

## Spotted



British entrepreneur Theo Paphitis (left), star of reality TV show *Dragon's Den*,

strolling through the grounds of Atlantis. Irish footballer Stephen Ireland chilling by the pool at the same spot. Scottish tennis ace Andy Murray kicking a ball around in the At the Top observation deck of the Burj Khalifa.

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Time Out Nightlife Awards 2012 nominees, including...

### Best International DJ Set

The top sets from the biggest DJs to visit Dubai

### Best Ladies' Night

The feeling's right at these hotspots on ladies' night

### Best New Club

It's been a great year for new nightspots, but which is best?

### Most viewed this week

- 1 Dubai through a lens
- 2 53 top weekend getaways
- 3 Golf-course restaurants
- 4 David Guetta in Abu Dhabi
- 5 29 to try on February 29

## Hot seat Barry Norman

The renowned British film critic, novelist and media personality, 78, is in Dubai this week as chairman of his charity cricket team. *Rob Garratt* had a chat



### What are you doing in Dubai?

I'm here with the charity cricket club I chair, The Lord's Taverners. I used to play for them but now I've taken to the sidelines, so I'll just be swanning around here. It's very much a 21st century city.

**You share the cricket chairing duties with former *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* host Chris Tarrant. Seems like an odd pairing...**

Chris is an old mate. We're very different people who see things in different ways – but he's the reason I'm here.

**So, the Oscars: did *The Artist* deserve to win best film?**

Yes. The fact that it harks back to another era isn't important: it's a very good movie.

**Any other picks of the season?**

*Tinker Tailor Solider Spy* was a very good film. *We Need to*

*Talk About Kevin* was mainly ignored by the awards, but shouldn't have been. And the best performance of the year was Meryl Streep in *The Iron Lady*.

### 'Schwarzenegger wasn't an actor – he was a special effect'

**You're a revered movie critic. What's the secret of a good review?**

I decided right at the beginning to just be completely honest. People might be planning to take their whole family to a movie on my recommendation and that can cost a lot of

money, so I have to say what I really believe.

**The top seven movies in the US last year were sequels...**

Studios aren't run the way they used to be, by people who cared about movies. Now they're run by accountants.

**Do you ever regret leaving the BBC in 1998, after more than 25 years hosting your *Film...* show?**

I didn't have any real regrets about leaving then, and I don't now. The BBC used to be a wonderful place to work, then it became a very anxious place to work.

**What do you think of your replacement, Jonathan Ross?**

I think after I left something happened in television towards movies – a serious art form was relegated to light entertainment. It was very difficult to see.

**Who's the most intimidating person you interviewed?**

I wasn't intimidated by anyone. There was one person I was in awe of and that was Laurence Olivier. I believed then, and still do now, that he's the best stage actor I will ever see.

**And the worst interview?**

Arnold Schwarzenegger. Before we started, he said, 'I bet I can mention the name of my film in answer to every question you ask me.' I said, 'Please don't – it'll be rubbish!' But he did and he thought it was really funny. I don't remember what film it was – there weren't many of his films I liked. I never regretted the incident. I thought of him less as an actor and more as a special effect.

*Barry Norman hosts the Lord's Taverners gala cricket dinner at Meydan on Friday March 2. Tickets Dhs450. www.urbanevents.ae (04 445 6842).*

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