

MASQUERADE

JULY / AUGUST 2015

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COPPING'S CRUISE COLLECTION
THE ART OF HENNA
OMANI HERITAGE: NIZWA

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BEHIND THE MASK

AYMAN HADDAD

Ayman Haddad has been a part of the Masquerade team for the past four years and has recently took on the role of managing editor. Born and raised in the UK, he attained a BSC in Business Management. Originally from Syria, Ayman decided to move to the UAE in 2010. Having lived in the UK, Germany and Syria, Ayman has experienced a wealth of cultures and backgrounds, which has shaped his overall views.

LAYNE REDMAN

Layne Redman is a British television presenter, MC and actor. He currently lives and works in Dubai and co-hosts the show Out & About on the English channel Dubai One. In addition to this, in 2010 Layne was the Anchor of a new studio sports-based magazine show World of Sports. Layne has also worked on international modelling assignments and promotional campaigns, appearing in numerous campaigns and TVCs for brands such as MTV, Sony Eriesson, Danone, Getty Images, Jumeirah and Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts.

SARAH SABA

Architect is *what* she is. 'Artrepreneur' is *who* she is. Having worked at some of Dubai's leading international architecture and design firms, Sarah gives a multi-dimensional edge to being an Aussie Architect! Between Dubai, Australia and Italy, Sarah's architectural umbrella has allowed her to acquire design skills beyond the architectural realm, in pursuit of her secondary passions- product design, creative direction and brand identity.

ELIZABETH BLUME

Born in the UK, Elizabeth family moved to the Far East before returning to the UK aged 18 to pursue her love of journalism to complete a Fashion Journalism degree in which she has always taken a keen interest. Being well travelled from a young age Elizabeth credits her inspiration on experiencing many different cultures.

ZOEY COOMBE

Born in Bahrain, yet raised in the west London suburbs by a Filipino Mother and English father, Zoey Coombe has always been fascinated with her multi-cultural surroundings and upbringing. Obtaining a Bachelors Degree in Fashion Journalism at The University of The Creative Arts in the UK before relocating to Dubai to explore the Middle East, Zoey has since written for a plethora of UAE based magazines and her interests transcend from catwalk reporting to writing hard-hitting investigative features.

SHANNON WYLIE

With three degrees under her belt in journalism, online shopping and a PhD in Fashion journalism almost complete, Shannon Wylie has written and styled for some of the top international titles worldwide.

EDITOR'S LETTER



"When I admire the wonders of a sunset or the beauty of the moon, my soul expands in the worship of the creator." - Mohandas. K Gandhi

We are very much in a day and age whereby our lives are intertwined with the thirst for immediate success and the demanding society that determines your status through measureable values, much like the complex and multi-facet circuits on systems we daily interact with and have an absolute dependence on.

As a human race we have achieved many great achievements and conquered many heights and opened up unthinkable parallel worlds of possibilities in medicine, technology, travel, manufacturing & many other fields; and yet we still have more immeasurable and infinite amounts still to understand, discover and build.

However, what gives civilisations and nations greatness is the ability to stand back and permit a time for reflection, a time to exercise recovery, even time to seek advise on an even better course of action than the current one.

18 We crave the need to always learn, build & nurture, but at the same time we must also comprehend the essential fundamental of rest, recovery & reflection.

There are the famous cliché sayings as "Rome wasn't built in a day", or "The British empire was built on cups of tea", "Fools rush in", or "The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once."

We so often quote such 'words of wisdom', yet evidently oblivious in following such antidotes. Instead we use them for comic or sarcastic retorts, and with such irony, we fail to see their true wisdom and impetus. In today's society the need to take up much needed 'siestas' is at odds with what we want to achieve, thus the further significance travel takes on for us, in affording us both the necessary time for recuperation and reflection.

It is unique that both the summer months are upon us and that of the holy month of Ramadan at the same time, both sharing similar objectives in recovery, reflection, discovery, bringing family & friends together and building bridges. They widen our horizons, our knowledge and our capacities for acceptance to new gateways and integrations. They also provide us with the simpler joys in life of plain fun, excitement, love and memories, which cannot be undervalued in significance.

In our search for greatness, we are driven by fire and a desire to succeed but at the same while the hunger can only be fed by the nourishment to the body, mind and soul, and as mentioned by Buddha, "Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life."

So without further delay, Masquerade kicks off the summer by travelling to the designated capital of Islamic culture 2015, Nizwa, Oman, otherwise known as the Pearl of Islam. The now sleepy city, once recognised for its prominence as being a leader of culture and the intellectual hub of education to the Islamic world, trade, strategic military positioning and not least previously being the capital of Oman.

We also explore the fascination with Henna that has transcended 9 centuries through various cultures in Africa, Asia and Middle East, and now bears more than just symbolic cultural significance or a way of celebrating joyous moments, or appropriating luck or protection. Henna has now become a widely celebrated form of 'temporary' art that can be seen adorned by anyone, and that which has taken on new fascinating tangents such as Flash tattoos, with variants of metallic colours and glittering sparkles, it is a form of expression in love and freedom of the mind that is opening horizons.

The message of a time for reflection couldn't be more epitomised than in our feature covering Peter Copping's 3rd collection for the legendary house of Oscar De La Renta, "Things never happen on accident. They happen because: You have a vision, you have a commitment, you have a dream." as quoted by the British designer. In the customary Summer Cruise collection, the designer embellishes us with vibrant colours, airy swirls of patterns and the essential infectiousness for the joy of life!

Finally, water, one of mankind's most important and crucial elements, vital to our sustainable ecosystem with its preservation duly recognised, is increasingly essential as the world grows and the strains we place on it as a society. Brands like La Mar have made profound conservations core to its brand mantra and in doing so has weighed in with financial support and awareness for the 'Blue Heart Program' which is dedicated in repairing and protecting one of mankind's greatest gifts and responsibilities.

I end on a high note of reflection and in paraphrasing a great influencer who has long gone, but his words will always bear inspiration no matter, Mr. Bruce Lee; "Empty your mind, be formless... shapeless, like water. Water can flow or it can crash. Be water my friend."

Travel free from restraint and ignorance, reflect with understanding and appreciation, and approach with grace and wisdom!

"A good traveller has no fixed plans and is not intent on arriving."
- Lao Tzu

Ayman Haddad
MANAGING EDITOR




FRANC VILA
— esprit unique —



NOT ONLY MINE BUT A PART OF ME

FVq80 Tribute to Ladies
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ENCHANTMENT

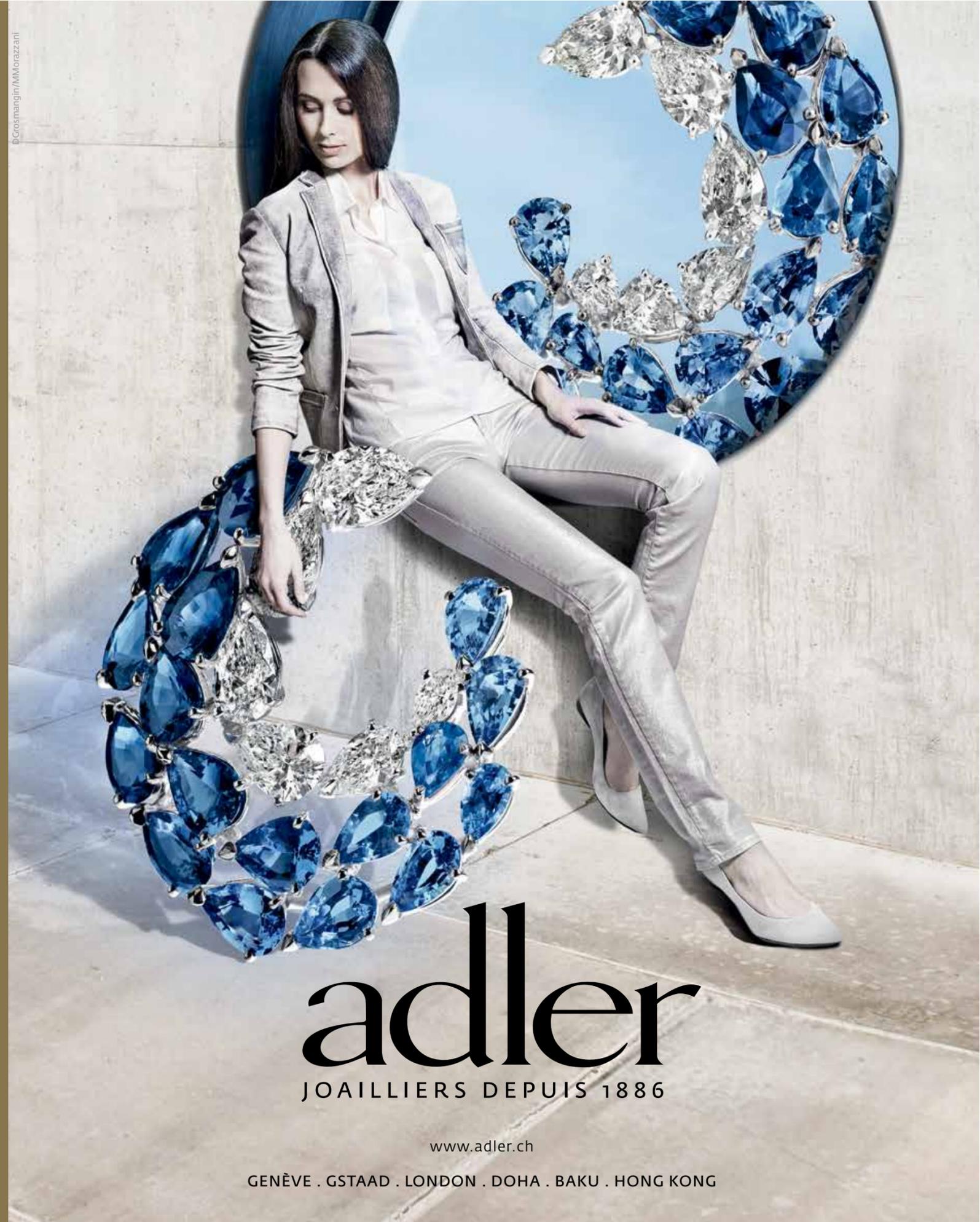
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SOUK

LUXE LIST

MUST HAVE:

THE GRAPPOLI COLLECTION

C DE CARTIER BAG

GOOD LUXE:

BLUE HEART

بازار

LUXE LIST

Our selection of inspiring items

By Editors pick



ZAMBIAN EMERALD,
AMETHYST AND
MOZAMBICAN RUBY
HANDBAG BY BINA GOENKA

Bina Goenka tells a story through every piece, working with unusual materials such as raw gold and diamond slices to create highly original Indian jewels. Gemfields's Mozambican ruby and Zambian emerald and amethyst handbag by Bina Goenka.

This is one way to carry your lipstick.



100 GOOD
DEEDS BRACELET

IGD and Gemfields have joined forces to create a limited edition bracelet made of responsibly sourced amethyst from Zambia, Africa. Gemfields take pride in bringing ethically mined gemstones to the market in a transparent manner. The bracelet continues its commitment to the philanthropy cause.



MOZAMBICAN RUBY RING
BY DICKSON YEWN

Rich, red rubies and deep-purple sapphires, ethically mined in Africa: the world's largest producer of coloured gemstones is not all about emeralds. Dickson Yewn ring 18K white gold with a Gemfields' Mozambican ruby, 4.01 carats and diamonds, 1.40 carats



RALPH LAUREN STIRRUP
PETITE STAINLESS STEEL
LINK

A vivid expression of Ralph Lauren's deep appreciation for tradition and enduring style, the Stirrup collection captures heritage with its signature stirrup-shaped silhouette. Proficient in watchmaking, the petite stainless steel link watch is designed with a polished stainless steel case and a graceful interlocking chain bracelet.



LOUIS VUITTON
TRAVEL JEWEL BOX

This jewel case comes in a luxurious monogram leather with a natural cowhide handle. Its practical interior design makes it the perfect travel companion.



MOTHERHOOD RING BY MARINA B

New mum Mila Kunis has collaborated with Marina B to create a gold ring, set with a Gemfields Zambian emerald, which raises money for the Nkana Health Center in Zambia. Realising rings are given to celebrate significant occasions such as a graduations, engagements and weddings but none for becoming a mother, which gave her the inspiration for the birth of the collaboration.



ALEXANDER MCQUEEN CLUTCH

An Alexander McQueen's Swarovski crystal-studded skull leather knuckle box clutch graced with flower knuckle clasp. This eye-catching black leather clutch is dotted with gold and silver studs all round. In addition the clutch is framed all around with a gold tone brass frame. The clutch is fully lined with black nappa leather.



AURÉLIE BIDERMANN LAKOTAS GOLD-PLATED TURQUOISE NECKLACE

Aurélie Bidermann's handcrafted 'Lakotas' necklace is layered with two strands of naturally bright turquoise beads. A silky 18kt gold-plated collar that sits elegantly on your neckline. Offset the bright tone with a black camisole.

GUCCI FLORA KNIGHT PRINT SCARF

Flora Knight Print Scarf is light-weight but comforting in a silk-wool blend, and features a beautiful floral and butterfly motif by artist Kris Knight.



DE GRISOGONO MELODY OF COLOURS EARRINGS

De Grisogono excels in the art of elevating its artistic and distinctive creations, Melody of colours creations favour exceptional and rare stones, whose cut and colour are enhanced by state-of-the-art setting techniques. A high jewellery collection that showcases the talent to play on cuts, shapes, light, texture and movement.

HERRERA CONFIDENTIAL

A traditional contemporary blends, an exclusive collection from the perfumes of the House of Herrera. An irresistible combination of elegance, emotion and authenticity that merges her Latin roots with the cosmopolitan New York of today.



SLIM ST DUPONT SLIM 7

Keeping with its tradition of excellence and innovation, S.T. Dupont is expanding its collection of luxury lighters with the new SLIM 7: The world's slimmest luxury lighter. A clean and ultra-thin design that is easy to slip in your pocket or handbag. The Slim 7 is suitable for both men and women, available in elegant black, white, chrome amongst other metallic colour.



DOLCE & GABBANA SACRO CUORE SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL-EMBEILLED GOLD-PLATED BELT

The limited edition of Mario Testino's Sir, all of which are inspired by Sicily's Spanish influences, Dolce & Gabbana's gold-plated brass belt portrays the house's key 'Sacred Heart' motif. A well-made yet paper-thin style is ornately decorated with engraved leaf appliques and Swarovski crystals. Lace the claret velvet ties into a delicate bow around your waist.

SHOES / FLATS

Alexander McQueen Black Flats with gold design



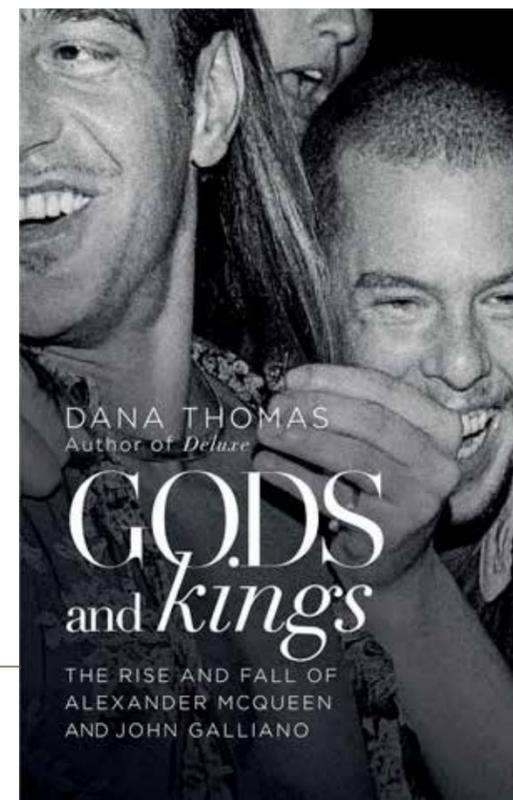
GUCCI BLACK CAT-EYE SUNGLASSES

A thin gold plated metal diamantissima temples with black acetate tips and brown shaded lens.



THE RISE AND FALL OF ALEXANDER MCQUEEN AND JOHN GALLIANO

Galliano and McQueen, this is the story of two working class British boys who shook fashion to its core. Complicated and deeply seductive designs, they ended up in the old-school heart of French couture. Dana Thomas witnessed their arrival in Paris and quizzed more than one hundred people close to the designers. Highlighting the similarities and differences in their temperament, charisma and style, she explores both their individual talent and the changing nature of fashion over the 80s, 90s and noughties. The result is a deeply engrossing, fast-paced and original read. Galliano and McQueen weren't simply driven and gifted: they wanted to revolutionise fashion in a way no one had in decades.



MUST HAVE

THE GRAPPOLI COLLECTION

By Ayman Haddad



The Grappoli collection is made up of 5 one-of-a-kind de Grisogono creations. Includes precious unique masterpieces such as stimulating orange sapphires, wiser blue sapphires and mauve-hue celebrating the colours of the rainbow. vvvzvDazzling eternal white diamonds dancing amongst glamorous and mysterious emeralds version is part of the alluring compilation. Mastering the cut and its unique setting, de Grigosono gemstones appear enchantingly floating. The highly dense and delicate frosting on the dial and bezel is framed by a double row of gently moving gemstones. A whirling pattern surrounding the watchcase, carefully selected one-by-one, set and fitted to perfectly smoothly rattle on the wrist. The Grappoli creation showcases de Grisogono true mastery at work and haute couture expression.

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MUST HAVE

C DE CARTIER BAG

By Ayman Haddad



The C de Cartier bag impresses in a selection of vibrant hues that shimmer with Parisian sparkle. A radiance of tones inspired by fine stones, this subtly sophisticated bag is a joyful figure of femininity in soft and shapely curves.

The reviving palette chosen for the C de Cartier bag is exceptional and inspired by the signature shades of the Maison in cheerful monochrome. In fresh, impulsive splashes of mauve, crimson, cordierite, turquoise, chalcedony and pink quartz, this elegant bag offers you the choice of shoulder or hand carry. The bright, finely nuanced shades are hand-finished at one of the oldest tanneries in France, which dates back to 1803.

Hand-tinted edges, saddle stitching in tone on tone or contrasting colours, a hot stamped Cartier signature, and leather-trimmed lining: fine leather craftsmanship permeates every detail of the C de Cartier bag, inside and out.

front



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DIESEL

BLUE HEART

By Elizabeth Blume

The ocean is a true life force that needs to be protected. Covering almost 71% of the world's surface and holding 97% of Earth's water, it is an integral part to our ecosystem and the core to La Mer's heritage and inspiration. Protecting it for future generations is at the forefront of the cosmetic brand's philanthropic mission by supporting globally renowned conservation efforts.



For a decade La Mer has been promoting ocean conservation, with the past three years being in partnership with the National Geographic Society. Supporting their next generation of ocean explorers, La Mer assists scientists who's projects help to bring the importance of a healthy ocean to global audiences. Although a significant amount of damage has already been done by human activities such as intense fishing and coastal development, these projects aim to encourage people to change their ways, to protect the natural system, which keeps us all alive. Without such activities, various scientific studies show that numerous species will decline impairing the oceans capability to not only provide food but also protect livelihoods and maintain clean water, which is vital in the Earth's survival.

Having donated over USD 2.6 million already to the program since 2008, the Blue Heart program sees La Mer's continued support for National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence and the chief scientist of The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Dr. Sylvia Earle. Renowned for bringing the importance of healthy ocean habitats to the forefront of conservation movements worldwide, her list of achievements also include spending over 7,000 hours underwater, partaking in over 100 expeditions including leading the first team of women aquanauts. Since she started in the 1950s she has witnessed and documented the changes taking place, as coral reefs disappear and the same fate for up to 90% of fish. With her findings she helps to inspire and open up new frontiers of understanding, so people can acknowledge current issues and celebrate actions taken towards these.

"You may never see the ocean, you may never touch the ocean, but the ocean touches you - with every breath you take, every drop of water you drink."

-Dr. Sylvia Earle, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence

This year also sees the program support the next generation of ocean explorers, Dr. David Gruber and Shannon Switzer. With a primary interest in coral reefs, the second most diverse ecosystem in the world, Gruber focuses his studies on bioluminescent and biofluorescent marine animals. Diving down to the deep sea he films animals for the first time, researching their genes in order to help understand the human mind and cure human diseases. On the other hand Switzer works with communities who rely on marine resources for their welfare and shows them how they can be sustainable in order to benefit their future wellbeing. Although working passionately on their different projects both explorers share the same passion with the Blue Heart Program, to help the world in understanding, in order for them to want to protect it.



UNMASKED

BADREYA FAISAL
THE IVY LEAGUE

سُفَا فَيَّة



BLEACHING THE BOUNDARIES



By Zoe Coombe

Emirati womenswear designer Badreya Faisal is the creative force behind abaya-influenced brand BLEACH. Zoey Coombe meets the designer to talk about her rising success and why women across the Middle East adore her creations.

Describing the woman who wears her clothes as 'independent, risk-taking and trendsetting', fashion-forward designer Badreya Faisal, combines tradition with innovation to create dynamic collections under womenswear brand BLEACH. Launched in 2012, BLEACH and its concept originated from Faisal's desire to build a bridge between the UAE national dress and fashion. 'There weren't any abaya designers in the UAE before 2009, only generic stores that would all offer conventional and similar styles', Faisal begins.

The Emirati designer grew up in a supportive and inspirational home, in an environment where the entire family's dreams and ambitions were supported and highly encouraged. Faisal's creative journey began studying graphics in native Dubai before relocating to Italy to train in car design in Milan. Admittedly, Faisal declares she simply 'fell in love' with fashion and initially started by experimenting with a small online label before quickly learning and adoring every aspect of design after which launching BLEACH, the brand that truly represents her beliefs and who she is as a designer. 'I love learning and growing as a designer, from working with interesting cuts and with various textiles to intricate tailoring details', Faisal explains.



Fast-forward through living in several countries in Europe and Faisal is now back in her native hometown, encouraging other Arab women to embrace fashion and discover their own sense of style. Proud of her foundations, Faisal often visits her Arab roots in each of her collections, highlighting the importance of her heritage. 'Growing up in the Middle East I was surrounded with the most seen piece of clothing on Emirati & Khaleeji women, the abaya. It is the piece that represents and almost defines the first impression of women here, and there simply had to be a way to do more with it and a way women can express themselves through each style', the designer explains.

For Ramadan/Eid 2015, Faisal looks to her established black colour palette and conventional Bleach mullet cut silhouette

but for the first time introduces a shimmering element to the collection to celebrate the holy month. Composed of linen for practicable and comfortable summer attire, designs are embellished with a glittering arabesque impact featuring various colours including teal, pink, black and gold tulle. 'Peoples understanding of the abaya and how to best dress or express themselves has changed slightly as they found a label and designs they can connect with and protect their individuality', she enlightens. Describing her creative process as 'messy' the designer works well in an unstructured and fluid environment as opposed to an organised arrangement. Artistically, the young talent is stimulated by fabrics and a bustling atmosphere, 'The second I find the right fabric, the collection pretty much designs itself', she confirms.

Recognised as a lifestyle label due to the abaya's huge influence and presence in each one of the collections, BLEACH has recently been nominated for the International Woolmark Prize, which has been organised to promote and reward rising fashion labels around the world for wool based designs. Alongside her are eight other nominees from India, Pakistan and the Middle East. Faisal describes the moment of being shortlisted as an honour and huge career achievement. 'I am currently working on my piece for the Woolmark prize!' Faisal says. 'It is a great honour to be nominated for this and also a challenge to work with wool solely'. The ultimate goal for the designer is to gain international recognition for her pieces, 'to see your pieces on the general public /celebrities around the world is the point of success for me', she finishes.



THE IVY LEAGUE



By Elizabeth Blume



Dazzling the luxury world with high-end watches, Jaeger-LeCoultre are inspiring customers to look further than just the aesthetic and precious materials of a watch and additionally value the complicated mechanical movements inside.

Switzerland 1833 saw self-taught watchmaker Antoine LeCoultre found his first workshop. After inventing a machine, which produced watchmaking pinions, he went on to discover how to measure the first micron in 1844, which served as a benchmark in watchmaking for over half a century. After accolades and awards it was his son Elie LeCoultre who transformed his workshop into a manufacture in the Joux Valley, where it still stands today. Edmond Jaeger on the other hand opened up his business in Paris in 1880, a watchman for the French Navy he devoted his life to developing mechanisms to measure speed. In 1903 he challenged Swiss manufactures to develop and produce the ultra thin watches he had invented and after Antoine's grandson accepted which led to the worlds thinnest pocket watch in 1907 and finally to them officially joining forces in 1931 where Jaeger-LeCoultre was born combining the skills of both houses.

Symbolising eternity to immortality and strong affectionate attachment to name but a few, Ivy has strong links to the Jaeger-LeCoultre heritage. The first known traces were discovered on a pocket watch that dated all the way back to the 1890's. With a crimson enamelled caseback the ivy detail was set with diamonds, a true testament to the magnificence of royal tiaras at that time. This inspired the "Grande Maison" to design a one-of-a-kind jewellery set back in 2008 which then in turn inspired their latest two creations. Limited edition the two designs feature three key elements including classic aesthetics from the house, a mechanical calibre equipped with one or more complications and rare handcrafts which often can only be found in the houses workshops.

Adding to the already impressive Rendez-Vous Collection is the Rendez-Vous Ivy Tourbillon. Captivating customers with its charm and feminine melody, this new creation displays high level of mechanics. Even being able to see them you can gaze at its opening surround by diamonds and watch the tourbillon's movements on this emblematic complication. The watch face unfolding in swirls of blooming leaves feel like a stylised bouquet twisting towards the hour numerals 3, 6 and 12 o'clock which are characteristic of the Rendez-Vous Collection. In a stunning shade of deep plum to offset the sparkle in the bezel, lugs and crown.

The Rendez-Vous Ivy Secret is truly an exceptional piece. An ode to the Métiers Rares, the name given to rare handcrafts it features craftsmanship that only experts with years of experience could master. From the 304 diamonds carefully adorning the domed cover, to the hand-painted ivy leaves which weave across the clock face and finally the tiny movement which with over more than 100 years in the field of creating miniaturisation's can Jaeger-LeCoultre make possible.



DECADENCE

EID EXTRAVAGANCE





EID EXTRAVAGANCE

Giftng can be glorious with the right inspiration. From pearls to ethically sourced gemstones there's an enviable collection of charming jewellery that is ripe for the picking. Here are the Masquerade must-haves for the festive season...

By Shannon Wylie





OMEGA SEAMASTER WATCH

Masculine and meaningful, this leather-strapped watch is the ideal timekeeper. Whether you're keeping track of the day or counting down until the evening's events, it's another winning watch by Omega.



DIANE VON FURSTENBERG BRACELET

Arm candy is key for Eid and this simple yet elegant piece works well alone or stacked with other bracelets. It's all about the timelessness.



ANA KHOURI NECKLACE

This 18-carat gold statement neckpiece is the epitome of elegance. Gold leaf (literally) winds whimsically around the nape of the neck creating an utterly Eid-esque look.



AZZA FAHMY RING

From the Bloomingdale's collection this Azza Fahmy 'Third Eye on the Universe' piece is the ultimate designer detail for the festive season. Stars and the moon are intricately etched into an elegant ring, which will work for any evening event.



DE GRISOGONO
RING

Opulent and overflowing with gemstones, this ring by the luxury Swiss jewellery brand, de Grisogono is the gift to give those who have it all.



ROBERT WAN
RING

This stunning pearl ring, aptly titled the Harmonie, is a piece that will always be on trend. Sourced from Tahiti, these luxuriously organic creations are a rare find. Pearls are a girl's best friend too!



MONTBLANC
CUFF LINKS

Men need a moment to celebrate the season too and what better way than with these timeless cuff links. Understated and directional, they would work seemingly in any modern man's wardrobe.



SWAROVSKI
EARRINGS

These star and moon earrings set just the right amount of sparkle for Eid. The perfect pair will be in stores for a fashionable moment but will withstand a lifetime.

INSIDE THE GEMFIELDS MINE

This Eid enrich the world around you by supporting the ethics of luxury jewellery. Gemfields is a leading supplier of ethically-sourced rare coloured gemstones and we've delved inside their jewellery box to bring your our favourite finds...



JORDAN ASKILL BROOCH

This classic Zambian amethyst brooch can be used to pin scarves, shawls or even as an accent on coats.



KARA ROSS EARRINGS

This American jewellery designer is a favourite amongst the region's fashion pack and it's not hard to see why. These stunning Zambian amethyst earrings may be over the top but they're a set you'll keep forever.



WRIGHT & TEAGUE EARRINGS

Organic and ornate, this Mozambican-inspired pair of ruby earrings will add the ultimate touch to any look this Eid and beyond. We think they're pure drops of genius.



JEMMA WYNNE CUFF

This moon-like bracelet is a gem. Intricately created, the colours are reminiscent of a starry night by the sea, don't you think? Wear it layered with rings, for the ultimate in accessorising.



MONICA VINADER EARRINGS

Conjuring up images of lush green landscapes under a starry night sky, these Zambian emerald earrings are on top of our lust luxe list. The three-tier drops are as elegant as they are awe-inspiring.

EXPRESSION

CITY STYLE – ISLAND HOPPING
OSCAR DE LA RENTA
THE WEDDING BELLE
TRENDS – THE PERFECT FALL
GASPING GEOX



CITY STYLE GUIDE

By Nadia Hassan

ISLAND HOPPING

Summer is upon us and our latest instalment of City Style brings you a vibrant and colourful collection as you island hop. Roll out the sun loungers and change up into your swimwear while relaxing by the beach and poolside.

Experience island hopping in Bahamas, Cuba, Haiti, Barbados, as well as St Kitts and St Lucia



BAHAMAS

Nassau

CUBA

Havanna

HAITI

Port-au-Prince

DOMINICA REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo

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Dress – ROBERTO CAVALLI Georgette Gown
Cuff – Balenciaga rose gold
Bag – SCOSHA
Shoes – Tory Burch



Dress – ROBERTO CAVALLI
Bracelet – Rosantica 'Spiaggia'
Sunglasses – Illesteva Leonard II Acetate Mirrored
Bag – Tabitha Simmons Leather Pouch
Sandals – Dolce & Gabbana Patent Leather

55



Blouse – ROBERTO CAVALLI Sheer Print
Skirt – ROBERTO CAVALLI Print Knit Jersey
Sunglasses – Illesteva Leonard II Round-Frame Acetate Mirrored
Bracelets – CAROLINA BUCCI Twister Magnetic Gold Plated
Bag – Rougissime Leather Python clutch
Sandals – Sophia Webster Rousseau



Dress – Jonathan Saunders Nicole
Sunglasses – Dolce & Gabbana's Retro Chic D-frame
Hair Slide – Dolce & Gabbana
Clutch – Charlotte Olympia Lippy Pandora Perspex
Shoes – Gianvito Rossi Tabasco Red Suede Ankle Strap

PUERTO RICO

San Juan

ST KITTS

St Kitts

ST LUCIA

St Lucia

BARBADOS

Barbados



56

57

Dress – Alice + Olivia
 Cuff – Aurelie Bidermann Vintage Lac
 Sun Hat – Eugenia Kim Sunny Grosgrain Trimmed Toyo
 Clutch – Jimmy Choo 'Cayla'
 Shoes – Giuseppe Zanotti

Dress – Mara Hoffman Draped Crinkled Voile
 Sunglasses – Alexander McQueen's Tortoiseshell Acetate
 Cuff – Aurélie Bidermann
 Sun Hat – Sensi Studio
 Sandals – Rene Caovilla

Dress – Dolce & Gabbana Printed Poplin Midi
 Scarf – Dolce & Gabbana
 Sunglasses – FEN Cutler and Gross Round Frame
 Cuff – IAM by Ileana Makri Double Dawn Gold Plated Cubic Zirconia
 Bag – Gucci Soho
 Sandals – Jimmy Choo Notion Leather and Wood Wedge

Dress – Michael Kors
 Sunglasses – Isabel Marant Matt Aviator Style Metal
 Bracelet – Chan Luu Silver Beaded and Leather Wrap
 Bag – Gucci Python
 Shoes – Gucci Python

COPPING'S CRUISE COLLECTION

By Shannon Wylie

As Peter Copping continues on his Oscar-winning ways, Masquerade delves into the delicious designs and lavish luggage must-haves from the de la Renta Resort 2016 collection. Expect blooms of beautiful beading, exotic shades in teal and pops of pink, dresses in drapes of delicate fabrics and glittering gems that sparkle like the sea. All aboard...



Elegant, ethereal, eternal. Oscar de la Renta once said: "Things never happen on accident. They happen because: You have a vision, you have a commitment, you have a dream." This is something 48-year-old British designer, Peter Copping, and Oscar de la Renta successor, is committed to as he presents his third range designed for the American fashion house, which also happens to be his first cruise collection. Something he was only accustomed to at Nina Ricci. So as the magnificent moment that is the resort romp rolls in, the fashion forecasters have set their thermometers to scorching success. We have to agree.

In a fashion frenzied arena that only few luxury brands have the stamina to compete in, Oscar de la Renta remains a visionary of tapered proportions. Cinched waists, carefully contorted coats and embroidery that elevates even the simplest of styles, the Resort 16 collection conjures up images from the most romantic of settings. "I wanted to embrace color, pattern, and the house's general joie de vivre," said Peter as he introduced the collection to a select group of fashion's VIPs at his recent May show in New York. Following suit the pieces were beautifully bright, elegantly embroidered and patterned to perfection with blooms in all the right (and often ruffled) places.

Think of long, lazy days by sweeping fragrant frangipani-framed majestic blue waters that are crystal clear for as far as the eye can see. The Jessica marine blue watercolor rose silk Mikado cocktail dress with sequin lace detail enters to match such a magical description. Sunset swims in exotic locals wearing the Melodie black pique spandex swimsuit, ends elegantly and effortlessly with bubbles on the beach in the matching black silk faille skirt with multicolor faille radzimir and sequin embroidery. Ooh and nights spent under warm starry skies casually coveting the Mina magenta radzimir gown with black crystal and sequin guipure lace detail are soon to follow.

Then mornings are made magical in palatial hotels with the chicest of cafes, donned in the Jessica black and white daisy sketch stretch georgette dress, ivory Marino silk cardigan with black embroidered lace panels. Minds are then marvelously met with weeks spent on luxury cruise liners, as images of Rose aboard the Titanic set sail with the Tilda black and white mini daisy dot cotton poplin top with black lace trim, and matchy-matchy black and white mini daisy dot cotton poplin skirt suit. The luggage is all too near retired but not before a long weekend marveling at lush vistas by sunset with rich reds and perennial pinks piercing the horizon. In which case, the Waleska magenta satin pongee dress together with the magenta and persimmon inlaid leather and suede coat are called from the collection. Oscar de la Renta always was one to crescendo at just the right moment.

Known for his bright, beautiful and luminous use of colours, Peter has also been touted for his tremendous ability to replay 'Oscar-isms' with the blouse and skirt sets while injecting new signature styles into the range, namely short yet thigh-appropriately grazing dresses. The Louise Persimmon silk faille cocktail dress with taffeta and multi sequin embroidery is the epitome of the Peter-Oscar era.





So too this season are the caftans in cotton, which were a highlight with the Emma persimmon abstract shapes silk cotton voile short caftan in raffia and sequin embroidery. Who doesn't need an easy-to-wear ensemble in their transseasonal wardrobe?

A cruise collection wouldn't be complete with an array of appropriately on-trend accessories. Pearls and crystals were intricately inlaid into rings, earrings, belts and bags. And the shoe du jour? The mule. Walking down the runway were a pair of marigold and navy print mules, followed in succession by a marine blue alligator belt, Tahitian pearl black diamond crystal earrings, a black diamond and crystal stone necklace and a marigold hand embroidered clutch, which were just some of the must-have pieces rounding out the on-pointe show.

Aiding Peter in his palatial vision across the 35-strong collection was hair aficionado Esther Langham, who whipped up whimsical wisps of locks. Pulled back and pretty elegant layers framed the face. MAC Cosmetics Senior Artist, Gina Bettelli, complemented this ethereal look. Her team of talent kept things nude, neutral and nourished – a nod to the season's minimalist make-up trend. Alicia Torello at The Wall Group opted for a nude nail to keep things clean and chic on the tips and as for the toes, deep and dark was the colour way. Together it was the signified look of a well-groomed Oscar woman.

Now back in the New York design room, Peter is prepping for next season. "The greatest thing about fashion is that it always move forward," and with Oscar de la Renta's words ringing true, we look to the horizon from our hotel hide-away adorned in the darling dresses just shown and contemplate new nuances come Spring/Summer 2016. Rightly so, as we're just months out from the September shows, and the buzz is already building around the Oscar de la Renta runway. As the fourth and final show for the house this year, it's already set to be a hot ticket. Watch this space.

The Oscar de la Renta Resort collection will be in stores from the end of November 2015 and the beginning of December



THE WEDDING BELLE

Finding stylish ball gowns and glamorous outfits for a wedding ceremony isn't a duty solely for the bride but for every fashionista who will be in attendance of the special occasion. Although difficult, rest assured, as no matter which destination the bride and groom will be tying the knot in this summer, MASQUERADE has sourced an array of ensembles from renown Middle Eastern designers to ensure you stand out amongst the most chic of wedding crowds.

By Zoey Coombe



ROYAL APPROVAL

Inspired by the tropical beaches and spectacular scenery of Zanzibar, the SS15 collection by contemporary Omani brand Endemage combines ethnicity with elegance using a mix of organza, net and lace material; all perfect fabrics for any wedding guest in search of sumptuous apparel. With ruffled hemlines and soft princess pastels exemplifying femininity and indulgence, the beautiful prints and relaxed silhouettes are perfect for anyone who wants to feel like a princess. Embrace delicate silk fabrics and loose fitting gowns in regal copper and gold hues by Paule Ka and Madiyah Al Sharqi- who looked to Marie Antoinette for inspirations- or power dress in Arwa Albanawi's double-breasted, two-piece suit for a less conventional outfit that offers a hint of masculinity.



IN FULL BLOOM

Vibrant floral fashion pieces are highly anticipated during the spring/summer season and although expected to emerge on the dresses of every woman at every wedding ceremony, the patterns never fail to distinguish each guest from one another. The key to sporting one-off piece is to search for haphazard designs and prints, such as Fatima Farden's Ramadan Capsule which features intricate lace, hand-painted watercolour designs and an intrepid colour palette of rose pink and sky blues. Ethnical brand Mochi's floor length white kaftan is ideal for daytime or beach situated ceremonies in sun-scorched countries, offering bold colours and mirrored detail on the collar has been influenced by popular nature motifs created in fine embroidered details.

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A TIMELESS DEBUT

The creative masterminds behind Taller Marmo, Riccardo Audisio & Yago Goicoechea, introduced sleek silhouettes within their classically influenced SS15 collection, adding a 1970's touch and encompassing early 1900's flair. Consisting of organza, crepe and black tulle Marmo's dresses come in beige, navy and black. Other options for traditional dressing include The Kayys floor length, asymmetric dress that elegantly drapes over the shoulder showing off the brand's creative prowess and timeless approach to design.



THE PERFECT

Layers are loading in from luxury labels as the AW15 collections land in stores across the Middle East. From darling dresses to shearling staples, there's a colour, cut and cleverly created curation of clothing destined for your collection. From leopard print to mod musings, baby doll flounce to noir nights and lashings of length in between, here's your winter wardrobe wrapped-up in ten statement styles.

By Shamon Wylie



FALL



A MOD TO A-LINE

Mod is making an eager appearance bringing with it a revival of the A-line skirt and an array of graphic prints. Tory Burch, Dior, Emilio Pucci and Louis Vuitton, have all drawn inspiration from the 60s and 70s, a trend that is now merely injecting new vibes into vehemently dull days. Think Twiggy!

BE BOHO

A trend that is traversing time, boho chic began with fashion of the festival fancy kind during the spring/summer shows, and has transgressed with a beautiful bang in autumn/winter this year. A myriad of designers including those at Diane von Furstenberg, Burberry Prorsum, Lanvin, Chloe, Dries Van Noten, Ralph Lauren and Tory Burch all seemingly etched elegant yet moody prints with whimsical cuts. Be bold, be boho.





[Image] Stella McCartney [Credit] Supplied

LIMELIGHT ON LEOPARD

Sonia Bykiel, Stella McCartney, Marc Jacobs and Louis Vuitton are just some of the brands bringing back spots, of the animal variety that is. Leopard lavished the runway in the form of faux fur trims, tailored jackets, dotted dresses and statement skirts. Shoes and bags didn't escape the print of the season either with leopard spotted across collections. There's just one question: Do you dare to walk on the wild side?

DOLLED UP

Sweet, softly styled and short are the signifiers that you have found the dress of the season. Calvin Klein, Dolce & Gabbana, Dior and Prada all did baby doll dresses that epitomised playfulness in all the right ways. Some went simple while others took inspiration from winter wonderlands upping the ante on feminine florals. This look is dolled up but not dumbed down.



[Image] Dolce & Gabbana [Credit] Supplied



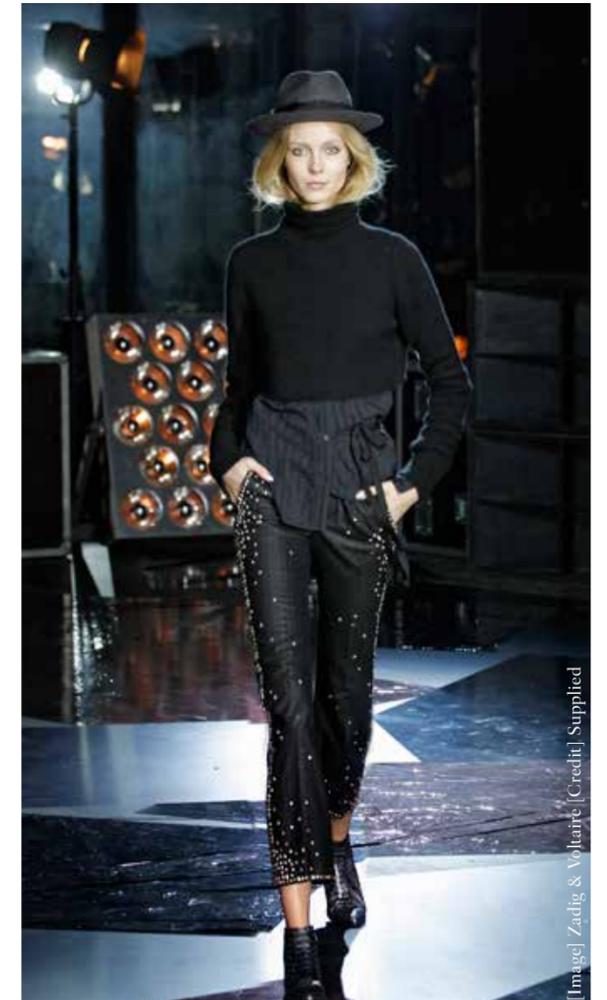
[Image] Alice & Olivia [Credit] Supplied

A SHEARLING STATEMENT

While the wooly look may be excessive during dry desert months, this sterling shearling highlight is a key addition to any winter wardrobe abroad. Burberry Prorsum, Stella McCartney, Gucci, Chloe and Alice & Olivia all showed the statement look with coats mostly. Over wear adds just the right amount of fabulous fluff to any fashion ensemble. It's also a go-to for styling with the other luxe fabrics of the season: fur, velvet and quilting.

NOIR NIGHTS

Black head to toe was a given as designers move away from soft spring looks for this season. Goth girls became the subject of affection at Alexander McQueen, Givenchy and Marc Jacobs, of which they were interjected with paired down princesses in shade on shade tones at Tom Ford and rock star romantics at Zadig & Voltaire. Noir is none other than the look du jour. Complete the look with a hat and socks too.



[Image] Zadig & Voltaire [Credit] Supplied



[Image] Balenciaga [Credit] Supplied

TAILORED TO MATCH

The perennial suit was given a much-needed injection of direction. We're talking geometric lines, long linear cuts and floor-grazing flared trousers. Leading in the matchmaking stakes were Emilio Pucci and Gucci with printed power suits as well as The Row and Paul Smith with their toned down twin-sets. Ultimately they all took tailoring to the next level for fall.



[Image] Paul Smith [Credit] Supplied

CUFF CREDENTIALS

Big, bold and bang on trend, this season is all about the cuff. Celine went silky sleek, while Michael Kors was all about the fluff and rounding out the look was Gucci and Balenciaga keeping it two-toned. Just remember, whether it's a blouse, dress or coat, the cuff should be kept long and loose or short and tight. It's all about the drama, darling.



[Image] Raoul [Credit] Supplied

TWEED UNDONE

Tweed tells a timeless tale of trends. From the quintessential Chanel jacket to this season's undone weave, you'll be on point wearing this wintery look. Preferable in black and white or muddy browns Fendi, DSquared2, Thakoon and Raoul all did jackets, shirts and dresses in tweed. Disheveled but not dull, this fabric is a leader for any modern day muse.



[Image] Emilio Pucci [Credit] Supplied

LONGING FOR LENGTH

Unpretentiousness is having a serious fashion moment, thanks to the fashion packs' derivability of all things white, black, cream, grey and most shades in between. Now the look has been heightened, literally, with Emilio Pucci, Proenza Schouler, Dior and Victoria Beckham, all opting for simple elongated silhouettes. Look to lengthen your look this fall.

GASPING GEOX

By Ayman Haddad

Created 20 years ago by Mario Moretti Polegato and branded as the shoes that breath, Masquerade speaks with Mario Moretti Polegato to find out how Geox shoes really breath.



Working day by day to empathise their original promise, making it relevant and appealing success was apparent and achieved early in the business due to their unique brand positioning offering clients comfortable, multipurpose and durable products.

Geox is recognised not only as a technological and comfort brand but also as a cool and aspirational one. Today, difference in technology is well understood by the client and we make it a point to have strong brand awareness in the countries we are active in. Polegato states.

The story of Geox began after patenting his invention, “the shoe that breathes”.

Not wanting to go into the footwear industry, after three years exhorting every attempt to sell the patent to major footwear players it attracted none of intended for reasons that are still not clear to Mario and this was the result of Polegato decision to start the production of shoes on his own.

I did with no fear because I was totally convinced that despite the difficulties of being new with no expertise in a sector completely different of mine, the concept of a breath-able rubber sole shoe would have been a huge success. Polegato mentions

Working in our family business gave Mario the privilege to learn the basic things you need to be a successful entrepreneur, a foundation when starting Geox. Among other things I’ve learned that being the best in your sector of activity is not an option and that to get it you need to work hard with your team to constantly improve the quality of your product in order to give to the market what it wants. In my view there are three main kind of entrepreneurs: those who do not see the market, those who see the market and those who foresee the market. To foresee the market was the major lesson I got working in my family business.

From people around the world. I travel a lot for business and every single trip is a laboratory of ideas. Watching people from different cultures, the way they live, the way they dress, talking to them allow me to understand better how the world is evolving and how, as shoes and apparel producers, we can cope with their needs. Nature is also a main source of inspiration. I live in the countryside near Venice and that reminds me, every day, that whatever you do you have to do it in the full respect of our home, the planet.

Geox customers are a mix of everyday single men and women, parents who live and work in small cities or metropolitan areas. They are practical people, most urban, who follow fashion but are not overly trendy, who appreciate innovation but are not willing to sacrifice comfort, quality and style. Travellers are also major target for the Company that has created and developed new technologies, which perfectly fit with their needs as for instance the Amphibiox collection, which is breathable, light and totally waterproof. This kind of shoe is perfect for any type of climate or circumstances. Smart travellers can bring only one pair of shoes during their trips.

We are, above all, a family brand, created by a family and producing collections for all the members of a family and for all generations. It is than natural that family values are the one we share. Beside that innovation is also a core value for us, innovation in terms of product and innovation in terms of organisation. That means that we pay a lot of attention to our clients and to the people who is working in the company. We’ve, for instance, implemented programs of education for our employees or created a kids garden to help parents to organise and combine in the best way their professional and personal life.

To be independent is a key asset for Geox. We are free to create or change our strategies alone without any interference. Independence allows us to be fast in our decision process and that turns Geox into a fast mover in a global market characterised by permanent and quick changes.

“Simple yet unique, Geox is
*the shoe that
breathes.*”

From a point of view of taste there are no major differences between the two markets mainly because people use to travel more than years ago, for work or for tourism, and they find the same brands all around the world. Today you can find Geox collection in 114 countries around the world. Geox are distributed through 1.250 mono brand stores and more than 10.000 brand stores. The collections are global and cover any kind of taste. The main difference is the type of shoes or apparel people, which is often related to the climate.

The most relevant one is the expansion of our presence in countries like China, Russia and the United States of America. Today our main market is Europe where we are a leader player, especially in Italy, which is probably the most difficult market in the world for the shoe industry. The growth of the Chinese economy and the growth of the local middle class represents for us a huge opportunity and we are working on a strategy which will allow us to catch it. In Russia, the Italian style is pretty successful and that help us to increase our market share in the country. The economy in the US is now fully recovered and we will present soon a new plan to expand our presence there.

We are a medium-high brand and our products are essentially made for a cosmopolitan middleclass consumer, which represents the huge majority of the market worldwide. We strongly believe that in the future technology and comfort will be more and more important in the shoe business and that’s the reason Geox are investing more than 2% of their annual turnover in research and development in order to keep and strength leadership in the next 5-10 years.

Geox means innovation, design, creation, testing, production and distribution of practical multi-functional high-tech footwear and apparel designed to improve life. Much has been done over the recent years to improve the brand. We developed a new cleaner and modern brand identity combining elements of Italian style and elements of technology.

Eager to know what other item the mind behind Geox categories as “Luxe” he reacts, a watch is the only “jewel” I wear. Time is precious, especially when you travel and I enjoy having it under control through a watch I bought at the beginning of the Geox adventure and that travels with me along this journey.

So what’s next for Geox? Well they are launching a brand new type of shoe, Nebula, which contains the last Geox technological evolutions and it turns immediately into a best seller. It’s a smart shoe created to walk every day in every season. It features technology that ensures lightness and breathability, offering a superior body temperature regulation.

Luxury is to be able to enjoy life.



FASHION

AZURE
ELEVATED FORTITUDE
A LEOPARD AMONG TIGERS

موضة

AZURE

Lush garden pathways, towering palm trees entwining through the mazy waterfronts at the Ritz Carlton JBR. Daytime beach excursions frolicking in between the sunshine beams and reinvigorating the body and soul in the tranquil cool waters. As sunset draws upon us, a most sort after affair brings us to La Bai Grill in full swagger and with that ever so lighter bounce.



Ritz Carlton JBR, Dubai
Photographer – Celeste van Rooyen Model – Yuri Styling – Celia Ukwenya Hair – Wael Timraz Make-up – Shiseido

YURI: Lacoste shirt, Vilebrequin bikini. Makeup by Shiseido
AHMED: Vilebrequin towel, Bell & Ross Vintage WW1 Chronographe Monopoussoir



*Lacoste shirt. Vilebrequin bikini.
Makeup by Shiseido*



Lacoste shirt, Vilebrequin linen shorts

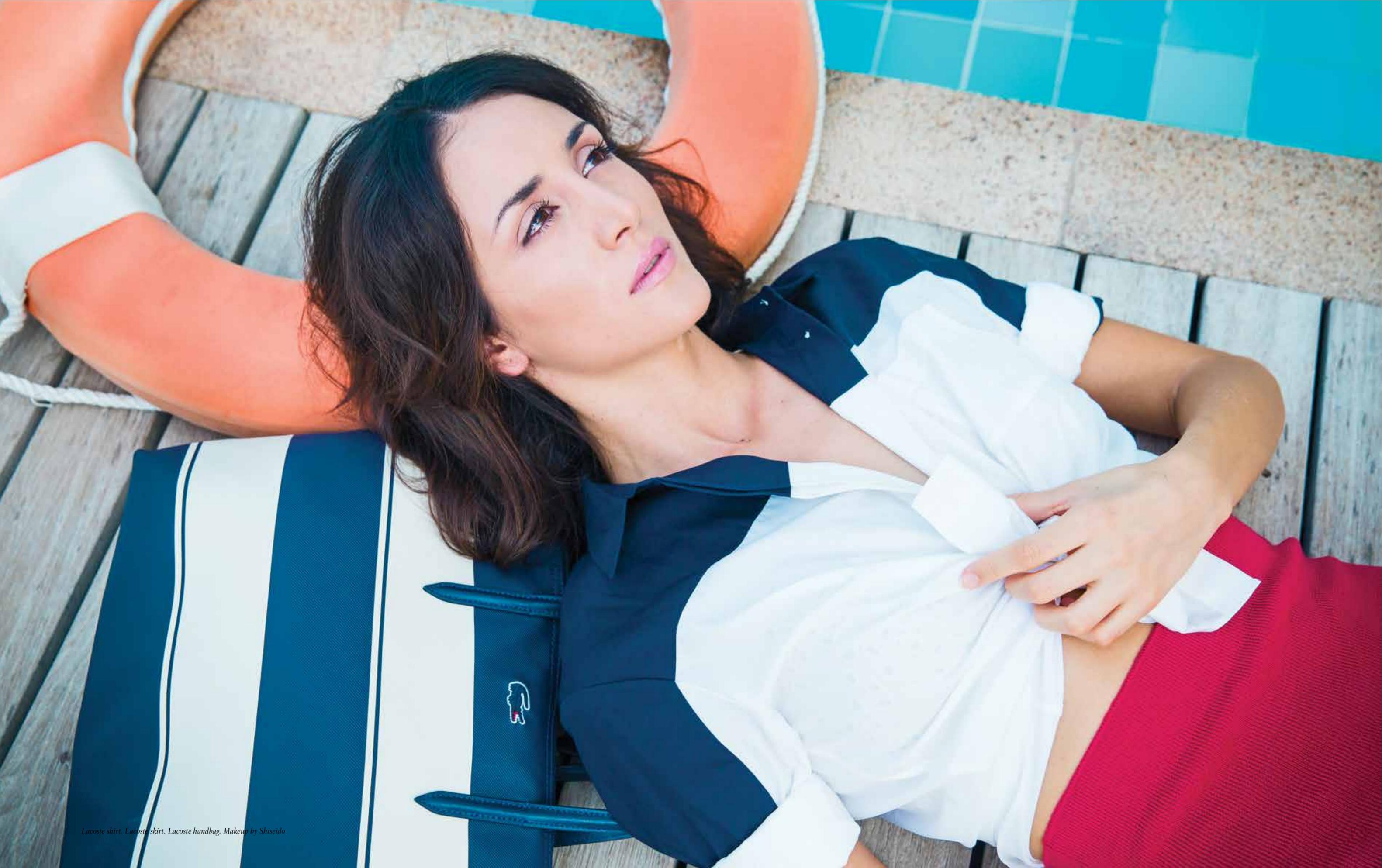


Vilebrequin shirt. Vilebrequin Shorts



*Lacoste sweater. Lacoste pants.
Vilebrequin duffle bag. Bell & Ross Aviation BRS Quartz Green*







YURI: Lacoste polo. Vilebrequin shorts. Lacoste Chantaco "Fairplay" bag. Makeup by Shiseido
AHMED: Lacoste sweater. Vilebrequin trunks



YURI: Lacoste polo. Vilebrequin shorts
AHMED: Lacoste Sweater. Vilebrequin trunks







*Lacoste shirt. Lacoste pants. Lacoste bag.
Lacoste footwear –Cressole model. Make up by Shiseido*



*YURI: Lacoste dress. Lacoste footwear – Atalaye model. Lacoste bag. Makeup by Shiseido
AHMED: Vilebrequin linen shirt. Lacoste pants. Lacoste footwear – Sherbrooke model. Bell&Ross Aviation BRS Quartz*



ELEVATED FORTITUDE

Stand tall, stand brave and enter aloft majestically in regal robes the jungles of Chiang Mai and explore its wondrous hidden gardens.





















a leopard



among tigers

Eagled-eyed green among roses and stripes of black satin.
Extenuated elegance of grace and regal prowess that command
air of the summer nights.















SURRENDER

MUST HAVE – DIOR FIX IT
BEAUTY BAZAAR
THE ART OF HENNA
OMANI HERITAGE: NIZWA

خفصوه

MUST HAVE

DIOR FIX IT

By Ayman Haddad



This is a product line that appears at every Dior runway show and every Dior shoot. Taking inspiration directly from the techniques of professional make-up artists, the Backstage Pros range is a collection of expert, ingenious and inventive products. These universal tools provide instant and targeted beauty solutions. A must-have for Dior make-up artists, the Backstage Pros range have a new addition in the shape of an intelligent product capable of enhancing complexion, eye and lip make-up.

Its name: Fix It.



A STAR IS BORN



DD1
Collection

GIANFRANCO FERRE

BEAUTY BAZAAR

By Shannon Wylie

As the thermometer soars during summer seek out the most coveted collection from the cosmetics counter this season.



CRABTREE & EVELYN SUMMER HILL SHOWER GEL AND BODY LOTION

Fresh and fragrant this body duo is the ideal combination for a chicly scented complexion. Double layers work well to heighten any scent so you can forgo the perfume, just this once.



RAHUA BODY OIL, GEL AND LOTION

Straight from the rainforests of the Amazon, this all-natural brand has just launched their new range of opulent oil, body wash and moisturizer. The trio is a must-try this summer thanks to its ability to nourish dehydrated skin.

ESTÉE LAUDER CLEAR DIFFERENCE

As you clear the soul, clear the skin. Summer brings blemishes so detox your body and rely on Estée Lauder's Clear Difference to do the rest. The oil-control and mattifying gel reduces the results of time spent in the summer sun. Yes, please and thank you.



RODIAL INSTANT LIFTING SERUM



Forget a fatigued face. Give your skin some much-needed therapy with the new Rodial range, and with names that tout pink diamonds. Who are we to argue? Apply the serum daily concentrating on particularly troubled areas.



CHOPARD AMIRA D'AMOUR PERFUME

This Happy Spirit fragrance has just been recreated for the Middle East and just in time for summer. Rich and aromatic this sweet peppery scent, in the opulent royal purple bottle, is a go-to for summer and we'll be touting it in our totes.



INSTITUT ESTHEDERM E.V.E SERUM SOURCE

It's a given that your skin loses nutrients over summer, so intensify your skincare regime with this scientifically created serum. Apply to the face and neck using small, gentle strokes, once a day over the course of six weeks. It's a summer skintox.



PENHALIGON'S OSTARA PERFUME

New to the Penhaligon collection, this sweet scent is bursting with daffodils. Conjured up by the fragrance house master perfumer Bertrand Duchaufour, it's a wonderful way to introduce beautiful blooms into your day.

ATELIER DES ORS LARMES DU DESERT PERFUME

Playing homage to the birthplace of perfumery, amber and incense have been whirled into a heady scent sprinkled with gold. A spicy summer scent, the eau de parfum tells a traditional and timely tale.



M. MICALLEF OROS

borate, elegant and especially created for Ramadan, s bottle is a tribute to the holy month. The limited tion handcrafted crystal bottle is also the ultimate gift h M.Micallef personally engraving it with a message of your own.



DIOR J'ADORE PERFUME

Classic and crisp best describe this signature scent from Dior. What's more is the fashion house has announced the launch of the new 150ml bottle, which means more of the jasmine sambac, rose damascena and ylang-ylang mix that we all know and love.



ELEMIS CELLULAR RECOVERY SKIN BLISS CAPSULES

Treat your skin this summer with these cellular recovery capsules. Designed to boost hydration, increase radiance, soothe sensitivity and resurface skin, simply apply to the face and see it soak in. You won't be disappointed.



KIEHL'S IRIS EXTRACT ACTIVATING TREATMENT

Refresh and revitalise morning and night with the power of Kiehl's iris-infused face formulation. The liquid concentrate acts as a primer protecting the skin from free radicals. So it's the best base coat before applying make-up.

MOR SOAP

This deliciously scented soap in candied anilla is by Australian-favourite Mor. pecially soaps are hard to come by but his one is a celebrity favourite and it's now tocked in Dubai at Makeup Etc. Boutique.





THE ART OF HENNA

With strong roots in the heritage of many cultures, henna is fast becoming more than just a traditional decoration that adorns women's bodies for social events and holidays.

By Elizabeth Blaine



Originating in Ancient Egypt, North Africa, Southern Asia and the Arabian Peninsula henna has been documented for over 9000 years. A dye prepared from dried henna leaves and mashed into a powder, which is mixed with liquid to form a paste, it is used to dye skin as well as hair and fingernails. This temporary tattoo has been referenced to weddings, fertility and even used as a celebration for a victory in war. Although there are differences from culture to culture, the fact remains that quite simply where there was joy there was henna.

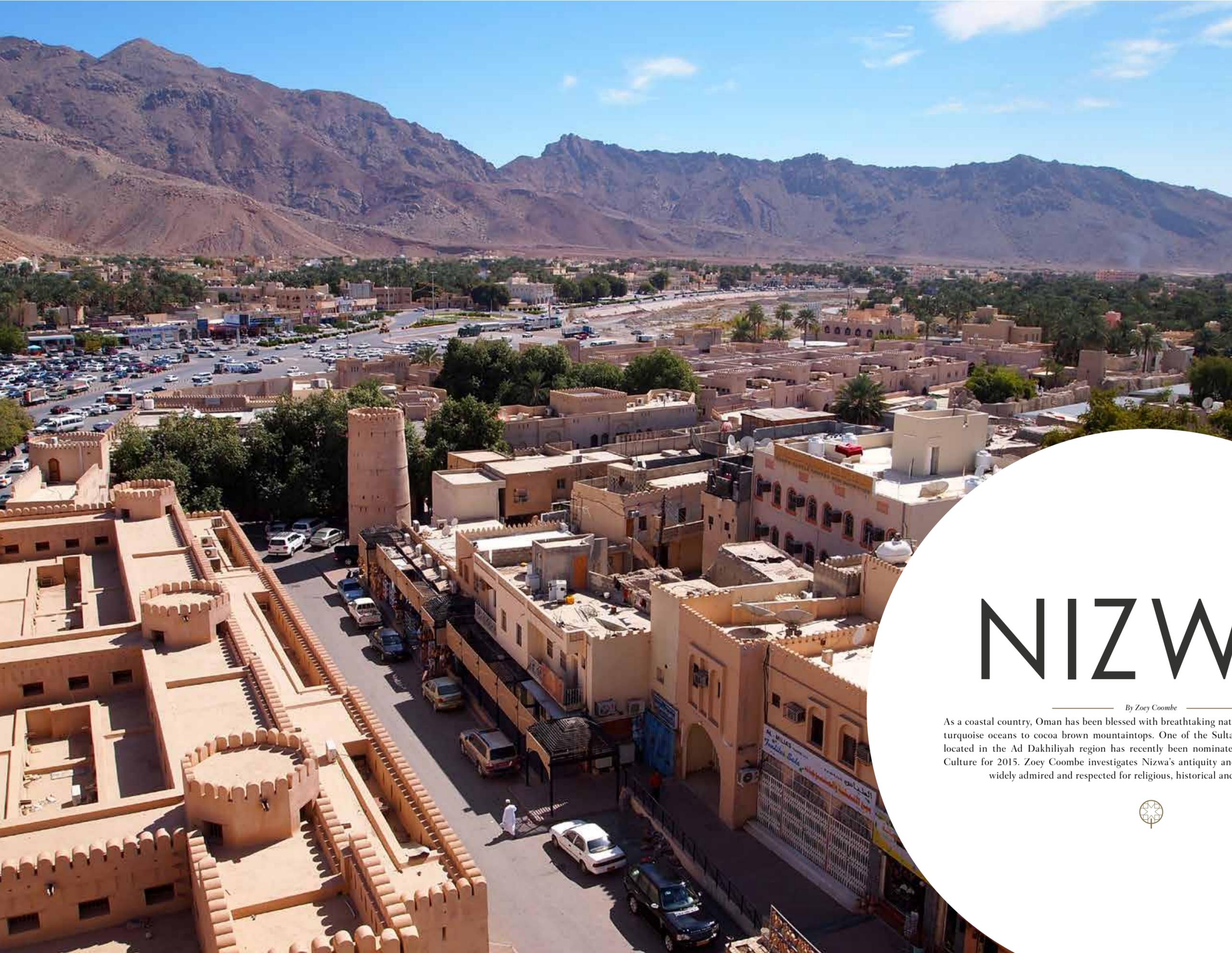
Believed to have blessings and applied for luck as well as delight and beauty, the intricate designs were laden with symbolism regardless of the culture. Perhaps the most abstract, Arabic designs feature graceful, usually larger floral and vine patterns on the hands and feet. Africa also uses simple bold patterns with large geometric shapes and designs giving an abstract feel. On the other hand Indian henna involves fine lines and lacy, floral patterns in paisley designs with lines and dots covering the entire hands, forearms, feet and shins. Luckily for South Asian brides, in their culture henna is applied in a much darker shade as the darker it is the more her mother-in-law will love her. In fact it is believed until the henna completely fades the bride will not have to do any housework!

With these notions having been passed down through generations, the bond between henna and tradition still remains prevalent in the modern world. Although it has been adapted by many cultures and non-traditional designs are being used for a personalised touch, the base is always seeped in historical beliefs. Now more so a form of self-expression the potential for designs have become practically limitless with society and modern culture taking on their own approaches.

The modern perception of henna when not being used for traditional purposes, is an art form which is accessible to the masses. The key being its low price and availability as well as the fact that it is temporary - it lasts only a few weeks unlike tattoos. Media exposure has also played a huge role as celebrities like Beyonce, Naomi Campbell and Madonna have been photographed sporting henna. Even pop star Rihanna in 2013 decided to get a full hand of permanent henna, flying in famed tattoo artists Bang Bang and Cally-Jo from the Dominican Republic to work on the piece which took 11 hours to complete.

You would perhaps think that like many other traditions this modern take on henna would cause tension within cultures, however it appears to have had the opposite effect as the current henna craze has thrived alongside the traditional practise. A new trend sees the use of white henna powder being used. The same as normal henna it is used widely by brides who wish to match their designs to their wedding dresses. This trend also sees the incorporation of glitter and crystals as the henna moves from tradition to trending.

Taking this movement one step further are the metallic designs seen across social media called Flash Tattoos. With many of the designs inspired by henna, the symbols are rife with traditional patterns in gold and silver foil. Only lasting a few days they are simply applied like a transfer, meaning the intricate free hand method, which can take many hours, is avoided. Other adaptations also see henna inspired jewellery and most recently Christian Louboutin creating a henna inspired manicure, which extended beyond the fingernails to the fingertips. So it appears that henna has no bounds or constraints as to where it will go next as the world of fashion and tradition continues its love for the art form.



NIZWA

By Zoey Coombe

As a coastal country, Oman has been blessed with breathtaking natural views ranging from vast turquoise oceans to cocoa brown mountaintops. One of the Sultanate's oldest towns, Nizwa, located in the Ad Dakhiliyah region has recently been nominated as the Capital of Islamic Culture for 2015. Zoey Coombe investigates Nizwa's antiquity and discovers why the town is widely admired and respected for religious, historical and cultural reasons.





Recently chosen as the Capital of Islamic Culture for 2015, the impressive town of Nizwa otherwise known as the 'Pearl of Islam' is located at the base of Al Jabal Al Akhdar or the 'Green Mountain' and was titled the capital of Oman in 793 AD. Nizwa is also regarded as 'Baidhat al Eslam', which translates to stronghold of Islam, paying tribute to its reputation as a hub of learning and religious studies. Through the ages, the city of Nizwa has been home for most of the imams and scholars who have contributed greatly to its prosperous intellectual and cultural life from its beginning. Religious Islamic teachings were carried out in So'al Mosque, built in the 2nd Century, for centuries and Nizwa was one of the first towns to receive Muslim emissaries, it was in fact the Julanda leaders who accepted and taught the faith originally which spans back to 630 AD.

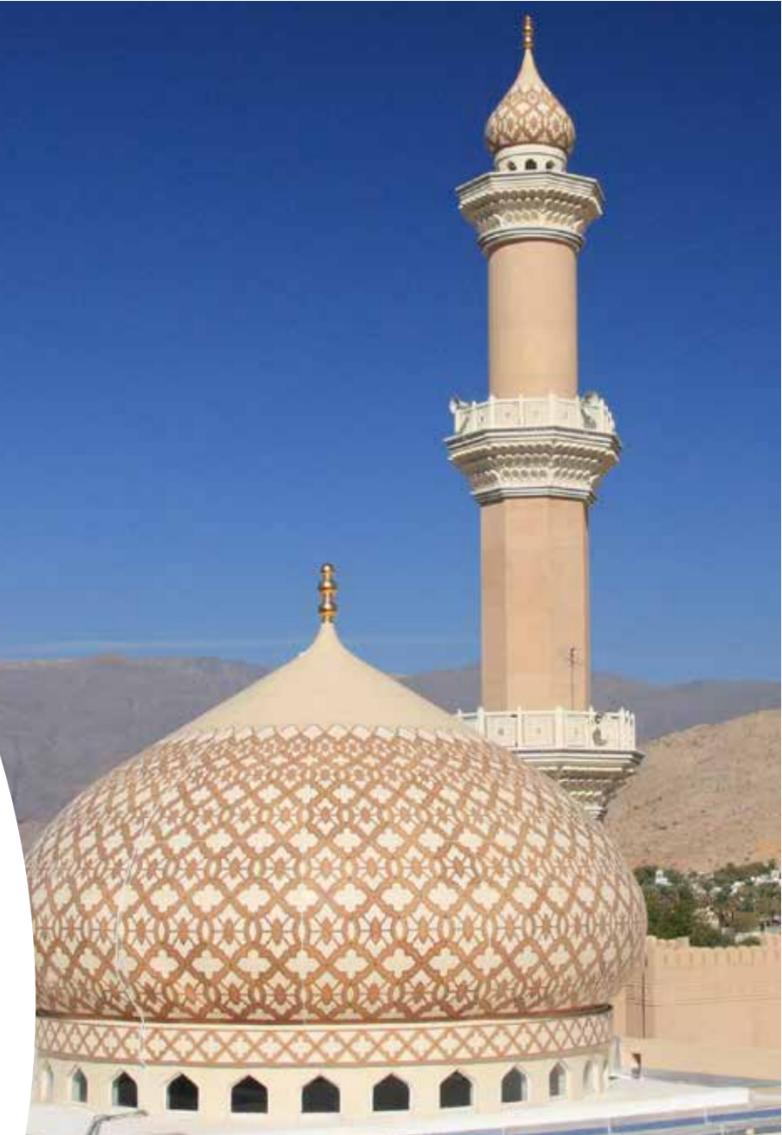
As one of the Sultanate's oldest settlements, Nizwa's election for Capital of Islamic Culture 2015 has reinforced the city's highly religious, historical and cultural status within the Middle East and highlights traditional Omani heritage. Dating back to the 6th & 7th centuries, Nizwa has four main valleys, Andam, Halfiyan, Bahla' and Sama'il that were once the centre of trade, education and art, strategically located at the crossroads of vital pathways from Buraimi, Muscat and Dhofar. For years, Nizwa was part of the prosperous route of the copper and frankincense trades and Ibn Batuta, the celebrated Arabian traveller visited the town in the 14th Century.

The Old Nizwa Souq with its narrow walkways and situated in the vicinity of the Nizwa fort's walls, trades as one of the oldest markets in Oman containing many small shops and market style stalls where aromatic smells from an array of spices and herbal treatments for sale, work in harmony to stimulate your senses. Traditional Omani crafts can be made from date palms, which are abundant in almost all areas of the Sultanate. Vital because of its luscious fruit, the date palm also offers functionality for locals, as they use all its parts including palm frond and trunk to create everyday essentials. While palm fronds are extensively used for rural house construction particularly by bedouins who migrate during summer to collect dates, the date palm leaves are used for weaving baskets to store the dates. The New Market in comparison, is home to authentic Omani souvenirs for tourists, antique silver jewellery and stunning ornaments such as the polished khanjars and swords.

The Nizwa fort is regarded as the remarkable and prominent landmarks in the country nestled within a picturesque setting of date palm trees. Built in 1668 by Imam of the al Ya'rubi, Sultan bin Saeed al-Ya'rubi, the main part of the fort took approximately 12 years to complete and was built above an underground stream. The fort is a powerful reminder of the town's importance through unsettled periods in Oman's long history and most notably the Jebel Akhdar War. The stronghold was a daunting obstacle against raiding forces that desired Nizwa's abundant natural wealth. It's design features a myriad of defense mechanisms to withstand attacks including pitfalls, honey traps and gun shooting windows as well as a prosecution ground and even a prison. The fort has also found itself as one of the most popular tourist attractions due to being a remarkable example of Omani architecture and is a great attraction for visitors who want to learn about the country's bygone era. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos described Nizwa as 'The home of great leaders and the sanctuary of intellectuals, scholars, poets and men of literature.' Another deserted and historical attraction in Nizwa is the Tanuf Ruins, which are set against the stunning backdrop of the Al Hajar Mountains and once served as a fully functioning village for its inhabitants. When the Jabal Akhdar War 1950s and when the Jabal Akhdar War forced residents to abandon Tanuf entirely.

Today, Nizwa is still celebrated for its agricultural diversity where divine fruits and vegetables are forested such as pomegranates, walnuts and apricots along with the presence of 2000-year-old juniper trees. Modern Nizwa offers a range of government services along with advanced education in the form of its university. The new town also features the Sultan Qaboos Police Academy, many hotels and resorts that attract tourists from every corner of the world and even a sports complex.

The must-see destination of Nizwa shows off Oman's traditional values with a distinctive culture; its stunning scenery alternating between golden sand dunes, high mountain peaks and shipwreck dives in the ocean. With the beautiful landscape, deep history and overall development, its no surprise that it currently holds the title for the Capital of Islamic Culture this year. Nizwa will continue to enchant visitors with its Arabian charm and through its preservation of ancient heritage.



ENCHANTMENT

THROUGH THE LENS
A CRAVING FOR CREATIVITY
CANVAS CONFIDENTIAL





THROUGH THE LENS

Following her passion, professional photographer
Tonya Colson shares her extraordinary journey

— By Tonya Colson —





For the past three years I have been living my dream job. Working as a photographer in Dubai for the past eight of those, where six of them were spent teaching photography at Gulf Photo Plus I decided it was time to follow my heart. Jetting off between assignments and classes I grew a deep yearning to travel as much as possible. Often travelling alone to far away lands, I decided why not take other photographers along for the ride? With faith in my idea, Gulf Photo Plus collaborated with me to run our first Photo Tour to Cambodia. It sold out completely. We decided to run another one a few months later, a safari Photo Tour in South Africa which met the same success. So it was only natural for Nepal a country full of culture to be next up on our list.

A street photographers paradise, the country is full of historic buildings, stunning scenery and colourful people. The Nepalese are extremely friendly especially to photographers, so it's the perfect location to practice photographing people, their culture and street scenes. We had a six day itinerary packed full, including visiting the historic durbar squares of Kathmandu, Patan, Bhaktapur, and a trip to Nagarkot to enjoy the countryside and mountain views. The trip was so popular we ended up running two trips consecutively.

The first tour featured many fellow photographers who had travelled with me on previous tours. Having visited Nepal twice before it was wonderful to take my friends around all of these amazing places that I had grown to truly love. The second tour turned out to be even better. I had made prints of some of the people we met on our first tour and we were able to share them, as we saw the same people again on our second tour. It was like visiting old friends. I feel that it is so important when photographing people to give something back to the person you've photographed. Maybe it's a print or maybe just a smile and a greeting, but "creating" a photograph while you interact with someone is very different to "taking" a photograph of a stranger and offering nothing in return.



On the final day of our last tour, we were preparing to head home. Some of our group were packing their bags, while the rest of us were having masala tea and editing photos in the café next to our hotel. Then suddenly out of nowhere our teacups started rattling and we realised there was an earthquake. As we got up and tried to run out of the café, the ground started shaking more violently. It continued for at least a minute, at a level where it was impossible to stand or even walk. When the tremors finally stopped we ran to an open area near our hotel. Somehow everyone in our group appeared unscathed and joined us within minutes, so to our relief we knew the entire group was okay.

We were extremely fortunate that our local guides from Adventure Alpine Gorkha Treks were with us. They insisted upon staying with us, keeping us comfortable until we were able to fly home. This generosity is typical of the Nepalese people, and it's something we can't thank them for enough. Upon returning home, it was devastating to learn that every location we visited sustained damage. It was a blessing to be able to see them in all of their glory and to capture that before such a tragedy. We are still worried about the friends that we had made there and we hoped that they were all okay. Tremors are still occurring in Nepal, more than two months later. The experience has definitely made me more afraid of earthquakes, but it hasn't diminished my passion for travel at all and my love for such a beautiful country.

I am so looking forward to our next round of Photo Tours this time fingers crossed with no natural disasters. Heading back to South Africa in October we will follow that up with a portrait Photo Tour of Ethiopia in January and finally in April a tour to Jordan.

For more information on the tours visit Gulf Photo Plus: www.gulfphotoplus.com.



a craving for creativity

Creative talents across the globe have collaborated with French luxury accessory brand Longchamp, proving the importance of the connection between art, design and fashion. Zoey Coombe investigates the history of the brand's partnerships, revisiting some of its greatest inventive moments to date.

By Zoey Coombe



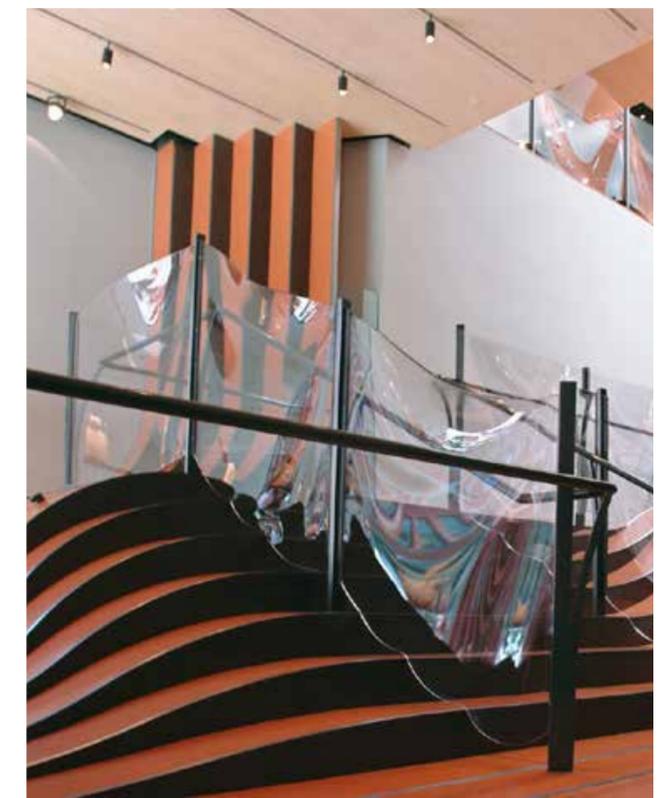
It takes originality along with a burning desire to succeed and a clear understanding of the ever-changing market, for any retail brand to persevere through decades of cultural and social development. For high-end accessory brands, it takes creative brilliance on top of the aforementioned qualities to even stand a chance of being noticed in the first place, yet alone to be remembered and survive in the world of fashion; is this a rat race. Since Longchamp's inception in 1948, the French luxury brand has risen up through the fashion ranks, conquering each season and continuing to flourish amongst the elite accessory houses; the ones who are also recognised for exceptional craftsmanship globally today. As the creator of leather accessories for smokers during its foundation years, the Cassegrain family business has since grown immensely, offering luggage, bags and footwear to name just a few of its ongoing creations that are adored by a loyal, unisex fan following. As well as developing a devoted fan base, Longchamp has attracted attention from artists and designers alike that have been keen to leave a creative stamp on its iconic name, individuals who simply can't wait to spill their artistic mark all over the surface of their products.

One of Longchamp's significant moments transpired in 1993 with the introduction of the now famous Le Pliage bag, a nylon tote which folds into itself into the size of a pocketbook. Similar to the Hermes Birkin or the Louboutin red sole, it became the house's staple and remains one of their best-selling products to date, and it didn't take long before other creative talents wanted to revise the tote bag themselves. To celebrate Le Pliage's 20th anniversary last year, Sarah Morris, who explores the politics of architecture and cultural symbols in her paintings, transferred three original artworks onto Longchamp pieces. In 2004, award-winning designer Thomas Heatherwick used multiple ribbons of zipper to create a handbag that could easily be modified in size upon each use. English artist Tracey Emin designed a limited edition collection that alluded to her notorious avant-garde quilts that are located in museums worldwide. Other recent initiatives include an ongoing relationship between eccentric fashion designer Jeremy Scott, who first showed interest in the brand back in 2006, redecorating Longchamp's travel bags with playful poodle and postcard prints.



The concept of an accessory being able to instantly transform has remained a running theme for Longchamp and playful idea too, for the house's 20th anniversary Jeremy Scott along with German duo Bless, designed a bag that folds into a bracelet. Even fashion designer Mary Katrantzou, celebrated for her kaleidoscopic, digital prints connected with the brand's transformative ethos shedding her vibrancy in the form of print work. Other prolific individuals who have creatively engaged with Longchamp include model Kate Moss in February 2010, after eight seasons of fronting as the face of the brand.

Longchamp's collaborative projects haven't always directly related to their products, artist Carlos Cruz-Diez produced a colorful work full of movement specifically for the Madison Avenue boutique in New York, whilst in Regent Street in London, the collective Troika created a sculpture that folds and unfolds, referencing the Le Pliage bag. Currently, the brand's future remains in the capable hands of artistic director Sophie Delafontaine, who strives to ensure the family run business continues to thrive and reinvent through the diversity of the brand, by spinning a strong web for contributors within the design world to get willingly stuck into. At the end of the day, many say the key to creating an iconic brand is mastering the balance between tradition and innovation, and what better way to keep reinventing than to embrace the up and coming greats of the creative world?



CANVAS CONFIDENTIAL

By Shannon Wylie

As Dubai enters an era of luxury that far out shines most cities, Masquerade speaks exclusively with Sylvain Gaillard from the Opera Gallery Dubai to paint a picture of art within the dazzling desert arena.



“Burgeoning,” that’s how Sylvain describes the Middle Eastern art scene. The creative connoisseur and collector is a master of the arts after having spent more than 20 years at the forefront of the commercial creative scene. Now his office, the Opera Gallery, is a space where only the highest caliber of artists hangs including the romantic Renoir, surrealist Dali, painter Picasso and pop art Warhol. However his foray into gallery life stems from another field altogether: finance. The private banker has led a life of luxury dealing with asset management, which has transcended the borders of Switzerland, Turkey the US and the Middle East, which eventually led him into the world of art investing. This is perhaps what makes Sylvain the go-to name in Dubai’s now blossoming art arena. Especially when it comes to curating a collection.

“I usually try to alternate between a more commercial show with higher selling potential, and an edgier show to educate the local market,” said Sylvain on how he presents pieces. “The balance is an interesting exercise to master, but so far it has worked wonders in 2015. More generally, I am also bound to keep in mind the tastes – and the limitations – of what the local market wants.”

Seemingly Arabia is prone to pick the best from the talent pool. “Botero in particular, is in strong demand. I think people are familiar with his work because of the giant horse sculpture in front of The Dubai Mall fountains. The black room is also stocked with our masters, Picasso and Calder, just to name a few.” However the buying power of the players is still on the rise. “This might sound counter-intuitive, but the price point of pieces purchased is much lower than the other markets we operate in. There seems to be a threshold above which the clients are not willing to spend above but we are trying to elevate the conversation.”

A conversation, which abounds about art, that can be forever controversial and a debate always seems to swirl around the meaning of its purpose. So what then is art all about? “Nothing and everything at the same time,” says Sylvain as he talks about what draws people to a certain piece of work. “That’s the beauty of art. Art is an equal opportunity dispenser of emotions.”

However when you think of the Middle East, money perhaps is not the issue, education is. Learning about the limits of art investment can be a timely affair, and one few ever have the privilege of pursuing. So says Sylvain: “Don’t be blind sighted by the headlines of the art world. The strongest advice that I could give is to get the best piece possible given your budget – a good gallerist should by default help you get the strongest possible piece based on your purchase criterion. Favor a strong name with a proven track record on the secondary market, and most importantly, have fun while collecting.”



Sylvain can definitely walk the talk. “I do have quite a lot of Turkish art because I started collecting seriously when I was a private banker in Istanbul. Most of the pieces that I purchased were large format artworks, with women being the common thread in the collection. I also own some works from Gérard Rancinan, who is probably the most important contemporary French photographer today. They are very strong and conversational pieces. I then have colorful pieces by street artists of my generation like Kaws, Futura2000, Ron English and Blek Le Rat. I grew up watching these artists develop and slowly making it into galleries, so it meant a lot for me to, at the very least, own a couple of pieces. Then my last acquisition was a piece from a Syrian artist called Baseem Rayyes. The work is very colorful and reminiscent of the art from Basquiat, so I had to own it.”

Aside from art, fashion always has a place in the Middle Eastern market, yet the insistence that it’s investment worthy, may be slightly off kilter. “Very few pieces in fashion make for a good investment, as most of them are depreciating assets, with some exceptions being luxury watches and bags.

For watches, the same collecting strategy applies as for art. There are only a couple of watch brands that tend to appreciate over time, Patek and Rolex being the main ones, and you have to know which model to buy and at what price. You can’t go wrong with Patek or Lange & Sohne, but the entry point is extremely high. We’re talking the price of a small Warhol. For luxury bags, they tend to hold their value – the Birkin from Hermes being a striking example, but few do in fact appreciate. Just like art, collecting watches or bags provides an emotional return far more superior to the intrinsic price of the item itself.”

Entering the art market can be an exciting and reverend time, so if you’re just embarking on the endeavor, then: “The ones to watch are established artists from the Middle East including Tanavoli, Derakshani and Shishegaran because they have solid traction from collectors and auction results. Also the Chinese artist Wang Guang-Yi will show in November with pieces being made specifically for the Dubai market.” Prior to that in September Gully is set to attract the goers and the gossipers. “I am really looking forward to this one in particular because of the mystery surrounding the artist,” said Sylvain. “No one has ever seen the artist in person; we only deal with his manager. Gully is anonymous, but he is known for showing up to his own openings in disguise, and tells guests that the work is of poor quality.” Indeed art really is then in the eye of the beholder.

The Opera Gallery is located at DIFC, Dubai.



SERENDIPITY

FASTING FOR GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING
THE THEATRE OF DREAMS

استلقاء



FASTING FOR GOOD HEALTH & WELL BEING

By Dr Jenna A Burton

Ramadan is said to be a time for reflection, a time for forgiveness and a time to get closer, not only to God, but also to ourselves. Amongst followers of Islam, Ramadan is considered a peak religious time of year with families gathering for prayer, charity and forgiveness. Recently, however, the act of fasting has been adopted by populations of various faiths and backgrounds, for purposes other than religion. Dr Jenna Burton discusses how fasting may be beneficial from a health perspective, as well as in demonstrating some level of mental detoxification.



Within the Muslim community, fasting is accepted as one of the five mandatory pillars of Islam. The purpose of fasting is to achieve 'Taqwa.' Taqwa; a way of guarding one's self from evil, exercising discipline, and connotes purification of the heart, spirit and of the mind. 'And that you fast, it is better for you if only you know.' (2:183-84)

Followers of the Islamic faith admit to finding the first week of Ramadan particularly challenging. As blood sugar levels fall and the stomach muscles relax, you feel hungry. Hungry, irritable and light headed, known symptoms of hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar levels.) 'It is being told that you can not have something that makes you crave it.' Fatima Mousoura, Dubai. 'Yet after 10 days or so, it becomes enjoyable. You remember that you have control over your body and that mentally you are stronger than a simple craving. It is as if euphoria dawns. Fasting is much more than simply denying yourself from food. It is re-gaining yourself'

*"Take my sunlight and I shall shine within the darkness,
Take away my ocean and I shall walk across the sand,
Take my home and watch me dance amongst my friendships, ,,
Take away my food and I shall stumble across myself."*

Outside of religion, there are various definitions for fasting and it is appearing in to every day life. More and more people are recognising its benefits as a way of purifying the mind and body as it is becoming accepted as a tool for improving physical and mental well-being. While some confine themselves to only drinking water, usually for a period of at least 24 hours others define a 'fast' as a heavily restricted calorific intake, usually less than 500 calories, within a 24 hour time period. The 5:2 diet, for example, has become a well respected lifestyle plan for those using intermittent fasting as a vehicle for 'safe' weight loss and improved general health.

The 5:2 diet encourages 'normalised' eating for 5 days out of the week with 2 days of severely restricted dietary intake. As well as assisting with weight loss testimonials, the 5:2 diet is said to boast an array of health benefits. These include a reduced risk of heart disease via the catabolism of fatty acids, reduced risk of diabetes via increased insulin sensitivity – some have even reported a reversal of type 2 diabetes, reduced cancer risk via the elimination of free radicals during the fasting process, improved skin appearance secondary to reduced 'advanced glycozen end products' which causes crosslinking of the skin and hence wrinkles and finally the reduced risk of Alzheimer's disease via increased mental alertness (likely as fasting encourages the brain to enter 'hunter mode' in which to seek food.)



Those who follow intermittent fasting also describe increased energy levels as they run off fatty layers of stored subcutaneous tissue via the production of ketone bodies. Like in low carbohydrate diets, creating energy from fat, via ketone bodies, is more efficient and effective than energy from circulating glucose or stored glycogen (glucose stores) in muscle tissue. The brain, which has a mandatory requirement for free glucose, adapts quickly to this alternative energy source in regular fasters.

During the process of fasting, the body lives initially on the circulating glucose within the blood stream. Glucose depletes over the first 8 hours leaving people feeling sluggish and fatigued as they run out of fuel. The sensation is of 'looking through a hazy mist with heavy limbs.' As the body converts to breaking down fats, a process known as 'ketosis,' it is described as an awakening. As if the body has awoken from sleep. Eyes re-focus, an ability to concentrate is re-established and the body starts to feed itself from within.

Free radicals are broken down, the gut is washed clean and the feeling is euphoric. Those who follow 'mindfulness,' alert themselves to living and thinking in the present without judgement. There are a few cohorts of this practice that believe fasting heightens the discipline of being 'mindful.' It allows them to re-tune in to their stomach and learn when they are and when aren't actually hungry, removing any emotional negative eating patterns to which they may have become accustomed.

Despite the positivity associated with fasting, however, it is not a ritual that should be abused. Extreme fasting can contribute to significant weight loss, a lowered metabolism and/or electrolyte dysfunction. Disruption of potassium levels for example, may lead to cardiac arrhythmias (irregular beating of the heart) or migrating muscle tissue contractions. When used for weight loss purposes, there is the added concern for addiction. People can become readily addicted to their weight loss goals and the emptiness they experience during fasting. Coupled with a level of emotional instability and concerns for potential eating disorders emerge.

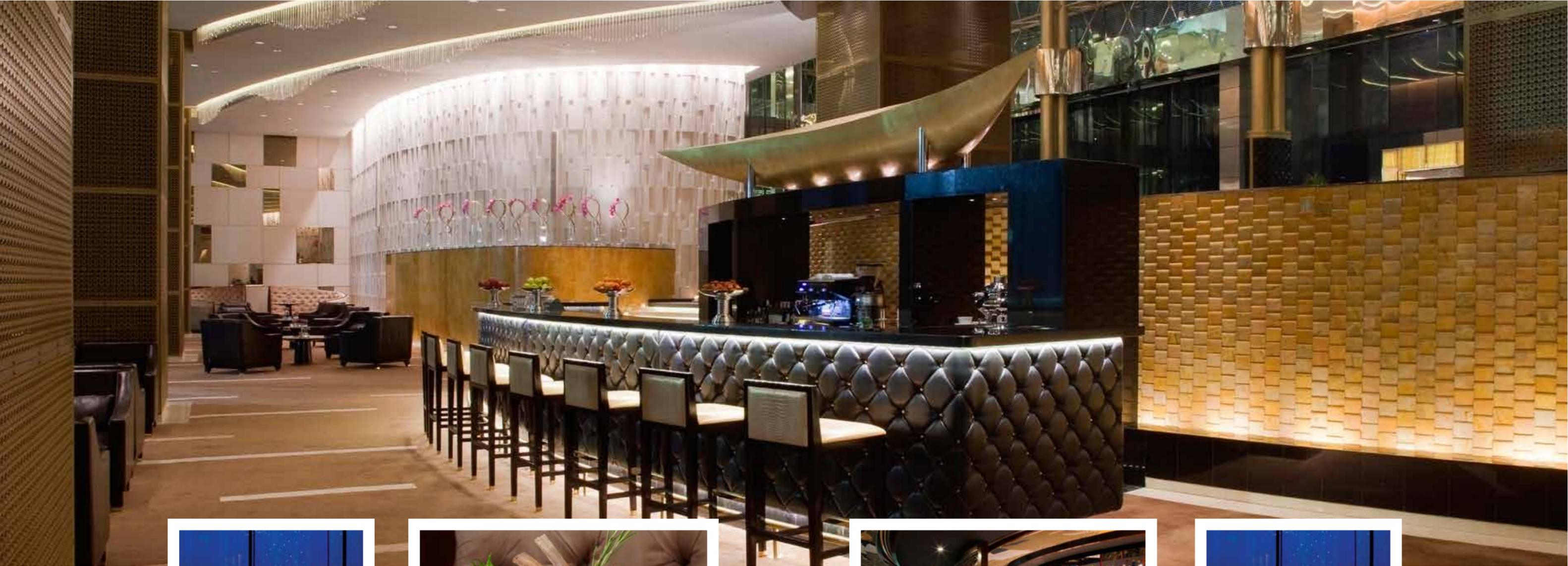
Yet despite any medically related concerns, fasting continues to be popular. It has potential, if used safely, to assist people with early onset type 2 diabetes (strictly with medical guidance,) assist with weight loss and assist with re-gaining a sense of self - control. A wide percentage of the Muslim population worldwide are well experienced with fasting, and it is one of the five essential pillars of a pious Muslim. Perhaps the rest of the world has been slow to catch on to its attractiveness. Either way, it seems fasting is reeling people in and may soon be adopted by all.



By Michael Gabrielle

Arabian values are the embodiment of hospitality, warmth, generosity and (discovery of the) enlightenment. Furthermore, a set of equally important characteristics are symbolised by the symbolic relevance of the horse, (among others) within the Arabian world. The horse signifies a courageous and fearless companion, strong and determined bulwark.





Such is the important significance of all these identities that the union of these are bound under one flag, the appropriately designated brand that is “Meydan Hotels & Resorts”, with the literal translation of ‘meeting place’. The idyllic convergence of these values and symbols is bought together with such simplicity yet enduring magnificence that showcases the best of these values.

Meydan, is the lasting vision and legacy of HRH Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and the embodiment that is captured in all it’s splendour through the lush grounds that are comprised of the world’s first five-star track-side hotel with 284 rooms, all with balconies spectacularly overlooking the grounds and race tracks.

The racetrack of course playing home to the world’s most richest race day, ‘The Dubai World Cup’, with US\$30 million in prize money.

Additionally on the grounds of the property are an array of international restaurants and lounges that are well placed and each distinctive with the standout venue, Prime, the world-class and exquisite steak house overlooking the last stretch of the racecourse.

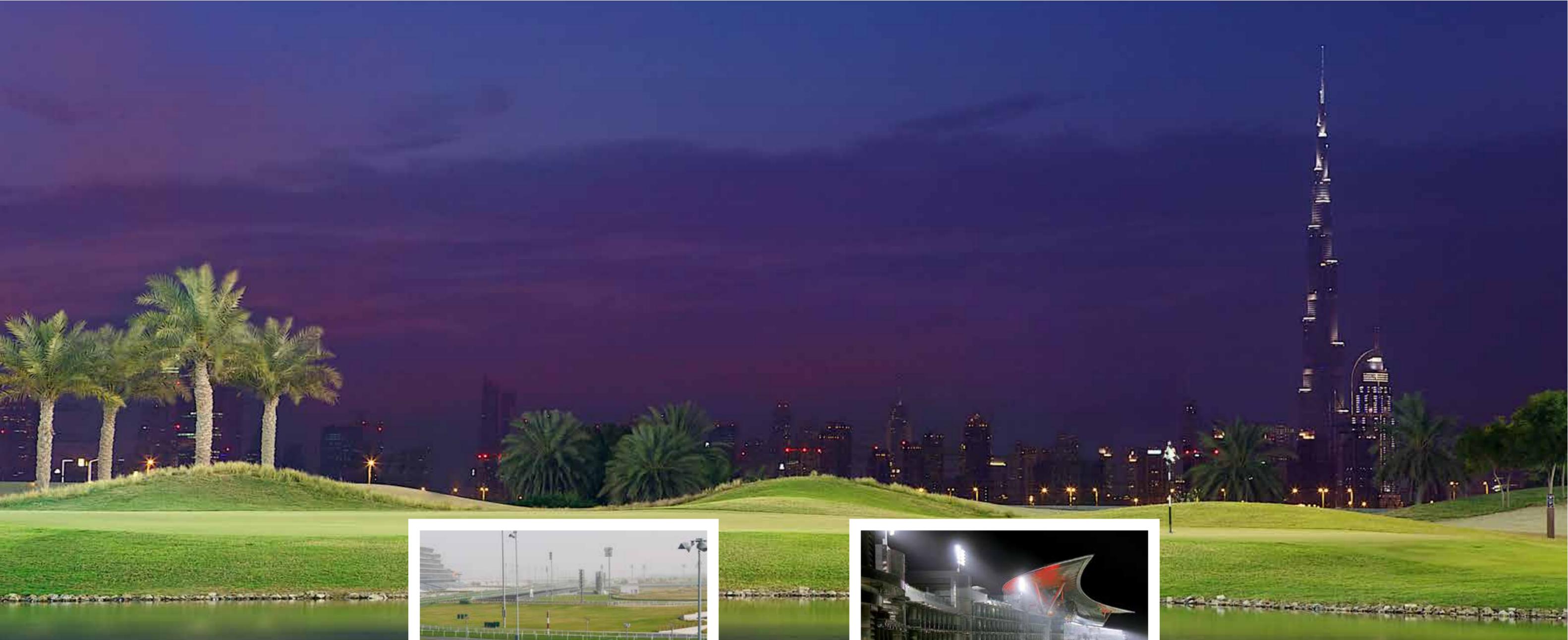
You will also find a racing museum and various equestrian and health & spa activities, an infinity rooftop pool, tennis academy, 9-hole golf course and 72 corporate suites for entertaining throughout the year.

The Meydan Hotel and Resort, officially opened in 2010, is centrally located within 10-15mins of major landmarks and districts such as Burj Khalifa and Burj Al-Arab, DIFC, Downtown, Business Bay and Dubai International Airport, with the Palm Jumeirah and Marina approximately 20mins drive.

Leading off the main motorway, and greeting you is a wondrous and unforgettably highly lucid electric blue suspended wave bridge that veers to the main platform of the property leading up to the entrance of the hotel. The main foyer of the hotel is grand and imposing in character, symbolic of the values it is intended to capture. The structure is a vast glass and steel composite, with all the levels in plain sight as though they were like racing pods.

There is a clear emphasis throughout for visitors to identify this property with the significance and importance of horses as a mainstream of the region, to its people and as an avid activity with various representations throughout the hotel.

We are warmly greeted in the main foyer with a refreshing beverage and then by the on-duty manager, who duly ensures all our needs are catered to precisely throughout the stay. Our room, a twin double-bed room with a generous bathroom and storage room was light, airy and refreshing both in colour and ambiance. The property has 255 deluxe rooms, 19 panoramic suites and 10 presidential suites, of which 2 are duplex suits.



Our first evening was all about taking the gear a couple of notches down, unwinding and appreciating the eco-friendly surroundings just before taking in the culinary delights that awaited at Prime.

Prime is a restaurant that is specious with richly lavish décor, yet intimate with its warm colours and exclusive tables allowing for privacy for all its diners. We are seated by one of the few ceiling-to-floor bombay panoramic windows, where we are greeted at the table by the maître d', who proceeded to explain with precise and extensive detail the well documented various grades and types of meat on offer.

Well worth the listen, interesting and an insightful guide, even for the seasoned meat eater.

There is a wide-ranging palate of starters that are sure to cater for every gastronomic taste. It is certainly recommended to come to Prime with a hungry appetite, as the portions are extremely generous and manly that require ample space! The pan-fried crab-cake and steak tartare are highly recommended and very satisfying!

As with other eateries in Meydan, the focus is specific with each venue and in being so, become highly specialised and master the gastronomy on offer, and the steakhouse will certainly not disappoint in delivering mouth-watering and simplistic variations of steaks that will hit the mark. The meal is completed and complimented by the customary sweet delights, and like anyone with a sweet tooth, the crème-brûlée is definitely the best send off to a sweet goodnight.

With Ramadan dawning upon us the following eve, the general consensus although all places in the property maintain in full service, they generally quieten down out of respect in observing the holy month, and with that it was off to grab so much needed recuperation.

The next morning, a full and hearty breakfast is served at Farriers, which doubles up as an international cuisine restaurant through lunch and dinner. The breakfast setting with scenic views of the green fields ahead are certainly a sight for sore eyes and enriching to any morning with the beautiful sunshine rays beaming across the lush green fields. Shortly after breakfast, we were invited to take a 'crash course' as it were especially for the relative novices in the finesse of the game of golf from a certified PGA Tour instructor. Golf has over the years has been grabbing the attention of a much wider audience, and has for the

most part shed its stereotyped stigma, and demonstrated that it is an extremely healthy activity providing an output for a great deal of de-stressing and self-serenity. The day's activities were concluded with a welcomed trip to the spa for a complete detox with a wide offering of massages available, each varied to combat the specific needs of the wary traveller, to revitalise and reinvigorate the body and soul ready to take on new challenges.

The Meydan is certainly a destination hotel that is a meeting place of tradition and prospective. The blend of authentic Arabian values meted seamlessly and flawless compliments the introduction of the modern world and caters for every need, and is surely to remain a timeless destination for the sands of time.

ON THOUGHT



“A MAN IS BUT THE PRODUCT
OF HIS THOUGHTS. WHAT HE
THINKS, HE BECOMES.”

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.



A little bit boastful, a little bit daring, a little bit crazy: that's what we pilots are like. That's why we always want the best life has to offer: sometimes we even want the impossible. But because it's our style, we have to have or even own the fastest and most sporty cars, the most sophisticated and first-rate airplanes, or maybe the most stylish, state-of-the-art speedboats – and, of course, we have to have the most beautiful and fascinating women. In summary, we want to live life to the fullest, in the face of uncertainty over tomorrow, we want to be sure of today: Time flies, but we want to try and stop it, moment by moment, second by second, with something secure... even if that something is just a watch, albeit a watch made just for us.

STEALTH ST 1

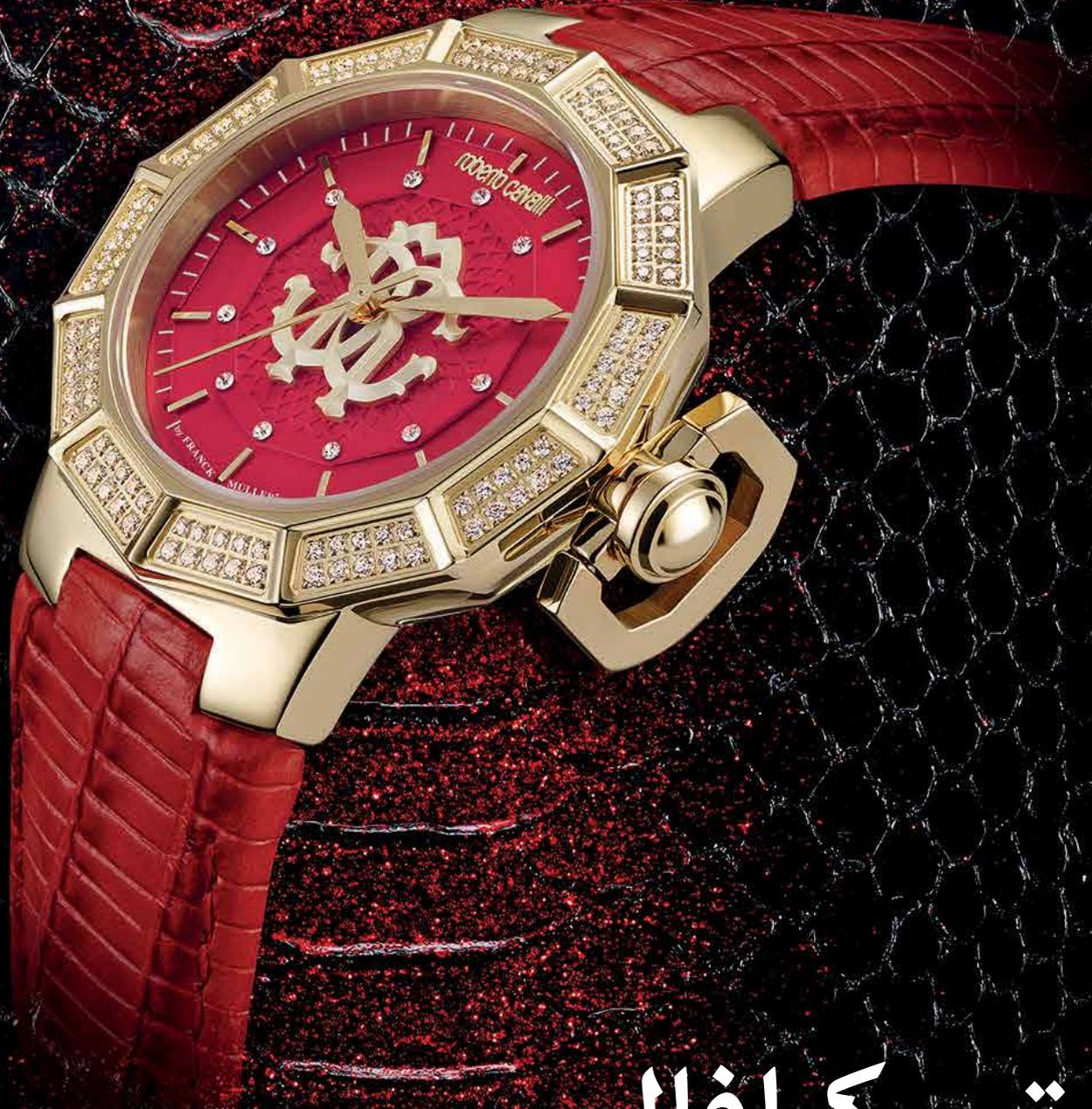
Dimensions: Diameter 45,50 mm

Movement: SWISS MADE - ETA Valjoux 7750 chronograph automatic, 25 jewels, incabloc, anti-shock system

Waterproof: 10 ATM



PILOT-INSTRUMENTS



روبيرتو كافالي من فرانك مولر