

UNXX



**INTRODUCING
THE NEW GENT...**

Why grand fashion
houses make
the coolest clothes

Street cred comes to Savile Row

Manly pursuits:
from the best
hi-fi to the most
derring-do

And how to buy an
engagement ring



Return to elegance

Refurbishing a much-loved grand hotel can be tricky. In London, we wait with bated breath for the spruced-up Savoy, and nurse high hopes for Diane von Furstenberg's new suites at Claridge's because she dearly loves the place. But not everyone loved the revamped Connaught, while in Paris there are mixed feelings about Starck fuking up the Meurice.

Perhaps, like the best facelifts, the best refurbis are discreet; *Luxx* likes

the look of the Taj Group's gently tweaked Pierre Hotel (above) in New York, reopening in June. Taj does palaces (witness the new Nadesar in Varanasi), barefoot luxury (check out Taj Exotica in the Maldives, or Coral Reef, opening July), and Raj-era grand (at the Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai, now being restored to glory).

Taj's subtle refreshment of the Pierre, built in 1930 and once the New York home of Liz Taylor and Yves

Saint Laurent, includes this bar and a sister noshery to London's Caprice – surely the perfect spot for a martini (straight up with an olive, please).



Catch them if you can

Like an exclusive? These boat shoes, £188, are one of only 30 pairs made by NDC for Matches Editions (www.matcheseditions.com), which includes other cool menswear hybrids, such as a Zagliani wallet, a Kilgour suit and McQueen brogues.

Made in Italy

Boys of all ages – but with deep pockets – may be excited to hear that Sotheby's is holding its third auction of vintage Ferraris in the marque's birthplace, Maranello, on May 17. Then, for the girls, Bulgari's 125th anniversary exhibit opens in Rome on May 20, followed by the auction of Bulgari fine jewellery (below) and watches at Christie's New York later in the year. All proceeds go to Save the Children, so you can treat yourself while doing the right thing.

