

# QUINTESSENTIALLY FUN



business elite. The new phone marks the company's tenth anniversary and is available in pewter, green, red, sky blue or cerise monogrammed leather. Designer Frank Nuovo, creator of the Vertu 'V' logo, has developed the logo further, into a monogram on the hand-moulded leather back plate. A fine grain leather is used to produce the sharpest image of the pattern possible, using the highest quality printing, combining two darker tones in contrast to the leather colour. This meticulous process takes four hours to complete – and the results are well worth it. The price tag? £2,950. [vertu.com](http://vertu.com)



quicker finishes complemented by the cool touch of pressed steel panels. A great design touch comes in the shape of the control system: rather than a confu-

Originally designed for pocket watches to maintain their accuracy by counteracting the effect of gravity, the tourbillon is no longer a necessity, but remains a hallmark of quality for brands such as Germany's A. Lange & Söhne. It has combined the mechanism with the classic look of its rectangular Cabaret watch to create the Cabaret Tourbillon. The movement, containing two diamonds and 47 rubies, is visible through a window in the watch face. Add to that a solid silver dial, pink-gold hands and a supple crocodile strap and the asking price of £138,000 is perfectly justified. [alange-sohne.com](http://alange-sohne.com)



#### Flaming brilliant

Fireplaces are no longer a gathering place for families on cold winter's nights; they're a design statement. The Safretti Goya wall-mounted fireplace features a stylish billowing fire, that almost looks like a flaming mouth, which runs on bio-ethanol made from natural raw materials such as potatoes and maize, so there's no pollution.

As a result, the carbon dioxide emission is equal to that of two medium-sized candles. The sleek black stainless steel fireplace contrasts nicely with the primitive flame, creating an ambience that harks back to the grandeur of ancient Egyptian corridors. Being green never looked so good. Price TBA. [safretti.com](http://safretti.com)

#### Creature comforts

It's not often you hear 'politically correct' and 'lux' in the same sentence, but that's exactly what this reindeer-lux rug is. Swedish design company Lyx have created a beautifully sexy and luxurious rug following in the traditions of the Sami tribespeople. Each

#### Easy listening

The Vita Audio R4 is a music system for the modern age and follows in the footsteps of award-winning DAB radios. The UK-engineered R4 comprises a CD player, DAB/FM radio and integrated iPod dock, and rather than opting for cheap-looking plastics, the handcrafted cabinets of the Vita Audio R4 employ either warm, tactile real-wood veneers or flashing piano lac-

quing mass of buttons, Vita Audio has developed an easy-to-use RotoDial control system; and in a rather ratty touch, the RotoDial can be removed to use as a remote handset.

With 80 watts of output, state-of-the-art components and a downward-facing subwoofer, the R4 offers a sound that belies the system's modest dimensions. And all for just £500. [vitaaudio.com](http://vitaaudio.com)



Confederate

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extreme cold. POA. [lyx.com](http://lyx.com)

#### Dream on

The benefits of a good night's sleep have long been known, but getting your eight hours isn't always possible. Luxury bed makes, Vi-Spring has launched a bed that even the most gregarious night owls would eschew glamorous parties to retire to. Designed exclusively for Harrods and tailor-made using the finest natural materials, the Monarch bed is filled with lambswool, mohair, cashmere and, for the first time, exotic bamboo fibre. Stuffed with 3,420 springs for unrivalled cushion-like comfort and support, the mattress and divan are both covered in fabric of the highest quality, carefully sewn by hand.

Said to be the bed of choice for David Beckham, all this opulence can be yours for £24,275. [vispring.co.uk](http://vispring.co.uk)



Safretti

#### Mean machine

Looking more like a primitive creation from the mind of HR Giger or something that Batman would have parked up in his Batcave, the Confederate Renovatio is like no other motorbike.

American copycat Confederate set out to design a bike that would be lightweight with the fewest moving parts possible, so the front end, carbon-fibre fuel tank and the swing arm are all mounted directly to the V-twin

daylights out of everyone else on the road and be warned, there's even going to be a 190bhp supercharged version for those who feel up to the challenge. This mother of all motorbikes is set to hit the road in 2009 for around \$40,000. [confederate.com](http://confederate.com)

#### Ray of light

With the high-definition disc war being won by Blu-ray after Toshiba announced that it would no longer manufacture and market its HD DVD recorders, it's now safe to dive into the market knowing there is only one format. Pioneer's BDP-LX70A is the best Blu-ray player around, and ought to be for a price tag that is nearly double that of its competitors. It delivers stunning sound and vision; can stream audio and video from your computer; and is compatible with MP3, WMA and WAV files as well as JPEG, PNG, GIF,

MPEG and WMA files. It ticks just about every box on a home cinema enthusiast's list, offering brilliant colours, deep blacks and razor-sharp edges.

The soundtracks in TrueHD and DTS-HD are dynamic and clear, just the way the makers of the movie intended them to be, making this machine by far the best way to enjoy your Blu-ray discs – and worth every penny of the £1,000 price tag. [pioneer.co.uk](http://pioneer.co.uk)

