

# ELLE

ARAB WORLD

ISSUE 3 - JUNE 2010

## DEMI *Back for Moore*

*Inside the  
troubled world  
of Domestic  
Violence*

SOUTH  
INDIA  
*Exotic and  
hypnotic*

# SUMMER FUN

BEACHWEAR,  
BEAUTY TIPS,  
ACCESSORIES...  
EVERYTHING  
TO SHINE  
UNDER THE SUN

UAE 15DHs



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ELLE designers

# ROBERTO CAVALLI *The Leopard King*



Roberto Cavalli in his Florence headquarters.

Mattia Tacconi





Florence headquarters.

WITH THE 40<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
ROBERTO CAVALLI'S  
ICONIC LINE  
APPROACHING THIS  
OCTOBER, WE SIT DOWN  
WITH THE FLORENTINE  
FASHION MOGUL WHO  
CREATED A WORLD OF  
'AMORE', FUSING BOLD  
ANIMAL PRINTS,  
PATCHWORK AND  
EMBROIDERY WITH  
SEDUCTIVE SILHOUETTES  
AND STUNNING ITALIAN  
CRAFTSMANSHIP FOR  
OVER FOUR DECADES.



Florence headquarters.





Florence headquarters.



Fashion show Fall/Winter 2005-2006



Print - China Vase.



Print - Lily. 1980's.



Print - Giraffe |  
Spring/Summer 2006

**F**irst may I say:  
*Congratulazioni!*  
You have enjoyed such  
fabulous success, not to mention  
an amazing 40-year career, making  
women look beautiful in your  
dresses, prints, and impeccably  
fitted clothing... Could you  
describe what it feels like making  
millions of women looking so fan-  
tastic and feeling sexy and special  
just by wearing your designs?

Thank you for all the compliments!  
I am very proud of my career, after all  
fashion is my life: I cannot imagine  
doing anything differently. I would  
have loved to become an architect, or  
an artist, but there is an element of  
constant change in fashion that suits  
my ebullient personality. For me  
fashion means creativity, joy, fun and  
seduction. Of course, I could never be  
tired of fashion... because fashion is  
inside me; it is part of my DNA.  
Clothes should emphasise one's perso-  
nality and make a woman feel more  
secure about her self and as a conse-  
quence feel sexier. I like to say that a  
gown can change your life.



Print - Zebra. 1970's.

Objective Image





Cavalli Club in Florence

*This fall, we will join you in celebrating the 40th anniversary of your great label Roberto Cavalli. Does Mr. Roberto Cavalli have any regrets? Or things he wishes he had done differently?*

In general I never look at the past; my mind is always focused on the future ... but I can tell you that my life was a great adventure and I have no regrets... I have always done everything with love, which is the most important thing in my life...

*We know you love to enjoy life, parties and people... For people with your lifestyle, it is often said, "Solitude becomes a luxury." Do you feel that way?*

I love life and all its aspects... including solitude...

I am not only a party guy; I also spend my free time with my family enjoying nature and the good old outdoors. I love to dedicate myself to my passions, like piloting my Ecureuil helicopter. Sometimes I fly it when the sun is setting, and from up there it is fantastic to watch the light fading on the Tuscan hills...

I also enjoy riding horses with my youngest son Robin in Tuscany, and I love to sail the sea on my yacht...

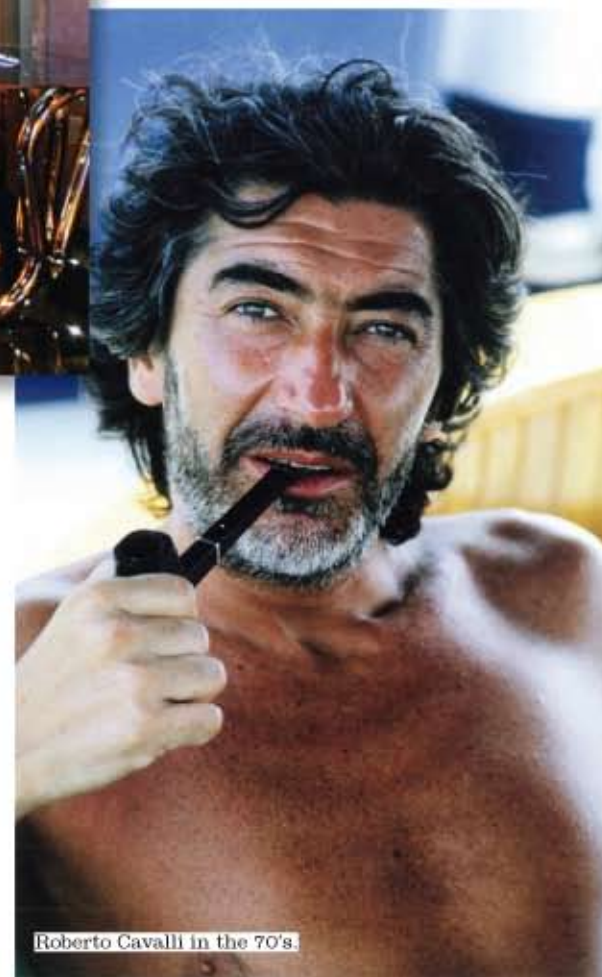
*How do you describe your bond with Eva: at work, and in your personal life?*

Eva holds the most important titles, both within our company and in our private life; she is my wife, my confi-

dante, my best friend, and my most trusted adviser because she knows how to turn my fantasies into reality.

*Why have you chosen Dubai to open the 3rd Cavalli Club - after Milan and Florence?*

Dubai is a city of the future and the Cavalli Club is a futuristic space created with a global perspective. Dubai represents this new millennium that has just begun, and is constantly reinventing itself with a new way of living. The Cavalli Club philosophy is all about triumphing over monotony, by enjoying good music, food, and pleasant company. Dubai is opening the



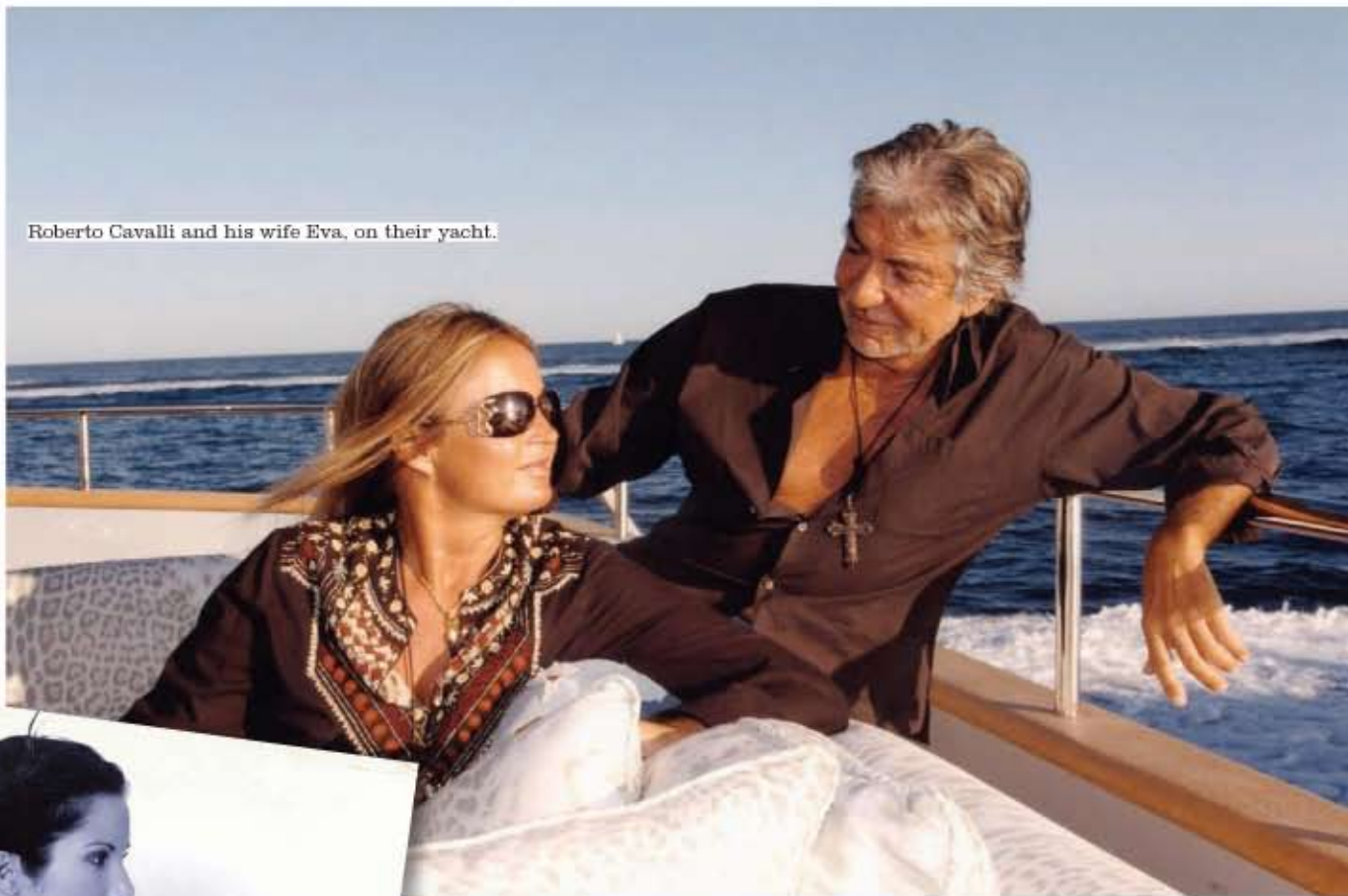
Roberto Cavalli in the 70's



Cavalli Club in Dubai



Roberto Cavalli and his wife Eva, on their yacht.



windows of tomorrow with this exciting project.

**How would you describe the oriental women?**

They are full of energy, personality and very attractive ...

**And what about the way they wear Cavalli?**

I think that they interpret my style with a very positive, individualistic, vibrant and winning vision. ... I like it.

**Do you realize the strong impact and success of Roberto Cavalli in the Arab world?**

I know that I am very appreciated in this part of the world and I am very proud of this... I consider the oriental world a seductive and mysterious place...

**What was your defining collection, the one that marked you the most?**

I still remember with great emotion my first fashion show when I debuted with a line of patchwork pants, mini-dresses and maxi coats in 1972, in the White Room of the Pitti Palace in Florence. Models wearing leather and denim – at the time considered fabrics for cowboys, truckers and whores – created such an unbelievable success.

**What is this amazing 'thing' you have for animal prints? Is it a cultural reference you always come back to?**

I have always been interested in the animal world and in nature... they are my primary sources of inspiration. Nature, with its extraordinary colours and nuances, offers such great emotions... for this reason I decided to use animal and floral prints in my collections... I consider them key elements of my style...

**Do you think a woman of any age can wear Cavalli?**

Yes, because the Cavalli woman is not only beautiful and young in spirit, she is a positive, cheerful, joyful and confident individual. She is the master of her own destiny.

A strong personality is the sexiest thing to me, and what I really look for in women. It's what makes a dress glow.

Vintage pictures of Roberto Cavalli's collection in the 70's.



Roberto Cavalli's family home.





Roberto Cavalli Spring/Summer collection 2005



**Now that you have reached the pinnacle of the fashion world (diversifying your brand with collections for men, women, children, and creating the Cavalli Vodka, opening Cavalli Clubs...), do you feel the need to achieve more? After all, hasn't a man with your success accomplished it all?**  
I can't share with you my next step in the fashion world, because it is a surprise! But I will never stop wanting to prove myself because I envision fashion as a total experience. I don't want to propose merely a way of dressing, but a way of living: a lifestyle... this is my objective.

**We want to know a bit more about Roberto himself – just a few more short, quick questions:**

**Where do you get your inspiration?**  
I find inspiration from life...I feel very lucky that my everyday life gives me true inspiration.

**Who is the person that has changed your life?**  
My mother; she was the most important woman of my life.

**If you were to live for 24 hours in someone else's body and mind, who would it be?**  
A bird – to be totally free.

**Who and what do you fear?**  
Mediocrity and conformity.

**What would you like to receive as a gift?**  
A superb digital camera created exclusively for me.

**You're in love with? (it could be anything... not necessarily a person).**  
I am in love with love – 'amore' and life, of course!

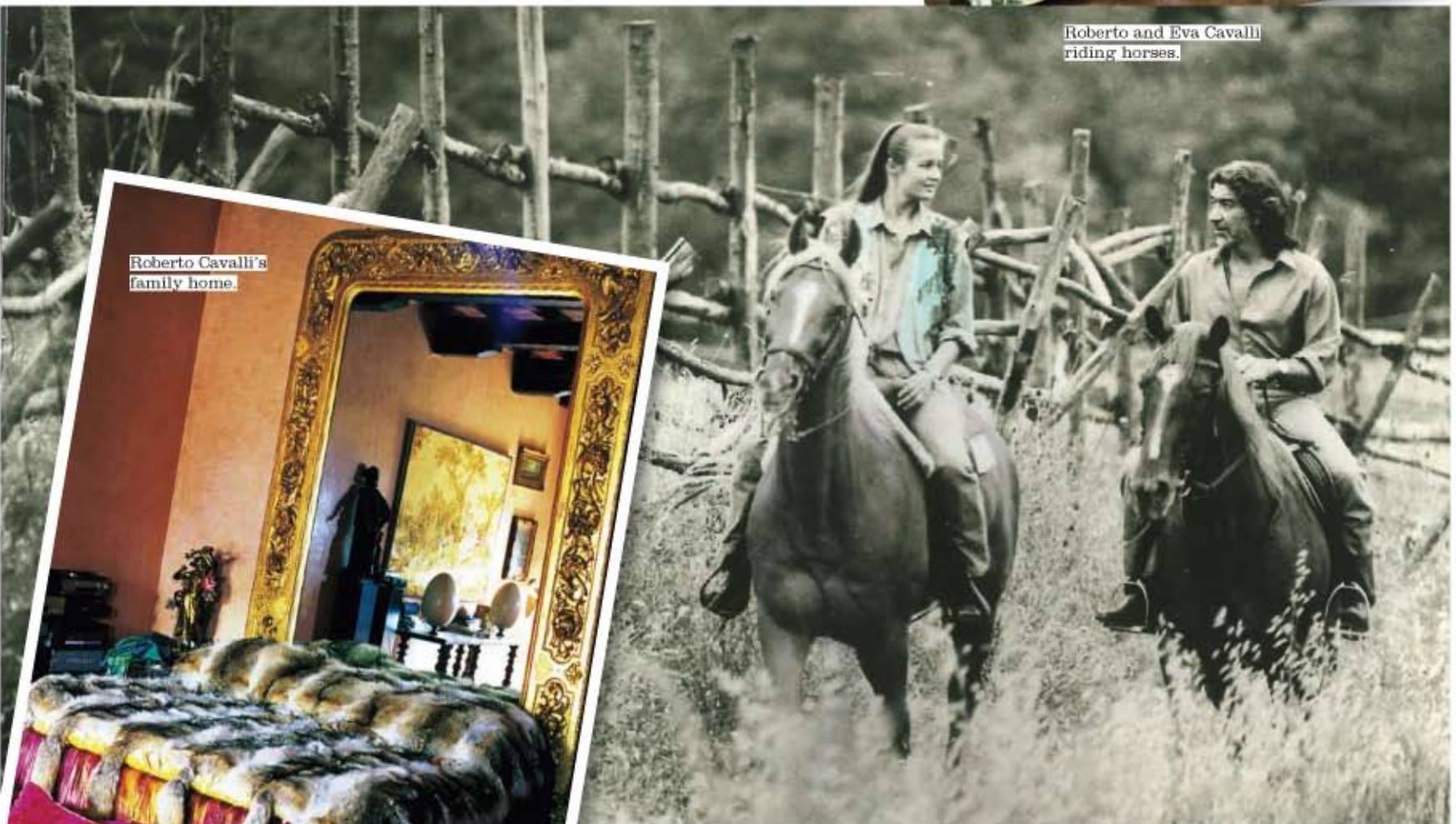
**Your favourite destination?**  
Anywhere I can find adventure and wild nature...

**Your latest 'purchase'? (even something little)**  
A new tape recorder.

**Your next purchase?**  
A present for my newborn granddaughter.

Interview by Carole Tarazi

Roberto and Eva Cavalli riding horses.



Roberto Cavalli's family home.

