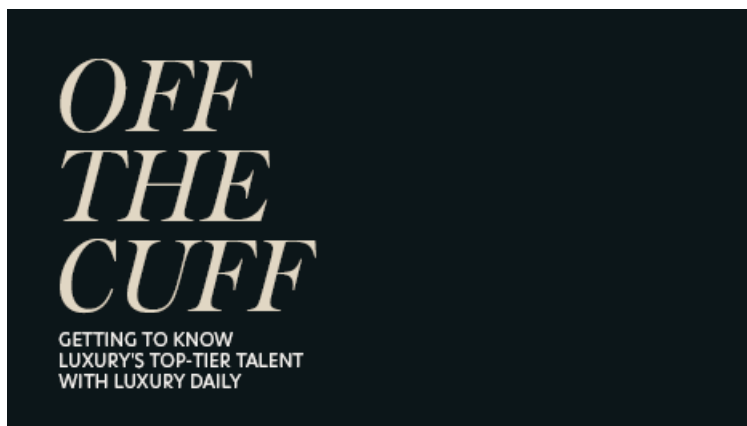


Q&amp;A

# Off the Cuff: Getting to know luxury's top-tier talent in 2025

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*Read the latest in Luxury Daily's "Off the Cuff" series*

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By LISA KLEIN

Throughout 2025, Luxury Daily's "Off the Cuff" series continued the popular Proust-style Q&A featuring those shaping the world's luxury brands. We explored the career paths, current projects and next steps of those at the top, getting to know industry leaders on a personal level.

Below is a collection of all of our in-depth interviews from last year to inspire you in 2026 and beyond.

To start off the year, **Karen Silveira**, creative director of online luxury design marketplace **1stDibs**, discussed dodging golf balls, evolving ideas of beauty, finding inspiration on the streets of Brooklyn and surrounding herself with fabulous design ([read the Q&A here](#)).

Next, **Alex Assouline**, president of the New York-based luxury publishing house **Assouline**, discussed the enduring experience of physical books, the craftsmanship shared by both luxury giants and local artisans, and enjoying life with food, friends and travel ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Omer Acar**, CEO of **Raffles** and **Fairmont Hotels & Resorts**, discussed feeling proud of your work and helping others to do so, creating unforgettable experiences for guests, and enjoying peaceful and snowy time in the mountains with family ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Nicolas Budzynski**, CEO of **La Petite Maison** restaurants, discussed an "aha" moment leading to the restaurant business, the value of exclusivity and why less really is more ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Stephanie Sivriere**, director of high jewelry, jewelry and watchmaking for Swiss watchmaker and jeweler **Piaget**, discussed staying true to yourself, a memorable anniversary year of creativity for the brand and learning from the ultimate icon, Andy Warhol ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Elle Strauss**, chief creative officer at U.S. retailer **Bergdorf Goodman**, discussed embracing fear, being inspired by innovative designers and relaxing in the garden despite squirrel invasions ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Leo Bertacchini**, principal of global interior design studio **1508 London**, discussed the influence of the arts on him early on, celebrating multicultural perspectives and an undying passion for the craft, whatever form it may take ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Ken Muskat**, managing director for the U.S. and Latin America at luxury cruise line **Scenic Group**, discussed learning leadership at camp, valuing employees at every level and the true luxury of travel experiences ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Tracey Baldwin**, senior vice president of luxury media sales at **The Wall Street Journal**, discussed the importance of long-term relationships and plans, allowing yourself to disconnect, Coco Chanel and caviar ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Alfonso de Gaetano**, founder and CEO of digital wine membership **Crurated**, discussed learning lessons from football, technology as a luxury catalyst and his most-requested dish ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Adelina Wong Ettelson**, global head of residences marketing for **Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group**, discussed embracing the journey however winding, the lavish-hotel lifestyle of branded residences and taking the time to disconnect and live in the moment ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Nicolas Brown**, president of the Americas for British automaker **McLaren**, discussed the importance of empathy, watching bespoke supercars come to life and an appreciation for all things analog ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Mathieu Roland Billecart**, CEO of French Champagne house **Billecart-Salmon**, discussed the value of hard work, the art of waiting and earning the authentic luxury label with care and quality ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Adam Banfield**, North American president and CEO of French crystal maker **Baccarat**, discussed early lessons from, and current-day love of, skiing, an extended real-life lunch with a culinary legend and the joy of a perfect toast ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Francesco Galli Zugaro**, founder and CEO of luxury small-ship cruise line **Aqua Expeditions**, discussed responsible tourism, maintaining a sense of adventure and taking time for cooking, swimming and shopping with family ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Vicky Charles**, cofounder of interior design firm **Charles & Co.**, discussed staying open to creativity at all times, shutting out the noise and the luxury of choosing to spend time with the things and people you love ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Cameron Kimball**, vice president of sales and marketing for **The Residences at The St. Regis Los Cabos**, discussed the value of learning from multiple generations, the globalization of luxury and his many extraordinary travel experiences ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Hannah Florman**, fine jeweler and owner of **Hannah Florman Fine Jewelry**, discussed lessons learned from motherhood, the power of personalization and the luxury of feeling connected ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Neil Porter**, founding partner at global landscape architecture firm **Gustafson Porter + Bowman**, discussed the power of fresh ideas, natural surroundings that inspire creativity and connecting with friends and family in his own garden ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Nathalie Laitmon**, CEO and cofounder of U.S.-based household staffing agency **The Calendar Group**, discussed lessons from the factory floor, the power of a puppy hug and peace of mind as the ultimate luxury ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Alison Bring**, chief marketing officer for global brand performance software company **Launchmetrics**, discussed starting small, staying one step ahead of the competition and a favorite media-mogul icon ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Samuel Chamberlain**, CEO of the Americas for luxury small-ship expedition line **PONANT**, discussed the power of understanding other perspectives, finding luxury in simplicity and his cooking-gear habit ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Clare Schifano**, global marketing director for British luxury bed and mattress brand **Vispring**, discussed minding your manners, the importance of quality sleep for overall wellness and the excitement of a full brand refresh ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Paolo Riva**, chief brand partnerships and buying officer for U.S. retailers **Saks Fifth Avenue** and **Neiman Marcus**, discussed pushing through difficult situations, the basics of luxury that will never change and indulging in time with his city and family ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Filippo Arnaboldi**, CEO of Italian luxury bedding and linens brand **Frette**, discussed the importance of genuine connections, the inspiring films of director Sophia Coppola and the ultimate luxury of good sleep ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Jon Colbeth**, president and CEO of **Rolls-Royce Motor Cars** North America, discussed the unchanging core of luxury, the joy of delivering a custom car to clients and the satisfaction in keeping it simple ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**Edouard Meylan**, CEO of Swiss luxury watch brand **H. Moser & Cie.**, discussed the winning combination of creativity and structure, celebrating heritage with new ideas and letting your mind take a real break ([read the Q&A here](#)).

**John Shmerler**, CEO of luxury watch and jewelry retailer **The 1916 Company**, discussed life lessons learned through sport, focusing on meaning rather than transactions and the simple luxuries that money can't buy ([read the Q&A here](#)).

And finally, **Hlne Poulit-Duquesne**, CEO of French luxury jeweler **Boucheron**, discussed the importance of curiosity, independence, resilience and lifelong friendships ([read the Q&A here](#)).

Be sure to tune in Fridays in the coming year for more insights from the talent behind the best luxury brands.

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