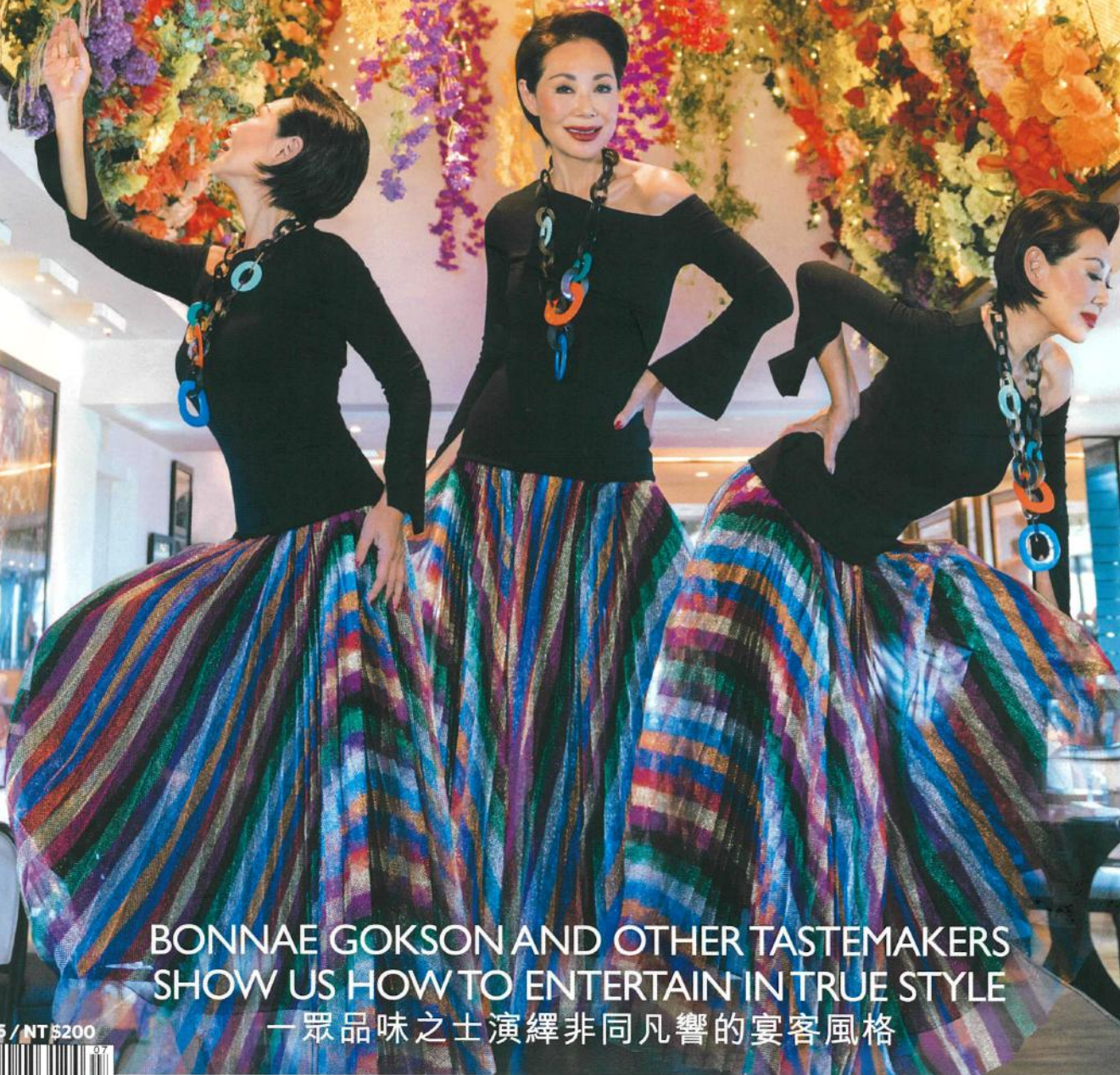


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JOURNAL | 美好家居

JOIE DE VIVRE



BONNAE GOKSON AND OTHER TASTEMAKERS
SHOW US HOW TO ENTERTAIN IN TRUE STYLE

一眾品味之士演繹非同凡響的宴客風格

HK \$35 / NT \$200





QUEEN OF HEARTS

Restaurateur and doyenne of taste Bonnae Gokson tells the tales behind her most illustrious project as it ushers in a new era | 品味不凡的餐飲女王Bonnae Gokson與我們分享她重大計劃背後的點滴

WORDS CHERRY LAI PRODUCTION EMILY LEUNG ART DIRECTION MAY LAU PHOTOGRAPHY SUNFAI NG



THE SWEET LIFE

"I'm a very visual person; I've been trained that way," says Bonnae, pictured with a range of Sevva's one-of-a-kind, meticulously crafted couture cakes.

甜美人生

Bonnae一邊展示Sevva不同凡響的蛋糕設計，一邊說著：「我極注重視覺效果；經多年歷練和訓練培養而成。」

"The paintings are so huge that they didn't fit into the elevator," recalls Bonnae Gokson, gesturing to the life-size works by German artist Candida Höfer that adorn the lilac walls of her renowned rooftop restaurant and bar, Sevva. "Some 10 people walked a total of 50-something floors of stairs and brought them up – we hung these at four in the morning."

From a playlist of jazz standards curated by Bonnae, Ella Fitzgerald's sultry vocals seep through the speakers as the beautifully lithe, ever-elegant visionary entrepreneur (despite having just wrapped our hours-long cover shoot) tells me about the early days of Sevva, which she opened some 11 years ago and which, in less than a week, is to lower the curtains on its current incarnation for a three-month renovation.

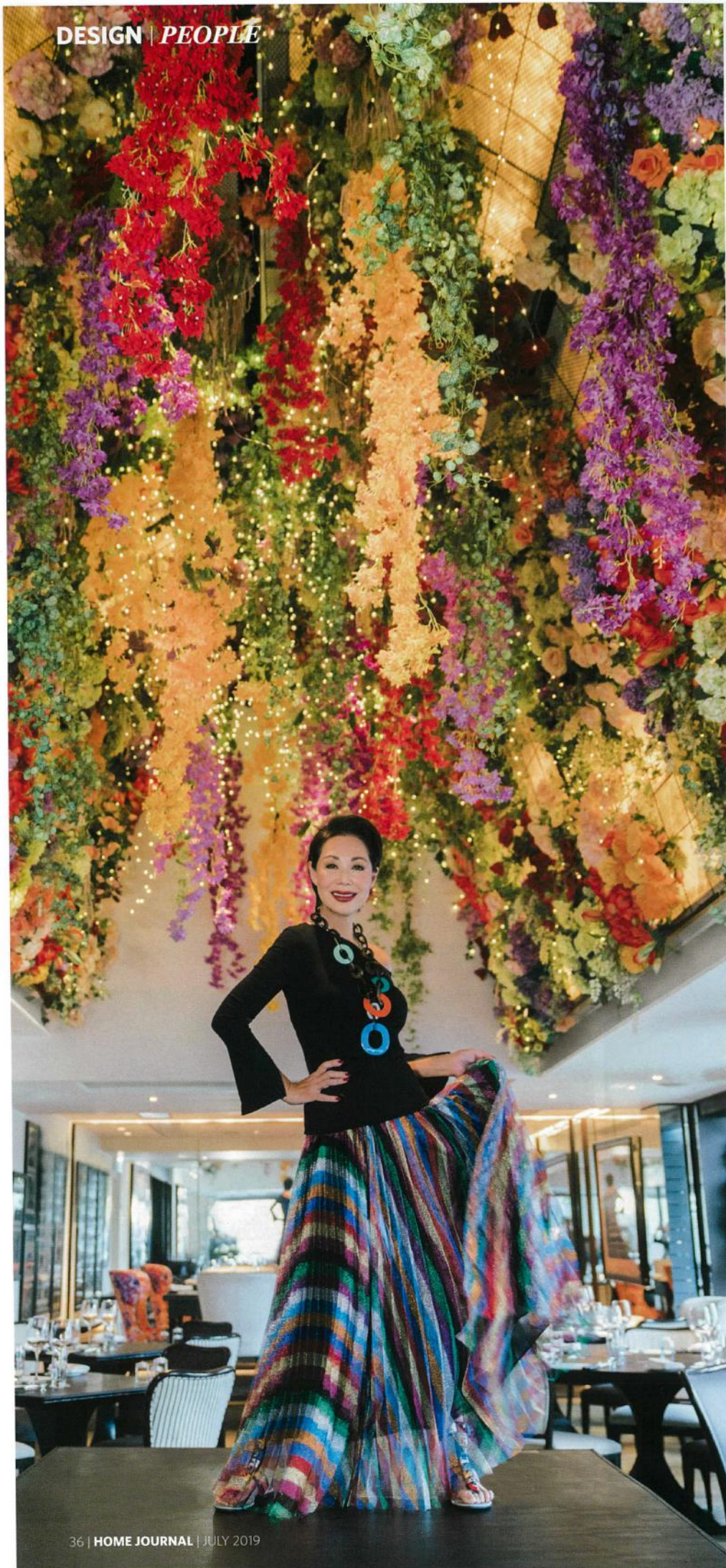
The move surprised many. After all, there is little that isn't picture-perfect about the Tsao & McKown-designed spot perched on Prince's Building's 25th-floor penthouse, hovering above Statue Square in Central. Synonymous with the glitz and glamour that permeate the city it overlooks, it has delighted the likes of Christian Louboutin and Donnie Yen with its kaleidoscopic interiors, dynamic menu ("a lot of our recipes are from mothers, friends, grandmothers") and patisserie creations, from the featherweight Crunch Cake to the head-turning Marie Antoinette's Crave.

「那些油畫面積太大了，擠不進升降機。」Bonnae Gokson在其著名天台餐廳及酒吧Sevva內的淡紫色牆壁前，指著德國藝術家Candida Höfer的大型傑作說：「當時約有十多個人抬著這些作品爬上50幾層樓梯才來到這裡，來到凌晨4時，我們終於掛好畫作。」

場內播放著Ella Fitzgerald的美妙歌聲，我們一邊細聽著這位優雅的餐廳主人聊起Sevva於11年前準備開業時的點點滴滴。而在約一星期後，這間精緻餐廳便會暫停營業，展開為期3個月的翻新工程。

餐廳裝修的消息委實讓人驚訝：這個座落於中環太子大廈25樓、由Tsao & McKown設計的用餐點幾乎完美得找不著瑕疵。它的環境絕不比大廈外的城市美景遜色，精彩多樣的裝潢、美味無窮的菜式（「我們很多食譜都是來自媽媽們、祖母們和朋友們。」）和創意甜點，例如輕盈的焦糖脆脆蛋糕和令人一試難忘的瑪莉皇后蛋糕，深得Christian Louboutin和甄子丹等一眾品味之士喜愛。





Yet Bonnae – who also owns Ms B's Cakery and the C'est La B café, and previously headed up communications for Chanel Asia Pacific – has never been one to rest on her laurels. "I was told early on that we'd have one foot in the grave if we do F&B, but we've survived for 11 years," says Bonnae with palpable pride as we settle underneath the "flower dome", a rich tapestry of blooms she handpicks and painstakingly maintains, which will soon unveil a new look in September. "That's something I'm proud of. But Hong Kong is a very competitive town. I don't want to be a grandma here. I want it to come alive."

除了Sevva, Bonnae亦營運Ms B's Cakery和C'est La B咖啡店, 之前又負責Chanel亞太區傳訊業務, 她從未停下腳步。「曾經有人跟我說, 做飲食業很大機會蝕本離場, 但我們已走過11個年頭了。」Bonnae自豪地說。我們安坐於一個鋪滿漂亮花卉的拱形天花板下, 來到9月將會迎來全新面貌。「這教我引以為傲。香港是個充滿競爭的地方, 我不想變成為落伍的老祖母, 我要讓它精彩延續下去。」

Bonnae生於企業世家: 祖父創辦永安百貨, 姐姐Joyce Ma領導時裝王國Joyce, 她對信念的堅持, 再加上超卓品味, 這就是致勝之道。

她目前的計劃就是徹底翻新餐廳, 並把業務的重心再次移到餐飲業的核心價值上。「那就是服務。我覺得我們這行業慢慢偏離了這重點元素, 是時候要重回正軌。」

JOIE DE VIVRE

Bonnae pictured underneath the "flower dome" in one of her favourite rooms in Sevva; the iconic restaurant and bar will unveil a brand new look this September.

生活樂趣

Bonnae站在鋪滿漂亮花卉的拱形天花板下留影, 這也是她最喜愛的Sevva空間; 這間著名餐廳兼酒吧將於本年9月迎來全新面貌。

**ARTFULLY DECADENT**

A Bar at the Folies-Bergère by Brazilian artist Vik Muniz hangs within the Harbourside Dining Room; Bonnae signs a copy of her coffee table book *Weddings, Butterflies & The Sweetest Dreams*.

精緻藝術

巴西藝術家Vik Muniz的作品《A Bar at the Folies-Bergère》掛於Harbourside Dining Room內；Bonnae在她的精裝書籍《Weddings, Butterflies & The Sweetest Dreams》上簽名。



Hailing from a family of entrepreneurial pioneers – her grandfather founded the Wing On department store, while sister Joyce Ma is behind the eponymous fashion empire – Bonnae's resilient spirit shines naturally through in her impeccable taste and genuine passion for what she does.

Her lofty plans for this labour of love include a gut renovation in all but one room of Sevva, as well as turning the spotlight back on what Bonnae considers the very core of great hospitality. "It's about service – I feel as an industry we have moved away from that, so I need to spruce it up."

Work, evidently, is something the celebrated tastemaker absolutely savours. "For me, I would be the most bored if I was a lady of leisure," she says. "I can tell you I have the means to not work – just travel and have a grand life. But I think it's so dead boring. I need to be creative." She then breaks into a mischievous smile. "When I work, I work very hard. But when I play, I also play very hard! This is life – and I love it." //

這位品味優越的女士顯然非常熱愛自己的工作。她坦言：「過得悠閒，我會感覺苦悶。我可以不工作，經常出國旅遊，過著奢華人生，但這種生活對我來說實在太沉悶了。我需要發揮創意。」她笑說：「我工作時會全情投入，玩樂時也盡情享受！這就是生活，我熱愛這樣的生活。」 //