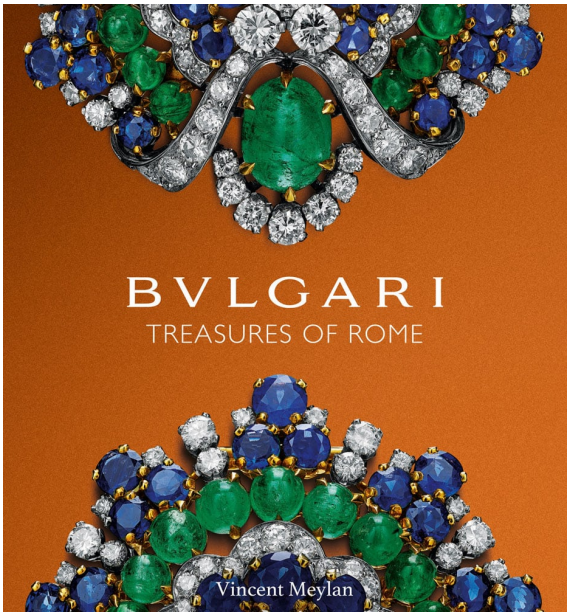
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Bulgari

Treasures of Rome

Vincent Meylan

ISBN	9781851498796
Publisher	ACC Art Books
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World
Size	295 mm x 245 mm
Pages	296 Pages
Illustrations	177 colour, 51 b&w
Price	£60.00

- Compiled with full access to Bulgari's archives
- Meylan guides us on an intimate journey through the lives of the clients, both famous and infamous, who have given this pre-eminent Mediterranean jeweller their patronage

A jewel is more than an arrangement of precious stones – it is a story. This is the principle on which Vincent Meylan, author of *Christie's: The Jewellery Archives Revealed, Boucheron: The Secret Archives, Van Cleef & Arpels: Treasures and Legends*,and *Mellerio: Jewellers to the Queens of Europe*, has written his latest book. Now, with unparalleled access to the Bulgari archives, Meylan guides us on an intimate journey through the lives of the clients, both famous and infamous, who have given this pre-eminent Mediterranean jeweller their patronage. Paris may be the traditional home of the jeweller elite, but Bulgari embraces its Roman origins. From their early creations, inspired by Byzantine and Islamic architecture, to designs like the *Trombino* ring and *Serpenti* bracelets, which are still relevant today, Bulgari gracefully navigates the line between contemporary and timeless. Their client roster reflects their prestige. Nobility and celebrity intermingle; the Countess di Frasso shopped at Bulgari with her Hollywood superstar-beau, Gary Cooper, as did the Infanta Beatriz of Spain and Princess Maria José of Belgium. Richard Burton wooed Elizabeth Taylor with glittering Bulgari jewels, while the decadent marriage of Tyrone Power and Linda Christian featured Bulgari wedding rings. But these jewels tell tales of many genres, not just romance: from exiled Iranian Shahs to Count Cini of Monselice, held for ransom by the SS and released in exchange for Bulgari jewels. Each story is retold with Vincent Meylan's characteristic verve, embellished with original pictures from the archives. Chapters are dedicated to wealthy customers, but also to the stones themselves, tracing the evolution of this iconic Roman company through history, and the development of their jewellery from mine, to workshop, to model.

Vincent Meylan writes the history and royalty pages for the French women's weekly *Point de Vue*. He is also a specialist in precious stones and in haute joaillerie, and the author of several biographies and works on the history of precious stones, including*Queens' Jewels* (Assouline, 2005), *Boucheron: The Secret Archives* (ACC, 2011), *Van Cleef & Arpels: Treasures and Legends* (ACC, 2014) and *Christie's: The Jewellery Archives Revealed* (ACC 2016).







Published 18th Dec 2017