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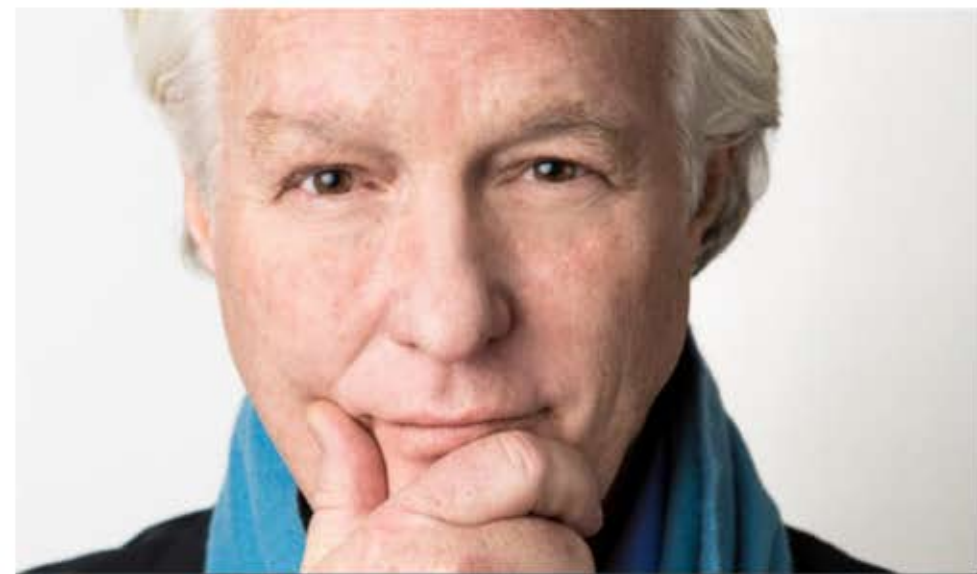
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SAVE ARTICLE | PRINT | REPRINTS & PERMISSIONS

Fashion entrepreneur Chris Burch rides a new wave with Ellen DeGeneres and an island resort



American entrepreneur Chris Burch is financing a new homewares and clothing line by Ellen DeGeneres.



"A lot of celebrities come to you and say: 'Make me \$25 million overnight'. But Ellen's not like that. She's a lovely person. She's genuine and so's Portia. I like spending time with them," says Chris Burch. **Matt Peyton Photography LLC**



by **Fiona Carruthers**

Even by billionaire standards it's an impressive opening line: "When I was shopping at a flea market in Paris with Ellen DeGeneres last year ..." Chris Burch, American investor, entrepreneur and former husband and business partner of global fashion sensation Tory Burch, enjoys being candid. Especially about his celebrity friends – from Parisian shopping sprees with DeGeneres and her wife Portia de Rossi, to meeting singer Sting and wife Trudie Styler in a spa tub in Mexico, to hanging out with Kim Kardashian.

But most of all, Burch enjoys being candid about himself. Not many billionaires admit





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Self-made, Burch grew up in a middle-class Philadelphia family of four children. Now flitting between New York and Miami, the near 62-year-old has a 30-year track record as an investor, brand builder and entrepreneur. He's dabbled in everything from Voss Water to producing a romantic comedy film (Watch It, directed by Tom Flynn). Today, the investment portfolio of Burch Creative Capital includes wearable devices company Jawbone, office supplies innovator Poppin and wireless phone recharger Powermat plus fashion brands BaubleBar jewellery and Chubbies shorts.

But Burch remains best known as the man behind Tory Burch, whose label reported revenues of more than \$US1 billion in 2014. Worth \$US1 billion herself, she appears at number 1741 in the 2015 Forbes Billionaires List; her ex-husband was worth \$US1.2 billion when he placed on last year's list at number 1565. "Everyone knows me as Tory's husband," he opines. "But I've done a lot of other stuff besides helping build Tory Burch."