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Silvia Nicolis

President and CEO of Museo Nicolis, founded by her late father near Verona, Italy: home to collections of cars, bikes, planes and more



- 1 There has always been a dog in my life and I hope there will always be. These two my first as a pair came into my life in 2018. They are always with me and made me realise that many museums are not pet-friendly, so I opened the Nicolis to animals. Unexpected, but just as welcome, were the cats that came in too.
- **2** My old helmet, goggles and gloves, with me since I got my driving licence.
- 3 Keys are my nightmare. Home, office, all the doors of the museum, they are never where I look for them. This is my solution: a strap, with all the keys I could need. All together. Maybe not the most stylish, but it's the most practical key holder.
- 4 I am fascinated by flowers, orchids in particular. I always have them fresh in the museum and every place where I live or work, as they give me an inner serenity. I never run out of space to have them.
- 5 I love to read, and devour books as quickly as possible. As time is limited, I often end up reading at night and, to avoid disturbing my husband, I looked for a small portable light source. This one has a permanent space in my purse.
- 6 This is a Missoni dress that my father gave to my mother in the early 1980s. It was one of her favourites and went straight from her wardrobe to the museum. If I have to wear something vintage for a gala, it is my first choice.
- 7 I don't know where this silver and crystal paperweight and magnifying glass came from, but it was always on my father's desk when he was reading the paper. It now lives on my desk in turn.
- 8 Tazio was a stray dog that lived with us for 18 years. He showed up when we were building the museum, and I adopted him. Under the name of 'Freccia', he became the museum's mascot. When Tazio passed away, we buried him in a very special place outside the museum, known to few people. I like to think that the musem is the place where he would have loved to spend his eternity. I pass by his spot every day on the way to my office.
- 9 You can take everything away from me except my Chanel lipstick. I always wear it, and I feel uncomfortable without. I grew up surrounded by men, and I live comfortably in a pretty masculine environment. But I need my lipstick. End of discussion!
- 10 I love collecting vintage travel objects, and trunks are wonderful. They are a perfect witness to how people would travel in the past and, as a child, I loved to play with them, always hoping to find some pirate treasure inside.