

Three Decades of THE LUXURY LIFESTYLE

Robb Report

SPECIAL ISSUE

The Icons
and Innovators
Who Define
Excellence

*Celebrating the
Most Exclusive
Brands of All Time*



JANUARY 2006



INCLUDING » Rolls-Royce * Ferrari * Mercedes-Benz * Patek Philippe
Cartier * Tiffany & Co. * De Beers * Beretta * Sotheby's * Feadship * Cunard
Four Seasons * Abercrombie & Kent * Louis Vuitton * Brioni * Armani
Château Lafite Rothschild * The Glenlivet * Davidoff * Ducati

robbreport.com
A CURTIS MEDIA PUBLICATION

· LUXURY LANDMARKS ·

Three decades of milestones that have shaped the connoisseur's world.

1976

Volume I, Number 1

The Robb Report, a publication devoted to advertisements for new and vintage Rolls-Royces, is launched in Atlanta. Within a few years, articles on cars, airplanes, homes, and collectibles will begin appearing regularly. The first editorial feature will be a commentary in the December 1979 issue called "The Gas Crisis: Some Off-beat Ways to Whip It." (The suggestions do not include driving a vehicle that is more fuel-efficient than a Rolls-Royce.) Samuel J. Phillips will purchase the magazine in 1983 and move its base of operations to Acton, Mass., where it will remain in his family's control for nearly two decades. During the Phillips era, *The Robb Report* will lose the definite article from its title and introduce what will become its three most popular annual features: the Ultimate Gift Guide (1984), Best of the Best (1989), and Car of the Year (1994). In 1999, the family will create *Robb's* first spin-off, *Showcase*, which, under the ensuing ownership, will evolve into *The Robb Report Collection*. In 2001, William J. Curtis, a veteran magazine publisher and longtime *Robb Report* reader, will acquire the magazine and relocate its headquarters to Malibu, Calif. But the business will become bicoastal, as Curtis will retain the Acton office and open an office in Manhattan. *Robb Report* will become the flagship of Curtis' new company, CurtCo Robb Media, which, through magazine launches and acquisitions, will grow to include more than a dozen titles by the beginning of 2006. >>





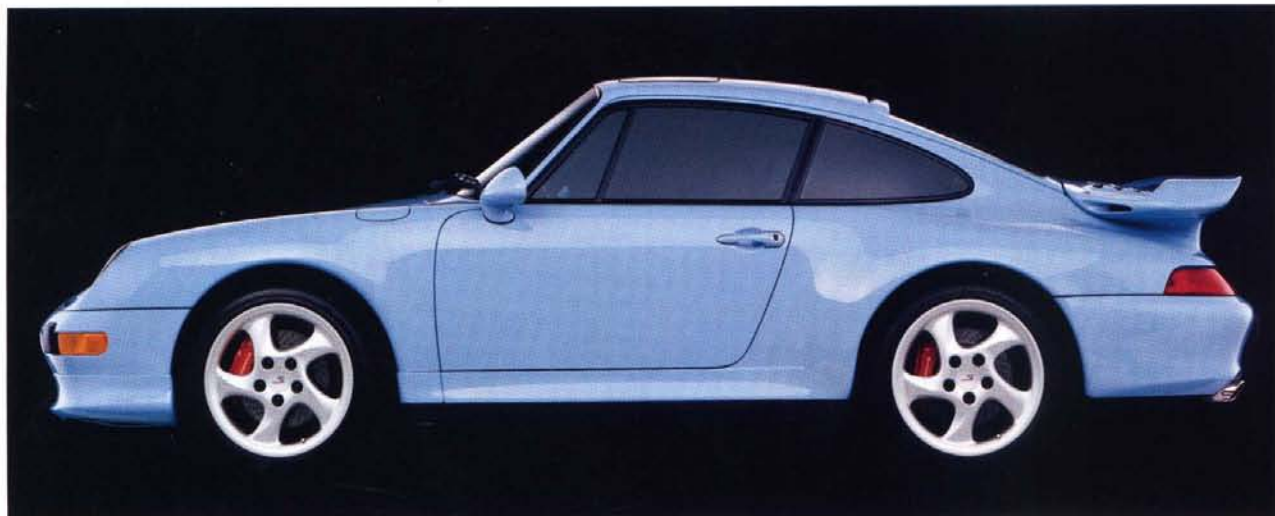
1994

Hello, Keller

THOMAS KELLER purchases the French Laundry, a restaurant in Yountville, Calif., from Don and Sally Schmidt, and takes over as chef. Keller does not change the establishment's name, but the cuisine that he serves there will transform American fine dining.

Air-Cooled Classic

PORSCHE INTRODUCES the 993, the ultimate expression of the 911, a year ahead of the vehicle's U.S. debut. The car's 2-liter, flat-6, air-cooled engine, which appeared first in the then-all-new 911 of 1964, eventually will be retired, along with the 993, in 1998. By that time, displacement will have grown to 3.6 liters and horsepower to 282.



1996

Flame Thrower

HEARTS ON FIRE presents the first branded diamond, carving out a niche in what hitherto had been a commodity industry. Entrepreneur Glenn Rothman spent 18 months working with Belgian cutter Van Bleck to develop the distinctive diamond cut that, when viewed from the bottom with a loupe, reveals eight heart-shaped reflections. Rothman markets the stone as a distinguishable brand to create consumer demand and justify premium pricing. In the ensuing years, dozens of branded diamonds will enter the market seeking to imitate his successful strategy.

1997

For Better or Worse

POOR MARLA Maples. She thought the prenuptial agreement that she signed four years ago, in 1993, was a contract for eternal bliss, but when husband Donald Trump files for divorce in May, she discovers that it is instead a kind of lease with an option to buy. The prenup states that if their marriage dissolves within five years, her alimony and child support will be only a fraction of what they would have been had the union lasted longer. *Ipsa facto*, the prenup is an incentive for Trump to call it quits. Because of the publicity that will surround the Trump-Maples split, prenups, though certainly not new, suddenly will become fashionable.

A Major Player

SONY INTRODUCES the first high-end DVD player, the DVP-7000. The digital video disc (which later will be redubbed the digital versatile disc) catapults the home theater revolution and paves the way for HDTV and other advances in digital home entertainment. With features such as 10-bit video processing, dual laser pickups for CD and DVD, and the first component video outputs, the DVP-7000 is the most coveted player in the burgeoning market.