

luxury briefing.

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Sant Singh Chatwal: the time is right to bring
modern luxury hotels to India's cities

Mobile browsing overtakes PC browsing: *end of the PC era?*

Bad service busted by Facebook, Tumblr, Instagram,
warns Future Laboratory

Nick Foulkes: celebrating British men's tailoring

TAG Luxury Stock Index up 17.8% this year, outperforming major indices

London

It is impossible to keep **Bond Street** out of the news. Rumours abound that another brand is faced with a similar position to Ferragamo (who recently agreed a record rent). Landlords' consent for a refurbishment of its store comes at a rental price (note to self and lawyers when negotiating new leases!).

Belstaff has indeed acquired Renoir House (157-159 New Bond Street), surprising many retail leasing agents, and Bally has finally secured an alternative site, relocating to 45-46 New Bond Street (Rossini) at the junction with Grosvenor Street and Maddox Street. Both acquisitions are funded by Labelux, clearly intent on improving the brand positioning of newly acquired luxury retailers.

Elsewhere on Bond Street, premium and rentals continue to escalate to unprecedented levels with predictions that the £1,250 per sq ft barrier will be reached before the summer. Following the grant of planning consent for the new store at 158-159 New Bond Street, Chanel's acquisition of the former Nicole Farhi space, with hindsight, appears to have been a thoughtful strategic acquisition before many other brands realise the difficulties experienced in securing the elusive store there.

On **Mount Street** Céline has now announced the acquisition of no 103 (former Jordan International Bank) ahead of Gagosian Gallery, who have no doubt run a slide rule over nearby 30 Berkeley Square, a stunning, double-height glass-fronted building which can provide over 5,000 sq ft of retail or gallery space. Initial rental offers circa £1m pax. Nicky Clarke has also announced the intention to relocate from 130 Mount Street although the identity of the new US fashion brand securing this valuable gateway store is yet to emerge. The stylist will remain nearby in Carlos Place, directly opposite the Connaught Hotel.

The architectural makeover of **Burlington Arcade** has commenced. Phase I will be completed by April: the redecoration and a new ambient lighting scheme. The owners are also hoping to release the identity of another new brand as the landlords continue their efforts to improve the retail mix targeting the travelling luxury consumers.

In nearby **Dover Street**, McQ launched the new label at LFW to be available at no 14, adjacent to Acne. Christian Louboutin and Jessica McCormack have also been spotted scoping the area.

In the SW district Cadogan has yet to announce the new retail line-up for 201-206 Sloane Street.

With the Chinese tourist now the number one spender in Harrods, the success of Bond Street, Sloane Street, etc is underpinned by international money being spent in London – long may it continue.

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New York

ON Fifth Avenue, **Mac Cosmetics** is taking no 691, where the **Elizabeth Arden** Red Door Spa closed its doors. Arden will reopen inside the **Ferragamo** building at 663 Fifth Avenue. **Forever 21** at no 693 will remain for now. Preppy footwear brand **Sperry Top-Sider** debuted its first standalone store at no 103.

On Madison Avenue, **Poulet Rose**, the tween division of children's fashion and accessories brand Pink Chicken, will come to no 1225. **Tom Ford** is expanding his store to include women's to the second level of his existing shop at 70th Street. **Brian Atwood** is taking the former **Anne Klein**, no 655. **Belstaff** will open a US flagship at no 814. **Bottega Veneta's** men's boutique will locate at 67th Street. **Céline** is finally officially open at no 870. **Pretty Ballerinas** is just off the avenue at 27 East 67th Street.

On the Upper West Side, **Brooks Brothers** will open another branch at 2381 Broadway in the spring.

In Greenwich Village, find fashion designer **Sohee Kang's** first boutique at 320 East 11th Street.

In Meatpacking, **Story** showcases different European brands, ranging from jewelry to chocolates to apparel, changing monthly at 144 10th Avenue. New Zealand's **Icebreaker's** second unit offers its sporty apparel at 823 Washington Street.

In SoHo, Brazilian shoe designer **Melissa** comes to the US at 102 Greene Street. **Tucker's** first permanent boutique is at 355 West Broadway. **Levi's** has relocated to 495 Broadway. **Camper's** third store in the city has debuted at 125 Prince Street. The **Stone Fox Bride** serves the bohemian about-to-be-wed at 611 Broadway. **Yigal Azrouël's** first flagship for his contemporary brand **Cut25** has debuted at 129 Grand Street.

In Tribeca, downtown Crewcuts is turning into a **J Crew** men's store, 50 Hudson Street.

Trend-tracking from the streets of gold: high style, hard hats
Madison Avenue is currently under construction: shoppers are waiting with bated breath! **Cesare Attolini**, 800 Madison Avenue; **Fabergé**, 694 Madison Avenue; **Liaigre**, 34 East 61st Street; **Luigi Borrelli**, 790 Madison Avenue; **Marie-Hélène de Taillac**, 824 Madison Avenue; **Perrin Paris 1893**, 987 Madison Avenue; **Zadig & Voltaire**, 25 East 77th Street; **Zagliani**, 807 Madison Avenue; **Emilio Pucci**, 855 Madison Avenue. We are ready for some red carpet openings...

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auto luxe

Q car



Alpina is a company that has been doing remarkable things with BMWs for some time. In 1998 a 320 diesel BMW (the standard salesman's saloon) prepared by them actually won the 24hr Nürburgring race. The motoring world sat up rather quickly at that point. So began the development of an extraordinary range of cars which is currently topped by the D5, which is a BMW 5-series with Alpina's heavily modified version of the standard 3-litre, 6-cylinder engine. The result is kind of like a BMW M5, except it is cheaper (£55k instead of £73k), can be had as an estate, and does 171mph and just under 50mpg/155g of CO2. The ultimate Q-car?