

JEWELRY

Graff CEO retires, rumored to purchase Marina B.

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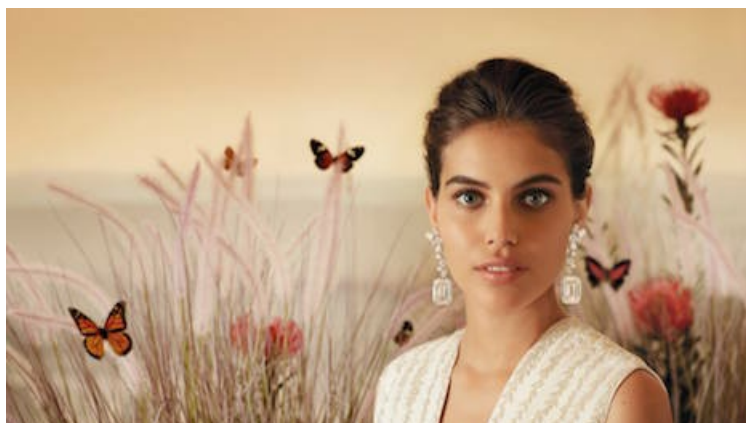


Image courtesy of Graff Diamonds

By STAFF REPORTS

The CEO of Graff Diamonds North America has retired after nearly two decades with the British jeweler.

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Henri Barguirdjian has announced his retirement after spending 16 years as Graff Diamonds CEO for the North American market. Mr. Barguirdjian cited a desire to pursue personal interests as his reason for stepping down from the position.

Juggling jewels

Graff Diamonds was founded in 1966 by Laurence Graff and operates more than 50 boutiques around the world including New York, Monte Carlo and Seoul, South Korea. Mr. Graff now serves as his brand's chairman, with his son, Francois Graff, becoming CEO in July 2004.

Regarding Mr. Barguirdjian's retirement, Graff issued the following statement:

"After 16 years as CEO of Graff North America, Henri Barguirdjian has retired to pursue his personal interests. Henri made a substantial contribution during his time with the business and all at Graff wish him well for the future."

It is rumored that in his retirement from Graff, Mr. Barguirdjian will purchase jewelry brand Marina B., with former creative officer and half-owner of Bali-based jeweler John Hardy, Guy Bedarida.

Marina B. was founded by Marina Bulgari, granddaughter of LVMH-owned Bulgari's founder Sottiro Bulgari, in 1978. In 2010, the brand was purchased by Paul Lubetsky.



Marina B. 'Atomo Mini collection

Marina B. has struggled with the direction of its design, among other factors, according to WWD.

If the purchase is finalized, Mr. Barguirdjian will handle the business side of Marina B., while Mr. Bedarida would oversee the creative.

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