



LUXE LUGGAGE

IN THE BAG

IN RECENT YEARS, the Prime Minister's wife has gradually transformed Smythson from London's foremost stationer into a luxury goods brand, principally through the introduction of a range of handbags. It appears that, before scaling back her involvement, she turned her attention to the needs of men. These handsome bags are the result. *From £850. 40 New Bond St London W1 (+44 20 7629 8558 www.smythson.com)*



TAILOR OF THE MONTH

EDWARD SEXTON

IF YOUR MAIN interest is how good you look, then Edward Sexton is the tailor for you. Sexton is a Savile Row legend. He trained at Kilgour, French and Stanbury, dressed Mick Jagger for his wedding to Bianca and taught Stella McCartney. What really matters, though, is that when his clients turn up at his Knightsbridge rooms they receive exceptionally close attention from an incredibly skilled cutter — Sexton himself. His suits are works of near art that give a man the body shape he can only dream of. If there's a downside to this, it is that, unless you have a body like Charles Atlas, Sexton's suits are heavily structured. A true perfectionist. *(+44 20 7838 0007 www.edwardsexton.co.uk)*



CARBON FOOTPRINT

GET THE BOOT

IF THE IDEA OF "green" footwear conjures horrific images of shoes hewn from recycled water bottles, think again. Zanacco, based in Lombardy, Italy, relies on old-fashioned craftsmanship, with an underlying eco-awareness, to create its shoes. The designs, such as the Duomo basketball boot, are top. *£275 at Wolf & Badger (+44 20 7229 5698)*



FASHION DICTATOR

SKIN AND FUR

When it comes to coats, our style siren Catherine Hayward knows how to look dapper not Del Boy

I'd like to invest in a seriously warm jacket for the winter. Can you advise?

If, once again, we're going to experience the kind of polar temperatures that had British Gas rubbing its hands with glee last year, then sheepskin and shearling are the cosiest and most hard-wearing skins to choose. It's also a big trend for the season.

Fortunately, styles have moved on since Del Boy graced our TV screens in his grubby number.

For the best modern shapes, look at the new autumn/winter collection from Burberry. Known for its luxurious coats and outerwear, its natural shearling jackets with brown leather straps on the sleeves or the long, funnel-necked aviator coats in military grey look sharp over dark tailoring or low-key knitwear. The downside, however, is the price. High-end skins like these are eye-wateringly expensive with the



shorter Biggles styles starting at £2,495. For an alternative investment, try the double-breasted military greatcoat for £995. With smaller amounts of shearling around the collar, it's still expensive but built to last. And if that kind of cash still hurts your budget, Topman Design have short military jackets, hooded parkas and longer length coats in khaki with high shearling-lined collars for many hundreds of pounds less. ☺