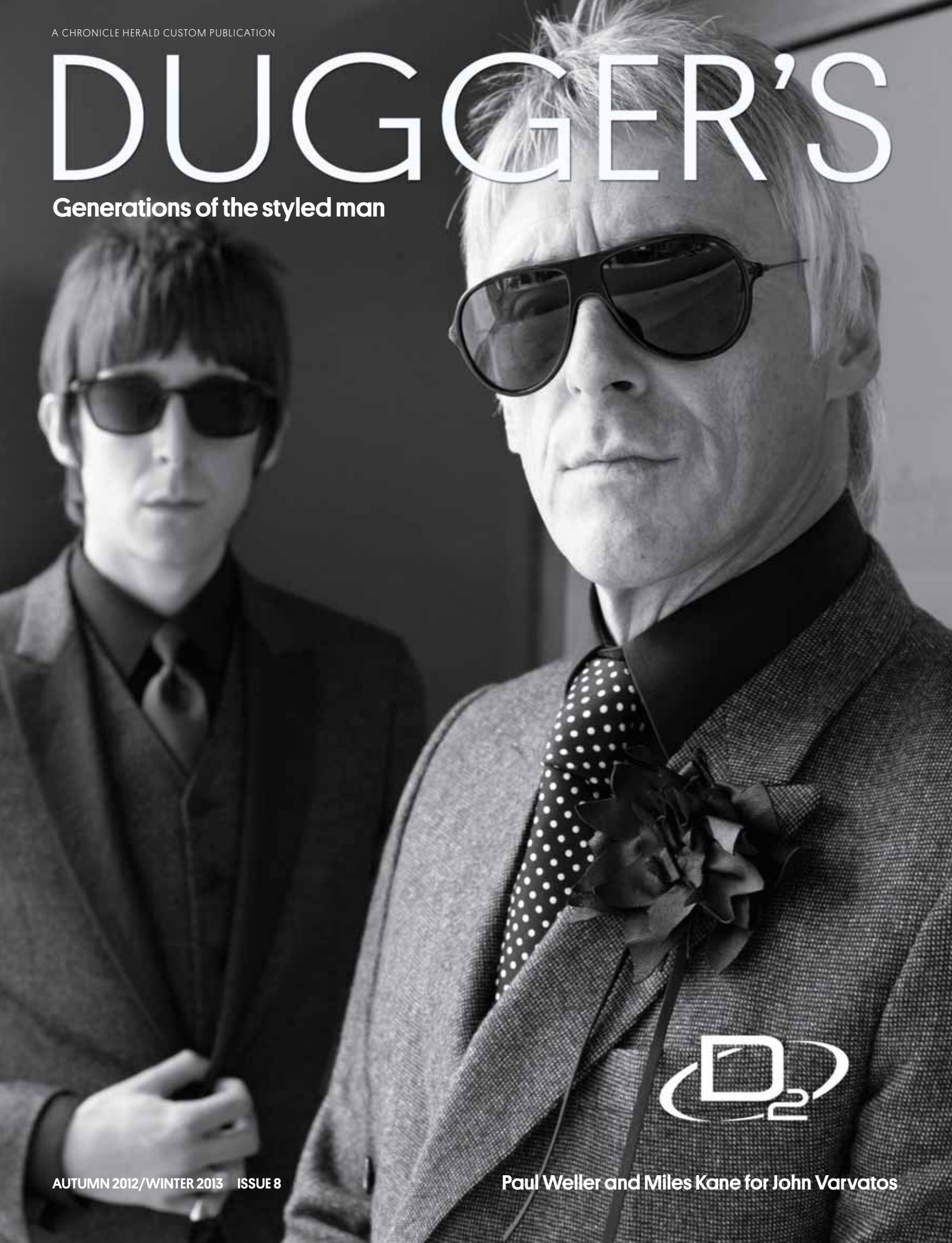


A CHRONICLE HERALD CUSTOM PUBLICATION

DUGGER'S

Generations of the styled man



AUTUMN 2012/WINTER 2013 ISSUE 8

Paul Weller and Miles Kane for John Varvatos



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L A U R E N



ROSS'S NOTEBOOK

DUGGER'S

Generations of the styled man

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Cover: Image courtesy of John Varvatos

Another summer has come and gone, and as we stock our store with warm sweaters and bright scarves, we are reminded of another wonderful year spent on Spring Garden Road.

In honour of you, our loyal customers, we've created yet another fashion-packed issue of Dugger's Magazine — this year, with a more local twist. We are proud to uphold our mainstay location, where our busy clients can find exceptional quality throughout the week or any time by appointment.

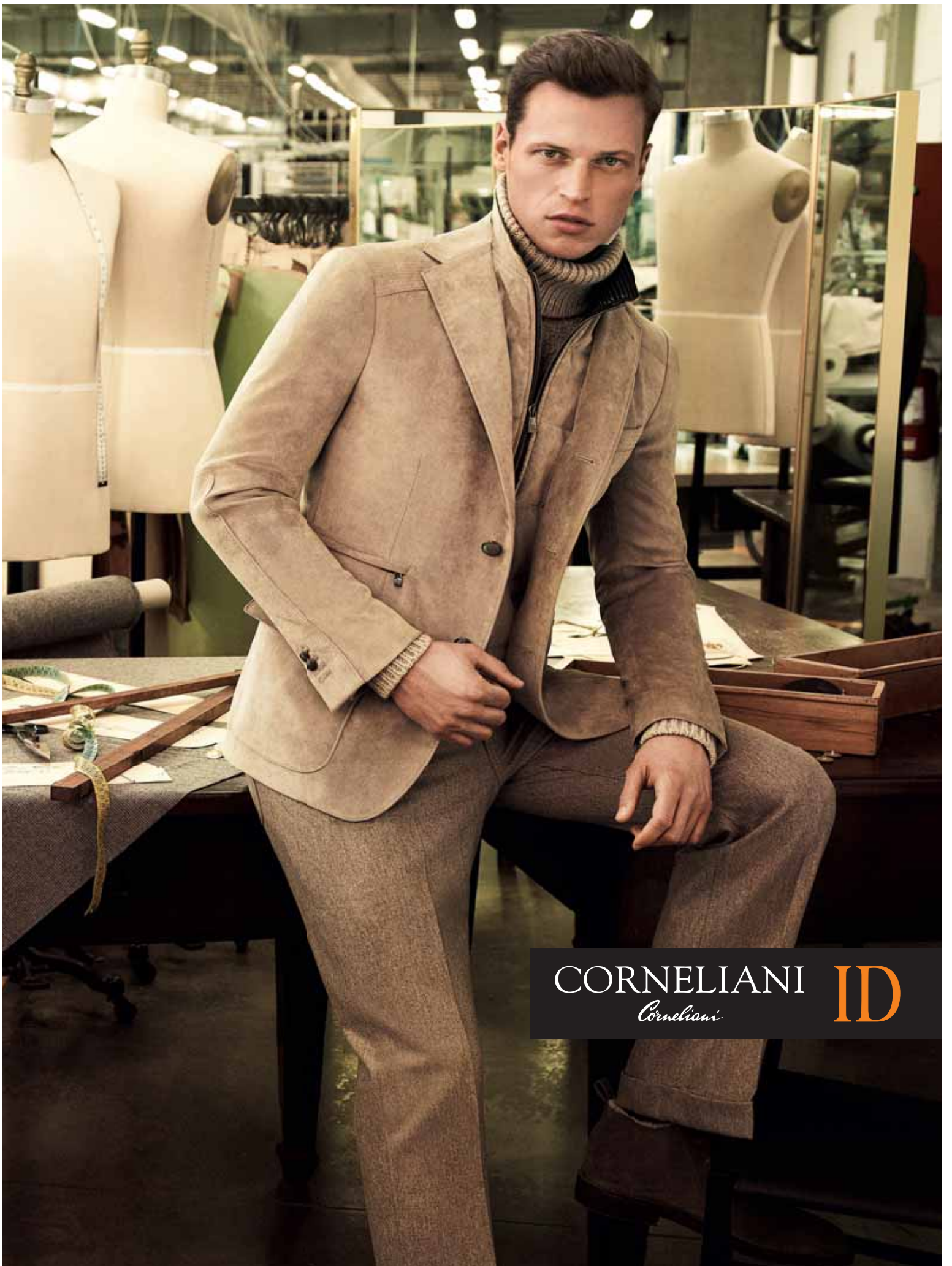
We are pleased to feature the ladies of Dugger's on page 36. These trend-watching stylists look forward to serving our valuable customers each and every day. As associate Karen Lang points out, a man should walk into a room and have all eyes look up because he embodies style, panache and confidence. Our brands exude fine craftsmanship, exquisite material and tailoring that shows real attention to detail, allowing each of our patrons to exhibit his personality naturally.

As always, we've shopped the world of fashion to bring it to Halifax. This fall, we introduce three new lines — Van Gils (Netherlands), Peter Millar (U.S. sportswear), and Allegri (amazing outerwear from Italy). Colour is very strong this coming season as are slim silhouettes where a proper fit is a must.

In an effort to keep our customers shopping downtown, please take note of the events featured here; we'd be happy to welcome you as our special guest. Our friend Pete Lockett, who is featured on page 10, will join us in hosting a Fall Colours campaign that will feature what we're best at as we pair suits with wine.

In closing, thank you, as always, for your support and patronage over the years and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Ross McNeil
Owner, Dugger's



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EVENTS >>



Pete's Winery Week

Sample wine and food with Pete Lockett and get a complimentary bottle with every suit purchase.

SEPTEMBER 2012

Copley Trunk Show with Mike Moroz

- Saturday, September 22
- Save 20% on custom-made suits and sport coats

Lipson Shirt Show with Lui Squazzin

- Saturday, September 22
- Save 20% on custom-made dress shirts

OCTOBER 2012

Mezlan Shoes with Gary

- Saturday, October 13
- Special, never-been-seen shoes for Fall 2012/Spring 2013

Pete's Winery Week

- October 8 to 13
- Complimentary bottle of wine from Lockett Vineyards with every suit purchase
- Wine and food sample with Pete Lockett on October 11 from noon to 2 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2012

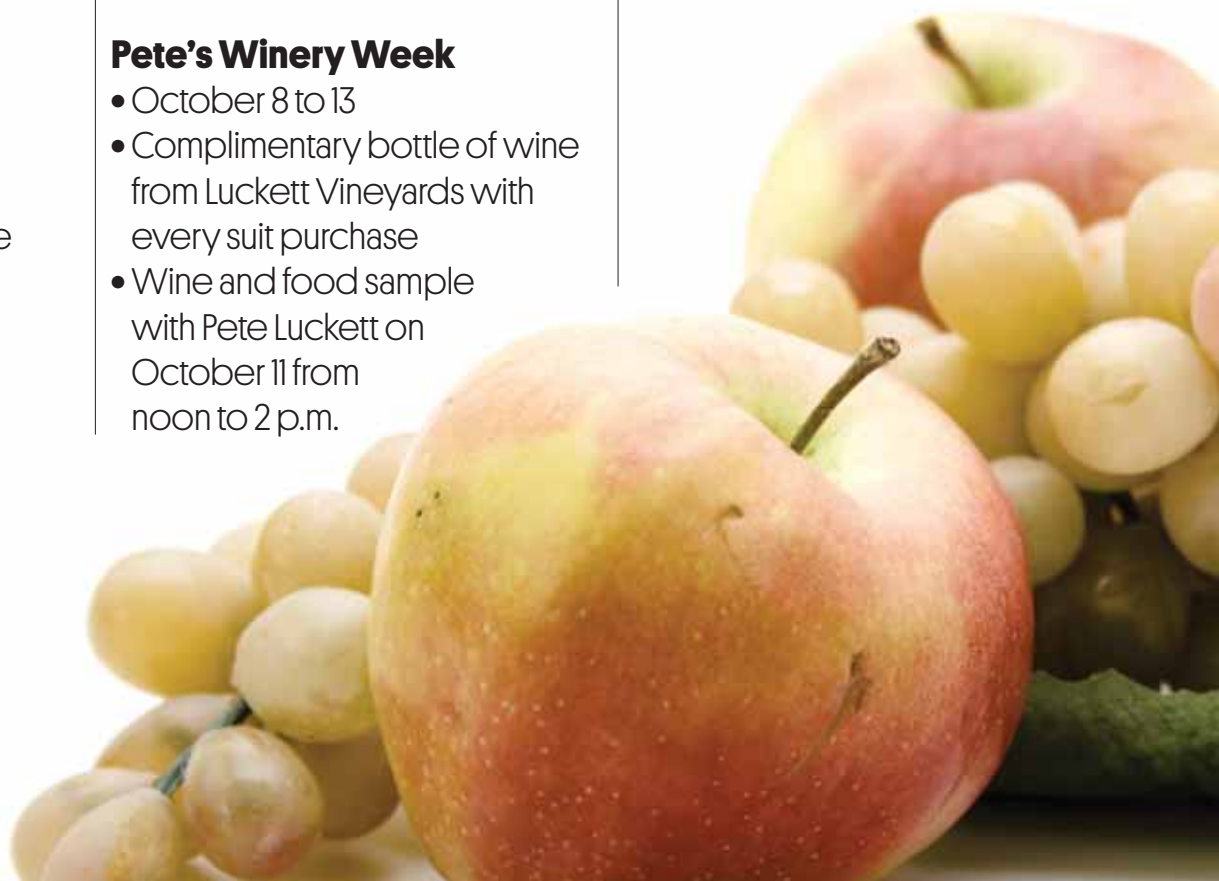
Hugo Boss Week

- November 19 to 23
- Check out the new holiday line from Hugo Boss!



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CONTEST

ENTER TO WIN!

Dugger's is teaming up with Hugo Boss to give you and a guest a chance to win an all-inclusive trip to New York to see the New York Rangers! This extravagant prize includes roundtrip business class airfare for two to New York, two nights at a hotel, two gold tickets to see the Rangers, a \$200 gift certificate to Ainsworth Prime Restaurant in Madison Square Garden and a signed jersey and stick from Mike Del Zotto! To enter, visit Dugger's before September 30th and fill out a ballot.



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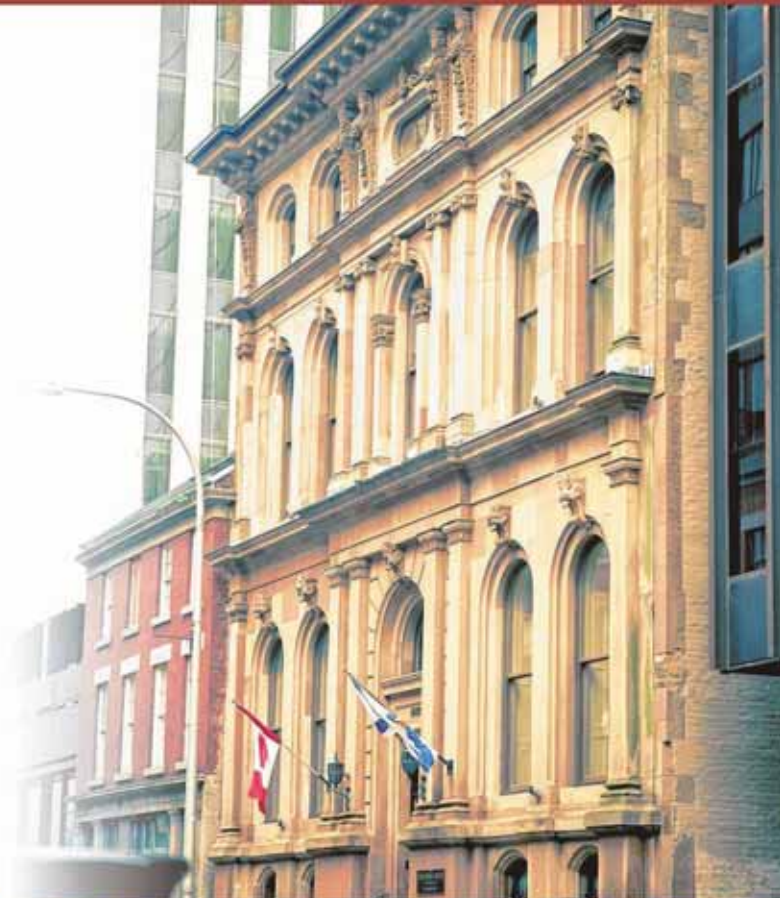
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Lockett Vineyards

A natural extension and a new level of adventure

By Debra Wells-Hopey

The colours of fall in Nova Scotia are rarely more vivid than in Nova Scotia's Gaspereau Valley. The burnt oranges, vermillion reds and still-lush evergreens announce the season as much as, well, as does new fall fashion and perfectly crafted wine.

The Maritimes does fall like no other place in the world — it's the reason hundreds of thousands of visitors have journeyed from the far reaches of the planet to see the local in all its autumn glory. The arresting scenery, however, is not the only aspect that draws people to the province. They come for the atmosphere — the entertainment. The shopping. The wine.

Pete Lockett has become a man synonymous with his brand. Known for Pete's Frootique,

Pete's to Go Go, a public speaking and television career and, recently, a winery, this one-man conglomerate tends his businesses as carefully as he does his vineyard.

Lockett Vineyards is positioned on a hill overlooking the King's County valley, a place esteemed for its fabled ocean tides and golden sunshine. It is on land that the British native purchased 12 years ago, seeking a lifestyle change and, as he adamantly phrases it, "a new adventure."

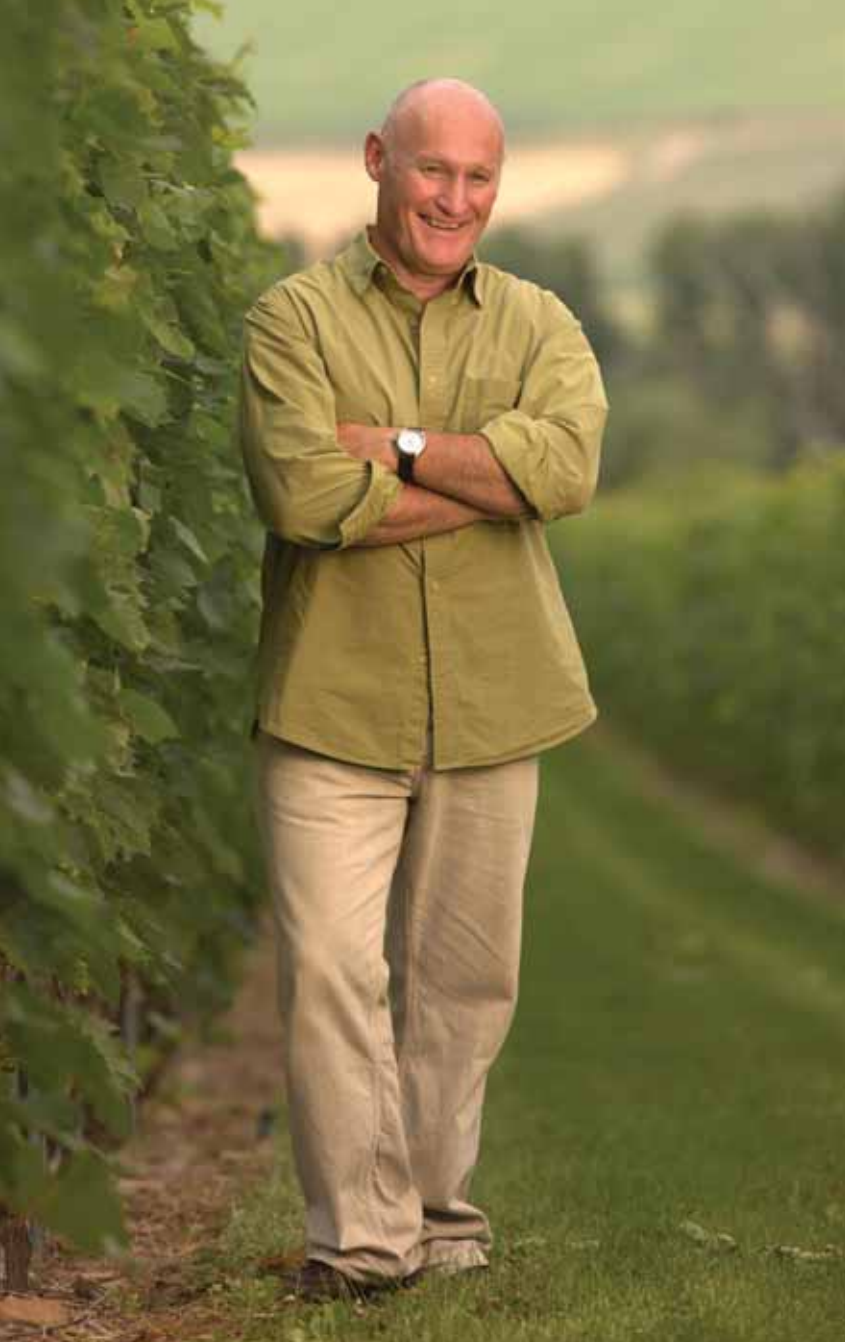
One thing led to another and Lockett paired his knowledge of agriculture with the valley magic. The result was a cornucopia of peaches, blueberries, blackberries and more. Then, eight years ago, he began growing grapes. The next

logical step, of course, was wine.

"I've always been a big consumer of wine," Lockett says with a wink. The British grocer opened the Crystal and Lockett wine store in Bedford several years ago and soon became immersed in the wine world. Given Lockett's love of produce, he was fascinated with the agricultural side — a natural extension and a new level of adventure.

The unique tidal breezes coming off the Bay of Fundy equates to year round mild temperatures ideal for the vineyard.

Lockett's award winning wines include Muscat and Tidal Bay, as well as delightful blueberry, blackcurrant and peach wines made from his home grown fruit.



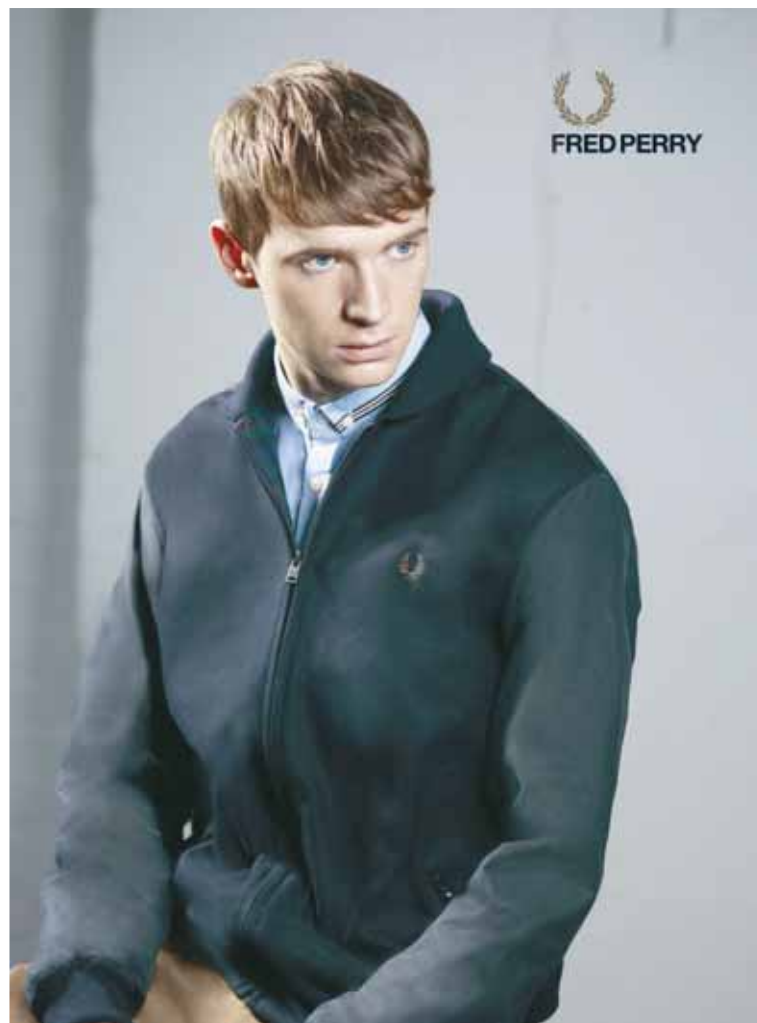
*“I thrive on new challenges,
potential projects.”*

“This last year was a perfect growing season,” explains Lockett. “We had a mild winter and the crops look ideal.”

But what of your ideal look? This season, autumn is greeted in a new way as Dugger’s menswear and Lockett Vineyards collaborate to make the nippy months even cooler. This unique, limited time promotion begins in October to truly celebrate the fall colours. Clients who purchase a suit at Dugger’s will get to experience Lockett’s wine for themselves. Look too for window displays at both the menswear store and Pete’s that celebrate the harvest’s bounty in all its umber and green-hued majesty, together with hot fall fashion.

As Pete Lockett stands gazing at his vineyard he is not overwhelmed with thoughts of how got there, but rather musing of what’s next.

“I am always looking for tomorrow — I can’t stop,” says Lockett. “I thrive on new challenges, potential projects. Exciting ventures such as the Dugger’s collaboration keep things lively and effervescent — much like the colours of fall.” ■



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Classics return

Fall trends blend traditional with a twist

By Gary Wollenhaupt

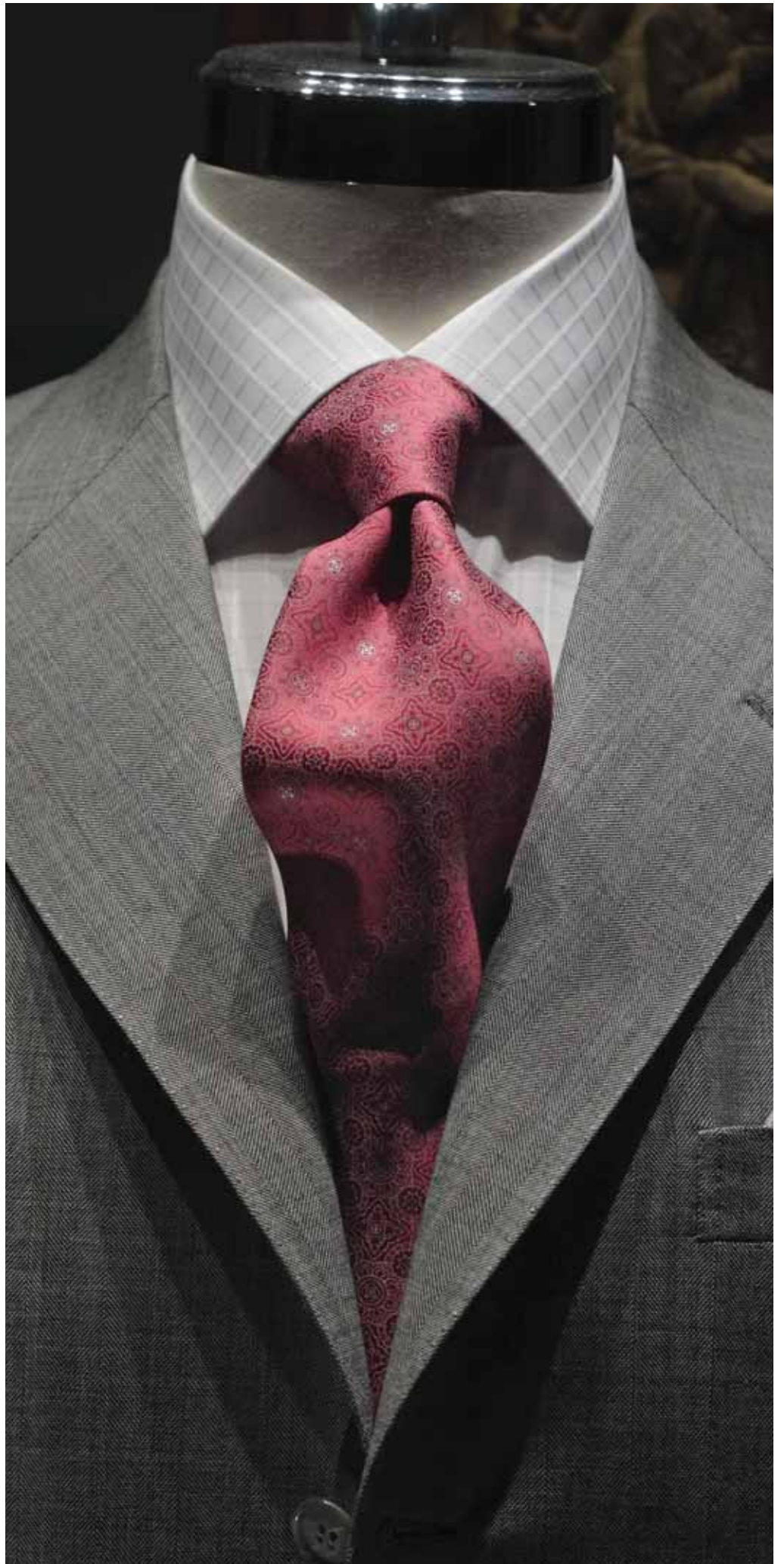


Who can look at a high school yearbook or a family portrait from their youth — complete with the dad in the muttonchops and a paisley Keith Partridge shirt — and not moan “What we were thinking?”

Classic lines and proportions rule the day as they so rarely did then. In every yearbook there’s a teacher who looked ahead of his time, who could step out of the black-and-white photo of the history club into a tony downtown office without notice. He’s probably wearing a grey suit, that proto-corporate uniform reborn on AMC’s *Mad Men*. The suit is back, but cut from new cloth, the same as the man wearing it.

Grey is the new black, as they say, for this year, and a grey suit is the new sign of the accomplished man. Grey, like black, actually has many variations; in fact some lines incorporate more than 100 shades from light snow to dark charcoal. The range gives a hint to the versatility of a grey suit to project an image or reflect a mood.

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Pick your fabric and pattern — cashmeres, windowpane plaid, a subtle stripe or even the aforementioned wool flannel. It sets you apart as one with a surefooted bearing, exuding the quiet confidence of the corporate titan. Pair with a subtle stripe or a blue Oxford collar for a less formal look. A light coloured suit after Labour Day helps keep the seriousness of fall at bay, but pair it with a dark shirt for the proper seasonal gravitas.

For casual and sport wear, the preppy style has returned yet again. Rooted in the English school uniform tradition, it became the classic look of postwar America and flourished to excess, like so many otherwise good things, in the '80s.

In the '90s, preppy was subsumed by the baggy urban trend but the latest iterations return to the classic looks of the '60s and '70s. It's still defined by elegant, masculine tailoring, living in the moment but not surfing the trend leading to a wipeout when that particular wave runs out of energy.

For instance, polos are back, but they aren't the same. The new look is closer to the body and often in cotton/Lycra stretch instead of the traditional cotton piqué. Pop up the stiff short collar and you're good to go. Much of the preppy backlash was unleashed by confusion between the easy collegiate style and the fussy, stiff classics which became associated with the term preppy. A studied ease is the key, not a slavish devotion

to a uniform style.

Madras plaids and cotton chinos are still part of the mix, and the standard blue blazer remains a steadfast fixture. The British influence is with us to this day in the form of Harris tweeds, shooting jackets and corduroys, all perfect for sporting and casual wear.

It is the perfect balance between fashion and style, a bold construction that builds the identity of a man whose richness in spirit is also expressed through his clothes. ■



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Variations on a theme

Knowing the rules makes it more fun to break them

By Gary Wollenhaupt

Consider the basics of a man's wardrobe. It hasn't changed for nearly a century, yet there is room for infinite variation and interpretation. Like a Dizzy Gillespie improv, there's room for personal expression with a foundation in the classic style.

Power Shirts and Ties

Strong graphic stripes, à la Wall Street, are still prevalent for an aggressive look. Stripes are an antidote to the ubiquitous French blue button-down. Without a tie, a striped shirt conveys personality. With a tie, a striped shirt is ready for the board room or the big client presentation.


There's a new focus on non-matching shirt and tie combinations: one can be bold and busy with a pattern, while the other is more restrained. Designers are creating shirts with substantial cuffs, and high, British-inspired collars. A striped shirt and patterned tie says to others that you have imagination, and the perfect dimple in the center of your tie says you're in control.

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LIPSON

SHIRTMAKERS

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ROBERT



TALBOTT



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Shirt Collars

All collars are not created equal. Use the right tool for the right job.

Button down: Also known as the oxford, although the term oxford actually refers to the textured weave, it's great with khakis and a blazer. It should not be worn with a suit, and it is considered grounds for imprisonment if you wear it with a double-breasted suit. It can work with a casual or narrow tie, usually with a smaller knot because the collar points are secured close to the face.

Straight-point: The most common dress collar, it can showcase your tie in the triangle formed between the points, with the dimple at center stage. It's the most versatile and can be worn without a tie to dress up jeans and a blazer, or with slacks for casual day at the office. If you have a short neck, stick with a shorter collar to lengthen the appearance of the neck. Men with longer necks should use a longer collar to make their face appear shorter. Knot the tie so that no cloth appears on either side of the knot where it wraps under the collar.

Spread: A variation on the straight point, the spread or cutaway collar has the points pushed as far apart as possible. It's the most formal, meant to be worn with a suit and tie. Loosen the tie at the end of a long day if you must, but this shirt should never be worn sans cravat. Because the collar points are so far apart, this collar really puts the tie on display and can accommodate wide ties with wide knots. Not always a good choice if you have a wide face or a thick neck.

Tab collar: This collar has an extra button or snap that extends from the two wings of the collar and lifts the tie knot for a crisp, tailored look.

Blazers

Blazers can make the transition from day to evening wear, work to casual and back again.

Denim, tweed and herringbone make fine fabric options in addition to the traditional wool. Pair your blazer with a complementing trouser that doesn't have to be an exact match. Experiment with using different fabrics, constructions and weaves to create some surface interest and visual appeal. ■

JACK VICTOR

EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION

True colours

Bold colours break down style barriers for Spring



Show your true colours

Never let it be said that real men don't wear pink. Or watermelon, lime, turquoise and mulberry for that matter.

By Gary Wollenhaupt

For Spring, it will be easier than ever to inject colour and patterns into daily choices for a new look, especially in sportswear and casual wear. Don't be afraid to break the colour barrier in your closet.

Colour explosion

Start simple. A short-sleeve polo neck T-shirt is a must-have in any man's spring wardrobe. But this season, you might take it up a notch with colours, so look for pink, orange, mauve, green, and even fluorescent lime.

Pleasing, milder midtones include pink azalea and rose. Citrus tones like lime, orange and lemon yellow will juice up spring choices. Deep shades of turquoise, green and purple continue to be popular, as do pastels anchored by whites and neutrals. You'll find these new choices in woven shirts, knit polos and rugby bodies.

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ETON



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Flashy colours are also finding their way into the more formal landscape. Look for woven long-sleeve button front shirts, with open-collar styles in an incredible variety of stripe patterns and colours.

These bolder hues wear well in casual and business casual environments, where you can mix and match levels of formality. Pairing casual and formal items is a great way to infuse an innovative attitude in a business setting. Let your new colourful dress shirts pull double duty as sport shirts when you wear a suit coat with jeans.

A woven shirt worn with the shirttails out gives a less restrictive feel and a casual, yet sophisticated look. Camp shirts, the majority of them with a Latin influence, often incorporate vertical embroidered patterns down each side. They are designed to be worn in a casual style over the top of the pants. Floral prints, à la Tommy Bahama beachwear, fall into this comfortable and stylish category as well.



Patterns galore

Patterns get a boost this year, too. Checks, mini florals, dots with paisleys and geometric designs are plentiful. Plaids are strong also, especially when popped with new colour infusion. You'll find these new expressions in woven shirts, printed camp shirts and casual bottoms in fancy patterns and plaids. In more formal wear, seersucker stripe fabrics are key in blazers and pants.

Bold stripes are popping up in the business wardrobe, too. A bold multi-etched striped suit offers a fresh new spin on the business suit. But keep in mind that it's not versatile, so make sure you have all your basic suits before you take the plunge into stripes. You probably won't want to put the striped suit in your weekly rotation, saving it for special occasions where it will make the desired energetic impression.

Colours for the striped suits will be more muted than the casual wear. This season, look for two-button suits with peak lapels and flat-front trousers, in light shades of grey, brown and blue.

Bright and upbeat shirts saturated in fun, fashion colours make a stunning presentation. For spring, don't be afraid to show your true colours. ■



Robert Graham



STYLE



Spring trends

Personal style reflects your attitude and altitude

By Gary Wollenhaupt



Personal style is all about taking what you find in the store and making it your own, through unique juxtapositions or merely an excess of attitude. Take direction from this spring's styles, but don't be afraid to go your own way.

Mix and match pieces to create casual or dressy looks, with one out-of-place item that suddenly creates a memorable counterpoint to the environment. The tracksuit jacket under a suit jacket is one, now overdone, example.

For a classy look, add a splash of formality for a night out. Wear tailored wool pants with your t-shirt and a vest, rather than jeans or twill pants. Untuck your shirt with a blazer for ease of movement and style.

At the office, break the business-casual mould by pairing a lightweight wool suit and colourful shirt. Or couple soft-as-butter corduroys with a suit jacket or a cord jacket in a contrasting colour, say olive pants and a cream jacket. Go the cord-and-turtleneck jacket at your own risk. With a rich jewel tone, you may come off with the ultimate cool look of quiet rebel Steve McQueen. Or, depending on your frame and demeanor, like one of the heavies on "The Rockford Files"

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PAUL & SHARK

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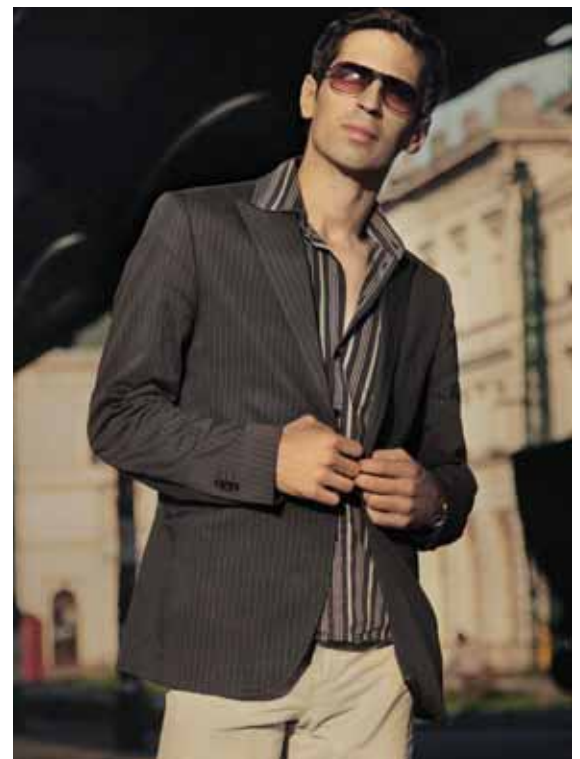
that always punches Jim in the gut when he gets too close to the truth.

Spotting trends is an elusive and ultimately disingenuous endeavour, with often unsatisfying results. Still, the word trendspotters use to describe the result this year is "colour." Think wild, exuberant. Think tropical fruit. Sun drenched beaches exploding with colours. Fabrics simply glow with rich, luminous colours with the flair of the Orient, a bountiful palette of melon, banana, and tangerine. Paired with sand and oatmeal tones, these colours made for striking accents.

Add a splash of colours to a navy pinstriped suit, an old reliable that can be one of the most versatile players in your closet. It shifts gears easily between office and evening, with some of the aforementioned colours in shirt stripes and tie patterns. Go casual with a cardigan underneath for an alternative to the traditional three-piece suit. A two-button navy classic with a narrow-but-not-too narrow lapel will serve you for many years to come.

Even in casual mode, don't overlook the details. Too much celebrity coverage has left us enamoured of the paparazzi-stealth mode look. The magazines are chock full of photos of the movie star popping out for coffee and the newspaper, or making a quick beer run. Now, even the common among us look for sunglasses, hats, hoods, worn leather bag for after hours errands, à la Brad and Angelina, to shield ourselves from intrusion and unwanted interaction. It's a look that says, "I'm off duty, please don't talk to me, I just want to get a muffin and a half-caf-no-whip-mocha and be on my way."

Ramp up your attitude and emerge with effortless style, dressed-up casual looks with solid blocks with luxury touches. The overall message is cheery and colourful, just what spring and summer are all about. ■



strellson

strellson



Let's talk shoes

Top ten shoes every man should own



The brown wingtip

Known as a brogue to our friends across the pond, this classic shoe is a close cousin to the oxford, but a little more casual with the intricate “brogueing” pattern. Dressy enough for your two-piece suits, but better worn in business-casual environments, this is such a go-to shoe that you might as well take home a pair in black, too.



By Nadine LaRoche

A peek at a man's feet, and what he's slipped them into, is nothing short of a peek into his soul. A pair of cap-toe black brogues paint the picture of a professional man with an inkling for variety, a stylish slip-on ankle boot alludes to a refined but rugged demenor, and a pair of rubber flipflops, well, they tell us you'd rather be back in college (or in your mother's basement). What shoes you walk out your front door in say as much about you as your handshake, so choose wisely. And when equipping your closet with all that fine footwear, think of each pair as a (more affordable) suit: skimp not and focus on quality and comfort.

The black oxford

Let's start with the basics. A well-made black oxford, kept implacably polished, should be in every man's closet. The ideal pair to a two-piece suit, these streamlined shoes are the dressiest of the bunch (save patent leather) with a clean, closed lacing system and minimal embellishments.

A summer dress shoe

As men embrace more variety in their warm-weather wardrobe, a need to stray from the standards is also in order. With those tan or light grey suits, or even a dark-wash denim, turn to lighter colours in a classic saddle shoe or single-toned spectator.

The loafer

Loafers are what the American dream is made of. Adorned with tassels or penny slits, these shoes will step you into the corner office, or into the good books with the in-laws.

The casual boot

Rather than keeping it subtle, now's the time to rev your engine. An ankle-high boot, either a chiselled slip-on or neutral chukkas, is the rugged and durable shoe that'll pair just as well with your favourite denim as your work-appropriate trousers.

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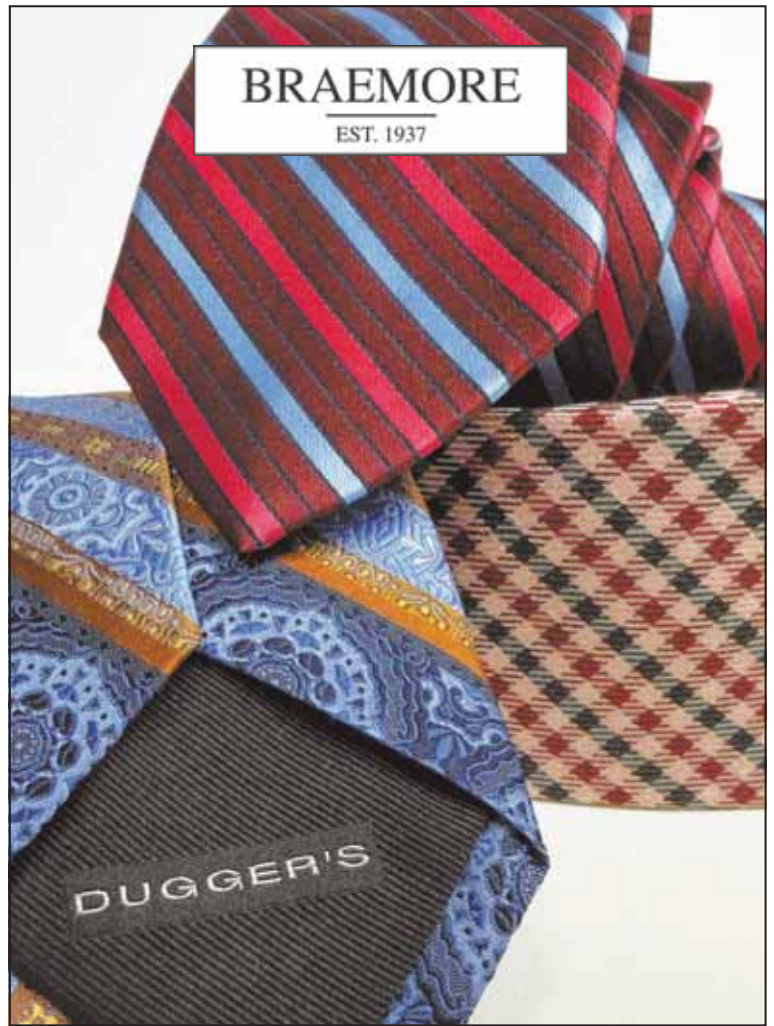
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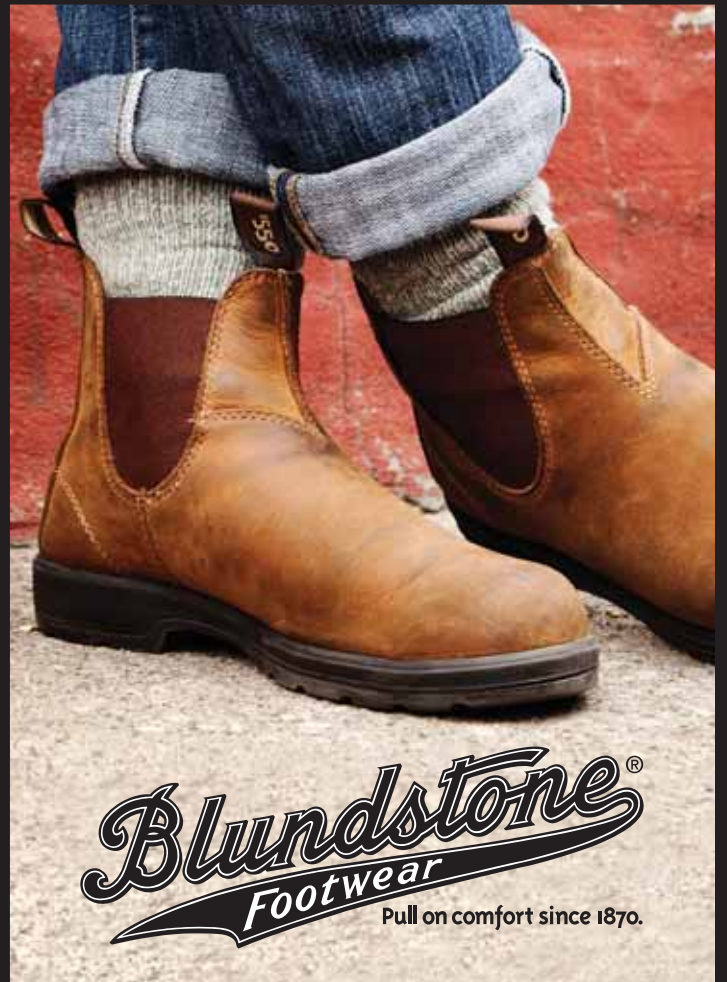


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Continued from page 28

The canvas sneaker

Man's best friend is tugging at your ankle and you need a pair to take a stroll around the block. Stop looking at your Nike kicks; they can't help you here. In fact, unless an increased heart rate is in your near future, they're never the answer. Instead, equip yourself with the timeless style of a pair of canvas Chucks.

The athletic shoe

The athletic shoe is just that: footwear for athletic activity. Unless you're working up a sweat, keep the runners in your duffel bag. But when you are hitting the pavement or the gym, protect your feet in a high-performance athletic shoe that's ideal for your gate and, above all else, comfortable.

The leather sandal

This recommendation comes with a caveat: the leather sandal, either a slider or thong, is a very casual shoe only appropriate for your own backyard, grilling with the guys, or the water's edge. Any other time you reach for your trusty sandals, try on the deck shoe or patent leather shoe for size instead.



The deck shoe

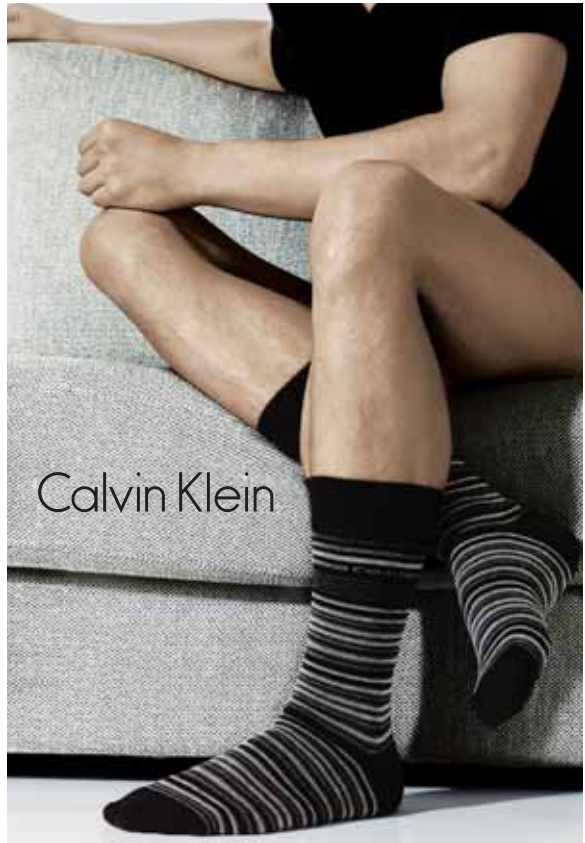
No longer exclusive to yachters, the leather boat shoe is the warm-weather choice a giant step up from flip flops when socks just aren't an option. Shorts, chinos, denim — whatever the casual wear, this shoe has got your back.

The patent leather shoe

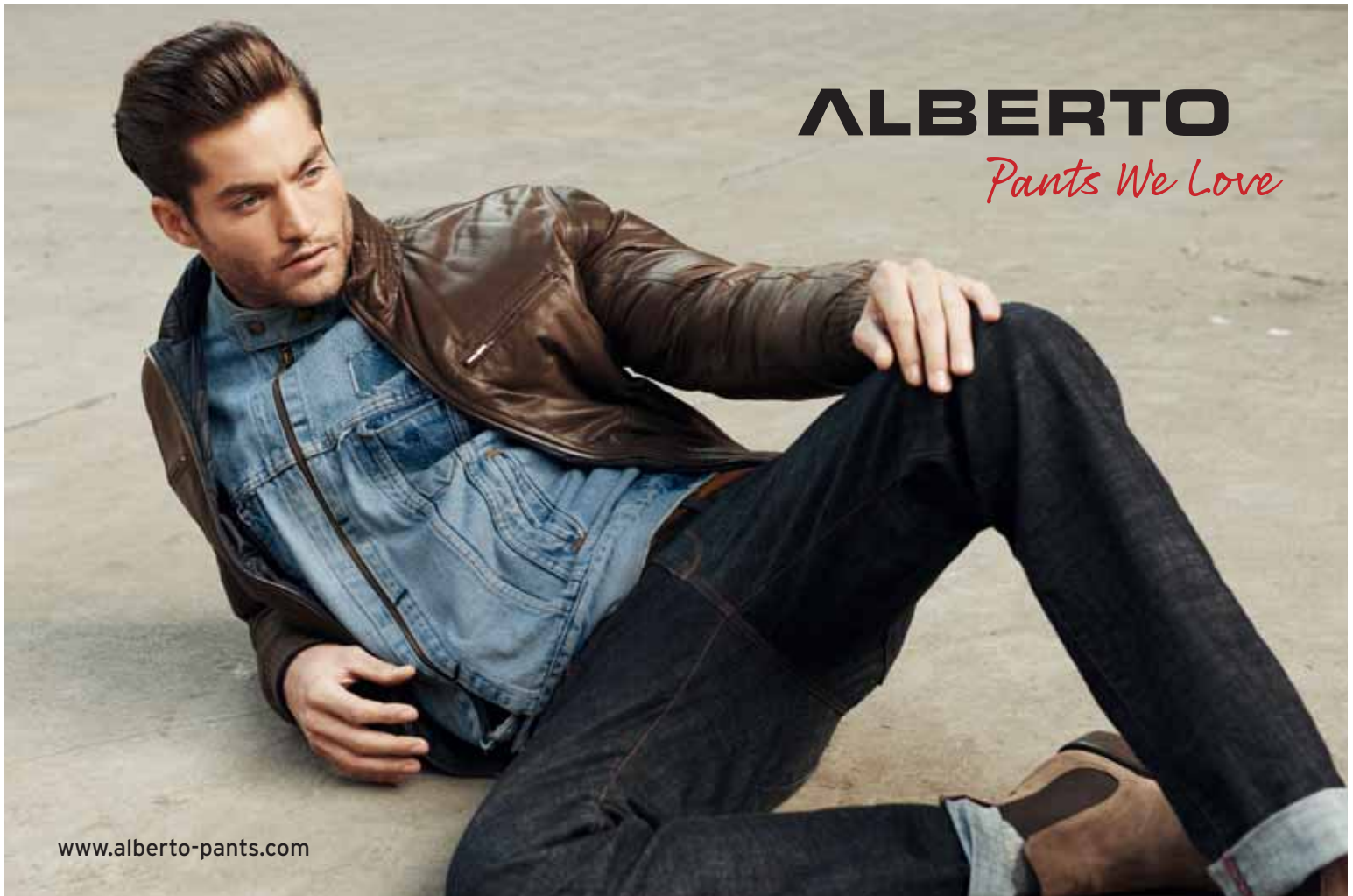
This shoe is the easiest of the bunch: if you own a tux, or plan on wearing a tux, a pristine pair of black patent leather shoes are quite simply your only choice. ■



■ McGregor
Socks



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Dressing the part in business casual

By Lola Augustine Brown

There's no doubt that office dressing has taken a more casual turn in the past few years, but for many men this causes confusion about what is, and what isn't, appropriate dress for the workplace. Business casual isn't sloppy, and still requires attention to detail, otherwise it can reflect poorly on your attitude to work and commitment to the professionalism of the company you work for.

When thinking about business casual, it may be easier to start by outlining what it is not:

- **For men**, casual doesn't always mean jeans (even if that is what the CEO wears day in day out). A collared shirt and slacks is a good look for business casual.

- **For women**, business casual means dressing somewhat demurely, especially in the summer months. Spaghetti straps are inappropriate, as are too-short skirts and shirts that reveal too much cleavage.

- **Flip-flops are a definite no-no for women and men.** You need to wear a structured shoe, and one that would not be worn to the beach or for gardening. Expensive rubber boots or designer flip-flops are inappropriate, no matter how much you spent on them.

- **For both sexes**, clothing needs to fit appropriately and not be too tight. No one that you work with needs to see bursting flesh trying to escape from too-tight clothing. If you've gone up a size, you need to wear clothes that reflect that.

- **Clothes need to be clean, neat, and tidy.** Ripped jeans are inappropriate, no matter if they are the height of fashion right now.

- **Avoid anything too flashy or over-the-top.** Heavy scents and too much jewelry may make you appear low-class and unprofessional.

It pays to play it safe with a business casual wardrobe, especially when starting in a new workplace. Think neat, professional and classically styled. You can't really go wrong with neatly pressed shirts in solid colours, although polo-shirts and golf-shirts may also be acceptable in some workplaces. Khakis or slacks in darker, neutral colours are good, as are conservative (read: not too short) smart skirts for women.

Casual Friday is your excuse to wear denim to work, but stick to denim that is clean and smart and office appropriate. These occasions are not an excuse to show how you dress for the nightclub or a BBQ with friends. Keep in mind that every day you turn up at work is a chance to impress and show how professional you are, whether rocking a pair of blue jeans or a suit.

If you're unsure of how casual to dress, take the human resources director (or a trusted colleague) aside and ask them what they feel the rules are. Look at how those who are well respected in the office choose to dress and follow their lead. ■





DUGGER'S

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THE DUGGER'S GIRLS

NICOLE WINSOR
MIKAELA FLETCHER
KAREN LANG
ERIN GOUTHRO

Questions about fashion? Who better to ask than the ladies of Dugger's! The experienced, knowledgeable staff is here to help make your Dugger's experience the best it can be. We asked each of them a question about men's fashion. Here are their responses.



What are your favourite trends for fall?

NICOLE WINSOR

For fall/winter 2013, we are seeing a lot of colour: brunt orange, dark purple and warm yellow. A well-tailored jacket is a staple in any wardrobe and can be carried from fall into winter. Add a warm knit sweater and a scarf and you're ready for those cool winter nights.



Why should men choose Dugger's?

MIKAELA FLETCHER

For 41 consecutive years, Dugger's has operated on the premise that customer service is a crucial aspect to the business. To this day, our staff continues to strive to make each visit to our store an exceptional experience. No other store consistently offers attention to detail with staff willing to go above and beyond.

How do you approach men's style?

KAREN LANG

I like to take the time to get to know my clients and explore their own unique sense of style. For me, fit is essential. I like it when a man goes out on the edge a bit, with bravery to explore his own personality with a colourful scarf, coordinated accessories or even snappy, two-tone shoes. I appreciate fine craftsmanship, exquisite material and tailoring that shows real attention to detail. A man should walk into a room and have all eyes look up because he embodies style, panache and confidence.

What is the number one trait of a well-dressed man?

ERIN GOUTHRO

I believe the most important trait of a well-dressed man is his sense of style. A man reflects his personality by how he dresses, from formal through business casual. His closet should have a diverse selection of colour, pattern, texture, accessories and, of course, great shoes. A man's sense of style – his personality – should be infused into each ensemble to present the utmost confidence. ■



The skinny on neckties

Tips for buying your fashion statement

By Lola Augustine Brown

The modern necktie has been in fashion for almost a century, having first been introduced to the world in 1924 by an American tailor named Jessie Langsdorf. Prior to this, variations have been worn throughout history, by everyone from the Ancient Romans to Chinese Emperors, and the necktie has long been a ubiquitous symbol of status in men's dress. As far as status symbols go, the necktie is one that many men stumble over buying, often choosing ties that are inappropriate for both their outfit, and the image that they wish to project.

As with any fashion piece, the tie has seen many variations over the years, in both the fabrics it is made from, its width, and the types of patterns, and even images, that they have been adorned with. In the '70s, wide ties were all the rage (picture Will Ferrell's Ron Burgundy character in the movie *Anchorman*), and in the '80s, the New Romantics morphed the tie into a much skinner accessory), but these days the standard width of a classic tie runs at three to four inches in width. However, as a rule of thumb, wider lapels require wider ties, and there is always room for individual taste and flexibility within these rules.



Here are some more tips for tie buying:

- Ties commonly come in two lengths: 57 inches and 62 inches. Most men will find a regular length tie perfectly sufficient, but taller men or those with thicker necks should consider the longer length. When properly tied, a man's tie should hit the top of his belt line — use this as a gauge for which tie length you need to buy.
- Some celebrities wear an extra long tie as a fashion statement, and while this is perfectly acceptable you do not want to go the other way and wear a too short tie — you'll look like a schoolboy and not at all stylish.
- Because fashions change so fast, don't hang on to an old necktie that has fallen out of style. Stay on trend, and ditch ties that don't work anymore.
- Unless you are trying to make a statement, stick with neutral colours that coordinate with your shirts. If you feel clueless when it comes to making the right selection, go seek advice from an associate at a men's outfitters and learn what works best for you.
- Keep in mind that a new tie can be all it takes to update your look and breathe new life into an old suit.
- Don't be tempted to pick up ties at discount outlets unless you are sure that they are what you'd choose if you were paying full-price. A cheap tie looks like exactly that, a cheap tie. ■

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Generations of styled men

Four generations of Brown family members now loyal patrons of Dugger's

By Nadine LaRoche

When Dugger's opened its doors in 1971, the Brown Family was there. When D2 emerged from below eight years ago, well, the Brown Family was there then, too. And today, with four generations of Brown Family members now loyal patrons of the shop, you're bound to run into one of them somewhere amidst the racks and shelves.

"It all started with a close relationship between my father and Garnet," says Dugger's owner Ross McNeil of Garnet Brown, who passed away three years ago.

A tight teenage friendship stayed strong when Douglas "Dugger" McNeil later opened the menswear shop, and Garnet, together with his wife Betty, became the first of many loyal Brown Family Dugger's shoppers. Garnet's two sons, Jim and Bob, and two daughters, Jackie and Karen, have since become customers, and their children, Tyler, Christopher, Harrison and Chelsea, with the help of D2, have followed happily in their family's footsteps.

But the Brown family's devotion to Dugger's is not one that Ross takes for granted.

Instead, it is a relationship stoked with excellent service and sweetened by the shop's competitive prices and unmatched product.

And that appreciation extends far beyond the shop entrance. To return the devotion the Brown family has instilled in his business, Ross would make an annual trip to the Brown home each year around the holidays to play a Kris Kringle of sorts. Equipped with a pen, he would take down Garnet's wish list: all the items from Dugger's he'd like to give to his family, ladies and all. Ross would head back to the shop and, with his fellow Dugger's elves, pack up all the Christmas bundles.

"The Brown family's loyalty is a great example of what can be so incredible about local people supporting local businesses, but you have to appreciate it," he says. "After all these years, they're much more than loyal customers. They're great friends." ■



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ZURICH

Getting your social kicks and culture fix in Zurich



SWITZERLAND. GET NATURAL.

Winter mood in Zurich at the river Limmat, with the Grossmuenster cathedral in the background.

By Lola Augustine Brown

When you think of hip European cities, Zurich might not be top of your list, but it should be. Much more than just watches, bankers and chocolate, Zurich has a design scene and nightlife that begs to be explored by the culturally savvy. Here's a small taste of what this city has to offer:

To find the coolest parts of Zurich, you need to get away from the historic Old City, where most of the tourists hang out. There are two neighborhoods that you'll want to devote your time to: Zurich West, a former industrial sector where artists and designers have set up shops, galleries and collectives, and Langstrasse, the former red light district (that has almost been cleaned up, but is still a little seedy in places) that now houses the city's hottest clubs and bars.

When exploring West Zurich, start out at the Viadukt, a series of railway arches that have been turned into independent boutiques selling designer clothes that you won't find elsewhere (lots of Swiss and Scandinavian designed togs), accessories and cool stuff for the home. Stop at the Freitag store to grab one of the iconic messenger bags made from truck tarpaulins, and admire the store built from stacked shipping containers. Just wander around, because there are neat places to explore in every side street.

Langstrasse is all set around the main road of the same name, and although there are still girly bars,

porno theatres, and a few dubious characters around, this is where Zurich's beautiful and hip people hang out. During the daytime, you'll want to explore underground galleries and boutiques, which are listed in a handy directory named *Kreislauf 4 + 5*, which you can pick up at any of the stores in the area.

Nightlife in Zurich kicks off late, and it probably isn't worth hitting any bars until 9pm at the earliest. Start your evening at Volkshaus, a bar and concert venue housed in a heritage workers hall (the night I was there the ax Oasis front man Liam Gallagher was doing a secret gig with his new band Beady Eye). If you're in the mood for karaoke or a poetry slam, the Acapulco Bar is a local's favourite that stays open way later than it legally should. Café Casablanca is a smaller, quieter bar with a carefully curated drinks menu. If you're in the mood for late live music and dancing, then Bagatelle93 is the place to head.

After a crazy night, recover at the Thermalbad Spa, which is housed in an old brewery and harnesses natural hot springs in a series of pools, steam rooms and spas that you make your way through until you reach a roof top pool that affords views over both the Alps and downtown Zurich. Try to be there at sunset, because there's surely no better way to view it than in warm water on a rooftop overlooking one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. ■

*swiss-image.ch/Christof Sonderegger,
Zuerich Winter, 30Z*

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BRAX
FEEL GOOD

Drool-worthy destinations

If you close your eyes, you can almost taste the fine crystals of ice in your cocktail — cold and crisp — and feel the condensation drip down the glass. The light scent of sunscreen in the air. The sun's heat warming your shoulders. It's only natural to crave hot, white sand and turquoise waves during a Canadian winter. But with hundreds of possible hotels, resorts, and cruise lines to consider, deciding where to book can be a challenge. By Heather Laura Clarke

It's important to first ask yourself what you want from a vacation, and what's important to you. Are you most looking forward to spa treatments, water sports, sightseeing, exploring a local village, or just relaxing on a beautiful

beach? Do you like the organized exploration a cruise provides, or the settled feeling of staying at one resort? Is it important to have personal one-on-one service, or would you prefer more privacy?

Ice and snow are fast approaching, and there's no time like the present to decide on your dream getaway. Not sure where to begin? Here are four of the most popular extravagant vacations people are booking right now ...



Turks & Caicos

A relaxing white-sand beach with spectacular snorkeling ...

Luxury-seeking Nova Scotians are choosing the convenience of the popular Turks & Caicos — a grouping of 40 islands and cays just east of Cuba — since Air Canada Vacations is bringing back their direct flight from the Halifax Stanfield International Airport this winter.

Turks & Caicos is famous for having uncrowded beaches and world-class snorkelling to brilliantly-coloured coral reefs.



Cruising

An intimate luxury cruise with one-on-one service ...

Cruises often get a reputation for being boisterous or even chaotic, but it's all a matter of which cruise line you choose.

Many clients are booking with Oceania Cruises, Azamara Club Cruises, and Silversea Cruises to ensure a vacation that offers the best in dining, accommodations, service, and experiences.

Parrot Cay images courtesy of Turks and Caicos Tourist Board.

Cruising images courtesy of Silversea Cruises.

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Saint John, New Brunswick



Drool-worthy destinations...continued



Luxury Resorts

Tranquil, spa-like accommodations – and life-changing volunteer experiences ...

Many high-end resorts keep guests tucked away in their own little world, away from the vibrancy of the nearby communities. But the Zoëtry Wellness & Spa Resorts in Punta Cana and the Mayan Riviera is changing the way travellers interact with locals.

The resorts provide luxury accommodations, but Zoëtry guests can also volunteer in nearby towns and villages on special projects that help the local community — allowing them experience the local culture and feel good about giving back.

Zoëtry Punta Cana and Mayan Riviera images courtesy of AMResorts.



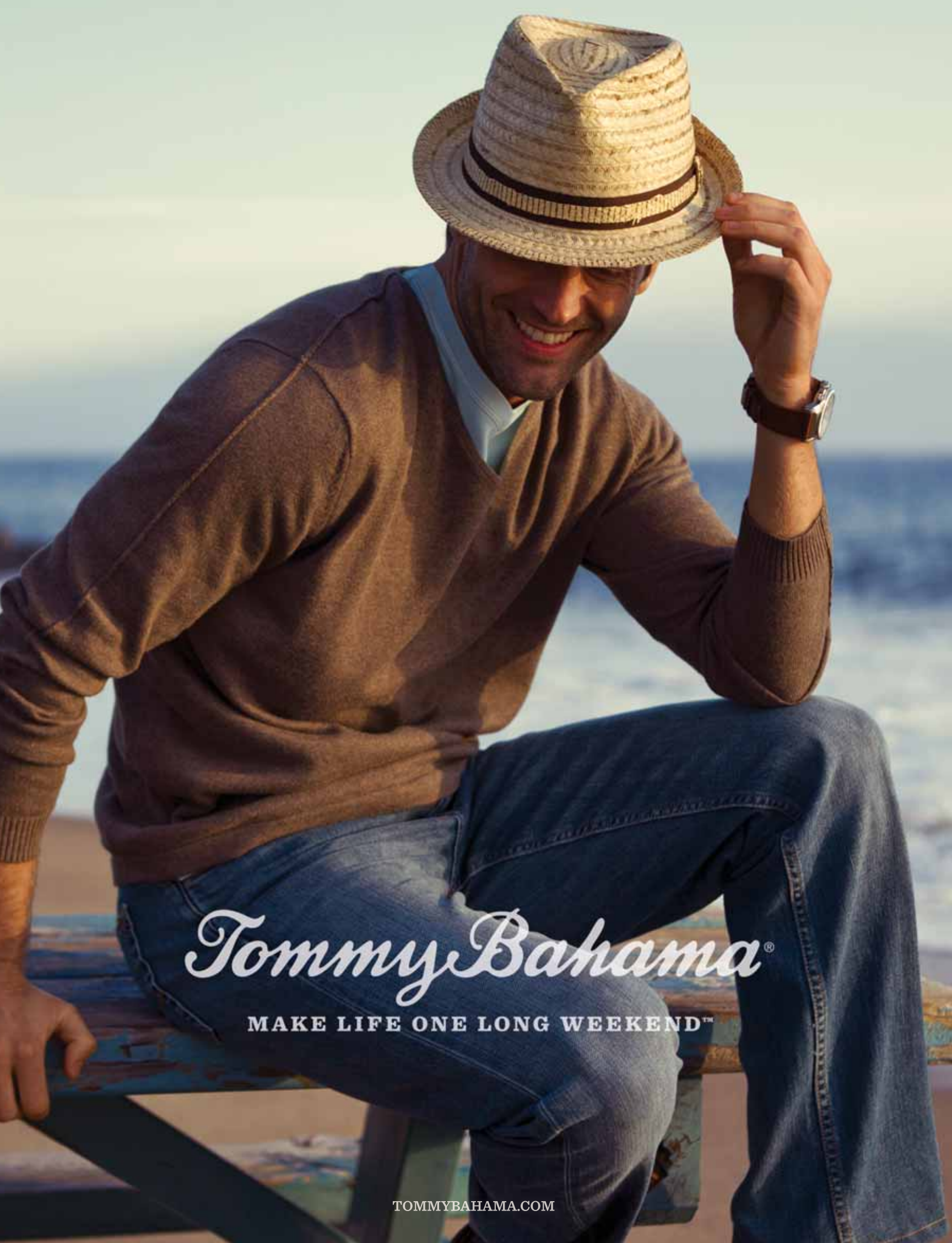
Pamper Yourself

A vast villa with your own private staff ...

For travellers looking for the ultimate pampered vacation, consider Sandals Royal Plantation in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. It has the distinction of being the only all-butler, all-suite resort in the Sandals family.

Guests at Sandals Royal Plantation can stay in a breezy three-bedroom villa, and with their very own butler and a private room attendant to take care of every request. ■

Sandals Royal Plantation images courtesy of Sandals Resorts



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WANTED: A TRENDY STYLE

Move over, Dippity-do. Today's men are reaching for pomades and styling pastes



A style for everyone

No longer satisfied by simple trims and cheap drugstore gels, men are looking for a custom look that's more on trend.

By Heather Laura Clarke

Men are becoming more aware of different hairstyles, and not just getting a cut because it suits their lifestyle," says Halifax stylist Krista Peters. "They are bringing in photos of certain cuts, and putting more thought into how they want to look."

Stylist Lauren Arbuckle says her male clients are really taking an interest in understanding their hair's individual issues.

"Most men suffer from cowlicks or double crows, and they should work with these hair issues, not against them," says Arbuckle. "Not all styles will suit them, but we can use different cuts and products — and even hot tools — to work with them."



HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

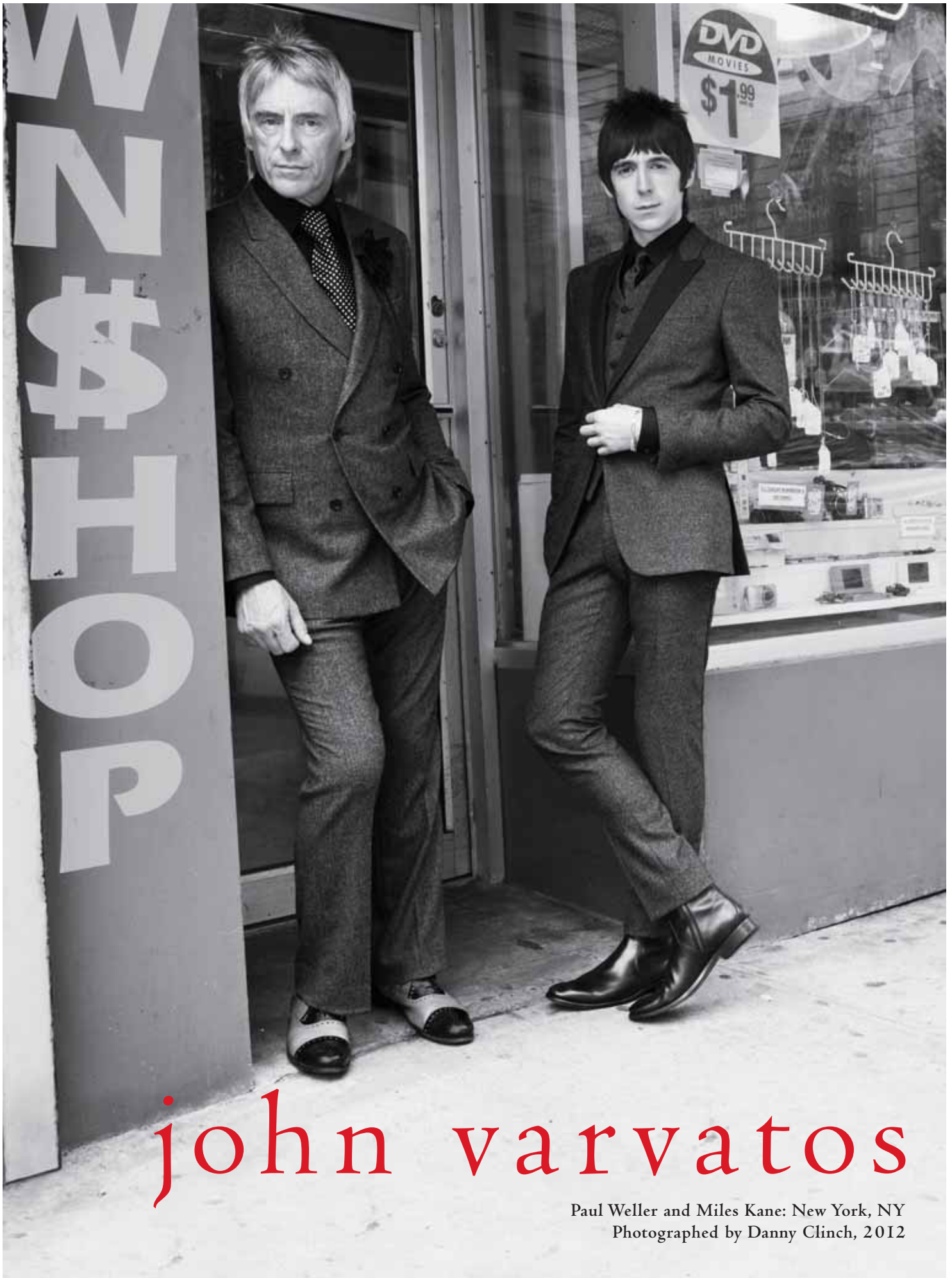
Peters says the No. 1 concern of her male clientele is hair loss and thinning hair.

"It's not the nicest thing for a man to go through," says Peters. "There's a certain amount of acceptance that has to happen before they're ready for us to help them."

Peters says there are products to help lessen the blow of hair loss, and often suggests her clients try Kerastase Specificque Traitement Intensif Anti-Affinement. The twice-a-year scalp treatment uses an amino acid that binds to the hair and gives the fiber more substances, along with vitamins to nourish and protect.

"It's not a way to magically grow new hair, but it works at the follicle level to slow down the process of hair-thinning," says Peters. "The hair you have stays healthy and thick, which gives you the overall look of having more hair."

Continued on page 50



john varvatos

Paul Weller and Miles Kane: New York, NY
Photographed by Danny Clinch, 2012



Continued from page 48

50 SHADES OF GREY

The appearance of those first few grey hairs often makes a man feel self-conscious — as much as ladies might love the look.

“Men just don’t look old when they start to go grey, like us gals do,” laughs Peters. “I’m always reassuring my clients that they still look great. Look at George Clooney — he’s a handsome man. We don’t say, ‘Oh, he’s handsome for an old guy.’”

Some men choose to colour their hair to camouflage the greys, but Peters says depending on how it’s done, it can look “too artificial.”

“Men can have a hard time learning to accept their grey, but it’s best if they embrace it.”

THE CUT RUT

Sometimes men get into hairstyle rut, and Peters says they may consider getting a new type of cut, but aren’t sure where to start.

“Men like their comfort zones, and — for many of them — they’ve gotten their hair cut every four weeks since they were a teenager,” says Peters. “It’s not that they’re afraid to try something new. It’s just part of their grooming routine, and it can be hard to break out of that mould.”

If a client is considering a new style that requires a bit more hair, Peters tells them to skip their next haircut so she can have more to work with. For some clients, that can equal sheer panic.

“A lot of men don’t feel tidy if they skip a cut, so I tell them to come in between and I’ll clean up the neck and sideburns,” says Peters. “It makes them feel better while their hair is growing for their new style.”

WANTED: A TRENDY STYLE

More men are turning to salons for their haircuts, rather than a traditional barber, because they are looking for a more complex style.

Peters recently had a new client pay her an emergency visit, after a barber had attempted to do The Bieber — teen sensation Justin Bieber’s signature cut — and had missed the mark entirely. She says many men “feel more comfortable” getting cuts at a salon, because there is more emphasis on style.

Jennifer Aniston’s haircut sent millions of women rushing to the salon in the 1990s, and now men have finally found their very own hairstyle icon: Don Draper from TV’s *Mad Men*.

Peters says many clients are requesting retro-inspired styles from *Mad Men* and *Boardwalk Empire*, which she describes as “very close, and slicked back on top.” Other popular requests include “preppy 1980s” looks, and Channing Tatum’s ultra-short, low-maintenance cut.

THE RIGHT STUFF

Peters is a fan of styling paste and pomade, because she finds they allow the best holds and duration throughout the day.

“With a gel, as soon as you touch it, it’s gone,” says Peters. “With a pomade or paste, it’s manageable and workable. If the wind blows, your hair isn’t messed up for the whole day.”

Arbuckle agrees pomades are the way to go, especially to achieve the trendy ’60s-inspired hairstyles.

“Pomades give you soft, shine-enhanced hair,” says Arbuckle. “Matte waxes are meant for the undone, messy, bedhead look. Gels with hard holds are a thing of the past.” ■



Circle of Gentlemen
& Women



Rock Revival





Lovin' local brew

A look into the world of microbrewing and the growing local beer industry

By Lola Augustine Brown



Microbrew and craft beer has become hugely popular in Halifax of late, with several new brewpubs and breweries that offer tempting real ales and small batch brews designed with the connoisseur in mind. Microbrew is beer for those who care about the way their beer is crafted, and are willing to pay a little more to get it.

Despite this recent surge in popularity, Halifax has had a long affair with craft beer. Kevin Keefe was the second person in Canada to open a brewpub, Gingers Tavern in 1985 (the first, by just a few months, was Spinnakers in Victoria, BC). "For the longest time, if you wanted a drink in a brewpub, you had to go to Victoria or Halifax," says Keefe, "then they started opening all over the place in the early '90s." In 1987, Keefe started operating out of the Henry House, then moved Gingers to Barrington Street, before shutting the pub down and set up the Granite Brewery as it stands now in the North End.





LOCAL LIBATIONS:

Raspberry Wheat

This golden wheat ale comes alive with its unique, natural raspberry flavour. A crisp, refreshing, one-of-a-kind taste that's a perfect summer thirst quencher!



Tall Ship Amber

This refreshing premium ale is golden-amber with light maltiness, crisp hop aroma, and smooth, clean finish.



In the mid-nineties, the microbrew and brewpub craze slowed a little thanks to the recession. "People that had started up for all the wrong reasons ended up closing and selling off all their equipment," says Keefe, "but in the last ten years or so there's been another explosion in the industry." (Propeller and Garrison were the next breweries to set up shop, some 12 years after Granite, and both are going strong in the city though they offer microbrew as opposed to the real ale that Granite makes — and there is a definite difference to the serious beer drinker.)

Halifax is fortunate enough to have several brewpubs in the downtown core, so you can enjoy a good meal along with a hand-craft-

ed ale or two. The Hart and Thistle, right on the Waterfront in the Historic Properties, is a gastro-pub offering a delicious menu of food as well as beers. Rogues Roost and the Rock Bottom Brewery, both located on Spring Garden Road, also have a full menu to complement their microbrew list.

The better educated that people get about beer, and the further that their tastes get refined, the greater the love grows for microbrew and hand-crafted ales. There's a lot of choice for beer lovers in Halifax, and this looks set to grow even further — there's another new microbrewery set to open this summer in the North End too, the Bridge Brewing Company.

You can also pick up a range of microbrews from all over North America at the NSLC. This all means that when you take a six-pack over to a friend's place, you now have a chance to show your personality and good taste instead of just taking the same old same old that everyone has already tried, you get to show up with something a little special and enjoy beer that has had a little extra love put into the brewing process. Cheers. ■

Hops Mango & Ginger

Made with real mangoes, fresh ginger and 15 hop varieties, this hazy, unfiltered brew has a dizzying blend of aromas and flavours, including pine, sweet tropical fruit and citrus.





Restaurant experience

The humble hanger steak is worth chewing on

By Bill Spurr

While it may not have a name that brings to mind an extravagant meal in a high end steakhouse, like Porterhouse or Delmonico or New York strip, when it comes to deciding on a cut of beef, the humble hanger steak is worth chewing on.

Sometimes misspelled as hangar and formerly known as butcher's steak because butchers used to keep it for themselves rather than sell it, hanger steak gets its name from the fact it hangs from the diaphragm of the steer.

Virtually unknown in grocery store meat departments, the hanger steak weighs in at one to one and a half pounds. Even at Oulton's Farm, outside Windsor, where meat lovers make pilgrimages for something unusual, hanger steak is only rarely requested.

Long time butcher Terry Patterson says most people have never heard of it.

"A small percentage, a very small percentage, except for the big cooks, the chefs, they know what it is, but just regular walk in customers, a lot of people don't know what it is, how to cook it or anything. We have a couple of customers that come in and get four or five at a time," Patterson said during a busy Saturday at Oulton's. "Before, we used to put it right in hamburger. Now we keep them."



Well known in French bistros and in Mexican cuisine, though by different names, the hanger has a long, inedible, membrane that runs the length of the steak and has to be removed before you cook it.

“Anyone can cut it out, it’s not rocket science,” says Patterson. “The price of hanger steak is \$2.99 a pound, (almost free) when you compare it to a T-bone that’s \$9.99 a pound.”

With his background and training in Europe, chef Dennis Johnston of Fid was a natural to

introduce hanger steak to Halifax palates. He describes it as “very pleasurable.”

“It’s unknown here because with all the marketing of beef, people are more into striploins and tenderloins and sirloins and all that stuff. As far as I’m concerned, it’s hands down the most flavourful cut of beef. It certainly isn’t the most tender, but it is the most flavourful,” said Johnston, who marinates hangers for a week in big buckets in his walk-in fridge. “Because it is a cut of meat that has such a

heavy grain in it, we slice it perpendicular to the grain. In Europe, they just give you the steak because it’s assumed that you know how to eat it. But here, what we do is slice it for the client because it’s not a known cut of meat. If we put a piece of meat on the plate and they were to cut it with the grain, it’s pretty tough eating.” ■

A hanger steak prepared by chef Dennis Johnston of Fid, Halifax.



In-house entertaining

A guide to hosting with style

By Heather Laura Clarke



Entertaining at home often equates to frantic food preparation, napkin-ironing, and frustrating searches for just the right serving platter — all while trying to keep the house tidy and pull yourself together. Where is that blasted ice bucket, anyway?

But if you ask Margaret Carson which details she'll handle if she caters your next dinner party, she replies with a single soothing word: "Everything."

As the owner of Bonne Cuisine — a gourmet market in Spring Garden Place — Carson caters private parties for a steady stream of clients. From the initial phone

call to the tastings and site visits, Carson oversees every detail personally.

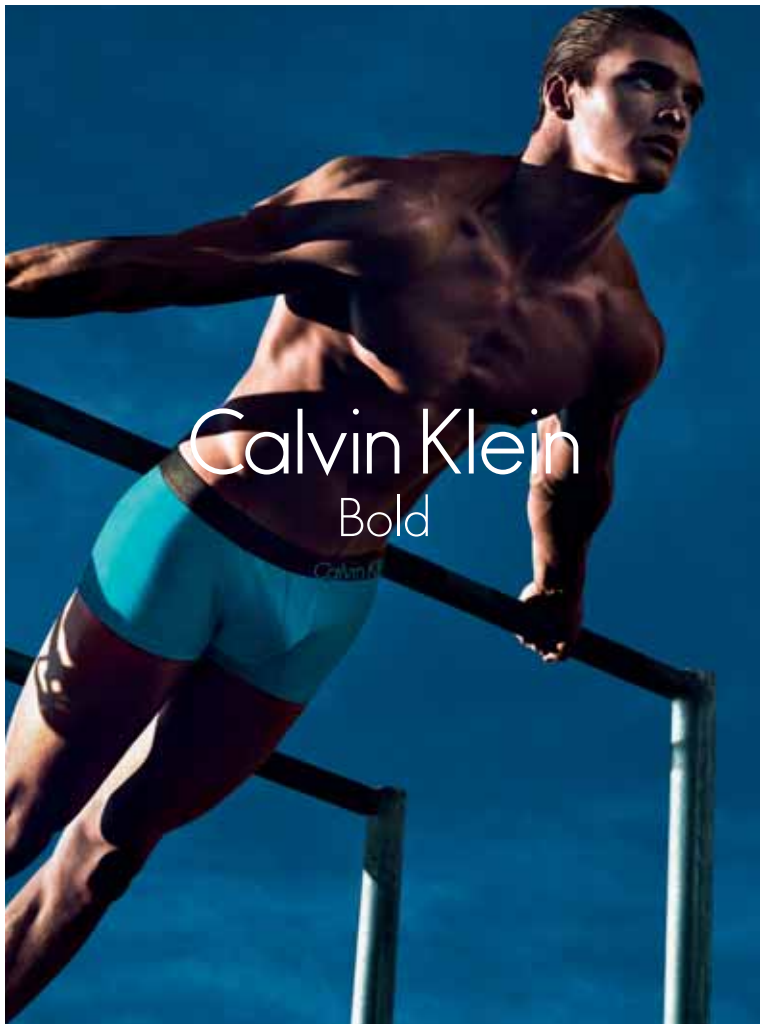
"We can provide the food, the service staff, the bar staff. We can purchase the alcohol and the flowers," says Carson. "I have a lot of resources available to me. I can organize everything."

"My goal is to trouble the host as little as possible."

Carson says hiring a professional makes it easier to host a stylish event at home — whether it's for two couples or several dozen friends.

"It makes them feel more relaxed, and allows them to spend the time with their guests," says Carson. "And, if you don't have budgetary constraints, what better way to spend your time?"

Continued on page 58



Calvin Klein
Bold

Live Life... Outdoors



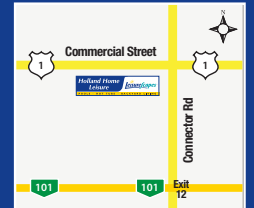
"As a customer of Holland Home Leisure I could not be more satisfied. The Holland Home buying experience has been fantastic. They installed a pool for me three years ago, and recently supplied pool furniture, all of which has been fantastic."

~ Ross McNeil, Owner, Dugger's Men's Wear/D2

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Stenströms



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SETTING THE SCENE

Whether you have the assistance of a team, or are pulling together the event yourself, an important part of any dinner party is the ambiance.

Heather Rankin is the co-owner of Obladee with her brother, Christian. The Barrington Street wine bar hasn't even been in business for two years, but it already has a very loyal clientele.

Patrons have fallen in love with Obladee's intimate and sophisticated dinner-party vibe, which Rankin created after noticing a lack of "mature" bars in Halifax's student-driven downtown core.

"We knew we wanted to create a space that was special and sophisticated, but not snobby," says Rankin. "It needed to feel welcoming and unpretentious — like a chic coffee shop that happens to serve wine and cheese."

Rankin and her brother created a "rustic modern design" with reclaimed wood, natural materials, and modern contemporary elements — like the sleek bar surface. To achieve Obladee's look for your own party, she suggests starting with lighting.

"Lighting is really important, so choose dim lighting with lots of candles. No one needs to be seeing everyone else's imperfections!"

CREATING THE MOOD

As part of the family tree that brought us The Rankin Family, Rankin feels strongly that music helps to control the vibe of an environment. At Obladee, they play mostly soulful vintage R&B and jazz. Employees are trained to use different playlists for different periods of the week, and times of the day.

"When it's five o'clock on a Tuesday, we have more mellow selections. And when it's busier on a Friday night — and people are more rambunctious — we have more upbeat selections," says Rankin.

She says part of planning the perfect dinner party should include deciding on the music ahead of time. Choose carefully, because it can actually influence the mood of your guests — and the tone of the entire party.

"If you want a funky, upbeat feel, pick that kind of music. If you want a mellow, low-key feel, pick music that's conducive to that kind of vibe."

WINING & DINING

A trained sommelier, Rankin says the key to choosing the right wine for a dinner party is to select "versatile, food-friendly wine."

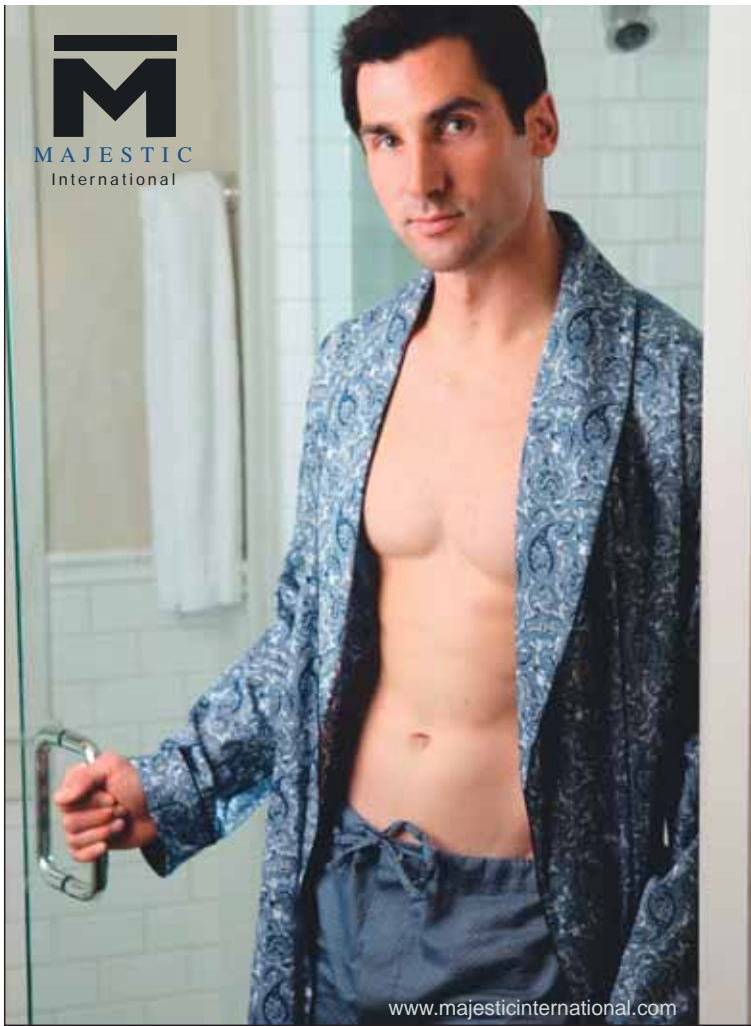
"A really great white is a Riesling, because it pairs well with a number of different foods," says Rankin. "A Pinot Noir is a good choice, too, or a Beaujolais."

Her other tip is to match the intensity of a dish with the intensity of a wine.

"A lot of people think red meat means red wine, but take into consideration the intensity of the meat's flavouring, and how it's cooked."

Above all, Rankin says it's crucial to start with great ingredients. Focusing on cheese and charcuterie, Obladee's menu includes simple pleasures like smoked salmon and duck prosciutto.

"Keep the food rustic, local, and in season — that's what people like to eat these days," says Rankin. "It should also be simple, so people can just enjoy themselves." ■



Nothing's as cool as a pool!

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~ Ross McNeil, Owner, Dugger's Men's Wear/D2

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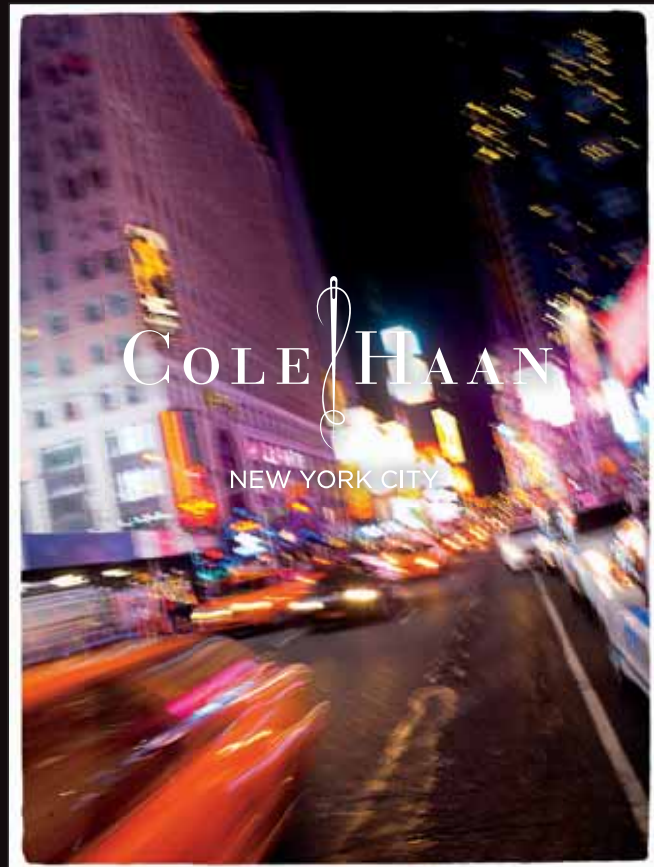
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FINE DINING



Eats in the HRM

Some of Halifax's hottest dining experiences

By Lola Augustine Brown



When it comes to world class dining, we really are spoiled rotten in Halifax. Whatever kind of food you desire, you'll find it here, and done well. Here are some of the best places to eat in the city:

Cut Steakhouse and Urban Grill

If you want thick, juicy steaks, then there's nowhere better than Cut, either upstairs in the very grown-up and classic steakhouse, or downstairs in the Urban Grill. Both floors offer an excellent meal. Upstairs is where you'll get a thick Porterhouse or T-Bone cooked exactly how you like it, and some of the most incredible sides you'll ever taste (the donut-sized onion rings are unbelievably good), while downstairs you'll catch

lighter fare like mini Kobe sliders and lobster poutine. Cut is a carnivores dream come true.

5120 Salter Street, 902-429-5120, cutsteakhouse.ca

Bistro Le Coq

Fairly new to the scene, Le Coq is the perfect place for a hot date, where you can share fashionably old-fashioned cocktails, plates of fat local oysters, cheese and charcuterie. The décor is delightful, the serving staff very attentive, and the overall atmosphere conveys a feeling that you could in fact be in France rather than on Argyle Street.

1584 Argyle Street, 902-407-4564, bistrocoq.ca

Continued on page 62



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Continued from page 60

Chives Canadian Bistro

It is worth going to Chives for the heavenly biscuits alone, which are served in place of bread, with bowls of molasses and whipped butter to spread them with. Chef Craig Flynn is a local celebrity with two cookbooks under his belt, and everything created at Chives is just incredible. Local foods feature heavily on the menu, and there are lots of fabulous fish and seafood dishes to try (as well as steaks and decent vegetarian options).

1537 Barrington Street,
902-402-9626, chives.ca

Stories

Located in the Haliburton Hotel, Stories is one of Halifax's hidden gems. Cozy and intimate, this impressive restaurant offers an innovative and exciting menu that relies heavily on game and meat. Here you can try the likes of venison Carpaccio, bison tenderloin and foie gras in a number of different dishes. The restaurant also has a nice private room for larger groups.

5184 Morris Street, 902-420-0658,
thehaliburton.com/stories-restaurant

The Press Gang

With a menu so inventive that it invites you to step beyond your comfort zones and try new and unique flavours (vanilla lobster bisque or seared kangaroo, anyone?), the Press Gang is effortlessly cool and a great place to go for a gourmet dinner. Head there for Whiskey Tuesdays, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., where consulting sommelier Wallace Fraser will walk you through sampling some of the restaurant's impressive collection of more than 100 single malts, or join the Press Gang Oyster Cult, and sample the best oysters from around the Maritimes. ■

5218 Prince Street,
902-423-8816, pressgang.net



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IS CHIVALRY DEAD? NEVER!

How every man should aspire to be



Open doors for your lady — and everyone else. When you walk up to any door with someone, the polite thing to do is open it and let your companion stroll inside first. If you open a door and someone else is about to come through it, the polite thing to do is stand aside and let them go. Whether it's your wife, your date, an elderly lady, or a random stranger — polite is polite.



A new spin on chivalry

We've traded noble steeds for midsize cars, but that doesn't mean the idea of a charming, gentle prince is any less desirable today.

By Heather Laura Clarke

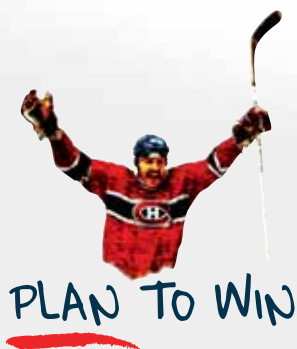
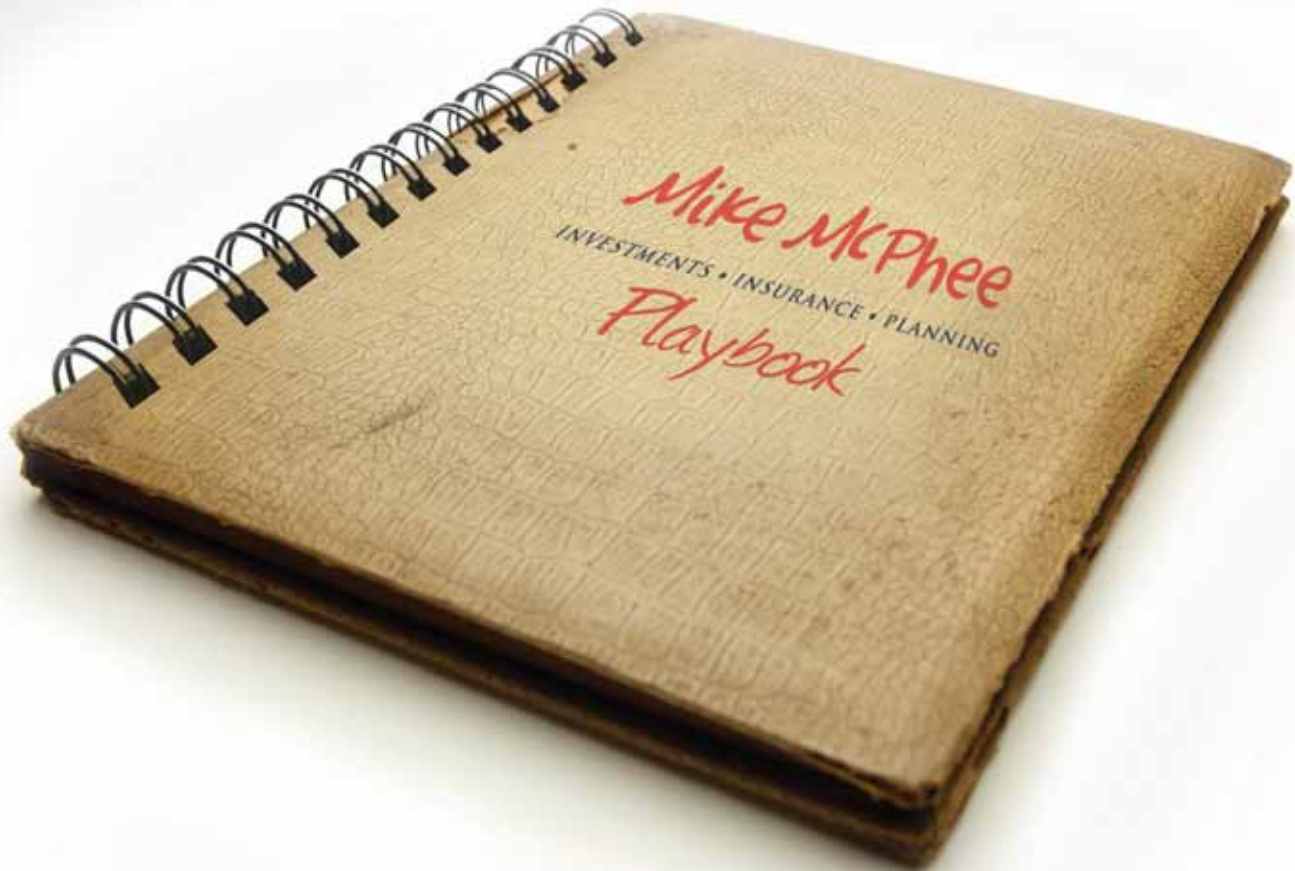
Chivalry is defined as “gallant or distinguished gentlemen,” and that's something every man should aspire to be. You may not get many opportunities to help a lady out of a carriage, but there's an entirely new spin on chivalry — from proper texting etiquette to sharing precious PVR space.

So whether you're playing the field, dating, engaged, married, or otherwise, here are a few modern chivalry tips from the pros ...

Flowers aren't for everyone. The old standard of showing up for a first date with a bouquet of flowers — or sending them for a special occasion — doesn't always cut it anymore. Gift an allergy-sufferer with a bouquet, and watch your chances crumple faster than the tissues they're using on their runny nose. If you know for a fact that they adore flowers, go for it. But there are other — more creative — ways to show you're thinking about them. A single fancy gourmet cupcake for a dessert lover. A bottle of wine for a vino aficionado. Downloading a special app or new music that you know they'll love. The gesture will be meaningful because it's personalized.

Let them pick the movie. This is something that's offered a lot in the early stages of a relationship, and once things get comfortable, suddenly everyone's pushing hard for their own preferences. Simply smiling and letting your sweetie pick the flick is an easy, thoughtful gesture.

Continued on page 66



When it comes to your financial future, Mike uses the same hard work and principles that made him known as a great two-way player in the NHL:

*“Protect what you have,
capitalize on the right opportunities
and do all the small things right.”*

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Connect with Mike on LinkedIn to receive financial tips, hockey stories and much more. Visit mikemcpee.ca to connect directly.

“Mike has a strong desire to succeed. He has a steady, clear vision of where he wants to go and is very demanding of himself to perform his best in whatever he’s doing.”

Bob Gainey
Hall of Famer & Former Teammate

Continued from page 64

Don't make paying awkward. Trent Armstrong, an online columnist on modern manners, says customarily the person who initiated the date is the one responsible for paying. Not everyone subscribes to that theory, however, so never assume you're off the hook. If you are in the early stages of dating, offer to pay every time. It doesn't mean you will pay every time. Most likely, you will exchange polite protestations until you come to a mutual decision of taking turns or splitting the bill. Once you've been in the relationship for a while, paying the bill relaxes into a routine that neither person really needs to think about.

Skip the locker room stunts. Always consider your audience before telling a raunchy joke, swearing, or engaging in, uh, bodily function humour. If it's something that would be heartily appreciated by a rowdy group of guys, it may not be appropriate in a romantic setting. A true gentleman wouldn't want to gross anyone out, or make offensive cracks — especially early on in a relationship.

Text your way into their heart. Texts can't replace the intimacy of a phone call, but they definitely have their place in a modern relationship. If you know the object of your affection will be out late, texting to confirm they got home safely is a nice gesture. Even simple texts like "Thinking of you" or "Miss you" can be very touching, especially when accompanied by Xs and Os! Avoid sending overly intimate texts — or photos! — until you are in an established relationship.

Be a fair conversationalist. According to relationship guru Dr. Phil, "everybody's favourite topic in the whole world is themselves." You might not even realize you're dominating the conversation, so make a point of asking questions and engaging the other person. This is just as important with spouses as it is on a first date! ■





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The bespoke automobile

It's not only about how you see yourself in your new car, but how others see you, too

By Kelly Taylor

I've got this great shirt. It's white with stripes in two shades of blue, white French cuffs and a white spread collar. Paired with the right tie and cufflinks and under my Copley suit or with some great dark jeans, it's killer.

What makes it special is that it's unique to me. I ordered it to be custom-fit, I selected all the details, from the profile of the cuff to the contrasting collar to the shape of the pocket. It is, as they say, bespoke.

That, to me, is the true mark of luxury. Aside from the feel of the Egyptian cotton, it's the details that sing. They say something special about who you are and that you've got great taste. The same can hold true when you're shopping for a luxury car. So before you walk into your local Cadillac, BMW, Porsche, Audi or Mercedes-Benz store and drive away with whatever the sales manager thought was a good package, take some time to think about the things that can make a difference, not only about how you see yourself in your new car, but how others see you, too.

Sure it's going to cost a bit more, but if you're already shopping in the luxury snack bracket, the increase is incremental. And besides, you're worth it. The good news is that you don't have to worry: the options may be endless, but they're tasteful and largely complimentary. They won't let you pair green Paisley with blue Tartan, so relax. It does pay to do your customizing through the authorized channels; aftermarket mods could kill your resale value or, if you're leasing, cost you money later to revert to the original.

Continued on page 70

2013 Mercedes-Benz SL-Class







Red seatbelts are a distinctive touch on this Mercedes-Benz SL63 AMG.



This 2012 Mercedes-Benz SL63 AMG has been upgraded to a piano black lacquered wood trim with the 'Designo' label under Mercedes' Designo personalization program.

Continued from page 68

Porsche 911 Carrera Cabriolet

Nothing says “arrived” quite like the 911, for a few reasons. Foremost is the iconic 911 shape, a shape that’s remained largely the same since the car was introduced in 1963. It’s instantly recognizable. Secondly, because it’s so delightfully impractical, it’s automotive indulgence; rare is the person who can have a 911 as an only car. The last reason is the seemingly endless array of personalization options. Let’s walk through the one I configured: I chose a 911 Carrera Cabriolet (\$106,900), added a special paint colour, cognac metallic (\$3,590) and chose it with the wheels painted the same cognac colour (\$1,870, plus \$1,790 for the required 20-inch Carrera S wheels). Inside, I chose carbon fibre as a trim treatment, with carbon fibre on the steering wheel (\$1,430) and on the dash and shift knob (\$2,020) and centre console (\$730). Blending nicely with the cognac exterior is a special yachting blue interior (no charge, but add \$690 for blue seat belts and \$790 for heated seats).

Total price: \$119,415.

I can’t even begin to calculate the number of unique 911 Carreras you could create, and that’s just using the www.porsche.com/ca configurator. And if that’s still not enough, you can schedule an appointment through your Porsche store for Porsche Exclusive, which opens the door to even more variety.

Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes is still one of the leading brands for aspirational cars. You know it, Janis Joplin knew it, and part of the attraction is still its relative exclusivity. If you want the ultimate in customization for your Benz, it’s best to think AMG.



Cognac metallic is one of a handful of special paint colours (\$3,590) available to personalize your Porsche.

AMG is the sport-performance division of Mercedes, a skunkworks shop, if you will. You get improved engines (yours comes autographed by the engineer who built it by hand), transmissions and suspension with AMG versions, plus you get styling cues that set them apart. But you also get access to more options for tailoring your Mercedes. When you go to www.mercedes-amg.com/extras.html#/studio-designo, it’s like stepping into a designer’s studio. Want red leather? Fine. If you’re tired of woodgrain, how about stone? Yes, stone.

Designo, which is what Mercedes calls their customization program, offers you unique trim, colour and paint finishes. You can even order custom fabric roof liners and wood and leather steering wheels.

These are just two examples of automakers that give you the power to personalize your automobile for just you. BMW is another that has a long line of options available. As do high-end brands such as Rolls Royce or Bentley.

So when you’re treating yourself to a premium car, don’t just settle. ■

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