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CONTENTS

18	Editor's Letter
20	Objectified
26	The Answers With...
30	Auctions
41	The Ultimate Gift Guide



Ah, the year-end festive season. There's a reason why the song says it's the most wonderful time of the year—because it's when we pause, reflect on all that's gone by, and appreciate all those near and dear to us. So as you peruse this year's annual Ultimate Gift Guide, featuring exclusive trips, products, services and experiences, why not consider whom you can enjoy them with? And you'll find everything else you need to make your holidays as tremendous as can be here in this issue—including Cartier's new Nature Sauvage collection of high jewellery. Season's greetings to you and yours!



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BENTLEY KUALA LUMPUR

CONTENTS

67 **Dream Machines**

Wheels

- 68 There's nothing like the naturally aspirated V12 of a Ferrari
- 74 An exclusive Porsche Taycan just for Southeast Asia

Water

- 80 Marco Valle, CEO of the Azimut|Benetti Group, on the next generation of superyachts

Technology

- 86 Why Leica's newest digital camera doesn't have a rear screen

87 **The Goods**

Time

- 88 Patek Philippe's first new collection in 25 years
- 94 Audemars Piguet's collaboration with Kaws will stir collectors into a frenzy

Grooming

- 98 How Thierry Wasser upholds Guerlain's portfolio of more than 1,100 scented profiles
- 102 A candid chat with the face of Dior Sauvage, Johnny Depp

Jewellery

- 106 Marvel at every colour of the rainbow in DeGem's new sapphire collection





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CONTENTS

129 The Resource

Money

130 Realty Check

Art & Design

136 How to tell someone they mean
the world to you

Savour

140 In conversation with Anne-Laure
Pressat, the executive director of
Louis XIII

148 A restaurant helmed by the world's
most decorated female chef

158 Robb Reader

162 The Duel



On The Cover

The Chryseis necklace is part of the Nature Sauvage high jewellery collection from Cartier. It is inspired by the beauty and grace of the butterfly, and is accentuated with a 63.76-carat rubellite. Other fauna that provided inspiration for the collection include the crocodile, elephant and, of course, the panther. To learn more about Nature Sauvage, turn to page 34. Photography by Cartier.



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EDITOR'S LETTER

FOR THIS YEAR'S Ultimate Gift Guide—our annual compilation of fantasy-made-real items and experiences—we introduce, for the first time, The Vault by *Robb Report* (page 41). This online resource proposes gifting ideas weekly throughout the year, making it the world's rarest shopping experience. Across the pages of this issue, you will find a highlight reel of some of the latest, most impressive and, dare we say, tempting gift ideas, all of which originate from The Vault by *Robb Report*.

In Japan, we unlock the country's age-old heritage and unfettered wilderness with a seven-night ski and city getaway. You'll start in Nagano with the mountain all to yourself, segueing to an apres-ski barbecue stargazing experience before retiring to a traditional and luxurious Japanese farmhouse, known as *minka*. Along the way, encounters include a Yamabushi monk in his mountain shrine, tasting traditional *sake* made with ice-cold mountain waters, and watching more than 150 Japanese snow monkeys frolic in a park.

The city portion of this gift whisks you to Aman Tokyo for four days, when you will receive the wisdom of the ninjas, a sushi-making masterclass, a private *kaiseki* dinner cruise down the Sumida River and a private helicopter tour of Mount Fuji, among others.

This issue also carries the promise of gifts that are unique. Case in point: a custom miniature-portrait Fabergé egg that you may commission, which would be the first time the company has

said yes to such a request since the 1917 Russian Revolution. You can develop your own egg with the British royal family's favourite portraitist, Ralph Heimans, who, upon your purchase of the gift, will also host you to dinner at The Ritz London with his agent, Lady Penny Mountbatten.

From the royal family to silver screen royalty, the gift ideas include a proposal of Peter Sellers' vintage Riva Super Ariston. This 22ft wooden boat was restored across a span of two years by Riva's vintage refit facility RAM to turnkey condition, with new mahogany hull sides, seats and re-chromed hardware. An engine overhaul gives it a zippy 80km/h top speed—similar to how Sellers enjoyed it 41 years ago.

On land, petrolheads may fancy being part of the drivers' field at the first 1000 Miglia experience happening in the US, or picking up an OVC GT Competition Mustang, which is inspired by the original 1965 Shelby GT350. Or perhaps, working alongside restomod house Singer and its founder Rob Dickinson to reimagine a Porsche 964 and then take it to Barcelona's Castelloli circuit to push some lap times, before having it shipped to your home to enjoy.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

Kenneth Tan

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: PORSCHE.



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All Smiles

Hublot's MP-15 Takashi Murakami Tourbillon Sapphire Rainbow (RM1.64 million) is, conceptually, a straightforward rendition of the Japanese artist's famous Smiling Flower motif. But its execution is anything but. Not only is the 42mm case made out of sapphire crystal and its 12 petals equipped with polished titanium inlays that are set with 444 different coloured gems, but it is also equipped with a 120-hour central tourbillon movement. Calibre HUB9015 is Hublot's first central tourbillon movement and was first seen last year in a similar one-off timepiece created for Only Watch that was the inspiration for this new piece, which is limited to 20 pieces.

Star-studded

Of the six limited-edition writing instruments that Montblanc has created to celebrate the eras and genres of film, the High Artistry World of Cinema Limited Edition 1 stands out as a unique piece that is especially lavish in decoration. Solid gold in construction, it is fully set in precious stones and is full of little motifs that pay homage to the golden age of Hollywood, such as a pair of ruby slippers. The solid gold nib features a diamond of its own and has been embossed with a director's chair, while the cap has a mechanism that allows its centrepiece 5-carat diamond to be raised and presented like a film award. The clip is shaped like an old-school projector and, in a playful touch, one of its wheels even spins.









Circle Of Support

The Vivienne collection from Italian design house Minotti, envisioned by Italian-Danish design duo GamFratesi, brings the concept of family to life through form. This family of seats is unified by the gentle semicircle curve of a backrest—a shape that embraces the sitter, inviting comfort and connection.

Within this collection are large armchairs, lounge chairs, *bergères*, dining armchairs and ottomans. Each piece exudes its own character while carrying the same cohesive design trait, like a harmonious family. Crafted for flexibility, the Vivienne collection features removable upholstery available in fabric and leather, and offers the choice of fixed or swivel bases in wood or metal.

THE ANSWERS WITH...

LOUIS DE BAYSER

As Galerie de Bayser enters a new phase with the next generation, the gallerist talks about the evolving art market and his family's lifelong passion for old master drawings.

Words: Alicia Choo
Photography: Henri du Cray

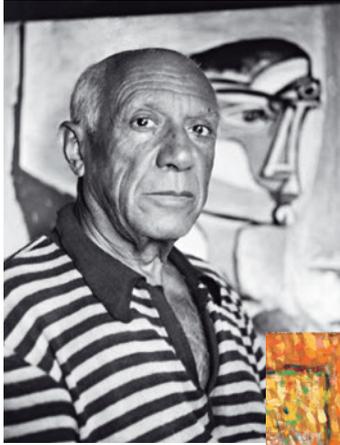
“IT’S OUR RESPONSIBILITY to keep the appreciation of old master drawings alive,” Louis de Bayser says with feeling. A distinguished figure and a trusted name in the global art market, de Bayser comes from a century-long lineage of art dealers, bridging scholarly depth with an astute understanding of art across varied periods. Parisians and locals alike might be familiar with Galerie de Bayser, housed in a historic 17th-century townhouse on rue Sainte-Anne, just a stone’s throw away from Palais-Royal. The building was converted into a stalwart institution by Louis’ grandparents, Patrick and Rose-Anne de Bayser, in 1936, and had been in the hands of his parents, Bruno and Thérèse Bayser, since the 1960s.

After completing his business studies and various other pursuits, de Bayser decided to join the family business. In 1998, he took over the gallery with three of his brothers (he is one of 11 siblings). Over the years, de Bayser has been integral in advocating for the creative discipline, cultivating international regard and championing rising artists. Today, he holds the position of president at Salon du Dessin and the Fine Arts Biennale (FAB) Paris, making him an essential conduit within the art community.

What’s the key behind your family’s longevity and success in the art world?

My family has always been involved in the fine arts industry. When I returned from my military assignment in Laos, I decided to carry on our family’s speciality in old master drawings—a field that is now a passion shared between my





Left: Pablo Picasso.



Artworks displayed at FAB Paris 2024 included *Pigeon* (left) by Gaston Etienne Le Bourgeois and *Portrait de Rouveyre, l'homme en noir* by Albert Marquet.



Below: Hong Kong.



“It’s not just a commercial venture; it’s also something we’ve all loved and have been surrounded by since childhood.”

brothers and me. It’s not just a commercial venture; it’s also something we’ve all loved and have been surrounded by since childhood. That said, it’s also an organisation that needs to be profitable to sustain us, so balancing our passion with the practical demands of running a gallery is crucial.

When you and your brothers took over the gallery in 1998, what challenges did you face as the new generation taking charge?

Our parents never pushed us, but we set high expectations for ourselves to ensure that the gallery’s legacy would continue. It’s been difficult encouraging the next generation to take an interest in the gallery. We want to attract newcomers to continue the heritage, but it’s a delicate balance. We can’t be too insistent, as that can often have the opposite effect. Inspiring genuine interest is key, but it’s not that easy. The other big challenge is finding the right works and approach to successfully buy or secure consignments of high-quality pieces. It’s becoming increasingly gruelling to source these valuable artefacts.

What is it about old master drawings that continues to captivate you in an age when contemporary art is progressively dominant?

It’s true that contemporary art has gained significant importance in the global art market, while old master drawings have become less prominent than they once were. However, there are still passionate collectors and illustrious museums dedicated to this genre. Over the past 15 years, the art market has experienced substantial growth, largely driven by contemporary art. Although the overall value has doubled, the rise has not come at the expense of old master drawings. Without buyers, the market stagnates, but it can also suffer if there are no quality pieces to sell. So, part of our role is to promote these drawings and keep the market vibrant.

What is a typical day for you?

My day begins with a good breakfast. I take my kids to school and head to the gallery. My mornings are focused on the business side of things, like handling expenses and other financial tasks. Around 11am every day, we visit Hôtel Drouot, where daily auctions take place. It’s a hub for the art market, with a wide range of items, including modern and contemporary furniture, paintings and sculptures. In the afternoons, we focus on research. We spend time trying to find and authenticate drawings as they are often unsigned. They all require a detailed research process and we have an extensive library with tens of thousands of books to help with this. Every day is different, depending on what we come across.

If you were to commission a portrait of yourself, which artist—past or present—would you choose to paint it?

There are many great artists whom I admire, but I would choose Pablo Picasso and French female artist Françoise Pétrovitch.

What’s your favourite travel destination?

I love to travel but, if I had to choose, Hong Kong would be my top pick. **R**



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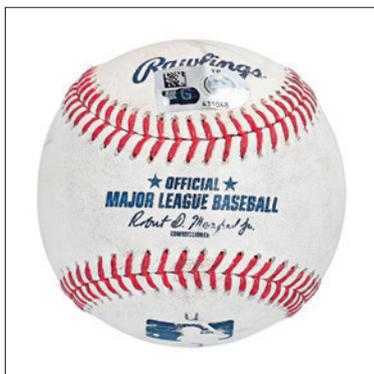
OFF THE BLOCK

We keep you up-to-date on the hottest lots under the hammer.

Shohei Ohtani's 50th home-run baseball sells at auction for US\$4.392 million

Bidding ended on 23 October through Goldin

A total of 40 bids drove the sale price of this baseball up to more than a whopping US\$4 million, making this the most expensive baseball, or any sports ball for that matter, to hit the auction blocks. The ball marks Shohei Ohtani's historic achievement as the first member of the exclusive 50/50 Club, combining 50 home runs and 50 stolen bases in a single season.



Cartier jewelled desk clock hammers down for €152,800

Bidding closed on 23 October through Bonhams in Paris

Introduced in 1922 by Cartier, the screen clock quickly became one of the most iconic creations of the art deco period. The clock took inspiration from Chinese table screens from the Ming and Qing dynasties, reflecting Asian influences with its coral batons and fan-shaped hour hand, symbolic of good fortune in China. The iridescent shimmer of the mother-of-pearl clock face is captivating, while the coral hue adds a contrasting touch of colour, highlighting the harmony and virtuosity of the design.



2019 Audemars Piguet Ref. 26579CE hammers down for CHF177,800

Bidding closed on 12 September through Phillips in Geneva

Showcasing the brand's technical prowess anchored by an in-house movement that mechanically computes and displays every calendar indication, the Ref. 26579CE Royal Oak Perpetual Calendar in black ceramic is a watchmaking masterpiece. The photorealistic moonphase subdial sits against a striking aventurine backdrop, while the ceramic case and bracelet lend a sleek and avant-garde aesthetic. This model was presented in pristine condition—an extraordinary collector's piece for those who appreciate cutting-edge innovation and timeless design.

WORDS: LOW WEIXIAN. PHOTOGRAPHY: GOLDIN, BONHAMS, PHILLIPS, SOTHEBY'S.

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Auction

1968 Lamborghini Miura fetches US\$1.325 million at Junkyard auction

Bidding closed on 26 October through RM Sotheby's in Los Angeles

Lamborghini's Miura is widely regarded as the world's first modern supercar, featuring a revolutionary rear-placed V12 engine and stunning coachwork. As the 159th of 275 units built, this example retains its matching-numbers V12 engine and original Giallo Miura paint. With its sale price more than doubling sales estimates of US\$500,000, this Miura presents a golden opportunity for restoration and a grand return to the world stage after having been in the possession of renowned American collector Rudi Klein for more than four decades.



Tom Brady's Royal Oak set to fetch US\$400,000 to US\$800,000

Bidding commences 10 December through Sotheby's

From Tom Brady's personal collection comes the one-of-a-kind Audemars Piguet Royal Oak The Roast. Crafted in 18k white gold with a unique salmon-hued 'tapisserie evolutive' dial, this 41mm piece is set with baguette diamonds and features a flying tourbillon powered by the calibre 2950 automatic movement. Brady's signature graces the rotor, making this iconic Royal Oak—which comes with full documentation—a true collector's treasure.



A first-model Apple Macintosh prototype hammers down for US\$83,050

Bidding closed on 23 October through Bonhams in New York

An extraordinary relic from Apple's early years, this rare Twiggy Macintosh prototype dates back to 1983 and played an integral role in developing demonstration software for the original Macintosh. With its distinctive 5.25-inch Twiggy disk drive—which was replaced before the Macintosh's official debut—this prototype offers a unique insight into the evolution of Apple's groundbreaking personal computer. The computer is preserved in its original form and still bears the slot in the front panel.



Lewis Hamilton's IWC Schaffhausen chronograph worn on Silverstone podium fetches CHF220,000

Bidding closed on 19 October through Bonhams in Zurich

Donated by the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One team for a charity auction, this IWC Pilot's Watch Performance Chronograph 41 was worn by Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton during one of his most iconic podium finishes at his home race, the Silverstone circuit, earlier this year. The watch is powered by IWC's in-house automatic Calibre 69385 and is housed in a lightweight titanium case. Accompanied by a signed pair of Hamilton's racing gloves, this timepiece is a treasured piece of modern motorsport history.



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NATURE INSPIRES REVERENCE

Step into Cartier's animal kingdom with the *maison's* new high jewellery collection.

Words: Alicia Corbett

Nature has been a fount of inspiration for Cartier for more than a century, unmistakably through its enduring panther symbol, and even extends to its use of organic materials such as mother-of-pearl and the practice of ethical sourcing of precious stones. In its high jewellery collections, Cartier draws heavily on the splendour of nature, translating organic forms into some of the world's most sought-after high jewellery pieces. This year, the French *maison* unveils Nature Sauvage, where necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings and brooches, each a work of art on its own, invite both the wearer and the beholder on a journey to encounter a menagerie of creatures.

"A new perspective of the Cartier fauna, to surprise, amaze and bring modernity by way of unexpected encounters," Jacqueline Karachi, Cartier's director of high jewellery creation, said in a statement. "Expressive jewellery that showcases the attitudes and personality of an animal, its vitality. Like an actor, it plays with graphics, with volume and optical illusions, blending into an imaginary landscape. This is the spirit of Nature Sauvage."

Although one might imagine that these creations best match the artistry of bespoke gowns, South Korean actor Teo Yoo (facing page) fronts the campaign dressed in understated clothes and carries them with aplomb, letting the gems shine through.

Among the diverse pieces, four exceptional necklaces comprising emeralds, rubellites and other precious gems, sprinkled liberally with diamonds, showcase Cartier's exceptional savoir-faire and create a dialogue between creativity and technique.



*Imagine the fluttering creature landing
around your neck before taking flight,*

Chryseis: The Butterfly Effect

Cartier's use of butterfly motifs in jewellery first began around the 1920s and 1930s as part of the art deco movement. In high jewellery, more is always better and the Chryseis necklace, inspired by the butterfly species of the same name, is for luminaries and not for wall flowers. Imagine the fluttering creature landing around your neck before taking flight, leaving entrancing indentations of the black-and-white patterns of their wings. This is captured in diamond and onyx-speckled patterns, which contrast with almost translucent chrysoprase beads, a particular variety of chalcedony prized by Alexander the Great with its characteristic green hue reminiscent of young leaves.

The platinum piece culminates in a 63.76-carat rubellite, considered to be the most coveted tourmaline stone in the world, of gorgeous red hues. Chryseis also incorporates three colours—red, green and black—favoured by Cartier's artisans throughout its illustrious history and that have become emblematic of the *maison's* style. The overall effect is a vibrant, lyrical palette with naturalist undertones and a timeless adornment that exudes opulent elegance.

Panthere Chatoyante: Regal Adornment

Crafted with rose gold, the Panthere Chatoyante necklace is a colourful bouquet of striking rubellites, chrysoprases, emeralds and onyx. It is interspersed with exquisite diamond-studded details, which create an exotic, almost floral arrangement for Cartier's emblematic symbol that makes a stunning appearance as its nucleus. Featuring a remarkably detailed and delicate design, the powerful feline gazes magnetically at all who catch its emerald eyes, with touches of black lacquer, thus resulting in an opulent sparkle.

*leaving entrancing indentations of
the black-and-white patterns of their wings.*



Above: the Panthère Chatoyante necklace unfolds in an array of vivid colours, featuring a composition of rubellites, chrysoprases and emeralds.

Left: for the Chryseis necklace, the black-and-white patterns of the butterflies' wings are used by Cartier's jewellers to capture the essence of the insect.



Above: the crocodile is a familiar reptile in Cartier's fauna, but the Sibaya necklace retains only one of its many details: the scales, which have been captured here by a set of sugar loaf emeralds.

Left: for the Vamana necklace, Cartier has given the elephant a new interpretation that blends figurative and abstract styles.

Cartier displays its craft of transformation, as executed by its artisans,

Vamana: A Sacred Symbol

Cartier's relationship with Indian royalty in the early 20th century was transformative for the brand and the jewellery sphere. This also marked the beginning of a unique cultural exchange, blending the *maison's* French design sensibilities with the extravagant tastes and gemstone treasures of Indian maharajas. Motifs from Indian culture and symbolism, such as elephants and peacocks, also deeply influenced Cartier's designs, which were both luxurious and culturally respectful. This further led to the development of the Tutti Frutti style, which used vibrant, carved gemstones—emeralds, rubies and sapphires—in floral and foliate motifs that evoked Indian aesthetics.

Through the Vamana necklace, a new interpretation is employed on the majestic elephant, which blends figurative and abstract styles while paying homage to its rich history. A bold geometrical style permeates the piece, with facets and openwork details that give it a modern, almost architectural appearance, culminating in a 'regal V' at the centre. Triangle-, lozenge- and kite-shaped diamonds seamlessly merge to form the elephant's ears, trunk and mystical emerald eyes, the latter of which act as its striking focal point.

Sibaya: Perfect Symmetry

In the glittering Sibaya necklace, the prehistoric reptile, which acts as its creative influence, is hard to surmise due to its abstract stylisation. Picture the undulations of a crocodile swimming between two ripples of water and the shimmer of the waters as the powerful creature slithers. Cartier displays its craft of transformation, as executed by its artisans, by focusing on a single detail of the ancient beast: its scales, which have been captured here by 45 sugar loaf emeralds. Unlike faceted cuts, sugar loaf cabochons have a smooth, polished surface without facets, which catches and reflects light softly, giving the gemstone a unique glow.

Each of the precious stones was painstakingly chosen, with careful attention being paid to its colour and round shape, and then interspersed with diamonds. The contrast between the vivid green and the radiant diamonds creates a luxurious, timeless aesthetic, with its cascading pattern drawing the eye down to the prominent 7.96-carat emerald drop.

Each piece of Nature Sauvage is a testament to Cartier's enduring craftsmanship and creative vision, celebrating the power and allure of the fierce beauty of the natural world in a refined and extravagant form. 

***by focusing on a single detail of the ancient beast: its scales, which
have been captured here by 45 sugar loaf emeralds.***



MASSETO



*“SPRUNG FROM CONFIDENCE, FAITH AND
THE BELIEF THAT GREAT WINE CAN ALTER
THE COURSE OF PEOPLES’ LIVES AND
SHAPE THEIR DREAMS.”*

enquiry@boutiquefinevine.com

On Italy’s Tuscan coast, overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea, where the ancient Greeks believed the four divine winds of the god Aeolus met, Masseto sits in a protective sweep of the Bolgheri hills.

Around the vineyard grows a wild profusion of Mediterranean maritime umbrella pines, groves of gnarled olive trees and ‘macchia’, that typically Tuscan blend of shrubs and bushes.

Masseto is anchored in the mists of geological time and bears witness to the age-old convulsions of land and sea in the heart of the Mediterranean area. Masseto belongs to that geography that is a geology first and foremost. Rooted in the depths of its blue clays.

In the years that followed, seismic forces folded the layers of soil and thus, one of these folds brought up the Pliocene clays, allowing them to see the light again, to enjoy the wind from the sea and to feel the warmth of the sun.

It took the genius, stubbornness, and intuition of a few men from different backgrounds to look beyond local winemaking customs and traditions and reveal all the mystery and power of this land.

A viticulture of patience, precision, detail is inspired by the daily, careful observation of the terroir. Vintage after vintage, the team is seeking to reveal this terroir’s singularity, from vineyards to the cellar.



The Ultimate Gift Guide

Words: Abigail Montanez,
Justin Fenner, Mark Ellwood,
Michael Verdon, Naomi Rougeau,
Nick Scott and Viju Mathew

Illustration: Eiko Ojalav



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A Japanese Ski and
City Getaway

1

❄️ Think of this seven-night experience in Japan as the ultimate luxury tasting of a destination that has seen a surge of interest among international visitors over the past five years, especially in its extraordinary winter sports. You won't be idling with the crowds, though, but rather experiencing the country through a rarefied insider's lens courtesy of specialist agency, Black Tomato.

Nagano prefecture, on Honshu's northwestern coast, is one of the prime ski locations and a former Olympics host. You'll start there, near the rural town of Togari. After-hours, when the pistes are cleared and the chairlifts halted, you'll have the mountain all to yourself, accessing it via a private snowcat. You'll be joined by a ski instructor for a torchlit ski procession

before snow biking to a secluded location for a campfire barbecue.

After supper, an astronomer will be on hand with a professional-grade telescope for stargazing in the clear night skies.

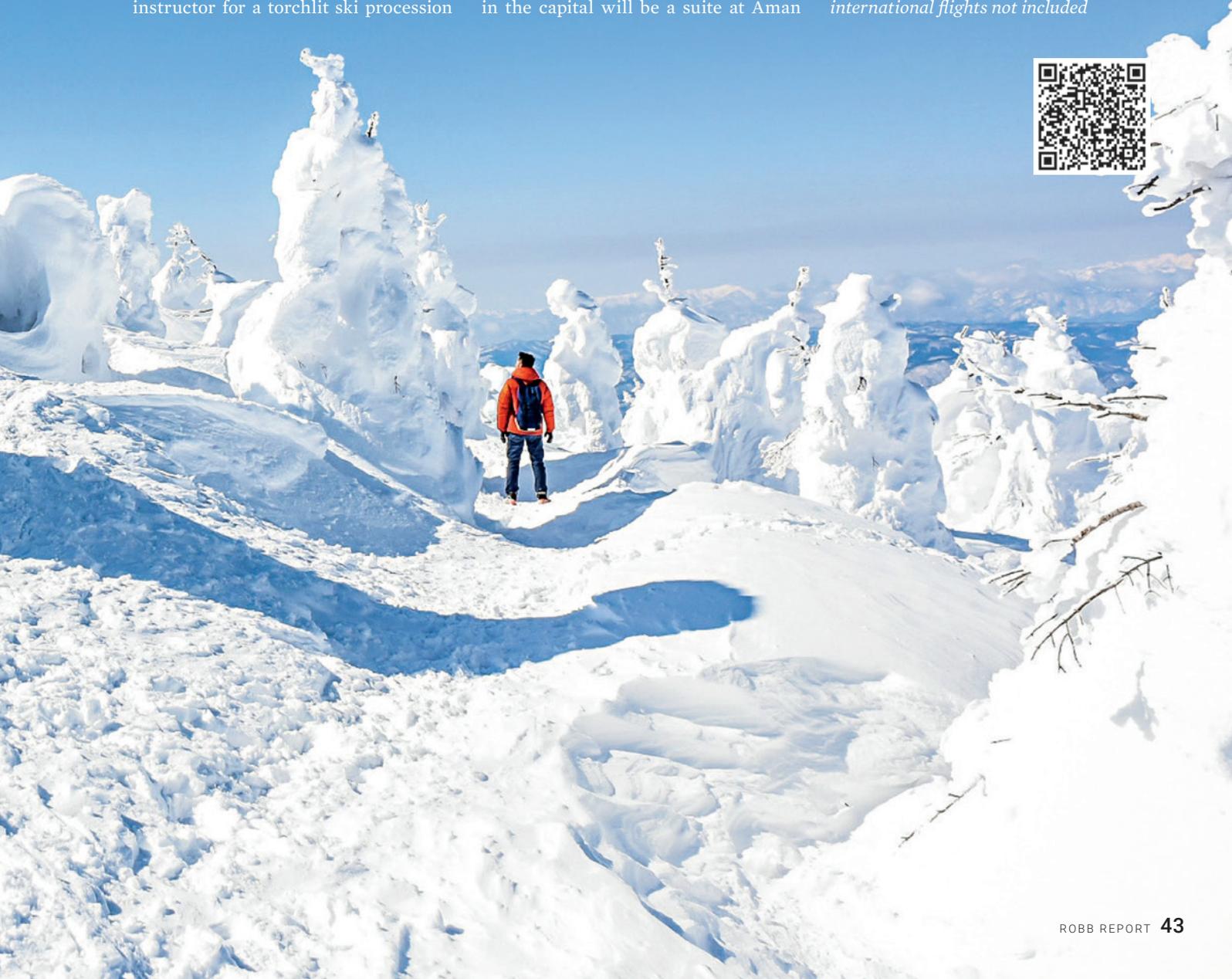
Your home for three nights will be a traditional *minka*, a centuries-old farmhouse that has been painstakingly and luxuriously renovated. During your stay there, you can immerse yourself in the local culture, whether meeting a Yamabushi monk in his mountain shrine or sampling traditional *sake* made with ice-cold alpine waters. Don't miss spending time with the 150 or so Japanese macaques, or snow monkeys, that frolic in a park there.

Next, you'll head to Tokyo in a first-class railway car. Your accommodation in the capital will be a suite at Aman

Tokyo, one of the city's best hotels, and your four days there will be packed with activities: ninja instruction from a clan whose roots date to the 1580s, plus a master class in sushi-making. There will be a private *kaiseki* dinner cruise down the Sumida River through the heart of Tokyo on a traditional flat-bottomed *yakatabune* boat, as well as an hour-long scenic tour of Mount Fuji by helicopter.

You'll also have private access to the hugely popular teamLab Planets, the immersive exhibition staged by the digital-art collective—and the chance to snap pictures in the trippy landscape without interruption or tourists photobombing you.

From US\$224,250 for eight guests; international flights not included



❁ The mention of Fabergé conjures an indelible image: a bejewelled, priceless egg objet, opulently crafted in Peter Carl Fabergé's workshop for the imperial family of Russia. Each was unique, decorated with knowing whimsy, often including a miniature portrait of the royals, such as the Rosebud egg from 1895, which features an image of the young czar under a table-cut diamond. Since the Russian Revolution of 1917, Fabergé has resisted all requests to create more miniature-portrait eggs—until now, when it has agreed to do so exclusively for *Robb Report*. Partnering with one of the British royal family's favourite portraitists, the company is offering a modern take on the objects with which the firm is synonymous globally.

It was Ralph Heimans who was trusted to paint the official portrait of the late Queen Elizabeth to celebrate her diamond jubilee; the artist has also painted her late husband and King Charles III, back when he was still the Prince of Wales. Heimans is known for nuanced, contemplative work, embodied by that image of the queen, standing with her eyes cast down in thought. He will meet you and a guest for a private tour of Westminster Abbey to see that painting in situ and share his stories of the experience. He will then accompany both of you to a meal at The Ritz London, cooked by the late queen's favourite chef, John Williams, where you'll be joined by Heimans's agent, Lady Penny Mountbatten.

The artist will conduct a series of private sittings to develop a head-and-shoulders portrait miniature of your chosen subject, which he will then share with Fabergé creative director Josina von dem Bussche-Kessell. She and her team will also meet with you to discuss ideas for the unique, ovoid piece, which is slightly more than 10cm tall including its stand. The picture and ornamentation will be set with *guilloché* enamelling in 18k yellow, rose and/or white gold, depending on the client's preferences. For an additional fee, it's possible to turn this piece into an even more complex and luxurious objet, whether including a watch movement or larger diamonds and gemstones. The only limit is your imagination.

Buyers will also receive a signed certificate of authenticity from both von dem Bussche-Kessell and Heimans—as well as the chance to own a piece unlike anything produced by Fabergé in more than a century.

US\$499,000

2

A Custom Fabergé Egg



3

Bespoke Eyewear Made From Mammoth Ivory



❄️ E B Meyrowitz, a creator of custom eyewear near London's Bond Street, believes glasses are as integral to a client's appearance as a tailor-made suit. The firm built a global reputation as an optics pioneer in the early 20th century, designing aviation goggles for Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh. These days, the offerings combine old-world craftsmanship with singular frame materials, such as tortoiseshell, fossilised coral and precious metals.

The company is offering *Robb Report* readers bespoke glasses made from mammoth ivory dating back between 8,000 and 30,000 years old.

"The tusks were preserved in Siberian permafrost," says Jamie Davison-Lungley, the firm's creative director. "We've been able to formulate it into a workable material,

though it involves a longer stabilisation process than other materials."

The frames will be limited to an edition of five and available in natural, blue and grey finishes, with each pair unique due to variations in the grain. The craftsmen cut the ivory with specially designed saws—their usual diamond-coated cutting tools would leave jagged edges—to highlight that grain. The pieces are then bonded to black-buffalo horn matching the curvature of the client's face. "Mammoth ivory is heavy, with no natural curvature, so this process allows for both aesthetics and a comfortable fit," says Davison-Lungley, likening the eyewear to "a Gustav Klimt painting, where you can see the dramatic striations running through the piece".

US\$15,000





4

A Personalised Helix eVTOL From Pivotal

❄ Exclusively for *Robb Report* readers, Pivotal is offering a one-of-a-kind Helix, a single-seat aircraft that feels like it's out of a science-fiction novel and falls into the Federal Aviation Administration's Part 103 Ultra-light category, requiring no pilot's licence.

After more than a decade in development, the recently launched Helix is more technically advanced (and cooler-looking) than other ultralights. Its eight electric motors and batteries are co-ordinated by software-driven fly-by-wire technology for redundancy and controlled by a joystick (an extra is connected as a safety backup) to make newbie flying intuitive and relatively stress-free—especially after at least five days of simulator training in Pivotal's Silicon Valley headquarters. Your favourite designer can create a custom livery, on Pivotal's tab, for a personal air-borne fashion statement, while the package also includes every possible option: a tinted canopy, premium flight deck, 4K exterior camera, emergency locator, beacon lights, and training for the pilot and a guest.

Pivotal will also provide first-class round-trip domestic flights for two to California, plus dinner with its leadership team to understand the company's roots, development of the Helix and how it differs from the other one-seat electric vertical take-off and landing makers. The best part of the trip? A minimum of 10 real flights in your new Helix to make sure that you're ready for your pilot's wings.

US\$260,000





5

A One-of-a-kind Necklace and Studio Tour With Artist Michele Oka Doner



❄️ The acclaimed artist Michele Oka Doner may be best known for her monumental public installations, but she has also created one-off necklaces for fashion designer Ronaldus Shamask and Parisian silversmith Christoffe. It has been many years since she last tried her hand at jewellery, but she has now returned to the category with a new collection in collaboration with Elisabetta Cipriani Gallery. Like much of Oka Doner's work, the pieces build on the connection between humanity and the natural world.

"I've been following her for many, many years," says Cipriani, who was thrilled when Oka Doner said yes to

an exclusive project with the London gallery, which specialises in wearable art. "When we met in New York, she was ready to create jewellery again after a long time."

Inspired by *The Botanic Age*, the collection includes brooches, a pendant and a silver box. Oka Doner has reserved one necklace from a limited edition of eight for a *Robb Report* reader. *Nightflight*, which is numbered and signed, is made of blackened silver and roughly six carats of *huit-huit* old-cut diamonds. The Miami-born, New York-based artist cast blades of St Augustine grass, a tropical plant found in Florida, in metal to evoke birds soaring through

the sky. "Even though it's within a series of eight, it's unique because perhaps the stones are positioned differently, and since they're old-cut diamonds, the shapes are also different," Cipriani says.

In addition to taking home a piece of wearable art, you will have the rare opportunity to glimpse into the artist's inner sanctum. Oka Doner will invite you to her studio in SoHo, where she'll give you a private tour of her workspace—a vast trove of branches and leaves—and chat about her vision over a cup of mint tea or a glass of wine, your choice.

US\$28,000



Peter Sellers' Vintage Riva Super Ariston

❄️ Monaco's yachting scene in the late 1960s was defined by Riva. Royals, celebrities and captains of industry there and all over the Mediterranean made their presence known by zipping around on gleaming mahogany Aquaramas, Tritones and Aristons. In 1967, actor Peter Sellers and his then-wife, Britt Ekland (right), took delivery of a Super Ariston named BlueBottle II, after a character he made famous in the 1950s. The Super was the top of the Ariston series, with a powerful 320hp Riva Crusader engine that pushed it to a top speed of 80km/h—lightning-fast for a 22-footer.

The glittery provenance makes this Riva one of a kind, but what may be even more attractive for a *Robb Report* buyer is its turnkey condition—a rarity for vintage wooden boats. In 2008, the Ariston was put through a complete two-year restoration at RAM, Riva's vintage refit facility in Sarnico, Italy. New mahogany hull sides, transom, dashboard, seats and re-chromed hardware—as well as an engine overhaul and other replacements—brought it back to the same level of fit and finish as when Sellers took delivery 41 years earlier. The boat was gently used for the next decade, so it has remained in pristine condition. It shipped to Canada in 2021 and has run for only 20 hours since then.

US\$350,000



7

**An Original
Venice Crew
GT Competition
Mustang**



❄ Long before the film *Ford v Ferrari* made the late Carroll Shelby all the rage in Hollywood, the racer and automotive-design innovator topped any A-list when it came to sports-car culture in the US, helping to usher in the country's golden age of motoring and motorsport. If you've ever wondered what it was like to be living life at the redline with Shelby and his team as they developed the Cobra and souped-up Mustangs in the 1960s, *Robb Report* is offering the closest experience to it short of time travel.

In 1965, 17-year-old James Marietta started working with Shelby and helped construct and test some of his iconic machines. Now, as founder of Original Venice Crew (OVC), Marietta and his specialists will build one recipient an OVC GT Competition Mustang inspired by the original 1965 Shelby

GT350 he worked on. The new owner will also take part in giving the car its shakedown at southern California's famed Willow Springs track, where Shelby himself pushed some of his prototypes to the limit.

"It was like working in Camelot. The Venice race shop is where everything started for Shelby American and, as such, it had a special place in Carroll's heart," says Marietta, who will collaborate closely with the buyer—and share stories—during the 2,000-hour project spanning approximately 14 months. More exclusive than the vehicle, though, is the unique privilege of becoming an honorary member of OVC and a part of keeping the Shelby legacy alive.

US\$499,000 plus tax, title and licence



PHOTOGRAPHY: EVAN KLEIN.



8

Bespoke Crocodile Shoes by George Cleverley

❄️ British shoemaker George Cleverley has a long history of crafting footwear for some of the most celebrated men of their eras, from Laurence Olivier to Ralph Lauren. Part of its allure: rare, exotic and storied skins.

In keeping with that tradition, CEO George Glasgow Jr recently travelled to Italy in search of new materials. “I went to a tannery in Tuscany and hand-selected some grade-one porosus-crocodile hides,” he says. “It’s what Hermès uses for its Birkin crocodile bags because it’s very soft, very comfortable, yet very robust.”

The skins were then given a nubuck finish—“super-soft with almost a suede-like feel”, he notes—before being dyed. “We created colour combinations using trial and error to create a selection of pastel hues. There’s no recipe, so they can’t be replicated.”

Now, Cleverley is offering *Robb Report* readers one-of-a-kind pairs of shoes made from the results. “I’d recommend a whole-cut design such as a Chelsea boot or seamless Oxford, which will show off the colour and the scales without breaking up the skins,” Glasgow says.

You’ll also be treated to a tour of the London atelier, where you’ll meet the craftspeople involved in bringing your shoes to fruition. And, Glasgow promises: “We’ll make sure the first client’s lasts hang between King Charles’s and David Beckham’s.”

US\$11,200



9

**A Century-old
Olive Tree**

❄️ A couple hours' drive north from San Francisco sits Ancient Olive Trees, an extraordinary four-hectare orchard filled with specimens that have thrived there since the late 19th century. The neighbouring town of Corning is the olive capital of California and is filled with trees planted by some of the early European arrivals. Thanks to this package, you can own one of the best.

You and a guest will walk through the grove and discover which of the 800 trees speaks to you. Perhaps you're drawn to its shape, smell or the fruit it bears—ask owner Aaron Mount for his advice if you're unsure. The specimen will then be extracted from its longtime perch by a specialised crane and transported anywhere within the US (with a planting zone of eight or above). Once it arrives at your property, you can rely on the expertise of landscape architect Scott Shrader, a favourite of celebrities, to help determine the ideal

spot for planting. He will personally consult on where to site it, both so the tree continues to thrive and so you can enjoy it as part of your outdoor living space.

When you're in California for the selection, you'll spend two nights at a private five-bedroom guesthouse owned by the Mount family. The clan also operates a 21-hectare winery in Red Hills Lake County there, and you can sample its wine—and olive oil—during meals at the family home. You'll fly there business class from anywhere in the US and have a private driver on hand (so go ahead and sample every vintage). And don't worry, you won't have to press your own oil from that newly transplanted tree, either. The package includes a year's supply of the farm's products. Watch for the Dirty Martini Juice, which adds a distinctive umami kick to any drink.

US\$100,000



10

A Private Gorilla Trek in Rwanda

❄️ There has never been a better way to see, engage with and learn about Rwanda's magnificent wild gorillas than this four-day ultra-luxe safari in partnership with operator Micato Safaris. There are only about 1,000 mountain gorillas left in the wild in this region and you'll have the chance to encounter a few of the remaining families in their natural habitat.

You'll start by helicoptering from the capital of Kigali over the lush mountains of the countryside—Rwanda is nicknamed the Land of a Thousand Hills for good reason—and over the densely forested Volcanoes National Park to your home for the next three nights: Bisate Reserve, which opened in September, with only four 204sqm thatched-roof villas on a 42-hectare plot.

You'll spend two days on private guided treks led by Francois Bigirimana. He's one of the world's foremost experts on these gorillas and he formerly worked with the famed late primatologist Dian Fossey. One of the park's most experienced trekkers, Bigirimana has crisscrossed the forest spotting the elusive creatures for more than 40 years, so there's no better guide to track them down. You'll also have time to visit the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. The comedian and former talk-show host's philanthropy helped build this research facility dedicated to protecting these endangered animals, and you'll have a private tour with the chance to speak with the scientists themselves. All that plus a Silverback Sundowner to cap off the experience as you sit with cocktail in hand watching the sun set over the magnificent Virunga Mountains.

US\$275,000 for four people, ages 15 and up





11

A Vintage XP-82 Twin Mustang



❄️ This 1945 XP-82 Twin Mustang is one of two remaining examples in private hands—but the only one that remains airworthy. The aircraft’s unique double fuselage has prompted decades’ worth of double takes, but the design made sense as an escort fighter for long-range bombers. The twin-cockpit configuration, with dual controls, allowed one pilot to rest during extended flights.

Noted preservationist Tom Reilly’s work on this aircraft is one of the longest, most detailed restorations of any vintage warbird. After discovering the plane on a collector’s property in Ohio, its left side hidden under a piece of scrap metal, Reilly embarked on a complete rebuild of the XP-82, a complex design at the time compared to single-fuselage Mustangs. From 2008 to 2018, Reilly’s team replaced every system, component, placard and stencil—even replicating an original factory mistake to underscore its authenticity—and returned the exterior to the same 1945 bare-metal finish with historic insignias. The results were pristine enough to win the prestigious Grand Champion Warbird Award at EAA Airventure in 2019. The Packard V1650 engines, which also were completely overhauled, have clocked just 25 flight hours since the restoration. Despite the real McCoy look, the final product now has modern Garmin avionics for safer flying.

US\$11 million

PHOTOGRAPHY: SCOTT SLOCUM.





A Photo Shoot With Rock-star Favourite Danny Clinch

❄️ If you're a rock and roll devotee, Danny Clinch's name is instantly recognisable. The New Jersey-born lensman is known for unobtrusive, insightful photography, having made portraits of everyone from Bob Dylan to Björk, as well as documentaries about Pearl Jam and John Mayer. And if you've ever dreamed of joining that line-up, now's your chance. The illustrious Clinch (above) has agreed to shoot a portrait of a pair of *Robb Report* readers exclusively.

You'll meet at his studio, Transparent Clinch Gallery, for a personal tour of his home base in Asbury Park. He'll pore over his archives with you, sharing stories and anecdotes from the shoots and the musicians, uniquely illuminating that decades-long portfolio. Even better, as you browse the limited-edition prints there, Clinch will invite you to select

a one-of-one from his own private collection. This photograph is more than a piece of art. It's a fragment of rock and roll history, one you can proudly display alongside the other keepsake from this day.

For that, Clinch will whisk you outside into Asbury Park, which has served as the backdrop to so much of his work. You'll be the subject of a photo shoot there, following in the footsteps of Bruce Springsteen, The Smashing Pumpkins and Phish. Clinch's deft direction and incisive eye will mean that the result won't be merely a quick snapshot, but rather an image that captures the moment and tells a story, one you can repeat when the signed, large-format print arrives for installation at your home a few weeks later.

US\$160,000, not including framing and shipping



13

An Exclusive Ski Weekend in Italy's Dolomites

❄️ The Dolomites are the buzziest ski destination du jour, primed for a starring role when the Winter Olympics return to Cortina d'Ampezzo in 2026, exactly 70 years after the Games were first held in that glitzy Italian Alpine resort. One-up Mikaela Shiffrin and company's trip to that range with a weekend under the guidance of ski-maker Bomber and its executives

Marco Dallapiccola and Prince Dushan of Yugoslavia, both of whom are expert skiers able to keep up with even the most seasoned alpinist.

The trip begins with a mountaintop dinner on Friday night at the *Dosson rifugio*, or chalet, after which you'll make a thrilling ski descent back to your hotel, Corona Dolomites, a favourite of hardcore skiers. On Saturday morning, you can relish laying exclusive claim to the first tracks of the day, when the 2,103m-elevation Paganella mountain is open only for you for an entire hour—and of course, those elite professionals will be on hand to offer you tips or simply race you down. You'll be skiing on an extra-special pair of skis, too, such as Bomber's 2025 Pro-Terrain Crystal skis, limited to just 100 pairs.

Saturday lunch is at another *rifugio*, La Roda, with spectacular views of the mountain range. That evening, you'll enjoy a Michelin-starred dinner at a local spot such as Locanda Margon. On Sunday, squeeze in a visit to the

Moser winery, co-founded by retired cycling champion Francesco Moser, and try some dry *rose* made from pinot noir grapes.

You'll take home more than just memories from this trip. Each member of your party is invited to collaborate with Bomber's team in Italy to design their own bespoke graphics, which will then appear on a one-of-a-kind, handcrafted pair of skis. You don't have to worry about toting them around on globetrotting ski trips for the next year, though. The package includes a Bomber Club Silver Membership for four skiers. You can select new models from the Bomber line-up with up to 10 individual deliveries of skis sent directly to your doorstep, chalet or hotel suite in Europe, South America or the US—and then picked up—with personal support from a Bomber staffer 24/7 to ensure logistics run smoothly.

US\$85,000 for four adults; trip available in March 2025 or March 2026



14

Custom Cowboy Boots From Lucchese



❄️ Among bootmakers, Lucchese is arguably the most storied of names. Founded in San Antonio, Texas, in 1883 by Sicilian-born Salvatore ‘Sam’ Lucchese, the company has outfitted many you might expect (President Lyndon B Johnson and Johnny Cash), though its reach has long extended beyond the borders of the Lone Star State (even Gregory Peck and Zsa Zsa Gabor were fans). Despite the cattleman connotations, the cowboy boot is now as universally American as blue jeans, as practical or as statement-making as you like, and Lucchese is offering you and a lucky plus one the opportunity to create your unique dream pairs, in the finest alligator leather, with head designer Trey Gilmore in Fort Worth.

You’ll spend three nights in the Lucchese Suite at Hotel Drover, overlooking the city’s historic stockyards, have the chance to dine with Lucchese and Drover executives, and enjoy gifts from the boot brand including custom, hand-shaped cowboy hats to make your Western-chic look complete.

\$65,000

❄️ Brook Hill Whiskey was founded in 1891 and carried the distinction of being one of the few brands to survive Prohibition by producing ‘medicinal’ bourbon, available by prescription. Now, Rare Character has revived the name and is offering two *Robb Report* readers the chance to buy an entire cask of Brook Hill’s 15-year-old Kentucky straight bourbon.

Each barrel is made from new charred oak, one of the legal requirements in the production of bourbon, and selected by the company’s co-founder Pablo Moix. In addition to the cask itself, you’ll get to meet with Moix in person at a warehouse in either Lexington or Louisville, where you’ll taste your way to selecting your ideal barrel—because no two barrels are exactly alike. If you can’t make the trip to the Bluegrass State, Moix will mail you the whisky samples and walk you through the process over a video call.

Due to high demand and supremely low supply, bottles of Brook Hill 15 from similar casks have recently fetched three to five times the retail price on the auction block. For those wishing to acquire a barrel (and bragging rights), note that one container will yield approximately 110 to 130 bottles, depending on the angel’s share, or how much of the spirit has evaporated during the ageing process. From the time of selection, Rare Character will bottle and ship your order in two to three months.

US\$90,000



15

A Barrel of Brook Hill 15-Year-Old Bourbon From Rare Character



16

A Customised Rod From Tom Morgan Rodsmiths

❄️ Ever since Brad Pitt cast for trout in *A River Runs Through It*, fly-fishing has enjoyed a warm-and-fuzzy nook in the American psyche. For lovers of the outdoors, Tom Morgan Rodsmiths in Bozeman, Montana, occupies a singular position among fly-fishing-rod makers, focusing on customisation and quality. “We sweat the details,” says owner Joel Doub. “We want these rods to be highly functional but also collector’s items.”

The company is offering *Robb Report* a special package featuring a made-to-fit two-piece bamboo rod, with the choice of length and weight, a custom inscription in gold calligraphy, and a one-of-a-kind reel seat that can be crafted from a half-dozen species of tree, from rosewood to tiger-stripe maple. Bamboo rods are coveted for their action but are also the most challenging to make. Tom Morgan Rodsmiths hand-planes each bamboo strip to the desired taper and heat-treats the strips for straightness. The agate guides are fastened to the rod by garnet thread and brass wire. The Western grip, with cork sourced from Portugal, has an ergonomic cigar shape. A hand-built Hardy Bros 1912 Perfect reel, with a classic narrow-spool design, anodised-gunmetal finish, and red-agate line guard and a beautiful wooden AL Swanson rod tube complete what could be an heirloom package.



US\$7,655

17

Entry Into the First 1000 Miglia Experience Florida

❄️ 26 March 1927 marked the start of a motorsport legacy that would rival Le Mans as a benchmark for automotive power, performance and endurance: Italy’s famous, and equally infamous, Mille Miglia. As the name suggests, the contest was an approximately 1,000-mile gauntlet through the country’s mountain passes and villages, with the course often flanked by jubilant spectators cheering on such names as Alberto Ascari, Juan Manuel Fangio and Stirling Moss on their way to becoming icons. Although the original competition ended in 1957, an annual timed rally covering much of the same ground continues today. Now, though, the story gets a new chapter,



as the first stateside version will take place in the Sunshine State from 22 to 25 February.

The organisers of the nascent 1000 Miglia Experience Florida—comprising a serpentine round-trip course from Miami—are reserving one spot for a *Robb Report* reader, which includes nightly dining and accommodation at such luxury destinations as The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. This package extends to your navigator as well. Unlike the Italian version, which restricts cars to examples of models that participated in the original

race and were made no later than 1957, the inaugural US edition also welcomes sports cars, grand tourers and supercars.

The drive days will be capped by an exclusive gala and you will be given additional VIP access to the second-annual Moda Miami automotive festival. With that comes a preview of the coveted vehicles at its RM Sotheby’s auction and a seat at the sale, where you just might find your dream machine for next year’s rally.

US\$16,000

18

A Bespoke Surfboard by Jeff Steve

❄️ Californian Jeff Steve has been building one-of-a-kind wooden canoes and kayaks for 12 years, but his recent surfboards may be his masterpieces. And Steve is letting *Robb Report* readers jump the line for bespoke commissions.

He likens them to airplane wings, with an interior wooden frame that supports the deck and bottom ‘skins’—shaped wood with a fibreglass coating that is only 0.318cm thick. “But it’s strong and surfable,” says Steve, who uses new or repurposed wood to build the boards for clients. “I follow the natural path of the wood and it often takes on a life of its own with the grain. I know it sounds very zen, but it often reveals itself to me.”



The available species include Western red cedar, redwood, Alaska yellow cedar, purple heart and mahogany, while the aesthetics are driven by the buyer. Steve proposes placing a design such as a sculpted wood starburst, glass inserts or perhaps a memento that’s personal to the owner in the board’s centre to enhance its meaning. He can craft any shape and length of surfboard or stand-up paddleboard a client desires, and if you have no intention of catching a wave, you can follow the lead of many of his customers and mount it on the wall as art.

US\$12,000

19

A High-jewellery Sautoir From Karina Choudhrie Jewels



❄ In the past two decades, Karina Choudhrie became a stealth name-to-know among private jewellers. She grew up in Dubai and began her bespoke career there before moving to the UK about 15 years ago; the company's workshops are in Valenza, Italy, and the gem capital of India, Jaipur. Quickly recognising the potential to launch at the high end of retail in London, she created the Karina Choudhrie Jewels brand for her newest endeavour. Its salon and studio, a short walk from Buckingham Palace, are an embodiment of Choudhrie's aesthetic: warm, with golden accents and lined in sumptuous silks, all deliberately yet luxuriously understated.

The ultimate expression of Choudhrie's design philosophy is the Under the Sea high jewellery collection, a signature assortment that she has produced since taking a research trip with a marine biologist off the coast of Mauritius eight years ago. It includes a range of extraordinary pieces, all inspired by her love for the oceans. Many of those designs reference the colours and life below the surface, but this necklace is an unusual and whimsical standout. The *sautoir* is a witty take on the maritime tradition of casting bottles over the side of a ship with messages to be carried home by the waves. But instead of a bottle, she has created a gorgeous diamond locket, inside of which is a plain gold bar—and Choudhrie will engrave it according to the buyer's wishes, creating a unique, everlasting version of a message in a bottle. It's set on a platinum chain, with almost 35 carats of round brilliant, rose-cut and bead diamonds in total, and Karina Choudhrie Jewels is saving it for a *Robb Report* reader.



US\$159,500

A Porsche 911 Reimagined by Singer—One of the Last DLS Turbo Restorations

❄️ The Porsche 911 is one of the most popular sports cars in history, but many cognoscenti of the marque reserve their highest reverence for the model's 964 generation in particular. Sure, this air-cooled iteration—built from 1989 through 1994—was innovative, introducing all-wheel drive to the 911 and retaining only 15 per cent of the parts that went into its forebears, but another likely reason for the appeal is that it's the only one that Singer reimagines.

Founded in 2009 by Rob Dickinson, whose fame as lead vocalist for 1990s British band Catherine Wheel has been eclipsed by his automotive artistry, Singer remains the ne plus ultra among the Porsche restomod houses that have become ubiquitous since. Now, one of the last allocations of its limited DLS Turbo services, inspired by a 1977 Porsche endurance racer, is being reserved for the recipient of this package.

“Our DLS Turbo services are about celebrating Porsche's 934.5 race car, and we thought it would be appropriate to work with *Robb Report* and collaborate with a special client to pursue their ultimate vision for their car,” Dickinson says.

You will work directly with Dickinson on personalisation (the rendering shown here is just an example of the creative possibilities) throughout the reinterpretation of a 964 generation car (not provided). Enhancements include a modified carbon-fibre body and a more than 700hp twin-turbo flat-six engine with a 9,000rpm redline. Before taking final delivery at one of Singer's workshops—in the US or the UK—you will join its test driver at the Castelloli circuit in Barcelona to put the car through its paces. As for lap times, your new limited-edition Singer Reimagined—DLS Turbo Edition Chronograph, commissioned to match, will help you keep track. 🏁

From US\$3.6 million (travel not included), this package is subject to terms and conditions and valid through 1 February 2025.

20





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Benetti has designed B.Yond 57M to offer a range of experiences on long cruises.

PHOTOGRAPHY: BENETTI.

Dream Machines

Technology | Water | Wheels



Cranking it to 12

With the new 819hp 12Cilindri, Ferrari drives its most famous internal-combustion configuration another generation into the future.

Words: Lawrence Ulrich

Above: a successor to Ferrari's 812 Superfast, the 12Cilindri has the serious vibes of the 365 GTB4 Daytona, a favourite of 1970s Hollywood.

Facing page: the 12Cilindri's ability to cover zero to 100km/h in 2.9 seconds and crest 340km/h is balanced with its by-wire braking system.

FERRARI HAS REPLACED its 812 Superfast with the new 819hp 12Cilindri, whose name (DOH-dee-chee chee-LIN-dree) declares the focal point of the design brief, which was to develop a conventional power plant that makes this Prancing Horse among the fastest and most muscular front-engined sports cars in history. To create this next-generation GT, the marque took styling cues from the early space age and 1970s retro-futurism, then dropped in the internal-combustion engine that built Ferrari's legacy: a naturally aspirated V12.

It's one of several throwback supercars—including the rival Aston Martin Vanquish and the (considerably more expensive) V16-equipped Bugatti Tourbillon—that revel in cylinder excess, keeping the internal-combustion party going until emissions rules issue a last call to the guzzlers.

PHOTOGRAPHY: FERRARI.



The V12 became Ferrari's lodestar the moment its first model, the 1.5-litre 125 S, rolled from Maranello in 1947. But today's iteration of the engine would blow Enzo's famous Persol sunglasses right off his face, delivering seven times the output in a package that, with a 6.5-litre displacement, is four times larger than its progenitor.

Piloting our example of the 12Cilindri (presented in a sunny Giallo Montecarlo paint scheme) through the green hills of Luxembourg, I'm introduced to the car's touring acumen. Despite the blistering performance figures, it fits the definition of a grand tourer to a tee with useful boot space, a rear parcel shelf with luggage straps, and adjustable magnetic shocks for ride comfort. But only after moving to Goodyear's test circuit at Colmar-Berg am I able to appreciate the model's substantial punch—a snorting rip to 100km/h, claimed to take merely 2.9 seconds, with the ability to reach 200km/h in 7.9 seconds. The car hits 295km/h by the end of the main straight and, given a little added room, easily could have closed in on the touted top speed of over 340km/h.

Yet the 12Cilindri, which starts at RM1,828,000—the Spider clocks in at RM1,998,000—is all about visceral sensation. As the revs soar to the 9,500rpm





limit, that journey is accompanied by the V12's howling song, elegant and violent at the same time. A new induction and exhaust system pipes the richest harmonics directly into the cabin via sound resonators; no ersatz noises here. And Ferrari's first software solution for a V12, what it calls Aspirated Torque Shaping, smooths torque peaks and valleys in third and fourth gears to deliver a sense of limitless acceleration. Then there's the dual-clutch automated gearbox, with an added eighth gear to improve performance and trim fuel consumption, allowing for 30 per cent faster upshifts and downshifts than its predecessor.

Another improvement is found in the cockpit. Ferrari interiors have been crying out for a centre touchscreen to ease the maddening operation of the steering-wheel controls; that call has been answered here with a 10.2-inch display, complemented by a passenger screen.

The vehicle's long-hood and cab-rearward proportions nod to classic Ferrari GTs, including the 365 GTB4 Daytona, further referenced by a black band between the headlights as a cheeky callback. The rest is intentionally daring. A delta-shaped rear windscreen, for example, plays up the aerospace inspiration and integrates dual corner winglets that rise up to 10 degrees to boost downforce.

Above: a dual-cockpit design aims for near-mirror-image layouts for the driver and passenger.

Facing page: the naturally aspirated V12 delivers 678Nm of torque, 80 per cent of which is available at 2,500rpm.

Lifting the patio-sized clamshell bonnet offers an unimpeded view of the redheaded engine below. Compared with its predecessor, the dry-sump-oiled V12 gets titanium connecting rods that are 40 per cent lighter, a lightened crankshaft and pistons, and valve-train components derived directly from Ferrari's F1 engines, bolstering mechanical efficiency.

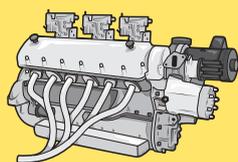
All the chassis and handling tricks Ferrari has learnt over decades of serial F1 dynasties come together in the 12Cilindri. The four-wheel steering now provides independent control over the rear wheels, allowing the car to change course with seemingly millimetre-level precision at the barest twitch of the steering wheel, which feels lubricated in olive oil. As for the by-wire braking system, first experienced on the brilliant 296 GTB hybrid (and less-brilliant SF90 hybrid), it scrubs speed with unerring confidence.

True, Ferrari began development of this undiluted driving experience more than four years ago, long before the reality check of electric vehicle adoption (or lack thereof) caused luxury automakers to walk back their electrification game plans. But for anyone who pines for a snarlingly retro engine in an otherwise future-leaning supercar, the 12Cilindri's timing is impeccable. **R**



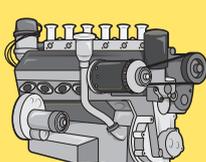
Engine Notes

Even as the 12-cylinder engine becomes an increasingly endangered species in the automotive ecosystem, Maranello continues to pay homage to the configuration that has long powered its legacy. We spoke to Gary Bobileff, a *concoeurs* judge and founder of automotive-restoration house Bobileff Motorcar Company, for his perspective on some of the marque's most revered mills.



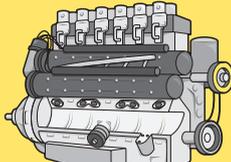
Colombo
1.5-litre 125
 Output: 118hp
 Years in production:
 1947-1948
 First model: 125 S

Designed primarily by engineer Gioacchino Colombo, the 125 is the 1.5-litre heart that beats in Ferrari's debut model, the 125 S—a groundbreaking engine for an exceptionally significant car. “Back in the day, there was nothing like it,” says Bobileff, who points to this V12 having “such small displacement and such short stroke, which would give (it) very high rev capabilities”. Ferrari’s “pioneering effort” was “just amazing”, he adds.



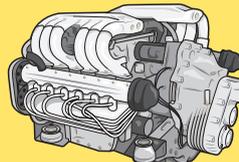
Colombo
3.0-litre Tipo 168
 Output: 280hp
 Years in production:
 1959-1964
 First model: 250 GT
 Berlinetta Passo Corto

The Colombo Tipo 168, introduced in Ferrari's 250 GT model line, propels one of the most valuable and rare collector cars on the market today, the 36-example 250 GTO. As Ferrari looked to produce larger and more muscular engines, Bobileff says, adjustments such as “rocker arms in needle bearings (allowed it to) put out more horsepower per litre than its predecessors, through the means of reducing friction”.



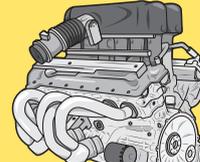
Colombo
3.3-litre Tipo 226
 Output: 300hp
 Years in production:
 1967-1968
 First model: 275 GTB4

The initial four-overhead-cam set-up in a production Ferrari, the Tipo 226 was introduced in the 275 GTB4, a model born of the 275 P2 sports prototype from 1965. The power plant didn't offer much more punch than the two-cam version, but “it has all the beautiful noises”, Bobileff notes. “It gives the driver tremendous pleasure just listening to the music.” Plus, it paved the way for the engine in the Daytona and every four-cam Ferrari to follow.



Forghieri
5.0-litre Tipo F113
 Output: 390hp
 Years in production:
 1984-1991
 First model: Testarossa

Mauro Forghieri's Tipo F113 is a flat-12 with four valves per cylinder, something never seen before in a street model from Maranello until the 1984 Testarossa. Bobileff calls the engine “smooth as silk”, explaining that there's generally less resistance in a flat-12 versus a V12 configuration. By 1991, the F113 in Ferrari's 512 TR model was fine-tuned even further, including an improved fuel-injection system.



Ferrari
6.0-litre F140
 Output: 660hp
 Years in production:
 2002-present
 First model: Enzo

Ferrari's current 12-cylinder star, the F140, premiered with 660hp in the 2002 Enzo, which Bobileff calls “the top-of-the-line supercar by Ferrari standards when it came to handling, speed, braking—everything. Taken as a package, it's spectacular.” Since then, progressions include the 6.5-litre naturally aspirated variants of the 812 Superfast, Purosangue and now the 819hp 12Cilindri.



City Lights And Social Nights

The Ferrari Owners' Club Malaysia's recent social night showcased camaraderie, fraternity and plenty of good cheer.

Photography: Brandon Lai

1. The iconic bar area of Annabell KL, which provided a photo-worthy backdrop for the FOCM social night.

2. The capacious Skyline Embassy Property Gallery offered plenty of lounging space as FOCM members and guests arrived for the evening's festivities.

3. Dato' David Gurupatham of FOCM makes his selection.

THE BRIGHT LIGHTS of Kuala Lumpur city shone a bit brighter on the eve of the Festival of Lights as members of the Ferrari Owners' Club Malaysia (FOCM) got together to celebrate a pre-Deepavali social night. Held in partnership with property developer TSLAW Land, the evening offered members a preview of the remarkable Skyline Embassy prior to its public launch.

At the Skyline Embassy Property Gallery, FOCM members enjoyed Johnnie Walker highballs and drams of Johnnie Walker Blue Label. They also had the privilege of being among

the first to view the show units prior to its official launch. The appeal of Skyline Embassy—poised to become a breathtaking addition to Kuala Lumpur's skyline—lies in being one of the city's most coveted addresses with a host of amenities such as healthcare centres, international schools, shopping malls, recreational facilities and more.

Members then proceeded to Annabell KL, a bar-restaurant and live music lounge hotspot frequented by Kuala Lumpur insiders and glitterati. In his welcome speech, FOCM president Abu Rizal Bakri Dato' Sulaiman expressed





his gratitude for the support of co-marketing partners such as TSLAW Land, Giorgio Armani, Johnnie Walker Blue Label and Oppo, as well as to his indefatigable board of directors, who have continued to serve the interests of the FOCM.

He then passed the microphone to Emily Chong, TSLAW Group's deputy general manager, group branding and marketing, who spoke about the host of lifestyle facilities available at the development, where residents can enjoy the sky infinity pool, sky lounge, sky deck and sky bridge, with a sweeping view of the KL city skyline and Royal Selangor Golf Course.

Next came the music performances, while at the al fresco bar of Annabell KL, Cohiba Atmosphere offered delicious variants of Aladino to pair with the tasty drams of Johnnie Walker Blue Label.

With the dress theme being Bollywood Best, the fairer sex's efforts were richly rewarded with prizes from Giorgio Armani, presented to them by assistant store manager Kerson Tai from the fashion label's boutique located at The Exchange TRX.

A series of lucky draws then followed, with the grand prize of an Oppo Find N3 worth RM7,999 going to Dato' Vincent Choo, capping a magical night of bright lights, festive cheer and genuine solidarity among the FOCM members. **✎**

4. Abu Rizal (centre) flanked by Louis Lai (left) and Calvin Tan.

5. Welcoming FOCM members was a specially designed kolam bearing the club's colours.

6. Johnnie Walker Blue Label was the dram of choice for this social night.

7. The TSLAW Tower, a 360-degree LED building, for the occasion of FOCM's Social Night.

8. At this live music venue, the band played a rendition of hits that covered the age range of FOCM members.

9. Abu Rizal Bakri Dato' Sulaiman and the winners of the best-dressed competition, with Kerson Tai (right) of the Giorgio Armani boutique in The Exchange TRX.

10. The evening offered plenty of networking opportunities among like-minded FOCM members and guests.



Powering Up

The newly updated Porsche Taycan has launched in Southeast Asia, featuring a few useful and fundamental upgrades—along with a very special one-off that celebrates the region.

Words: Wei-Yu Wang



PORSCHE IS A brand known for precision engineering and exacting German standards, but never let it be said that it can't throw a good party. With the word of the night being 'overfeel', Porsche's Asia-Pacific launch of the refreshed Taycan took place at an energetic, vibrant affair at Singapore's Pasir Panjang Power Station. With wine, whisky and champagne on the side, dance numbers and smoke machines, and a judiciously performed electric guitar solo, a total of seven variants of Porsche's revolutionary, all-electric super sedan took centre stage. But even these were outdone by the surprise unveiling of the Taycan Turbo S Celestial Jade, a one-off special edition that showcases the possibilities of the brand's Exclusive Manufaktur Sonderwunsch customisation programme.

Designed by the Porsche Asia-Pacific team, Celestial Jade was meant to reflect an appreciation for the cultures of Southeast Asia. Its most

***The Taycan
Turbo S Celestial
Jade reflects an
appreciation for
the cultures of
Southeast Asia.***

striking feature is the external finish—for the first time, Porsche has blended two of its Chromaflair finishes. These finishes contain tiny, reflective particles that seem to shift in colour depending on the light conditions. Development of the Celestial Jade finish, which combines two colours—Urban Bamboo, a green with gold highlights, and Shifting Carbon, a dark grey with blue undertones—took about a year. The paint is hand-applied and took 80 hours to complete.

Inside, Celestial Jade sports customised leather colours in a grey and green theme that matches the exterior. A specially designed LongMa logo, combining the head of a dragon and body of a horse, is also worked into places such as the headrests and sill guards. The car would later embark on a Southeast Asian tour, including a stop in Genting Highlands for viewing in Malaysia, before it will eventually be offered for sale.



This and facing pages: the Taycan Turbo S Celestial Jade carries a specially designed emblem predominantly displayed throughout the car, from the headrests to the B-pillar, door sill guards and even the LED door projectors.







As for the rest of the Taycan line-up, the new versions have received a few minor tweaks to front and rear—look hard enough and the difference in headlights is just about noticeable. The under-the-hood upgrades are more extensive, if largely still incremental. The Taycan is faster across the range, with the base model (RM575,000) accelerating from 0-100km/h in 4.8 seconds, a 0.6-second improvement. At the top of the scale, the Taycan Turbo GT (RM1.16 million) accomplishes the century sprint in a heart-stopping 2.2 seconds, with a maximum power output of a terrifying 1,019bhp and a top speed of 290km/h. Range is up across the board, too, with most variants rated to break the 600km mark—the base Taycan with the Performance Battery Plus pack has a maximum of 678km. As always, real-world results will not be quite as optimistic, but—as any electric vehicle (EV) owner knows—a range bump is always welcome and, in this case, it is a 35 per cent improvement. Charging is faster, too, accommodating up to 320kW for a 10 to 80 per cent charge time of 18 minutes.

Left: across all variants, the new Taycan is faster and has more range than its predecessors.

The new Taycan is up to 15kg lighter across the range.

Adaptive air suspension is now standard, with the new Active Ride suspension an option for all-wheel drive models. This functions like anti-roll bars would, keeping the chassis level even in challenging conditions, which results in a more comfortable and composed ride. Despite this addition, and an extensive array of interior comforts and driving technology—14-way adjustable seats, surround cameras and the like—the new Taycan is somehow up to 15kg lighter across the range.

From a broader perspective, the Taycan refresh does little to change its position in the market. The improvements in range are a welcome practicality, and the power upgrades—well, the higher-end variants of the Taycan were already one of the fastest production cars available. Most importantly, the new Taycan handles like the old—a heavy vehicle, sure, but with an engaging, reactive dynamism that is very particular to Porsche. The EV scene has changed dramatically since the Taycan's inception in 2019, but it still stands out—because it is a Porsche. **33**

PHOTOGRAPHY: PORSCHE.

It Might Get Loud

The term ‘quiet luxury’ feels out of place in the world of superyachts, yet it seems a fitting description for Benetti.

Words: Haziq Yusof

Photography: Jeff Brown

Below: featuring a bespoke design by Rome-based design studio Giorgio M Cassetta, the 67m Calex was entirely customised for her current owner, who took delivery in 2022.

Facing page: Kasper 7 has a three-star certification from SEA Index, the tool launched by Yacht Club de Monaco to measure yachts’ CO₂ emissions.

NOTHING ARTICULATES QUIET luxury better than a 67m superyacht decked with seven opulent staterooms, a built-in lift, a dedicated spa and an expansive, al fresco lounge area. Sounds ironic? Yet, this pervasive—and confusing—assessment lingered as I stepped off Calex, a stunning custom-built superyacht made by Italian shipyard Benetti.

Just moments prior, Marco Valle, CEO of the Azimut|Benetti Group, had, with a mischievous grin, informed me of an adage the yachting industry takes to heart: “No cash, no splash.” If anything, the admittedly amusing aphorism offered quite the opposite observation.

Things only became clearer the next day when I had the chance to speak again with Valle. “People look at our yachts and all they see is the high life and the glamour,” he said. “No one sees the people behind them and the hard work it takes to make them possible.”





Effortless Elegance

It's all too easy to miss the forest for the trees when inhabiting the world of luxury—especially when aboard some of the finest vessels money can buy, crafted by a 151-year-old shipyard with indisputable flair. Benetti showed off three superyachts at the 2024 Monaco Yacht Show, each with distinct personalities. Yet, all three exuded quiet grace and elegance.

Without the context provided by Valle, it would be easy to admire this subtle sophistication without recognising the effort that had made it possible. The vessels, and Benetti by extension, appear to possess a quality the Italians call *sprezzatura*; the ability to appear stylish and artful at no apparent cost or effort.

Take the shipyard's custom-built 67m superyacht Kasper 7, for example. Sporting creatively whimsical interior spaces designed entirely by the owner, the superyacht took more than three years of development to ensure it met the precise specifications of the owner while retaining robust seaworthiness.

Aside from the bespoke layout of the vessel, the inclusion of two large circular windows near its dining area, I later learnt, proved especially difficult, requiring months of meticulous engineering to accomplish. Enter the space, however, and the windows appear to be a natural, effortless feature, flooding the room with natural light while providing a tangible connection to the open seas.



Above: B.Yond 57M has three stern configurations: a Beach version with a generous outdoor area and pool, an Air version with a touch-and-go helipad for a limitless cruising experience and the possibility of transforming this space into a veranda, and a Water version designed to stow marine exploration equipment.

Facing page, top: B.Yond 57M is designed to guarantee a range of experiences on long cruises.

Facing page, centre and right: Motopanfilo 45M, with a steel hull and an aluminium superstructure, is a modern revisiting of the Navetta concept in collaboration with RWD for the exterior styling and Lazzarini & Pickering Architetti for the concept behind the interiors and exterior decks.

The same can be said about the more classically designed Asani. A newly built, 50m vessel from Benetti's B.Now line, the superyacht boasts an expansive and made-to-measure 36sqm beach club that connects seamlessly to its interior spaces.

Although some may chalk up Benetti's knack for sophisticated design to its Italian sensibility, Valle said it's the result of something more deliberate.

"Innovating in design is far more important today than in the past," he explained. "We have a new generation of clientele, one more inclined to travel and work remotely. The boats of today have to be designed to be more like a home, where people can spend time with family, and where the cruise itself is the most important part of the experience."



Bigger And Greener

The next frontier, according to Valle, is sustainable innovation. As a member of the Azimut|Benetti Group, Benetti shares resources in research and development with its sibling brand, Azimut. While Azimut specialises in versatile yachts under 40m, Benetti’s fleet of energy-intensive superyachts and megayachts—some measuring well beyond 80m—heightens the urgency for advanced sustainable solutions.

“We are trying to be very concrete,” said Valle, adding that his company has invested heavily into eco-friendly technologies, such as new hybrid propulsion systems, and aims for minimally 20 per cent greater energy efficiency with each new launch.

The shipyard has also partnered with Eni Sustainable Mobility, a company that produces a biofuel made from waste raw materials and vegetable residues. The agreement has resulted in use of the biofuel for the group’s shipyard operations, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 1,000 tonnes per year.

I asked Valle if the brand’s efforts indicate a concrete and increasing demand for sustainable solutions in the world of yachting. He shook his head. “We do it because we should.” So much for no cash, no splash. **33**



A Day Of Firsts

At the Southeast Asian launch of Samsung's Micro LED, a new level of screen technology has been unlocked for the here and now.

Photography: Brandon Lai

IT WAS A night of firsts and also of the best. At the heart of the dinner event was the Southeast Asian launch of Samsung's 114-inch Micro LED screen by its sole authorised dealer in Malaysia, Hoe Huat. The new screen improves on its predecessor, the 110-inch Micro LED, by leaps and bounds in terms of its innovative diode technology, with individual control of pixels to generate a stunning depth

1. Calvert Yap, Samsung Malaysia's head of audio visual and TV division, launches the revolutionary Micro LED technology.

2. The dramatic entrance of Sincere Haute Horlogerie's boutique set the mood for the evening.

3. Ken Lai of Unusual Marketplace slices the *cecina* for cocktail hour.

4. Samsung's wondrous Micro LED elicited plenty of attention and even prompted some guests to get out of their chairs.

and detail that takes one's breath away. Beyond the debut of this Micro LED screen in the region, the dinner also represented the first Volcan de mi Tierra dinner event outside the brand's activations.

This exclusive pairing, with the ingenious culinary team from Unusual Marketplace, showcased the brilliance of this additive-free tequila, which retains the purity of the agave and elevated with luxury spirit-making techniques from its joint-venture partner Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy.

On the menu, some of the world's best ingredients added excitement to the proceedings. Among them, giant *carabineros* specially flown in for this event; *percebes*—otherwise known as gooseneck barnacles—from Galicia, which can only be harvested by hand; autumn truffles; and premium Hanwoo beef from South Korea.

Then came the grand reveal, with a set-up and introduction from Calvert Yap, Samsung Malaysia's head of audio visual and TV division, on the





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5. A dramatic demonstration of the Micro-LED's dynamic experience.

6. The Volcan X.A and Blanco Tahona on display.

7. A full range of Volcan tequilas added to the experience of firsts.

8. A box set of *percebes* in Tom Kha emulsion, Japanese Ankimo in a *ponzu* reduction, and Taishan oysters beignet.

9. Hoe Huat's principal Ryan Kwan (left) with guest JP Chin.

phenomenal power of Micro LED, which brings colour, details and images to life like never before.

In attendance was Volcan tequila's ambassador Sherrie Yap, who showcased the exquisite tastes of its crafted drinks—from the latest Blanco Tahona, with its hints of dulce de leche and almond, to the flagship X.A, mellowed by three layers of ageing for a smooth and elegant touch of vanilla, caramel and dried fruits.

To polish it off, venue partner Sincere Haute Horlogerie set the scene within its spectacular boutique, with mechanical wizardry from its many independent watchmaking *maisons* proffering a juxtaposition to the futuristic Micro LED technology on display. **R**



Retro Rebel

The Leica M11-D is a cutting-edge digital camera imbued with a touch of nostalgia.

Words: Haziq Yusof

LEICA HAS ALWAYS gone against the grain. Whether it's popularising 35mm film when larger formats ruled in the early 20th century or remaining steadfast to manual rangefinders, the German manufacturer is like that effortlessly cool kid in class who prides himself on being different. Unlike the all-too-familiar hipster, however, Leica's approach never comes across as superfluous posturing, even when producing something as unconventional as a digital camera without a rear screen.

Adding to its line of unorthodox quasi-film digital cameras, Leica introduces the M11-D. Just like its predecessors (the M-D from 2016 and M10-D from 2018), the M11-D forgoes the rear screen, encouraging photographers to rely on their instincts and skill rather than digital feedback when composing their shots.

The result is a film-like shooting experience that gives you full control

(there's no autofocus here), rewarding the experienced photographer who wants to slow down and be deliberate with every frame while benefiting from the flexibility and modern conveniences of digital photography. And without a rear screen for instant playback, photographers can focus on composing the next shot rather than spending time reviewing every image.

Of course, though the M11-D is dressed in a retro, minimalist exterior (complete with a mechanical ISO dial on the back), it is equipped with cutting-edge technology. Beneath its analogue-inspired design is the same 60-megapixel BSI CMOS full-frame sensor found on the standard M11 that delivers impeccable image quality and dynamic range. Additionally, the camera's expansive ISO range from 64 to 50,000 promises versatility in both low- and high-light conditions.

At 540g, the M11-D seems a reasonable addition to one's everyday

bag, especially if you take into account its internal 256Gb storage that lets you capture a good number of images even if you forget to insert an SD card.

With its unique blend of film and digital photography, the RM50,250 Leica M11-D isn't for the neophyte seeking their first camera. To hipsters, and seasoned photographers seeking a break from modern 'cure-all' cameras, however, this one's for you. **R**



This page: the M11-D is the latest addition to Leica's line of screenless digital cameras.

PHOTOGRAPHY: LEICA.



Patek Philippe's Ref. 5822P is the most mechanically accomplished variation of its Cubitus collection.

PHOTOGRAPHY: PATEK PHILIPPE.

The Goods

Grooming | Jewellery | Style | Time

Shape Of Things To Come

Patek Philippe's first new collection in 25 years is unapologetically bold and distinctive.

Words: Alvin Wong

Photography: Jean-Daniel Meyer

FIRST, THE LEAKS. Then, the confirmation. Perhaps a buying frenzy next? After images of Patek Philippe's new Cubitus watch started appearing online in early October, watch lovers could not stop dispensing hot takes on the brand's latest creation.

As it is expected with an esteemed, centuries-old brand that attempts to try something new, views are bound to be polarising. Reactions to Cubitus—Patek Philippe's first new collection since 1999—spanned from delight to incredulity. But one thing is for sure: Patek Philippe knows exactly where it is headed with the bold new watch, which does not look like anything that it has



PHOTOGRAPHY: PATEK PHILIPPE.



done in its 185-year history. One might describe it as a cousin to the iconic Nautilus, given that both collections occupy the sports-luxe space, but further comparisons will, quite frankly, be tenuous.

A collection in its own right, the Cubitus grabs your attention with its imposing 44.4mm by 44.9mm case with rounded corners. There is a touch of retro-tinged machismo to go with the case size, accompanied by Patek Philippe's characteristic refinement and technical nuances.

A collection in its own right, the Cubitus grabs your attention with its imposing 44.4mm by 44.9mm case with rounded corners.



This and facing pages: the new Cubitus timepieces comprise a steel time-and-date model with an olive-green dial (Ref. 5821/1A), a rose-gold and steel time-and-date model with a blue dial (Ref. 5821/1AR) and a platinum grand date edition with a blue dial (Ref. 5822P).

For its debut, the Cubitus is offered in three variations. The most mechanically accomplished is the Ref. 5822P in platinum, a calendar watch with large twin date and day display, moon phase and day of the week, all of which switch instantaneously. Measuring just 4.76mm in height, the newly developed ultra-thin automatic movement powering the watch has six patents pending.

Besides the Ref. 5822P, collectors have a choice between two models with a time-and-day display: the two-tone Ref. 5821/1AR in steel and rose gold case with a blue sunburst dial, and the all-steel Ref. 5821/1A with an olive-green dial. Both models are driven by an automatic movement with a stop-seconds feature that allows for more precise time adjustment. The movement offers up to 45 hours of power reserve.

There are suggestions that the Cubitus demonstrates Patek Philippe's attempt to woo younger watch lovers. As far as the watch's presence, style and debut offerings go, the whispers seem not too far off the mark. **R**



Pieces Of The Past

At the launch of Jaeger-LeCoultre's third capsule collection of vintage watches in Singapore, product marketing and heritage director Matthieu Sauret tells us how it came to be and why it has been so positively received.

Words: Wei-Yu Wang



First introduced in 1968 as a diver's watch, the Polaris Memovox was Jaeger-LeCoultre's answer to that era's newfound fascination with deep-sea diving.



Highlights from The Collectibles include (clockwise from right) the Reverso Small Seconds, Powermatic, 101 Lady's Watch, Reverso Lady and Triple Calendar.



VINTAGE TIMEPIECES HAVE their own distinct appeal, as any watch collector will attest to. Most of the well-established manufactures have origins dating back to the 19th century or earlier, and invariably have rich historical catalogues that paint pictures of styles and icons of the past—some of which persist today.

Although watch manufactures generally acknowledge the horological community's appreciation for vintage pieces, and often provide support via in-house restoration and servicing departments, the actual buying and selling of these pieces have long been left to third parties. Starting in 2023, Jaeger-LeCoultre began bucking this trend by starting an in-house vintage programme, The Collectibles.

The Collectibles is intended to be a limited affair, consisting of an ongoing capsule-style set of releases featuring a small, curated selection of historical timepieces. There have been three editions so far: the first featured 12 watches and was launched at the manufacture's home in Le Sentier, Switzerland; the second saw 11 pieces and was unveiled in Los Angeles; and the third was revealed only a couple of months ago in Singapore.

"The goal with The Collectibles (launch) is so people can see them up-close and personal—in the metal, as I like to say," explained Matthieu Sauret, Jaeger-LeCoultre's product marketing and heritage director, during the launch event at The Warehouse Hotel in Robertson Quay. He added that Singapore and its neighbouring regions had an especially positive response to the first two Collectibles editions. "So, of course, it was very natural for us to set this capsule in Singapore. And all the love and appreciation that I've seen show that we were right—this place is very enthused by vintage watches."

Consisting of 10 pieces, the latest Collectibles is a cross-section of the manufacture's greatest 20th-century hits. The art deco era is represented by the Duoplan, Jaeger-LeCoultre's first fully assembled wristwatch, and for the first time features two examples of the Reverso—the manufacture's most iconic wristwatch, dating back to the 1930s. Mid-century finds include a Powermatic with its dial-side power reserve indicator and a Memovox Parking that was designed to sound an alarm when the parking meter was about to run out—both from the 1950s. A 1970 example of a striking blue Memovox Polaris II stands out as a tribute to manufacture's past experimentation with bold, high-performance diving watches, while the brown lacquer dial of a 1969 Memovox Automatic Calendar makes for an exceptionally eye-catching piece.



The third edition of *The Collectibles* was recently held in Singapore, during which Matthieu Sauret (left), Jaeger-LeCoultre's product marketing and heritage director, came to meet collectors.

According to Sauret, the origin of *The Collectibles* was something of an accident. In fact, the book came first—the launch of the first capsule collection came with the launch of *The Collectibles* book, a mighty 500-plus page tome that details the background of 17 of the manufacture's most important historical models. "The idea came because there were several journalists asking us for information on vintage watches but we didn't have a source we could easily get information," he says. From here, the idea of a master reference book came to fruition. "It's full of storytelling—you really feel like you're a part of the history of Jaeger-LeCoultre and of fine watchmaking."



Above: *The Collectibles* book devotes each chapter to the brand's 17 most significant models and includes such essential data for collectors as the years of production, movements used, dial variations and more.

At the same time, Sauret was managing the brand's museum, which frequently saw him getting in touch with collectors and dealers all around the world to acquire historical pieces. Sometimes, he would come across a watch that would have been a great buy, if not for the fact that there was a perfect example of that watch already in the museum. "Leaving those watches that may go unheard about in small auctions, or with merchants that don't have a wide exposure—because we survey all of them, why not buy them, restore them and put them for sale?" he says.

Sauret is a collector himself, through and through, and the process is something he enjoys. "I'm very lucky to be able to assemble these collections with my team. The hunt is as beautiful as the watches that we find," he says. "The response has been amazing. We've been able to show our clients something different, and when you show something you can buy—it sort of touches you in a different way than when it's just in a museum. It's even more emotional, I suppose." The *Collectibles* timepieces were available for public viewing in Singapore for 10 days after the launch event, and more than 300 visitors made appointments. Within weeks of the unveiling, virtually all the pieces were sold.

The *Collectibles* also comes about at a time when there has been a noticeable uptick in the interest of vintage watches across the industry. "People are realising that this is a timeless object that you can wear, even if it's 60 or 70 years old," Sauret says. "That's the beauty of it." **R**



Crossed Out

In its latest high-profile cultural collaboration, Audemars Piguet has created a timepiece that carries the provocative work of the artist known as Kaws.

Words: Wei-Yu Wang
Photography: Denis Hayoun

SUBVERSIVE AND DISRUPTIVE: that is the work of the artist known as Kaws. Brian Donnelly of New Jersey, born in 1974, would adopt the moniker Kaws when he started as a street artist. He would become famous in the 1990s first for subverting advertisements and billboards in public spaces, and then for his iconic *Companion* series of artwork and figures—a grim, sometimes morbid take on the imagery of well-known cartoon characters.

Audemars Piguet is no stranger to provocation. The Royal Oak was a maverick when it was first released, and the Royal Oak Offshore and later the Royal Oak Concept pushed it into new, and sometimes controversial, hyperwatch aesthetics. The latter is the basis of the watchmaker's collaboration with Kaws—a 250-piece edition that puts the artist's work front and centre.

From within the muscular yet streamlined profile of the Royal Oak Concept peers one of Kaws' *Companions*, replete

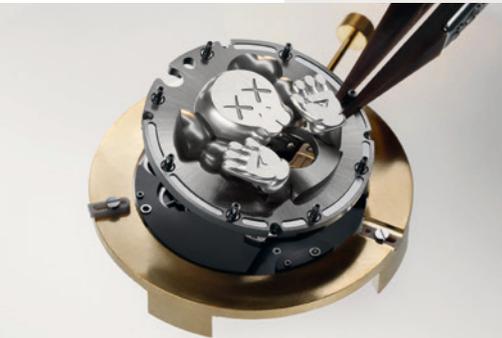
with a skull-like head and Xs for eyes. Its gloved hands appear to be pressed against the sapphire crystal, as if it is peering out at the world. Titanium is the material theme of the Royal Oak Concept Tourbillon Companion; the case is 43mm in diameter and is finished in alternating strokes of sandblasting, satin-brushing and polishing. The hex-shaped screws of the famous eight-sided bezel have been decorated with Kaws' trademark, off-kilter X. The miniature sculpture of the Companion is also rendered in titanium, with a thin layer of grey lacquer to accentuate the eyes.

In order to make way for this artwork, the new hand-wound Calibre 2979 has a peripheral time display, with hour and minute hands revolving unobtrusively on the dial's circumference. These, as well as the hour markers, are filled with luminescent material with a blue glow. At 6 o'clock, where the Companion's heart might be, is the tourbillon. The movement is manually wound and has a three-day power reserve. **R**

Facing page: an 11m *Companion* sculpture sits on the roof of Audemars Piguet's headquarters in Le Brassus, there just in time for the launch of the collaborative timepiece.



Above: New York-based artist Kaws.



Above: Audemars Piguet used an innovative peripheral time display to place the *Companion* at the centre of the dial.



Above and right: the 43mm Royal Oak Concept Tourbillon *Companion* incorporates Kaws' aesthetic on both sides of the watch.



Floral Beauty

Grand Seiko's SBGJ285 is an Asia-Pacific limited edition that draws on wisteria flowers for inspiration.

Words: Wei-Yu Wang

ANOTHER SEASON, ANOTHER nature-inspired dial from Grand Seiko that uses texture and colour to create something classy yet visually arresting. It is not a surprise anymore, but it is far from boring. This time, it is a light purple known as *fuji-iro*, a shade that comes from Japan's wisteria flower. It hangs downwards from its tree in clusters of long strands and is said to be a sign of warmth and welcome as its deferent stance is likened to that of a person bowing. The colour holds connotations of nobility and elegance.

The new watch, SBGJ285 (RM35,100, limited to 180 pieces), is an Asia-Pacific exclusive limited edition, available only at the brand's boutique in Singapore as well as retailers across the region. It is based on the classic 44GS case, executed here in a 40mm diameter and an overall thickness

of slightly more than 14mm. Along with the accompanying bracelet, it is made from Grand Seiko's Ever-Brilliant Steel, an especially durable and corrosion-resistant type of stainless steel that ensures a longer-lasting shine.

As always, Grand Seiko's *zaratsu* polishing process offers a brilliant gleam, with the well-defined facets of the 44GS case brought into light-catching focus along with the finely polished hands and hour markers.

Powering the SBGJ285 is Calibre 9S86, a high-beat GMT movement that ticks at 5Hz. With a rated precision of +5/-3 seconds per day, it also sports an independently adjustable hour hand to keep track of a second zone. The watch also ships with a purple leather strap, a dressier option to contrast with its bracelet. **R**

Below: Grand Seiko's SBGJ285 was inspired by Japan's graceful wisteria.



Below: the limited-edition watch is powered by the Calibre 9S86.



Below: the watch captures the timeless allure of nature.





A Scented Canvas

Behind Guerlain's 200-year legacy, the changing landscape of perfume making and the new Patchouli Paris fragrance.

Words: Alicia Choo

FROM OLFACTORY MASTERS and tale spinners to experimental makers and eco-driven setters, the house of Guerlain has flourished for nearly 200 years, changing the face of fragrance and beauty. Its illustrious history began with Pierre-François-Pascal Guerlain, an accomplished perfumer-chemist who opened his first boutique on rue de Rivoli in Paris, which soon became a prime site for the highbrow and well-to-do.

The house's prestige soared across Europe's royal courts, securing the title of Official Perfumer to His Majesty after creating Eau de Cologne

PHOTOGRAPHY: GUERLAIN.



Impériale in 1853 as a wedding gift for Empress Eugénie, following her marriage to Napoleon III. Since then, five generations of Guerlain perfumers have upheld the creative legacy of the house. Today, Thierry Wasser is the custodian of a portfolio that comprises more than 1,100 scented profiles.

A globetrotter, Wasser travels each season to various corners of the world to source the precious raw ingredients that form the backbone of Guerlain's compositions. Together with Delphine Jelk, his fellow nose and creative director, he brings new, intriguing scents to life. "I bear a huge responsibility when it comes to curating fragrances. Both sourcing and formulation are taken very seriously," Wasser states. Certain regions, such as Haiti, where the world's primary supply of vetiver oil comes from, can be challenging to source from. Despite the country's struggles, Wasser is committed to offering support to those in need. "Even though it's not the easiest or safest place to work, abandoning them is not the solution. We believe in extending our support, no matter the difficulties."

Central to Guerlain's fragrance heritage is its signature Guerlinade, featuring a medley of six

integral elements: vanilla, bergamot, tonka bean, iris, rose and jasmine. "Guerlinade is the foundation of our house," Wasser explains. "When these six components are blended, they create the distinct texture and unmistakable trademark scent. It is crucial for us to preserve this olfactory identity. Guerlinade isn't just a formula, it's the essence of our brand's legacy. As the fifth generation, it's my duty to honour and continue that tradition."

In 2021, L'Art & La Matière was revived. This collection consists of fragrant gems that take shape from a deep artistic impulse. Each creation isolates a hero extract, processed with precise care and embedded within the overall mix. The redesigned 1870 square bottle was modernised, offering refillable convenience and customisable options. The latest addition to the collection, Patchouli Paris, is Jelk's newest concoction. It unveils a previously unexplored facet of the French capital—the riveting pulls of its nocturnal charm. Unbridled, patchouli dominates with a warm woody depth, blending with the refreshing breeze of the Seine's banks, which evokes the pulsating nights of Paris and its grand theatres.

The profile is charged with aldehydes, forming an immediate, skin-tingling effect. Patchouli is used in abundance, immediately making its presence known in all its complex and multifaceted sublimity. Although an exceptional ingredient, its appeal lies in its rough edges. The subtle camphorous nuances and earthy undertones are softened with amber-toned silage of vanilla, ambergris accord and musk. The bottle comes with two limited-edition plates, which celebrate Paris at its finest. The first plate is bathed in brilliant red to echo French artist Christian Bérard's hallmark touch, while the second plate is a handcrafted collaboration with feather artist Valérie Tanfn.

"As a perfumer, you learn to speak the language of fragrance," Wasser says. "Many people hear it, but only a few truly understand it. To me, it's a three-step process: the raw material, the extract and then the spirit—the story the fragrance tells. Ultimately, it's about creating an invisible image, leaving a trail for those around you."

Guerlain's Patchouli Paris is available at Guerlain boutiques, including Guerlain The Exchange TRX Ultimate Boutique, Parkson (Pavilion Kuala Lumpur and 1 Utama Shopping Centre) and Isetan (The Gardens Mall). The 100ml bottled is priced at RM1,800, while the 200ml bottle is priced at RM2,580. 

Above: Thierry Wasser has been the master perfumer of Guerlain since 2008.

Facing page: Patchouli Paris is luminous, lively and sensual.



The Joys of Life

La Prairie celebrated its newest product with an exclusive soiree where guests indulged in the luxuries of self-care and refined pleasures.

Words: Juern Ng
Photography: Anna Rina

AT LA PRAIRIE'S flagship boutique in The Exchange TRX, a curated soiree unfolded in collaboration with *Robb Report Malaysia*, treating guests to an intimate celebration of the brand's latest breakthrough in luxury skincare. This

1. Champagne Delamotte set the tone for an evening of indulgence.

2. La Prairie's groundbreaking Life Matrix Haute Rejuvenation Cream.

3. At the interactive skincare stations, guests had the opportunity to sample the Life Matrix Haute Rejuvenation Cream's velvety texture.

gathering was more than just a discovery—it was an immersion into La Prairie's most coveted elixir, the Life Matrix Haute Rejuvenation Cream.

Guests were able to sit down with industry experts, who unveiled the science and artistry behind this luxurious invention. Interactive skincare stations allowed them to sample the cream's sumptuous texture and experience its transformative qualities firsthand, while personalised consultations offered guests tailored assessments on seamlessly integrating this rejuvenating formula into their daily skincare routines.

"The feedback for the Life Matrix Haute Rejuvenation Cream has been overwhelmingly positive," said Cheryn Ho, general manager, Luxasia Luxury Skincare Division, Asia Pacific's largest retailer in beauty and luxury, and the authorised representative of La Prairie in Malaysia. "Clients and brand ambassadors have expressed deep appreciation for its transformative effects,



4. From left: Angela Huee, Becca Leang and Hynet Yong.

5. Canapés by Nathalie Gourmet Studio.

6. Cheryn Ho sharing valuable insights of how the cream works to enhance the skin's luminosity and overall vitality.

7. One of the oldest champagne houses, Champagne Delamotte, founded in 1760.

8. *Robb Report Malaysia's* Success and Style issue.

noting a marked improvement in skin's smoothness, suppleness, luminosity and overall rejuvenation. It's been described as a groundbreaking experience in skincare, offering our clients a true sense of revitalisation and luxury in their daily routines."

The experience was elevated further with the indulgence of fine champagne by Champagne Delamotte, exclusively distributed by Dajin Beverages. The feeling of the rich Life Matrix Haute Rejuvenation Cream was as opulent as the effervescence of the champagne bubbles, with guests toasting to moments of beauty, joy and the refined pleasure of self-care. "The collaboration with *Robb Report Malaysia* was an incredible experience that allowed us to engage with our guests on a new level," Cheryn Ho said. "This partnership beautifully illustrated La Prairie's commitment to creating extraordinary experiences that elevate our clients' understanding and appreciation of luxury skincare." ❧

Depp Dive Into Sauvage

Johnny Depp on music, scents and the mystique of creativity.

Words: Amos Chin



Above: Johnny Depp's portrayal in the Dior Sauvage campaigns taps into his reputation as a Hollywood rebel who lives by his own rules.

Facing page: Sauvage Eau Forte uses the water in its formula to create a new olfactory sensation, bridging the freshness of an *eau de toilette* and the power of a *parfum*.

WHETHER HE IS playing the eccentric Captain Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean* or the suave Tom Hanson in his breakout role in *21 Jump Street*, Johnny Depp's magnetic presence is clear to see. Away from the silver screen, his association with Dior, notably as the face of Dior Sauvage since 2015, too, elicits irrepressible attention.

Depp's portrayal in Dior's campaigns taps into his reputation as a Hollywood rebel, an artist who defies convention and lives by his own rules. He lends a rock-and-roll edge to the brand, further enhancing its appeal to those seeking a fragrance that is unique and timeless. If non-conformist masculinity had a scent, we're sure that it would smell pretty close to Dior Sauvage.

You've been the face of Dior Sauvage for almost 10 years. What does that mean to you and what was your favourite campaign?

I try not to look at myself too much. All I can walk away with is my experience of creating something. Normally I don't watch myself, but I have watched the campaigns because you never know what Jean-Baptiste (photographer for Christian Dior Parfums) is going to do—which is a beautiful thing. You just don't know what he's got, but he'll find it and he'll use it. He's very elegant. He's like Picasso. I liked all the campaigns, they were all cool. I adore him.

There's an incredible amount of trust and that's a thing that has to be earned. But sometimes you'll find yourself in proximity to someone and it just clicks and you're in sync and you know you can trust that person. It doesn't happen every day. But Jean-Baptiste, I think he's a genius, I really do. He's a master. His work is not unlike silent cinema that was done well or those early short films. His vision and his visual vernacular, his language—he doesn't want to spew out a bunch of dialogue and he doesn't

want to whine or yammer or discuss. Here is what he sees, here is what I see, bam! He has knocked it out of the park every time.

Perfume is often described as capturing certain emotions or moods. Similarly, acting involves channelling emotions and portraying characters in an authentic way. How do you see the process of crafting a fragrance mirroring the process of developing a character for a role?

The beauty of creating a character is that I don't know what the result is going to be. I try to stay focused on the journey and the result is a mystery. I'm sure Francis (Kurkdjian, the creative director of Parfums Christian Dior) has something in his mind that he's aiming for, which leads him to the next level in terms of "What am I going to try next" or "What am I going to put with this?"

It's similar to music or painting or writing. A blank piece of paper or a blank canvas is one of the most intimidating things, and I hope it remains that way! So he starts with a blank canvas, but with some notion of where he wants to go, and he searches for the road.

Can you share any insights into how music plays a role in shaping your personal style and image?

Music is everything. I remember when I was starting out, coming up the ranks. I didn't know much; I wasn't a musician really. Back then I would go into an audition in a UK Subs or a Bad Brains T-shirt and a fedora, and that wasn't a usual look back then.

I have always liked photographs of film sets in the 1920s, '30s and '40s, where the crew were wearing suits and ties. They may have had their sleeves rolled up, but they were wearing suits and hats. There was something so beautiful about it. I never felt



comfortable in the era I grew up in or in the era that I am getting old in.

Do you consider yourself an innovative person? Would you say that directing your second film (*Modi*) is an unconventional role for you?

When I directed a film called *The Brave* back in 1997, I guess it was. My brother and I had written it and I was doing rewrites all the time on set and I was also acting in the thing because that was the only way to get the dough to be able to do it. So I'm acting and directing and it was overwhelming. I know what I was feeling: a director should be aware of every tiny thing that's going on. He has to be aware of the history of the characters, he has to be aware of the definition between the characters, and an actor on the other hand should essentially be aware of nothing. You should walk into the ring and know your lines, you know all that stuff, but it's more about reacting or behaving. Acting is a touchy, pushy thing that

sometimes you have to either search and find whatever the essence of what feels right for the character. You can find it through music for example. One well-chosen song from your childhood will send you back there when you hear it. It's the same for sensory smell. I can still smell my grandfather's aftershave lotion.

What do you think is essential to achieve a powerful performance when playing a character?

Something has to grab you first. When I read a screenplay, if I don't feel intrigued by the first 20 pages, it's over for me. When I'm reading, images and visions appearing my mind, I write ideas and notes onto the page.

The most important thing is to decide whether there is something that I can add to this. Is there an opportunity to explain yourself without explaining yourself? That is to say, Edward, that character in *Edward Scissorhands*, when I read that screenplay, I bawled like a baby and I was sure I was not going to get the gig. And a month later I get a call. Denise (Di Novi), the producer said "Johnny, you're Edward Scissorhands."

That was like the second step onto my foundation, that material that I wanted to do. So with the process of acting, you approach things in a different way and you have different things, different places to access within you. That's your toolbox. 

"I try not to look at myself too much. All I can walk away with is my experience of creating something."

Paradise



Artistry, savoir-faire and poetry combine in Parfums Dusita's fragrances to evoke happiness.

Words: Kenneth Tan

Recalled

ON A RECENT jaunt into Kuala Lumpur, Pissara 'Ploi' Umavijani—the founder of artisan perfume brand Parfums Dusita—recounted the story of her late father Montri (1941 – 2006). He was a poet who expressed his regret that his works were not appreciated during his time, and Umavijani clearly remembers her father's exhortation: "To know our limits and to reach for it—knowing that we are human at the end of the day."

Her father's overarching influence saw Umavijani growing up in a household filled with books and artistic inspiration, making her dream of the day she would establish her own

perfumery. Although her father passed in 2006, Umavijani's dream of making her own fragrance was kept alive with her whole-hearted pursuit. In Paris, she taught herself the science of fragrances, venturing into a collaboration to develop her first collection of scents with a fragrance house in Grasse, the capital city for perfumers all around the world.

All that bittersweet wisdom passed on to her as a legacy from her father would set her course, where her dream was eventually realised as Parfums Dusita in 2016. This eclectic range of fragrances conveys a dramatic depth, soul



This and facing pages: at Parfums Dusita, each fragrance created by its founder, Pissara Umavijani, is a reflection of individuality, passion and a tribute to her father's legacy.

and vivacity, courtesy of Umavijani's formative experiences and effervescent disposition. The brand takes its name from the Thai word for 'paradise', which is indicative of its creator's aim to transmit happiness to the user.

In Malaysia, Parfums Dusita retails at Trove stores found within Klang Valley, and each bottle is accompanied by a poem as well as Umavijani's illustrations of scenes that describe the essence of a particular scent.

What is perhaps most interesting is that Parfums Dusita transcends classical categorisation, with Umavijani's adroit combination of French *haute parfumerie* cues with her Thai heritage and worldly knowledge. Thus, her fragrances are vegan-based and cruelty-free, with the ingredients recalling Siamese elegance: rose, jasmine, benzoin, beeswax, bergamot and sandalwood.



This year, Umavijani, who has swept the board in the past as a winner of the Art & Olfaction award in 2017 and the FiFi in 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022, launches Pelagos, a new *extrait de parfum*, created to evoke limitless possibilities.

It opens with a citrus symphony and segues into invigorating pine, cypress, clary sage and oakmoss, which is meant to mirror the sea breeze.

At the heart, precious Orris butter, jasmine, white thyme and tonka bean bring elegance, while sandalwood, Amyris, patchouli and vetiver add a sensuality at the base.

The Pelagos name for this new fragrance harks back to Umavijani's memories of the Aegean Sea and its islands. "There, gazing at the sky and sea merging in the horizon, I felt that anything was possible," she says. "It is a feeling that my father captured in a poem I love dearly, exalting the vastness of the human spirit." 



On The Rainbow's Trail

DeGem's classic sapphire pieces shine in every shade, featuring fresh designs that showcase clarity and versatility.

Words: Alicia Choo

SAPPHIRE OFTEN CONJURES an image of a brilliant violet-blue gemstone, a hue historically connected to the Greek word for blue. These gemstones have long been valued for their exquisite splendour and long-lasting durability, withstanding the ravages of time for millennia. Saturated violet-blue sapphires with a soft, clouded opacity are considered rare. The purer the blue, the higher the price tag. However, contrary to common belief, sapphires can be found in many different shades beyond the blue spectrum—highly sought-after in violet, green, yellow, orange, pink and purple. These variations are attributed to differing concentrations of iron, titanium and chromium in the corundum mineral.

For centuries, sapphires have symbolised the virtues of honesty, loyalty, purity and trust—qualities that are brought to life in DeGem's Out of The Blue ensemble, featuring new sapphire-crafted pieces in a rich palette of colours. A DeGem classic, the colourful sapphire bracelet has been a favourite for more than 30 years, with fresh seasonal designs introduced annually in multiple configurations and carat weights. This time, the collection takes a gleaming route along the rainbow, encompassing bracelets, rings and earrings.

Set in 18k rose gold, DeGem's new 13-carat multicolour bracelet comes with 25 octagonal-cut sapphires. The multicolour sapphire rings in 18k rose and white gold are radiant depictions of a painter's chromatic artistry. Each ring spotlights 11 octagon-faceted sapphires and stuns with its own lustre, making them ideal standalone pieces. Lastly, the 6-carat 18k white gold earrings hold 26 carefully arranged sapphires, intertwining a kaleidoscope of colours that draw attention along the contour of the wearer's ear.

With impeccable craftsmanship, DeGem's selected Out of The Blue designs allow the wearer to carry the brilliance of the rainbow wherever they go. Whether adorning wrists, fingers or ears, these sapphires serve as a cherished memento of the gemstone's unfading beauty, establishing them as the perfect investment for those who appreciate luxury with meaning. **R**



A celebration of Sabah's leading lights

Words: Lilly Wee
Photography: Xerxes/Awesome Image
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In September, the Sabah Real Estate Housing And Developers Association (SHAREDA) celebrated two milestones in a grand celebration: its 46th anniversary this year and the winners of the SHAREDA Excellence Awards 2024.

Here, we present the award winners from the night, the movers and shakers who, with their teams, are propelling the state's development scene to ever greater heights.

DATUK CHUA SOON PING

Remajaya Sdn Bhd

When Datuk Chua Soon Ping became President of the Sabah Housing and Real Estate Developers Association (SHAREDA) in 2021, he stepped into a role with a long legacy. His predecessors held with them a list of accolades and achievements since 1978, when the association was formed.

Within the four years of his tenure, however, Chua has made a measurable impact. Under his leadership, SHAREDA has expanded its membership, expertise and resources that supported Sabah's economy in ways both broad and intricate, earning Chua the Top Property Man of the Year Award at this year's SHAREDA Excellence Awards.

At the heart of Chua's stewardship and the recognition of the SHAREDA Awards is his vision for long-term, sustainable growth in the state's economy through a thriving property development sector. One of his proudest achievements is the establishment of the SHAREDA Institute, a research and training arm created to address gaps in market knowledge. Through its programmes, Chua has spearheaded a Property Development course led by HRDF-certified lecturers, the first of its kind in Sabah. In collaboration with Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology, SHAREDA has also launched an online Property Developer Course, which began in 2022 and features five modules tailored to educate university students with property development expertise.

"The SHAREDA Institute is about educating industry players in all aspects of property development," Chua says. "By doing this, we can create more job opportunities and foster growth within the Sabah community. I want our people to stay, to find jobs here and to be part of Sabah's economic story."

Beyond education, Chua has also championed initiatives to address property oversupply while attracting foreign investment. The Sabah-MM2H programme, a localised version of Malaysia My Second Home, is designed to encourage investors to establish a second home in Sabah. "I believe this has a great multiplier effect on our economy. Not only through foreign direct investments but also in secondary industries such as education,

small and medium enterprises, and even the automotive sector. All of these stand to benefit when applicants begin to settle in Sabah."

Originally from Tawau, Sabah, Chua's career began in quantity surveying. But he had other plans. He wanted to start his own property venture. He self-funded his further education in property development in the UK and, later, received RM3,000 in seed money. Chua pressed on, eventually founding Remajaya Sdn Bhd, which has grown into a prominent property consultancy group. Remajaya's portfolio includes notable projects such as Bay 21 and Bay Suites, developments that reflect Chua's focus on sustainable architecture and eco-conscious building practices. "Sustainability is the future of property development," Chua emphasises. His developments feature everything from charging stations for electric vehicles to modular building materials, and his designs maximise energy efficiency by orienting buildings to reduce heat. "We must be conscious of how we build," Chua adds.

His next project takes a personal turn. Inspired by his favourite travel destination, Salamanca, Spain, Chua is developing Salamanca Villas, a low-density luxury apartment complex. "I fell in love with Salamanca and wanted to bring that Mediterranean charm to Sabah," he says. The villas will feature just 30 units across five stories, each blending modern, sustainability-focused design with Spanish architectural influences.

As Sabah's skyline continues to evolve, luxury properties are becoming a defining feature of the region's booming economy. But Chua is quick to note that the success of this market relies on a collaborative effort.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together," Chua says, echoing a belief that has guided his approach to business and leadership. "Property development isn't just about the developer. It's a team effort involving government bodies, industry players and the community. Strong collaboration across the board is what ensures success."

Datuk Chua Soon Ping, Managing Director of Remajaya Sdn Bhd and President of SHAREDA, was honoured with the Platinum Award for Top Property Man of the Year at the SHAREDA Excellence Awards 2024. His leadership in shaping key housing policies and advancing Sabah's property sector was central to this recognition.

"I want our people to stay, to find jobs here and to be part of Sabah's economic story."





DATUK SUSAN WONG

WSG Group

Datuk Susan Wong stands out in a crowd—not because she’s one of the few women in a male-dominated industry nor for her signature crimson suit. It’s her presence—warm, magnetic and genuine—that commands attention. This same energy is palpable when she speaks of her latest achievement: Benoni New Township in Papar, Sabah.

More than a decade after the conception of Benoni New Township, Wong and the company she founded, WSG Group (she is now its Managing Director), earned the Rural Urbanisation Excellence Gold Award at the SHAREDADA Excellence Awards 2024. To top it all off, Wong was also honoured with the Top Property Developer Platinum Award, acknowledging her leadership and her tireless advocacy for improved housing policies through her involvement with SHAREDADA.

Papar, a quiet district previously overshadowed by its neighbours, is now on the map thanks to Wong’s foresight. Under her leadership, the 100-acre Benoni New Township has become a hallmark of successful rural urbanisation, connecting Sabah’s major routes to Sarawak, Brunei and Labuan. Over the past decade, Wong and her company have developed more than 300 shophouses, 180 double-storey terrace houses and more than 1,000 condominium units. But beyond the numbers lies the heart of Wong’s work: community.

“It’s about listening,” Wong explains. “You want a McDonald’s? You got it. You want a cinema?

“I want to attend to the small things because that’s how you learn. That’s my working policy: improving with each project, getting better every time.”

Datuk Susan Wong is the Managing Director of WSG Group and the winner of this year’s SHAREDADA Excellence Platinum Award for Top Developer of the Year. Her latest project, Benoni New Township in Papar, Sabah, is also the gold award recipient of the Rural Urbanisation Excellence Award at the SHAREDADA Excellence Awards 2024.

Here’s the first in Papar.” Her approach may seem straightforward, but it’s the result of careful research, planning and a deep understanding of what communities need to thrive. For Wong, it’s not just about building properties. It’s about creating spaces where people can live, work and thrive.

Transforming a rural space into a vibrant township requires more than foresight. It demands grit, patience and a commitment to community. Wong possesses all three. “I want to attend to the small things because that’s how you learn,” she says. “That’s my working policy: improving with each project, getting better every time.”

Her latest ambition for Benoni is no less audacious: a sports arena. It will house indoor badminton courts as well as table tennis and futsal facilities—a space for the community to embrace healthy living and perhaps even a future when Benoni becomes known as the sports city of Sabah.

Wong’s passion for development didn’t come from a carefully planned career path. It was born out of necessity, and serendipity, in 1978. Wong had just graduated from the University of Toronto when her father, Datuk Seri Panglima (Dr) Wong Kwok, a building contractor, was forced to take over a troubled housing development after the original developer couldn’t pay his dues. Wong, just 22 at the time and with zero experience, was thrust into the deep end. “At that time, I was young,” she recalls. “Everybody knew I didn’t know what I was doing. But they taught me. I learnt from them.”

It was a baptism by fire, but it shaped the person she is today. Wong learnt not only the technical aspects of property development but also the importance of humility. “You treat people nice and they’ll treat you nice,” she says.

Today, Wong is a prominent figure in Sabah’s property development industry, having served as the President of SHAREDADA from 2009 to 2013 after dedicating 16 years as its general secretary. Yet, despite the accolades and positions of influence, she remains grounded in her vision to transform rural Sabah into bustling townships for the state’s younger generations. “My dream is to build homes that everyone can afford, and create a liveable environment so young people in Sabah can stay and build their futures here,” she says.

When asked how she’s managed to maintain her passion after all these years, Wong says without hesitation: “I love what I do. My job is my hobby.” For Datuk Susan Wong, success isn’t measured in square footage or profit margins. Every building, shophouse and home is an opportunity for communities to thrive. And for the woman who started with nothing but a challenge at 22, that’s the real reward.

DATUK MATTHEW TAN

TBMC Development

We rarely give much thought to shoplots. Perhaps that's because they've become a staple of urban life—rows of uninspired buildings, indistinguishable from one another except for a change in facade or signage. For most, that's enough. But for Datuk Matthew Tan, Managing Director of TBMC Development, it is not.

"Shoplots don't have to conform to the monotonous model we've become accustomed to," Tan explains. In fact, he mulls over how people move through shoplots and use them, how air circulates and how light falls across spaces. Cleanliness, spatial efficiency and functionality are all part of his design calculus.

Tan's approach earned him the Gold Award for Excellence in Value Innovation for Consumer-Centric Commercial Development at the SHARED A Excellence Awards 2024. On top of that, he was recognised as the Most Valuable Developer of the Year—a prestigious accolade that celebrates his contributions to property development and his role as a mentor to the next generation of real estate professionals.

At the centre of Tan's success is T2@Apas in Tawau, Sabah. Located along Tawau's main thoroughfares, T2 comprises 44 four-storey shop offices spread across 7.8 acres of prime land. T2 deviates from the conventional shoplot typology. Where most shoplots are packed side-by-side, T2 offers space. Every two lots is punctuated with a drive-through area that doubles as a wind tunnel to allow better ventilation and natural sunlight to filter and flow through the structures. This means that each shoplot essentially becomes a corner unit—a prime piece of real estate in any development.

Taking a closer look, patrons would also notice that T2 is designed without back alleys, which are often plagued by poor maintenance and unsightly exhaust systems. Tan's solution to this drawback was to install a concealed duct system, which channels exhaust fumes and kitchen odours along a central spine, sending them discreetly up to the rooftops. It's a detail that many might overlook, but for Tan, these smaller elements are crucial to

creating a development that functions sustainably in the long term. "Attention to detail is paramount at T2@Apas," he says. "Every material has been carefully selected and each design element thoughtfully considered."

Property development was not always part of Tan's plan. TBMC, which stands for Tan Brothers Machinery Company, originally made its mark through a network of car dealerships across East Malaysia in the 1980s. For 30 years, Tan grew the business, amassing land banks from his dealerships and showrooms. But as the automotive market became saturated, he saw a new path forward. Rather than selling cars, he would develop properties.

"I believe adaptability is crucial," Tan says. "A leader needs to remain flexible, open-minded and willing to evolve strategies in response to changing market conditions, while staying committed to the core values of the business."

That adaptability has defined TBMC's shift into real estate, culminating in its flagship project, T1@Bundusan, followed shortly by T2@Apas. But Tan's vision extends beyond building shoplots. He sees his real work as contributing to the social and economic fabric of the regions where his projects are located. "Our developments have brought modern facilities, created job opportunities and uplifted the surrounding areas," he reflects. "Seeing that transformation in the community—that's my proudest achievement."

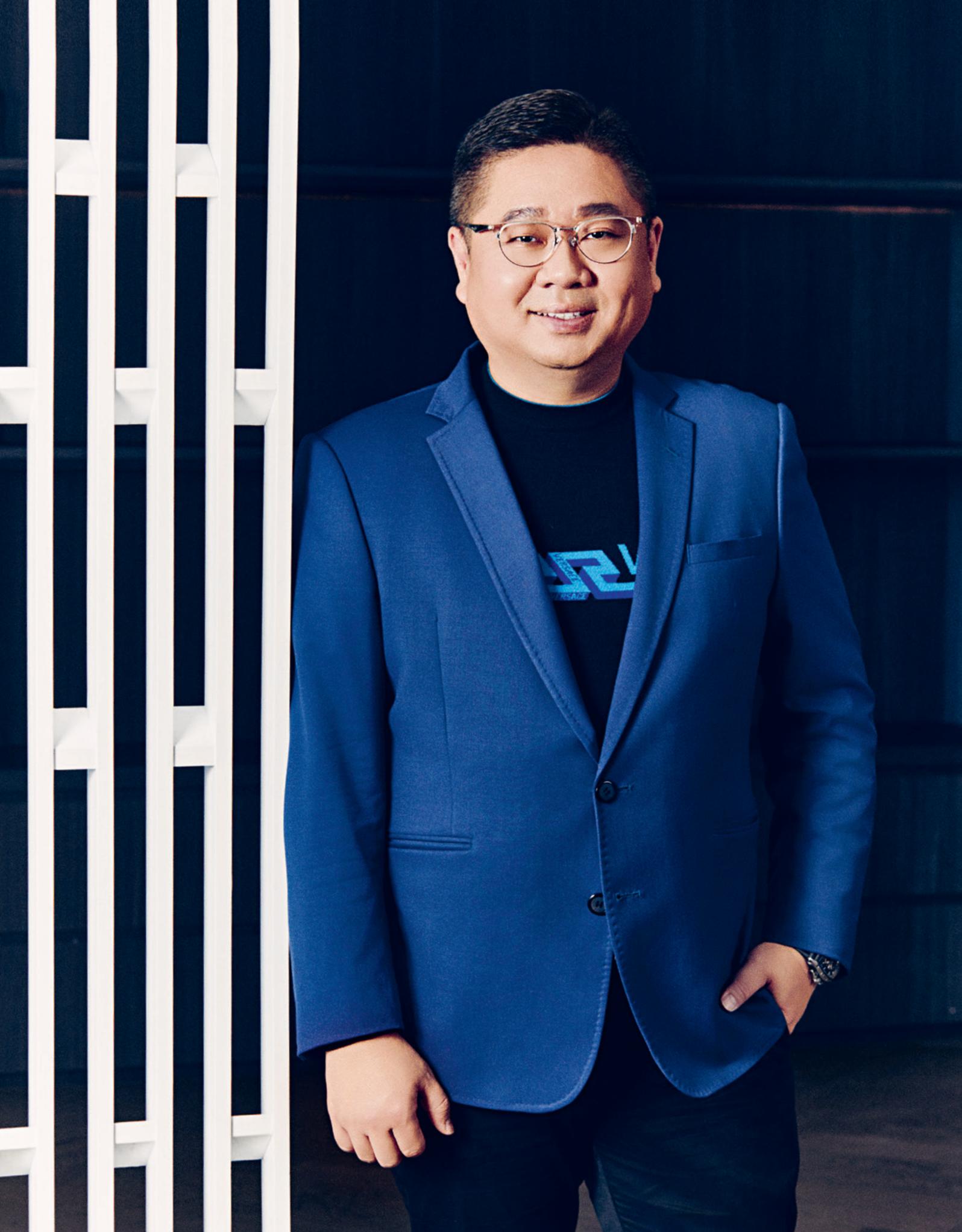
Tan leads a demanding life, being managing director of a business empire across various industries. Hence, it's important to strike a fine balance. For Tan, that means starting the day with a simple, grounding, work-free routine—breakfast

Datuk Matthew Tan is the Managing Director of TBMC Development. He is this year's winner of the Most Valuable Developer of the Year. His latest project, T2@Apas, in Tawau, Sabah, also won the Gold Award for Excellence in Value Innovation for Consumer-Centric Commercial Development at the SHARED A Excellence Awards 2024.

"Shoplots don't have to conform to the monotonous model we've become accustomed to."

with his family. "I believe how you start your day sets the tone for everything that follows," he says. "Having breakfast with my family is a small but meaningful ritual that allows us to connect before the day gets hectic.

"These moments are important to me," Tan adds. "They remind me of what truly matters, and that grounding helps me approach the day's work with a clear mind and a positive attitude."





GILBERT EE

GSH Corporation

For Gilbert Ee, details matter. As CEO and one of two Executive Directors of GSH Corporation Limited, a regional property developer listed on the Singapore Exchange, his punctilious approach to design and functionality has guided the company into the upper echelons of the luxury property market. This dedication recently earned GSH the Luxury Waterfront Condominium Excellence Award at the SHAREDADA Excellence Awards 2024 for its latest project, Coral Bay at Sutera Harbour in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

GSH Corporation, though a relatively young player, has quickly established itself across the region with properties in Singapore, China and Malaysia. Ee has been instrumental in shaping that trajectory. Besides Coral Bay, its Malaysian portfolio also includes Eaton Residences in Kuala Lumpur City Centre and an upcoming luxury development in Chinatown, Kuala Lumpur.

GSH's approach to luxury development is precise and considered, fuelled by a voracious appetite for ideas that work. Coral Bay, in particular, is a product of Ee's global exploration, pulling together expertise from across continents: Singaporean architects, Thai landscape designers, and innovations from Dubai, Monte Carlo and beyond. The result is a development that feels as much a homage to the world's beauty as it is a celebration of luxury living. "We don't need to reinvent the wheel," Ee says. "There's so much brilliance out there. We just need to look around and learn from it."

That philosophy is embodied in Coral Bay's design. Inspired by the fluid forms of coral reefs and the cliffside villas of Santorini, the development strikes a fine balance between nature and architecture. A cascading waterfall, eight metres in height and 67 metres in length, greets residents at the entrance, while 360-degree views of the South China Sea, Mount Kinabalu and Sutera Harbour's championship golf course frame the 12-storey property. Positioned on one of Kota Kinabalu's prime seafront parcels, Sutera Harbour, Coral Bay offers luxury in both aesthetics and location, with the city's amenities—from five-star resorts to private medical centres and shopping avenues—just steps away.

Gilbert Ee is the CEO and Executive Director of GSH Corporation Limited. The company's latest project, Coral Bay in Sutera Harbour, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, is the gold recipient of the Luxury Waterfront Condominium Excellence Award at the SHAREDADA Excellence Awards 2024.

Yet, what makes Coral Bay truly unique isn't just its stunning architecture or prized location. It's the fact that it's one of the first earthquake-proof buildings in Sabah. After witnessing the devastation of the 2015 Ranau earthquake that rippled through Kota Kinabalu, Ee was adamant that Coral Bay met the highest safety standards, ensuring it could withstand quakes of up to 6.0 on the Richter scale. "We couldn't take any chances," he explains. "We had to be absolutely certain that Coral Bay was safe for everyone."

This no-compromise approach extends to the utilitarian aspects of Coral Bay's design. Even the seemingly mundane—like the lighting for the swimming pool—receives careful consideration. Fibre optic lights, chosen for their durability and aesthetics, reduce the hassle of maintaining bulbs underwater. The car park, rather than standard cement, is finished with epoxy for a smooth, easy-to-clean surface. Ee's design philosophy is clear: beauty is paramount, but functionality must go hand-in-hand. "We're fussy," he admits. "If something isn't perfect, we fix it." Even something as simple as a column's alignment must meet his exacting standards: perfectly straight, at precisely 90 degrees. In Ee's world, there's no room for error.

But, for all the grandeur of his developments, Ee holds a simple view of luxury that permeates his work and personal aspirations. "Luxury is a state of mind," he says. "It's the little things—taste, speed, looks, materials—that bring you comfort. Luxury should make you feel good, not for someone else, but for yourself."

He recounts a dear friend who is equally fastidious about his love for luxury watches and has become the go-to expert for all things horological. During his free time, you would find Ee's friend carefully disassembling a Patek Philippe only to reassemble it again. "This is the kind of love and knowledge that drives the pursuit of luxury," Ee explains. "He could take the watch apart, strip it down and put it back together!" he laughs. "That's really cool." In fact, he and his friend are not so different from each other.

"We're fussy. If something isn't perfect, we fix it."

WILSON LOKE

KTI Landmark Berhad

This year marks a significant milestone for KTI Landmark Berhad, as the integrated property development company celebrates its 40th anniversary. What began as a modest venture by husband-and-wife team Datuk Dr Gordon Loke and Datin Chin Mee Leen has since evolved into one of Sabah's most influential property developers. Their journey started with the construction of police staff quarters and affordable housing in Taman Nelly and, now, the company is spearheading projects with a total gross development value (GDV) of RM2.2 billion spread across Kota Kinabalu, Tuaran, Sandakan and Papar.

From its early days, KTI Landmark distinguished itself through innovation. In 2004, it became the first company in Sabah to be certified by CIDB as a premier industrialised building system manufacturer, further cementing the company's position as a key player in building Sabah's affordable housing. But why stop there?

For its 40th anniversary, KTI Landmark achieved a new milestone, an initial public offering, making it the first property developer in Sabah to be listed on Malaysia's stock exchange. Today, KTI Landmark is no longer just a husband-and-wife endeavour. Datuk Dr Loke and Datin Chin's three children—Wilson, Stella and Nelly—have joined the company to steer it into a new era.

Sitting down with Wilson, KTI Landmark's Executive Director, it's clear that the firm's success is an amalgamation of the Loke family's ambition, as with its latest project, The Logg. "It's a collective idea. Everyone has their role in it," Wilson says of The Logg, a five-acre, RM1 billion

Wilson Loke is the Executive Director of KTI Landmark Berhad. His latest project, The Logg in Luyang, Sabah, is the gold recipient Integrated Development Excellence Award at the SHAREDA Awards 2024.

mixed-use development located in the heart of Luyang, Sabah. Slated to be completed by the first quarter of 2026, The Logg has already garnered accolades, including the prestigious SHAREDA Excellence Award for Integrated Development.

At first glance, The Logg might seem like another feather in the cap for KTI, but for Wilson and his family, it represents much more. "Initially, our idea was to build commercial lots and sell them off," he recalls. "Good idea, not wrong. But during that time, my sisters and I got to thinking. That's the last piece of land in Luyang. Do we want to do something else?"

That "something else" turned out to be one of Sabah's first mixed-use development projects and certainly the first for KTI Landmark. Designed in collaboration with Shah Architects and renowned landscape architect Ng Seksan, The Logg fuses modern architecture with Seksan's signature softscapes, fusing poured concrete, metal installations and intertwining greenery throughout the property. Its two condominium towers, Shorea and Astoria, along with the four-star Avani Hotel, Parkhill apartment tower, commercial space and mall, are planned with Sabah's growing urban landscape as well as an influx of international tourists and investors in mind.

"We wanted it to be something people would remember, something lasting," Wilson explains. In many ways, The Logg embodies the Loke family's plans for diversification. As the company moves beyond affordable housing, it is branching into retail, lifestyle, hospitality, branding, corporate partnerships and advanced manufacturing systems, creating a wider range of job opportunities in Sabah.

Wilson attributes much of the company's success to his father's relentless pursuit of opportunities. "Coming from a finance background, I'm always thinking about risks. But my dad used to tell us: 'If others can do it, why can't we?'" Wilson shares, reflecting on the philosophy that has driven the company's innovations and achievements. It's a mindset that has not only guided the company's growth, but has also permeated the family dynamic.

Family businesses often walk a fine line between personal relationships and professional demands, and KTI Landmark is no different. "At work, we go all out," Wilson says. "When the sky is the limit, why settle for anything less?" However, the lines do blur, sometimes. "Even dinner can end up becoming a meeting. It's like an AGM," Wilson laughs. Yet, despite occasional disagreements, there is an unshakeable understanding that keeps it all together. "If we have differences over work, it's okay. Family is still family."

***"At work, we go all out.
When the sky is the limit,
why settle for anything less?"***





DATUK QUEK SIEW HAU

WMG Holdings

Ask anyone in Sandakan, Sabah, about Wah Mie Group and they'll know it well. For many, it's more than a household name—it's home. Known officially as WMG Holdings, it is Sandakan's largest property developer, with a market share of more than 50 per cent in commercial real estate. Over the past three decades, WMG has shaped the region, building around 500 homes each year—more than 15,000 homes in total—ranging from low-cost apartments and starter homes to high-end detached and semi-detached houses as well as condos. Listed on Bursa Malaysia in 2017, WMG Holdings has since kept its focus on property development as well as the wholesale and retail of building materials.

At the helm of this powerhouse is Datuk Quek Siew Hau, WMG's Executive Chairman. Towering both in stature and presence, Quek shares his insights on the group's latest venture, Parklane Gardens, which took home the 2024 SHAREDA Excellence Award for Value Innovation in Landed Property Development. Housing, he says, is everything—especially landed property. Sandakan's middle class is expanding and, with it, the appetite for family homes is stronger than ever.

WMG Holdings has come a long way since its beginnings. Quek's father founded the company

Datuk Quek Siew Hau is the Executive Chairman of WMG Holdings. His latest project, Parklane Gardens in Sandakan, Sabah, is the gold recipient of the Value Innovation in Landed Property Development Excellence Award at the SHAREDA Excellence Awards 2024.

with a foresight that was rare at the time: he saw that Sandakan's housing needs were outpacing the ability of individuals to build their own homes. "Back then, people bought land and built their own houses. Developers were building, but it was never enough," Quek recalls. "And affordable housing? In those days, all housing was affordable. And today, those prices have increased tenfold, at least."

For Quek, the appeal of landed homes has surged in recent years following a decade of condominium fatigue. "Condos were great. They offered security, you didn't need to worry about upkeep and they came with facilities," he says. "But in the past five to eight years, we've seen landed properties outpacing condos. There's a glut now in condos, but the prices are high and many buyers are gravitating back to landed homes. These properties are appreciating faster and meeting a renewed demand."

In recent years, WMG Holdings has placed a strong emphasis on landed property development. These include two Parklane projects in Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu, both of which have delivered a combined total of 400 terraced houses. For example, each home in Parklane Gardens in Sandakan features high-end finishing and generous layouts, all within reach of schools, shops, offices and major roads. It's a design tailored for growing families who are planting their roots in Sandakan.

Quek's secret to staying ahead is foresight, but he doesn't consider it luck. "Even at 68, I'm still learning," he says. "You can say anything you want and your subordinates will follow. But this is not the leadership I practise. Real leadership means making sound, thoughtful decisions and that means constant learning. I always tell my team, if you don't know, ask. Share what you know and ask what you don't, no matter how old you are. That's how you improve. That's how you elevate the whole company."

This philosophy applies as much to his personal life as it does to his leadership. For Quek, learning is a way of life. "I'm interested in everything," he says, "from global politics to the economy, health and even golf." Whether it's YouTube or TikTok, he finds new information anywhere he can.

At the end of a busy day, Quek winds down in his own way. Relaxing in a cosy spot at home, phone in hand, he scrolls through videos and catches up on the world. He laughs, describing the scene: "That's my way to relax. And that's how I keep learning."

"There's a glut now in condos, but the prices are high and many buyers are gravitating back to landed homes. These properties are appreciating faster and meeting a renewed demand."

TAN KING HONG

Rangkaian Jasa

As 2024 comes to a close, Rangkaian Jasa (a joint venture between Yuwang Group and Prosper Group) is celebrating a significant milestone with The Weld in Tawau. As Tawau's first lifestyle-focused integrated township, The Weld represents Rangkaian Jasa's investment in Tawau's urban future, designed as an all-encompassing lifestyle hub where residents can live, work and unwind in one place. This vision was recognised at the SHAREDA Excellence Awards 2024, where The Weld received the Lifestyle Hub Excellence Gold Award.

For its Executive Director Tan King Hong, The Weld isn't just a mark of professional achievement—it's also a sustainable model for what urban living can and should be. "The meaning of 'weld' is to link all people together," Tan reflects. "For us, it's not just about winning an award; it's also about contributing to Tawau's growth as a modern, integrated community that brings people together."

This 100-acre lifestyle hub brings together residential and commercial elements with recreational spaces. Rangkaian Jasa has designed an ecosystem where access to retail, dining and essential services is immediate, creating an environment that reflects the needs of a modern, urban lifestyle. "We wanted to design a development that offered more than just homes," Tan explains. "It needed to provide modern amenities, spaces for business and leisure, and a sense of community."

One of the key challenges in developing The Weld was ensuring seamless integration between its residential and commercial phases. Striking the delicate balance between creating a peaceful living environment and a vibrant commercial hub required meticulous planning and zoning. "We addressed this by designing The Weld West Residences and The Weld East to work harmoniously," Tan notes. "Clear divisions of space were established to preserve the tranquility of the residential areas while fostering a lively, accessible commercial district."

The concept of lifestyle hubs is resonating in urban spaces worldwide and Tan foresees these

hubs evolving into self-sustaining communities. "We aim to replicate this model in future projects, always keeping the needs of modern urban dwellers at the forefront," Tan adds, revealing a vision of communities that are thoughtfully designed to reduce residents' dependency on external resources by making daily necessities and recreational spaces readily accessible.

Tan's leadership philosophy underpins the success of The Weld. "Integrity, decisiveness and teamwork are the core principles that guide me," he explains. "I believe in transparent communication, encouraging fresh ideas, and empowering my team to contribute meaningfully. The success of The Weld is a testament to these values, with every team member playing a critical role in bringing our vision to life."

For Tan, ambition isn't just about aiming high, it's also about understanding the rhythm of sustainable progress. "The biggest lesson," he reflects, "is knowing that long-term success requires a steady pace. Ambition drives innovation, but it's equally important to prioritise relaxation and downtime. This balance allows both me and my team to remain focused and creative." Indeed, this philosophy has informed the design of The Weld, where productivity and relaxation go hand in hand—whether through beautifully landscaped parks or co-working spaces designed for focus and rejuvenation.

Balancing ambition with leisure is central to Tan's approach to luxury, a concept he believes goes beyond aesthetics or exclusivity. "For me, luxury is about having the freedom and space to enjoy meaningful experiences, whether through high-quality living, spending time with loved ones or exploring new passions," he says. "It's about creating environments that are functional and beautiful, which cater to the well-being of individuals." At The Weld, this vision of luxury comes alive in spaces that go beyond comfort, fostering mental and emotional wellness as well.

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Tan King Hong is the Executive Director of Rangkaian Jasa, a joint venture between Yuwang Group and Prosper Group. Rangkaian Jasa's latest project, The Weld in Tawau, is the region's first lifestyle-focused integrated township and is the gold recipient of the Lifestyle Hub Excellence Award at the SHAREDA Excellence Awards 2024.

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"Ambition drives innovation, but it's equally important to prioritise relaxation and downtime."





DATUK SERI PANGLIMA DR TANG YONG CHEW

Goldstone Holdings

Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Tang Yong Chew, Executive Chairman of Goldstone Holdings, has always been drawn to the ocean. For him, the ideal retreat involves a remote oceanfront getaway where he can unwind and reflect. “A luxurious villa overlooking the water, with time to relax, swim and think—that’s my perfect getaway,” he says. It’s this connection to the sea that now drives his latest venture: Wyndham Semporna Resort, a development set to transform Semporna, Sabah, into a global destination.

Semporna, which fittingly means ‘perfect’, is etched in the collective imagination of Malaysians as an idyllic paradise. Evoking images of unspoiled natural beauty, its crystalline waters, vibrant coral reefs, and languid turtles that drift among them have long secured Semporna’s status as a treasured holiday destination for Malaysians. Although it may hold a special place in the hearts of locals, Tang’s vision goes further. He aims to introduce Semporna to the world.

By partnering with Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, the world’s largest hotel franchising company, Tang is bringing his vision to life through the development of 188 overwater villas, each designed with direct access to Sabah’s pristine coastline. Already, the project has received significant acclaim, winning the Luxury Resort Masterplan Excellence Award at the SHAREDADA Excellence Awards 2024. Upon completion in 2026, Wyndham Semporna Resort will be the first

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Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Tang Yong Chew is the Executive Chairman of Goldstone Holdings. His latest project, Wyndham Semporna Resort, Sabah, won the Gold Award for Luxury Resort Masterplan Excellence at the SHAREDADA Excellence Awards 2024.

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“At Goldstone Holdings, we’ve always focused on creating strong, lasting partnerships.”

internationally branded resort in the region and the largest overwater villa development in Sabah. Investor interest has been swift, according to Tang, with half the villas sold during the teaser phase alone, signalling strong demand for this landmark project.

But for Tang, this success is not simply about the right project at the right time. “At Goldstone Holdings, we’ve always focused on creating strong, lasting partnerships,” he notes. “We’ve collaborated with international hotel brands such as IHG, Accor and Wyndham to bring fresh and exciting experiences to Malaysia.” For Tang, the mark of success isn’t about being the loudest in the room. Rather, it’s about nurturing strong business relationships and having the foresight to position projects that thrive in an ever-evolving hospitality property market. Tang’s ability to identify under-served market segments has been pivotal in Goldstone Holdings’ success.

Wyndham Semporna Resort is not Tang’s first venture into ambitious development. One of the most defining moments in his career came with the launch of Ibis Kuala Lumpur City Centre, the largest Ibis hotel in the world with a total of 684 rooms. The project marked a turning point, cementing Goldstone Holdings’ reputation for delivering high-quality, large-scale developments. “It opened doors,” Tang reflects. “It set a new benchmark for us and led to further collaborations with top-tier brands, and proved that we could not only meet but also exceed the expectations of both local and international tourists.”

With decades of experience, Tang has learnt the value of patience, boldness and trust in the process. “There were moments of doubt early on,” he admits, “but embracing uncertainty and making bold decisions led to transformative outcomes.” His advice to his younger self? Take calculated risks and surround yourself with the right people: partners, mentors and teams who share your vision and navigate challenges together.

As Wyndham Semporna Resort progresses, Tang’s ability to turn a quiet local treasure into a world-class destination seems well within reach. After all, who wouldn’t want the perfect holiday destination that’s so close to home?

SOH WAI FONG

IJM Land Sandakan

Few names resonate in Malaysia's property landscape quite like IJM Land. As a subsidiary of IJM Corporation, a heavyweight spanning industries from construction to infrastructure, IJM Land has been a formidable presence in the property sector since its inception in 1989. Today, its reach extends across and beyond Malaysia's borders, with developments in the UK and an impressive total landbank of 3,699 acres, boasting a GDV of RM40.9 billion in 2023.

IJM Land's portfolio includes some of Malaysia's largest township developments. Seremban 2 is a prime example of its expertise, but equally notable is Bandar Utama Sandakan, a 410-acre integrated township in Sabah's second-largest city. Designed as an integrated township, this long-term project seeks to consolidate every amenity a resident could desire within a single locale, from shopping and dining to learning and leisure. This ambitious undertaking was recently recognised with the Township Masterplan and Development Excellence Award at the SHARED A Excellence Awards 2024.

"This award represents the hard work and dedication of the entire team behind the project," says Soh Wai Fong, Senior General Manager of IJM Land Sandakan.

The concept of a holistic township isn't new, but today's residents expect more. Sandakan, with its burgeoning middle- to upper-class communities, is looking for developments that not only meet their current needs, but also anticipate future growth and demands.

Adaptability is key. "We build spaces where people can live, work, shop and relax, all within the same environment," Soh says. "Our goal is to create townships that grow with their communities." This approach taps into a modern desire for convenience and connection, a far cry from the days when a roof over your head was enough.

Over the years, the definition of a desirable living environment has evolved. What was once considered a luxury—gated communities, lifestyle amenities—is now an expectation. Today's developments are about much more than shelter. They're ecosystems, where commerce, leisure and sustainability meet,

forming a comprehensive lifestyle. Think of it as a township's version of Maslow's hierarchy of needs—we've moved from basic shelter to a focus on wellness, community and connection.

Reflecting on the changes in consumer expectations, Soh explains: "Property development is an ever-evolving industry. People's needs change over time. Thirty to 40 years ago, buyers were satisfied with just a roof over their heads. Today, those needs are much more complex." With that in mind, Bandar Utama Sandakan offers a diverse range of housing options, from condominiums to terrace houses and bungalows. It also features medical centres and other everyday essential services, while planned amenities include a retail mall, golf courses, parks and even pickleball courts.

"It's all about staying ahead of the curve," Soh says. "We're always looking for ways to do things better—faster, more efficiently and more sustainably."

Sustainability is another core pillar of IJM Land's ethos. For Soh and his team, it's not just about ticking a box—it's about leaving a legacy. "We build with sustainability in mind from the start," he says. "For our semi-detached homes and bungalows, we include green roofing and solar panels. And for smaller homes, we ensure the infrastructure is there for homeowners to install their solar panels when they're ready." The parks in Bandar Utama Sandakan will also feature 100 per cent solar-powered lighting, an example of how sustainability is woven into every aspect of the development.

"When we talk about legacy, we have to talk about sustainability," Soh adds. "We're not the true owners of this land; we're merely stewards. Our parents passed it to us, and we will pass it to the next generation. The best thing we can do is to build in a way that ensures future generations can enjoy it, too. That's the legacy we want to leave behind." 

Soh Wai Fong is the Senior General Manager at IJM Land, Sandakan. The group's latest project, Bandar Utama Sandakan, won the Gold Award for Township Masterplan and Development Excellence at the SHARED A Excellence Awards 2024.

"Our goal is to create townships that grow with their communities."



SOH WF
LIMITED

A Celebration In Emerald

SHARED A Nite 2024 showcased the association's continual efforts to uplift and enhance the state's development with glittering style.

Photography: George Yong and Henry Dale/One Big Project

1. A group photo for the ages featuring the entire SHARED A council with Datuk Phoong Jin Zhe, the state's Minister of Industrial Development and Entrepreneurship (seated, seventh from left).



THE SABAH HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION'S (SHARED A) 46th anniversary was heralded by a glittering celebration at the Grand Ballroom of The Magellan Sutera Resort. Entitled SHARED A Nite 2024: Art of Music—A Night of Synergy, the grand event drew more than 1,000 guests, ranging from corporate titans and top-level executives to authorities associated with and involved in the state's housing and development industry.

At the event, the Robb Lounge by *Robb Report Malaysia* attracted the attention of the crowd with its offering of Johnnie Walker Blue Label whiskies, redolent with the aromas of raisins and smoke. Next to it were timepieces from Vacheron

Constantin, including its luxury sports Overseas collections. Nearby, the team from Aston Martin Kuala Lumpur showcased the range of options available for their latest production models: the DBX707 SUV, DB12 Coupe and powerful Vanquish, among others. Guests received Technogym wellness passes and Acqua di Parma fragrance samples as part of the Robb Lounge experience.

The official proceedings began when Datuk Phoong Jin Zhe, the Minister of Industrial Development and Entrepreneurship, who represented the guest-of-honour and state Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hajiji Haji Noor, walked in accompanied by SHARED A's President Datuk Chua Soon Ping and council members.

2. Guests received a trio of Acqua di Parma samples as well as a Technogym Wellness Pass at the Robb Lounge.

3. Vacheron Constantin's dreamy *Égérie Moon Phase* served up plenty of interest.

4. The evening's entrancing set design.

5. Comedian Douglas Lim taking the stage to deliver his side-splitting observations.

Welcoming remarks from emcee Gabriella Robinson segued into an opening song by Dabra Sia, a local singer-songwriter and a winner of the state level Sugandoi Kaamatan in 2019. The evening's big highlight, the SHARED A Excellence Award 2024, received a wonderful reception, particularly with the showstopping announcement of Datuk Matthew Tan from TBMC Development as the Most Valuable Developer of the Year.

With the formalities done, the evening swung into full entertainment mode with comedian Douglas Lim leaving the room in stitches while chanteuse Lim Wen Suen—winner of *The Voice Singapore and Malaysia*—had the crowd in rapt attention with her rendition of Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You*. The night ended on a high note with guests enjoying the jovial camaraderie and taking plenty of photos as keepsakes of an extraordinary night. 📸



2



3



4



5

6. At the Robb Lounge, Johnnie Walker Blue Label drams were an enticing prelude to SHARED A Nite 2024.



6

7. Aston Martin's sleek styling on display at the Robb Lounge.



7

8. La Prairie presented a full set of its skincare products as one of the top lots for the lucky draw, including its coveted Skin Caviar Luxe Eye Cream and Creme Luxe.



8

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF SHARED A.

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SPARKLING



London-based Bellerby & Co.'s team spends hundreds of hours crafting globes that don't just depict the planet—they chart, in mesmerising detail, your individual journey or your family's history upon it.

PHOTOGRAPHY: EUAN MYLES.

The Resource

Art & Design | Money | Savour

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Presenting this month's hottest properties for another place to call home.



WORDS: JACQUELINE DANAM.

VILLA EGO

RIVIERA DEI FIORI, ITALY

From sculptures by the Italian modernist master Giorgio de Chirico to a museum designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Kenzo Tange, this villa lives up to its name in a spectacular manner. Its list of outstanding features includes a helipad, a seawater swimming pool, four separate apartments, a caretaker's annex and direct access to a private beach.

With 36,957 sq ft of interior space spread across three levels, the villa offers 10 bedrooms, 10 full bathrooms and expansive spaces for relaxing, dining and entertaining. In the basement, residents will enjoy a spa and a heated therapeutic pool. The villa also comes with more than two hectares of land and is surrounded by a park. Villa Ego was completed by Milanese architect and industrial designer Giò Ponti in 1938 and remains a timeless masterpiece on the western Ligurian coast.

Price: upon request via Exclusive RE, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate



2 MULBERRY SQUARE

LONDON, ENGLAND

The standout feature of this townhouse is its private spa, which developer Qatari Diar Europe claims is the largest in the SW1 area. Residents will enjoy an 11.3m pool, gym, sauna and steam room, along with double sunbeds and rows of olive trees to accentuate a sense of calm in this wellness oasis.

Located in Chelsea Barracks, this five-bedroom townhouse overlooks the gardens of Mulberry Square and Pimlico Road. The interiors are by high-end design studio Albion Nord, which used modern art, bespoke furniture and UK-sourced antique and vintage pieces to achieve a cohesive blend of classic and contemporary design. English herringbone and marble flooring run throughout the property. The second lower ground floor, which houses the spa, also has a white wine and champagne room, a red wine and cigar room, and a cinema. Barbecues can be held in the rear garden, which has a bespoke outdoor kitchen with a large outdoor grill from Wolf. With 3.4m-high ceilings, passenger and service lifts, and a private garage, there is little that 2 Mulberry Square does not offer discerning investors.

Price: £42 million via Knight Frank









CAYMAN KAI BEACHFRONT ESTATE

GRAND CAYMAN, CAYMAN ISLANDS

This villa offers the ultimate in luxurious, laid-back beach living. Located near Rum Point on the north shore of Grand Cayman, the architect behind this stunning estate is John Doak, who is a leading authority on historic buildings in the Cayman Islands and the Caribbean. Doak fused typical Southeast Asian designs with modern Caribbean architecture, a style he termed Cay-Bali, so residents can expect to see custom artwork and authentic Indonesian carvings as well as an indoor tiki-style bar.

The list of features is outstanding, but perhaps the most notable is the Grand Master Suite, which occupies the entire right wing of the second level and offers breathtaking views of the Caribbean Sea from every angle. This 1,000 sq ft suite has four private balconies, a spacious walk-through wardrobe, and an en suite with a soaking tub and rain shower. The suite also includes a study that can serve as an extra bedroom as it has a queen-sized Murphy bed. A spiral staircase leads from the suite up to a private crow's nest, which has a hot tub and offers more stunning views.

In addition to the main residence, a separate bungalow offers more sleeping options. In total, Cayman Kai Beachfront Estate has seven bedrooms, six full bathrooms and one partial bathroom as well as a spacious great room, den/theatre, a gourmet kitchen and wash pantry, two bars and a library, which are spread across 7,319 sq ft of interior space. Outside, the estate has its own dock, tropical gardens and serene pools, all secured by grand gates, providing an oasis for those who desire a private sanctuary by a beach.

Price: US\$14.995 million via Provenance Properties of Cayman Ltd, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate



GENIUS AT WORK

World Builders

At Bellerby & Co., hundreds of hours are spent crafting globes that don't just depict the planet—they also chart, in mesmerising detail, your individual journey or your family's history upon it.

Words: Tom Weijand
Photography: Euan Myles



TO CALL BELLERBY & CO.'S products globes sounds criminally reductive, in the same way it's not quite enough to refer to a Ferrari as a car or to the *Mona Lisa* as a painting. This London-based team builds meticulously detailed models of our planet, almost entirely by hand and ranging in size from about 12.7cm up to 127cm in diameter. Many are bespoke commissions, painted to highlight the buyer's personal history; the most elaborate versions can cost as much as US\$110,000.

Founder Peter Bellerby, who previously worked in TV and real estate, went in search of a globe to give his father as an 80th-birthday present in 2008. He wasn't impressed with what he found, so he set about building one himself.

It took more than two years to perfect the process—and by that time he'd received his first custom order. The company has since grown from three people to about 30 employees, including cartographers, wood- and metal-workers, and many, many painters.

"Over-engineering is our way of doing everything," Bellerby says. Although there's impressive technical skill involved in making these three-dimensional maps, their most notable quality may be their phenomenal artistry. The globes are best thought of as hand-painted, rotating sculptures that can memorialise a life's journey, say, or a family's migration history, or detail a region's flora and fauna. "People put their whole lives on a globe," Bellerby notes.



1.

A team of three cartographers begins a commissioned globe by customising a digital map that will later be printed on paper. “Country names and capital cities stay,” Bellerby says. “Everything else is up for grabs.” Tweaks on paper can include highlighting places of personal significance or plotting the route of a meaningful journey. The artists can also include a range of custom illustrations and decorations, from birds and flowers to ships and lighthouses. The printing quality is of such high resolution that the text can go down to a 0.5-sized font for the smallest globes. On such examples “you need a magnifying glass to read it”, he adds.

2.

Bellerby’s largest globes are made on England’s south coast from glass-reinforced polymer and are shipped to London in two halves. Smaller models are made in-house from resin, also in two parts. In both cases, after the hemispheres are joined, a compass is used to draw latitudinal positioning lines, which guide the application of the paper map.

3.

Once the map is printed, it’s cut by hand into sections called gores. These portions, which are shaped either like a long marquis diamond or the same stone cut in half, are removed from the page with a scalpel—a fitting tool given the surgical precision required.

4.

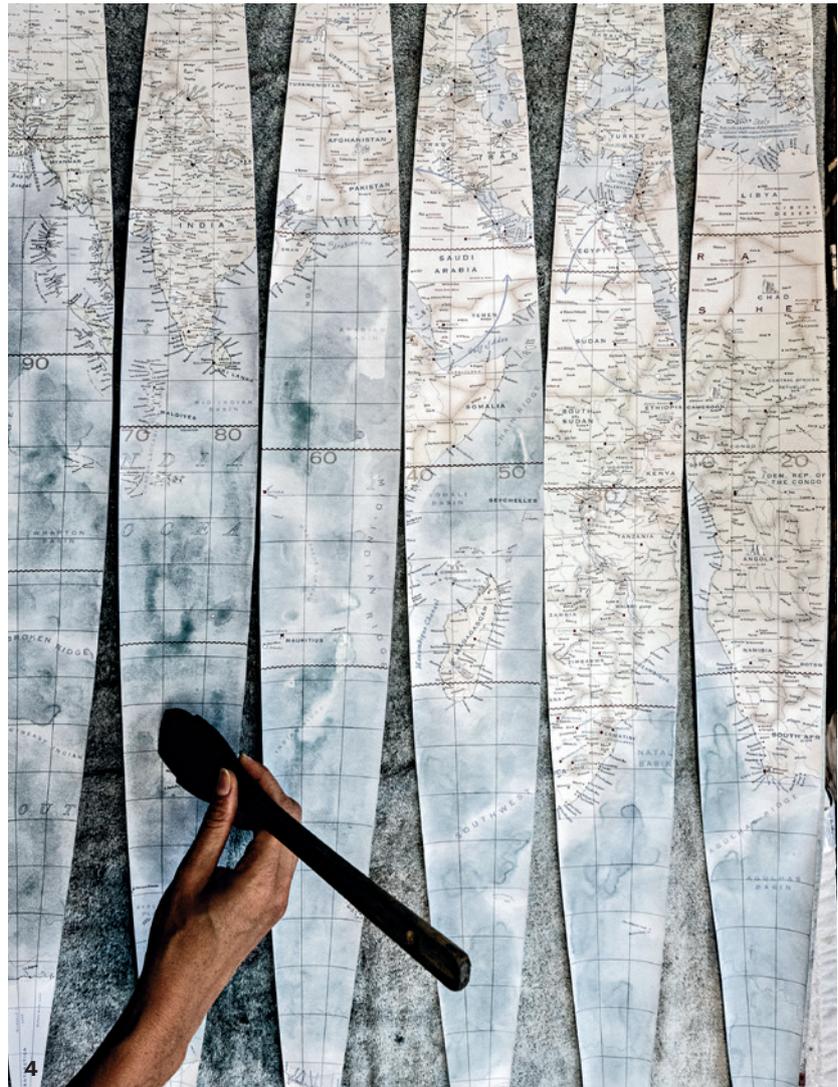
An artist applies the initial layers of colour to the cut gores, filling in the oceans and continents. Many years of trial and error have revealed that such wide swaths are best applied while the map is still two-dimensional. The company has developed its own watercolour technique for creating the illusion of movement and complexity in the water.

5.

Once the gores are dry, they're dunked in water so they can take on a curved shape once applied to the sphere. Bellerby's globemakers train for more than a year to learn the technique, which involves patiently smoothing the paper over the globe while avoiding wrinkles, rips or overlapping adjacent sections. Each globe requires either 12 or 24 gores, depending on size; positioning them can take hours. The calottes (small, round pieces covering the poles) are the final parts to go on.

6.

After the gores are applied, one of Bellerby's 10 full-time painters sets about creating a cohesive look. They then add layers of detail, such as shading coastlines or highlighting national borders, and embellish the illustrations and personalisations. "It's way more beautiful doing it by hand and completely unique," Bellerby says. For small globes, this step can take a few weeks; some rare examples require more than a year of work.



7.

The globes are painted with resin, which seals, binds and protects the surface against wear and tear, including the acidity and oil of human hands. Once dry, they're treated with multiple layers of glossy or matte acrylic finish, according to your preference. This process can take up to two days.

8.

On the ground floor of the studio, a team of six wood- and metal-workers assembles the globe stands. The woodworkers use rich varieties such as walnut and oak, and carve or turn the bases by hand. The metal components, including the meridians orbiting globes that rotate on an axis, are made by a variety of English craftspeople, but all of them are hand-finished in the studio. Some globes spin freely on a trio of ball bearings, which allows for closer examination.

9.

Once the globe and base are complete, they're packed and shipped. They're dispatched in flight cases—rigid, padded trunks designed for transporting valuable fragile goods—or commensurately protective bespoke packaging. Getting the largest globes, which can weigh more than 64kg, and their bases (one metal example tipped the scale at more than 227kg) out of the studio can take the co-operation of six colleagues. 



Taking Time

Anne-Laure Pressat is the executive director of the LOUIS XIII cognac house and is in charge of every facet of the brand. But she still has to listen to the cellar master.

Words: Wei-Yu Wang
Photography: Anna Rina

IRONICALLY, DESPITE ITS origins and traditions, cognac is not very popular in France. This is why Anne-Laure Pressat, despite starting her professional career in the wine industry, knew very little about cognac until a chance encounter changed that. “I was in New York,” she recalls. “And I met someone, a brand ambassador at the time, who asked if I had tried LOUIS XIII.” Her response? “Oh, I don’t like cognac, no thank you,” she relates with a chuckle. But in the end, she gave it a try—and of course, LOUIS XIII is no ordinary cognac. It is one of the most recognised prestige cognacs in the world, made up of hundreds and hundreds of *eaux-de-vie* exclusively from the terroir of Grand Champagne, first cru of Cognac. Its rich complexity has pulled in many a convert and Pressat was one of them. She started at LOUIS XIII as a brand ambassador in London 13 years ago, and over time moved up the ranks until she arrived at her current position as executive director.

“It’s not really work, it’s a passion,” she says of her time with the *maison*. “You are driven by passion, by excitement, by the people you meet, events that you do.” She describes the brand as dynamic, but rooted in tradition. LOUIS XIII is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, which is unique for a prestige cognac. “We created a category 150 years ago,” she points out. “So this brand allows you to be rooted, but at the same time disruptive and innovative.”

Pressat was recently in Malaysia, on one of her first trips to the region, to familiarise herself with the market and meet local LOUIS XIII connoisseurs. One of her visits was to a dinner at DC Restaurant by Darren Chin, hosted in collaboration with *Robb Report Malaysia*. This is one of Malaysia’s Michelin-starred restaurants, which also happens to have a LOUIS XIII private room. “It’s a promising market for us. We believe in this market very strongly,” she says, adding that

the importance of the clients here has more than justified the brand’s investment in a local private client director. “People are joyful, relaxed and happy,” Pressat says of the Malaysians she has met. “What I can see is that people enjoy it. Drink it, open it. In some other countries, they may want to keep it.” She gestures to the decanters lining the restaurant’s LOUIS XIII room, most of which have been heavily tapped.

As a brand ambassador, Pressat has attended and conducted many LOUIS XIII events, which has allowed her to observe what keeps people coming back to it. “They love the taste. You have the



Above: Anne-Laure Pressat, executive director of LOUIS XIII.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY: LOUIS XIII/RÉMY-COINTREAU.





complexity of the wine-based spirit—flavourful, rich and long-lasting. It's aromatic. They enjoy the taste, they love the brand. It's iconic, it's timeless—they like what it represents," she explains. "For them, it's a symbol of success. To celebrate something, a milestone in a professional career or private life—should it be a wedding, graduation or something else.

"I'm always touched and moved when I hear their stories," she adds. She cites one particular client who had purchased a six-litre Mathusalem decanter of LOUIS XIII and had it engraved on every occasion it was poured, thus allowing it to become a ledger of significant life events.

Today, the brand is Pressat's worldwide responsibility, from production and innovation to partnerships, communication and retail. But the most important aspect of LOUIS XIII is something she leaves well enough alone—the blending itself, which is under the purview of cellar master Baptiste Loiseau. "I'm not allowed! It would be a disaster if I do it," she jokes. This was particularly pronounced during last year's release of Rare Cask 42.1. There have only been three releases of Rare Cask in the *maison's* history. Unlike the usual LOUIS XIII spirit, which is blended to consistency from different casks, this was selected from a single, exceptionally good cask—or *tierçon*, to be specific for LOUIS XIII—which would fill only 775 decanters.

"We were waiting for this moment, but it's not me who decides—it's our cellar master Baptiste

Above and below: the recent LOUIS XIII Rare Cask 42.1 release is contained in a jewel-like black Baccarat crystal decanter and earns its name for its unique ABV when disgorged from the *tierçon* that held its precious contents for many decades.





This page: Pressat recently attended a dinner in one Michelin-starred DC restaurant in Kuala Lumpur, as part of LOUIS XIII's 150th anniversary celebrations and hosted in collaboration with *Robb Report Malaysia*.

Loiseau," she explains, noting that the wait was torturous. "I would often ask Baptiste—when is it ready?" she laughs. "But he won't give up—he is the guardian of the temple. Baptiste makes no sacrifice, no compromise. It will be ready when it's ready. And that's what makes it special as well."

Another product Pressat is fond of is THE DROP, a bottle containing 1cl of LOUIS XIII cognac. "On LOUIS XIII, you cannot touch anything—not the shape of the decanter, which is iconic, and not the liquid except for Rare Cask. But we still constantly push the boundaries of innovation," Pressat says. "We had this dream—to sell one drop of LOUIS XIII. Because one drop is enough to understand the pour, the beauty of LOUIS XIII." The result was the smallest decanter of spirit ever made, in a simplified but still-recognisable shape of the *maison's* decanter. "You can have it whenever you want, with whoever you want. You can wear it as an accessory," Pressat says. "So that was a disruptive innovation. And it was great to recruit new, younger clients—to make them discover it in an enjoyable way while still keeping the essence of LOUIS XIII."

"What is very humbling is that you know that LOUIS XIII will be there for (centuries to come). It has been there for 150 years and it will be there for the next 150 years. So, LOUIS XIII is bigger than us. It is a century of waiting, blending and crafting, to have it. You cannot rush time. And specifically in today's world, where everything is rushed, time is the raw material of Louis XIII." **R**





Above: executive chef Masashi Horiuchi.

Values And Principles

Masashi Horiuchi of Potager KL has become one of Malaysia's only two Ambassadors of the champagne house Krug.

Words: Wei-Yu Wang
Photography: Anna Rina

TO BECOME A Krug Ambassador is to become part of an exclusive global network. The *maison*, famed for creating only prestige champagnes, maintains an exclusive community of 200 or so chefs in more than 40 countries. One of its latest is Masashi

Horiuchi, executive chef of Potager KL. He is one of only two Krug Ambassadors in Malaysia, the other being Su Kim Hock of Au Jardin in Penang.

"A Krug Ambassador is an exclusive title given by Krug champagne house to partners who embody the soul and spirit of the Krug brand, which is one of the most respected champagne houses in the world," Horiuchi says. "To be a Krug Ambassador is an incredible honour. It's a trust bestowed by Krug that my team and I at Potager share the same values, principles and the pursuit for finesse."

It is a rigorous process to become a Krug Ambassador and it is ultimately a decision that goes all the way to the *maison's* headquarters in Reims, France. "Usually, we don't approach a chef to convince him to be an Ambassador," explains Patrick Madendjian, managing director of Moët Hennessy Diageo Singapore & Malaysia. "It's about falling in love with the *maison*. The chef needs to show us a clear appetite and love for the brand, and willingness to join the community. We prefer to have a limited number of Ambassadors, but really acting like Ambassadors. Preaching the good word, converting people to become Krug lovers and, most importantly, working together as a community. We want the Krug Ambassador chefs to see each other as this collaborative, creative power—and not competing restaurants.

"And then it has to be—do we believe that the offering is the Krug Ambassador level of creativity, service and knowledge of wine? But step number one is—is the chef himself in love with Krug or not? And if he's not, it will never work."

Potager is a fine dining restaurant that serves French cuisine, reflecting Horiuchi's more than two decades of experience in Europe, but one that also serves as a platform for his Japanese culinary philosophies. "Potager's signature style can be described as a blend of creativity, seasonality and a deep respect for natural flavours," he says. "We emphasise the use of fresh, local ingredients to craft dishes that are both refined and vibrant. This mirrors Krug's approach to craftsmanship, where attention to detail and respect for the unique characteristics of each vineyard are key." He finds the richness and complexity of the Krug house style especially compelling.

"The use of a wide variety of reserve wines, often aged for many years, allows Krug to create champagnes with remarkable depth and consistency," Horiuchi adds. "This richness and layers of flavour are intriguing because they offer endless possibilities for pairing with food. At Potager, these qualities can be highlighted by creating dishes that are nuanced and layered, with



Above: Potager KL is well known for its farm-to-table approach to French cuisine.

Left: Horiuchi is one of only two Krug Ambassadors in Malaysia, joining Su Kim Hock of Au Jardin in Penang.



Above: Krug creates only prestige champagnes.

Right: Horiuchi with Patrick Madendjian, managing director of Moët Hennessy Diageo Singapore & Malaysia.





an emphasis on textures and flavours that evolve as you enjoy the dish. Balancing acidity, sweetness and umami in the food can complement and elevate the complexity of Krug’s champagnes.” Going forward, Horiuchi says that customers can expect curated menus that will bring out the best of Krug champagnes as well as Krug-themed events and collaborations.

And, indeed, collaboration is very much a part of the Krug Ambassade community. Uniting its

Above: guests can expect upcoming menus at Potager KL to complement Krug’s champagnes.

chefs to provide one-of-a-kind experiences is something the *maison* is fond of.

“I would love to bring in foreign chefs to be in touch with Potager and Au Jardin to create those four hands, six hands, eight hands experiences for their guests,” Madendjian says. “We see our role as facilitators. We are just connecting the chefs and then whatever happens between them is exceptional. We will be there, as Krug, to complement the evening.” 

The Thai Pavilion Suite features indoor and outdoor living areas as well as a kitchen.

Pause And Reset

The award-winning Chiva-Som Hua Hin is celebrating its 30th anniversary in April 2025, and has remained among the world's leading wellness sanctuaries.

A TYPICAL RETREAT pales in comparison to the experience at Chiva-Som Hua Hin, Asia's first health and wellness luxury resort, which was founded in 1995 in Thailand.

Spanning seven acres, the resort's intimate setting is exclusive, with only 54 rooms and suites featuring 12 unique designs, from the Ocean Room to the Thai Pavilion. The remainder of the resort's expanse is dedicated to its extensive range of wellness facilities. These include a physiotherapy centre, yoga and tai chi pavilions, and even a Watsu pool, designed for aquatic bodywork that merges water therapy with shiatsu massage.

Upon check-in, guests will receive a personal health consultation to ensure their wellness programmes are tailored to their specific needs and goals. Chiva-Som Hua Hin offers an impressive array of nearly 200 therapies. When it comes to holistic treatments, the resort draws from both Eastern healing traditions—such as Thai massage, acupuncture and Chi Nei Tsang (Taoist therapeutic massage)—and Western practices, such as physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and advanced skin treatments.

Over the past year, Chiva-Som has elevated its approach to ultra-personalised wellness with new additions to its offerings. Genomic

testing and epigenetics delve into how genetic predispositions are influenced by environmental factors. The hyperbaric oxygen therapy promotes healing by monitoring body metrics, while the sleep enhancement programme includes sleep hormone testing, sleep apnea screening, and in-room sleep support. All therapies are administered by a team of qualified professionals and visiting consultants from around the globe to ensure a continually evolving experience.

With its idyllic beachfront location and lush gardens, the resort invites guests to reconnect with nature via outdoor activities, whether it's strolling through the rehabilitated mangrove forest of Krailart Niwate or meditating on a hilltop with breathtaking views. Every detail is crafted with vitality in mind, including daily dishes curated by a dedicated nutrition team to nourish the body and support gut health.

An escape to Chiva-Som Hua Hin doesn't simply aim for short-term relaxation; it focuses on fostering positive, sustainable changes and motivating guests to maintain their well-being even after their stay. **R**



Above: the water therapy area is equipped with a sauna, steam room, plunge pool and jacuzzi to prepare guests for their spa treatments.

Below: the resort's Taste of Siam restaurant overlooks the sea and its outdoor pool.



The elegant, bright and modern interior of Pic at Beau-Rivage Palace.



Anne-Sophie Pic's Latest Chapter



Newly reopened following a year-long refurbishment, Pic is reborn at Beau-Rivage Palace, imagined and shaped by chef Anne-Sophie Pic to epitomise her culinary philosophy.

Words: Karmun Ng

Photography: Mike Wolf

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, Anne-Sophie Pic branched out from her family restaurant Maison Pic in Valence, where she made her name, for the first time. Fifteen years ago, the most decorated female chef in the world—with 12 Michelin stars to her name—chose to open her first namesake restaurant at Beau-Rivage Palace in Lausanne, Switzerland, drawn by the splendour of its nature, the bounty of its produce and the warmth of its people. Fifteen years later, the restaurant, during which it has maintained its two-Michelin-star status, is now revamped and renamed Pic at Beau-Rivage Palace. It is also embarking on a fresh chapter, complete with new interiors, menus and experiences, following a year-long, floor-to-ceiling renovation.

“This restaurant is very special,” Pic says. “It’s my first restaurant after Maison Pic, my family’s restaurant, so there is attachment in terms of my long time working here and experiencing all the different products that I can find here

in Lausanne. It’s also because I love Switzerland from my childhood. I had the opportunity to come here very often because part of my family is French-Swiss. Few collaborations go on for 15 years; it’s something quite magical. That’s the reason why we decided to name this restaurant Pic at Beau-Rivage Palace.”

The new Pic beckons all with soft shades of blush, peach, lavender and honey, clothed in the same soft femininity of the chef’s soft-spoken demeanour. Designed by architect Tristan Auer, the space transforms details from her private journals into four main dining areas: a main dining hall with light wood furnishings, a cordoned-off smaller segment for an added slice of privacy, a stunning bar with an interactive island and an al fresco area overlooking the lush gardens of the hotel.

Painting the full picture of the entire restaurant’s concept is a *poya*—a traditional painting once used by *armailis* to



Right: Les
Berlingots ASP.



Left: La Féra Du
Lac Lemán.

provide an inventory of herd, people and equipment to signify prosperity—commissioned from Michael Rampa, welcoming all in full display. In the same colour palette as the restaurant, the watercolour tableau depicts the chef in the midst of Lausanne’s pastures, looking up fondly towards Beau-Rivage Palace.

The menu is entrusted to the hands of chef Jordan Theurrillat, whom Pic has had by her side for more than a decade, including five years in Lausanne. Through him, Pic’s culinary philosophy continues to shine through, one that underscores her delicate yet bold cuisine.

Things begin with the lake that guests of the historic hotel wakes up to every day, Lac Lemán. Instead of typical noble fish, Pic daringly serves the local freshwater *fera* fish, hailing from the waters of the lake. Doubling down on that daringness, the delicate flesh is simply smoked with garden fig leaves for a lingering, bright herbaceous flavour and served with fresh almond cream infused with *amazake* to lend complexity.

Pic’s signature Les Berlingots ASP—pyramid-shaped pockets of pasta named for its resemblance to the French confectionery of the same shape—remain a mainstay, albeit updated. They are now filled with sheep’s cheese from Mont Gibloux, corn puree, saffron from Jorat and lavender from the hotel’s greenhouses to reflect the locality. Firm to the bite, velvety on the tongue and a rich savour on the senses, it encapsulates Pic’s prowess with taste and texture while paying homage to the things she loves the most: the people, produce and pastures of Lausanne.

“My DNA didn’t change a lot,” Pic shares of the menu. “I’m still making French cuisine but, now, we are working more with pairings. I have been very interested in coffee and tea pairing for a long time, along with mixology of cocktails, so we were eager to propose this here in Lausanne.”

On top of wines, beautifully seen to by sommelier Dominique Peretti, a refreshing option is coffee, tea and cocktail pairings to go with the courses. Overseen by wine director Paz Levinson, pure alchemy is brewed through the likes of Boisson Creative, or creative drink, where El Placer Pink Bourbon coffee is smoked with citronella before hot filtered with tomato water. The bar also opens up come dessert time, inviting guests to roam the space and try a myriad of libations that are equally playful and innovative. Cocktails are offered in profiles that borrow from across the four terrains of France and Switzerland’s most vibrant nature—mountain, lake, terrace and forest—and change seasonally.

“What was important for us was that Paz is inspired by Valence,” Pic says, referring to her hometown. “She stayed a few weeks in Valence to understand my universe. It’s important to be very close to my universe.”

It is mission accomplished on that front. From the first step through the doors of Pic at Beau-Rivage Palace, through the walk down the short retrospective of the Pic family, and subsequently the chef’s career along the welcome corridor to the moment diners are seated and satiated at the table, the restaurant is the universe of Anne-Sophie Pic—the woman, the restaurateur, the chef extraordinaire. **✎**



Above: chef Anne-Sophie Pic.

Below: cocktails by wine director Paz Levinson get their own spotlight in a dedicated bar area.





Bali Bites

Marriott International's newly launched Luxury Group Dining Series, which traverses the globe to showcase the finest dining experiences, comes to The St. Regis Bali.

Words: Juern Ng
Photography: Ralf Tooten



Above: Kandaifi stuffed with duxelles.

Facing page: the view overlooking Kayuputi Restaurant in The St. Regis Bali.

IMAGINE THE ALLURE of island hopping, but on a grander scale—journeying from country to country, savouring the best dining experiences each destination has to offer. This vision comes alive with Marriott International’s Luxury Group Dining Series, a multi-stop gastronomic adventure that traverses six selected hotels across six countries in the Asia Pacific within just two months. “I wanted to showcase not only our properties’ restaurants and bars, but also the people behind them,” Petr Raba, Marriott International’s vice president of food and beverage, Asia Pacific, explains.

I hopped on board the Luxury Group Dining Series at its second stop, The St. Regis Bali, where bold spice blends and fresh local ingredients shape the fare. This culinary philosophy was demonstrated during a tour of the resort’s Chef’s Garden, where I engaged in an interactive cooking class on site. While learning to prepare tuna tartare using freshly harvested spices, I found myself momentarily distracted by the tempting aroma of charcoal-grilled freshwater lobster, which was later served to us with steamed breadfruit and eggplant sambal—each ingredient, once again, sourced fresh from the garden.



Above: Ignive Bangkok starters include a scallop ceviche, Hamachi with pickled daikon, truffle brioche, and beetroot gazpacho with waxy egg yolk.

Left: chef Arne Riehn from Ignive Bangkok.

To complement the dish, I was taught to concoct *Loloh Kayumanis*, a Balinese herbal elixir subtly enhanced with *Trigona* honey cultivated around the resort, lending it a uniquely refreshing, sweet and slightly tangy profile.

As evening fell, I raised a toast to the start of my Bali adventure with a ceremonial *sabrage*, given a Balinese twist using a traditional *keris* sword. In the spirit of tradition, I was treated to a mesmerising fire dance, watching flames flicker and sway in the night, before making my way to dinner at *Kayuputi Restaurant*, the resort's fine-dining establishment.

Dinner featured a special takeover by chef Arne Riehn from the one-Michelin-starred Ignive Bangkok at The St. Regis Bangkok. With roots in Germany, Riehn presented a European menu thoughtfully adapted with Balinese ingredients. The Beetroot Gazpacho with Waxy Egg Yolk is an Ignive Bangkok signature and with good reason. A touch of Riehn's heritage also shone through—most notably in the Sweetbread accompanied by Potato and Chive Oil, which proved to be a comforting treat.

The night beckoned for more indulgence under the stars. At the bar, I sampled cocktails crafted by talented mixologists from St. Regis's finest: Fahri Yusuf from The St. Regis Jakarta, Shane Sta Maria from The St. Regis Singapore and Giri Asta from The St. Regis Bali. If not here, then where better to experience each property's unique take on the iconic St. Regis Bloody Mary?

The next day, it was well worth skipping breakfast for the Astor brunch at Kayuputi. In the daylight, the restaurant revealed its stunning features, complete with an open kitchen and expansive windows that framed gorgeous beachfront views. Brunch was a feast that dwarfed even a Thanksgiving spread, with a continuous flow of dishes, from the Sea Urchin Savoury Custard and Floating Fish Marrow to Grilled Swordfish and the Foie Gras Martabak that I could not stop raving about.

Taking in the sunset by the beach felt surreal. The St. Regis Bali took this experience up a notch with a barbecue by the shore, set like a romantic escapade straight out of a movie. Picture the sky painted in hues of pink and orange, a crackling bonfire nearby and a jazz band. The air was filled with enticing scents of grilled seafood, expertly prepared by chef Spencer Patrick from Harrison's at Sheraton Grand Port Douglas, Australia—the youngest chef to earn a Michelin star, with two decades of experience under his belt. This was a chef who knew how to do beachfront barbecues right, bringing to life an amazing array of dishes such as Ocean Road Abalone, Coral Trout, Rock Lobster, and Stockyard Wagyu Fillet. The latter had been flown in all the way from Australia, rolled in coconut ash and finished with a rich oxtail bone jus. It was a picture-perfect scene.

To savour my last moments in Bali, I woke up early to catch the sunrise by the beach. What I hadn't expected was for The St. Regis Bali team to arrange an Amalfi-style beach picnic. The spread came with a charcuterie board, baked oysters and salmon rolls. I watched the sun cast a golden glow across the sea and listened to the faint sound of waves in bliss.

For those who cannot rise early enough for the picnic, Boneka Restaurant offers a breakfast experience that is anything but typical. Even the eggs are extravagant: fried eggs are served with foie gras, egg nouvelle is stuffed with lobster ragout, and the river lobster omelette arrives swimming in a lobster bisque.

Cravings satisfied and stomach well stuffed, the only bittersweet moment was realising that it was time to find my way home. **R**



Right: chef Spencer Patrick from Harrison's.

Below: Barbecue by the shore.



Modern Milestone

The Bruichladdich Eighteen is the first of a new collection of aged whiskies from the Islay distillery.

Words: Wei-Yu Wang

BRUICHLADDICH, located on the Scottish island of Islay, was founded in 1881, but its current incarnation is a distinctly modern one that began in 2001 after it was revived—yet again—from being mothballed. Under the stewardship of its master distiller Jim McEwan, Bruichladdich established itself as something of a maverick, forward-thinking whisky producer that combines traditional methods with a focus on terroir, authenticity and a product offering that was tailored to whisky enthusiasts.

An aged expression coming from this relatively recent history is thus quite a milestone, but it has indeed arrived. The Bruichladdich Eighteen is the first of the distillery's new, high age-statement range that will be a permanent part of the collection.

Bottled at 50 per cent ABV, the 18-year-old expression is bright and uplifting, with floral and fruity notes on the nose. Honey, butterscotch and vanilla on the palate are accompanied by a pronounced tropical fruit flavour that fades gently into a balanced finish.

Bruichladdich Eighteen is matured primarily in ex-bourbon casks, with a smaller number of *sauternes* and port casks. The distillery's commitment to transparency is such that each bottle is accompanied by an identifying code that can be looked up on its website for even more detail: the year of distillation and the mix of casks, right down to the rough proportions, whether first or refill casks were used, and even where the barley was derived from. More than half of Bruichladdich's barley is grown on Islay, while the rest is from the Scottish mainland.

Bruichladdich Eighteen also showcases the distillery's new approach towards packaging. In an effort to increase sustainability and minimise waste, the traditional metal canister has been dropped in favour of an external cardboard wrap that is lightweight and recyclable. The bottle is of a new design that was introduced in the distillery's iconic Classic Laddie. Consisting of 60 per cent recycled glass, it is almost one-third lighter than its predecessor, making it easier to ship and reducing its carbon footprint. 





REINVENTING LEGACY

From London to Kuala Lumpur, Andrew Khoo reveals how global experience and fresh leadership are transforming MUI Group while preserving its seven-decade legacy.

Words: Chong Jinn Xiung

Photography: Anna Rina

ANDREW KHOO, EXECUTIVE chairman and CEO of Malayan United Industries (MUI) Berhad Group since 2018, has been methodically reshaping one of Malaysia's most storied conglomerates. Taking the reins from his father, Tan Sri Khoo Kay Peng, who built the business over six decades, the younger Khoo brings a fresh perspective shaped by his international education and multifaceted experience across law, political science and business in Australia, Canada, the US and the UK. Now, five years into his leadership, Khoo's measured approach to transformation has begun bearing fruit—a renaissance for MUI Group that is built on three fundamental pillars: technology adoption, talent management and open-mindedness.

In all this, the underlying principle of progressive stewardship is one that Khoo has carefully cultivated, from his early internships at the group's hotels in London and the US to his current role steering the conglomerate's retail, hospitality and lifestyle divisions. The results, he says, are driven not merely by business acumen, but by a deep understanding that sustainable growth must deliver positive impact to all stakeholders while honouring the group's rich legacy.

We live in interesting times. I have this responsibility to chart a new direction for the group while honouring the legacy and rich history of seven decades. My father prepared me from an early age, giving me wide exposure across the group. I interned in our US and London hotels, and worked across various divisions throughout my school and university years. But he ensured it wasn't taken for granted—there was never an expectation that leadership would automatically pass to me. It had to be the best person for the role.

I believe that we are products of all our experiences. Our experiences shape us into who we are. I've been blessed with the opportunity to live in many countries; I have that broad exposure from a cultural and business standpoint. All these things shape how you look at things.

The external experience I gained from working overseas proved invaluable. You don't know if what you're

doing internally is the best—there's always a better way. When I returned to the organisation, I established three key priorities: embracing technological advancement, which is vital in today's business landscape; nurturing talent through strategic retention and recruitment; and fostering an environment that welcomes diverse perspectives to avoid the limitations of groupthink.

MUI Group's business spans different sectors and I find that simplifying the business is the best approach. Have a purpose statement that cuts across all the businesses. The right people and teams sharing the same values creates semblance. We focus a lot on training, (particularly) leadership, building culture and up-skilling people.

Inspired leadership is a core value that I hope to bring. If I can inspire people, then the leaders would be inspired to do the right thing. Things like servant leadership and collaborative leadership are important. You need a deft hand in how you apply leadership styles—there will be different styles depending on the situation.

I love playing tennis and, occasionally, pickleball—we have a mini pickleball practice area in our Metrojaya store at Mid Valley Megamall. Everyone needs an outlet to get away from work. Melbourne and Vancouver are my favourite places. I love the culture and food, and Vancouver is like a second home.

Success is not purely financial. We need to drive innovation and growth while delivering a positive impact to society at large. When you unpack this, it's financially driven but, by doing that, we can achieve growth that is sustainable and adds value to the countries we operate in.

In retail, we're creating new concept stores, reimagining Metrojaya as an omnichannel experience with cafes and new brands like contemporary batik. On the hospitality side, we've soft-launched our new hotel brand Imerso near Heathrow, focusing on sustainable ecotourism. Through Immersive Hospitality Management, we aim to manage and consult for other hotels. The future of travel is in Asia and we're positioning ourselves to be at the forefront of that transformation. 

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