



## BV LGAR I

## *June 2025 Issue 166*

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## On the COVER YARA is wearing Elsa Peretti High Tide Earrings, Small Bone Cuff in Gold, Tiffany & Co Jacket, Jacquemus.

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Right: POP-UPS, PARASOLS & POOLSIDE GLAM
SUMMER'S HEATING UP - AND SO IS THE FASHION! EXPECT
SUN-SOAKED SHOPPING, EXCLUSIVE CAPSULE DROPS, AND
BEACH CLUBS TURNED RUNWAYS AS LUXURY LABELS LIKE LOUIS
VUITTON, CHANEL, DOLCE & GABBANA, LOEWE, DIOR, BOTTEGA
VENETA AND MORE TRANSFORM EUROPE'S CHICEST SHORES
INTO THEIR ULTIMATE SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS.
Below: OUR BIG FAT JEWELRY ISSUE IS DAZZLING! TIFFANY & CO.

BLUE BOOK 2025 PLUNGES INTO A DREAMLIKE UNDERWATER WORLD, WHERE NATHALIE VERDEILLE TRANSFORMS OCEANIC SPLENDOR INTO HIGH JEWELRY FANTASY





## SUN-DRENCHED STORIES

his issue is full of movement – of energy, creativity, and style – all through the lens of women making waves across the region and beyond.

Leading the way is our cover star, Yara Alhogbani. The Saudi tennis player opens up about her journey from Virginia to Riyadh, her family's unwavering support, and the quiet strength behind every serve. Photographed with her brothers and draped in Tiifany & Co., Yara reminds us that real power is rooted in purpose.

We also shine a light on Arab voices across disciplines. Chef Salam brings heart and heritage to the table in her Dubai restaurants. Emirati director Zainab Shaheen speaks to the emotional core of her debut film Mountain Boy, while artist Rosemary Chamoun explores presence and transformation through abstract forms. And Huda El Mufti, in her latest role, bridges culture and glamour with ease.

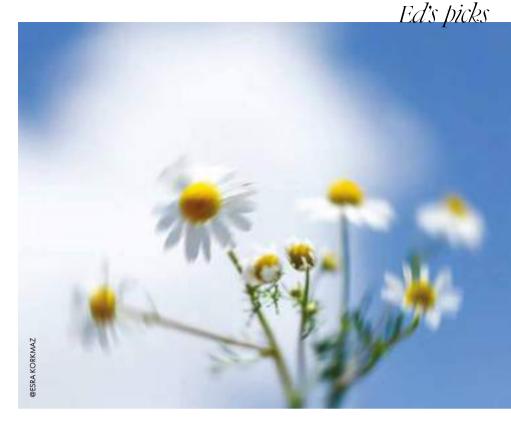
We've also packed this issue with poolside fashion, city-ready beauty, and all the breezy extras – crochet, fringe, easy flats, and skin that looks like it's been kissed by golden hour. And with more sparkle than ever, our jewelry pages are here to play - bold shapes, meaningful design, no brand name necessary. From Marmaris to Milan, from poolside escapes to city nights, here's to a season that feels personal, expressive, and just the right amount of bold.



●●●● dina.spahi@ellearabia.com

## SOFT FOCUS

Delicate, dreamy, and just a little bit whimsical, we pair soft blues, sunny yellows, and crisp whites for a look that feels like fresh air.





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Valentino Garavani's Vain bag is structured and compact, crafted in glossy calfskin and finished with a sculptural metallic VLogo. The nappa-lined interior includes both zip and slip pockets, secured with a magnetic closure.

Designed to be handheld or worn over the shoulder with a drop length of 22 cm.



## The SHOE

Mach & Mach's satin slingbacks pair a minimal silhouette with floating pearl beading that arcs delicately across the foot. Made in Italy, the design features an open toe, a slip-on fit, and a satin/PVC upper. A soft contrast between bridal formality and playful modern detailing.

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Dior's Grand Bal Tie & Dye Colorama is a riot of color and texture, featuring sapphires, spinels, tsavorites and diamonds snow-set across the dial and case. At the center, a dynamic oscillating weight brings movement to the gemstone display. Its 36mm white gold case is paired with a textured leather strap and houses the Dior Inversé 11½ calibre.





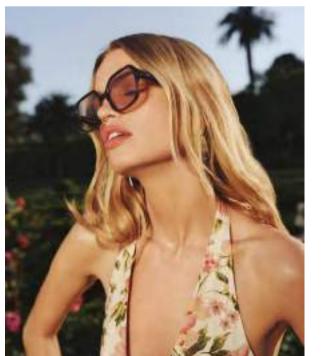
### Pssst... Investment Piece

Summer's calling, and Valentino's Nellcôte is answering with suede, sunshine, and a soundtrack of freedom. Born from the golden haze of '70s festivals and reimagined for now, it's the bag that turns every day into an endless, sun-drenched set.



### Coveted Collab

WHO: REFORMATION X JIMMY FAIRLY WHAT: The cult-fave sunnies return in new colorways and vintage-inspired shapes-crafted in France from plant-based bio-acetate and infused with Reformation's signature it-girl appeal.





## Most Wanted... A Raffia Tote

Tassels, shells, and leather details transform raffia bags from sun-soaked staples to downtown essentials.





In Dubai for a whirlwind of fashion, fragrance, and conversation, Tory Burch capped off her Middle East visit with a poolside evening transformed in hues of turquoise - a nod to her Spring/ Summer 2025 runway show in New York. Surrounded by artists, editors, and brand friends, Burch shared the inspiration behind the new collection - an exploration of motion, modern femininity, and the quiet strength of sport. "I've always admired the grace of athletes," she said. "There's something powerful in that mix of control and ease. That's what I wanted to capture."

Dubai, which Burch hadn't visited since before the pandemic, felt like the perfect setting. "The energy here is unmatched. People are optimistic, ambitious - it's beautiful to see. And the women we connect with here are some of the most stylish and self-assured I've met." This sense of confidence is at the heart of Burch's designs. The Spring/Summer 2025 collection plays with contrasts: lightness and strength, sport and sensuality, tradition and play. "It's about

freedom - of movement, of expression," she explained. "We thought a lot about what feels good on the body, what's surprising without being unwearable."

With her husband Pierre-Yves Roussel now CEO, Burch is immersed full-time in the creative side. "When I started, it was a leap. I didn't have a background in design or business. But now? I'm obsessed with the details. Patternmaking. Proportions. How a skirt moves. It's incredibly technical - and I love that." Beyond the runway, the brand is also embracing change. "We're early adopters. We started with a website when no one thought fashion could sell online. Now we're exploring AI for design ideas. It's a tool - not a threat. I brought AI concepts into a design meeting recently. The team was scared!" she laughed. "But they came around." And the Middle East continues to shape her worldview. "My father was from Morocco, and that sense of craft, of geometry, of heritage - that's always been part of the brand, whether overt or not. It's deep in the DNA."





#### SPRING/SUMMER 2025 COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

• Silhouettes: Martial arts belts, curve-following skirts, embroidered swimsuits • Fabrics: Stretch wool gauze, crystal beading, featherweight suede, waffle knits • Prints: Toile de jouy with hidden aliens; jacquards mimicking swimmers and waves • Handbags: New Pierced oval bag; glossy Balloon shoulder bag; velvet pouch with fringe • Shoes: Reimagined Reva flats with cut-outs; sculptural Twisted pump • Jewelry: Alien and octopus earrings; inward hoop logo pieces • Accessories: Wraparound sunglasses, slim leather belts, wearable amulets





# Tommy's new wave

With Spring 2025, Tommy Hilfiger gives American prep a fresh twist blending nautical influences, reimagined classics, and a standout sailing capsule. Here, the designer opens up about evolution, detail, and why the newly refitted MoE flagship is *setting the tone* for the brand's next chapter.

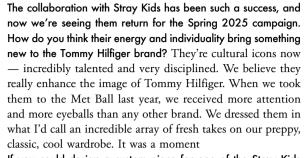








Tommy, you've always been known for blending American prep with modern twists. How did the Spring 2025 collection push that boundary even further, especially with the nautical influences and coastal vibes? We're always evolving and elevating we never want to become stale or stagnant. Through this ongoing evolution, we're able to change the look while staying true to our DNA. It's about modernizing without losing our foundation. We think it's important to become more sophisticated while remaining accessible, wearable, and affordable. We experiment with different elements — fabric, shape, fit, detail, and color. Those are the ingredients we use to, in a way, rework the recipe while keeping the essence intact. In your opinion, what is the one piece of clothing every person should have in their wardrobe, and how does Tommy Hilfiger elevate it this season? Well, everyone needs a polo — that's a staple. We offer stretch versions, slim fits, and beautiful piqués that are breathable and come in a wide range of colors. We're always refining the details. For example, we made the collar about an eighth of an inch longer at the point so it doesn't curl up. The slim fit has three buttons on the placket, while the basic has one. These might seem like small changes, almost unnoticeable to the eye, but they really affect the fit and feel and that makes all the difference.



If you could design a custom piece for one of the Stray Kids members, what would it look like, and how would it reflect their unique personalities? I think we'd design a custom jumpsuit for Felix. He could absolutely pull it off. He's very agile, very iconic - and his look is incredibly interesting and appealing. But beyond the style, he's just such a nice person — smart, polite,

thoughtful. I sat next to him at the Met Ball last year, and people were staring, photographing him as he came out. And he was just incredibly chill, very gracious. He even handwrote me a birthday letter; he's very thoughtful!

Why did you pick to work with Jisoo on the Spring collection? Jisoo is in her own world. She looks amazing in everything she wears. She's also a cultural icon. And K-pop stars, especially today, are so important to global culture. They bring something incredibly powerful and fresh to fashion. You've described the Spring 2025 collection as "New American Prep." What do you think makes this fresh take on prep style so universal, and how does it speak to the spirit of today's youth especially with Stray Kids and Jisoo representing it? Thank you very much. We twist it — we make it new, we make it exciting, we make it unique,

and we give it a fashion twist. We know classics and preppy can be boring, but we try very hard to make it new and exciting. We always keep the twist on.

The MoE store has just undergone a beautiful refit. What makes this flagship store unique compared to the other Tommy Hilfiger locations? Well, we're still tweaking it, but we love the facelift — it's beautiful. We really like the materials: the oak, the travertine, the stainless steel. Detail is always important to us, and I think the quality of the build-out really matters. Overall, I'm very happy with it.

The MoE store has a focus on linen, swimwear, and a sailing capsule for Spring 2025. If you had to design the ultimate summer day look from these pieces, what would it look like? I'd take different versions of red, white, and blue maybe just a pop of red against an off-white or something like that. I have a real affinity for the sailing gear. It was redesigned from our archive - we originally did it in the '90s. Now, we're sponsoring the SailGP Grand Prix, which is like Formula One for sailing — very high-tech. We designed uniforms for all the guys on the boat, and from that, we decided to create a capsule collection for our customers too. It's right in the middle of the store. I love the quality, the branding, and the authenticity of it.













This page: Jimmy Choo Cinch M Natural, Tan & Gold Bag Dress, 1309 Studios Flower by The Flower Guys

Opposite page: Jimmy Choo Scarlett 50 Silver Heels, Jimmy Choo Danny Black Oval Sunglasses Dress, Magda Butrym





elly and Kelia are the perfect example of fierce female friendships. Best friends since their youth, they co-founded Rainbow K to address a need of their own - jewelry that reflected their individual expression and personality. "Everything felt too classic or not our style; we couldn't find jewelry that truly resonated with us," they recall, and this search led them to embrace their passion and strengths. With Kelia's finance education and Kelly's gemmology background, they had just what was needed to take the next step.

Loved and worn by celebrities and influencers, including Dua Lipa, Jennifer Lopez, and Taylor Swift - to name just a few, the Parisienne jewelry brand has also attracted the attention of royalty, with Kelia and Kelly designing custom pieces that are timeless. "Each bespoke design is a true collaboration with the client," they explain. From the first sketch to the sourcing of ethical stones, everything is put together at their atelier in Paris, with each piece undergoing stringent quality control before it is sent

out. One of their most intricate design testaments is the Écailles Collection, while the Empress ring remains one of their most iconic pieces to date. "It marked our signature reintroduction of the signet ring into modern fine jewelry," they share. "The Eyet Collection has also been hugely popular it combines fashion codes with high jewellery to create a bold and wearable look."

With their most recent 'Blossom Collection' selling out almost instantly after launch, Kelly and Kelia are passionate about creating bold designs that remain relevant to the times. It's their signature mix of visual contrasts, where two metals mix in one piece, along with the mixing and stacking, that makes them a go-to brand for busy women who want flexibility. Whether worn alone or stacked, the pieces are all designed to complement each other, making them a perfect expression of each day. Here's a glimpse into their world of design and creation.

How do you find inspiration for each collection? Our inspiration comes from many sources. We love antique jewelry markets and can spend hours browsing through them. Vintage photo albums from our grandparents are also major sources of

inspiration. We're drawn to bold, geometric designs from the Art Deco era, and we often mix two metals in one piece for contrast.

What are your colors and gems of preference? Our favorite gems include diamonds combined with noble stones like sapphire, emerald, pearl, or onyx – each with its own meaning and energy. Fashion also plays a big role in our creativity - we're true fashionistas, and you'll find fashion codes subtly embedded in our designs.

Tell us a bit about the latest collection? Our latest collection is the Blossom collection, and it became a bestseller almost instantly — it sold out, and we are so thrilled! The design is inspired by the blossoming of a flower, with a modern and chic interpretation. The ring's shape is particularly unique and symbolic,

What is your creative process like? We begin by sourcing the most beautiful stones from around the world — emeralds from Colombia or sapphires from Sri Lanka, for instance. Each collection starts with a vision, and we bring it to life through sketches and prototypes. Our goal is to strike the perfect balance between fashion-forward designs and timeless appeal. Some pieces can take months to finalize, especially those that require intricate craftsmanship. One of our most complex collections is the Écailles collection — its unique scale-like movement is unlike anything else.

Who is the woman you design for? We design for all women of the 2020s — whether she's an entrepreneur, a mother, or a student. Our jewelry is meant to be worn every day, whether it's with a suit, a casual outfit, or even while cooking dinner. Rainbow K is about democratizing high jewelry - making gold and diamond pieces accessible and wearable for everyone. It's a celebration of femininity

Who was the most influential person in your life that inspired you as jewelry designers? Our grandparents have played a major role in our creative journey. Their vintage jewelry and photo albums spark memories that heavily influence our style. We're also greatly inspired by the sense of romance and eternity that vintage jewelry evokes.

## POWER OF **EXPRESSION**

Kelly Souied and Kelia Toledano, co-founders of Rainbow K, believe in the power of expression and individuality. Their award-winning art-decoinspired jewelry collections marry vintage charm with modern innovation – and each collection is selling out fast.

> What about redesigning retro pieces for a modern twist? Absolutely — this is one of our passions. We love breathing new life into vintage pieces by adding a rock-and-roll twist or combining styles. Our reinterpretation of signet rings and our Art Deco-inspired work are perfect examples of this.

> Do you have any signature elements? We love mixing metals within one piece to create striking visual contrasts. One of our most iconic creations is the Empress Ring, a modern take on the classic signet ring. It balances vintage and Art Deco influences with a bold, updated design. Another signature of Rainbow K is our approach to stacking. Each collection is unique, yet designed to complement one another our customers love to mix and stack our pieces for a personalized look. What are you working on next? We're constantly inspired and evolving with the times. Right now, we're overflowing with ideas and determination to create even more iconic and innovative collections. Stay tuned — there's always something exciting around the corner at Rainbow K.

"OUR BRAND STANDS OUT BY RETHINKING THE ASSEMBLY OF MATERIALS TO GO BEYOND CLASSICISM, PROPOSING INNOVATIVE, ART DECO-INSPIRED **ALTERNATIVES WHERE VINTAGE** AND MODERNITY INTERTWINE" ellearabia.com 29



Sandal Season, Elevated: From charmdangling D-Sands in three heights to easy Dway mules, these shoes walk the line between glam and go-anywhere ease.

## ENDLESS ESCAPE

Maria Grazia Chiuri's latest Dioriviera drop is your passport to sun-drenched style, blending whimsical prints, jet-set staples, and playful luxury that travels well even if you're only headed poolside

What if your summer wardrobe could double as a postcard? With the new Dioriviera collection, Maria Grazia Chiuri turns vacation dressing into an art form, reimagining Dior classics with a breezy sense of fantasy. Think jungles instead of gardens, seashells over sequins, and a palette dipped in sorbet hues. From the reworked Toile de Jouy prints to raffia-charmed hats and seaside-ready sandals, it's a suitcase full of elegance that never takes itself too seriously. Designed to be worn barefoot on a yacht or barefoot in your backyard, this is Dior dreaming in full technicolor.



Toile de Jouy, Turned Tropical: The iconic print goes wild with the Toile de Jouy Palms, swapping pastoral scenes for lush jungle landscapes in vivid turquoise and flamingo pink.

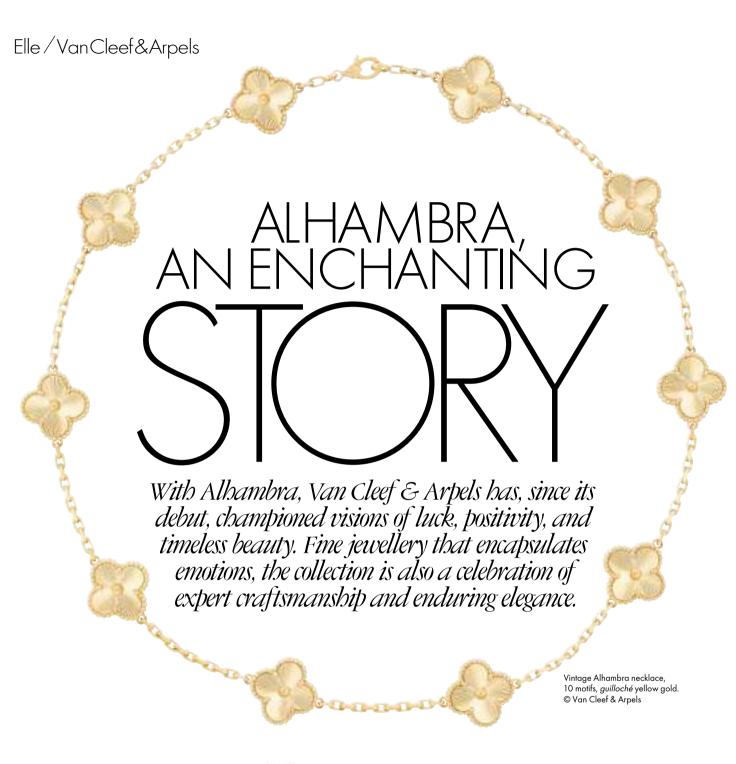






Maison à la Plage: From cannage-detailed beach mats to ceramic palm trees and hand-painted candles, Dior Maison lets you vacation without leaving home.





#### **CREATION**

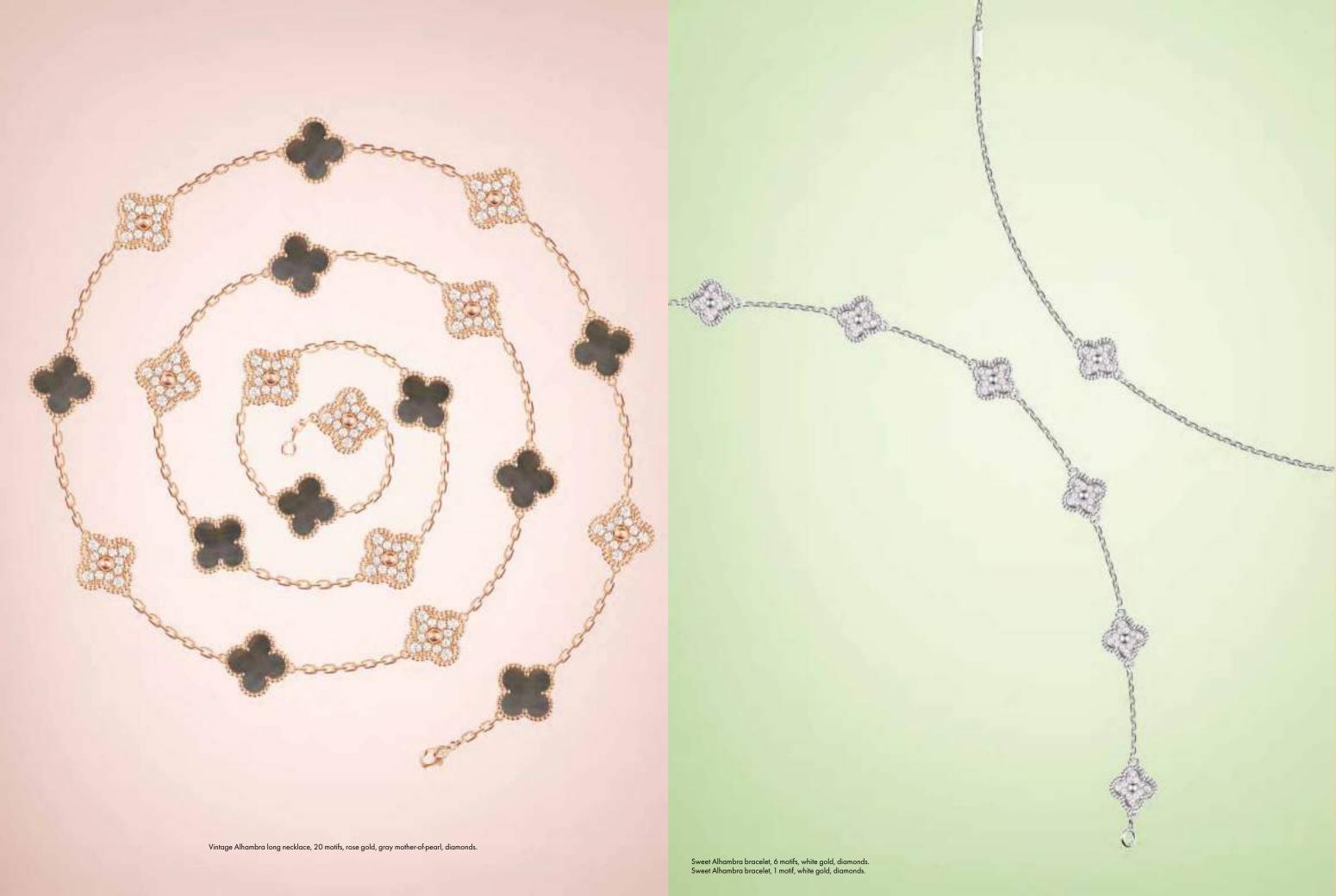
In 1968, Van Cleef & Arpels presented the first Alhambra long necklace, inspired by the four-leaf clover – an emblem of good luck cherished by the Maison. The design, featuring delicate gold beads and a pure and harmonious motif, championed ease of wear and welcomed a new era of natural sophistication.



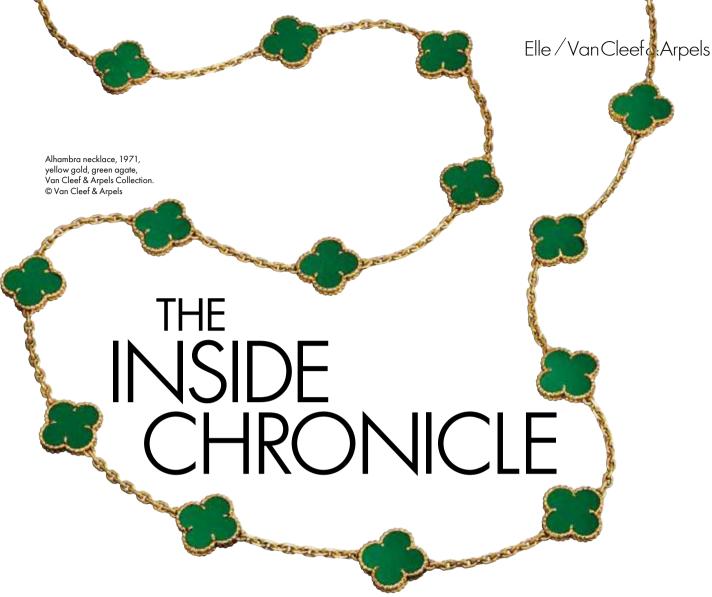
#### REINTERPRETING BEAUTY

From the incorporation of the *guilloché* gold aesthetic in 2018 to the introduction of the secret pendant watch in 2021, Alhambra has continually embraced creative renewal, appealing to new generations of wearers while drawing inspiration from the rich archives of Van Cleef & Arpels. Recent creations, such as the reversible ring introduced in 2023, represent both versatility and breathtaking artistry.









Unlocking the illustrious history of Van Cleef & Arpels' Alhambra collection with Nicholas Foulkes, celebrated journalist, historian & author of the definitive Alhambra book published in 2018 by Éditions Xavier Barral.

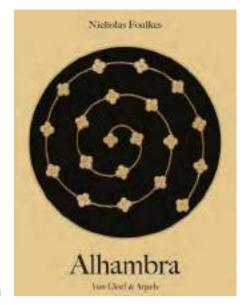
ew creations in the world of jewellery capture the imagination quite like the Alhambra collection by Van Cleef & Arpels. Since its debut in the late 1960s, this iconic design has transcended time, embodying luck, sophistication, and meticulous craftsmanship. To uncover the stories, inspirations, and craftsmanship behind this enduring masterpiece, we turn to Nicholas Foulkes, whose exploration of Alhambra's history and cultural resonance provides a unique lens into this captivating universe.

In this exclusive interview, Foulkes unravels Alhambra's rich narrative - from its roots in 1960s youth culture and the free-spirited ethos of the era to its status as a symbol of multigenerational and global appeal. Through his insights, we'll discover why this timeless talisman continues to fascinate generations, and how its polychromatic beauty and versatility, showcased as a signature presence in Van Cleef & Arpels boutiques worldwide, have woven their way into the hearts of collectors.



Van Cleef & Arpels boutique, Place Vendôme. © Van Cleef & Arpels

#### Elle / Van Cleef & Arpels



Alhambra Book Nicholas Foulkes. © Editions Xavier Barral

> Whether you're a long-time admirer or a newcomer to Alhambra's allure, this conversation offers a glimpse into the meticulous artistry, innovation, and universal magic that make the Van Cleef & Arpels Alhambra collection a timeless icon.

> What makes a design truly timeless? I think that when one talks about a design enduring, it is a testament to the excellence of it. Not anybody but Van Cleef & Arpels can talk about capturing a moment with a creation - time moves on, yet that item remains anchored in that moment. It becomes a period piece, and if you're lucky, a classic. Alhambra is a perfect example of this.

> Its beauty lies in its simplicity - often, great things are defined as much by what is left out as by what is put in. If you look at it, the elements are simple, yet beautifully crafted. There is no intellectual hurdle to be crossed. It is simply a great jewel, naturally elegant, and immediately recognisable.

> It is something very free, very open to interpretation. And again, it has proven its internationality, as it were. This universal quality, this simplicity and incredible versatility are what allows it to resonate across generations and cultures, adapting seamlessly while remaining unchanged at its core. That is the essence of timeless design.

> In your book, you describe Alhambra as a 'palimpsest of



history.' How has it evolved while staying true to itself? The Alhambra collection has remained true to itself while continuously shaping how jewellery is worn, appreciated and experienced. It really is historically important. You're wearing something that has been part of jewellery history, a creation that made history. It's not just about who has worn it, from royalty to free spirits; it's about how it has fundamentally transformed jewellery-making and the way people engage with these pieces.

What makes Alhambra remarkable is its uninterrupted production since 1968 - more than 50 years of continuous creation. That consistency is essential. Over the past two decades, it has become an even more prominent cultural motif, appearing in ways it never did before, and that has only reinforced its presence.

I would like people to appreciate the depth that is there. Alhambra is not just a stock-keeping unit – it is a design with history, meaning, and a legacy that continues to grow. I have observed its evolution over time. It was always known, but it wasn't as central to the Van Cleef & Arpels story as it has now become. Today, it is a mythical symbol of enduring craftsmanship and vision.

How does the collection reflect the time it was created in? Do you think it captured or contrasted with the spirit of the time? It made its debut in the late '60s, a period of immense cultural transformation, where old attitudes were being challenged, and new ideas were flourishing. The genius of Van Cleef & Arpels was its ability to take elements of popular culture and reflect them in its creations. Which is a true gift because that is what remaining contemporary is about. The Maison was able to decode youth culture, the hippy movement, and Flower Power, and translate them into something enduring, finding beauty in that moment.

There is a geometric versatility to Alhambra, but also a richness in texture, with its signature beaded contour. The 1960s were very much about texture, about freedom, and Alhambra embodies this spirit. It is a very free piece of jewellery, liberating to wear, and in that sense, it

> truly expresses its era - one of openness and self-expression.

More than a jewel - what gave Alhambra creations their everyday allure? The Alhambra collection also speaks to the excellence of La Boutique Van Cleef & Arpels, which, in its time, was a remarkably daring

Van Cleef & Arpels boutique, Place Vendôme © Van Cleef & Arpels

offering pieces designed for everyday life - whether a lighter, cufflinks, or a delicate brooch - was revolutionary. It introduced a new way of experiencing jewellery, one that was both elegant and easily wearable. What the Boutique approach did was take everyday gestures and give them a sense of occasion. It dignifies these small moments - when

concept. The idea that a grand jeweller would open a boutique

Van Cleef & Arpels catalogue, 1973. © Van Cleef & Arpels

soul. The Boutique had this incredible way of elevating the everyday. At that time, there was also a shift in the way jewellery was

vou put it on, vou feel good about it. You may even forget vou're

wearing it, but you know it's there with you, something with a real

being purchased. More women were buying pieces for themselves, and there was a distinct emphasis on yellow gold, which was immensely popular. The Boutique mirrored the evolution happening in couture, where prêt-à-porter was emerging alongside traditional haute couture. It was a similarly avant-garde vision, and Alhambra was an essential part of it - something no one else was really doing. It became an emblem of this modern approach, embodying both elegance and contemporary ease.

You often refer to it as a 'polychromatic universe

of beauty'. Can you tell us more on the role of materials in bringing this vision to life? Colour is a beautiful gift to Van Cleef & Arpels because you're not just creating a one-shot wonder; you're crafting an entire world. That's what I meant by this polychromatic universe. If you enter into the world of Alhambra, you will never leave, because there will always be something new around the corner.

And that endless reinvention is made possible by materials. They are what truly set the Alhambra collection apart - woods, ornamental stones, textured gold. The capacity for variety is amazing. And for me, that is what's important about Alhambra, its versatility. It goes with anything. Each piece has the ability to be both elevated and understated, adaptable to any occasion.

What was it like to dive into the archives for your book? I love researching in the archives. I could spend all day immersed in those ledgers; they are fantastic. They offer a fascinating glimpse into the artistry and heritage of Van Cleef & Arpels, revealing how each creation was meticulously conceived and brought to life.

What struck me most was the sheer continuity of beauty. Day after day, something exquisite was being crafted - not just for

"Albambra is simply a GREAT JEWEL, naturally ELEGANT, and instantly RECOGNIZABLE."

grand occasions, but as pieces meant to be worn, cherished, and passed down. The archives don't just hold records; they tell a story of

enduring elegance and craftsmanship. That, for me, was a big privilege and treat.

How has the Alhambra collection reflected changing tastes and values across different generations and cultures? Alhambra has great appeal because it has no set profile. That, I think, is one of its greatest strengths. You instantly recognize it as a Van Cleef & Arpels design, yet it takes on the character of the person wearing it, like a true chameleon. The way people respond to it shifts depending on where you are, how you wear it. It's a deeply personal piece, open to interpretation.

It has survived generations, carrying with it a subtle sense of nostalgia. That longevity is what makes it such a remarkable phenomenon; its appeal is truly ageless. It's wonderful to see a grandmother wearing it, a mother, and perhaps even the daughter's boyfriend layering it into his own style. I see a lot of it on men these days - just the other day, I was speaking to someone outside a café in Notting Hill, and I noticed he had a couple of Alhambra bracelets stacked on his wrist.

Alhambra wins because it is both quotidian and enduring. I imagine it will still be with us long after many other things have disappeared.













Dress, Alaïa.





Sweet Alhambra watch, guilloché yellow gold, blue agate, Swiss quartz

© Van Cleef & Arpels





A token for good luck, since its creation in 1968, Van Cleef & Arpels' iconic Albambra has charmed many. Born from meticulous craftmanship and the finest materials, it's a keepsake whose magic lies in its making.

hile precious, each Alhambra jewel is made to be worn; **a timeless** creation to elevate the everyday, the result of collective work involving jewellers, stone-setters, lapidaries and polishers.

It's a small treasure with a big history: Van Cleef & Arpels first created its original Alhambra motif in 1968. By then, symbols of luck and sentiment had long been a hallmark of the jewellery Maison established in 1906, with a boutique at 22, Place Vendôme. Early creations included a line of Touch Wood jewellery (carved from wood and set with gemstones, naturally); over the years, golden zodiac medallions, ladybird motifs and brooches in the shape of benevolent winged fairies followed.

In 1968, that very first Alhambra design was a long necklace made up of a gold chain with twenty motifs inspired by the four-leaf clover shape. Searched for and picked in gardens around the world, the clover had long been a





sign of good luck to come. Jacques Arpels, a member of the founding family, was known to pick four-leaf clovers growing around his home. These he then presented to the company's employees. The original design includes the double beaded contour, a detail that is pleasing to the eye and the fingertips. It's also a marker of sophisticated jewellery crafts: artisans polish beads with extra care to enhance the brilliance of gold. Turn the pendant and, on its front, spot prongs. The back is precisely calibrated, with beads placed for comfort of wear.

Since its debut, the Alhambra collection's enduring success lies as much in its design as in its expert manufacture. Easy to wear, the collection's appeal belies its intricate construction. From the selection and cutting of stones to assembling, stone-setting, polishing and rigorous quality controls, each step is carried out with meticulous attention to detail. Reflecting all the expertise of a High Jewellery Maison, the collective savoir-faire embodied in every creation reflects Van Cleef & Arpels' tradition of excellence and dedication to timeless elegance.

From the 1970s onwards, Van Cleef & Arpels introduced vibrant colours, incorporating ornamental stones - malachite, onyx, carnelian, tiger's eye, turquoise, or midnight blue lapis lazuli - rock crystal, coral and diamonds. Mother-of-pearl (in gray or white) has also made the cut, followed later by richly patterned letterwood and French porcelain from Sèvres.

Each ornamental stone and organic material is selected according to the Maison's stringent criteria. The intensity of colour, the lustrous sheen of the surface, and the consistency and regularity of striations - such as those found in malachite - are carefully assessed by highly trained in-house gem experts. Only roughs and shells of the highest quality are chosen for the collection, ensuring the finest sections are cut into clover-shaped motifs, polished, and rigorously controlled before being paired to create harmonious ensembles.

The design integrates the beaded contour directly into the mounting, ensuring the motifs and their frames achieve perfect alignment for an even and balanced finish.

Introduced to the Alhambra collection in 2018, the *quilloché* aesthetic draws inspiration from a traditional engraving technique that has long been part of the Maison's heritage. Historically used to adorn dials, Minaudières, and other precious objects, this radiant sunbeam-like pattern brings a luminous and contemporary dimension to the collection's timeless motifs.

The clasp is one of the refined details that distinguish Alhambra pieces such as pendants, necklaces, long necklaces, and bracelets. Forged from gold, the clasp is sealed with the Maison's hallmark, an impression of the Vendôme Column. The chain design is also noteworthy: instead of a traditional round chain, Van Cleef & Arpels opts for a faceted alternative, selected to enhance its radiance. This diamond-cut cable chain stands out for its ability to catch and refract light, adding a sparkling effect to every movement.

A successful design, the Alhambra collection at Van Cleef & Arpels has inspired new interpretations of an icon. Since its introduction in 1998, the Alhambra watch has established itself as a favourite among feminine daily wear timepieces. Recent additions include the Sweet Alhambra watch, featuring alternating guilloché yellow gold and blue agate motifs, and the Alhambra secret pendant watch, named for its hidden dial. A reversible ring is among the newest jewellery creations, combining distinctive design with versatile wear. Building on its legacy of creativity, the collection reimagines classic motifs with modern flair, proving that true elegance, like good luck, evolves beautifully over time.









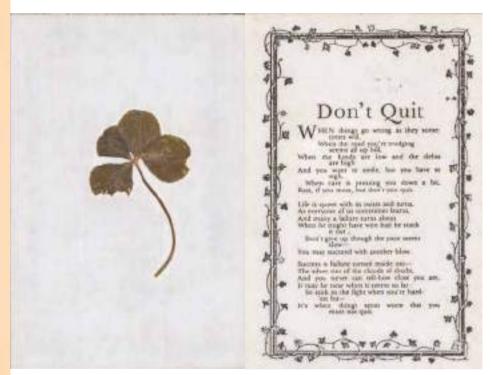
Vintage Alhambra pendant, yellow gold, white mother-of-pearl. © Van Cleef & Arpels

# "To be LUCKY, YOU HAVE to BELIEVE in luck"

-JACQUES ARPELS

## TIMELESS DESIGN & VIBRANT STONES

Described by author Nicholas Foulkes as a 'palimpsest where each generation writes its own story', Alhambra has transcended decades. From the introduction of ornamental stones starting in the 1970s to later variations, the collection has long balanced tradition and reinvention. It has also become a canvas for creativity, expressed through a variety of materials—from fiery red carnelian and deep black onyx to lush green malachite and iridescent white mother-of-pearl, just to name a few.



Poem and 4-leaf clover donated by Jacques Arpels. © Van Cleef & Arpels

#### A TOKEN OF LUCK

Alhambra remains more than a jewel, it's a talisman of hope and positivity. Luck has long been a value dear to Van Cleef & Arpels. Did you know that Jacques Arpels often picked four-leaf clovers from his garden at Germigny-l'Evêque to give to his staff, along with a copy of the poem "Don't Quit" as an invitation to always keep hope? This belief in a positive vision of life continues to this day, captured in precious jewellery.



#### EXCELLENT CRAFTSMANSHIP

From the careful selection and cutting of stones to the meticulous assembling, stone-setting, polishing, and quality control, each Alhambra creation is the result of collective work. This harmonious collaboration of expert hands and eyes brings to life timeless pieces, reflecting the Maison's tradition of high-precision savoir-faire and commitment to aesthetics and emotion

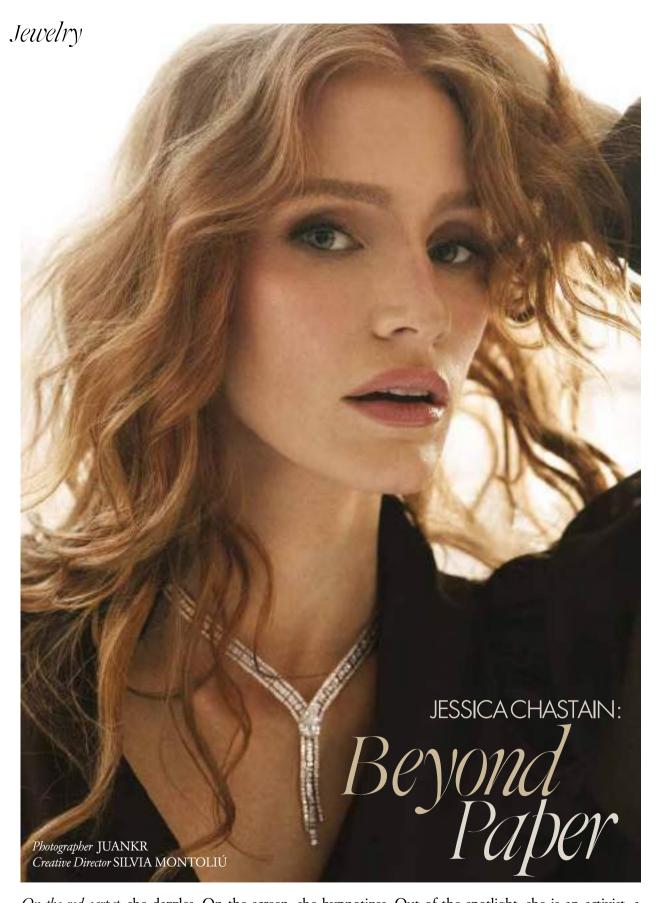
Polishing a Vintage Alhambra motif. © Van Cleef & Arpels



Sweet Alhambra watch, guilloché rose gold, carnelian, Swiss quartz movement.



COLOR REIMAGINED From Bylgari's Polychroma collection, this one-of-a-kind necklace captures the spirit of diversity through a dazzling symphony of rare gemstones and masterful design. Each angle reveals color speaks, movement flows, and craftsmanship Striking Statements BOLD PIECES, BRILLIANT CUTS, AND EXCLUSIVE CONVERSATIONS – THIS MONTH'S JEWELRY LINEUP CAPTURES THE ART OF EXPRESSION IN EVERY DETAIL ellearabia.com 57



On the red carpet, she dazzles. On the screen, she hypnotizes. Out of the spotlight, she is an activist, a producer, a voice for those who don't have one. Damiani's global ambassador is strong and vulnerable, imposing and delicate, all at the same time. She is proof that a woman's effort and courage are not only measured in achievements, but also in her real commitment to change.



This page: Necklace & Ring, Both In White Gold, Diamonds, Brown & Yellow Diamonds, Damiani Mimosa High Jewelry Collection; Ring In White Gold & Diamonds, Damiani Mimosa Flexi Collection Maxi Coat, Tank Top & Jeans, All Gucci Right page: White Gold & Diamond Earrings, Damiani Margherita High Jewelry Collection Chiffon Maxi Dress, Loewe



PHOTOGRAPHER.:UANKR, DIRECTION ; SILVIA MONTOLID, MAKEUP. KRISTOPHER BUCKLE (OPUS BEAUTY); HAIR. TRYGSTAD ITMG LAJ, MANICURE.: JULIE KANDALEC (STAR TOUCH AGENCY); STYLING ASSISTANT: JUAN TOBON





# Shapes of Brilliance

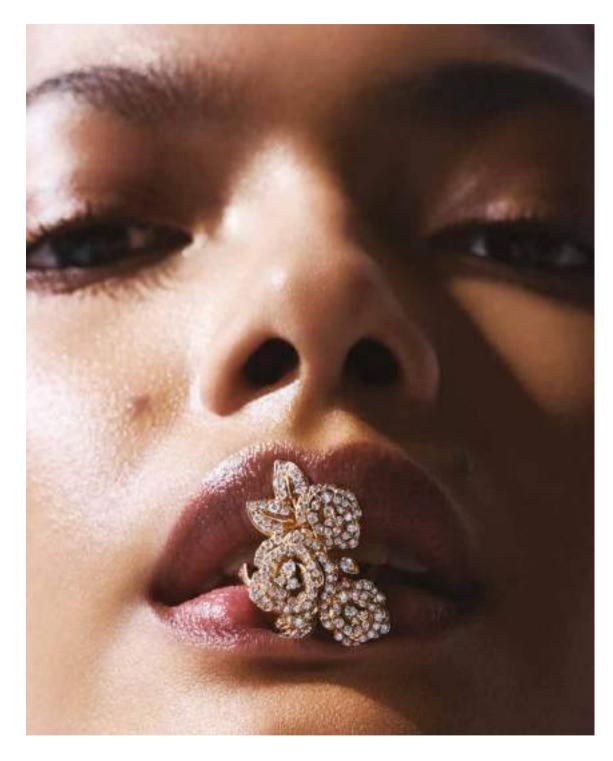
The Rose Des Vents, *My Dior, and Etoile Des Vents* collections by *Dior unveil* a new era of design, *where bold forms* and intricate details shine in every diamond, gemstone and precious metal

Photographer AMER MOHAMAD Stylist & Creative Director DANIELA PAUDICE

Rose Des Vents Earrings in Yellow Gold, Pink Gold, White Gold, Diamonds, Malachite, Lapis Lazuli, Cornelian, Turquoise, Pink Opal and Onyx Rose Des; Vents Bracelet Yellow in White and Pink Gold, Diamonds, Onyx, Malachite, Mother-of-Pearl, Lapis Lazuli, Pink Opal, Turquoise, Tiger Eye and Cornelian; Rose Des Vents Masterpiece Bracelet Yellow Gold, Diamonds, Emeralds, Mother-of-pearl and Malachite, All by Dior Fine Jewelry







Rose Dior Bagatelle Ring in Pink Gold with Diamonds, All by Dior Fine Jewelry











From Istanbul to Bond Street, the fine jewelry brand known for its modern mysticism and intricate craftsmanship opens a flagship made for London's style set.

f you've been craving a little sparkle with your self-expression, your next obsession just dropped on New Bond Street. Say hello to Kismet by Milka, the cult Turkish fine jewelry label that's made global waves (and graced the ears of everyone from Madonna to Rosie Huntington-Whiteley), now opening the doors to its first-ever London flagship.

Spread across two glimmering floors, the 140m<sup>2</sup> boutique is a gold-dipped dream for jewelry lovers, blending bold, modern design with East-meets-West elegance. But this isn't your average luxe showroom it's also home to the only luxury piercing studios on Bond Street, complete with APP-certified professionals and an Instagrammable edge. Think: constellation piercings with diamonds so dainty they'll make your minimalist heart flutter.

Founded by trailblazer Milka Karaağaçlı İnce in 2009, Kismet by Milka has always stood for something deeper than aesthetics. Each piece is a wearable story - an emblem of strength, identity, and unapologetic individuality. Whether you're stacking up evil-eye studs, layering delicate gold chains, or curating your own ear party in-store, there's a sense of empowerment behind every sparkle.

For Milka, bringing the brand to Bond Street is a meaningful next step — one that feels both natural and long overdue. Positioned among the icons of fashion and fine jewelry, the new boutique introduces a fresh perspective: one that blends craftsmanship with character, luxury with individuality.

Whether you're drawn in by the signature stacking pieces or curious about the piercing studios that feel more like private salons, this space invites you to explore jewelry on your own terms. Refined, personal, and quietly bold — just like the women who wear it.



Founder Milka



e Beers has officially opened its newest flagship boutique at Dubai Mall, marking a pivotal expansion for the House in the Middle East. The opening comes at a time of renewal and reinvention for the House, anchored by a powerful new campaign and a deeper commitment to celebrating the raw, refined brilliance of natural diamonds.

#### THE STORE

Positioned on the ground floor of Dubai Mall, the boutique mirrors the design language of De Beers' Old Bond Street flagship. A palette of blue, white, and orange evokes the brand's heritage while referencing Southern Africa - the spiritual birthplace of its diamonds. The boutique's open floor plan and bespoke lighting allow each creation to shine, while a discreet VIP salon offers collectors a private space to explore De Beers' most exceptional pieces. As Chief Marketing Officer Henry Liu explains,

"We wanted the space to spark connection - not only with our diamonds but with the stories they carry. The region's appreciation for unpolished beauty and authenticity inspires us to be even more creative and bold."

#### THE COLLECTIONS

At the heart of the new boutique is De Beers' signature High Jewelry, exquisite works handcrafted by master artisans who blend traditional goldsmithing with cutting-edge technology. Among the most striking offerings are the Talisman and Enchanted Lotus collections, each embodying a distinct facet of De Beers' philosophy. The Talisman collection, now celebrating its 20th anniversary, remains a trailblazer in luxury jewelry, being the first to pair rough and polished diamonds in a single design. Aboah wears Talisman in the new campaign with quiet confidence, glowing with the elemental power of uncut stones. "There's something magnetic about rough diamonds," Liu shares. "They are untouched expressions of nature; imperfect, individual, and deeply powerful." Then there is Enchanted Lotus, an ode to the delicate white lotus flowers of Botswana's Okavango Delta. These minimalistic yet powerful designs reflect themes of purity, rebirth, and the eternal. The collection not only channels nature's quiet elegance, but also reminds wearers of De Beers' conservation work in Southern Africa, especially its partnership with National Geographic to protect the source waters of the Okavango.

#### A CAMPAIGN OF PURPOSE

The 2025 brand campaign, Portraits of True Brilliance, stars British model and activist Adwoa Aboah. Photographed in a London townhouse, Aboah embodies modern femininity, independence, and global perspective, qualities the brand is increasingly championing. She wears pieces from both Talisman and Enchanted Lotus, affirming that luxury can be both soulful and spirited. "Adwoa's personal journey resonates with the journey of a diamond," Liu notes. "Formed under pressure, shaped over time, and entirely unique."

#### LOOKING AHEAD

This flagship is not the end of the road. A Paris opening is already on the horizon, and immersive brand activations - including a Talisman pop-up experience – are in development. "We're creating spaces where clients can feel the emotion and energy behind each collection," says Liu. "It's no longer just about display - it's about discovery."

The second chapter of Essence of Nature, De Beers' latest High Jewelry collection, is also set to debut this July in Paris during Couture Week. Inspired by ancient trees and crafted from rough and polished green, yellow, and white diamonds, it pushes the boundaries of what high jewelry can express.

As the House continues to evolve, its core remains constant: a belief in diamonds not only as symbols of beauty, but of purpose. Through its Building Forever initiative, De Beers is committed to ethical sourcing, community empowerment, and conservation, ensuring every diamond has a legacy far beyond its carat weight. "Luxury today must mean more," Liu concludes. "More meaning, more imagination, and more impact."



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# POLY

A celebration of color, diversity, and daring craftsmanship, Bylgari's new High Jewelry collection, Polychroma, unveils a kaleidoscopic world where vibrant gemstones, multidimensional design, and Roman heritage converge — transforming bold beauty into pure emotion

CHROMA



#### Jewelry

Bvlgari High Jewelry necklace in white gold with 1 royal blue sugarloaf sapphire (Sri Lanka - 123.35 ct), 331 buff-top sapphires (26,91 ct), 30 pear diamonds (D-F VVS 16,49 ct), 98 round (D-F VVS 34,79 ct), 14 diamonds (D-F VVS 18,63 ct), 212 step diamonds (Ediamonds-G VVS-VS 9,50 ct) and pavé-set diamonds (D-F IF-VVS 8,50 ct) Bvlgari High Jewelry ring in platinum with 1 cushion sapphire (Sri Lanka - 16.68 ct), 40 step cut diamonds (E-G VVS-VS 3.28 ct), 8 buff-top sapphires (0.46 ct), and pavé-set diamonds (D-F IF-VVS 1.52 ct)





Bvlgari High Jewelry Tubogas necklace in yellow gold with lapis lazuli elements, 5 cabochon tanzanites (104.69 ct), 11 buff-top sapphires (2.23 ct), and pavé-set diamonds (D-F IF-VVS 11.20 ct) Bvlgari High Jewelry ring in pink gold with turquoise elements, 1 oval cabochon tanzanite (13.81 ct), 20 buff-top sapphires (1.64 ct), and pavé-set diamonds (D-F IF-VVS 1.08 ct)









EXPLORE THE SEASON'S MUST-HAVE ACCESSORIES, DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT EVERY SUMMER LOOK WITH A TOUCH OF EFFORTLESS STYLE

AIU MIL



#### STRAPIN

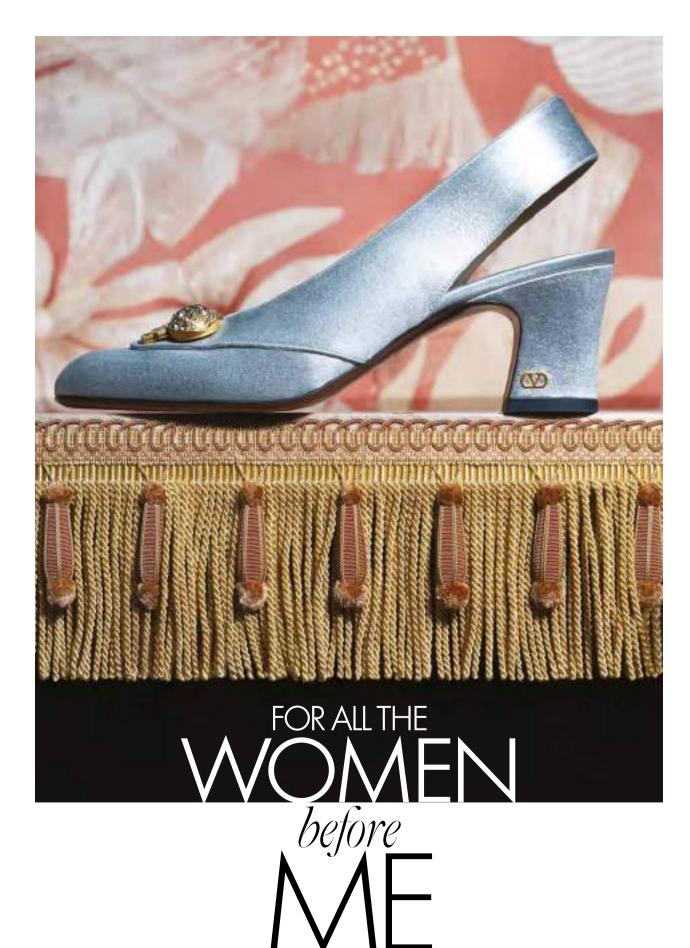
Part flipflop, part sandal - summer's hottest hybrid shoe will take you from beach to bar on repeat.

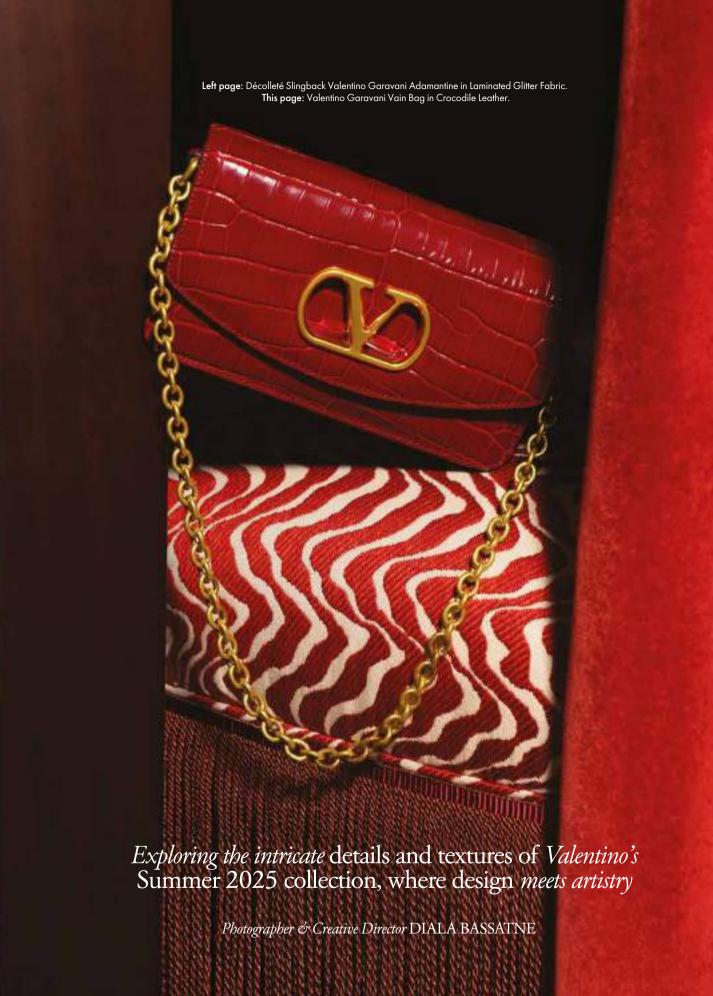


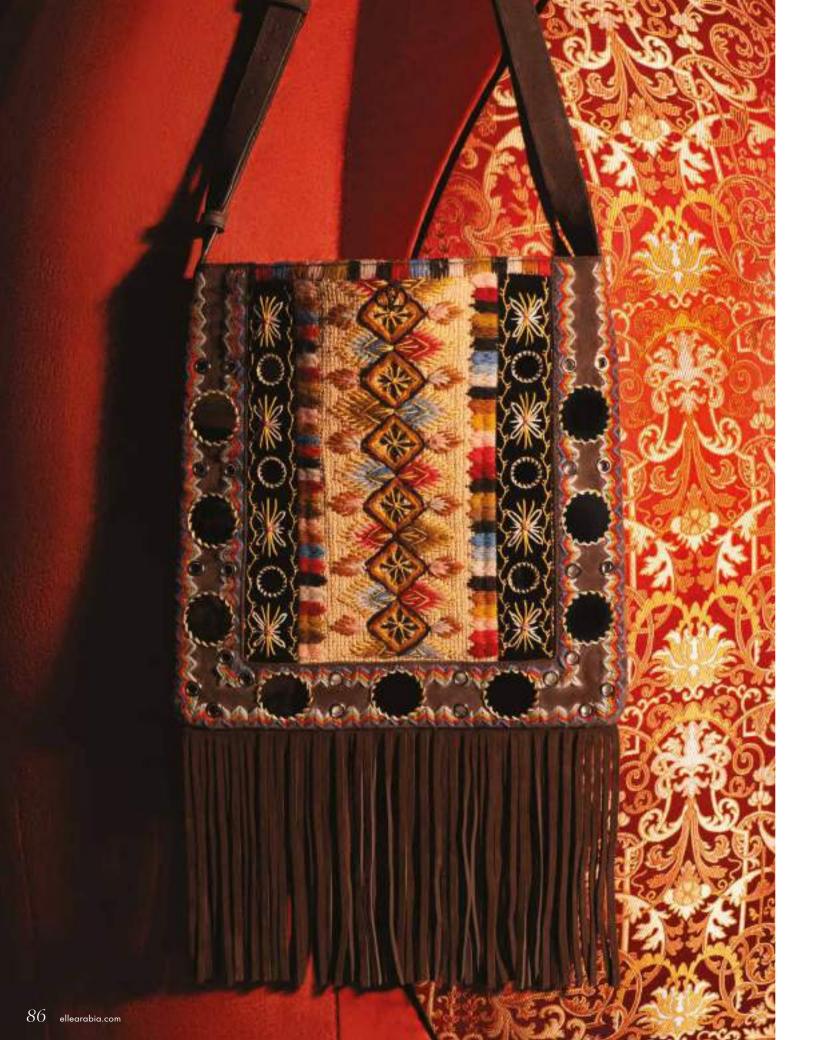


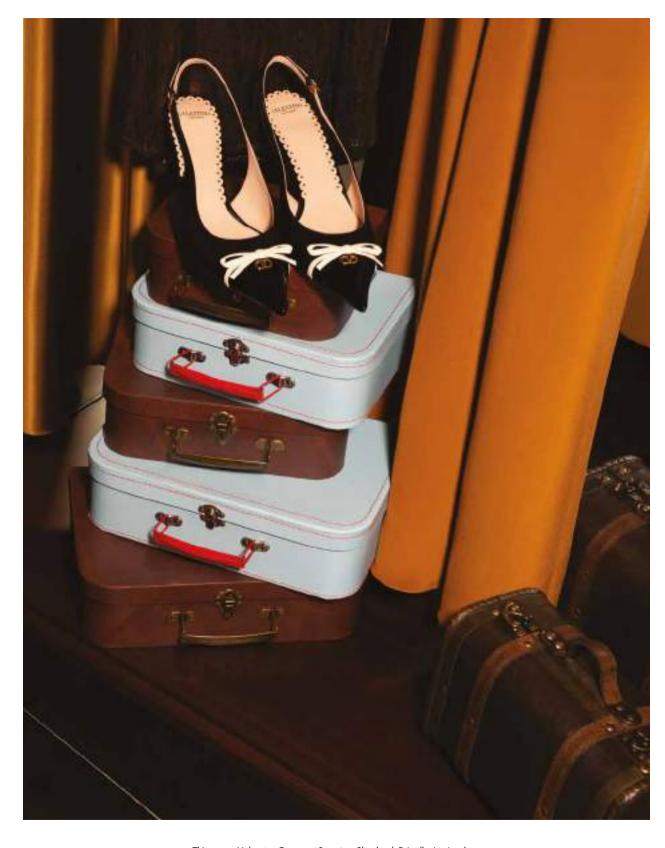
This season's boho bag is all about artisanal flair think vintage-inspired shapes, handcrafted details, and a free-spirited edge.

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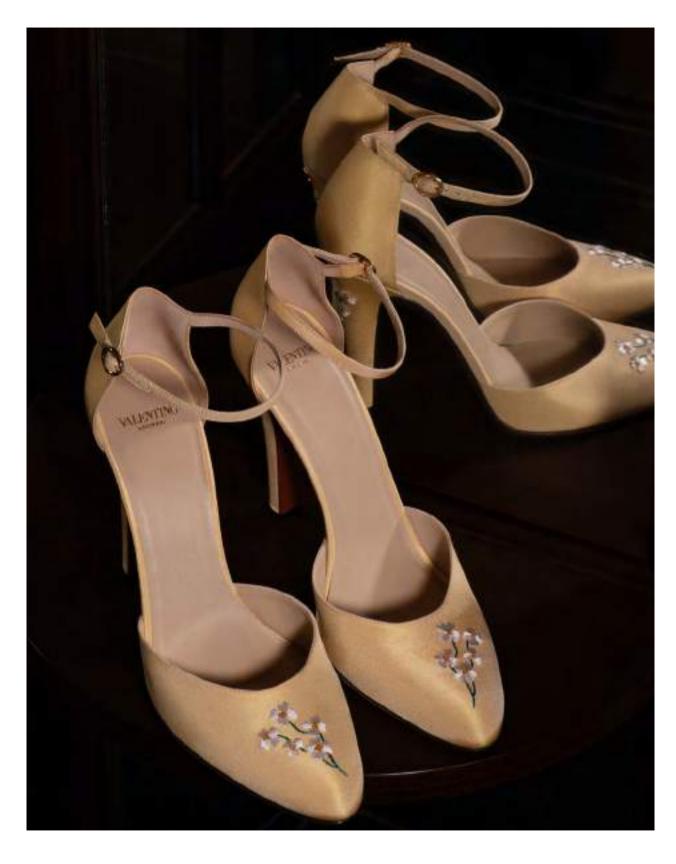






This page: Valentino Garavani Bepointy Slingback Décolleté in Leather.

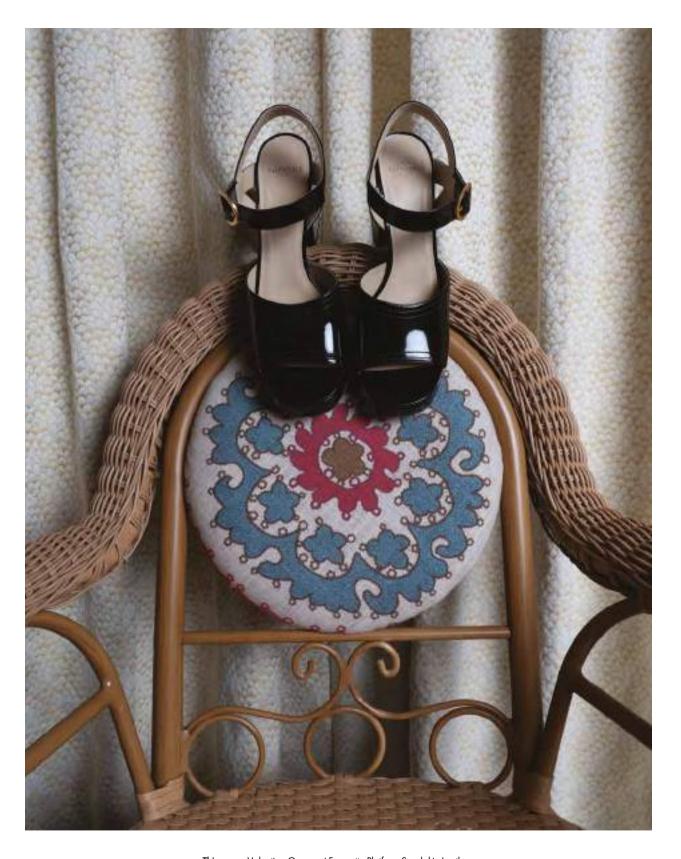
Left page: Valentino Garavani Nellcote Bag with Embroideries and Small Mirrors Details.



This page: Valentino Garavani Hi Dolly Pumps in Shantung Fabric with Floral Embroidery Right page: Valentino Garavani Sans Fin Earrings in Metal, Pearls and Crystals.







This page: Valentino Garavani Fawcette Platform Sandal in Leather.

Left page: Valentino Garavani Nellcôte Mini Shopping Bag in Suede with Beaded Floral

Embroidery on Linen Base.

#### Accessories



This page: Valentino Garavani Knotty Mule in Canvas Fabric with Petit Charles Pattern and Kid Bow Detail Signature Brass Finish Antiqued Effect VLogo Detail on Heel. Right page: Chez Valentino Bracelet in Metal, Enamel and Crystals; Vlogo Signature Hair Clip in Resin, Metal and Crystals



Accessories



joins a global cast who honor craft as a form of personal language."





Intrecciato weave has never needed a logo. Woven by hand since 1975, it has become a visual language of its own - less an object, more an inheritance. Craft is Our Language reflects on fifty years of artistry, inviting us to consider how we communicate not through spectacle, but through touch. Shot by Jack Davison and choreographed by Lenio Kaklea, the campaign is a tribute to the quiet elegance of the hand - its gestures, its memories, its craft.

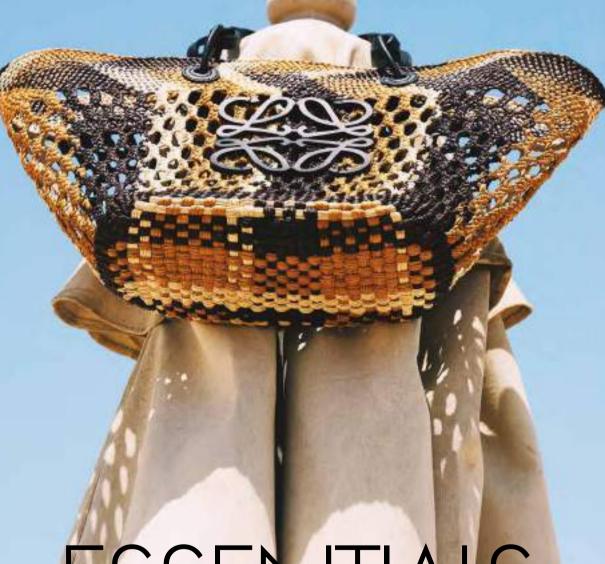
Bottega Veneta's

"Across continents and disciplines, the language of the hand remains universal. It moves beyond fashion and beyond words."





### SUMMER



ESSENTIALS

On-trend bags, chic flats, and playful accessories to complement your sunny days

Left page: Bag & Shoes, Gucci This page: Bag, Loewe



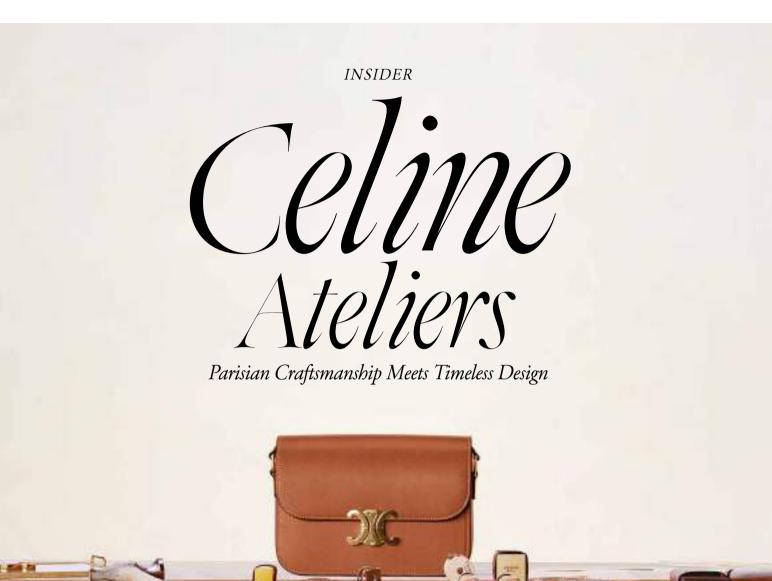




#### Accessories







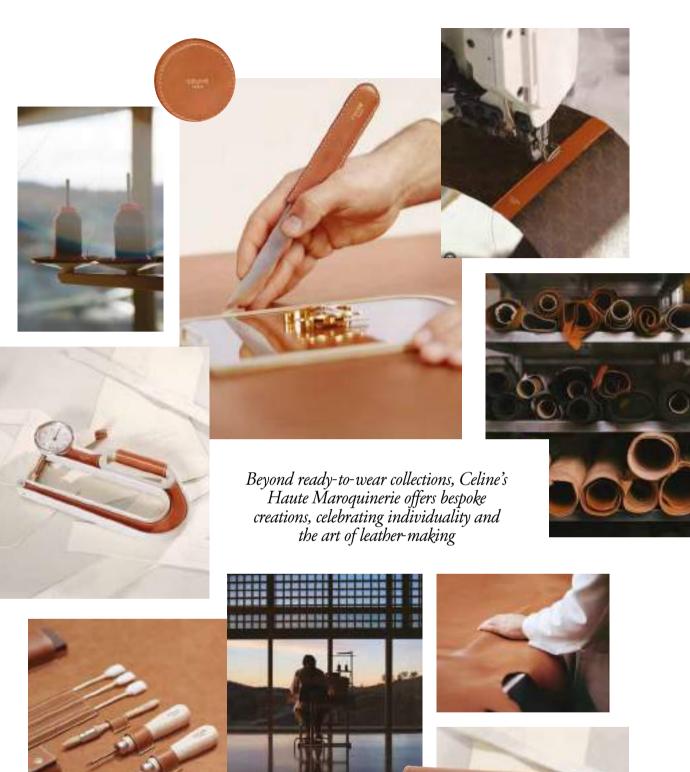
n the heart of France, Celine's ateliers uphold a legacy of meticulous craftsmanship and Parisian elegance. Since Céline Vipiana introduced her first leather goods in the 1960s, the brand has seamlessly blended functional design with refined aesthetics.

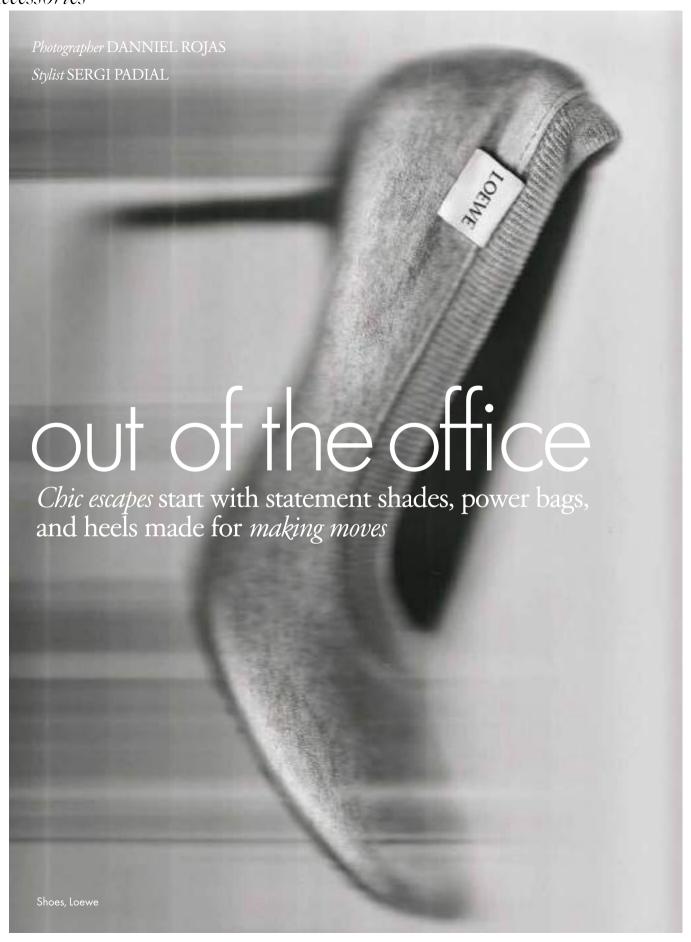
Today, this tradition thrives as seasoned artisans collaborate with modern technology to create exceptional pieces like the iconic Triomphe bag. Each bag, requiring up to three weeks to complete, is crafted from certified materials, reflecting Celine's commitment to quality and longevity.

Beyond ready-to-wear collections, Celine's Haute Maroquinerie offers bespoke creations, celebrating individuality and the art of leather-making. Through every stitch and detail, Celine reaffirms its dedication to enduring style and artisanal excellence.

#### SS25 SPOTLIGHT: UN ĒTĒ FRANÇAIS

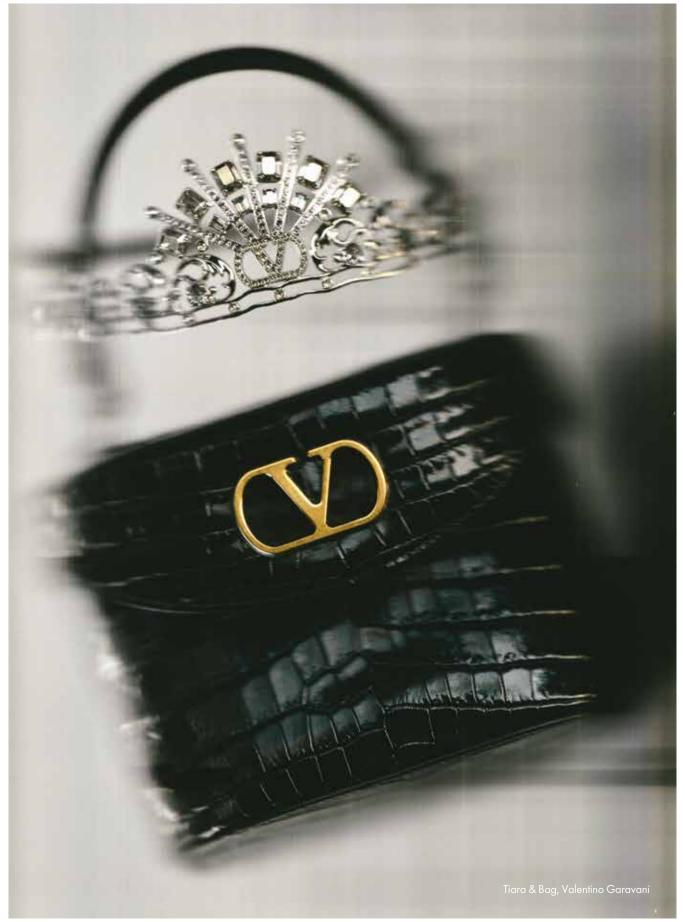
The Spring/Summer 2025 collection, "Un Été Français," introduces standout bags like the made-to-order Teen Joséphine, available in exotic skins with jewel-toned finishes. Other highlights include the Augustine frame bag, Diane shoulder bag, and the sleek Triomphe East/West baguette. These designs, inspired by the French Riviera, blend modern silhouettes with vintage charm, exemplifying the maison's commitment to timeless elegance.





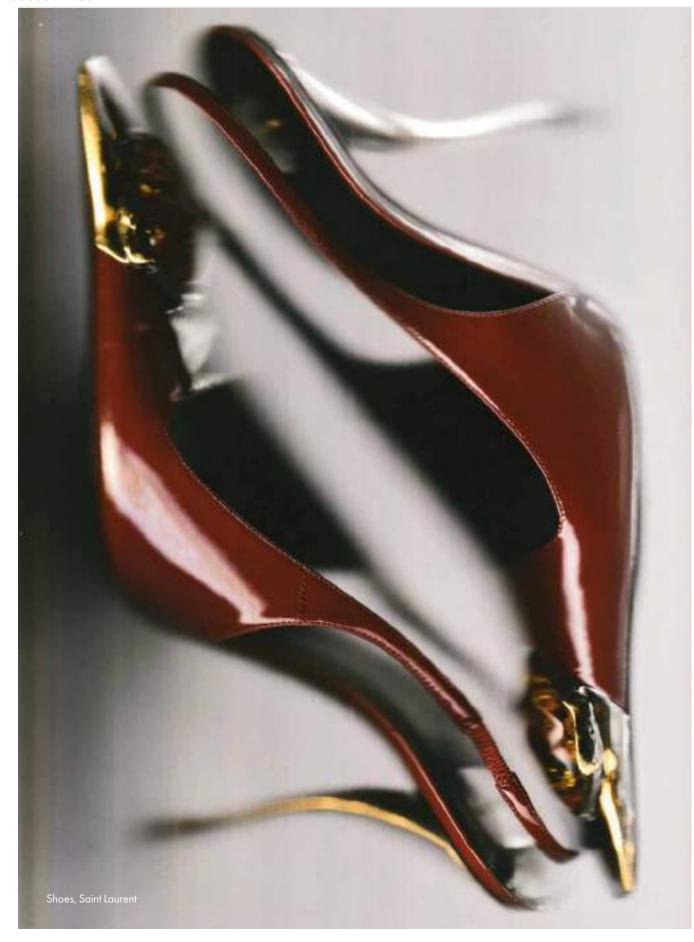


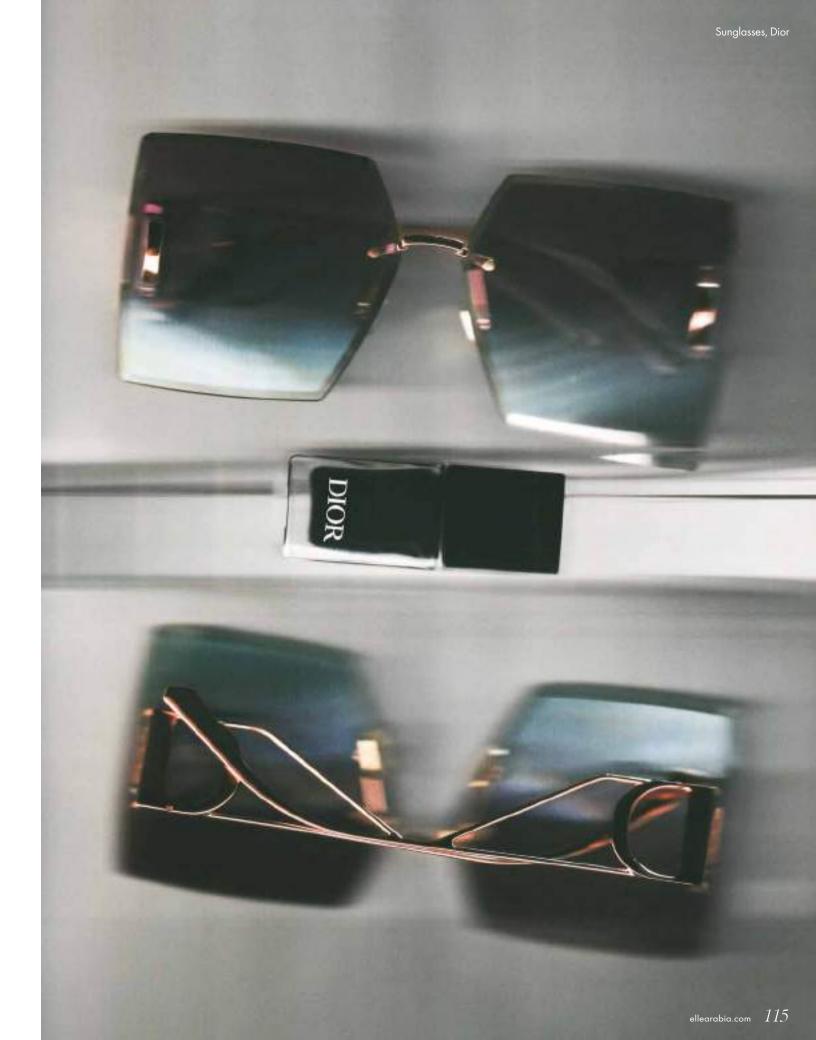






#### Accessories













UESS ushers in the season with a collection that's light, confident, and built for long days that turn into longer nights. Spring/Summer 2025 is all about refined ease—pieces that move effortlessly between moments, designed with the kind of clarity and intention the brand has always championed.

At the core is denim, reimagined with new proportions, soft tailoring, and a palette that feels fresh without trying too hard. Wide-leg pants, structured denim dresses, and crisp white sets are styled with an eye toward versatility—never overly done, always grounded in wearability.

The collection is divided into three distinct moods. "Dreamy" explores soft power through fluid silhouettes and gentle hues, combining everyday essentials with a sharper edge. "Body & Soul" draws from both countryside romance and modern city life, offering asymmetrical cuts, flowing pleats, and saturated prints. "Escape" moves into more sensual territory, with sheer fabrics, lace details, and silhouettes that catch the breeze — ideal for evenings that don't come with an agenda.

Accessories follow suit - understated yet impactful. Raffia pouches, structured handbags in soft saffiano, and the brand's updated GG-logo luggage provide continuity, marrying function and design. It's the kind of styling that

doesn't interrupt the look, it completes it. Color is key: muted greens, sun-warmed peach, coastal blues, and earthy reds bring a natural rhythm to the collection. It's romantic without being nostalgic, and playful without leaning into cliché.

To mark the launch, GUESS took a select group of regional fashion figures to AlUla in Saudi Arabia a striking landscape that mirrored the collection's dual sense of wanderlust and elegance. The setting, both raw and otherworldly, set the tone for a season defined by contrast and confidence.

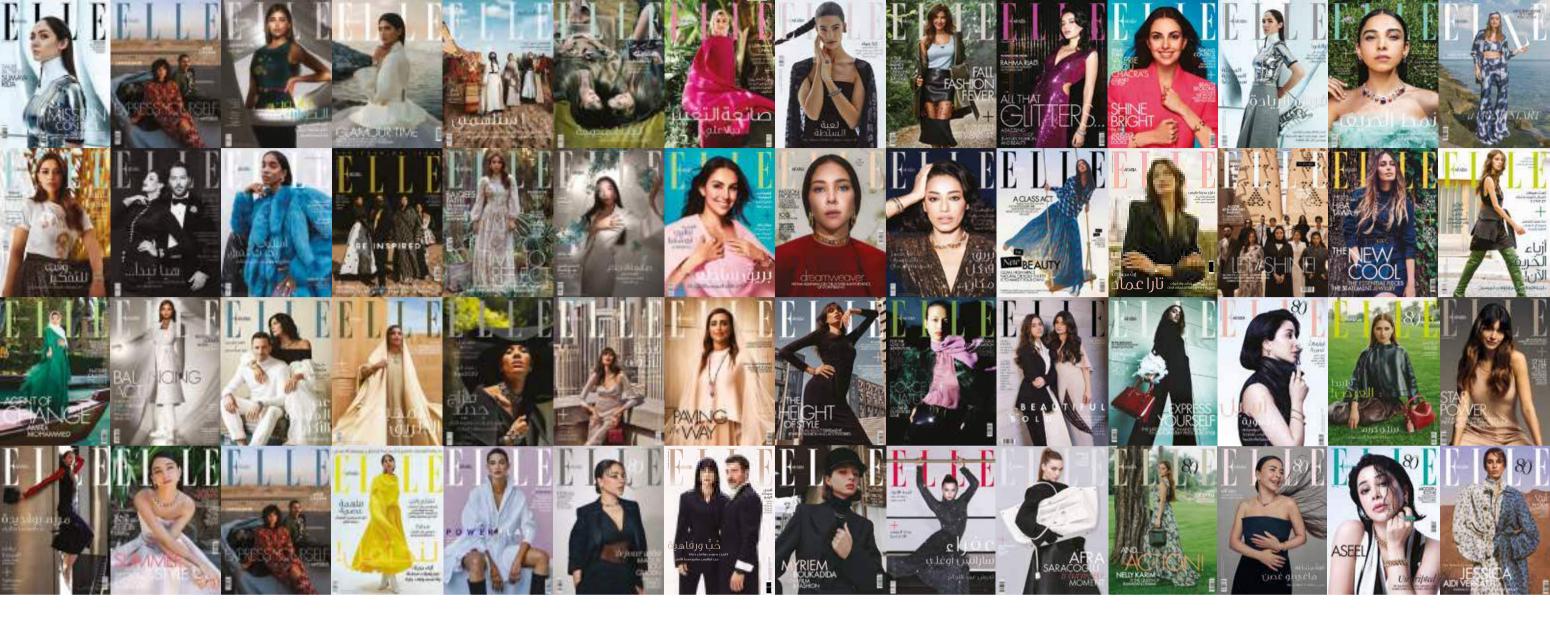
Sustainability also gets more attention this season, with a continued focus on responsible materials across denim, cotton, and linen offerings. It's a reminder that modern fashion isn't just about what you wear, but how it's made — and why. With this new collection, GUESS isn't chasing trends. It's offering a considered take on warm-weather dressing that feels grounded, elevated, and ready for whatever the season brings.











AT YOUR DOOR STEPS

Discover Elle Arabia on our print & digital platforms



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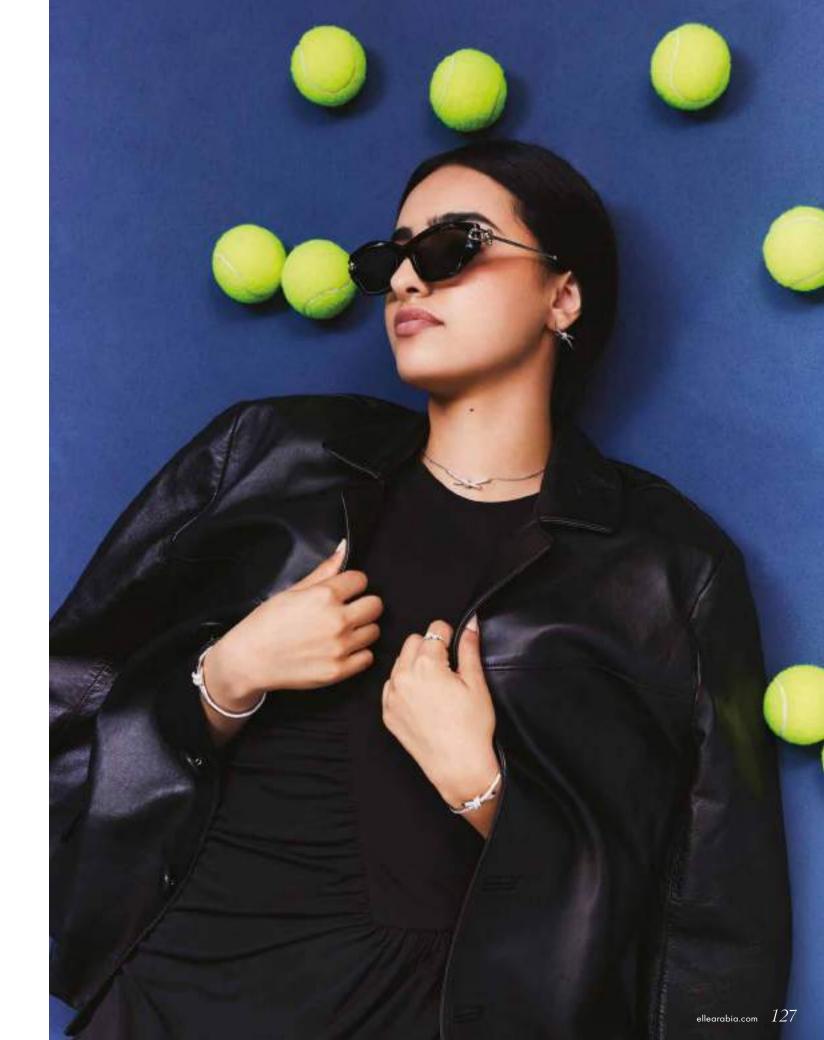






Tiffany HardWear Sunglasses in Black Acetate with Dark Grey Lenses Tiffany Knot Drop Earrings, Bangle, Double Row Bangle, Wire Bangle and Ring in White Gold with Diamonds

Opposite page: Tiffany HardWear Sunglasses in Black Acetate with Dark Grey Lenses; Tiffany Knot Drop Earrings, Pendant, Bangle Double Row Bangle & Ring in White Gold with Diamonds. Look, Celine





#### A TENNIS FAMILY, UP CLOSE

#### In conversation with Yara, Ammar and Saud Alhogbani

Yara, you've made history as Saudi Arabia's first female professional tennis player. When did you realize tennis was more than just a sport for you?

**Yara:** It wasn't one big moment, it was gradual. I just noticed over time that tennis started shaping my decisions. I'd plan my whole day around practice not out of obligation, but because I actually wanted to. That's when I realized it was more than just a sport it was starting to define how I saw myself.

You've spoken about how supportive your family is. What role have your parents and siblings played in your journey so far?

Yara: My family is a huge reason I've made it this far. My parents have never pushed me in the wrong way they've always just asked how they can help. Ammar and Saud were my first role models in the sport, and I picked up so much just by watching them train. But it goes beyond them my brother Abdulrahman's calm energy is something I really rely on when things get hectic. And my sister Haya? She's probably the most emotionally intuitive out of all of us — she knows when to check in, even when I haven't said anything. So yeah, it's a full-circle kind of support system. Everyone brings something different to the table.

#### What's your pre-match routine like — anything you always need to feel ready?

**Yara:** I stick to a structure — long warm-up, good breakfast, same playlist, same stretch sequence. It's not about superstition, it's about making sure I feel in control. If I've done everything I can to prepare, I step on court feeling steady.

**Saud:** I'm always listening to music, especially right before walking out. I also make sure I've talked through my plan with my coach strengths, weaknesses, tendencies. **Ammar:** I don't change my approach based on my opponent. I focus on getting sleep, eating right, staying hydrated the basics done well. Control what I can.

#### Who's had the biggest influence on your game?

Yara: My brothers — they were my blueprint. I started playing because I

watched them do it. They didn't teach me directly, but I picked up so much from just being around their habits.

**Saud:** Nadal. And our dad. Nadal's attitude always resonated with me focused, competitive, intense.

**Ammar:** Djokovic. The way he deals with outside pressure criticism, expectations and still delivers. I respect that a lot.

#### How do you all reset when you're not competing?

**Yara:** Spending time at home movies, board games, family pool days. That's what makes me feel normal again.

**Saud:** I don't need to do anything big. Just being with people I'm close to resets my energy. They don't care if I won or lost and that's refreshing.

**Ammar:** I rely on my siblings. They pull you back to earth when you're stuck in your own head. It's a built-in support system.

#### Does fashion matter to you? Or is it all sweat and sneakers?

**Yara:** I think it matters a lot. There's something about looking put together that gives me a mental boost it's not about being flashy, it's about being aligned with how I feel.

**Saud:** I'm in athletic clothes almost every day, so when I switch it up, it's a reset. Different outfit, different headspace.

**Ammar:** Fashion can say something without words. You get a sense of who someone is by how they carry themselves and that includes style.

#### What about skincare and self-care is that something you each take seriously?

**Yara:** Very. I'm in the sun constantly, so sunscreen is always first. At night I reset serums, vitamins, a bit of routine. It's all part of my preparation, actually.

**Saud:** I don't go overboard, but I do care. When I'm consistent, I notice it in how I feel the next day.

**Ammar:** It's maintenance. I see it as another layer of preparation. If you treat your body well, it shows up in how you play.

#### Game-day style vs. off-duty what's the difference?

**Yara:** Game day is all matched head to toe. Off court, I let myself mix it up more. But

on court, it's tight visor included. Off court? Good sweats are a must.

**Ammar:** On game days, I'm not thinking about style. It's about function. But outside the court, I still want to feel clean and put together. **Saud:** It's more of a switch in mindset. Changing clothes helps me mentally close the chapter on tennis for the day.

#### What's it like competing at the same time as your siblings? Is it more helpful or distracting?

Yara: It's a huge advantage. We travel together, warm up together, and even give each other pep talks. We've built a routine within the routine.

**Ammar:** Tennis can be lonely. But when we're all at the same event, it feels like we're working through it together. That's not something many players have.

**Saud:** It helps. We go through the same ups and downs. It's easier to handle losses and better to celebrate wins when you've got family right there.

#### But who's the most competitive let's be honest.

Yara: Saud

**Saud:** Me, 100%. I don't let anything go. Even off the court — board games, who finishes their plate first, whatever.

**Ammor:** We all hate losing, but Saud makes it loud. Yara makes it personal. I just quietly come back next time.

#### What's one thing you've learned from each other?

Ammar: From Yara mental strength. She doesn't second-guess herself once she decides something. From Saud directness. He says what's on his mind and plays that way too.

**Saud:** Yara's helped me with patience. Ammar's helped me understand how to process pressure better. They don't say much but they show it.

Yara: Ammar's timing he doesn't overreact.

And Saud's intensity. He commits completely to whatever he's doing, and that always pushes me.

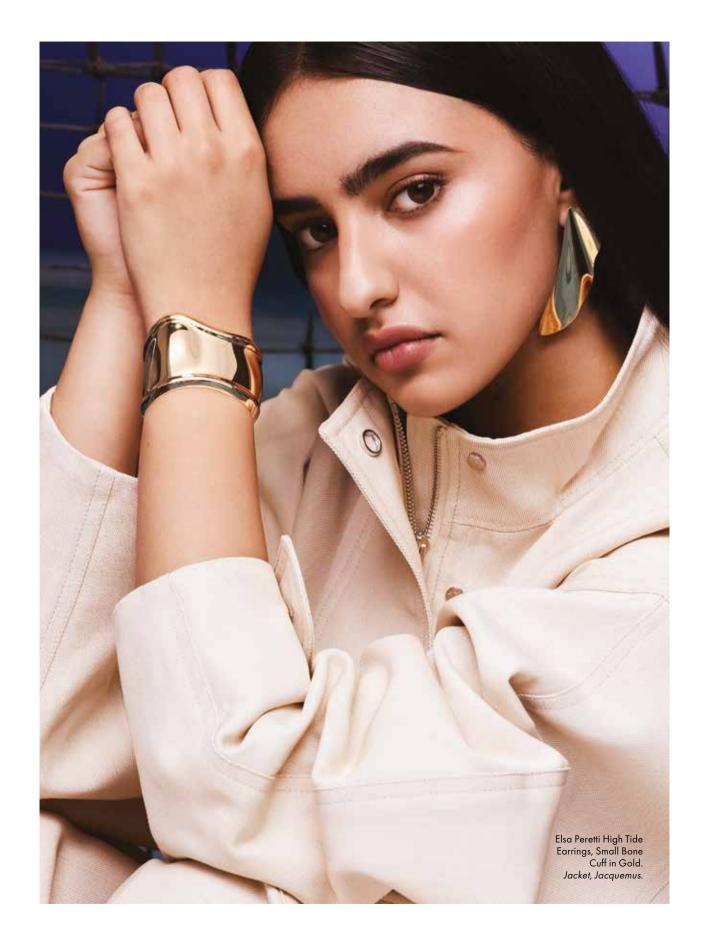
#### And finally what's something small in your routine that actually matters a lot?

Yara: Making my bed. Sounds random, but it's like my first win of the day.

**Ammar:** My pre-match playlist. Same three songs, every time. It's like a signal to my brain that it's go time.

**Saud:** Stretching. I take it seriously. It's physical, but it's also how I get my head in the right space.







## In the 111

As Director of Hermès' Equestrian Métier, Chloé Nobecourt upholds the maison's founding tradition with quiet strength and vision. From the return of the Saut Hermès to the Grand Palais to the enduring artistry of saddle-making, she shares how the horse remains the house's first and most enduring muse.



ho is Hermès' first client: the horse, the rider or the Grand Palais and its magical setting? It truly was a magical experience to return to the Grand Palais — and quite an emotional one for many of us. While the event is, of course, organized by the house Hermès, the riders play a central role. For some, it was a return to a venue they already knew; yet stepping back into the arena beneath that iconic glass roof was still a breathtaking moment. The lineup included both elite five-star show jumpers — the highest level of the sport and emerging young talents. For those entering the Grand Palais for the very first time, it was nothing short of spectacular. The public, too, was thrilled to see horses return to such a storied space, reconnecting with the venue's original spirit. After all, the Grand Palais was born with horses. To me, it's more than just a backdrop. Of course, it's a magnificent setting, but it also plays an active role in the atmosphere and narrative of the event. There's a real synergy between the venue and the show — they elevate each other. That's what makes it so unique. And then there's the broader community of horse lovers a diverse group ranging from those captivated by the beauty of horses to seasoned, top-level riders. Whether newcomers or lifelong equestrians, their shared passion unites them.

What is your overall vision for the 2025 edition compared to the previous one? The appeal of an adventure? An equestrian show? They're all special in their own way, of course. But this edition was particularly spectacular and emotional for me for two main reasons. First, it marked the longawaited Grand Retour to the Grand Palais. That in itself was a powerful



moment. There was an incredible synergy between the scenography and the venue — it created something truly breathtaking. You could feel how happy everyone was to be back — from the riders and the Hermès team to the staff on-site and our guests. For me, this edition was filled with joy — a genuine sense of delight in reconnecting with this iconic space. Second, it was also a deeply emotional year because two of our partner riders won the top classes. Just to be clear — it wasn't planned! But it was such a proud and moving moment. One of them had just recently joined the team. which made the win even more meaningful.

How important is the Saut Hermès for the Maison Hermès? I believe that, for Hermès, it's about embodying if I may say so the vitality of our roots. The equestrian métier and heritage have long inspired many other métiers within the house, as you've rightly pointed out. But for us, staying authentic means keeping those roots very much alive and active. Yes, I'm the Equestrian Métier Director, and while it's wonderful to see how this universe inspires others across the house, it's equally important that we He took an entirely different approach offering harnesses that were light, refined, and minimalist. There were two key reasons behind this. First, it was about the horse's comfort: reducing weight allowed the horse to move more freely. Second, it was about revealing the natural beauty of the horse, rather than overshadowing it. At the very origin of Hermès, you find these principles — comfort, refinement, a sense of "less is more", and functionality. Even today, they remain at the heart of everything we do. Thierry Hermès was also renowned for the quality of his harnesses. And at Hermès, quality isn't defined by aesthetic perfection it's defined by durability. It's about creating pieces that stand the test of time, that can be repaired, and that are made to last. As Robert Dumas used to say, a luxury object is one you can repair. That notion along with everything I've mentioned — really forms the foundation of Hermès. Once you understand that, you begin to see how these values are present in everything we create. Even if a product isn't made for a horse today, it still needs to embody the same principles: it must be comfortable, functional, and follow the idea that less is more. You

don't want unnecessary embellishment and that mindset, that approach to design and craftsmanship, truly comes from the

What kind of support do you offer to both

the rider and their most important partner the horse? I would say we should start with the horse before the rider. As we often say at Hermès, the horse is the first client. We have a key role to play with the saddle, which is the heart of Hermès. I often "THE SAUT D'HERMĒS describe it as the link between the horse and the rider. As a rider, what you're trying to achieve is a connection with the horse. A horse is a large animal, weighing 500 to 600 kilos. If it decides to do something, you can't force it to do anything else. If you try, you'll lose. What you're really aiming for as a rider is that connection, that symbiosis with the horse. And the saddle acts as the link between the two. You need it for balance and comfort, both for the horse and the rider. Our goal as saddle makers is to ensure that our saddles are comfortable for the horse. That's why every saddle is custom-made in our case, to guarantee that it fits the horse perfectly. I often use the example of someone who's gone hiking with a backpack. If your

backpack isn't well balanced, after walking

for 15 or 30 minutes, your back will start

to hurt. You'll need to stop, adjust the

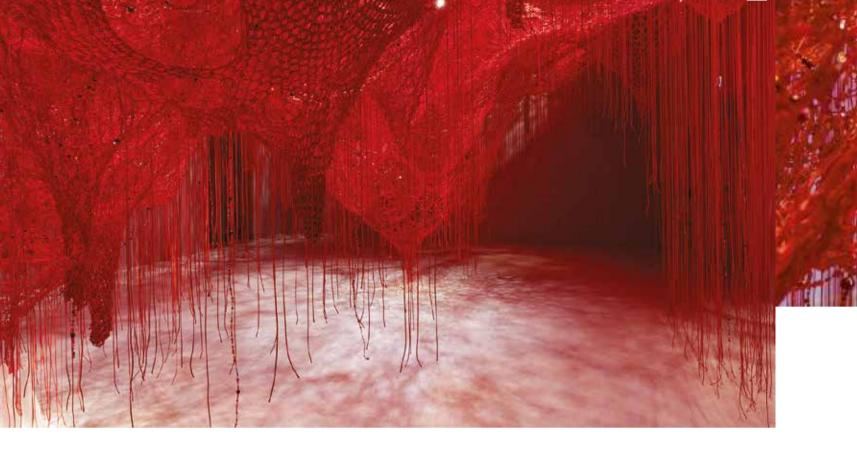
IS A PRESTIGIOUS SHOW JUMPING PALAIS IN PARIS. THIS ANNUAL EVENT UNDERSCORES THE **BRAND'S** LONGSTANDING TIE TO THE EQUESTRIAN WORLD, COMBINING HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT WITH HERMES' RENOWNED CRAFTSMANSHIP IN SADDIFRY AND EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT. IT CELEBRATES THE ELEGANCE BETWEEN HORSE OF THE BRAND"

preserve its integrity — that we remain true to who we are. Hermès is, in many ways, an expression of that commitment. We still craft saddles in our historic workshop on 24 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré. Most people don't realize that above what is considered our flagship and most iconic store, there's actually a saddle workshop, but a real production space where we still craft saddles by hand. As demand has grown and, in our commitment, to keeping this craft alive, we've continued to develop and refine our saddle models. In response to this rising demand, we opened a new workshop in Louviers, Normandy, in 2023, which includes both saddle-making and leather goods production. These are tangible signs that our equestrian heart continues to beat not as a symbol of the past, but as a living, evolving presence.

How does Hermès exemplify craftsmanship and excellence with flawless grace and beauty? Thierry Hermès, the founder of the house in 1837, stood out in his time precisely because of the contrast his creations offered. Back then, harnesses were often ornate, heavy, and richly decorated.

backpack, and then continue. It's the same for a horse with a poorly balanced saddle. However, the horse can't stop to rebalance it. It's our role as saddle makers to ensure that our saddles are perfectly tailored to the horse, allowing it to move freely. Once we take care of the horse, we focus on the rider. The rider will always be able to tell you what feels right or wrong. The first step is to create that connection between the horse and the rider. And then, through our partnerships, we aim to support the sport and its beauty by collaborating with top riders.

HERMES - PARIS 132 ellearabia.com ellearabia.com 133



#### A JOURNEY THROUGH CRYSTAL AND IDENTITY

Exploring Chiharu Shiota's New Chamber of Wonder at Swarovski Kristallwelten

n the heart of the Austrian Alps, the Swarovski Kristallwelten has always been a space where art, light, and innovation come together in an awe-inspiring celebration of creativity. This year, it unveiled its latest Chamber of Wonder, "Crystallizing Identity," a stunning installation by renowned Japanese artist Chiharu Shiota. Known for her exploration of memory, absence, and the connections that bind us all, Shiota's work takes on a new dimension as she incorporates Swarovski's signature crystal into her intricate universe.

During my visit, I had the chance to experience the unveiling of this breathtaking exhibit, where Shiota's powerful exploration of identity and connection unfolded in an immersive space. The installation, which integrates crystal for the first time into her art, features a delicate interplay of red threads and Swarovski crystals, forming an emotional and visually striking network that embodies

the invisible bonds between individuals. The piece, which draws from the Japanese legend of the red thread, invites viewers to reflect on the ties that connect us through life's journey,

Swarovski Kristallwelten is a dynamic platform for visionary artists, and its ability to blend Swarovski's craftsmanship with groundbreaking art has made it a key cultural destination. The space, which has hosted artists such as Yayoi Kusama and James Turrell, continues to inspire and challenge the relationship between material and imagination. For 30 years, Swarovski has transformed its Chambers of Wonder into spaces that evoke emotion, spark conversation, and redefine luxury. This newest exhibit by Shiota is no exception, expanding the boundaries of what crystal can represent in the modern world.

As Swarovski celebrates its legacy of innovation and artistry, the collaboration with

Shiota feels like a natural evolution of the brand's longstanding relationship with light, materiality, and the human experience. Each of the Chambers of Wonder is more than an exhibit - it's a conversation between the brand and the artists, with crystal acting as the universal language. This connection between artistry and craftsmanship is at the core of the brand's philosophy and one of the reasons why Swarovski Kristallwelten remains a beacon of artistic innovation.

To continue the conversation, I had the privilege of speaking with Chiharu Shiota about her collaboration with Swarovski, her inspiration, and how her work continues to explore the invisible threads that bind us all ...

Your work explores memory and absence. How did you bring those themes into your Swarovski collaboration?

In the beginning I was not sure, but after

visiting the space and understanding the complex manufacturing of the crystal I became more and more aware of the material. The crystals seem alive in a sense, they are delicate and strong at the same time. I felt like I was having a conversation with the material. This collaboration is like a bridge between something natural but also human-made. I wanted to explore new ideas and was interested what kind of energy and texture the crystal would bring. What struck you most about Kristallwelten, and how did the space shape your creative process? The Swarovski Kristallwelten felt like a place between reality and a dream. The mix of nature and another reality created a special atmosphere that inspired me deeply. The space wasn't like a normal gallery or museum, seeing the green giant at Swarovski, with its head in the landscape and the body filled with art, inspired me to create something about the mystery of life.

Crystals symbolize clarity and energy. How do these ideas connect with your artistic language? When I lived in Japan, I did not think much about my cultural identity, as everyone I knew shared the same nationality. I like to use the metaphor of living in salt water. Only after moving to Germany, I was confronted with different cultures and people from different nationalities. It seemed like the water evaporated, and my Japanese identity crystallized and became clear to me.

This project merges fashion, art, and space. How do you see the link between what we wear and where we are? I believe that our clothes are like a second skin, they can tell much more about ourselves than are normal skin can, and while we wear our dress every day, I think it accumulates our memory and existence. And the same applies to the objects and space that surrounds. Especially, when someone dies, you can feel their existence in the things they left behind and the space that now is empty. No one is present but you can still feel their existence. This is the main theme of my work: existence in the absence.

As a global female artist, what does working with a heritage brand like Swarovski mean to you? Swarovski's long history of craftsmanship and connection to light and transformation resonates with my own themes. I often work with invisible connections, memory, and

absence, and I think Swarovski's materials help give form to these intangible ideas.

Your installations stir strong emotions. What do you hope women feel when experiencing this piece? I have no expectation what people will feel. I want them to feel free to feel whatever resonates with them. I think contemporary art doesn't have a single answer, 100 people will have 100 different opinions on the same artwork.

How does your Japanese heritage, mixed with Berlin life, influence your approach to global projects? My work is inspired by my life and my personal feelings, which I want to expand into something universal. I think many people can relate to my work because I try to show emotions that are hard to explain with words.

You often work with thread and space. What changed for you when working with crystal? It was my first time working with crystals. Normally, I use simple, ordinary materials like thread, shoes, suitcases, beds, chairs. The beauty of the crystals was a challenge because I didn't want the work to be just beautiful. I wanted to find a different kind of beauty, one with more depth and emotion. In the end, I am happy with the balance I could create. I combined the crystals with darker pearls, and this contrast added complexity to the work that I am very

What's one detail in the installation you think most people might overlook? I think people often focus to much on the process of creation, they want to know how long it took and how much thread I used, but I would like them to focus on the feelings it reveals.

Outside your studio, where do you feel most inspired or creatively recharged? I get most of my ideas while traveling, especially when I'm in new places and unfamiliar landscapes. When I travel for exhibitions, I finally have time to reflect and connect with my emotions.





# Unity for Change: REDEFINING SUSTAINABILITY IN UAE RETAIL

Chalhoub Group and its partners are setting the bar for eco-friendly luxury retail in the UAE

ne year on, the Unity for Change initiative has become a game-changer in the UAE's retail landscape. Spearheaded by Chalhoub Group, alongside major players like LVMH, Emaar Malls, Majid Al Futtaim, and Aldar Properties, this collaboration is transforming the way luxury retail operates by putting sustainability at the forefront. With big goals around reducing carbon emissions, cutting waste, and promoting eco-friendly store designs, the group is proving that sustainability can go hand-in-hand with high-end shopping.

When Chalhoub Group launched Unity for Change last year, the goal was simple: to rethink how retail can contribute to a healthier planet. But the initiative has turned out to be much more than just an environmental checklist. It's a full-on transformation of how the retail sector, especially luxury, can lead in sustainability. "This partnership reflects our communal dedication to sustainability," says Florence Bulte, Chief Sustainability Officer at Chalhoub Group. "We've moved from intentions to action."

What makes this initiative stand out is its focus on tangible goals. Over the past year, the group has developed clear targets around energy efficiency, waste reduction, and eco-friendly store designs. For example, they've set a target to reduce energy consumption to 300 kWh/m² for beauty stores by 2030. And that's

just the beginning. A big part of the initiative is the launch of a 12-point eco-design checklist, aimed at ensuring new retail spaces are energy-efficient, made with sustainable materials, and built to minimize waste.

But what's even more exciting is how this initiative is reshaping consumer habits. Chalhoub Group is bringing circular business models into the mix, with programs like luxury product resales and rentals, proving that sustainability isn't just about the environment – it's also about how consumers engage with luxury goods.

For Florence, the bigger picture is clear: "Future shoppers, especially Gen Z and Millennials, will want to shop consciously. This signals a shift where luxury is not only about the product but also about the values behind it." As the retail sector in the Middle East embraces these new practices, it's clear that Unity for Change

is leading the way, setting a new standard for what it means to be sustainable in luxury retail.

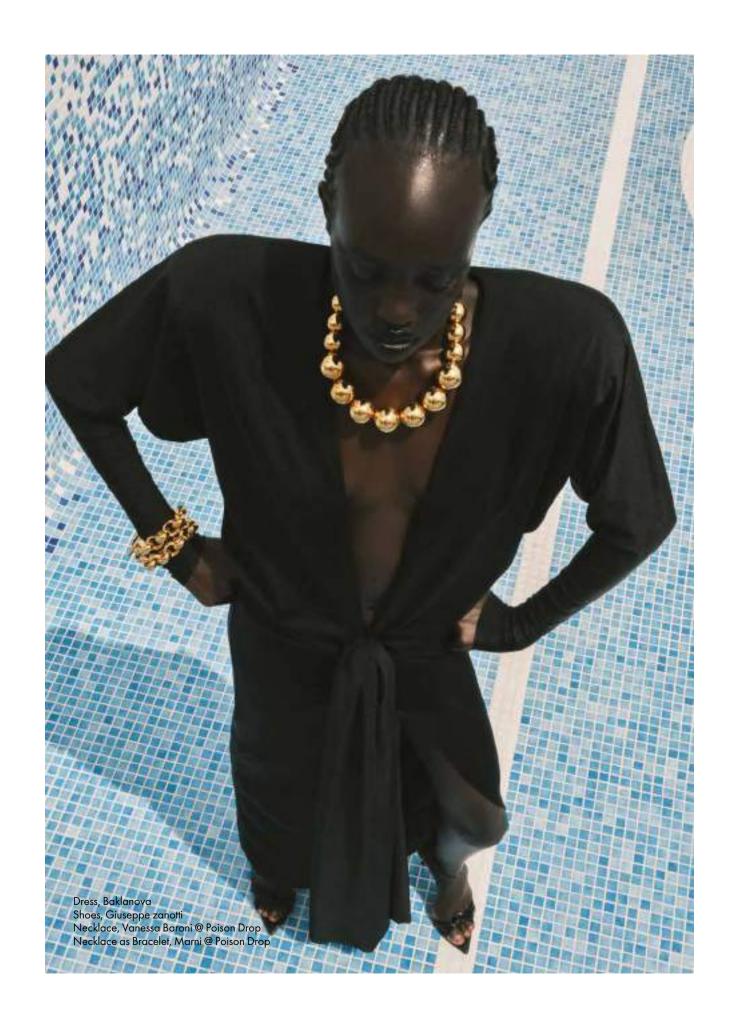
With this initiative, Chalhoub Group and its partners are not just talking the talk - they're walking the walk, showing the world that luxury can be both beautiful and responsible. And with so much progress already made, the future of sustainable retail looks brighter than ever.







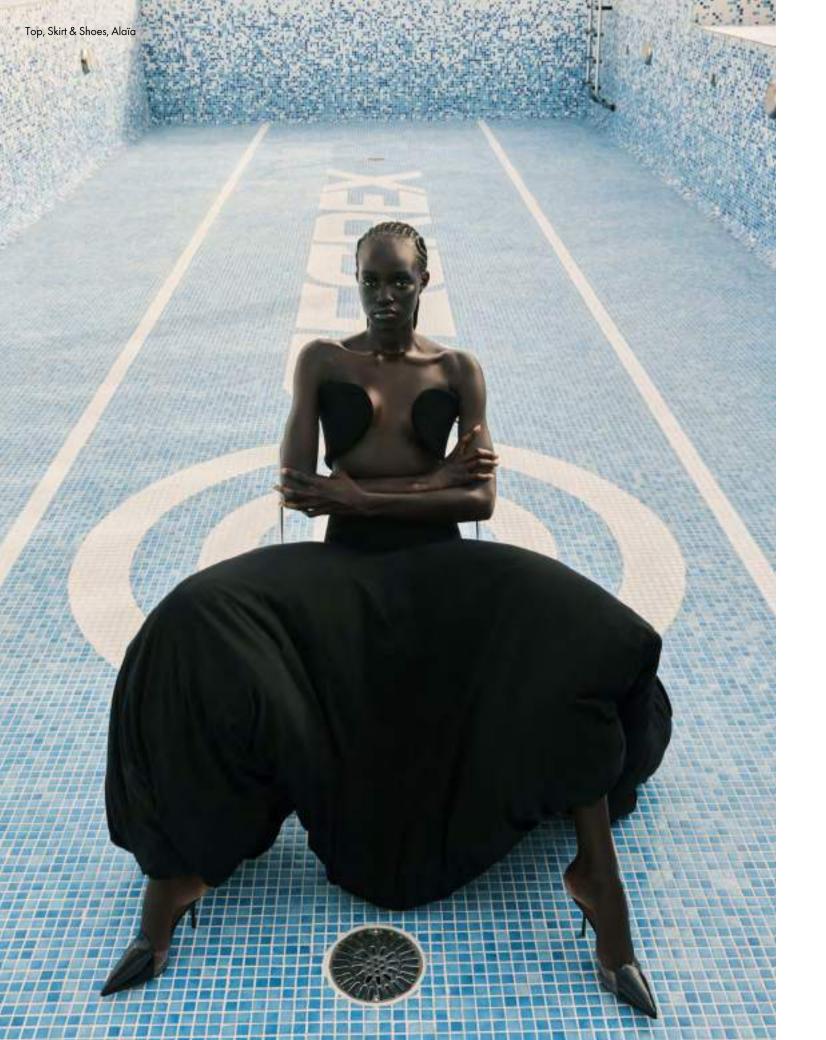






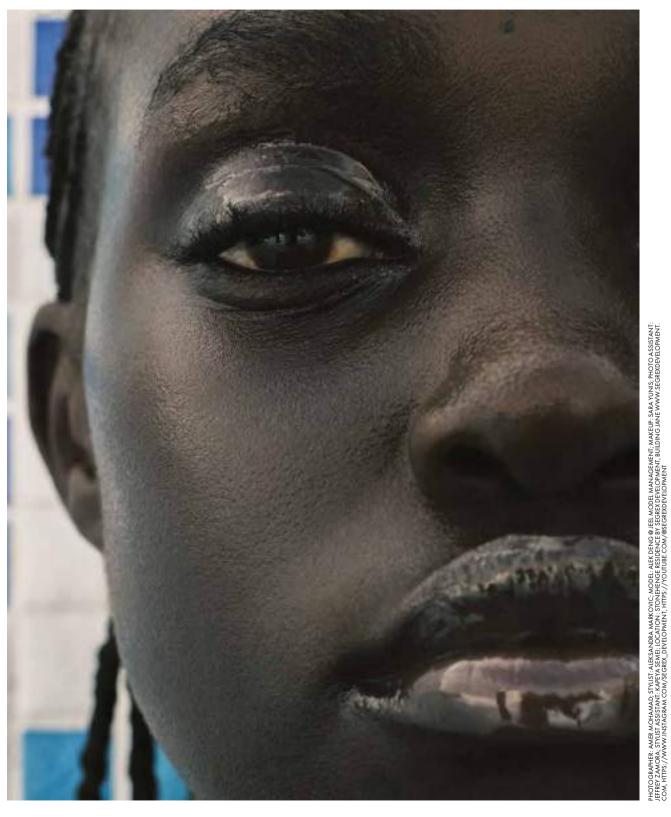


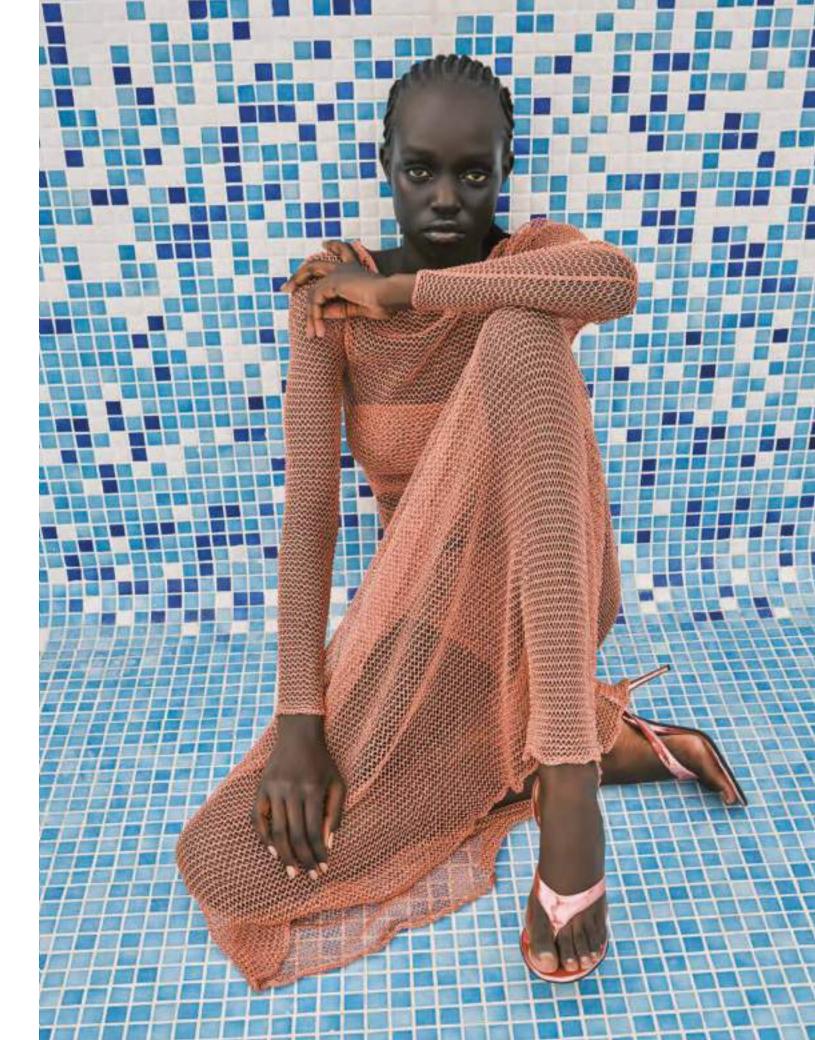


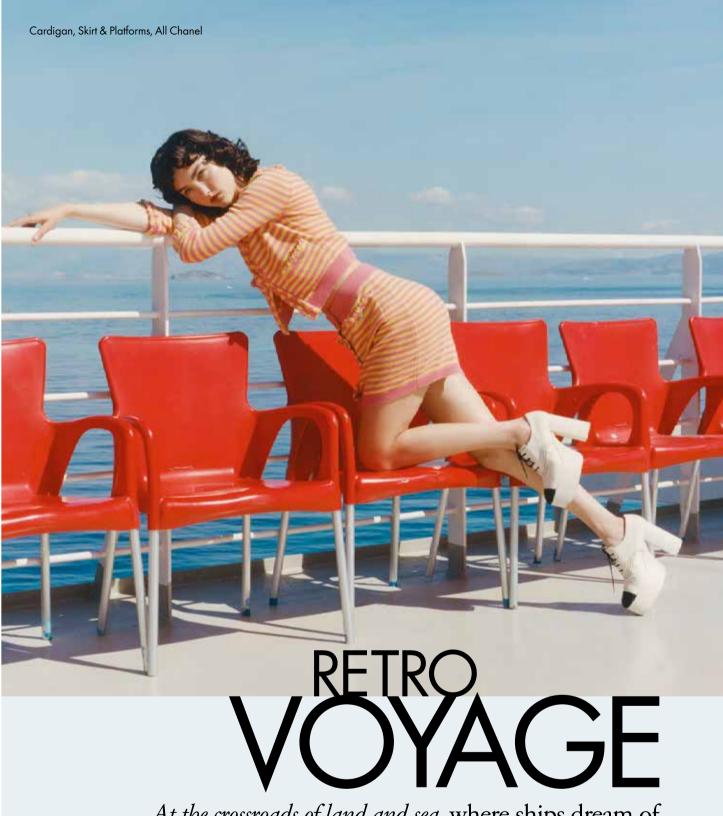




Both pages: Dress, Top, Bottoms & Sandals, Alaïa

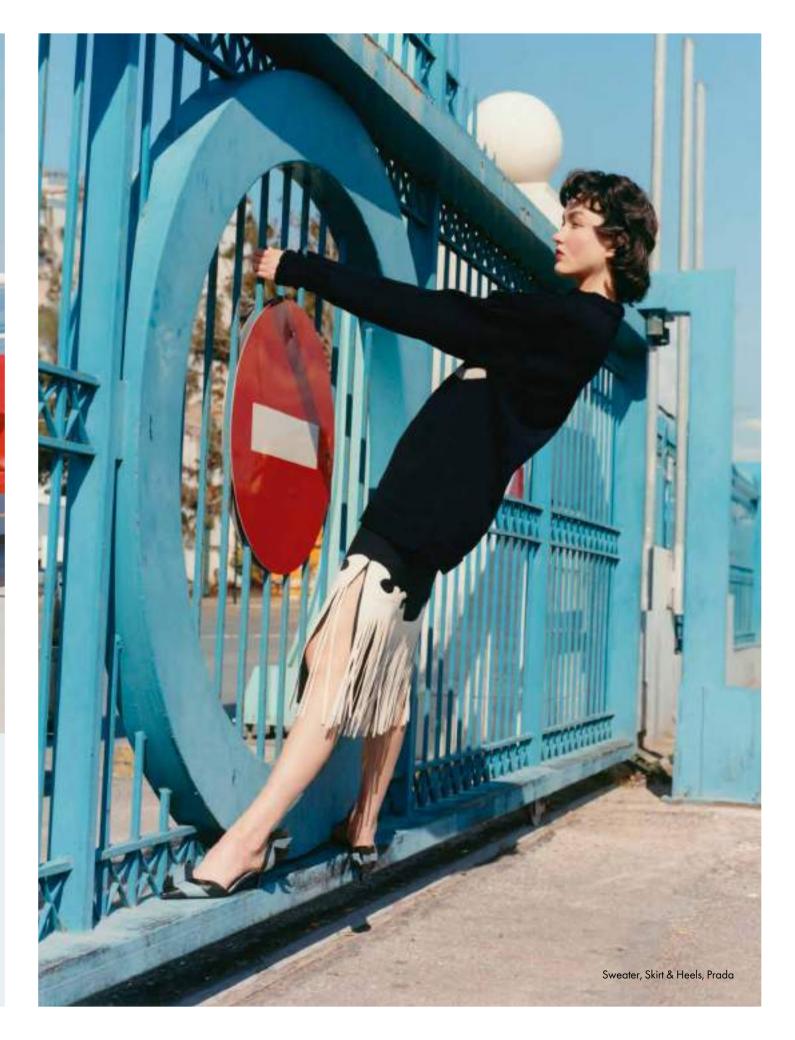






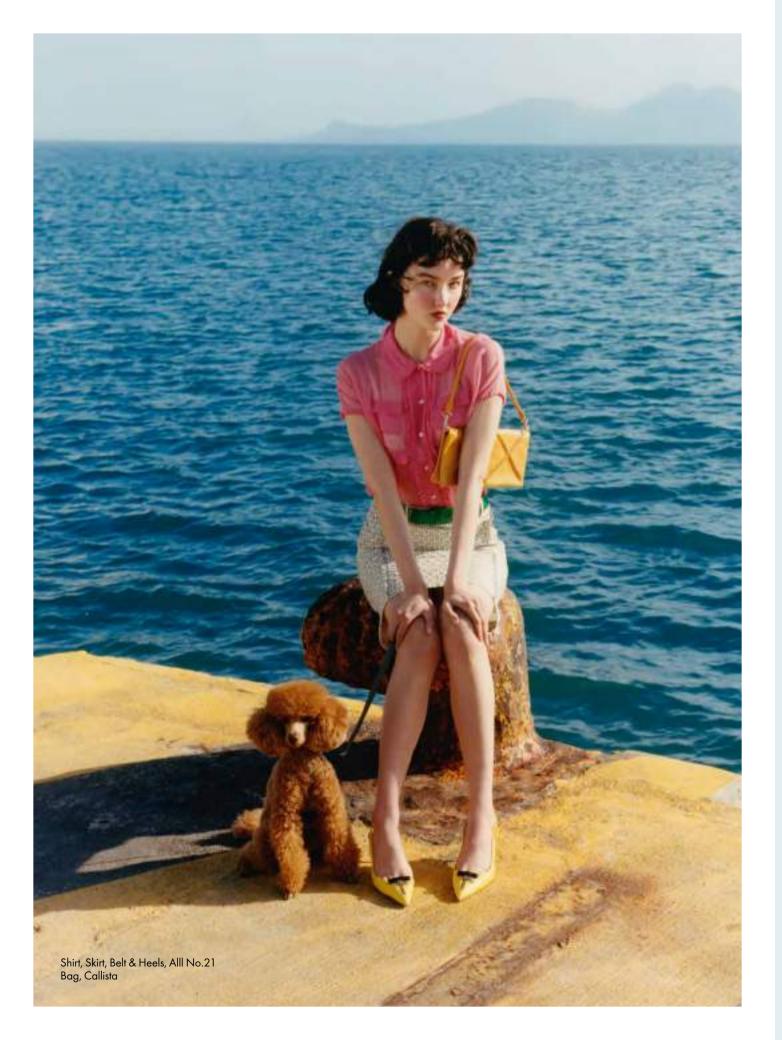
At the crossroads of land and sea, where ships dream of escapes and ports hide stories, the season's fashion unfolds like a travel diary of bygone eras.

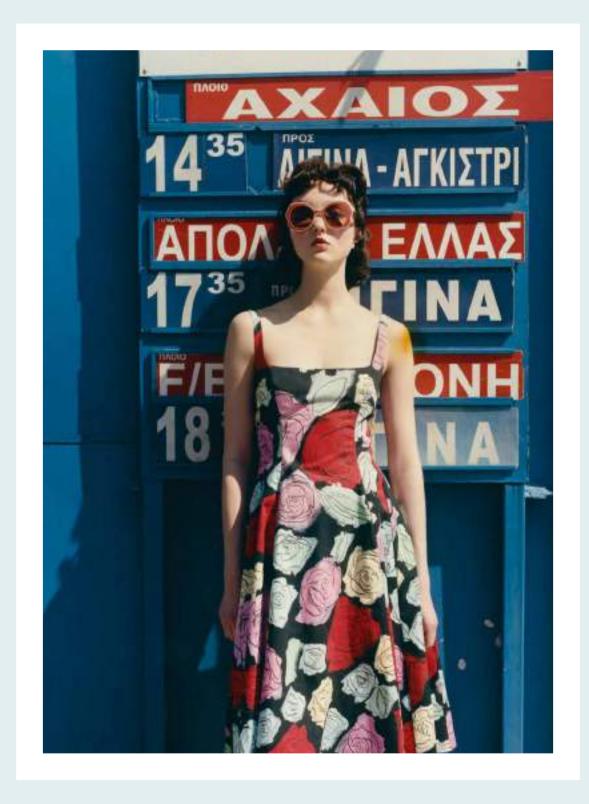
Photographer RIA MORT
Stylist CHRISTOS ALEXANDROPOULOS











Dress, Marni Sunglasses, Longchamp





This page: Jacket, Georges Hobeika; Skirt, Stylist's Own

Oppening page: Bow-Tie Set Piece, Solène Martinau; Shirt & Skirt, The Red Mannequin Archive



# A TOUCH OF WHIMSY

This season's statement looks take a dramatic turn. Styled through Karlnaval's signature lens, fashion embraces character expressive, exaggerated, and camera-ready

Creative Director KARL DAGHER Photographer CRISTO SAINTEX
Stylist ALESSANDRO FERRARI







Both pages: Dress, Georges Hobeika; Gloves & Shoes, Katherine Zhi Wen Chen







beauty THE POWER OF RED CAMELLIA N°1 De Chanel Serumin-Mist offers a sleek, ultra-lightweight solution for your skin's needs on tor your skin's needs on the go. With its iconic red packaging and easy-to-carry design, this mist protects, soothes, and restores your skin's glow wherever life takes you. N°1 CHANEL SÉRUM-EN-BRUME AU CAMÉLIA ROUGE The Essence of Beauty

STEP INTO JUNE WITH A CELEBRATION OF RADIANT TRANSFORMATIONS AND THE ART OF SELF-EXPRESSION

Beauty

# Sunlit Essential

Get glowing in seconds with Guerlain's Terracotta Light Limited Edition the cult bronzer, now in a sleek tortoiseshell case. A swirl of blush, bronzer, and luminizer melts into skin for that effortless, sun-drenched glow. PS: It's refillable, so keep the case and don't throw!



products & trends on our

steals every spotlight.

Infused with 97% care-packed oils and a juicy mango scent, YSL's LOVESHINE Plumping Lip Oil Gloss is your new lip obsession—think mirror-like shine, juicy volume, and all-day hydration in one swipe. The must-have shade? 'Thunder Stealer'-a lilac cosmic gloss that





# Double Trouble

What's better than a really good cleanser? How about two. Kosas' juicy new duo – Comfy Clean Gel Cleanser and Cushiony Calm Cleansing Oil – works in tandem to melt away makeup, soothe skin, and leave you with that post-facial glow, every day. Clean never felt so good.



WHO: AUGUSTINUS BADER X SOFIA COPPOLA

WHAT: A cult-level collab in the form of The Lip Balm Duo–featuring the clear, nourishing Lip Balm and the sheer pink Tinted Balm in Shade 1. Powered by TFC8® tech, it's skincare science

wrapped in Sofia's signature understated glamour.



GIORGIO ARMANI

of rich, edible-inspired notes... here are the fragrances

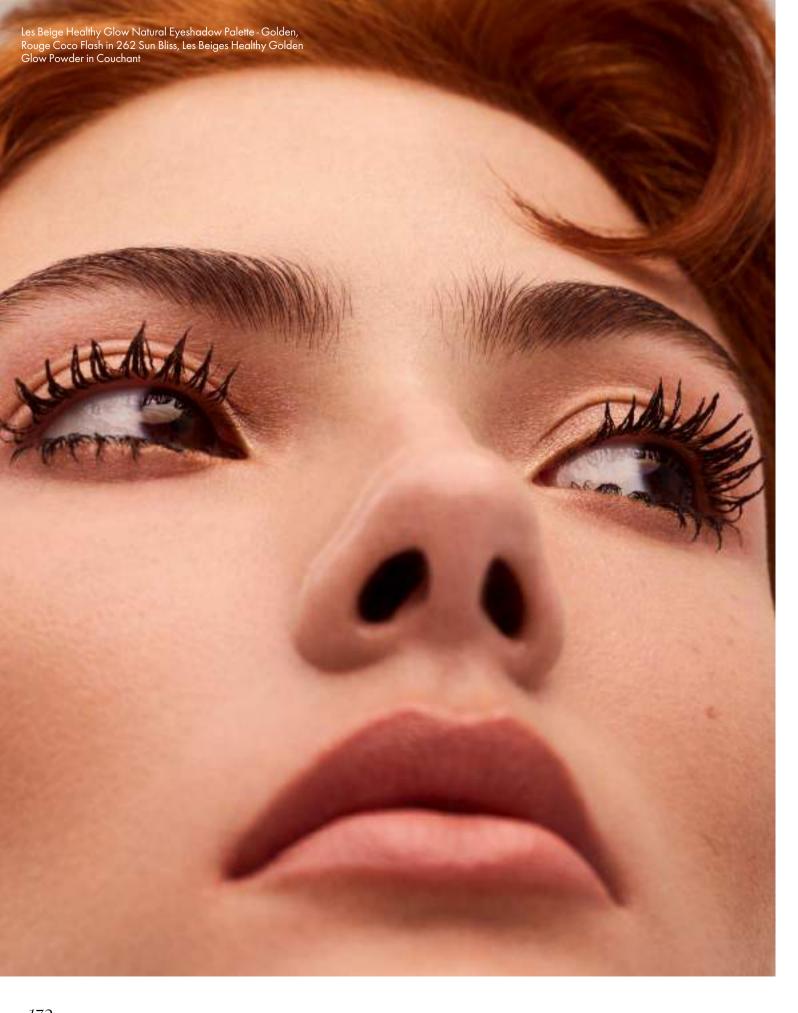
that will delight all your senses.



From top to bottom: RISING STAR, AMIKA; BOHO BEACH WAVES, UMBERTO GIANNINI; WAVE SPRAY, OUAI

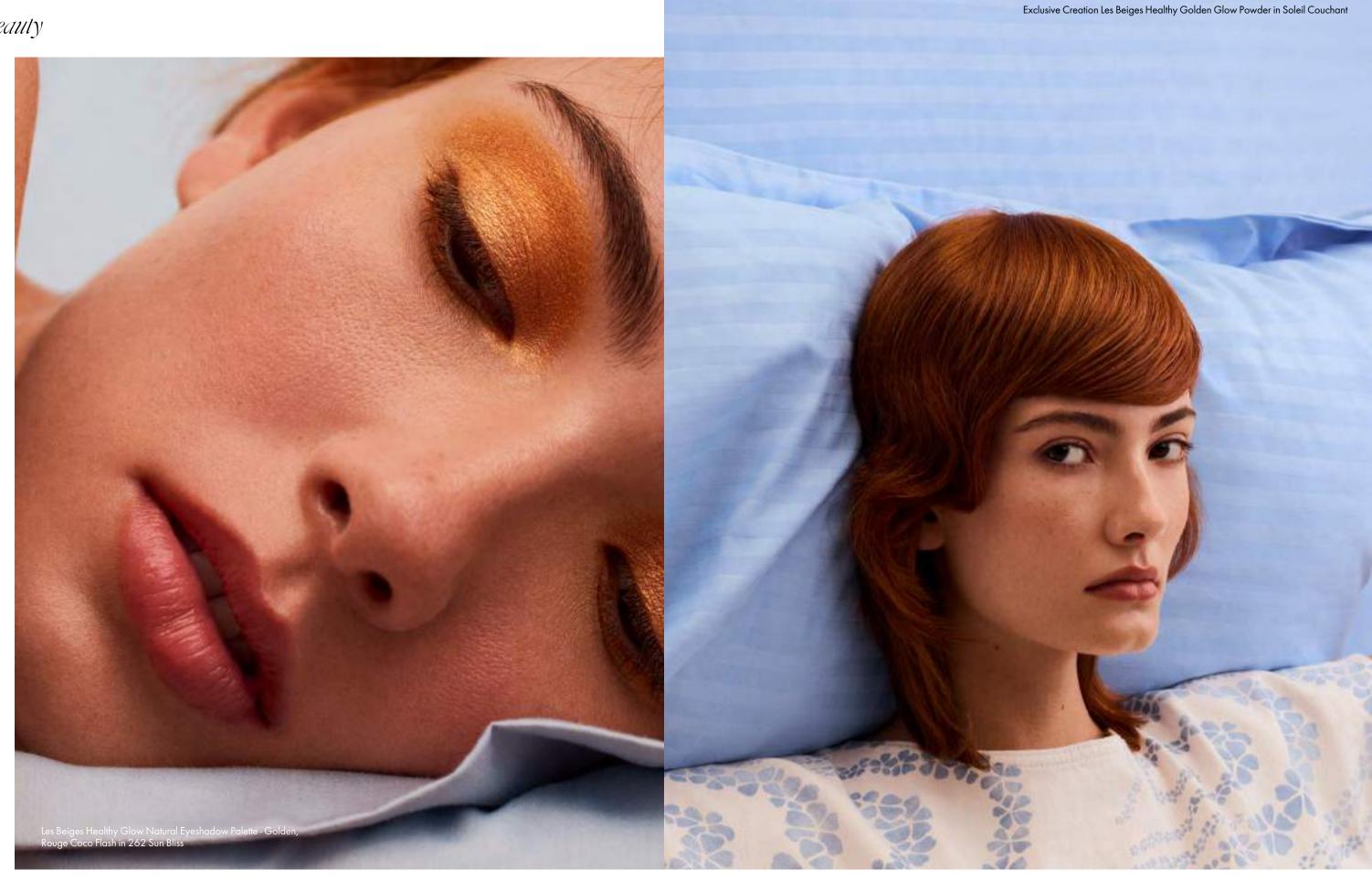








Beauty



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#### **BODY BEAUTIFUL**

Summer beauty prep often starts with skin and hair, but it's what's going on beneath the surface that really sets the tone for how you look—and feel. Enter: lymphatic drainage. This deeply detoxifying ritual is no longer a niche wellness trend but a go-to treatment for anyone looking to de-bloat, smooth, sculpt, and energize in time for summer. Think of it as your body's internal clean-up crew: the lymphatic system removes waste and toxins from your tissues, which, when sluggish, can lead to puffiness, cellulite, dullness, and even breakouts. A single lymphatic drainage session can help reduce water retention, improve circulation, tone the skin, and leave you feeling instantly lighter—both physically and mentally.

For a truly transformative experience, book a session with Laetitia Martins at Atelier LM. Trained in the Renata Franca method - a globally revered technique renowned for visible, sculpting results— and known for her intuitive, highly personalized approach, Laetitia fuses ancestral techniques with modern wellness philosophy to deliver results you'll both see and feel. From the moment you step into her atelier (a word that translates to "workshop" in French but here feels more like a sanctuary), everything is tailored to your body's specific needs. After a short consultation, Laetitia works her magicusing rhythmic, intentional movements that stimulate lymph flow, break up stagnation, and leave you visibly de-puffed and glowing. Post-treatment, you'll leave lighter, lifted, and glowing-exactly how summer should feel. Book now at Atelier-lm.co



#### **FACE SAVIOR**

As you plan your summer getaway, don't forget to train the one muscle group you've probably been neglecting — your face. At FaceFit Dubai, the city's first facial fitness studio, the focus is on toning the 42+ muscles in your face to achieve a lifted, sculpted, and radiant complexion. Located in Town Centre Jumeirah, they offer a range of curated face workouts that go beyond traditional skincare. Their signature sessions mimic a full-body workout with stages like warmup, cardio, modeling, and relaxation, all tailored to your facial muscles. Founder Ghida El Solh breaks it all down...

The number one sculpting move you should be doing before hitting the beach... Start with the Jawline & Cheek Sculptor. This one-minute move not only defines your cheekbones but lifts and tightens the jawline — giving you that ultra-snapped look. Place your knuckles on your jawline, apply gentle pressure, and glide them upward toward your ears. Repeat ten times per side.

The ultimate Face Fit treatment to book pre-vacation... Is our Signature Sculpt. It's 35 minutes of pure lift: cardio for your face, EMS-powered muscle toning, and our famous sculpting sequence. You'll walk out looking filtered in real life — cheekbones snatched, skin glowing, and muscles toned.

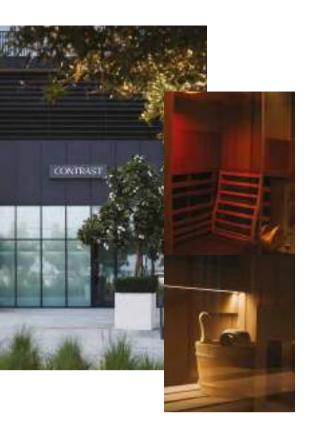
Fight puffiness and bloating after a long flight or salty beach day... With lymphatic drainage. A gentle face massage using your hands, or better yet, FaceFit's Multi-Sculpt tool drains excess fluids and de-bloats

your face fast. Our favorite travel hero? The CryoSticks. Straight from the freezer to your skin, they calm inflammation, tighten pores, and make you look like you actually slept on the plane. If you're lucky enough to be in Dubai or Lebanon, book the Drain Power booster at FaceFit to reduce fluid buildup, and eliminate toxins.

The tool I swear by for summer skin sculpting... Is the Multi-Sculpt—no question. It's sleek, stainless steel, and fits right in your carry-on. Designed to contour and lift, it helps drain excess fluid, define the jawline, and bring your cheekbones back to life—all in a few smooth strokes. Think of it as your on-the-go sculptor. Use it post-flight or after a beach nap for an instant refresh. Bonus: pop it in the fridge or freezer for an icy lift that instantly tightens and de-puffs.

Book now at Facefitstudio.com





#### CHILL OUT, HEAT UP

The Body-Reset Ritual Your Summer Needs

There's a reason top athletes, wellness insiders, and glow-getters everywhere are turning to contrast therapy — it's the ultimate way to reset, recharge, and rejuvenate from the inside out. And if you're looking for the most refined take on this ancient-meets-modern ritual, look no further than Contrast Wellness in Dubai.

Here, contrast therapy isn't just about hopping into an ice bath and calling it a day. It's a curated, elevated experience designed to optimize physical performance, accelerate recovery, boost circulation, and calm the nervous system — all while enhancing the way your skin looks and your body feels. The signature flow? An alternating cycle between infrared sauna and a guided cold plunge, carefully timed to push your body into its most resilient, radiant state.

The benefits go far beyond a fleeting energy boost: heat exposure via the infrared sauna helps to increase blood flow, reduce muscle tension, and promote detoxification through sweat. Meanwhile, the cold plunge encourages lymphatic drainage, reduces inflammation and water retention, tightens the skin, and stimulates endorphins — resulting in sharper focus, reduced bloating, and that post-treatment lit-from-within glow.

For summer specifically, it's your secret weapon. It helps sculpt and firm the body by promoting better circulation, while flushing out toxins that can build up from heat, travel, or long beach days. Regular sessions can even help improve sleep quality and immunity — two essentials if you're planning a long-haul flight or prepping for party season.

Book now at Contrast-wellness.com



If there's one supplement worth your shelf space this summer, it's Savy Wellness Daily Hero. This all-in-one sachet blends marine collagen, vitamin C, D, B complex, and adaptogenic ashwagandha to support glowing skin, better energy, and stronger immunity. Designed for maximum absorption and visible results, it's your daily shortcut to looking (and feeling) your best all season long.

#### MANE ATTRACTION

Sun, sweat, saltwater... summer isn't exactly a vibe for your strands. But don't worry — keeping your hair glossy, frizz-free and effortlessly cool isn't as hard as it sounds. We tapped Simona Bitar, the go-to hairstylist for Dubai's best-tressed, to break down exactly how to prep, protect and perfect your hair for the heat. From frizz-defying tricks to the best beach-to-dinner hack, here's her warm-weather wisdom.

One simple thing people can start doing now to make their summer hair look 10x better by July... Is start with a trim! Get rid of split ends now so your hair has time to grow out strong and healthy before summer hits. Then add a deep moisture mask to your weekly routine hydration is everything.

Humidity is a villain and my favorite way to fight it... Is to work smarter, not heavier. I love a light anti-humidity spray or leave-in cream with a touch of hold on damp hair before air-drying. Finish with a bit of hair oil on the ends to seal it all in. Less is more. For longer-lasting blowouts, the Blow Dry Primer from Davines is a must it adds hold and longevity.

When its too hot to heat style... Satin scrunchies and loose braids are my go-to. Style your hair while damp, add some mousse for hold, then let it dry naturally. Once dry, shake it out for a soft texture. If your hair is on the silkier side, use a texturizing spray from Dayines for that effortless

soft texture. If your hair is on the silkier side, use a texturizing spray from Davines for that effortless 'cool girl' vibe.

The secret to making beach waves look effortlessly expensive instead of crunchy... Moisture



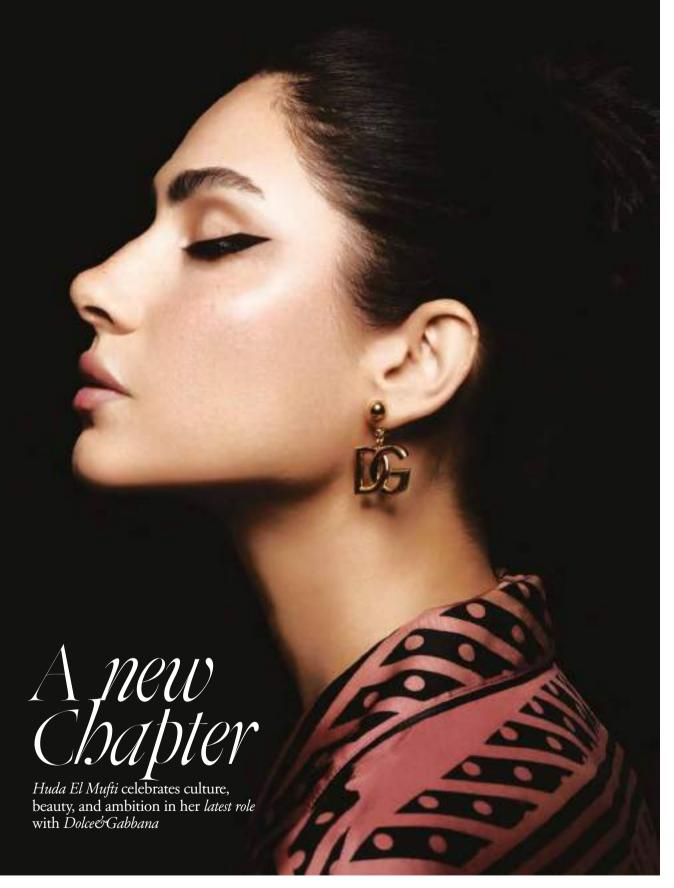
From left: CURL MOISTURIZING MOUSSE, DAVINES; BLOWDRY PRIMER, DAVINES; SILVER SHINE PURPLE SHAMPOO, MILK SHAKE; THE GELLY TYPE, FENTY BEAUT

and minimal product. Swap salt sprays for a nourishing curl cream or mousse. Once dry, break up the waves with a bit of oil on your fingertips. I love the Curl Moisturizing Mousse from Davines it gives moisture, soft hold, and a luxe, touchable finish.

To keep color-treated hair looking fresh when the sun, sea, and chlorine are out to destroy it... Rinse your hair with fresh water before and after swimming. Use a leave-in with UV protection Davines SU line is amazing for post-sun care. Once a week, use the Milk Shake Silver Shine Purple Shampoo to keep your tone fresh. For extra care, layer it with Heart of Glass Intense Treatment.

Best way to transition from beach hair to dinner plans without a full redo... Slick the top half into a sleek ponytail using Fenty Beauty Hair Gel for shine and hold. Let the messy beach texture show from the back. Add some hoop earrings and you're ready in 5 minutes glam but effortless.

If I could only bring three items on a trip, they would be... A good leave-in conditioner, a mini styling cream or oil, and a silk scarf perfect for hair protection, beach vibes, or a quick stylish updo. Book now at FRONCY Hair Salon 0527878705



ince the beginning of her modeling career and rise as a fashion icon, up to her transformation into the shining and renowned actress Huda El Mufti, she has continued to dazzle fans with her unstoppable talent and impeccable fashion sense. Now, she's reaching new career milestones starting with her role as Dolce&Gabbana's Regional Ambassador. In an interview with ELLE Arabia, she opened up about her relationship with the brand and her journey in the industry.

As Dolce&Gabbana's first-ever Regional Ambassador, how do you see this role shaping your career? I am honored to collaborate with a brand like Dolce&Gabbana that has always valued its heritage and DNA. Dolce&Gabbana works with international icons and I am truly happy to be the first Egyptian woman to officially team up with the brand. For me it is an honor to represent the culture, charm, and history of my country that I am proud to represent

Dolce&Gabbana's Velvet Zafferano celebrates Saffron, a spice that connects Middle Eastern and Italian cultures. How do you relate to this fragrance, and what role do scents play in your personal and professional life? Perfumes play an important role in every girl's life; much depends on their mood and personality. Many choose a fragrance based on how they feel, others always use the same one. For me, I like to change scent from time to time, especially for the most special occasions. I recently attended an event wearing Dolce&Gabbana Velvet Zafferano and its intense and sophisticated notes beautifully enveloped me forever linking the fragrance to the memory of a wonderful evening. I highly recommend it to any woman who loves to express her story through a bold, captivating scent.

The Velvet Zafferano Scent is inspired by the richness of tradition and heritage. How do you incorporate cultural influences into your personal style and beauty choices? With beauty I tend not to follow trends; I think it is important to use products and a style that naturally reflects your personality. Of course, on some occasions, it is nice and fun to dare... a touch of color on the lips or intense eye makeup can highlight a special look. The same goes for perfumes. As I just said, fragrances can have the power to change a person's mood or make a moment special. Dolce&Gabbana Velvet Zafferano

I ALWAYS LOOK **FORWARD TO** THE FUTURE AND **WORK TOWARDS** PRESENTING **NEW THINGS** AND PROJECTS. THEREFORE, I HAVE A LOT OF DREAMS **AND AMBITIONS** 

66

has this strength, its intense notes are truly unique.

Dolce&Gabbana is known for its Italian storytelling across all product categories through fashion, fragrance, and makeup. How do you plan to use your platform to highlight the beauty of Middle Eastern culture within this Collaboration partnership? I am happy that Dolce&Gabbana has chosen to collaborate with me, and I hope to live up to their expectations. I will try to emphasize the values of the brand and its collections through my personality and point of view. I think it is important to be authentic and always offer a coherent image. I am definitely lucky! Collaborations are not always so easy and fun... this one with Dolce&Gabbana is really a match!

The Dolce&Gabbana Everink Liner and Everfull XI Mascara focuses on bold eyes with long-lasting products. How do you think makeup, particularly eye makeup, can be a powerful tool for self-expression? Makeup plays an essential role in my life as an actress, it often helps me define the personality of the characters I play. Eye makeup is essential, the look is a powerful tool of communication.

Lately I've been using the Dolce&Gabbana Everink Liner and Everfulll XI Mascara a lot, an ally on set as well as in everyday life. I

> always have the products in my bag, and I love a quick touch-up to always feel at my best! And how can I not mention the No-Puff Caffeine Eve Patches that Dolce&Gabbana has just launched. After a day on set, they help me rest my eyes and look less tired than I actually am!

> What's next for Huda El Mufti? Any dream collaborations or personal goals you're excited to pursue? I always look forward to the future and work towards presenting new things and projects. Therefore, I have a lot of dreams and ambitions that I hope to achieve.



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# SUNNY SIDE UP

First rule of summer? Never face the sun without serious SPF. Meet the face sunscreens that hydrate, smooth, and actually feel good to wear.





1. UNSEEN SUNSCREEN, SUPERGOOP! 2. CLEAR SUNSCREEN STICK SPF 50, SHISEIDO 3. EXTRA CARE SHISEIDO 3. EXTRA CARE
NON-GREASY SUNSCREEN
SPF 50, PAULA'S CHOICE
4. FUTURE SCREEN SPF 50,
ULTRA VIOLETTE 5. THE
SILK SUNSCREEN SPF 50
WEIGHTLESS MINERAL
SUNSCREEN, TATCHA
6. SHAKE SHAKE SPF 50
MINERAL MILK FACE
SUNSCREEN VACATION SUNSCREEN, VACATION 7. THE SILK SUNSCREEN SPF 50 WEIGHTLESS MINERAL SUNSCREEN, TATCHA 8. DREAMBEAM SUNLIT SUNSCREEN, KOSAS 9. HYDRA VIZOR MINERAL SPF 30 REFILLABLE MOISTURIZER, FENTY BEAUTY BY RIHANNA





# Play

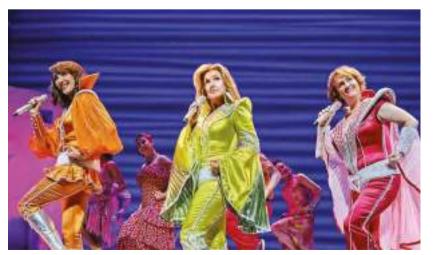
#### VILLAIN BALA CAUSE BY BLU FIEFER

Lebanese-Mexican singer Blu Fiefer's latest drop is a genre-defying triumph. Fully written, produced, mixed, recorded, and directed by Blu herself, the 12-track album fuses Arabic hiphop, derbake-laced pop, Afrobeat, and touches of classical music. It also features three standout collaborations — with Palestinian rapper Mehrak, Iraqi-Swedish femcee Nayomi, and Moroccan-Egyptian lyricist Perrie — cementing Blu's place at the cutting edge of the region's sonic revolution.



# VVATO SEE PLAY

WITH CALENDARS A BUZZING, THESE ARE THE NOTEWORTHY HAPPENINGS CAUSING A BUZZ AT THE MOMENT



<u>See</u>

#### MAMMA MIA! AT ETIHAD ARENA

Growing up, I often scored the shotgun seat to Dad's private concert while he drove me around. ABBA quickly became a personal favorite — and even today, just a few notes in, I swear I can hear that bell ring. So, safe to say, as Mamma Mia! returns to the UAE after three years, I'll be lining up. The timeless musical is a true classic and a celebration of all things joyful. Catch the shows at Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi from 11–22 June.

# Watch

#### FRANKLIN ON NETFLIX

Starring Lebanese screen queen Daniella Rahme and Syrian heartthrob Mohamad Al Ahmad, this sizzling new series is serving scandal, ambition, and serious chemistry. Set against a backdrop of political intrigue and personal betrayal, Franklin dives deep into power, passion, and everything in between. It's bold, it's binge-worthy, and it's the drama you didn't know you needed.



## Listen

#### OVERSHARING BY DR NAOMI BERNSTEIN AND JORDANA ABRAHAM

This podcast was made for convicted oversharers. Hosted by sister duo Dr. Naomi Bernstein, a licensed clinical therapist, and Jordana Abraham, co-founder of Betches, it brings both heart and humor to the mic. Between them, Dr. Naomi is no stranger to helping people, and Jordana has heard just about every relationship question under the sun. Together, they tackle listener dilemmas like a cool therapist—best friend combo—and it's refreshingly real.



# Follow

AS CANNES FEVER TOOK OVER THE 'GRAM, HERE ARE THREE MIDDLE EASTERN CELEBRITIES WHO ATTENDED—AND WHO DEFINITELY DESERVE A FOLLOW



RAZANE JAMMAL @Razanejammal

The Lebanese-British actress serves cinematic glamour on and off the red carpet but it's her feed, equal parts fashion, film, and quiet power-that keeps us coming back for more.



YASMINE SABRI @Yasmine\_Sabri

The Egyptian actress is an easy favorite. While promoting her film Project X, she hit the red carpet in truly stunning pieces—and we're talking about the jewels!



FATIMA ALBANWAI
@Fatima\_albanawi

Dressed in custom Rami Kadi, Saudi star Fatima AlBanawi brought elegance with an edge serving looks that were as bold as her storytelling.



From eco-homes to conscious kitchens, these green reads reimagine how we live, build, and



US & OUR PLANET: THIS IS HOW WE LIVE (IKEA)

Sometimes, a small change goes a long way. Exploring how to live

more sustainably, this book offers a glimpse into both ordinary and

extraordinary lives. It's easy to read, free of emotional attachment

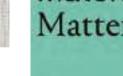
to disposable objects, and within its 250 pages, it presents carefully

selected ideas to inspire and gently motivate a more meaningful lifestyle.

## **EAT YOUR GREENS!**

Save the Planet

By Anette Dieng and Ingela Persson As a vegetarian, I often explain that my diet goes far beyond a single vegetable. Eat Your Greens offers culinary explorations-from cooking cabbage and preparing parsnips to boiling beets and roasting radishes. The book celebrates the beauty of vegetarian cuisine with straightforward, satisfying recipes.



local School

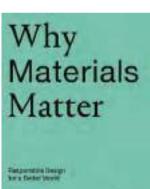
WHY MATERIALS **MATTER** by Seetal Solanki

This fascinating book explores how art, design, and form can emerge from recycling and resourcefulness. It takes a thoughtful, responsible approach to making the world more beautiful and sustainable. Through a visually stunning investigation, it invites readers to shift their perspective on how they see the world.



#### **GREEN** ARCHITECTURE

by Philip Iodidio Going green can start right from the foundations of your home. In this book, Taschen sprouts fresh ideas and proposed projects, highlighting architecture that encapsulates eco-design. It explores buildings that are environmentally conscious, sustainable, and designed to consume less energy than ever before—featuring architects like Frank Gehry and Norman Foster."





Mountain Boy is Zainab Shaheen's first feature film, which showcases the story of Suhail, a young Emirati boy who is misunderstood by his father because he does not understand his determination and challenge with autism. Shaheen incorporates three important values into the movie. "Understanding, acceptance, and

noticing. They remind us to see people for who they truly are, not just how they appear. Noticing the small details, the unspoken moments, is a form of care we often overlook," she says.



Supported by the Abu Dhabi Film Commission, Mountain Boy has been selected for 38 international festivals and has won 22 awards. "When Nancy Paton (producer, and writer of Mountain Boy) first proposed the project to me, I actually said 'no'! But the story stayed with me. I've always wanted to be a storyteller, and after some reflection, I realised this might be the right moment. The script touched me deeply - there was something real and emotional about it. Once I read it properly, I knew it had to be my debut," shares Shaheen



# ZAINAB SHAHEEN by numbers

The Emirati film director talks to ELLE Arabia about her debut feature film Mountain Boy and how the reflections from her journey reveal the importance of family bonds, understanding, and acceptance to build stronger communities





The female-led film is about Naser, a young Emirati boy with autism who escapes to the Fujairah mountains in search of acceptance and family. It boasts a 70% female crew, 32 Emirati cast and crew members. The film addresses autism and inclusivity, "because everyone deserves to be seen and understood," says Shaheen. "Autism is still often misunderstood and underrepresented in film. I felt a responsibility to help change that narrative and bring more care and awareness to how these stories are told."



Shot entirely in the UAE across breath-taking natural landscapes, the film captures the beauty of Arabian heritage. According to Shaheen, the three main aspects highlighted in the film are: "Family bonds, nature, and the peaceful rhythm of mountain life. I wanted to show a side of Emirati heritage that is often overlooked." she shares.

"Around 35 days of filming, 10 to 12 hours each day, and because we had children on set, our time was limited with them. It was intense and truly beautiful," recalls Shaheen. At the exclusive premiere of the movie which took place at CinemaCity, Al Qana, the entire cast and crew were present, along with the children and staff from the Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Special Education in Abu Dhabi. This was where the film's young actor, Naser Salah who plays Suhail, was discovered.

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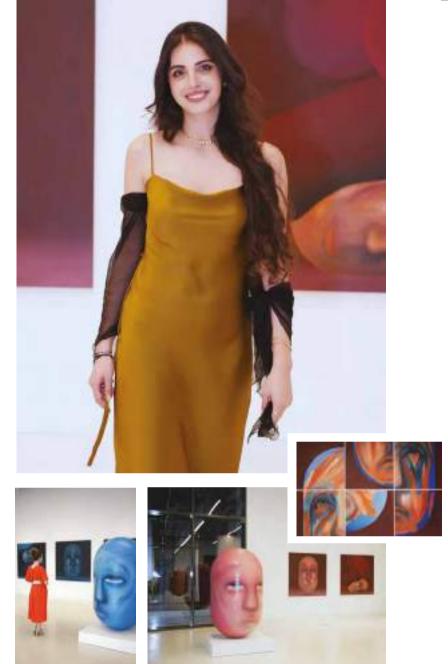


## BEYOND THE TANGIBLE

Rosemary Chamoun's latest exhibition explores themes of materiality, presence, and transformation. Her work is an invitation to dive deep into personal experiences, detaching from material accumulation to find purpose in quiet resonance, and reflection. ELLE Arabia unpacks the vision.

see the future becoming less about material accumulation and more about experiences, the power of the mind, and the pursuit of deeper meaning," says multidisciplinary artist, Rosemary Chamoun. Talking about her exhibition 'Unbodied' with Foundry in Dubai, she expresses her passion for "creating a space where emotion and spirituality intertwine" - and one which we find is extremely important for the turbulent times we live in. By exploring themes of materiality, presence, and transformation, the Beirut-born artist seeks to constantly revive a state of reflection, perception, and awakening as she takes her audience to face the tension that exists between vulnerability, purpose, existence, and spirituality.

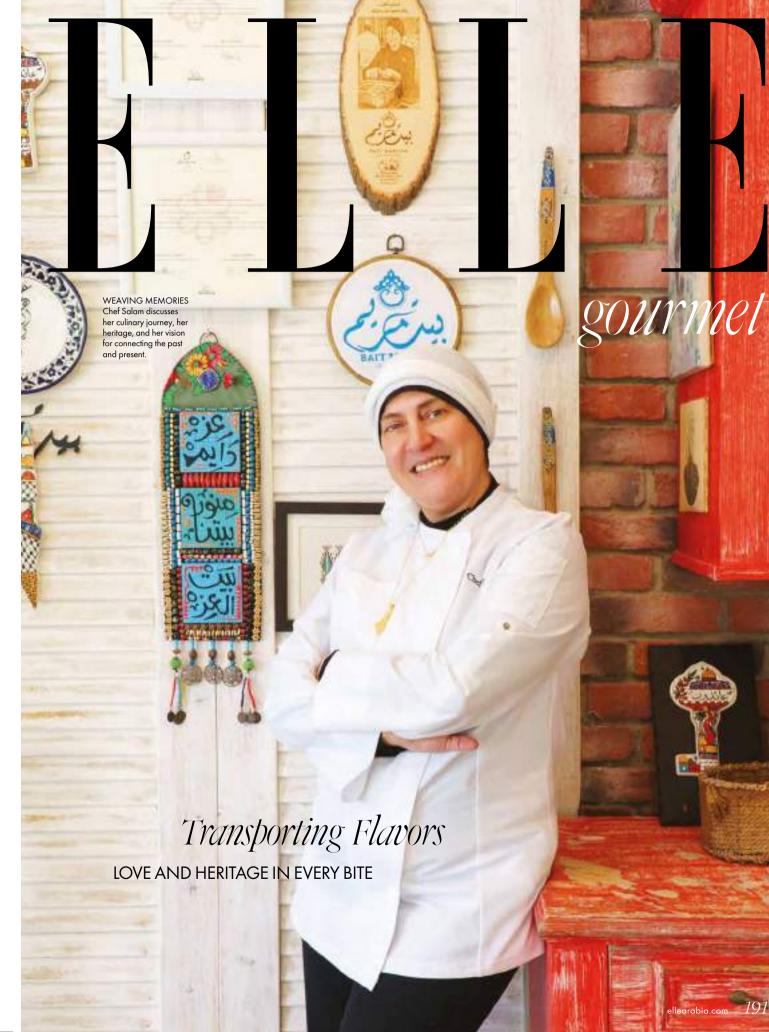
"Through Unbodied, I hope to remind viewers that true transformation begins in the unseen: in the moments when we surrender control, step into vulnerability, and allow ourselves to pursue what our soul desires," she says. At the exhibition, viewers witnessed swirling expression of colour in oil-oncanvas paintings and fiberglass sculptures. Each piece of work attracts attention to the gaze of ethereal figures, where hues of deep blue and red paint an unspoken invitation to discover what lies beneath the expressions. "I wanted to work with a palette that feels like home - something tender, familiar, and



quietly enveloping. The deep blues and reds carry both warmth and mystery, inviting the viewer to linger and reflect," she explains. For Chamoun, art is an expression that invites introspection. Her specific reflections on vulnerability, and her ability to interpret it through art, is what sets her art work apart. "Vulnerability, for me, is the trigger that sets this journey in motion. It's in those fragile moments that we begin to question, to seek guidance from a source beyond our control," she elaborates.

Holding space for transformation, emotion, and spirituality, Chamoun's work is of profound importance as it draws attention to identity, and belonging, inviting viewers to go beyond the limits of identity, ego and the material world, as she explains. "For me, emotion and spirituality are inseparable from the experience of being human — they are how we process change, how we make sense of our existence, and how we open ourselves to transformation. My work seeks to hold space for that delicate tension between what is seen and what is felt, between the material and immaterial. It's in that in-between space that we become most alive, most open," she adds.

In the near future, Chamoun seeks to expand her work across different cultures, and perspectives, inviting viewers to guide the evolution of her art through dialogue and encounters. To her, it is the shared human experiences that remain at the heart of everything she does.



IN CONVERSATION WITH...

# Chef Salam

Through her restaurants, Bait Maryam and Sufret Maryam, Chef Salam redefines the meaning of heritage through cuisine

hef Salam uses her passion for cooking, inherited from her late mother, Maryam, to transport those who enjoy her dishes back to the roots of their homeland, for which they long. In every dish she prepares, she reflects the spirit of family and the safe atmosphere of home and peace, providing her restaurant visitors with an exceptional experience that goes beyond mere dining. In this exclusive interview with ELLE Gourmet, Chef Salam discusses her culinary journey, her heritage, and her vision for connecting the past and present through food.

You've built two successful restaurants. Bait Maryam and Sufret Maryam. How have you grown as a chef since starting Bait Maryam, and what made you decide to open Sufret Maryam? Bait Maryam was my way of cherishing and preserving my mother's recipes while honoring her generation. It began as a tribute to her cooking and the values she instilled in me, such as nurturing others through food, creating warmth, and bringing people together at the table. Over time, I grew not only as a chef but as a storyteller, weaving memories into each dish. I learned that serving food goes beyond technique. It is about creating an experience that makes people feel at home, no matter where they are from.

The idea for Sufret Maryam came from a desire to celebrate the next generation. It reflects the evolving legacy lived by my daughter Nada Darraj and her daughter Maryam. While Bait Maryam honors the roots of where I come from, Sufret Maryam celebrates where we are headed. It is a space that bridges the past and the future, maintaining the values that shaped me while introducing modern touches. Both restaurants share the same foundation of love and authenticity but tell their own unique stories.

Sufret Maryam was born out of a desire to celebrate the upcoming generation lived by my daughter Nada Darraj and her daughter, Maryam. It's a space that reflects how traditions evolve while remaining grounded in the values that shaped me. Both restaurants are part of the same story, each adding its own chapter.

Your mother, Maryam, was a big influence on your career. What did she teach you about cooking and hospitality that you carry with you today? My mother taught me to pour all of who I am into every dish. This is what love means in our family. She believed that the heart of hospitality is making people feel seen, valued, and at home. Her lessons were not only about food but about creating a space where people feel nurtured and understood. She showed me that the smallest details can have the greatest impact, whether it is the way you greet someone or how you serve a meal. I carry that with me every time I welcome someone to my home or restaurants.

You've received many awards, including being named Best Female Chef in MENA. How does all this recognition affect you? The awards are meaningful and humbling, but what fulfills me most is seeing someone take that first bite, close their eyes, and feel at home. That moment of connection is priceless and reminds me why I do what I do. Recognition fills me with pride, but the true reward is the gratitude I feel when people genuinely enjoy the meals I have created. Knowing that I have made someone feel comforted, even for a brief moment, is the greatest honor.

Sufret Maryam mixes traditional Levantine

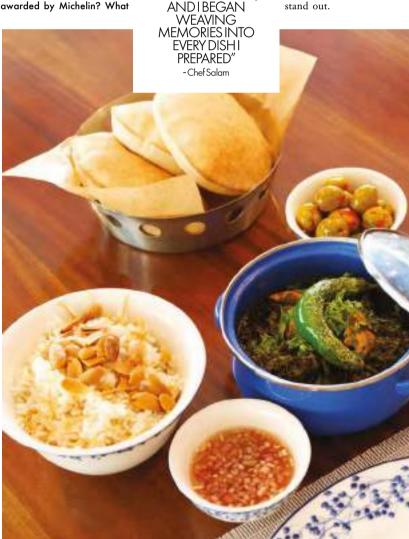


built a renowned culinary reputation, what do you believe are the key factors that contribute to being awarded by Michelin? What

advice would you give to chefs striving to reach that level of excellence? From what I know, being awarded by Michelin is about creating a dining experience that leaves a lasting impression. The food must be exceptional, but consistency, service, and atmosphere matter just as much. Every detail should contribute to a memorable journey for

My advice is to stay authentic to your culinary identity and refine your craft with care. Push boundaries while remaining true to the essence of your cuisine. Excellence is built

> on resilience, creativity, and an unshakable commitment to your vision. Chefs who are fueled with passion and create moments of connection for their guests will naturally stand out.



PASSION FOR

COOKING SO IT

**BECAME MY WAY** 

OF STORYTELLING,



Louis Vuitton's Culinary Return to Saint, Tropez!

Michelin Star Dining Meets World-Class Design at the White 1921

ust in time for the sun-soaked days ahead, Louis Vuitton's highly anticipated reopening of its Michelin-starred restaurant in Saint-Tropez is the culinary event of the season. Set in the iconic White 1921 Hotel, the restaurant serves up more than just spectacular food – it's a full sensory journey that merges world-class cuisine with the artistry of Louis Vuitton.

The masterminds behind this seasonal offering, chefs Arnaud Donckele and Maxime Frédéric, bring their culinary expertise to the table with an updated menu that showcases the freshest ingredients in the most innovative ways. From velvety tomatoes and girolles-stuffed ravioli to a perfectly roasted fowl with velouté, every dish promises to transport guests on a delightful voyage of flavors. And if you're a fan of the sea, the brill meunière with seaweed and citrus is a must-try – a dish that speaks to the Mediterranean's rich bounty.

Fun Fact: This restaurant is not just about fine dining — it's the birthplace of the Louis Vuitton Culinary Community. From Saint-Tropez, this community has blossomed into a global concept,

mentoring chefs around the world from Paris to Tokyo, New York to Bangkok. "The idea is to bring a relaxed yet refined Louis Vuitton experience wherever we are," says Arnaud Donckele.

Beyond the kitchen, the ambiance is equally captivating. The dining area is dressed in Louis Vuitton's latest Constellation tableware, where porcelain plates meet the brand's signature geometric patterns. Completing the scene are limited-edition Objets Nomades lamps, designed by Barber & Osgerby and Zanellato/Bortotto, creating an unforgettable setting for your meal.

From rhubarb vacherin to cocktails made with local ingredients, the menu at Louis Vuitton's Saint-Tropez restaurant is a fresh take on Mediterranean flavors. It's all about seasonal ingredients and a laid-back atmosphere, where great food and design come together.

Catch the magic before it's gone – available through September 30th.

"AT LOUIS VUITTON,
WE'RE NOT JUST
SERVING FOOD –
WE'RE CRAFTING A
JOURNEY. EVERY DISH
TELLS A STORY, FROM
THE KITCHEN TO
YOUR PLATE, AND THE
ADVENTURE DOESN'T
END WITH THE LAST BITE"
- Maxime Frédéric





SUMMER TIME!

# Babel in Marmaris

A Refined Take on Lebanese Cuisine

s the Turkish summer starts to heat up, Marmaris is about to get a taste of something extraordinary. This summer, Babel, the famed Lebanese restaurant known for its mature yet contemporary dishes, will open its doors in this vibrant coastal city. It's not just a place to eat; it's an experience, a fusion of rich flavors and unforgettable moments – perfect for those seeking something fresh on the Mediterranean.

#### **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED**

The moment you walk into Babel, you're greeted by an atmosphere that effortlessly blends luxury with laid-back vibes. It's the type of place where the music, the scents, and the visual beauty of the dishes come together to make every meal feel like an event. Think Lebanese classics like hummus and grilled meats, but with a fresh twist that'll have you thinking about the meal long after you've left.

#### A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

But it's not all about the food – Babel knows how to set a scene. The restaurant pulses with energy, enhanced by live music that brings the lively spirit of Lebanon to the heart of Marmaris. It's the kind of place you want to gather your friends, enjoy a drink by the sea, and stay long enough for the sunset.

#### WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

Whether you're after a relaxed dinner by the water or celebrating something special, Babel offers a perfect mix of great food, lively ambiance, and a dose of Mediterranean magic. If you find yourself in Marmaris this summer, make sure Babel is on your must-visit list. Trust us: Summer just got a lot tastier.











Gulf Craft's superyacht, the Majesty 112 offers a blend of design, space, and performance is ideal for both long journeys or entertaining at sea. The flybridge, spanning 35 sqm, serves as a social hub with a bar, alfresco dining area, and lounge seating. The 21 sqm Asymmetric Upper Deck Sky Lounge offers sweeping 270-degree views, while the aft deck provides space for sun lounging and dining for up to 10 guests. The front of the yacht features a private retreat with sunpads and a plunge pool, adding a quiet spot for relaxation.

#### INTERIOR DESIGN

Inside, the Majesty 112 is designed to maximize natural light with expansive glazing. The main salon flows into the dining area, creating a seamless connection between the spaces. The design uses a neutral color palette and high-end materials to maintain a refined, understated atmosphere. The Majesty 112 accommodates up to 12 guests in five well-appointed cabins. The fullbeam owner's stateroom offers panoramic views, a skylight above the plunge pool, and a walk-in wardrobe. The guest cabins, each with an en-suite bathroom, are spacious and comfortable for extended stays.

#### PERFORMANCE AND HANDLING

Engineered for stability and performance, the Majesty 112 ensures a smooth cruising experience. Gulf Craft's engineering expertise ensures the yacht handles well in a variety of sea conditions, offering both comfort and precision for long voyages. The Majesty 112 is more than just a yacht - it's a destination



# Wynn Al Marjan Island: A sneak peek from Wynn Las Vegas

The First Glimpse of What's Coming to Ras Al Khaimah

uring our recent FAM trip to Wynn Las Vegas, we were given a glimpse into something extraordinary - an exciting preview of the upcoming Wynn Al Marjan Island, set to open in 2027. Imagine the same impeccable service, world-class design, and exclusive experiences you get at Wynn, now brought to life against the stunning backdrop of Ras Al Khaimah's coastline. If this is Wynn Las Vegas, just wait until you see what's coming to the Gulf.

Nestled along the Arabian Gulf, Wynn Al Marjan Island will span more than 60 hectares, with 1,530 rooms, suites, and villas. The resort promises everything from a private marina to 24 dining and lounge options, all meticulously designed to create a new level of luxury. The resort's bespoke design takes inspiration from the natural beauty of Ras Al Khaimah, blending Wynn's signature style with the region's elegance.

#### **BOLD NEW CONCEPT**

One of the most exciting elements of Wynn Al Marjan Island is its thoughtfully designed guest accommodations. Among the most anticipated are the Resort King rooms, which offer a distinctive entry vestibule separating the sleeping quarters from the corridor. This layout isn't just practical – it enhances privacy and creates a more residential, intimate experience. Inside, expansive floor-to-ceiling windows frame sweeping views of the Gulf, while subtle design details like arched forms and reflective surfaces add a sculptural feel.

Wynn Al Marjan Island's Resort King rooms feature floor-toceiling windows with breathtaking Gulf views and a residentialstyle layout for added privacy.



#### SIGNATURE CRAFTSMANSHIP

What makes Wynn Al Marjan Island even more exciting is the level of craftsmanship and intentional design that will go into every aspect of the property. We saw firsthand at Wynn Las Vegas how nothing is purchased off the shelf – everything from the furniture to the artwork is created specifically for Wynn, either by master craftspeople or Wynn's own team. This commitment to excellence will translate to the resort's architecture and interiors, ensuring every piece has a story and a purpose. With a design ethos rooted in Wynn's legacy, the resort is being built with the region's natural beauty in mind, not just to blend in but

to harmonize with Ras Al Khaimah's iconic coastal setting. It's clear that Wynn Al Marjan Island will be a place where luxury, craftsmanship, and nature coexist in perfect balance.

Wynn's in-house design team brings a fresh yet familiar touch to Wynn Al Marjan Island, blending the best of the brand with the natural beauty of the Gulf.

#### LUXURY & SUSTAINABILITY

Wynn Al Marjan Island isn't just about luxury – it's also about sustainability and giving back. In addition to the sprawling resort with over 60 hectares of land, it will offer a private beach, 12 swimming pools, and lush gardens, all designed with the environment in mind. The resort will feature an expansive shopping promenade with the

world's most prestigious luxury boutiques, and dining experiences that range from fine cuisine to casual lounges. With a five-star spa, a 7,500-square-meter event space, and signature Wynn entertainment, including a nightclub and beach club, Wynn Al Marjan Island is shaping up to be one of the most sought-after destinations in the Gulf.

Wynn Al Marjan Island is set to feature 12 pools, a private marina, 24 dining venues, and the signature Wynn entertainment experience.

#### WHAT'S TO COME?

It's safe to say, if our visit to Wynn Las Vegas was any indication, Wynn Al Marjan Island will be nothing short of extraordinary. From world-class dining to breathtaking views and impeccable service, we look forward to its grand opening in 2027!

# Jumeirah Capri Palace



With just 72 rooms and suites, a tranquil outdoor pool, and a 24-hour fitness room, the hotel balances intimacy with indulgence



In the quiet heights of Anacapri, we explore the Resort's soulful new suites guided by artists, architects, and the island's own rhythms

here are hotels that house art, and then there are places like Iumeirah Capri Palace - where the architecture itself is a brushstroke, the suites feel like curated galleries, and the guests are invited to move through it all like a living part of the installation. I arrived on the island not just to visit, but to witness a transformation: the unveiling of Patricia Urquiola's new suites and pool design. And yet, what unfolded was far more layered - an emotional, creative, and sensory experience, with the island of Capri as both backdrop and muse.

#### **DESIGN AS POETRY**

To walk into the new suites Patricia Urquiola has created for Jumeirah Capri Palace is to enter a love letter to Capri. Each space - five in total feels like a conversation between sky and sea, light and texture. Terracotta, white, and ocean blue echo in the curves of custom furniture and the ripple of plastered walls that mimic the soft tide of the Tyrrhenian. We were led through these spaces by her partner, Alberto Zontone, who spoke of Urquiola's intention not just to design a room, but to honor the island's spirit. "We didn't want to impose on Capri," he said. "We wanted to let it speak." And it does; through the gentle glow on ceramic tiles, the Palladian floors that extend to the garden, the organic forms that mirror the coastline outside vour window.

"Each suite is conceived as a serene microcosm," Urquiola writes, "where tactile materials, natural light, and fluid forms evoke both comfort and Mediterranean sophistication."

#### AN ISLAND OF ARTISTS

What struck me most was how the design wasn't an isolated showcase, but part of a broader curatorial soul at the hotel. Art doesn't sit behind glass here – it's embedded in every corridor, every corner of the Bar degli Artisti, every suite named after a master. The White Museum, Jumeirah Capri Palace's living gallery, was brought to life for us by Arnaud Morand, the hotel's Art Advisor, who moves through the space like a quiet conductor, weaving stories between De Chirico's Ettore e Andromaca, a Plessi homage to the Blue Grotto, and the mosaic sail by Velasco Vitali shimmering beneath the pool's surface. The lobby holds the photographic mosaics of Maurizio Galimberti - who joined us for part of the journey and spoke



with warmth and intensity about the method behind his iconic "cluster" technique. Capri, he told us, is one of his "eternal muses." You can feel that in every fragmented, rearranged, almost dreamlike image he captures.

#### A CULINARY CANVAS

Capri's art isn't just visual - it's edible and emotional. One of the most memorable evenings was spent at a-Ma-Re Capri, where master pizzaiolo Franco Pepe not only served his legendary "Margherita Sbagliata" but hosted an intimate pizza-making session. Watching his hands work the dough was almost like watching a sculptor shape clay. With the sun setting over the cliff beside the Blue Grotto, we tasted something that felt as timeless as the island itself. Dinner at Il Riccio Restaurant & Beach Club the day before felt equally sacred. Built into the cliffs, it offers a view so cinematic it hardly seems real. The interiors are marine blue and cloud white, but all eyes go to the horizon.

#### WELLNESS WITH A SOUL

Even wellness here tells a story. The Capri Medical Spa, tucked into the quieter part of the property, is home to the famed "Leg School®", the first of its kind in Europe. Inspired by ancient galenic formulations, it combines science with sensorial experience. Cooling treatments, herbal wraps, and flowing massages target the body's lower half, yes - but the effect is full-body serenity. After days filled with art and architecture, it was a moment to pause, to reconnect with something quieter.

#### CAPRI REIMAGINED

What Patricia Urquiola has done isn't just design. It's translation. She has captured the mood of Anacapri - the breeze, the salt, the white heat of day and the blushed hush of dusk - and translated it into spaces where you can rest, think, feel. And what Jumeirah Capri Palace continues to do, through its White Museum, its artist collaborations, and its unapologetically soulful embrace of culture, is to offer guests more than luxury. It offers meaning. A place to stay, but also to feel alive, inspired, and seen.





Urquiola, are collectively

known as the Mario-Rita

Suites, a tribute to the hotel's original proprietors





BUSTLING FOOD MARKETS, THE 18TH-CENTURY ROYAL PALACE, AND FLAMENCO DANCING ARE JUST SOME OF THE GEMS THIS HISTORIC CITY HAS TO OFFER. THE ELECTRIC NIGHTLIFE SCENE AND THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE OF ART MUSEUMS (THE PRADO) MAKE IT ONE FOR NIGHT OWLS AND CULTURAL AFICIONADOS ALIKE. ELLE SPAIN GUIDES YOU.

by ELISE WEBBER with AMELIA EDWARDS

#### TRENDY EATERY

El Club Financiero

This grand member's club's hardwood and marble furnishings match the elegance of its Financial District address. Tuck into fine staples of Spanish cuisine atop the legendary Centro Colón building, with a kitchen led by Nino Redruello, using the finest raw ingredients for a seasonal menu. The 360° views over the Plaza de Colón and the National Library are phenomenal.

Floors 14-15, c/ del Marqués de la Ensenada 14, clubfinancierogenova.com

#### **LOCAL FOOD HOTSPOT**

Mercado de Antón Martín

Across the first two floors of this indoor market, get lost in rows of street food vendors, cafés, and small restaurants. Stop by Quesería Antón Martín for artisan cheeses, gourmet oils, olives and banderillas. Fresh Spanish seafood and wine is available at oyster bar El Tarantín de Lucía, whilst classic Jamón Ibérico is Romero's specialty. c/ de Santa Isabel 5, mercadoantonmartin.com

#### **CHARMING HOTEL**

Santo Mauro (2)

The 19th century home of the Duke of Santo Mauro is now a luxurious hotel set among art museums in the Golden Triangle neighbourhood. Stay in a uniquely decorated modern suite, wander through the French-classicism-inspired Red Room, and retire in the pleasure gardens adorned with fountains. The splendor continues at La Biblioteca restaurant, where locals flock for gastro options as refined as their palatial setting. c/ de Zurbano 36, marriott.com

#### **BUZZING BAR**

Bar Cock

With its high ceilings, imposing fireplace, and traditional decor, this temple of Madrilenian cocktails has been a bohemian and intellectual hub since 1921. The bar's classic leather armchairs have welcomed some of the most influential poets, artists, playwrights, and politicians, from Miguel Mihura and Salvador Dalí to Eisenhower and Ernest Hemingway.

c/ de la Reina 16, barcock.com



#### **PAMPER PLACES**

Salón Oramai (3)

With its futuristic, all-white interiors, this hair boutique in the heart of the fashionable Salamanca district is a peaceful haven for some me-time. Have your locks brought to life by the salon's master stylists, offering hair spa treatments, expert coloring services, and even mani-pedis.

c/ de Conde de Aranda 3, salonoramai.com

#### The Beauty Concept Spa

The luxurious spa at Mandarin Oriental Ritz is complete with a steam room, indoor heated pool, and vitality pool area. On the menu: personalised facials, deep tissue and hot stone massages, and aromatherapy courtesy of Comfort Zone products.

Plaza de la Lealtad 5, mandarinoriental.com

#### Gabriel Llano

With an abundance of editorial and celebrity experience (trusted by Andrea Duro and Juana Acosta), hairstylist Gabriel Llano opened his own salon in 2021. The space is a luxurious boutique of white marble interiors specialising in cut and color, as well as makeup services.

Velázquez 71, gabrielllano.com

#### **HOTTEST NIGHT OUT**

Lula Club

On the city's most famous street, Gran Vía, is this speak-easy-style venue inspired by New York's legendary Studio 54. Against maroon velvet, neon-lit interiors, crowned with a waterfall chandelier and XL disco ball, major international DJs as well as emerging local talents mix electro beats late into the night. The dress code? Trippy esstravaganza and your dancing shoes.

Gran Vía 54, lula.club

### IT FASHION DESIGNER

Redondo Brand (1)

Founded in 2019, Jorje Redondo's sophisticated, feminine pieces are quickly becoming a favorite among celebrities and royals, like fashion consultant and Spanish aristocrat Naty Abascal. Expect plenty of red, ruffles, and imposing silhouettes from this ultra-elegant label: a testimony to impeccable tailoring and constant reinvention.

c/ Claudio Coello 25, redondobrand.com

#### **STYLE HUB** WOW CONCEPT

A neoclassical building dating back to 1915 reopened its doors three years ago, now housing the city's largest concept store (5,500 square metres). Set in six stories of ultra-modern, artfilled interiors, choose from curated fashion labels including Collinda Strada and Moisés Nieto, and a whole floor devoted to international and local beauty brands from Rowse to Two Pole.

Gran Vía 18, wowconcept.com



**SECRET ESCAPE** Toledo

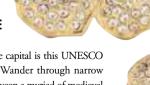
Just one hour from the capital is this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wander through narrow cobblestone streets between a myriad of medieval monuments, from the 10th century Cristo de la Luz Mosque and imposing Primada Cathedral to the Mirador del Valle viewpoint: an unbeatable spot to watch the sun set over the Tagus River. For a (literal) taste of this rich heritage, try the marzipan made by the Toledo nuns.













ENJOY AN EXQUISITE PASTICCERIA, A STROLL AROUND PIAZZA DEL DUOMO AND THE GALLERIA VITTORIO EMANUELE II, AN EXHIBITION AT THE PALAZZO REALE, AND AN AUTHENTIC RISOTTO ALLA MILANESE. THE CAPTIVATING CAPITAL OF FASHION AND DESIGN HAS SO MUCH ENERGY. ELLE ITALY GUIDES YOU.

#### TRENDY EATERY

Andrea Aprea (1)

Atop a historic building overlooking Porta Venezia Park, chef Andrea Aprea serves traditional Niapolitan cuisine with a contemporary twist. Against black "bucchero" ceramics on the walls, crowned with Murano glass, signature dishes include the 'Sub-Marine Risotto', prepared in the open kitchen.

Corso Venezia 52, andreaaprea.com



#### **LOCAL FOOD HOTSPOT**

 $ROST^{(3)}$ 

With a vision of sustainable cooking, this no-waste restaurant serves ultra-flavoursome small plates like ricotta with chestnut honey or succulent creamed cod and fennel. Against lime frescoes, complimented by green velvet booths, their producers are represented by 16 ceramic plates hanging on the wall. A culinary celebration of Italy's cultural heritage.

Via Melzo 3, rostmilano.com

#### **BUZZING BAR**

Mio Lab (2)

One of the city's most famous bars is nestled in a 5-star hotel. Test three interpretations of the classic Negroni to the menu: Il Conte in Spiaggia (balsamic notes), Taac (saffron infused gin), and Ettore (with coffee bitter, best for the winter months). Come for a lively aperitivo and stay late for DJ sets or live music Via Tommaso Grossi 1, hyatt.com

#### **HOTTEST NIGHT OUT**

Hollywood Rythmoteaue

On a street bustling with the city's trendiest bars and lounges, discover a cult favourite nightclub, attracting pop icons since the '80s. With its all-black interiors and New-York-style atmosphere, this glamorous spot is brought to life by eclectic DJ lineups, soon to host a music academy for up-and-coming artists.

Corso Como 15, hollywoodmilano.com





#### **PAMPER PLACES** Armani/SPA

On the eighth floor of Armani Hotel Milano, discover a 1000 square metre light-filled spa retreat complete with an ice fountain, sauna, and steam bath. Overlooking the city through floor-to-ceiling windows, this luxury oasis offers customised SPA treatments created with natural products. The panoramic views of the city aren't too shabby either.

Via Alessandro Manzoni 31, armanihotels.com

#### YOU OFF (5)

Experience unique specialist massages to rejuvenate the body, improve lymphatic circulation, and stimulate metabolism. From natural body scrubs to facials, each signature treatment is enhanced by a serene setting of minimalist, cream interiors.

Via San Maurilio 20, youoff.com

#### **BLANCHE**

The place to go for an expert hair transformation Whether you opt for Blanche's signature Color Total look, a balayage, or a simple cut and color, this salon will have your hair looking and feeling its best.

Via Giuseppe Sirtori 31, blanchemilano.com

#### SECRET ESCAPE

Bellagio

This colourful lakeside town in Lombardy looks out onto scenic views of Lake Como and the Alps. Wander thorough narrow cobblestone streets lined with picturesque medieval architecture, including the Basilica of San Giacomo, a Romanesque church. Home to serene public gardens surrounding the 19th century Villa Melzi, the 'Peal of Lake Como' exudes small-town charm, just an hour away from the city. **Province of Como** 

#### IT FASHION DESIGNER OUIRA (4)

Creative director and founder Veronica Leoni named her solo brand after her seamstress grandmother, Quirina. Following stints at at Jil Sander, Céline, Moncler, and then The Row, Leoni is a fashion veteran. Inspired by the cities of Rome (where she was born and raised) and London, her pieces encapsulate a soulful approach to design and a playful elegance. The Made in Italy label being produced on a mainly artisanal scale is an added bonus. BIFFI, Corso Genova 6, quira.it



**STYLE HUB** 

**MODES** 

Founded over 40 years ago by entrepreneur Aldo Carpinteri, this forward-thinking, omni-channel retail platform offers over 300 curated labels, from Fear of God to The Attico. MODES' recently refurbished district, housed in a 1900 former residence, minimalist, repurposed interiors.



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Lifestyle Lifestyle



packing/unpacking, shoe shining

spa offers a 25-meter pool, Vitality Pool, hydrotherapy rooms, and an exclusive Spa Suite, making it a sanctuary for relaxation and



# Bvlgari Hotel Paris

Luxury, Flavors, and New Suites in the Golden Triangle

THE LOWDOWN With the chic Avenue George V as its address, Bylgari Hotel Paris perfectly blends Roman jewelry heritage and Italian luxury in the heart of Paris's Golden Triangle. The hotel features 76 rooms and suites, including the stunning Serpenti Suite (launched in January 2025). This exclusive suite, available for a one-year-only experience, celebrates the Chinese Year of the Snake and offers guests an immersive journey into Bylgari's world. The suite's design reflects the iconic heritage of the Serpenti symbol, with every detail from luxurious Rubelli fabrics to vintage advertising carefully chosen to embody the brand's history. In addition to the Serpenti Suite, the hotel offers a range of accommodations, including the 400-square-meter Bylgari Penthouse, and a variety of other spacious suites.

BY DESIGN Stepping inside, the hotel dazzles with its distinctive interiors crafted by the renowned Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel. Every inch feels like a work of art, with marble, silk, and Eucalyptus wood reflecting the perfect balance of Italian sophistication and French artistry. The Serpenti Suite exemplifies this fusion, adorned with stunning design elements and plush Italian fabrics, making it a truly luxurious home away from home. Along with the grand suites, the Bylgari Hotel Paris offers an exclusive gastronomic experience, led by Michelin-starred chef Niko Romito, who curates each dish with a refined touch of Italian simplicity and elegance.

BEYOND THE TABLE Chef Niko Romito's Italian Sunday Brunch is an experience not to be missed. The perfect pairing of Italy's finest culinary classics, served alongside champagne and freshly pressed juices, captures the essence of convivial dining. Guests are welcomed into a vibrant space, which opens onto the garden terrace in season. The Sunday brunch includes fresh oysters, veal lasagna, and an impressive dessert selection, from classic tiramisu to red fruit baba. Dining here feels like an extended family gathering, where each dish embodies Italy's passion for simplicity and flavor, elevated by Bylgari's signature elegance.





Above: Michelin Star Dining: Italian classics with a contemporary twist from chef Niko Romito. Left: The Serpenti Suite: A one-yearonly experience to celebrate the



FOR THOSE LOOKING TO BASK IN THE FINEST OF PARISIAN AND ITALIAN LUXURY, THE BVLGARI HOTEL PARIS OFFERS AN EXPERIENCE WHERE ELEGANCE IS NOT JUST A STYLE BUT A WAY OF LIVING





#### THE LOW DOWN

A study in understated elegance and contemporary cool, The London Edition is a polished jewel in the heart of Fitzrovia. Designed by Ian Schrager, the hotel marries the grandeur of its Georgian bones with the pulse of modern London. Walk through its oak-paneled lobby and you're met with a heady blend of tradition and modernism: ornate ceilings hover over sleek furnishings, while oversized fireplaces add a clubby, intimate warmth. The vibe is effortlessly cosmopolitan, attracting creatives, fashion insiders, and travelers with an eye for detail. Its 173 rooms and suites maintain this balance - pared-back, with a Scandinavian restraint softened by warm wood accents, neutral linens, and subtle textures. There's a sense of hush and comfort in every corner, a welcome retreat from the buzz outside. Some suites offer striking views over the city's rooftops, while all come with curated minibars, rainforest showers, and Le Labo amenities. It's the kind of place where you can disappear for a weekend and emerge ≤ recharged, stylishly so.

#### **GOOD EATS**

Berners Tavern, the hotel's celebrated dining room, is a visual spectacle - soaring ceilings, gilded frames, and soft candlelight set the scene. Under the direction of Michelin-starred chef Jason Atherton, the menu champions seasonal British fare with flair. Don't skip the mac & cheese with braised beef blade.

DOROTHEE SCHUMACHER

PACK







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# A Taste of Sophistication, With a View

Inside Jumeirah Burj Al Arab's New One-Bedroom Suite





a blend of elegance, indulgence, and that ever-present sense of awe. Now, with the introduction of its newly unveiled onebedroom suite, the hotel delivers on all that

- and more. If you're searching for a space that balances luxury and comfort while offering spectacular views, this suite is it. Stepping inside, the first thing that strikes you is the effortless combination of space and style. The suite's design exudes a sense of understated glamour, with soft golds, plush textures,

and a light-filled living area that melts away the bustling energy of Dubai's streets. The king-size bed is as inviting as it looks, and the expansive windows let in not only the sunshine but sweeping views of either the Arabian Gulf or the iconic Dubai skyline.

#### **EVERY TOUCH**

It's the little things that make a stay at Jumeirah Burj Al Arab feel exceptional. The attention to detail - from the curated art on the walls to the plush sofa in the living area creates an atmosphere where every moment feels like a personal indulgence. And when it comes to service, it's impossible to overlook the hotel's legendary touch. Think welcome drinks upon arrival, and 24/7 concierge service that makes every wish feel within reach. The suite also has easy access to some of the city's best dining and experiences. Whether you're unwinding at the Summersalt Beach Club or enjoying a treatment at the Talise Spa, there's no shortage of activities to ensure your stay is as relaxed or exciting as you choose.

#### **ALL ABOUT YOU**

While the suite is designed for comfort, it's also designed for discovery. Perfect for a romantic getaway or simply a luxurious escape, this space has been crafted with a sense of purpose: to provide not just a stay, but an experience. The hotel offers all the services and touches that make it feel uniquely tailored, all while allowing you to enjoy the best that Dubai has to offer, from its Michelin-star dining to unforgettable beach views.

# Six Senses Zighy Bay, 0man

Wellness, Heritage, and Adventure Awaits



#### THE SETTING

Tucked between the Hajar Mountains and Oman's Musandam Peninsula, Six Senses Zighy Bay offers an idyllic retreat just two hours from Dubai. The 82-villa resort blends understated luxury with Omani charm, surrounded by stunning landscapes of palm-lined paths, azure waters, and rugged mountains. Emphasizing sustainability, the resort provides a serene environment for both relaxation and adventure. From immersive wellness experiences to cultural explorations, Six Senses Zighy Bay offers a variety of activities to nourish the body and soul.

#### **RELAX & CHILL**

Six Senses Zighy Bay's wellness offerings are designed to reset and revitalize. From the Holistic Biotech Facial to the Detox Programme, each treatment is carefully crafted to support guests' health goals. For those seeking more balance, the Yoga & Mindfulness Retreat combines Hatha yoga, meditation, and mindfulness practices to enhance physical strength and mental clarity. The resort also offers sleepenhancing therapies and fitness programs that incorporate both high- and lowintensity training with recovery methods like massage and aromatherapy. The luxurious Pearl Infused Remineralising Wrap and the traditional Wonders of Oman cleansing ritual also make for deeply rejuvenating experiences.

#### **CULTURE & ADVENTURE**

Explore Oman's hidden Sabatyn Village, a journey into the heart of history, or take a dive into the Gulf of Oman's rich marine life with world-class scuba experiences. For a taste of Omani heritage, the resort presents the Sense of Oman experience, a cultural journey through the art of local women, supporting the Dibba Women Association and their community projects.

#### FOOD & MOOD

The dining experience offers a true taste of Oman, with a focus on fresh, locally sourced ingredients. From the hilltop restaurant Sense on the Edge, guests can enjoy panoramic views while indulging in a 12-course tasting menu that celebrates organic and sustainable ingredients. For a more relaxed atmosphere, The Spice Marketoffers flavorful dishes inspired by the region's culinary traditions. Dining by the beach at Zighy Bar allows for casual bites and sunset cocktails, while Shu Shi delivers sushi and Asian-inspired cuisine in a serene setting.

hen you think of Dubai's most iconic hotel, Jumeirah Burj Al Arab, you imagine

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# One&Only Cape Town South Africa

A Coastal Retreat in the Heart of Cape Town

outh Africa has emerged as a dream destination for travelers from the Gulf region, with Cape Town offering an alluring blend of natural wonders, vibrant culture, and luxurious hospitality. Our three-night stay at One&Only Cape Town, nestled within the iconic Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, proved to be the perfect getaway. From the moment we arrived, we were enveloped in warmth and elegance. The weather was divine - crisp, clear, and bathed in golden light. The resort's architecture, designed to reflect both contemporary sensibilities and African heritage, provided an instantly calming atmosphere. Every staff member greeted us with a smile, and that spirit of genuine hospitality carried through every moment of our stay.

#### LUXURY MEETS LIFESTYLE

Our room was a serene sanctuary overlooking the marina, and just beyond, the majestic Table Mountain. The suite's spacious layout, impeccable décor, and private terrace made it feel more

like a luxurious residence than a hotel room. Evenings were made magical by live music in the lobby, setting a mellow tone as we transitioned from day to night. A highlight was our culinary experience at Nobu, the only one in Africa, where we enjoyed a specially curated menu that celebrated Japanese-Peruvian fusion with South African flair. We also embarked on a sommelier-led wine journey in the sleek Wine Studio. The guided tasting opened our palates to some of South Africa's most prestigious vintages, complemented by artisanal cheeses.

#### WELLNESS ON SPA ISLAND

The One&Only Spa, located on its own private island, is a true haven of wellness. After a deeply relaxing massage, we lounged by the vitality pools and basked in the lush greenery that surrounded us. The treatments, grounded in African healing traditions and modern skincare science, left us refreshed and rebalanced. It was a spa experience unlike any other – intimate, holistic, and thoroughly pampering.



# "THE RESORT'S ARCHITECTURE, DESIGNED TO REFLECT BOTH CONTEMPORARY SENSIBILITIES AND AFRICAN HERITAGE, PROVIDED AN INSTANTLY CALMING ATMOSPHERE"

#### EXPLORING, EFFORTLESSLY

The resort's prime location made exploration seamless. Just a 5-minute walk took us to the vibrant waterfront, where we strolled after every meal, enjoying local crafts and views of the harbor. The concierge organized an unforgettable trip up Table Mountain, complete with panoramic vistas that left us in awe, as well as a sunset neon-lit kayak tour around the resort's waterways! One&Only Cape Town proved to be the perfect springboard to some of the city's finest offerings. Whether watching the sunset from the balcony, sipping cocktails at Vista Bar, or enjoying a walk to the marina, it struck a balance between comfort and discovery. The resort itself offers plenty to enjoy at a relaxed pace, without ever feeling overwhelming. With its thoughtful design, prime location, and attentive service, our stay felt both restorative and quietly unforgettable.



#### Elle INTERNATIONAL

### **ARIES**

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

Saturn is now in your sign, for the first time in many years. Despite his reputation as a bringer of hard times, life with Saturn isn't actually so bad once you get used to it. Think of him as a sort of next-level personal trainer, someone who pushes you to your absolute limits, making you work harder than you ever thought you could - but at the same time making you stronger, tougher, and in the end, more successful.

### CANCER

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

Let short-term concerns look after themselves for a while, and think about the future instead. As Saturn crosses the top of your chart, it signals a step up in your career, with greater responsibilities and prestige. At the same time, Jupiter enters your own sign, beginning a new cycle of growth which will last deep into the 2030s. Where do you want to be by then? Whatever the answer, it starts here, now.

### **TAURUS** 20 APRIL - 20 MAY

A relationship from the past is proving irresistible now, and although you know you shouldn't, you can't help the way you feel. Actually, there's less real emotion in this than you think. What gives it its power is firstly that it's a secret romance, which is always exciting, and secondly that there is a time limit on the affair, as you both know. It has only a few weeks to run; enjoy it while it lasts, then let it fade away.

### IF()

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

Do you have a set of standard procedures that you apply to all problems? Routines that have worked for you in the past, and that you are sure will do so again? That era is over, so you need to re-think your approaches. Ask yourself whatif questions. Think about what you do, and why. Alter your viewpoint, create new objectives. It may seem a pointless exercise, but it isn't; it's preparation for a very different future.

# GEMINI

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

For the first time in many months, you feel free. As Saturn leaves the top sector of your chart the pressures you have been under at work will lift almost instantly, and the new moon two days later will help you turn the page, and make a new start. There are all sorts of opportunities open to you, but one in particular has a clear cut-off date of June 8th. If you want it, grab it, before it slips out of your reach.

### **VIRGO**

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

Everything about the next few weeks is big. A big work opportunity that could take you several steps upwards; a big new realisation that gives you a different way of thinking about the world and your place in it; and the resolution of a big question in your love life which offers wider options for a happier future. Don't ask too many questions, or get caught up in little details; keep it all big, and let it carry you forward.

Text by BERNARD FITZWALTER

### LIBRA

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

A wonderful little romantic episode looks set to lift your heart. Does this mean that your relationship is back on again after recent upsets? Not necessarily. If it is, then there must be a new understanding between you, a firmer set of rules for you both to keep to, which will give the affair a more serious tone. But if this is the point at which you part, then at least the parting is sweet, and you'll remember it fondly.

### CAPRICORN

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

A new chapter starts now as your ruler Saturn reaches the bottom of your chart. This is the foundation point, the bedrock from which you build new successes. But rather than external achievements, the career highs that everyone can see, what you are working for now is to enrich your inner life, your private life, and your relationships. If you haven't found anyone special yet, don't worry - you soon will.

### SCORPIO

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

You could be coming to the end of a successful career phase. This is good, but be careful: if, as seems likely, you are rewarded by a promotion, make sure it puts you somewhere you want to be. If you are thinking that you can use it as a stepping stone to better things, a short-term position you can move on from, then be aware that the planets may keep you there for three years, not three months. Still want it?

# SAGITTARIUS

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

There are clear signs this month that you are making real progress, doing things rather than just talking about them. Each step you take will show you a wider horizon than before, and boost your ambitions. You also get a long-term reminder now from Jupiter and Saturn, a sort of fiveyearly check-up to see how you're getting on. You're fine - but you still have lots to do, so keep building momentum.

### **AQUARIUS**

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

Taking on new duties at work will mean that you have even less time to give to the things you love doing away from the office. Suddenly, your life is filled with extra schedules and meetings. The upside of all this activity is that the financial pressures you have been under for months will now lift, giving you more money to spend - but of course, no time to do it in. Why does life always have to be this way?

### **PISCES**

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

At last, Saturn slips out of your sign, as Neptune did in March: the silence will be wonderful. For a little while, you can allow yourself the luxury of not having to do anything, or respond to any planetary pressures. Bliss. You are not totally forgotten; your original ruler Jupiter will soon move into the lover's sector of your chart to re-energise your love life. But until he does, you have two weeks all to yourself.

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