

10 GOT-TO-HAVE HAIRCUTS OF THE STARS

# InStyle

Celebrity + Lifestyle + Beauty



Cameron Diaz's sultry look

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# What's Sexy Now!

*The Clothes, the Makeup, the Places, the Passions*



SEPTEMBER 1997



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wise**b**uys

*The caviar  
of clothes,  
nothing is as  
effortlessly  
glamorous  
as cashmere*

soft **touch**

Luscious color is the hot trend in cashmere: Mint cashmere-and-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.

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 under-fleece 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

outer hairs (which give poor-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 every-time someone touches it? "Ooh! *Cashmere.*" —Nancy Angiello



## low to high

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



**Land's End cardigan and short-sleeve sweater,** \$265; 800-356-4444.

**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 hand-washing 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 nondegreasing 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.





## 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 body-conscious 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 off-the-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.

## soft sell: scarves

COMPANY

DETAIL

COST

Malo



Born in Italy 26 years ago, Malo is known for vibrant colors showcased in bold stripes, patterns and weaves. For the true sybarite: a cashmere travel pillow and blanket in their own case.

Variegated blue scarf, \$395; at select Malo boutiques, or call 212-753-7915.

TSE



The hipsters of cashmere. Trend-setters love the edgy, earthy colors—burnt sienna, mustard, deep plum—in the newest shapely styles: wide, straight-leg trousers, natty pea coats.

Hand-knit wide-ribbed muffler in fir green, \$335; at TSE boutiques, or call 800-522-2276.

Loro Piana



Since 1802, this Italian family business has done everything from processing raw cashmere to weaving the fabric—which the fashion houses of Armani and Jil Sander buy for their lines.

Fringed gold scarf, \$290; at Loro Piana boutique, N.Y.C., 212-980-7961.

Ralph Lauren



The king of classics has his luxurious staples—hand-knit socks in 22 colors, chalk-stripe blankets—but he's also gone sexy: new this season, a glittery gray cashmere evening dress.

Purple scarf, \$275; available at select Polo Ralph Lauren stores nationwide.

J. Crew



Besides their pricier Collection label, J. Crew has a catalogue line with a selection of classic crews for only \$185, which makes it *the* place to spring for that must-have fun color.

Ribbed charcoal muffler with long fringe, \$150; at select J. Crew stores.

Ballantyne



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.

Red scarf with ribbed edge, \$475; at Cashmere Cashmere, N.Y.C.; 212-988-5252.