HE NEW FRIENDS LOOK: HOW & WHERE TO GET IT

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Aniston: Best Friend?

## My Hollywood Childhood:

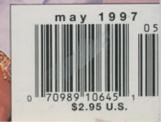
Melanie Griffith Jamie Lee Curtis Gwyneth Paltrow Tori Spelling

# At Home With Pierce Brosnan

**30 Pages** of Celebrity Homes

> Inside 4 Super Hot Parties

His life in Malibu with Keely Shaye Smith and son Dylan



#### THE IN STYLE SHOPPER

# wisebuys

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).

8.

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

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

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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

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

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

# 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.

Hartmann's Intensity

Ballistic 21-inch trav-

\$495; 800-331-0613

eler, sealed ball-

bearing wheels,

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 ballbearing rubber wheels, \$995; at Ghurka stores, or call 800-243-4368

### 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

Carrying natities 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).

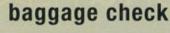
### the look for less



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



The status initials for the rich and

a \$22,000 trunk for shoes.

fans: Sharon Stone, Mariah Carey

wannabes since 1896. LV waterproof

canvas custom bags are legendary, i.e.,



DETAIL

COST

LV's duffels start



TYPE

Louis Vuitton



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

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

Hand-stitched suitcases from

She Wrote's Jessica Fletcher!).

fan: Arnold Schwarzenegger

America's oldest luggage company

attract the upscale traveler (Murder

Zero Halliburton



Hartmann





A top performer, says *Consumer Reports*—Tumi's butter-soft leathers and ballistic nylons (the world's toughest) have in-line skate wheels. fans: Melanie Griffith, Whoopi Goldberg

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 at \$495 (left); their Alzer line of hard suitcases start at \$2,500 Khaki twill 18-inch

duffel (left), \$385; 22-inch leather duffel, in black or chestnut, \$895

Left: 9-inch purse, \$322; 21-inch silver carry-on, \$540; 32-inch gold suiter, \$1,125

Wings attachable tote (left), \$295; 48-inch wheeled tweed garment bag, \$695

Nylon wheeled carry-on, \$395; 22-inch wheeled leather carry-on suiter, \$795

Soft nylon wheeled uprights start at \$149; 28inch jumbo hardside upright, \$429