

## P R I O R I T Y M A L E

FOUR STYLES TAKE PRECEDENCE THIS FALL. FIND YOUR NEXT-DAY WEAR.

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WARDROBE: NEIMAN MARCUS, THE MALL AT SHORT HILLS, SHORT HILLS, NJ

The men's fashion forecast predicts many things, but consistency isn't one of them. From romantic, Renaissance-inspired artistry to sharp edged lines to sensual fabric and rich color, menswear runs the gauntlet between old and new, but banks heavily on the primary ingredients of any sharp dressed man in the making: Class, personality and unabashed charisma.

### The Dandy Man Can

This season, find inspiration in legends of the Renaissance as men's couture waxes poetic with its take on the new romantic. According to garment goddess Maria Cucciniello, public relations manager for Neiman Marcus, Short Hills, menswear is all about romantic elegance and rich artistic detail. "Luxurious velvets, the reign of purple and pops of paisley herald the return of the Renaissance Man," declares Cucciniello. "Fabrics of the season consist of a more casual feel in velvet and corduroy. Velvet also features textural treatments, including panne and crinkling, or is printed with exotic patterns in deep jewel-tone hues," she adds. Cucciniello urges every man to purchase a shirt jacket in the fabrics of the season for an even more relaxed take on the trend. Put your best foot forward in shoes and boots that have an aged feel, a la "antiqued leathers and suede with metallic grommets, fashions newest embellishment," says Cucciniello. In the accessories department, the au courant Renaissance man expresses his individuality without compromising his all-important masculinity in antiquated chunky link bracelets, intaglio rings and loads of charms on gold and silver chains.

### Thoroughly Modern Male

If paisley, panne, and purple are a little too bold for comfort, don't despair: This season's fashion menu features a wide array of trendy fare sure to have you salivating. For the more contemporary-at-heart, fall 2005's image of the modern male features a look as sharp and polished as German cutlery, and is as high on ultra-modern sophistication as it is on classic dash appeal. "Precision tailoring, sleek silhouettes and cutting-edge shoes and boots are the hallmark of the modern male,"

notes Cucciniello. Look for slim, narrow lines and sharp-edged silhouettes for a look that's cutting-edge.

### Go West Young Man

Summer's urban cowboy is making a repeat performance—it seems there's still some giddy-up left. This time around, pair down Western-inspired pieces like distressed, embellished jeans and oversized emblem belt buckles with clean-lined staples like crisp button-downs and cardigans for a look that's part traditional Americana and part urban nouvelle. You can even add the must-have reptilian-skinned footwear (think crocodile, snake and lizard), ever-hot newsboy caps and stylish wire-framed aviator sunglasses for a latter-day take on how the West should be worn.

### The Distinguished Gentleman

The one, and only, constant this fall is luxury. "Menswear goes uptown with a return to elegant dressing," says Cucciniello. "This season and next, the luxe gentleman will stand up for custom-made suits done in rich classic and modern fabrics. His attention to detail will show in his clothing," she continues. Sophisticated lines and rich color palettes of camels, browns and grays, as well as custom-fit suits in classic tweeds, traditional haberdashery finishing and hand detailing epitomize the refined elegance. Footwear features traditional butter-soft leathers and supple suede, while accessories offer an unexpected twist. Cashmere scarves in bold colors, exotic leather belts and elegant cufflinks beset with semi-precious stones add pop to this classically polished look. — *Katherine Hendrick*

