

# The New York Times

March 27, 2011



PHOTOGRAPHS BY STRIBLING AND ASSOCIATES

BIG DEAL

SARAH KERSHAW

## Oh, the Drinks That Were Spilled



STEFAN GOSATTI/GETTY IMAGES FOR IMG



**T**HE fashion designer Carmen Marc Valvo and his partner, Christian Knaust, the president of Mr. Valvo's couture house, were famous among their friends for hosting enormous cocktail parties in their apartment on the 28th floor of the Majestic on Central Park West. Enormous, as in 200 people on average, Mr. Knaust said.

But with both of them approaching 60, the couple decided it was time to simplify their lives and sell the sprawling 10-room co-op, where partygoers could take in park views from four different corners.

"It's been great, it's been fun," said Mr. Knaust, 59, adding that the cocktail parties had been replaced by "small, intimate dinners."

"We've been working hard for 35 years," he said. "And we want to slow down."

In addition to the apartment in the Majestic, at 72nd Street, the pair own three other homes, in Sweden; Bridgehampton, N.Y.; and Palm Beach, Fla., and are building a house in Costa Rica, Mr. Knaust said.

They decided to put the Bridgehampton and Palm Beach residences on the market. Their city co-op had been listed since last spring, at \$18.75 million, with Stribling and Associates, so last month they lowered the price to \$16.9 million, although Mr. Knaust said they were not in a rush to sell and they wouldn't come down much lower.

If they do receive an acceptable offer, he said, they will buy a much smaller apartment in New York; they plan to spend summers in Sweden, winters in Costa Rica and most of the rest of the year in the Hamptons.

The couple bought the New York apartment 18 years ago, paying \$2.25 million for both units on the floor, Mr. Knaust said. They combined them into a three-bedroom four-and-a-half-bath space; renovated to restore the Art Deco detail that defines the style of the twin-towered apartment house; and filled it with Oriental antiques.

Mr. Valvo, 58, whose gowns and slinky cocktail dresses have been worn by Queen Latifah, Beyoncé, Katie Couric, Vanessa Williams, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Kate Winslet, Eva Longoria and Mary J. Blige, was unavailable for comment, his partner said, because he was on a tour promoting his new book, "Dressed to Perfection: The Art of Dressing for Your Red Carpet Moments" (Rizzoli, 2011).