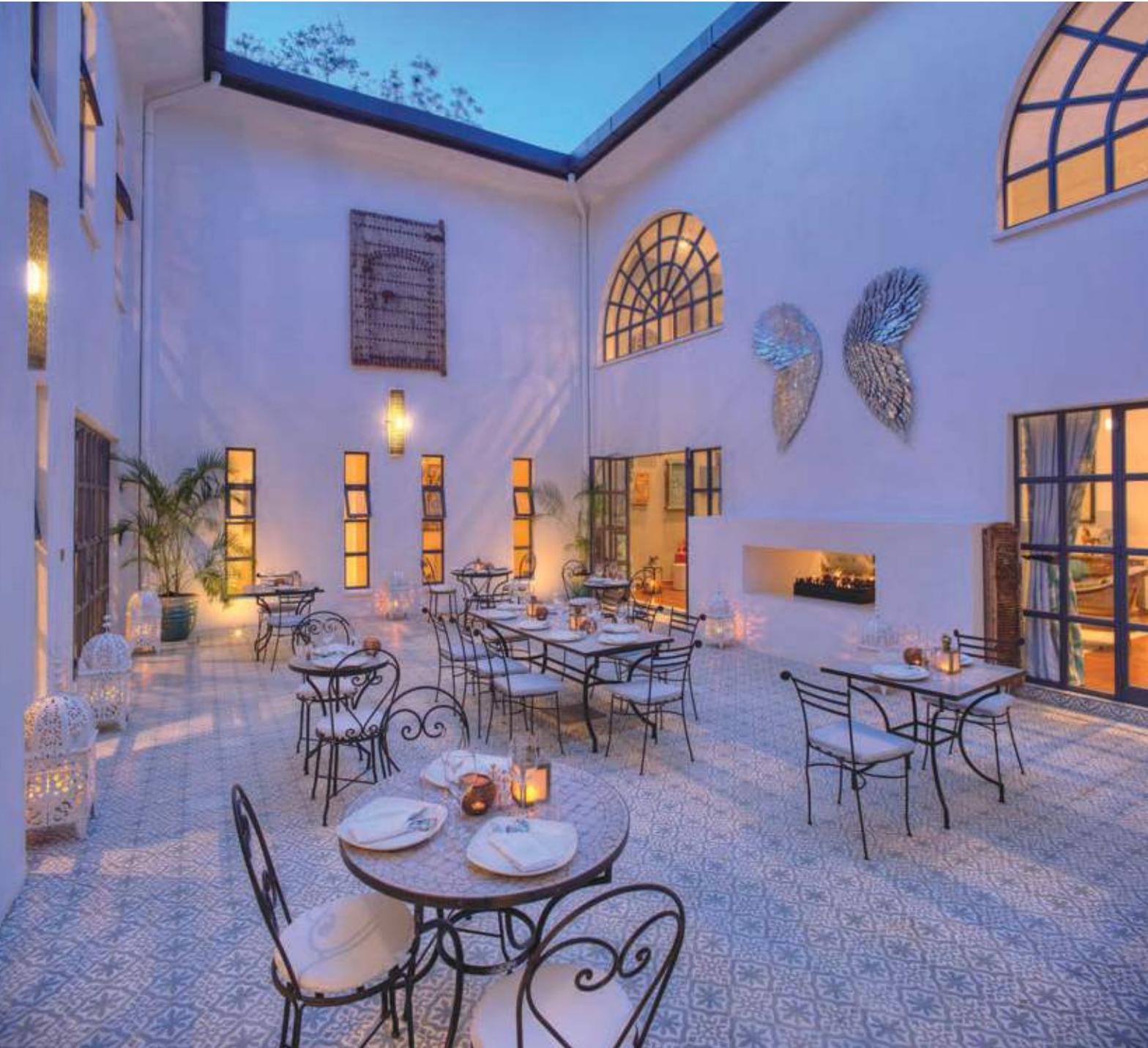
*Could this virtual wonder be coming soon to your real-world garage?*

# KAMPALA REIMAGINED

A tranquil, elegant boutique hotel is set to disrupt the Kampala hotel scene in the most stylish way possible.

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WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS



While Kampala has long had an established five-star hotel scene, an up and coming hospitality company has spotted a gap in the market - the high-end boutique hotel. Latitude 0° sets itself apart from chain hotels with its commitment to art, design and evolving fine cuisine.

There is certainly something comforting about the familiarity of a chain hotel but the Latitude group seeks to attract the guest who is adventurous, creative and imaginative, while still seeking comfortable luxury accommodation.

Latitude 0° is the latest of the company's hotels to open in Africa – it already has properties in Lusaka (Latitude 15°) and Lilongwe (Latitude 13°) and there are plans afoot to open in Addis Ababa and Pamplemousse, Mauritius. The 47-room Kampala hotel is located high on a hill in the Makindye neighbourhood, 45 minutes from Entebbe Airport and around half an hour to an hour's drive from the Ugandan capital's business district, depending on the time of day.

What is most striking about Latitude 0° is the respite it offers from the bodaboda-laden streets of Kampala while still feeling very much connected to the city and its people. The views from the hotel across the city are stunning and, for first-time visitors to Kampala, an excellent way to get your bearings and decipher the lay of the land. And for those who are familiar with Kampala, the hotel offers a fresh new perspective on the city.

The long-established trees are a special feature of the hotel - with the hotel built in a manner that respects these trees, the feeling is instantly one that is clean and green. Rich foliage was so close to my hotel room window, I could almost touch them and they provided an excellent frame for many a stunning sunset photograph. While a hotel in the middle of Kampala may only provide you with views of other buildings, Latitude 0° is a refreshing reminder that Uganda itself is a country of true natural beauty with its rich greenery visible from the air before the plane even touches down in Entebbe.

Inside the hotel, one of the most magical features is the art and *objet d'art*. Everywhere you look, there is something interesting to look at, whether it's a painting, a mirror, an item of eclectic furniture, a sculpture or even the divine chandeliers in the rooms and as you enter the hotel. This is no accident. The fascinating pieces were handpicked by Susie Lightfoot, wife of James Lightfoot, one of the founders of the business. Susie's company, Kutundu, is a fair trade initiative which launched to help women who are AIDS orphans create high quality sustainable home decor items. This has now expanded to incorporate creative ventures from across Africa, such as the splendid modern chandeliers throughout the hotel which are made of recycled beach glass. Nicholas Best, commercial director for the Latitude group, told *Elite Living Africa* that the unique artworks across the



◆  
*Everywhere you look, there is something interesting to look at – a painting, a mirror, an item of eclectic furniture, a sculpture or a divine chandelier made of recycled beach glass.*  
◆

FACING PAGE: A fine spot for al fresco dining at Latitude.

hotels serve as talking points for guests.

My room was a top floor stunner – ideal for the aforementioned sunset snaps through the trees. I am not a morning person but, wide-awake with jetlag, the dawn-breaking shots were too good to resist. The bed was enormous and comfortable, and the pale turquoise beach glass chandeliers which rained down from either side of the bed were blissful for pre-slumber reading. There was a mirror which doubled as art with its colourful frame, and beyond incredible wooden doors was a bathroom in a style best described as minimalist Moroccan. The elegant patterned tiles were just enough adornment alongside a generous walk-in shower and a sleek and generously proportioned bath.

For leisure, the hotel has two pools and supremely comfortable sunloungers, again located in such a way that guests can appreciate the panoramic views. And for those seeking extra physical activity, one of the best-equipped gyms in Kampala can be found on the top floor – again, making the most of the views. There is a yoga terrace where the sun can be saluted in style, including another of the property's glorious trees, a wonderfully knotted tree around which the building was created so it would not be disturbed.

The spa, meanwhile, pampers guests with all-organic products and the restful pale turquoise decor and generous massage tables (rather than the precariously narrow tables that are seen all too often, even at high-end hotels) whisper relaxation.

Downstairs, the stylish bar and restaurant area offers an interesting range of dishes thanks to a creative head chef who constantly seeks to improve on the taste, ingredient combinations and all-important presentation of every meal. The unique menu fuses local specialities and ingredients with inspirations from Europe, the Far East and the Middle East – it is a menu that defies being pigeonholed in a good way. During my stay, I tried almost every main course dish ➤

on the menu and, while it was all absolutely delicious, the pork belly remained my favourite. Of all the desserts, I could not resist the rich, creamy chocolate mousse with delicate balls of vanilla ice cream on multiple occasions.

While there are popular fine dining establishments in Kampala, it is easy to see why a guest could simply choose to have dinner every night at Latitude and then repair to the opulent bar for exquisitely created cocktails or the simple pleasure of a few gin and tonics served by polite and cheerful staff.

For business travellers seeking stylish spaces for getting some work done, holding meetings, making private calls or even holding events and setting up long-term office space, The Works is a special feature. The concept started as a side business in the Lusaka hotel and has been rolled out across all properties.

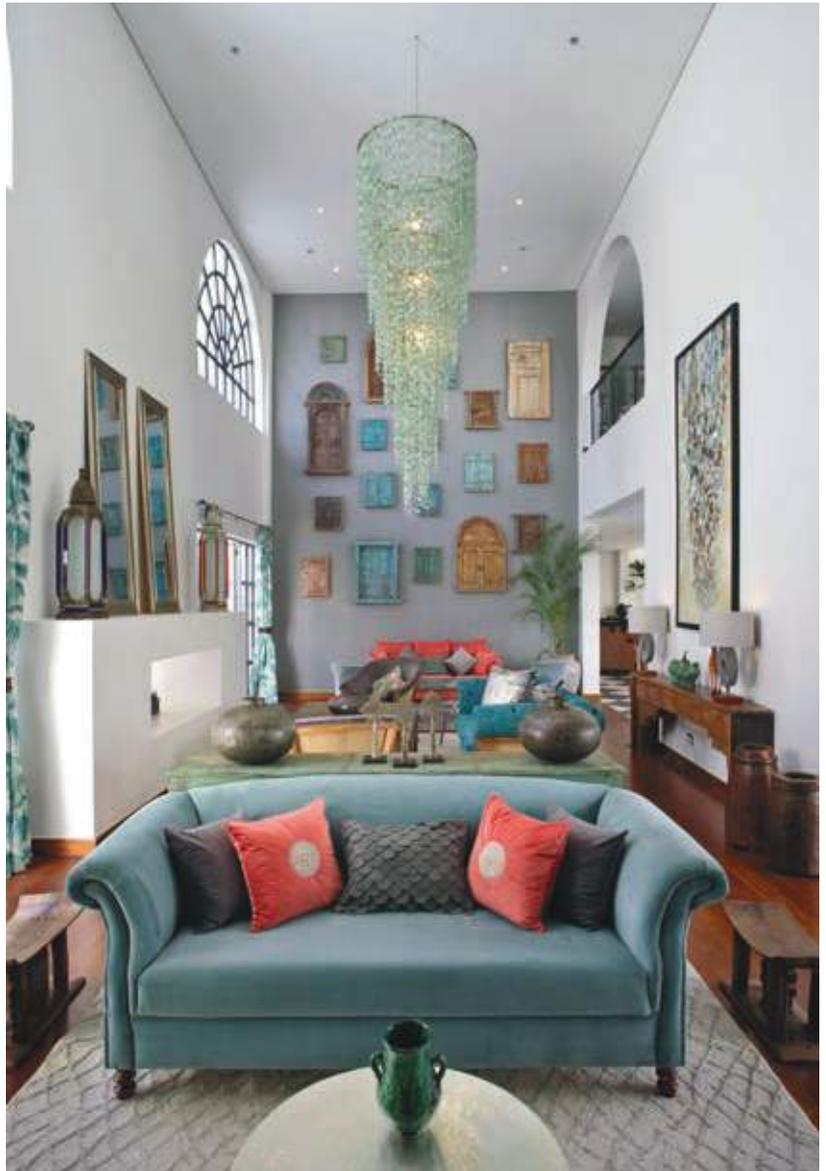
“Originally we launched a private members’ club but that didn’t quite take off in Lusaka,” Nicholas said. So the company rethought the concept, turning it into working, socialising and networking spaces that do not disturb hotel guests and The Works was born. The Works, which started in the Lusaka hotel, attracts a range of businesses and organisations who use the spaces on a long-term basis, as well as being used by guests as a space to work away from their room. There is a boardroom that manages to be formal *and* relaxed. You might even look forward to a meeting...

“Last year The Works’ vibe came together and we went from 40 per cent occupancy to 90 per cent occupancy by the end of 2018,” Best said. “We have a different mix of characters in there, such as investment organisations, the American Chamber of Commerce, NGOs and consultants with a female empowerment project.”

“Everyone wanted to be seen at Latitude,” Nicholas said of the large numbers drawn to the hotels when they opened. The popularity has not waned and he said the hotels have become “hubs for networking ... this is something a little bit bigger than we first thought ... We have a great product to sell, we are pushing the boundaries and we are very true to the sustainability philosophy.”

On our tour of the hotel, Nicholas showed me spaces that can be used for events, particularly an art deco-inspired screening room. Guests can use it for relaxed movie-watching and Nicholas has compiled a collection of classic films for this purpose – and it can be used for presentation, small film screenings and corporate events, complete with glass doors that open out to a terrace where the party can spill out.

The games room, complete with retro board games and a bespoke chess set, as well as a leather-bound whisky lounge also provide spaces for guests to chill out and for business to be done. And therein lies one



◆  
“Everyone wanted to be seen at Latitude. We are pushing the boundaries and we are true to our sustainability philosophy.”  
◆

ABOVE: The foyer features a chandelier made of beach glass.

of the big attractions for Latitude 0° – it can adapt to cater for a range of guests.

The leisure traveller can experience the best of Kampala, the business traveller can be productive when required and relax when it’s time to switch off and wind down, and all guests can appreciate the artwork which is seen at every turn, enjoy personalised service and feel truly special knowing the design of their room, complete with its own decorative touches is unique while still being comfortable and luxurious.

For visitors coming to Uganda for a safari, especially after a long flight or one that lands at an anti-social hour, a night or two at Latitude provides a soft landing – an opportunity to clear heads, get into the safari mindset and ensure they are refreshed and ready for the adventures that lie beyond the Ugandan capital.

[www.latitudehotels.com](http://www.latitudehotels.com) ◆



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## Culture trip

### Ariodante luxury concierge

Lovers of art and history can enjoy luxurious tours of the French Riviera with Ariodante. Each tour is bespoke, designed exclusively for each guest and the proceeds help support art and history restoration projects. Tours include the works of Henry Matisse, including his villa, and an experience with the Nice Philharmonic Orchestra, where you can try your hand at being a conductor.

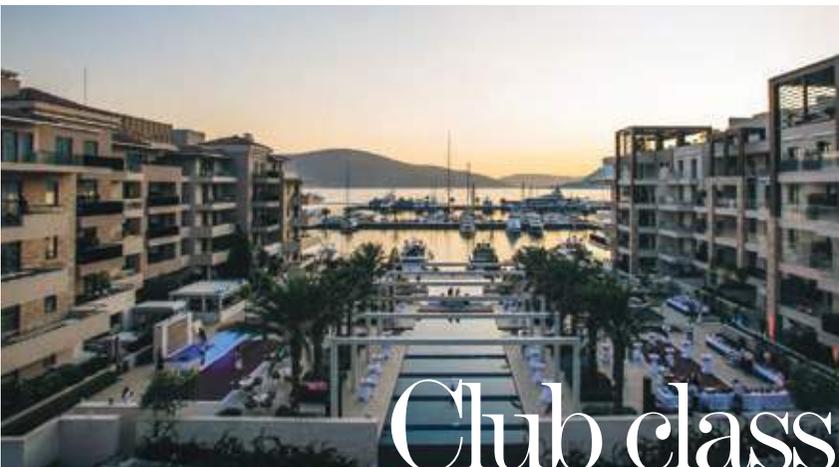
[www.ariodantetravel.com](http://www.ariodantetravel.com)



**Il Sereno design hotel, Lake Como**  
Lake Como offers some of the most stunning places in Italy, and indeed in all of Europe, where you can enjoy a meal with a view. Il Sereno design hotel is one such place where you can enjoy a meal that you will simply have to post to Instagram. Berton Al Lago is the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant with chef Andrea Berton renowned for artfully prepared regional specialities using the freshest local ingredients, all paired with the finest wines.

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

Lake tastes



## Club class

### Regent Porto Montenegro

Located on a sophisticated slice of coastline, the Regent Porto Montenegro is attracting guests who enjoy the finer things in life, particularly if they have a yacht that needs a scenic berth. The hotel has completed BAIA, a new wing of the Regent Pool Club Residences with 67 gorgeous new units. They combine aesthetics from Venice and the Italian Riviera and the pool is divine.

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



## Raffles' debut



### Raffles Maldives Meradhoo

The iconic Raffles brand, best known for the classic hotel in Singapore, has arrived in the Maldives. Raffles Maldives Meradhoo is located over two private islands and features just 21 villas and residences, a blissful spa, beachside restaurants and a world-class dive centre with an on-site marine biologist.

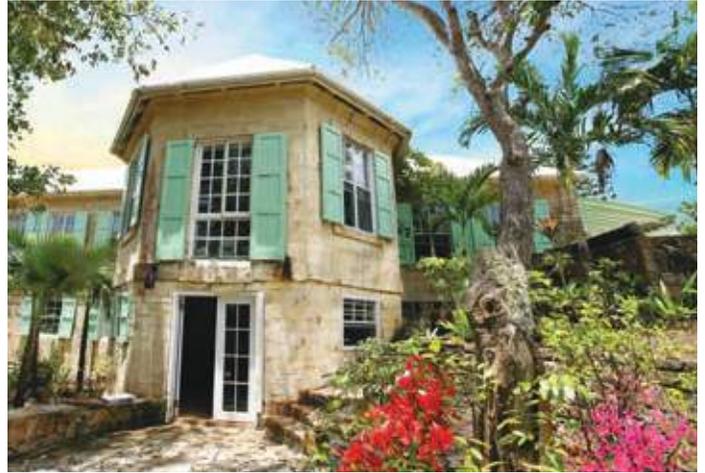
[www.affles.com](http://www.affles.com)

## Exclusive Antigua

### The Great House Antigua

Comprising just eight rooms, The Great House Antigua is an intimate boutique resort set in a 350-year-old historic house. Due to open in November, it boasts 26 acres of tropical gardens, and individually styled suites including antique furnishings, such as Chippendale chairs, mahogany four-poster beds and exquisite china, silver and glassware. There is an elegant dining area and swimming pool too.

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



### Svalbard Summer Adventure

One to get in the diary for the new year, a four-day Svalbard Summer Adventure offers intrepid travellers the chance to see wildlife and mighty glaciers. Alternatively, the Northern Lights is one of those bucket list experiences which is best done when booked via Scandi tourism experts. What better way to experience this lightshow than in a luxury tent? And by day, there are opportunities for further adventures such as dog-sledding and polar bear-spotting.

[www.best-served.co.uk](http://www.best-served.co.uk)



Ice dreams



## Lazy Malaysia

### Anantara Desaru Coast Resort & Villas, Malaysia

Scheduled to open in December, Anantara Desaru Coast promises to be the rising star of the Malaysian beach resort scene. The destination itself is located over 17 kilometres of pristine beachfront facing the South China Sea. The resort has 123 keys comprising 90 deluxe guest rooms; 13 stand-alone luxury pool villas; and 20 three- and four-bedroom residences, and multiple fine dining options.

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



## Pristine poolside

### JW Marriott Maldives Resort

This resort will be opening in November on the island of Vagaru, Shaviyani Atoll. It is comprised of 60 spacious villas, each one with a private pool. The three bars will be kitted out with 98 types of rum and more than 300 labels in the extensive wine cellar. Cuisines on offer will include Thai, Japanese Teppanyaki, woodfired pizzas, local Maldivian dishes and fresh seafood.

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





## Land and sea

### The De Hoop Camino, Garden Route, South Africa

Morukuru Family and Natural Selection are offering a new way to explore one of the most unvisited parts of South Africa's Garden Route. Spending five days discovering this stretch of coastline, 'The De Hoop Camino' will follow 14km of scenic trails along the beaches, secret coves and the De Hoop Nature Reserve.

[www.naturalselection.travel](http://www.naturalselection.travel)



**Ski Safari, various locations worldwide**  
If you're a true ski bunny, you seek action and adventure on your snowy holidays. Ski Safari is offering a world of on- and off-piste adventures at some of the world's best ski resorts. Mount Bachelor, USA, offers a more sedate vibe compared to rowdier resorts. Nozawa Onsen in Japan offers genuine traditional spa experiences as well as skiing, an ultra-modern resort in Myrkalden, Norway, RED Mountain Resort in Canada offers a party atmosphere with the locals, and Andermatt in Switzerland is one for the traditionalists.

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



Snowtime



## Heritage hotel

### The Strand Yangon

This heritage hotel first opened its doors in the Myanmar capital in 1901. Now, with the revival of tourism in Myanmar, this grand old lady has a new lease on life while still respecting history. Since the 1960s, the hotel has collaborated with Mark Augustine to source rare and beautiful objects for the hotel. Now guests can buy such items from an onsite Augustine store.

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



**The Biltmore Mayfair**  
Mayfair is always a fine choice when staying in London and now the Hilton hotel group has opened the Biltmore Mayfair, offering guests excellent food and drinks and plenty of personalised touches in the 67 suites, such as monogrammed bathrobes. Michelin Star chef Jason Atherton will ensure dining experiences are on point with seasonally inspired menus.

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



## Land on Mayfair

## Zen in Crete

### Buddha Bar, Abaton, Crete

Abaton offers visitors to Crete a stunning standard of accommodation with signature geometric interiors and customised furniture and the best in Greek cuisine. Now the Crete property is benefiting from the addition of the Buddha Bar, where expert mixologists serve up inventive cocktails and the restaurant serves Asian fusion cuisine. It has become a top beach club already.

[www.abaton.gr](http://www.abaton.gr)



### The Londoner

Preferred Hotels & Resorts has launched The Londoner, a hotel in the heart of the West End, convenient for the best of the British capital's nightlife and theatrical entertainment. Home to 350 guestrooms and 35 suites, each with unique views of the cityscape, The Londoner will offer a layered, multi-dimensional experience through its prime location, curated private and public spaces, rooftop bar, and expansive meetings and events space, including a magnificent ballroom. The hotel will extend to six levels below ground to include a subterranean spa and private screening rooms.

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



Go West

## Fit in France

### Chateau de la Motte Henry, Pays de la Loire, France

The magnificent 19th Century residence, Chateau de la Motte Henry, in Pays de la Loire, offers first class health, fitness and wellness facilities, all set in nine hectares of verdant parkland. It offers retreats for guests who want to recharge, relax or, if they're feeling energetic, kickstart their fitness routine. Perhaps it could be a new year's resolution?

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



### Ritz-Carlton Residences, Montenegro

Montenegro is growing in popularity as a luxury destination and the investment continues as Marriott International plans to bring a Ritz-Carlton Residences property to this sparkling Adriatic coast destination by 2028. There are plans for 120 elegant rooms, sea entrance via a private jetty, speciality restaurants and indoor and outdoor pools at the Luštica Peninsula hotel.

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

## The latest Ritz



# CLASS IN A GLASS

There were some surprises among the winners of the Champagne & Sparkling Wine World Championships 2019.

WORDS BY GEORGIA LEWIS

Records were broken at this year's Champagne & Sparkling Wine World Championships (CSWWC), with first-time entries and countries not always associated with bubbly doing very well indeed.

Milestones reached at this year's event included a doubling of entries from Italy, an incredible increase of entries from Canada of 95 per cent and Bulgaria making its debut in the competition. Overall, entries were up by one-third and 185 Gold and 212 Silver medals were awarded this year across 18 different countries.

While France, with its rightfully guarded Champagne region, is the country most people automatically associate with the finest fizzes, Italy was the star performer at this year's event. For the first time in the championship's history Italy overtook France and broke a record - the largest-ever national medal tally with 71 Golds and 92 Silvers.

However, the famous Champagne region still showed why its wines set the standard for the rest of the world. Once again, Champagne was the most-decorated region at this year's event with 61 Golds and 49 Silvers.

The Italians shone through as well with Trentodoc and Franciacorta the stand-out regions, taking home 27 and 26 Golds respectively. These two regions demonstrate the huge, diverse and exciting potential of Italian sparkling wine.

While competition within Italy was keener than it has ever been, all eyes were on the contest for Sparkling Wine Producer of the Year, the "Best in Show" equivalent for the championships. In a true reflection of how the cards fell at this year's competition, Italy and France went head-to-head for the top prize

Trentodoc's Ferrari label and Champagne's Louis Roederer were the two frontrunners for this trophy. This coveted prize is awarded not by any arbitrary system but strictly according to the highest number of Gold medals won, so it has always been possible to identify the recipient as soon as the CSWWC publishes the list of medal-winners. With the element of surprise absent once the list is released, event organisers have made a change to the programme. From this year onwards, CSWWC will be naming the winner before the championship dinner in November.

And it was Italy which overcame the might of France this year. Scooping an impressive 15 Gold medals, Ferrari has taken out the Sparkling Wine Producer of the Year award for 2019. They will be presented with this trophy at World Championships Dinner on the 4 November 2019.>





But what of the other markets? English sparkling wine, a true up-and-comer in the bubbly scene, almost doubled its 2018 tally of Golds, taking home 16 this year, equalling its best-ever performance of 2016, while establishing itself as third on the national leader board.

While France and Italy still dominate in terms of sheer number of their entries, Italy has nearly doubled its entries in recent years, while France has remained static. BUT looking beyond the traditional there has been an average increase of 75 per cent in the number of entries from the USA, Canada, Spain, New Zealand, Moldova, Germany and China.

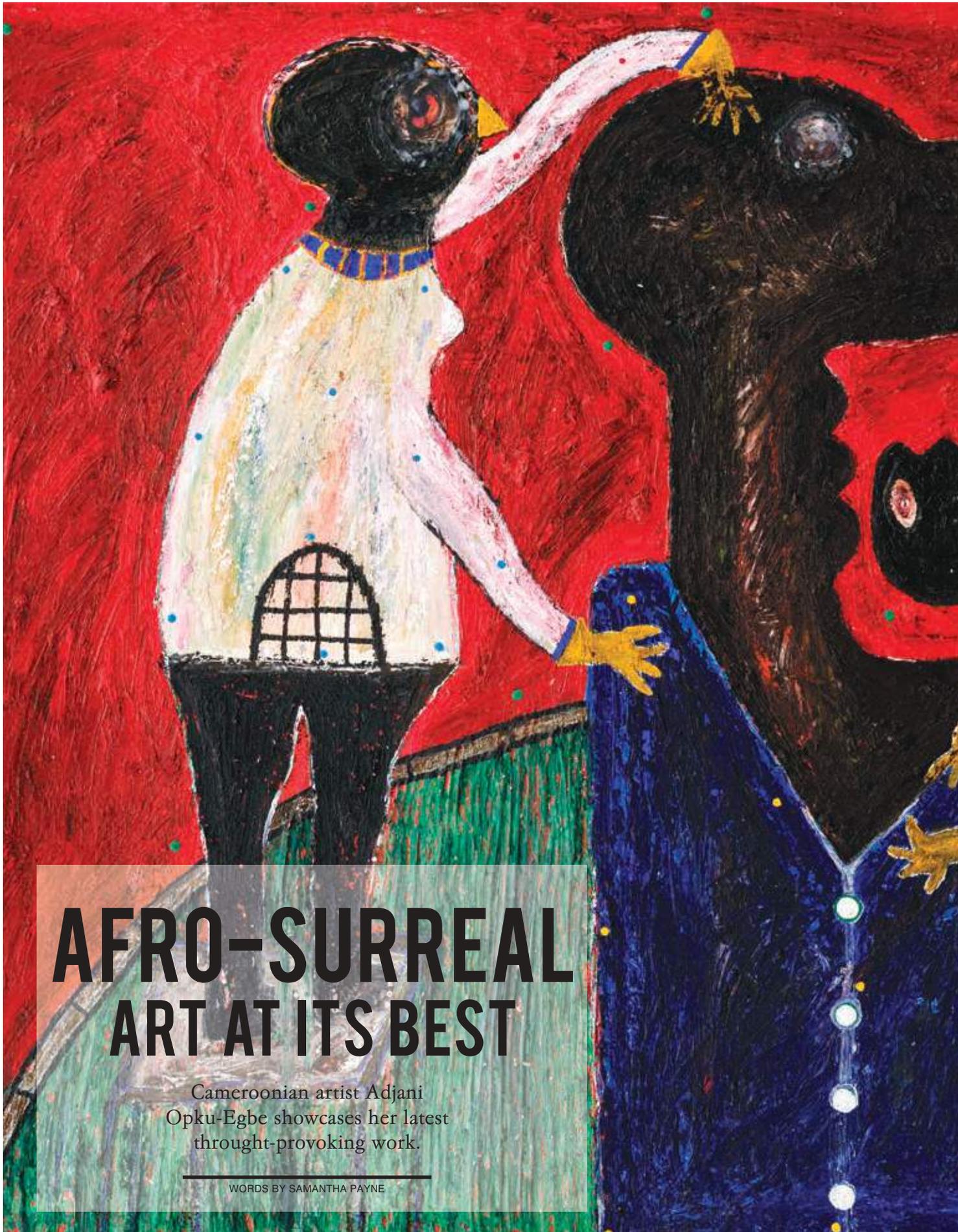
“Over the last six years I have tried to encourage producers to focus their entries on potential Gold and Silver medal winning wines. That does not necessarily mean their most expensive and prestigious products. Yes, we want to taste prestige cuvées, if they have the potential, but if they consistently fail at the CSWWC and their entry-level cuvées regularly win Gold, then I try to persuade them to save their money and focus on their high-performing entry-level wines,” said Tom Stevenson, founder and chairman of the CSWWC. “The competition has grown every year, but as each new entrant discovers how highly specialised and niche the CSWWC is, so they understand that deciding what to enter is not the same as it is for one of the big, all-encompassing competitions, thus the growth has been a case of two steps forward, one step back. Until 2019, that is, when we experienced an unprecedented increase of one-third more entries. I hope this means that they get it at last.”

Confirming that there is no place for wine snobbery at the championships, Stevenson went on to praise the merits of the best Lambrusco sparklers on the market.

“One of the highlights of 2019 was the significant number of top Lambrusco producers who entered. Bad Lambrusco justifiably gets a bad press, but a high-quality brut Lambrusco can be full of bright fruit underscored by ripe tannins, making it a revelation at the table,” said Stevenson of this often underrated and unfairly pilloried wine. “We have found seven Gold and seven Silver Lambrusco this year and I challenge any fizz fanatic who has not been enamoured by Lambrusco in the past, not to at least recognise the difference in quality of our winners.”

Bulgaria has been a true revelation at this year’s event, according to Stevenson: “Another surprise this year was the Gold and two Silvers that went to a new kid on the block in Bulgaria. Straight out of the starting blocks with magnums of every single cuvée produced. Exciting finds like this is one of the reasons why the CSWWC exists. Another is keeping track of all the established greats, seeing if they come through the totally blind process with Golds year on year.”

The Best in Class, National Champions and World Champions by Style will be revealed at this year’s CSWWC Awards Dinner at Merchant Taylor’s Hall in London on 4 November 2019.❖



# AFRO-SURREAL ART AT ITS BEST

Cameroonian artist Adjani  
Opku-Egbe showcases her latest  
thought-provoking work.

WORDS BY SAMANTHA PAYNE



Cameroonian artist Adjani Opku-Egbe is holding her latest solo exhibition entitled *Surpassing the Eternally Mysterious Afro-Surreal*.

Overtly characterised by the subject matter and themes that Okpu-Egbe considers relevant to the times, this exhibition contains works whose thought-provoking social commentary are deeply embedded in semi-abstract Afro-surreal figurative expressions voicing an urgent need to boost parallel structures for: “resisting injustice, demanding accountability, documenting events and generating awareness”.

For this exhibition, Okpu-Egbe presents us with works that compel reflection and discussion to address issues regarding climate change, patriarchy, hate, racism, “occupation” and the struggles for independence in Ambazonia, West Papua and West Sahara.

The Israel Palestinian conflict as well as the wars in Syria, the Central African Republic, and the genocide carried out on the Rohingyas in Myanmar by the regime. The artworks do not only intend to highlight “struggles”, they go further to act as a call to rally support and resistance, advocacy for justice and above all, solidarity with those who bear the brunt of most conflicts – notably women, children, the less abled, the elderly and Prisoners of Conscience.

Although Okpu-Egbe is aware that the process of artistic creation does not come nicely packaged for philosophical preferences and wishes, especially as an Afro-surrealist/expressionist (who considers creativity to be a mystical and metaphorical process,) he remains determined to unfold these themes during this exhibition. Okpu-Egbe aims to use the exhibition as a platform to implore other Afro-surrealists to “seek ye first the ‘woke’ realms of the objective part of their creative process, as experience has taught him; the ‘lit’ of artistic satisfaction, entertainment, and creative appreciation in the modern era shall be added unto you”.

He further intends to explore notions of ‘White Supremacy’, torture, solitary confinement in prisons, as well as police brutality, with specific reference to circumstances surrounding the death of lesser publicised cases, like that of Gugsu Abraham. Okpu-Egbe also reflects on Francafrigue, neo-colonialism, which he interprets as echoes of historical and current voices of victory, legacy and inspiration amid social struggles that are often seen as herculean tasks to perpetrators and those committed to continuous advocacy and activism for example in the light of ‘Black Lives Matter’ and the global social justice movement.

*The London exhibition runs until 26 December, 2019.♦*

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## CHATHAM WATERS, LONDON

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**Price: From US\$2,84,022**

Tenure: Leasehold -At the centre of Peel Holdings Chatham Waters master plan

Situated on the historic docklands of the River Medway and completing in Q4 2020, Chatham Waters' two striking towers will be arranged around a private residential podium level garden overlooking the waterfront. Likewise, each apartment has a large glass fronted balconies and floor to ceiling glass to maximise waterfront views. Penthouse apartments benefit from wrap around balconies with uninterrupted views. Comprising 199 luxury one, two and three bed-room apartments with further retail, leisure and office space, this ultra-urban home units offer excellent travel links to the heart of the UK capital with St Pancras Station just half an hour away.

[www.benoitproperties.com](http://www.benoitproperties.com)  
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## MANCHESTER WATERS, MANCHESTER, UK

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**Price: From US\$156,992**

Tenure: Leasehold City transport links

Manchester Waters is a large-scale residential development within walking distance of the city centre. This outstanding new project is part of the strategic waters master plan. The development boasts of one, two, and three-bedroom apartments on the waterfront with high-end internal finishes. Giving a sense of comfort, this property in demand offers parking spaces and the nearest metro-link stop is right on the doorstep, making this a great investment opportunity.

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## THE MANSIONS, NEW ORLEANS, USA

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**Price: From US\$109,900**

Tenure: Freehold

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for international buyers

Children's playground

Conveniently located from downtown New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico, this remarkable gated community comprising 32 units across two stories benefits from impressive amenities including a lakeside surround sound system, 24-hour state-of-the-art fitness centre and relaxing spa. The high-specification apartments feature clubhouse and business centre as well as resort-style swimming pool and Jacuzzi.

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## DRAGOS RESIDENCE, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

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**Price: From US\$76,900**

Tenure: Freehold

Outdoor swimming pool

Fully equipped gym

Well-placed in one of the liveliest cities in the world, Dragos Residence's studios and two-bed luxury apartments offer all the convenience to enjoy the living. Featuring an outdoor swimming pool plus a fully equipped gym, this sought-after property is a 10-minute ride from four world class university campuses teeming with more than 100,000 students. Just 15 minutes drive away from famous Taksim Square, it's going to be a delight dwelling in this metropolitan residence.

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# A PLACE TO HIDE AWAY

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This magnificent Greek villa presents a perfect location to celebrate life in the lap of nature in solitude while lounging amid opulent amenities.



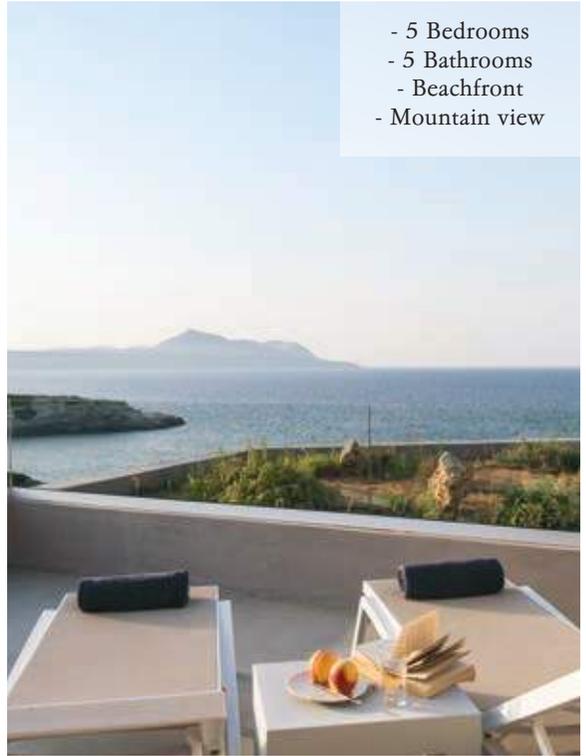
*Sotheby's International*

# PETRA VILLA, CRETE, GREECE

\$3.29m

Set in a rural neighbourhood, Petra is a one-of-a-kind villa in western Crete offering an incredible island lifestyle with a large infinity swimming pool. A stunning outdoor dining area with a breathtaking view of the Zeus Bay is a bonus. This secluded seafront villa's architecture is resolutely modern and minimalist, blending in perfectly with the unspoiled nature surrounding the residence.

- 5 Bedrooms
- 5 Bathrooms
- Beachfront
- Mountain view



Engel & Völkers



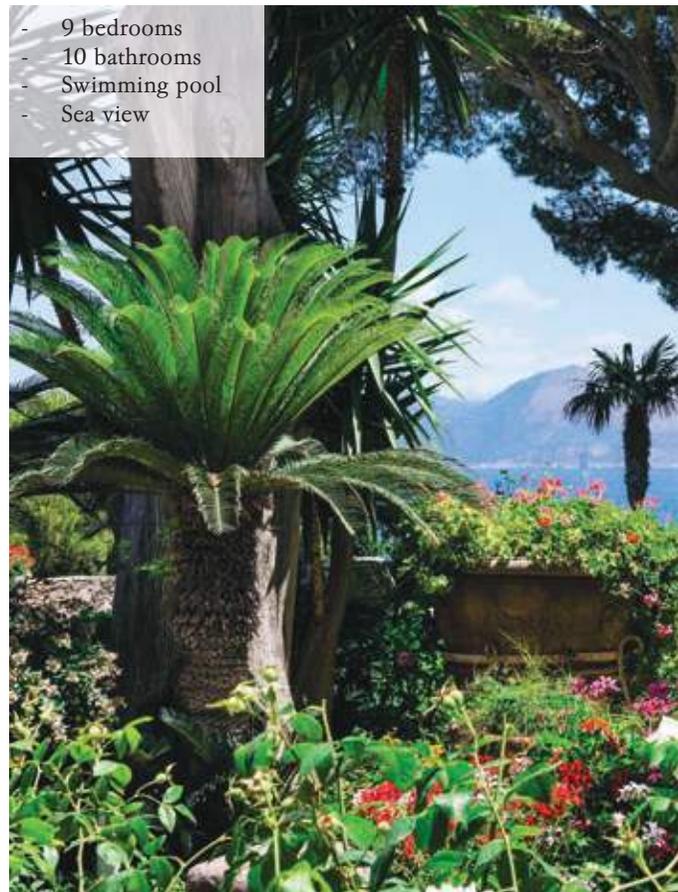
## SUSTAINABLE HOUSE, SANTA MARIA, SPAIN

\$5.39m

Designed like a rustic natural stone country estate, the stunning house near Santa Maria boasts of modern amenities and self-sustaining features such as its own electricity supply with solar panels and generator. This traditional residence comprises open living rooms, dining room and high-quality kitchen, with adjoining utility room and cooling chamber on the ground floor, with access to the park-like gardens. The expansive estate consists of a saltwater pool with fountain and a covered porch with summer kitchen in the garden to the gourmets' delight. A spectacular wellness area with a large whirlpool and Turkish bath, as well as a wine cellar are positioned in the basement. Next to the main house, there is a garage and a photo studio.



- 9 bedrooms
- 10 bathrooms
- Swimming pool
- Sea view



- 3 bedrooms
- 5 bathrooms
- Spa
- 7,534.74 sq ft



Sotheby's International

## VILLA BISMARCK, CAPRI, ITALY

\$26.3m

Situated on the island of Capri, the gorgeous villa boasts breathtaking views of the Marina Grande port, Naples' Bay and the Sorrento Peninsula. It features a lovely circular library and adjoining lounge, majestic living room, panoramic dining room, private dock and Jacuzzi. Personal access to the amazing sea of Capri is 150 steps away from the house.



- 4 bedrooms
- 3 bathrooms
- Back garden
- 3,790 sq ft (Built up area)

LUXHABITAT

## THE MEADOWS VILLA, DUBAI

\$1.1m

This fabulous villa is a delight to return home every evening, passing alongside the lake and enjoying impressive Dubai skyline views. Upstairs consists a spacious master bedroom with en suite, walk-through dressing room and two further bedrooms with a shared bathroom. The Meadows villa combines luxury living with exquisite outdoor lifestyle features that include a relaxing garden and quick access to the leisure and entertainment amenities of Dubai.



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## FIRST CLASS FINCA, CALA MESQUIDA, SPAIN

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\$4.18m

Standing on a sprawling 32,000 sqm plot in a unique location close to the Levante Natural Park, this luxurious finca near Cala Mesquida offers an incredible view of the sea and the mountains. The modern finca combines luxury and design in perfect harmony with the surrounding nature. Taking into account the course of the sun, main wind direction, seasons and sea-mountain view axes, this house makes the stay cosy all year round. There are exceptional hiking and riding opportunities, as well as three golf courses in the vicinity. The medieval towns of Capdepera and Artá and the port of Cala Ratjada with its beautiful promenade are only a few minutes away by car.

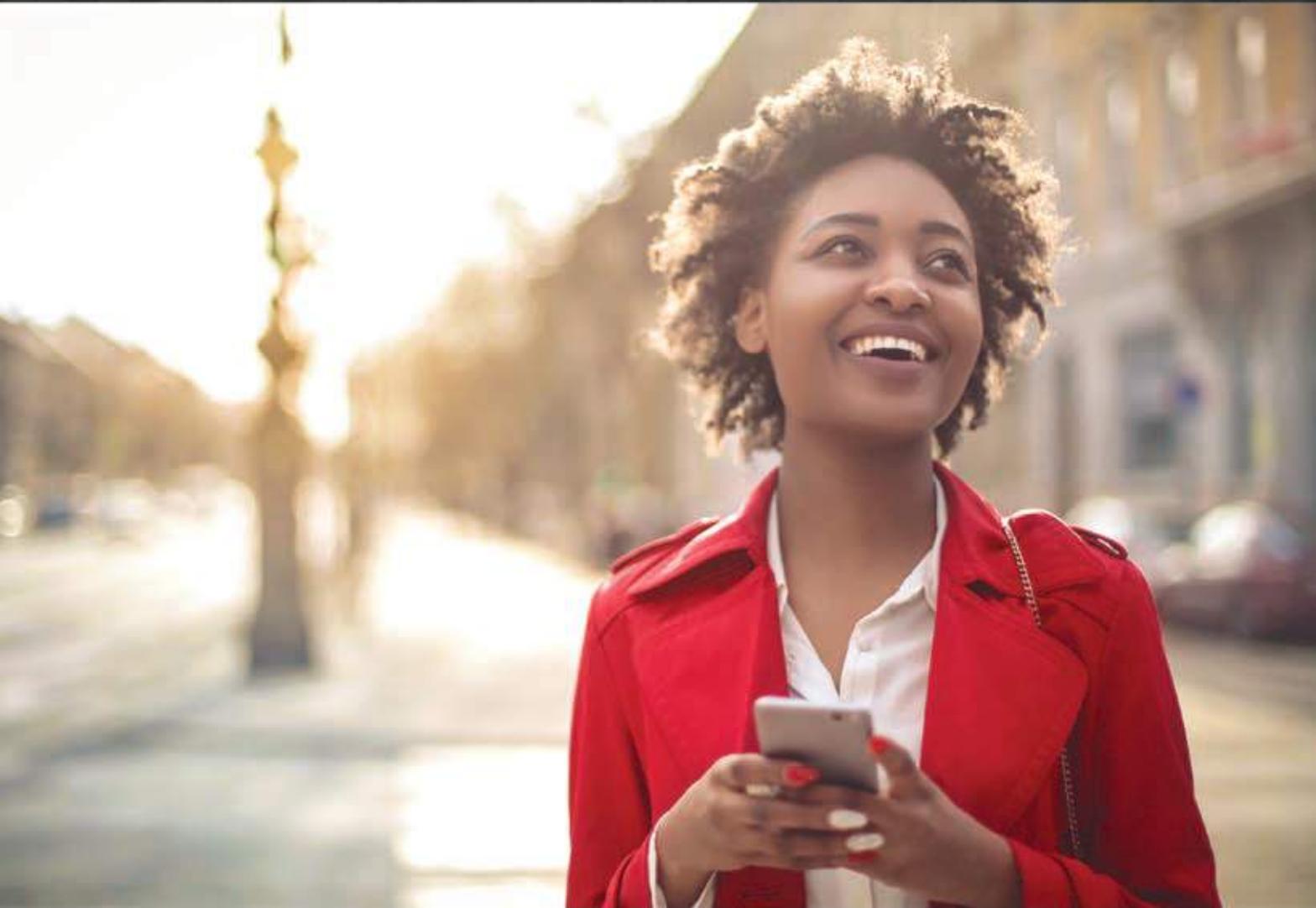


- 6 bedrooms
- 6 bathrooms
- Garden
- Fireplace

# ELITE LIVING AFRICA

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*The magazine for Africa's international elite*

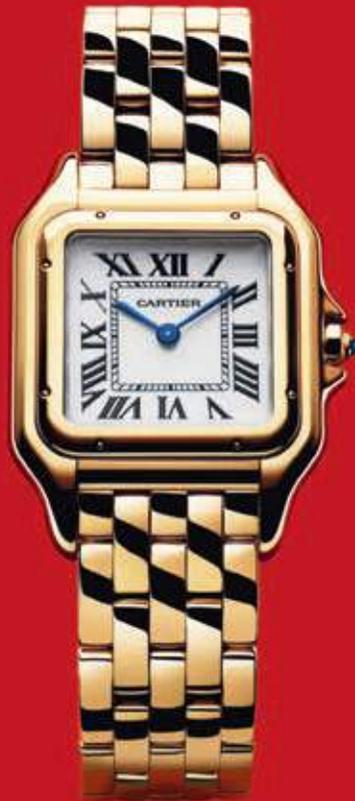


## ELITE LIVING AFRICA ONLINE

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*The new-look Elite Living Africa website has been optimised for smart phones and tablets. You can keep up with the latest trends in fashion, jewellery, watches and cars, as well as receiving the latest news on prestigious art, auction and sporting events no matter where you are in the world.*

*[www.elitelivingafrica.com](http://www.elitelivingafrica.com)*



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