



## A model makeover

*Cosmo's* first UK cover girl now divides her time between Venice and Paris, where she's revamped her apartment and reinvented herself as an interior designer

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**Red alert**  
Above: the launch cover of *Cosmo*. From left: Julia still has a model's poise; *objets d'art* arranged like a still life; the bijou living room with Julia's poem inscribed on the wall

**W**hen *Cosmopolitan* magazine crash-landed on British newsagents' shelves 40 years ago, heralding a revolution in sexual and social mores for young women, its first UK cover girl was Julia Crosthwait.

The tall, slim 21-year-old from Stroud with her blonde *Charlie's Angels* curls was already a successful model, advertising everything from swimwear to cigars, but she still recalls that cover as a defining moment.

'The photographer was Terry O'Neill and I'd been told it was a possibility for the cover of a new magazine,' says Julia who, at 61 still has the striking looks of a model. 'But they were shooting a dozen girls, some much bigger names than me, so I didn't think I had much hope.'

Today Julia goes by the surname of Panama – after her third (ex)



husband, American film producer Steve Panama, but lives happily between her homes in Venice and Paris with her French partner of 19 years, entrepreneur Claude Buchert.

Quite unwittingly she became the face of the British sexual revolution. 'But by 19 I was married and living in East Sheen, West London, in a house I'd bought from Ridley Scott. I had a horror of anything to do with drugs, I was never a big drinker and I've always thought the promiscuity encouraged in that era just brought unhappiness to young women. I never even liked big parties. Give me a small dinner party any day.'

The *Cosmo* spirit didn't entirely pass her by, though. 'I've always managed my own finances and my >



'When all the other mothers in LA had empty nest syndrome, I thought "Whoopee! I can go back to live in Europe"'

