

Robb Report

RobbReport.com

Top 100 Winemakers & THEIR BEST NEW RELEASES

NEW PRECIOUS METALS

TIMEPIECES FROM
JAEGER-LECOULTRE,
ULYSSE NARDIN, DeWITT,
JEAN DUNAND & MORE

ROUGH & REFINED

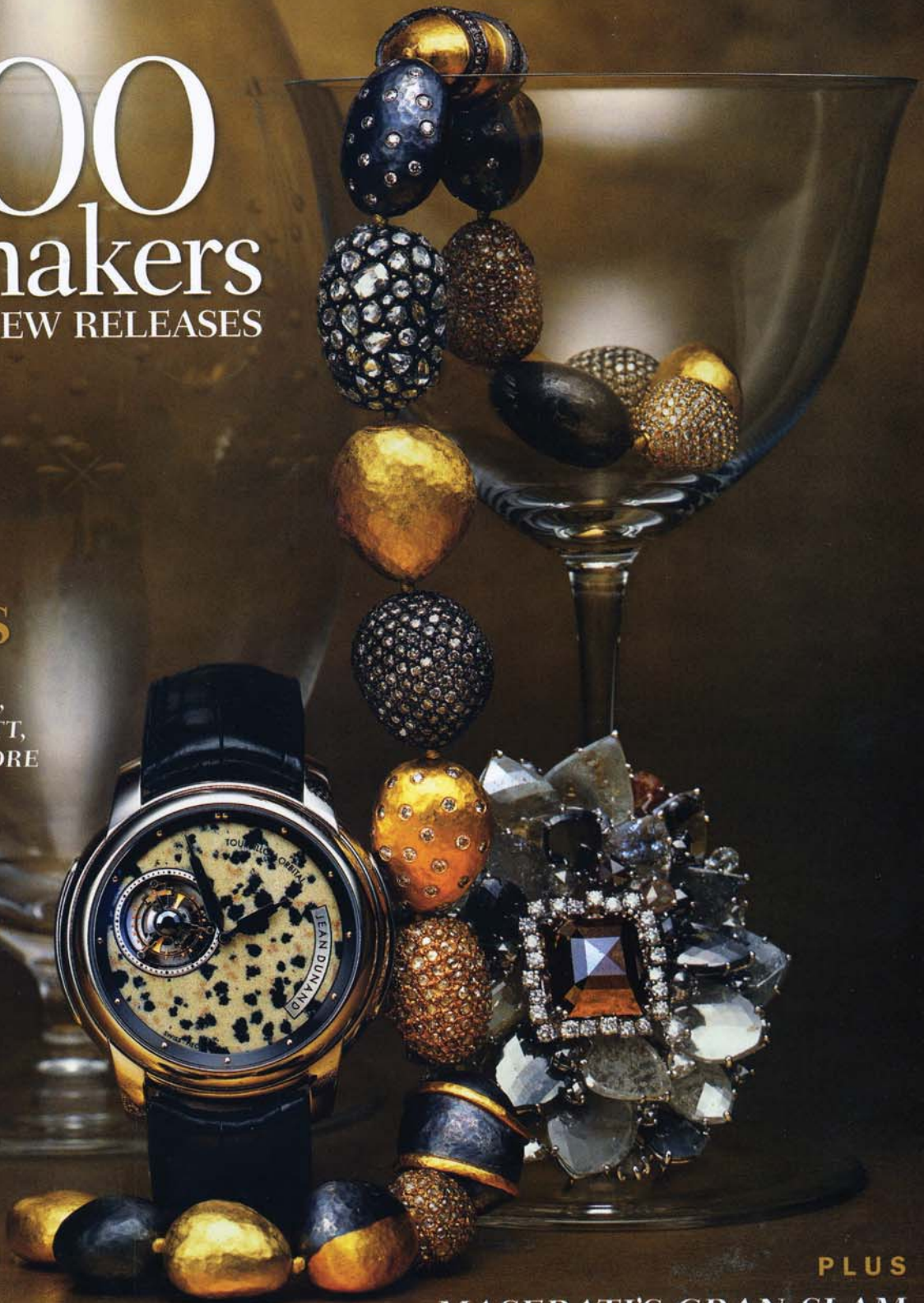
CUTTING-EDGE
DIAMOND DESIGNS

NOVEMBER 2007

\$8.99 US \$9.99 CAN



A CURTCO MEDIA PUBLICATION



PLUS
MASERATI'S GRAN-SLAM
THAILAND'S NEW ISLAND ESCAPES

Sound pounds through wavy towers or a four-legged starship. . . .



TALL ORDERS * The striking, 7-foot-tall KEF Muon loudspeakers (www.kef.com) shown at left derive their sound quality from the engineers at the renowned British audio marque KEF and their curves from industrial designer Ross Lovegrove, known for his work on Apple's iMac computer and Sony's Walkman. The speakers are constructed of aluminum formed into a wavy shape that actually enhances their performance as well as their appearance. With six woofers per speaker—four in front, two in back—the Muon produces a bone-shaking bass. KEF will make only 100 pairs of the speakers, each pair priced at \$140,000. . . . The Anthony Gallo Acoustics Reference 5LS (www.roundsound.com), another towering speaker system, contains eight midrange drivers that are crafted from carbon fiber and enclosed in Gallo's trademark aluminum spheres. With seven proprietary tweeters and a

dozen rear-firing woofers accompanying the midrange drivers, the 6.5-foot, \$19,000-per-pair system delivers an immense, enveloping sound. A slim, 7-inch profile and thin steel grille wires add to the unit's stylish look. . . .

SMOOTH OPERATOR * While the Oracle Audio Technologies CD 2500 Mk II Player (www.oracle-audio.com) may resemble a spaceship from a 1950s science fiction film, it transports music, not aliens. The compact disc player's four-legged design helps shield it from vibration, smoothing the sometimes harsh digital sound of CDs. Nylon and urethane absorbers are used throughout the player to further damp outside disturbances. The \$9,400 unit may not be able to filter out the effects of an earthquake, but it should prevent, say, the vibrations of a powerful refrigerator from contaminating your music. . . .

FROM THE ROBB CELLAR * Fine wines & spirits worthy of a place in your private collection.

IF THE CALIFORNIA wine industry might be said to have anything akin to a mad scientist, it would surely be Leo McCloskey. The president and cofounder of Enologix—a wine consultancy firm in Sonoma County—and holder of a doctorate in biology, McCloskey has committed his talents and time to decoding the chemical secrets of fine (and high-scoring) wines for the purpose of schooling clients in how to improve their own productions. Yet, even while he coaches winemakers in how to raise their scores, McCloskey has advocated rather vocally the importance of *terroir* (the conditions of soil, climate, and sunlight that define the character and quality of the grapes) over technique in determining quality. In fact, he even has suggested that quality can be mapped out by region, declaring the Oakville AVA (American Viticultural

Area) the “first growth” region of Napa Valley. Despite the obvious contradiction in someone who makes his living through nurture arguing the virtues of



nature, one must admit that McCloskey is right: The Oakville appellation is home to many of the region's unique properties, including Harlan Estate, To Kalon, Screaming Eagle, and Gargiulo Vineyards. The latter's latest release, the Gargiulo Vineyards 575 OVX Cabernet Sauvignon 2004, takes its name from the winery's address at 575 Oakville Crossroad. This basso profundo Cabernet exudes rich aromas of bittersweet chocolate, coffee, leather, and spiced plum. On the palate, blueberry, cherry, and boysenberry flavors blend into a luxuriously textured wine, the sole flaw of which is its scarcity: Alas, a mere 248 three-packs (or 62 cases) were made. If only McCloskey could decode enough of this masterpiece's secrets to whip up more of the vintage in his laboratory. (\$575 per three-bottle case) www.gargiulovineyards.com

BOTTOM: CONDORO STUDIOS/WWW.CONDOROSTUDIOS.COM