

Wealth advisors with links to the Knights Templar

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Secrecy is increasingly becoming outdated for private banks as competition to attract business become ever fiercer. But three wealth advisory firms want to keep their existence very secret.



Private banks have become a lot less private in recent years as the competition to attract clients has led many of them to build a bigger public profile than they could have imagined 10 years ago.

Even most of the ultra-discreet Swiss private banks are spending money on building their profiles and some now even have advertising and public relations budgets.

But there are still a few wealth advisory groups that have no public profile - and very much want to keep it that way.

In Russ Prince's and Hannah Shaw's book "The Sky's the Limit: Marketing Luxury to The New Jet Set", three intriguing wealth advisory groups were listed as examples of completely secretive firms selling their services to the exceedingly rich.

"The mere existence of these specialty organisations reinforces that the exceedingly rich have distinct needs, are extremely private, and operate in an altogether different universe from the rise of the world's population," says the book.

The management of one these groups, The Soloton Society, claim ancestral links to the Poor Knights of Christ and the Temple of Solomon, predecessor of the Knights Templar, according to the book.

The Soloton Society is a financial and legal advisory firm that acts "as agent and facilitator to 'professional tourists', or individuals and business people that are continually on the move and consequently have no tax obligations in many locations," said the book.

Do not bother trying to find any reference of the Soloton Society on Google - there is none.

Nor is there any reference to The Medmenham Abbey, which the book says is "an advanced-planning boutique that caters to the top echelon of European and US-based wealth".

Apparently the firm can trace its origins back to the 1700s and the friars of St Francis of Wycombe. There was a Cistercian abbey founded in Medmenham in the 12th century.

Many of the mysterious group's clients have genealogical links to European nobility and other well-known historical figures, says the book.

Vargas Partners is another one of these mysterious wealth advisory groups that the book lists. The firm apparently specialises in managing clients' personal and business affairs and has some client relationships more than a century old, said the book.