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The experience of luxury is a complex one to describe but everyone surely knows it when they experience it. The obligation of an excellent hotel is not only to create experiences in line with its character and destination, which is the foundation of hospitality, but also to add something more. This 'something more' is often intangible, such as superb service or arts and culture woven into the life of the hotel. Dorchester Collection succeeds in providing guests with what many other expressions of luxury, such as art and design, have in common: certain intangible elements that harmonise a pleasurable and enriching experience, and make life that much more expansive and enjoyable.

Yaffa Assouline



# **INTRODUCES**





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# A WORD... From Christopher Gowdray

Chief Executive Officer of Dorchester Collection

A s 2013 unfolds, Dorchester Collection indeed continues to develop. This growth is sustained by a strong foundation, which is structured by the integrity of each property and its unique character. We invest significantly in each hotel to assure that history and heritage are relevant and as vibrant as ever in the experiences we offer to our guests.

Straight from the memorable centenary celebrations of The Beverly Hills Hotel in 2012, Hôtel Plaza Athénée in Paris celebrates its own 100year landmark this year. Its position on avenue Montaigne is an important one, serving as an anchor to the cultural life in close proximity. Similar to the nature of all Dorchester Collection properties, it would be impossible to extricate Hôtel Plaza Athénée from Paris, or Paris from the hotel.

Our focus on The Beverly Hills Hotel last year launched a programme of carefully staged restorations that began with the lobby and moved onward to the famed Polo Lounge, the pool and cabanas and all guest rooms, scheduled for completion by early 2015. Le Richemond also begins a comprehensive renovation programme this year, which will underscore Le Richemond's place in the community. Furthermore, the renovation of Hotel Principe di Savoia's Ambassador Suites is a prime example of heritage reinvigorated. These refurbishments join others at Le Meurice, The Dorchester and Hôtel Plaza Athénée so that, at any given time, we are investing in our properties to ensure that they remain the leading hotels in their respective cities.

The courtesy and service common amongst all of those who work with us at Dorchester Collection highlight the degree to which our employees are our most significant resource, as one of the most



© Philippe Deroue

important that comprise a hotel's integrity. As the renowned photographer and filmmaker Norman Seeff, whose work appears in the Bar at Hotel Bel-Air and is also featured on Page 54, notes: "The people running the Bar are just fabulous - so open, enthusiastic, and cultured ... " I would venture to say that such a finding is not exclusive to Hotel Bel-Air but extends to all properties within Dorchester Collection.

All of our employees are, in a manner of words, artisans of experience. The many packages across the Collection offer a prime example as to how they inspire guests to take advantage of the unique character of each destination. We are able to offer these experiences to guests because those within the hotels are sensitive to such things themselves, as found on Page 68 in which we meet each General Manager and get an inside perspective from those who craft such exceptional moments.

One of the key encounters to be had in a hotel, of course, is that of the gourmand. All the hard work behind the nine Michelin stars across Dorchester Collection is greatly appreciated by discerning palates. We are proud to count three leading female sommeliers across hotels in England, Italy and France. As featured on Page 36, they join a host of other culinary highlights across the collection, from cooking classes at Hotel Bel-Air to Executive Chef Brian Hughson's appointment at Coworth Park, and Sommelier Ronan Sayburn's wine and dinner evenings available at The Dorchester. We are delighted to welcome guests to share and learn the secrets and culinary delights that are being concocted behind our kitchen doors.





Afternoon tea, as part of 'A Royal Life at Coworth Park' package





The Kiss by Zoulikha Bouabdellah, winner of the Meurice Prize for Contemporary Art 2008/2009

09

The domains of art, fashion and contemporary design continue to enrich Dorchester Collection hotels, most particularly Le Meurice, with the initiation of its own art collection in 2009 and annual Meurice Prize for Contemporary Art well into the selection process of this year's finalists; 45 Park Lane, with its stunning selection of art throughout the hotel and talented Dutch designers crafting art overhead, as featured on Page 32; and, finally, the Dorchester Collection Fashion Prize, which came to Hôtel Plaza Athénée in Paris last autumn and brought to light the exceptional design talent of Augustin Teboul, whom we meet on Page 30. They discuss the ways in which winning the prize has affected their future. This is so satisfying for Dorchester Collection, to be aware of the influence we can have on nascent ventures and extremely promising talent.

As with any venture, it is important to focus on the experience and the process behind the results. The aim of Dorchester Collection is to craft such uplifting and enriching experiences, and the aim of guests should be, simply, to enjoy.  $\kappa$ 

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) (Dorchester Collection 3 Tilney Street, London W1K 1BJ, England T. +44 (0)20 7629 4848 info@dorchestercollection.com dorchestercollection.com



Christopher Cowdray flanked by the 2012 Dorchester Collection Fashion Prize winners Augustin Teboul





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# ) (Dorchester Collection

# The Dorchester



At the centre of London society since it opened in 1931, now over 80 years ago, The Dorchester is set in the heart of Mayfair opposite Hyde Park. The landmark 1930s art deco exterior houses 250 rooms and suites, all designed with classic English interiors, and 22 suites newly refurbished that feature wrap-around outdoor terraces overlooking the London skyline. The glamorous and awardwinning spa as well as the restaurants and bars including The Grill at The Dorchester. The Promenade, China Tang at The Dorchester, and three-Michelin star Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester, altogether rank superior.

The Dorchester

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dorchestercollection.com

Park Lane London W1K 1QA

Website:

thedorchester.com





Situated majestically upon 12 acres of lush tropical gardens, The Beverly Hills Hotel has been affectionately nicknamed "The Pink Palace" by those who cherish its unique charm. For over a decade, rovalty. world leaders and celebrities have all enjoyed its attentive service while gracing its luxurious rooms and hide-away bungalows, including two new ultra-luxurious Presidential Bungalows. The sumptuous resort feeling is enhanced by the world-renowned Polo Lounge Bar and Restaurant. Bar Nineteen12, the Spa by La Prairie, and the famous pool and cabanas. It is here the stars come out to play.

The Beverly Hills Hotel

9641 Sunset Boulevard

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Email: reservations.BHH@

dorchestercollection.com

beverlyhillshotel.com

T. +1 310 276 2251

F. +1 310 887 2887

Website:

Le Meurice Paris



Overlooking the beautiful Tuileries Garden, Le Meurice stands majestically in Paris's most stylish neighbourhood, with many of the world's bestloved sights just a short stroll away. Its rooms, decorated in Louis XVI style, as well as its Spa Valmont, offer calm and luxury in a space where history and the latest fashion trends mingle perfectly. Both offering a refined and exquisite cuisine. Restaurant Le Dali is named after one of the hotel's most famous regulars, Salvador Dali: while le Meurice claims three Michelin stars; its stunning, hand-painted ceiling sets the tone for a heightened experience of excellence.

Le Meurice <u>228,</u> Rue de Rivoli

75001 Paris

Website:

lemeurice.com

T. +33 (0) 1 44 58 10 10

F. +33 (0) 1 44 58 10 15

Email: reservations.lmp@

dorchestercollection.com





In 2013, Hôtel Plaza Athénée celebrates 100 years as a vibrant icon, the place where fashion, business and celebrity crowds meet, altogether creating a dynamic energy that is second to none. Surrounded by the fantastic shopping opportunities found along avenue Montaigne, at the heart of Hôtel Plaza Athénée lies the peaceful Cour Jardin, around which are arrayed its stylish rooms, including the gorgeously refurbished Royal and Eiffel Suites. The hotel has five exclusive restaurants (including those open during the summer months), overseen by worldrenowned chef Alain Ducasse, and a dream-like, modern bar designed by Patrick Jouin.

Hôtel Plaza Athénée 25, Avenue Montaigne 75008 Paris

 $\begin{array}{l} {\rm T.}\ +33\ (0)\ 1\ 53\ 67\ 66\ 65\\ {\rm F.}\ +33\ (0)\ 1\ 53\ 67\ 66\ 66 \end{array}$ 

Email: reservations.HPA@ dorchestercollection.com

Website: plaza-athenee-paris.com





This is the true spirit of Milan, an exceptional experience of hospitality, comfort, style and tradition. Dominating Piazza della Repubblica as a landmark neo-classical building, Hotel Principe di Savoia has been the home to international travellers and cosmopolitan society since the 1920s. Discover the newly refurbished rooms and suites, or sip a cocktail at the Principe Bar, spoil yourself with the impeccable cuisine of Executive Chef Fabrizio Cadei in the five-star Acanto Restaurant, and immerse yourself in a world of wellbeing at the Club 10 Fitness and Beauty Center.

Hotel Principe di Savoia Piazza della Repubblica 17 20124 Milan

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Website: hotelprincipedisavoia.com





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# COWORTH · PARK





Opened in September 2011 in the heart of London's Mayfair, 45 Park Lane hosts 45 rooms, including suites all with a view of Hyde Park, and a top floor Penthouse Suite with panoramic views of London. Designed by renowned architect and designer Thierry Despont, 45 Park Lane features art throughout by British contemporary artists such as Damien Hirst. Sir Peter Blake and Brendan Neiland. Steps away from The Dorchester, 45 Park Lane is dynamic in spirit with private dining in the Media Room. Library, Bar 45, and CUT at 45 Park Lane, Wolfgang Puck's first European outpost overseen by Executive Chef David McIntyre.





Le Richemond is the latest addition to Dorchester Collection, located in the heart of Geneva near the business centre, landmarks, museums and galleries. The terrace views of Brunswick Garden, Lake Geneva, the Jet d'Eau, and towards the mountains beyond, set the tone for urbane yet under-stated sophistication. Hosting some of the best corporate meeting rooms and event spaces in Geneva, business turns to pleasure in the spa's sleek bamboo and mosaic interior, at the European restaurant Le Jardin, or at Le Bar where live music fills the air. Renovations starting in 2013 will further refine this Geneva landmark.

Le Richemond, Geneva Jardin Brunswick 1201 Geneva

T. +41 22 715 7000 F. +41 22 715 7001

Email: reservations.LRG@ dorchestercollection.com

Website: lerichemond.com

### Dorchester Collection

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To call from other countries: The Americas +1 407 681 6127 Asia-Pacific +65 623 259 39 Europe +49 69 6641 9571 or please call the hotel directly.

GDS Code DC

Undertaken with great care to retain its intimate charm and celebrated character, iconic Hotel Bel-Air reopened in October 2011. The extensive refurbishments offer a new La Prairie Spa and 103 questrooms and suites, including 12 new accommodations built into the hillside, providing sweeping canyon views, outdoor fireplaces and large patios with private infinity edge plunge pools. With an illustrious history as a discreet hideaway for the rich and famous, the hotel harks back to the timeless elegance of 1950's Hollywood, and reopens with an enhanced status as a truly living classic.



Coworth Park opened in September 2010 and is Dorchester Collection's 70bedroom country house hotel and spa that rewrites the rules. Set within 240 acres of picturesque Berkshire parkland, Coworth Park integrates extensive renewable and energy-efficient facilities; it is also the only hotel within the UK with its own two polo fields. Other features include an Equestrian Centre, ecoluxury Spa at Coworth Park and various dining offerings. The iewel in the crown of Coworth Park's 16 suites is The Dower House, a threebedroom private house that originates from 1775.

**Coworth Park** 

Website:

coworthpark.com

Blacknest Road

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Email: reservations.CPA@

dorchestercollection.com

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Email: reservations.45L@ dorchestercollection.com

Website: 45parklane.com

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Cover: 'Johnny B. Butterfly', Ingo Maurer and Team, 2011. Bulb with white Teflon shade. Handmade insect models. Height approx. 25 cm. Photography Tom Vack, Munich.

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When spring and summer days turn to night, a starry sense of styling comes alive.

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The jewellery design talent behind Belmacz selects her favourite London addresses.

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This up-and-coming art director and curator of contemporary art provides a nomad's newcomer perspective on the city.

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Founders of the Left Bank Parisian boutique The Space select their items of style.

# 30 Augustin Teboul

The 2012 Dorchester Collection Fashion Prize selected this burgeoning brand for its tailored take on an all-black silhouette.

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Take retro forward with bright and bold colours finished with a rock 'n' roll edge.

### 32 Brand Van Egmond

The chandeliers, or 'lighting sculptures' within Cut at 45 Park Lane, Wolfgang Puck's modern American steak restaurant, are the work of this dynamic artistic team.

### 34 Concept Stores / Milan

If there is one city in the world that loves design and all its clever concepts, it is the city of Milan. Here we take a tour of the most celebrated concept stores in town.

### 36 Women Sommeliers

Dorchester Collection claims three women Head Sommeliers across its acclaimed restaurants.We ask these leading women in wine about their unique perspective.

### 38 Bucherer

Paris welcomes a new boutique unlike any other in the world, offering the largest and best selection of watches with the refinement of Swiss service and savoir-faire.

## 40 Exhibition Exploration

Take a whirlwind tour of some of the best cultural happenings between London, Paris, Los Angeles, Milan and Geneva.

### 46 100 Years at Hôtel Plaza Athénée

This iconic property, with its signature red style, celebrates its one hundred years in 2013. We take a tour of history, and its current and eternal charm.

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An Isreali-born, Paris-based designer has a broad range of work that a recent book, entitled 'Out There', brings to light.

# 54 Norman Seeff

Celebrity photographer Norman Seeff shows some of his iconic images within the Bar at Hotel Bel-Air, to spark discussions on the creative process at large.

### 60 Le Palais Bulles

On the Côte d'Azur, legendary French fashion designer Pierre Cardin has a unique palace inspired by the form of the bubble.

# 66 Ingo Maurer

The work of this master lighting designer takes an everyday object to heightened levels of imagination and innovation.

### **68** General Managers

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### 73 Around the World...

What's new and not-to-miss in London, Paris, Los Angeles, Milan and Geneva.

### 78 From the World...

What would you bring back from travelling for a friend, a lover, a child or a pet?





# Dolce & Gabbana / Milan

Italian designers Stefano Gabbana and Domenico Dolce met in Milan in 1980, presented their first collection together in 1985 and, since then, have grown a global fashion empire, even launching their first couture collection in July 2012. We ask them about the city that started it all.



# What do you love most about Milan?

SG: Milan allowed us to realise our dreams. DD: Dreams that would not have become a reality if we hadn't found a city ready to welcome us. SG: In Milan we met... DD: ...In Milan we started working together. There is a strong bond tying us to this city.

# Which are you favourite landmarks?

SG: Without a doubt: the Duomo (Via dell'Arcivescovado, 1, 20121, T. +39 02 72022656). DD: And, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II (Piazza Duomo, 20123, T. +39 02 77404343).

# What are your favourite cultural attractions?

SG: 'Museo del 900' in the Novecento Museum (Piazza del Duomo, 12, 20123, T. +39 02 43353522) but also Pinacoteca di Brera (Via Brera, 28, 20011, T. +39 02 72263264), The National Gallery of ancient and modern art located in one of the most beautiful areas of Milan, Brera. DD: We love Palazzo della Ragione (Piazza dei Mercanti, 20123, T. +39 05 52395252) where we set up an exhibition, and for which Jean Nouvel created a fence we donated to the city of Milan.

# Which are your favourite shops?

SG: Two are very beautiful: Lorenzi (Via Montenapoleone, 9, 20121, T. +39 02 76022848) and La Rinascente (Via Santa Radegonda, 3, 20121, T. +39 02 88521).

Which neighbourhoods should a visitor go see? DD: Definitely Brera but also Navigli - a neighbourhood that is less-known but historic.

Which are your favourite weekend getaways? SG: Lake Como... DD: ...but also Bergamo Alta.

# Please describe a perfect 24 hours in Milan.

SG: Head to Piazza San Babila, still the favourite meeting place of the Milanese. Continue to Corso Venezia and walk in Parco Palestro.

DD: Visit the many treasures within the historic churches: Sant'Ambrogio (Piazza Sant'Ambrogio, 15, 20123, T. +39 02 86450895), San Lorenz (Corso di Porta Ticinese, 39, 20100, T. +39 02 89404129), Santa Maria delle Grazie in the Piazza named after it (20123, T. +39 02 4676111).

www.dolcegabbana.com

For more on Milan, visit *luxuryculture.com*, the web's first high-gloss window into the world of luxury.

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# Sarah Lavoine / Paris

Interior designer Sarah Lavoine is the quintessential Parisian girl about town with a sophisticated, signature style that is both elegant and contemporary. Here she opens up her little black book of secret Paris addresses.

> he many projects of Sarah Lavoine – which L range from private apartments to grand public spaces and from her own homeware collection to a curated selection of iconic design - are linked by an unwavering, signature style. In Paris, it touches the fashionable Japanese restaurant l'Orient-Extrême and the Pavillon Vendôme members' club. She uses colour itself as architecture, defining spaces with a carefully chosen palette for an effect that is pure Mondrian. Yet nowhere is the Lavoine aesthetic more apparent than at her shop, opened in September 2012. It is here that Lavoine launched her own line of furniture and objects think walnut mirrors with asymmetric forms and dressing tables with Bauhaus lines. As the creative director of artisan-created homeware brand Compagnie Française de l'Orient et de la Chine, you can also buy her work at this Paris boutique. She is the face of contemporary interiors à la française.



What do you love most about Paris? It's beautiful wherever you look.

What are your favourite cultural attractions? Palais de Tokyo (13 Avenue du Président Wilson, 75016, T. +33 1 49 52 02 04).

# What are your favourite private galleries?

Kamel Mennour – I love going to see his selection of art (47 Rue Saint-André des arts, 75006, T. +33 1 56 24 03 63). I also like all the designer galleries on Rue de Lille.

# Which are your favourite shops?

Merci (111 Boulevard Beaumarchais, 75003, T. +33 1 42 77 00 33) and Colette (213 Rue Saint-Honoré, 75001, T. +33 1 55 35 33 90) for their amazing collection of gadgets as well as beauty accessories and books, etc.

### Tell us a secret about Paris.

I can tell you a secret place to discover – the 'Starck' restaurant at the Saint-Ouen flea markets (106 Rue des Rosiers 93400, Saint-Ouen, T. +33 1 49 51 70 00). Also, for an unbelievable brunch go to Les 2 Abeilles on rue de l'Université (189 Rue de l'Université, 75007, T. +33 1 45 55 64 04) – they serve the best crumble.

### What is your favourite part of Le Meurice?

My favourite part of Le Meurice is the Bar 228. I love its atmosphere, so cosy and warm. When I did my TV show 'Design by Sarah Lavoine', we spent a day filming on the roof of Le Meurice at the incredible Royal Belle Etoile Suite, with the terrace. This place is so unique. I would love to live there with such a 360° view across Paris.

# Your favourite part of Hôtel Plaza Athénée?

La Cour Jardin. We feel outside of time in it. In springtime, you have the flowers and the birds, it is so quiet...but just two metres away from avenue Montaigne. It's all I like: refined and elegant but discreet. I also love to go to the Patio in wintertime. And, I take my kids to go ice-skating. They enjoy it very much.

SARAH LAVOINE Boutique 9, rue Saint Roch 75001 Paris T. +33 1 42 96 34 35 www.sarahlavoine.com

For more on Paris, visit *luxuryculture.com*, the web's first high-gloss window into the world of luxury.

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Givenchy, cufflinks www.givenchy.com Parmigiani Fleurier Bugatti Super Sport watch www.parmigiani.ch

As the clock chimes midnight, a gentleman's dress soon turns starry, seductive and toward the tones of midnight blue.

Midnight

# Julia Muggenburg / London

THE SHARD, 20 Fenchurch Street

To meet this jeweller, founder of Belmacz, is to meet the most cutting-edge trendsetter of the moment. In addition to her hybrid boutique/gallery in the heart of London's Mayfair, we feature below her other treasured and tested destinations around town.

London EC3 2TH. www.the-shard.com STEPHEN JONES MILLINERY, 36 Great Queen Street London WC2B 5AA, T. +44 20 7242 0770

S he defines a look that is both exotic and boldly contemporary: false eyelashes in gold ("I'm a jeweller, why not?"), a jaunty Stephen Jones hat ("He's a friend and a genius"), and sharp tailoring by young Japanese designers ("They're my soft spot") are further accessorised with a generous sprinkling of gobstopper-sized rings, wooden cuffs and tribal-influenced necklaces, all of her own creation.

Born in Germany and educated at London's famed Central Saint Martins art school, Muggenburg founded Belmacz upon graduating and quickly gained a cult following amongst stylists and fashion editors. Rare materials, including mammoth tusk, coral, and an impressive selection of unusual woods, are her hallmark. Oversized proportions, such as those found on wooden cuffs, are another signature. Muggenburg describes her striking aesthetic as a "21st century take on the status-affirming ceremonial adornments worn in ancient times by tribal chiefs."

At the Belmacz gallery in the heart of London's Mayfair, jewellery is exhibited in the centre of a room in custom-made, futuristic display drawers that rotate from an axis hanging from the ceiling. Surrounded by art (her last show included works by Dan Coopey, Paul Housley, Camilla Low, Ben Newton and Rudolf Polanszky), the space is ever evolving. Ask nicely and you might be invited to view Muggenburg's secret basement rooms that are true treasure troves of the rare and unusual.

www.belmacz.com

For more on London, visit *luxuryculture.com*, the web's first high-gloss window into the world of luxury

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Julia Muggenburg

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# Julia Muggenburg / London

THE SHARD, 20 Fenchurch Street

To meet this jeweller, founder of Belmacz, is to meet the most cutting-edge trendsetter of the moment. In addition to her hybrid boutique/gallery in the heart of London's Mayfair, we feature below her other treasured and tested destinations around town.

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www.belmacz.com

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Julia Muggenburg

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# Shamim M. Momin / Los Angeles

A rising mover and shaker in American contemporary art, Shamim M. Momin is a nomad, though (somewhat) settled in Los Angeles for her non-profit venture LAND (Los Angeles Nomadic Division). We ask about her art-targeted take on Tinseltown.



A hamim M. Momin, in 2009, co-founded LAND  ${f D}$  fresh on the heels of a fast-paced career in New York at the Whitney Museum of American Art, where she co-curated both the 2004 and 2008 Whitney Biennial exhibitions, as well as solo exhibitions of Alex Bag (2009), Terence Koh (2007), Mark Grotjahn (2006), Raymond Pettibon (2005-06), and Banks Violette: Untitled (2005). Outside museum walls, Momin calls LAND a "museum-atlarge", as it curates site- and situation-specific contemporary art projects in Los Angeles and beyond. One upcoming project includes an exhibition of contemporary paintings in the historic Farmers and Merchants Bank in Downtown Los Angeles. The city itself becomes gallery space.

Andrea Bowers & Shizu Saldamando, 'Finding The Words; En Memoria De Un Lenguaje Enterrado', 2011.





Garth Weiser, 'Marfa, December 2011', 2011. Both, a LAND Exhibition: Nothing Beside Remains.

What do you love most about Los Angeles? Trying to figure it out. Discovery and time - it's a harder nut to crack but pretty delicious inside.

What are your favourite cultural attractions? The obvious, given what I do - MOCA (250 South Grand Ave., T. +1 213 621 2766), LACMA (5905 Wilshire Blvd., T. +1 323 857 6010) and Hammer Museum (10899 Wilshire Blvd., T. +1 310 443 7000). And, MAK Center, which amazingly preserved the Schindler House, where it is based in West Hollywood (835 N. Kings Rd., T. +1 323 651 1510), and other architectural treasures such as the Fitzpatrick Leland House. Architectural tours found online can make a day of driving an extraordinary viewing experience. Another project we are working on with Fritz Haeg brought us to the Theodore Payne Foundation (10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley, T. +1 818 768 1802), which felt like a kind of smart horticulture camp for grown-ups.

# Do you have a favourite memory associated with The Beverly Hills Hotel?

Before I moved to L.A., a colleague hosted her wedding reception there, in a pretty stunning ballroom in which to have a bunch of curators and artists dancing around to 80s pop music. And, when I moved to L.A., I had dinner at the Polo Lounge with the fellow who produced the TV show 'Cops' and the former FBI agent whose job it was to find stolen artwork. Somehow, that seemed like the kind of combination that would only happen in L.A., and maybe only there to boot...

# Where do you go in Los Angeles to rejuvenate?

Griffith Park (4730 Crystal Springs Dr., T. +1 323 913 4688), which is an amazingly diverse and enormous scope of land. Hollywood Observatory (2800 E Observatory Ave., T. +1 213 473 0800), which, while a very travelled path, is nonetheless meditative, changeable, and beautiful.

# Do you have a favourite view of the city?

One evening an artist I work with invited me to be a part of a film she was working on, which involved "breaking into" the Hollywood sign - yes, that sign. Looking out at L.A. from behind the physical letters of such an iconic image/object was pretty thrilling.

www.nomadicdivision.org

For more on Los Angeles, visit *luxuryculture.com*, the web's first high-gloss window into the world of luxury



# NANCY GONZALEZ

BERGDORF GODMAN Neiman Marcus Sake Tith Avenue Harrods NET-A-PORTER.COM

Nars Cosmetics Jungle Red lipstick www.narscosmetics.com





Annelise Michelson Carnivorous ear cuff www.annelisemichelson.com

# Selected By

Co-founders of the Parisian boutique The Space, Julia Van Hagen and Tallulah Rufus Isaacs allow a glimpse into their own stylistic preferences.

he dynamic team behind The Space r f L brings a fresh and youthful energy to Parisian boutique shopping. With some exhibition curating experience behind her, Julia Van Hagen joined forces with stylist Tallulah Rufus Isaacs to place art and fashion in parallel in their gallery-like boutique space. As girls about town with very international profiles, their eclectic selection of items reflects their playful attitude to fashion and close ties with twenty-something creatives across continents (they did a pop-up boutique in London earlier this year). Designs by Vivienne Westwood as well as emerging designers such as Twins for Peace and Delpine Delefon dialogue with works of art and photography - an approach in line with the heart and spirit of the historically bohemian Left Bank, where their boutique is nestled.



www.the space.fr

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Nuxe Huile Prodigieuse www.nuxe.com

Louis Vuitton Vintage trunk www.louisvuitton.com collect N°13

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# BEAUTY CAPTURED. THE GRAFF BUTTERFLY





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# Augustin Teboul / Spotlight

Young design talents Annelie Augustin and Odély Teboul – the creative pair behind label Augustin Teboul – explain the impact of winning the 2012 Dorchester Collection Fashion Prize and its €30,000 cash prize.

> A swinners of the 2012 Dorchester Collection Fashion Prize, designers Annelie Augustin and Odély Teboul are officially 'The Next Big Thing' in fashion. Designing under the label Augustin Teboul, their latest collection has been described as having "something of the McQueen about it" by The Daily Telegraph due to their use of intricate craftsmanship and their romantic, albeit dark, Black Swan-style aesthetic. It is a testament to their talent that despite their all-black palette, the all-star judging panel recognised their individuality and couture quality amongst the carefully-chosen shortlist. Always remember: you heard their name here first.

# What has been the impact of winning the Dorchester Collection Fashion Prize?

It's something completely incredible to have had this big support. It helps for a lot of things like buying material and building a team we can work with. As a young designer, it is so difficult to start with no budget. Winning the Dorchester Collection Fashion Prize is something fantastic! After winning the prize, we had many press requests and a lot of interest. It's helping make people hear about Augustin Teboul.

# Your collections are entirely black – something that, despite the popularity of the colour, makes you completely unique. Why no colour?

Black is intemporal, elegant, dark, feminine, and rock 'n' roll. And we are very interested in playing with the different shades of black. Working in monochrome allows us to focus more on details like textures and embroideries.

# Craftsmanship and tailoring are also signatures of Augustin Teboul. How do you believe clothes like this should be worn?

It's a question of personality. And we hope the people put a lot of personality into their way of wearing Augustin Teboul. It can be very different, from eveningwear to more rock 'n' roll. Portrait of the designers by Ilja Stahl. Surrounded by looks from their Autumn-Winter 2013/2014 Collection. Photos by Stefan Mile

*Is an eventual Haute Couture collection one of your ambitions?* Yes, definitely.

What do the next few seasons hold for you? We hope to grow, and that people get to know us and wear Augustin Teboul more and more!

www.augustin-teboul.com

For more on Fashion, visit *luxuryculture.com*, the web's first high-gloss window into the world of luxury.







Prada, frames Spring/Summer Collection 2013 www.prada.com



Graff Butterfly Ruby watch www.graffdiamonds.com Burgess Seanna motor yacht www.burgessyachts.com



shopping...

31

Boucheron Serpent Bohème chain bracelet in yellow gold set with diamonds www.boucheron.com



# Brand Van Egmond

With a passion for objects and design, independent Dutch artists Willian Brand and Annet van Egmond comprise Brand Van Egmond, which crafts elaborate and poetic 'lighting sculptures', as they describe them. Their spectacular creations can be found in Wolfgang Puck's modern American steak restaurant, CUT at 45 Park Lane, London.

# What were your inspirations for the lighting sculptures/chandeliers found within CUT at 45 Park Lane?

32

art &design...

The lighting sculptures are designed in such a way that they can be seen and appreciated from any point of view – whether for those sitting upstairs at the bar, or those right underneath having their breakfast, lunch or dinner.

# Please describe the materials and processes used for their creation.

We still do a lot of drawing by hand at our atelier actually! Afterwards, the lighting sculptures are handmade; we handcraft and weld the iron. The finish is nickel; we actually place all the objects in baths in order to get this finish. They are fairly big objects; the dimensions are 300 x 100 x 100 cm.

# What did you do differently in this project?

We do projects in over sixty countries, for an eclectic clientele ranging from royals to rappers. What was unusual in this project was that the hotel itself is in London, the chief design firm Thierry Despont is in New York City and, of course, we are based close to Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The distances posed no problems however; and this was, to a great extent, to the credit of the incredible, professional team of Thierry Despont.

# Which other design elements in the restaurant recall the colour, form, or texture of the lighting sculptures/chandeliers?

Overall, the design of the hotel feels very city chic. I think our design adds an element of sensuality to the space. I sense the lights are nicely in line with the grandeur of the space. There is a rhythm that repeats itself elegantly through the Art Deco piece in the hallway, the grand mirror, our lights with the specific nickel finish; it all makes perfect sense.

# Please give your opinion about a chandelier's influence on a space – how do you think it effects or defines an interior?

Lights have the capacity to alter totally the atmosphere of a space! Even though it's still frequently overlooked, and thought of only at the end of the design process. We feel we sometimes work with magic; a small element that can have such a dramatic impact. It's beautiful, but also gives us a lot of responsibility.

# Please describe your favourite things about 45 Park Lane.

We nowadays sometimes hold our UK meetings at 45 Park Lane; the location is simply unbeatable right in the heart of London. Recently, we have also stayed at the hotel. I find the service wonderfully personal; and, the views over Hyde Park are simply stunning which, I have to say, is one of my favourite things.

# What is the governing philosophy of your brand and studio?

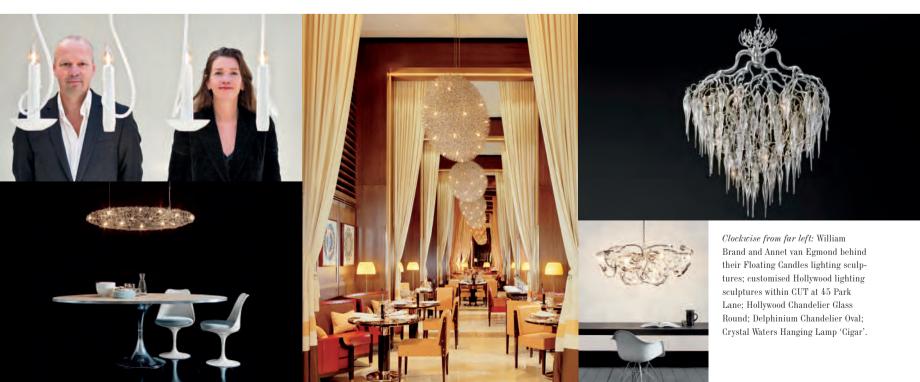
Autonomy. We are two independent artists that cherish our independence to the utmost. To be able to create in complete freedom is the main stepping-stone for both of us.

### What projects are you working on now?

We are currently working on a customised lighting piece for the latest Chopard jewellery boutique in Kuwait, and a lighting installation for Louis Vuitton in NYC. Every March, we have our lights at the best art fair in the world, Tefaf in Maastricht. We are also in the process of designing something unique with the exclusive car company Spyker; we love their sense of style and entrepreneurship and are happy to be collaborating with them.

As always, we participate in the annual Salone Internazionale del Mobile, Milan, at the Euroluce fair. For this, we are currently working hard on several new models.  $\kappa$ 

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GIO MORETTI, Via della Spiga 4, 20121 Milan, T. +39 02 76003186, www.giomoretti.com

# *Concept Stores* Milan

For design sensitive individuals, the concept store is a candy shop. In Milan, Collect selects such stores succeeding in capturing that unique mix of experience, lifestyle, and fun toys.

# CARGO & HIGH TECH

Two multi-space emporiums (connected by a dedicated shuttle bus) are governed by the common curatorial vision of functionality and aesthetics that recognises the rough and uneven surfaces. "Cargo," the shop declares, "is a place to feel, to touch and to live." Both are located in vast spaces – converted Milanese industrial factories (one of which produced Ovaltine) – in which can be found a variety of stylistic genres across international furnishing and home accessories, books, perfumes and fashion accessories, with a special section dedicated to tropical plants. A cultural centre, called Cargo Etc., hosts discussions on art, food and music with a café to boot.

### DONDUP

Massimo Berloni and Manuela Mariotti joined forces in 1999 to form Dondup, a name derived from Tibetan Lama Myngar Dondup whose philosophical principle was: "all men are equal: race, colour and faith have no meaning, all that counts are one's intentions and actions". The Dondup brand is known for denim design but has now expanded into a 400-square metre space, which is an overall minimalist environment with dashes of antique style such as carved iron elements, and white vintage furniture and interiors. The old and new harmoniously mould together. A restaurant, Mimmo, awaits customers upstairs featuring additional spaces for reading and listening to music.

# GIO MORETTI

With its interior design of starkly black-and-white and utterly clean lines, Gio Moretti features an impressive line-up of up-to-the-minute fashion – from Balmain to Victoria Beckham – intermixed with an in-store Mac cosmetics counter and a fine, eclectic selection of magazines, music samples, limited edition bicycles, shoes, watches and jewellery. A little bookstore, with an invitingly luxurious couch for taking a shopping respite, invites browsing about titles in art, fashion, design and architecture.

### collect N°13

### EXCELSIOR

With a commanding name, meaning "ever upward" in Latin, Excelsior Milano is the city's newest and most ambitious mecca of concept stores, sprawling 4000 square metres in an ultra-modern, seven-floor structure designed by Jean Nouvel. Fresh sneakers, niche beauty products and clever collaborations abound, and reflect a perfectly integrated creative team commanding the space's art, video and music direction. Three floors of fashion are overseen by Milanese fashion authority Antonia Giaenti, a self-proclaimed shoe addict and owner of the eponymous Antonia boutique. She provides a mix of local and international designers in line with the high-profile energy infused throughout the space.

### SPIGA 2

Opened in 2010, Spiga2 is the first pioneering multi-brand boutique from Dolce & Gabbana that aims to be not only a boutique but, moreover, a meeting place of minds and style. Its strength is that is serves as a launch pad for promising young designers such as Roksanda llincic, Vika Gazinskaya and Kaal E. Suktae who might not otherwise be able to gain such wide retail exposure. Spiga2 features live events such as concerts – with the musicians dressed and styled by the Spiga2 menswear designers – forums for bloggers, and multi-media installations.

### CORSO COMO

Corso Como is not to be missed. Nestled in a courtyard complex, Corso Como comprises an extensive fashion boutique, art gallery, bookstore, hotel and outdoor dining terrace. Founded in 1990 as a bookstore, by the gallerist and publisher Carla Sozzani, it expanded a year later into fashion and design (her sister, Franca Sozzani, is the longtime editor-in-chief of Italian Vogue). The visual identity of Corso Como is designed by American artist Kris Ruhs, who collaborated with Rei Kawakubo and Comme des Garçons for Corso Como's Tokyo outpost in 2002, followed by two locations in Seoul, Korea.

### ANTONIOLI

This fashion-centric boutique also keeps abreast of the latest collaborations in sneaker design, the newest notes to come from niche perfume brands and the freshest trends in hyper-styled accessories such as scooter helmets. Featuring fashion by the likes of Rick Owens, Gareth Pugh, Maison Martin Margiela, Damir Doma as well as Kris Van Assche, Antonioli additionally claims a strong online sales platform accompanied by a blog with backstage video and interviews with designers. Its modern, international, and multi-media approach keeps this style destination a source of information concerning the global Zeitgeist.



<image>

SPIGA 2, Via della Spiga 2, 20121 Milan, T. +39 02795747, www.spiga2.dolcegabbana.com



CORSO COMO, Corso Como 10, 20154 Milan, T. +39 02 653531, www.10corsocomo.com



ANTONIOLI, Via P. Paoli 1, 20143 Milan, T. +39 02 36566494, www.antonioli.eu

# NOTES

# From Women Sommeliers

In support of the nine Michelin stars across the restaurants found in Dorchester Collection hotels, three women sommeliers are making the most important pairing decisions. With an international event early 2013, and the appointment of Head Sommelier Estelle Touzet at Le Meurice in Paris late 2012, the women behind the wine are directly in the spotlight.



In Paris, Head Sommelier Estelle Touzet oversees the 30,000 bottles and 1,100 references found on Le Meurice's wine list, including a Romanée Conti 2003 and a Vouvray Le Haut Lieu 1ère Trie Huet 1959. In Milan, at Acanto Restaurant in Hotel Principe di Savoia, the Head Sommelier Alessandra Veronesi leads an all-female team of sommeliers. And, in London, the native Italian Vanessa Cinti highlights the best of American wines at CUT at 45 Park Lane, Wolfgang Puck's modern American steak restaurant, also as head sommelier. Accredited as Advanced Sommelier by The American Chapter of the Court of Master Sommeliers, her perspective is at the crest of Old and New World wines.

These women came into relief in the days surrounding International Women's Day on March 8th, when Touzet, Veronesi, and Cinti took a wine road trip between London, Paris and Milan to toast female achievements in wine. Before an audience in each destination, their expertise inspired lively discussions about female winemakers, next generation wine families and the female palate. They compared Old World and New World wines, with each brining forth two selections from American, French and Italian wines. Their charm and their passion for all things oenological bring an added dimension to every dining experience at their respective hotels. "Clients trust us and you can't put a price on that," notes Estelle Touzet on the real value behind her new role. We continue the conversation by going further into their thoughts about the world of wine.

# ALESSANDRA VERONESI

Acanto Restaurant, Hotel Principe di Savoia

### What inspired you to become a sommelier?

Since I was a child my family owned a wine store. This is the reason why talking about wine is like breathing for me. It is something natural. I have to thank the two people who made me enter this amazing world: Giuseppina Veronesi, my aunt, and Severino Barzan, who is part owner of 'La Bottega del Vin' in Verona.

# Can you please name a female winemaker that you particularly respect or appreciate?

With vineyards in Ambonnay and Bouzy in the south of the Montagne de Reims, Marie-Noelle Ledru is truly a rare breed of female vigneron (she refers to herself as a "viticulturice"). As a civil servant, she inherited the property from her parents who retired in 1984. The philosophy is to use no insecticides, and if treatments are necessary, only environment-friendly options are considered. The wine maker Barbara Tamburini, owner of 15 companies in Italy. And, Elisabetta Foradori, owner of the Foradori company that produces one of the best red wines with Teroldego of Northern Italy.

# Are there certain wines that you find women tend to particularly enjoy? Which ones?

The Champagne Rosè and Chardonnay, in particular borgognone, but also wines of the Northern Italian regions like Piedmont. I find they also appreciate more and more the Pinot noir.

# What do you appreciate about the wine cellar at Hotel Principe di Savoia?

Aesthetically, the Acanto "cave of the day" is very beautiful, with a lot of mirrors. It is divided into eight fridges with different temperatures, so that I can arrange wines as I like. In the future, I would like to create a table with a showcase cellar in an area of Acanto where we can open important bottles... Concerning the main warehouse, it has a special area where we store all the wines in a perfect climate-controlled environment.

### Please recount an anecdote regarding a client.

I met a Brazilian family from São Paolo – a father and mother, with two children, who love wine. I talked with them about food service and important wine areas all around the world. We exchanged business cards and when they went back to Brazil, they wrote to ask me to organise a wine and food trip in my home territory: Valpolicella!

There they purchased a lot of bottles of wine for their own private cave. Year after year, I organise beautiful visits around Italy for them to discover the Nebbiolo, Tuscany (Chianti, Brunello, Supertuscans, etc.) and others areas. From that moment, every time they come back home, they send me a present and wishes for every birthday...for me, it is very beautiful!

### VANESSA CINTI

CUT at 45 Park Lane, 45 Park Lane

### What inspired you to become a sommelier?

Born in Barolo, Italy, my family has always been into wine. My grandmother Luigina was surely my biggest inspiration, leading me to become a sommelier, as she has great cellars and a great palate (better than mine!).

# Can you please name a female winemaker that you particularly respect or appreciate?

I have two female winemakers that I respect: in Italy, Chiara Boschis, a Barolo winemaker; in the USA, Maggie Harrison from California. Maggie's Pinot noir was one of my selected wines for the International Women's Day event.

# Are there certain wines that you find women tend to particularly enjoy? Which ones?

I think sommeliers enjoy different wines based on the education they received in wine, their background and their personal preferences. It is said that women are more sensitive when wine tasting; however, I believe a palate is unique to the individual and not the gender.

# What do you appreciate most about the wine cellar at 45 Park Lane?

I appreciate the wine cellar at 45 Park Lane as I created it from scratch! I love being able to change it, adding new wines to the current collection and changing it to match the new menu, seasons, or our guests' preferences. It takes a lot of my time but is very rewarding.

### Please recount an anecdote regarding a client.

When I was working in Napa Valley seven years ago at Spago (Wolfgang Puck's restaurant), I had served wine to a 21-year-old having dinner with his parents, and it was his first-ever glass of wine. I served him a Barolo from my home country, Italy, which he thoroughly enjoyed. We kept in touch, and a few years later I discovered he was studying at UC Davis (the best wine and food culinary school in California) and to become a winemaker. I now continue to follow his progress, as he has become a great winemaker.

# Do you think women have a different palate sensibility when tasting wine? Please explain. I do not believe the male and female palate is different. They experience the same flavours when wine tasting but, based on their own culture and

experience with wine as well as wine education, they might describe wines in different ways.

# Can you please name a female winemaker that you particularly respect or appreciate?

It would not be fair to answer this question with only one name. I really do have a huge respect for all the female wine makers for they have to evolve in a "male-point-of-view industry", where it is really difficult to gain the respect from their peers.

# Are there certain wines that you find women tend to particularly enjoy? Which ones?

Actually, women are able to appreciate all the different kind of wines! They can enjoy spicy, deep, strong, tannic or totally soft, delicate, and smooth wines. Women, though, are more aware and curious to discover new wines and sensations. I am not sure there is a specific "feminine wine" or style. Doesn't it depend on one's mood, too?

# What do you appreciate most about the wine cellar at Le Meurice?

I love the architecture and design of our 'Starck Wine Cellar'. Philippe Starck designed and created it five years ago when he redecorated all the public areas of the hotel. He managed to find a perfect balance between a modern and an old style. So now, while seated in the impressive dining room of the gastronomic restaurant, a replica of the Salon de la Paix in Versailles, on one side you have the beautiful view onto the Tuileries Garden and on the other side, our contemporary cellar where all of the most prestigious bottles are stored! x



Le Meurice Restaurant, Le Meurice

## Was there a certain experience that inspired you to become a sommelier?

I first discovered wine when I was only 14 years old and it was thanks to my History teacher at junior high school. He shared his passion for wine and gastronomy with me and definitely passed it on to me! He also introduced me to several wine makers and very famous chefs such as Bernard Loiseau and Antoine Westerman. I could never forget it. And, the first time I tasted a Grand Cru, I remember it was a Morey St. Denis, Le Clos de la Roche 1996, Domaine Dujac. I realised at this very moment how much only one grape could create emotion, in this case the Pinot noir. The silky and velvety texture, combining strength and depth definitely moved me so much. I fell in love...



# Bucherer

# Swiss Expertise Arrives in Paris

A watchlover's visit to Switzerland includes, without question, a visit to a Bucherer boutique. Now, for the first time in France, Bucherer opens in Paris the largest store in the world for discovering and finding exceptional timepieces.

A flourish of watchmaking invention and innovation took place in mid-16th century Switzerland with the creation of the first-ever Watchmakers' Guild of Geneva in 1601 and, later, the founding of Maison Bucherer in 1888; ever since, Switzerland remains the birthplace, home and destination for all connoisseurs of superb watches. In 2013, Maison Bucherer, one of the most important players in this long tradition, comes to Paris to offer French watch-lovers and global tourists the highest standards of Swiss service, expertise and selective choice.

From its flagship boutique in Lucerne, Maison Bucherer dominates local watchmaking and jewellery retail through a network of fifteen multibrand boutiques in Switzerland, eight boutiques in Germany and one in Austria; it also manufacturers its own timepieces Carl F. Bucherer as well as diamond jewellery. Maison Bucherer has always been, and remains today, a family business. It is, quite simply, a European institution.

In 2013, it offers Paris – and the world – something that does not yet exist: a watchlover's temple across three floors and 2200 square metres of space. Frequent visitor to Paris, who stroll along boulevard des Capucines between L'Opéra Garnier and La Madeleine, just steps from Place Vendôme, may know the grand corner building that for generations has sold the luxurious wares of Old England. The building is classified as a Historic Monument of Paris. And, it is here Maison Bucherer has created a universe where the delicate, metred hum of minute mechanical movements fills the air.

At first entrance, there is a calm, pleasant, elegance infusing the space. All the personnel are part of 'la Maison', that is, trained within to offer an integral, high standard of Swiss values, service and expertise while in counsel to firsttimers or in consultation with collectors. They are not bound to a specific brand; they are bound to the interests of those who enter Maison Bucherer.

The ground floor of Bucherer displays the majors of the watchmaking tradition such as Rolex, Blancpain, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Longines, Tudor and Vacheron

Constantin. It is both a space for those who know, and those who are looking to know more. A lady looking for gift ideas, a connoisseur curious about the newest models, a father shopping for his son's first major watch upon school graduation. For this, a father might also head to the basement floor, where there is a perfect mix of heritage and modernity. It is the ideal environment for discovering the contemporary styles of brands such as B SWISS, Mido, Oris, Rado and Tissot.

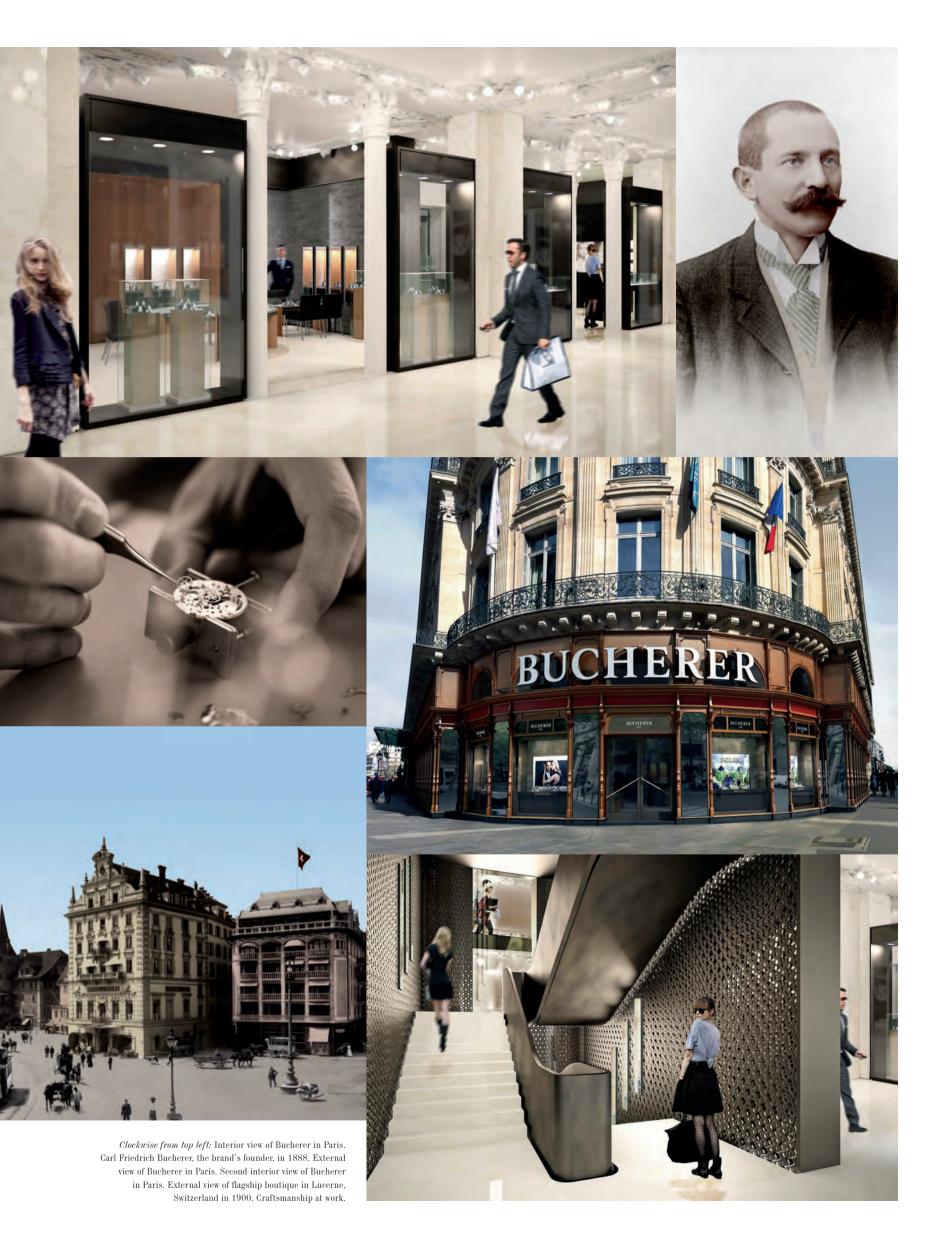
Upwards to the first floor, there is a sense of rarity, privacy and confidentiality for discovery and discussion. Here can be found a certain level of prestige in models that play a close line between jewellery and watchmaking amongst brands such as Chopard, Piaget and Van Cleef & Arpels. These are beside a dynamic mix of 'Haute Horlogerie' including timepieces from Panerai, IWC, A. Lange & Söhne, Baume & Mercier, Girard-Perregaux, Montblanc, Roger Dubuis and Zenith. A variety of styles, heritages and degree of technicality offer a choice that is simply second to none.

Furthermore, Atelier Bucherer offers clients the incomparable savoir-faire of artisans, formed in the most pure Bucherer tradition based on respect. A range of offered services can take care of all the most important and the most delicate repairs while others, situated in the base level of the store, take care of smaller fine-tuning such as polishing, waterproofing and sizing adjustments.

There are certain names that are exchanged discreetly among insiders. And, other names, are destination references that one simply must not miss. Bucherer is both of these, and has been for generations. Unlike any other department store, unlike any other watch boutique, Bucherer is the largest space in the world, in terms of surface and specialisation, consecrated to the universe of exceptional horlogerie. For the important moments in life there is a family-run business to go to. Bucherer is an engagement of confidence for Swiss expertise and now, for Paris.  $\varkappa$ 

### BUCHERER

12, boulevard des Capucines, 75009 Paris, France, T. +33 1 70 99 18 88, www.bucherer.com





# EXHIBITION EXPLORATION

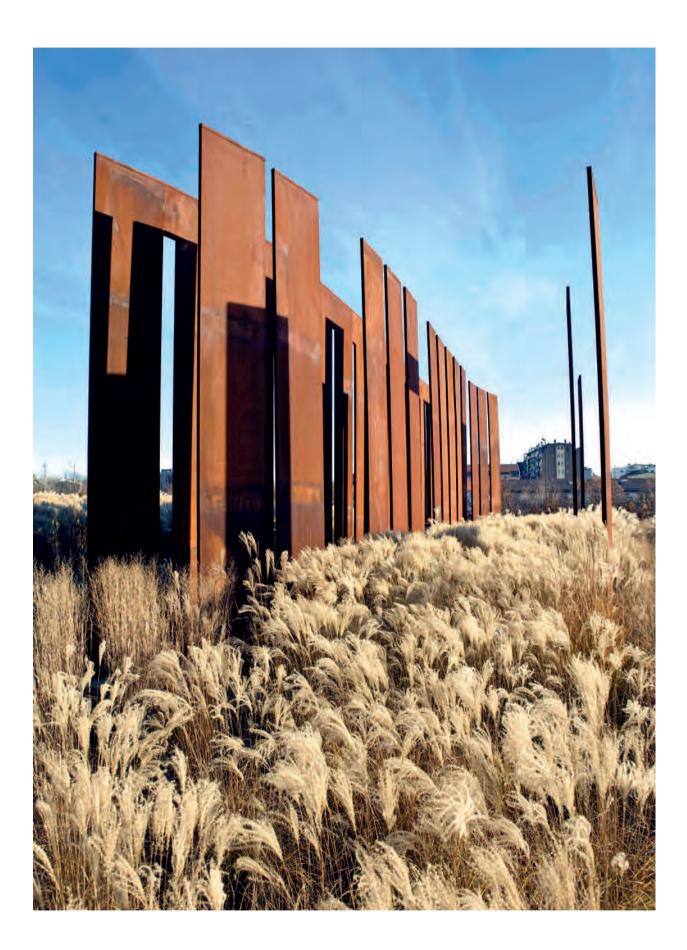
Each metropolis where Dorchester Collection hotels reside provides a wealth of cultural dialogue going on any given moment in the form of preservation, creation and presentation. Take a tour of the selection of the season.

<sup>44</sup> W ell, something must be done for May, / The time is drawing nigh – / To figure in the Catalogue, / And woo the public eye," wrote the British humorist and poet Thomas Hood in the early 1800s. Such is the concern for curators still today who are involved in strategically planning the arts programming for the year, making sure that the summer season particularly sparkles – and sparks interest – for the delight of tourists passing through, the weekend leisure lovers, and the ever-hungry art aesthetes.

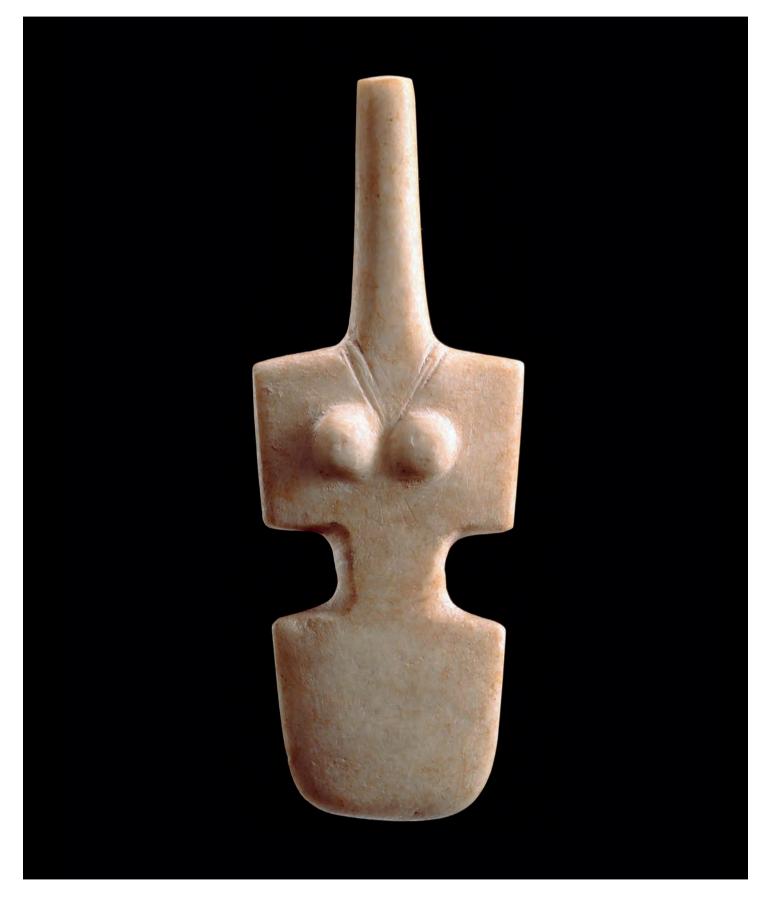
If it is not feasible to touch down in London, Paris, Milan, Los Angeles and Geneva all in one summer, access the character of each city's cultural programming through one snapshot of the many exciting exhibitions to be seen. There are those who visit exhibitions like a whirlwind, others who very studiously take their time, and yet others who can get transfixed in front of one piece, which might spark a lifelong fascination with an artist, a technique, a movement or an idea. In the following pages, we take the position of all three art-going types, depending on how one turns the pages: fast, slow or seduced by one.

As the weather grows warmer and summer comes about town, people grow more daring about unchartered excursions and curious about unknown cultures. And so, indeed, the time draws nigh and something must be done.





# Milan



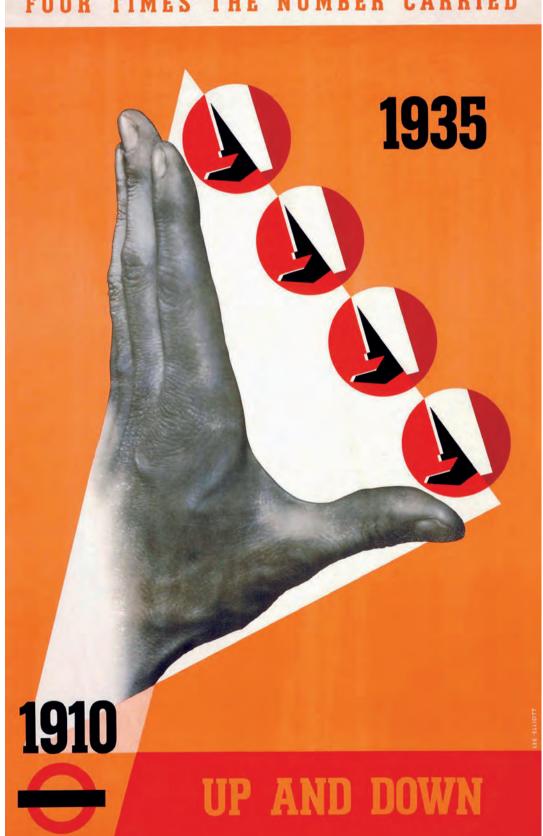
*Musée Barbier-Mueller, A Centenary Collection*, Until October 20, 2013 Rue Jean-Calvin, 10, 1204 Geneva, T. +41 22 312 02 70





The Getty Center, Japan's Modern Divide: The Photographs of Hiroshi Hamaya and Kansuke Yamamoto Until August 25, 2013. 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles 90049, T. +1 310 440 7300





# CARRIED FOUR TIMES THE NUMBER



London Transport Museum, Poster Art 150 - London Underground's Greatest Designs Until October 27, 2013. Covent Garden Piazza, London WC2E 7BB, T. +44 20 7379 6344

# 100 Years

# Hôtel Plaza Athénée

As Hôtel Plaza Athénée in Paris celebrates its centenary year in 2013, one abiding truth remains clear across the decades: this legendary luxury hotel is deeply intertwined with the concurrent cultural history in Paris, from Dior to Diaghilev.

The view of the Eiffel Tower from the upper levels of Hôtel Plaza Athénée is stunning. Seen from the hotel's street side façade, dotted with brilliant red canopies and geraniums, this interface between icons underscores Hôtel Plaza Athénée as undeniably, quintessentially Parisian.

Sarah Jessica Parker famously waved with particularly carefree 'joie de vivre', from underneath such a canopy in the 2004 episodes 'American Girl in Paris 1 & 2' of the television series 'Sex and the City', but she was by no means the first nor most remarkable celebrity cocooned within Hôtel Plaza Athénée's discretion and style over the years. Built in the late 1800s within the context of Georges Haussmann's transformation of Paris into a bustling capital, the landmark hotel has received high-profile personalities since day one, when it opened in 1913 at the same time as the neighbouring Théâtre des Champs-Elysées. Considering the first performance at the Théâtre caused a legendary stir – The Rite of Spring by Igor Stravinsky performed by Sergei Diaghilev's Ballet Russes dance company – Hôtel Plaza Athénée instantly became the gathering place for the most prominent composers and performers of the day such as Josephine Baker and Rudolph Valentino, notably mingling alongside titans of industry such as those of the Ford family.

In the 1920s, Hôtel Plaza Athénée sprawled from number 21 to number 27 avenue Montaigne, doubling in surface area. The financial crisis of 1929 began a troubled period that entailed the hotel's temporary closure and subsequent reopening in 1936. During World War II, Hôtel Plaza Athénée, like many other luxury hotels in Paris, played a part in history; after the Liberation, the restaurant Le Relais Plaza became the American soldiers' cafeteria. After these tumultuous years, the hotel quickly rose again to international fame hosting personalities throughout the decades from Marlene Dietrich and Gary Cooper, to Jackie Kennedy and Grace Kelly and, later, Michael Jackson and many others. The famed couple Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton lived for more than six months in the Royal Suite.

A key milestone in the cultural life of Hôtel Plaza Athénée was when fashion designer Christian Dior installed his Haute Couture Atelier on avenue Montaigne. Dior quickly attracted the attention of Hôtel Plaza Athénée's clientele, himself becoming a regular; Dior staged many of his photographic advertising campaigns there, and even named collections after the legendary property. The year 1947, particularly, marked not only a new era for fashion (Dior's radical post-war silhouette was dubbed 'The New Look') but also for Hôtel Plaza Athénée, as avenue Montaigne transformed into the avenue of 'Haute Couture' and, today, is one of the best shopping streets in Paris. It is locally called 'The Golden Triangle' for the trio of joined streets that bring together unparalleled shopping options, with Hôtel Plaza Athénée at the heart.

Into the 21st century, Hôtel Plaza Athénée witnessed a complete refurbishment in 2000 and joined forces with master chef Alain Ducasse who earned three Michelin stars in 2001 for Alain Ducasse au Plaza Athénée, maintained ever since. The outdoor terrace opened in 2006 and the inner courtyard ice rink in 2007, which started a festive holiday tradition. The Dior Spa opened in 2008, cementing Hôtel Plaza Athénée's close ties with the legendary fashion designer. In 2010, Hôtel Plaza Athénée was the first hotel to be distinguished as a 'Living Heritage Enterprise' for its savoir-faire excellence and, in 2011, was given the 'Palace' title, recognising its perennial role at the top of Parisian hospitality.

To celebrate one hundred years, there is no more appropriate birthday cocelebrant than the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, as both institutions have been concurrently at the heart and soul of avenue Montaigne throughout the decades. A programme of six dates beginning May 30th, 2013 – almost exactly 100 years to the day after the first performance of The Rite of Spring – provides an opportunity to see the original 1913 choreography by Nijinsky. Another commemorative gesture during Hôtel Plaza Athénée's centenary year includes the planting of one hundred trees on the grounds of Château de Versailles in the springtime. Furthermore, Hôtel Plaza Athénée will create a time capsule containing references to its storied history and heritage. A box in the emblematic Hôtel Plaza Athénée red will contain items dating from 1913 until today, representing a heritage prepared to be passed down for posterity. It will be buried at the hotel and signifies the dawn of a new century ahead for the legendary Parisian institution. Its foundation is strong, and its heritage grows richer with every year.



# Cher Monsieur Cozzo

J'ai fait ici un séjour très agréable et très confortable. Le service était extraordinaire, la chambre magnifique, et je vous remercie de la merveilleuse serviette Porthault. Bien sincèrement,

Jane Fonda.

HOTEL PLAZA-ATHENEE 75008 PARIS TÉLÉPHONE (1) 723 78 33 OF TELEVISION PLAZATENE-PARIS TÉLEX 850002 PLAZA-PARIS Far Ulr. (0770) FALL INCO. N





NANCY REAGAN

May 22, 1990

Dear Mr. Cozzo:

Thank you for your lovely note that I received when I arrived in Paris. I am sorry that I missed you too.

As always, I had a wonderful time staying at the Hotel Plaza-Athenee. My room was exquisite and the staff members were so nice. Their gracious hospitality made my stay all the nicer.

With warmest good wishes,

Sincerely, Maucy Reagon

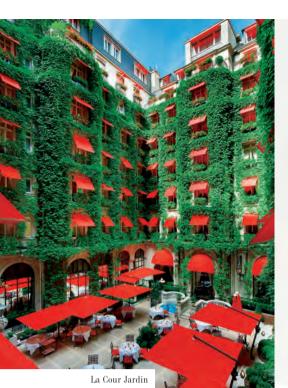
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29. MAI 1990

Mr. Franco Cozzo Managing Director Hotel Plaza-Athenee 25, Avenue Montaigne 75008 Paris FRANCE

© Archives Pierre Hunou

Fashion at Hôtel Plaza Athénée



# FRANK SINATRA June, 1989

PLAZA ATHENEL PARTS
- 5. JUIL 1989
SECRETARIAT

Dear Monsieur Cozzo,

We've returned home from our marvelous trip to Europe and we are filled with so many warm and wonderful memories which prompted me to write now...we had a lovely stay at your hotel -- everything was absolutely wonderful. Please convey to your staff that they were superb in every way.

A special thank you for the delicious fruit basket, it was most appreciated and thank-you to you for the salmanasar of champagne.

With our love and appreciation for everything,

frank Smithe

Monsieur Franco Cozzo Managing Director Hotel Plaza-Athenee 25 Avenue Montaigne Paris 75008 France



Le Bar du Plaza Athénée



Barbra Streisand, Guy de Rothschild and Omar Sharif for the Parisian premier of 'Funny Girl', 1968.

Gianfranco Ferré and Jean-Claude Elgaire



# François Delahaye

Chief Operating Officer of Dorchester Collection and General Manager of Hôtel Plaza Athénée

Monsieur Delahaye has been at the helm of a fleet of major hotel renovations and developments, becoming Dorchester Collection's Director of Operations in 2004 and, today, serves as Chief Operating Officer. In tandem, he continues to hold his position as General Manager of Hôtel Plaza Athénée and, as steward of this legendary property, shares his insider perspective on an icon.

# *How would you define the unique charm of Hôtel Plaza Athénée, in three words?* Parisian, elegant and the-place-to-be.

# Can you please recount a personal anecdote from your time at Hôtel Plaza Athénée that portrays its unique spirit?

I remember a regular and very dear guest came down to the lobby one Sunday morning and asked our concierge where he could find some white truffles. Our concierge, an Italian man, immediately smiled and said that the only place where the best white truffles were available was Northern Italy. Within an hour, he was on a private plane to Piedmont and flew back to the hotel in the evening.

# What element of your management strategy allows you to maintain the distinctive spirit of Hôtel Plaza Athénée?

I was intent on implementing a type of management whereby employees are encouraged to make suggestions and express ideas. This is how our own winter ice-rink, Barbie-themed room, iPad Bar menu and, more recently, Alpine pop-up restaurant came about. All those concepts came from our employees, which shows their strong interest and engagement.

# What strategies or traditions from former managers have you been sure to maintain?

Our own employee policy. Hôtel Plaza Athénée has long been a precursor when it comes to its employees' welfare. They are respected, listened to, and benefit from many advantages. In order to remain close to our 550 employees, I meet with small groups of them during exchange sessions where people express themselves freely. These moments are extremely enriching and they enable me to move forward with them. Furthermore, we are advancing and improving strategies to ensure we take on and keep the very best employees.

# Which of your renovations projects are you most proud, and why?

The Bar. Ten years ago, the concept of a cool bar in a 'Palace Hotel' didn't exist. I took a risk at the time, handing the design project to Patrick Jouin, who was young at the time, to create an altogether supremely elegant yet urban setting.

# How did the collaboration with Alain Ducasse come about?

Alain Ducasse worked with me before and I asked him to follow me to Hôtel Plaza Athénée and help me regenerate it. Mr. Ducasse is someone who is constantly on the next horizon, and with whom we always go further in the pursuit of excellence.

# What allows you to manage all the diverse projects you have going on across the world? I love my job.

# What is a particular detail that still remains in Hôtel Plaza Athénée today, that perfectly recalls its storied heritage?

The chandeliers! They represent part of our heritage and we take the very best care of them. There are quite a few magnificent ones around the hotel, whether they are the Laliques in Le Relais Plaza restaurant or of a more classical design like those found in the lobby. To me, they illustrate the French know-how, or savoir-faire, in the creation of beautiful craftsmanship. Whenever we create a new decor, we make it a priority to integrate them into the design. In Mr. Ducasse's dining room for instance, Patrick Jouin has placed them centre stage as a less traditional feature to please our clients' contemporary taste.

# What does the signature red of Hôtel Plaza Athénée represent to you?

Red represents passion, and I am delighted that it should be Hôtel Plaza Athénée's emblematic colour. The geraniums gracing the façade every summer have become a signature part of Hôtel Plaza Athénée's history. The Plaza red is in our vocabulary now and guests identify us through the red artefacts, such as amenities in the rooms and boutique gifts, created throughout the years.

# Please describe an ideal day spent within the walls of Hôtel Plaza Athénée.

Have breakfast in the Alain Ducasse au Plaza Athénée restaurant followed by shopping on avenue Montaigne, lunch on the Terrace and a divine spa treatment in our Dior Institute before dinner at Le Relais Plaza to the tunes of our jazz musicians and singing of Werner Küchler, the restaurant's longtime director (book early for this very popular evening amongst Parisians). x

For enquires into the centenary celebrations, T.  $\pm 33\ 153\ 67\ 66\ 65$ 



Restaurant Alain Ducasse au Plaza Athénée



# Arik Levy

In an exclusive interview that took place amidst Arik Levy's instantly recognisable rock sculptures as well as his lesser-known furniture, the artist talks facets, reflection, and why nothing is quite as it seems...

S ince his first sculpture exhibition in Tel Aviv in 1988, the Israel-born and Paris-based artist Arik Levy has been hard to categorise. "Someone came in and asked how many artists are in the show," quips Levy regarding an early 2013 exhibition in Paris of his well-known sculpture and lighting installations amidst his lesser-known paintings, photography and video, which altogether comprised a sampling of his varied oeuvre. "I said, 'many but they're all in me."" Yet more of Levy's little known projects are presented in a new book

dedicated to his work, 'Out There', which includes a number of private commissions never before seen in public. Most striking about the conversation that takes place between the new and the old, the famous and the lesserknown pieces in his diverse career is the evolution of the rock, which in Levy's more recent 'Mineralised Paintings' appears as a faceted reinterpretation of the digital pixel. The facet, and how it reflects different perspectives, is becoming a central focus of the artist as his oeuvre continues to mature.

# How would you characterise the evolution of your work since 1986?

The year 1986 saw my first sculpture show, which is in my new book, 'Out There' published by Bernard Chauveau. Finding those pictures brought me to the understanding that I did a long walk around to get to the same point, but which is not on the same level. It is a point of powerful neutrality. There are no bubbles and no fat in my work, it's just the true reality of how I feel and what I do. I guess this walk around was important.

# You titled the last exhibition of your work 'Nothing is Quite as it Seems' – why?

Because that's exactly what it is. It's not exactly what you think it is. In every work, there is the opportunity to have a personal interpretation. What I'm interested in, is not the finality of the piece but what it makes you feel and see. Also, it relates to my position as to what people think of me. Some people know I make lighting, some people think I only make tables and chairs while some other people think I only make paintings. It's the same with people, who are not exactly what they seem.

# From your signature, faceted rock shapes to your unusually pixelated photographs to the geometric shapes found in your paintings – please explain your interest in pixels.

In my 2012 'Mineralised Paintings', the pixel here is not the perfect geometry of a square that takes you away from what the image is. This is a facet, a non-perfect geometry, each one is different. It is about the process of our eye and how the way we look at the world gets mineralised. Mineralisation means evolution, but also something historical.

What I do is take a photo, which I then transform and print on wood because the presence of the wood is important. It becomes contemporary marquetry. Then I paint over parts, painting over an existing history or an existing space. The closer you get to it, the less you see but the more you see what it really is.

### What does the faceted shape mean to you?

Each facet has its own origin and its own direction where it grows, where it comes from. They compose themselves in a non-modular way; it's not a repetition of a fractile. It's a different, non-regular mathematics. In the next generation of this, they will grow like the sculptures are growing.

### Monumental sculptures are part of your latest work. What attracts you to this oversized scale?

It sucks you in, visually. The first big one I installed was about four years ago. The perverted situation of private commissions is that it gives me the opportunity to create something unique and great but it goes into a place that no one will see. Which is why the book is so important, so that people can see that work.  $\pi$ 







# Norman Seeff

The Bar at Hotel Bel-Air welcomes stunning life-size images by photographer and filmmaker Norman Seeff, who has a treasure trove of material representing thirty-five years of creative powerhouses behind his lens.

"Something interesting about Mick: he's very disciplined. One shoot with the Rolling Stones started at midnight but once we began – no matter what they'd been doing up until then – they put their heads down and delivered. Everything I asked they were willing to do and then add something to it. If you don't approach Mick at a depth you won't get anything but if you do, he'll be willing to open up and you'll get some wonderful treasures." "Tina – she's a powerhouse.

She's like being in a room with a nuclear reactor. And, at the same time very present, observant, exploratory and confident in herself but willing to step into new situations and not get her defences up. In her case, the vitality of the imagery was almost there from the moment she walked into my studio; she just knows how to turn on the juice."



E very career has its advantages but that of Norman Seeff is particularly privileged in that he has had the opportunity to engage the most brilliant talents and finest creative minds of our time, from Mick Jagger to a young entrepreneur named Steve Jobs. This was always in the service of a certain magazine editorial feature, advertising account or record label but his primary concern was – and is – to create and capture moments of authenticity and, from there, share a clear witness to the nature of creativity, including its mysterious and ephemeral processes.

A South African native, Seeff is no less fascinating than the myriad characters he has captured on still or moving film. He was a professional soccer player before a serious injury re-orientated him towards earning a medical degree and practicing medicine. At age thirty, he made a radical decision to move to New York and pursue a dream. Fast forward a difficult start and his career skyrocketed, making him the hottest celebrity photographer in the 70s and 80s and, in Los Angeles, a pioneering Artistic Director at United Artists Records and later in television commercial production for brands like Apple, Levi's, Nissan, General Motors and more. Today, he describes himself as a multi-media artist who uses photography and filmmaking as vehicles to explore the creative process.

The Bar at Hotel Bel-Air welcomes a large-scale installation of a sampling of Seeff's black-and-white celebrity photography. The images serve not only as backdrop to the cocktails had therein but also to a quarterly lecture series hosted by Seeff – "a little salon", he calls it – which are complimentary and open to the public. In these lectures, Seeff uses his archive of film and video to illustrate

how his sessions were an exploration into the inner dynamics of creativity, capturing his subjects on a multitude of levels: "I was focused on diving inward into their inner psyche to talk about not what they do but how they do what they do." Seeff's intention with the lecture series is to empower others in their own creativity. Entitled 'The Power and Passion to Create', its content will soon appear as a feature documentary, book and TV series, and in gallery spaces worldwide. Hotel Bel-Air is the first public place to show his images as large murals after ten years of archive organisation. Before then, Seeff quips that he had been involved in research and development in creativity for over three decades. "I started filming my sessions because I realised that I had access to all these amazing, cutting-edge, and creative people across disciplines." He continues, "I've filmed so much material that the whole archive...is probably



1983

"Cher is a consummate artist; every pore of her body is filled with creativity. And, underneath the Hollywood glamour there's a real vulnerable, powerful woman."

"With John Belushi. I was able to tap into him emotionally and feel two things in him: one was the tortured part of him, and the other was the very loving part of him. His humour, in a strange way, was very motivated by his love for people. Nothing I ever shoot is posed – everything is spontaneous. That was a moment; there was some kind of deep reflection going on inside of him and that energy is in the photograph. It's not like I ever tried to tell a story. I'm just working with a human being, their emotions, and a plain backdrop."

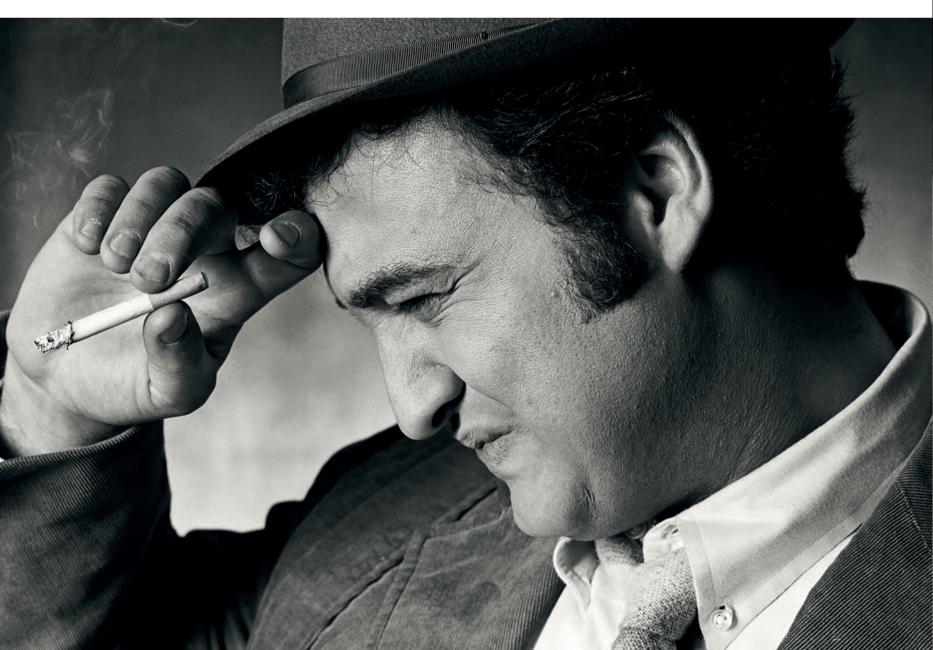
the largest archive of film of artists in the act of creation on the planet that is unseen." In many of his sessions, artists would write and perform songs on set. "I've got some amazing people creating right in the sessions. When you show the film you literally see the creative process in action." Seeff believes this material to be both brilliantly provocative and potentially transformative.

His approach was to be fully engaged. "I didn't want passive shots of a physical body, I wanted an alive, vital, emotional touching of the person's soul...I realised if I create an authentic experience, then the images that I capture will be authentic." He continues: "I quickly realised that photography has nothing to do with the camera or the technology and everything to do with my ability to create vulnerable intimate relationships with artists. So my intention was to get to a level of authenticity but the scariest thing was that I had to be the first to open that door". In this way, Seeff's career was an external journey that became an internal one. "Emotions are the juice of the creative process; they are absolutely the fundamental resource out of which you create, and imagination is where everything is birthed...creation begins in the consciousness, not out there; it's not something you do with your hands. Every artist that I worked with – the extremely successful ones – were highly imaginative, incredibly emotionally present and vulnerable in a positive sense."

Beyond photography, Norman Seeff's interest in human consciousness makes his lecture series at The Bar at Hotel Bel-Air broad and enriching, as one of the many co-creative projects of his career. It has been transformative, in its own way, of his perception of the L.A. destination. "I used to pass it because I had friends that lived in Bel-Air but I always thought, 'not my kind of place, a little too formal'; then, this came up and changed my mind completely. The people running it are just fabulous - so open, enthusiastic, cultured and informal exactly the opposite to what I thought. I love it there. The surrounding nature is also beautiful. It's a very unique place." This is guite a compliment from an artist who encourages, recognises and captures uniqueness with brilliant precision.

www.seeffphotography.com











# Le Palais Bulles

Literally translated 'Bubble Palace', Le Palais Bulles is an expansive property on France's celebrated Côte d'Azur. Among Pierre Cardin's many design projects across his more than sixty-year career, Le Palais Bulles exemplifies his futuristic and otherworldly aesthetic.





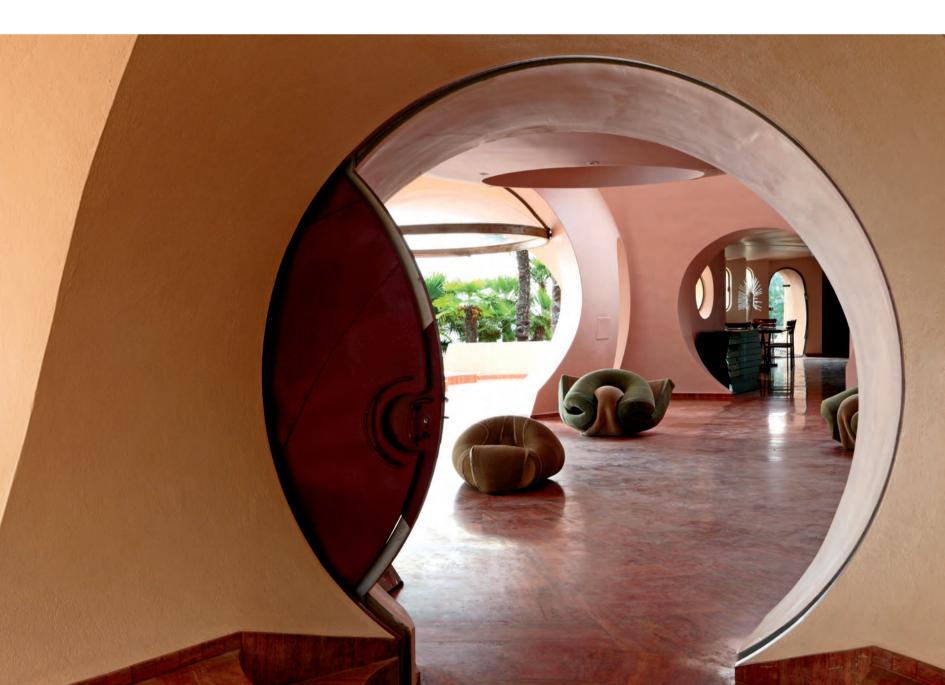
"Since the beginning of my career, roundness is a constant in all of my creation. Le Palais Bulles is composed of volumes and circles but it's a really functional space, too." Pierre Cardin W hile bubbles (of the Champagne sort) regularly flow along the French Riviera, one opulent residence in the area captures the bubbles in architectural concept and design.

Legendary French fashion designer and visionary cultural icon Pierre Cardin finished and refined a building project that was originally conceived in 1975 and designed over a nine-year period by Hungarian architect Antti Lovag. It was in 1992 that Pierre Cardin gave Le Palais Bulles its current form and function as a true palace and a living sculpture, all towards the glory of the sphere. Since that time, the 8,500 square-metre estate and 1,200 square-metre building has hosted many a party, product launch and private event as well as serving as Cardin's private summer retreat. Situated in the heights of Théoule-sur-Mer, just south of Cannes, the house hosts a capacity for 350 sitting guests, including ten bedroom suites individually designed by contemporary French artists. Surrounding the multi-circular structure is a pool, gardens, and 500-seat open-air auditorium all overlooking the Mediterranean Sea with simply stunning panoramic bay views.

Le Palais Bulles remains a French secret and treasure, defining a certain era in design and a sacred region between sea and sky. It is a futurist labyrinth, a morphed maze of corridors, rooms and round views that Pierre Cardin compares with the shapes of the body. "Its curves and its softness," explains Cardin, "makes me see the shapes of a woman, of a mother. That's why I feel good there." A true playground of perspectives, Le Palais Bulles is unlike any other place in the world.

Celebrating over twenty years of its history, Jean-Pascal Hesse writes about the individual character of Le Palais Bulles in a new coffee table book published by Assouline. Pierre Cardin is now over ninety years in age and Jean-Pascal Hesse is one of his longtime collaborators. Hesse also wrote a comprehensive retrospective on Cardin's career, 'Pierre Cardin: 60 Years of Innovation'. Both tomes underscore Pierre Cardin's broad reach, from fashion to architecture, and into the future. x

Le Palais Bulles de Pierre Cardin. Written by Jean-Paul Hesse, Photography by Louis-Philippe Breydel. Published by Assouline www.palaisbulles.com







# Ingo Maurer

While emitted light itself can lift the mood, so can the carefully constructed forms of lamps and lighting fixtures. A master of lighting design, a modern poet, and an octogenarian – the German-born Ingo Maurer uses light like no other.

A lmost fifty years after Ingo Maurer's astounding 'Bulb' (1966) design – his first and most iconic work to date – the multi award-winning magician of light tirelessly pushes the boundaries of the medium. "Light is something immaterial. It is, after music, the most influential media for wellbeing. Light creates a room; light is strictly connected with emotions, which I love. I'm just fascinated by it," declares the designer.

With showrooms in New York and Munich and a highly anticipated exhibitor at Euroluce within the annual Salone Internazionale del Mobile in Milan, Ingo Maurer perpetually invents new typographies via enticing juxtapositions. "It's the fascination of banal things, ordinary objects you see and use everyday, so well-known you don't even notice them anymore. Their transformation takes them out of their context, evoking illusions, exploring their possibilities as light reflectors," muses Ingo Maurer, regarding the lighting object made of toothpaste tubes, 'TU-Bes' (2007), created in collaboration with Ron Arad. Throughout the decades, his projects evolve in tandem with emerging lighting technologies. Tungsten, halogen, LED and, more recently, OLED have all been a force of experimentation for the forward-thinking creator, who began his career as a graphic artist before turning to lighting design.

Ingo Maurer continues to dazzle and pursue where his curiosity leads. "I like to explore. I am evidently born to develop things, develop new ideas and to express myself, but I avoid being philosophical, it just has to come." Recent work clearly illustrates how Maurer remains a master of function with poetic indulgence, highlighting his child-like imagination. For example, 'Johnny B. Butterfly' (2011) features a white Teflon shade surrounded by handmade insect models for a fairy-like touch, whilst 'Birdie's Busch' (2010), pictured right, uses halogen technology flourished with goose-feather wings.

The humble need to light an interior space should go beyond the basics and, as Ingo Maurer explains and illustrates in his designs, also be a source of influence, wellbeing and captivating creativity. x

www.ingo-maurer.com



9



# **General Managers**

They are the custodians of iconic properties, whose talents touch every single element of the inner workings of a hotel. They are also, almost as a rule, passionate travellers. Collect encounters each General Manager within Dorchester Collection in order to enquire about their perspectives on travelling well. The career path of a General Manager is almost always an international one, which forms particularly open-minded and curious professionals. Their respective career trajectories are diverse, yet Dorchester Collection General Managers have one other trait in common: a refined sense of the individuality of the place and property which they steward. Collect delves deeper into these unique characters who themselves must know a thing or two about travel, as they govern such desirably distinct properties.

# Denise Flanders

7 / Hotel Bel-Air

*What do you never travel without?* My iPad.

### Where do you personally enjoy travelling?

Italy, specifically the northern region (Lago di Garda and Verona). I really enjoy the gorgeous back drop of mountains surrounding this picturesque lake, and the wonderful towns along the lake that you can travel to by boat. Verona has a wonderful medieval city centre and the Roman Arena is a beautiful setting for opera and concerts.

### What kind of traveller are you?

I enjoy short two to three day trips. It is always great to take advantage of the areas of interest that are not too far from where you live.

### What is your favourite hotel amenity?

Definitely the bathrobe. It has to be the perfect balance between weight and texture and, I have to say, Hotel Bel-Air really does have simply the best bathrobe ever!

# How would you recommend guests take advantage of their time in a hotel?

After being out and about all day, take time to have a glass of champagne in the bar, relax, and take everything in.

# What, in your opinion, is the most commonly under-used resource in a luxury hotel?

The greatest resource is the hotel's employees. I would recommend to anyone planning a trip to call their hotel ahead of time and tap the brains of the 'experts' that work there. You can get great insight into locals' favourite places to shop, dine and visit. Then, once you are at the hotel, strike up conversations with the employees to find out what they most enjoy doing with their friends and their families.

# François Delahaye

3 / Hôtel Plaza Athénée

# If you could take a getaway weekend to one Dorchester Collection hotel – which one?

A weekend in Coworth Park. It is so relaxing, the food is simply a delight, the place is very peaceful and the surroundings are inviting, be it for sport, to just walk, or to rest. To me, it is the perfect family getaway.

### What kind of traveller are you?

I am a city-dweller. I love walking around New York or Hong Kong's bustling streets. Two hours is the maximum I am able to lay on a beach, doing nothing; I get restless, I am a city boy!

# *Where do you personally enjoy travelling?* Both East and West.

### What do you never travel without?

My iPad, my Blackberry, a small Louis Vuitton rollaway case, a book and a jacket, leather shoes and white shirt.

### What indicates an excellent hotel?

How employees anticipate and respond to clients' needs. I like a hotel where employees are attentive and follow through with guests' requests. Rooming is an important first impression; how amenities are shown and services offered ('Do you need anything pressed? May I provide you with a wifi code? What type of fruit do you like?' and so on...) This is one of the only opportunities to personally find out about our clients' preferences, and it can instantly make that difference.

### What is your favourite hotel amenity?

Personally, a bottle of mineral water and some fruit. Something to substitute for the more elaborate meals we often enjoy as General Managers of luxury hotels that are linked to haute cuisine. It is also an opportunity to skip dinner.

# Zoe Jenkins

o / Goworth Pa

### Where do you personally enjoy travelling?

I enjoy travelling to anywhere in the world, as long as it is a hot and sunny destination.

### What kind of traveller are you?

No matter what time of the year, I like to escape somewhere in the sun, searching out the best resorts and most fabulous beaches to relax and to unwind.

# If you could take a getaway weekend to one Dorchester Collection hotel – which one?

The Beverly Hills Hotel. Although it would be quite difficult to make it to Los Angeles just for the weekend, the amazing pool and the Californian sunshine would be such an attraction and would quickly help me recover from any jet lag.

### What do you never travel without?

Always with my sun cream, iPod and a great book.

# What, in your opinion, is the most commonly under-used resource in a luxury hotel?

Guests should take advantage of the amazing laundry and pressing service we offer throughout all Dorchester Collection hotels. This makes the journey travelling home much easier and smoother and will allow you to return with a suitcase full of beautifully laundered and packaged clothes that are ready to wear. It allows you to really hit the ground running.

### What indicates an excellent hotel?

I believe the most important indicator of an excellent hotel, no matter how big or small, two star or five star, whether in the city or the countryside, needs to 'sparkle'. This is achieved through a pristine product, and the personality of the people who deliver great service and food and beverage that is relevant to the location.

# Christophe Hilty

6 / 45 Park Lane

# If you could take a getaway weekend to one Dorchester Collection hotel – which one?

This would be Le Richemond in Geneva. My father always met my mother in Geneva whilst he was courting her and in over forty years I have not been back to trace these stories.

# Where do you personally enjoy travelling?

Places my wife Raffaella and I have never been or where we have friends we haven't seen in awhile.

# *What do you never travel without?* A credit card.

A credit card.

# What kind of traveller are you?

Since living in London, free time is all about exploring the various world cultures represented in this city, from English breakfast and French toast in Notting Hill to curry and dal in Brick Lane. Running along the river Thames is always a treat as you pass all these remarkable testaments of British heritage. The English countryside is on my list, Devon and the Highlands, on the path of Skyfall!

# What indicates an excellent hotel?

Smiling and genuinely happy employees actively listening. Since attitude breeds behaviour, consistency and attention to detail are the natural consequences of highly engaged employees.

What is your favourite hotel amenity? A white chocolate candy bar!

# What, in your opinion, is the most commonly under-used resource in a luxury hotel

Once inside a hotel's doors, a guest should be made to feel relaxed and confident in the service and understand that a myriad options are available to them, you just need to ask and someone will get back to you.

Le Richemond

# Klaus Kabelitz

1 / Le Richemond

# Where do you personally enjoy travelling?

I would say New York, Los Angeles, Hawaii, Morocco, Bali and the Far East, as well as - of course - the Swiss mountains.

# *What do you never travel without?* My laptop and iPod.

# What kind of traveller are you on your free time? A city-dweller? An escapist?

Both, I love escaping for a walk in the mountains, beach or jungle, excursions that are then flanked by a few cultural days before and after.

# With all your experience in the hospitality industry, what is the most essential element behind an excellent hotel?

Service, service, service = nothing is impossible. There is no doubt about this.

# *What is your favourite hotel amenity?* A Nespresso machine and Twiglets.

# What, in your opinion, is the most commonly under-used resource in a luxury hotel.

Guests should make sure to get an in-depth perspective about a place. And this can be by the rich resource of knowledge that is held by the concierges. Guests generally know the concierge for their help in arranging reservations related to cars and restaurants, but their knowledge of a city is so much greater and profound and should really be utilised.

# If you could take a getaway weekend to one Dorchester Collection hotel – which one?

Certainly 45 Park Lane in London, because the hotel feels like a private residence. It is one of the rare hotels where I have a sense that I am away from work.

# Edward Mady

8 / The Beverly Hills Hotel

# *What is your favourite hotel amenity?* A hard copy of The New York Times.

*What do you never travel without?* Music downloaded on my iPad.

# What kind of traveller are you?

For me, travel is all about unwinding and getting some much needed mental downtime. I take this time to relax and really unplug. While on vacation, I also enjoy hiking, golfing, and working out.

# With all your experience in the hospitality industry, what is the most important indicator of an excellent hotel?

One that achieves the perfect balance between intuitive service and engaged employees. This is the ultimate goal.

# If you could take a getaway weekend to one Dorchester Collection hotel – which one?

I would say Le Meurice, because it is located in a corner of an international city that, offers great food, shopping, and sightseeing. And, of course, the hotel offers both product and service levels that are reflective of its world-class destination.

# How would you recommend guests take advantage of their time in a hotel?

If you are staying in a hotel with a truly celebrated chef, be sure to enjoy at least one meal there. These unique dining experiences really do capture their true sense of their locale from both a culinary and service standpoint.

# What, in your opinion, is the most commonly under-used resource in a luxury hotel?

The guestroom itself. Too often, we visit the finest hotels and don't get to enjoy the simple luxuries and genuine comfort of a wonderful guestroom.



# Franka Holtmann

4 / Le Meurice

## Where do you personally enjoy travelling?

I recently discovered Middle Eastern countries that, until then, did not seem very attractive to me. I have to admit that after two trips to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the Emirates, I very much appreciate their way of living. They still take their time and are not constantly in a hurry as Europeans are. I especially value their hospitality. I thought that as a woman I would not feel comfortable but, on the contrary, foreigners are treated with courtesy and warmth, and perfectly match with the local culture. I also discovered Brunei and South East Asia; I had such a pleasant experience there.

### What do you never travel without?

I should say my BlackBerry...but also my favourite book of the moment; sometimes even poetry to strive for some serenity (René Char, Rainer Maria Rilke, Rabîndranâth Tagore - just to name a few).

# What kind of traveller are you on your free time? A city-dweller? An escapist?

I like to spend weekends in capital cities and would really enjoy to go to Istanbul because of its great location on the Bosphorus, its energy and historical sites. Otherwise, I am always keen to spend a few days in New York or in Rome - my favourite cities - where everything is exciting from culture to shopping and food, of course. But to be honest, I do not mind to stay in Paris where I enjoy going to exhibitions, the theatre, movies and new restaurants without feeling the burden of travelling.

# What indicates an excellent hotel?

An excellent hotel has the best location, a vibrant ambience, well-designed rooms with views and, indeed, flawless service with some extra-smiling!

What is your favourite hotel amenity? Without any doubt, the duvet ...

# **Roland Fasel** 2 / The Dorchester

# How would you recommend guests take advantage of their time in a hotel?

If a guest has extra time, I would recommend that they see a little of what happens in the back of house and the mechanics of how the hotel works. It always amazes me to see how excited and interested guests really get when they have seen some of these areas. Also, it seems that guests really love to be shown little "in the know" spots in a hotel like a terrace where there are unrestricted views or an events facility which they would not usually have access to, such as the Penthouse and Pavilion at The Dorchester.

### Where do you personally enjoy travelling?

I have travelled to some fabulous places in my life, which has made me realise that every destination is unique, with its own charm and culture. There is not one place I enjoy travelling to most but I am always looking forward to my next trip as I know I will be discovering something new.

### What do you never travel without?

For leisure, I always take my kids with me. For business, I always make sure I have my iPhone.

### What indicates an excellent hotel?

As a customer, my best experience has been in hotels that anticipate their guests' expectations. Places that have been able to understand, in an intuitive way, how much or how little attention guests need at any one time. I always appreciate hotels that are able to recognise guests as an individual, with details such as proper shoe size for your slippers for the beach resort or being able to provide the guest with a sewing kit reflecting the colour scheme of their wardrobe one day after arrival. The most important indicator of an excellent hotel is the people working there and how they relate to guests and make them feel.

Ezio Attilio Indiani

9 / Hotel Principe di Savoia

# Where do you personally enjoy travelling?

More than anything, the mountains. I love them both in the winter to go skiing and in the summer to go hiking.

### What do you never travel without?

I never travel without a book, my BlackBerry, and my 24-hour briefcase.

## What kind of traveller are you?

A definite mountain lover. I love the silence, peace, and landscape of the mountains. In the winter, I enjoy the crisp air, the rich food, the skiing, and the silence. In the summer, I adore the flowers and all the sounds of the animals, the bells of the cows. and the water flowing in the creeks...

# With all your experience in the hospitality industry, what is the most essential element of an excellent hotel?

Exceptional staff that enters your heart.

# If you could take a getaway weekend to one hotel in Dorchester Collection, which would it be and why?

I love all Dorchester Collection properties but living in a city I would certainly choose Coworth Park, to enjoy the English countryside with its beautiful gardens and pure tranquility. Last time I was there I even saw a fox.

### What is your favourite hotel amenity?

I adore fresh seasonal fruit and some delicious dark chocolate.

# How would you recommend guests take advantage of their time in a hotel? Or, in your opinion, what is the most commonly under-used resource?

Enjoy the spa, swimming pool and fitness area.

Equestrian activities at Coworth Park

Œuvres complètes René Ch

René Char. Oeuvres complètes, Gallimard

> The Penthouse at The Dorchester

The pool at The Beverly Hills Hotel

> The pool at Club 10 Fitness & Beauty Center at Hotel Principe di Savoia



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# Around the world )( Dorchester Collection

Paris – Musée Quai Branly

Los Angeles – Regen Projects







London – 45 Park Lane



Paris – Galerie Minimasterpiece

Musée Quai Branly, Archipelago of Exchange Until June 14th, 2013 37, Quai Branly 75007 Paris T. +33 1 56 61 70 00

A major assemblage of 300 unique pieces from the 7000 islands of the Philippines archipelago.

**Regen Projects** 6750 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90038 T. +1 310 276 5424

The renowned gallery has been a leader since the the 1980s, and the new museum-like space, designed by architect Michael Maltzan, is shifting the epicentre of L.A.'s art world.

# Hotel Principe di Savoia Ambassador Suites Piazza della Repubblica, 17 20124 Milan T. +39 02 62301

The hotel's most historic suites are refurbished and renamed Ambassador Suites. Averaging 60 square metres, they feature richly luxurious decoration, such as closets lined in leather, in a perfect mix of tradition and innovation.

Paris – Le Meurice

# Galerie Minimasterpiece 16. Rue des Saints Pères 75007 Paris

### T. + 33 6 62 01 63 06

This boutique is dedicated to the production and sale of jewellery designed by such contemporary creators as Frank Stella and Konstantin Grcic.

# Le Meurice, A Living Heritage Enterprise 228, Rue de Rivoli 75001 Paris

T. +33 1 44 58 10 10 Fresh off the heels of its 'Palace Hotel' distinction, awarded in May 2011, Le Meurice has additionally received the 'Living Heritage Enterprise' distinction by the French State, now joining an elite circle of savoir-faire excellence. Over the next five years, Le Meurice will receive support for projects related to creation and innovation.

45 Park Lane's 'Exercise Matt' 45 Park Lane Park Lane London, WIK 1PN T. +44 20 7493 45 45

Fitness expert Matt Roberts' 'Exercise Matt at 45 Park Lane' programme, providing in-room fitness videos and yoga mats, is enhanced by targeted fitness support for marathon-training guests. Also, Roberts has selected dishes from the menu at CUT at 45 Park Lane that are most beneficial to a training diet, such as the 'Booster Slider' with spicy lobster and raw vegetables.

Ascot - Coworth Park

# Coworth Park, 'A Royal Life At Coworth Park' Blacknest Rd. Ascot. Berkshire SL5 7SE

# T. +44 1344 87 6600

In fun family spirit, 'A Royal Life at Coworth Park' package gives guests a first-hand experience of living like a Royal, including a customised tour of Windsor Castle, high tea, and riding or polo lessons, amongst many other excursions.



# Hôtel Plaza Athénée Dior Institute 25, Avenue Montaigne 75008 Paris

# T. +33 1 53 67 65 35

Seventy-five minutes of expert skincare, the Dior Prestige Facial Ritual leaves skin fresh and radiant.

# Art and History Museum: The Geneva Quartet Rue Charles-Galland, 2

CH – 1206 Geneva

T. +41 22 418 26 00

The Geneva Quartet performs a concerts series of chamber music: May 5th features works by Grieg and Shostakovitch, September 29th those by Prokofiev and Rachmaninov and, on October 20th, those by Beethoven and Schoenberg.

# Hotel Bel-Air Cooking Classes 701 Stone Canyon Road Los Angeles, CA 90077 T. +1 310 909 1644, to learn more. From shaking the quintessential martin

From shaking the quintessential martini to making pasta from scratch, Wolfgang Puck's team at his

signature restaurant, Wolfgang Puck at Hotel Bel-Air and the Bar share expertise in how-to classes emphasising California's stellar regional products.

The Beverly Hills Hotel & Hotel Bel-Air's California Cruisin' Package 9641 Sunset Boulevard Beverly Hills, CA 90210 T. +1 310 273 1912

# Hotel Bel-Air, 701 Stone Canyon Road Los Angeles, CA 90077 T. +1 310 909 1640

The California Cruisin' package provides guests with luxury cars to hit the open road: a C-Class Mercedes, a E350 Mercedes Sedan, a Range Rover. A Ferrari Play Package is also on offer.

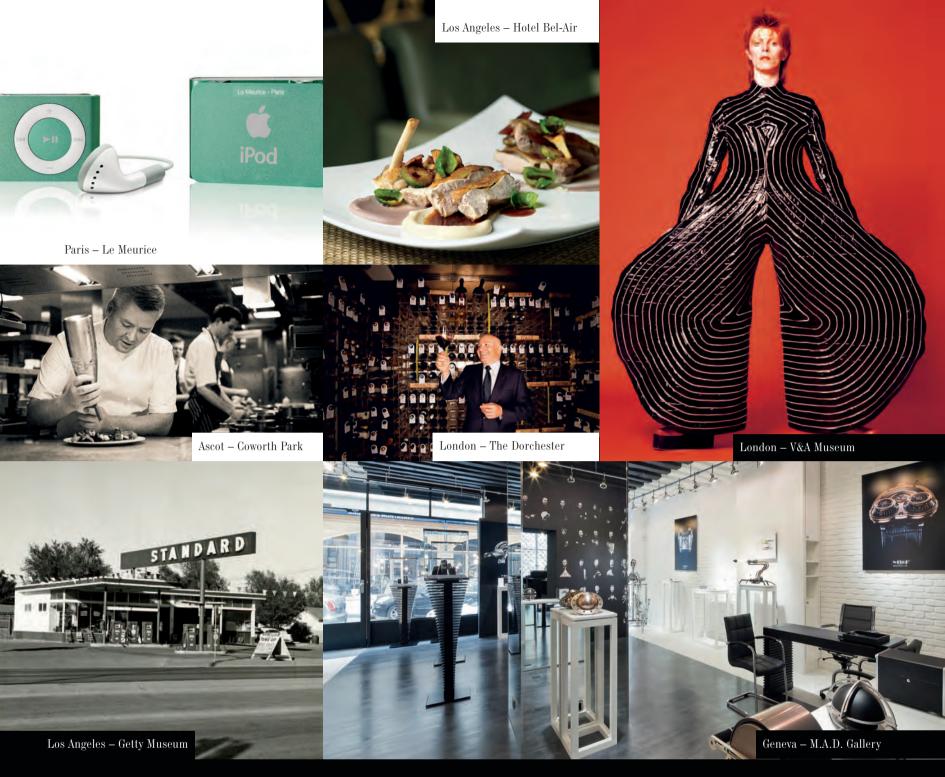
Alexander McQueen Boutique 4-5 Old Bond Street London W1S 4PD T. +44 20 7355 0088 The brand's first-ever menswear store offering bespoke tailoring services is a homecoming, as the late founder once apprenticed on Savile Row.

# The Beverly Hills Hotel's Green Initiatives 9641 Sunset Boulevard Beverly Hills, CA 90210 T. +1 310 273 1912

Sustainability in travel is top priority as The Beverly Hills Hotel participates in the 'Clean the World' soap donation programme, is developing green purchasing practices and energy efficient lighting upgrades, and has received a four Key Rating with Green Key Global's eco-rating programme.

Musée d'Orsay: The Angel of the Odd Until June 9, 2013 5, Quai Anatole France 75007 Paris T. +33 1 40 49 48 14

From Goya to Max Ernst, Dark Romanticism is the theme uniting 200 paintings, drawings, prints, films and sculptures from the late 18th century to the early 20th century.



# M.A.D. Gallery Rue Verdaine, 11 1204 Geneva T. +41 22 508 10 38

An acronym for 'Mechanical Art Devices', Max Büsser's bold venture creates original horological pieces bordering on art and technology.

Getty Museum, In Focus: Ed Ruscha Until September 29th, 2013 1200 Getty Center Drive Los Angeles, California 90049 T. +1 310 440 7300

This exhibition provides a concentrated look at Ruscha's deep engagement with Los Angeles's vernacular architecture and the urban landscape.

# Coworth Park's Kitchen Masterclasses Blacknest Road Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7SE T. +44 1344 87 6600

Following Executive Chef Brian Hughson appointment in 2012, his kitchen offers the Coworth Park Kitchen Masterclasses, providing various seasonal cookery lessons such as 'English Asparagus' and 'Christmas Made Easy'. Get the tricks of the trade and an exciting glimpse behind-the-scenes.

# Le Meurice's Sports Equipment on Loan 228, Rue de Rivoli 75001 Paris

# T. +33 1 44 58 10 10

As days grow warmer, Le Meurice lends a Dutch bike complete with a stylish helmet, pump and lock as well as a scooter for Parisian panache. Also, a high-tech jump rope with a digital timer counts calories burned and every mood finds the perfect playlist in a pre-programmed iPod shuffle.

# Hotel Bel-Air 60-Minute Power Lunch 701 Stone Canyon Road Los Angeles, CA 90077

# T. +1 310 909 1644, for reservations.

Savvy diners in need of quality "on the quick" will appreciate the 60-Minute Power Lunch on offer at Wolfgang Puck at Hotel Bel-Air. The two-course prix-fixe menu, offered Monday through Friday, changes weekly. It includes delights such as Jidori Chicken Paillard Maché with cherry tomatoes, Point Reyes blue cheese and aged balsamic.

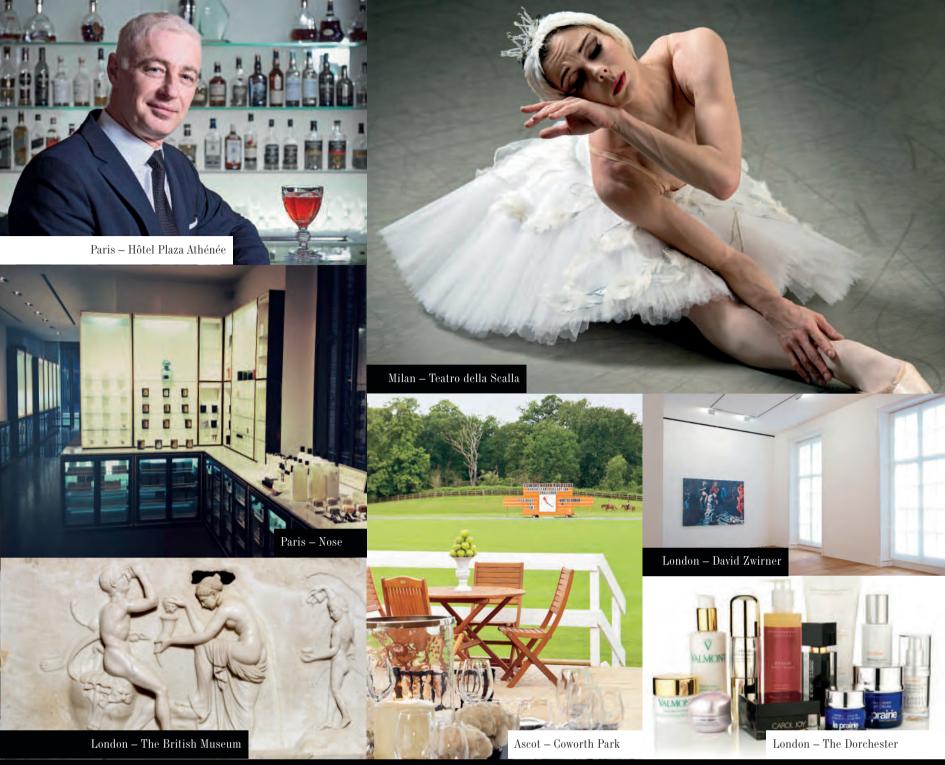
# The Dorchester Wine Evenings & Dinners Park Lane London, W1K 1QA

### T. +44 20 7629 8888

Following the appointment of Ronan Sayburn, MS, as head of wines for Dorchester Collection's UK properties, The Dorchester launches 'Wine Evenings and Dinners' – a series of informal wine tastings of acclaimed wines hosted by the master sommelier through late November.

V&A Museum, David Bowie Is Until July 28, 2013 Cromwell Road London SW7 2RL T. +44 20 7942 2000 Musical innovator and icon David Bowie receives

a major retrospective of his extraordinary career.



# Hôtel Plaza Athénée and Baccarat Harcourt

# 25, Avenue Montaigne 75008 Paris

### T. +33 1 53 67 66 00

The celebrated Harcourt goblet, by French crystal manufacturer Maison Baccarat, joins the expertise of mixologist Thierry Hernandez in the new cocktail 'Baccarat Harcourt' – a mix of red fruits, cognac, and passion fruit, finished with Champagne.

Teatro della Scalla, Swan Lake Via Filodrammatici, 2 20121 Milan T. +39 02 88 79 1

Ballet performances of Swan Lake, which premiers July 17th, continue to run through October.

# Nose Boutique 20, Rue Bachaumont 75002 Paris T.+33 1 40 26 46 03

This is the hottest destination for pleasures of the nose, as a multi-brand boutique representing over

45 niche perfume and cosmetic brands. An online magazine provides insider interviews with those from the cutting-edge of scent creation.

# David Zwirner Gallery 24 Grafton Street London W1S 4EZ T. +44 20 3538 3165

Founded in 1993 in New York, the gallery opens its first European location in Mayfair, in an 18thcentury Georgian townhouse.

# The Dorchester Spa Selected Signatures Park Lane

# London W1K 1QA

## T. +44 20 7319 7109, for reservations.

The 'Selected Spa Signatures from Dorchester Collection' is the ultimate spa menu - an exclusive list of facials and body treatments hand-picked from some of the stellar spas within Dorchester Collection, now assembled in London featuring products such as La Prairie, Valmont, Shiseido, Kerstin Florian and Aromatherapy Associates. Coworth Park's Marquee Blacknest Road Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7SE

### T. +44 1344 630 539, for more information.

Coworth Park adds an especially idyllic venue to its event space offering that celebrates the timeless romance of the English countryside. A semipermanent marquee is available yearly from spring until late autumn to host lavish occasions (and up to 300 people for a lunch or dinner) in a countryside setting that overlooks Coworth Park's unique polo fields.

The British Museum, Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum Until September 29th, 2013 Great Russell Street London WC1B 3DG

### T. +44 20 7323 8299

This major exhibition of over 250 objects, including some never before seen outside of Italy, focus on artefacts from the intimacy of Roman homes in these ill-fated cities.

# *From the World* With Love

What would you bring back from your travels: 1. For a Friend? - 2. For a Lover? - 3. For a Child? - 4. For a Dog?



### Santiago Gonzalez

Son of handbag designer Nancy Gonzalez, Santiago Gonzalez started his own line of men's 'precious skin' accessories (think the perfect weekend duffle in luxurious crocodile). Without a permanent residence, he is always on the go. *www.santiagogonzalez.com* 

### 1. For a friend?

I usually like to bring them books from exhibitions I've seen. I just gave to friends in New York the book related to the 'Dieu(x)' exhibition at Le Petit Palais in Paris.

# 2. For a Lover?

The last time I came back from London to New York I brought an orange Smythson notebook that said "Live, Love, Laugh" with their initials embossed.

# 3. For a Child?

I usually like to bring back for my 4-year-old nephew similar clothes to mine. Last time I came back from Paris to Miami, I brought him custom-made monogram shirts from Charvet in Paris in the same pattern as mine, so that we can match.

# 4. For a Dog?

Last time I returned to Paris from New York, I brought my friend's dog a Lauren Schwartz dog necklace, with an evil eye surrounded by diamonds. They are the ultimate excess!

# **Richard Mille**

1. For a friend?

2. For a Lover? A kiss...a long one.

For a Child?
A Lego Star Wars set.

4. For a Dog?

An Hermès dog collar.

A special bottle of whiskey.

As the 2001 founder of the eponymous watch brand Richard Mille, based in the Jura region of Switzerland, Monsieur Mille surely loves a powerful machine. The Richard Mille Tourbillon RM 008 chronograph, one of the brand's most famous movements, is considered to be one of the most advanced watches in the world. It includes a tourbillon movement with manual winding, chronograph split-seconds, a torque indicator, and a power reserve indicator. In watch connoisseur language, this a way of saying simply the best of the best. www.richardmille.com





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