

omnibus

What's new, noteworthy and cool in the world of travel and style



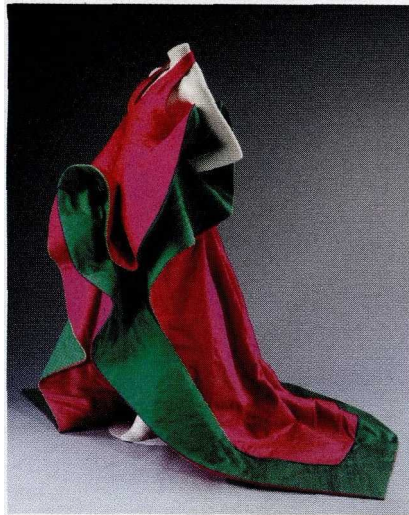
COASTEERING is crazy. Celtic crazy. How else to describe the Welsh sport of clambering up the side of jagged cliffs in order to hurl yourself into the surging Irish Sea? Famous for its abundance of coal miners and sheep farmers, Wales is also home to quite a few mountaineers. Tired of eroding 1,085-metre Snowdon Mountain through endless climbs, however, they scoured their diminutive country for alternative altitude, ultimately deciding to scramble along their steep, craggy coastline and leap into the sea. Coasteering has also taken off in other parts of Great Britain, from the islands and highlands of Scotland to Dorset and Cornwall in England. To partake, you put on a wetsuit, buoyancy vest and helmet, crawl up precipices of varying verticality and, when you reach the top, throw yourself into the sea. While you're in the water, be careful not to gasp in copious amounts of saline as you laugh like a wild child or grin like you've never grinned before. Then do it all over again, succumbing to the adrenalin rush and a strangely addictive brand of Made in Wales madness. – COLLEEN FRIESEN

For more information on coasteering in Wales, the cradle of the sport, visit sites such as www.coasteeringwales.org.uk, www.coasteering-wales.co.uk and www.celticquestcoasteering.com.

EXHIBITIONS

THE ITALIAN WAY

Start rhyming off Italian fashion labels – Prada, Giorgio Armani, Valentino, Gucci – and you quickly realize that the industry isn't defined by the next hot thing, but by brands that embrace consistent styles as well as an exacting standard of luxury. **THE GLAMOUR OF ITALIAN FASHION 1945-2014**, a comprehensive new exhibition at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, throws those characteristics into high relief, illustrating through more than 100 ensembles and accessories how the craftsmanship and creativity that Italy is known for have always been – and continue to be – driving national forc-



es. Reinforcing this notion is a digital map that pinpoints the textile mills and workshops that make up the industry's life blood; early boosters such as Giovanni Battista Giorgini, who staged renowned runway shows in Florence in the fifties, are also recognized. For certain visitors, the knits and power suits of a few decades later – the golden age of Gianfranco Ferre, Mila Schön and Krizia – will alone be the worth the price of admission; many others will appreciate the work of next-generation talents such as Giambattista Valli and Fausto Puglisi. It's to this dazzling exhibition's credit that not-as-familiar but no-less-essential figures such as Walter Albini are also included. The late designer and stylist was known as Lo Stilista, a tag that sums up the show nicely – no translation necessary. – AMY VERNER

For more details about the exhibition, which runs through July 27, visit www.vam.ac.uk.

A 1987 evening gown by Roberto Capucci is among the highlights in the V&A's new survey of postwar Italian fashion.