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Tory Burch  
for Tory Burch



# 20 OBJECTS OF DESIRE

What treats and treasures deserve a place on your most-wanted list for 2008? We have some dandy suggestions.

## 1. HAUTE HANDBAG

Get in line now for the **Hermès** Birkin bag—you may be there for a while. Named in 1984 for actress Jane Birkin, this prized accessory (at left, in violet crocodile, \$27,400) has topped the fashion charts for so long that it's redefined our concept of what fashionable means. From selecting the exotic skins to handcrafting the end result, each bag typically takes between six months and two years to make. Worth the wait? Stylish women the world over think so. 800-441-4488; [hermes.com](http://hermes.com).



## 2. PRECIOUS PERFUME

Douse yourself if you dare, but at \$2,350 an ounce, perhaps a discreet little dab of the fragrance called *No. 1* had better do. This exquisite floral-oriental composition is reminiscent of the days when Queen Victoria granted the English perfumery that is now **Clive Christian** the right to use her crown's likeness on the bottle stopper. A diamond embellishes the lead-crystal flacon. *At Bergdorf Goodman, NYC, 800-558-1855; [clive.com](http://clive.com).*



## 3. AN ETHEREAL GARDEN

Hire in-demand British landscape designer **Tom Stuart-Smith** and fill your beds not with traditional cottage-garden flowers but with masses of lovingly selected, artistically placed plants. This winner of several Chelsea Flower Show awards, whose work has been commissioned by Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel, the Earl of March and Her Majesty the Queen, will wow you. *Prices on request. 011-44-207-253-2100; [www.tomstuartsmith.co.uk](http://www.tomstuartsmith.co.uk).*







#### 4. THE JOY OF JAR

Commission a one-of-a-kind bauble from **JAR**, or Joel Arthur Rosenthal, the man many consider to be the world's greatest living jeweler. Famous for his sculptural flair, the Paris-based Rosenthal uses rare gems in extraordinary combinations, as in the brooch at left, a fantasy of peridots, emeralds, green garnets, diamonds and Oriental pearls set in silver and gold. "JAR designs are museum pieces," says François Curiel, Christie's international head of jewelry. "They're so rare that there is no limit to what collectors are willing to spend to own one." *By appointment only (but we can't guarantee that you'll get one).*

#### 5. GIRLFRIENDS' GETAWAY

Take your best friend to a spa, one where *you* make up the schedule for a change. We recommend the **Mayflower Inn & Spa**, in the daydream-inspiring woods of Washington, Connecticut. Let your hair down, remove your makeup, talk until dawn—or catch up on your sleep. Do as much or as little as you like, at your own pace. *One-night weekend stay from \$495 per person. Three-night weekday stay from \$4,800 per person (all treatments, classes and meals included). 860-868-9466; mayflowerinn.com.*



#### 6. A LITTLE LANVIN

Choose something exuberant and coquettish from Alber Elbaz's transcendent spring/summer collection for **Lanvin**. The designer, an expert in couture-quality fit and detail, clearly knows how to merge the sophisticated with the feminine. This strapless tiered-ruffle dress in washed gazar (\$4,325) will put you right on the prettiest part of the cutting edge. *At Barneys New York, NYC, 888-8-BARNEYS.*



## 7. SWEET AND LOW

Collect **Roger Vivier's** patent-leather Belle Vivier (\$525 a pair) in every color, and celebrate the return of the elegant flat. Vivier's signature buckle shoe debuted on the YSL catwalk in 1965, but it was two years later, when worn by Catherine Deneuve in the film *Belle de Jour*, that it gained recognition as a fashion



symbol for the modern-minded woman. Today, under the creative direction of Bruno Frisoni, the brand has enlivened Vivier's original vision with an array of striking fabrics, hues and toe shapes, and new variations are introduced each season. 212-861-5371.



## 8. MAKE YOURS MOSCOW

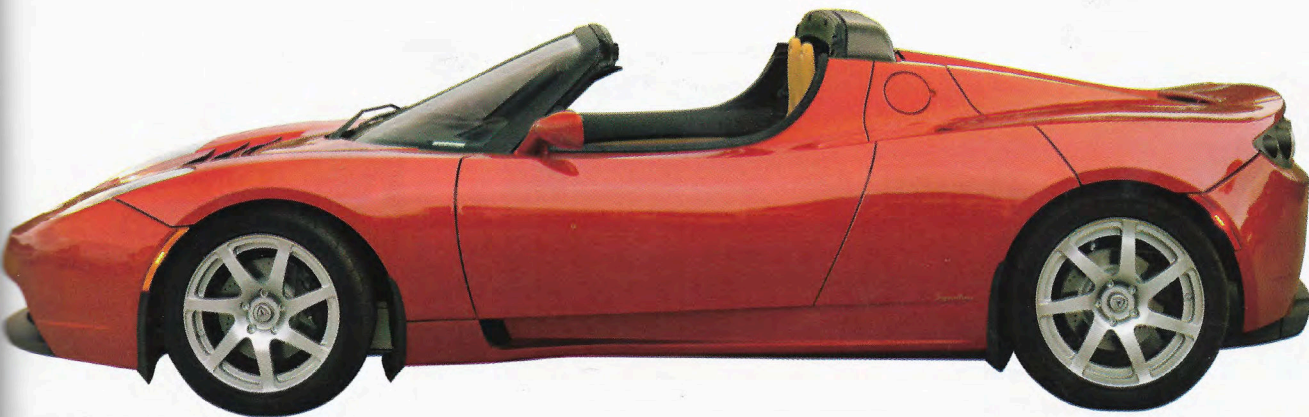
Visit the capital of Russia and you'll find a city that's shrugging off its foreboding image and painting itself in vivid Technicolor. Less than two decades after the Iron Curtain parted, a changing national identity and the rise of a new elite are translating modern **Moscow** into a city with an embarrassment of riches: avant-garde art, inventive takes on traditional cuisine, hyperdesigned hotel suites and more luxury buys than you can take home in a Vuitton steamer trunk. *For ultimate access, sign up with Exeter International. [exeterinternational.com](http://exeterinternational.com).*



## 9. PEARLS OF WISDOM

Beach the Russian beluga, skip the Iranian sevruga—so 19th century! With the future of exports from the Caspian and Black seas uncertain because of overfishing, it's chic to be smarter than your caviar choice. Follow chef Thomas Keller's lead: serve **Sterling Caviar**, made in California from farm-raised American white sturgeon. *Sold in three grades from \$62 for 1.1 ounces. 800-525-0323. [sterlingcaviar.com](http://sterlingcaviar.com).*





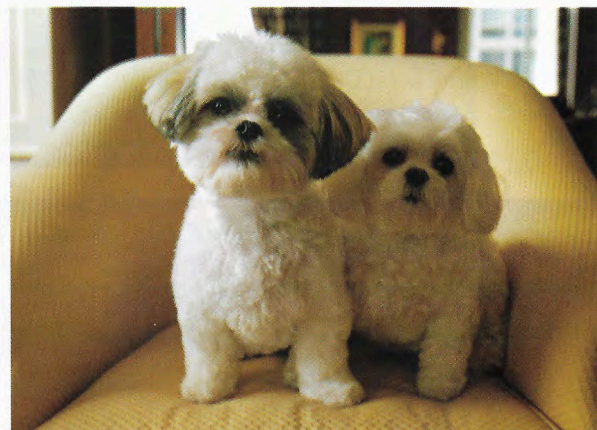
## 10. MEGA-HOT WHEELS

Put your name on the waiting list to buy the first fully electric-powered sports car. When the **Tesla Roadster** debuts later this year, it should prove that environmentally friendly autos don't have to be dowdy and that speedsters don't have to guzzle gas. The convertible coupe is expected to accelerate from zero to sixty in under four seconds (that's faster than a Porsche) and to drive 245 miles before its battery needs recharging. *From \$98,000. 877-TESLA-EV; teslamotors.com.*



## 11. HEY, BIG SPENDERS

Flash these plastic status symbols and impress even the most jaded members of your set. The **Marquis Jet Card** comes loaded with at least twenty-five hours of flight time aboard a range of planes (*from \$119,900; marquisjet.com*). Call ten hours in advance and you can drive right onto the tarmac and be in Paris by dinner. When you get there, your American Express **Centurion Card** concierge will secure you a suite at any hotel or a table at any top restaurant. To qualify for membership, you must spend more than \$250,000 a year with any AmEx card—and be invited into this exclusive club.



## 12. A PET-SET PORTRAIT

Forget frumpy old oil paintings. The true sign of breeding (mixed or otherwise) today? Professional **photos of your pets**. New York's Julie Skarratt immortalizes your favorite family members in both print and digital versions, including a Web-based slide show set to music. You, too, can be included in the images—as long as you're well-behaved and don't bark (or bite). *From \$10,000. 212-877-2604.*

## 13. CHINA'S LAST FRONTIER

Head soon for the southwestern province of **Yunnan** and you'll be one of the first non-Chinese visitors to set foot in this haunting region. In fact, it wasn't until Banyan Tree (*banyantree.com*) recently opened its pair of magnificent hotels—and the government officially rechristened the area of Zhongdian as Shangri-La—that foreigners could witness the snowcapped peaks and ancient Tibetan cities for themselves. *Get there by private jet with remotelands.com.*







## 14. CURVES AHEAD

Dine with **Greg Lynn**'s new flatware in your hands and see what contemporary silver can have in common with orchids, tropical fish or even a dancer's sinuous physique. The boundary-pushing architect and his design team have used advanced digital manufacturing techniques to shape curves that Nature herself would covet. *About \$1,000 per piece. 310-821-2629.*



## 15. UPSTANDING

Slip on a pair of **René Caovilla** evening heels and feel instantly glamorous. Studded with Swarovski crystals and elaborately embroidered, these couture creations have given new meaning to "over the top" in shoes—quite a, well, top. The Venice-based designer opened his first U.S. boutique in Palm Beach in 2009; a second is scheduled to open in Beverly Hills in February. *Jeweled sandals \$2,000. 561-459-1712.*



## 17. A BEVY OF BOUQUETS

Say it—to yourself—with flowers. The standing order for a weekly delivery of petal power direct to your own home. New York designer **Zezé**, known for vibrant displays, created this masterpiece, ample of a pick-me-up arrangement (\$300), using peonies, hydrangeas and roses—just the thing to start your Monday bloom. *212-753-7862.*



## 16. THE CHICEST SUITE

When you book the **Four Seasons**' Ty Warner Penthouse (named for the hotel's owner), in New York, prepare for a whopper of a paradigm shift. The size of the place (a 4,300-square-foot one-bedroom) and the price (\$30,000 a night) amaze, but it's the artistry of the interior design that boggles. Masterminded, surface by surface, custom object by custom object, by Peter Marino, it has all the finesse of his top residential projects. He's the man; this is the suite. *57 East 57th Street, NYC; 800-819-5053; [fourseasons.com/newyorkfs](http://fourseasons.com/newyorkfs).*





## 18. CRUISE ON OPY'S

That's shorthand for "other people's yachts," and to do it in style you need to fish for an invite to board a big one (100 feet or longer)—a **megayacht**. Start by making a list of all the billionaires you know, and if Paul Allen's on it, you're in luck: not only does he own *three* supersized vessels, but the largest—the seven-deck, 414-foot *Octopus* (above)—has more amenities than its namesake has arms, including a pool, a basketball court, a cinema and a recording studio. A reported seven other onboard boats, plus a helicopter and, oh yes, a submarine, make arrivals and departures a sea breeze.

## 19. HIS LAST RTW COLLECTION

Select (and treasure) one of the looks from **Valentino's** final spring ready-to-wear show for the design house he built forty-six years ago. If buttery yellow roses are what start you dreaming, then consider this taffeta column (\$23,990), which embodies all that we love from the venerable Roman couturier: ruches, tiers, draping and ruffled flowers, in all their feminine glamour. *At Valentino boutiques, 212-772-6969.*



## 20. STEP UP TO THE PLATE

Savor a meal at Chicago's **Alinea**, perhaps the most innovative restaurant in America. Chef Grant Achatz trained with Thomas Keller at the French Laundry and picked up molecular gastronomy at Spain's El Bulli. The results, such as the Kobe-beef dish above, are elemental bliss. *1723 North Halsted; 312-867-0110; [alinearrestaurant.com](http://alinearrestaurant.com).*