

Tumi: Good Buy Guide

Maggie O'Sullivan assesses the Tumi luggage maker's high-quality product range.

By Maggie O'Sullivan

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WHAT IS IT?

Tumi – named after a Peruvian god – produces some of the finest luggage in the world. The range includes carry-ons, briefcases, laptop carriers, suitcases, garment bags and backpacks, all of which are both stylish and function-driven. You can buy Tumi from good luggage departments, at Tumi's own stores or from the Tumi website at www.tumi.com (<http://www.tumi.com>).



Motcomb hat box in tiger print, £2,635, part of the Tumi product range

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WHY BUY?

Because you want high-quality luggage that looks good without being flashy – it's said that Tumi owners nod at each other in airport concourses much as classic car drivers do on the road – and because you are willing to spend more than £500 on a suitcase even though the chances of an airline losing it are fairly high.

FOR MEN OF THE ROAD OR WOMEN ABOUT TOWN?

Tumi has always struck me as a fairly masculine brand with very little to detain the female traveller. But the new spring collection for women changes all that. There are gorgeous satchel tote bags in straw with white trim and navy textured leather; fabulous boarding tote bags in ecru textured twill; chic navy nylon wheelie bags; trunks on wheels and a tiger-print hat box which harks back to a more glamorous era of travel.

WE LOVE

The move away from black, black and more black, even though I know that ecru is not wholly practical for the economy traveller. And the sheer chutzpah of that tiger-print hat box.

COULD DO BETTER

How about a diffusion line?

VERDICT

Buying a piece of Tumi luggage is like joining an exclusive club – shame the membership fee is quite so high.