

COUNTRY LIFE®

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EVERY WEEK

Collectors' issue What to buy today

London's lost palace
How to make the best elderflower cordi
Who are our favourite painters?





Treasures galore

The great fairs of Masterpiece and Olympia will not disappoint, with pieces from ancient Rome to the RAF

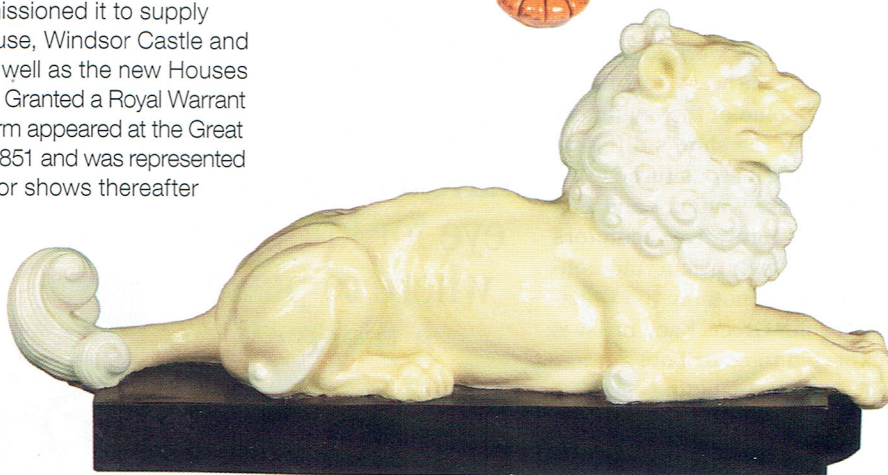


MASTERPIECE June 28–July 4

↑ Marchese Vincenzo Giustiniani (1564–1637), a banker who became a noted art collector and patron of Caravaggio, belonged to a family that had been the Genoese rulers of Chios for two centuries before it fell to the Ottomans. Galerie Chenel of Paris has a fine Roman 42½in-high marble figure of Aphrodite, from the 2nd century AD, which had been in the Giustiniani family until 1981



→ Wick Antiques of Lymington will show a handsome Victorian 50¼in-diameter circular amboyna centre table, decorated with ebony inlays, gadrooning and rosettes. It is by Taprell and Holland & Sons, and dates from about 1840. Stephen Taprell set up as a cabinetmaker, upholsterer and chair and sofa manufacturer in 1803. In 1835, his partner, William Holland, a relative of the Regency architect Henry Holland, took over and the company became one of the greatest Victorian furnishing firms. Victoria and Albert commissioned it to supply Osborne House, Windsor Castle and Balmoral, as well as the new Houses of Parliament. Granted a Royal Warrant in 1846, the firm appeared at the Great Exhibition of 1851 and was represented at all the major shows thereafter



↑ John Whitehead, the Normandy-based Sèvres specialist, will offer this effective blend of East and West. In 1904, Ytiga Noumata of Japan (1873–1954) came to France to learn ceramic sculpture. He was taught at Sèvres by Auguste Rodin and stayed until the First World War. He was back by 1921, and produced a number of models, such as this 16½in lion, which draws inspiration from Japanese art as well as Rodin's example. He was the first Japanese national to receive the Légion d'Honneur and, back in Japan from the late 1920s, may be credited with the renewal of ceramic sculpture there



← Ronald Phillips is honouring the Chippendale 300 celebrations with a remarkable selling show of 35 pieces, running concurrently at Masterpiece and the Bruton Street Gallery. As the price range—from £8,500 to £1.2 million—indicates, the variety and ingenuity of the master is extraordinary; it also shows that much so-called 'brown furniture' is very colourful indeed, such as this elegantly inlaid marquetry serpentine commode for Harewood House in North Yorkshire