Go vertical

Mastered the Breton? Stripes are headed in a new direction...

THE RIGHT STRIPES

Take a quick glance around the high street and you’ll see stripes in one form or another pretty much everywhere. From classic Breton to nougat, monochrome, checks have taken over the fashion landscape. Yet in the world of style, there’s always something new to discover. And so it is with stripes, which, contrary to popular belief, are anything but boring. They’re endlessly cool, add interest to the most basic of outfits and, regardless of the weather, make me feel like I’m on the French Riviera. What’s not to love? From what I saw on the catwalks at the recent London Fashion Week Men’s, stripes continue their reign next season but — in a change of direction, quite literally — vertical stripes emerged victorious. At Patrick Grant’s E. Tautz, the focus was on relaxed tailoring in navy and white stripes, while at Spectrum 21 it was about mixing a Breton with eye-catching hand-painted two-piece suits in bold, vibrant colours. If you’re looking for stripes in new colourways, then Gucci’s navy and white double-breasted suit is a real winner. I broke out the stripes myself with my light navy and off-white vertical striped trousers and shirt. The shirt is a lightweight cotton fabric with a puckered surface so it’s ideal in warm weather and perfect for travelling, as it doesn’t crease easily. Worth bearing in mind if you’ve got a summer wedding abroad.

TOP TIP

As the mercury (hopefully) continues to climb, there’s no need to sacrifice your style in favour of comfort. Keep cool in a lightweight Breton with a flowy maxi dress in multi-coloured stripes for a breath of summer style.

STYLISH GETAWAY

One of Ireland’s secret hotels, The Twelve Hotel in Ballyvaughan, outside Galway, is famed for its quirky take on life, and it can now offer a complete package that ticks all the boxes for the ultimate pampering escape. A three-night mini-moon at The Twelve begins with a welcome glass of chilled Champagne and chocolate-dipped strawberries in your room upon arrival. From there, you can enjoy breakfast in a private dining room in Suite XLI each day. Suite XLI is quite the romantic bolthole, a large living room and bedroom combination with open fireplace, floor-to-ceiling windows and double shower (perfect for sharing). Enjoy dinner on one evening in the new Alla Rossella restaurant, and, on a second night, in the award-winning gastropub. It doesn’t end there — how about his & hers spa treatments? Sold. The mini-moon package is €1,700 for two people. See thetwelvehotel.ie

WISH LIST

Gucci Dionysus red buckle ankle boot, £680, Brown Thomas

Darren Kennedy