



# In the spotlight - Vikash Gupta, CEO and co-founder of VAR Capital

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Vikash Gupta is the co-founder and chief executive of VAR Capital, a multi-family office based in London.

Mr Gupta has been in this role since 2016.

He is also a co-founder of Monument, a UK based bank focused on affluent clients.

He started his career in the technology sector and later moved to strategy consulting and later wealth management.

Mr Gupta has served with Barclays bank from 2008-2015 as a director in the key clients and family office, and was a member of the investment committee at the UK Private Bank.

Prior to joining Barclays, he was at Booz & Company, a strategy consulting firm where he provided strategy and merger and acquisition advice to banks and private equity firms.

In his spare time, Mr Gupta enjoys riding his Harley Davidson and spending time with his family.

### Why do you specialise in this area?

When I joined Barclays, I was part of the team which looked into Barclays strategic goals, as well as its inorganic expansions. This was also part of my training at Booz and Co. When I made the move into Private Banking, I was excited about the family office segment as it brought together all the three businesses of Barclays – corporate, investment, and private banking.

VAR Capital also started as a single-family office and then evolved into a multi-family office. This segment has been the most exciting development in the private banking industry, and that's why I specialise in this segment.

### Why is family office segment so important to the industry?

Family offices are fast emerging as a new class of clients who want to take control of their affairs using a combination of in-house and outsourced teams. They predominantly fall above high net worth and ultra-high net worth clients, and just under institutional clients.

Given the complexity and size of such clients, private banks need to adapt to be able to cater to their evolving needs.

### What's the best piece of career advice you've received?

Don't hesitate to take up new opportunities, even if it means moving laterally or locations. A broad range of experiences make you a better advisor and a better professional. And a good boss can make your life heaven or hell. Change your team if the dynamic isn't working.

#### What are your favourite ways to relax/switch off from work?

More recently, I have started leaving my work phone in a separate room in the evenings so I can switch off for the night. That has been immensely helpful for my mental peace.

### What's one book you think everyone should read?

The Redhead of Auschwitz.

# When's the last time you failed spectacularly at something?

Nothing to note recently, but in my youth, plenty! Failure can be positive – you learn a lot and become more resilient as a result. Having a fantastic set of partners who are encouraging and supportive also helps.

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