

ELTON JOHN'S WONDERLAND

No other singer is as crazy on stage in his clothes as Elton John. What's it like at home with this pop bird of paradise?

Inside, his house looks like a mixture of a picture gallery, an antique shop and a games room. An antique shop and a games room... I'm a casual collector, perhaps a little crazy. What I like, I buy immediately. Even if it's a two-meter tall Mickey Mouse, as I did recently at the airport. My mother throws up her hands every time she sees what I've brought back," says the 27-year-old rock star. He lives in a 600,000-mark mansion in Virginia Water in the county of Surrey... "Hercules" is written on the sign at the gate to the huge property. His mother lives in the neighborhood in another house that Elton bought for her... So I can pay her a quick visit when I'm at home. And that's not often. Because I'm usually on tour.' The splendor of his bedroom alone is reminiscent of the chambers of Bavarian King Ludwig II:

three carved ornaments stand in it: the walls are hung with pictures and mirrors. Antique lamps and delicate Art Nouveau tables are a perfect match. The Purple Room is filled with pinball machines, jukeboxes. Playing machines for electronic tennis and movie projectors. This is where Elton John gives his parties for David Cassidy and Rod Stewart, among others. His latest acquisition are two snarling, stuffed leopards. They "watch" in the entrance hall, surrounded by palm trees, under a life-size painting of E.J. Despite all this splendor, there is one thing you won't find in Elton's palace: a girl. I haven't found the love of my life yet," he claims...I won't get married until I've retired from show business at the earliest. I don't want the girl of my dreams to have to share me with the fans.