



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS FROM MY
BILLIONAIRE
FIXER IS...



THE CLASSIC CAR DEALER GREGOR FISKEN

Forget supercars. Billionaires want classic cars from Santa. After all, a Lamborghini in your drive may mean that you've made it – but a vintage Fifties Ferrari shows you also have taste. To get hold of a beautiful classic car you have to know the right person – and Gregor Fiskens's showroom in a mews in London's South Kensington is the place to go. But only if you have money.

'You'll need a minimum of £150,000 to get in the game,' says Fiskens. Double that for a good Fifties sports racing Jaguar, and it will take more than £500,000 to buy a classic racing Ferrari or Maserati.

Fiskens's prized selection includes a Twenties supercharged Le Mans Bentley, worth £950,000. For a straight £1 million there is a racing Ferrari 275 GTB/C, one of only 14, which has the added cachet of having been driven by Steve McQueen. And these are just the start. 'I recently sold a very special sports racing Ferrari made in the Fifties to a young private collector in the US for well over £3 million,' says Fiskens.

'Trying to find a rare motor is like working for a detective agency. I once went to Adelaide for a day to buy a 1953 Jaguar C type. I arrived at six in the morning and by 6pm I'd acquired it. Four days later it was air-freighted back to the UK at a cost of £20,000, meaning an overall price of £1 million. And all so the client could take it to Goodwood the next week. He'd set his heart on her, and six years later he's still racing her.'

Often it takes Fiskens a lot longer to find a particular model. 'I spent years tracking down a pre-war Auto Union grand prix car for a client. It was the grandfather of the Formula One racer and the only one in private hands. It took me ten years to find it. It is now worth in excess of £5 million and is the most expensive grand prix car I have ever acquired for a client.'

gregorfiskens.com

Billionaire problem: 'I want a truly distinctive sports car. Money is no object.'

Fiskens's fix: 'If you want to say that you've arrived and that you have real style, then you want a 1961 Ferrari 250 short wheel-base Berlinetta. It's ultra-rare and will cost £1.5 million. It's not easy to get hold of, but I could probably get one in a week.'

THE PROPERTY FINDER ROBERT BAILEY

When Jemima Khan bought her £18 million Chelsea townhouse this year, she used one of a growing number of property fixers. Robert Bailey is one of the most experienced and sought-after of them all, and his services have never been in so much demand. In particular, foreign clients desperate to buy up the capital's most prestigious homes are beating a path to his door.

'Grosvenor Square is very popular with Indian buyers, who like the grand entrance halls and tiling,' he says. 'Wealthy French congregate near the Lycée Français school in South Kensington, Middle Eastern clients drift towards St John's Wood because of the mosque while the Russians love grand residences with big facades in Belgravia. And they follow each other. When Roman Abramovich bought a place in Lowndes Square, other Russians moved there, too.'

Many clients often demand specific fixtures. The Russians, says Bailey, all want electronic gadgets, and many think nothing of ripping out hundreds of thousands of pounds of decor or equipment.

'One house in Belgravia was completely fitted out with gizmos from intelligent lifts to electronic blinds and a cinema. The manuals for it all filled an entire ►

Christmas bonus boys, Russian oligarchs, minted hedge fund traders... Britain is awash with billionaires – and they want their presents now. From instant mansions and cars to parties and yachts, a new tribe of super-fixer has emerged. And, as Katie Nicholl discovers, money really can get you anything – and fast

'These guys have big bucks to spend,' says House, 'and they want someone to give good advice and access. They have no idea where to go for a night out. But I know the maître d's at the finest restaurants, I'm friends with the club owners – and I know all the best nights. There is so much money around – entrepreneurs, City boys and brokers especially have so much cash on their hands, they think nothing of spending more than fifty grand on a big night out. 'One of the most expensive parties I've thrown was a night in St Tropez that cost the host more than £100,000.'

Formula One tycoon Flavio Briatore once commissioned House to oversee a night at his Billionaire Club in Milan, flying him to Italy on his private jet to ensure the party ran smoothly. 'After all that, Flavio refuelled his jet and flew to his home in Kenya.'

For those with more modest means, he suggests the London Parties card. For £400 a year it enables clients to get into the best parties in town – a small outlay for huge bragging rights.

londonparties.co.uk

Billionaire problem: 'I've just been handed a huge bonus and want to party like it's 1999.'

House's fix: 'We could put together an *Alice In Wonderland* party at the RAC Club in London, with Dom Perignon poured from bone china teapots into teacups by waitresses in costume. It would cost about £140,000, but if you wanted it for New Year, it would be more like £300,000.'

How painful was your Christmas shopping this year? Doubtless, it was expensive and tiresome; but at least (one hopes) you and your grateful recipients got what they wanted. In which case, consider yourself fortunate. The first and last time, you are one up on super-rich. Because despite their monies, it's highly likely Santa will not be right.

That the fabulously well-heeled – Russian bonus boys, the world's top hedge funders choosing to live here, attracted by tax breaks, a booming financial industry – the best, most expensive houses in the country they want to spend their cash here, too. It is not as easy as you might imagine. The services and property markets cannot meet demand, and waiting lists are for arrivals no longer enough; you need contacts, and in the past few years a new tribe has been born: the super-fixer helps the super-rich spend their cash. The super-fixer – for luxury cars, houses, holidays, art, parties and all those luxuries a rich man without – can buy a car, a house, anything they want or, for a party, assemble a bespoke party style for the well-to-do banker.

It is too much: a classic of Lusso in green, an opulent room with the latest 104in TV, an original Andy Warhol party in town with an array of Cristal champagne to name it, and for a billionaire fixer will do – as long as you can get them.

The magazine can. You're a new billionaire looking to party without a banker freshly from your Christmas window shopping like we're delighted to do reductions...

THE PARTY ORGANISER NICK HOUSE

A mobile phone has been ring-bellied this Christmas, and in every club is a full-time party-organiser. Nick House, a 31-year-old former City banker, is one of the most sought-after party-organisers in London. And if you really want to spend, he will make sure you have the most festive bash in town. He always calls him when you're in London, and why he has to arrange clubbing nights for William and Harry. He's also arranged private parties for The Rolling Stones, Jay Lohan, P Diddy, Usher, and Prince, to name but a few.

From left: Nick House (parties), Robert Bailey (property), Gregor Fiskens (cars), Katie Nicholl (yachts) and David Mason (helicopter all wrapped up for Christmas). Right: party-loving Prince Harry

