

FINANCIAL TIMES

How to spend it

40-PAGE
FORMULA ONE SPECIAL

MAGNATE OPUS
BERNIE ECCLESTONE
ON WHY AN F1 BOOK IS
WORTH A COOL \$1M

THE FRIDAY EDITION NOVEMBER 8 2013

the aesthete

Michael Bruno is the founder and president of 1stdibs, the online antiques marketplace for design, jewellery, fine art and couture

My personal style signifier is a pair of Alden cordovan loafers in a 1950s design. They are in the leather from the hindquarters of a horse so their shape never changes. I can ride my bike, walk in the sand and meet a friend at their club in them. They are high quality and classic. From \$619; www.aldenshop.com.

The last thing I bought and loved was a 19th-century parrot doorstop from an antiques dealers in New York for \$125. It's colourful and very animated. I like to open all the windows and doors in my Georgian house, but without doorstops I am constantly hearing bangs, so I've started a collection of them. *North Sea Road, Southampton, New York, NY 11968.*

And the thing I'm eyeing next is a bespoke suit from Tom Ford on Madison Avenue. It will be dark blue with a thin pinstripe and a single medium-width lapel. I already have several, but this summer I wasn't my usual yogi self, so I need another. *Made to measure from \$3,800; 845 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021 (+1212-359 0300; www.tomford.com).*

An unforgettable place I've travelled to in the past year is Sintra in Portugal. It's a Unesco World Heritage Site just inland from Europe's most westerly point. They started building spectacular royal retreats high up on the hills in the 8th and 9th centuries. The Pena National Palace still has much of its original furniture, and its Triton Portico is beyond incredible – an allegory of the creation of the world. www.parquesdesintra.pt.

And the best souvenirs I've brought home are two 11ft x 8ft paintings I found at a warehouse just outside Antwerp. They are impressionist-style works, but very simple, almost modern, of the North Sea – one by day, the other by moonlight. Paul Kuhstohs painted them in 1897 for a public building in Brussels. As they hang on either side of the wall separating the morning room and my office, they are actually back to back.

Hispanics, Kloosterstraat 56/65, Antwerp 2000 (+3233-537 090; hispanics.be).

An indulgence I would never forego is print newspapers, in particular the *Financial Times* and *The New York Times*. I feel you can take in the news more, disconnected from a computer. www.ft.com. www.nytimes.com.

The last music I downloaded is a funny question because I now have a Sonos system and no longer download because it builds a kind of radio station based on my tastes. I choose a style that fits my mood and it plays on that theme for hours. www.sonos.com.

“My Sonos builds a kind of radio station based on my tastes”

If I had to limit my shopping to one neighbourhood in one city, I'd choose Paris's Left Bank. I lived in Paris in the 1990s and launched 1stdibs there. I was

amazed by the galleries. Their pieces are unique and always fly out. Just look for the Carré Rive Gauche flags outside each gallery. Good ones are Martel Greiner, Vonthron, Diane de Polignac and May. My favourite place to have lunch there is the Chinese restaurant Lao Tseu. It's excellent and filled with Parisians. *Carré Rive Gauche, www.carrerivegauche.com. Lao Tseu, 209 Boulevard Saint-Germain, 75007 Paris (+331-4548 3006).*

In my fridge you'll always find kale and champagne, usually with an orange label. Kale is the foundation for the green juice I make religiously every day, which also has cucumber, celery, ginger and apple. I'm addicted to it. www.veuve-clicquot.com.

The people I rely on for personal grooming and wellbeing are the anti-ageing clinic Capitale Jeunesse run by my friend Wanda Innes, which has incredible suncream, and Tapovana Yoga in Sag Harbor, a very Zen place. They do Ashtanga yoga, which is quite intense, but I never feel as good as the moment I walk out of their studio. *Capitale Jeunesse, 670 Montauk Hwy, Water Mill, NY 11976 (+1631-726 2657; www.capitalejeunesse.com). Tapovana, 34 Bay Street, 2nd Floor, Sag*



From top: Pena National Palace in Sintra, Portugal. Sonos wireless HiFi. Capitale Jeunesse Super Natural Mineral Sunshield SPF 30, \$75. Galerie May in Paris. Bruno's 19th-century parrot doorstop



Harbor, New York, NY 11963 (+1631-267 5484; www.tapovana.com).

My favourite websites are... aside from 1stdibs? Mashable, which covers social media and technology, US property site Trulia and the *Daily Mail* – my dirty little secret. www.1stdibs.com. www.dailymail.co.uk. www.mashable.com. www.trulia.com.

AS TOLD TO BEATRICE HODGKIN

MICHAEL BRUNO TALKS MORE AESTHETICS ON WWW.HOWTOSPENDIT.COM