

ELLE

ARABIA

80^{YEARS}

A Parisian Celebration

JULY/AUGUST 2025

THE
WORLD
IS
CALLING

SUMMER
STYLE
BEAUTY
AND
ESCAPES

NATALIA
VODIANOVA
A BRIGHTER LIGHT

UAE DHS 30





CHANEL

COLLECTION MÉTIERS D'ART 2024/25

ELLE

July/August 2025
Issue 167
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On the COVER

Natalia Vodianova in Total Look by Givenchy, and Beauty by Guerlain (New Rouge G Majestic Feathers, Terracotta La Teint Glow Foundation 1.5 N, Terracotta Concealer 1.5, Meteorites Powder 02 Cool / Rosé, Ombres G Eyeshadow Quad Wild Nudes, The Intense Color Eye Pencil 02 Brown Earth, Terracotta Bronzer 01 Light Warm + 03 Medium Warm, Brow G Brow Pencil 03 Medium Brown, Mad Eyes Mascara)

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80 YEARS
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True Blue... FROM BREEZY DRESSES TO BOLD STONES, TURQUOISE IS THE SHADE OF THE SEASON. FRESH, EFFORTLESS, AND MADE FOR SUN-DRENCHED DAYS.

LOEWE

TALLER MARMO

TIFFANY & CO. BLUE BOOK 2025 - SEA OF WONDERS

SAINT LAURENT

AQUAZZURA

DOLCE & GABBANA

JIMMY CHOO

OF SAND & SUN...

Soft neutrals are in the spotlight, making for an easy yet chic mix-and-match wardrobe



Ed's picks

SUMMER, STYLED

This issue? It's a passport to everything we love about summer - easy glamour, meaningful escapes, and women making waves in all the right ways.

We kick off in Paris with our cover star Natalia Vodianova, glowing in Guerlain's Terracotta Le Teint Glow and captured in the season's freshest looks. Model, philanthropist, changemaker Natalia opens up about reinvention, purpose, and why beauty always goes deeper than what we see.

Inside, we're championing culture and creativity. At Ithra, Farah Abushullaih is rewriting the story of overlooked Arab women artists, while Maryam Al Falasi's Iris Projects is giving Gulf talent the global spotlight it deserves. In Riyadh, Chef Dana Hallani is blending flavors and family roots into something unforgettable.

Travel-wise, we're dreaming in every direction - from

the charm of Istanbul's side streets to Paris rooftops and coastal escapes that make you want to pack your bags (and your raffia tote).

There's art in the details this season; handcrafted jewels, statement fashion, and beauty that's all about feeling strong, glowing, and totally you. Wherever you go this summer, bring a story with you. Or better yet, make one.

See you in the sun,



Dina Spahi
dina.spahi@ellearabia.com



- 1. MIU MIU
- 2. FARM RIO
- 3. ERES
- 4. BOTTEGA VENETA
- 5. GUCCI
- 6. RABANNE
- 7. LOEWE
- 8. VALENTINO



The NECKLACE

Cartier's Panthère Dentelée necklace from the En Equilibre Collection celebrates intricate craftsmanship with its daring yet refined design, embodying the spirit of the panther in high jewelry form.



The BROOCH

Chanel's high jewelry "Reach for the Stars" brooch features a stunning design of stars and wings, capturing the essence of celestial elegance.



The SHOE

Celine introduces the "RACER" sneaker, a blend of athletic 70's style with modern elegance, crafted from nylon, suede, and leather, featuring the iconic "Triomphe" signature.

ELLE

radar

DESIGNING MOVEMENT... German luggage manufacturer Rimowa and Swiss design furniture company Vitra have come together to introduce The Aluminium Stool: a mobile cube has an upholstered interior for storage space., while the lid's detachable seat cushion adds comfort. The Rimowa Vitra 2025 Aluminium Stool is a limited edition of 1,000 pieces , available in Silver & Ice Blue, Silver & Papyrus and Silver & Emerald.



Let's Roll...

SUMMER TIME TRENDS AND TENDENCIES ARE FUN, COLORFUL, AND ECLECTIC

Trending... In the Navy

Not quite ready to sail the seven seas? No worries — this summer, looking the part is just as good. From classic striped chinos to laid-back windbreakers, nautical style brings timeless charm to your warm-weather wardrobe.



MOSCHINO \$25



RABANNE \$25



VAILANT \$25



MONSE \$25



HILFGER \$25

FASHION MEMO

A CURATED ROUNDUP OF
THE BEST NEW FASHION AND
NOTEWORTHY PIECES TO PAY
ATTENTION TO NOW!

Aboy There

Prada's ReNylon Mariner bag sails in two standout shades—cool ocean blue and bold crimson red. The real question? Which wave will you ride first.



MIU MIU \$25

On Our Wishlists

She sells sea shells on the sea shore — and this season, they're gracing our lobes. Whether coral, conch, or a mix of both, serving beach vibes for days.



1. JENNIFER BEHR
2. AQUAZURRA
3. BEGUM KHAN
4. DOLCE & GABBANA

Everybody's Wearing... Senso Jellies

If you haven't jumped on the jelly sandal wagon yet, what are you waiting for? Senso's fresh take on this nostalgic summer staple mixes transparency with bold shapes, making these glossy, colorful shoes (especially the red!) the ultimate must-have for sun-soaked days and city strolls alike.



LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT



Coveted Collab

WHO: ADANOLA X LEXXOLA

WHAT: Adanola's first-ever eyewear drop is here. A limited-edition capsule of one sleek silhouette in three killer shades: Coffee Bean, Tort, and Black — inspired by their signature activewear colors. Functional, fresh, and it-girl approved.



Sardine Girl Summer

Sardinecore is here, and it's reeling us in. From souvenir-style prints to tongue-in-cheek tees, this fishy trend is pure bait — and we're biting.

1. ANTHROPOLOGIE
2. LISA SAYS GAH
3. NEVER FULL DRESSED
4. H&M
5. STAUD



BOHO BLISS

Nothing says carefree like breezy
crochet, sun-bleached accents,
and earthy accessories that channel
wanderlust with every detail.



1. THE ATTICO 2. CHLOÉ 3. ZIMMERMANN 4. JESSIE WESTERN
5. TANNING CLUB 6. ISABEL MARANT 7. AQUAZURRA 8. ALANUI
9. JOHANNA ORTIZ 10. RABANNE 11. JUJU VERA

1. MIU MIU 2. FARM RIO 3. JADE SWIM 4. TALLER MARMO
5. LENNY NIEMEYER 6. JACQUEMUS 7. RABANNE 8. JULIETTA
9. LA BONNE BROSE 10. CHLOÉ



TROPIC TONES

Think lush textures, jungle
shades, and heat-soaked glamour
rooted in nature.

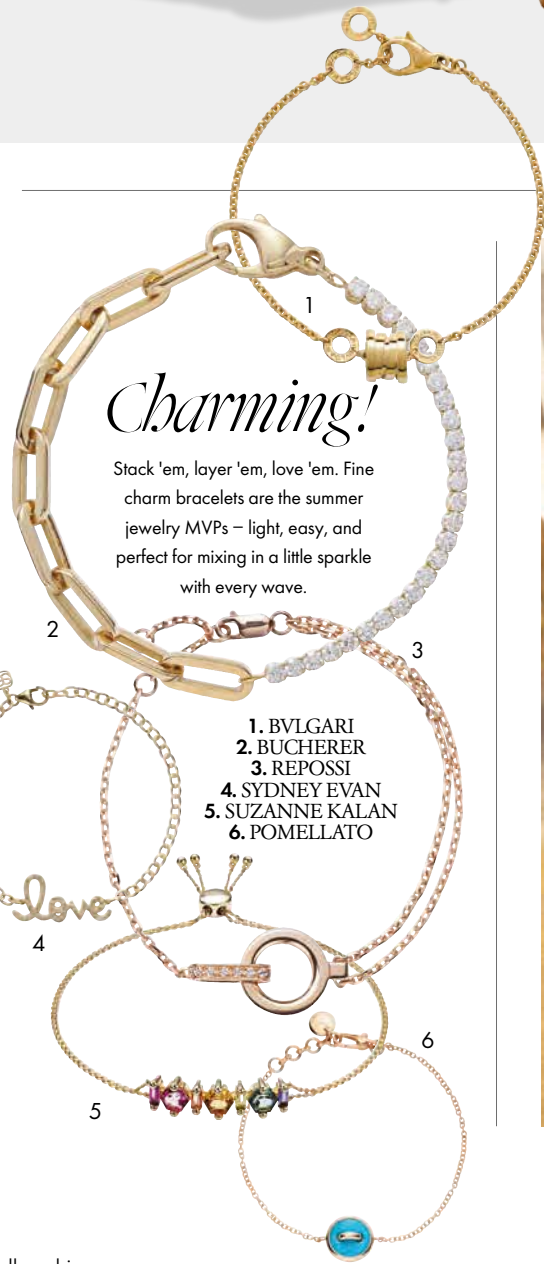


LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT



In the Bag

Say hello to Dior's newest It-bag: the D-Motion. Debuting with the Autumn-Winter 2025-26 collection, this macrocannage-detailed beauty blends craftsmanship with comfort – complete with "D-I-O-R" charms, a drawstring closure, and an adjustable strap for crossbody ease. Available in leather finishes from soft black to powder pink, it's the chic sidekick you'll want on repeat from July onward.



Charming!

Stack 'em, layer 'em, love 'em. Fine charm bracelets are the summer jewelry MVPs – light, easy, and perfect for mixing in a little sparkle with every wave.

1. BVLGARI
2. BUCHERER
3. REPOSSI
4. SYDNEY EVAN
5. SUZANNE KALAN
6. POMELLATO



Here Comes the Sun...

Golden hour, but make it fashion. From sunflower yellow to burnt orange, summer's boldest accessories and breeziest looks are serving citrus energy. Add a little sunshine to your wardrobe – no SPF required.

ELLE

accessories

THE CARRYALL RECAST...
Hermès reimagines utility with the Tablier Sellier handbag, crafted in Hunter leather and rendered in Fauve, Gold, and Ecrû-Beige.



Soft Power...

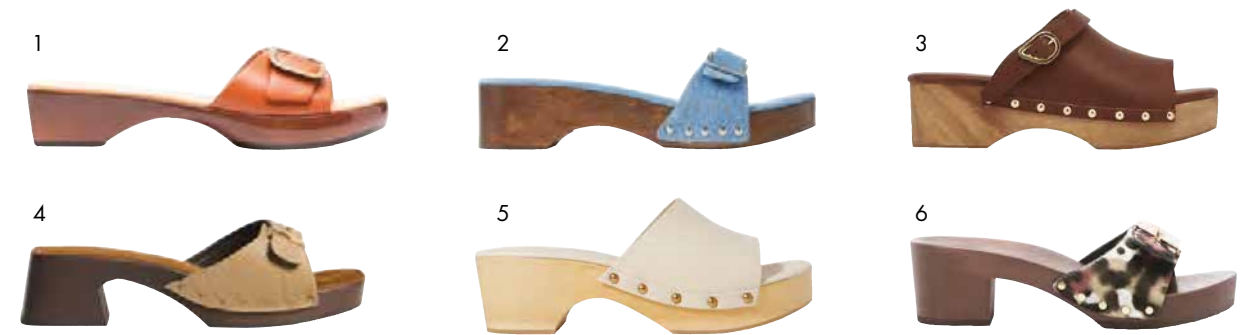
ACCESSORIES TAKE ON NEW STRENGTH IN DELICATE, SCULPTURAL FORMS - WHERE SOFTNESS MEETS STATEMENT



BLOCK PARTY

Boho goes bold, open-toe wooden clogs are the height-boosting heroes of summer.

ON OUR WISHLISTS



1. TOD'S 2. NASS 3. ANCIENT GREEK SANDALS 4. KHAITE 5. AEYDE 6. SCHOLL

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

MOCHA MOOD

Ditch the beachy beige, dark raffia is this season's most refined upgrade.



LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT



1. MIU MIU 2. DEMELLIER 3. TOD'S 4. STAUD 5. SENSI STUDIO 6. NANNACAY 7. DOLCE & GABBANA 8. MANEBI 9. IBELIV 10. CHLOÉ



MANOLO BLAHNIK X MYTHERESA

In Conversation with... KRISTINA BLAHNIK

This collection is inspired by the French Riviera and Manolo's love for art and summer. How did you turn those memories into something people can wear today? I think in many ways for us it's so easy to create something relevant for South of France, because a little part of Manolo lives here in his mind because he loves the whole lifestyle, the culture, the color, history that comes from the South of France. Stripes is something that he's always used consistently, the colors again, the red white and blue – you put these elements together and it's Manolo's silhouettes. It was a joy and pleasure when Mytheresa came to us with this idea, because it completely resonates with who we are at Manolo. We have a full spread of different categories, like flats, heels, for different areas, sand, pools, lawns, etc., day to night looks – beach to cocktail looks.

It's the first summer capsule for both men and women. Why was now the right time to include menswear, and how did you keep that signature Manolo feel in both? It is the first capsule at Mytheresa that we've done which is men's and women done together, outside of our direct consumer. So, doing this with Mytheresa was really something very

KRISTINA
BLAHNIK

The Côte d'Azur has long been a muse for artists and designers, and now it becomes the soul of a new summer story. For their debut seasonal capsule with luxury retailer Mytheresa, Manolo Blahnik reimagines coastal elegance through a playful yet polished lens. The 21-piece collection - available exclusively on Mytheresa – features bi-color sandals, raffia mules, striped ballerinas, espadrilles, clutches, and more in a crisp palette of navy, white, and red.

Kristina Blahnik, CEO of Manolo Blahnik, describes the collaboration as a natural expression of the house's deep connection to the South of France. "A little part of Manolo lives there," she says, noting his fondness for the culture, color, and artistry of the region. The capsule reflects this sensibility, offering day-to-night versatility across categories and silhouettes. With effortless sandals for sandy paths, striped pumps for seaside lunches, and refined clutches for evening fêtes, the collection delivers Manolo's signature creativity and comfort with a Riviera twist.

For the first time, the brand also introduces summer styles for men within the capsule – a move that feels timely and intentional. "Doing this with Mytheresa was really something very creative and grounded in luxury," Kristina shares. It's also a nod to the region's growing importance, especially among Arab clientele, where the demand for standout pieces rooted in sparkle, craftsmanship, and tradition is ever evolving.

creative and grounded luxury that we truly had a pleasure to work with. The level of curation that Mytheresa has is second to none! Its magical how all the brands together tell a wonderful story here in South of France.

The brand is known for colour, elegance, and craftsmanship. How did you bring that spirit into a more relaxed, coastal collection? It all started from the designing part, and it's something that we never take our minds off it. We try all the shoes on with different feet, sizes, etc., because we feel what is the point in creating something for someone to wear if it has no purpose, otherwise it's just a piece of sculpture. So, there's not a single collection that doesn't start from creativity and comfort. Quality and breathability are also key elements that we can't ever compromise on.

Why was Mytheresa the perfect partner for this launch, and how does it fit with how you want to reach today's customers, especially fit for the Arab women in this region? There are many instances where I've been to Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha, however, I've never had the chance to go to Saudi but I'm planning to. I feel all women know how to glide and move in a certain way, it's very fascinating to my and Manolo. Their passion for color is second to none. The other thing is how women gravitate to shines and sparkles. In terms of capsule collection, we did the Ramadan collection which is made with gold crystals and various materials. So, yes, this is a very important region to ensure we are talking about these special moments.

How is Manolo Blahnik working toward sustainability, and were there any eco-conscious choices made in this capsule? Of course! Our position on this is that we do not create a single product which is not sustainable for this planet. We are very much on a journey of responsibility, because that's the spectrum to be responsible and everything in between. Our commitment to this is constantly be driving to the nirvana of sustainability. I think it's very important to communicate our pieces. We don't want to be a brand who say they are sustainable, just for the sake of saying it. We do a lot behind the scenes and actually from within. Animal welfare is a huge part of our foundation work and company part, because our products are from animals and a few years ago we published our animal welfare books and we believe in freedom of eat, drink and making sure the animals' skins we use are curated for the fashion industry. We don't use anything like fur, etc., it's a long journey but this is



MANOLO BLAHNIK X MYTHERESA

MANOLO BLAHNIK X MYTHERESA

"WE ONLY STARTED OUR RELATIONSHIP ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO AND EVERYONE FROM THE TEAM IS SO AMAZING AND EVERYONE JUST ENJOYS WHAT THEY'RE DOING. I'M REALLY EXCITED TO SEE WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS. MYTHERESA IS ALMOST THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN!"

really important to us. Even if it's a tiny step, we make the initiative.

How was the collaboration with Mytheresa? It was so much fun – it's the chicest company. There isn't one piece that's not perfection. We only started our relationship about four years ago and everyone from the team is so amazing and everyone just enjoys what they're doing. I'm really excited to see what the future holds. Mytheresa is almost the jewel in the crown!

What are your future plans, what are the new collaborations that we can expect? In terms of Mytheresa, we're always talking about new ideas. In September in London, we are the exclusive sponsors of the Marion exhibition at the V&A; and Manolo's love for Marion is

lifelong and we know he did the shoes for her and so many other things. It's magical about her style in her era and her passion for art and interiors. It's four different sections and eras of Marion's influence. The exhibition will be between 18th – March next year and we have the exclusive collection. Some will be in the Dubai stores as well. We spent 18 months in making for this and it's almost September. We're also opening in Milan and Italy in September. It's so emotional for us because all are shoes are made in Italy. Having a home there, is something we're most excited about. Would you like to add anything for our readers? Keep gliding, shining and being beautiful as you are!

Grasping at Straws

From *temples in Rajasthan* to the shores of Greece, raffia bags carry more than just *your summer essentials* they carry stories, craftsmanship, and *timeless charm*.

Living in Saudi Arabia, the summer-long holiday to India became a sacred rite of passage — a time to see extended family, enjoy mini breaks within and around the country, and make temple visits. These temple visits often took us to quieter parts of Rajasthan. Within those little lanes and hole-in-the-wall shops, I'd find the prettiest woven bags — jute and silk existing side by side—and handloom weaving taking center stage. And so began my love affair with handbags.

Natural fibres like straw, raffia, jute, and palm leaves have been used for functional purposes across the world for centuries. Ancient Egyptians carried straw baskets for storage and transport; Mediterranean communities used them for farming, fishing, and traveling; Asian cultures used straw weaving to cover food and for décor; African cultures — especially in Madagascar — used raffia in everything from utility to aesthetics; and the Amazon Basin and Andean regions of South America have for millennia utilized local plant fibres in countless ways.

These fibres tell a tale as old as time. They are created through hand-harvesting and intricate weaving, techniques passed down through generations. Historically, these materials were renewable, biodegradable, and often sustainably harvested.

Now, when we think of raffia, we think of Loewe's Paula's Ibiza baskets.

WORDS BY SWATI IAIN



JACQUEMUS



CELINE

LOEWE PAULA'S IBIZA

These straw bags have been fashionable summer accessories for women in Mediterranean and European regions since as early as the Middle Ages. More recently, the breakout moment for straw bags came in the 1950s. They became status symbols — subtle signifiers of how far the wealthy had traveled — and gradually evolved into smaller, kitsch picnic basket-style pieces.

Then came Jane Birkin. Before the Hermès Birkin took the world by storm, Jane was already known for her charisma, wit, and effortlessly bohemian aesthetic. She was often seen carrying a wicker basket bag — an everyday fashion statement. A hefty basket overflowing with keys, makeup, market finds, and the occasional baguette. The tote was sometimes embellished with a scarf tied around the handle.

From then on, summer collections from all the major fashion houses began to incorporate straw, raffia, and hand-weaving techniques. Today, designers are creating styles far beyond the classic beach tote: structured silhouettes, sculptural maxi bags, compact clutches, bucket bags, and crossbodies — often blending raffia or straw with leather, metal, and other luxury elements. Innovations in weatherproofing and design have pushed these pieces beyond seasonal use.

These bags appeal for different reasons: the natural charm and versatility of the rustic, organic aesthetic that screams handmade and artisanal; the relaxed, effortless feel of a summer look; the adaptability — thanks to the wide variety of shapes, colours, and styles now available. And in today's conversations around sustainability, as we become more educated consumers, the biodegradable and renewable nature of straw and raffia aligns with our growing sense of responsibility in consumption.

So, as you prepare to pack your summer getaway into a suitcase, these undisputed heroes of the season become a statement piece — whether it's to carry baguettes from a little bakery in the South of France, fresh lemons from Sicily's fruit markets, or your sun essentials on the shores of Greece.

"THESE STRAW BAGS HAVE BEEN FASHIONABLE SUMMER ACCESSORIES FOR WOMEN IN MEDITERRANEAN AND EUROPEAN REGIONS SINCE AS EARLY AS THE MIDDLE AGES"



SEZANE



JANE BIRKIN



PRADA

TURN UP THE VOLUME

This Summer, bold reds take center stage layered in texture, print... and heat!



BRUNELLO CUCCHINELLI



PUCCI



JULIETTA



AQUAZURRA



LA DOUBLEJ



GUCCI



MIGUELINA



MISSONI



PRADA

ELLE

jewelry

ARCHITECTURAL
WONDER
Boucheron's newest Quatre
Classique Tube pieces
are akin to sculptures,
to be worn on the body.
This angular bracelet,
conceived by Claire
Choisne, is modern art.



By Design...

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE INCREDIBLE SYNERGY BETWEEN ART
AND CRAFTSMANSHIP, AND A TOUCH OF MAGIC!

Balancing ACT

For Cartier, unveiling their latest high jewelry collection in Stockholm was more than a choice of location it was a deliberate embrace of balance, tradition, and modernity. Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer Arnaud Carrez reveals how En Équilibre reflects the Maison's commitment to craftsmanship, timeless style, and its evolving dialogue with a new generation of clients.

CARTIER EN EQUILIBRE HJ
TSAGAN NECKLACE



CARTIER EN
EQUILIBRE HJ
TRAFORATO
EARRINGS

Why did you choose Stockholm to unveil this collection? What makes it the right backdrop for "En Équilibre"? Stockholm was an idea that came from many internal discussions, with the aim of constantly surprising our clients and friends. As you know, at Cartier we like to push boundaries — including our own. It may complicate things, but we enjoy reinventing ourselves at every opportunity. We wanted a fresh destination, which led us to choose Stockholm, Scandinavia. It's a city that remains relatively under the radar, yet offers the perfect blend of tradition and innovation. There's a strong sense of minimalism, and a harmony where nature meets the city — making it a fitting backdrop for the 'En Équilibre' collection. Another reason is our longstanding presence in Scandinavia. We've been here for many decades, but our first boutique in Stockholm opened in 2018, followed by Copenhagen in 2019 — so in many ways, Stockholm became Cartier's first home in the region. And finally, what's quite special is our historic relationship with Sweden's royal family, which dates back to 1904. Last year's collection had a face. This year's doesn't. Why did you take a different approach? First and foremost, what's most important and fundamental for us at Cartier are the pieces and sets. Sometimes we have clients of the Maison wearing and complimenting the pieces — like Monica Bellucci and many others — so yes, we do have faces. But for us, what's absolutely essential is to reveal the collection. It's not always about the faces. We always want to build long-term relationships with our clients and friends of the Maison — like Monica, who has been with us for more than 30 years. We love building long-lasting relationships, and this is what



Jewelry

matters most. For instance, Timothée Chalamet has been with us for the past 7 years, but he's never officially been the face of Cartier. So this proves that, even if we don't highlight one face, we are still our clients' choice.

"En Equilibre" is all about balance. What inspired this new high jewelry story? I would say all high-jewelry collections are special and this collection expresses the singularity and plurality of Cartier's style. At Cartier we have many different styles – it's like a living language constantly developing new structures and multiple territories of expression; this collection reflects on the richness of diversities. What makes this really special is the idea of contraries (opposites) which is enhanced in this collection – you can see simple designs with color associations, like on rings or necklaces. Even the new lace detail on one of the necklaces — that's something entirely new for us.

Cartier is one of the most iconic names in luxury. What makes it so timeless and still so relevant today? I think, first, it's our unique heritage and innovative craftsmanship. Cartier was born as a jeweler in 1847, so we have decades of creativity — and that's what makes us so special in the world of high jewelry. We've acquired a level of craftsmanship that's incomparable to other Maisons that have entered the high jewelry world in just the last 10 years. If you get a chance to visit the Vienna exhibition in London, which is open until November, you'll see 350 pieces of jewelry on display.

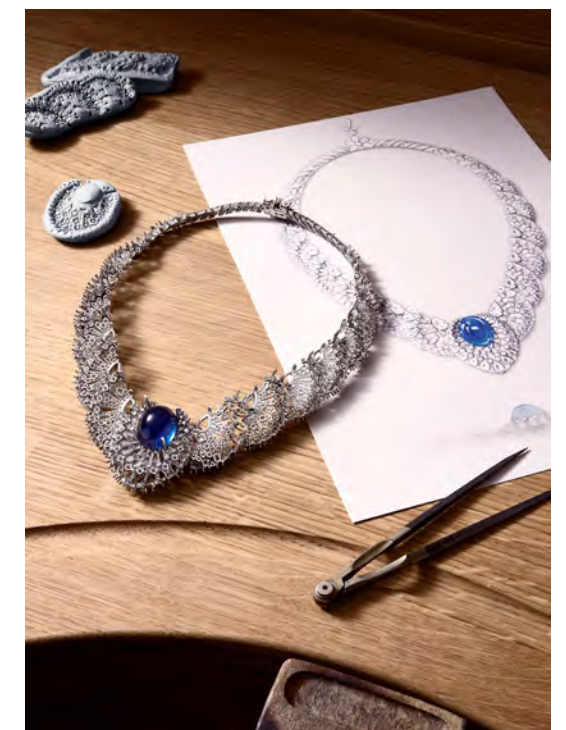
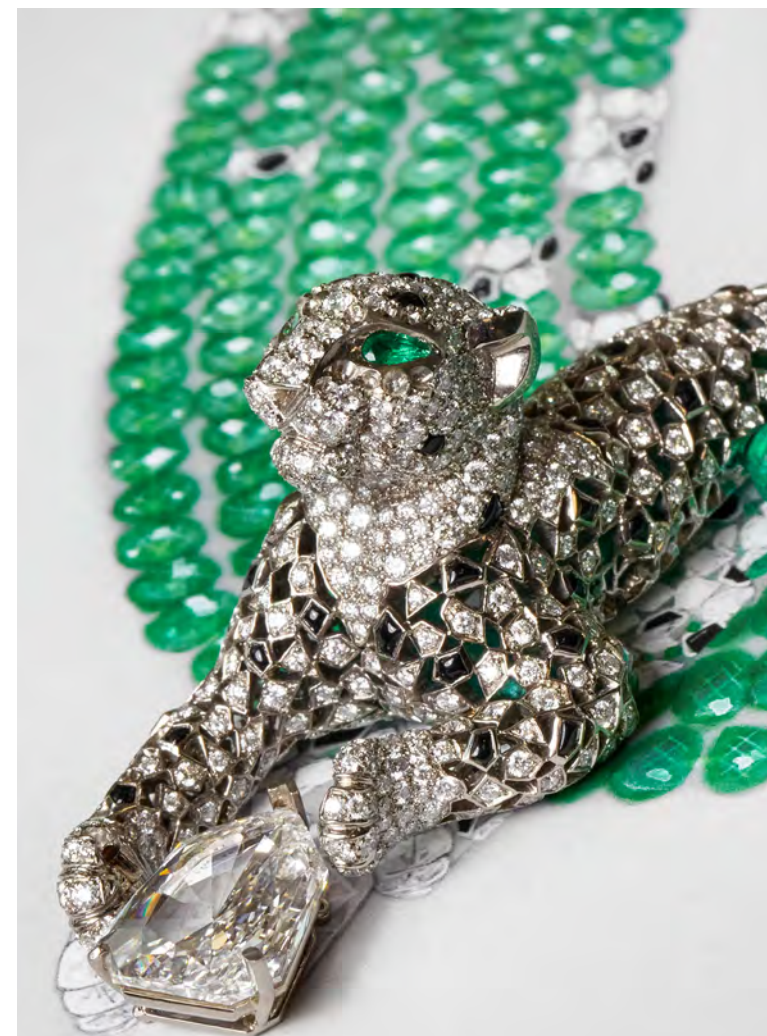
“CARTIER HAS THIS ABILITY TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE EXTERNAL WORLD, ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR BEAUTY—WHEREVER IT MAY LIE. THIS IS A PERMANENT QUEST THAT DRIVES CARTIER”



All of these pieces reflect our uniqueness and our profound respect for heritage. At the same time, we're always pushing boundaries to surprise our clients.

How do you keep heritage alive while speaking to a new generation? Cartier has this ability to stay connected to the external world, always searching for beauty —wherever it may lie. This is a permanent quest that drives Cartier. The Maison has always been obsessed with the beauty of the world around it. This openness and connection to the world are absolutely fundamental for us. It's what continues to give birth to objects that are strong in both style and design — which is why they resonate deeply and connect with people's personalities. When we launch a collection, we never say, "This will be an iconic collection." It's for the people to decide that. The best example is Clash de Cartier. When it launched in 2019, we weren't expecting it to become as successful as it is today. We're proud to say that Clash has become an iconic collection in a very short time. Normally, icons take years to be established and nurtured — Trinity dates back to 1924, and Love to 1969. Clash, on the other hand, was an unprecedented success. It's only been six years since its launch, and it's already a universal and generational obsession.

If you had to describe Cartier's role in the world of luxury right now, what would you say in one sentence? "The jeweler of style" – Why? Because, as I was saying earlier, we are the leader in the world when it comes to jewelry. We were born as a jeweler, and our unique craftsmanship, attention to detail, and ability to balance relevance with timelessness make us stand out. In the past, we used to say: "King of jewelers, jeweler to kings." Today, I say "the jeweler of style" because of the richness, variety, and plurality of what we offer. And at the same time, when you wear a Cartier piece, it feels like a shield — something that reinforces your power, confidence, and individuality.





POLYCHROMA

A Bold Universe of Color and Craft

Bulgari's latest High Jewelry and Watch collection celebrates diversity, cultural fusion and color redefining boundaries with five milestone masterpieces and over 250 new creations



IN SICILY, UNDER THE STARS

To mark the launch, Bvlgari returned to Italy – but not to Rome. Instead, the setting was Taormina, perched above the Sicilian coast, where the ancient meets the theatrical. Guests gathered at the Teatro Antico for a one-night-only show that unfolded like a living installation – models walking beneath open skies in full Polychroma. The guest list included longtime muses and new faces alike, with appearances from Carla Bruni, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Anne Hathaway, and Liu Yifei – each wearing pieces from the five High Jewelry Wonders.

STONE BY STONE

What sets Polychroma apart isn't just the volume of rare stones used, but how unexpected gem combinations have been brought together – rubellite with tanzanite, yellow diamond with emerald – and how they've been cut in varied shapes and set with attention to balance. The approach is less about symmetry, more about composition.



THE COLLECTION

Like a prism refracting light, Bvlgari's Polychroma radiates vibrancy, fusing plural identities, vivid gemstones and multidimensional design. With over 600 pieces (including 60 'millionaire' creations) this is the Roman jeweler's most ambitious expression of craftsmanship yet.

At the heart of the collection are five High Jewelry Wonders, each transforming nature's rarest stones into breathtaking symbols of storytelling and heritage. From the architectural grandeur of Cosmic Vault to the cultural richness of Celestial Mosaic, Polychroma spans continents and centuries through color. Its star, the 131.21-carat Tajikistan spinel, is the world's fourth largest and glows in a tapestry of emerald, onyx, and Mughal-inspired beauty. Another standout, Polychromatic Bloom, dazzles with a trio of rubellite, peridot, and tanzanite cabochons.

THE WATCHES

Bvlgari's High-Jewelry Watches in Polychroma merge Roman spirit with Swiss precision, transforming timepieces into wearable art. At the poetic edge of this collection, Nuvole Preziose evokes Baroque domes with a yellow sapphire-centered pendant watch and detachable cloud earrings. Notte Stellata Diva conjures a mystical Roman night with moving fireflies and a sapphire-set moon under a cabochon dome. The sleek Serpenti Aeterna distills the Maison's snake icon to its essence – clean, coiled, and powerful – while Gioco di Forme e Colori dazzles with a detachable brooch and rainbow of stones. The bold Tubogas e Colori manchette embraces vibrant hardstones like sodalite and turquoise, framed by a flexible Tubogas cuff. Most models feature the record-breaking Piccolissimo mechanical movement; the smallest in fine watchmaking that allows uncompromised design freedom.



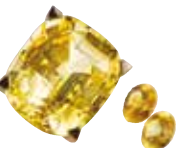
Nuvole Preziose Pendant Watch - crafted over 1,500 hours and set with a 6.88-carat yellow sapphire & detachable cloud earrings



Serpenti Aeterna Watch - the evolution of an icon in emeralds and sapphires



In conversation with...
... CORINE LE FOLL



We spoke to Corine Le Foll, Bvlgari's Jewelry CEO, about leading the brand into a new creative era.

What drew you to Bvlgari? My past in French jewelry gave me deep respect for heritage. Joining Bvlgari offered something different, Italian audacity and a freer approach to creativity. I was excited to embrace that boldness.

What makes Polychroma so important? It's a turning point. A true homage to Bvlgari's DNA color, vibrancy, and multicultural inspiration. It also pushes innovation, offering new combinations and wearability that reflect modern desires.

Your favorite piece among the five Wonders? The Celestial Mosaic. It's more than a necklace it's architectural softness, color harmony, and historical depth in one. The mosaic structure includes 500 elements. It's emotional to see how it blends technique and storytelling.

How does Serpenti speak to today's woman? Serpenti is transformation. Every woman has a moment of personal rebirth, and this symbol resonates universally. It's intimate, timeless, and empowering.

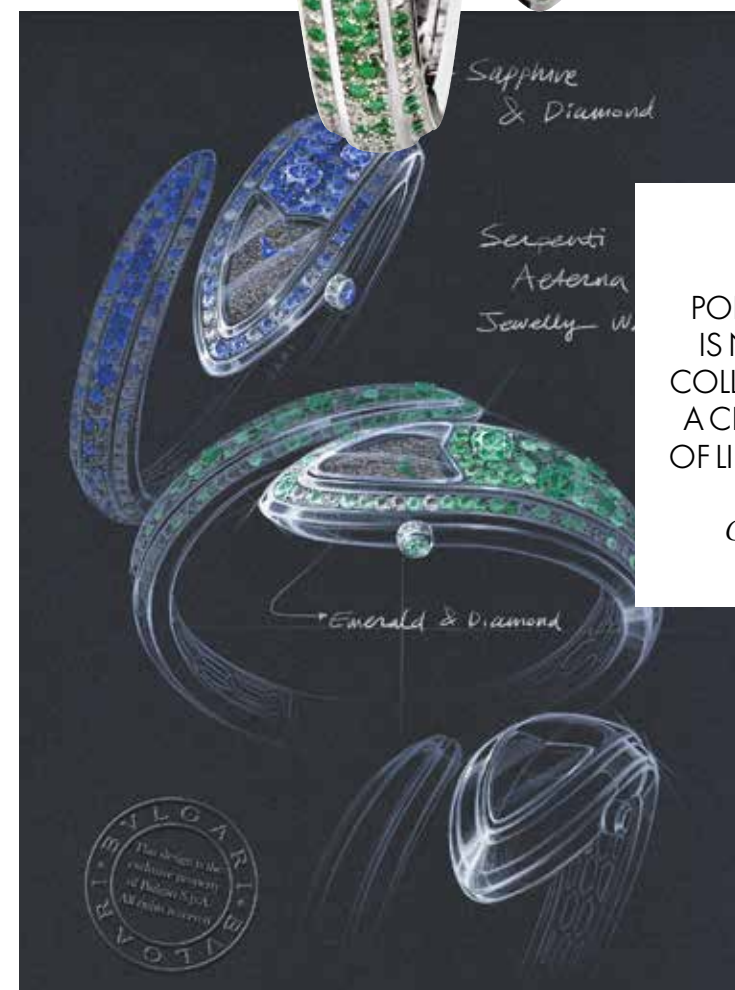
And the Middle East? There's a real affinity bold, discerning clients who deeply appreciate craftsmanship. We thrive on that energy and connection.

Why own more than one Bvlgari piece? Because one never feels like enough. The Serpenti, especially it's a forever icon.

“POLYCHROMA IS NOT JUST A COLLECTION - IT'S A CELEBRATION OF LIFE THROUGH COLOR”
Corine Le Foll



Gioco di Forme e Colori Watch - a riot of gems and geometry





Composed in COLOR

BOGHOSSIAN'S LATEST
HIGH JEWELRY
COLLECTION CELEBRATES
THE ART OF CONTRAST

With its newest high jewelry collection, Boghossian turns its attention to the art of placement: of colour, cut, and contrast. Lirya explores unexpected gem pairings and fluid design with a quiet, modern edge and a bold approach to color, as each piece brings together vibrant, non-traditional gemstones – aquamarines, rubellites, moonstones, green tourmalines, morganites, and tanzanites. “These stones possess their own kind of magic,” says Roberto Boghossian, Managing Partner. “Their softer hues and unexpected pairings offered the opportunity to create something poetic with pieces that are contrasting and harmonious.”

Instead of relying on symmetry, stones are set to highlight their differences, allowing colours to play off each other rather than blend. There’s a sense of fluid movement across the pieces – one might lean into watery blues and pale pinks; another might go full tilt into rich greens and punchy reds. In several pieces, gemstones are positioned to overlap or nearly touch, creating a visual rhythm through size and tone.

Add to that Boghossian’s signature craftsmanship and a light, sculptural approach to settings, and you get pieces that feel as wearable as



ROBERTO BOGHOSSIAN,
MANAGING PARTNER,
BOGHOSSIAN



they are complex. “We wanted to translate a sense of graceful connection into how the gemstones interact,” Boghossian adds. “Each piece becomes a celebration of harmony through contrast, softness meeting structure.” The settings are minimal, allowing the

stones to define the silhouette. Rather than building designs and fitting gems into them, the pieces appear to be constructed around the individual character of each stone.

The name Lirya, he says, is meant to evoke grace, poetry, and movement — “like a melody or the gesture of a dancer.” And while these gems are less traditional, sourcing them in the exceptional size and quality required is no easy feat. “We’ve cultivated trusted relationships with specialised gem dealers who understand our creative vision.”

While the craftsmanship is unmistakably high jewelry, there’s an ease to it. Nothing looks overworked or overly precious. These are pieces you could imagine wearing with a crisp white shirt or an evening dress, depending on the mood. And while Lirya follows last year’s Palace Voyages, Boghossian says each collection unfolds in its own time, “marking a chapter in the Maison’s evolution.”

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MANY PIECES FEATURE
ASYMMETRICAL
LAYOUTS, CURVED
SETTINGS, AND A
SENSE OF MOVEMENT
THAT RUNS THROUGH
THE COLLECTION”



All Eyes on

AGAINST THE STUNNING
BACKDROP OF PARIS,
SUPERMODEL AND
PHILANTHROPIST
NATALIA VODIANOVA
IS CAPTURED IN THE
SEASON'S FRESHEST
LOOKS ALONGSIDE
GUERLAIN'S LATEST
INNOVATION:
TERRACOTTA LE
TEINT GLOW. INSIDE,
SHE OPENS UP IN AN
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
ON BEAUTY, PURPOSE,
AND THE POWER OF
REINVENTION.

FOR ALL LOOKS:
Terracotta La Teint
Glow Foundation 1.5 N,
Terracotta Concealer 1.5
Meteorites Powder 02
Cool / Rosé
Ombres G Eyeshadow
Quad Wild Nudes
The Intense Color Eye
Pencil 02 Brown Earth
Terracotta Bronzer 01
Light Warm + 03 Medium
Warm
Brow G Brow Pencil 03
Medium Brown
Mad Eyes Mascara
Guerlain Beauty

Contour G Lip Pencil 01 Le Bois De
Rose, Rouge G 08 Le Nu, KissKiss Bee
Glow Oil 258 Delicate Pink
Guerlain Beauty
Top, Dior

Photographer & Creative Direction BRYCE ANDERSON
Stylist HUGO TOUCAS



New Rouge G Majestic Feathers
Guerlain Beauty
Shirt, Louis Vuitton; Necklace,
Lauren Rubinski



KissKiss Bee Glow Balm
129 Rosewood Glow,
Contour G Lip Pencil 02
Le Beige Praline, Rouge G
131 Le Beige Praline
Guerlain Beauty
Dress, Prada; Jewelry,
Chloe

KissKiss Bee Glow Balm 129 Rosewood
Glow, Contour G Lip Pencil 02 Le Beige
Praline, Rouge G 131 Le Beige Praline
Guerlain Beauty
Dress, Prada; Jewelry, Chloe

Cover story



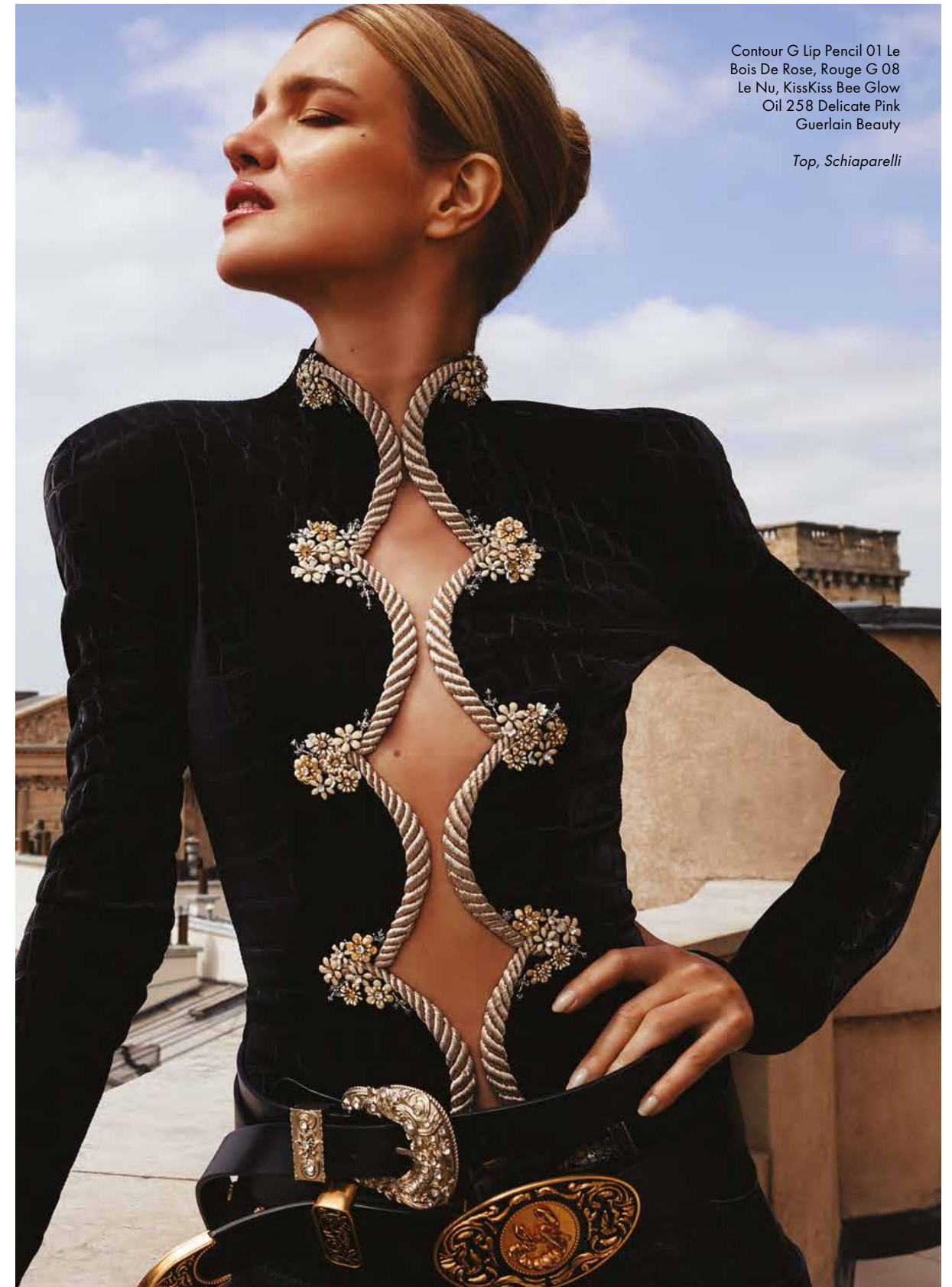
Cover story

Ombres G Eyeshadow
Quad Honey Amber,
Contour G Lip Pencil 03 Le
Brun Tonka,
KissKiss Bee Glow Oil 775
Poppy Red, Terracotta
Blush 05 Deep Coral + 02
Light Coral
Guerlain Beauty
Hat, Bonfilio; Dress, Patou



Contour G Lip Pencil 01 Le
Bois De Rose, Rouge G 08
Le Nu, KissKiss Bee Glow
Oil 258 Delicate Pink
Guerlain Beauty

Top, Schiaparelli



In conversation with... Natalia Vodianova

You've been the face of Guerlain for some time now. What is it about the brand that resonates with you? Guerlain's Parisian DNA speaks to me. There's a quiet elegance, a singularity, that feels very true to who I am. I appreciate the brand's timeless approach to beauty. It's never about trends, but about refinement and authenticity. Their vision of natural beauty aligns perfectly with how I see myself and others: beauty that enhances rather than conceals. There's something couture-like in the textures, the scents, the packaging. I also deeply value Guerlain's commitment to nature, sustainability, and thoughtful innovation.

What's your favorite product from Guerlain's latest collection? Terracotta Le Teint Glow is my current essential. It gives me that sunlit glow in a way that feels effortless and fresh. I often apply it with my fingers, and it melts into the skin like a second skin. Rouge G continues to surprise me with its texture and finish. It is not just about colour, it is about comfort. The formula is so nourishing that it feels like care for your lips, not just makeup.

What does radiance mean to you, beyond just beauty products? Radiance is an energy. It comes from being at peace with yourself. When I feel calm, grounded, and inspired, it immediately shows on my face. I have learned that radiance comes from being present and fully in the moment. Tai Chi helps me reconnect with that. As soon as I begin to move and breathe with intention, the glow comes back.

What's one beauty secret or ritual you've learned over the years that you swear by? My grandmother was incredibly elegant and deeply health-conscious. She would go running early in the morning and swim in frozen lakes, long before cold therapy became a trend. She taught me that beauty is rooted in discipline and self-respect. Like her, I stay curious and open to what science has to offer, especially when it supports long-term well-being. One of my true beauty secrets is sleep. It's transformative. Nothing works unless I'm rested, but as a mother, I am of course sleep-deprived!

How has the definition of beauty changed in your eyes since you began your career? When I started more than twenty years ago, beauty was often treated as something external. It was about fitting a certain image. Over time, I have come to understand that beauty is much more internal. It is about how you carry yourself, how you treat others, how connected you are to your own rhythm. I am more drawn to authenticity and softness than perfection. Beauty feels more human to me now.

You have such a timeless look. How would you describe your personal style and how it's changed over the years? I don't think

it has changed very much. I have always been drawn to classic shapes, natural fabrics, and pieces that feel lived in. What people now call "granny core" has always felt like home to me. I once said to Grace Coddington during a shoot, "I wish I could dress like this every day." She looked at me and said, "You can wear whatever you want, Natalia." That stayed with me, I feel free to switch from one style to another, from boyish tailoring to couture gowns to cashmere pajamas.

What's the most memorable moment from your time in the fashion and beauty industries? It is difficult to choose a specific moment. What stays with me is the privilege of working with some of the most brilliant people in the industry. From hair artists and makeup legends to stylists, photographers, producers, and set designers. It is deeply humbling to have brought their visions to life.

As a mother and a career woman, how do you juggle your personal and professional life? I rely on the people around me. My husband, my team and my partners make all the difference. I am also lucky to have children who understand why I do what I do. They are thoughtful and supportive. We talk a lot about purpose in our family, and they've grown up knowing that my work includes helping others. I hope that one day they will see my journey as part of their own heritage.

You're known for your advocacy work. How do you choose the causes that are closest to your heart? I don't choose them, they're part of me. I grew up with challenges that shaped how I see the world. The Naked Heart Foundation came from that experience and a sense of responsibility to do something meaningful. I care deeply about inclusion and dignity, especially for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. Joining UNFPA was a natural step. It speaks to the empowerment of women, and that mission resonates with my personal story. Special Olympics is another cause close to my heart, and it remains one of the most impactful communities I have had the honour to support.

What's a day in your life like when you're not working – how do you unwind and recharge? Whether it is with my children, my foundation, or creative work, my days are full! But I've found that I recharge from work by being a mother, and I also recharge from motherhood by working. I love walking in nature, being in the forest, or spending quiet moments in a garden. One of my favourite places in Paris is Kupala, a Russian-style banya created by Elena Dimitrenko, who used to be on my team and now runs her own agency. It's where I go to recharge deeply.

What's the best piece of advice you've received throughout your career, and how did it impact you? Learning to say no changed the way I live. I used to say yes too often. Sometimes out of politeness, sometimes out of fear. Eventually I understood that saying no is not negative. It is a way of choosing your priorities, and makes space for what matters most.

PHOTOGRAPHER/CREATIVE DIRECTION BRYCE ANDERSON; STYLIST HUGO TOUCAS; MAKEUP HINDASH; HAIR DEENA ALAWAID; PHOTOGRAPHER ASSISTANT PETE HAWK; 2ND PHOTOGRAPHER ASSISTANT ERYKA PRUSZYŃSKA; PRODUCTION ON SITE JORGE ROSEL AT WE MADE IT AGENCY; LOCATION CHEVAL BLANC PARIS



Contour G Lip Pencil 01 Le
Bois De Rose, Rouge G 08
Le Nu, KissKiss Bee Glow
Oil 258 Delicate Pink
Guerlain Beauty
Total Look, Jacquemus

Beauty APPOINTED

ONE OF THE MIDDLE EAST'S MOST
CREATIVE BEAUTY VOICES JUST JOINED
FORCES WITH A FRENCH ICON, HERE'S
WHY HINDASH AND GUERLAIN ARE A
PERFECT MATCH.

Photographer & Creative Direction DIALA BASSATNE

It started the way most great beauty obsessions do—with a lipstick, a memory, a feeling. For Mohammed Hindash, it was Guerlain. “There’s always been something about the Maison,” he once said. The textures, the finishes, the history—it all spoke to his painter’s soul. Fast forward a few years (and a global beauty career later), and the Dubai-based artist is now making history himself: Guerlain has just named him its first-ever Regional Make-Up Ambassador for the Middle East.

It’s a big move for both sides. For Hindash, it’s a full-circle moment—from YouTube tutorials and canvas paintings to creating his own cosmetics line and now representing one of the world’s most iconic beauty houses. For Guerlain, it’s

a powerful statement about the future of beauty in the region—and who gets to help shape it.

A classically trained artist with an instinct for restraint (never overdone, always intentional), Hindash has become known for his hyper-detailed technique and his ability to make skin look like, well, better skin. He’s not chasing trends—he’s telling stories through tone, texture, and a steady hand. It’s this very approach that aligns so effortlessly with Guerlain, a house known for its refined formulas, art-meets-nature ethos, and Parisian elegance.

But make no mistake: this isn’t about simply fronting a campaign. It’s about curation, collaboration, and connection. Hindash’s appointment marks a new kind of ambassadorship—one that’s grounded in artistry and regional relevance. He’s not just applying product; he’s adding perspective.

“I’ve immersed myself in the rich history of the Maison,” he shared. “This

partnership is about storytelling—on faces, in moments, through makeup.” Expect to see Guerlain’s signature creations—think Terracotta bronzer, Rouge G, and luminous, skin-first finishes—reimagined through Hindash’s lens.

The move also reflects a broader shift: legacy brands are recognising the creative capital coming out of the Middle East. With its deep beauty traditions, bold aesthetics, and appetite for both luxury and innovation, the region isn’t just being spoken to—it’s being spoken with.

In Hindash, Guerlain gains not just a talented hand, but a distinct voice. One that understands that beauty isn’t just seen—it’s felt. And with this new chapter, both are poised to bring something meaningful (and beautifully made-up) to the surface.



Vétiver Fauve
Fragrance, Guerlain

Left to Right: Johnny Ribeiro - Chief Brand Officer, Guerlain; Gabrielle Saint-Genis Rodriguez - CEO of Guerlain; Natalia Vodianova - Philanthropist, Model, Entrepreneur and face of Guerlain beauty; Hindash - Regional Makeup Ambassador Middle East



Photographer Lea Khneisser



New Rouge G Majestic Feathers, Guerlain



LORO PIANA

& THE SPIRIT OF THE SEA

Rooted in a deep family passion and a legacy of craftsmanship, Loro Piana's intimate bond with sailing shapes its vision, fuels innovation, and inspires timeless icons. From regatta decks to city streets, the Maison masterfully blends performance, elegance, and savoir-vivre in every creation.



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SAILING IS MORE
THAN A SPORT
FOR LORO PIANA
—IT'S A LIVING
LABORATORY
WHERE
INNOVATION
MEETS TIMELESS
ELEGANCE”

Few luxury maisons embody the spirit of the sea as intrinsically as Loro Piana. For this iconic Italian house, sailing is not just a sport or pastime — it is woven deep into the fabric of its identity. Rooted in tradition, driven by passion, and perfected through relentless craftsmanship, Loro Piana's love for sailing shapes its vision, fuels innovation, and inspires some of its most iconic designs.

The story begins with the Loro Piana family's lifelong connection to the water. From serene lakes near Valsesia to the vibrant shores of Sardinia, sailing has been a constant in their lives. Pier Luigi Loro Piana, a devoted sailor and regatta competitor, continues this legacy aboard the fifth vessel named *My Song*, racing alongside his crew and family across the Mediterranean. His brother Sergio shared this devotion, both men embodying a lifestyle that celebrates the sea's freedom and challenge.

But sailing is far more than a family hobby — for Loro Piana, it is a unique laboratory of nature and innovation. The ever-changing conditions of wind and water demand garments that combine impeccable performance with effortless elegance. This duality is at the heart of the Maison's approach: creating pieces that are as functional on the boat as they are stylish in the city.





LORO PIANA
GIRAGLIA RACE
VILLAGE



Over the decades, Loro Piana's deep involvement with prestigious sailing events — from the Settimana dei Tre Golfi to the Superyacht Regattas of Porto Cervo and the Caribbean — has only deepened this connection. Their ongoing partnerships with leading yacht clubs and regattas reinforce the brand's commitment to sailing as both sport and lifestyle.

This dedication is visible in the Maison's iconic creations, each bearing the mark of the sea. The White Sole shoe, launched in 2005, is a perfect example. Inspired by the demands of yacht decks, it features a slip-resistant, flexible sole crafted from a blend of natural rubber and technical materials designed not to mark wooden surfaces. Hand-assembled in Italy from the finest buttery suedes and leathers, the shoe combines supreme craftsmanship with nautical functionality, making it a versatile piece for both formal and casual wear.

Similarly, the Loro Piana Bomber jacket epitomizes the marriage of style and innovation born from sailing. Introduced in 2003, this lightweight yet warm jacket features the exclusive Windmate® fabric — developed through collaboration with a Japanese sailmaker. By blending the strength and compactness of sailcloth microfibers with the softness of cashmere, Loro Piana created a garment that is both high-performance and refined, ideal for unpredictable sea breezes or urban outings.

Then there is the understated elegance of the André shirt, a timeless piece inspired by the relaxed sophistication of 1950s Neapolitan gentlemen. Created in 1998 and named after Swiss artist André Piot, who shared textile insights with the family, this shirt was born from a desire for a garment equally at home on a Mediterranean boat deck or a city terrace. Crafted in lightweight linen treated with aloe vera for softness, the André shirt embodies the effortless savoir-vivre central to Loro Piana's ethos.

What makes these pieces so special is their seamless transition from sea to city. Loro



“

EACH ICONIC PIECE, FROM THE WHITE SOLE SHOE TO THE BOMBER JACKET, CARRIES THE SPIRIT OF THE SEA, DESIGNED TO PERFORM BRILLIANTLY ON DECK AND EFFORTLESSLY IN THE CITY.”

Piana's sailing heritage informs every stitch and fabric choice, ensuring each garment not only performs brilliantly in the open air but also exudes timeless style and comfort. This versatility reflects the modern lifestyle where boundaries between work, leisure, and travel blend fluidly.

At its core, Loro Piana's sailing spirit is about more than technical excellence; it is a celebration of a refined lifestyle rooted in nature, tradition, and passion. The Maison's unwavering commitment to quality and innovation, inspired by the sea ensures it continues to create not just clothing but enduring icons of elegance and function.



LORO PIANA PROUDLY RETURNS AS TITLE SPONSOR OF THE PRESTIGIOUS 2025 GIRAGLIA REGATTA, A LEGENDARY 241 NAUTICAL MILE RACE FROM SAINT-TROPEZ TO GENOA. THIS PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATES THE MAISON'S ENDURING SAILING HERITAGE AND PASSION FOR CRAFTSMANSHIP, UNITING SPORT, TRADITION, AND TIMELESS ELEGANCE ON BOTH SEA AND SHORE.



LORO PIANA
GIRAGLIA
2025, AWARD
CEREMONY

In an ever-changing world, Loro Piana navigates confidently, guided by the values of its heritage and the endless horizon of the sea. Sailing remains its true north a source of inspiration that keeps the brand relevant, sophisticated, and effortlessly stylish season after season.

Your Ride, Reimagined



Wheely has officially rolled into Dubai, and it's not your average car service. Think impeccably dressed chauffeurs trained in etiquette, a concierge-level app, and rides in Mercedes-Maybachs or BMW 5 Series with Evian water and disinfecting wipes at the ready. For members, there's "Chauffeur for a Day" and access to the ultra-exclusive W223 S-Class. Born in Switzerland, perfected in London, and now cruising the Gulf – Wheely is luxury transport with real polish.

Seaside Reverie

Dior's Dioriviera 2025 collection isn't just fashion – it's a full-on summer mood. Alongside Maria Grazia Chiuri's sun-soaked designs, Dior Maison introduces beach-chic homeware from Toile de Jouy cushions and candles to hand-painted ceramics and vintage-inspired fans. There's even a Dior water bottle. Yes, hydration can be haute.



When in Italy...
Missoni just landed in Ibiza in style, opening its first boutique on the island and transforming OKU Ibiza into a dreamy Missoni Resort Club. Think poolside lounging in signature zigzag prints under the Mediterranean sun – fashion meets vacay goals.



Read Between the Palms
Miu Miu's Summer Reads 2025 is taking storytime outdoors, from Paris to Osaka, with curated novels by Simone de Beauvoir and Fumiko Enchi. Grab a Miu Miu-stamped copy and unwind in the park – it's lit(erary).



Love, Lake Como
Passalacqua isn't just a hotel, it's a heart-stealing ode to Italian romance, nestled on the shores of Lake Como. Once home to composer Bellini, now a dreamy retreat with just 24 suites and enough charm to write your own opera.

ELLE

fashion

SCHOLARLY CHIC...
JW Anderson's Loafer Bag turns footwear into fine form – its handstitched pennykeeper, sole-inspired base and top handle transform the classic loafer into a sculptural, carryall icon



Quiet Impact...

STRIPPED TO ESSENTIALS, EVERY FRAME OF THESE SHOOTS SPEAKS - SILHOUETTE, TEXTURE, AND MOOD IN PERFECT BALANCE

Black and White Blouson Jacket in Satin Jacquard
Embellished with Jeweled Buttons, Ecrú Jacket in Satin
Jacquard Embellished with Jeweled Buttons, Black and
White Flared Trousers in Satin Jacquard Embellished with
One Jeweled Button, Gold Chanel 25 Bag in Metallic
Grained Leather and Metal, White and Black Boots in Satin
and Grosgrain with Topstitched Wedge Heels



the ART. within

Chanel 2024/25 *Métiers d'Art Collection*
channels Gabrielle Chanel's private *inspirations* and the
expert craftsmanship of the *Maisons d'art at le19M* the House's
Parisian hub dedicated to preserving artisanal excellence
into a dreamscape of *travel, memory, and art*

Photographer/Videographer MICHEL TAKLA
Stylist JADE CHILTON

Gold Strappy Dress in Crumpled Leather, Embellished with Floral Braid; Black Clutch in Patent Leather and Metal; Gold and Black Earrings in Metal and Resin; Black Quilted-Effect Heeled Sandals in Crumpled Shiny Leather and Patent Leather



Long Black and Gold Dress in Embroidered Wool Knit; Black and Gold Necklaces in Metal and Resin; Gold Bag in Metallic Leather and Metal; Black Boots in Suede Calfskin and Leather

Short White Jacket in Tweed Embellished with Braid and Jeweled Buttons; Ivory
Pleated Trousers in Silk Satin Embellished with One Jeweled Button



Belted Gold Jacket in Crumpled
Leather, Embellished with Floral
Braid and Jeweled Buttons;
Cropped Gold Trousers in
Crumpled Leather Embellished
with One Jeweled Button;
Gold and Black Earrings in
Metal and Resin; Silver, Red and
Black Necklaces in Metal, Glass
and Strass; W Gold Minaudière
in Strass and Metal



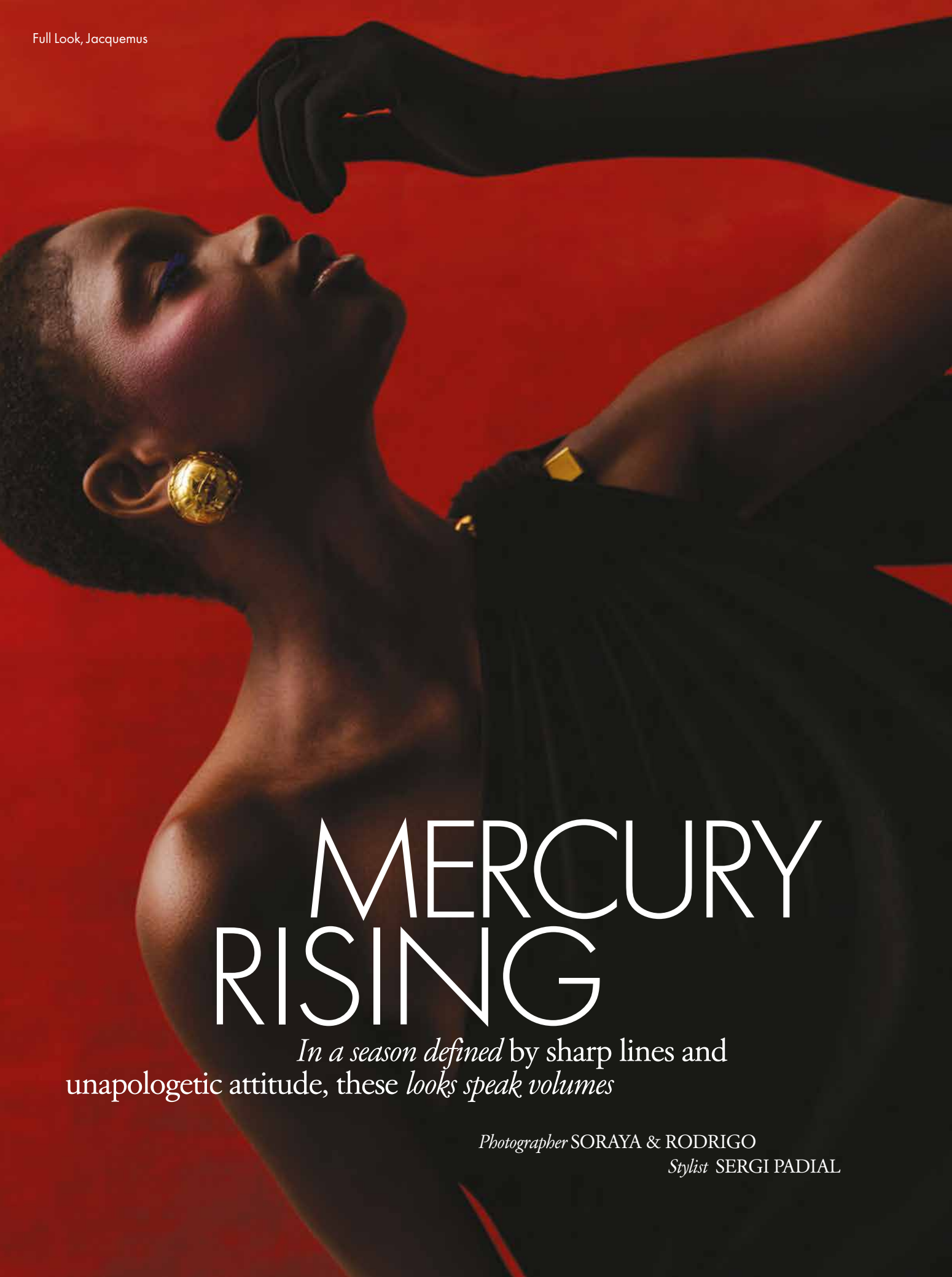
Blue, Yellow, Green and Pink Cardigan in Cashmere, Silk and Feathers; Long Blue, Yellow, Green and Pink Skirt in Cashmere, Silk and Feathers; Blue, Yellow, Green and Pink Cashmere Scarf; Gold and Black Earrings in Metal and Resin; Light Green Bag in Satin and Metal; White and Black Boots in Satin and Grosgrain with Topstitched Wedge Heels



TALENT/ANA; PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER MICHEL YARLA; STYLIST/DADE CHITON; MAKEUP/ARTIST MICHEL KIWAKINS; HAIR/STYLIST/MIAN KUTIZ; LOCATION/PAUS, CLUB



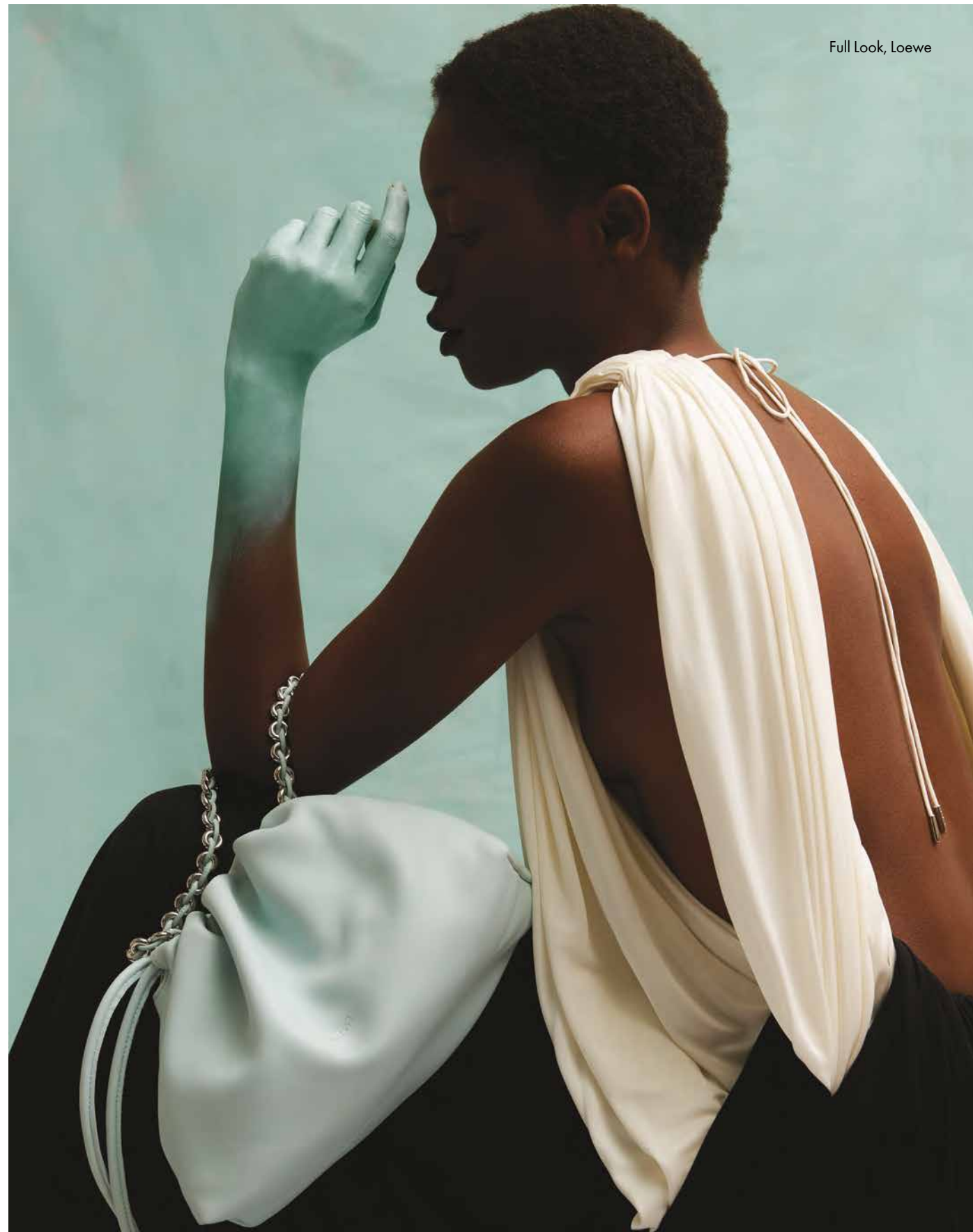
Short Dark Brown Shearling Jacket with Jeweled Buttons; Dark Brown Shearling Vest, Embellished with Jeweled Buttons; Black, Gold and Multicolored Dress in Lurex Knit with Floral and Bird Motifs, Embroidered with Sequins; Black, Gold and Multicolored Leggings in Lurex Knit with Floral and Bird Motifs, Embroidered with Sequins; Brown Bag in Velvet, Zircon and Metal; Black Boots in Suede Calfskin and Leather



MERCURY RISING

*In a season defined by sharp lines and
unapologetic attitude, these looks speak volumes*

Photographer SORAYA & RODRIGO
Stylist SERGI PADIAL







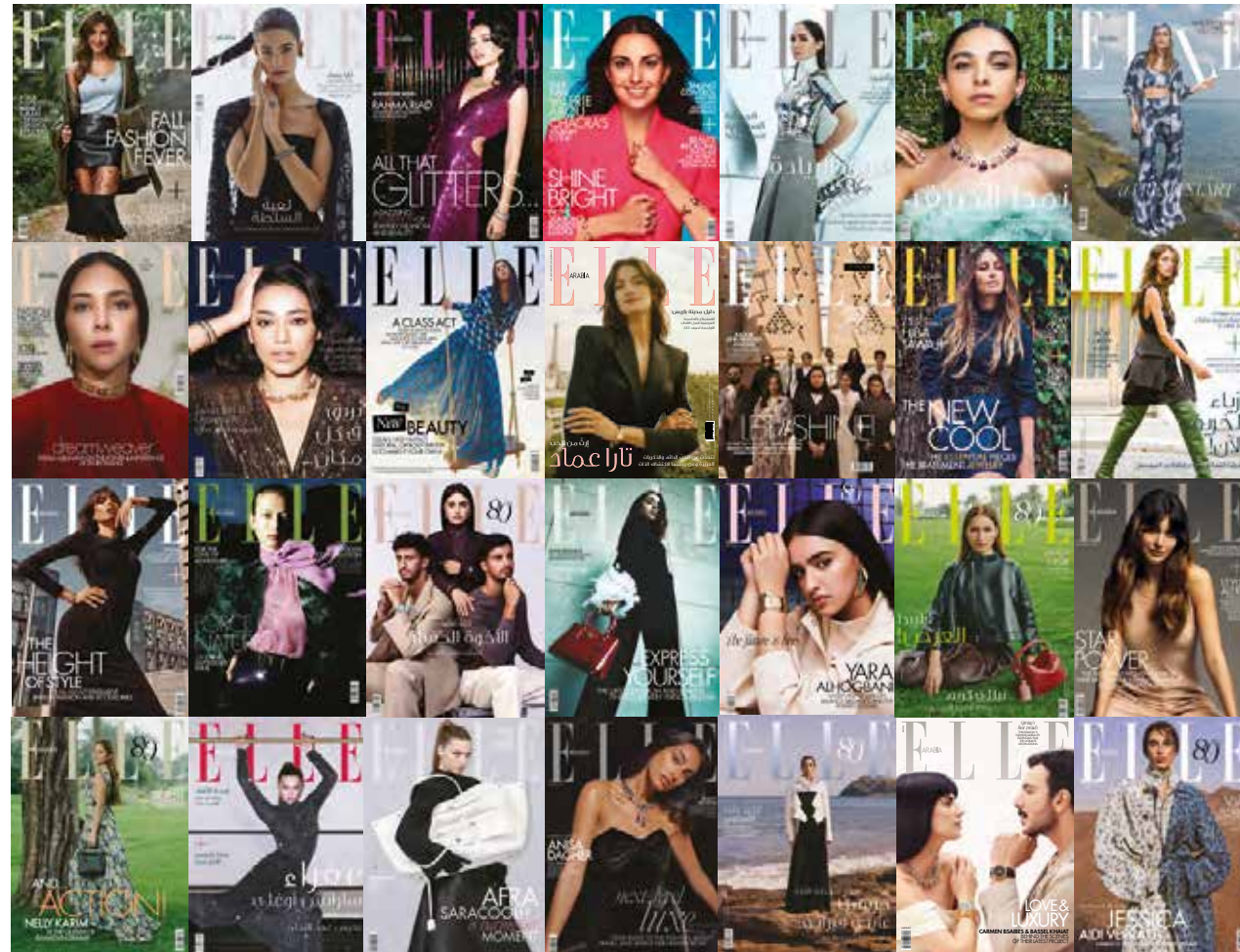
Full Look, Ferragamo

PHOTOGRAPHY: SOBAY&RODRIGO, STYLIST: SERGI PADIAL © MMG ARTISTS, STYLIST ASSISTANT: EDGAR LÓPEZ, MAKEUP & HAIR: MARESCO FOR DIOR BEAUTY, MAKEUP & HAIR ASSISTANT: MARTA RICO



Full Look, Saint Laurent

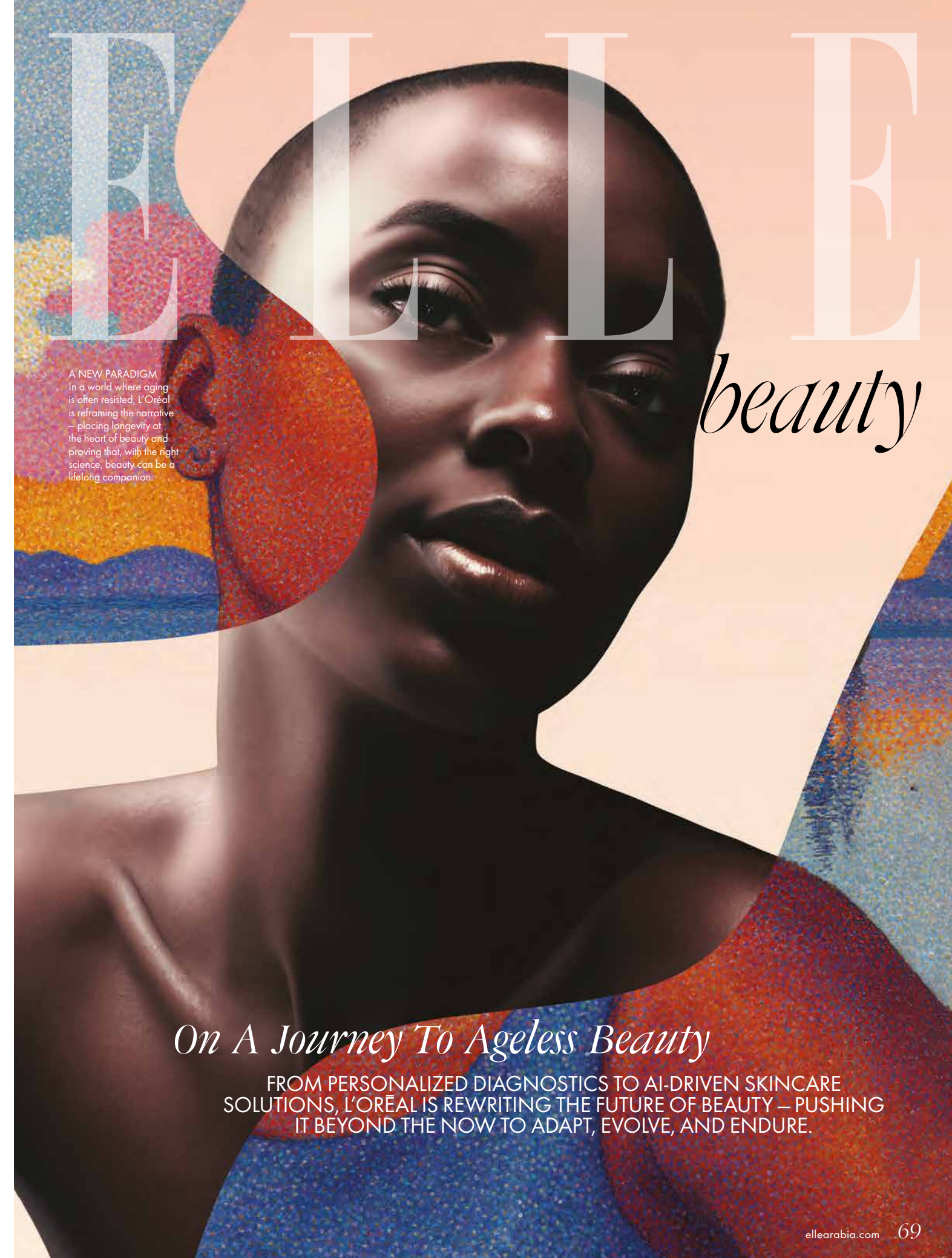
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EVERY 5TH OF THE MONTH



A NEW PARADIGM
In a world where aging
is often resisted, L'Oréal
is reframing the narrative
— placing longevity at
the heart of beauty and
proving that, with the right
science, beauty can be a
lifelong companion.

On A Journey To Ageless Beauty

FROM PERSONALIZED DIAGNOSTICS TO AI-DRIVEN SKINCARE
SOLUTIONS, L'ORÉAL IS REWRITING THE FUTURE OF BEAUTY — PUSHING
IT BEYOND THE NOW TO ADAPT, EVOLVE, AND ENDURE.

Beauty has no Expiration date

What if beauty wasn't about pausing time, but flowing with it? In partnership with L'Oréal, ELLE Arabia explores longevity as the future of *beauty where science meets soul*, and *looking good means feeling strong, radiant, and deeply yourself*. Forget the old rules. This isn't anti-aging. *This is pro-every-age.*

Longevity used to be a word you'd find in a research journal or a wellness podcast. Today, it's everywhere — in skincare aisles, in workout plans, in dinner table conversations. And most importantly, it's changing the way we look at beauty. No longer limited to a fleeting ideal of youth, beauty is becoming something that evolves, deepens, and expands with time.

We're living longer than ever before — and doing so with greater vitality. Thanks to advancements in medicine, nutrition, and holistic health, the global average life expectancy has increased by more than 30 years since the mid-20th century. And with that shift comes a new demand: to live — and look — well for longer. It's no longer enough to simply extend the number of years. We want those years to feel meaningful, empowered, expressive... and beautiful.

At the heart of this new era is a radical rethinking of what it means to age. The old narrative — that beauty fades and relevance expires with time — no longer applies. In fact, it never should have. Today, we're seeing women in their 50s, 60s, 70s and beyond redefining visibility, vitality, and style with unapologetic confidence. And beauty brands are finally catching up.

L'Oréal Groupe, for one, isn't just following this transformation it's leading it. With over a century of innovation and a presence in 190 countries, the beauty powerhouse is pushing longevity from niche trend to global movement. Backed by 21 research centers worldwide and decades of skin science, the group is pioneering a

future where skincare doesn't just treat signs of aging — it works in harmony with our biology to support long-term health, resilience, and radiance.

As Barbara Lavernos, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, in charge of Research, Innovation & Technology at L'Oréal Groupe, puts it: "We envision a future where beauty and longevity are seamlessly intertwined, driven by a simple yet immortal truth: beauty has no age."

This shift is about more than just products — it's cultural. Across the globe, women are reclaiming time as a source of power, not pressure. Whether it's grey hair worn boldly, laugh lines worn proudly, or wellness practices that prioritize sustainability over speed, beauty is moving toward something more authentic, grounded, and inclusive.

As a result, longevity is no longer a passive state — it's an active pursuit. It's SPF at every age. It's strength training at 60. It's skincare that supports mitochondrial health. It's the return of rituals, the rise of wearables, the growth of beauty as a science-backed lifestyle.

And L'Oréal is not just observing — it's architecting this evolution. Through clinical-grade technologies, longevity-driven formulations, and inclusive storytelling, the brand is proving that beauty doesn't have an expiration date, it has a horizon.

Join us as we explore how longevity is reshaping our ideas of beauty, identity, and wellness across three powerful pillars: society and culture, science and technology, and art and expression. Because aging isn't something to fear. It's something to design.

“
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A FUTURE WHERE
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BEAUTY HAS
NO AGE”

BARBARA LAVERNOS
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, in
charge of Research, Innovation &
Technology, L'Oréal Groupe



Welcome to the BEAUTY
OF
LONGEVITY



Blanca Juti, Chief Corporate Affairs & Engagement Officer, L'Oréal Groupe

AGELESS IS THE NEW NORMAL

Let's face it: the idea that beauty peaks in our 20s is outdated. In fact, it's laughably outdated. The reality? We're living longer, better, and bolder lives — and the way we think about age is finally catching up.

Globally, people are living decades longer than they did just a century ago. By 2040, over 20% of the global population will be over 60. That's nearly two billion people entering their golden years not with resignation, but with ambition. They're working, creating, investing in themselves — and expecting beauty brands to keep up.

L'Oréal, for one, is listening. Their recent “50 Over 50” initiative shines a well-deserved spotlight on fifty women over fifty who are thriving, inspiring, and rewriting what “prime of life” looks like. From artists to activists to entrepreneurs, these women prove confidence, style, and purpose don't fade with age they flourish.

“Traditionally, beauty has been closely linked to anti-aging — focusing on smoothing wrinkles and reducing pigmentation,” explains Blanca Juti, Chief Corporate Affairs & Engagement Officer at L'Oréal Groupe. “But longevity takes a deeper approach: it works at the cellular level to actually



influence our biology. It's a fundamentally different method.”

This shift is also reflected in how we consume beauty. A recent consumer study showed that boomers now spend more on beauty than any other age group, investing in products that support skin health, radiance, and expression. They're not trying to look 25 again. They're investing in who they are now.

According to Euromonitor, the global population of centenarians is expected to reach 3.7 million by 2050 — up from just half a million in 2015. Meanwhile, people over 60 already account for 21% of the global population but represent only 28% of beauty product demand. That gap? It's a major opportunity.

“Longevity calls for a more proactive and integrative approach,” says Blanca. “We need to consider our whole sphere of life: our children, our work, our rest, our curiosity, our desire to live fully, our physical activity, and eating well. All of these elements are essential for living well, both biologically and psychologically.”

A 2023 L'Oréal Consumer Study revealed that boomers now spend over \$400 annually on beauty — more than double what Gen Z consumers spend. This generation isn't slowing down—they're redefining what self-care looks like at every age.

And it's not just about older demographics. Younger generations are embracing longevity with just as much enthusiasm. Gen Z and Millennials are leaning into prevention over correction — think: retinol early, SPF always, and barrier-boosting skincare rituals before their first fine line even appears.

“There's a difference between chronological age and biological age,” Blanca points out. “For example, I use a device every day that tells me my biological age — and it's actually 10 years younger than my real age. There's also psychological age, which is how old you feel. Honestly, I feel even younger — probably 20 years younger. And as some doctors say, people who feel younger tend to live longer. Your psychological age can actually influence your biology.”

We're witnessing the rise of a new kind of beauty: one that's proactive, inclusive, and deeply personal. The common denominator? Wellness as beauty. Longevity as a lifestyle.

“In the West, age has often been demonized,” Blanca acknowledges. “But if you look at the happiness curve, people tend to be happier as they age. We accept ourselves more and often enjoy more free time. There's a lot of beauty in aging. We can also learn from Asian cultures, where practices like Tai Chi and meditation have been part of daily life for generations — supporting healthier aging. Similarly, Latin societies embrace multigenerational living, which helps keep you mentally sharp for longer.”

This cross-generational alignment marks a powerful cultural moment: for the first time, longevity isn't just a goal. It's a mindset. It's about celebrating a face that has lived, a body that's moved, and a spirit that's evolved. It's about beauty that grows with you.

With 21 research centers worldwide and a presence in 190 countries, L'Oréal draws on global knowledge to lead this new frontier. “Our global diversity is our greatest strength,” Blanca concludes. “Our role is to integrate science and culture to redefine beauty for a lifetime.”



“DON'T COUNT THE YEARS. JUST MAKE THEM COUNT”

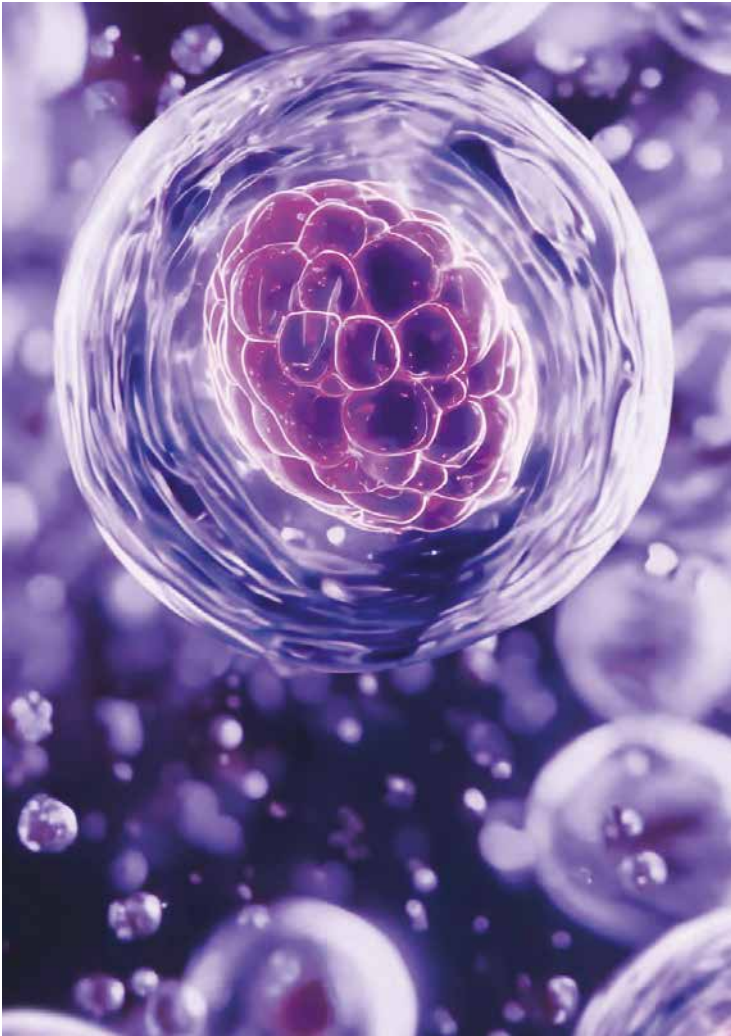
BEAUTY THAT GOES BENEATH THE SURFACE

In the world of skincare, we often talk about the surface — tone, texture, glow. But what if we could understand what’s happening beneath that surface, at a cellular level? L’Oréal’s longevity research is doing just that, offering a radical new vision of what skin science can be.

Welcome to the world of Longevity Integrative Science™. This isn’t just about creams and serums. It’s about diagnostics, biomarkers, AI, and active ingredients that work with your skin’s biology, not against it. L’Oréal has spent over 15 years studying the biological mechanisms of skin aging, mapping out over 260 skin biomarkers and 32 pathways. What they’ve discovered is game-changing: your skin can tell the story of your health, and even predict it.

“Today, when people seek recommendations for beauty products and routines, their choices are influenced by much more than just what they see on the surface of their skin. They consider how they live, what they eat, their nutrition, their environment, and pollution. Consumers have evolved to embrace the mindset that beauty is more than skin deep — it’s both inside and out,” explains Guive Balooch, Global Managing Director, Augmented Beauty & Open Innovation, L’Oréal Groupe.

Their Longevity AI Cloud™ uses massive data sets to identify how specific ingredients interact with the hallmarks of aging. This means products can now be formulated not just for skin type, but for biological age — a far more nuanced and effective approach. The result? Personalized, preventative skincare that adapts to your skin’s needs, long before visible aging sets in.



Guive Balooch, Global Managing Director, Augmented Beauty & Open Innovation, L’Oréal Groupe

A Focus On What Consumers Truly Gain

“Technology itself doesn’t really matter to consumers. What matters is what they actually get out of it. Today, when you look at outputs — like those from cell bioprinting — we can tell people if ingredients truly work for their skin. Nine out of ten people want insight not only on where their skin is today but also what it’s prone to in the future.”

Technologies Must be Clear and Actionable

“The output needs to be easy to understand — something people can quickly decode. For example, if I’m doing an experience that tells me my biological age versus my chronological age, it should also give clear recommendations. It shouldn’t just give numbers but also tell me if the formulas work well for my skin or predict what might happen next.”

Take Cell BioPrint, a compact device that reads longevity markers in your skin in just five minutes. Or look at the Lancôme Absolue PDRN™ cream, which enhances mitochondrial activity — helping your cells generate more energy, so they can perform like younger versions of themselves. It’s not about fighting wrinkles. It’s about boosting your skin’s natural processes.

Another standout? Vichy’s Neovadiol Longevity Cream, using a blend of Proxylane, NAD+ boosters, and Senevisium to reset aging cells and regenerate youthful tissue. These aren’t just fancy words — these active ingredients are backed by clinical trials, designed to work deep within the skin, at the root of aging.

Building Confidence Through Inclusivity & Personalization

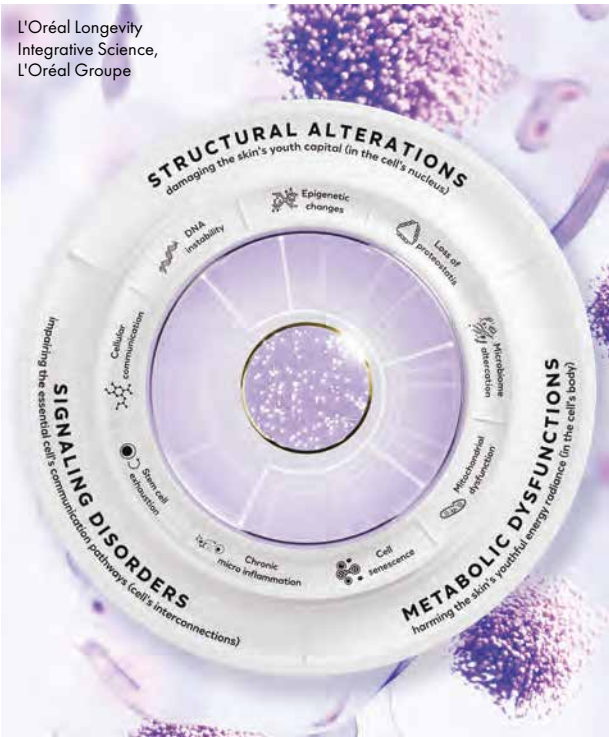
Confidence is key to beauty’s future: “Confidence must be inclusive. Everyone using our technologies and services should receive recognition that is accurate and respectful of their skin tone, geography, and unique characteristics. Beauty consumers have individual desires — unique skin, unique hair and our technologies must reflect that individuality to empower people.”

Balooch highlights the paradox of today’s world: “We live in a world full of clusters, but every beauty consumer has individual desires and needs. Without individual conversations rather than treating people as part of clusters true confidence won’t happen.”

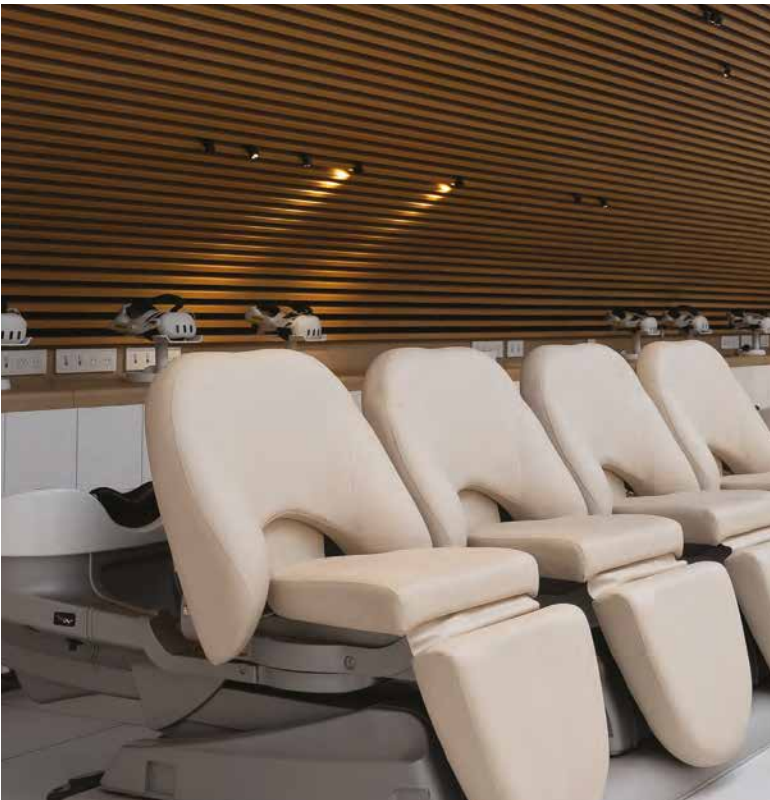
The Democratization of Beauty

Ultimately, L’Oréal’s vision is clear: “I want augmented technology to reach that level because I believe it represents the true democratization of beauty. No more frustration everyone can achieve what they want, and expression becomes truly individual. Technology removes the fear of experimenting and trying new things because people know they actually can — and that’s beautiful.”

This new era of beauty isn’t about illusions or filters. It’s about science that works in harmony with your biology to support skin that’s resilient, vibrant, and uniquely yours.



L’Oréal Longevity Integrative Science, L’Oréal Groupe



Lancôme Cell Bioprint



Did you know? Your skin can act as an early warning system for your overall health—even signaling neurodegenerative changes.
Future forecast: Expect at-home diagnostics to become as common as cleanser. Beauty tech is getting personal.

IMAGES: @ PHOTO ADAGP ADRIEN THIBAUT FISHEYE 2025



AGING IS AN ART FORM

What happens when you blend the logic of science with the soul of art? You get a whole new way of seeing beauty.

L'Oréal understands that while technology may power the future of longevity, culture gives it meaning. That's why they're working with contemporary artists to explore aging through a more expressive, inclusive lens.

Niceaunties, a Singaporean artist and designer, uses AI to reflect on the wisdom, flair, and resilience of Asian matriarchs. Her digital works celebrate the everyday rituals of older women, offering a refreshingly real take on feminine beauty.

Meanwhile, Anicka Yi blurs the line between biology and scent. Her installations turn bacterial colonies and olfactory memories into immersive art experiences that challenge how we relate to our bodies over time. Yi's message? Beauty isn't static. It's experimental, sensory, and alive.

ecoLogicStudio, an architecture and design firm, works with algae and

bio-reactive materials to create sculptures that evolve — literally. These living artworks echo the body's natural processes and challenge us to think of beauty as something symbiotic with nature.

Through these collaborations, L'Oréal is reframing longevity not as clinical, but poetic. Not as anti-aging, but as evolution. Their work with art institutions and museums like the Louvre shows a deep understanding: that science and culture can elevate each other.

Just as lasers restore old masterpieces, biotech restores our skin. Both are acts of preservation. Both are love letters to time.

THE FUTURE IS NOW

So where do we go from here? Into a future where taking care of your skin is as personal as your playlist, as intuitive as your breathwork app, and as holistic as your favorite spa retreat.

Longevity is no longer a lofty goal. It's a daily choice. It's in the serum you apply before bed, the nutrients you choose in your morning smoothie, the confidence with which you greet the mirror. It's the science that supports you. The culture that includes you. The art that expresses you.

In L'Oréal's world, beauty is not an age. It's an energy. One that pulses through decades, celebrates every chapter, and evolves with you. Because beauty has no age limit. And your best skin? It's always ahead of you.

“WE DON'T OUTGROW
BEAUTY. WE GROW INTO IT”

@ADRIENTHIBAUT

ELLE

culture

On the Horizon...

THE ART AND ARTISTS BRIDGING CULTURES, THE BOOKS TAKING US ON JOURNEYS, AND THE SHOWS AND MUSIC TO WHISK US AWAY

ITHRA, ARAMCO WORLD



BEACH READ by Emily Henry

A recipe for summer perfection: a picturesque lakeside setting, two rival authors one writes romance, the other literary fiction and an unexpected twist when they become neighbours for the season.



MYKONOS MUSE by Assouline

Transporting you to the beloved Cycladic island of Mykonos, this book is a stunning visual ode to this iconic paradise! Dive into the island's legendary allure - from its sun-drenched beaches to its legendary nightlife and let it be the muse to your Grecian getaway.



AN ITALIAN WEDDING ADVENTURE by Leonie Mack

Still hung up on the one who got away or worse, the one who turned down your proposal? Now imagine they show up as a key player in the glamorous Italian wedding you're working on. Awkward, irresistible, and oh-so-delicious.

JUST FOR THE SUMMER by Abby Jimenez

Baker-turned-bestselling-author Abby Jimenez delivers another swoon-worthy hit. When Justin and Emma—both convinced they're cursed in love team up in a lakeside town to outsmart fate, hilarity, heartbreak, and undeniable chemistry ensue. Equal parts laugh-out-loud funny and emotionally tender, this is summer romance at its finest.



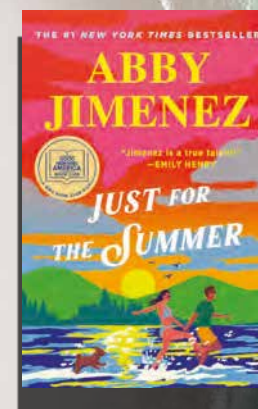
READ

SUN, SAND, AND A
STACK OF GOOD
BOOKS ELLE ARABIA'S
SUMMER READS ARE
ALL YOU NEED



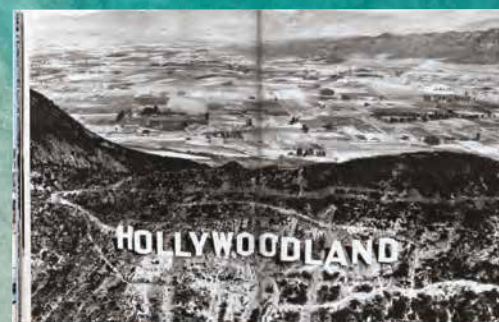
ONE PERFECT COUPLE by Ruth Ware

If you love true crime docs or binge old episodes of Bones, this one's for you. In a chilling nod to Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None, five couples find themselves stranded on a remote island and one of them is a killer.



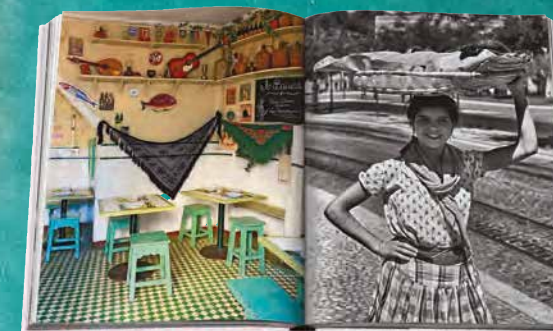
LOS ANGELES: PORTRAIT OF A CITY by Taschen

Part of Taschen's iconic Portrait series, this volume captures the full spectrum of L.A.'s beauty and grit. From Hollywood's golden age to the sun-drenched sprawl of its streets and beaches, it's a visual journey through the city's landmarks, legends, and limitless dreams.



COMPILED BY SWATTJAIN IMAGE: VALERIA NECANOVA UNSPLASH

Culture



LISBOA LUZ by Assouline

Haven't booked your summer escape yet? This sun-soaked tribute to Portugal's coastal capital just might convince you. Lisboa Luz captures the city's winding streets, golden light, and the soulful rhythm of fado — a sensory journey through Lisbon at its most irresistible.



Play

LA HABIBI
BY MYRIAM FARES

Lebanese singer and songwriter Myriam Fares has knocked it out of the park with this infectious, feel-good song that is playing on repeat – La Habibi. A celebration of love and life – it’s here to live on our summer playlist!



WATCH
SEE
PLAY

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

See



JENNIFER LOPEZ: UP ALL NIGHT AT ETIHAD ARENA, ABU DHABI

We can’t get enough of J.Lo—and this is us... now. Cheesy lyrics aside, we’ve never met a J.Lo song we couldn’t dance to. On 29 July, the global icon is set to take over the Etihad Arena, bringing her signature mix of glamour, grit, and groove. Trust us, the dance floor won’t be empty for a second. Expect iconic choreography, glittering costume changes, and chart-topping anthems from across her decades-spanning career.

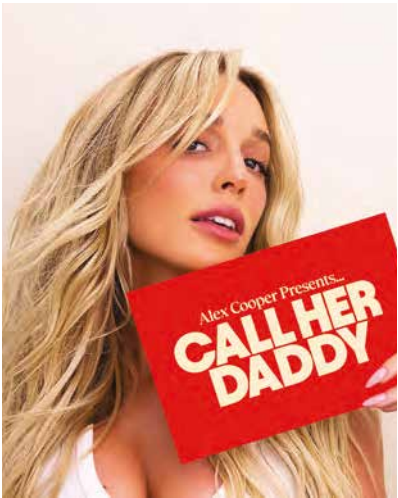
COMPILED BY SWATIJAIN



Watch

THE OLD GUARD 2

Five years ago, we were introduced to a badass heroine – Charlize Theron as Andy, the leader of a group of immortal warriors – in The Old Guard. Now, the long-awaited sequel is finally here. She’s back with her troop, and this time, Uma Thurman and Henry Golding have joined the cast too!



Listen

CALL HER DADDY

Easily one of the most listened-to podcasts by women everywhere, Alex Cooper’s Call Her Daddy has become a global phenomenon. What began as candid conversations about dating and relationships has evolved into a powerhouse platform featuring some of the biggest names in Hollywood and pop culture – most recently, Sarah Jessica Parker!

Follow

FROM MOODBOARDS TO MODERN INTERIORS, FOLLOW FOR YOUR DAILY DOSE OF DESIGN INSPO



TERESA LAURA CARUSO
@Teresalaucar

Clean lines, soft tones, and an effortless aesthetic – that’s Teresa’s signature style. Her spaces blend a sense of luxury with playful touches, all while staying visually captivating.



DANI KLARIC
@Daniklaric

If anyone can make color and maximalism play nice – think curated chaos – it’s Dani. Her vibrant videos and offbeat renovations will have you hooked.



RACHEL MARTINO
@RachlMartino

Think pink, think tulle, think Rachel Martino! Whether it’s her interior aesthetic or her wardrobe, she makes bold color choices that stay effortlessly feminine.

Bringing a vision to life is not a task for the faint-hearted. It takes courage, hard work, and conviction that seeks to serve a higher purpose. For a young entrepreneur like Maryam Al Falasi, the purpose has been one of creating a 'collecting culture' to preserve heritage, identity, and tradition, giving artists and collectors a chance to narrate the cultural identity of the Gulf region. "I founded Iris Projects during my final year of university. My vision was to create a platform that champions the regional art scene, showcases contemporary artist voices, and reflects the pulse of the current cultural moment," she says.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Maryam launched the contemporary art gallery and agency to connect collectors and artists. What started as an experimental online platform eventually grew and led to strategic advisory, building corporate and government collections, and commissioning public art and large-scale exhibitions. A young graduate from the Sorbonne University, Abu Dhabi, Maryam was studying Art History and Archaeology when she took the first step and then the next bigger leap. "In 2024, I launched our gallery space in M_39 - I saw a gap in the ecosystem in Abu Dhabi, and set up the first commercial gallery in MiZa cultural neighborhood," she says. The evolving ecosystem, as she points out, was quite a different scene even a decade ago, when it was rare to see artists from the GCC showcasing their works at global art fairs. Today, there is a lot more representation, and keeping the connection rooted in history, remains a core part of the cultural expression. "I do feel that it's important that we create systems that work for our own context, with our language and through our own lens, while still participating in global art moments," she adds.

Over the last few years, Maryam has cemented her relationships and reaffirmed her commitment to supporting artists that are adding to the tapestry of art, while reinterpreting tradition through modern perspectives. As for her, she continues to grow her personal collection, as well as advocating for cultural preservation within our region. One initiative that she is most proud of includes an archive that captures the art scene within the UAE and the GCC from the 1950s, until today. It contains exhibition catalogues, art magazines, and press clippings that are lent to exhibitions and museums. "The Archive is also home to the H.E. Butti Bin Bishr Collection of photographs from the 1950s onwards, including the first digitized archive of photographs from the formation of the United Arab Emirates (1968-78)," she says. Here, she opens up to ELLE Arabia about some of the most significant challenges and profound moments from her journey.

What were some of the challenges you had to overcome to get to where you are today? It's never easy launching a business - perhaps by starting it while I was in university it took the pressure off the need to succeed, and we were lucky to secure a number of corporate clients that valued what we did. When we launched in 2020, I didn't anticipate the speed of growth or that I would be launching a gallery within five years. It's been an uphill learning journey in terms of business logistics and managing people, but from the start I've worked with incredibly talented people, from the

artists we've commissioned or taken into our roster, to partners, clients and stakeholders we have collaborated with. Every exhibition, art fair and project has reinforced the role we can play, and the need to continue to advocate for the regional artists we represent.

Tell us a bit about the Arab artists that you represent. How is their journey interwoven with your vision? I'm proud to represent eight regional artists at Iris Projects at the moment, and this number continues to grow as I encounter new talent from across the GCC. The first artist I worked with was Emirati artist Juma Al Haj. His work was also one of the first in my personal art collection. Juma's artistic practice derives from the inherent need for belonging and manifests the innate quest to find a sense of peace. He was recently commissioned by Bee'ah to create an artwork that was crafted into a carpet for Naseej: Threads of Hope, an exhibition that reimagines the carpet as a canvas for contemporary storytelling. The carpets will be auctioned for humanitarian purposes with the Fatima Bint Mohamed Bin Zayed Initiative (FBMI).

Talking with MARYAM AL FALASI

Emirati founder of Iris Projects in MiZa is an advocate for cultural preservation. Her vision and work bring emerging artists and community together, elevating contemporary Gulf art for a larger share of voice on the global stage

Any recent exhibitions that you can tell us about? The most recent exhibition in the gallery in Abu Dhabi is a series of new works by Abdullah Al Othman, an artist based in Riyadh. Abdullah's work is informed by in-depth research into a variety of subjects such as physics, history, culture, architecture, urbanism, anthropology, and sociology. Each of his pieces is centered around a specific narrative, either pre-existing or developed by the artist himself, which he uses as a method to analyze the human experience. We also represent a number of female Emirati artists, such as Alyazia Al Nahyan, and Shamsa Al Omaira.

What are some of the major milestones that you are most proud of? Having artworks by artists that I represent placed within the collection of the UAE President, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, was definitely a milestone moment for me. I strongly believe that countries need true collecting cultures to support their homegrown artists, and this is something I've actively

BY ODEIA MATHEWS



pursued since launching Iris Projects - from helping individuals strategize and start collections, to helping build government and corporate collections. I'm also proud to represent artists such as Saudi artist Nasser AlSalem, whose work is currently on show in the Louvre Abu Dhabi, and Abdullah Al Othman, whose work Manifesto: the Language and the City, 2021 was on show at the Lyon Biennale before he created a site-specific work for our inaugural booth at this year's Art Dubai fair.

Take us through some of your most prized art possessions. One of my favorite works is 'Ghaf tree' by Emirati artist Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim. It represents something so special in our nation because it's an indigenous and protected species of trees that grows naturally in the UAE. At the moment I'm focusing more on artists from the emerging scene. It's exciting for me to meet these artists and see them grow in parallel with me. I have a few pieces from Sarah Almehairi in my collection. I was introduced to her works at her solo debut at Abu Dhabi Art with Carbon 12 gallery. Her art explores the themes of identity, language, materiality and memory, and I credit her with getting me into abstraction and minimal art.

What is your message to young entrepreneurs and students? Immerse yourself in the scene. Make sure you attend gallery openings, visit our local art fairs - Abu Dhabi Art and Art Dubai - get to know the artists based here, and try to join any talks or studio visits. Surround yourself with people who inspire you, but also those who challenge your thinking and are happy to go on the journey with you. Also, as a young entrepreneur you need to constantly learn and adapt until your vision becomes a reality.

1. MARYAM AL FALASI WITH HER COLLECTION 2. JUMA AL HAJ, UNTITLED, DETAIL 3. IRIS PROJECTS, ROUDHAH AT SIKKA 4. HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH KHALED BIN MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN VISITS IRIS PROJECTS BOOTH AT ABU DHABI ART 2024 5. SARAH ALMEHAIRI EXHIBITIONS THAT HAVE NEVER HAPPENED THICKETS SERIES 2022 6. ABDULLAH AL OTHMAN UNTITLED (COCA COLA), 2025 REBAR, IRON, STEEL, PAINT 250 X 210 CM 7. ALYAZIA AL NAHYAN, SOLO EXHIBITION AT IRIS PROJECTS



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2



3



4

1. MUSEUM ENTRANCE - FINE ART BY AHMAD ALNAJI
 2. THE BARN BURNERS BY ANE GRAFF - NET ZERO EXHIBITION AT ITHRA @YASIR ALQUNAI
 3. TERRA @AHMED AL-THANI
 4. THE 4 STONES - FINE ART BY AHMAD ALNAJI

"The exhibition is both timely and necessary. By spotlighting this overlooked generation, the exhibition addresses longstanding gaps in the region's art history and helps correct a narrative that has too often excluded women's contributions,"

— Farah Abushullaih



REVIVING A CULTURAL LEGACY

Female Arab artists, particularly those from the 60s to 80s, have historically been underrepresented for their **contribution to art and culture**. Farah Abushullaih, Exhibitions Unit Head at Ithra is changing that. She talks to ELLE Arabia about her vision, work, and Ithra's latest exhibition that brings the craft techniques of a forgotten era into the spotlight.

When Farah Abushullaih joined Ithra in 2012 she faced the immense challenge of getting others to see culture as an investment. Knowing fully well that it would take time to build momentum and yield long-term results, she moved forward with passion and purpose. "From the very beginning, we aimed to inspire curiosity, foster dialogue, and encourage lifelong learning across generations," shares Farah, the Exhibitions Unit Head at Ithra. From outlining ideas on paper and following her vision to "build a place that feels like home; a home for our community; and a home for ideas," she has come a long way.

In 2021, Ithra launched Terra - the first immersive art exhibition in the Kingdom to address the topic of sustainability, which brought together international artist. It was an education-led approach that merged art and technology. "This exhibition was significant not only for the Kingdom but for

the wider region, as it placed sustainability at the heart of artistic and cultural discourse. It demonstrated how creativity can be a powerful tool for awareness, change, and collective responsibility," recalls Farah. Tackling topics like the preservation of mangroves and water scarcity, to the impact of plastic pollution and food waste, this was a turning point in many ways. In 2023, Net Zero exhibition connected Saudi artists and international creatives in a powerful way to amplify regional efforts with global initiatives. It stood out for presenting sustainability from an artistic perspective, pushing the boundaries of creativity and innovation to inspire generations. "Designed to be sustainable in both content and execution, Ithra partnered with ACCIONA Cultura to develop carbon tracking and offsetting solutions including the design, production, installation and operational phases of the exhibition," explains Farah. Not only was this a rich experiment to foster and build on cross-cultural dialogue, but it was also a way to inspire change by tapping into creative Arab talent from the region.

Focusing on yet another significant step in her journey, Farah has been working on an exhibition presented in collaboration with the Barjeel Art Foundation. Taking place later this year, the exhibition titled 'Horizon in Their Hands: Women Artists from the Arab World (1960s-1980s)' features the work of over forty female Arab artists from the 60' to the 80'. These women artists and their contributions have been historically underrepresented, and by bringing their work together in one space, it will offer a new chance for researchers, educators, and students to explore the history and traditions of the region, explains Farah. "Their work engages deeply with craft, memory, and material, offering layered narratives that reflect both personal experience and collective change. Many of these artists experimented with media and forms not traditionally recognized in mainstream art discourse, challenging the hierarchies of what art is and could be," she points out.

The exhibition aligns with the Saudi Ministry of Culture's designation of 2025 as the Year of Handicrafts, especially since the featured artists present techniques and traditions that involve stitching, dyeing, sculpting, and weaving, shifting the focus on the integral importance of craft emerging from the Arab region. *Ithra.com*

BY ODEIA MATHEWS

ELLE

DANA HALLANI...
The Culinary World is My Inspiration

gourmet



The Joy of Sharing....

THIS SEASON, FLAVOR MEETS ARTISTRY



Flavors of Expression

Chef Dana Hallani blends French technique with Middle Eastern soul, shaping a culinary journey defined by creativity, precision, and personal passion

Dana Hallani may be the daughter of celebrated artist Assi Hallani and former Miss Lebanon Colette Hallani, but her identity is shaped by more than lineage. Her creative drive, discipline, and entrepreneurial spirit are deeply her own. Trained at Le Cordon Bleu and inspired by her multicultural background, she has crafted a unique culinary voice – one that fuses French finesse with Eastern warmth.

Through her private dining project, L'Étoile Privée, Dana invites guests into an intimate world of refined flavors, artistic presentation, and personalized experiences. In this exclusive conversation with ELLE Gourmet, she opens up about her process, her inspirations, and her vision for the future.

How have your experiences at Le Cordon Bleu and with Chef Alan Geam shaped your culinary philosophy? Both experiences taught me the value of precision, quality, and creativity. I learned to respect technique and fine ingredients while developing a style that blends classic French methods with flavors and touches inspired by my heritage.

What inspired you to launch L'Étoile Privée, and what sets it apart in the world of private dining? The idea came from my love for creating intimate, tailored experiences. L'Étoile Privée stands out through its fusion of Middle Eastern flavors with French culinary techniques. Each dish is designed with meticulous attention to detail, offering bold flavors, luxury, and meaningful hospitality in a highly personalized setting.

You also hold a master's in Marketing Strategy and Data Analytics. How has that supported your journey as an entrepreneur? It's been incredibly useful. Understanding market trends and customer behavior allows me to make smarter decisions. Data helps me refine my offerings, improve customer engagement, and grow the business strategically.

How do you balance traditional recipes from your culture with modern culinary innovation? I deeply respect traditional recipes and their cultural value. My goal is to preserve their essence while using modern techniques to enhance textures, flavors, and presentation. It's about honoring the past while embracing evolution.

In your content, you often tie together food, beauty, and lifestyle. How do these worlds connect for you? To me, they're all forms of self-expression. Whether I'm creating a dish or a makeup look, it's about creativity, care, and storytelling. Food, beauty, and lifestyle all offer ways to celebrate ourselves – our tastes, moods, and identities. I love inspiring others to explore and enjoy these layers of living.

What's your creative process when developing a new recipe? It always begins with inspiration – a season, a childhood memory, or a standout ingredient. Then I explore different flavor combinations, textures, and presentation styles until I arrive at something that feels original and complete.

How has your family background influenced your creativity? Growing up with a father who's a celebrated musician and a mother who's passionate about beauty gave me early exposure to artistry and self-expression. I learned to value detail, storytelling, and emotion. Creativity, for me, is about the journey – what you want people to feel. That mindset shapes everything I do, from plating a dish to building a brand.

At just 26, you've already made a strong impact. What's next for you and L'Étoile Privée? Honestly, I feel like I'm just getting started. There's so much more to learn and explore. I'm always evolving – sometimes in unexpected ways – so I'm open to where the journey leads. I want to continue growing in the culinary world while also nurturing my passion for beauty. I believe the best chapters are still ahead.

"MY OBJECTIVE IS TO CONTINUE GROWING IN THE CULINARY WORLD."

INTERVIEW BY ROUJA ZAAZAA

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ELLE

lifestyle

A BRITISH SUMMER,
CHECKED
Burberry checks into The Newt
in Somerset for a quintessential
countryside escape until
August 18. From a custom
croquet lawn and check-clad
hot-air balloon to exclusive
pieces from the Summer 2025
collection, the collaboration
celebrates British craftsmanship
and outdoor adventure.



Season of Escape

FROM SEASIDE RETREATS TO CULTURAL GEMS, THIS IS YOUR
GUIDE TO LIVING WELL AND TRAVELING BEAUTIFULLY



CHEVAL BLANC PARIS OCCUPIES THE HISTORIC SAMARITAINE BUILDING, A RESTORED ART DECO LANDMARK ON THE SEINE

Cheval Blanc Paris

Above the Seine: A contemporary haven rooted in art, craftsmanship, and hospitality

THE LOWDOWN

Perched within the storied Samaritaine building, Cheval Blanc Paris redefines the idea of a grand hotel. With just 72 rooms and suites, the Maison offers the intimacy of a private residence and the finesse of French savoir-faire. Vast bay windows frame sweeping views of the Seine and Paris's iconic rooftops, while interiors – designed by Peter Marino and Edouard François – weave Art Deco elegance with bold contemporary artistry. Interiors echo the spirit of a collector's home – warm, artful, and deeply personal.

A SENSE OF PLACE

From its rooftop garden to its hidden spa, the Maison is a quiet dialogue between tradition and reinvention. On the 7th floor, summer blooms in

full color at Le Jardin, an elevated terrace imagined as a bucolic escape. Meandering pathways and blooming hydrangeas surround cheerful red-and-white furnishings, where guests linger over cherry tomato tartlets, stuffed Provençal vegetables, and a showstopping strawberry sundae by Maxime Frédéric. From noon to sunset, the air hums with laughter, thyme, and music from friendly games of table football.

DINING AT THE MAISON

The culinary story continues with Plénitude, the Maison's three-Michelin-starred gastronomic destination, where Chef Arnaud Donckele orchestrates a delicate symphony of sauces and memory-laced ingredients. At Hakuba, Donckele teams up with Chef Takuya Watanabe to create intricate omakase menus that explore the art of

Below: LE JARDIN'S 650M² GARDEN TERRACE IS A JOYFUL HIDEAWAY ABOVE THE ROOFTOPS



Below: THE DIOR SPA CHEVAL BLANC IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN PARIS



Left & Below: DESIGNED BY PETER MARINO, THE INTERIORS FEATURE COMMISSIONED WORKS BY ARTISTS LIKE CLAUDE LALANNE AND GEORGES MATHIEU



Japanese precision. For relaxed elegance, Le Tout-Paris reimagines brasserie classics – roast chicken, sea bream, Paris-Brest – served from breakfast to nightfall with panoramic views, while Langosteria, the Italian outpost, brings seafood and sunshine to the Seine.

WELLBEING REIMAGINED

The Dior Spa Cheval Blanc Paris offers a sensorial immersion into beauty and wellness, guided by expert therapists and the signature codes of Maison Dior. Just steps away, the Rossano Ferretti Salon provides discreet luxury with personalized cuts and treatments in a serene, light-filled setting. From a perfectly steeped bath to an in-room cocktail at golden hour, every detail is tailored – courtesy of the Maison's Ambassadors. At Cheval Blanc Paris, hospitality is elevated, effortless, and deeply personal.



São Paulo

BRAZIL

THE LARGEST CITY IN LATIN AMERICA IS A 24/7 METROPOLIS AND VIBRANT MIX OF PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE, ITALIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN INFLUENCES. HEAD TO BOHO VILA MADELENA FOR COOL BARS, STREET ART AND NIGHTLIFE, PINHEIROS FOR ART, MUSIC AND SHOPPING, AND BAIXO AUGUSTA FOR THE UNDERGROUND AND ALTERNATIVE SCENE. *ELLE BRAZIL GUIDES YOU.*

TRENDY EATERY

Cepa

In the lively neighbourhood of Pinheiros, chef Lucas Dante conjures up delectable, seasonal cuisine, expertly paired with organic and biodynamic wines, at this farm-to-table restaurant. Dishes such as his grilled squid with bagna cauda and chorizo oil won Cepa a place on the 50 World's Best Restaurants Discovery List. Praça Dos Omaguás, 110

LOCAL FOOD HOTSPOT

Mocotó ⁽⁴⁾

Northeastern Brazil is known for its indigenous, African and Portuguese cultural mix, and its Sertaneja food, based on beans and dried meat. Chef Rodrigo Oliveira elevates this to another level: the mocofava, bone marrow broth with fava beans, is the dish to order, as is Mocoto's range of cachaça (fermented sugar cane spirit). Av. Nossa Sra do Loreto, 1100, mocoto.com.br

BUZZING BAR

Abaru Bar & Restaurant ⁽¹⁾

Part of the Espaço Priceless, on top of the Shopping Light building, Abaru and Notiê are a rooftop bar and restaurant helmed by chef Onildo Rocha. Order Abaru's Pote d'água, with whiskey, cambuci soda and allspice, as you look out over the Teatro Municipal and the centro historico. Rua Formosa, 157, espacoprinceless.com.br

HOTTEST NIGHT OUT

Matiz Bar

It is not just the rooftop views that bring a cool crowd to this listening bar. With its studio -grade acoustics, it is all about the music, so get carried away by Brazilian beats, jazz, soul and disco tunes while filling up on fried lasagne (yes, really) and caipirinhas. Floor 11, Edifício Carlos Rusca, Rua Marins Fontes, 91

CHARMING HOTEL

Hotel Unique

With its Ruy Ohtake-designed, ocean-liner-style silhouette, porthole windows and weathered copper façade, Hotel Unique is the most dramatic-looking hotel in town. Expect 300-thread-count Trussardi bedlinen and headboard speakers in the 92 white-on-white rooms. There are even rainbow-lit waterslides (for grown-ups) in the fitness centre, and 360-degree views from the crimson rooftop pool. Avenida Brigadeiro Luis Antonio, 4700, hotelunique.com



PAMPER PLACES

Asaya Spa

Book a spot in this award-winning spa for the wonderful Brazilian Feathers massage, a Guerlain Royal Honey Facial, or guided meditation among the 400 blocks of white quartz in the crystal room.

Rua Itapeva, 435, rosewoodhotels.com

Rom Concept

A favourite with celebrities such as Yasmin Brunet and Camila Coutinho, Romeu Felipe is in the Guinness Book of Records for owning the world's largest hair salon, done out in minimalist, urban-chic style.

Av. Brasil, 126, romconcept.com.br

Belong Be

This multi-brand store aims to promote national and independent brands and is the place everyone goes for Brazilian-only beauty products, from skincare by Kesser to makeup by Boca Rosa Beauty.

Rua Oscar Freire, 38, belongbe.com

SECRET ESCAPE

Campana Park ⁽³⁾

The Campana brothers, renowned designers Fernando and Humberto, dreamed of creating a park, which became a reality with the opening of Campana Park in Brotas, three hours from São Paulo. After Fernando's passing in 2022, Humberto carried the vision forward. The 52-hectare park features eight pavilions made from local materials like bamboo and eucalyptus, with plans for a café and museum. Visits are by appointment, available on the last Friday and Saturday of each month.

Estrada Municipal Edson Valente s/n, Brotas, parquecampana.com.br



IT FASHION DESIGNER

Alexandre Herchcovitch ^(2&5)

Born in São Paulo in 1971, Alexandre Herchcovitch is a renowned fashion designer known for his bold, avant-garde style. He gained international recognition for blending streetwear with high fashion. His designs are marked by striking prints, sculptural shapes, and a fearless approach to challenging fashion norms. Herchcovitch remains a key figure in Brazilian fashion, celebrated for his innovation and creativity.

NK Store, Rua Haddock Lobo, 1.592, Cerqueira César

STYLE HUB

Pinga Store

Check out the Paulistana's go-to concept store for a well-curated selection of Brazilian and Latin American labels, from AO to Marina Bitu, to La Vie en Mode and Studio Ellias Kaleb, with regular brand colla-borations. You will also find must-have handbags and accessories, as well as eclectic homeware.

Rua da Consolação, 3378, pingastore.com.br





Istanbul

TURKEY

STRADDLING ASIA AND EUROPE, BISECTED BY THE BOSPHORUS, ISTANBUL IS A CAPTIVATING BLEND OF ANCIENT AND MODERN. MUST-SEES ARE THE HAGIA SOPHIA AND SULEYMANIYE MOSQUES, TOPKAPI PALACE, AND THE LABYRINTHINE GRAND BAZAAR. HEAD TO HIPSTER KARAKÖY FOR STYLISH CAFES AND GALLERIES, KADIKÖY, FOR MUSIC, NIGHTLIFE AND STREET MARKETS, SULTANAHMET FOR HISTORY. *ELLE TURKEY GUIDES YOU.*

TRENDY EATERY

Arkestra ^(1&3)

Chef Cenk Debensason skilfully blends local ingredients and influences from Asia and Mexico in dishes such as tuna sashimi with sushi rice ice cream. As well as its main restaurant, Arkestra has a cosy bistro, Ritmo, for small plates, and the city's first jazz-kissa-inspired bar - The Listening Room.

Etiler, Dilhayat Sokak No: 28 Besiktas, arkestra.com.tr

LOCAL FOOD HOTSPOT

Pandeli ⁽⁴⁾

One of the city's culinary icons, this turquoise-tiled restaurant, above the Spice Bazaar, has been in the Pandeli family for more than a century, serving the likes of Audrey Hepburn, Robert de Niro and Queen Elizabeth II. Order the signature sea bass cooked in paper and lamb with aubergine purée.

Rüstempaşa District Fish Market, Balık Pazarı, Mısır Çarşısı İç 1 D:2, Eminönü/Fatih, pandeli.com.tr

CHARMING HOTEL

Splendid Palas Hotel ⁽²⁾

A summer retreat for well-heeled Istanbulites, the pretty island of Büyükaada has no cars, just bicycles and horse-drawn carriages. Built in 1908, Splendid Palas lives up to its name with its striking red and white frontage, twin domes, lanterned winter garden, 69 quietly luxurious rooms and striped loungers around the pool.

23 Nisan Street, No 39, Büyükaada, splendidhotel.net

BUZZING BAR

Mikla

This rooftop terrace has pretty much everything you could ask for: a pool, a bar, and an award-winning, world-class restaurant, with food from every corner of Anatolia. Order a Reyhan - Ketel One: vodka, purple basil, lime, Creole bitters - and watch the sun set over the Golden Horn.

The Marmara Pera, Meşrutiyet Caddesi No:15, miklarestaurant.com



PAMPER PLACES

The Peninsula Spa & Wellness Centre

Go for the gold-infused facials and detox body wraps and stay for the huge marble and mother-of-pearl hammam, 25-metre indoor pool, and the scenic one outdoors on the banks of the Bosphorus.

Kemankeş Caddesi No:34 Kemankeş Karamustafapaşa Mahallesi, peninsula.com

Kılıc Ali Pasa Hamamı ⁽⁶⁾

Built in the 16th century, this bathhouse is known for its distinctive 17m x 14m dome and award-winning design. Book the rigorous traditional hammam ritual for a total body deep-cleanse.

Kemankeş Mahallesi, Hamam Sokak, No:1, kilicalipasahamami.com

Cemberlitas Hamam

One of Istanbul's oldest hammams, Cemberlitas' water is heated by a traditional woodchip furnace. When you are done steaming and exfoliating, book an Indian head massage or clay mask treatment.

Vezirhan Caddesi No: 8, cemberlitashamami.com



IT FASHION DESIGNER

Bunyamin Aydin, Les Benjamins

This luxury, one-of-a-kind streetwear brand for men and women was founded in 2011 by Bunyamin Aydin. Aiming to represent 'a vision of the contemporary East', Les Benjamin's eclectic collections draw inspiration from First Wave to Eastern Punk, featuring unconventional, unique pieces, in a mix of 1970s music, heritage fabrics and crafting techniques.

Tesvikiye Akkavak Sokak No:16, lesbenjamins.com

STYLE HUB

Beymen ⁽⁵⁾

Dubbed 'Turkey's answer to Bloomingdale's or Selfridge's', this all-encompassing department store offers its own in-house brand, as well as a selection of over 1000 designers from Valentino to Alexander McQueen. Iconic second-hand bags and shoes are also available from Beymen's 'Reborn' collection.

Kılıçlı Pasa, Meclisi Mebusan Cd. No: 12 D:1D, beymen.com



HOTTEST NIGHT OUT

Klein Garten

Seek out this bohemian sky garden, with views of the city all lit-up below, in Istanbul's most architecturally and culturally rich neighbourhood. Dress up to dance to ethnic house and techno, with DJs Stasi Sanlin, Corn and Cotton and Nils Hoffman keeping the massive dancefloor filled.

Asmalimescit District, Mesrutiyet, Caddesi, No 67, Floor 6, klein-entertainment.com

SECRET ESCAPE

Casa Lavanda

Istanbul is fun but frenetic and for a much-needed reboot, Casa Lavanda is just a 45-minute drive east, in the peaceful village of Ulupelit. Set in gardens spanning 21 acres, biodynamic farming, renewable energy and nature take centre stage. Choose from 15 cosy rooms, some with white fourposters, fireplaces, balconies, or terraces.

Ulupelit, Seçilmiş Sok No:2, 34980 sile, casalavanda.com.tr

Mandarin Oriental Ritz, Madrid

Belle Époque Grandeur Reimagined at Madrid's **Most Iconic Palace Hotel**



From top to bottom: MANDARIN ORIENTAL RITZ, MADRID TURRET; GARDEN NIGHT; PRESIDENTIAL SUITE, BEDROOM; GARDEN FOUNTAIN; MADRID PICTURA BAR



THE LOWDOWN

Mandarin Oriental Ritz, Madrid is a masterful fusion of historic opulence and contemporary luxury, standing proudly in the heart of Madrid's illustrious Golden Triangle of Art. For over a century, this landmark palace has been a symbol of elegance, welcoming

royalty, dignitaries, and discerning travellers from across the globe. Following the largest renovation in its history, the hotel has been exquisitely reimagined by Spanish architect Rafael de La-Hoz and the acclaimed French design duo Gilles & Boissier, preserving its Belle Époque splendor while introducing

refined modern touches. The interiors pay homage to the hotel's heritage with soaring ceilings, intricate mouldings, and classic woodwork, juxtaposed against plush textiles and sophisticated furnishings in a soothing palette of soft neutrals and warm tones. Each of the 100 rooms and 53 suites reflects this delicate balance of tradition and modernity — generously proportioned and thoughtfully appointed. Deluxe rooms feature four-poster canopy beds and leather-backed chairs, while bathrooms exude elegance with Dolomite stone marble, rain showers, and separate bathtubs, enhanced by Natura Bissé amenities. The suites elevate the experience further, offering spacious living areas, dining rooms, and in select categories, private terraces overlooking the Prado Museum and the city's most refined neighborhoods.

GOOD EATS

Mandarin Oriental Ritz is a culinary destination in its own right, with Deessa—the two-Michelin-starred restaurant by chef Quique Dacosta—at its heart. Set in the stunning Alfonso XIII room overlooking the Ritz Garden, Deessa offers inventive tasting menus that highlight contemporary Spanish cuisine and seasonal local ingredients. In warmer months, guests can enjoy dining on the elegant marble terrace. For lighter options, the hotel features Palm Court for Afternoon Tea, the chic Champagne Bar with tapas and bubbles, Pictura bar with a summer terrace, and El Jardín del Ritz for casual drinks and dining amid peaceful garden surroundings.



Mandarin Oriental Lutetia, Paris

Art Deco Glamour, Legendary History, and Contemporary Elegance on the Left Bank



THE LOWDOWN

Mandarin Oriental has officially taken over the legendary Hôtel Lutetia, Paris's only Palace hotel on the Left Bank, unveiling a fresh chapter for this iconic address. Nestled in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Lutetia is a masterclass in balancing rich history with modern sophistication, making it a must-visit for travellers seeking an authentic yet luxurious Parisian experience. Originally founded in 1910, Hôtel Lutetia is a stunning example of Art Nouveau and Art Deco design. The comprehensive restoration completed in 2018, led by renowned architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte, carefully preserved its timeless architectural beauty while introducing contemporary comforts. The interiors marry classic elegance with subtle modern touches — think marble floors, sweeping staircases, and gilded accents alongside sleek furnishings, rich textiles, and curated art that pay tribute to the hotel's cultural legacy. Guest rooms and suites are the heart of the experience here. Each room is thoughtfully designed to blend old-world charm with modern amenities. Soft, neutral

palettes and sumptuous fabrics create a calm, inviting atmosphere, while large windows frame views of Parisian streets or the hotel's peaceful courtyard. Spacious bathrooms, state-of-the-art technology, and bespoke touches — such as locally inspired artworks and artisanal details — ensure comfort is never compromised. For those seeking extra indulgence, the suites offer generous living areas, refined décor, and access to private terraces.

GOOD EATS

Dining here is a journey through Parisian flavours with a modern twist. The iconic Brasserie Lutetia serves classic French cuisine in a lively yet elegant setting, elevating traditional dishes with seasonal, locally sourced ingredients that celebrate the region's culinary heritage. Meanwhile, Bar Josephine provides a sophisticated space to enjoy expertly crafted cocktails infused with local flavors.





Clockwise from left: MEDITERRANEAN COOKING RETREAT; SAILING CERTIFICATIONS; WRITING RETREATS; GARDENING RETREATS; PHOTOGRAPHY RETREATS

Upskilling in a Summer retreat

From rediscovering old passions during lockdown to juggling a colorful mix of hobbies, explore how embracing the ‘Jack of all trades’ mindset can lead to unexpected joy, growth, and new adventures

Being indoors has never been my favorite — except every summer (hellooo, Middle East!) and, of course, for almost the entire year of 2020. That year began with my leg in a cast, and soon after, the doom of COVID-19 arrived swiftly. With little movement allowed, old personalities re-emerged: baking like I’m the Indian Martha Stewart, home workouts that would make Jane Fonda proud, and binge-watching shows in a way that would put Lorelai Gilmore to shame. But it’s always been that way — one summer I took up scrapbooking, and I still have glitter remnants in my study drawers; another, I decided to start boxing; after 2019, my pink boxing gloves haven’t seen the light of day; and don’t even get me started on my hot yoga phase.

Jack of all trades, master of none. That’s the part of the quote we remember most — that part adults used to say growing up, implying it might be better to stick with just one thing instead of forming new personalities every time you “discover” something new. But when I was studying literature

(a phase that stuck with me since I was 7 and read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory), I found out that this Shakespeare quote actually goes: “Jack of all trades, master of none, though oftentimes better than master of one.”

And so, my current week includes all three fitness Ps — padel, pilates, and personal training —along with writing, reading, binge-watching, rewatching, and most recently, making coffee table books for my home (it’s a small home production, and my family, who first relished them, are running out of coffee table space!). As my entire personality shifts between really cute purple tutu tennis skirts, hot pink Pilates pants, and a little boy outfit for my PT session, I started looking up how to go pro in all my hobbies. From writing retreats in Florence (living my Eat part of Eat, Pray, Love) to boxing camps in Thailand to getting my sailing license (because, yeah, that’s what’s missing). I’ve started exploring different ways to holiday, upskill — and slowly pave the way to a stronger version of ‘Jack of All Trades.’

WORDS BY SWATIJAIN/IMAGES UNSPLASH

WRITING RETREATS

Haters might say Daniel Humphry (from Gossip Girl) gave me this idea. However, it was actually my (still strong) perverse obsession with romance novels that first piqued my interest. Beatrice Monti della Corte has become synonymous with nurturing some of the world’s finest literary talents through her writing retreat held in a magical Tuscan villa. Nestled in the hills above Florence, this retreat — which still runs today — is the perfect setting to overcome writer’s block and ignite literary passions. Nowadays, many writing retreats offer both in-person and virtual experiences. Beyond honing your craft, you’ll find a community that helps channel your creativity.

MEDITERRANEAN COOKING RETREAT

I’m not sure if I’m aiming to become the next Nara Smith or simply find ways to stay in Tuscany indefinitely, but these blue-diet cooking retreats are incredible. In just a week, depending on the retreat you choose, you can learn to make amazing dishes from at least four different cuisines —and truly master the art of perfectly rolled pasta, atypical paella, and the smoothest, most flawless croissants!

SAILING CERTIFICATIONS

My car still greets every pavement and sidewalk on our drives, so a sailboat might not be the smartest choice for me. But

indulge me — sitting on the boat, wearing your boat pants, boat shoes, and a little polo, mastering the ropes, sailing through the seas, and jumping into secluded coves. Wait, are you thinking of Joey Tribbiani too? Many yachting schools in the Balkans, including the Royal Yachting Association, offer courses that can get you certified to sail in less than a week.

PHOTOGRAPHY RETREATS

A picture speaks a thousand words, so understandably, the lazy girl’s hack should include a photography retreat. There are many genres to choose from, but travel photography especially pulls at my heartstrings. Spread all over the world, these retreats combine exploration of a country with fantastic photography courses. They organize some of the most immersive trips —from the vast landscapes of Patagonia to the bustling markets of Delhi’s Chandni Chowk. You learn what lighting and storytelling through pictures really mean.

GARDENING RETREATS

Not everyone is born with a green thumb, but the idea of greenery, fresh air, and a new hobby (or personality) is an exciting one. Gardening retreats offer the perfect blend of physical and mindful activities to help you relax, unwind, and grow (pun intended!). From small cottage gardens to community plots and even terrariums, there’s something to try no matter how big you want to go.



Four Seasons George V, Paris

The **Ultimate Parisian Indulgence:** Eiffel Tower Views, Michelin Stars, and Artful Escapes

There's no shortage of luxury in Paris, but Four Seasons Hotel George V redefines it. Nestled in the Golden Triangle, a heartbeat away from the Champs-Élysées and Eiffel Tower, this iconic hotel strikes a balance between Parisian elegance and modern Italian opulence, making it the perfect escape for those seeking world-class service, incredible food, and rooms that whisper sophistication.

REDEFINING LUXURY

The hotel's latest jewel? Its newly renovated suites, which include two Duplex Suites, one Parisian Suite, and two Grand Premiere Suites. All come with spacious balconies or private terraces, offering unparalleled views of the Eiffel Tower. The Penthouse – one of the hotel's most iconic accommodations – has been reimagined as a sanctuary of romance, bathed in natural light and offering unmatched Eiffel Tower views from the living room. Expect soft, timeless Parisian design interwoven with stunning modern art, blending comfort with high-end tech.

FOOD & MOOD

Beyond its rooms, Four Seasons George V also impresses with its culinary offerings. The renowned Italian chef Niko Romito brings his Michelin-starred finesse to the table with a fresh new Sunday brunch. Italian simplicity meets Parisian refinement with dishes like his signature Vegetable Lasagna, perfect for those who love their food as artful as it is delicious. The restaurant's intimate vibe, paired with impeccable service, elevates this brunch experience into something more.

A PEACEFUL RETREAT

After a day spent exploring the city, retreat to The Bvlgari Spa, a sanctuary of relaxation and rejuvenation spread across 1,300 square meters. A standout feature is the 25-meter semi-Olympic pool,



Above: **For the Parisian Shopper:** The hotel's curated shopping experience guided by a local stylist through Paris's most iconic fashion and lifestyle boutiques is a must.



surrounded by calming mosaics and an array of wellness amenities, including a vitality pool and Hammam. Unique in the capital, it partners with three prestigious skincare brands to offer hyper-personalized treatments tailored to every skin type. The perfect haven to unwind and recharge after a day in Paris.

DISCOVER & ENJOY

Four Seasons presents an array of luxurious destinations for GCC travelers seeking the ultimate summer getaway. Whether you're unwinding at the serene Four Seasons Resort Mallorca, exploring the ancient wonders of Egypt from the Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza, or immersing yourself in the tranquil oasis of Four Seasons Resort Marrakech with breathtaking views of the Atlas Mountains, an unforgettable experience awaits.



Lifestyle

Four Seasons Hotel Riyadh

A Luxurious **Stay in the Heart** of the Kingdom



LOCATION & ELEGANCE

If you find yourself in Riyadh, look no further than the Four Seasons Hotel Riyadh at Kingdom Centre — where the heart of Saudi Arabia's capital meets unmatched luxury. As we entered the soaring Kingdom Centre tower, it quickly became clear why this hotel stands as a landmark in the city's skyline.

ROOMS & SUITES

The hotel's interior blends contemporary design with subtle Saudi influences. The spacious rooms and suites offer panoramic views of Riyadh, and are equipped with modern amenities, plush bedding, and luxurious marble-clad bathrooms.

FOOD & MOOD

Dining here is an experience in itself. Café Boulud, by renowned chef Daniel Boulud, offers a sophisticated all-day dining experience, while the exclusive Julien by Daniel Boulud redefines fine dining with its intimate chef's counter. Guests can also indulge in exquisite pastries at the Pierre Hermé Paris pâtisserie or enjoy handcrafted cocktails and mocktails at Tonic Bar, created by an all-female team of mixologists.



CHILL, REST & REJUVENATE

For wellness, the hotel features a state-of-the-art fitness center, complete with cardio and weight equipment, a squash court, and private areas for both men and women. The hotel's 24-hour gym is complemented by a luxurious spa, offering bespoke treatments designed to relax and rejuvenate, from detoxifying massages to revitalizing facials. Ideal for working out, unwinding, or simply escaping the city's fast pace.

Elle INTERNATIONAL

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

You are a born warrior. You rely on your instincts to show you the best tactics, and your physical energy to carry you through to victory - but not this time. There are aspects to your present situation that you cannot see, and although you don't know it, you may be your own worst enemy. Don't struggle on alone; find someone you can trust, who can show you what you have missed, and will fight by your side.

TAURUS

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

It's time to revisit an unresolved issue from the past. It's not the impossible problem you once thought it was; the other people involved have softened their attitudes considerably since last time, perhaps because they, too, need to find a workable solution. You are also more flexible yourself, and would agree to a compromise or a deal now, which you wouldn't before. Work with it, and see what you can do..

GEMINI

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

Here comes one of the summer's sweetest episodes, starting when a friend pays you a compliment. Thinking about it later, you realise that there could be more to it than that, but your friend says nothing. How should you respond? What if you've misunderstood? Eventually you decide to make a similar response, to show you've got the message, and would like to the game to continue. And so the fun begins.

CANCER

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

There is a wonderfully rich feel to the next few weeks. Rich in new experiences and emotions, and above all rich in potential. You feel that anything is possible, and that the life of your dreams is there waiting for you, though you may also find that there is so much you want to do that you can't decide where to start. Anywhere will do, it's all good. Forget about duty just go where your heart and imagination take you.

LEO

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

Unexpected developments in your personal life may prompt more deep thinking - and heartache - than you have had for many months. Everything you have accepted and taken for granted is suddenly turned upside down, and you find yourself questioning not only the relationship you are in, but your own role within it. By mid-August you reach an understanding, and all is well; but it's a worrying moment

VIRGO

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

Time to catch up with yourself. With Mars no longer in your sign, and therefore without the pressure to push things forward and to achieve, you can bring your life back down to its normal pace, taking time to refine and improve what you do rather than trying to meet impossible deadlines. If you want to go back and make a few adjustments to your recent efforts, do so; you'll be pleased with the results.

AUGUST 2025

Text by BERNARD FITZWALTER

LIBRA

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

A well-deserved promotion could put close friendships under strain. The reason is simple - they think you have been given what should be theirs, and they're jealous. Should you step down and let one of them take your place? No, you should stay as you are; but at the same time, let the others know that you value their friendship, and hope to continue it. Whether they accept your offer is up to them, not you.

SCORPIO

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

Nostalgia is wonderful in small amounts, but it's also very selective, reminding you of all the good things and editing out the bad ones. So when early August shows you a new way forward, very attractive but untested and slightly scary, you find yourself looking back at when life's challenges seemed easier. Actually, there were problems then too, but you've forgotten them. Have faith in yourself; go forwards, not back.

SAGITTARIUS

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

A brighter future is on offer, and all your friends say you should take the opportunity - and yet you can't quite commit yourself to it, mentally or emotionally. Deep down in your heart, you don't believe in it; and until you do, there's no point in trying. Maybe recent reverses have drained your natural optimism. If so, set yourself small but achievable targets to build yourself up again. You'll soon be back to your old self.

CAPRICORN

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

You are having to carry a lot of weight at the moment, in both your personal life and at work. But you are the only person with the strength and stamina to make what is a very confused situation, full of potential but also likely to fail without firm direction, into a success. Don't think that your efforts aren't appreciated; they are, very much so, and when this crisis is over you will get all the praise and reward you are due.

AQUARIUS

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

You are very slowly separating yourself from your past. It's not an easy thing to do, and at the moment you are talking about it rather than taking action, trying out the ideas to see how they sound when you say them; but that's fine. It's hard to let go of the lifestyle you have known for so long, but as you move from one big phase of your life to another, it has to happen. Push forward gently; be firm, but don't rush.

PISCES

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

A new romance usually means going to fashionable places with friends, and showing the world that the two of you are in a relationship together. But to you, that's just an image you're creating, not the true you, and you would rather not do much at all. But could that give out the message that you're not really interested? It's possible - so somehow, you have to show your new love that for you, right now, less is more.

"CAFÉS USED TO BE
PIT STOPS. NOW?
THEY'RE THE DESTINATION"



Urban Brews

The rise and rise of *café*
culture in the region

There has never been a time in the history of the Gulf when café culture was as vibrant as it is today. Over the last decade, with the art and cultural scene becoming part of the social fabric that weaves people, places, and experiences into one dynamic rhythm, cafés have become an integral part of the vibe. Think local tradition meets global influence, and you're right on spot. From the unmistakable Parisian charm to

Korean or Japanese-influenced aesthetics that blend with Arabian hospitality, there's always something to suit the mood, the occasion- and yes, the taste buds.

But today's cafés are more than beautiful spaces and great coffee – they're lifestyle ecosystems. In Dubai, Riyadh, Jeddah, Manama, and Sharjah, coffee spots now double as concept stores, wellness corners, co-working hubs, and social salons. Matcha, spinach lattes, and cold drips are the new staples, often served alongside curated playlists and oat-based everything. You'll find gym bags under chairs, MacBooks on terrazzo tables, and a rotating

cast of creatives popping in before breathwork or after Pilates.

Bringing together students, artists, entrepreneurs, and digital nomads, café culture reflects the region's energy – fast-moving, expressive, and deeply connected. Whether it's a quiz night, open-mic poetry, or a quiet corner for your latest brainstorm, these spaces are more than a trend. They're where the region meets the moment.



Cassina



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