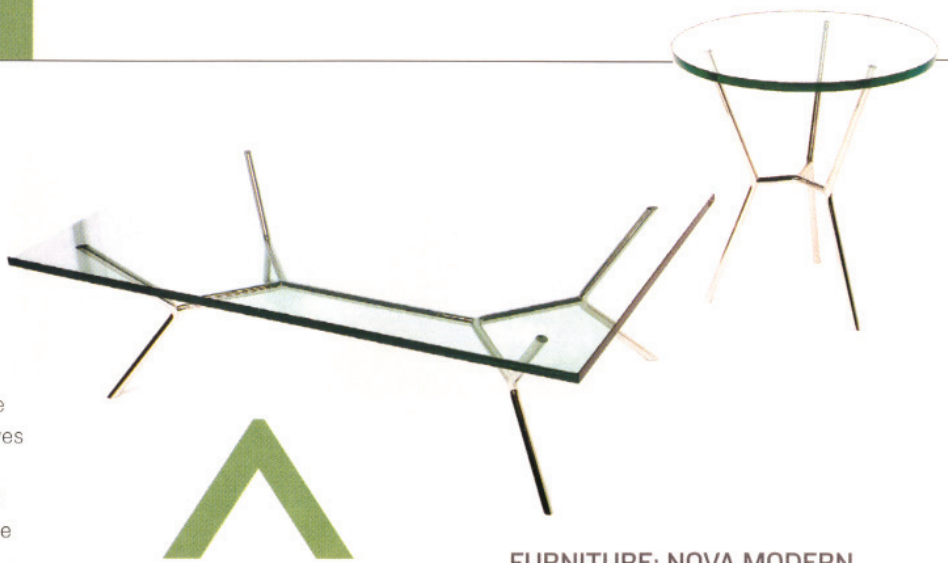


**LIQUOR:**  
**LOUIS XIII BLACK PEARL**  
**Pearl of Wisdom**

Want to one-up the guy with the \$1,500 bottle of Louis XIII cognac? Rush to purchase a bottle of Black Pearl. The juice comes from the reserves used to create Louis XIII Cognac from Remy Martin. All 786 bottles of Black Pearl are culled from just one tierçon (a small barrel used to age Cognac), so it's distinct from the usual blend. And rather than the iconic clear Baccarat crystal decanter, Black Pearl arrives inside one that's smoky black, like a stretch limo. Initial purchases are by invitation only – extended to the likes of Russell Simmons, Steve Wynn, George Clooney, and Will Smith – with the remainder offered to the public, all at \$8,000 per bottle. Potential buyers should go to the web site below to register and a Brand Ambassador will follow up. –CHRIS RUBIN **More:** [www.louisxiiiblackpearl.com](http://www.louisxiiiblackpearl.com)



**FURNITURE: NOVA MODERN**  
**Blinded Me with Science**

In a world where most things are designed for planned obsolescence, the furniture of NOVAmoern is a breath of fresh air. As the name implies, this is furniture with a bright future – Ryan Bruce and business partner Aron Fischer say their furniture is designed to become an heirloom. “I want people to identify with it so much that they want to keep it forever,” says Bruce, “and then pass it down.” One reason people aren’t likely to give up this furniture easily is the brilliant craftsmanship and attention to detail (e.g., hand-polished stainless steel table bases with nary a weld or bend mark to be seen). While Bruce, a freelance product designer and graduate of Arizona State University’s Industrial Design program, handles much of the design work, he’s quick to give Fischer (owner of a Scottsdale prototype and manufacturing business) credit for the quality. The inspiration for the NOVAmoern collection has a timeless quality about it, too. “We’re both really passionate about science and engineering,” says Bruce. Their TETRA line of tables gets its name from geometry (the tetrahedron is a shape of four triangles) and it’s form from physics. “It’s an exercise in what’s the least amount of material you can use to support a three-quarter-inch slab of glass,” says Bruce. Gregory Gordon, of Haus Modern Living, was instantly sold on TETRA. “Even with some international manufacturers,” says Gordon, “you don’t see the quality you do on their pieces.” Sounds like intelligent design to us. –PETER J. WOLF **More:** 480.217.0659; [www.novamodern.com](http://www.novamodern.com)



**EARPHONES: V-MODA**  
**Ear Me Now**

Unless you are an earphone purist who’s always searching for clearest bass levels and most vibrant highs, you likely haven’t heard of V-Moda. But once people experience the warm sound of these earphones, they usually shun the \$300 pair they bought at Apple. We love V-Moda’s Vibe collection which combines a sleek, futuristic appearance with tailored sound technology. Each pair comes in a gold leather pouch with extra pairs of silicone pads, all for \$101. –FRED TACK III **More:** [www.v-moda.com](http://www.v-moda.com)