

THE ARBITER REPORT

Winter 2005

Publisher's Letter

Welcome to the second edition of the Arbiter Report, where edge meets attitude during this very busy season of bespoke style and custom experiences.

We've traversed the globe to bring you the finest experiences worldwide – holidays, travel, dining, entertainment, spas, fashion, art, and design – focusing particularly on the realm of private clubs, quiet seclusion, and powerhouse partnerships.

This year marks the brilliant kickback to the '80s with the return of sharp style that's elaborate, eclectic, and sexy but seen in a new light. Yet new doesn't necessarily mean better; we're seeing some of our favorites over the past few years holding up to the test of time. The usual suspects boomerang back on our radar – some have never went off it – while some new and unexpected ventures have literally swept us off our feet.

Running through airports to escape the hoi polloi from Boston to Zurich, Monaco, Las Vegas, Chicago, Hong Kong, Miami, and the Caribbean, it seems that we're ready for another holiday yet again. With so many hotels, villas, and yachts to see in so little time, we are the first to admit that we are those kids in the candy shop who simply cannot get enough. Bring it on!



Sally Khudairi



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Features

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Restaurant: Cipriani Hong Kong
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Yacht: 118 WallyPower
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Fashion: Christian Lacroix



HOTEL

Columbus Hotel
23 Avenue des Papalins
98000 Monaco

Tel. +37 7 92 05 90 00

<http://www.columbushotels.com/>



AT A GLANCE

Style sensation boasts minimalist precision and two of the Cote d'Azur's hippest drinking and dining spots.

X-FACTOR

Grab your Valextra Costa sacca and step off the Monaco helipad to Scottish hotelier Ken McCulloch's 9-story flagship hotel overlooking the Mediterranean. Launched in 2000, the former Hotel ABELA received a US\$10M renovation envisaged by McCulloch's wife, interior designer Amanda Ross, who successfully couples Riviera Chic with good value and modern living. The 153 bedrooms and 28 suites are a minimalist's dream in blue and greige, with sleek furniture, seagrass flooring, marble baths, and power showers. International news, gifts, and custom signature toiletries are available in the boutique. Ideally suited to balance both business and leisure, staff are quietly efficient and accommodating: guests can train in the high-tech fitness center, lounge outdoors alongside the art deco pool, lunch in the Brasserie, then catch a private showing at Le Studio, the 90-seat state-of-the-art screening room while the kids are with the babysitter and paperwork is minded at the business

center. We particularly recommend an extended stay in Suite 21, with 24-hour room service, dry cleaning, laundry, and beauty salon a speed-dial away.

VITAL STATISTICS

Nightly room rates start at €200 EUR double occupancy and €350 EUR for suites. Parking available at €23 EUR.

RESTAURANT

Cipriani Hong Kong
12/F Old Bank of China Building
Bank Street
Central, Hong Kong

Tel. +852 2501 0222

<http://www.cipriani.com/>



AT A GLANCE

Giuseppe Cipriani/David Tang joint venture brings classic dishes from Harry's Bar in Venice to Hong Kong's power elite.

X-FACTOR

Sharply dressed clientele head to private members' club downstairs from China Club for perfectly turned out food, impeccable service, and understated luxury. The legendary Cipriani family expands their empire to Asia, bringing the best of the best: cuisine, drinks, style, and service. Beautifully presented plates of traditional Italian specialties highlighting seasonal and local tastes; everything sampled was perfect: tender tagliardi, creamy risottos, melting veal chops, rare steaks, stunningly fresh seafood, deceptively simple salads, vegetables, and cheeses, toothsome cakes, gelati, and sorbetti, brilliant Bellinis, dazzling wine flights, and perfectly pulled espressos time after time. Among our finest dining experiences in Hong Kong, Cipriani clearly is not your typical franchise.

VITAL STATISTICS

Club membership fee HK\$15,000, plus HK\$8,000 monthly to maintain membership.

SPA

Aman Spa
Amanpuri
Pansea Beach
Phuket 83000, Thailand

Tel. +66 76 324 333

<http://www.amanresorts.com/>



AT A GLANCE

Amanresorts extends its trademark exclusivity to individualized holistic treatment programs that pamper, refresh, and balance the body and mind in quiet elegance.

X-FACTOR

Nestled in a coconut plantation and available only to resort guests, six outdoor treatment pavilions for double- or single client use and feature spacious baths, steam rooms, showers, and private outdoor relaxation space. This oasis-within-an-oasis features a traditional sauna room, black granite steam room, freshwater infinity swimming pool, and open-air sala with stunning ocean views for meditation and yoga sessions. Multilingual staff bend over backwards to ensure your every need is met during pre-treatment counsel to determine the appropriate therapies – from super-relaxing massage and reflexology to exfoliating scrubs, herbal baths, and clay wraps, to deeply nurturing beauty treatments, to traditional Thai and Ayurvedic treatments to an extensive range of bodywork that includes Reiki, Atlas Adjustment, and sound therapy. Products are specially made by hand, incorporating essential oils derived from fragrant organic plants to calm, soothe, restore, or revive. Intensive massage and treatment sessions revitalized our skin, eased aches and pains and soothed our inner well-being, leaving us feeling totally refreshed and rejuvenated. For all-inclusive pampering, the Aman Spa Season runs from June through August, where guests are offered a customized, all-inclusive three-day retreat that includes two spa treatments and three meals per person per night in superior garden pavilions.

VITAL STATISTICS

Suites and Pavilions: \$675 - \$1,500 USD

Villas: \$1,700 - \$7,350 USD

Treatments: from \$60 USD

Massage: from \$100 USD

Special: 50% off rack rates through 31 October 2005

YACHT

118 WallyPower

Wally Yachts
8 Av. des Ligures
MC98000 Principality of
Monaco
Tel. +37 7 93 10 00 93

<http://www.wally.com/>



AT A GLANCE

Menacing, inventive, hypermodern, stealth-like superyacht sets new benchmark through seamless integration of technology with design.

X-FACTOR

Not unlike Matisse's Blue Nude shocking the art world in 1907, Monaco Yacht Show bad boy 118 WallyPower made quite a spectacle amid the yachting community by boldly breaking with traditional form and use of materials. The most ambitious project to date by renowned sailing yacht innovators Wally, the 118 is futuristic, powerful, inventive, and uncompromising in its unique engineering. Form conceals function: interior and exterior zones are blurred within its clean lines, sleek low profile, and ingeniously streamlined superstructure hide clunky radar antennae, anchor, tender garage, furnishings, and other functional elements by juggling hydraulics in true origami fashion. The concept of non-delineation with materials – both used continuously within living/working spaces as well as structurally – leads carbon fiber, lexan, glass, teak, fiberglass, and stainless steel to meet with Pawson-esque minimalism throughout the vessel. The absence of ostentation, however, does not mean lack of luxury or comfort; the 118's lofty saloon, dining area, owner's and guest en suite staterooms, bimini-topped sundeck, and plasma screens throughout lends itself successfully to a relaxed, clubby ambience. Surprisingly powered by a CODOG propulsion system (combined diesel or gas – triple jet engines for speed, diesels elsewhere) seen more commonly on warships rather than on yachts, the 118 can open up to a remarkable 60 knots. Commanding the waves sheathed in environment-reflecting stunning gray-green metallic, the 118 WallyPower is frank, confident, and unapologetic. What could be sexier than that?

VITAL STATISTICS

- Model: 118' WallyPower
- Engine type: 2,775-hp MTU V12s
- Power: Standard 3 x 5,600-hp; Auxiliary 2 x 370-hp
- Top speed: cruising 60 knots
- Price: Base \$16.55M USD with twin diesels; \$24.83M USD as tested, with triple gas turbines

AUTOMOBILE

2005 Mercedes-Benz CLK
Designo Armani Edition Cabriolet

<http://www.mercedes-benz.com/>



AT A GLANCE

Giorgio Armani and Mercedes-Benz team up to bring sleek design and automotive excellence to a limited edition classic that purrs with subtle sexuality.

X-FACTOR

Power-infused beauty: with enough muscle to accelerate from 0 to 100 km/h in an impressive 6.1 seconds, this V8 is a continual interplay of contrasts, combining tradition with technology in a vehicle that is masculine, elegant, discreet, and confident. Armani's presence is clearly seen; the juxtaposition of matte metal trim and bodywork in designo mabio sabbia – the sandy beige cornerstone of his trademark color palette – with interior surfaces in high-tech silk film and brown leather-wrapped console that are punctuated by the anthracite steering wheel and glossy black decorative elements. The 4-seater body is upgraded with AMG features, including dynamic front and rear aprons and distinctive side skirts. Not merely eye candy, this convertible is both agile and dynamic, based on the CLK 500 Cabriolet with an impressive list of equipment and extras as standard, including: speed-sensitive steering, THERMOTRONIC climate control system with sun sensor, a stereo radio with Europe-wide navigation and surround sound from ten speakers and 8 x 40 Watt amplifiers, heated and ventilated seats, rear sidebags, headlamp assist, PARKTRONIC, a rain sensor for the windscreen wipers, and TEMPOMAT with SPEEDTRONIC. Cumulatively equaling a highly coveted driving experience, production is limited to just 100 worldwide, with delivery planned for Spring 2005.

VITAL STATISTICS

- Model: Mercedes CLK 500 Cabriolet Designo by Armani
- Engine type: V8, 4966cc
- Transmission: 7G-TRONIC (7-speed automatic transmission)
- Acceleration: 0-100 km/h: 6.1sec
- Top speed: 250 km/h (limited)
- Price: Base approx. €86,884

HOLIDAY

The Whistlejacket Club
Broughton Hall
Skipton
North Yorkshire BD23 3AE
United Kingdom

Tel. +44 (0) 1756 799 022

<http://www.thewhistlejacketclub.com/>



AT A GLANCE

Pay to play globetrotting onboard a stunning 425' superyacht owned by and available only to Club members and their friends.

X-FACTOR

Megayacht marketing master Nicholas Edmiston, former luxury cruise chief Michael Fenton and real estate agents FPD Savills take luxury fractional ownership to the seas with the Whistlejacket Club, a syndicated club with a membership limited to 225. For ten nights a year, 50 Club members and their guests sail to the world's most exclusive ports of call in all-inclusive, bespoke luxury. Tradition meets relaxed modern with all the expected appointments and services; the 1:1 guest-to-crew ratio ensures that your every need is met with enthusiastic professionalism. Amenities abound – spa, pool, steam room, sauna, gym, library, saloon, piano bar, fine art collection, observation lounge, gourmet dining, marble baths, plasma screens, sun decks, sea toys, helipad, and more – giving guests a huge choice of activities for recreation and relaxation. Set to launch in 2007, the Martin Francis-designed yacht will be tastefully outfitted by nautical interior designer Dickie Bannenberg, with furnishings by David Linley, William Yeoward, Dunhill, and Turnbull & Asser.

VITAL STATISTICS

One-time refundable entry fee starting at £150,000, plus £7,000 annually to maintain membership. Additional days onboard are available at the Club rate of £700 per double stateroom, fully inclusive of all food, drink, and use of facilities. Guests may stay at standard Club rates, with smaller double guest rooms at £500 per night. Charters 12 weeks per year at a projected rate of £55,000 per day.

ART

Peter Dayton

<http://www.peterdayton.com/>



Dear Mr. Grey II, No. 1, 2004

AT A GLANCE

Visually dazzling, high-impact floral porn collages by New York City ex-rocker and decorators' darling Peter Dayton.

X-FACTOR

Fresh, vibrant, and lush, Dayton's extreme color laser and Xerox composites burst onto the canvas with subtly toxic seduction. Wide array of works range from the quiet tulip series to the explosively vibrant dahlia collection, with images of daffodils, daisies, zinnias, roses, ranunculus, and magnolias pulled from books, magazines, and mail-order seed catalogs. Unlike traditional botanically focused artists, Dayton seems still life-averse focusing on streamlining his technique over time: now uniformly encased single element under resin vs. simply découpaged cutouts.

VITAL STATISTICS

Works in mixed media ranging from 10 x 8 inches up to 40 x 40 inches. *Dear Mr. Grey II, No. 1* color laser Xerox on canvas with resin, 10 x 8 in. price on request at Baldwin Gallery on +1 970 920 9797.

FASHION

Christian Lacroix Haute Couture Winter 2005
73, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré
75008 Paris France

Tel. +33 [0]1 42 68 79 00

<http://www.christian-lacroix.fr/>



AT A GLANCE

Return of the Maestro, reviving the '80s high style, with lush poufs and ultra-rich sexiness.

X-FACTOR

High street runway couturier suits it up with frills, ribbons, and laces; puffed shoulders and bejeweled décolletages with ladylike curves are screamingly feminine. Rich textures and bold patterns meet a shockingly broad palette and huge trains in a fantastic, whimsical collection that sent us digging for our satin-and-feather Louis heels. Sophisticated silhouettes, heavy embellishment, and billowy spun-sugar wigs intersect with sharp details, signaling the return of busy hands in the atelier and romance in the noughts.

VITAL STATISTICS

Striped jacket and skirt as shown made to order from Christian Lacroix Haute Couture.