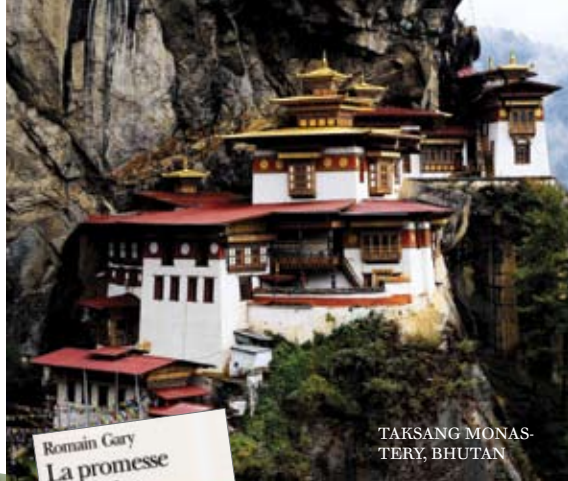




Actress and face of Lancôme's new Rénergie skin-care line, **JULIETTE BINOCHÉ** shares the secrets of her French charm. By **SHIRINE SAAD**



RAY LAMONTAGNE



TAKSANG MONASTERY, BHUTAN

WHAT ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW? "I'm finishing *La Promesse de l'aube* by Romain Gary."

WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE WRITERS? "Michael Ondaatje I love, of course. I'm loving Romain Gary, he's not a major writer but he's so funny and sincere. Otherwise, Oscar Wilde and Anne Kellas, a South African poet. She's just a beautiful writer. And Shakespeare, of course."



DO YOU LIKE SHOPPING? "I don't have a lot of time to shop. Prada has always been very generous with me and I love their stuff because it's very simple, good quality and easy to wear, even though it's very sophisticated."

WHAT THREE ITEMS DO YOU ALWAYS CARRY? "Some essential oils, such as cedar, geranium and rose, that I rub on my chest when I'm on a plane or in a hotel—it smells good and protects me from being sick. I always have a notebook to write ideas in, and a Lancôme lip balm."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BEAUTY RITUAL? "I love massage. For the circulation of the body, I think it's essential, in order to have good energy."

WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES THAT ATTRACT YOU TO A MAN? "Attention, thinking, being heard and generosity."

WHAT IS THE SECRET TO FRENCH WOMEN'S ELEGANCE? "I think we love love. We love being in love. It's kind of a romantic idea—being transformed and transforming everything around you when you're in love. When you walk in Paris, you see lots of people kissing all the time."

WHAT MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO? "Lately, I've been listening to Ray LaMontagne. He has a sexy voice, gentle and a little melancholic, but when you're travelling, you always get a little melancholic."



WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRAVEL TO? "I'd like to go to Bhutan. I'm also very curious to go to China. Because I think Hong Kong is very traditional and because I am eager to meet with all the calligraphy masters and walk in the streets. I want to know more, so I'm taking my children there."

I KNOW THAT YOU'RE A VERY ETHICALLY-MINDED PERSON. WHAT IS YOUR ECO CONTRIBUTION? "I've always done my shopping at the organic market, since I was able to buy my own food. I was raised like that by my mother, to eat organic foods." □

HOW DO YOU DEFINE LUXURY? "I'd say luxury is having time to do nothing, to be with oneself without having to run around or do something."

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH FASHION? "I like to have a specific relationship with some of the designers I know, because then it becomes more of a real relationship with the person I'm wearing. There's a couturier that I especially like—Alber Elbaz, and also Giambattista Valli, also because I love them as people. When I put on a Lanvin dress, I always feel whether it's right immediately. It's very clear whether it suits me or not, because of the way it has been made."



BINOCHÉ IN THE ENGLISH PATIENT, 1996