

Sunday July 24, 2011

A toast to art

FRENCH cognac maker Martell aims to honour art in all its forms by creating a platform for artists and designers to express their vision and ideas, through its Martell Art Expressions gallery showcase.

Earlier this month, the Martell Amber Lamp, designed by acclaimed architect Jean Nouvel, was added to the showcase. The event was held at the Bridge Bar, GTower in Kuala Lumpur, where the showcase is currently housed.



The L'Or de Jean Martell decanter is designed by Cristal de Sevres. Each piece is individually handcrafted using crystal from Cristal de Sevres. Its curves are embellished with gilded garlands, subtle allusions to the elegant French classical style. The decanter holds at its centre a drop enclosing and protecting the precious elixir.

Celebrating Martell's closeness to the world of architecture in particular, and art in general, the creations are specially crafted by both international and local artists.

Besides the Amber Lamp, other items on display include the L'Art de Martell Decanter, designed by French glassmakers Daum; the Martell Creation Grand Extra Decanter (by Sergeu Mansau); the Martell VSOP Limited Edition Snifter Set (by Malaysian fashion designer Daniel Chong), and the Limited Edition Martell VSOP Blink Glasses (by Lau Hoe Yin aka DJ Blink).

Fifty of the Amber Lamps, created in late 2010, have been produced and exhibited around the globe, at art galleries, museums and Martell's Château de Chanteloup in Cognac, France. — **MICHAEL CHEANG**



The L'Art de Martell Decanter was launched in 1997 to commemorate the retrocession of Hong Kong to China. Designed by French glassmaker Daum, this unique creation combines cognac and contemporary art. There are only 1997 carafes in the world.