

Art on the horizon: cultural cruises in the Greek islands

CONTENTS

PrivatDiary 13
Huon Mallalieu previews international arts events this winter and next spring

PrivatCollector 18
Teresa Levonian Cole is blown away by Doha's Museum of Islamic Art

PrivatTime 24
Pocket watches are enjoying an unexpected comeback among the timepiece cognoscenti, says Ken Kessler

PrivatSelection 27
Anthony Gardner searches for the world's most delicious chocolate

PrivatDining 30
Jennifer Sharp heads north to sample the best of the new Scandinavian cooking

PrivatSport 34
If you have ever wanted to train with a champion, Edward Bowyer tells you how

PrivatPerson 40
Gabrielle Donnelly talks to film star Johnny Depp about his love of playing quirky characters

PrivatTravel 44
Rory Ross's insider's guide to the perennially glamorous Monte Argentario, on Tuscany's southern border

PrivatEscape 50
Adam Ruck falls in love with golfing on the friendly but formidable links of northern Scotland

PrivatCruise 56
Celestria Noel discovers the treasures of the Aegean the comfortable way

Cover: the faceted dome of Doha's Museum of Islamic Art features an oculus that captures and reflects sunlight



CONTENTS

PrivatFashion 62
Sharp city style to give you the edge

PrivatJewels 68
Vivienne Becker chooses modern all-day
jewels, to take you from morning meeting
to midnight rendezvous

PrivatStar 73
Isla Fisher tells Gabrielle Donnelly how
she went from Aussie teen soaps to
acclaimed Hollywood comedy actress

PrivatAir 79
Aviation news and business developments
from PrivatAir

*Charcoal-grey dress with back bows by YSL;
velvet shoes by LV; red bag by YSL*

*Men's suit and shirt by GIANFRANCO FERRÉ;
shoes by DUNHILL*

FROM THE EDITOR

Party planning

I sometimes wish that the people we feature in *PrivatAir the Magazine* could all come to a big party. I know that they would have plenty in common. For instance, in this issue Johnny Depp says that his idea of Nirvana is drinking Romanée Conti. He and the producer of that rare Burgundy, Aubert de Villaine, interviewed last issue, should have plenty to talk about. Depp's companion Vanessa Paradis could translate if need be. They could be amused by comedienne Isla Fisher, and I might allow her to bring along her fiancé Sacha Baron Cohen, if he came as himself, not Borat. We could have a charity raffle, with a day's coaching from the legendary Gary Player as the star prize. Food would be New Nordic, with its surprising dishes – Greenland shrimp with cucumber juice, horseradish snow or warm sliced raw chestnuts with birch wine. The more cultured could discuss the new Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, or make plans for next year's Maastricht art fair. The rest of us can stick with golf.

So what about the venue? Monte Argentario, which appears in this issue, holds a special place in my memory as I worked briefly at the famous (or perhaps infamous) La Strega nightclub, when I was about 18. One of my fellow English waitresses was stung by a wasp and managed, through puffed, semi-comatose lips, to convey that she was allergic. I had to rush her to hospital on the mainland. The causeway seemed to go on for ever. Mercifully I didn't crash, although I had never driven abroad before, and my Italian was just good enough to explain the problem – 'Vespa! Vespa! No, not the motorcycle, the insect.' My friend must have had her guardian angel close by that night. She survived, but La Strega itself has now been closed down. Too noisy for the neighbours apparently. Pity as it would have been a great place for the party...

CELESTRIA NOEL

CONTRIBUTORS



HUON MALLALIEU
WRITER

Huon Mallalieu writes a weekly column on the art market for *Country Life* and is a frequent contributor to *The Times*. He has written or edited numerous books on art and antiques, including standard works on English watercolours. His most recent book, *1066 and Rather More* (Frances Lincoln, £14.99), is a conversational ramble through English history for which he retraced on foot the march of King Harold's army from York to Battle in 12 days.



ANDY BARTER
PHOTOGRAPHER

Andy Barter has been taking pictures for 15 years during which time he has worked for British magazines *Wallpaper**, *Vogue* and *Esquire*. In the US he shoots for titles such as *Surface* and *Zink*. As well as assignments for commercial clients including Dunhill, O₂ and Audi, he works on personal projects: *Flowers of Loss* was a series of images showing roadside memorials and *Mixed Race* will be exhibited next year. He lives in London.



ANTHONY GARDNER
WRITER

Anthony Gardner is an author and journalist based in London. Formerly the deputy editor of *Harpers & Queen*, he now edits the Royal Society of Literature's magazine, *RSL*, and writes for a variety of newspapers and magazines. His first novel, *The Rivers of Heaven* (Starhaven, £10), is published this autumn: taking as its theme the urge to recapture the past, it tells the story of a magazine photographer obsessed with the 1960s.

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EDITOR
Celestria Noel
DESIGN DIRECTOR
Jonny Clark
GROUP PICTURE EDITOR
Helen Cathcart
GROUP CHIEF SUB-EDITOR
Steve Handley

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Ana Vazquez
REPROGRAPHICS
KFR Reprographics
PRINTING
Polestar Wheatons
LOGISTICS
www.goferslogistics.com

GROUP PUBLISHING DIRECTOR
Mark Duke
mark.duke@ink-publishing.com
ACCOUNT MANAGER
Patrick Smith
SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVE
Dan Gwynn

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Michael Keating
PUBLISHING DIRECTOR
Simon Leslie
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Hugh Godsall
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Jeffrey O'Rourke

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Ink, www.ink-publishing.com
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FOR

PrivatAir

PrivatAir SA
Chemin des Papillons 18
PO Box 572, 1215 Geneva 15
Telephone +41 (0)22 929 6700
Fax +41 (0)22 929 6701
info@privatair.com
www.privatair.com

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