

12. OH, THOSE RUSSIANS...

They don't come any more darkly Gothic than Ivan the Terrible, the 16th century Grand Prince of Moscow and Tsar of All the Russians. And now there's a quintessentially Russian luxury vodka named after him. Unlike ordinary vodkas, **Ivan the Terrible Vodka** is specially adapted from a 16th century recipe in the unique Osobaya style. Its distinctive elegant character and exceptionally smooth finish come from delicate infusions of wild buckwheat honey and Siberian cedar nuts, combined with the finest grain spirit and natural spring water. It's best drunk neat at room temperature, like fine Cognac.

Ivan the Terrible Vodka is also an official sponsor of one of London's most lavish social events, the **Russian Debutante Ball** at London's Grosvenor House Hotel on Saturday 19 November, hosted by Princess Olga Andreevna Romanov, great niece of Tsar Nicholas II. The scene is straight out of *War and Peace*. In full-length white couture ballgowns, tiaras and enough diamonds to blind you, the daughters of the Russian elite make their glittering debut to London society. With a champagne reception, gala dinner, Russian entertainment, charity raffle and free drinks at your table until 30 minutes before the witching hour, this is a right royal knees-up. And it's open to the public! Depending on your table, tickets are £590, £450 or £290. Ladies, of course, must wear proper ballgowns, and men full evening dress. Uniforms are also permitted – very Tolstoy indeed!

Also sponsoring the event, and the perfect accompaniment to your vodka is **Mottra Caviar**, the only licensed producer of farmed caviar in Latvia, whose farming techniques put the welfare of the sturgeon first. Mottra is a member of Slow Food, a global, grassroots, non-profit association linking the pleasure of good food to a strong commitment to the environment and community. Combining age-old methods of production used by the Russian Imperial Court with new environmental approaches has resulted in the purest, most delicious caviar. Two types are on offer: Osetra, the traditional grey-black light-tasting sturgeon caviar; and golden-grey Sterlet from a rare, smaller sturgeon.

Ivan the Terrible Vodka £37.19, www.drinkssupermarket.com; Russian Debutante Ball, www.russianball.co.uk; Osetra Caviar, £39, 28g; Sterlet Caviar, £49, 28g, www.mottra-caviar.co.uk

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13. KISS YOUR ASS

Originally designed by radical Turin-based design group Studio 65 and produced by renowned Italian furniture manufacturer **Gufam** – now celebrating its 50th anniversary – the limited edition Bocca Dark Lady Sofa was first created as an homage to Salvador Dali and his famous Mae West Lips Sofa produced in 1937. The piece combines the outlandish imagery of surrealism with the dark aura of the Goth subculture. The sofa is luxuriously soft and has a removable cover, so you can switch to bright red if that takes your fancy. The stainless steel piercing decorating the darkly luscious lips is also removable. This is definitely a museum piece of the future.

£6,066.90, www.ambientedirect.com

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14. THE EYES HAVE IT

Jimmie Martin was established in London in 2004 as a high-end, luxury furniture and interior design company. Jimmie Karlsson and Martin Nihlmar, the brains behind the award-winning brand, are notorious for creating innovative designs that have attracted a commendable list of celebrities, such as Madonna, Dawn French and Liam Gallagher. Their furniture and eclectic range of homewares combine the decadent and quirky with the nostalgic and urban. The design duo's sophisticated pieces always exude a sexy, edgy, modern design element. Jimmie Martin also offers a comprehensive hands-on design service, working with private, commercial and high-profile clients worldwide. Pictured above are their frighteningly bizarre and Gothically gorgeous 'eye cushions'. The designers say they pride themselves on 'bringing the unthinkable to life'. They succeed royally.

£95 each, www.jimmie martin.com



15. MAN OF THE MOMENT

Man about town, red carpet regular, East London mover and shaker, designer and tailor to the stars, **Joshua Kane** is currently one of the hottest names in fashion. With his trademark waxed mustache, flowing tresses, kohl-smudged eyes and black, oversized specs, he's always formally booted and suited, and makes an impressive sight in London's trendy Spitalfields, where his flagship store is located.

After graduating from King's University, he honed his talent working for Brooks Brothers, Jaeger, Burberry and finally Paul Smith, where he worked his way up to become senior designer. Building his (now) eponymous label from scratch three years ago, he has amassed a cult following that includes Russell Brand, Jennifer Saunders, McFly's Dougie Poynter, *Made In Chelsea's* Oliver Proudlock, and rapper Machine Gun Kelly.

Kane was determined to "shake up the stuffy old-school world of bespoke tailoring", and he's doing a pretty darn good job of it. The sleek, modern, wool twill double-breasted suit pictured here really does epitomise Kane's design ethos – formal, razor-sharp tailoring with quirky twists on classic British craftsmanship. Check out the cool, laser engraved mother of pearl buttons on the suit jacket.

The two-tone patent leather and calf 'co-respondent' dress shoe pictured below may have a louche heritage, but today's version of the jazz age favourite is the epitome of elegant refinement in the well-dressed man's wardrobe.

Suit, £1,350; shoes, £590; Bespoke Service, POA, www.joshuakanebespoke.com

