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A PRINCE FOR OUR TIMES

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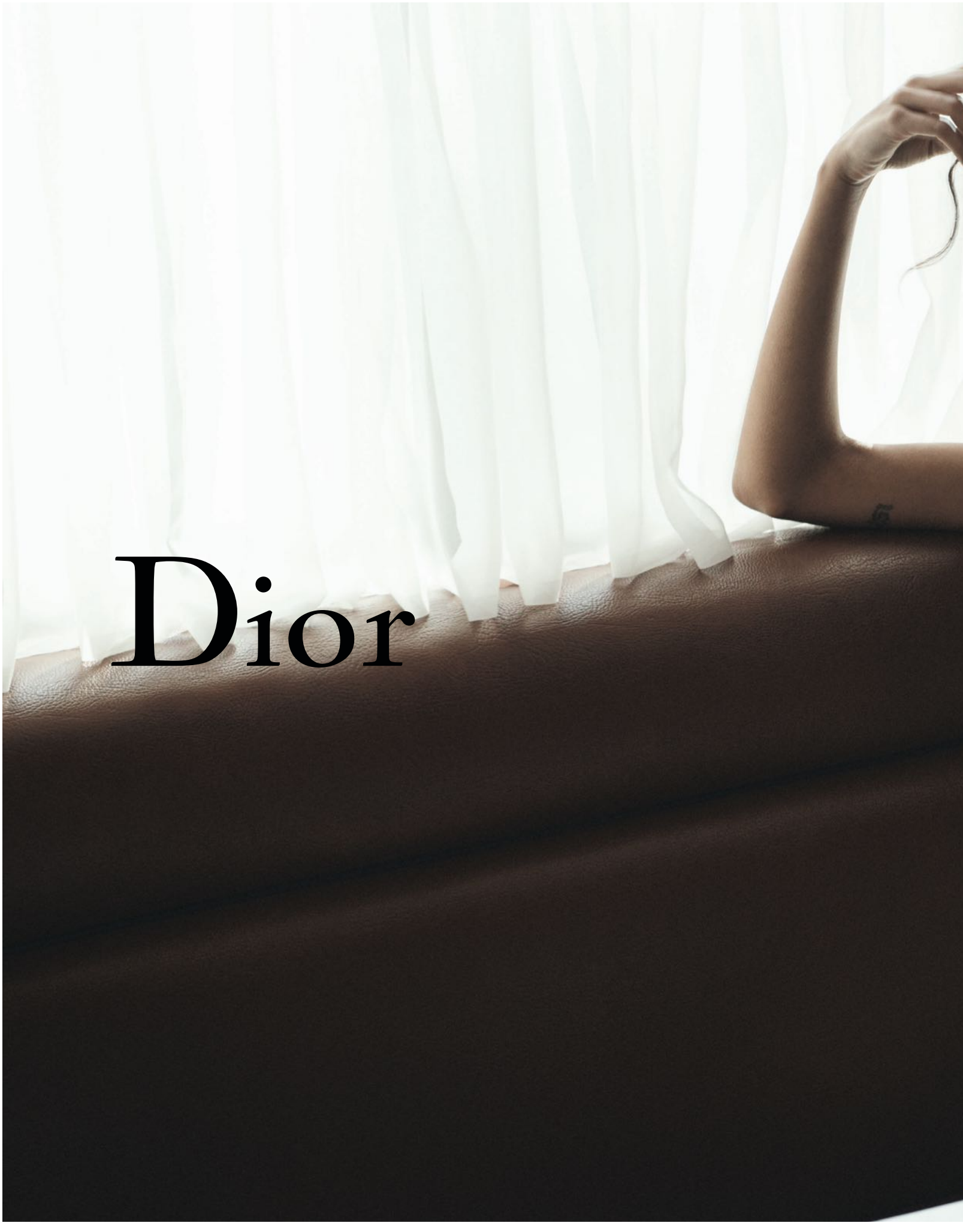
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A ruckus on the Riviera, page 104

Painting the future king, page 64

Anyone for Venice? Page 26

The mogul wears Holland Cooper, page 72

Tatler contents

BYSTANDER

26 ***More is amore***
Four-day festivities and a grand marriage in Venice

28 ***Gale-force glamour***
Sienna de Gale's gilded 21st birthday celebrations

31 ***RSVP, pliés***
The Newports host a black-tie ballet dinner at Weston Park

32 ***I propose a toast…***
Sophie Stanbury finds time to get engaged at her own 50th

33 ***Riding off into the sunset***
The Shepherd-Cross's romcom-worthy wedding in West Sussex

34 ***That's so lit***
Read the room: it's books all the way for the beau monde

39 ***A woman in a Mann's world***
How society wild child Erika Mann became a dogged witness to world history

43 ***Near-deaf experience***
Why, asks Simon Mills, can't society just KEEP IT DOWN?

44 ***Behind the mask***
The spectacle and scandal of Georgian masquerades

51 ***The Book of Jonah (and Lily)***
Who had pop star Lily Allen and a Freud scion on their bingo card to be the hottest new couple?

53 ***Home of Simpson's***
Fay Maschler dines like a queen at chess's most famous address

55 ***Lock, stock***
Chandler Tregaskes doffs a cap to society's favourite milliner

FASHION

59 ***I'm in chains***
Add glittering gold-link jewellery to really shine in glamorous circles

60 ***Trends in high places***
Brit and beautiful: on-point dressing for the English summer season

78 ***Chapeau!***
Hats reach new heights of splendour in chic creations that deserve top billing

Top hats: Tatler fashion, page 78

How to get ahead in Washington, page 92

And just like hat, Lock & Co turns 350 years old, page 55

Lit in London: read all about it, page 34

Contents

FEATURES

64 ***Palette to palace***
Artist Oluwole Omofemi turns his brush to the Prince of Wales

72 ***Self-made Jade***
Inside Jade Holland Cooper's £10 million Cotswolds HQ

92 ***Welcome to the Swamp***
Katy Balls' year in DC, from Maga parties to Melania's motorcade

98 ***Lens flair***
Hugo Burnand's journey from Bystander to Buckingham Palace

104 ***Don't Menton the war***
Storm, scandals and a Cocteau conflict on the Côte d'Azur

BEAUTY

111 ***Take notes***
Dior's divine new fragrance

112 ***Scents of identity***
Find your perfume personality

TRAVEL

117 ***Moor than meets the eye***
A pilgrimage to Brontë country

121 ***Wuthering looks***
Remote Yorkshire boltholes

122 ***Cathy specific***
Delilah Khomo reveals her romantic moors must-haves

REGULARS

22 ***Contributors***
We couldn't do it without them

123 ***Address Book***
Like it? Here's where to buy it

136 ***Tatler throwback***
Here come the girls, 1986

ON THE COVER
HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES
Portrait by **OLUWOLE OMOFEMI**

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HOLLAND COOPER

Tatler contributors

Katy Balls

Katy Balls (*left*) reports from Washington DC in this month's issue, as the Washington editor for *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Her work has taken her into some unlikely settings, such as 'a roulette table in a Las Vegas casino, for a conference with Democrats' – proof that politics rarely confines itself to the committee room. Off duty, she admits she has 'an obsession with SoulCycle', having traded Notting Hill for Georgetown. As for a dream drinking companion, her taste is characteristically bold: 'I wouldn't say no to a martini with Richard Nixon,' she says. One suspects she'd get quite the story out of it.

Simon Mills

In this issue, Simon Mills (*above*) takes aim at a very modern bugbear: noise – and far too much of it. For peace, he retreats to 'my garden in the Cotswolds, Kensington Gardens with my dog, Wilma, or a cruise in my Land Rover.' Dining out is a solo affair: 'I love to lunch alone with a crossword puzzle. Hell is other people eating and talking,' he says. The culprit? 'Too much social media, not enough IRL socialising,' he sighs about a world where everything must be 'vocalised, at volume'.

Tomiwa Owolade

This issue's main cover story is in the capable and talented hands of Tomiwa Owolade (*below*), a journalist and author who brings his incisive eye to the life and career of Nigerian artist Oluwole Omofemi and his royal cover portrait of the Prince of Wales. Owolade's reporting has taken him into unexpected territory, 'walking through Glasgow… on the day of King Charles's coronation' amid protests and driving rain. Based in south-east London, Owolade heads to his local, The Ivy House – 'preferably with a friend' – when he closes his notebook for the day. And his ideal dinner companions? Duff Cooper for his flair and intellect, and Declan Rice, 'a really good bloke', to keep things grounded.

Hugo Burnand

For decades, Hugo Burnand (*above*) was the man behind *Tatler*'s most glittering Bystander moments – and now, as the only portrait photographer to hold a Royal Warrant from the King, his lens is as revered as ever. This month, he tells the stories behind his favourite snaps – mostly women in ballgowns dancing on tables and dripping in diamonds. The belle of the ball? 'The Princess of Wales is always stunning.' And his most memorable party? 'Being flown in a private helicopter to Newmarket Racecourse… we guzzled foie gras and brutally chilled champagne.'

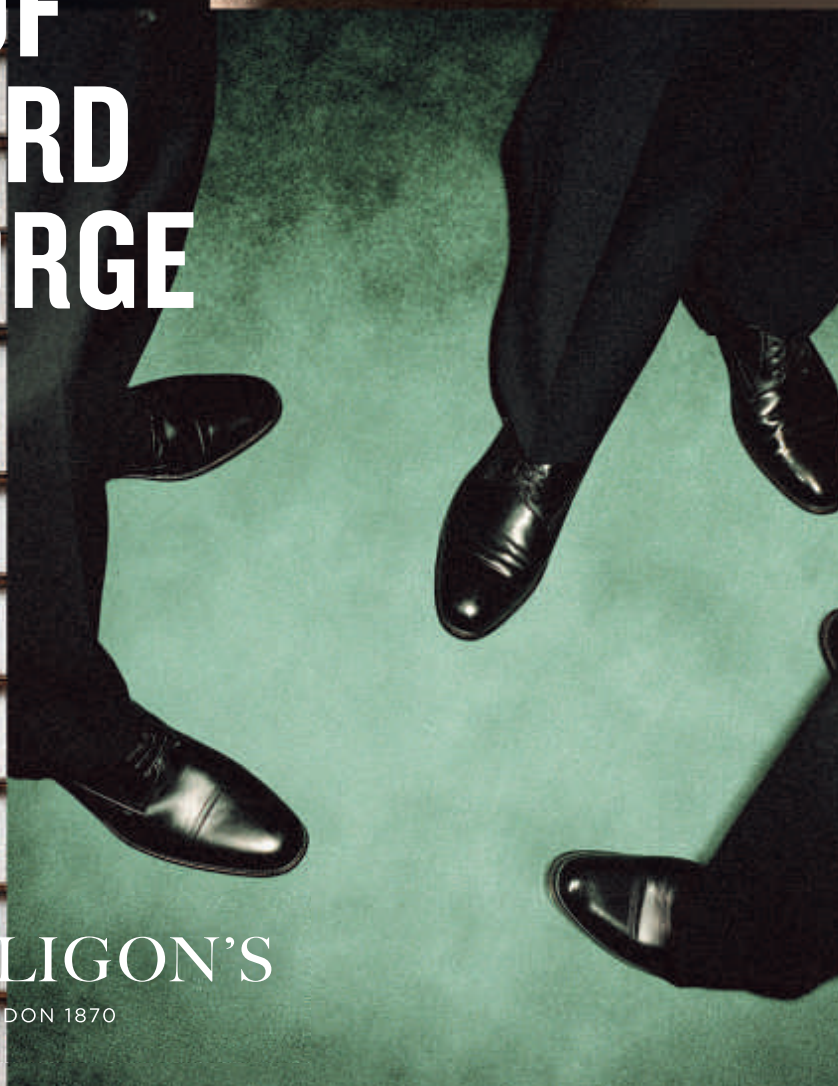
Fay Maschler

Few reopenings have been awaited with such appetite as Simpson's – and few critics are better placed to pass judgement than *Tatler*'s restaurant critic Fay Maschler (*above*). 'As a convent-educated girl, I carry plenty of guilt – but none attached to food,' she says, though she admits to feeling a flicker of mischief when indulging in 'cheap, white sliced bread… with lots of butter'. One pet peeve? An overwritten menu. 'It is not my first rodeo,' she notes, with a hint of sass, about the current restaurant trend for over-explaining dishes.

PHOTOGRAPHS: BARRY MARSDEN; JARED SOARES; SARAH LEE

THE WHO'S WHO OF LONDON

THE TRAGEDY OF LORD GEORGE



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BYSTANDER

Social editor: Davina Chelsea

VENETIAN BLINDER
Childhood sweethearts Alessandro Bonomi and Sofia Strazzabosco took to the water for their wedding in Venice, leaving the church by boat. But who made the biggest splash at their celebrations? See overleaf…

PHOTOGRAPH: THANOS ASFIS

Lucrezia Valle

Mario Strazzabosco & Sofia Bonomi

FULL OF BONOMI

***Photographs by* THANOS ASFIS**

Sofia Strazzabosco – of the old Venetian family – and Alessandro Bonomi's wedding was long-awaited. Ultra-connected through the English boarding-school scene (where they met) and in New York (where they attended NYU), they returned to Venice for a four-day spectacular. Festivities began at the Mercato del Pesce – the fish market – where stalls were replaced by disco balls and a stage, on which the groom's brother sang a song. 'The band had to play him off,' said Sofia, who rotated through gowns by Danielle Frankel, Tomasz Starzewski, Prada and Alaïa. A flower-drenched ceremony followed at the Gesuati, before boats delivered 350 guests – including equestrian Sabina St John and her daughter India McTaggart, and Heather Kerzner – to the Arsenale for Brooklyn beats 'til dawn. The finale took place at Harry's Dolci, with a restorative Sunday brunch.

Caroline Bell & Giberto Borromeo

Tania Bryer & Heather Kerzner

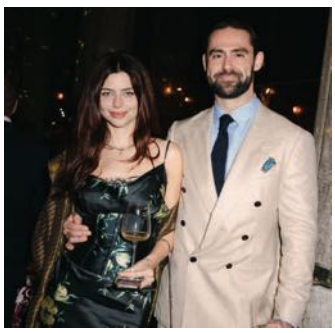
Gioia & Andrea Bonomi

Valeska Schliemann

Emma Roig Askari & Karen Groos

Tassilo Bonomi

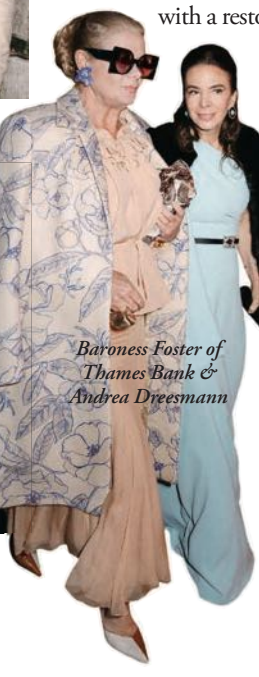
Julian Metcalfe



Natalia Gierowska & Nicolas Mavroleon

Madelyn Monti Saravalle

Lodovico Borromeo



Baroness Foster of Thames Bank & Andrea Dreesmann

Ilana Wolfson & Leslie Antell

Rebecca Menichella

Alessandro Bonomi

Ferdinand de Biolley & Faye Henderson

Leonardo Della Valle & Agnese Benetton

Karina de Brabant Brignone & Michael Chandris

Bianca Strazzabosco & Giovanni Poma

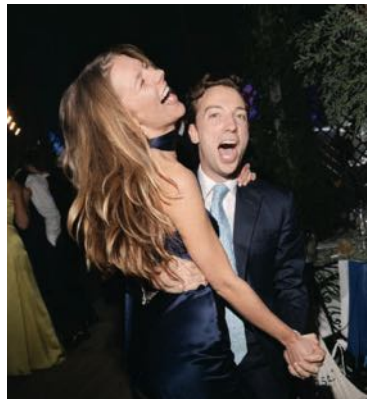
Amanda Lougee & Lorenzo Daffina

India McTaggart & Mark Frankel

Tatiana Bonomi, Sara Tazares & Sky Bonan

Emil Fattal & Alex Malin

Beatrice Vincenzini & Brooke Metcalfe



Louise Starr & Tancredi Pucci

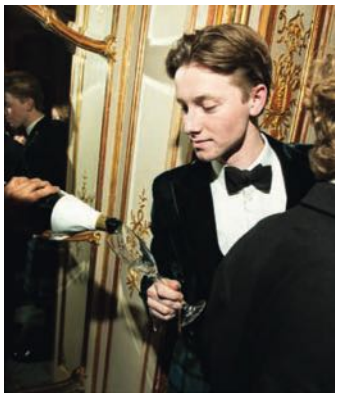
Rolf Sachs

Allegra Hicks & Caroline Frankel

Marina Hoffmann & Juliette Haroche

Gloria Vanni Calvello Mantegna

Charlie & Sarah Ayres, Crown Prince Pavlos & Crown Princess Marie Chantal of Greece



Felix Taylor

Emilia Miarkowska, George Longstaff & Sophia Miarkowska

Christian Lovisetto

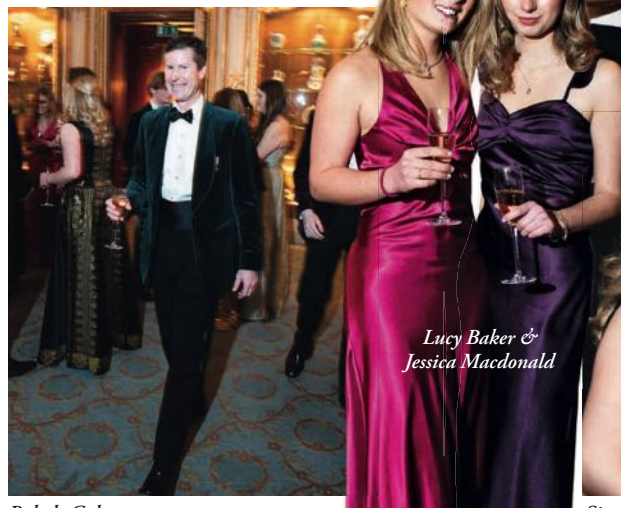
Alice Hay

Caroline Banks McGill & Joanna Banks

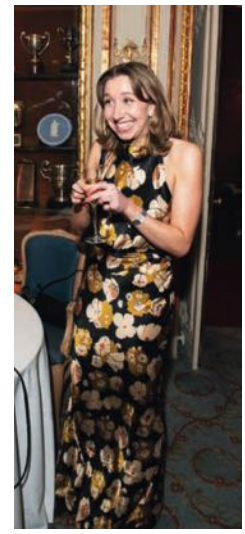
SAVILE UNREST

***Photographs by* HUBERT CECIL**

Sienna de Gale marked her 21st birthday with panache in the Savile Club's Louis XVI-style ballroom. Festivities kicked off with pre-drinks at the Cavalry & Guards Club, before she and her 124 guests – fellow Exeter graduates and friends from her old stomping ground, Tudor Hall – moved on to champagne in the Savile's gilded dining room, then a beef Wellington supper in the glittering ballroom. Downstairs in the Sandpit, DJ Poppi kept the dancefloor packed, while wads of fake cash were thrown about at the roulette tables, with tequila-lime sodas in generous supply. Ed Brook Shanahan expertly rallied the crowd for a photograph on the sweeping staircase as Ollie Turner and Old Uppinghamian Rafferty May choreographed the throng. Sienna's debutante friends from her coming-out ball in Vienna stole the show on the dancefloor before the final 15 slipped off to Luxx Club at 2am.



Bob de Gale

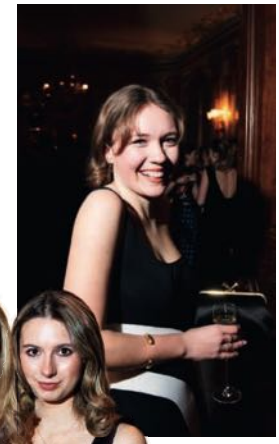


Maddie May Baird

Alex Leitch & William Somers

Lara Marsh & Camilla Cotterell

William de Gale



Scarlett Fowler

Kit Hobbs & Emily Jennings

Lucy Baker & Jessica Macdonald

Sienna de Gale & Emma Tomes

Charlotte Sewell & Tricia Ronane

Jemima Beadman & Kinara Pritchard

Colonel Sacha Tomes

Carlo Masera & Isabella Baillieu

Hendrik Ashbrooke & Amelia Surtees

Robbie Slater

James Palmer-Jeffery & Jasper Tomes

Flossie Butler-Adams

The Hon Alexander Stuart

Iona Salvesen & Isobel Melville-Ross

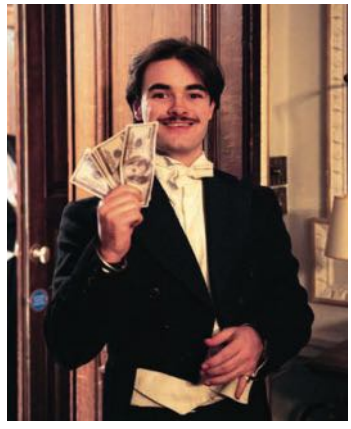
Nick Leeming

The Hon Christian Brassey & Isabel Kindlemann

Jack Ramsay

Emily Fox & Henry Roskill

Sofia Kazimierczak



Ollie Turner

MESSIKA
PARIS

Maya Berkour

Clive Owen

Maxine Laceby

The Duchess of Roxburghe

Birmingham Royal Ballet dancers Yu Kurihara & Yasiel Hodelín Bello

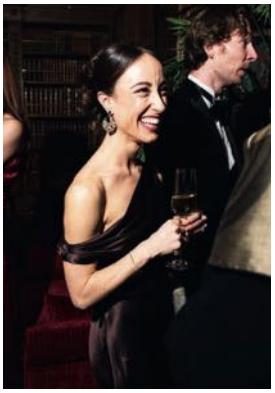
RAISING THE BARRE

***Photographs by* HUBERT CECIL**

Weston Park served as a suitably grand stage for the Birmingham Royal Ballet. 'My great-grandparents were formidable party-givers,' said Alexander Newport, hosting 90 guests for a Venetian-themed black-tie dinner to raise funds for the company. No detail was spared by his wife, Eliza – a BRB ambassador who was fittingly dressed in ballet pink – so red flowers adorned the ornate dining room as Annie Roxburghe and Clive Owen laughed over chocolate mousse. After a first glimpse of *The Maiden of Venice* (a sumptuous new production by Carlos Acosta), Tom Best led the auction, which saw financier Josh Cleveland and Sean Arnold locked in a bidding war for a child's ballet lesson. Amaretto nightcaps followed, before Acosta took to his feet and proceeded to pirouette through the hall in black tie. Timothée Chalamet could never.

Roma Phulwani & Alexis Lenhart

Edoardo Nappi



Beatrice Palmer

Carlos Acosta

Marina & Harry Mundy

The Duke of Roxburghe

Mason King

The Countess of Moray

Nina Godinho

Viscount & Viscountess Newport

Chloe Wallace & Hannah Joseph

Dr Rachel Thomas & Yfke Mackay

Julia Jones & Abby Turner

Ali Spencer-Churchill & Amy Dixon

Lohralee Astor

Brian Nebozuk & Ophelia Hobler

Myriam Armstrong

RINGING IN 50

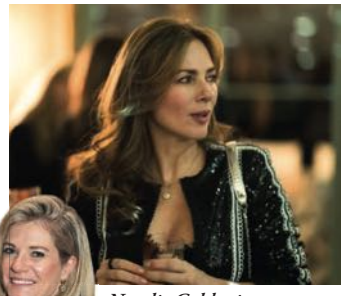
***Photographs by* MARCUS DAWES**

Sophie Stanbury's 50th birthday celebration at Daylesford's Heritage House drew a chic, far-flung crowd from places like Abu Dhabi, Dubai, New York and London, neatly spliced with the Cotswolds set, including David Cameron, Will Astor and his wife, Lohralee, looking chic in black. Birthday toasts were promptly upstaged by Sophie's engagement to financier Mark Wilson, whose speech ('I knew from the moment I met her…') was so sweetly adoring, one wondered what he might have left for the wedding. Guests enjoyed grilled meat, tacos, salads and a cake crowned with miniatures of Sophie, Mark, and their dog and horse, followed by dancing to band Wandering Hands's old-country tunes. And the true sign of a good party? Everyone swapping numbers over late-night croque monsieurs.

Ludo Setten & Thibault Lheritier

Lady Emily Horner

Archie Soames & Tom Aikens


Natalie Goldstein

Natalie Pinkham

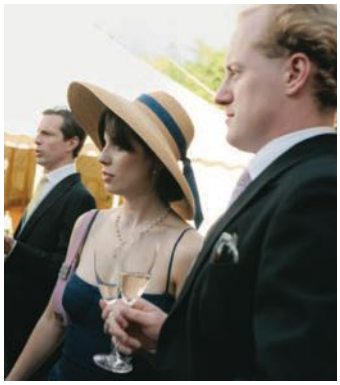
Mark Wilson & Sophie Stanbury

Juliet Mayhew & Carolina Fisken

Pinky Laing & Harriet Gladwin

Astrid Harbord

Hughie Shepherd-Cross & Olivia Owen



Phoebe Finn & Lucas Jones

Lucy & James Rothman

Hally Rothman

George Bruce & Max Findlay

CROSS MY HEART

***Photographs by* KATRINA BARTLAM**

Blessed by 30°C West Sussex heat, the wedding of Emily Rothman and Jack Shepherd-Cross was nothing short of idyllic. Held at the bride's family home in Balcombe, proceedings were charmingly traditional – until the newlyweds left the church on horseback, trotting through two village cricket matches. (Any objections were short-lived, as Emily's father plays for the local team.) After a heartfelt speech, with Jack producing a guitar and serenading his bride, the couple ran down the hill for tea and a breather before dinner in the marquee. Hughie Shepherd-Cross – best man, brother and witty playwright – had everyone howling ahead of the couple's first dance: a gloriously eccentric Scottish reel called 'Calliope meets Frank'. Not surprisingly, the subsequent thank-you letters were full of Richard Curtis references.

Lady Henrietta Stanley & Gwenyth Audran

Iona Godfrey-Faussett

Theodore Hayes

Angus Shepherd-Cross

Anna Campbell

Piaras Moore & Emily & Jack Shepherd-Cross

Edmund Fitzalan Howard

Henry Brooke & Lydia Chapman

THE L-IT CROWD

Pubs? Passé. DJs? Done. These days Gen Z has its nose in a book. Meet the young guns bringing a party-loving spirit to the London literary scene

By **DORA DAVIES-EVITT**

IT'S 8PM ON A FRIDAY IN east London and the floorboards of the Rose Lipman Building are creaking under the weight of beautiful twentysomethings holding half-consumed glasses of wine, shuffling towards chairs surrounding round tables. Laughter gives way to silence as a red curtain rises on stage. A spotlight glows above a piano as a man in a black suit and red tie clears his throat and looks down at his pages…

If you were hoping for a DJ and a dancefloor – typical of a night out in the area – you've taken a wrong turn. This is a reading.

Once upon a time, reading was considered a solitary vice: the preserve of the introverted, the socially awkward, the guest who waved away another round because they were 'halfway through something'. Now? Reading *is* the party. Paperbacks – dog-eared, underlined, coffee-stained – are enjoying a renaissance. Whisper it, but the bookworms are running the room.

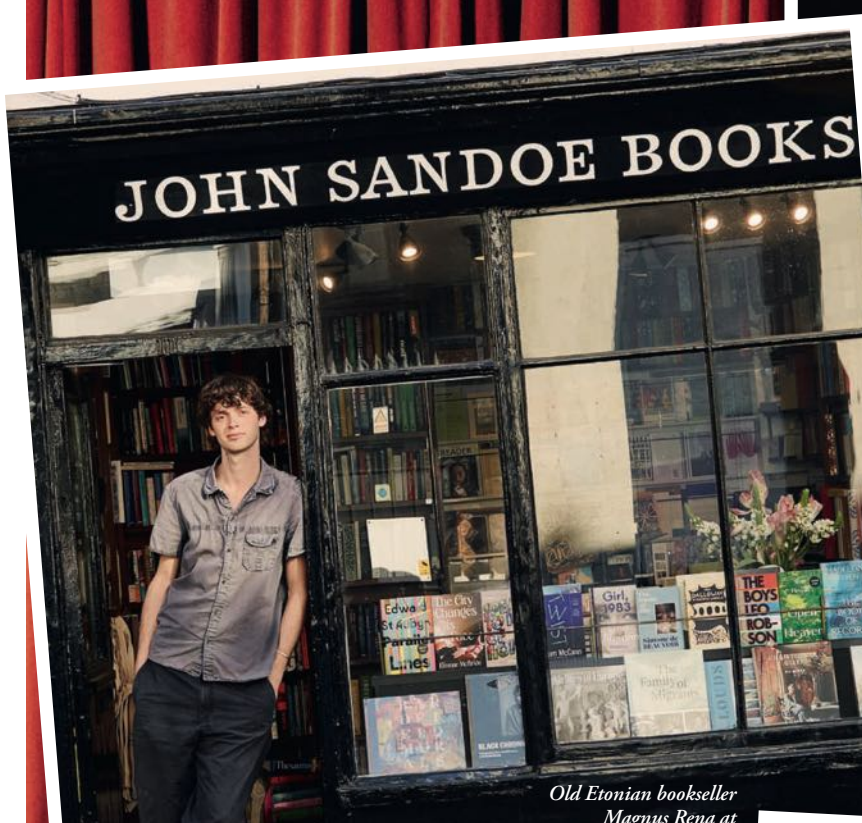
The London literary scene – once thought to be confined to the polite hush of Bloomsbury and the occasional stuffy sitting-room launch – has burst into technicolour. It's loud, it's performative, it's a right hoot. It involves improv house bands, stage designers, private members' clubs and, indeed, a fair amount of drinking.

At the centre of this revival stands Tom Willis, 32, founder of Soho Reading Series, PR man by day, literary impresario by night. If London has a ringmaster of its new bookish glamour, it is him. 'It feels like a party,' he says, simply. It's true, turn up at any reading in London and the high-energy spaces are filled with flirting, peacocking, sometimes dancing.

Willis started Soho Reading Series at 29, after a year at Yale and several months in New York. There, he had found a literary culture that was less cardigan-and-corner-lamp and more brownstone blowout. 'Hotel ballrooms, celebrity writers, It kids – all partying together because of books,' he tells *Tatler*. He wanted to bring that American energy back to London.

And he did, in spades. The early Soho Reading Series events were bold. For the first, The Groucho Club gave him two floors. Friends invited friends. The setting had the glamour of a private gallery view, with girls in LBDs and designer heels from Vinted. Another venue has been India Rose James's Soho Revue gallery on Greek Street. The evenings unfurl with welcome drinks and an introduction by Tom before writers take to the stage to read their work. Most recently, Willis held a launch with Gen Z novelist Madeline Cash for her debut, *Lost Lambs*. 'The goal,' Willis says, 'is a healthy literary scene. To bring back that old Soho glamour. Everyone can come!'

They certainly do. Soho Reading Series draws a very *Tatler* crowd: Tish Weinstock, Tom Guinness, Posy and Freya Wood, Issy Solly (a descendant of Lord Byron), the assorted sons and daughters ▷



Old Etonian bookseller Magnus Rena at John Sandoe Books

Sophie Barshall, founder of The Toe Rag

Jonah Freud, who put a bar in his library and bookshop, Reference Point

Reading or rave? Launch of The Kingdom at Lost club

The Toe Rag magazine's DecaDANCE! party

TAKE COVER

Tom Willis, the man driving the new wave of London literary parties

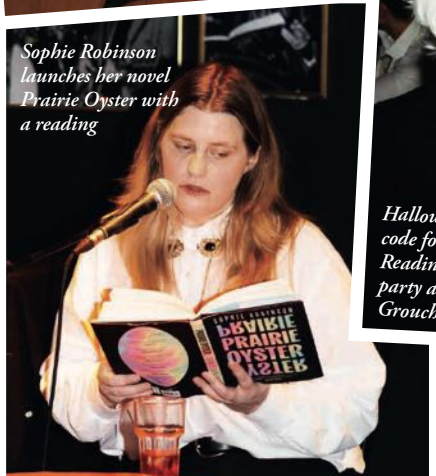
Party energy at a Soho Reading Series launch

Novelist Madeline Cash

Murdoch scion Clem MacLeod, founder of Worms magazine

India Rose James hosts reading events at her contemporary art gallery in Soho

Launch of the fourth issue of the poetry and fiction-based magazine New Papers



Sophie Robinson launches her novel Prairie Oyster with a reading

Halloween dress code for a Soho Reading Series party at The Groucho Club

Artist Elizabeth Dimitroff at a God Save the Scene party

All the world's a page: the original team behind the biannual literary magazine Die Quieter Please. From left, Rene Hrustić, Patricia Carro García, Eleni Papachristodoulou, Frankie Faccion, Will Kaye and Anna Hindmarch

◁ of barons and earls, and the odd downtown critic such as Dean Kissick. Writers including Geoff Dyer, Adam Thirlwell and Susie Boyt have taken to the mic. 'People thank me,' Willis says. 'They've read about old scenes. They want a cultural centre and they want a community.'

'Community' is a word that keeps surfacing among this set. At a time when the pub is no longer cheap and cheerful but eye-wateringly expensive for the young and bohemian, the 'third space' – that zone between home and work – has withered. Now, as one organiser notes, 'there is a special third space', and that space now involves fiction. Take Reference Point, for example, the bar-cum-library started by Matthew Freud's son Jonah, boyfriend of pop star Lily Allen (see page 51), which attracts the likes of Lady Jean Campbell and actor Austin Butler.

In Camberwell, Lala Books has become a magnet for the cool south London crowd – including Nicky Haslam-adjacent aesthete Hugo Beazley. Meanwhile, the Oxfam Bookshop on Bloomsbury Street has quietly supplied half the scene with second-hand paperbacks. Independent magazines – from *Die Quieter Please* to *The Toe Rag* to *New Papers* – are proliferating with the zeal of *samizdat*.

Print, far from dead, feels solid in its fandom. 'It's like the Belle Époque,' says Willis. 'People are staking their reputations and lives on it.' In an era where most cultural output is flattened by the algorithm, there is something subversive about stapling pages together and asking people to sit still and listen. 'Get off your phone,' Willis urges. 'Stop complaining. Go out. Do something and feel alive.' Someone who does get out is intellectual cool girl Clem MacLeod, founder of *Worms*, a biannual literary style magazine that hosts ticketed events for fiction and poetry lovers.

If Soho Reading Series provides the gloss, then Colton Karpman, founder of fiction-based magazine *New Papers* – whose fans include Ishbel Lowther and her cousin Harry (whose family seat is the eponymous castle in Cumbria), and writer Maya Kulukundis – provides the dramaturgy. His project sits at the intersection of page and stage – *New Papers* evenings feel less like recitals and more like comprehensive productions. Here, authors read out what's been published in the latest issue. There are curtains, directors, stage designers. 'Sometimes reading fiction can be dry,' says Karpman, diplomatically. 'We're normally translating it to the stage.'

At their most recent event, they had puppets perform behind a large white sheet. The result was wonderfully eccentric. Latest editions have woven overarching storylines through disparate submissions – complex, slightly madcap, gloriously offline. There are plans to tour: Berlin, Paris, New York. Perhaps even a radio play adaptation.

Submissions are flooding in, hundreds per issue. 'We don't publish about 98 per cent of them,' says Karpman. What began almost accidentally (a magazine started in Oxford, with friends roped in to do typefaces and cover art) has snowballed into something with real gravitational pull. 'It's difficult to avoid when you're in the scene, interested in this stuff,' shrugs Karpman, modestly. 'There's been a ton of write-ups about it and word of mouth, of course.'

Word of mouth is the trick: an editor puts *Tatler* onto Frankie Faccion, founder of *Die Quieter Please*, the biannual, surreal and comedic magazine that is often referenced by insiders. Influenced as much by the Brixton music scene and bands like Black Country, New Road – friends of hers, as it happens – as by canonical fiction, Faccion's launch events are anything but sedate. There is a full improv house band, and readers perform alongside musicians. There is no profit involved. 'I didn't even have a laptop,' says Faccion, who assembled the first issue on a borrowed Mac. 'We don't want to make money from it.'

This sense of literary altruism can be seen, too, in the likes of former Oxford student Sophie Barshall, who founded *The Toe Rag* in 2021. Her aim – so it would seem – was to make London feel local and intriguing; to create an almost low-fi newspaper, like an analogue blog. To find things that are fun – artistic happenings – that genuinely enrich people's lives. Now, *The Toe Rag* has become a bastion of young, cool London, where pixie-haired girls and boys exchange banter over their copies at launches and opposite one another on the Underground. 'I saw four people on the Piccadilly line with a *Toe Rag*,' reads one of the messages flooding Barshall's inbox. Her events are famously wild affairs, saturated with edgy party-goers looking for a good time between eccentric poetry recitals.

Over at John Sandoe Books, the floppy-haired, exceptionally well-read bookseller Magnus Rena is about to launch an architectural magazine. 'What is new [about the scene] is that it has such a limelight on it,' he says, noting that the endeavours of organisers like Willis are suddenly front and centre, refracted through the algorithmic feed. A once-subterranean scene now trends on social media.

And yet the roots run deeper. London has always had its literary circuits, from Bloomsbury's drawing rooms to the Beat generation's bacchanals. What feels different now is the conviviality, the sense that books are not simply to be consumed but inhabited collectively. There is also quiet competition. 'People are pushing each other,' Faccion says. Healthy rivalry equals better events, sharper writing and more ambitious staging.

On any given night, you might find a reading in Notting Hill with a different crowd; in east London behind a red curtain; in Soho with a whiff of old glamour; in Camberwell among art students and tote bags; in a pub in Deptford with a house band and a stack of freshly printed zines. Some come to listen. Some to be seen. Some, allegedly, to date. Most to feel part of something analogue in a digital age. 'Londoners don't believe in their ability to change the city,' Willis says. 'But they can.'

And perhaps that is the real seduction. In a culture flattened by feeds, there is something deliciously defiant about sitting in a creaking hall on a Friday evening, waiting for a man in a black suit to begin. Now *that*'s lit. ☐

PHOTOGRAPHS: AMBER POLLACK; FREDDIE TALBOT; JONATHAN DANIEL PRYCE / THE OBSERVER / EYEVINE; JOSEPH HORTON

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Erika Mann with her father, author Thomas Mann, in Oklahoma, 1939

The dissident DEBUTANTE

How a society wild child became a frontline reporter on history's most consequential trials

By **NATALIE LIVINGSTONE**

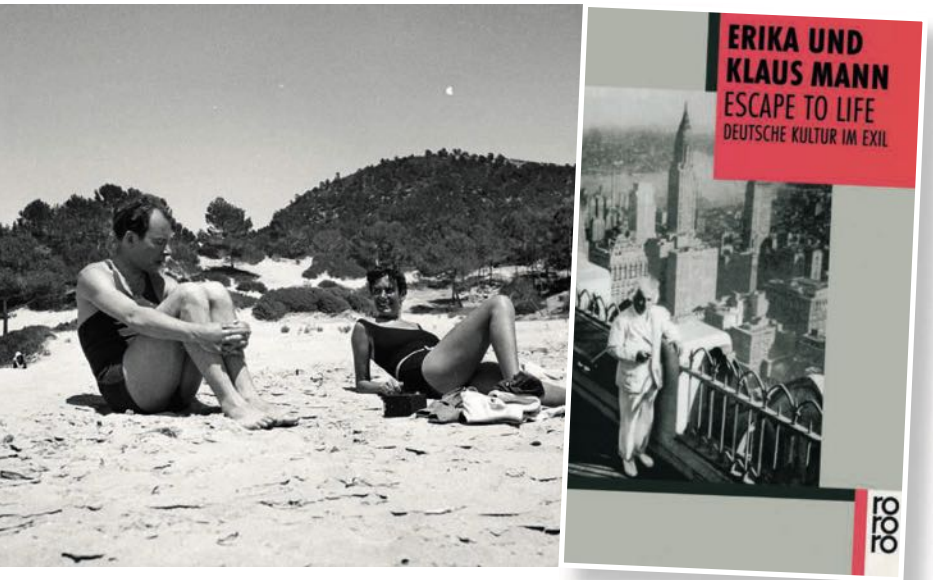
THE NUREMBERG TRIALS and high society are not, one might think, natural bedfellows. The former evokes a war-ravaged city and Hermann Göring's preening in the defendants' box; the latter, a cascade of sparkling parties and the low murmur of gossip. And yet, while researching my book *The Nuremberg Women*, I found myself plunged into a moment when these two worlds collided.

My book tells the story of eight remarkable women who made vital contributions to the most consequential trial of the 20th century. Some of the women I chose to write about were just footnotes in history – interpreters, translators, journalists, witnesses and lawyers – while others came to the city already celebrated, such as the painter Dame Laura Knight and the acclaimed writer Rebecca West. And then there was another, whose name, connections, wealth, flamboyance and political convictions gripped me. That woman was Erika Mann, reporting exclusively for the *Evening Standard*.

Erika was the daughter of Thomas Mann, German literary royalty, winner of the 1929 Nobel Prize for literature and a novelist ▷

SIBLINGS ON STAGE
A scene from Klaus Mann's play 'Anja und Esther', 1925. Erika is first on the left and her brother Klaus is second from right

THE FAST SET
Erika in a Ford sports car, circa 1930. Besides writing, a great passion of hers was driving – she won a 10,000-kilometre rally across Europe



BEACH READ
Klaus and Erika on the beach in Mallorca, 1936. Right, a novel written by the siblings, 1939's 'Escape to Life: Deutsche Kultur im Exil' ('German Culture in Exile')

◁ of global renown. The Manns lived in an extravagant house in Munich at the epicentre of German literati, surrounded by a glittering crowd of artists, writers and philosophers. Erika's country may have been impoverished, but her childhood was gilded.

From a young age, Erika craved the limelight. The Weimar Republic of the post-war years provided more social and artistic freedoms than Germans had ever experienced before, and as Erika grew up, she indulged in them with abandon. More excited by subverting social norms than she was concerned about economic hardship or political storms, and ever the attention seeker, the teenage Erika slotted perfectly into the dissipation and intellectual foment of Weimar Germany. With her outré aesthetic and casual confidence, she quickly became the intellectual It girl of her time.

Erika was the kind of woman who made style look instinctual. Her hair was cropped short, and her androgynous dress sense – oversized jackets and tailored trousers – was invariably accessorised with a dash of trouble. And she had a deliciously transgressive love life to match, gliding from affair to affair with both men and women, openly and with shimmering self-assurance. She wrote prolifically but light-heartedly, penning travel pieces and satirical newspaper articles, and co-authoring a book with her younger brother Klaus – to whom she was extraordinarily close – about their globe-trotting escapades. In America, the brother and sister performed skits as the 'Mann twins' and delighted in copious amounts of American liquor. Their relationship continued to be so close that rumours of incest swirled. Klaus's play *Siblings*, about the sexual bond between a brother and a sister, only fuelled the gossip.

As if the performing, travelling, partying and writing were not enough of a thrill, Erika's other passion was driving – fast. In 1931, she and her friend Ricki Hallgarten entered a 10,000-kilometre cross-European rally, and won.

But while Erika was engaged in this whirl of frivolity, the political climate in Germany was growing sinister. In Munich, in January 1932, she was forced to confront this inescapable truth. A rally at which she had been asked to recite a pacifist poem was violently interrupted by the Nazi Brownshirts, who threw chairs and threatened participants with antisemitic slurs. Later she would point to this moment as one of political awakening; the debutante was morphing into a political force.

In 1933, with a little help from Klaus, she launched the satirical cabaret *Die Pfeffermühle* (*The Peppermill*). Shining a light on what was happening in Germany as it crumbled, the show premiered in Munich and consisted of fairy tales, ballads and children's stories, with Erika as the MC – I've often wondered if she might have been the inspiration for Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, adapted from Christopher Isherwood's novel *Goodbye to Berlin*. It is widely thought that his central muse was the British journalist Jean Ross, but Erika certainly exuded the same chic insouciance that Liza Minnelli made famous.

The month Erika's cabaret opened, Adolf Hitler was sworn in as chancellor of Germany and, at the end of February, the German Reichstag in Berlin was gutted in an arson attack that was blamed on Communist agitators. The Nazis issued emergency legislation, including curbs on freedom of speech. Realising that she was no longer safe in Germany, Erika fled to Switzerland, joining her parents who had already travelled there. Now an exile, and knowing she

risked being stripped of German citizenship, she began touting around for another passport that would offer her refuge from statelessness. The most likely route was through a marriage of convenience.

Christopher Isherwood played his part. While the British writer politely declined her marriage proposal, he suggested an alternative. His friend WH Auden was then a 28-year-old poet in the infancy of his career and, like Isherwood, would not be marrying a woman for love. In response to Isherwood's enquiry, Auden simply cabled back: '*DELIGHTED*'.

Erika travelled to Great Britain, and to Malvern, in 1935, to meet her prospective husband for the first time. Malvern has two railway stations. There is a story of her getting off the train at the wrong one and, having never seen her fiancé in the flesh before, walking up to the only man on the platform – who was not Auden – with the greeting: 'It is so kind of you to marry me!' On 15 June she married the real WH Auden at the registry office in Ledbury, a small market town nearby. Just five days later, Erika was stripped of her German citizenship.

In 1936, Erika took *Die Pfeffermühle* across the Atlantic – Auden had helped to translate the script. It closed in 1937, after 1,034 performances worldwide, and Erika set about finding new ways to express her political views. In 1937, she gave a speech at the Peace and Democracy Rally in Madison Square Garden, New York, to an audience of 23,000 people.

Once war broke out, Erika had two extended stays in London, between August 1940 and September 1941, working for the BBC, the US magazine *Liberty* and the New York-based German exile periodical *Aufbau*. Following her experience of the London Blitz in September 1940, she resolved to do two things: persuade America to enter the war and, through the BBC's German Service, to create propaganda that would be broadcast straight to her compatriots in an effort to galvanise the 'better' Germany in which she deeply believed.

In my book, we first meet Erika in August 1945, driving across Europe at night, for work of the most momentous kind. She had been commissioned by the *Evening Standard* to write an article about the 52 most wanted men in the world, high-ranking Nazis who were being held in a converted hotel in a Luxembourg spa town, Mondorf-les-Bains, ahead of being tried for war crimes. Behind the barbed wire and watchtowers that surrounded the former hotel, she finally laid eyes on the men who had stripped away the gilded levity of her youth, the men she blamed for destroying the country she loved. The article she wrote would start to try to make sense of more than a decade of suffering.

From Mondorf, Erika headed to Nuremberg itself to witness a trial that would ultimately consume her. Enraged by the evidence she felt proved the whole nation's complicity, she found her long-held belief in that 'better Germany' tested to breaking point. Her rage flowed into her copy: Erika, the daring darling of German high society, was completing her metamorphosis into a profoundly political animal.

Reporting on Nuremberg was meant to re-establish Erika's career and independent public voice. Instead, it was to be her swansong. In the aftermath, she was, in the words of her biographer, 'a pale after-shadow'. On 27 August 1969, even that pale shadow slipped away when she died in Zürich at the age of 63. ☐

The Nuremberg Women: At the Trial that Brought the Nazis to Justice by Natalie Livingstone is out now (John Murray Press, £25)

THE BIG WAR CRIMINALS PACK

Goering goes to his prison cell

From ERIKA MANN: Mondorf les Bains, Monday

The Big 52 on the Allies' war criminals lists have been ordered to pack their meagre belongings. Their stay at the once smart Palace Hotel has come to a sudden end, for the first fifteen to be tried before the Inter-Allied tribunal at Nuremberg are about to be taken to their final destination.

The 37 others are being sent to a camp near Wiesbaden where captured airmen were interrogated.

THE FIRST FIFTEEN FOR TRIAL

The 15 sent to Nuremberg are Walter Buch, supreme judge of the Nazi Party court; Leonard Conti, commissioner of Health and Public Safety in the Ministry of the Interior, supposedly responsible for millions of scientific killings; Kurt Daluege, former Gestapo plenipotentiary in Czecho-Slovkia.

Hans Frank, the Butcher of Poland; Wilhelm Frick, Himmler's predecessor as Minister of the Interior; Hermann Goering; General Alfred Jodl, who signed the Reims surrender; Field-marshal Wilhelm Keitel, who signed the Berlin surrender; Hans Heinrich Lammers, chief of the Reich Chancellery; Robert Ley, chief of the Nazi Labour Front; Franz von Papen, diplomatic plotter No. 1.

Joachim von Ribbentrop, Foreign Minister; Alfred Rosenberg, Hitler's pet philosopher and Reich Minister for the East; Arthur Seyss-Inquart, Austria's leading quisling, gauleiter of Holland; Julius Streicher, Jew-baiter.

THE FIRST WOMAN VISITOR

My visit to the Big House was strange, for my family and I have been high on the traitors to the Third Reich list since 1933.

The men looked at me in none. Goering faces his trial a sober and healthy man, at least physically.

Herr Frank, former Munich lawyer, credited with the murder of millions of Poles and Jews, and Von Ribbentrop are room mates.

This is a recent arrangement. Frank arrived at Mondorf a dying man, with four major wounds, all self-inflicted when about to be arrested.

He had cut his throat, opened the veins in his left arm, sliced his left wrist and rammed a knife into his stomach. But Herr Frank still lives.

READ THE BIBLE TO RIBBENTROP

Herr Frank seems grateful—and allergic to suicide.

One of the hardest jobs at Mondorf is to keep some of the prisoners from attempting to commit suicide.

For the good influence Frank might have on Ribbentrop he was allowed to move in with him.

When I visited yesterday the Butcher of Poland was reading the Bible to the ex-champagne salesman.

The first 15 top Nazis to appear before the inter-Allied tribunal will find life even less comfortable in Nuremberg than it was up to now. The Palace Hotel at Mondorf les Bains was still a far cry from the city gaol at Nuremberg.

The prisoners will now live in cells. There will be no reading

Erika Mann, 1939

TRYING TIME

The Nuremberg trials against former leaders of the defeated Nazi Germany lasted for almost a year between 1945 and 1946

Natalie Livingstone at the Cliveden Literary Festival

Erika with her father, Thomas Mann

PHOTOGRAPHS: ALAMY; BETTMANN/ULLSTEIN BILD/GETTY IMAGES; MARCUS DAWES; WILLIAM VANDIVERT/THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION/SHUTTERSTOCK

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HEAR WE GO AGAIN...

What's that racket? Whether it's shrieking Sloanes, ear-splitting OEs or braying Bright Young Things, today's PLUs just can't keep it down

By **SIMON MILLS**

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT braying is back? That the loudness button on cut-glass vocals is cranking up? How, on game shoots and tennis courts, across ski fields and cocktail parties, the old Sloane 'wa-wa', at piercing volume, can once again be heard well above the crash and bang of gun and padel?

Is it their way of drowning out Donald Trump? Is it that with their rarified time divided up into living in sizeable country piles or multi-storey townhouses or enjoying rackety outdoor pursuits on moor and dale, today's PLUs just don't know how to keep it down any more? Both situations require increased amplitude if one is to be heard by a fellow gun, gamekeeper or basement-dwelling housekeeper/boudoir-bound wife/PlayStation-attached offspring.

But who are the loudest voices in the room? The Old Guard are booming. Plum and Lucy Sykes, aka the Decibelles, live on opposite sides of the pond – Plum in England, Lucy in NYC – but their shouty ventilations retain a transatlantic velocity. When Ben Elliot's playing padel outside on The Club at Bamford's courts, at the back of Daylesford, you can hear him bawling 'Out!' from the fish counter at the front. And whether he's in London, Devon or the Caribbean, Kirstie Allsopp's property developer husband Ben Andersen, aka the Mustique Soundsystem/the Welcombe Mouth, seems to have a volume setting stuck on stentorian.

And there are plenty of young sonic boomers on the loose, often braying for followers, collabs and likes via social media. Raising his voice on Instagram is Archie Curzon, aka the CEO of Clapham, aka real-life recruitment executive Orry Gibbens. Lincolnshire boy Alex Hendy, aka Schooner Scorer, makes a living by shouting his hoppy opinions into the camera while he reviews Chelsea's cold beer offerings. A certain set of OE financiers like to deliver jokes at over 70 decibels. And the new Loud Crowd includes *The Standard* fashion editor Joe Bromley, Emma Thompson's actress daughter Gaia Wise, and Lola Bute, Golborne Road's fragrant *fragoroso* – that's 'deafening' in Portuguese…

GIRLS ARE LOUD
And don't get us started on the men! Cut-glass voices are booming like never before

Famously foghorn is Farhad Heydari, socially ubiquitous, multinational, multimedia personality husband of the dulcet-toned Anna Nash, president of the Explora Journeys luxury cruise outfit. Just how loud is Farhad? He goes up to eleven. Possibly 14. His default-setting speaking voice – a Richter-scale-busting eardrum invasion – can carry across airport concourses, hotel lobbies, cocktail parties and polo fields with surround-sound ease. Meantime, if you plan on making the Friday afternoon Great Western train journey from Paddington to Charlbury, make sure you pack earplugs. For whatever the reason, the posh are loud, proud and braying like never before.

The proof? Go where the Sonic Boom boys and girls flock and yell together – the Wilderness festival at Cornbury, the bar at 5 Hertford Street and especially outside The Pelican during an All Saints Road summer night, their extra-loud voices breaking the sound barrier with a braying throng of other extra-loud voices. Notting Hill! Let me hear you say: 'WA-WA!' ☐

PHOTOGRAPH: LUC BRAQUET

Secret SOCIETY

Georgian masquerades were hotbeds of status, spectacle and scandal. A new book reveals the real mystery wasn't the masks, but what high society dared to get away with behind them

By MEGHAN KOBZA

The fourth season of Bridgerton opened with a spectacular masked ball

THE SWISS COUNT. THE Master of the Revels. The promoter of vice. All epithets Johann Jakob Heidegger acquired over the years he dominated aristocratic nightlife in Georgian London. Another was The Ugliest Man in London – his gnarled features, heavy brow, and large protruding eyes made his countenance unmistakable.

Fortunately for Heidegger, he did not depend on his looks to secure the favour of the *beau monde*. As manager of the King's Theatre, his success was rooted in his flair for staging Italian operas and crowd-enthralling productions – but his notoriety stemmed from his promotion of a lavish entertainment that would become as harshly scrutinised as it was scintillating. For in 1713, Heidegger introduced the glitterati to the masquerade – essentially, a masked ball.

Heidegger went on to host dozens of masquerades at the King's Theatre during his 30-plus years as manager, each one a lavish night of intrigue and revelry, with more than 800 of London's elite in regular attendance. High ticket prices, averaging two guineas each (approximately £400 today), not only produced substantial profits, but they also kept the entertainment exclusive by making it financially accessible only to the top one per cent of society. The masquerade became a watering hole at which the most fashionable of the aristocracy and nobility might flaunt their taste, wealth and status through outrageous, ostentatious costumes costing anywhere from a guinea to tens of thousands of pounds (from £200 to £1.9 million today). Not everyone approved: bishops fulminated against Heidegger and his works, and even the highly unusual London earthquakes of 1750 were blamed on the masked adventures of the *bon ton*.

Most infamously, the power of the masquerade was not lost on Elizabeth Chudleigh, a witty and alluring socialite who, in the spring of 1749, was in a delicate predicament. News of her crumbling, clandestine marriage could have been leaked to an unforgiving *beau monde* at any moment, threatening her position in the court of the Princess of Wales and destroying her prospects. In an attempt to seize control of her future, Chudleigh decided to attend an upcoming masquerade wearing a provocative costume that was guaranteed to attract attention.

An illustration of Elizabeth Chudleigh in her controversial Iphigenia costume

'Pantheon Masquerade' by John Bluck, after Augustus Pugin and Thomas Rowlandson,

Dressed – or rather, undressed – as Iphigenia (a famed character from Greek mythology), Chudleigh entered the opera house. Hundreds of probing eyes devoured her – and the whispers began. *Can she wear that? Is she naked?* Though it is uncertain if Chudleigh was indeed naked, her costume certainly elicited the illusion of nudity and, whether covered by a light gauze or only wearing her own skin, she exploded gender expectations of dress and decorum. But it was by her own hand and on her own terms. Her bold display of sexuality would either cement her place in society or brand her an outcast.

By the following day, Chudleigh had become a cultural sensation. Over the next weeks, she would appear in countless engravings of her scandalous dress. Perhaps more significantly, she had, on that momentous evening, attracted the eye of the king, George II, captivating His Majesty and securing a promotion from maid of honour to mistress, reaping rewards for herself and her mother. In a more decorous (but just as effective) way, on other nights, the ravishing Irish Gunning sisters overwhelmed fellow masqueraders with their beauty, and in time, married dukes for husbands.

Heidegger himself did not partake in the frivolities of disguise. (Most of those in attendance remained recognisable even with concealed faces, and, if they had managed to evade recognition, the fantasy of anonymity ultimately faded when the masks came away during the ceremonial unmasking at midnight.) It was therefore to his great shock and outrage that he found himself at the centre of a duplicitous masquerading ruse orchestrated by none other than his friend, the Duke of Montagu.

John Montagu loved fun. His reputation for practical jokes was almost as widely known as his hospitality and progressive mind. It was this more mischievous side that inspired a heinous plot to produce a living likeness of Heidegger to appear at the 1749 season's first masquerade, at which King George II would be in attendance. The trickiest part of the scheme was replicating the Swiss count's visage.

With the help of sturdy friends who could hold their liquor and the talents of the famed wax-worker, Mrs Salmon, Montagu managed to coax Heidegger into a drunken slumber that allowed Salmon to make a mould of his face. This in turn produced a wax mask that captured every line and crease of his features, complete with bushy eyebrows. A hired actor donned the infamous face, as well as replicas of Heidegger's outfit and wig, and slipped into the theatre, ready to ape his voice and mannerisms.

The notes of 'God Save the King' had just started to float through the air when the doppelganger interrupted the band, ordering it to play 'Over the Water to Charlie', a wellnigh treasonous anthem about Bonnie Prince Charlie, who had recently led the Jacobite rebellion against the king. As the troublemaker slipped away, the real Heidegger rushed up, cursing the band and ordering the tune to be changed. Whereupon the switch was repeated, twice, infuriating the Swiss count to a point where Montagu began to fear for his health. Eventually Heidegger was brought before the king to apologise. As he began to speak, he heard a familiar voice and, upon turning around, came face to face with none other than himself. Luckily for Heidegger, the king was in on the joke, but the evening's escapades were proof that events at the masquerade could make or break one's reputation.

There is no doubting the popularity of the Georgian masquerade. It was an extravaganza built on fantasies of disguise; concealed identities offered participants tantalising possibilities for pleasure and transgression – though, in general, the significance of recognition far outweighed the appeal of such temptations. Still, in a gilded space filled with society's most fashionable and influential people, dress was a way to flaunt wealth, taste and status. No wonder this lavish atmosphere and the possibilities of intrigue captivated imaginations – and made the ugliest face in Georgian London one of society's most important impresarios. ☐

The Masquerade: A History of Extravagance and Intrigue by Meghan Kobza is published on 12 May (Yale University Press London, £25)

PHOTOGRAPHS: HULTON-DEUTSCH COLLECTION, ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES; LEWIS WALPOLE LIBRARY; LIAM DANIEL/NETFLIX © 2025; © THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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tiptree@tiptree.com

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marketing@taylor.pt

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www.awhainsworth.co.uk
philatherton@awhainsworth.co.uk

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DYNASTY FILES

A pop firebrand and Freud scion, Lily Allen and Jonah Freud are a coupling that refuses to be background music. The perfect duet?

By **ISAAC BICKERSTAFF**

POP STAR LILY ALLEN appears to have found unexpected company in PR scion Jonah Freud, the 29-year-old writer and library founder from one of society's most storied families. Their romance has unfolded at full throttle among the capital's social set – and firmly in the public eye ever since they were spotted together at an Oasis party at Chiltern Firehouse last year and then canoodling at the singer's private party at Stringfellows. They have already attracted an onslaught of headlines – a pop provocateur paired with a famously loaded surname. *Tatler* takes a closer look…

PR guru Matthew Freud (centre), with his children Jonah, Samson, George and Charlotte in Ibiza, 2012

Jonah's half-sister Charlotte, granddaughter of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, photographed for Tatler, 2021

HIGH NOTES

GILDING THE LILY

Lily Allen, a Ladbroke Grove native with notable chaos credentials, is the daughter of actor Keith Allen and producer Alison Owen. She was dispatched to school at Bedales (as all creatively inclined offspring eventually are) and swiftly left aged 15, Grade 8 singing distinction in hand and mischief very much intact. Back in west London, she oscillated between Portobello insouciance and nightclub adolescence, frequenting The Tabernacle, The Globe and Notting Hill Carnival. Shortly before the release of her new album, she was spotted at Kensal Rise social haunt Loft Studios with a friend.

ENTER THE FREUDS

If Allen is pop's answer to aristocracy, Freud arrives with the real thing, or at least its intellectual equivalent. The son of PR grandee Matthew Freud and the great-great-grandson of Sigmund Freud, he belongs to a dynasty that has spent the past century dissecting, painting and dressing the human condition. The supporting cast is equally stacked: artist Lucian Freud is great-uncle, designer Bella Freud is cousin. Jonah even spent part of his childhood at Althorp, courtesy of his mother's marriage to Earl Spencer. At his half-sister Charlotte Freud's Cotswolds wedding in 2022, he gamely donned a satin slip dress alongside the other bridesmaids. (What would Sigmund have made of that?)

FULLY BOOKED

Freud has largely avoided the spotlight but is a staple of the London social set. He's a writer, artist and the man behind Reference Point, a library and bar off the Strand, which he co-founded with his friend, Edinburgh graduate Sophia Dowson Collins. He was a librarian at primary school (before attending St Paul's Boys) and has been collecting books since he was 10 or 11. His social circle leans creative, too: up-and-coming filmmakers Finn Constantine and Joe Weiland are friends, as is the actor Oli Green, boyfriend of Sienna Miller.

THE BEAT GOES ON

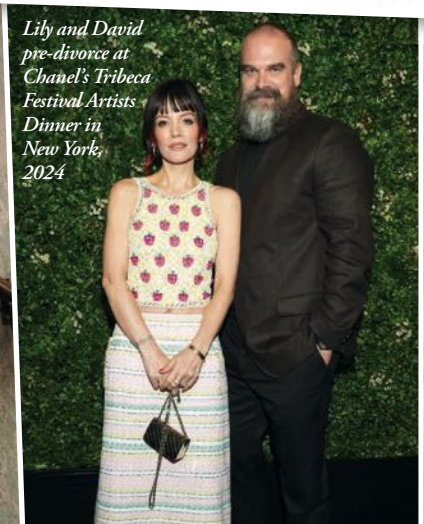
Professionally, Allen is enjoying a renaissance. Her fifth album, *West End Girl,* has critics purring and ticket sales flying. Personally, it's been rather more operatic. She has two daughters with her first husband, Sam Cooper (now married to designer Lady India Windsor-Clive), and she recently divorced actor David Harbour, whom she met on Raya in 2019. The fallout famously fuelled the bite of her new album's lyrics.

Freudian slip? Jonah and Lily, who met through mutual friends, were openly entwined at the singer's Christmas party at Stringfellows

After her bitter split, is Lily, 40, romancing a 28-year-old writer from the Freud clan?

Jonah Freud at Reference Point, the library, bar and bookshop he co-founded in 2020

m+ Lily Allen and David Harbour 'sell their New York townhouse for $7million - a $1million loss' amid divorce battle



Lily and David pre-divorce at Chanel's Tribeca Festival Artists Dinner in New York, 2024

The Brooklyn house Lily and David shared, which she mentions in the lyrics of her latest album

PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVE M BENETT/GETTY IMAGES; DMG GROUP; HAYLEY ELLEN DAY/GAMBINO GROUP; ROSALINE SHAHNAVAZ, SIRUI MA

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The glamorous web of society and style

BADMINTON IN BLOOM

It's going to be a bumper summer for the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort. The return of Badminton Horse Trials will be followed by the new RHS Badminton Flower Show, replacing the Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival for 2026. At Tatler.com, go through the keyhole of the historic country estate

IN THE STUDIO

He captured the Queen. Now go behind the scenes of Oluwole Omofemi's cover portrait of the Prince of Wales at Tatler.com

CHELSEA SWAGGER

It's bloom time in Chelsea. Read our insider's guide on where to eat, stay and play in SW3

BUCKS FIZZ

The Buckingham Palace garden party is one of the summer's most glamorous occasions. But who will be the fairest guest of all?

WHICH BLUE ARE YOU?

Applications are open for Oxbridge – but what does your dream college say about you?

PHOTOGRAPHS: AARON CHOWN, TOM STODDART/GETTY IMAGES, MARINA GERMAIN, SIMON UPTON

Eat, Fay, love

It's checkmate on the Strand! London's 'grande dame' Simpson's is back, revived by Jeremy King. Fay Maschler falls rook, line and sinker...

MAYBE NOT A LOT OF people know this, but the job I did as restaurant critic for the *Evening Standard* for 48 years from 1972, I won in a competition. At that time the incumbent, Quentin Crewe, was standing down and the prize – the paper was then competition-mad and there was presumably no obvious successor – was three months in the job. The format in place was a weekly article comprising assessments of three establishments linked by a theme. My winning entry, published as 'English As She Is Eaten', was an attempt to examine what exactly is our indigenous cuisine. I wrote about Bumbles and Tethers – both now closed – and, of course, Simpson's in the Strand, founded in 1828.

An extract: 'We sat in the West Room, the least elaborate of the three palatial dining rooms. We were surrounded by waiters, the older ones English, the younger ones Sicilian. We were served by a rotund one and a skinny one like Jack Spratt and his wife. The roast beef was superb, the cabbage wholesome, the Yorkshire pudding abysmal… The bill for two with a carafe of claret came to £5.78 including service.' Yes – it was a long time ago.

Simpson's was originally founded as a coffee house and cigar club, later becoming the centre of British chess. The players' need for quiet and concentration led to the tradition of silver carving trolleys enclosing sides of roasted beef gliding silently, tactfully through the dining rooms. After various owners including The Savoy Hotel, which is in the same architectural assembly, Simpson's closed during the pandemic. Restaurateur Jeremy King – fast becoming a national treasure – known for The Ivy, The Wolseley, Le Caprice, J Sheekey and, perhaps most pertinently here, Brasserie Zédel, and now Arlington and The Park, made several attempts to buy it. At last he has succeeded. And how.

The phrase 'grande dame' gets bandied about in describing the feel of the imposing Edwardian building that nowadays would not, could not, be conceived or built. Dame Nellie Melba – she of the peaches, ice cream and raspberry sauce and the Escoffier-designed paper-thin toast – has gripped the imagination of designer Shayne Brady. Nellie's Tavern in the basement, which stays open to the early hours, with its own entrance – a boon to theatre-goers or anyone just out on the razzle – enshrines consummate theatricality.

Arriving at the enticingly glowing main entrance, you sink into the embrace of reception and also deep-pile carpet in a chequerboard pattern trimmed with images of knight chess pieces, those useful horseheads prized for their ability to jump. Thus inspired, we leap upstairs to seductive Simpson's Bar for martinis based on a homegrown vodka, which my companion describes knowingly as 'solid'.

Our dinner is in the ground-floor Grand Divan, where master carvers of the appropriate vintage, capped with floppy white toques, wield their trollies. We are lucky to score a banquette set beside the high, wide and handsome panelling under shimmering chandeliers (the originals). Table lamps and spots enhance radiance and some will appreciate that the lighting is ideal for photographs. Naturally, one of us has the roast rib of Devonshire beef. He pronounces it full of flavour. The Yorkie is a bit rigid. I could have had pie/pudding of the day – steak and kidney – but can't forgo boiled ham and parsley sauce with heritage carrots and sweetheart cabbage. We started with prawn cocktail and Russian salad and conclude by sharing treacle tart. We love that nearly all wines are served by the 175ml glass and carafe, and we vow to return to try Romano's, the first-floor all-day restaurant of equally striking looks.☐

simpsonsinthestrand.co.uk

INNER BEAUTY

Three more restaurants that look good enough to eat

Reine & La Rue
Housed in the original 1800s stock exchange in Melbourne, Australia, the restaurant and bar in The Cathedral Room, with its soaring granite columns, will answer prayers for French-influenced food and an exceptional wine list.
reineandlarue.melbourne

Beefbar Milano
This global group of steakhouses taken to the max and created by Riccardo Giraudi sets its Milan outlet in one of the oldest seminaries in Europe, where Baroque architectural details date from 1652. As well-aged and delicious as the meat.
beefbar.com

Blanc
In Paris, chef Shinichi Sato moved recently from two-Michelin-starred Passage 53 to Blanc in the heart of the 16th. In tranquil surroundings, meriting a Prix Versailles for 'world's most beautiful restaurant', his visionary cooking fits in seamlessly.
blanc-paris.com

Lady Hester's celeriac remoulade with scallops

Serves 4

For the celeriac remoulade
1 celeriac, coarsely grated, mixed with the juice of one lemon
2 tbsp mayonnaise
1 tbsp Dijon mustard
2 tbsp capers
2 tbsp chopped flat-leaf parsley
Salt and pepper, to taste
For the scallops
1 packet of lardons
16 scallops
50g butter
Mâche salad leaves (lamb's lettuce), to serve

'I like this as a starter – it's tasty, looks good on the plate and is quick to prepare. Your guests will be impressed by its originality and, if anyone is a vegetarian, the celeriac remoulade with salad is delicious on its own.'

Mix all the remoulade ingredients together in a large bowl. Divide the mixture into four, then use a round scone cutter as a mould to put equal sized and shaped helpings of the mixture in the middle of four plates. Put half a handful of the salad leaves on one side of each plate. Fry the lardons until crisp, then remove from the pan and set aside. Add the butter to the same pan and sauté the scallops over a high heat for 90 seconds per side, or until lightly brown on both sides. Serve the lardons and four scallops per person on top of the salad leaves.

ILLUSTRATION: ORIANA FENWICK

THE IT *List*

This month's must-haves to herald the early days of summer

1

Limited-edition Big Bang Reloaded Usain Bolt watch in 18-carat gold, £23,500, **HUBLOT**

2

Geometry and Contrasts ring in 18-carat white gold, diamond, coral, chrysoprase and onyx, POA, **CARTIER**

3

Limited-edition **VEUVE CLICQUOT** *Arrow by Yinka Ilori, 75cl, £79.99 at selfridges.co.uk*

4

A stay at **PARK HYATT BANGKOK**, *doubles from £325 including breakfast, hyatt.com*

5

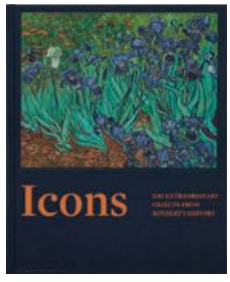
Neuropeptide Eyelid Lift Serum, £95, **PERRICONE MD**

6

Weekender bag in caramel brown leather, £745, **LUCA FALONI**

7

Icons: 100 Extraordinary Objects from Sotheby's History, £69.95, **PHAIDON**



8

Luminary No.2 Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky, 2024 Edition Aged 16 Years, 70cl, £330, **THE DALMORE** *at thewhiskyexchange.com*

9

The Orangery silk scarf, £149, **HOLLAND COOPER**

10

Limited-edition No.88 The Prince of Darkness fragrance, £250, **CZECH & SPEAKE**

AND JUST LIKE HAT
A Lock & Co hat box made a cameo in the 2008 Sex and the City film

HEADS ABOVE THE REST
Lock & Co at 6 St James's Street

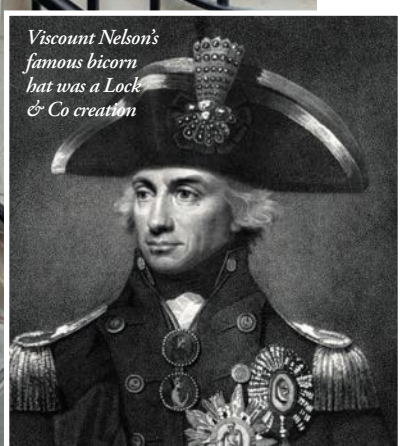
Talking CHAPEAU

'IT HELPS TO BE A LITTLE mental,' says Maxwell Newman, wearing his signature jaunty beret. The manager of the oldest hat shop in the world, Lock & Co, is a cool dude. When he's not fitting customers – many of whom have travelled far and wide for a slice of history – he's drumming in his rock 'n' roll band, The Blasting Caps. But here, at the St James's Street address that has hatted literally everyone from Lord Nelson to James Bond via Diana, Princess of Wales, Jackie Kennedy and Sir Winston Churchill, his colleague, hatsmith Eliska Murray, chimes in: 'It's like a weird little family. Everyone's so interesting, unique, remarkable, we have a fun time.'

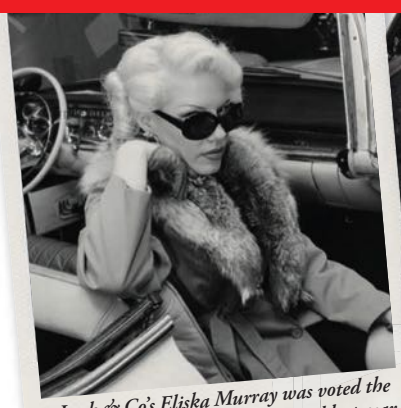
Murray is the spitting image of Marlene Dietrich and someone I recognise from the times our paths have crossed via some of my most *outré*, fabulous friends. I was instantly bedazzled by her look, which somehow perfectly blends 1940s Hollywood darling with 21st-century sexy alt-girl. She was, in fact, crowned Best Dressed at the Duke of Richmond's Goodwood Revival last year. (Sadly, not the year that I was judging the competition alongside Dita Von Teese, but I still respect the ranks.)

As you can see, Lock & Co – a Royal Warrant holder – is quite the opposite of a fusty old hat business. 'There's a community around here. I have friends at Lobb's next door,' says Murray. And then some. When she's not hosting her own hat nights at Chelsea Arts Club, she finds herself smoking cigarettes with the builders in the Victorian alleyway out the back of the shop, and they all (Lock, Lobb's and the gents from the Savile Row tailoring crowd, that is) hang out at The Red Lion in Mayfair after hours. The pub is sometimes claimed to be 'the oldest in London', says Freddie, a dashing, pinstripe-suit-clad Bright Young Thing, as he carefully cuts the felt for one of Lock's 350th anniversary collection pieces. It's a bona fide scene – and I'm fully into it. ▷

NET WORTH
Chandler in a Lock & Co hat, contemplating Ascot ensembles



Viscount Nelson's famous bicorn hat was a Lock & Co creation



Lock & Co's Eliska Murray was voted the Goodwood Revival's Best Dressed last year

Lock's Horatia bicorn hat, inspired by its famous customer Lord Nelson

Models on a break from an advertising shoot in the 1970s

Shop manager Maxwell Newman in his signature beret

The elegant and enduring logo that graces every Lock hat box

Oscar Wilde couldn't pay his bill due to being in prison. In 2000, Royston du Maurier settled the £3.30 debt

◁ The appeal of Lock & Co is simple. Something fascinating washes over me every time I walk into this landmark shop, with its storied dark-wood corners, the grandfather clock that's older than America and the original 'coffin staircase' (a Victorian-era architectural solution allowing for easier removal of a dead body from the upper residential floors – morbid, yes, but chic). Is it because I often feel like some sort of fashion freak? I am not alone. 'We're all mad here,' purred the Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Indeed, it is believed that James Benning, the shop manager in the latter half of the 1800s, was the inspiration for the character of the Mad Hatter. Now, 161 years since the book was first published, Roger Stephenson, Benning's descendant and deputy chairman of Lock & Co, concurs. 'A hat shop by its very nature is quite eccentric,' he says

He would know. Stephenson spent his childhood performing 'the rite of passage' slide from the ground-floor chute down into the basement. 'You'd come out and be covered in dust and spiders and whatever,' he laughs. His father would arrive home announcing such things as 'I sold Frank Sinatra a hat today' or 'Muhammad Ali came into the shop'. At 350 years old this year – just 33 years older than *Tatler* – Lock & Co's world has often collided with that of this humble publication. I am shown a 'with compliments' card from I. Bickerstaff – the pseudonym first adopted by John Swift in the 18th century to 'predict' the death of almanac-maker and astrologer John Partridge as an April Fools' hoax. Isaac Bickerstaff was later used as a *nom de plume* by Sir Richard Steele when he published *The Tatler* in 1709.

'Walking into the shop is like walking back in time. Literally, these walls have been here since the 1600s,' says Awon Golding, the go-to Royal Ascot milliner and Lock & Co's head millinery designer, who presides over its couture division. In her workroom above the shop, in the rafters of what used to be Douglas Fairbanks Jr's flat, she's been busy putting together a line inspired by some of the firm's most prominent former customers for its big birthday, including Jackie Kennedy and Tracey Emin. 'She came in and bought a hat,' Golding says of Emin. 'She's amazing.'

Amazing, too, is Lock & Co's bursting, centuries-spanning client list. The headshapes of Regency-era pin-up boy Beau Brummell, multi-hyphenate Cecil Beaton and louche writer Oscar Wilde proudly adorn the walls of the firm's in-house museum. And the lore has its own life. In 1895, Wilde couldn't pay his hat bill of three pounds and six shillings, due to being in prison for 'gross indecency' – aka being a homosexual. Then, 105 years later, in 2000, the painter and Wilde admirer Royston du Maurier sent the shop a cheque for £3.30, settling Wilde's debt.

Times do change. But ruling the social scene in a hat from Lock & Co has been a constant: from Lord Nelson, who came into the shop with a wounded eye from battle and had his famed bicorn hat created, to the style that Lord Coke commissioned for his gamekeepers at Holkham as a top-hat alternative – which would become known as the 'bowler hat' – and the ladies who rule Royal Ascot today. It is, simply, iconic.

I should know – I wear a hat every day. So take it from me: get your head in the game, and go to Lock & Co immediately for your own crowning glory. They might just make you something so legendary that one day you'll end up on that wall of fame, too… □

The Tatler's mysterious hack 'I. Bickerstaff' once sent Lock his sincere compliments

PHOTOGRAPHS: ALAMY; ANTHONY LYCETT; KRYSTIAN KRZEWINSKI; HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

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BOOK NOW

Linked in

The supersized gold-link necklace has ascended from defining silhouette to tangible asset. Sculptural and commanding, it rules the neckline and, with today's soaring prices, is jewellery quite literally worth its weight in gold. Gucci reimagines a 1960s nautical motif in its vibrant gem-set Marina Chain, while at Pomellato, where bold chains have defined the house for more than half a century, gourmette links ripple towards a luminous 12-carat yellow diamond. Opulence flows in Van Cleef & Arpels' Olympia necklace, whose diamond-set hoops curve with fluid elegance, mirrored by Bvlgari, where pink tourmaline and mother-of-pearl discs frame a striking tanzanite. The mood sharpens with Tiffany & Co's Tiffany Titan, designed by Pharrell Williams, where spear-like spikes slice through gold links – an edgy counterpoint to Messika's sleek and modern Groove choker. Power, polish, prestige. **CHARLIE MILLER**

1 Necklace in yellow gold and diamond, POA, **MESSIKA**. **2** Necklace in yellow gold, mother-of-pearl, tanzanite, tourmaline and diamond, POA, **BVLGARI HIGH JEWELLERY**. **3** Necklace in yellow gold and diamond, POA, **VAN CLEEF & ARPELS**. **4** Necklace in yellow gold, ruby, multicoloured sapphire, tsavorite and diamond, POA, **GUCCI HIGH JEWELLERY**. **5** Necklace in yellow gold and diamond, £55,500, **TIFFANY & CO. BY PHARRELL WILLIAMS**. **6** Necklace in rose gold, white and yellow diamond, POA, **POMELLATO HIGH JEWELLERY**

Tatler fashion, June 2025

Belt, £795, **CHANEL**

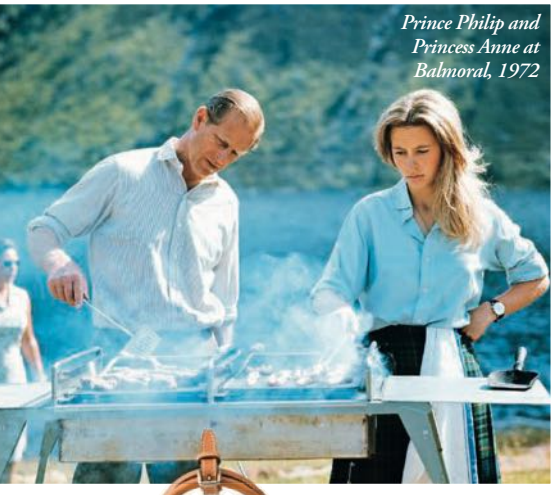
Coat, £595, **REALLY WILD**

Shoes, £1,150, **DIOR**

Skirt, £1,390, **BURBERRY**

Cardigan, £2,514, **SCHIAPARELLI**

Dress, £3,200, **EMILIA WICKSTEAD**



Prince Philip and Princess Anne at Balmoral, 1972

DEDICATED FOLLOWER

As the summer season warms up, take a homegrown approach to dressing for the occasion

By LYDIE HARRISON

Skirt, £440, **VIVIENNE WESTWOOD**

Bag, £1,720, **GUCCI**

Bag, £1,760, **PRADA**

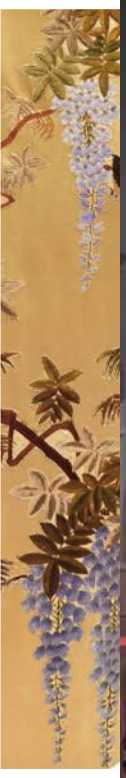
Headband, £495, **HERMÈS**

LOOK ON THE BRIT SIDE

Dressing for a quintessentially English summer is the trend of the season. Pair classic British brands such as Burberry, Emilia Wickstead and Vivienne Westwood – who master tartan, plaid and checks like nobody else – with European accessories for leather superiority. Gucci's horsebit and Prada's canvas bags upgrade the country-chic aesthetic. From vintage photographs of Prince Philip and Princess Anne tending the barbecue at Balmoral in easy, breezy shirts to cool girl Anaïs Gallagher posing on the moors, inspiration is everywhere.

Anaïs Gallagher, Tatler, November 2020

Burberry SS26



Margot Robbie as Cathy in Emerald Fennell's Wuthering Heights

FROCK STAR

A new generation of pilgrims is finding its way to the wilds of Yorkshire, thanks to Emerald Fennell's reimagining of *Wuthering Heights* (see page 117). Emulate Margot Robbie's ultra-romantic Cathy aesthetic by embracing vintage cuts, ruffles and corsetry. Choose rich fabrics like silk and taffeta – Erdem is king in those stakes. Heart-wrenching shades of blood red, gold and deep plum tell a dramatic tale, best delivered by Alessandra Rich's ruffled tea dress and Conner Ives' column slip. It's time to fall dangerously in love.

£2,250, **ALESSANDRA RICH**

£3,495, **ERDEM**

£4,200, **CONNER IVES** at modaoperandi.com

£3,918, **BALENCIAGA**

WAX ON

The waxed jacket is finally getting a reinvention. Spring style success is easy: reach for a short, boxy style with a corduroy collar. Heritage heroes such as Barbour and Fairfax & Favor are obvious winners in this category, but the catwalk is also dripping with hot wax. For couture-level cuts, McQueen is all the rage.

£365, **FAIRFAX & FAVOR**

Adwoa Aboah for Barbour, 2025

£249, **BARBOUR**

£2,190, **McQUEEN**

Erdem SS26

ON POINT

A socialite simply cannot prowl the turf of Ascot, Goodwood and the Chelsea Flower Show in stilettos. But embracing practicality doesn't have to be depressing. Try the kitten heel, updated by Givenchy with leopard spots, or by Manolo Blahnik with linen stripes. Slingbacks are ace for comfort and neutral tones will mean your kittens will be purr-fect all season long.

£863, **MANOLO BLAHNIK** at net-a-porter.com

£685, **AQUAZURRA** at net-a-porter.com

£1,182, **ROGER VIVIER** at modaoperandi.com

£695, **JIMMY CHOO** at net-a-porter.com

£936, **GIVENCHY** at modaoperandi.com

£640, **JW ANDERSON** at net-a-porter.com

PHOTOGRAPHS: BARBOUR; GORUNWAY.COM; KATE MARTIN; LICHFIELD ARCHIVE VIA GETTY IMAGES; OLI KEARON

Tatler fashion, April 2026

SLUMBER PARTY

Party like it's *Saltburn*, which means outré materials, sensuous cuts and a little bit of eccentricity. Dolce & Gabbana leads the way with its luxurious loungewear, and Gucci's feathered robe will turn any It girl into a sleeping beauty. After all, the trick for an upscale weekend in the country is to throw on billowing fabrics in a carefree way.

Robe, £33,550, **GUCCI**

Top, £180, **MICHAEL MICHAEL KORS**

Shirt, £15,300, and trousers, £8,800, **DOLCE & GABBANA**

Dolce & Gabbana SS26

Chanel SS26

GAME OF TWO HALVES

At Matthieu Blazy's Chanel, the modus operandi is laid-back attitude. Inspired by Coco Chanel's his-and-hers approach, he's taken things to the next level, pairing wild feather skirts with relaxed cotton shirts. For equally elaborate skirting, find the full bubble effect at Louis Vuitton or embrace blush geometry from Pierpaolo Piccioli's Balenciaga.

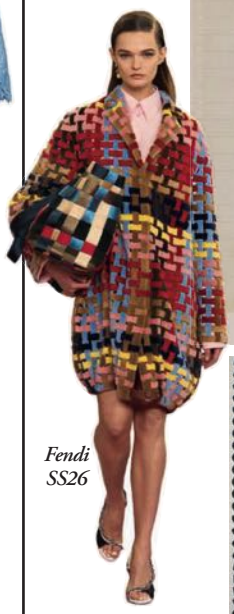
Shirt, £138, **THE FRANKIE SHOP**

Shirt, £330, **AIMEE JOYCE**

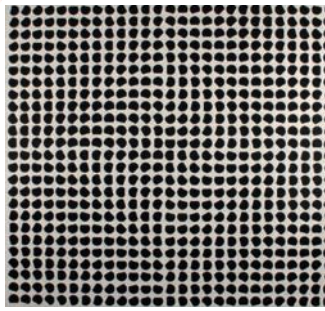
Skirt, £6,090, **BALENCIAGA**

Skirt, £7,350, **LOUIS VUITTON**

Colour Project Number 6 (1959) by Argentinian artist Julio Le Parc



Fendi SS26



Instabilité (2018) by Julio Le Parc

PARC LIFE

Get Twiggy with it and embrace hallucinogenic 1960s fashion in full technicolour. As an immersive exhibition of work by contemporary artist Julio Le Parc arrives at Tate Modern, and Fendi triumphs with head-to-toe rainbow hues, vibrancy is It. The easiest way get the look? Accessories – namely a bag that gives a hit of colour, pattern or pop art.

£1,490, **JILL SANDER** at net-a-porter.com

£4,300, **FENDI**

£4,000, **LOEWE**

PHOTOGRAPHS: LENT BY THE ATELIER LE PARC 2026. © ADAGP, PARIS AND DACS, LONDON 2025; GORUNWAY.COM; OLI KEARON

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FACE VALUE

Four years ago, Nigerian artist Oluwole Omofemi made a splash when he was specially commissioned by Tatler to paint Queen Elizabeth II to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. Now his royal portraiture graces the cover again

By Tomiwa Owolade. Photographs by Akinseye Emmanuel

LINES OF SUCCESSION
Oluwole Omofemi, photographed for Tatler in his studio in Ibadan, Nigeria

Some clichés are more true than others. One of them is this: if you grow up in Nigeria, like many other countries in Africa and Asia, there are only a few jobs you can do to make parents or grandparents truly proud. Definitely a doctor. Certainly a lawyer. Perhaps an engineer. Anything else is viewed with varying degrees of scepticism. Say that you want to be an artist, for example, and at best you would get a condescending snigger – at worst a slap on the wrist. 'Don't be silly,' they will briskly tell you. 'That's not a real job; how can you support your family by painting and drawing?' It is seen as a pointless diversion, a road to decadent ruin.

The life and career of Oluwole Omofemi shows that this mindset can and should be challenged. It shows that artistry can lead to the kind of success that would make even the most stern Nigerian patriarch glow with pride.

Omofemi's grandfather, the person the young boy looked up to most when he was a child, wanted him to get a 'real job'. Instead, he became an artist. So far, so perfectly conventional: many children and grandchildren don't follow career advice from their family. They do what they want and derive satisfaction from that; most will not reach anything approaching fame or lots of money, and are perfectly fine with that. They do it for the love of the game, even though the safest way to make a buck is by working in an office, not a studio.

'It has been a very dramatic turnaround for me as an artist,' Omofemi says of the four years since his first Tatler portrait

But that's not the end of the story. For Omofemi was not just an artist who put on the occasional show in a gallery or sold a few works to dedicated buyers of art. He became, in 2022, one of the last professional artists to create a painting of Queen Elizabeth II during her lifetime.

That painting was commissioned by *Tatler* for its Platinum Jubilee issue, and it subsequently went on display at Sotheby's. Based on a photograph from 1955, it portrays a much younger Queen Elizabeth than we are accustomed to – he gave her jet-black hair and a dress in light teal with green flowers dotted all over it, all against a popping yellow background. Her Majesty died less than four months after Omofemi's portrait was announced.

Oluwole Omofemi at Buckingham Palace with Tatler's arts editor, Helen Rosslyn, and the King (then Prince Charles) in June 2022

Four years later, the artist is back on the cover with another *Tatler*-commissioned portrait of a Royal Family member: Prince William. The past four years have been a whirlwind for Omofemi. 'It has been a very dramatic turnaround for me as an artist,' he tells me. If anything, that is putting it modestly. In 2021, he was only familiar to people with a keen interest in Nigerian art; now he's known as one of the very last people who painted the late Queen. I ask him what he wanted to achieve then, and he says confidently: 'I was painting for my generation and the unborn. For all of Africa.' He has certainly done that.

Omofemi is very open and easy to talk to. I don't detect any of the airs and graces, or the manifest insecurities, that might perhaps characterise someone who has hit the big time. All he wants to do is paint.

The artist was born and brought up in Ibadan, a large, bustling and historically important city in southern Nigeria, which is famous for a magnificent intellectual and artistic tradition. Two of Nigeria's greatest writers – Chinua Achebe and Wole Soyinka – were both educated in the same city. The black American activist Malcolm X visited Ibadan in May 1964, where he was given the nickname 'Omowale', which translates as 'the son who has returned'.

In 1988, the year that Omofemi was born, Nigeria was seven years away from being kicked out of the Commonwealth for human rights abuses. It was, back then, a byword for corruption and military dictatorship. A nation full of abundant natural resources with a government that constantly failed its people – a people who prize education but are prevented from fully realising their potential. The difficulties were such that the current Conservative leader, Kemi Badenoch, felt she needed to leave the country in which she grew up – which she did in 1996, when she was 16.

Omofemi, who still lives in Ibadan, but now with his wife and young children, tells me of the poverty he witnessed as a child: 'Every day I saw people struggle,' he says. And this experience has indelibly marked him.

He did odd jobs as a boy, from working in a restaurant to carrying beer around the city. This picaresque, Dickensian life culminated in him being an artist. ▷

ART HOUSE
Omofemi, known for his bold portraits in vibrant colours, is part of a strong artistic scene in the city where he was born and raised, but also sees himself as an artist who celebrates all African culture

WORK IN PROGRESS
Omofemi focusing on the details of his portrait of the Prince of Wales before the final applications of vibrant colour

ROYAL TREATMENT

An exclusive portrait of Elizabeth II graced the Platinum Jubilee issue in 2022; the annual cover tradition continues with Omofemi's follow-up painting of her grandson

◁ His mind and hands always returned to art, despite the other jobs. Although Omofemi is now renowned for painting the most famous (at the time) white woman in the world, his life was shaped by the fact that he saw almost exclusively ordinary black faces growing up. 'I wake up every morning and I see black people,' he says while describing life in Ibadan.

This is reflected in his artwork: row after row of gorgeous paintings of mostly black women, with Afro hairstyles, dressed in vibrant colours. 'I paint my truth,' he says. And that truth is one of visual richness and piquant contrasts. The dark skin tones and darker hair are juxtaposed with bright clothes and backgrounds. I am reminded of the pop art that characterised Andy Warhol, the kind of illustration that is perfect for magazines.

You can see the influence of Klimt in his own work: the overwhelming power of the colours, the elegant composition

But his favourite artist is Gustav Klimt, and he recounts to me quite vividly a trip he took to Vienna a couple of years ago to see *The Kiss* in the Österreichische Galerie Belvedere. You can see the influence of Klimt in his own work: the overwhelming power of the colours, the elegant composition. He described the painting to me as one of the most beautiful things he has ever seen. One particular work by Omofemi is a homage to Klimt's masterpiece. Titled *Providence*, it features a young black woman with a coquettish face staring directly at you, with the intricate golden and orange robes that recall Klimt. It was put on auction at Christie's in October 2022 and sold for almost £140,000. Another painting by Omofemi, *Lady on Yellow Background*, is a second homage to his Austrian hero.

In light of this, I ask him about his favourite colours, and it is no surprise to hear him pick a select few. Yellow is how he conveys a sense of authority. He uses yellow in the background of the portrait of Elizabeth II – and he does the same for his painting of Prince William, where the future king is framed by a yellow that offsets his blue tie and dark suit. Red, by contrast, is the colour he derives his energy from: an animating force.

Omofemi, though, is not only inspired by artists from the past. (He mentions, in addition to Klimt, his love of Pablo Picasso, especially the Spaniard's Blue Period.) He is also part of an artistic scene in Nigeria. Omofemi tells me about fellow Nigerian and Ibadan artist Tope Fatunmbi. A painter and gallery owner, Fatunmbi is 13 years older than Omofemi and acts as a kind of mentor; the Virgil to his Dante. Omofemi not only sees himself as a Nigerian artist, but as representing all of Africa. He travels widely too, and speaks to me about his recent visits to Greece, France ▷

◁ and the United States. He has a particular fondness for Britain. 'The UK is like a second home,' he says. 'It is not a strange place for me.' One of the striking things about British culture is the increasing prominence of people with Nigerian ancestry.

Thirty years ago, the majority of black British people came from a Caribbean background. Immigration since then has changed that completely: the majority of black British people are now either African immigrants or the children of African immigrants. And, unsurprisingly, many of these come from the most populous country in Africa: Nigeria.

British Nigerians are evidently playing a significant role in public life. From the award-winning musician Dave to the Arsenal and England footballer Bukayo Saka; from the founder of the Michelin-starred restaurant Chishuru, Adejoké Bakare, to the England rugby union captain Maro Itoje. Indeed, Itoje was one of the guests who decamped to Sotheby's in May 2022 to co-host a party with *Tatler* celebrating Omofemi's portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. The distinguished *Bridgerton* actress Golda Rosheuvel was the third co-host, but a crowd of socialites in glittering minidresses also descended. Sabine Getty wore one designed by Celia Kritharioti that reflected Omofemi's image. Lady Lola Bute sparkled in blue; the Marchioness of Blandford in silver; and Lady Camilla de la Poer Beresford in Omofemi-appropriate yellow.

Omofemi recalls the party with a relaxed happiness. To go from the deprivation of growing up in 'interior Ibadan' to hobnobbing with the crème de la crème of London society is quite the journey. What motivates him? For one thing, an intense self-confidence: 'I have told myself,' he says, 'I would be a successful artist.'

I ask about religious faith, and whether and how that has shaped him. Nigeria is an evenly divided religious country; around 50 per cent Muslim and 50 per cent Christian. And Nigerians, generally, are a profoundly religious people. But Omofemi describes himself as neither Muslim nor Christian, but someone who believes in God and providence: 'I am a believer in spirituality.'

To describe Omofemi as simply Nigerian, though, is to miss much about him. He is specifically a Yoruba person (one of Nigeria's many ethnic groups). And he has a strong affinity with his Yoruba roots, passed down to him by his grandfather. In many respects, Omofemi's chosen profession as an artist isn't that surprising given his cultural background. The Yoruba people are renowned for art, which the recent Nigerian Modernism exhibition at Tate Modern testifies to, where many of the most striking paintings came from Yoruba artists.

Omofemi does what he does so that 'people can travel around my world through my paintings'. For him, this is not a job but a vocation. He says: 'I see everything around me as a piece of art.' That someone with such a pure intention can achieve the worldly success he has is wonderful to witness. That he had the privilege of being commissioned by *Tatler* to paint Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 and her grandson now is remarkable. I ask Omofemi what his grandfather thought when he told him about the portrait of the queen. 'He was delighted,' Omofemi says with joy.

I could almost hear the enthusiasm in his grandfather's voice pass through Omofemi to me. Sadly, he died recently, and so won't see the new painting of Prince William. But he will surely be looking down, wherever he is, with the same level of intense pride. Thank God Omofemi didn't become a lawyer. □

PICTURES WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS
Omofemi's recent artworks include Ratel Queen, above, and Unbroken, below

HELPING HAND
The Oluwole Omofemi Foundation was founded in 2021 to support widows from the Ekotedo community in Ibadan

HOLDING COURT
Omofemi in conversation with Helen Rosslyn at Sotheby's, June 2022

The artist presenting a Tedx Talk, titled Turning Passion into a Life's Masterpiece, in Portugal in 2025

BRIGHT LIGHTS
Omofemi with his first Tatler cover at the unveiling of the portrait at Sotheby's in 2022

In conversation for a Black History Month exhibition curated by Coutts Art Club

MATCH POINT
Sabine Getty wearing custom Celia Kritharioti in tribute to Omofemi's portrait

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS: BAYO AKANDE; DOMINIC O'NEILL; TEDXMAVILA MEDIA TEAM

Bespoke suit, POA, **HOLLAND COOPER**. Shoes, £680, **ROGER VIVIER**. Earrings, £145, ring, £125, and bracelets, £135, **THE HIRST COLLECTION**

Jade TO ORDER

She began with a stall at Badminton. Now she has a flourishing fashion empire and £10 million Cotswolds HQ in her perfectly manicured hands. Is Jade Holland Cooper the Victoria Beckham of haute country style?

By Chandler Tregaskes. Photographs by Simon Upton

There's an air of Stanley Tucci declaring, 'Gird your loins!' when one of Jade Holland Cooper's many black-tweed-and-jewellery-clad minions announces: 'She's en route!' The sparkling new £10 million office – which doubles, triples and quadruples as a boutique, custom atelier and eatery – descends into a scene of sheer camp panic. Jade drives her slick, midnight-black Ferrari over the gravel driveway to her reserved 'JHC' parking spot and a sea of assistants – all in silk blouses and gold-buttoned blazers – scurry to make sure everything in sight is perfect for her arrival. 'We have a dress code, which is "smart",' the designer says. 'In a world where people aren't doing that, or they're working from home, I'm doing something different. I want to empower people through clothes, and I believe my team should be doing the same thing. Otherwise, we're not delivering what we're preaching.'

It's how the Suffolk-born founder of her namesake label and Cotswolds atelier garnered herself a reputation as 'the queen of Cheltenham', famously transforming race-day fashion with her elegant, tailored designs. Factor in her towering pile, enviable clique and the picture-perfect family to match, and she's really the Victoria Beckham of British country style.

This 70,000-square-foot HQ is a gilded palace of tartan trench coats, pussy-bow blouses and coveted tri-button-shoulder knitwear. Does she feel like regional royalty, alongside her husband, the astronomically wealthy Superdry co-founder Julian Dunkerton? 'Definitely not. I just beaver away and if anyone recognises [me], I just think, "God, how odd,"' she laughs. 'There's very little time to feel like anything other than hardcore working, focusing on the next big thing. And I would say my husband's exactly the same.'

TAILORED FOR SUCCESS

Jade's earliest memories of fashion came from watching her mother, Miranda Holland, designing 'elaborate runway pieces for the stars'

All that hard work has paid off. Look beyond London and as soon as you hit anything 'rural', you'll find girls donning HC-logo jeans, jodhpurs and those well-known jackets with their logo-emblazoned gold buttons like a badge of honour. It's become a uniform at the Cheltenham races, where, in a few short years, Jade has changed the face of the event, replacing those '90s furs and sometimes-stuffy coat dresses with her sleek tartans and twinsets. Holland Cooper (the label) has been the official luxury partner for the past three years, and Jade herself is the unofficial people's princess of the weekend. Does it ever get old, walking through those gates each year and seeing the swarms of racegoers dressed in her tweeds? 'Gosh no!' she says. 'Cheltenham is a great indicator, like a litmus of how much we've grown, because I can physically see it. I can physically feel more people recognising me and the brand every year. It's always amazing to see people wearing it.'

Having hit upon the perfect balance between haughty chicness and horsey realness, Holland Cooper turned over £60 million last year; 'hopefully 70' this year, she says. Not bad for a woman who started back in 2008 with a stall at Badminton Horse Trials, a line of tweed miniskirts and ra-ra skirts, and a dream. 'I am an absolute junkie for trading and selling. That commercial adrenaline rush? There's just nothing like it,' she says. Could she ever have imagined how far the brand would go? 'I've always just thought, "It is going to be possible. It is going to happen, if you are dogged and determined enough." Once I set a goal, I am going to achieve it. It's just who I am. I want to get up to £100 million now, that is going to happen. I want it to happen before I'm 40.' She is 39.

Perhaps it was both mother nature and mother nurture that led her to preside over one of the most successful country-cool British brands of the past two decades. Her farmer father, Oliver, convinced her couturier mother, Miranda, to swap the New York hustle and bustle for the rural calm of Suffolk. She obliged and Great Bricett Hall Farm is where Jade spent her childhood. 'I wanted to be a farmer. I wanted to take over the farm. All I really wanted to do was to be with the horses and chickens,' she says.

Jade's earliest memories of fashion came from the buzzing energy of Miranda's at-home atelier, a studio in the grounds. 'It was couture. It was very elaborate runway pieces for the stars, and amazing appliqué work. I would open the door and see her at work, and it was like a hive of industry and colour and feathers and lamé. She was very extravagant and still is. Probably subliminally I was absorbing that.'

But there was a moment when Zara Tindall, Jodie Kidd and the Princess of Wales might never have had swathes of vivid HC tartan to don – because Jade initially embarked upon an agricultural degree. Thank goodness the arithmetic put her off. 'I was thinking, "This is very unexciting." So I decided to bite the bullet and leave.'

Her fashion story began there. 'I'm so thankful for going on that journey and not necessarily the traditional route of London College of Fashion or Central Saint Martins, because I don't think I would ever have gone down the route that I did. Look, it's a tough industry. It's very crowded and it's very difficult. But going to Cheltenham, going to Badminton, going to these events where there were hundreds of thousands of people going, "I really can't find anything to wear", I knew I was onto something.'

Now Holland Cooper offers womenswear, menswear, equestrian performancewear, lifestyle products and accessories. This year, she's debuting a line of gardening items ('trugs, aprons, gardening pouches, kneeling pads, gloves…' she reels off the list) and she plans to expand the menswear division 'quite dramatically. That's going up to about 300 options.'

Remarkably, fashion is only half of the story. Jade also co-owns the nearby No.131 hotel with Julian, as well as Dunkertons ▷

RACING PULSE

Holland Cooper has become a uniform at the Cheltenham races, where, in a few short years, Jade has changed the face of the event with her sleek tartans and twinsets

Shirt, £139, blazer, £549, waistcoat, £299, trousers, £299, tie, £99, and tie bar, £49, **HOLLAND COOPER**. Shoes, £1,050, **GINA**

Opposite page, shirt, £149, jacket, £399, jumper, £89, jeans, £129, and belt, £89, **HOLLAND COOPER**. Boots, £1,230, **AQUAZZURA**. Earrings, £102, **CRYSTAL HAZE**

GREAT LENGTHS

Holland Cooper turned over £60 million last year. 'I want to get up to £100 million now… before I'm 40,' says Jade, who's 39

Bespoke coat, POA, and briefcase, £249, **HOLLAND COOPER**. Shoes, £1,090, **RENE CAOVILLA**. Earrings, £185, and necklace, £385, **VICKISARGE**. Bracelets, as before

For stockists, see Address Book. Hair: Malin Coleman. Make-up: Amy Brandon. Styling: Chandler Tregaskes. Assistant: Tom Teasdale. Producer: Eva de Romarate

◁ Park, home to a cider brewery, boulangerie and a selection of local food traders (everything from pizza, tacos and burgers to dim sum, tandoori and crêpes), beside the new HQ.

Jade and Julian first met at No.131 around nine years ago. 'We are very similar as people,' she says. 'I think anyone that's worked with both of us would say we're like a carbon copy of each other. We're both workaholics. We both have to own what we're doing. And we know that. So, it's divide and conquer. We should never both try and do the same thing – it's hopeless.'

They now live at the early 19th-century Georgian mansion Dowdeswell Court. It's reportedly worth £50 million, with eight bedrooms and multiple living rooms, and sits in 250 acres of land. But over the material luxury, it's the couple's commonalities that Jade is most moved by. 'Jokes aside, it is amazing to be married to someone that you can share with,' she says. Being a business owner 'is quite a lonely place and quite isolating sometimes. It can be very daunting,' she adds. 'I don't have a business partner, nor does he, so if you couldn't go home and share any of that with someone, it's very difficult for people to understand what it means – what being in a growth business means, and the pressures. We're constantly talking about work, in multiple different guises, whether it's fashion or hotels or food or whatever else we're trying to build all at the same time.'

Power couple? Power parents, too. She and Julian have two children together, aged five and three. 'There's no bigger privilege than being a mum,' says Jade, with a clear sense of balance. 'Building something like this is a series of trade-offs, and the sooner you accept that, the sooner you can come to terms with it. I think the way I compartmentalise it is: when I'm at work, I'm at work, and when I'm with them, I'm completely with them,' she explains. 'They come and see me at the office, they're involved. And for me, that's really important. I want them to grow up like I did, watching their parents work really hard [and understanding that's why] we have nice things. That's incredibly important.'

Mogul, mother – and the monarch of a very chic crew made up of some of society's brightest lights. The Marchioness of Bath? 'So glamorous. I mean, the chicest woman I know, always.' Sabrina Elba? 'Just the warmest, kindest person I think I've ever met. I've known her from day one and she hasn't changed at all.' Lady Kitty Lewis (née Spencer)? 'Gentle, kind, beautiful. So serene.' In fact, Jade was a guest at Kitty's ultra-glamorous multi-day wedding in Rome in 2021. And they've all in return attended the designer's well-renowned soirées at home in Cheltenham. 'We don't entertain that much, but we've had a couple of really great parties,' she says. 'We do love a party. When you're in the business of trying to make other people feel good, parties just come under that same remit. It's no different really from making a good dress or a good pair of jeans, or creating a beautiful hotel room or putting together a lovely menu.' Her 37th birthday celebration in 2023 was a Studio 54-themed extravaganza where she led her pack in a dancefloor-ready vintage cut-out design that her mother created some decades prior. She paired it with lashings of gold bling and posed for pictures beside an ice-sculpted reimagining of the Manhattan skyline.

She's got the looks, the lifestyle and, now, the lavish new digs. Really, the HQ is the material manifestation of everything she epitomises. Desks for some 120 workers, a photography studio and a working custom atelier flanked by towering olive trees, tasteful objects and portraits of Jade herself. The brand has reach: some of her most recognisable campaigns and original design sketches have resulted in a cult-like following on social media – 664,000 Instagram followers at the time of writing. 'Over the past two to three years particularly, my social media has become more and more integral to who we are and intrinsically linked with the business,' she says. 'How do I feel about it [social media]? Terrified for my children. I feel like as a society, we have to do something drastic about it. But as I sit here today, I'll be endlessly doing stories to promote my business and if someone took it away tomorrow, it would be a real problem,' she admits.

So, what's next? What about… Holland Cooper caviar? 'Maybe. I do love caviar.' Holland Cooper champagne? 'We've just done a beautiful sparkling wine. It sold out immediately.' A Holland Cooper private jet? 'It could be on the list. We've done a horsebox, we've done a car,' she laughs. 'What's so lovely is you really can Holland Cooperise anything. And that is generally what I'm doing.'

Quite right. Jade Holland Cooper's empire is not slowing down any time soon. Try to catch her in the fast lane: she'll be the one in red-hot tweed tailoring behind the wheel of that heart-racingly sexy Ferrari. □

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVE BENETT; GARETH CATTERMOLE; GAVIN SMITH/CAMERAPRESS; JADE HOLLAND COOPER/INSTAGRAM; MAX MUMBY/GETTY IMAGES

STITCHES IN TIME

MOGUL, MOTHER AND THE QUEEN OF A VERY CHIC CLIQUE, JADE IS ALWAYS IMMACULATELY ATTIRED

Jade and (right) her husband, Julian Dunkerton, at the Fashion Awards 2025 with designer Josh Birch-Jones

The couple with their children, Jade's parents and Julian's daughter

Jade with the King and Queen at the Holland Cooper Coronation Cup presentation at the Epsom Derby, 2024

Jade with the Marchioness of Bath and Pixie Lott at a charity gala in 2021

Julian and Jade at home in the Cotswolds

Dress, £1,690, **VICTORIA BECKHAM**. Shoes, £910, **AQUAZZURA**. Floral headpiece, POA, **BLOOMING HAUS**. Gloves, £165, **SQUILLACE**. Ring, £230, **SWAROVSKI**. Fabric flowers, from £69, **VV ROULEAUX**. Vintage scarf and socks, stylist's own

HAT'S ALL, FOLKS!

SUMMER DRESSING REACHES NEW HEIGHTS WITH VIBRANT PALETTES AND STANDOUT MILLINERY PLACING THE EMPHASIS FIRMLY UP TOP

PHOTOGRAPHS BY OLI KEARON. STYLING BY SOPHIE PERA

Dress, £7,500, and bag, £3,650, **GUCCI**. Hat, £310, **CAROL KENNELLY**

Top, POA, and skirt, £990, **McQUEEN**. Shoes, £785, **MANOLO BLAHNIK**. Couture hat, POA, **PHILIP TREACY**. Gloves, stylist's own

Coat, £9,900, **BURBERRY**. Hat, £1,200, **STEPHEN JONES MILLINERY**. Scarf, £530, **HERMÈS**. Gloves, £424, **PAULA ROWAN**. Earrings, stylist's own

Top, £2,240, shorts, £1,900, and turban, POA, **LOUIS VUITTON**. Gloves, £424, **PAULA ROWAN**. Fabric flowers as before, **VV ROULEAUX**. Earrings, stylist's own

Dress, POA, shoes, £1,045, and bag, £5,135, **CHANEL**. Pink hat, £1,425, **AWON GOLDING**. Red hat (just seen), £2,850, **JANE TAYLOR**

Shirt and skirt, POA, **MARC JACOBS**. Shoes, £1,095, **JIMMY CHOO**. Couture hat, POA, **PHILIP TREACY**. Scarf (top), £340, **YVES SALOMON**. Vintage scarf (bottom), stylist's own. Gloves, £390, **HANDSOME STOCKHOLM**. Bag, £4,500, **DIOR**. Red bracelets, from £173, **ALEXIS BITTAR**. Blue bracelet, £85, **DINOSAUR DESIGNS**. Vintage faux-fur scarf (in hand), stylist's own

Top, skirt and shoes, POA, **BALENCIAGA**. Hat (top), £367, **MARYAM KEYHANI**. Hat (bottom), POA, **HARVY SANTOS**. Gloves, £424, **PAULA ROWAN**. Bracelets, from £70, **DINOSAUR DESIGNS**. Fabric flowers as before, **VV ROULEAUX**

Jacket and skirt, POA, **ERDEM**. Hat, £650, **BETWEEN BEAUTY**. Gloves, £165, **SQUILLACE**. Ring, £230, **SWAROVSKI**. Fabric flowers as before, **VV ROULEAUX**

Dress, £1,220, **EMILIA WICKSTEAD**. Hat, £750, **ANTHONY PETO**. Scarf, £530, **HERMÈS**. Fabric flower as before, **VV ROULEAUX**. Gloves and socks, stylist's own

Dress, POA, **GIORGIO ARMANI**. Hat, £291, **ERIC JAVITS**. Vintage faux-fur scarf (on hat), stylist's own. Gloves, £424, **PAULA ROWAN**. Earrings, to hire from £70 and (worn as rings) from £55, **4ELEMENT**. Fabric flowers as before, **VV ROULEAUX**

Hat, POA, dress, POA, and shoes, £1,550, **DIOR**

Dress, POA, **HARRIS REED**. Hat, POA, **HARVY SANTOS**. Gloves, £424, **PAULA ROWAN**

Cardigan, £1,750, skirt, £1,750, and bag, £9,100, **FENDI**. Hat, £593, **PAULA KASU**. Scarf, £340, **YVES SALOMON**. Necklace, £850, **ERICKSON BEAMON**. Bracelets, from £70, **DINOSAUR DESIGNS**. Gloves, stylist's own

For stockists, see Address Book. Hair: Declan Sheils at Premier Hair and Make-up. Make-up: Terry Barber. Nails: Annie Kilalea. Styling assistants: Sophie Callaghan and Millar Wyatt. Producer: Harry Wilkinson at Torriano Group. Photographer's assistants: James Monahan and Kasim Ahmed. Model: Natalia Seweryn at Milk Management. Production Manager: Josh Smaller. Casting director: Dean Goodman

Sirens blare. Cars dart left and right. It's a chilly afternoon in Washington and I'm sitting inside the First Lady's motorcade with a gaggle of American journalists. We've just left Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, where Melania Trump has been packing Christmas hampers with Usha Vance. As we speed down the highway, the atmosphere is oddly like a school trip – only with armed Secret Service agents standing guard in case we, or more likely someone else, puts a foot wrong.

On arriving at the White House, cars honking, the First Lady's vehicle splits off to her wing of the building. We go round the back where we are held. Suddenly the photographers on the minibus grow excited; they've noticed a rare view from our impromptu stop: the demolished East Wing, where the new White House ballroom is being built – part-inspired by President Trump's visit to the dining room at Windsor Castle (think more gold).

'Do you mind?' asks one, as they lurch, nearly elbowing me in the face. I duck down as snappers move over me to take photos of the rubble.

How did I get here? A year ago I was sitting in Westminster, in a mouse-infested Parliament, covering Keir Starmer's new government for *The Spectator* magazine. Twelve months on, not only have the prime minister's fortunes flipped (he has record unpopularity) but I'm in the power capital of the world for *The Times*.

I've traded Prime Minister's Questions for White House briefings with Karoline Leavitt; think-tank dos for First Amendment galas. I've covered tariffs, wars, Epstein – and the president still has three years to go. If Westminster was a petri dish of power and scandal, Washington is the 'super size me' edition. Everything is bigger, brasher and bolder.

This wasn't a move I planned. The idea was put to me over scrambled eggs in Borough by my (now) editor. Initially I thought it was mad: I had just spent the best part of a decade climbing to my position as political editor. It takes years to build these relationships. To start all over again? In a country to whom Britain was a remote island?

But as the weeks went on, I kept thinking about it. When Trump won the election, I realised that, wherever I was, the man would dominate the news for the next four years – so I might as well be in the right time zone. Also, I'd be Washington editor for two newspapers: *The Times* and *The Sunday Times.* You need a very good reason to turn down such an offer.

I had never even visited DC before. Old foreign correspondents told me not to get my hopes up that anyone – let alone a senator – would speak to me, as there were 'no votes' in the UK. Brits told me cheerily it would all be OK. Why? Americans 'love the accent'.

Over Easter weekend, I boarded a plane and on arrival it seemed they had a point after all. A stern man at customs saw my British passport and asked: 'Have you ever been to Dudley?' I cautiously replied that yes, I'd spent a day there following Nigel Farage at a Brexit Party rally. A smile erupted on his face: 'I'm called Dudley – those are my people!' He was thrilled, asked if he should visit, stamped my papers, gave me some advice on American food (always go for pecans) and told me I had a Hollywood smile. Off I went.

Not everyone in DC is a Dudley. The Swamp, as it is known, is more transparently transactional than Westminster. There ▷

All the President's PARTIES

FROM PMQS TO POTUS: A YEAR INTO HER STINT AS WASHINGTON EDITOR FOR THE TIMES NEWSPAPER, KATY BALLS HAS LEARNT THAT DC IS A CITY OF POWER BREAKFASTS, LATE-NIGHT DEALS AND SOCIAL WARFARE, WHERE ACCESS IS CURRENCY AND EVERY INVITATION MATTERS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JARED SOARES

IN HER STRIDE
Katy has to start work at 6am, but The Times's Washington office is only a 10-minute walk from the political hubbub

◁ are plenty of favours to be offered – but they come with an expectation of one in return. Pretty much everyone in this city is here to network, in one way or another. The day is built around it: happy hour from 4pm and dinner at 6pm – to give time for parties thereafter for those who fancy it.

It also starts early. It's not just a city where people get up early (5am or 6am starts are normal) – working as a correspondent for a British newspaper, you have the occupational hazard of being constantly five hours behind. On waking at 6am, it's already 11am in London and there are numerous WhatsApps and emails to reply to. By 8.30am, we have a morning call to discuss the day ahead with editors in New York and London – where it's already early afternoon and the paper is filling up. Then it's time to record a podcast, *The State of It: USA.* The living room of my narrow rowhouse in Foggy Bottom becomes a makeshift studio with UV lights, cameras and tripods as I dial in to producers in the London office. By the time it hits early evening, my colleagues back home are sound asleep. Brainstorming ideas across the Atlantic can feel like a game of tag.

Networking is second nature, from where you exercise ('SoulCycle has gone downhill since Jill [Biden] left,' explains one local) to worship: 'The Catholic church in Georgetown is probably the best for meeting people,' an acquaintance explained with a straight face when I mentioned a friend was looking for work.

They're incredibly open to meeting new people: none of the old-school closed cliques that anyone in Westminster needs to penetrate. While they love British society (the royals and Eton – one member of Trump's cabinet sends his son there), this is a city with fewer class barriers. Show a little hustle and doors open.

Politicians can be hard to reach. It's not just the security. Relations between press and politicians are (in the Trump era) more terse. Staffers worry about appearing to be colluding with the enemy. Signal, the encrypted messaging service, is the medium of choice.

On my first weekend there, I end up at the White House Correspondents' Dinner, where celebrities like Jason Isaacs are mobbed. The president is absent, meaning the crowd is largely the old DC establishment. Dinner is a grey lump of beef with crab meat on top. I order a cab and head to Butterworth's, the Maga haunt, which is hosting a 'Deplorables' party for all the members of the movement who used to be banned from the main event. Now they are making a point of doing their own thing by choice. Marco Rubio turns up and I have my first encounter with a member of the cabinet – as a crowd of young Republicans mob the secretary of state, desperate for selfies.

If Westminster is social, DC is that on steroids. My days are spent in *The Times*'s office in Downtown DC. It's a 10-minute walk from the White House, where many hacks camp out all day, on watch for any action. Every night there is at least one party, often tens to pick from – among recent ones, an 'I Hate DC Parties' DC party and a 'Make Christmas Great Again' drinks (complete with a vodka ice luge). There's an app for all that: Partiful. Invitations come through it and, depending on the settings, you can check who is going before you decide to make the journey. It's a digital PA that I suspect would only ever be used in Washington because no other city in the world has this kind of agenda called 'work'.

It might seem more like *Gatsby* than Watergate – but Trump's Washington is about people, not institutions. Understanding how power works – reporting it – means getting to know these pretty extraordinary people, and that means getting in the room. It's work best aided by a strong constitution – and an ability to file 1,000 words on the way home.

In one of my first weeks, Natalie Winters – the Maga It girl and a co-host on Steve Bannon's *War Room* podcast – takes me on a night out to show me the ropes. We tour the former Trump International Hotel (the place to be in the first term – though less so since sold) and bars on the Hill. We talk men; she tells me that all the guys in DC are gay. When the article is published, the comments go viral and are picked up by the US press. A few days later, I attend a Bloomsday reception celebrating James Joyce at the Irish embassy. A man comes over and explains that he is from Homeland Security – I begin to wonder what form I filled in wrong. He goes on: 'I hear you are the reason my manhood is being questioned.'

For a social city, the tribes rarely mix. During the first term, Trump and his team were treated like outcasts and often left the city at weekends. Now, the tribes meet in their watering holes. It reminds me of the origin of my old magazine – and this one. The first-ever issue of *The Spectator* explained where tribes met in 1711: insurance men at Lloyd's Coffee House, poets at Will's, stock-jobbers at Jonathan's, politicians at St James's, lawyers at The Grecian. Its predecessor, *The Tatler,* had used those same haunts as editorial datelines – theatre news from Will's, political dispatches from St James's – because everyone knew who drank where. The tribes of that city were no more inclined to mix then than the tribes of Washington are now.

Gossip is hotter than the policy papers and guest lists are more revealing than official briefings

This time around, Maga has made the city work for itself. New bases have sprung up: Butterworth's; Donald Trump Jr's expensive Executive Branch club; the Pierce School Lofts – an abandoned building renovated by the crypto billionaire Brock Pierce – for the Make America Healthy Again crowd. A bipartisan crowd frequents Ned's Club, the Washington outpost of The Ned members' club in London. Cafe Milano, a staple, is so high-powered, in 2011 it may have been the target of an alleged Iranian plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador. Had it been successful, they'd have taken out half the establishment with him. For worse-for-wear staffers who might spill a few secrets, Martin's Tavern in Georgetown (where JFK proposed to Jackie) has long been the spot.

Go-to Democrat haunt? 'Any coffee shop that serves matcha latte,' says one administration staffer. But they have clubs on the Hill and can be found at European embassies or book launches with journalists Team Trump tends to rail against. There's still a longing for the Kennedys. One Sunday this March, a local bar hosts a JFK Jr lookalike contest. The queue goes around the block.

Then there is the diploworld. In the balmy summer, I attend National Greenland Day at the Danish ambassador's residence: ▷

SHOW SOME SPINE
Politicos from both parties frequent Ned's Club, says Katy, photographed for Tatler in the club's Library Bar

Blouse, £74, **ASTR THE LABEL**. Skirt, £1,655, **ALTUZARRA** at net-a-porter.com. Blazer, boots and jewellery, Katy's own

Previous page, blouse, £1,030, **ANOTHER TOMORROW** at net-a-porter.com. Coat, £1,075, **CO** at net-a-porter.com. Trousers, £129, **HOLLAND COOPER**. Boots and jewellery, Katy's own

For stockists, see Address Book. Hair and make-up: Victoria Stiles using Kenra Professional and ShikSona Beauty. Styling: Danielle Wood. Production: Eva de Romarate. With thanks to Ned's Club, Washington, DC

Katy Balls Washington Insider

Donald's up north, JD's down south — the red-cap brigade are enjoying a 'Maga British summer'

When Air Force One rumbled on to the tarmac outside Glasgow on Friday night, cheers could be heard from a group of spectators who had gathered to watch the show. The US president proceeded to take a few questions from the press – declaring that immigration is "killing Europe" – before heading to Trump Turnberry, one of his two golf courses in Scotland.

It was a perfect example of his

also extends to the royal family – and to golf.

With Trump back again in September for an unprecedented second state visit and JD Vance due in the UK in a few weeks' time, one Republican calls it "a Maga British summer". The vice-president, whose wife Usha spent a "happy year" at Cambridge University, according to one insider, will be in the Cotswolds on a short summer break.

It's certainly a contrast to what came before. In 2011, Barack Obama took time

of history. "They'd be on the cavalier side in the Civil War. They are Tory cavaliers standing up to the ravages of woke republicanism," Lord Glasman, the only Labour politician to be invited to Trump's inauguration in January, says of the present administration. "They are obsessed with the West – including the decline of the West – and really when they say the West they don't mean France or Germany. This history is completely informed by England."

That doesn't mean they are

investigate free speech concerns, involving US officials meeting British anti-abortion activists.

The vice-president, meanwhile, is expected to fuse holiday with work during his stay in Britain, holding a few meetings with figures of interest. His allies say he follows UK politics closely.

James Orr, the Cambridge professor who is a close friend of Vance, tells me that after Vance's critique of free speech and defence spending in this country, "I've always had the same response to, 'Why is he so mean about Europe; why does he seem to hate us Brits so much?'

"It's the reverse. He's critical of European leadership and the technocratic elite not because he hates Europe but precisely because he loves it."

Murray adds: "They're not doing it

and that's something I'll ne

Starmer's own relationsh

Trump and the wider admir

come as a pleasant surprise

his team. There had been a

backlash on Labour aides c

as volunteers for the Dem

Downing Street feels its ap

nice and flatter has paid o

the first trade deal. "Keir

Trump," says a No 10 figu

dynamic. "He will say, 'T

he knows exactly what h

exactly how to do it.' The

couple, but I really think

except Keir has taken as

take Trump seriously."

Blair and George Bush a

rather unlikely pair, but

alliance all the same.

But for all the likely

US claims human rights have got worse in Britain

Geraldine Scott Assistant Political Editor
Oliver Moody Berlin

The Trump administration has accused the British government of "repeatedly" imposing "serious restrictions" on free speech.

A report by the US State Department accused Britain and other American allies of backsliding on human rights in the past year, highlighting the effects of antisemitism and bans on silent prayer and protests outside abortion clinics.

It said that after the Southport attack last year government officials had "repeatedly intervened to chill speech". It also criticised the Online Safety Act.

The report — published while JD Vance, the US vice-president, is on holiday in the Cotswolds — stated: "The human rights situation worsened in the United Kingdom during the year. Significant human rights issues included credible reports of serious restrictions on freedom of expression, including enforcement of or threat of criminal or civil laws in order to limit expression; and crimes, violence, or threats of

awarded a largely clean bill of health. While there is extensive criticism of Russia, highlighting "credible reports of war crimes in Ukraine and human rights abuses at home, eyebrows have been raised at the sharp rebukes to some of America's closest allies.

The report takes issue with Britain's hate speech laws in general but also specifically with "public space protections [sic] orders" — used by local councils to ban certain kinds of behaviour within limited areas — and "safe access zones" around abortion clinics. Both are personal bugbears for Vance.

In a separate section on "censorship", the report pointed to the UK authorities' attempts to shut down "speech deemed misinformation or 'hate speech'" after the Southport murders

the Online Safety Act for giving the regulator Ofcom oversight of "onli harm" on American news websites a social media platforms with significa numbers of British users.

The UK government said: "Fr speech is vital for democracy arou the world, including here in the UK an we are proud to uphold freedoms whil keeping our citizens safe."

Sir Keir Starmer has previousl insisted to President Trump that Brit ain upholds free speech. When Vanc claimed in an Oval Office meeting wit Starmer and Trump that there wer "infringements on free speech" in Brit ain, the prime minister cut in to say "We've had free speech for a very lon time, it will last a long time, and we ar proud of that."

Vance has also raised the issue of fre speech with David Lammy, the foreig secretary, during his holiday in Britai In his Munich speech, Vance criti cised the UK over the conviction of Ad ian Smith-Connor for failing to comp with a public space protection order a an abortion clinic in Bournemouth i November 2022. America's "very dea friends the United Kingdom" appeare to have seen a "backslide in conscienc rights", Vance said at the time.

The State Department drew atter tion to German laws that have led to th imprisonment of several people fo "speech that authorities deemed [t have] incited racial hatred, endorse Nazism, or denied the Holocaust".

state department report reflects broader shift in policy and values er the Trump administration

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

A REAL DISGRACE took place at the United Nations yesterday — Not one, not two, but three very sinister events! First, the escalator going up to the Main Speaking Floor came to a screeching halt. It stopped on a dime. It's amazing that Melania and I didn't fall forward onto the sharp edges of these steel steps, face first. It was only that we were each holding the handrail tightly or, it would have been a disaster. This was absolutely sabotage, as noted by a day's earlier "post" in The London Times that said UN workers "joked about turning off an escalator." The people that did it should be arrested! Then, as I stood before a Television crowd of millions of people all over the World, and important Leaders in the Hall, my teleprompter didn't work. It was stone cold dark. I immediately thought to myself, "Wow, first the escalator event, and now a bad teleprompter.

Katy Balls
@katyballs

Loud cheers in the East Room of the White House as Donald Trump tells those gathered for Women's History month that his administration is keeping men out of women's sport

Katy Balls
@katyballs

After an incredible ten years at The Spectator, delighted to be joining the Times and Sunday Times as Washington Editor and columnist

Will miss the wonderful Spectator team a lot but excited for the next chapter

MY NIGHT ON THE TOWN WITH THE YOUNG MAGA CROWD

At Butterworth's Natalie Winters, 25, photographed by Justin T Gellerson

After a decade in Westminster as The Spectator's political editor, Katy Balls is now in Washington for The Times. So how do the two worlds compare? She checks out the social scene with rising star of the right Natalie Winters to find out. First stop, a former Trump hotel bar...

WELCOME TO THE SWAMP

Over the past year, Katy Balls has lifted the lid on life in DC's power circles. Her scoops include interviews with Maga It girl Natalie Winters (far right) and Charlie Kirk (below) two months before his assassination

About last night: my Washington party debut

What Jason Isaacs, Peter Mandelson and Tina Brown got up to in DC during the capital's big weekend. By Katy Balls

Once a year in Washington DC the president and press lay down arms, laugh self-deprecatingly at themselves and break bread together. Or at least this is how the long tradition of the White House Correspondents' Dinner, dating back to 1921, is meant to go. The reality, as I'm fast discovering in my first full week in the Swamp as the Times Washington editor, is rather different.

In 2011 Donald Trump watched Barack Obama roast him at that year's dinner and resolved to run. Now back in the White House and hitting his first 100 days, the president has wasted no time in taking power from the White House Correspondents' Association and handing it to a new group of Trump-friendly influencers.

"Don't worry about finding a flat, worry about invites," an American friend messages hours after my arrival Stateside. Another sends a note about dress codes. "They take it seriously. It's a smart city: you need to wear a long dress for black tie." And if I don't? "They will think that JD Vance is right about Europe."

Not that Vance is here to survey my outfit. As Eugene Daniels, the president of the correspondents' association and host of the evening, puts it: "This year is different — there is no president and no comedian." The usual comedy slot was axed after the booked speaker Amber Ruffin declared on a podcast that Trump and his team were "kind of a bunch of murderers". This was too much for those in the

ambassador's residence is known for the best wine (though this year also winning complaints for serving tacos rather than fo

"Steve and I came up with this year's title as sort of an ironic twist on one of the first events

Clockwise from top left: Kate Bolduan and Sara Sidner of CNN; Tina Brown; Jason Isaacs and CNN's Dana Bash; Neri Oxman and her husband, the Democrat donor Bill Ackman; Marco Rubio

Washington Post has taken the rooftop of Ned's Club, which p itself on a bipartisan membership l Attendees debate which events to g to next or whether to bed in. How d DCs elite decide? "If you get invite to a party [on] Tuesday, you go to

◁ a party designed, in effect, to tell Donald Trump to get lost as he claims ownership. The only problem is that the Danes are so committed to their green targets, they don't believe in full air conditioning. We spend the evening hovering over the one working air vent – which a member of the royal family has also identified. It could be worse: the Greenlanders who have travelled over to sing traditional music are in seal fur.

If you want to find members of the administration, the Arab embassies and their allies are often the most fruitful. The day after one such party, hosted by the Serbians, a friend messages: 'JD's team are asking where Katy Balls gets her Vogues'. Just like in Westminster, cigarettes are a way to make friends (at a recent party at the French embassy in DC there was a plate stacked high with them). Cigars are another form of engagement – though it tends to be largely Republican men.

The irony is that, in the past, Maga defined itself against Washington. There are still places they'd rather be. To understand how things work, a friend tells me to go to Palm Beach: a weekend court for lobbyists, donors and fixers, where business can be done without some of the red tape of DC. We go to the Wellington polo, where several men ask whether I feel like I'm in *Pretty Woman*. On Monday, my friend takes me into town and announces that it's 'professionals' day'. I wonder which profession we'll meet. 'The professional drinkers,' she explains breezily, ordering two lychee martinis. 'They're the only ones still going by Monday.'

In July, I fly to Tampa, Florida, to interview Charlie Kirk. His name has come up repeatedly since my arrival in DC as the man behind Trump's youth vote. I watch as he is mobbed by adoring fans. With a line-up including cabinet secretaries, Trumps and Russell Brand, he is nonetheless the star attraction. Two months later, he is shot and killed at a campus event in Utah.

In September, I head to New York for the UN General Assembly and write a column looking ahead. I include the detail that UN staff have been joking about switching off the lifts and escalators in protest at US funding cuts – timed for Trump's arrival. On Monday, he steps onto an escalator and it stops immediately.

Later that day, on the Amtrak back to DC, my phone starts blowing up. Karoline Leavitt has accused the UN of sabotage, citing my column as evidence. The next day, Trump follows suit. I receive a mix of congratulatory messages for having 'made it' in DC (one Maga figure presents me a printout of the tweet, complete with gold frame) and concerned messages from friends asking whether I might be subpoenaed over my source. I put the question to a lawyer I bump into. Don't worry, he says – unlike the UK, America believes in free speech.

Even Democrats privately agree that Leavitt is impressive. Trump has described her as having 'machine gun' lips. But she also has a reputation for being decent behind the scenes – and standing up for female journalists. When the Saudis tried to block a female CNN reporter from entering a room, Leavitt insisted everyone was included. The Trump administration also has upsides for British journalists – of which there are now many (every time a new one of us arrives, the others roll their eyes a little), with the White House opening up access through more passes.

That's before you even get to Trump himself. Compared to UK prime ministers, the president is always talking to the press – whether on trips, holding impromptu press-room briefings (at one I was at he boasted how popular he was, due to how many hacks were in the badly air-conditioned room to see him) or stopping for a huddle before he takes off. He also can just pick up his phone – in DC, a trick among the press corps is to get his number and then call until he answers. After the Iran strikes, he speaks to about 30 journalists, often for 30 seconds to two minutes at a time.

In November, I throw my first house party: Guy Fawkes Night. I make a Partiful entry – 'time to party like it's 1605'. It proves a hit, as 80 guests – Democrats, Republicans and a crypto-millionaire – cram into my house. We burn an effigy of Guy Fawkes – unfortunately, my neighbours are not *au fait* with the tradition. They call the police who, on arrival, decide the fire is not out of control.

UK political turmoil is noticed in DC even if it rarely makes headline news. I'm often asked: are you allowed to tweet in your country? Can you go out at night in London? The Americans also have different standards for what counts as a scandal.

In September 2025, Peter Mandelson is sacked as ambassador after a tranche of the Epstein files show he told Epstein he believed in his innocence following his initial jail sentence. In the build-up, I receive calls from the London desk asking what pressure there is in DC for Mandelson to go.

I explain I am having lunch on the rooftop of a club and no one is talking about it. When he does get sacked, a Republican on the Hill expresses their surprise: 'This would at most be a day-two story in the US,' he says, sympathetically. He has a point – the president has appeared in the files countless times but remains largely unscathed. Mandelson's problems don't end there. In the new year, I'm back in London to interview the US speaker Mike Johnson and cover Davos (for which the administration is taking over a church near the centre and serving US flag-embossed cappuccinos).

While in town, I arrange an interview in Wiltshire with Mandelson. We spend several hours there. Mandelson poses with his dogs – Poppy (who never made it to Washington) proves far more cooperative than Jock. We talk about Epstein, money and power – and whether Mandelson has an unfortunate habit of drifting too close to all three. The Labour veteran describes the episode as a 'life-changing' crisis and hopes it may finally be behind him.

That hope lasts five days. A new batch of files appears to show accounts linked to Mandelson receiving money from Epstein and sharing market-sensitive information. From DC, I speak to him by phone on Sunday night. He disputes most of the claims and has said elsewhere he regrets continuing to associate with Epstein after his conviction and he has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing. He sighs that Epstein – and association with him – is like dog muck: no matter how much you scrape your shoe, the smell lingers.

On the day Mandelson is arrested, his successor, Dr Christian Turner, has a welcome reception at the embassy. Members of the administration including Dr Oz and Elbridge Colby enjoy drinks and fish and chips. I ask one DC veteran how it compares to the last ambassador drinks. 'I don't recall,' they reply with a smile. DC has already moved on.

Washington runs on adrenaline and invitations. One moment you are covering a military strike, the next you are squeezing into a Georgetown townhouse where half the room seems to work in the administration. The gossip is hotter than the policy papers and the guest lists are often more revealing than the official briefings. It is exhausting, occasionally surreal and often enormous fun. But if you want to understand power in Trump's Washington, there is only one rule: never go home early. ☐

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS: THE TIMES/NEWS LICENSING

LONG SHOT
The Duke & Duchess of Cambridge on their wedding day, surrounded by their bridesmaids and page boys – a shot that almost didn't happen

Picture perfect

HOW DID HUGO BURNAND BECOME THE FIRST PHOTOGRAPHER TO HOLD A ROYAL WARRANT FROM THE KING? WELL, 25 YEARS SPENT SNAPPING BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS AS TATLER'S OFFICIAL BYSTANDER CAMERAMAN DIDN'T HURT

BY ISOLDE WALTERS

Sarita Gainza-Bemberg in the 'perfect Bystander photograph'. Right, from Dame Joan Collins and the Duke of Marlborough at the Cartier summer party to Jessica de Rothschild at Althorp, Burnand sees – and snaps – it all

Party faithful

The Russian Midsummer Fantasy ball at Althorp for Mikhail Gorbachev's new charity was one hell[illegible]

BRIGHT SPARK
Call it a flash of genius: Burnand's best Bystander photographs through the ages, including Mrs Victor Armleder at a Cartier party in Geneva, 1996

Boy George & Margaret Thatcher at a fashion show at the Imperial War Museum, 1998

Claire Danes & Salman Rushdie at Mikhail Gorbachev's Russian Midsummer Fantasy charity ball at Althorp, 2006

Hugo Burnand, pictured in 1996

Hugo Burnand's favourite image from his 25-year tenure as *Tatler*'s Bystander photographer hangs in the hallway of his west London carriage house: socialite Sarita Gainza-Bemberg dancing with blissful abandon on a tabletop at a three-day party in Biarritz. Glasses and half-drunk bottles are scattered at her feet in the lively shot; her diamond bracelet catches the light. She looks like Whitney Houston in her prime. Around her, partygoers are similarly lost in their own worlds: gossiping, drinking, smoking, flirting, dancing. The image is impossibly glamorous, but just a little bit feral. In other words, it is a perfect Bystander photograph.

'I love the timelessness of it,' Burnand says, but points out the one clue that dates the photograph to 1997. There, in the background, a guest has lost his tuxedo jacket and gained atop his head, in Burnand's words, 'one of those silly velvet hats that people always wear to rugby matches'. The detail delights him. 'There's so much to see. It's like a jigsaw puzzle – you can spend hours working your way around it and then you get to "Where's Wally?" with the hat.'

There are few people on earth who know more about taking such pictures than Hugo Burnand. He can, of course, be somewhat straighter too. After all, he is a portrait photographer for the British Royal Family, the man tasked with documenting the coronation and crafting the image that would herald our new Carolean era. Recently he achieved an impressive precedent: he became the first and only photographer to hold a Royal Warrant from the King. (His first Royal Warrant, granted in 2010 by the then Prince of Wales, hangs in the downstairs loo.) 'I wasn't expecting it, I wasn't waiting for it. And it was really lovely,' he says simply of the rare honour. His photographs of Charles and Camilla's wedding, as well as the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton, have been beamed around the world, seen by billions. But, he says, it was shooting for *Tatler* that taught him how to capture the Windsors in all their splendour.

Because before such illustrious commissions, he chronicled the glitziest of social gatherings and the people who mattered most for the magazine you hold in your hands. Dukes, duchesses, It girls, pop stars, artists, grandees, politicians, presidents, stars of stage and screen and even the occasional circus performer all passed before his lens. And yet only one person has ever left him starstruck, reducing him to a 'babbling fool' – though you'll have to read on to discover who.

How did he land the gig that would see him 'paid to have fun' (as he puts it), giggling and snapping his way through boat trips, helicopter rides, polo matches, film premieres, Royal Ascot and fancy dress balls? In 1993, his childhood friend Rose Nugent, a member of the Guinness family, had asked him to photograph one of her parties. 'It was a fancy dress party, very unwoke by today's

John F Kennedy Jr & Carolyn Bessette at a Cartier party at the Château de Malagny in Geneva, 1996

Penny Lancaster, Rod Stewart & Ronnie & Jo Wood at Ascot, 2000

David Furnish, Johnny Bergius, Tracey Emin & Scott MacNee at Gorbachev's ball at Althorp, 2006

Hugh Grant, Peter Stringfellow & Lucy Carr at Tatler's Little Black Book party at Stringfellows, 2001

standards,' he tells me, in the cosy kitchen of his idyllic cottage tucked away in a mews. The pictures were fun. 'They were the glitterati, the titled and the elite,' he recalls, with boyish enthusiasm. Burnand showed them to Ewa Lewis, *Tatler*'s social editor. She loved them, sent him to a commissioned party, and six months later, he had a Condé Nast contract.

He calls his *Tatler* tenure the 'glossy years' – a nod to Nicholas Coleridge's book of the same title – and says that 'every day was like living on the set of *Absolutely Fabulous*'. Three grand dames presided over *Tatler* at Totty Towers, as Vogue House was affectionately dubbed by those in the know, when he joined. In addition to Lewis as social editor, there was Jane Procter, the editor, and Victoria Mather, travel and features editor. 'You had no idea what craziness would happen,' he says. 'They loved each other, but sparred off each other in the way that only the best of friends can. Sometimes you had to duck to avoid the verbal missiles, other days you laughed so hard you cried.'

It was Procter who schooled Burnand in the art of taking the perfect Bystander picture: perhaps the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough together, or Mick Jagger and Joan Collins. But a really special photograph would show the two worlds mingling. 'The whole point of Bystander is to mix the elite with the titled,' Burnand says. So imagine his delight when, many years later, he got Joan Collins and the Duke of Marlborough in the same frame at the 2012 Cartier summer party. 'I did a secret internal Snoopy dance, all cartwheels.' But the most supreme illustration of this principle is surely his shot of Baroness Thatcher with Boy George.

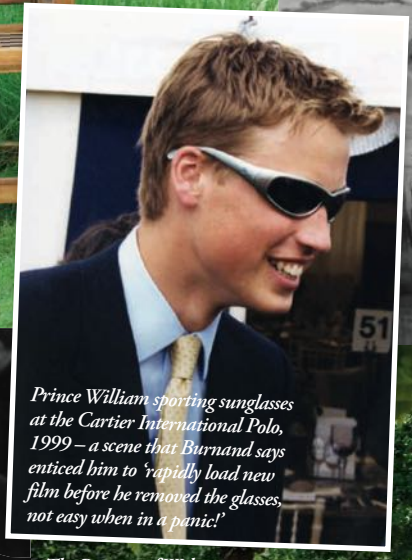
Burnand's Bystander archive overflows with serendipitous shots of the great, the good and the glamorous. There's Hugh Grant and Mikhail Gorbachev at a gala hosted by Geordie Greig and Evgeny Lebedev at Hampton Court Palace. JFK Jr and Carolyn Bessette looking glossy and golden. A young Prince William at the polo in groovy sunglasses. Rod Stewart and Ronnie Wood adding rockstar cool to Royal Ascot.

When Lewis departed as social editor, she was replaced by Clare Milford Haven, Burnand's best friend – they had met in the bathroom at a cousin's 21st birthday party – and what followed was a decade of documenting the parties everyone wanted to be invited to. 'The great thing about working as a double act is it's very easy to light up a room when you walk in as a pair.'

Like many photographers, Burnand thinks in pictures and his recall of the actual parties seems patchy. When I ask him what was the best party he covered, he shows me a string of photographs: the then Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall beaming because they had spotted him in the crowd at Ascot; Bryan Ferry (who is a friend) performing underneath a sparkling chandelier after dinner at Tim Hoare's birthday party. 'Private parties are always the best,' he says. ▷

The then Prince of Wales & Duchess of Cornwall, pictured in the gardens of Clarence House on his 70th birthday, 2018. Burnand revealed that the duchess's hands 'were making a love heart' towards her husband

Princess Alexandra, who Burnand says he 'has adored since the moment I met her'



Prince William sporting sunglasses at the Cartier International Polo, 1999 – a scene that Burnand says enticed him to 'rapidly load new film before he removed the glasses, not easy when in a panic!'

The then Duchess of Cornwall at her daughter Laura Parker Bowles's wedding in 2006: 'It's very rare, this picture… to have the duchess followed by the prince was unusual,' says Burnand. Below, the final Bystander report of the celebration

The Princess of Wales and her children in the King's Birthday Parade, 2025, which Burnand snapped from the side of the street

A portrait of King Charles III, 2023

◁ And the best fancy dress? Sophie Butler-Adams as a tiger. 'She was body-painted, but she wasn't wearing anything. A lot of us were just in awe. The bravery of it.'

Quite. His top tips for throwing a party? He perks up. 'There are two rules and they are practically infallible. I worked them out after about four years of working for Bystander. Why does one party that has had gazillions spent on it in a beautiful location not work? And why can a party in a lopsided marquee on the side of a hill with plastic cups have the energy of the gods?' Pray tell. The first rule is hardly groundbreaking. 'Basically, good manners,' says Burnand. 'If the host or hostess greets guests with a smile, it is like wildfire.' But the second is wonderfully unexpected: you must throw your party in the build-up to or on the full moon.

'Why do you have full moon parties on the beach in Thailand and Bali?' he elaborates. 'The full moon has an extraordinary sort of energy. I worked it out because I was driving back to London from a party in Dorset; the moon was not far above the horizon and it was this enormous orange glow. I was meant to leave at 10 o'clock and I left at 2am. It was that good… I began to notice – it's not guaranteed – but if you can get your party to be around the full moon, people will behave a little bit naughtier.'

Noted. And that one star who so disassembled him? Gina McKee, the actress who played the wheelchair-user Bella in *Notting Hill*. 'She looks like a Modigliani painting.' He marvels at her effect on him. 'I bump into a lovely, beautiful actress whose name I can't even get to the tip of my tongue, and I'm a gibbering wreck. Isn't it extraordinary? I thought I was numb in that area, but I'm not. I can be thrown as unexpectedly as anyone else by a star.'

And then the biggest stars of all, the royals, came calling – and Burnand almost turned down the opportunity. His relationship with the Queen was established back in the early 1990s when, as one of his first commissions, he photographed Annabel Elliot. 'You must do my sister,' Annabel said. Burnand had no idea that sister was (as she was then known) Camilla Parker Bowles. A decade or so later, the life-changing, career-making invitation to photograph her wedding to the now King was extended while Burnand was on sabbatical, trekking through South America with his wife, Louisa Halifax, and their four children. To add a little drama to the tale, they had just been mugged and had all his camera equipment stolen.

While checking his emails in the lobby of a hotel in La Paz, Bolivia, he found a message from Clarence House. 'It was something along the lines of, "Are you free on this date? I would love you to take some photographs."' He responded with a flurry of congratulations on their engagement but declined, writing, 'We're not going to be back until the 9th of April, which I'm really sad about because I did want to stand on the Mall and wave to you as you went by and we've just been mugged and I haven't got a camera or a passport.' He busied himself going into the jungle and contracting an excruciating bout of amoebic dysentery. Writhing in pain, he had time to reconsider.

'I thought I could die anonymous in the jungle or, had I said yes, I could photograph the future King of England's wedding. I made a bit of a mistake there.' He sent up a desperate prayer: 'If you make me well, I'll photograph that wedding.' Three weeks after the invitation, he recovered enough to call and accept the commission, if the offer still stood. 'I got such an earful,' he remembers, but a plane was sent and with the help of his stepmother, Ursy – charged with getting lights together while he was still in South America – the wedding pictures went without a hitch. 'The rest is history,' as he puts it. Six years later, he was entrusted with capturing the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

Armed with stopwatches to run to schedule and jelly beans to coax any truculent children into posing, Burnand and his team (which included Ursy as his assistant) captured the historic images. In one of the celebrated portraits, you can spot a flash of pink in flower girl Eliza Lopes's hand: a fluorescent wiggly worm on a string brought by Prince Harry to soothe the three-year-old during the carriage ride through cheering crowds. The famous image of the bride and groom seated, surrounded by their bridesmaids and page boys, almost didn't happen. It wasn't on the list of official pictures. 'We had three minutes before the fly-past went by. I said, "Shall we do it?" And we decided we had just enough time.' The resulting image – with Tom Pettifer, son of former royal nanny Tiggy Legge-Bourke, leaning behind the bride with boyish swagger – quickly became the photograph of the royal wedding.

One can't really talk about royal photography without mentioning a certain Cecil Beaton. It's Burnand who brings him up, with a PowerPoint presentation that accompanied a speech he gave to pupils at his alma mater, Harrow – which just so happens to be Beaton's alma mater, too. The slides compare the two photographers in detail: they both cut their teeth photographing bright young things (in Beaton's case, the actual Bright Young Things), both worked at Condé Nast (Beaton for *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*; Burnand for *Tatler* and *House & Garden*), and both have been charged with creating the imagery that announces the House of Windsor in all its glory to the world. Does he feel the influence of Beaton heavy upon him? Not until he pulled together this presentation, he says, but then draws my attention to a quote he quite likes, but says he didn't write. 'Beaton created an aura, Burnand reveals a person.' That encapsulates his philosophy as a royal photographer. 'I hope that when people sit or stand in front of one of my photographs, they will make an eye connection and almost have a conversation. That's how approachable I want [my royal subjects] to be.'

He's coy when pressed about the royals. Does he have a favourite member of the House of Windsor to photograph? 'I've got four children and I know that you never have a favourite,' he says. But then he pauses and adds: 'I did know Princess Alexandra when I was about 18, because her son James is the same age as me. I have adored Princess Alexandra from the moment I met her and still do.' His most teasing response comes when asked if he has a favourite picture he has taken of the royals. 'I do. And I can't show it to you because it's private. I don't think it ever will be [released] but there's two of them involved and they are smiling and they are in love and you cannot help but stop and pause when you look at the picture. It's so great.'

An undeniably irritating answer, but then his discretion, talent and abundance of charm are surely what have propelled Burnand into this coveted position. What did he learn during his time at *Tatler* that has helped him in his role as royal photographer? 'The art of putting my energy and entertainment into the process of taking a photograph, which enabled me to get back more lively, engaging photographs and a sense of humour. I have a motto: boring photographs are boring to take, boring to process, boring to look at, so don't take boring photographs.' And no one could ever accuse Burnand of being a bore. □

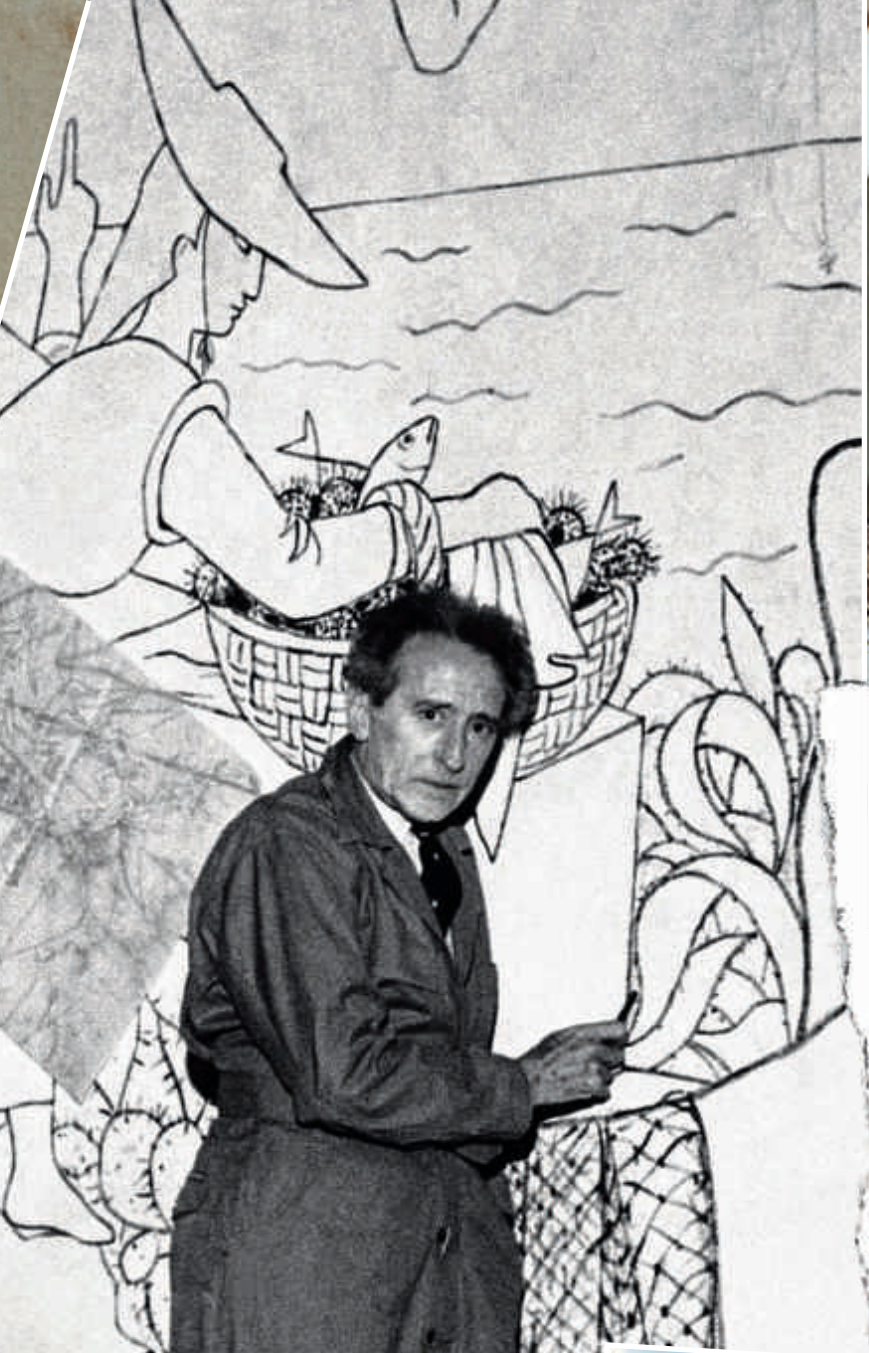
PHOTOGRAPHS: © HUGO BURNAND; CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES; DON FEATURES

JEAN BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
The Jean Cocteau Museum/ Séverin Wunderman Collection in Menton housed 1,800 of the artist's works

STORM OF

AN EGOCENTRIC AND CONTENTIOUS ARTIST IN LIFE, JEAN COCTEAU WORKS IN THE TOWN OF MENTON – WHERE A SEA-RUINED

BY ISOLDE WALTERS.



THE BIGGER PICTURE
The beachfront museum was damaged in a storm in 2018. Left, Cocteau at work in the Chapelle Saint-Pierre in Villefranche-sur-Mer, 1959

Cultural Face-Off On the Riviera

At stake is a Cocteau collection gifted to a French institution.

ZACHARY SMALL

MENTON, FRANCE — Arriving in a paradise that caters to retirees looking for gentle waves and lemon groves, Chloë Cassens [illegible]rpion necklace and tensed

CONTROVERSY

WOULD DOUBTLESS RELISH THE LEGAL BATTLE RAGING OVER HIS MUSEUM THAT HOUSED HIS CREATIONS STANDS ABANDONED

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY FRANÇOIS DE LABARRE

The town of Menton oozes languid Côte d'Azur glamour. Here, where the French and Italian Rivieras meet, life drifts at a slow 'dolce vita' pace. The tennis courts are sun-baked and the belle-époque palaces are painted in pastel shades. A mere 25 miles' drive from Monaco, Menton is as elegant as its neighbour is brash, and over the years has attracted royalty, artists and literary greats. In this sun-kissed paradise, arguments, disagreements or – *quelle horreur* – scandal must surely evaporate into the gentle sea breeze.

Yet the 'pearl of the French Riviera' is the unlikely setting for an ever-more rancorous dispute in which a cast of larger-than-life characters battle over a treasure trove of works by Jean Cocteau, quintessential figure of the avant-garde. To many, the poet, painter, filmmaker and opium addict embodies the intellectual France of the 20th century. To the less high-minded, it's his prolific love life and associations with the likes of Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel, Edith Piaf and Marcel Proust that have guaranteed him immortality. But now, a feisty, determined American heiress, with a PR team, Substack and attitude, is in a tug of war with the township over the world's largest collection of his art.

Le Monde

CULTURE • ART

Heirs of businessman Severin Wunderman seek to revoke donation of Cocteau works

They argue that the southern French city of Menton has failed to meet its obligation to permanently display the collection since the museum was flooded in 2018.

By Roxana Azimi
Published on September 2, 2025, at 8:01 pm (Paris) · 6 min read · Lire en français

At the centre of a tangled web that has drawn in insurers, several mayors, the aforementioned heiress and even the son of a former French president is a seafront building that commands attention. Clinging to the shore like a white octopus, the Jean Cocteau Museum is long and low, constructed out of geometric forms that resemble legs or teeth, depending on who you ask. Designed by architect Rudy Ricciotti, whose recent projects have included the Chanel headquarters in Paris, the museum opened to fanfare in November 2011, with a write-up in *Vogue*. Today, though, it stands abandoned, its brutalist concrete stained and its window panes dusty, almost mocking the ambition and achievement of the man for whom it was also named: Séverin Wunderman, grandfather of Chloë Cassens, the disputatious heiress.

The museum, and the collection it once housed, exist due to this man, a Holocaust survivor who arrived alone at Ellis Island aged 10 and would go on to build a fortune estimated at $266 million (according to court documents seen by the *Los Angeles Times*) after securing the licensing agreement to design and manufacture Gucci timepieces. But if Wunderman's rags-to-riches rise was intriguing, his childhood reads straight out of the pages of a novel.

Born to a Jewish glove-maker in Belgium in 1938, Wunderman saw out the war hidden in a convent for blind children. He was the only child within who could see. 'I would hold hands with the blind children and lead them through the halls,' he recalled in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*. After the war, the convent refused to relinquish Wunderman, by now a choirboy, to his parents. According to his telling, his father broke in, tied up the nuns and kidnapped him. Wunderman's heir Cassens revealed a shocking psychological dimension to this drama: after so many years apart, Wunderman did not realise his kidnapper was his father. 'That was his first memory of his family,' she said. 'Extreme trauma.'

Wunderman became known as an irascible businessman with a habit of tossing mobile phones out of the window of his chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce when in a temper. 'My father taught me to always throw the first punch,' he told the *Los Angeles Times*. 'That

JUST BEACHY
Elegant Menton, an easy drive along the coast from Monaco, is a world apart from the principality's brashness

NO MUSEUM PEACE
Opposite, Chloë Cassens, the granddaughter of Séverin Wunderman, who donated his Cocteau collection to Menton. The family is in ongoing litigation with the town. This page, a still from the 1960 film Le Testament d'Orphée, directed by and starring Cocteau

way you've already won 50 per cent of the fight right there.' Indeed, according to family lore, he struck the deal that would make him spectacularly wealthy by screaming at Aldo Gucci.

Alongside such pugnaciousness, he harboured a deep appreciation for beauty and, at 18, discovered the work of Jean Cocteau. He bought his first piece, a portrait of Cocteau's lover, the French screen god Jean Marais, for $40 – one week's salary. It sparked a lifelong obsession to acquire anything and everything related to Cocteau, from paintings to dinner-party menus. Why Cocteau? According to Cassens, the answer is pure aesthetics. She told the American online title *Observer*: 'I think my grandfather was just really drawn to beauty in art, in fashion, in women and in general.' Women? Wunderman was married seven times, to six women. Cassens added: 'Cocteau's work, even when it's challenging, is very beautiful.'

Dominique Bert, a Jean Cocteau expert and the president of the Expertise Cocteau – Guédras Archives, remembers Wunderman as an eccentric figure who prowled the Louvre des Antiquaires looking for works to add to his Cocteau collection. 'He was an extraordinary character,' Bert tells me, in his gallery in Paris's 8th arrondissement. There are three Cocteau drawings for sale in the window; and on the floor, still inside a crate, is a portrait by Cocteau of his friend Pablo Picasso. It is likely to sell for around £43,500. When it came to Cocteau, says Bert, Wunderman was 'insatiable'.

In the 1980s, he encountered Edouard Dermit. This meeting would take his collection to a world-class level. Dermit had been many things to Cocteau: first a gardener, then a muse, an adopted son, a lover, a longtime companion and finally an heir. By the time Wunderman discovered him, he was elderly and ill, living in the home he had shared with Cocteau in Milly-la-Forêt, surrounded by the treasure the artist had left him.

Ever the businessman, Wunderman struck a deal with Dermit. Little is known of the financial details but it meant that the watchmaker was now in possession of the largest Cocteau collection to exist, encompassing designs, photographs, drawings, posters, manuscripts, ceramics and tapestries.

Wunderman opened a museum in California to exhibit his treasure trove, but it closed in 1995. An establishment in Texas also stalled. And then, like Cocteau before him, he heard the siren call of the French Riviera, and Menton.

It made sense. The town was already synonymous with Cocteau. In 1957 and 1958, the artist transformed the interior of the Salle des Mariages (the town's wedding hall) with gorgeous mythological frescos, red-velvet curtains and a leopard-print carpet. He then discovered the Bastion, a 17th-century fortress, perched dramatically above the town's harbour. He oversaw its conversion, decorating it with pebble mosaics. What better spot to exhibit Wunderman's magnificent collection than in the French Riviera town that had become the artist's canvas?

Another deal was struck. Wunderman would leave the town of Menton his vast collection on the condition that it would build a museum to house them. That museum would bear his name: the Musée Jean Cocteau/Collection Séverin Wunderman. Bert points out that Wunderman profited by this deal, just as Menton hoped to profit touristically from his largesse. 'It was very generous of him to make this legacy, but in return he got a very beautiful museum with his name. It is an exceptional honour for him to have his name associated with Cocteau's.' The town allotted £9.25 million to ▷

Louis Sarkozy, son of the former French president Nicolas Sarkozy, running for mayoral office in Menton, March 2026. He suffered a 'crushing defeat'

◁ build the museum for the collection, thought to be worth around £4.25 million in 2005, when the deal was signed.

Wunderman did not live to see his museum. He died in 2008 and, in 2010, his heirs auctioned off 120 Cocteau artworks bequeathed to them at Bonhams. The lots included Cocteau's sketches of Vaslav Nijinsky, Anna Pavlova and Josephine Baker. The auction raised more than half a million pounds. Rumours flew that appraisers commissioned by Menton to verify the collection due to be housed in the museum determined that some of the artworks were not, in fact, real Cocteaus. Bert was one of the appraisers. 'What Wunderman had bought from Dermit was perfectly authentic, but next to it were things that were not. It was surprising.'

That's all he will say, sitting at a glass desk, a marble bust of Cocteau on a plinth behind him. On the trail of this story, which took me from London to Paris and on to Menton, sealed lips would become a common theme. I ask Bert if he has an opinion on the dispute raging. 'Of course,' he replies, but he will not share it.

With the opening of the museum, it seemed that Wunderman's grand vision had been realised. But just seven years later, Storm Adrian rampaged through the French Riviera, sinking at least one luxury yacht and tearing up marinas. Menton's usually placid stretch of sea swelled into towering waves that engulfed the museum, damaging the works inside – many of them drawings on paper. The museum was closed and the artworks – some of them – laboriously restored. Negotiations with the insurers are still continuing. Various mayors had other things to think about and the situation was hardly helped by the death in 2021 of Mayor Jean-Claude Guibal, who brokered the agreement for the museum, or the conviction of his successor, Mayor Yves Juhel, for complicity in embezzlement of public funds – or, indeed, the deputy mayor for finance's three-year prison sentence in the same case. And Chloë Cassens started to raise hell. But she wasn't the first to do so.

In the aftermath of the wreckage, the blame game began. Why build a museum so close to the sea edge? Ricciotti defended himself. 'It's a buildable location. This tidal wave occurs once a century. It was a natural disaster and it damaged some of the collection… but it didn't damage the structure,' the architect told me at his astonishing home in Cassis, a compound chiselled out of the rocky coastline of the Mediterranean. 'Welcome to the end of the world,' he said, as he showed me the terrace, jutting out into the deep blue. He was still making his mind up about whether to speak with me. He hated the woke, he had told my translator in advance, 'the vegetarians, the non-drinkers, the non-smokers, the pacifists'. When I declined a glass of wine, he was sceptical. And when I didn't finish my lunch – a bowl of soup made by his glamorous wife, Myriam, a poet – he would not go ahead with the interview until I had, offering to spoon-feed me the rest.

Lunch consumed, he agreed to talk, cigar in hand, lolling on the sofa, a stuffed polar bear and tiger behind him, and a stuffed crocodile on the wall, with a chicken in its jaws. In his mind, the municipality is to blame: 'They have no brain; they act only with paranoia.'

Did he like Cocteau? 'Not really,' he replied. 'For one reason, he was very close to the Nazis during the Second World War. He was not resistant… I have no respect for that man.' (Cocteau controversially socialised with German officers during the occupation of Paris and admired Arno Breker, Hitler's favourite sculptor.)

Far more of a fan is Cassens, 32, a self-styled 'Cocteau scholar'. She entered the fray like 'a bull in a china shop', says Bert, as the dust settled on the sea-damaged museum. Nicknamed by her grandfather 'little scorpion' (he was the 'big scorpion'), she appears to have inherited his combative attitude. In an interview with *The New York Times*, she came out with fighting words. 'The strife between my family and Menton comes from the fact that it's a city with many issues […] I am doing my best to be the scorpion in their shoes, the scorpion under their pillows.' Clearly, Cassens has ruffled feathers in the Cocteau community, as she surely intended to do. 'Yes, and?' was her response when *Tatler* put the assertion to her.

To comprehend the battle raging over this art collection, one needs to understand that Menton is not a throbbing, go-getting

place. A lackadaisical, distinctly Mediterranean attitude can be found everywhere, from the platform at the train station with no 'Menton' signage, leaving travellers to crane their necks and nervously ask fellow passengers if this is the right stop, to Le Palais de l'Europe, a museum inexplicably closed when I tried to visit, even though, according to the placard in the window, it should indeed have been open. Things move slowly here, and a museum may stay shuttered for almost a decade. An heiress raised between Los Angeles and Switzerland – with regular trips to her grandfather's grand Chelsea home in London – may find such a tempo difficult to tolerate.

She is certainly determined that the family reclaim control over the collection. In January, the Wunderman family sued the town of Menton for the cancellation of Séverin's donation, arguing it had not met the conditions of the gift: that the collection be permanently exhibited. 'The Wunderman family's priority is and has always been to honour Séverin's dream and intentions as outlined in the donation contract with Menton,' Cassens said.

For Menton, the issue comes down to money. As reported in *Le Monde*, the repair costs are estimated at more than £2.6 million. Negotiations with the insurers as to their contribution towards that figure are understood to be ongoing. The town has a relatively modest culture budget, about £735,000 to run the city's museums, libraries and other services. Significant sums have been spent restoring the damaged artworks. And much of the collection has been rehomed in a permanent exhibition at the Bastion; the framed drawings looked fetching on the rough stone walls of the former fortress when I visited.

As Bert pointed out, the town has now spent well over the £4.25 million the collection is thought to have been worth in 2005, when the deal was signed. 'We're not in the same league as the major American museums with paintings worth $100 million [approximately £73.8 million].'

When I reached Menton on a sunny Friday, mayoral elections were in full swing, with the first vote set for the next day. (The museum director and a spokesperson for the municipality would not speak to me with them ongoing.) Right-wingers Alexandra Masson and Sandra Paire were jostling for pole position, but another candidate attracted attention: Louis Sarkozy, son of Nicolas, stepson of Carla Bruni, aged 28 and running for office for the first time.

I found him outside a casual restaurant on the marina as dusk fell, holding court and casting for votes, in a camel tweed jacket, puffing on a vape and gladhanding. *Tatler* profiled him in 2019, then for his range of shoes inspired by great thinkers, from Marie Curie to Sigmund Freud. The subject now is rather more serious.

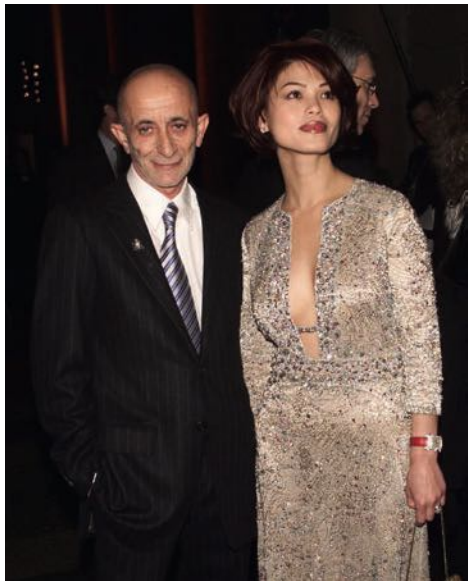
Educated at New York University, he speaks excellent English, with an American twinge, and has an earnest politeness that seems more American than French. As to what he would do with the museum if he became mayor, he points out the many unknowns in the case – 'obscurities', he calls them. Foremost: whether the family will legally be able to take back control of the collection. 'It was a gift to the state,' Sarkozy says. But he also doesn't sound all that keen on the museum. 'It's a huge financial expenditure… to reopen a museum that didn't really work commercially, with very brutal architecture that not a lot of people like.'

He proposes holding a referendum on the building's future once Cassens's case has worked through the courts. 'There's really two options. Either we reopen the museum or the building becomes a sort of exhibition space for Menton artists or for wandering artists.' He apologises for not being able to give 'a more sexy or definitive answer'.

Does he like Cocteau? He winces. 'I like some Cocteau,' he says, rather unconvincingly. 'If I was asked to decorate a wedding room, I would not pick, as decoration, the rape of the Sabine [women]… that would not be my first choice. Clearly, there's a question mark on his views of marriage in general.' He begrudgingly admits 'the guy's a genius' before declaring: 'I'm not a huge fan of contemporary or abstract [art]. I like classical. I like art that has standards.'

Ouch. But perhaps Sarkozy doesn't have his finger on Menton's pulse; perhaps his American streak doesn't play well on the Côte d'Azur, because Sarkozy Jr finished third in the first round of voting, a result *Le Monde* described as a 'crushing defeat'. Masson, of the far-right party Rassemblement National, won the mayoralty of Menton. Her words during the campaign suggest she has no plans to relinquish the Wunderman collection to his family. 'It is fundamental to reopen this museum,' she said. 'It would be dramatic to lose this collection.'

Whatever the result of the legal battle, it's hard not to detect a certain Cocteauvian poetry in this drama of passion and ambition, art and ownership, playing out under the Mediterranean sun. If an artist's greatest fear is oblivion, the spectacle of politicians and an American heiress who calls herself a scorpion battling over the museum that bears his name would have amused Cocteau, who understood better than most that art and ego are rarely separable. □



TRIO CON BRIO

Above, Cocteau with Coco Chanel (left) and socialite Francine Weisweiller, 1958. Below, Séverin Wunderman with a guest at a gala benefit in New York, 2001

PHOTOGRAPHS: AP PHOTO, MAXPPP/ALAMY; BRIDGEMAN; GETTY IMAGES; QUENTIN BARET ON UNSPLASH; THÉO GIACOMETTI

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Edited by
ASTRID JOSS

BLOSSOMS UP!
Dior's latest scent is inspired by the hundreds of almond trees at the Provençal château near Grasse that Christian Dior bought in 1951

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES

ON A FRESH NOTE

There's something new in the air this season...

'Perfume is like fashion – there are seasons and timings,' says Francis Kurkdjian, celebrity nose and perfume creation director at Parfums Christian Dior. Dior Paradise, his latest fragrance for La Collection Privée, speaks of a euphoric time felt as the bleak, cold winter gives way to the uplifting warmth of spring and summer. Examining this sensation via his new olfactory tribute to Christian Dior's life at Château de La Colle Noire, his beloved home in Provence, Kurkdjian focuses on the delight the designer found in the gardens there. Reflecting on the orchard of almond trees, he says: 'I can't help but imagine him at his bedroom window late in winter, eagerly awaiting the profuse and miraculous blossoming that promises true happiness and the renewal of nature.' Dior's love of the taste and scent of almond is found in Dior Paradise's addictive 'bitter almond' note; it's blended with vibrant mandarin, lime and orange, while biscuity roasted tonka bean prolongs the sweetness. 'It's fresh and clean yet warm and chic,' says Kurkdjian. 'You could be in London and catch a moment of sun between the chaos. This is also what paradise is.' **AJ**

La Collection Privée Christian Dior – Dior Paradise eau de parfum, £255 for 100ml, **DIOR** (available from 1 June)

PUTTIN' ON THE SPRITZ

Soothing nature, a great escape, nocturnal allure or timeless glamour? Four moods, one question: which scent suits your occasion?

By **ASTRID JOSS**

INTO THE WOODS

If your inner-outer balance is askew, down to the woods you must go. Offering a restorative sanctuary where birdsong mingles with fresh air, trees are nature's remedy. Kipling, Yeats and Emerson all wrote of the country's compelling ability to disarm even the most uptight. But if you're too busy to leave home? This season's wood-based scents deliver instantaneous relief.

For a lesson in letting go, Italians do it best. Acqua di Parma's aptly named Buongiorno Dolce Far Niente captures the serene scents of lemon, fig and cedarwood, evoking the calm of an unhurried day. Or take time to have tea with Molton Brown, which has bottled that sacred second when the first sip of a perfectly crafted brew passes your lips. Tea Ceremony combines an earthy matcha accord with facets of amberwood for a meditative moment.

Meanwhile, Creed examines the quintessential yet contrasting British obsession of pomp and ceremony within rambling country settings. Based on the idea of an elegant English garden party, Wild Vetiver walks the line between precise refinement and untamed nature through a woody, floral harmony of wild rose centifolia and vetiver grass with composed cedar- and amberwood. For an all-out rustic experience, Tom Ford has released yet another hypnotic sensation: Taormina Orange. Allow the uplifting notes of green mandarin and lime to transport you directly to sunlit Sicilian orange groves.

1 Le Gemme Tygar extrait, £452 for 125ml, **BVLGARI**. **2** Buongiorno Dolce Far Niente eau de parfum, £257 for 100ml, **ACQUA DI PARMA**. **3** Sous Les Pins eau de parfum, £231 for 150ml, **CHLOÉ** at selfridges.com. **4** La Nuit Tombée eau de parfum, £213 for 100ml, **SERGE LUTENS** at harrods.com. **5** Tea Ceremony eau de parfum, £140 for 100ml, **MOLTON BROWN**. **6** Wild Vetiver eau de parfum, £310 for 100ml, **CREED**. **7** Taormina Orange eau de parfum, £299 for 100ml, **TOM FORD**. **8** Delphes eau de parfum, £200 for 100ml, **L'OBJET** at harrods.com

BERRY'D TREASURE

Are you craving escapism? Balenciaga and Burberry have bottled the scent of summer through masterful blends of energising citrus and seductively sweet cherry. Inject some *joie de vivre* into your holiday vanity case with fruit-led fragrances that liberate you from the everyday.

Thrill-seekers will love Destin de Balmain's vibrant burst of strawberry contrasted with the spicy pepper notes of baies rose, which creates an unexpected but irresistible electricity reminiscent of summer's infinite possibilities – further highlighted by the house's labyrinth motif carved into the bottle. Even sweeter and full of Italian passion is the new offering in Valentino's Born in Roma collection, Purple Melancholia, which owes its bright and luminous aroma to plum and Madagascan vanilla.

For an haute couture moment, Balenciaga's new fragrance collection is housed in replica bottles of Cristóbal's first-ever scent, Le Dix from 1947, named for the address of the house's original ateliers in Paris. The bottle, missing for decades, was rediscovered after an extensive search. Getaria transports us to Cristóbal's birthplace on the Spanish coast, where salty citrus notes summon the cool ocean breeze.

For those disposed to city breaks, Diptyque's new variation of Orphéon conjures up nocturnal Parisian style. Juniper berries mixed with green mandarin, anchored in woody cedar, bring to mind gin cocktails in elegant nightclubs. Meanwhile, Burberry Her opens with notes of cherry, inspired by London in bloom, reminding us that sometimes a staycation is all you need. ▷

1 Lumière d'Issey eau de parfum, £140 for 100ml, **ISSEY MIYAKE**. **2** Getaria eau de parfum, £230 for 100ml, **BALENCIAGA**. **3** Destin de Balmain, £130 for 100ml, **BALMAIN**. **4** Orphéon eau de toilette, £145 for 100ml, **DIPTYQUE**. **5** Tabac Sahara eau de parfum, £123 for 75ml, **GUERLAIN**. **6** Zadig L'Intense eau de parfum, £136 for 90ml, **ZADIG & VOLTAIRE**. **7** Lemon eau fraîche, £12 for 15ml, **BRONNLEY**. **8** Burberry Her eau de parfum, £152 for 100ml, **BURBERRY**. **9** Born in Roma Purple Melancholia eau de parfum, £145 for 100ml, **VALENTINO**

OUD AND PROUD

Renowned for its deeply intense aroma, and often referred to as 'liquid gold' due to its rare and expensive nature, oud has traditionally been worn by men, particularly in Middle Eastern cultures, as a symbol of wealth. Since the early 2000s, it has transitioned from being a niche scent in western markets to having a mega moment today. Major fragrance houses are rushing to introduce oud into their collections in lighter, more wearable unisex blends.

Light up the night with Amaffi's newest launch, Dazzling Oud, where added notes of davana and bitter orange dazzle the senses, perfect for intoxicating night-time adventures – wear this with your favourite cocktail dress and decadent diamonds. Elsewhere, Louis Vuitton's master perfumer Jacques Cavallier-Belletrud explores the glorious moment when daylight turns amber, inspired by the mythical golden hour of the Middle East, by way of Ambre Levant – a spellbinding union of oud and amber that is spicy and seductive.

Also at the forefront of the oud movement is legendary nose Alberto Morillas, responsible for such blockbusters as Calvin Klein's CK One, Armani's Acqua di Giò and Marc Jacobs' Daisy. The latest offering from his Mizensir fragrance house is Chiffre Royal, a smooth concoction of oud Assafi, patchouli and tree moss with a base note of 'Dreamwood', possessing what he calls a 'discreet magnetism'. Trendsetters also love Maison Francis Kurkdjian's Oud Velvet Mood: a timely take with velvety notes of peach for a fruitier, very wearable version. But when the night begins to wane, keep things lively with Roja: in Espresso Aoud, roasted coffee beans take centre stage for an addictive composition.

1 Oud Liaisons eau de parfum, £225 for 88ml, **ORMONDE JAYNE**. **2** Bois Obscur extrait de parfum, £310 for 70ml, **BYREDO**. **3** Ambre Levant eau de parfum, £320 for 100ml, **LOUIS VUITTON**. **4** Oud Velvet Mood extrait de parfum, £360 for 70ml, **MAISON FRANCIS KURKDJIAN** at harrods.com. **5** Haze eau de parfum, £260 for 100ml, **ELECTIMUSS**. **6** Chiffre Royal eau de parfum, £285 for 100ml, **MIZENSIR**. **7** Espresso Aoud parfum, £325 for 50ml, **ROJA**. **8** Dazzling Oud eau de parfum, £4,300 for 85ml, **AMAFFI**

SEIZE THE DAISY

Romantic, poetic and unapologetically feminine, a floral scent's uplifting attributes set the tone for your day. Both Jackie Kennedy Onassis and Carolyn Bessette (whose cool '90s image is having a renaissance thanks to Ryan Murphy's series *Love Story*) coveted floral notes.

Today's modern heroines have fallen for Dior's new J'adore Intense, dreamt up by Francis Kurkdjian as an ode to music siren Rihanna. Warm notes of jasmine and ylang-ylang embody what Kurkdjian describes as 'a liberated young woman who dares to embrace the world with clarity and genius'. Coco Chanel's answer to her own famous remark on perfume – 'no elegance is possible without it' – was the launch of her first fragrance, No 5. Re-released in a new, streamlined bottle, it combines rose with sandalwood and vetiver.

Frédéric Malle, a favourite of jet-set heiresses, has designed Contre-Jour, inspired by the Mediterranean everlasting flower, which maintains its glow long after being picked. And the sun-drenched trail of the Med continues in Memo Paris's Cap Camarat, where pink peppercorns mix with creamy sambac jasmine.

Elsewhere, Kilian Hennessy ventures to Japan for a softer scent: Her Majesty, inspired by cherry blossom, with a whisper of peach. Meanwhile, the bucolic British outdoors is bottled in Jo Malone's sweetly powdered English Pear & Sweet Pea cologne. ☐

1 Rose Première by Kelly Rutherford eau de parfum, £260 for 85ml, **VERONIQUE GABAI** at harrods.com. **2** Contre-Jour by Annick Ménardo eau de parfum, £290 for 100ml, **FRÉDÉRIC MALLE**. **3** English Pear & Sweet Pea cologne, £122 for 100ml, **JO MALONE**. **4** J'Adore Intense parfum, £80 for 35ml, **DIOR**. **5** Wild Rosinda eau de parfum, £235 for 100ml, **LIBERTY LBTY**. **6** Her Majesty eau de parfum, £285 for 100ml, **KILIAN PARIS**. **7** Gucci Bloom Ambrosia D'Oro eau de parfum, £146 for 100ml, **GUCCI**. **8** No 5 eau de toilette, £127 for 75ml, **CHANEL**. **9** Cap Camarat x Olimpia Zagnoli eau de parfum, £235 for 75ml, **MEMO PARIS**. **10** Celest eau de parfum, £180 for 100ml, **FLORIS LONDON**. **11** Libre Berry Crush eau de parfum, £112 for 50ml, **YSL**

Just off the beaten track

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Edited by DELILAH KHOMO

ABBEY EVER AFTER
The ruins of Bolton Abbey in the Yorkshire Dales have become a pilgrimage point for Brontë fans

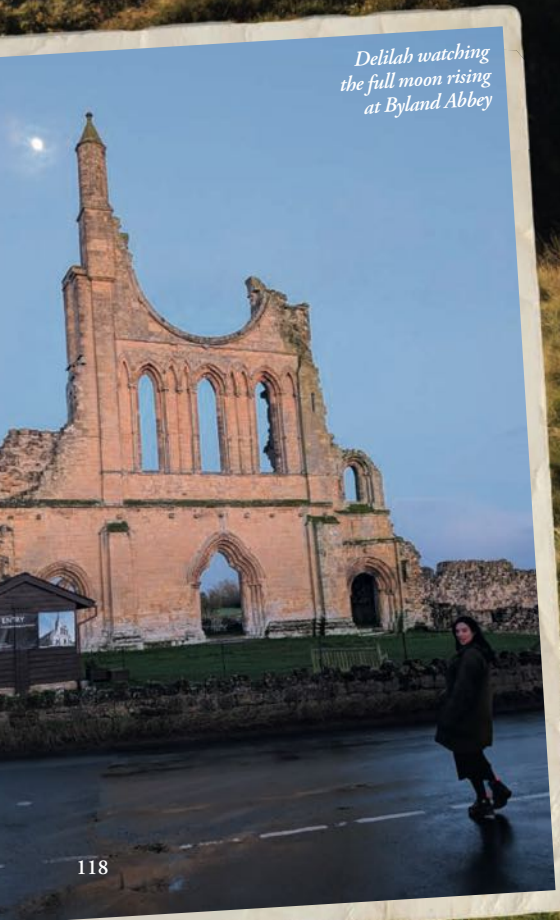
GIVE ME MOOR

With fantastical boltholes, fabulous food and fresh filmic acclaim, the bleak, blustery Yorkshire of Wuthering Heights is now a county to truly warm to. Delilah Khomo samples its most romantic offerings

PART OF YORKSHIRE'S CHARM IS IN how it has resisted becoming another Somerset or Cotswolds, all destination design hotels and curated prettiness. There are grand stately hotels – Grantley Hall and Rudding Park among them – but to truly inhabit the county's storybook romance, you must turn to the inns, farmhouses, half-ruined follies and the oaken splendour of historic halls on ancestral estates. There you will find rugged walks and thatched pub-restaurants where foie gras comes tucked into Yorkshire puddings and walls whisper tales of the highwaymen who once frequented the rooms; there are even ethical caviar farms to be discovered. But mostly, Yorkshire offers mist and wild, wild landscapes.

A new generation is now discovering the emotive depth of one of Britain's most dramatic backdrops, thanks to Emerald Fennell's recent filmic reimagining of *Wuthering Heights*. It may have received polarised reviews, but Fennell ▷

BRONTË BE WILD
The approach to Top Withens, the now-derelict farmhouse on Haworth Moor believed to have inspired Wuthering Heights



Delilah watching the full moon rising at Byland Abbey

◁ indisputably managed to convey the passion of the moors where scenes were filmed (and Charli XCX nailed the soundtrack).

Some of us were under the county's windswept spell long before that glossy adaptation of Emily Brontë's tortured love story brought Heathcliff and Cathy back to the fore of the public imagination. I fell for the moors years ago, drawn in by a land that exists somewhere between fiction, fantasy and desolate nature.

Yorkshire captivated me from afar through the pages of Brontë's masterpiece. Later, my feelings intensified with a sprinkling of 1930s Hollywood stardust: the Sam Goldwyn production of *Wuthering Heights*, starring Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon (a film that remains, in my opinion, the best version to date). How I longed to run to the fairy cave of Penistone Crags up on those 'wily, windy moors'. A backdrop suspended in time, like a film set of savage beauty and stillness, conjuring that liminal state between dreaming and waking hours. Alas, recently I discovered that those particular moors were located near Los Angeles.

Undeterred, I took my literary pilgrimage seriously. I set off in search of the real Penistone Crags, Ponden Kirk, the mystical setting of Heathcliff and Cathy's fairy cave. This stone crag – a place Emily often walked to – rises high on a rocky, grassy and (yes) misty cliff edge, beyond the hamlet of Ponden in West Yorkshire. You enter another world as you step out onto the vast expanse of heather moorland that runs across the Pennine Way. With the huge grey sky above and the wind rushing – when it drops, the silence is eerie – it's not difficult to imagine Heathcliff's ghost walking alongside you.

This is the best walking terrain in the world. You feel you could go on forever. And yet there is equal pleasure to be had in collapsing into the back of a local taxi, especially if you are lucky enough to have Bill as your driver, a man of few words, who takes me on the best *Wuthering Heights* tour. Driving through the mist along windswept roads, with the sonic haze of Kate Bush segueing into Charli XCX's soundtrack in my ears, I found myself agreeing: everything is romantic here.

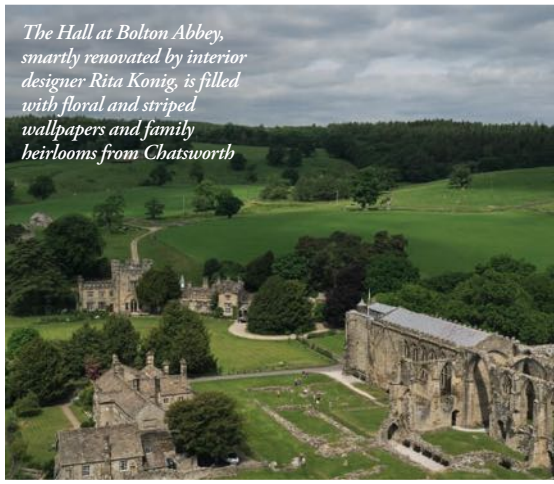
The heart of Brontëland is the village of Haworth, home of sisters Charlotte, Emily and Anne, who would become three of the greatest writers in the English language. Here you'll find sloping grey stone walls, a vintage red telephone box and a deeply brooding atmosphere – and discover that *Wuthering Heights* mania has taken hold of this vertiginous cobbled town. Queues snake around the Brontë Parsonage Museum, the modest former home of Reverend Patrick Brontë, where he lived with his wife, Maria, his daughters and his son, Branwell. Next door, rooks caw in the spire of the church. The entire Brontë family (except Anne) are buried in a vault beneath this church; the reverend outlived his wife and all his children.

Broughton Sanctuary, a filming location for the 1992 Wuthering Heights, starring Ralph Fiennes and Juliette Binoche

The museum is frozen in time, around 1820, the rooms filled with the family's curios, beds and various manuscripts (a great gift shop sells all kinds of *Wuthering Heights* merch, including tote bags emblazoned with the words 'Drive me mad' and an array of different, very pretty editions of *Wuthering Heights*). There's a fascinating year-long programme of events run by the Brontë Society. The one that caught my attention was a talk given by Claire O'Callaghan on the poets Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes, who lived nearby in Heptonstall and were both heavily influenced by Emily's masterpiece. It is worth making the pilgrimage to Plath's grave at St Thomas' churchyard; her burial plot cannot be missed, festooned with yellow roses and pens.

Aside from such graveyards filled with melancholy and storied romance, Yorkshire delivers seriously on ruined abbeys, especially Bolton Abbey, to which the Brontës are said to have taken day trips. Straight out of a Charlotte etching, this Augustine priory rises between the River Wharfe and the steep banks of Wharfedale. Bolton Abbey Hall began life as a gatehouse but, as the priory fell into decline, bloomed as a hunting lodge for the Dukes of Devonshire, who travelled up from Chatsworth each August.

Today, you can take over the Hall at Bolton Abbey and gaze out upon landscapes immortalised in the paintings of Turner and the poems



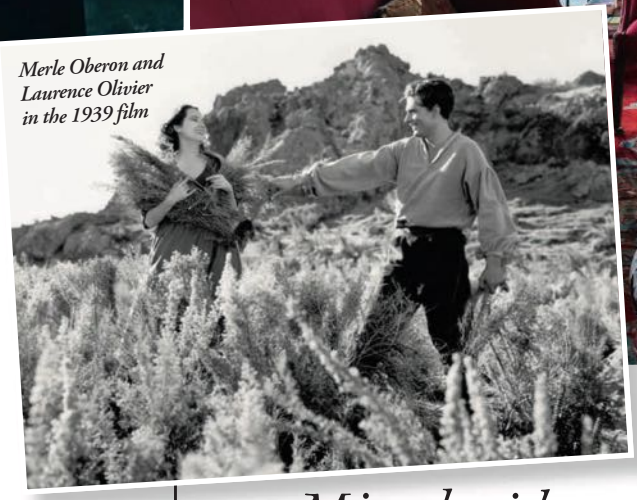
The Hall at Bolton Abbey, smartly renovated by interior designer Rita Konig, is filled with floral and striped wallpapers and family heirlooms from Chatsworth

of Wordsworth. It's the perfect place for a party (particularly a grouse-shooting weekend, as loved by George V, who visited 14 times), with everything just so in its 12 bedrooms, which exude all the whimsy and charm you'd expect from Rita Konig, the interior designer. In Konig's delightful way, there is a mix of delicate floral and striped wallpapers with wrought-iron beds, rugs by Lady Emma Tennant and heirloom pieces, such as carriage lamps, from Chatsworth. Bathrooms are little aristocratic pockets of charm, their deep, deep tubs scented with Floris Cefiro. (Not to be missed is the faded leopard-print bed in the turret bedroom where George V stayed, also known as the King's Bedroom, which, to be clear, has not been revamped by Konig.)

I was struck by a deep sense of tranquillity, quiet and rest when I visited. Merely walking across the rolling billiard-green fields, you can feel your cortisol levels drop. Much of this atmosphere comes from the estate having been so thoughtfully furnished and cared for by ▷

Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi as Cathy and Heathcliff in Emerald Fennell's Wuthering Heights

The Hall at Bolton Abbey, which hosted King George V on 14 occasions



Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier in the 1939 film

◁ the Cavendish family; especially at Stank House Farm, a three-bedroom fantasy of honeyed stone and antique beds, dreamy rolltop baths and huge windows overlooking the dales. There are sweet little tea shops serving scones with jam down in Bolton Abbey village. And a Sunday roast is particularly satisfying after walking across the estate to see Simon's Seat and the fabulously dramatic Valley of Desolation waterfalls.

The food was a revelation. I would probably have to walk across all 3,341 square miles of North Yorkshire, England's largest county, to burn off everything I consumed at The Star Inn in Harome. A thatched wonder, it's arguably the best pub in the country – the first in the north to gain a Michelin star, which it has held this (second) time for 20 years – thanks to patron Andrew Pern's renowned Franglais love of hearty cooking. Here, chef Steven Smith showcases the richness of the region with a menu that features ploughman's lunches alongside Petrossian caviar. There are Sunday roasts featuring cauliflower cheese laden with lashings of shaved Périgord truffles; Yorkshire puddings crowned with foie gras; sauces laced with wild garlic picked from the duck pond in the village; and a divine Chablis Vieilles Vignes with all the fragrance of honeysuckle in June.

The inn is spellbinding, not least for God's own food, but also for the roll call of historic names to have swung through its heavy wooden doors, from Oliver Cromwell to, reportedly, notorious highwayman Dick Turpin. As you slink out after your meal to one of the inn's bedrooms, a plume of smoke floating from the chimney, it's as if Alfred Noyes' poem *The Highwayman* had come to life: 'The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor…'

Misted with Evian-like rain, the moorland is topographical Prozac

But when it is time to plunge fully into a *Wuthering Heights* dreamscape, the grand hall and farmhouses of Broughton Sanctuary are the real deal. Broughton was the setting for the 1992 film adaptation, which starred Ralph Fiennes and Juliette Binoche running over its ancient moorland. Wandering across it is like being held in a verdant, mossy sponge, blasted with oxygen and misted with Evian-like rain. Think of this as topographical Prozac.

There's a special magic afoot on this estate, which has been in the Tempest family for more than 900 years. Current custodians Paris and Roger have brought it up to speed sensitively, but they've also worked tirelessly to preserve the ancient, healing Marian energy: from the Sacred Heart chapel to the holy well hidden in the cellar, not to mention the labyrinth and Druid mounds. In the works is a new equestrian centre in which to practise horse whispering.

They've cranked up the spiritual magic, too, with an on-site scientific faculty that measures consciousness, and a destination spa. Expect a crystal light bed, sound healing (the most powerful session I've ever had was with Paris) and treatments from visiting practitioners as part of the various retreats that are scheduled across the year. (Try to align your visit with Lucie Ormerod's rotation – she performs the most amazing face reflexology.) There is also a restaurant called Utopia. What else?

Yorkshire has many zones of enchantment, but Higher Scarcliffe, Broughton's remotest farmhouse, is particularly romantic. When you enter, you're hit by the scent of Santa Maria Novella. Some spaces are beamed and low-slung to perfection, but there's also an incredible high-ceilinged sitting room that maximises the views. Cloud-like beds are perfect for falling into after a day's trekking over moorland.

Here, watching the full moon rise against the moors, sitting on the terrace, the hooting of owls in the background, I was struck by the truth: this is indeed God's Own Country. You can keep the pampas of Argentina, the plains of the Serengeti and the national parks in California – when it comes to Yorkshire, just give me moor. ☐

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES, PSC PHOTOGRAPHY/ALAMY

THE WILD BUNCH

In the mood for a wily, windy weekend at a romantic Yorkshire retreat as remote as Wuthering Heights? Delilah Khomo explores four

DENTON RESERVE

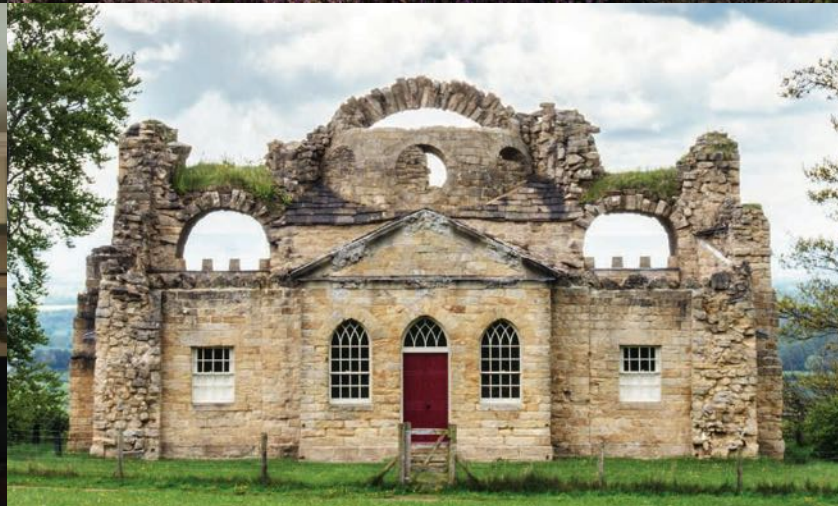
There's a satisfying calm to these 2,500 acres of preserved North Yorkshire wilderness near Ilkley, from theraupeutic wild swimming in the lake to sauna rituals in sylvan surrounds, where you may spot grazing deer. Interiors are simple in the divinely stripped-back Hall and 10 ensuite bedrooms, which feel like cashmere cocoons. Other properties on the estate include airy, restored coach houses with some of the best bedding in the county. Drift about the wildflower meadow and walled garden before artisanal gin cocktails in the orangery, served with rose, hibiscus or other foraged plants. Dine on Yorkshire's best field-to-fork soul food (braised rib of beef, leafy greens) at The Penny Bun, the estate's excellent pub with rooms. *dentonreserve.co.uk*

HIGHER SCARCLIFFE

You might find yourself reeling off Kate Bush's *Wuthering Heights* as you pull up to this 17th-century farmhouse at Broughton Sanctuary, a sprawling estate near Skipton in North Yorkshire. It is perfect for soul-stirring seclusion on the wily, windy moors – you can easily imagine Cathy tapping furiously on the latticed windows in the beamed sitting room. Oh, to curl up with a book in one of the three bedrooms, swathed in crisp linen under a good old-fashioned quilt, as a storm howls outside. In summer, have supper on the terrace, or watch the sunset from beside the fire pit. Then hike to the moon baths – huge porcelain tubs buried in the moss – or the ancient stone dwellings on the moors. Avalon, the estate's wellbeing centre, has a fabulous pool, sauna and steam room, as well as various visiting practitioners. The restaurant, Utopia, excels at zingy salads and vegan fare. *broughtonsanctuary.co.uk*

STANK HOUSE FARM

The ruins of Bolton Abbey in Wharfedale are at their most beautiful early in the morning and just before sunset – so one of the pleasures of staying in the grounds is having access at these times. Stank House Farm is a confection of pastoral bliss rather like Marie Antoinette's Petit Trianon in the grounds of the Palace of Versailles, only in the Yorkshire Dales. The property is very elegantly styled – two of the three bedrooms have wonderfully high antique beds – but never showy. The sitting room is full of antiques, with a wood-burning fireplace, the kitchen has warmed flagstone floors, and in the garden is a centrepiece sundial. But Stank's greatest gift is the opportunity for total absorption: this is a place to stop and slow down time. *boltonescapes.co.uk*



THE RUIN

A romantic sojourn worthy of Cathy and Heathcliff is assured at this storybook North Yorkshire idyll. Radiating fantastical off-grid glamour, the Georgian folly, built sometime around 1767 as a banqueting house, is believed to have been modelled in part on the ruins of Hadrian's Baths in Rome. The crumbling honeycomb exterior, overlooking Hackfall Wood, exudes restorative peace. The forest, filled with various other follies, was reputedly the inspiration for the arcadian 1773 Wedgwood Frog Service commissioned by Catherine the Great of Russia. A place of simple pleasures, The Ruin is a series of three rooms: one with an enormous bathtub; another doubling as a drawing-room-cum-kitchen, lined with books; and a bedroom, spartan but chic, framed with gothic doors that open out onto views of the wooded gorge below. *landmarktrust.org.uk*

PHOTOGRAPHS: JILL TATE, SEAN KNOTT, STEPHEN GARNETT

NOSTELL

I lost my mind in this Palladian wonderland (built on the site of a former priory), which is like Thrushcross Grange on steroids and has some of the most beautiful swagged and gilded bedrooms, as well as one of the largest Chippendale collections (and don't get me started on the 18th-century dolls' house). Every bit as mesmerising as the interiors are the magnolia trees in the Menagerie Garden. *nationaltrust.org.uk/nostell*

WHERE TO EAT

THE STAR INN

Emmerdale meets Henley at this 14th-century thatched pub (*pictured below*) edging the North Yorkshire Moors. Food and drink are plentiful and excellent, with Yorkshire beef from the village farm, oysters from Lindisfarne and – not for the faint-hearted – a signature black pudding with foie gras that's Heathcliff in a dish. *thestaratharome.co.uk*

THE ABBEY INN

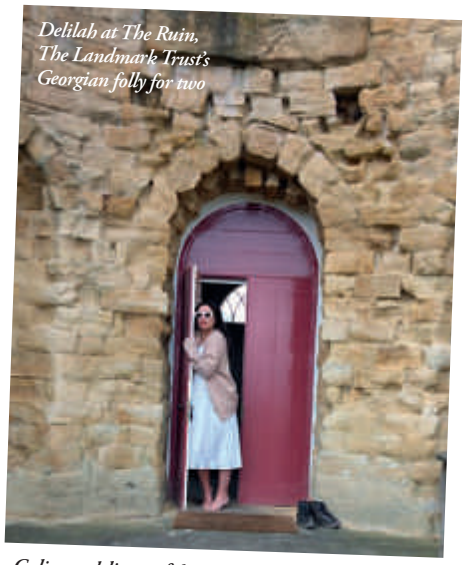
Chef Tommy Banks is a star of the Yorkshire food scene. And the sight of unpolluted starry skies here, before the ruins of Byland Abbey, is as memorable as his divine chicken kiev with wild garlic butter at The Abbey Inn (*left*). The cheeseboard, one of the best in the county, showcases fine local stilton and goat's cheeses, while delicious negronis feature foraged herbs, and the wine list has an interesting Georgian red. *abbeyinnbyland.co.uk*

Arches frame the perfect view from The Abbey Inn, the place to savour forced Yorkshire rhubarb ice-cream sundaes

WUTHERING BITES

'Wear something vintage and take something warm.' With stylist Grace Coddington's advice (plus her Vuitton cardigan and a 1920s slip dress), I went to live my romantic Yorkshire fantasy

By **DELILAH KHOMO**



Delilah at The Ruin, The Landmark Trust's Georgian folly for two

Culinary delivery of dreams: ethically produced caviar can be sent to The Landmark Trust's property The Ruin, in Hackfall, from Yorkshire's KC Caviar – the first UK sturgeon farm with a 'no-kill' policy (kccaviar.com)

The Star Inn at Harome serves everything from squab pigeon to bouillabaisse, and has seen the likes of David Hockney and Dick Turpin through its doors

WHAT TO PACK

Cardigan, £1,420, **LOUIS VUITTON TRAVELS WITH GRACE CODDINGTON**

Candles, £140 each, **OFFICINE UNIVERSELLE BULY**

Baerii British caviar, £229.95 for 250g, **KC CAVIAR**

Tech Mönch 1 hiking boots, £567, **DREI BERGE**

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PHOTOGRAPH: OLI KEARON

TO CAP IT ALL

Hats to upstage the most outrageous outfits (even fuchsia Fendi), page 78

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TATLER'S JEWELLERY EDIT

RÊVERIE JEWELS

A quiet expression of individuality, elegance and ease, Rêverie unfolds as a study in modern refinement. Conceived as a composition rather than a singular statement, the pieces are designed to layer effortlessly, creating a look that feels both considered and instinctive. Every detail reflects a contemporary approach to jewellery - intimate, versatile and quietly understated. Created by the Italian design-led jewellery brand Rêverie Jewels, the collection embodies a thoughtful balance of aesthetic precision and emotional resonance, privileging meaning over excess and timelessness over fleeting trends. Visit reveriej.com and follow @reverie.jewels_UK and @reverie.jewels on Instagram.

HEADS AND TAILS JEWELLERY

At Heads & Tails Jewellery, every piece begins with a year - yours. From birth years to anniversaries, they turn genuine coins from around the world into personalised jewellery that carries age, memory and meaning. Whether you want to wear a 1930 sixpence necklace in memory of a loved one or immortalise a penny hip flask at your wedding, there is a gift for you. Wear Your Year. Visit headsandtailsjewellery.co.uk and follow @headsandtailsjewellery on Instagram.

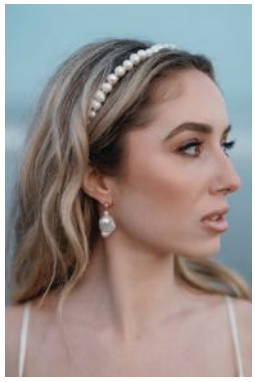
DIMOND LONDON

Dimond London is a third generation London jeweller specialising in bespoke engagement rings. The studio is known for exceptional diamonds and gemstones and its collaborative approach to creating individually crafted pieces for private clients, with designs inspired by Art Deco, antique, and vintage styles. Visit dimondlondon.com and follow @dimondlondon on Instagram to start your bespoke jewellery journey.

BODY VISION LOS ANGELES

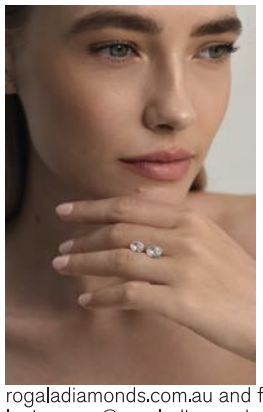
Est.1996, BVLA is the world's leading designer and manufacturer of precious metal body jewellery. Made entirely in Los Angeles, their cutting-edge workshops produce over 3,000 original handmade designs, customisable with more than 150 gemstones and proudly offer custom work. Sold at fine piercing studios across the globe. Visit BVLA.com/studios to find a retailer near you, and follow @BVLA on Instagram.

MISS FOXINE



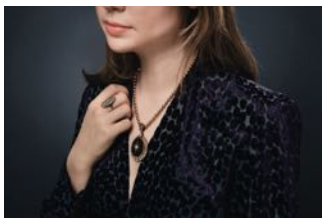
Miss Foxine Couture is a collection of contemporary jewellery and luxe hair accessories celebrating feminine strength. Each piece is thoughtfully handcrafted with love in their Halifax, Canada studio. The designs awaken your inner goddess and encourage intentional living, creating lasting heirloom pieces to be treasured and worn again beautifully. Find out more @missfoxine.com and follow on Instagram @missfoxine

ROGALA DIAMONDS



Rogala Diamonds sources every diamond directly from a live global inventory, selecting each stone specifically for the client beyond the limits of traditional retail. Clients are guided one-on-one by the founder, from the initial consultation through to the final piece, creating a private and highly personalised experience. Find out more at rogaladiamonds.com.au and follow them on Instagram @rogaladiamonds

COLLIER LONDON



Collier London is a luxury jewellery brand specialising in hand-sourced antique, vintage, and up-cycled pieces. Founded by Creative Director Katrina Reitman, the brand reimagines rare finds into modern designs. Each one-of-a-kind piece is curated or redesigned, blending craftsmanship with contemporary elegance and meaning. Discover more at collierlondon.co.uk and on Instagram @collier_london_

HISTOIRE D'ELLE

Inspired by women and the poetry of nature, Histoire D'Elle Jewelry transforms delicate forms into timeless fine jewellery. Each piece reflects strength, grace, and quiet beauty, brought to life through refined craftsmanship. Designed to be felt as much as worn, every creation tells a story of femininity, individuality, and the enduring connection between woman and nature. Find out more at histoire-delle.com and follow them on Instagram @histoiredelle_jewels

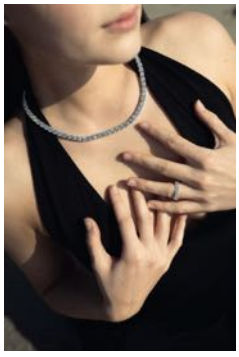
JADE JEWELLERY

Founded by Sukaina Mackie, Jade Jewellery is known for bold, sculptural pieces that blur the line between jewellery and wearable art. After two decades in the Middle East, she brings her aesthetic to London with her Chelsea boutique. Discover bold designs at 81 Walton Street, London SW3 2HP. Explore more at jade-jewellery.net and on Instagram @jadejewellery

PRENOA

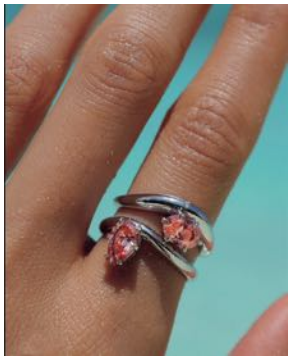
Prenoa is a brand rooted in history and sustainable materials. It brings together the symbolism and heritage of British coins, combining them with your story. Collections include milestone gifts, alongside an evergreen collection that celebrates British traditions. Every design is a piece of the past and the present. Handmade in Stamford, near Rutland. Visit prenoa.com and follow on Instagram @prenoajewellery

OUROS JEWELS



Ouros Jewels creates fine jewellery using lab grown diamonds, with a focus on strong design and precise craftsmanship since 2018. From engagement rings to diamond necklaces, each piece is developed with attention to proportion, setting, and finish. With ateliers in London, New York, and Dubai, they bring together global design sensibilities and in-house expertise, while offering the flexibility to refine pieces around individual preferences. Find out more at ourosjewels.com and on Instagram @ourosjewels

APARTMENT6



Apartment6 is a future-forward fine jewellery house, crafting in-house designs with pink and white lab-grown diamonds grown using solar-powered energy. Each piece is bold, versatile yet effortless, made to shift with your mood, your moment, your light. Apartment6 is the name collectors whisper and wear. Discover more at apartment6.co.uk and on Instagram @_apartment6

SILVER DAISY

Inspired by British sunsets, coastal seascapes and the northern lights, these handmade 9ct gold rings pair delicate granulation with coordinating oval faceted sapphires in handcrafted gallery and claw settings. Each piece captures light, colour and exceptional craftsmanship from a UK independent designer. Visit silverdaisy.co.uk and follow @silverdaisyuk on Instagram.

MOCA JEWELLERY

Ify is the London-based designer behind MOCA Jewellery, a brand rooted in family and shaped by instinct. Working from her studio in Hatton Garden, she creates one-off pieces using traditional wax carving techniques, favouring texture, irregularity and recycled materials. The result is jewellery that feels personal, considered and quietly expressive. Discover more on mocajewellery.com and follow them on Instagram @mocajewellery

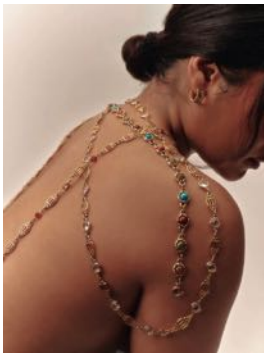
TRES J

Welcome to the world of Tres J. Known for new-age heirlooms and collector's pieces, Tres J is redefining expectations, rewriting luxury and reimagining timeless and contemporary. Their world is a community sparking conversation, curiosity and creativity. Discover the collection at shoptresj.com and follow @shoptresj on Instagram.

MOLLYBEEJEWELLERY

Molly is a self-taught jeweller based in Dorset who taught herself fine jewellery making during the pandemic, learning traditional wax-carving techniques using beeswax. This process gives her jewellery an organic, distinctive style. Each piece is cast in solid gold or sterling silver. She loves working with bright, colourful gemstones, designing timeless jewellery made to be cherished and handed down to loved ones. Visit mollybeejewellery.com and follow @mollybeejewellery on Instagram.

SIA SHIRAZ



Founded in 2023, SIA SHIRAZ explores the art of adornment through sculptural gold and vivid stonework. Draped across the body, each piece traces the skin with intention - an interplay between tradition and newness, inspired by Persian heritage. Jewellery not only worn, but owned. Discover more at siashiraz.com and follow @siashiraz_official on Instagram. Model @youfoundp Photographer: @akytom_studio

DANIOUCH

Daniouch is where bold heritage meets fine craftsmanship. Inspired by designer Nessia's Belgian, Filipino, and American roots, each piece is handmade in Belgium with hand-selected gemstones and pearls that speak to the soul. Thoughtfully designed and meticulously crafted, Daniouch jewellery is for those who appreciate beauty with meaning and elegance with edge. Visit daniouch.com and follow @daniouchjewelry on Instagram.

To appear on these pages, call 020 7152 3705 or email classtatler@condenast.co.uk

REIGNING BEAUTY

1. This year, **Tulpa Club** presents Season 3: a story where what lingers is louder than what's said. Late Checkout, Moonlight Static and Night Drive form a trilogy that drifts through an 80s analogue haze, accompanied by an original short film. From silky musk to coastal air and petrol-stained suede, the fragrances turn reflective moments into immersive, cinematic scent. Visit tulpaclub.com and follow on Instagram @tulpaclub

2. Botanical skincare brand **Herbfarmacy** is certified organic by the Soil Association. Rooted in their wildlife-rich Herefordshire farm, they craft gentle, plant-based formulas designed to nourish with moisture, hydrate, and restore the feeling of balance. Their Mallow Beauty Balm melts into skin for overnight indulgence. Visit herbfarmacy.com and follow @herbfarmacy on Instagram. Use code Tatler15 for 15% off (expires 31/07/26).

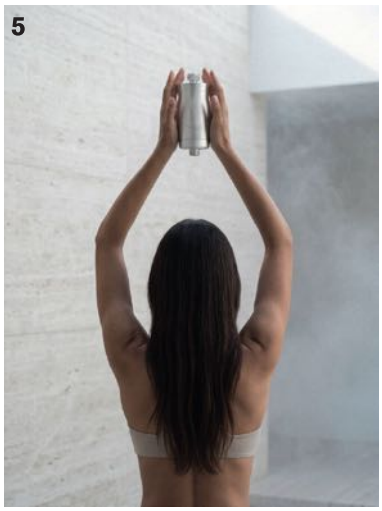
3. **Florietta** blends craftsmanship with modern luxury to redefine haircare. Designed with boar and nylon bristles within a sculpted beechwood form, the Signature brush is engraved with fine gold detailing - a luxurious keepsake, perfectly sized for travel, gifting, and daily ritual. Visit florietta.com.au and follow them on Instagram @florietta_official

4. **Exoblanc** is a clinic-led skincare brand developed with advanced Korean formulations, combining actives such as exosomes, PDRN and peptides. Designed to help support the appearance of skin and complement professional treatments in everyday routines, the collection balances innovation with refinement. Discover more at exoblanc.co.uk and follow @exoblanc on Instagram.

5. **Ngilla Flow** is an Australian-designed shower filter, created with a focus on considered materials and everyday exposure. Positioned at the point where water meets skin, it brings a quieter, more refined approach to the modern bathroom. Before the creams, before the serums, water. Visit ngillaflow.com and follow @ngillaflow on Instagram.

6. **Perception Skin**'s botanical Day Oil captures a mindful, slow-beauty philosophy. Featuring biomimetic plant oils and plant phytoactives infused in an organic blend, it works in harmony with the skin. Sensual natural aromas of Australian rose and wattleseed elevate the ritual, while the lightweight formula nourishes and soothes, promoting a dewy and luminous complexion. Visit perceptionskin.com.au and follow on Instagram @perceptionskin

7. When it comes to realistic gourmand fragrances, one name stands out **Theodoros Kalotinis Perfumer.** Discover PEACH MACARON, juicy peaches, addictive sugar, and a sensual macaron dream that hugs your senses… ohh là là! Discover at theodoroskalotinis.com and follow @theodoroskalotinisperfumer on Instagram.



8. **Truffe Périgord** blends haute botanicals with the alchemy of the Black Winter Truffle, infusing each formula with this rare, nutrient dense and antioxidant-rich ingredient. Rooted in the Dordogne's limestone soils and woodland heritage, the brand marries French terroir, scientific sophistication and sensorial luxury for skin and hair that truly feels alive. Visit blackdiamondtruffletrees.com/truffe and follow @truffeperigord on Instagram.

9. **Foundry Formulas** blends science and nature to create luxury skincare and fragrances. Lavish serums, creams, washes and toners, wild-harvested ferments and more - all handmade in Somerset. Imaginative formulas that honour botanical integrity while delivering uncompromising effectiveness and sublime natural fragrances. British skincare, reimagined. Visit foundryformulas.co.uk and follow @foundryformulas on Instagram.

10. **Nathi Skin** is South Africa's leading macadamia oil-based skincare brand, starting with two 100% natural, lightweight body oils designed to nourish the skin with moisture. Rooted in a farm-to-formula philosophy, each blend highlights the immense natural benefits of macadamia oil, alongside an intentionally chosen blend of essential oils. A gentle, nutrient rich oil that supports healthy balanced skin. Buy now at nathiskin.co.za and follow @nathi.skin on Instagram.

11. New **KORRES** Greek Yoghurt Probiotic Foaming Cream Cleanser, an indulgent soap-free cream-to-foam cleanser for face and eyes. Formulated with Real Greek yoghurt, pre- & probiotics and upcycled oat milk, designed to gently remove impurities and makeup while supporting the skin microbiome. Safe for sensitive skin. Visit uk.korres.com and follow on Instagram @korres

12. **Opti Laboratories** are the UK's experts in lash and brow growth. Doctor-led and science-driven, their range is designed to enhance and protect your natural lashes and brows for subtle yet visible results. Considered, effective solutions for effortless beauty. Visit optilaboratories.com and follow on Instagram @opti.labs

13. **BRÍO Fragrances** introduces a refined trio of scents crafted for modern elegance. Sol, Fuego and Rosario blend luminous florals, warm woods and soft musk into compositions that feel both timeless and contemporary. Created for those who appreciate understated luxury, BRÍO captures the poetry of scent in its purest form. Discover the collection at briofragrances.com and follow @briofragrances on Instagram.

14. Fill your home with the uplifting, freshness of the sea. The **Inis the energy of the sea** Diffuser is a sparkling, clean, Irish fragrance that captures the feeling of a perfect sunny day by the sea. A clean, light, yet lasting fragrance with energising top notes of lemon and marine, heart notes of lily and base notes of sandalwood and clove. Beautifully giftable, each piece features an elegant, understated frosted glass design which compliments any room - making it stylish as well as refreshing. 100ml, RRP. £28. Visit inis.com and follow @inisenergyofthesea on Instagram.

15. **Sanbera** celebrates the rhythm of life with four distinct supplements for Day & Night - Her & Him - made in Switzerland. Powered by plants, to support energy, clarity, performance, recovery, and natural glow from morning to evening. Whether starting the day with focus, winding down with calm, or elevating the moments that matter most, Sanbera's clean, potent formulas fit seamlessly into your daily rituals. True elegance lies in the balance you carry into every occasion. Discover more at sanbera.com and follow @sanberaofswitzerland on Instagram.

16. **UNRUSHD**'s Cleansing Balm melts luxuriously into the skin, designed to dissolve makeup, pollution and daily impurities without stripping the skin barrier, leaving a natural glow. Formulated with heritage botanicals and presented in striking design-led packaging, it arrives with a 100% cotton muslin cloth for a refined cleansing ritual. Visit unrushd.com and follow @unrushd on Instagram.

A HERITAGE WEDDING

1. Love Stories Events is recognised for creating beautifully curated weddings where timeless elegance meets refined design. With a signature style defined by romantic florals, statement installations and impeccably styled tablescapes, each celebration is thoughtfully composed to reflect the couple's vision. Working within elegant settings such as Bowcliffe Hall in Bramham, Wetherby, Leeds, Love Stories Events transforms venues into breathtaking environments for celebration, where every detail feels considered, harmonious and effortlessly luxurious. The result is a wedding that feels both deeply personal and visually unforgettable. Featured bride and groom: Roza and Lukasz. Discover more at www.lovestoriesevents.co.uk and on Instagram @lovestoriesevents

2. Tiziana Di Molfetta is an Italy-based independent celebrant creating exquisitely tailored, high-end ceremonies for an international clientele. A former diplomat and published author, she brings discretion, cultural refinement and timeless elegance, crafting completely bespoke, deeply moving ceremonies with refined scripts meticulously tailored to reflect each couple's unique vision and individuality. For more visit tizianadimolfetta.it or contact info@tizianadimolfetta.it on email.

3. Twisted Journey is a destination wedding photography and cinema house led by Jacob Davidson, known for cinematic storytelling with a documentary soul. Blending movement, emotion, and refined editorial artistry, each celebration is captured with intention and depth. Discover more at www.twisted-journey.com and on Instagram @twistedjourney

4. Veronika Maxantova Photography is a destination wedding photographer, based in Zakynthos. Veronika captures weddings and couples in luminous natural light, working across both digital and film. Known for her effortless, dreamy aesthetic, she blends documentary sensitivity with an editorial eye - creating timeless images that evoke nostalgia. Visit www.maxantova.com and follow on Instagram @maxantovaphoto

5. Laura McCranor Weddings & Events curates refined, bespoke weddings across Scotland and Italy. With a focus on authenticity, elevated design and flawless execution, they create immersive, multi-day celebrations that feel effortless and entirely unforgettable. Photography: Ross Alexander. Visit www.lauramccranorevents.co.uk and follow on Instagram @lauramccranorevents

6. Benjamin Stuart is a UK and international editorial wedding photographer creating honest, authentic and modern imagery for discerning couples around the world. With over fifteen years of experience, his calm presence and refined eye capture both the grandeur and intimacy of exceptional celebrations, producing photography that feels elegant, personal and timeless. See more at www.benjaminstuart.co.uk and on Instagram @benjaminstuartphotography

7. Inspired by the rhythmic flow of the ocean, **Sierra Lorraine Photography** documents weddings with a sense of ease, intention, and reverence for what is real. With nearly a decade of experience, Sierra is drawn to light, movement, and the in-between moments that often go unnoticed. Incorporating digital, 35mm film, and Super 8, her work carries a softness and depth that feels both nostalgic and enduring. Blending an editorial eye with a documentary approach, she creates imagery that is elevated yet honest, preserving each day as it was truly lived. Based in Raleigh, North Carolina and available worldwide. Visit www.sierralorrainephoto.com and @sierralorrainephotography on Instagram.

8. Madeleine Krüger, editorial photographer and brand owner of ziraa.graphy, is among the few photographers in Germany who intentionally stage weddings rather than leaving them to chance. Her work is shaped by clear direction and the confidence to create imagery more boldly. She reveals people stronger, clearer and more self-assured - beyond traditional wedding photography. Contact info@ziraagraphy.de on email. Discover more at www.ziraagraphy.de and on Instagram @ziraa.graphy

9. Teresa & Vittorio's wedding day at Hacienda Na Xamena came to life beneath a radiant Mediterranean sky, creating the perfect setting for a night that felt both relaxed and sophisticated. Thoughtfully curated by wedding planner Daniela Tapia, the experience brought together effortless Ibiza spirit with understated elegance, as vibrant Italian and Brazilian style and joyful energy shaped the celebration, while Mauricio & Sergio of **The InLove Photographers** documented each glowing detail with artistry. Planner: Daniela Tapia Ibiza. Visit www.theinlovephotographers.com and follow on Instagram @the.inlove.photographers

10. Deep letterpress debossing, intricate textures, refined foiling, and sculptural layering define the signature of **The Fine Press.** Based in Singapore and Jakarta, this studio creates luxury, premium wedding invitations on the finest cotton papers, with bespoke touches such as hand-drawn venues and illustrations - each piece delivering a tactile, opulent experience that leaves a lasting impression. Ships worldwide. Visit www.thefinepress.com and follow on Instagram @thefinepress

11. Blending the rustic charm and beauty of Greece with contemporary elegance, **Weddings in Kos** design beautifully vibrant weddings. With a detailed and pro-active approach, Emma and her team create flawless events across the beautiful island of Kos, with thoughtfully curated styling, carefully selected suppliers and venues and a highly bespoke approach. Unique, unforgettable events that transcend dreams. Discover more at www.weddingsinkos.com and on Instagram @weddings_in_kos

12. The Hello Bureau is an Australian-based stationery studio specialising in modern digital wedding templates. From invitations and signage to menu cards and ceremony programs, each design is thoughtfully created with a minimalist, contemporary aesthetic. Offering couples a stylish yet accessible alternative to traditional stationery, The Hello Bureau delivers highly personalised designs across Australia, New Zealand and the UK. See more of the collection at shop.thehellobureau.com and on Instagram @thehellobureau

13. Founded by Alice Kong, **To My Dearest** specialises in elegant bridal beauty that balances modern aesthetics with luxurious detail. Known for her signature effortless, natural and timeless style, Alice enhances each bride's individuality through thoughtful artistry. Contact tomydearestuk@gmail.com on email. Visit tomydearestuk.com and follow @dearestalice_makeup on Instagram.

14. Morden Hall is a timeless country house wedding venue set within beautifully landscaped parkland in South London. Blending historic charm with elegant interiors, it offers a romantic setting for both intimate and grand celebrations. With exceptional catering partners, stylish event spaces, and dedicated on-site accommodation, Morden Hall provides a seamless and unforgettable experience for couples on their special day. Photography: Fleur Challis. Visit www.mordenhall.com and follow on Instagram @mordenhall

15. Reels of Content, based in London, create visually unforgettable reels, tailored to the modern wedding experience for UK and destination weddings. Documentary authenticity with editorial cinematic style, capturing beautiful fleeting, emotive moments to relive the next day. Discover more of their work at reelsofcontent.com and follow @reels_of_content on Instagram.

16. Sposiamovi create weddings that showcase Italian beauty and each couple's unique journey. Founded by Silvia Galli in Florence, the agency relies on an expert team of planners, stylists, and guest experience specialists, designing refined celebrations across Italy, from Tuscan villas to Lake Como and the Amalfi Coast. With a structured workflow and modern planning tools, each wedding combines tradition, creativity, and innovation in every detail. Discover more at sposiamovi.it and follow @sposiamovi on Instagram or contact hello@sposiamovi.it on email. Photography: @daniloandsharon

17. Steffi Jastram, destination wedding photographer, captures modern romance against the dramatic mountain landscapes of Mallorca. This wedding shooting blends effortless elegance, contemporary style, and sunlit intimacy, creating a refined visual narrative for couples seeking sophistication, adventure, and timeless allure. Visit www.steffi-jastram.de and follow on Instagram @steffijastramfotografie

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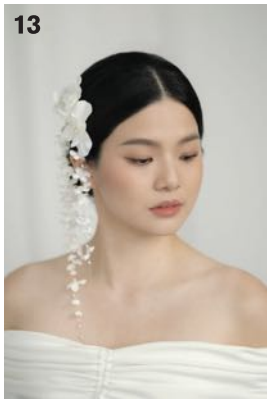
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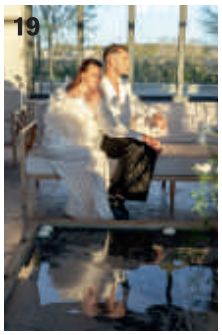
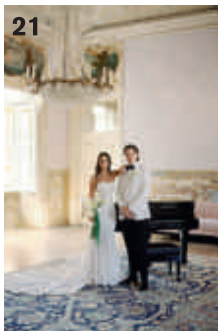
A HERITAGE WEDDING

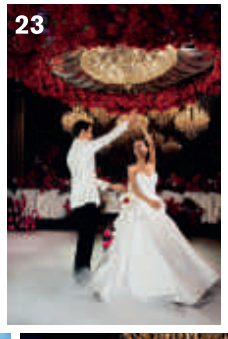




18. SOTE is a wedding & elopement photographer devoted to capturing multi-day events, intentional weddings and romantic elopements for couples who value the art of storytelling and intention. They don't rush timelines. Their work is built to endure. They create imagery from deeply sentimental moments that you hoped would last forever, taking a hands-on approach to guiding and directing their couples in order to capture timeless and beautiful photos. Made to be kept. Welcome to SOTE. See more at www.photosbysote.com and on Instagram @photosbysote

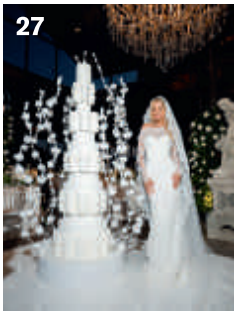
19. L'Atelier Plez is a Paris based wedding photography studio capturing elegant destination celebrations across France and Europe. Founded by Laure Sonia and Thomas Plez, the studio blends refined editorial aesthetics with natural light and sophisticated flash to create timeless, fashion inspired imagery for modern couples seeking an elevated wedding experience. Wedding designer: Christophe Wedding. Cake designer: Made in Cake. Visit www.latelierplez.fr and follow on Instagram @latelierplez.weddings

20. Mira Bry is a destination wedding photographer based in Berlin, working across Europe and beyond. With a signature blend of documentary honesty and editorial elegance, she creates atmospheric imagery inspired by fashion photography and cinema. Her work resonates with couples seeking refined, modern wedding photography that feels both artistic and deeply personal. See more at www.mira-bry.com and on Instagram @mira.bry.photography



21. Recognised as one of the top wedding photographers in Portugal, Ivo of **Momento Cativo** is a resilient and passionate artist who has spent over 14 years capturing love stories across Portugal and beyond for a discerning international audience. His work is defined by a timeless, classic and romantic aesthetic, preserving not just moments but legacy. See more at www.momentocativo.com and on Instagram @momentocativo

22. Liz and Jason, of **The Organic Moment**, are destination elopement planners, photographers and videographers based in Canada. With a deep love and respect for nature, Liz and Jason design and capture epic celebrations across the magnificent landscapes of Banff, Alberta, Ontario and Iceland. Focusing on raw connection, emotion and deep love, they design beautifully meaningful moments designed to stay in your heart forever. See more at theorganicmoment.com and on Instagram @theorganicmoment



23. SPLENDID PHOTOS & VIDEO captured Violeta and Michael's celebration at the prestigious Doltone House Hyde Park, epitomising Sydney's sophisticated glamour. Documenting every fleeting emotion with an editorial lens, they craft evocative memories that resonate with modern elegance. Discover more at splendid.net.au and @splendidweddingphotography on Instagram.

24. LANA VISUAL, a wedding photographer based in Greece with 12 years of experience, beautifully captures heartfelt moments and elegant details. Travelling all over Greece, she creates stunning images that tell the story of your wedding day with natural and timeless style. Visit lanavisual.com and follow @greecephotographer on Instagram.

25. ÈCLAT Destination Weddings is a premier luxury wedding planning and design house renowned for creating exceptional celebrations across Europe's most prestigious destinations. Defined by refined aesthetics, strategic precision, and uncompromising standards, ÈCLAT delivers exquisitely tailored weddings for an international clientele who expect discretion, artistry, and flawless execution. See more at www.eclatdestinationweddings.com and on Instagram @eclatdestinationweddings

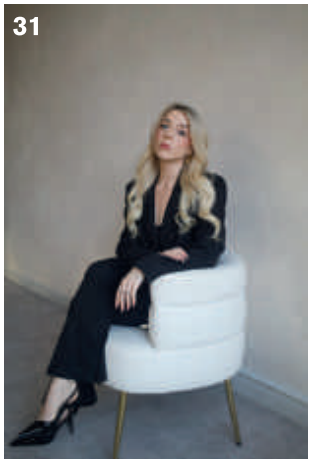
26. Created By Deli is an Australian artist renowned for transforming wedding moments into timeless works of art through Live Guest Sketching. Sought after globally, her elegant and detailed style offers both captivating entertainment and a bespoke keepsake, allowing all guests to take home and treasure a hand drawn, personalised artwork on your special day. Visit www.createdbydeli.com and follow @createdbydeli on Instagram. Contact createdbydeli@gmail.com on email.

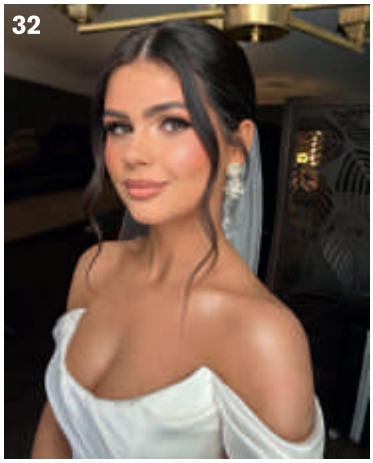
27. WoW Wedding by Natalia Dragani creates refined, bespoke celebrations across Italy and France, combining creative design, legal expertise, logistics, and concierge-level care. Each wedding is tailored to the couple's story with discretion and meticulous attention, delivering elegant and deeply personal destination wedding experiences. Discover more at www.wow-wedding.com and @wow.wedding on Instagram. Photography: Roman Ivanov.

28. Amanda Kioko is a destination wedding photographer based in O'ahu, Hawai'i and Sonoma, California. With a deep love for both film and digital photography, she approaches each wedding as a story waiting to be told. Her work blends a documentary sensibility with an editorial edge, resulting in imagery that feels honest, refined, and effortlessly timeless. See more at www.amandakioko.com and on Instagram @amanda.kioko.photo

29. Château Gassies, perched on a sun-drenched hillside just fifteen minutes from Bordeaux, captures the true spirit of France. This 18th-century estate, set within fourteen hectares of parkland, hosts only thirty weddings each year. Beneath ancient oaks and manicured gardens, a dedicated team creates elegant celebrations, blending historic charm with modern comfort. Visit www.chateaugassies.com and follow @chateaugassies on Instagram. Photography: Still Miracle.

30. Lena Freitag Weddings is a multi-award-winning destination wedding planning and design studio based in Ireland and Germany. Guiding international couples from initial concept to flawless execution, the studio creates exceptional destination celebrations with seamless clarity and confidence. With a foundation in design, the experienced team combine German precision, meticulous attention to detail and an unparalleled aesthetic flair to deliver deeply personal, impeccably executed celebrations for those who expect nothing less than excellence. See how they can bring your vision to life at www.lenafreitag.com and follow @lenafreitagweddings on Instagram. Photography @vividsymphony





31. Kaptured by Katharine is a wedding content creator specialising in refined, behind-the-scenes storytelling. She captures each celebration with a natural, editorial sensibility. With over a decade of experience, her discreet approach preserves authentic moments and atmosphere. Using professional equipment, she delivers beautifully curated, social-ready content within 48 hours, allowing couples to relive and share their day almost instantly. Visit kapturedbykatharine.com and follow @kapturedbykatharine on Instagram for more.

32. Rachel Louise is a Glasgow-based bridal beauty specialist serving brides across the UK and beyond. Known for her signature luminous, feminine and timeless aesthetic, Rachel brings out the natural beauty of every bride through meticulous artistry and a deeply personal touch. Available for destination weddings worldwide. Contact rachellouisebridal@hotmail.com for more and follow on Instagram @rachellouisebridal

33. Inspired by the individual, **Charlotte May Weddings and Events** is a destination planning company working specifically in Santorini, Crete and Southern Spain. Whether you are dreaming of a grand celebration or an intimate elopement, Charlotte and her highly experienced team will collaborate with you to deliver an exquisite destination wedding, perfectly tailored to you and your love for each other. Led by intuition and integrity, their stand out service and signature aesthetic collide to deliver out of the ordinary celebrations that converge meaningful details, elements infused with emotion and timeless touches. See more at www.charlottemayweddings.co.uk and on Instagram @charlottemayweddings

34. Phenomena Photography are a team of documentary wedding photographers who focus on capturing all of the beautiful, candid emotions of the day. From joyful laughter to tender glances, they frame it all to create meaningful compositions that couples can cherish forever. Visit www.phenomena.com.au and @phenomena_photography on Instagram.

35. Award-winning makeup artist **Charlotte Wadley** is renowned for her glamorous yet timeless bridal beauty. With over 14 years of experience, the Sussex-based artist's refined approach enhances natural features to create effortlessly polished looks that feel like the most radiant version of you. Charlotte works across the UK and for destination weddings worldwide. Visit charlottewadleymakeup.co.uk and follow @charlottewadleymakeup on Instagram. Contact info@charlottewadleymakeup.co.uk on email.

36. Based in London and Italy, **Isole Weddings** is a wedding planning studio dedicated to designing extraordinary events. For the team, designing a wedding is one of life's most enchanting journeys. It's about elegance, creativity, and flair; a moment to dream and revel in the beauty of celebration. A keen eye for details, a modern and editorial approach, a unique vision, unfolding the magic of the day. See how the team can bring your vision to life at www.isoleweddings.com and on Instagram @isoleweddings

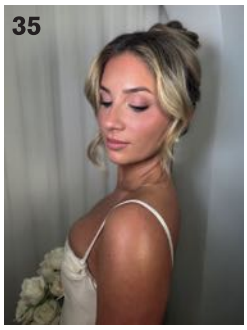
37. Wedding is a Beach is a destination wedding planning brand specialising in refined celebrations by the sea. Founded by Natalie, it stands for a modern aesthetic, understated luxury, and thoughtful approach to detail. Each wedding blends coastal elegance with contemporary design. Discover more at www.weddingisabeach.com and @weddingisabeach on Instagram. Photographer @wingdingweddings and Content Creator @theweddingdaycontent

38. Canadian wedding photographer, **Rhea Rodrigues**, specialises in fine art photography with an editorial flair. Through emotive storytelling, Rhea effortlessly transforms each wedding into a unique photographic blend, full of editorial panache and stylistic elegance. Taking inspiration from haute couture, Rhea combines fashion-led photography with real emotion and ambience to create photographs authentic to your story, finished with artistry and grace. See more at www.rhearodriguesphotography.com and on Instagram @rhearodriguesphotography

39. Lorella Giannini is a globally sought-after makeup artist, splitting her year between Sydney, Italy, and destinations worldwide. Renowned for her skin-focused editorial artistry, she crafts luminous, sculpted complexions that elevate every bride's natural beauty, blending couture precision with effortless elegance. Lorella ensures every client feels radiant, confident, and unforgettable on their wedding day. Visit lorellagianniniweddings.com and follow @lorellagianninimakeup on Instagram. Email info@lorellagiannini.com for more.

40. Maayan Winter is a London-based makeup artist known for her signature technique, creating radiant, youthful skin. She offers a warm, calm, and bespoke service tailored to each bride. Her modern, effortless looks enhance natural beauty, appearing flawless both in person and in photographs - timeless, elevated, and perfectly suited to your wedding day. Photography: Ana Hosking. Visit maayanwintermua.com and follow on Instagram @maayanwintermua

41. There is a kind of luxury that lives beyond the wardrobe, found in quiet rituals and unguarded moments. **Love Letters x**, a UAE-born sleepwear label, is devoted to dressing that softness. Designed in Dubai and handcrafted in Lebanon, each organic cotton piece reflects vintage romance, gentle femininity, and mindful making, inviting you to treat rest as something exquisitely intentional. Visit www.loveletterssx.com and follow on Instagram @love_letters_x_



MASTERS OF LIGHT

VIVIEN MALAGNAT

Vivien Malagnat – The Art of the Unscripted. With a sharp eye for documentary photography, Vivien Malagnat captures the raw energy of the day as it unfolds. His approach is distinctly cinematic, focusing on unscripted moments rather than staged artifice. By blending an editorial aesthetic with genuine emotion, Vivien creates a modern visual record that is both sophisticated and strikingly honest. Venue: Château de la Villette.

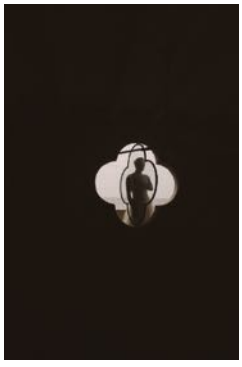
Website: www.vivien-malagnat.com
Instagram: @vivien_malagnat

PEACE LOVE LEIGH PHOTOGRAPHY

American photographer LeighAnn, captures weddings with a true-to-colour aesthetic blending editorial elegance with natural storytelling. Through her attentive eye, mastery of light and calm presence, she creates authentic, refined, timeless imagery that elevates the unique story of every couple she photographs. Based in Switzerland and available worldwide.

Website: www.peaceloveleigh.com
Instagram: @peace_love_leigh

ICONE STORIES



With a documentary heart and an editorial eye, Icone Stories capture not only how everything looks, but how it feels. Seeking the quiet in-between moments, glances that speak louder than words, and light that gently wraps around each story, they step in not as outsiders, but as witnesses who care.

Website: www.iconestories.com
Instagram: @icone_stories

ALEJANDRA ORTIZ

Alejandra Ortiz Studio is a photography studio specialising in wedding reportage with a cinematic, fashion-inspired aesthetic. Blending photojournalism with a discreet, observational approach, capturing authentic moments without interference. With over a decade of experience, they create timeless, emotionally resonant images that reflect each couple's unique story with depth and sensitivity.

Website: www.alejandraortiz.net
Instagram: @aortizphoto

MOMENTS OF YOUR LOVE

Tatiana approaches weddings with a distinctly editorial sensibility, where clarity and precision define her work. Through a refined use of light, silhouette and composition, she creates images that feel timeless rather than trend-driven — quietly powerful and deeply atmospheric. Based in Austria, she works across Europe and internationally.

Website: www.momentsofyourlove.com
Instagram: @tanyabriz

DARIA M PHOTOGRAPHY

Daria M Photography blends heartfelt moments with editorial elegance, crafting wedding images that feel timeless yet alive. Her artful approach and love for detail ensure every fleeting glance and genuine laugh becomes part of your enduring story.

Website: www.dariamphotography.com
Instagram: @daria_m_photography

To appear on these pages, call 020 7152 3705 or email classtatler@condenast.co.uk

THE STYLE SPOTLIGHT

COCOSIN

Founded in 2012, COCOSIN crafts elegant, dress-led collections defined by fluid silhouettes and modern femininity. Rooted in community, it empowers women through effortless design, confidence and individuality. Discover more at cocosin.com and follow @cocosin.official on Instagram.

SILK & BEARS

For those who appreciate craftsmanship with story, Silk & Bears designs its collections in England's Peak District and handcrafts each piece in Vietnam's historic Nha Xa silk-weaving village. Ethereal, breathable and softly lustrous, every mulberry silk scarf is individually hand-dyed and subtly unique - a refined finishing touch for both modern and classic wardrobes. Visit www.silkandbears.com and follow @silkandbears on Instagram.

6IXTH NOVEMBER

Born from a shared birthday, 6ixth November creates refined pieces designed to move effortlessly from day to evening. This emerging brand places quality fabrics at its core, with clean silhouettes and a focus on finish. Each piece is designed to be worn, felt, and returned to - season after season. Discover more at 6ixthnovember.com and follow @6ixth_november on Instagram.

MONTEMARÉ

Montemaré designs refined travel accessories inspired by journeys around the world. Blending thoughtful details with understated elegance, the brand creates bags that move effortlessly from airport lounges to distant destinations. Modern companions for those who value beauty and function. Visit montemare.co and follow @montemare_lifestyle on Instagram. Photo credit @lukerphotography

SUKI WANG LONDON

SUKI WANG LONDON is a boutique lifestyle brand in London, blending multicultural influences with a distinctive visual identity. Designed by an award-winning artist, it combines bold colour, nature-inspired forms, and refined craftsmanship, using eco-friendly fabrics and Eastern silks to create elegant pieces for modern living. Visit sukiwdesign.com and follow @sukiwanglondon

QIPOLOGY

Rooted in heritage yet reimagined for today, Qipology redefines tradition through timeless, oriental design. Offering silhouettes for every bride, each piece is elevated by bespoke tailoring and meticulous craftsmanship, celebrating modern femininity with cultural elegance. Discover more at qipology.com and follow @qipology on Instagram.

TATLIM STUDIOS

Tatlim Studios places a luxury spin on casual-wear with a special focus on premium cuts and timeless designs. Their SS26 collection called 'Heritage' represents a crossover of cultures where modern day streetwear pieces are combined with traditional, ethnic design and decoration. Explore the latest collection at www.tatlimstudios.com and follow @tatlimstudios on Instagram.

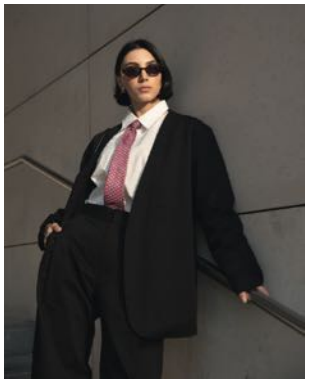
SIENA WOLF

Siena Wolf is a fine leather goods house defined by elevated craftsmanship and modern design. Handcrafted in Italy in small batches by skilled artisans, they use exceptional, responsibly sourced materials and custom hardware. Founded on the belief that true elegance lies in the details, Siena Wolf creates timeless pieces that elevate the everyday. Visit www.sienawolf.com and follow @siena__wolf on Instagram.

INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

International Appeal presents a modern interpretation of Indian royalty using exceptional fabrics and craftsmanship refined across generations. Each piece is individually constructed by master artisans and released in strictly limited quantities, ten designs, forty worldwide. A quieter, rarer form of luxury. Visit internationalappeal.com.au and follow @international_appeal on Instagram.

MADE WITH MANNERS



Made With Manners is a London & Dubai founded fashion label redefining modern dressing through refined simplicity and considered design. Crafted in Italy using premium fabrics, the brand focuses on elevated essentials for work, travel and everyday polish. Visit madewithmanners.com and follow @madewithmanners on Instagram.

TENI LONDON

TENI London is the definitive choice for the modern woman's travel wardrobe. From the departure lounge to the sanctuary of a Cotswolds retreat, their debut collection offers effortless composure in timeless hues. These tailored knits and butter-soft activewear prove that from pilates studio to city-stroll, embracing calm is the ultimate self-care. Effortless pieces that bring a polished style and comfort to the rhythm of modern travel. Visit www.tenilondon.com and follow @teni.london on Instagram.

FAIE

FAIE is a Canadian fashion label blending bohemian style with vintage charm. Founded by designer Robyn Lastiwka, the brand weaves together global influence, artisanal textiles, and thoughtful craftsmanship into feminine, expressive designs meant to be worn, loved, and gifted with intention. Visit www.faie.ca and follow @faiecanada on Instagram.

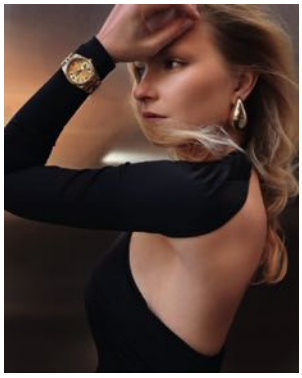
SORAMAME

SORAMAME is a contemporary fashion house founded in 2013, redefining modern femininity through refined silhouettes and craftsmanship. Based in Vietnam with global outlook, it embraces slow mindful fashion celebrating individuality, culture, and self-expression. Visit soramameofficial.com and follow @soramame.official on Instagram. Photo credit: @bobby0nguyen

EGYPTIAN BLUE

Egyptian Blue is a contemporary womenswear brand celebrating bold femininity and conscious design. Produced in Los Angeles with skilled local makers, the brand prioritises ethical production. By transforming deadstock fabrics into striking silhouettes, Egyptian Blue gives forgotten materials a glamorous second life where sustainability meets confidence, creativity, and modern glamour. Visit egyptianblue.com and follow @egyptianblue_official on Instagram.

ATOMI SHINE

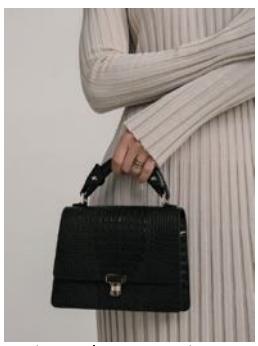


Atomi Shine stands at the intersection of craftsmanship and subversion. Each timepiece reworks the codes of classic luxury - rebuilt with industrial clarity, unexpected contrast and quiet power. A study in controlled rebellion, crafted for those who redefine precision itself. Visit atomishine.com and follow @atomishineofficial on Instagram.

ATELIER CAPPA

Designed for wedding season and beyond, atelier cappa's limited-edition handcrafted tulle headpieces suit those who love to make a statement - effortlessly. Each piece is meticulously handmade with thoughtfully selected details. Customisation is available, because the most beautiful pieces are made just for you. Follow @atelier_cappa and shop via atelier-cappa.com

VIE LORIE



VIE LORIE defines luxury through restraint, precision, and presence. Founded by Dr. Verniese Lorielle Moore, each handbag reflects intentional design, sculptural form, and impeccable craftsmanship. Created for the woman who moves with clarity and conviction, VIE LORIE is not about excess—it is about alignment, identity, and enduring elegance that speaks without ever needing to shout. Visit www.vielorie.com and follow @vielorie on Instagram.

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THE STYLE SPOTLIGHT

PHIFIT BY PRESTORIAN

Leveraging decades of textile expertise, this collection pairs technical precision with minimalist style. Engineered with Upsilon and Mu fabrics, each piece offers 4-way stretch and advanced moisture management. These responsibly crafted, dark-palette staples provide a sophisticated, sculpting fit that transitions seamlessly from city to trail. Explore Prestorian.com and follow @phifitstyle on Instagram.

IZSEL

IZSEL footwear and apparel blend bold elegance with Italian craftsmanship. Sleek boots and raincoats feature high-gloss finishes, refined detailing, and reliable weather protection. Designed for versatility, they make a stylish statement in any weather. Learn more at izsel.com and follow @izselofficial on Instagram.

JUAN & ME

Meet JUAN & ME, made for the wanderers. The Nueva Vida Hat is an effortless companion for travel, sun on your shoulders, salt in the air, and nowhere to be but here. Coastal, elevated, and designed to slip into your suitcase and your everyday.

Visit juanandmeboutique.com.au and follow @juanandme_ on Instagram.

LEVUROY

Introducing Levuroy. Born in the Cotswolds, handmade in India. Pictured is the reversible White Alice jacket. The perfect Spring/Summer addition to your wardrobe. All pieces are 100% cotton. Join the Levuroy Club today and shop via levuroy.com and follow @levuroy on Instagram.

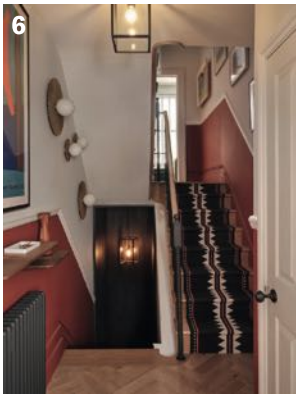
CHEZ TATLER

1. Founded by architect and interior designer Aprielle Chung, **Atelier April** is a NYC-based firm specialising in high-end residential, commercial, cultural, and public projects. Their design approach is shaped by a thoughtful integration of concept and vision, harmonised with users' perceptions and spatial experiences. Visit atelierapril.com and follow @atelier.april.architects on Instagram. Contact them on info@atelierapril.com

2. Beloved for generations, muslin is cherished for its natural softness, breathability and hypoallergenic comfort, qualities once reserved for babies. **House of Bengal** now brings this exquisite fabric to the bedroom with irresistibly soft muslin bedding that transforms every night's sleep. The Muslin Duvet Set starts from £119. Discover more at houseofbengal.com and follow @houseofbengalofficial on Instagram.

3. Designed for modern outdoor living, **LITEHOUSE** creates premium lighting that transforms patios, courtyards and garden spaces into warm, atmospheric retreats. Crafted with refined, weatherproof finishes that balance sculptural design with lasting durability, each piece casts a soft, intentional glow that elevates everyday outdoor moments. Visit litehouselighting.com and follow on Instagram @litehouse.lighting

4. Perfect the art of gifting with **OC Prints**, a commission service creating bespoke artwork that turns memories into timeless keepsakes. From artful collages to custom vinyl covers and cinematic posters, each piece is carefully composed, elegantly framed and delivered straight to your door. Explore www.ocprints.co.uk or follow @oc__prints

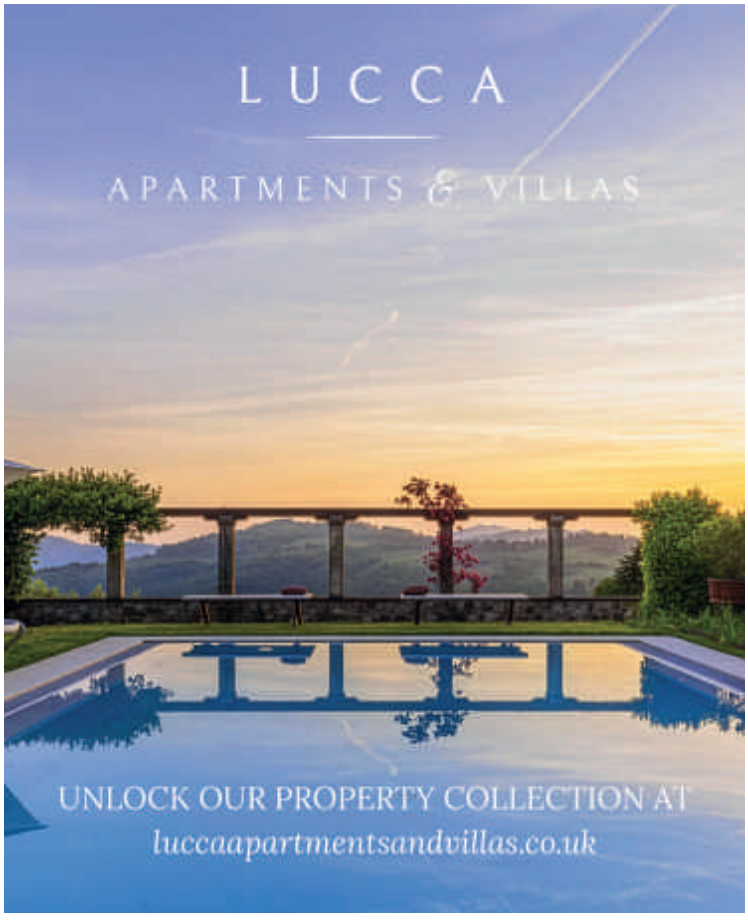


5. **Prince of Scots** draws upon the enduring traditions of British textile craftsmanship, creating merino wool throws woven in the United Kingdom and designed for the modern country house. Inspired by equestrian life and refined interiors, each piece reflects timeless elegance, warmth and understated luxury. Visit princeofscots.com and follow @princeofscots1 on Instagram.

6. For more than 26 years, the interior architect **Emmanuelle Sirven** has designed tailor-made interiors and hotels with practicality, elegance and precision, all around the world. She adapts her services to all type of projects, delivering more than expected. Her style is classic contemporary, she is known for her talent in space, light and details. Respect of her clients and sustainability are the two values she puts forward first. See more at www.emmanuellesirven.com and follow @emmanuelle.sirven.ltd on Instagram. Contact 07748 098578 and e.s@emmanuellesirven.com

7. **Lagom Handmade Glassware** is woman led business that produces unique handmade glassware out of scientific glass. Designed in London and handmade in Czechia, by skilful craftsmen, their products are made to last a lifetime. They bring you the highest quality while keeping alive a craft that not many still master today. Visit www.lagomhandmadeglassware.com and follow @lagom.glassware on Instagram. Get in touch on 07537827972 and at hello@lagomglassware.com

THE TRAVEL DIARIES



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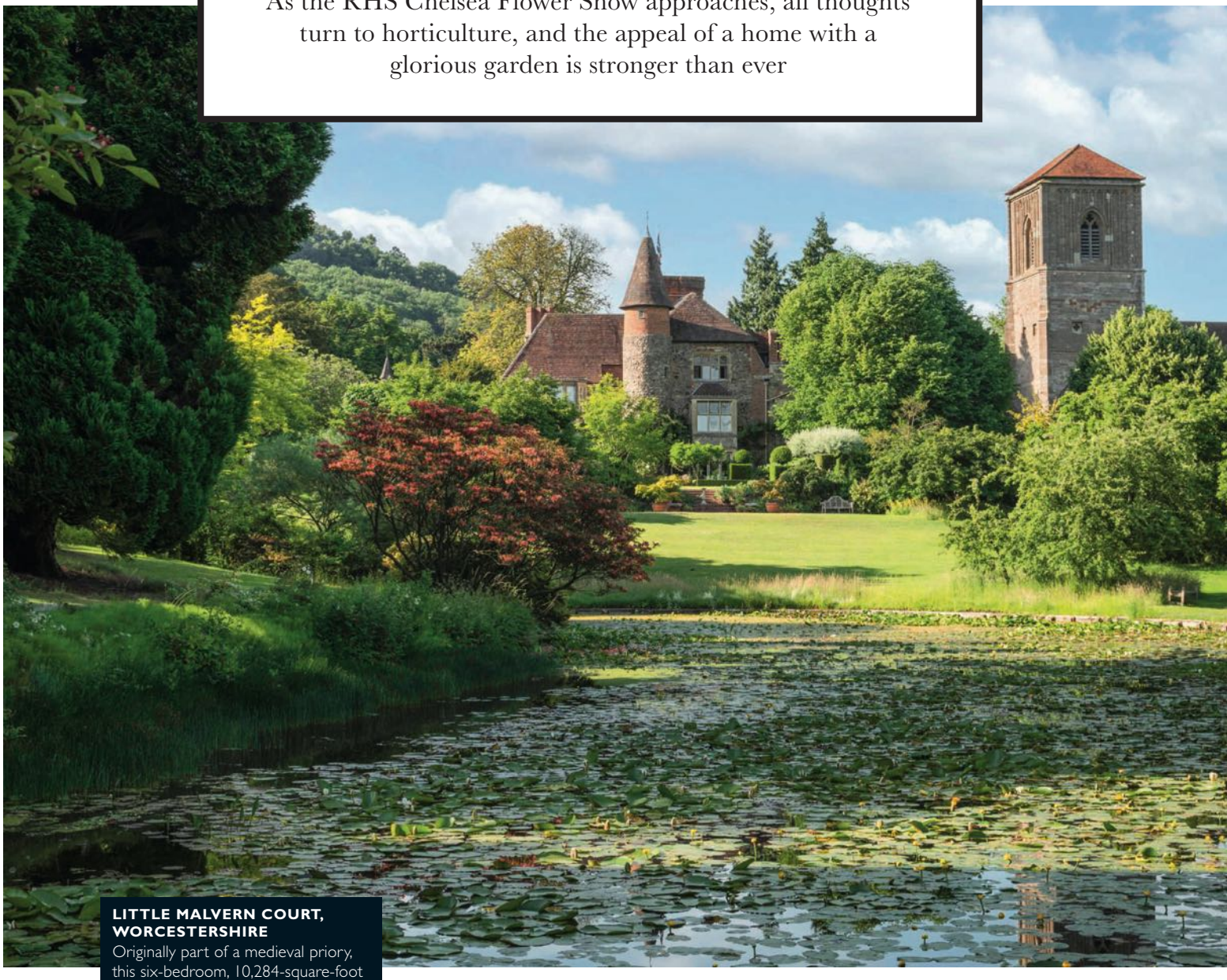
OUTSIDE INFLUENCE

As the RHS Chelsea Flower Show approaches, all thoughts turn to horticulture, and the appeal of a home with a glorious garden is stronger than ever



LITTLE MALVERN COURT, WORCESTERSHIRE
Originally part of a medieval priory, this six-bedroom, 10,284-square-foot Grade II* property is steeped in atmosphere and set around a central courtyard. It also comes with two additional cottages and exceedingly pretty gardens, with formal hedging, yew topiary and several large ponds. £1.95 million.
bluebookagency.com

There's nowhere more idyllic than the English countryside in May and June, as spring segues into summer and everything brims with new life. Wildflower meadows are a riot of buttercups, cowslips, ox-eye daisies and clover, while the hedgerows are wreathed in bridal-like sprays of white cow parsley. Gardens are at their absolute peak, and a jamboree of colour and joy, as the last of spring blossom and tulips gives way to a heady mix of foxgloves, roses, lavender, hollyhocks and peonies. It's enough to lift the spirits of even the most urban of city dwellers, and prompt the question: 'Should I move to the countryside?'

Houses with glorious gardens tend to sell quickly – a garden can enhance the most unprepossessing of properties and

COTTINGTON HOUSE, HAMPSHIRE
Set amid more than five acres of grounds, this Grade II-listed farmhouse sits at the end of a lane and is surrounded by ancient woodland and grassland. The main reception rooms overlook the south-facing gardens, which have been designed to offer the perfect summer haven. There's a tennis court and a swimming pool, as well as a separate cottage. £3.75 million.
struttandparker.com

TARRANT MONKTON, DORSET
Located in a sought-after village near Blandford Forum, this 18th-century thatched cottage has three bedrooms, two open fireplaces and a kitchen with an Aga. Outside, there are traditional flower borders, a rose arbour and a studio. £725,000.
winkworth.co.uk

DITTON GRANGE CLOSE, LONDON
This six-bedroom contemporary house in Surbiton is a tribute to how beautifully landscaped grounds can enhance new properties as effectively as period ones. Full-height sliding doors link the open-plan layout to the rear garden, which has extensive terracing, specimen trees and an abundance of hydrangeas. £3.5 million.
hamptons.co.uk

KNAPP HOUSE, DEVON
On the south-eastern edge of Exmoor lies this striking Arts and Crafts country house, with four holiday lodges and equestrian facilities across nine acres. The nine-bedroom home has a wine cellar, a cinema room and a gym, while the grounds are stocked with mature rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias, alongside a kitchen garden. £2.45 million.
jackson-stops.co.uk

make an already appealing house seem sublime. Thoughtful planting and landscaping helps to make a house look settled within its surroundings, rather than plopped down randomly in the manner of certain newbuilds. Gardens attract wildlife and bees, and encourage a sense of being surrounded by nature, as well as providing the daily pleasure of seeing plants grow from bud to bloom. As

RODWELL MANOR, SOMERSET
This Grade II*-listed house spans 5,300 square feet, and features an enormous great hall with a vaulted beamed ceiling and a historic fireplace. Its five acres are a pleasing mix of formal and natural elements, and an enclosed kitchen garden has apple trees and raised beds. Offers over £2 million.
jackson-stops.co.uk

BATHEASTON HOUSE, SOMERSET
Conveniently close to Bath, this exquisite Queen Anne residence was meticulously restored back in 2015. The gardens complement the beauty of the house, with banks of white hydrangea punctuated by characterful topiary. There's a fountain in the north courtyard, while the south-facing terrace is ideal for entertaining, with a charming orangery and sweeping views over the River Avon and surrounding countryside. £4.25 million.
savills.com

WINKWORTH FARM, SURREY
Dating back to the 16th century, this traditional house and surrounding gardens were developed in the 1900s by the famous duo Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll. Aside from six bedrooms in the main house, further accommodation is available in a barn accessed from the wine cellar via an underground tunnel. £5.5 million.
savills.com

a pastime, gardening makes you aware of the seasons and roots you to a particular place. An abundance of space gives you the freedom to experiment, to plant trees, to grow vegetables or try your hand at a cut-flower border. What seems daunting at first can quickly become an addiction, and a couple of years can see the most amateur horticulturalists transform into experts. If you're fortunate enough to buy a property with an established plot, it's even easier, as it's far less daunting to maintain something than beginning entirely from scratch.

Of course, the annual RHS Chelsea Flower Show allows anyone to experience the most beauteous of gardens without ever having to leave central London. Every May, the grounds of the Royal Hospital showcase the creations of some of the world's most celebrated landscape designers, marking the start of the summer social season. Its enduring popularity with royalty and celebrities alike, as well as with the general public, is a testament to how much love we all have for beautiful gardens.

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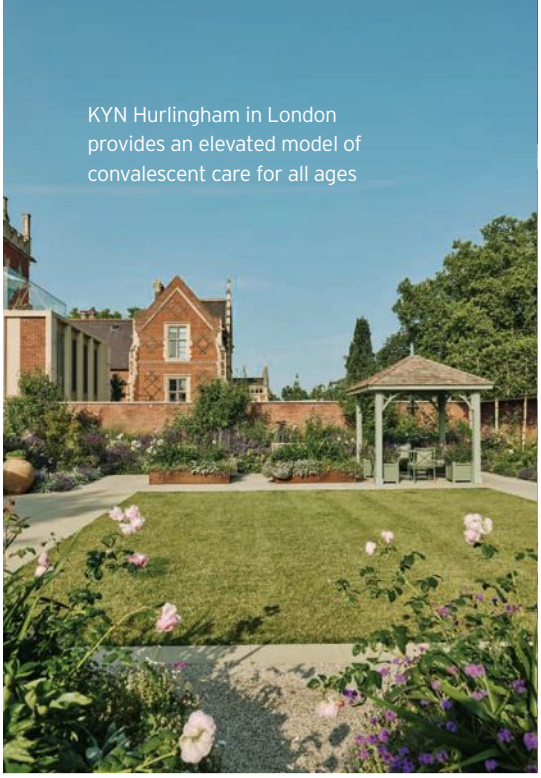

KYN Hurlingham in London provides an elevated model of convalescent care for all ages

AN AGELESS QUALITY OF LIFE

If you were to create a wish list for your nearest and dearest as they move into a vulnerable stage of life, it might read like this: an uplifting environment, clinical excellence delivered with compassion, a community of kindred spirits, opportunities for cultural enrichment, respect for an individual's needs, kindness, dignity, fun... And this is a vision both sensitively and spectacularly fulfilled by KYN, who take a pioneering approach to residential, convalescent and nursing care.

Take KYN Hurlingham, opposite the renowned private members' club in the heart of leafy Parsons Green. This Grade II-listed building with 32 bedrooms has been transformed to create a refined and caring environment, offering a holistic approach to wellbeing that ranges from residential care to on-staff 24-hour nursing care led by highly qualified clinical specialists, providing bespoke plans with tailored support.

Rehabilitative therapies are key for general maintenance and post-operative recovery.

KYN Hurlingham offers a next-level standard of cultured living and clinical expertise for residential and convalescent care

KYN's physiotherapy team is experienced in musculoskeletal, neurological, respiratory, cardiac and orthopaedic conditions; its rehab studio offers gait and step training, passive, assisted and active cycling, resistance and weight training, joint mobilisation and stretching. Fuel for recovery comes from menus crafted by Tristan Welch (formerly head chef of two-Michelin-starred Petrus), guided by clinical nutritionist Eva Humphries MSc.

Residents benefit from personalised care within a cocoon of elegant rooms, designed by leading interior designer Nina Campbell, decorated in art curated by Adam Ellis, who dresses the walls of private Mayfair clubs. Library spaces are stocked by Heywood Hill bookshop, which was awarded a Royal Warrant by Queen Elizabeth II in 2011.

When the outdoors beckons, there's a beautiful garden created by landscape architect Randle Siddeley, a frequent collaborator on award-winning gardens at Chelsea Flower Show.

It's an innovative model of ageless quality of life. As ChelseaDoc physician Dr Avinash Sharma says, 'I am consistently impressed by the standard of clinical care delivered at KYN. Their multidisciplinary team provides exemplary nursing, rehabilitation and convalescent support, underpinned by rigorous clinical oversight. Residents benefit from personalised care plans, timely interventions and a genuinely holistic approach to wellbeing.'

kyn.co.uk

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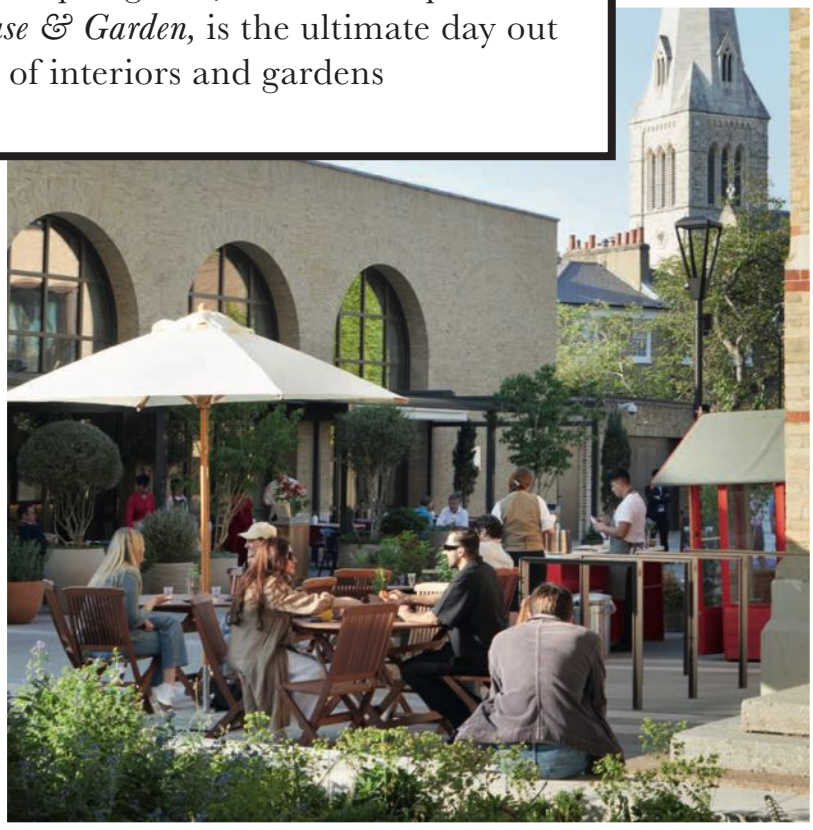
SPRING FAIR

The Chelsea Barracks Spring Fair, which takes place on May 20-23 with *House & Garden,* is the ultimate day out for lovers of interiors and gardens



With its beautifully landscaped interpretation of a traditional Belgravia garden square, the smart residential enclave of Chelsea Barracks is always a vision of botanical elegance. A short walk from Sloane Square, its publicly accessible spaces are planted with native species and medicinal plants inspired by the nearby Chelsea Physic Garden – and brilliantly enhance the local tribute to the annual RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

The Spring Fair, which is open to all and free of charge, again joins forces with *House & Garden*. And for those who love to be creative with home decoration and garden design, there's nothing more uplifting than wandering through the beautifully curated marketplace. In the line-up, favourite independent brands this year include textiles studio Village London, LAMP LDN Living, the ceramicist Deborah Brett, jeweller Kaya Nuka, artists Bell Hutley and Jasmyn Fraser, small-batch skincare experts Pelegrims, and many more.

Visitors can explore all that Chelsea Barracks offer – sampling a flavour of Barcelona in Belgravia at The Campaner restaurant or enjoying artisan Georgian pastries at Entrée.

PLAN YOUR VISIT TO THE CHELSEA BARRACKS SPRING FAIR 2026

Please join us at the annual Chelsea Barracks Spring Fair with *House & Garden,* which takes place on **May 20-23,** from 11am. Every day signals a celebration of British design, crafts, fashion, horticulture, food and drink. Don't miss out on the fun!

chelseabarracks.com/spring-fair-2026

GREECE

Riviera Retreat, Saronida, Athens

On the coast near Athens, this premier waterfront residence spans over 755 m^2 with 7 bedrooms and impressive entertaining areas. Landscaped grounds of 7,661 m^2 include two swimming pools, a tennis court, and direct access to a sandy beach.

Price on request

Mykonian Whisper, Mykonos

In a peaceful natural area overlooking Mykonos Town, elegant modern six-bedroom residence of 505 m^2 offering great privacy. Grounds of 4,451 m^2, main house plus 2 independent guest cottages, swimming pool, panoramic views.

€3,000,000

Seafront Luxury, Antiparos

On the peaceful west coast facing the mystical island of Despotiko, superb new villa of 427 m^2 ideal as one large home or three separate residences. 9 bedrooms, 3 modern kitchens, 3 swimming pools, spacious indoor and outdoor entertaining areas.

€3,100,000

Historic Residence in Fira, Santorini

An elegant building blending traditional island design with modern features and amenities. Interior of 331 m^2 now divided into four stylish independent residences with 3 plunge pools. Ideal as a private home or a boutique hotel.

€3,200,000

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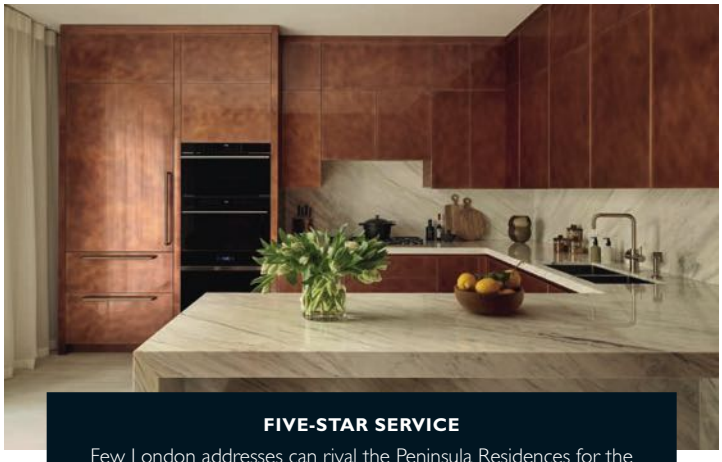
NOTEBOOK

The latest luxury developments to have on your radar

LONDON LIFE

Rising above the Thames on the Albert Embankment, Westminster Tower is a former commercial building that's being transformed by London Square into a collection of 28 apartments and two penthouses. The interiors have been designed with quiet elegance in mind – wood chevron flooring, bespoke joinery and layered lighting will create contemporary and well-considered spaces, while generous windows will frame the extraordinary views of London that stretch from the Houses of Parliament to Westminster Abbey. It's moments from St James's Park and within easy reach of the boutiques, galleries and Michelin-starred restaurants of Chelsea and Mayfair, and also has excellent transport connections, with Waterloo station close by. Westminster Tower will offer a wide array of amenities, with a 24-hour concierge, a private cinema, a state-of-the-art fitness suite, and a collection of residents' lounges and reading rooms. Prospective buyers can book a private appointment at the viewing lounge at 21–25 Bruton Place, Mayfair, W1J 6NB, where you can see samples of the materials used, architectural models and detailed floorplans of this ambitious new project.

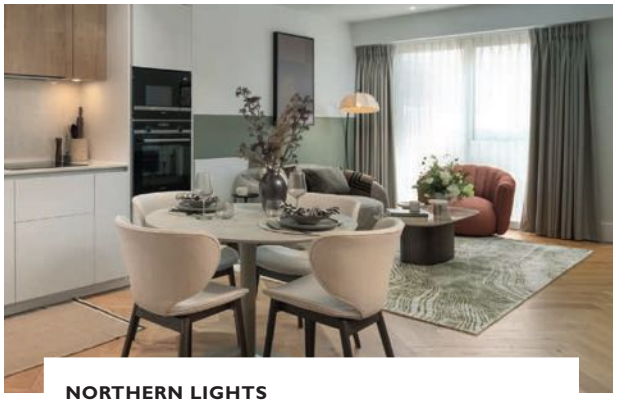
For more information, visit westminstertower.co.uk or email westminstertower@londonsquare.co.uk



FIVE-STAR SERVICE

Few London addresses can rival the Peninsula Residences for the ultimate, at-home five-star experience. Adjoining the landmark hotel in Belgravia, the last collection of six lateral apartments are now available to buy. Each one has been individually designed, with almost all of the furniture specially commissioned for the spaces – highlights include an extraordinary 5.5-metre headboard and a 260-piece chandelier. Demand for branded residences has never been so high in the capital and it's easy to see why – they offer a fully serviced base in the city that's got all the polish and sparkle of a favourite hotel. From £14.95 million.

For more information, visit peninsularesidences.london



Photograph: ALEX MCINTOSH

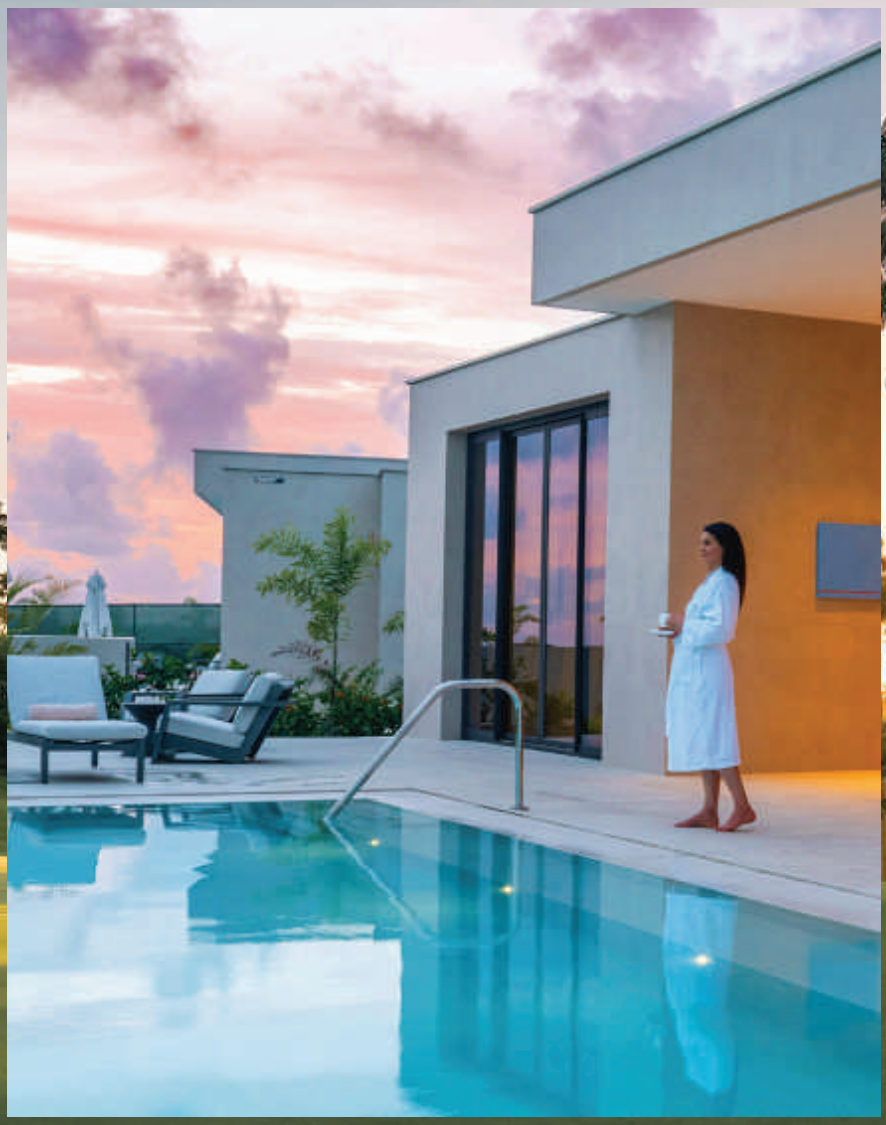
NORTHERN LIGHTS

Set in Edinburgh's award-winning shopping destination of St James Quarter is New Eidyn, an offering of 152 apartments by the property developer Native Land, with views across the city and the Firth of Forth. The recently completed show apartment has interiors by the Danish furniture brand BoConcept, combining Scandinavian craftsmanship with a colour palette inspired by the Scottish landscape. Residents can enjoy the 10,000-square-foot landscaped sky garden, a private lounge, and 24-hour security and concierge services. Apartments from £320,000.

For more information, visit neweidyn.com

APES HILL

BARBADOS



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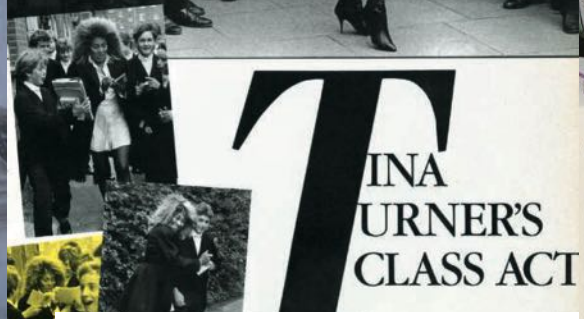
Tatler throwback

Tina Turner in Azzedine Alaïa, styled by Tatler's fashion director Michael Roberts



TINA TURNER'S CLASS ACT

The 'identikit guide to who's really who among literary women' in 1986 ran over five pages

Lady Antonia Pinter, Miriam Gross, Pat Kavanagh; right, Barbara Cartland

Glossies Careful, you'll smudge me

After deciding in her mid-twenties to be mouse no longer, **Lady Antonia Pinter** (54) has become literary London's most famous blonde. Achieving a difficult balance between notoriety and respectability she is a diligent and prolific writer. Mother of six children by the late Sir Hugh Fraser, she is now married to Harold Pinter with whom she dines almost daily at the Notting Hill restaurant Monsieur Thompson's – where she is likely to ignore you, partially because of slight myopia. During her prep school days at Oxford's Dragon School she was said to be a whizz on the soccer ground and though nowadays her pursuits are the more ladylike gardening, bridge and walking she swims regularly at The Berkeley Hotel and adores picnics.

Deputy literary editor of the *Observer* for many years under the Proustophile Terence Kilmartin, 44-year-old **Miriam Gross** moved briefly to the new *Independent* as deputy to arts editor Tom Sutcliffe. She has since exchanged this job for 'something interesting' at Channel 4. Miriam's serious admirers have included but at the same time is very good at finding things for writers who are broke. It was she who suggested writing Mills & Boon romances to Sally Beauman (qv). One of her business techniques is to leave long silences so that her interlocutor will babble nervously on to the sound of silence, and end by conceding points and percentages. She is married to Julian Barnes, who wrote a novel about retrospective jealousy of one's adored called *Before She Met Me*.

Although she is the victim of most unfair abuse, triggered mainly as a result of her Pekinese appearance and by jealousy over staggering amounts of money she earns for lying on a sofa dictating ready-to-print novels to a secretary who sits out of eye-shot, **Barbara Cartland** is actually incredibly kind. She is very much concerned that people should consume large amounts of honey and royal jelly and other health products yet, curiously, she has an ambivalent attitude to sugar. On a visit to her house in Hertfordshire one writer was presented with a tea table that she's inspiring, money-conscious, stropdorous and bad news for secretaries. An accomplished wurmsniper, she is constantly involved in vendettas and displays of loyalty, often throwing noisy drinks parties with friends such as Salman Rushdie, Snoo Wilson and Liz Calder. She lives in an extensive flat in Pembridge Villas with her two cats and is a successful grower of gum trees.

Angela Huth (48) is one of the literary circuit's famous heartbreakers. Once the woman in Desmond Wilcox's life, she has been admired by Lord Snowdon and Ludovic Kennedy, and has married Quentin Crewe, Tony Palmer (the marriage lasted a week) and now Lord Ducie's stepson James Howard-Johnston. They live in Oxford and James teaches Byzantine studies. Twice a year they entertain Princess Margaret for the weekend, filling the house with intellectuals who can also be relied upon to

Simply the best

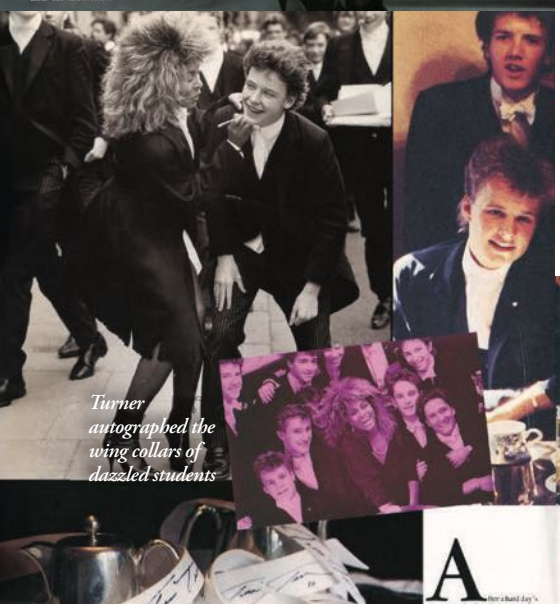
When the queen of rock 'n' roll took centre stage with literary lionesses

AS *TATLER* TURNS ITS ATTENTION TO London's young literary scene this month, here we look back to September 1986, when the magazine cast a knowing eye over the women shaping the world of books. 'Book wombs' offered a witty guide to the era's literary set, from Iris Murdoch to Maeve Binchy, Susan Boyd to Joanna Lumley. Divided mischievously into categories – Witches, Glossies, Earthmothers, Souls, Bluestockings and Party Glitterati – it captured a scene where intellect and personality were equally prized, and where literary circles sparkled with as much intrigue as red carpets.

On the cover, however, was a star of an entirely different order: Tina Turner, whose unforgettable 'class act' saw the singer – styled by Michael Roberts – take Eton by storm, turning its playing fields into her own stage as neatly uniformed boys danced to her boombox. 'After a hard day's stomp round college in her Azzedine Alaïa spike-heeled booties,' Roberts wrote, she relaxed 'over tea at the Cockpit in Eton High Street', joined by devoted members of the newly formed Eton Chapter of her fan club.

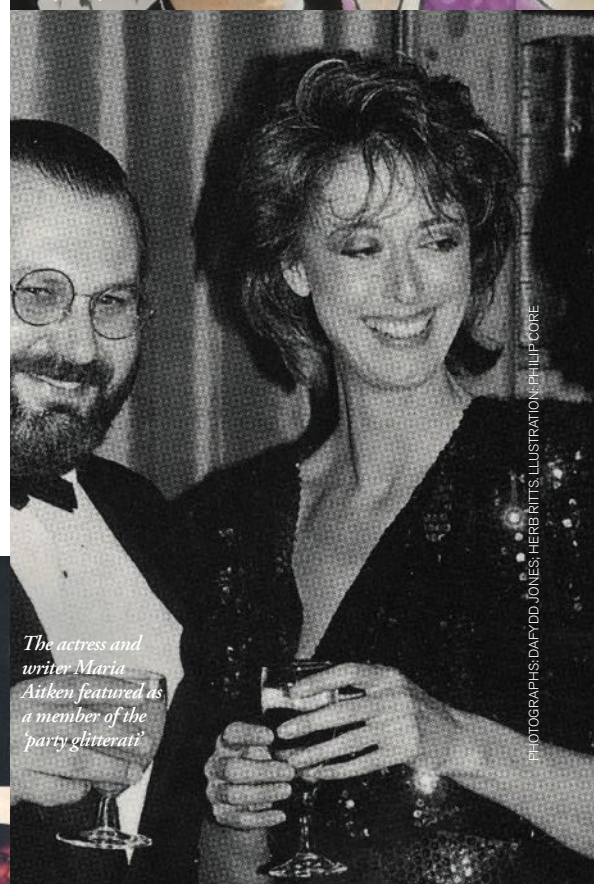
From literary salons to Turner tunes, the September 1986 issue proved that brilliance – whether written or performed – rarely goes unnoticed. **SARAH KENNELLY**

Illustration by Philip Core of literary 'souls' Edna O'Brien, Lisa St Aubin de Terán and Jane Lady Abdy



Turner autographed the wing collars of dazzled students

'Ooo…let's stay together, loving you forever is all I can do…'



The actress and writer Maria Aitken featured as a member of the 'party glitterati'

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