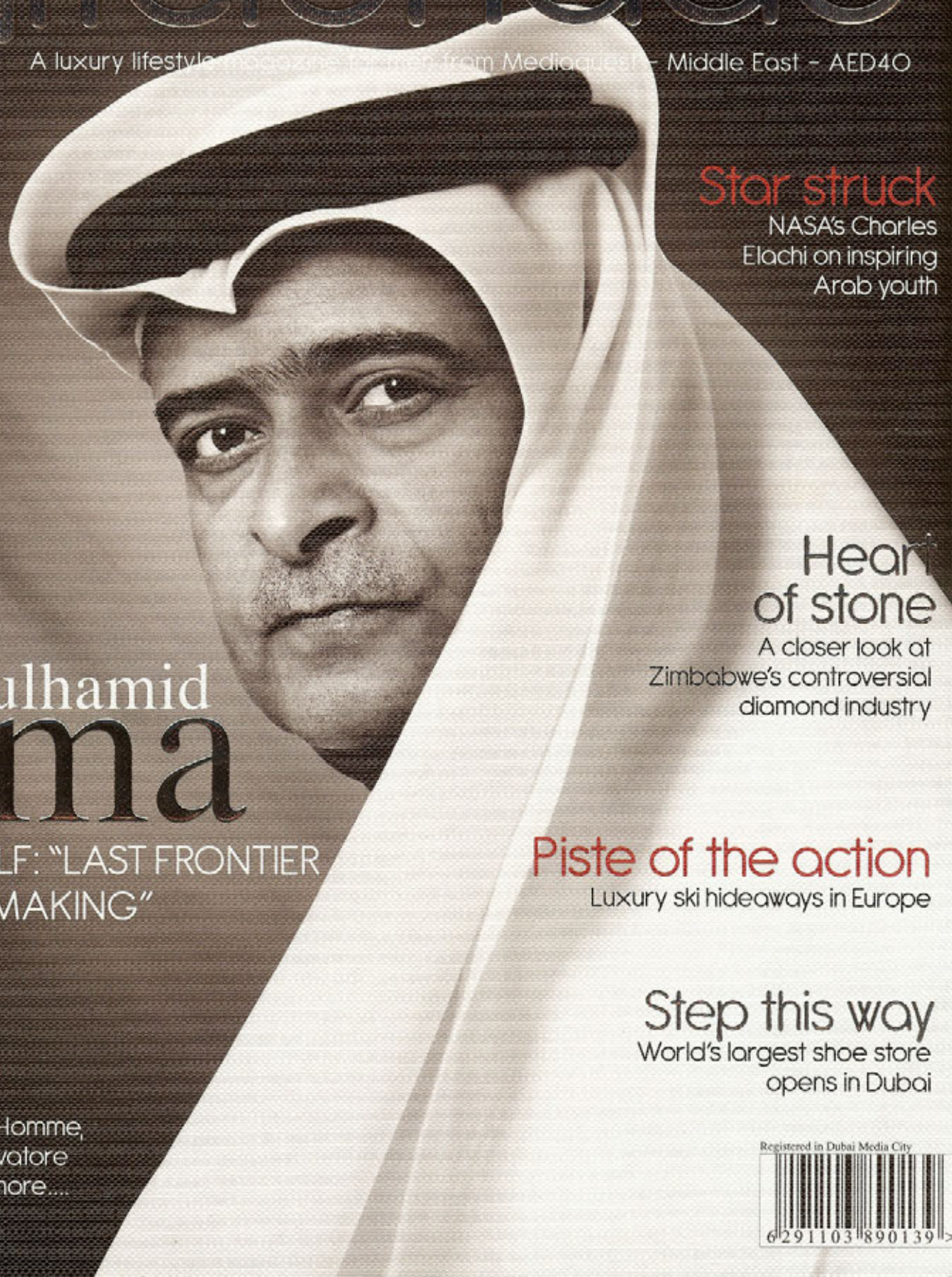


Aficionado

Winter 2012/13 - Issue 6

A luxury lifestyle magazine from Mediaquest - Middle East - AED40



Star struck

NASA's Charles
Elachi on inspiring
Arab youth

Heart of stone

A closer look at
Zimbabwe's controversial
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Piste of the action

Luxury ski hideaways in Europe

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Abdulhamid Juma

THE GULF: "LAST FRONTIER
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ULTIMATE ALPINE LUXURY

There's no better time to master the Alps. To help you make the most of the skiing season, *Aficionado* rounds up the most exclusive and luxurious escapes in Europe.



NORTE

Verbier, Switzerland

One of Verbier's most stunning properties, Norte offers superb views of the village below and the surrounding mountains. Set out over five floors – with one floor dedicated to the master bedroom – Norte also boasts its own cinema room, a separate one bedroom apartment on top of five other bedrooms, a spa (with a hammam and outdoor jacuzzi), and even a wine cellar. During your stay, you'll have your own professional chef cooking up all your favourite treats, a dedicated chauffeur and a chalet manager.



ORMELLO

Courchevel 1850, France

Close to the Bellecote piste, the spacious Chalet Ormello reflects a traditional style, combined with modern comfort. The expansive lounge area is ideal for entertaining in the evenings, with breathtaking views from the balconies. Ormello can be tailored to your needs – take advantage of the indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, massage rooms, spacious kids' playroom and in-house cinema. Access to all the amenities of the nearby Hotel de Charme les Airelles such as the Valmont Spa and skating rink are also available to you.

HIDDEN DRAGON

Veysonnaz, Switzerland

Another exclusive gem, Hidden Dragon is designed over four floors using ancient feng shui and Shinto principles. All six bedrooms offer stylish décor, including a professional soundproofed cinema. The property also boasts a wine cellar, a wraparound balcony that's ideal for stargazing through the vintage telescope, a Gentlemen's Club-style ski room, complete with a après-ski bar, a hammam, sauna, hot tub, meditation room and yoga deck.



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MARCO POLO

Val D'Isere, France

With a whole floor dedicated your wellbeing, Marco Polo really is a standout. There's a spacious pool with jet streams, a hot tub, a sauna and relaxation area, and even an in-house Spa Manager, who'll provide complimentary treatments to guests. Aside from six luxurious bedrooms, the chalet has an expansive living area with a central fireplace and balcony that features outdoor heated seating and panoramic views of La Face piste.

TROIS COURONNES

Verbier, Switzerland

Opening its doors only this year, Trois Couronnes sits pretty on the heights of Verbier with stunning views of the village below and surrounding mountains. Spanning 1300m² in size, Trois Couronnes comprises three distinct chalet structures housing the bedrooms and main living and dining area. These are linked by an art gallery and banqueting hall on the main ground floor, which also houses the spa area and other facilities. Not only is Trois Couronnes an architectural masterpiece but it is also Verbier's largest minergie, an eco-friendly property, which utilises solar and geothermal power for heating.





LES ANGES

Zermatt, Switzerland

Designed by interior architect Mogall de Tschamer, Les Anges ('the Angels') is a sight to behold. Spread over three stunning floors, the chalet is full of light with large panoramic windows to take advantage of some spectacular views, and reflects the best of modern contemporary style. The living area on the top floor, which also includes a TV room, opens on to a terrace that has a barbecue. The Chalet features a serene wellness area, with a sauna, hammam, a relaxation area and a massage room. The relax zone is a standout with Italian marble and a fountain and ornamental pond. Outside, there's a spacious hot tub with massaging jets - perfect to unwind and watch the sunset.



ZERMATT PEAK

Zermatt, Switzerland

With interiors designed to a five-star-plus standard, the chalet reflects exceptional style and luxury. It's all about first impressions and Zermatt is unforgettable - once you enter via a private lift and tunnel, you'll be greeted by the chalet staff for a celebratory bubbly reception. Aside from all the skiing action outside, inside you can make the most of the three separate HD cinema areas, fully-equipped gym, sauna and steam room, and outdoor hot tub. You'll also have your own personal concierge, chef and butler.