

GRAND OPENINGS
LONDON, LOS ANGELES, DUBAI & MORE

Robb Report

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THE TOP **10** TOYS OF SUMMER

FEATURING THE AUDI R8 SPYDER V10, PORSCHE BOXSTER SPYDER, AND BMW GS ADVENTURE

PLUS ALL-NEW SUPER SEDANS FROM BENTLEY & JAGUAR



AUGUST 2010



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126



103

FEATURES

- 103 | The Top 10 Toys of Summer**
Rule the track, field, surf, and turf with this season's hottest convertibles, watercraft, and other extreme machines.
- 116 | The Biggest Bentley Ever Built**
Excessively exciting and exceedingly fast, the 2011 Mullanne is a throwback to the bulky yet beautiful luxury motorcars of old. BY PAUL DEAN
- 126 | Sur Thing**
Perched 1,000 feet above the Pacific Ocean, this California estate highlights the natural beauty of its surroundings and the down-to-earth nature of its owners. BY SAMANTHA BROOKS; PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT CANFIELD

Robb Report



80



242



32

DEPARTMENTS

32 Robb Design Portfolio

A duesy of a Duesenberg, and a Rocky Mountain bike built just for you.

51 Grand Openings

Armani brings high design to the desert, Ritz-Carlton caps off L.A. Live, Daniel Boulud answers London's call, and Rwanda welcomes its first true luxury resort.

135 Wheels

With its high-tech gadgets, sleek styling, and innovative use of recycled materials, Jaguar's 2011 XJ is a car for the future. BY ROBERT ROSS

141 Leisure

Maker's Mark makes its mark at the racetrack, where the 57-year-old Kentucky distiller toasts its second-ever new bourbon.

BY JACK SMITH

156 The Robb Reader

Philanthropist Peter Mullin discusses his new automotive museum and his love of French cars, French furnishings, and Italian villas.

BY BAILEY S. BARNARD



72

41 FrontRunners

A Bugatti bonanza in Southern California, Officine Panerai shoots for the moons, Porsche takes to the water, a new Cessna takes flight, From the Robb Cellar, and more.

65 Robb Gallery

Autos 65, Boating 68, Electronics 70, Watches 72, Jewelry 74, Wardrobe 76, Wine 78, Dining 80, Travel 82, Golf 84, Sport 86, Vacation Homes 88, Home 90

20 From the Editors

152 Classifieds

154 Register of Advertisers

On the Cover 2011 Audi R8 Spyder V10, 2011 Porsche Boxster Spyder, and 2010 BMW R 1200 GS Adventure at Ojai Valley Inn & Spa. PHOTOGRAPHY BY CONDINO STUDIOS

Sur Thing

A recently completed estate on California's scenic central coast succeeds for its owners, inside and out.

By SAMANTHA BROOKS

Photography by ROBERT CANFIELD

THE STUNNING, SPARSELY POPULATED Big Sur coast attracts those seeking the most leisurely of California lifestyles—no exception the retired business executive and his wife who four years ago acquired this two-and-a-half-acre stretch 1,000 feet above the Pacific. “My husband and I had been visiting [Big Sur’s] Ventana Inn every year for 18 years and had fallen in love with the area’s natural beauty and low-key way of life,” says the wife. “We knew we’d love to settle down here one day.” One day became a reality late last year, with the conclusion of a three-year process that included the construction of a

main house and the renovation of two extant houses (one of which was previously owned and designed by the late architect Philip Johnson) on the property.

The nearly 5,300-square-foot main house—shown here and on the following pages—has its width, rather than its length, facing the sea. “Most people [in Big Sur] orient their homes so that they face the water entirely; however, all you see is blue,” says Mary Ann Schicketanz of the Carmel, Calif., architecture and design firm Carver + Schicketanz. “These homeowners wanted a more varied view and a large area of land for a lawn.” ▶







The Hang Over | The living and dining areas (above) cantilever over the bluff at the home's west end and open onto the verdant grounds through 16-foot-wide sliding glass doors on the south side. "It's the first floor, but you feel like you're floating over the water," says Schicketanz. The dining space features a midcentury rosewood table by Ico Parisi, Siebe armchairs by Piet Boon, and a custom bronze-and-glass china cabinet. For the living area, Schicketanz chose a forged-steel table from Lyle & Umbach, a Bellaview rug from Tai Ping, and a redesign of Ted Boerner's Loaf sofa that follows the curvature of the windows behind it. "I love how Mary Ann was able to mix older, vintage pieces with newer, more modern ones," says the wife. "It's a minimal space, but the history and character of each piece make it feel warm." That warmth continues in the kitchen (left), where a blackened-steel-lined alcove in a stone wall houses a stainless-steel range. Two islands give the homeowners plenty of space for making daily meals, while a large pantry on the other side of the alcove stores essentials for catered events.



Sleeping Beauty | “We kept this area structurally and visually light,” says Schicketanz of the master suite, which occupies the home’s entire second story. “The bedroom and bathroom are on the eastern side of the house and get great morning light and a view over the hills.” Many of the suite’s glass walls retract to merge indoors and out, and the Douglas fir-beamed ceiling, custom wood nightstands, and bespoke leather bed complement the surrounding landscape. Above the headboard hangs Enrique Martínez Celaya’s mixed-media depiction of a hummingbird. The wife commissioned the piece, which includes birch leaves and twigs, as an anniversary gift for her husband.

The home’s greatest gift to its owners—harmony with the environment—is apparent in the master bathroom (left), where a tub carved from a single piece of limestone sits before sliding glass panels that open the space to the outdoors. “The thing I love most about this house is how well it’s connected to the Big Sur landscape, which is one of the most incredible places on earth,” says the wife. “Sometimes I sit in the tub and look out and wonder how we got to be so lucky.” ■

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