

TATLER[®]



September 2026

ROYAL DRAMA
THE GIRL AND THE
COURT CASE OF
THE DECADE

**HOUSE OF
SECRETS**
INSIDE THE STATELY
HOME THAT IS
A MARQUESS'S
OBSESSION

ME, ME, ME!
DO YOU ONLY TALK
ABOUT YOURSELF
AT DINNER?

THE FUTURE'S ELLA BRIGHT

A STAR IS BORN

THE OFF CAMPUS SENSATION MAKES
HER PARIS COUTURE DEBUT

A still life composition featuring a light blue quilted handbag with a gold-tone clasp, resting on a dark wooden pedestal. Behind the bag is a large, rustic copper pot filled with a lush green plant with delicate, fern-like leaves. The scene is set against a plain, light-colored wall. The word "Dior" is overlaid in a large, black, serif font on the left side of the image.

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ON THE COVER
ELLA BRIGHT
Photograph by LUC BRAQUET
Styling by SOPHIE PERA

Dress, POA, Christian Dior Haute Couture. Necklace, POA, Dior Joaillerie. For stockists, see Address Book. Hair: Rena Calhoun at A-Frame Agency using Virtue Labs. Make-up: Mia Jones at Forward Artists using Allies of Skin. Styling assistants: Sophie Callaghan and Abigail Foster. Shot on location at: Hôtel Le Marois, Paris

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF EMBANKMENT FILMS; DAN STEVENS; JAMES McDONALD; JASON LLOYD-EVANS; LUC BRAQUET; MARK CANT; OLI KEARON

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Decades of dazzling dresses

A woman with dark hair pulled back is standing outdoors, leaning against a stone pillar. She is wearing a long, double-breasted brown coat with a wide collar and a matching skirt with a dark, intricate pattern. She is also wearing dark, open-toed high heels. The background features a stone wall and some foliage.

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Delilah Khomo

Tatler's travel editor Delilah Khomo (*left*) is constantly on the go and particularly drawn to places that have a special energy. 'Classical ruins and ancient sacred sites are intoxicating. The temples in Egypt are especially hieratic and mystifying,' she says. 'Equally, DC10 in Ibiza definitely takes me to a higher vibrational place.' She enjoys visiting 'beautiful places tinged with a little strangeness; places where the veil feels at its thinnest, such as Ireland or Sicily.' It was only fitting, then, that she should compile this issue's Spiritual Special, covering everything from the best healers to her own experience of connecting with the divine through fasting.



Luc Braquet

Luc Braquet (*above*) photographed Ella Bright for this issue's cover. His favourite on-set memory of all time? 'When Monica Bellucci called me "*amore*" and I turned bright red.' What sparks his imagination? 'The Nineties, when photos exuded emotion. Richard Avedon, Peter Lindbergh and Irving Penn.' According to Luc, the best place to party in Paris, his home town, is wine bar Chez Georges in Saint-Germain-des-Prés, an institution since 1952. See you there.

Jemma Mornington

In this issue, we also gain spiritual insight from down-to-earth former fashion model and make-up artist Jemma Mornington (aka Jemma Kidd, *below*), who opens up her contacts book to share the details of her favourite alternative healers. She admits to being 'hopeless at yoga', but she is partial to *balasana* (child's pose). 'It's the only pose I like,' she says. Between appointments, she swears by 'a bath full of magnesium flakes and Epsom salts' whenever she is feeling disconnected. Another tip: 'Focusing on your breath and surroundings' – especially good for anyone who, like her, has such a 'busy brain'.



Ben Jureidini

This month, *Tatler's* own Ben Jureidini (*above*) unpacks what it means to be a FIGJAM, which stands for: 'F*** I'm Great, Just Ask Me' – aka the dinner guest no one wants to invite back. And what is Ben serving at his dinner parties? 'I discovered the delights of vodka sangria at a festival in Barcelona this summer. Effective and at least one of your five-a-day,' he says. Who, if anyone, is allowed to talk about themselves all night? 'Me, obviously, on account of how interesting I am.' Takes one to know one...



Annabel Brooks

In this issue's Spiritual Special, the actress-turned-villa-specialist Annabel Brooks (*above*) details her trip to Imaret – a luxury boutique hotel in north-eastern Greece with a spiritual past. 'Imaret has its own radio station. I play it every day and I am transported back,' she says. How does home life compare? 'Life in the Cotswolds feels outward-looking with far-reaching views, whereas Imaret is inward-looking. But I can be barefoot in both.' Her ultimate essentials for jet-setting? 'A mini massage gun, eye mask and headphones.'



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BYSTANDER

A full-page photograph of Princess Catherine of Wales at the Ascot horse racing event. She is the central figure, wearing a bright yellow, short-sleeved, knee-length dress with a large bow at the waist and a wide skirt. She is also wearing a large, light-colored straw hat with a delicate yellow veil and a matching yellow clutch bag. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. To her left, a man in a black top hat and tuxedo is partially visible. The background shows other guests in formal attire and the green grass of the racecourse.

PRINCESS BUTTERCUP
The Princess of Wales brought the sunshine to Ascot in a favourite Roksanra dress. For all the gossip from the royal meeting, see overleaf...

TATLER

A REAL HOOVES-WHO

Photographs by HUBERT CECIL,
MARCUS DAWES & DAN STEVENS

Royal Ascot belongs to the royal procession – and day two's was particularly special, when, three years after her last appearance at the royal meeting, the Princess of Wales returned. Radiant in Roksanda, she rode in the second carriage alongside the Duke and Duchess of Richmond, drawing rapturous applause from around the racecourse and into the parade ring.

But there were other talking points, too. The King and Queen delighted the public by attending all week – accompanied on opening day by the Duke and Duchess of Wellington. Newlyweds Peter and Harriet Phillips were firm favourites, while the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester brought their children and grandchildren. Lady Gabriella Kingston was a style standout, elegant in pale blue, and Zara Tindall delivered one impeccable look after another.

Day three was won by Stanley Tucci and Felicity Blunt – she described it as 'one of the best moments of my life'. On the final afternoon, veteran broadcaster Brough Scott and his wife, Susan, travelled with Their Majesties. Lady Weatherby's appearance in the fourth carriage alongside Orlando and Clemmie Fraser was a touching tribute to her late husband, Sir Johnny Weatherby – Queen Elizabeth II's long-standing Representative at Ascot.

But on opening day, the fiercest competition wasn't unfolding on the racecourse; it was the picnic one-upmanship in Car Park 1. Andrew and Arabella Dunn were among the early arrivals, revealing that they were considering swapping their usual summer pilgrimage to the Caribbean for Utah and a stay at Amangiri. Nearby, Charlie and Agnieszka Butter were presiding over one of the morning's liveliest gatherings, joined by The Mustique Company's managing director, Roger Pritchard, and friends. Katie Cecil abandoned shoes after breaking a toe. The verdict from picnickers was unanimous: going barefoot was incredibly chic.

The picnic arms race showed no signs of slowing as Mayfair's mistress of memberships, Serena Connolly, set off in search of the holy grail: the Hon Goose Leigh's spread. Despite being improbably close to the entrance – and Goose and her mother, Lady Leigh, standing out in statement necklaces that rivalled the millinery – it remained elusive, prompting an extended trek around Car Park 1. The hunt proved worthwhile, as Goose's picnic swiftly became the week's social HQ, attended by George and Madeleine Packe-Drury-Lowe, who'd managed to fit in a day at Ascot before their wedding that Friday. Charles Granby's ▷



Dr Annalisa Jenkins & Jennifer Cacioppo



The Hon Edward Sackville



Lady Sarah Keswick



Chloe Herbert



Alice Smith-Ryland & the Hon Robert Hanson



Lady Gina Hope & the Countess of Hopetoun



Stanley Tucci, Lord & Lady Cavendish & Felicity Blunt



Francis & Charlotte Roseman



The Duke of Gloucester & Senna Kowhai Lewis



Zara Tindall



Leonora Bamford & Mariela Livanos



Sir Francis Brooke



The Hon Peregrine & Serena Hood



Jude Fry



Cece Andreas



Lady Gabriella Kingston



Lord Margadale



Agnieszka Butter & Fiona Feeley



The Earl & Countess of Rosebery



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The Earl of Albemarle



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Harriet & Peter Phillips



Rosie Tapner



The Duke & Duchess of Wellington



The Marquess of Granby



The Earl & Countess of Derby



Sean Dibsall



The Marquess & Marchioness of Blandford



The Duchess of Edinburgh



Ella Mountbatten



Harry Insley, Hugo Whitten & James Carey



The Prince & Princess of Wales



Zafar Rushdie



Talitha Howden



Daisy Knatchbull



Theodore Peake



Jodie Kidd & David & Fiona Howden



Berry Bloomingdale & Sonia Koenig



*Dondy
Crosthwaite-
Eyre*



Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah al-Thani

girlfriend, Clair Miesegaes, circulated canapés, while Charles dissected the Epsom Derby with the confidence of a seasoned racing man.

Elsewhere, Jude Fry spent the week welcoming guests to the Howden picnic tent, where the Howden sisters reigned supreme – with Talitha sporting a set of eccentric bunny ears on the Friday. Actor Jake Ritblat was spotted catching up with Lady Pease and her friend Georgie McIntyre before the afternoon action drifted into Lizzy Nielsen's family's box, where legendary trainer John Gosden watched the closing races while aspiring trainer Benny Nott dispensed insider racing wisdom.

Those fortunate enough to wander upstairs found Ali Spencer-Churchill entertaining the great and the good in the Birley Clubs' box, although many regulars still insisted Lady Bamford's box remained Ascot's most coveted invitation. Overflowing with wildflowers and crisp linens, and opening onto an expansive terrace, it once again proved impossible to beat.

On the Wednesday, in Car Park 1, Francis and Charlotte Roseman arrived astonishingly early to construct perhaps the week's most ambitious picnic, complete with floral linens, polished silverware and place settings. Fitting everything into the car had been a logistical feat in itself, Charlotte admitted, with only the napkins forgotten and hastily borrowed from White's. Elsewhere, Camilla Peake was spotted enjoying lunch with her son, Theo.

Thursday saw Daisy Knatchbull, in a white suit of her own design, hosting Chloe Herbert, James and Sofia Blunt, Erika Roger-Langton and Charlie Langton at her picnic. And the Quintessentially box reigned supreme, with Poppy Fordham entertaining all week in a variety of hats, beside Picassos and a Banksy provided by curator Polly-Anna Monckton, who proclaimed it: 'The most stylish instalment I ever did!' Meanwhile, Golda Rosheuvel held court in the Summer House in a top hat and chunky black boots, while Kelly Osbourne ignored the pastel palette in dramatic black. Bloodstock agent Sam Haggas (grandson of Lester Piggott) became the most sought-after source of racing tips; former champion jump jockey Harry Cobden enjoyed a day out of the saddle with Olivia Johnston; George Boughey celebrated with his Newmarket circle after Classic success; and Japanese ambassador Hiroshi Suzuki charmed everyone by bringing Paddington Bear to support Japan's runners...

Finally, an honourable mention to Ascot's best-dressed gentlemen. James Blunt took first place with effortless tailoring, closely followed by *Superman* star and Old Stoic Henry Cavill, rapper Tinie Tempah and the Hon Ed Sackville. Until next year, racers! □

BYSTANDER



The King & Queen



Miguel Gutierrez (left) & Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia (centre)



Jake Ritlat & Georgie McIntyre



Dio Rodriguez



Vanessa Williams



Jack Prosser, Flora Gibbs & Zoe Weinberg



Urs & Francesca Schwarzenbach



Lady Amelia Spencer Mallett & Lady Eliza Spencer



Lottie Cecil & Mark & Katie Cecil



Eric Underwood

Charlie Langton & Erika Roger Langton



Arabella Dunn



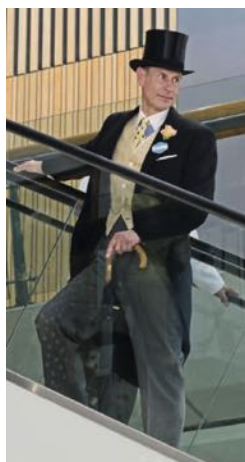
Charles Allan & Lysander Sutton



Henry Cavill & Natalie Viscuso



Zenouska Mowatt



The Duke of Edinburgh



Lady Davina Windsor
& Lady Rose Gilman



The Duchess of Gloucester



James Murray & Andrew Dunn



Dame Mary Berry



Paul & Georgina de Zulueta



Oliver Spencer



Columbus Mason & Harry Lempriere-Johnston



Lucinda Baker



Emily Shepherd & Jamie Insole



The Earl of Snowdon & Isabelle de la Bruyère



Eleanor Overgaard-Brown



Constantino Regis Bittencourt & Bernardo Hartogs



Elizabeth Hurley & Billy Ray Cyrus



James Middleton



Mark-Francis Vandelli



Esba Arora & Aditi Chadha



Carla Tohme



The Earl of Rosebery & Charles Brown

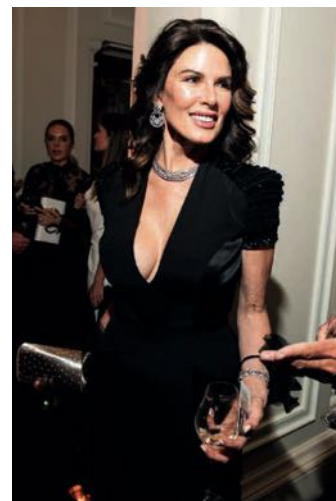
AUCTION STATIONS!

Photographs by HUBERT CECIL

The Black and White Gala for London's Air Ambulance Charity sent glamour levels sky high at Raffles London at The OWO. Hosts Sofia Barattieri-Weinstein and Julia Leal Hartogs welcomed 350 impeccably dressed guests, buoyed by champagne and a roaming band. One corner of the room, where James Middleton was holding court, was serenaded with 'Sweet Home Alabama'. Elsewhere, an elegant guest took a chance on a handsome Italian, opening with the line: 'Are you Michael's son?' ('Michael' was imaginary.) After kohlrabi ravioli starters, Harry Rosebery led the auction with his customary charm. Paddles flew up, most enthusiastically that of the individual who offered £70,000 for a day with Billy Ray Cyrus – seated nearby with Elizabeth Hurley.



Emily & Darnell Strom



Christina Estrada



Richard Basingthwaight & Nick Baxter



Julia Leal Hartogs



Ugo Ossani & Manuela Morgano



Olga Betsirovits & Pierre Dolmans



Sanjay & Anu Hinduja



Alireza Ittibadieh & Lord Hesketh



Chiara Landolfi



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Count Ludovico Barattieri di San Pietro



Irina Bebar



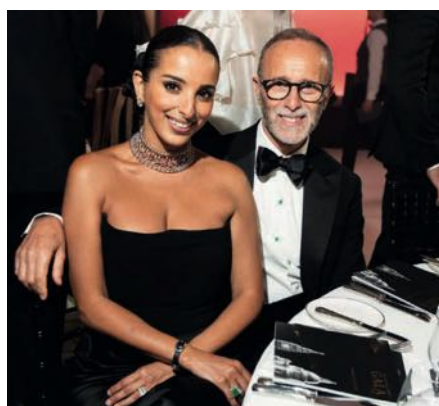
Lynn Anderson Clark & Alizée Thevenet



Marc Quinn



Christina Lykiardopoulou



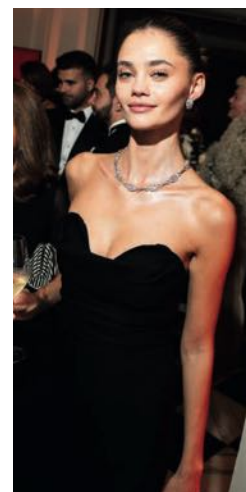
Youssef Nichane & Fabio Salini



Catalina Swinburn



Dheeraj Hinduja & Richard Caring



Izanne du Toit modelling one of the auction lots – a Fabio Salini diamond necklace



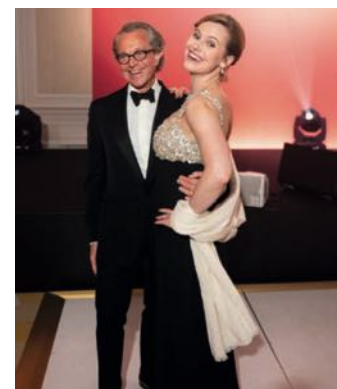
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Sofia Barattieri-Weinstein



Lady Celeste Primrose & Patrick Green KC



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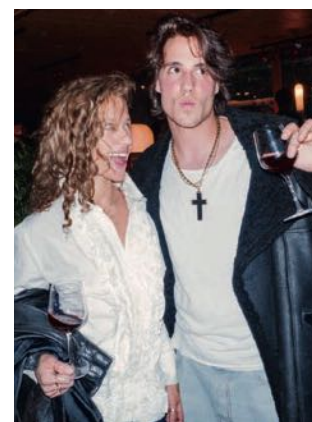
MAKE MATTERS VERSE

Photographs by HUBERT CECIL

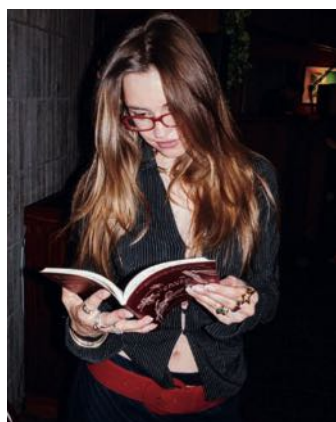
'I can't read poetry drunk,' one guest confessed at the launch of Allegra Handelsman's debut poetry collection, *Garden Kisses*. Others were absorbed: actress Imogen Poots appeared to be engrossed in the verses as she stood with her artist friend Nettie Wakefield in The Library Lounge at The Standard hotel in King's Cross. In the smoking area, sisters Charlotte and Georgia Cohu shared stories about thieves who'd made off with piles of designer clothing from Lover's Lane, their family's cult shop on Portobello Road. Alfreda Maxwell held court discussing plans for her wedding to Dan Pare, and Aimée Gillingwater treated the group to some songs. Meanwhile, Evie Booth-Clibborn deliberated over a slogan T-shirt emblazoned with the words: 'I wouldn't date a woman reading Allegra Handelsman'. Allegra's boyfriend, Alessandro Luciano, wasn't wearing one.



Temi Bashorun



Quinty Smits & Fabrice Fuhrmann



Belén Bittini



Isaac Benigson



Dora Davies-Evitt



Marie-Claudine Llamas & Freddie Foulkes



Charlotte Smurfit & Allegra Handelsman



Iva Mireille de Martelly



Georgia Cohu & Charlotte Cohu



Rafferty Law & Lucy Blue



Agathe Delpont



Dominic Inglis-Jones & Lady Delphi Primrose



Alexis Foreman



Nicholas Foulkes



Chloe Qisha



Flora Gibbs, Lady Amelia Spencer Mallett & Lady Eliza Spencer

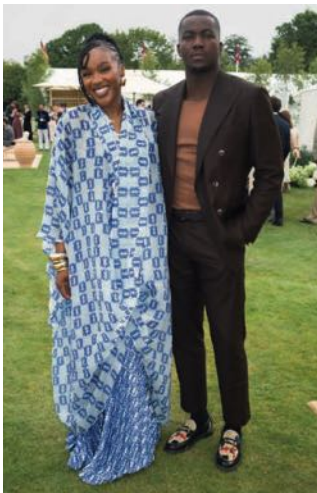
THE NEW GUARD

Photographs by DAN STEVENS

Agathe Delpont, Cartier's new UK managing director, held court in the white-picket-fenced garden at the Cartier Queen's Cup at Guards Polo Club. There was a three-course lunch, champagne and sorbet served from a chic mint-green stand. To make the guestlist? It helps to be a former *Tatler* cover star – Mia McKenna-Bruce, Delphi Primrose and the Spencer sisters were all in attendance. V&A director Sir Tristram Hunt arrived with his son, Digby, both towering over the group in linen suits. Elsewhere, it was a *Rivals* reunion for Luke Pasqualino and Hayley Atwell. A day of mischief and glamour worthy of a Jilly Cooper novel.



Lara Browning & Charlie Child



Bisi Akins & Jacob Banks

BALDING SPOT

Photographs by HUBERT CECIL

Pall Mall briefly came to a standstill as guests spilled out of Favourbrook's flagship store and onto the pavement for its annual Ascot showcase. Clare Balding, her brother Andrew Balding and Frankie Dettori shared Ascot lore, while Conrad Spencer, son of designer Oliver Spencer, the host, marshalled guests. Aston Rigoll arrived in a Mercedes-Benz SLS, which promptly became a talking point. Other guests were angling to be photographed: 'Who do I have to pose with to get into *Tatler*?' they pleaded. See for yourself...



Oliver Spencer



Conrad Spencer & Robin Stewart



James Campbell-Gray & Anna Lisa Balding



Lottie Cecil



George Le Page, Jack Scott & Cillian Spencer



Lily Jakisch & Federica Casula



Clare Balding & Jules Chow



Viscount Bridgeman & Sasha Smart



Viscountess Bridgeman



Billy Campbell



Miles Granville & Arthur Guinness

LIFE IMITATING ART

Photographs by HUBERT CECIL

Taking cues from the Met Gala's 'Costume Art' theme, guests went all out for Artemis Bridgeman's 21st birthday party at her family home in Warwickshire. Jo Johnson came as René Magritte's *Le Fils de l'homme*, with a floating apple attached to his hat. But the prize for Best Dressed undoubtedly went to the birthday girl, whose custom gown was inspired by John Singer Sargent's *Portrait of Madame X*. Her father, Viscount Bridgeman, gave a speech toasting his 'favourite daughter' – 'I'm his only daughter!' she pointed out – and the celebrations rolled on as a throng of Edinburgh students took to the dancefloor.



Sophia Grau & Uma Bery



Lord Johnson of Marylebone



The Hon Artemis Bridgeman



Carla Decombes & the Hon Felix Bridgeman



Nick Vinson



Kiki Karayiannis & Chloe Karayiannis

STRIKE FORCE

Photographs by UNA BURNAND

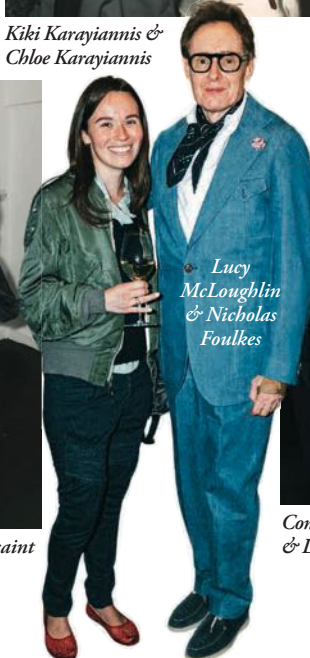
Tube strikes? A mere detail. London's art set proved a determined bunch as they arrived at Guerin Projects for Marie-Claudine Llamas's opening of a new exhibition of works by Gigi Ettedgui and Robin Hunter Blake. The night before, Llamas had gathered the cognoscenti for supper, where the artists were toasted with champagne and Tonnix wine bearing a label designed by Tracey Emin. At the private view itself, one guest declared he'd conquered three buses, two Tubes and an hour on foot to make it. The verdict? Worth it for Ettedgui's rose paintings and Hunter Blake's photographs.



Gigi Ettedgui, Marie-Claudine Llamas & Robin Hunter Blake



Saffron Aldridge & Laura Desaint



Lucy McLoughlin & Nicholas Foulkes



Constantin Rojahn, Julia Ransom & Lawrence Van Hagen



Lola Gabellini-Fava & Christina Donoghue



Jasper Greig & Tara DuRoss



Benedetta Rickmers & Lottie Cecil



Blythe Burkhart & Hetty Fairbanks Smith



Polly-Anna Monckton & Mike Hewitt



Edith Bruford



Harvey James

PRE'S THE DAY

Photographs by HUBERT CECIL

Most guests at the Epsom Derby preview party at George in Mayfair were running on little sleep. Clair Miesegaes, Poppy Fordham, Theo Bache and Charles Granby had just returned from three days of margaritas by the pool celebrating Serena Connolly's 30th birthday, but no one looked to be slowing down. As the evening gathered pace, Henry Pierce was declared the 'man of the hour' after a generous round of espresso martinis appeared. And from there, the party continued at Loulou's. Next stop? Surrey...



Frankie Foster, Megan Nicholls & Thady Gosden



Beatrice Ghose & Elizabeth Nielsen



Poppy Fordham



Count Franz Christoph & Countess Tatiana von Khevenhüller-Metsch



Stella Boden



Rafe Chawner



The Hon Freddie Strutt & Jonathan Quicke



Caspar Sugden



Theodora Gosden-Hood & Tom Kerr-Dineen



Maddy Long & Lottie Cecil



The Marquess of Granby & Clairea Miesegaes



Samuel Yorke



The Earl & Countess of Rosebery



Emily Graham



The King & Queen

BLOW BY BLOW

Photographs by HUBERT CECIL

A blustery day at the Epsom Derby saw 250 guests holding on to their hats as they made their way from The Jockey Club lunch to watch the racing – with the King and Queen, who had swept in from Peter Phillips' wedding in Gloucestershire, not far behind. Johnnie Boden's daughter Stella was nearly blown away by hers, while Harry and Harriet Rosebery joined Teddy and Cazzy Derby and assorted Stanleys, discussing Henrietta's wedding, Edward's engagement and Algy's sizeable betting loss. After the final race, the party moved back to the stables, where Tom Kerr-Dineen and his girlfriend, Thea Gosden-Hood, took to the dancefloor alongside Freddie Strutt and former St Mary's Ascot girl Isabelle Currey, throwing shapes to Taylor Swift.



Sebastian Cator & Esme Bertelsen



Major George & Madeleine Packe-Drury-Lowe



Cosima Prestwich



Kat Twiston-Davies & Tessa Donald



The Hon Goose Leigh



Anastasia Doldos



Bea Stanley & George Ashby



The Earl of Derby



Jonkvrouw Victoria Jooris & Lord Stanley

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SCAN ME





Count & Countess Skarbek



Maro Itoje



Yoje Kikanka & Asad Nazir



Silvia Mahtani & Chioma Ebere



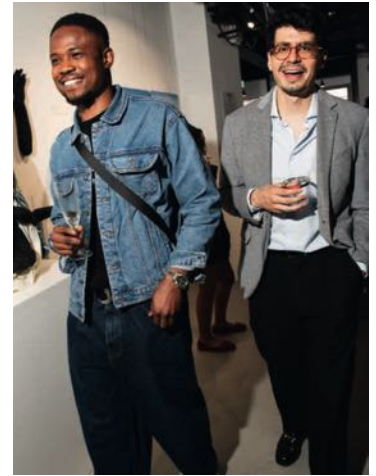
Edwin Otta

Anne Welsh & Khalil Akar

FEAT OF CLAY

Photographs by HUBERT CECIL

Artists, collectors, bankers and hedgefund managers gathered at 31 St George Street for *Nine Voices*, a pop-up exhibition from The Akoje Residency, founded by Maro Itoje and Khalil Akar, in partnership with The King's Foundation. Among the guests was Professor Olufolake Abdulrazaq, First Lady of Kwara State, Nigeria. All were treated to champagne and Nigerian palm wine, while a modern clay reinterpretation of the Benin bronzes by Kelly Omodamwen proved a hit among 35 pieces sold on the night. After the shopping, a giddy few continued on to Soho House.



Oshorenoya David Francis & Scott Jennings

PRINT IN DEMAND

Photographs by HUBERT CECIL

If anyone can make a print fair (hosted by the Countess of Rosslyn and her daughter Alice Jamieson) the hottest ticket in town, it's Tracey Emin. As hail rattled outside Somerset House, the grande dame of the British art scene unveiled *I Need Tomorrow*, a series of six personal lithographs. Cassius Taylor, the Duke of Norfolk and Ruth Wilson all turned out to pay homage, and the evening acquired extra glamour thanks to the Fry family, with Orson taking a break from writing in New York.



Jude Fry, Cosmo Fry & Orson Fry



The Earl of Rosslyn & Kate Straker



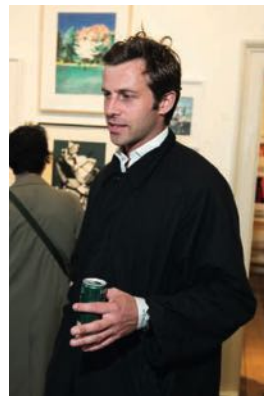
Dame Tracey Emin



Ruth Wilson



The Countess of Rosslyn & the Duchess of Norfolk



Harry Brockbank



Viscountess Trenchard & the Hon Laura Trenchard



The Hon Lara Inskip & Lady Alice Jamieson



Charlotte Griffiths on diary duty at a cocktail party on a yacht in Cap d'Ail in 2013

WORLD EXCLUSIVE

Truth about the Prince and me

BY MAIL ON SUNDAY EDITOR-AT-LARGE
CHARLOTTE GRIFFITHS

“I would have taken these memories to my grave, had I not been dragged to court to be casually smeared by a royal whose arrogance and sense of entitlement has now rotted whatever moral compass he once possessed”

So began a months-long friendship with this Mail journalist and Facebook messages about ‘movie snuggles’ and ‘naughtiness’. Yet in court Harry said he’d met her just once

YOU’VE GOT MAIL

Charlotte Griffiths, The Mail on Sunday’s ‘queen of scoops’, found herself in the glare of the global media when flirty messages with Prince Harry made news during his phone-hacking lawsuit. If he was blindsided, how did it affect her?

By ISOLDE WALTERS



SLID INTO MY DMS

TATLER

INSIDE THE KENSINGTON

headquarters of the *Daily Mail* and *The Mail on Sunday*, trays laden with champagne were wheeled into the newsroom. Reporters, editors and executives paused work in order to celebrate their parent company's emphatic High Court victory over its longtime adversary, Prince Harry.

The celebrations, tinged with relief, marked the end of a privacy lawsuit brought by the prince and other claimants that had dragged on for years, dredging up allegations of phone hacking and unlawful information gathering, culminating in an 11-week trial that saw dozens of current and former Associated Newspapers journalists called to give evidence. The publisher, owned by Lord Rothermere, is estimated to have spent some £50 million defending the case.

When judgment came, it was a triumph. The judge praised the evidence of every journalist accused of wrongdoing, including one, present at the celebrations, whose testimony proved particularly significant: Charlotte Griffiths.

During the trial, flirtatious Facebook messages that she had exchanged with Prince Harry more than a decade previously were unearthed and pored over in open court. In these missives, Harry called Griffiths 'CG-string', while she in turn christened him 'Mr Mischief'; they joked about movie snuggles and hedonistic country weekends as well as her ski trips to Klosters, Méribel and Val d'Isère.

Those exchanges were never intended for public consumption – yet, years later, they became central to one of the most closely watched court cases in recent British history.

So who is Charlotte Griffiths, the Fleet Street scoop-getter and society insider whose evidence helped sink Prince Harry's claim?

Those who know her best joke that Griffiths has newsprint in her veins. Her father, the late Nigel Griffiths, was, for 20 years, assistant editor of London's *Evening Standard* – he penned the famous headline 'Crisis? What Crisis?'

during the Winter of Discontent – and he passed on his love of scoops to his only child. Griffiths grew up in west London, attending a private girls' school close to Kensington Palace where she became accustomed to sightings of the royals.

Early on, she exhibited a flair for befriending the famous. In her teens, she enjoyed a brief friendship with Euan Blair, son of the then prime minister. When she attended Leeds University, she naturally found herself in the same circle

and the like) before heading to a nightclub – possibly Mahiki, run by Piers Adam at the time, Chinawhite, Whisky Mist, Boujis or Raffles, where she would snuffle out stories about the prevailing social set, among them Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, Prince William and his girlfriend Kate, Tom 'Skippy' Inskip, Guy Pelly, and, of course, Prince Harry.

By all accounts she took to the job like an It girl to a tabletop. Life was a constant carousel of parties

joyfully calling 'Scoooooops!' across the newsroom.

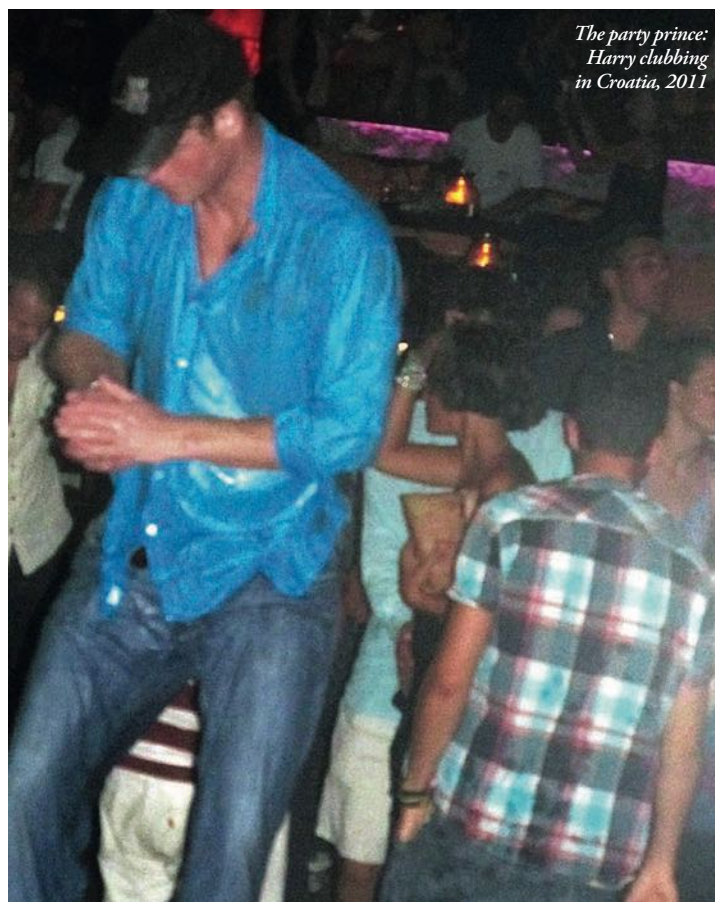
She first encountered Prince Harry properly in December 2011, during a shooting weekend at a 4,000-acre country estate. She had met the weekend's host in Ibiza. With that knack for befriending the influential, Griffiths hadn't realised the personable chap she'd partied with all weekend and sat next to on the easyJet flight home happened to be one of Britain's wealthiest men. She happily accepted an invitation to his home, where she found herself on the first night seated for dinner next to the then deeply popular royal.

She got on well with the prankster prince. The weekend passed in a blur; there was some low-key flirting and a couple of surprisingly earnest conversations between the two. Among the 16 or so guests there that weekend, Griffiths' job didn't come up. She would later reason that this was because many of the attendees didn't actually have jobs themselves.

On her drive home, Griffiths pulled over and found she had a message from a 'Spike Wells' on Facebook. It read: 'It's H... in case u were confused by name and picture!! X' [sic].

Over the next few months, a flurry of light-hearted, flirtatious messages were sent. They saw each other at parties – flung together in a coterie of Etonians, people from Rugby and Ampleforth, pop stars, posh people and not-so-posh people, part of the big, fun melting pot that characterised the sometimes messy London scene of the 2010s. Griffiths would later remember that the Harry of those years struck her as a fun and fearless young man, calling him 'a little bit eccentric with that excess of confidence occasionally spilling over into boorishness'.

She didn't disclose the friendship to her Fleet Street bosses. But the line between her personal and professional life was becoming ever trickier to tread. She was socialising with people who were the ▷



*The party prince:
Harry clubbing
in Croatia, 2011*

as a blonde and bubbly South African student by the name of Chelsy Davy.

Such connections proved useful when she landed a coveted spot on *The Mail on Sunday's* trainee scheme and found the perfect desk for her talents: Diary. This was the golden age of such journalism, before the advent of Instagram. Griffiths, at 24, was expected to attend a minimum of three to four events a night (book launches, awards ceremonies, charity galas

and champagne. And although the threat of a 'b*****ing' hung in the air if she were to head home before 3am, Griffiths didn't need the warning. She was, her peers say, a natural – a party lover, adept at staying out all night, coming into the newsroom bleary-eyed the next day with a handful of exclusives to her name. *Mail on Sunday* reporters recall that, occasionally, if a story was truly good, Griffiths would be rewarded by the paper's editor (and former *Tatler* editor) Geordie Greig

SOCIAL EYES

*The Mail's
'scoop-getter' with
Ellie Goulding at
Glastonbury, 2016*

*The Mail's
'scoop-getter' with
Ellie Goulding at
Glastonbury, 2016*



Prince Harry
being driven to
Mahiki with
Chelsy Davy,
2007



*A topless
Prince Harry
at a Las Vegas
pool party,
2012*



*Happy campers:
Griffiths at V
Festival, 2011*



Griffiths at a music night in east London, 2012

On a shooting weekend, with Griffiths out of journalist mode

On a shooting weekend, with Griffiths out of journalist mode



The prince leaving Mabiki at 4.30am with his protection officers, 2007

● He launches astonishing 'whitewash' rant at judge

HARRY CANED

Claims rejected
Prince Harry in
London yesterday

**FULL
STORY
PAGES
4 & 5**

LEWIS-JANE NEAP and
MATT WILKINSON, *Staff Editor*

PRINCE Harry yesterday suffered a crushing defeat in his £50million hacking campaign against the *Sunday Mail* and the *Sunday Express*.

In a huge victory for press freedom, every single one of the 57 allegations made by the Duke and his pals was rejected.

Last night Harry, 37, was told that his "constant obvious tampering in all the extraordinary lies" against the judge.

The Duke of Sussex was one of seven high-profile claimants who sued the magazine from Associated Newspapers Ltd over claims of unlawful information gathering.

The group included Sir Elton John and his husband David Furnish, actresses Liz Hurley and Sadie Frost, as well as

*Harry and
Chelsy at Boujis
nightclub, 2008*



Tangled web of the starry and the shamed behind failed bid

A hard truth for Harry: innuendo is not evidence

◁ subject of newspaper stories. After a few blunders she worked out a personal rule: if she was at a party that she hadn't been invited to as a journalist, she didn't spill the beans.

This rule could get her in trouble. It later came to light that she had been invited to the same host's shooting weekend the following year. No Prince Harry this time – but Prince William was present. He informed the whole group that Kate wasn't present because she was suffering with morning sickness. The fact that the then Duchess of Cambridge was pregnant with the future king or queen wasn't common knowledge, and when Griffiths' editor got wind of the fact she'd been privy to this information, he demanded to know why she hadn't immediately called the desk to impart the news.

As Griffiths became more established with her own weekly column, she stopped answering Harry's messages. He, meanwhile, became serious with Cressida Bonas and embarked on another tour of Afghanistan.

Griffiths found herself in an 'aristo crowd', as one source termed it, which is how she met, fell in love with and then married Frederick Duff-Gordon, son of Sir Andrew Duff-Gordon, 8th Baronet. Historically a shadow was cast over the family after the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912. The 5th Baronet was accused of having bribed the sailor in charge of his lifeboat not to return to rescue survivors struggling in the water, while his wife, Lady Duff-Gordon, had bemoaned the loss of her secretary's 'beautiful nightdress' as they rowed away from the sinking ship. This personal story came up during Griffiths' wedding when, in the middle of her reception at the Ned, she lost the large ruby of the Duff-Gordon necklace that had been lent to her (a red version of the 'Heart of the Ocean', if you will). One guest recalled how the bride insisted the music be turned off and the lights turned on, as guests got on their hands and knees to search. 'That jewel survived the *Titanic* but not your wedding,' one attendee sniped.

With motherhood, Griffiths' wild ways soon mellowed. She was pregnant with her third child when her old partying pal Harry, now married to

Meghan and living in Montecito, announced that he would be suing Associated Newspapers, owner of the *Daily Mail* and *The Mail on Sunday*, accusing Griffiths and her colleagues of hacking phones to source stories about him.

Associated's lawyers wanted to know how Griffiths – by now editor-at-large at the *MoS* – had his number. So as to show she had not just obtained the number lawfully, but actually from Harry himself, Griffiths retrieved the messages. Reading them for the first time in over a decade, she realised that they were going to utterly undermine his case. Harry insisted his friendship circle was not 'leaky' and yet the embarrassing messages showed that the then third in line to the throne had messaged a girl he didn't know very well, he had spoken frankly with her, and she happened to be a reporter for the very newspaper he was suing.

Lord Rothermere's phalanx of lawyers saved these messages, their trump card, until the last day of the trial. Griffiths took to the stand, squaring off against Harry's lawyer David Sherborne. She found the famously perma-tanned barrister easier to deal with than the inevitable deluge of press attention that soon followed, as publications all around the world and social media commentators picked apart the messages. She went to ground, later telling friends that she had spent two days hiding under a duvet. It was the first time Griffiths had found herself on the other side of the story and she didn't like it at all. But, she also admitted to one friend, if she dished it out, she had to learn how to take it.

Away from the headlines and the legal triumph, Griffiths struggled to reconcile the fun-loving Harry she knew with the irascible man who took her newspaper to court. One source said Griffiths wonders if Harry's friend sat her by him at that 2011 dinner to set them up. It didn't work out that way, but their brief friendship certainly came back to haunt them both. □



Emma McQuiston, now the Marchioness of Bath, posing for a photo with Griffiths at Glastonbury Festival, 2016



Super visor: Griffiths at DC10 in Ibiza, 2012



Cannes-do attitude: Griffiths on the French Riviera, 2016

PHOTOGRAPHS: BACKGRID; BAUER-GRIFFIN/EROTEME.CO.UK; COLEMAN-RAYNER; DWG LICENSING; SOLO SYNDICATION

WILD AT HEARTH

Jamie Caring amid the renovations at Dunford House near Midhurst, soon to be the home of Long Lane, a private members' club dedicated to wellbeing



High SOBRIETY

From Soho House to Sexy Fish, Jamie Caring has spent decades shaping how the smart set socialises. Now he's betting on something radically different: an alcohol-free luxury members' club in West Sussex where cocktails are out – and collagen shots are in

By SACHA FORBES

'MR CARING WILL SEE YOU downstairs,' says the receptionist of George, the private members' club in Mayfair, in a distinctly Miss Money Penny tone. It's a dog-friendly place and a sleeping dachshund is curled up in a basket in the entrance hall. But I'm not here to meet Richard Caring, the self-made tycoon who has just sold George, Annabel's, Bacchanalia and more in a deal worth £1.4 billion. Instead, I've come to speak to his eldest son, Jamie, 53, a lower-key presence on the clubland scene and one whose plans may make that presence far more notable.

As soon as he arrives, youthful-looking, his 6ft 1in frame slim in dark blue jeans and a long-sleeve T-shirt, he sinks into the comfortable sofa and orders a Coca-Cola; he doesn't drink alcohol. ('It never agreed with me and always made me feel ill,' he says.) This is fitting, as we are meeting to discuss his involvement with a new 'sober' private members' club, Long Lane, opening later this year in Midhurst, West Sussex. Caring, the founder of Sevengage, a specialist members' clubs consultancy, has been hired as a consultant for Long Lane, using his expertise from decades of working in the hospitality industry. He was chief of marketing for Soho

House for years, is one of the masterminds behind Lighthouse Social in Fulham, helped his father with the 2022 opening of Sexy Fish in Miami – and much more.

But a sober club? Really? Well, says Caring, 'the club world which I consult in is experiencing something of a wellness tsunami'. Long Lane's founders are Louie Blake and Harrison Hide. Blake, who has a background in hospitality, restaurants and businesses, is no stranger to the occasional glass of wine, while Hide, who used to work on Wall Street, is teetotal.

They were used to entertaining and late nights, which ultimately resulted in an unhealthy lifestyle for both of them. They knew that something had to change. 'Their view,' explains Caring, 'is that they are putting wellness at the heart of their lives.' Nonetheless, it hadn't originally been their idea to make Long Lane a 'sober club' (they feel the term is too clickbaity and are in search of authenticity). That decision came 'organically' from discussions between them and Caring. He says Louie and Harrison believe 'that if you are really authentic about wellness, you shouldn't really have alcohol. The two don't go together.' This said, they protest they are not being judgemental or

telling people how to live their lives. And maybe they're on to something; however overused and almost off-putting the word 'wellness' has become, Long Lane already has a waiting list of several thousand potential members.

Those are the sort of numbers that would warm the cockles of Jamie's father's heart, no matter how much both the maximalist Annabel's and the flamboyant Bacchanalia swim in alcohol.

Born in London, Caring accompanied his father, Richard, and mother, Jacqueline, to Hong Kong when he was six. At 10, he found himself back in England as a weekly boarder, leaving behind his parents and brother Ben, and spending his weekends between grandparents, friends and aunts and uncles. He is, he says, close to his father but admits Richard pushed him when he was young. 'Is that the best that you can do?' he'd ask, if he thought his son hadn't made enough effort with his homework. Did he feel pressure growing up with the Caring name? Jamie offers a sanguine reply: 'Not really. Because up until about 2002, Dad was relatively anonymous, building up his fashion empire.' It wasn't until later that Richard pivoted from fashion, and the name Caring became ▷

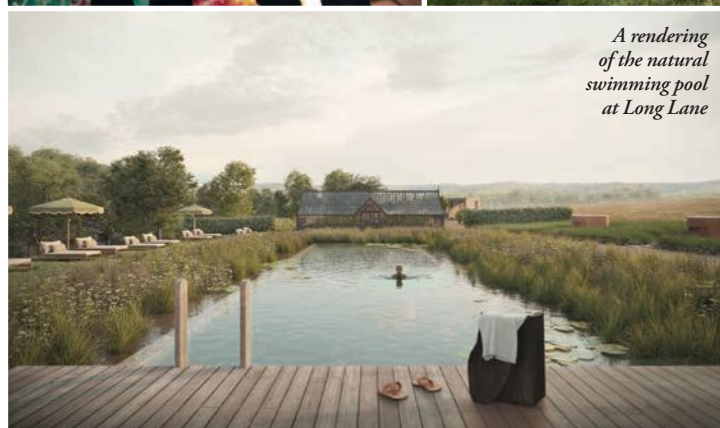
Shirt, £175, **LUCA FALONI**. All other clothing (and overleaf), Jamie's own. Grooming: Amy Brandon using Elemis



Jamie and his father, Richard Caring, at Sexy Fish Miami



Grade II-listed Dunford House, which dates from 1848 and sits within the South Downs National Park



A rendering of the natural swimming pool at Long Lane

◁ synonymous with the London restaurant and nightlife scene.

In 1991, during the summer of Jamie's first year reading biology at Exeter University, Richard sent him to work in Chicago for his mail-order fashion catalogue. Caring realised then it 'wasn't for me', but 'it was a good experience being in an office'. His real passion was music, particularly dance music (the Detroit-formed electronic band Inner City played at his 21st birthday party at the Natural History Museum). Through his aunt, who worked in the music business, Caring spent his second university summer break interning on Michael Jackson's *Dangerous* tour, dealing with journalists. Because Michael had had 'work' done on his face, Caring was assigned to tell photographers in the press pit 'what lenses they were and weren't allowed to use'.

Fast-forward 14 years and Caring had climbed the ranks at MTV. By the time he left in 2006, he was senior vice president of talent and music, and says he had 'met every

artist on Earth'. (He loves music biographies and is currently reading one about Neneh Cherry.) But change was in the air and, in 2008, Nick Jones took him out for lunch and offered him the role of commercial director of Soho House, a job that would shape his future. 'It was almost like doing another university degree working for Nick,' says Caring. 'I learnt so much from him: how you can build a community, how you curate a room, how you put on an event and how you market.' The respect is obviously mutual: when Caring left to begin consulting in 2015, Jones was his first client. Then came Apple Music, Canopy in San Francisco and Spring Place in New York.

Still, Long Lane is, Caring says, 'one of my biggest projects to date'. And in a world where alcohol is part of everyday life for many, what exactly is this new club going to look like without it? It's near Haslemere, just a one-hour train ride from Waterloo, and with three membership tiers (from £100 to £500 per month), 'it is aimed at

locals, but also at Londoners who might come down and use their memberships perhaps a couple of times a month'. Each member's 'journey', as he puts it, will begin with comprehensive biometric and DNA methylation testing, which will be used to tailor personalised nutrition recommendations and a bespoke menu in the restaurant.

Historic Dunford House, which sits in 55 acres in the South Downs National Park, will be the main focus of the club. It will have hotel bedrooms featuring Pods by Eight Sleep, designed to optimise rest through precise temperature regulation. Rooms will be stocked with Healf collagen shots and IV drips (who needs a minibar?). Ten larger forest cabins in the grounds will extend the experience further into nature. Members can also expect sound-healing sessions, and talks from world-class visiting practitioners. The separate Coach House will offer a raft of modern wellbeing tech, including a hyperbaric oxygen chamber, a longevity clinic and spa treatments. And there'll be a Hyrox-level gym with views of the surrounding woods, as well as studios for pilates and yoga.

All this cultural programming is important to Caring, who is passionate about creating new experiences for members in a saturated market of members' clubs. It's also aimed at the younger generation, who are, he says, 'taking wellness so seriously and making it a huge focus of their lives. They're not smoking, they're not drinking or

taking drugs.' More surprisingly still, 'they're not even having sex', he notes, recalling a report that found a higher number of students going to university these days are virgins.

When we meet on site for the *Tatler* photoshoot, Caring is standing in the blazing sunshine, gazing out at the tranquil West Sussex countryside, his phone clamped to his ear. The main house and grounds are still a building site, but the potential is clear. It is a stunning location.

Happily married, Caring is fiercely guarded about his family life. He and his wife, Victoria, live quietly in west London, where he is a local at Brasserie, can occasionally be found at the counter at Dorian, and loves 34 Mayfair when he ventures into the West End. His late-night spot? 'George,' he concedes. He keeps fit by cycling and, in the winter, by snowboarding, but confesses to 'not loving the gym'. He is passionate about American football, which he used to watch with his grandfather (Richard's father was American). 'I've been to a few Super Bowls with Dad. In the UK, it means staying up really late, but I love it,' he says. He is also a big collector of 'art toys'. 'Some of them are made from fibreglass, some from vinyl – I've got them all over the house.'

When he's not at home absorbing culture, he is thinking about his next ambitious project. 'There is an idea to launch a private members' club on a yacht,' he says, referring to the Maybach Ocean Club, which Mercedes is on course to launch in 2029. Members will each get four weeks a year on board. With space for just 60 guests spread across 30 suites, let's hope they all get along. One can only imagine the curation of this particular club will have to be done with the utmost care, but that isn't daunting to Caring, nor is Long Lane, the club angling to make sobriety cool. He smiles and sips his Coca-Cola. For him, it's the future: 'It's just a way of keeping members' clubs different and relevant.' □

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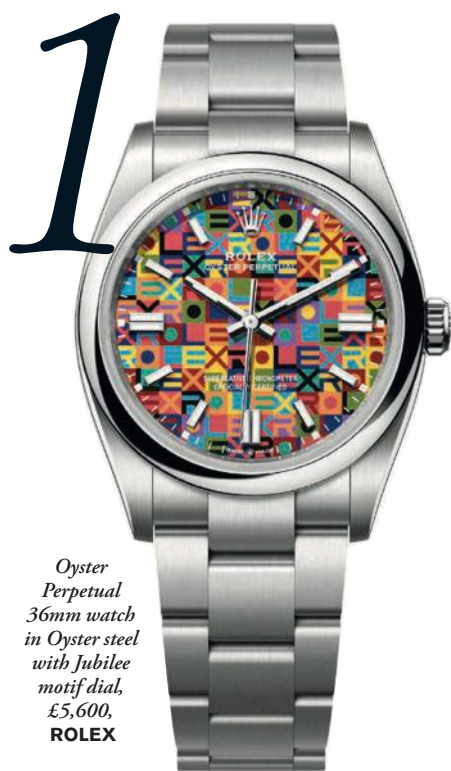
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THE IT List

Ease into autumn: 10 chic finds to sweeten September



Oyster Perpetual 36mm watch in Oyster steel with Jubilee motif dial, £5,600, **ROLEX**

Baked Balance-n-Brighten Colour Correcting Foundation, £35, **LAURA GELLER**



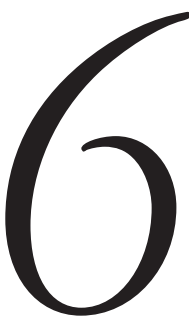
Eyevenger Pro, £175, **MAGNITONE** at boots.com



Absolu Pour le Soir eau de parfum, £255 for 70ml, **MAISON FRANCIS KURKDJIAN**



La Caletta Coppetta candle base, £440, **ACQUA DI PARMA**



Brightening Serum Supreme, £288, **CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ** at cultbeauty.co.uk



Long Life Formula programmes at the **LUCIA MAGNANI HEALTH CLINIC** in Emilia-Romagna, Italy, from £1,230 per night, all inclusive, luciamagnanihealthclinic.it/en



Limited-edition lip crayon in Lychee, £20, **DR HAUSCHKA**



La Caletta Coppetta candle base, £440, **ACQUA DI PARMA**



Diamond tripset hoop earrings, £16,000, **JESSICA McCORMACK**

Limited-edition English Summer Rosé, £47, **NYETIMBER**



FIGHTING TALK

If you haven't met one, perhaps you are one? Here's how to identify a FIGJAM – and get the F away from them...

By BEN JUREIDINI



'I do hope I'm not dominating the conversation,' he insisted before launching into the fascinating details of his side hustle and cold-plunge routine

THERE IS A SCOURGE haunting dinner tables across the country. Women warn each other on their way to weddings, guests glance anxiously at seating plans, horror stories are traded in Ubers home. Nowhere, and no one, is safe from the FIGJAM.

The acronym stands for: 'F*** I'm great. Just ask me.' These are people who are incapable of talking about anything other than themselves; the kind who will respond to the most basic of openers with an hour-long monologue. Anyone – even you, reader – could be a FIGJAM. They walk among us. But there are some of whom to be especially wary. CEOs are unlikely to ask you a single question about yourself unless you are a shareholder. Steer clear of academics, ponderous and accustomed to captive audiences. Ex-politicians

are to be avoided at all costs, as are barristers and judges, golfers, most activists, all influencers, anyone involved in crypto, 'founders', 'poets', the 'independently wealthy' (read: unemployed) and anyone who had a particularly vivid dream last night.

Tragically, women are more at risk from these bores. So often lumped with the burden of asking questions and performing the nods and furrowed brows that suggest one is Very Actively Listening, these intelligent, accomplished ladies are assailed by the (often male) FIGJAM's (not so) brilliant theories and tales of achievement. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the FIGJAM and the mansplainer are frequently one and the same.

Every FIGJAM is figgy in their own way, but there are common themes in their monologues.

Expect to spend hours learning about where their children are studying, the toilet-training habits of their dogs, the renovations they are making to their swimming pools. A recent torment is the Oura Ring, which has armed fitness freaks with sufficient data to deliver a Homeric oration on their sleep score and stress levels.

Don't get a FIGJAM started on romance. According to Freud: 'Whoever loves becomes humble. Those who love have, so to speak, pawned a part of their narcissism.' Clearly, Freud never met anyone who recently started, recently stopped, or is currently using Raya. One FIGJAM even proposed to their partner while delivering a speech at someone else's wedding.

Tactics for surviving the FIGJAM in the wild vary from turning one's back to ushering in another guest

to dilute their soliloquies. You can always resort to alcohol, though be careful to remain compos mentis enough to field any questions they fling your way (not to ask your opinion, of course, but to test that you have been paying attention).

One expert FIGJAM handler recommends making a hasty exit on the excuse of 'a friend's sex accident' – especially effective with conservative types. Alternatively, drop hints: wonder out loud whether lessons in 'conversational skills' should be added to the national curriculum. Or try to have fun. Keep a mental tally of the 'I-word'. Squirrel the story away for the next time you have a more generous sparring partner at dinner.

But perhaps it is time to confront the FIGJAM head-on. Interrupt. Ask pointedly: 'And what would you like to know about me?' □

SOCIAL EYES

**ALL HAIL
MAIDA VALE!**



...And
martini
nights at
The Hero

**DULL-STON
JUNCTION**

*How many society scions
are sipping negronis at
The Jago tonight?*



**NOW LEAVING
Highbury &
ISLINGTON**



**BORED OF
BROADWAY
MARKET**

HIPSTERS,
HAGGIS
TOASTIES &
HACKNEYED
TO THE HILT

**LONDON
FIELDS
FOREVER?**



*No way – so over organic
picnics and Torres crisps!*

CHANCE



*Reckon you'll get
past the door vixen
at The Fat Badger?*

EAST LONDON HAS FALLEN

An exodus is underway. From Dalston to De Beauvoir, the It crowd is fleeing fashionable enclaves whose once-edgy streets are facing the ultimate indignity: becoming passé

By INES JEVEONS

THE BRAT FLAG IS FLYING at half-mast. A timely death, for Charli's angels are all deserting their capital, Hackney – or rather east London altogether.

Haven't you heard? With Isabella Weatherby, *the* east London It girl's wardrobe mistress, having shifted focus from Spitalfields to Soho, Peachy Den-izens are heading back west. An exodus of Old Etonians and Old Marlburians has killed the soul of London's young media district. Exhaustive small-plates-only restaurants are being swapped for greedy helpings of The Pelican's Sunday roast, while martini nights at The Hero have emerged as the stomping ground for any sub-30 socialite now.

In the late 2010s and early 2020s, the fashionable districts of the east – Hackney, Dalston, De Beauvoir – and neighbouring Islington became home to the young social glitterati, attracted to enormous flats in Grade II-listed Victorian houses that came with corniced ceilings and the unspoken promise that to be there was simply to be in the know. When former *Tatler*

cover stars Lady Amelia Windsor and Anaïs Gallagher moved to Dalston, so did Boris Johnson's daughter Lara. Oliver Dench (Dame Judi's great-nephew) went to Hackney, Hollywood star Paul Mescal to Canonbury. Now that golden age has ended.

'Buy west – everyone moves back eventually,' one socialite's sister advised. She has a point: despite the best efforts of Old Rugbeian Florrie Tyler (the 'Perfect Day in North LDN' girl on TikTok), the Old Marlburian founding fathers of the Islington crowd are fleeing Arsenal and Highbury for Kensal Rise (the social set's turf of now), joined by two other 28-year-old It boys, who have ditched Stoke Newington in favour of the new Notting Hill social capital.

One landscape designer, hailing from a stately home, has renounced Shoreditch for the pruned shrubs of Fulham; Victoria and Stephen Fordham's daughter Poppy recently left Newington Green to live in Westbourne Park; and millennial social queen Flora Slater is raising the It-girl quota in Queen's Park

(the newly anointed 'Baby Notting Hill'), which now has more former Downe House girls in residence than you can shake a stick at.

Pre-2018, telling someone you lived east was often met with an underwhelmed: 'Oh...' Then it all changed – roles reversed and eastern dwellers began looking down their noses at their 'trad' western counterparts. Those keen to bury their public-school accents in Broadway Market, and those who stayed west, with a shamefully less-edgy penchant for the Sloane Pony, were thus divided. Hackney was London's answer to Gertrude Stein's Left Bank, Paris, with a court of like-minded creatives bonding over buckets of orange wine.

But an exodus has begun. Why? 'I think people view the west as a better place to "get serious",' says a new twentysomething resident of Queen's Park, who is hoping to start a family. For others, the east has simply become too clichéd, and they're tired of being satirised by friends for lounging around in London Fields with their Perelló olives and Torres crisps. A former

Leyton dweller, now settled in Maida Vale, explains: 'Everyone in the east is way too up themselves.'

For other deserters of the district there is also the appeal of a somewhat reversed housing market: in many cases it has become more expensive to buy or rent. 'My son's in Marylebone now,' said one astonished father at a recent society wedding. 'He's been priced out of Canonbury! Can you believe it?'

Further evidence comes courtesy of Ameli Lindgren, founder of Nordic Poetry, which sources designer vintage archive brands and has a social following that boasts Lady Margarita Armstrong-Jones and society goth Tish Weinstock. Lindgren now finds herself ferrying clothes from Bethnal Green to The Roof Gardens to meet her twentysomething clientele on their home turf in – you guessed it – Kensington.

As one former *Tatler* Little Black Book star declares: 'Why on earth would I want to live more than a 10-minute walk from Queen's?' Once again, west is officially best. Do keep up. □

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES

**KENSAL ON
THE RISE**



52

**HOT
PROPERTY**

◆
**MARYLEBONE
– NOW
BETTER
VALUE THAN
CANONBURY**

SCOOP!



*Westbourne Park is the
new Newington Green*

**HIGH TREAT
KENSINGTON**

*The Roof Gardens –
peak west London for
twentysomething socialites
clad in Nordic Poetry's
vogueish vintage apparel*

**COMMUNITY
CHEST**



**ADMISSION:
IT GIRLS LOVE
QUEEN'S PARK**

**SO LONG,
SPITALFIELDS
– HELLO, SOHO**

*Isabella
Weatherby*

TATLER



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ADDRESS BOOK

The doctor is in. (As is the therapist, dermatologist, surgeon and dietician)



PHOTOGRAPH: LUIS MONTEIRO. STYLING: HANNAH TEARE. DRESS: ZUHAIR MURAD. EARRINGS: GILLIAN HORSUP AT ALFIE'S ANTIQUE MARKET. RING (ON RIGHT HAND), LARK & BERRY RING (ON LEFT HAND), ANAVAH. JEWELLERY CLUTCH (ON TABLE), AQUAZZURA. JEWELLERY (ON TABLE), SWAROVSKI AND ANAVAH JEWELLERY. BEAUTY PRODUCTS (ON TABLE), ELEMIS, CHARLOTTE TILBURY AND ESTÉE LAUDER. HAIR: MICHELLE OLIVERI. MAKE-UP: MARIA COMPARETTO. NAILS: CHISATO YAMAMOTO. MODEL: EIRIL SKA REEK. PRODUCTION: HOLLY ROSS. PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MAYFAIR, LONDON

ADDRESSBOOK.TATLER.COM



Eat, Fay, love

A cult New York bistro has landed in Covent Garden. Fay Maschler visits Buvette, where American ease and French food rendezvous

I HAVE A GROWING PILE of fabric tote bags at home. Maybe you do too. The latest arrival is one made of recycled cotton with navy blue writing announcing: 'Buvette gastrothèque NEAL'S YARD LONDON | NEW YORK | TOKYO | SEOUL'. On the back is a logo of a clutch of cutlery in what might be a steamer basket. The same logo emerges as a jaunty cut-out to greet you when you open the four tiny folded menu cards covering breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner.

Buvette, created by American chef Jody Williams, was originally launched in the West Village, New York City, in early 2011 and remains a nub and hub of that district. Jody brought Buvette to London's Notting Hill five years ago but Covid tripped her up. This time it is sited in Neal's Yard in Covent Garden, in a space that previously housed St John's Bakery. The exterior is painted a vibrant

red, a shade that the Farrow & Ball chart might call Café Rouge...

The French word 'buvette' translates variously as small bar, tavern and refreshment stand, and is derived from the verb 'boire', meaning to drink. In chatting with notably charming Jody when I go for Saturday brunch soon after the establishment opens, taking with me a chum who comes from New York in order to check on authenticity – I won't go to the US until Trump is no longer in charge and at time of writing he is – she describes her intentions. At one point I interrupt and say: 'What you are describing is what we might call a gastropub.' She agrees and enthuses. The salient point is food and drink available all day in an atmosphere that encourages camaraderie (more French joie de vivre).

Headings are all in French – Gouters, Tartines, Légumes, Poissons, Viandes, Les Croques, Fromages, Charcuterie, Desserts. Each section has one price point. My pub-owning son Ben, who comes with me to dinner on another day, figures that they are probably profiting on some and taking a hit on others. Tables are unusually small, and plates and

portions have to follow suit. I would have liked more anchoïade – anchovies and capers on toast spread with salted butter – than Ben cut off for me, but I let him have as much as he wanted of the piperade, which the kitchen seemed to have confused with ratatouille. Moules au curry, served in a white French lion's head soup bowl topped with decidedly flirtatious fries, could have benefited from a stronger punch of spice. Coq au vin had used, of necessity, a petite 'oiseau', which turns out to have an underdeveloped personality.

Croques – Monsieur, Madame and Forestier – are available throughout day and evening, and are ideal understanding companions to the interesting drinks list, with its all-French wines and creative and alluring cocktails, including a specialised take on a French 75. A splash of cognac is introduced, presumably to recollect the way the Soixante Quinze became popular during the First World War. My vodka martini – very dry with a twist – is poured at the table from an individual metal shaker and shaken just enough to satisfy James Bond. Fresh juices and sodas, serious coffee and a sensible selection of teas also make Buvette, with its bare brick walls, hammered-tin ceiling and amenable staff, an engaging hangout in a tucked-away part of London that can be classified as a discovery.

New York has recently either sent over or strongly influenced some restaurants in London. Consider, for example, One Club Row, Carbone, Ronnie's, Alley Cats Pizza and Dover Street Counter. But there is a lively return match currently in play. For details, see left. □ buvette-london.com



Lady Sarah Keswick's spinach patties

Serves 4

25g butter

100g cooked spinach

2 eggs

150ml single cream

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

A pinch of ground nutmeg

150ml homemade tomato sauce (or a good-quality passata)

4 tbsp sour cream

'I always made this during shooting parties at home in Scotland when friends were staying and there was a huge amount of spinach in the garden from June onwards.'

In a frying pan, melt the butter over a medium heat. Add the spinach and cook until the butter has been absorbed. Blend the eggs and cream in a food processor until smooth. Add the spinach, season with salt, ground pepper and ground nutmeg, and blend until well combined. Divide the mixture between four well-greased ramekins and place them in a bain-marie with hot water reaching just over halfway up the sides of the ramekins. Bake in the oven at 175°C/Gas 4 for 30 minutes, or until the patties have risen and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Meanwhile, heat the tomato sauce. When the patties are ready, turn them out onto individual serving plates, add a generous amount of warm tomato sauce, and serve with sour cream.

SPREADING THE NEWS

London-born hotspots on the New York dining scene

Farmer J

'We give a fork' is the mission statement, and Londoners have been assembling their fieldtrays and fieldbowls of healthy, seasonal ingredients cooked freshly every day at 18 London locations. The outpost in Midtown Manhattan is apparently thriving. farmerj.com

Ambassadors Clubhouse

For obvious reasons, Indian restaurants are not the presence in New York that they are in London. JKS Restaurants, with 30 businesses, may alter that with this extension of the Michelin-starred celebration of Punjabi cooking. ambassadorsclubhouse.com

Hawksmoor

In 2006, Will Beckett and Huw Gott opened an east London restaurant named in honour of the architect of Christ Church Spitalfields. Their passion for pasture-raised beef has enabled them to spread stateside, into New York, then Chicago (cheeky). Next Boston. thehawksmoor.com

DYNASTY FILES

The society debut of the season? Billy Ray Cyrus and Elizabeth Hurley, the unlikely couple bringing megawatt glamour to the British social circuit

By INES JEVEONS

THE ROMANCE BETWEEN Billy Ray Cyrus and Elizabeth Hurley is one few can have predicted. Yet, the country music singer and the seven-time *Tatler* cover star are a match made in paradise – *Christmas in Paradise*, to be precise, the 2022 film that paired them in a love story. Three years later, their own love story blossomed off screen. Their British society debut in June at the Black and White Gala for London's Air Ambulance Charity captivated guests, who included the Earl of Snowdon and the Spencer sisters. But what's the scoop on the unlikely couple's social world?



POWER OF TWO

A VERY SOCIAL DUO

Ever since appearing as a couple at the opening dinner for the *Orizzonti Rosso* exhibition at Rome's Palazzo Barberini in May last year, Hurley and country singer Cyrus have been a red-carpet fixture: at the National Television Awards, a Royal Academy of Dance fundraising evening, the Olivier Awards, and the Black and White Gala for London's Air Ambulance Charity (see page 32), where the Earl of Rosebery auctioned off a day with Cyrus, including a private guitar serenade.

ACHY BREAKY ROMANTIC PAST

Cyrus has been married three times: first to a fellow singer, Cindy; then for almost 30 years to Tish Cyrus-Purcell, the mother of most of his children, including the pop superstar Miley and the Grammy-nominated singer Noah. After their divorce, he wed Australian singer Fierose, but they split up seven months later. Hurley, meanwhile, was Hugh Grant's girlfriend for more than a decade. She went on to have a son, Damian, with American businessman Steve Bing, after whose untimely death a court battle ensued over Damian's inheritance. She then married Indian businessman Arun Nayar. After divorcing him, she began dating Shane Warne. They split up after a two-year engagement, but Hurley was still devastated by his fatal heart attack in 2022.

We've got her covered: in 1994 (left), 1995 (below left) and 2020 (below)

WELLY BOY, DISNEY GIRL

Old Wellingtonian Damian serves as his mother's creative director and is rumoured to be the curator of her Instagram. He's watched hours of *Hannah Montana*, the Disney show that made Miley a global star at 13 – it was a favourite in the Hurley household when he was growing up. And last year, he celebrated with Miley at the London launch of her new album and film, *Something Beautiful*. Both parents were also there, supporting their blended family, and they often walk red carpets with Damian in tow.

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

The couple flit between Tennessee and the English countryside. When they're not making trips up to London, where they've been spotted dining with Joan Collins at Jeremy King's rejuvenated Simpson's in the Strand, they reside at Donnington Hall on Hurley's 187-acre Herefordshire estate. She keeps an 'exquisite' garden, with the help of a mini leafblower (a gift from Dame Joan). Cyrus rates the local pub scene – he calls the fish and chips at The Oak Inn in Staplow 'proper' and has been invited to their blues night.



Making their London society debut, where Cyrus was offered up as an auction prize



SINGER BILLY RAY CYRUS DATING

Has Liz finally met a man to cure her achy breaky heart?



Billy Ray, his ex-wife Tish (far left) and daughters Noah, Miley and Brandi, 2017



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The glamorous web of society and style



BRIGHT
YOUNG THING
ON CAMPUS

Off Campus star Ella Bright was born in New York but raised in north London. So how will she fare when putting her British pop culture knowledge to the test in Tea With Tatler?



ROYAL ROLES

Ella Bright isn't the only actor to make a brief cameo in *The Crown*. From the Earl of Portland to Bertie Carvel, did you spot them?



INSIDERS ONLY

Go behind the scenes of *Tatler's* September collections shoot with an online exclusive for Inner Circle members. Are you in?



UNI CHALLENGE

From Oxford's Bullingdon boys to royal chasers at St Andrews, what does your choice of university say about you?



GREAT SCOT!

As the King and Queen decamp to Balmoral, *Tatler's* travel editor selects the best Scottish escapes for your own Highland fling

WEAR IT'S AT!

*Impeccable, indefatigable – the Princess of Wales takes first place.
So who's following her on Tatler's Best Dressed List 2026?*

By CHANDLER TREGASKES

Spotted! In
a polka-dot
Alessandra
Rich design



At Trooping the
Colour in a coat dress
by Catherine Walker,
teamed with a Philip
Treacy hat



A bespoke Andrew
Gn ballgown
for the Nigerian
state banquet at
Windsor Castle



Regal action: no one
powers up an occasion
quite like HRH The
Princess of Wales

Elegant as ever in her
black military-style
coat dress, another
favourite Catherine
Walker piece



*Back to health,
always in style*

What is it that makes a wardrobe noteworthy in 2026? Reams of haute couture from gay Paree? Subversive silhouettes to propel and challenge? Retro reinterpretations that TikTokkers clamour to reshare and rewear? When style is so varied and so individual – and subculture reigns as supreme as traditional glitz in ever-expanding pockets of the social-media realm – all the above counts. It's not what you wear but how you wear it.

Who's wearing it well? This year's crop of best dressers is an arguably motley crew. Club-hopping kids in leather and lacy minis next to scene queens in custom silk; teen idols sizing up to grande dames and Gen X overlords; Zoomer-era swag taking on museum-board slick. When fashion trends are fickle and algorithmic, being true to oneself is the sword to take into battle à la mode.

All that said, the 2026 number one spot goes to none other than the Princess of Wales – fighting fit and lighting up royal occasions, from Reggio Emilia in May, her first overseas tour since recovery, to her Three Peaks Challenge in June. Titular moment? Royal Ascot, her first in three years, in a canary-yellow Roksanda design (a rewear from 2022 – the princess loves to recycle), with millinery from Jane Taylor. See also the perfectly modern ecru pleated skirt (Jenni Kayne) and linen-y striped blazer (Blazé Milano) on her Italian tour. At Peter Phillips and Harriet Sperling's wedding, her Roland Mouret blush tea dress was divine.

Here is a true style champion: showcasing homegrown designers on the world stage, and spotlighting up-and-coming London Fashion Week figures, as during the Nigerian state visit, when she wore a heather-grey coat dress from British-Nigerian cool girl Tolu Coker. The Princess of Wales has topped this list before, and will again. But now feels the perfect moment to salute Britain's chicest figure, back to health – and back to being a Brit-fashion heroine. ▷

BEST DRESSED



2. DR RAJ ARORA

The NHS GP, health-content creator and glamazon wife of Arora CEO Sanjay even makes medical scrubs look chic. And her Trooping the Colour ensemble this year was, literally, just what the doctor ordered!



3. TEMI OJORA

Descended from Nigerian royalty, the British track and field athlete (and co-owner of hair company Knott Hair) applies a champion's mindset to her wardrobe. Find her in TikTok-approved Y2K ensembles and carrying the cutest coveted handbags.



4. EDWARD BLUEMEL

While he's set to be the youngest (possibly handsomest) Hercule Poirot ever, there's no mystery to the actor's get-up: '90s tank tops and acid-wash straight-leg jeans for weekends; sharp Dior on the social scene. That London cool-boy look? *He-dunnit.*



5. GJIN LIPA

Spotted last February – alongside sparkly sister Dua – spinning tracks at the Brit Awards afterparty in Manchester, DJ Gjin would sooner dress down in skater tees and leather. Is swag back?

8. VALENTINA PINAULT

The Kering heiress has it all, from the perfect pout to a closet of It-hits – as proved at the Serpentine Summer Party, where she wore smoky silk and glacial-cool Y2K shades.



6. BATIA OFER

The Royal Academy Trust chair makes philanthropy feel as bling as the cash she brings to the institution. (King Felipe IV of Spain bestowed the International Patronage Award upon her earlier this year.) Naturally she's a client of Chanel, favouring high jewellery and gowns you could hang in the Louvre.



7. JEMIMA KHAN

The original aristo It girl is also the epitome of eternal glamour. Cue gorgeous gowns, impeccable tailoring and that to-die-for blowdry. The former wife of Imran Khan turned producer, screenwriter and Unicef ambassador, Jemima certainly still has it.



8



9. SIR TRISTRAM HUNT

The V&A director (left, with Daniel Roseberry) is as dapper as his museum halls. Note his Schiaparelli dove brooch, a golden homage to the exhibition, adding max tux appeal.

10. HANNAH DODD

Bridgerton needed more sapphism. So queer-cheers to the sterling acting of Ms Dodd. Off screen, she steals the scene in white Chanel tailoring and avant-garde Giambattista Valli.



10



11

11. JONKVROUW VICTORIA JOORIS

Set to wed Lord Stanley next year at his family seat, Knowsley Hall, this investment firm associate has *le tout* TikTok agog with her fashion advice. Catch her in white silk and crystals for an evening party, or on the slopes in vintage Pucci.



15. ISHA AMBANI

Sitting on boards and hosting committees for the British Museum, the Smithsonian and the Serpentine Summer Party (when not dripping in diamonds at the Met Gala)... It's a wonder this couture-clad philanthropist finds time to go shopping!

15

Willing & label: an eye for distressed knits and delightfully twisted tailoring means Dior et al are dying to dress Archie

13. LOHRALEE ASTOR

This model turned tableware designer is the modern-day Mrs Astor: her husband Will's distant ancestor was society gatekeeper Mrs Caroline Schermerhorn Astor, queen bee of The Four Hundred. Lohralee could similarly pack a room with scions and social starlets. And filling her wardrobe are 'fits that scream 21st-century society swan – think Gucci platforms and Isabel Marant jeans.



12

12. ARCHIE MADEKWE

Dior, Vuitton, Valentino... They're lining up to dress *Saltburn* actor, Bafta rising star nominee and menswear icon Archie Madekwe. No surprise there, given his eye for distressed streetwear knits and delightfully twisted tailoring.



BEST DRESSED

13

14. ELLIE COSTELLO

Circa the turn of the 21st century, news presenter was the most glamorous job on TV (see Angelina Jolie in 2002's *Life or Something Like It*). Keeping the look alive in 2026 is GB News's Ellie Costello, in button-down dresses and cute pencil skirts.

Headline act: Ellie is keeping the Noughties news-presenter look alive & kicking



17. AIDAN ZAMIRI

The filmmaker, director and man behind Charli XCX's inscrutable vibes may just be cooler than the popstar herself. Spot him front row at Saint Laurent in louche leathers and distressed tailoring.

17

Charli XCX's man-who-can



16

16. JULIAN CASH

Doubles player Julian has that tennis-chic air of debonair about him. Keeping it nonchalant in tastefully curated hoodies and blazers, or red-carpet-ready in custom Oliver Brown tailoring, the sporty star gives the rest of the crowd a run for their money when court is in session.

BEST DRESSED

18. HRH PRINCE KIERAN ASHANTI-REILLY OF GHANA & ARNE EGGERS

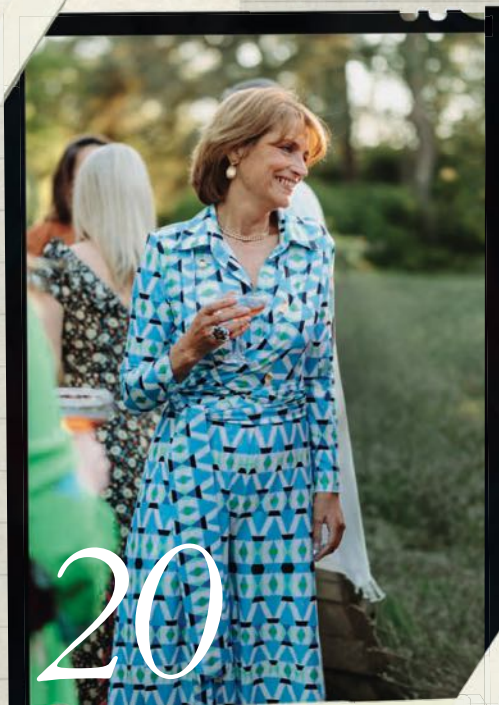
Ghanaian royalty + PR heavyweight = the embodiment of modern chic. Proof? Their wedding at The Dorchester, in coordinating ivory suits from Dunhill with Valentino and Dior accessories.



18

20. LADY CAROLYN WARREN

Hailing from the horse-racing-mad Carnarvon brood, Lady Carolyn is the matriarch with racetrack-ready radiance. Simply captivating in sophisticated, haughty-via-horsey silhouettes, she's a reigning coat-dress champion.



20

19. JEMMA, COUNTESS OF MORNINGTON

Showjumping scion, '90s It-girl queen, wellness warrior... Where possible, Jemma carries Hermès – the bag, at least a decade old, to be worn with hardware facing the other way. A nod to her pared-back Bessette-ian stance, it lets her tailoring do the heavy lifting.



19

21

21. LADY ROGERS

For nearly 40 years, Ruthie Rogers, Baroness Rogers of Riverside, has served her Michelin-starred River Cafe fare to Hammersmith hobnobbers. She serves her own style à la rainbow knitwear, sleek knee-length skirts and campy pumps. We'll take that to go...

And the grooms wore white...

The whole Ruth: rainbow knitwear and knee-length skirts



22. SASCHA VON BISMARCK

There's no better-dressed new dad on the block than the boyfriend of Rolling Stones scion and model Ella Richards. An acclaimed fashion photographer, he can be found keeping it cool with laid-back, aristo-via-rock'n'roll-royal suavity.



22

25. ISABELLE DE LA BRUYÈRE

The society grand dame, art-world power player and now apple of Lord Snowdon's eye is increasingly making public appearances: among them the wedding of Peter Phillips and Harriet Sperling, and Royal Ascot, mingling with Zara Tindall. All the while serving sateen dreams worthy of a dynastic-romantic novel cover.

A dash of French dressing: Isabelle de la Bruyère

25

TATTLER



23. VIOLET VERONI

The world's her oyster, but for now the daughter of '90s It girl Tamara Beckwith Veroni and property mogul Giorgio Veroni is figuring things out in sparkly jumpsuits and bow-bedecked party dresses. Oh, to be 17 again!

24. OLLIE WATKINS

In a World Cup year, reigning sports-luxe champ and Aston Villa forward Ollie Watkins is scoring big in the style stakes. Prada zip-ups, beat-up moto jackets, never far from his Vuitton pouschette – he's leagues ahead.



23



24

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FEELING NOUGHTIE

CHANNEL PEAK MILLENNIAL
GLAMOUR LIKE A MODERN
HEIRESS. THINK Y2K, OK?

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK CANT
STYLING BY LYDIE HARRISON
JEWELLERY EDITOR: CHARLIE MILLER

She wears dress, POA,
FERRARI. Lighter,
£1,385, **ST DUPONT**.
He wears shirt, £550,
GIORGIO ARMANI.



Dress, £2,650,
FENDI

Earrings in white gold, yellow diamond and white diamond, POA, **CHANEL HIGH JEWELLERY**. Necklace in white gold, yellow gold, fancy intense yellow diamond and white diamond, POA, **GRAFF HIGH JEWELLERY**. Ring in white gold, platinum, diamond and fancy intense yellow diamond, POA, **TIFFANY & CO.** Bangle (closest to wrist) in white gold, yellow gold, diamond and yellow diamond, POA, **DAVID MORRIS**. Bangle in white gold, yellow gold, diamond and yellow diamond, POA, **GRAFF HIGH JEWELLERY**

Opposite page, earrings in white gold, diamond and pink sapphire, POA, **CHOPARD**. Tiffany & Co. Jean Schlumberger necklace in platinum and diamond, POA, **TIFFANY & CO.** Ring (index finger, left) in rose gold, diamond and sapphire, POA, **MESSIKA**. Tiffany & Co. Jean Schlumberger ring (ring finger, left) in yellow gold, platinum, diamond and pink spinel, POA, **TIFFANY & CO.** Ring (index finger, right) in white gold, pink sapphire and morganite, POA, **TASAKI**. Ring (ring finger, right) in platinum, diamond and morganite, POA, **TIFFANY & CO.**



She wears dress, POA, **BLUMARINE**. He wears jacket, £1,450, **EDWARD SEXTON**

Ear cuff in rose gold, diamond and sapphire, POA, **MESSIKA**. Necklace in pink gold, diamond, amethyst and emerald, POA, **BVLGARI HIGH JEWELLERY**. Watch in rose gold, diamond, ruby and spessartite, POA, **PIAGET HIGH JEWELLERY**. Ring (index finger, left) in white gold, yellow gold, diamond and emerald, POA, **BUCCELLATI**. Ring (middle finger, left) in yellow gold, diamond and golden South Sea cultured pearl, £14,700, **MIKIMOTO**. Ring (index finger, right) in yellow gold, platinum, diamond and emerald, POA, **TIFFANY & CO.** Ring (middle finger, right) in white gold, yellow gold, diamond and emerald, POA, **VAN CLEEF & ARPELS**

Opposite page, earrings in white gold, diamond, tanzanite and tourmaline, POA, **BOGHOSSIAN**. Necklace in yellow gold, £22,200, **PRAGNELL**. Bracelet in yellow gold, diamond and lacquer, POA, **DIOR JOAILLERIE**. Bracelet in white gold and diamond, POA, **BVLGARI HIGH JEWELLERY**. Ring in platinum, diamond and sapphire, POA, **BOODLES**. Ring in yellow gold and diamond, £220,000, **PRAGNELL**



She wears dress, £2,450, **ERMANNO SCERVINO**. He wears shirt, £550, **GIORGIO ARMANI**



She wears dress, £2,800, and bra, £375, **DOLCE & GABBANA**. He wears shirt, stylist's own



He wears shirt, £475, **EDWARD SEXTON**.
Lighter, £1,385, **ST DUPONT**

For stockists, see
Address Book. Hair:
Michela Olivieri at
Caren using R+Co.
Make-up: Lucy Burt.
Nails: Annie Kilalea.
Photographer's
assistant: Tom
Hunt-Smith. Styling
assistants: Sophie
Callaghan and Millar
Wyatt. Models: Elsa
Krier at Supa and
Senan McKenna at
Milk Management.
Casting director:
Dean Goodman.
Runner: Ophelia
McKenzie

Earrings in white gold and diamond, POA, **BUCHERER FINE JEWELLERY**. Necklace in white gold, diamond, emerald, sapphire and black spinel, POA, **VAN CLEEF & ARPELS**.
Ring in white gold and diamond, POA, **CARTIER HIGH JEWELLERY**. Bracelet (left) in white gold, platinum, diamond and emerald, POA; and cuff (right) in white gold, platinum,
diamond and emerald, POA, **LOUIS VUITTON HIGH JEWELLERY**

Opposite page, earrings in white gold, diamond and yellow diamond, POA; and necklace in white gold, diamond and yellow sapphire, POA, **CARTIER HIGH JEWELLERY**.
Bracelet in white gold and fancy yellow diamond, POA, **DE BEERS**. Ring in white gold, rose gold, diamond, fancy yellow diamond, fancy orangy pink diamond, POA,
DAVID MORRIS. Ring in platinum, diamond and yellow diamond, POA, **BOODLES**



Tatler fashion, October 2022

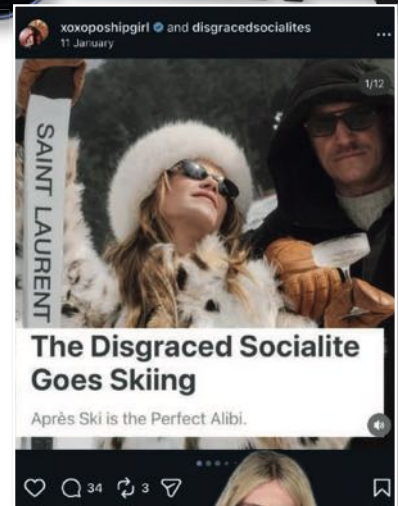


DEDICATED FOLLOWER

New season, next-level style: as the weather cools, the fashion heats up

FEELS GOOD TO BE BAD

As the AW26 collections hit the catwalks, something seismic was happening on social media. Fashion writer and internet icon Audrey Long – who runs the @xoxoposhgirl account – coined a term that felt so wrong, it was right: 'the disgraced socialite aesthetic'. 'She's rich in scandal, poor in shame, and impeccably dressed,' according to Long. 'Think vintage Chanel tweed worn to a mandatory court appearance, towering Louboutins on the courthouse steps, oversized Prada sunglasses functioning as emotional armour, and a Chanel Cambon bag that still contains last night's gala invitation and a handful of NDAs.' A few *Tatler* girls know that vibe all too well... But for AW26, the disgraced socialite was immortalised at the season's hottest shows. 7 For All Mankind's New York Fashion Week debut went stratospheric online for its Jenny Humphrey-gone-bad It-ness, while Valentino paired sheer skirts with grungy jackets for that dirty-chic hangover allure. Looks like being bad is good again... **CHANDLER TREGASKES**



7 For All Mankind AW26



TATLER

Necklace, £1,655, CHANEL

Sunglasses, £355, VALENTINO

Gloves, £1,500, HERMÈS

Dress, £265, NORMA KAMALI at mytheresa.com

Jacket, £1,380, DAVID KOMA

Dress, £2,700, VALENTINO at mytheresa.com

Jacket, £770, VIVIENNE WESTWOOD

Bag, £2,038, JUDITH LEIBER COUTURE

Shoes, £950, JIMMY CHOO

PAINT THE TOWN...

The front row was seeing red this season. From berry-hued leather at Balenciaga to scores of scarlet silhouettes at Sarah Burton's Givenchy show, it's cool to be crimson for AW26. Looking for inspiration? The Princess of Wales is always a vision when in vermillion. In fact, she tops this year's Best Dressed List (see page 57) – so it's always a good idea to take note of her imperially elegant wardrobe.



The Princess of Wales, 2023



Jacket, £549, **HOLLAND COOPER**



Boots, £395, **FAIRFAX & FAVOR**



Bag, £7,800, **FENDI**



Dress, £2,025, **DAVID KOMA**



Dress, £5,495, **ERDEM**



Balenciaga AW26



Shoes, £1,135, **CHANEL**



£9,000, **SCHIAPARELLI**



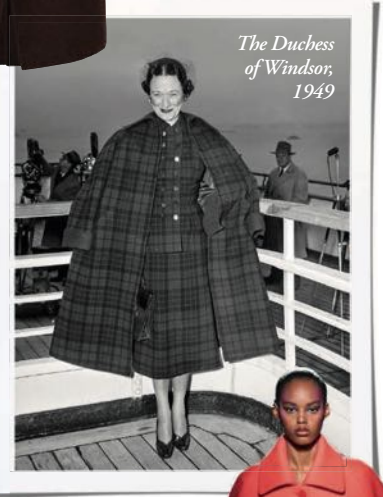
£490, **THE FRANKIE SHOP** at mytheresa.com



£3,150, **CELINE**

IN GREAT SHAPE

A great coat can take you anywhere. But what shape should we be coveting according to the latest catwalks? At Balenciaga, Pierpaolo Piccioli harked back to the grandes dames of Cristóbal's era with severe and exaggerated lines and lapels. Not into the vivid hues? Try warmer tones from Celine or Schiaparelli.



The Duchess of Windsor, 1949



Modelling Balenciaga for Vogue, 1951



£3,490, **BALENCIAGA**



Balenciaga AW26

WHAT A SLOUCH!

The new age of luxury looks a little lived in, with sizeable and slouchy handbags emerging as the hottest arm candy. Forget mini-bags (so 2019); get rid of the clutches (they can barely fit a phone these days); and leave the tote at home (what is this, the supermarket?). Slinky leather styles from Fendi, Dolce & Gabbana and Michael Michael Kors are loose, large and in charge.



£365, **MICHAEL MICHAEL KORS**



£3,490, **BALENCIAGA**



POA, **DOLCE & GABBANA**



£4,900, **FENDI**



Princess Grace of Monaco, 1966



Dress, £2,695, **ERDEM**



Erdem AW26



Top, £1,595, **ERDEM**

Bow, £510, **DIOR**

BOW DOWN...

... and get tied up in the new season's most playful trend: ribbon, which is proving to be the ultimate accoutrement for AW26. A passion for sash-in' was seen on the catwalks at LFW favourites Erdem and Simone Rocha. Be a bow belle in Armani ready-to-wear, or add twillies and ties to the hair, courtesy of Chanel and Dior.



Scarf, £315, **CHANEL**



Top, £1,100, **GIORGIO ARMANI**



Simone Rocha AW26



Earrings, £590, **DIOR**



Bag, POA, **DOLCE & GABBANA**

Scarf, £710, **HERMÈS**



Elizabeth McGovern, shot for Tatler, October 2025



Chanel AW26



Coat, £4,400, **LOUIS VUITTON**



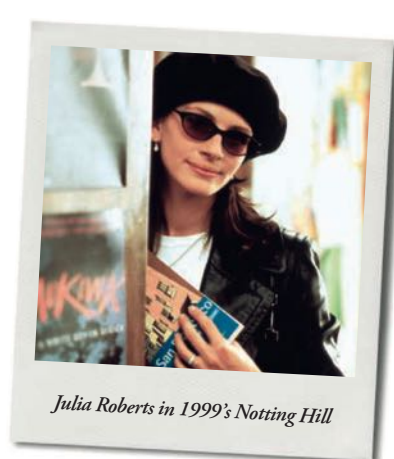
Shoes, £1,700, **DIOR**



Jacket, £2,890, and skirt, £1,030, **ERMANNO SCERVINO**

LADY LUXE

The ladies who lunch have officially returned to the table for the new season. But who are the Babe Paley, Jackie Kennedy and CZ Guest figures for today? Answer: they're sitting front row at fashion week and posting OOTDs on TikTok before heading to Claridge's or Maison François for a leisurely lunch that stretches well into the afternoon. Join them in a perfectly polished uniform of sorbet shades, silk scarves, tweed and twinsets from Hermès, Chanel and Louis Vuitton.



Julia Roberts in 1999's *Notting Hill*

LEATHER FORECAST

Nearly 30 years on from west London romcom *Notting Hill*'s debut, that turn-of-the-century W11 cool-girl look – so perfectly embodied by Julia Roberts – is as Brit-chic as ever. Embrace the elevated leather jacket in sumptuous styles from Burberry or Ermanno Scervino.



£1,000, **COURRÈGES** at net-a-porter.com



£3,290, **BURBERRY**



£4,820, **ERMANNO SCERVINO**



£4,900, **MIU MIU**

TATLER

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HOTEL CAN SIMONETA, MALLORCA, SPAIN



Dress, POA, **ELIE SAAB**
HAUTE COUTURE

Bright SPARK

Last summer, Ella Bright was sitting her A-levels in London. Now she's the breakout star of Off Campus, with a legion of global fans obsessing over every scene online. The 19-year-old actress tells Annabel Sampson about her extraordinary year

Photographs by Luc Braquet. Styling by Sophie Péra

Ella Bright arrives in Paris in the midst of the European heatwave for her first-ever couture week. She has landed fresh from Vancouver, where she is filming the second season of ice hockey mega-hit *Off Campus*. The Prime Video series, based on Elle Kennedy's bestselling books, became an instant global phenomenon when it dropped in May, reaching 36 million viewers in its first 12 days on air and becoming the streamer's third-largest debut series ever. And Bright, who makes up one half of the central love story opposite brooding, sculpted heartthrob Belmont Cameli, is the undisputed star of the show.

Which means life has changed drastically for the American-British 19-year-old, who first came to notice as Darrell Rivers, the lead in the BBC's *Malory Towers* (the jolly hockey sticks – rather than sexy ice-hockey sticks – Cornish boarding school drama based on Enid Blyton's novels), not forgetting her recently resurfaced cameo as a young Kate Middleton in *The Crown*. For starters, her Instagram has rocketed from 10,000 followers to 5.9 million – and rising.

'That's kind of the only change I can see with my own eyes,' she says, in her throaty, transatlantic accent, half London, half Marissa from *The OC*. Even Jennifer Lopez, whom she met the previous weekend in LA, began following her (and the whole *Off Campus* cast) on Instagram. J-Lo's 15-year-old song 'On the Floor' benefitted from the *Off Campus* effect, being discovered by a new generation after featuring in the show and becoming a TikTok sensation. Then came Bright's guest appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, an on-pitch cameo at Vancouver Stadium ahead of the Egypt vs New Zealand World Cup match – and now Paris Fashion Week as a guest of the Dior Haute Couture show. In case you've been living under a rock, ice hockey dramas are hot right now.

Bright, a self-professed 'fan girl at heart', is getting used to being on the flip-side of the fandom. But some things are still new: 'It's my first fashion show... thing... ever,' she says of the Dior show, dressed in casual jeans and a T-shirt but with that giveaway megawatt smile and those miraculously full, natural lips. 'I don't really know what's going on, but I'm excited to figure it out.' It's not, though, her first time in Paris. She was in town for her 19th birthday last November, which featured an Airbnb, Disneyland and her first tattoo (a little flower on her foot, which has 'almost scabbed off now'). 'We did all the things – it was hilarious,' she says.

This time round, she is staying at the palatial Le Bristol – and her mother has come, too, Eurostarring

over from home in north-west London. Despite her potent American accent in *Off Campus*, Bright thinks of herself as British first and foremost. So British, in fact, that she is *au fait* with KOKO in Camden, Five Guys in Covent Garden, Heaven in Charing Cross and most of the Wetherspoons branches in London. But she was born in New York – 'The only three British people in my family are myself and my two sisters,' she laughs, with the look of a youthful Brooke Shields (or so the internet has decided). Her father is from Oklahoma and her mother's side are all from California. After years of moving back and forth across the Atlantic, the family moved permanently to London for her father's job as a lawyer when Bright was six, and home is now very much the UK. 'I identify as British, but my British friends say I'm super American. So it's very funny to go to *Off Campus* and be the Brit on the cast because I'm like, "My friends would not say the same."'

Bright was completing her A-levels in English, philosophy and religion, and drama at South Hampstead High School (a private day school in London that was also the alma mater of Helena Bonham Carter), and had an offer on the table from Bristol University, when the *Off Campus* role came through, with filming due to start in June (she missed her philosophy exam). But from the age of 12, Bright's summer holidays had been spent in Devon, Bristol, Toronto and Cornwall, playing lacrosse and dipping in rockpools, clad in 1940s-style swimming costumes for *Malory Towers*. Post-exams was meant to be her first footloose and fancy-free summer. 'I was like [to my friends], "Oh, we finally get a summer together!" And we all booked Interrailing and then I had to go, "Wait, my bad. I got another job – sorry, guys." And they were like, "Oh, classic."'

So, after an all-girls' education and summers spent filming at a fictional all-girls boarding school, Bright relocated to Vancouver – living by herself for the first time – to a testosterone-fuelled, glorified man cave on the set of *Off Campus*. 'It's very funny. I didn't really have many guy friends,' she says, adjusting her dark-rimmed glasses. 'I've got two sisters and I've had women all around me my whole life. So, to be in a frat-house set with 6ft 5in [men]... I mean, it was hilarious.' Bright's sisters' response was: 'What are you doing there?!' And she could only reply: 'I don't know!'

Close friendships were made and, of course, WhatsApp groups have spawned. 'The main one is Briar U,' says Bright, a nod to the fictional college they attend. 'I'm in a group chat with Josh and Mika called The Girls, which is my favourite.' Mika Abdalla plays Allie, who's best friends with Bright's character, Hannah; and Josh Heuston plays ▷



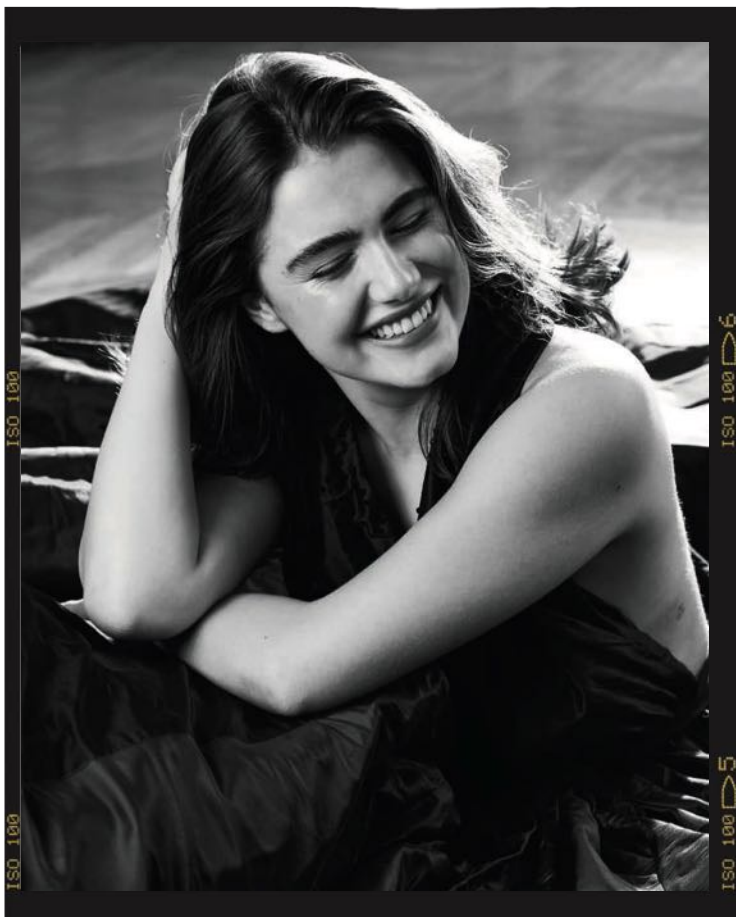
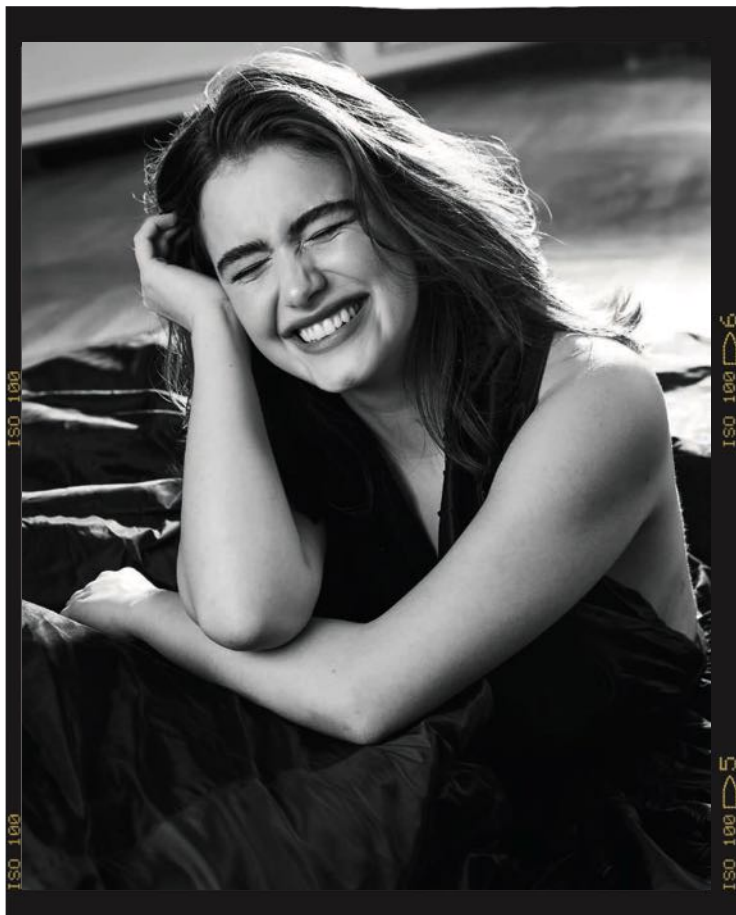
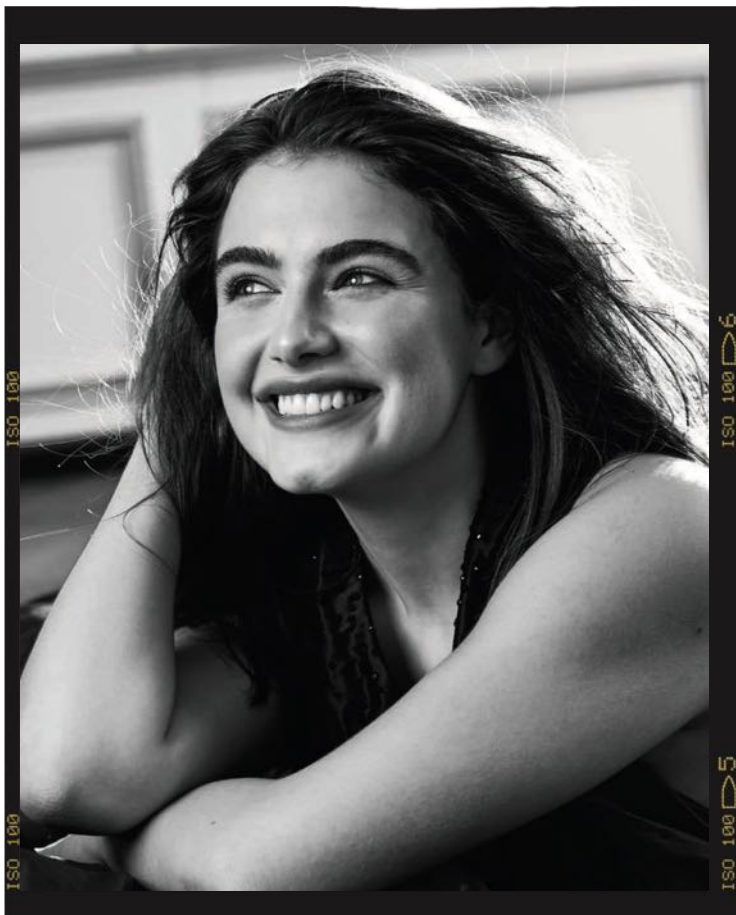
Ella Bright in an Emilia Wickstead minidress during the Off Campus press tour in New York

NOTE OF DISBELIEF

Bright's character in Off Campus is a musical prodigy, which prompted her to learn the guitar and piano virtually from scratch. Now she has her own Spotify artist profile, with more than 3.8 million monthly listeners. 'It's something I would never, ever have imagined'



Dress, POA, **DOLCE & GABBANA ALTA MODA**



SPOON FED

When her Off Campus castmates came to London, Bright whisked up what she thought was a happening itinerary. 'I took them to Spoons about a million times'



Dress, POA,
STÉPHANE
ROLLAND HAUTE
COUTURE

◁ Justin, Hannah's initial love interest. 'It was because the hockey guys had their group chat and we went, "Us, we need one." And then Josh was like, "Well yeah, we're the girls." I think he named it. It's got a kiss emoji [in the chat title], it's very cute.'

Naturally, *The Girls* came to London when they finished filming – *Off Campus* was yet to hit screens – and Bright whisked up what she thought was a happening itinerary. 'I took them to Spoons about a million times,' she laughs. 'I got the blue raspberry vodka drink. It was disgusting. But I was like, "You know what? We have to go here." Surprisingly, Heuston (who played Dusty in Netflix's *Heartbreak High*, one of Bright's favourite shows growing up) had a few other suggestions. 'Josh actually knew some much nicer places than I did,' says Bright, rolling her eyes. 'He took us to a really nice pub and dinner. I thought, "OK, so a little bit different to what I was suggesting."'

Aside from a 24-hour touchdown, Bright hasn't been back to London since

Off Campus went stratospheric, so she's yet to experience the city's party scene with her new stellar fame. But she did attend the EE Bafta x Glamour Rising Star Party at The Berkeley in February, and bumped into Meg Bellamy, who played the St Andrews-era Kate Middleton in *The Crown*. 'It'd been, I think, two years since I'd seen her, so it was really lovely. Meg said, "Well, good luck with everything." Little did either of them know what was coming. Bellamy has since texted to say congratulations and how much she loved the series. (Bright originally auditioned for the young Princess Margaret in *The Crown*. 'Then, I think, a year later, they said, "Would you like to audition for Kate?" It was a long process, but it was crazy. I mean, God, getting to work with Elizabeth Debicki and Meg Bellamy was unbelievable.')

Not everything about *Off Campus* has been a dream. At school, Bright was awarded a drama scholarship. 'For that to be upheld, you had to participate [in school drama],' she says, having starred in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* in the West End as a 10-year-old. 'So I did *Legally Blonde the Musical*... I was Emmett, the male love interest,' she says, laughing hysterically. 'That was my first time singing in front of people and I thought, "This is absolutely terrifying." The following year, when there was a school production of *Les Misérables*, I refused. I told them, "I can't sing, I don't want to do it." Instead, she opted to be stage manager. So when *Off Campus* called, and her character was a musical prodigy required to sing and perform, 'I was like, "Oh no, not again."'

Bright, who learnt guitar and piano virtually from scratch, now has her own Spotify artist profile, and the song 'Baby Now That I Found You', a cover of the 1967 number by The Foundations, has now clocked more than 30 million listens. 'It's something that I would never, ever have imagined for myself,' she says, in palpable disbelief. 'I was really stubborn. I was like, "I don't want a hand

double [for the guitar and piano playing], I want to do this all myself.'" Bright caught up with practice at all hours of the night after filming. 'It was hard work.' Her teacher gave her the pink electric guitar she performs with as a present at the end of the shoot. 'I'm now playing it all the time, I've fallen in love with it. It's the thing I'm most proud of.'

It's something her father is proud of, too. 'My dad is an incredible pianist and he was always upset that none of his daughters ever

learnt or tried or cared [to play an instrument].' So he was thrilled she'd have to take it up for the show. 'I definitely get my music taste from him,' she says. 'For my Instagram dumps, I often ask, "Dad, can you send me a really cool song to put together with this?" And he'll send me five options,' she beams.

Although she hopes to move to New York next year, Bright is close to her family. She refers to her two younger sisters (aged 16 and 13) as her best friends, along with her

best friends from school, *Malory Towers* and *Off Campus* – there are a lot of best friends in the world of Ella Bright. At home in London, they have two whippets called Winnie and Bea. 'They're the skinniest little scared things in the world, but I love them. I really miss them.' Another thing Bright misses is pub gardens. 'I'm very jealous that I'm not there for the World Cup.' As for Bright's London, it's not all Spoons: 'I love going out in Camden. I mean, Blues Kitchen, Jazz Cafe, KOKO,' she reels off. 'For my birthday last year, after I came back from Paris, I went to Heaven, and me and my best friends all wore these neon bob wigs. We had the greatest time ever.' Spoken like a true, Snapchatting Gen Z.

To switch off, Bright will 'just walk for hours and hours and not think about anything'. Otherwise it's reality television: *Love Island*, *The Secret Lives of Mormon Wives*, *Selling the OC*, you name it. 'Honestly, anything,' she laughs. Musically, she's a Swiftie through and through. 'My first ever concert was Taylor Swift's 1989 tour in Hyde Park.' She followed that up with two back-to-back nights at the Eras tour in 2024, one night dressed as Poison Ivy (in reference to the lyrics in 'Don't Blame Me'), the second night as one of the seagulls from the 1989 album cover. She has also seen SZA live and went to Reading Festival when she was 16. 'It was four people in a two-man tent. I look at the people who go to Coachella and I'm like, "Oh my gosh, my Reading experience was *not* that."'

The future is certainly bright. Having done a run performing at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe aged 17 ('we saw 24 plays in three days'), the actress is open to a return to the theatre in the West End or on Broadway. She'd love to do a psychological thriller and is keen to be in a film.

But, for now, this Bright Young Thing is on a whistle-stop tour of Paris, then it's back to Vancouver. The second season of *Off Campus* calls – and the world frankly can't get enough. □



The first season of *Off Campus* follows shy music student Hannah, played by Bright, who starts a fake relationship with hockey star Garrett, played by Belmont Cameli

ROYAL ASCENT

*After auditioning for the part of the young Princess Margaret in *The Crown*, Bright eventually landed a role as the teenage Kate Middleton. It was crazy. Getting to work with Elizabeth Debicki and Meg Bellamy was unbelievable.*

Cape, POA, VALENTINO
HAUTE COUTURE



Dress, POA,
CHRISTIAN DIOR
HAUTE COUTURE.
Necklace, POA, **DIOR**
JOAILLERIE

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES, LIANE HENTSCHER/PRIME

MAKING THE CUT

Bright made her couture week debut in Paris – ‘my first fashion show... thing... ever’ – as a front-row guest at the Dior Haute Couture show

Dress, £17,500,
HECTOR MACLEAN.
Sunglasses, £395,
SAINT LAURENT
SUNGLASSES

For stockists, see Address Book. Hair: Rena Calhoun at A-Frame Agency using Virtue Labs. Make-up: Mia Jones at Forward Artists using Allies of Skin. Nails: Christina Conrad. Photographer's assistant: Elliott Kacmann. Styling assistants: Sophie Callaghan and Abigail Foster. Tailor: Marion Robillard. Producer: Marie Ferrier. Runner: Sacha Carenou. Shot on location at Hôtel Le Marois, Paris

GET IN LINE

THE QUEUES ARE
ALREADY FORMING:
IT'S NEW COLLECTIONS,
NEW RULES AS DESIGNERS
SET OUT THIS SEASON'S
DEFINING STYLES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY OLI KEARON
STYLING BY SOPHIE PERA



TATLER

DIOR

Jonathan Anderson's new New Look revels in ruffles, loose layers and sumptuous flounces, bringing a freshness that delicately balances old-world style codes with future-proof modernism



*Left, top, £4,500, skirt, £6,300, shoes, £1,300, and bag, £3,200, **DIOR**. Vintage earrings, £159, **THE FIRST COLLECTION***

*Right, top, POA, skirt, POA, and bags, from £2,100, **DIOR**. Shoes, £795, **GIUSEPPE ZANOTTI**. Vintage earrings, as before*

CHANEL

There's a reason for those queues to get into Chanel's boutiques: Matthieu Blazy is reimagining the house's hallmarks through an AW26 lens, crafting silhouettes that bring the 1920s thrillingly into the 2020s

Left, dress, POA, and shoes, £1,265, CHANEL. Vintage earrings, £159, THE HIRST COLLECTION

Right, jacket, POA, skirt, £8,700, and shoes, £1,135, CHANEL. Vintage earrings, as before



FENDI

*Maria Grazia Chiuri's
Fendi debut nods to
the house's Y2K heyday
with a dash of hip-hop
WAG energy: think
shearling-trimmed
camo, khaki cargos
and zebra-print
block heels*



Jacket, £27,000,
shorts, £1,750, shoes,
£1,100, socks, POA,
and bags, from
£2,150, **FENDI**.
Scarf, £145, **LE
SCARF**. Vintage
earrings, £159, and
vintage ring, £85,
**THE HIRST
COLLECTION**

HERMÈS

The formula for timeless luxury? At Hermès, which recently unveiled its colossal new flagship on New Bond Street, it's equestrian elegance. Nipped-waist riding jackets and knee-high boots ensure the house never falls off the horse



Jacket, £6,700, jodhpurs, £3,900, shoes, £2,650, scarf, £980, and bag, £9,500, **HERMÈS**. Scarf (on bag), £180, **ASPINAL**. Vintage earrings, £159, and bracelets (left), from £89, **THE HIRST COLLECTION**. Bracelet (top right), £125, **ANAYAH JEWELLERY**. Bracelet (bottom right), £88, **GILLIAN HORSUP AT ALFIES**. Ring, stylist's own

PRADA

Fashion super-duo Raf Simons and Miuccia Prada are proving the cleverest trick isn't a new silhouette but a new way of thinking: endlessly inventive layers and unexpected pairings make the case for dressing by instinct



Dress (with scarf attached) and shoes, POA, **PRADA**. Vintage earrings, £159, and vintage ring, £85, **THE HIRST COLLECTION**



LOUIS VUITTON

You can spot a Vuitton vixen a mile off: wrapped in artfully curated looks that move effortlessly from gallery to gala. AW26's must-haves? Oversized shearling tricorne hats and aviator shades



Overalls, POA,
shoes, £1,100, hat,
£1,790, sunglasses,
£690, and bags,
from £2,040,
LOUIS VUITTON.
Vintage earrings,
£159, **THE HIRST
COLLECTION**

BURBERRY

Burberry's ode to London nightlife delivers the ultimate after-dark packing list. Cashmere cape coats meet leather trousers and Nova-check scarves – cocooned but unmistakably cool



Jacket, £3,290,
trousers, £3,490,
shoes, £1,295,
and scarf, £7,595

BURBERRY.

Rings, stylist's own

GIORGIO ARMANI

*Now under the
direction of
Silvana Armani,
Mr Armani's niece,
the house continues
to favour timelessness
over trends. For this
season: jewel tones,
Byzantine glamour
and a lick of Ballets
Russes lustre*



Dress, £5,850,
trousers, £17,000,
shoes, £1,450, and
bag, £1,950,
GIORGIO ARMANI.
Hat, £190, **SARA
COLACCICO.**
Vintage earrings,
£165, **THE HIRST
COLLECTION**



BALENCIAGA

Pierpaolo Piccioli has mined Cristóbal Balenciaga's archives, particularly the heavenly proportions that earned him the sobriquet 'master of us all'. Exhibit A: this cocoon coat worthy of Countess Jacqueline de Ribes



Coat, £4,390,
shoes, £950,
hat, POA, and
bag, £2,200,
BALENCIAGA.
Vintage earrings,
to hire from £55,
4ELEMENT. Ring,
stylist's own

MCQUEEN

Androgyny is central to Alexander McQueen's legacy: fierce femininity sharpened with a warrior edge. For AW26, Seán McGirr reworks the classic tux with signature British grunge glam



Shirt, £1,290, jacket, £2,190, trousers, £990, and bow tie, POA, **McQUEEN**. Shoes, £795, **GIUSEPPE ZANOTTI**. Hat, £940, **EDWINA IBBOTSON**

**DOLCE &
GABBANA**

*Dolce & Gabbana
is pulling onto the
hard shoulder and
slamming on the
brakes with sharply
cut trench coats,
exaggerated shoulders
and oversized lapels.
Look all you like –
just don't touch*



Coat, £5,650,
and sunglasses,
£256, **DOLCE &
GABBANA**. Boots,
£820, **CHRISTIAN
LOUBOUTIN**. Bag,
£1,495, **JIMMY
CHOO**. Vintage
earrings, £159,
**THE HIRST
COLLECTION**

**ERMANNO
SCERVINO**

*Ermanno injects
menswear-esque
tailoring with
Italian sex appeal
– a little Marlene
Dietrich, un peu
Betty Catroux*



Jacket and trousers,
POA, **ERMANNO
SCERVINO**.
Shoes, £795,
**GIUSEPPE
ZANOTTI**. Hat,
£890, **EDWINA
IBBOTSON**

VALENTINO

Sateen dreams and gemstone shades: Valentino's edge-driven eveningwear is reserved for the riotously glamorous. Pair ruched taffeta minis with billowing silk blouses and statement hosiery. Va-va-Valentino!

Top, skirt, tights, shoes and necklace, POA, **VALENTINO**. Bag, £1,195, **JIMMY CHOO**. Ring, stylist's own

For stockings, see Address Book. Hair: Elsa Hua at Brush with Blush Studio. Wigs by Takuya Morimoto at Daniel Galvin. Make-up: Pablo Rodriguez using Armani Beauty Luminous Silk. Nails: Annie Kilalea. Photographer's assistants: James Monahan and Kasim Ahmed. Styling assistants: Sophie Callaghan and Millar Wyatt. Hair assistant: Lewa Tan. Make-up assistant: Nina Tsitaia. Model: Hollie-May Saker at Models1. Casting director: Dean Goodman

**WHERE'S
WALLIS?**

Wallis, Duchess of Windsor spent her final years isolated and under the control of her lawyer. A new film starring Dame Joan Collins and Isabella Rossellini (opposite) traces the story of her tragic decline





The lost duchess

A NEW STAR-STUDED FILM IS DRAMATISING THE FINAL YEARS OF WALLIS SIMPSON – BUT THE WOMAN WHO WITNESSED THEM WASN'T CONSULTED. ANNA PASTERNAK REVEALS THE REAL STORY, WITH TESTIMONY FROM THE DUCHESS'S LAST CONFIDANTE



Dame Joan Collins
as the Duchess of
Windsor and Isabella
Rossellini as Maître
Suzanne Blum in
the forthcoming film
My Duchess



Blum (right) with the
actress Martine Carol,
1958. In her heyday,
she represented some of
the biggest names in film

When I heard that Dame Joan Collins is to portray the Duchess of Windsor in *My Duchess*, a film about the tragic, twisted end to Wallis Simpson's life, I had mixed feelings. While I actively champion anything that celebrates Wallis, a woman so beguiling that King Edward VIII renounced his throne and the entire British Empire to marry her in 1937, the thought of Collins as Simpson unsettles me.

Dame Joan Collins is a beloved national treasure and doughty survivor. Poor Wallis was never the former – even though Noël Coward once famously said that ‘a statue should be erected to Mrs Simpson in every town in England for the blessing she had bestowed upon the country’ (referring to the removal of Edward from the throne) – but she was certainly the latter. She had to surmount becoming the most hated woman in the world after the abdication, the 90-year anniversary of which falls this December. The false narrative about her – that she was a scheming, sexually depraved social climber, who strove to be queen – sadly often holds sway.

So I salute Collins, who has said in support of Simpson: ‘I’m fascinated by women who everybody says are nasty people.

And when you strip it all off, you find out they are not really.’ It’s a sentiment that I have been hollering since I wrote my book *The American Duchess, The Real Wallis Simpson* seven years ago.

However, images released from the set of the film – a film written by Louise Fennell (Emerald Fennell’s mother) that has been kept tightly under wraps and described as ‘part royal biopic, part psycho biddy horror, with a touch of erotic thriller and a whole heap of camp’ – concern me. As much as I admire Collins as a woman, I worry that she lacks the élan to convey the Duchess of Windsor’s style, complexity, grace and refinement.

Johanna Schutz, who was private secretary to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor for eight years from 1969, is similarly sceptical. Strangely, Schutz was not asked to consult on the film, which seems an error when you consider that she is the last woman alive who knew the couple intimately. There is a secretary in the film named Marianne, who is loosely based

on her. Whatever the reviews of the film, Schutz says she will be delighted if the truth about the duchess’s decency comes to light.

Schutz practically lived in the Windsors’ Parisian mansion in the Bois de Boulogne in the 1970s (when she was in her late twenties), becoming the daughter that the royal couple never had. She was drawn in particular to the duchess, whom she found witty and

*It is heartbreaking that the
duchess, once one of the most
famous women in the world
and an icon of style, died alone
in threadbare sheets*



Wallis at home in her 14-room mansion in the Bois de Boulogne near Paris, 1974



The Duke and Duchess of Windsor in the grounds of their home, 1970

kind. Schutz's role was as gatekeeper in charge of their staff and diary, regularly besieged by European royals desperate for an invitation to one of Wallis's legendary dinners, where guests included Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, Marlene Dietrich, Cecil Beaton and the Emperor and Empress of Japan. But Wallis and Schutz's glory days came to an end when the duke died in 1972.

Soon afterwards, having once been the duchess's confidante and companion who travelled with her regularly to America when she was first widowed, Schutz found herself powerless to help after the royal couple's French lawyer, Maître Suzanne Blum, seized ultimate power.

The Duchess of Windsor became a prisoner to her lawyer, whom Schutz describes as 'evil'. It is the twisted domination of Wallis by Blum that *My Duchess* depicts, with Isabella Rossellini playing the 'satanic' lawyer.

Schutz – whose enmity towards Blum is understandably vociferous, having witnessed her reign of terror – says that Rossellini's hair is 'completely wrong' in the film. Rossellini portrays Blum as a severe brunette when the lawyer's hair in those days was 'white, short and messy'. (Bizarrely, Blum was only two years younger than Wallis. Unlike the duchess, she was in punishingly rude health.) Blum, who in her heyday had acted on behalf of Charlie Chaplin, Walt Disney and Rita Hayworth, developed a macabre obsession with Wallis, carefully dismissing the duchess's loyal retainers one by one.

Schutz had promised the Duke of Windsor that she would protect Wallis after his death – an undertaking she did not take lightly. Matters took a sinister turn when Schutz returned from a family Christmas ski trip in late December 1972, seven months

after the duke had died. The duchess, who had pretty much given up eating (but did not drink much, as is often erroneously depicted), was in bed, frail and in severe pain. Schutz discovered that she had fallen and broken her hip, which John Utter, a retired American diplomat who had been the duke's private secretary, and Blum, then an increasingly regular visitor to the mansion, had conveniently ignored. Schutz insisted that the poor woman, wincing in agony, be operated on. But the duchess was given too much anaesthetic, prolonging her recovery for two months in hospital in Paris.

While Wallis remained disorientated, in January 1973 Blum took advantage and, as an executor of the duke's will, persuaded the duchess to terminate the services of Edward's long-standing lawyer, Sir Godfrey Morley of Allen & Overy. Vulnerable and fearing for her future, Wallis capitulated as Blum began a financial, emotional and persecutory campaign against her. Blum coerced Wallis to write a new will that bequeathed her and the duke's estate to France – not to Britain, as they had wanted. Blum warned the duchess that if she did not sign, the French government would make her pay back rent on the house where she and the duke had lived tax-free for decades – threatening the duchess, who had a lifelong fear of penury, with the alarming prospect of enormous tax bills.

Schutz explained to me that Blum 'was a big friend of Jacques Chirac [the then cabinet minister who would become mayor of Paris and later president of France]. And that's how they got her, because Blum said to her, "If you do not do this, they will throw you out of your house, because your home belongs to the City of Paris." They threatened her and the poor thing was terrified. I ▷

◁ kept telling her that there was enough money, but I couldn't calm her.'

Schutz is convinced that Wallis's signature on a letter written on 19 January 1973, of which I have seen a copy from the duchess's archives, is a fake. It reads: 'Dear Suzanne, This is to confirm to you that I appoint you as my sole legal representative and as my sole advisor.'

The Machiavellian Blum fuelled the duchess's worst fears that others were taking advantage of her. Schutz tried to get word to Queen Elizabeth II that the duchess was effectively a hostage in her mansion, as Blum was banning friends from visiting. The Queen sent her lawyers to investigate, but by then Blum had wrangled power of attorney over the duchess, rendering Her Majesty's lawyers powerless to intervene.

In her archival papers, the duchess has a letter from Sir Godfrey Morley, written on 22 January 1973. He had looked after the duke's legal affairs for more than 20 years and wrote to the duchess mentioning three charities that might be candidates for legacies in her will. Without any previous indication of her plans, the duchess sent a reply (almost certainly by Blum's hand) on 26 January, sacking her husband's faithful and decent British lawyer: 'It will be unnecessary for Maître Rosselli [Morley's French counterpart] to prepare a new will or to call me, as I have already taken the necessary steps with regard to my will. I feel therefore constrained to inform you that I revoke any and all power or charges heretofore given to you and Maître Rosselli. With gratitude for all the services which you have rendered the duke and myself in the past, and with best wishes, Yours sincerely, Wallis, Duchess of Windsor.'

This curt, dismissive style is inauthentic to Wallis, who was warm and loyal to her core. Sir Godfrey was astonished, reminding the duchess's sly Swiss banker, Maurice Amiguet, who became aligned with Maître Blum, of 'how insistent the duke was that I should be involved'. While Sir Godfrey's reaction was to explain to his firm that 'the Duchess of Windsor has gone a bit funny

lately and has discontinued consulting me and is now advised solely by her French lawyer', he harboured serious doubts as to how the decision to remove him had been effected.

What was devastating for Schutz, witness to the cruelty and the captivity unfolding, was that she and the duchess had actually planned their escape. After Wallis had recovered from her hip operation, they made secret plans for her to move back to America, but a perforated ulcer rendered the already ailing duchess

too ill to travel. This sealed her fate. Schutz says that during this time the duchess expressed her hatred of Blum to her face, repeatedly telling the lawyer: 'I hate you.' This explains why Blum prevented her friends from coming to visit – 'in case she repeated to her friends how much she loathed Blum', says Schutz.

The Irish society hostess Aileen Plunket described Wallis as becoming 'Blumed'. When she tried to visit Wallis, Blum turned her away, saying that she might endanger the duchess's life. This snub made the elegant octogenarian incandescent: 'If the duchess was too ill to want to talk, I only wanted to peek my head through her bedroom door. I wanted to wave to her... I wanted to blow her a kiss and maybe put some flowers by her bed... I only wanted Wallis to know that I hadn't forgotten her.'

Paranoid, frightened and now all alone, the duchess was forced to secretly telephone Schutz (before Blum removed the phone by her bed) to ask her to meet her in her bathroom where, like a scene from a crime caper, they had to whisper under the noise of running taps. Wallis told Schutz that Blum was poisoning her. Fearful of Schutz's grasp of the situation, Blum then tried to change her contract, telling her that she would only be allowed a five-minute

window each week in which to sit with the duchess.

'It was terrible and it was just awful for me,' Schutz recalls. 'I suffered as much during that time as the duchess did. I tried everything, but I could not do anything. It was Blum and the doctors who were against me.'



Wallis in 1937, at the Château de Candé, where she and Edward married

In Wallis's bathroom, like a scene from a crime caper, they had to whisper under the noise of running taps. Wallis told Schutz that Blum was poisoning her

Eventually, as the duchess became less cogent, slipping towards dementia, Schutz left after refusing to renew a contract that would have rendered Blum her boss.

On 25 March 1976, Harley Street doctor Robin Beare wrote to Maître Blum after Lady Monckton visited him – Bridget Monckton, Lady Ruthven of Freeland, was the second wife of Walter Monckton, a key advisor to King Edward VIII during the 1936 abdication crisis. Beare told Blum: ‘I had a long talk with Lady Monckton yesterday evening and I explained to her how seriously ill the duchess is, and, more particularly, your own dilemma with regard to Lady Monckton’s natural desire to visit her old friend, and the veto on visitors which has been imposed [by her doctors]. I have thought about this very carefully and I have come firmly to the conclusion that Lady Monckton should pay a visit to Her Royal Highness in the near future for the following reasons.’ Beare then detailed that Lady Monckton was the duchess’s oldest and closest friend, regarded as family, and it might be the last time she would see her.

He concludes: ‘It is impossible to predict whether such a visit would be beneficial or detrimental to the duchess’s health, and this can only be established by a “therapeutic trial”. It might well do her a lot of good, and I hope it proves to be so. Lady Monckton has, in fact, been invited to Paris on 8 April to stay with friends and will get in touch with you before or after her arrival.’

Unsurprisingly, Lady Monckton’s access was denied. Schutz wrote to all the duchess’s friends, explaining the situation and why she had been forced to leave. Handwritten condolences came from many of them, including Estée Lauder, who wrote from her villa in Cannes, thanking Schutz for ‘all your kindness’ to the duchess, ‘and all your courtesies extended to us – we do appreciate it so very much’.

An American friend of the Windsors, William Hickman, wrote to Schutz from his home in Tennessee on 14 June 1978: ‘Dearest Johanna, With sadness, I respond to your letter. Indeed, you and the pugs were the best friends that the duchess had in the year after the duke passed away. I am grieved that you must leave the duchess in her final days – and that Her Highness must die such a cold death without a friend by her side such as you. You have a fond memory of past years with the duke and duchess that is golden and a consolation in the tragic times as now. Love always, Bill.’

It is heartbreaking that the Duchess of Windsor, once one of the most famous women in the world – an icon of style and champion of couture – died alone in threadbare sheets in 1986, aged 89. Schutz believes that Blum detested the British, which is why she persuaded the duchess that the proceeds of the sale of all jewellery should go to the French Pasteur Institute, as opposed to them being returned to the British Royal Family, which had been Wallis’s intention. (They sold in Geneva in a landmark sale in 1987 for \$50 million – £30.5 million at the time.)

Sir Reginald Hibbert, British ambassador to France from 1979 to 1982, wrote in 1988: ‘Maître Blum was a doughty crusader. It was surprising that an intelligent woman should have chosen so poor a cause.’ Indeed. The Duchess of Windsor did not deserve this. It remains to be seen whether the film *My Duchess* is worthy of her, either. □



Wallis and Edward at a masquerade ball hosted by the Comtesse de Rochambeau, 1964

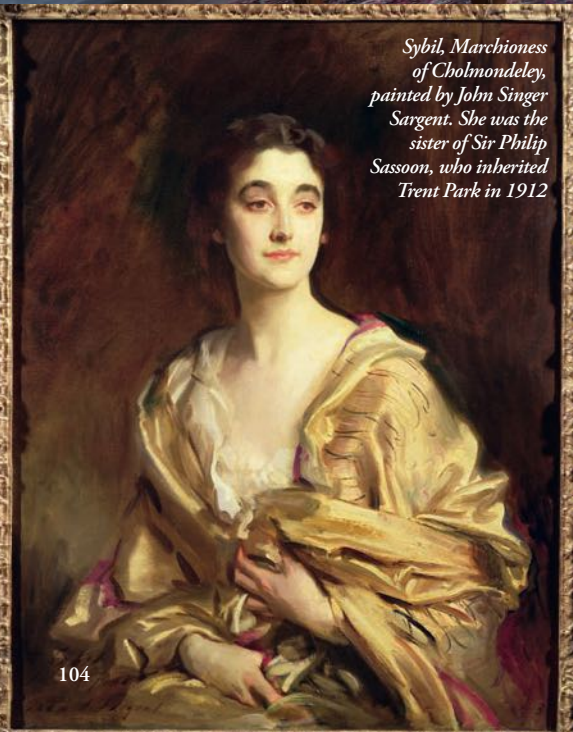


Johanna Schutz with Wallis on a transatlantic crossing aboard the ocean liner SS Michelangelo, 1975

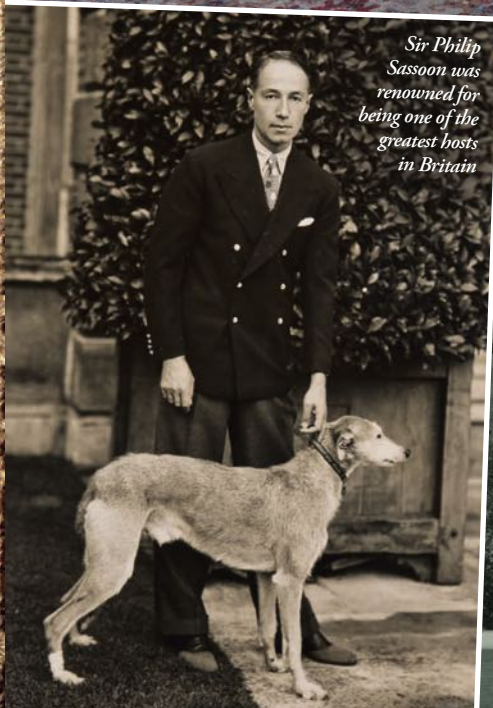


Wallis and Edward pictured in winter with an English setter – the couple were known for their love of dogs

Inside the HOUSE OF SECRETS



Sybil, Marchioness of Cholmondeley, painted by John Singer Sargent. She was the sister of Sir Philip Sassoon, who inherited Trent Park in 1912



Sir Philip Sassoon was renowned for being one of the greatest hosts in Britain





DRAWING PRAISE

The drawing room at Trent Park House. Flanking the Venetian window at the far end of the room is a mural of dolphins by Sassoon's close friend Rex Whistler



Trent Park in the early 20th century



Lord Cholmondeley (second right) and Jason Charalambous (left) holding the keys to Trent Park House

ONCE A GLITTERING SOCIETY RETREAT AND LATER THE SCENE OF AUDACIOUS WARTIME ESPIONAGE, TRENT PARK IS READY FOR ITS BIG REVEAL. THE MARQUESS OF CHOLMONDELEY GIVES TATLER A TOUR

BY DORA DAVIES-EVITT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES MCDONALD

It's a bright summer morning at Trent Park, the grand house hidden behind the suburban neatness of Cockfosters. Fresh from an almost decade-long restoration, the mansion is entering a new chapter. *Tatler* has been invited for a first look, touring the property with David Cholmondeley, 7th Marquess of Cholmondeley, the great-nephew of Trent Park's former owner Sir Philip Sassoon.

A confection of Georgian origins and Jazz Age glamour, it sits among rolling parkland so beautiful that it hardly feels like north London. There are lakes, terraces and ancient trees. The grass falls away towards the horizon. Somewhere nearby, commuters are making their way down the Piccadilly line.

Yet Trent Park is more than a handsome country house. Today it occupies a curious place in Britain's historical imagination. Few buildings can claim such a remarkable dual identity. It is simultaneously a stately home – once the seat of the storied Sassoon family – and the setting for one of the most sophisticated intelligence operations of the Second World War.

Sir Philip Sassoon transformed this grand estate on London's uppermost edge into arguably England's most glamorous country house during the 1920s and 1930s. Royalty, politicians, artists, socialites and Hollywood stars streamed through its doors. Winston Churchill stayed frequently; Edward, the Prince of Wales, visited with Wallis Simpson; the young Princess Elizabeth played in its halls; Charlie Chaplin and Fred Astaire passed through. But by the end of the decade, German generals would unwittingly reveal their military secrets within its walls, their conversations recorded in an audacious British espionage operation. ▷

◁ Post-war, the house had a long stint as a college and university campus until 2013, after which the site was abandoned and fell into disrepair. While touring the estate for unrelated reasons, Jason Charalambous, a former local councillor, was struck by the sad neglect of a once-grand house. Its dilapidated state prompted him to launch an ambitious restoration project that would ultimately save it. More than 10 years later, Trent Park has been reborn: the ground floor and basement now house a museum, while the upper floors have been transformed into luxury apartments.

Waiting at the entrance is Cholmondeley. As co-chair of the Trent Park Museum Trust with Charalambous, he has spent the past year helping oversee the restoration of the house. Tall and courteous, dressed in brown loafers and a cashmere jumper, he is in jovial spirits, keen to show everything he and his team have achieved. (There is something deliciously fun about being shown around one of Britain's most extraordinary wartime intelligence sites by a marquess whose family once lived here.)

Standing in one of the restored reception rooms, it is easy to see Trent Park's great attraction. The restoration has been painstaking to the point of obsession. Original colour schemes have been rediscovered under decades of paint. Paintings that once hung here are being recreated from old photographs. Furniture is returning from storage. Cholmondeley points to walls whose colours are the result of conservators scraping through layers of decoration. 'We've pretty much put back the original colour scheme,' he says in his soft, clipped accent. 'We scraped away and found the colours that were here.' It quickly becomes apparent just how vast his knowledge is on the subject. Elsewhere, curtains have been recreated from archive photos. Original oak floors have been relaid and period panelling preserved. Chinese wallpaper has been reproduced from examples in museum collections. Even the forecourt has been revived, revealing flagstones sourced from Westminster Bridge and a Union Jack design that was concealed during the war to avoid creating an obvious aerial landmark for Luftwaffe pilots.

In the library, an eccentric decorative flourish is being reinstated: a recreation of Horace Walpole's handwritten description of the famous painting said to depict the first pineapple grown in England. The text is being carefully painted on the wall as we look around. 'Lacquer was his thing,' Cholmondeley says of his great-uncle's taste in interiors.

Today Sassoon's name is less familiar than perhaps it should be. In his lifetime, however, he occupied the positions of politician, collector, aesthete and formidable host. Descended from two of the great Jewish dynasties of Europe – the Sassoons and the Rothschilds – he was among the wealthiest young men in Britain. Educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, he entered politics but made society his true stage. Guests drifted through his homes like courtiers might orbit royal palaces: Noël Coward, George Bernard Shaw and Lawrence of Arabia were among those who mingled with royalty and the political elite at his house parties.

The Sassoon family became connected to the Cholmondeley family in August 1913 when Sybil Sassoon (Cholmondeley's grandmother) married the Earl of Rocksavage, who later became the 5th Marquess of Cholmondeley. Sybil was something of a muse to the artist John Singer Sargent and the subject of several of his portraits. The Cholmondeley family's principal seat is Houghton Hall in Norfolk, the Palladian mansion built for Britain's first prime minister, Sir Robert Walpole, in the 1720s. Walking through

Trent Park, traces of those wider family connections appear everywhere. Paintings and furniture that once belonged to Sassoon have returned from Houghton Hall, where many pieces were stored after the war. In a sense, the restoration has reunited two branches of the same family story.

Painstakingly restored, Trent Park is almost like a house waiting for its owner to return from lunch, apart from the Blue Room, a former haunt of Churchill and now a bustling cafe. It doesn't take much imagination to picture the statesman here again, settling into an armchair, cigar in hand, exchanging gossip with his host.

Cholmondeley leads me past a portrait of Sir Richard Jebb, the physician who first built the house. 'This is the original owner,' he tells me. 'He was the doctor to King George III.' After successfully treating the king's brother, the Duke of Gloucester, during a severe illness in Trento, Italy, Jebb was rewarded with the lease of Trent Park. (The estate dates back to the 14th century,

when it formed part of one of Henry IV's hunting grounds.)

Sir Philip Sassoon inherited Trent Park from his father, Sir Edward Sassoon, who purchased the lease in 1909. Philip maintained his country house at Port Lympne in Kent and his London residence on Park Lane. The three properties formed a glittering social triangle through which the political and cultural elite of the age circulated. Besides hosting, Sassoon twice served as undersecretary of state for air and became one of the most enthusiastic advocates of British aviation during the interwar years. Visitors to Trent Park might have found themselves discussing ▷



HOST WITH THE MOST

Sir Philip Sassoon with Edward, Prince of Wales. At just 23, after his father's death in 1912, Philip inherited the Trent Park estate and went on to entertain many glittering society guests there



PAPER TRAIL

The view from the saloon looking into the library. The saloon is hung with Sassoon's original Chinese wallpaper, which he had copied from paper belonging to the V&A



An 18th-century Chinese lacquer chest in the saloon



The Duchess of York, later the Queen Mother, visiting Trent Park House in the 1930s



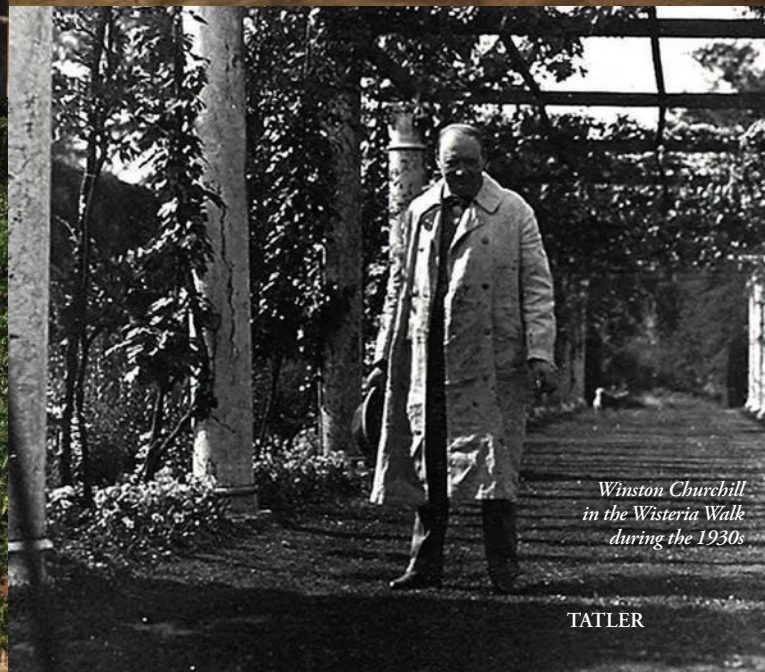
Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret visiting Trent Park House in the early 1930s



The recreated Second World War listening room



The exterior of Trent Park House today



Winston Churchill in the Wisteria Walk during the 1930s

◁ aviation policy over lunch before watching Charlie Chaplin entertain after dinner. Sassoon himself was known for staging elaborate themed exhibitions dedicated to different periods of decorative arts, particularly at his Park Lane residence. He was also a great letter writer, according to Cholmondeley, who has read correspondence between his grandmother and Sassoon. 'It's wonderful to have such great evidence of their close relationship,' he says.

For all the famous visitors, however, the most remarkable chapter in Trent Park's history was still to come. Sassoon died suddenly in 1939, aged only 50, following complications from influenza. Then, within months, Britain was at war.

Like many great houses across the country, Trent Park became part of the war effort. Unlike almost all of them, however, it became a luxury prison for senior German officers. At first, the house received captured Luftwaffe pilots. Then came German generals and senior officers.

'It's such a fantastic story,' says Cholmondeley. Behind the elegant plasterwork, in the state rooms and even outside in the gardens, secret microphones had been hidden in extraordinary numbers. They lurked in walls, skirting boards, light fittings and furniture. Benches, trees and plant pots were bugged. A number of senior German prisoners, including 59 generals, passed through the house without realising that almost every word they spoke was being recorded.

*Behind the elegant plasterwork,
in the state rooms and even
outside in the gardens, secret
microphones had been hidden.
'It's such a fantastic story,'
says Cholmondeley*

Below their feet sat teams of listeners, many of them Jewish refugees who had fled Nazi persecution and now found themselves eavesdropping on Hitler's officers. They had been recruited precisely because their German was modern enough to understand the day's contemporary slang and military jargon; an offhand joke or casual remark could contain intelligence of enormous significance.

The operation was the brainchild of intelligence officer Thomas Kendrick and remains one of the least celebrated triumphs of the war. While Bletchley Park became a national legend, Trent Park disappeared into official secrecy.

The deception went astonishingly far. The prisoners were encouraged to live comfortably. They dined well and walked in the grounds. They attended football matches. They smoked, drank and socialised. Some were taken into London to dine at The Ritz. 'They were encouraged to have a normal life, within reason,' says Cholmondeley. 'They would talk, and every word was recorded.'

Every effort was made to make them comfortable enough not to suspect a thing. Staff appeared to be ordinary domestic servants. Information was carefully managed.

On one occasion, a newspaper, partially faked with a story about German rocket testing, was left out – its discussion by generals

helped to uncover the Nazi Vengeance Weapons programme. The entire environment was designed to lower their guard. In many respects, it resembled a wartime version of *The Truman Show*. The prisoners inhabited a world designed for them by unseen directors.

Among the German-speaking Jewish refugees drafted as secret listeners at Trent Park was Ernst Lederer, whose granddaughter is the actress and comedian Helen Lederer – best known for her role in *Absolutely Fabulous* and today a trustee of the museum. The listeners – about 100 of them – were tasked with identifying dialects, decoding military slang and transcribing conversations.

Conversations they captured revealed details of military technology, battlefield conditions and strategic thinking – all essential to the victory of the Allied forces and the defeat of Nazism in Europe. In addition, some prisoners unknowingly discussed atrocities committed across occupied Europe, giving British intelligence early evidence of war crimes and mass murder.

For decades almost nobody knew the story of Trent Park; the files remained classified until 1996. That fact may explain why Trent Park still lacks the mythology attached to Bletchley Park. Surely its remarkable wartime activity is crying out for a Quentin Tarantino adaptation. 'We have had some interest from production companies,' says Cholmondeley coyly.

In the museum's reconstructed listening quarters, the narrative shifts from the

glittering world of Sir Philip Sassoon to the shadowy world of wartime espionage. The transition is striking: one moment I'm surrounded by the languid elegance of the 1920s and 1930s; the next I'm plunged into blackout Britain.

As we emerge onto the terrace, sunlight catches the newly restored brickwork. Beyond lies the landscape Sassoon once knew: the lake, the park and the wider estate that stretched across farms and woodland. Among them lies the old swimming pool, one of the earliest heated pools in the country. Did the Germans ever use it? 'You know what – that's one thing I don't know,' says Alan Perkin, another trustee, who has guided me through the basement, sharing his remarkable knowledge of its wartime operations. Nearby are the remains of tunnels through which the volunteers would come and go daily. Vast terraces descend towards the water, restoring something of the theatrical grandeur that guests would have experienced in the house's social heyday.

What would Cholmondeley's great-uncle have thought of the transformation? 'I think he would have wanted the house to be used for the war,' he says, simply. 'He did so much to rearm during the '20s and '30s.'

Sassoon created a palace built for diversion and conversation among the great and the good; later it became a house where every word carried consequences. In the years following, Trent Park kept its secrets. Until now. □

THE POKÉMON PRINCESS

SHE'S THE 20-YEAR-OLD SWISS BEAUTY
BEHIND A £90 MILLION POKÉMON CARD EMPIRE
— AND HALF THE INTERNET IS CONVINCED SHE
ISN'T EVEN REAL. ISOLDE WALTERS MEETS
THE ELUSIVE HEIRESS

THE  TIMES

OLIVER MOODY

The Pokémon princess, the £90 million collection and the sceptics

Jolina Gisèle, 20, raised eyebrows when she announced the sale of
her 60,000 cards — yet experts believe they are the genuine
article



"I think, given my appearance, it's shocking to people that I could be interested in Pokémon," says Jolina Gisèle, who staged her own photoshoot in Zurich, with a selection of her precious cards

When Jolina Gisèle steps out of her Audi into the searing temperatures of a European heatwave, she looks every inch the Swiss heiress, in a knitted sundress and Christian Dior heels, with a Cartier watch gleaming on her wrist. Her peaches-and-cream complexion is flawless and her long hair a covetable shade of honey blonde.

But Jolina Gisèle – if that is her real name, more than one reporter questions – is no run-of-the-mill heiress. Her inheritance is not tied up in Virgin Islands bank accounts or discreetly managed portfolios, but in a Pokémon card collection claimed to be worth at least £90 million.

Even Jolina's existence has been hotly contested. In certain corners of the internet, there is feverish speculation that she is not human at all, but instead an exquisitely pretty AI construct created to hawk the collection. Not an unreasonable speculation because, until very recently, the world knew nothing about this 20-year-old or her collection. But everything changed in March, when she announced her treasure trove of more than 60,000 Pokémon cards to the public with a teaser clip: a video that had all the hallmarks of a big-budget, if marginally naff, blockbuster movie. In it, she plays poker in a slinky, scarlet evening dress, before changing into all leather, cartwheeling over lasers with a hunk of a leading man and finally reaching a display case holding a selection of her precious cards. The video, masterminded by her mother, Jasmina, was shot in the historical Dolder Grand, a luxury hotel in the hills above Zurich, and involved a stunt double to perform those acrobatic cartwheels.

It was spectacular – and wildly open to controversy. At *Tatler* HQ, the video was pored over with one question in mind: was the flawlessly beautiful young woman in it real or predictably pulchritudinous AI? Ultimately, one editor decreed she must be real. His reasoning? He could spot a slight imperfection in her canine teeth.

'We really wanted to reveal the collection in a mysterious way,' is how Jolina explains the announcement – mission accomplished. Not only did the James Bond-style video (yes, the 007 franchise was indeed one of Jasmina's inspirations) leave Pokémon fans and collectors alike scrambling to learn more, but news outlets around the world breathlessly reported on this enigmatic heiress and her priceless collection. 'We wanted it to be glamorous,' Jolina adds, 'because we think it deserves that.'

I have come to Zurich to meet this young woman who is either proof positive that Pokémon cards are the new Picassos – or is, in fact, a big Poké-con. My visit has been shrouded in a baffling, almost comic, level of secrecy: every email signed off simply 'The Jolina Gisèle team'; and an initial request (denied) to not reveal that the interview took place at one of the family's properties. By the time I meet Jolina at a train station before we drive together to the family's weekend home overlooking Lake Zurich, I half expect to discover that the internet commenters are correct and she doesn't exist at all.

But here she is, sitting in front of floor-to-ceiling windows offering a glorious view of that lake. She assures me that Jolina Gisèle is her real first and middle name; she tells me her surname but does not wish it to be published. Beside her sits her father, Urs, who made his fortune through AI security companies and also prefers not to have his full name in print. While other multimillionaires bought yachts or cars or diamonds, Urs bought Pokémon cards. 'Every Swiss franc we didn't need went into Pokémon,' he says.

Completing the trio is Jolina's lookalike mother, Jasmina, the creative force behind the cinematic launch video. Dressed in a forget-me-not-blue sundress, she speaks little English but periodically interjects in a flurry of Swiss German, leaving Urs and Jolina to translate. It quickly becomes clear that, despite the headlines centring on glamorous Jolina, this is a family enterprise. And, as eager as I am to discover it's all a fraud, the family unit strikes me as utterly legitimate.

Jolina is far from the enigmatic heiress I had expected. Instead, she seems shy and younger than her years, with a Pokémon charm on her mobile phone and a cuddly Pikachu toy on her bed. She first encountered the trading card game – associated with the massively successful Japanese media franchise centred around fictional creatures with unique powers – when she was seven, a timid school-girl trying to make friends in a village in rural Switzerland that sounds as though it had more cows than people. 'I liked that kids from all different ages came together and they traded the cards,' she says in careful, lightly accented English. 'The cooler, older kids, and me in the first grade.' She soon realised the social potency the cards could offer. 'Friendships formed. The boys always had football cards, but for us girls, there was never a thing that created such unity.'

She told her father of her new interest. Urs, a trained engineer, was looking for a way to bond with his only child, who was, by her own account, very girly. 'I was working a lot and then coming home and nobody wanted to talk about mathematics or physics,' he says. 'Pokémon was something which brought us together.'

Jolina and Urs would convene in the evening, look through the cards and he would then browse on eBay to find new ones. He started small, spending between £45 and £65 on the cards on the online auction site. And then Jolina asked her father the fateful question: 'Could we have *all* the cards?'

To a perfectionist engineer with a collector streak – Urs collected cars prior to Pokémon – this was less of a question than a challenge. Urs dedicated the next decade of his life to compiling a collection of these 2.5-inch by 3.5-inch cards for his beloved Jolina. By his estimate, he spent four hours a day researching them, searching for them online, bidding for them at auction.

What had begun as father-and-daughter browsing sessions on eBay evolved into something approaching an international operation. He cultivated contacts in Japan, relied on dealers in London to grade cards before they were shipped to Switzerland, and built relationships across Germany, the Netherlands and America. ▷

Heiress to sell £50m trove of Pokemon

A SWISS tech heiress is selling her collection of 60,000 Pokemon trading cards, which experts believe could be worth

THE NAME'S JOLINA... MAYBE





A mere fraction of the cards in Jolina's collection, including a 1996 Carddass Charizard #000 (centre), which is in PSA 10 condition – the highest grading the authenticator can give

◁ He quickly realised that acquiring the cards was only half the story. The condition of the cards was everything. The Professional Sports Authenticator (PSA) is the primary authority on Pokémon cards and grades the cards on whether the graphics are properly centred, wear and tear to the edges and any nicks on the surface. PSA 10 is the ultimate grade. 'Ten means no scratching, no bending, nothing. Absolutely perfect condition,' Urs explains.

He will not say how much he spent building up the collection, but later says that the most he has ever paid for a single card is around £460,000. Small fry compared to the £12 million that, in February, American influencer Logan Paul sold his PSA 10 Pikachu Illustrator card for, to venture capitalist AJ Scaramucci, son of former White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci. For context, the Jolina Gisèle Collection has two of these Pikachu Illustrator cards, though they are PSA 8 and 9, not 10. By a conservative estimate, based on recent sales at auction, these two cards alone could fetch around £1.5 million, and those are just two cards out of a collection of more than 60,000.

Jolina admits that, for a while, their views on Pokémon were sometimes at odds. Urs warned his daughter off actually playing with the cards. 'For me, it was more the passion of Pokémon itself, and then for my dad it was the collecting. Then over time, of course, collecting became important for me as well. My dad taught me that I shouldn't play with the cards too much to keep the condition good.'

Jolina was at times disquieted by her father's single-minded obsession with building a collection of Pokémon cards. (Though when I call it 'a collection', I am corrected. 'Legacy, not collection,' Urs says patiently.) 'At some point, I thought that my dad might have overdone it a bit. My mother and I were a bit scared that we spent so much money on the cards. So many packages came in each day. All of a sudden my dad was addicted to shopping for Pokémon cards.'

Urs insists it was never intended to be an investment; instead, it was nothing short of an obsessive pursuit, driven by fatherly love, to build a 'complete' collection of cards. It's simply a happy accident that, in 2026, by his estimate it is worth at least £90 million. Independent analysts suggest it may be worth about £100 million.

The figures are truly dizzying, but not implausible in a market where a single Pokémon card has sold for more than £10 million. Urs admits he got lucky: Pokémon cards have soared in value. From 2004 to 2020, card prices rose by 282 per cent, according to an index compiled by Collectors, which owns PSA. In the past six years, prices have risen by an incredible 1,350 per cent in this highly speculative stock market of sorts. Many of the cards Urs purchased on eBay are now 'worth 10 or sometimes 100 times more.'

According to the family's account, it wasn't until last October that they realised the magnitude and value of the cards crammed into the cupboards of their home. 'Everywhere in the house was Pokémon; you could open doors and the cards were there,' Urs says. The collection was, understandably, swiftly moved to a secure location.

And five months later, the family announced its existence to the world via that astonishing video. Jolina tells me that they decided to reveal the collection to celebrate Pokémon's 30th anniversary. This doesn't quite make sense: Pokémon fans cannot visit the collection and the video raised more questions than it answered. Surely they made the announcement in such showstopping style because they want to sell the collection – I mean, legacy? They are coy. 'We are checking possibilities,' says Urs. But there's no doubt they are serious. JP Morgan has been brought in to help check those possibilities. The investment bank is helping the family with connections and strategy, Urs reveals.

They do not want to sell the collection off piecemeal. 'It's just too much work that we've put into it,' says Jolina. 'The really special thing is that we have every single card and that took so much time, effort and dedication. It would be such a shame to break it apart.'

When I visit the high-security storage facility on the outskirts of Zurich to see the cards the next day, it is Urs, not Jolina, who excitedly leads me through the warren of vaults to the one that houses



Jolina hardly sees the cards any more – they're in a high-security facility usually used for museum-quality art, which means collecting isn't as much fun. 'It's so out of reach,' she says

the collection. Filing cabinets line the walls and from these he pulls out box after box of cards, each with a dizzying value: one Umbreon (a Pokémon creature) card is worth around £230,000, he says; another set of cards is supposedly worth £2 million.

The climate-controlled facility is usually used to stow museum-quality fine art. But, as Urs says, 'these are art, too'. (I'm not sure. The plastic-encased cards are almost the size of an iPhone, with illustrations, some foiling and pretty colours – not quite as soul-stirring as a Van Gogh.)

Jolina is nowhere to be seen as Urs digs through the archive to show me rarity symbols and the like. I later find her posing for a camera crew, wearing a Balmain minidress, chosen because the jewelled neckline mirrors the colours of her Pokémon cards.

'I think, given my appearance, people think I'm pretty shallow and they often mistake my shyness for arrogance,' she says. 'I think it's really shocking to people that I could ever be interested in something like Pokémon.'

Despite the charm on her mobile phone, Jolina appears to have moved on to other interests. She hardly sees the cards any more; she's not allowed to bring friends, who have nicknamed her the 'Pokémon Queen', to the secure facility. 'It's just not as fun as it used to be because it's so out of reach now. It's not in our cupboards any more.' These days, fashion is her first love. She adores Kate

Moss – the lake house has a vast portrait of the supermodel in the entryway and another hanging in the hall. Moss, she says, is a 'style inspiration'. Her favourite designer? Chanel. She hopes to start a clothing brand with Jasmina, now that she has finished her German, economics and biology A-levels.

Meanwhile, Urs calls the collection his 'life's work' and Jolina's inheritance; he is adamant that his daughter 'is the reason the collection exists'. That's why she is the face of it. She certainly is a very appealing and glamorous spokeswoman of sorts for a collection of cards usually associated with nerds and crypto bros. (But it's taking its toll – I hear she pulled out of a later interview and Jasmina tells me that among Jolina's difficulties is the often underestimated struggle of spending six hours in high heels: 'It was honestly really tough.' Jolina herself says that this is 'not her comfort zone'.) Urs tells me there has apparently been interest in building a museum to house the collection in New York, Japan or Europe.

He suddenly seems tired of talking about the soaring value of the cards. 'We are talking now always about money,' he says, 'but it was something I could do with my daughter and we spent so many hours and days together looking for the cards. This is the main thing.' So sweet, so parental. With a collection now worth almost £100 million, how fortunate that this Swiss tycoon spent a decade striving to – as the catchphrase goes – 'catch 'em all'. □

 SKINCEUTICALS

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John Rawlings, May 15, 1954.



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Edited by DELILAH KHOMO

TATLER



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FAST-TRACK TO THE DIVINE

An ancient practice used to purify body and soul, fasting brings profound peace – but it's no picnic. Delilah Khomo reveals what to expect when the only thing on the menu is willpower



*Fasting is not just
physically demanding,
it also requires strong
emotional commitment*

YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND the meaning of 'peace be with you' as you near the end of a fast. If you wish to connect with 'spirit' – which, for me, encompasses the figures and regions beyond our physical world – a fast will get you there. It is a lodestar; an experience of connecting with the divine or God that feels both direct and natural and does not require the intercession of anybody else.

For millennia, it has been a venerated spiritual practice. Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights in the Judean desert, as Moses did on Sinai and Elijah on the way to Horeb. Prophet Mohammed extolled the virtues of fasting and the immense spiritual tranquillity, forgiveness and protection granted to those who do. Mahatma Gandhi went on a hunger strike for peace during India's freedom movement. And the martyr and Catholic mystic Saint Catherine of Siena took fasting to the extreme: it's said she did not touch any food (aside from the Eucharist) for seven years before she died.

Not that I plan to take it that far... But fasting is an inner journey I feel drawn to make at least twice a year. I have embarked on many. My definition of a fast: going without solid food and drinking only broth, herbal tea and water for around five to six days. It requires a setting without temptation. You want to be horizontal in a warm, peaceful, softly lit environment; cosseted and, at the same time, left entirely to yourself. You also want total abdication of responsibility, with reflexology, shiatsu and craniosacral therapy helping to make you feel as good as humanly possible. Or being smeared with goat butter or mud and seaweed, then swaddled in warm hay to induce a liquid-bones, skin-like-satin effect.

Lanserhof Lans in Austria and Buchinger Wilhelmi in Germany more than deliver on all of the above. At both medi-spas, real life stops at reception. Buchinger feels

like a return to boarding school with a touch of institutionalised chic – think *Girl, Interrupted* meets the sparse architecture of John Pawson. Lanserhof is definitely the more luxe, aesthetic route to the divine. But what Buchinger lacks in thread counts, alkaline bath salts and pillow menus, it makes up for with soul and purity. There is something to be said for everyone

I like to time my fast to begin either on the full moon or the new moon, working the different lunar cycles to effect change. And whatever might be going on celestially and astrologically, I always come back to my Catholic roots and practise Marian consecration. I dedicate my fast at the beginning to the Virgin Mary and pray for her help throughout the course of



From Lanserhof Lans, you can hike through the forest to the Heiligwasser pilgrimage church

fasting together. (Lanserhof has all its guests on different diet regimes – some may just be having broth and herbal tea, while others are consuming sheep's milk yoghurt with buckwheat toast.)

I've learnt that a fast doesn't just require resolute willpower, but also power of the heart. You oscillate between love and rage, hope and frustration; a slow burn that culminates in a sensation of sheer peace. But every fast is different and you never quite know what will come up for you. What I do know is that

it. Another Madonna always helps too: on day one, time goes by so slowly, as in 'Hung Up' from *Confessions on a Dance Floor*; the day three breakthrough is comparable to 'Like a Prayer'; by the end, you feel like 'Ray of Light', in all its remixed glory.

Tastes change throughout the fasting process. The power of your senses heightens to an extraordinary degree, especially your olfactory preferences – the only scent I can stand during my fasts is Santa Maria Novella's Rosa Gardenia

Skin Tonic. The quality of your sleep also dramatically changes: it can be so light after you hit the midway point, as your body adjusts to not using as much energy to digest and therefore requires less rest and reset time.

By then, all I want is a Xanax – and possibly chef Jackson Boxer's roast chicken with bread sauce and salted lemon with duck-fat fries and the perfect green salad. I find a masochistic comfort in looking up London restaurant menus in the early hours, and know by heart the daily carving trolley dish at Wilton's and the seasonal menus at The River Cafe. These trials fade into insignificance as the body switches into deep autophagy and the process of maximum cellular renewal. In short, you suddenly feel high on life.

The care over what you choose to ingest should extend to reading material. On my most recent fast on Lanserhof Lans's Spiritual Detox programme, I read the neuroscientist Dr Tara Swart's fascinating book *The Signs*. In it, she writes about trusting your instinct and strengthening your connection with a higher consciousness. You definitely become more open to such things on a fast; signs and synchronicities abound, as I discovered.

On the penultimate day of my fast, I woke up at 4.44am on the 4th of June and went on a numerology deep-dive into the power of four. At the exact moment of thanking my spirit guides for the crystal-clear signs and messages, cannons started going off and church bells rang through the valley of Lans. This is it, I feared, I've truly flown over the cuckoo's nest. But the celebratory sounds would not stop. So I googled: 'Why are cannons and church bells going off at 5am in a Tyrolean Austrian village?'

The answer came: it was the day of honouring the Feast of Corpus Christi. Suddenly, with total clarity, I knew it was time to leave. ▷

LANSERHOF LANS

Tyrol, Austria

As spiritual as it is scientific, Lans is a place of pilgrimage that can elicit huge life change, especially as part of Lanserhof's new seven-day Spiritual Detox programme. The medi-spa's design is what I imagine checking into heaven must be like, but with angels on Apple Macs. The slick rooms are like vast lofts and offer views of the majestic Patscherkofel mountains, while the beds and pillow menu will appeal to anyone who, like me, feels the need to nap three times a day.

When you can muster the energy, go Nordic walking along dappled woodland trails or just forest-bathe. Make a pilgrimage to the story-book baroque Heiligwasser church and light a candle in the ivy-wreathed grotto dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Look out, too, for the healing spring, where the icy holy water tastes even better than Chateldon.

Lanserhof leads the way as an ultra-efficient retreat providing one of the most medically superior detoxes. The Zero Diet (of water, vegetable broths and alkaline tea) is designed to neutralise acids in the body. Healings from Leo Erhart help clear emotional clutter – a memorable session seemingly takes you to another dimension, combining shiatsu and a ritual whereby a fire stick is wafted over you to clear your energy field, before a prayer to the Virgin of Guadalupe is chanted. Equally powerful is time with Solvita Kopitova, who brings you to a state of emotional calm with gentle bodywork and visualisations. The magic is amplified by Dr Perpetua Walser, who works miracles as she guides you through this transformative programme with such kindness and divine wisdom. Don't miss her wet cupping treatment: a highlight, albeit a somewhat painful one, that feels like next-level acupuncture. I left with an unshakeable faith in a higher power.

lanserhof.com



Heated indoor and outdoor saltwater swimming pools support the purification process



Curvilinear walls and a calming colour palette further enhance the meditative atmosphere



To pass the time, Delilah recommends lots of baths with Lanserhof's detox-supporting alkaline salts



Gazing out at the mountains while you wait for appointments is restorative in its own right

DIVINE ESSENTIALS



- 1** Sensory Wellbeing Patches, Travel Collection, £65, **AEQUIL**. **2** *The Signs* by Dr Tara Swart, £16.99, **EBURY**. **3 & 5** Rose Gardenia Pollen Cream, £70, and Skin Tonic, £35, **SANTA MARIA NOVELLA**. **4** Organic Bitter Drops, £31, **LANSEHOF**. **6** Fleur d'Oranger de Berkane Bath Salts, £32, **OFFICINE UNIVERSELLE BULY**



The roof garden, with its grounding Alpine views, is a central feature of the health-promoting architecture here



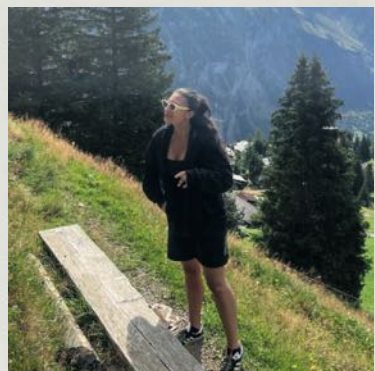
Panorama Sauna Bellevue houses three heat and light experiences to complement the therapeutic effects of fasting



Regular guests try to stay during the residency of Buddhist monk Lharampa Tenzin Kalden



Buchinger Wilhelmi's heated outdoor swimming pool



Mountain highs: Delilah on her daily hike from Buchinger Wilhelmi, seeking out healing springs



The team harnesses the healing properties of plants for liver wraps, herbal teas and massage oils

BUCHINGER WILHELMI

Lake Constance, Germany

'Fasting is not just a lack of solid food, but an encounter with yourself.' Raimund Wilhelmi, grandson of the fasting pioneer Dr Otto Buchinger (who claimed he cured his arthritis by fasting), succinctly alludes to the immense spiritual and emotional mirror that is held up as you embark on abstinence. This remains the retreat where power players come to recharge over a minimum of 10 days. Soups, juices and honeyed tea make up the daily diet before vegetables and a delicious quinoa soufflé are reintroduced two days before you check out. (For rooms with the best views out over Lake Constance, Villa Belgrano is where you want to be.)

This family-run fasting clinic's greatest strength is its authentic heart. Every guest is looking to reboot dramatically – weight loss is a given, but it delivers long-lasting emotional clarity too. I was lucky enough to spend some time with the late scientific director Françoise Wilhelmi de Toledo. I'll always remember her description of the spiritual effects of fasting, the open-heartedness and compassion that can result from abstaining from food – and the possibility of world peace if everyone fasted.

Kindness abounds at Buchinger Wilhelmi, from the daily weigh-ins and blood-pressure checks to time spent with Dr Wolfgang Finke, who mixes Eastern and Western medicine to great effect – not to mention the maternal healing of Mrs Bechinger's hayflower oil massages. Guests book in advance for sound healing and shiatsu with osteopath Thomas Lutz because he truly has healing hands.

But to really cleanse mind, body and soul, make sure your visit coincides with the residency of Buddhist monk Lharampa Tenzin Kalden. His work goes deep, with meditation and Tibetan Lu Jong yoga practices delivering profound emotional and spiritual results.

buchinger-wilhelmi.com □

Grecian TURN

In search of headspace and healing, Annabel Brooks checks into a former Ottoman seminary in Greece that has been transformed into a soulfully luxurious hotel

Once a theological school built on the site of a Greek temple, Imaret is now an eight-suite boutique hotel

I HAVE BEEN ON MANY SPIRITUAL quests over the past decades. Some people consider India the holy grail of self-development, but I've often come away feeling disillusioned and even more vulnerable. I have learnt that gurus are not for me. Instead, I returned to a place I discovered last year.

Arriving at Thessaloniki Airport to the kindly face of my driver, Dimitris, I felt full of excited anticipation. As he drove north-east towards the port of Kavala, I gazed out at the unspoilt landscape. Hills rose on either side and, to the right, the sea glistened. I strained to catch a glimpse of Mount Athos, a place of secrecy and intense devotion where, to this day, only men are welcome. With its own border, it can be accessed only by sea and consists of a collection of 20 monasteries, clinging to a rock. King Charles is a regular visitor.

We sped on. I first visited this largely unknown region of north-eastern Greece just five months ago and was immediately captivated. This is the ancient kingdom of Thrace, where Dionysus and Orpheus were both born. It is where the first female Christian, Lydia, was baptised, and the sacredness of the land is palpable. I had been awed by a trip to the site Philippi, where Brutus and Cassius, the murderers of Julius Caesar, died fighting Octavian and Mark Anthony, changing the course of history. Then there's Mount Pangaion, filled with so much gold that it funded many of Alexander the Great's campaigns. It is also a region where people of many different faiths have coexisted; at Kütlüklü Baba Tekke, a Sufi sanctuary, Islamic mysticism and Christian traditions work in harmony.

What impressed me most about this place was Imaret – I had been expecting a boutique hotel but instead found something far more profound. Built on the site of the temple of the goddess Bendis, and constructed in 1813 by Muhammad Ali Pasha, the son of a tobacco merchant, who was born nearby and rose to become the founder of modern Egypt, Imaret was originally conceived as a place of spirituality and learning. It housed a theological and technological school for male students and a soup kitchen for the poor and for passing travellers of all faiths. After the Second World War, it became a refuge for displaced families before falling into disuse in the 1960s. The complex lay empty for years until salvation arrived in the form of Anna Missirian, a member of one of Kavala's great tobacco families. She negotiated for seven years with the Egyptian government and obtained a 50-year lease. She wanted not only to preserve Imaret, but to herald its ►



The food at Imaret is sourced locally, and fruit and vegetables are grown in the hotel's garden



Built in 1813, the complex was conceived by Mohammed Ali Pasha as a gift to his birthplace



Brimming with orange trees, the inner gardens are a space to pause and reflect



Bedrooms – called 'private quarters' – retain original features such as domed ceilings and stone fireplaces

◁ next incarnation as a place where people would be able to recharge and recalibrate.

We arrived at a small cobbled street in the old town. Mr Kelaides, a humble man as passionate about Imaret as the rest of its staff, swung open a big wooden door. (Throughout my stay, I was struck by the kindness and empathy of the staff, more so than at any other hotel I have ever visited.) Inside, cocooned by metre-thick walls, all outside sounds ceased. I took off my shoes and my feet touched the flagstones, worn smooth by the pattering feet of thousands of students over the years. The building wrapped around me like a hug.

Imaret was designed to be inward-looking; its three verdant, interconnected courtyards are joined by long, vaulted monastic corridors. I felt a sense of relief: the outside world could not touch me in surroundings of such beauty.

I had recently lost my mother and felt utterly bereft without her. To cope, I had put on a suit of armour that indeed protected me, but had also become a prison of isolation. I didn't answer calls from friends or reply to letters

from people I really loved. I refused to accept love, worried that I might break into a thousand pieces if a chink of kindness got in. I turned to workaholism, and I had become ground down by exhaustion. The loneliness was so extreme that I had to do something or I was in danger of erupting. But would I dare to really let go and allow in the energy I needed to soften?

Outside my suite (there are just eight bedrooms at Imaret, each different), I lay down on a divan, sipped a cool glass of fresh lemonade and observed the routines and rhythms of Imaret. Lanterns are polished on Monday, the floors waxed on Thursday, 200 candles lit every evening. Such rituals are strictly adhered to and provide an essential sense of order.

Anna's vision for Imaret is clear. She doesn't want it to be a conventional hotel – where too many clattering heels dissipate energy – or a clinic. Instead, this is a place of freedom. If you want to smoke and drink, you can; indeed, there is a selection of very fine wines to choose from. There is also a phenomenal library, with

thousands of books waiting to be borrowed. Imaret heals through the gentle tending of the senses, and as I wandered the halls, I heard the continual sound of water and soft classical music, caressing and unhurried. I later learnt that Imaret has its own radio station; it was the score of 'Orpheus' that I found myself so entranced by.

The next morning, I began the deep work of soothing the nervous system, getting out of fight-or-flight mode and releasing trauma. Only then could the opening up begin. I spent at least three hours a day with an incredibly talented healing pair, Sharu and Vanu. We practised pranayama, controlling the breath. I did watsu, a form of aquatic bodywork, in the old cistern, now an underground cavern filled with water and lit by candles, where Sharu moved me rhythmically through the water. Then came yoga nidra, a form of guided sleep meditation, followed by sound healing. It was working – I felt myself slowly beginning to let go.

After one of my treatments, still totally dazed, I was led outside to a sofa. My feet were

A temple to Bendis, the Thracian goddess of the moon and hunt, once stood on this site, which has long been associated with spirituality

put tenderly in the sun, a pillow placed under my head, with bowls of dates and nuts nearby, along with fresh ginger tea. The gentleness and kindness of Sharu and Vanu is so genuine that I broke down.

With less fear the next morning, I meditated in the decommissioned mosque. For the first time in a long while, I found that I could sit with myself.

The nourishment continued in other ways. The food at Imaret is outstanding – artichoke soup, turbot, asparagus... Fresh fish is caught just 10 minutes away; produce comes from a vast organic garden. Stelios, the chef, is a rare talent, and his personal care for the guests is evident in every detail. He baked me fresh gluten-free bread every day.

Breakfast arrived each morning on a tray beneath a silver dome: local yoghurt, fresh fig jam, abundant seasonal fruit and mountain herb tea. I mentioned how much I loved the tea, grown high in the mountains and difficult to obtain, and when I left a large package was quietly pressed into my hands.

Every meal is taken in a different part of the property, the table laid with Baccarat glass, Limoges china and fresh flowers. Every evening, my room was immaculately prepared – even the contents of the drawers tidied as if by invisible fairies. Bowls of fragrant roses were placed throughout my suite. I caught my reflection in the mirror of my cathedral-like bathroom and noticed how my face looked softer, less tense.

On my first visit to Imaret, the bedrooms were filled with crisp white linens from Libeco in Belgium, the beds sheathed in crisp Frette sheets. Now, in the tail end of winter, a more Byzantine mood prevailed: velvets from Rubelli and silks from Mulberry and GP & Baker adorned the rooms.

As part of the evening ritual, my nightgown was laid out on the bed and on the floor was a copper basin, a jug, a scrub wrapped in muslin, and a soft cloth. I stared at the jug. Such a simple and gentle act of self-care. I was struck by the harsh way I had been treating myself. Was I not worth bothering about? I filled the bowl

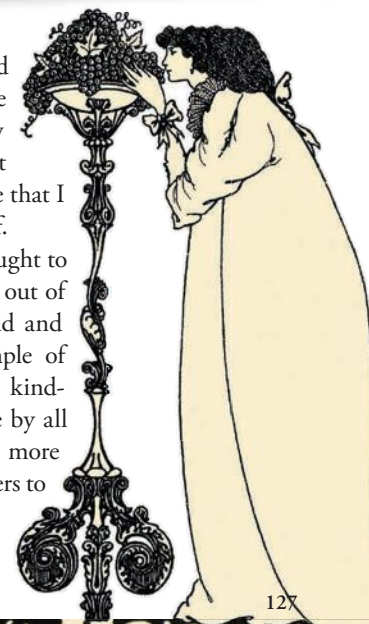


Annabel enjoying the sun in the courtyard after a spa treatment

with water and picked up the cloth. I may now be motherless, but Imaret showed me that I can mother myself.

It is time, I thought to myself, I can step out of the wounded child and – with the example of the extraordinary kindness shown to me by all at Imaret – once more learn to allow others to help me. □

imaret.gr



THE SPECIAL POWERS INDEX SPIRITUAL AWARDS

From west London's word-of-mouth-only reiki practitioner to the master yogi realigning the Cotswolds set: meet the healers putting the chic into psychic wellbeing. By Delilah Khomo



Delilah on the never-ending quest of enlightenment – here in a portal of Glastonbury Abbey



FILL YOUR CUP

The holy grail of spiritual wellbeing? Healers whose powerful techniques have profound effects on mind, body and soul

BEST FOR SELF-LOVE

Chloe Isidora

Whether you are on a fertility journey, seeking fulfilment in your romantic life or nurturing a creative project, it's wise to have Isidora in your corner. She specialises in guiding clients through life changes and is remarkable at helping those who suffer from a debilitating sense of not feeling good enough. She works from the Apothecary Garden in Somerset, an Edenic pleasure ground just outside Glastonbury. There, a huge candlelit yurt awaits (like a hobbit house straight out of a Tolkien fantasy), where you'll sip fresh rose-petal tea during profound sessions that invoke all aspects of the divine feminine and take you on a serious soul-searching journey.

Isidora's method is a bespoke blend of talking therapy, womb work, guided visualisations, sound healing, working with red and white roses, and anointing with a special mix of oils that she creates using herbs and flowers from the garden. Post-ritual, her final blessing feels poignant: she sprinkles you with a mix of spring water and rosewater, honours you, and grants you the grace that you may always see, speak and follow a path bathed in beauty.

To maximise the healing effects, stay over in one of the Apothecary Garden's storybook cabins, imbibing the mystical magic of the Somerset countryside. And if you want even deeper immersion in this Arthurian landscape, Isidora can take you on pilgrimages to the Chalice Well and White Springs. chloeisidora.com

BEST FOR ETERNAL YOUTH

Frédéric Roscop

When you want to look at the world afresh with a sense of child-like wonder – one of the greatest luxuries, though it should be a universal right – this is one of the most profound rejuvenations on all levels. Among maharajas in Rajasthan, moguls and movie stars

in Hollywood, and in the chic enclave of SW3, Frédéric Roscop's name is whispered in awe – such is this osteopath's reputation for helping to free clients from physical, psychological, emotional and energetic trauma.

His approach is underpinned by understanding and humility; he treats the patient rather than the symptom and is often the final port of call for people who are desperately struggling with chronic ailments. His osteopathy works alongside orthodox medicine to help strengthen mind, body and spirit. Clients have found him an invaluable resource during cycles of chemotherapy or before and after serious surgeries.

Madeline (played by Meryl Streep) drinks a magic potion after Isabella Rossellini's character's memorable exhortation: 'Drink that potion, and you'll never grow even one day older. Don't drink it – and continue to watch yourself rot.' Who doesn't want to find the elixir of life or, indeed, that potion of eternal youth?

Truly, though, one of Roscop's greatest gifts is helping you get your *joie de vivre* back. When you feel disfigured by stress and ground down by life, there is no better treatment to soothe and heal your emotional scars and restore the energy that has been zapped from you over the years.

aequilpractice.com

When you feel stressed and ground down by life, there is no better treatment to heal emotional scars and restore the energy that has been lost

In his Knightsbridge practice, set in a townhouse on Beauchamp Place, you'll find the perfect balance of science and spirituality; Roscop blends osteopathy and energy work as part of his treatment plan, which involves resetting your foundations. During a session, he might flick away any stagnant or unwelcome energy you have around you, chanting affirmations, before he ever so gently manipulates your skull and spine. Barely detectable movements of bones, tissues and fluids seem to bring your central nervous system back into balance.

Another key component of his healing treatment – and one which can be administered at home – is taking daily drops of Roscop's Aequil Reset 'Liquid Intelligence' supplement, as part of a two-month, self-healing 'spring clean', supporting rhythm, repair and strength. It may well bring to mind the scene in that classic '90s film *Death Becomes Her* where

BEST FOR DIVINE DENTISTRY

Dr Brandon Nejati

Who knew a trip to the dentist could be such an enlightening experience? That's the magic worked at the Nejati Clinic in Belgravia – not least by its serene, all-white interiors and softly diffused lighting. But really the spell is cast by the highly skilled Dr Brandon Nejati, known as the 'Da Vinci of dentistry'. His measured spiritual philosophy is not about religion or a particular belief system, but rather recognises that human beings can't be divided into separate parts. After all, the teeth and mouth are where our inner and outer worlds meet, and no one understands canines, molars, premolars and nerve points quite like Dr Nejati.

Forget wincing with pain in the dentist's chair; instead, embrace the inexplicably calming and grounding energy here, whether you're having a cavity filled or getting your teeth

micro-layered for the Mona Lisa of smile makeovers.

The healing frequency is further fine-tuned with an antiseptic gum remineralisation ritual with clinic co-founder Dr Mahsa Nejati. In this process, the gums and teeth are blasted with a Himalayan salt solution to remove biofilm bacteria, before a cooling application of rosemary and thyme herbal gel and brightening LED therapy. Next, a session with acupuncturist and healer Sarah Bradden, where you lie atop an amethyst crystal bed for her special blend of red-light therapy, oxygen inhalation and reiki – a combination designed to calm the nervous system, help bolster immunity and leave you feeling more positive and empowered.

With divine dentistry like this, the greatest transformation occurs not in the smile itself, but in the person to whom the smile belongs. nejaticlinic.com

BEST FOR INTUITIVE THERAPY

Liz King

A psychic counsellor and High Priestess of Magdalene (part of a spiritual lineage inspired by Mary Magdalene), King is the person you need on speed dial for everyday enchantment, hand-holding and restoring an unshakeable faith in yourself. She's the healer's healer: likeable, down-to-earth and just the practitioner for when you're in despair and longing to feel optimistic about the future again.

A large part of the work she does involves shining a light on deeply ingrained patterns that need to be unlearned. There is distant energy work that helps clear your chakra system; a hard concept to get your head around, but the side effects – deep sleep among them – are quite extraordinary. (Not to mention the abundance of synchronicities and coincidences, as this writer found.) Via a combination of clairvoyance and connecting with your spirit guides, King is able to pinpoint – with amazing insight – the past, >

◁ present and future outcomes of situations in your professional and personal life.

Above all, King does not engage in people-pleasing. You may not want to hear the thing that deep down you already know (yes, that person you are incredibly attracted to is a walking red flag and should be avoided at all costs), but she imparts any harsh truths with real kindness. These are conversations that will ignite passions, dispel fear, restore faith and ultimately set you on the right path.

liz-king.co.uk

BEST FOR TRANSFORMATION

Shomit Mitter

When you are in the midst of an existential wake-up call – be it grief, divorce or even something like a career upgrade – Shomit is a godsend. This enlightened and erudite therapist is known for his transformative healing: a mix of talking therapy, meditation and hypnotherapy. Everyone arrives at his west-London practice bearing some sort of cross. With passionate conviction, and visualisations that reach places that conversation alone

cannot access, he teaches you to surrender to the ebb and flow of the universe, embrace the pain you may be holding and, ultimately, stop resisting life.

Over the course of the week after your session, everything that is tangled and confused in your life feels seemingly ironed out. Time spent with Shomit is truly a life-affirming gift; you will learn how to be consciously and deliberately at ease with yourself and with the world around you.

If you can't visit him in person, it's well worth looking into the Academy of Alchemy, a new app from Andrew Wallas, another stalwart of the healing realm. Mitter's discussions and teachings are available there, along with many more from an impressive roster of other spiritual teachers. Not to be missed is the app's oracle-reading section.

shomitmitter.com;

theacademyofalchemy.org

BEST FOR ALIGNMENT

Vettri Selvan

Any time you feel the need to align and quieten your inner and outer world – and strengthen your core

– Selvan is the yogi to turn to. His practice is as pure as it is precise. Originally from Tamil Nadu in south India, the self-effacing guru met Carole Bamford on her travels in India more than 20 years ago. The encounter had a profound effect on her. 'After each yoga session, he would leave me with three thoughts for the day; they really moved me,' she explained. 'I believe in things happening for reasons and, after bumping into him a second time, I felt that our paths had been destined to cross. I invited him to come to England and set up what has become our Haybarn Spa.'

During his classes at Daylesford in Gloucestershire (where he's now based), Selvan's kindness and wisdom leave a lasting impression. He places as much emphasis on meditation and pranayama as on asana yoga. After one session, you will feel sturdier in all aspects – including your psyche. It's no wonder he's so sought after. Book a session when you can, but forget about an early morning appointment – that's when he's with Carole, who always starts off her day with him.

bamfordclub.com

BEST FOR SOUL SOOTHING

Georgie Burleigh

Purely through word of mouth, with no website or social media presence, Burleigh has become one of west London's most sought-after reiki practitioners, thanks to her old-school, soul-soothing sessions. Amble down the garden path to her treatment room inside a wendy house that is as beguiling as it is bucolic. You can tell her as much or as little as you like about what is ailing you. Burleigh works just as well with no knowledge of your current situation as she does when armed with a full understanding of the problem. She intuitively hones in on the parts of your body and soul that are most in need of healing, and swiftly works to identify and dissipate the sources of struggle and discomfort.

As you recline, Burleigh anoints your palms with her homemade blend of oils and instructs you to breathe in deeply. Next, she performs a full-body sweep and then concentrates on the areas most in need of unblocking. The peace that follows is profound.

07768 947941 □

HOW TO GET PSYCHICALLY IN SHAPE



DR TARA SWART

As a neuroscientist, I always thought your intuition was purely in the mundane, rather than being embodied and connected to something greater. With a PhD in neuropharmacology from King's College London and a medical degree from Oxford University, I was always someone who

leaned towards science.

But the death of my husband, Robin, changed how I saw the world. It led me to write my book, *The Signs*. Grief gave me a decision: did I want to dwell on this tragedy and live with fear and bitterness? Or learn that life is more beautiful, bigger and with more to offer if you don't confine yourself to a two-dimensional way of being?

I had to rebuild my trust in myself first. Under stress, my intuition wasn't giving me any clues. Helpless, I connected with mediums; some of what they said made sense, and some really didn't, so I gave up on trying to connect with Robin.

I thought: *He's gone, I'm never going to see him again.* That was my rising-of-the-phoenix moment.

The signs gradually started to come through. First there were robins (a nod to my husband's name), but the huge moment came when I woke up in the middle of the night and saw Robin standing beside me. The neuroscientist in me feared that, in terrible grief, I was losing my mind. But now I believe that magnetic desire – tapping into strong emotions such as love and joy, or fear and sadness – can call forth a sign.

To strengthen your intuition and summon signs, you must notice the beauty around you, especially in nature. Take note of birdsong or a beautiful flower or a building you admire. Also consider what symbols are meaningful to you. For me, stars and infinity symbols hold significance. White feathers are a very universal one. Think about a symbol that means something to you and see what happens.

As your intuition expands, make the signs even more specific, so that when you spot them, you can't explain it away as a coincidence. Once you open your eyes to signs, your life will never be the same again.

HOW TO GROUND, BY JEMMA KIDD



I have worked with many different healers over the years. The London-based reflexologist **Maria Pecoff** (*mariapecoff@gmail.com*) can put you on a

fast track to equilibrium and just makes you feel really, really good. For advanced lymphatic drainage, **Ebbbody with Harriet** (*ebbbody.com*), delivers powerful results gently. Harriet's technique is next-level for detoxing and strengthening the immune system. Finally, no one compares to **Gerad Kite** (*kite.com*) for five-element acupuncture. His needling of various points brings you to a state of balance and keeps your chi (life force) flowing freely.



Once Upon a Time

Delilah Khomo explores healing destinations rooted in England's elemental past



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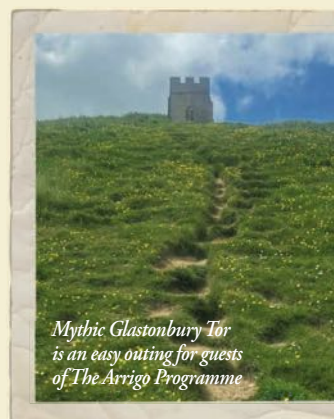


MAGICAL MYSTICAL TOUR

Four curative retreats saluting sacred geometry, stone circles and the state of consciousness

THE ARRIGO PROGRAMME, SOMERSET

Intuitive healer, mentor and biodynamic psychotherapist Fiona Arrigo has created this impressive life-enhancement programme in Somerset. She and her team of highly skilled holistic specialists offer a retreat that's bespoke to each visitor. Much of the magic stems from the setting: the roads twist like beanstalks through rolling hills, and Glastonbury Tor is a mere 15 minutes away. You'll stay in your own farmhouse for a minimum five-night visit, as frazzled nervous systems are soothed and minds enlightened. Notable is Arrigo's interest in the idea of returning to an Edenic state of consciousness: a spiritual concept that means alignment with nature and freedom from ego. Her multidisciplinary approach combines experiential, restorative and therapeutic elements, from breathwork and acupuncture to a hypnotherapy 'journey' into the notion of forgiveness. In this sylvan slice of Somerset, that translates as total immersion in a higher frequency. thearrigoprogramme.com ▷



Mythic Glastonbury Tor is an easy outing for guests of The Arrigo Programme



Serene scene: All Saints' Church in East Pennard, Somerset

Fiona Arrigo is expert at steering clients towards resolving deep-seated issues



Gelsomino eau de parfum, £165 for 100ml, **SANTA MARIA NOVELLA**



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BAMFORD RETREATS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

There's alchemy at play on the Daylesford estate. It's partly down to ley lines running from the Rollright Stones, Neolithic and Bronze Age megalithic monuments nearby. It's also down to its Bamford Wellness Spa and The Club by Bamford, where you can immerse yourself in contrast therapy with Andy Walters, alternating between the ice barrels and an infrared sauna; sound healing with Cristina Trindade Magalhaes; and a signature massage with Sumontha Samritphong. Food, including the famous chicken bone broth, is balm for the soul. In the Daylesford Stays cottages, Glencraft bedding and heat from the Aga appeal to guests seeking a storybook convalescence.

Underpinning it all is a deep appreciation of nature, most evident in the Roots of Wellness Healing Retreat with functional medicine practitioner Rosemary Ferguson and Bamford yoga master Vettri Selvan, for a cossetting approach to transformation. bamford.com

*Hearths, hampers and
heavenly Cotswold stone:
Daylesford Stays cottages*

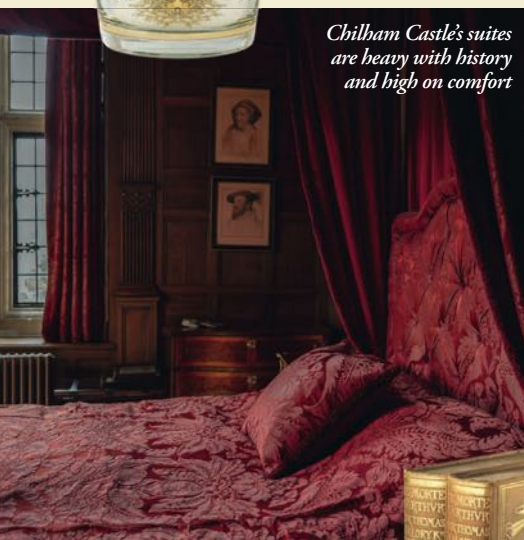


Tomorrowland candle,
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The Dew Mist,
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*Chilham Castle's suites
are heavy with history
and high on comfort*



Le Morte d'Arthur by Sir Thomas
Malory, with illustrations by
Aubrey Beardsley, £1,750,
PETER HARRINGTON



CHILHAM CASTLE, KENT

Ethereal, progressive and utterly spoiling, Chilham is the Glastonbury Pyramid Stage of healing retreats, with visiting headliners ranging from cold-plunge master Wim Hof to star holistic facialist Joanna Czech. Tishya Amin, chatelaine of Chilham Castle, has created the programme, informed by her experiences at life-changing retreats around the world and her knowledge of vibration, manifestation and alignment. Groups are small and carefully curated, the chefs have crafted fabulous ketogenic and organic menus, and the 16 bedrooms are a symphony of dusky rose hues with four-posters. Then there are the healing qualities of the castle itself, which is like a portal, built upon the principles of sacred geometry, with avenues of 700-year-old trees and a powerful ley line running to nearby Canterbury Cathedral. chilham-castle.co.uk

BEAVERBROOK, SURREY

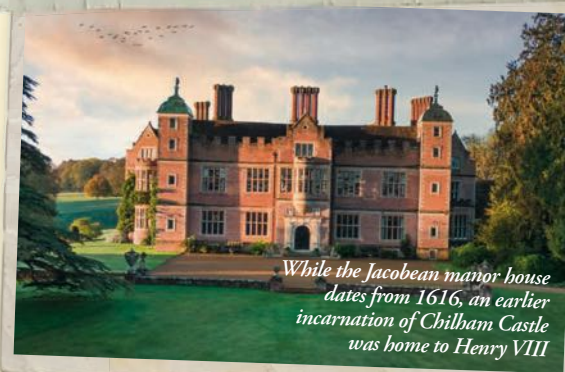
Surrounded by ancient woodland and Italianate gardens, this bucolic hotel (Lord Beaverbrook's former country seat, an hour from London) is a wellness utopia. A stroll through wildflowers leads to the Meadow Hut, presided over by Lino Zinchi. Resident master of treatments at the hotel's Coach House spa, Zinchi is known for his signature bodywork rituals that blend shamanic breathwork, shiatsu and Swedish massage to extraordinary effect. Or try a cacao ceremony with naturopath Camilla and sip tea made with foraged chamomile flowers beneath a 200-year-old yew.

Total mind-body-soul reset? Geshe YongDong Losar (Geshela), a revered Tibetan Bön lama, is returning to Beaverbrook for a five-day residency, leading breathwork, meditation, tai chi and yoga classes that will leave you feeling more resilient, more capable and ready to face life head-on. beaverbrook.co.uk

*Rich in rococo flourishes,
Chilham Castle's Petit
Salon often serves as a
day room during retreats*



*While the Jacobean manor house
dates from 1616, an earlier
incarnation of Chilham Castle
was home to Henry VIII*



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Yves Salomon

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BEAUTY AT YOUR BEST

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1. Awaken tired skin with the **Thirns** Energising Skincare Mist, a lightweight serum mist infused with soothing apothecary rose and moisture-locking seaweed. Crafted for midlife and mature skin, this revitalising mist from British brand Thirns is handmade in small batches in Bath using botanical ingredients. Discover skin that feels calmer, hydrated, and more radiant. Visit thirns.co.uk and follow @thirns_skincare on Instagram.

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2. Some wisdom was never lost. It was simply waiting to be honoured. Hand-harvested across Africa. Formulated in Copenhagen. Two consecutive European Natural Beauty Awards, **Luyana** is a skincare house built on what African women have always known - and what every skin, given the right botanicals, will find its way to. Visit luyanaskincare.com and follow @luyanaskincare on Instagram.

3. From Ghana's pioneering fragrance house **Scent of Africa** comes Anancy, from the Eternal Legends Collection, inspired by the celebrated West African storyteller. A spellbinding trail of iris, vetiver, cedarwood, sandalwood and Somali incense unfolds with sophistication. Exclusively in the UK from mid-July at John Bell & Croyden. Visit scentofafrica.com to discover more and follow @scentofafrica on Instagram.

4. **BO** is helping to redefine protein for women, bridging the gap between functional nutrition and indulgence. Founded by Mariana, who believes women deserve better protein, Bo bars and powders suit women's bodies while tasting like dessert. Available across the UK and Europe, discover more at boprotein.com and @bo.protein on Instagram.



5. **Above & Beyond Everything's** Flawless Finish Makeup Sponges are designed to transform the way you apply makeup. Their ultra-soft, latex-free texture seamlessly blends foundation, concealer and cream formulas for a smooth, airbrushed finish. Effortless to use and a must-have for your makeup kit, these beauty essentials will transform your makeup game. Visit aboveandbeyondeverything.com and follow @aboveandbeyondeverything on Instagram.

6. Restore harmony from root to tip with **Elyra Labs'** Colour Care Shampoo. Infused with nature-inspired care, it gently cleanses, helps protect coloured hair, and awakens the senses with Peachy Grapefruit Zest. Embrace a mindful hair ritual that nourishes, balances, and leaves every strand looking healthy and shiny. Visit elyralabs.co.uk and follow @elyra_labs on Instagram.

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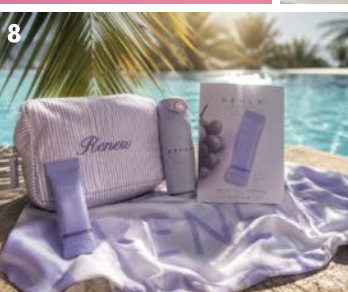


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7. **TallChic Naturals** brings African botanical luxury to the everyday ritual. Founded by Nkoye Oyewusi, the Mafura Mystique Luxe Skin range blends baobab and marula oils into a rich, fast-absorbing Mafura butter for glowing-looking skin. Luxury rooted in ritual, sustainably sourced and elegantly presented, Tatler readers can benefit from 10% off with code **TATLERLUXE10** (expires 31/8/26). Discover more at tallchicnaturals.com and follow @tallchicnaturals on Instagram.

8. **Renew Collagen** delivers beauty that begins from within, helping skin appear firmer, smoother, and more radiant with every dose. Powered by high quality marine collagen and aloe vera, and formulated to support your daily wellness ritual. Renew is your daily ritual for glowing-looking, summer ready skin. Discover the difference at renew-collagen.com and follow @by_renew on Instagram.



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10



9. **Alexandria Fragrances** is the UK fragrance house making luxury perfumery genuinely accessible. Every bottle is hand-filled using premium, vegan ingredients, delivering the longevity and projection of the world's most coveted scents, at a fraction of the price. For the discerning nose that refuses to compromise on quality or conscience. Visit alexandriauk.com and follow @alexandriafragrancesuk on Instagram.

10. **Gallery by Flo** is a curated destination for global scent discovery and niche perfumery. Inspired by the atmosphere surrounding an artist's studio, its Atelier line captures moments of the creative process - incense burning at a worktable, tea beside unfinished sketches, late nights, balconies, gardens, and quiet pauses between ideas. Visit gallerybyflo.com and follow @gallerybyflo_ on Instagram.

11. **Earthy Makeup** defines a new era of conscious beauty - where earthy tones meet high-performance, skin-loving formulas. Designed in Italy and honoured by the Vegan Beauty Awards, their vegan collection distils effortless elegance into a refined, modern ritual. Discover more at earthymakeup.com and follow @earthymakeup on Instagram.



12. **Cologne Butter** redefines the grooming routine. OUD delivers deep woody richness, rose, warm spice and vanilla in a moisturising body butter that lasts. Fragrance and skincare, combined. Visit colognebutter.com and follow @colognebutter on Instagram.

13. **Solèy à Deux** creates luxurious facial oils powered by gentle yet potent Vitamin C and clean, transparent ingredients. Designed for dry, combination, and oily skin, each formula delivers glowing-looking hydration and helps support the skin barrier. Tatler readers receive 15% off with code **TATLER15** (expires 31/8/26). Visit soleyadeux.com and follow @soleyadeux on Instagram.

14. **Vasuki Amara** is a new luxury fragrance house honouring India's royal heritage through a modern lens. Nirvana, their inaugural Eau de Parfum, unites up-cycled jasmine sambac from Indian gardens with liquid gold sandalwood, lifted by red berries and vanilla into something entirely new, yet deeply rooted in history. Only 500 exclusive bottles exist. Visit vasukiamara.com and @vasukiamaraofficial on Instagram.



15. **HONEYSUCC'L JO's** clean-luxury ritual doesn't stop at summer. After a season of retail expansion and sell-out buzz, the South Africa-born brand now brings its sulphate-free, cruelty-free, honeysuckle-and-vanilla formulas to more bathroom shelves than ever. Discover the ritual at honeysuccljo.co and follow @honeysuccljo on Instagram.

16. **Raconteuse Skincare:** Capture the radiance of early autumn with their Garden of Glow Rejuvenating Serum, a sumptuous botanical oil scented with sun-warmed orange. Among its botanical treasures, sea buckthorn and calendula envelop the complexion in antioxidant-rich nourishment. Designed for softer, smoother feeling skin and to brighten a dull appearance. The result is a supple-looking, luminous glow, worthy of September's golden light. Follow the glow at raconteuseskincare.com and @raconteuseskincare on Instagram. Photography by Jelica-Ann Pascual.

17. **Danner & Flemming** creates luxury perfumes built around extraordinarily high concentrations of iris, cultivated in Bavaria. Each year brings a single vintage, naturally limited by the harvest. As one of the most precious ingredients in perfumery, iris is rarely used so generously, making these compositions truly exceptional. Visit dannerflemming.de/en and follow @dannerflemming on Instagram.

18. Foli Hair Care was born from a simple belief: hair care should be more than a routine. Rooted in ritual and crafted with nature, Foli reimagines hair care as a moment of intentional self-care. Their signature Scalp & Hair Treatment Oil blends seventeen natural oils to nourish hair from root to tip, transforming routine into a restorative ritual. Designed to calm the mind as it cares for the hair, Foli invites you to slow down, reconnect, and reclaim a moment for yourself. Shipping exclusively across the UK. Explore more at folihaircare.com and follow @folihaircare on Instagram.

19. Moon Hair Ritual pairs each haircare collection with a hand-selected crystal, turning washing your hair into something more considered than routine. The formulations are cruelty-free and built around the rhythm of the moon, with collections designed for hydration, volume, colour care or shine depending on what your hair needs that day. Discover the collection at moonhairritual.com and follow @moonhairritual on Instagram.

20. The tan everyone is talking about. Female-founded **SKIIIN** by Danielle Sangha redefines self-tan with an undertone-led approach, creating natural-looking colour that feels as good as it looks. Discover celebrity-loved Drip Tanning Water and Tanning Mousse and find your perfect glow. Visit skiin.co.uk and follow @skiin on Instagram.

21. There are perfumes, and then there is **TORTI**. Unfiltered, unrefined, unforgettable. Crafted with 40% pure essential oils and over 500 layered compositions, each scent is a slow, intentional journey through raw nature. More than fragrance, TORTI teaches the art of perfuming yourself - layer by layer, memory by memory. Visit them at 57 Brewer Street, Soho, online at tortico.uk and follow @torti.official on Instagram.

22. THE GOLDEN HOUR RITUAL by **Di'Amandea**. Every day begins with a choice to care. Discover a ritual of cleansing, nourishing and protecting with the Facial Cleanser, Algapur Serum and Solar Prime Defence SPF 50. Thoughtfully created for skin that deserves to be loved. Visit diamandea.com and follow @diamandea on Instagram for more.

23. Irish beauty brand **Beauty by C.E.D.** brings their Gilded Gold Hydrogel Eye Patches, blending skin-loving ingredients such as Irish Sea Moss and chamomile to refresh, hydrate, and help brighten the eye area. Consider them your beauty routine's most luxurious 15 minutes. Visit beautybyced.com and follow on Instagram @beautybyced

24. Lily Davon is a fragrance house inspired by the moments that shape us. Bubble Phase Eau de Parfum captures the honeymoon phase of love through sparkling blood orange, cherry, coconut, champagne vanilla, and Australian sandalwood, blending playful nostalgia with thoughtful artistry. Discover the magic at lilydavon.com and follow @lilydavon on Instagram.

25. A refined Danish beauty ritual for those who appreciate skincare with quiet luxury and care. **SKÖN Skincare's** award-winning Triple Booster Serum is a luxurious vitamin C face serum enriched with blackcurrant seed oil, leaving the complexion nourished with moisture, appearing smooth, radiant and beautifully cared for. For skin that feels silky, glowing and effortlessly refined. Visit skonskincare.com or scandinaviaskincare.com and follow @skonskincare.dk on Instagram.

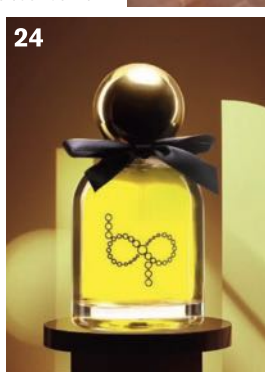
26. System Nature™ is redefining results-driven skincare with a natural, plant-powered alternative to retinol, clinically proven to help deliver smoothing, firming, and skin renewal without retinol's irritation, dryness, or photosensitivity. Blending nature with advanced skin science, the clinically tested cruelty-free range shows that natural skincare can deliver visible results, without compromise to your skin or your planet. Discover more at systemnature.com and follow @systemnatureskincare on Instagram

27. DIALOGUE's Leo Radiance Cleansing Balm & Mask channels fire sign energy through organic passion fruit oil, astaxanthin, and milk thistle. It helps to brighten the look of your skin while a guided affirmation ritual aims to build the confidence Leo was born to carry. Visit dialogueskincare.com and follow @dialogueskincare on Instagram.

28. FLORAMARA is an Italian fragrance house built on a singular vision - scents that subvert, provoke and transport. Every bottle is a design object in its own right. Nitroflora is a floral woody musk born of a tension between instinct and reason. It captures the seduction of chance, the quiet powerlessness before events we cannot predict, where mistakes are not failures but sparks, embraced as part of the creative process. Discover more at floramaraparfum.com and follow @floramaraofficial on Instagram.

29. Lemon Appeal's Amalfi Lemon Sleeping Cream brings a little taste of the Amalfi sunshine right into your skincare routine. 100% Made in Italy, every jar of the Sleeping Cream contains fresh lemon essential oil harvested from the real Sfusato lemons from the mountains of Maiori located on the Amalfi coast. Lemons are traditionally valued for their purifying and balancing qualities. Their light texture melts naturally into the skin, leaving it soft, hydrated and revitalised. Nature-inspired and made to support your skin's overnight routine. Discover more at lemonappeal.com and @lemonappeal on Instagram.

30. Hidden Maverick introduces a new standard in skincare. In a category defined by excess, it prioritises simplicity and results in one step. Launching with high-performance natural formulas. Clean, considered and uncompromising. Everything you need in one jar. Visit hiddenmaverick.com and follow @hidden_maverick on Instagram.



THE STYLE SPOTLIGHT

DESPERATE SHOES



Desperate Shoes is a luxury Italian footwear brand born from a lifelong passion for design. Debut collection, Il Sogno, reimagines modern classics with a balance of softness and rock 'n' roll attitude. Handmade in Italy, each piece blends timeless craftsmanship, versatility, and bold femininity for the modern "It Girl" - it's lingerie for your feet. Find more on desperateshoes.com and @desperate_shoes on Instagram.

SIXTH NOVEMBER



Founded by two friends with a shared birthday, Sixth November creates elevated womenswear for modern working women. From impeccably tailored businesswear to versatile pieces for evenings and special occasions, the brand combines premium fabrics with clean silhouettes and thoughtful craftsmanship. Designed to move seamlessly through every part of

the day, each piece is created to become a lasting wardrobe staple. Discover more at [Sixthnovember.com](https://sixthnovember.com) and follow @Sixth_november on Instagram.

LYÁN THE LABEL



Lyán the Label is an Australian Asian woman-owned small business designing unique, iridescent leather handbags. Each handbag is made in small batches and ethically produced to international ESG standards. Visit lyanthelabel.com and @lyanthelabel on Instagram.

WHERE'S EUGENE?



Where's Eugene? is an independent Melbourne-based fashion label redefining modern fashion and challenging convention through thoughtful design and an uncompromising commitment to individuality through fashion. Created for those who dress with intention, each collection celebrates self-expression beyond the trends. Creative: Ella

Kohlman, Model: Sarah Purcell. Discover more at whereseugene.com and @wheres.eugene on Instagram.

CARMEN PERAITA



Spanish knitwear designer and textile artisan Carmen Peraita creates handcrafted pieces that combine traditional techniques, natural fibres and contemporary design. Working primarily with Spanish merino wool, her collections explore craftsmanship, sustainability and materiality through a tactile and thoughtful approach to fashion. Discover more at carmenperaita.com or @carmenperaita on Instagram.

DESERO JACARE



Desero Jacare is an Australian womenswear label inspired by the elegance of European destinations. Designed in limited quantities, the brand creates elevated resort pieces and timeless silhouettes that evoke confidence, exclusivity, and effortless sophistication for women who dress with intention wherever they are. Find them on

deserojacare.com and @deserojacare on Instagram.

MARIELE



Founded by Mariele Di Mauro, MARIELE is a luxury linen brand designed and made in Italy. Rooted in a slower approach to fashion, the collection is confident, understated, and designed with intention. Every piece begins with fabric, creating pieces that move with women through every stage of life with elegance and ease. Visit

mariele.co and follow @marieleofficial on Instagram.

IZSEL



IZSEL merges bold elegance with Italian craftsmanship across its footwear and apparel, and this season, the focus turns to summer. The latest collection of sandals pairs Swarovski crystal embellishments with thoughtful, wearable design, striking a balance between luxury and everyday

versatility. A standout this season, IZSEL sandals are as practical as they are striking. Explore the collection at izsel.com and follow @izselofficial on Instagram.

FULL MISTICA



Full Mistica is an Independent Brazilian/British design studio focusing on illustrated maximalist prints and exotic patterns filled with animal skulls, fossils, intricate botanicals and heavy foliage, where dark botany and tropical magic collide. They partner exclusively with high-end independent boutiques and cultural institutions who cater to collectors of the eclectic and unusual. Bring the extraordinary to your shelves. Visit FullMistica.co.uk to know more and follow @fullmistica.shop on Instagram.

ASHLY RAE



Ashly Rae is redefining the modern bodysuit with understated luxury and intelligent design. Founded by Scottish entrepreneur Ashly Rae, the brand's patent-pending ComfiClose innovation delivers effortless comfort

without compromising elegance, offering impeccably crafted wardrobe essentials that marry style, confidence and everyday wearability. Find them on ashlyrae.com and @ashlyraelabel on Instagram.

ELSIE & MARJ



Female-founded, Elsie & Marj create beautifully soft, luxurious socks, made in Britain using the finest merino wool and cotton. Combining traditional craftsmanship with timeless elegance, every pair is designed for exceptional comfort and durability. Elsie & Marj celebrates quality without compromise. Visit ElsieandMarj.com Tatler10 for 10% off at checkout (expires 01/10/2026) and follow @elsie_and_marj on Instagram. Photography by Alexandra Vanotti.

KOEN



KOEN Organic Fashion embodies a return to nature through consciously crafted, minimalist design. Handmade in Switzerland using 100% organic, plastic-free and biodegradable materials, each piece reflects a commitment to local production, timeless aesthetics and a future shaped by regenerative practices and mindful living. Discover more on koen-organicfashion.com and [@koen_organicfashion](https://www.instagram.com/koen_organicfashion) on Instagram.

EREEN CASHMERE



EREEN Cashmere is a Zurich-based label creating timeless scarves and knitwear from Mongolian cashmere. Inspired by quiet design, natural textures and everyday simplicity, each piece is designed in Zurich and woven in Ulaanbaatar to become a lasting wardrobe essential. Discover more at ereen.ch and follow [@ereenzurich](https://www.instagram.com/ereenzurich) on Instagram.

MALYSZA



MALYSZA is an independent British designer label creating elegant yet unconventional womenswear and handcrafted leather pieces in the UK. Using carefully sourced deadstock fabrics and luxury leathers from renowned Italian fashion houses, the brand combines sculptural silhouettes, refined tailoring and distinctive textures. Produced in limited quantities, each design embodies conscious craftsmanship, sustainable luxury and timeless individuality. Find them on malysza-store.com and [@malysza](https://www.instagram.com/malysza) on Instagram.

TATLER'S JEWELLERY EDIT

TINXX JEWELLERY



Rooted in over five decades of gemstone trading and jewellery design, tinxx is led by a third-generation jeweller, informed by an enduring commitment to craftsmanship. From everyday essentials to statement, bridal, and bespoke creations, every

piece is crafted in solid gold with meticulously selected diamonds. Visit tinxxjewelry.com and follow [@tinxxjewelry](https://www.instagram.com/tinxxjewelry) on Instagram.

SYLVIAN GRANT



Sylvian Grant is dedicated to creating classic, timeless pieces that exude sophistication and quiet confidence. The brand believes that true elegance lies in simplicity, featuring minimalist designs. Versatile, durable, and effortlessly refined, Sylvian Grant jewellery is crafted for enduring style and made to be worn, layered, and loved every day. Visit

sylviangrant.com and follow [@sylviangrant](https://www.instagram.com/sylviangrant) on Instagram.

DAVID UNGAR



David Ungar London captures the true essence of fine jewellery tradition, rooted in a family legacy dating back to 1916. Each creation is thoughtfully designed and brought to life through traditional craftsmanship. Each precious jewellery article will sparkle for future generations. Visit dulondon.com and follow [@du_london](https://www.instagram.com/du_london) on Instagram.

MUI DIAMONDS



MUI Diamonds is a fine jewellery house founded by Clarice Ng, specialising in lab-grown diamonds. Balancing accessibility with modern luxury, the brand creates bespoke pieces and made-to-order collections that combine craftsmanship with

contemporary interpretations of diamonds for a new generation. Visit muidiamonds.com and [@mui_diamonds](https://www.instagram.com/mui_diamonds) on Instagram.

KEANIS



Celebrating colour at its most vivid, Keanis offers uncompromising fine jewellery co-founded by a GIA-certified designer. Pioneering the UK market with IGI-certified lab-grown gemstones that rival the finest natural stones, this exquisite boutique seamlessly unites transparency,

ethical sourcing, and exceptional quality. Visit at keanis.co.uk and follow [@keanis_official](https://www.instagram.com/keanis_official) on Instagram.

LOVE, ELLISON



Love, Ellison designs jewellery inspired by the stories beneath the surface. Founded by Julie Liechty, the brand is rooted in themes of giving back, heartache, and resilience, with each piece created to tell your iconic and bold story. Shells, sea forms, and vintage details come together in statement pieces made for your layered life. Visit loveellison.com and follow [@theloveellison](https://www.instagram.com/theloveellison) on Instagram. Photography by Gracie Belle Collins. Model: Helen B. Young.

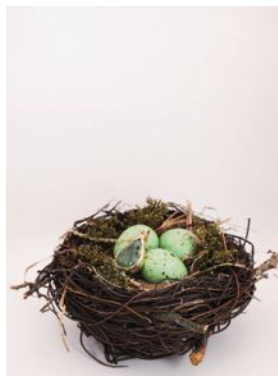
THELIS JEWELLERY



Thelis Jewellery redefines modern luxury through sculptural elegance and enduring craftsmanship. Crafted with responsibly sourced materials and locally mined Australian gold, each piece reflects refined sophistication. Backed by years of expertise in luxury jewellery, Thelis

creates timeless heirlooms that transcend trends, celebrating conscious beauty with uncompromising excellence. Photography: By Valura Studios. Visit thelis.com.au and follow [@thelisjewellery](https://www.instagram.com/thelisjewellery) on Instagram.

BRAVAIS



Bravais Fine Jewelry, founded by chemical engineer Abigail Koppes, Ph.D., hand-carves one-of-one gemstone original heirlooms using lost-wax casting alongside curated fine jewellery sourced through leading American suppliers. Discover the collection at

bravaisfinejewelry.org or follow [@bravais_fine_jewelry](https://www.instagram.com/bravais_fine_jewelry) on Instagram.

TATLER'S JEWELLERY EDIT

STIRRUP & LEAD



Inspired by the timeless elegance of polo, StIRRUP & Lead's exclusive Polo Collection captures the refined spirit of one of Britain's most iconic equestrian sports. Designed by founder Imogen Megeney, each piece pairs classic sporting inspiration with effortless everyday style. Styled here alongside the signature Dainty Snaffle Bracelet, the collection reflects the brand's passion for jewellery that feels both distinctly equestrian and beautifully understated. Visit stirrupandlead.com and follow @stirrupandlead on Instagram.

INCTIS



INCTIS approaches everyday dressing through refined jewellery, watches, and personal accessories designed to become lasting companions. Inspired by vintage forms and crafted with exceptional precision, each piece balances quiet glamour with modern ease. Layered diamonds, coloured stones, and enduring craftsmanship create a timeless wardrobe that feels deeply personal and effortlessly collected. Find them on inctis.com and @inctisofficial on Instagram.

THE FIFTH LANE



The Fifth Lane is an Australian fine jewellery house specialising in bespoke engagement rings, wedding bands, and exceptional diamond pieces. Recognised for sculptural forms, refined craftsmanship, and contemporary elegance, the brand creates timeless jewellery with a distinctly modern perspective for clients seeking understated luxury and individuality. Find more on thefifthlane.com and @thefifthlane on Instagram.

NAVEA MAUI



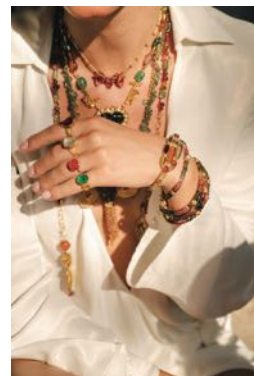
Navea Maui is a Hawai'i-based jewellery brand founded by ocean diver Shayla Funes. Handcrafted on Maui using shells personally collected along the island's coastline and paired with saltwater Tahitian pearls, each piece is designed as a modern ocean heirloom - capturing the raw beauty of the sea through a refined island lens. Visit naveamaui.com and follow @naveamaui on Instagram.

LEX NOEL JEWELS



Designed on the coast of California, Lex Noel Jewels offers a fresh take on modern heirlooms, reimagining freshwater pearls with a playful yet elevated sensibility. The brand blends vibrant colours, coastal influence, and feminine detail to create pieces that feel both timeless and of the moment. Each collection reflects her love of joyful dressing, effortless elegance, and distinctive design. Visit at lexnoeljewels.com and follow @lexnoeljewels on Instagram.

ADORE JEWELS



Adore Jewels is a Jaipur-based jewellery brand known for its one-of-a-kind handcrafted designs. Working closely with skilled local artisans, the brand creates silver and gold jewellery adorned with diamonds and coloured gemstones, combining exceptional craftsmanship with a contemporary sensibility. Explore the collection at adorejewels.com and follow @jewels_adore on Instagram.

EMILY WARDEN DESIGNS



Emily Warden creates bespoke one-of-a-kind pieces using artisanal craftsmanship rooted in purpose and storytelling. The Forbes 30 under 30 recipient features a refined bridal collection highlighting carefully sourced diamonds with traceable origin in hand crafted settings that are delicate, unique, and sustainable for everyday wear and special occasions. Visit emilywardendesigns.com and follow @emilywardendesigns on Instagram.

MAISON JRS



Founded in London by designer Julien Riad Sahyoun, Maison JRS creates fine jewellery that blends exceptional craftsmanship with symbolic storytelling. Inspired by the world's earliest writing system, the Babylon collection presented here, reinterprets ancient cuneiform symbols, transforming history into timeless contemporary jewellery. Discover more at jrslondon.com and @julienriadsahyoun on Instagram.

CHOSEN



Chosen was created for those seeking intentional living through unique jewellery. Crafted with stones chosen for their traditional associations, it provides a symbolic reminder to live with intention. Discover one of a kind jewellery at chosenjewellery.co.uk and follow them @chosenjewelleryuk on Instagram.

LAUREN GUNNING JEWELLERY



Lauren creates sustainable jewellery from found materials, including handmade sea glass gemstones, recycled precious metals and wild clay. Inspired by ancient jewellery, folklore and nature, each piece celebrates timeless beauty, natural imperfections and the stories held within materials shaped by land and sea. Visit laurengunningjewellery.com and follow @laurengunningjewellery on Instagram.

MARIA GLORIA FINE JEWELRY



Maria Gloria creates one-of-a-kind sculptural jewellery that explores the dialogue between metal, stone and light. Rooted in traditional goldsmithing yet driven by contemporary form, each piece is meticulously shaped through time, texture and refinement into an object of enduring presence. Visit maria-gloria.com and follow @maria.gloria.jewelry on Instagram.

TATLER'S SILVER SERVICE

1. Meet **Spooners** - the boldest new name in desserts. Since launching in 2025, they've taken the UK by storm and landed on shelves in all major retailers. Indulge in their ready-to-eat Cookie Dough, bake-at-home Molten Cookie Dough, indulgent Supernova Chocolate Mousse, and irresistible Chockawhocka Pots. Visit spoonersdesserts.co.uk and follow @spoonerssssss on Instagram.

2. **Claire's Amazeballs** is the artisan energy ball brand born from a professional dancer's obsession with food that performs as beautifully as it tastes. Founded by Claire Hindley in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, every ball is handmade from whole-food organic nuts, seeds, dates, and fruit. No ultra-processing. No compromises. Winners of 12 Great Taste Award stars and 2 Great British Food Awards, including the 2026 NatureMade Award for Ginger Cashew, these snacks nourish without noise. Flavours with Benefits. Simple. Happy. Amazing. Visit clairesamazeballs.com and @clairesamazeballs on Instagram.

3. Elevated iced matcha, **NOOSH** redefines what energy looks like. Silky oat milk, naturally sweetened with agave, in original, maple & vanilla. A daily ritual that fits into every moment. Made for those who bring good energy wherever they go. Tatler readers receive 15% off with code TATLER15% (expires 03/09/26). Visit drinknoosh.com and follow @drinknoosh on Instagram.

4. **FUEGO** is the gut-health snack bar you actually crave. Crafted to nourish the microbiome without sacrificing flavour or elegance. Each bar balances nutrient-rich seeds with genuine indulgence, a rare feat in the functional-snacking world. Already stocked at Selfridges, Whole Foods and Planet Organic, it is fast becoming a cult obsession. Discover the full range at fuegosnacks.co.uk or follow @fuegogowithyourgut on Instagram.

5. The **Mai Chai** range brings together functional wellness and café-quality flavour. Discover the calm of Mai Chai Latte, the clean energy of Mai Matcha and the cherry-infused Mai Magic Chai. Crafted with dairy-free, gluten-free ingredients and inspired by authentic chai. Spiced to perfection. Canned with love. Visit maichai.com and follow @maichaiuk on Instagram.

6. **COG** is a natural sparkling nootropic soda created to help reclaim your brain. It blends research-backed botanicals including lion's mane, ginseng and ginkgo biloba with bold flavours like Cherry Cola and Fiery Ginger. COG supports focus, clarity, and clean energy. Discover more at drinkcog.com and follow @drinkcog on Instagram.

7. **RUMOR** Rosé: crafted from the finest vineyards of Côtes de Provence, France. RUMOR Rosé is organic, vegan, with zero residual sugar. Elegant, refreshing, and refined, every bottle is a testament to rosé at its finest. Born in Provence. Poured around the world. Visit rumorose.com and follow @rumorose on Instagram.

8. Created for those who want to keep their ritual without the alcohol, **HOT DROP** combines premium cocktail-style flavours with functional adaptogens in a beautifully crafted bottled serve. Bold, sophisticated, and free from anything artificial, it's helping to redefine the modern non-alcoholic experience. Discover more at drinkhotdrop.com and @drinkhotdrop on Instagram.

9. Rooted in nature, **Kindred Forest** cacao follows the rhythm of the seasons. Discover limited-edition fine-flavour drinking cacao and chocolate from regenerative farms. Locally crafted with award-winning chocolatiers and minimally processed to preserve its essence, embodying provenance, craftsmanship, and purpose. Visit kindredforest.co.uk and follow @kindredforestuk on Instagram.

10. Snack your greens while living your best life - **BROCCOLI LOVER** makes greens effortless: a crunchy, nutrient-dense, high fibre veggie snack in three natural flavours. Their organic freeze-dried broccoli florets contain Vitamin C, K, B6, folate and fibre. Shop female-founded at broccolilover.com and follow @broccoli_lover_snacks on Instagram.

11. Meet the duo helping to redefine sweetness, **HappyTapi's** Baking and Beverage Sweeteners deliver 60g+ of prebiotic fibre per 100g, zero aftertaste and all the sweetness you'd expect - from the perfect picnic bake to your favourite summer drink. Sweeter, smarter, good for your gut. Visit happytapi.com and @happytapisweetener on Instagram.

12. **GIMI GELS** is the matcha-powered energy gel helping to redefine the way women fuel their day. Inspired by the ancient superfood beloved for its smooth, sustained energy, it delivers a delicious boost without the crash. For the woman balancing movement, ambition, and everything in between - whether it's run club, reformer pilates, or the 3pm crash. Effortless energy, elevated. Visit gimigels.com and @gimigels on Instagram.

13. **RUNAN CAVIAR** was built on a simple conviction: that caviar could be done differently. Founded by Darina Helbrecht, the brand traces its roots to the rituals of the Caspian region. Every tin is sourced from a close network of ethical farms across Europe and Asia, where slow sturgeon farming takes precedence over scale. The vessels, cast in concrete, shaped by brutalist influence, are designed to outlast the occasion. Explore runancaviar.com and @runancaviar on Instagram.

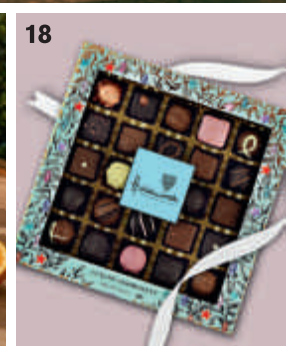
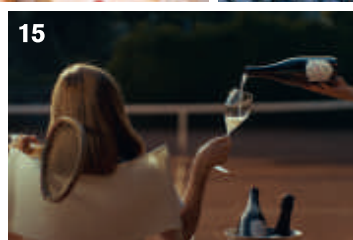
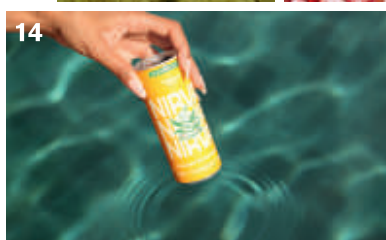
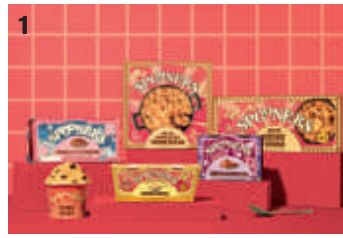
14. Tequila's rise mirrors a broader shift in how we drink. **Nirva** is a clean, high-quality, low-and-no tequila for balance seekers in an era of session culture. Naturally flavoured and low calorie, it signals a new kind of luxury: control without compromise, pleasure without excess, and mornings that still matter. Find out more at nirvaspirit.com and follow @nirvaspirit on Instagram.

15. Introducing the **HOUSE OF SABLIERE**. Fine 0.0% sparkling cuvées, composed for depth, tension and a delicate mousse. Built from first principles rather than de-alcoholised wine, each cuvée restores artistry and feeling to moments worth savouring. Pleasure, with precision. Visit sablire.co.uk and @houseofsablire on Instagram.

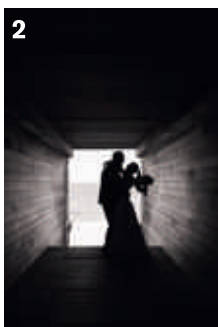
16. Inspired by the vibrant flavours of the Bahamas, **RUM CAY RUM** is a Scottish-crafted spiced rum built on one belief: the right company can make you feel at home. Warm, distinctive, and perfectly balanced, it promises an unforgettable taste. Discover more at rumcayrum.com and @rumcayrum on Instagram.

17. **Sip** makes bar-quality cocktails without the alcohol. Meet Mila Margarita and Cece Negroni, crafted from natural ingredients with no added sugar. Award-winning, including IWSC Bronze and World Non-Alcs Silver. Available in 200ml cans and 700ml bottles, so you can stay social, even when your calendar never stops. Visit sip-zero.com and follow @drink.sip.cocktails on Instagram.

18. Since 1988, **Holdsworth Chocolates** has been crafting exquisite handmade truffles and confections in the heart of the Peak District. Discover their indulgent collections at holdsworthchocolates.co.uk or follow the sweetness @holdsworthchocolates on Instagram.



THE WEDDING SEASON



1. Anna and Ale, the girls behind **theWEDpix**, are destination wedding photographers and content creators specialising in elegant, modern docu-editorial weddings. They capture authentic, candid moments and raw emotions, seamlessly blending professional photography with cinematic content creation. Their work focuses on genuine storytelling and sophisticated, artistic aesthetics. Visit www.thewedpix.net and Instagram [@thewedpix](https://www.instagram.com/thewedpix) to see more.

2. **Julia Davis Co.** is a Texas-based wedding photographer known for creating timeless, editorial imagery with an artful, heartfelt approach. Blending refined editorial storytelling with genuine connection and traveling globally to the States, Europe, Mexico and beyond, Julia documents celebrations with legacy and intention, preserving people, emotions, and curated details. See more at www.juliadavisco.com and on Instagram [@juliadavisco](https://www.instagram.com/juliadavisco).

3. Some places have a quiet way of leaving a lasting impression. Set within a private family estate in the Lincolnshire countryside, **Thetford Farm Barn** is a beautifully restored barn venue where heritage and contemporary elegance sit effortlessly together. Exclusive use, thoughtful hospitality and timeless surroundings create celebrations that feel beautifully personal from beginning to end. Shot by Sarah Carter Photography. See more at www.thetfordfarmbarn.co.uk and on Instagram [@thetfordfarmbarn](https://www.instagram.com/thetfordfarmbarn).

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

5. Based in France and travelling across Europe, **Elsa Daniel** is known for her fashion-inspired approach to wedding photography. Combining an editorial eye with a sensitivity to genuine moments, she captures the atmosphere, emotion and elegance of each celebration through refined, modern imagery. Visit www.elsadaniel.com and follow on Instagram [@elsadanielwedding](https://www.instagram.com/elsadanielwedding).

6. **DREAMLIFE** brings over two decades of international prestige to the world's most elegant unions. With studios across Australia, New Zealand, and the USA, they are masters of both cinematic film and timeless photography. Their philosophy centres on an uncompromising level of service and a poetic approach to storytelling, ensuring every fleeting, heartfelt moment is preserved as a sophisticated heirloom. Dedicated to the art of the memory. Visit www.dreamlifewedding.com.au and www.dreamlifewedding.com.

7. Recognised as one of the top wedding photographers in Portugal, Ivo of **Momento**

Cativo is a resilient and passionate artist who has spent over 14 years capturing love stories across Portugal and beyond for a discerning international audience. His work is defined by a timeless, classic and romantic aesthetic, preserving not just moments but legacy. See more at www.momentocativo.com and on Instagram [@momentocativo](https://www.instagram.com/momentocativo).

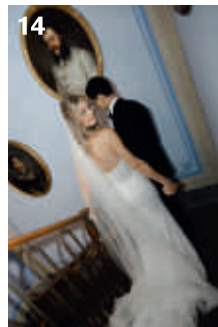
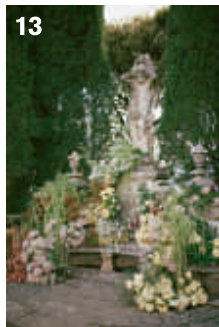
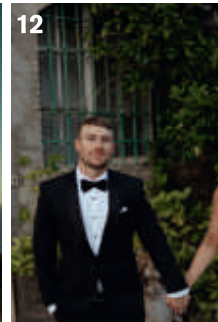
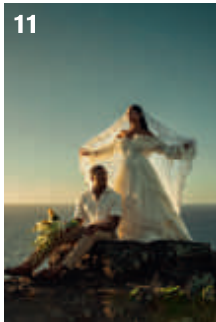
8. Renowned for timeless, editorial wedding photography, Australia-based destination photographer **Elle Rutledge** captures celebrations with a refined, fashion-led perspective. Inspired by architecture, natural light and meaningful storytelling, her elegant imagery is thoughtfully crafted to preserve every wedding with enduring beauty and sophistication. See more at ellerutledgephotography.mypixieset.com and on Instagram [@ellerutledge_photography](https://www.instagram.com/ellerutledge_photography).

9. Australian brand **BY ELORA** designs for a new generation of South Asian women whose identities have been shaped by more than one culture. Their designs bring a unique interpretation of heritage, meeting modernity with restraint. This dialogue between East and West has become their signature that has made the brand sought after. Discover more at www.byelora.com and on Instagram [@byelora](https://www.instagram.com/byelora).

10. **Mikki Alexis Photography** is a British destination wedding photographer based between the UK and Crete, blending documentary storytelling with a refined editorial style to create timeless imagery filled with warmth and personality. Her thoughtful, unobtrusive approach allows couples to be fully present, creating elegant photographs that feel authentic and joyful. Visit www.mikkialexisphoto.com and follow [@mikkialexisphotography](https://www.instagram.com/mikkialexisphotography) on Instagram.

11. Moevali, from **BYMOEVALI**, is a worldwide destination wedding and elopement photographer whose style is documentary with an editorial twist. She captures the essence of each story through a mix of digital and 35mm film. View her work at www.bymoevali.com and follow [@bymoevali](https://www.instagram.com/bymoevali) on Instagram.

12. **Caity & Duncan** is a Melbourne-based wedding photo and film studio for relaxed, modern luxury celebrations in Australia and Europe. Since 2018, their studio has crafted timeless storytelling across digital, 35mm and Super 8 - blending documentary moments with polished editorial portraits for a bespoke feel. Explore caityandduncan.com and [@caityandduncan](https://www.instagram.com/caityandduncan) on Instagram.



13. **Nunzia Guerino** is an Italian floral designer based in Apulia whose globally recognised work blends tradition with innovation. Inspired by harmony, texture, and materiality, her installations combine refined artistry with sustainability and meticulous craftsmanship. Drawing on international experience and her Apulian roots, she creates bespoke floral narratives shaped by each client's unique story. Photography: Kristin Piteo. See more at www.nunziaguereinoflorist.it and on Instagram [@nunziaguereinoflorist](https://www.instagram.com/nunziaguereinoflorist).

14. **Simona Tortolano** is an Italian wedding photographer and filmmaker celebrated for her refined editorial eye and documentary approach. Inspired by fashion, cinema, and human connection, she creates timeless imagery that is both elegant and deeply authentic. Blending digital photography with Super 8 and 16mm film, her work captures weddings with emotion, artistry, and understated luxury. See more at www.simonatortolano.com.

15. **Natalya and Denis Resnik**, of **Theatre of Real Life**, are a photo/video duo based in Germany with many years experience, working across Europe capturing exclusive weddings in a mix of documentary and editorial styles. For Theatre of Real Life, it's important to capture real moments and emotions, yet every frame feels like a magazine editorial. Visit theatre-of-reallife.com and Instagram [@theatre_of_reallife](https://www.instagram.com/theatre_of_reallife).

16. **Paola Salviano Weddings** brings a romantic, editorial perspective to modern celebrations. Known for capturing couples from diverse cultures and backgrounds, Paola creates sophisticated imagery that is both fashion-inspired and deeply personal. Inspired by the beauty of diversity and genuine connection, her work blends fashion-forward aesthetics with authentic storytelling, creating timeless photographs that celebrate individuality and



contemporary romance. Based in Europe and available worldwide, Discover more at www.paolasweddings.com and on Instagram [@paolasweddings](https://www.instagram.com/paolasweddings).

17. The elegant wedding of Chiara and Matteo in Tenuta Corte Guadicicciolo, captured by **Gianmarco Scarsella**. Known for a style that's editorial, emotive and effortlessly refined, he approaches every celebration with the same intention: to honour real people, genuine connection and the fleeting moments that make each big day unrepeatable. Venue: tenutacorteguadicicciolo, Planner: [@juricamurrowedding](https://www.instagram.com/juricamurrowedding). See more at gianmarcoscarsellafoto.com and on Instagram [@gianmarcoscarsellafoto](https://www.instagram.com/gianmarcoscarsellafoto).

18. **Silchester Farm** redefines modern countryside weddings. Offering elevated weddings set amongst contemporary and character-filled barns, luxe accommodation and unforgettable food experiences. Blending rural charm with modern luxury, it's a destination designed for immersive celebrations. Elegant ceremonies, exceptional bespoke British dining and late-night celebrations, every element is thoughtfully curated to create an exceptional memorable experience for every guest. Image: Studio Rouge Photography. Discover more at silchesterfarm.co.uk and on Instagram [@silchesterfarm](https://www.instagram.com/silchesterfarm).

19. Romantic, understated, and timeless. This wedding blended old-world elegance with a relaxed sense of intimacy. Through warm tones, natural light, and an editorial eye, **Paulina Bichara** sought to preserve not only the beauty of the day, but the all-encompassing feeling of being there. Paulina uses neural hacks as a crucial part of her art direction, juggling energies during the ins and outs of weddings, and strategic use of light and colour to style the emotional tone of each wedding in postproduction. See more at www.pbicharaphoto.com and on Instagram [@pbicharaphoto](https://www.instagram.com/pbicharaphoto).

20. Specialising in capturing emotion through an artistic lens, **The Light Photo and Film's** Lisa Noble finds and carves out moments of beauty in every wedding she captures. Based in Brisbane, Australia, and available to travel, her ability to bring warmth and ease to her clients allows her work to go beyond each moment and draw out the emotion of the day. See more at www.thelightphotoandfilm.com.au and on Instagram @thelightphotoandfilm

21. **Pembo Studios** is a bespoke wedding stationery studio creating illustrated suites for couples worldwide. Working closely with each couple, designer Amy translates their vision into a cohesive collection, from save the dates and invitations to on-the-day pieces, resulting in stationery that feels effortlessly elegant, deeply personal, and designed to be kept long after the celebration. Discover more at pembostudios.com and follow @pembostudios on Instagram.

22. **Stressfree Weddings by SandraM** creates refined multi-day destination weddings across Austria for discerning international couples. Renowned for her bespoke approach and insider knowledge, Founder Sandra Maureder orchestrates sophisticated celebrations in Austria's most extraordinary settings, from historic palaces and alpine retreats to private lakeside estates, delivering a seamless planning experience defined by quiet luxury, impeccable taste and highly personalised service. See more at www.gettingmarriedinaustriawedding.com and on Instagram @gettingmarriedinaustria

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

24. Europe and US-based, **Leah Gunn** brings over sixteen years of experience to the wedding photography industry. Working closely with each couple, she offers a bespoke approach and celebratory presence. Her craft is widely considered both elevated and refined, shaped by the authenticity of documentary storytelling. Being film-forward, the imagery she produces reflects an intentional and sophisticated way of creating within the luxury space. Visit www.leahgunnphoto.com and follow @leahgunnphoto on Instagram.

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

26. **Rachel Sword** is a premier wedding planner in Provence, renowned for designing elegant, culturally diverse celebrations for international couples. Blending refined French aesthetics with bespoke creative direction, crafting immersive, beautifully curated weddings with trusted artisans and exceptional venues. She collaborates with renowned photographers such as Christophe Serrano to create memorable moments. Photographer: @christophe_serrano_wedding, Venue: @chateaudelagaude. See more at www.weddingplanner-rsword.com and on Instagram @wedding_planner_en_provence

27. **Luigi Rainone Films** believes in pure cinema, not just weddings. From Kuwait to Sorrento, Zeenat and Faisal's story became a film shaped by memory, movement and belonging. Luigi observes rather than directs, capturing what was truly lived through candid storytelling and a refined editorial eye. Photography: @flickfactory. Where love becomes a film. See more at luigirainonefilms.it and @luigirainonefilms on Instagram. Contact +39 3337014240

28. Awarded World's Top Wedding Planner 2026 by DWP Congress, **Nicole Please Weddings** plans luxury destination weddings for international couples, seamlessly blending cultures. Nicole and her team create deeply personal celebrations where beauty, emotion, precision and flawless Swiss execution meet. From the first conversation to the final moment, every detail is anticipated, structured and seamlessly orchestrated, allowing each couple to feel present, confident and fully immersed. See more at nicolepleaseweddings.com and on Instagram @nicolepleaseweddings



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guest leaves. Photography: Clarisse de Thoisy.

Website: www.poppybloom.fr
Instagram: @poppybloom.studio

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Meant To Bee Events brings a breath of fresh air to unrivalled destination weddings. Founded by Leor, this boutique powerhouse curates timeless celebrations with a distinctly chic, spirited edge. Spanning the Colorado peaks to the Swiss Alps and beyond, they blend thoughtful design with a relaxed, vibrant elegance to craft elevated, authentic experiences that linger long after the last toast. Photography: @sarah_hall_photography

Website: www.meanttobeeevents.com
Instagram: @meanttobeeevents

NIKKI BAKER



With a cinematic eye and a documentary heart, Nikki Baker's work blends editorial sophistication with genuine emotion. Soft light, thoughtful composition, and an appreciation for movement create imagery that feels both elevated and deeply personal. Rather than directing moments, she preserves them - capturing weddings as they are experienced, with honesty, atmosphere, and a timeless sense of place.

Website: www.nikkibakerphotography.com
Instagram: @nikkibakerphotography

SASHA PEPPER PHOTOGRAPHY



Sasha Pepper works with a warm and intentional approach. Guided by a refined documentary sensibility, she captures scenes as they naturally unfold in a way that feels effortless and honest. Her imagery is characterised by quiet elegance and a refined eye with considered use of film photography. She curates emotive, timeless work intended to become lasting heirlooms.

Florist, Stylist and Planner: My Pretties UK.

Website: www.sashapepperphotography.com
Instagram: @sashapepperphotography

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THE SWEET SPOT

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**FYNING HOUSE, ROGATE,
PETERSFIELD, WEST SUSSEX**

In an idyllic South Downs setting with far-reaching views, Grade II*-listed Fyning House retains a wealth of Georgian period features and sits in a romantic garden with a stone-walled pond and grounds that extend to 2.68 acres. These have been tended organically to encourage biodiversity and are a haven for birds and wildlife of many kinds. £3.25 million.

[savills.com](https://www.savills.com)

Fast trains into the city countered by weekend cricket on the village green; bustling urban landscapes balanced by the tranquillity of a leafy garden sanctuary; the buzz of an intense day in the capital offset by a sunset G&T on the terrace accompanied by birdsong, the thwack of tennis balls and the occasional horse's whinny. Thanks to writers such as Agatha Christie and classic films like *The Railway Children*, the image of the well-heeled commuter's routine is part of the fabric of British life. However, in recent years, the entrenchment of hybrid working practices in corporate

culture has put a new spin on this appealing lifestyle.

Instead of an evening escape from the nine to five, commuting is now all about maximising opportunities at your country retreat. After all, flexi working practices equal flexi leisure time. Those considering the purchase of a dream country house can now feasibly bank on making good use of a tennis or padel court, a swimming pool or nearby golf club, and have more scope to juggle time spent gardening or enjoying equestrian activities. If a trip into the city is required only a few days a week, or you can work remotely, areas of natural beauty beyond the traditional commuter belt are suddenly viable options.

Demand is strong for well-connected country residences, says Ed Sainter, buying advisor for Oxford and the Northern Home Counties at Middleton Advisors. 'We're seeing this particularly in locations that benefit from Elizabeth Line connectivity, such as Twyford, Wargrave and Cookham. Buyers, predominantly young families relocating from London, are prioritising excellent schooling alongside straightforward access into the capital for hybrid working. Increasingly, connectivity is about convenience as much as speed, with many buyers favouring direct Elizabeth Line journeys over commutes with multiple changes.'

Here's to a better-balanced way of life.



THE OLD RECTORY, SULHAMSTEAD, BERKSHIRE

Talk about village kerb appeal – but with 21 acres, The Old Rectory also offers seclusion and privacy. Inside, there is a mix of period features, including a Jacobean staircase, sash windows and flagstone flooring. Alongside formal gardens, paddocks and a walled swimming pool, there's a Grade II-listed thatched barn ripe for conversion. £3.25 million.

struttandparker.com

NORTH LODGE, ENGLEFIELD GREEN, SURREY

Set within the Ridgemean estate, one of Englefield Green's most prestigious addresses, North Lodge is a rare and architecturally significant home designed by Sir Robert Lutyens for Bentley chairman Captain Woolf Barnato in the late 1920s. Showcasing a Spanish-influenced style, the property combines striking period character with beautifully considered contemporary interiors. £2.6 million.

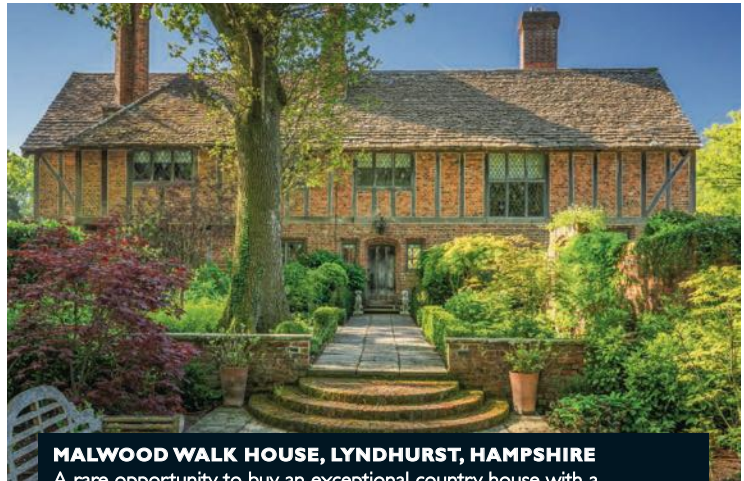
struttandparker.com



OAKWELL HOUSE, CHALFONT ST GILES, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

With a separate four-bedroom annexe and permission to create a large orangery and a further room to the rear; this impressive Arts & Crafts home in the Chilterns is a significant property with sweeping park-like grounds bordering Harewood Downs Golf Club.

£3.75 million.
hamptons.co.uk



MALWOOD WALK HOUSE, LYNDBURST, HAMPSHIRE

A rare opportunity to buy an exceptional country house with a magnificent garden in the New Forest. Approached from a long drive with a listed gatehouse, Malwood Walk House is a unique Grade II-listed Arts & Crafts house, set in wonderful grounds with a swimming pool, a range of equestrian outbuildings and direct access to the forest. £4.25 million.

savills.com

COTTERELL HOUSE, SHERE, SURREY

In a quintessentially English village with romcom status (as a filming location for *The Holiday* and *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*), this impeccably renovated Grade II-listed mansion has a stunning glazed kitchen extension designed by Simon Morray-Jones of Soho House fame, a walled courtyard pool, a tennis court and a lake. £7 million.

bluebookagency.com





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Please be aware that these details are intended to give a general indication of properties available and should be used as a guide only. The company reserves the right to alter these details at any time. The contents herein shall not form any part of any contract or be a representation including such contract. These properties are offered subject to availability, completions planned Q4 2029 - Q1 2030. Applicants are advised to contact the sales office or the appointed agents to ascertain the availability of any particular type of property so as to avoid a fruitless journey. The property areas are provided as gross internal areas under the RICS measuring practice 4th edition recommendation. Computer generated images of King's Road Park are indicative only. Interior photography are of King's Road Park showhome and are indicative only. Prices and details correct at time of going to press. King's Road Park was granted planning permission in February 2019. You should review all relevant information and documents carefully. If in doubt, please seek independent professional advice before making a purchase decision. Planning permission number: 2018/02100/COMB. Borough/council issuing permission: London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. Acquiring interest: 999-year leasehold interest from January 2022.



Clockwise from above, villa on Paros, €6.4m; Villa Gran on Mykonos, €7.75m; villa on Antiparos, €6.8m.
Below, Athens Riviera Villa, POA



GREECE IS THE WORD

Blue skies, azure seas, a land rich in myth and culture with a simple, healthy diet and an unhurried pace of life... Ah, the Greek idyll! The soul-soothing natural beauty of the mainland and islands, highlighted by its distinctive whitewashed cubic architecture, has long made the Hellenic landscape a holiday destination for the smart set. Ever since the opening of Astir Beach in 1959 as a playground for Hollywood royalty, followed by Jackie Kennedy's cruises around the Cyclades on Aristotle Onassis's yacht in the early 1960s, high society has flocked to the sun-drenched Athens Riviera and the islands of the Aegean archipelago.

The golden age of the jet set put the land of olive groves, crystal-clear waters and unspoilt beaches on the map. But why see a dream location purely in terms of a holiday base? Why not reap the benefits of spending more time in a place that offers a healthy lifestyle underpinned by safety and excellent connectivity (transport links and digital infrastructure)? Why not make it home?

Increasingly in today's world of geopolitical instability, high net worth individuals are seeking to do just that: to relocate and establish a residential sanctuary in a destination that is the epitome of quiet luxury and security. Indeed, the United Kingdom's millionaires are leaving in record numbers and looking to Greece – which is now ranked one of the top five countries

Safety is the new luxury: seek out a secluded island retreat or a villa on the Athens Riviera with the Engel & Völkers Private Office team

attracting mobile global wealth, thanks in part to its Golden Visa property investment programme that grants residency and visa-free access to Europe's Schengen Area. Where better to live than in a seafront villa with infinity pool on Antiparos (the tiny island favoured by A-listers and stealth-wealth power players), or in a villa in a haven on Paros complete with helipad, organic culinary

garden and a two-minute walk to the beach, or a minimalist architectural marvel nestled in Vouliagmeni, close to the legendary Four Seasons Astir Palace on the Athens Riviera?

Operating throughout Greece, the Engel & Völkers Private Office team are supremely well versed in serving the requirements of HNW individuals with premium real estate portfolios. Their access to exceptional properties is second to none, as is their discretion and expert guidance on matters such as tax incentives for foreign property investors. From a client's initial enquiry through to a deal and after-sales advice, one Engel & Völkers expert will guide you step by step, whether you are drawn to a 4,250sqm hillside estate on the party island of Mykonos, a branded residence on a lesser-known island or the chance to be part of the exciting Hellinikon regeneration project on the Athens Riviera. The momentum has started. It's a world of opportunity.

engelvoelkers.com/private-office/en



PORTUGAL | ALGARVE | LAGOS

PALMARES

OCEAN LIVING & GOLF

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Overlooking Meia Praia and Lagos Bay, Palmares is one of the Algarve's most distinctive coastal destinations. Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning RCR Architectes and home to a world-class 27-hole golf course, it offers a rare opportunity to live, play and belong.

PORTUGAL | ALGARVE | LAGOS

APARTMENTS • LUXURY VILLAS • PLOTS • BRANDED RESIDENCES

BY JW MARRIOTT

realestate@palmaresresort.com



Clockwise, spacious reception room with panoramic river views; entrance lobby; the 19-metre swimming pool



REFINED RIVERSIDE

Discover exceptional design-led apartments at Herland Gardens with glorious green spaces in the exclusive Hurlingham Waterfront development in prime South West London



It is a fact universally acknowledged that housebuyers today are driven by lifestyle: whether upsizing, downsizing, side-stepping or relocating, discerning purchasers don't want a cookie-cutter property to call a base; they want a unique home to live in, to individualise and love. Buyers in prime London are seeking out generously proportioned homes in established neighbourhoods that are built for real-life pursuits, be that working from home, raising a family, cultivating health and wellness, enjoying an active retirement and entertaining friends.

A riverside residence is considered the ultimate luxury, with three factors topping the list of non-negotiables: a front-row view over the Thames; considered interiors that combine spacious layouts with design-led comfort; and connectivity to a local community of boutiques, cafes and top-class schools as well as to the buzz of a vibrant capital city.

All these desires are elegantly fulfilled at Herland Gardens, the first phase of Rockwell's much-anticipated Hurlingham Waterfront development, which is perfectly located for social immersion in the stylish Chelsea and Fulham neighbourhood while offering easy access to the West End, the City and Heathrow. Adjacent to Wandsworth Bridge, this haven of 269 apartments, created across a series of four- to 11-storey soft red-brick buildings, is surprisingly green. It has 39,000 square feet of landscaped spaces featuring biodiverse planting, re-wilded rooftops and a secret, 'residents-only' elevated garden, curating a private oasis in the heart of the capital.

Within this tranquil setting lies a catalogue of exclusive residents' amenities that amounts to a template for an authentic living experience delivered with finesse.

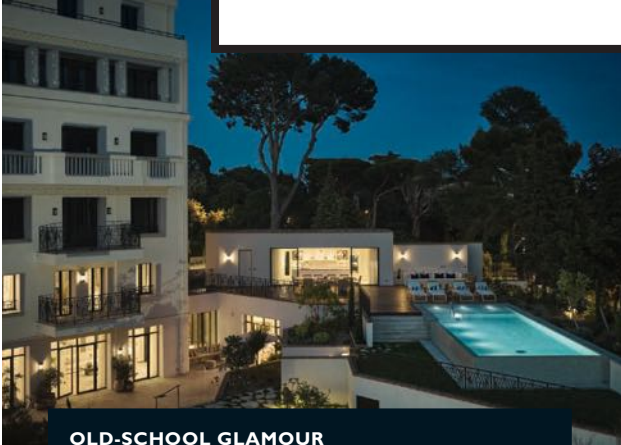
As well as a 24-hour concierge, a 19-metre

swimming pool and spa, fully equipped gym and yoga room, private cinema, co-working facilities and a residents' garden lounge are inspired ideas such as a dedicated pet-grooming station just off the lobby, where you can clean and pamper your furry companions after a walk.

Architecturally, the criteria for each individual apartment matches the overall design. Buyers are literally spoiled for choice, with 90 unique apartment layouts (from the Classic to Prime Collection) that offer flexibility as lifestyles evolve. Whether you opt for one, two, three or four bedrooms, all residences rejoice in larger-than-average floorplans and warm tones of oak timber and textured tiles designed to showcase the river. Apartments at Herland Gardens are ready to move into; prices from £595,000. Book a viewing and discover a home designed around the way you live. hurlinghamwaterfront.co.uk

NOTEBOOK

A round-up of dream new developments
and luxurious destinations



OLD-SCHOOL GLAMOUR

At Le Provençal, the converted Art Deco hotel in Cap d'Antibes on the French Riviera, luxury developer Caudwell has unveiled a spectacular heritage residence with links to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Now known as Villa Jardin, the former VIP suite has been transformed into a five-bedroom trophy home with 6,458 square feet of magnificent contemporary living space, nearly 10,000 square feet of private balconies and garden terraces, and a stunning private swimming pool complete with a poolhouse and a kitchen/bar.

leprovençal.com

LATER LIFE LUXURY

KYN is London's best solution to residential, nursing, post surgery and respite care, creating a new category for later years where quality of life is ageless. Conceived from personal experience, the founders' vision was to create homes where they would be happy for their own parents – their KYN – to live. KYNs Bickley and Hurlingham have earned recognition for challenging traditional care home models. The portfolio is set to expand with new homes opening in Highgate and Kensington (2028) alongside KYN Riverside (2029).

kyn.co.uk



LONDON CALLING

Of London Square's portfolio of magical residential environments, Fifty Brook Green is on a boutique scale: a gated collection of heritage apartments, duplexes, triplexes and freehold mews houses with courtyard gardens, created from Victorian school buildings in a prestigious pocket of leafy west London. Each residence in this unique collection blends historic character with contemporary elegance, offering features such as lofty beamed ceilings and opulent full-height windows, complemented by a wellness suite and a wonderful sense of calm.

londonsquare.co.uk

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

An exceptional new residential development set on the iconic Albert Embankment close to Lambeth Bridge, Westminster Tower offers a rare opportunity to own a home with blockbuster views of the River Thames and historic landmarks such as the Palace of Westminster, Big Ben and the London Eye. The 17-storey luxury tower delivers a Prime Collection of 28 high-specification apartments and two penthouses, designed to redefine prime riverside living in the heart of the capital, with exceptional premium lifestyle amenities.

londonsquare.co.uk



OUR SEARCH FOR PROJECT OF THE YEAR 2026

Who will win the exciting new contest launched by *House & Garden* and Savills?



P JOSEPH



RICHARD PARR ASSOCIATES



NICHOLAS HODSON-TAYLOR



HARRIET ANSTRUTHER

Three cheers for the four finalists for Project of the Year 2026, an exciting partnership between *House & Garden* and Savills: P Joseph's transformation of a Gothic Revival house in south west London; Harriet Anstruther's renovation of a stone farmhouse in West Sussex; Richard Parr's newbuild family retreat in the Chilterns; and Nicholas Hodson-Taylor's re-worked studio live/work space in west London. The open competition, in which talented home owners, as well as architects and interior designers, entered

projects from all across the UK, prompted a wealth of entrants and a fierce debate on judging day. The panel – comprising Amelia Greene, Savills Head of Residential Lettings; Crispin Holborow, Savills Private Office and Country House specialist; Sophie Dahl and Talib Choudhry, Editor of *House & Garden* – assessed projects for design excellence, ambition, imagination, a strong sense of style and a sensitivity to place. All must have been completed in the past five years. The winner will be announced at the *House & Garden* Awards in September.

Tatler throwback

TATLER'S BEST DRESSED LIST

NOMINATED BY DAPHNE GUINNESS
WORDS BY CAMILLA LONG
PICTURE DESIGN BY ALEXIS COOPER

NOMINATED BY DAPHNE GUINNESS
WORDS BY CAMILLA LONG
PICTURE RESEARCH BY MUFFIE SPROAT

Trends appear and disappear at an astonishingly fast rate. It is easy to admit clothes in magazines, in shops and on the catwalk, but to bring them to life on real people takes time and an editing process which can be bewildering. Maximalism can sometimes smother individuality. These women have an intense sense of how to mix different looks and make an image their own.

Britain has always been a great place from which to view style. The rules are more flexible here, and it is easier to experiment in the laboratory. It has inspired a long tradition of dandies and fashion eccentrics, who have injected humour and theatricality into the industry.



Stitches in time

Who, what, wear? A look back through Tatler's chronicles of style

AS THIS YEAR'S BEST DRESSED LIST anoints a new crop of style leaders, we look back through fashion plates of the past. Throughout the early 1900s, *Tatler* often featured Irene Castle, who was arguably the most stylish woman of her day and who unintentionally popularised the bob after chopping off her hair prior to an operation. In 1939, Madame Antenor Patino was deemed 'The World's Best Dressed Woman' by Paris dress designers, dethroning the Duchess of Windsor. The September 2000 issue featured a stylish Julia Ormond on the cover and 'the 50 best dressed women' inside. Standouts included *Tatler's* former fashion director Isabella Blow, wearing one of her beloved Philip Treacy hats, and Madonna in a signature risqué gothic look. In April 2003, Daphne Guinness and Camilla Long crowned the world's sharpest dressers, explaining that 'Britain has always been a great place from which to view style'. From Nan Kempner in vintage YSL to Sophie Dahl in Versace, the eclectic list proved individualism is key. Take note, 2027 hopefuls... **HANNAH KITTY BROWN**

the 50 best dressed women

These are the women whose style we'd die for. Whether they're at Ascot, expecting a baby or simply out to lunch, they always display effortless chic. Ladies, we salute you.



MADAME ANTONOR PATINO—THE WORLD'S BEST DRESSED WOMAN

A new portrait of the wife of the new Bolivian Minister in London, in whom the Paris dress designers have awarded the coveted social award of "The Best Dressed Woman." The Duchess of Windsor, now second, was the last person to hold this title, and the Duchess of Kent is considered the third best-dressed woman in the world. Madame Patino is a Bourbonne, and is a daughter of the Duc et Duchesse de Dural. Her husband is heir to one of the five largest fortunes in the world, which he will inherit from his father, Don Santos Patino, Bolivian Minister in France.



MRS. McLAUGHLIN (IRENE CASTLE)

Mrs. McLaughlin will always be Irene Castle to a public which is very faithful to the memory of a very graceful dancer who created a vogue which was all her own. Irene Castle was with us in England during the War, in which her husband, Mr. Vernon Castle, who was in the R.A.F., was killed, and she never lost any opportunity of appearing at any function organized for the benefit of any War fund. These pictures were taken in America.



PHOTOCOPYABLES. © ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS LTD / MARY EVANS

the **50** best dressed



premiere crew

These girls got it right on the first night. Too few do.



DEBONNAIRE
VON BISHMARCK
Designers Dolce & Gabbana, vintage
Baleiengo, Prada,
Philip Treacy.
Style immaculately
groomed and
expensive-looking.
Fracass thick,
rich fabrics with
an effric twist.
Method keeps it
simple during
the day in jumpers
and jackets.
Loves bleeding and
kitten heels.

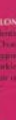


LOUISE FINNELL
Designers *Chloé*,
Loeone, *Dolce & Gabbana*, *Zara*.
Style Never seen
miniature, takes in
fewer than 10
different
earrings everywhere.
In bed at the beach
Wardrobe Full of
ratt which changes
every two months.
Best advice: "Don't
Collins said wearing
more make-up means
you look like you just
in photographs."

FRUZZA KATZIN
Designers *Chloé*,
Valentino, *Manolo*
Blaug, *Vintage Fur*.
Get her eye on
Animal for summer.
Style Classic, smooth
skin. Believes firmly
in the power of a
great staple
wardrobe: coat, cat
trowsers, fitted coat, a
good shoe.
Loose fitting suits
and capris.
Non-classical style
with lots of, draped
and draped fabric.
Manes Red
and black raffish;
Get her back.
Fashion tip: "Start to
high street. And



TAMARA MELLON
Designer's Villains: Tyra, Jimmy Choo, Style Book (sneaky) and a splash of red hair. A pair of cowboy boots.
Famous: *Emmaline*
Unhappy: *Barclay*
Famous Court: *Whore*, especially the blonde
Jealous: *Handed over*



Head o



baby bloomers

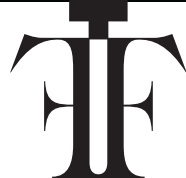


COSIMA VON BÜLOW
Designers Michael Kors for day; Carolina Herrera, Versace and YSL for evening
Style A lot of black, chocolate and red
Treasures Her mother's Kenzo
I Love bag is my Method Series
shopping blowout when she goes



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Fragrance Family

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h o n e y s u c k l e
or snap with the tang of frangipani.
Natural beauty however you define it



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Fragrance lasts



CHANEL

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COLLECTION N°5

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AND A 55.55-CARAT EMERALD-CUT DFL TYPE IIA DIAMOND.