

Among the contributors to this issue are:

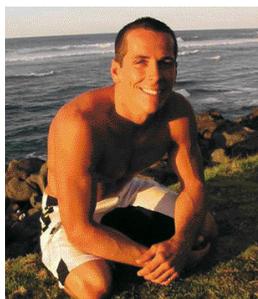


**Teresa Levonian Cole**

After half a lifetime spent in the rarefied world of music and the arts, Teresa Levonian Cole has abandoned her desk to pursue her twin passions of travel and shopping, about which she writes for the *Guardian*, the *Financial Times* and other journals. The paintings of Roger de Montebello are one of her most recent discoveries.

**Tristan Boxford**

At 27, Tristan is reigning European Wavesailing Champion and held the British and Triple Crown Titles in 2000 and 2002 respectively. With regular top-ten finishes in the World Cup, including a fifth place at the World Cup in the Canary Islands in 2002, Tristan has now turned to creating, marketing and presenting a series of reality-TV wavesailing shows, to introduce his sport to a wider audience. He now lives in Maui, Hawaii, where he is getting married in April.



**Laure de Gramont**

A member of one of the oldest aristocratic French families, Laure de Gramont has lived in Paris all her life. She graduated with an MA from Yale University, and has worked in fashion and book publishing. She was with French *Vogue* for fifteen years and is now a freelance journalist for the radio station France Culture. As a book editor, she travels around the world searching for new writers.



**Anthony Gardner**

Anthony Gardner is an Irish journalist based in London. He edits the Royal Society of Literature's magazine, *RSL*, and has been deputy editor of *Harpers & Queen* and senior editor of *Tatler*. He also contributes to British and American magazines, including the *Daily Telegraph Magazine* and *Town & Country*. He first saw Ian McKellen (whom he profiles in this issue), on stage as Mr Puff in *The Critic*, and remembers crying with laughter.



# FROM THE EDITOR



**L**IKE MANY people, I could not wait to see the final installment of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Return of the King*, when it came out in December. My thirteen-year-old daughter, Catherine, wanted to see Orlando Bloom, who plays Legolas the Elf and who has become the idol of her generation, but I wanted more of Sir Ian McKellen's marvellous Gandalf. That great actor's definitive Richard II was the first Shakespeare play to make any lasting impression on me, so I am particularly pleased that we have an interview with him in this issue of *PrivatAir* (page 20).

I revisited Venice last autumn for the first time in twenty years and was struck anew by the extraordinary light. No wonder artists have always found inspiration in La Serenissima. The young French painter Roger de Montebello is among the latest (page 44). I have postponed visiting both Egypt and India, but now I am starting to be tempted. Laure de Gramont has discovered a beautiful Lebanese-owned hotel near Luxor (page 48), and Carinthia West a haven of simple luxury in Rajasthan that sound too good to miss. West also tells us about a new charity devoted to caring for Asian elephants (page 38).

California, on the other hand, is somewhere I've often stayed, and I love the life there. It is somewhere people dream of moving to, but actually buying a Napa Valley vineyard and making a go of it has to be taken seriously. Even people who have succeeded in other fields, such as Francis Ford Coppola and Mario Andretti, have had to work hard, as Chloë Veltman reveals on page 15.

Last September, I was the first woman journalist to drive the new Bentley Continental GT in the south of Spain, and was most impressed. But to see what a real expert made of it, I handed the keys to the former Formula One World Champion Damon Hill. Read what he thinks on page 29.

Celestria Noel

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