

# FRANCE TODAY

The Magazine of French Travel and Culture

January 2012  
\$4.95

Close to Heaven:  
Val d'Isère

The Artist Star  
Jean Dujardin

Pale and Mellow:  
Very Rare Cognac



VOLUME 27, NO. 1  
www.francetoday.com



Inside:  
2012 Travel Study Guide

FRANCE TODAY  
JANVIER 2012

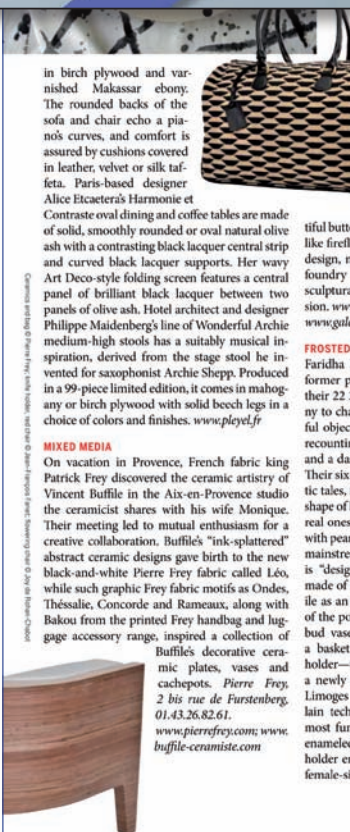
VASE SOLIFLORE  
PHOTOPHORE  
"CIEL & TERRE"

BLOC COUTEAUX  
"CIRCUS"

CHAISE CANNAGE  
"C1715" ROUGE



EDITION DESIGN



in birch plywood and varnished Makassar ebony. The rounded backs of the sofa and chair echo a piano's curves, and comfort is assured by cushions covered in leather, velvet or silk; taf-feta. Paris-based designer Alice Etcaer's Harmonie et Contrasté oval dining and coffee tables are made of solid, smoothly rounded or oval natural olive ash with a contrasting black lacquer central strip and curved black lacquer supports. Her wavy Art Deco-style folding screen features a central panel of brilliant black lacquer between two panels of olive ash. Hotel architect and designer Philippe Maidenber's line of Wonderful Archie medium-high stools has a suitably musical inspiration, derived from the stage stool he invented for saxophonist Archie Shepp. Produced in a 99-piece limited edition, it comes in mahogany or birch plywood with solid beech legs in a choice of colors and finishes. [www.pleyel.fr](http://www.pleyel.fr)

**MIXED MEDIA**

On vacation in Provence, French fabric king Patrick Frey discovered the ceramic artistry of Vincent Buffile in the Aix-en-Provence studio the ceramicist shares with his wife Monique. Their meeting led to mutual enthusiasm for a creative collaboration. Buffile's "ink-splattered" abstract ceramic designs gave birth to the new black-and-white Pierre Frey fabric called Léa, while such graphic Frey fabric motifs as Ondes, Thésalie, Concorde and Rameaux, along with Bakou from the printed Frey handbag and luggage accessory range, inspired a collection of Buffile's decorative ceramic plates, vases and cachepots. Pierre Frey, 2 bis rue de Furstenberg, 01.43.26.82.61. [www.pierrefrey.com](http://www.pierrefrey.com); [www.buffile-ceramiste.com](http://www.buffile-ceramiste.com)

**BIRDS AND FIREFLIES**

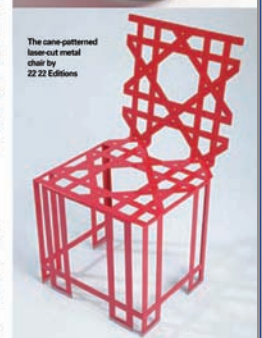
As winter comes can spring be far off? Artist and designer Joy de Chabot's latest *Lucioles* (Fireflies) collection in wood, bronze and glass pro-whimsical foretaste of balmy days in a magical garden. Inspired by her poetic vision of nature, Rohan-Chabot's huge translucent bronze butterfly spreads its wings to support a cloud-shaped glass tabletop while delicately painted blooms scramble up the back of an elegant bronze chair and tiny gilded birds perch on the twigs of tree branches that support a three-tier glass console. True to the collection's title, small gilded bronze trees are hung with beautiful butterflies and glass candle jars that twinkle like fireflies when lighted at night. Each bronze design, made in collaboration with the Fusion foundry in Auvergne, is unique, but similar sculptural works may be ordered on commission. [www.joydehanchabot.com](http://www.joydehanchabot.com); [www.galerieamatignon.com](http://www.galerieamatignon.com)

**FROSTED, FRAGILE AND FUN**

Faridha El Gabsi and Jean-Claude Cardiet, a former perfume flacon designer, have pledged their 22 22 Edition Design production company to champion humor and poetry in "beautiful objects that combine function and fiction", recounting stories with a twist to add mystery—and a dash of surrealism—to everyday objects. Their six-object first collection tells some eclectic tales, from a frosted-glass Biblio lamp in the shape of luminous books that slips in among the real ones on the shelf to a chaise longue strung with pearlized plastic balls. Still stylish, but more mainstream, an updated cane-patterned chair is "designed like a construction puzzle" and made of laser-cut metal. "As beautiful and fragile as an art object" is Cardiet's description of the porcelain Ciel & Terre (Sky & Earth) bud vase that reverses into a basket or a candleholder—the product of a newly developed Limoges porcelain technique. The most fun: the hot-red enameled porcelain knife holder emblazoned with the female-silhouette target of a



The Circus knife holder by 22 22 Editions



The cane-patterned laser-cut metal chair by 22 22 Editions



Flowering garden chair by Joy de Rohan-Chabot

circus knife-thrower that is bound to brighten up the most minimalist kitchen. [www.2222editiondesign.fr](http://www.2222editiondesign.fr)

For more Design Now: [www.francetoday.com/](http://www.francetoday.com/)