

GRAND OPENINGS NEW HOTELS AND RESORTS IN VIENNA, MONTANA, AND LAS VEGAS

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LUXURY'S **25** MOST INNOVATIVE BRANDS

LAMBORGHINI | ULYSSE NARDIN | CARTIER | DOM PÉRIGNON | AMAN RESORTS | NOBU | LOUIS VUITTON
AUDEMARS PIGUET | PORSCHE | HERMÈS | WALLY YACHTS | ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA | HERITAGE AUCTIONS
SINGITA | PHILIPPE STARCK | FOUR SEASONS HOTELS AND RESORTS | DUCATI | WILLIAM GRANT & SONS
EMBRAER | CHANEL | GAGOSIAN GALLERY | HEESSEN YACHTS | DAVIDOFF | STEINWAY LYNGBORF | BMW



LAMBORGHINI'S
\$4 MILLION VENENO

PLUS MOROCCO EXTREME

Ducati

BY ALL RIGHTS, Ducati should have crested the horizon and become a footnote in motorcycle history, just as Laverda, Mondial, Moto Morini, and a host of other once-famous Italian marques did. But Ducati kept the feeble flame alive during the dark years that began in the 1980s and continued into the 1990s and beyond. Starting in the 1950s, the company's jewellike singles and glorious V-twins brought fame to Ducati and the racers who rode the bikes to victories. But that acclaim and the genius of chief engineer Fabio Tagliani and his desmodromic valve train could not prevent the complicated and expensive Bolognese masterpieces from losing ground in the market to Japanese



machines that were inexpensive, quick, and as reliable as a Honda Civic. Still, the lure of a Ducati—the Ferrari of motorcycles—beckoned connoisseurs who appreciated the V-twin bikes' lightness, elegant design, and singularity of purpose. Ducati kept refining its machines, pushing technology and production volume to meet modern market demands, while also continuing to demonstrate prowess in competition. Ducati's ability to maintain its prestige by consistently producing groundbreaking machines (while struggling to make profits) ultimately paid off last year, when Audi acquired the brand from an Italian investment group for more than \$1 billion. www.ducati.com —ROBERT ROSS



The 2013 Ducati 1199 Panigale R recently received *Robb Report's* Best of the Best Sportbike title. Inset: The famed 1974 750 SS.

Philippe Starck

OVER THE COURSE of a four-decade career, Philippe Starck has stamped his name on everything from toothbrushes and tableware to electric cars and yacht interiors. It is his consistency, however, that has helped the French designer and architect shape modern tastes. "In all of my work, it is not about architecture or decoration, but more about a point of view and a philosophy," says Starck. "Whether it's a place or a product, I only care about the profit of the user."

Born in Paris in 1949, Starck first gained international attention for his work on hotels. He conceived interiors for the Morgans Hotel Group, a pioneer in the design-hotel trend, beginning with the Royalton in New York City in 1988. Today he collaborates with other top names in hospitality, such as SLS Hotels and Raffles Hotels & Resorts, and his product-design portfolio keeps growing: crystal for Baccarat, outdoor furniture for Dedon, bath wares for Duravit, lighting for Flos, chairs for



Kartell, sofas for Cassina. "Whether it's a toothpick or a megayacht," Starck says, "I design everything with the same rigor and attention to detail."

Next year, every last detail will be in its place at his latest brainchild, the Stairs, a 12-villa hotel under way in Bali. It is the first hospitality-related endeavor for which Starck has designed every element, from the architecture to the furnishings. "Every project is an opportunity to create something new and fresh," he says. "It's what gets me out of bed in the morning." +33.1.48.07.5454, www.starck.com —SAMANTHA BROOKS

The Stairs (rendering shown), a 12-villa hotel under way in Bali, is among the prolific designer's latest projects.

Steinway Lyngdorf

PETER LYNKDORF HAS almost single-handedly brought digital audio into the realm of high fidelity. In 1998, the Danish acoustic engineer spearheaded the creation of the first all-digital amplifier. He later perfected digital signal-processing and room-correction technology. In 2005, he formed Steinway Lyngdorf through a partnership with the 160-year-old piano maker Steinway & Sons. The joint venture's speaker designs—including the new 8.2-foot-tall Model LS Concert series (\$172,000 per pair)—are heralded by both digital and analog audiophiles, but it is Lyngdorf's component technologies that place him in a hi-fi category of his own.

Steinway Lyngdorf's inaugural music system, the Model D (which launched in 2007), features digital amplification and signal processing derived from technology Lyngdorf had developed more than 10 years earlier. The system's onboard amplifier processes the audio signal entirely in the digital

domain, so that pure voltage—rather than the amplification, clunky analog conversions, and separate signal processing of traditional systems—determines the system's volume, delivering the sound with the utmost clarity across all listening levels.

Lyngdorf's room-correction technology, called RoomPerfect, optimizes the sound of his systems in any environment and broadens the sonic "sweet spot" to the entire room. This technology, which manufacturers including McIntosh Labs have licensed from Lyngdorf, helps bring his music systems to the forefront of audio reproduction—a place where he intends to stay. Lyngdorf is currently working on a stereo amplifier that will allow users to incorporate his digital technologies into any hi-fi system. 212.588.9330, www.steinwaylyngdorf.com —BAILEY S. BARNARD



The Steinway Lyngdorf Model LS Concert loudspeakers have an open-baffle design.