

LIGHT MY FIRE

BUGATTI VEYRON 16.4

HERE ARE 25 ITEMS THAT MAKE OUR PULSES RACE.

BY **FRANZ SCHEURER**

Bugatti Veyron 16.4 – France

The famous French marque with the distinctive exhaust note has combined unimaginable luxury with more horsepower than anyone ever thought possible in the world's most super sports car, the Bugatti Veyron 16.4. Imagine driving at its top speed of 400 kilometres an hour – you sure wouldn't want to run out of road. Reaching £1.1 million at auction in London recently, this is the most desirable car in the known universe.

www.bugatti-motors.com

Pearl Meat

The Paspaley family name is synonymous with pearls, and Broome in Western Australia is the Paspaley company's territory. The pearls are revered and so is the pearl meat, which is ivory in colour, tight yet tender in texture, and beautifully salty in taste. It is a rare treat.

www.paspaleypearls.com

Triumph Rocket III

With 2,300 cubic centimetres, a 240-section rear tyre, more torque than you can imagine and a substantial exhaust note from the three-cylinder engine, you get a road presence unlike that of any other motorbike. It's big, bold and brash and it tells others: "Move over, I'm the king of the road."

www.triumph.co.uk

Ardbeg 1965

If you have a spare £2,000 and good enough connections, you might be able to buy a bottle of the world's most exclusive Islay single malt – 261 bottles released with ten going to Japan, six to Australia and four to Taiwan. It is salty, peaty and complex, yet soft, caressing and velvety. Rare and desirable, it is probably the world's best single malt.

www.ardbeg.com

IWC Watches

The International Watch Company in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, has been making timepieces since 1868, and this is the brand of choice for the fickle Swiss. Be it a pilot's watch, a Portuguese, a Da Vinci or an Aquatimer; these timepieces keep you punctual in style. The latest Pilot collection includes a special-edition Saint-Exupéry as a tribute to French adventurer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of *The Little Prince*.

www.iwc.ch



IWC WATCHES



Carpaccio di tonno topped with deep-fried zucchini flowers at Buon Ricordo, Paddington, Sydney

Seared peppered tuna with an anchovy dressing is the inspiration of Head Chef Massimo Bianchi. Executive Chef and owner Armando Percuoco has always made the best deep-fried zucchini flowers (fried in excellent olive oil in a light yeast batter). Both elements are divine, but together in this dish they are divinely sensual.

www.buonricordo.com.au

BY **ROBERTA MUIR**

Goat cheese tortellini with pine nuts and raisins at Rockpool, Sydney

This has been the amuse bouche at one of Sydney's most legendary restaurants since the first time I ate there well over ten years ago. It wowed me then, and it wows me now. The secret to the sensual silken pasta, or so I've heard, is potato gnocchi dough.

www.rockpool.com

Watching a full moon rise over the Sydney Harbour Bridge from the balcony of The Wharf Restaurant, Walsh Bay, Sydney

Perched literally in Sydney Harbour at the end of a heritage-listed timber wharf, The Wharf Restaurant is the quintessential Sydney restaurant. The food and service are great, but what really turns me on is leaning on the balcony railing watching a full moon rise over the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

www.thewharfrestaurant.com.au

Eating freshly shucked oysters and drinking ice-cold Grosset Polish Hill riesling on the waterfront at Sydney Fish Market

Surely nothing could be better on a summer's day than the flinty taste of one of Australia's best rieslings, the briny, sweet, creamy taste of freshly shucked Sydney Rock oysters, and a view of the fishing boats bobbing on Blackwattle Bay at Sydney's bustling fish market.

www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au

Tapas plate at the upstairs bar of Guillaume at Bennelong in the Sydney Opera House

With a panoramic view of the Sydney Harbour Bridge (backlit by a fading sun) and the shimmering sails of the Opera House, it is sheer heaven to sit back in the upstairs bar of Guillaume at Bennelong and nibble on a tapas plate of crab sandwiches, prosciutto and figs, and basil-infused tuna while sipping a Manzanilla sherry.

www.guillaumatbennelong.com.au

FULL MOON OVER THE SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE



LightMyFire

BY **ANNE LOH**

Paris, any time of year

The most romantic city in the world to many, Paris has been known as La Ville Lumière (City of Light) since the 19th century. It has long had a powerful influence on fashion, gastronomy and art. Paris is all that – big-name designer goods, cosy bistros, Michelin-starred restaurants, and tripping over museums and galleries every way you turn – but it is so much more. What I like most, and you can do this regardless of the season, is walking around the main districts of the city on the Left and Right Bank.

www.franceguide.com

The Bang & Olufsen BeoCom2

For many people, this Danish company has always pressed the right buttons with its products, and that is the reason for its success. But what really floats my boat is the BeoCom2, which epitomises the word sleek. Crafted from a single piece of aluminium, this elegant cordless telephone is wonderful to hold. And with its organic design it looks fantastic whether on a desk or a wall charger.

www.bang-olufsen.com

Cristal champagne

Cristal champagne is the tête de cuvée of the house of Louis Roederer. Created in 1878 for Tsar Alexander II of Russia, Cristal is made only in the best years from pinot noir and chardonnay from ten of the best crus in Champagne. I love its clear bottle – showing the golden wine to its best advantage – and the rich, full-bodied and elegant style.

www.champagne-roederer.com

Riedel Amadeo Lyra

I have a weak spot for design, and products that look good usually get under my skin before I even think about functionality. The limited edition, mouth-blown and hand-crafted Riedel Amadeo Lyra decanter is a case in point. This decanter is part of the Amadeo collection celebrating the 250th anniversaries of Riedel and the composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. With its curves and shape, this unique decanter will surely make pouring wine a pleasure.

www.riedel.com

Jamón ibérico de bellota

This is the best ham in the world, and we can't get it in Singapore. It's just not fair. When I think about placing a paper-thin slice of jamón ibérico de bellota on my tongue and feeling the tasty fat (mono-unsaturated, of course) melt into my palate, I just want to jump on the first available plane to Spain. Jamón ibérico de bellota is the highest grade there is and comes from an ancient swine breed that gains a third of its weight during the montanera period, when it forages acorns for six months. Best unadorned, with a chilled glass of fino.

www.realiberico.com





COLLETTE'S BED & BREAKFAST

BY **PAT TANUMIHARDJA**

Chocolate lavender anything

The first time I tasted chocolate and lavender in the same bite, I almost fainted with delight. The sweet floral essence of these petite purple flowers and the bitterness of dark chocolate make the perfect marriage (next to mine of course). Henceforth, the abundant lavender buds in my garden have gone into chocolate lavender ice cream, chocolate lavender truffles and my all-time favourite – chocolate lavender pot de crème.

Colette's

There is no better weekend retreat than Colette's, a romantic bed and breakfast poised on four hectares of woodland overlooking Juan de Fuca Strait on Washington State's Olympic Peninsula. An entire wall of windows framing water views, an en-suite spa, and a gourmet three-course breakfast complete the experience.

Colette's Bed & Breakfast, 339 Finn Hall Road, Port Angeles, Washington, United States, tel: +1 (877) 457-9777, www.colettes.com.

A walk in the cornfields

On a recent trip to Ohio (the state's 2004 crop neared 12 billion bushels), I took a walk in the cornfields in my friend's back yard (I kid you not). It was an amazing experience: I breathed in the "fresh produce" smell, pulled corn right off the stalk, and felt the bristly cornstalk leaves brushing my face, arms and legs. And nothing beats biting into a cob of just-picked bi-coloured corn.

Devon Cream Tea

Having lived in Devon cream tea country for two years, I could not help but become addicted to this heavenly combo of a steaming pot of Assam tea, fresh-baked currant scones, homemade strawberry jam and oh-so-luscious clotted cream. It's not called clotted cream for nothing – and not meant to be spread sparingly.



CHOCOLATE LAVENDER

Exploring foreign food and culture

I love to travel. No matter where I go, the highlights are always meeting new people and tasting local food. Having friends all over the world to visit has given me an insider's perspective. Even if your circle of friends is limited to one continent, organisations like Servas International (servas.org) and Home Food (homefood.it) provide grown-up homestays that give you an insight into a country and culture like no guidebook can.

BY **FARHAD HEYDARI**

Ettinger wallets

Despite a strong Goyard-style following in Asia, especially in Japan, Ettinger – purveyor of leather goods to HRH The Prince of Wales – has gone virtually invisible at home in Britain. Still, the Royal Warrant holder remains an ode to craftsmanship. Its bridle hide leather wallets, available in one of nine colours – including petrol-blue and red for men or women – are an absolute joy to behold, regardless of what legal tender they will be holding.

www.ettinger.co.uk

Filson safari gear

Sure it's kitschy, but nothing says exotic travel – whether that's the Gobi or Goslar – like this iconic bush jacket. In addition to being stylish (it can be worn with French-cuffed shirts as easily as it can be matched to cotton twill shorts), it is light (made from poplin, it weighs just 2.2 kilogrammes) and is entirely functional, with pockets for carrying everything from a Blackberry to a Cybershot.

www.filson.com

Rösle oyster knife

Few things are as wonderful to tackle as the pied de l'huître, the delectable white morsel of muscle by which the oyster is attached to its shell. And few objects are created so ideally for the job as the Rösle oyster knife, whose flawlessly designed shape (forged from stainless steel) and perfect balance make it the ultimate companion to one of nature's most amazing bounties.

www.rosleusa.com

Audi RS6 plus avant

Most automobiles shout their performance stats, but this seemingly tame family estate (one of just 999 built) opts to understate and over-deliver. How? Underneath an otherwise sedate body rests a 480-horsepower bi-turbo V8 that hurtles it to 100 kilometres an hour in 4.6 seconds, and all the way to a top speed of 280 kilometres an hour. The car not only makes the school run fun but with all-wheel drive it also makes it safe.

Puma TrainAway

For the active jetsetter, packing workout clothes has always been tricky. But now Puma – whose ground-breaking 96Hours line a few years ago became the de facto uniform for the stylistically clued-up – has unveiled TrainAway. This is a packable lightweight training outfit consisting of sleek running shorts, a breathable shirt, a pair of collapsible shoes with a slot for credit cards or hotel room keys, and a weatherproof jacket that reverses to hold it all.

www.trainaway.puma.com



FILSON BUSH JACKET



AUDI RS6 PLUS AVANT