



Wish list

THE THINGS
WE'RE COVETING
THIS MONTH, BY
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WITH THE INCLUSION of Hunter wellies in the wish list, it might have sufficed to say, "Take an educated guess why". But as I sit on the Mount Olympus of luxury journalism as the luxury editor here at *Mayfair Times*, there are (quite rightly) higher expectations placed on me in terms of the results I produce, not unlike the great rubber boot you see here. The

reliability and value for money is why you will find it in most sensible country-shoe collections. Recently you will have seen Prince Charles cut a dash in them whilst surveying Somerset's new submerged state. Considering this weather may not go away for a bit, isn't it time you got yours too? www.hunter-boot.com

WHEN A BESPOKE brand transitions a bulk of its work into ready-to-wear, it is a tough call to make. There will always be accusations of a loss of integrity – after all, can a gentleman really feel outfitted by their outfitter if the piece wasn't made for them? Well, yes – but only with considerable skill and a barrel-load of marketability. Luckily for Thom Whidett and Luke Sweeney of Thom Sweeney, they have their training at Timothy Everest and Hollywood good looks on their side. Having looked at the range, I am almost certain it will triumph. This is their Gilbert suit, a handsome double-breasted woollen number in an inoffensive shade of brown (a colour which I associate with UPS delivery men). The fabric is a lightweight 10oz, but the high and wide peaked lapel matched with the double-breasted jacket means it doesn't look at all flimsy, and is a well thought out tailoring touch. www.thomsweeney.co.uk and www.mrporter.com



TO SECURE St James's covetable position as the top destination for buying superior tobacco products, Dunhill tobacco, in its infinite wisdom, has opened its refurbished digs at 1a St James's Street and called the shop 1a St James's. It has struck a nice balance by appealing to both people who want to know about tobacco and those who are aged connoisseurs. There is a blending room with all varieties and nationalities of tobacco, and a sampling room to enjoy a cigar. If I may make a recommendation, do try the Dunhill Aged cigar. This Dominican limited-edition reserva especial from 2006 is a chunky 54 ring gauge which, as smokes go, is a great example of how an ageing cigar provides a complex journey from start to finish. It starts with a spicy and earthy kick and develops into a smooth, creamy affair, with gallons of smoke even after the smallest of draws in the last two thirds. This cigar is a worthy cheerleader for decent non-Cuban stogies.



WATCH BUYERS who get reassurance from the fact that they have bought something Swiss so often overlook the highly skilled horologists at German company A Lange & Söhne. The Germans are colossally, almost ostentatiously, talented watchmakers, and Lange is the leader of that specific wolf pack. Points really do mean prizes, and in the case of the Grand Lange 1 Moon Phase the prize is, of course, featuring on this month's wish list. The accuracy is point number one: the moonphase complication is so accurate (99.9978 per cent) that even the folk at 123 are calling the factory in Saxony to double-check. Should practicality be the USP for you, then the decorated, manually wound movement with a 72-hour power reserve, power reserve indicator, outside date and subsidiary seconds with stop seconds, will satisfy your needs. Then there are the aesthetics – and Lange, as you can see, has churned out another breathtaking timepiece. The pink-gold case is gloriously juxtaposed with the white face, which produces a striking finish. All in all, an easy choice for this month. www.alange-soehne.com



RECENTLY, I HEARD that diet coke is bad for my health. This vexes me. I don't drink alcohol, so learning that the sugarless coloured and flavoured water which serves as my tippie – even better in the caffeine-free variety – is actually bad for me and I should stop is, to say the least, frustrating. In fact, there are all sorts of products that have some dangerous caveat, which detracts from their well-marketed description as a healthy product. Lettuce is said to be carcinogenic, milk gives you IBS, even something as harmless and joyful as smoking a cigar is apparently a danger to my otherwise vice-free body. To

counter the hidden health-hazard zeitgeist, Neom Organics has come up with a range of products that actually contain no, zero, nil, pas de ingredients counter-productive to your well-being. This limited-edition Love candle is made entirely from vegetable wax and aromatherapy oils and will not produce soot when burning. Whilst available in Fenwick and Fortnum & Mason, if you go to the website below, dear reader, the good people at Neom shall reward your shrewd choice of reading material. www.neomorganics.com/mayfair



AS I HAVE SAID in the wish list before, men are allowed to groom nowadays. I can take my own cue from the fact that (most of) the England rugby team emerge from the tunnel perfectly coiffed, and if I didn't know any better I would say there was some plucking and waxing here and there too. I, like most men, find shaving to be the most boring task in the morning, but midway through last year I acquired a shaving brush, and everything changed. Geo F Trumper is the gentlemen's hairdresser that PG Wodehouse would have written about. In other words, there isn't anything mass market about them, and for anyone with old-fashioned sensibilities they will hit the spot. This shaving stand with brush and razor will make your morning routine better. It is as simple as that. www.trumpers.com



OVER THE RECENT PERIOD known as London Collections: Men, Mayfair was deluged with peacocking. Cloths, colours and cuts were dusted off to make things smarter and more adventurous, and then disappeared back into the cupboard until the summer installation of LC: M. One item that stood out was the gentleman's cape. It seems that these supposedly temporary blips on the men's sartorial radar are actually part of a wider scheme that is bringing the cape back into fashion. Gieves & Hawkes's inclusion of the cape in its collection can claim a hefty level of heritage. The Boat Cloak is inspired by a piece from its archive, which was for Royal Navy officers to wear over their evening dress uniforms. Then, in 1953, the Admiralty commissioned it to make one for Her Majesty, which featured in the famous Cecil Beaton portraits of 1968. So, the artisans at No 1 Savile Row know what they are doing when it comes to capes. The item itself has a military-style frogging fastener and a loose-fitting cut that creates a sense of flow, while the weighty 30oz lambswool holds it in place over the shoulders. Gieves & Hawkes's hugely talented creative director, Jason Basmajian, describes it as "old-school elegance, military heritage and fashion", which just about sums it up. www.gievesandhawkes.com