

GOTHAM

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KATE WINSLET TELL US
THEIR BIG APPLE
FAVORITES



POWER EXPLORER

In Deep

AS THE GRANDSON of legendary deep-sea explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau, it's no great surprise that Fabien Cousteau is a major champion of the world's oceans. He travels to far-flung places like Belize, Papua New Guinea and Samoa for his cause—to the layman an exotic-sounding, even glamorous life.

"Glamorous? I don't know—it depends on how you define 'glamorous,'" says Cousteau, 41, who splits his time between Brooklyn and France. "I define glamorous as life fulfillment, and I go to sleep exhausted and I wake up every morning ready to do it again, so [perhaps] there is something to it."

NEW YORK FAVORITES

Boroughs: "When I consider New York, I don't just think of Manhattan. I think of Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island. If you just go one extra stop, you're in a whole new world."

Transit: "I love being able to walk places and being able to take the subway to where I need to go. I love that kind of accessibility. That's very green."

Space: "I get to park my seven motorcycles in Brooklyn. I couldn't do that in New York."

Cousteau and his crew—a collection of divers (including Cousteau's father, Jean-Michel, and his sister, Céline), camera people, sound engineers, researchers and scientists—go on three to four expeditions per year, studying aquatic life and producing television specials like this spring's *Sea Ghosts* (about beluga whales) and *Call of the Killer Whale* (about orcas), as part of the *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventure* series on PBS.

And although fascinated by the entire underwater "web of life," as he calls it, as well as the environment as a whole, Cousteau has made the shark his particular focus—and a focus of particular concern. As he recites shocking statistics (approximately 100 million sharks are killed each year), his worry is palpable. "It's not hard to imagine that in a few years, at that pace, there's not going to be anything left," he says.

Along with his work abroad, Cousteau is involved in myriad conservation-related endeavors and educational programs for adults as well as kids. He launched a not-for-profit undersea replanting program called Plant a Fish, advises environmentally conscious businesses as a consultant with the marketing agency GreenDog, and is writing a trilogy of teen books about a 12-year-old's adventures in a future city.

He's also committed to giving back locally, including as a board member of the New York Harbor School, which is moving from its current home in Bushwick to Governors Island next year. The school gives youngsters a traditional high school curriculum supplemented by marine technology-oriented programs of study (commercial diving, vessel engineering, marine policy), as well as internships with the likes of Riverkeeper.

It's all part of a family legacy—along with a commitment to saving our seas and igniting environmental passion in others—that Cousteau is eager to continue. "When you look at a classroom full of kids or an auditorium full of adults," he says. "and you tell a story, and you watch them get it, and you watch them become compassionate and ingrained and curious, that's the reward."—INGRID SKJONG