

FLY-IN RESORTS \* CUSTOM JUMBO JETS \* MEGAYACHT CHARTERS

# Robb Report

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## PRIVATE ESCAPES

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JULY 2007



**OPEN SEASON**  
Mercedes Takes Aim at  
Bentley's Convertible

robbreport.com

A CURTCO MEDIA PUBLICATION

Belt buckles with prehistoric bite, a sportswear shop that will not be dated. . . .

**TOOTHsome ACCESSORY** \* Woolly mammoths died out about 10,000 years ago, but their tusks have been resurrected as fashion accessories. J.W. Cooper (www.jwcooper.com) has used the tusks, which are in fact elongated teeth, to make buckles for a limited line of belts. An artist embellishes the buckles with sterling silver and 18- or 22-karat gold and adds motifs (including the burning skull of a ghost rider) in semiprecious stones. The belts range in price from \$1,260 to \$6,500 and are available in lengths up to size 50. . . .



J.W. Cooper's mammoth-tusk belt buckle.

**DOMINANT JEANS** \* Mario Bisio, known for the tailored clothing that he sells at his flagship shop in Portland, Ore., has opened a second boutique that showcases luxury sportswear. Mario's 3.10

(www.marios.com), located 12 miles away in Bridgeport Village, features denim brands such as Prps and Earnest Sewn and a range of jeans-compatible jackets, outerwear, and knits from Hugo Boss, Etro, Cucinelli, Loro Piana, and John Varvatos. The "3.10" in the shop's name derives from March 10, which,

when shortened to Mar. 10, seems to spell "Mario." . . . The Geneva watch manufacturer F.P. Journe (www.fpjourn.com) has opened a new boutique in Boca Raton, Fla. The 1,000-square-foot store is Journe's fourth, an extraordinary number for a company that makes just 850 pieces per year. . . .

**A GOOD MIXER** \* Spirits are likely to run high in the French Quarter of New Orleans during the fifth annual Tales of the Cocktail (www.talesofthecocktail.com), a festival that will take place from July 18 through 22. The event will include culinary and bar competitions, street parties, and walking tours of bars and restaurants. Some 50 seminars will explore an array of distillates and such topics as wine-based cocktails and the future of mixology. . . .

**FROM THE ROBB CELLAR** \* Fine wines & spirits worthy of a place in your private collection.



**A**LTHOUGH ITS NAME means "large palace" in Italian, Il Palazzone is a small estate comprising 20 acres, of which, according to DOCG regulations, a mere 10 may be used in the production of Brunello di Montalcino. But the acreage and the annual production (about 350 cases) are the only diminutive aspects to this enormously elegant expression of Sangiovese. Aged for an additional year beyond the required two, Il Palazzone Brunello di Montalcino 2001 bears delectable witness to the benefits of this regimen: A deep burnished red in color, the wine offers up intense cherry and plum aromas spiced with sweet rosemary. The palate is silky and rich with an earthy dark chocolate. (\$90) www.ilpalazzone.com

**PAT KULETO'S CAREER** has been predicated on two notions: Never take the conventional solution where an unconventional one exists, and never listen to what other people say. The designer and

contractor has an unusual sense of style and fun—of combining disparate elements into an eclectic whole—that converged with his love of food when he unveiled the first Fog City Diner in 1985. With restaurant design, Kuleto had found one of his callings. The other calling was wine. He chose a 760-acre mountaintop property above Napa Valley's Lake Hennessey as a site on which to produce, ignoring the opinions of experts who considered the land unsuitable for vineyards. The terraced vineyards contain plots of different varietals, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese, Zinfandel, and Syrah, the unlikely building blocks of the Kuleto Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2002. The vintage, like Kuleto's designs, achieves harmony from what some might regard as discordant elements. The dark, sensuously textured wine sends up a chorus of flavors, from spiced plum and licorice to bitter-sweet chocolate, grilled sage, and piquant pepper. (\$85) www.kuletoestate.com