

THE NEW *FRIENDS* LOOK: HOW & WHERE TO GET IT

InStyle

Celebrity + Lifestyle + Beauty



Aniston: Best Friend?

My Hollywood Childhood:

Melanie Griffith
Jamie Lee Curtis
Gwyneth Paltrow
Tori Spelling

30 Pages
of Celebrity
Homes

Inside 4
Super Hot
Parties

At Home With
**Pierce
Brosnan**

Baby Love

His life in Malibu with Keely Shaye Smith and son Dylan

may 1997



\$2.95 U.S.

wisebuys

Cool luggage—chic shapes and high-tech fabrics inspire wanderlust

Investment luggage that better last a lifetime ...

1. El Portal's Orly hatbox, \$595 (800-723-7568).
2. Louis Vuitton Damier, \$1,000 (880-285-2255).
3. Spazzolato case, at Calvin Klein, NYC, \$995 (212-292-9000).
4. T. Anthony Ltd. 28-inch rawhide case, \$1,800 (800-722-2406).
5. Etro 24-inch paisley case, \$2,900 (212-317-9096).
6. T. Anthony large canvas wardrobe trunk, \$3,750.
7. Louis Vuitton 24-inch Alzer case, \$5,250.
8. Gucci gabardine case, \$1,150 (212-826-2600).
9. Prada duffel, \$530 (212-327-4200).



For most of us, luggage—surely one of the most descriptive words in the English language—has always been a clunky, boring reality. Until now. Big names in fashion are stamping their logos on beautiful, have-to-have-it baggage.

Prada, Gucci and Fendi have a history in luggage, but now there's Chanel, Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein (whose sexy train cases are on the arms of Winona Ryder and Gwyneth Paltrow). We're seeing

explosions of color—bright red, blue, yellow on luxe lines like Louis Vuitton, and kooky orange, purple, acid green on lower-priced molded plastic (Delsey, 800-558-3344).

More news: To make travel less of a backache, wheels are on most everything, including duffels, garment bags, trunks, and a wheeled case with a zip-off backpack (Magellan's, 800-962-4943). There are bags you push or pull, bags with shelves, fold-out garment bags, and snap-out hanging dressers—all to take the lug out of luggage. —Nancy Angiello ▸

now
voyager



To push or to pull:
Samsonite's four-wheel Large EZ Cart, multiposition pull handle, \$198; 800-262-8282



Kenneth Cole's nylon Wheelerdealer, with garment bag, \$335; 800-536-2653



Hartmann's Intensity Ballistic 21-inch traveler, sealed ball-bearing wheels, \$495; 800-331-0613



Wings by Hartmann, 21-inch deluxe Mobile Traveler, \$595, at E. Vincent Luggage in New York; 212-752-8251



Ghurka's 51 Traveler, in "vintage '38" leather with ball-bearing rubber wheels, \$995; at Ghurka stores, or call 800-243-4368

low to high

wheeled uprights: your best bet against backaches

stop, thief

You wouldn't believe the scams that go on as you blithely catch a flight. Kevin Coffey, an L.A. police sergeant, and in his off-duty hours president of Corporate Travel Safety, in Canoga Park, California, goes undercover to make smarter travelers of us all. He warns:

Lock it up: While locks are a deterrent to the thief in a rush, don't assume you're 100 percent safe. The bad news is that the key for your bag fits all the others in that maker's line. Yep, most low- to midpriced manufacturers make just one lock and key. Baggage handlers have been arrested with scores of keys in their pockets. Built-in combination locks are harder to crack. But no matter the type of lock, if a thief wants to steal your bag or its contents, he can. One handler was

arrested with 250 bags at his house!

Scam artists: Thieves dress like families on holiday, like business travelers—one even dressed as a pilot. They hang out at ticket lines, restaurants, restrooms, by rental carts, curbside check-ins—in short, anywhere that you are. A common scenario: Your bag disappears after it has been x-rayed. Don't put your bag on the conveyor belt until you're about to cross the x-ray threshold (and even then, don't take your eye off it).

Luggage that shouts money: We hate to say it, but high-profile luggage is a beacon for thieves. If it looks like bucks on the outside, there's probably something valuable inside. Carry your luxe piece onboard or save it for car travel or that private jet.

before you buy

In a wheeled upright, look for:

- Wheels that are large and recessed or housed (to protect from bumps). The best: like those in rubber in-line skates.
- Adjustable pull handles (especially if you're tall). Inside retractable pull handles usually last longer than those mounted outside, but they take up packing space, so it's your call.
- Carrying handles on the sides and top of bag so you can lift into the overhead compartment.
- A rigid-frame case that maneuvers with ease. Try it to be sure it doesn't tip over on carpets or careen on corners. ▷

the biggest luggage lie

Lifetime guarantee. "It's not your lifetime, but the life of the bag," says Marion Jones, of the American Luggage Dealers Association, in Santa Barbara. The guarantee is against a defect in the original product, not wear and tear or airline damage. What to do about ruined bags? Airline tickets state that nicks, scratches, dirt and dents are unavoidable. Translation: tough luck. But if the damage is severe—as in a rip—don't leave the airport without making a claim, and file a report within 24 hours. Don't throw away the receipt for your luggage: If your bag is beyond repair, the airline should fork over the cost of the bag (or replace it).

the look for less



So you're tempted to buy that imitation monogram bag sold on the street. Chances are it will fall apart fast. But if you love the sleek look of Zero Halliburton's Elite Collection aluminum case (left) and can't spend \$683, T.Z. Case (below) offers a similar

look for \$200 (888-227-3393). Another option: vintage. Comb flea markets for one-of-a-kind finds, such as the fifties hot-pink cases at New York's Bettinger's (212-475-1690). For new luggage at a discount: Bettinger's and A to Z Luggage (800-342-5011 or 718-435-6330) take up to 40 percent off Samsonite, Travelpro and other brands. Call with style number.

Zero's 3-suitier (top), \$683
(800-728-2523), and
T.Z. Case's cart, \$200



baggage check

TYPE	DETAIL	COST
 <i>Louis Vuitton</i>	The status initials for the rich and wannabes since 1896. LV waterproof canvas custom bags are legendary, i.e., a \$22,000 trunk for shoes. fans: Sharon Stone, Mariah Carey	LV's duffels start at \$495 (left); their Alzer line of hard suitcases start at \$2,500
 <i>Ghurka</i>	For jet-setters who don't have to flaunt it: earthy leather—tanned in an exotic brew of organic tea—from a 25-year-old Connecticut firm. fan: Tom Hanks	Khaki twill 18-inch duffel (left), \$385; 22-inch leather duffel, in black or chestnut, \$895
 <i>Zero Halliburton</i>	The rock crowd favors the high-tech, megastrong seamless aluminum cases made from the same metal as airplanes—in silver, gold or blue. fans: Ray Charles, Lou Reed, Prince	Left: 9-inch purse, \$322; 21-inch silver carry-on, \$540; 32-inch gold suiter, \$1,125
 <i>Hartmann</i>	Hand-stitched suitcases from America's oldest luggage company attract the upscale traveler (<i>Murder She Wrote's</i> Jessica Fletcher!). fan: Arnold Schwarzenegger	Wings attachable tote (left), \$295; 48-inch wheeled tweed garment bag, \$695
 <i>Tumi</i>	A top performer, says <i>Consumer Reports</i> —Tumi's butter-soft leathers and ballistic nylons (the world's toughest) have in-line skate wheels. fans: Melanie Griffith, Whoopi Goldberg	Nylon wheeled carry-on, \$395; 22-inch wheeled leather carry-on suiter, \$795
 <i>Samsonite</i>	America's trusty, well-priced favorite owns one third of the world's luggage market and includes the labels American Tourister and Lark. fans: Hugh Grant and Elizabeth Hurley	Soft nylon wheeled uprights start at \$149; 28-inch jumbo hard-side upright, \$429