

# HELLO!

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## TRAVEL SPECIAL

From Naples to New York – the art of the long weekend

## INSIDE



**EMILIA FOX**  
ON BEING SINGLE  
IN HER 50s



PLUS

# Meryl Streep

DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 ICON: 'I COME ON SET LIKE IT'S A PARTY'



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# LIVELY LOUIS GROWS UP

AS HE TURNS EIGHT, HOW THE PRINCE IS ADJUSTING TO HIS ROYAL ROLE, PLUS HIS SPECIAL BOND WITH HIS GRANDFATHER THE KING



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# A FRUITFUL LIFE

*Louis Albert de Broglie, known as the Gardener Prince, opens the doors to his breathtaking castle in the Loire Valley, where he has rescued 800 varieties of tomato from extinction*



Louis Albert in his tomato garden; the chateau is nestled in 70 hectares of ancient woodland

The drawing room is dominated by a portrait of the chateau's former mistress, Gabrielle d'Estrées, a favourite of Henry IV. There is also a portrait of the Duke of Broglie (below)



The “Gardener Prince” Louis Albert de Broglie hails from a lineage woven into the very fabric of French history. The De Broglie family tree includes three marshals, a prime minister, five academicians, two physicists – one of them a Nobel laureate – two bishops and a deputy. Last, but certainly not least, there’s Madame de Staël, the intellectual powerhouse who introduced German Romanticism to France and famously held her ground against Napoleon (who, naturally, sent her into exile – but that is a story for another time).

Between his ancestry and his proximity to the great royal houses of Europe, Prince Louis Albert Victor Marie de Broglie’s place in the history books was already assured by the *Almanach de Gotha*, which meticulously charts the heritage of royal dynasties. Yet he has carved out a singular reputation through two remarkable achievements.

#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The first was his rescue – first from bankruptcy and later from a devastating fire – of Deyrolle, the legendary Parisian “temple of curiosities” and guardian of culture. And now, there is his immense effort to preserve a unique collection of 800 tomato varieties, all meticulously cultivated within the kitchen garden of his chateau in the Unesco World Heritage site of the Loire Valley.

“It happened because it simply had to. It was 1991, and back then I was working for Paribas – the logical path for an economics graduate. Then, out of the blue, when I was 30 ►



Louis Albert with his partner, the artist Daniela Krtisch, in front of a portrait of his ancestor Marshal François-Marie de Broglie

**‘WHEN A PLACE CHOOSES YOU, IT GUIDES  
YOU ALONG UNEXPECTED PATHS’**





Left: Louis Albert enjoys breakfast in the informal dining room

The wood-paneled dining room, located in one of the libraries, features cutlery and porcelain decorated with the family's emblem. Below, Louis Albert wears his own brand, Le Prince Jardinier, which he debuted in 1995

and happened to be in Canada, my brother Philippe-Maurice rang and suggested we buy this chateau together. My first thought was: 'Do we really need another historic property on top of the ones we already have?' It was practically a ruin; a massive gamble. But then I thought: 'It's a chance to learn something new, especially from the English peers who are the true masters of this sort of thing.' So, I bought it almost sight unseen."

He later recalled that, during his swimming tours in the Loire river, locals had already spoken to him about the majestic 14th-century estate. Yet it wasn't until he passed through the great wrought-iron gates for the first time – seeing it looming in the distance surrounded by a forest of cedars, sequoias and centuries-old oak trees – that he truly understood. The castle didn't belong to him. He belonged to the castle.

#### FINDING HIS CALLING

"This place chose me, and when a place chooses you, it guides you along unexpected paths: in my case, the discovery of plant diversity," he says. "A year later, the tomato came into my life for good. Since the Second World War, the seed market has been monopolised by a handful of corporations in a bid for global food control. What we think of now as a 'tomato' is red, round and utterly flavourless."

The tomato has existed for more than 2,600 years; it was a staple for the Aztecs and Mayans long before Hernán Cortés brought it to Europe in the 16th century. Initially, however, it was grown purely for ornamental purposes.

In more recent history, Thomas Jefferson – the third US president and renowned polymath and horticulturist – tended his own "experimental ►





A guest room adjacent to the main house and (below) Louis Albert's bathroom. He was raised in a sprawling family chateau in Normandy but prefers smaller rooms these days

Right: he and Daniela relax on a first-floor balcony



garden". Decades later, Eleanor Roosevelt took up the mantle, encouraging the public to plant their own gardens to help the nation weather the food shortages of the Second World War.

In essence, what Louis Albert has done for our generation is to reveal the staggering diversity of the tomato – its myriad shapes, colours and flavours – and to champion its revival by sharing seeds across the globe.

"But it isn't just about tomatoes," he says. "We also have 20 varieties of fruit trees and a dahlia garden – which I detested as a young man. It was the founder of L'Artisan Parfumeur, Jean Laporte, who finally convinced me of their beauty. Now, we cultivate 400 different varieties. Like the tomato, the dahlia isn't just beautiful – it's also quite edible."

#### SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION

To share his work, he established the National Tomato Conservatory, complete with its own on-site research laboratory. He has written numerous books and hosts the annual Tomato Festival every September.

Over two days, around 6,000 people visit the estate, where everything revolves around tomatoes. Guests can buy directly from specialist growers, sample dishes by top chefs, tour the gardens and learn how to cultivate their own crops at home.

"It's incredibly enriching. We get everyone from professional farmers to curious amateurs who have no idea how versatile the tomato can be. They're often struck by what they see and leave inspired to plant their own. They learn from us, I learn from them; everyone comes away better for it." ▶





The gardens feature 800 varieties of tomato and a collection of 400 dahlias



Daniela in the greenhouse, now the artist's studio



In 2008, he bought out his brother's share of the estate. "Since then, I've been exploring the potential of the 70 hectares of woodland surrounding the chateau. I began by opening our doors to artists inspired by the landscape.

"We've also converted the estate's ancient troglodyte caves into a space for learning about the human body, using antique images from Deyrolle. Next, we're launching a 'green school' for children and adults alike."

Louis Albert devotes his life to teaching and learning. "There's a never-ending stream of ideas; I simply love the process of bringing them to life."

What would his ancestors think of the Gardener Prince, as he's known to his friends, transforming the family seat into a hub for holistic and experimental living? Or the elderly who lived at the chateau when it served as an asylum? Louis Albert does not dwell on such thoughts. His focus remains fixed on his family's motto, "Pour l'avenir [For the future]".

Although he was raised in the family's seat, the Château de Broglie in Normandy – a home so vast that it takes three hours to open all the shutters – Louis Albert is happiest barefoot, living in smaller, almost spartan rooms, being a good

friend and chatting to everyone he meets. But above all else, he loves to talk about his young son, Théodore, whose name means "gift of God" and is a nod to the family's heritage.

"He is named in honour of our dynastic founder, the Piedmontese Italian Théodore Ceccolo, a legendary captain of Milan in the service of the House of Savoy.

"He's five years old. I don't see him as often as I'd like because he lives in Malta with his mother, but our time together is like a burst of sunlight; he has such a sunny disposition. He's bright, wonderfully well-mannered and swims like a ►



dolphin, not to mention the fact that he does judo, sailing and tennis. He's practically my mirror image; he's even started learning about gardening. We speak every day, and it breaks my heart when we have to say goodbye."

Louis Albert's face lights up when he talks about his son. His phone is brimming with photos of the adorable little boy, and there's no doubt that he is already proud of the type of man Théodore will grow up to be.

He is just as radiant when discussing his partner, the acclaimed multidisciplinary German artist Daniela Krtsch.

"She is a great artist with works in collections and exhibitions in different cities across the globe. She is a wonderful mother to two charming girls. She is deeply sensitive, yet remarkably grounded; she studied economics and is the daughter of scientists, too. And above all, she loves gardening! If love is defined by the desire to share a life with someone, that is exactly what I feel for her."

#### CONSTANT CURIOSITY

Louis Albert possesses a restless, inquisitive spirit that gives him an endless desire to learn and to try new things – and, like his warrior ancestors, he refuses to waste time thinking about why things don't always turn out how we'd like them to.

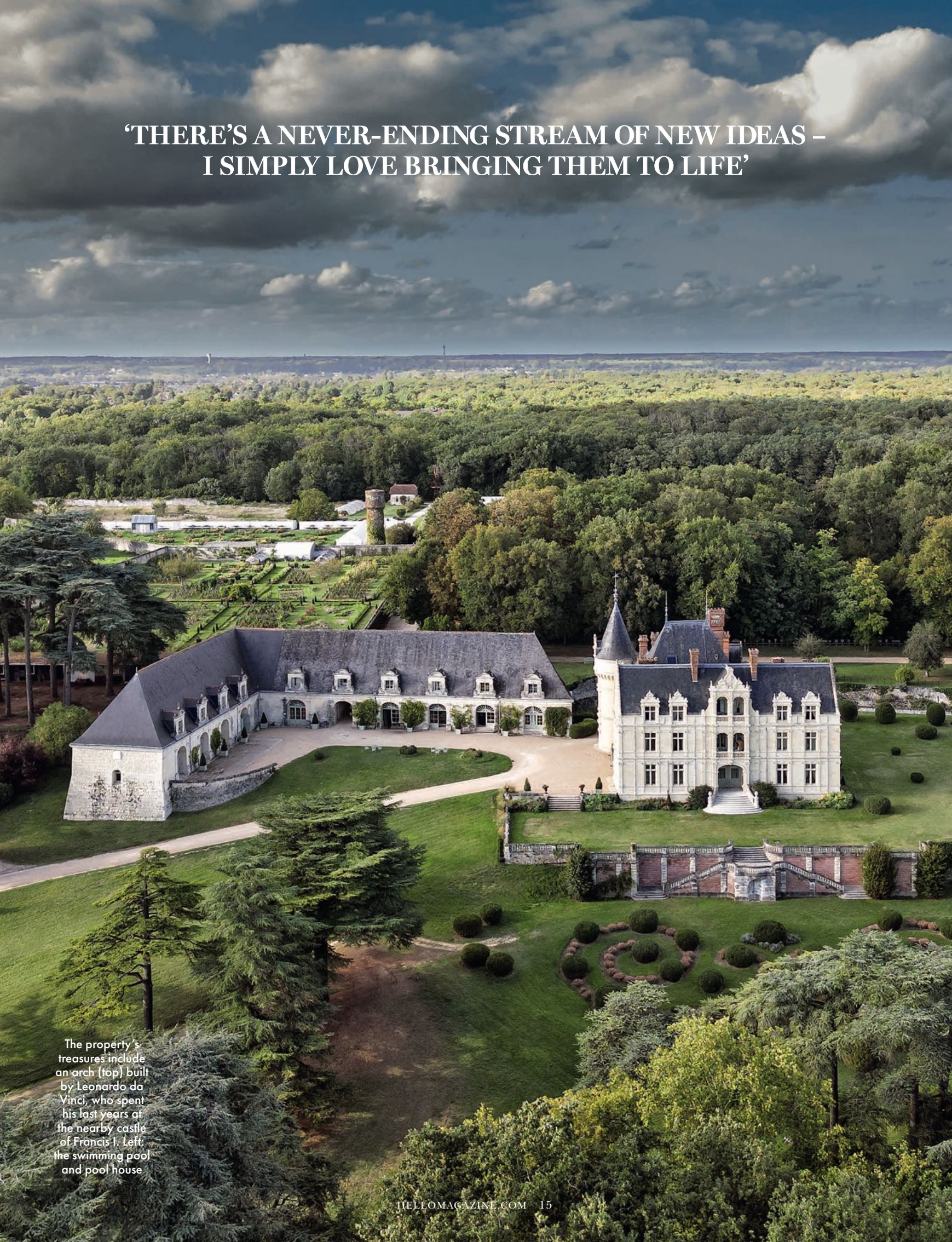
"The answer is in nature, in its resilience. I see examples of it every day. In the woods, there is a work of art I've christened Mount Théodore. It's a small hill with a winding path to the summit. A few years ago, there was nothing there. We built it with a pile of unused soil. Today, it is flourishing with 100 different plants. That is the power of nature."

"Often, when difficulties cloud our vision, we fail to see the light waiting behind them that will, sooner or later, finally appear. Often a terrible or painful experience is an invitation to learn, and to find happiness." **H**



PRODUCTION & TEXT: VICTORIA DE ALCAHÚD  
PHOTOS: CÉSAR VILLORIA  
WARDROBE: LE PRINCE JARDINIER  
ARTISTIC DIRECTION FOR TABLE SETTING:  
CHRISTINE TEMERMAN

‘THERE’S A NEVER-ENDING STREAM OF NEW IDEAS –  
I SIMPLY LOVE BRINGING THEM TO LIFE’



The property's treasures include an arch (top) built by Leonardo da Vinci, who spent his last years at the nearby castle of Francis I. Left: the swimming pool and pool house

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## THE INSIDE STORY



### PARIS AND CHOUPETTE HIT NEW YORK

The late designer Karl Lagerfeld's cat, Choupette, made a surprise appearance in Manhattan last week as Paris Hilton took over Herald Square to celebrate the label's spring/summer 2026 campaign.

The pair drew huge crowds atop a vintage double-decker bus, with Paris playing a DJ set while a life-sized "Choupette" danced along.

The cat costume was famously worn by the actor Jared Leto to the 2023 Met Gala.

The real Choupette is cared for in Paris by Karl's former housekeeper, Françoise Caçote.

The designer, who died in 2019 at the age of 85, is said to have left a large portion, if not all, of his fortune of more than £200m to maintain his cat's luxurious lifestyle.



## COLMAN SHOWS FLAIR AT PREMIERE

In the new film *Michael*, about the pop star Michael Jackson, he plays the family's famously tough patriarch, Joe. But Colman Domingo was all smiles at the Los Angeles premiere last week as he posed on the red carpet in an immaculate custom-made Valentino suit.

Others who attended the glittering gala screening, held at the Chinese Theatre, included Colman's co-stars Nia Long and Laura Harrier, plus members of the Jackson family, including Jermaine and La Toya.

"What a night," Colman said. "It is a stunning crowd-pleasing joyous film. I am so proud of it."

# THE INSIDE STORY



## MADONNA'S IN VOGUE AT COACHELLA

It was a prayer that many of her fans thought would never be answered. But Madonna devotees got their wish last week when the star kicked off her comeback by taking to the stage at Coachella in California as part of a surprise set with Sabrina Carpenter, 26, performing one of her new songs as well as the classic hits Vogue and Like a Prayer.

Dressed in the same outfit she wore 20 years ago when she last played at the festival, Madonna, 67, said it was “like a full-circle moment – very meaningful for me”.

She is set to release her new studio album, Confessions II, on 3 July, which will serve as a sequel to her hit 2005 record Confessions on a Dance Floor.

A photograph of two actresses, Zoe Saldana and Margot Robbie, standing side-by-side at an event. Zoe Saldana is on the left, wearing a long-sleeved, floor-length gold lace dress with a deep V-neckline. Margot Robbie is on the right, wearing a dark grey Armani suit consisting of a blazer and trousers, over a dark grey top and a light grey scarf. She is also wearing a red belt. The background is dimly lit, featuring a large, ornate sculpture and some architectural details.

## ZOE AND MARGOT STEP OUT IN STYLE

Individually, Margot Robbie and Zoe Saldana have been lauded as style icons. And together, the two actresses made a chic combination at an event in Milan.

The *Wuthering Heights* star Margot, who complemented her new bob hairstyle with an elegant Armani outfit, was joined by *Avatar* actress Zoe to celebrate the luxury home brand RH as it opened a new store as part of Milan Design Week.

"Huge thank you to RH for having me," Zoe, who wore a gold dress by Anthony Vaccarello for Saint Laurent, wrote on social media. "Congratulations on the incredible Milan opening."



## WHY JEREMY HAS A SPRING IN HIS STEP

Jeremy Allen White has a blossoming Sunday ritual: picking up a fresh bouquet from his local farmers' market in Los Angeles.

The actor, 35, has said that buying an armful of flowers every weekend is a treat he cherishes. "I like having them in the house and giving them to people. I arrange them with my daughters on Sundays. It's a nice thing we do."

He has two daughters, aged five and seven, with his former wife, the actress Addison Timlin.

Jeremy shot to fame as the tortured chef Carmy Berzatto in the TV series *The Bear*, and last year appeared as rock star Bruce in *Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere*.

He stars alongside Pedro Pascal in the forthcoming Star Wars film *The Mandalorian & Grogu*, which is due to be released in May.



## CHARLIZE'S THRILLING DIOR LOOK

As fashion-forward looks go, Charlize Theron's outfit for the New York premiere of her latest movie was certainly up there.

The actress opted for Dior, teaming a classic black trouser suit with a pleated collar – minus a shirt and bra. She styled this with fine jewellery from the same brand, a fitting display for the star, who was named the label's first high jewellery ambassador in 2024.

Charlize, 50, stars in the Netflix thriller *Apex* opposite Taron Egerton and Eric Bana. When asked what inspired her portrayal of her character, Sasha, she said: "I guess her tenacity, her grit. She's resilient, she's a true survivor... I like scrappy people."

# THE INSIDE STORY



## BABY JOY FOR VOGUE AND SPENCER

They already have their hands full with three children under eight. But for the Irish influencer Vogue Williams and her celebrity husband, Spencer Matthews, four seems to be the magic number: the couple announced last week that they are expecting another baby.

They shared the news in simultaneous posts on Instagram while holidaying with their children, Theodore, Gigi and Otto. Vogue wrote: "BABY NUMBER 4 INCOMING..."

She later revealed in a video posted on her YouTube channel that she had experienced two miscarriages, including one last summer, saying: "I was really upset. Stupidly I felt embarrassed having to tell everybody, and it's not an embarrassing thing."

REPORTS: GEORGE STARK; LAURA BENJAMIN. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES. @SABRINACARPENTER. @VOGUEWILLIAMS

Anne Hathaway,  
Emily Blunt,  
Stanley Tucci and  
Meryl Streep  
pose outside the  
National Gallery in  
Trafalgar Square





# RUNWAY STARS HIT LONDON

*The glamorous cast of *The Devil Wears Prada 2* arrive for premiere –  
with a glittering afterparty at the National Gallery*

**C**outure fashion for the red carpet? Groundbreaking. The stars of *The Devil Wears Prada 2*, set in the fictional fashion magazine *Runway*, lived up to fans' high sartorial expectations at last week's European premiere of the eagerly anticipated sequel.

Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, Meryl Streep and Stanley Tucci pulled out all the stops for the film's gala screening in London's Leicester Square, which was followed by a glittering afterparty at the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square.

The quartet arrived for the premiere in co-ordinating red and black outfits, before switching to dark shades for the second part of the evening. Anne looked breathtakingly chic in a custom-made striped Louis Vuitton strapless gown as she stood alongside her co-stars on the steps outside the gallery.

The British-born actress Emily was elegant in Christian Dior couture and Jimmy Choo shoes, while Meryl glittered in midnight-blue Richard Quinn and Stanley wore a Paul Smith tuxedo. ▶



Lady Amelia Spencer, Lady Kitty Spencer and Lady Eliza Spencer; below, sports presenter Alex Scott and singer Jess Glynne; right, Anne Hathaway and designer Donatella Versace



The actresses had worn different outfits on the red carpet for the screening of the film, a sequel to the 2006 hit *The Devil Wears Prada*.

Anne, who reprises her role as harried assistant Andy Sachs, wore a deconstructed tuxedo-style strapless gown by Atelier Versace. Emily wowed in red Balenciaga couture, and Meryl, channelling her character Miranda Priestly, the magazine's feared editor-in-chief, opted for Prada, naturally.

Anne said that filming the sequel had been "so much fun", while Emily said that slipping back into the character of the ambitious magazine assistant – the role that made her name – felt "effortless, like a comfortable pair of old slippers".

Emily added: "When we started shooting the second film, I don't know that we imagined it would have the fever that it did. We really were expecting to shoot the sequel and [thinking] people might be excited. But when thousands of people hit the streets to watch us film, I was like: 'Oh, wow – this is nuts.'"

#### STYLISH SEQUEL

Inside the screening, as they waited in the wings to address the excited audience, the four stars giggled after spotting an audience member dressed as Miranda.

David Frankel, the director of both movies, shared his appreciation for the film's loyal fanbase, saying: "We never dreamt we'd make a

sequel to a movie that has got such a warm response over the past 20 years, but we're glad we waited because I think we've made something that's just as special as the first movie."

"And we made it for you!" Meryl shouted, pointing to the cheering crowd. "Have fun!" The *Mamma Mia!* star then led her co-stars out.

Two new additions to the cast, Simone Ashley and Sir Kenneth Branagh, also turned out to celebrate the sequel, as did the Italian fashion designer Donatella Versace, who makes a cameo appearance in the film.

Simone, who wore a bright pink dress from Thierry Mugler's 1984 Resort collection, plays Miranda's new assistant. Describing the role as one of her career highlights, she added: "Emily, Annie [Anne Hathaway], Stanley and Meryl – everyone was just so wonderful, so lovely."

"I've got so many fond memories of working with them. It was kind of a masterclass for me, just watching them."

Others who attended included Lady Kitty Spencer, who sported Dolce & Gabbana and arrived with her sisters, twins Lady Amelia and Lady Eliza, both wearing Zuhair Murad.

Alex Scott and Jess Glynne were also spotted on the red carpet, as were Damian Hurley, Trinny Woodall and Lady Elba. **H**

INTERVIEW: LAURA BENJAMIN AND NICKY MORRIS

*The Devil Wears Prada 2* is in UK cinemas from 1 May

Simone Ashley –  
who sees her role  
in the film as a  
“career highlight”  
– wears vintage  
Thierry Mugler




# DEVIL'S IN THE DETAILS

*Meryl Streep reveals why she was  
'miserable' on set first time round*



Meryl in Seoul,  
South Korea,  
to promote the  
film in April



The actress reprises her role as Miranda Priestly in the sequel, and has a new assistant, played by Simone Ashley; below, Meryl in the first film with Anne Hathaway, who plays Andy Sachs

**I**t's been 20 years since Meryl Streep first appeared on our screens as Miranda Priestly, the icy magazine editor at the heart of *The Devil Wears Prada*, turning her into a cultural icon with such unforgettable quotes as: "Florals for spring? Groundbreaking."

Yet Meryl reveals that she was "miserable" making the film, in which she starred opposite Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt and Stanley Tucci – with Anne playing a budding journalist in Meryl's team at the high-fashion magazine *Runway* and Emily Miranda's beleaguered assistant, with Stanley as the editor's close confidant.

With the sequel hitting UK cinemas this week, the Academy Award-winning actress says that filming the second instalment was different.

"I think our chemistry was different in the first one because we didn't know each other," she says. "I tend to come to the set in the first week like it's a party, ready to have fun."

"I did that for a couple of days, but because of who Miranda is I had to pull back. So I was kind of miserable on the first [film]," she laughs. "It's my own fault. It's a decision."

#### FAMILY REUNION

The *Mamma Mia!* star says that it was "wonderful" to reunite with the cast, two of whom have become family since the original film's release: Stanley Tucci married Emily Blunt's sister, the literary agent Felicity Blunt, after they met first at the movie's premiere and later reconnected at Emily's wedding to the actor John Krasinski.

"I loved reigniting the energy between us," Meryl says. "I loved meeting Anne as a full-blown woman and not as a young girl on the cusp."

"And, of course, the fabulous Stanley Tucci – I can't get rid of him. He is in my life for ever!"

The actress, 76, attributes the film's enduring appeal to Anne, whose character, Andy, returns ►





The King looks delighted to meet Meryl at St James's Palace last summer, with the American actress flanked by Alan Titchmarsh, Sir David Beckham and Kate Winslet. Below: Meryl with her close friend Diane Keaton, who died last year



to magazines in the sequel following a stint as an investigative journalist to “face the same challenges Miranda is fielding”, she says.

“So many young women looked at Andy, her dilemma of finding her way in the world, how to keep her ideals intact and still make a living. I think that’s something many women can relate to.”

Meryl, whose character is based on the legendary Vogue editor Dame Anna Wintour, is still amazed by the impact of the original film. “I knew it would be popular with women and girls, but its success with a bigger audience shocked me.

“It was the first film I’d been in for more than 50 years where men came up to me and said ‘I know how you felt’. I think that’s because Miranda is in a position of responsibility, at the very top of a corporation. That touched them.”

#### A NEW CHAPTER

The sequel introduces a “changed” Miranda, Meryl says. “She’s navigating a changing media landscape. The world has become truly global, so maybe she has a larger ambition to fulfil.”

Reflecting on the impact that social media has had since the original film was released, she says: “I think we’re learning that it’s all ephemeral. I’m so lucky that I only ever had a mirror to show me what I didn’t like about myself.”

With fashion at the heart of the film, Meryl cites Diane Keaton as her own style inspiration; the two women had a longstanding friendship, with Meryl often referring to the late actress as a “sister”.

“I liked Diane’s style,” she says. “She had some real flair in putting an outfit together.”

Away from filming *The Devil Wears Prada 2*, Meryl is said to have been dating the actor Martin Short for nearly two years. She married the sculptor Don Gummer in 1978 and they had four children before separating in 2017.

Meryl and Martin, 76, who stars in the crime series *Only Murders in the Building*, have never confirmed their romance.

The actress came to London last summer as a surprise guest at the annual awards hosted by The King’s Foundation at St James’s Palace, and the King was visibly delighted to meet her.

Next, work will begin on a new film in which she stars as Joni Mitchell, with Anya Taylor-Joy playing the singer-songwriter in her younger days.

For now, she’s looking forward to seeing what audiences make of *The Devil Wears Prada 2*.

“I’m less interested in making a statement about what this film is about,” she says. “It’s more about saying: ‘Come to it looking for fun and looking for the underpinnings of some very serious issues we are confronting today. Take from it what you want.’

“But I do think it’s something that people will watch for years to come, just as they do the first one, because it’s great.”

INTERVIEW: HILARY MORGAN/FEATS PRESS

*The Devil Wears Prada 2* is in UK cinemas from 1 May



Meryl looks every inch the fashion editor in (above) a Givenchy leopard-print coat and DeMellier bag; black Céline with layered belts; a red Nour Hammour coat and Jimmy Choo heels; and (below) an Adam Lippes trench with Manu Atelier bag; Dolce & Gabbana suit and Stuart Weitzman shoes; and Gucci tiger-print coat



Meryl Streep, alongside co-star Stanley Tucci, wears a bespoke dress created by the Balenciaga designer Pierpaolo Piccioli

# 'THE DEVIL WEARS RED'

*Molly Rogers, the film's costume designer, tells us about Meryl Streep's eye for style and why her team were so keen to pay homage to the late Giorgio Armani*

**T**he devil is back – and she’s once again wearing Prada. When Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt and Stanley Tucci reunited for the highly anticipated follow-up to the 2006 blockbuster, they were joined by another returnee: Molly Rogers.

The acclaimed costume designer, who worked with her long-time collaborator Patricia Field on the first film, is behind the high-fashion looks seen in the sequel, which opens in cinemas this week.

“It’s like lightning has struck twice; I got to see these actors again,” she tells **HELLO!**. “Everyone wanted to make it as good as we could, because the first one is so loved.”

Having worked on many popular shows, from *And Just Like That...* to *Emily in Paris*, Molly didn’t feel under pressure when returning to the world of *The Devil Wears Prada*. “You must try to meet expectations and surpass them; that’s what Meryl said to me,” she says, adding that it was “wonderful” to work with the Academy Award-winning actress, who plays the formidable magazine editor Miranda Priestly.

“Meryl is knowledgeable. She came into the room on the first day and was like: ‘Stop the presses, I’ve found the perfect-sized silver hoop for my new hair’ – and it was from CVS, a drugstore.”

#### FASHION FAN

The actress’s contributions to the film’s fashion went beyond earrings, ranging from thoughts about the shape of bag she should carry (an envelope) to where certain outfits should appear.

“She said: ‘We should flip that costume here and put that other costume there,’ and I was like: ‘That’s perfect,’” Molly says.

Meanwhile, the costume team were clamouring to dress Emily Blunt, whose character, Emily Charlton, is now working at a luxury fashion house. “It’s true; all the shoppers fought about shopping for her,” Molly says. “She was edgier and they really wanted to be able to be more expressive and go to fringe designers.”



Anne Hathaway and (right) Meryl on set in New York last year. Left: Molly dresses Emily Blunt



Given the impact of the original film, it’s no surprise that fashion brands were eager to contribute. “Everyone wanted to be a part of it, which was incredible,” she says. “It was really about having too many choices.”

Molly paid homage to the designer Giorgio Armani, who died in September, with a look she loved: a sequined, high-waisted velvet trouser suit worn by Anne Hathaway in her role as Andy Sachs. The look is one of Anne’s 47 costume changes throughout the film and was the culmination of years of waiting, Molly says.

#### HOMAGE TO A HERO

“Mr Armani was my patron saint on this one,” she says. “It was Armani Privé [the designer’s haute couture line]; I had been looking at it for at least three years, wondering when I was going to get it on someone.”

“He had just died, and we all wanted to put pieces from him in the movie as a little homage to that wonderful man. I know Meryl did, and Annie [Anne Hathaway].”

In one scene set in Milan, Meryl’s character wears an Armani Privé jewelled evening duster jacket. Another striking look is a red gown

created by the Balenciaga designer Pierpaolo Piccioli, which she sports during a Met Gala-inspired scene. “Right off the bat, Meryl and I and everybody in my department said: ‘Whatever you’re doing on that red carpet, it’s red. Don’t even look at cerulean, don’t match your hair – the devil wears red.’”

“I asked for help on that one because it called for France,” Molly says. “We could have built it in New York, but looking through fashion history books, we saw something that caught our eye and asked if it could be recreated. [Balenciaga] flew over three or four times to fit her – it was custom.”

Joining the cast for the sequel are Sir Kenneth Branagh as Miranda’s new husband and the *Bridgerton* star Simone Ashley as her assistant, Amari. The Duchess of Sussex is reported to have a cameo appearance, though this has been denied by the film’s team.

Now, the designer is looking forward to the reviews from the fashion crowd. “I’m always curious for people who are really steeped in fashion to see what they see.” **H**

INTERVIEW: MIRANDA THOMPSON

# A NEW DAWN

*Against the stunning backdrop of Kew's Royal Botanic Gardens, the actress Emilia Fox opens up about embracing single life, her bond with her teenage daughter and the healing power of nature*

PHOTOGRAPHER: JOSH SHINNER  
STYLIST: ROSIE ARKELL-PALMER

**W**hen we meet Emilia Fox on a spring morning in the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, south-west London, the Silent Witness actress is in her element.

"Nature always helps me enormously to process and feel present," the star tells **HELLO!** as she walks among the diverse flora – 10,000 individual plants and 1,500 species, no less – inside Kew's Temperate House.

Emilia, 51, split from her partner of four years, the TV producer Jonathan Stadlen, last year, and the actress, who is an ambassador for the Royal Botanic Gardens, reveals that spending time in nature has helped her to heal.

"I'm a great believer that changes come in life for a reason, even if it's hard to see why at the time," she says. "Inevitably, there is great sadness when a relationship finishes, but a year on from separating I'm feeling positive about where I am in life and what's to come."

"Time is a great healer, and because I was working away from home I had lots of time on my own to process it, feel it and work through it."

Emilia spent three months in Italy last autumn, filming the mystery crime series *Signora Volpe*,

which she describes as "the greatest tonic", adding: "I'm single and I love the feeling of looking forward to new beginnings from the starting-point of having learnt a few things from experience. We had some immensely happy times together, so I will always have good things to say about Jonathan."

"I'm a keen advocate for mental wellbeing and for looking after that as much as we look after our physical wellbeing. I've done therapy for years, but the place where I'm happiest and calmest is in nature, for sure."

## ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL

Emilia is on the same wavelength as the Princess of Wales, who is also an advocate for the restorative power of nature. "I think she says the same thing about it being [healing], the physical side of it and the mental wellbeing side as well."

The actress, who lives in west London, describes her home as her happy place. "It wasn't until I got my first house, which had a garden, that I developed my love of gardening," she says.

"Here, I've got the most beautiful roses, which come back year after year. My wisteria is so extraordinary that people stop in the street ►





Shirt and skirt,  
Zimmermann; shoes,  
Malone Souliers

Facing page:  
Dress, Aje

Top: Emilia with her  
parents, the acting  
couple Edward Fox  
and Joanna David



and take pictures. It was the reason I bought the house in the first place.

“I once heard a little boy walking past going: ‘That’s the magic house.’ It was so sweet.”

Emilia hails from an acting dynasty: her parents are Edward Fox, who starred in the 1973 film *The Day of the Jackal*, and Joanna David, known for her role in the 1971 TV adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility*.

Her brother is the *Slow Horses* star Freddie Fox, and she’s also a cousin of the Riviera actor Jack Fox and the niece of James Fox, who appeared in the 1993 film *The Remains of the Day*.

Alongside nature, it’s family and friends who have helped the London-born actress through her split. “I have wonderful friends, I go to therapy, I’ve spent lots of time with family in Dorset, walking and being by the sea.

“My daughter, Rose, and I make each other laugh a lot and always look for things that make us feel joyful and positive,” she says.

“Work has been hugely helpful, too. We don’t really talk about relationships there, so it’s been a good way to have purpose and not overthink things.”

#### THE SWEETEST ROSE

Emilia shares her love of the great outdoors with her 15-year-old daughter, whose father is the star’s former partner, the actor Jeremy Gilley.

Whether the Fox acting gene will manifest in Rose is yet to be seen. Although she takes part in school productions, Emilia says that she hasn’t shown interest in being an actress – yet. “She wants to be a therapist at the moment, which I’m thrilled about,” she says.

Emilia is also passionate about keeping her daughter away from social media. “She has access in other areas of her life, but when she’s with me she doesn’t have any social media,” the actress says. “I wanted to show her that you can have a space without it and you don’t have to have it with you all the time.”

Is Rose grateful for her mother’s decision? “She is now, but the campaign was hard, full of very convincing arguments: ‘I need it for friendships, that’s the way we communicate; you don’t understand.’ I have to say, all credit to her, she has co-operated with it and I’m super-proud of her for doing it. ▶

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**'MY  
DAUGHTER  
AND I ALWAYS  
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THINGS THAT  
MAKE US FEEL  
POSITIVE'**

---





"I think there are very good sides to social media," she adds. "I wanted to talk about the positives and negatives with her, and to give her some protection [until] she was at an age where I felt she could choose how to use it responsibly and maturely."

Emilia is primarily known for having played the forensic pathologist Dr Nikki Alexander in the BBC crime drama *Silent Witness* since 2004. The 29th series aired earlier this year and she's filming the 30th season later in 2026.

"It's an exceptionally lucky position to be in, having played a character that I really love and respect for so long," she says. "I always describe it as having had a best friend alongside me in life. Nearly half my life has been spent playing her. It gives me work for seven months of the year, then for the other five months I'm doing other things."

Emilia also filmed the third series of *Signora Volpe* last year, playing the detective Sylvia Fox. Why is she so drawn to crime? "I grew up loving the genre, whether it was *Miss Marple*, *Poirot*, *Sherlock Holmes* or *Inspector Morse*," she says.

"I love mystery-solving, but I also like the idea that there are good people who try to do good things when bad things have happened. I like the hope in that." This worldview matches Emilia's own character. "I'm a great believer in finding the positives," she says.

#### PROTECTING THE PLANET

One project at Kew that's close to Emilia's heart is the renovation of the Palm House and the adjacent Waterlily House, areas where our shoot is taking place. Without urgent work and donations, Emilia says, the listed buildings and tropical plants could be lost for ever.

"It's an irreplaceable piece of our heritage, and caring for it really matters," she says.

Now in her fifties, the actress has an inspiring outlook on life. "I remember this moment when people asked: 'How do you feel about turning 50?' On the actual day, I thought: 'This is the moment to think of everything that's happened in life. For better, for worse, all of the things I've learnt... now is an opportunity to shape the second half of life.'



"I didn't think I had choices in the first half of my life. I went along with it, and I think that's part of being an actor and being brought up around a family who were like: 'Make sure you think about other people first.'"

With Rose now in her mid-teens, Emilia has more time on her hands. "I didn't travel for a long time because when she was little I wanted to be here, and *Silent Witness* was in London – the studio was ten minutes from my house and I was able to be home by 5.30pm.

"Now there's more time in life to choose... to travel more, to learn more; that's what I'd like to do. Time becomes very precious."

#### LOTS OF LAUGHS

She's learning to direct, and would love the chance to work on a comedy. "I think laughing and humour are one of the best tonics in life, so to be a part of creating that would be lovely.

"As I get older, there are some interesting parts being written for women, and for men, too. There's more interest in all of the different ages, which is great, and an understanding that people's experiences are interesting to portray in all the different stages of life.

"I've seen it with my mum's generation, where the parts stop [when] you get to a certain age. It was much harder to be an actress as you got older, and now I think that's changed."

Emilia also reveals that she's "constantly trying to learn Italian" and that she loves cooking. Is she looking for someone to share these interests with?

"I don't know that you have to share the same passions in a relationship," she says. "I think it's important to love someone for who they are and respect them for what they love, not to want them to be the same as you." **H**

INTERVIEW: SOPHIE HAMILTON

HAIR & MAKE-UP: JO PENFORD USING LISA ELDRIDGE

MAKE-UP AND SAM MCKNIGHT HAIR PRODUCTS

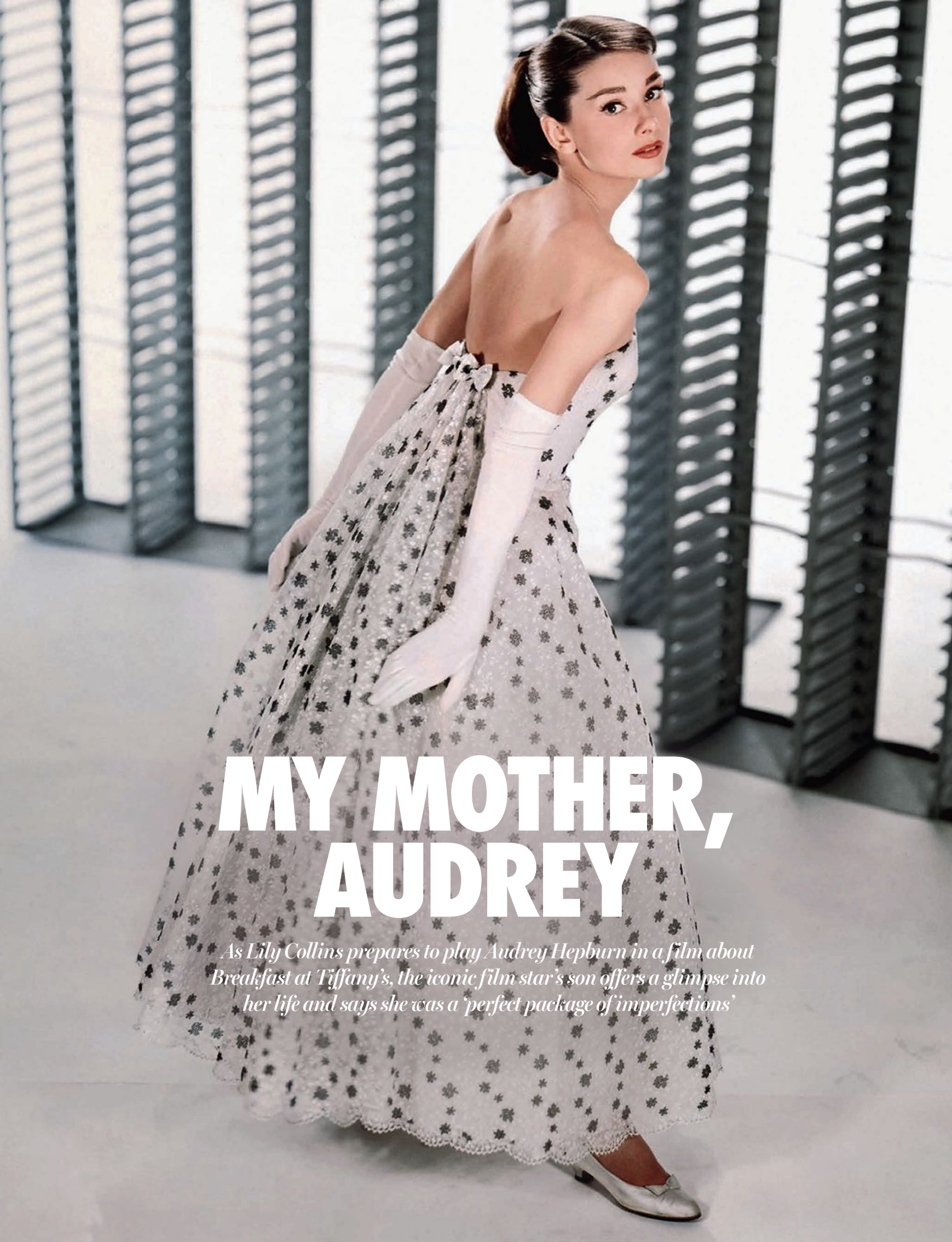
*Emilia Fox is an ambassador for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, a conservation charity working to create a thriving planet. Henry Moore: Monumental Nature opens at Kew Gardens on 9 May*



Dress, Aje;  
jumper, Herd; belt,  
Penelope Chilvers

Facing page:  
Shirt dress, Vivetta

Bottom: Emilia  
as Dr Nikki  
Alexander in *Silent  
Witness* – a role  
she has played for  
22 years



# MY MOTHER, AUDREY

*As Lily Collins prepares to play Audrey Hepburn in a film about Breakfast at Tiffany's, the iconic film star's son offers a glimpse into her life and says she was a 'perfect package of imperfections'*



Audrey promoting *Funny Face* in 1957 and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* in 1961, and relaxing with her son Sean in 1981. He has put to rest speculation that she ever had an eating disorder

Audrey Hepburn is a totem for minimalist fashion and a symbol of Hollywood's golden age, living on in the public imagination long after her death more than 30 years ago. But for her son Sean Hepburn Ferrer, there is a glaring omission he hopes to set right: her original singing voice as it was meant to be heard in her 1965 film *My Fair Lady*.

Speaking exclusively to **HELLO!**, he says that he hopes to correct the injustice inflicted upon his mother's career when Warner Bros decided to dub her singing with the voice of Marni Nixon.

"In the [movie] business today, nobody would dream of [dubbing] her with someone like Marni Nixon, who sounds like a canary," he says. "It's doubly ridiculous because you've got Professor Higgins talking his way through the songs and my mother has to sing like an opera singer."

Sean hopes that Paramount's move to buy Warner Bros could open the door to a re-release of *My Fair Lady* with Audrey's vocals restored. "I heard the original recordings and there are some places where she's slightly below the note, [but] today, autotune has become acceptable in the recording industry. It could be fixed."

Sean, who is speaking to promote *Intimate Audrey: The Authorised Biography*, which he co-wrote with the novelist Wendy Holden, knows

better than anyone the gulf between his mother's public persona and her personal life. Her image lives on in so many thousands of photographs that he used to play a travel game with his children called "three minutes to find Granny", in which they competed to find her likeness on merchandise and posters. "It was a game few ever lost," he says.

#### HIDDEN INSECURITIES

And yet the mountain of photographs she left behind is evidence not of her confidence, he tells **HELLO!**, but of her well-hidden insecurity.

"There really was a fear on her end that she would be discovered as being not beautiful, or not very talented – that the 'Audrey Hepburn moment' would pass," he says.

"Because she didn't think much of herself in the sense of being some extraordinary actress, nor as particularly beautiful, she accepted all the photoshoots she was offered."

Audrey was 63 when she died in 1993, having made around 30 films. As the guardian of her image, Sean, 65, has a vast collection of photographs from which to choose for the book.

"I still today find myself, after 33 years of curating the [intellectual property] for exhibitions, running into a photoshoot here and there that I've never seen before." ▶





Sean was born less than three months before Audrey began filming *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. She had already established herself as a film star with 1953's *Roman Holiday*, for which she won an Academy Award as best actress.

He concurs with critics who say that she was not a versatile actress. He recalls Emma Thompson's distaste for his mother's performances, which she described as "fantastically twee", with a "mimsy-mumsy sweetness without any kind of bite".

"My mother would agree," Sean says. "She was not an actress – she was a movie star. She was a perfect package of imperfections."

Lily Collins will soon play Audrey in a film about the making of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, based on Sam Wasson's non-fiction book *Fifth Avenue, 5am: Audrey Hepburn, Breakfast at Tiffany's and the Dawn of the Modern Woman*.

Sean is both delighted and sceptical about Lily's film, and has helped her by drawing up a timeline of what his mother was doing and thinking as *Breakfast at Tiffany's* developed.

"I had a talk with her the other day. What a nice girl! She has a good head on her shoulders. She's very intelligent, very perceptive. I guess she gets that from her parents."

Lily, 37, whose father is the musician Phil Collins, is best known as the star of *Emily in Paris*.

Sean is unsure whether *Breakfast at Tiffany's* is the right film to tell his mother's life story.

"It's the film that began the process of making her transgenerational, transnational and transcultural," he says. "In a way, it's really a lot of air, beautifully whipped up like a meringue. A less attractive way to look at it is that it's a bit like a McDonald's milkshake. After an hour, you'll be left with about one inch of milk at the bottom. It's wonderful, but the contents are very delicate. I am concerned for Lily about how you make something interesting that's really a snapshot of an era."

Audrey continued to act after having Sean, but paused her career in 1967. She and Sean's father, the actor Mel Ferrer, divorced in 1968. Two years later, she had another son, Luca, with her second husband, the Italian psychiatrist Andrea Dotti. It would be nine years before she appeared in another film, the year Sean turned 16.

"She always said: 'The secret in life is to make simple choices.' You can't sit and wring your hands and want to have a family, and when you finally get it, go off on a private plane somewhere."

Sean's hope for his book is that it will remind people of Audrey's dedication to her role as a Unicef ambassador and debunk some myths.

#### SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

He scoffs at claims that his mother had an eating disorder. "She could eat you under the table. She was very good about creating a good diet for us. She always went at it with colours. She didn't believe in mashed potatoes and turkey and gravy. She always had greens and reds and oranges. She didn't have any eating disorders whatsoever."

He points out that there was little to eat during her childhood in the Netherlands under German occupation in the Second World War. "In part, that constitution was forged from that period."

Audrey's most profound legacy for her son was her retreat from being a film star. Sean recalls her doing the school run, taking him to buy socks and baking cakes when his friends came to play. "It was normal, in as much as you can be normal as the son of a film actress who has retired. One of the greatest gifts she gave my brother and me was allowing us to grow up in that environment." **H**

INTERVIEW: JACK MALVERN

*Intimate Audrey: The Authorised Biography, by Sean Hepburn Ferrer and Wendy Holden, is out now, published by HarperCollins, priced £25*



Sean's father, Mel Ferrer, took this portrait of his wife in Italy in 1954. My Fair Lady won eight Oscars but Audrey's proudest roles were as a mother and as an ambassador for Unicef (bottom left)

Far left: Lily Collins, the star of Emily in Paris, is set to play Audrey in a new film



Prince Louis wears Boden in a new photograph released to mark his eighth birthday; and (inset) his father, Prince William, at the same age

# LOUIS FINDS HIS SERIOUS SIDE

*As Prince Louis turns eight, we look at how he's adjusting to his royal role – and his special bond with his grandfather the King*



In footage shared by his family, Louis enjoys swimming, digging in the sand and playing beach cricket on holiday in Cornwall

As Prince Louis runs joyfully towards the camera on a Cornish beach in footage released to mark his eighth birthday, it is tempting to imagine this as a metaphor.

The youngest child of the Prince and Princess of Wales – who is at the heart of the royal family with his brother, Prince George, and sister, Princess Charlotte – is bounding towards a future in which he will find his place in public life.

But the message accompanying the video is a reminder that he is still only a child. “Thank you for all the birthday wishes for Prince Louis,” reads the caption on his family’s official Instagram account. “8 is great!”

The video is accompanied by a photo of Louis, arms folded and wearing a fleece from Boden, with the caption: “Happy birthday, Louis! 8 today!”

The image, taken on a boat in Cornwall by the photographer Matt Porteous earlier this month, features a reminder that the Prince is enjoying the rough-and-tumble of a normal childhood. Below his right eye is a faint scratch.

He is thought to have marked his special day with a private celebration at home with his family.

### BRINGING THE FUN

Whether it was clasping his hands over his ears at the Platinum Jubilee or puffing out his cheeks at Trooping the Colour, Prince Louis has reliably brought a natural spontaneity to royal events. But there has been an evolution in his antics as he reaches the milestone of becoming a tween.

After Louis celebrated his eighth birthday on 23 April, royal observers who have witnessed his public appearances suggest that he is developing an appreciation of what is expected of him.

The royal author Robert Jobson, whose books include *The Windsor Legacy*, says that Louis is showing signs of maturity after earning a ▶



The charismatic young royal is thrilled to receive a giant Lindor chocolate ball at Sandringham on Christmas Day



The young Prince attends Trooping the Colour with his father and grandfather last June; and (below) entertains his mother on VE Day in 2025



reputation for cheekiness while in the spotlight. “It’s a bit different at this time,” Robert says. “He’s been with his brother and sister and been far more relaxed. Clearly something has clicked inside him. He’s realised that when he’s on parade he has to toe the line a bit more.”

William and Kate have been clear about their desire for their children to grow up away from public scrutiny, and it will be more than a decade before any decision is made about their royal roles. What is certain, however, is that by the time Louis grows up the working practices of the Firm will bear little resemblance to those of today.

Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles have counted on the support of the Princess Royal, 75, the Duke of Edinburgh, 62, the Duchess of Edinburgh, 61, the Duke of Kent, 90, the Duke of Gloucester, 81, the Duchess of Gloucester, 79, and Princess Alexandra, 89.

There has been no indication that any of these working royals will be replaced by members of

the extended family, so there will be plenty for the core family to do, if that is what they choose.

Robert says that the question of how the family treats its “spare” members, high in the line of succession but with no constitutional role, has been at the front of royal minds since the Duke of Sussex aired his grievances. Although George, 12, has a future mapped out for him, Charlotte, ten, and Louis have no duties by default.

#### FINDING HIS PLACE

“I haven’t got a crystal ball, but they are acutely aware of the examples of Princess Margaret, [the former] Prince Andrew and Prince Harry,” Robert says.

“It’s something they are going to have to look at. Will he have a career? Will he go into the military? That will depend on his personality.”

The King’s relationship with his grandson is clearly filled with affection. At the royal family’s traditional Easter church service at St George’s ►



With Kate at her carol concert in December; and (below) with Princess Charlotte in Windsor at Easter



Louis enjoys last year's Trooping the Colour alongside his brother, Prince George



The Wales's youngest child tries his hand at archery during the Big Help Out in 2023

Chapel, Windsor, in April, Charles greeted Louis by touching the Prince's shoulder.

Emily Nash, **HELLO!**'s royal editor, says that the monarch has no favourites, and it is evident how much he values his time with all three of William's children, who know him as Grandpa Wales.

"The King is close to all of the Wales children and regularly meets up with them at Windsor on Sundays," Emily says. "But his affection for Louis has been seen on several occasions, notably at the Platinum Jubilee Pageant in 2022, when the little boy sat in his grandfather's lap for a cuddle.

"It was a heartwarming scene, and as he bounced Louis on his knee, we got an insight into how hands-on Charles is away from the cameras."

#### **NORMAL FAMILY LIFE**

The Queen has often talked about her husband's delight in reading stories to his grandchildren. "I can't mimic voices for love or money; I'm hopeless at it," Camilla said. "But my husband does it brilliantly. He can do all the voices."

She has also described how Charles will "get down on his knees and crawl about with them for hours, making funny noises and laughing".

Emily says: "He clearly has a warm and playful relationship with them and delights in spending time with them when he can. No doubt it brings back memories of his own sons at the same age."

Robert agrees that Charles is an affectionate grandfather. "He loves them all the same but has

Louis thrills royal fans as he imitates a jet fighter on the balcony of Buckingham Palace in 2023





a soft spot for Louis, who doesn't have the shackles of responsibility that George has."

Louis's appearance at Easter was a chance for him to show that he isn't always a cheeky presence, but it was only a few months ago that he captured the public imagination during his family's Christmas Day walk to church at Sandringham.

He spotted one well-wisher holding a giant Lindt Lindor chocolate ball. As William accepted the gift, the younger prince seized the chocolate from his father. "Yeah, Louis, I thought that might happen," William said, ruffling his son's hair.

#### GROWING INTO HIS ROLE

As the youngest sibling, Louis will be able to see how others in his family deal with growing up inside the royal circle. He can learn not just from Charlotte, whose self-assurance led her to hug and pose for selfies with members of the public on Christmas Day, but also from his extended family.

Zara and Mike Tindall's daughter Mia, 12, and Peter Phillips's daughters, Savannah, 15, and Isla, 14, are all examples for him to observe. He is also close in age to Lena Tindall and to Pippa Middleton's son, Arthur, both seven.

Robert says that William and Kate's priority is to allow their children to find their own sense of themselves and to shield them from pressure. "They'll want them to be allowed to grow up, and quite rightly.

"The King has a limited time on the throne. The next person must have experience [that goes with being a principal member of the royal family].

"The spare roles aren't constitutionally important, but they are important for the reputation of the institution." **H**

REPORT: JACK MALVERN



The lively Prince in June 2022: at Trooping the Colour alongside Queen Elizabeth II, and (above) in Charles's lap at his great-grandmother's Platinum Jubilee Pageant

The working royals gather at Buckingham Palace to mark 100 years since the late Queen's birth: (from left) the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke of Kent, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the King and Queen, the Princess Royal, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, and Princess Alexandra



# A LEGACY OF HOPE

*A century after Queen Elizabeth II's birth, the King leads tributes to his 'darling mama' as the royals share emotional moments and unveil plans to honour the late monarch*



One of the final photos of Elizabeth, taken at Windsor Castle in May 2022




**I**t was a milestone that she sadly did not live to see, but one that her family and the nation were nevertheless determined to mark. A century after the birth of Queen Elizabeth II on 21 April 1926, the royals gathered to celebrate her life and legacy in a series of poignant engagements.

Providing a snapshot of the King's slimmed-down monarchy, the palace released a historic photograph of the remaining working royals as they welcomed members of the public who were marking their 100th birthdays that day to Buckingham Palace for tea and cake.

The commemorations began with a touching video message from the King, who paid tribute to his "darling mama", adding that the problems of today's world "may have troubled her deeply".

But he urged people to follow her example, saying: "I take heart from her belief that goodness will always prevail and that a brighter dawn is never far from the horizon.

"For as a young Princess Elizabeth put it in her first ever public broadcast, aged just 14, we can each play our part 'to make the world of tomorrow a better and happier place'. It is a belief I share with all my heart." ▶



The King pays tribute to his “darling mama” in the library at Balmoral Castle

He described the centenary as “the celebration of a life well lived and a legacy of hope, as we strive towards a ‘better, happier tomorrow’ – one rooted in peace, justice, prosperity and security”.

Ending his message, which he read in the library at Balmoral Castle – the royal family’s Scottish home, where Elizabeth died on 8 September 2022, aged 96 – Charles also renewed his “solemn pledge of duty and service” to the nation, before signing off: “God bless you, darling mama; you remain for ever in our hearts and prayers.”

On 21 April, the King and Queen were joined by the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke of Kent and Princess Alexandra at Buckingham Palace for a reception marking what would have been her 100th birthday.

It was an opportunity for the royal family to pay tribute to their matriarch in the way she would have wanted – on duty.

Only the handful of members who remain working royals were present, but although their number is smaller than it once was, they worked to maximum effectiveness as they made their way around the room to chat to guests.

#### **SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS**

Charles led a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday for three guests celebrating their own centenaries, handing them cards and helping to cut a cake prepared by the palace’s pastry chefs. The Marble Hall was decked in bunting for the occasion, which was attended by 190 guests.

The King bent down to speak to Mary Wood, a former nurse from North Somerset who turned 100 that day, asking her: “Is it your birthday

today? Oh, how wonderful. The same as my mama. That’s marvellous!”

He and the Queen helped Joan Illingworth, also 100, to cut the cake, before wishing another centenarian, John Jervois, a happy birthday.

Kate, wearing a lilac dress with a pearl necklace and earrings that had belonged to the late monarch, shared an emotional moment with Tony Gledhill, 88, a former Metropolitan Police officer who was awarded the George Cross in 1967 for subduing armed criminals.

“We’ll keep in touch. You must, if you want to. Writing?” she asked, hugging him and holding his hands. “Will you keep in touch? Please do.”

Tony later explained that his wife had recently died but that she had told him he must attend the event. He said of the Princess: “She was fantastic.”

Guests drawn from 45 of the late Queen’s patronages, including Cancer Research UK, the ►



Kate shares an emotional moment with former Metropolitan Police officer Tony Gledhill at the reception; and (below) with Edward, Sophie and William



British Red Cross Society and The Jockey Club, drank champagne and a special cocktail made from her favourite drink – Dubonnet, a wine-based aperitif – with lemon juice, rosemary and tonic.

That same day, Princess Anne had paid tribute to her late mother's steadfastness during seven decades on the throne, as she opened the new Queen Elizabeth II Garden in Regent's Park.

"These spaces are for everyone," she said. "Like all gardens, it will change and will always feel different, and perhaps that's as important as the basics remaining the same. The basics did remain the same; that was always important to my late mother's life."

The two-acre site, created by The Royal Parks in collaboration with HTA Design, commemorates the life and service of the late Queen. It features a circular pond, designed to support wildlife, as well as a sustainably planted flower garden.

The flowers were specially chosen for their connections to Elizabeth, including the Windsor Beauty magnolia that flowers around her birthday and agapanthus given by the Royal Collection at Windsor Great Park. The surrounding oak and elm trees symbolise strength.

The Princess laughed as she spotted a metal corgi – her mother's favourite breed of dog – in the skylight of the viewing platform, which was repurposed from an old water tower. "Her Majesty did rather do gardens because the dogs needed to go out," she said.

#### PERMANENT REMINDER

Meanwhile, the King and Queen visited the British Museum to view the final designs for a national memorial to Queen Elizabeth II, with the monarch declaring them "fantastic".

They were joined by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, Prince Edward and Sophie, and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. The King's cousin Lady Sarah Chatto was also among the guests.

Their Majesties were shown a scale model of the site in St James's Park, London, along with maquettes for the works of art that will feature there when it opens in 2028.

In the Reading Room, the celebrated architect Lord Foster explained the design, which will span an area from The Mall to Birdcage Walk.

A bronze statue of the late Queen in her twenties, dressed in the robes of the Order of the Garter and sculpted by Martin Jennings, will overlook The Mall, her face turned towards Buckingham Palace.

A "few paces behind" her – as he so often was in life – will be a smaller statue of the late Duke of Edinburgh, looking up towards his wife.

Gardens throughout the park will be linked across the lake by a glass-sided bridge inspired by Queen Mary's Fringe Tiara, also known as the Russian Fringe tiara, worn by Princess Elizabeth, as she was then, on her wedding day.

"Fantastic," said the King. "It's a wonderful idea for the bridge to be based on the Russian Fringe tiara, the one my mama wore at her wedding." The Queen told Lord Foster and Sir Keir: "I love that bridge. It's just so lovely. It has a lovely twinkle."

Charles and Camilla looked thoughtful as Martin Jennings explained how his design for the almost 10ft statue of Elizabeth was inspired by the famous portrait of her by Pietro Annigoni, for which she sat aged 28 in 1954.

"It's a lovely statue; it's how she would like to be remembered, as a younger woman," Sophie said. "She was very well established by that stage."

The artist told her: "I hope it expresses the optimism of the early years of her reign."

Charles laughed and said "yes" as Martin explained that he had depicted Prince Philip ►



The King and Queen visit the British Museum to view designs for the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial; and (left) Princess Anne opens a new garden in her mother's memory in Regent's Park



**'THIS IS THE CELEBRATION OF A LIFE  
WELL LIVED AND A LEGACY OF HOPE'**

*The King*



Edward and Sophie arrive at the British Museum, where the architect Lord Foster (above) shows the royals his designs

as “a tall, thin figure”. Afterwards, Martin said: “The King was seeing the sculptures for the first time, so he was taking them in, but his response was warm and encouraging.”

The memorial will also feature a bust of Elizabeth in later life, created by the sculptor Karen Newman, as well as a bronze wind sculpture in honour of the Commonwealth.

Designed by the artist Yinka Shonibare, it will be decorated with flowers and plants from each member nation, in a similar fashion to the late monarch’s coronation gown, which was designed by Norman Hartnell.

#### PROUD MOMENT

Lord Foster, 90, described working on the project as “humbling” and “a tremendous privilege”, adding: “The memorial is about her values, about her legacy, and it’s also, in many ways, about her love of history and tradition.

“The King has been beyond supportive. He’s contributed to the project through many discussions. He and Her Majesty were enthusiastic about the project, and because I’ve had the privilege of presenting it several times as it’s evolved, it’s been very much a shared experience.”

The royal couple also met Sir Damon Buffini, the chair of the Queen Elizabeth Trust, a new UK-wide independent charity that will provide grants to places at the heart of local life. The King has become its royal patron.

A third project to honour the late Queen’s legacy, a digital memorial, was also launched; members of the public can share memories of the monarch at [queenelizabeth.com](https://www.queenelizabeth.com).

On the eve of the centenary, Charles and Camilla had visited the exhibition *Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style*, in the King's Gallery at Buckingham Palace. Spotting a black-and-white photograph of his mother alongside her riding clothes, the monarch beckoned his cousin Lady Sarah Chatto to take a closer look.

Camilla was charmed by a pair of well-preserved ballet shoes worn by a young Princess Elizabeth, and admired the needlework on the coronation gown, saying: "The skill is extraordinary." Pointing at his mother's wartime uniform, Charles joked: "You never throw anything away."

#### SHARING HER STORY

Ahead of the commemorations, the historian Dr Anna Keay was announced as Queen Elizabeth II's official biographer, having been approached to take on the commission two months ago.

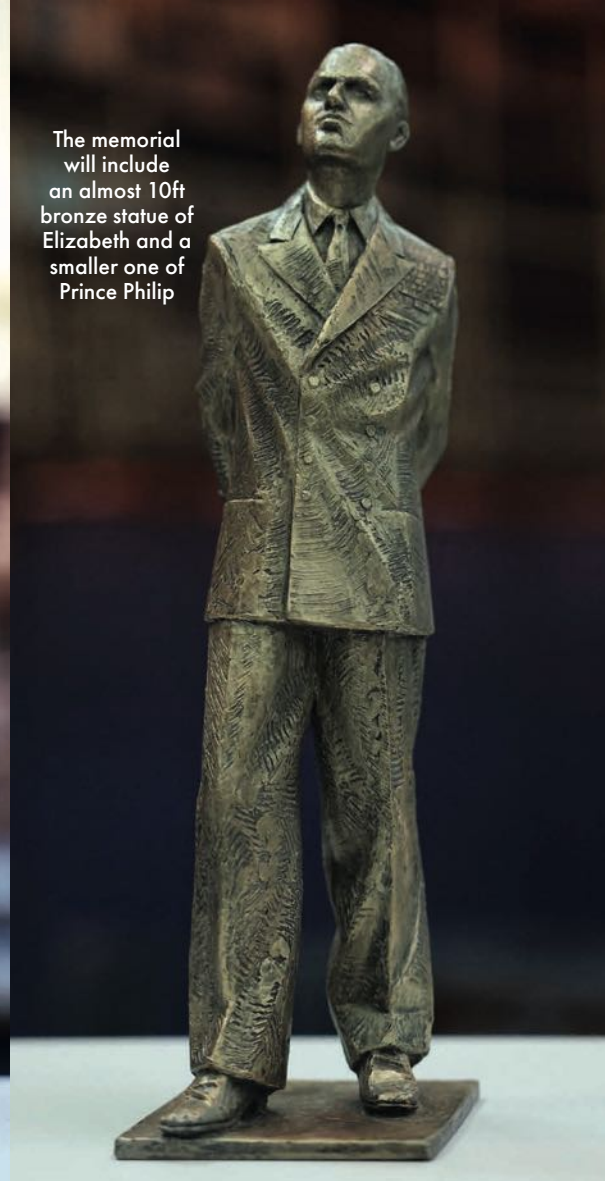
She described the task as a "once-in-a-century opportunity", telling **HELLO!**: "It's an extraordinary honour to be asked. I'm delighted, of course; daunted, as well, at the thought of all that's to come. But it's an extraordinary privilege. I want to do my best to do justice to the late Queen."

Anna, who is the director of The Landmark Trust, will have access to Elizabeth's personal and official papers, and will speak to members of the royal family as part of her research. "I'm able to tell her story absolutely as I find it," she said.

After speaking to the King, who greeted her with a kiss at the British Museum, Anna said: "He was full of warm words and said he was so pleased that it had been announced – and so am I. I feel excited about this opportunity to tell her story."

A century after the birth of our longest-reigning monarch, it is clear that her light has not dimmed, and that her memory and the love of her family live on. **H**

REPORT: EMILY NASH



The memorial will include an almost 10ft bronze statue of Elizabeth and a smaller one of Prince Philip



Charles and Camilla visit a new exhibition of Elizabeth's fashion at the King's Gallery, where (left) the monarch greets his cousin Lady Sarah Chatto

# THE ROYAL BRIEF



## PRINCESS ISABELLA

Following in the footsteps of her stylish mother, Princess Isabella of Denmark cut a glamorous figure in a new portrait photo released to mark her 19th birthday. The second of Queen Mary and King Frederik's four children looked happy and relaxed in a black tulle midi skirt from Giambattista Valli Paris's 2019 collaboration with H&M, worn with a cream Ole Lynggaard jumper.

# THE ROYAL BRIEF

## THE PRINCE OF WALES

Visiting the British Formula E racing team Jaguar TCS Racing at its headquarters in Oxfordshire, Prince William squeezed into the cockpit of an electric racing car – no mean feat, given that he is 6ft 4in tall. He met champion drivers Mitch Evans and António Félix da Costa, as well as engineers, and learnt how the team design, develop and manufacture their race-winning Jaguar I-Type 7.



## THE PRINCESS ROYAL

As a distinguished equestrian and vice-patron of the British Horse Society, Princess Anne attended an event in London to mark the tenth anniversary of the charity's Dead Slow campaign. The campaign educates drivers on how to pass horses and carriage drivers safely. In 2025, there were more than 2,800 road incidents involving horses, with 59 horses killed and 86 people injured.



## THE QUEEN OF SPAIN

In the ornate surroundings of the Royal Palace in Madrid, King Felipe and Queen Letizia hosted a lunch for the Ministry of Culture's Cervantes Prize. The most prestigious Spanish literary award is named after Miguel de Cervantes, the celebrated author of Don Quixote, and is handed out annually to honour a writer's outstanding achievement in the Spanish language. The latest recipient is the Mexican writer Gonzalo Celorio.

The baker Fiona Cairns stands next to the eight-tier wedding cake on which she worked closely with Prince William and Kate Middleton, now the Prince and Princess of Wales





# SWEET MEMORIES

*As the Prince and Princess of Wales mark 15 years of marriage, the baker Fiona Cairns tells us how she created their wedding cake*

**A**s the new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge made their way up the aisle of Westminster Abbey, Fiona Cairns had a ringside seat at the royal wedding.

The celebrity baker, who a day earlier had delivered Prince William and Kate's eight-tier wedding cake to Buckingham Palace, was now sitting in the pews alongside her husband, Kishore Patel, watching history unfold.

"I couldn't quite believe we were actually there. I still can't, when I think of it," Fiona tells **HELLO!** in this exclusive interview as the royal couple celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary.

"We were surrounded by so many famous people – the Beckhams, Guy Ritchie, so many others... it was surreal. I can remember the anticipation. There were big screens inside, and we could hear the excitement from outside. It was history and we were part of it.

"A few days after the wedding, Catherine asked me: 'Could you see? Did you have a good view?' I said to her: 'Yes, we had a very good view.' I thought it was so amazing, and so sweet of her to ask me that question."

Just a few weeks earlier, Kishore – who died four years ago, but was Fiona's business partner at the time – had taken the phone call that would ultimately change their lives.

"I still get goosebumps thinking about that moment, because it's a phone call that potentially changes so much. It's not just a huge honour, but stress on another level," Fiona recalls.

"We were and still are known for our delicious fruit cake. People used to say: 'Maybe you'll be asked to make the royal wedding cake.' I used to say: 'I wouldn't want that stress.' But when we were approached, I changed my mind."

## **JOB OF A LIFETIME**

Fiona was already working with the royal grocer Fortnum & Mason and with Party Pieces, the business run by Kate's parents, Carole and Michael Middleton, when she was approached in January 2011 and invited to meet Kate at Clarence House early the next month.

"It was a bit like having an interview, but it was more of an informal conversation," she recalls. "Kishore was there, and I think [Kate's brother] James Middleton was, too. We had a cup of tea in a small inner room.

"She was extremely clear about what she wanted from the beginning; she is very creative, and we knew that the brief very much came from her and William, because even though it was going to be a huge global occasion, at its core, it was a family wedding." ►



William and Kate were delighted with the cake, which was created by bakery staff who had been sworn to secrecy



A few days after that meeting, the commission was confirmed. Sworn to secrecy, Fiona and Kishore set about choosing a handful of staff from their team of 75 to work on the project.

"They couldn't even tell their partners or their colleagues, so we used to say that we were working on a very important commission for Harrods's window," says the baker, whose brand, Fiona Cairns, celebrates its 40th birthday this year.

#### PERSONAL TOUCHES

The process began with Fiona and her team sending samples of fruit cake to the bride and groom, along with mood boards showing icing in different shades, plus sketches of piping techniques.

Meanwhile, William and Kate shared their ideas for the 900 sugar flowers that would sit on the cake. Fiona was also given a piece of lace to copy in the icing, only realising on the day of the wedding that it was a sample from Kate's dress, which was created by Sarah Burton for Alexander McQueen.

"The couple gave us a list of 17 flowers and leaves that were meaningful: a rose for love, ivy for marriage, lily of the valley for sweetness and humility. We've made those before, but we'd never made a sweet William flower," Fiona says.

"Traditional royal wedding cakes tended to be structured and tall, with hard-edged royal icing, but our design style has always been floral, informal and tumbling.

"I still have all the couple's little handwritten Post-It notes that came back with their comments, which I keep private. It felt very personal to them."

After the wedding, Fiona was told that the cake had exceeded the couple's expectations. "We could relax then, because that's all that matters. I

was delighted that everything had come together." The occasion brought global attention to the business that Fiona had started from her kitchen table in Leicestershire.

"There was a celebrity in California, whom I can't name, who wanted a replica of the royal wedding cake. The answer was 100% no," reveals Fiona, who went on to make the King's 70th birthday cake and also counts Sir Paul McCartney among her celebrity clients.

Since the royal wedding, the business has expanded and now has 130 staff. In addition to a long-standing retail contract with Waitrose, the brand is sold in Harrods, Selfridges and Dunnes Stores in Ireland, and the business recently launched an online shop selling handmade celebration cakes, teatime treats and fairy cakes.

#### TREASURED MEMORIES

Since Kishore's death, Fiona has stepped back from operations; the couple's daughter Tara, 30, now runs the business.

Meanwhile, Fiona has watched William and Kate's own evolution, from excited bride and groom to the Prince and Princess of Wales, future King and Queen, and the parents of three young children.

"They have had challenges, but they are so exemplary and have grown into their positions. I have huge admiration for them," she says.

"We feel hugely privileged to have been a very small part of the very beginning of their marriage and their journey. It was one of the most special, precious memories of my life." **H**

INTERVIEW: TRACY SCHAVERIEN

For more, visit [fionacairns.com](http://fionacairns.com)

Queen Elizabeth II and Kate admire Fiona's cake, which was put on display in the ballroom of Buckingham Palace in 2011





# 'I LOVE BEING IN MY FIFTIES'

*The broadcaster Julia Bradbury tells us how healthy eating has transformed her life since she was diagnosed with cancer – and why whales bring her so much joy*

Julia Bradbury is in no doubt that she's hit her prime. "I love being in my fifties, bar a cancer diagnosis," she tells **HELLO!**. "There is a confidence and wisdom that comes with being a little bit older. I feel I know how to handle life's challenges a little bit more."

And there have been hard times to navigate. Last week, the former Countryfile presenter, who underwent a double mastectomy after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021, shared a video of herself hugging a cherry blossom tree.

"Here's what I always try to come back to, especially during the hard stretches," she wrote. "The small wins. The tiny moments of unexpected joy."

#### RIDING LIFE'S CHALLENGES

"Sometimes everything seems as though it's happening at the same time," says Julia, 55. "In an ideal world, all the tough times would come one at a time, with lovely spaces in between them, so you could recalibrate. But life doesn't work like that."

"Sometimes, on heavy days, it's like: 'Oh, just give me a glimmer.' What's been life-changing for me is to shift my mindset, so that I'm always on the lookout for good things."

Julia recently revealed that a full-body preventative MRI scan had identified a brain cyst that she had followed up on. "It's nothing to worry about," she says now. "It's a benign cyst; it's very small."

The broadcaster, who has three children – Zephyr, 14, and twins Xanthe and Zena, 11 – with her partner, the property developer Gerard Cunningham, has been open about the methods she has employed to boost her health and wellbeing with the aim of preventing the recurrence of cancer. Now, she says, she is focused



Julia is passionate about protecting whales; and (above) in Antarctica



on "making small, incremental changes; it's about the small habits".

She's particularly keen on eating healthily, removing the sweets drawer at home and drinking bone broth for breakfast; she even packed her own mackerel and blueberries to take on a recent work outing.

These decisions can make life more difficult, she admits. "It makes socialising harder. I really have to consider: 'Is there going to be something there that's healthy enough for me?'"

"I've sacrificed a lot of things; I don't drink alcohol any more. I do allow myself treats. I think I'm devoted – I don't think I'm obsessed."

#### WONDERS OF NATURE

A wildlife aficionado, she recently travelled to Antarctica for ITV's Wonders of the Frozen South series, enjoying "incredible encounters with humpback whales". She has also been a dedicated patron of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) for eight years.

Now, Julia is speaking to us as part of Big Give's Earth Raise 2026, which aims to raise over £10m for more than 330 environmental charities, including the WDC, via "champion funders" that double donations by members of the public.

"Whales and marine life are a massive passion of mine, and I've been lucky enough to have filmed with whales throughout my career," she says. "There's nothing more spectacular. I'm just sad that we still have to say 'save the whale!'" **H**

INTERVIEW: MIRANDA THOMPSON

*Big Give's Earth Raise 2026 ends on Wednesday. For more information and to donate to the campaign, visit [donate.biggive.org/earth-raise-2026](https://donate.biggive.org/earth-raise-2026)*

# 7 DAYS

A ROUND-UP OF NEWS REPORTS



## CHER

### Singer 'speechless' about secret grandchild

Cher was reported to have been left "speechless" after learning that she had a secret granddaughter, who is now aged 15.

The singer's son, Elijah Allman, had a brief romance with Kayti Edwards, a former model, in 2010, resulting in the birth of daughter Ever.

"Cher got in touch with me last June and asked if it was true, so I had to confess," Kayti said.

"She said she had heard something about it from Elijah back in 2021 but didn't know if it was just crazy talk. When she heard the news, she was speechless."



## HARRY STYLES & ZOË KRAVITZ

**Spark engagement rumours with diamond ring**  
Harry Styles and Zoë Kravitz have sparked rumours that they are engaged after being spotted together in London, with Zoë flashing what appeared to be a diamond ring on the third finger of her left hand.

The former One Direction star, 32, and the American actress and singer, 37, have been in a relationship since last summer.

An onlooker said: "When she left, Harry waved her off. Zoë had a massive smile on her face. You couldn't miss the ring on her finger. It was absolutely huge."



## SARA COX

### Lands Radio 2 breakfast show spot

Sara Cox will replace Scott Mills as the host of BBC Radio 2's breakfast show. She currently presents the teatime show from 4pm to 7pm, and will take over the morning slot in the summer.

"There are not enough adjectives to sum up how I'm feeling, but let's start with ecstatic, honoured and incredibly chuffed," she said. "I honestly can't wait to wake up the nation with the biggest, most fun breakfast show ever."

Scott was sacked in March over historical allegations about his conduct. He said he had co-operated fully with a police investigation at the time.



# STORY OF THE WEEK

## THE DUKE OF SUSSEX

Prince Harry visited Ukraine last week, issuing a direct appeal to Russia's President Vladimir Putin to end the war.

Speaking at the Kyiv Security Forum in front of world leaders and military officials, he said: "President Putin, no nation benefits from the continued loss of life we are witnessing. There is still a moment – now – to stop this war, to prevent further suffering for Ukrainians and Russians alike, and to choose a different course."

He also urged the US to act, saying:

"This is a moment for American leadership – a moment for America to show that it can honour its international treaty obligations. Not out of charity, but out of its enduring role in global security and strategic stability."

He continued: "I am here as a soldier who understands service, as a humanitarian who has seen the human cost of conflict and as a friend of Ukraine."

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**‘Philosophically, the way she operates is on another level. I just adore her’**

A\$AP Rocky on his girlfriend, Rihanna

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VISIT [HELLOMAGAZINE.COM](http://HELLOMAGAZINE.COM)



## JUSTIN THEROUX

### Welcomes baby boy with wife Nicole

Justin Theroux and his wife, Nicole Brydon Bloom, have welcomed their first child.

The actor, 54, who was formerly married to Jennifer Aniston, has revealed that he and actress Nicole, 32, have had a baby boy, whose name they are keeping private.

"He's here, we are so in love," the couple captioned a joint Instagram post showing the baby sleeping under a blanket.

Two days later, the new parents attended the New York premiere of *The Devil Wears Prada 2*.



## CHERYL

### Backs calls to raise age limit on social media

Cheryl has backed a campaign to increase to 16 the age at which children can use social media.

In a video posted on Instagram, the former X Factor judge and Girls Aloud star backed the Raise the Age movement, saying she opposed younger children using "addictive, emotionally destroying and mentally damaging platforms".

She added: "Our youth are already vulnerable, and some are even going to the extremes of taking their own lives. That should be enough."

Cheryl, 42, has a nine-year-old son, Bear, whose father is the late One Direction singer Liam Payne.



## ALAN OSMOND

### Crazy Horses songwriter dies aged 76

Alan Osmond, the eldest member of the wholesome Seventies pop group The Osmonds, has died aged 76. During his time with the band, he co-wrote some of their biggest hits, including Crazy Horses.

"I was grateful to be with him shortly before he passed and to share a final meaningful moment together," his brother Merrill said. "Alan was a gifted creator, a man of faith and a deeply loving soul whose life blessed many."

● The zoologist and author Desmond Morris has died aged 98.

HELLO!  
SECOND  
ACT

# 'I FELT REBORN'

*The DJ Adele Roberts tells us how recovering from cancer gave her a second chance at life*

**A**fter Adele Roberts was diagnosed with bowel cancer at the age of 42, there was a surprisingly bittersweet moment for the BBC Radio 1 DJ.

"I woke up from surgery and felt as though I had a second chance at life," the broadcaster tells Ateh Jewel on this week's episode of **HELLO!'s** Second Act podcast. Having initially "freaked out" at the diagnosis, she and her partner of 22 years, the actress Kate Holderness, turned to the internet, finding solace in reading other people's stories.

It encouraged Adele, 47, to share her own, which was why she decided to run the 2023 London Marathon for Cancer Research UK – with "Audrey", the stoma bag with which she was fitted as a result of her cancer treatment, on show.

"It helped us so much, reading those words of other people's experience," she says. "I thought: 'If I survive this, I want to do that for other people.' It's my mission every day."

## ROYAL SUPPORT

Her celebrity cheerleaders include the Prince and Princess of Wales, who surprised her in the BBC studios before her first marathon, for the Heads Together charity, in 2017.

"I used to be on the early breakfast show on Radio 1, and William would often be out on the air ambulances," Adele says. "He said he used to text in and get a shout-out, but we don't know which person it was. I think it was a guy called Wayne."

Looking back, Adele's appearance on Big Brother in 2002, alongside the late Jade Goody and Alison Hammond, now a host of This Morning, was "a big mistake", she says.

"The overnight notoriety was too much for me," she reflects. At the time, Adele – who went on to star in *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* in 2019 – had been struggling to come to terms with her sexuality and was grieving following her aunt's sudden death from pneumonia.

"I went on the show to hide," she says. "I remember [the producers] saying before you go in that it's a mirror, and you might not like what you see – and I didn't. I'm grateful for the journey, but it was hard and painful."

Ironically, it took a diagnosis of cancer for Adele to find happiness again. "What my illness symbolised for me was that my body had given up trying to hide the grief I'd been storing inside myself," she says. "Having the tumour removed, it

felt as though it was removed from my life, in a weird way... I felt reborn." **H**



*Listen to HELLO!'s Second Act podcast now on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Podcasts and YouTube*



# SING FOR THE KING

*As he heads out on tour, the tenor Alfie Boe tells us about his bond with the monarch – and how Charles is a fellow member of a storied showbusiness group*

As one of the nation's best-loved tenors, Alfie Boe is synonymous with showstopping opera performances and commanding the West End stage in musicals such as *Les Misérables*.

Now, in a departure from his classical roots, the Tony Award-winning star has released his first album of original material, titled *Face Myself* – and it's deeply personal. "It's a real storyboard," Alfie, 52, tells **HELLO!**. "I'm proud of it."

The songs tell the story of his life, from growing up in the north of England as one of nine children to how he lives now, following his divorce from his former wife, Sarah, with whom he has a daughter, Grace, and a son, Alfred.

"There are songs there that talk about my children – them being so far away," he says; his children live in the US with their mother. "That distance will never keep me away from them. We have a really strong bond."

As he heads out on a UK tour in April and May, Alfie opens up about his new music and reveals why the King has been instrumental in his success. **Alfie, what's the genre of your new album?**

"It's definitely got my own sound. It has elements of folk, elements of Americana – it's very easy

Alfie on stage with Michael Ball in a performance of Les Misérables in Sydney last May



## 'MY TWO CHILDREN BRING ME JOY, SEEING THEIR LIVES DEVELOP'

listening. The majority of the songs are emotionally connecting and calming. It's good to sit down and listen to with a cup of coffee in the afternoon."

**Do you have a favourite song on the album?**

"I love Face Myself. That song talks about my teenage years, growing up in the north of England and being influenced by artists like The Stone Roses, Inspiral Carpets and Primal Scream.

"There's a song called Stop Light that really connects with where we are in life right now. We're at a stoplight. Take that time to stop and breathe and not let the burdens of life get you down."

**Does singing run in your family?**

"My grandparents were good singers. My father was a good singer; his musical taste influenced me a lot on this album. My tour will be about my journey through music, from being a very small babe-in-arms to the ugly old man that I am now."

**Tell us about your plans for the tour...**

"I'll be travelling around the country performing the album, then I'm on a plane to Australia to perform for ten days over there, which is crazy.

"I love being on the road. It can be a bit lonely at times, but I do love it. It's time to have a bit of self-reflection. It's not the rock'n'roll life; it's a real time to take stock. I write a lot on the road, too."

**The King awarded you an OBE in 2019 – what was that experience like?**

"I was surprised when I got the message that I was up for an OBE. I thought they'd spelt my surname wrong!

"[The King] was so lovely. He said how proud he was to award it to me because I was a Prince's Trust scholar at the Royal College of Music, and I've done a lot of work for the Prince's Trust [now the King's Trust].

"It's wonderful to have had that connection with him over the years. I'll always be his humble servant, willing to perform and do charitable work for him whenever he asks.

"I've got so many wonderful handwritten letters from him that I have framed, and a wonderful one from our late Queen Elizabeth."

**Is it true that both you and the King are members of the Grand Order of Water Rats?**

"We are. It's an old [showbusiness] fraternity that goes back years. We've had members including Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, Tommy Cooper, lots of musicians and Hollywood actors. It's a great group of people to be a part of.

"We raise funds for many different charities, mainly for children. It's a nice opportunity to celebrate each other as artists, bring our talents together and bring ideas to the table about how we can create funds and opportunities for people."

**Will you go back to opera after this new album?**

"I'm never going to turn my back on opera; classical music is in my blood. On the tour, I'll be singing a bit of classical and obviously Les Misérables, which I'm famous for, I suppose."

**What brings you joy in life?**

"Music brings me joy, and my children, first and foremost: watching them get older and step into their worlds and seeing their lives develop.

"I love to ride my motorbike, hike and go camping. I absolutely adore cooking – I love to develop recipes and flavours. I really want to get a qualification in cooking."

**Perhaps your own restaurant or a cookbook?**

"Maybe a food truck, for a start!"

INTERVIEW: SOPHIE HAMILTON

*Face Myself* is out now. For tickets to Alfie's UK tour, visit [alfie-boe.com](http://alfie-boe.com)

## DON'T MISS THIS WEEK...

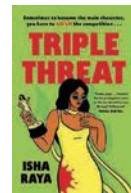


**EVENT**

**GOOD FOOD SHOW SUMMER**

Join top chefs including James Martin (above) and Celebrity MasterChef winner Lisa Faulkner for the ultimate foodie event. Pick up tips and tricks from live demonstrations, indulge in tasting experiences and buy goods from hundreds of producers.

**At the NEC, Birmingham from 18 to 21 June**



**BOOK**

**TRIPLE THREAT**

Struggling actress Dimple Kapoor is determined to get away with murder, but a private investigator is intent on uncovering the truth. As sparks fly between the pair, have they finally met their match?

**By Isha Raya, out now, published by Michael Joseph, priced £18.99**



**TV**

**WIDOW'S BAY**

Matthew Rhys (above) stars in this new comedy-horror series about the mayor of a New England island who is determined to boost tourism but must contend with superstitious locals who believe that their town is cursed.

**On Apple TV from Wednesday**



**MUSIC**

**WOLF ALICE**

Following a global tour, the rock band Wolf Alice return to London this summer to perform at one of the capital's most famous outdoor concert venues.

The homecoming show features support from Lykke Li and Rachel Chinouriri.

**At Finsbury Park, London on 5 July**

ADDITIONAL REPORTS: LAURA BENJAMIN; NICKY MORRIS; PHOTOS: APPLE TV; GETTY IMAGES; GOOD FOOD SHOW; RACHEL FLEMINGER HUDSON; RAY BURMISTON

# HELLO! FASHION

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SEASAIT CORNWALL PURE COTTON EMBROIDERED NOTCH-NECK TOP, £59.95. ALL PRICES AND STOCKIST DETAILS IN STYLE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS





## THE VANGUA

Aspiga was early to the B Corp party, becoming one of the first fashion labels to meet the movement's rigorous standards for accountability and transparency, and earning multiple awards for its ethical approach along the way.

The brand's founder, Lucy Macnamara, was inspired to create her own fashion line after a trip to Kenya, where she was captivated by a pair of meticulously crafted hand-beaded sandals.

Now marking its 20th anniversary, Aspiga has grown into a full ready-to-wear offering while continuing to support and give back to the communities that shaped its story.

1. Jyoti dress, £160 2. Iris Dobby dress, £170 3. Ella dress, £140

## REDUCING WATER USAGE

We wear it every day, yet rarely consider its carbon footprint. Since launching in 2017, Stripe & Stare, the British and female-founded sustainable underwear label, has focused on changing that.

The certified B Corp brand is seeking to raise awareness of the environmental cost of our underwear. Its pieces are made using responsibly sourced

TENCEL fibres, designed to significantly reduce water consumption and carbon emissions compared with conventional materials, all while maintaining softness and wearability. Conscious and comfortable – an everyday essential, rethought.



Nobody's Child x Elizabeth Scarlett white scallop-hem Sintra skirt, £99, and top, £69

# PLANET POSITIVE

*From seeking out certified B Corps to choosing brands that give back, small shifts can make a meaningful difference*

## GIVING BACK

Nobody's Child and Elizabeth Scarlett reunited for their second collaboration in April. Shaped around the ocean and florals, the capsule collection brings together Elizabeth Scarlett's nature-led prints and Nobody's Child's easy-to-wear styles.

At the centre of the partnership is a shared commitment to sustainability and more responsible production. The brands are donating £15,000 to the Blue Marine Foundation, supporting its work to protect and restore ocean life.

Elizabeth Scarlett's mission continues beyond the collaboration, with the brand donating 2% of its annual sales to wildlife conservation; it aims to raise £2m for the cause by 2030.

# FASHION



## SPEND MORE, BUY LESS

Though the high street isn't always synonymous with sustainable fashion, the brands are working to reduce their environmental footprint. Mango has been focusing on lower-impact materials and on integrating circular-design principles across its collections.

Alongside this, the brand's premium line, Selection, encourages a more considered way of shopping. The collections, featuring sharp tailoring and luxury accessories made from high-quality fabrics, are released in limited drops throughout the year and

Scarf with boat pattern, £15.99, aviator sunglasses, £29.99, shell design earrings, £15.99, leather drawstring bag, £99.99, and padded sandals, £89.99



## A FASHION EDITOR'S LOVE LETTER TO...

**Hayley Menzies Desert Loom dress, £480**

Last month, the British designer Hayley Menzies hosted her autumn/winter 2026 press day at her store in Duke of York Square on King's Road. While I was there, I took the opportunity to try on some of the new-season drops.

The Desert Loom dress (pictured above) stood out. The panel construction gives it shape without feeling overworked, and it sits very neatly on the body – I liked it enough to buy it there and then.

The dust jacket is another of the label's signature pieces. These were originally inspired by equestrian clothing designed to protect garments from dust, but here, it's more of a practical outer layer that works well with dresses or jeans and a T-shirt. I took a blue one (below) home with me – I'm honestly not usually this impulsive...

Hayley launched her first collection from a stall on Portobello Road in 2011, and since then she's built a label known for small-batch production, working with independent factories

ing creative ties. tagline signed in n, made for d rebels." e brand s on e, travel and eras, with is that are restrained wearable r than ly styled.

**Leopard an, £390**



**Stella McCartney x H&M red dress, £119.99**



## DESIGNER COLLABORATION

When the fashion designer Stella McCartney first collaborated with H&M in 2005, the entire collection sold out within days. More than 20 years later, she's back, and we're expecting a similar response when the new range drops on Thursday. Stella remains at the forefront of fashion's sustainability movement, and the collection prioritises recycled materials and crystals, organic cottons and Responsible Wool Standard-certified wool. Key pieces include a canvas bag featuring Stella McCartney's signature Falabella chain, as well as the designer's archival cherry print, which adorns items including blouses and scarves.



# LOUIS VUITTON IS EXPECTING YOU

*The French maison has just opened the pop-up  
Louis Vuitton Hotel in London to mark the 130th birthday  
of its iconic Monogram print. The door is open...*



**L**ouis Vuitton's Monogram is one of the most iconic prints in the world – and now, the French maison is celebrating the print's 130th birthday.

You'll know it instinctively: a warm brown canvas overlaid with four motifs – the intertwined initials "LV", a four-petalled flower, a four-pointed star and a simple flower – in a golden tone.

Created in 1896 by Georges Vuitton as a tribute to his father, Louis, Monogram has become an emblem of savoir-faire loved by every generation of fashion enthusiasts.

Georges's vision followed his father's success in revolutionising travel fashion in 1858, when Louis introduced the stackable, waterproof travel trunks that became coveted by royalty and members of high society.

To preserve the uniqueness of the design and to give it an unmistakable edge, the Monogram print was born.

Fast-forward to 2026 and Monogram has graced a number of Louis Vuitton handbags. Now, to mark this enduring heritage, the fashion house has created the pop-up Louis Vuitton Hotel in London's Mayfair – a townhouse transformed into a multi-concept museum.

There are immersive rooms dedicated to the most recognisable bags featuring the Monogram print – the Speedy, Keepall, Noé, Alma and Neverfull – and each space feeds into the next, celebrating the history and heritage of the bags as both accessories and cultural artefacts.

## KEEPALL LOBBY

Arriving at the Louis Vuitton Hotel, you'll begin in the Keepall Lobby, dedicated to the foldable travel bag that debuted in 1930.

This design kickstarted a new era of travel by making available highly functional yet sophisticated luggage. Built from resilient canvas with reinforced leather handles, the Keepall was engineered for durability while maintaining a refined aesthetic. Now, it is being emulated in the concept of the entrance to the hotel.

## CAFÉ ALMA

Moving upstairs, the first floor of the hotel is home to Café Alma, a space inspired by the 1992 handbag named after Paris's Place de l'Alma. The bag's structured, architectural silhouette echoes the Art Deco movement, employing the geometric precision and purity of Thirties style.

Its namesake café operates daily. From 11am to 3pm, guests can enjoy a two-course seasonal lunch, while afternoon tea is served between 3pm and 7pm from Monday to Saturday and all day on Sunday. It's best to book, but there's also a walk-in service for champagne, coffee and pastries, subject to availability.



monogram is one of the most recognisable prints in the world





### SPEEDY ROOM

The second floor of the hotel contains the Speedy Room, an illuminated guest suite decorated with the brand's famous Speedy handbags.

Developed in the early Thirties, this chic model represented modern life, specifically focusing on the era's emerging interest in high-speed travel. Launched alongside the Keepall, it features the same innovative engineering tailored for a world where people are constantly on the move.

### SPEEDY P9 SAFE ROOM

Next to the suite is the Speedy P9 Safe Room, displaying Pharrell Williams's modern update of the classic Speedy, in which the musician and Louis Vuitton men's creative director merges Thirties history with current trends. Visitors can learn about the technical construction of the P9, which is created through no fewer than 180 manual steps.

### BAR NOÉ

Located on the lower-ground level, Bar Noé is a champagne bar paying homage to the 1932 design of the Noé bag. Originally designed to transport five champagne bottles (four upright and one inverted, in case you were wondering), it is now the ultimate fashion statement.

Featuring a drawstring closure and rounded base, its bucket shape combines heritage with modern utility.

In Bar Noé, you'll find an intimate cocktail lounge focused on craftsmanship and champagne. Guests can also visit at night for a lively atmosphere with DJs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday while the exhibition is open.



### NEVERFULL GYM

What's an upmarket hotel without a state-of-the-art gym? Such was the thinking behind the top floor of the Louis Vuitton Hotel, where you'll find the Neverfull Gym, a playful fitness-themed area dedicated to the label's 2007 tote bag.

Crafted from lightweight canvas, this model is renowned for its high capacity and functional strength.

Despite weighing only 800g, the bag can support 100kg of weight, demonstrating a mix of durability and technical precision. The gym includes a mirrored weight rack as a nod to the bag's impressive strength.

**The Louis Vuitton Hotel pop-up is at 28 Berkeley Square, London, W1J 6EN, until 21 June. It features a "care services" area, where guests can take their beloved Louis Vuitton pieces for a restorative short stay. Also on offer are exclusive personalisation services, including the hot-stamping of distinctive patches that are available solely at the hotel to make your accessories truly one of a kind.**

*To find out more or to book the Louis Vuitton Hotel, Café Alma and Bar Noé, visit [louisvuitton.com](http://louisvuitton.com)*



LOUIS VUITTON



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# THE SPRING SLUMP

*This season's energy ebb is real.  
Here's how to get ahead of it*

**A** little sit-down, you say? Another coffee? Camera disabled on your Zoom call? If you're feeling off your game, you're not imagining it. Welcome to the spring energy slump.

For a season that's meant to signal renewal and momentum, this time of year can feel strangely flat. The clocks have changed and brighter days are here, yet rather than riding a wave of fresh energy, you might feel as though you've stalled. You're no longer in winter hibernation mode, but not exactly firing on all cylinders, either. The result? A subtle but persistent sense of mental and physical fatigue.

So what's going on? "The 'April slump' often catches people off-guard and can continue into early May," says Kathryn Pinkham, a sleep expert and the founder of The Insomnia Clinic. "Although the days are getting longer and lighter, our internal body clock doesn't always adjust as quickly. The shift to lighter mornings can disrupt our circadian rhythm."

It's not just our bodies that are struggling, according to the career and confidence coach Dr Claire Kaye. "April is often the point in the year where women start to feel a bit off," she says. "From the outside, life looks much the same, but internally, something has shifted."

"They notice that they're more easily irritated by things that wouldn't normally bother them, and that decisions feel harder. There's that moment of staring at a laptop, a wardrobe or a calendar when everything feels more overwhelming than it did a few months ago."

## THE BRIGHT SIDE?

If your sleep feels lighter or more fragmented, or you're waking up earlier and feeling more tired during the day, it could be that your body is still adjusting to the seasonal change in light exposure.

"Light is one of the strongest signals for our circadian rhythm," Kathryn says. "Brighter mornings can help to anchor the body clock, but only if we work with it consistently. Getting natural light early in the day, even briefly, can help to signal to the brain that it's time to be awake, which supports better sleep later on."

What doesn't help? Overcorrecting. "Going to bed much earlier can lead to more time spent awake in bed, which can make sleep feel more difficult," she says.

The reassuring takeaway? A temporary dip in energy or changes in sleep at this time of year are normal. With a little consistency and exposure to natural light, most people find that their rhythm settles within a week or so.

## TAKE IT EASY

Is it a coincidence that April is Stress Awareness Month? Post-winter fatigue and burnout carried over from earlier months can leave our nerves feeling frazzled, and this doesn't necessarily end on 30 April.

"This isn't really about the time of year," Claire says. "It's the accumulation of everything that's been carried for months." Our mental load – planning, organising, decision-making – builds quietly in the background, draining energy over time.

"By the time spring arrives, there's little space left to think clearly. Most women assume it's a motivation issue, or that they're somehow not getting 'it' right."

At the same time, the focus shifts forward to summer plans, along with the unspoken pressure for everything to feel effortless and joyful. "The real shift happens when women realise that they don't need to push harder," Claire says. "It's about recognising how much they're already carrying and making a change."

The solution? Creating space to think clearly, to reassess priorities and to decide what actually matters.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Feeling sluggish, experiencing cravings and in the thick of brain fog? Your metabolism could be to blame, says Jess Sepel, a clinical nutritionist and the founder of JSHealth Vitamins.

"Incorporate targeted supplement formulas, with science-backed ingredients, at a therapeutic dose," Jess says. "Berberine, for example, is a well-researched botanical compound with a long history of use in Chinese and Ayurvedic medicines to support the body with a range of health benefits."

She also advises starting the day with a protein-rich breakfast to support muscle mass and increase the thermic effect of food (meaning that your body uses more energy during digestion).

And then there's hydration. "Even mild dehydration can slow metabolic processes," she says. "Aim for two to three litres of water daily to support cellular function and energy production."

Herbal teas and lemon water can make it easier to stay on track, and Jess recommends magnesium-infused drinks like the JSHealth Vitamins Advanced Magnesium+ Powder in raspberry lemonade (£24.99).

If this time of year feels harder than expected, it's not a personal failure – it's a natural adjustment period. Work with your body and the energy will follow.

## YOUR ANTI-SLUMP ANTIDOTES



### What's That Patch NAD+ Longevity Patches, £19

A "daily dose of timeless vitality", these patches boast a potent formula including lion's mane, resveratrol and cordyceps. Designed to support cellular regeneration, they aim to boost energy, sharpen memory and promote digestive health, with an easy on-the-go application.



### JSHealth Vitamins Berberine+ Formula, £36.99

Designed to support metabolic health and help maintain balanced blood-sugar levels, this trending bioactive compound – extracted from barberry and Oregon grape plants – is paired with chromium for an added metabolic boost.



### BlueIron High Strength Iron Drops, £16

Iron deficiency is often a hallmark of burnout, and this liquid supplement offers a gentle solution. Infused with Nordic blueberry and featuring a patented micro-encapsulated form of iron, it's kind to the stomach while giving fatigue the boot.



### Moods Fit Moodroller, £25

Aromatherapy, reimagined. Blending a series of mood-shifting scents, from crisp eucalyptus to fresh ginger, this high-tech rollerball delivers a clean-energy lift with no crash in sight, making for the ultimate pocket pick-me-up.



# GET AHEAD FOR SUMMER

*Step away from the scissors –  
hairstylists share the spring habits  
you'll regret come June*

# BEAUTY

Among the arbitrary dates by which we choose to reinvent ourselves, the onset of spring has a habit of triggering a full beauty reset. But although a skincare overhaul or a commitment to dry body brushing – at least for those initial idealistic weeks – won't have lasting repercussions, when it comes to hair, a wrong snip could leave you battling months of bad hair days.

"Spring always does the same thing; it makes everyone want to do something to their hair," says the celebrity stylist Larry King. "Sometimes that's exactly right. Other times, you're setting yourself up for frustration. Hair should feel effortless; if you're overworking it, or forcing it into something it's not, it's probably not working."

That doesn't mean "do nothing". In fact, prepping your hair now for the change of seasons is key. "Your hair is likely to take a pounding in the warmer months, so what you do in spring sets the tone for summer," says the hairstylist Michael Douglas.

Here, we've enlisted the best in the business to identify the "don'ts" currently sabotaging your seasonal glow-up. Spoiler alert: the Nineties relic Sun-In isn't on the list.

## AVOID THE EXTREMES

"The biggest spring hair mistake I see is people trying to force their hair into a summer version of itself too early, whether that's holding on to length that really needs a cut or going for a drastic change without thinking it through," says the hairstylist Adam Reed, the founder of Arkive Headcare.

"Healthy hair is maintained, not rescued. Waiting until June means you're starting summer with hair that already feels compromised."

It's a sentiment echoed by Larry. "I get that everyone wants longer, looser summer hair, but if your ends are thin or dry, holding on to length isn't helping you."

That said, don't swing too far the other way. "There's always that 'new season, new me' energy, but hair doesn't need that level of drama," he says. "Big changes don't always translate into real life."

The sweet spot? "Shape, movement and quiet polish are the things that elevate your hair," Larry adds. "Shift things, but don't shock yourself."

## TURN DOWN THE HEAT

"Over-reliance on heat styling as the weather changes is another common mistake," Adam says. "As we move into warmer months, hair is already under more stress from sun, humidity and environmental exposure, so adding excessive heat can leave it feeling dry and less responsive."

Spring is the perfect moment to embrace a more natural texture and scale things back. Reducing heat styling is recommended by all of our experts, including Michael, who suggests blow-drying less often, using lower temperatures (his **MdLondon Blow hair dryer**, 1, £199, has adjustable heat settings) and letting your hair air-dry where possible.

Luke Hershenson, a hairstylist and the creative director of Hershenson, warns against one common post-wash habit: leaving hair wrapped in a towel for too long.



"That trapped heat and humidity is a fast-track to frizz," he says. "Now that the weather is warmer, let your hair breathe, and don't even think about blow-drying until it's at least 80% dry. Not only will it make styling easier, you'll save on damage."

And although beachy texture might be on your mind, hold off on salt sprays for now. "Salt dries the hair out," Luke says. "If you want that undone texture, choose products that add movement without stripping moisture."

**Hershenson's Air Dry Spray** (4, £22), for example, contains sugar-derived technology to help to provide hold, while **Larry King's Ride or Die Texture Spray** (5, £25) has a boost of vitamin B5 for added nourishment.

"Overusing heat to create texture is a sign that you're probably working against your hair, instead of with it," Larry says. "Texture should feel natural, not forced, and the right styling product gives that undone, lived-in feel without having to over-style."

## DON'T SKIP THE SCALP

"Something that's often overlooked at this time of year is scalp care," Adam says, with Larry noting that "no one thinks about their scalp until it's burnt, and by then it's too late."

He adds: "Your parting is one of the most exposed areas, especially as the sun comes out. If you're not protecting it, you're damaging both your skin and the quality of your hair in the long term. It's a small step that makes a big difference."

Start now by incorporating gentle exfoliation, hydration and daily SPF in your routine – we love **Arkive Headcare's The Crown scrub** (2, £15), followed by **Coola's Scalp & Hair Mist Sunscreen** (3, £29).

## RETHINK YOUR COLOUR TIMING

When it comes to colour, patience pays off. "Sunlight naturally lightens the hair – it's essentially a slow bleaching process by which UV light alters the structure of the hair," Michael says. "Going into summer, the healthier your hair is, the better it can handle that."

As a result, he advises stretching out your highlights where possible, aiming for a refresh in May, and then leaving your hair until early autumn to avoid over-processing.

Another colour misstep is holding on to your winter colour for too long. Deep, one-dimensional shades can start to look heavy and flat as the light changes.

"Spring light exposes everything," says Francesco De Chiara, a hair colourist based at the Nicola Clarke hair salon. "Single-tone colour can look lifeless – adding dimension makes all the difference."

Think soft balayage or subtle tonal variation, rather than a full transformation, and transition gradually to keep your hair in its best condition.

Spring isn't about reinventing your hair – it's about setting it up. Make smarter, softer changes now and your summer hair will thank you for it.

‘SHAPE,  
MOVEMENT  
AND POLISH  
ELEVATE  
YOUR HAIR’

# PUZZLE TIME

TIME TO  
TAKE A  
BREAK

*Pour a cup of tea and put your problem-solving skills to the test.  
Answers next week*

## CODEWORD

In this finished crossword, every letter of the alphabet appears as a code number. All you have to do is crack the code and fill in the grid. We have decoded some letters to start you off.

4	23	21	25	2		26	13	4	11	21	20	24	25	
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15	11	24	24	22	20	15	25	18		13	6	6	20	16
14		19		20				5		14				13
	6	11	21	16	18	20		23	14	2	9	11	14	12
20		25			18	23	25				14			25
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7				20		13				20		11		9
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A	1	14
B	2	15
C	3	16
D	4	17
E	5	18
F	6	19
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## SUDOKU

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## LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Y	D	R	O	P	L	E	T	S	U	Y	V	Q
D	H	C	L	E	U	Q	S	M	I	M	I	I
N	T	N	A	D	Y	S	B	C	R	M	I	N
I	S	A	I	E	E	R	H	O	H	A	H	W
W	R	E	N	S	E	T	T	O	S	E	O	O
P	U	C	I	L	R	S	A	O	W	B	O	V
U	B	T	L	L	N	A	D	R	N	E	D	E
D	D	A	E	E	E	A	N	B	T	E	C	
L	O	R	N	M	R	W	M	C	S	A	A	
E	L	T	T	O	R	R	E	N	T	O	I	S
A	C	S	P	L	A	S	H	E	P	E	A	T
H	R	U	O	P	N	W	O	D	N	Y	W	T

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T	A	N	K	T	O	P	S	A	T	I	N	

# LIVING

FOOD | TRAVEL | LUXURY



*Three nourishing recipes  
from the renowned fish  
chef Nathan Outlaw*

## HAKE & MUSSELS IN A BAG WITH BEER, BACON & LEEKS *Serves 4*

### INGREDIENTS:

- 4x 150g/5¼oz skin-on hake portions
- 2 tsp coriander seeds, ground
- 20 live mussels, cleaned and debearded
- 4 sprigs of thyme
- Zest of 2 oranges
- 8 tbsp wheat beer
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

### For the leeks and bacon:

- 100g/3½oz unsalted butter
- Olive oil
- 8 slices smoked streaky bacon, finely sliced
- 2 leeks, washed and shredded

- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 150ml/5¼fl oz wheat beer

1. To cook the leeks, heat a large pan over a medium heat and add the butter and a drizzle of oil. When the butter is bubbling, add the bacon and cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. When the bacon starts to brown, add the leeks and cook for another 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

Now add the garlic and cook for 1 minute, then pour in the wheat beer. Cook for around 5 minutes until the beer has reduced, then remove from the heat and place aside to cool.

2. Next, preheat the oven to 220°C/200°C fan/gas 7.

3. On a clean work surface, lay out 4 large sheets of baking parchment (roughly 30cm x 30cm/12in x 12in). Divide the leek and bacon mixture into 4 equal portions and arrange them over one half of each sheet of parchment.

4. Season the hake with salt, pepper and ground coriander seeds, then place on top of the leeks together with 5 mussels in each parcel, plus a sprig of thyme and an equal share of the orange zest.

5. Fold over the paper and crimp the edges so that they are firmly sealed, leaving you with 4 parcels.

Leave a small opening to allow you to pour 2 tbsp of beer into each parcel, then seal the hole by folding it down tightly.

If the quality of the paper isn't great, you may need to use 2 sheets for each parcel or add a layer of foil on the outside. The aim is that the moisture inside doesn't escape; this is really important.

6. Place the hake parcels on a baking tray or two and bake in the oven for 15 minutes. When the cooking time is up, remove the parcels and serve immediately. Allow whoever is eating to open their own parcel – that's the magic and the drama! ▶

# FOOD

## PLAICE, AUBERGINE & MUSHROOM CURRY WITH LIME OIL

Serves 4

"This curry is delicious – I've used aubergine and mushrooms, but you can use pretty much anything. The lime oil is best left for 24 hours to infuse, but it wouldn't be the end of the world if you used it straight away; just make sure you strain out the bits."

### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 x 130g/4½oz plaice fillets
- Olive oil
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

### For the curry powder:

- 6 whole smoked chillies
- 1 tbsp raw basmati rice
- 1 tbsp coriander seeds
- 1 tbsp cumin seeds
- 2 tsp mustard seeds
- 2 tsp black peppercorns
- 1 tsp Szechuan peppercorns
- 1 tsp ground turmeric
- 2 tsp sea salt
- 10 makrut lime leaves
- Zest of 1 orange

### For the lime oil:

- Zest and juice of 3 limes
- 400ml/14¼fl oz light olive oil

### For the curry:

- 1 large aubergine, peeled and chopped into cubes
- 200g/7¼oz chestnut mushrooms, halved
- 2 tsp ground turmeric
- 2 tsp ground coriander
- 4 tsp sea salt
- 2 tbsp coconut oil
- 1 red onion, finely sliced
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 4 curry leaves
- ½ tsp fenugreek seeds
- ½ tsp nigella seeds
- 1 fresh red chilli, deseeded and chopped
- 400ml/14¼fl oz can coconut milk
- 2 tbsp chopped coriander leaves, plus extra to serve
- 1 tbsp chopped mint leaves, plus extra to serve

1. To make the curry powder, gently toast everything in a large dry pan over a medium heat for 10 minutes. Leave to cool slightly, then blitz in a spice grinder. Sift the powder on to a large tray and leave to dry slightly. When dry, store in an airtight container.

2. To make the lime oil, put the ingredients into a blender and blitz for 2 minutes. Pour the mixture into a container and leave to infuse for 24 hours.

Strain the infused liquid through a fine sieve or muslin cloth into a clean container or bottle, store in the refrigerator and use within a month.

3. Next, preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6.

4. To make the curry, put the aubergine and mushrooms in a large bowl, then add the turmeric, ground coriander, sea salt and 6 tsp of the curry powder. Toss to coat and leave for 10 minutes.

5. Heat a large pan over a medium heat and add the coconut oil. When the oil is hot, add the red onion and fry for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally, then add the aubergine and mushroom mixture. Cook for another 3 minutes.

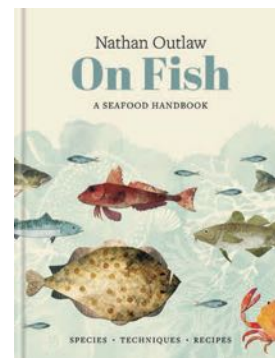
6. Add the cinnamon stick, curry leaves, fenugreek, nigella seeds and red chilli, season with salt and cook for 3 more minutes. Pour in the coconut milk and cook gently for 10 minutes. Next, add the chopped coriander and mint, and check the seasoning. Keep warm.

7. Season the plaice fillets well with salt, pepper and 2 tsp of the curry powder. Place in a roasting tray and oil the fish well. Cook in the oven for 5 minutes, then remove.

8. Share the curry among 4 bowls, then top with the plaice. Finish with the lime oil and a sprinkle of chopped herbs.



*'This curry is delicious – I've used aubergine and mushrooms, but you can use pretty much anything'*



## OFF THE SCALES

Do you love fish and want to find ways to maximise flavour? The Michelin-starred chef Nathan Outlaw shares techniques honed over three decades of experience, offering 80 delicious recipes accompanied by serving suggestions and advice on eating seasonally. Tuck in... *On Fish: A Seafood Handbook* by Nathan Outlaw, with photography by Kate Whitaker, is out now, published by Kyle Books, priced £30

## GURNARD SOUP WITH FRITTERS & TAPENADE Serves 4

"This recipe is a great example of using the entire fish, and both the soup and the fritters freeze well."

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 gurnard, around 600g/1lb 5oz, each scaled, gutted and filleted (heads and bones reserved)

### For the fritters:

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 150g/5½oz unsalted butter
- 2 banana shallots, finely sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped
- Zest of 1 orange
- 120g/4¼oz plain flour, plus an extra 50g/1¾oz for coating
- 450ml/16fl oz roasted fish stock
- 2 tbsp chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 1 tbsp chopped chives
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 100g/3½oz breadcrumbs
- Sunflower oil, for deep-frying
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

### For the soup:

- Olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 red chilli, deseeded and chopped
- 1 red pepper, deseeded and chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, crushed

- 1 tbsp good-quality tomato puree
- 10 ripe tomatoes, chopped
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 sprig of rosemary, finely pared
- Zest and juice of 1 orange, or as needed
- 1 litre/1¾ pints roasted fish stock

### For the green olive tapenade:

- 200g/7¼oz green olives, pitted
- 1 tbsp capers in brine or salt
- 1 small green chilli, deseeded
- 2 salted anchovy fillets
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp olive oil

### To serve:

- 1 orange, segmented
- A drizzle of good olive oil

1. To make the fritters, heat a large pan over a medium heat and add the olive oil and butter. When the butter is bubbling, add the shallots, garlic, chilli and orange zest and sweat for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Stir in 120g/4¼oz flour and cook for a further 2 minutes. Heat the fish stock and add it to the vegetable mixture in roughly 4 pours, cooking for 1 minute after each addition. Season with salt and pepper and leave to cool.
3. Slice and chop the gurnard

fillets into roughly 1cm cubes and stir into the cooled sauce along with the parsley and chives. Place in the refrigerator for up to 1 hour.

4. Meanwhile, make the soup. Heat a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add a drizzle of oil, then the onion, carrots, chilli, red pepper and garlic. Cook for 5 minutes to soften, stirring every minute.

5. In a separate frying pan, fry off the heads, bones and trimmings from the fish in olive oil for 3 to 4 minutes until golden.

6. Add the fish bones and trimmings to the vegetable pan, along with the tomato puree, and cook for another 2 minutes, stirring halfway through. Add the tomatoes, bay leaf, rosemary sprig and orange zest and juice. Cook for a further 2 minutes, giving the mixture a good stir every 30 seconds.

Pour in the fish stock and bring to a simmer, then reduce the heat and simmer gently for 20 minutes – do not allow it to boil.

7. Pass the soup through a mouli or a large potato ricer into another saucepan. If you don't have either, you can blitz the soup in a blender, then pass it through a sieve.

8. Taste the soup, correcting the seasoning with orange juice, salt

and pepper as needed. Keep warm over a very low heat.

9. To make the tapenade, place all of the ingredients in a small food processor and blitz until blended but not super-fine. Season with salt and pepper to taste and set aside.

10. When the gurnard fritter mix is firm, divide it into 12 portions, each weighing around 40g/1½oz. Using 2 spoons, shape each portion into a rough oval shape, then place in the freezer for 30 minutes to firm up.

11. When you are ready to cook, place the beaten eggs in a bowl, add 50g/1¾oz flour to another bowl and place the breadcrumbs on a tray. Pass the fritter portions through first the flour, then the eggs and finally the breadcrumbs to coat.

12. Heat a deep-fat fryer to 180°C or heat some sunflower oil in a deep, heavy-based pan (not filling more than two-thirds full). Fry the fritters for 2 minutes, in batches as necessary. Remove with a slotted spoon, drain on kitchen paper and season with salt.


13. Divide the soup among warmed soup bowls and place the fritters in the centre. Finish with the green olive tapenade, a few pieces of orange and some olive oil.



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in between, we're here for life's best bits.



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*Savvy tips for planning  
– and enjoying –  
a weekend getaway,  
whether you're jetting off  
or staying in Britain*

# TRAVEL

CULTURE | FAMILY | BEACH

# THE ART OF THE LONG WEEKEND



# HELLO! WORLD

Clockwise from main image:  
New York's famous skyline;  
Painswick in the Cotswolds;  
the El Palace Barcelona hotel,  
and a view across the Spanish  
city from Park Güell; the sea  
at Positano on Italy's Amalfi  
Coast; and the five-star XO  
Cape Arna in Fethiye, Turkey



**T**here's nothing better than a change of scenery. Just a few days away from your usual routine can leave you feeling re-energised, refocused and (almost) recovered. It's a great way of tricking your brain into thinking that you've had a proper break – at least enough to tide you over until your next escape.

This May, we're blessed with two bank holidays, only one of which falls within school holidays. Planning a long weekend somehow seems easier than organising a week-long break – time off feels more fluid, and booking at the last minute seems less stressful.

For those looking for some escapism, it makes the unrealistic feel possible, if only fleetingly. You may not be able to afford to live in a castle, but you can be treated like royalty for a few days in someone else's.

## FRIDAY SAVINGS

When it comes to flights, experts have spent decades telling us that Friday is an expensive day to travel. However, Expedia's 2026 Air Hacks report shows that things have changed, with all those business travellers who once pushed up prices ahead of the weekend now flying home earlier in the week. The result? Friday is now the cheapest day to fly.

## HOTEL HOP

Feel like treating yourself to a fancy hotel but can't justify the price for a long weekend? Split your next city stay across two hotels: splurge on one and budget

for the other. Not only are you likely to save money but you'll also see two different parts of town.

## PRIORITISE

Don't go to Rome or Paris for a long weekend with a million things to tick off your list – you're likely to leave feeling as though the time flew by in an anxiety-fuelled rush. Instead, pick one or two sites and dedicate a whole day to them. You can explore the surrounding areas during any extra time without feeling pressured or stressed, and it will give you more insight into the city than rushing from place to place.

## TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Expedia's report doesn't only show a shift in flying habits, it also offers insights into the best time to commit to a break. Sunday is the cheapest day to book flights, and the most affordable booking window for domestic economy flights is 31 to 45 days before departure. Meanwhile, international travellers can save £93 on average by booking economy flights 15 to 30 days ahead, compared with six months before their departure date. The moral of the story? Don't book too early – or leave it too late.

HELLO! WORLD

# THE FAMILY HACK



The pristine waters of Fethiye and (this page) the Chai Mai bar inside the XO Cape Arna, an idyllic pool at the hotel and a soothing suite



## TURQUOISE COAST, TURKEY

The cost-of-living crisis combined with rocketing prices in the school holidays is a challenge for families looking to get away, but rising costs don't have to mean scrapping the international trip entirely. A shorter break allows for a taste of the sun in a more affordable way. Time it right and you can find savings on long weekends that don't involve sneaking the kids out of school or using up your annual leave.

### GO ALL-INCLUSIVE

All-inclusive hotels are a great way of managing your budget, and although these resorts can get a bit claustrophobic during a week-long stay, a long weekend isn't lengthy enough for the trip to start feeling stale.

Warmer destinations such as Cyprus and Turkey are topping the charts as some of British travellers' preferred holiday spots, and swapping a summer stay for spring could save your family hundreds – if not thousands – of pounds.

### CRUNCH THE NUMBERS

When we researched a four-star holiday on Turkey's Turquoise Coast during August, we found a three-night all-inclusive package, including flights from London, at Tui Blue Tropical costing £761 per person (£3,044 for a family of four) over the August bank holiday. An identical package for the second bank holiday in May, during half-term, cost £635 per person (£2,540) – that's a saving of £504.

The highest price for a long weekend in August hit £973 per person (£3,890) – a difference of £1,350 compared with May.

Even those with bigger budgets can find great savings. The five-star XO Cape Arna in Fethiye, where the sisters and TV personalities Sam Faiers and Billie Shepherd enjoyed a family holiday last summer, costs £670 per night for an all-inclusive family room over the second May bank holiday. In August, the price jumps to £979 per night.

### BEAT THE HEAT

For those with young children, an early long weekend has another huge advantage: the average daytime temperature in the region in May is a pleasant 25°C. In August, the mercury sits around 33°C, which can prove much more challenging.

**HOW TO DO IT:** Three nights at Tui Blue Tropical start at £635 per person (including flights). Four nights at XO Cape Arna Fethiye start at £670 per person (excluding flights). Both are all-inclusive over the second May bank holiday weekend.



# ACT FAST



## NEW YORK, US

When it comes to major events, the earlier you can book your trip the better. This year, Independence Day falls on a Saturday and the celebrations are set to be bigger than ever, with the US marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, so hotels are already filling up and flight prices are on the rise.

### JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS

In New York, nautical enthusiasts will be able to see the Parade of Sail, featuring more than 30 tall ships from around the world sailing up the Hudson River. End the day by watching Macy's Fourth of July fireworks display.

If you want a prime seat for the fireworks but don't want to contend with crowds, The Fleur Room rooftop bar on the 35th floor of Moxy Chelsea has unbeatable views. Its glass-enclosed lounge boasts a 360-degree panorama of the skyline, from the Statue of Liberty to the Empire State Building, and retractable window walls can transform the space into an al-fresco veranda.

As you might expect, demand for the weekend is high and the hotel is already fully booked, so it's worth snagging a table here and finding a base nearby. The neighbouring Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites New York Manhattan/Chelsea still has rooms available, with all of the advantages of being close to the High Line, Midtown, Times Square and the Hudson.

### MAKE SAVVY CHOICES

A jaunt to New York for a weekend – even a long one – is not for the faint-hearted. You're likely to find yourself taking a red-eye on the way back, and if you do have the budget travelling in business class is worth it. Nobody returns from the city that never sleeps feeling entirely rested, but at least the lie-flat, self-contained space offered by British Airways Club Suite means you'll feel a bit more human when you return to real life.

**HOW TO DO IT:** A King room at the Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites New York Manhattan/Chelsea starts at £1,040 from 3 to 6 July ([marriott.com](http://marriott.com)). Tables at The Fleur Room can be booked online; rooms start at £120 per night ([moxychelsea.com](http://moxychelsea.com)). Return business-class flights from London with British Airways start at £3,271, with economy flights from £650 ([ba.com](http://ba.com)).

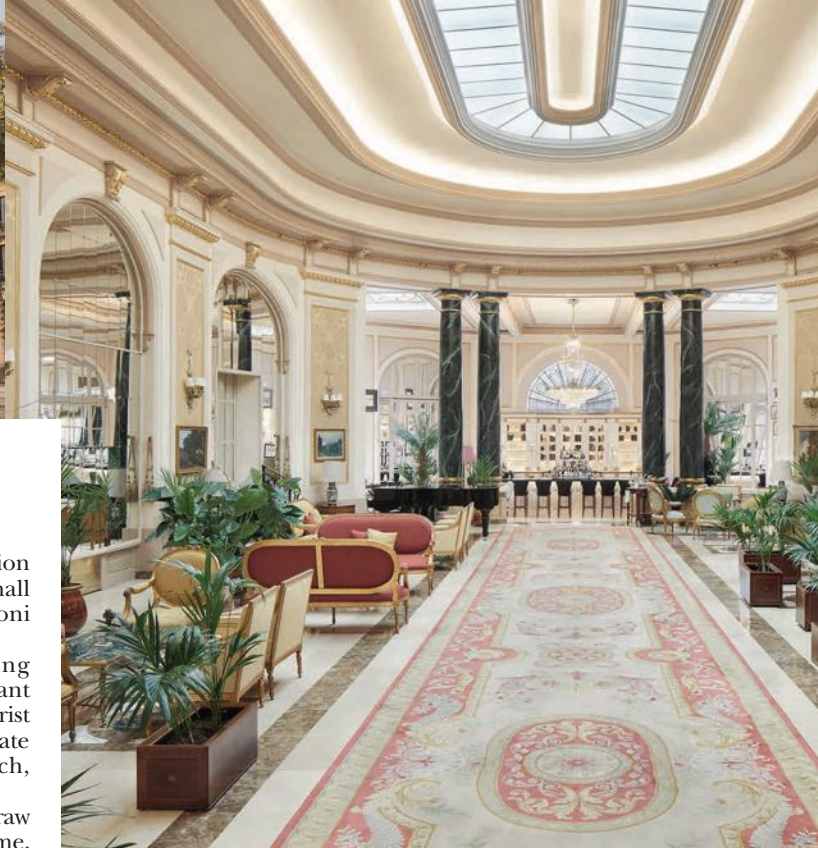
A room at the Moxy Chelsea offers stunning views, while The Conservatory (below) is a nod to the hotel's location in New York's Flower District. Tall ships on the Hudson River (right) and some of the city's glittering skyscrapers (facing page)



HELLO! WORLD



HELLO! WORLD



MASTER SHOULDER SEASON  
BARCELONA, SPAIN

Barcelona has been named the Unesco and International Union of Architects' World Capital of Architecture 2026, in no small part because this year marks the 100th anniversary of Antoni Gaudi's death.

There's an abundance of cultural events happening throughout the city to mark the occasion, the most significant being the blessing and inauguration of the Tower of Jesus Christ on 10 June. Led by Pope Leo XIV, the ceremony will celebrate the architectural completion of the Sagrada Família church, Gaudi's most famous work.

Although the event promises to be significant, it's likely to draw huge crowds and result in heavily inflated hotel prices. For some, it could be worth planning to visit Barcelona for a long weekend during the shoulder season later in the year.

Not only will you avoid the crowds and beat the heat, but there will also be a host of other cultural spectacles to enjoy, from Barcelona Gallery Weekend and La Mercè festival in September to the 48h Open House, a weekend of free guided tours, in October.

**HOW TO DO IT:** The El Palace Barcelona hotel has been an icon since it opened in 1919. Double rooms start at £800 for a long weekend (Saturday to Monday) in October ([hotelpalacebarcelona.com](http://hotelpalacebarcelona.com)). Numerous airlines serve Barcelona from the UK, with long-weekend flights starting at £55 return.



Barcelona is celebrating the architectural completion of Gaudi's Sagrada Família church. Top: Plaça Reial, and the Great Hall in the El Palace Barcelona hotel



## LIVE LIKE ROYALTY BURFORD, COTSWOLDS

You don't have to travel far to feel as though you've had a break. According to Booking.com, more than a quarter of us are planning more weekend domestic trips compared with 2025. After a bleak, wet winter, the weather over the Easter break helped to remind us just how spectacular the UK can be when the sun shows up.

If you've always wanted to live like royalty but haven't been able to afford the rent, it's possible to get a taste of the finer things in life – even if just for a weekend. Set on a working stock farm near Burford in the ever-popular Cotswolds, King John's Palace sleeps up to 12 people and welcomes dogs. This former royal hunting lodge is now a Grade II\*-listed farmhouse and comes with a sauna and games room. Refreshingly, the price is the same no matter which weekend you choose.

If you're looking to explore a different corner of the UK, Classic Cottages has sections on its website for last-minute stays and special offers. Keep an eye on these and you could save up to 50% on your next break.

**HOW TO DO IT:** Three nights at King John's Palace start at £2,913 for up to 12 guests ([classic.co.uk](http://classic.co.uk)).



The Grade II\*-listed King John's Palace, a former royal hunting lodge, sits on a working stock farm



Boats off the island of Capri, near Naples, which is preparing to host the America's Cup



## PLAN (REALLY FAR) AHEAD NAPLES, ITALY

If you're looking to catch major sporting events such as the Louis Vuitton 38th America's Cup, it's worth planning ahead. The first preliminary regatta heads to Sardinia in May, but all eyes will be on Naples for the main event in July 2027.

It will be the first time that the world's oldest international sporting trophy has made it to Italy, and the boats cruising the waters in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius are sure to provide a spectacle.

The Romeo Napoli hotel enjoys a prime waterfront location and its views over the Gulf of Naples make it an excellent base.

The dining is exceptional, with Il Ristorante Alain Ducasse Napoli having already been awarded a Michelin star; the five-course Primizia menu is exquisite.

Other highlights include two rooftop pools with views of the harbour and La Spa by Sisley Paris,

where you can indulge in phyto-aromatic and Kneipp therapies that combine wellness rituals with aromatherapy.

**HOW TO DO IT:** Double rooms at Romeo Napoli start at £482 ([theromeocollection.com](http://theromeocollection.com)). Flights for July 2027 are not yet on sale, but numerous airlines serve the airport; long-weekend flights start at £113 return.



## RAPALLO, ITALY

An unconventional but ever-so-chic destination for a long weekend, Grand Hotel Bristol is the Italian Riviera's most captivating pastel-pink retreat. This five-star hotel is a grand Liberty-style villa, blending turn-of-the-century charm with a contemporary pulse.

Among the 80 rooms and suites, the crown jewels are the Signature Suites, which reopened in April and offer expansive terraces and living spaces.

You can also enjoy a Michelin-recommended rooftop restaurant, poolside pizzas and an exclusive beach club, making this the place to be for a weekend of living la dolce vita.

*Reservations are open; visit [rcollectionhotels.it](http://rcollectionhotels.it)*

# SEIZE THE WEEKEND

*For long weekends that offer elegance on demand, these are the stays to have on your radar*



## AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Compact, walkable and endlessly picturesque, Amsterdam is perfect for a long weekend that balances exploring and panache. And when it comes to where you stay, The College Hotel, part of Marriott's Autograph collection, is a storied establishment in a magnificent 19th-century school building that's worth your attention.

With 130 years of memories etched into its brickwork and 40 unique rooms, this is a place where no guest is a stranger and every stay is personal. Combining stylish design with a sophisticated level of service, the hotel feels both grand and intimately welcoming.

*Reservations are open; visit [marriott.com](http://marriott.com)*



## MARBELLA, SPAIN

A long weekend in Marbella offers a perfect mix of luxury and relaxation – especially when you stay at Club Med. Nestled at the foot of the Sierra Blanca mountains, this sun-drenched oasis is set within 12 acres of lush gardens, yet is just a stone's throw from the city centre.

The resort is a lesson in versatility, catering seamlessly to both couples and families. As part of the all-inclusive package, guests can play padel, lounge by the beach-club-themed lagoon pool, retreat to the adults-only Zen Zone and explore a world of flavour across two restaurants serving local and international fare.

*Reservations are open; visit [clubmed.co.uk](http://clubmed.co.uk)*

# DIRECTORY



## PARIS, FRANCE

Perched on the prestigious Rue Saint-Honoré in the City of Love, the Mandarin Oriental in Paris offers a perfectly romantic long weekend. The hotel is a love letter to the 21st-century fashion capital, Parisian elegance colliding with oriental influences to create an aesthetic that seems to have come straight from a couture runway.

It's home to 135 rooms and suites that are among the most spacious in Paris, all with panoramic windows and some with outdoor terraces overlooking the indoor garden. Whether you're sipping cocktails in the avant-garde bar or wandering the lush hidden patio, you can truly relax.

*Reservations are open; visit [mandarinoriental.com](http://mandarinoriental.com)*



## FLORENCE, ITALY

Set across two palaces in the heart of Florence, Four Seasons Hotel Firenze is the place to visit for a long weekend in the birthplace of the Renaissance. Ideal for a stay steeped in history, the suites have original frescoes and architectural details that echo Florence's golden age.

Outside, the property borders one of the city's largest private gardens, complete with a quiet enclave of statues, fountains and centuries-old trees. There's also a focus on contemporary luxury, from Michelin-starred cuisine – you are in the capital of Italy's famous Tuscany region, after all – to a spa inspired by local traditions.

*Reservations are open; visit [fourseasons.com](http://fourseasons.com)*

## COTSWOLDS, ENGLAND

The Cotswolds is the UK's most sought-after destination for a staycation, and few retreats offer an oasis in this part of the country quite like The Lakes By Yoo.

Set amid 850 acres of lakes, meadows and woodlands in the idyllic countryside, the three-bedroom lakeside apartments provide a home from home.

At the retreat's heart is The Lakes Bar & Kitchen, which hosts supper clubs, pizza nights and warming Sunday roasts, and the award-winning Spa by Yoo, featuring an indoor pool and elite treatments by the renowned Dr Barbara Sturm.

But the true magic lies outdoors. Whether you're wild swimming, cycling through the forest or paddleboarding at dawn, the estate enables you to reconnect with nature all weekend long.

*Reservations are open; visit [thelakesbyyoo.com](http://thelakesbyyoo.com)*





MY LITTLE LUXURIES

# Laura Brown

*The fashion tastemaker shares her take on luxury – fresh orchids, mini-breaks in Mexico City and a top-flight skincare routine*

**J**ournalist-turned-campaigner Laura Brown was formerly the editor-in-chief of InStyle magazine and has chaired the (RED) Creative Council since 2023.

She is co-author of the book *All the Cool Girls Get Fired*, which won praise from celebrities including Oprah Winfrey and Naomi Watts last year, and is now co-hosting a new podcast of the same name.

Still a formidable force in fashion, she commands an audience of more than half a million followers on Instagram and continues to collaborate with leading brands, most recently on a capsule collection with the luxury ready-to-wear swimwear label Vanessa Sposi.

Laura is based in New York City.

simply the Active Botanical Serum by Vintner's Daughter. It smells like a dream.

**I love any sort of shirt**, so I love Schostal Originals in Rome for shirts and pyjamas.

**My favourite piece of jewellery** is my Stella engagement ring, from the brilliant Australian jeweller Canturi.

**Australia is my ultimate** long-haul destination. It's my homeland and the most beautiful country on earth. There is no greater luxury than going home.

## 'LUXURY AT HOME IS FRESH FLOWERS, ALWAYS'

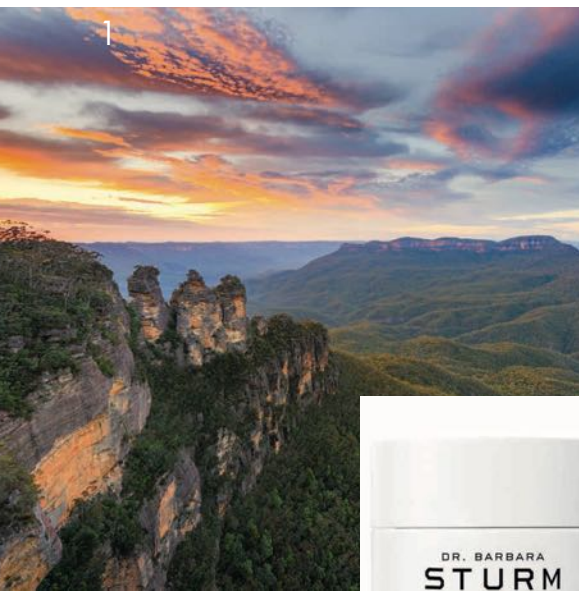
**For a mini-break**, it's Mexico City. I'm obsessed with the culture, design and food. Every time I go, I'm reminded of how much else there is to explore.

**I always pack** a small Diptyque candle in my travel bag to make foreign places feel more familiar. In summer, I also pack my Vanessa Sposi swimsuit.

**Luxury at home** is fresh flowers, always. They don't need to be fancy, but they make all the difference.

**I don't really elevate** a cosy night in. The point of cosiness is comfort, so I'd probably wear sweatpants and my LB-monogrammed cardigan by the designer Suzie Kondi.

**And for cooking...** what cooking? Actually, I bought two grand goblets from an ecclesiastical tailoring house in Rome. Only for the good wine!



**For me, a luxury night** is a night in. But for a fancy night out, I love the Polo Bar in New York. It's gracious and fun, and there's always a sense of occasion.

**My favourite luxurious meal** is one of the simplest: a giant bowl of spaghetti pomodoro.

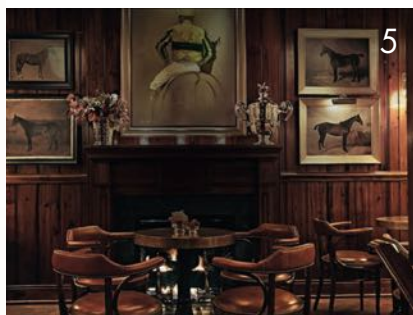
**My biggest indulgence** is fresh orchids for my apartment, and lots of them.

**I love fresh flowers** from a local deli, especially when the daffodils arrive at the end of winter and the beginning of spring. There's nothing better.

**My last splurge** was something I co-designed – a leopard-print silk caftan from my collaboration with the French designer Vanessa Sposi. It falls perfectly and makes you feel as though you're in a Helmut Newton shoot.

**My luxury beauty routine** involves washing my face with Tata Harper's Regenerating Cleanser, then using Beauty Counter's vitamin C serum followed by Barbara Sturm's day cream. At night, I use Barbara Sturm's Enzyme Cleanser, Shani Darden's retinol serum and Augustinus Bader's cream, or

1. Australia, Laura's homeland 2. Vanessa Sposi The New Bustier, £238 3. Tata Harper Regenerating Cleanser, £84 4. Dr Barbara Sturm Face Cream, £150 5. The Polo Bar at the Ralph Lauren Restaurant, New York 6. Vintner's Daughter Active Botanical Serum, £205



AS TOLD TO BECKY DONALDSON. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES. MAXIME TETARD. THE LAURA BROWN X VANESSA SPOSI COLLECTION IS OUT NOW. VANESSASPOSI.COM/EN



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