



TOWN&COUNTRY  
USA

# THE ONE

PRESENTED BY MARCO BICEGO

## The Match Maker

*Diamonds or solid gold? Studs or drops? Here's a radical idea: Make it all of the above, all at once.*

Certain jewelry pairings seem to possess an undeniably renegade spirit. Men in pearls, for instance. Rock crystal and diamonds. J. Lo and her Dresden Green. Mismatched earrings also fall into this category. A fairly new entry in the jewelry lexicon, the style has been propelled by risk-taking red carpet royalty like Tracee Ellis Ross, Katy Perry, and Charlize Theron. But sometimes even the most daring of jewelry cognoscenti crave a bit of the old-school approach. What if we no longer had to choose a path? What if a pair of earrings came with a multitude of possibilities? Such is the case with Marco Bicego's Alta design, a high jewelry master class in versatility. Not only are the drops detachable, but the full set includes both pairs shown here. See how your horizons expand: Maybe a stud here, a drop there? Or a mix-and-match of pavé and gold? Whatever your mood, there is no wrong answer. **T&C**

Crafted by Italian master goldsmiths to be versatile and interchangeable, these earrings are ripe with possibilities.

**MARCO BICEGO ALTA CONVERTIBLE LUNARIA PAVÉ DIAMOND AND 18K GOLD EARRINGS (\$42,490 FOR THE FULL SET OF BOTH PAIRS), US.MARCOBICEGO.COM**



TOWN&COUNTRY  
USA

their homes by wildfires.

"When kids feel safe, they play," Garner says, "and play is the most therapeutic thing that can happen for kids when they've been through something traumatic. They can release some of the tension, they can release the trauma in their bodies."

None of this is purely about politics ("Who cares about what side of the aisle? You can't tell me you believe kids shouldn't have more opportunities"), and Garner has doggedly worked with Republicans like Senator Roy Blunt from Missouri as well as with Democrats including New Mexico governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. Her relationship with West Virginia senator Joe Manchin goes way back. Garner got through to him when he was governor in 2010, preaching the importance of investing in early childhood education, securing funding to bring Save the Children's resources to her home state for the first time. "Believe me, when anything's happening, the whole world calls me and says, 'Maybe you should try Joe Manchin,'" Garner says. "I'm like, 'I've got it, I'll talk to him. I'll talk to Lance, his chief of staff.'"

If there's a guiding principle underlying her charitable work, it's the desire to level the playing field. That's why, in 2017, Garner co-founded Once Upon a Farm, a startup that sells fresh, cold-pressed, organic baby food—essentially creating a category that didn't exist. Once Upon a Farm's vitamin-packed pouches and bowls are now sold across the country. At Garner's urging, the company went a step further, working with state governments (in Texas, Florida, and Michigan, among others) to make sure its products qualify for the WIC program, which helps feed low-income families. "Everything is political," says Once Upon a Farm's chief executive officer John Foraker, and he credits the expansion to Garner's refusal to take no for an answer. Last year she cut through some serious red tape to bring her two passions together: Once Upon a Farm and Save the Children pledged to provide 1 million meals to struggling children across rural America by the end of 2024.

"I used to think our competition was the Red Cross. Then I realized we all work together," Garner says. "And that Save has a really unique and beautiful piece of the puzzle, which is specific to the little kids and to the nursing moms and to the mothers."

*Competitive* isn't a word we often associate with Garner, though we should. "Maybe a little bit," she says, before answering a question that hasn't been asked. "I'm not competitive with other women. But I would be competitive on behalf of Save."

When asked to name Garner's superpower, Shriver says she's "incredibly nice." *Nice*. Now, *that's* a word you hear often when talking about Garner. When she appeared on Katie Couric's podcast, the episode was titled "Is Jennifer Garner really as nice as she seems?" (Yes, Couric said.) But *nice* is a funny word. It can be dismissive, though



"I treat Save the Children like a job—and it's a job I take as seriously as any job," Garner says of the nonprofit she has championed for nearly 15 years.

VERSACE DRESS (\$4,325) AND PUMPS (\$1,725); MARCO BICEGO EARRINGS (\$2,020) AND RING (\$2,300); POMELLATO BRACELETS (FROM \$8,800). FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 139

in Garner's case it arguably works in her favor, disguising a quiet killer who is willing to pick up the phone and call just about anyone for the right cause.

With Garner, it's tempting to read into any crumbs she drops, partly out of curiosity but also because her fans really do feel as if they know her. Her Instagram feed has only cemented her good girl image; it's one part inspirational clickbait, two parts self-effacing