

Luxury Real Estate by Carlton International | issue five Summer 2008

# Carpe Diem

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Carpe Diem has become our window to the world. It reflects the diversity and colour of our organisation. We have attempted to appeal to a sophisticated international audience with an interest in the arts, architecture, the environment as well as fashion, design, culture, healthy living, and the people who are part of it. Strangely I omitted the essential ingredient: Real Estate.

Our magazine is also a window from the world into Carlton International and it seems appropriate to present our readers with a glimpse into our organisation and its team. The company is structured to provide advice on every facet of real estate investment. Our consultants are as diverse as are the properties we propose, of differing culture, nationality and origin, offering their services to clients who share a similar cultural background. They include men and women from Britain, Holland, the USA and Canada, from the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and France of course, with specialists handling Scandinavian clients and Russian and German speakers.

Supported by an administrative and marketing team, Carlton International helps with purchase, sale, finance and the complexities of the law with regard to property. Within the company are a Property Management team and a department offering renovation and decoration advice and assistance. Our clients, seeking to obtain a return on their investment, use our Rentals Office to market their homes internationally; and our guests are offered a refined welcome which includes the "well being", leisure and sports facilities offered at their villa through "Carpe Diem Touch", our new in-house service.

The homes and investment properties included in this issue are a small selection from an extensive portfolio of character properties which are found on the French Riviera from the Italian frontier to Saint-Tropez and beyond. My rediscovery of, and subsequent passion for, the Dominican Republic after an earlier visit 14 years ago has allowed us to propose this exotic destination which excites and enthral with its natural beauty, developing sophistication, stability and harmony.

I hope we will have the opportunity of being of assistance to you, your friends and your family in the months and years to come.

Philip R. Weiser  
Carlton International

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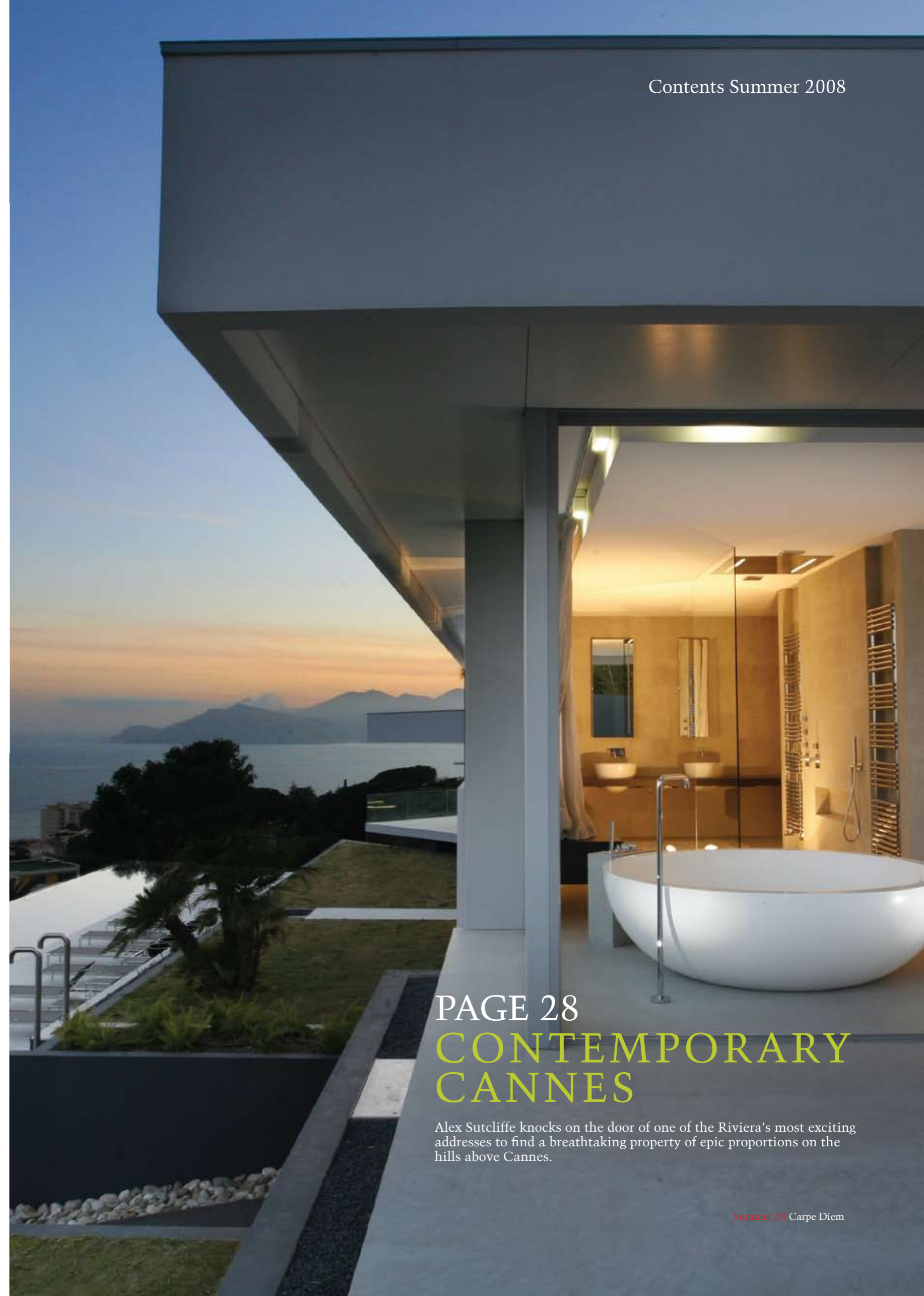
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**CONTEMPORARY**  
**CANNES**

Alex Sutcliffe knocks on the door of one of the Riviera's most exciting addresses to find a breathtaking property of epic proportions on the hills above Cannes.

## Coco before Chanel: the untold story of Gabrielle Chanel

Coco Chanel has been called everything from the “exterminating angel of 19th century style” to a narcissistic workaholic whose spare elegance mirrored her own austere personality. **Lanie Goodman** discovers that one thing is certain – the woman who single-handedly invented French chic has never been as *à la mode* as she is today.

Some 38 years after the death of Coco Chanel the iconic French designer continues to fascinate. In addition to dozens of biographies and a Broadway musical based on her life, Coco is suddenly the talk of the town again.

This year will see two leading actresses take on the role of the charismatic fashionista on the big and small screen. Legendary American actress Shirley MacLaine will star in a television adaptation of the later years of Chanel's life, to be aired on Lifetime TV channel in the autumn.

It was a challenging role that award-winning MacLaine cherished. She said recently: “The first thing her close friends said about her is that she was a bitch! It's such an extreme reaction that it makes you want to know more. Chanel is so full of contradictions that she's marvellous to play - sometimes tough, other times, so vulnerable.”

Meanwhile French actress Audrey Tautou, who rose to fame as young Parisian Amélie Poulain in *Amélie*, has been cast as the lead in the Chanel feature-length movie, *Coco*

*Avant Chanel*, the shooting of which will also begin in the autumn.

French director Anne Fontaine, who is freely adapting the Chanel biography *L'Irregulière* by Edmonde Charles-Roux, says that the role was written specifically with Tautou in mind, although whether this was before or after a rumour that Tautou may soon replace Nicole Kidman as the new Chanel N°5 girl began circulating is not clear.

“Like the young Chanel, Audrey has an intense strength lodged in a frail body - and that same look - so dark that it goes right through you,” says Fontaine. “I wanted to follow the inner path of this young woman who was poor, without education, but who had an uncommon personality that was ahead of her time.”

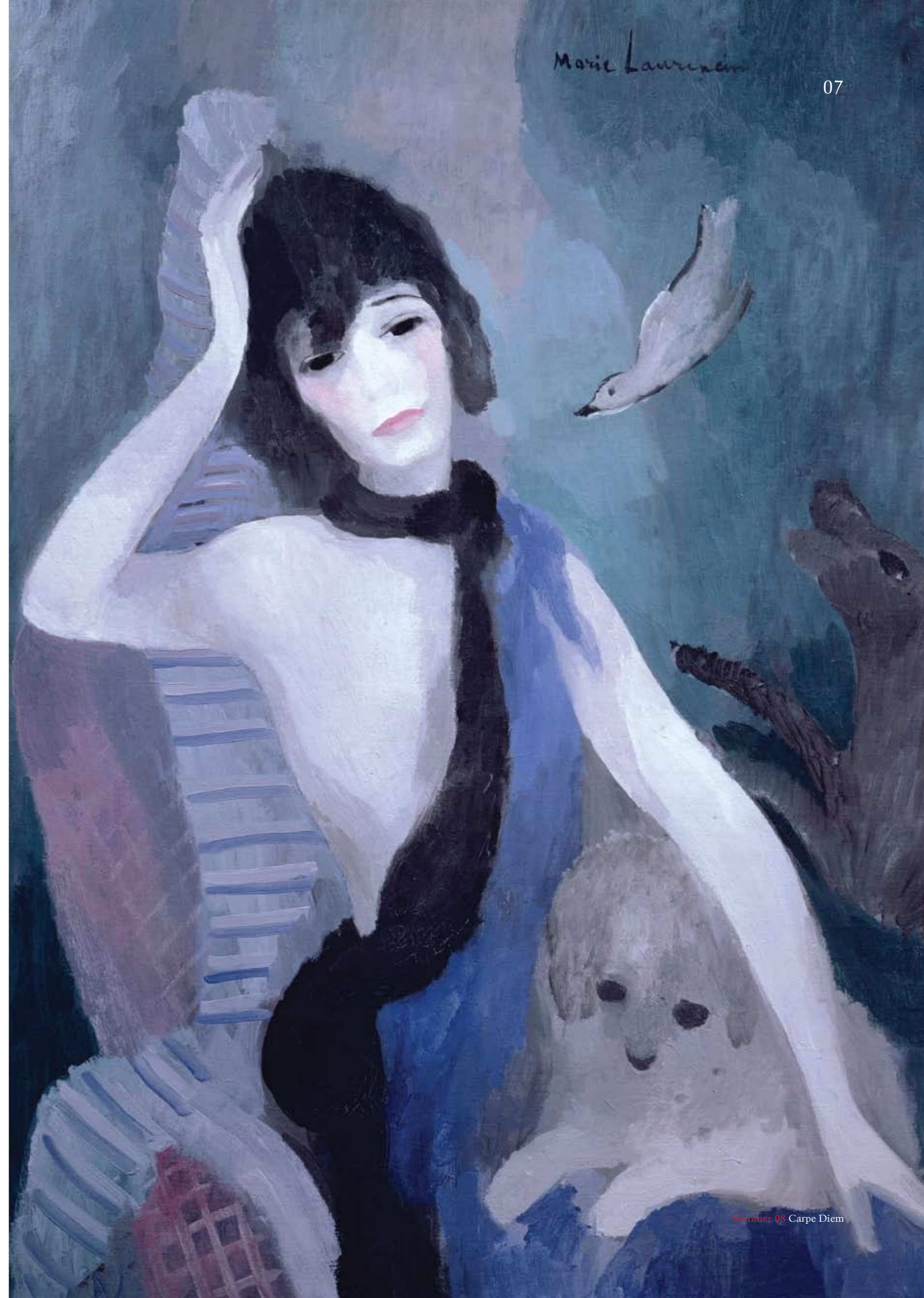
Fontaine called upon her old friend, British playwright and screenwriter Christopher Hampton, of *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Atonement* fame, to co-write the script. Hampton, who recently attended Monte Carlo's prestigious Forum of Cinema and Literature, said he was thrilled by the idea of adapting Chanel's early life to screen. “Obviously, I'm very interested in what you'd call ‘period pieces’ and also somewhat of a Francophile,” he admits with a smile.

“We've chosen to focus on the two or three years where she turned herself into Coco Chanel, so the film actually ends at the point when she opens her first shop in Paris. The story is a fascinating one - how this more or less illiterate orphan, who earned her living by performing in some terrible music halls in the Cevennes, managed to turn herself into such a formidable figure.”

The truth about Chanel's origins, as romantic as any Zola or Balzac novel, was something that ‘Mademoiselle’ never alluded to, even to her most intimate friends.

Gabrielle Chanel was born in 1883, in Saumur, a town in the Loire Valley, where her parents, who were not yet married, were living in poverty. Her much-adored father Albert was an itinerant peddler from peasant origins, who led a vagabond life. Faithless, but charming, his wanderings put a strain on Jeanne, a seamstress, who bore him six children (one died in childbirth). Nevertheless she endured his insults and followed him loyally from village to village. When Jeanne died at the age of 33, feverish and worn out with fatigue, Albert was away and did not even show up for her funeral. When he did finally return, he took off with his 12-year-old daughter Gabrielle and her two sisters and then abandoned them behind the cold grey walls of a 12th century convent orphanage.

It was there in the Obazine convent that Gabrielle learned to sew, and perhaps acquired a taste for the stark rigor - the pleated black skirts, starched white blouses of her uniform - which would later characterize the quintessential Chanel style, where chic is pared down to the essentials. ♣





**“I wanted to follow the inner path of this young woman who was poor, without education, but who had an uncommon personality that was ahead of her time.”**

Typically, while confiding her memories to French writer and journalist Françoise Giroud, Chanel invented “at least three versions of her childhood”. Inevitably, the nuns who brought her up at the orphanage after the death of her mother turned into wealthy, strict aunts. When interviewed by American author Truman Capote, Chanel regaled him with stories of her father, who had been a blacksmith in the Basque country, then a wine merchant. He

hadn’t abandoned her at all, she claimed, but had simply gone to America to make his fortune with the intention of retrieving her.

By the time Gabrielle was 20, she had moved to another convent boarding school in the garrison town of Moulins, in the Auvergne region of France, where she went to work for draper. There her talent with a needle and thread served her well, although the mindless job was a detriment to her ambition.

Heedless to what was considered respectable, Chanel also moonlighted at a local cabaret as an extra that filled in between the artists’ numbers with a few songs. Her voice was thin, she sang off-tune, and her undernourished waif’s body was far from voluptuous, but the soldiers found her gamine beauty charming. They applauded her warmly when she warbled her two favourite ditties “*Who’s Seen Coco in the Trocadero*” and “*Ko Ko Ri Co*”. Before long, she was nicknamed “Coco” and it stuck.

**Previous Page:** *Portrait of Mademoiselle Chanel, 1923* (oil on canvas) by Marie Laurencin © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 2008  
**Left:** Coco Chanel in 1937 © Lipnitzki / Roger-Viollet

Obviously, Coco hardly had the talent of a cabaret star like Mistinguett - for whom she would eventually design costumes. Her talents lay elsewhere. She soon became romantically involved with the wealthy horse breeder Étienne Balsan who took her under his wing and moved her into his château. There, through Balsan, she met English polo player Arthur “Boy” Capel with whom she embarked on a love affair which proved to be her making.

Capel was not only handsome, but also took Chanel’s ambition seriously enough to finance her first boutique on a fashionable street in

**She stripped the trimming from hats, then introduced comfortable cardigan suits and swimwear made of jersey, a cheap fabric formerly used only for men’s underwear.**

Deauville, near the casino. In 1913, Deauville had become a retreat for the wealthy aristocrats fleeing the urban strife of wartime Paris - the timing was perfect.

Chanel’s new look was a revolution. She stripped the trimming from hats, then introduced comfortable cardigan suits and swimwear made of jersey, a cheap fabric formerly used only for men’s underwear. And then came her exquisitely simple “little black dress”. Chanel’s career soared, new shops were opened in Paris and Biarritz, and a fashion empire was born.

The film, *Coco Avant Chanel*, will recount these formative years that chronicle the prelude to fame and fortune. Bizarrely, her life was fraught with tragedy when she least expected it.

On December 21st 1919, Capel was killed in an automobile accident. Chanel was utterly devastated. “I lost everything in losing Capel”, she would say, 50 years later.

In recalling her happiest, peaceful moments, Chanel often

cites the time spent in her Belle Époque villa “La Pausa”, on the French Riviera, set back on a lush hilltop of Roquebrune Cap Martin with spectacular views of the Mediterranean. Built in 1928, Chanel supervised every detail of the interior design, and even insisted on a replica of the dramatic stone staircase and a cloister around the patio, which she remembered from the orphanage of her youth.

The seven-bedroom villa was modernist and spare, with two guesthouses, a pool and exotic gardens filled with irises, which were years later the inspiration for the delicate floral scented “*Chanel 28 La Pausa*”. It was here that she entertained her charmed circle of close friends, which included the likes of Winston Churchill, Jean Cocteau, Pierre Reverdy, Colette, Salvador Dali, and Igor Stravinsky.

It was during this time that she also enjoyed her famous idyll with the Duke of Westminster, whose marriage proposal she turned down, when, at age 42, she had failed to conceive a child. Her lover wanted an heir, and more importantly, she would have to give up work, her greatest satisfaction. At this point, Chanel could buy her own diamonds and lavish properties such as La Pausa. “There have been several Duchesses of Westminster, but only one Chanel”, she boasted, when Duke immediately married someone else.

“Always remove, always strip away, never add,” was Coco Chanel’s famous dictum. When she died in 1971 at the age of 87, there were no heirs for her \$30 million estate (€19.5 million) except a trusted butler. Her brilliant career, forged on an iron-willed determination to succeed, was overshadowed by a lifetime of failed romances and solitude.

Perhaps when audiences discover the story behind the abandoned orphan who was “Coco” before Chanel, the glitter behind those double interlocked C’s will be seen in a new light. //



#### **Exclusive:** The new Chanel N°5

It was the only thing Marilyn Monroe wore in bed, whilst generations of women grew up believing they were not properly dressed without it. But no one ever dreamed that when Gabrielle Chanel visited Monte Carlo in the summer of 1921, her revolutionary creation of Chanel N°5 would remain the world’s best-selling perfume for almost a century. Up until then, the world of perfume and haute couture had been quite separate, but this didn’t stop Coco deciding to launch her own fragrance with perfumer Ernst Beaux.

A famous Russian-born “nose” and chemist, Beaux was one of the first to experiment with aldehydes, synthetically fabricated scents that were expensive to make but extremely effective. Combining more than 80 ingredients (including a lot of jasmine and a considerable dose of these aldehydes to add sparkle to the

floral notes), Beaux presented about a dozen samples to Coco for her to choose from. Ultimately, number 5 won out - it had no particular scent of any known flower, yet evoked a mysterious seductive mix of several.

However, if a whiff of the legendary scent makes you think of pearls and old lace, that’s about to change. Now Chanel’s renowned nose and olfactive guru, Jacques Polge, has created a new, modernized airy version of N°5 - the name of which is yet to be revealed. The scent is a softer, smoother, less powdery variation of the classic mix of May rosebuds and jasmine from Grasse and African Ylang-Ylang. It’s in the same glamorous Art Deco bottle, and has the same unmistakable complex notes as big sister N°5, but is somehow silkier, fresher and lighter. The long-awaited release is scheduled for this autumn.



### Cannes Apartment

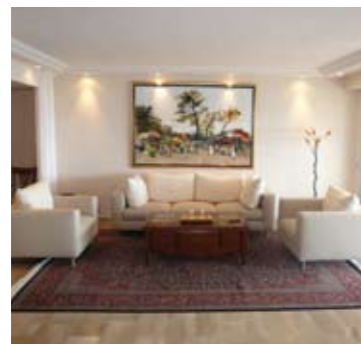
Views from this luxury apartment are sensational, as are the luxuriant grounds in which it is set.



Located in the most prestigious environment at the edge of Cannes and in one of the most renowned residences, this superb apartment has breathtaking views of the sea.

Facing south, both the living room and terrace overlook magnificent, extensive, manicured grounds with two swimming pools and a tennis court.

The apartment, with two bedrooms and two bathrooms, also has a fully equipped kitchen and dining room, and benefits from a 24-hour caretaker.



Price: €1 450 000  
Ref 1933

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### Antibes/Valbonne

This unusual property is set in the heart of protected parkland surrounding the renowned high tech park of Sophia Antipolis.

The striking 'bastide' - or stone-built property - is situated in the middle of the green zone surrounding Europe's Silicon Valley.

The south-facing house is set in 7.5 acres of grounds which are planted with beautiful, mature Provencal gardens, superb trees, flowering shrubs and lawns. The garden flows into the woods surrounding the property, which enjoys total privacy.

Yet despite its isolation the six-bedroom house, which has a swimming pool, is only minutes from shops, schools, and restaurants, and within a 20 minute drive of both Nice International Airport and the beaches of Antibes or Cannes.



Price: € 3 700 000  
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## A Passion for Polo

Sudden death or bankruptcy is the only way to quit the habit of polo, according to a recent BBC report - which is why professional polo player Jack Kidd has no intention of giving up his 'addiction'. Margaret Kemp reports.

Jack Kidd can empathise only too well with the recent BBC television programme which concluded that the only way to extract yourself from the alluring world of polo was death or bankruptcy.

For not only his business interests but his entire life is tied up with this dangerous sport of daring and skill. "This is what I'm good at," he admits. "I do everything I can to create business. I don't do it for the money, I do it for my passion - polo.

It's addictive. My two European Gold medals are the pride of my life!"

Kidd, tall, thirty-something, with the slender looks of a top-athlete is the (newly-single) great-grandson of Lord Beaverbrook and brother to supermodels Jodie and Jemima. He is also an international professional polo player who never stands still. A typical morning for Jack, who seems to have a mobile phone surgically attached to his ear, is spent making arrangements for polo tournaments, teaching polo, riding with his four children, giving polo lessons. And all before breakfast.

Since last year Jack has been transforming Holders House, the family's 17th century plantation mansion in the chic St. James area of Barbados, into what he calls 'Boutique n' Breakfast' with the added bonus of private polo lessons. "Previously it was available to let but now I've quit my polo base in Berkshire, in the UK, to concentrate on the Holders House project", he explains.

Holders House has been in the family since Lord Beaverbrook bought it in the 1940s, and one of its claims to fame is that John Cleese got married there

in 1992. Kylie Minogue and the late Luciano Pavarotti also performed at the annual Holders Arts Festival, which runs for a fortnight every spring.

The seven-bedroom house has neo-colonial rooms named for family members, such as Jodie and Jemima, and is crammed full with large wicker chairs, dark period wood furniture and walls punctuated with stunning black and white photos by Jack's friend photographer Terry O'Neill, a frequent visitor to the island.

Jack works in tandem with his mother Wendy. "The house needs to be lived in", she says. "We've always had guests, now they're just PGs (paying guests)." There is a chef (rumour has it that he is ex-Sandy Lane) in the spacious kitchen, plans for sumptuous Sunday brunches and dinners on the shady veranda. "We

may even organise cookery classes, the local cuisine is such fun", says Wendy.

The polo grounds are located in the five acres of lush parkland and

**Indeed guests who come to watch events such as the Cartier Polo match at Holders House might be forgiven for thinking they had stepped back in time when they enter the stunning Champagne Tent to peruse the full English afternoon tea and cakes laid out.**

forest with views right down to the Caribbean Sea. And believe it or not, the sight of dozens of horses charging around a field with club-wielding men on their backs





is regarded as normal on this tiny Caribbean island, to which polo was introduced hundreds of years ago by the British army. "Polo was brought to Barbados by British cavalry officers based on Barbados in the 19th century," Jack explains.

Indeed guests who come to watch events such as the Cartier Polo match at Holders House might be forgiven for thinking they had stepped back in time when they enter the stunning Champagne Tent to peruse the full English afternoon tea and cakes laid out.

Polo, essentially a game of skill and speed, is a team sport with four players on each team and a goal post at each end of the ground. The objective of the game is to hit the ball with the club-like mallet, while keeping control of the horse, and score a goal. "The goal is only counted if the scoring rider is mounted", grins Jack. "The levels of our tournaments from "low goal" to "high goal" are based on team handicaps, and yes, there are some fine women players mounted, including my sister Jodie".

One of the highlights of the international polo circuit is The International Polo Cup, played on the grounds of the Saint-Tropez Polo Club, in the south of France. Last summer Jack took a string of polo ponies from the UK to France for the auspicious occasion. "We played in Provence, Apt and St Tropez and

**Last year prestigious watchmakers Hublot launched a boutique at Saint-Tropez's Hotel Byblos and created a limited edition of 250 Big-Bang watches, sporting the polo Club's logo, for a mere €13,000 each. They sold the lot.**

won a lot of tournaments. We were sponsored by Joseph, the hip chain of Saint-Tropez restaurants. We'll be back this year. I have to say that with Corinne Schuler directing the polo club the facilities there are superb. They have two world class polo fields. It's an elegant modern club in one of the most beautiful settings of the world."

Last year prestigious watchmakers Hublot launched a boutique at Saint-Tropez's Hotel Byblos and created a limited edition of 250 Big-Bang watches, sporting the polo Club's logo, for a mere €13,000 each. They sold the lot and, on the back of the success, Hublot, who have just been bought by luxury

**Previous pages:** Mid chukka at the Polo Club Saint-Tropez, and The International Polo Cup, an integral part of the Saint-Tropez season  
**Left:** Holders House has been in the Kidd family for decades.  
**Right:** Polo is not just for ponies. This year's King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament held in Thailand raised more than €20,000

brands group LVMH, set about sponsoring its own full tournament to be held in Gstaad, Switzerland, this summer.

In the name of research Hublot went to Argentina to witness the birth-place of polo. "A country of immense prairies with perfect conditions for horse breeding, it's here the top players are found," explains Pierre Genecand, president of Gstaad Polo Club who is passionate about polo. Having fallen in love with Argentina, he settled there several years ago to develop his own stud farm and train his polo ponies.

It was after Genecand's meeting with Jean-Claude Biver, Hublot's CEO, that the association between the Gstaad tournament and the watch-making brand was born. Indeed Hublot's ambassador, charismatic Miguel Novillo Astrada, is one of the top five polo players in the world with a 10-goal handicap. Astrada, along with his four brothers, belongs to one of the most successful teams in the history of polo the Aguada Polo Club.

Polo is clearly an international phenomenon. Luxury resorts group Per Aquum have just opened its Dessert Palm Resort in Dubai on land owned by Ali Albwardy, chairman of London's Ham Polo Club. The resort boasts in its own polo field and guests will be able to watch future matches from the hotel and spa overlooking the grounds.

It's certain that polo is a jet-set sport, loved for its passion and danger. It also attracts the eye of sponsors of wish-list products such as Cartier, Chivas Regal and Audemars Piguet. And the allure doesn't just stop with polo ponies. Mercedes-Benz are sponsors of the wild, wacky, but very professional King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament, this year played on a brand-new polo pitch, built in exotic surroundings, in the grounds of Anantara Golden Triangle Resort, Chiang Saen, in Northern Thailand. At the Gala Dinner held after the final match more than 1 million Baht (€20,000) was raised for the Thai Elephant Conservation Centre and the National Elephant Institute. //

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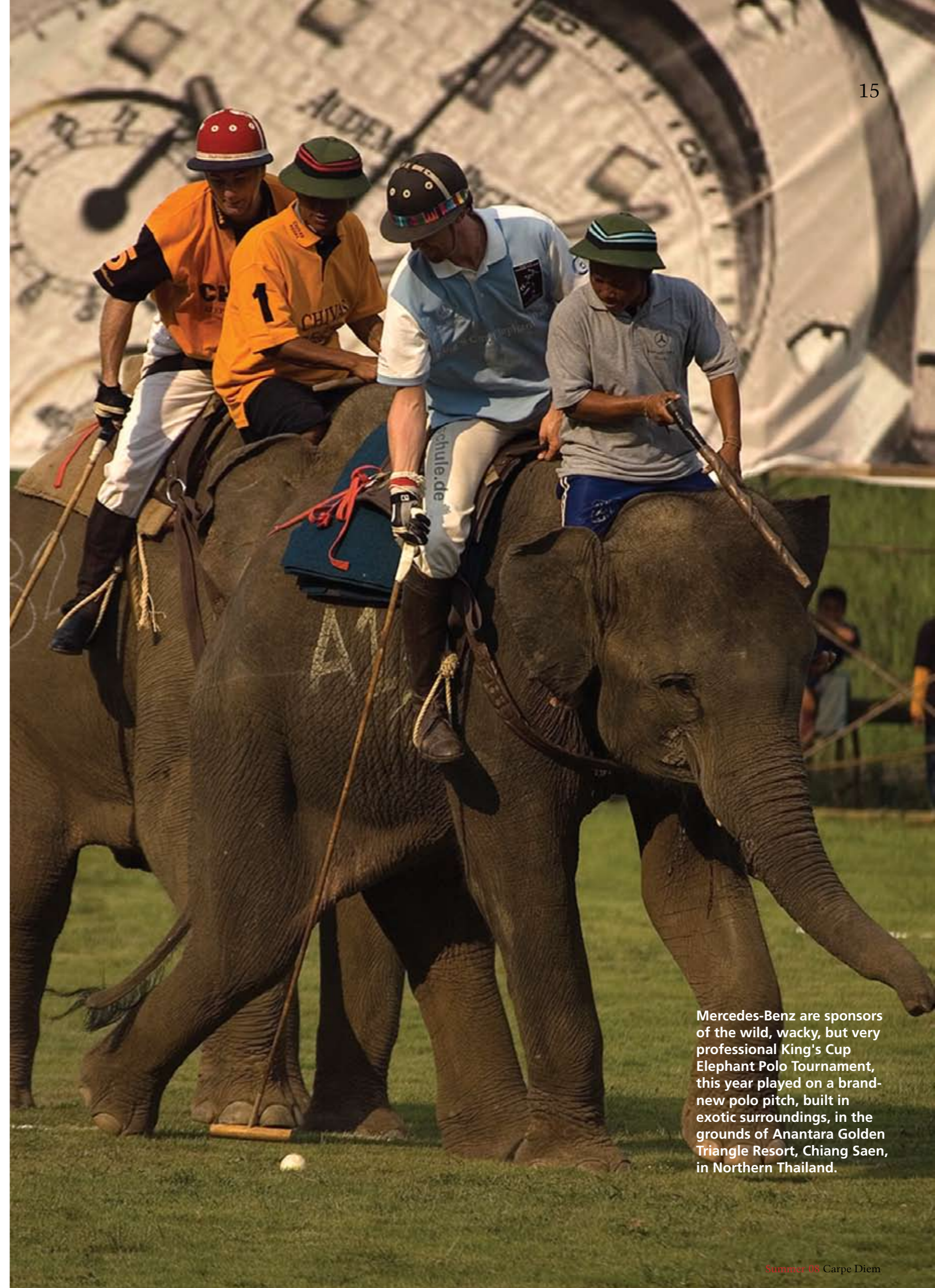
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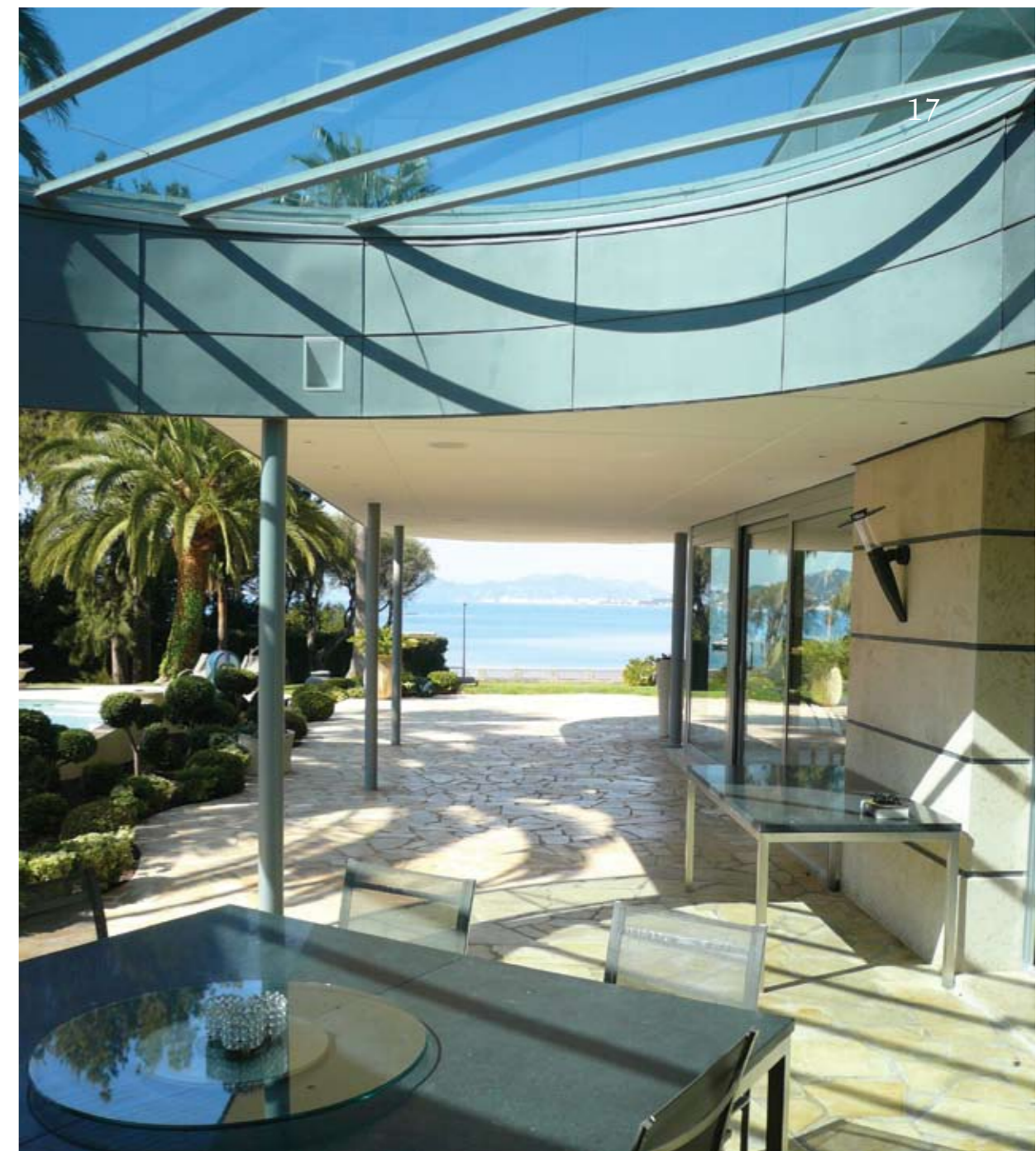
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Mercedes-Benz are sponsors of the wild, wacky, but very professional King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament, this year played on a brand-new polo pitch, built in exotic surroundings, in the grounds of Anantara Golden Triangle Resort, Chiang Saen, in Northern Thailand.





## Cap d'Antibes

**Villas on the exclusive promontory of Cap d'Antibes are considered real gems - and this property is no exception.**

Situated in the most prestigious environment of Cap d'Antibes, directly facing the sea and a short walk from the yacht marina of Juan les Pins, this astounding property enjoys exquisite views over the Mediterranean to the Islands in the Bay of Cannes and the Esterel Hills.

The modern, luxuriously renovated villa has been designed with contemporary furnishings, appointments and decorations of the highest standard to provide an outstanding master suite, four guest bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms and elegant reception rooms.

There is also an independent caretaker's lodge in the grounds, the focal point of which is the wonderful, gently sloping gardens.



Price on demand  
Ref 1657

[carpediem@carlton-international.com](mailto:carpediem@carlton-international.com)



Tourrettes sur Loup

A former 13th-century Templar chapel, with breathtaking panoramic views to the sea.



Perched above this charming, picturesque village, near the town of Vence, 30 minutes from Nice International Airport, this former 13th-century Templar chapel, with breathtaking panoramic views to the sea, has been renovated with taste and refinement to provide elegant, modern accommodation whilst retaining all its charm and history.

With two main bedrooms, a cathedral kitchen, lounge, dining room, study and three independent guest suites, wonderful grounds of 3.5 acres planted with olive-trees and Provençal flowering shrubs, the villa also offers a stunning heated, horizon swimming-pool.



Price: € 3 600 000  
Ref 1601

carpediem@carlton-international.com



Villefranche sur Mer

There are insufficient adjectives to describe the outstanding views from every single one of the rooms of this superb contemporary family home.

Designed by a celebrated French architect, this modern villa is a true masterpiece. Each and every one of the six bedrooms and reception rooms in the property open onto vast terraces from which the vistas stretch from the picturesque mediaeval seafront village of Villefranche across the stunning horizon swimming pool, to the bay of Cap Ferrat and beyond.

Ideal for entertaining, with numerous reception rooms the villa has been completed to the highest standard with remarkable appointments throughout.



Price on demand  
Ref 1877

carpediem@carlton-international.com

## Trend-spotting at the Milan Furniture Fair

The Milan Furniture Fair is where tomorrow's interior design trends are made. And despite global economic doom the future looks bright - from the inside at least - as **Becky Sunshine** discovered when she visited this year's exhibition.



**Above:** *Wooden garden chair* by Maarten Baas.  
Reworking an old favourite - the classic white plastic garden chair - crafted in elm wood.  
**Left:** *My Beautiful Backside sofa* by Doshi Levien for Moroso.  
The sofa has no back - instead you are propped up by floating cushions in wool and felt.

Organisers of the annual Milan Furniture Fair have every right to feel buoyant at the record number of visitors who flocked to the Rho-Pero exhibition halls on the industrial wastelands of Milan this year. For in the current climate of credit crunch and housing market slump there were plenty of excuses to stay away from the world's most prolific furnishings' fair, where the majority of exhibits are luxuries only a minority can afford.

Some 348,000 visitors, an increase of 28 per cent on last year, filled the newly-designed exhibition centre to marvel at the state-of-the-art furniture collections, glimpse the most exciting prototypes and place orders for the coming year.

But while attendance numbers showed no signs of the threat of global recession, the darkening mood could perhaps be seen in the more subtle and sober pieces exhibited in the six-day fair, which attracts the world's leading designers.

The first Milan Furniture Fair, or Salone internazionale del Mobile, was held in 1960, giving international furniture and design manufacturers an opportunity to present new collections to industry retailers and the press. Known by insiders simply as the Salone, the exhibition has catapulted many designers to superstardom. And it habitually attracts big names such as Australian Marc Newson, Spanish Jaime Hayon and Baghdad-born Zaha Hadid, the first woman to win the Pritzker Prize for Architecture.

This year's fair was marked by a pervading feeling of elegance. While there was a smattering of bold colour and embellishment, the majority of exhibits felt more muted than in previous years, according to design consultant Jacob Peres. He said: "There was definitely a return to a modernist value. I noticed there was



1

Around the corner was the much-hyped launch of Meta, by London and New York antiques dealers Mallet, which commissioned pieces made by master craftsmen using 17th and 18th century techniques, designed by contemporary names

a lot less decoration and more of a focus on the beauty of form.

"The best examples were re-issues such as Shiro Kuramata's pieces at Living Divani and also the beautiful show celebrating the 80-year anniversary of Cassina at the Triennale. Old fashioned, modernist elegance feels right for now."

The fair's main show is centred in or around the Rho-Pero, the world's largest exhibition centre located 15km outside Milan, which this year hosted manufacturers such as Kartell, Porro, Cappellini and Vitra. But Milan's city centre was also teeming with hundreds of exhibitions, a focal point being the Zona Tortona, where British industrial designer Tom Dixon, Dutch designer Marcel Wanders' Moooi, and the Italian mosaic tile specialists Bisazza could be found.

Around the corner was the much-hyped launch of Meta, by London and New York antiques dealers Mallet, which commissioned pieces made by master craftsmen using 17th and 18th century techniques, designed by contemporary names such as Tord Boontje, BarberOsgerby, Matali Crasset and Wales & Wales. It seems, despite the economic squeeze, edition work, or the DesignArt market as it has been coined, is booming.

According to Jay Osgerby, who with his partner Edward Barber created Cupola - a hand-blown glass reading light on a mirror-polished white bronze and marble table, there has been a "sea-change" in the behaviour of antique collectors. "They're interested in contemporary



2



3



4

work but feel let down by the quality.

"Mallet has incredible resources and access to these master craftsmen. The project for Meta was really a departure for us, a foray into craft, which we relished. We're keen to create pieces that will have longevity, that can be used and loved and passed on. It's like creating antiques of the future."

Elsewhere sustainability was high on the agenda, as consumers have increasingly become keen to verify the provenance of products. Finnish company Artek used sustainable wood, while the Dutch collective Droog used sustainability as a theme to produce pieces such as the cosy chair, a metal radiator lounge by Andreas Quednau and Sabine Müller.

For Henrik Marstrand, founder of eco-aware Danish company Mater, the move towards more sustainable designs could not come soon enough. "Companies today face new challenges and cannot follow the old model of a start-up. They need to take into consideration ethical and sustainable issues. At a time when existing companies invest in change, we have the opportunity to rethink the business set-up model and incorporate these issues as the building block of our brand."

**Highlight Satellite Shows:**

British furniture manufacturer Established & Sons is now in its fourth year and consensus from industry insiders is that the company has finally come of age. With new products on show at La Perlot, the production collection has matured and feels worthy of the slick marketing and hype.

Italian company Boffi took a large warehouse at Porto Genova to house its new kitchen and bathroom collection. Of note was a new Piero Lissoni kitchen in acacia wood shown with handmade artisan tiles, ultra-fine steel countertop and long recessed handles on gliding doors.

Swarovski Crystal Palace is always a highlight of the week with some of the highest profile designers offering their reinvention of the chandelier. Fredrikson Stallard's Cavern Collection, a series of leather, wood and concrete monolithic forms with crystal encrusted openings, was a highpoint as was British lighting designer Paul Cockedge's Veil, a cleverly conceived four-metre high curtain of crystals which when viewed through a mirror revealed a portrait of the Mona Lisa.

Dutch design always has a strong presence during the week and in particular the Eindhoven Academy. This year, alongside an exhibition of graduate work shown at Spazio Rossanda Orlandi, was the Eindhoven Brainport in Zona Tortona. Standout pieces included 11: The Beautiful Game - a reinvented table football table using a white surface and silver figures by GRO Design, and the brilliantly conceived Marbelous table by Tineke Beunders.

One of the best events of the week was by young Dutch designer Maarten Baas: a brilliantly curated show in a working car repair garage. New works including The Chankley Bore, a collaboration with Established & Sons featured alongside his Smoke and Sculpt series. //

**Milan Top Ten:**

**1 Stack by Shay Alkalay for Established & Sons**

The multi-coloured Stack shelving by Shay Alkalay for Established & Sons gives the impression that it's floating. Available in stacks of nine or 13 shelves, this was a firm favourite product of the week.

**2 Papyrus by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec for Kartell**

Likely to become an instant classic and a massive hit when it goes into production early next year, the transparent polycarbonate chair by the ever popular French Bouroullec Brothers offers a fine ridged pattern around the outer surface and is available in yellow, purple, smoked grey, green and clear.

**Rotterdam by Hella Jongerius for Vitra (below)**

A perfect example of this year's subtlety and elegance is Hella Jongerius' Rotterdam chair, which has a solid, crafted feel to it. Available painted or stained, the version with an upholstered leather seat has been heat-sealed so there's no stitching.



**3 Soft Rocker chair by Committee for SCP**

The textured velvet chair by Committee for British company SCP garnered plenty of attention during the fair. The aim was to create a hybrid rocking chair and armchair and have only one curve - on the base of the hardwood frame.

**Marbelous table by Tineke Beunders at Eindhoven Brainport (below)**

A relief to find humour in design - and this Maplewood table with a carved marble track is spot on. Inspired by childhood memories of playing with marbles, Beunders has incorporated a treasure box of silver and gold marbles, which is stored at the base of the table.



**4 Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend 1 by Matali Crasset for Meta**

Crasset has worked with Chinese paktong - a metal almost extinct, which features a golden silver patina which never tarnishes to create this pendant light. The glass has been mouth-blown from traditional sheet glass.

**Wooden garden chair by Maarten Baas (previous page)**

Reworking an old favourite - the classic white plastic garden chair - crafted in elm wood, this piece is instantly elevated into something luxurious. The chair has been created for a solo exhibition to be held at the Contrasts Gallery in Shanghai this September.

**Elements by Jaime Hayon for Moooi**

Spanish designer Jaime Hayon created Element for Dutch design company Moooi - a series of stackable components comprising of mirrors, stools, trays and ceramic vases, which can be stored as a towering sculpture and then dismantled for use.

**My Beautiful Backside sofa by Doshi Levien for Moroso (previous page)**

A whimsical divan inspired by a painting of a maharani seated on the floor surrounded by pebble-shaped cushions. The sofa has no back - instead you are propped up by floating cushions in wool and felt. Rapid prototype buttons are placed at the back of the sofa - a secret embellishment.



**Cupola by Barber Osgerby for Meta**

A lamp table made from hand-blown glass and a polished white

bronze table with a marble base. The light hangs from within the internal frame, which is made from bronze, and ensures there's no pressure on the glass.

## Prime property trends

It is crunch time on a global scale as the shockwaves from the sub-prime mortgage crises in the US reverberate across the world. But, as **Zoe Dare Hall** discovers, there is one area unaffected by the world's economic downturn - the spending power of the wealthy.

For most buyers, facing falling house prices and rising living costs, we are all, it seems, feeling the squeeze.

Or are we? Experts may quibble over quite what this credit crunch means, from natural blip in the cycle to widespread recession, but one area is indisputable: the spending power of the wealthy. The rich are getting richer; there are more of them than ever before, and the top end of the property market that caters to their tastes shows little sign of being squeezed.

Agents anywhere around the world will tell you the same story. The mainstream market is feeling the pinch, but super-prime property is soaring ahead. A house has just sold in Cannes for €31m while London has broken world records with an off-plan flat selling for £115m (€146m). Meanwhile property prices in prime hotspots such as Monaco continue to rise.

"The number of wealthy people has doubled in the last 10 years and so has their wealth, so the sort of prime property that attracts them is buoyant because this market is not as affected by things such as interest rates or restrictions on borrowing," says Charles Weston-Baker from Savills. Research shows that 20% of the world's 1,125 billionaires' wealth is invested in real estate.

"The French Riviera is still the number one place for the wealthy in Europe, if not the world," adds Weston-Baker, citing the new Le Provençal development in Cap D'Antibes whose 58 apartments costing up to €50m have attracted huge interest from British, Russian and Italian buyers. "Prime ski properties in France, Switzerland and Austria are also in demand and the market anywhere for properties costing upwards of £4m (€5.07m) is unaffected."

According to Robert Anthony, of Anthony & Cie financial advisers who are currently besieged by estate agents seeking help with sourcing credit, "you can still get gazumped on a €10m chalet in Courcheval or a similarly beautiful house in Cap d'Antibes" despite there being 60 per cent less liquidity in the global property market since the US's sub-prime crisis kicked in last November. "There is still high international demand for very exclusive properties, particularly among buyers from Russia and Asia."

Interest rates may be driving opportunists to cash in on the American or other dollar-based property markets, and the Sterling-Euro stand-off is currently making the bulk of British buyers think twice about holiday homes in Europe.

"It's the cheapest time since 1981 to buy dollars, though a lot of our clients are waiting to see if things get even better, while the Euro has hit an all-time high, but many clients are still fixing rates now, for up to two years, in case the rate falls even further," says Paul Dimambra from financial advisers Hargreaves Lansdown.

But fluctuating currencies make little difference to the super-rich. "At the top of the market, it doesn't matter what the rate is. They'll buy whatever. And at the bottom, it makes relatively little difference. It's the middle market that hurts," Charles Weston-Baker adds.

If the wealthy, as a whole, are keeping the super-prime strata afloat, the Russians are playing a particularly prominent role. Prestige property in Russia comes at such exorbitant prices that comparable homes in other destinations from Marbella to Montenegro appear a bargain.

"They will immediately pay the price while others merely think about it," Philip Weiser, Director of Carlton International, says, adding that there is still nowhere to compare with the Côte d'Azur.

"At the upper end, there is little or no change in trends this year compared with past years. The market is not aggressively buoyant but it remains stable, with southern French real estate rising by 8-12% each year since 2000, and it still takes the usual three to six months to sell a property if it has been priced correctly," says Weiser.

He has seen the region's steady price growth rocked just twice in his 30 years in property on the coast, once in the early 1980s when the new Socialist government threatened to tax second homes, and during the first Gulf War, which saw international property markets nosedive.

Key to the Riviera's resilience, he believes, is its combination of qualities that buyers cannot find elsewhere. "People who buy here specifically want what the south of France has to offer: the culture and benign climate, 🐦



**The mainstream market is feeling the pinch, but super-prime property is soaring ahead. A house has just sold in Cannes for €31m while London has broken world records with an off-plan flat selling for £115m (€146m).**



stability, security, easy access from the major European capitals and nowhere is more than 45 minutes from the airport," he says.

"New destinations such as Greece and Croatia have the weather, but they do not have the combination of all those elements. You can't go to the Caribbean for a long weekend. The only real comparables are mature destinations such as Tuscany or Spain, but we are seeing people selling up in Spain and Portugal because they tire of having just sea and sun and they want to get away from that colonial expat feel, which has never happened in southern France."

But the crucial factor that keeps the Côte d'Azur eternally sought after is the limited supply of new

**"The number of wealthy people has doubled in the last 10 years and so has their wealth, so the sort of prime property that attracts them is buoyant because this market is not as affected by things such as interest rates or restrictions on borrowing,"**

development. "The coast has never seen the overbuilding process that Spain has seen and there is a minimum size of plot that you can build on, in some rural areas up to 2.5 acres just for one house. It's one of the region's great appeals, from an environmental standpoint," says Weiser.

"There is a lull in the global market at the moment, but not in

our sector," adds Weiser, whose prime Riviera properties include a 10-bedroom palace in Cannes for €24m.

"For the €15m-20m market, there just aren't that many properties for there to be a glut."

To put things in perspective, €1m on the Riviera will buy a pleasant detached house with a pool but no sea views. From €3m, you will get a house with character and sea views in what Weiser describes as "the first hinterland, beautiful villages such as Mougins, Biot, St Paul and areas around Grasse, which are still within reach of the coast, not yet in the mountains, and up to 45 minutes from the sea or airport."

For a good-quality, five-bedroom house on a good plot with sea view, 10 minutes from the coast, expect to pay €6m-€12m. "Double that price if you are looking in Cap d'Antibes or Cap Ferrat, particularly if you want something near the waterfront," says Weiser. "True foot-in-the-water properties are so rare - we see perhaps two a year - that vendors can name their price and their value will bear no relation to the average."

These are the sorts of properties that you glimpse only when passing by boat, the type to attract the famous names who have always frequented the coast and for which a nine-figure price tag would not be unheard of.

There may be some bumps along the way for new investors at present, but the Riviera's enduring appeal to the rich and famous ensures its future remains rosy. The Côte d'Azur is, ultimately, a lifestyle destination, not a place for property speculators.

"It would take a huge amount to knock its cachet among top end buyers. It has the right ingredients that are hard to copy," adds Liam Bailey from Knight Frank.

And with a recipe that ensures the coast remains a chosen spot among those who can afford to buy anywhere in the world, even the most severe crunch will struggle to dent that kind of appeal. //

### Five global hotspots

#### London

London is the most expensive city in the world to buy real estate, with prime central areas such as Knightsbridge and Mayfair averaging just under €37,000/m<sup>2</sup>, according to Knight Frank. In central London, where prices rose by 15% last year, 65% of buyers are international, attracted by the capital as a key financial hub with excellent air links and a favourable tax regime for foreigners. The market has undoubtedly slowed in 2008, but the £5m-plus bracket remains unaffected. "Recently a large apartment in Knightsbridge sold to the first person to see it and another property sold before it was even completed," says Mike Spink of Spink Property.

#### New York

"New York is the one place in the US to buck the trend. While prices in the rest of the country dropped by 5% last year, prices in Manhattan rose by 25%," says Knight Frank's Liam Bailey. The niche market is particularly buoyant. "A lot of well-designed new schemes have emerged over the last 18 months in areas such as the Meatpacking District, where you find loft-style conversions that are designed," Bailey adds. "Prices match those in prime central London, but the market is much more domestic-based than London."

#### South Africa

The weak Rand is drawing foreign buyers to South Africa, where property prices rose by 8% last year. A further boost is expected when the country hosts the 2010 World Cup. Sophisticated banking and favourable laws on moving money in and out of the country are further investment incentives. "The Western Cape, particularly Cape Town's beachfront, the winelands and Plettenberg Bay are particularly in demand, with average prices of US\$2m (€1.3m)," reports Steve Fitzgerald, CEO of CC Africa, whose African Homesteads development has designer safari homes in Phinda Private Game Reserve from US\$6m (€3.9m).

#### Mauritius

The Indian Ocean island opened its doors to foreign property investors two years ago, but is keeping supply limited to 1,500 new properties available to overseas buyers, with foreigners only able to own 1.5 hectares of land. "Mauritius is the new Barbados. It is twice the size of Barbados but properties are half the price," says Andrew Langton, from Aylesford International, who is selling 115 Norman Foster-designed villas at the Banyan Tree Corniche Bay starting at €2.975m.

#### United Arab Emirates

Although national and foreign banks in the UAE are not immune to the credit crunch, seeing a five-fold increase in personal loans between 2006 and 2007, its property markets continue to flourish along with rapid GDP growth boosted by rising oil prices. "There are two markets. The 'property trading' marketplace, fuelled by local and foreign investors, concentrates on up and coming emirates such as Ras Al Khaimah and Abu Dhabi, while there is huge demand in Dubai among people relocating there and wanting properties they can move in to immediately," says Alistair Powell, CEO of London and Dubai-based Seven Continent Investment Group.

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## Le Rouret

**This beautiful renovated provencal villa enjoys countryside views over the Cap d'Antibes and the Mediterranean.**

Near the renowned mediaeval village of Valbonne but set high in the Provencal countryside with open views to the sea, this delightful, fully renovated home is only 35 minutes from Nice International airport.

Wonderful mature gardens planted with olive trees and a multitude of flowering shrubs, lemon, orange, apricot and fig trees, surround the five-bedroom villa which has elegant reception rooms which open onto vast terraces with summer dining areas, overlooking the heated pool and charming pool house.



Price: € 2 200 000  
Ref 1942

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## Contemporary Cannes: stunning, modern elegance

Breathtaking and lacking for nothing, this property in Cannes mesmerized **Alex Sutcliffe** when she looked around one of the region's most exciting properties.

Given that Cannes, otherwise known as the Queen of the Coast, is twinned with Beverly Hills, what could be better than a stunning example of Californian-style architecture from which to throw one's glittering film festival parties worthy of Hollywood royalty?

Look no further than this stunning villa, situated on the famous Croix des Gardes hill and boasting one of the most extravagant views of the Riviera. The panorama starts at the town and its Vieux Port and sweeps across the Bay of Cannes to the Esterel Mountains in the west. The property enjoys close proximity to the Cannes Mandelieu airport

and the autoroute, and is just five minutes from the Croisette and its famous Palais des Festivals.

Originally built in 1970 by architects Claude Giraud and Pierre Cabrol, the design was inspired by the style of Austrian-born modernist architect Richard Neutra (1892 - 1970), without whose contribution, it has been said, modern day Los Angeles would be hard to imagine. Following an apprenticeship with Frank Lloyd Wright, he designed numerous Californian properties, notably a multiple-use building for Universal International Pictures, a distinguished 1934 house in the Santa Monica Canyon for actress Anna Sten and her husband Eugene Frenke, a 1935 residence for Austrian director and one-time partner of Marlene Dietrich, Josef von Sternberg, and in 1938, a white stucco house for Surrealist director Albert Lewin, which was later acquired by Mae West.

Neutra specialised in extending architectural space into a carefully arranged landscape. He believed that modern architecture should act 'as a social force in the betterment of mankind', and his designs were rigorously geometric, airy structures, which blended art and landscape with practical comfort.

Three years ago the property was completely renovated and rebuilt, with care being taken to preserve the integrity of the original exterior. The existing lines were emphasised to highlight the natural purity of the original, and the interior was redesigned to embrace the timeless virtues of clean lines,

harmonious proportions, open plans and abundant natural light.

The 800 m<sup>2</sup> villa comprises two wings, elegantly called the day

**The total effect oozes contemporary Hollywood-style glamour and sophistication. A place where even the most distinguished of Hollywood royalty would feel at home.**

and night wings, and has eight bedrooms, each with its own bath- and dressing-rooms, and four of which enjoy private terraces. The night wing, naturally enough, hosts three of these bedrooms, the largest of which has a spacious east-facing terrace for sun-drenched breakfasts overlooking the Bay of Cannes. A

fourth bedroom can be found in the day wing, and another four share the garden level with a luxury hammam.

The bedrooms have been designed to minimalist perfection with Italian furnishings and fittings. The bathrooms, all boasting state of the art shower systems, free-standing stone resin bath tubs and designer basins, were all created by Boffi Studio in Cannes.

In the day wing we find the elegant 200 m<sup>2</sup> drawing room, with its 92 m<sup>2</sup> south-facing terrace. The drawing room extends into the dining area which, in turn, leads onto a 300 m<sup>2</sup> courtyard. There is a natural, harmonious flow throughout the interior, all of which has been laid with bateig stone flooring and is decorated in understated, natural hues to create



a simple but opulent style. The dining room is serviced by an exceptional kitchen, designed in cool white sophistication, also by Boffi Studio in Cannes.

Outside, there is even the sensation that the swimming pool flows seamlessly into the sparkling Mediterranean below, giving an unhindered view of what lies beyond. The pool, which is heated and equipped with an integrated Balneo air jet massage, was the one exterior feature to be completely remodelled, and at 20 x 4m in dimension, provides an excellent work-out as well as more leisurely swimming opportunities. After a swim, one can relax, either in the pool house or on the deck, beneath which an office and a laundry room are discretely hidden. The surrounding garden boasts manicured lawns, olive trees, palms and a Mediterranean herb border.

As a place for entertaining, this home is second to none, with practical facilities such as parking spaces for up to 26 cars and a total of 900 m<sup>2</sup> outdoor surface areas for parties and receptions, either on the south-facing terrace with the sun setting over the Esterel mountains, or in the elegant north-facing courtyard, with its stunning lighting effects, designed to emphasise the three-dimensional nature of the villa's architecture.

The total effect oozes contemporary Hollywood-style glamour and sophistication. A place where even the most distinguished of Hollywood royalty would feel at home, this property is certainly an exceptional residence with star quality. //



## Golfe Juan

**The contrast of new and old in this characterful property makes it a truly exceptional home.**

This villa is nestled in the hills above the marina of Golfe Juan and enjoys astounding panoramic views over the sea.

The main villa was built in the 1930s, and has been entirely renovated with care and taste to provide two to three bedrooms, a large, bright reception room and a fully equipped kitchen.

An independent, spacious, recently-built guest house offers a further two bedrooms and living room which open onto expansive terraces and the stunning horizon swimming pool. In addition, there is a two-room cottage in the pretty garden, as well as a barbecue with pizza oven.



Price: € 1 800 000  
Ref 700

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### Cap d'Antibes.

On a clear day not only the sparkling Mediterranean Sea but also the snow-capped Alps can be seen from this stunning property on the Cap d'Antibes.



The panoramic views from this fully renovated Provencal home near the seafont on the prestigious Cap d'Antibes are truly sensational.

The four-bedroom, four-bathroom villa, which boasts a heated swimming pool and jacuzzi in its pretty and easily maintained gardens, is situated within an effortless walk of the celebrated beaches in the Garoupe Bay.

The villa is also only a 30 minute drive from Nice International Airport and 15 minutes from the festival town of Cannes.



Price: €3 950 000  
Ref 1821

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### Wish you were Hyères

An architectural marvel on the Riviera is the unexpected setting for one of the hippest events in the French fashion calendar. **Mark Tungate** reports.

Hyères was yesterday. Throughout the 1920s, the Riviera town that floats like a red and ochre butterfly above the Mediterranean attracted a glamorous flotsam of artists and bohemians: Jean Cocteau, André Gide, Man Ray, Louis Buñuel...and the eccentric Charles and Marie Laure de Noailles, an aristocratic couple who built a remarkable cubist villa on a lofty crag.

Hyères is also today. Once a year, the Villa Noailles hosts the International Festival of Fashion and Photography. On a sunny weekend at the end of April, fashion's finest gather at the villa to pick the next star de la mode. A select group of young designers set themselves up in temporary showrooms to explain their work to department store buyers, journalists and competition judges. In the evening they show off their designs with catwalk shows in a big marquee on the beach. Only a few years ago, the first prize went to Dutch duo Viktor & Rolf. Names like Gaspard Yurkievich (the fresh prince of the Marais), Xuly Bêt (afro-punk couture) and Karine Arabian (shoes to die for – and bags to boot) were all discovered here.

There's something addictive about the festival: those who come once inevitably return. It combines the allure of Paris fashion week with the pleasures of soft southern light and sea air. On the emerald lawn of the villa, a vivid flock of buyers, stylists, photographers and journalists relax and gossip over beers and baguettes. Most industry junkets end up as giant deal-making machines, but Hyères retains a certain intimacy. The networking tends to be of the "love your outfit" variety. Away from the posturing of Paris, the atmosphere is egalitarian. You're as likely to run into an over-excited blogger as you are Christian Lacroix or Riccardo Tisci (the current artistic director of Givenchy), both of whom have been jury presidents recently.

Charles and Marie Laure de Noailles would be delighted to learn that their villa is an artistic hub once again. Patrons of modern art, somewhat ahead of the avant-garde, they commissioned its construction in 1923 as a vacation home and health retreat. For them, Hyères was the ultimate Riviera town – after all, wasn't it here that Belgian writer and diplomat Stephen Liégeois coined the expression "Côte d'Azur" in 1887?

The couple wanted their villa to be brutally simple: cubist, in fact, in accordance with the latest art movement. They talked to both Mies van der Rohe (too busy) and Le Corbusier (too arrogant) before hiring a relative newcomer, Parisian interior architect Robert Mallet-Stevens. South-facing and largely open to the elements, the design of the villa reflected the couple's voguish belief in the health-giving properties of fresh air and sunshine.

Work began in 1924 and was not entirely finished until ten years later, with numerous additions giving the building a labyrinthine quality. Staircases rise and descend: one of them leads purposefully up a tower and then peters out, the design having been modified by Charles at the last moment. Even the Japanese garden looks like a triangular chess board – or a painting by Mondrian.

In her book *Marie Laure de Noailles – La Vicomtesse du Bizarre*, French journalist Laurence Benaïm describes the villa as "a futuristic liner moored off the coast of the Roaring Twenties". Resembling concrete cabins, each of the ten small bedrooms has its own balcony, an art deco clock posted above the door. The couple's houseguests could come and go as they pleased, drifting around the landlocked vessel. It possessed one of the first indoor swimming pools in France. The Noailles even engaged a fitness instructor – a muscular Adonis known as Monsieur Taré, in whose arms Charles was scandalously discovered by his wife a couple of years later.

Marie Laure de Noailles died in 1970 – her husband 10 years later. Having



been sold to the town of Hyères, the villa lay neglected for 16 years. At that stage, few were interested in the work of Robert Mallet-Stevens, one of the more obscure architects of the 20th century. Finally, amid the

**The villa lay neglected for 16 years. At that stage, few were interested in the work of Robert Mallet-Stevens, one of the more obscure architects of the 20th century. Finally, amid the protests of architectural students, the villa was listed as an historic monument and restored as an exhibition space.**

protests of architectural students, the villa was listed as an historic monument and restored as an exhibition space.

The Festival International de Mode et de Photographie has been based at the Villa Noailles since 1997. The man behind the festival is Jean-Pierre Blanc, who was born in Hyères and has always been "fascinated by fashion and design".

"As a young man I was determined to launch an event in my home town that would help young designers," he explains. "People picked up on my enthusiasm. The event was launched in the 1980s and we gradually moved in to the villa as the restoration was completed. I think there's a magic about this

festival that you can't find elsewhere – and it's partly due to the location."

Hyères relies on a mixture of public and private funding, with the local authority backed up by sponsors including LVMH, L'Oréal and Etam. For those who care about the future of fashion, the festival entrants are seen as trailblazers of trends to come. In addition, the festival welcomes photography into the fold, enabling new talents to exhibit their work and mingle art directors and gallery owners.

If the festival started out as a select and largely French event, it has grown increasingly international. This year, for example, it attracted entrants from the UK, Germany, Austria, the United States and even Argentina.

A growing Anglo-Saxon press corps was joined by photographers from Milan and writers from Venezuela. And all of them are immaculately dressed in what might be described as "Hyères casual": the latest summer fashions mixed with discreetly expensive accessories. You can't let yourself go when you're sharing cocktails with jury members like Sarah Rutson, the svelte

buyer from Hong Kong Crawford department store Lane Crawford, or Carla Sozzani, creator of the legendary Milanese concept store 10 Corso Como.

This year the jury picked two winners who captured the yin and yang of fashion. The first was British entrant Matthew Cunnington, whose collection – entirely in black – was sombre, poetic and melancholy, its interest residing in highly complex folds, pleats and drapes. In total contrast, Belgian designer Jean-Paul Lespagnard burst onto the scene with disco cowgirls in fringed plastic boots, accessorised with references to his homeland – such as sunglasses decorated with "pommes frites". "It's nice to see that the fashion industry has a sense of humour," he said.

Some might suggest that the jury simply carried away under the intoxicating sunshine of the Riviera. Others might point out that it's their job to praise the provocative. After all, in fashion circles, Hyères is the future. //

For more information on the festival, see: [www.villanoailles-hyeres.com](http://www.villanoailles-hyeres.com)



Previous page and left: Catwalk creations by Hyères winner Jean-Paul Lespagnard  
Bottom: The cubist Villa Noailles contrasts with its lush surroundings  
Below: Chilling on the lawn of the villa; young Belgian designer Jean-Paul Lespagnard





Main photo: Saint-Tropez Harbour.  
Below: Poster of the Roger Vadim and Brigitte Bardot movie "And God Created Woman".

## Beyond the beaches; Saint-Tropez & the Arts

Saint-Tropez offers a whole lot more than a champagne lifestyle, as **Lanie Goodman** discovers, when she goes in search of some cultural inspiration on the Côte d'Azur.

Perennially trendy, Saint-Tropez is always reinventing itself. Over the years, its reputation as a jet-set playground with a mythic extravagant lifestyle has attracted an international stream of wealthy pleasure-seekers and film and rock stars. Yet, anyone who has truly explored Saint Tropez knows that the vibrant cultural scene is also a quintessential part of the village's charm.

As early as the 1900s, post-Impressionist painter Paul Signac was driven into the port during a storm and liked it so much he decided to stay, inviting his artist friends down south to capture Saint-Tropez's dazzling hues on their palettes.

Today, the portside Musée de l'Annonciade offers visitors a small but superb collection that shows the brilliant effects of Saint-Tropez light, including works by Signac, Matisse, Bonnard, van Dongen, Dufy, Marquet, Braque, and Vuillard,

housed in a 16th century chapel on the edge of the port. The permanent collection features a mix of paintings by Fauvists, Pointillists, Cubists and the Nabis School, as well as landscapes of Saint-Tropez by lesser-known artists. There are also exciting seasonal shows devoted to one painter, from Maillol and Seurat to Picasso and Braque.

And then came the writers. In the 1930s, author Colette bought a modest villa in Saint-Tropez, which was still an unspoiled fishing village. She swam twice a day in the burnished blue sea, plucked fruit from her garden, drank wine from the local vineyards and danced at the festive bals in the lantern-strung square, telling her bewildered Parisian friends that she'd found total rejuvenation in life's simple pleasures.

The post-war years brought a new influx of well-known authors such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir and Françoise Sagan, who became regulars at the cafés near the harbour. But in 1955, when Roger Vadim and young protégée Brigitte Bardot shot "And God Created Woman", the film's



overnight success put the little village of pink stacked houses on the map forever.

In keeping with this unofficial literary tradition, one of the cultural highlights is the yearly summer Festival de Ramatuelle, founded by the late French actor, Jean-Claude

Brialy in 1985. Held in the Théâtre de la Verdure, a circular outdoor theatre, perched in the heights of Ramatuelle village, under the century-old fig trees, the festival features over 200 performances by top-notch actors and musicians, from actor Jean-Louis Trintignant and comedian Gad Elmaleh to

**In the 1930s, author Colette bought a modest villa in Saint-Tropez, which was still an unspoiled fishing village. She swam twice a day in the burnished blue sea, plucked fruit from her garden, drank wine from the local vineyards and danced at the festive bals.**

legendary singers like Charles Aznavour and Véronique Sanson. The productions also include classics

from Molière and Oscar Wilde and musical tributes to Edith Piaf.

Another highlight of the summer season is the Jazz Festival of Ramatuelle, also held in August at the starlit Théâtre de la Verdure, in the heart of the village. The perfect acoustics and intimate atmosphere make this one of the most ideal locations for concertgoers; the party continues after hours when the musicians come back on stage for informal jam sessions. This summer's highlights include prestigious performers such as pianist Jacky Terrasson and clarinetist Michel Portal.

And while you're in Saint-Tropez, you can also take a break between boutique hopping and check out the unusual Maison des Papillons, a tiny museum, hidden away in an alley, with two floors of butterflies collected by painter/entomologist Dany Lartigue, son of photographer Jacques-Henri Lartigue.

No wonder young sophisticates and forty something professionals continue to come here with the knowledge that this one-of-a-kind destination is really whatever you make of it. But perhaps the best news of all is that Saint-Tropez's dazzling landscape - the towering umbrella pines, limpid turquoise creeks and sandy beaches - truly hasn't changed all that much since the Fauvists flocked here almost a century ago. //

For all your real estate needs around the Gulf of St Tropez, the local Carlton International Property Consultant is Corinne Aigouy who can be reached on +33(0)6 10 62 75 97 or corinne-aigouy@cartlon-international.com

## Carpe Diem Touch

Picture the scene: you have spent the morning lounging by the pool but now fancy something slightly more energetic - a round of golf or a game of tennis, perhaps, or a yoga session for those with a more holistic approach to sport. And after such physical exertion a relaxing massage will surely put you in the right frame of mind for a candle-lit dinner at one of the Côte d'Azur's finest restaurants, or indeed a chef prepared private dinner tête à tête at home

Cue: Carpe Diem Touch, an unrivalled welcome service which offers clients all the facilities - and more - of an exclusive hotel. The highly personalised amenity, the first of its kind on the French Riviera, has been designed to make your visit to the Côte d'Azur as pleasurable and as effortless as possible.

Through Carpe Diem Touch, clients will benefit from a wide-range of health, beauty and lifestyle opportunities which will complement the host of other facilities already on offer to rental customers such as limousine, yacht charter, private jet and personal chef services.

Carlton International Director Philip Weiser said the launch of Carpe Diem Touch was driven by a desire to meet the cosmopolitan exigencies of its clientele. "We recognised the sophistication of our clients and wanted to cater to their lifestyle needs.

"We know that when they are at home our clients belong to health clubs and gyms. This shouldn't stop when they are on holiday. Indeed, what better time to indulge in a passion for a particular sport, or try something new."

However without local knowledge, the mere effort of finding a suitable coach to play a round of golf or take part in a Pilates lesson might put even the keenest sportsman off, Mr Weiser adds. "So we have brought all these activities to the home with our team of professionals, all of whom have come with personal recommendations."

Carlton International has put together a first-class team of professionals with links to all the best golf and tennis clubs along the Riviera. Its partnerships with luxury travel companies also means that the Carpe Diem Touch team can ensure you get the vehicle of your choice - be it car, boat, or plane - delivered as near to your door as possible.

If your desire is a six seater jet to take you and your family to Sardinia for the day, for example, then the Carpe Diem Touch Air Charter Partner can assure you that your own personal plane or helicopter will be awaiting you on the tarmac in 24 hours or less.

But if water travel is more your style, a Carpe Diem Charter Partner, will help find the right vessel for your trip. "If people want to go out for the day on a boat, then we can organise not only the boat but also the crew, the refreshments and the service."

A team of highly skilled professionals in the health and beauty industry are also at the disposal of Carlton International clients, offering an unlimited range of services from shiatsu, foot reflexology and Japanese massage to personal shopping, make-up and hairdressing. Personal coaches in fitness, swimming, diving, tennis and golf are also on hand to help clients master the sport of their choice.

All can be arranged at the touch of a button. You decide your agenda for your holiday, and after telephoning the central reservations numbers the Carpe Diem Touch team will organise the rest.

Although all information is available on-line, a brochure outlining the services on offer will be sent out by email to all potential clients enquiring about Carlton International Rental properties on the Côte d'Azur. Reservation confirmations will include information on the services and the clients can contact the Carpe Diem Touch team to book any appointments in advance.

For those who live in the moment, a Carpe Diem Touch brochure will await them on their arrival at their holiday villa in the south of France. This will be accompanied by a handpicked selection of environmentally-friendly cosmetics and beauty products by Floram, partners of Carpe Diem Touch, with the compliments of Carlton International.

"We are very excited by our new service, which we hope will set us apart from our competitors," says Mr Weiser. "We know there are plenty of other rental services offering first class properties like ours, but we are the only ones in the south of France to offer personal care and accompaniment as part of the villa portfolio service." //

## Auribeau sur Siagne

A wonderful five-bedroom, five-bathroom holiday home, this villa is set in the middle of the countryside yet only 20 minutes from the beaches of Cannes and five minutes drive from the picturesque village of Mougins with its cobbled streets and myriad restaurants and galleries. Located in an elegant, residential estate which provides total privacy and complete quiet this villa, enjoying an unobstructed view to the sea, is decorated with refined and tasteful furnishings. It also boasts a delightful summer living and kitchen area which leads to the swimming pool, jacuzzi landscaped gardens.



Ref 354  
carpediem@carlton-international.com

## Cannes

This exceptional, sunlit Provencal villa enjoys extraordinary views over the Bay of Cannes and the dramatic Esterel mountains across its terraces, the garden and the horizon swimming pool. The five-bedroom villa has been furnished and decorated with great taste and elegance. Large bay windows open onto the view and an enchanting shaded dining terrace, which adds another dimension to the numerous reception rooms and bedroom suites.



Ref 342  
carpediem@carlton-international.com



### Mandelieu

This striking stone-built villa overlooking the Mandelieu golf course is in an excellent position, just five minutes from the beaches at La Napoule and two marinas, a short distance from the Mandelieu private airport and 20 minutes from Nice International airport. Completely renovated throughout in a contemporary modern style with high quality materials this wonderful home has six bedrooms and a fully equipped kitchen which opens onto vast terraces. There is an independent guest studio situated in the grounds, which also boasts a swimming pool.



Ref 346  
carpediem@carlton-international.com



### Cannes

A very charming and comfortable hand chiselled stone provencal enjoying a exceptional sea view. The villa is situated in a residential area a five minute drive from La Croisette and rue d'Antibes. A large terrace overlooks the swimming pool surrounded by a beautiful garden planted with old palm trees. Air conditioning in the bedrooms. The villa is tastefully decorated and furnished in a modern Provencal style, while all the bedrooms have air conditioning.



Ref 125  
carpediem@carlton-international.com



### Mougins

This superb modern Provencal villa is ideally located near the charming hilltop village of Mougins in a gated estate, a few minutes drive from the Cannes - Mougins Golf course and just 15 minutes from La Croisette and the boutiques, restaurants and beaches of Cannes. The villa is set on a large level garden and leads to a large covered teak terrace facing a magnificent heated pool. Bright and comfortable, with elegant rooms, modern furnishings and tasteful decoration, this five-bedroom villa includes a fitness room, large cinema room and independent staff accommodation.



Ref 344  
carpediem@carlton-international.com



### Cannes

This is an unusual hacienda-style home with outstanding panoramic views over the Bay of Juan les Pins and the Cap d'Antibes, offering highly comfortable and pleasant living space with a beautiful terrace surrounding the heated swimming pool. An especially spacious home, it provides accommodation for up to 16 people and lends itself ideally to entertaining large numbers of guests providing independent suites, billiard room with bar, large reception room, professional kitchen, garage and space for numerous cars.



Ref 053  
carpediem@carlton-international.com





## Casa de Campo

The tropical destination of Casa de Campo is just decades old, yet it has already earned the coveted title of 'the Caribbean's Most Complete Luxury Resort'.

Set in more than 7,000 acres of tropical paradise on the south coast of the Dominican Republic, Casa de Campo is fast getting a reputation for its luxurious accommodation combined with exceptional leisure facilities.

The direct translation of the Hispanic-named resort is 'field house', and while the impressive collection of first-class villas can hardly be described as that - the sense of living in an abundance of space and nature is certainly true. No more than 1,350 contemporary homes - all equipped with the latest luxury furnishings - have been built in secluded neighbourhoods across the rambling resort, situated just eight minutes from its very own Casa de Campo/La Romana International

Airport. The villas are available either for holiday rental - or to buy - providing owners with a home from home in one of the most exclusive communities in the Caribbean.

Without doubt the resort's overriding appeal is its second to none range of outdoor activities, which cover almost every sporting and lifestyle pursuit. Its Teeth of the Dog, Dye Fore and The Links golf courses have already become legendary among golfers. Designed by Pete Dye, the Teeth of the Dog - named for the jagged coral formations along the coastline - has been described as "labyrinthine" while the Scotland-like Links course of rugged hills and rolling vistas is said to be the more challenging of the two.

However, Casa de Campo - which has built up a loyal following amongst the rich and famous including Bill Gates, Michael

Douglas and Beyonce - is by no means an exclusively golfing resort. An assortment of water sports including dingy sailing, windsurfing and kayaking are available on the private Minitas Beach, whilst fishing, snorkelling and SCUBA diving can also be arranged. Meanwhile there is also a dual-level pool with cascade and extravagant swim-up bar to keep up the liquids in the tropical climes.

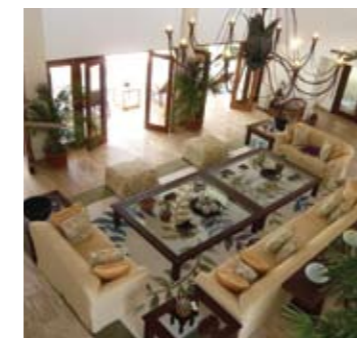
An equestrian centre is based on site with more than 15 show jumpers and 80 polo ponies, as well as dozens of other horses suitable for gentle hacks through the mesmerizing countryside. And for those aching limbs - or ultimate relaxation - there is the Cygalle Healing Spa which offers an exhaustive range of beauty and wellness services.

For the less active, there is Altos de Chavon, a magnificently replicated 16th-century Mediterranean village sitting high above the Chavon River. The village features a Grecian-style amphitheatre, the St Stanislaus church and a variety of shops, galleries and an archaeological museum.

The Casa de Campo Marina and Yacht Club was a welcome addition to the resort in 2001, offering first class moorings and an excellent sailing school as well as boutiques, restaurants and townhouse apartments. The marina is reminiscent of an Italian port, and after one Pina Coloda too many, you could be forgiven for thinking you had arrived in Portofino.

But when the sun goes down and you settle into dinner at one of the resort's 11 restaurants, there is no doubt that you are back in the Caribbean again. Whether sipping cocktails in the Beach Club, or eating tacos in El Sombrero, the mood is undisputedly tropical.

## Dominican Republic: La Romana, Casa De Campo



Situated at the heart of one of the world's best golf courses this villa is surely every golfer's dream.

The recently completed villa is located on the Dominican Republic's south-eastern coast in the resort of Casa de Campo, a lush, 7,000 acres Caribbean retreat of unsurpassed elegance.

The six-bedroom modern house has been beautifully finished and boasts handsome mahogany doors and windows, marble floors and granite in the fully equipped kitchen.

Located on the 4th hole of the Links Golf Course, the two-story furnished villa is as close to heaven on earth for golfing enthusiasts. It even has a swimming pool and jacuzzi in the gardens in which to cool off after a hard round.



U.S \$2 800 000  
Ref 1865

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### Dominican Republic: La Romana, Casa De Campo

The panoramic view from this contemporary villa encompasses a multitude of colours, from the vivid green of the golf course to the azure blue of the sea.



Set in the safe and quiet surroundings of Casa de Campo, where breathtaking beauty and first class leisure services combine for an exceptional experience, this villa offers perfect family accommodation.

Its six bedrooms are all centrally air conditioned, whilst the furnished villa's numerous reception rooms are spacious and light.

The property, which has a fully equipped kitchen, also boasts a wonderful decked terrace with a series of over-flowing pools and jacuzzi, from where you can sit and marvel at the stunning ocean and golf course views.



Price: U.S.\$3 000 000  
Ref 1866

[carpediem@carlton-international.com](mailto:carpediem@carlton-international.com)



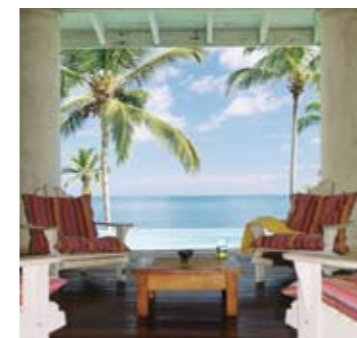
### Dominican Republic: Las Galeras

This stunning waterfront property enjoys direct access to the shallow, calm waters of Las Galeras Bays.

Located on the Peninsula of Samana - the Caribbean's Côte d'Azur - this stunning five-bedroom property offers a breathtaking sea view.

The fully furnished and equipped villa has a large living room with TV study and dining as well as an independent studio and a huge basement.

A beautiful covered terrace provides direct access to the beach, and a private swimming pool. Native plants and magnificent flowers have been carefully planted and well-maintained in the exotic Caribbean garden.



Price: U.S.\$1 850 000  
Ref 1667

[carpediem@carlton-international.com](mailto:carpediem@carlton-international.com)

## Le Roi de Saint-Tropez heads to Samana

One of France's brightest culinary stars has added his name to an exhilarating project to create a luxury eco-friendly resort in the Dominican Republic. **Danielle Gusmaroli** talks to celebrity chef **Christophe Leroy** about his plans for Terrazas de Cosen.

Once the tide of glitz and glamour ebbs away at the end of the Saint-Tropez season leaving the town's picturesque square in the gnarled hands of petanque players, the icons remain.

The list is long and luxuriant: Princess Diana's favourite restaurant, La Renaissance; Club 55, synonymous with lobster, champagne and glamour models, and Tahiti beach, where Brigitte Bardot and Roger Vadim caroused in *Et Dieu Crea La Femme*.

But perhaps one of the biggest attractions is celebrity chef Christophe Leroy, himself a symbol of how the village on the Côte d'Azur shook off its rather tatty reputation to blossom into an international destination, and the tensions that have arisen with the clash of old money and new meritocracy. For more than 20 years, the youngest chef to receive La Clé d'Or de la Gastronomie (he was 26), has been creating his finest delights for the jet set of the Mediterranean.

Now, France's national treasure is preparing to do the same in the Dominican Republic where he will stamp his culinary mark on the first "eco chic" resort being constructed there.

If history is to be repeated, Terrazas de Cosen will be a glittering success. Leroy will preside over the five-star hotel that will boast a first-class restaurant and beach eatery amongst a clutter of luxury villas that will incorporate the latest ecological features.

The restless 44-year-old played a vital role in reviving Saint-Tropez in the early nineties, bringing modern thinking to a town living in the past.

Ensclosed in Ramatuelle village is Les Moulins, a converted mill where food paints a picture of the real Saint-Tropez, every bit as vibrant as impressionists Signac and Bonnard.

There "Le Roi de Saint-Tropez", a diminutive farmer's son from Normandy, hosts his Bal Masque, the most desirable and debauched date on the social calendar where all manner of indiscretions occur. He is also behind the more sedate "Pique-nique sur la Plage" attracting celebrities like Barbra Streisand, Quincy Jones and Charles Aznavour.

Those who had deserted "Saint-Trop" during the recession in the nineties were lured back by the glittering reputation Leroy had recreated. "I only did what came naturally," he shrugs.

It is perhaps befitting, then, that Terrazas de Cosen, near Las Terrenas on the Peninsula of Samana, should attract Leroy.

Within an easy reach of the national Parc de Los Haitises and the protected Bay of Samana, where hundreds of humpback whales come every year to give birth, it's hard to imagine a more picturesque environment.

"For me food is about ambience, the surroundings, and giving people a unique experience," he says dreamily.

"I was seduced by the tranquillity of the place, there is nothing there but a few coconut trees. It's completely deserted and that will be a clean canvass to create what I want.

"I am thinking fish wrapped in banana leaves, big salads, paella by the sea and local music in the background.

"The food is largely Spanish with some French influence and my job is to interpret the culture and do it my way.

"I will visit the markets, eat with the locals, understand how they live and then I will express myself with food according to where I am."

Leroy was raised on a smallholding on the opposite, unglamorous side of Saint-Tropez. Age 16, he took a summer job washing up in a local restaurant

Below: Artist's impression of the Beach Club at Terrazas de Cosen.



before leaving home for a hands-on education in restaurants across France and Switzerland.

Soon he was a sous-chef under the fabled Alain Ducasse, at the three Michelin-star Restaurant Louis XV in Monte Carlo, before he was

**Within an easy reach of the national Parc de Los Haitises and the protected Bay of Samana, where hundreds of humpback whales come every year to give birth, it's hard to imagine a more picturesque environment.**

poached by Gerard Hardy, manager of Saint-Tropez's celebrated Chateau de la Messardiere hotel.

The influential French Gault Millau restaurant guide awarded Leroy two "toques", equivalent of stars, before the restaurant was re-

launched - an unprecedented honour for a 25-year-old.

After two years he left the Messardiere to open La Table du Marché in Saint-Tropez, and it was in July 1995, aged 30, that Leroy, already a celebrity chef in the village, held his first "picnic on the beach".

His reputation within showbiz circles was cemented in 1990 when he was invited to cook for the wedding of Johnny Hallyday and Adeline Blondiau.

Leroy's establishments along the Côte d'Azur are a breath of fresh - if very expensive - air. At La Table du Marché, he launched a sushi bar - unheard of in the south of France when it opened.

Among his much-vaunted restaurants is Les Dromonts Avoriaz, a multi-storey terrace construction, with timber cladding and porthole windows that became the template for the whole of Avoriaz.

He also presides over La Table du Polo at the Polo Club Saint-Tropez - Haras de Gassin, The Royal Mougins Golf Club and gastro-temples in Marrakesh.

Away 150 days a year overseeing his burgeoning hotel and restaurant empire, he will set off to the Dominican Republic for three months in December - but home is always "Saint-Trop" where wife Fabienne, 44, and eight-year-old daughter Victoire live.

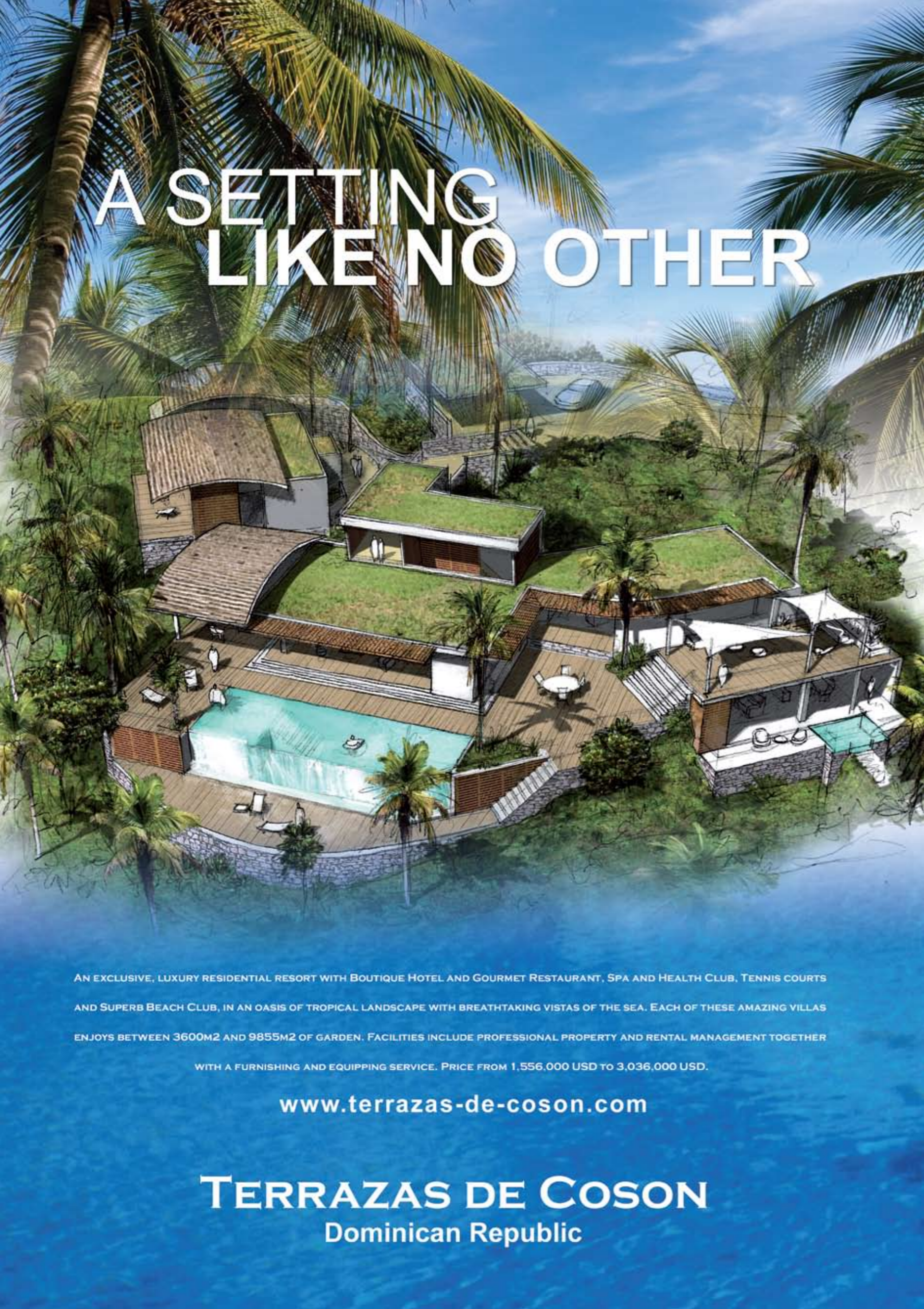
He will return to the Dominican Republic every three months for two weeks to oversee his one hundred-strong team.

"You never forget where you started out," he said. "I fell in love with the Djemaa el Fna square in Marrakesh, and with the whales and tranquillity of the Dominican Republic. But Saint-Trop is the most beautiful village in the world. It's my heart.

"Where ever I go, I am the ambassador for Saint-Tropez, if you like." //



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## TERRAZAS DE COSON

Dominican Republic



### Dominican Republic: Las Terrenas. Investment Opportunity



**A rare and exciting opportunity to acquire one of the last constructible sections of waterfront near the Caribbean's exclusive resort of Las Terrenas.**

On the Peninsula of Samana, with easy access to the pretty Caribbean village of Las Terrenas with its multitude of restaurants, boutiques and hotels and near the new international airport of El Catei, this outstanding beachfront development land extends to 13 hectares (32 acres).

This is perhaps one of the last waterfront opportunities to construct 30 000 square meters (30 000sq ft) of floor space in a combination of a villa and apartment complex type project.

With a fine sandy beachfront, the site lends itself either for residential or tourist resort development. A feasibility study is available.



Price: \$U.S. 10 000 000  
Ref 1760

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## Sandi Tollman

From returning leopards to the wild to photographing construction cranes at sunrise, South African born Sandi Tollman tells Alex Sutcliffe why there is no better place to live than Monaco.

I'm originally from Cape Town but have lived in Monaco since 2001. My late husband and I spent 25 years in New York and we bought this as a holiday flat, but when he fell ill we decided to spend three months here one summer and then stayed on.

It's interesting being here, it's a very straight forward life and I've made a lot of friends from all over the world. Monaco's very international but I didn't expect to make such close connections, and since my husband died I've made some very supportive friends.

Of course I miss New York, it's an incredible city and surprisingly easy to live in. Every city becomes smaller when you live there, it centres around several familiar places, whether they're shops or restaurants or theatres. I really enjoy living here, it's like taking an exclusive section of Paris or London; it's very concentrated and both relaxing and stimulating, and those two qualities are absolutely ideal at this stage of my life.

**Every city becomes smaller when you live there, it centres around several familiar places, whether they're shops or restaurants or theatres.**

I became involved with the Born Free Foundation after a chance meeting with Anthony Osmond-Evans, who wrote the book *The Magic of Monaco*. I said that I was passionate about animals and he told me that he knew Virginia McKenna. I jumped in headfirst and got involved in the release of two sixteen year old leopards, Pitou and Sirius, to the Shamwari reserve in South Africa. Prince Albert was also involved and

was present when we took them out of their cages and sedated them; he's very environmentally aware.

Travelling with the leopards was an incredible adventure. On the flight from Nice to London they'd removed four rows of seats to accommodate their cages so they were in the fuselage with us and we could actually smell them. They're brother and sister and Sirius is very protective of her brother - they were always touching each other - they were very special. When they were released it wasn't into the wild but into three acres of protected area, because they wouldn't know how to fend for themselves and could never survive otherwise. I'm going back soon to see how they're getting on, but I've been sent photos and they look wonderful.

I'm not a photographer but I've had two photographic exhibitions - of construction cranes in Monaco! At one stage there were nine construction cranes building the Monte Carlo Bay Hotel among other things, so I started photographing them against the backdrop of Monaco sunrises. Normally I love 18th and 19th century period art, but this was more geometric with cranes and cables hanging down and the sun glinting off them and sometimes I'd catch starlings flying in the background, and it became a huge project for me.

I love the Condamine market and go twice a week, it's such a way of life here. It's so comprehensive with food and flower stalls, and I adore that early in the morning. In fact, Monaco first thing is absolutely glorious, what with the lovely weather and the peace and quiet, and it's so pristine as they clean the streets and everything's glistening and manicured - it's the most amazing time. I'm an early riser and like to get up at 5:30. I go to the gym a couple of times a week but I'm not one of those gung ho



types. I also love to swim, either early summer mornings or late in the evening.

I'm passionate about cooking, and love to entertain. I especially enjoy making traditional things from South Africa, like curries, but I also like trying new flavours and recipes, and tend to go for spicy food. For dinner parties I really do everything myself but I always plan it well so that I can be with my guests rather than in the kitchen.

I love all music, from opera to jazz, just everything. I love being at home and making a home, everything I love is around me. I hate minimalism and am really just a total traditionalist. I always felt I belonged in another century, but am probably pleased I didn't when I think about it, what with medical things, like no anaesthetic!

They say Africa's in your blood, and it's true. I go back once a year, but otherwise just take trips for three to four days, to Italy, for example. I love Portofino, it's one of my most favourite places in the world. In fact I adore this whole coast line - Villefranche to me is one of the most charming areas, it's typically old French.

I go out a lot to restaurants, I love eating out and the atmosphere and bustle. That's what so special about Monaco, for such a small place it has such a sense of bustle but it's relaxing too. I feel extremely privileged to live here. //

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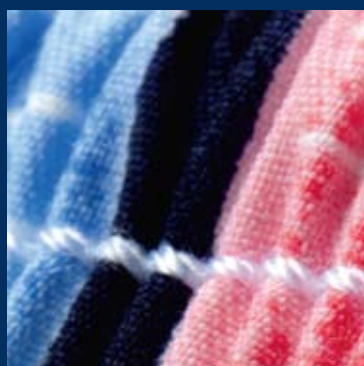
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