

## Auctions



# Persian carpets under the hammer

Over 250 Persian carpets are to go under the hammer, courtesy of Obelisk Auctions on Saturday, January 30 at 2.30 p.m. at The Corinthia Palace Hotel in Attard.

One of the major carpet-making regions, Persia, has developed highly individual patterns and styles, infused with motifs and

symbolism particular to the region, town and even ethnic group.

However, these decorative markers are not always static. Motifs may migrate with nomadic tribes, from one area to another, or names may correspond with trading centres rather than an actual

point of origin. These carpets being auctioned consist of a variety of colours and come from different regions.

Viewing times: Friday, January between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, January 30 between 9 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

[www.obeliskauctions.com](http://www.obeliskauctions.com)

## Factbox

### Baluchi Rugs

These are usually woven in northern Iran and Afghanistan. There are two types of rugs that derive from tribe – the flat weave, more commonly known as a Kilim and pile rugs. The pile rugs are characteristically thin and floppy. Baluchi rugs are double wefted and traditional colours are dark brown, dark blues, orange reds, dark reds, and black.

### Hamadan

A city and provincial capital in Northwest Iran – ancient “Ecbatana” – Hamadan is the centre of hundreds of towns and villages in the area that produce scatter rug sizes and runners. The rugs of Hamadan are single-wefted and most of them have a cotton foundation. Early examples may have a wool foundation and a camel-coloured field.

### Tabriz

Tabriz is a city in Northwest Iran and capital of Iranian Azerbaijan. Carpet weaving there dates back to the 15th century. Rugs woven in and around Tabriz are usually double-wefted with a cotton foundation and a symmetric knot. Knot counts range from about 40 to 400 knots per square inch. Designs from this area include medallions, hunting

designs, prayer rug designs and pictorial designs.

### Nain

This town lies in central Iran and is synonymous with light-coloured background rugs. Since the 1930s, very densely-woven rugs were woven in this town. Knot densities vary from 200 to 800 knots per square inch.

### Shiraz

This region lies in the south western part of Iran and is the capital of the province of Fars. Shirazi rugs are attributed to all villages in the Fars region – most notable is Qashqai. The major tribe are of Turkoman origin. The asymmetric knot is usually used and is of a density of between 70 to 170 knots per square inch.

### Turkoman

These rugs are attributed to a weaving population in the North of Iran, Turkmenistan and north Afghanistan. Most Turkoman women weave rugs for domestic use and the market. Rug weaving for the export market became a significant part of the Turkoman economy in the 19th and early 20th century. Most of these weaves are in shades of red or rust with highlights of white, blue, green and yellow.

# Britney Spears to sell ‘comeback’ dress for Haiti

Britney Spears will auction off a dress she wore in a 2008 comeback performance to benefit the Haiti earthquake relief efforts, one of her lawyers said.

Samuel Ingham said the pop singer wanted to donate the dress she wore at the MTV Music Video Awards in September 2008, where she won three awards and showed the world she had regained her poise and her career after a year of turmoil.

“She was very enthusiastic about making a donation for the Haiti

relief,” Mr Ingham told the Los Angeles judge overseeing the conservatorship of Spears’ personal and business affairs. Ms Spears, 28, who recently ended a world tour to support her 2008 album *Circus*, spent two hours with the judge on Friday in a closed-door meeting on her progress.

It was not immediately clear how or where the dress – one of two shimmering silver outfits MS Spears wore that night – would be auctioned. (Reuters)

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