

# BIG SMALL TALK



**[THE FESTIVAL]**

**Hello to Berlin**

Cannes has the Croisette, Venice boasts canals, but only the Berlinale film festival can claim to bring premieres to an entire city when its "Flying Red Carpet" lands at local art house cinemas in February. This year, the world premiere of Wes Anderson's "The Grand Budapest Hotel" will headline a wave of new work by, among others, George Clooney, Alain Resnais and Richard Linklater, plus a free premiere of the second season of "House Of Cards" on closing night. Feb. 6-16, berlinale.de

**[THE DESIGNER]**

**Wandering star**

The Netherlands may be a design superpower, but it's arguably produced only one true superstar—Marcel Wanders. On Saturday, Amsterdam's Stedelijk museum will throw him a midcareer retrospective featuring over 400 objects, ranging from 1986 prototypes to a new rotating sculpture destined for an Istanbul apartment building in 2015. Until June 15; stedelijk.nl



—With contributions from Jamie Ewbank, Helen Kirwan-Taylor, Thorsten Gritschke, Paul Levy and J.S. Marcus. Email [BigSmallTalk@wsj.com](mailto:BigSmallTalk@wsj.com)



**[THE RACKET]**

**What the deuce?**

You can't beat cold hard statistics for refining your focus on the court. Now you can track every match played with the Babolat Play Pure Drive tennis racket, recording the head impact location, number and type of strokes, spin and power exerted. Charged for 6 hours of use via a USB port in the handle, the racket provides uninterrupted analysis on smartphones and tablets via Bluetooth, allowing for a comparison of stats with fellow Babolat users across the globe, including Rafael Nadal. Providing the exact playability of a regular pure drive racket, the technology promises to revolutionize not just your game, but pending ITF approval, even Grand Slam tournament. \$399, [babolatplay.com](http://babolatplay.com)

**[THE TEA MAKER]**

**Rosy future**

No two people like their tea brewed the same way, so Heston Blumenthal, famed for his scientific methods, has come up with a high-tech tea-maker with 15 different settings, plus custom controls. The Sage stainless-steel kettle knows exactly how long your green, white, herbal or oolong tea needs to be brewed. You can even program it the day before, so it wakes up at the same time as you do. £200, [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)



**[THE PHONE]**

**Off the grid**

If the endless revelations about NSA and GCHQ data-harvesting have got your back up, Swiss encrypted-services provider Silent Circle and Spanish hardware startup Geeksphone might have the answer with their impending handset, the Blackphone. Built around PrivatOS, a modified version of Google's Android, it promises secure calls, text and video conferencing, and private browsing via VPN. Pricing has yet to be confirmed, but they will be taking preorders from Feb. 24. [blackphone.de](http://blackphone.de)



**[THE CLASSES]**

**The art of love**

February is London Art Studies' month of love. The art-history seminars range from the Feb. 4 happily-ever-after in painting ("Together Forever: Portraits of Partners from Van Eyck to Hockney") to the Feb. 26 "Great Tarts in Art: High Culture and the World's Oldest Profession." The twice-weekly sessions last from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and include lunch in the private room of Pierre Koffmann's Knightsbridge restaurant at the Berkeley Hotel. £175, [londonartstudies.com](http://londonartstudies.com)