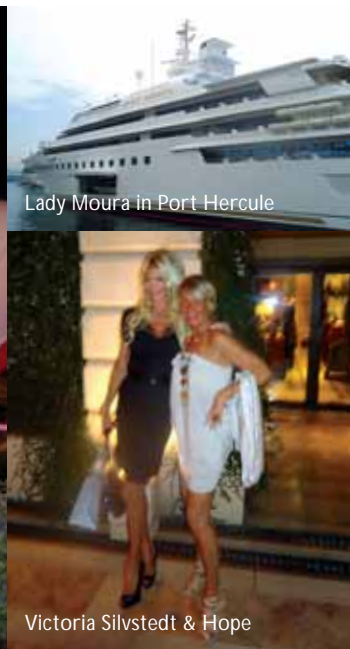


Hope Happenings & Hot Spots

by Hope Gainer www.ehopeinternational.com



Hope wearing Ema Savahl gown & Martina Wagner of Monte Carlo Diamonds at Sporting Club



Lady Moura in Port Hercule



Victoria Silvested & Hope

Early Summer was off to a furious pace from racing laps at the Monaco Grand Prix to running around the Venice Biennale catching vaporetos from one palazzo exhibit to the next along the Grand Canal...all while sustaining a diet of fine French wines and Italian prosecco and plates of the best pasta imaginable!

My European whirlwind of activity started with the Grand Prix. It kicks off on Thursday with the Indian Empress gigayacht party hosted by Team India owner. Again, they filled our champagne glasses with some Indian bubbly that just made everyone crazy and crazier as the night progressed...with inhibitions lost by many and a good time had by all. FTV captured the revelers on camera along with me in my favorite Ema Savahl designer dress.

The problem with partying all night is the uninvited early morning wake up call as the F1 drivers hit the streets of Monaco for their practice runs. Vrrrrrrrooom, vrrrrrrrooom, vrrrrrrrooom, for hours all morning long. It seemed like a luxury to have a 5 star hotel room overlooking the race track until you realize even the best ear plugs cannot drown out the roaring engines while you sleep. Ahhh, the pitfalls of being a guest at the Monaco Grand Prix.

The Monaco Grand Prix is one of the major marquis events on the global jetset circuit. It attracts the super high net worth, celebrities, supermodels, scenesters etc...It is easy to hobnob since the Principality of Monaco is such a small place. Certain spots become the center of the universe that weekend. Le

Meridian Hotel hosts a charity fashion event each year on Friday night attracting A-listers. Down the street, Sass Café is a central 'meet' market, while Jimmyz nightclub attracts the crowds til the wee hours along with the popup Billionaire's Club in the Fairmont Hotel.

For me, my Friday night was spent aboard the award winning Feadship yacht, Harle in the port of Monte Carlo. My Yacht Monaco, a three day hospitality venture hosts an annual launch party attended by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco along with a melting pot of the rich and famous as well as titans of industry and of course the requisite pretty young things. Luxury brands and companies sponsor the soiree. This year's cast included Swiss Trust, Asprey, Fisker and Edmiston along with liquid libations by Chateau d'Esclans and Luxor Brut. Artist, Faren Butt created an abstract mountainscape painting that was signed by Prince Albert and donated to his foundation. Henrik Fisker of Fisker Automotive donated drawings he did, also autographed by his royal highness. The DJ delivered his tunes while the elite entourage aboard mixed and mingled into the night.

The next morning arrived too early and it was time to be shuttled in our privately sponsored Goldfish tenders from the Monte Carlo Bay Hotel to our weekend viewing venue aboard the new Snowbird megayacht with contemporary interiors designed by the owner's son. Here we had a front row and center seat to view the races while enjoying a gourmet buffet luncheon sipping more delicious rose wine from Chateau d'Esclans and 24 karat gold-infused champagne by Luxor. Yes, this is the good life! And I was one of the lucky ladies to partake in these laps of luxury.

After the pre-trial races, our personal tender delivered us back to the Sea Lounge where we met new friends from Paris for more bubbly and an impromptu photo shoot in front of the vast outside mirror reflecting the scene. Saturday night some socialites dashed off to the Prince's Palace for a gala while others hit the F1 parties. I landed on a yacht filled with Scandinavians and one special Brit

in the name of Richard Branson adding to the entrepreneurial spirit aboard. Plus, I ran into a friend from the Big Apple and her brother from Dubai. We all danced the night away under the stars shining over Port Hercule. Sunday marks the big day of the Monaco Grand Prix race finals. On your mark, get set...GO! Well, we did not get going on time. Like getting to the church on time, I now learned getting to the F1 races on time is critical. Not only are the roads closed all weekend, the access to your private yacht is also off limits once the race starts...who knew? We learned the hard way, when we arrived fashionably late by tender and the Monaco Marine Patrol abruptly stopped us in their ever so French manner. "Non, Mademoiselle, impossible" and we Americans who never take no for an answer said "Oui, oui, we must get onto our yacht!" Well the drama unfolded and finally we negotiated our way to jump on nearby tenders and climb from one yacht to the next until we arrived at ours, the Snowbird. My partner in crime almost fell into the water while jumping, but the yacht crew came to the aide of the lass in distress saving her from falling into the depths of the port.

Ah, it was time to drink our well earned glass of Chateau d'Esclan rose and watch the last minutes of the race. Afterwards, we climbed a few more yachts over to our new Swedish friends' yacht and continued to eat, drink and be merry.

If all this sounds appealing to you, prepare your engines for the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in early November. This new stop on the racing tour has quickly become a fan favorite.



Monte Carlo Beach Club