

Luxury Real Estate by Carlton International | issue four Spring 2008

Carpe D

e Diem

VILEBREQUIN // ECO CHIC // MUREILLE GUILIANO // BOYS TOYS // AVANT GARDE ARCHITECTURE



LE MAS

Candille



Essential for happiness...

A UNIQUE HOTEL

A MICHELIN-STARRED RESTAURANT

A SHISEIDO SPA

Hotel - Restaurant - Spa
Le Mas Candille



Boulevard Clément Rebuffel 06250 Mougins - Alpes Maritimes - France
Tel : 33. (0) 4.92.28.43.43 - Fax : 33.(0) 4.92.28.43.40 - www.lemascandille.com

Owner : Mark Silver - Managing Director : Anthony Torkington

Photos : DRA Le Mas Candille



Carpe Diem Spring 2008

Publisher
Paul Coleman
Editor
Suzanna Chambers
Marketing & PR Director
Mette Kristine Oustrup
Market Research
Natasha Pugh
Art Director
Richard Maclean

For advertisement sales,
please call +44(0)207 193 1671

Published by
Luxarro Publishing Ltd.
paul.coleman@luxarro.com
www.luxarro.com

London +44 (0) 208 123 6688
Hong Kong +852 8125 4060
Cannes +33 (0)8 70 40 88 95
Mobile +33(0) 679 680 559

Printed by
Fotolito Longo Ltd.

All rights reserved. No part of this may be reproduced or stored in a retrieval system or transmitted by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or other, without prior consent from the publishers. The content of this magazine is based upon the best knowledge and information available at the time of publication. No responsibility of any kind, for injury, death, loss, damage or delay, however caused, resulting from the use of this material can be accepted by the publishers or others associated with its reproduction. The opinions expressed by the contributors are their own and not necessarily those of Carlton International or Luxarro Publishing.

If this magazine was sent to the wrong address or you would like the magazine to be sent to another address, please email: info@luxarro.com.

We would welcome any comments you may have on the magazine, or if you would like a friend to receive a copy, please email their details to:
carpediem@luxarro.com.



Carpe Diem is the magazine for
Carlton International
2721, Chemin de St. Claude,
06600 Antibes, France.
Telephone +33 (0)493 95 11 11
Fax +33 (0)493 74 40 75
www.carlton-international.com
contact@carlton-international.com

It has been a challenge and an adventure; a journey into an unaccustomed sphere. As director of Carlton and commissioner of Carpe Diem I was uncertain as to how to integrate a corporate philosophy and a selection of products and services into a medium which would be attractive, interesting, even inspiring to a sophisticated, multicultural and international audience. Our publishers have guided us along the path but until now we were unable to assess the reaction of our readers as to their appreciation or indeed disapproval, their compliments or their criticisms.

You may be one of the many who responded to the survey sent to more than 1,000 members of the exclusive readership of Carpe Diem for whom we had e-mail addresses. Statistically speaking, we were delighted with the unusually high response rate of over 15%.

The analysis of the results has been gratifying and is in itself the ultimate justification for the very existence of Carpe Diem.

You have confirmed that, on average, 12 people in your immediate environment read the magazine. This, more than any other statistic, is a form of tribute and we are proud.

You will be interested to learn that 85% of our readers intend to invest in property in the next two years and that 73% of you wish to invest an excess of one million euros with a certain number of investors suggesting personal investments of over 20 million euros.

Your recommendations concerning editorial content, to include articles on property trends, culture and travel will be heeded and we will aspire to comply with your wishes.

Although there were some excellent constructive criticisms I have chosen the most congratulatory comment received from a reader living in the USA who wrote: "I work for a company with the word Luxury in its name.....Carpe Diem is the quintessence of luxury."

Thank you all for your support and fidelity.

Philip R. WEISER
Carlton International

Contents Spring 2008

Features

05: Cover

The man who knew when to go.

Phil Dickie meets Pierre Alain Blum, the man who turned Vilebrequin into the name in men's luxury swim wear.

13: Interiors

The Côte d'Azur: A hotbed for the Avant Garde.

French Riviera architecture isn't all Belle Epoque villas as Lanie Goodman discovers when she visits the former homes of designer Eileen Gray and architect Le Corbusier.

19: Pour Les Hommes

Love Me Tender.

Margaret Kemp reveals the hypothetical shopping list for the man who has everything.

24: Pour Les Femmes

Why French women don't get fat.

Best-selling author Mireille Guiliano tells Nicky Cahill how to keep slim on a diet of champagne and chocolate.

32: Great Green Debate

Why it's cool to care what you wear.

Danielle Gusmaroli discovers that fashion has turned eco-friendly as consumers begin to shop with conscience.

38: Pour Les Familles

Top Five Family Days Out

Author and mother Louise Simpson shares her top five favourite things to do on the Côte d'Azur, while we offer suggestions of which family-friendly villas to rent.

42: Dominican Republic Special

Living with nature en luxe.

Plans for the Caribbean's most exclusive 'eco-chic' resort on the Samana Peninsula are revealed to Suzanna Chambers.

47: Dominican Republic Special

The Peninsula House.

Suzanna Chambers checks out the country's smartest yet most discrete address.

50: Days Like These

Jean-Claude Ellena.

The nose of Hermès tells Lanie Goodman why the south of France is his ideal work bench.

Property

A stunning selection of prestigious and contemporary properties:
Pages 8-12, 16-17, 27-31

Exclusive residence in Thai eco-luxury resort:
Page 18

Les Templiers – a Templar chapel transformed:
Pages 35-37

Family-friendly rentals:
Pages 38-40

St Tropez farmer Pierre Alain Blum used the lessons from a notable career in luxury watches to make Vilebrequin a global luxury brand. Now, he is handing over the reins. [Phil Dickie](#) investigates.

When you are at the top, going at the right time is an unusual accomplishment.

Many politicians notably outstay their usefulness and their welcome. A career that would have been glorious if gracefully retired from earlier ends in ignominy when the people, the parliament or even their own party tosses them on to the scrap heap. Just ask Churchill, who ended up in opposition when he was expecting a grateful electorate to thank him for winning the war.

Business identities generally have a gentler time of outstaying

their welcome. Many stay on, slowing down while their business does likewise. A golden handshake might be organized eventually but commonly this will be a genteel affair marked by speeches expressing great regret at the departure.

Meet Pierre Alain Blum. He is the man credited with building up fashion brand Vilebrequin into the name to follow in men's luxury swimming attire. He is also the man (mostly) leaving at what he judges to be the right time, with a succession in place that he feels will take the company onward and upward.

The business pages version is that Vilebrequin went to private equity, or more specifically to a fund with a heavy loading of fashion industry executives who cut their teeth with some great brands and were keen on diversifying into others. But Blum is not entirely walking away, in swim shorts or otherwise. He remains a non-executive director on the Vilebrequin supervisory board and still, in unguarded moments, talks of "our business" and "our staff".





"In all fairness to the question of the future of the company, we had two paths to go," Pierre Alain said. "Either stop growing, in which case I could have stayed and overlooked the business two or three days a week, or decide to give it a chance which requires full attention, and full attention from someone who knows the textile industry like I know the watch industry."

"So I found some fantastic partners and we have hired a fantastic person. All the staff we have here in Geneva and working in the subsidiaries, maybe they will not forget me but, as you say in English, 'The king is dead, long live the king.'"

With Pierre Alain, you get an entertaining ramble through an eventful life. It is easy interviewing, an encounter with a philosopher manufacturer who misses very little and has had the time and the inclination to reflect on his experiences.

Every brand needs a great story and Vilebrequin has never been loath to put its tale into a catalogue. In the 70s, the story goes, a creative but otherwise unspecified young fellow created the first pair of swimming shorts by scissoring up and stitching up a fashionable St Tropez tablecloth. The English language press has a tendency to assume that this creator was naturally Monsieur Vilebrequin, but by reading a bit further they would have found that the young fellow, a car fancier, had named his creation after a crankshaft.

A quality broadsheet, being a bit more analytical about the excitement caused by Tony Blair being snapped



in his Vilebrequins, announced it was a Monsieur Pascal who had just happened to have a pair of designer scissors, a needle and the right shade of thread in his pocket that morning.

I thought that maybe it was a mystery that Monsieur Blum could clear up. It was time for the sophisticated approach. "Was it you?" I asked.

"No, fortunately and unfortunately, it was not me," laughed Pierre Alain. "Unfortunately, because it was not me that had the great idea. Fortunately, because he is 10 years older than me." It turns out that both London papers were in error - the assault on the Café Sénéquier's tablecloth was perpetrated by Monsieur Fred Prysukulnik, a local

identity more commonly known as Fred Prysquel.

"Not only do I know him very well but my son is his son's best friend and that has nothing to do with the business relationship," Pierre Alain said.

With Pierre Alain, you get an entertaining ramble through an eventful life. It is easy interviewing, an encounter with a philosopher manufacturer who misses very little and has had the time and the inclination to reflect on his experiences.

Egocentric, he isn't. He pulled up a favourite quote from former US President Ronald Reagan, noting carefully that the sentiments appealed to him much more than the speaker. "It is amazing what you can achieve when you don't mind who gets the credit." "Ego is the worst ingredient in life and the most dangerous one," Pierre Alain said.

The name Blum has been more associated with watches than swimwear. Pierre Alain was born into the Ebel watch-making dynasty of the Swiss Juras but for a long time he wasn't that keen to accept his inheritance. Instead, he headed to the bright lights of New York to learn English and ended up . . . watch-making.

"I was working with Lucien Piccard, which was a well known brand which has now disappeared," he said. "I started out putting the straps on the watches and then the labels and I ended up running the industrial division of the company, and making plenty of money. And my father was coming to America and saying 'If you don't come back I will sell the company', while I was saying 'Sell the company, sell the company'.

"I came under so much pressure that I did come back to give it a go and I started on April Fools day, 1970. And let me tell you, working as the son of the owner is the worst and most difficult job in the world." Swiss salaries, too, were a fair bit lower. "Take one zero off and divide by four," laughed Pierre Alain.

But while the son had ideas that were unwelcome at first, eventually he was able to put them into effect, multiplying all of Ebel's vital statistics by amounts that the financial world noticed with envy. One notable success was to earn the contract to produce all of Cartier's watches; another was to really put the Ebel brand on the map with the Sportsman range that Cartier had - foolishly - declined in the usual way with the marketing director throwing the prototype across the room.

"Alain Dominique Perrin (of Cartier) and I, we had the perfect team," said Pierre Alain. "He had the brand and the brains and I had the production facility." The deal, worth many millions, was done "without a lawyer involved".

It all went sour when an unrelated investment secured on Pierre Alain's Ebel shareholding went bad. He had to sell, staying on for some time with the new owners but enduring the heartache of seeing many faithful and long term employees forced to leave.

"I was completely unhappy having to deal with just financial people who only look at figures and did not have the same perceptions as me on how to treat people," he said. "I was stupidly highly paid, but I was unhappy and I would rather be poor and happy than rich and miserable."

Ebel is now well into a revival, recently inviting Pierre Alain as an honoured guest to the launch of its new range.

"At the time I had Ebel we had an advertising slogan, 'The Architects of Time', " Pierre Alain explained. "On the back of

Cover: The man who knew when to go



In the 70s, the story goes, a creative but otherwise unspecified young fellow created the first pair of swimming shorts by scissoring up and stitching up a fashionable St Tropez tablecloth

the watch that was given to me was the engraving 'The Architect of Ebel' - which was very nice."

In adversity, Pierre Alain spent more time at his farm in St Tropez, "six minutes from the village, six minutes from the sea". He bought the property in 1978, and runs down his menagerie with a typical farmer's pride - "chickens, ducks, geese, ostriches, rabbits, donkeys, horses, sheep and goats."

For some time, he said, he did nothing. But the St Tropez connection did play a role in him meeting the circle of people who had further developed the swimming trunks from their tablecloth origins into a recognizable and distinctive brand.

Pierre Alain was expecting to be a partner with a silent investment, "just giving some advice due to my knowledge of the luxury business and the proper streets and the proper malls around the world. "But I ended up co-

driving the bus and then driving the bus," he said.

Having freed Vilebrequin to achieve its destiny, what is there now for Pierre Alain Blum? The answer lies back in the Juras, at the former watchmaking capital of La Chaux de Fond, a once great industrial area that fell on hard times as Swiss watch supremacy was eroded from the Far East.

"I am born there and life is a two way street," said Pierre Alain. "When I left, I left 1400 people behind me, today Ebel has only a small proportion of that." What is perhaps more surprising is that he is not putting money just into La Chaux de Fond, but putting money into Jura manufacturing again.

With one of his enterprises, he has the goal of becoming the largest watch face manufacturer in Switzerland, "keeping those people putting 'Swiss made' on the dial".

Another enterprise, a specialist spring works, seems to mirror Pierre Alain himself. Now only a tiny proportion of its springs go into Swiss watches. "We work with the telecommunications industry, we work for the medical industry, for the auto industry, for the sewing industry and for the aeronautical industry," he said. "I have 125 people there."

"I decided to give back to this region what this region has given me." //

www.vilebrequin.com



Maganosc

A contemporary villa which retains all the charm of a Provencal home with outstanding views of the French Riviera.

This property offers a genuine taste of Provence in the heartland of the Côte d'Azur. The recently built, air-conditioned home is situated in the midst of the rolling countryside, with sensational views as far as the sea. Just minutes from the picturesque hilltop village of Maganosc, south of the renowned perfume city of Grasse, the villa is only a half-an-hour drive from Nice International airport.

The architecture has been designed to encourage the sunlight to penetrate the spacious living room with fireplace and the wonderful country kitchen, both of which open onto a welcoming shaded terrace which in turn leads to the impressive infinity swimming pool and attractive gardens with century-old olive trees.

Each of the four bedroom suites enjoys lovely views from their individual balconies. Other features include a home cinema, gym room, indoor plunge pool and Turkish steam bath.



Price: €3 590 000
Ref 1379

www.carlton-international.com



Beauvallon

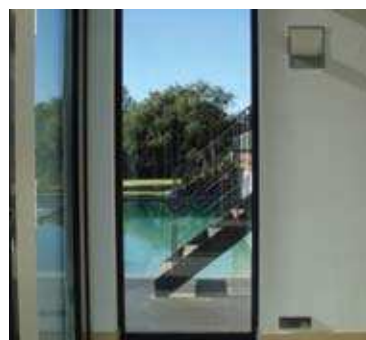
These outstanding contemporary villas set in a stunning private domain would make an ideal family home.



Between the charming, picturesque villages of Biot and Valbonne discover the Domaine Beauvallon and its few remaining, exclusive, newly completed contemporary villas with swimming pools.

Only 10 km from the famous beaches of the Cap d'Antibes and the boutiques of Juan-les-Pins but within three minutes of local shops and schools, the villas are set in a peaceful, private and secure estate with attractive, unimpeded southerly views.

They benefit from refined and ultra modern appointments, spacious volumes and large terraces. Beauvallon is designed to provide a truly unique lifestyle on the Côte d'Azur, ideal for families living all year-round or as a holiday home.



Prices: From €1 750 000 to €1 950 000

Ref: Beauvallon

www.carlton-international.com



Mougins



This extraordinary contemporary villa is a short drive from the picturesque hilltop village of Mougins, former home to Jean Cocteau, Picasso and Christian Dior.

Located in an exclusive private residential estate with ultimate security and its own caretaker, the property overlooks the strikingly colourful hilltop village of Mougins, renowned for its prestigious restaurants, cobbled meandering streets and highly respected international schools.

The stunning four bedroom home has been built on wonderful level grounds and offers a succession of unusually spacious reception rooms leading to vast terraces. The modern villa is set in almost two acres of gracious, mature gardens with a large swimming pool. The property also boasts an independent apartment which offers additional accommodation for staff as well as a garage with room for several cars.



Price: € 6,700,000
Ref 1712

www.carlton-international.com



Mougins

This contemporary villa is the perfect example of a modern Provencal home with stunning interior décor and breathtaking landscaped gardens.



The remarkable and inspiringly decorated modern property has managed to retain all the charm and colour of a French country home.

With striking views over the mediaeval hilltop village of Mougins, the villa is located in a prestigious gated domain which enjoys total privacy and peace and quiet.

Set in nearly two acres of land, the property benefits from perfectly level gardens which have been meticulously planted with a melange of Mediterranean essences.

Majestic reception rooms, superb fully-equipped kitchen, four bedroom suites, charming guest house and independent staff accommodation, together with a stunning swimming pool and tennis court, form the essential elements of this elegant property.



Price: €9 000 000
Ref 1642

www.carlton-international.com

The former homes of Irish designer Eileen Gray and iconoclastic Swiss-born architect Le Corbusier have created a tiny architectural mecca on the French Riviera. But behind them lies a complex story marked by love, betrayal and a tragic death. Lanie Goodman reports.

Anyone who assumes that French Riviera architecture is only ornate Belle Époque villas and chocolate-box gilded palaces are in for a big surprise. Hidden away behind the lush greenery of the coastal trail, on the Cap Martin peninsula, are two groundbreaking minimalist landmarks built side by side.

But few would guess that this picturesque patch of land overlooking the shimmering Mediterranean has a rich history of dramatic events, which began in 1925 when Eileen Gray fell in love with this particular corner of the Côte d'Azur.

Gray had recently opened a stylish

gallery in Paris on the rue du Faubourg-Saint Honoré, and her furniture, rugs and lamps were increasingly popular amongst the beau monde of Paris. At the same time Gray, 46, was commissioned by her lover, Romanian architect Jean Badovici, to build a house on a plot of land which she had bought on the exclusive peninsula near Roquebrune-Cap-Martin.

Completed in 1929, Gray named it Villa E1027 using a numerical code of their combined names. The concrete white house - Gray's first - was built on stilts, and had two 'ground floors'; one, next to a row of lemon trees, and the other, an open-plan living room with a red outdoor kitchen and spiral stairway that led to a glass solarium roof. The entrance was marked 'Entrez Lentement' (Enter Slowly); other whimsical phrases were stencilled on the wall, such as 'Laughter Forbidden' and 'Invitation au Voyage', the title of a poem by Charles Baudelaire.

Badovici was so enamoured with Gray's work that he dedicated an issue of his seminal magazine *l'Architecture Vivante* to the iconic



Interiors: The Côte d'Azur, A hotbed for the Avant Garde

villa, the rooms of which were filled with multi-functional furnishings, with an aluminium-folding bar, a modular living room, and pivoting cabinets, all of Gray's design. Best known for her famous 'Transat' lounge and 'Bibendum chair' (three steel-tubed cylinders in the form of a tire), Gray also furnished the rooms with brilliantly coloured carpets and metal screens, used to create a play with space, shadow and light. No detail was overlooked - there was even a system of natural ventilation and sliding shutters. It was a labour of love, designed "like a live organism," said Gray.

Sadly, after the death of Badovici in 1956, Villa E1027 fell into a terrible state of decay. It was first bought by Le Corbusier's Swiss friend, Madame Schelbert, who left the house to her personal psychiatrist Dr. Kaegi when she died in 1982. Dr. Kaegi auctioned Gray's furnishings at Sotheby's and claimed he would restore the house but quickly put it on the market for an excessive \$5million (€ 3.4 million). It was never sold and in 1996 he was murdered by two tramps hired to work there.

The house was abandoned, used by squatters, and reduced to a ruin until in 1999 it was acquired by the town of Roquebrune. It is now finally undergoing a complete 18-month restoration, financed by the French Cultural Ministry of Historic Monuments and the Maritime Alps region. The project, headed by architect Pierre-Antoine Gatier, includes a diverse team of experts who face the arduous challenge of restoring the villa to its former glory.

Experts also plan to restore Le Corbusier's "scandalous" eight wall murals, which provoked the final estrangement between the two architects, introduced to each other through Badovici in the early 1920s.

By early 2009, visitors will be able to visit the villa and experience the timeless peaceful atmosphere - chirping cicadas, towering yuccas, citrus trees, and pink oleander. "This villa is a great example of modern architecture", observes Gatier. "There's no break between the interior and exterior."

What the restoration team are most excited about is that they have found some of Gray's original colours - pinks and ochers - under the white walls repainted by Badovici when the couple broke up. Badovici stayed in the villa whilst Gray moved on to Castellar, near Menton, where she built a new white house on a steep slope, Tempe à Pailla (Time and Hay, named after a Provençal proverb that says that both are needed for figs to ripen).

Experts also plan to restore Le Corbusier's "scandalous" eight wall murals, which provoked the final estrangement between the two architects, introduced to each other through Badovici in the early 1920s.

Le Corbusier, who considered the Mediterranean his source of inspiration, was a frequent visitor to Villa E1027 and in a somewhat

cavalier fashion, he freely took over Badovici's villa once Gray had left and painted the walls in his own trademark style in 1938. Furious, Gray apparently felt betrayed by her former mentor, and called his murals "an act of vandalism". Her biographer Peter Adam went one step further and referred to them as "rape".

In 1952 Le Corbusier decided to set up house only yards away from Villa E1027. He built himself a vacation "castle", a tiny 3,66 square meter beach hut equipped only with a bed, sink, table and desk with a miniature atelier shack. Just one small building, the café "l'Etoile de Mer", separated the two properties. Le Corbusier's rustic cabin became a refuge in which the architect - a stern, formal-looking man with little round glasses, bow ties and suites - could relax in the shade of a carob tree. "I feel so good", Le Corbusier was quoted as saying, "that without a doubt, I'll end my life here."

Architect Robert Rebutato, son of the restaurateurs of l'Etoile de Mer, has many stories to tell about those warm August days when "Corbu" and his wife Yvonne had long, languorous Provençal lunches on the café terrace. "They weren't fond of cooking and liked my parent's café so much that they decided to build the 'cabanon' right next door."

Café owner Thomas Rebutato swapped his terrain for the right to build five little "camping units" - Corbusier-designed simple rooms that were two by 26 meters in length, height and width - next door to the café, just behind Villa E1027. The entire Rebutato property (which also includes Le Corbusier-frescoed walls) has now been donated to the restoration project.

"Le Corbusier often wondered what would happen to his beach hut and his paintings", says Rebutato, who came to know the architect at the age of 11 and ended up becoming his collaborator. "On the other hand, he seemed to appreciate the Villa E1027, but considered that it was actually based on his ideas. He never uttered the name "Eileen Gray" - he always referred to it as 'Jean Badovici's house'."

"Corbu had the reputation of being blunt, not terribly convivial and not easy to approach either. It's true, but he selected his friends. When someone interested him, it was give and take. He brought me a lot when I was a kid. It's no a coincidence that I decided to become an architect," says Rebutato with a smile. "I owe it to him to protect his work here."

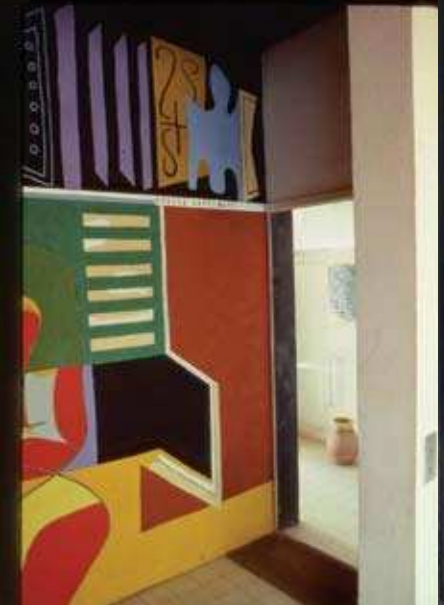
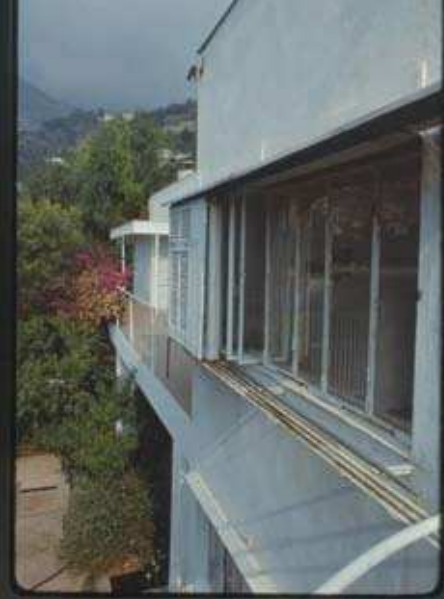
Few of the villagers in Roquebrune have forgotten their surprise and dismay, when on August 27th, 1965, Le Corbusier suffered a heart attack whilst swimming in the sea and drowned. He and his wife are buried in the nearby Roquebrune cemetery.

"Simple isn't easy. Simple is concentration. Simple is emotion," Le Corbusier once wrote.

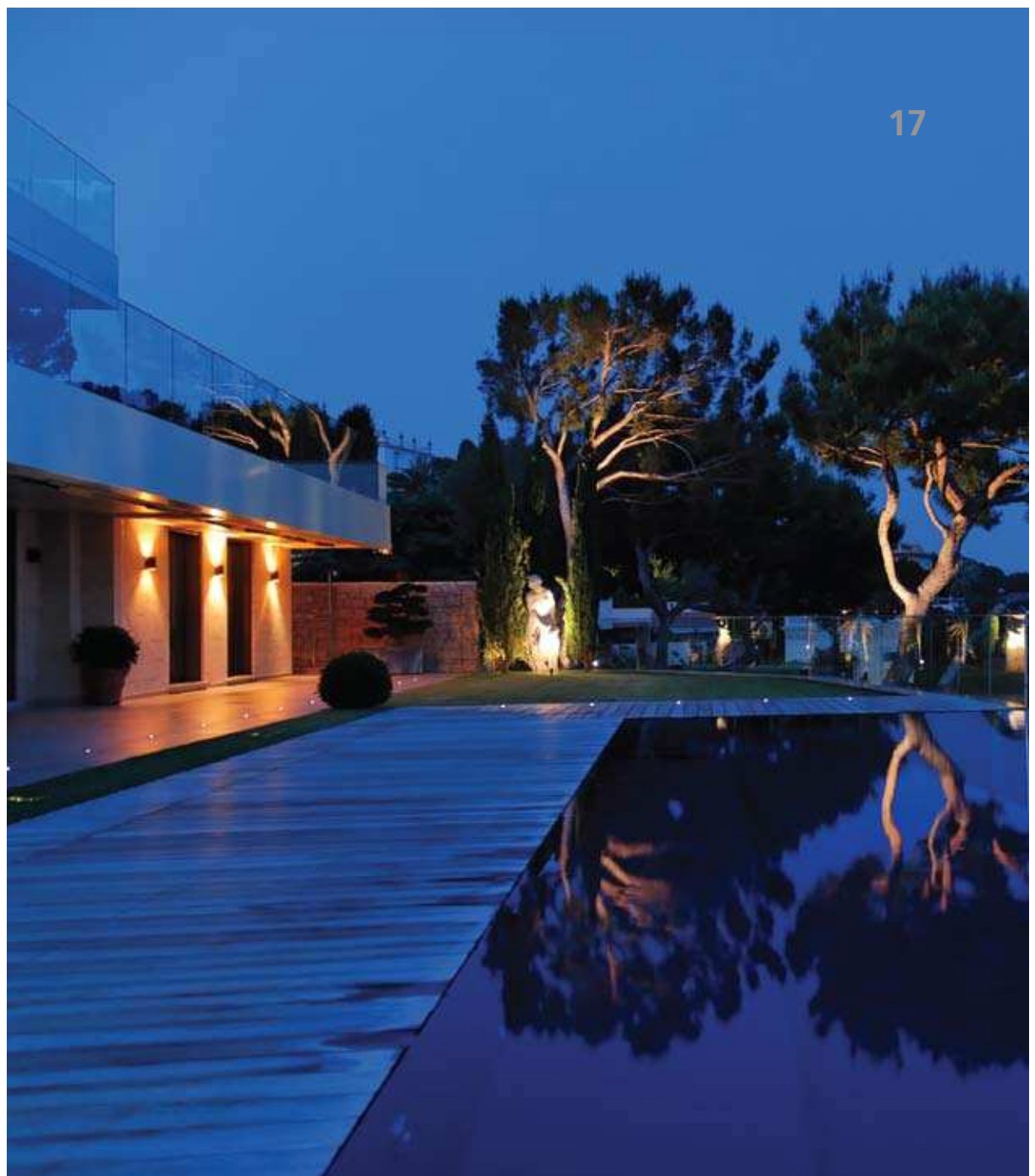
Gray, who lived to be 98, might be remembered for a sentence she scratched out in her notes before she died. "There is a road which leads upward and there is a road which leads downward. Both are one and the same."

These reflections will become immediately obvious once you visit this extraordinary site. //

Le Cabanon, Le Corbusier
Visits Tuesday and Friday at 10am by appointment
Office du Tourisme : +33 (0)4 93 35 62 87







Cap d'Ail

Enjoying some of the most stunning views of the Riviera this unique property would make the perfect luxury home.

Only a kilometre from Monaco and walking distance from the village of Cap d'Ail, one of the most sought after peninsulas of the French Riviera, this fabulous property has all the attributes to make it a truly exceptional home.

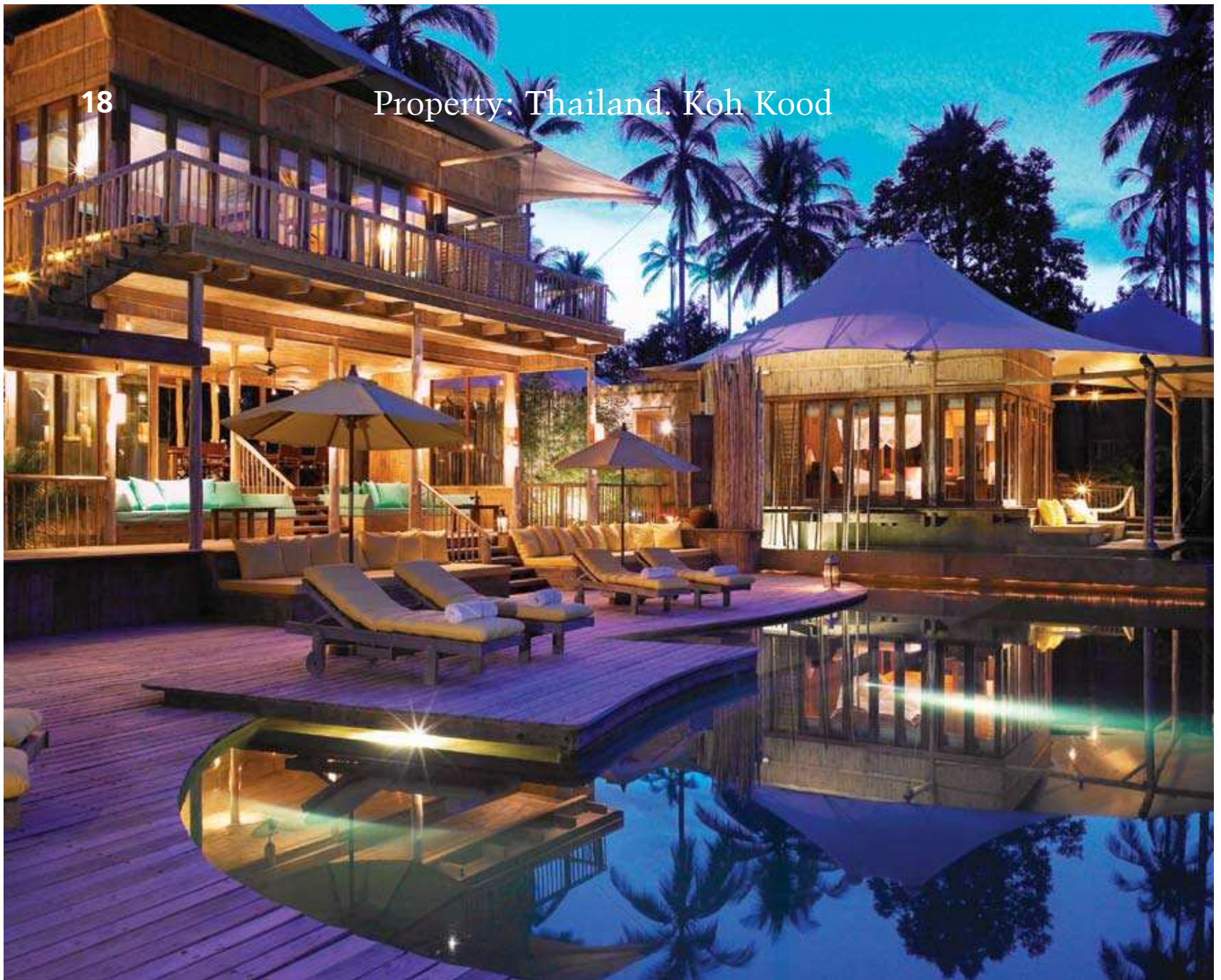
Situated 50 metres above sea level with breathtaking southerly views of Cap Ferrat, the building, which consists of almost 900 square metres of living space, has been designed to suit the needs of a large family. Alternatively it will appeal to an individual looking for a main residence to come equipped with extensive office facilities and outstanding guest accommodation.

The vast terraces, three swimming pools and elegant gardens, meanwhile, are ideal for expansive and lavish entertaining. The property is built over three floors with an inter-connecting elevator. It is divided into one large villa-apartment situated on the ground floor, with reception room, large living room, spacious kitchen, four double bedroom suites, each with its own dressing room, private office, bathroom and gym room. The Penthouse duplex on the upper floors offers spacious reception rooms, three double bedroom suites, offices and an independent guest apartment.

Price: on request
Ref 1583

www.carlton-international.com





Exclusive private residences within the eco-luxury of a Soneva Resort

Six Senses Private Residences offer the ultimate in comfort at this magnificent Thai island hideaway. Villa owners will benefit from the full services of Soneva Kiri Resort and Spa, which is set to open in September 2008.



On the exotic isle of Koh Kood, 20 exclusive ocean-view villas for sale in Phase I of its development will grace hilltops and beachfronts of the Soneva Kiri Resort and Spa. Built to exacting standards, each residence utilises ecologically sustainable design and materials, blending extreme comfort with care for the environment.

The Soneva experience begins at Bangkok airport where owners are whisked off by private plane for the short journey to Koh Kood, where they are met by their personal butlers. The four-to-six bedroom villas feature spacious living areas in detached pavilions, surrounded by private pools. The residences also boast lavish bathrooms, well-equipped home gyms, and state-of-the-art entertainment and communications systems. Some include private spa suites.

Natural beauty pervades the entire isle of Koh Kood where hiking through waterfalls and water sports activities abound, including some of Thailand's best diving. The resort's 150 acres mirror the isle's magic with its outdoor cinema, treetop sunset dining and kids-only den. Soneva's famed organically-grown cuisine, vintage wines and award-winning spa complete the experience.

Contact: Lynn Villadolid,
Six Senses Resorts & Spas Limited
Tel: +44 (0) 787-661-6972 E-mail: lynn@sixsenses.com
www.sixsenses.com/privateresidences/kiri

Prices from USD 4.5 million





Boys will be boys, and boys love their toys, the latest of which include sexy submarines, luxury speed boats and supercars on water. Margaret Kemp takes a look at what's on the market for the man who has everything.

You've taken delivery of the mega-yacht, now you need the toys: the helicopters, powerboats, surf, ski equipment and tenders. It's impossible to invite guests on board without the must-haves.

In today's world the piece de resistance is undoubtedly the US Submarine Discovery 1000 - a €1million submarine, a sexier alternative to the turbine-powered helicopter. Imagine the scenario. You have been held up in the board room but you desperately need to be on board your yacht to kick start the party. You get to the marina but can't see the water for all the boats - so you jump in your own personal submarine and dive 305 metres beneath sea level to your awaiting guests. 🐡





“Demand for luxury super yachts is enormous, and for us it has a knock-on effect. What we’re seeing is a strong interest in owners having small submarines aboard large yachts”, says L Bruce Jones President of US Submarines Inc. Discretion is his watchword. “We sign strict confidentiality agreements”, he says. “Our clients tend to be very discreet but most of them are worth more than a quarter of a billion dollars per head”.

But for those of you who would rather stay above sea level, a firm favourite with the Riviera jet set is the sleek-chic wooden Riva, which costs more than €1.3 million.

Riva’s boat yard, located in Sarnico, Northern Italy, was founded in 1842 by young maverick boat repairer Pietro Riva. By the 1950’s Riva was the essential toy for the likes of Brigitte Bardot, Johnny Halliday, Peter Sellers, Prince Rainer of Monaco, Sean Connery, Elizabeth Taylor and Elvis Presley, to name but a few. Riva is now part of the Ferretti Group and production is limited to about 50 boats a year with the Acquariva, complete with gleaming mahogany decks, sexy glass-fibre hull and deck, being the most popular.

The French Riviera is the hip summer location, but traffic jams are tedious. Ben Steadman has the answer: Riva Luxury power boats. “These fabulous boats, with large in-board engines, combine the luxury of a large yacht with the speed and convenience of power boats”, explains Mr Steadman, managing director of La Maison Jardin et Mer. The company based at Port La Galère in Théoule-sur-Mer is the ultimate bespoke chauffeur service by sea, ferrying a glittering clientele along the coast from Monaco to St Tropez.

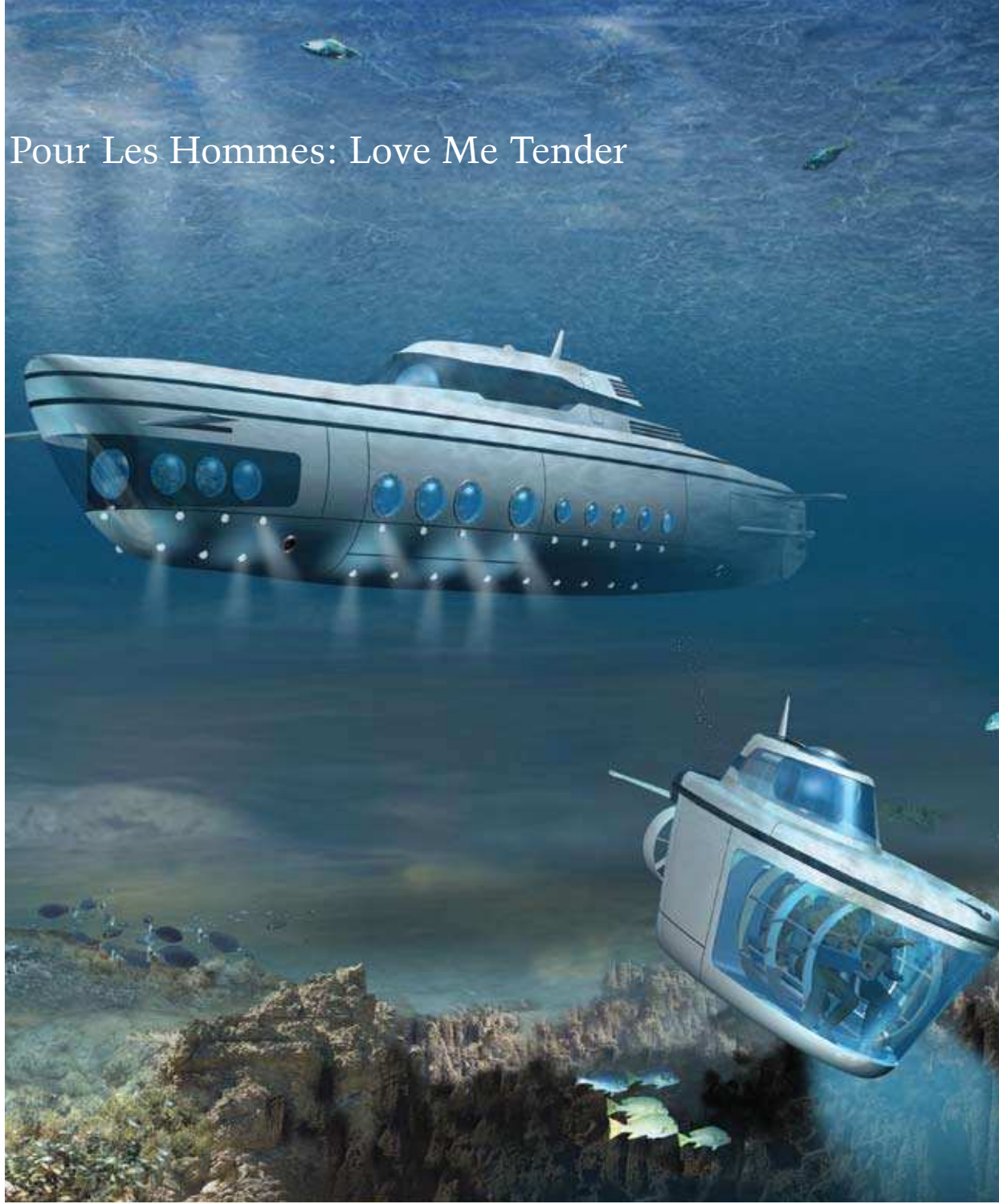
“We recently added the super-sleek Riva Tropicana “La Galère” to our fleet. She takes up to 12 people and, before they know it, they’re collected from the airport and whisked off to discover the magic of the Côte d’Azur. Firework nights are always heavily booked, it’s a wonderful experience to be out at sea on warm evenings. On a more serious note we also take local executives to work”, Steadman adds.

“Many top hotels, villas and restaurants can be accessed from the sea, and when there’s a champagne picnic hamper on board, the atmosphere becomes very festive”, he says.

Bookings are year round, price subject to season, numbers and length of journey. “Trips are tailor-made to suit our clients every need”, adds Steadman. 🐟



Pour Les Hommes: Love Me Tender



Carpe Diem //Spring 08

Another much loved tender is the brainchild of The Wally Company, created in 1993 by Luca Bassani. Bassani, a wealthy Italian economist turned yachting entrepreneur named his new business after his son's favourite cartoon character Wally Gator and collaborates with naval architect Luca Brenta to build fast, light, safe, stylish and very expensive carbon fiber sailing yachts and sleek low-slung tenders.

"The clientele gets richer and richer, many owners realizing it's better to have a fleet of different yachts and tenders than just an enormous one", notes Bassani. The price of yachts has risen during the last few years, and "finally the shipyards are earning money instead of losing as they did for decades", he says. Think upwards of €18 million before you order your Wally Yacht.

"I've argued many times that the most beautiful thing ever created by man is the Humber Bridge. Not any more, because this is it", Jeremy Clarkson says, adding "I want one so badly it hurts."

For BBC's Top Gear's Jeremy Clarkson, the paramount tender is the sleek carbon fibre XSR48. "I've argued many times that the most beautiful thing ever created by man is the Humber Bridge. Not any more, because this is it", he says, adding "I want one so badly it hurts."

Unveiled at The Monaco Yacht Show in September 2006, the vessel has been created by British based XSMG Marine Group combining the DNA of a supercar to create the world's first true superboat; read a supercar on water. Speed, performance and the ultimate in elegant design and technology will cost Clarkson upwards of €1.7 million.

"Globally the ultra-rich are spending vast amounts of money on limited edition supercars but, until the XSR48, there's been no marine equivalent on the market: we challenged ourselves to create a unique superboat, the XSR48 redefines the experience of speed on water", says Ian Sanderson CEO of XSMG Ltd, and he should know, he's a world powerboat champion.

Some dictionaries list the word Chris-Craft as a synonym for pleasure boat. Now based in Sarasota, Florida, the first Chris-Crafts were built by Christopher Columbus Smith, in 1874, on the borders of the St. Clair River, Michigan, when he was just 13. The talented young boy built a simple lake boat for duck hunting because he and his brother Hank loved working wood. Together they established a company and the legend was born.

By the beginning of the 20th century Smith was being talked about in boating circles and at the same time Henry Ford began making motor cars, Smith began to build speed boats.

His boats quickly caught the eye of prominent US family the Vanderbilts who snapped one up, and a string of rich and famous followed such as the Fords, the tyre magnates the Firestones and both President Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy.

No names are given for to-day's glittering clientele but Chris-Craft's Meghan Stout says: "Top musicians, TV stars and business moguls own Chris-Crafts. Yes, there's competition to have one better. There will always be those who want to show they have more or larger than their "friends". The motto is 'If you've got it flaunt it, move to the rhythm of your dreams on water'."

To-day the must have Chris-Crafts include the recently launched Catalina series, centre console boats that are

perfect for fishing, water sports or as tenders. "Any of our boats make great tenders for large yachts", Ms Stout says.

Measuring from 23 to 29 feet the basic price for the coveted teak trim Catalina 29 Heritage Edition is about €115,000 - but don't forget to add on shipping, dealer preparation and country-specific taxes.

However, there's no real hurry. Order books are full for the time being and Chris-Craft works directly with each client to make sure they get exactly what they really, really want: custom motor yachts. "And this takes time", adds Ms Stout.

Over 750 large yachts were built for new owners in 2007. Overall the industry has annual sales of around €17bn with an average yearly growth of between 5 and 10 per cent. The 16 largest boat builders have combined sales of around €5.5bn, and all the major manufacturers reported individual growth in 2007. They've never been in better shape.

Italy retains its position as the dominant country in luxury yacht construction. The United States are next and, as the market grows, other nations emerge, both as builders and customers, such as the Middle East and Russia. As Davis Ross, president and chief executive of US Burger Boat Company says: "We are also keeping a very close eye on India".

Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich spearheads the Russian entry into the market. The billionaire is currently adding to his fleet the largest privately owned megayacht in the world. Built in Hamburg by the Blohn & Voss shipyard, Eclipse is costing in the region of €200 million to build. //

Contacts:

Ben Steadman, La Maison Jardin et Mer Companie,
Tel +33 6 37 51 50 73/ +33 4 92 92 28 65
www.ussubs.com
www.rivaboats.com
www.chriscraftboats.com
www.yachtplus.co.uk
www.wallyyachts.com
www.xsmgworld.com

Diary Dates to check out the goodies:

Mumbai International Boat Show, India
February 28 - March 2 2008
www.mumbaiboatshow.com

Dubai International Boat Show,
11-15 March 2008
www.boatshowdubai.com

China International Boat Show,
1- 4 April 2008
T: +86 (21) 6437 1178

Marina Del Rey Boat Show, Los Angeles
29 May - 01 June
www.marinadelreyboatshow.com

Sydney International Boat Show,
31 Jul-05 August
www.sydneyboatshow.com

Monaco Yacht Show,
24-27 September 2008
www.monacoyachtshow.com

Clockwise from top left, Chris Craft Roamer 40, US Subs Phoenix 1000 & Discovery 1000 illustrations, 47 wallypower at dusk, a XSMG XSR48 at pace outside Monaco harbour, Four 47 wallypowers and the Aquariva. Central, Rivas in Portofino.

French author Mireille Guiliano became an overnight success when her first book advocating a diet of champagne and chocolate was published. The international bestseller tells Nicky Cahill why eating for pleasure keeps you trim, *comme les françaises*.

A welcome reprieve from traditional dieting diatribe where delicious food is banned, Mireille Guiliano's books *French Women Don't Get Fat* and *French Women For All Seasons* have been a worldwide publishing phenomena. Translated into 37 & 22 languages respectively, they have given the world a lesson in *joie de vivre* and in the art of eating for pleasure – the very essence of Guiliano's life. These are the ultimate 'non' diet books.

Guiliano's *French Women Don't Get Fat*, a lifestyle book about how the French stay slim by eating well and in moderation, was published in 2005 to rave reviews. More than one million copies were sold in the first six months, prompting Guiliano to write its sequel *French Women for All Seasons*, published a year later.

The ingredients to her books couldn't be simpler, Guiliano says. She lives by her own advice: "Eat three small meals a day, full of seasonal fruits and vegetables; drink lots of water, savour wine and take pleasure in champagne; walk more; have occasional treats, and enjoy life."

Guiliano speaks with integrity and grace. Her accent still tells of her French childhood in Alsace-Lorraine and St Rémy de Provence, and her university days at the Sorbonne, even though she has lived and worked in America for the majority of her adult life.

"Eat three small meals a day, full of seasonal fruits and vegetables; drink lots of water, savour wine and take pleasure in champagne; walk more; have occasional treats, and enjoy life."

It was during her many years of working in the luxury food and wine industry that Guiliano stumbled upon much of her material for her books, which are critically acclaimed for their dynamic realism and accessibility.

As she crossed America giving lectures on gastronomy and wine, she was struck by the number of times she was asked how she kept her weight down whilst dining in one top

restaurant after another, all in the name of work. Guiliano estimates she eats out a staggering 300 days a year.

In answering the question she would often find herself telling complete strangers about her own lifestyle. And slowly the seed of an idea for a book was sewn. A chance meeting with her soon-to-be literary agent then sealed the publications' fate as Guiliano's philosophy of life was turned into the bestsellers.

The books are very much written about Guiliano's own life, and are vividly illustrated by her memories and stories. They are not prescriptive, which she sees as a form of "torture" but about a lifestyle approach that is "feasible, affordable and realistic".

"The books truly struck a cord and came out at the right time and although weight was already a major issue in the US ... people were ready for the notion of eating for pleasure and not gaining weight," Guiliano, 61, says.

"But people's reaction to the books has been phenomenal. I meet people everywhere - on the plane, in the street, at the markets, in restaurants and at places around the world - and they come and tell me how I've changed their lives, which is a pretty nice feeling for which I am ever grateful."

Guiliano, who now lives between New York, Paris and her Provencal home, says that without a doubt her three favourite parts of the day are "breakfast, lunch and dinner", activities which she makes every effort not to miss.

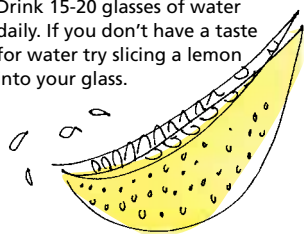
Her most memorable meals were those cooked by her mother in her native France and include freshly baked brioche with homemade strawberry jam, roasted chicken with haricots verts and frites and a supper of sautéed frog legs.

In fact, Guiliano's earliest memory of food is one shared with her mother, who she says has had a profound effect on both

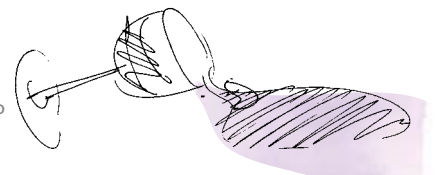
MIREILLE GUILIANO'S TOP 10 TIPS TO GET FIT FOR SPRING

1. Jump-start your weight loss and quest for equilibrium with a detox leek weekend: 48 hours of leek soup (plus all the water you want).
2. Learn your food "offenders" – list and then ban them for a month, but don't go on a crash diet as there is no lasting glory in rapid weight loss.

3. Drink 15-20 glasses of water daily. If you don't have a taste for water try slicing a lemon into your glass.



4. Follow the 50% rule: serve yourself half of everything you think you want, including wine (one or two glasses daily with meals). The greatest appreciation in what we eat and drink is gained in the first few tastes – so keep the pleasure and save the fat.



5. Eat a wide variety of foods in your three meals a day, and don't snack.





her career and her lifestyle. "My first food memory is of picking the first strawberries in the garden and making *"fraises à la crème"* with my mother.

"She was a great role model. Her "what's the worst thing that can happen" was one of the best pieces of advice, but most importantly

"My books have given me a freedom and control over my time that I cherish every day. I have more time for my husband, my friends and family and can work hard and play hard when I feel like it"

she walked the walk and even at a young age it made a strong impression."

Guiliano moved to America after university and worked as a translator for the UN before taking a job with the French government to promote French food and wine. Having found herself an American husband she then landed a job with the French Champagne house of Veuve Clicquot and in doing so, discovered the perfect way in which to marry together her old and new cultures professionally.

In 1984, Guiliano became the first employee of the US arm of Veuve Clicquot, Clicquot Inc and then went on to become CEO and director, positions from which she only stepped down last year.

Guiliano says her life has slowed down considerably since she has left the corporate world and found literary success. "My books have given me a freedom and control over my time that I cherish every day. I have more time for my husband, my friends and family and can work hard and play hard when I feel like it and it has been wonderful to have the time to enter into this new social network and avail of the opportunities the readers have made for me. For that I am greatly appreciative."

A graduate in French and English literature, Guiliano says she is also very grateful that her entry into the world of publishing has given her "a third act in life that takes her back to words, literature and books. It is a great gift."

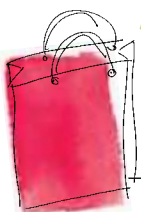
"I am still the same person and I still get up in the morning ready to go to my desk and try to make a little difference in the world, however, these books have taken me to physical and mental places that I could not have predicted five years ago," she says. "I had not realised that my readers would always want more, which affects me into looking into what else I can give them."

Guiliano had also been unprepared for the 'green-eyed' factor which has reared its head since her books were published. "For the most part people were happy for me. But some people were jealous and resented my success - some even tried to hurt me - but *c'est la vie.*"

And for the most part, her success has been nothing but positive, especially in her relationship with her nearest and dearest. "You've heard what's said about friendship: it's not in bad times one judges a good friend, but it's when good things happen to you and they are happy for you, how true! Everyone in my family is very proud and my husband has been my best supporter, as always, and in the end, that's what matters most." //

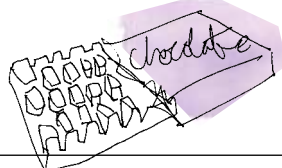
MIREILLE GUILIANO'S TOP 10 TIPS TO GET FIT FOR SPRING

6. Learn to love shopping for and preparing food - make it a ritual.



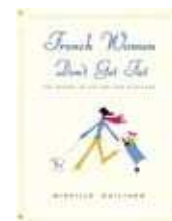
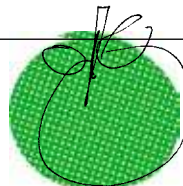
7. Have sit down meals. Never eat standing up, on the run or in front of the television.

8. Indulge in chocolate, champagne and other no-nos such as bread, pasta and potatoes in moderation.



9. Walk home and always take the stairs.

10. Eat more seasonal vegetables and fruit.



French Women For All Seasons and *French Women Don't Get Fat* are available at all good book stores. To order online, visit any of the following: Amazon.com B&N.com Borders.com



Théoule-sur-Mer



Sun worshippers will love this secluded villa with its own swimming pool, private sandy beach and rocky creek.

Just 15 minutes from Cannes and its famous shopping centre, festivals and just two minutes from the local village and yacht marina, enclosed in a secure gated estate, is this extremely rare, waterfront property with private sandy beach and rocky creek.

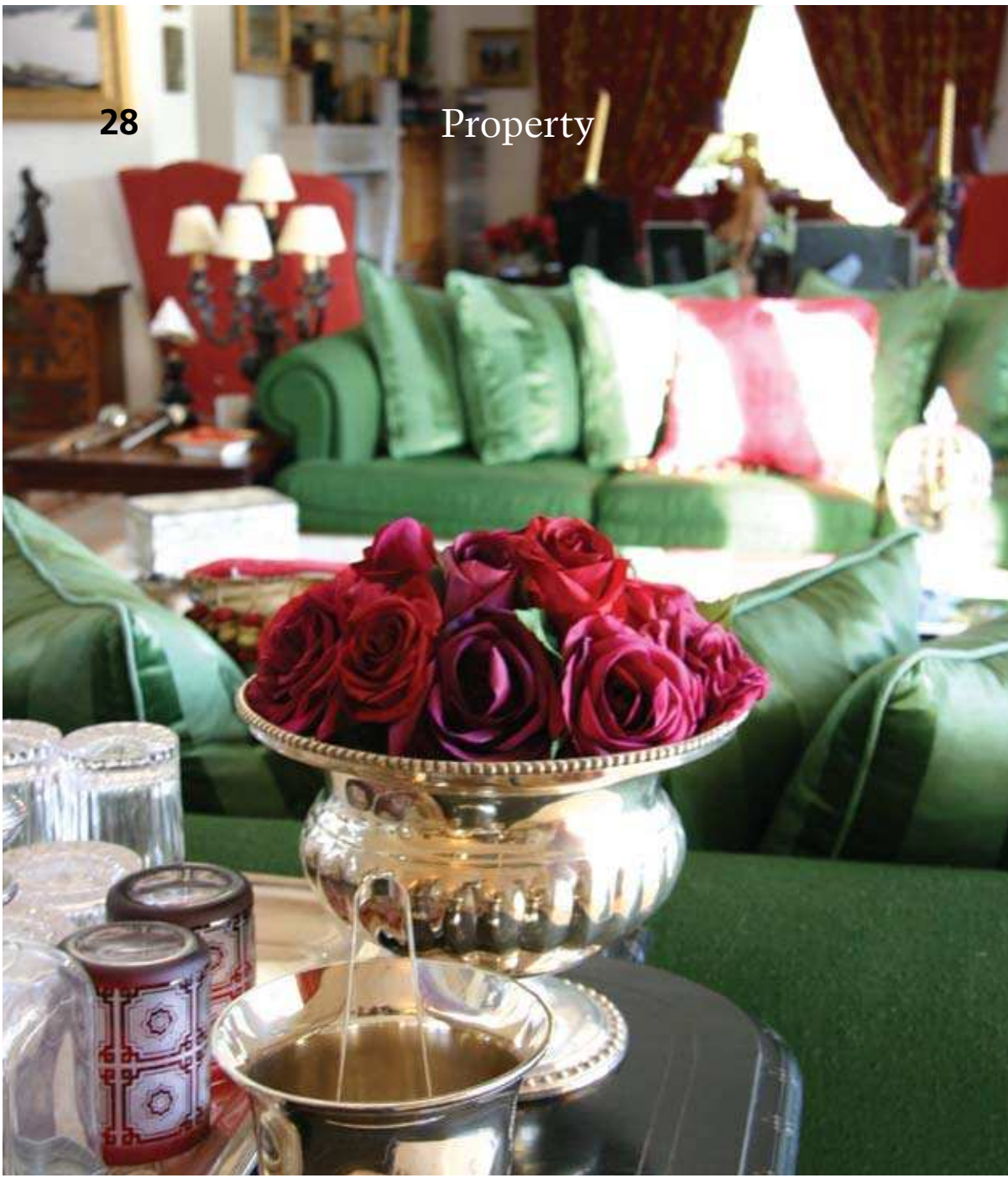
The villa comprises of six bedrooms, a living room with fireplace, a fully-equipped kitchen and a totally independent guest apartment which has its own open plan kitchen that leads onto a large terrace. The property, set in beautiful gardens, overlooks the Mediterranean.

The swimming pool, with pool house, sauna and vast terraces seems suspended over the sea. A private independent caretaker's cottage is also located at the entrance to the property.



Price: €8 500 000
Ref 1048

www.carlton-international.com



Valbonne

This stunning property is the epitome of elegance with its sweeping verandas and attractive covered atrium.

This elegant stately residence with a Florentine allure is situated only five minutes from both the colourful and quaint mediaeval villages of Mougins and Valbonne, with their celebrated restaurants and meandering streets and 15 minutes from the beaches of Cannes.

The estate is located within a prestigious private domain and has exceptionally generous proportions with several important reception rooms and guest bedrooms surrounding a covered atrium.

The substantial master bedroom suite has a spacious terrace which overlooks the two hectare (five acre) private park and garden with 20 metre heated swimming pool and tennis court. Throughout, the sumptuous appointments and quality fixtures are unmistakable.

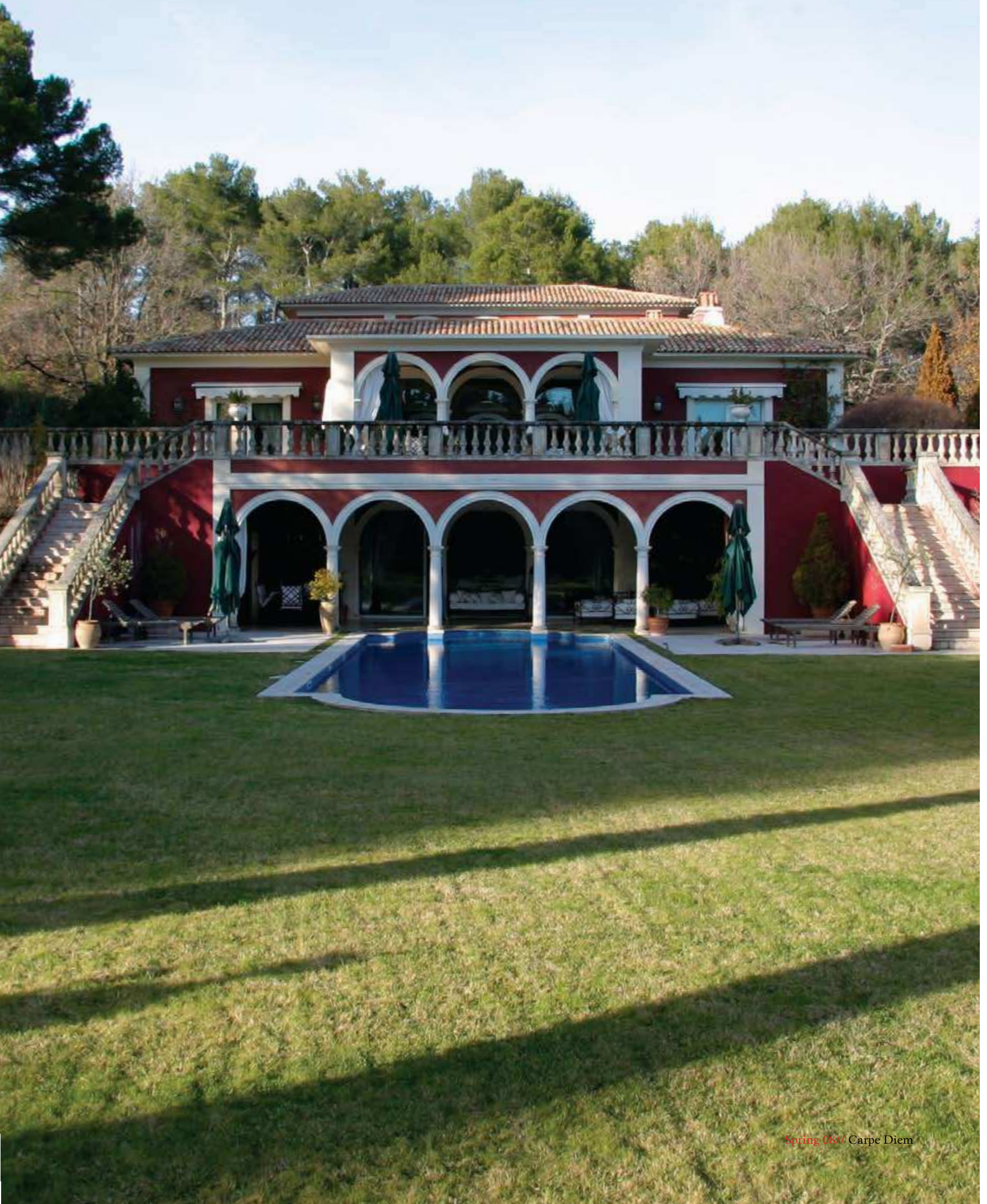
At garden level there is also a summer salon with its kitchen, a billiards room, Moroccan Hammam, music room and wine cellar.



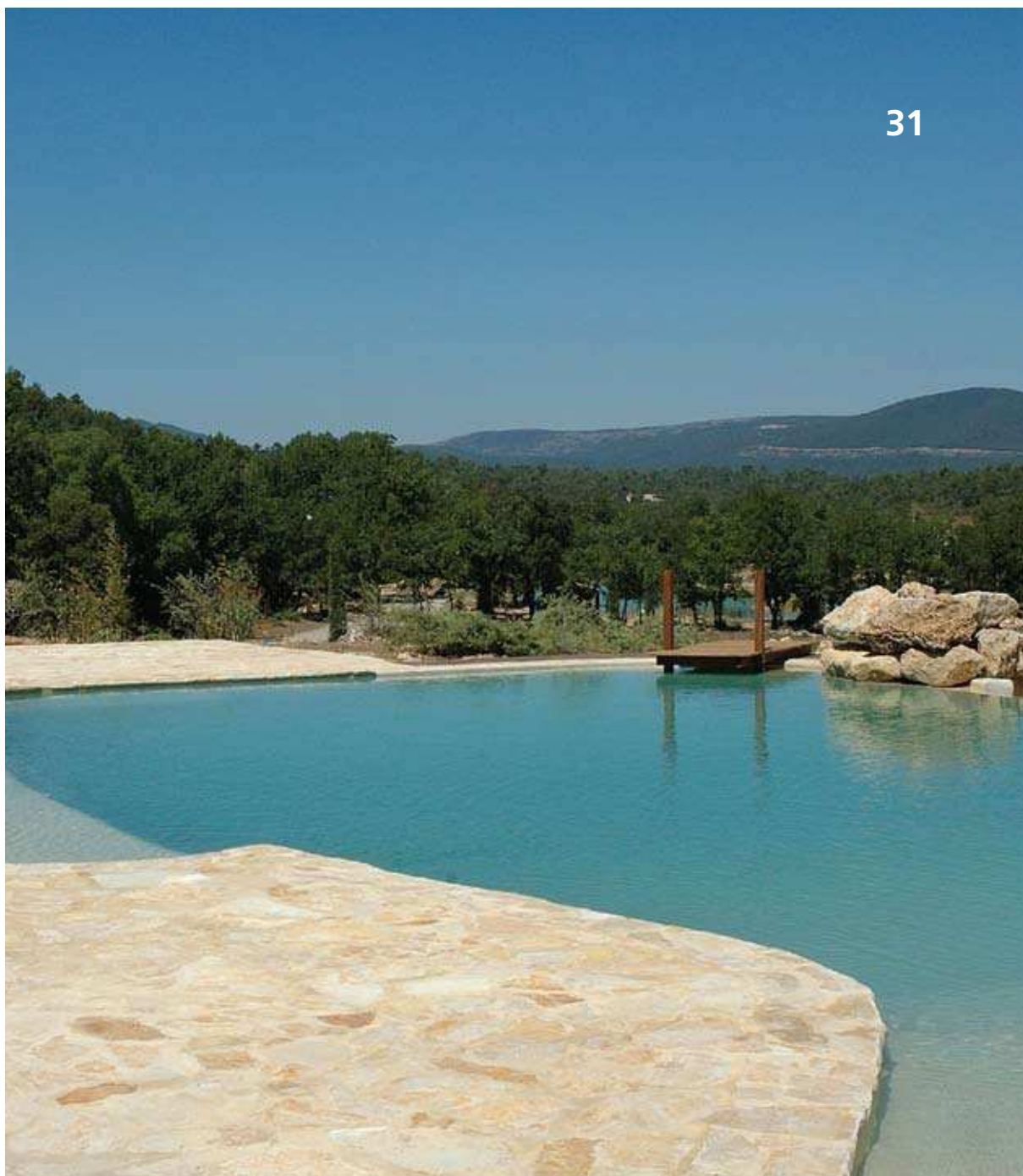
Price: €15 000 000
Ref 1780

www.carlton-international.com









Ampus

A rare and exciting opportunity to acquire a spectacular estate in the stunning countryside of Haute-Provence, which boasts its own light aircraft landing strip and lake.



Not far from the imposing landscapes of the Gorges du Verdon and 15 minutes from the vast Lake Sainte-Croix, this huge property is set in more than 160 hectares or 400 acres of land on a plateau high above the French Riviera.

The recently renovated manor house with extensive outbuildings was built more than 300 years ago in a secluded spot which enjoys all the peace and tranquillity of the countryside, yet is barely one hour from the Mediterranean and its legendary resorts of Saint-Tropez and Cannes.

Boasting its own driving range and light aircraft landing strip, the astounding private domain offers a principal residence of 900 square metres with an immense living room with central fireplace, four double bedroom suites, library, mediaeval dining room, and gym with steam room.

There is also a former silk farm on the estate which has been renovated into three self-contained apartments, a fabulous loft apartment suite and five first-class horse boxes with tack room. An additional 350 square metre farmhouse provides accommodation for staff or caretaker. The grounds have been designed to include a spectacular heated swimming pool, a lake and paddock with seven horse boxes.

Price: €10 000 000
Ref 1704

www.carlton-international.com



Actor Colin Firth opened Britain's first "ecological destination store" in London's Chiswick this year, offering contemporary, artisan-made, ethical, and Fair Trade goods. From left, Ivo Coulson, Colin Firth, Livia Giuggioli and Nicola Giuggioli



Five years ago fashion conscious women were purely self-indulgent but now it's all about self-indulgence with concern. Danielle Gusmaroli investigates.

There is a well-worn cliché that eco chic is an oxymoron — one that conjures up images of shapeless beige hemp ensembles, dense with the cloying aroma of incense. That cliché is now dead.

The fickle world of fashion has finally found its conscience and while everyone from Sienna Miller to Scarlet Johansson has spoken out against labels associated with dubious environmental and human rights records, green clothes have become the thinking person's fashion.

Compared with five years ago, fashionistas are checking their labels for seals of approval such as "organic", "Fair Trade" and "ethical" in the way many do their chicken or coffee.

Organic clothing has become one of the fastest-growing natural products. Latest statistics by the Soil Association reveal that annual spending on organically produced clothes, food and cosmetics has reached €2.8bn in the UK alone, with the boom rapidly extending to make-up and beauty products.

Cotton makes up 95 per cent of organic fabrics and is the driving force behind the trend. Global organic cotton sales increased 119 per cent between 2001 and 2005, from €170 million to €400 million. Sales are expected to reach more than €1.4bn by the end of 2008, according to the Organic Exchange, a US trade association which promotes organic cotton.

Ethical fashion is no longer the domain of eco warriors. Indeed top designers such as Giorgio Armani, Katherine Hamnett and Oscar de la Renta are experimenting with eco-friendly fabrics made of bamboo, soy, Ingeo — a type of corn — and hemp silk without sacrificing fashion for philosophy.

Seven years ago Armani glimpsed the future of fashion when he designed innovative jeans made from recycled denim, bypassing the need for pernicious dyes. "The best way to make a contribution in fashion is to promote the idea that a fundamental interest in preserving the environment is itself fashionable," he later said. And last year, Stella McCartney launched a vegan-friendly line of accessories that fuse man-made and natural materials with high quality construction and worked feverishly with Adidas to produce a new line of women's running shoe, the McCartney Adidas a3 Flyride.

The 36-year-old daughter of ex-Beatle Sir Paul said: "It's surprising that people cannot get their heads around a non-leather bag or shoe.

"People need to start looking at the product, and if they like it, that's all that matters. If it has an ethical or ecological edge, that's a huge bonus.

"We address these questions in every other part of our lives except fashion. Mind-sets are changing, though, which is encouraging."

While different in their focus, ethical, organic and sustainable clothing are united in their fundamental respect for the earth. The ethical shopper will seek out natural materials cultivated without poisonous and toxic pesticides or herbicides. Meanwhile, farmers and garment workers are paid a fair and liveable wage toiling under safe and healthy working conditions — not sweat shops in Asia.

Cotton is the biggest culprit when it comes to environmental damage caused by the fashion industry. Shocking figures reveal that 10 per cent of all agricultural pesticides made are used to grow cotton. These pollute waterways, damage human health and kill wildlife.

There is no doubt shoppers are forcing the fashion industry to change its ways, thanks to a greater awareness of what goes on behind the scenes of mass produced apparel. A report of English attitudes published in 2007 by the British government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs revealed that a "green" lifestyle is increasingly important to many, with 59 per cent saying they felt "guilty" about harming the environment.

Consumers are also now more aware that many corporate giants manufacture garments at factories in developing countries where there is a plentiful supply of cheap, and often desperate, workers. The savvy amongst them know to avoid these labels at all costs.

While awareness has been heightened, it is the celebrities behind the movement who have helped make ethical consumerism sexy.

In 2006, along with his wife Ali Hewson, and designer Rogan Gregory, Bono launched Edun, a socially conscious fashion label whose clothes are made in Africa, South America and India to promote trade rather than aid.

And last year U2 rock star Bono launched Project Red, a collaboration between Armani, Amex, Converse, Motorola and Gap to market ecologically-sound projects. ♣



Project Red's unofficial face is Scarlett Johansson. "We don't have to live in a tepee and wear a hemp skirt to be conscious about what's going on," the actress said.



People Tree has given the movement a new boost with Trudie Styler as its new face. The online garment retailer has designed T-shirts in conjunction with Action Aid; 10 per cent of profits will go to help Fair Trade awareness in Asia, Africa and the Americas.

Eighties fashion icon Katharine Hamnett last year teamed up with supermodel Lily Cole to launch the Save The Future limited edition T-shirt to fight child labour in fashion.

Also to join the ecological foray is actor Colin Firth, who along with his wife Livia Giuggioli, brother-in-law Nicola Giuggioli and friend and financier Ivo Coulson has opened up Eco, a four-storey outlet which promises to be an all-in-one "store, showroom, consultancy and destination" offering "inspiration, ideas and specific domestic solutions" to those who want to lead a greener life. The first of its kind in the UK, Eco - which runs on renewable

energy resources - opened this February in Chiswick, London.

"Over the years, Colin and I have become so much more aware of the fact that as individuals we have a responsibility to respect what is left of our environment, if not for ourselves then certainly for our children," Livia Giuggioli said. "So when my brother Nicola told us about this project, we decided without a moment's thought that we would support it.

"It's all about making simple and positive choices to improve our environment, and our homes are the place where this starts," she explained, adding that the essence of Eco was to combine good design with stylish packaging that was also ecologically sound.

Even former Playboy Playmate Pamela Anderson has joined the animal rights and ethical clothing parade with her new line of cruelty-free clothing, The Pamela Collection, featuring non-leather shoes, Ugg-style boots and all-natural fibre lingerie.



Far left and below, an elegant ethical cashmere from the Rumah collection. Left, the Edun approach to fashion: Models in organic materials. Bottom, Gwyneth Paltrow promoting the Edun 'One' campaign.



Not surprisingly, given the pressure to be seen to have worthy values, big producers are taking steps in the right direction.

Major brands such as Nike, which faced a barrage of public outrage over the sweatshop conditions in many of their factories in developing countries, ensured that 52 per cent of garments manufactured last year contained some organic material.

Etnies, whose skateboarding shoes are worn by Joaquin Phoenix and Alec Baldwin, and glamorous lingerie chain Victoria's Secret, are now working with organic materials.

Chic shoes can be found at ethical boutiques such as Terra Plana, which works with recycled

materials; Cargo has launched the first-ever lipstick tube made entirely from corn, an abundant and renewable resource, and eco-friendly Loomstate jeans are now sold at London's Harvey Nichols and Urban Outfitters.

The list is growing daily of small companies furrowing the green path and signing up to Ethical Trading Initiative to say they agree with its principles and pledge to do more.

Sandbag produces custom-made clothing and works closely with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to achieve agreement on wages, Kuyichi has made their cotton-picking farmers partners in the firm, whilst luxury homeware brand Rumah produces hand-crafted cashmere blankets from safe, ventilated workshops in Nepal where weavers are paid according to quality not quantity.

Andreas Lim, 42, founder of Rumah, said: "Our philosophy is about building an ethical business platform. Everything is hand-made and woven on looms in Nepal. The quality of work is fundamental so weavers are not forced to churn out throws and blankets. They are judged on quality rather than quantity.

"Setting up the business was an opportunity to do something different. There will always be a market for mass production. I'm not a green warrior, but I do believe we need to care more about the value of craftsmanship and design."

Fashions may change but change is always in fashion, and today's eco-friendliness may not always fit with the ephemeral industry.

Perhaps the most significant progress should come from consumers: To buy less and more ethically could be the most ecological way to shop. //

WHERE TO SHOP WITH CONSCIENCE

Cargo lipstick is available from www.cargocosmetics.com

Stella McCartney's a3Flyride running shoe (right) is available from Sheactive at 21-22 New Row, Covent Garden, London WC2N 4LA or telephone (+44) 870 766 3227

The Edun online store is at www.edunonline.com

Garments by fashion icon Katharine Hamnett can be found at www.katharinehamnett.com



People Tree clothes are available from www.peopletree.co.uk

Pamela Anderson's designs are stocked by online store www.designerpitstop.co.uk


Etnies skateboard shoes and clothing are available at <http://etnies.com>.

For Terra Plana shoe stores, see stockists listed at www.terraplana.com



Kuyichi organic fashion is available from www.kuyichi.com

Rumah's collection is available through its online store at www.rumahlondon.com.



It took a talented team of renovators less than six months to turn this highly unusual property, built on the ruins of an ancient chapel, into an exceptional family home.

When renovator and designer Frances Laird-Hendry first walked into the stone house high above the mediaeval village of Tourrettes sur Loup, she took a sharp intake of breath. For, while the views from the former fortified chapel were spectacular the interior was little more than a labyrinth of dark and cramped passageways.

However, thanks to the imagination of a small group of people passionate about the building – and to the creativity of Frances who runs Frances Twist Decoration – the five bedroom house is now one of the most stunning properties on the Côte d'Azur.

The original property has stood on the hillside above Tourrettes sur Loup for more than 700 years, when Knights Templar paused on their journey to Jerusalem at the chapel, perhaps to pray. The monks would have welcomed them, encouraged them and bid them farewell.

With the passing of time the chapel fell into disuse, the structure lay in ruins, with many of the stones being used by shepherds for building enclosures, farms and retaining walls. Then, about 15 years ago an impassioned Belgian gentleman gathered the remaining stones and his courage, and rebuilt the ruined construction to provide a rustic and rudimentary dwelling.

Philip Weiser, Director of Carlton International, first visited the property several years ago and was immediately seduced by its history and mysticism. So much so that when it came onto the market he invited an equally inspired friend to share in the adventure of transforming the property into a house of great exception. 🐾



36



Spring 08// Carpe Diem



Property: Les Templiers - A Templar chapel transformed

37



Top left, The dated kitchen before the renovation project began

Top right, The former chapel has been transformed into a stylish, contemporary kitchen

Middle left, Removing a poky room and ugly fireplace opened up the living space

Bottom left, A small dark room off the living area was demolished to provide space for the bespoke staircase

Bottom right, The exposed staircase leads up to an intimate guest suite.

Above left, The decor throughout Les Templiers is 'côté sud'

Above right, The house is full of an eclectic assortment of furnishings from all over the world

He then brought in Frances Twist Decoration, a renovation and decoration company, which also works in-house at Carlton International, to convert the maze into a luxury home.

"It's taken us about five months to complete, and it's a wonderful sense of achievement now it has been finished," says Frances, who was helped with the project by her twin sister Pamela.

The property, set in three-and-a-half acres of garden, now consists of two ensuite bedrooms, a stunning contemporary kitchen and large living room in the main part of the house. Adjoining, yet entirely independent, are three guest suites, each with their own entrance, stylish bathrooms, terraces and mesmerizing views of the French Riviera.

The original property has stood on the hillside above Tourrettes sur Loup for more than 700 years when Knights Templar paused on their journey to Jerusalem at the chapel

As soon as the dynamic team of sisters moved in, they set about redistributing the poky rooms, removing a heavy central staircase and ugly, badly positioned fireplace. In doing so, they opened up the space into a wonderfully bright living room and dining area with an elegant fire place. An airy, exposed staircase with crafted oak stairs was created, which leads to an unusual, intimate, guest bedroom suite with interior windows that look down onto the kitchen.

The kitchen was remodelled to make room for a perfectly proportioned master bedroom and bathroom whilst retaining the cathedral, beamed ceiling. Indeed, such was the height of the kitchen, in the former chapel, that they were able to create a mezzanine area, providing an ideal area for a study, or library.

Meanwhile, although little has changed structurally in the three guest suites, they have all been completely re-plumbed, rewired and decorated in keeping with the rest of the property.

"The style is very much 'côté sud', shades of modern French country," Frances says. "We have used muted, contemporary, earth colours on the walls, the floors and the woodwork, to enhance the constantly shifting natural light."

The handsome natural stone flooring was found in Salerne, in the Var, and has been used throughout the house.

"You really do feel like you are on top of the world here. It is so peaceful, it really is country life, yet close to the village and it has the most fabulous, ever changing views. It's a unique setting, and it gets the sun all day long.

"The quality of the light is quite incredible. We used earth tones to give the house harmony with nature. We wanted to keep the feeling of outside, inside. We wanted the two to flow together."

The house, which is for sale for €3.6 million through Carlton international, has been meticulously decorated with an eclectic assortment of furnishings collected from various parts the world, is set in gardens filled with olive groves, fruit trees and lavender bushes, with a stunning infinity pool and terrace from which, on a clear day, you can see forever. //



The French Riviera is a golden playground for families and offers the ultimate holiday destination. Travel writer Louise Simpson, who has lived in the south of France with her husband and daughter for five years, gives the low-down on her [Top Five Family Days Out](#).

1 Seek inspiration at the Fondation Maeght in St-Paul de Vence.

My perfect Sunday starts with a trip to the Fondation Maeght. The brainchild of art dealers Aimé and Marguerite Maeght, this private



art foundation has a jaw-dropping collection of 20th-century artworks by Chagall, Matisse, Bonnard and other artists that lived and worked in the sun-drenched French Riviera. It's best to visit on a sunny day as the gardens are filled with sculptures and pools. Kids will love exploring the numerous garden rooms from Miró's labyrinth to Giacometti's courtyard of bronze figures and Georges Braque's

mosaic pool. There are several staircases inside and no lift, so it's worth bringing a baby harness rather than a pram.

After you've had your fill of Chagall, head to the dandelion-strewn hills behind Vence for Sunday brunch at [Graine & Ficelle](#) in St Jeannet. This diminutive farm is a bucolic paradise for young kids. While Parisian exile Isabella Sallusti busies herself in the kitchen, you can admire the organic vegetable patch, feed the donkeys and coo over the baby rabbits and hens in the chicken run. Afterwards, everyone sits down together on communal tables for a splendid vegetarian brunch that even non-vegetarians wolf down. The atmosphere is informal with baby lambs running about between the tables as you dine. There are special low tables and chairs for kids, as well as drawing materials to keep little ones amused.

The Fondation Maeght
[tel] +33 (0) 4 93 32 81 63
[Graine & Ficelle](#)
[tel] +33 (0) 6 85 08 15 64

2 Take a different perspective of the French Riviera on a trip to Monaco.

An unusual way to celebrate a family birthday is to treat your kids to their first helicopter flight. [Héli Air Monaco](#) organises baptême (baptism) flights for families and they'll even organise a birthday cake if you ask. The 10-minute bird's eye tour covers Mer et Terre (Sea and Land) over the bright-blue Mediterranean to the Italian border and back via the mountainous backcountry. Babies under two are provided with a special harness.



After your helicopter trip, head to the [Oceanographic Museum](#) in Monaco Old Town. Extra-keen visitors may want to explore all floors, but otherwise go straight to the aquarium in the basement. Here, you'll enter the darkened sub-aqua world of diaphanous Moon Jelly, Knobbly Seahorses and circling Seabass (the latter keep my daughter

Right, Enjoy the carousel at the Zoo Parc Cap-Ferrat. Below, Author Louise Simpson with daughter Alexandra.



Alexandra entertained for hours). When you're feeling peckish, try the top-floor museum restaurant with its sweeping views and kids' menus or take your pick from the numerous Italian restaurants in the meandering backstreets of the old town. Before you go home, stop off at **Toys Mania** in Place de la Mairie where you'll find a treasure trove of wooden mobiles and musical boxes.

Héli Air Monaco
[tel] +377 92 05 00 50 www.helairmonaco.net
Oceanographic Museum
[tel] +377 93 15 36 00 www.oceano.mc
Toys Mania
[tel]+377 93 25 31 51

The best place for lunch beforehand is the **Royal Riviera hotel**, at **St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat**, with family-friendly kids' menus and highchairs. Once you've checked out the after-dinner kids' cinema, private beach and interconnecting rooms, you may be tempted into an overnight stay.

3 Learn about Greek mythology and pottery at the Villa Grecque Kérylos in Beaulieu-sur-Mer. Born out of the imaginative collaboration of two 20th-century Hellenists, Villa Grecque Kérylos is a modern interpretation of an ancient Greek villa complete with mosaic-tiled walls, marble columns and even an extravagant sunken bath. One of my favourite Riviera palaces, it's also the perfect place to inspire young creative talent. Expert potter Jean-Gabriel runs pottery workshops for kids aged three and upwards every afternoon during school holidays or every weekend during term-time. If you ask in advance, he's happy to bring one of his English-speaking colleagues to translate.

While your trainee potters are busy perfecting their Grecian urns, you can take younger siblings along to the nearby **Zoo Parc Cap-Ferrat**. As well as over 500 animals from pink flamingos to panthers, there are slot-machine rides, kids' playground and carousel. Feeding times draw the biggest crowd, but it's the monkeys that seem to entertain toddlers most. The park is great for pushchairs as everywhere is ramped.

The best place for lunch beforehand is the **Royal Riviera hotel**, ↘

Rentals Pour Les Familles

We have selected a sample of character villas from our extensive portfolio of homes offered to guests seeking family accommodation from which to explore the area.

Whether you fancy a relaxed holiday by the sea, or prefer a cultural crusade around the Côte d'Azur's top museums, we have a host of superior quality properties in which to spend a few days, several weeks, or months over the out-of-season period.

We know that travelling anywhere with small children – or indeed with bolshy teenagers – in tow can be stressful so we aim to take the hassle out of your holiday by furnishing each villa with all the equipment you might need to ensure complete happiness for all the family.

For enquiries contact: rentals@carlton-international.com

Property A: Cannes

This beautiful contemporary villa with bright, modern interior furnishings and vast terraces with wonderful views of the sea has four bedrooms, a sauna and heated swimming pool. It's located near the safe beaches of Cannes and its famous Croisette. [Ref 237](#)



Property B: Cannes

The five bedroom villa just five minutes from lively Juan-les-Pins and famous seafront Croisette offers superb family accommodation with spectacular views of the sea and the Cap d'Antibes. [Ref 343](#)





It's sometimes hard to imagine that within an hour's drive of the buzzing French Riviera coastline, you can find yourself in the remote, alpine pastures of the Mercantour National Park.

Property C: Cannes

This exquisite villa boasts five large bedrooms and is situated in a quiet residential area only 10 minutes from Cannes and its safe and pristine beaches. It also enjoys beautiful views over the Bay of Cannes and outlying islands.

[Ref 342](#)



Property D: Super Cannes

This five bedroom property is the ideal holiday villa, with comfortable, superior accommodation on the hills enjoying beautiful views of the sea towards the Cap d'Antibes.

[Ref 266](#)



Property E: Mougins

This nine bedroom house would provide ample accommodation for a large family in the unusual character property with guest house, set in 10 acres of parkland in a prestigious, secure domain with tennis court and helicopter pad.

[Ref 335](#)



Property F: Mougins

A charming five bedroom modern villa set in an exclusive gated estate with mature, well maintained gardens and pool just 15 minutes from Cannes.

[Ref 344](#)



at St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, with family-friendly kids' menus and highchairs. Once you've checked out the after-dinner kids' cinema, private beach and interconnecting rooms, you may be tempted into an overnight stay.

Villa Grecque Kérylos
[tel] +33(0) 4 93 01 01 44
www.villa-kerylos.com
Zoo Parc Cap-Ferrat
[tel] +33 (0) 4 93 76 07 60
Royal Riviera hotel
[tel] +33 (0)4 93 76 31 00
www.royal-riviera.com

4 Explore the Vallée des Merveilles by 4WD.

It's sometimes hard to imagine that within an hour's drive of the buzzing French Riviera coastline, you can find yourself in the remote, alpine pastures of the Mercantour National Park. My favourite family day out in this Alpes-Maritimes hinterland is Franck Panza's 4WD tour of the Vallée des Merveilles. It's the ideal option for families that want to explore Europe's largest collection of pre-historic rock engravings without hours of walking with young kids.

Franck wheels you through alpine pastures dotted with wild orchids and along bumpy, military routes (nicknamed "rock-and-roll routes" by locals) towards sparser, snowline landscape. From here, it's only a short walk to the rock engravings.



While your would-be yachties are learning how to sail, you can take the rest of the family to nearby **Marineland** – Europe's largest marine park. As well as its whale, sea lion and dolphin shows, kids will love spotting clown fish and sharks in the aquarium.



While toddlers coo over rabbit-like marmots, older kids can spot ancient pictograms scratched into reddish slate and listen to Franck's stories about the fiercely-independent Vallée de la Roya people. The best month to go is June when the rhododendrons are out in force. If you don't speak French, ask for one of Franck's English-speaking colleagues who are all official Mercantour National Park accompagnateurs (guides).

Franck Panza's 4WD tour of the Vallée des Merveilles
[tel] +33(0) 4 93 04 73 21/ +33(0) 6 07 58 37 19

5 Sail and swim around the Cap d'Antibes.

Sailing has to be one of the most fun activities for kids on the Côte d'Azur. With its enviable location overlooking the 16th-century ramparts, **Yacht Club d'Antibes** organises individual lessons and beginners' sailing courses for kids from the age of five (Optimist from five years and Catamaran from the age of 12) and wind surfing courses from the age of eight. While your would-be yachties are learning how to sail, you can take the rest of the family to nearby **Marineland** – Europe's largest marine park. As well as its whale, sea lion and dolphin shows, kids will love spotting clown fish and sharks in the aquarium.

After the morning's activities, you can wind down with a late lunch at **Les Pêcheurs**. With views over the Cap d'Antibes towards the Lérins islands, this private beach resort offers a simple lunch of grilled meat, fish and salads beneath a canopy of pine trees. Despite the stylish surroundings, it's very informal so you can swim in the sea with your kids as you wait for your food to arrive. //

Yacht Club d'Antibes
[tel] +33(0) 4 93 61 01 42
www.yc-antibes.net
Marineland
[tel] +33(0) 892 30 06 06
www.marineland.fr
Les Pêcheurs
[tel] +33 (0) 4 92 93 13 30
www.lespecheurs-juan.com

Louise Simpson is lead author of *Frommer's Provence & the Côte d'Azur With Your Family* – available from April 2008 for £12.99 at www.amazon.com as well as leading book stores.

Property G: Mandelieu

This is an attractive villa overlooking the Golf de Cannes-Mandelieu which offers spacious accommodation in its five bedrooms, all of which have been renovated recently with great taste. There is splendid swimming pool while the sea is only five minutes away. [Ref 346](#)



Property H: Cabris

This authentic, 400-year old farmhouse offers ample accommodation for families. It has seven bedrooms, and is set in the countryside with wonderful gardens. [Ref 337](#)



Property I: Mougins

An exceptionally spacious villa, this property has nine bedrooms set in beautiful gardens with an exotic pool area and is located in a prestigious area 15 minutes from Cannes. [Ref 336](#)



Property J: Eze

This unique property, high above the Mediterranean Sea near the picturesque village of Eze has six ensuite bedrooms, a cinema and huge 25 metre outdoor pool. It has ample space for a large family. There is also a tennis court, football pitch and boules pit to keep all ages happy. [Ref 347](#)



Dominican Republic Special: Living with nature en luxe

Christopher Columbus would have surely approved. For nestled in the lush green hills of the country he described as “the most beautiful land in the world”, developers have begun building the Dominican Republic’s first ‘eco-chic’ resort.

On completion, Terrazas de Coson will consist of 72 spacious villas which have been designed to incorporate the latest ecological features as well as the highest level of luxury. No two properties will be the same as constructors work painstakingly to create the villas around the natural contours of the land, ensuring that none of the area’s outstanding beauty is lost.

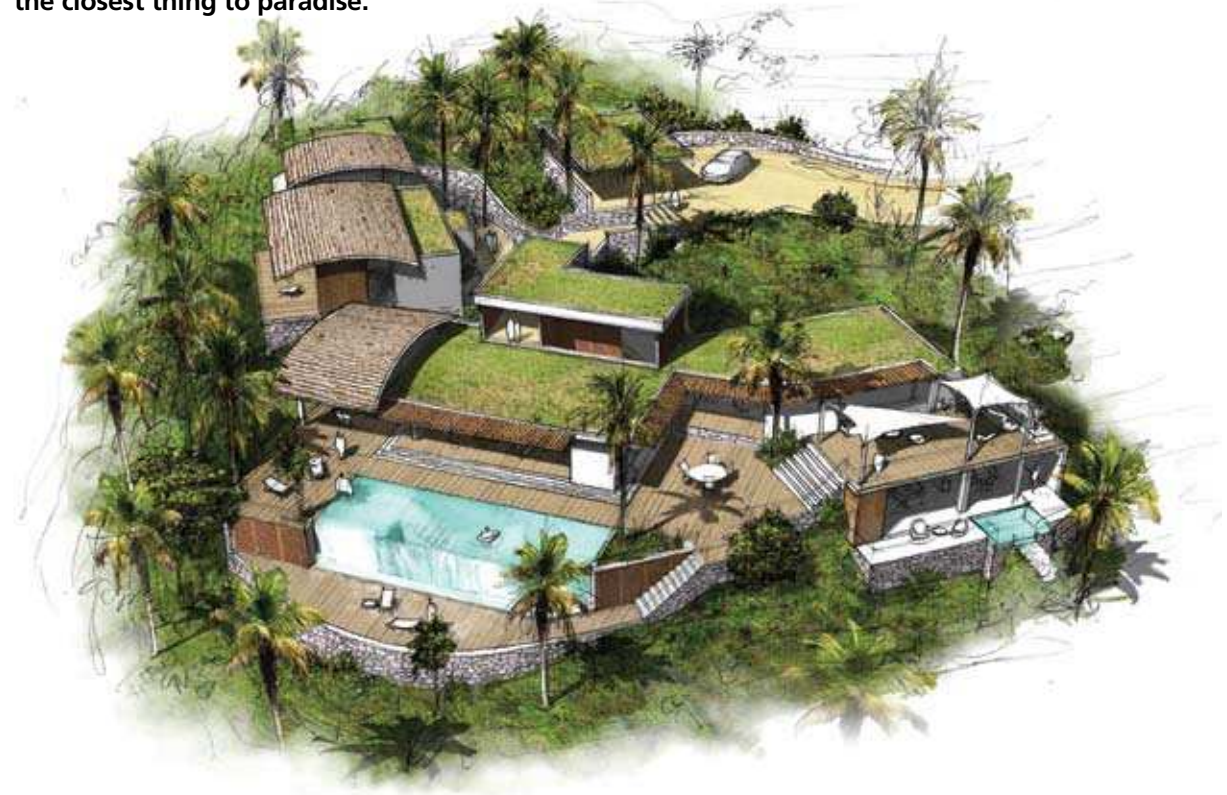
The ground-breaking complex will also include a five-star hotel, a state-of-the-art spa and a luxurious private beach club, the facilities of which will all be available to villa owners.

The unique project is being built on 150 hectares (370 acres) of tropical hillside terrain a short walk away from the bustling town of Las Terrenas on the Peninsula of Samana.

The region itself is a tremendous example of nature protection and it is perhaps befitting that Terrazas de Coson should be created here, within an easy drive from the national Parc de Los Haitises and the UNESCO protected Bay of Samana, where more than 2000 humpback whales come every year to give birth to their young.

In the same vein, great efforts are being made to protect the Terrazas de Coson community. Each villa will enjoy total privacy amongst the thick rain forest, as well as breathtaking views of the pristine white beaches, gently caressed by the turquoise ocean, which stretch as far as the eye can see.

An exhilarating project to build the Caribbean’s most exclusive and eco-friendly resort in tropical forests overlooking the palm-fringed beaches of the Dominican Republic has just been unveiled. Suzanna Chambers looks at the plans for arguably the closest thing to paradise.



Nearer to home will be the villa’s own infinity pool, with a number of plunge pools in which to relax if the walk to the beach is too much effort under the tropical sun. Alternatively, try the outside shower, under cascades of water which will run naturally through the terrain enhancing the effect of man and nature coexisting in idyllic harmony.

The five-star hotel is to offer 28 stylish bungalows, each with a suite and a studio, with individual plunge pools. In addition there will be a stunning infinity pool that guests – and villa owners - can use, along with indoor and outdoor bars and a first-class restaurant run by a top French chef.

Meanwhile, the spa set around 450 square metres of decking promises to

be ‘more than just an ordinary spa’, offering state-of-the-art facilities to help de-stress guests and help them return to the outside world as refreshed as possible. Coupled with the private beach club on Playa Coson and it’s hard to imagine a more naturally relaxing environment.

The unique project is the result of an international collaboration amongst architects, designers and major resort developers, all of whom share a passion for nature, for the environment and for living well.

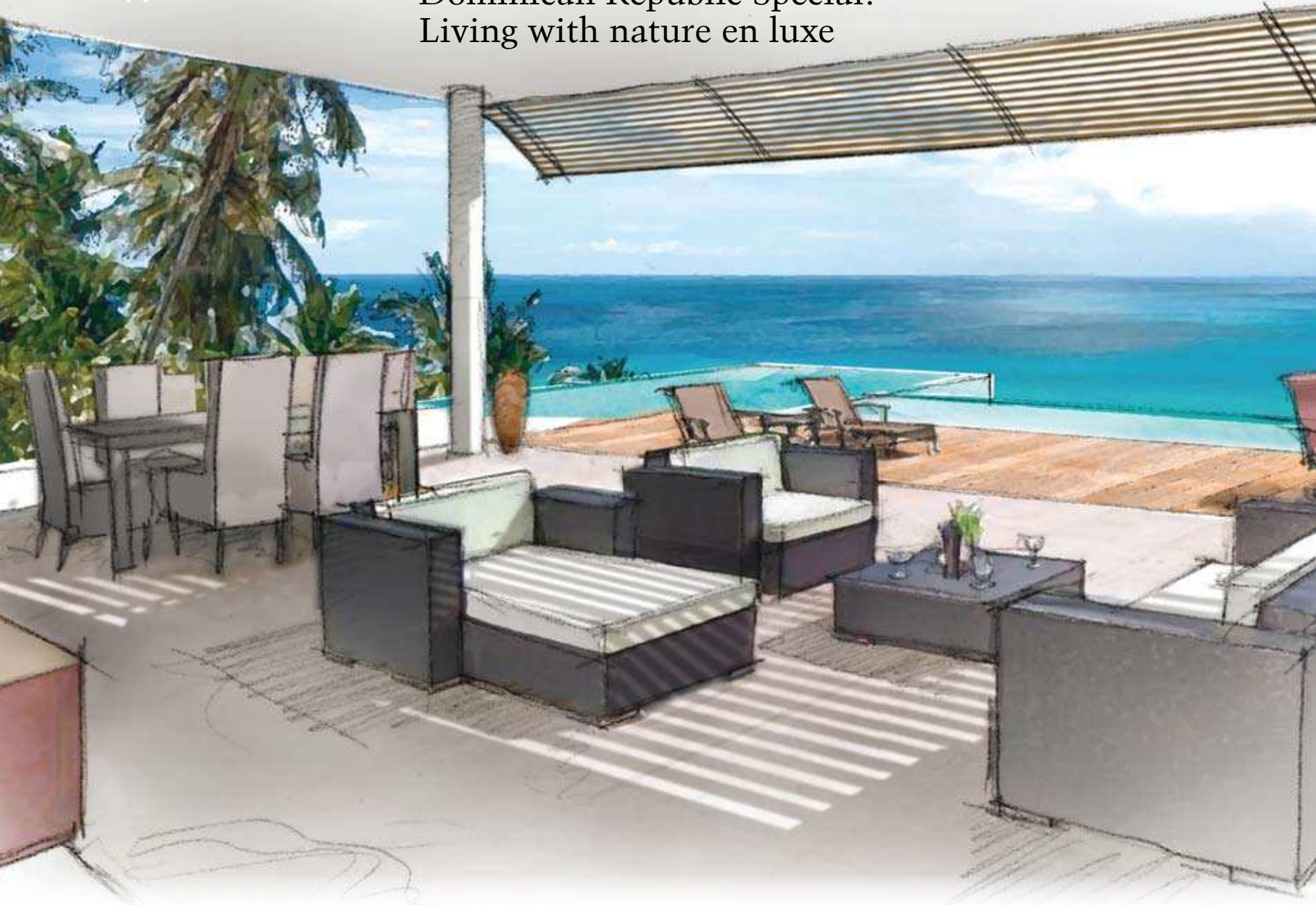
The visionary behind the community is a Swiss-based entrepreneur who is widely recognised for his leading edge and environmentally-sensitive business ventures.

The industrialist, who pioneered alternative energy components for wind powered turbines, fell in love with the Peninsula of Samana when he first visited it six years ago and subsequently bought the site for a ‘nature-friendly high-end community reserved for a few privileged who seek elegance, harmony and comfort’. The project is being developed by his company Valman S.A.

Artistic direction has come from Christine Bottero- Lhardit, who came up with the ‘eco-chic’ concept after working for more than 16 years as ‘redactrice mode-deco’ at the style bible Elle. 🐾



Dominican Republic Special: Living with nature en luxe



There, Christine, from France, accumulated a broad experience in the world of style and decoration through supervising the construction of a number of luxury homes in Paris, Provence, the French Riviera and Italy.

The project's executive director is Christine's husband Eric Lhardit, also from France, and former development

"The site is natural and we are preserving that as much as possible. We will only do slight excavation. And we will be using as much eco-friendly energy as possible, such as using roof gardens, solar energy and natural materials."

director of hotel group Sudotel S.A, which has developed, constructed and marketed resorts in Switzerland, France and the Caribbean over the last 20 years.

Eric discovered the Dominican Republic and the Samana Peninsula for the first time in 2002 before becoming a board member of Marinas del Atlantico S.A, a company dedicated to the creation and development of marinas and residential projects in the Caribbean.

"Terrazas de Coson is all about eco-chic, and this concept came from Christine. It was her idea not just to do an 'eco' site but to do it high-end, and trendy. Do things that are very simple, and natural, but with lots of comfort.

"The site is natural and we are preserving that as much as possible. We will only do slight excavation. And we will be using as much eco-friendly energy as possible, such as using roof gardens, solar energy and natural materials."

The team enlisted the help of GVA, one of the premier architectural firms in the hemisphere, to help realise their dream. Ranked in Buildings magazine's top 200 global architecture firms and recognized as Latin America's top company by

World Architecture Magazine, GVA has gained acclaim for the design of major hotel complexes and environmental projects in which the study and conservation of the eco-system actually ground the design.

And together, they have come up with a unique model for villas which will allow the community to be developed side by side with nature. Lhardit explains: "We didn't want a classic prototype, that didn't really fit our concept. With the terrain as it is we needed areas of the houses to be like blocks of Lego that could be assembled together, but differently depending on the model.

"There are too many slopes for classical buildings. We needed to be closer to the ground and the only way to make this possible was to divide each area, see what standards we were looking at, like Lego, and then assemble the blocks."

Among the eco-friendly elements of the houses will be roof gardens, designed by world leaders in roofing and waterproofing solutions, Carlisle. The company is also an expert in energy savings and rooftop energy generation, and "is deeply committed to the Terrazas de Coson project and is closely consulting with the developer's engineering team to minimize the project's environmental impact and to maximize the usage of energy savings systems and sustainable products," a spokesman said.

As Utopias go, Terrazas de Coson couldn't be easier to get to. It is accessible from six major airports with flights from the USA and Europe, with a heliport on site. It is also just a short drive from the new Samana International Airport at El Catey. //

For more information please contact www.terrazas-de-coson.com



Dominican Republic, Las Terrenas



Beach lovers couldn't ask for a more perfect property from which to explore the Caribbean's best kept secret.

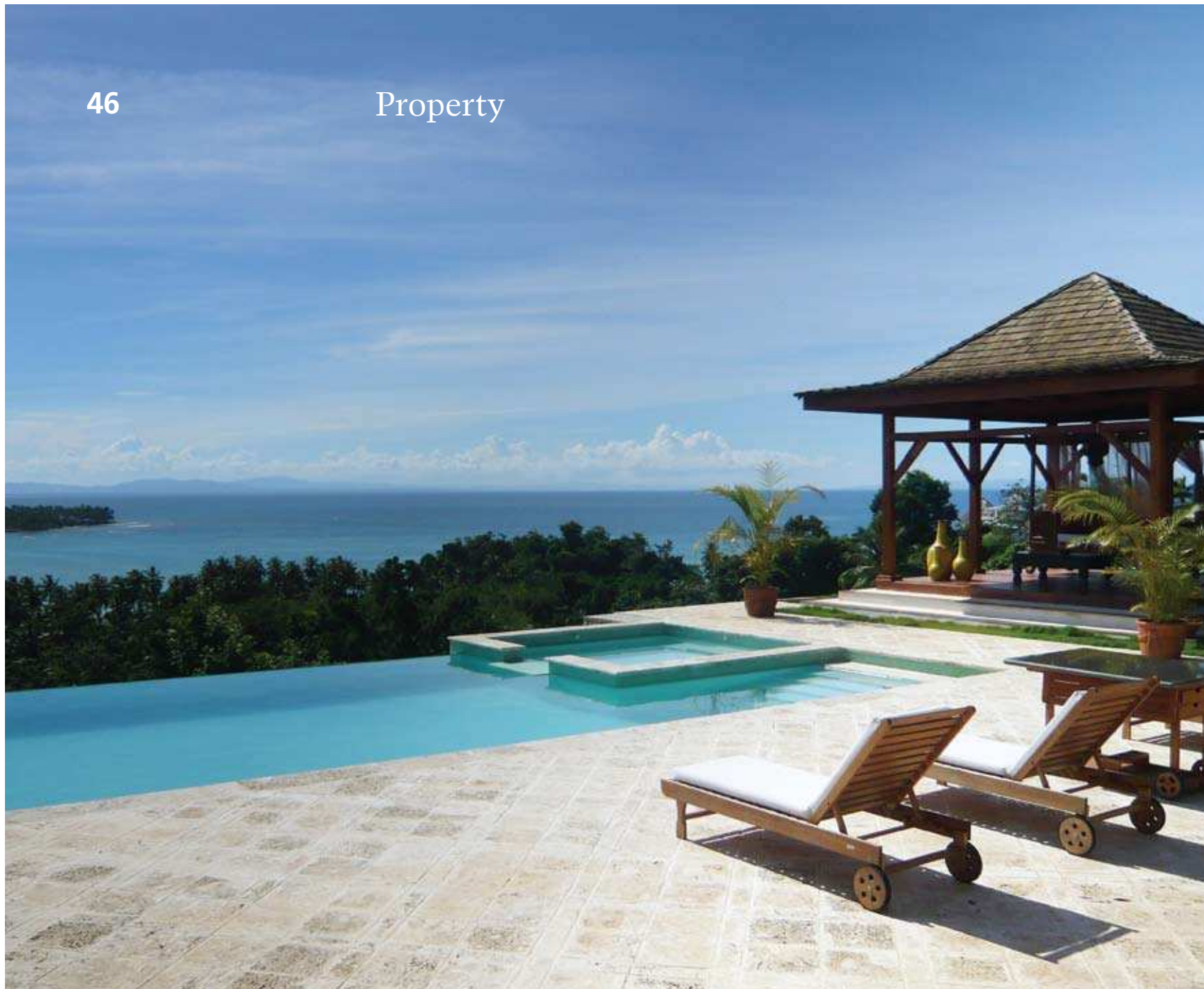
This stunning waterfront property is directly located on the region's most exclusive and sought after beach, within walking distance of Las Terrenas, on the famous Samana Peninsula. The unusual village of Las Terrenas magically combines a typical Caribbean environment together with the flavour of European sophistication and is hugely popular with visitors and locals alike.

Recently built, the property is in pristine condition and enjoys panoramic views with direct access to the beach. The 300 square metre living area includes a covered terrace, four bedrooms and three bathrooms, together with a magnificent tropical garden adjacent to the pool. The property is being sold fully equipped and furnished.



Price: €765 000
Ref 1668

www.carlton-international.com



Dominican Republic, Las Terrenas

This villa offers second-to-none views of the peninsula's pristine white beaches which will contrast beautifully with the lush greens of the new golf course.



Located in a private gated community near Bonita village on the summit of a hill, between the two most beautiful white, sandy beaches of Las Terrenas, this exceptional property enjoys breathtaking, panoramic views of the ocean and upcoming golf course. The 500 square metre living area includes a large living room, three bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, elegant external reception areas, terraces and stunning pool as well as an independent studio for guests.

The villa is nestled in the heart of a magnificent 2,500 square metre (0.6 acre) garden where countless species of Caribbean flowers and plants have been meticulously planted and cared for. The estate with 24/7 security, provides all amenities: tennis, country club, and ancillary services.



Price: €1 750 000
Ref 1669

www.carlton-international.com



After running a highly successful boutique hotel in Provence, Cary Guy was on the look out for pastures new. He and his partner Marie-Claude Thiebault tell [Suzanna Chambers](#) why they chose to open their luxury guest house in the Dominican Republic's Peninsula of Samana.

At a first glance you could be forgiven for assuming that The Peninsula House had stood in its spectacular position overlooking the Bay of Coson for centuries. Step inside the grand white villa with its sweeping balconies and colonial columns and the illusion continues as the eye travels effortlessly over the stunning Louis XIV furniture and original 19th century art.

But in reality, the mere seeds of thought for the region's most exclusive boutique hotel – which opened last August – were only sewn less than five years ago on a sun-drenched terrace thousands of kilometres away in the south of France.

Cary Guy and his partner Marie-Claude Thiebault were discussing possible business ventures around the table at Cary's home in St Rémy de Provence. An American originally

from Colorado, Cary had recently sold his extremely successful chambre d'hôtes, Mas Mireille, and was keen to open something along similar lines elsewhere. For her part Marie-Claude, who had just finished renovating her house in the same Provencal town, was eager for a new project to get her teeth into.

The couple found themselves back at the same table in St Rémy de Provence, heads together, fervorishly scribbling drawings on a scrap of paper that would later become the master plan for The Peninsula House.

Both ardent travellers, the couple scoured the world for a suitably special location – and eventually found their way to the Dominican Republic's Peninsula of Samana.

"We looked in Malta, in Croatia, we looked in other areas of the south of France, but nothing was quite right. The tourist season was either too short, or the place too small, or the cost over-priced," Cary, 49, explains. "And then some friends of ours in Provence told us about the Dominican Republic, in the Caribbean."

Cary and Marie-Claude loved everything they heard about the island so decided to go and see for themselves. They weren't disappointed. "We came to Las Terrenas for a couple of weeks in 2003. And we were immediately taken with it, with the European influence, with the night life, with the kilometres of white sandy beaches. We could see that it could easily turn into a St Tropez of the Caribbean," says Cary.

The Peninsula of Samana is a promontory of land approximately 50km long by 20km wide in the north east of the country. Described by Christopher Columbus in 1492 as "the most beautiful land in the world", the region has in recent years attracted a large number of French visitors who felt so at home there that they stayed.

There are currently more than 2,000 French people living in Las Terrenas, the region's main tourist hub, as well as a significant number of Spanish, Italians, Dutch and Germans. Those numbers are likely to swell after moves by the government to open up tourism further, with an international airport on the peninsula since 2006 and a new motorway linking the region to the capital Santo Domingo to be finished later this year.

Scrupulous Cary and Marie-Claude noted that while there were lots of high quality hotels and resorts, the concept of a luxury guest house didn't exist anywhere on the island.

Fast forward a year and the couple found themselves back at the same table in St Rémy de Provence, heads together, fervorishly scribbling drawings on a scrap of paper that would later become the

The Peninsula House



Top left, Cary and Marie-Claude. Left and above, The house is full of priceless antiques and art that they have collected over the years.



master plan for The Peninsula House.

"We had found a six hectare (14 acres) plot of land after a year-long search which overlooked the Bay of Coson. It was up in the hills, in thick vegetation. We had to go up there with machetes to cut away the undergrowth so we could see the view. But when we saw it we were

"I hope we stand out as a small gem of the Caribbean. All our guests have found their way here through word of mouth, and that's the way we like it. We want it to be low key and discrete."

mesmerised. It's very tropical, and there is nobody else there," Cary says.

After searching so long for the perfect site, Cary and Marie-Claude had a very clear vision of what they wanted for their boutique hotel: a colonial plantation-style house straight out of the Victorian era, with a sweeping drive that leads guests up to the front porch through sumptuous, tropical gardens. No detail was left to chance, with even

plans being drawn up for a miniature chapel to be built in the grounds.

The couple asked Marie-Claude's close friend and acclaimed Parisian architect Serge Robin to design The Peninsula House. But before the first blocks of concrete were laid, they built a beach house ten minutes drive away which they initially used as their home before turning it into an exclusive Beach Club and Restaurant.

"We lived in the beach house while we were building the guest house. It was fantastic to be literally on the beach for the first few months. But then after a while the noise from the sea starts to get a bit much," Cary recalls. "When we could eventually go up to the hills and live in the main house the noise from the birds was spectacular. You have total serenity and it's magical."

A team of local builders took two and a half years to complete The Peninsula House, which was built out of concrete and covered in clap boards to give the impression it was made of wood. "The idea was to create a house that people would think was built a hundred years ago."

The same goes for the swimming pool, built in the lush parkland surrounding the house. It was built to look like an old water 'bassin', whilst the tiny chapel in the grounds could also be from yesteryear. It was inspired by a friend of Cary's, who has a small church in her Majorcan property. "She had a small chapel in the grounds and on every public holiday villagers would come up to go to the church. I liked the concept. But ours is really small, just 3.5 metres by 3.5 metres, so if you did want a wedding there you couldn't invite many people. There is room for six," Cary says.

The house itself has six bedrooms, four of which have stunning four-poster beds made out of mahogany from Brazil. The ensuite bathrooms offer the ultimate luxury facilities and each junior suite has its own south facing terrace, internet access, cable television and air conditioning. There is also a library, elegant dining room and bar.

If Cary, who grew up in the restaurant business, is in charge of business behind the scenes then it is his sociable partner Marie-Claude who leads front of house. The two make an unbeatable team, aided by Marie-Claude's son Thomas Stamm, who is director of The Peninsula House.

Marie-Claude, 50, describes herself as born entertainer, professional hostess and super house-keeper but it is perhaps her eye for detail – and love of beautiful things over the years – that have been so indispensable in creating The Peninsula House.

"What we have tried to do with this hotel is really concentrate on the details, for the pleasure and comfort of the guests. And to achieve this we have used all our own furniture that we have collected over the years. This means that it is not like a hotel, but like someone's home," says Marie-Claude.

Throughout the villa there is priceless antique furniture, handed down to Marie-Claude by her great-grandmother and father, as well as objects that she and Cary have picked up from their years travelling in Africa, Asia, America and Europe. The effect is quite stunning, with each of the rooms having its own unique atmosphere.

More latterly, Marie-Claude has been scouring the world for the best linen, crockery and glassware to use in the hotel. "We have got bed sheets from Belgium, as that's the best linen you can find. We went to Limoges in France for some of our plates, while others are antiques, from Napoleon's era. And all the coffee cups are different. They are cups we have picked up from antique shops along the way."

She has also used her exquisite taste to design the Beach Club and Restaurant, where hotel guests and members of the public can enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the private 15km stretch of Playa Coson while experiencing some first class cuisine in the restaurant. With only seating for 30, the dining room is discrete, atmospheric and romantic, qualities that can also be found in abundance in the rooms and courtyards of The Peninsula House.

"Arriving at this point was at times sheer hell," admits Cary, "but now I hope we stand out as a small gem of the Caribbean. All our guests have found their way here through word of mouth, and that's the way we like it. We want it to be low key and discrete. There's no sign saying we are here at the end of the road so if people can't find us then that's too bad." //

For more information visit www.thepeninsulahouse.com

His nose is responsible for some of the finest perfumes in the world. Lanie Goodman meets Jean-Claude Ellena, Hermès in-house perfumer, and finds out why he is inspired by the pine forests of Provence.

My lab is in a modern villa surrounded by a pine forest. It's a place where I can also welcome guests, since I really like to talk about what I do. In the morning, I have breakfast at home, which is nearby, just on the other side of the valley. But I always begin work at 8:30 sharp. It's important to be disciplined. My assistant, Anne, arrives five minutes before I do, so that everything is ready to go. We usually begin by having a coffee and reviewing what we did the night before, and then discuss the plans for the day.

And then, I sit down at my desk and think about my formulas. The first thing I do is smell the samples I've been working on. It's better to

I spent a week in Egypt, walked through the markets, sniffed the spices and the fruit, visited the gardens and river banks, and eventually found the scent of the Nile... in a green mango.

do that early in the morning, when my nose is fresh and alert, and I can really discern the technical problems posed by perfume. After I've noted the modifications in the formulas, the next step is testing them - a very meticulous and repetitive procedure. I give Anne the formula. She goes into the back room where the lab is and weighs it. I smell it again, we weigh it again.

It only takes 10 minutes to write a formula, but the weighing process takes at least 45 minutes. It takes a very long time because everything is measured to the exact milligram. So if a formula has 20 to 30 components, each has to be weighed. Then I ask myself: should I modify it again or should I wait? Sometimes, I'll wait until the afternoon to see how it has evolved. And I'll go on to something else. In between, I have other responsibilities, like writing the fragrance descriptions for Hermès. They're like olfactory stories, and I like writing them myself.

If the weather is nice, Anne and I usually have lunch on the outdoor terrace, facing the woods. It's the moment in the day where we talk about everything except perfume - the last film we saw, the last book we read. And since I don't own a television, I can't talk about TV programs or about Sarkozy!

When I'm looking for inspiration for my perfumes, I take 'scouting' trips. For example, I found what I was looking for in Tunisia for the scent 'Un Jardin en Méditerranée', but not until the last night of my stay. I was at a garden party where they were serving champagne on a platter lined with fig leaves. A girl tore off a leaf, held it to her nose and her face lit up with pleasure. I suddenly realized what I was after. The same thing happened for 'Un Jardin sur le Nil' - I spent a week in Egypt, walked through the markets, sniffed the spices and the fruit, visited the gardens and river banks, and eventually found the scent of the Nile... in a green mango.

People are sometimes surprised



that when I take a whiff of jasmine I can tell whether it's Egyptian, Italian or from the fields of Grasse. I can also tell whether the flower's absolute was stored in copper, tin, stainless steel, or glass. But there's nothing incredible about it. Maybe it's because I began as an apprentice in a perfume factory at 17 and you just store odors in your memory. Out of the 10,000 molecules developed by the perfume industry, a true specialist should be able to recognize about one thousand.

I have no interest in trying to reproduce nature. I want to transform it, create olfactory illusions. I can add synthetic molecules to make natural essences harsh, soft, dry, fresh, bubbly, light, cool, or warm. Like Picasso once said, 'art is a lie that allows us to tell the truth.' The same goes for perfume.

Last year, I travelled all around the world - to Chile, Argentina, Mexico, New York, Moscow, Peking, to represent Hermès perfumes. That's business. For pleasure, my wife, Susannah and I often take long weekends to Italy. But I'm happy to stay at home, in Cabris, a little medieval village outside of Grasse, close to where I grew up. Last summer, we didn't go anywhere and took care of our four grandchildren. Not all at once!

In the evenings, my wife and I like to cook. There are some things I can't eat - onions, garlic or spices - because the odors permeate the skin and would affect my testing.

I also like to paint, particularly watercolors. And I'm a garden man. Gardening is my escape. It takes up a lot of time, but believe me, when I'm pulling weeds, it's the only moment in the day when I'm not thinking about perfume. And it's a great feeling! //



VIP Hospitality La Rascasse

Monaco

10 / 11 May

Classic Car Races

EXCLUSIVE VIP PACKAGE
TRACK LUXURY AT ITS VERY BEST

MORE INFORMATION
WWW.MONACOSTAREVENTS.COM
INFO@MONACOSTAREVENTS.COM
OR CALL +377 93 50 07 35



MONACO STAR EVENTS
THE PERSONAL TOUCH



LA RASCASSE

MANHATTAN



THE MOST LUXURIOUS PURCHASE IN THE WORLD

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NEW YORK'S LUXURY REAL ESTATE MARKET CONTACT BETTINA SCHRIVER

485 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022
tel. +1. 212. 224. 7318 | cell +1. 646. 339. 3866 | e-mail: bschrive@elliman.com



Operates as Prudential Douglas Elliman Real Estate in the United States. Independently owned and operated.
Not affiliated with Prudential plc which is headquartered in the United Kingdom.