

GOOD LIFE CONNOISSEUR

The Connoisseurs' Choice In Luxury Living

LUXURY RIDES

Luxury Car Line-up 2009

RECREATION

The Pleasure of Winning

HOUSE & HOME

Eco-Cosy Living

PUNTA MITA
Live The Dream





Tommy Bahama®

Q: WHEN DOES A WINE BECOME A REVELATION?

A: “

The Oldfield's Collection Merlot is a limited vintage that embodies our passion for excellence and sublime taste. We let our estate vineyards express themselves in every bottle of wine we make. The Oldfield's Collection Merlot is the result of that journey. Only 1,280 cases of this wine to be enjoyed by a select few. Rich, rare, exquisite... and soon to be gone.


TINHORN CREEK
VINEYARDS

www.tinhorn.com

”



SUBSCRIBE TODAY
AND GET THE BEST SEATS FOR THE BEST PRICES!

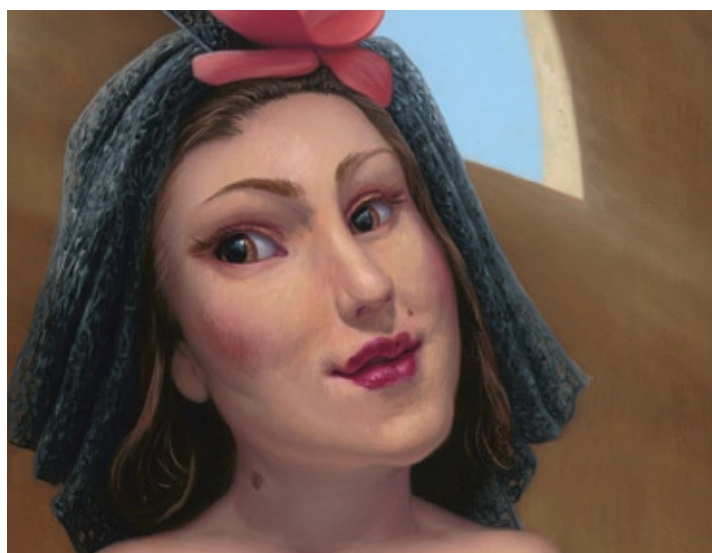
VANCOUVER OPERA 2008-2009 SEASON



EUGENE ONEGIN



RIGOLETTO



CARMEN



SALOME

VANCOUVER
OPERA
James W. Wright, General Director

604-683-0222
WWW.VANCOUVEROPERA.CA

TANGO NIGHTS: Thursday, Sept. 18 & Saturday, Sept. 20
LORD OF THE RINGS SYMPHONY: Friday, Oct. 3 & Saturday, Oct. 4
SYMPHONY ON THE SILVER SCREEN: Friday, Oct. 17 & Saturday, Oct. 18
THE ULTIMATE BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL: Wednesday, Nov. 19 to Saturday, Nov. 29

THE HOTTEST
TICKETS **INTOWNLIVE**

**CHECK OUT
OUR SOUGHT-AFTER
CONCERTS THIS FALL
AND BE SURE
TO GET YOUR
TICKETS BEFORE
THEY SELL OUT!**

CPO-LIVE.COM 403.571.0849

Calgary
Philharmonic
Orchestra
Roberto Minczuk • Music Director
nexen CALGARY HERALD



THE
NATIONAL
Ballet
OF CANADA

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

08|09

Your ticket to the best
ballet the world has to offer!
Subscribe today!



New! The Seagull



New! Carmen



Giselle



Romeo and Juliet

national.ballet.ca 416 345 9595

FOUR SEASONS CENTRE
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

2008|09 season is presented by:
CTV THE GLOBE AND MAIL

BMO Financial Group
presents The Seagull

Presenting sponsor of Romeo and Juliet
HARRY WINSTON

Contents

Cover Story

- Travel & Resorts
14 Punta Mita — Live the Dream By Terry Tremaine

Features

- House & Home
24 Eco-Cosy Living By Debbie Travis
Luxury Real Estate
28 What Credit Crunch? By Tony Wong
Recreation
36 The Pleasure of Winning By Basil Nestor
Luxury Libations
40 Muscat – Muscat Love By Barbara Philip, MW
Style
46 Autumn Style 2008 By Catherine Dunwoody
Fine Watches
54 Retro Watches By Tony Whitney
Health & Wellbeing
60 Nutrition for Cognition By Sandra Tonn, RHN
Innovations
66 The Digital Living Room By Steve Dotto
Luxury Rides
70 Luxury Car Line-up 2009 By Tony Whitney
Wealth
76 Estate Planning for the Business-minded By Adrian Mastracci
Culture
79 How to Create By Jonni O'Connor

Showcase

- Tiffany & Co.
52 The Joys of Life! Photos By Tiffany & Co.

Profiles:

- 20 The Luxury Experience — Private Resort Collection
32 Boutique Hotels & Resorts of British Columbia
44 South Coast Casuals
58 Pacific Dermaesthetics
62 Copeman Healthcare Centre
74 Marquis Jet
80 Gainsborough Galleries

On the cover:

Punta Mita (Bahia de Banderas), Nayarit, Mexico — Jack Nicklaus Golf Course
Photographer: Connie Ekelund
Camera: Nikon D300

www.GoodLifeConnoisseur.com





GOOD LIFE
CONNOISSEUR
The Connoisseurs Choice in Luxury Living

Volume 6 | Fall 2008
www.GoodLifeConnoisseur.com

Contributing Editors

Steve Dotto is host and executive producer of the nationally televised computer show “Dotto Tech,” a “how-to” technology show teaching Canadians how to get more out of their computers and digital devices. Steve also pioneered Canada’s first multicast show by hosting “Dotto on Data,” another computer-based production which is seen on the national level. His column each issue will look at the most compelling technology nuggets he finds in his high tech journeys. Steve@GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



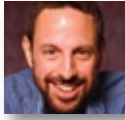
Catherine Dunwoody is a journalist, photography producer, stylist and creative director. She holds the post of Western Editor at LouLou, Canada’s shopping magazine, and her freelance clients include publications like Nuvo, Sweetspot.ca, Western Living, People, Entertainment Weekly and HomeSpa. Catherine is often seen as a guest style expert on TV including CTV’s “Good Morning Canada”, Life Network’s hit series “The Shopping Bags,” and MTV. Catherine@GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



Adrian Mastracci is a Portfolio Manager and Registered Financial Planner (R.F.P.). His company, KCM Wealth Management Inc., is an independent, “fee-only” portfolio management and financial advisory firm founded in 2000. His specialty is designing and managing long-term investment portfolios. With extensive expertise, Adrian coordinates client portfolios with their retirement aspirations, risk tolerances, estate matters, tax implications and business planning needs. Adrian@GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



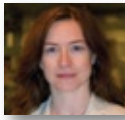
Basil Nestor is a professional gambler. He is author of *The Unofficial Guide to Casino Gambling*, *Playboy Complete Guide to Casino Gambling*, *The Smarter Bet Guide to Poker*, and other *Smarter Bet Guides* that teach players how to avoid sucker bets and beat casinos at their own games. He is also a contributing editor and columnist for *Casino Player*, a feature writer for *Strictly Slots* and *Bluff* magazines, and Consulting Producer for Spike TV’s *King of Vegas* television series. Nearly one million people read Basil’s articles and essays every month. Basil@GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



Dr. Jonni O’Connor is a doctor of transpersonal psychology and an expert in modern forms of meditation. Jonni has facilitated thousands of groups and tens of thousands of individuals through internal quests, helping them attain the riches of insight and integrating those insights into the practicalities of everyday lives. As the author of *Living the Energy: Essentials for Expanded Awareness* and *The Sexual Self: The Essence of Sexual Passion*, Jonni is frequently invited to air her innovative approach on television and radio. Jonni@GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



Barbara Philip, MW, was the first Western Canadian to achieve the Master of Wine designation and is the only female MW in Canada. She is Curriculum Department Head for the International Sommelier Guild (ISG) and a guest instructor for the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET). Recent appearances include presenter for the Vinho Verde Commission in Vancouver and Calgary, and panellist at VieVinum in Vienna. Barbara is a judge for the Vancouver Magazine Awards and the Decanter World Wine Awards in London. Barbara@GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



Sandra Tonn is a registered holistic nutritionist, natural health journalist, and whole food nutrition teacher on faculty with the Canadian School of Natural Nutrition, Vancouver Island University (Powell River campus), and the Canadian Initiative for Elder Planning. She is also a certified hatha, yin and kids yoga instructor, and a hospice volunteer. Sandra@GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



Debbie Travis is the beloved home decorating icon who has produced and hosted three highly successful television series, including *Debbie Travis’ Painted House*, *Debbie Travis’ Facelift* and *From the Ground Up with Debbie Travis*. She is also known for her weekly syndicated column “Debbie Travis’ House to Home” which appears in many newspapers, and she has authored eight books on decorating and painting techniques. Debbie has received eleven Gemini nominations, has won four Gemini Awards, received the Crystal Award for Creative Excellence, The Person of the Year Award from McGill University and the Libris Award for Book of the Year. Debbie@GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



Tony Whitney is a journalist and broadcaster specializing in the automobile sector. His work has appeared in major newspapers across Canada and in business, lifestyle, automotive and specialist magazines and websites in North America and abroad. Based in Steveston, B.C., he has appeared on the network TV show *Driver’s Seat* for more than 20 years. Past president of the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada, he is a juror for North American Car and Truck of the Year and a long-time adjudicator in the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame. Tony@GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



Tony Wong is a senior financial writer with the Toronto Star. This veteran journalist has been a staff writer at Canada’s largest newspaper for more than 20 years covering the real estate and luxury market. He has contributed to virtually every department at the Star, as a political writer at Queen’s Park and City Hall, as a sports reporter covering his passion for tennis, in the automotive section writing about fast cars, and in entertainment as a film reviewer. He has interviewed Donald Trump three times. TonyWong@GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



www.GoodLifeConnoisseur.com

JACK NICKLAUS
SIGNATURE GOLF

ST. REGIS RESORT

FOUR SEASONS
RESORT

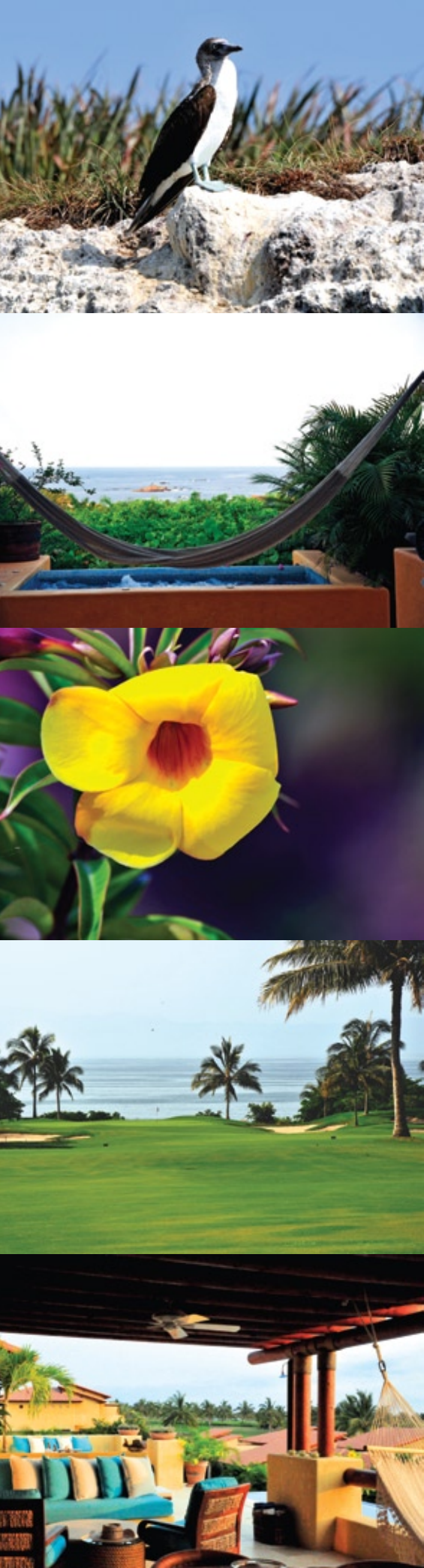
WHERE *d r e a m s* LIVE.

Nine and a half miles of coastline. Oceanfront Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf. Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita. The St. Regis Resort & Residences. Glorious sunsets. Isn’t it time you awakened to the possibilities? Recognizing that our properties have enjoyed significant appreciation now is a great time to explore ownership of real estate ranging from golf view condominiums to beachfront estate lots. Prices start at \$600,000 to over \$7 million USD.

To learn more, call 1 888 647-0979 or visit www.DreamPuntaMita.com.

Punta Mita

This is not intended to be an offer, or a solicitation of offers, to buy real estate or any other tangible or intangible asset in Punta Mita by residents of any jurisdiction where prohibited by law or where the project is not registered for sale as required by applicable law. Development by CANTILES DE MITA, S.A. DE C.V., Mexico. Planned development, including pricing, specifications and amenities is subject to change without notice. Punta Mita and its logos are Registered Trademarks.



GOOD LIFE CONNOISSEUR

The Connoisseurs Choice in Luxury Living

Volume 6 | Fall 2008
www.GoodLifeConnoisseur.com

Publishers

Publisher

Terry Tremaine | Terry@FusionPublishingInc.com

Associate Publisher

Connie Ekelund | Connie@FusionPublishingInc.com

Editorial

Editor

Connie Ekelund | Connie@FusionPublishingInc.com

Editorial Assistant - Copy & Research

Christie Smith | Christie@FusionPublishingInc.com

Editorial Assistant - Final Proofing

Anya Levykh | Anya@FusionPublishingInc.com

Art Director & Production

Layout Artist

Aitan Roubini | Aitan@FusionPublishingInc.com

Photography

Staff Photographer

Connie Ekelund | Connie@FusionPublishingInc.com

Advertising

Advertising Inquiries

Terry Tremaine | Terry@FusionPublishingInc.com

Sales Representatives

Canada

Maureen O'Brien | Maureen@FusionPublishingInc.com

Kelly Turncliff | Kelly@FusionPublishingInc.com

Martin Seto | Martin@FusionPublishingInc.com

Marketing

National Marketing Group

Synergy CMC | info@Synergy-CMC.com



Published by

Fusion Publishing Inc.

Canadian Office

Fusion Publishing Inc.
#317 - 1489 Marine Dr.
West Vancouver, BC
Canada V7T 1B8
888.925.0313

USA Office

Fusion Publishing Inc.
#1537 - 145 Tyee Dr.
Pt. Roberts, WA
USA 98281-9602
888.925.0313

Circulation & Distribution

Canada Post
Newsstand
Zinio

Subscriptions

Subscribe to Good Life Connoisseur
magazine:
888.925.0313 Extension 1001

info@GoodLifeConnoisseur.com
www.GoodLifeConnoisseur.com

Full Subscription Price: 1 year \$24.95

Publication Mail Agreement #41124091
Non-deliverables please return to:
Fusion Publishing Inc.
Good Life CONNOISSEUR Magazine
#317 - 1489 Marine Drive
West Vancouver, BC, V7T 1B8 Canada

Good Life Connoisseur is published four times a year by
Fusion Publishing Inc.

© Fusion Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

Any reproduction or duplication without prior written
consent of Fusion Publishing Inc. is strictly prohibited.

The information in Good Life Connoisseur has been
carefully compiled from sources believed to be reliable, but
its accuracy is not guaranteed.

www.GoodLifeConnoisseur.com

GOOD LIFE Living Green

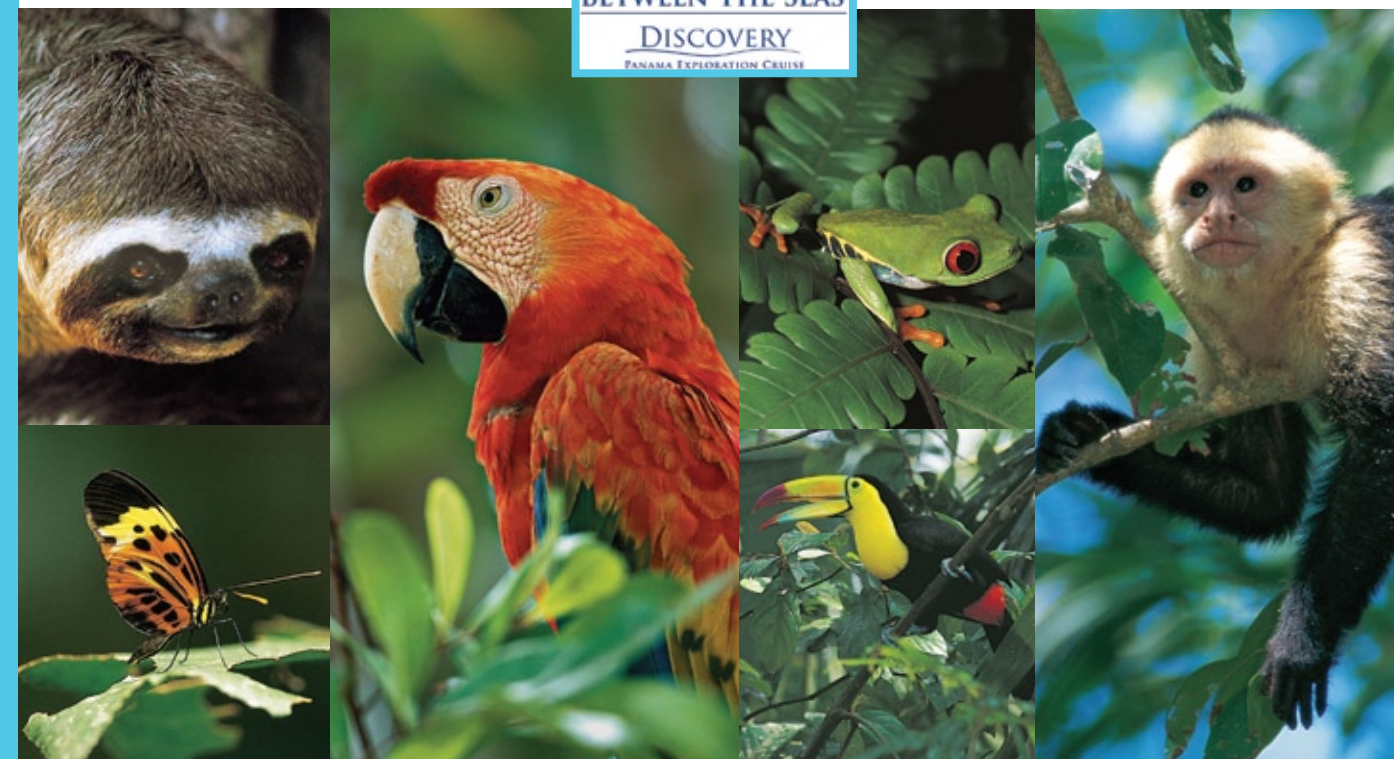
INFORM & INSPIRE



Editor in Chief:
David Chalk

Good Life Living Green magazine is a consumer lifestyle and business publication, that will appeal to anyone who is interested in taking a mainstream approach to environmental issues. REPORT ON GREEN ENERGY is a special interest section offering investors background information on Alternative Power and Green Companies.

Get your FREE subscription and enter to WIN an Eco-Adventure in Panama!



Get your FREE subscription to Good Life Living Green magazine and enter to WIN, plus have the opportunity to support one of our favourite non-profit organizations. Please go to the website and fill out the free subscription form to enter the draw.

Contest closes December 31, 2008



www.GoodLifeLivingGreen.com





Good Life Connoisseur magazine, as our logo suggests, has been the “connoisseur’s choice” in western Canada for a number of years. With this issue we’re adding Ontario readers. The distribution model is straightforward. Through market research, the Canadian population has been divided into a little over 60 psycho/demographic clusters. We have chosen to distribute to the top three clusters. Though high incomes are obviously a significant component, lifestyle considerations also weigh heavily in the research. If you are suddenly receiving this magazine it’s because we assume you’re likely to be interested in the content and hopefully will subscribe.

This award-winning publication has earned a very loyal following. We make every effort to find the most qualified writers in their field. As with every issue, our cover story is a travel feature. The research has shown that travel for our readers is the number one interest, followed by golf. As usual, we’ve tried to combine them both in the destination we’ve chosen to present.

Mexico is a very popular destination for Canadians. I believe Puerto Vallarta was opened to tourist travel as a result of Canadian Pacific Airlines making it a destination. Only later did other major airlines follow. I’ve been fortunate to have travelled to most major centres in Mexico more than once and continue to find it a pleasure to return. Simply said, I like Mexico.

Next up on our agenda is Fiji, followed by New Zealand, Bermuda and Queensland, Australia. As always, I would suggest filling in the reservation form opposite to assure a “front row seat.”

Should you have any comments, criticism or suggestions, please do get in touch.

Terry Tremaine
Publisher
Terry@FusionPublishingInc.com

GOOD LIFE CONNOISSEUR

The Connoisseur’s Choice in Luxury Living

Reservations Required

Reserve your issues of GOOD LIFE CONNOISSEUR Magazine.

Fill in this form and make cheques payable to Fusion Publishing Inc. and mail to:
Fusion Publishing Inc. #317 - 1489 Marine Dr, West Vancouver, BC Canada V7T 1B8

Name _____	
Address _____	
City _____	Province/State _____
Postal / Zip Code _____	Country _____
E-Mail _____	Phone () _____
Cheque Enclosed: <input type="checkbox"/> \$24.95 + (GST) = \$26.20 or Bill me: <input type="checkbox"/> \$24.95 + (GST) = \$26.20	
Visa <input type="checkbox"/> or Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card #: _____	
Name on Credit Card: _____	Expiry Date: _____
Approval Signature: _____	Card Identification Number: _____

Other convenient ways to place your reservation:
Online @ www.GoodLifeConnoisseur.com or Call: 1 888 925-0313 Ext. 1001,
or receive a “Digital Version” on your computer @ www.Zinio.com

Punta Mita – Live the Dream

By Terry Tremaine

Photos by Connie Ekelund

A hike to the top of Careyer's Mountain on this spear-shaped peninsula with our naturalist guide Enrique Alejos served two purposes. We were able to explore the ruins of an Aztlán Indian ceremonial site for the worship of god Quetzalcoatl, and also attain an observation point from which to view boats coming to trade. What had been called Puerto Tintoque was now Punta Mita, and from our vantage point we could look over Punta Mita Resort, an innovative resort and gated residential community covering more than 1,500 acres. The peninsula is surrounded on three sides by white sand beaches and Pacific Ocean waters, and covered with lush tropical flora.

Enrique pointed to the watch tower overlooking the resort and explained that observers were on the watch not only for fires and the like, but also paparazzi trying to sneak photos of the many “rich and famous” attracted to the Four Seasons Punta Mita, which anchors the property. A big part of the draw are the Four Seasons Private Villas nestled on the hillside. Each has expansive indoor and outdoor living spaces, ranging in size from approximately 6,500 to 8,000 square feet and come fully equipped — including not only private pools, but also a butler to tend to the slightest wish.



Opened in 1999, the Four Seasons Punta Mita is the most profitable resort property in the Four Seasons group. It's also one of the few properties where Four Seasons is a partner in the overall development. This ultra-luxurious, low-density, gated community boasts one of the finest Jack Nicklaus-designed golf courses in North America, which will be complemented with the opening of a second Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course this fall. Also in development are a St. Regis Resort & Residences, a Mii Amo destination spa, and an all-suite La Solana Resort.

My first trip to Puerto Vallarta was made in a van with a school buddy. We drove from Toronto to Guadalajara in two and a half days. From there we went to the coastal fishing village of Puerto Vallarta, where we were able to rent a thatch-roofed cabana on the beach for a peso a night. We bought an evening meal of fresh fish, shared with the owner/fisherman and his family, for two pesos, and that included a bottle of cerveza. Though I've returned numerous times, the hour's drive north from Puerto Vallarta's airport to the tip of the Punta de Mita peninsula certainly illustrated to me how much the area has grown.

Now of course, Puerto Vallarta is the leading tourist destination on the west coast of Mexico. The first grouping of resort hotels built on the beach of the sleepy little fishing village has become a thriving community with all the amenities expected from a growing cosmopolitan city. It has also become the principal centre for medical tourism in Mexico.

Until we reached the turn-off for the Punta de Mita Peninsula, there was extensive development on both sides of the four-lane highway, new communities such as Nuevo Vallarta and numerous English billboards promoting luxury, gated communities.

The Punta Mita Resort at the end of the road across the Punta de Mita peninsula would appear to be the premier development in the whole area. DINE, the owner/developer, is one of Mexico's leading real estate development companies and their expertise shows in the quality of the project and the concern for the environment.

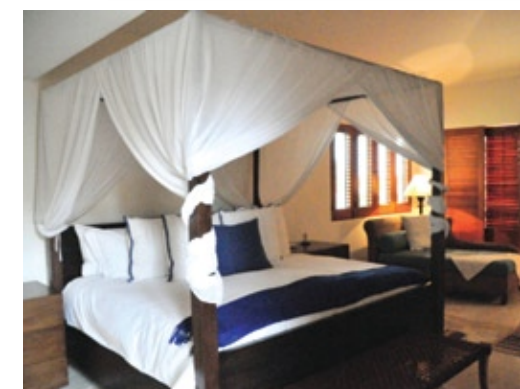
The ongoing success of the project is apparent. The first four phases of the Four Seasons Private Villas are sold out and prices in Phase 5 start at over \$3 million. There are currently six other residential developments going on within the gated community; everything from million-dollar condos to beachfront or golf course-facing luxury villas. All are done on a grand scale and to North American standards. As a result of the immense actual size of the property, the ongoing development is not a disturbance to vacationing guests.

We spent our first few nights in one of the villas of the Las Palmas de Punta Mita development. These full ownership spacious homes boast a gourmet kitchen, outdoor shower, and state-of-the-art technology. Twenty-eight villas have been sold and completed. An additional ten are to be finished in 2008. Each is designed as a one- or two-storey residence with a choice of three or four bedrooms. Prices start at \$1.3 million. When placed in the rental pool they come with their own maid and a chef who prepares a gourmet breakfast each morning. Naturally, the refrigerator is pre-stocked according to the whims of the incoming guests. The private infinity plunge pool looking out over the ocean from the second storey's expansive living terrace proved hard to leave.

“Naturally, the refrigerator is pre-stocked according to the whims of the incoming guests.”

However, we did venture forth and discovered the Residents Beach Club. With its own beach and superb restaurant I would suspect many visitors would end up spending their time simply going from their villa to the Beach Club and back again. The cuisine was certainly nouveau Mexican and definitely matched or surpassed the standards expected of a Four Seasons property.

One day we were even more adventurous and actually left the confines of the community to explore the nearby town of Sayulita. This bohemian town is known for its rich surfing culture, eclectic shops and restaurants — a number of which have beach-side seating.



A personal chef completes the luxurious appointments at Las Palmas de Punta Mita.





Terry zip-trekking

Now emboldened, we decided to take advantage of some tourist attractions found in Nuevo Vallarta approximately 40 minutes from Punta Mita. Vallarta Adventures would appear to be the most established tour operator, offering numerous tours and attractions.

It seems at every destination we visit that draws tourists, zip-trekking is the new “in” thing, so we decided, “What the heck, let’s figure out what the attraction is.” Since Nuevo Vallarta is on the ocean, first up was a 40-minute trip in an off-road jeep to find some mountains. The back end of the jeep accommodated ten people seated on benches. A bumpy road took us through a breadfruit forest that brought us to the top of the track.

Our hosts were gung-ho, though safety conscious, very fit, friendly and apparently well-used to ensuring their guests have as much fun as possible. Taking the first plunge was a little unnerving and caution tempered my speed to the next landing. But by the end of the sixteenth leg of the track, speed was definitely the attraction. Look Mom, no hands!

I should point out however, that every day, there is a guest who, upon reaching that point where they have to entrust their life to a wire cable and a small harness, just can’t do it. As a result they miss out on the long, hot, hike back up the valley to the main station to re-board the jeep for the journey back to Nuevo Vallarta.

Just outside the back gate of Punta Mita resort is the local fishing village. We stopped to have dinner at the newly opened Café des Artistes del Mar. This gourmet bistro specializing in seafood was created by Chef Thierry Blouet, owner of one of Puerto Vallarta’s more acclaimed restaurants, similarly named Café des Artistes. The beachfront location offers both in- and outdoor seating and a great menu complemented with a good wine list.

For the last half of our visit we moved to one of the Four Seasons Private Villas. This relocation gave us the added benefit of being tended to by our personal butler, Bismarck, who oversaw preparation of our breakfast in the gourmet kitchen by one of the resort chefs each morning, arranged evening meal preparation at our whim and organized anything else we wished to undertake.

In reading the guest book it would appear that the amiable and very professional Bismarck has made quite the impression on many young guests. The villas attract families because of their size, and there were quite a number of children who made reference to how much they appreciated Bismarck’s efforts to make their stay a pleasure.

Typical of Mexican architectural design, all the rooms opened to an enclosed courtyard, and we took advantage of the privacy offered to have massage treatments provided by resort spa staff. It is truly a most relaxing experience to listen to the gentle gurgling of the courtyard water fountain while having muscle knots untied.



The Four Seasons’ Private Villas



These very luxurious villas sit overlooking the Four Seasons Resort and the ocean below. They are very secluded and when swimming in your own infinity pool its easy to forget this is actually a resort and not simply your private residence. But of course all the resort amenities are very tempting.

We spent an afternoon in a private poolside cabana at the Tamai Pool, one of a number of pools within the resort. Each cabana features contemporary wood furnishings, including a daybed strewn with pillows. Other features include a 42-inch plasma television, DVD player, state-of-the-art sound system, wireless high-speed Internet access, telephone, private bar, and a variety of books and music selections. Outside each cabana are two reserved chaise lounges. Food service includes fabulous sushi to order. For those with rooms within the resort and without the advantage of a private villa these cabanas are great.

“A variety of tropical fish, sea turtles and friendly giant manta rays flourish in the crystal-clear waters surrounding these islands”

Just off the northern coast of Punta de Mita, lies the Marietas Island Marine Reserve and one of the most popular places to snorkel in Puerto Vallarta. A variety of tropical fish, sea turtles and friendly giant manta rays flourish in the crystal-clear waters surrounding these islands. Whales and wild dolphins are often sighted. But this craggy, wild, grass-swept national park’s most famous residents are the thousands of blue-footed boobies.

In the Punta Mita fishing village can be found Sociedad Cooperativa de Servicios Turísticos. This co-op of local fishing men turned tourist guides offers boat trips to the reserve. Rudy, our guide, seemed to be the inspiration behind the co-op but, as he was most willing to point out, not everything he had to say was accurate, even though generally very entertaining.

Rudy was a young globe-hopping short order cook from Germany who happened upon Punta de Mita quite a number of years ago and never left. Now married to a local, he and his brother-in-law have become naturalist guides and own a couple of the boats operated under the auspices of the co-op. Apparently, his family back in Germany have given up on him due to his desire for a laid-back lifestyle. The only member of his family to visit, his mother, stayed for just a couple of days. She had to leave as she was too disheartened by his attachment to this relaxed way of life.

Two more of Rudy’s tales stand out. The first: the reason people are no longer allowed to land on the island was that one group’s untended campfire burned out of control, causing the deaths of many boobies too slow-witted to get off the island. It’s hard to comprehend how a high-flying, sea-diving bird would not get out of the way of advancing flames.



Enjoying the wildlife of Punta Mita by boat with Rudy, our guide.



Playing Punta Mita's signature Jack Nicklaus Golf Course.



Other Punta Mita residences.



Rudy also pointed out one of the more grandiose private beachfront villas within the Punta Mita resort as we were sailing by. Apparently, the very wealthy owner, a principal shareholder of one of the more popular social networking websites, was very hard to please. He had the villa built and torn down three times before he felt it was up to his standards. The story goes he now visits for all of ten days a year.

"This ultra-luxurious, low-density, gated community boasts one of the finest Jack Nicklaus-designed golf courses..."

No matter some of the tales, Rudy certainly has learned a lot about the local wildlife and fauna and goes to great lengths to ensure his guests go away with at least some of the love he has for Punta Mita.

One evening we also made a point of visiting Casa de Mita, a seven-room member of Mexico Boutique Hotels, found five minutes from the main gates of Punta Mita on the other side of the bay. A wooden door conceals the entry courtyard, and once across the threshold hospitality comes in the form of two miniature Italian greyhounds, who make a point of greeting all guests. Food at Casa de Mita is a passion, with the menu a daily surprise. Dinner in the outside eating area features a great view of the sun setting over the peninsula.

Naturally, with the Punta Mita resort home to one of the most acclaimed golf courses, we had to see what all the fuss was about. The golf course is a pleasure to play due to the gorgeous ocean views and natural surroundings. The signature third hole is only playable at low tide as the green is on a small island only accessible by foot when the tide is out. The new second course will be a little more demanding, but we were more than happy to test our skills while at the same time taking the opportunity to have a look at some of the fabulous private villas which border the fairways.

We have the onerous task of having to travel to some of the finest resort destinations in the world and report back on our findings. Since we're duffers, we get to play on some very remarkable golf courses. The course at Punta Mita I would classify as one of my favourites. It's simply great fun and a true pleasure for the eyes.

The overall experience at Punta Mita was very relaxing. It's hard to find something to complain about while spending time in luxurious spacious villas being looked after by gracious attentive staff — plus have access to all the amenities expected of a resort run by the Four Seasons.

Connoisseur's Choice in Punta Mita

Punta Mita General Info and Rentals:

Punta Mita Properties
011.52.329.291.6500
www.puntamita.com.mx

Restaurants:

Café des Artistes del Mar
011.52.322.222.3228
www.cafedesartistes.com

Casa de Mita

011.52.329.298.4114
www.mexicoboutiquehotels.com

Zip Trekking:

Vallarta Adventures
1.888.303.2653
011.52.322.297.1212
www.vallarta-adventures.com

Marieta Islands Marine Reserve:

Sociedad Cooperativa de Servicios Turísticos
Rudy: 011.52.329.291.6722

I'm not surprised that real estate sales in the gated community have been so brisk. According to the marketing director, some resellers have experienced as much as a 25% appreciation. I would suspect with the downturn in the U.S. economy sales will not be quite as brisk. But that presents an opportunity for Canadians to have a greater presence.

The closeness to Puerto Vallarta is certainly a plus and it's easily accessible. The airport is modern and relatively efficient, though I do find it a bit off-putting that after having collected their baggage visitors must pass through an area bordered on both sides by counters occupied by timeshare representatives before finally reaching local transportation counters.

Puerto Vallarta itself has grown tremendously over the last number of years. There is little doubt the humble cabana I discovered some years ago, and which was home to a resident scorpion, has long ago been replaced on that gorgeous beach with some much more elaborate structure. But I am certainly not complaining. I completely enjoy the amenities of a fine luxury resort and highly recommend the experience. ■

Connoisseur's Choice in Cameras

This trip was photographed with the Nikon D300, AF-S VR 70-300mm lens, AF-S DX 18-135mm & SB-800 Speedlight



D300

Nikon Canada's most advanced DX-format digital SLR camera, the D300, is engineered with pro-level features and performance. The 12.3-effective megapixel D300 combines new technologies with advanced features inherited from Nikon's D3 professional digital SLR camera to offer serious photographers remarkable performance and image quality.

The Luxury Experience Private Resort Collection



Make Your Dream Come True

How often in life does something come along where you get to mix personal enjoyment with financial reward? How would you like to combine a luxury vacation experience with a superior real estate investment, substantial tax-saving strategies and important retirement options? You can now with Resorts International Foundation.

“We have created a unique concept that embodies all the positive aspects of second home ownership, fractional ownership or other vacation properties, such as investment benefits, tax write-offs, appreciation potential, rental income and exchange capabilities,” explains John Anthony, Vice President of Marketing for Resorts International Foundation in Puerto Vallarta.

Everyone has heard that investing in real estate has made many wealthy. But not everyone has enough knowledge about the market or time to do the research to find the right property. In reality, the hard part actually comes into play once you own. With financial decisions regarding remodelling, on-going maintenance, finding renters, increases in property taxes and insurance, and learning when is the right time to sell — it’s a daunting amount of information you have to pay attention to.

“Not a bad deal — buying property in a beautiful, year-round, warm-weather destination that provides an excellent opportunity to escape the harsh Canadian winters while doubling your investment in only five years!”

“I can assure you, there is an easier way, that doesn’t require you to buy something that may just look good on paper, but instead, allows you to invest in a very desirable property in paradise. The beauty of The Luxury Experience — Private Resort Collection is that you can enjoy all the benefits of vacation travel and yet have your investment grow with tax write-offs at the same time. We can help you learn how to combine these components together to improve your investment, enhance your vacation, enjoy your retirement and minimize your taxes,” offers Anthony.

We are excited to have designed a means for changing people’s lifestyle and the way they have traditionally viewed real estate, vacation and investing as separate entities. We found that so many people were not fully enjoying their vacation experience, and expressed dissatisfaction with the myriad of unsuccessful tax shelters, low-yielding investments or overly complex tax strategies. So, we made a commitment to offer something that people could be truly happy with and feel good about. And what’s not to feel good about? The Private Resort Collection properties are accompanied with numerous extras like travel and concierge services, golf membership, tennis, beach clubs, and spa services, with exclusive benefits only to our members.

As the name implies, the idea behind “The Luxury Experience — Private Resort Collection” is that it’s not just a place to go but rather, it’s an entire vacation experience. And as such, we’re proud to announce our award-winning property, the Beldaire Golf Resort & Spa in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Highlighted by its supreme location in the marina, this property is one of the world’s most exclusive resorts, designed to deliver the finest in luxury living. Our owners share amenities such as playing on Jack Nicklaus’ Championship PGA signature golf course, use of some of the most beautiful yachts in the region, relaxation in our private garden spa and an exotic wine cellar to impress even the most discriminating tastes.

“We are in final negotiations for other properties in prime Mexico locations, such as Conchas Chinas, the Riviera Maya and Los Cabos, to add to the Private Resort Collection. These include world class resorts frequented by Hollywood stars. We also have affiliations with numerous world-renowned resorts that our members can enjoy with special accommodations and spa treatments,” says Anthony.

We chose to open our first resort property in Puerto Vallarta where you can invest today and actually have a guarantee of seeing a return. For the past five years the residential tourist sector has been going through an unprecedented boom that has yielded real estate owners appreciation of up to 20 percent per year. Not a bad deal — buying property in a beautiful, year-round, warm-weather destination that provides an excellent opportunity to escape the harsh Canadian winters while doubling your investment in only five years!

Anthony explains that, “This property provides a solution which offers several advantages over the traditional second-home purchase by avoiding all the typical downsides, including property taxes and maintenance costs, purchasing only your desired equity interest, benefiting from property value appreciation, passing on the investment to your beneficiaries, having it pre-rented for you if you decide not to use it for yourself, plus you essentially get all the benefits of a country club membership included.”

Then there is the one thing we all would like to avoid if possible or at the very least minimize, since there really is no way to avoid it. Yes, we’re talking about the

“...you can enjoy all the benefits of vacation travel and yet have your investment grow with tax write-offs at the same time.”

“T” word. “When it comes to taxes, many people just don’t know enough to use the tax advantages provided by various entities available to them, such as joint ventures and partnerships. When properly and legitimately structured, these types of entities can allow a means for deducting all the expenses associated with these investments, including the cost of taking vacations to your own property,” Anthony explains. He continues, “Placing investments and real estate into one of these types of entities also offers unique estate planning benefits for parents wishing to pass ownership to their children or heirs. The ownership of real estate held by a partnership is represented proportionately by a person’s shares of the partnership. Rather than filing a new deed, parents can transfer ownership of the property to their children by simply issuing them the proper shares in the partnership.”



The Luxury Experience Private Resort Collection



Belaire Golf Resort & Spa, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico



Anthony further says that, “There are even greater ways to diversify such an investment as a part of a pre- or post-retirement plan. Understanding this smart investment choice will provide protection for you and your family and guarantee your future financial security. For retirees, this type of investment conforms to the Canadian government rules which allow for living outside the country for up to six months without losing retirement benefits.”

Now what about the luxury vacation aspect? Well, aside from being able to vacation in your own real estate investment as a write-off, what if owning that investment also provided you the option of staying in the finest private resorts all over the world and enjoying the lifestyle of the rich and famous — but at a substantial savings?

“This is exactly what our guests are looking for,” Anthony says. “Obviously, with the large population of baby boomers in both the U.S. and Canada, we feel we are helping these people realize their dreams while living the lifestyle that they have worked so hard to achieve. We are confident that we have the perfect solution for the 45 to 65 year-old, high income or net worth individual who enjoys taking frequent vacations while also wanting to make smart investments. In the least, it’s definitely something for those looking for something out of the ordinary, and finding the extraordinary.” ■

“We bought before the show suite was built and it is even more beautiful than we expected.”

Rick and Fran Morrison, Vancouver, B.C.

“I would say the most impressive thing about the Belaire Development to me is the very sincere and personal attention that I have received to date from the people involved with the development.”

Donald Saunders, Victoria, B.C.

“We have traveled to Puerto Vallarta over 20 times since 1993 and the Belaire is the first project that has appealed to us. We consider this purchase an excellent investment in our future.”

Rod and Gloria Humphries,
Realtors since 1992, Chilliwack, B.C.

Resorts International Foundation

Albatros 420
Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco,
Mexico 48354
Toll Free: 866.438.1448
www.theluxuryexperienceprc.com

The Luxury Experience



Private Resort Collection

Now is the right time for you to make an investment in your family’s future security. Enjoy your own piece of paradise. Investment units are limited.

- Superior Real-Estate Investment
- Important Retirement Planning
- Substantial Tax-Saving Strategies
- Exceptional Vacation Experiences

Call (866) 992-3524 toll free immediately for more information on seminars in your area and to receive your free promotional, five-star vacation package to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

www.theluxuryexperienceprc.com



Experience the Rich & Famous Lifestyle

PROPERTY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Eco-Cosy Living

By Debbie Travis

Spark Ribbon Fire — Spark's 6-foot Fire Ribbon makes a dramatic statement in any contemporary gathering space.

With cooler weather forecasts inevitable, thoughts turn to indoor rooms that offer a cosier ambiance than open, airy summer themes. The time is right to re-hang the drapes, roll out the rugs, switch to a woolly blanket, and light the fire. We all have images of what makes our homes feel snug and warm as the temperatures drop. You don't have to raise the thermostat to dizzying heights, and with conservation of utmost concern, this is no longer an option. Simply follow the natural order to transform rooms into winter-friendly havens. Take a cue from Mother Nature, and the methods and materials She provides, and you can't go wrong.

Key elements to an ecologically sensitive indoor space are a good fireplace, warm floors, and comfortable furnishings. You can achieve the mood, integrating the requisite warmth into your favourite style using eco-conscious products. Here's a roundup that swings from high-end luxurious traditions to sleek hot contemporary design.

Fire Power

The fireplace is synonymous with a cosy theme. There's controversy over which fuel is the most economical, the safest, and the least damaging to the earth and atmosphere. But good manufacturers have provided the marketplace with excellent options and diverse styles for indoor fires that burn wood, gas, electricity, and even ethanol. Check with your local fireplace store for the product best suited to where you live.

If you have been to a home and design show recently, you will have seen the latest in contemporary fire displays. Spark Modern Fires' Ribbon Fire is the new gas fireplace alternative for modern homes. This sleek line of fire comes in 3' and 6' lengths. This product is direct-vent with high-quality ceramic glass that is non-reflective, so the glass is almost invisible, and is great for a new installation or remodel. Once in place, choose a surround that heightens the edgy look, from copper and steel, to stone and ceramic.

Wood stoves are increasing in popularity again and designs are keeping pace. Town & Country's cottage style stove is available in a modern steel housing that updates country rooms. Their wood stoves can also be built into a traditional mantel for a more formal living room setting.

The heat provided by a fire is not its only asset. A flickering flame provides a soothing focal point that is mesmerising. An innovative alternative to the gas or wood fireplace is available from Ecosmart Fires. Fuelled by a renewable energy called ecohol, which is a form of denatured alcohol, it burns clear and is maintenance free. The Ecosmart Fire is flueless and does not require any installation or utility connection for fuel supply, which allows for huge design flexibility. Their freestanding Designer Selection can be placed anywhere; two glass sides double the viewing angles. And a big bonus for apartment dwellers — you can take it with you when you move.

Fire Facades

Inside your home, a fireplace is more than flames and heat. What you burn, how it looks, and the surrounding materials all play a key role in the overall impression. For truly luxurious surrounds combined with state of the art fire power, Town & Country Fires have an outstanding selection. You design your gas fireplace with a bed of realistic logs, soothing river rocks or sparkling tumbled glass. The interior back and side panel can be a herringbone pattern, black porcelain, Tuscan style or red brick.

Whether you are building a new home or renovating a space, these direct vent gas fireplaces can be positioned anywhere in the home within 110 feet of an outside wall. The venting system makes it possible to design a bathroom, kitchen or open plan living area with the fireplace away from the wall.

Designing the mantel and surround for your new fireplace is next. Again, use your imagination and adventurous spirit to research the possibilities. The wide range of building materials includes new and reclaimed wood, marble, granite and other stone, ceramic tiles and concrete. Among the many companies that design mantels, DaVinci Stone Craft builds grand surrounds with fluted and smooth columns, stepped mantels and carved panel details.

Concrete has become a popular decorative building material over the last few years, and not just for modern living. Magnus Nordstrom of Mags Concrete Works explains concrete can take on any shape or form. It's tough, yet can be tinted and applied in artful ways to complement traditional wood burning fireplaces, urban and rural styles.

Floors And Furniture

Which other elements should you pay attention to when creating a cosy atmosphere? Your floors should look and feel warm, and furnishings can always be made inviting with colour and cushion comfort. As with the fireplaces, certain floors are more conducive to eco-friendly living and warmth. Cork, wood and bamboo are natural products, all renewable, reusable and beautiful. Wool broadloom and carpets bring a sense of intimacy and artistry to any area that sets the tone for your room's mood and style.

Cork

The cork oak is a unique tree; its bark can be "stripped" off allowing new bark to grow in its place. The first crop, known as virgin bark, is cut when the tree is 25 years old. It can then be "stripped" every nine years for 200 or so years. A tree that is 80 years old can produce 200 kilos of cork when cut. Cork is 100% reusable and recyclable, making it a sensible choice for building. It is also soft and warm underfoot as well as durable. And cork's unique markings contribute visual texture to a surface.

The Jelinek Cork Group has decorated the interior of a centuries-old home to illustrate the versatility and beauty of cork. And it's not just cork floors. You'll see cork tiles panelling walls, and ceilings finished with warm brown tones of cork. Some of the furniture is built with a combination of wood and cork. And there is even cork upholstery! Here is a company that is exploring the ways a renewable resource can be transformed into a handsome and valuable addition to a home's décor.



Counter-clockwise from top: Ecosmart Freestanding — Fuelled by econol (ethanol derivative), a renewable green energy, the Ecosmart Fire is a uniquely modern alternative to a gas or wood fire; TCDavinci Facade — Enjoy the ultimate luxury with this see-through fireplace from Town & Country — Tranquility burner and black porcelain panels; TCDavinci Facade — This classic fireplace mantel and surround is created by DaVinci Stone Crafts from a durable, stain-resistant composite. The Town & Country gas fireplace has Tuscan panels and Country Home Logs; TC herringbone wood — The jewel of this cosy den, Town & Country's Arch gas fireplace insert has Chalet burner (logs) and classic herringbone panels; Mags Concrete — The recycled mantel beam is consistent with this eco-friendly fireplace design.



Left to right: Spark outdoor view — Fire Ribbon See Through by Spark allows viewing from two different rooms; PE Woodstove Fireplace Formal — Pacific Energy's Summit woodstove insert fits into an existing fireplace and delivers long-lasting controllable heat; PE Woodstove Steel — European inspired freestanding Fusion steel wood stove from Pacific Energy also comes in porcelain enamel colours.



Left: Cork Kitchen — Cork wall tiles are available in many patterns and shades to enhance the natural warmth and flow of a kitchen or bathroom. Above: Cork Room — Cork coverings are an eco-conscious choice for today's homes, including floors, floor mats, wall and ceiling tiles, furniture, and even upholstery.

Bamboo

It's reported that bamboo is the fastest growing plant on earth. A symbol of health and spirituality, this ageless wood is a welcome element in any home. Solid bamboo floors are elegant, peaceful and welcoming — a perfect choice for your eco-cosy space. Bamboo is also available in plywood and veneer for a less-costly approach to building or re-facing furniture and cabinetry.

Reclaimed and FSC-Certified Wood

To be true to the cause, do a little homework before you put down your next wood floor. You have options. FSC-certified wood means that the wood is managed according to strict environmental, social, and economic standards. Companies such as Nadurra Wood supply certified maple for new floors. And for an imaginative alternative check out their reclaimed lumber pool as well. Reclaimed wood comes from old barns, country homes and urban buildings. These boards pack history into every foot, seen in the old nail holes and dents, and the aged patina. But the strength and beauty is there also and is sure to make an enduring and endearing floor or tabletop, or mantel.

Wool Carpets

Throughout the centuries wool has been woven into the most long-lasting and elegant carpeting and rugs. It is natural and organic, hypoallergenic, naturally fire-retardant and controls temperature through its insulating properties. Not only does it pass the eco-conscious test, but it is just as naturally soft and beautiful.

Texture rates high on today's interior fashion list and its presence is seen clearly in carpet design. Durable wool broadloom is shown with subtle designs and variable tuft heights that create their own monotone patterns. For a wealth of styles in luxurious wool carpeting, check out Nourison online.

For art lovers who choose to bring the art off the wall, I discovered the most exquisite contemporary carpets I've ever seen (and stroked) through Modern Weave. The swirl of colours, unexpected patterns and textures not only make a superb vision, but you cannot resist the sensual luxury of walking on them with bare toes, or sitting on them. This is cosy comfort at a whole new level.

Eco-cosy living is not so difficult...in fact, it should come naturally to all of us. ■

Produced by Debbie Travis and Barbara Dingle.

Right: Nadurra Bamboo cabinets — The distinctive markings seen on the bamboo veneer cabinets shows off the unique beauty of this renewable resource. Below: Nadurra Reclaimed closeup — Nadurra's reclaimed wood floors glow with a historic patina.



Clockwise from room above: Nourison Wool broadloom — Durable and natural all wool wall-to-wall carpets anchor this inviting living space; NourisonLiz herbaldye — Jaipur wool carpet undergoes a herbal wash process which creates the impression of a priceless antique; NourisonLiz Impressions — Liz Claiborne Radiant Impressions wool area carpets have a modern twist; ModernWeave texture — Artistic design and lush textures using natural wool and silk are key to Modern Weave contemporary rugs, each designed and made by artists.

Connoisseur's Choice in Eco-Cosy Living

Spark Modern Fires www.sparkfires.com

6' Fire Ribbon, direct vent. 3' Fire Ribbon See Through.

Pacific Energy Fireplace Products www.pacificenergy.net

Fusion Freestanding wood stove, steel; 36" Summit wood stove insert.

Town & Country Fireplaces www.townandcountryfireplaces.net

TC 36' Tranquility Fire See-Thru with river rock; TC 54" gas insert,

Tuscan panel, Country Home logs, surround by DaVinci Stone Craft

www.davincistonecraft.com; TC 36" Arch fireplace, herringbone panels,

Chalet burner (logs).

Ecosmart Fire www.ecosmartfire.com

The Ecosmart Vision stands on its own; non-reflective glass on both sides

gives you views from two rooms.

Mags Concrete Works www.magsconcreteworks.com

Tinted concrete fire surround.

Jelinek Cork Group www.corkhouse.com

The Cork House living room; cork panel in kitchen.

AERIE II
NOW SELLING



The Aerie

BRITISH PROPERTIES
WEST VANCOUVER

World-class Condominium Residences

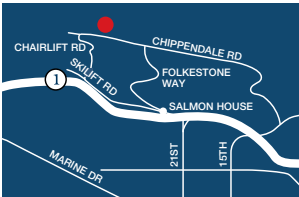
Experience the grandeur of The Aerie. Spectacular custom-crafted residences nestled on the south-facing slope of West Vancouver's prestigious Whitby Estates.

Distinctive West Coast design, intelligently crafted by British Pacific Properties for optimum sustainability. Each residence enjoys its own exterior entry and private underground garage.

For a limited time there is still the opportunity to add your own custom-finishing touches to the penthouses before they are completed.

- Breathtaking panoramic views
- Solid concrete construction
- Town homes with beautiful private garden
- Private elevators to terrace homes and penthouses
- Secure underground individual garages
- Numerous green building features including geothermal energy system
- Extensive landscaping, designed for sustainability

TOWN HOMES, TERRACE HOMES AND
PENTHOUSES STARTING AT \$2,198,000



Discovery Centre open Sat & Sun Noon to 5pm · 2577 Chippendale Road, West Vancouver
Contact Shirley Clarke at 604.258.8808 or Nikki Newson 604.788.2630 for further information
www.aerieliving.com

This is not an offering for sale. Such offering can only be made by disclosure statement. E.& E.O. Prudential Sussex Realty

What Credit Crunch?

By Tony Wong

When Alex Shnaider moves into his penthouse apartment in the still-to-be-finished Trump Tower in downtown Toronto sometime over the next two years, it will likely be the most expensive pied-à-terre in Canada. At a value of \$20 million, the apartment could be as large as 14,000 square feet, with soaring nine-metre ceilings in some rooms.

"You can put an observatory up there. It's a great place to get away from the wife if we ever have a fight," the billionaire jokingly told me, standing in the ornate living room of his current Toronto home, an expansive mansion in the north end of Canada's largest city.

It's uncertain how much use Shnaider, the 557th richest man in the world, with a net worth of \$1.8 billion USD according to Forbes, and Canada's youngest billionaire at the age of 40, will get out of his new trophy property.

In a 20-minute drive north of downtown Toronto, he is already building a significantly bigger home for his family in the upscale Bridle Path neighbourhood. So it's likely the Trump penthouse is just a plush crash pad, a new toy not unlike his fleet of cars including the \$450,000 Mercedes SLR McLaren in his garage, his private jet, or his 170-foot-Benetti yacht the "Midlandia" — available as a rental for \$270,000 a week when he's not tooling around on the Mediterranean.

A steel baron who made his wealth in the Ukraine through diverse holdings including steel mills, Shnaider once famously owned his own Formula 1 racing team. He's a representative of a new class of super rich — a global nomad with homes around the globe and sometimes multiple houses in the same city.

"There is an incredible amount of wealth out there, and they typically converge on major financial centers of the world," says Adam Challis, associate director of residential research for CB Richard Ellis, in London, England.

While a global credit crunch has caused economic shock waves in real estate markets, particularly in the United States and Britain, the ultra rich are largely insulated because they can afford to pay cash, says Challis. That's not to say they are immune to a bargain though.

"Even though they have the money, no one wants to get caught with a property that might fall in value," says Challis.

In that sense, Canada and some parts of the United States are looking like a value play to some Euro-rich investors, Russian billionaires and the occasional oil sheik. Globally, Canada is on the radar for many investors because of a solid, although slowing economy, rich natural resource sector and stable government.



Four Seasons Private Residences, Toronto



Seventy Seven Charles West, Toronto



Prices for Canadian luxury homes are also something of a bargain — at least if you are an international shopper.

In London, England, where some new condos on the market are listed at an astounding \$100 million, Shnaider's opulent penthouse would look cheap.

Earlier this year a Khazakhstan entrepreneur purchased a 23,000 square foot home in north London for 50 million pounds, or about \$102 million Canadian. But it was apparently a fixer-upper. She is spending another 30 million pounds (more than \$60 million) in renovations, including a 30-seat cinema and a helicopter landing pad in the garden.

Not surprisingly, the top end of the market in London costs a vertigo-inducing \$11,600 per square foot, compared to a paltry \$2,000 in Vancouver and \$1,400 in Toronto. In New York, where the penthouse at the Pierre hotel is listed for \$70 million, top buildings go for \$6,000 a square foot according to CB Richard Ellis.

In Monaco, the really good stuff goes for \$10,600 per square foot, meaning a dinky 500 square foot studio apartment would theoretically cost more than \$5 million. Still, Challis cautions that the principality's tax-free status and tiny size means real estate is priced at a premium.



"While a global credit crunch has caused economic shock waves in real estate markets, the ultra rich are largely insulated because they can afford to pay cash"

"You are, of course, paying for the luxury and prestige and aura of Monaco, but pricing is steep because you're getting a major discount on your taxes once you live there," says Challis. That means the rich will have even more money to lose in the nearby casinos — which is perhaps why spending a million or two in Vancouver or Toronto can be chump change for some.

"You are really courting an international clientele, because the people who can afford these properties are amongst the top earners in the world," Steve Gutfreund, senior vice president of Graywood Developments Ltd., one of three partners of the Ritz Carlton property in Toronto, told me over lunch at an outdoor café within walking distance of the project. That was after a tour of the elegant, glass-encased property, which in August had been built to the sixth floor.

Gutfreund had recently returned from a sales tour to Singapore and Shanghai. In order to attract international buyers, the developers, convinced that Canada is undervalued, have purchased double-paged spreads in major newspapers touting the value proposition of a Canadian-priced Ritz.

"Go ahead. Get yourself a little something with the money you save," reads the Ritz tagline with a picture of a private jet and a Mercedes sports car underneath.





The Ritz, Toronto

Canada isn't the only bargain spot of course. In the U.S., the fallout from the sub prime loan market has meant record foreclosures with falling prices in some markets, even as the American dollar takes a pounding — a perfect storm for real estate.

In July, American billionaire Donald Trump sold a 60,000-square-foot oceanfront mansion to Russian fertilizer sales magnate Dmitry Rybolovlev for \$95 million — a record for Palm Beach. Rybolovlev may even think he got a bargain: Trump wanted \$30 million more, but dropped the price after the property, which is spread over six acres and has four buildings, with a mammoth garage that can hold 48 cars, sat on the market for more than a year.

While Trump didn't get the price he hoped for, he didn't do too badly. He bought it for \$41 million in 2004 and spent another \$25 million in renovations, supervised by Apprentice television show winner Kendra Todd who, in perhaps a nod to Trump's penchant for blinding visitors with gold plate in his buildings, liberally splashed 24-karat gold finishes throughout the property.

"I don't have to tell you there's a lot of wealth out there — and they're willing to pay top dollar for the best that life has to offer," Trump told me when in Toronto earlier this year in a meeting at the private National Club, a favourite haunt of Bay Street bankers. "And nothing is more important than where they live."

You might also add where they get room service. From a new Four Seasons, Ritz and Shangri-La in Toronto to new Ritz and Fairmont residences in Vancouver, the rich like to have their lattes on a silver platter. Or at least have the option.

In the U.S., it's no different. Las Vegas, which, next to Florida, is taking a beating from the credit crunch, has a Canadian as the top man in charge of selling homes in the largest, privately-financed residential project in North America — the \$8 billion CityCenter mixed use development in downtown Las Vegas.



Last year, Tony Dennis, the executive vice-president of residential for CityCenter, a joint venture between

MGM Mirage and Dubai World, sold an astounding \$1.6 billion worth of real estate. On his first project, the Mandarin Oriental residences, he averaged \$1,600 per square foot. However, unit sales on the remaining 50 percent of the project — which includes properties designed by some of the world's top architects, such as Daniel Libeskind — have slipped dramatically since then.

"Our competition isn't necessarily other condominiums. It's really any other luxury product. The client may be choosing between us and gold futures or a house on the Riviera or a Renoir," Dennis told me.

According to a recent luxury home buyers survey by Coldwell Banker, about half of affluent home owners (those whose residence is valued at more than \$1 million and with more than \$1 million in investment assets) already have a second vacation home, if not a Renoir. A strong majority, (85 percent) said they expected the value of their home to increase over the next five years.

When asked to identify a location for a dream or secondary home, having a home near a beach, lake, or river and in a warmer climate were at the top of the list. Must-have features in a home include a designer kitchen at the top, followed by a customized entertainment centre, an indoor gym and then a wine cellar.

"At the end of the day it's just getting harder to top the next guy," sighs Canadian realtor Mike Donia, who deals in high end homes with many international buyers. Donia says he has seen more excess than he can remember. But he draws the line at one client's home that featured monogrammed toilet paper. Needless to say, it "made a statement every time he flushed," says Donia. "Sometimes I think you really can have too much of too much." ■

THE PRIVATE RESIDENCES
AT HOTEL GEORGIA

LIVE IN THE HEART OF VANCOUVER



A landmark location at the centre of one of the world's great cities. Luxurious homes rising 48-storeys above the impeccable extravagance of the fully restored Hotel Georgia. Cosmopolitan. Exquisite. Exclusive. Priced from \$1.3 million.

PRESENTATION GALLERY: SUITE 100, 549 HOWE STREET, VANCOUVER
FOR AN APPOINTMENT CALL 604.682.8107 OR TOLL FREE 1.866.602.6636
WWW.RESIDENCESATGEORGIA.COM

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Canada

DELTA GROUP



Artist's rendering, Black Rock Development

Boutique Hotels & Resorts of British Columbia

Boutique Hotels & Resorts of British Columbia (BHRBC) is a leading hospitality management company for luxury hotels, lodges and resorts in British Columbia that has made a very unique promise to its guests. That is, to take care of them in a truly personalized way that defines the boutique hotel experience. “We pride ourselves in providing first-class service to our guests,” states Mike Duggan, President of Boutique Hotels & Resorts of British Columbia. Duggan goes on to explain, “We have done this by investing in the training of our staff who, in turn, know exactly how to treat each visitor. Offering this level of guest service, coupled with the investment we’ve made in our property management system, has given us the tools we need to learn more about each person’s unique needs. And taking it even one step further is our ability to track those things that are important to each and every one of us. This may be a certain type of wine, a view of the ocean, treats for your pet, a birthday or special activities to be arranged for your children and other loved ones.”

Ingrid Jarrett, General Manager of The Cove Lakeside Resort, explains that, “at BHRBC, depth of experience is what we offer so each of our guests feel, unmistakably, like they are at home. Many people are well-traveled and as such, they compare their experience here with others from around the world. Our intention is that they go home saying to themselves and each other, ‘That was the best vacation ever!’ or ‘That was the most successful meeting or retreat we have ever had!’”

It seems to be true that today most people have less time but are more frequent travelers. It’s because of this that little getaways have become very popular. Because these travelers are looking for a complete experience, when they arrive they want to know that everything is looked after. That’s why with each reservation made at a BHRBC property, a pre-arrival call follows. “This ensures that all guests are well looked after and impressed,” Jarrett assures. Whether it be arranging a wine tour, spa or golf package, or booking or planning events or experiences at local festivals, one of this group’s strengths is their hands-on ability to scour the local community for unique ideas that result in packages and experiences that are incomparable in their level of intimacy, and which are organic to the destination.

“Boutique hotels and the community are interconnected, and guests care that we shop locally. The opportunity to actually visit the locations that we have relationships with is what stands us apart,” states Jarrett. Other partnerships offered at these properties include Green Key Eco-Rating Program, Acca Kappa, TAG Approved Accommodation, PetsCanStay, and Mint Property Group.

*“Offering this level of guest service...
has given us the tools we need to learn
more about each person’s unique needs”*

A perfect example of BHRBC’s commitment to community involvement is indicative in the initiatives that have taken place at The Cove Lakeside Resort in Westbank, BC. “A lot of time has been spent here finding the right opportunities to partner with local businesses that best represent our region,” explains General Manager, Ingrid Jarrett. “We have reached out into our community to shop for local products and packages that are experience based. The exciting thing is that the intimacy of these partnerships is aligned with integrity, which is reflective in the quality of these products and services,” Jarrett continues. This includes the world’s first Jammer, the Kelowna Lavender Farm located in the Mission Hills of Kelowna, and of course, Quail’s Gate Winery and Mission Hill Winery. Jarrett adds that, “the latest partnership which we are really excited about is The Chocolate Summit. Coming from the beautiful resort town of Revelstoke, BC, this privately owned chocolate company produces organic fair-trade sweets perfect for any occasion.”

BHRBC is also famous for choosing its locations. “The whole idea here is that we can deliver unique experiences in iconic destinations from around British Columbia. This is crucial if we are to be competitive, as today’s discerning guest is looking for an experience that is true to and reflective of the destination. And we are proud to say that each of our properties does just that,” boats Duggan.

For more information about Boutique Hotels & Resorts of British Columbia, or any of its properties, visit our website at bhrbc.com. ■



The Cove Lakeside Resort in Westbank, B.C.

1.877.762.2683

www.covelakeside.com

Located in the Okanagan Valley and tucked away in its own private cove, the Cove Lakeside Resort Hotel has everything you’ll need for that perfect Kelowna resort getaway. Opening out onto landscaped courtyards complete with pools, waterslide, hot tubs and many other amenities, this full-service luxury resort hotel is the perfect playground for adults and children alike with a beachfront walkway, putting green and private marina. Enjoy the water sport of your choice on a lake that stretches 80 kilometres. Indulge in a spa treatment or Bikram Yoga. Don’t forget to laze in the sun with a good book while our concierge takes care of all the details for your perfect stay.



Nita Lake Lodge in Whistler, B.C.

1.888.755.6482

www.nitalakelodge.com

Tucked on the shores of Nita Lake in historic Creekside Whistler, Nita Lake Lodge is the only luxury Whistler Boutique Hotel offering its guests the best of both worlds. An enclave of refinement and relaxation, Nita Lake Lodge is unique in its character and experience. Breathtaking views of the lake, mountains, forest and creek unfold at every window of this luxury Whistler hotel. At Nita Lake Lodge, its many signature services and gracious hospitality will always aim to exceed the expectations of any guest. The number of exceptional amenities and services include its lakeside location, gourmet dining, wellness spa opening in the fall of 2008, private shuttle service, ski lockers at the base of Whistler Mountain and its convenient proximity to the train station.





The Oswego Hotel in Victoria, B.C.

1.877.767.9346

www.oswegovictoria.com

With its modern urban design, this property exudes nothing less than pure West Coast flare with a simple chic urban accent. Some unique features include having the option to have your kitchen stocked prior to arrival with pure local organic groceries. And for your furry friends, chef-made dog biscuits and faux fur/leather doggie beds await. Start your day with a modern European breakfast featuring pastries from a local patisserie delivered by bicycle. Enjoy the 'O' arrival refreshment station, featuring chef-inspired flavoured water and the 'O' Bistro, featuring cuisine made from local fresh ingredients and a West Coast Wine List. Relax and rejuvenate with an Ayurvedic Bath Menu designed by our Spa Partner: Sapphire Day Spa.

Boutique Hotels & Resorts of British Columbia

Suite 330-1333 Johnston Street
Vancouver, BC Canada V6H 3R9
604.602.1447
1.866.602.1447
info@bhrbc.com
www.bhrbc.com

The Outback Resort in Vernon, B.C.

1.877.546.5005

www.theoutbackresort.com

A masterfully designed 60-acre cottage community tucked within two protected bays on Okanagan Lake that features unsurpassed architecture. Each of the 40 vacation properties is discreetly situated overlooking the waters of Okanagan Lake or nestled among the natural pine forest. The architecture is stunning with interesting structural accents of heavy timber and rock work. These spectacular properties range from two to three bedroom cottages, cabins and townhomes to stunning, architecturally-unique private Ridge Homes as large as 4,000 square feet with uninterrupted views of Okanagan Lake. Each of these Vacation Homes come fully furnished and is luxuriously equipped. The resort hosts a great selection of amenities including beaches, outdoor pools, hot tubs, marina and tennis courts.



L'Hermitage Hotel, Vancouver, B.C.

1.888.855.1050

www.lhermitagevancouver.com

The moment you arrive at the door of L'Hermitage Hotel, your senses will be awakened with the stylish décor, and the sophisticated and inviting style throughout. Whether you're traveling on business or for leisure, you can expect the extra services and amenities to be in keeping with the expectations of an ultimate boutique hotel that combines serenity with style. Chicago-inspired architecture with a New York-style setting and a vogue interior design, thoughtful amenities and truly personalized service all make L'Hermitage the essence of the ultimate cosmopolitan getaway.



Unless you're heavily invested in oil stocks, you may have noticed that North America is experiencing an economic downturn. That's bad news for some people, but it could be good news for you, especially if you like to gamble. Some of the top casino properties in North America want to host you in luxury at no cost, or very little cost. They want to lavish you with a suite, spa, golf course, limo service — the works.

Of course, you easily could pay for these things. But why pay? Casinos will “play you for them.” Does that sound like fun?

Here's the situation...even though casinos are cutting expenses because of the economic slowdown, frugality cannot entirely offset their diminishing sources of revenue. This is a particularly thorny problem for properties in Las Vegas where visitors are booking fewer hotel rooms, and convention business is way down.



Golf at the Wynn, Las Vegas

The Pleasure of Winning

Luxury has a price, and that price can be zero when you're on holiday at a casino

by Basil Nestor

The current financial squeeze in the casino world is unique. Once upon a time casinos were considered to be recession-proof. Their business plans were based on the premise that everyone loves to gamble in good times and bad. Indeed, that's true. But over the past few years the casino companies have been shifting their revenue models away from gaming to other resort amenities such as restaurants, spas, and shows. Now they have tons of exciting non-gaming products, but that strategy has come back to bite them on the posterior because gaming is still a strong draw. Not so for pricey show tickets, expensive spa treatments, and other luxury diversions. The finer amenities have become significantly less affordable for some people, and thus somewhat more difficult to sell.

So gaming companies are getting back to the basics. They're looking for customers who are willing to gamble, and if giving away free stuff (known in the industry as comps) will open players' wallets and purses, then casinos will use comps. The bigger your bankroll, the more the casino will risk to get a shot at it.

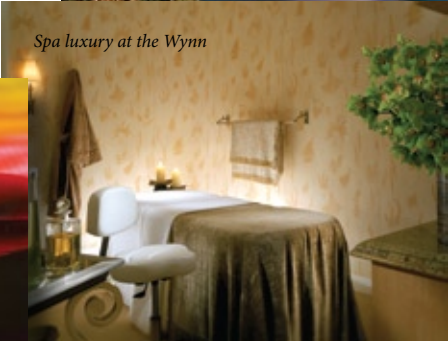
Do you like to play games? This is your golden opportunity. It's a chance to get more wow for your wealth.



Poolside Cabanas at the Wynn



"Le Rêve" at the Wynn



Spa luxury at the Wynn

Are you ready to gamble?

If you're an experienced player, you're probably already on the phone to your casino host, and you know all about optimal strategies. So you can skip to the next section.

Everyone else get ready for a surprise. Most casual players don't know that there is an optimal strategy for *every* casino gambling game. That's right. *Every* game. It's a mathematic fact.

Does the casino have a built-in advantage? Sometimes, but not always. If you wade in willy-nilly to play just any contest that catches your fancy, then the casino surely does have a huge advantage, and you likely will spend a lot more at the tables and machines than anything you get back in comps.

On the other hand, if you play specific games correctly, then you can narrow the casino's edge to a minuscule margin that is less than 3%. And some bets give the casino 0% advantage. That is not a typo. No edge for the house! These are cold hard numbers.

With an edge of less than 3%, just a little bit of good luck can push you into positive territory. And on top of that you add the value of whatever comps the casino gives you.

Why do casinos offer these games if they can be beaten? First, the casino expects you to play badly. In fact, they're counting on it. Second, if nobody could win, then nobody would play, and the casinos would close.

We'll cover specific strategies in just a bit, but the point here is that you and the casino are playing a series of games. The casino is gambling just as you are, not only with money at the tables, but also offering their hotel, spa, shows, excursions, clubs, and everything else as enticements to get you on the property. What *you* must understand is that *they* understand this. Just as you cannot feel guilty for winning a hand of blackjack, you must not feel guilty about taking what they offer. They hope to win. You hope to win. It's a fair game. Indeed, it's a fun game!

Of course, you should play carefully. Gambling is like surfing or climbing mountains — it can be exhilarating, but you should plan for safety. You don't need to be an expert, but you must be disciplined and follow optimal strategies.

Realistically, since both sides are about evenly matched, you can expect that sometimes the coin will flip against you. That is the nature of the contest. But then again, you may lose at the tables, and have a net win when the value of the comps is included.

Choosing your target

Think big. If there is a property you have always wanted to visit, this is the time to do it. If you don't have one in mind, then consider one of the properties in the sidebar. Paradoxically, if you already have a relationship with a particular casino, and you visit there regularly, then they know already what it costs to get you in the door, so the offers may not be so good. Try someplace new.

The next step is contacting a casino host. You may already have one, but in case you don't, just call the casino's main number and tell the operator you want to speak to a host in guest services.

Your personal host

A casino host acts as a sort of complimentary personal concierge, organizing the resources of the casino for your pleasure and comfort. Other casino staff may handle the specifics of your particular requests, but the host is the maestro.

He (or she) remembers your preferences and can handle reservations for suites, shows, dining, and other events. Let's say you want a particular table in a restaurant. It is the host who will pull strings to reserve it. Need a limo? Ask your host. Do you want to see the Grand Canyon by helicopter? Your host will be eager to arrange that. The host keeps you informed when the casino has special events and promotions, and he suggests excursions and happenings that may interest you.

Nice, huh? And of course, the host handles your comps.

The price of luxury

Comp policies vary dramatically from property to property. But generally, a casino host calculates comps at the end of your stay after personally reviewing your action. At the beginning of a visit the host will tell you, “Charge it all to your suite, and when you leave we'll see what we can comp you.” In other words, you are now on the radar. Be prepared to give the casino about four hours of action per day (if not more).

When your visit is over, the host will rate your play based on your action. He also considers other variables including how much you actually won or lost during this trip, your last few sessions, and how often you visit the property.

The host puts it all together and then makes a decision that is within particular parameters that have been established by the casino's marketing wizards.



High limit gaming at the Borgata



Borgata, Atlantic City

Here is a simple formula for that calculation:

Step 1: [Your average bet] x [your bets per hour] x [your hours per day] = Your total action

Step 2: [Your total action] x [house edge] = Theoretical casino profit

Step 3: [Theoretical casino profit] x 0.30 = Estimated comp value

You'll find details about the house edge in the next section.

Depending on your level of action, if you have a bad session, and if you're using markers, the host also may forgive a portion of your gambling debts. About 10% to 15% is reasonable. The exact amount is open to negotiation.

In an interesting twist, if you have an extremely good session, you should still be generously "comped" because the casino wants another shot at your money.

Generally, your goal is to be "overcomped." Play your best game, in whatever way you would play if there were no comps involved. Then reap the rewards when they comp you.



Baccarat Bar at the Venetian



Venetian, Las Vegas



Poker Room at the Venetian

It's time to play

Here is a short list of the best and worst games to play in a casino. We'll begin with the best. More strategy tips will be at the end of the list.

Blackjack — It's a perennial favourite, but you must play it correctly to win. Blackjack played with "basic strategy" and no card counting narrows the casino's edge down to about 0.5%. Basic strategy is easy to learn, but it requires some practice. Guessing will cost you money. And remember, double-down situations are positive-edge bets for the player. For more info about optimal moves, check out *The Smarter Bet Guide to Blackjack*.

Craps — Grab a martini and gamble like a member of the "Rat Pack!" Basic bets on the pass line or come have a minuscule edge of 1.4%. When you take or lay odds, the casino has 0% edge. Nada. Zip. Place 6/8 is 1.5%. But stay away from the rest of the numbers and the propositions in the center of the table.

Baccarat — This is the game that billionaire Kerry Packer played when he went on a winning streak and nearly bankrupted a Vegas casino. You can bet on player or banker; both have an edge of just over 1%. Avoid the bet on tie. That has an edge of 14%.

Video Poker — Depending on the pay table, you can whittle the casino's edge down to 0.5%. And on a \$25 machine, a royal flush is worth \$100,000. That's a nice payday. But you must play the correct strategy.

Pai Gow Poker — There is method to setting pai gow hands. When you do it correctly, the casino has an edge of only 2.5%.

Single-Zero Roulette — Be sure the wheel has only one zero, that keeps the casino's edge down to a manageable 2.7%.

The following games are fun. Nevertheless, you should avoid them, or play them only for small stakes.

Slots — Most slot games have a casino edge between 5% and 12%. That's just too much. If you must indulge, play nickels or quarters. Toast \$100 and then walk away.

Double-Zero Roulette — This game is not much better than slots. When the wheel has a double zero, the edge jumps to 5.26%. You can do much better playing other contests.

Caribbean Stud Poker — The problem with Caribbean Stud is that the dealer always takes action last, so when the dealer does not qualify (essentially, when he folds) you still lose if you fold first. This little quirk in the game will cost you about 5% of your action overall.

Note that poker games such as Hold 'Em belong in a special neutral category because they don't have a casino edge (besides the rake), so playing them will have a negligible effect on your comp rating.

As we mentioned, every game has an optimal strategy. We can't cover them all here, but you can find them in books such as *The Unofficial Guide to Casino Gambling* and *The Smarter Bet Guide to Slots and Video Poker*.

Enjoy the game! ■

Connoisseur's Choice in Luxury Casino Holidays

These top-quality casino properties are well-known for their luxurious accommodations and amenities. As with most vacation destinations, you'll get more attention and comfort if you avoid conventions, holidays, and events such as the Super Bowl.

CASINO	FAMOUS FOR	CONTACT
Bellagio (Las Vegas)	<i>Dancing waters and the best poker room on the planet</i>	888.987.6667 or 702.693.7111 — Bellagio.com
Borgata (Atlantic City)	<i>Trendy crowd in an elegant environment</i>	866.MY.BORGATA or 609.317.1000 — TheBorgata.com
Foxwoods (Connecticut)	<i>The largest casino in the world</i>	800.FOXWOODS or 862.312.3000 — Foxwoods.com
MGM Grand (Las Vegas)	<i>The villas at the Mansion</i>	877.880.0880 or 702.891.7777 — MGMGrand.com
Venetian (Las Vegas)	<i>Enormous size and breathtaking opulence</i>	877.883.6423 or 702.414.1000 — Venetian.com
Wynn (Las Vegas)	<i>The only five-star five-diamond casino-hotel in the world</i>	877.321.WYNN or 702.770.7000 — WynnLasVegas.com

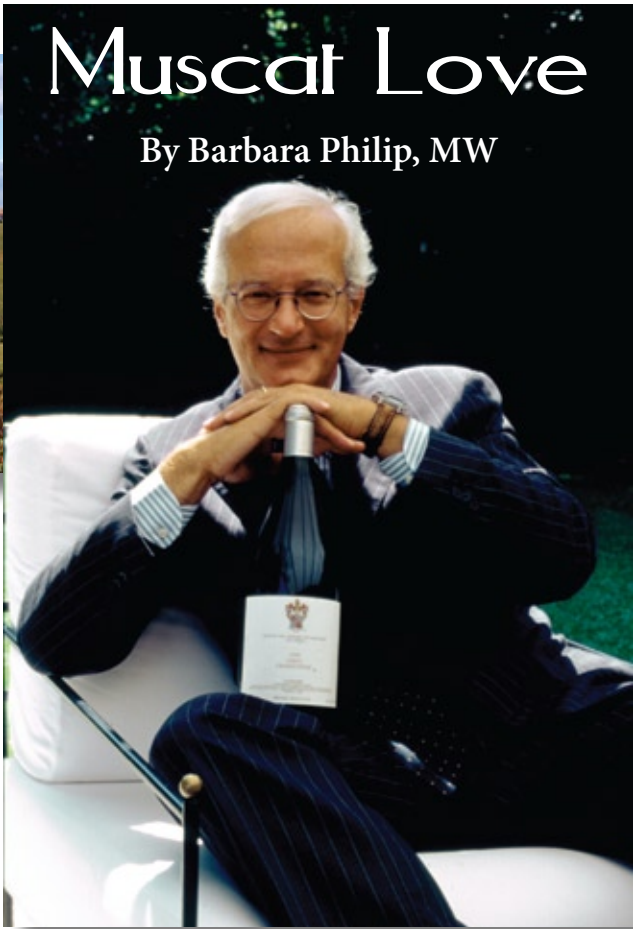
Besides the casinos listed here, other top-tier entries include Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, The Palms in Las Vegas, Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, and Atlantis in the Bahamas.



There is a lot to love about Muscat. Few people in the wine world would refuse a refreshing and beautifully aromatic glass of Muscat wine — at any time of day. This special grape variety was famous in ancient times and is still widely grown in Greece, the rest of the Mediterranean, and beyond. Today, Muscat continues to seduce wine enthusiasts with its distinctive flavours, versatility and potential for spectacular food pairings.

During its more than 2,000 year history, Muscat has traveled to most wine-producing countries and has spawned several sub-varieties, each with slightly different qualities. A single sub-variety may have a number of synonyms depending on the region where it is grown. For instance, the same vine may be called Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains in France, Moscato Bianco in Italy, or Frontignac in Australia. No matter the sub-variety grown or synonym used, a wine made from Muscat should have a pungent floral character with ripe fruit and balanced acidity. Muscat is also noted as being one of the few grape varieties to make wines that actually taste like grapes! Beyond that, the exact character and quality of the wine will depend on where it is made, the sub-variety used, and the production techniques applied to it.

Muscat is used to make top-notch sparkling, sweet, dry or fortified wines. Arguably one of its most appealing manifestations is Moscato d’Asti DOCG, a Moscato Bianco wine from Northern Italy that combines sweet and sparkling in the same glass. Moscato is a higher quality, less fizzy, version of Asti DOCG, a fully sparkling spumante from the same region. Wayne Gotts, Vice President of the International Sommelier Guild, describes Moscato d’Asti as, “the missing link between grape juice, soda pop and wine.” In almost ten years of teaching about wine, Gotts has rarely seen a student who didn’t enjoy this frothy (frizzante), low alcohol and intensely fruity wine.



Alberto di Grésy, Marchesi di Grésy

unique wine, in its category of sparkling wines no other country makes such a product.” She believes the wine’s “freshness and balance” are its greatest strengths.

Dry Muscats are exotic and relatively rare. In Alsace, Domaines Zind Humbrecht and Weinbach make Muscats that are hauntingly aromatic on the nose and dry on the palate. Both Catherine Faller from Weinbach and Olivier Humbrecht from Zind Humbrecht believe Muscat is important to the image of quality wines in the region, and yet the variety makes up a mere two percent of plantings. Faller explains that although Muscat “is a noble and very fine variety,” it is difficult to grow and to vinify. Olivier Humbrecht says, “I personally like Muscat a lot, always have, and think that the Muscat d’Alsace has a great future in Alsace.” He agrees, however, that Muscat can be difficult in the vineyard, where it has a tendency to produce high yields, and in the winery, where it needs to be handled with care to preserve the “structure and character” of the vineyard from which it came.

A real handicap to Alsace Muscat, says Humbrecht, is that there are two sub-varieties permitted: the noble Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains and the lesser Muscat Ottonel. In Humbrecht’s opinion, the Ottonel makes inferior wines because it ripens too quickly in the sunny climate and tends to produce wines lacking in acidity. Fortunately, he says, Ottonel’s days are numbered!



Even when students are reluctant to admit they like Moscato, it is often because they think the wine is too easy-drinking to be considered sophisticated. Not so! Moscato d’Asti is admired by even the most discriminating of wine connoisseurs.

One of the most beloved Moscato d’Astis in North America is the Marchesi di Grésy’s La Serra. Marinella Cirio from Marchesi di Grésy accounts for the wine’s popularity by saying it “is a

Like their dry counterparts, sweet Muscats are few and far between, particularly those that have not been fortified by the addition of spirit. Just how sweet these wines are depends on the attributes of the vineyard where the grapes are grown and the winemaking practices applied to them. Philippe Salasc, winemaker at Grès Saint Paul in France’s Languedoc, makes dry, sweet, and fortified Muscats. For his sweet Bohémienne, Salasc allows the Muscat to hang on the vine after the regular harvest. During this time, he says, the grapes lose 50 percent of their juice and become extremely concentrated in sugar and flavour. The resulting wine is sweet, with approximately 13 percent alcohol and luscious flavours of spice, apricot jam and orange oil. The Italians use a method called passito to concentrate the juice of Muscat grapes. In this case, the grapes are harvested and then dried until they become like raisins. Passito di Pantelleria DOC is a historically important example of this style from an island close to the north African coast.

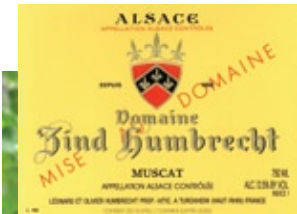
At Joie Wines in the Okanagan Valley, Heidi Noble and Michael Dinn make an off-dry Muscat as part of their portfolio of aromatic whites. They have a soft spot for this variety that “reminds us of our travels in northern Italy” and is a “fresh, low alcohol, aperitif that accompanies the tradition of antipasto, one of our favourite grazing activities.” Their Muscat is somewhere in between an Alsace bone-dry style and the Salasc’s Bohémienne. Instead of a late harvest, they stop the alcoholic fermentation, leaving some residual sugar and keeping the alcohol relatively light at 10 percent. In order to increase Joie’s output of Muscat from a miniscule 45 cases, Noble and Dinn have recently planted the high quality Muscat Giallo sub-variety on their estate. By 2010 they hope to make 550 cases of this wine which will be packed with “pure grape and peach quality.”

A number of regions around the world are noted for their sweet and strong Muscat wines made by fortification. In these cases, fermentation is stopped by the addition of high alcohol spirit, resulting in a sweet wine of approximately 15 percent. Vin Doux Naturel (VDN) is a French phrase indicating sweet fortified wine. The famous VDNs of southern France include Muscat de Rivesaltes AOC and Muscat de Beaumes de Venise AOC in the southern Rhône Valley. The house of Paul Jaboulet Aîné is considered one of the top producers in the Rhône, and is better known for its red wines than its fortified Muscat. In spite of this, Export and Marketing Director Nicolas Jaboulet believes that the company’s Beaumes de Venise is “very important to us in terms of image,” and adds “we have been promoting this appellation since the mid-’70s and we are now selling this wine in many different countries.” Jaboulet recommends trying it after ten years when it will have “become completely different with some marmalade and orange aromas.”

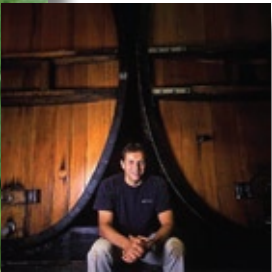
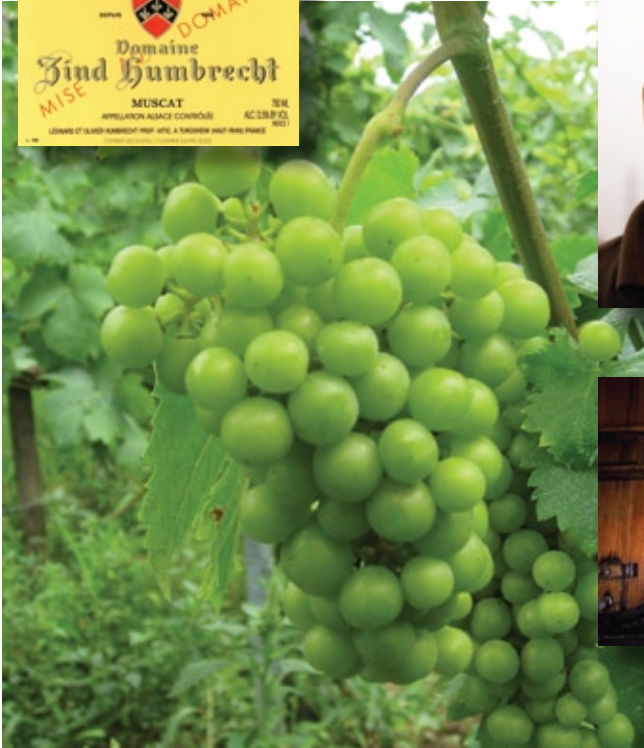
Sometimes, French producers will make a rich style of VDN called “rancio” indicating that the wine has been allowed to oxidize and take on baked fruit and caramelized aromas. Nowhere is more famous for the oxidized style of fortified Muscat, however, than Australia, particularly in Rutherglen in the state of Victoria. The wines played a key role in the development of the wine industry in Australia and, according to Mark Davidson, Market Development Consultant for Wine Australia, “their history,

uniqueness and reputation ensures that they will always be an important part of the Australian wine landscape.” He also sees growing interest in the wines outside of Australia and says that, “their place in the world of top notch dessert wines can only become more prominent. I am seeing them on wine lists in San Francisco, Seattle, New York, and L.A., so things are changing.”

“As one might expect, the range of Muscat styles allows for a diverse choice of food pairings, and Muscat enthusiasts all have their favourites.”



Below: Olivier Humbrecht, Zind Humbrecht.



Above: Joie Wines, Okanagan Valley, B.C.

As one might expect, the range of Muscat styles allows for a diverse choice of food pairings, and Muscat enthusiasts all have their favourites. When it comes to a match with Moscato d’Asti, Wayne Gotts and Marinella Cirio agree that the classic pairing of Panna Cotta is ideal. They both recommend fresh fruits as another potential accompaniment, especially if they are marinated in Moscato.

Catherine Faller promotes the surprising pairing of dry Muscat and asparagus. She says, “Thanks to its exuberant floral and fruity notes, Muscat is able to overcome the bitterness of the asparagus, combining beautifully the herbaceous character of the asparagus and the muscaty side of the wine.” Off-dry wines are a perfect foil for hard, salty cheese, and Nicolas Jaboulet recommends warm apricot or apple desserts with vanilla ice cream as matches for his fully sweet Beaumes de Venise. As for the rich Australian Muscats, Mark Davidson says his best experience was a bottle of Campbell’s Merchant Prince Rare Muscat with Gorgonzola dolce and black mission figs.



Mosacto d’Asti & Nebbiolo Martiega, Marchesi di Gresi; Muscat, Zind Humbrecht; Muscat de Beumes de Venise, Jaboulet Aîné; Muscat, Joie Wines.

With its food matching potential, alluring aromas, and ability to make wines reflective of their region, it is no wonder that Muscat is widely admired. The fact that it does not grow easily and that production is limited in any given area, just adds to Muscat’s charm. Perhaps Philippe Salasc from Grès Saint Paul says it best. “For me, as a winemaker, a wine must be seductive and this is very easy to do with Muscat.” ■

Connoisseur’s Choice in Muscat			
MUSCAT	MINI-NOTE	FOOD PAIRING	FIND RATING
Marchesi di Grésy ‘La Serra’ Moscato d’Asti DOCG 2006 (Piedmont)	<i>Herbal, peach and orange zest notes</i>	<i>Vanilla panna cotta with mixed berry compote</i>	I
Grès Saint Paul ‘Libertine’ Vin de Pays d’Oc 2006 (France)	<i>Leafy, minty notes with fresh acidity on palate</i>	<i>Cucumber and mint salad</i>	FN
Domaine Zind Humbrecht ‘Herrenweg de Turckheim’ Alsace AOC 2004 (Alsace)	<i>Impeccably balanced with floral, orange and mineral</i>	<i>Tomme fermière d’Alsace cheese</i>	FIND
Domaine Weinbach ‘Réserve’ Alsace AOC 2004 (Alsace)	<i>Lifted herbal, spicy and floral character</i>	<i>Asparagus quiche</i>	FIN
Alasia Vino da Tavola (Piedmont)	<i>Fresh with distinct potpourri and apricot</i>	<i>Alone as an apéritif</i>	IND
Joie Okanagan Valley 2007 (BC)	<i>Light and slightly sweet, dried herbs and citrus</i>	<i>Selection of antipasto</i>	FN
Grès Saint Paul ‘Bohémienne’ Vin de Table 2007 (France)	<i>Orange zest and mint with balanced sweetness</i>	<i>Pork loin rib roast with honey orange marinade</i>	FIND
Marchesi di Grésy ‘L’Altro’ Piemonte Moscato Passito DOC’ 2001 (Piedmont)	<i>Honey, apricot jam, roses and spice</i>	<i>Gorgonzola with fruit and nut crisps</i>	I
Jaboulet Muscat de Beaume de Venise AOC 2005 (Rhône Valley)	<i>Mouth-coating and rich on the palate with ripe citrus</i>	<i>Homemade apple pie</i>	I
Chambers Rutherglen (Australia)	<i>Caramel, butterscotch and dried fig notes</i>	<i>Toffee crunch cake</i>	I
<div><div><i>F</i> Food. Wine matches well with a range of dishes.</div><div><i>I</i> Interesting. Wine has a distinctive and delicious character.</div></div> <div><div><i>N</i> Natural. Wine was produced with particular concern for the environment.</div><div><i>D</i> Deal. Wine offers excellent value at its price point.</div></div>			

Custom Cellars

Providing beautiful wine storage solutions to Canada and the United States since 2003

Custom Cellars Inc - www.customcellars.ca - 866-591-7886

South Coast Casuals



Fashion is all about passion! Be it a customer's passion to look and feel great, a retailer's passionate commitment to quality and service, or a designer's passion for creating something fresh and exciting each season — passion rules!

At South Coast Casuals, a Ladner Village (B.C.) clothing boutique, passion is in the air everyday. Customers continually return to this 3,400 square foot destination store for the expertise that their sales consultants demonstrate in building wardrobes and the superior product knowledge that is offered. Among the most recognizable and demanded brands is the Canadian-designed and made Joseph Ribkoff. This company's collections showcase a versatility that offers a customer something for work, play and fun.

“South Coast Casuals will be featuring Joseph Ribkoff in their 12th Annual Fashion Show for the Delta Hospital Foundation and Breast Cancer Research”



With the festive season soon approaching, South Coast Casuals is excited about the new features in Joseph Ribkoff's Fall and Holiday collections. This season's goal is to celebrate the modern woman through an array of bold designs, colours and prints with specific focus on flattering cuts. Look for metallics that shimmer and shine through their textures and prints, in a variety of colours such as Gold, Gunmetal Silver, Pewter, Grape and Copper.

Metallics are no longer solely designed for evening wear. Use versatile pieces, such as the crinkled leather foil effect jacket, to carry you from day to evening and make you look glamorous all day long. While Black will always have a place in classic fashions, look to expand your formal attire with new pieces in Charcoal, Java and Taupe that will enhance the metallics and let them flourish. The flattering cut of a swing jacket makes it an excellent alternative to the classic blazer. These feminine jackets look spectacular on everyone with great features such as bell sleeves, jewelled buttons and cropped lengths. Finally, watch for Joseph Ribkoff's signature piece — the bubble hem coatdress that will heighten the sophistication of any outfit.

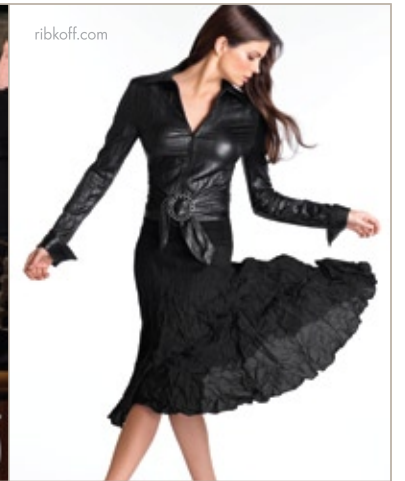
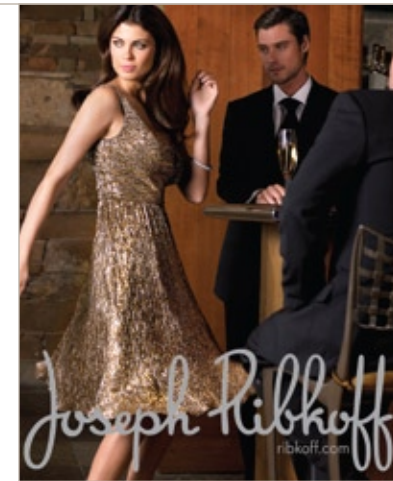
This October, South Coast Casuals will once again be partnering with Joseph Ribkoff for an in-store “trunk show” that will allow customers to preview an extensive selection of designs from the collection and special-order the pieces that the customer is most passionate about. This event is also a wonderful opportunity for South Coast Casuals and Joseph Ribkoff representatives to hear feedback on the designs and how this line can better work to fulfill your needs. If you would like more information or wish to attend, please contact South Coast Casuals at 604-946-8590.

“Fashion is all about passion!”

South Coast Casuals remains very passionate about their customers and the community within which they live. To this end, South Coast Casuals will be featuring Joseph Ribkoff in their 12th Annual Fashion Show for the Delta Hospital Foundation and Breast Cancer Research on Monday, October 20, 2008. This event will feature more than 60 coordinated outfits for both men and women demonstrating the versatility of the product offered in the store. Additionally, this event is the perfect opportunity to select holiday gifts or choose an ideal outfit for festive celebrations.

Are you ready to insert some passion into your wardrobe? South Coast Casuals is here to help you seven days a week, with extended hours as the holiday season approaches. Make the trip to this shopping destination and see why most customers have become customers for life. Want a more personalized shopping experience? Book an appointment to work one-on-one with one of South Coast Casuals' ten experienced sales consultants. “Together we will put passion into your style.” ■

South Coast Casuals
5028 - 48th Avenue
Delta, BC Canada V4K 1V8
604.946.8590
www.southcoastcasuals.com
sales@southcoastcasuals.com



Autumn Style 2008

By Catherine Dunwoody

Autumn's cooler weather is on its way. Find your own style right here with all the best and newest in fashion and beauty.

- Leather's comeback, from Rudsak. The biker jacket redux, \$595; gloves, \$50, both in lamb nappa leather; and boots, \$345. www.rudsak.com

- Choose a topper in a bright colour this season, like Miss Sixty's yellow coat, \$449, and pair it with essentials like these: top, \$219; shorts, \$159; bag, \$99; shoes, \$389, 100% leather. Plus, the return of shiny hosiery, \$39.

- Harry Rosen goes jaunty, with a suit from Etro, \$1,598; sweater vest, \$398; shirt, \$298; and bow tie, \$125. www.harryrosen.com



- RK has some key trends for fall covered. Coats with details, like the poppy red funnel neck, \$380, 100% wool cashmere. We see houndstooth again, in this beauty with its important wide belt, \$380, in 100% wool. www.rkstores.com



- Joe Fresh Style does it on a dime, with this short-sleeved bow tie blouse, cotton, \$19, and plaid pants, wool, \$39.

BAGS, ACCESSORIES AND SHOES

We all know these add-ons are crucial to creating a look — here's what's new....



- Rudsak shows us buttery gloves, \$110, and the clutch in this sumptuous shade, \$140, both in leather. www.rudsak.com



- Purple and shine, watch for lots of both. Miss Sixty's faux leather clutch, \$89. www.missixty.com



- Flat boots are crucial over skinny jeans or with all the knit dresses we saw on the runways. Miss Sixty boots \$299, in leather. www.missixty.com

BEAUTY

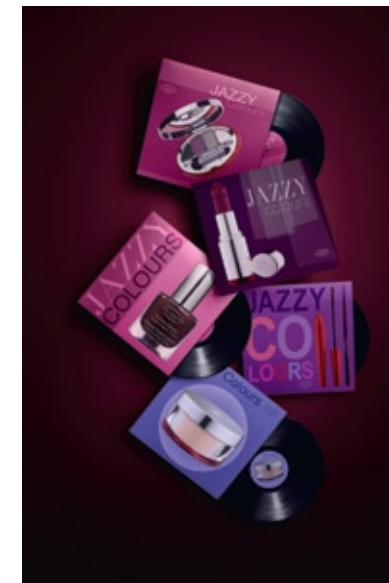
Here's what will keep you gorgeous all autumn long....

NEW SCENTS

- CLEAN's Shower Fresh for Men eau de toilette. Done with overpowering "manly" scents? Keep it real with this new fragrance for the guys, with clean notes of bergamot, thyme and black tea. \$79 / 4 oz. www.cleanperfume.com



- Sumptuous by Estee Lauder introduces Sensuous, a warm woody amber, Eau de Parfum, 1 oz./30 ml., \$45.50. www.estelauder.com



- Chloe eau de parfum is a classic scent, layer it up for long lasting results with this perfumed body lotion, \$60, 200 ml., and shower gel, \$55, 200 ml. www.coty.com



MAKEUP

- Clarins Jazzy Colours fall make up collection was inspired by the roaring twenties, with its deep rouged lips and smoky eyes. Clockwise from top: Colour Quartet for Eyes, in So Chic, \$42; Joli Rouge lipstick in 717 Plum, \$26; Loose Powder, \$47; and Glossy Nail Colour in Deep Plum, \$17. www.clarins.com



- Estee Lauder's Chocolate Decadence Collection is all about rich cocoa, caramel and sugared berries. Try the new limited edition signature eyeshadow quad in Caramel Truffle, \$40, and Pure Colour Lipstick in Tiger Eye, \$30. www.estelauder.com



BOSS Womenswear 429 Howe Street, Vancouver
 BOSS Womenswear Oakridge Centre, Vancouver
 BOSS Womenswear 138 Cumberland Street, Toronto
 BOSS Accessories Old York Lane, Toronto
 BOSS Womenswear Yorkdale Shopping Centre, Toronto

BOSS
 HUGO BOSS

connoisseur's choice ▮
 STYLE

HAIR

- Get the celeb treatment with these hair products from AG, presently being used on both Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo on the set of Shutter Island. AG stucco texturizing paste, \$20, 90 ml., and AG waxx gloss pomade, \$20, 90 ml. www.aghaircosmetics.com



- Gillette has launched a new line of hair care for men, with six new shampoos and a conditioner, geared to the fact that men have more sebum secretion than women and they sweat more. Approximately \$5.49 each, at drug stores. www.gillette.com

- Kerastase Paris Nuit introduces new Noctogenist, products to heal your worn-out hair, overnight. Voile Nuit is ideal for fine hair, while Serum Nuit is geared to thicker locks, each \$50.



SKIN

- Juara Skincare's Tiare Jasmine Tea Bath & Shower Gel, \$30, is jam packed with botanicals from Indonesia, plus the antioxidant benefits of tea. www.juaraskincare.com



- Tuscan Farm Gardens' new Lemongrass Harvest Bath & Body Care products are made at a family-run, organic farm and apothecary shop in Langley BC, and are good for all skin-types. Lemongrass Hand & Body Lotion, 8 oz., \$14.50; Body Polish \$16; and olive oil soap, \$4.25. www.tuscanfarmgardens.com

- Vegan? Try Be Fine Food Skincare, with its complete range of yummy, good-for-you, natural products. Pore Refining Scrub, 120 ml., \$34.99; Gentle Cleanser, 100 ml., \$24.99; and Exfoliating Cleanser, 120 ml., \$24.99. www.befine.com





LUISA CERANO®

Ellie's

4070 - 200TH STREET
LANGLEY BC V3A 1K9
604.530.8515



ST. JOHN

ELLA'S
4070 200TH STREET
LANGLEY BC V3A 1K9
604.530.8575

The Joys of Life!

Photo Credit: © Tiffany & Co.

DIAMOND CELEBRATION RINGS

The jeweller at the center of life’s greatest occasions has designed the ultimate symbol — Tiffany Celebration® rings — for reaching a goal or milestone, and commemorating birthdays and anniversaries. These brilliant diamond and platinum bands light up every cause for celebration with the sheer beauty and elegance of Tiffany design.

Shaped with classic round diamonds, in princess cut, channel set or pavé diamonds, Tiffany Celebration rings trace every twist and turn on the road to success and self-fulfillment.



*Tiffany Celebration® rings, above, from top:
New princess cut diamond band;
Tiffany Novo diamond band;
Princess cut diamond band;
Round diamonds in channel set;
Shared prong design.*

*Tiffany Celebration® rings, from left:
Round diamonds in shared prong setting;
Channel set diamonds;
Diamond band with milgrain edge;
New princess cut diamond band;
Shared prong setting.*

The Tiffany Celebration collection starts at \$1,150.

ELSA PERETTI – THE ULTIMATE ACCESSORY

Internationally renowned Tiffany designer Elsa Peretti selects three of fall’s primary hues — pine, persimmon and orchid — capturing both the mood on the runway and the moment when leaves turn to flame and autumn twilight fades to deep purple.

The handmade bangles are carved from Japanese hardwood and require multiple layers of green and orange lacquer, time-honoured colours of the craft, or the sumptuous purple created especially for Tiffany. The sleek, sensuous result is then polished, and gold hallmarks are applied.

Lacquer bangles (in small, medium and large sizes) are \$420 each.



PALOMA PICASSO – THE NEW ZELLIGE COLLECTION

Renowned Designer Unites Colour and Craft in Modern, Must-have Jewellery.

Tiffany designer Paloma Picasso, renowned for colour-saturated jewels of great scale, sizes up the trend for graphic, aggressively chic jewellery and creates a dynamic new collection — Zellige — inspired by the centuries-old mosaics that surround the fountain at her home in Morocco.

Zellige features a pattern of open squares, angles and circles, symmetrical and almost ‘puzzle-like.’ Stylized in 18K yellow or white gold, the array of jewellery captures all the glamour of Paloma Picasso’s famously bold and original designs.

*Diamond and Carnelian Ring in 18 carat yellow gold, \$9,900.
Medium Medallion Pendant in 18 carat yellow gold on black cord, \$745.*



*Available at Tiffany & Co.
1.800.843.3269
www.tiffany.ca*

One of the most fascinating aspects of the fine watch field is the incredible variety of styles you can browse through at your local high-end jewellery store.

Few manufactured products of any kind come in quite as many shapes, sizes, qualities, configurations, and finishes as wristwatches — even though basically they all fulfill exactly the same role in life. Perhaps part of the interest many people have in collecting watches is this unending variety of design themes.

Styles range from the ultra-simple — watches with just hour and minute hands and barely a number on their dials — to the gold or platinum multi-functional monsters earnestly sought by major league sports stars and the showier types of movie actor. Certainly, there's something for every imaginable taste, even though that taste can be questionable at times.

Each spring, major international watch expositions in Switzerland reveal ever-more-audacious designs aimed at capturing a share of the booming haute horologie market — sometimes at even more audacious prices. There seems to be no satisfying the public's thirst for things new and desirable in the watch world. Some of the prices may seem astronomical, but a clever buyer can see his or her purchase fetching many times its original sticker at auction a few years down the road.

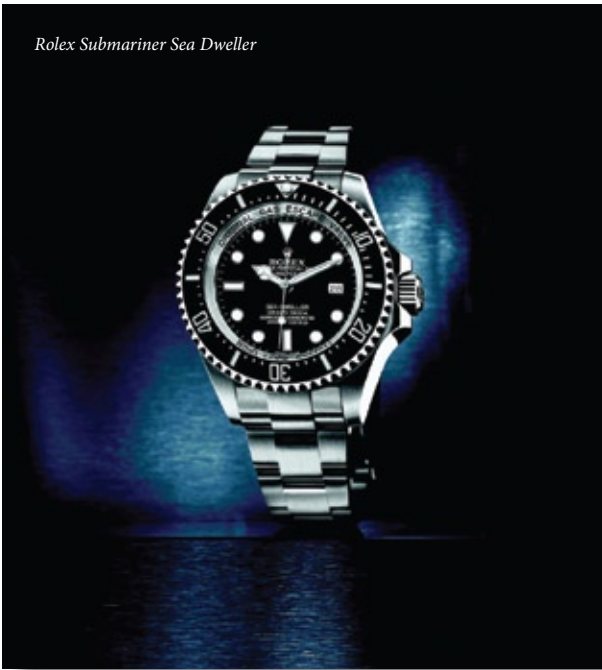
But to add an even more intriguing sidelight, many top watchmakers have taken an unexpected approach to attracting business in their highly competitive market — and they're looking back over the years to pull this off. It seems that nothing sells quite as strongly as nostalgia and watch manufacturers are ready to deliver — even if it means dusting off old tooling that hasn't been used for decades. Some of the biggest names in watchmaking are listing timepieces that first saw the light of day in the 1960s or 1970s, though in some cases, the watches have never been out of production throughout those years.



Omega Speedmaster

Retro Watches

By Tony Whitney



Rolex Submariner Sea Dweller

Many of these watches have benefited from exposure in movies and some have even played a minor “role.”

A good example of decades-long endurance is the Omega Speedmaster “moon watch,” which graced the space-suited wrists of the first astronauts to set foot on the moon. The Speedmaster has been in almost continuous production ever since it first appeared in 1957 and is as popular today as ever. Details have changed over the years and countless special editions have been released for various space flight anniversaries and other events. The current version is automatic, rather than hand-wound like the original NASA examples.

The seemingly everlasting Rolex Submariner is another watch that has been around more or less since the legendary Jacques Cousteau was making his first underwater documentaries. Launched in 1954, the Submariner (“Sub” to enthusiasts), with its rotating bezel originally designed to record dive times, has seen service with professional divers — and professional posers — ever since. An example has even appeared on the wrist of fictional super-spy James Bond in a movie series which seems as indestructible as the famed Rolex.

One thing passing years do bring to a watch are variations on the basic design — variations which can greatly add to the value of a timepiece as time goes by. Any early Rolex Sub is worth a lot of money, but find one emblazoned with the logo of French dive company COMEX and you've really got a winner. One of these recently fetched almost \$250,000 at auction, though when it was new in the late 1970s, it probably retailed for just a few hundred dollars. Today, a new Submariner might cost \$6,000 to \$7,000, but you'll be getting a watch that will last several lifetimes, hold its value, and earn admiring glances all over the world. It also looks almost exactly like the one Rolex was producing half a century ago.



TAG Heuer's Steve McQueen Monaco chronograph earned fame in the movie “Le Mans.”

Back in 1971, Lee H. Katzin directed a movie about the fabled Le Mans 24-hour race in France and in a master stroke of casting, Steve McQueen was persuaded to take the lead role. Since McQueen drove race cars in that class himself, he didn't take long to get on friendly terms with the “real” drivers who piloted race cars in the film and helped with technical aspects. One of them, Swiss Jo Siffert, was wearing a then-new Heuer Monaco chronograph while on location at the circuit and McQueen, as legend has it, borrowed the watch to wear for his part. The large, square, blue-dialled chronograph became a co-star (at least, in the eyes of watch buffs) and McQueen wore it in almost every scene. To give the watchmaker a further boost, McQueen wore a Heuer logo on his racing suit, as have many star drivers over the years.

A few years ago, TAG Heuer (as the company has since become known) re-launched the watch with a few minor changes and it's become a much-sought-after item, especially among auto race fans. Known universally as the “Steve McQueen Monaco” the watch retails for around \$4,000 — if you can find one. An original version will certainly cost upwards of \$12,000 or more. For the record, the movie “Le Mans” was superbly executed from a technical standpoint with some of the best “real race car” footage in film history, but the plot — if, indeed, there was a plot — could be written on one side of a table napkin.

“There seems to be no satisfying the public's thirst for things new and desirable in the watch world.”

Hamilton's uniquely-shaped Ventura gained historic status with its claim as the “world's first electric watch” back in 1957, but its fame is probably more tied to its looks than its technology. Hamilton re-launched this watch a few years ago with a quartz movement that is almost certainly more reliable and more accurate than that of the pioneer. Said to be the favourite watch of Elvis Presley and worn in many of his films, the Ventura was designed by no less than Richard Arbib and even today, it's an attention grabber. The shape of the case drew its inspiration from no other watchmaker, though some of the Art Deco timepieces of the late 1920s to early 1930s come close. It was a masterful and groundbreaking piece of industrial design by genius Arbib, who designed cars, boats, domestic appliances, and even aerospace components. The watch made a movie comeback in recent years with “Men in Black,” boosting its popularity yet again. Like so many of these clever re-creations, Hamilton Venturas are not easy to find, but at least they're not too expensive at around \$1,000 or even less. Don't even think of finding an original Ventura — it could take years and end up costing \$10,000 or more. And even then it may not work that well.

One iconic timepiece that’s never taken any breaks since its original launch is the Movado “Museum Watch,” so-called because it is a permanent exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York. The watch is a stunning example of minimalism with its ultra-simple face — just a dot and two hands — and incredibly slim case. There are many versions both mechanical and quartz and a wide variety of case designs, but that famous dot at 12 o’clock remains the focal point. My favourite is the simplest of them all — a black dial with an integral crystal that merges seamlessly with the case, forming what looks like a round slice of jet or some other exotic mineral. Movado recently celebrated its 125th anniversary and several commemorative watches have been released. They’re beginning to disappear now as collectors snap them up, but they are worth hunting for. They’re not especially expensive and a nice Movado Museum can be had for less than \$1,000 or so from a jeweller carrying the brand.

Credit for designing this most minimalist of wristwatches goes to Nathan George Horwitt, who was inspired to create the dot-and-hands dial by studies of Bauhaus Movement design and architecture. He penned the original design in the late 1940s, patented it in 1958 and reportedly peddled it around to several watch firms without success. Only after MOMA put it on display did Movado buy the rights and the rest, as they say, is history.

“Hamilton’s uniquely-shaped Ventura gained historic status with its claim as the “world’s first electric watch” back in 1957, but its fame is probably more tied to its looks than its technology.”

The most recent entry in the “let’s bring this model back” stakes is another Rolex — the Milgauss. Like many Rolex watches, the Milgauss has technically obscure origins that go back to 1954. Rolex has an interesting history of coming up with timepieces to serve the most minimal of markets. One watch was developed, believe it or not, for cave explorers — surely the niche market of all niche markets. Naturally, it sold poorly and naturally, it’s now intensively sought by collectors willing to pay very high prices.

So it went with the original Milgauss, which was designed to have exceptional resistance to high magnetic fields. Not surprisingly, it didn’t sell well when it arrived in 1954. Presumably, scientists, power station workers, and others with magnetic field worries either left their watches at home or took a chance with their Timex. Original Milgauss watches are very rare and \$30,000 is a fair price to pay for a good one.



Hamilton Ventura



Movado’s famed face style was rejected by several watch firms when its designer first tried to license it.



Movado’s “Museum Watch” has a case back celebrating the company’s 125 years of operations.



Rolex Milgauss



Patek Philippe Nautilus

The recently introduced Milgauss looks a lot like the original one with its larger-than-usual Oyster case, stainless steel bracelet and in-house automatic Rolex movement. The watch lists at \$6,000 to \$7,000 in most parts of the world (“entry-level” for Rolex) but finding one is another matter altogether. For whatever reason, watch enthusiasts and collectors have scoured the world for these and they are very hard to locate. Some 2008 Milgauss versions are being listed on the internet for well over twice their retail price. Anyone lucky enough to snare one from a jeweller at retail will almost certainly be able to double it later in the day on an auction website. For serious collectors, though, this one will be a “keeper.”

Several other top brand watch companies have been delving into the past for inspiration and one or two recent announcements have included watches inspired by the designs of the 1960s and 1970s — simple three-hand timepieces in round cases with what used to be “old-fashioned” baton time markers.



Patek Philippe Nautilus

Even watch industry titan Patek Philippe has re-introduced its 1976 Nautilus waterproof sports watch with a case inspired by the portholes of a ship. Like the Milgauss, the Nautilus is reportedly very hard to get and back orders extend to months or even years — even though the price won’t leave you much change from \$20,000. Interestingly, the original Nautilus was launched with a print advertising campaign using the slogan “One of the World’s Costliest Watches is Made of Steel.” The price back then was U.S. \$2,350 and those who bit the bullet and bought one must be very happy today if they still have it. Patek Philippe watches are serious collectibles and fetch astronomical prices at auction — often hundreds of thousands of dollars for unusual ones.

Expect many other watchmakers to follow this trend as the battle goes on to find ever-more-novel ways of standing apart from competitors. ■



Pacific Dermaesthetics

No two patients are the same...so why should their treatments be?

Are you ready to explore options that are available to improve the way you look and feel? You can get all the answers you are looking for at Pacific Dermaesthetics.

Pacific Dermaesthetics offers the most comprehensive array of evidence-based, medical skin care treatments available, for both the face and body, all delivered with the highest levels of experience and passion.

At Pacific Dermaesthetics, we understand that every person who walks through our doors is an individual with unique perspectives and concerns. That is why we get to know you during a personalized consultation with one of our doctors. It's during this important first encounter that we analyze your needs and concerns before devising a plan, often consisting of a combination of treatments, that will be best suited to achieve all of your goals.

The doctors and staff at Pacific Dermaesthetics are committed to looking after the health and appearance of your skin and body. We will take the time to explain in down-to-earth language, avoiding technical jargon and medical terms, the procedures that you are considering. The doctors will work with our team of professionals to deliver the results in a comfortable, non-threatening and un-rushed environment.



It is wise to see physicians that are known as experts in their respective fields. Pacific Dermaesthetics is a culmination of the shared knowledge and expertise of two physicians: Dr. William McGillivray and Dr. Jason Rivers. Both Dr. Rivers and Dr. McGillivray are trusted names in the field of cosmetic medicine. They are highly skilled practitioners whose experience is recognized nationally. Their personal commitment to their field of practice is acknowledged by their peers and the cosmetic community alike, resulting in appearances both on television and radio.

Both Doctors Rivers and McGillivray pride themselves on providing privacy and confidentiality at Pacific Dermaesthetics. Your comfort is assured in our bright and beautiful new facility. Pacific Dermaesthetics is one of the largest and most technologically advanced skin treatment centers in Canada. It is a world-class medical facility designed to address skin-related issues for patients of all ages. The result is a superlative level of both medical and aesthetic medicine.

The practice of medicine is constantly changing and we at Pacific Dermaesthetics strive to stay at the forefront. Skin rejuvenation has gone through many changes over the last decade, culminating in fractional resurfacing which first appeared in 2004. This technique allows for the treatment of a portion of the skin which results in rapid healing, with a relatively short downtime. The first of these devices, Fraxel re:store™ by Reliant is very useful for mild to moderate facial lines and scars. In the past few months, fractional CO2 lasers have appeared on the scene. These devices provide for more tissue contraction which equates to a greater effect on deep wrinkles or scars. Both these types of technologies can be used on skin of colour, and can even be used safely off the face. ■



PACIFIC
DERMAESTHETICS

Pacific Dermaesthetics offers a wide array of laser procedures including Fraxel® (a fractional resurfacing laser) — designed to address sun damage, stretch marks, scars, wrinkles and the effects of aging. In addition, we provide non-invasive treatments such as Thermage™ (thermal skin tightening system) UltraShape™ (ultrasound body contouring), Botox®, dermal fillers, and various lasers to treat facial redness and vessels. Additional services consist of laser hair removal, tattoo removal, acne treatments, chemical peels and skin care.

Pacific Dermaesthetics
Suite 1790-1111 West Georgia
Vancouver BC, Canada V6E 4M3
Phone 604.682.7546
www.vancouver skin.com
info@vancouver skin.com

Nutrition for Cognition

By Sandra Tonn, RHN

Have you ever forgotten where you left your car keys? Or missed an appointment because it slipped your mind?

Memory lapses are normal and happen at any age. However, for those of us over the age of 40, and especially over 60, our cognitive power to remember declines. In fact, an estimated one out of 10 older adults is said to have a serious memory problem.

Some people call their memory slips “senior moments.” Some are able to accept them as a natural part of aging and others worry that their memory loss will lead to Alzheimer’s or another form of age-related dementia.

Food for thought

Fortunately, there is much we can do nutritionally to boost brainpower and maintain memory. Science tells us that vegetables, fruits, fish, spices and even chocolate can play a positive role in a memory-enhancing menu.

A 2006 study published in the journal *Neurology* concluded that older people who ate three servings of vegetables a day retained their mental abilities 40 percent longer than those who ate less than one serving daily. Results also showed that the vegetable eaters had brains that functioned as if they were five years younger.

Dark green leafy vegetables are especially helpful for brain health. Romaine lettuce, kale, spinach and chard, for example, contain good amounts of folic acid and vitamin E — nutrients that help to preserve brain function as we age.

Fruits are rich in phytochemicals — plant nutrients that give fruits their rich colours — and have been shown to be effective at reversing age-related deficits in memory in both animals and humans.



Researchers at the University of Reading and the Peninsula Medical School consider blueberries (a major source of phytochemicals) to be the king of memory-enhancing fruits. Their 12-week animal study showed memory improvement within only three weeks.

A tall stack of research tells us that certain wild fish, such as salmon, mackerel and sardines, help to protect the brain. The omega-3 fatty acids in these fish, as well as in freshly ground flax seeds and fresh walnuts, are a subject of research in the areas of memory loss prevention and dementia.

For an added boost of brainpower, make or choose Indian, Japanese and Mediterranean dishes, which often feature spices that sharpen the mind, such as garlic, ginger and curry. A study from Singapore showed that older people who eat curry often, very often, or even occasionally, test better for mental function than those who don’t. Researchers speculate that the curcumin found in turmeric, a main ingredient of curry, provides the cognitive benefits.

Avoiding sugary treats is a good practice for good brain function. But for those who crave a treat once in a while, dark organic chocolate is the way to go — it’s said to improve blood flow to the brain and has ingredients that can help maintain healthy brain function.

In addition to memory boosting foods, overall nutrition is extremely important for cognitive performance. Seniors whose diets are lacking in nutrition score lower on cognition tests. Those who do not eat enough food sources of B and C vitamins are especially at risk of memory loss.

www.GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



Foods high in vitamin C include kiwis, tomatoes, bell peppers, broccoli and potatoes. B vitamins can be found in whole wheat, rye, oats, nuts and seeds, beans, green vegetables, prunes, eggs and fish. Riboflavin (vitamin B2) and B12 are especially important. For riboflavin eat crimini mushrooms, spinach and tempeh (a whole soybean protein similar to tofu). Fermented foods, such as sauerkraut, and dried seaweed, such as nori, provide vitamin B12.

Brain boosting supplements

Vitamin and mineral deficiencies are common among older Canadians. Deficits may be a result of decreased calorie intake, poor nutrient absorption, drug interactions, changes in financial, physical or social circumstances, or any combination of these, or additional factors.

Seniors who take vitamin supplements are shown to have higher cognition compared to those who don’t. A good quality multi-vitamin and mineral supplement will help to ensure good amounts of nutrients. Extra vitamin C and B vitamins can be helpful. Also, since the body produces less stomach acid (Hcl) and digestive enzymes as we age, elders and older adults can benefit from investing in Hcl and digestive enzyme supplements, to help ensure proper digestion and assimilation of nutrients.

Ginkgo biloba has long been touted as a memory enhancer and, as of late, phosphatidylserine (PS for short) is popular. PS is a fat-like substance that is an important part of the cell membranes in the brain. Some researchers believe that levels of PS decline as we age, which may contribute to memory loss.

The most recent supplement in the memory prevention spotlight is chromium picolinate, an essential trace mineral already famous for helping to balance blood sugar levels. At this year’s annual meeting of the American Neuropsychiatric Association, researchers from the University of Cincinnati presented study results showing that a daily dose of 1,000 mg of chromium picolinate led to greater activation in various parts of the brain in older people, resulting in enhanced memory and motor function.

Next time you can’t remember someone’s name or have trouble thinking of a word, be proactive — make the many foods and supplements shown to enhance memory a part of your daily health routine. ■

www.GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



Alzheimer’s Prevention

There is a growing amount of evidence that diet and nutritional supplementation, along with exercise, can go a long way to prevent Alzheimer’s disease.

Essential fatty acids: According to research from Tuft’s University in Boston, elders who have the highest blood levels of DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) are half as likely to develop dementia and 39 percent less likely to develop Alzheimer’s when compared over nine years to those with lower levels of DHA. Guelph University researchers also found that low levels of omega-3 fatty acids may be a risk factor for dementia.

DHA is mostly found in fatty fish, but can be purchased as a supplement. Omega-3 fatty acids can be taken in the form of salmon or flax oil.

Vitamin D: Research shows that vitamin D offers protection from the development of Alzheimer’s. A study published by the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry concluded that vitamin D deficiency in older adults was associated with mood disorders and affected cognitive performance.

Vitamin B12: Study results published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* (January 2007) say that impaired thinking was observed nearly five times as often for the 60-years and older subjects when they had a combination of low B12 and high folate. Normal levels of each are necessary for brain health, so don’t forget about B12. If there is a specific B12 deficiency, 500 mcg is a commonly suggested dose. If there is no deficiency it’s best to obtain B12 in a B complex formula, which will contain folate as well.

Antioxidants: A review of 187 scientific articles, conducted by the University of Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, identified the following antioxidants as helpful in the prevention of Alzheimer’s: aged garlic extract, curcumin, melatonin, resveratrol, Ginkgo biloba extract, green tea, vitamin C and vitamin E (mixed tocopherols).

Diet: Research from the Washington University School of Medicine suggests that diets based on complex carbohydrates, fibres, red wine, fresh fruits and vegetables, and non-animal fat may protect against age-related cognitive impairment and dementia.

Copeman Healthcare Centre:

The way it used to be ... but a whole lot more.

Remember when doctors had the time to *really* get to know you? When it was common for them to treat multiple generations of your family? Now imagine these same doctors with the most current technology and medical knowledge at their fingertips — and teams of specialized professionals helping them to keep you healthy and well. Welcome to the Copeman Healthcare Centre.

The Copeman Healthcare Centre, now with facilities in both Vancouver and Calgary, is fast becoming Canada's recognized leader in the field of primary healthcare. It is particularly known for its efforts in preventive medicine. As a pioneer in team-based healthcare and the use of advanced technologies to support health and wellness programs, the Centre is tackling the troubling issue of undiagnosed illness and disease for middle-aged Canadians — while trying to head off future problems with prevention programs that are supported by strong medical evidence.

It seems the Centre has arrived right on time. Over fifty percent of Canadians with heart problems do not show symptoms that are visible to their family doctor. One in seven men will develop prostate cancer. One in nine women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. And about one in 15 adults will develop colorectal cancer.

"...our primary goal is to prevent illness altogether..."

"Our objective right now is to make sure we fully understand the current state of our client's health and to catch disease at a stage where treatment is most successful," says Don Copeman, the Centre's founder and CEO. "But our primary goal is to prevent illness altogether, so that it doesn't have to be treated with costly hospital interventions and medications. We are being successful on both fronts."

Mr. Copeman says that after almost three years of research and hard work developing prevention programs, the data is overwhelmingly positive. "53% of all people who came to our Centre in the first year had an undiagnosed disease. Of those patients, 70% had conditions that significantly increased their health risks and warranted immediate medical attention. The good news is that all of these clients are now on a path to optimal health."

The Copeman Healthcare Centre model provides an integrated team of doctors and healthcare professionals to each member of the Centre. Insured services under provincial health plans are combined with all non-insured services to deliver a complete healthcare experience under one roof. The non-insured professional components and testing is covered by an all-inclusive annual fee. Membership is limited, but both Centres are still accepting new patients through the fall of this year.

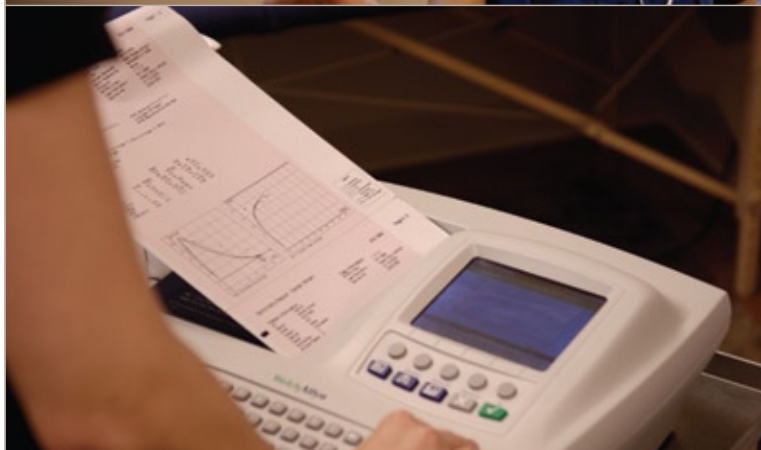
"We're completely dedicated to ensuring that our clients live the longest, healthiest and most pain-free lives possible," says Copeman. "It doesn't matter if a person has already been diagnosed with a disease or illness, or if they are completely healthy and just want to stay that way."

The *heart* of the Centre's program is a comprehensive health plan based on advanced screening for disease, and on detailed analysis of a client's family history and current medical profile. The *soul* of the program, according to Copeman, is the health education, counselling, and coaching that they provide their clients as they follow their health plan. Secure, on-line access to health information, personalized education and goal tracking is also part of the service.



*“An “apple a day” may not keep the doctor away if you’re a client
at our Centre — but it might keep the dietician off your back.”*

Copeman says the Centre’s approach to healthcare represents the type of innovation that is desperately needed in Canada right now. “It all boils down to the two things that define quality primary healthcare: access to professional expertise; and the proper amount of time spent with your doctor and other professionals. Each client receives lifelong care from a team of people whose skills and expertise are matched with the client’s disease risks. At a minimum, everyone is assigned an expert physician, a registered dietician, a kinesiologist or exercise specialist, a care coordinator, and a nurse that provides ongoing coaching and support.”



Copeman is quick to emphasize the additional need for integrated mind and body health. Early in its development, the Centre discovered that success in disease prevention required the integrated services of psychologists, psychiatrists, and other mental health professionals. Even though patients are thoroughly educated on the impact that their lifestyle choices have on their unique medical and genetic profile, they often need support to overcome emotional issues, stress factors, and other obstacles that can stand in the way on the path to a healthy mind and body. Because of this, Copeman Healthcare opened a Neuroscience Centre in January 2007 which it will duplicate in Calgary and other planned facilities.

The Centre has also recently added an Exercise Medicine Centre to help clients overcome physical obstacles to sustainable fitness activity — including sports that may have been abandoned because of pain or functional impairment.

“At the end of the day, our goal is simple. We want to put patients at ease by reducing the burden of health risks. We carefully monitor their health — giving them all of the time and expert attention they deserve. An “apple a day” may not keep the doctor away if you’re a client at our Centre – but it might keep the dietician off your back.”

Free on-site consultations can be arranged through a toll free service (888.922.2732) or facility tours can be taken online at www.copemanhealthcare.com. ■

Services at a Glance

- Unhurried healthcare.
- Expert professional team matched to your medical profile.
- Comprehensive Health Assessments (annually) including advanced disease screening.
- Personal dietician, exercise physiologist and nurse coach.
- Personalized health plan supported by education and consulting.
- Exhaustive effort for fastest possible specialist treatment, including presentation of all options (public and private).
- Personal reminders for tests and examinations.
- Flexible, convenient appointments.

Fees

- \$2,900 per year per adult (tax deductible fees may also be covered by private health plans), \$3,900 in the first year of service.
- Free for children of members under the age of 22.

For more information

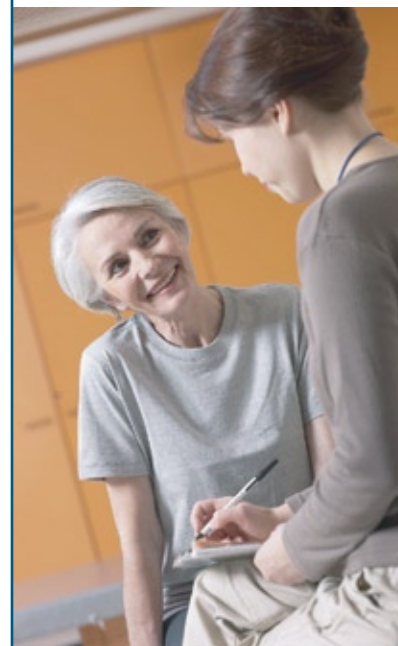
Toll-free: 888.922.2732

Or visit:

www.copemanhealthcare.com



CANADA’S FIRST PRIVATE HEALTHCARE CENTRE for Comprehensive and Integrated Medical Care



COMPLETE HEALTH RISK MANAGEMENT

EXPERTISE

Staffed with expert physicians, clinical dietitians, kinesiologists, physiotherapists, counselors, coaches and specialists in preventive health care, the Copeman Healthcare Centre offers integrated health teams that are completely focused on you and your health care needs.

MORE TIME WITH PROFESSIONALS

All health professionals at the Copeman Healthcare Centre are on staff, and you have their undivided attention for as much time as you require. Staff at the Centre are focused on results – not patient volume.

THE RIGHT EXPERTISE FOR YOU

The staff at the Copeman Healthcare Centre are assigned to you based on a match between their expertise and your medical profile. The Centre also practices “cooperative medicine”, an approach used by leading international health care organizations. This means that the Centre applies whatever expertise you need from within the Centre – when you need it.

COMPREHENSIVE SCREENING & HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

Using the most advanced technologies and protocols available, your team will conduct sophisticated diagnostic tests annually to ensure the earliest possible detection of disease or medical conditions. Annual health assessments also provide your team with the information they need to plan for health maintenance and improvement.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY HEALTH PLANNING & COACHING

Your team of physicians and allied health professionals will construct an easy-to-follow health plan that addresses medical & diagnostic, nutritional, exercise & body function, and mental wellness needs. More importantly, they will provide you with all of the counseling and coaching that you require under your health plan to help you with your lifestyle choices.

ALL-INCLUSIVE FEE

All of the professional health services that you require under your health plan at the Centre can be provided for a simple, all-inclusive fee.

Now accepting pre-registration for its NEW Calgary location.

Call to Register Today: 1.888.922.2732

www.copemanhealthcare.com

Suite 400, 1128 Hornby Street, Vancouver

Suite 400, 628 12th Avenue SW, Calgary

Managing your healthcare for life.



The Digital Living Room

By Steve Dotto

Above: Epson Ensemble HD
Left: Pioneer Elite® KURO™ PRO-111FD

Remember the good old days, when buying a new TV meant making a decision between splurging on a 24" screen or making do with a 20"? The decision made, you'd have peace of mind knowing that with your purchase of the Sony Trinitron or RCA Victor colour TV you were set for years to come. Buying a home entertainment system in the past was a single purchase, and one that you had to perform less than once a decade.

Today there are seemingly endless pieces to a well-equipped home theatre system. And rapid obsolescence makes every decision critical. You have to fit all the pieces together like a gigantic jigsaw puzzle, but, the results can be spectacular!

With a little patience, a little research and a lot of money, you can build a digital living room that puts your local movie theatre to shame.

It all starts with the display, and few will argue that size matters. While Panasonic's new 103-inch plasma TV may fill your wall with hi-def goodness, it will also set you back a cool \$80 grand. Such a monster display also becomes the focal point of your room whether on or off.

www.panasonic.com

One alternative is to use an LCD or DLP projector to get the same size image on a smaller budget and less obtrusively. With very high quality native 1080P projectors now dipping below \$3,000, this is by far the best value per square inch of viewing. So why don't more people go this route? Complexity of installation and the work of having to choose matching components are the biggest reasons.

Epson has a winning solution. They've cleverly bundled all the components of an excellent home theatre projection system into one perfectly matched, easy-to-install package. A high-definition ceiling-mount projector is housed in a cradle that also contains the surround speakers. A 100" motorized movie screen incorporates the left/centre/right speakers directly into the screen housing, with a free-standing powered subwoofer supplying the requisite bottom end. The AV controller includes a built-in DVD player, with a universal remote and equipment cabinet to complete the system. All necessary brackets, cables and wire management tracks are also included for an easy, unobtrusive professional installation in as little as four hours. It's minimal fuss or muss, all for less than \$7k.

www.ensemblehd.com



Mitsubishi LaserVue WD-73835

For a less wall-filling experience, a television in the 60" to 70" range might better suit. While this space is dominated by plasma and LCD products, Mitsubishi provides us with a new twist on the old rear projection format. In their soon-to-be released 65" and 73" LaserVue televisions, lasers provide the light source instead of high pressure lamps. The benefits are many: lasers produce twice the colour gamut for incredibly rich, vivid images. The power consumption is also substantially less than either plasma or LCD technologies, making them an eco-friendly choice. Unlike the lamps in previous generations of rear projection television, Mitsubishi also claims that the lasers in their LaserVue sets will never need to be replaced. Sound perfect? Nearly. The only trade-off is depth: these new sets will be approximately 10" deep, so don't expect to be hanging one on your wall.

If you really like your display technology to be discreet, motorized lifts have become an increasingly popular means of concealing them when not in use. Manufacturer Active Décor has several models in their intellaLIFT line that will stow your LCD or plasma display inside cabinets and sundry other furniture until magically called upon to arise. And nothing would look better arising from that cabinet at the end of your king-sized bed than a 50" High-Definition 1080p Elite® KURO Flat Panel HDTV from Pioneer. In addition to an amazing image and a très chic design, the Elite KURO has built-in SRS surround sound and the ability to accept media streamed across your home network.

Once your screen is mounted it is time to find the content to feed that puppy. Over the air HD from your cable or satellite provider is a great first step, but increasingly we are seeing the internet grow in importance in providing content.

Apple TV, while limited to only 720P in resolution, still provides some compelling benefits. Apple's set top box is designed to work with iTunes on either your Mac or PC. It connects wirelessly to your network, can play all your media files from your computer or you can download popular movies, TV shows and video podcasts as well as stream YouTube video. It boasts Apple's legendary ease of use and integrates seamlessly into any digital living room.

www.GoodLifeConnoisseur.com



Apple TV

The iTunes music store boasts a growing catalogue of movies and content, and the bonus of choosing the Apple model is that you can download a movie, watch half of it in the evening on your home theatre, and finish the movie on your commute the next morning viewing it on either the hot iPhone or on the iPod touch! In fact you can also configure your iPhone or iPod touch to be your remote for your Apple TV. It is all about integration in the world according to Apple, and nobody does it better!

www.apple.ca

Even with a huge hard drive on your AppleTV (they come with up to 160gb) or your computer, storage space will be an issue at some point. This is where the new class of home media server rides to the rescue. Microsoft has put a major push behind their Windows Home Server. Running on the HP MediaSmart Server you have an expandable home server that is the perfect fit in the digital living room. The MediaSmart Server is far more than a huge hard drive, although it is huge. It comes in 500GB and 1TB configurations, and includes three empty hard drive bays for major expansion possibilities. The expansion drives are industry standard (and very affordable) SATA drives, which you just snap into place and are even hot-swappable. So you have virtually unlimited storage space with the MeidaSmart Server.



HP MediaSmart Server

Beyond storing and serving your movies and TV shows to your home theatre system, the MedisSmart Server will also back up all your families' computers including your valuable photos. It will stream audio as well as video and photos to your TV or entertainment system. And you can set it up to allow remote access, and even host your own web sites, an awesome way to share your photos with family and friends.

www.hp.ca

Fall 2008 | GOOD LIFE CONNOISSEUR 67

“The war is over and it is time to rush headlong into the high-definition world!”



Logitech Harmony One

One of the most interesting product categories is the evolution of the true universal remote. I can remember my first remote, it was a clicker that sent out an audio signal to the TV to change channels, control volume or turn the set off. You could actually hear the ping as you depressed the clicker. Unfortunately, spurious noise, such as change jingling in one's pocket, also activated the remote, causing channels to change or the set to unexpectedly turn off. Times have changed, oh how they have changed. Logitech has led the way with the Harmony line of remotes that can run every component you can imagine. Their newest model — the Harmony® One Advanced Universal Remote — can replace up to 15 dedicated remotes. For all its power, the built-in colour touch screen, rechargeable design, and guided online setup keep the Harmony One very user friendly.

www.logitech.com/harmony/

For über contol freaks, Crestron's Adagio® Media System with Advanced Image Processing features a powerful programmable control engine capable of sophisticated AV and home automation. It combines this with a Swiss army knife collection of high end audio and video functions. In addition to 7.1 surround processing, amplification, and digital video processing for a complete home theatre, the AMS-AIP also provides audio signal routing for four or more pairs of remote room speakers for whole house sound. If that's not enough, the system can also be expanded with add-on SIRIUS & XM satellite tuner cards, wall-mount LCD controllers, wireless touch panels, audio servers, iPod interfaces and more.

www.crestron.com/features/adagio/



Crestron's Adagio® Media System front and back.

Blueray has finally become the standard we have all been waiting for as far as HD/DVD is concerned. Thank goodness we are not going to have to spend any more time in the “VHS vs. Beta” discussion and comparison.

One of the best ways to integrate BlueRay into your home theatre system is through one of the popular gaming consoles. Microsoft's Xbox has slipped in popularity as the Sony PlayStation 3 and the Nintendo Wii have captured the market's imagination. They are a bargain-priced way to get true HD into your theatre system with the built in BlueRay player. Beyond that even adults can find something to enjoy in the gaming world, especially as, with the Wii Fit lineup, you can turf that personal trainer and let your game system guide you to a fitter and healthier body!

www.nintendo.com/wiifit/

Designing and equipping a state-of-the-art media room is one of those projects that is rewarding, every step of the way. There are so many unique little twists you can implement to assure that your room is customized to your particular tastes and expectations.

But be warned, the days of making that decision and then resting on your laurels for a decade are long gone. The only constant in the world of technology is change, and the only sure bet is that you will feel the need to upgrade!

The war is over and it is time to rush headlong into the high-definition world! ■

Produced by Steve Dotto & Dan Zimmer.



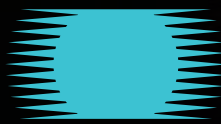
Bryn
sees with precision
the distant greens through
dark brown eyes.

Bryn Parry, professional golfer,
had laser eye surgery from IRIS.

Laser vision correction.

Maybe it's time.

Schedule a no obligation, complimentary consultation with
a Doctor of Optometry at an IRIS location near you.
Visit iris.ca, or call 1.888.881.4747.



IRIS
LASER EYE SURGERY
EYEWEAR • EYE EXAMINATIONS

*Laser eye surgery performed at IRIS Ophthalmology Clinics in Vancouver and Montreal.



Luxury Car Line-up 2009

By Tony Whitney

2009 Ferrari California

Although some segments of the auto industry are facing serious problems right now, upscale nameplates continue to report sales gains — especially in Canada. As a result, most of the big names are launching new products for 2009 and several manufacturers not normally associated with the premium market are making serious efforts to penetrate what is the most rewarding of automotive segments.

A healthy bottom line always means that new products flow relentlessly and a comprehensive review would take a lot more than my allotted space, so I'll concentrate on personal favourites and highlight models that should have some impact as the 2009 model year dawns.

Mercedes-Benz has executed a major upgrade on its SL sports car range for 2009 — it's undergone what industry people call "a mid-cycle refresh."

The latest SL benefits from so many cosmetic and engineering changes, it's almost a new car. Certainly, it should enjoy several years of new life until a replacement comes along some time in the future. There are some subtle but effective changes to the headlight design and other bodywork enhancements, all of which seem to work very well from a styling standpoint. For 2009, all SLs (in Canada, at least) get the bodywork previously found only on the top-of-the-line AMG performance models.

As with earlier SLs, the car has one of those remarkable powered metal convertible tops pioneered by the smaller SLK (which also gets a 2009 upgrade that's quite wide-ranging). It's an amazing piece of engineering and compactness and leaves quite a lot of room for luggage in the trunk when folded down. In fact, you can squeeze a surprising 7.3 cubic feet in there. With the top up, you can shoehorn in a couple of medium-size golf bags. It's fast too. The car can be converted from a coupé to a roadster in just 16 seconds. The window glass pivots on retraction and cleverly matches the curve of the roof as it all closes up.

For a very exclusive model, there's quite a wide range of SL variants available. In North America, we get the SL 550, SL 600, SL 63 AMG and SL 65 AMG. The "entry-level" SL 550 is powered by a 382-horsepower V-8, and the line-topping SL 65 AMG uses an awesome twin turbo V-12 that develops a highly-impressive 603-horsepower, not far off that of the "supercar" Mercedes McLaren SLR.

One of the more interesting additions to the world of luxury saloons over the past few years was the 2004 Mercedes-Benz CLS — mainly because it was launched as "the world's first four-door coupé." Perhaps surprisingly, the striking CLS (also updated for 2009, incidentally) wasn't immediately imitated by rival luxury car manufacturers — until Volkswagen announced its 2009 Passat CC.

With a roofline some 50 mm lower than that of its Passat sedan equivalent, plus some very sleek and swoopy curves, the CC certainly has coupé-like lines but retains the convenience of four doors. To enhance the look even further, the new car is also a little longer and wider than a standard Passat. In case you're wondering, VW says that CC stands for Comfort Coupé. Whatever designation it carries, most people are likely to agree that it might be the best-looking VW saloon ever built. This is a handsome car that might well attract buyers to the VW brand who have thought its products rather bland from a styling standpoint. It should sit nicely in the entry-level luxury class. It also comes with 4Motion all-wheel drive — a worthwhile option for anyone heading for the ski hills in winter.

Most impressive is this car's refinement. It's surprisingly comfortable and smooth, even on poor road surfaces and had me thinking "Lexus" as soon as I took off on my first CC drive.

The 2009 Jaguar XF replaces the old S-Type, which stunned the critics when introduced for the 2000 model year with its "back to the sixties" styling and Ford/Lincoln underpinnings. As with all great designs, the car still looks good today, but the new XF seems to borrow not a single element of the car it replaces.

But does the new car embody the essential "Jaguarness" that its creators are always ready to talk about? The answer is probably "yes and no" because the XF is very much a Jaguar for a newer generation, rather than the one which lusted after past carriers of the leaping cat emblem.

One of Jaguar's aims was to make the new car "sporty and alive" when driven hard, yet refined and relaxed when simply cruising. Certainly, the XF has a most impressive ride with a Lexus-like level of comfort and refinement when you get tired of chucking it around.

Even concrete highway joints on the California freeways (where I first drove the car) were ironed out with surprising efficiency. On winding mountain roads in southern California, the car could be powered through tight corners almost like an XK and there's no doubt that this Jag has far more handling prowess than most owners will care to exploit.

For Canada, there are two engine choices — a 4.2-litre naturally aspirated V-8 and a 4.2-litre supercharged V-8. Horsepower ratings are 300 and 420 respectively. Climbing into an XF for the first time is going to be quite a surprise for old-time Jaguar fans because the design approach is so thoroughly modernistic. Cutting edge features include interior lights that come on as soon as your finger gets close to the lenses. The glove box operates likewise — a small button only needs a finger close to it and the lid drops gently down. Jaguar calls this approach "JaguarSense" and there are examples of such technology all over the interior.

Instead of the usual transmission selection lever, a large aluminum knob glides out of the central console at a touch — Jaguar calls it a "levitating gear selector." Simply turn the knob and you go smoothly and silently to neutral, drive and so on.

Although the XF has some of that currently trendy polished aluminum around the interior, there's still enough wood and leather to please a Jaguar purist. It's a very nicely-executed cabin — fresh, bright and modern with excellent all-round visibility.

As with so many fields of consumer products manufacturing, Jaguar must move forward to serve new generations who've probably never heard of Mike Hawthorn, the Le Mans D-Type or Sir William Lyons. For them, this is a car with very considerable appeal, capable of standing on its own feet without constant reminders of Jaguar's storied heritage.



2009 VW Passat CC



2009 Mercedes Benz SL



2009 Jaguar XF

"As with earlier SLs, the car has one of those remarkable powered metal convertible tops pioneered by the smaller SLK"



2009 BMW 135i

The 2009 model year brings good news for auto buyers who've always wanted to own a new BMW but held off because of high prices. And since the new 1 Series is a "proper" BMW with regard to styling, quality and performance, there should be no talk of a "poor man's Bimmer." It just happens to be a little trimmer than a 3 Series and a lot less expensive, at least, in basic form.

Right now, the 1 Series comes in coupé and cabriolet versions here, but could other variants be just round the corner? A wagon, perhaps, or even the nifty hatchback that's available in Europe? While the car shares many components with the 3 Series, it has its own platform — one that's not used on any other BMW model.

Regardless of model, this is a very attractive car. It would have been all too easy for BMW to create some kind of "shrunk 3 Series" here, but that hasn't happened. Despite its size, it looks quite svelte and has its own special character. Many admirers would put the new cabriolet at the top of the "easy on the eye" list. Thankfully, it's one of those ragtops that looks fine with the hood up or down and it's very snug during rain or cold weather.

The top 3.0-litre engine option with its 300-horsepower gets you a seriously powerful car and performance is close to that of highly-praised M3 models of recent date. The buzz around the automotive media and BMW fans is that the 135i is a "natural successor" to the much-loved 2002tii of the 1970s — one of the models that actually set BMW on the performance path it follows today. The 135i uses an inline six-cylinder powerplant like the one in the 3 Series coupe and other BMW models and it drives the rear wheels.

It won't be too long before this range becomes BMW's biggest seller as many buyers line up for a brand of car they've only considered as a secondhand purchase before.

Other 2009 highlights run the gamut from affordable near-luxury products to megabuck supercars.

Mercedes-Benz will enter the compact luxury SUV class with its new GLK, which should compete very effectively with off-roaders from BMW (X3) and Land Rover (LR2/LR3). Even Kia is taking a run at the upscale SUV segment with its upcoming Borrego, a very well-built and finished rig with an available V-8 powerplant of commendable refinement.



2009 Kia Borrego

"Other 2009 highlights run the gamut from affordable near-luxury products to megabuck supercars."

Lexus has already introduced its superfast 2009 IS F 415-horsepower sports sedan to take on industry giants like the BMW M3, Audi S4, Cadillac CTS-V and Mercedes-Benz C 63 AMG. Judging by recent tests we've carried out, the sporty Lexus is a close match for its potent rivals.

Nissan is finally bringing us a version of its GT-R sports coupé, which has earned itself quite a reputation over the years in Japan and other markets around the world. Competing with rivals like the Chevy Corvette, Dodge Viper and various Porsches, it remains to be seen just how auto buyers will react to an \$82,000 Nissan.

Buyers with no financial restraints to worry about might be looking closely at the desirable new Ferrari California. Inspired by the 250 GT California of the 1960s, the new star from Maranello is Ferrari's first ever hardtop convertible, so it fulfills both ragtop and coupé roles. It uses a front-mounted V-8, another departure from the Ferrari norm. The new car has so intrigued Ferrari fans worldwide that the company is claiming that its website has earned some 500-million hits from avid fans — and maybe a tiny number of them will even get to buy one of these amazing limited-production machines. Zero to 100 km/h in under four seconds doesn't sound too bad either. ■



2009 Nissan GT-R

IMAGINE CANADA WITHOUT TREES



In Canada, we are defined by nature. Every tree and every leaf is doing its part to make Canada the place we all imagine it to be – healthy, green and rich in natural beauty. You can do your part – give to Tree Canada, and we'll plant your gift in the very land you stand on.





“For Canadians, this means significant time savings by avoiding the never-ending lines through Customs and security when departing for international destinations.”

In today's world, commercial flying entails a myriad of issues, including extended check-ins, unnecessary connections, cancelled routes, costly layovers and lost baggage. In addition, there is a 20-25% chance that every commercial trip will be delayed or cancelled. The Marquis Jet Card™, with fleet by NetJets®, allows you to avoid the delays, aggravation and mistreatment and put your life and your schedule back in your control.

The Marquis Jet Card allows businesses and individuals to experience the benefits of owning your own jet, without the responsibilities. Be in two places at once. Turn a business trip into a vacation. Turn three days into four days. Flying privately can truly change your life and Marquis Jet makes it easier than ever. The Marquis Jet Card provides access to NetJets — the gold standard in private aviation — in 25-hour increments. NetJets operates the largest and most reliable private jet fleet in the world and sets the industry standard in safety and personal service.

“The Marquis Jet Card ownership experience is incomparable to the commercial or the local jet charter experience,” explains Randy Brandoff, Vice President of Marketing. “NetJets provides card owners with guaranteed availability and the safety, security and peace of mind that comes from flying with the gold standard in private aviation.”

The Marquis Jet Card is available in Canada for travel to and from the United States and to virtually every other country around the world. For Canadians, this means significant time savings by avoiding the never-ending lines through Customs and security when departing for international destinations. As a Marquis Jet Card owner living in Canada, you are required to arrive for your flight only 15 minutes prior to departure and NetJets provides you with guaranteed aircraft availability with as little as 48 hours notice. Point-to-point travel within the United States is also available with as little as 10 hours notice.



MARQUIS JET
fleet by NetJets



“When you become a Marquis Jet Card owner, you're not only accessing the best in private aviation, but also gaining access to a broad range of special experiences and benefits that Marquis Jet and NetJets have created for you,” says Ken Newman, Vice President of Sales for Canada. “What makes the Marquis Jet Card program so unique is the combination of providing access to the finest private jet fleet in the world, unrivalled personal service, access to a broad array of special events, and numerous value-added benefits from Marquis Jet's and NetJets' many alliance partners.”

NetJets pioneered the concept of fractional jet ownership in 1986 and today the NetJets family of operating companies manages and maintains a global fleet of over 750 private aircraft selected from top manufacturers from around the globe. Card owners can select from 10 different aircraft types and have the ability to exchange for a larger or smaller aircraft that best meets their needs for each flight (based on availability). The fleet ranges from the seven-passenger Citation V Ultra to the 14-passenger Gulfstream 450.

The average age of the aircraft in the NetJets fleet is only five years, significantly younger than the 15-year average age of charter aircraft currently in use in the U.S.

Additionally, jet charter from a local operator has limited availability and choice of aircraft. You do not have any guarantee as to the particular aircraft being provided and its condition, or a guarantee that any aircraft at all will be available at the time and place you wish to fly.

Whatever your reason for flying privately — business, personal, comfort, convenience, security, privacy — you want a solution that fits perfectly into your life, is simple to use and has outstanding quality. The Marquis Jet Card program allows you to travel on your schedule, with only a phone call, and to know that you have all the resources of Marquis Jet and NetJets behind you. ■

Marquis Jet Card
Contact: Ken Newman
866.538.0898
www.MarquisJet.com

Estate Planning for the Business-minded

By Adrian Mastracci, Portfolio Manager & Financial Advisor (R.F.P.)
KCM Wealth Management Inc. www.kcmwealth.com

Planning your estate is first about attending to your will, and perhaps, much more. A well-thought-out estate plan ensures that your family is cared for should anything happen to you. It's one important pillar of managing your wealth.

Individual requirements may range from a simple will and enduring power of attorney to a complex estate plan that includes an estate freeze. This primer is meant to stir thought about your situation.

Your action plan achieves two things. It preserves your family wealth and distributes it to your beneficiaries according to your wishes. Start with this question, "What is important to you about planning your estate?"

There are many answers. Maybe it's preserving the family wealth and providing for the spouse and children. Or transferring the reins of the family business and minimizing probate fees. Or funding education for the children and grandchildren. Or even leaving a legacy to a charitable cause and to loved ones.

One caution — developing your estate plan can be a significant commitment. It can also be a difficult topic as it encompasses our own mortality. Talking openly about it with family helps.

I've summarized the thought process into a few options:

Getting started

If you die without a will, your assets are distributed according to Provincial legislation. This may result in a loss of control. It may also necessitate additional time and fees to settle your estate.

Anyone getting married, separated, divorced, re-married, or having children is wise to go over the current will. Provincial legislation affects its provisions and validity.

Make a detailed list of your assets and liabilities. Consider your tax positions and desires for the disposition of each asset. Pay special attention to a family business and cottage.

Review your family's needs and ability to maintain lifestyle if something happens to you. Check the beneficiary designations for your RRSP, RRIF, RESP, IPP, DPSP, pension plans, and life insurance.



Consider your options

Become aware of how Provincial legislation, say the Representation Agreement Act or Wills Variation Act, may affect your desires — particularly if you're governed by two or more Provinces or countries.

Examine whether to leave your estate to the beneficiaries either outright or by trusts. Mull over whether a portion of your wealth should be dealt with while you are living. The business succession plan may tie into the estate plan.

Appoint the doers

Take great care in appointing capable representatives, powers of attorney, executors and trustees for your estate. They have similar powers as you do in dealing with your accumulated wealth.

Choosing the right guardians for minor children is vital. Your guardians and trustees may have duties lasting up to 18 years or longer, depending on the children's ages and the life of the trust you create.

Appoint two qualified people for every position. Ideally, one should be younger than you and live in the same Province. Grant them sufficient powers to perform their duties as you would.

Be certain each appointee wants the often thankless job. Being an executor is not a picnic. I counsel clients to provide the appointees a detailed letter of instruction to make their tasks easier. Depending on your situation, the fiduciary duties may call for special expertise, impartiality or independence of one or more of your appointees.

Business continuance

The continued operation of the business is often neglected in the estate planning process — specifically, who will take the helm if you become disabled, ill or deceased. Nobody ever thinks it's going to happen to them. But it does.

Ideally, you want someone who can step in and fill your shoes, temporarily or for the long term. There may be a family member or someone in the organization, but too often there is no such talent pool to draw from.

Family businesses may have to draw from sources such as retired people from similar businesses or other business acquaintances. I've also seen the case where two business people who value one another are ready to step in for one another if the need arises.

Sometimes the advisors may know of someone who can fill in. These are not always easy shoes to fill, especially if the business also has operations in the U.S. and travel is involved.

This is all part of the business succession plan. It takes the longest of any estate planning component to solidify.

Use of trusts

Trusts are often useful in providing income for family members. They are part of the process to transfer assets and ensure your beneficiaries are cared for. However, they don't fit every situation.

Generally, there are two types of trusts. A testamentary trust is established when you die. An inter vivos trust is set up while you're alive.

For example, some goals while living may benefit from an alter ego trust or joint spousal trust. A spouse, child or other dependent may have special needs and care to be addressed.

Jointly owned assets

A popular estate planning strategy is for a parent to register an asset, such as an investment account or residence, in joint name with an adult child. Joint ownership is generally set up for convenience and to avoid probate fees.

While joint ownership can accomplish both objectives, complications may arise. Placing an asset into joint name with an adult child can result in unintended and unhappy consequences.

The implications of individual or joint ownership of assets need assessment for both income tax and probate purposes. Sometimes they are at odds.

Estate freezing

There is much you can do during your lifetime to accomplish some unique personal goals. One consideration for some is an estate freeze. This is a process where you decide to place a limit on the growth for your account of some or all of the assets now owned. The expected future growth on the selected assets can then be passed to the benefit of other family members, in many cases to a child or grandchild.

A popular method to carry out an estate freeze uses the share structure of a private company. Typically, you elect to transfer certain assets at today's fair market value for particular shares of equal value in the private company.

The family members to whom the growth benefit is conferred also become shareholders in this corporation. Accordingly, you become the owner of shares that do not give rise to future gains. The other family members acquire shares whose future value may rise.

The \$750,000 lifetime capital gain exemption should be reviewed to determine if it can be used in part or in full. Further, the private company structure may accommodate some income splitting, especially when the beneficiaries are age 18 or over.

A priority is to focus on the adequacy of the assets remaining in your hands before any transfers take place. You may wish to maintain a form of control in the new structure.

An estate freeze should be considered non-reversible. It's part of a well-crafted estate plan for some.

U.S. assets

U.S. citizens living in Canada and Canadians who own property in the U.S. should review the U.S. estate tax treatment they face upon death. Unlike Canada, the U.S. imposes a tax on estates.

Generally, U.S. citizens and residents are subject to an estate tax based on the value of their worldwide estate. If you are not a U.S. citizen or resident, you may have to pay U.S. estate taxes, based on the property value located in the U.S. — for example, an Arizona or California condominium.

*“Mull over whether a portion of your wealth
should be dealt with while you are living.”*

Cottages

Simply said, beware of cottages. They are full of wonderful memories, but can cause plenty of headaches — like squabbles among family members who have differing views on what to do with them.

Special attention is often required for cottages, particularly those that are not principal residences. They may have been bought long ago and would trigger substantial capital gains if sold today.

Getting it done

The process from thinking about the estate plan to implementing it may involve a team of professionals, such as an investment advisor, tax practitioner and lawyer. Perhaps one of them will take the lead and become your quarterback.

I suggest a meeting with all your advisors. Discuss your estate planning objectives, concerns and fears. Make sure your team clearly understands where you're going. Hear all the ideas that they have so that you can develop a plan for effectively transferring wealth to your beneficiaries. Then instruct them to put that best personal plan in place that reflects your wishes.

The cornerstone of your estate plan is a well-crafted will. Review it every couple of years. Legislative changes and life events may change your objectives. ■

Brian Scott



Size: 36"x 36" Framed
Marine Link at Menzies Bay
Oil on Canvas

www.BrianScottFineArt.com

connoisseur's choice 5
CULTURE

How to Create

By Jonni O'Connor

All of us are a beautiful blend of human and spirit. We have a transpersonal, or Higher Self, which is that magical, energetic part of us, and a lower, human self, which is our physical self. Understanding this concept is vital to your happiness because it's the concept and knowingness that is at the foundation of how to create.

Your Higher Self — the wisest part of you — can inspire you, nudge you and love you, because it truly knows who you are. It looks at you with the most loving sense of adoration, often feeling for the difficulty you find yourself in at times, but always there to assist you in creating a way out of your problems if you stay open to its ideas. It is through this relationship that you will learn the fine art of co-creating everything you desire and deserve in life.

When it comes to creating, your human and your spirit are both in charge, for this relationship is true partnership: a beautiful, spiritual relationship that is integrated and whole. If you want something, and believe you deserve to have it, be aware that you are co-creating it with your Higher Self. You are not asking for it. You are not a child asking for permission and hoping that if you are good enough, you might get it. That method will not work. That's not how a healthy, whole, conscious relationship functions.

Instead, remember that you, as your human self, are in a full and strong partnership with your Higher Self and are therefore honouring each other by joining together for the good of both of you. Your "want" merely begins the unity formation.

But what if you believe you did not get what you wanted? What if you believe you were asking and waiting for it to happen and it never did? You have the choice to get upset at what seems like failure on your Higher Self's part of the "deal," or you can see what it is you have received and understand what you "thought" you wanted.



Your partner has presented you with something special — a gift of some kind to match your intention. It may not look exactly as you wanted or as you thought you wanted, but you are in the human role and are not always aware of what your energy is producing. Ask for clarity. Then listen for it in meditation.

Think of a child wanting a brand new bicycle for the pennies he gives the store clerk. The store clerk is aware of what is really needed to obtain the bike and so

lovingly offers up several possible choices for handling the situation. Do you (in this case, the innocent child), get frustrated and angry with the clerk? Of course not. Then why would you get angry or upset at your Higher Self? The clerk and your Higher Self are both more than willing to co-create with you. The clerk wants the sale, and the feel-good factor, and your Higher Self wants to help you get what you want as well.

The more "transactions" you have with your Higher Self partner the more you will understand how to create. And it works both ways. Say your Higher Self believes you can forgive your father for the emotional turmoil he caused you in your childhood. That's a big one and you know it. It is your Higher Self's desire this time to co-create with you. What do you do with that want? You may choose to accept and forgive your father, without asking or expecting anything from him. You may then either begin a fresh or at least polite relationship with him, or choose to simply let go of the resentment and anger. Then you and your Higher Self are in sync and that very action on your part confirms the co-creation.

If you are in struggle or conflict, know then that you need to check in with your partner for alignment of what you both really want. You need to meet your partner on their plane, on their level, as well, and you can do that during formal and informal meditation. Then the two of you can come to a greater understanding of what you both want and how to go about co-creating it. Anything else is just running around in circles. ■



Above: *Golden Autumn Days* — 24" x 30"

Tinyan

Bold, Passionate and Vibrant

Bold, passionate and vibrant are all words that describe the artwork of master painter Tinyan, and they also accurately describe the artist himself.

Born in 1942, off the south coast of Kwangtung, China, Tinyan Chan is the youngest brother in a family of artists. His elder brother, Sheung, is a famous portrait painter in Hong Kong, and was Tinyan's instructor and mentor during his early years. By the time he was 16, Tinyan had successfully obtained admission to the Mid-Southern China Academy of Fine Arts. He would perfect his techniques at the Academy and by 19 enter the Canton Academy of Fine Art. Soon after, Tinyan moved to Hong Kong to paint with his elder brother and exhibited his work at the famous Konn's Gallery. During the same time, he established the Hong Kong Artist Club.

His time spent in Hong Kong continues to inspire the artist to capture the lively and chaotic traffic of the harbour. Tinyan relates, "Whenever I return to Hong Kong, I am always excited to rekindle my memories. Although I have returned to this glorious place many times, I have never tired of visiting it. Each time I discover something new and spend countless hours in the magnificent villages, seeking to capture the spirit of the people in their surroundings."

After living in Hong Kong for several years, Tinyan believed that he needed international experience to enrich his imagination. In the early '60s he accepted a position as Chief Designer for the United Nigeria Textile Company in Nigeria. While there he created designs that would be developed for clothing all over the world. This experience gave him a taste of what it was like to be an artist outside of China.



The simple village life Tinyan enjoyed in Africa left him with a sense of tranquility that remains intrinsic to his art. After several years, he was ready to further hone his skills and was accepted to the prestigious L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He credits the school as a primary factor in his development as an artist. Describing his style, Tinyan states, "I paint with vibrant and bold colours to express the energy of my subjects."

In 1968 Tinyan moved to Canada where he quickly established himself as one of the leading landscape artists in the country. In 1983, to recognize his accomplishments and loyalty to the art community, Tinyan was elected a senior member of the Federation of Canadian Artists (S.F.C.A.).

Tinyan's talents are conveyed through several mediums including oil, acrylic and watercolour. Throughout all, his art remains a compelling combination of Asian and western aesthetics. His calligraphic treatment of tree branches recalls the curves and flowing strokes of Chinese brushwork. The east and west meet again in his gorgeous floral still-life scenes, where Tinyan incorporates western arrangements of flowers and fruit with Asian vases and bowls, carefully selected from his wife Nita's extensive collection.



Counter-clockwise from top: *So Full of Romantic* — 24" x 30"; *Sunset Trail in Autumn* — 24" x 30"; *Moonlit Sails* — 24" x 36". Above: *The Frozen Ice* — 30" x 24".

"In autumn, I am entranced by the incredible hues of brilliant gold, orange and crimson leaves of silver birches and autumn maples."



During his 40 years in Canada, Tinyan has enjoyed immersing himself in the beauty of each passing season. As he says, “Springtime awakens the tulips, magnolias, cherry and plum blossoms from a restful winter. I love to capture the interplay of yellow, lavender, red, and magenta. During summer, I enjoy sitting amongst rainbows of blooming flowers and listening to birds sing, or dining beside a lily pond while watching dancing dragonflies. In autumn, I am entranced by the incredible hues of brilliant gold, orange and crimson leaves of silver birches and autumn maples. I especially love to capture the beauty of Canada’s winter; the juxtaposition of colourful autumn leaves and brilliant white snow against black pearl water evokes happiness, cheer and joy in viewers, warming their cold winter nights and cooling their hot summer days.”

Today, Tinyan is a world-renowned artist, with paintings displayed in private and public collections around the globe. He holds a one-man exhibition and sale of new artwork each year at the Gainsborough Galleries in Calgary, where his paintings sell out on a consistent basis. In the near future, Tinyan will unveil his master creations, which he has spent decades developing, and will exhibit them for the world’s viewing. Summing up his career to date, Tinyan says, “I love to convey the endless beauty of nature and wilderness, which are always vivid in my memories. I consider myself a very fortunate person to have viewers around the world enjoy my artwork and share in my happiness.” ■



Clockwise from top left:
Symphony of the Grand Sails
— 30" x 40";
Summer in the Rockies
— 24" x 30";
Kites Festival — 24 x 36.
Below left:
Serene Birch Forest
— 24" x 36".
Below right:
Tribute to the Fall Season
— 30" x 40".



Gainsborough Galleries

441-5th Avenue SW

Calgary, AB T2P 2V1

Phone: 403.262.3715 Fax: 403.262.3743

Toll Free: 866.425.5373

art@gainsboroughgalleries.com

www.gainsboroughgalleries.com



also representing:

Brian Arthur

Rick Bond

Merv Brandel

Fred Cameron

C.R. Cheek

Rick Crump

C.A. Danyluk

Eltje Degenhart

Jean-Guy Desrosiers

Kal Gajoum

Ron Hedrick

Karl Lansing

Nicole Laporte

Marie-Andre Leblond

Wee Lee

Ken Li

Harold Lyon

Nancy Lucas

Min Ma

Del Mark

Paul Paquette

Waclaw Pietucha

Martin Pryce

Ted Raftery

David Ross

Carl Schlademan

Claude Simard

Lyle Sopel

Linda Stewart

Doug Swinton

Rick Taylor

Mark Totan

Louis Tremblay

Andre Turenne

Xie Qiu Wa

James Wood

Robert E. Wood

Vilem Zach

and more...



Proudly Presenting
Tinyan S.F.C.A.



Oil

"Tranquil Creek in Winter"

24 x 36

One Man Show - October 18, 2008

All artwork available for presale in the gallery and on our website

Gainsborough Galleries

441 - 5th Ave SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2V1

403-262-3715 1-866-425-5373

www.GainsboroughGalleries.com

*GEORG
SCHMERHOLZ*



*HEART2HEART
(cheek-to-cheek)
Polar jade & bronze
11.5" h x 5.5" w x 3.5" d*

*For the
Exceptional
Fine Art
Collector*