

THE TASTEMAKERS



10

# OLIVIER GE- MAYEL *THE MA- GICIAN*

*HOW DOES BEIRUT INSPIRE YOU?*

BEIRUT INSPIRES ME BECAUSE OF ITS  
UNIQUENESS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.  
IT ALSO HAS CHALLENGING OBSTACLES,  
WHICH MAKES ACHIEVING ONE'S GOALS SO  
MUCH MORE REWARDING.



THE TASTEMAKERS:

## OLIVIER GEMAYEL

*The magician*

**C**oncierge Olivier Gemayel has rented a pink jet for one client's daughter's eighteenth birthday bash. He has organized a romantic dinner in Versailles mirror gallery for a couple. He has booked Madonna and Elton John for private concerts. He has thrown an intimate party with a Lebanese star at the Beirut National Museum. This exceptional service has earned him a Clef d'Or, a prestigious distinction reserved for the best concierges in the world. After stints in Paris, where he studied hospitality and worked at Fouquet's; New York, where he learned a few tricks with Alain Ducasse and London; where he started his personal concierge company, Gemayel is now back in Beirut. His new project, SS Signature, offers to take care of his clients' most minute needs – from tours to high dining, couture, adventure and even chores like food shopping. Gemayel has partnered with Saradar Bank to create this highly personalized venture where activities are divided in three categories: Everyday Life, Leisure Life and Exceptional Life. Gemayel also organizes tours of Beirut with historians.

### *BEST RESTAURANTS?*

I love organizing dinners at chef Hussein Hadid's home. It's very beautiful and you can eat in the large kitchen while you watch him cook sophisticated, Arab-inspired dishes. Hadid is known as the star caterer of the country.

### *DRINKS?*

I enjoy having a drink at the bar at Momo, which becomes a nightclub at night. Torino Express has the best cocktails in Beirut.

### *BEACH?*

I love the Sporting, which has kept its beach authentic and simple. The view of Pigeons' Rock and the horizon is priceless.

### *SPAS?*

The Shiseido Spa in Ashrafieh is a true haven, with real shiatsu and Thai massage. G Spa is also very Zen and relaxing.

### *DRIVER?*

Elvis Taxi is mythical: He has the Elvis figurine, the blasting music, the retro haircut and even the sunglasses!



**HUSSEIN HADID**

*MAR ELIAS*

TEL. 01-816 120

W.HUSSEINHADID.COM

**MOMO**

*BEIRUT SOUKS, DOWNTOWN*

TEL. 01-999 767

W.MOMORESTO.COM

**TORINO EXPRESS**

*GOURAUD STREET, GEMMAYZE*

TEL. 03-611 101

-301-

**SPORTING**

*CORNICHE EL-MANARA*

TEL. 01-742 484

**SHISEIDO SPA**

*ELIAS SARKIS AVENUE,*

*ASHRAFIEH*

TEL. 01-332 277

W.SHISEIDOSPAS.COM

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**GSPA**

