

# RENAISSANCE MAN

BESPOKE SHOES, TECH-LED TIMEPIECES, DISTINCTIVE SCENTS AND MORE:  
A TIP-TO-TOE GUIDE FOR THE URBANE GENTLEMAN

• ART & SOLE •



After almost a decade freelancing as a men's bespoke shoemaker for the prestigious likes of John Lobb, Foster & Son and George Cleverley, one thing became clear to **Sebastian Tarek**. "Firstly, I felt comfortable that after ten years of making [shoes] for some of the best companies I could finally call myself a shoemaker," says Tarek, born in Australia and trained at Cordwainer's in London. "But also that while I loved working for those old-established firms, their aesthetic wasn't necessarily to my taste – that very classic look, rooted in the past, the shoes very smart and tight as a drum. And I figured not all men liked it either."

The result has been the launch of a bespoke business under his own name, one that is gaining traction with the creative classes – as much for Tarek's attention to leathers as his minimalistic, architectural shapes, with long lines and uncluttered detail. Atypically for bespoke footwear, he prefers to work with raw and neutral leathers, which he then hand-polishes into distinctive colours (*examples right*) – one client recently had a kangaroo leather pair made in dusty pink.

More unusually still, Tarek also prefers vegetable-tanned leathers, resulting not only in softer, more textural shoes but ones that will mark, crease and show the effects of time. "Not everyone gets that," concedes Tarek, whose shoes take between three and six months to make and which start at £1,500 a pair. "But it's like having your favourite pair of jeans: some people want them to look box-fresh, but others don't feel they're right until they start to show all their fades. You have a relationship with your jeans. You should have a relationship with your shoes, too." [sebastiantarek.com](http://sebastiantarek.com) ▶



• FOOT NOTE •

INSPIRED BY THE SOUTHWEST OF FRANCE, IN APRIL **JM WESTON** WILL LAUNCH THE GUÉTHARY TRAINER COLLECTION IN A HANDFUL OF COLOURS AND FINISHES, EACH WITH A LEATHER SOLE FROM THE HOUSE TANNERY IN SAINT-LEONARD-DE-NOBLAT. [JMWESTON.COM](http://JMWESTON.COM)



• PRESIDENTIAL SEAL •

AMERICA'S FIRST FAMILY, A FRENCH NOBLE AND A RARE CHILEAN PLANT: THE FASCINATING TALE BEHIND THIS MOST EXCLUSIVE OF FRAGRANCES



It's an unlikely story but a true one nevertheless. Back in 1937 French aristocrat and perfume connoisseur Albert Fouquet fell into conversation at a dinner party with a young American student. The student had become captivated by Fouquet's bespoke fragrance, and so, the next day, Fouquet left a sample of it for him at his hotel. Back in the US, the student made it his own signature scent, writing to Fouquet and requesting eight more bottles, plus one for his brother Bob. The student was the future President Kennedy. And the fragrance, taking the moniker **Eight & Bob**, was soon a Hollywood favourite, until war ended production. Now, three quarters of a century later, another chance encounter between the CEO of fragrance distributor Intertrade and Fouquet's butler has seen the scent's formula uncovered and Eight & Bob relaunched as a strict limited edition. That's no marketing ploy either: the main ingredient is the Chilean aromatic plant Andrea, which grows sparsely and can only be picked for two months of the year. Only being President might get you more than one bottle. [eightandbob.com](http://eightandbob.com)

• GRAB BAGS •

Modern, urban and cool, **Zilli's** Jonathan alligator-skin doctor's bag from the Marco Polo line in pearl grey with a satin finish, is the perfect companion not only for life in the metropolis but also for rejuvenating weekend trips. [zilli.fr](http://zilli.fr)



01  
ZILLI

Colourful: when summery orange meets the roomy, **Ralph Lauren** Purple Label calf leather bag. [ralphlauren.com](http://ralphlauren.com)



02  
RALPH LAUREN

Classic elegance from iconic Italian men's fashion label **Brioni**, this bag is made from calf leather with crocodile leather details. [brioni.com](http://brioni.com)



03  
BRIONI

**Tumi** Icon Small Soft Travel Satchel with a new protective feature, ID Lock, designed to block e-pickpocketing. [tumi.com](http://tumi.com)



04  
TUMI

• FACE VALUE •

Y THEOREM NAC Y<sup>2</sup> IS THE REVOLUTIONARY FACE-LIFT REPAIR SERUM BY BEAUTY PIONEER 111 SKIN DEVELOPED BY DR YANNIS ALEXANDRIDES OF LONDON'S 111 HARLEY STREET CLINIC IN CONCERT WITH SCIENTISTS SPECIALISING IN SKIN PRODUCTS FOR



ASTRONAUTS AND SUBMARINERS, THE FORMULA FEATURES, AMONG OTHERS, 20 VITAL AMINO ACIDS TO PROTECT, HEAL AND REJUVENATE THE EPIDERMIS. [111SKIN.COM](http://111SKIN.COM)



• SCENT SAVIOUR •

1. WITH CARBONE, **BALMAIN** HAS CREATED A SCENT FOR THE MODERN MAN: DARK, SPICY AND MYSTERIOUS; [BALMAIN.COM](http://BALMAIN.COM) 2. FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF THE FRUITY AND WOODY AVENTUS PERFUME, **CREED** UNVEILS A BODY CARE LINE OF THE SAME NAME IN SEPTEMBER. [CREEDBOUTIQUE.COM](http://CREEDBOUTIQUE.COM) 3. **LALIQUE'S** MASCULINE YET SENSUAL EXTRAIT DE PARFUM HOMMAGE À L'HOMME COMES IN A 1920S-INSPIRED CRYSTAL FLACON. [LALIQUE.COM](http://LALIQUE.COM) 4. TOP NOTES OF BERGAMOT, LEMON, BAY LEAF AND A FRUITY HEART MAKE **TFK'S** SAVED BY THE MUSK AN EXPLOSION OF FRESHNESS WITH A SWEET AMBERY BASE. [THEFRAGRANCEKITCHEN.COM](http://THEFRAGRANCEKITCHEN.COM)

• PERFECT TIMING •

A LANGE & SÖHNE



**A LANGE & SÖHNE GRAND LANGE 1 LUMEN**, with platinum case and manual movement; semi-transparent sapphire crystal in parts of the dial; outer ring and surface of hours, minutes and small second display in blackened silver; outside date, time and power reserve legible in the dark; 72-hour power reserve; crocodile leather strap; limited to 200 pieces. [alange-soehne.com](http://alange-soehne.com)

IWC INGENIEUR



**IWC INGENIEUR CHRONOGRAPH RACER**, with case and strap in stainless steel; in-house manufactured automatic flyback chronograph movement; tachymeter scale on the bezel; two sub-dials: one at 12 o'clock with hour and minute chronograph counters, the other at 6 o'clock with second counters and small date display; water resistant to 120m. [iwc.com](http://iwc.com)

CHOPARD L.U.C XP



**CHOPARD L.U.C XP URUSHI SNAKE**, with rose gold case, alligator leather strap and hand-painted dial adorned with a snake motif using Urushi techniques; mechanical, self-winding movement; in honour of the Year of the Snake, accompanied by dedicated presentation box, also decorated using Urushi techniques. [chopard.com](http://chopard.com)

PIAGET EMPERADOR



**PIAGET EMPERADOR COUSSIN XL ULTRA-THIN MINUTE REPEATER**, with rose gold, 9.4mm thin case; world's thinnest self-winding minute repeater with 4.8mm in-house caliber 1290P; skeletonised dial; crocodile leather strap. [piaget.com](http://piaget.com)

**SECRET SOURCE**

In a city that lavishes gentlemen of style with sartorial splendour, making a splash isn't easy. But that's exactly what **OTTO** has managed to do. An invitation-only, two-storey retreat spread over 370sq m in the heart of London's Mayfair, it is at once a meticulously curated temple to Italian menswear and also a raffish refuge for those who come in search of it, boasting a private bar, garden terrace with humidor, gym and spa area, complete with massage tables and steam room. [ottouomo.com](http://ottouomo.com)



• CUFF LOVE •

1. **Thomas Lyte**, Casement cufflinks handcrafted from sterling silver and enamel; [thomaslyte.com](http://thomaslyte.com)
2. **Tomasz Donocik**, Double Star cufflinks in silver black rhodium plated with hematite; [tomaszdonocik.com](http://tomaszdonocik.com)
3. **Lalique**, Gourmande cufflinks in silver with black crystal; [lalique.com](http://lalique.com)
4. **RJ-Romain Jerome**, Titanic-DNA cufflinks with a stabilised oxidised steel base partly made from the Titanic's wreck and a steel propeller; [romainjerome.ch](http://romainjerome.ch)
5. **Theo Fennell**, Enamel Marlin cufflinks made from 18kt white gold, hand-carved and engraved with Marlins and bordered with diamonds; [theofennell.com](http://theofennell.com)
6. **Zilli**, 18kt white gold cufflinks with onyx and white diamonds; [zilli.fr](http://zilli.fr)
7. **Longmire**, Art Deco-inspired stirrup cufflinks, solid 18k white gold with calibre-cut onyx; [longmire.co.uk](http://longmire.co.uk)

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