

# CAESAR Luxury SUMMIT 2025

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***Luxury is about Rarity! – Is the Rarity becoming the new Luxury?***

**Location:** InterContinental Athénée Palace Hotel – Enescu Hall

**Date:** 20 Nov 2025

## 08:30 – 09:00

- REGISTRATION
- Welcome reception and guest arrival.

## 09:15 – 09:45

- OPENING REMARKS
- Dan Vardie – Founder & Chief Editorial Officer, CAESAR  
Perspective & teaser of the day.

## Panel I – Exquisite: Automotive, Watches & Interior Design

Celebrating elegance, design, and exceptional experiences.

## 09:45 – 11.15

- Key Speaker – **Ralf Speth** – *Chairman of TVS Motor Company*  
*Prof Sir Ralf Speth is one of the most respected leaders in the global automotive industry. As former CEO of Jaguar Land Rover, he transformed the company into a global icon of British engineering and modern luxury, driving innovation in electrification and sustainability. With decades of experience across BMW, Ford, and now as Chairman of TVS Motor Company, he continues to influence the future of mobility through visionary leadership and technological progress. Sir Ralf is also a member of CAESAR Honoris Hall of Fame*
- Key Speaker – **Stefano Macaluso** – *Former President of Girard-Perregaux*  
*Stefano Macaluso is a renowned watch industry designer, best known for his leadership and creative vision at Girard-Perregaux, where he served as General Manager and Product Development Director. With a deep passion for design, innovation, and mechanical heritage, he helped shape some of the brand's most iconic collections. Today, he continues to influence fine watchmaking and automotive culture through independent consulting, design projects, and his involvement with Fondazione*

*Gino Macaluso per l'Auto Storica. He is also a member of the Caesar Honoris Hall of Fame.*

- Key Speaker – **Ekaterina Kolpakova** – Brand Director of Girard-Perregaux  
*With over 18 years of experience in marketing and brand management, Ekaterina Kolpakova serves as Brand Director for Girard-Perregaux under the Sowind Group. She leads global brand strategy, creative partnerships, and retail experience—bridging heritage craftsmanship with contemporary storytelling in luxury watchmaking.*
- Key Discussion Partner – **Mihai Caraghiaur** – Founder Mihai Caraghiaur Design Studio

*Mihai Caraghiaur is a professional interior designer and a creative mind whose work blends craftsmanship, natural materials, and contemporary sensibility. In his 20 years' experience, he has been involved in projects that redefine the relationship between tradition and innovation, with a strong focus on ecological and sustainable design. His portfolio includes the design of unique ecological and sustainable spaces, crafted with natural materials, and he was awarded the German Design Award 2024 in the "Excellent Architecture – Fairs and Exhibitions" category for one of his recent projects.*

## 11.15

### Panel discussions followed by Q&A session

#### Panel II – Exquisite: Business, Exclusive luxury travel, Luxury Tailoring & Bespoke Suits

A conversation dedicated to the mastery of design and the pursuit of perfection in every detail, exploring the world of handcrafted creations and bespoke experiences. The discussion will also highlight the artistry of sound through high-end audio design — where technology and aesthetics converge to deliver pure refinement.

## 11.30 – 12.30

- Key Speaker – **Chamindra Goonewardene** – Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Resplendent Ceylon  
*Chamindra Goonewardene is a hospitality professional with over 15 years of experience in marketing and leadership. Since 2019, he has served as Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Resplendent Ceylon, overseeing three Relais & Châteaux properties: Ceylon Tea Trails, Cape Weligama, and Wild Coast Tented Lodge. He has also led teams at Santani Resort & Spa and Luyou Lanka, while offering strategic consultancy for the International Finance Corporation and Sri Lanka Tourism.*
- Key Speaker – **Antonio Meze** – Founder Meze Audio  
*Antonio Meze is an industrial designer and entrepreneur, founder of Meze Audio, the award-winning Romanian company recognized worldwide for its high-end*

*headphones and audio products. With over 15 years of experience in product design, he has built a brand that combines timeless aesthetics, advanced engineering, and a deep passion for music.*

- Key Discussion Partner – ***Cristian Carstea si Ana Circei***

## 12.30

### Panel discussions followed by Q&A session

#### Panel III – Exquisite: Spirits, Cigars & Gastronomy

Where taste, refinement, and sensory pleasure converge.

## 12.45 – 13:45

- Key Speaker – ***Billy Leighton*** – *Master Blender Emeritus at Irish Distillers*  
*Billy Leighton is Master Blender Emeritus at Irish Distillers, following a remarkable 47-year career with the company. Appointed Master Blender in 2004, he played a pivotal role in the revival of Irish whiskey and the relaunch of the Redbreast brand. Throughout his career, he has mentored the next generation of whiskey makers and continues to provide expertise in product development.*
- Key Discussion Partner – ***Chef Vlad Padurescu*** – *Head Chef at L'Atelier Relais & Châteaux*  
*Vlad Pădurescu is a Romanian-born chef trained internationally, with a career spanning acclaimed Michelin-starred kitchens including Feva, The Fat Duck, Hind's Head, and L'Autre Pied. Having earned his first Head Chef position at just 25, he now leads the culinary vision at L'Atelier Relais & Châteaux in Bucharest, blending premium local ingredients with global fine-dining techniques, and innovation.*
- Discussion Partner – ***Tudor Furir si Corneliu Valsan***

## 13.45

### Panel discussions followed by Q&A session

## 14:00 – End