TASTEMAKERS

ALAN FAENA’S

FAVORITE THINGS

Miami’s dapper creative patron curates the world with panache

By CHRISTOPHER CAMERON

A s the mastermind behind Miami’s Faena District — dotted with ultra-lux hotels, shops, cultural centers and residences — Alan Faena has redefined Magic City cool. The Buenos Aires-born, top-hat wearing art collector and developer is now telling his story in a new book from Rizzoli: "Alan Faena: Alchemy & Creative Collaboration: Architecture, Design, Art." The memoir features vivid photos from his childhood, his early days as a fashion designer and his current home in Miami. But of all his accomplishments, Faena, 57, says that his garden in Uruguay fills him with the most pride. “I built a magical rose garden on the ocean, with more than 3,000 red roses, in a place where the experts said roses cannot grow,” he tells Alexa. “With all that I have built in my life, this may actually be my greatest accomplishment. It was here that I dreamed my future plans for the Faena District in Buenos Aires and in Miami Beach. It’s in this garden that I always return when I need to become inspired and recharge.” From silk Versace shirts to healing crystals, Faena shares with Alexa the places and faces that keep him dreaming big.

"Rizzoli books are gorgeous and smart — what more could you ask for? Of course they are also my publishers, and I have shared with them the journey of bringing my story to life. I am extremely proud of the book and grateful to Rizzoli for the opportunity to create it together." — Alan Faena

"Chef Francis Mallmann’s very special restaurant and hotel, L’Atla, on a secluded island in Patagonia, is the best culinary experience I may have ever had. His cuisine captures the vibrant spirit of South America, and we are thrilled to have brought such a remarkable talent to Miami." Pink grapefruit salad, $16 at Los Fumados, 5901 Collins Ave.

"Tricked crystals, which can be healing and cleansing — they can be found throughout my house and gardens. The show is in San Francisco and precious gems, $55, that I have found in some of my dream stones." Crystals, price upon request at the Talcum & Gem Mineral Store, details at Talcum.com.

"I adore books, and I try to collect them all. I have a large collection of books on art and architecture. At the end of the day, I like to read and learn from others."

By Christopher Cameron

"Taste of Miami, which is all about food and drink and fashion and art. I always come away with new ideas for my own projects."

By Christopher Cameron

"I have collaborated with a diverse group of artists, working together to create emotional and powerful performances where we mix culture, art, romance, music and imagination. It’s a place of dreams and new beginnings. Tastemakers at Faena Theater, 1000 Collins Ave.

"These boots are all handcrafted and far from ordinary. My favorite items are those that are unique because they each reveal their own story. Custom boots, from $5,500, and boot tops, from $2,000. at CasaFaglione.com

"We have tickets from $55 at Passeio.com. Miami Beach"

"Every time I’m at Bates, I discover something new. Their hats have an old-school feel blended with world-class craftsmanship." Top hat, $175 at Bates-Hats.com

"The vintage, silk Versace shirts at Faena Bazaar are a great bargain. The prices from the 90s were so ahead of their time and feel entirely contemporary today." Versace vintage dress, from $798 at Frames/Richard, 5401 Collins Ave. www.FRAMESRICHARD.COM