10 GOT-TO-HAVE HAIRCUTS OF THE STARS

The Clothes, the Makeup, the Place

Celebrity + Lifestyle + E

Demi Moore

Teri Hatcher Noah Wyle Kevin Bacon Minnie Driver Laura Dern Antonio Sabato Jr. *Show Us...*

What's



25 Fashion Rules You <u>Must</u> Know

8

NOVA

Best-Ever Shoes

At Home with:

Elton John in London

> Dolce & Gabbana in Milan



The Passions

WISE 21

The caviar of clothes, nothing is as effortlessly glamorous as cashmere It's fitting that the word *cashmere* starts with cash. After all, centuries ago, it was only the royalty of Europe and India who could afford to wear cashmere shawls. The name itself conjures up images of luxury, and there's nothing that compares to the feel of cashmere on the body: soft, sensuous, seriously sexy.

But what, exactly, makes it so pricey? First off, it is made only with the silky underfleece of goats that live at high altitudes (the pure-white Kel goat, found only in Mongolia, China, Kashmir and Tibet, is thought to produce the finest down). Goats produce about five ounces of fleece a year, and it takes 20 goats to make one sweater. Then the down has to be transported to a factory where it can be separated from the rough

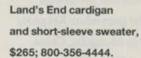
Luscious color is the hot trend in cashmere: Mint cashmereand-silk throw by Mala Testa, \$590; 212-343-9399. Lemongrass crew by Rebecca Moses, \$528; at Bergdorf Goodman. Ralph Lauren fuchsia scarf, \$275; at select Polo Ralph Lauren stores.

soft touch

quality cashmere its scratchy feel), purified and spun into yarn. Sure, it's labor-intensive work. But the result—a fabric that has retained its allure through the ages—is worth it. What better testament than the words that follow everytime someone touches it? "Ooh! *Cashmere.*" —Nancy Angiello

low to high

The best in classic cashmere twinsets: from beautifully basic to luxurious couture



J. Crew Collection cardigan and shell, \$480; at select J. Crew stores.

Ballantyne cardigan and short-sleeve sweater, \$690; 212-988-5252. Heidi Weisel cardigan and shell, \$1,200; to order at Neiman Marcus. Chanel cardigan and short-sleeve sweater, \$1,750; 800-550-0005.

label fables

One of the most confusing things about buying cashmere is the label. Here's what it means—or doesn't.

> "Made in Scotland" or "Made in Italy" means that it was sewn and finished there. But virtually all raw cashmere is from the high altitudes of Asia.
> Labels can lie: 100 percent cashmere is often anything but. The best test for quality is touch—if the piece feels coarse (no matter what the label reads), the raw cashmere was not cleaned correctly, or anything from sheep's wool to camel hair may have been woven in.
> Another quick quality test is to shake the garment: If it sheds, or short fibers fall out, it's a reject.

Ralph Lauren Collection turtleneck, \$495.

care and handling

What's the best way to clean cashmere? Some experts say handwashing done wrong can ruin a piece, and recommend using a dry-cleaner who knows how to handle luxury fabrics. Other pros swear by hand-washing, since dry-cleaning chemicals can strip cashmere of natural oils, leaving it rougher and drier. If you do hand wash, do it right: Soak garment in cold water with nondetergent soap (like Forever New, available at Neiman Marcus) for no more than 10 minutes, rinse well in cold water, then roll in a white terry towel to get rid of excess water. Reshape garment; dry flat on a towel out of direct heat and sunlight. Store in a cloth bag (to allow breathing), in a cedar chest or with cedar balls.

Turtlenecks (top and bottom) by Michael Kors, \$695. Pale-green V-neck sweater by J. Crew Collection, \$275.

THE IN STYLE SHOPPER

trendwatch

Cashmere hasn't been left out of fall's stretchy, body-hugging trend; when it's combined with Lycra or nylon, cashmere becomes ultraglamorous. A practical plus: The mix makes cashmere fit tight under jackets and keeps it from getting baggy and losing its shape. Add bodyconscious fit to barely there shape and the result is pure sizzle-as seen in this cashmere-Lycra halter by Randolph Duke for Halston Signature (\$520; at Neiman Marcus stores). For cashmere that's alluring even without stretch, look for it in tight, revealing styles meant to be worn against the skin, like Heidi Weisel's cap sleeve gowns with deep side slits, Ralph Lauren Collection's plunging V-neck or offthe-shoulder sweaters, and tight halter dresses by Rebecca Moses.

myths: the ply lie

"The more plies, the better" is the single biggest cashmere lie out there. Most people think that thicker is better, and the more plies a garment has, the more it's worth. The truth: Ply is simply the number of single strands spun together to make the yarn; it isn't a designation of quality. Having tons of plies means nothing if the original raw material and yarn that's used is poor; a garment may feel thick, but it's not necessarily better quality. The best stuff, whether it is single-ply or six-ply, will have the best feel. So, touch it: All cashmere should be light, breathable and utterly soft.



selection of classic crews for only \$185, which makes it the place to spring for that must-have fun color.

Tried-and-true Scottish cashmere since the late 1800s. They're masters of the cashmere argyle (the classic diamond pattern) and triumphantly traditional twinsets, crews and V-necks.

Ballantyne

Red scarf with ribbed edge, \$475; at Cashmere Cashmere, N.Y.C.;

212-988-5252.

\$150; at select

J. Crew stores.

COST