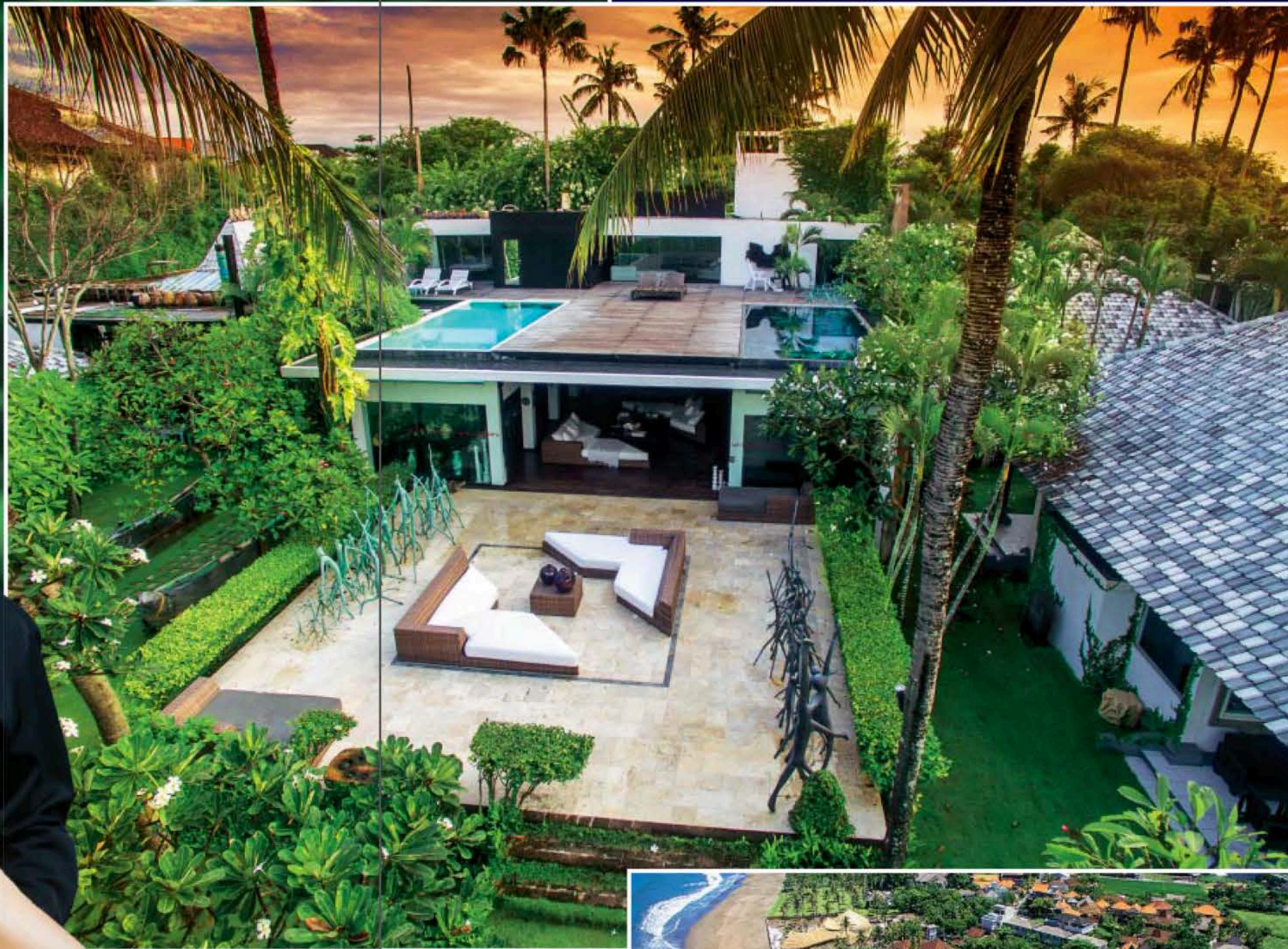
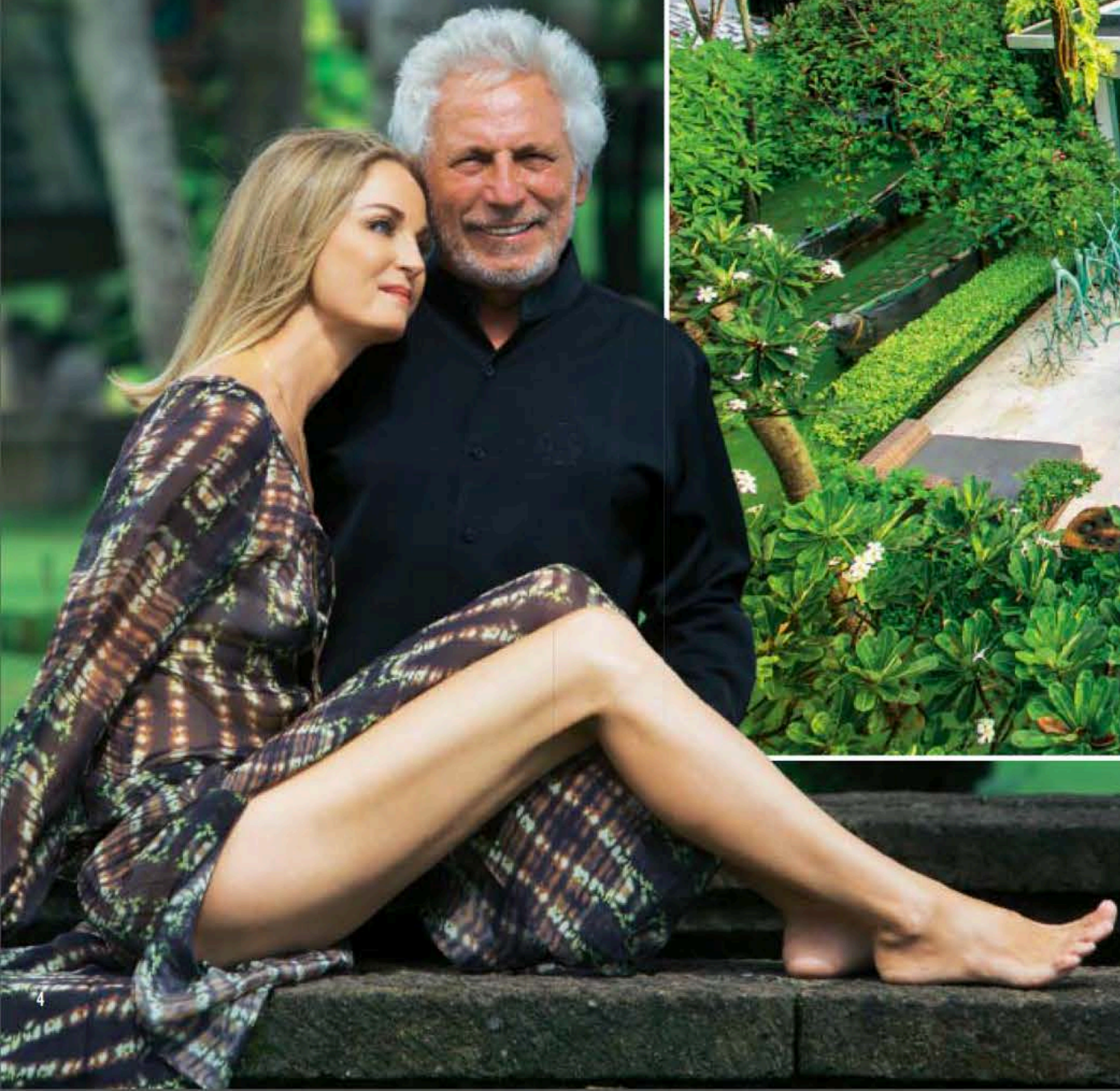


ARTIST AND JEWELLER TO THE STARS **PASCAL MORABITO** INVITES US INTO HIS FAMILY'S PRIVATE PARADISE IN BALI

'This used to be a 24-room hotel, very simple, in Balinese style. But the landscape was wonderful. The trees are beautiful and the beach is 15 metres away'



After a stellar career designing jewels for the stars, including Madonna and Catherine Deneuve, French artist Pascal Morabito was looking for a change of pace with his wife Marie-Eve – more than two decades his junior – (left) and their two young sons. A former hotel in Bali set in a spectacular location (right) offered Pascal a blank canvas to redesign into a family home. The courtyard (above) features sofas and a table by Pascal, and his sculpture *Tsunami*





The house, which boasts three swimming pools and a private beach, sits languidly in the lush landscape (above). A treehouse (below) is a whimsical feature, while an outdoor dining area with antique Chinese furniture (opposite page, below left) and a pair of inviting sun loungers (far right) show how indoors and outdoors blend harmoniously to magical effect



'We've raised our sons free of ties. I never forced them to study because, in my opinion, if you are a creative person, that will just ruin your mind'

The family couple with sons Teo and Tao, now 23 and 17; they settled by the Indian Ocean ten years ago. Marie-Eve and Pascal have brought up their boys to be free-spirited, creative and to follow their own paths

When I was just a young boy, one day I made a pact with God. I prayed, 'Grant me whatever I need, whenever I need it, but no more.' It looks as if the good Lord was listening to Pascal Morabito, who went on to become a major player on the contemporary art scene. And even if the French-born sculptor, jeweller, designer and perfumier did have to wait a little, he eventually got just what he needed – including a wife he adores and two sons, plus a heavenly Bali home, where he welcomes HELLO! to tell us about his remarkable life.

Here, swaying palms line long sandy beaches and lush lawns stretch down to the clear blue waters. The view is a world away from Pascal's chic boutique on Place Vendôme in Paris, which is where he made his name and fortune. Especially dazzling was his 1972 jewel, the Captive Diamond – a precious stone enclosed in a cube of Plexiglas – which was a worldwide



'When you meet someone and you just know she is The One, there are no doubts at all. Marie-Eve makes my life very easy'

sensation and earned him a place in New York's Museum of Modern Art.

As he neared 60, though, Pascal felt it was time to embark on a new stage in life and, having finally met the love of his life, Marie-Eve, and with two young children to raise, he set out for the paradise island of Bali, where he transformed a former beachfront hotel into a luxurious family home. Here, art and nature, space and light, indoors and outdoors blend harmoniously for a truly magical experience. Now, he and Marie-Eve recall how they met and the life they've built together here for themselves, sons Teo and Tao, now 23 and 17, and the local people who gain their livelihoods through Pascal's artistic projects. Pascal, tell us how you and Marie-Eve found each other. It was a classic Hollywood movie moment wasn't it?

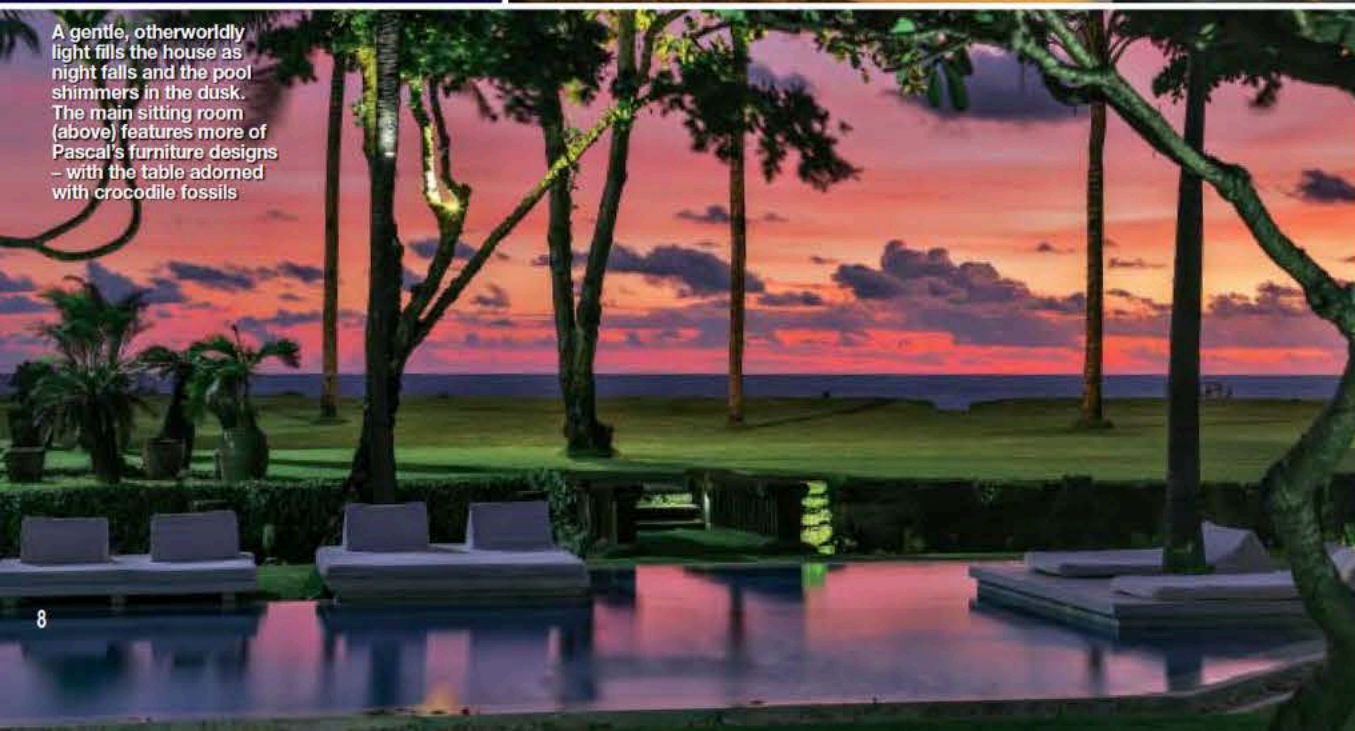
"It may seem strange, but I usually know exactly what I want. In art and in life. When I was 28 I thought, 'I want a wife for life, but I'm going to have to wait because she hasn't even been born yet.' So I decided to wait. And when I met Marie-Eve, I knew it was her.

"I was inaugurating a new boutique on the Avenue Montaigne in Paris. It was summer, almost nine in the evening. People were spilling out onto the street. Several of the girlfriends I had at the time bumped into each other – having all thought they were the only one. I decided to escape and, as I was leaving, I ran into Marie-Eve, who was just walking along the street with a friend, on her way to the movies."

Marie-Eve: "He was dressed just like he is now. He's always dressed the same. White in summer; black in winter. I didn't know who he was – I thought he was a waiter. He invited me to have a glass of champagne. He had this wonderful smile and the same energy as now. I found him charming. He asked me to sign the visitors' book and then he asked me my name and I asked him his. He was a little embarrassed, in a very sweet way, as he pointed out the shop sign. ▶



A gentle, otherworldly light fills the house as night falls and the pool shimmers in the dusk. The main sitting room (above) features more of Pascal's furniture designs – with the table adorned with crocodile fossils



Marie-Eve takes a stroll along the beach (left). Back home, the table is set for a family meal (below). The tableware is, unsurprisingly, Pascal's own, from his collection titled Earthquake. Other artists are frequent guests here – British artist Damien Hirst once stayed for three months



'I never doubt my art. I may take a minute or 20 years to create a piece, but when I do, I'm sure of it'



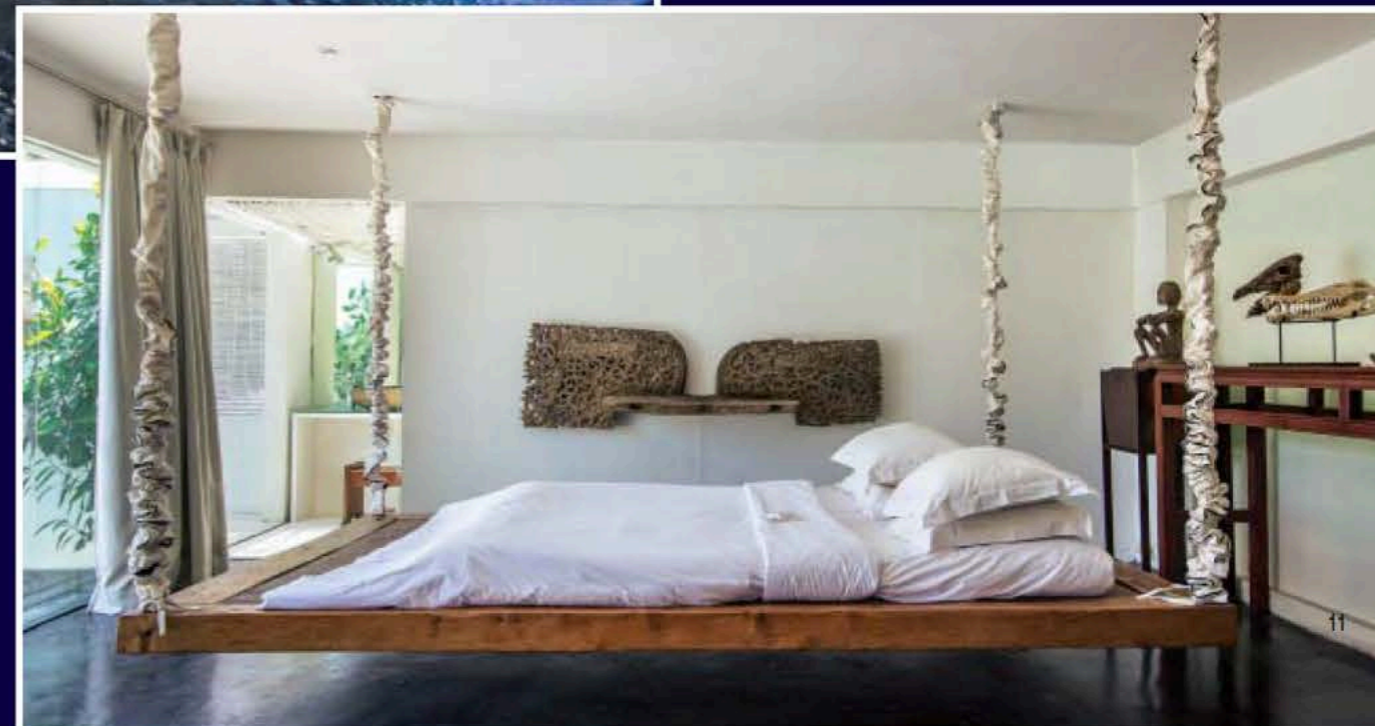
The fabulous Majapahit Suite welcomes lucky guests with its enormous bed and private garden, while the Canopy Suite (below) has the unique Morabito touch and overlooks the pools and Indian Ocean



Pascal's love of nature and art are to be seen everywhere, and whenever possible he likes to combine his passions. A rock has been hewn into an unconventional bathtub on the terrace of one of the suites (above) and another bedroom boasts a bed suspended from the ceiling (below)

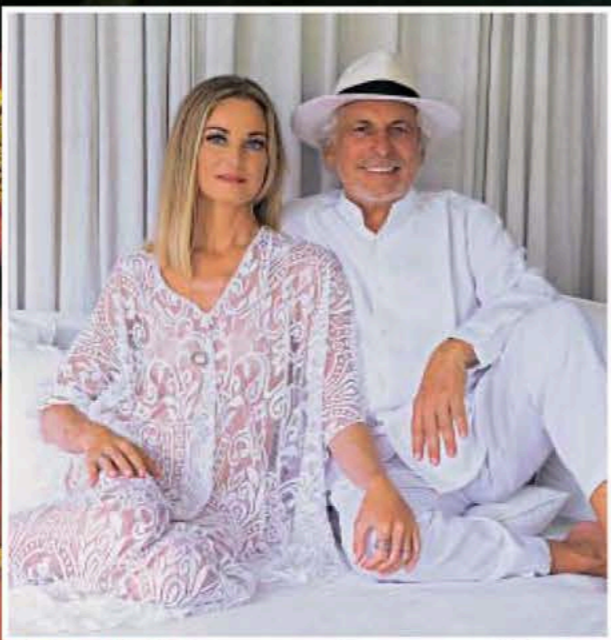


Then you went your separate ways...
 "Yes. When we said goodbye, my heart was pounding. It was love at first sight. I had never felt that way before. I looked him up in the Yellow Pages and the next day I called the store."
 And you picked up the telephone, Pascal...
 "Which is something I never do. I invited her to lunch. I'd arranged to meet a friend. And I introduced them in a restaurant on the Champs Elysées, saying, 'I've just been with this lady for 15 minutes and I'm going to spend the rest of my life with her.'"
 And so it was. You invited her to your castle, where you were giving a lavish party. And from that night on, you were never apart again...
 Pascal: "When you meet someone and you just know she's The One, there are no doubts at all. ▶"





Marie-Eve met Pascal by chance at the opening of one of his Paris boutiques. "I thought he was a waiter," she laughs. He thought she was the woman of his dreams. They haven't been apart since



'When I met Pascal, he was dressed just like he is now. He always wears white in summer, black in winter... He had this wonderful smile, and the same energy as now. I found him charming'

It's like my art, I never doubt it. I may take a minute or 20 years to create a piece, but when I do, I'm sure of it.
M: "Ever since I was a child, I've always thought it would be wonderful to live with an artist, and I'm lucky to have achieved just that."
P: "Marie-Eve makes my life very easy [struggling to contain his emotions]. She looks after everything and is involved in everything. I just work on whatever I like, apart from when I do things I don't like, simply because I think I should."
"And, every now and again, I change my life completely. I used to work around the clock and I earned a fortune. Then I bought an island off Marseilles and decided to be a 'fisherman'.
"And then, ten years ago, you decided it was time for an even more dramatic move...
"Yes. We ruled out places that weren't safe for the children and, in the end, we decided on Bali. Then we got organised. This used to be a 24-room hotel, very simple, in Balinese style. But the landscape was wonderful. The trees are beautiful and the beach is 15 metres away."
"And it was the perfect place to bring up Teo and Tao...
"We've raised our sons just as my father raised me, free of ties. I never forced them to study because, in my opinion, if you are a creative person, that will just ruin your mind. A year ago, Teo asked me for a loan of \$50,000 to buy a small hotel and after just six months he repaid me. Whenever he wants he sets off to travel the world. Tao has his own Instagram



'I buy traditional objets, preserving the local people's own art. That's my way of thanking this extraordinary country'



The indoor pool (above) is a mesmerising place, decorated with columns of Chinese porcelain. Pascal loves to collect traditional crafts and artwork, which he combines spectacularly with his own work, such as this table (below), overlooked by a dramatic grouping of local sculptures

business, and since he's under age, he puts his earnings in my account. They're both really smart, and they adore their mother. I'm very proud."
The admiration's mutual, with your children, as well as Marie-Eve, getting creatively involved in your projects. And other artists visit regularly – Damien Hirst stayed three months – with the younger ones learning from you, just as you once did from Dali...
"Actually, I don't teach. I just share my philosophy with them: be free, devote your time to art, don't think about money, don't work for money, because in the end, somehow it always just comes along. That's my philosophy."

And of course you help the 250 or so inhabitants of the local village, who work with you...
"Yes. And every day I get about 20 people coming up to me with traditional *objets*. When I buy them, I am, in a small way, preserving something of their own art.
"That's my way of thanking Indonesia, this extraordinary country where we live."

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PHOTOS: CESAR VILLORIA
CLOTHES: MARIE FRANCE VAN DAMME
JEWELLERY: PASCAL MORABITO

