

SILVER ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Robb Report

FOR THE LUXURY LIFESTYLE™

ANNIVERSARY
25th

Power & Influence

22 People Who Will
Shape Luxury in 2001

Wolfgang Reitzle of Ford's Premier
Automotive Group

Plus

Pull-Out Calendar of
This Year's Best Events

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JANUARY 2001



\$7.99 U.S. \$9.99 CDN

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A LUXURY MEDIA PUBLICATION

The Impressionists

*Meet the people who are going to leave
the biggest marks on your lifestyle this year.*

WITH THE (SECOND) NEW MILLENNIUM celebration nearly over, it's time to sweep up the confetti and take a serious look at what the 2000s will bring into the world of luxury. As the last few decades have proven, there are always a few artists, analyzers, workers, and dreamers who significantly impact the upscale lifestyle, taking it to places we never could have imagined the year before. From the worlds of high finance to high tech and ultracomfort to ultraextravagance, these people are the ones to watch this year.

WOLFGANG H. REITZLE, *Vice President, Premier Automotive Group, Ford Motor Co.* Leading off 2001 with the Lincoln Blackwood, an SUV hybrid that replaces the rear quarters of a Navigator with a chieily styled pickup bed, Wolfgang Reitzle's Premier Automotive Group should leave some large tire tracks in the luxury vehicle marketplace. The 51-year-old executive, formerly with BMW, was hired to oversee the five distinct luxury brands that Ford Motor Co. has assembled in an attempt to capture a share of the worldwide demand for upscale vehicles. Besides Lincoln, Reitzle's charges include Volvo, Jaguar, Land Rover, and Aston Martin. He faces the challenge of maintaining the cachet of each brand while sharing the engineering, technology, and componentry. His other big task is to follow the European-inspired luxury/performance lead of the LS models and convert Lincoln to a true world-class luxury marque able to compete with BMW and Mercedes-Benz, expanding Lincoln's appeal to a wider range of U.S. customers. —Patrick C. Paternie



DAVID HARRISON

days Greenspan, 74, has learned to hide his true thoughts in an increasingly vague and convoluted mass of nouns and verbs. He has become Wall Street's Delphic Oracle, whose every word, gesture, and facial expression must be dissected on CNBC. Several times last year, Greenspan-watchers reacted more feverishly to his hints at rate hikes than to his actual announcements. Although the chairman kept silent during the last months of the presidential election, he can be expected to start tinkering with the economy and with the minds of financial analysts again as soon as the new administration takes office.

—Michelle Scaton

BERNARD ARNAULT, CEO, LVMH (Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton)

Known in France as "le raider," Bernard Arnault controls some of the biggest names in fashion and fragrance (Louis Vuitton, Givenchy, Christian Dior, DFS, Kenzo, Loewe, Christian Lacroix, Sephora, Celine, and Fendi), cosmetics (Hard Candy, Urban Decay, Bliss, and Make Up For Ever), as well as some of the world's most instantly recognized wine and spirits brands (Moët & Chandon, Krug, and Veuve Clicquot Champagnes and Hine and Hennessy Cognacs).

When it comes to major acquisitions, Arnault, 51, is an unstoppable force. He successfully petitioned the Dutch supreme court to annul its earlier ruling that allowed his company's fashion archrival, Pinault-Printemps-Redoute, to assume control of Gucci Group and cut LVMH's holdings from 34 percent to 20.6 percent overnight. In 1999, he acquired the famed Château d'Yquem winery after a long but persistent struggle, which added yet another feather to his already-frilly corporate headdress.

Arnault also privately owns a 50 percent stake in the prestigious Château Cheval Blanc in St.-Émilion, and LVMH controls New Zealand's world-class producer of sauvignon blanc, Cloudy Bay. Most recently, Domaine Chandon, the LVMH-owned winery in Napa Valley, released several new vintage sparkling wines in the ultra-premium category, and a new and highly rated pinot noir has made its debut at the winery, initiating Chandon's venture into still wines.

Because LVMH has a stockpile of labels that no other can rival, future power deals almost guarantee that anyone wishing to buy into the worlds of upscale fashion, fragrance, cosmetics, or wines will have to do business with the group—much to the delight of its shareholders.

—Anthony Dias Blue and William Kissel

AARON STEWART, Owner, Sové

When Aaron Stewart's classmates at New York's prestigious Fashion Institute of Technology were taking a break from the books and hitting the club scene two years ago, this 26-year-old Kansas native was starting Sové, his own bedding company. Stewart sold his first decorative pillows and duvet covers to Manhattan's ABC Carpet and Home while still in school. "I started Sové as a class project and went to an open-vendor day at ABC with a bag full of decorative pillows," Stewart recalls. "ABC bought 36 pillows and sold 28 of them within two weeks—the buyer told me that *never* happens!" Today, less than one year after graduation, he has a client list that includes retailers such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Robb & Stucky, Carl's, Baer's, Bluefly.com, and Between The Sheets.

Stewart's look is multicultural with a modern edge. "I look for fabrics that I really like, such as silk, velvet, and linen, and use embroidery and appliqué to make each piece unique," he notes. "So many products in stores today are boring and repetitive. I believe people are looking to express themselves by the way they decorate their homes, and they don't want the same thing that everyone else has."

—Donna Boyle Schwartz



technology, which will serve home owners in the same way butlers look out for the best interests of their employers. The electric eye will check to see who's at the door and, if it recognizes the retina of the home owner, let him in even before he has to reach for the knob. It could also monitor who's sitting in front of the television and deny a child access to inappropriate content.

DeNap promises that, like a real-life butler, intelligent-agent technology will protect the privacy of its employer. It has to, if people are going to entrust the system with information about their daily routines. "The agent doesn't belong to the Internet service provider, it doesn't belong to the telephone company, it belongs to you," he says. —Dexter Van Zile

PATRIZIO BERTELLI, *CEO, Prada Group*

MIUCCIA PRADA, *Designer, Prada Group*

The husband-and-wife team of Patrizio Bertelli and Miuccia Prada has been dealing Italian fashion a one-two punch for more than a decade now. Bertelli's forte is buying up competitive designer labels such as Fendi (in partnership with LVMH group), Jil Sander, and Helmut Lang. Most recently, he formed a partnership with French artisan Azzedine Alaïa, priming the company for a major IPO. On the creative end is Prada's designer, Miuccia Prada, a trained mathematician with a scientist's knowledge of fabric technology. She's the whiz behind molded rubber soles on leather sneakers, luggage straps on rubber backpacks, waffle-weave polyester, techno stretch fabrics for lighter and more durable men's suits, and mesh uppers on leather pumps for a new sporty look in women's dress shoes. Her ideas continue to be pilfered year after year by everyone from Armani to Zegna. —William Kissel

DOUGLAS A. WARNER III, *Chairman, JP Morgan Chase and Co.*

WILLIAM B. HARRISON JR., *President and CEO, JP Morgan Chase and Co.*

What happens when number one and number two join forces? Investors will find out when Chase Manhattan and JP Morgan merge this year to form one gigantic banking conglomerate managing \$720 billion in assets. The new JP Morgan Chase and Co. will be the third largest venture capitalist in the industry with Douglas Warner and William Harrison at the helm. —Michelle Seaton

ULRICH BEZ, *Chairman and CEO, Aston Martin Lagonda*

The British-based high-performance/luxury car firm of Aston Martin Lagonda enjoyed a tremendously successful past year, but the company should do even better this year under Ulrich Bez, 56, who took the top spot there last July. While at Porsche, he directed the design, development, and introduction of the 911 Turbo, the Carrera RS, the 968, and the 993. He was also responsible for the company's research and development and racing programs, and handled product development and design at BMW.

Aston Martin cars have always had a uniquely British character. With Bez as the new headmaster, expect that old-school heritage to be enhanced by state-of-the-art engineering and performance. —Patrick C. Paternie

TOM STAATS, *General Manager, Highland House*

Americans in search of traditional English furniture can save themselves a trip across the Atlantic: The Harrods Fine Furniture Collection is now available here in the "Colonies" through a joint venture between London's august retail emporium and Hickory, N.C.-based Highland House, a division of Thomasville. "Americans



JOHN RAE

have a tremendous love and respect for English culture, and 20 percent of Harrods' customers are American," explains Tom Staats, 58.

Staats and his design team worked with renowned British architect Bill Mitchell and Harrods chairman Mohammed al-Fayed to select furniture designs from Harrods' extensive archives, and Highland House has faithfully re-created them using fine, rare woods such as walnut burl. The initial collection includes 55 pieces of case goods and upholstery for living rooms and drawing rooms, based on archival designs dating from the 1700s to the 1930s. Each piece is numbered and has a brass plaque etched with the Harrods crest. "We are creating tomorrow's antiques," Staats says.

—Donna Boyle Schwartz

CHARLES CAWLEY, CEO, MBNA

Charles Cawley, 60, is happy to help his clients live the good life without having to think twice. While several banks have introduced new superpremium credit cards for customers who feel they've outgrown their tired old platinum cards, MBNA has upped the standard with its translucent Quantum card. The card features a \$250,000 credit limit, with a backup credit line of \$1 million for those who may feel compelled to pick up a second home or two while vacationing on the Riviera. Cardholders can also tap into a network of services, including fraud protection, a concierge who can secure good seats at the opera or a Lakers game, travel services, and preferred rates on money market accounts. No doubt, Cawley is the first to identify the new-economy millionaires as a marketing niche for banks.

—Michelle Seaton

JOE GURRERA, President, Citarella

No trip to Manhattan is complete without a visit to a Citarella food store, where owner Joe Gurrera oversees a gastronomical heaven featuring items such as Iranian caviar, every type of oyster imaginable, fish flown in daily from Europe and the Caribbean, dry-aged prime steaks, game, white truffles, and goose foie gras. "I'll get whatever you want," Gurrera says. "If I can't get it, nobody can."

In 2000, out-of-towners were treated to the opening of a Citarella in the Hamptons and a web site where they could order food to be shipped overnight. But 2001 will be even bigger as Gurrera's brand-new Citarella the restaurant, in Rockefeller Center, welcomes the New York masses.

As usual, Gurrera demands the best. "Eric Ripert, the chef at Le Bernardin, knew I was looking for someone and told me about Brian Young, a cook who worked with him for three and a half years. I hired him to run the kitchen." Save room for dessert: Bill Yosses, who was at Bouley for 12 years, is head pastry chef. —Scott Haas

MITCHELL GOLD, Founder and President, Mitchell Gold Co.

BOB WILLIAMS, Design Director and Executive Vice President, Mitchell Gold Co.

People can't just look at a Mitchell Gold chair or sofa—they simply must indulge themselves by sinking into the plush, premium white goose down cushions and soft, supple fabrics and leathers. Gold, 49, a former marketing executive with Bloomingdale's and Lane, has been marrying style and comfort for 11 years at his Mitchell Gold Co., founded with design director Bob Williams, 39. "We develop furniture that looks inviting, furniture that people look at and say, 'Wow, I have to try that,'" Gold says. "We let ourselves be open to new ideas."

While the company is best known for its enormously popular Parisian club chairs and slipcovered sofas, Gold and Williams continue to innovate. Their latest collection,

Neo, features metal grid bases for chairs and sofas, paired with interesting fabric colors, such as apple green and pewter gray. "We don't do the same thing, year after year," Gold explains. "Neo is much younger in spirit, a little more hip and trendy."

Gold is also an innovative employer: His production facility boasts a health-conscious café, an employee gym, and its own on-site day care center, a first in the residential furniture industry. "I'm particularly proud of the day care center," Gold says. "We've proven that you can be good to your employees *and* be a profitable company!"
—*Donna Boyle Schwartz*

CALVIN KLEIN, *Founder, Calvin Klein Inc.*

Eminent designer Calvin Klein, 58, is best known for his chic sophistication and modern styling in apparel, yet this same sensibility pervades the Calvin Klein Home Collection. The collection, which currently includes refined bed and bath fashions, opulent down and feather bedding, and graceful tableware, is being expanded to furniture, rugs, and table linens. The items will be featured in 400 dedicated shops in selected department stores nationwide. "Last year we enjoyed a dramatic increase in both the number of [stores that carry the merchandise] and sales," states Rudy Schmatz, chairman of Calvin Klein Home. "We expect that trend to continue."

The newest Home Collection is inspired by nature's tone-on-tone purity: texture as pattern, pattern as texture, according to Barbara Deichman, senior vice president. A single color palette "revives and illuminates," she says, pointing to the Burnished bed as an example: "Burnished gold is a classic Calvin Klein color, understated and elegant." And in tableware, "the inspirations for this season are glamour and modern luxury, with new introductions in silver as well as gold-banded dinnerware."

—*Donna Boyle Schwartz*

JEFFREY VINIK, *Former Partner and Manager, Vinik Asset Management*

The announcement this past October sent a chill through the hearts of maverick investors. After four years of building his hedge fund into a top performer that earned a 46 percent return in the first 10 months of 2000 alone, Jeffrey Vinik, 41, announced that he was closing shop and returning \$4.2 billion in assets to his clients. The investors were understandably surprised and upset. The ones who had plunked down a \$2 million minimum investment when the fund opened back in 1996 had enjoyed a sevenfold return on their money. Critics were concerned that the closing of this fund did not signal a need for Vinik to spend time with his children, as he had stated, but rather that he knew what they were beginning to suspect: that the days of 30 percent and 40 percent returns were about to end and that Vinik was getting out while the getting was still good. If Vinik returns this year to build another fund, expect investors to flock to him.

—*Michelle Seaton*

SCOTT BRYAN, *Part Owner/Executive Chef, Veritas*

Dining at Veritas should remind you of the early years of the restaurant Bouley. Chef Scott Bryan, 35, shows the same restraint, confidence, and attention to detail with his menu items, and his cooking reflects a passion for what he calls "solid food and sauces with depth and flavor." Much of this attitude can be attributed to lessons he learned while working at Bouley before going on to work as sous-chef to Eric Ripert and Gray Kunz. But not all of it.

Bryan's cooking is from the heart. In less than two years his kitchen has earned three stars from *The New York Times* for items such as warm green and white

DANUTA OPIŃKOWSKI/MATRIX