

Susanna Valerio and son Niccolo Santi



SV Casa's debut collection, atop the bestseller, the Duban table

SV CASA SU CASA

WHAT? Launching mid-month is **SV Casa**, the retail arm of SV International Design, which promises decadent and meticulously handcrafted furniture and home accessories fashioned from Asian staples like shell inlay.

WHO? SV Casa is the brainchild of former Lane Crawford senior lifestyle consultant **Susanna Valerio**. The elegant Italian design industry veteran has been producing home accessories for luxury hotels and retailers since 1999. "We have worked on well over 100 hotel projects, so launching our retail brand, SV Casa, seemed like a natural progression," explains **Niccolo Santi**, Valerio's son and company managing director.

WHAT ELSE? Their debut collection is inspired by *One Thousand and One Nights*, with every piece named after a character from the enchanting fable. "Every shell, stone and wooden finish has been cut, carved, polished and perfectly positioned to produce timeless and unique accessories," says Santi of SV Casa's meticulously handcrafted pieces. "Our first collection is a bold kaleidoscope of patterns and designs; we really want it to make an impact." The brand is also using eco-friendly initiatives such as sourcing shells approved by fisheries departments or discarded by seafood restaurants.

WHERE? Exclusively from Lane Crawford including the IFC store, 8 Finance Street, Central, tel: 2118 3388. See <http://svcasa.svinternationaldesign.com>.

Ilyas Khan (right) running across the Forth Bridge



Running the length of England's Green & Pleasant Land . . .

Former Hong Kong merchant banker and literary patron **Ilyas Khan** ran the race of a lifetime last month, 700 miles in seven days – almost the length of Britain – for charity. The gruelling Dambusters Le Court to Lossimouth Run raised money for **Leonard Cheshire Disability**, and marked the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Air Force 617 Squadron, famous for its Second World War 'Dambusters' heroics. "Leonard Cheshire Disability is an incredible charity that both Ilyas and I have had the honour of being a part of," says Khan's wife, **Mara Hotung**. "It supports thousands of people, both in the UK and 50 other countries, with physical impairments, learning difficulties and long-term health conditions."

For more information and to donate, visit www.lcdisability.org/dambustersrun.



MENUS OF THE MONTH

November is the month to tantalise your tastebuds, with exciting ventures on the tables at Hong Kong's finest dining establishments.

- IFC's **Cuisine Cuisine** collaborates with **Laurent Dufau**, head of **Chateau Calon-Segur**, for an exquisite Bordeaux wine-pairing 10-dish dinner. November 15 (tel: 2393 3933).
- To mark the restaurant's 10th anniversary, celebrated chef **Alain Ducasse** will return to **Spoon** at the Intercontinental Hong Kong to host two anniversary dinners. November 22 and 23 (tel: 2313 2256).
- Truffle season is almost over, but to celebrate the last bouts of the sumptuous delicacy **Pierre** at the Mandarin Oriental is offering a white truffle-tasting menu. Savour all five courses or order dishes individually. Until November 23 (tel: 2825 4001).
- Carnivores will revel in an exclusive offering from **Blue Butcher**, where renowned English chef **Fergus Henderson** [pictured above] will be host for one night. November 26 (tel: 2613 9286).
- Foodies can enjoy a delightful six-course tasting menu at the Langham's Michelin-starred restaurant **T'ang Court**, paired with **Louis Roederer** champagne and guided by house vice-president **Michel Jeanneau**. November 29 (tel: 2132 7879).