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BRITISH GQ

GENTLEMEN'S QUARTERLY

'Give me risk, danger, darkness!'

Nicole Kidman

still won't play by the rules
BY JONATHAN REAF

100

MOST INFLUENTIAL MEN IN BRITAIN

**WHO'S UP
WHO'S DOWN**
ON GQ'S ANNUAL LIST

DECEMBER 2009 £3.95
Photographed for British GQ by Peter Lindbergh

Obama's war
ON THE GROUND IN AFGHANISTAN WITH ECHO COMPANY BY BEN ANDERSON

Piers Morgan meets Gordon Brown

'Being Prime Minister is much harder than I thought'

AMERICAN HEROES

Seinfeld speaks! Exclusive interview Paul Newman: 12-page tribute

Crime pays! James Ellroy's terrifying journey

PAY RISE! DIVORCE! NEW GOVERNMENT! 21 WAYS TO CELEBRATE YOUR LIFE

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"LIKE OTHER PARTIES OF THE KIND, IT WAS FIRST SILENT, THEN TALKY, THEN ARGUMENTATIVE"

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Watch the sporting world in motion

Whether you want to enlist with the Barmy Army, get caught up in Murray Mania, or simply scrum down with the Rugby Sevens, there's nothing to compare to the celebration of a major sporting event. Here are 12 of the world's biggest and most eagerly anticipated in 2010...



Hong Kong Rugby Sevens



MotoGP Qatar



Monaco Grand Prix



World Cup Finals

JANUARY

ENGLAND CRICKET TOUR, SOUTH AFRICA

The Ashes winners will play two Twenty20 internationals, five one-day internationals and four Test matches against South Africa, starting in November. Catch the culmination of the action in Cape Town's Sahara Park in the shadow of Table Mountain. ecb.co.uk

Accommodation: Located on the slopes of Table Mountain, a stone's throw from the city centre, Kensington Place has been numbered as one of the coolest hotels in the world. kensingtonplace.co.za

Dining: Salt's location overlooking the Atlantic at Bantry Bay is unbeatable. newmarkhotels.com/_ee/newmark/salt/

Drinking: Rhodes House is one of the best hang-outs in Cape Town. rhodeshouse.com



Sahara Park, Cape Town



Cypress Mountain, West Vancouver

FEBRUARY WINTER OLYMPICS, VANCOUVER

Canada plays host to the Winter Olympics and you can catch all the best action in February. From the men's downhill to the four-man bobsleigh, if it's speed, excitement and drama you are looking for, you won't be disappointed. Or if you have a heart condition, there's always curling. vancouver2010.com

Accommodation: After the slopes, head for Yaletown, Vancouver's hippest quarter. The Opus has quick access to the Olympic Village. opushotel.com

Dining: The Imperial Seafood Restaurant serves the most authentic Chinese food in a city that can feel like an outpost of Hong Kong. imperialrest.com

Drinking: The Sanafir brings the kasbah to British Columbia. sanafir.com

MARCH

RUGBY SEVENS, HONG KONG

Since its launch in 1976 (following a few pre-luncheon drinks in the old Hong Kong Club), Rugby Sevens has grown in popularity. The sport now boasts a World Cup and from 2016 it will be an Olympic sport, but the Hong Kong Sevens remains the pinnacle of the sport. It is also considered one of the best party weekends in the sporting calendar. irbsevsn.com

Accommodation: The Peninsula may be the grande dame of Asian hotels, but for more fun check into the W close by in Kowloon, if only to enjoy the city's highest swimming pool. starwoodhotels.com

Dining: Eating Scandinavian in China may sound strange but FINDS (Finland, Iceland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden) in Central is one of the most stylish restaurants in Hong Kong. Need we say vodka is the drink of choice? Try the Edvard Munch cocktail. finds.com.hk

Drinking: It may be in a shopping mall but Red's rooftop setting more than makes up for it with the views of the harbour. pure-red.com

APRIL

MOTOGP, QATAR

The first race of the season at the spectacular Losail International Circuit in Qatar is the only night race on the MotoGP circuit. Located in the desert only a few miles from Doha, the track is perfectly placed for visitors and looks spectacular when illuminated with its 3,600 light fixtures. motogp.com

Accommodation: The Four Seasons is one of the most dependable hotel chains and its Doha property is no exception. Cool off from the heat of the race on its private beach. fourseasons.com/doha

Dining: If you fancy a beer with a curry, try Chingari in the Ramada Plaza hotel. ramadaplazadoha.com

Drinking: Alcohol can only be purchased in the international hotel chains, so pub crawls are out.



The Royal Suite, Four Seasons Doha

MAY

MONACO GRAND PRIX, MONTE CARLO

Simply the most glamorous and stunning motor race in the world, the Grand Prix around the streets of Monte Carlo has been the fixture on the F1 calendar since it was first run in 1929. In truth, the race itself is won and lost on the first corner, but that shouldn't spoil your fun. acm.mc

Accommodation: A makeover by Jacques Garcia (of Hôtel Costes fame) plus super-chef Joël Robuchon has made Metropole a fabulous destination. And being a minute away from the casino doesn't hurt. metropole.com

Dining: Monaco is hardly light on the wallet, so if you're feeling the pinch try A Roca. The fried, ravioli-like *barbagians* at this takeaway are delicious - and a bargain. aroca.mc

Drinking: Jimmy's practically invented the concept of Eurotrash, so if it girls and minor royals are your thing, hang out here - and hang the expense. 00377 9806 7058

JUNE

FIFA WORLD CUP, SOUTH AFRICA

Forty-four years of hurt and counting; could this year's World Cup be any different for England? Probably not, but at least they've qualified and, for England fans, hope always springs eternal... unless the team has to take part in a penalty shoot-out, of course. fifa.com

Accommodation: While in Jo'burg, stay in the Peech, a calm oasis of civilisation in Melrose, ten minutes away from the bustle of the city centre by car. Allow around 45 minutes to reach the Soccer City stadium. thepeech.co.za

Dining: For a real (and we mean real) African dining experience, try Gramadoelas and its famous black tripe and wild African spinach stew. The more timid can stick to ostrich. gramadoelas.co.za

Drinking: The industrial-style Buzz 9 in hip Melville serves some of the best drinks in the city and you can sit outside to watch the world go by. 0027 117 262 019.

DISPUTATIOUS, THEN UNINTELLIGIBLE, THEN ALTOGETHERY, THEN INARTICULATE, AND THEN DRUNK." LORD BYRON



Tour de France, Paris



The PGA Championship



US Open, New York



The Commonwealth Games



The Rowing World Cup



The Ashes

JULY
TOUR DE FRANCE
The Tour in 2009 was one of the most exciting for years. Lance Armstrong made a comeback, Alberto Contador was unstoppable, and Bradley Wiggins equalled the best finish by an Englishman. Those three will be battling it out again in 2010 and as a spectacle there are few sporting events to compete with this monumental 2,000-mile race. letour.com

Accommodation: To be in at the end on the Champs d'Elysées, there is only one place to stay, and that's Hôtel de Crillon on the place de la Concorde. More gilt than you can shake a stick at, and the best bedrooms in town. crillon.com

Dining: Alain Ducasse's bistro Aux Lyonnais in the second offers some of the best bourgeois cooking you will ever taste. A rare treat. auxlyonnais.com

Drinking: After the finish, head to the Bound Bar on avenue George V, for one of the best drinks in town. buddha-bar.com



Aux Lyonnais, Paris

AUGUST
PGA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP, WISCONSIN
The final Major of the year is always one of golf's great sporting occasions. This year, the PGA takes place at the highly regarded Whistling Straits Country Club in Kohler, Wisconsin, on the shores of Lake Michigan (also the proposed venue for the 2020 Ryder Cup). We recommend you check out the spectacular par-three 17th where the tournament could be won or lost. pga.com

Accommodation: It is 50 miles away, but stay in nearby Milwaukee for a life after golf. The Iron Horse may be named after the city's second most famous export - the Harley-Davidson - but this is heaven for a sophisticated hog. theirhoursehotel.com

Dining: What could be more American than a burger? Arguably the best bite in Milwaukee can be found at Stacked. And it's not just beef - try the Don't Mess With Texas bison burger, or there's even an acceptable vegetarian option. Sides of onion rings and deep-fried pickles are not to be missed. stackedbar.com

Drinking: Of course you can get a beer anywhere in Milwaukee, but for the perfect Martini, go to Hi Hat. hihatgarage.com

SEPTEMBER
US OPEN TENNIS, NEW YORK
The final Grand Slam of the season remains one of the highlights of the sporting calendar. New York in early September can be hot and humid, but the temperature on court is always red hot... especially if you are rooting for Andy Murray. The brilliant Briton has already made one final at Flushing Meadow in 2008, and he has every chance of going one better this year. usopen.org

Accommodation: The newly opened Bowery Hotel is at the centre of the rapidly changing Bowery district that is changing from hobo to Boho at a rate of knots. theboweryhotel.com

Dining: Book now to get a table at the hottest place in town - the Standard's restaurant in the Meatpacking District. standardhotels.com

Drinking: For one of New York's hidden gems, head to Grand Central Terminal and Campbell Apartment. Once the owner's pied-à-terre and now a Gatsby-esque drinking hole. hospitalityholdings.com



Campbell Apartment, New York

OCTOBER
COMMONWEALTH GAMES, NEW DELHI
The largest multi-sport event ever to be held in India, the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi promises to be a stunning spectacle. The other great thing about the games is that although 72 nations are taking part, Great Britain is certain to be one of the most successful. How often do you get to say that? cwgdelhi2010.org

Accommodation: Peacefulness is a rare commodity in Delhi but the Manor in the Friends Colony is a haven of serenity. The restaurant is great too. themanoranddelhi.com

Dining: Karim's is hidden down an alleyway but has been serving the best Mughlai-style food for almost a century. Be brave and try the brains curry. karimhoteldelhi.com

Drinking: Who could resist a bar called Thugs? Located on the first floor of the Hotel Broadway, it is thankfully free of its British-style namesakes. hotelbroadwaydelhi.com



Thugs, New Delhi

NOVEMBER
WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS, NEW ZEALAND
It's been a few years since the golden era of Sir Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent et al, but Britain's interest in rowing continues. Throw in the fact that the Championships are taking place in the amazing setting of Lake Karapiro in New Zealand and it might just be worth travelling 12,000 miles for. wrch2010.com

Accommodation: Stay in nearby Hamilton. The choice is limited but the Novotel Tainui has a great location in the centre of town. novotel.com

Dining: You can't beat New Zealand for the best fresh produce and Palate shows it off to its best advantage, with a NZ wine list to wash it down. 0064 7834 2921

Drinking: After dinner at the Palate, try Iguana a few doors down for a casual drink. iguana.co.nz



Hamilton, New Zealand

DECEMBER
ASHES DOWN UNDER, AUSTRALIA
And if you are still in the southern hemisphere, definitely join the Barmy Army in supporting England's defence of the Ashes. The last time England travelled down under after winning the little urn, they lost the series 5-0, so they really will need plenty of encouragement, especially as Freddie Flintoff won't be playing. ecb.co.uk

Accommodation: In Melbourne, book into the Adelphi. The experience of swimming in the glass-bottomed pool cantilevered out high over Flinders Lane is hard to beat. adelphi.com.au

Dining: Melbourne is one of the world's top cities to eat in. Try the offshoot of Sydney's Longrain in Chinatown for the best Asian food you'll ever order. longrain.com.au

Drinking: Der Raum in Richmond has been described as the elBulli of the bar world, but with a better atmosphere. derraum.com.au GO



Der Raum, Melbourne

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