

Uncovering classy **Coffee** locally. Discovering iconic **David Bowie** photographs and **Jeremy Houghton's** impressionistic **sports watercolours**. Also inside, the adventures of party planner **Liz Brewer** and why **Cronut** creator **Dominique Ansel** decided to set up shop here.



"The Swedish couple in the Albufeira cafe were bemused by this young blonde girl in a Mini"

"I also learnt how to beat the Portuguese," she says. "I bought contraband whisky and gin. I would put the new whisky into the old bottles, and we used to take a stack of wine bottles and row out at night with the fishermen."

Today there are hundreds of sacks of broken wine bottles about 200 metres off the main beach of Albufeira. It was the only way you could survive. I was supposed to pay bribes and I didn't."

The club started to attract quite a crowd. The likes of singers Shirley Bassey and Sir Cliff Richard revelled in isolation, with the latter teaching Brewer how to dance. "In the afternoons it was too hot to be on the beach, so we used to go in the club because it had air-conditioning," she says. "He [Cliff] used to come in and he would show us how to do these formation dances."

It wasn't meant to be like this. Originally a debutante, she decided to turn her back on that life – a decision that catapulted her onto an altogether more eclectic path.

"He was living in one of [TV mogul] Lew Grade's houses, who became a great friend of mine. He put The Shadows in one house, Hank Marvin and Cliff in another," she says.

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overseeing a raft of club openings in London, including one that would prove the springboard for Jimi Hendrix's career.

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An annual coke ride has been set up in his name in Monaco – next March marks the 20th year – and Brewer is helping to organise a programme of events to continue raising the profile of the foundation.

One of Brewer's longest working relationships – and arguably the most high-profile – is with Sir Ivan Trnka.

"An amazing, unique woman," she says. "Absolutely incredible and bright and sharp, and she's a brilliant cook. She'd have to photograph it and it would be an expensive meal."

What does she think of Ivan's new husband, and the man who could yet be the next leader of the free world?

"I'd better be careful what I say," she says. "He's a negotiator, and Donald makes something, he goes to see him; he doesn't go to come and see him. He's the power, and money talks. I don't think he would go to him, unless he thought he was going to be president."

"He did his last big wedding, which was about eight years ago," she says. "He was a bit worried about the money, and he gave champagne when I'm partying and I love vodka," she says.

With a barman by her side whom she describes as the spitting image of film star Anthony Quinn, she soon learnt the tricks of the trade.

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Over the years, there have been plenty of occasions to drink fizz – from luncheons and parties at Buckingham Palace to Christmas in the country with "Disco Dowager" Lady Edith Foxwell and her friend the singer Marvin Gaye, and birthday celebrations with the likes of Lady Colin Campbell.

Brewer has an enviable network of contacts – pop stars, royalty, presidents – many of whom she has represented and calls upon to help her tireless charity work.

"One of her ongoing projects is with the Sean Edwards Foundation, which raises safety awareness in motorsport. The foundation was set up

# Life and soul of the party

A  
list names are tripping off my host's tongue

before I've finished sipping my first cup of Earl Grey tea.

Socialite Liz Brewer – celebrity fixer, party planner extraordinaire and etiquette queen – is waltzing me through her life story, peppering star names with casual abandon. Sir Paul McCartney, Dame Shirley Bassey, Elton John: they are all cast in her extraordinary biopic.

Three hours in her welcoming company, within the decorative walls of her Belgravia home, is barely enough to lift the lid on the box of delights that is her life.

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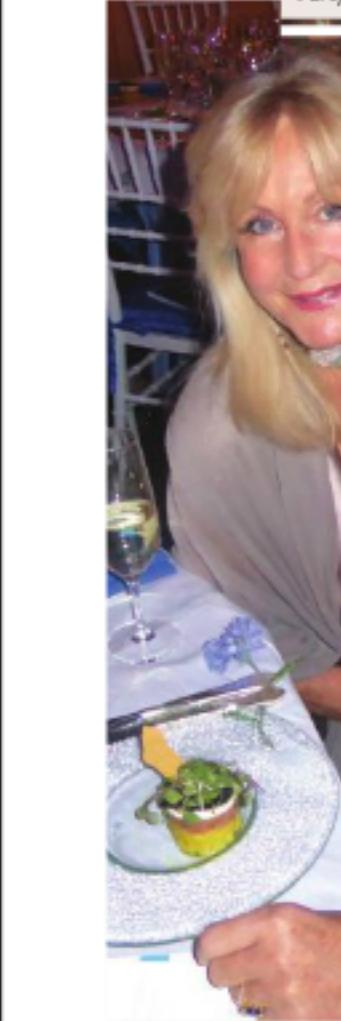
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ABOVE: Brewer with Marlene Trump

RIGHT: Cilla Black in

giveaway dress



"I've got Colbert on the corner for breakfast, the Ivy Garden for lunch, and then in the West End I've got my favourites I go to."