

JOHN GALLIANO

My London



HOMETHOUGHTS

What do you miss most when you're out of London? The tea and the people who know how to make it.

The designer who swapped South London for Paris misses Rich Tea, Browns and The Wolseley

Where do you live and why?

I have lived in Paris for well over a decade as this is where both the Dior and Galliano studios are, but, despite this, I remain very much a Londoner at heart. I grew up in Wallington.

Where do you stay in London and why?

I like staying in the Soho Hotel. It is right in the hub of Soho and they really look after you.

What advice would you give to a tourist?

Leave your cigarettes at home. You can't smoke anywhere in this city. Start with an open-top bus tour to get your bearings.

Which five London shops do you rely on?

Alfies Antique Market and Rellik in Notting Hill for research and rummaging; Browns because it all started with Mrs B; and Waterstone's in Piccadilly or the book stores in Charing Cross Road.

What are your favourite London home comforts?

Gossip mags, Rich Tea, Mr Kipling cakes and strong tea. I miss its humour, and the belief that all problems can be solved with a cup of tea.

What is your earliest London memory?

The red buses and all the colours here. London is so vibrant and attacks all your senses.

What are your extravagances?

I love to travel. It is my greatest indulgence.

What is your life philosophy?

Live it - and live it 200 per cent.

Do you have a favourite view of London?

The view as the Eurostar pulls into London (I am yet to try the new view from St Pancras).

What are your current projects?

Two ready-to-wear collections in less than two weeks!

Which is your favourite London street for shopping?

Nostalgia mixed with the new. A bit of Bond, a bit of Portobello, and finishing on South Molton.

Which young British designer do you admire the most?

The ones who are about to graduate; the ones who are about to dive into the fashion world.

What's your favourite late-night hangout?

BoomBox is fun. Also drinks at The Dorchester and the new Bungalow 8.

What is in your secret London address book?

Virginia in Holland Park for inspiration; Zarvis in Notting Hill for scents; Nomad Books on Fulham Road; and a good cab service.

What are your fashion predictions for London over the next few months?

Who knows? Here, anything goes.

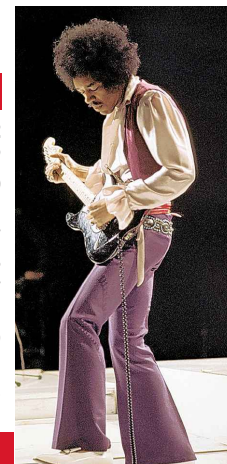
Andy Barker



INTUNE

What was the last album you bought?

I tend to listen to everything and anything that DJ Jeremy Healy gives me. He provides the music for my catwalk shows. We had Jimi Hendrix (right) and Led Zeppelin at the couture.



GOOD SCENTS

Which aftershave do you wear?

I vary scent like moods - one moment I like a classic like Dior Eau Sauvage (left), the next a gentleman's cologne from Floris, or something new.



MAYOR'S DECREE

What would you do if you were Mayor for the day?

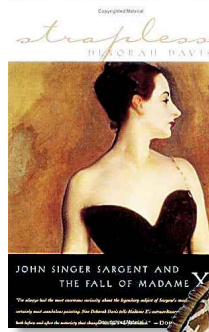
Insist that people go to the V&A, the Tate, the Wallace Collection (below) and the National Gallery. I would turn off televisions.



BOOKWORM

What was the last book you bought?

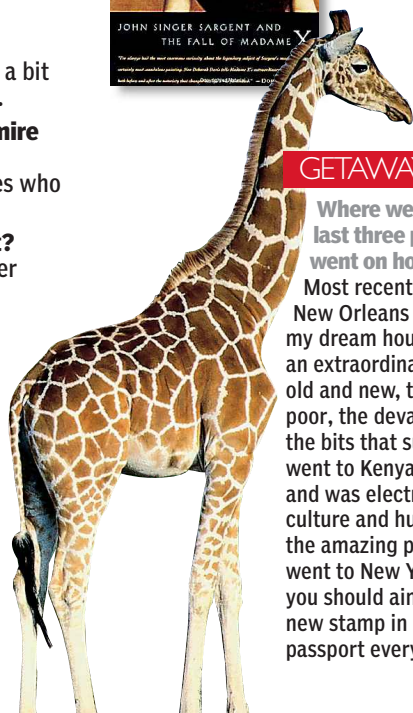
I particularly love biographies. I like reading about real life, real achievements and triumphs. I read *Strapless: John Singer Sargent and the Fall of Madame X* by Deborah Davis (left). This was the starting point for the couture collection.



GETAWAYS

Where were the last three places you went on holiday?

Most recently I went to New Orleans and found my dream house. It is such an extraordinary city - the old and new, the rich and poor, the devastated and the bits that survived. I went to Kenya on safari and was electrified by the culture and humbled by the amazing people. I also went to New York. I think you should aim to get one new stamp in your passport every year.



FASHION FAVOURITE

What is your favourite item in your winter wardrobe?

My Galliano Homme wool jacket, my secret passageway to Narnia; and hats - where would I be without Stephen Jones?



EATING OUT

What have been your most memorable London meals?

I like J Sheekey. I had a lunch at Wiltons when I collected my CBE. I love the eccentricity of Archipelago, and people-watching at the Wolseley. And I really feel as if I have come home when I have tea at Claridge's, and I want to see the new Fumoir bar (left).



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