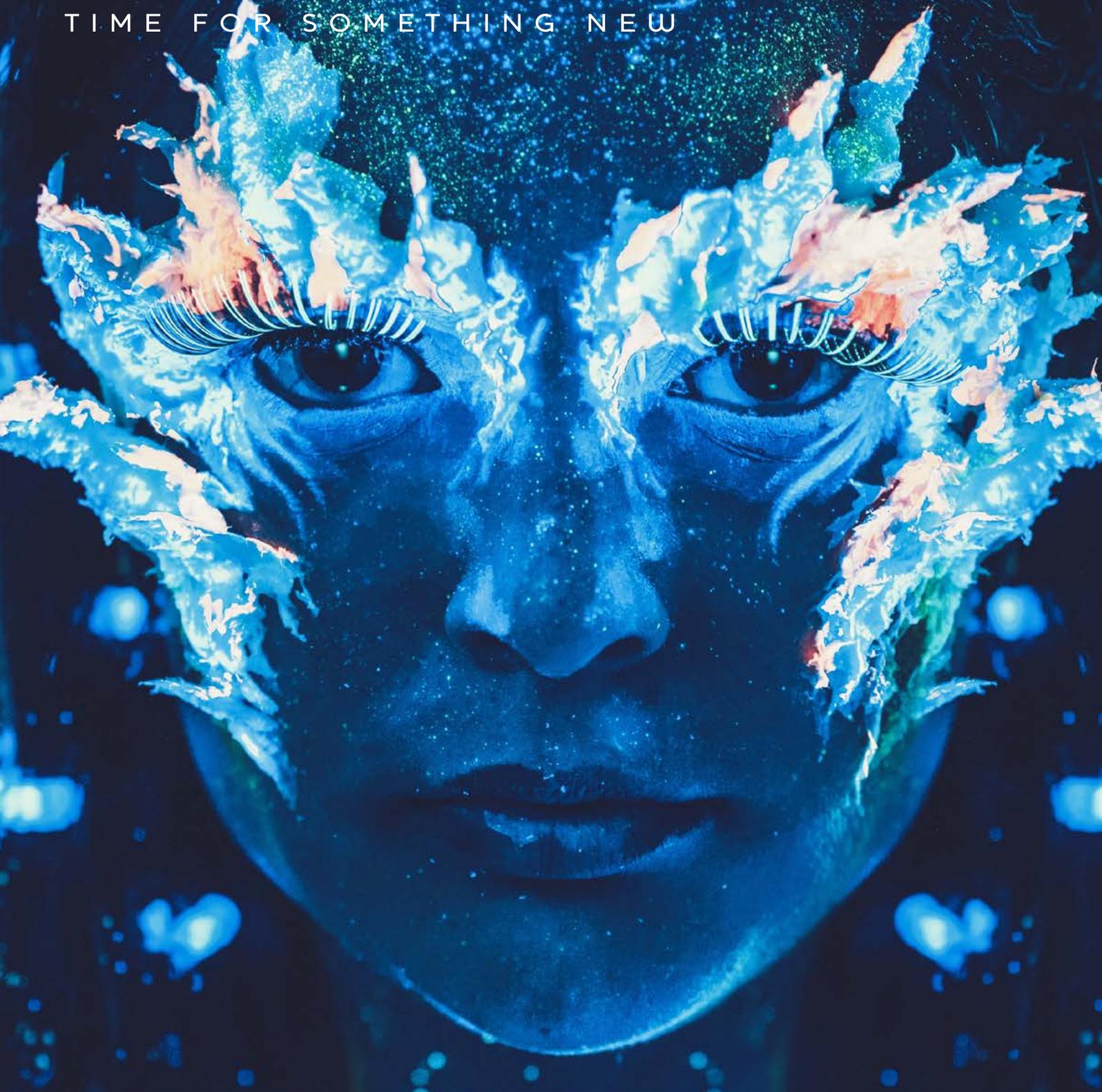


# LUXE

No.05

TIME FOR SOMETHING NEW



**Monaco Yacht Show** · New Wine · **Marakesh** · Zaha Hadid · **London Property** ·  
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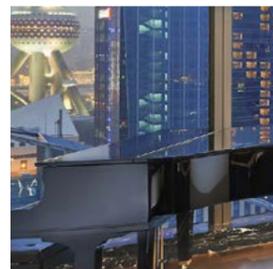
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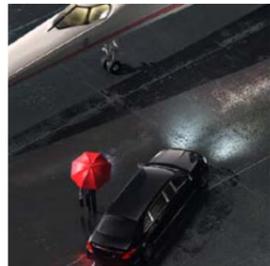
FLIEGER PROFESSIONAL CHRONOGRAPH  
**Love at first flight.**

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## WELCOME

A warm welcome to this, our autumn edition of Luxe Magazine. As the wind paints the horizon with trees so gold, I can't help but take this perfectly timed opportunity to hunt down some of this season's most inspirational ideas for wrapping up in style (turn to page 12 onwards).

While we're on the subject of style, some of our writers were lucky enough to spend a few days hobnobbing at the Monaco Yacht Show, so feast your eyes on our tantalising round up of this year's lavish highlights on page 80.

I didn't want to mention it but...as a hot topic of debate in the Luxe office we had to cover 2016's much-hyped event - no not Donald Trump - but "the other one", AKA Brexit. Our curious research team decided to investigate the property "Brexit Boom" and posed the question to the people in the know: "the post Brexit property market in London - should you buy, sell or stick?"

While it may seem there's been more to focus on in 2016 than enticing getaways, our well-travelled writers are here to distract you like the devil on the shoulder with another soul-stirring selection of wanderlust-worthy destinations, from sneaking a peak into the world's most expensive hotel suites to the dazzling diversity of Guatemala. In addition, we offer our insights on the future of supersonic travel. And if you're looking to get away from it all, we revel in nature's priceless assets by pinpointing the world's most coveted views. Continuing the travel theme we switch gear and take a look around the globe at some of the new players in the wine industry.

We also pay tribute to the untimely demise of arguably one of the world's greatest architects, Zaha Hadid, a true maverick and creator in her field, and gaze into the future of augmented and virtual reality.

If that doesn't whet your appetite enough, also in this issue: a meditation on the world of everyday occurrences beyond the realm of natural reality through the eyes of photographer Dean West, the rich landscape paintings of our featured landscape artist Mark Eldred, the largest residential ship on the planet, One World and much more...

Happy reading!

*The Luxe editorial and design team.*

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**Price on request**



photo by [neimanmarcus.com](http://neimanmarcus.com)

#### Anna-Karin Sunglasses

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You'll be the epitome of cool in these pearl-studded retro-style cat-eye sunglasses. Dramatically set with opulent pearl details and graced with gold-plated metal trim, they will instantly add a sophisticated dose to any look.

**£1,733**

#### Fendi Karlito fur and leather charm

[www.mytheresa.com](http://www.mytheresa.com)

Dress up your favourite bag or wallet by clipping on this cheeky little pom pom charm. Reminiscent of Karl Lagerfeld's unique style – complete with oversized sunglasses and artistically licensed pink fur mohican hairstyle, it's bound to get you noticed when you're out and about.

**£734**



photo by [www.mytheresa.com](http://www.mytheresa.com)



photo by [neimanmarcus.com](http://neimanmarcus.com)

#### Philip Treacy Wave Hat

[www.neimanmarcus.com](http://www.neimanmarcus.com)

This stunning wave hat in burgundy is classic yet contemporary and will add a dash of sophistication to your daywear. Crafted from wool felt, it is embellished by a signature tonal leaf detail at the hat break and features a structured wave brim and soft pinched crown.

**£1,211**



**The World's Most Alluring Secret Bars**

[www.veryfirstto.com](http://www.veryfirstto.com)

Recapture the atmosphere of the prohibition period with one of the most fun gifts you could ever buy. Luxury launches site VeryFirstTo.com and British furniture and interiors company Timothy Oulton have collaborated to create this enticing tour that takes place over ten cities across the globe, famed for their secret speakeasies and spectacular bars. Imagine discovering a bar hidden behind an anonymous door down a dimly lit alleyway, or find hidden entrances within an establishment masquerading as a shop or behind sliding bookcases that you can only open with the correct password. The trip takes in the cultural highlights of each city, as well as providing privileged access to some of the most exclusive and hidden bars in the world. You will also encounter cabaret and music performances and even try cocktail making classes given by the world's top mixologists.

**£75,000**



**Frederique Constant Classic Moonphase Automatic watch**

The elegance of the Frederique Constant Classic Moonphase Automatic watch makes a subtle statement of refined taste, while keeping pace with current trends because of its timeless design. The automatic caliber FC-330 displays hours, minutes, seconds and a date by hand on an elaborated silver-colored dial featuring clous de Paris decoration, printed black Roman numerals and classical Breguet-style hands. Naturally, it displays the moon phase and a sub-dial shows off the date. The watch is available in yellow gold plated steel, stainless steel on a leather strap, and a full stainless steel version.

**£3,156**

**Graf Von Faber-Castell Pen of the Year 2016**

[www.graf-von-faber-castell.com](http://www.graf-von-faber-castell.com)

Graf Von Faber-Castell's pens of the year are always a sheer delight, unique, individually numbered and come presented in an exclusive wooden case. This year's pen is inspired by the impressive "Vieux-Laque Room" in the Baroque "Schloss Schönbrunn" palace in Vienna with its panelling made from flamed maple, set within a gilded frame. The pen is available both gold-plated and platinum-plated. Both editions are handcrafted by masters of their profession and come with an 18-carat, bicolour gold nib. The cap of the pen is adorned by a faceted Onyx which is ground and polished by hand for an exquisite finish.



photo by Faber-Castell AG



**Valentino Floral-Applique Rockstud trim Shoulder Bag**

[www.neimanmarcus.com](http://www.neimanmarcus.com)  
 As the party season approaches, make a statement with this sensational floral-applique Valentino shoulder bag in deep coral. Lined in soft suede, it has a detachable chain shoulder strap and flap top with the time-honoured Rockstud trim and is the perfect complement to any after dark soiree.  
**£3,539**

photo by neimanmarcus.com



**Valentino Rockstud Gloves**

[www.neimanmarcus.com](http://www.neimanmarcus.com)  
 These fabulous buttery soft leather gloves with cashmere lining are the essence of cool. Detailed with Valentino's signature studs wrapped around at the wrist, the red colour adds that extra touch of panache to your winter look.  
**£456**

photo by neimanmarcus.com



**Tomas Veras Comb**

[www.tomasveres.com](http://www.tomasveres.com)  
 Exude an air of finesse and elegance with this timeless sterling silver Pantheon comb, enhanced by its lavish ostrich leather case that fits like a glove. Available in shades of deep purple, racing green or scarlet.  
**£985**

**Roberto Coin bangle, Rock and Diamond Collection**

[www.neimanmarcus.com](http://www.neimanmarcus.com)  
 This bangle from Roberto Coin's Rock and Diamond Collection puts an elegant finishing touch on any evening look. Encrusted with Pavé white diamonds, which dazzle bewitchingly in the light, and trimmed with pyramid studs, it is fashioned out of 18-carat rose gold and features a hinged side with push stud closure.  
**£29,960**



photo by neimanmarcus.com

**Dolce & Gabbana Crystal Embellished Collar Necklace**

[www.veryfirstto.com](http://www.veryfirstto.com)  
 This glamorous showstopper is guaranteed to turn heads. Featuring polished gold-tone brass set with sparkling crystals and finished with pleated gold leather trim, it is the perfect accessory to dress up an outfit.  
**£2,400**





photos by Fernandes Exquisite Creations

**Fernandes Exquisite Creations Crystal Rocking Horse**

[www.veryfirstto.com](http://www.veryfirstto.com)

Dubbed the “world’s most expensive rocking horse”, this remarkable thoroughbred toy, and most expensive of its kind, has been crafted by Fernandes Exquisite Creations in collaboration with Stevenson Brothers, with the world’s leading makers of rocking horses. Draped in over 82,000 dazzling Swarovski crystals, this elegant collector’s rocking horse is a rare collector’s item. With Christmas only a couple of months away this could make the perfect gift.

**£98,400.00**



**Repossi White Noise Diamond Pave Rose Gold Bangle**

[www.veryfirstto.com](http://www.veryfirstto.com)

Swathe your wrist in classic elegance with this exquisite White Noise bangle from Reposi. It is crafted from 18 carat rose gold and set with shimmering diamonds that are beautifully placed to catch the light.

**£32,985.00**



photo by [www.mytheresa.com](http://www.mytheresa.com)

**Mr & Mrs Italy Spruce parka**

[www.mytheresa.com](http://www.mytheresa.com)

A winner when the cold sets in, this casual fur lined parka is a contemporary choice for the autumn winter season. Its classic black hue is complemented by silky soft, pink-hued fur trim to protect against the outside elements, while the sumptuous feline print lining is a surprising and unexpected detail.

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# GUATE, GUATE, GUATEMALA

*Nestled between Mexico to the north and Honduras to the south,  
Guatemala is a country crunched in colour, history and diversity*





Guatemala National Palace - Guatemala City

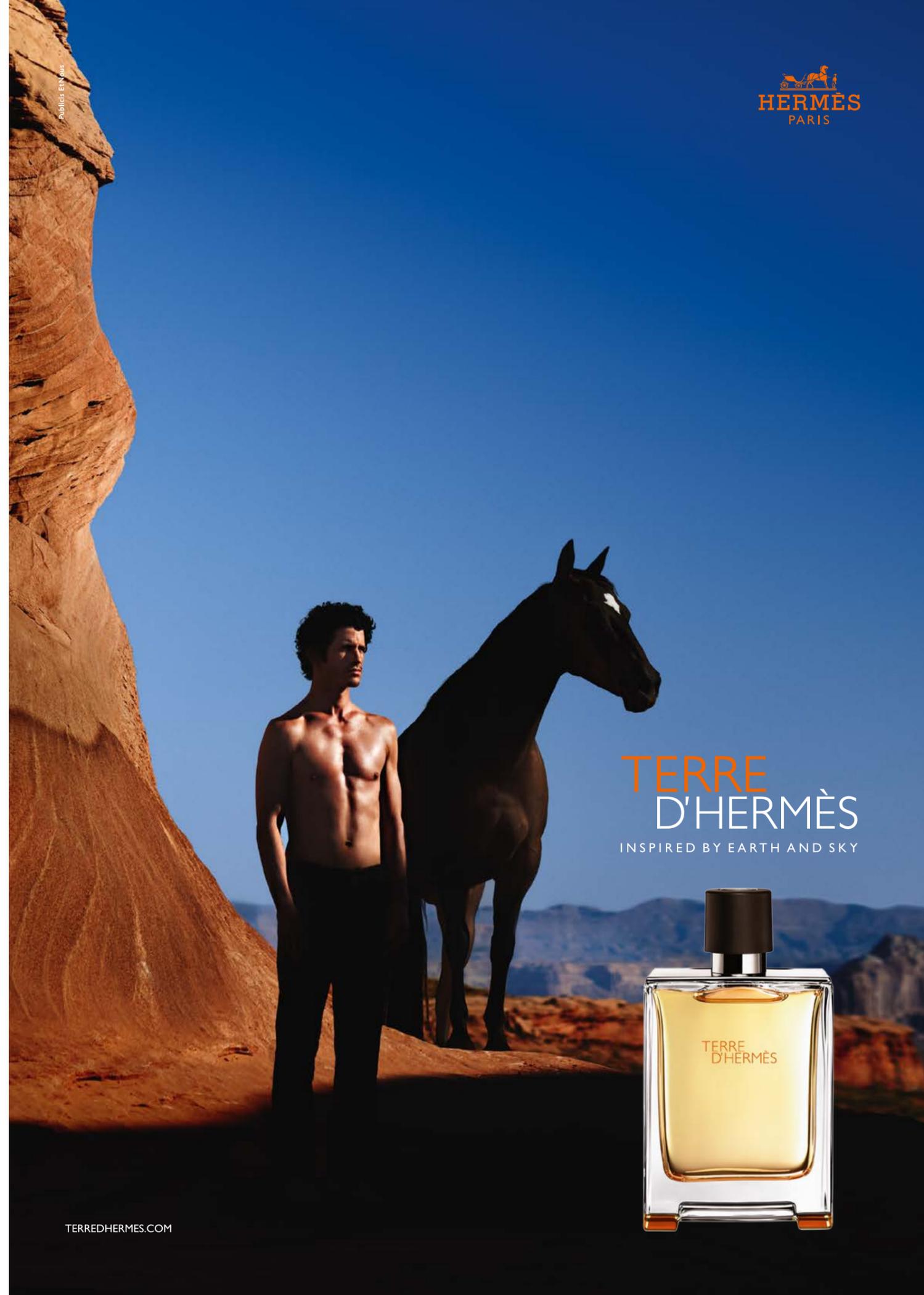
*Guatemala is the sort of country that the word 'enchanted' was invented to describe. A combination of vibrant, bustling cities and lush, verdant jungles, it offers adventurous travellers a rare spectrum of choices and challenges.*

Most visits to the country start from its capital, Guatemala City (known to locals simply as 'Guate') a fast developing metropolis which many visitors describe as a fledgling version of Mexico City, but minus about 10 million people. In other

words, accessible. Like its northern counterpart, Guatemala City is the economic, political and geographical heart of the country with all main highways emanating from it, 'kilómetro 0' being the Palacio Nacional de la Cultura (National Palace), in the Centro Histórico (Historic Center).

The centre of the city, in turn, is dominated by the enormous Central Square, the civic and political center, from its foundation in 1776 until the beginning of democratic rule in 1985. This is the starting and ending point for many historical tours and it houses the main

religious and political buildings of the country. On the eastern side of the square is the city's main cathedral, the Metropolitan, which was constructed between 1782 and 1815, and the towers added in 1867. Its impressive structure combines both baroque and classical architectural styles and it has survived several earthquakes. On the opposite side of the square is the rather grand looking Royal Palace, which was formerly the executive branch headquarters for the Capitanía of Guatemala from the time the city was established in 1776.



TERRE  
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INSPIRED BY EARTH AND SKY





Citadel at Tikal

Guatemala City was promoted to capital status when the historic capital of Antigua was all but destroyed by an earthquake, and in terms of historical significance, was the scene of the declaration of independence of Central America from Spain, and became the capital

to México and Guatemala describes the theater thus: "In the middle of the square is the Theater, similar in size and elegance to any of the rest of Spanish America. Lines of orange trees and other nice trees of brilliant flowers and delicious fragrances surround the building while the

restaurants in the world. Its fare is a skillful combination of Thai and Italian specialities but always with a subtle Guatemalan twist. The four-cheese gnocchi was described by one diner we spoke to as, "The smoothest, most irresistible four-cheese gnocchi I've ever tasted." The

*Other popular sightseeing destinations include the impressive National Theater, formerly known as the "Carrera Theater" in the old Central Square in the northeast part of the city*

of the United Provinces of Central America in 1821.

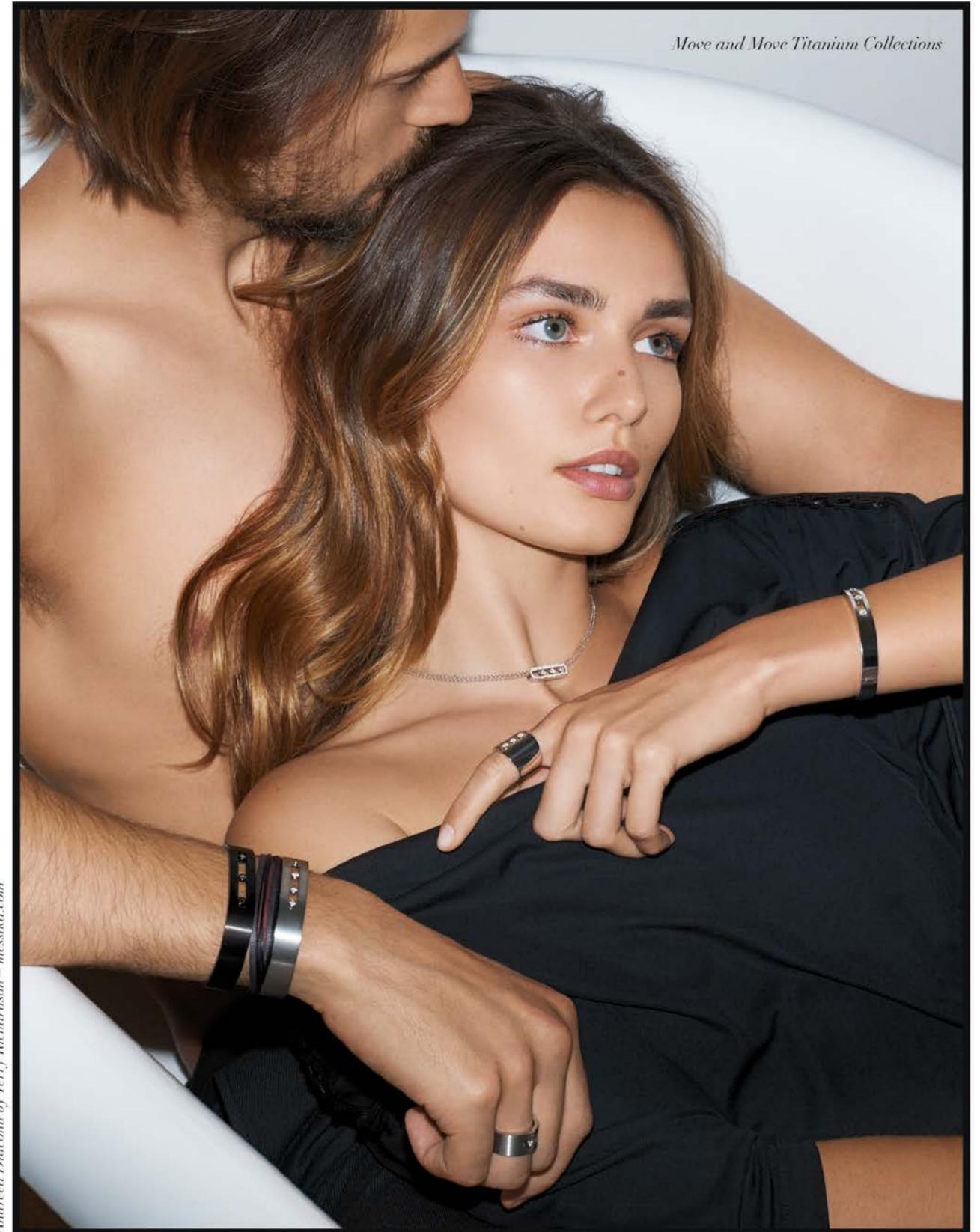
Other popular sightseeing destinations include the impressive National Theater, formerly known as the "Carrera Theater" in the old Central Square in the northeast part of the city. Appleton's 1818 Guide

statues and fountains placed at certain intervals enhance even more the beauty of the place."

Popular dining options in the city include Tamarindos in zone 10, a favourite of Condé Nast since 2001 when it first made it to their Hot List of the 100 most exciting new

vegetarian Pad Thai, a combination of many flavours, is a scrumptious dish also. The decor and ambience are equivalent to the very finest establishments in New York or London. Open for lunch and dinner Mon-Sat.

Another highly rated option is a



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restaurant called Jake's, named after its owner Jake Denburg, a New Jersey-bred painter-turned-restaurateur. Favourite dishes include osso buco, crab cakes with avocado-and-wasabi cream sauce and the vaquero chino (Chinese cowboy), a tenderloin steak served with a sweet soy, espresso, and star anise sauce. The restaurant is set in a tastefully converted farmhouse with hardwood ceilings, tiled floors, and an outdoor patio.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is an excellent choice of hotel from which to explore the city, starting with the panoramic views from its giant glass elevators in the atrium-style lobby. South facing rooms boast amazing views of the surrounding volcanoes.

More centrally is the Hotel Ciudad

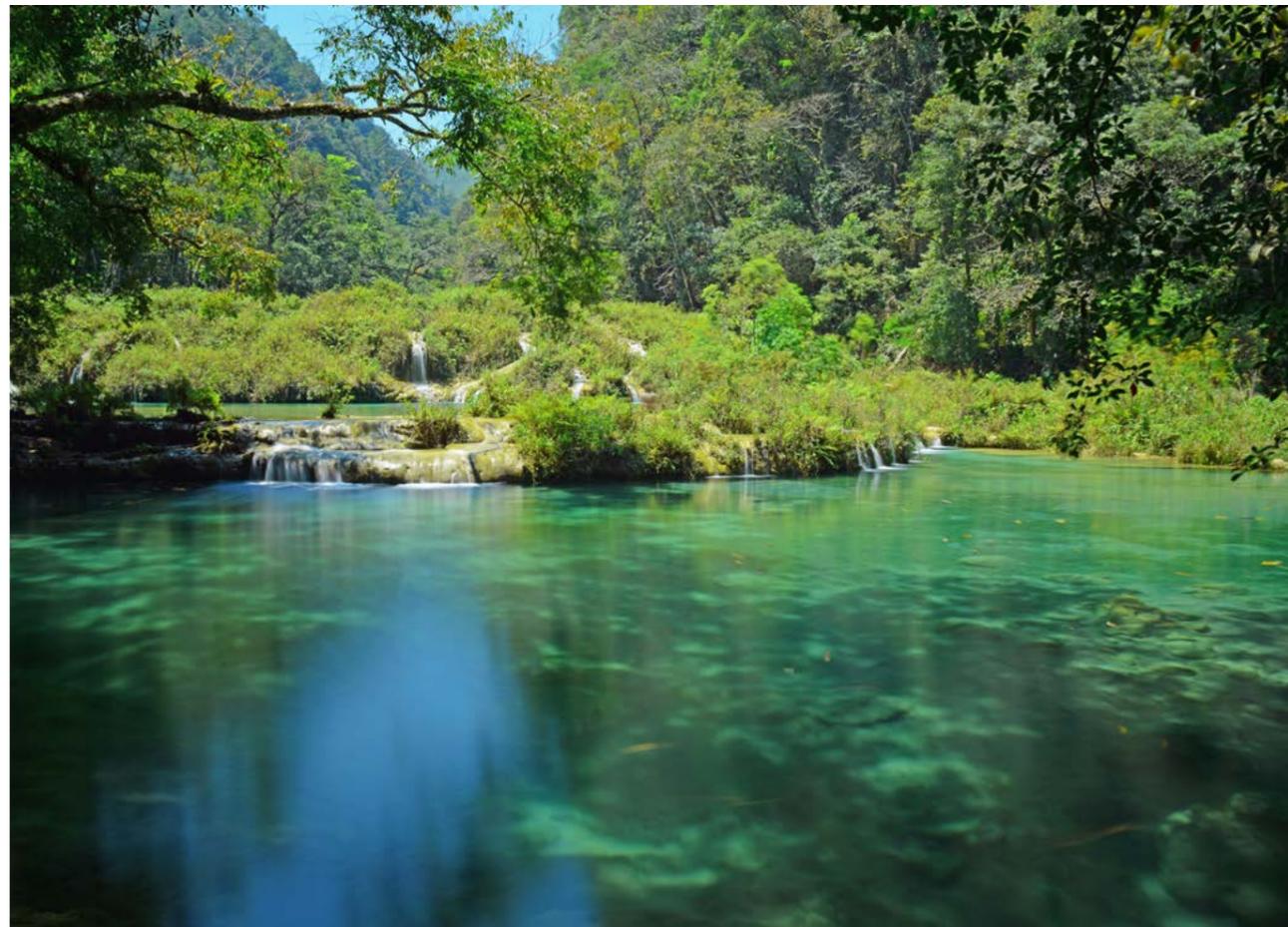
Vieja, a few blocks north of the Zona Viva. Its highlight being the beautifully designed courtyard garden which manages to create a sanctuary of peace and quiet after a hard day's sightseeing in the city.

Of course no visit to Guatemala would be complete without a quick jaunt out to some of the country's most famous historical and cultural landmarks. The most awe-inspiring perhaps being the remains of the ancient Mayan citadel at Tikal, in the northern rainforests. Dating back to the first century, the citadel was the centre of a thriving settlement up until 850 A.D., when it was mysteriously abandoned. The most notable ruins include the giant, ceremonial Lost World Pyramid and the Temple of the Grand Jaguar. At 70 meters, Temple IV is the tallest pre-Columbian structure in the

Americas and offers sweeping views across the canopies of the forest in every direction. It is absolutely imperative that your trip to Tikal begin before sunrise in order for you to enjoy the sight of the ruins swathed in morning mist, the higher sections momentarily poking through its surface like lost islands in a forgotten sea.

Lake Atitlán in the Guatemalan Highlands of the Sierra Madre mountain range, also affords visitors fantastic views and while getting around the lake involves a little bit of effort, the lake offers a fantastic variety of family-run traditional restaurants and boutique hotels.

Visitors with a passion for photography will inevitably discover the spectacular charms of the market town of Chichicastenango,



The waterfalls of Semuc Champey, Guatemala

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Chichicastenango market attracts hundreds of local vendors

a short distance from lake Atitlán and rightly famous for its Thursday and Sunday markets. Awash with colour and bustle, the central plaza of the town is taken over by traders from near and far, some with official

handmade tapestries, to medicinal herbs and spices, to carved religious artifacts, this dynamic trading oasis is one of the world's most photographed locations. As the photo-journalist Carl Pendle

portraits, also recommended getting to the market early for the best shots. "I decided to stay in a local hotel and rise before dawn. It was definitely the right decision as the quiet industry of the vendors setting

*As the photo-journalist Carl Pendle once famously said, 'there's so much going on at Chichi, so much colour, movement and life, that it's actually very difficult to take a bad photograph.'*

stalls, some with small patches of pavement, but each intent on selling their wares for the best possible price.

From breathtakingly beautiful

once famously said, 'there's so much going on at Chichi, so much colour, movement and life, that it's actually very difficult to take a bad photograph.' Pendle, known best internationally for his character

up their stalls as the sun gradually rose afforded me some wonderful opportunities."

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# WILL THE REAL REALITY PLEASE STAND UP

*How augmented and virtual reality are literally  
changing the way we see the world*



**augmented reality**

noun

*A technology that superimposes a computer-generated image on a user's view of the real world, thus providing a composite view.*

**virtual reality**

noun

*The computer-generated simulation of a three-dimensional image or environment that can be interacted in a seemingly real or physical way by a person using special electronic equipment, such as a helmet with a screen inside or gloves fitted with sensors.*

“The easiest way to differentiate between augmented reality and virtual reality,” says Australian technology expert Robbie Marston, “is to remember that the first is all about ‘here’, while the latter is all about ‘there’.”

Which isn't actually as complicated as it might sound. Augmented reality, which we've all surely witnessed recently in the form of the hugely popular kids game Pokemon Go!, involves overlaying additional detail, data and special effects onto the backdrop of the real world. Virtual reality on the other hand, works by replacing the world around us with an alternative reality.

“Put it this way,” says Marston, “when you see somebody wearing a virtual reality headset, it's best to give them a wide berth. They're likely somewhere else completely; wandering through the pyramids of Egypt, visiting a busy market in ancient Rome, or even taking a few giant leaps of their own on the surface of the moon. If the headset

and the software is good - and they really are getting better all the time – the person wearing the headset is only subconsciously aware of the real world.”

“Someone using augmented reality on the other hand is still with us, albeit a little distracted. Like the kids you see wandering around parks and shopping centres with their phones in front of them searching for Pokemon figures that only they can see. But AR as a tool is inevitable in the sense that it is the bringing together of all available technologies into one place.”

A view shared by Apple CEO Tim Cook who recently described AR as ‘the future’. The real difference between the two technologies will be the way they are applied to the real world, and more importantly to the business world. One company at the forefront of that transition for augmented reality is UK-based 3rockAR, which since its formation in 2014 has already worked with some of the world's largest companies, such as Mercedes,

Jaguar, Singapore Airlines and Red Bull. “The hunger for augmented reality is enormous,” says co-owner Ian Brookes. “Every single forward-thinking company is putting enhanced digital campaigns at the forefront of their marketing mix and augmented reality is what people all around the world have been asked to explore.”

Companies like 3rockAR are developing brand new innovations that allow people to actually see themselves in amongst all of the augmented reality content. “Most recently,” he added, “we worked in association with Centum Media GmbH and its partners, to set up an augmented reality ‘Magic Mirror’ in the Alexa Shopping Mall in Berlin, which allowed passers-by to see their own reflections but with the addition of all sorts of colourful computer generated characters. Dinosaurs, crocodiles, giant ninja turtles, aliens, you name it. The response was fantastic. As a marketing tool we were able to put our client's brands not only at the forefront of technology, but also

*One company at the forefront of that transition for augmented reality is UK-based 3rockAR, which since its formation in 2014 has already worked with some of the world's largest companies, such as Mercedes, Jaguar, Singapore Airlines and Red Bull.*





*When it comes to virtual reality headsets, most people immediately think of gamers and tech geeks, but the truth is that they are becoming increasingly valuable as a sales tool.*

permanently in the memories of everyone who saw it.”

The first real attempt to develop the augmented reality concept into a marketable consumer product came in the form of Google Glass in 2013, an optical head-mounted display designed in the shape of a pair of eyeglasses. Wearers were not only able to see data about the world around them (as and when that data was available) but could also communicate with the internet via natural language voice

commands. While the hefty \$1,500 price tag didn't help, the experiment stalled somewhat a couple of years later when the company found itself subjected to a wave of criticism and legislative action, presumably from people who mistook them for x-ray specs. That said, in February 2015, The New York Times reported that Google Glass was being redesigned by former Apple executive Tony Fadell and that it would not be released until he deemed it to be “perfect.”

Marston believes that the tipping point of perfection is now very close. “For augmented reality to bridge that gap and really push wearable device technology into the mainstream, it has to evolve from novelty status into something that is genuinely useful. Maybe the glasses were too Star Trek first time round? Maybe people felt too conspicuous wearing them, who knows? But whatever form the technology eventually takes – headsets, glasses, or even contact lenses, the real point is, if you can be walking down

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the COO of UE4Arch, a company dedicated to creating and pushing forward hyper-realistic virtual creations that can be experienced in virtual reality. "As you will design, experience and interact with your new apartment or house before a single brick has been placed".

UE4Arch's pioneering architectural visualizations work with ultra realistic scenes inside a game creation engine in real-time. This creates a number of new possibilities like changing furniture style, colors, materials, interactions with objects and use



*Gone will be the days of boring old lessons from grainy history textbooks, or lacklustre science experiments in health and safety conscious school laboratories.*

of virtual reality headsets for better immersion in the environment.

When it comes to virtual reality headsets, most people immediately think of gamers and tech geeks, but the truth is that they are becoming increasingly valuable as a sales tool. Using 3D, 360-degree cameras and a virtual camera set, people will be able enter a space, look around, explore and be fully immersed in the world they have "entered".

This method of showcasing the properties will tap into buyer's emotions, enabling them to engage and build a relationship with the property just as though they were physically there. But without all the trouble of setting up an appointment. It is thought that the technology will become so advanced that it will eventually simulate touch and feel within a virtual house and even create a virtual sense of smell.

According to The Guardian

newspaper, Goldman Sachs has predicted that virtual reality software for real estate applications alone will become a \$2.6bn market by 2025.

Right now the relatively high costs of software and equipment is limiting the technology to the top end of the market, with companies such as Sotheby's International Realty choosing to use Oculus headsets to showcase multi-million dollar virtual properties. "This new technology solves a real challenge in the marketing of a home to a global audience of real estate consumers," says Vice President of interactive marketing at Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates. "3-D tours and virtual reality will allow a consumer to experience a home from anywhere in the world without having to schedule a visit. We have clients looking for first, second and third homes all over the world and this technology has already been the driver beyond homes being sold without visiting the property in person."

While the application of virtual reality technology to any sector involving sales is obvious, be it second hand cars, furniture, restaurants, transportation or even technology itself, there are plenty of other sectors which are likely to adopt it once it becomes more affordable.

"I can only begin to imagine how useful virtual reality will be in education," says Marston. "Gone will be the days of boring old lessons from grainy history textbooks, or lacklustre science experiments in health and safety conscious school laboratories. The travel industry too is highly likely to be a first adopter as people are able to get a real feel for what it would be like to go to all sorts of different destinations before they make their final decision."

Unless of course they prefer the virtual trip to doing it for real. Only time will tell.

the street learning about everything around you as you go – instant restaurant reviews, information about historical buildings, bus timetables, the list is almost endless – it suddenly becomes very useful indeed."

Usefulness would appear to be the key driver behind the evolution of virtual reality technology too, particularly in the real estate sector where property agents are now able to connect far more efficiently with potential buyers right across the globe. Indeed, studies predict that by the end of this decade, property buyers will be routinely touring

properties on demand wearing virtual reality headsets that employ software that has already evaluated their internet usage in order to offer them the most suitable properties.

Imagine being able to take time out between meetings - or from the comfort of your own home in the evening - to pop a virtual reality headset on and stroll through your property of choice, literally at your leisure. From LA and New York, to the French Riviera, geography no longer needs to be an obstacle. The ability to walk through a space and really get a sense of what it would

feel like to be there, is a massive game changer.

This type of technology will also provide architects and agents with a direct and easy way to show off new properties, enable them to make updates and modifications to designs, and give clients tours of properties that have not even been built yet. Clients will be able to suggest changes as they are given a tour, which can then be implemented by the designer or architect in a matter of moments.

"This will be the future of the real estate industry," says Daniel Falci,

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# WORLD'S MOST COVETED VIEWS

*As William Shakespeare once so famously said, all the world's a stage, or, these days, a backdrop to a photograph. Here are nine of our favourites.*



**James Bond Island in Phang Nga Bay, Thailand**

One of the most recognizable rocky outcrops in the world thanks to the 1974 James Bond film 'The Man With The Golden Gun' starring Roger Moore and Christopher Lee. The archetypal evil genius's secret hideaway island, it is a popular sightseeing destination for visitors to Thailand.



**The Old Man of Storr on the Isle of Skye, Scotland**

The 'Old Man' is a tall pinnacle of rock forming part of the Trotternish Ridge which was itself created by a massive ancient landslide. Despite the island's remote location off the north west coast of Scotland, it is still one of the most photographed landscapes in the world.



**Bridge over the Dachstein Glacier, Austria**

Definitely not a view for anyone with a fear of heights, the bridge above the Dachstein glacier in Austria is among the highest in the world.



### The Northern Lights

Also known as the Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights are caused by collisions between gaseous particles in the Earth's atmosphere and charged particles released from the sun's atmosphere. Its spectacular variations in colour are due to the different types of gas particles that are colliding.



### The Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

One of the world's most instantly recognisable sights, the Grand Canyon in Arizona is a natural formation distinguished by layered bands of red rock, revealing millions of years of geological history in cross-section. It averages 10 miles across and a mile deep along its 277-mile length.



**The Troll's Tongue, Norway**

The Trolltunga cliff (The Troll's tongue) in Odda has been providing generations of daredevils the chance to stand at its tip and by doing so stare down on one of the world's most stunning landscapes. Again, not for those with a fear of heights.

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### Mount Everest

This particular sunset view of the world's highest mountain was taken from Kala Patthar in Nepal and perhaps explains why it is so popular not only with climbers but also with photographers. It stands 8,848m above sea level and is known to locals as Sagarmatha, which translates as 'forehead in the sky'.

### Earthrise

Okay, the view of the Earth 'rising' in the morning as witnessed from the Moon's surface has only been seen by a few people (so far), but if space travel becomes as popular in the 22nd century as most people expect it to, who knows...!



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# The World's Most Exclusive Hotel Suites

Looking for a bolt-hole in London or Istanbul? From 24-hour butlers and TVs embedded into bathroom mirrors, to private wine cellars and infinity pools, Luxe Magazine takes a peek inside some of the most exclusive home-away-from-home residences that have been created for only the most discerning of guests.



### The Apartment at the Connaught Hotel in London, England.

The Connaught Hotel has been the go-to luxury hotel for the modern, refined traveller for over 100 years, fusing elegance, sophistication and a warm, polished service. High above the leafy avenues of Mayfair sits the Connaught Hotel's most prestigious accommodation, The Apartment, one of the most sought after penthouse abodes in London. Conceived by iconic interior designer, the late David Collins, The Apartment offers a magnificent

lofty living space bathed in natural light, enhanced by opulent details such as soothing natural tones with dusty lavenders and blues, splendid hand-carved doors, bespoke furnishings and beautiful works of art. Lavish features include a large wrap around balcony boasting panoramic views, 24-hour butler service, dining space for 8 people and a marble fireplace.

### Royal Penthouse Suite at the Hotel President Wilson in Geneva, Switzerland

Overlooking the glistening expanse of Lake Geneva, the Hotel President Wilson in Geneva is one of the world's most exclusive addresses, with its Royal Penthouse Suite one of the most expensive and luxuriant hotel suites in the world. Spread across the entire eighth floor of the hotel it houses multiple bedrooms and living spaces bathed in natural light, a library and dining room, private chef and butler, and a vast terrace with panoramic views of the Geneva Jet d'eau and the Mont Blanc, private chef and butler. Amenities include a jacuzzi, Steinway grand piano, state-of-the-art Bang & Olufsen flatscreen TV, elegant marble bedrooms with king size beds, a billiards room and a private gym.

### The Shangri La Suite at the Shangri La Bosphorus, Istanbul

Housed within a historic neo-classical building, the Shangri La Bosphorus is one of Istanbul's most grandiose hotels, bringing to life the splendour of Istanbul's Ottoman palaces with a lavish waterfront location, glittering chandeliers and opulent European and Asian art. The hotel's most extravagant suite, the Shangri La Bosphorus takes up over half of the top floor and

offers sumptuous accommodation fit for royalty, complete with two spacious bedrooms, three terraces, marble-clad bathrooms with heated floors, dining and living rooms. There is even a television embedded into the bathroom mirror. Guests can step out from each bedroom onto a private terrace that looks out over incredible views of the Bosphorus Strait, the Asian shoreline and the ancient Old City.

### Presidential Suite at the Mandarin Oriental, Shanghai

The Mandarin Oriental in Shanghai is the height of sophistication, draped along the banks of the Huangpu

River. From the comfort of the Presidential Suite on the 25th floor of the Mandarin Oriental, Shanghai, guests can soak up city panoramas while relaxing in absolute comfort. The luxurious Presidential Suite takes up most of the 25th floor and fuses traditional Chinese design with contemporary themes. Satisfy your inner oenophile by delving into the private wine cellar for the finest vintage before propping up the suite's wine bar. Guests can sink into the colossal bathtub in the marble clad bathroom or step outside onto one of two private roof gardens.

### The Penthouse Suite at the Grand Hyatt Cannes Hôtel Martinez

The Grand Hyatt Cannes Hotel Martinez is a luxury five-star hotel with a long, star-studded history and a timeless beauty. Indulge in the discerning opulence of the hotel's Penthouse Suite, a prestigious 300 square metre suite complete with king size bed, living room and dining room, gleaming marble bathroom, butler service, sauna and hammam. The piece de resistance is the 270 square metre private terrace with outdoor jacuzzi where guests can sip champagne against spectacular views of the sparkling Bay of Cannes and the Boulevard de la Croisette.

Royal Penthouse Suite, Hotel President Wilson



**Royal Suite at the Hotel Plaza Athenee in Paris, France**

For many, Paris is the most romantic city in the world, so where better to treat yourself and your loved ones than staying at one of the city's most chic addresses? The Hotel Plaza Athenee is situated on the Avenue Montaigne, steps from the Champs-Élysées and Eiffel Tower. The Royal Suite is lavishly decorated with French Regency furniture, remarkable antiques, silk and damask. It hosts four impeccable bedrooms and bathrooms, a grand sitting room, dining room, jacuzzi

and steam room and balconies from where guests can enjoy stunning views of Avenue Montaigne and the Eiffel Tower.

**The Hilltop Estate Owner's Accommodation at the Laucala Island Resort in Fiji**

The Laucala Island Resort offers unparalleled exclusivity with eleven plantation villas nestled amid coconut groves and rainforest, overlooking secluded powdery white beaches and crystalline emerald green waters. At the island's highest point sits the Hilltop Estate, which

boasts spellbinding views of the Fijian archipelago. Set high above the green hills of the island, the Hilltop Estate is hand-crafted from natural materials such as palms, timber and stems. Impeccable bedrooms and living spaces open out onto private gardens and an infinity pool lit by Tikki torches, while deluxe amenities such as private cook, chauffeur and nanny come as standard.



Royal Suite at the Hotel Plaza Athenee in Paris, France

The Shangri La Suite at the Shangri La Bosphorus, Istanbul



**The Presidential Suite at the Hotel Cala di Volpe in Porto Cervo, Sardinia, Italy**

Boasting a panoramic setting overlooking the exquisite Cala di Volpe bay and sparkling Costa Smeralda, the exclusive Hotel Cala di Volpe in Porto Cervo, Italy, offers guests ultimate relaxation, impeccable services and exceptional amenities. The hotel's Presidential Suite embodies a true sense of luxury and taste, from the handmade ceramics, hand-painted furniture, arched window frames and rich tapestries, to the state-of-the-art fitness equipment. In the

bedrooms, soft linens rest upon sumptuous king-size beds framed in hand-carved wood, while glass doors open onto private balconies. The Presidential Suite also features a private pool and impressive rooftop terrace, ideal for al fresco sunset aperitifs or dining under the stars.



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# A winter break in Marrakech

As summer comes to an end and the nights start closing in, there's only one way to escape that impending seasonal affective disorder: fly somewhere sunny and exotic of course. Topping the list of Luxe Magazine's favourite places to go at this time of year is Marrakech, a sensory mélange of sumptuous travel and enticing north African vibes.



*The medina is the city's main attraction, an intoxicating tapestry of winding alleyways, traditional houses, souks and workshops.*

Encircled by blushing rose-tinted walls with a spectacular backdrop of the Atlas Mountains, the Red City, as it is widely known, has attracted an A-list set for decades who come to bask in its wonderful climate, glorious mountainscapes, vibrant souks and towering mosques. So you're in good company.

Yves Saint Laurent first visited in 1966 and soon after, a myriad of stars and creative types from The Stones to Charlie Chaplin were

inspired and seduced by the Red City. The local people are vivacious and charming and in recent times Marrakech has evolved with its popularity to become a compelling travel destination offering culture, up-to-date luxury, palatial hotels, reinvented riads and a sultry, centuries old medina that is nothing short of beautiful.

The medina is the city's main attraction, an intoxicating tapestry of winding alleyways, traditional

houses, souks and workshops. To the west of the Medina you'll find the leafy laid-back Ville Nouvelle (or Guéliz) neighbourhood created in the early 20th century, while to the northeast of the city, the Palmeraie is Marrakech's wealthiest district home to lavish resorts, golf courses, private villas and hip nightclubs. One such estate is the Ezzahra villa complex, where guests can choose from three sumptuous fully-staffed villas set amid 20,000 square metres of landscaped gardens with

Souks, image courtesy of [www.visitmorocco.com/](http://www.visitmorocco.com/)Moroccan National Tourist Office



Djemaa el-Fna, image courtesy of [www.visitmorocco.com/](http://www.visitmorocco.com/)Moroccan National Tourist Office

*There can be no more evocative activity while visiting Marrakech than sipping mint tea at dusk while being entertained by musicians, snake charmers, street performers and storytellers*

ancient olive trees, date palms and orange and pomegranate trees. All come with private pools and gardens.

Most people, if they can pull themselves away from their luxury accommodation, start their visit by hitting the souks, a colossal labyrinth of streets that are both fascinating and bewildering in equal measures. A steely determination is needed to navigate the trading hawkers, amongst clouds of heat, spice scent and bright colours. Luckily most high-end hotels and riads will provide the services of a guide and personal shopper so you can make the most of your visit with none of the stress.

Once you have shopped 'til you drop in the souks you'll most likely find yourself (arms laden with purchased carpets, lanterns and leather goods) at the medina's nucleus, the vast UNESCO World Heritage Site, Djemaa el-Fna, which bursts with life around sunset. This enormous square was traditionally the place where Berbers traded slaves, gold, ivory and leather. There can be no more evocative activity while visiting Marrakech than sipping mint tea at dusk while being entertained by musicians, snake charmers, street performers and storytellers amid the thick swirling smoke from seemingly limitless food stalls turning out sizzling Moroccan delicacies at an astonishing rate.

When you have souk-fatigue you can high-tail it to the legendary La Mamounia Hotel, a cool haven close to the 12th century ramparts of the medina surrounded by 200-year-old gardens. Within the intimate surroundings of Le Bar Churchill, sink into plush velvet-clad seats and choose from a fine array of cocktails to the sound of mellow jazz tunes. The hotel first opened in 1923 and hosted many well-known personalities. Churchill, as the name suggests, was a regular, describing it as "the most lovely spot in the whole world". La Mamounia also has several excellent restaurants serving local and international food, while accommodation ranges from handsome rooms to private riads complete with zellij tile work,



Kasbah Tamadot Hotel



Royal Mansour - La Grande Table Marocaine

private pools and 24-hour butler service.

No visit to Morocco would be complete without a stay in a riad. A riad is a traditional Moroccan house or palace that encircles an interior patio or courtyard. They are historic, atmospheric and the last word in relaxation. There are literally hundreds of riads in Marrakech. At the very top end, the Royal Mansour is an oasis of riads set within the grounds of an elegant hotel.

Commissioned by the King, whose aim was to rebrand Marrakech from hippie destination to luxury haven, there is nothing modest about Marrakech's most extravagant hotel. Over 1000 Moroccan artisans handcrafted polished marble, zellij mosaics, leather, silk, gold and mother of pearl details as far as the eye can see.

The hotel is made up of several individual riads set like jewels between gurgling fountains,

orange blossom, the scent of jasmine and date palms. Each fabulously opulent riad comes with a rooftop pool and sun deck, while some also come with galleries and private dining rooms. The staff navigate the grounds through an underground network of passageways on golf carts, accessing



Royal Mansour - Spa Pool



Kasbah Tamadot Hotel - Berber tent deck

the riads via hidden portals. For guests seeking the ultimate x factor, the showstopping 1800 square metre Riad d'Honneur boasts a home cinema, pool, gym and hammam. The hotel also has three outstanding fine dining restaurants serving exquisite cuisine, most notably the La Grande Table Marocaine, reputed to be the best Moroccan restaurant in the country, under the watchful supervision of three-star Michelin chef Yannick Alléno.

There is plenty of history in Marrakech to get to grips with. Beyond the protected ramparts of The Royal Mansour sits the distinctive silhouette of the 12th century Koutoubia Mosque, whose 70m tall minaret dominates the city skyline and five times a day the muezzin calls the faithful to prayer. To gain more insight into Morocco's past visit the 14th century Medersa Ben Youssef Islamic school, one of Marrakesh's biggest treasures, home to some of the most beautiful art

and architecture in the country with wood carvings, intricate stuccowork and colourful zellij tiles.

For all that the city centre of Marrakech has to give, its hectic pace may mean that after a few days you will be pining for a therapeutic retreat close to the rolling hills and stunning mountain landscape of the surrounding area. A mere 45-minute drive from Marrakech, set in the foothills of the majestic snow-capped Atlas Mountain range overlooking

Kasbah Tamadot Hotel - Berber tent deck with hot tub

spellbinding views of the Mizane Valley, Richard Branson's Kasbah Tamadot retreat grants the antithesis to the bustling souks and crowded Medina. Formerly an Italian antique dealer's private residence, it was subsequently purchased by Branson and transformed into a luxury hotel. Guests can use it as a base to go trekking, visit authentic Berber villages or simply lounge by the pool.



Kasbah Tamadot Hotel - Interior courtyard interior

With mesmerising UNESCO World Heritage sites, a sprawling tangle of souks and tantalising cuisine, Marrakesh is an enchanting place to explore and the captivating beauty of its surrounding landscape combine to make it a perfect winter destination.



Kasbah Tamadot Hotel - Deluxe suite



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# BREXIT

THE STATE OF THE LONDON  
PROPERTY MARKET, POST BREXIT

*Nicholas Winas investigates the state of the UK capital's  
property market in the wake of the country's European Union  
membership referendum.*

London has always been a favourite location for overseas property investors and people looking for a safe place to put their money. For that is how the London property market has always been perceived, as the ultimate safe haven. A market set in one of the world's longest established democracies; a fair, secure, historic and tranquil place that just happens to offer foreign buyers complete freehold title and the full protection of its eminently respected legal system.

Oh, and 500% price increases over the last thirty years in the city's most sought after central locations.

While the medium term outlook for

the wider London property market will likely sag a little as a result of the Brexit vote, the immediate effect has been a mini-boom in the sale of top end buildings, as the circa 15% drop in the value of sterling has presented overseas buyers with an immediate discount on pre-referendum prices. A discount which, for seasoned followers of the market, has simply been too tempting to resist.

Ed Mead, executive director at estate agent Douglas and Gordon reported that the response from buyers was almost immediate. "We had four separate buyers who put in offers (the day after the vote), which were quite cheeky but clearly

based on the fact they were getting an extraordinarily abnormal deal," he said. "The offers, which were in the over one million pound range and came from U.S. and European investors, had clearly been brought about because of the fall in sterling."

Another Canadian buyer is said to have delayed the completion of the purchase of a 14 million pound house in the Holland Park area until the week after the referendum. "Just in case the pound fell as a result of a Brexit victory. If it didn't, well, just carry on as normal." As it was, his 'delay' ended up saving him more than two million pounds.

*The 15% drop in the value of sterling has presented overseas buyers with an immediate discount on pre-referendum prices.*

Holland Park in central London has always provided a safe haven for investors



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Indeed, central London, despite (or because of?) its high entry prices, has always been the jewel in the city's property crown due to its finite stock and extremely limited room for expansion. A mixture of landmark historical buildings, listed properties, top-end office developments, hotels and Royal Parks, central London has very little to offer in the way of 'new' development opportunities, particularly in terms of housing.

A unique combination of

fundamentals which, Naomi Heaton, CEO of London-based investment fund London Central Portfolio, says will continue to make the city's prime property attractive to foreign buyers. "Whilst no concrete evidence of post-Brexit market dynamics has yet been published, we expect PCL real estate to respond in a broadly similar way as it did during the global financial crisis when the market out-performed almost all other asset classes. A flight to quality and the security of blue-chip tangible assets will

be underpinned by the continuing weakness of sterling. Alongside this, the attractions of prime central London as a centre of culture, excellence and education with absolute rule of law and unequivocal title to property remain undimmed. We firmly believe that these robust market fundamentals will support continued asset appreciation particularly in the mainstream private rented sector. LCP has already seen a five-fold increase in investment enquiries since the vote."

*The attractions of prime central London as a centre of culture, excellence and education with absolute rule of law and unequivocal title to property remain undimmed.*

Greater London prices have certainly steadied this year, but as Heaton points out, this has as much to do with an increase in the supply of new units to the market. "The planning pipeline is up 20% since 2013 with over 106,000 new-build units approved." And according to Estates Gazette, applications are in for another 111 high-rise towers

in the capital – many around the "mega cluster" in Tower Hamlets and the "now infamous Battersea Nine Elms stretch".

A confidence which MoneyWeek magazine's Merryn Somerset Webb is reluctant to share entirely. "I've bet against Heaton before (after the global financial crisis she was

convinced prices would rise, I that they would keep falling). So I'm loath to do it again, particularly given that the weak pound does make PCL rather cheaper for the foreign buyers the market has long relied on, and that the new cut in interest rates will make mortgage interest costs even lower than they are already for UK buyers.

*The closer you can buy to the city's iconic buildings,  
the safer your investment will remain.*

“But, but, but... prices are an awful lot higher than they were in 2009 – and the commodity boom fuelled Russian and Middle Eastern buyers, who are an awful lot thinner on the ground. Whatever the benefits of prime central London, if new-build prices fall far enough, PCL buyers will surely shift into Nine Elms (which really isn't that far from Knightsbridge). The latter can't really crash without bringing the former

along for at least part of the ride.”

Ultimately however that would be to deny the major reason London, particularly its central regions, has always been so popular with foreign buyers: it's perceived levels of safety. Indeed, the closer you can buy to the city's iconic buildings, the safer your investment will remain. Good returns are expected (and certainly received in recent decades) but

they are not the ultimate point. If the UK ends up staying part of the European Union the status quo will continue; if it leaves however, it is arguable that its property, and the safety it affords in an increasingly wobbly world, will become an even safer bet, and therefore more valuable. And so the cycle continues.



  
**LOUIS XIII**  
*de Remy Martin*  
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# MONACO YACHT SHOW



*There really is no other spectacle like that of a superyacht show, and this year's presentation in Monaco was no different. Monaco might be one of the world's smallest countries, but it is also one of the most glamorous and this year's event upped the ante, showcasing over 125 of the world's biggest and most dazzling superyachts in its iconic horse-shoe shaped Port Hercules, throughout the four-day long boat extravaganza.*

With visitor attendance on the rise (there were around thirty thousand attendees this year, up by at least one thousand from last year), over five hundred exhibiting companies, and the total value of superyachts on display reaching an eye-popping \$3.4 billion, the Monaco Yacht Show confirmed its status yet again as the world's premier superyacht event.

The show attracted billionaire buyers from across the globe, with the highest turnouts represented by buyers from Russia, the U.S., the U.K. and Germany, all with budgets as deep as the Mariana Trench. Whether attendees came to soak up the atmosphere, catch up on superyacht trends, splash their cash on the latest models or simply mingle with the elite, this year's event certainly did not disappoint.

Few places match Monaco for its grace and style, nestled between the soaring Alps and the sparkling Mediterranean Sea. For a setting that is driven by its wealthy visitors and residents, Monaco could not be a more fitting stage for this sophisticated event, whose origins stretch back to 1991 and which has His Royal Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco as its patron. It is one of the only places in the world that

*The show attracted billionaire buyers from across the globe, with the highest turnouts represented by buyers from Russia, the U.S., the U.K, and Germany, all with budgets as deep as the Mariana Trench.*



convenes one-off superyachts for sale annually, with sizes starting from at least twenty five metres in length.

At this year's event, over five hundred exhibiting companies and partners participated, including the world's leading shipyards, designers, manufacturers and key brokerage houses, and around forty new launches were revealed. This showstopping assortment of boats was crammed into the port cheek by jowl. The event never fails to draw crowds who come to admire the huge numbers of sailing yachts and motor boats, rub shoulders with industry movers and shakers as well as take a look at the latest gadgets and accessories from the industry that are on display.

With this year being its biggest to date, it proved to be particularly fruitful for those looking to view and purchase luxury superyachts. The

highlight of the week was the vast seventy metre Galactica Supernova superyacht, which stole the show with its infinity pool and cascading waterfall, a "beach club" (an oasis that brings onboard guests closer to the water) and ultimate lavish accessory – its very own helipad. It received the "finest new superyacht" award and the "best interior design" award. Not just a pretty face, it has

a propulsion system that has two MTU wing engines with fixed pitch propellers and a third engine fitted with a Rolls Royce booster water jet, making it not only one of the biggest superyachts in the world, but also one of the fastest.

Luxury car brand Aston Martin was represented by its first ever powerboat, the oh so sublime AM37 built by Quintessence Yachts featuring opulent leather motifs, the steering wheel, throttle handles and joystick in polished metals and carbon-fibre cockpit controls. Aston Martin's EVP & Chief Creative Officer, Marek Reichman stated:

this DNA into AM37. It was important to us when considering this project to make sure that the boat design was as beautiful and timeless as our cars, the AM37 is a striking boat with fantastic proportion and elegance."

Another highlight was the 66-metre OKTO by ISA Yachts, which costs around sixty million

*The highlight of the week was the vast seventy metre Galactica Supernova superyacht, which stole the show with its infinity pool and cascading waterfall, a beach club and ultimate lavish accessory – its very own helipad.*

"AM37 is a pure translation of the Aston Martin DNA into an entirely new maritime concept. The powerboat reflects our values in terms of power, beauty and soul. The most important attribute for Aston Martin is the design language and proportion, we have transferred

dollars and offers guests an on board swimming pool that can be filled with fresh water or salt water and can be heated or cooled to exact requirements, a guest elevator that runs up to the bridge deck and an extendable balcony that can be operated at the touch of a button.



The world's most expensive yacht, and second largest in the world, the 162-meter (533-feet) Abramovich-owned Eclipse also made a splash in Monaco's azure waters. Valued at a cool five hundred million dollars, the yacht is said to feature two swimming pools, a disco and dance floor, fireplace, mini-submarine, and even a missile defence system.

Also grabbing a few headlines was the C-Explorer 3 submersible, made by U-BoatWorx, which meets the trends and demands for personal submersibles that are currently on the rise, allowing the more adventurous to get up close and personal with the underwater world.

Monaco is head of the pack when it comes to haute couture fashion, Michelin-starred eateries and historical sights. So away from the port there was plenty of fun to be had once the sun went down. From VIP parties and cocktail soirees to surprise celebrity appearances, brokers and yachting executives had plenty of opportunity to rub shoulders with the right people while letting their hair down. We already can't wait for next year.



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# THE TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

*The annual Talisker Whisky Transatlantic rowing race, which sets off in December with 13 assorted teams of rowers, is deemed to be one of the world's toughest races.*

*By Joe Swain.*





*If it wasn't so challenging we probably wouldn't be taking it on," says Andrew Cameron, part of the novice three-man 'A-Adventures' team*

Comprising a truly international fleet, with teams from the UK, the United States, South Africa, Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Ukraine, the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge will see them all pitting themselves against the might, and sometimes wrath, of the Atlantic Ocean. In short, the event is considered one of the most perilous sporting challenges on Earth, requiring competitors to row 3,000 nautical miles from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean.

The bar for this year's race has been set particularly high with 2015 having heralded a new overall race record of 37 days, along with 5 Guinness World Records in various related categories.

Not that the height of the bar, or the waves for that matter, daunts the competitors one iota. "If it wasn't so challenging we probably wouldn't be taking it on," says Andrew Cameron, part of the novice three-man 'A-Adventures' team, as he takes a moment from his rigorous training schedule to show me their boat. Cameron, a

martial arts instructor and founder of Wing Chun International, is no stranger to extreme sporting challenges, having already completed a 27-day, 'husky-less' walk to the (magnetic) North Pole in 2013 in temperatures as low as -67 degrees Celcius.

"I like to set myself some sort of extreme physical challenge every two or three years," he adds, as he leans casually on the oars and proudly points out the array of sponsor and charity stickers on the boat's hull. "It keeps me sane I suppose, and being able to raise money for some very worthwhile charities is always a big motivator."

Indeed, the 2013 and 2015 races saw over 3.3 million euros raised in donations to the teams' charities and this year's race is likely to top that figure thanks to the extensive coverage it will be receiving from the National Geographic Channel, as the event's global broadcast partner.

Once the teams leave the safety of San Sebastian's harbour in La Gomera, they'll be completely on their own, at the mercy of the

elements, until the race culminates in Nelson's Dockyard English Harbour, Antigua, in, well, hopefully, less than 37 days after it started.

Not that Cameron's team (called the 'A-Adventures' because all three members' first names are Andrew, Styles and Sacker being the others) expects to win the race overall. "Frankly we'll be happy just to complete the race in one piece," he says without a hint of nervousness in his voice. "None of us have ever rowed competitively before, so even though we have done plenty of research and spoken extensively to other competitors, we're still expecting a pretty steep learning curve."

The teams aren't allowed any outside assistance throughout the race and each have to carry enough food, cooking gas, medical supplies, and safety equipment to last the entire crossing. And it probably goes without saying that the boats can only be propelled by the rowing effort of the crew and the natural action of the wind, waves and currents acting on it.

*Once the teams leave the safety of San Sebastian harbour in La Gomera, they'll be completely on their own, at the mercy of the elements*

When I naturally enquire as to how they are going to carry enough water to last what I would imagine will be something of a thirsty journey, Cameron enthusiastically points to the boat's three small solar panels and explains how they power an on-board desalination unit. "Without one of these, which literally forces water through a fine mesh to remove the salt, we probably wouldn't be able to make the trip without assistance. The amount of water we would have to carry would be completely prohibitive," he adds with a glint in his eye that suggests he's going to enjoy answering the inevitable 'elephant in the room' next question about toilet facilities. Which, it turns out, involves a fair bit of hanging over the side of the boat and a good understanding of which way the wind is blowing.

Race rules also determine the size of the boats, which are approximately 7.5 meters long and 1.8 meters wide, meaning that competitors aren't able to walk about freely on board. Constructed from a combination of wood, fibre-glass, carbon fibre and Kevlar, the boats also have to be able to 'self-right' in the event of capsizing in bad weather and each is fitted with at least one small cabin to provide a degree of protection against the sun and a place for the crew members to take turns sleeping.

"We haven't quite settled on our shift pattern yet," says Cameron. "But most of the endurance and survival experts I've spoken to recommend sleeping in four hour shifts. I'm sure we'll work that out though once we get going."

The design of the boats and the equipment that they carry has come a long way since the first Atlantic crossing in 1966. Nowadays all boats are fitted with tracking beacons that signal their location, and an automatic identification system (AIS) which lets the crews communicate with passing vessels. The A-Challenge team also has a chart plotter which is linked to their auto-helm and a hand held GPS device. "After that," says Cameron, "we have old-fashioned charts, maps and compasses. And if all that fails, the stars and the sun!"

As a parting shot, and with no malice intended, I confess to Cameron that one of the reasons I would never be able to make the journey (quite apart from my shockingly low reserves of physical and mental fortitude) would be the thought of one day waking up to the sight of a shiver of circling sharks.

"To be perfectly honest," he replies with that now familiar poco loco

glint flickering just below the surface of his grin, "My greatest fear on this trip is boredom. Day in day out just rowing and sleeping, rowing and sleeping. A shark or two would break that up quite nicely. And besides, I'm told they taste great with a dash of olive oil."

And do you know what, call me a cowardly old landlubber, but I'm not entirely sure he was joking.

*For more information about the race and the A-Adventures team:*

[www.taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.com](http://www.taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.com)

[www.A-Adventures.co.uk](http://www.A-Adventures.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/TeamAAdventures](https://www.facebook.com/TeamAAdventures)

*Team A-Adventure's main charities:*

[bowelcanceruk.org.uk](http://bowelcanceruk.org.uk)

[barnardos.org.uk](http://barnardos.org.uk)

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# ZAHA HADID

*Honouring the life and works of one of the greatest architects of our time.*

In commemoration of the late Zaha Hadid's life and career in architecture and design, the glassmaking Berengo Foundation (Fondazione Berengo) are showing a retrospective exhibition that reveals the richness and depth of the Iraqi-born Pritzker Prize winning architect's groundbreaking career that spans four decades.

The exhibition, on display at the sumptuous 16th century Palazzo Franchetti, Venice Architecture Biennale coincides with the 15th Venice architecture biennale. It will showcase the radical research that defines Zaha Hadid Architects' work with an extensive collection of Hadid's influential paintings, drawings, models, photos and videos of past and future

projects on display – all works of art in their own right - as well as projects and designs that are built, under construction, in development or as yet unrealised.

This year, March 31, marked the untimely death of one of the greatest architects of our generation and undoubtedly the most successful female architect of all time. Zaha Hadid changed the face of architecture and carved a name for women in what is predominantly a male-dominated industry.

At the time of her death she and her practice, Zaha Hadid Architects, in London's Bowling Green Lane, were working on more than 36 projects in 21 different countries around

©Luke Hayes



*This year, March 31, marked the untimely death of one of the greatest architects of our generation and undoubtedly the most successful female architect of all time.*

Born Zaha Mohammad Hadid in October 1950 in Bagdad, Iraq, to an upper middle-class political family, Hadid's father was an affluent industrialist and her mother an artist. Her father co-founded the left-liberal al-Ahali group in 1932 and the National Democratic Party of Iraq. She studied mathematics at the American University of Beirut, before moving to London in 1972 to study

at the avant-garde Architectural Association (AA) School. She went on to create her own architectural firm, Zaha Hadid Architects in 1979 and they completed their first building, the Vitra Fire Station, Germany in 1993.

Hadid's work is pure theatre. It is eccentric, undulating, fluid

and innovative, exploring the link between architecture, urbanism, landscape and geology. The exhibition dedicates significant space to three of Zaha Hadid Architects pivotal works, the Vitra Fire Station (completed in 1993) in Weil am Rhein, Germany, the Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art in Cincinnati (completed in 2003), for which Zaha Hadid was awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2004 and the MAXXI Museum of 21st Century Arts in Rome (completed in 2009), which marked the period during which computer-aided design was integrated into the wide ranging experimentation and advancements of Zaha Hadid Architects.

On this subject, Zaha Hadid said, "the developments that computing has brought to architecture are incredible, enabling an intensification

of relationships and greater precision – both internally within the buildings as well as externally with their context. It took me twenty years to convince people

the world. Zaha Hadid was the first woman and first Muslim to be awarded the prestigious Pritzker Architecture award in 2004, followed by the Sterling Prize in 2010 and 2011. She was also named the 41st Veve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year in 2013 and placed in Forbes "100 Most Powerful Women" list in 2008.



©Luke Hayes

of relationships and greater precision – both internally within the buildings as well as externally with their context. It took me twenty years to convince people

The exhibition also pays tribute to some of her unrealised work including the beautiful Peak Club, Hong Kong (1982-83), the Victoria City Aerial for Berlin (1988) and

project: "We won the competition, then they discarded the result and we had to repeat the competition, which we won again. But then they cancelled the project's funding. It

*Hadid's work is pure theatre. It is eccentric, undulating, fluid and innovative, exploring the link between architecture, urbanism, landscape and geology.*

to do everything in 3D, with an army of people trying to draw the most difficult perspectives, and now everyone works in 3D on the computer – but they think a plan is a horizontal section, but it's not. The plan really needs organisation via a diagram".

the controversial Cardiff Bay Opera House (1994-1995), the commission she won in open competition, but later had taken away by government authorities.

Zaha Hadid had previously spoken about the Cardiff Bay Opera House

devastated us, and I had to pick up the pieces! Actually in that period in '95 to the late nineties, we did one competition after the other – and we didn't win any. Perhaps there was a stigma against us – but they were all great designs; powerful projects and interesting in their



©Luke Hayes

complexity. They were all very tough and soft at the same time – elegant and resolved in terms of planning. Maybe now I would do them differently, but these unrealised projects were at the beginning of our research into that kind of work – and therefore, very important in the development of our repertoire which led to the remarkable projects we build today.”

A room will also be dedicated to her furniture, jewellery and footwear designs and the exhibition will also feature photography by Hélène Binet of Hadid’s work.

Adriano Berengo, president of Fondazione Berengo, for whom Hadid designed a collection of sculptures, said, “Visitors to the exhibition will have a greater understanding of Zaha Hadid’s pioneering vision that redefined architecture and design for the 21st century and captured imaginations across the globe.”

In a 2011 conversation with Hans Ulrich Obrist, co-director of the Serpentine Galleries, Zaha Hadid said, “I know from my experience that without research and experimentation not much can be discovered. With experimentation,

you think you’re going to find out one thing, but you actually discover something else. That’s what I think is really exciting. You discover much more than you bargain for. I think there should be no end to experimentation.”

*Zaha Hadid exhibition  
Palazzo Franchetti Venice, Italy  
27 May – 27 November 2016*



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# UNCORKING NEW TRENDS

*Who else to watch out for in the wine industry*



*Scenic landscape in Helan mountains, Ningxia province, China*

*Think “wine” and those classic regions come to mind such as Bordeaux, Burgundy, La Rioja and Tuscany. Or perhaps your mind makes a swing towards those “new world wines” - although now already established regions - including Napa Valley, South Africa’s Stellenbosch or Australia’s Borossa Valley. But it is a big world out there with plenty of terrain to cultivate, plenty of wine to be sampled and slowly but surely some intriguing old and new players in the wine industry are beginning to emerge. Some producers who are new on the scene and others that have been cultivating wine for several millennia - you just didn’t meet them yet. From the sweeping plains of the Gobi Desert to the lush verdant valleys of Lebanon, we take a look at the ones that are causing ripples in the world of wine.*

## **Ningxia, China**

China has a long history of wine making, particularly in the Shandong province, where its roots stretch back to the 19th century Qing dynasty. While Shandong is certainly the largest producer of wine, the fast rising star is the internationally acclaimed wine produced in the unlikely arid

desert province of Ningxia. Also known as China’s “Napa Valley”, the autonomous region is located 800km west of Beijing on the edge of Inner Mongolia and bordering the vast Gobi Desert. Its mixture of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir grapes bask in just the right combination of sunlight and warmth, and the Yellow River running through it provides ample

irrigation to the land. The area has also attracted big time investors such as LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy). Passionate Chinese wine producers learn their craft in the wine-rich regions of France such as Bordeaux and bring it back to China to apply their knowledge and technique.

**Bekaa Valley, Lebanon**

Lebanon is one of the oldest producers of wine in the world, dating back around 5000 years when the Phoenicians made and traded wine across Europe. Despite this longstanding history, Lebanese wines have taken their time to make it onto the mainstream map. The fertile Bekaa Valley provides just the right conditions for vines to grow, at an altitude of about 1000 metres above sea level. The vines experience a Mediterranean climate of dry summers, cool nights and sufficient rainfall. Many popular French grapes are cultivated

Romania. Resting on the same latitude as Bordeaux it boasts ideal conditions for wine production. Even the country itself is shaped like a bunch of grapes, so what else could it really have as its main industry? The rich land hosts around one hundred and forty wineries and there are one hundred and twelve thousand hectares of vines planted with over thirty different grape varieties. Indigenous and international varieties are cultivated and traditional blending methods employed to produce a diverse range of sparkling wines, reds and whites. It is also home to the world's largest wine cellar

that England and Wales' damp, cool conditions, coupled with the now warmer summers (thanks to climate changes) have created the ideal conditions for enabling grapes such as chardonnay and pinot noir to grow. Britain's sparkling wine has even gone on to scoop various prestigious international awards and recently has regularly beaten Champagne in blind tastings.

**Sicily**

Sicily has always been a popular holiday destination, but its wine production has remained under the radar for more than five millennia.

*The rich land hosts around one hundred and forty wineries and there are one hundred and twelve thousand hectares of vines planted with over thirty different grape varieties.*

here including elegant blends using Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Grenache, Merlot and Carignan as well as light and floral whites using Sauvignon Blancs and Muscats. Native grapes such as Merwah and Obaideh make rich and full bodied reds, with Chateau Musar being the stand out wine producer of the region – a must taste.

**Moldova**

Famous for its wine producing through the centuries (you just don't know it yet), generations of winemakers have handcrafted wine on the fertile land of this tiny vineyard-dense country sandwiched between Ukraine and

(according to the Guinness Book of Records), Milestii Mici, which houses more than two million bottles within an underground lair of limestone galleries that stretch for hundreds of kilometers. A wine connoisseur's dream.

**Britain**

Britain, land of the pie, the pint and the packet of crisps, now has a flourishing wine industry, producing some fine sparkling and white wines that are even giving some French wines a run for their money. There are around five hundred vineyards in England and Wales covering upwards of four thousand five hundred acres, and it turns out

That is all starting to change of late with a new generation of wine producers that have moved away from the former uninspiring mass produced wine Sicily was unfortunately known for in the past, to focus more on indigenous grapevines that depict the island's unique terrain, blessed with year round sunshine and moderate rainfall. The fact that the land is so diverse means that the wines all have a distinct quality and note. The most interesting wine producing areas can be found in Vittoria, Noto, Faro and the fertile volcanic slopes of Mount Etna.

**Tasmania**

The foundations of Tasmania's wine making lay in the dust during the 19th century after several attempts to cultivate successful grapevines. Overshadowed by Australia's Barossa Valley, this little known island and most southerly state of

Australia has enjoyed significant investment of late, which has helped to put Tasmania back on the map, its cool climate allowing the perfect conditions for the grapes to develop slowly. Its diverse terrain dominated by Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Riesling undeniably make some of the best sparkling wines outside of

Champagne itself, and its beautiful landscape makes it a pleasure for those indulging in some wine tourism.



Vineyard in Kent

*Britain's sparkling wine has even gone on to scoop various prestigious international awards and recently has regularly beaten Champagne in blind tastings.*



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# The Future of Flying

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For frequent jet-setters, the time it takes to arrive at your destination is paramount, but while technology has moved forward in leaps and bounds over the last few decades, air travel has remained somewhat staid. However, those travellers longing for the golden age of supersonic travel to return (not achieved since the Concorde) will now be rubbing their hands together in gleeful anticipation.

While there are rumours that the Concorde will finally make a come back, if it does, it will find itself up against some stiff competition. For a long time, the technology to produce anything on a similar scale but more efficiently had not existed, but all that is about to change with the introduction of a new generation of smaller, more efficient supersonic aircraft that is currently in development.

seat price tag that ran upwards of \$9,000.

Leading supersonic-jet maker Aerion is at the head of the pack with its next generation Aerion AS2 Supersonic Jet, which will be able to take up to twelve passengers within a thirty-foot-long cabin. Speeds will reach a high of Mach 1.5 (faster than the speed of sound), shaving three hours off transatlantic travel and upwards

*Speeds will reach a high of Mach 1.5 (faster than the speed of sound), shaving three hours off trans-Atlantic travel and upwards of six hours from trans-Pacific routes.*

Supersonic air travel is the name given to aircraft that can travel at the speed of sound, reaching speeds of 1,225km/h (speed of sound) which is also known as the Mach number. Commercial airliners generally fly at subsonic speeds of less than 980km/h.

One of Concorde's impediments (or indeed any kind of transport on a supersonic level) is the sonic boom when it crosses the sound barrier, meaning that this kind of travel is restricted to mainly transatlantic flights. Other issues include hefty maintenance and fuel costs, and in the case of the Concorde, a

of six hours from trans-Pacific routes. To give a laymen's idea of its speed, it is anticipated to cut down a trip between LA and Sydney to under ten hours or fly from Tokyo to San Francisco in just seven hours. Travelling at this speed will make the world seem like a much smaller place, easing the pressure

on frequent business flyers to save time, and enabling them to replace those precious hours lost in transit on more important activities, such as spending time with family or loved ones.

supersonic speeds over the US as well as internationally. In any case, the AS2 will be able to fly at supersonic speeds above the ocean, and subsonic over land (at Mach 0.95).

capabilities as on current ultra-long-range jets, and larger windows will enable optimum viewing.

Priced at \$120,000, the AS2 is forecast to take its first flight in 2021 and enter service in 2023. Flexjet are the first to have commissioned a fleet, making it the first jet operator to offer commercial supersonic jet travel since the Concorde.

Aerion is confident that a "boomless cruise" is feasible in certain atmospheric conditions, which would allow it to reach a supersonic speed of up to Mach 1.2 above land. At this speed, the shock waves that would normally cause a sound should all but dissipate before reaching the ground, thus avoiding that earth shattering sonic boom on the ground.

Once on board, travellers can expect plenty of plush amenities with a lavish interior fitted with all mod cons. There will be plenty of space to stretch out and relax on custom designed seats, with the same recline, swivel, track and berthing

Although current regulations don't allow planes to travel at supersonic speeds above land, if successful with attaining the boomless cruise, Aerion predicts that at some point in the future, AS2 may be permitted to fly at





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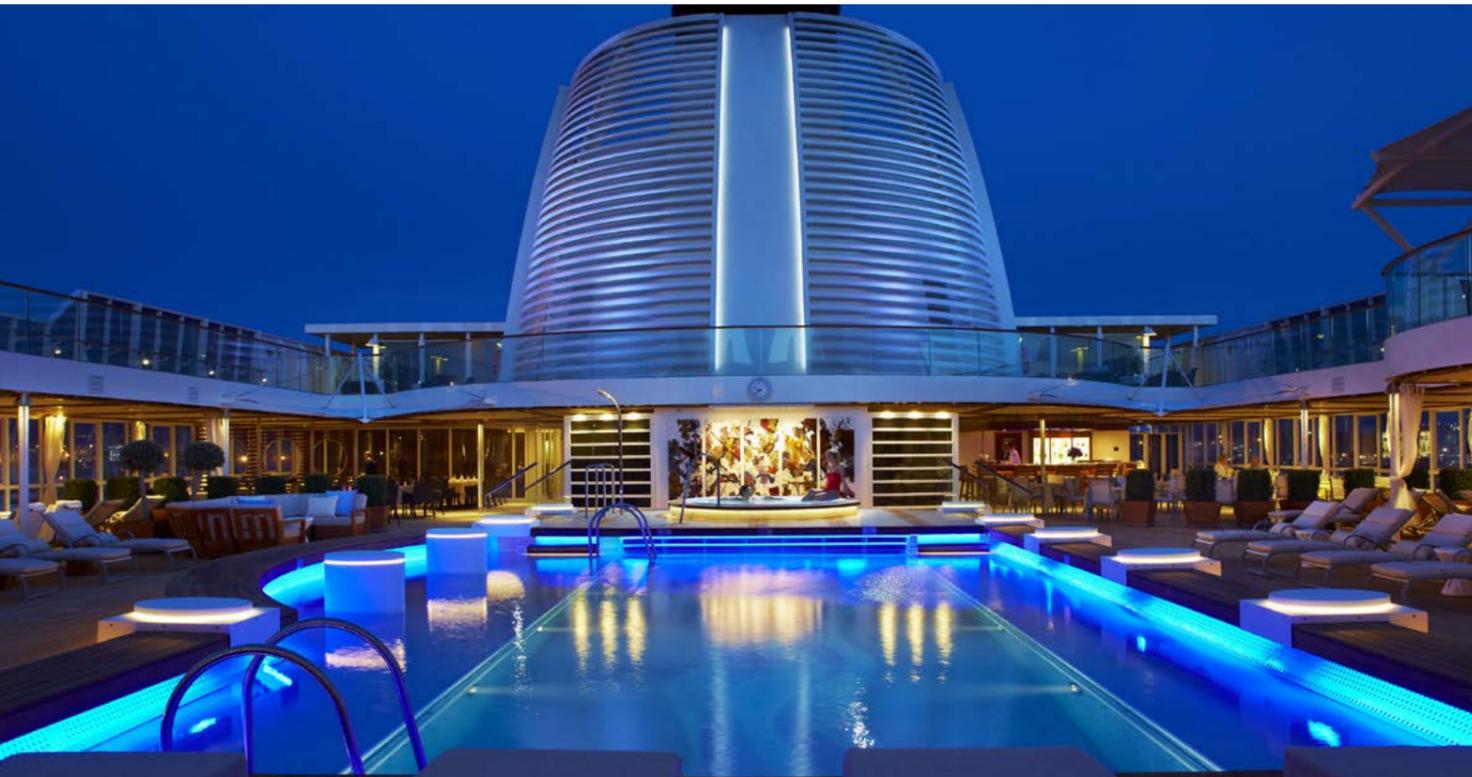
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*The ship is effectively a floating city, equipped with high-end facilities and luxurious amenities that create an intimate, refined atmosphere for its resident owners.*

The ship is effectively a floating city, equipped with high-end facilities and luxurious amenities that create an intimate, refined atmosphere for its resident owners. A lifestyle aboard The World allows residents to explore the planet's most breathtaking and exotic scenery and well-known destinations, alongside like-minded adventure seekers, all

and enriching cultural events – all designed to 'bring the destination alive'. This unique lifestyle fosters a warm and welcoming atmosphere, a sense of community, and the formation of lasting friendships.

The World's captains and residents collectively determine the ship's yearly itinerary based on the best sea routes and residents' personal

time to explore their favourite destinations.

Unlike most vessels, The World spends nearly twice as many days in port as at sea. Every few days, residents wake up to look outside their window at a new and exciting port of call.



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*By the end of 2016, the ship will have sailed approximately 39,000 nautical miles, visiting more than 100 ports of call in over 40 countries.*

By the end of 2016, the ship will have sailed approximately 39,000 nautical miles, visiting more than 100 ports of call in over 40 countries. Starting the year with a once-in-a-lifetime expedition to Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands, The World guided residents through the most exclusive expeditions on earth. The adventure-seekers followed in the wake of legendary polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton to discover century-old icebergs, glaciers and an abundant wildlife including whales, seals, and penguins. This was followed by a journey up the east coast of South America and an extensive visit to the beaches and cities of Brazil beginning with a festive stay in Rio de Janeiro during Carnival season.

The World spent the spring and summer months in 16 European countries – exploring everything from the wine chateaux of France to the castles of Denmark and the glorious cliffs of the Mediterranean. The remainder of the year's itinerary included a passage through the Suez Canal to destinations in the Middle East, India, Maldives and Malaysia before a 12-day expedition in the highly tropical island of Borneo,

home of one of the planet's oldest rainforests. The year will end with a call to Western Australia and a New Year's Eve fireworks celebration over Sydney harbour.

The vision behind The World was to create a way in which travellers never had to disembark. They could sail for as long as they wished from the comfort of their own private residence. As such, in 1997 a team of experienced professionals was gathered and began working on the first vessel on which people could travel the globe without leaving home. Construction of the vessel began in May 2000 in Rissa, Norway and in March 2002 the vision was realized when The World set sail from Oslo with its inaugural residents on board.

Her maiden global voyage departed from Lisbon, Portugal on 2 May 2002 and on 17 May 2002 she was christened in Venice, Italy. On 30 September 2003 the residents purchased the ship, and by June 2006, the original inventory of residences was sold out.

The World is the first ship of its size burning marine diesel oil rather than heavy bunker fuel, making for a

much more environmentally friendly ship and allowing The World to visit areas where ships burning heavy fuel are banned. The World is also the first ship to feature the unique Scanship wastewater cleaning system in which wastes are filtered by means of a flotation system.

There are 165 residences aboard The World ranging from studios to expansive three-bedroom apartments and a palatial six-bedroom penthouse suite, which boasts accommodation for up to 12 people. All of the homes have been sold although there are a select number of residences available for resale. Annual ownership costs are additional and are based on the square footage of the apartments. The spacious residences include 106 two- and three-bedroom apartments, 19 one- and two-bedroom studio apartments, and 40 studios. Interiors of the two- and three-bedroom residences are customised based on residents' individual tastes and feature everything from contemporary to transitional to traditional decor.

For those seeking an active and healthy lifestyle, The World features a 7,000-sq.-ft. Health and Wellness



*There are 165 residences aboard The World ranging from studios to expansive three-bedroom apartments and a palatial six-bedroom penthouse suite, which boasts accommodation for up to 12 people.*



Centre along with two swimming pools, a full-size tennis court, a paddle tennis court, cricket, golf facilities with a golf simulator, driving ranges and putting greens, a jogging track and a retractable marina for water sports.

From an epicurean perspective, extraordinary skill and culinary mastery delight diners' palettes with international creations often using locally sourced produce and specialty ingredients to enhance the cultural

experience. Restaurants offer light options and cater to special requests including kosher, vegetarian and diabetic diets.

Aside from its four world class restaurants and various other smaller dining options, The World also offers its "Call-a-Chef" program, offering a private chef service within a residence – a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a special occasion with a personalised dinner party. Followed

perhaps by a dessert or relaxing nightcap under the stars on one of the ship's private Bali beds on Deck 12.

To learn more about this unique lifestyle call 954-538-8449 or visit [www.aboardtheworld.com](http://www.aboardtheworld.com)

**FACT BOX:**

*Tonnage: 43,524 gross tons*

*Length: 644.2 ft. (196.35 m)*

*Beam: 97.8 ft. (29.8 m)*

*Draft: 22 ft. (6.7 m)*

*Decks: 12*

*Maximum speed: 18.5 knots*

*Ownership: Privately owned by Residents of The World – 142 families from 19 countries – North America (49%), various European countries (36%), and Asia, Australia and South Africa (15%).*

*Occupancy: Average occupancy is 150-200 residents & guests which provides an intimate atmosphere.*

*Average Stay: Residents travel for as long as they desire, spending an average of three to four months on board every year.*

*Crew: An international complement of long-standing crew, including approximately 280 experienced staff from 40 countries.*

# AVAKIAN

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A wide-angle photograph of a tropical beach villa. In the foreground, a large infinity pool with clear blue water extends towards the horizon. The pool is bordered by a dark wooden deck. In the middle ground, a stone wall with several dark posts and a thin rope railing separates the pool from the ocean. The ocean is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a deeper blue at the horizon. The sky is a bright, clear blue with scattered white clouds. On the left side, there are palm trees and a dark wooden structure. On the right side, there is a small tree with white flowers. The overall scene is serene and luxurious.

# BLISSFUL SEDUCTION

*The most seductive private beach villa on the island of Mauritius, The St. Regis Villa is so much more than just an ideal tropical getaway. It's a home away from home in which everything is possible.*

# Villas in Paradise

The St. Regis Villa is situated in Mauritius' most coveted location, reclining on the white sandy shores of the south westerly tip of the island, against the majestic backdrop of Le Morne Mountain, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built at the extreme end of The St. Regis Mauritius Resort, and with its own private access, the Villa is only steps away from the beach. Facing the world famous One Eye kite surfing spot, The St. Regis Villa offers exceptional views of the turquoise lagoon and breathtaking sunsets.



Throughout its storied history, St. Regis Hotels and Resorts has welcomed royalty and travelling connoisseurs alike, seducing them with an unfolding series of delightful moments that can only be found at St. Regis.

attention, guests indulge in unmatched luxury and custom-tailored experiences, the famed hallmarks of St. Regis.

Featuring four exquisitely appointed bedrooms, all with their own spacious ocean-facing terrace, the

and direct access to a 143-metre beach front. The Villa's spacious volumes are further enhanced by an inside-outside design concept with the facades sliding away to reveal ocean views stretching as far as the eye can see. Two twin-bedded bedrooms with two bathrooms are

*Throughout its storied history, St. Regis Hotels and Resorts has welcomed royalty and travelling connoisseurs alike, seducing them with an unfolding series of delightful moments that can only be found at St. Regis.*

The St. Regis legacy of bespoke service chimes perfectly with the innate Mauritian sense of hospitality. Pampered with unobtrusive

Villa's private entrance leads into a spectacular and elegantly furnished living accommodation, including dining areas, lounges, an office

available in the service area of the Villa for members of the guest's travel entourage.

*Le Morne Peninsula is simply paradise found for the world's elite kite surfing aficionados.*

With a professionally equipped kitchen and a chef at your service 24/7, dining options are limitless. Whether for a family indoor dinner or a romantic poolside tête-à-tête, experience a rare culinary voyage. The Villa is provided with a private dining room and large family dining table that seats up to twelve people. The St. Regis Villa guests can also choose from the five distinct gastronomic experiences of The St. Regis Mauritius Resort or the Resort's extensive In-room Dining Menu. Equipped with its very own private bar with wine, the Villa guests will have an ample variety of

cocktails and wine to choose from.

The famed 5-star Iridium Spa facilities of The St. Regis Mauritius Resort are within walking distance, enticing guests into tailored, transformative experiences with an eclectic range of rituals and treatments.

With direct access to One Eye, a world-class kite surfing arena, and the private gym at The St. Regis Villa, guests can keep fit during their stay. Besides being one of the island's most seductive addresses for watersports, Le Morne Peninsula

is simply paradise found for the world's elite kite surfing aficionados. Expert riders may venture out to the 'One Eye' world famous wave whereas independent kite surfers will enjoy the smaller waves' spots and the wide turquoise lagoon. First-class kite surfing services are provided by ION Club. Kite Surf instructors make the transition from guestroom to kite surfing spots seamless.

*For more information, please visit [www.stregisvillamauritius.com](http://www.stregisvillamauritius.com)*



#### THE FACILITIES

*Private and guarded entrance and car park area.*

*1,659m2 of private villa facilities.*

*143 meters of beachfront with direct access.*

*Dedicated service team of Villa Manager, St. Regis Butlers, Housekeeping attendants and a private kitchen chef.*

*Infinity pool with jet streams and kid's area.*

*Three plunge pools, private gym and steam room.*

*Office room with writing desk, computer and lounge area, print and fax facilities.*

*Formal lounge room with unspoiled ocean views.*

*Informal lounge with board games, 52" LED television, Nintendo Wii, a Sony Play Station and an iPod/Multimedia docking panel.*

*High speed WIFI throughout the villa.*

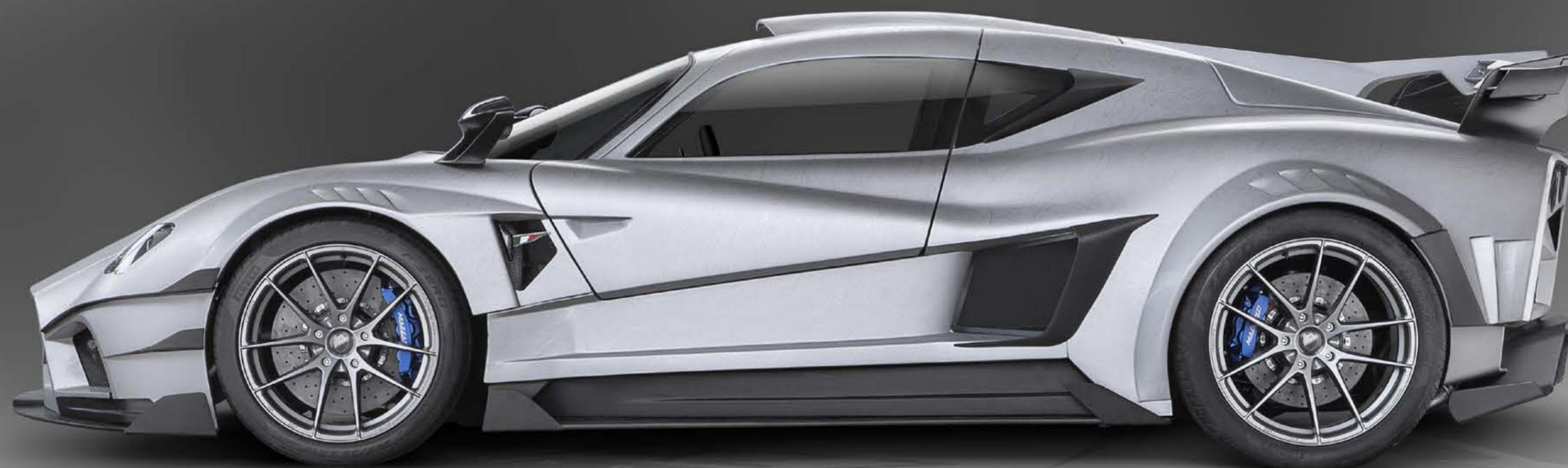
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## Featured Photographer

# Dean West

*A wide range of environments and character types are explored in the works of New York City-based Dean West. The Australian-born (1983) artist who studied at the Queensland College of Art, is best known for his intricate and highly staged photographs that take everyday occurrences beyond the realm of natural reality. Extraordinary in their tonal range, digital clarity and artistic vision, West's meticulously choreographed scenes, character studies and atmospheric landscapes powerfully yet synthetically link needs to desires and documentation to invention.*

Passionately dedicated to the vast possibilities of digital photography as both a medium and a cultural epoch, West's narratives draw inspiration from the total diversity offered by the visual arts. While the tableau photography of Stan Douglas and Jeff Wall inform West's understanding of photography as a form of contemporary communication, the paintings of David Hockney and Edward Hopper provide evident aesthetic direction. The fictional world of cinema and the functional language of advertising have also clearly left their mark and taught lessons of their own. International brands have embraced West's vision through partnerships and important clients such as Disney, MTV, Bombay Sapphire, and Fox Sports. Recognised as one of Saatchi & Saatchi's "Top 100 Emerging Photographers" in 2008, West has also been honoured with "Advertising Photographer of the Year" at the International Loupe Awards (2008) and the prestigious "Arte Laguna Prize" in Venice, Italy (2009). International art curators have taken notice of the accomplished skill West applies to both his digital photography technique and the complex, cerebral narratives offered in his images. His works have been exhibited at important institutions around the world including the Columbus Museum of Art (2012), Faneuil Hall Museum of Boston (2015), the Paris Expo Porte De Versailles (2015), Puls 5 Gallery in Zürich, and the Discovery Times Square Museum in New York City (2014). Hailed as one of the most promising artists of his generation and identified as one of the most accomplished practitioners of digital image making as an art form, West has been honoured by acquisitions of his work by some of the most prestigious collections of contemporary art, including that of Sir Elton John.



Orient point ferry



February 25th 2016





Featured Artist



Mark Eldred



Cork City Reflections

Mark Eldred was born in Hong Kong in 1964. His childhood was spent in rural Norfolk, England.

After leaving school he went to Goldsmiths Art College in London and in 1985 received his Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in fine art for landscape and portrait painting. He then left England and travelled for four years through Asia, Australia and New Zealand, gaining much inspiration from living in the rainforests and wilderness areas of these countries.

On returning to England, using a motor caravan as his base, Mark travelled throughout Norfolk painting and sketching the tranquil landscapes of this area, working towards a solo exhibition in Norwich and a group show in London.

Mark then came to Ireland for a holiday in 1992, he was so inspired by the unspoilt natural beauty of the landscape that he decided to make it his home. He now lives in Glenflesk near Killarney, Co Kerry, with his wife Jean and their two children.

He has spent the last twenty-five years passionately painting the Kerry landscape and is continually inspired by the richness and diversity of his environs. His paintings reflect this diversity ranging from boulder streams, waterfalls, forests, cloudscapes, bogs, seascapes, mountain ranges and lakes.

“There are still areas of wilderness in Ireland and I feel very fortunate to be able to live here. My recent paintings are inspired by the seasons as they are happening in the

landscape. This change between winter, spring, summer and autumn, with all the differences in colours, textures, smells and moods is a constant source of inspiration for my work”

*For more details: [www.glenfleskartgallery.com](http://www.glenfleskartgallery.com)*



Autumn Reflections Muckross



Sea Spray at Loop Head Lighthouse



Sea Spray at Loop Head Lighthouse



# MEMORABLE AMARTERRA VILLAS BALI NUSA DUA



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