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Nature's Treasures

True luxury is derived from nature: exotic spices, rare fragrances, sumptuous fabrics and precious gemstones – they all enchant our senses and enhance our quality of life. Using elaborate, traditional refinement processes, master craftsmen create the very unique qualities that make all the difference between regular everyday products and luxurious specialties. **Nature's Treasures** – the series for discerning bon vivants and connoisseurs.

01 Ultimate Cocoa – The World of Pierre Marcolini

Pierre Marcolini is one of Belgium's top chocolatiers. He combines chocolate with Earl Grey tea, floral scents and exotic spices. His compositions are unusual, refined and perfectly balanced. In a quest to create chocolate of the best possible quality, he goes to Madagascar himself in search of exquisite types of cocoa.

02 Vanilla – The Queen Among Spices

Vanilla, an orchid native to Central American rain forests, is one of Madagascar's major exports. The bourbon vanilla that grows here is the best in the world. Its distinctive flavor makes it an exotic and enriching addition to the most sophisticated dishes.

03 Velvet and Silk – Fine Fabrics from Florence

They are lightweight, iridescent and out of this world. The price for silks made by traditional Florentine manufacturers is high – after all, no more than 60 centimeters can be produced by hand in one day.

04 Pure Saffron – The Red Gold

Saffron is the most expensive and most faked spice in the world – with no more than a couple of hundred tonnes of the genuine article produced every year. Primarily in Iran, but also in Mediterranean regions, saffron crocuses are picked before sunrise and opened by hand the very same day. This is the only way to harvest the precious pistils – the saffron itself, which is immediately dried to retain its distinctive aroma.

05 The Cigar – Exotic Luxury from Cuba

For many connoisseurs, the only way to round off a good meal, or perhaps seal a lucrative business deal, is with a cigar. The best, most aromatic tobacco leaves have always come from Cuba, where they've been cultivated for centuries. Traditionally processed by hand, Cuban cigars are of unsurpassed quality and remain a symbol of utter pleasure and indulgence.

06 Silver – The Handsome Precious Metal

The lustrous white precious metal has been mined from the earth's depths for millennia. Silver is a key element in the production of cutlery, jewelry and other luxury goods. Long associated with timeless elegance, silver is experiencing a glittering renaissance in the contemporary design industry.