faces

RAJIV GROVER
There's something wonderfully old-fashioned about Grover, something reassuring and steadfast. This is, after all, the former president of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (BAAPS); still the most convivial surgeon practising in the UK. But niceties aside, he's also a meticulous and passionate scalpel-wielder: the best, say some, many of whom have been in his care and whose faces have been immaculately restored to their former youth. Faces appear younger but also prettier, thanks to his enhanced-recovery facelift, which minimises, if not eliminates, bleeding and helps faces to appear fresher, quicker. The same faces that he still greets warmly over breakfast at Colbert, or that sit across from him inside his elegant white clinic (subtle done injectables are, for many, a way to keep in touch as well as to keep up appearances). But, above all, he's compassionate and honest, with an emphasis on delivering natural results. It's a combination of expert hands and a human touch. Probably why they call him the 'Facemester'. Consultation, £250; facelift, from £15,000. (rajivgrover.co.uk; 020 7486 4301)

NORMAN WATERHOUSE
Waterhouse has been racking up some serious air miles of late. When the charismatic, London-based surgeon isn't teaching in China or attending Tribeca Film Festival with daughters Suki and Immy, you'll find him operating in Dubai. 'They have incredible health facilities in the Middle East,' he says, 'though they do like a British surgeon.' It makes for an unrivalled understanding of ethnicities; for example, 'A facelift for an Asian patient often necessitates building up the nose with grafts and elevating the mid-face, whereas with a Caucasian patient you're more likely to address the lower face and neck.' Fittingly, he has a new technique for the latter, which involves stitching the skin to the underlying tissue: 'The sutures only stay in for a couple of days, and when removed, they leave behind no marks.' It slims a heavy neck, gives a beautiful lift to the brows — and because it locks the skin down into a tight position quickly, it means the result is more 'instant', with less swelling. Catch him if you can.
Consultation. £250; facelift, from £12,000. (theaestheticsurgeons.com; 020 7636 4073)

AWF QUABA, EDINBURGH
More than 30 years' practice has made Mr Quaba understandably pragmatic. 'We know that a lot of people opt for the non-surgical options,' he says. 'They're very appealing. But the truth is that patients seek you out because their cosmetic doctor tells them, "We cannot address your expectations any more."' The patients who find themselves at his Edinburgh clinic might be treated with kid gloves ('I explain everything, from A to Z: the procedure, complications and the expectations') — but they're also spoken to frankly. 'Often it's the simplest surgical procedures that deliver.' Take, for example, his direct brow lift, which excises an ellipse of skin above the eyebrow: it takes 45 minutes under local anaesthetic and hides the scar in the eyebrow hair. Otherwise, he might make tiny cuts in the hairline, insert some non-dissolving threads, and anchor them in the fatty tissue of the brow (it gives a lovely arch). Half of his patients combine this with a facelift; and when they return for their six-month follow-up they speak of feeling 'fresher', some say that they look 'younger' — and that even their hairdresser hasn't noticed their scars. Which is the greatest litmus test of all.
Consultation, £150; direct brow lift, from £2,150; implantable thread brow lift, from £3,500; facelift, from £7,550. (quaba.co.uk; 0131 346 0020)

FIRST CLASS

Considering surgery? Meet the most brilliant, skilful, reassuring and innovative specialists out there.
By Francesca White