

TOWN & COUNTRY

SEPTEMBER 2023

You Think You Know
Sofia Richie Grainge?
BIG MISTAKE. HUGE.

— *Plus* —

Rome's Naughtiest Appartamento • SOS! Bitcoin Bros in Distress •
Jedi Wine Tricks • The Trouble with Con Man Confessions •
How to Quit Quiet Luxury • Duke, Baruch, or Bust: The New College Ultimatum •
The Joys of Social Climbing • Your Fall Culture Olympics •
Let's All Just Move to E. 52nd Street

BRIGHT THINGS

WE FOUND ALL THE ICE IN ITALY / YOUR VIVALDI ERA / WHAT ALEXIS WORE

NATURE Does This

Throughout history, the four seasons have inspired music, art, and literature. Add high jewelry to that mix.

BY LEENA KIM

The Italians have a certain expertise when it comes to artistic interpretations of the seasons. Take the court painter Giuseppe Arcimboldo's quartet of figurative works depicting spring, summer, fall, and winter, which he offered to the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian II in 1569. The ruler loved them so much he commissioned another set (which hangs in the Louvre). See also Manfredi's *Allegory of the Four Seasons* and Vivaldi, of course, who published his most famous composition in 1725. Literature too: Italo Calvino dedicated a book of short stories to the theme (*Marcovaldo*, 1963).

Now another example joins the national canon, courtesy of Gucci and its latest high jewelry collection, *Allegoria*. What might the four seasons look like translated into precious gems and gold? A 226-carat green tourmaline glows with the promise of spring, while spinels and emeralds mirror summer's exuberance. Autumn is ripe with mandarin garnets, and winter, naturally, is a profusion of ice (aka diamonds). Here, a 104.4-carat yellow sapphire sways from a chain of diamonds and blue enamel. Can you guess the *stagione*?

Each piece in Gucci's new high jewelry collection represents a season. This one? Hint: *inverno*.

GUCCI ALLEGORIA NECKLACE IN WHITE GOLD AND BLUE ENAMEL WITH YELLOW SAPPHIRE AND DIAMONDS, AVAILABLE AT GUCCI PLACE VENDOME, 011-33-1-7079-1524

How to Get to MILAN?

Spinel, spinels, spinels.

BY STELENE VOLANDES



BEGIN HERE

When it was founded in Milan in 1967, Pomellato was a pioneer in what was then called prêt-à-porter jewelry. Before that, jewels were something you took out of the vault on special occasions. Pomellato created pieces for newly working, increasingly independent women to wear anytime they wanted. Those strong, handcrafted pieces remain classics and that mission Pomellato's signature. The house introduced high jewelry in 2020, and though the rare stones and intricate designs of the one-of-a-kind handmade pieces may not suggest jewelry for every day, the Pomellato focus on the woman who wears each piece and the life she lives while doing so remains clear. As does its center of inspiration: The collection's title is Ode to Milan. This Skyline necklace, which moves almost like a scarf draped casually down the neck, is designed with 128 rare spinels, a stone famed for its place in history (the Black Prince's ruby in the British Imperial State Crown? Trick question. It's a spinel) and for its rarity (high-quality spinels can be harder to find than diamonds). This necklace is part of a chapter in the collection titled Vertical Landscapes, in honor of the city's *molto milanese* architecture.

POMELLATO SKYLINE NECKLACE (\$417,850), POMELLATO MADISON AVENUE, 212-879-2118

DON'T LOOK DOWN

In 2014 two verdant towers appeared against the Milanese sky. The façades of Bosco Verticale, designed by Boeri Studio, are home to 800 trees. How do you translate the inspiration from visionary works of architecture into something someone might want to wear to the black tie opening of, say, an architecture biennale? Color creates the blueprint. The Bosco Verticale inspired green tsavorite and blue and pink sapphire bracelets in Pomellato's Ode to Milan collection; the famed architecture of Giò Ponti—specifically his Palazzo Montedoria (above), near Piazza Caiazzo—was the creative source of this Giardini Verticale necklace, in which the shades of Ponti's vision are mimicked by a stone called indicolite, a variety of blue tourmaline that is said to promote openness and tolerance, as well as protection from evil curses.

POMELLATO GIARDINI VERTICALE NECKLACE (\$499,600), POMELLATO MADISON AVENUE, 212-879-2118



AND THERE YOU ARE

Could there be a collection called Ode to Milan without an homage to the Duomo? Work began on the grand cathedral around 1386, and it's still not quite finished. It remains the establishing shot of any visit to Milan. The achievements of this Terrazza Duomo necklace are its subtle engineering—it sits perfectly against the wearer's collarbone—and the way it elevates Pomellato's bold signature gold and diamond palette into the realm of high jewelry through cut and design. But the piece is also remarkable, given the intricacy of its inspiration, in its simplicity. And the power of that, as any observer will be keen to tell you, is as much a landmark of Milanese style as any building.

POMELLATO TERRAZZA CHOKER (\$190,750), POMELLATO MADISON AVENUE, 212-879-2118

The T&C Jewelry Wardrobe

So you want to be a collector? First, lay the foundation with a classic. This month: the button earring.



Joan Collins immortalized TV villainy—and button earrings—on *Dynasty*.

▼ THE OLD GUARD

LALAOUNIS
EARRINGS (\$7,200),
LALAOUNIS.COM



▲ THE DRAMA QUEENS

ANTONIA MILETTO WOOD AND CORAL
EARRINGS (\$10,700), ANTONIAMILETTO.COM



▲ THE ANTIQUES

MAHNAZ COLLECTION MOBIUS EARRINGS BY
VIVIANNA TORUN FOR GEORG JENSEN (\$950),
MAHNAZCOLLECTION.COM



▲ THE WILD CARDS

ELIZABETH GAGE GOLD AND
BLACK ENAMEL EARRINGS
(\$13,939), ELIZABETH-GAGE.COM



▼ THE GOLD STANDARD

MARCO BICEGO
MEDIUM STUD
EARRINGS (\$2,280),
MARCOBICEGO.COM



▲ THE COSTUME

SWAROVSKI DULCIS CLIP EARRINGS
(\$195), SWAROVSKI.COM



▲ THE FLORALS

BUCCELLATI BLOSSOMS COLOR
EARRINGS (\$1,500), BUCCELLATI.COM



▼ THE DIAMONDS

HEMMERLE
DIAMOND AND
WHITE GOLD
EARRINGS,
HEMMERLE.COM



IN THEORY & PRACTICE

TIP 1: LEARN THE LANGUAGE

Despite its popular association with '80s glamour, the button earring emerged in the 1930s as a pared-down antidote to the dripping decadence of the Roaring Twenties.

TIP 2: IDENTIFY YOUR IDOLS

Coco Chanel, Jackie Kennedy, Joan Rivers, and Giovanna Engelbert have all done service to the style, but no one more than Joan Collins, as the inimitable Alexis Carrington on *Dynasty*.

TIP 3: EXERCISE GRAND GESTURES

Post-backs or clip-ons? Modern versions come in both, but consider the theatrical flair of pulling off a clip-on button earring to answer the phone. That's an OG move.



Salvatore Ferragamo