



# Royal celebrations

**Suneeta Sodhi Kanga** reports on the very first G2 Connect, an exclusive evening for Gentlemen Only, in partnership with Rémy Martin's Louis XIII, the ultra premium, 100-year-old cognac



**I**T is the coming together of two brands that stand for entrepreneurship, for dynamism, for innovation. Two brands that celebrate a rich culture and heritage. Two brands that are loved by great leaders.”

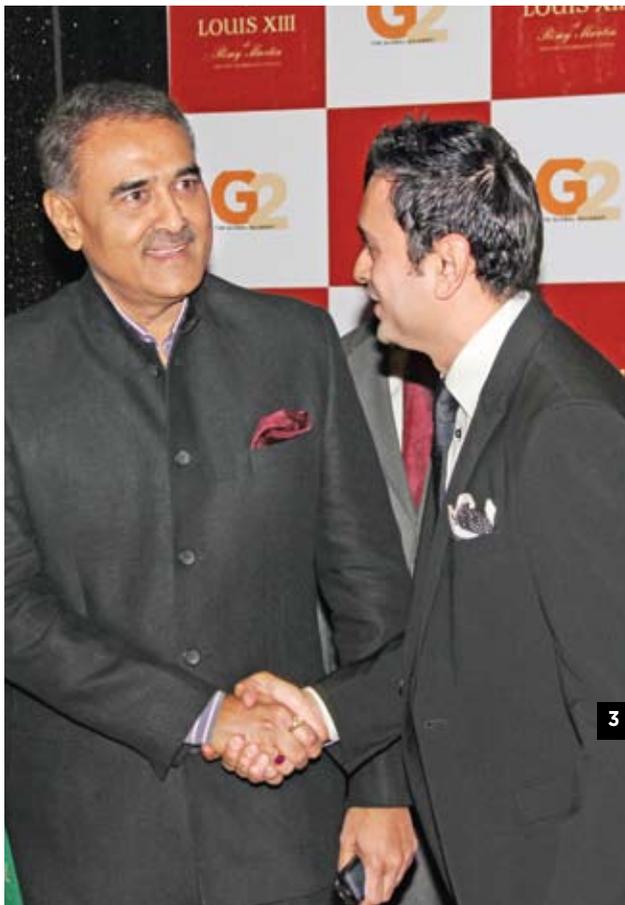
With these words Devendra Darda, MD, Lokmat Group, kicked off the very first G2 Connect, an exclusive ‘Gentlemen Only’ evening held at Hotel Sofitel, Bandra Kurla, Mumbai. Mr. Darda welcomed a selection of high-profile guests to a saturnalia to celebrate two iconic brands: Louis XIII and G2: The Global Gujarati magazine.

The crimson antechamber of the Sofitel provided the perfect canvas for the sampling of the fabled cognac from the house of Remy Martin which has been promoted in India for just two years.

The guests, who included Praful Patel, Venugopal Dhoot, Jackie Shroff, Manoj Israni, Vikas Oberoi and Rishabh Mariwala, mingled over glasses of chilled Piper Heidsieck Champagne. Finally, the moment they were all

waiting for — the uncorking of the beautiful Louis XIII decanter. Vincent Cleme, the charming Brand Ambassador of Louis XIII, guided us through the appreciation of this masterpiece. The guests were served this unique offering in beautiful Baccarat crystal glasses especially designed for the Louis XIII service.

On Vincent’s urging, they lifted their glasses to their noses and experienced a melange of aromas – Louis XIII has up to 250 aromas in a glass! Finally the much-anticipated tasting took place. A rare experience: smooth, warm and luxuriant on the palate, like silk. One could taste its finish for over an hour after the first sip. According to Vincent, Louis XIII is the exceptional blend of 1,200 eaux-de-vie exclusively from the best terroir of cognac – the Grande Champagne region – and aged up to 100 years. The history of Louis XIII dates back to the 19th century with the first decanter of Louis XIII being produced in 1874. In days where cognac was not even aged, Paul-Émile Rémy Martin I, from the Remy Martin family, had the visionary idea to



We are very happy to be partnering with G2 as Louis XIII has always been associated with genius and success. G2 is a magazine for communities that are recognised for these very qualities  
—*Vincent Cleme*





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1. Cigar humidor from Cingari
2. The ravishing Louis XIII!
3. Praful Patel being greeted by Devendra Darda
4. Jackie Shroff and Devendra Darda
5. Devendra and Rishi Darda
6. The Dardas with Vikram Shroff
7. Abhinav Aggarwal and Rukn Luthra
8. Farokh Balsara
9. Rishabh Mariwala
10. Manoj Israni, Abhinav Aggarwal and Romil Ratra
11. Vincent Cleme
12. Arun Saraf
13. Venugopal Dhoot, Abhinav Aggarwal and Devendra Darda



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PICS: SANDEEP PATIL, OMKAR KOCHAREKAR

blend some of the family reserve's oldest eaux-de-vie to obtain the finest cognac. "With its portfolio of very niche and premium products like the Remy Martin cognacs, Cointreau, Mount Gay Rum, the champagne Piper Heidsieck, etc, Remy Cointreau caters to those with the most exquisite taste. Tonight, G2 gives us the opportunity to meet its most esteemed readers and partners who certainly shared an appreciation of the finer things in life!" said Rukn Luthra, MD, Remy Cointreau India, who had flown in from Delhi specially for the event. Sharing his knowledge and passion generously with the guests through the evening, he told us that each decanter of Louis XIII is the result of the know-how and passion of not less than four generations of cellar masters. It is rare today to find extraordinary items whose making spans a century!

The name Louis XIII (pronounced – Loo-ee Treize) itself is a tribute to the King of France Louis XIII, under whose reign the Rémy Martin family took up residence in the Cognac region. He was also the first monarch to recognise cognac as a category in its own right.

Through the evening, Vincent regaled the guests with his repertoire of passionate stories. Commenting on the evening, he said, "We are very happy to be partnering with G2 today. Historically, Louis XIII has always been associated with people and personalities of the world who, because they demonstrated

genius in their undertakings, met with greater success. Similarly, I believe that the Gujarati and Parsi communities are broadly recognised for their entrepreneurial and pioneering spirit and their successful ventures, often built over generations. Therefore, it is no coincidence that we come together today. Today is about celebrating genius and success."

Cigars have long been associated with the enjoyment of Cognac. Louis XIII has officially partnered with three Cuban cigars distributed by Cingari, a company run by Chetan Seth, which is the sole distributor of Habanos, the Cuban government-run cigar company. Thanks to the classical Habanos from Cingari's collection, the many cigar aficionados present ended the evening indulging in their passion.

Abhinav Aggarwal, CEO and Editor, G2 expressed his pleasure at the evening's success, "G2 is an international lifestyle magazine. Louis XIII is the epitome of ultimate luxury. It maintains the same fascinating hold on enthusiasts of all fine spirits to this day, not just cognac drinkers but everyone who appreciates the finer things in life. It is only natural that our readers would enjoy an evening like this. The beginner enthusiast, as well as the seasoned cognac connoisseur, went home pleased." 📧

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| 14. Vikas Oberoi, Rashesh Kanakia, Boman Irani, Noshir Talati, Vikram Shroff and Sharad Kachalia | 18. Rashesh Kanakia with Devendra Darda       |
| 15. Praful Patel with Devendra Darda   | 19. Noshir Talati                             |
| 16. Romil Ratra  | 20. Rahul Bubber with Jean Raphael Peytregnet |
| 17. Manoj Israni   | 21. Vincent Cleme and Boman Irani             |
|  | 22. Pragnesh Poddar                           |

G2 reflects the dynamism of the Gujarati and Parsee communities and the leading role played by them in every field from business and industry to art and culture  
- Devendra Darda



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