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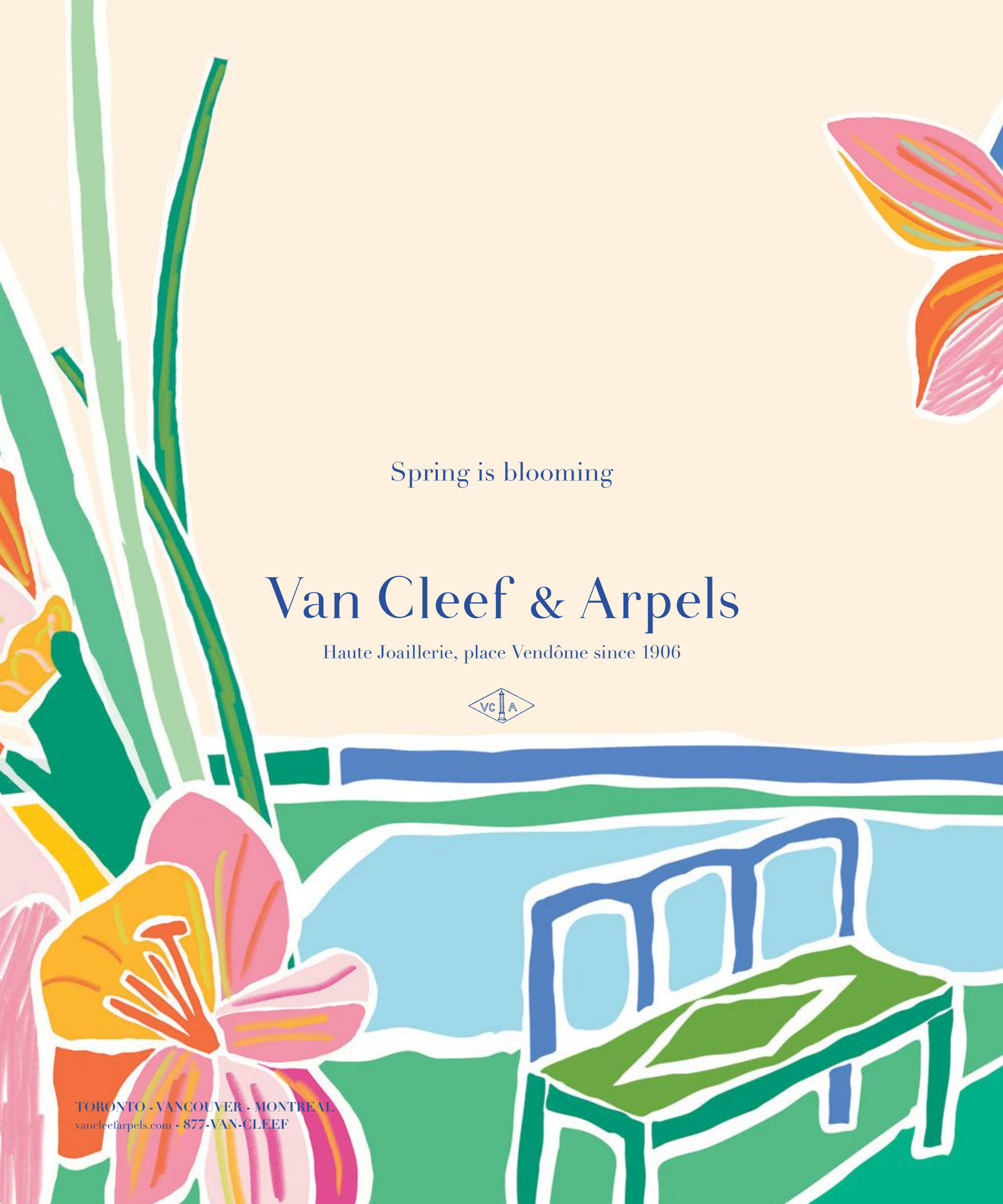
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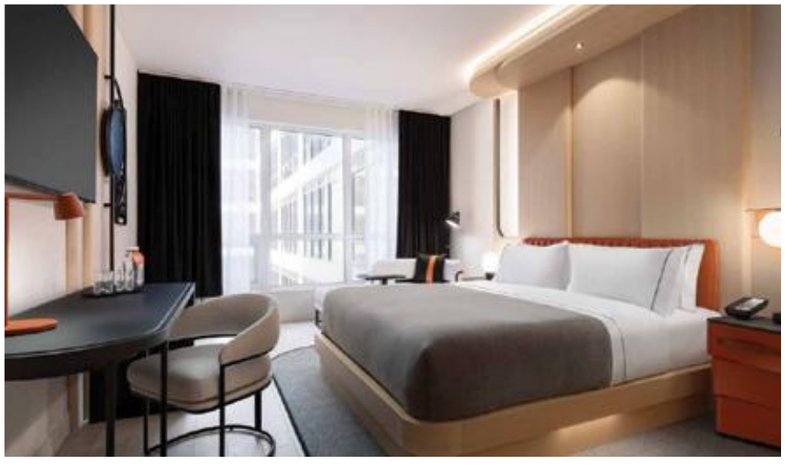
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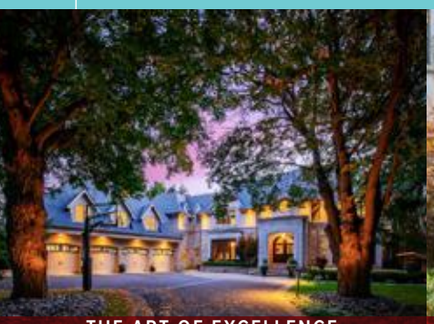
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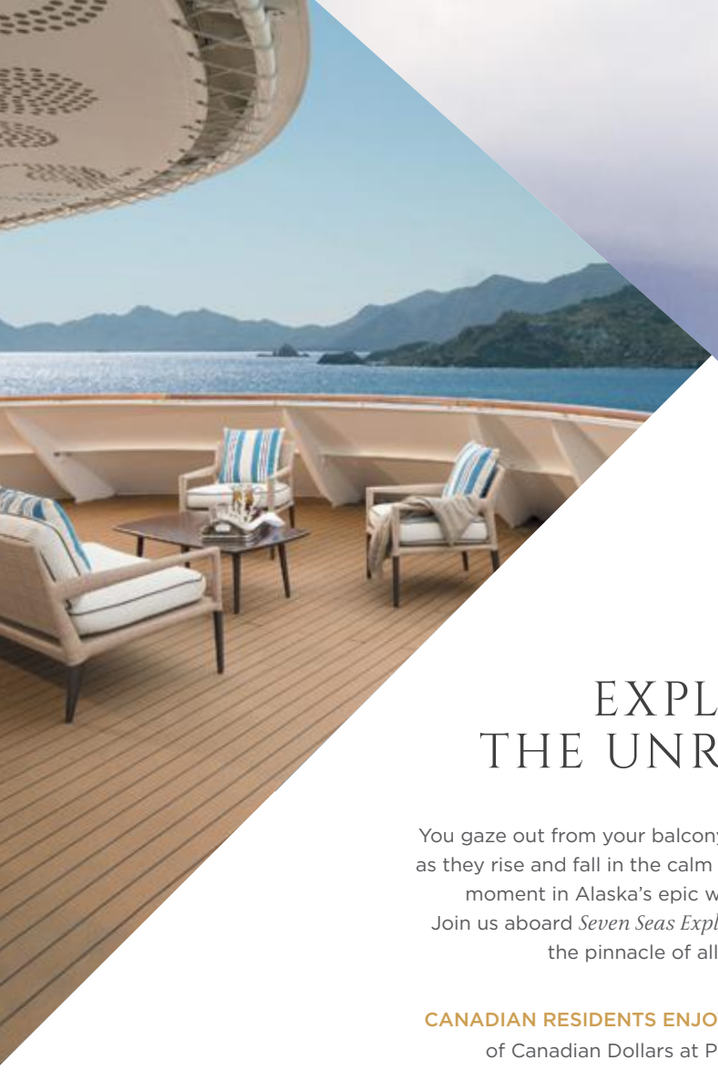


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GREATNESS

"It doesn't take great men to do things, but it is doing things that makes men great."

— Arnold Glasow

It was in 1982 when we first encountered the giant image of a smiling young man in full Edmonton Oilers hockey gear on a poster hanging on our cousin's bedroom wall. But as strange as this may sound, the poster didn't mean anything to us. We were new to Canada and had no idea who he or what hockey was. But we soon learned just how great a hockey player he really was. Once hockey season began, our morning school bus rides were deafening because of all the kids hollering "Gretzky! Number One!" and cheering "Let's go, Oilers!" Needless to say, 1982 was also the year that Gretzky broke Phil Esposito's record for most goals in a season, scoring 92 over 80 games.

Fast-forward 42 years later and we are sitting in Wayne Gretzky's living room in West Palm Beach, waiting for him to be styled and interviewed for our magazine, *Dolce*. We're both grinning widely and thinking that, indeed, this is truly the land of opportunity, and that if you work hard you can play even harder. The moment was a meaningful one for both of us — who could have fathomed from that first unknowing glimpse of him in our cousin's bedroom that someday we'd actually be meeting one-on-one with the incredible "Great One" in his own home? But Wayne Gretzky is remarkably humble about his legendary accomplishments — anyone can brag about breaking records, but it takes a special kind of person to stay humble and classy, and he is both.

As author, leadership coach and speaker John C. Maxwell has written, "A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position." During our exclusive visit to the Mantella Animal Rescue and Adoption Sanctuary in Florida, we were enchanted when we spotted just some the hundreds of animal species that have found refuge there. More importantly, we were able to witness firsthand the love and passion that Sylvia and Robert Mantella, the founders of this idyllic subtropical oasis, shared for their animals and the genuine personal connection they have to each one of them, calling each animal by name, telling us their backstories and how each had come to be rescued.

Theirs is truly a full-time labour of love. The Mantellas are out on their golf carts among their animals from early morning until evening, checking on them and monitoring their movements and well-being, even in the high winds and torrential rain that are a common occurrence in Florida. But make no mistake — these animals are not pets. As one of Canada's most philanthropic couples, the Mantellas' passion for giving is fueled by their realization of how important animal preservation is to *human* existence and to life on our planet.

And can we talk about those gorgeous dresses? (Yes, what a dream ... as you read the story you, too, will understand why we styled the shoot with such glorious fashion!) If you know Sylvia Mantella at all, you'll know that she loves fashion and is a huge supporter of Canadian and international fashion designers. Where else but *Dolce* will you be able to read about how important it is to protect these endangered species in a fashion spread that combines Valentino with a camel named Clover?

We hope you enjoy reading this edition — it's filled with stories of great individuals who are using their own passions to inspire, empower and motivate others to follow in their footsteps.

Until next time, live your own *dolce vita*, take a moment to reflect, to enjoy, and to find your own greatness within!

Michelle Zerillo-Sosa
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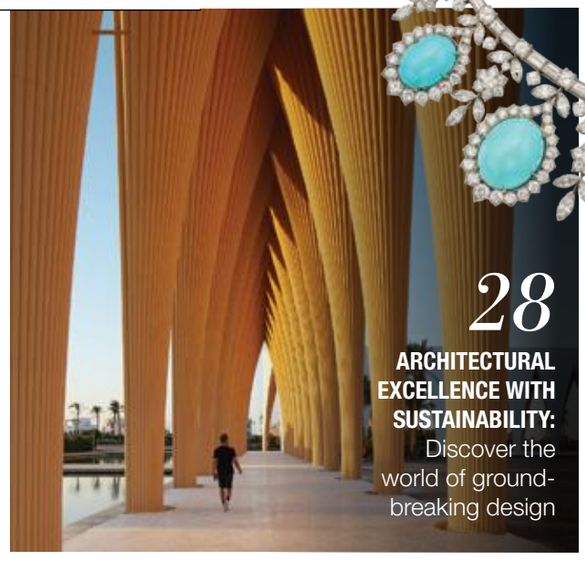
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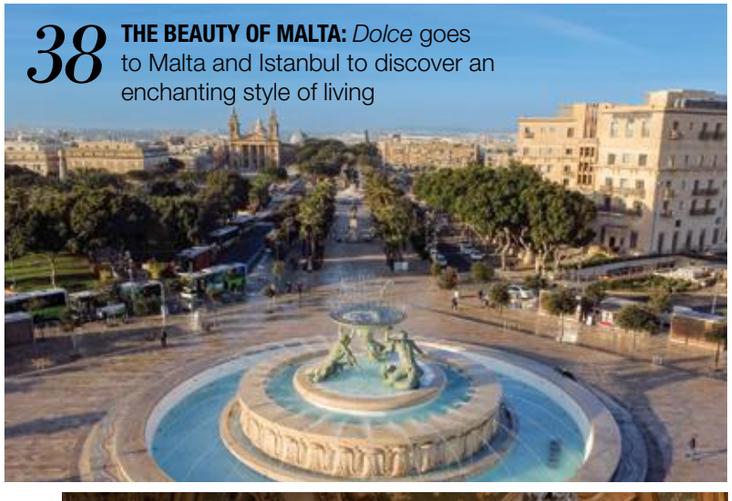
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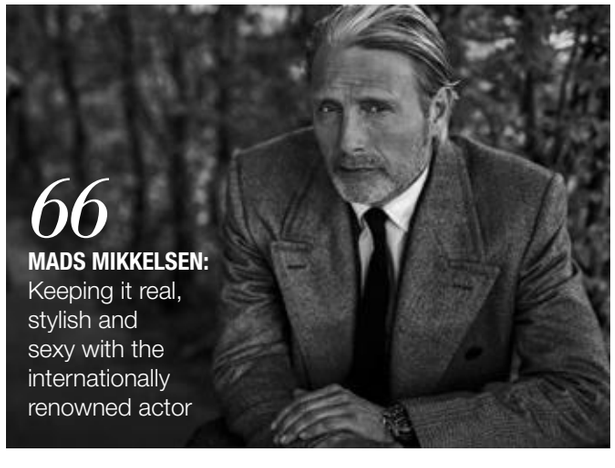
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EMBRACING THE PRECIOUSNESS OF TIME WITH LOVE

Sandro Fratini, founder of the L'O brand, and Marco Mantovani, the president of Locman, pay homage to the Italian Renaissance

WRITTEN BY **MARC CASTALDO**





Marco Mantovani (left) and Sandro Fratini, united in their passion for watchmaking, have created a collection that is sure to become an instant classic that will be sought after for generations to come

Hundreds of years of history and passion have led to the birth of Locman's latest creation, Decimo Canto. The collaboration of Sandro Fratini, one of the world's leading watch collectors and founder of the L'O brand, and Marco Mantovani, the president of Locman, signifies a new chapter in the history of watchmaking simply because of its respect for history itself.

The mechanical watch was already known and existed in Italy in the 1300s, mentioned by Dante Alighieri in the "Paradiso" of the *Divine Comedy*, specifically in the Decimo Canto, where the poet refers to the chimes of monastic alarm bells.

Lovers of history will appreciate the meticulous details that have gone into the creation of the Decimo Canto. The 38-mm steel case is made with three tiers of polished titanium that recall the three *cantiche*, or poems, of the *Commedia*, joined by four lugs embracing the strap that highlight the design's distinctiveness and volume. With an internal O-ring seal, the crown ensures water resistance to 5 atmospheres and is adorned with a stone that matches the dial's material. The leather strap complements each character; the more technical version is paired with a polished titanium bracelet.

Crafted with semi-precious stones, the dials of Decimo Canto emphasize the contemporary design of the case, making each timepiece exclusive, with unique touches and nuances. For the most precious versions, which feature natural white diamonds set on the dial and case lugs, Locman partnered with Crivelli, a prestigious Italian company renowned for its interpretation of high jewelry concepts.

Influential figures of the Renaissance in Tuscany including Filippo Brunelleschi, Leonardo da Vinci and Galileo Galilei, who undoubtedly made their mark on the world, also inspired the level of excellence that produced the Decimo Canto.

Marco Mantovani and Sandro Fratini both say, "It was wonderful to share time, united by beauty and love for this ancient craft. Lapis lazuli, malachite, which is sometimes referred to as a stone of transformation, red jasper, turquoise, tiger eye, mother-of-pearl, diamonds, gold and titanium are some natural elements we used for this project."

Many people do not want to be reminded of the passage of time, and the seamless poetic flow of the Decimo Canto's design will remind you to embrace the present.

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To honour Michel Parmigiani's journey of passion and prowess, Parmigiani Fleurier's creation of L'Armoriale, its pocket-watch masterpiece, was the only way

WRITTEN BY **MARC CASTALDO**







Each year the Maison honours Michel Parmigiani's birthday and his unwavering commitment to preserving mechanical art with a masterpiece

Hours and minutes: open-work delta-shaped 18ct white gold
Seconds and counters: baton-shaped 18ct white gold
Chronograph: blued steel
Number of jewels: 29
Number of components: 375
Calibre diameter: 40.9 mm
Calibre thickness: 11.1 mm
Dial colour: brown-treated 18ct white gold
Moon disk: aventurine sky and hand-hammered 18ct white gold moons

Within Parmigiani Fleurier's "Objets d'Art" collection is a piece that is the epitome of artistic watchmaking, the L'Armoriale pocket watch, conceived to honour tradition in a modern world.

Its concept was sparked during a trip by Parmigiani Fleurier's CEO, Guido Terreni, to Northern Italy, to the Palazzo Te in Mantua, located at the crossroads of Milan, Genoa, and Venice.

While Terreni took in the Mannerist architecture and breathtaking frescoes of the Renaissance-era royal palace, he felt that it would be most fitting to take inspiration from its lavish Renaissance elements with a one-of-a-kind timepiece collection that would honour Michel Parmigiani, the man who made Parmigiani Fleurier what it is today.

As a young watchmaker and restorer with a passion for both watchmaking and architecture, Michel opened "Mesure et Art du Temps" in 1976 as a traditional workshop devoted to restoring antique timepieces. While mastering his trade, he pursued his creative impulses by designing and crafting complex timekeeping creations of his own. Michel's reputation for artistry and technical prowess grew and doors of opportunity opened. Eventually, this led him to launch his watchmaking *Maison*, Parmigiani Fleurier, in 1996 with the support of the Sandoz Family Foundation and the Landolt family.

Traditionally referred to as the "Mains d'Or" or "Golden Hands," the artisans involved in creating this latest piece each specialized in a distinct craft. Every component, from the intricate engraving of the case to the chain, was meticulously designed and constructed for fluidity of movement and exquisiteness of style.

The L'Armoriale movement features a chronograph, a minute repeater, and a perpetual calendar featuring a moon phase set against an aventurine sky and hand-hammered moons on white gold. Its movement beats at a smooth frequency of 2.5 Hz, equivalent to 18,000 vibrations per hour, providing a leisurely and refined experience. From its gears to the detailed engravings and polished bridges, every facet of its movement reflects the values that Parmigiani Fleurier stands for. An ode to art, technicity, and elegance.

If you think pocket watches are a relic of the past, well, think again. These exquisite new styles and their accessories are restored to the spotlight by those who do not follow the trends but set them. The L'Armoriale bridges the gap between centuries, harmonizing sophistication, finesse, and beauty, and will bestow those qualities on the one who wears it.

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Louis Vuitton proudly unveils its newly redesigned store at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

WRITTEN BY **MARC CASTALDO**



The ground-floor store, situated in Vancouver's bustling city centre, is framed by the landmark Fairmont Hotel's original 1939 château-style façade

The iconic initials need no introduction. The moment you see "LV" you know what that represents and that you want it.

The Maison of Louis Vuitton creates beautifully crafted fashion pieces that stand the test of time. Since 1854, the spirit of its founder, Louis Vuitton, has been that of savoir-faire and innovative design. It flourishes to this day and its impact has changed the fashion world.

Canadians have demonstrated their appreciation for fashion with notable dressers like Drake and Justin Bieber and a strong Canadian retail market. Louis Vuitton's newly redesigned store at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver reinforces its founding principles of tailored artistry, design and class. The elegant boutique offers a suite of the Maison's products including men's and women's leather goods, accessories, Internet-connected objects, fragrance, ready-to-wear, shoes, jewellery and watches, as well as the Maison's iconic hard-sided luggage pieces and exclusive Objets Nomades collection.

The store's interiors celebrate the heart of both Louis Vuitton and Vancouver. Fine art and design from across the world accent every section, all brimming with luminous colours reflecting Vancouver's natural beauty. Several pieces were commissioned specifically for the store to add to the harmonious ambience. A strikingly ingenious painting by Italian artist Isadora Capraro has been hung on a curved wall. Montreal-based artist Heidi Spector created a bold striped composition on Russian birch and then coated it in resin to create a confection-like surface. A geometric three-dimensional canvas by Vancouver artist Scott Sueme is another standout custom creation. Raised in Vancouver, the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, Sueme explores the intersection of the quality and perception of colour in his work.

The ultimate bespoke experience, Louis Vuitton's traditional hand-crafted customization is exemplified by an on-site hot-stamping service that allows clients to personalize various leather goods. The boutique will also offer the services of a dedicated Louis Vuitton artisan who apprenticed in Paris to apply bespoke designs to the Maison's historic hard-sided trunks.

Fashionistas, rival brands and fellow designers pay homage to the iconic brand, which has spurred a global love for the "Art of Travel" through its luggage bags and accessories. Its many multidisciplinary collaborations over the years with architects, designers and artists in addition to the production of its own craveable creations from ready-to-wear shoes to fragrances are all proof of the power of the LV brand — of its present success and of its even more promising future.

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PHOTOS BY BRAD DICKSON

COLOURING OUTSIDE THE LINES

Italian luxury boat designer and builder Capoforte introduces a new colour variation at the renowned Düsseldorf boat show

WRITTEN BY **RICK MULLER**



For more than two decades, Capoforte has been an industry-leading boat designer and builder known for craftmanship, quality and innovation

Creative thinking can be expressed in many forms and through many different media, including art, music, architecture and design. Bold and creative thinking in the world of colour requires imagination, innovation and the ability to think outside the box, qualities that renowned Italian luxury boat designer and builder Capoforte has exemplified for more than two decades.

The famed Italian luxury brand took yet another step forward earlier this year at the world-famous Düsseldorf International Boat Show, boot Düsseldorf, by introducing its exclusive new colour variation, "blu mirtillo," a fresh shade of blueberry, which expands the boat builder's already impressive palette and once again demonstrates its role as a notable trendsetter. Blu mirtillo dresses Capoforte's CX250i and SX280i boat models and can now also be chosen to adorn the entire Capoforte range of luxury watercraft. The new palette is yet another example of Capoforte's leading position in the boating industry. The brand is known for elegant design, craftmanship, beauty and, above all, high performance in any type of maritime setting. It also highlights the brand's prowess in innovation, its foresight in anticipating trends and its skill in crafting novel styles that push the boundaries of colour aesthetics and are always ahead of the curve.

"The idea originated from the desire to conceive a colour capable not only of creating a trend but also of combining the lively character with a contemporary elegance typical of the Capoforte spirit," says Capoforte's Christian Grande. "A colour that maintains the inherent class in the spectrum of blues, ideal for maritime settings, blending it with the dynamism and energy with a hint of magenta, expressed through exposure to light, so that the shaded parts are less prominent, with traits that we could almost define as iridescent. Blu mirtillo is a colour that harmonizes perfectly with the cognac of the upholstery and the matte metallic Sunset Gold dashboard."

Blu mirtillo is the latest innovation from Capoforte's 19,500-square-metre production yards at Roccelletta di Borgia, close to Catanzaro, where more than one hundred competent and passionate professionals use advanced technological processes to transform their ideas into distinctive and memorable creations. The craftmanship of the Capoforte brand has always produced real art, thanks to that passion, the love of a job well done and attention to detail. Capoforte's boldness, consummately skilled craftsmanship and intuition have always guided the production of its watercraft, and blu mirtillo is just the latest example of the brand's industry-leading creativity.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPOFORTE BOATS



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Chengdu Tianfu Art Museum and Chengdu Contemporary Art Museum reflect the cultural spirit of the city and its citizens' tolerance, kindness and love of art

Recognizing the Blend of Architectural EXCELLENCE and SUSTAINABILITY

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARCHITECTURE MASTERPRIZE



The oasis-like space of the El Gouna Conference and Cultural Centre is esthetically pleasing, well-protected from the sun and wind and incorporates the cooling effects of flowing water

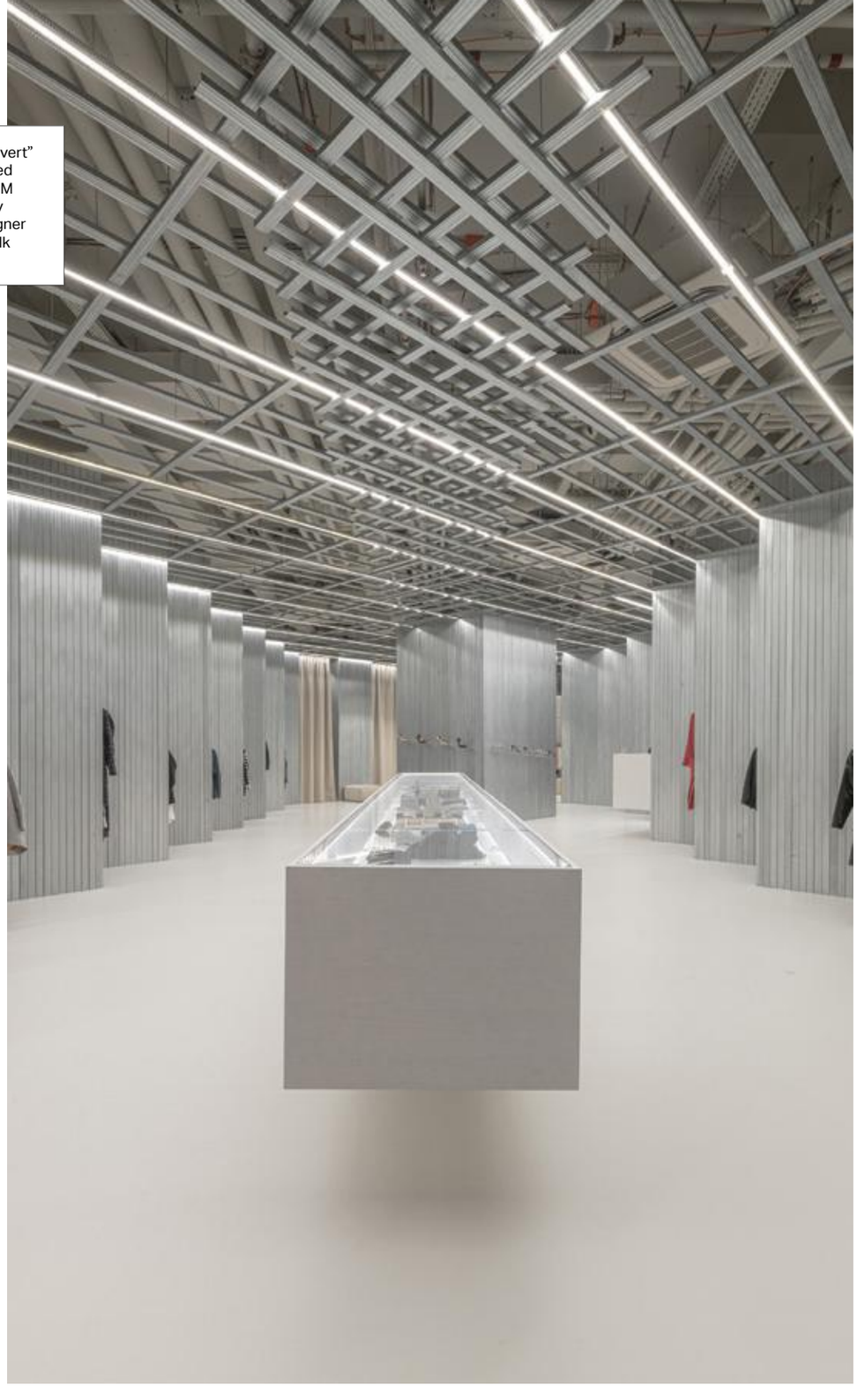
In keeping with its practice of celebrating projects demonstrating architectural excellence and sustainability, the Architecture MasterPrize announced its 2023 award winners

WRITTEN BY **ISHA SHARMA**

The Architecture MasterPrize (AMP) honours visionary architectural practices that use creativity, sustainability and unique design to bring about positive change in the world. To celebrate its eighth year of recognizing such talent, Architecture MasterPrize announced the winners of its 2023 awards.

Led by Valerie Schweitzer, the jury comprised exceptional designers, architects, curators and academics. Adding their unique experience and a plethora of viewpoints to the judging process were Dr. Dawn Jourdan, Dean of the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and Dr. Sedef Doganer, the esteemed Dean of the Wentworth Institute of Technology School of Architecture and Design.

The focus is not only on acknowledging projects



The "Introvert X Extrovert" theme is demonstrated by the walls of the SOM Store, which gradually reveal individual designer collections as you walk through the space

that have excellent architectural potential but also those that are instrumental in advancing human welfare and sustainability. Notably, AMP's 2023 winners come from distinct backgrounds and include designers, visionaries and architects. From beautifully designed interiors to sustainable urban planning, these individuals have made significant contributions to their fields.

Valerie Schweitzer said, "As we live through a dark period of collective alienation, misunderstanding and prejudice, we look to architecture not only to protect our increasingly fragile earth but to push its humanity toward greater dialogue and mutual respect of differences. Congratulations to all the winners of this year's remarkable AMP and also to the growing worldwide community of applicants who tirelessly push the boundaries of what our cities and structures can be."

The entries for 2023 were received from global architecture firms and rising artists. From well-known practices like BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group and Sir David Chipperfield to emerging talents like Omar Gandhi, the entries reflected the diverse and strong potential of architects, promising a positive and sustainable future for architecture.

A fascinating aspect of this year's awards is something that has never happened before in the MP's eight years: the outstanding Sluishuis by Barcode Architects and BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group and the captivating New Temple Complex by James Gorst Architects shared the Architectural Design of the Year title. This tie is a sign of the immense and distinctive talent and architectural excellence present in our society today.

Schweitzer added, "Humane architecture that fosters connectivity among all peoples and between man and nature is the signature of the 2023 AMP winners. In the architecture category, both winners establish a rational framework that integrates with the site's unique environs but also engenders an inner architecture of soulfulness."

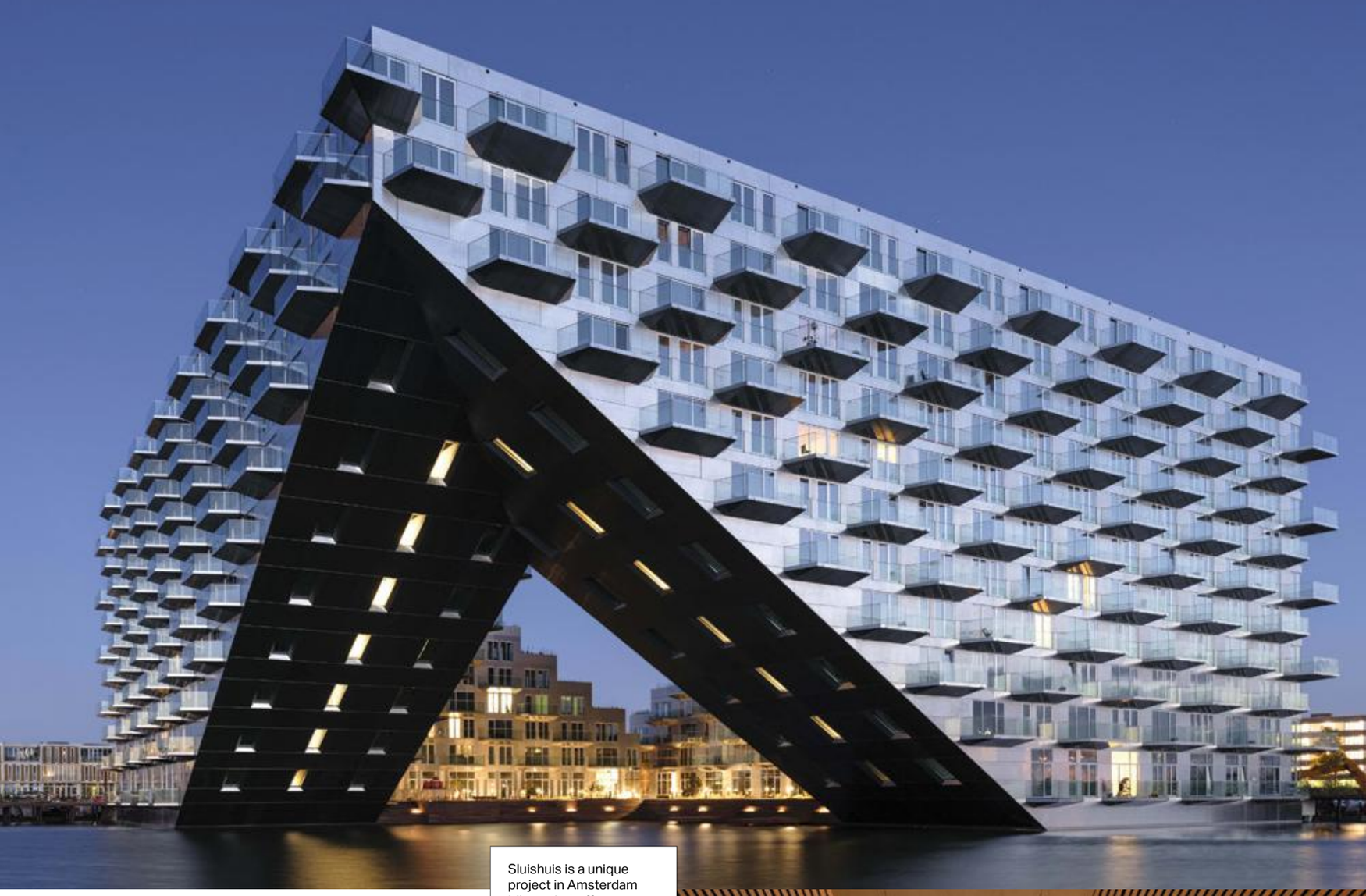
An example of the architects' sheer excellence was demonstrated by the fact that some entries qualified for the final voting round in every category, earning the title of "Best of Best" in an incredible display of brilliance.

Some of these entries:

- Commercial Architecture: 55 Hudson Yards by Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates; LEGO® Campus by C.F. Møller Architects; HEM Restaurant by He Art Museum, Tadao Ando
- Cultural Architecture: National Pavilion of Biodiversity by Fernanda Ahumada + FR-EE
- Green Architecture: SuperHub Meerstad by De Zwarte Hond
- Institutional Architecture: Ferrocarril de Cuernavaca 780 by HEMAA
- Retail Interior: SOM Store X D415 by D415
- Commercial Architecture: HEM Restaurant by He Art Museum
- Retail Interior: SOM Store X D415 by D415
- Exterior Photographer of the Year: Deed Studio /uae
- Interior Photographer of the Year: Victor Romero

The AMP team is grateful to all participants for their exceptional contributions to the fields of architecture and design, and they extend their heartfelt congratulations to all the winners.

All the winners will be honoured for their achievements at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, the home of the Architecture MasterPrize, in November 2024. The special night will commemorate the outstanding accomplishments of all the 2023 winners, along with the 2024 winners as well. To continue recognizing new



Sluishuis is a unique project in Amsterdam IJburg that offers a modern and sustainable way to live on and around the water

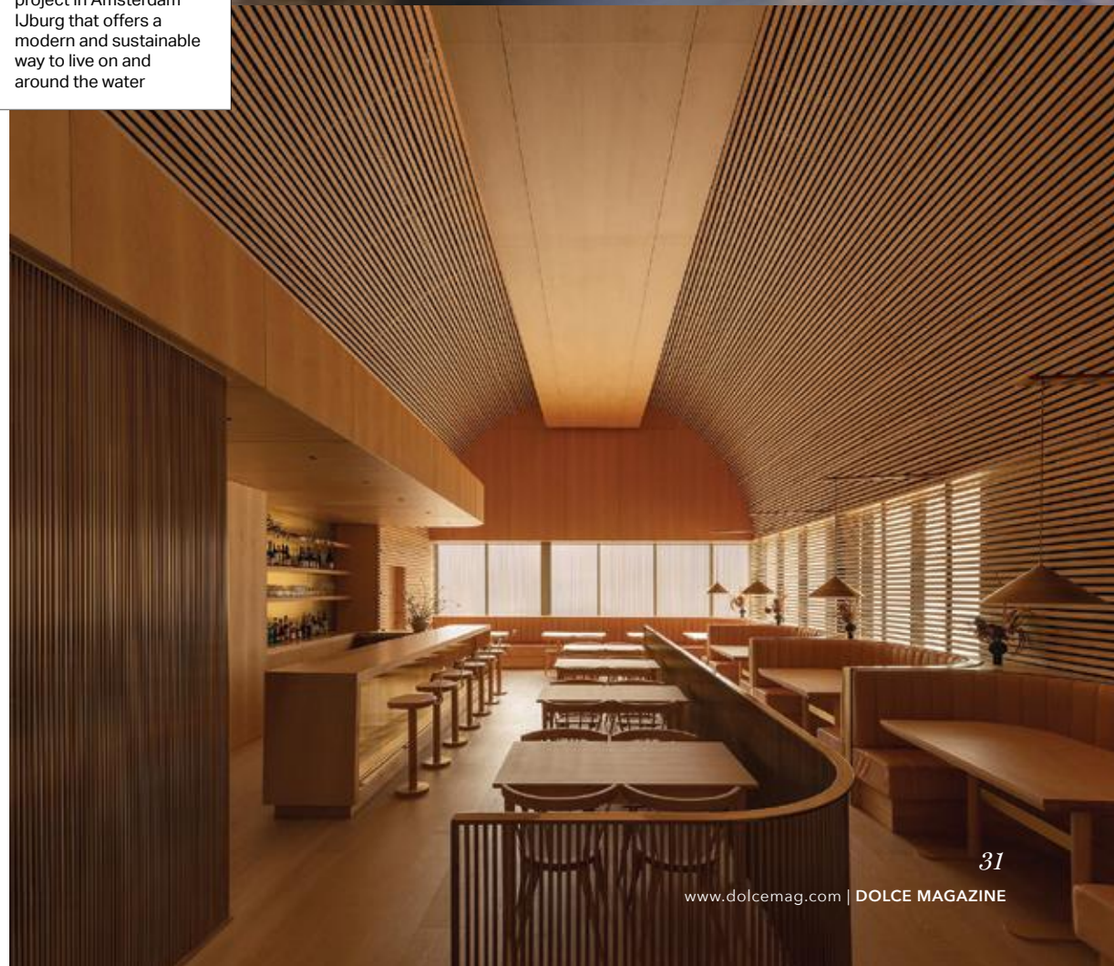
talents in the architectural realm, AMP has already started with the preparations for the 2024 Awards ceremony.

The 2023 winners' list includes:

- **Architectural Designs of the Year:** Shared by Sluishuis by Barcode Architects and BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group and New Temple Complex by James Gorst Architects
- **Interior Design of the Year:** Prime Seafood Palace by Omar Gandhi Architects
- **Urban Design of the Year:** DJI Sky City by W&B Design International Pty. Ltd.
- **Architectural Firm of the Year:** IBUKU
- **Interior Design Firm of the Year**: Raul Sanchez Architects
- **Landscape Architecture Firm of the Year:** JL Design
- **Product Design of the Year:** Unburnt Circular Tile by loqa

The complete list of winners is available on AMP's website.

architectureprize.com
@architecturemasterprize





The "twice-around-the-clock" challenge stops for no one as racers show off some of the action during the night

Rolex & Daytona *A MATCH MADE IN* HEAVEN

The iconic crown and motorsports' most illustrious racing event joined forces at The Rolex 24 at Daytona

WRITTEN BY **MARC CASTALDO**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROLEX





Jenson Button sports a specially engraved Oyster Perpetual Cosmograph Daytona watch which will be presented to this year's winners of the Rolex 24 at Daytona

The story of Rolex from its origin to what it has become today is a monumental tale, inextricably linked to founder Hans Wilsdorf and his visionary spirit.

But Rolex is much more than the iconic crown you want to see on your wrist. Many people are unaware of Rolex's pursuit of excellence beyond by the realm of watchmaking. Its support through the years of arts and culture, exploration, sustainability and sports has allowed dreams to come true and made a lasting impact on society.

One of those is Rolex's longstanding ties with motorsports. It has been a prominent supporter of the dazzling, dramatic and demanding 24 Hours of Le Mans since the 1960s and the official Title Sponsor since 1992.

This race, also known as the "twice-around-the-clock challenge," draws the world's élite-calibre drivers and teams to compete in a battle of endurance, automotive reliability and tenacity.

But this year's competition was extraordinary. Not only did it mark the start of the Swiss watchmaker's presence in the 2024 racing season, it also celebrated the 65th anniversary of Daytona.

On January 27th at 1:40 p.m., the Rolex 24-hour clock signalled the start of the Rolex 24 at Daytona. The competitors demonstrated their own fiery spirits by burning rubber the best way they knew how on the track at the Daytona International Speedway.

Jenson Button, 2009 FIA Formula 1 World Drivers' Champion and Rolex Testimonee was eager to compete. In his 17 years in Formula 1, Button achieved 15 Grand Prix wins and 50 podium finishes.

> "AS A RACING DRIVER, I LOVE ROLEX'S HISTORIC CONNECTION TO MOTORSPORT, A RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME"

"The Rolex 24 At Daytona is an incredibly special race, and it will be an honour to compete, especially as a Rolex Testimonee. It's definitely something I would never have dreamed possible," says Button.

"To the victor go the spoils" is an adage that is firmly understood by all the competitors as winners of this race receive respect and glory. While winning remains the primary goal, the competition historically has been geared toward encouraging manufacturers to build sporty yet reliable cars, with innovation at the forefront. Above all, this demanding race requires durable, reliable and fuel-efficient vehicles that spend as little time in the pits as possible.

With that in mind, the Oyster Perpetual Cosmograph Daytona watch was crafted to exemplify precision and endurance.

The timepiece boasts a smooth second-hand sweep, allowing an accurate reading of 1/8 second, while the two counters on the dial display the lapsed time in hours and minutes. Drivers can accurately map out their track times and tactics without fail.

Button says, "As a racing driver, I love Rolex's historic connection to motorsport, a relationship that has stood the test of time. Through its dedication to speed and motorsport, Rolex created the Cosmograph, a timepiece that became the iconic Daytona. Everyone knows this watch is for the racing driver, and it's the watch all of us want to win."

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Pioneering a new TORONTO with SOPHISTICATION and VIBRANCY

Hullmark and BGO proudly introduce Beltline Yards, a city-defining neighbourhood that will pave the way for future urban planning

WRITTEN BY **MARC CASTALDO**



Beltline Yards, a design-led neighbourhood that will reframe the mental map of Toronto and the greater region

PHOTO COURTESY OF HULLMARK

Toronto is a city whose character is expressed through its commitment to innovation, culture and, most of all, its architectural design. No matter where you are in the city, whether in the Distillery District, Yorkville or Little Italy, Toronto has defined itself in the world of architecture as a visionary city that reflects the souls of its communities.

Over the past 20 years, the city's skyline has burgeoned, with most of its tall buildings hewing to an exterior-glass aesthetic. While this style of modern architecture is prominent in other global cities including New York, Chicago and Tokyo, the world-class real estate and development firms Hullmark and BentallGreenOak (BGO) have partnered to go against the tide, honouring Toronto's Victorian roots with Beltline Yards.

The community's master plan has been designed by Britain's award-winning architecture and urban planning firm Allies and Morrison. Planned to be fully approved with Phase 1, at the intersection of Bowie Avenue and Caledonia Road, shovel-ready in 2026, at the intersection of Bowie Avenue and Caledonia Road, this project is very much a



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR *DOLCE*'S EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE OF OUR INTERVIEW WITH THE MINDS BEHIND BELTLINE YARDS

Alfredo Caraballo, partner at Allies and Morrison (left), Jeff Hull, president of Hullmark (centre) and Ross Strowger, managing director and portfolio manager of BGO (right), all share a palpable and unmatched camaraderie

PHOTO BY EMAD MOHAMMADI



Beltline Yards's collection of distinctive buildings will make it the city's newest landmark destination and add a new chapter to Toronto's architectural history

product of its community-driven environment. The neighbourhood's proximity to the design district will play a pivotal role in the project's style and function.

Beltline Yards is set to showcase transit-connected urban planning, a variety of housing tenures, including purpose-built rental housing, employment space for innovative retail and light industry, high-quality public spaces, that makers, residents and visitors can connect and access local shops, eateries, etc. and parkland connecting to the city's most expansive linear park system.

"Toronto is a gridded city. It's very rational, and certain aspects of the project's composition have a sort of informality that we enjoy. The duality of the formal and informal features is central to our design approach," says Alfredo Caraballo, partner at Allies and Morrison.

With a desire to create a standout silhouette in the project's rigorous setting, the use of brick was inspired to create the overall architectural typology.

"We like robust buildings. Brick is a really nice material because it gets better with age, and we like to think our work will stand the test of time," says Caraballo.

The ethos of the Beltline Yards was to utilize the space and effectively build upon what was already there. With a total of 7.3 acres (almost 320,000 square feet) of land, located adjacent to the new transit hub at Caledonia Station, connecting to the Eglinton Crosstown LRT Station, the opportunity to streamline city connectivity could not be passed over.

"The city is crying for housing," says Ross Strowger, managing director and portfolio manager of BGO. "The best way to bring housing to the city is through institutional investment into prime areas. But it's the community itself that

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HULLMARK

> WE HAVE THE DREAM TEAM HERE, BETWEEN HULLMARK, ALLIES AND MORRISON AND BGO





At the development's heart: effectively using green space to create a community where whatever you need is within walking distance

dictates what the development will entail, and we intend to deliver a mix of uses and bring it all together at the Beltline Yards."

Central to this is an acre (43,000 square feet) of publicly accessible park, an open-air covered yard and over 10,000 square feet (almost 1,000 square metres) of community space, all centrally located in the heart of the site. In addition to bringing thoughtful and much-needed intensification to a key transit intersection, Beltline Yards will boast almost four acres (1.6 hectares), or over 160,000 square feet, of open space.

Jeff Hull, president of Hullmark, couldn't be more thrilled and confident about the firm's first master-planned community. The culmination of a series of projects that Hullmark has already completed that reflect a real community and design approach, this master plan that builds upon years of award-winning experience.

"This project is destined for success," says Hull.

Launched in 1950 by Murphy Hull, Jeff Hull's grandfather, Hullmark quickly built a reputation by investing in suburban communities and mixed-use neighbourhoods, as seen in other projects such as Yonge and Sheppard's Hullmark Centre. In 2008, Jeff Hull took over the business and transitioned the company to focus on its growing expertise in iconic and community-driven urban neighbourhoods. Today Hullmark has become a pillar of Toronto urban development and a major influencer of the city's future.

"We have the dream team here, between Hullmark, Allies and Morrison and BGO," says Hull.

For years, the three powerhouse firms shared a desire to collaborate on a special project, and now the stars have aligned. Hull recalls first meeting Caraballo after inviting him to an international design competition in which, "Allies and Morrison blew the competition out of the water," says Hull.

Bringing Beltline Yards to life would not have been possible without the support and collective vision shared by BGO, Hull notes. "Ross is an incredible partner. He has been with us every step of the way, supporting the long-term vision we have," he says.

The architectural brilliance of Alfredo Caraballo, the incredible support of Ross Strowger, and the eclectic expertise of Jeff Hull are sure to enhance both the potential and spirit of Beltline Yards and the wonderful neighbourhood it's situated in.

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Discover the enchanting

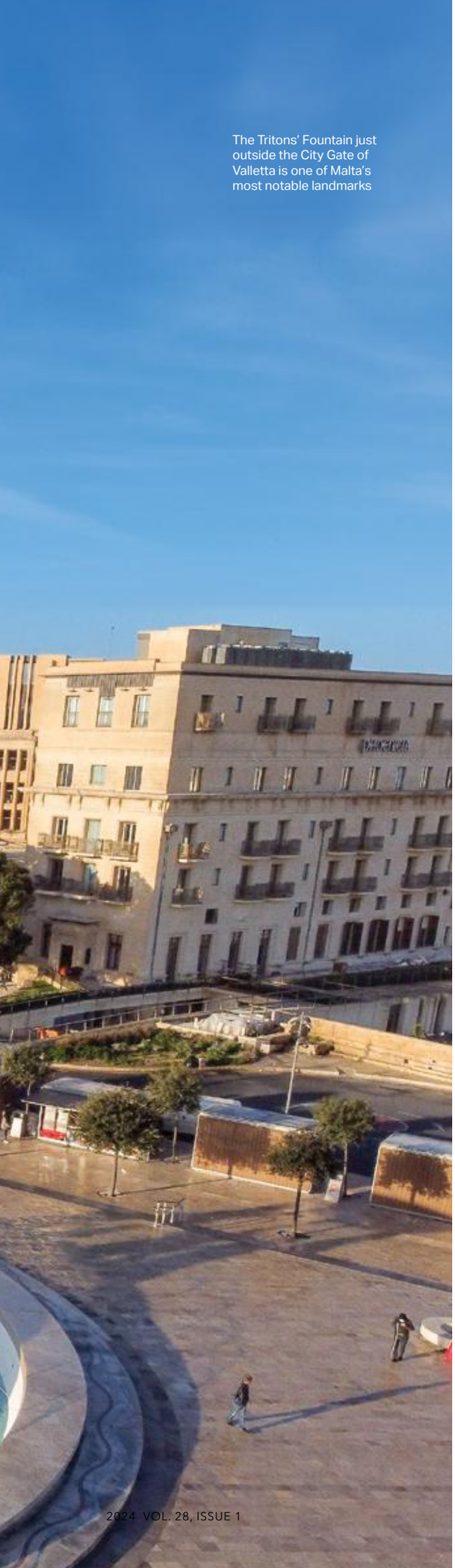
BEAUTY of MALTA

Embark on a quest of self-discovery in a place where love, culture and rich history will ignite your soul

WRITTEN BY **MARC CASTALDO**



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PHOENICIA MALTA



The Tritons' Fountain just outside the City Gate of Valletta is one of Malta's most notable landmarks

A walk through the quaint old streets of the fortified city of Birgu, also known as Città Vittoriosa, will immerse you in a world of natural beauty and tranquillity

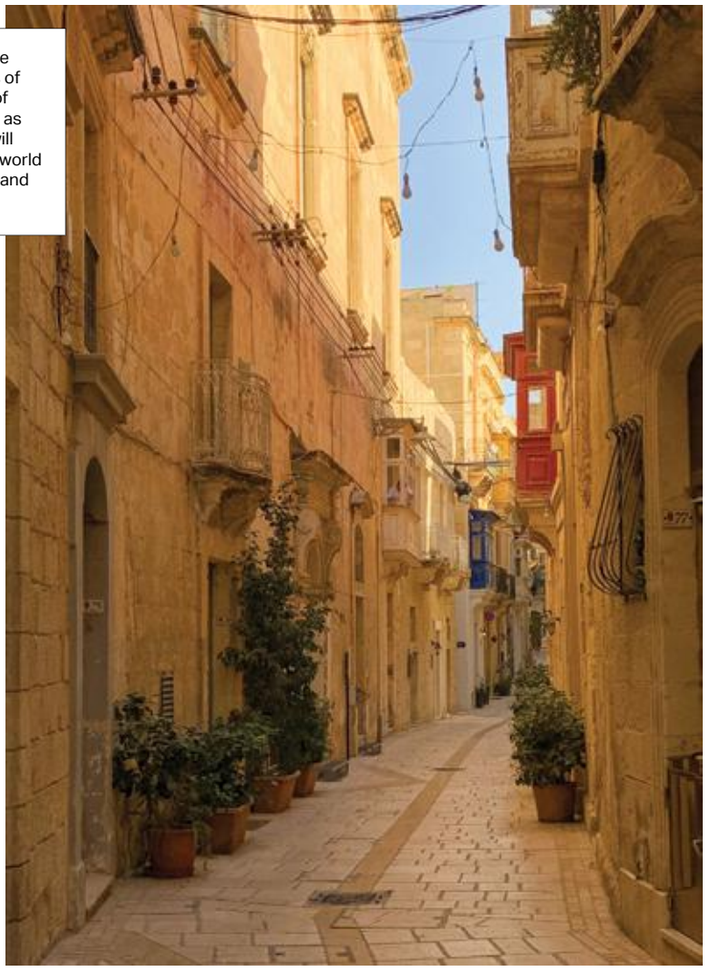


PHOTO BY MARC CASTALDO

I never imagined that my love for writing would take me on beautiful adventures across the globe. When I got the news that I'd been assigned to write about a one-week trip to Malta, I was overtaken by a combination of excitement and nervousness — I had never visited the tiny island nation and had no idea what to expect.

What is the weather like? How is the food? What is there to do? What languages do they speak? Truthfully, at that point, if someone had asked me to point to Malta on a map, I would not have known where to look.

Little did I know that although Malta is one of Europe's smallest countries, it is one of the most beautiful countries in the world, one that naturally rewards exploration and curiosity with the discovery of your truest passions. From the moment I stepped onto the island and the rays of the Mediterranean sun hit me, I was overwhelmed with happiness and serenity. As I walked along the cobblestone streets, listening to the sounds of the neighbourhood, observing the energy of the locals and gazing at the villas that overlooked the water, I soon realized that Malta is one with *la dolce vita*.

However, Malta is more than exquisite food, gorgeous sunny weather and rustic architecture. It is a country with a forgotten yet profound history that has defined its identity and forged its all-or-nothing attitude. A British colony before gaining its independence in 1964, Malta still holds a tragic record as the most heavily bombed country in the world: 16,000 tons of bombs were dropped on it between 1940 and 1943 during the Second World War. It has the highest density of UNESCO World Heritage Sites of any nation-state anywhere. Throughout the centuries, its islands have been conquered by the Phoenicians, Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Normans, Sicilians, Swabians, Aragonese, Knights Hospitallers, French and British.

The Maltese are in a never-ending battle to preserve the unique culture that has arisen from this intense history, a multicultural mix that is evident everywhere — from the classic dark features of the Maltese people to the complexities of the Maltese language to the country's cuisine and architecture to the values it stands for.

My travels began at the multi-award-winning Phoenicia Malta, a five-star hotel located just outside the lively capital of Valletta and surrounded by gorgeous gardens. I was immediately embraced by its warmth and its high level of bespoke accommodations.

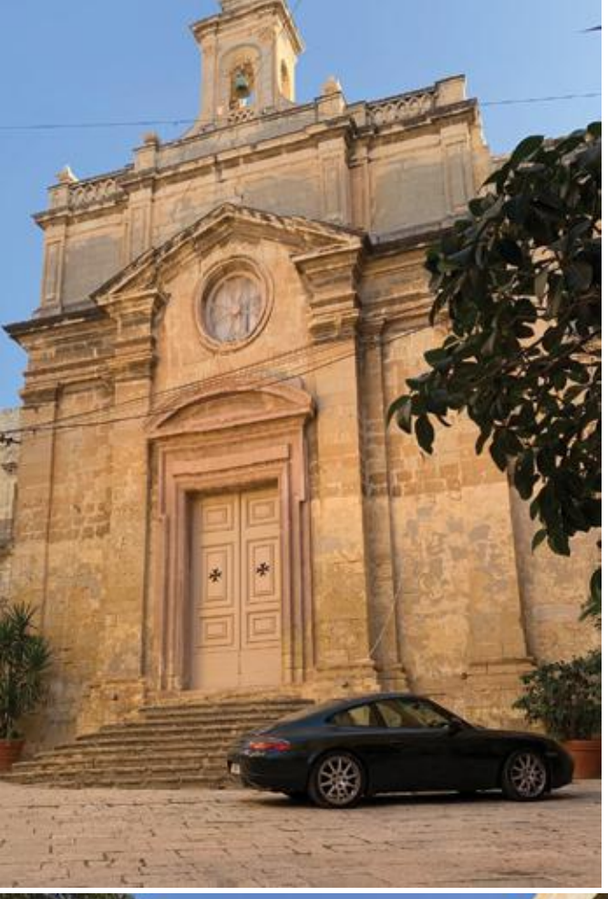






PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PHOENICIA MALTA

From my visit to the salt pans of Qbajjar Bay on Malta's sister island of Gozo, famous for its majestic hills and superb sea views, to my enjoyment of the artisanal fare and exquisite wines at Ta' Betta Wine Estates overlooking the Maltese countryside, I can't think of a time I've ever been happier



During my stay I learned that for the past 75 years stars, socialites and the crowned heads of Europe, including Queen Elizabeth II, have been guests. In fact, before being crowned, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip lived in Malta for three years and are remembered for their joy of dancing in the great ballroom of the Phoenicia Malta.

Dining at Phoenix, the Phoenicia's restaurant, was a luxurious experience from décor to cuisine. As the hostess walked me to my table, I was serenaded by piano tunes accompanied by smooth vocals. Dishes like *fiori di zucca fritti* (fried zucchini flowers), swordfish carpaccio and grilled *lampuki* (dolphinfish) beautifully showcased the restaurant's culinary repertoire.

The next morning, I enjoyed a traditional Maltese coffee on my balcony specially prepared by the staff as I watched the sun rise over the town of Floriana. At that moment, I decided to make each day my masterpiece.

My days would consist of strolling through the beautiful Upper Barrakka Gardens, wining and dining at rustic wineries like Ta' Betta Wine Estates and San Niklaw Winery, immersing myself in Malta's history of survival by going through the tunnels of Underground Valetta, and gazing at the most beautiful works of art by Mattia Preti and Caravaggio at St. John's Co-Cathedral.

In the evenings, dining at distinguished Michelin Star restaurants like the ION Harbour by Simon Rogan at the beautiful Iniala Harbour House Hotel and the de Mondion Restaurant became the standard. Both provided extraordinary dishes and scenic views from their rooftop terrace vantage points. Above all else, the level of exceptional service left me speechless. The staff functioned as

PHOTOS BY MARC CASTALDO

a synchronized unit, highly sensitive to a guest's every need, trained not just to serve but to care — to the point that when the evening breeze became a bit chilly a server swiftly appeared with blankets to keep guests warm before they even had to ask. That, in a nutshell, is the Maltese way. Not doing things out of obligation but out of consideration.

Nevertheless, many Maltese people are disheartened when it comes to their cultural identity. Its diversity and history of foreign invaders have left them asking: Who are we? What is pure Maltese culture? What do we stand for as a country? Although these are difficult questions to pose, let alone answer, my response is: the people of Malta have not allowed their country's complicated past to destroy them. Instead, they have used it to create a better future. The values that Malta stands for are reflected in their eagerness to welcome travellers from all over the world, their gastronomy and agricultural practices, their preservation of art and history and, above all else, their pride in living in the moment with gratitude.

Although my Malta trip came to an end, my journey did not stop there. I had the incredible opportunity of flying with Turkish Airlines throughout my travels. From the delicious in-flight dining to the personable flight staff, the flight was the cherry on top and overall difference-maker, which put my frantic airport mind at ease. But the best part of flying with Turkish Airlines is its exciting stopover in Istanbul.

The Istanbul Stopover program offers passengers connecting via Istanbul the opportunity to explore the ancient capital of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire and the Ottoman Empire, which is renowned for its blend of contemporary culture and ancient traditions. My travels were enriched by discovering the city's history, cuisine and cultural life as I visited the Galataport, the Ancient City of Ephesus and walked through the Grand Bazaar.

When I reflect on all the incredible moments I experienced and the beautiful people I met during my travels, it is difficult to describe how that one week will forever resonate in my heart.

The greatest lesson I learned was that life is not a problem to be solved but a gift to be experienced to the fullest. Life is beautiful when it is the purest of things that bring you happiness — something as simple as watching the sun slowly rise with a momentous glow as if the sky has cracked open into heaven or giving the ones you love a spontaneous hug for no other reason than because you love them. Live life beautifully and travel with no regrets.

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Gozitans know that good food, wine and company are necessities for the good life. Wholesome restaurants like Maldonado Bistro hosted my private cooking class and introduced me to flavourful classic Maltese and Gozitan dishes that included spicy *Bigilla* (bean dip), *Pastizzi tal-Gobon* (cheesecakes), *Ftira ta' l-Ancova* (anchovy tart) and *Qubbajt tal-Lewz u l-Lumi* (nougat with almonds and lemon)







LIANNE HANNAWAY

The newly appointed CEO of the Black Business and Professional Association discusses her vision for the organization and being thrown into the deep end

WRITTEN BY **JOSH WALKER**
INTERVIEW BY **MARC CASTALDO**

A Chartered Accountant with a Bachelor of Mathematics and a Master of Accountancy from the University of Waterloo, Hannaway is helping women reach their financial goals with her podcast "No Boss of Me" so they can live better and have a positive impact on their own families' lives, our communities and our economy

PHOTO BY ANDREEA MUSCUREL

DRIVING POSITIVE CHANGE

At the start of 2024, Lianne Hannaway was named CEO of the Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA), a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to addressing equity and opportunity for Canada's Black communities across business, employment, education and economic development.

For Hannaway, it isn't just her first CEO role but a position she feels she was meant to hold. "When the role popped up I originally looked at it and said, 'I don't know,'" she says. "But four different people sent me the role and said, 'Leanne, this is for you.' Normally, I might have dismissed that, but because of intuition, listening to what ancestors were saying and the signs in front of me, and knowing that apprehension is information rather than a reason not to do something, it felt like this is what I was meant to do."

The role itself is an important one and will see Hannaway working with the company's board, staff and partners to advance its mission. Hannaway also shares how timing had a part to play, since she joined just before Black History Month.

"A lot of the initial introduction was talking about the dos and don'ts of Black History Month and why as the BBPA we're giving out this advice," she says. "It felt like being thrown into the deep end with tons of media on *Breakfast Television*, *CP24*, and a lot of people reaching out with congratulations, excited about the fresh perspective I'll bring to this 42-year-old organization."

She continues to say how the work the BBPA is doing is vital because "diversity, equity and inclusion is going through a backlash period." For that reason, Hannaway has a strong vision for the future of the organization and Black communities in Canada, including making sure the BBPA is financially secure, creating sustainable business models, building wealth in Black communities, addressing systemic issues, and renewing its relevance in the current landscape.

> "I LOVE THE SAYING 'YOU MISS 100% OF THE SHOTS YOU DON'T TAKE.' I DON'T FEAR MAKING MISTAKES"

"We have big roots in Caribbean pockets because 42 years ago there was that need in Canada," she says. "Now, we have immigrants coming from Africa and West Africa. What are their needs now? They might be different than what we had 42 years ago, and we need to remain relevant."

She also emphasizes the need for federal, provincial and municipal governments to "make a sustained, long-term investment in the health and welfare of Black communities. I think that's non-negotiable. Black people pay a ton of taxes and we don't see that come back to our communities. We see ourselves being gentrified out of our communities, big developers coming in and pushing us out. Our festivals bring in a lot of dollars and those don't come back to us."

Naturally, with a position like Hannaway's, good advice goes a long way, and she talks about the moments of wisdom she's received that she takes with her. Where one person told her to do something she loves every week, another said to be like a duck on water. When you see ducks, "they're gliding, beautiful, slicing through water," Hannaway explains. "But underneath, their feet are paddling like crazy."

Hannaway grew up in Winnipeg, with her father from Jamaica and her mother from Trinidad. Today, she brings almost 25 years of experience in strategic leadership and transformation, governance, financial management, and community development to the CEO role.

"I don't let mistakes stop me," she says early in our interview. "I love the saying 'You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.' I don't fear making mistakes. If I don't learn from it, that's when I know I've actually failed."

bbpa.org
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Keeping it BOSS WITH *NAOMI CAMPBELL*

Hugo Boss will sponsor the "NAOMI: In Fashion" exhibition at the V&A in honour of fashion icon Naomi Campbell's 40-year career

WRITTEN BY **MARC CASTALDO**

Proclaimed as one of the five original supermodels by the fashion industry and the international press, Naomi Campbell has always felt at home on the runway. It is where she dropped the jaws of the audience and broke barriers.

She was the first Black model to appear on the cover of *TIME* magazine, *Vogue France* and *Vogue Russia* as well as the first Black British model to appear on the cover of *British Vogue*, all while effortlessly bringing the collections of the most prominent fashion designers in the world into the spotlight.

The London-born model, actress, innovator and philanthropic activist has continued to bring her career to new heights as Hugo Boss announces its sponsorship of Campbell's most anticipated exhibition, "NAOMI: In Fashion," at Victoria & Albert Museum South Kensington, which will showcase her extensive wardrobe of looks from key moments in her career, along with loans from designer archives and objects from the the V&A's own collections.

This model-dedicated retrospective exhibition, the first in the museum's history, is set to kick off on June 22, 2024, and will run until April 6, 2025.

Sonnet Stanfill, senior curator of fashion at the V&A, said, "The V&A relies on the generosity of its partners and so we are delighted to have received support from Boss for this exhibition, enabling us to showcase Naomi Campbell's exceptional career. We are thrilled to display a striking suit ensemble by Boss which encapsulates Naomi Campbell's creative collaboration with the brand."

Marco Falcioni, SVP of creative direction at Hugo Boss, said "To have a Boss look displayed in one of the world's most renowned cultural institutions is truly a great honour, especially when it highlights the unique and special relationship we have with Naomi. We are incredibly proud to have played such a significant role in her unparalleled career and to be able to support the V&A with this exhibition."

A momentous exhibition like this is one of celebration but also inspiration, and it is a testament to Campbell's unwavering dedication to her decades-long career, which began when she was eight years old.

www.naomicampbell.com
@naomi



Sonnet Stanfill, senior curator of fashion at the V&A, selected the grey wool ensemble to showcase the remarkable impact that Campbell's collaboration with the Boss brand has made in her trailblazing career

PHOTO COURTESY OF HUGO BOSS

DOLCE EMPOWERING WOMEN

Dolce is proud to present its Spring Edition class of empowering women, whose passion and excellence continue to inspire the next generation of women

TEXT BY **MARC CASTALDO**

Spring is the time of the year when the birds are chirping, flowers are blossoming, and the cold ends. But as we slowly approach warmer weather in the new year, we can't help but reflect on what the past year has been like. It is reasonable to say that we have endured some of the most troubling times in recent years, and seen the world wracked by sickness and warfare on an international scale.

Resilience, now more than ever, deserves to be acknowledged. *Dolce* is honoured to showcase this class of incredible women because their resilient spirit has inspired others to pursue their goals, no matter how daunting the path may be ... that is what *la dolce vita* is all about.

These intelligent and beautiful women demonstrate that "the sweet life" is not about materialism. It is about dedicating your life to your passion and seizing doors of opportunity when they arise, thereby reaching your full potential.

We are proud of every one of these incredible women because they refuse to give up. The success of their life's work reflects the beauty of their character and work ethic.

As the famous Italian proverb observes, forza e coraggio che la vita è un passaggio, which means: "Strength and courage, for life is a passage."

DOLCE EMPOWERING WOMEN



1. PAULA STACHYRA
Award-winning chef, media personality and dynamic entrepreneur is reigning over multiple industries with her expertise. She is the best-selling cookbook author of "Wing Crush – 100 Epic Recipes" and "The Big Book of Barbecue on Your Pellet Grill" set to release on May 7, 2024. Proudly featured on AC BBQ by Cedric the Entertainer and Anthony Anderson, The Food Network, and more. When she's not cooking she embraces her love of fashion and creative expression through modelling and acting.
@queenofthegrill



2. DIANE KROE
If not for the visionary eye of Canadian designer Diane Kroe, the fashion industry would not be what it is today. Believing in her less-is-more design concept, she always faced and conquered the challenges of managing a solo woman-owned fashion brand. Navigating through evolving trends, her passion fueled her perseverance. While the fashion industry is widely considered to be the most demanding, her collections have been revered for their elegance, versatility, and style.
www.dianekroe.com **@dianekroestyle**



3. SALT. FINE JEWELRY
Experience the transformative elegance of SALT. Fine Jewelry by Sally Brooks and Tara Turnbull. Founded in 2017, this visionary brand effortlessly transitions daily to night, offering versatile pieces with deep meaning. SALT., known for diamond jewelry also works with gemstones such as emeralds, sapphires, moonstones, and more. From personalized jewelry, and beautiful talismans, to their stunning earrings. Discover the epitome of women's style and personal expression.
www.saltfinejewelry.ca **@saltfinejewelry**



4. LISA DE LA PRECILLA
Owner and Creator of Elle Design Planning, which she operates from the design studio Coco by Covers Couture. Combining expert craft, detail and experience in all event facets. Over the years, she has developed an eclectic style that is unique to her business and her client's interests. She works to ensure that their visions come to life and seeing their happiness brings joy and motivation to continue to do what she loves.
elledesignplanning.ca **@elle.design.planning**



5. ROXY ZAPALA
Founder and Creative Director of Art of Celebrations Event Planning + Design Firm and the event industry's triple threat – an event planner, a floral designer, and an interior design consultant. With over 20 years of local and international special event production, her work has garnered worldwide recognition. Her passion continues to grow as she is also the Founder and Director of the SickKids Fired-Up Gala - an annual event benefiting the Burns and Plastics Unit at the SickKids Hospital in Toronto.
artofcelebrations.com **@artofcelebrations**



6. AMELIA MALTEPE
Amelia Maltepe is a trailblazer in transgender rights, real estate and fashion, redefining norms in Toronto. Known for transforming properties, she's equally influential in advocating for transgender rights and breaking fashion barriers. Her story exemplifies resilience, courage and embracing one's true identity.
www.ameliamaltepe.com **@ameliamaltepe**



7. DEB NIVEN AND ALLISON FRAME
Co-founders of The Divine Destination Collection, a luxury boutique travel company offering a carefully curated selection of life-changing travel adventures. They craft experiences that steep you in luxury while unveiling the most unique, unusual and sacred aspects of faraway places along with uncommon encounters and magical moments that touch the heart and rejuvenate the spirit. This is truly Travel with Meaning!
www.divinedestinationcollection.com
@traveltddc



8. LEILA LAVAEE
A travel enthusiast, enabler and entrepreneur. She is the Founder & Chief Travel Designer of Travel Design by Leila, a boutique travel concierge and agency that creates once-in-a-lifetime trips and experiences for travel lovers. Leila travelled to 90+ countries, and her mission is to educate, inspire and assist travel lovers to explore our beautiful world.
traveldesignbyleila.com **@travel.design.by.leila**



9. LIA BAIOCCHI
A leader, mentor, and visionary! Owner & Director of Maya Advanced Skin and Body Care, Lia Baiocchi has continually redefined beauty for over 20 years through ongoing education, setting new standards in clinically effective skin treatments. She pioneers the industry with a stellar reputation, passionately overseeing daily operations and bridging the gap between medical aesthetics and spa serenity.
www.mayaskinandbodycare.com
@mayaaesthetics



10. KARY DICK
Second Nature Boutique's family-owned business has been a beacon of style and sustainability since 1974. Founded by Kary's mother, Ruth, their mission has always been to empower women with affordable, luxury fashion. Kary and her daughter, Jenna, inject new energy, driving growth and customer satisfaction. They prioritize eco-friendly practices, excellence, and empathy, ensuring each customer feels valued. Kary's move to a second location solidifies a legacy of integrity, resilience, and inclusivity.
Secondnaturebtq.com **@secondnatureboutique**



11. G.C. & CO. SALON AND MED SPA
Facialist of 29 years, Gianna Ugolini is celebrated for her unparalleled facial massage techniques. Beyond her mastery in skincare, she's the innovative mind behind her NEW revolutionary "Cleansing Oil." Viral since its release in 2023 and along with her transformative touch, she has established herself as a luminary in the world of beauty and skin rejuvenation.
www.gcandco.ca **@gianna_gcandco**



12. VIRGINIA AND ISABELLA MUNDEN
Virginia and Isabella Munden, Founders, Buzz Buzz Media Inc., a dynamic Canadian Real Estate Media Agency, innovates and enhances the industry. Their mission is strategic elevation for all Real Estate Professionals, Brands, Partners, and Alliances nationwide, fulfilling clients' dreams of homeownership. The BUZZ Conference stands as Canada's Premier Real Estate Conference.
www.buzzbuzzmediainc.com
@thebuzzconference

THE PINNACLE OF LIVING ABOVE IT ALL

Bentley Residences Miami will set a new level of luxurious oceanfront living, bringing the same calibre of design, craftmanship and luxury that have made Bentley famous in the automotive world for more than a century by creating the finest residential living in South Florida

WRITTEN BY **RICK MULLER**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BENTLEY RESIDENCES



The innovative "Dezervator" elevator system can bring up to four cars directly to residents' Sky Garages adjacent to their homes no matter what level they live on

Bentley has long been a name synonymous with luxury and high performance in the automotive world. There is something about that distinctive Bentley front grille with the centred winged "B" preceding you that says you have arrived. Bentley has taken its renowned brand to the world of residences, taking its luxury cachet and reputation for high-performance design to the next level — 63 levels, to be exact — in South Florida with the Bentley Residences Miami.

Developed by Dezer Development with Sieger Suarez Architects and stunning interior and exterior design by Bentley Motors, Bentley Residences Miami will command a coveted 2.4-acre site with 200-feet of frontage on Sunny Isles Beach and will embody a new level of bespoke curated luxury in residential living. The tower features a distinctive diamond-shaped glass-panel façade inspired by Bentley's iconic signature, the winged motif recognizable in all of the brand's products and cars.

Bentley Residences Miami features just 216 residences in its soaring 228-metre tower, providing spacious outdoor and indoor private living quarters all with sweeping Atlantic Ocean and Intercoastal Waterway views through the properties' floor-to-ceiling windows. Residents and their guests are greeted by an expansive three-storey lobby with ocean views that leads to more than 20,000 square feet of first-class amenities exquisitely designed by Bentley, featuring finishings from the Bentley Home collection.

The Lobby Bar and Restaurant features 33-foot-high windows for optimal waterfront viewing, and celebrity chef Todd English, stationed in the lobby, crafts exclusive breakfast, lunch and dinner experiences for residents. The Lounge and first-of-its-kind Macallan Whisky Bar at the mezzanine level are inspired by the famous matrix grille of Bentley's cars.

Given the brand's storied history, it is perhaps no surprise that cars are given special treatment at Bentley Residences Miami. An innovative elevator system called "The Dezervator" seamlessly transports up to four cars directly to residents' private sky garages, regardless of floor level. To continue the Bentley theme, the movie theatre, which features plush seating for 14 people, is designed to mimic a Bentley car interior, of course. Naturally, a Bentley house car is at the service of residents for convenient trips to the market and beyond.

Residential amenities also include a private dining room for 16 people, an elegant cigar lounge with pool table and large-screen television, along with an Oceanfront Beauty Salon, Games Room and even a kid's club with children's games and programmed activities.

While these amenities have been provided and designed to foster a socially engaged lifestyle, Bentley Residences Miami also realizes that a complete lifestyle also includes health, well-being and serenity for the spirit and the soul and has also provided a state-of-the-art fitness centre that includes an outdoor terrace fitted with the latest equipment, an outdoor yoga studio and men's and women's locker rooms with steam and saunas. There is also a transformative wellness spa featuring outdoor relaxation for before and after treatments as well as an expansive revitalization spa with treatment rooms for singles and couples.

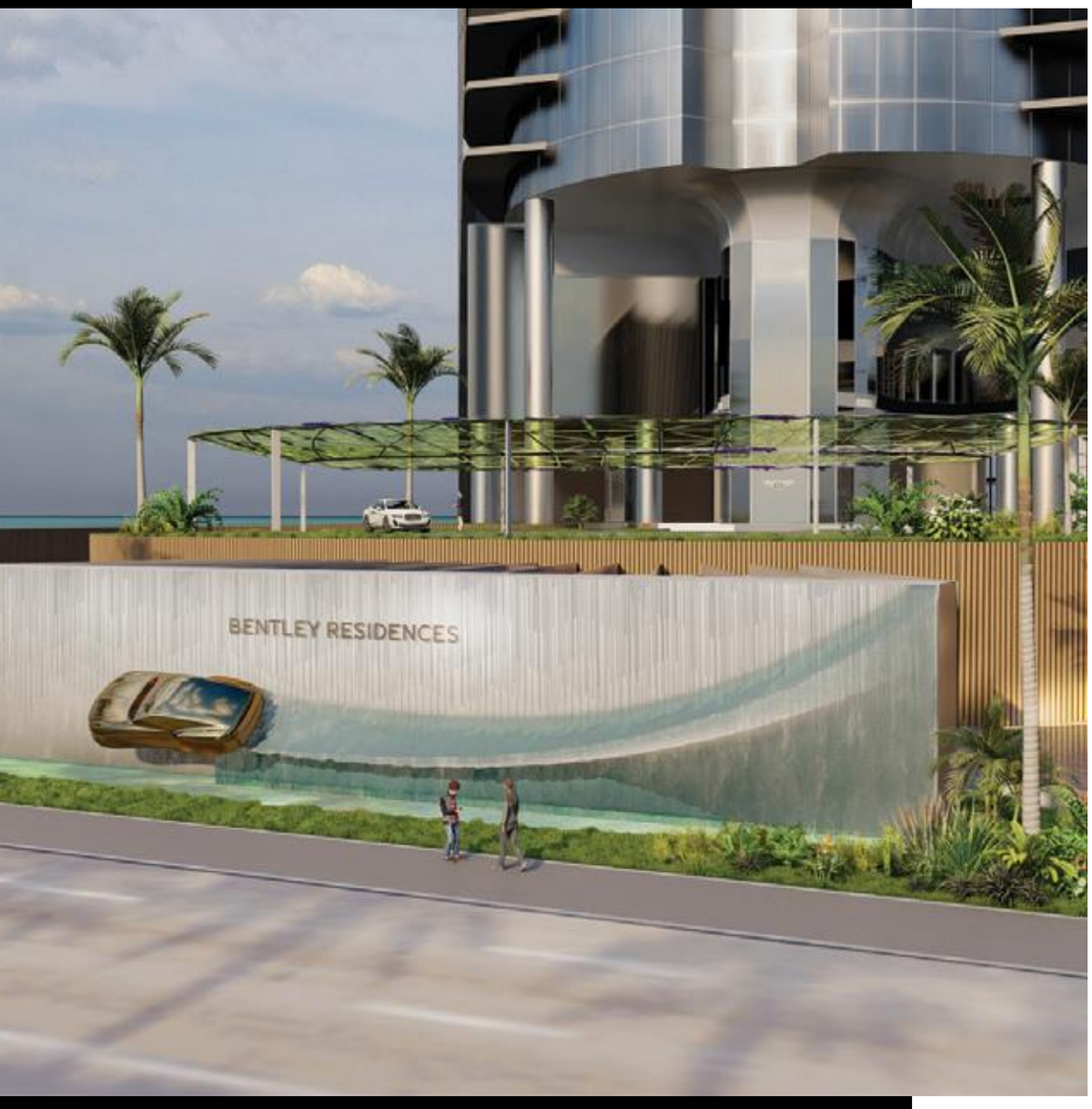
Individual residences all have three bedrooms with 3.5 baths, ranging in size from 5,698 to 6,333 square feet, and all include a private heated swimming pool with a raised sundeck. From a private direct-to-suite elevator, residence entry is through an eight-foot double-door grand entrance into the private foyer. Smooth-finish ceilings are 10 feet high, and the expansive feel is enhanced by an oversize balcony and terraces, which create an extension to the private living space adjacent to the grand family room. The outdoor spaces are effortlessly accessed with single-touch-opening and -closing sliding glass doors, and all residences include smart climate controls with digital thermostats — further high-performance technology from Bentley.

The kitchens are ideal for entertaining and gourmet cooking and each features Italian-designed kitchen cabinets with motorized doors



Among the 20,000 square feet of amenities is a fully-equipped state-of-the-art fitness centre with an outdoor terrace fitted with the latest equipment

Bentley Residences Miami will bring an elevated sense of style and sophistication to its Sunny Isles Beach location in South Florida



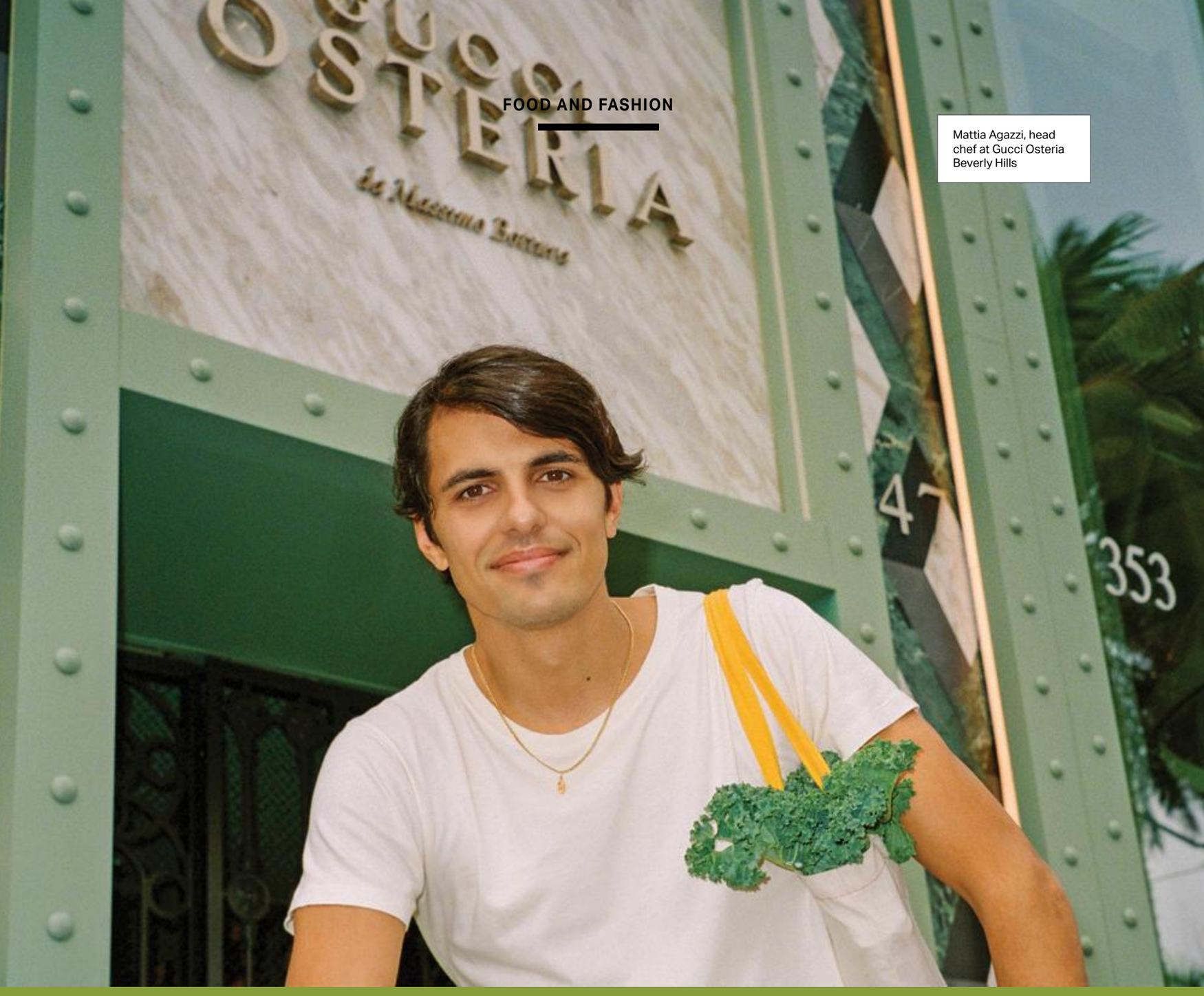
and large islands, and premium-quality stone countertops and backsplashes add to the elegance and functionality of the space, as do the kitchen's state-of-the-art Gaggenau appliances, which include a tall wine cooler, steam and convection oven, electric cooktop, refrigerator, freezer and coffee machine.

The primary bedroom includes large walk-in closets, and primary bathrooms feature stone floors, walls and vanity countertops as well as a towel warmer, Toto Neorest toilets with integrated bidet technology, and a behind-mirror television above the double vanity. Primary bedrooms also feature a sauna and freestanding tub; East residences feature access to an outdoor shower.

The Residences' 24-hour valet service complements everyday living, taking care of such tasks as travel arrangements, restaurant, hotel and limousine reservations, or perhaps the booking of a yacht, a golf tee-off time or a tennis court, however the mood may strike. There are also à la carte services such as housekeeping or handyman services, dog-walking and grooming, and arranging for a personal chef or trainer, which the residents pay for directly, and are taken care of by the Lifestyle Concierge. In every way and at every turn, Bentley Residences Miami embraces oceanside living at its finest.

With its high performance and services enhanced by elevated elegance and luxury, Bentley Residences Miami is everything you might expect from one of the world's most iconic brands, but on a much grander scale.

bentleyresidencesmiami.com
@bentleymotors



Mattia Agazzi, head chef at Gucci Osteria Beverly Hills

GUCCI OSTERIA FOOD is FASHION

Gucci Osteria da Massimo Bottura Beverly Hills combines food and fashion in an elegant rooftop space with Gucci Décor touches and a modern Italian menu expressed by a young and talented chef

WRITTEN BY **RUBA RAHIM**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GUCCI OSTERIA



Mattia Agazzi, sous-chef Vanessa Chiu and pastry chef Tamara Rigo with other members of the restaurant team

On December 12th, 2023, the esteemed annual online guide *50 Top Italy* revealed its highly anticipated ranking of the top 50 Italian restaurants in the world for 2024. Mattia Agazzi, head chef of Gucci Osteria Beverly Hills, accepted the award for 28th place at the gala event that took place at the Teatro San Babila in Milan.

Gucci Osteria Beverly Hills is one of four modern Italian restaurants in the brand's portfolio, which also includes outposts in Tokyo, Seoul and Florence; the latter is the original location of the restaurant group and birthplace of the House of Gucci. Fusing fashion and food, each of the four restaurants is located within a flagship Gucci store. The project is a collaboration between childhood friends and visionaries Gucci CEO Marco Bizzarri and three-Michelin-starred chef Massimo Bottura of Osteria Francescana in Modena. The restaurants share a culinary philosophy that embodies creativity, elegance, humour and sensuality, yet each incorporates local flavours and subtleties to reflect a unique identity and sense of place.

Originally from Bergamo, Chef Mattia Agazzi has had an impressive culinary career working with acclaimed chefs around the globe before landing in the kitchen of Osteria Francescana in 2017. Recognizing his talent and potential, Bottura invited Agazzi to work as sous-chef at Gucci Osteria in Florence the following year, helping the restaurant earn its first Michelin star before accepting the position of head chef at Gucci Osteria Beverly Hills at the beginning of 2020. Pastry chef Tamara Rigo, who worked with Agazzi in Florence and who has trained in the most prestigious kitchens in the world, was chosen by Bottura to help Agazzi launch the restaurant. Also part of the dynamic Beverly Hills kitchen team is Canadian sous-chef Vanessa Chiu.

The menu at Gucci Osteria Beverly Hills is an expression of the mind of a young and talented chef who draws inspiration from his Italian roots and his childhood memories to create and execute playful dishes

Situated on the rooftop of the Gucci Beverly Hills store on Rodeo Drive, the restaurant is accessed via a discreet elevator directly from the street level. Once upstairs, diners are greeted in the stylish reception area, with walls clad in Gucci Décor foliage-printed wallpaper, an ornate red rug on the floor and a dramatic black ceiling featuring star-shaped spotlights. Indoors, herringbone wood flooring and plush red velvet banquettes at once evoke Hollywood glamour and old-school Italian elegance. The outdoor terrace, fitted with Italian marble mosaic flooring and a repurposed wooden pulpit that serves as a bar, offers sweeping views of the Hollywood Hills and the luxury shops of palm-tree-lined Rodeo Drive below. Antique mirrors, red marble dining tables and handcrafted rattan bistro chairs add their ambience to the elegantly casual space. Other eye-catching aesthetics include leather-bound menus, accent chairs upholstered in Gucci-monogrammed fabric and porcelain plateware by Richard Ginori featuring Gucci's Herbarium motif.

The menu at Gucci Osteria Beverly Hills is an expression of the mind of a young and talented chef who draws inspiration from his Italian roots and his childhood memories to create and execute playful dishes. Indispensable Italian ingredients,







1. The elegant space features herringbone wood flooring inside, mosaic Italian marble flooring on the outdoor terrace and accent chairs upholstered in Gucci-monogram fabric.
2. Red velvet banquettes evoke Hollywood glamour; Gucci Décor wallpaper and Italian porcelain plates featuring Gucci's Herbarium motif add distinctive design touches.
3. Whimsy and elegance are defining features of the restaurant and its menu.

such as balsamic vinegar and Parmigiano Reggiano are prominent, while respect is paid to seasonal California produce sourced from local farmers, fishers, cheesemakers and foragers who embrace the values of Slow Food, growing and producing food in a fair, ethical and sustainable way.

Signature dishes include "Coming from the Hills — I Love Rock Climbing," made with local white trout, hazelnuts and mushrooms and developed from Agazzi's childhood memories of foraging and rock climbing in the mountains of Northern Italy. "Risotto Camouflaged as Pizza" honours rice — an ingredient that hails from the chef's home region — while paying homage to the Italian pizza tradition by using pizza ingredients — tomato, basil, stracciatella — as well as burnt caper powder to produce a look reminiscent of pizza crust. Signature dishes from Florence also appear on the Beverly Hills menu, including Bottura's legendary "Emilia Burger," which arrives on the plate in a pink takeout box. It is a nod to both the icon of modern American cuisine and to Bottura's home region of Emilia Romagna, where the cotechino sausage in the patty and the balsamic vinegar that laces its accompanying sauce are produced. Also on the menu is Bottura's famous tortellini, made with a creamy Parmigiano Reggiano sauce. The lunch menu offers a choice of à la carte selections, while the dinner service is only a tasting menu and the Sunday service is a prix-fixe four-course brunch. The wine list is one of L.A.'s most exclusive and includes exceptional pairing options that feature wines from around the world.

Gucci Osteria Tokyo claimed an impressive second place in *50 Top Italy*'s ranking of the top 50 Italian restaurants in the world for 2024. Head chef Antonio Iacoviello also won the Dish of the Year award for his "Pacchero ai 7 Pomodori dei Campi," a dish that combines the finest Italian pasta with a variety of Japanese tomatoes and evokes memories of the summers he spent in his home region of Campania. Along with the honour received by Gucci Osteria Beverly Hills, these remarkable acknowledgements demonstrate the brand's success in advancing and bringing modern Italian cuisine to the world.

www.gucciosteria.com
@gucciosteria



Co-presidents of the Women's Art Association of Canada Alexandra Bratton (left) and Anita Stein are bound by their love of art and laughter-filled friendship

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR *DOLCE*'S EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE OF OUR INTERVIEW WITH ANITA STEIN AND ALEXANDRA BRATTON

PHOTO BY EMAD MOHAMMADI

The Passion of being a CREATIVE FORCE

The Women's Art Association of Canada has been a powerful voice supporting the arts for more than a century

WRITTEN BY **RICK MULLER** | INTERVIEW BY **MARC CASTALDO**

The arts are among the most important threads that weave the rich fabric of our society together. Art is emotive. Art tells a story. Art can inspire the spirit and lift the soul. But for arts to not only survive but thrive in any community, it takes passionate people to support not just the creative life forces art can provide, but also those who create it. "Struggling artist" is not just an expression — it can be a reality.

Passionate people like Anita Stein and Alexandra Bratton, co-presidents of the 230-member Women's Art Association of Canada (WAAC), may be headquartered in Toronto's historic Yorkville neighbourhood but they have influence and reach far beyond that. Their hidden gem of a 19th-century building houses 11 studios which can be rented out by artists who want to further develop their skills. Gallery space within the building is used for exhibitions and lectures, and the public areas, including the patio and gardens outside, are available to rent for any type of special occasion. It is a communal gathering space perfect for bringing people together.

WAAC is a volunteer-led not-for-profit charitable organization whose purpose is to provide public education in the arts and through its scholarship program, and to support artists and the education of students in the arts in keeping with its charitable mandate. Today WAAC provides public art workshops and arts-related educational programs, playing the same active role in community-based arts that it has for the past 137 years.

In September 1887, an enthusiastic group of young women artists organized an art club based on the Art Students League of New York. They met in a humble studio in downtown Toronto to work together, painting, sculpting and drawing still life and living models. Most importantly, there were no rules. No instruction was given — rather, the aim was to provide encouragement to support the artist's self-development and to draw out the personal resources she would need for individual achievement independent of any instructor. Even 137 years ago, these young women understood the value of freedom in the arts. Creativity cannot flourish with restrictions.

By 1890, these informal gatherings had become a "women's art club" with the purpose of creating general interest in art and encouragement of women's work through the exchange of ideas as well as the holding of art exhibitions and lectures. In 1907, the association was incorporated — by a bill passed in the House of Commons in Ottawa, no less. It was now officially the Women's Art Association of Canada.

Although they have only been co-presidents for less than a year, both Bratton and Stein say the partnership is working beautifully. "We work really well together — although we both bring different things and different perspectives, our main outlook is very similar," says Bratton, in a recent interview with *Dolce*. "We really want this to be a member-led organization, and we want to have as much community involvement as we can, which is a bit of a shift from where we have been."

Part of WAAC's transformation has been due to its changing membership over the years. "Our demographic of members has changed as we now have younger artists and younger ideas," observes Stein. "I think the art culture in Toronto is amazing, and we are connecting with smaller organizations like ours and working together. It really is good as it's a lot more open, and we're very supportive and work together very well."

One of WAAC's most important contributions to art in its community is through its scholarship program, which began in 1948, primarily focused on arts and music organizations. "This year we gave away 18 scholarships," says Bratton. "Those included to various community programs and institutions such as the Ontario College of Art & Design University, the National Ballet School, Glenn Gould School and Sheridan College."

Throughout history, whether through the sculptures of ancient Greece, paintings by the Italian masters, or the singing of Joni Mitchell and Gordon Lighfoot in a Yorkville coffeehouse in the 1960s, the arts in any form can be the source of life within a community and contribute to a healthy society. Volunteers such as Anita Stein, Alexandra Bratton and the members of the Women's Art Association of Canada are passionate custodians who are ensuring the arts in Canada flourish and their future will prosper — for the benefit of us all.

womensartofcanada.ca
@womensartofcan



SIGHTS, SOUNDS and the SOUTH PACIFIC

On October 21, 2024, Canadian singer, songwriter, actor and author Jann Arden will join the Scenic Eclipse II on a nine-day cruise across Fiji and the South Pacific

WRITTEN BY **JOSH WALKER**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCENIC ECLIPSE



Recharge your spirits in the archipelagos of Fiji and Tonga

The once-in-a-lifetime voyage take place on what the brand describes as its "newest 6-star ultra-luxury, all-inclusive discovery yacht." It will depart from Lautoka, Fiji, and explore the South Pacific's natural beauty, including lagoons, reef ecosystems and volcanic landscapes.

As noted on the Scenic website, this experience will offer "a unique blend of musical magic and tropical paradise, creating memories to last a lifetime with Jann Arden" (scenic.ca/jannarden).

To date, Arden has released 15 albums, achieved 19 top-10 singles and received eight Juno Awards, including for Female Artist of the Year and Songwriter of the Year. In 2020, she was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. Alongside being a musician, she's the author of six books. The most recent, *The Bittlemores,* was released in November 2023. She is also an actor, co-creating and starring in the show *Jann*.

Arden's presence on the ship marks her fourth collaboration with Scenic Eclipse, and she will make various personal appearances throughout the voyage. These include a welcome reception on the opening night, an up-close-and-personal Q&A session and a special evening concert with the rest of her band.

The ship caters to up to 228 guests and boasts both indoor and outdoor spaces, including dining experiences, bars, lounges, a spa, observation lounges and terraces. Whether guests want to relax or stay busy, there's no shortage of activities.

The cruise's Discovery Team of onboard experts offers guests the opportunity to take to the skies in an Airbus H130-T2 helicopter for some "flightseeing," dive into the depths of beautiful oceans with the Scenic Neptune II submersible or float somewhere in the middle with a kayak tour.

"I can't even begin to tell you how excited I am to be going on the beautiful Scenic Eclipse this October, one of the world's most beautiful yachts," says Arden. "We will be winding around the Fijian islands, gazing out from our extraordinary verandah balconies. Only 228 guests will enjoy the most luxurious nine days of their lives. World-class dining, world-class accommodations, and, of course, some of the world's most beautiful scenery."



Jann Arden, the multitalented Canadian original, will join guests at three distinct and exclusive occasions: a welcoming reception on opening night, a personal Q&A session and a special evening concert with her band

> "WORLD-CLASS DINING, WORLD-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS AND, OF COURSE, SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL SCENERY"

Established in 1986, Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours is an Australian-founded company that has set the benchmark in all-inclusive luxury river and ocean cruises as well as handcrafted land journeys. Today, it takes guests to destinations in over 60 countries throughout the world.

www.scenic.ca
@scenic.eclipse

Fils won his first ATP title at 19 and ended 2023 ranked Number 36th in the world

A Generational Talent With A PRODIGY'S STYLE



Lacoste nets rising French tennis star Arthur Fils as a brand ambassador to continue the legacy of style and grace that its founder, René Lacoste, began building a century ago

WRITTEN BY **RICK MULLER**

PHOTO COURTESY OF LACOSTE

Unlike many other sports, tennis at the highest levels, despite the fierce velocity and pure athleticism it requires, has always brought a certain sense of style to its professional ranks. From the strawberries and cream and jackets and ties of Wimbledon to its players, style has always seemed synonymous with the sport.

On the women's side, from Margaret Court to Evonne Goolagong, Billie Jean King to Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova to Serena Williams, all possessed an individual look and elegance even while playing. On the men's side, from the gentlemanly grace of Roger Federer and Stan Smith to the animal magnetism of Andre Agassi and Rafael Nadal, each possessed a certain sense of style even while zipping back a cross-court winner. There was a time in the 1970s when the flowing-maned "Ice-Borg," Sweden's impeccable and unflappable Björn Borg, was mobbed by fans wherever he went, leading John McEnroe to say going up against his leading rival was like competing against a Beatle for attention.

The genesis of style in tennis can be traced back to Frenchman René Lacoste, a seven-time Grand Slam winner who dominated the sport in the 1920s. Lacoste was one of "Les Mousquetaires," or The Four Musketeers, along with Jean Borotra, Jacques Brugnon and Henri Cochet, a legendary group that won the Davis Cup for France in both 1927 and 1928. A global sportsman with a refined elegance and unmistakable swagger on and off the court, Lacoste was nicknamed "the Crocodile" for the way he dealt with opponents, a nickname that was also taken up by the American press after he bet his team captain a crocodile-skin suitcase he would win a match. He used the crocodile as his symbol when he formed his clothing company, Lacoste, in 1933, producing a tennis shirt also known as the polo shirt. His signature look has been adopted around the world since then and has been fashionable for nearly a century.

Lacoste is now continuing that synergy of sport and style by bringing on board as a brand ambassador Frenchman Arthur Fils, one of the fastest-rising and most exciting young players in the game, following in the Lacoste footsteps of Novak Djokovic and Daniil Medvedev, the world's Number 1 and 3, respectively — the rarified air that Fils, who ended 2023 ranked Number 36th in the world, may someday enjoy. "We're honoured to count Arthur Fils among the Crocodile's ambassadors," says Thierry Guibert, CEO of Lacoste. "On and off the court, his energy is contagious, and his humility fascinates us. Arthur's professionalization is a logical next step in his career, just as it is for us to accompany him every step of the way to victory. What's more, his desire to inspire the next generation of players and leave a lasting impact on the world of tennis, while remaining true to his roots, is totally in line with the values we share."

> "FOR ME, JOINING LACOSTE MEANS BECOMING PART OF A COMPANY THAT IS BOTH ICONIC AND ON A HUMAN SCALE, ASSURING MYSELF OF EXCELLENT SUPPORT DAILY, AS WELL AS FOR MAJOR TOURNAMENTS"

The partnership of Lacoste and Fils is a natural union because of what they both bring to the sport. Fils had a remarkable start to his relatively young career, winning his first ATP title at the age of just 19 and racking up victories in both the Grand Slam and Masters 1000 tournaments and qualifications, all while displaying the personality and style that would make René Lacoste proud as a leader among the Next-Gen players who will soon be podium-bound.

Lacoste becomes Fils' equipment supplier while Fils becomes the ambassador of this famed global brand's textile and eyewear collections. "I'm delighted to be joining Lacoste, which, for me, symbolizes elegance, authenticity and the union between style and sporting performance," says Fils. "Lacoste is part of the tennis imagination and represents a strong history, marked by the legacy of René Lacoste and the legend of Les Mousquetaires. For me, joining Lacoste means becoming part of a company that is both iconic and on a human scale, assuring myself of excellent support daily, as well as for major tournaments."

From such modest beginnings — René Lacoste's simple polo shirt adorned with his signature crocodile logo — the company has evolved into a global powerhouse, diversifying into different sports product lines including its golf line, whose brand ambassadors include Masters champion José María Olazábal of Spain and Scottish great Colin Montgomerie. It now features clothing, footwear, sportswear, eyewear, leather goods, perfume, towels and watches sold through its 1,100 stores in 98 countries, for a worldwide revenue of US$2.5 billion in 2022.

Keep your eye on Arthur Fils in tennis in 2024 and beyond, and also keep an eye on that Lacoste crocodile logo on his shirt. As founder René Lacoste showed a century ago, there is no reason why you cannot dominate your opponent while enjoying a certain style along the way.

www.lacoste.com
@lacoste



IDYLLIC SETTING

The resort, set among 30 hectares of Italy's rolling Bolognese hills, gets fresh produce from its surrounding 500-hectare agricultural estate

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THE *BEAUTY* OF A *SOULFUL* SANCTUARY

Luxury Italian resort Palazzo di Varignana adds to its guest experiences by launching health and wellness offerings

WRITTEN BY **RICK MULLER**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PALAZZO DI VARIGNANA

Remaining calm and finding serenity in our increasingly turbulent world can sometimes seem more challenging than ever. Financial pressures, pandemic hangovers, distressing daily news and the unavoidable clamour of screens can take a toll on body, mind and soul, and an escape is both healthy and welcome.

The luxurious Palazzo di Varignana resort near Bologna in Italy, with its graceful architecture and magnificent setting, provides just such a treasured and welcome escape, and its new health and wellness retreat packages offer its guests new experiences and new opportunities to rejuvenate the soul.

The three- or seven-night retreats are based on the scientific and transformational "Acquaviva Method" of treatment and wellness. The retreats are customized to individual guests and designed to be incorporated into the guests' daily lives following their resort stays.

This captivating luxury retreat is nestled in the enchanting Bolognese hills. Palazzo Bentivoglio, a beautifully restored ancient country castle — its four traditional towers date back to 1705 — stands at the heart of the resort and blends harmoniously into the natural landscape, which spans 30 hectares. It is a visionary restoration project that has revitalized the surrounding area, converting six ancient farmhouses into six luxury villas.

Guests at Palazzo di Varignana can immerse themselves in the verdant countryside, stroll through ornamental gardens and surrounding parklands, relax in the 4,000-square-metre spa, savour farm-fresh products and marvel at various artistic works displayed throughout the property.

The resort stands amidst an agricultural estate of more than 500 hectares on land known for producing one of the most awarded and recognized extra-virgin olive oils in the world. In addition to the olive groves, there are also 57 hectares of vineyards, 3,000 square metres of vegetable gardens, a vast orchard and an original rare planting of saffron. Amid this natural Garden of Eden, five types of the finest extra-virgin olive oil (three monocultivar — that is, made from a single type of olive — and two blends), and four types of wines under the Palazzo di Varignana brand are produced here.





Dr. Annamarie Acquaviva (top) and general manager Vittorio Morelli have created a luxury environment while also embracing health and wellness

> "SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CONFIRMS THE HUMAN BODY IS AN EXTREMELY FASCINATING MECHANISM THAT FUNCTIONS OPTIMALLY ONLY IF ALL PARTS ARE IN BALANCE"

The new health and wellness retreat packages have been created by Dr. Annamaria Acquaviva, a distinguished dietician, nutritionist and pharmacist who is the scientific director of Palazzo di Varignana and has established and developed the revolutionary Acquaviva Method, a holistic approach to well-being, sustainability and longevity.

The Acquaviva Method is a scientific journey to well-being founded on five pillars of health: nutrition, inner harmony, physical activity, sleep and rest and food and cosmetic supplementation, combining Western medicine with Eastern practices. Dr. Acquaviva has outlined these in her book, *Health Revolution: The Five Pillars of Health*, published in both English and Italian. She leads international wellness programs and serves as a health and life coach.

"Scientific research confirms that the human body is an extremely fascinating mechanism that functions optimally only if all parts are in balance with each other," says Dr. Acquaviva. "Epigenetics, in fact, studies how environmental factors and lifestyle can influence the expression of genes, promoting health, disease or premature aging. Therefore, our destiny does not only depend on our genetic heritage, but above all on our lifestyle, how and what we eat, how much we sleep, how we manage stress, how we cultivate emotions and how much exercise we do."

While transformative experiences such as detoxing, natural awakening, weight loss and deep sleep may seem intimidating on the surface, part of the curated guest experience at Palazzo di Varignana is that Dr. Acquaviva personally guides each guest through their own customized retreat, each designed to include restaurant menus, holistic activities, beauty treatments and transformational experiences that are selected based on the scientific evidence that demonstrates their effectiveness.

Participants benefit from a comprehensive longevity consultancy that includes bioimpedance



Palazzo di Varignana's clean, uncluttered contemporary style and rural setting combine to provide a calming oasis



The health and wellness retreat includes healthy menus that take advantage of the bountiful fruits and vegetables grown on the surrounding estate

measurement and personalized nutritional programs. The bespoke health and wellness program continues post-retreat as Dr. Acquaviva guides guests through their transformation by providing post-stay recall activities to ensure that they continue to benefit from the Acquaviva Method in daily life after their resort stay.

"I accompany people in a 'transformation,' the opportunity to express their potential, to rediscover psychophysical harmony and mental energy, to shine with a new form of beauty," says Dr. Acquaviva. "Through the scientific method that I have formulated, based upon the five pillars of health, I will point to highly performing, science-based, integrated and customized protocols with a holistic approach."

"A conscious lifestyle helps to control the running of the 'clock hands' dictated by unhealthy behaviours," continues Dr. Acquaviva. "It is therefore possible to modulate our DNA through strategies to express our full psychophysical potential, create harmony between mind and body and promote healthy longevity."

The search for calm, peace and tranquillity can sometimes be elusive, but at Palazzo di Varignana and through the strategies of their approach, you know you have found them.

www.palazzodivarignana.com
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A roster of RESILIENT CHAMPIONS

TAG Heuer is in good company with its elite line of ambassadors

WRITTEN BY **MARC CASTALDO**

Since 1860, TAG Heuer watch collections have graced the world with an avant-garde style, precision and timelessness that continue to inspire the industry. But capturing time has never been TAG Heuer's sole mission — its creations, from its luxury watches to its smartwatches, have always been accessories that are extensions of our spirits, allowing us to express our best selves by wearing them.

But as we enter a new age of style, fashion and innovation, we turn to those we idolize because they inspire us to never stop pushing our limits and breaking free from conventions.

Perseverance, dedication and humility are a few of the values that define athletic leadership. In an era that is witnessing many of the finest athletes the world has ever seen, TAG Heuer's unmatched lineup of brand ambassadors is poised to carry the brand's legacy for generations to come.

The lineup consists of exceptional athletes in each of their respective sports who are known to strive for greatness, demonstrate sportsmanship and remain undeterred in moments of immense pressure, all while achieving record-breaking feats.

www.tagheuer.com
@tagheuer









PHOTOS COURTESY OF TAG HEUER

1. NAOMI OSAKA

One of today's best and most influential tennis players is Japan's 26-year-old Naomi Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam champion, two-time winner of the U.S. Open, in 2018 and 2020, and the winner of the 2019 and 2021 editions of the Australian Open. Off the court she is recognized as a committed social activist who makes the change she wishes to see in the world.

@naomiosaka

2. FÉLIX AUGER-ALIASSIME

Fully focused, versatile and a defeater of some of the world's greatest, Canada's 23-year-old Félix Auger-Aliassime is on the path to becoming No. 1. As he continues to win various tournaments, he has quickly cemented his name in the history books.

@felixaliassime

3. TOMMY FLEETWOOD

From sneaking onto the green during his father's golf sessions as a young prodigy to being a seven-time European tour winner, Tommy Fleetwood's passion for the game extends beyond the course as he supports the next generation of talent through his eponymous golf academy.

@officialtommyfleetwood

4. WU YIBING

Considered to be one of China's fiercest competitors, 24-year-old Wu Yibing has been familiar with tennis rackets since age 4, and rapidly entered the international stage, reaching No. 1 in the Junior World Ranking. He won the Dallas Open in 2023, becoming the first Chinese player to win an ATP title.

@w.y.bing

5. PETRA KVITOVÁ

Feared for her left-handed power, Petra Kvitová is the definition of a resilient competitor. Winner of 31 career singles titles, including two major titles at Wimbledon, in 2011 and 2014, she proved her combative spirit a few months after suffering from a severe injury in 2018 when she won the first round of the French Open.

@petra.kvitova

6. CHUN IN-GEE

No matter what challenges stand in her way, Chun In-gee refuses to back down and relentlessly dominates the competition, resulting in record-breaking feats. After sweeping major LPGA tournaments, the unknown rookie was quickly declared the queen of golf.

@ingeechun_dumbo

7. MAYA GABEIRA

The Brazilian-born daredevil never backs down from the biggest waves. Arguably one of the best female surfers of all time, Maya Gabeira is the first woman to surf the Alaskan Sea and the first woman surfer to ride the big waves of Ghost Tree and Teahupo'o. In 2020, she rode a towering 22.4-metre wave — the biggest ever to be surfed by a woman. Breaking records is her profession.

@maya

8. SYDNEY MCLAUGHLIN-LEVRONE

Track and field prodigy Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone was destined to perform at the highest level. She made headlines at age 16 by becoming the youngest sprinter to make the U.S. Olympic track and field team since 1972. After many record-breaking feats, she continues to demonstrate leadership by advocating for issues she believes in.

@sydneymclaughlin16

9. SKY BROWN

Whether Sky Brown is skateboarding or surfing, the sky's the limit of her potential. The young British-Japanese competitor became the UK's youngest-ever medalist at the 2020 Summer Olympics Park event. In addition to claiming gold in back-to-back competitions at the X Games, she was given the 2021 BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year award and the Comeback of the Year Award at the Laureus World Sports Awards in 2022 ... she is only 15 years old.

@skybrown

10. KAI LENNY

Chasing and taming the waves as a young child was second nature for Kai Lenny. The youngest person ever to enter the Surfers' Hall of Fame, Lenny is a seven-time world stand-up paddle (SUP) champion and two-time winner of the SUP pro final in Hawaii. In 2020, he won the epic Nazaré Tow Surfing Challenge.

@kai_lenny

11. LETSILE TEBOGO

Coming out of the gate as a beacon of inspiration, Letsile Tebogo has dominated sprinting, leaving competitors in the dust. He is the youngest-ever victor of the prestigious 2022 African Championship in the 200-metre event and placed second in the 100m and third in the 200m at the 2023 World Championships, making him the first-ever African sprinter to win a medal in that event.

@tebogo_letsile_

12. FRED KERLEY

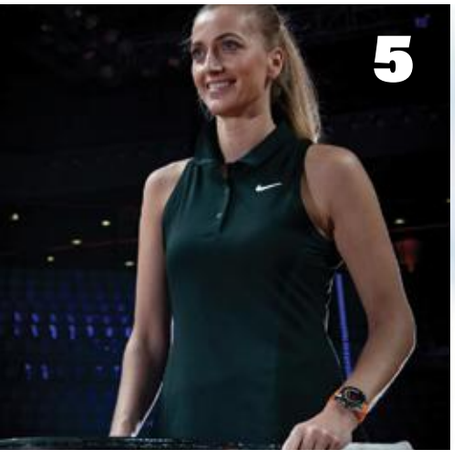
Dubbed the 'fastest man in the world', 28-year-old American sprinter Fred Kerley is known for his tenacity-fueled speed on the track, which led him to become the 2022 World Champion of the 100-metre. His goal is crystal clear: to become a track and field legend who will be immortalized in the history books.

@fkerley99

13. SUMMER MCINTOSH

From a promising junior swimmer to an outstanding record-holding athlete, Toronto's Summer McIntosh is a force to be reckoned with. At the age of just 17, she is already a four-time World Champion and holds the world record in the 400-metre medley. McIntosh is more than just the daughter of a former Canadian Olympic team swimmer or a prodigy, she is also the epitome of equanimity.

@summerrmcintosh



















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Going *MAD for* MADS

Danish star Mads Mikkelsen has made movies in five different languages, with a double career in Europe and in Hollywood, but he can't be put in a box. He's played everything from franchise villain to romantic lead to comedy hero. Then there's his upcoming movie, *Dust Bunny*, to be released later this year ...

WRITTEN BY **CEZAR GREIF**

From the Danish coast north of Copenhagen, you can clearly see Sweden on a bright day. It's only five miles away and there's a bridge to take you there. That's where Mads Mikkelsen now lives, near the town of Charlottenlund. The Danish star, known for intense performances as both leading man and villain, enjoys a life removed from the heart of the city, frequently going for walks in the nearby forest. That is, when he's not in Majorca, Spain, during the winter months. At the same time, Mads is on the move, down to the way he dresses. When I meet him, he's wearing a brightly coloured track suit. Photographer Charlie Gray, who's worked with him several times, tells me that Mads can talk your ear off about Premier League games. He's obsessed with sports, ready to join "any basketball game that will have me."

When planning for the photo shoot, we'd noticed a large green boat moored in a remote area of the nearby harbor. It looks like the boat from the famous Danish comic-book series *Rasmus Klump*, also known as *Petzi* in some European countries. Mads and that little bear are probably the most famous contemporary Danish icons, so joining them, in a way, makes total sense! The boat owners, a world-travelling couple in their mid-sixties, were excited to have Mads visit their boat. "We had the boat custom-built in the Netherlands with 40 tons of steel," they tell us. It turned out the owner was a movie producer who had produced Mads' first movie! It seems true that everybody knows everybody in Denmark.

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLIE GRAY | STYLIST: JAY HINES | GROOMING: INGEBORG WOLF
PRODUCTION: COOL HUNT INC. | SPECIAL THANKS: SKOVSHOVED HOTEL



Mads Mikkelsen grew up in Copehangen, but he now lives in a residential town on the coast, north of the Danish capital

Preparing for this story, I've been wondering how Mads got the acting bug. Mads Mikkelsen's older brother, Lars, is also a fantastic actor, most recently seen playing Grand Admiral Thrawn in the *Star Wars* series "Ahsoka." Is there something in the Mikkelsen family that fosters great actors? It wasn't always in the cards for Mads to act. He started out as a gymnast. He competed at a junior level, sometimes hiding that fact from his street-tough friends for fear of being mocked. He then became a dancer, and that was his profession for ten years.

"My brother graduated from drama school a year before I entered one," he remembers. "But it was kind of in the cards that I might do the swap eventually. I really loved dancing. I thought it was fantastic. But I was more in love with the drama of dancing than aesthetics of dancing. Once in a while, we had a choreographer who did something I found super-dramatic and I just felt very much alive in that. Doing something that was, like, everybody's doing something in unison could be fun, but it felt a little too classic to me. So even though I loved dancing, I knew that was more in love with drama. Eventually, I was gonna give it a shot. The timing was just that I did it a year after my brother." One wonders if there was ever some competition between the two brothers, especially considering they both appeared in Star Wars fictions, Mads in the movie *Star Wars: Rogue One* playing a good guy, and Lars in the TV series "Ahsoka" playing a baddie. "There isn't a rivalry between us," he laughs. "There will always be a friendly competition between siblings. We're quite different as people and we also focus on different things. I do love the theatre, but I am more in love with films, and I think it has been a little reversed with my brother: he is more in love with the theatre. But he does films and loves it. So, I think we approached things quite differently. There's rarely been a comparison. We've rarely been fighting over the same part. We've done a few things together. Unfortunately, not enough. It would be great to do more."

Mads Mikkelsen became known in Denmark for his very first film, *Pusher*, part of the *Pusher* trilogy (Mads also plays in *Pusher II*), directed by Nicolas Winding Refn. In it he plays Tony, the sidekick of a low-level drug dealer. The film was considered the first Danish-language gangster film and was a worldwide success, launching Mads' career. "Denmark came on the map in the mid-90s in terms of filmmaking, and that's when I started," he reflects. "People from other countries started to look at our films and to make calls to Denmark!"

It's quite an unusual debut for an actor. But Mads was no stranger to the Copenhagen neighborhood where the story takes place. "That was my hood, that's where I grew up," he explains. "It came in handy, in the sense that the director was not familiar with it. He was very much from another social class, if you see what I mean. He was a middle-class guy, he'd been to New York, he lived there. But he had a certain drive about him that he wanted to tell his story taking place in this environment. And he was very open, asking us to interpret it for him because he blankly said, 'This is not my area, this is not my place, you guys help me, I just want to bring this story to life.' So he chose to leave only three actors in the film — the rest of the characters are people from the hood, real criminals, real drug addicts, et cetera — it was kind of a mixture, which he's always been fond of doing. It became like, 'Let's go rock and roll!' We did not have a lot of money. Let's shoot a film! And that's how we did it."

> "I REALLY LOVED DANCING. I THOUGHT IT WAS FANTASTIC. BUT I WAS MORE IN LOVE WITH THE DRAMA OF DANCING THAN THE AESTHETICS OF DANCING"

From *Pusher* to last year's *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*, there's quite a gap — nearly 30 years of acting in five different languages, including playing a villain in a couple of James Bond movies. In the new Indiana Jones, he plays Nazi scientist Jürgen Voller. I wondered if it was easy for Mads, a Danish man, to play a German Nazi. Mads, ever the practical guy, took a bird's eye view of his role in the movie. "The Nazis in Indiana Jones films are mainly there for Harrison to punch the shit out of them," he laughs. "He wants to make the world a better place. He doesn't consider himself a bad guy, he considers himself a hero of his own world."

What's remarkable about Mikkelsen's career is that he could move to Hollywood and only play in American movies, certainly a very lucrative career, but he insists on alternating between Hollywood and Danish cinema. His new movie *The Promised Land*, an epic historical drama written and directed by the Danish Nikolaj Arcel, sees him play Ludvig Kahlen, a retired veteran soldier with a modest pension living on a farm in the Jutland peninsula. "He's a guy who tries to grow potatoes on a very barren land — he was a pioneer of Danish agriculture," explains Mads. This time, Mads is the hero. But it doesn't mean he likes everything about his character. "He frustrates me with his choices," he says. "To be so stubborn and ready to destroy everything around you, even what you love, to reach your goal, that's fascinating. He comes from nothing but wants to be part of something he hates, nobility. In the end, it's about embracing what's in front of you, that you sometimes don't see." It's quite an unusual film for Scandinavian cinema, and it was recently chosen as the Danish entry to the Academy Awards, competing in the Best Foreign Film category for an Oscar. "We very rarely make films like this in Denmark anymore," he says. "We come from the school of kitchen-sink drama. It's an epic, with a lot of surprises, but it's still centred on the characters."

Surprising — maybe that's the best way to describe Mads Mikkelsen's career, playing an incredibly wide variety of roles across time and space. It also extends to his personal life. There's a side of Mads people may not be familiar with: Mads the family man. I unexpectedly had the opportunity to witness that hidden side of him. As we continued our conversation over the phone, we were suddenly interrupted by a baby crying. "Sorry, it's my granddaughter," he tells me. I was taken aback at the thought of Mikkelsen, still in his mid-fifties and very active, as a grandfather. His daughter Viola had given birth to a baby girl earlier this year, Maria. "It's better to be a young grandpa," he explains, thinking practically. "Then you can still run around with the grandkids."

They say that great acting is through the eyes, and time and again, Mads Mikkelsen has demonstrated this in his work. It's also clear that he doesn't take his success for granted. In fact, he's still somewhat in disbelief. "It's been a fantastic ride, and I'm surprised it happened!"

@theofficialmads



Mikkelsen is an ambassador for Italian fashion stalwart Ermenegildo Zegna, but in his daily life, he perfers to wear a track suit and sneakers

Empowering and Character-Defining

Introducing Paolo Sebastian's 2023-2024 'Luminary' Collection for the confident, capable and unbreakable women

WRITTEN BY **MARC CASTALDO**



PAUL VASILEFF
Creative Director and Founder of Paolo Sebastian

He learned how to sew from his grandmother at age three and crafted his first evening dress at age eleven. As time passed, Paul Vasileff's creative pursuits ignited into a burning passion, and he dreamed of one day becoming a couture designer. So he sought out an apprenticeship with an Italian tailor practising in traditional sartorial methods, where he would develop his knowledge and technique.

Through hard work and dedication, he mastered his craft and was eventually granted a scholarship to the prestigious Istituto Europeo di Design in Milan, Italy.

Today, Paolo Sebastian is renowned for its breathtaking collections, international clientele, annual showings in Paris and for adhering to the highest standards of craftsmanship.

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Luminary is inspired by the Paolo Sebastian woman
Top: Tuxedo jacket with silk faille bubble coat and tulle beaded mini dress
Bottom: Tulle ball gown with Italian Chantilly lace bodice and corset



PHOTOS BY SIMON CECERE

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TEXT BY **MARC CASTALDO**



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PRODUCED BY **MICHELLE ZERILLO-SOSA** | TEXT BY **MARC CASTALDO**

















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DESIRE

The Timeless *Design of* SENSUAL PURITY

Mercedes-Benz Places in Miami marks the world-famous automotive brand's inaugural North American luxury residential project

WRITTEN BY **RICK MULLER**





The distinctive and soaring tower with its generous balconies and terraces will capture the South Florida light and afford residents outstanding views of Miami, Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean



Its cubic volumes, 67-storey height and distinctive technical-silver colour complemented by Mercedes' classic black-and-white will make Mercedes-Benz Places a Miami landmark

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JDS DEVELOPMENT GROUP; MERCEDES-BENZ

If there is any city in North America that seems perfect for a marriage of high-performance cars and luxury residential living, it is Miami — a city that, with its distinctive style and sophistication, seems to operate at a higher gear in so many ways.

It is here that JDS Development Group, a U.S.-based real estate company, and famed German automotive giant Mercedes-Benz recently revealed Mercedes-Benz Places Miami. The soaring 67-storey mixed-use residential project will transform urban living in Brickell, Miami, and at 2.5 million square feet, is one of the largest projects currently under construction in Florida.

The tower will be a striking landmark in South Florida, centred around the theme of "Timeless Design, Inspired by Miami," bringing an innovative and visionary approach to urban living that seems an ideal match for the vibe, pace, culture and signature style that has always defined Miami.

"It is a privilege to work with Mercedes-Benz and move beyond a traditional residential building to create a new community for the future," says Michael Stern, founder and CEO of JDS Development Group. "Underpinned by sustainable building methods and design, Mercedes-Benz Places in Miami will create a legacy not just for Brickell, but Florida as a whole."

The design of Mercedes-Benz Places Miami is distinctive and eye-catching and a result of the collaboration between the Mercedes-Benz design team and award-winning SHoP Architects. Cubic volumes are interconnected to create a prominent skyscraper in the increasingly vertical skyline of Miami. The building's shape is a refined interpretation of the Mercedes-Benz design philosophy of "Sensual Purity," which combines two contrasting principles — intelligence and emotion — to create clear forms and sensuous surfaces. Here, the emotional side of Sensual Purity is characterized by the building's free-flowing elliptical lines and shapes inspired by nature. The tower's stacked-box design reflects the technical side of design language.

"Our distinctive style is Sensual Purity," says Gorden Wagener, Chief Design Officer, Mercedes-Benz AG. "This philosophy, based on the duality of emotion and intelligence, consists of a hot and a cool pole. The cool aspect represents very much the tradition of geometric German design originated in the Bauhaus. This crucial part of our brand was the inspiration for the architecture of this extraordinary new Mercedes-Benz Places landmark in Miami."

Founded in 2002 and headquartered in New York and Miami, JDS is an American firm focused on acquisition, development and construction. It is respected and recognized as a team of innovators and builders pioneering progressive new forms of large-scale urban development that challenge the status quo of the real estate industry. Mercedes-Benz Places Miami represents the fourth large-scale project between JDS and SHoP Architects,





Mercedes-Benz Places will be situated at the centre of a reimagined Southside Park, designed as a natural oasis in its urban setting to ensure that residents can enjoy a healthy environment

which includes the recently completed supertall tower at 111 West 57th Street in Manhattan.

The Miami residential tower will be built in the Brickell neighbourhood, at 1 Southside Park, and offer 791 Mercedes-Benz residences, from studios to three-bedrooms. Its height will afford residents outstanding views of Miami, Biscayne Bay, the Atlantic Ocean and the far horizon. The profiles of the individual balconies and terraces are designed to capture the distinctive South Florida light in a wide variety of ways. Technical silver is the dominant colour, complemented by the classic Mercedes-Benz black and white.

Mercedes-Benz Places Miami will be a curated lifestyle experience and allow residents and guests access to a range of housing options and amenities. There will be more than 130,000 square feet of amenity and hospitality spaces within the mixed-use project. Included will be 200,000 square feet of office space, state-of-the-art health and fitness facilities, a 174-room hotel, retail shops and on-site parking. Innovative mobility solutions will also play a key role with space for EV charging stations, valet parking and a car fleet for the exclusive use of residents.

The project embraces a regeneration plan through sustainable development practices and while changing the residential landscape, Mercedes-Benz Places in Miami will also transform the burgeoning Brickell neighbourhood. Key to this will be reimagining Southside Park as an urban oasis through a collaboration with renowned urban landscape designers Field Operations.

With its canopy of trees and native vegetation including mango trees and shortleaf figs, the entire project's objective is to create a healthy living environment. The regeneration strategy put in place by JDS and Mercedes-Benz will also support a range of environmentally friendly activities including energy-efficient production, impactful vegetation and water conservation.

There are only a few cities in the world that combine the vibrancy, pastel colours, music, fashion and food with the speed, style, culture and sophistication in the way Miami does. Mercedes-Benz Places will be the perfect choice for luxury residential living in one of the world's most sought-after and dynamic urban environments.

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HISTORIC GREATNESS

In an exclusive interview with *Dolce*, Wayne Gretzky reflects on family, friends, life and the game he changed forever

WRITTEN BY **RICK MULLER**

On Thursday, September 28, 1972, the entire country of Canada was basically closed, completely shut down — not because of a natural disaster, power outage or massive workers' strike, but because of a hockey game being played many times zones away, in Moscow. It was Game Eight in of the 1972 Summit Series between Team Canada and the Soviet Union.

The series pitted the Soviet Union's amateur players, who had ruled Olympic hockey for decades, in a first-time match-up against the Canadian professional players who made up the majority of the National Hockey League, generally regarded as the best players in the world by far. It was the most famous hockey series to date and has never been surpassed.

Most experts had predicted a Canadian sweep of all eight games, a blowout. How could a rag-tag group of unskilled amateurs possibly prevail against the best-of-the-best Canadian players? From Canada, which had invented and owned hockey? However, in the days before the Internet, the Canadian coaches and players had no idea that they were about to play a group of highly

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: FERNANDO ZERILLO | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: MICHELLE ZERILLO-SOSA | PHOTOGRAPHER: JESSE MILNS | VIDEOGRAPHER: DOMENIC EASTER
ASSISTANT/GIMBAL OP: JOELLE MCNEIL | GROOMER: MELISSA DORVIL | FASHION & WARDROBE STYL. IST: ASHLEY GALANG





Suit - Tiger of Sweden
Polo - Tiger of Sweden
Watch- Omega
Shoes - Browns Shoes



Bomber jacket - Gucci
T-shirt - Zegna, available at Harry Rosen
Pants - Gucci

> SOMEBODY THE OTHER DAY ASKED ME IF ANYONE IN MY HOUSE EVER CALLS ME 'THE GREAT ONE' AND I SAID NO, WE NEVER TALK ABOUT THAT"

conditioned athletes who trained together year-round, were in peak physical shape and never stopped perfecting their game. At Team Canada's training camp at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens that summer, prior to the start of the series, the dressing room had ashtrays.

The Soviet's 7–3 victory in the opening game in Montreal shocked the nation. This was the height of the Cold War — this was not just a game, it was "our" system against "their" system, and our system was humiliated. Team Canada was booed off the ice following a loss in Game Four in Vancouver, but summoned internal resolve, strength and love of country to eventually force a deciding Game Eight in Moscow, which Canada won 6–5 with a goal by Paul Henderson with just 34 seconds remaining. The whole country had stopped on September 28, 1972, held its breath — and then erupted in euphoria.

With apologies to Sidney Crosby's Olympic "Golden Goal" in Vancouver in 2010, Henderson's goal was the most important goal ever scored in Canadian hockey history and was seen by the eyes of almost every Canadian. A pair of those eyes belonged to an 11-year-old kid in Brantford, Ontario, named Wayne Gretzky.

The Soviets had taught Canada a new way to play the game they'd thought they owned — wide open, constant motion, pinpoint passing and a circulatory style — that made a lasting impression on Gretzky and would influence his own style of play. Gretzky was a budding legend already, even at that young age.

He'd first learned to skate at just 2 1/2 years old, on the river behind his grandparents' house near Paris, Ontario. He showed such natural talent for hockey that he made a team of 10-year-olds when he was just 5, at an age when most of us were learning how to tie our shoes. The team sweaters for the 10-year-olds were far too large for young Gretzky, so he compensated by tucking sweater into his pants on the right side, a tradition he continued throughout his professional career.

Five years later, at just 10, he scored a ridiculous 378 goals in a single season. That caught the attention of John Herbert, a newspaper writer in London, Ontario, who then wrote an article about him. Herbert thought Gretzky needed a nickname, as was common in hockey: Gordie Howe was "Mr. Hockey," Bobby Hull was "The Golden Jet." Herbert decided to call Gretzky "The Great One," and it stuck.

"That nickname always kind of bothered me," said Gretzky during a recent exclusive interview with *Dolce* at his home in Palm Beach, Florida. "One thing you learn as a team player is that no one is bigger than anyone else in the locker room and, just as important, nobody is bigger or better than who you are competing against. Somebody the other day asked me if anyone in my house ever calls me 'The Great One' and I said no, we never talk about that."

Gretzky and his wife Janet's home in Florida has a warm, family-first vibe and is adorned with beautiful family photos of their parents, their five children and five grandchildren. The two met when Janet Jones was an actress and Wayne was serving as a judge on the television show *Dance Fever*. According to Gretzky, however, Janet doesn't recall him being on the show. Great One or not, spouses have a way of keeping you grounded that way. Their marriage in Edmonton in July 1988 was dubbed "Canada's Royal Wedding" and was broadcast live across the nation.

Gretzky's professional career had begun ten years earlier, in 1978, when, at 17, he signed with the Indianapolis Racers of the World Hockey Association (WHA). He joined the Edmonton Oilers when the WHA merged with the National Hockey League (NHL), leading them to four Stanley Cup championships. But in 1988, just two hours after the Oilers had won that fourth Stanley Cup, Gretzky learned from his father that he was being shopped around because the team's owner, Peter Pocklington, needed money to cover some failing business ventures, and in a seismic, shocking move, Gretzky was soon traded to the Los Angeles Kings.

While "The Trade" was devastating to Canada and to Edmonton in particular, Gretzky's presence in Los Angeles made hockey a hit there and led to NHL expansion in the southwest United States. The Mighty Ducks of Anaheim, the San Jose Sharks and Arizona Coyotes franchises can all be directly attributed to the new popularity of hockey because Wayne Gretzky came to Los Angeles.

Before he arrived, you could stop ten Americans on the street and very few could name a single hockey player. After joining Los Angeles,



“THE GREATEST THING ABOUT TEAM SPORTS, AND ESPECIALLY HOCKEY, IS THAT YOU CAN LEARN SO MUCH ABOUT LIFE”



Shirt - Tom's Place
Sweater - Zegna, available at Holt Renfrew
Watch - Wayne's own
Pants - Canali, available at Holt Renfrew



Suit - Tiger of Sweden
Polo - Tiger of Sweden
Watch- Omega

> “JUST TO BE ABLE TO PLAY IN THE NHL IS AN HONOUR AND A PRIVILEGE — I SAY THAT TO YOUNG KIDS ALL THE TIME”

every one of them would answer “Wayne Gretzky!” Hollywood celebrities flocked to Los Angeles Kings games as it became the hottest ticket in town. After going on to play stints with the St. Louis Blues and New York Rangers, #99 eventually retired in 1999.

Gretzky did things fast as a player. As if scoring nearly 400 goals in a single season as a kid hadn’t been enough, he scored his first professional goal in 1978 at 17 — he had been sold to the Oilers by the Indianapolis Racers the previous day — and scored his second only four seconds later. When he retired, he held 61 NHL records: 40 regular season records, 15 playoff records and six All-Star records.

Gretzky is the leading career goal scorer, assist producer and point scorer in NHL history. In fact, Gretzky has more career assists than any other player has *total points*. His numbers are hard to get your mind around, but to put his totals into some perspective, his career accomplishments were akin to Secretariat winning the 1973 Belmont Stakes by 31 lengths.

Of his many records, there is one he is most proud of, one that he achieved in the 1981–82 season.

“Just to be able to play in the NHL is an honour and a privilege, and I say that to young kids all the time,” said Gretzky. “But if I had to choose one record, it would be the one I think is going to be the hardest to break — 50 goals in 39 games. I scored 12 goals in the final three games of that streak.”

Gretzky was not the biggest or strongest or fastest person to ever play hockey — in fact, he was somewhat undersized. But the argument could be made that he was the smartest. As with Gordie Howe or Bobby Orr before him, it quickly became evident early in his professional career that hockey was being visited by a special talent. Besides his considerable skills and agility, he was a magician on the ice and it was his sense of anticipation that set him apart. Famously, he skated not to the puck, but to where the puck was going to go — a tip his father had once given him and a technique he’d seen the Soviets employ in that 1972 Summit Series.

He was a generational talent who was paying attention to a new way of playing. He set up plays from behind his opponents’ net, a space that quickly became known as “Gretzky’s office.” Perhaps overlooked was the accuracy of his shot. When he scored his record 92 goals in a single NHL season, he did so on just 369 shots. And just as he learned from Howe and Orr, players after Gretzky including Crosby and Mario Lemieux adopted his style of play, which led to the dramatic rise of the NHL skill level, as evidenced by today’s superstars such as Connor McDavid and Auston Matthews.

While he watched and learned from players who came before him, the greatest influences in his own life were off the ice — his parents, Walter and Phyllis. They came to every practice and they came to every game, just as they did for Wayne’s three brothers and his sister.

“My dad always said whether you are male or female, really talented or just talented or just have a love for it, the greatest thing about team sports, and especially hockey, is that you can learn so much about life,” he recalled. “You learn how to be unselfish; you learn how to be committed, you learn how to work hard, you learn what it’s like to lose and be devastated and you learn what it’s like to win and be excited. But most importantly, it keeps kids out of trouble by playing and participating.”

Made a Companion of The Order of Canada in 2009, Gretzky has also had multiple successes in various business ventures since his playing days ended, including as a sports owner, coach, on-air analyst during Turner Sports’ NHL coverage and co-owner of a winery, Wayne Gretzky Estates, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. In March, Gretzky was one of six people chosen to deliver a eulogy at the funeral of former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, evidence of his enduring stature in his homeland. It is a success that some athletes have difficulty achieving when transitioning back into the real world after their professional careers come to an end.

“My biggest advice to athletes is what I always told them — when you are playing be a player. That’s your priority, that’s your commitment, that’s your focus,” counselled Gretzky. “With that comes a responsibility to help people who are less fortunate. The other thing I tell them is don’t believe you’re as good at what you’re doing after hockey as you were as a player and make sure you surround yourself with good people. I’ve had professional partnerships with people for 25 years.”

Despite all the accolades and successes, Gretzky’s definition of *la dolce vita*, the sweet life, has nothing to do with records or championships won. “That’s easy for me — family,” Gretzky quickly responded. “I’m so lucky. I’ve got a great wife, five wonderful kids, five beautiful grandchildren. The greatest compliment you can get as a parent is when someone comes up to you who you don’t really know or wasn’t around your kids when they were growing up and they say, ‘I met your son, or your daughter, and they are so polite and so nice.’ That’s the greatest compliment you can get as a parent and for me, that’s the greatest thing in life.”

World sports are famous for bar arguments, debates over who was the greatest ever. In football was it Pele, Renaldo or Messi? Borg, Federer or Nadal in tennis? Hamilton or Schumacher in F1 racing? Jack, Arnie, Tiger or Rory in golf? There is no such argument in hockey — it’s Wayne Gretzky. Most notably, it may *always* be Gretzky. You won’t win any arguments offering any other name and your pals will give you a strange look if you do.

Few things are certain in our world but without question, decades from now, when young Canadians hear the name “Wayne Gretzky” they will want to learn more. His is an enduring legacy. He may not have cared for the nickname The Great One, but that is how he will always be remembered. Perhaps, someday, it might grow on him?

www.gretzky.com
@waynegretzky

The ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION Leads the battle

Musical icon and legendary humanitarian Sir Elton John shatters records by raising US$10.8 million to end AIDS for all

WRITTEN BY **MARC CASTALDO**



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KOVAC

Left to right: Neil Patrick Harris, David Burtka, Elton John, Tiffany Haddish and David Furnish

His musical talent has inspired and wowed generations since the late 1960s. Beloved for his one-of-a-kind wardrobe, voice and stage presence, we know Sir Elton John as the "Rocket Man," and his contributions to music will undoubtedly be regarded as his legacy. What many do not know is his strong commitment to educating the world about the AIDS epidemic and the life-changing work that the Elton John AIDS Foundation has done since John established it in 1992.

The 32nd Annual Elton John AIDS Foundation Academy Awards Viewing Party was a monumental occasion. The star-studded gala took place at West Hollywood Park in Los Angeles and was co-hosted by John along with his husband, David Furnish, Neil Patrick Harris, David Burtka and Tiffany Haddish. Since the inception of the party in 1992, the event has supported the Elton John AIDS Foundation's efforts, raising over US$110 million for their life-saving mission of ending AIDS and the stigma associated with it globally.

David Furnish, chair of the Elton John AIDS Foundation, says, "In such worrying times with the rise of discriminatory laws against the LGBTQ+ community in the United States, it's so important to stand up and raise awareness for the people who need our support the most. The funds raised tonight are helping us enhance access to vital health resources such as HIV testing and medication, making a tangible difference in countless lives. We couldn't have done it without such a great showing of support."

At this year's gala, a total of US$10.8 million was raised, and this incredible achievement would not have been possible without the generous donors, sponsors and supporters whose unwavering commitment year after year continues to bring the foundation closer to fulfilling its mission.

"So far, this has been an extraordinary year, beyond my wildest dreams, including the honour of achieving the EGOT, but it's tonight's gathering that is the ultimate highlight," says John. "I'm so grateful to everyone who comes out each year to have a lot of fun and do a whole lot of good together. We've been loud and proud about showing compassion and ending the dreadful stigma that follows HIV, and we won't stop until we achieve our mission."

The music icon has beautifully left his mark on the world with his work devoted to battling the AIDS epidemic and for passionately advocating for LGBTQ + rights. He reminds us that change is possible if we rally together and take the action needed to make the change we wish to see in the world.

www.eltonjohnaidsfoundation.org
@ejaf

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION



1

PHOTO BY THEO WARGOC



2

PHOTO BY MICHAEL KOVAC



3

1. Elton John performs on stage
2. Donatella Versace, Elizabeth Hurley and Damian Hurley
3. Dean Caten, Julia Fox and Dan Caten
4. Mike Vivier and Steve Vivier of Vivier Pharma
5. David Furnish and John-Paul Ricchio, CEO of Rocket Entertainment
6. Elton John and David Furnish speak on stage



4



5



6

PHOTO BY MICHAEL KOVAC



Green gown: Alexis Mabille Couture

PASSION PLAYERS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: MICHELLE ZERILLO-SOSA | PHOTOGRAPHER: JESSE MILNS | VIDEOGRAPHER: LISMERY LOYOLA
MAKE-UP BY PATRICK RAHAME | HAIR BY KIRSTEN KLONTZ | AGENCY: P1 MANAGEMENT
LOCATION: MANTELLA RESIDENCE/ANIMAL SANCTUARY, FL (USA)



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR *DOLCE*'S EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE OF OUR INTERVIEW WITH SYLVIA AND ROBERT MANTELLA

SYLVIA AND ROBERT MANTELLA'S WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SANCTUARY IN FLORIDA IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE BATTLE TO SAVE ANIMALS — ONE SPECIES AT A TIME

WRITTEN BY **RICK MULLER**

If you are fortunate enough to have the means, the true test of your character — indeed, of your humanity — is choosing to use those resources to make a global impact for the greater good, and even more so, to get and stay personally involved in those good deeds. That very much describes the lives and philosophy of the Mantella Corporation's Robert and Sylvia Mantella, one of Canada's most philanthropic couples.

Introduced by mutual friends in 2002, they were close friends before they married in 2007. Robert's family was in the land development business, and Sylvia came from the world of retailing, telecom and marketing, but they quickly discovered that their deep mutual love and respect for each other would be deepened further by common passions in other aspects of their life together, particularly as they developed their approach to philanthropy.

It should be "beyond just writing a cheque," says Robert, citing the important lesson in philanthropy Sylvia taught him many years ago. "I don't think my family was as philanthropic before Sylvia came along, not even close," he

says. “When I first met Sylvia, I would say, ‘You don’t have to do this — we’ll write a cheque. That’s what they need. They need money.’ But Sylvia would say, ‘I need to understand where the money is going. I need to understand that it’s not all going to administration, that it’s actually going to the cause.’ And I would watch as she worked exhaustively, at how much time she would put in. She would travel to Haiti to understand what they were going through, and I think that’s why she is so successful at it, because she really does care. And I care a lot more now through Sylvia, and I’m very proud of her. We weren’t anywhere close to that mindset before Sylvia. She has taught me there is so much more than just writing a cheque.”

One of Sylvia’s particular passions is conservation, specifically of land, water and animals. In keeping with her true roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-involved character, she and Robert founded the large Mantella Animal Rescue and Adoption Sanctuary on their South Florida property as a wildlife conservation area. It is now home to more than 250 animals, including lions, leopards, tigers, hyenas, wolves, primates and many more, rescued from conditions of danger, abuse or neglect.

Sylvia acted on her love of animals at a very early age by supporting local animal shelters, she recalls in an exclusive interview she and Robert recently gave *Dolce* at their Florida home. “My parents would make small donations for $5 or $10 in my name, and that felt really good. Back then, there was no email, so we’d read newsletters, and I’d wait for that mail to come in so I could see what animal was saved or what animal lived where.” As she grew older, she was able to afford to give more, began to understand the value of not just monetary contributions, but of time, she says. “It’s so important and appreciated. I just think it is so important to serve others.”

The multi-acre Mantella Animal Rescue and Adoption Sanctuary provides large natural habitats where animals are provided safety and enrichment, and there are over 100 peacocks roaming freely. The property is not open to the public, so it eliminates the animals being exposed to the stress of strangers, smells and noises. There are several well-run zoological facilities that now understand that the needs of the animals are more important than creating an attraction for people. Their purpose is to keep each species going and thriving in welcoming, safe and natural environments.

While we would all like to believe the animal kingdom is some joyful fairytale or animated Disney utopia (cue the singing bluebirds), we all realize that animals don’t enjoy the luxury of food delivery, that savagery and brutality are very real and that, in the wild, it’s often eat or be eaten. It’s no coincidence that, when we conjure up the uncomfortable image of a carcass, our minds are imagining the animal world. Without animal sanctuaries, like the one the Mantellas have created in Florida, many of these animals wouldn’t live to see the next sunrise.

“Children are easier to teach than adults because adults are set in their ways,” observes Robert. “So an adult would look at the big cats we have here and think they’d be better free, but that’s just not true — they’d be dead within hours because these animals have never seen the wild. They are third- or fourth-generation born in the United States and in captivity. They just don’t know how to survive. What we are doing here is giving them all a way to live out their lives with respect and dignity.”

Education is key to improving the viability of wildlife conservation, Sylvia observes. “People are beginning to realize these animals are not pets. They’re not for your entertainment, but that comes with time,” she says. “Twenty or thirty years ago, fashionistas were all wearing fur. I really believe we have to keep trying and moving in the direction of education and of learning about wildlife conservation.” Much like learning from the newsletters about animals she eagerly awaited in her youth, “I use my social media platform to try and share the stories of these animals. It’s not just posting an animal, but sharing that this is his story, this is his journey — it is very well-received, and I’m happy to teach in that way, too.”

> “WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE IS GIVING THEM ALL A WAY TO LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY”

When Sylvia references fashion, she certainly speaks from a wealth of knowledge. She has been one of Canada’s style leaders for decades and a supporter of young and emerging designers. A proud Gucci collector, Sylvia has been a member of the Honorary Board for the Toronto Fashion Incubator New Labels, which supports and promotes local Canadian fashion designers.

The couple recently returned from another trip to East Africa, Sylvia’s fifth trip and Robert’s third, where they travelled to meet with local experts and learn firsthand about the latest conservation techniques and ideas they can bring back to their sanctuary to improve it even more. It’s important to them to know where their animals come from.

“We go there to meet with local organizations and learn and see what we can incorporate to give our animals more enrichment from their natural habitat in East Africa,” says Sylvia, and they sometimes import trees or vegetation from what would be the animals’ native environment. “They may not have even seen it before but there is an inherent instinct in the animals,” she says.

The Western world is waking up to animal and wildlife conservation as evidenced by the Canadian government’s decision in November 2023 to enact a ban on importing elephant ivory and rhino horn as well as any hunting trophies containing those parts.

“When I read about that law being passed, I was elated, but I also felt a bit ashamed that it has taken this long,” says Sylvia. “Ivory, elephant tusks and rhino horn have been banned in so many places for decades, so it’s a bit shameful that Canada took that long, but I’m happy it happened. It took really great people who believe in wildlife in Canada to lobby for that.”

“The Big Cat Public Safety Act was enacted in December 2022 to end the private ownership of big cats as pets and prohibit exhibitors from allowing public contact with big cats, including cubs,” adds Robert. “That law prevents anyone from being in a photograph with a lion or a tiger cub, and that will put a lot of those people out of business because they were completely exploiting animals who are in a state of high anxiety in those situations. People started believing these cubs were cute, and ‘maybe I should get one.’ Now you’re not allowed to be in a photo with a small cub, and you’re also not allowed to sell big cats across state lines. So, slowly things are being put in place, and people are learning.”

The passion Sylvia and Robert have for wildlife, endangered species and conservation is palpable when you are speaking to them, whether the setting is an executive boardroom or the middle of their Florida sanctuary surrounded by the constant and harmonious sounds of thriving nature. What is equally impressive is the couple’s depth of knowledge about animals, preservation and wildlife conservation. While we may not all have the resources to begin and operate a world-leading animal sanctuary, Sylvia says anyone can get involved and make a difference, no matter how small.

“You can start small because there are different areas you can involve yourself in,” she says. “You can peacefully protest for change. You can volunteer your time in a shelter or at

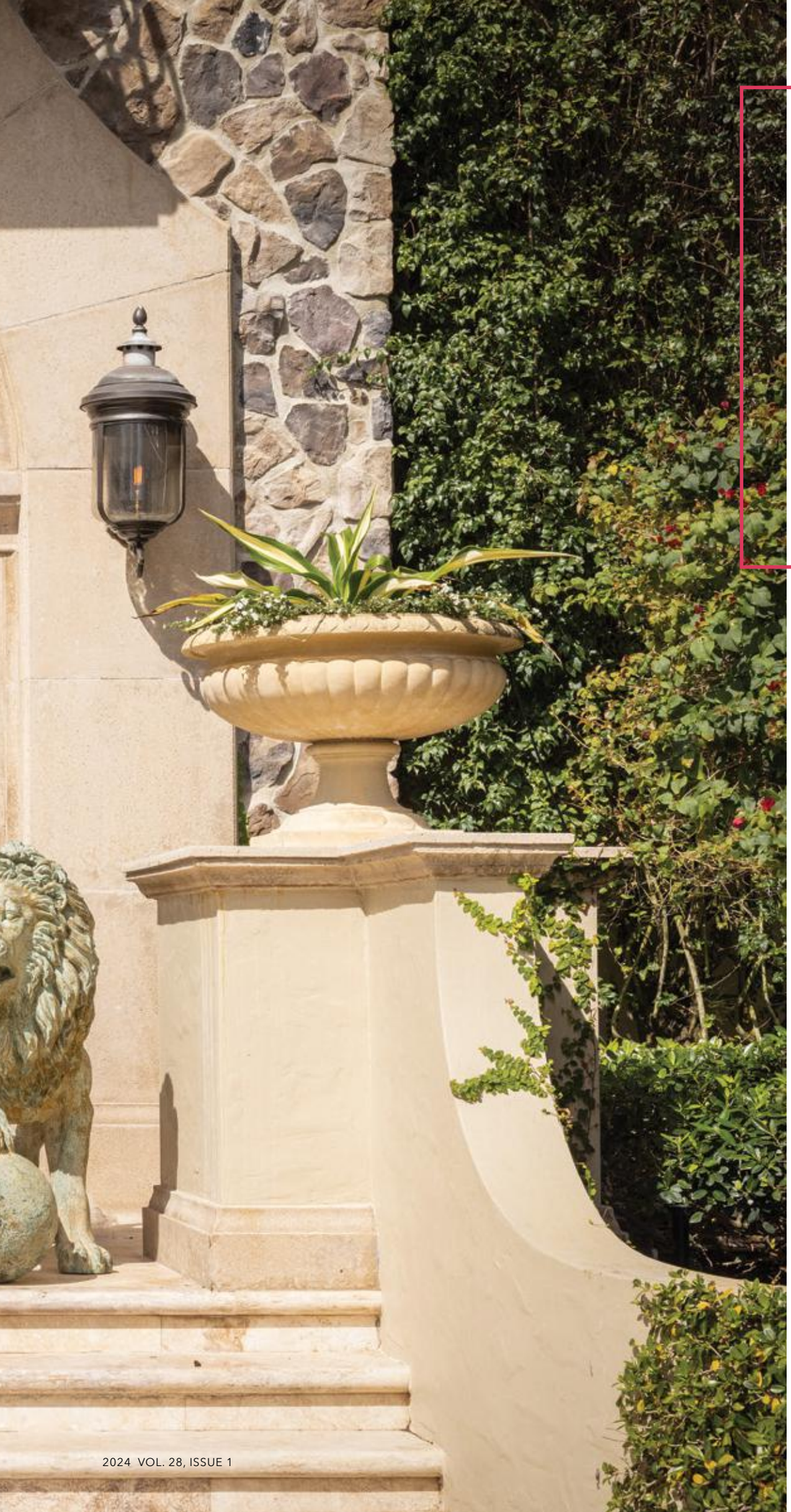


Rust-coloured sequined gown: Valentino



Robert's black suit and pants: Armani
Shirt: David Donahue
Shoes: Ferragamo

Sylvia's pink ball gown with eight-foot train and hand-painted face: Dolce & Gabbana Alta Moda



> "PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THESE ANIMALS ARE NOT PETS. THEY'RE NOT FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT, BUT THAT COMES WITH TIME"

a bigger organization that has a local chapter. You can attend monthly meetings with certain organizations. But, like anything else, it has to be really genuine, or else you won't stick to it if you don't believe in it or it doesn't fit you. Try different areas and see what lands with you and then keep pursuing that, because it is just so rewarding."

The Mantellas were extremely gracious hosts to the *Dolce* team throughout our day at their sprawling sanctuary, providing lunch and introducing us to many of the animals in their idyllic subtropical setting. Robert and Sylvia know every one of their hundreds of animals by name, and their nurturing affection for each of them is clear from their deeply personal interactions, whether it's the tigers or a pride of lions or a pack of wolves. Each of the animals has a backstory, which the Mantellas take pride in telling. It is a deeply moving and almost spiritual experience to see firsthand such genuine love between humans and animals. What is also clear is the deep respect they both share for the animals and how happy they were to be able to share their passion with *Dolce* readers.

Over its 14-year history, the Mantella Animal Rescue and Adoption Sanctuary has grown to include hundreds of different animal species (each animal that arrives at the sanctuary is microchipped and catalogued to record where the animal was originally and to provide USDA with details of their progress if and when required) and has become what Robert and Sylvia both describe as a full-time labour of love. From early morning until late in the evening, they are among the animals. If high winds, torrential rain or lighting are forecast (as is common in their part of Florida), they are out in golf carts to check up on the animals.



Robert's blue pants: Armani
Shirt: David Donahue
Shoes: Ferragamo

Sylvia's green gown: Alexis Mabille Couture

That care and attention is only part of the couple's dedication to animal conservation. One project involves breeding the exceedingly rare Amur leopard, which exists only in the wild, in the especially hostile terrain and harsh climate of the borderlands between China and Russia. Because of poaching, only 37 are accounted for.

"Our resident Amur leopard is named Jasmine. She is now seven, but has been with us since she was six months old, and she will now be going on this journey of artificial insemination. We are very fortunate to work with government bodies in the United States to help her procreate," says Sylvia. "I know it sounds strange, but that's the whole purpose of conservation. I can't possibly let her go somewhere else because she is so precious, so we're taking part in this, and in the next few months, this process will take place and she will then be able to have and take care of her own cubs."

"HUMANS ARE ANIMALS, BIOLOGICALLY ... HUMANS ARE NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT OR TOP ANIMAL ON THE PLANET"

The Mantellas are doing their part to battle the scourge of animal extinction on a planet experiencing massive human population growth and our increasing encroachment on what were once natural animal habitats.

"At least one species goes extinct every day," says Robert. "People don't understand the number of species — there are 5,000 mammal species, hundreds of thousands of bird species, but people just focus on the big ones, like elephants, rhinos or lions. And those are animals that need larger habitats, so with human encroachment and destruction of their habitats, they have very little chance if people don't step in and start saving the animals. In Australia, for example — koala bears only live in Australia as the country never lets them leave to be bred anywhere else — now, after the wildfires hit Australia, the koala bear is near extinction. A lot of the things we do here are only making a small dent, but we're not alone. A



Red bustier and skirt: Schiaparelli
Pink hat: Christian Siriano



Pink ball gown with eight-foot train and hand-painted face: Dolce & Gabbana Alta Moda

lot of people are doing what we're doing. There are a lot of people who care about animals, and animal extinction is not just about the dinosaurs. It's nearly impossible to save all the animals, but you have to try, one step at a time."

Sylvia and Robert's foundation is self-funded, and wildlife conservation is just one of many causes they contribute to. Sylvia is particularly dedicated to causes addressing childhood illness.

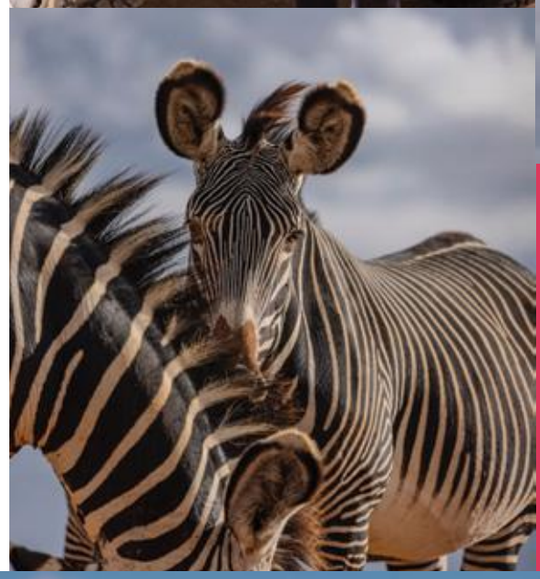
Robert calls her the nurturing one. "Giving back is extremely important to us," he says. "It doesn't have a lot to do with our business, it just has to do with paying it forward. We've done well, and we work very hard, but how much do you need when there are so many people and creatures who need help?"

The world needs more people like Sylvia and Robert Mantella. They realize the importance of animals in our very human existence and the urgent need for making a change in how people look at animals and our planet. We cannot live without each other, and it's of paramount importance that we both survive and coexist.

"I don't think you can separate us from animals — humans are animals, biologically," says Robert. "Humans are not the most important or top animal on the planet. They are simply able to manipulate their environment and adapt quickly to change, whereas animals take millions of years to adapt to a change or loss of their habitat resulting in extinction. We're made a little bit differently so we can build things, and we can think a little bit deeper, but we're still animals."

mantellacorporation.com
@sylviamantella







The Mantellas recently returned from another trip to East Africa, where they met with local conservation experts for ideas to improve the environment for the animals at their Florida sanctuary



CANADIAN TITAN

The passing of Brian Mulroney marks the loss of a Canadian and international statesman

WRITTEN BY **RICK MULLER**

For a mid-sized country of 40 million people, Canada has always punched above its weight on the global stage, and there might be no politician in recent times who has symbolized that more than the country's 18th Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, who died peacefully, at age 84, on February 29, 2024.

Perhaps it was fitting that Mulroney died on a Leap Year Day since he was a rarity himself. A self-made man, he came from a humble background in rural Quebec and rose to the top of the international power élite. The son of a paper-mill electrician, he achieved such gravitas and international esteem that he delivered the eulogies at the funerals of not just one but two U.S. presidents.

Mulroney was a man who developed close personal friendships with Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and Pope John Paul II. He was equally comfortable and happy dining with Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace as he was sitting with one of his four children in the stands at a Blue Jays baseball game.

"He shaped our past, but he shapes our present — and he will impact our future as well," said Prime Minster Justin Trudeau upon learning of Mulroney's passing. "There are many, many people across the country tonight who are reeling and feeling a deep absence."

Martin Brian Mulroney was born to Irish-Canadian Catholic parents on March 20, 1939, in remote Baie-Comeau, Quebec. His father, Benedict Mulroney, worked overtime at the paper mill and ran a repair business on the side to earn extra money for his children's education. Young Brian would help out, too, frequently telling stories about newspaper publisher Robert R. McCormick, whose company had founded Baie-Comeau, about how, as a boy, he would sing Irish songs for McCormick and the publisher would slip him $50.

Mulroney was equally proud of his Irish roots and his baritone singing voice — so much so that he convinced his pal Ronald Reagan to celebrate their shared Irish heritage by singing "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" in a notable performance at the so-called "Shamrock Summit" in Quebec City in 1985.

Mulroney entered St. Francis Xavier University as a 16-year-old freshman in 1955 and won several public speaking contests at the university, graduating with a degree in political science before pursuing a law degree at Dalhousie Law School in Halifax. He built a successful legal career, but politics and the thought of public service was never out of mind.

The love of his life besides Canada was his wife Mila, whom he married in 1973. Together they had four children, and their daughter, Caroline, followed him into public service. Today she serves as a Cabinet member in the Ontario Government under Premier Doug Ford.

Over time, Brian Mulroney built a network of friends that included politicians, aides and journalists, all of whom would assist his rise in political circles until he placed third in the 1976 Progressive Conservative leadership election. Following a short stint as the president of the Iron Ore Company of Canada, Mulroney won the leadership of the Progressive Conservatives in 1983. He led the party to a landslide victory in the 1984 federal election, winning the second-largest percentage of seats in Canadian history at 74.8 per cent and receiving more than 50 per cent of the popular vote. In today's fractured political climate, those numbers are almost hard to believe.

The kid from Baie-Comeau was now the 18th Prime Minister of a G7 nation, and he used his overwhelming mandate to his advantage both at home and abroad. His time as Prime Minister was marked by notable economic reforms that remain his legacies to this day, including the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement (1988), the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) (1991) and the privatization of 23 of 61 Crown Corporations, including Air Canada and Petro-Canada.

He handily won a second majority government in 1988, but politics are fickle and popularity rarely lasts. Mulroney was defeated in 1993 with the Progressive Conservative party reduced to just two seats.

On the global stage, Mulroney is remembered for his action on climate initiatives and for convincing fellow leaders, including Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, of the evils of apartheid in South Africa. There was a time when Thatcher wanted Nelson Mandela arrested, but Mulroney brought both leaders around and mounting international pressure led to Mandela's release. The morning after Mandela's release, Mulroney was pleased to receive a call from him.

Mulroney's warm personal style made him many friends across the political spectrum, even his longtime rival, former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. You could have battles, but Mulroney always put Canada first and above any partisan bickering. "In politics, opposition is opposition. It's like playing hockey. You can fight on the ice and have a beer together after that. And we had a lot of things in common," said Chrétien after Mulroney's passing.

Mulroney built lasting friendships with Reagan and his successor George H. W. Bush, so much so that he was asked to deliver the eulogies at Reagan's funeral in 2004 and Bush's funeral in 2018. There were few better orators or elder statesmen than Mulroney.

"Statesman" is not a word you hear very often these days when it comes to politics. But Brian Mulroney was every inch the statesman, perhaps the last of a dying breed. Despite all of his notable accomplishments and the lasting legacies from his remarkable life, he did not care to be called a statesman or even "Mr. Prime Minister." He much preferred to be called a husband, a father and a grandfather — and there is no greater legacy than that.

PHOTO BY PAUL COUVRETTE



“He shaped our past, but *he shapes our present* — and *he will impact our future as well*”

– Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the passing of Brian Mulroney

As Canada’s 18th Prime Minister from 1984 – 1993, Mulroney brought forth free trade with the U.S., introduced the GST, pushed for more aggressive climate initiatives and raised Canada’s profile on the world stage

The VALUE of PRESERVATION: IT NOURISHES the SOUL

Experience an extraordinary 250-year journey through American history, architecture, art and landscape design, courtesy of the Preservation Society of Newport County

INTERVIEW BY **MARC CASTALDO**



PHOTOS BY GAVIN ASHWORTH



Dining Room at The Elms, which was modelled after an 18th-century French château but also incorporated the latest Gilded-Age technology





Salon of Marble House, an architectural landmark built by William Vanderbilt as a 39th birthday present for his wife, Alva, that set the pace as Newport's unassuming wooden summer homes were replaced by mansions that became legendary



PHOTO BY DAVID HANSEN

Trudy Coxe
Chief Executive Officer of the Preservation Society of Newport County

Ordinary houses that convey warmth and security are beloved because a future in them can be imagined. It can be the home not just for yourself and your family, but for the memories you will cherish for years to come.

But some homes are simply great — so great that they give meaning to the distinction between a house and a mansion. In one of the most historically intact cities in America, Newport, Rhode Island, such is the case courtesy of the Preservation Society of Newport County. The Preservation Society, an institution that was founded in 1945, has been entrusted by the public to preserve the architecture, decorative arts and landscape design from the Colonial era to the Gilded Age, which together comprise the legendary Newport Mansions.

Trudy Coxe, CEO of the Preservation Society of Newport County, graced *Dolce* with an exclusive interview that shines a light on everything it has to offer and the significance of preserving history.

Q: When you were appointed CEO in 1998, what were some of the short-term and long-term goals you had?

A: I wanted to certainly improve the visitor experience so we could guarantee that more people came to visit, so we experimented with a lot of educational ideas. We introduced the audio tour within the first two years of being here. We started the *Servant Life* tour up to the third floor of The Elms, taking people out onto the roof and then down into the basement. Later, we did the *Beneath the Breakers* tour. We offered new and different experiences and new ways for people to see the houses. We increased the number of lectures and opportunities for people to come to our houses and get to know them better, to be better educated. Part of my job description was to try and raise money, so that was one of my goals. I just wanted to try to elevate the reputation of the Preservation Society.

Q: What are some of the values the Preservation Society of Newport County represents?

A: I think the most important value is preservation. This was really driven home by a recent trip to Havana where since 1959 the city has seen nothing invested in its architectural treasures and, as a result, right now, every single day of the week, three buildings collapse. What you learn from that is if you don't take care of your treasures, you can lose them very quickly. And you cannot get them back. So, [concerning] the concept of preservation, somebody needs to be there, somebody needs to be the advocate, somebody needs to be the leader — that's what we are.

Q: How are each of the properties and landscapes unique?

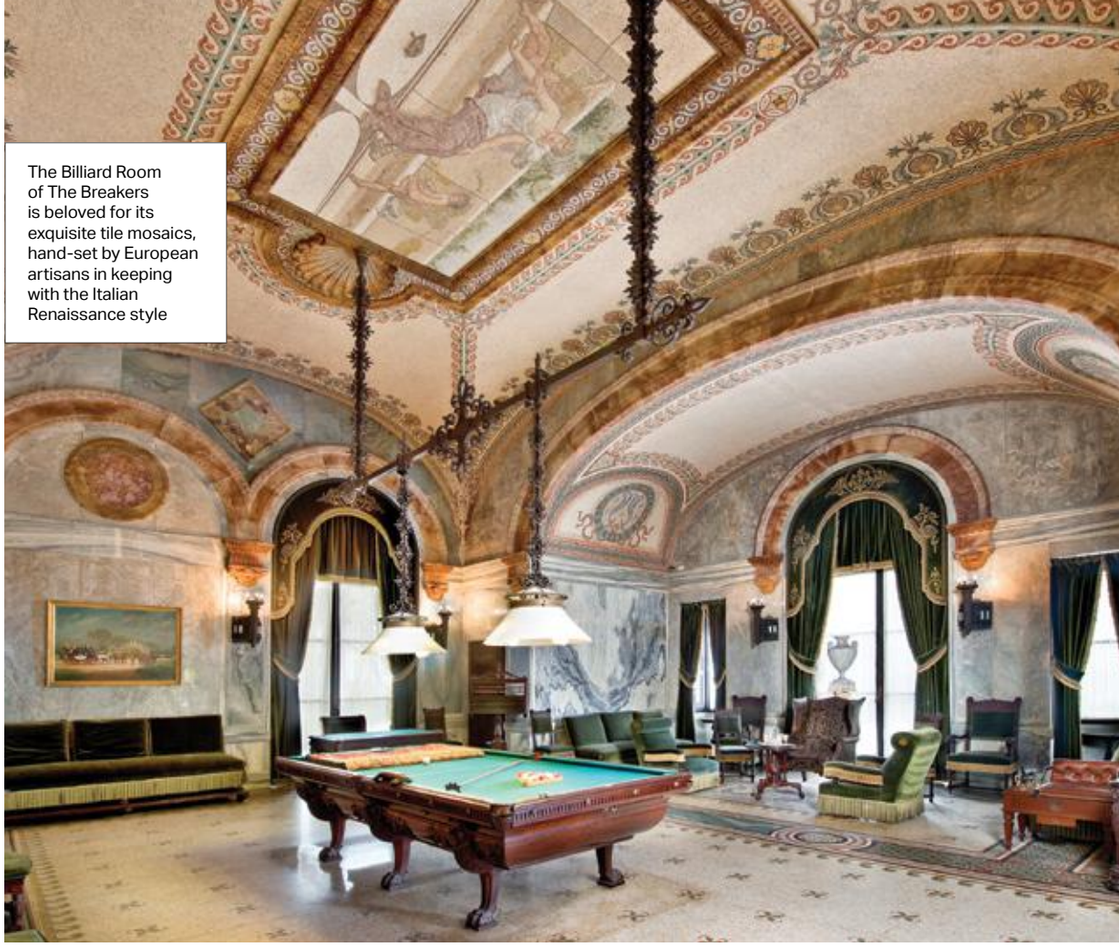
A: We are fortunate in that we have 11 different houses that range from a Colonial built in the 1740s to a monumental building like The Breakers, which is the epitome of the Gilded Age. So, what we offer to the public is a broad assortment of opportunities from the Colonial through the Victorian Era, all the way through the Shingle Style era all the way up through the Gilded Age.

Q: Can you shed some light on what goes into preserving the heritage and historic properties of Newport County?

A: What goes into the preservation process is money. You cannot do anything like we do here in Newport without the support and the help we have received, from selling tickets to donations people give us — people who really care about preservation. It takes money to preserve buildings. That's the one thing you learn early in the job. Secondly, in terms of the preservation process, I think finding the artisans — making sure you can bring in people who know how to deal with buildings that are 150, 250 years old. And, then thirdly, from my perspective, we are fortunate because we have some truly outstanding directors of the properties department

PHOTOS BY GAVIN ASHWORTH





The Billiard Room of The Breakers is beloved for its exquisite tile mosaics, hand-set by European artisans in keeping with the Italian Renaissance style

who know how to bring jobs in on time. Anyone who has restored a house knows how easy it is to get caught down that rabbit hole. All of a sudden you are doing everything at once and not getting anything done. We have all been there. We're lucky because we have had professionals on our staff who keep the project moving forward, get the job done on time, on budget and move on to the next project.

Q: When members of the public see the properties for the first time, what is the most common reaction?

A: The common reaction is "Wow!" They are awed. They are enthusiastic. They've never seen anything like it. These properties are not just massive and ornate, but they are also incredibly well-preserved and that is not by accident.

Q: How has the Preservation Society of Newport County set the tone for historic preservation in general, for the future?

A: I know we are looked at — not only in this country but around the world — as being experts in terms of preservation. People come from all over the world to meet with us, to learn from us, to share war stories and to find out about new technology. We are doing preservation every single hour of every single day of the week. We have a lot of experience that people can learn from. Whether it's on buildings, landscapes or gates and fences, we have done it all. We are demonstrating a commitment. Anybody who goes by our properties sees that this is high-quality work.

Q: What are some upcoming events that the Preservation Society is hosting/organizing?

A: In partnership with the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, we opened an exhibition titled *Sparkling Lights at The Breakers* at Rosecliff on March 15. The exhibition examines various aspects of everyday life in the African-heritage community of Gilded Age Newport, including where they lived, worked, played, travelled and worshipped. It runs through June 30.

We have an incredibly busy summer, beginning with the 28th Newport Flower Show, which runs from June 21 to 23 at Rosecliff. There will be beautiful floral arrangements and botanical arts and horticulture displays along with a marketplace set up on the back lawn.

From July 1 to September 3, we will be displaying life-sized Asian elephant sculptures on one of our properties as part of a travelling campaign created by the Coexistence Consortium. These sculptures are made from lantana, a toxic weed harmful to animal habitats. The sculptures have been displayed around the world, including outside Buckingham Palace, and Newport is the first stop on its American tour.

Our summer season ends with the Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival from September 20 to 22 at Rosecliff. This event features wonderful wine and beverage seminars throughout the weekend and is always one of our most popular events.

Q: During your tenure, what has been your fondest memory?

A: My first fond memory was the restoration of The Elms Sunken Garden, which had been nothing but a compost heap. It was a mess. And now it is probably of all the gardens we have the prettiest. I think a second fond memory is the rehabilitation of The Elms Stable, converting it into a centre for our research fellows, so we could house young academicians, get them to do research and help us better understand our houses. I think a third fond memory was finishing the Welcome Center at The Breakers and then the rehabilitation of the entire 13 acres of landscape at The Breakers. That is something I am proud of. Another fond memory is getting through COVID. I know it was not a happy time in a lot of ways, but it opened doors for us that we had never considered before, like "Sparkling Lights at The Breakers." So now, every winter season, we have close to 30,000 people in a space of 22 days come to The Breakers at night and see it lit up in glorious ways. I have a lot of fond memories.

Q: Finally, what is your definition of *la dolce vita* (the sweet life)?

A: I think *la dolce vita* is going to a place like I just did, visiting Havana, seeing how that city is dealing with preservation challenges. Appreciating where preservation is done well and understanding the challenges.

www.newportmansions.org
@newport_mansions

COME TOGETHER

Toronto's University Health Network's first brand campaign proclaims UHN's status as Canada's No. 1 hospital and tells its 'people caring for people' story

WRITTEN BY **RICK MULLER** | INTERVIEW BY **MARC CASTALDO**

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR *DOLCE*'S EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE OF OUR INTERVIEW WITH DR. KEVIN SMITH & JULIE QUENNEVILLE

Changing health care best practices, whether locally or internationally, cannot be done in isolation. It takes a team, a very large team, to effect meaningful change. For every single health practitioner you encounter during a hospital visit, an army stands behind her or him, and they work together to deliver the best care possible while constantly striving to redefine what "possible" might mean.

Nowhere is this more evident than at the University Health Network (UHN) in Toronto, which has been ranked as Canada's No. 1 research hospital for 13 consecutive years, one of the top five hospitals in the world four years in a row and holds the title of the world's No. 1 publicly funded hospital. With nine sites and more than 18,500 staff, UHN comprises Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto Rehab, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and The Michener Institute of Education at UHN.

This extensive network of world-class health-care institutions and impressive rankings among the world's hospitals may take many by surprise, which one of the main reasons UHN has launched its very first branding campaign — to tell the world a little bit more about itself. The "UHNITED" campaign focuses on the teams working together across UHN and features real stories of innovation, trailblazing discoveries and lives transformed.



One of Canada's most respected health-care executives, Dr. Kevin Smith leads a team of 18,500 committed staff at UHN

> "THE PRINCIPAL VALUES FOR UHN ARE THAT THE NEEDS OF THE PATIENTS COME FIRST, QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY THE NEEDS OF OUR TEAMS"

PHOTOS BY LISMERY LOYOLA



> THERE ARE NEARLY 5,000 MEDICAL DISCOVERIES MADE EVERY DAY WITHIN THIS INSTITUTION AND WE WANT PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO FEEL A SENSE OF PRIDE IN UHN

UHN Foundation CEO Julie Quenneville is responsible for raising nearly $500 million every year to support UHN's research

"True to our Canadian roots, UHN has tended to be modest about our achievements, quietly going about the business of caring for our country's sickest patients while relentlessly pursuing discovery and innovation," says Dr. Kevin Smith, president and CEO of UHN and one of Canada's most respected health-care leaders. "We should all be proud that Canada is having such a profound impact on medicine worldwide. The UHNITED campaign is a celebration of TeamUHN coming together to transform health care."

It's not the stereotypically Canadian way to be immodest and crow about our achievements, but the UHNITED campaign does just that: for a mid-sized country of just 40 million people, we have something that's the best in the world, and that's the UHN.

Insulin was discovered here. The world's first lung transplant was performed here, and UHN remains the leading and most successful transplant centre in North America and one of the top three transplant research centres in the world. UHN's Krembil Brain Institute at Toronto Western Hospital was the first in Canada to use remote deep brain stimulation technology to treat Parkinson's disease and is home to the largest neuromodulation program in the country. It also serves as a referral centre for other Canadian hospitals, who rely on UHN to address patient needs from assessment and treatment to recovery. All of these accomplishments reflect UHN's core values.

"The principal values for UHN are that the needs of the patients come first, quickly followed by the needs of our teams," says Dr. Smith. "A third value is that we have to be firing on all cylinders, in excellent clinical care, outstanding research and innovation and unbelievable education of the next generation of health professionals and scientists."

While the branding campaign speaks to the many innovations and accomplishments UHN has made in the past, it also addresses the future. UHN is the first hospital in Canada to introduce a Chief AI Scientist role and build an AI hub.

"The next economy will be a science-based economy, and I'm so excited by the opportunities of artificial intelligence," says Dr. Smith. "When we look at what is going to change the world next, it is data and AI and the generative opportunities that come from that. We can look at reducing work that is not all that rewarding or perhaps we can't easily afford in the future. We can also learn by taking data from around the world and seeing trends, and AI can do that. At UHN, we're thinking about all these things — what is great about AI and what do we need to worry about regarding our patient populations as well as the provider."

The UHNITED campaign also has other goals. One is recruitment — in order to be the best, you have to attract and retain the very best health-care practitioners and scientists. The other is fundraising as the reality is that health care institutions around the world are battling for a share of donors' wallets because their support is critical. That's the job of the UHN Foundation, one of two UHN fundraising arms, under the expert leadership of CEO Julie Quenneville.

"We are doing nearly $500 million in new research every year at UHN, provided by seed funding from the generosity of this community," says Quenneville. "Philanthropy is the most important source of revenue for innovation. There are nearly 5,000 medical discoveries made every day within this institution, and we want people across the country to feel a sense of pride in UHN. We can reimagine health care if everyone is united toward the same cause."

The singular purpose behind all advertising always has been and always will be very simple: "Your life will be better with (fill in the cause or product)." UHN's UHNITED campaign tells a very simple yet powerful true story — tens of thousands of lives have been made better by University Health Network.

uhnfoundation.ca
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The Magical WORLD OF CUSTOM FABRIC FLOWERS

An iconic, inspiring haute-couture flower factory in New York's Garment District, in the heart of midtown Manhattan has been reimagining the way we view floral embellishments for 100+ years

WRITTEN BY **MASSIMO SOSA**

In the cultural realms of fashion and art, few firms are as prestigious as M&S Schmalberg, which has earned a reputation for timeless elegance. Trusted by many of the most notable names in the industry, including Vera Wang and Thom Browne, the New-York-City-based manufacturer has inscribed its name in the history books — for more than a century it has been a family-owned business, now spanning four generations. M&S Schmalberg has been the gold standard for custom handmade fabric flowers in the United States since 1916, renowned for its exquisite adornments of petals and unparalleled craftsmanship.

You might be fooled by their innocent nature, but these delicate beauties contain a curated blend of rich history, culture and symbolism that can be attributed to the achievement of the American Dream.

Morris and Sam Schmalberg, the two brothers behind the original fabric factory, had roots in the vibrant garment district of New York and were determined to support their families and provide a service to society. Today, the same honourable work ethic reigns true with Adam Brand, who is part of the fourth generation and the son of Warren Brand, who famously nicknames himself "The Flower Guy." Warren Brand has proudly worked at the factory since his teens and passionately continued this legacy by embracing the values of selflessness, love and kindness. His son, Adam, has followed in his father's footsteps and is now Head Flower Tinkerer at midtown's flower factory. Brand intends to bring the Schmalberg legacy into an age of modernity while introducing clients to the exquisite level of craftsmanship and care that the iconic floral house is known for.

With an impressive catalogue hundreds of red-carpet appearances and A-List clientele, M&S Schmalberg has worked alongside the ateliers of numerous houses on a multitude of occasions to bring visions of floral beauty to life. From stars, like Beyoncé, to members of the British Royal Family including Meghan Markle, the factory has contributed to some of the most memorable fashion-media moments of the modern era.

The Schmalberg family, like many, has experienced firsthand the many waves of fortune that must be navigated if a business venture is to thrive in the competitive New York fashion scene. Second-generation owner Harold Schmalberg, the founders' nephew, was a Holocaust survivor, and he was determined that the brand's values remained clear: the priority would be to create a love-filled and inspiring workplace that was devoted to its craft and respectful of each other's ideas. Adam added, "We come to work, but we enjoy ourselves, and I think I've pushed that even further."

The atelier works with all sorts of fabrics, from delicate silks to durable hides and, fulfilling the occasional request, even exotic snake or alligator skins. Each bloom is meticulously handcrafted by skilled artisans, using techniques passed down through generations and moulds as old as the turn of the last century. From delicate roses to lush peonies, every flower exudes an aura of natural beauty and sophistication, only possible through M&S Schmalberg's unparalleled attention to detail and curatorial skills.

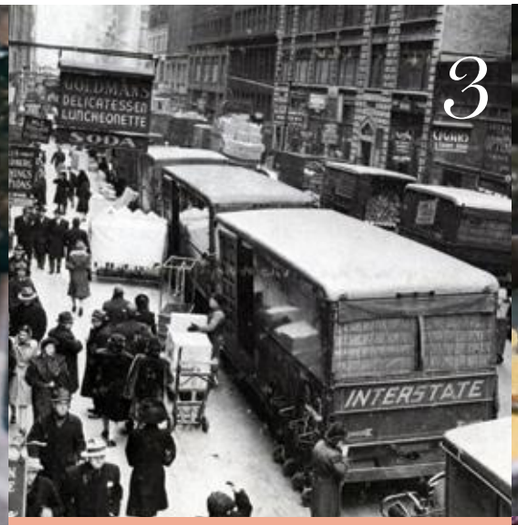
Adam Brand encourages people of all ages to take advantage of the company's New York City address and book a visit to tour the facility or to visit M&S Schmalberg online and purchase their very own custom flower. As our interview came to an end, he said, "My goal in all of this is to spread the word," which he has achieved with flying colours.

customfabricflowers.com
@customfabricflowers

PHOTOS COURTESY OF M&S SCHMALBERG











> “WE COME TO WORK BUT WE ENJOY OURSELVES, AND I THINK I’VE PUSHED THAT EVEN FURTHER … MY GOAL IN ALL OF THIS IS TO SPREAD THE WORD”

1. Custom flower mould pressings for each layer of petals, crafted by M&S **2.** L to R: Warren Brand, a.k.a. “The Flower Guy,” with son Adam Brand **3.** M&S Schmalberg is located in New York City’s historic Garment District **4.** Fabric during the die-cut process is ready to be pressed into shape **5.** An array of flower moulds categorized by shape, size and species

Q&A

Q: Describe the Schmalberg brand in three words?
A: Artisanal, timeless and customized.

Q: What is the most beautiful flower to you?
A: The most beautiful flower to me is one that is crafted from heirloom fabric, imbued with personal history and emotional significance. There is something awesome about transforming a piece of fabric with special memories into a lasting floral keepsake. I love when we are able to bring joy into people’s lives.

Q. How many people make up your atelier on average, and is there a hierarchy of flower crafters?
A: Over the past 100+ years, the size of our team has varied significantly, ranging from seven to eight people to at times over 40. Currently, we have 15 people on our team, each contributing their own unique skills and creativity.

Q: Complete the sentence for us: I love New York because …
A: I was born and raised in New York, and it has been the centre of my world since the beginning. To me, New York is the greatest city on earth. There is an energy here that does not exist anywhere else. Where else can you get a good slice of pizza at 3 a.m.?

Q: What does *la dolce vita* mean to you?
A: I’m already living my *dolce vita*. It centres around peace and happiness. No drama. The family is healthy. Good company and beautiful days spent outdoors. The fact that I get up every morning and I’m excited to go to work after a great weekend with my family — how could it get any better than that?

VILLA LA CAPPELLA

A letter from the soul of Tuscany, with love

WRITTEN BY **PAOLA FAIELLA**



PHOTO COURTESY OF VILLA LA CAPPELLA



You'll feel enchanted when you gaze upon the hills of Chianti



PHOTO BY FRANCESCO SAVERIO LOPAZIO

Surrounded by hectares of greenery, Villa La Cappella is an oasis where natural wellness can flourish

Growing up

Canadian-born children of Italian immigrants, my husband Anthony and I both lived lived in households steeped with all the customs and traditions our parents brought with them when they immigrated. We lived among neighbours with the same background, where Italian was spoken at home and by the local merchants. Many of us took extended summer vacations in Italy to spend time in the villages and towns where our parents were raised.

Once our daughters were born, we returned to visit these same towns and introduce them to their cultural roots. It was during those early trips, which included regular stops in Tuscany to visit family, that we fell in love with the region and began to plan: once we retired we would return — we'd run a bed and breakfast so that we could remain busy in retirement and introduce friends to this wonderful region.

Thus, in 2003, we began to search for the perfect property. The first one that we saw that summer was not really a home, but rubble with no roof. The rule in Tuscany is that you are not permitted to build new homes in the countryside. It is architecturally controlled, and owners can only restore homes to their original condition. That's what makes the region so beautiful and unspoiled, but it also presents challenges to the owners of those properties. Rebuilding this home would have been a monumental challenge even if we were living in Italy, but doing it while working and living in Canada would have been too difficult.

We began our search years before retirement, knowing the restructuring would take many years to complete in a country where everything moves very slowly. We returned each year, often to visit properties that seemed like "the one," but none of them were. The final such trip occurred right before the onset of COVID, and, once again, the property wasn't the one. Locked up in our home in Toronto, it was beginning to look like our dream would never be realized.

Then, having agreed to put our search on hold, we stumbled upon Villa La Cappella. The villa was named after the chapel (cappella) that dates back to the 13th century and now serves as our home. The chapel and the villa were once both part of the property that belonged to the owners of the castle across the road from us, which also dates back to the 1200s. An 800-year-old property atop a hill in Tuscany that would permit us to host guests seemed like it could be "the one," but given the COVID lockdown, we had no way of getting to Tuscany. We sent a cousin who lives near the villa to ensure it was, in fact, there (this is Italy, after all) and that it was as it appeared. Based on photos and our knowledge of the area, we made the decision to proceed — a decision that didn't seem quite so crazy during COVID, but, of course, buying a villa and chapel from the 1200s sight unseen is crazy. Regardless, the travel restrictions meant it would be more than a year before we could close the deal.

When we finally made it back to Italy, we came directly to the villa and immediately realized the magnitude of what we had acquired. While we had never envisioned operating a villa this size, we





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were excited about the beauty and history of the property. The acquisition was supposed to close in January of 2022, but given the pace of everything in Italy, the closing of the deal dragged on until April 6, only four days before the first guests were set to arrive. We rushed to get the villa ready. The previous owners had managed to book up a good portion of the season and having never done this before, we would have to figure it out as we went along.

Now, as we prepare for our third season, we have made many upgrades to the property and continue to make improvements. Getting work done in Italy is probably the most challenging thing about this entire experience. Getting tradespeople to show up and complete a job is difficult enough, but the architectural control that makes Tuscany so beautiful means everything we do, including painting the villa, requires a permit from the local government, and there are only a handful of colours that are acceptable.

After only two seasons, we have had so many wonderful experiences that we look forward to the start of the season and genuinely miss our guests during the off-season. We have already built some incredible friendships with guests who have visited and with whom we've stayed in touch. While the villa had previously been operated as a hotel, we have sought to run it as a traditional B&B and treat our guests as "friends staying in our home." We have been hosting friends for 30 years, so we approached it the only way we know.

Our guest book is filled with comments about how visitors felt like they were at home while staying at the villa, and there can be no greater compliment. We have received two travel and tourism awards, including B&B of the Year — Tuscany 2024. This season, we are offering week-long tours of the region, including a hands-on gelato class with a world champion gelato maker, a visit to the region's finest Pecorino cheese maker, an e-bike tour through the Chianti vineyards, a professionally guided tour of Florence by the guide that showed Stanley Tucci around the city in his CNN special, as well as several other excursions, including to some of the finest wineries in the area. Our goal is to create special moments for our guests that become lifetime memories.

Our daughters are in London and Toronto, where they are studying and working, but they too have remained in contact with former guests living in those cities. The girls return each summer to spend part of the season here to help operate the villa and to welcome guests to our home. Our crazy decision seems to be working out pretty well so far.

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