

GO **Travel**

THE BEST PLACES ON EARTH – AND HOW TO GET THERE IN STYLE

Issue 2 April 2008



HOW MEN TRAVEL

THE GLOBETROTTERS' GUIDE TO GETTING IT RIGHT EVERY TIME

TAKE ME BACK TO CÔTE d'AZUR LANGKAWI SHANGHAI

PIERS MORGAN
ROD LIDDLE AND
TONY PARSONS
ON THE PLACES
THEY JUST CAN'T
LEAVE BEHIND

TOP 50
DESERVING
DESTINATIONS
2008

ASSOCIATION WITH
Heathrow Terminal 5



► at Heathrow's Terminal 5, judging from the huge concentration of branded businesses operating airside). So, surely we should just flash the cash, duff up the debit card and have done with the mirthless camaraderie occasioned by those angina-inducing trips to the reclaim hall?

Except it's never that easy. Time is invariably tight, so we're rarely able to stock up on essentials while away on that three-day, four-centre business trip. And we're men, so we need to take at least one suit; preferably two if we know anything about the potential for "accidents" while away with nowt but our best navy/charcoal number.

And another thing: why does every piece of essential electronic kit we need to work, rest and play require a different charger? By the time we've confronted our packing list it's not MasterCard we need, but a mule.

So let's attack this problem head-on; talk to some people who travel for business, and whose business is travel – or at least travel goods – and figure out a way to transport our possessions in a more practical, stylish way.

And where better to start than the oldest *malletier* (or trunk maker) in Paris, and in this age of discreet luxury and personalised luggage, still the doyen of the discerning traveller: Goyard. Could it produce a bag built for the modern demands of male business travel that would still "carry-on"? Of course it could.

At Goyard's original store in Paris, the gauntlet was not so much thrown down as laid out: a lightweight black nylon suit-carrier of the kind tailors use, that benefited further from having a zip closing the two "halves". Inelegant, and inferior given its workaday origins, but the simplest solution to carrying a suit and minimal extras *GQ* had found.

From this, Goyard's workshop near Carcassonne was asked to produce a more beautiful, balanced and bulletproof example. As a special order, it took time (several months, in fact); it took various alterations to my hastily scrawled diagrams of how it might look, and it took the experience of Goyard's designers to extend the "footprint" of the bag to include the addition of integrated shoe pockets, without disturbing its elegant silhouette. But it's boarding-bag sized with

the capacity to carry four suits and enough shirts to survive a five-day trip without recourse to the hotel's laundry service.

At one stage, the potential of a reversible feature had been discussed. This was later abandoned on grounds of practicality (relating to the number of handles it would require). A shame, as Goyard's trademark black and yellow canvas linings will now be forever obscured. Happily, the world-famous chevron design on the traditional cotton, linen and hemp Goyard canvas will not.

This pattern – derived from the Goyard family's origins as transporters of timber by

river – has been a hallmark of quality for well over a century. The last word in lusted-after luxury, it's been paraded around the world by royals, presidents and celebrities alike until the advent of battle-hardened road warriors in search of something less likely to attract envious rather than purely admiring glances.

But now it seems even that pendulum is swinging: last year, Tumi almost simultaneously announced a new creative director – former Nautica founder and designer-in-his-own right David Chu – and his first line for the company. For 25 years renowned for the ubiquity of its black ballistic nylon wheelaways, Tumi's Townhouse collection is manufactured partly in Italy, features hand-finished construction and generally genuflects towards a golden age of travel, albeit one when porters did the heavy lifting.

"I thought trunks were over," explains Chu, of Tumi's bold revolt into the past. "But I was in Rome with a friend of mine and he told me his wife had travelled with 20 trunks on a seven-day trip. They're now divorced!"

"But this was the Townhouse inspiration: the elegant travel of the Twenties and Thirties – beautiful trunks, but modernised. So nylon is modern, but with hand-crafted saddle leather. This is exactly Tumi now."

GQ LOVES TUMI TOWNHOUSE

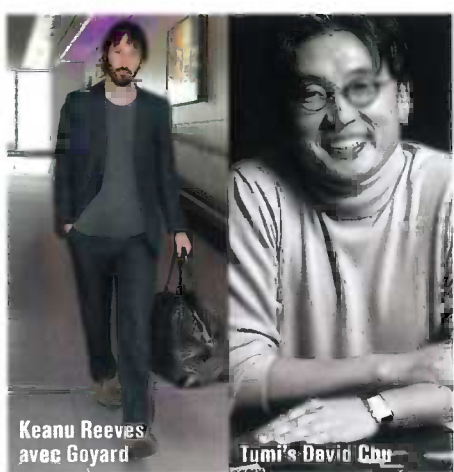
As the inventor of "soft solutions" for hardened road warriors, Tumi's new series of premium travel bags represents a new direction, offering the same robustness but with more luxe fittings. For the new season, the range is now available in this buttery canvas. *Esmond satchel*, £435. At the *Tumi Store*, 170 Piccadilly, London W1. 020-7493 4138, www.tumi.com





GQ LOVES
AUDI R8 LUGGAGE

If it's road haulage you're after – and you've bought one of Audi's two-seater sports cars – you'll increase its load capacity considerably if you invest £3,750 in this matching luggage set. Tailor-made to fit the R8's storage compartment, the set features a suit carrier, suitcase, briefcase and two toiletry bags (not pictured). www.audi.co.uk



Townhouse debuted late last year in selected stores in black nylon and leather (joined this season by a range in canvas), and features a complete collection of cases, from a slimline portfolio to a brace of beautiful hard-sided wheeled suitcases with "disappearing" nickel-plated towing handles. The scope is deliberate, says Chu: "Some people can afford to travel with half their closet. Whereas I like to travel relatively light. But I still want my stuff beautifully made: the bag you carry, the shoes you wear, the clothes you own – it's who you are."

So how does a man who visits Beijing, Hong Kong and Shanghai up to four times a year, and is busy developing his own business opportunities in Asia (where Tumi

also has growth plans) pack? "It depends on my trip, but I can go five or six days and only do carry on. I'll bring a couple of sports jackets and a suit, and a couple of pairs of trousers and a couple of pairs of shoes. I'm a little more classical, so a blazer is an absolute must – it's a pocket book for a man. Everything else is secondary – apart from the BlackBerry, of course!"

However you choose to pack, it's comforting to think there are men out there obsessing about every detail of our travel plans – from the long wait (and thus increased weight) at security, to the cut of our onboard jib when the overhead bins spring open on landing. Don't be left wanting! **GQ**

PHOTOGRAPHS: FULL-STOP PHOTOGRAPHY; KEA



TUMI

170, PICCADILLY, MAYFAIR 020.7493.4138 TUMI.COM