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# Olympia Le-Tan X Princesses Carolina and Chiara de Bourbon des Deux Siciles

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN CRAFT AND IMAGINATION

*Blending whimsy with heritage, this collaboration between the sisters and Olympia Le-Tan is a meeting of imagination and memory. Rooted in Southern Italian culture and shaped by a deep respect for craftsmanship, the collection transforms personal history into wearable narratives. In this conversation, they reflect on identity, sisterhood, and the creative dialogue between past and present - where tradition is not preserved in silence, but reimaged with joy and intent.*

*Imagination and memory*

**Y**our collaboration with Olympia Le-Tan® fashion house blends two distinct worlds. Which moment in the creative process became the point where the brand's playful visual language truly merged with your Mediterranean heritage?

**Princesses Carolina and Chiara:** Our family history has always been closely linked to craftsmanship, art, and beauty. Through our upbringing - and through the work of our father's dynastic order, the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St George - we have always respected artisans, manual work, and the preservation of traditions. This aligns perfectly with Olympia Le-Tan's values and the meticulous, handcrafted nature of the brand. From the start, there was a natural harmony in the way we approached this collaboration.

Our studies at the Istituto Marangoni gave us a foundation in fashion design, textile development, and business. The merging of our worlds with the brand truly began during the first mood-board sessions. We brought personal references - family archives, history books, and vintage photographs from Naples and Sicily - alongside memories from our recent summer visits to Naples and Capri. Walking through the city with our aunt Beatrice and strolling along the marina sparked so many ideas that eventually found their way onto those boards.

From there, we began exploring the stories of Southern Italy through the brand's signature handcrafted style. Olympia Le-Tan's universe is whimsical and literary; ours is rooted in history, rituals, and the visual identity of the South. When we placed these narratives side by side - the colours of Naples, the silhouettes of Sicilian ceramics, the romance of our family heritage - the fusion felt completely natural.

There was a moment in the studio when we saw the first embroidered prototype of the Napoli bag, and we immediately felt that our worlds had met with complete respect for both identities. That was when the collaboration truly came alive.

**Many elements in the collection echo Naples, Sicily, and the culture of Southern Italy. Which symbols felt essential to honour, and how did you reinterpret them for a global audience?**

**Princess Chiara:** We wanted to highlight symbols that carry meaning beyond aesthetics: the Moorish heads of Sicily, which embody stories of passion and transformation; the architecture and theatricality of Naples; and the joyful spirit of Southern Italian life. These elements are deeply part of our story.



To make them resonate internationally, we focused on refining the lines, modernising the colours, and translating traditional motifs into the brand's iconic felt appliqué and embroidery.

The cornicello - the iconic red horn - was essential too. It is a familiar symbol of luck, but it has also become internationally recognised. Including it allowed us to bring something deeply local into a universal narrative.

For the Napoli bag, we wanted to capture the spontaneous dolce vita that truly exists in everyday Southern life. The sun, the Vespa, the sea breeze, the energy of the streets... all of those impressions became elements of the design.

With the Spritz, Carbonara, Tiramisu, and Amore clutches, our intention was to celebrate the joy of living that is so deeply ingrained in Italian culture.

**As sisters, you share a unique creative bond. How do your strengths complement each other, and how does this shape the identity of your joint projects?**

**Princess Carolina:** Our dynamic has always been our greatest strength. We grew up very close, and that closeness naturally shapes the way we work.

Chiara is highly meticulous and naturally drawn to research and historical detail. She is deeply committed to ensuring that every reference is authentic and meaningful. Carolina brings a strong sense of modernity, visual rhythm, and an instinct for how an idea can translate into a fashionable object that people genuinely want to wear.

Of course, we don't always agree, and we often challenge each other's perspectives, but that tension pushes us to question ideas,

refine them, and arrive at the strongest version of a concept rather than settling for the obvious.

The Les Inséparables clutch became the perfect metaphor for our relationship: two ideas that exist independently, yet feel complete when they come together. The inscription *âme sœur* (soulmate) on the back captures our bond perfectly.

**Your accessories often feel like narratives rather than objects. What emotional story did you want this collaboration to tell?**

**Princess Chiara:** We wanted these pieces to feel like fragments of Southern Italy that you can hold in your hands.

Every Olympia Le-Tan book clutch is already a narrative, but with this collection, the story becomes personal. It speaks of our home, our travels, our family, and the places that shaped us. We spent hours going through archives, old books, family albums, and sketches from our past. Every motif in the collection began as a memory, a photograph, or a personal reference.

When people hold these pieces, we hope they feel the human touch behind them: the artisans who spent nearly 400 hours hand-embroidering each piece, the precision of the workmanship, and the celebration of culture embedded within every stitch.

**Your family history carries centuries of cultural legacy. How do you balance the responsibility of heritage with the desire to innovate as young women today?**

**Princess Chiara:** We see heritage not as a weight, but as a foundation. The history of our family - from architecture to crafts-



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manship to cultural patronage - inspires us to create with intention and respect. At the same time, we are young women in the 21st century, and innovation is part of our identity.

Our goal is to continue the tradition of craftsmanship while giving it a language that speaks to today's world. Collaborating with Olympia Le-Tan felt like the perfect embodiment of that balance: honouring the past while creating something fresh, unexpected, and relevant.

**You often speak about identity and creativity. What does female creative leadership mean to you, and how do you hope to inspire the next generation?**

**Princess Carolina:** From a very young age, we have been involved in initiatives supporting women's rights - from projects with the United Nations to regional associations helping women in need. This work has shaped how we see leadership: it is not only about having a voice in the creative world, but about using that voice to open doors for others.

For us, female leadership means being deeply connected to one's identity while remaining open, collaborative, and resilient. It is about leading with intuition, strength, and empathy at the same time.

We hope younger women see that creativity is not about perfection; it is about courage. The courage to share your background, your



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culture, your personal history, and transform it into something that feels true. If our journey shows anything, it is that women can build worlds together, and that sisterhood can be a powerful creative force.

**This collaboration feels like a beginning. Which themes or artistic territories are you most excited to explore next?**

**Princess Carolina:** We are interested in the intersection between historical craftsmanship and modern lifestyle. Whether through accessories, fashion, or artistic collaborations, we want to explore techniques that risk disappearing - embroidery, ceramics, metalwork - and bring them forward in ways that feel contemporary and alive.

For our upcoming projects, we want to collaborate with artisans not only from Italy, but from around the world. Supporting manual work has always been important in our family, and continuing that commitment through fashion feels like a natural extension of who we are. Each artisan brings a story, a heritage, and a technique that deserves visibility and care.

Our home in the South of Italy remains an endless source of inspiration, and we feel there is still so much to share.

**If you had to describe your shared creative universe in three words - defining you not as princesses, but as women and artists - what would they be?**

**Princesses Carolina and Chiara:** Authentic. Empowered. Timeless.