



# ForbesLife

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# Forbe Life



## Wrappers? Delights

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ULTIMATE  
HOLIDAY  
GIFT GUIDE

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The  
Holiday  
EYE

**P**etra Nemcova has a three-kiss minimum for all greetings and farewells—nonnegotiable. And it is not the fashion world affection of someone so obviously genetically blessed. When she leans in, it's to make a genuine connection.

"Petra is special," says her good friend Russell Simmons. "She has the biggest heart. There are very, very few models who would be able to do what she is pulling off."

What Nemcova has been pulling off for the past decade is singular among models. In addition to her life in front of the camera, the 34-year-old Nemcova is a philanthropist—in 2005, one year after surviving a deadly tsunami in Thailand, she founded the Happy Hearts Fund, which is dedicated to improving the lives of children affected by natural disasters. She's also an ambassador-at-large to Haiti. And for the past three years, Nemcova has overseen the launch of a luxury home decor line called Be The Light that's inspired by her passion for travel. (In October, for instance, she visited four continents in ten days.)

Be The Light debuted earlier this summer with a line of candles that represents distinct elements of a country's culture. Celebration of Life incorporates vanilla, nutmeg and other spices from Mexico. Peacefulness is infused with Indonesian patchouli. And Gratitude, a balsam and fir

scent, was inspired by America's bluebell fields.

"We are all connected," Nemcova says of her brand's guiding ethos. "I want people to be able to discover the little, hidden things of my favorite places in the world—some of them are really unknown but so beautiful."

Like her family's Christmas tradition that inspired Czech Holiday Cookie, a cinnamon-and-clove-based candle.

"It starts two weeks prior with the whole family baking cookies," Nemcova explains. "Father would do the dough, and Mum would roll it, and we'd create the shapes. It makes the house smell beautifully, but it's not as much about making it as about the togetherness of the family. Not just gluing cookies together but gluing the family together."

They'll wrap a chain around the table during Christmas dinner "to keep us tight together" and cut an apple in half afterward to foretell whether everyone will be healthy in the New Year. And they will most definitely get messy.

"We have one tradition where you dip a finger in honey and then you put it on the cheeks of everyone at the table," she says. "There's a honey war going on between everyone, and it's very funny because your hair sticks everywhere. But it's all about the meaning—to try to be beautiful for the next year. Not just outside, but inside. To be beautiful and good, like honey."

If Nemcova is any proof, it works wonders.

—HANNAH ELLIOTT



STYLING: JESSICA BROWN; HAIR: TONY AND ACHILLE; MAKEUP: JESSICA BROWN; PROP STYLING: DANIEL ALONSO; HAIR: TONY AND ACHILLE; MAKEUP: JESSICA BROWN; PROP STYLING: DANIEL ALONSO

EYE Photographer: Mark Platt  
Style Director: Joseph DeAcetis



Alligator weekend bag by Ralph Lauren Purple Label (\$24,000)

## A NEW FLAME

SCENT CAN TRANSPORT US WITHOUT our ever leaving the living room. And Petra Nemcova's new World Collection of artisanal candles is designed to evoke some of her favorite places on Earth. Light up, and let the journey begin.



Left to right: American Bluebell Bliss, Indonesian Patchouli Peace and Czech Holiday Cookie candles by Be The Light (\$98 each). [bethelightny.com](http://bethelightny.com)

WALLINGTON/STYLING: NICKAL INDUSTRIES; MAKEUP: JESSICA BROWN; PROP STYLING: DANIEL ALONSO

## THE PERFECT TRAVEL COMPANION

EVEN A MAN WHO HAS EVERYTHING needs something stylish to carry it in. Case in point: conceivably the best-looking weekend bag you've seen since Grandad's vintage Goyard gave up the ghost on that hazy road trip back in '68. Classically clean-lined, sturdily sewn and amply sized to hold your stuff, this is an alligator for the ages.

The  
**Holiday**  
EYE

# ALL THAT GLITTERS

**AFTER EVERYTHING**—The wrapping paper strewn about, the kids gone off to master Fruit Ninja—you, oh Shrewd One, produce one more item, a package smaller than the rest.

And if the little box contains one of these statement pieces: gems whose brilliant colors make an instant impression but whose workmanship deserves a lifetime of appreciation, well, she just might appreciate you, too.



Top to bottom: "Herkimer" amethyst drop earrings with 18k gold and bezel-set diamonds by Verdura (\$16,850); cabochon cut black opal bracelet with sapphire beads, emerald beads, diamonds and platinum by Cartier (price available upon request); Burmese spinel ring with diamonds and platinum by James de Givency for Taffin (price available upon request).

Opposite: Sapphire and diamond earrings by Chopard (price available upon request); diamond and platinum bracelet by Chopard (price available upon request).





## A Jeff Koons That Floats? Inside Dakis Joannou's Maritime Masterpiece

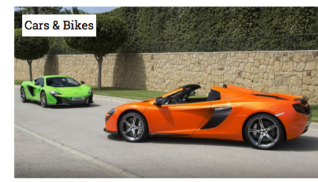


Travel  
The Last Virgin Island: Guana

Tech



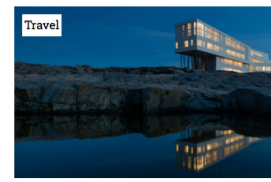
Dial G for Gold: A 24-Karat iPhone 6 Is Coming



Cars & Bikes  
Test Driving the 2015 McLaren 650S Supercar



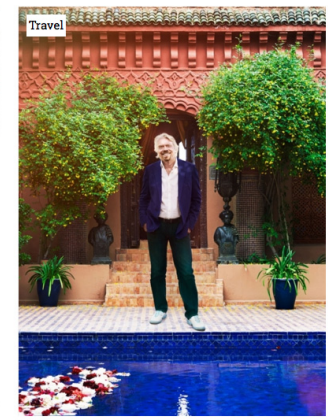
Watches & Jewelry  
Time Traveler: Louis Vuitton's Escale Worldtime



Travel  
The Hot Hotel in Iceberg Alley: Fogo Island Inn



Tech  
Frends Headphones Fuse Style and Sound



Travel  
Inside Richard Branson's Exotic Moroccan Retreat