

AMERICA'S ELITE

1000

THE ULTIMATE LIST
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ANTIQUES • YACHTING • EVENTS • ARCHITECTS & INTERIOR DESIGNERS

PRIVATE CLUBS • TRAVEL CONSULTANTS • GOLF CLUBS • HOTELS

REAL ESTATE AGENTS • FLORISTS • JEWELRY • PARTY ORGANIZERS

CULINARY SCHOOLS • ART DEALERS • POLO CLUBS • RESTAURANTS • MUSEUMS

FASHION • SECURITY CONSULTANTS • SPAS & CLINICS • SPECIALTY SHOPS

CHAUFFEUR SERVICES • WEALTH MANAGEMENT • WINERIES



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO LUXURY LIVING

AMERICA'S ELITE 1000

THE LISTINGS

The 1000 names on our list are the editors' choices of the finest shops, services and luxury goods that America has to offer. Every company or individual proposed for inclusion has been checked and cross-checked by our network of contributors, advisors and contacts, to ensure that inclusion is merited. The names have been selected on the basis of the current excellence of their products and services, rather than simply a high profile or impressive past reputation. Equally, all names have been judged against a pan-American standard of excellence, rather than being selected on a state-by-state basis. All of the entries will be reviewed and updated annually.

While the *Elite 1000* naturally includes the acknowledged greats, it also contains many less predictable names. Readers may be surprised to find certain famous names missing from the list. If they did not qualify, it is because they appear to have succumbed either to the temptation of resting on their laurels, rather than constantly reviewing and upgrading their standards, or to the temptation of becoming too commercial and populist.

Entries described as *Best Kept Secrets* are specialty shops and services. Many of the names are already well-established but deserve to be more widely known. Some of them are hardly known outside the inner circle of America's cognoscenti. All of them offer outstanding quality and an indefinable 'something special'.

We have also highlighted *Rising Stars*, those firms which, in our opinion, will soon make it to the very top in their particular field. Some of these firms may not have yet fulfilled their potential or proved that they have real staying power but their commitment to excellence is unquestioned.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The *Elite 1000* is published in alphabetical order, across all product categories. The names are cross-referenced in three indexes, to enable you to use this book in a variety of ways. For example, if you are traveling to a particular city, you would use the city index to discover the best of everything in, say, Washington D.C. On the other hand, if you are the best in a certain field—say jewelers or antique dealers—you would use the product category index, which will list all names under the relevant category heading. In addition, there is a straight alphabetical index of all names which have been included in the Listings section of the book.

STERLING DOMESTICS*Employment Agencies*

JaNiece Rush's contingency search firm specializes in staffing the homes and properties of some of the world's most prosperous families. Named "Best of the Best" in 1997 by the Association of Celebrity Personal Assistants, the firm supplies a discerning clientele with assistants, private yacht and aircraft staff, bodyguards, butlers, nannies, chefs and maids. Sterling also offers unusual services, such as "Kid Couriers." These professional nannies travel with children to join parents for part of a vacation or to visit a parent while working on the road.

633 Third Avenue

New York, NY 10017

Tel: 212-661-5813

Fax: 212-867-9147

**STEBEN***Specialty Shops*

For nearly 100 years, Steuben has been at the forefront of glass design, balancing state-of-the-art technological advancements with centuries-old traditional glassmaking techniques. Founded in 1903 by English glassmaker Frederick Carder, the firm is named after Steuben County, New York, where its design studio and sole glassworks facility are still located. Today, the company's master craftsmen create everything from graceful, fluid forms sculpted in molten crystal to complex designs cut or engraved on the cooled glass. Check out the company's brand new flagship on Madison Avenue.

667 Madison Avenue

New York, NY 10022

Tel: 212-752-1441

SURROUNDINGS*Florists*

Founded in 1976, the firm's flagship store on Manhattan's Upper West Side is an integral part of the design community, serving discerning homemakers like Julie Andrews, Cindy Crawford and Steven Spielberg. President Gary Buckwald handpicks intriguing new vases from around the globe to enhance a bouquet's appearance. Surroundings also has a network of affiliates who meet their exacting standards in several cities around the country.

224 West 79th Street

New York, NY 10024

Tel: 212-675-2688 ext. 124 Fax: 212-724-9131

STEVEN HOLL ARCHITECTS*Architects and Interior Designers*

In addition to winning several prestigious awards, the prolific principal of this New York firm has published some 150 articles since 1978. His designs have been exhibited at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Henry Art Gallery in Seattle. In 1989, the Museum of Modern Art presented Holl's work in a special two-man show, purchasing several drawings for their permanent collection. Holl learned his trade in Rome and founded his firm in 1976.

435 Hudson Street, 4th Floor

New York, NY 10014

Tel: 212-989-0918 Fax: 212-463-9718

**STRATEGIC CONTROLS***Security Consultants*

In business since 1978, Gerald O'Rourke's security philosophy is one of "total control." A former state trooper, deputy U.S. marshal and security manager of Flying Tiger Airways, O'Rourke now acts as an independent security consultant to large institutions and private clients. Although he is based in New York City, he is often called to re-evaluate and redesign problematic security situations for companies who do not employ a full-time security management team around the country.

244 Madison Avenue, Suite 147

New York, NY 10016

Tel: 888-206-8325

STONEPINE*Hotels*

The only Purple Shield Relais & Chateaux property in America, Stonepine is only for those looking for serious luxury. Set in the seclusion of picturesque Carmel Valley, it was built in the late 20s and has been embellished and expanded since 1983 by owners Gordon and Noel Hentschel. Covering 330 pristine acres on gently rolling hills, Stonepine offers 16 accommodations, including two private cottages inspired by notable designers Chanel and Cartier. Chateau Noel, the main house, is set in Italian Renaissance style with a seven-foot carved limestone fireplace, innumerable antiques, fine oil paintings, Lalique crystal and porcelain by Lladro. For those who prefer an equine environment, snag one of the four suites in the Paddock House, set on the older operating thoroughbred ranch west of the Mississippi.

150 East Carmel Valley Road

Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Tel: 831-659-2245 Fax: 831-659-5160

**STRIBLING & ASSOCIATES***Property Consultants*

Elizabeth Stribling founded her brokerage firm in 1980, setting her sights on the most exclusive addresses in Manhattan, including Park Avenue and Central Park West. With 110 experienced brokers and agents, the company's average sale price for townhouses, condominiums and cooperative apartments is \$1 million and spans up to \$2 million. Large enough to offer distinctive properties yet small enough to tend to detail, the firm was honored in 1995, when Stribling won the Henry Foster Award for outstanding achievement and conduct within the residential brokerage profession.

924 Madison Avenue

New York, NY 10021

Tel: 212-570-2440

**STUBBS & WOOTTON***Specialty Shops*

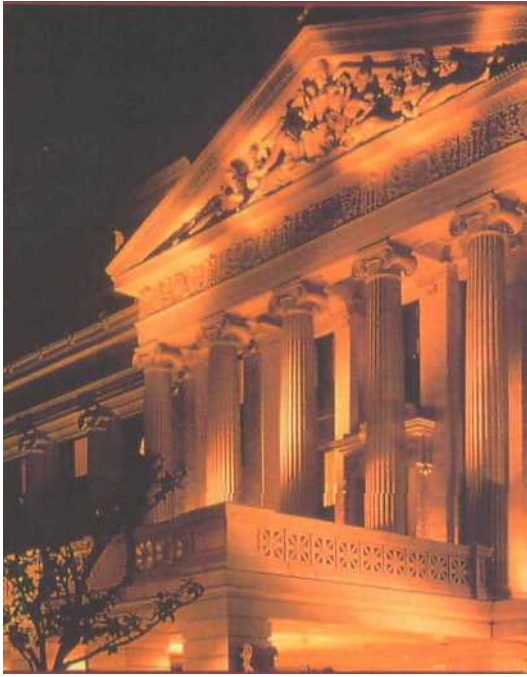
Founded in 1993 by Percival Steinhart, Stubbs Wootton offers a unique line of men's and women's day into evening wear velvet slippers. The shoes are made from European fabrics, including needlepoints, tapestries, linens and velvet, many featuring intricate embroideries. Crafted by an in-house team, the materials are manufactured and imported from Spain and Italy and offered at three branches: Palm Beach, New York and Southampton. The slippers are carried at select Neiman Marcus stores, as are sandals, mules and handbags for women.

323 Worth Avenue

Palm Beach, FL 33480

Tel: 561-655-4105





Fully revised and updated, the second edition of *America's Elite 1000 — The Ultimate List* is a unique, insiders' guide to the finest that the United States has to offer; now also complemented by its website, www.elite1000.com. Informed, succinct and amusing, it was compiled with the help and advice of distinguished contributors, celebrities and individuals of style and substance, who were selected for their unique knowledge and excellent local contacts.

The Listings section of the book embraces virtually every activity of interest to the sophisticated and discerning reader. We nominate, for Instance, the right picture dealers to patronise, the best interior designers to commission and the firms that supply the best butlers, valets and nannies, as well as the smartest golf clubs, the top lawyers and the most capable party organizers. Not only do we tell you which are the best hotels and the smartest restaurants, we give you inside information on the most beautiful rooms to stay in, the special dishes to order and the best wines to drink.

America's Elite 1000 is the definitive guide to the best of American life and style.

Kevin Kelly, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Cadogan Publications, is a publisher of international repute, having won major awards for *The World of Interiors* and *Business* magazines, the latter published in conjunction with the *Financial Times*. In addition, he has created a variety of titles focusing on the luxury goods market, including *Departures* for American Express Gold and Platinum card holders, *Perspective* — the house magazine for the Savoy Group of Hotels — and a highly acclaimed British edition of *W*. In addition, Kelly published *Inside Hotels* magazine for the American hospitality industry and is currently publisher of three award-winning publications, *Image*, *Image Interiors* and *The World of Hibernia*.

A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, Trevor While worked as a freelance writer in the United States and Africa, before becoming Features Editor of Irish *Food and Wine* magazine. In 1997 he was appointed as a Contributing Editor at Cadogan Publications, with specific responsibility for the best-selling *Europe's Elite 1000*. In 1999 he spent nine months traveling through the United States with a team of critics and researchers. The result, *America's Elite 1000*, has been acclaimed across the country as "the definitive guide to the good life" and "a reference book of excellence."

Cover photographs: Back cover (clockwise from top left): Blackberry Farm photo by Robin Hood, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, Marina Rust photo by Stephen Simons, Speed boat courtesy of Magnum Marine, The trompe l'oeil Pompeian gallery by Juan Pablo Molyneux photo by Billy Cunningham. Front flap: Exterior at night of the Ritz-Carlton San Francisco.

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