

*Desert safari
in Siwa, Egypt*



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FROM THE EDITOR

Gold Standard

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE editing this magazine for discovering nuggets of information, useless and otherwise. I'd never thought about how much gold there was in the world but now learn that it would only cover a tennis court. It seems incredibly little. Which takes me neatly on to our main interview with Boris Becker, who found gold on court and has continued to do so off court, although we can reveal here that he missed the chance of signing up both the young Roger Federer and his rival Rafael Nadal. Quite a double, but unsurprisingly, he prefers not to dwell on it, which is perhaps why he is so successful. No regrets and on to the next.

Apart from bullion, coinage and dentistry (which I'd rather not think about), our most visible use of gold is in jewellery and our relationship with it in this form goes back to the dawn of civilization. In this issue, we show some of the most imaginative ways of using the precious metal and for the first time, have asked an artist to illustrate the

article, which makes the jewels seem even more fantastic.

The fantasy theme continues in the fashion pages, which are inspired by *Alice in Wonderland*. Always ahead of the game, we interviewed Johnny Depp, star of Tim Burton's new 3D film version, last year. Now we take a closer look at the whole 3D phenomenon and ask whether it will really take off this time. Maybe if you could do without the goggles?

The Fleming family are best known for helping people look after their accumulated gold (and other assets), but they also know a thing or two about collecting, having chosen Scottish art when it was still undervalued. Very canny, these Scots. Cleverer anyway than cousin Ian Fleming's best known villain, Auric Goldfinger, whose pursuit of gold did him no good in the end, remember. Gold lovers take note.

CELESTRIA NOEL

CONTRIBUTORS



LYDIA BELL
WRITER

Lydia Bell is a travel writer and editor and contributing editor of *Harper's Bazaar*, who has been on staff at *The Australian* newspaper, the *Financial Times* and the *Daily Mail*. She has lived in Sydney, Madrid, Bombay, Athens, Havana and Edinburgh, but is now back home in southeast London, having returned from an extended honeymoon in Cuba.



CHRISTIAN DAVID MOORE

ILLUSTRATOR

From a highly creative family, he's worked on projects for internet, TV and print and on interior design commissions. As an illustrator his clients include Max Factor, Condé Nast *Traveller* and *Elle*. He also has a book coming out in 2011. He has a passion for variety: 'If I can see a finished piece in my mind's eye I know that I can create it.'



LUCY FITZGEORGE-PARKER

WRITER

Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker worked in the City before moving into journalism. She left her position as deputy editor at *Business Traveller* UK edition in November 2009 to take a fast-track yachtmaster course, and now writes regularly on business, aviation and sailing for publications including *CNBC Business*, *The Sunday Telegraph* and *Yachting Monthly*.

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EDITOR

Celestria Noel

DESIGN DIRECTOR

Jonny Clark

DESIGNER

Gary Puntorno

GROUP PICTURE EDITOR

Helen Cathcart

GROUP CHIEF SUB-EDITOR

Steve Handley

SUB-EDITOR

Yvonne Chung

TYPOGRAPHY

Neutraface type by House Industries & xxx by Eduardo Recife

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Antonia Ferraro

REPROGRAPHICS

KFR Reprographics

PRINTING

Polestar Wheatons

LOGISTICS

www.goferslogistics.com

GROUP PUBLISHING

DIRECTOR

Giles Morgan

giles.morgan@ink-publishing.com

SALES MANAGER

Samantha Andrews

samantha.andrews@ink-publishing.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Michael Keating

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR

Simon Leslie

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Hugh Godsal

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Jeffrey O'Rourke

PUBLISHED BY

Ink, www.ink-publishing.com

+44 (0)20 7613 8777

FOR

PrivatAir

PrivatAir SA

Chemin des Papillons 18

PO Box 572, 1215 Geneva 15

Telephone +41 (0)22 929 6700

Fax +41 (0)22 929 6701

info@privatair.com

www.privatair.com

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