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IT'S ABOUT LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST

SINGAPORE EDITION



TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

in Preventive Care in the New Era

EDITOR'S NOTE

by Debbie Tan

In this special Legacy Issue of *Millionaireasia*, we celebrate the art of crafting enduring legacies, spotlighting the remarkable individuals and enterprises that seamlessly blend tradition and innovation to shape a better tomorrow.

Our cover story delves into the pursuit of longevity through Traditional Chinese Medicine, focusing on preventive care and overall well-being in this new era. In the realm of luxury travel, Priyanka Elhence takes us aboard the legendary *Amerigo Vespucci*, an Italian naval vessel steeped in history, while also capturing the timeless elegance of Le Bristol Paris, a beacon of heritage and hospitality.

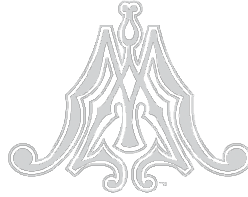
The arts take center stage with an exclusive look at *ART SG 2025*, as Y-Jean brings us intimate stories of creators like Jiang Qiong Er and the Guerlain Family, who bridge culture and contemporary design. In the realm of horology, Rohan Jacob delves into the intricate craftsmanship of Pascal Raffy's horological masterpieces, exemplifying the enduring allure of bespoke watchmaking.

For epicureans, Taste Atelier offers a sumptuous exploration of global cuisine, while Sabrina Downing's narratives weave together the flavors and stories behind *Dowling Giudici's* culinary innovations. This issue also dives into sustainable luxury with *Sunreef Yachts*, as Toh Mu Qin showcases how opulence can harmoniously coexist with environmental responsibility.

Further, Christina Yip explores the dual themes of philanthropy and legacy in her feature on *Legacy Estates*, shedding light on how wealth can be a powerful tool for societal good. Lastly, Dionne Bel takes us on a wellness journey, presenting transformative practices that align personal health with global sustainability.

Through these diverse features, we at *Millionaireasia* invite you to reflect on the legacies we inherit and those we create. From culture to innovation, luxury to altruism, each story in this issue is a testament to the profound impact of purposeful living.

We hope you find inspiration within these pages to celebrate your unique legacy.



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Printed in Singapore by Asiawide Print Holdings Pte Ltd

Millionaireasia is trademarked in 18 territories including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, Philippines, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and UK.

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PROTECTION AGAINST DEMENTIA

Through Lengthening Telomeres
with Youthlocked Consumption

Dementia

Dementia refers to symptoms associated with a decline in memory, reasoning, or other thinking skills. Many different types of dementia exist and are caused by various conditions. Mixed dementia is a condition in which brain changes from more than one type of dementia occur simultaneously. The most common cause of dementia is Alzheimer's disease, accounting for 60-80% of dementia cases.

Dementia is caused by damage to brain cells that impairs their ability to communicate, which can affect thinking, behavior, and feelings.

Alzheimer's is caused by complex brain changes following cell damage, leading to dementia symptoms that gradually worsen over time. The early symptom of Alzheimer's is difficulty remembering new information because the disease first impacts the part of the brain associated with learning.

As Alzheimer's advances, symptoms include disorientation, confusion, and behaviour changes. Eventually, speaking, swallowing, and walking become difficult.

Telomeres

Telomeres are sections of DNA found at the ends of each of our chromosomes. They consist of the same sequence of TTAGGG bases repeated about 3,000 times and can reach up to 15,000 base pairs in length.

Telomeres serve three major purposes: they help organise each of our 46 chromosomes in the nucleus of our cells, protect the ends of our chromosomes by forming a cap to prevent fraying and sticking to other chromosomes, and allow proper chromosome replication during cell division. Every time a cell carries out DNA replication, the chromosomes are

shortened by about 25-200 bases per replication. Without telomeres, important DNA would be lost every time a cell divides and would eventually lead to the loss of entire genes. Progressive shortening of telomeres leads to senescence, apoptosis, or oncogenic transformation of somatic cells, affecting the health and lifespan of an individual. Shorter telomeres have been associated with increased incidence of diseases and poor survival.

A new large study using MRI found that brain degeneration and a higher risk of dementia were associated with shorter telomere length, suggesting that longer telomere length could protect against dementia.

Youthlocked

Youthlocked is a dietary supplement consisting of black sesame seeds, guava fruit, mangosteen aril, pennywort leaves, and soy protein. These edible plants contain multiple high-potential bioactive compounds exerting various vital biological functions, including antioxidants that contribute to delaying the rate of telomere shortening. In a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of 32 adults aged between 50 to 65 years old, Youthlocked demonstrated a significant increase in mean telomere length of 342 base pairs over an 8-week supplementation period. Additionally, the volunteers exhibited a significant improvement in plasma total antioxidant capacity levels compared to the placebo group (mean change, +35 vs -38; $p = 0.006$). This study also showed a significant correlation between telomere length and % CD4 + T cells ($r = +0.325$; $p = 0.00003$), % CD8 + T cells ($r = +0.156$; $p = 0.048$), and visceral fat ($r = -0.349$; $p = 0.000006$). The findings suggest that consuming Youthlocked for 8 weeks has a positive effect on cellular ageing, including dementia protection, by lengthening telomeres.



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SG69 | 2024

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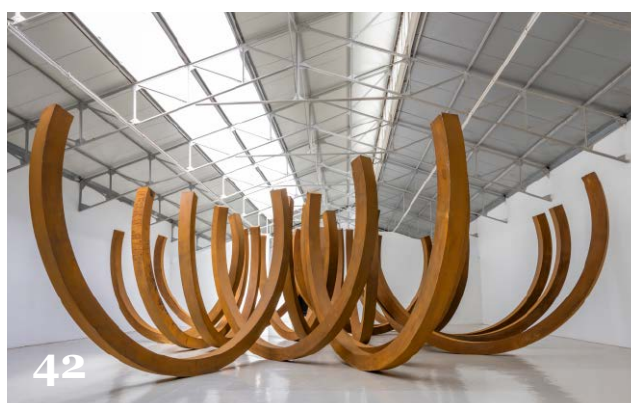
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Art SG

Hailed by many as the beginning of a new chapter for the art scene in Singapore and Southeast Asia, the highly anticipated third edition of ART SG will feature an outstanding line-up of the world's leading galleries, showcasing the best in contemporary art practice from across Asia and around the world.

As Southeast Asia's leading international art fair, ART SG 2025 will spotlight exceptional contemporary art through three distinct gallery sectors – GALLERIES, FOCUS, and FUTURES – alongside dynamic large-scale installations, thought-provoking talks, and a film programme in collaboration with Singapore's ArtScience Museum.

Presented by Founding and Lead Partner UBS, ART SG will return to Marina Bay Sands from 17 to 19 January 2025, co-timed with Singapore Art Week (17 - 26 January 2025) – the city's annual celebration of the visual arts.

Get ready to discover and purchase art from the world's top galleries, showcasing the finest contemporary art.. 🏛️







ART SG
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Wee Keng Koon
Principal physician
Zhongjing TCM Institution



Traditional Chinese Medicine

in Preventive Care in the New Era



Wee believes that wellness practices should extend beyond clinical settings, with Chinese medicine playing a key role due to its preventive and restorative focus.

Wee Keng Koon is an experienced traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioner with extensive clinical experience in Singapore. With a master's degree in Chinese medicine from Anhui University of Chinese Medicine, he is the principal physician at Zhongjing TCM Institution and a senior consultant physician at its affiliated clinic. Wee is also a registered practitioner with Ministry of Health (Singapore), and serves as vice president of several international committees in the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies, focusing on health tourism, pharmacy automation, epidemic management, and medical alliances.

Now in his sixties, Wee has a sprightly, cheerful and energetic disposition, committed to the lifelong study of Chinese medicine and promoting cross-disciplinary integration. In his practice, he combines classical Chinese medicine theories and formulas with the "Three Germinal Layers and Six Meridian Channels" diagnostic system to address a range of illnesses, including cancer and diabetes. His open-minded approach blends modern medical knowledge, artificial intelligence and TCM wellness practices.



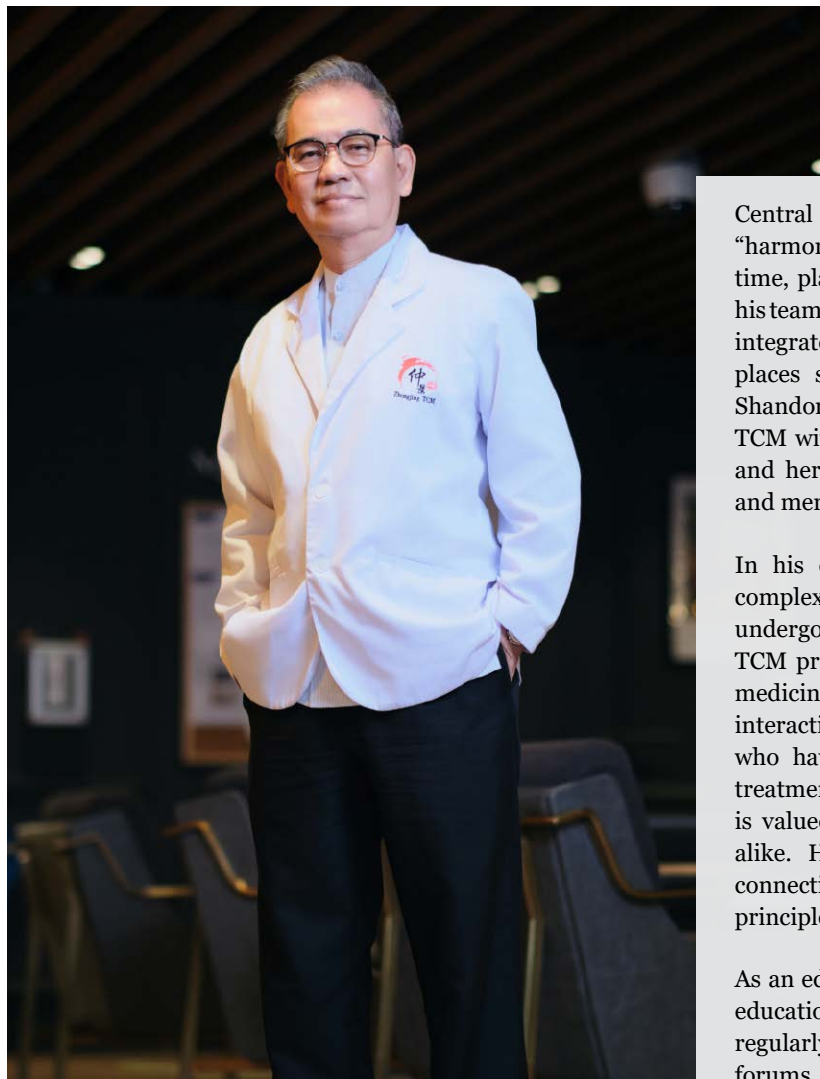
Front Row seated Left to right: Dr Wong Li Ling, Mdm Tay Ai Choo, Mr Teo Tat Khai, Dr Teng Seok Chu, Professor Dr Fong Kok Ann, Dr Cheng Sim Kim, Dr Cheng Ming, Dr Fang Jian Feng, Mr Wee Keng Koon

As one of the co-founders of the Zhongjing TCM Institution, along with Dr. Teng Seok Chu and Dr. Cheng Sim Kim, Wee aims to pass down his expertise, especially on preventive care. Citing the *Inner Canon of the Yellow Emperor* on "preventive treatment", he believes the role of a TCM physician is to "avert disease before it manifests". He illustrates this with the story of Bian Que and Cai Huan Gong, where Bian Que observed a mild disease that gradually worsened because it was untreated, eventually becoming fatal. This story demonstrates the progression of untreated illness from mild to severe.

In TCM, it is said that top-level physicians prevent diseases, middle-level physicians treat early-stage diseases, and lower-level physicians address developed illnesses ("上医治未病，中医治欲病，下医治已病"). This concept underpins Chinese preventive medicine, which aims to prevent the illness, complications during illness and any relapse after recovery. Wee sees a convergence between this framework and the four levels of prevention in modern medicine, which aligns with current health management protocols. He advocates for preserving "vital Qi" to support health through life-cycle management – proactive prevention for healthy individuals, disease-delay strategies for high-risk groups, and quality-of-life improvements for chronic patients.

With modern lifestyle shifts and an ageing population, chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and Alzheimer's are on the rise. Wee believes that wellness practices should extend beyond clinical settings, with Chinese medicine playing a key role due to its preventive and restorative focus. In his work with elderly patients, he combines TCM practices with a broader wellness approach.



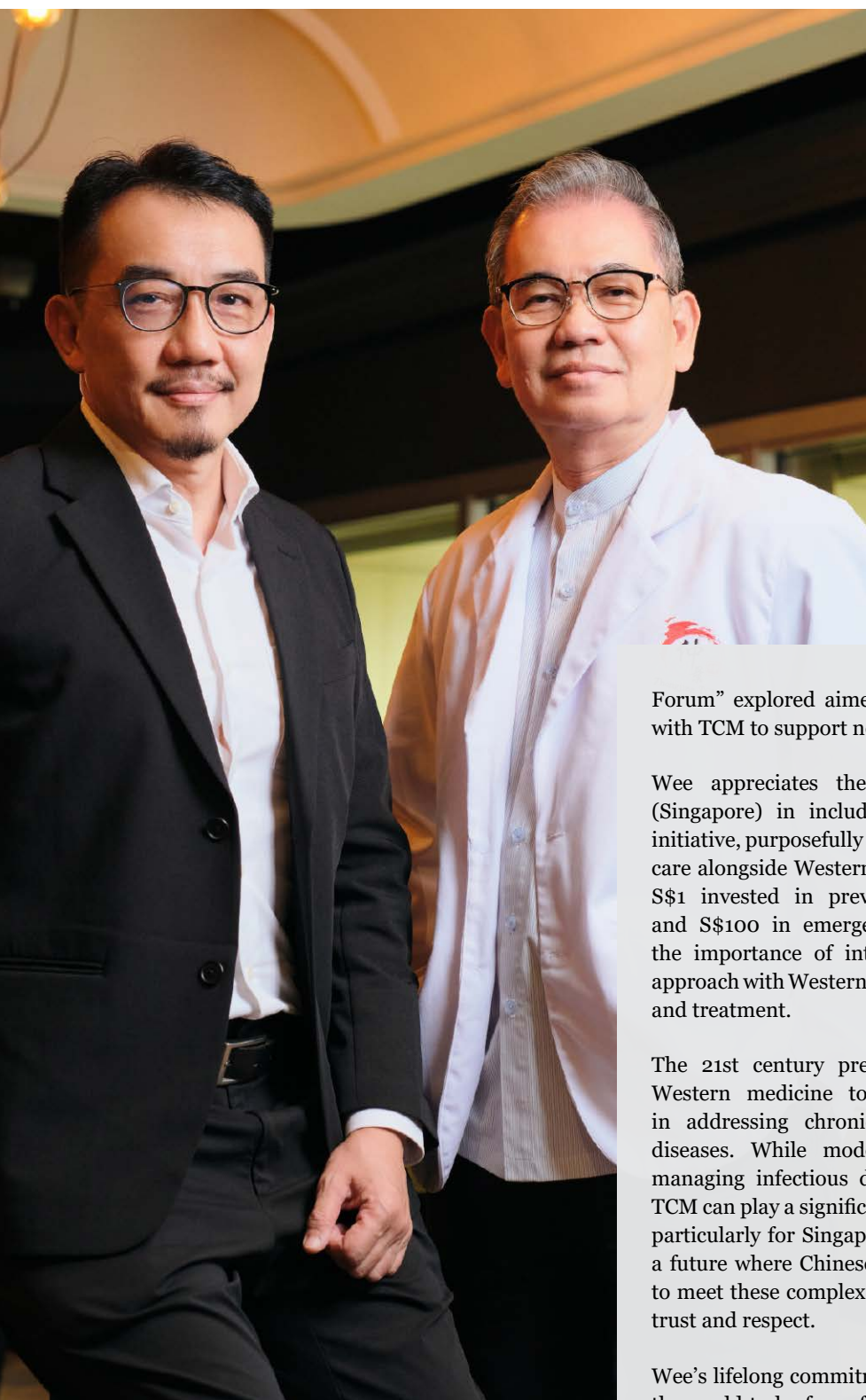


Central to Chinese medicine is the principle of “harmony between humanity and nature, adapting to time, place, and individual constitution”. Wee leads his team in designing wellness travel programmes that integrate health practices within natural settings, in places such as Zhejiang, Beijing, Jiangxi, Shanghai, Shandong, and Shaanxi. These programmes combine TCM with Western medicine, psychology, nutrition, and herbal cuisine to holistically enhance physical and mental well-being.

In his clinical experience, Wee often encounters complex cases where patients have already undergone Western medical treatment. He believes TCM practitioners should also understand Western medicine to promote synergy and prevent adverse interactions. For instance, in treating cancer patients who have received surgery or other conventional treatments, he offers tailored TCM support, which is valued by patients and Western medical experts alike. His approach emphasises the “mind-body connection”, applying Chinese medical psychology principles to support mental and emotional health.

As an educator, Wee is dedicated to advancing TCM education in Singapore. Zhongjing TCM Institution regularly hosts experts and organises academic forums, including the “2017 International Classical Formula Conference” and the “2019 Chinese and Western Medicine Diabetes Forum”. Most recently, the 2023 “Asia-Pacific Classical TCM Exchange





While modern medicine has been effective in managing infectious diseases, trauma and emergency care, TCM can play a significant role in preventive care and wellness, particularly for Singapore's ageing population.

Forum" explored aimed to explore further integration of AI with TCM to support new practitioners.

Wee appreciates the support from Ministry of Health (Singapore) in including TCM within the "Healthier SG" initiative, purposefully promoting preventive and rehabilitative care alongside Western medicine. Studies show that for every S\$1 invested in preventive health, S\$8.50 in healthcare and S\$100 in emergency costs are saved. He emphasises the importance of integrating TCM's preventive treatment approach with Western medicine to enhance disease prevention and treatment.

The 21st century presents opportunities for Chinese and Western medicine to complement each other, especially in addressing chronic, metabolic, and neurodegenerative diseases. While modern medicine has been effective in managing infectious diseases, trauma and emergency care, TCM can play a significant role in preventive care and wellness, particularly for Singapore's ageing population. Wee envisions a future where Chinese and Western medicine work together to meet these complex health challenges, grounded in mutual trust and respect.

Wee's lifelong commitment embodies the spirit of "hoping for the world to be free of disease, so that there is no worry dust on the medicine shelf" (但祈世间人无病, 何愁架上药生尘). 🙏

Wee Keng Koon
Principal physician
Zhongjing TCM Institution



大时代 中医 治未病的发展契机

新加坡仲景中医学院院长，仲景中医学院附属中医诊所高级顾问医师韦馨均医师是一位具有多年中医临床经验的中医师，他深 中医经典，拥有安徽中医药大学硕士学位，新加坡卫生部注册中医师同时也身任世界中医药学会联合会国际健康旅游专业委员会副会长、世界中医药学会联合会中药房自动化产业分会副会长、世界中医药学会联合会疫病专业委员会常务理事、世界中医药学会联合会医联体工作委员会理事。韦馨均医师虽已过花甲正奔从心之路的路上但性格依旧开朗，稳重有活力，待人热情，真诚工作、认真负责、积极主动，能吃苦耐劳，具有较强的组织能力、实际动手能力、团体协作精神，能迅速的适应各种环境并融合其中，并秉着对中医药学做为终身学习的方向，努力促进中医药跨界融合的发展。在临床上韦医师擅长应用中医经典理论及方药融合三胚六经辩证法治疗多种疾病其中包括癌症与糖尿病等，同时以开阔的视野与西医、人工智能、康养等兼容并包。



Wee believes that wellness practices should extend beyond clinical settings, with Chinese medicine playing a key role due to its preventive and restorative focus.

作为学院的创办人之一，韦院长与学院的另两位创办人丁珊瑚中医博士及郑心锦牙科医生及中医硕士一起带领仲景全体员工坚守并传承中医学术思想，其中以预防思想为重中之重。韦院长引用《内经》“治未病”的观点来阐述中医预防和养生的思想，认为中医师要“消未起之患，治未病之疾，医治无事之前”。韦院长进一步以《扁鹊见蔡桓公》的故事来说明“防患于未然”，“圣人不治已病治未病，不治已乱治未乱”：一见时，扁鹊曰：“君有疾在腠理，不治将恐深。”桓公曰：寡人无疾。二见时，扁鹊曰：“君之病在肌肤，不治将益深。”桓公又不悦。三见时，扁鹊曰：“君之病在肠胃，不治将益深。”桓公又不悦。四见时，扁鹊曰：“疾在腠理，汤熨之所及也；在肌肤，针石之所及也；在肠胃，火齐之所及也；在骨髓，司命之所属，无可奈何也。今在骨髓，臣是以无请也”。居五日，桓侯逐死。扁鹊四见蔡桓公，直观地展现了疾病由轻到重的发生过程。

“上医之未病，中医治欲病，下医治已病”，“上工治未病，不治已病，此之谓也”。上医懂得未雨绸缪预防疾病，构成了“未病先防”、“即病防变”、“瘥后防复”的中医预防理论体系和技术方

2023年6月18日 亚太经典中医交流论坛

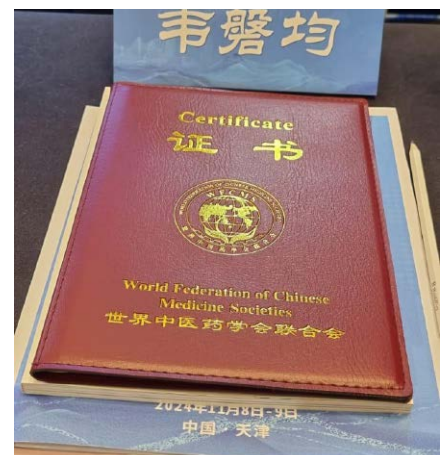


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法。韦院长认为，中医的预防思想和现代医学的四级预防不谋而合，也与正在兴起的健康管理异曲同工。韦院长始终致力于运用中医药防微杜渐，将“正气存内，邪不可干”落实在健康人群、亚健康人群及患者人群的全生命周期管理。针对健康人群，未病先防是在发生疾病之前，采取各种预防措施，提高抗病能力，防止病邪侵袭，“是故已病而后治，所以为医家之法；未病而先治，所以明摄生之理”。针对疾病高危人群，助其不发病或晚发病；针对处在亚健康状态的职场人士，及早调理失眠、内分泌失调、代谢紊乱等欲病之病。针对患者，助其减少并发症的发生率；针对已出现后遗症者，助其康复和生活质量的提高。

随着生活方式的变化、人口老龄化的逐渐加重，疾病谱系也在发生改变。亚健康人群比例增多，心脑血管疾病、糖尿病、肿瘤等慢性病日益增加，以及阿尔茨海默病等认知功能退化患者的照护需求，都促使康养的场景从诊室转向更广阔的天地。韦院长认为，康养涵盖不同年龄段的连续性过程，中医更注重预防和康复，并且中医养生方法历史悠久、喜闻乐见，和现代医学能有机结合。韦院长已谋划中医护理在老年病中的实施，并延伸至更广泛的养生领域。

“天人合一、三因制宜”是中医重要的理论基础，但将其付诸实施者少之又少。韦院长带领团队策划并实践养生旅行，不论是患者人群还是健康人群，都能参与针对性的养生路线，将身心至于自然山水之间，获得极好的养生效果。目前已有浙江、北京、江西、上海、山东、陕西等多条养生路线，在旅行中将养生保健快乐的融入，从中医、西医、心理学、营养、药膳等全方位切入，对身体、心理、饮食、生活方式全面地加以改善，会收获不一样养生体验。韦院长介绍，出发





前医学专业人士会和顾客详细沟通，由营养药膳专家针对个人身心状态定制个体化精准化的药膳，科学制作的药膳没有中药的苦味，而是可口宜人的味道，不管是老人、儿童，还是青壮年，都会因药膳而强身健体、身心获益。住宿、饮食、交通等均安排妥当，每天早上由专业的养生功法教练带领大家在大自然中学习养生保健功法。

作为资深中医师，韦院长在临床上会遇到很多复杂的病情，大多经过西药的检查及治疗。韦院长说，中医师应熟知西医知识，使中医和西医协同起效，避免出现治疗冲突和不良反应加重。比如恶性肿瘤患者已经完成或正在经历手术、化疗、放疗、靶向、免疫治疗等，韦医师会参考患者的身体状况和治疗经过，给出针对性的调理和治疗。这一举措深受患者欢迎及西医专家的赞赏，并一直保持与西医专家紧密联系以确保患者得到最好的照顾与治疗。“形神一体”也是韦院长非常重视的中医观点，运用中医及心理学方法为患者身心同治、调畅情志，并提炼出中医心理学的运用体系。

作为中医教育者，韦院长在培养仲景内部中医师的同时，始终坚持通过中医继续教育，仲景中医学院已陆续邀请多位中医各领域的专家通过现场授课、线上讲座、学术论坛等形式，让更多的中医师们获益。学术论坛包括2017年举办的国际经方班新加坡站、2019年举办的中西医糖尿病论坛。2023年举办的亚太经典中医交流论坛-新加坡站，接下来会进一步探索人工智能与中医的结合，以及如何运用AI辅助诊疗系统帮助初入中医临床的新手中医师。





While modern medicine has been effective in managing infectious diseases, trauma and emergency care, TCM can play a significant role in preventive care and wellness, particularly for Singapore's ageing population.

作为弘扬普及推广中医者，韦院长真诚感谢新加坡卫生部将中医纳入“健康SG”行列促进中医预防和康复医学迈向与西医相陪于广大的人民群众一起向着健康大道前进。政府的政策有力的助推中医药注重养生保健预防为先的思想观念的普及化，满足人民对中医药服务的需求，进一步扩大中医药的服务范围，这将对国家经济和社会的贡献度大大提高，曾经看过这样的一段报道，每投资\$1的保健预防，将会节减\$8.5的健康医疗费用和\$100的生命急救费用，从“治未病”的高度来促进人民健康并发展中医这可使中医药在医疗临床及人类健康保健中发挥更大的作用。治未病方案促成了中西医携手相陪于人民群众让人们进一步对中西医相陪的认识，证明中西医相陪的必要性、必然性、优越性、规律性和创新性，促进中西医相陪方向和目标不断向纵深发展，并在中西医相陪的道路上双方深入理解各自理论与实践以达至融合贯通为中西医相陪形成综合防治人类疾病，维护人类健康的方法提供新的思路。

21世纪发展中西医面临的挑战与契机，现今的现代医学面临了老年病、慢性病、代谢性疾病、心源性疾病、药源性疾病和突发瘟疫六大挑战，如果说攻克感染、创伤、急救的时代需求为现代医学创造发展契机的话，21世纪的六大医学挑战则是时代给予中医的契机。互借、互补、互生是未来中西医走向相陪融合贯通的基本过程，而本着自信、自立、自强则是中医人必须具有的内质。迎难而上，顺势而上，古老的中华传统医学必将在这大时代大显身手。

这就是韦院长，满腹学识，一腔热忱，但仍带着“但祈世间人无病，何愁架上药生尘”的情怀在前行。 🌿

An Integrated Approach to **Healthcare Excellence**

Bridging Western Medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine through Collaborative Care



In today's healthcare landscape, a collaborative approach between Western medical specialists and traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) physicians is shaping the future of patient care. This co-management model fosters innovation, patient-centred care, streamlines operations, and enhances healthcare outcomes. By integrating best practices and emphasising continuous professional development, this partnership is paving the way for holistic, high-quality patient care. In a speech covered by CNA, Health Minister Ong Ye Kung said: "The Ministry of Health (MOH) is exploring the integration of traditional Chinese medicine into Singapore's healthcare reform initiative Healthier SG. MOH, together with TCM practitioners and general practitioners (GPs) will work out the right models and develop an expansion scheme for Healthier SG."

A results-driven healthcare consultant with over two decades of experience, Marcus Foo is a recognised leader in the field. As the Chief Operating Officer of Zhongjing TCM Institution, Marcus brings a wealth of expertise in case management and strategy-driven healthcare transformation. His ability to balance clinical outcomes with resource optimisation, cost containment, and

Marcus Foo
Chief Operating Office
Zhongjing TCM Institution



patient satisfaction has made him a leader in forging partnerships across healthcare disciplines. Working closely with healthcare stakeholders, Marcus assesses performance, identifies opportunities, and implements evidence-based solutions that enhance patient outcomes and create value across the care continuum. With a background that includes an MBA and extensive industry experience, he is dedicated to advancing patient-centred care models and streamlining healthcare operations through strategic leadership and collaboration.

The Role of a Healthcare Consultant in TCM and Western Integration

Marcus oversees a team of MOH and physicians (registered with the TCM Practitioners Board). This puts him in a unique position to facilitate the integration of Western sub-specialists and TCM physicians in Singapore. His role extends beyond logistical coordination. He also possesses exceptional strategic insight, allowing him to blend the preventive, holistic care of TCM with the evidence-based approach of Western medicine. This integrative approach ensures that patients receive cost-effective, personalised care



As the Chief Operating Officer of Zhongjing TCM Institution, Marcus brings a wealth of expertise in case management and strategy-driven healthcare transformation.

that leverages the strengths of both medical systems. By optimising healthcare resources and promoting cost containment, Marcus is driving a transformative model focused on empowering citizens to take control of their health while ensuring the system's sustainability and enhancing health outcomes at both the clinical and societal levels.

Under Marcus's leadership, the institution has adopted a comprehensive approach that includes outreach events, cost-containment strategies, patient engagement initiatives, and the incorporation of healthcare technologies to improve patient outcomes. This holistic, scalable healthcare model aligns with the interests of patients, providers, and payors, covering the significant "5Ps" of healthcare. Marcus and his team focus on the preventive, predictive, precise, progressive, and proactive approach to ensure good health outcomes for their patients.

Strategic Management and Integrated Care Models

Marcus has developed a robust collaborative framework in which Western medical specialists and TCM physicians complement rather than compete with one another. This framework enables both healthcare systems to work in harmony to provide optimal patient care. His efforts focus on building strong partnerships, ensuring that patients benefit from the strengths of both medical approaches. The integration is anchored in shared care plans, where Western and TCM practitioners develop a single, comprehensive treatment strategy that addresses the patient's needs holistically.

For instance, a patient suffering from chronic pain may receive Western medical treatments like physiotherapy and medication, while also benefiting from proven TCM therapies such as acupuncture, cupping, moxibustion, tui na, and herbal remedies. This co-management approach is applied to a range of health conditions, from cardiovascular disease and cancer to neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's as well as conditions that require post-operative care. Through his established network with specialists, Marcus has built a multi-disciplinary panel of Western and TCM practitioners who work collaboratively to ensure treatments are both evidence-based and holistic. Regular communication within this panel fosters mutual understanding, resolving any potential conflicts in treatment philosophy.

Cross-Disciplinary Training and Professional Development

Marcus champions cross-disciplinary training and continuous professional education, fostering mutual understanding between Western specialists and TCM physicians. This shared knowledge is facilitated through workshops, seminars, and educational exchanges, where Western doctors can learn about acupuncture while TCM practitioners can study modern pharmacology and medical imaging. These initiatives promote collaboration and ensure that both fields bring best practices to patient care.

Public Outreach and Alignment with National Health Goals

As part of his commitment to holistic healthcare, Marcus supports outreach events aligned with Singapore's national healthcare goals, particularly the Healthier SG initiative, which emphasises prevention, wellness, and chronic disease management. These events serve to educate the public on the complementary nature of TCM and Western medicine, and showcase the benefits of integrated care. Activities include free health screenings, educational talks, and TCM demonstrations focused on preventive care and common conditions such as stress, sleep issues, and chronic diseases like diabetes or hypertension. The inclusion of both Western medical assessments and TCM diagnostic techniques, such as pulse-taking, tongue analysis, and channel palpation, provides patients with a unique, integrative healthcare experience.

To increase TCM awareness, Marcus partners with health organisations to launch nationwide campaigns aimed at chronic disease prevention, mental health, and lifestyle modifications. These campaigns offer holistic care for common conditions such as stress, digestive disorders, and obesity. Additionally, corporate wellness workshops, held in collaboration with both public and private specialists, further promote chronic disease prevention and healthy lifestyle practices, blending TCM methods like Qi Gong with Western fitness routines and stress-relief techniques.

Optimising Healthcare Resources and Cost Containment through Preventive Care

Marcus emphasises the cost-saving potential of TCM's preventive focus, which plays a vital role in managing chronic diseases and promoting wellness. By addressing lifestyle changes, dietary adjustments, and stress management, TCM can mitigate the need for expensive medical interventions. For instance, a TCM physician might recommend herbal teas and acupuncture for a patient with early-stage hypertension, potentially reducing the need for pharmaceuticals or hospitalisation.

The TCM Wellness Retreat

Aligned with its mission of empowering members' health and wealth, Millionaireasia will be collaborating with the TCM institution to develop the wholesome new concept of Manifestation and Wellness retreat. This immersive retreat is both educational and rehabilitative in nature, with a focus on spirituality and wellness. Prior to the retreat, participants will receive private TCM consultations, and personalised treatments such as acupuncture and herbal therapies. During the retreat, they will be given specially curated meals based on TCM principles, to encourage a balanced dietary habit. The retreat will also conduct relaxation activities like Tai Chi and Qi Gong, led by skilled instructors who integrate TCM's philosophy of wellness. Furthermore, it will incorporate modern TCM healthtech, such as portable devices for real-time health monitoring and diagnostics during treatments. These technologies aim to balance participants' Yin-Yang, monitor their stress levels, and improve sleep patterns, making health ownership a part of daily life.

In addition, participants will attend a short program on by TCM experts on "the way to a healthier living" (养生之道). They will be treated to a short introduction on meditations and mindfulness, covering various aspects of cleansing, healing and manifestation. The participants will be hosted in a scenic hotel surrounded with green environments, providing complete harmony and serenity. Health is wealth; the retreat will provide participants with an alternative escape from their busy schedules, and the treatments to achieve longevity.

A Vision for the Future of Integrated Healthcare

Through strategic leadership and industry collaboration, Marcus Foo is advancing a holistic, accessible healthcare model that integrates Western medicine and TCM. By organising outreach events, building multi-disciplinary care teams, and introducing wellness initiatives, he is setting a new standard for healthcare excellence. This integrated approach underlines the commitment to a more balanced, empowered, and healthier community, where patient-centred care and healthcare excellence go hand in hand. Through this fusion of Western and TCM practices, Marcus Foo is driving a transformative healthcare model that delivers value, sustainability, and well-being for all. 🌿

Preserving Heritage, Embracing Innovation – Pascal Raffy and the Legacy of Bovet

by Toh Mu Qin



The world of horology is one steeped in tradition, where the delicate balance between heritage and innovation is crucial. Few names embody this delicate dance as eloquently as BOVET, the Swiss watchmaking house that has been crafting masterpieces since 1822. Under the leadership of Pascal Raffy, who acquired the brand in 2001, BOVET has not only preserved its illustrious legacy but has also elevated haute horlogerie to new heights in the modern era.

From Lebanon to Fleurier – The Dawn of an Ambitious Legacy

Pascal Raffy's journey from his childhood in Lebanon to the heart of Swiss watchmaking is a tale of passion and destiny. Growing up in a close-knit family, Raffy was always surrounded by love and support, which laid the foundation for his future endeavours. Initially pursuing a career in law and later venturing into the pharmaceutical industry, Raffy was far from the watchmaking world. However, his love for collecting vintage BOVET timepieces, along with other vintage and modern watches, was a passion that simmered beneath the surface.

When the opportunity to acquire BOVET presented itself in 2001, Raffy didn't hesitate. His passion for horology and a deep respect for BOVET's storied history propelled him to take the helm of the house with a clear vision – to restore BOVET to its rightful place at the pinnacle of Swiss watchmaking.

Breathing New Life – The Struggles of Reviving a Legacy

Transitioning from the pharmaceutical industry to the world of haute horlogerie was no small feat. Raffy was a newcomer in an industry known for its insularity,

and the learning curve was steep. However, his experience in manufacturing provided a valuable foundation, allowing him to adapt and eventually thrive in his new role.

One of the first challenges Raffy faced was understanding the intricate details of watchmaking – a craft that requires a deep appreciation for both the technical and artistic aspects. Despite the challenges, Raffy’s determination to preserve the handcrafted nature of BOVET’s timepieces while introducing modern innovations was unwavering. He recognised that while BOVET’s heritage was rooted in artisanal craftsmanship, the brand needed to evolve to remain relevant in a rapidly changing world.

Keeping the Past Alive – Preserving Heritage While Embracing Innovation

BOVET’s history is rich with innovation. Founded by the Bovet family in 1822, the brand quickly gained a reputation for creating some of the most beautiful and technically advanced timepieces in the world. The exhibition case back, which allows the movement of the watch to be viewed without exposing it to the elements, was a BOVET innovation that has since become a standard in high watchmaking.

Under Raffy’s leadership, BOVET has continued this tradition of innovation. In 2010, the brand introduced the Amadeo system, a revolutionary case design that allows the timepiece to be converted into a pocket watch, table clock, or wristwatch, all without the use of tools. This system, which took seven years to develop, is a perfect example of how BOVET blends its rich heritage with modern advancements.

More recently, BOVET collaborated with Rolls-Royce to create the first-ever tourbillon timepieces mounted in the dashboard of an automobile. This partnership, initiated by a devoted BOVET collector, involved three years of development and rigorous testing, including temperature, vibration, and crash tests. The result reflects BOVET’s dedication to exploring new possibilities in watchmaking.

A Family Affair – The Role of Audrey Raffy

For Pascal Raffy, BOVET is not just a brand; it’s a family.

His daughter, Audrey Raffy, has taken on a significant role within the company, serving as the vice president. Audrey’s involvement brings a youthful perspective to BOVET, helping to bridge the gap between tradition and modernity. Her work with collectors, particularly those of her generation, has been instrumental in shaping the direction of the brand.

Together, Pascal and Audrey have worked on several projects, including the Recital 26 Brainstorm Chapter 2, a timepiece that beautifully blends traditional hand-decoration with modern aesthetics. Audrey’s influence can be seen in the use of new colours and materials, ensuring that BOVET remains relevant to contemporary collectors while staying true to its roots.

The Future of BOVET – Continuing the Legacy

Raffy’s commitment to bringing every aspect of production in-house has made BOVET a master of its own destiny. Today, the brand manufactures 95% of its components internally, a rare feat in the watchmaking industry. Looking ahead, Raffy is focused on growing BOVET’s presence organically, introducing the brand to new markets and customer segments while maintaining its exclusivity. With only 1,000 timepieces produced each year, BOVET remains a niche brand, but one that is increasingly recognised for its unparalleled craftsmanship and dedication to innovation.

For Raffy, the legacy of BOVET is not just about the past; it’s about the future. By staying true to the artisanal processes that have defined the brand for two centuries while embracing new technologies and ideas, BOVET is well-positioned to continue its legacy for generations to come.

In the words of Pascal Raffy, “We have a 200-year commitment to making the dreams of collectors come true, and we do this with a mixture of traditional, artisanal watchmaking, and the use of modern technology in our true facilities. We want our collectors to discover something new every time they wear their timepieces. I am proud of this combination, being forward-thinking yet at the same time honouring the heritage of BOVET 1822.” As BOVET enters its third century, this commitment remains as strong as ever. 🏆





Redefining Chinese Luxury

by Dionne Bel

Through her work with Shang Xia, collaborations with international brands and her personal artistic projects, Jiang Qiong Er advocates for the value of Chinese design and craftsmanship in industries that have typically been dominated by the West.

Jiang Qiong Er, a visionary Chinese artist-designer, has carved a niche in the global luxury industry through a unique mélange of traditional Chinese crafts and contemporary design. Born in 1976 in Shanghai into a family deeply rooted in the arts – her grandfather a painter and her father a renowned architect – Jiang was steeped in creativity from an early age, holding a paintbrush in her hand by the age of two. This artistic heritage laid the foundation for her career, inspiring her to bridge the gap between China’s rich cultural legacy and modern luxury.

“I’m very grateful that I was born into an artistic and creative family,” states Jiang. “Whatever we did – for the New Year celebration, daily art practice or decorating the home – everything was always related to art. What I learnt from my father was the passion for inspiration. He always shared with me the importance of creating with passion and to never stop pursuing big dreams – everything is possible. My grandfather taught me how you can be creative and move forward over time. The secret is to be humble and generous. Once you have these two, you can have a long-lasting life as artist. What I’m doing now was not a choice; it was my fate.”

Jiang’s most significant achievement is the founding of Shang Xia, the world’s first modern Chinese luxury house, offering subtle and refined fashion, furniture and homeware, which was launched in 2009 with the support of French luxury giant Hermès. At the time, objects “Made in China” were often viewed with skepticism, associated more with mass production than with the meticulous artistry typical of high-end European products. Jiang’s pitch to Hermès was simple yet profound: she believed that China’s centuries-old artisanal traditions, when presented with the same reverence and innovation as European luxury, could redefine global perceptions of Chinese craftsmanship.



Hermes saw the potential in Jiang's vision and, under her leadership until 2022, Shang Xia has become synonymous with exquisite craftsmanship, innovative design and cultural preservation. The brand's philosophy is anchored in the revival of ancient Chinese techniques, such as bamboo marquetry, porcelain-making, eggshell lacquer work, kesi weaving, embroidery or agate carving, and reinterpreting them in a contemporary, minimalist aesthetic to make them relevant to today's luxury consumers, who increasingly value authenticity and cultural depth.

"I travelled around China and different Asian countries because we still have exceptional craftsmanship here," says Jiang. "First, I had to meet the artisans to learn from them. Each craft has amazing techniques, but they always come with some limitations. Then we started to think about how we can use it, twist it, go beyond it, how this craft or material can dialogue with another one, how we can reintegrate this know-how into our daily lives. I gave myself three challenges each time I created a new collection. One was how to bring new functionality because 95 or even 98 per cent of craftsmanship was decorative when I started my research. The second was how we can bring a contemporary, timeless style. The third was how to create objects with emotions. We demand that the artisans give their best and sometimes we push them to go further. Sometimes we need traditional craftsmanship to dialogue with new materials, or traditional materials with contemporary crafts."

Jiang's commitment to promoting Chinese heritage is driven by a deep respect for her origins. She sees her work as a way to guarantee that the traditions passed down from one generation to another are not forgotten. Her designs are infused with a sense of history, each piece telling a story that connects the past with the future. This dedication to cultural continuity is reflected in every aspect of Shang Xia, from the materials used to the artisans employed. "It's connecting the timelessness from the past and representing the timeless side

of today and tomorrow," she notes. "Why I am so passionate about this is because if we don't connect this past to the future, if we don't pass it on, then it will disappear, and once it disappears, it will not come back. So I think it's our mission to continue the story and create our own history."

In addition to her work with Shang Xia, Jiang has continued to expand her influence through collaborations with international brands. Her recent furniture collection with Roche Bobois is a testament to her versatility and her ongoing mission to bring Chinese artistry to global audiences. Last spring at Milan Design Week, she unveiled the Bamboo Mood collection with the French label. The collection comprised a line of Asia-inspired folding screens, consoles, sofas, low tables, rugs and ceramics that, although not made from bamboo, symbolises the Chinese values of integrity, flexibility, simplicity and harmony.

Beyond her entrepreneurial endeavours, Jiang is also devoted to her personal artistic pursuits, seeking to capture the essence of Chinese culture and share it with the world. Marking the 60th anniversary of Franco-Chinese diplomatic relations this year, her exhibition Guardians of Time at Guimet Museum in Paris, running until February 2025, explores themes of time, memory and heritage. Echoing the world-famous Lascaux Caves in southwestern France filled with prehistoric art, she has transformed the museum's facade into a series of mini grottoes housing 12 mythical animals she imagined with the help of AI, each one referencing core human values, such as courage, authenticity, equality, wisdom or freedom. On the rooftop, a massive metal net is suspended, on which a poem she penned is embroidered, based on the collective words of 60 Chinese women in a new AI-developed language inspired by the age-old Chinese secret female script of nu shu. In the rotunda, 5,000 bricks of pu'er tea form a scented modern cave featuring a mineral garden at its heart, which serves as a space for meditation and connecting with time.

Jiang is currently working on a group show for the Shanghai Museum that is a conversation between ancient Chinese heritage treasures and the philosophy of traditional gardens. She also curated an exhibition in Shanghai for the Comité Colbert association of French luxury maisons last November, which combined their savoir-faire with exceptional Chinese craftsmanship to surprise visitors through original associations such as the art of French cognac and Chinese tea, perfume and incense, lace and bamboo weaving. This December, she has been invited by the Maison&Objet home decor fair to showcase the links between Chinese and French art, design and craft in Hong Kong. A compelling narrative of innovation, cultural stewardship and artistic expression, Jiang's journey – through her work with Shang Xia, her collaborations, designs and art – champions the beauty and pertinence of ancient Chinese crafts. Ensuring that they remain a vital part of the global cultural landscape, she is encouraging a new generation of designers to look to their roots as a source of inspiration and pride. 🏯

The Amerigo Vespucci's world tour is not only a unified expression of the values of the entire nation but also a showcase of Italian excellent supply chains – a driving force for the economy and the spread of Italian culture.



Amerigo Vespucci

A Legendary Symbol of Maritime Heritage

by Priyanka Elhence

As part of its 2023-2025 world tour, the iconic Amerigo Vespucci makes a historic first visit to Singapore.



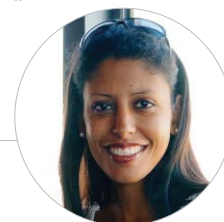
The 93-year-old Amerigo Vespucci is a proud ‘floating’ ambassador of Made in Italy, and is often referred to as “the most beautiful ship in the world”, symbolising Italy’s rich heritage, culture, and maritime history and engineering. Named after the famous Italian sailor and cartographer Amerigo Vespucci, its stunning interiors have been preserved to reflect its nearly century-old elegance, taking visitors back in time to experience the grandeur of Italy’s seafaring expertise.

The 101 metre, 4,200 tonne naval training vessel is visiting over 30 ports across 28 countries and five continents in its current world tour. It made a historic stopover in Singapore, docking at the Marina Bay Cruise Centre from 24th to 28th October, making Singapore its 25th host of the world tour. Helming the grand dame is Captain Giuseppe Lai, a distinguished officer of the Italian Navy and currently serving as the 125th Commander of the Amerigo Vespucci.

Despite being the oldest naval vessel, it is the only one used for training cadets at the Italian Naval Academy, and is a symbol of courage and perseverance. Resembling a 19th century wooden warship, the Amerigo Vespucci carries 24 canvas sails and three huge masts for rigging sail the old-fashioned way. It also boasts an auxiliary electric-diesel engine to sail using the propulsion method. The permanent crew numbers at 270, and it can accommodate up to 150 future sailors-in-training. These sailors typically undertake a three-month stint on board the vessel after finishing their first year at the Italian Naval Academy. The Amerigo Vespucci has been in service since 1931 and while it may look like it belongs to another era, the ship’s interiors are updated, vital in training the future generations of sailors.

For the Singaporean leg of the tour, the ship was once again accompanied by Villaggio Italia, a five-day expo showcasing the excellence of Italian products, investments and entrepreneurship. Singapore is one of the eight ports of call where Villaggio Italia will take place alongside the ship’s visit. The expo has been promoted as a meeting point for sharing and dialogue, as well as a presentation of the finest offerings from Italy including its art, culture, music, food, cinema, technology and scientific research.

The Amerigo Vespucci’s world tour is not only a unified expression of the values of the entire nation but also a showcase of Italian excellent supply chains – a driving force for the economy and the spread of Italian culture. Further to this, the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry has appointed Amerigo Vespucci to be a platform to promote the candidacy of Italian cuisine as a UNESCO intangible heritage. 🇮🇹



About The Writer

Bred in The Seychelles and Kenya, Priyanka Elhence studied Hotel Management in Switzerland, coupled with working as a Recruiter in Palm Beach, before doing an MBA in Human Resources Management in London. Calling Singapore home for the past 20 years, Priyanka has been a Freelance Writer now for the past 8 years, writing about everything from luxury and dining, travel and lifestyle, to parenting and finance.



Established in the 19th century, Guerlain is today a household brand marked by the contributions of successive generations who have propelled the family name to the pinnacle of French perfumery.

Family Fragrance Dynasty

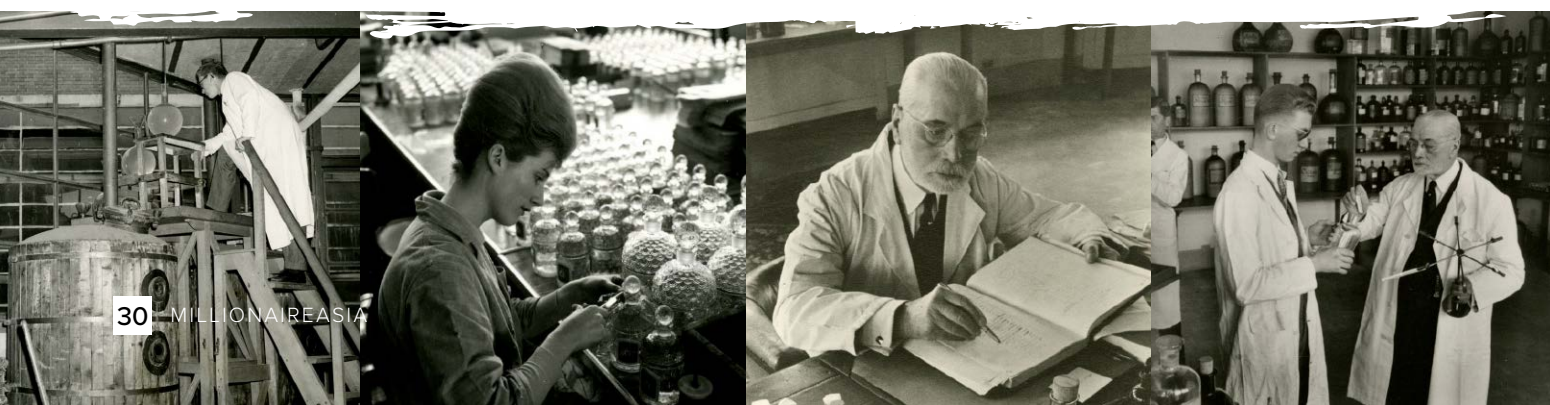
by Dionne Bel

Founded in Paris in 1828, Guerlain is among the oldest and most prestigious perfume houses in the world. For almost 170 years, five generations of the Guerlain family have been at the helm of this iconic brand, shaping the history of fragrance through visionary craftsmanship and innovation. From Pierre-François-Pascal Guerlain's humble beginnings to Jean-Paul Guerlain's tenure as the family's last master perfumer, and the eventual acquisition of the brand by LVMH, Guerlain has evolved from a family dynasty into a global luxury giant. At the same time, the Guerlain name remains in the broader perfume community today through descendants like Paul Guerlain and Patricia de Nicolaï, who are continuing the family's legacy in their own ways.

A forward-thinking perfumer-chemist and entrepreneur, Pierre-François-Pascal Guerlain opened his first boutique at 42 rue de Rivoli in the heart of Paris. Elegant women and gentlemen, including royalty and nobility such as the Countess of Castiglione, Princess of Metternich, Prince of Wales and Duchess of Berry, graced the boutique. The fragrance that solidified Pierre-François-Pascal's reputation was Eau de Cologne Impériale, created in 1853 for Empress Eugénie, wife of Napoleon III. It not only garnered him the title of "Patented Perfumer to Her Majesty", but also established Guerlain as a perfume house synonymous with high society and sophistication. His success laid the groundwork for what would become an illustrious family heritage, handed down from generation to generation.

"Pierre-François-Pascal Guerlain always knew how to adapt his creations by capturing the trends of his time," explains Ann Caroline Prazan, Guerlain's art, culture & heritage director. "He established the foundations of the Guerlain brand with a commitment to quality and innovation. Finally, he had the intelligence of passing on his know-how to his sons, which means that today, we are the French perfume house that is still in activity with the greatest longevity," she added.

Following Pierre-François-Pascal's death, his sons Aimé and Gabriel Guerlain took over the business and continued to elevate the brand. In 1889, Aimé created Jicky, the first scent to mix synthetic notes with natural extracts, marking the birth of modern perfumery.





It set Guerlain apart from its competitors and established the house as a pioneer in the use of synthetic ingredients, forever altering the course of the perfume industry. He was also responsible for ‘Ne

m'oubliez pas’ – the first-ever lipstick in a tube that was portable and refillable.

In 1890, Aimé Guerlain’s nephews, Jacques and Pierre Guerlain, took command of the brand. Jacques, as Guerlain’s third master perfumer, was behind the house’s olfactory signature known as the ‘Guerlinade’ – composed of vanilla, balsams, bergamot, tonka bean, iris, rose and jasmine – that has been running through the house’s fragrances since 1921. Credited with creating some of Guerlain’s most timeless perfumes, Jacques crafted masterpieces such as Shalimar, Vol de Nuit, Mitsouko and L’Heure Bleue over his 65-year career, all of which remain bestsellers to this day.

“Jacques Guerlain designed more than 400 fragrances for women, some of which are still Guerlain references. These creations showcased his ability to blend exotic ingredients into complex olfactory compositions, which became synonymous with Guerlain scents and significantly influenced perfume making,” says Prazan.

With a poetic and emotionally evocative approach to perfumery, Jacques Guerlain drew inspiration from literature, art and personal memories to tell stories through his fragrances. For example, Shalimar originated from the love story of Emperor Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal, whose passion was immortalised by the Taj Mahal. Presented in an unconventional flacon conceived by Raymond Guerlain, Jacques’ nephew, Shalimar’s “design broke away from traditional bottle styles and set new standards for luxury presentation in perfume packaging,” notes Prazan. The last family member to serve as master perfumer, Jean-Paul Guerlain, Jacques’ grandson, carried on the family tradition

of creating iconic fragrances, initially contributing to men’s perfumery through Vetiver and Habit Rouge.

The sale of Guerlain in 1994 marked a turning point in the brand’s history, as it was no longer tied to family succession. However, the LVMH acquisition brought with it new resources and global reach, allowing Guerlain to expand its influence in international markets, while maintaining its heritage of craftsmanship through the creative guidance of in-house perfumer, Thierry Wasser. While the brand is no longer a family-run business, the Guerlain name continues to have a presence in the perfume world, thanks to family members who have forged their own paths.

Paul Guerlain, the grandson of Jean-Paul Guerlain, although not affiliated with the Guerlain brand, represents the next generation committed to upholding the values that have defined the maison for centuries. A perfumer at IFF, he has crafted scents for the likes of Christian Louboutin, Dries van Noten, Rabanne, Reine de Saba and Valentino. Similarly, perfumer Patricia de Nicolai, the great-granddaughter of Pierre Guerlain, also built her own brand, Nicolai Parfumeur-Créateur. Together with her son, Axel, she honours the family heritage by producing a line of award-winning scents and opening standalone boutiques.

Each succeeding generation of the Guerlain family has enriched the perfume industry, preserving the rich ancestral tradition and crafting some of the world’s most beloved fragrances. While the house is no longer family-owned, the Guerlain name continues to be tied to excellence, both within the brand and beyond, and is destined to endure for centuries to come. Prazan concludes, “Although the role of master perfumer is no longer directly linked to the family estate, some family members remain active in the wider perfumery community, playing various consultancy roles, lecturing and contributing their expertise, so that the legacy lives on within global perfumery, even beyond the walls of the original maison. 🏠



About The Writer

Dionne Bel is a freelance journalist and editorial consultant who has lived on three different continents. Dionne loves to meet with inspirational individuals in pursuit of excellence to tell their stories: emerging and established artists, designers and craftsmen, engaging entrepreneurs and philanthropists, and the movers and shakers of the world today. She contributes regularly to regional and international titles such as Artsy, Design Anthology, Forbes, Robb Report, Shawati’ and Tatler, shining a spotlight in particular on art, architecture, design, horology and jewellery.



Epicure

A Decade of Michelin-starred Culinary Excellence

by Priyanka Elhence

Michelin-starred chef Arnaud Faye helms Epicure at Le Bristol Paris, taking the renowned restaurant on a brand new culinary chapter rooted in tradition, defined by innovation.

After the departure of 60-year-old Eric Frechon, Meilleur Ouvrier de France and three-time Michelin-starred chef, in February this year, a new era begins for Epicure as chef Arnaud Faye takes the helm with the restaurant reopening on 1 October 2024.

Epicure has maintained its three-Michelin-stars status since 2009, and continues to set the benchmark in French gastronomy today. With unwavering respect for the artisanal traditions of haute cuisine and the profound legacy he upholds, 45-year-old Faye is charting a new course for Epicure, while still paying homage to Le Bristol's signature elegance. Like his predecessor, Faye also holds the prestigious title of Meilleur Ouvrier de France, and his vision for Epicure reframes classic codes of French gastronomy with his contemporary, forward-thinking approach. Awarded to a select few, the prestigious title



Epicure has maintained its three-Michelin-stars status since 2009, and continues to set the benchmark in French gastronomy today.



Meilleur Ouvrier de France translates to best craftsman of France, celebrating French heritage and its culinary savoir-faire.

Faye's menus are a tribute to the traditional values of French gastronomy, which he reinterprets with modern finesse. At Epicure, sophistication and innovation come together, with classic preparation methods such as cutting and arranging the food directly at the table to create an experience that brings the art of cooking to the fore. The service at Epicure is just as meticulous as the cuisine itself – a grand service that accompanies guests through every phase of the culinary experience.

Faye's illustrious career thus far has seen him travelling all over the world, from Paris to the Mediterranean, forming deep connections with dedicated local producers and artisans who share his passion for the land and the highest quality ingredients.

Passionate about being committed to local artisanal producers, these relationships form the foundation of Faye's cuisine, underlining his conviction that quality ingredients and human relationships are the key to culinary excellence. Simply put, he embodies the philosophy of 'nature sets the tone, and the art of haute cuisine lies in bringing its gifts to the fore at the right time'.

Faye grew up in Auvergne – a rural, mountainous area in central France, surrounded with vast forests, natural hot springs, hiking routes, and spa towns. It was amidst this idyllic setting that Arnaud's appreciation for nature and flora grew, which in turn ignited his passion for delicate flavours, placing importance on vegetables and plant-based produce in his dishes.

Putting nature's harvest at the centre of his menus, Faye considers fish and meat as secondary ingredients to support his plant-focused creations rather than the other way around. Far from being a limiting factor, this seasonal approach allows Faye to be creative and set a new territory for Epicure that is embedded in the excellence and diversity of French terroir. 🌿



Marine Conservation Meets Art: Dowling Giudici's Glass Masterpieces

by A. Yash

You may not have heard of glass artist Sabrina Dowling Giudici, but one look at her works of art, and you can hear her unique voice resonating through her masterpieces.

Even in photos her pieces are magical. The mesmerising colours blend with the texture and curves of the glass refracted from the glass surfaces, hypnotising the senses.

Italian Australian artist Dowling Giudici has carved out a remarkable niche for herself, weaving together her rich dual heritage and the vibrant tales of her surroundings into captivating glass art.

Her artistry is a dialogue between two cultures, showcasing how they meld and enrich one another.

Born in Rome, Italy and growing up in the remote desert town of Carnarvon in Western Australia, Dowling Giudici schooled between two diverse artistic cultural frameworks.

“My central Italian sensitivities to exquisite detail, fabrics, hand-worked processes and composition, have blended with my childhood immersion in the unspoilt and pureness of a natural heritage that Australia still offers,” she said in an interview with Millionaireasia.

Dowling Giudici is back in Western Australia after taking part at the Saltwaters exhibition in conjunction with The Venice Glass Week in Italy. Saltwaters is a “storytelling” glass collection celebrating seagrasses as unsung heroes of the sea. It is a call to focus on the contribution of seagrass meadows to the vitality of human life, bringing together the marine habitats of two fundamentally different geographical, ecological and cultural places – the lagoon of Venice in the Mediterranean Sea of the Northern Hemisphere, and the Shark Bay World Heritage area, Western Australia, in the Indian Ocean of the Southern Hemisphere.

For the uninitiated, glass art is an intricate craft that requires not only skill but also patience and a deep understanding of the material.

Dowling Giudici has spent years honing her techniques, mastering everything from traditional glassblowing to contemporary fusing methods. She utilises glass as a medium to capture the light and essence of her environment. Each piece she creates tells a story, embodying the spirit of both her Italian roots and her Australian upbringing.

In the interview, Dowling Giudici shared how the Gascoyne Region in Australia has specifically influenced her artistic vision and style.



“The light intensity, without any doubt. It is one of the planet’s brightest places with relatively few cloudy days,” she explained.

“Colours and shapes and shadows are different when you have such piercing light. So really, glass is the only medium that can fully interact with light waves in a way that delights us human observers. Specifically, transparent glass is my material of choice for expression of the art narratives I explore and create,” she said.

Dowling Giudici’s tone became more passionate as she spoke about Shark Bay in Western Australia. Having grown up on the northern end of Shark Bay, she has seen how thoughtless human disruption and greed have destroyed parts of her home habitats.

She said: “There is something about ‘home’ that transcends rational thinking. In Carnarvon we have a port, intensive agriculture and salt mining, and now, renewable energy proposals.”

“The immediate benefits gained by say random dredging, or unmonitored water quality, have over the past 50 years, led to the obvious destruction of mangrove stands and seagrass meadows.”

Less obvious is the wholesale disruption of the balance between micro species, she added.

According to Dowling Giudici, algal growth is now at levels that coral growth and other reef species are receding to the north of Carnarvon. Fisheries are impacted now and it's not just those business families and profits that are affected.

There are also the 'big-ticket' items that are impacted like oxygen production, carbon sequestration, coastal morphology and therefore safe places for human habitation, natural river flood mitigation, she added.

"So, Shark Bay is home, but it is also of global significance; its potent seagrass meadows cover an area bigger than many countries. It's home to the world's longest plant – they stopped counting at 180 km in length," she said.

Her work goes beyond passion for marine life but dives deep into the realm of scientific research. When examining botanical species, which she frequently interprets for her glass art, she starts with a microscopic examination of cell shapes and their spatial relationships and patterns.

"Actually, this is truly a joyful part of my artistic process," she quipped.

During the interview she paid tribute to the scientists who facilitate this part of the process with their advanced photomicrographic equipment. This happens simultaneously

with a double-pronged approach of absorbing the research around those species that she is investigating.

"I am an avid reader of academic papers of past research, and I also interview scientists undertaking current research. I attend field trips and academic presentations regularly, which is a tremendous privilege, and fun," she said.

Transformational collaborations are the bedrock of her art-practice development. She mentioned Edith Cowan University as a world class Centre for Marine Ecosystem Research: "Now led by Professor Kathryn McMahon, both Professor McMahon and Professor Paul Lavery facilitated my artist-in-residency during 2021, where I was able to meet every single post-graduate researcher and attend their weekly research meetings, plus spend time in the Paul Lavery Marine Laboratory."

She also spoke of her longest collaboration over the past eleven years, with now Emeritus Professor Pierre Horwitz, leader of the Edith Cowan University Environmental Science Field Trip.

This annual expedition explores the Gascoyne region of Western Australia. Each year a new cohort of students travel through the different habitat areas of this bioregion. They spend part of the time understanding how local artists interpret aspects of the local ecology.

"My role is to facilitate their understanding of how these art practices contribute to sustainability and ecological education, within an art-science framework. I look forward to the next trip, led by dedicated scientist, Emily Lette," she said.

Her current collaboration is with Dr Elizabeth Sinclair, a long-term Shark Bay researcher and geneticist leading the recent



research project that identified the world's largest plant, *Posidonia australis*, a broad-ribbon species that dominates the seagrass meadows of Shark Bay, together with another species, *Amphibolis antarctica*.

"Together we are now writing the book, *Saltwaters*, documenting the art-science narratives of my glass art collection from Venice," said the artist.

Beyond drawing inspiration from the marine environment, Dowling Giudici is deeply committed to the community and the people around her. "Because I'm an immigrant to Australia, there are families that you meet that you become close with. Also within the indigenous community, I have the privilege of having a number of families who have taken me into their homes, so you see the inner world," she explained.

One elder, for example, is the late Uncle Jimmy Poland, as Dowling Giudici fondly called him.

"We interacted for two years during which time he showed me an 'attitude' to art practice, not skills, as I could never culturally be permitted to replicate what he did. I am always grateful to him and his family," said the self-professed emerging elder.

These elders, "by blood and adoption", have told her stories of how food, work, leisure and living happen, around her home area across Carnarvon and Exmouth and Denham in north-western Australia.

"As coastal communities, we still respect what happens hundreds of kilometres inland as the rivers and winds carry soil and sediments as well as waters, to the sea. Understanding the effects of weather on the flows of elements between land and sea allows me to interpret this knowledge through my glass work by knowing which are the critical elements to include and highlight in the physical elements of each glass artwork," she said.

A foundational part of her art practice is to show her completed artworks to her family elders, who lovingly and critically monitor her art narratives and works.

Dowling Giudici embodies the spirit of respect, creativity, and connection. Through her glass art, she not only shares her story but also those of her community, weaving a rich tapestry of narratives that reflect the beauty of cultural diversity. In a world that often feels disconnected, her art pieces serve as a reminder of the shared bonds and stories that inspire. 🌊

Secret Sauces

in Chef Emmanuel Stroobant's 4 Stars at Home Dining Experience

by Alexis Toh

When he was younger, Mr Emmanuel Stroobant dreamt to be a lawyer but a stint at one of Belgium's finest restaurant changed his career path. The energy and artistry of the kitchen sparked something that the then 16-year-old could not ignore.

"I was instantly drawn to the fast paced environment, where beautiful dishes could be crafted from the most amazing ingredients. That experience marked a turning point in my life, and I knew I was destined for a career in the culinary arts," he reminisced.

Today, Chef Stroobant is the chef and owner of two-star Michelin restaurant, Saint Pierre in Singapore.

His current culinary experience has been the amalgamation of his earliest culinary encounters in Belgium and rich experiences across the different continents and cultures - each adding a distinct layer and flavour to his culinary journey.

Working in different continents has opened his mind to new techniques, flavours and diner expectations - increasing his sensitivities to the tastes of different diners from diverse cultures. Moving to Australia and Malaysia for example, was a defining moment for him.

At first, Chef Stroobant felt that his training had been rooted in classical French cuisine, but exposure to Asian ingredients in these countries impacted his culinary elegance and style. He quickly embraced Asia's ingredients and symphonised his art into a harmonious blend of sophistication and simplicity.

"Over time, my culinary style has morphed from complex multi-layered dishes to a more minimalist approach - embracing the "less is more" philosophy. "Achieving simplicity with elegance is one of the hardest things to master and it's something I continue to refine daily," he explained.

SECRET SAUCES

One key 'ingredient' is his wife, a Peranakan Chinese from Malaysia, who is also a foodie with very discerning taste buds.

"She introduced me to a vast array of Asian dishes. Together these influences sparked a new wave of creativity," he said.

Chef Stroobant also paid tribute to his wife for her sharp business acumen and helming the business direction.

"(This) allowed me to focus on the creative side. We survived the 1997 financial crisis, Covid-19, and other obstacles along the way. While it's a project which sparked from a passion, at



the end of the day it's still a business, and maintaining sound financials is crucial for sustainability," he explained.

Now, as Singaporeans who have been living here for over 20 years, the couple have embraced the region's cultural diversity, and this reflects in Chef Stroobant's cooking.

"Singapore is truly a melting pot of flavours, and it's important for my cuisine to connect with the local palate while staying true to its French roots," he quipped.

Another 'secret sauce' is the team behind Saint Pierre - everyone from the kitchen to the front of house plays a key role.

Sharing another secret to his success, Chef Stroobant makes it a point to surround himself with people who will give honest, constructive feedback.

He also said that restaurateurs have to be involved in every aspect of the business, down to the smallest details.

He added: "Always plan for the unexpected. Have a backup plan, and then a backup plan for your backup! Flexibility is key to survival in this industry."

CULINARY DISCIPLINE

Chef Stroobant is also a dedicated yoga practitioner and this discipline transcends in his culinary approach. For example, The Zen Circle, which symbolises enlightenment and the freedom to create without limits, deeply inspires his style of cooking.

He incorporates mindfulness and focus in both his personal life and professional kitchen. Chef Stroobant also practises daily meditation and encourages his staff to do so as well.

“It helps us to manage the stress of restaurant life and maintain clarity when delivering service or creating new dishes. This philosophy drives my constant pursuit for innovation in the kitchen,” he explained.

These ingredients and secret sauces led the restaurant to its second Michelin star in 2019 - an undoubtedly proud moment for the team.

But Chef Stroobant also takes time to savour the the smaller, everyday moments.

“A guest’s compliment or a successful event. These micro-moments have truly make the journey worthwhile,” he beamed.

For those who are just starting out, Chef Stroobant had this to say:

“Go in with all eyes open. Be prepared to give 200 per cent – this industry is incredibly demanding. You have to be willing to get your hands dirty and truly immerse yourself in the work.

“Assemble a team who is better than you, and never stop learning from them. The food and beverage industry moves at a fast pace, and to succeed, you need to be innovative and adaptable. Don’t rest on your laurels; always push yourself to stay ahead.”

4 STARS AT HOME

The interview then turned to Chef Stroobant’s current culinary offering - a bespoke luxury dining in a home setting.

Together with Shoukouwa Sushi Restaurant, Head Chef Kazumine Nishida, the two Chefs introduced a Michelin-starred dining experience into private homes with the ‘4 Stars at Home’ concept.

The idea was sparked when they noticed a gap in the Japanese fine dining market at home.

Chef Stroobant observed that while there are many luxury catering options, none catered to Michelin-starred Japanese cuisine in such an intimate, exclusive setting.

He said: “With the market timing being right and our affluent customer segment seeking more personalised experiences, it felt like the ideal moment to launch ‘4 Stars at Home’.

“Our guests are increasingly looking for more immersive and memorable experiences, and this concept allows them to entertain at home effortlessly.

“It also combines our strengths – Chef Nishida’s expertise in Japanese cuisine and my background in French fine dining – to deliver a truly exceptional experience.”

Elaborating, Chef Stroobant said, the luxury dining concept offers a modern ‘kaiseki’ experience - a traditional Japanese multi-course dining experience that is often regarded as the pinnacle of Japanese fine dining.

The flavours are Japanese but the presentation is enhanced with a touch of French panache, he added.

“This fusion allows us to stay true to the traditions of Japanese cuisine while adding the elegance of French plating.

“For those who entrust the whole experience to us, we have a sample menu that showcases the kind of refined dishes we can offer. Guests can share their preferences for specific ingredients or request for a wine or sake pairing. This flexibility allows us to tailor the dining experience to their needs,” he said.

Before launching the concept, the team conducted numerous trials and held a preview session at a residence to gather valuable feedback.

Since then, they have catered to several guests with group sizes from four guests or more.

“One of our recent sessions was for 12 guests for a birthday celebration. The guests were all Chinese-speaking so we had a staff present all the dishes and converse in Mandarin. We are seeing an increasing number of inquiries as we approach the festive season. Each of these experiences reinforces the idea that we are providing something truly special that people want to be part of,” said Chef Stroobant.

Asked about the team’s approach to training and ensuring service quality, Chef Stroobant said that both he and Chef Nishida are heavily involved in the training of every team member, from the service staff to the chefs.

Even though each member has undergone rigorous training at Shoukouwa and Saint Pierre to ensure they meet Michelin star standards, the two chefs’ hands-on approach further ensures every detail, from plating of dishes to the level of service matches the extent of excellence that they demand in their restaurants.

Chef Stroobant insisted, “We take great pride in maintaining consistency, even in a home setting.”

So how does the ‘4 Stars at Home’ experience redefine the concept of luxury dining in Singapore?

Chef Stroobant explained, “The name says it all – ‘4 Stars at Home’ brings Michelin-starred dining into the comfort and privacy of your home. We handle everything, so the customer doesn’t need to lift a finger.

“From the service to the cuisine, we provide a seamless, effortless luxury experience, allowing our guests to enjoy Michelin-starred excellence in an intimate setting. It’s the ultimate in convenience and exclusivity, changing the way people think about luxury dining.” 🍱



Rolex: The King of Time

by R Jacob

We wind the clock to discover how Rolex
withstood the test of time.

Photo: Freepik

The story of Rolex begins not in Switzerland, but in London. In 1905, Hans Wilsdorf, a young German entrepreneur, founded Wilsdorf & Davis with his brother-in-law Alfred Davis. The firm specialised in distributing timepieces, but Wilsdorf had a grander vision. He believed in the potential of the wristwatch – a relatively new concept at the time – as a reliable and practical alternative to the pocket watch.

In 1908, Wilsdorf registered the trademark for "Rolex", a name chosen for its ease of pronunciation in any language. He sought to create wristwatches that were not only elegant but also exceptionally precise. To achieve this, Wilsdorf sourced components from the Swiss watchmaking company Aegler, and set about refining them to the highest standards.

Setting New Standards

Rolex's first significant breakthrough came in 1910 – they became the first wristwatch in the world to receive the Swiss Certificate of Chronometric Precision, awarded by the Official Watch Rating Centre in Bienne. This

The story of Rolex is one of vision, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

achievement marked the beginning of Rolex's reputation for unparalleled accuracy.

However, the quest for precision did not stop there. 16 years later, Rolex introduced the Oyster, the first waterproof wristwatch. This innovation was a game-changer, and Wilsdorf ingeniously demonstrated its capabilities by having Mercedes Gleitze, a young British swimmer, wear the watch during her historic swim across the English Channel. After more than ten hours in the water, the watch emerged unharmed, its movement still ticking with perfect precision. The Rolex Oyster was thus immortalised as a symbol of resilience and reliability.

A Crown of Excellence

Rolex's legacy is built on a series of groundbreaking innovations that have set the standard for the entire industry. The Oyster case, introduced in 1926, was just the beginning. In 1931, Rolex unveiled the Perpetual rotor, the world's first self-winding mechanism, which revolutionised the way wristwatches were powered. This advancement meant that the watch was wound automatically by the natural motion of the wearer's wrist, eliminating the need for manual winding.

The introduction of the Datejust in 1945, one of the first wristwatches that could display the date on the dial, was another milestone. This model laid the foundation for the modern wristwatch, combining practicality with timeless design. Rolex continued to innovate with the introduction of the Submariner in 1953, the first watch to be waterproof to a depth of 100 metres, and the GMT-Master in 1955, designed specifically for pilots to keep track of multiple time zones.

Each of these models have become iconic in its own right, embodying the brand's commitment to innovation, durability, and style.

Reliable to Regal

Rolex's journey to becoming the king of watchmaking is not just about technical advancements; it is also about cultivating a brand that resonates with people across generations. The crown logo is instantly recognisable worldwide, and owning a Rolex is often seen as a rite of passage, a tangible mark of success.

One of the key reasons for Rolex's enduring appeal is its ability to balance tradition with modernity. The brand has remained faithful to its core values of precision, durability, and elegance while continually embracing innovation. This

careful balance is reflected in the timeless design of its watches, which have changed little over the decades but remain as desirable as ever.

Moreover, Rolex's commitment to quality is unwavering. Each Rolex watch is crafted with scrupulous attention to detail, using only the finest materials and subjected to rigorous testing. This dedication to excellence ensures that a Rolex is not just a watch, but an heirloom, passed down through generations.

Rolex's association with some of the most prestigious events and figures in history has further strengthened its iconic status. From Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay's ascent of Everest with a Rolex Oyster Perpetual in 1953 to its partnership with Wimbledon, the brand has been intertwined with monumental achievements. These associations have contributed to the aura of prestige that surrounds Rolex, making it much more than just a timepiece, and more a symbol of human endeavour.

The Reign of Rolex

The story of Rolex is one of vision, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. From its humble beginnings in London to its current status as the world's leading luxury watchmaker, Rolex has consistently set the standard for precision, durability, and style. The brand's iconic status is not merely a result of its technical achievements, but also its ability to create timepieces that resonate with people on a personal level.

All of this just goes on to say – in the world of horology, Rolex reigns as the undisputed King of Time. 🏰



About The Writer

Jacob is a writer with a strong tech background. An engineer turned writer/artist, he has varied interests encompassing technology, flow arts, music and entrepreneurship. Having worked in the IT and EduTech industry before moving on to establish his own business, he believes in employing a multi-faceted approach in all his endeavours.

Cartier: The Royal Jeweller

by R Jacob

The luxury jeweller that redefined excellence
– and rightly so.



*Today, Cartier remains at the forefront of luxury,
continuing to redefine what jewellery can be.*

In 1948, during a glittering evening at a Parisian gala, the Duchess of Windsor, Wallis Simpson, made an entrance that would go down in history. Draped in an elegant gown, she wore a striking brooch shaped like a panther, poised as if ready to pounce. The brooch, a gift from her husband, was not just a piece of jewellery but a symbol of their unconventional love and her powerful presence in society. This panther brooch, crafted by Cartier, became an instant icon, embodying the brand's daring spirit and ability to redefine what jewellery could mean. It was more than an accessory; it was a statement – a perfect example of how Cartier had mastered the art of telling stories through its creations.

Rings to Riches

The story of Cartier begins in 1847 when Louis-François Cartier took over his master's workshop in Paris. At the time, the city was a centre for craftsmen and artisans, each vying for the attention of the elite. Louis-François quickly distinguished himself with his keen eye for design and his commitment to excellence. The small workshop soon became a destination for aristocrats and royals who sought more than just jewellery – they desired pieces that spoke of their status and sophistication.

By the late 19th century, Cartier had firmly established itself as the “Jeweller of Kings and the King of Jewellers”. Coined by King Edward VII of Britain, who ordered 27 tiaras for his coronation in 1902, this phrase aptly summarised the brand's reputation. Cartier was not merely a jeweller; it was an institution, synonymous with royalty, power, and prestige.

Pioneering Style and Innovation

What truly set Cartier apart in its early years was its relentless pursuit of innovation. The brand was not content with simply following trends; it sought to create them. In 1904, Cartier introduced the first modern wristwatch for men – the Santos. Commissioned by the Brazilian aviator Alberto Santos-Dumont, the watch was a departure from the pocket watches of the time, offering a practical yet stylish solution for men on the move. This invention did not just change the face of Cartier; it revolutionised the world of horology and inspired other watchmakers.

Cartier's innovation was not limited to timepieces. The brand was also a pioneer in the use of platinum, a metal that was notoriously difficult to work with due to its high melting point. Yet, Cartier recognised its potential for creating delicate, intricate designs that were both durable and elegant. This led to the creation of the iconic Garland-style jewellery

that combined the lightness of platinum with the brilliance of diamonds, embodying a new era of luxury.

Timeless Icons

As the 20th century progressed, Cartier continued to create pieces that would become iconic in their own right. The Trinity ring, designed in 1924, was a simple yet profound piece that symbolised love, friendship, and fidelity with its three intertwined bands of gold. The Love bracelet, introduced in the 1970s, became a symbol of enduring romance, its unique locking mechanism signifying the wearer's commitment.

Perhaps no piece is more emblematic of Cartier's legacy than the Panthère. First appearing in 1914 as a pattern of onyx and diamonds on a wristwatch, the panther quickly became a symbol of the brand's bold, avant-garde spirit. Jeanne Toussaint, Cartier's creative director from 1933 to 1970, was instrumental in popularising the panther motif. Under her direction, Cartier created some of its most daring and imaginative pieces, including the famous panther brooch worn by the Duchess of Windsor.

The Global Appeal of Cartier

Cartier's appeal has always transcended borders. From the courts of Europe to the palaces of India, the brand has been embraced by a diverse clientele who see in Cartier's creations not just jewellery but a statement of identity. The Maharajas of India, in particular, were captivated by Cartier's designs. In the early 20th century, they commissioned elaborate pieces that combined traditional Indian motifs with Cartier's innovative techniques. These creations, such as the Patiala Necklace, are among the most magnificent jewellery ever made, and highlight Cartier's ability to blend different cultural aesthetics seamlessly.

Today, Cartier remains at the forefront of luxury, continuing to redefine what jewellery can be. Its boutiques, from Paris to New York to Tokyo, are not just stores but destinations where customers experience the brand's rich history and innovative spirit. Each piece, whether a classic design or a new creation, carries the weight of over 175 years of artistry and excellence.

Redefining Excellence

Cartier's influence on the world of jewellery is undeniable. It has transformed the way we think about adornment, elevating it to an art form that speaks of history, culture, and personal expression. The brand's legacy is not just in the jewels themselves but in the stories they tell – stories of love, power, and creativity that resonate across generations. 🐾

Provençal Art Wonderland

by Dionne Bel

World-acclaimed French artist-collector Bernar Venet discusses the 10th anniversary of his eponymous foundation in a picturesque region of southeastern France, where his historical and recent creations and extensive art collection are set in the heart of nature.



Bernar Venet is unstoppable. At 83 years old, he's at the apex of his success. His *Convergence* sculpture of 14 towering Corten steel arcs was commissioned for the Paris Olympics. He also recently signed representation of his photography with Parisian gallery Bigaignon, and his major survey show at Phoenix International Media Centre in Beijing featuring 160 works that cover his 65-year career is in full swing. The exhibition sees him plunging into the realm of digital art for the first time, proposing a series of large-format paintings printed by machine using UV ink that give physical form to his new generative artworks. Last November, he launched Event, his first generative art collection of 500 algorithmic sculptures, with Sotheby's New York. Always on the go and filled with countless ideas, his sense of purpose is steadfast, with so much to do and so little time. Pushing the boundaries of art is his sole raison d'être, whether in sculpture, painting, photography, performance, poetry or design.

This year, the trailblazing artist is marking a significant milestone with the 10th anniversary of the Venet Foundation

in Le Muy, a nine-hectare paradise in the Provençal countryside. The area comprises a former mill and factory, a sculpture park and a gallery, and has become a vital cultural hub attracting international visitors exploring the south of France's burgeoning art scene every summer. The work of a lifetime and an open-air museum, the foundation showcases Venet's monumental sculptures and a rich collection of minimal and conceptual art by the likes of Arman, Larry Bell, Anthony Caro, Christo, Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Dan Flavin, Donald Judd, Anish Kapoor, Phillip King, Sol LeWitt, Robert Motherwell, Frank Stella and James Turrell — many of them his friends.

In the foundation's gallery hosting temporary exhibitions, Mexican artist Stefan Brüggemann took up residence last summer, presenting a radical graffiti intervention for his second solo show in France, which was curated by Jérôme Sans. Venet, too, continues to experiment with his themes of predilection — entropy, gravity, instability, chance and uncertainty — which led to his sculpture of 20 colossal arcs

that he toppled over with his bare hands, currently displayed in the factory space. Perpetually unsatisfied, Venet still has so much to prove and is obsessed with how he will be remembered, but his foundation will undoubtedly live on long after him.

What inspired you to establish the Venet Foundation in 2014?

The idea to open a foundation came to my mind as a way to make sure that my work and my collection would be permanent, that it would last. It's so ridiculous to spend your life building such a thing and when you die, your kids sell the property and part of the collection because they don't have a choice. My wife and kids have accepted the idea that they are not going to inherit it. It's so much better like that since it will



“It’s so ridiculous to spend your life building such a thing and when you die, your kids sell the property and part of the collection because they don’t have a choice.”

- Bernar Venet

remain the way it is. They will come, sleep here and have all the artworks around them. One of my granddaughters could become the director of the foundation. It's just perfect.

You built up your foundation's art collection with works by your artist friends, like a journal of your life and your friendships, but many of them have since passed away. Do you still collect today?

No, when you come to Le Muy and see the foundation and my collection, it's really a family story. These were the artists I exhibited with. They were of my generation, except they were all older than me and they have passed away. I was the youngest one. I took lessons from these guys, and today everybody is together here at my foundation. I don't have an eye to see what's very interesting today. In 1968, if you had asked me to name 10 artists who were going to be at the top level in art history, I would have said the minimalists Donald Judd, Dan Flavin and Sol Lewitt, and the pop artists. But today, it's completely confusing. At the beginning of the 20th century, all the big artists were in France, and that lasted until 1955. Then the Americans took over. It was clear it was one generation after the other: the American abstract expressionists, then pop art, then minimal art. It was simple and it was just a matter of having a good eye and seeing which ones were the best. And I had the eye. That's why I acquired a Flavin for US\$1,000 that my friend bought two years ago for US\$1.4 million, and a Judd for US\$3,000 that he paid US\$2 million for.

How did you come to acquire the minimal artworks from Wolfgang and Anne Titze's vast collection?

They spent the weekend at my foundation and saw my collection: pieces of steel they're supposed to walk on, the compression of a car, felt on the wall, stones on the floor, neons coming out of the wall. Then they became one of the top collectors in the world. They have Baselitz, Shiraga, Judd, Flavin and Stella. Now each time they hold an exhibition of their collection, Wolfgang makes a speech saying he had a fantastic life until one day he met me and started to have a new life. They have one son, but he is not into art; so they called me and said they wanted to give me 500 pieces. I said it's too much. They said I can choose and take what I want because the collection will be divided into three parts: one in Switzerland, one in Austria and one in France here. It's going to be a big thing.

Tell me about your expansion plans for your foundation.

Today, I'm buying land. I'm buying everything I can. I'm buying all my neighbours. Right now, I'm buying a big piece, which is going to really make a difference. I'm very ambitious about Le Muy. Giverny is fantastic with an incredible garden. You have the house of Monet, and you can visit the house, but when you go inside, you see reproductions of paintings. They're not the real thing. To go to Giverny, you take a train from Paris. Le Muy is located on the French Riviera. Everyone goes there, and they are six minutes away from my place when they are on the highway. Also, people will see not just a beautiful garden, but real and major artworks by Sol Lewitt, Carl Andre, Larry Bell, Frank Stella, Anish Kapoor – all the big names. It's as if Monet had big paintings of Van Gogh or Renoir, which was not the case. So, the adventure is huge, and it's going to grow and grow, and, in the future, it's going to be a huge success. 🙏

Banyan Tree

Marks Debut in Japan with Kyoto Property

by Priyanka Elhence

Banyan Group launches its first property in Japan with Banyan Tree Higashiyama Kyoto.

Banyan Tree is renowned for offering travellers a distinctive and premium experience to rejuvenate the mind, body and soul in iconic locations and destinations around the globe. Its latest foray into Japan is no different.

The brand new Banyan Tree Higashiyama Kyoto stands on the former site of the esteemed Hotel Ryozen, nestled in Kyoto's prominent and heritage-rich Higashiyama district. The surrounding area is also home to popular attractions such as Kiyomizu-dera Temple, Kodai-ji Temple, and the Higashiyama Onsen hot spring.

Staying in line with Banyan Tree Group's commitment to preserving cultural heritage and sustainability for future generations, Banyan Tree Higashiyama Kyoto offers only 52 luxurious guest rooms in the heart of this historic location, away from the city's usual hustle and bustle. Designed by Yukio Hashimoto, the guest rooms are inspired by the concept of *yūgen* (which translates to mysterious and quiet beauty) and the phrase *Hisureba Hana* from the Noh theory bible "Fushikaden", which translates to hidden beauty revealed. Each room features traditional Japanese materials, including large cypress wood bathtubs, tatami mats, natural wood elements, and gold leaf accents to provide the signature Banyan Tree serene sanctuary that the brand is famous for.

The hotel's sustainable practices include preserving and reinforcing the historic stone walls from Hotel Ryozen, cultivating moss for the stone walls during construction, and maintaining existing symbolic trees and the bamboo grove.

Naturally, guests can also expect a specially curated menu of unique Kyoto-specific treatments from the award-winning Banyan Tree Spa, promising them distinctive ways to unwind and explore.

Banyan Tree Higashiyama Kyoto is the only hotel in Kyoto with a Noh Stage – the oldest surviving form of Japanese theater enacted in an extremely simple space in which there is no curtain between the playing area and the audience.

The sacred Ryozen area within Higashiyama mountain has long served as a boundary between the town and the mountains of Kyoto, with the Otani Sobyō Mausoleum to the north and the Toribenō area to the south. This area



Banyan Tree is renowned for offering travellers a distinctive and premium experience to rejuvenate the mind, body and soul in iconic locations and destinations around the globe.



symbolises the transition between the world and the afterlife. Nohgaku, a traditional Japanese performing art featuring supernatural themes such as ghosts and gods, has been performed continuously for around 650 years since the Muromachi period and was designated a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2008.

The Noh stage, comprising the "main stage" and "Kagami no Ma," represents two worlds, with the "Hashigakari" acting as a bridge between them. The hotel has constructed a unique Noh stage on its premises to reflect this boundary nature. Designed by renowned architect Kengo Kuma, the stage rafters are designed to blend seamlessly with Higashiyama's natural surroundings, making the elegant stage a unique venue for traditional Nohgaku, contemporary art performances, and musical events, offering guests an unforgettable cultural experience. 🌳



Photos: Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong

Timeless elegance

by Angela Goh



Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong, the island's oldest hotel, truly encapsulates the timeless elegance of its birthplace.

"The name itself conjures up where one should stay, a kind of onomatopoeia," said the late Sir David Tang, Mandarin Oriental's first 'Fan'. (A host of international celebrities have been gracing the "I am a Fan" advertising campaign since 2000).

Embodying the brand's legacy as its first and flagship property, Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong holds mastery over bespoke hospitality with an enviable reputation for exceeding guests' expectations.

"They remember that you're away from home, so they try to treat you as if you're at home," said the founder of Shanghai Tang and China Club in Hong Kong. "Not only do they look after us – but they also look out for us."

Those standards hold true today. Flight-weary guests (this writer included) would go from light-headed to light-hearted meeting the cheerfully enthusiastic airport greeter Kevin Koo – whose first job has spanned 25 years at the same hotel – and driver Jack Chun, who has ferried hotel guests for 12 years. On passing mention of my maiden visit, Jack went into former tour guide mode, turning an otherwise staid transfer into a rewarding guided tour.

First-class Beginnings

The idea for a first-class hotel in Hong Kong was conceived back in 1959 by Hugh Barton, the top boss at Jardine, Matheson & Co. and chairman of Hongkong Land.

Barton had envisioned the city's growing potential as a tourist destination: "The thing that always amazed me about Hong Kong was that you could do twice as much in the same time as you could in the city of London for the simple reason that the people you wanted to see were all around you, at most a five-minute walk away. That was one of my most pressing arguments for building a top-class hotel."

It was almost named The Queen's Hotel (honouring Queen Victoria), but the name "The Mandarin more satisfactorily reflects the oriental setting and atmosphere which will be part of its attraction, especially to visitors from Western lands," according to the hotel's historical archive.

The Mandarin debuted in 1963 – then the tallest building in the city fronting Victoria Harbour in the throbbing heart of Central, the main financial district. Bangkok's grande dame, The Oriental, entered the fold in 1973 (by way of Hongkong Land's 49 per cent stake), setting the stage for the birth of one



of the world's most renowned hospitality brands. The Mandarin was renamed Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong in 1985.

That period also ushered in the corporate logo, the eleven-bladed fan tying together the hotels into the single identity. Additionally, each property has its own fan to reflect its history and location – for Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong it's an antique 1870 Canton fan depicting scenes from Chinese courts and social life.

Legacy of exclusivity continues

By today's standard, the hotel's 25-storey cigar-box style edifice looks modest but inside the design palette spans

Chinese-Colonial aesthetics to polished contemporary flair. Bold-veined marble and antiques feature throughout.

Among the 387 rooms and 60 suites, the Harbour View Suites offer the best views (of both the harbour and city skyline). Another standout is the centrepiece of the art-deco style bathroom – a standalone bathtub with a commanding vista of the harbour front.

Old and new fuse seamlessly as well in the dining and drinking department – think reimagined classic recipes along with progressive surprises, curated and cooked to perfection – spread among nine venues. The highlights include Mandarin Grill + Bar. A Michelin star in its grasp for 16 consecutive years, this stalwart is renowned for fine steaks and seafood (the signature caviar tin with Alaskan king crab is divine).

Another crowning glory is Man Wah (meaning The Mandarin in Cantonese), Michelin-starred for 11 years in a row, the restaurant has majored in refined classic Cantonese cuisine since 1968. Its delicately steamed grouper fillet and crab meat proves its prowess.

Ranked no.10 in this year's Asia's 50 Best Bars list, The Aubrey takes the Japanese izakaya experience to greater heights. Expect traditional Japanese cuisine, sake and bartender-curated drinks (but stay somewhat sober to appreciate the finely layered mille crepe cake).

From epicurean delicacies to sybaritic sensations, two exclusive gems await at the Forbes five-star ranked spa. Shanghainese pedicure – a dying practice rarely found elsewhere – is offered by the hotel's much sought after master pedicurist, Ben Cheung. (The only equipment the 25-year veteran uses is a set of scalpels.) The other, is the Imperial Jade ritual, a calming full body massage and facial incorporating the prized gemstone which revitalises the qi.

Six decades on, this legendary hotel is still the place to see and be seen in a city where tradition and modernity intermingle. ITV journalist Sir Trevor McDonald, who covered the 1997 handover, quipped: "If you sat there [in the lobby] long enough, the world would go by." 🏯



About The Writer

Angela Goh is an avid traveller with a penchant for spas, safaris and trekking. Born in Penang, lived in Singapore and San Diego, currently based in Kuala Lumpur. The former news journalist now traverses the world to write about travel, wellness and gastronomy.

The Vietage by Anantara

Adds A Second Luxury Rail Journey in Vietnam

by Priyanka Elhence

Heralding a new age of slow and sustainable travel, The Vietage by Anantara offers timeless luxury travel experiences through South-Central Vietnam with the launch of a second railway carriage operating daily between Nha Trang and Quy Nhon.

Imagine meandering through the picturesque Vietnamese countryside and being transported into a world of glamour and nostalgia, adorned with all the comforts of modern luxury.

Welcome to The Vietage by Anantara's luxury journey through South-Central Vietnam, another feather in Anantara's specially curated collection of travel experiences.

Building on the resounding success of the existing carriage running daily between Da Nang and Quy Nhon, the new custom-designed addition will connect the renowned coastal city of Nha





Trang served by Cam Ranh International Airport, on daily return railway routes between Da Nang and Quy Nhon, and Nha Trang and Quy Nhon in South-Central Vietnam.

The Vietage by Anantara perfectly embodies a new age of slow and sustainable train travel. Offering 12 reservation-only seats in private booths of two, passengers can expect a seamless blend of sleek modern interiors with inspiration from Indochina, along with big picture windows to admire the stunning country's scenery, amid a plethora of lotus ponds, rice paddies and striking flora and fauna. Watch as stretches of coastline fronting the East Sea and expansive bays transform as the train heads inland into the mountainous province of Phú Yên, the home of Champa communities and historical sites.

The train departs from Nha Trang every afternoon and arrives at Dieu Tri station in Quy Nhon in the evening, before continuing up to Da Nang, arriving after midnight. Running in the opposite direction, the train's additional carriage departs from Da Nang every morning, reaching Dieu Tri station in Quy Nhon in the early afternoon and arrives at Nha Trang in the mid-evening.

While not visible from the railway itself, the luxury train also passes by Vietnam's oldest lighthouse, Mui Dien, which sits at the easternmost point of the country, making it the first place to watch the sunrise. Continuing its northerly track through the province's capital city of Tuy Hòa, Vietnam's longest wooden bridge, the 800-meter Bình Thạnh Bridge is a gateway to some notable local landmarks.

A one-way ticket aboard The Vietage by Anantara between Nha Trang and Quy Nhon costs US\$420 per person, which includes a sumptuous afternoon tea and a 15-minute head and shoulder treatment.

The exclusively curated afternoon tea experience comprises poached Bai Dai lobster and Da Lat caviar, a tower of homemade finger sandwiches, pastries, cakes and traditional scones, finishing off with artisanal cheese and charcuterie. Passengers can pair the food with a premium tea selection from Vietnamese tea brand Epicurean Sao, ethically sourced local coffee from La Folliet, plus free-flowing wines, cocktails, beers, mocktails and soft drinks. An à la carte menu also offers quality wines and champagnes for pre-order while fans can purchase extra portions of caviar on board.

The Vietage by Anantara contributes to the 'Dollars for Deeds' programme, where US\$1 from every ticket sale is donated to The Kianh Foundation, a not-for-profit charity that provides a full-time and customised curriculum for children with disabilities in the Quang Nam Province of Central Vietnam. 🙏

Louis Vuitton:

How Luggage Transformed the

Luxury Industry

by R Jacob

A look at history behind the iconic fashion brand.

In the heart of Paris, under the flickering gas lamps of the 19th century, a young man named Louis Vuitton set out on a journey that would forever change the world of fashion. It was 1833 when Vuitton, a 13-year-old apprentice, walked 470 kilometres from his hometown in Anchay, to Paris, driven by a dream of mastering the art of box-making. This arduous journey would set the foundation for a brand that would one day become synonymous with the epitome of luxury and elegance.

From Apprentice to Pioneer

Born in 1821, Louis Vuitton grew up in a small village in eastern France. His family was not wealthy, and his early life was marked by modesty and hard work. At the age of 13, Vuitton decided to leave home and head to Paris. When he finally arrived in 1837, Vuitton was taken on as an apprentice to Monsieur Maréchal, a successful box-maker. This gave Vuitton the opportunity to refine his craft, gaining skills that would later define his career.

During this period, travel was becoming more accessible to the wealthy, and there was a growing demand for durable, stylish luggage. Vuitton saw an opportunity to innovate, noticing that traditional rounded-top trunks, designed to let water run off during travel, were impractical for stacking. So, in 1854, he launched his own workshop and introduced flat-topped trunks, which were not only stackable but also lightweight and durable. This innovation was revolutionary and marked the birth of the Louis Vuitton brand.

The Birth of a Legacy

Vuitton's trunks quickly gained popularity among Paris's elite, including Empress Eugénie, the wife of Napoleon III. With a growing reputation for quality and style, Louis Vuitton expanded his business,



Photos: Unsplash

opening a larger workshop in 1859. The brand's success continued to grow, and in 1888, Louis Vuitton introduced the Damier canvas, an iconic checkerboard pattern that would become one of the brand's most recognisable motifs.

In 1892, Louis Vuitton passed away, leaving the business to his son, Georges Vuitton. Determined to expand the brand's global reach, he introduced the iconic LV monogram in 1896, a pattern of interlocking L's and V's, flowers, and quatrefoils, designed both to honour his father's legacy and to combat counterfeiting. The monogram swiftly came to represent exclusivity and luxury, solidifying the brand's status as a global fashion powerhouse.

A Legacy of Innovation and Craftsmanship

The brand's innovation can be seen in its constant evolution of products. For instance, in the early 20th century, as automobiles became more popular, Louis Vuitton introduced specialised luggage to accommodate the needs of car travellers. In 1930, the brand launched the Keepall bag, a versatile, lightweight travel bag that quickly became a favourite among fashion-conscious travellers. This was followed by the introduction of the Speedy bag, which remains one of the brand's most iconic products to this day.

Louis Vuitton's dedication to craftsmanship is also evident in its continued use of traditional techniques. The brand's products are still made by skilled artisans, many of whom have spent decades perfecting their craft. Each piece is meticulously constructed, often requiring hundreds of individual steps to complete. This commitment to quality ensures that every Louis Vuitton product is not only beautiful, but also built to last.

Tradition and Modernity, Perfectly Blended

Louis Vuitton's ability to blend tradition with modernity is

a key factor in its enduring appeal. The brand has always been at the forefront of fashion, setting trends rather than following them. This forward-thinking approach is evident in its collaborations with contemporary artists and designers, which have helped to keep the brand fresh and relevant.

One of their most notable collaborations was with the artist Takashi Murakami in 2003. Murakami's colourful reinterpretation of the LV monogram brought a playful, modern twist to the brand's classic designs, appealing to a younger, more diverse audience. This collaboration was a huge success and marked the beginning of a series of partnerships with artists such as Stephen Sprouse, Yayoi Kusama, and Jeff Koons, each of whom brought their unique vision to the brand.

Yet, despite its willingness to embrace change, Louis Vuitton has never lost sight of its roots. The brand continues to produce many of its classic designs, such as the Steamer Bag and the Petite Malle, which harken back to its early days as a trunk maker.

An Enduring Icon

From its humble beginnings in a small Parisian workshop to its current status as a global fashion icon, Louis Vuitton has remained true to its core values of innovation, craftsmanship, and luxury. The brand's ability to adapt to changing times while maintaining its commitment to quality is what has allowed it to endure for over a century.

Today, Louis Vuitton is a symbol of elegance, sophistication, and timeless style. Whether it is a classic monogrammed handbag, a bespoke piece of luggage, or a modern, cutting-edge accessory, Louis Vuitton products continue to captivate and inspire, making the brand a true icon in the world of fashion. 🏠

Behind the Kelly

by Julia Goh

Uncover the secrets of Hermes' renowned craftsmanship and artisanal know-how, as we spotlight its legacy of training, skill development and innovation in its unwavering pursuit of perfection.

French luxury house Hermes is celebrated for its commitment to high-quality craftsmanship and timeless elegance. Each Hermes creation, whether it's the elegant Kelly, iconic Birkin or versatile Constance, is a testament to this commitment.

At the heart of this legacy lies a dedication to preserving, developing and transmitting its artisanal know-how. This dedication is seen not only within the confines of its workshops, but also in its various initiatives to nurture and innovate beyond its walls.

One person, one bag

From its beginnings in 1837 as a harness and saddle maker, Hermes had placed leather at the core of its identity. Its leather products, made exclusively in France, are created with exacting craftsmanship, combining traditional techniques with innovative processes.

The artisans at Hermes are the custodians of the brand's legacy. Over 4,000 of them in 20 or so workshops are trained to execute the intricate techniques of its leather goods. From the delicate saddle stitching to careful edge dyeing and polishing, every detail is attended to with precision.

Each Hermes bag, crafted by a single artisan from start to finish, embodies the 'one person, one bag' philosophy, which ensures individual attention to detail and a personal touch. Each bag bears its maker's mark – a personalised stamp assigned to the artisan after a year in the job. This process not only guarantees high standards of craftsmanship but also creates a unique bond between the artisan and the bag, making



Photos: Chris Payne

each piece one-of-a-kind. This meticulous craftsmanship permeates every product Hermes creates, from leather bags, equestrian gear, silk scarves and fragrances to home decor and jewellery.

Advancing artistic expression

Beyond its walls, Hermes engages with society and communities to nurture, educate and train future artists and talents. Playing pivotal roles are three innovative programmes – the Artists' Residencies, Skills Academy and Manufacto.

The Artists' Residencies is a cornerstone of Hermes' commitment to fostering creativity and artistic expression. Launched in 2010 by the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, this initiative invites contemporary visual artists to immerse themselves in the company's workshops.

During their residency, artists work with Hermes artisans and are given freedom to experiment with the house's materials and techniques, and to explore new creative possibilities. This collaboration not only enriches the artists' practice but also inspires Hermes artisans to think beyond conventional methods, encouraging a continuous evolution of their skills.



One notable artist who had participated in this programme was Sebastien Gouju. During his residency, Gouju discovered leatherwork, creating the installation piece *Contre-jour* in collaboration with Hermes leatherworkers. The installation offered a glimpse of a ‘twilight Garden of Eden’ where various plants were constructed entirely in black leather. It demonstrated how modern artistic techniques can be seamlessly integrated with time honoured practices.

Similarly, artist-sculptor Emmanuel Regent had utilised his residency to delve into the world of glass making. Adapting the process of watercolour painting to crystal-making in collaboration with Hermes artisans, he created a series of sculptures that were poetic interpretations of clouds in glass. His work exemplified the innovative spirit that the programme seeks to cultivate.

“To create is to examine our place in the world by modifying our relationship with time, space and other human beings. The Artists’ Residencies represent an essential driver for creation, based on encounters between artists and craftspeople and, perhaps more daringly, between the worlds of art and company life,” noted Laurent Pejoux, director of the foundation.

Fostering cross-disciplinary innovation

The Skills Academy is another vital initiative that embodies Hermes’ dedication to its craft. Established in 2014, the biennial academy serves as a platform for artisans, designers and other professionals to share their expertise and learn from one another.

Within a context of innovation, research and development, participants across all age groups are invited to develop prospective projects around a universal material, such as wood, earth, metal, textiles and glass. Overseen by a leader in their field, participants engage in a range of activities,

from hands-on workshops, master classes to experimental laboratories, all designed to enrich their knowledge and enhance their skills.

In 2025, the academy will explore the theme of paper, a material with profound historical significance and contemporary relevance. Under the guidance of guest designer Constance Guisset, participants will investigate the creative possibilities and ecological challenges of paper, pushing the boundaries of innovation and sustainability.

Nurturing the next generation

In 2016, the Fondation d’entreprise Hermès launched *Manufacto*, an apprenticeship programme that introduces schoolchildren to the world of craft and artisan trades.

Through a series of 12 two-hour sessions, students are guided by a trio of professionals – a craftsman, an assistant and an educator – as they learn the techniques and tools of various trades. These sessions, integrated into the school curriculum, allow pupils to create high-quality objects, such as lamps, stools and wallets, fostering an appreciation for the intricacies of craftsmanship and the joy of creating something tangible.

Since its inception, *Manufacto* has expanded significantly. From a pilot programme in six Parisian schools, it is now available in over 75 schools, with more than 1,900 pupils benefitting from this hands-on experience. The programme has also reached new regions in France, and internationally in cities like London and Milan.

From nurturing young talent to pushing creative boundaries and embracing modern techniques, Hermes is steadfast in preserving, developing and transmitting its artisanal knowhow. This philosophy behind every creation keeps the house at the forefront of quality, innovation and artistry, ensuring a legacy that is as timeless as the Kelly. 🍷



About The Writer

Julia Coh is a Singapore-based editorial specialist with over 20 years of experience in content creation. She was the managing editor of a few publications. Her passion for storytelling spans subjects from travel, scuba diving to the luxury lifestyle. A consummate artist, she is the creator behind the digital and NFT art collection Orchid Rhapsody.

Invisible, nylon thread and suede with shaped wedge heel in covered wood, 1947



Sole Alchemist

by Julia Goh

Salvatore Ferragamo, the visionary shoemaker, crafted some of the 20th century's most iconic styles. Discover how his legacy lives on through a brand that epitomises timeless luxury and innovation.



Salvatore Ferragamo with the Damigella ankle boot designed for Sophia Loren, 1959

In the world of high fashion, few stories are as captivating as that of Salvatore Ferragamo's, a shoemaker whose creations and name became synonymous with luxury, innovation and impeccable craftsmanship. His journey from a small village in Italy to the glamorous streets of Hollywood and the historic avenues of Florence is a tale of passion, creativity and a relentless pursuit of perfection.

From Bonito to Hollywood

Salvatore Ferragamo was born in 1898 in Bonito, a quaint village in southern Italy. The 11th of 14 children, he found his calling early. By the age of 11, he was already an apprentice to a shoemaker in Naples. By 13, he had opened his own shop in Bonito. His early start in the world of shoemaking was just the beginning of a lifelong journey that would revolutionise the industry.

Ferragamo's quest for knowledge took him to America at the tender age of 16. Working in a large shoe factory in Boston, he was fascinated by the modern machinery but disillusioned by their compromise on quality. This experience ignited in him a desire to marry the efficiency of mass production with the meticulous care of handcrafted shoes.

The early 1920s saw Ferragamo move to Santa Barbara, California, where he opened a shoe repair shop. This was no ordinary shop. Nestled in the budding movie industry hub, Ferragamo's exceptional skills quickly caught the eye of actors and actresses. He began designing and crafting bespoke shoes for Hollywood's elite, earning himself the moniker "shoemaker to the stars".

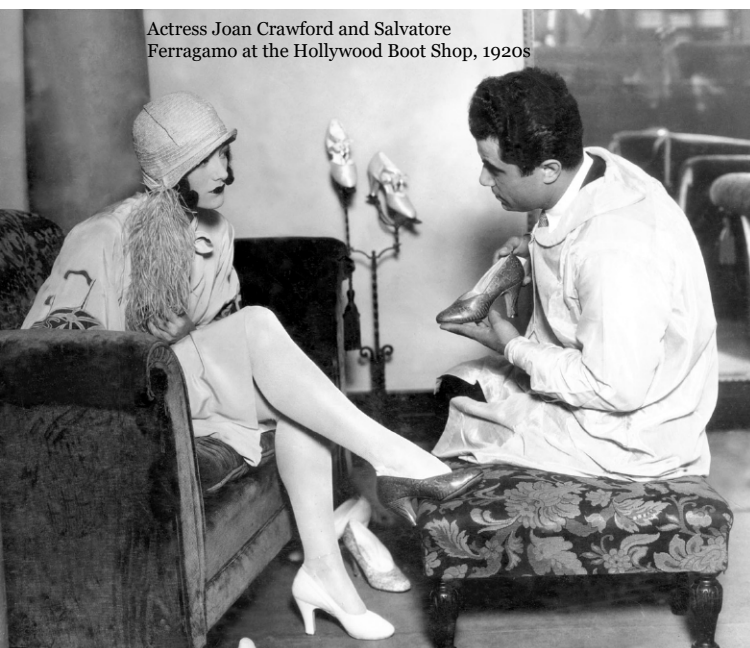
Ferragamo's innovative spirit shone brightly during this period. He didn't just make beautiful shoes; he studied human anatomy, chemical engineering and mathematics at the University of Los Angeles to perfect the fit and comfort of his creations. This scientific approach to shoemaking set him apart, earning him over 350 patents and a place in fashion history.

He would also personally measure his clients' feet to create wooden lasts – genuine sculptures used for the construction of shoes. Photographs of Ferragamo holding his customers' feet show his ability to feel and appreciate the beauty of the foot – a key contributor to the unique quality of his shoes. "I love feet. They talk to me. A good foot, its muscles firm, its arch strong, is a delight to touch, a masterpiece of divine workmanship," he wrote in his memoir.

The Italian return

Despite his Hollywood success, Ferragamo yearned for the craftsmanship that only Italy could offer. In 1927, he returned to Florence, a city renowned for its artistic heritage and skilled artisans. Here, he opened a workshop that would become the birthplace of some of the most iconic shoes in fashion history. The workshop in Palazzo Spini Feroni remains the company's headquarters to this day.

Ferragamo's time in Florence was marked by creativity and innovation. He once remarked, "There is no limit to beauty, no saturation point in design, no end to the material." This philosophy drove him to constantly experiment with materials, including humble ones like cork, nylon fishing line and cellophane, creating designs that were both avant-garde and timeless. His dedication to quality and comfort never wavered.



Actress Joan Crawford and Salvatore Ferragamo at the Hollywood Boot Shop, 1920s

Artistry and craftsmanship

Ferragamo's designs were works of art. The Rainbow sandal, created for actress Judy Garland in 1938, is a perfect example. Made with multi-colour suede lining a towering platform heel, it was a bold departure from traditional footwear. Another famed creation was the Invisible sandal – its upper, made of nylon thread, gave the illusion of being barefoot. Then there was the stiletto heel made famous by Marilyn Monroe, which became a symbol of elegance and sophistication. Equally celebrated was the 18-karat gold sandal, with exquisite engravings on its heels.

Perhaps one of his most famous innovations was the cork wedge heel, designed during World War II when leather and steel were scarce. This invention not only solved a practical problem but also became a fashion statement, beloved by women around the world.

Salvatore Ferragamo passed away in 1960, leaving behind a legacy of unparalleled craftsmanship and innovation. His wife, Wanda Miletti Ferragamo, and their six children took up the mantle, expanding the business into new markets and product lines, including men's and women's ready-to-wear, leather goods and silk accessories.

Today, the Salvatore Ferragamo Group is one of the few major fashion houses that remains family-owned. The family's dedication ensured that the brand's core principles of quality, elegance and innovation were never compromised.

Past, present and future

Artistry and craftsmanship are the cornerstones of Ferragamo's legacy. Showcasing this legacy is the Ferragamo Historical Archive, which houses thousands of shoes, sketches and patents that tell the story of Salvatore's genius. There are over 14,000 women's shoes; 1,663 bags; 5,280 clothing items; 2,728 scarves; 5,754 ties; 601 small leather goods; 2,580 silk accessories and scarves; 2,213 pieces of jewellery; 474 historic leathers; 1,167 tools, components, lasts and fit studies; 156 gold jewellery pieces; 312 artworks; an estimated 657,364 documentary materials; and 3,945 audio-visual materials.

This archive serves as a source of inspiration for current and future designers, ensuring that the Ferragamo spirit of innovation and excellence lives on. Salvatore Ferragamo's words resonate through its halls: "Elegance and comfort are not incompatible, and whoever maintains the contrary simply doesn't know what he's talking about." This belief continues to guide the brand as it balances tradition with modernity.

The story of Salvatore Ferragamo is one of passion, innovation and family. His is a legacy that will inform and inspire for generations to come. 🌟

Regent Seven Seas Cruises® Debuts The New Multi-Million-Dollar **Art Collection aboard Seven Seas Grandeur™**

by Priyanka Elhence

The 1,600-piece art collection includes multiple Picassos, a 40-ft-tall hand-woven tapestry and the first Fabergé Egg to reside permanently at sea.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises, the world's leading luxury cruise line, boasts a multi-million-dollar art collection to be displayed on board the line's newest ship, Seven Seas Grandeur™. The 1,600-piece art collection, predominantly featuring contemporary art, took nearly two years to

curate and commission, sourcing from artists and galleries worldwide.

The Pièce de Résistance of the art collection is a custom designed Fabergé Egg, 'Journey in Jewels' masterpiece, the first Fabergé Egg to permanently reside at sea. The Egg embodies the Regent sailing experience with a cascading waterfall of ocean greens and subtle turquoise throughout its three-tiered base, while the outer shell features deep blue



waves which break into a sea spray of pearls. The outer egg 'shell' is composed of seven blades, representing the seven seas, with a surprise hidden inside.

The ship's godmother Sarah Fabergé, founding member of The Fabergé Heritage Council and great-granddaughter of Peter Carl Fabergé, christened the Seven Seas Grandeur at an exclusive gala event in Miami, Florida in December 2023. One of Sarah's first duties as Godmother will be to host art lovers on board Seven Seas Grandeur on a special Spotlight Voyage this July, featuring behind-the-scenes access to Fabergé through master classes and shoreside excursions.

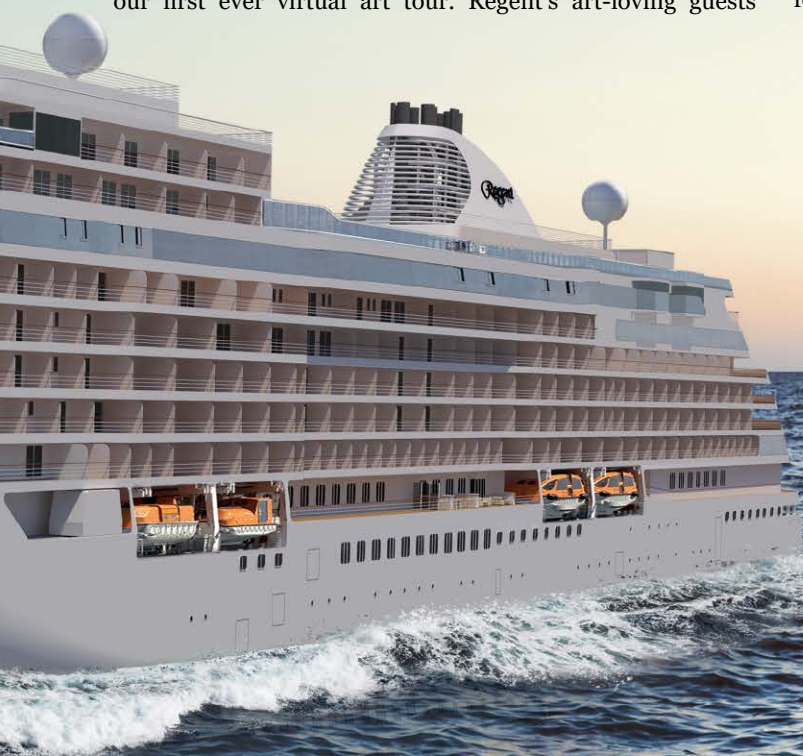
As an added first at sea, Regent has also introduced a digital art tour – Art Experience – aboard Seven Seas Grandeur. The digital art tour provides an immersive, interactive and exclusive experience for guests to connect with the artwork and their artists. For instance, passengers have access to select artworks of Rauschenberg, Matta, Sophie Elizabeth Thompson and Eduardo Arranz-Bravo, their process, and their inspiration for the respective pieces. Says Andrea DeMarco, president of Regent Seven Seas Cruises, "It is extremely rare to enjoy such personal access to artwork of this calibre, and now guests can connect deeper with the art and artists they've fallen in love with onboard our ships through our first ever virtual art tour. Regent's art-loving guests

will find Seven Seas Grandeur to be one of most engrossing galleries they have ever explored."

Other notable artwork includes a nearly 40-foot-tall hand-woven tapestry, "The Enchanted Tree," created by world-renowned Brazilian artist Walter Goldfarb; as well as a custom-made bronze and hand-cast glass Bonsai Cherry Tree Sculpture created exclusively by Savoy Studios, creating an experiential entrance to Pacific Rim, the ship's pan-Asian speciality restaurant.

Trees are an ongoing design theme for Seven Seas Grandeur, especially in the ship's largest specialty restaurant at sea, Compass Rose. Guests dine under a canopy of interwoven crystal and wood-edged illuminated trees, giving the illusion of dining in an enchanted forest featuring thousands of individually placed crystal-faceted leaves.

Seven Seas Grandeur's curated art collection features artists from all over the world across dozens of mediums including sculpture, original paintings, photographs, and more. "The artwork featured on Seven Seas Grandeur includes work from some of the most notable artists of our time, from Pablo Picasso to Eduardo Arranz-Bravo, as well as unique installations and features," said Sarah Hall Smith, art director for Regent Seven Seas Cruises. 





Ocean Dazzlers

by Julia Goh

The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection redefines ultra-luxury cruising with its superyachts Evrima, Ilma and Luminara. Unparalleled luxury at sea awaits as the fleet sets sail across the globe.

Imagine a voyage across the ocean where luxury knows no bounds, where the gentle sway of the sea is accompanied by world-class dining and every detail is meticulously crafted. This siren call is now a reality with The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection, a fleet of ultra-luxury yachts setting sail across the globe.

Renowned for its outstanding service and opulent accommodations, The Ritz-Carlton has long been a benchmark in the luxury hospitality industry. Extending this legacy to the high seas, its superyacht fleet combines the brand's signature elegance with the freedom of ocean travel, offering guests an intimate and exclusive cruising experience unlike any other.

The collection's first superyacht, Evrima, meaning 'discovery' in Greek, was launched in October 2022. It set the standard for what has now become a trio of exceptional vessels. The newest additions, Ilma and Luminara, recently debuted, promise guests the same exquisite level of luxury and service, and more.

Water and Light

Stepping aboard these superyachts, guests are immediately immersed in a private sanctuary, where opulent interiors, thoughtfully designed itineraries and world-class culinary offerings await.

Ilma, meaning 'water' in Maltese, was launched in September 2024, voyaging to the Mediterranean, Northern Europe and the Caribbean. At 790 ft, Ilma accommodates up to 448 guests in 224 light-filled suites, each with a private terrace. Two spacious upper suites measuring over 1,000 sq ft offer guests a premier cruising experience.

The yacht's interior design is a seamless blend of contemporary elegance and practical luxury, as envisioned by renowned London-based architectural firm AD Associates and award-winning lighting designer DPA. Its sleek exterior design, crafted by Helsinki-based design studio Aivan, draws inspiration from the elegant aesthetics of private yacht design.

Ilma's top deck offers a dynamic open-air space for entertainment and relaxation, while an expanded marina with a new mezzanine feature provides direct access to the sea. Guests can indulge in five restaurants, seven bars, a wine vault and the signature Ritz-Carlton Spa.

Culinary excellence is a cornerstone of The Ritz-Carlton experience, and Ilma is no exception. Renowned chefs Fabio Trabocchi and Michael Mina bring their expertise to the yacht, creating dining venues and menus that offer both innovation and tradition. From modern Italian fine dining at Seta su Ilma to the vibrant, open-air Beach House with its Pan-Latin and Caribbean menu, each meal promises to be a memorable event.



“The Seta su Ilma experience is inspired by my love for the sea in the magnificent setting of The Ritz Carlton Yacht Collection. The exquisite Italian coastal cuisine is our inspiration for a journey of elegance and timeless beauty as part of La Dolce Vita,” said Trabocchi, owner of the award-winning Fabio Trabocchi Restaurants.

Michael Mina, award-winning chef and founder of The Mina Group, noted, “I have always been fascinated with the powerful flavours and vibrant energy of Latin America and the Caribbean, and I have dreamed of bringing an array of their ingredients together one day. I am thrilled to be collaborating with The Ritz Carlton Yacht Collection to introduce this new restaurant to Ilma’s guests.”



Meanwhile, the third superyacht in the fleet, Luminara, meaning ‘light’ in Latin, is slated to set sail in July 2025. Slightly larger at 794 ft, Luminara will host up to 452 guests in 226 spacious suites, each with a private ocean view terrace. The yacht has one of the highest staff and space ratios at sea, ensuring intimate journeys with exceptional service. The yacht’s design emphasises openness and light, with expansive decks and airy interiors. An extensive wine collection, a Ritz-Carlton Spa and an expanded marina are just a few of the amenities that await.

Luminara’s introduction also marks the collection’s first foray into the Asia Pacific region, offering ten journeys between December 2025 and May 2026. These voyages will explore 28 ports across ten countries, including Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. Jim Murren, executive chairman and CEO of The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection, noted, “These new itineraries exemplify our commitment to continually raising the bar in luxury cruising, offering innovative ways to experience our superyachts and explore vibrant local cultures.”

Journeys of distinction

The itineraries offered on board the yachts promise immersive experiences in some of the world’s most beautiful locales. Whether it is exploring the Mediterranean’s historic sites, the Caribbean’s hidden coves, or the cultural richness of Asia Pacific, each voyage is designed to provide ample time ashore for authentic encounters and adventures. Private tours with local guides, handpicked for their insider knowledge, offer guests the chance to delve deeper into each destination.

One of the key advantages of these superyachts is their ability to access smaller, less-visited ports that are often inaccessible to larger cruise ships. This allows guests to go beyond the typical tourist trail and experience a more authentic and intimate side of each destination.

Luminara’s Asia Pacific itineraries exemplify this approach. Voyage highlights on a 14-night cruise from Singapore to Hong Kong, for instance, include toasting the New Year aboard the yacht, relaxing on the renowned beaches of Koh Samui, exploring vibrant Bangkok, and delving into Vietnam’s history in the subterranean Cu Chi Tunnels outside Ho Chi Minh City.

As they set sail, Evrima, Ilma and Luminara promise to deliver experiences that are as breathtaking as the destinations they explore. For those seeking the pinnacle of sea travel, the future looks bright and inviting. 🌊

Rolls Royce A Legacy of Excellence

The “best car in the world” and for good reason.

by R Jacob



In the late 1910s, an adventurous British explorer named Lawrence of Arabia found himself amid the unforgiving Sahara Desert, leading a convoy across its treacherous sands. At the heart of his journey was an incredible vehicle – a Rolls-Royce ‘Silver Ghost’. Unlike the camels and horses traditionally used to traverse such terrain, the Silver Ghost was an unexpected sight, gleaming under the relentless desert sun.

The Silver Ghost, chosen for its exceptional durability and reliability, defied the odds as it powered through the dunes and rocky landscapes of the Sahara. Despite the harsh conditions, the car performed flawlessly, and its robust engineering and precision craftsmanship proved to be more than a match for the desert's challenges. For Lawrence, the Silver Ghost was not only a means of transport but a symbol of British ingenuity and the embodiment of mechanical perfection.

This extraordinary expedition cemented the Silver Ghost's reputation as “the best car in the world”, a title it had already earned in less extreme circumstances. The car's success in the Sahara was proof of Rolls-Royce's engineering prowess, and a defining moment in the brand's legacy. From that point on, Rolls-Royce vehicles were seen as the epitome of reliability, luxury, and craftsmanship – qualities that continue to define the brand to this day.

A Historic Partnership, Born from Chance

The story of Rolls-Royce begins with two remarkable men: Charles Stewart Rolls and Sir Frederick Henry Royce. Their partnership, which would become the foundation of one of the most prestigious brands in the world, was established in 1904. At the time, the automotive industry was in its infancy, and many cars were still seen as unreliable and prone to breakdowns.

Henry Royce, a brilliant engineer with a keen eye for detail, had already earned a reputation for his work in the electrical and mechanical engineering fields. Frustrated with the poor quality of cars on the market, Royce took it upon himself to create a better vehicle. The result was the Royce 10, a car that caught the attention of Charles Rolls, a successful car dealer and aviation enthusiast.

Impressed by Royce's engineering prowess, Rolls agreed to sell Royce's cars exclusively through

his dealership. This partnership gave birth to the Rolls-Royce brand, and the rest, as they say, is history. The duo's first joint venture, the Rolls-Royce 10 hp, quickly set new standards for automotive excellence, and their commitment to “the best car in the world” ethos would become the driving force behind every vehicle that bore the Rolls-Royce badge.

Pioneering the Path to Perfection

Rolls-Royce's journey from its early beginnings to becoming the leader in automotive luxury is marked by numerous milestones and innovations. The Silver Ghost, introduced in 1906, is often credited with establishing the brand's reputation for quality. Dubbed “the best car in the world” by the Autocar magazine, the Silver Ghost was lauded for its unparalleled reliability, durability, and comfort. Aside from Lawrence of Arabia's legendary charge, it famously completed a 14,371 mile journey without any significant mechanical issues, a feat that was almost unimaginable at the time.

This commitment to engineering excellence wasn't limited to automobiles. During the First World War, engines produced by Rolls-Royce powered many of Britain's military aircraft. In particular, the Rolls-Royce ‘Eagle’ engine played a crucial role in the development of military aviation and contributed to the company's diversification into the aerospace industry.

In the years following the war, Rolls-Royce continued to innovate and expand. The introduction of the Phantom in 1925 marked another significant milestone for the company. The Phantom series, known for its superior engineering and luxurious design, have since become one of the most iconic names in the automotive world. Each successive generation of the Phantom has built upon the legacy of its predecessors, incorporating cutting-edge technology while maintaining the brand's signature refinement.

The company's innovations were not confined to its products alone; its manufacturing processes were also at the forefront of industry standards. The development of the Rolls-Royce production system in the 1930s introduced the concept of precision engineering and quality control, ensuring that every vehicle that left the factory met the highest standards of craftsmanship.



Photos: Pexels

In the post-war years, Rolls-Royce capitalised on its success in the aerospace sector by developing jet engines, a move that would revolutionise air travel. The Rolls-Royce Nene, introduced in 1944, became one of the most successful jet engines of its time, powering numerous military and civilian aircraft around the world. This success laid the groundwork for the company's continued dominance in aerospace engineering, with subsequent engines like the Avon, the Spey, and the Dart, further cementing its leadership.

As the decades progressed, Rolls-Royce continued to embrace new technologies and materials. In the 1960s and 1970s, the company experimented with innovative features such as a hydropneumatics suspension system, and disc brakes, ensuring that their vehicles remained at the forefront of automotive engineering. They also diversified their operations beyond their core automotive and aerospace businesses, expanding into other

areas of engineering such as marine engines and industrial gas turbines.

The BMW Era

The turn of the millennium saw Rolls-Royce undergo a significant change under the ownership of BMW, which acquired the rights to the brand in 1998. With BMW's backing, Rolls-Royce opened a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Goodwood, West Sussex, in 2003. This new era began with the launch of the Phantom VII, a car that seamlessly combined the brand's heritage with cutting-edge technology and modern design.

Under BMW's stewardship, Rolls-Royce introduced models like the Ghost, Wraith, and Dawn, each of which offered new levels of luxury and performance. The introduction of the Rolls-Royce Cullinan in 2018 marked the brand's entry into the SUV market, setting new standards for luxury in this segment.

Redefining Bespoke

One of the most distinctive features of a Rolls-Royce is its silence. The company has long prided itself on creating vehicles quiet enough to hear the ticking of a clock inside the car. This perfectionism in creating a serene driving experience is evident in every aspect of the car's design – from the specially engineered tyres that reduce road noise to the painstakingly constructed interiors that cocoon passengers in luxury.

Rolls-Royce vehicles are also known for their bespoke nature. The company's Bespoke program allows clients to customise their cars to an extraordinary degree, ensuring that no two Rolls-Royces are exactly alike. Rolls-Royce offers a plethora of options to cater to the specific tastes of its customers, ranging from custom interiors, personalised embroidery and unique paint colour schemes.

The Spirit of Ecstasy

It would be remiss to talk about Rolls Royce and not further elaborate on The Spirit of Ecstasy. An iconic symbol in automotive history, it represents the elegance and prestige of Rolls-Royce. Designed

by British sculptor Charles Sykes in 1911, the emblem features a gracefully poised woman leaning forward, her arms outstretched behind her, with her clothing billowing like wings. This graceful figure, also known as "The Flying Lady", was inspired by Eleanor Thornton, a secretary and muse to Lord John Montagu, a prominent early automobile enthusiast.

Originally commissioned as a personal ornament for Montagu's car, the Spirit of Ecstasy was soon adopted by Rolls-Royce as its official mascot. It is often crafted from materials like stainless steel, silver, or even gold. Today, it is a symbol of the brand's heritage and its dedication to producing vehicles that are both a mode of transportation and a work of art – embodied by the mascot's presence on the bonnet of each Rolls-Royce.



A Modern Touch

Even in the modern era, Rolls-Royce has continued to make giant strides. The company's current lineup of vehicles, including the Phantom, Ghost, Wraith, and Cullinan, represent the best of luxury automotive design. Each model is a testament to the brand's ability to evolve while staying true to its core values enshrined years ago.

In recent times, Rolls-Royce has also made significant advances in sustainability and environmental responsibility. In 2023, the introduction of the Rolls-Royce Spectre, the company's first fully electric vehicle, marked a new chapter in the brand's history. The Spectre's success demonstrated the adaptability of the company in a changing automotive landscape. In fact, the Spectre saw record sales, with the car being booked out till the beginning of 2025.

The Rolls-Royce Legacy: More Than Just a Car

Throughout its history, Rolls-Royce has been associated with royalty, celebrities, and world leaders, all of whom have chosen the brand to represent their status and taste. From the former Maharajas of India to the Hollywood elite, owning a Rolls-Royce has always been a statement of prestige and distinction.

However, the most remarkable aspect of a Rolls-Royce is its ability to evoke a sense of wonder and admiration in people from all walks of life. Whether it's the sight of a Phantom gliding effortlessly down the road or the feeling of being enveloped in the sumptuous leather and polished wood of a Rolls-Royce interior, the brand has a unique ability to captivate and inspire.

The legacy of Rolls-Royce is not just about the cars it has built, but about the ideals it represents. It is a legacy of uncompromising quality – never afraid to push boundaries to create something truly extraordinary. Whether through the introduction of cutting-edge technology or through the continued refinement of its iconic designs, it remains the gold standard by which all other luxury vehicles are measured. For over a century, Rolls-Royce has stood as a beacon of luxury and excellence, and as the company continues to evolve and innovate, there is no doubt that this legacy will endure for generations to come. 🏛️

Royalty on Wheels

The Aston Martin DB Series Through the Ages

by Toh Mu Qin



Aston Martin, a name synonymous with luxury, performance, and British craftsmanship, has recently marked a historic milestone. For the first time in its illustrious 111-year history, Aston Martin has been awarded a Royal Warrant by Appointment to His Majesty The King. This prestigious recognition, following the King's Award for Enterprise, showcases Aston Martin's enduring legacy and its intense dedication to excellence in design, innovation, and engineering.

The DB series, an integral part of this legacy, has captivated enthusiasts and royalty alike for decades. It all began with the post-war Two Litre Sport, built in 1948, which is retrospectively referred to as the DB1. From this early model, through the distinctive DB2, the pioneering DB5 – made iconic by its 007 appearances – and the modern marvels of the DB12, each iteration in the DB lineage reflects Aston Martin's passion for crafting iconic vehicles that





blend elegance with power. The series has also expanded to include the 2019 DBX, Aston Martin's luxury SUV, and the 2022 DBX707, a high-power SUV described as "a new seat of power", showcasing the brand's continuous innovation in merging traditional excellence with contemporary demands.

The DB2, introduced in 1950, is named after David Brown, the then-owner of Aston Martin, setting the stage for the brand's future. It was followed by the DB2/4 and the DB MKII and DB MKIII, each model refining the formula of luxury and performance.

However, it was the DB5 that truly immortalised the series. Launched in 1963, the DB5 became an icon, especially after its appearance in the James Bond film, "Goldfinger". The sleek design, powerful engine, and sophisticated features made the DB5 a symbol of British automotive excellence. Even today, the DB5 remains one of the most sought-after classic cars, embodying the timeless appeal of the DB series.

The relationship between Aston Martin and the British Royal Family has further cemented the DB series' legendary status. His Majesty King Charles III has been a passionate advocate for British design and engineering, with a personal history intertwined with Aston Martin.

In October 1970, then Prince Charles became the proud owner of a DB6 MKII Vantage Volante, a gift to mark his

21st birthday. Specified in Seychelles Blue, this car was not just a means of transport but a symbol of the future King's admiration for Aston Martin's craftsmanship. Under the expert tuition of two-time Formula 1 world champion Graham Hill, Prince Charles learned to drive the DB6 to its full potential on the Thruxton Circuit in Hampshire.

This royal connection continued with the V8 Vantage Volante, a gift from the Emir of Bahrain, and a Virage Volante, leased from 1994 to 2007. Each of these cars featured bespoke elements tailored to the Prince's tastes, from a cup holder for sugar cubes for his polo ponies to an elegant sunglasses case replacing the standard ashtray.

The DB6 Volante, in particular, holds a special place in the Royal Family's history. In 2011, it took centre stage at the wedding of the current Prince and Princess of Wales. The sight of the royal couple departing down The Mall in the DB6 thrilled thousands of cheering onlookers, further embedding the car in the collective memory of the nation.

The legacy of the DB series continues with modern interpretations like the DB11. These cars retain the spirit of their predecessors while incorporating cutting-edge technology and contemporary design. The DB11, with its powerful V12 engine and luxurious interior, is a fitting successor to the legendary DB5 and DB6, representing the perfect harmony between tradition and innovation.

The DB12, introduced as the latest in this storied series, continues to push the boundaries of luxury and performance, symbolising Aston Martin's ongoing commitment to engineering excellence and innovation.

The recent awarding of the Royal Warrant by His Majesty The King is a significant moment in Aston Martin's history. Lawrence Stroll, executive chairman of Aston Martin, expressed immense pride in this recognition, highlighting it as an acknowledgement to the dedication and skill of Aston Martin's employees.

This royal endorsement not only honours Aston Martin's past achievements but also paves the way for its future. The iconic wings of Aston Martin will now sit beside the Royal Arms of the Sovereign, a symbol of the brand's prestigious status and its lasting appeal.

Aston Martin's DB series is more than just a collection of cars; it is a legacy of British craftsmanship, innovation, and luxury. As Aston Martin forges ahead with new advancements, the DB series remains a symbol of timeless class and high performance, pointing out the brand's rich heritage and its promising future. 🏰

Philanthropy and Legacy: Impact Beyond Generations

by Christina Yip



Photo: Vecteezy

Philanthropy has long been a vehicle for addressing social issues and fostering community development. However, in recent decades, wealthy individuals and families have increasingly harnessed their resources to create profound and enduring legacies through charitable initiatives. These acts of generosity extend beyond immediate relief efforts, aiming to effect long-term positive change across societies and preserve cultural heritage for future generations. This article delves into how philanthropy shapes legacies as well as exploring notable foundations, trusts, and philanthropic projects that have made significant societal contributions. Through interviews with philanthropists, foundation directors, and beneficiaries, we will uncover the impact of these initiatives and the importance of giving back as part of a legacy.

The Evolution of Philanthropy

Philanthropy, traditionally associated with individual donations and support for charitable causes, has evolved into a more structured and strategic field. Modern philanthropists often create foundations or trusts to manage their charitable giving, ensuring that their contributions have a sustained impact. This shift reflects a growing understanding that addressing complex social issues requires long-term commitment and innovative solutions.

Notable Philanthropic Foundations and Initiatives

1. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

One of the most influential philanthropic organisations globally is the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, established in 2000 by Bill and Melinda Gates. The foundation's extensive

work spans several critical areas, including global health, education, and poverty alleviation. For instance, in the realm of global health, the foundation has made remarkable strides through its support for vaccination programmes and research into diseases like malaria and tuberculosis. Its funding has been crucial in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which aims to eliminate polio worldwide. In education, the foundation has invested significantly in reform efforts, aiming to improve outcomes for underserved students across the United States. Additionally, its efforts to address poverty include backing microfinance programmes and economic development projects in low-income communities. Dr. Chris Elias, president of global development at the Gates Foundation, underscores this approach: "Our goal is to address systemic challenges that affect millions of lives. By investing in innovative solutions and fostering partnerships, we aim to create lasting change that extends well beyond our own lifetimes."

2. The Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation, founded in 1936 by Edsel Ford and his family, is renowned for its commitment to social justice, human rights, and economic development. This foundation has been instrumental in advancing civil rights, gender equality, and environmental justice through its support of advocacy groups and grassroots organisations. Its contributions include funding landmark legal cases such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, which played a pivotal role in desegregating schools in the United States. In terms of economic development, the Ford Foundation has backed

initiatives that create opportunities for marginalised communities, including small business support, vocational training, and financial inclusion efforts. Darren Walker, president of the Ford Foundation, emphasises the organisation's philosophy: "Philanthropy is not just about writing checks; it's about empowering communities to drive their own change. Our mission is to challenge inequality and support transformative efforts that build a more just and equitable society."

3. The Rockefeller Foundation

Another significant player in the philanthropic landscape is the Rockefeller Foundation, established in 1913 by John D. Rockefeller. This foundation has focused on public health, economic development, and social welfare. It has funded numerous initiatives aimed at improving health systems in developing countries, such as support for vaccines and improvements in sanitation. The Rockefeller Foundation has also been involved in enhancing agricultural productivity and fostering entrepreneurship through its economic development programmes. Dr. Rajiv J. Shah, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, reflects on the foundation's approach: "Our legacy is built on the belief that every individual deserves the opportunity to lead a healthy and productive life. By addressing systemic issues and investing in sustainable solutions, we aim to create a world where everyone can thrive."

4. The Getty Trust

Preserving cultural heritage is another crucial aspect of philanthropy, exemplified by the J. Paul Getty Trust. Founded in 1953, the Getty Trust is dedicated to supporting the arts and humanities through its Getty Museum and Getty Conservation Institute. The museum, located in Los Angeles, houses an extensive collection of art and artifacts, while the conservation institute works on preserving cultural heritage sites worldwide. The Getty Trust's efforts include funding the restoration of ancient manuscripts, sculptures, and paintings, ensuring that these invaluable cultural assets are preserved and accessible to the public. Timothy Potts, director of the Getty Museum, highlights the trust's mission: "Our commitment to art conservation is driven by the belief that cultural heritage connects us to our past and informs our future. Through meticulous preservation efforts, we ensure that future generations can experience and learn from these artistic treasures."

5. The National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, founded in 1949, plays a vital role in saving historic places and revitalising communities across the United States. The organisation engages in advocacy, grants, and educational initiatives to preserve historical landmarks and promote heritage tourism. Its work includes securing funding for the restoration of iconic landmarks and supporting community-based efforts to revitalise historic neighbourhoods. The National Trust's initiatives help integrate preservation into local planning,

ensuring that historical sites remain vibrant and relevant. Stephanie Meeks, former president and CEO of the National Trust, emphasises the broader impact: "Preserving historic places is about more than just maintaining buildings; it's about safeguarding the stories and identities of our communities. By investing in preservation, we ensure that our history remains a vibrant part of our future."

The Importance of Giving Back

The concept of legacy through philanthropy extends beyond financial contributions; it embodies a commitment to making a meaningful impact on society. For many philanthropists, the act of giving back is a way to ensure that their values and aspirations continue to influence the world long after they are gone. Creating a personal legacy through philanthropy allows individuals and families to reflect their values and passions, contributing to societal betterment in ways that resonate with their personal beliefs. Philanthropy also inspires future generations to engage in charitable work, instilling a sense of responsibility and compassion in younger members of families and communities. Furthermore, philanthropic initiatives help build stronger communities by addressing pressing social issues, supporting underfunded areas, and fostering economic and social development.

Conclusion

Philanthropy is a powerful tool for creating enduring legacies that transcend generations. Through foundations, trusts, and charitable projects, wealthy individuals and families are shaping the future by addressing critical issues, preserving cultural heritage, and empowering communities. The stories and insights shared by philanthropists, foundation directors, and beneficiaries underscore the profound impact of giving back. As we look to the future, the spirit of philanthropy will continue to play a vital role in building a more just, equitable, and enriched world for generations to come. 🏛️



About The Writer

Having led and transformed fintech and blockchain companies across Asia since 2015, Christina is an accomplished chief marketing strategist. Her impressive track record includes accelerated growth in startups, ICO structuring, and leading marketing initiatives in various blockchain consultancy firms that worked with more than 200 blockchain projects, including Chainlink, Elrond, EOS, VeChain, NEO, Harmony, and Zilliqa. She is an expert in building effective distribution channels, forming strategic partnerships, and delivering high-impact advertising for customer acquisition, especially in the blockchain industry. Christina is also legally trained and has been actively involved in regulatory compliance topics in digital assets and emerging technologies. She is enthusiastic about the transition to Web 3.0 and believes in the creator economy fueling SocialFi projects.

In a world increasingly defined by rapid change and technological advancement, the enduring charm and grandeur of legacy estates offer a fascinating glimpse into the past. These historic properties and stately homes, often owned by affluent families and individuals, stand as monuments to a bygone era of opulence and heritage. Spanning continents and centuries, these estates are more than just luxurious residences; they are living testaments to the cultural, architectural, and social legacies of their time. This article explores some of the most iconic legacy estates around the globe, delving into their architectural splendour, historical significance, and the stories that have shaped them.

The Allure of Legacy Estates

Legacy estates captivate with their architectural beauty, rich histories, and the unique stories they hold of their former occupants. These properties often serve as symbols of wealth and status, having been meticulously preserved and passed down through generations. Their grandness reflects the societal values and aspirations of their original owners,

providing valuable insights into historical trends in design, lifestyle, and governance.

01. The Château de Chambord, France

One of the most iconic examples of Renaissance architecture, the Château de Chambord is a testament to the opulence of French nobility. Located in the Loire Valley, this grand estate was commissioned by King Francis I in the early 16th century. Its architectural beauty includes a distinctive double-helix staircase, attributed to Leonardo da Vinci, and a facade adorned with intricate sculptural details. The château, with its 440 rooms and 365 fireplaces, was designed to showcase the King's power and greatness. It remains a symbol of the French monarchy's artistic and architectural ambitions.

2. Buckingham Palace, United Kingdom

As the official residence of the British monarch, Buckingham Palace is the epitome of royal grandeur. Originally a townhouse built for the Duke of Buckingham in 1703, it was transformed into a royal residence by Queen Victoria in 1837. The palace

Legacy Estates: Historic Properties and Stately Homes

by Christina Yip

Photos: Unsplash





is renowned for its iconic facade, lavishly decorated state rooms, and the Changing of the Guard ceremony, which has become a quintessential part of the British cultural heritage. The palace's rich history and its role as the centre of political and ceremonial events make it a significant legacy estate.

3. The Palazzo Vecchio, Italy

Situated in Florence, the Palazzo Vecchio serves as a powerful symbol of the city's medieval past. Built in the late 13th century as a town hall, the palace was the seat of Florence's government and the residence of the Medici family. Its imposing fortress-like structure, adorned with the Medici coat of arms and intricate frescoes, reflects the political and artistic influences of the Medici dynasty. Today, it houses the Museum of Florence's history and remains an emblem of Renaissance Florence.

American Grandeur

4. The Biltmore Estate, United States

Located in Asheville, North Carolina, the Biltmore Estate is America's largest privately-owned home. Built by George Washington Vanderbilt II in the late 19th century, this grand estate features 250 rooms, a 100,000-gallon indoor swimming pool, and beautifully landscaped gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The Biltmore Estate epitomises American Gilded Age luxury and remains a cherished symbol of the Vanderbilt family's legacy. Its preservation as a tourist attraction allows visitors to experience the magnificence of the era firsthand.

5. The Mount Vernon Estate, United States

Mount Vernon, the plantation home of George Washington, is one of America's most historic and well-preserved estates. Located in Virginia, this 18th-century estate offers a glimpse into the life of the first President of the United States. The

property includes the main mansion, meticulously restored gardens, and a working farm. Mount Vernon serves not only as a tribute to Washington's legacy but also as a centre for historical education and preservation.

Asian Elegance

6. The Forbidden City, China

The Forbidden City in Beijing is a sprawling palace complex that served as the imperial palace for 24 emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Completed in 1420, this UNESCO World Heritage Site encompasses over 980 buildings and is surrounded by a large moat and fortified walls. The Forbidden City is well known for its grand architecture, extensive collection of art and artifacts, and its role in Chinese imperial history. Its preservation and restoration efforts highlight its significance as a cultural and historical treasure.

7. The Taj Mahal, India

Often referred to as a "symbol of eternal love", the Taj Mahal is an exquisite example of Mughal architecture and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in the mid-17th century as a mausoleum for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, the Taj Mahal is renowned for its white marble facade, intricate inlay work, and symmetrical gardens. The monument's enduring beauty and historical significance make it a key part of India's cultural heritage.

The Future of Legacy Estates

Preserving the legacy of these historic properties is not merely about maintaining their physical structure but also about honouring the stories and cultural contexts they represent. Many legacy estates are now managed by trusts and foundations dedicated to their upkeep and educational outreach. These organisations work to ensure that future generations can continue to appreciate and learn from these architectural and historical wonders.

Furthermore, the preservation of legacy estates often involves integrating modern technologies and practices to enhance sustainability and accessibility while respecting the original character of the properties. This balance between tradition and innovation is crucial for the continued relevance and preservation of these historic treasures.

Conclusion

Legacy estates around the world embody the grandeur and historical significance of their time, offering us a window into the past through their architectural splendour and cultural heritage. From the opulent palaces of Europe to the historic homes of America and the majestic monuments of Asia, these estates reflect the wealth, influence, and legacy of their former owners. As custodians of history, these properties continue to inspire awe and admiration, ensuring that the stories of their past remain alive for future generations to explore and appreciate. 🏰



Is Singapore Still the “Treasure Island” After the 2023 Money Laundering Probe?

by Richard Siaw

In the 2022 Issue 61 of this quarterly publication, we wrote the article “A Home for Family Offices - A Treasure Island in Equatorial Asia”. Like the famed novel of adventure and hidden treasure by Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson, “Treasure Island” serves as a fitting metaphor for Singapore’s role in global finance. Like the fictional island, Singapore has become a modern-day treasure island for the world’s wealthy elite. For decades, Singapore has meticulously built a reputation as a secure and reliable financial center, attracting wealth from across the globe.

One of the key factors contributing to Singapore’s status is its focus on wealth preservation through strong property rights, sound legal infrastructure, and low taxes. The rise of family offices in Singapore is a prime example of how the city-state has become the preferred location for safeguarding and growing private wealth. Wealthy individuals and entrepreneurs, such as Dyson founder Sir James Dyson and Haidilao’s Zhang Yong, have chosen Singapore as the location for their family offices, cementing its role as a haven for the rich.



Photo: Unsplash

Singapore was celebrated for its robust financial environment, making it the “Treasure Island” among global High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs) seeking a secure and efficient place to manage their wealth. However, with the largest money laundering probe in Singapore's history involving the so-called “Fujian Gang” in August 2023, there are pressing questions about whether Singapore's reputation as a premier financial hub remains intact.

This article explores whether Singapore continues to be a draw for HNWIs and their family offices, considering the recent challenges and how the city-state's evolving regulations, financial infrastructure, and commitment to governance impact its standing as a top destination for global wealth.

The 2023 Money Laundering Scandal: A Test for Singapore's Financial Integrity

On 15 August 2023, the Singapore Police Force conducted a major operation targeting a global money laundering syndicate, marking Singapore's largest case of its kind and one of the biggest in the world, with assets totalling \$3 billion Singapore dollars.

Ten individuals, all originally from Fujian province in China, were arrested and charged with money laundering-related offences. Referred to as the “Fujian Gang” due to their shared origins in the southern Chinese province, the suspects initially indicated their intention to contest the charges. However, all eventually chose to plead guilty. The final member was convicted in June this year and all have since served their prison sentences and been deported. They have also been permanently barred from returning to Singapore.

Despite their Chinese origins, all ten of the convicts hold multiple nationalities, including passports from Cambodia, Cyprus, Turkey, Vanuatu and Saint Kitts & Nevis. Among them, five had been fugitives wanted by the Chinese authorities for years on charges such as illegal online gambling and online fraud. Seventeen additional suspects remain at large and are being sought by Singaporean authorities for their involvement in the syndicate.

In the sting operation, the Singapore Police Force initially seized about \$1 billion in assets which later snowballed to over \$2.8 billion. The ten convicts amassed millions of dollars

over years of criminal activities such as tax evasion, online gambling and phone scams spreading throughout bases in Southeast Asia and targeting gamblers and scam victims in China. This illicit wealth was eventually laundered into luxury cars, extravagant watches, properties in Singapore's most exclusive neighbourhoods, high-end jewellery, designer goods, cryptocurrency and large sums of cash. The convicts had quietly established themselves in Singapore, using the country's reputable financial system to discreetly funnel illicit gains and cloak their wealth in a veneer of legitimacy.

This scandal posed a serious challenge to Singapore's longstanding image as a clean and reliable financial center. The immediate concern was whether this scandal would erode trust in Singapore's financial system and deter HNWIs from considering it a haven for their wealth. Singapore's swift and stringent response to the scandal, including tightening regulatory measures and reinforcing its commitment to financial integrity, has been crucial in addressing these concerns.

Singapore's Resilient Appeal to HNWIs

Despite the 2023 scandal, Singapore's core strengths as a destination for HNWIs remain largely unchanged. Its enduring appeal can be attributed to several key factors:

1. **Political and Economic Stability:** Singapore remains one of the most politically stable and economically secure countries in the world. This stability provides a safe environment for HNWIs to manage and grow their wealth, reinforcing Singapore's reputation as a secure financial hub.
2. **Tax Efficiency and Incentives:** Singapore's tax regime continues to attract HNWIs, particularly through the 13O and 13U family office tax exemption schemes. These schemes offer significant tax advantages for families and individuals who establish family offices in Singapore, provided they meet certain criteria. Recent updates to these schemes aim to ensure that only genuine, value-adding family offices benefit from these incentives, reflecting Singapore's commitment to maintaining a high standard of financial management.
3. **Strategic Location:** Situated at the crossroads of Asia, Singapore offers unparalleled access to the region's dynamic markets. This strategic location makes it an ideal base for HNWIs seeking to capitalise on Asia's economic growth while enjoying a stable financial environment.
4. **World-Class Infrastructure and Talent:** Singapore boasts a sophisticated financial infrastructure and a pool of highly skilled professionals. For HNWIs looking for top-tier wealth management services, Singapore provides a comprehensive ecosystem supported by industry-leading firms in finance, law, and real estate.



Family Offices: A Cornerstone of Singapore's Wealth Management Ecosystem

Family offices have become a significant growth area within Singapore's wealth management sector. Since the publication of our 2022 article, the number of single-family offices in Singapore has surged from 400 to over 1,650 by mid-2024. This increase underscores Singapore's ongoing attractiveness to HNWIs seeking to establish family offices. The latest statistics were reported in Singapore's leading Chinese newspaper, Lianhe Zaobao, on 17 September of this year.

The growth in family offices is particularly notable in the wake of the 2023 money laundering scandal. Despite the heightened scrutiny and regulatory changes, the establishment of new family offices has continued unabated. In the first eight months of 2024 alone, 250 new family offices were set up, with expectations that the total number of new establishments for the year will surpass the previous year's figure of 300.

The recent tightening of regulations - such as requiring minimum asset sizes, mandating local investments, and ensuring the employment of qualified investment professionals - aims to ensure that family offices contribute meaningfully to Singapore's financial sector. These measures, which took effect on April 18, 2022, have been well received by the industry as they help filter out less serious entities and reinforce Singapore's commitment to maintaining high standards of financial management.

Regulatory Enhancements: Strengthening Singapore's Financial Integrity

In response to the 2023 scandal, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) has introduced stricter regulatory measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. These measures include enhanced due diligence requirements, increased transparency, and more robust enforcement of financial regulations.

While these changes have introduced additional scrutiny, they also signal Singapore's dedication to maintaining a clean and trustworthy financial environment. For HNWIs who prioritize security and integrity, these enhancements reaffirm Singapore's position as a reliable and well-regulated financial hub.

Singapore's Commitment to Social Responsibility

In addition to its financial and tax advantages, Singapore is increasingly focusing on the social impact of wealth management. The city-state encourages family offices and HNWIs to engage in philanthropic activities and contribute to societal development.

At the Global-Asian Family Office Summit organised by Singapore's Wealth Management Institute on 16 September this year, Chee Hong Tat, the Minister for Transport and Deputy Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, highlighted the role of family offices in supporting philanthropic initiatives and social investments. The launch of the "Changemaker Impact Endeavour Fellowship" by the Wealth Management Institute is a testament to Singapore's commitment to aligning wealth management with social responsibility. The programme aims to enhance the capacity of 1,000 HNWIs and philanthropic professionals to drive impactful charitable projects by 2028, as reported by Lianhe Zaobao on 17 September 2024.

Conclusion: Singapore's Continuing Appeal

Despite the challenges posed by the 2023 money laundering probe, Singapore's fundamental strengths as a financial hub remain robust. The city-state's political and economic stability, favourable tax regime, strategic location, and world-class infrastructure continue to make it an attractive destination for HNWIs.

The recent surge in family offices and the ongoing improvements in regulatory standards reflect Singapore's ability to adapt and reinforce its position as a top choice for global wealth. The city-state's emphasis on integrity, transparency, and social impact ensures that it will continue to be a leading destination for those seeking a secure and responsible environment for their wealth.

In summary, Singapore remains the "Treasure Island" for HNWIs. Its response to recent challenges and its commitment to maintaining a high standard of financial management and social responsibility confirm its enduring appeal in the global wealth management landscape. In this respect, Minister Chee's speech at the Global-Asian Family Office Summit was illuminating and reassuring. The relevant extract of his speech is reproduced here:

I would like to reassure our industry stakeholders that Singapore will continue to welcome legitimate wealth, genuine investments and complementary international talent from around the world. And the more turbulent and disruptive the external environment becomes, the more we must remain open, welcoming, stable and secure to differentiate ourselves.

MAS will continue to focus on providing a conducive environment for wealth owners and family offices. For example, in response to industry feedback, MAS recently provided guidance to financial institutions on how they can implement risk-proportionate due diligence checks on the source of wealth of their customers to avoid undue delays in bank account opening timeliness. MAS has also streamlined the tax incentive application process, to reduce the waiting time for family office funds. We will work together with our industry partners to improve our processes to make them simpler, better and faster. 🙏



About The Writer

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2023年洗钱案后新加坡还是“金银岛”吗？

by Richard Siaw



Photo: Freepik

在本季刊 2022 年第 61 期中，我们撰写了《金银岛——家族办公室的归宿》一文。就像苏格兰作家罗伯·路易斯·史蒂文生著名的冒险和宝藏小说一样，“金银岛”恰如其分地比喻了新加坡在全球金融中扮演的角色。如同小说中虚构的岛屿，新加坡已成为当今世界富裕精英的宝藏岛。几十年来，新加坡精心打造安全可靠的金融中心声誉，吸引了来自全球各地的财富。

新加坡之所以能取得如此成就，其中一个关键因素是其注重通过强有力的产权、完善的法律基础设施和低税率来保护财富。新加坡家族办公室的兴起正是其已成为保护和增长私人财富的首选地点的典型例子。戴森创始人詹姆斯·戴森爵士和海底捞的张勇等富人和企业家都选择新加坡作为其家族办公室的所在地，巩固了新加坡作为富人避风港的地位。

新加坡以其稳健的金融环境而闻名，成为寻求安全高效地管理财富的全球高净值人士 (HNWI) 的“金银岛”。然而，随着 2023 年 8 月涉及所谓“福建帮”的新加坡史上最大规模洗钱案的爆发，外界对新加坡作为一流金融中心的声誉是否依然稳固产生了疑问。

本文将探讨在面对近期挑战的情况下，新加坡是否能够继续吸引高净值人士及其家族办公室，以及该国不断发展的法规、金融基础设施和对治理的承诺如何影响其作为全球财富首选目的地的地位。

2023 年洗钱案丑闻：对新加坡金融诚信的考验

2023 年 8 月 15 日，新加坡警察部队针对一个全球洗钱集团进行了一次重大行动，这是新加坡同类案件中最大规模的案件，也是世界上最大规模的洗钱案之一，涉案资产总额达 30 亿新元。

十名嫌疑人都来自中国福建省，他们被逮捕并被指控洗钱相关罪行。由于他们均来自中国南部的福建省，因此被称为“福建帮”。这些嫌疑人最初表示有意对指控提出抗辩，然而，他们最终都选择认罪。最后一名嫌疑人于今年 6 月被定罪，目前他们均已服刑并被驱逐出境。他们还被永久禁止返回新加坡。

尽管这十名罪犯原先都是中国公民，但他们却拥有多重国籍，包括柬埔寨、塞浦路斯、土耳其、瓦努阿图和圣基茨和尼维斯的护照。其中五人因涉嫌非法在线赌博和

网络诈骗，多年来被中国当局通缉。另有 17 名嫌疑人仍然在逃，他们因参与了该犯罪集团，正在被新加坡当局通缉。

在这次突击行动中，新加坡警方最初查获的资产约为 10 亿新元，后来这些资产激增至超过 28 亿新元。这十名罪犯多年来通过逃税、网络赌博和电话诈骗等犯罪活动，积累了数百万新元，他们的犯罪活动遍布东南亚的基地，目标是中国的赌徒和诈骗受害者。这些非法财富最终被洗白成豪车、奢侈手表、新加坡最高档社区的房产、高端珠宝、名牌商品、加密货币和大量现金。这些罪犯悄悄地在新加坡安顿下来，利用该国信誉良好的金融体系，秘密转移非法收益，并将他们的财富披上合法的外衣。

这起丑闻对新加坡长期以来作为廉洁可靠的金融中心的形象造成了严重打击。人们的首要担忧是，这起丑闻是否会削弱外界对新加坡金融体系的信任，并阻止高净值人士将新加坡视为财富避风港。为应对这些担忧，新加坡迅速采取严格应对措施，包括收紧监管措施，并重申其对金融诚信的承诺，这对于维护信任至关重要。

新加坡对高净值人士的强劲吸引力

尽管 2023 年发生了洗钱案丑闻，新加坡作为高净值人士投资目的地的核心优势基本保持不变。其持久的吸引力可以归因于以下几个关键因素：

1. 政治和经济稳定：新加坡仍然是世界上政治最稳定、经济最安全的国家之一。这种稳定性为高净值人士管理和增长财富提供安全的环境，巩固了新加坡作为稳当金融中心的声誉。
2. 税收效率和激励措施：新加坡的税收制度继续吸引高净值人士，尤其是通过 130 和 13U 家族办公室免税计划。这些计划为在新加坡设立家族办公室的家族和个人

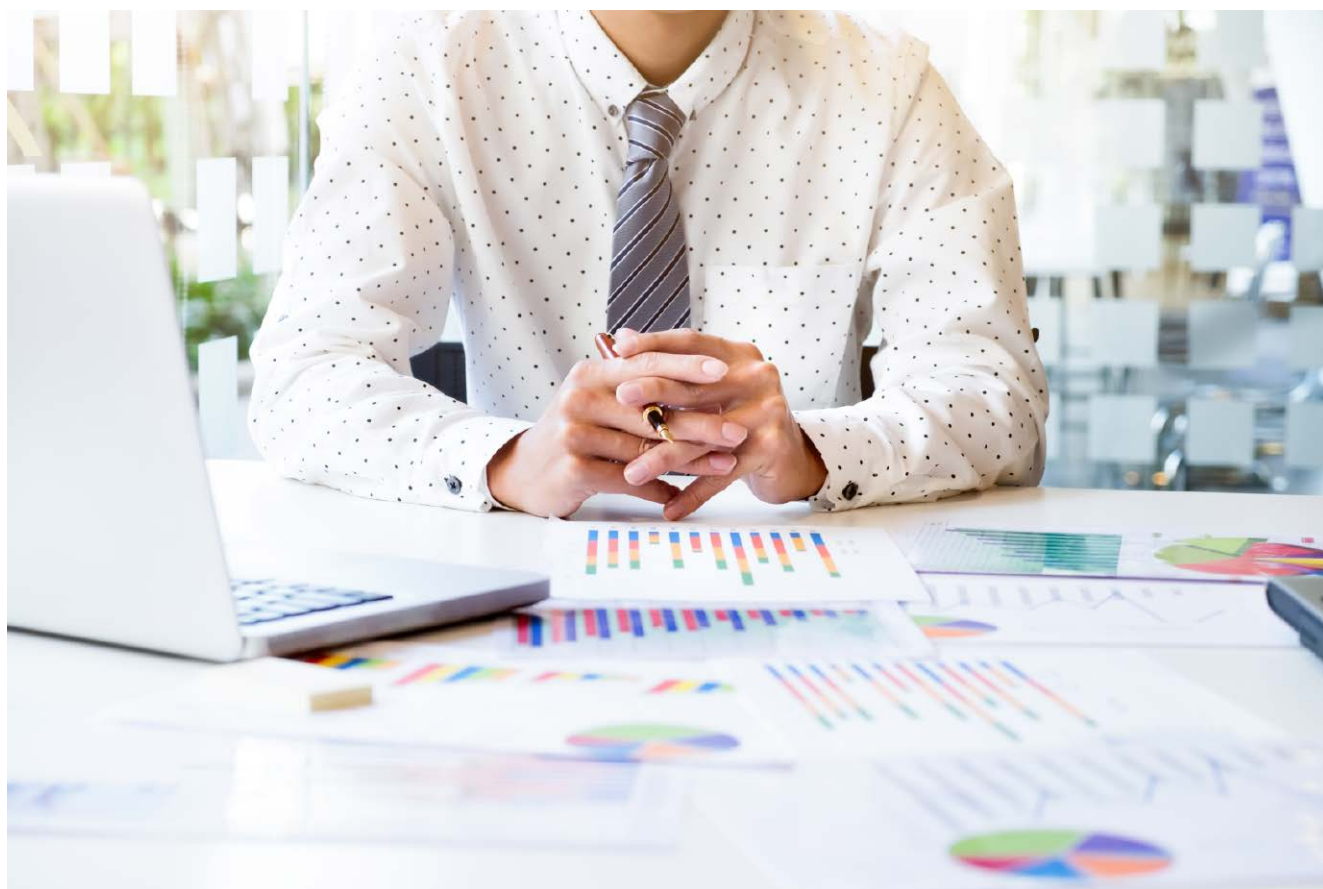


Photo: Freepik

提供重大税收优惠，前提是他们符合某些标准。近期对这些计划的更新旨在确保只有真正的、具有增值作用的家族办公室才能享受这些优惠政策，反映了新加坡致力于保持高标准金融管理的承诺。

3. 战略位置：位于亚洲交汇处的新加坡为该地区充满活力的市场提供了无与伦比的通达性。这一战略位置使其成为高净值人士的理想基地，他们可以在享受稳定金融环境的同时，抓住亚洲经济增长的机会。

4. 世界级基础设施和人才：新加坡拥有完善的金融基础设施和一批高技能人才。对于寻求顶级财富管理服务的高净值人士而言，新加坡提供了一个由金融、法律和房地产行业领先公司支持的全面生态系统。

家族办公室：新加坡财富管理生态系统的基石

家族办公室已成为新加坡财富管理行业的一个重要增长领域。自我们 2022 年发表文章以来，到 2024 年中期，新加坡的单一家族办公室数量已从 400 个激增至 1,650 多个。这一增长凸显了新加坡对寻求建立家族办公室的高净值人士的持续吸引力。今年 9 月 17 日新加坡领先的中文报《联合早报》报道了最新的统计数据。

在 2023 年洗钱案丑闻之后，家族办公室的增长尤为显著。尽管审查力度加大，监管也发生变化，但新家族办公室的设立势头依然不减。仅在 2024 年的前八个月，就有 250 个新家族办公室设立，预计全年新设立的家族办公室总数将超过上一年的 300 个。

最近收紧的监管措施(例如要求最低资产规模、强制本地投资以及确保雇用合格的投资专业人士)目的在于确保家族办公室为新加坡金融业做出有意义的贡献。这些措施于 2022 年 4 月 18 日生效,受到了业界的好评,因为它们有助于筛选出不够认真的实体,并加强了新加坡对保持高标准财务管理的承诺。

加强监管: 增强新加坡的金融诚信

为应对 2023 年的丑闻,新加坡金融管理局(MAS)推出了更为严格的监管措施,以防止未来发生类似事件。这些措施包括加强尽职调查要求、提高透明度以及增强金融法规的执行力度。

虽然这些变化带来了额外的审查,但也表明新加坡致力于维护廉洁和值得信赖的金融环境。对于优先考虑安全和诚信的高净值人士来说,这些改进再次确立了新加坡作为可靠且监管良好的金融中心的地位。

新加坡对社会责任承诺

除了金融和税收优势外,新加坡也越来越重视财富管理的社会影响,鼓励家族办公室和高净值人士参与慈善活动,为社会发展作出贡献。

今年9月16日,新加坡财富管理学院举办的全球-亚洲家族办公室峰会上,交通部长兼新加坡金融管理局副主席徐芳达强调了家族办公室在支持慈善事业和社会投资方面的作用。财富管理学院推出“变革者影响力奋进计划”,体现了新加坡致力于将财富管理与社会责任相结合的决心。据《联合早报》2024年9月17日的报道,该计划旨在到2028年提升1000名高净值人士和慈善专业人士的能力,以推动有影响力的慈善项目。

结论: 新加坡的持续吸引力

尽管 2023 年洗钱案带来了挑战,但新加坡作为金融中心的根本优势依然强劲。新加坡的政治和经济稳定、优惠的税收制度、战略位置和世界一流的基础设施继续使其成为高净值人士的理想目的地。

近期家族办公室数量的激增和监管标准的持续改善反映了新加坡适应和巩固其作为全球财富首选地地位的能力。新加坡对诚信、透明度和社会影响的重视确保了它将继续成为那些寻求安全和负责任的财富环境的人的首选目的地。

综上所述,新加坡仍然是高净值人士的“金银岛”。新加坡应对近期挑战的举措以及维持高水准财务管理和社会责任的承诺,证实了其在全球财富管理领域中持久的吸引力。在这方面,徐部长在全球-亚洲家族办公室峰会上的演讲令人振奋和安心。以下是他的演讲的相关摘录:

我想向业界的利益相关者保证,新加坡将继续欢迎来自世界各地的合法财富、真实投资和互补的国际人才。外部环境越动荡、越混乱,我们就越要保持开放、热情、稳定和安全,才能脱颖而出。

新加坡金融管理局将继续致力于为财富所有者和家族办公室提供有利的环境。例如,为了响应行业反馈,新加坡金融管理局最近向金融机构提供了指导,指引他们如何对客户的财富来源实施与风险相应的尽职调查,以避免银行开户时间出现不必要的延误。新加坡金融管理局还简化了税收优惠申请流程,以减少家族办公室资金的等待时间。我们将与行业合作伙伴共同努力,改进我们的流程,使其更简单、更好、更快捷。



About The Writer

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Eco-Elegance at Sea

Discover the Sunreef 80 OTOCTONE

by Toh Mu Qin

Sunreef Yachts has unveiled the Sunreef 80 Eco OTOCTONE, a stunning new addition to their fleet, crafted for a loyal client enamoured by the brand's previous creations and commitment to luxury yachting. This electric sail yacht promises a serene cruising experience, free from noise and emissions, epitomising eco-conscious luxury.

Powered by two 180 kW engines and boasting a robust 550 kWh battery bank, the Sunreef 80 Eco OTOCTONE integrates advanced solar panels seamlessly into its composite structure. This innovative approach not only extends its range but also minimises environmental impact with clean, renewable energy. A hydrogeneration system further enhances efficiency, harnessing power while underway.

Designed to accommodate eight guests in exceptional comfort, the catamaran features a bespoke 4-cabin layout adorned with contemporary furnishings and expansive panoramic views. Natural light floods the main saloon, enhancing the sense of spaciousness and tranquility.

The Sunreef 80 Eco OTOCTONE excels in offering luxurious outdoor amenities, including a full-beam aft cockpit ideal for dining against the backdrop of ocean vistas. A bow terrace invites relaxation with oversized sofas and split trampolines, perfect for soaking in the sun or stargazing under clear skies. The flybridge serves as the ultimate alfresco dining venue, complete with a bar and barbecue, promising unforgettable moments at sea.

Beyond its owner's delight, the Sunreef 80 Eco OTOCTONE invites discerning travellers to embark on a sustainable charter experience. Based in Porto-Vecchio and navigating the pristine waters of Corsica and Sardinia, this yacht promises an intimate connection with nature, offering unparalleled comfort and silence – a rarity in luxury yachting.

Since its founding in 2002 by Francis Lapp, Sunreef Yachts has made a significant impact on the luxury catamaran market with its unique designs and commitment to eco-friendly technologies. Despite challenges, including a devastating fire in 2012, the shipyard has persevered, further strengthening its dedication to innovation and sustainable practices.

Looking ahead, Sunreef Yachts continues to innovate with its 'Sunreef ULTIMA' range and forthcoming 'Sunreef 43M Eco' superyachts, exemplifying luxury and environmental stewardship. With global operations and a prestigious clientele, including notable sports figures and Formula 1 champions, Sunreef Yachts continues to be one of the leaders in luxury yacht design.

In essence, the Sunreef 80 Eco OTOCTONE beautifully merges luxury with eco-consciousness, offering a glimpse into the future of responsible yachting. Whether enjoyed by its owner or charter guests, this yacht promises a relaxing journey that respects both luxury and the environment – an achievement that defines Sunreef Yachts' ongoing legacy of innovation and sustainability. 🌱

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