

# TRENDS FOR MEN



A patterned sportcoat can be dressed up or down, and a double-breasted camel peacoat satisfies three trends in one.

## FALL AND WINTER ARE JUST HEATING UP. BY WILLIAM KISSEL

The runways of Milan, New York and Paris showcase fashion at its most extravagant. Limited edition wool suits and belts made from the most exotic skins were paraded out to cause a stir—and it worked.

Thankfully there's more to menswear than one-off pieces singularly designed with connoisseurs in mind. This fall, men's clothing and accessory makers have created some of their most varied and versatile collections to meet the everyday needs of the stylish modern man. Sharp suits and sportcoats in a rich array of autumnal colors and tweedy textures, sporty jackets made of weatherproof materials, big bold knits in solids and multi-hued variations, and even a resurgence of cashmere, corduroy and camel hair are wearable and on-trend. So whether you're lounging around the house, dashing to the office, going for a weekend road trip, or prepar-

ing for that big formal affair, this fall's offerings have you covered.

**DUAL-PURPOSE** Perfect for the office in classic pinstripes or subtle windowpane patterns, these same jackets come alive at night when paired with casual slacks and jeans, coincidentally the way most real men now define weekend wear. If you want to try something new, check out this year's crop of double-breasted jackets, or DBs, as they're known. Nearly every designer from Armani to Zegna is banking on double-breasted suits playing a starring role in men's wardrobes, this fall and beyond. To that end, double-breasted jackets

**Technically speaking... This wool and down jacket offers Thermore insulation and taped seams for waterproof performance.**



**SWEET PEAS** The pea coat originated in the 18th century, when the durable jackets were used to clothe sailors and other military personnel who found the "pij" material (from the Dutch word *pijjekker* meaning twilled cloth) used to make them incredibly warm. Modern menswear makers could not have foreseen record cold temperatures across the globe when they developed their own versions of these hearty coats, but rest



employed the time-honored ribbed cloth in everything from jeans, jackets and sport shirts to outerwear, blazers, and even tailored clothing. Pinwale corduroy in a cotton/cashmere blend is Hugo Boss's top dog this season, while cashmere kingpin Brunello Cucinelli prefers brushed corduroy for his collection of quilted coats.

**OUT OF THE DESERT** Few items in a man's wardrobe have ever been more luxurious than a camel top coat. Now that familiar topper—a staple of 1930s and 1940s Hollywood royalty—has been reinterpreted in everything from car coats and high-waisted trousers to sportcoats and even full camel hair (or colored) suits. Designers as diverse as Hermès, Giorgio Armani, Tom Ford and Ermenegildo Zegna offered just a preview of the full camel stampede to come this winter.

**TECHNO? TECH YES!** Remember Zegna's imaginative I Jacket with its built-in touch control panel at the cuff, allowing one to interface with his iPod without touching it? Or how about Loro Piana's innovative Storm System technology, which renders even the most opulent fabrics like superfine wool and cashmere water repellent? Those brilliant ideas have come full circle and spawned a whole generation of high tech, high style garments. Whether it's a polyester and nylon jacket that actually breathes as the temperature rises, or a top coat designed with touch technology that lets you hide your electronics and control them remotely, this season, it's high style to wear something high tech.

## ➤➤ THIS SEASON, IT'S HIGH STYLE TO WEAR SOMETHING HIGH TECH.

come in many variations, from low four-button models with soft shoulders and very straight lapels to serious, military-inspired high six- and even eight-button, peak lapel jackets with strong shoulders and streamlined waists. Many of these shapes also carry over into outerwear and sportcoats.

assured that the double-breasted toppers are ready to work double duty when necessary.

**STRIKE A CORD** Corduroy comes in many sizes—from pinwale to extra wide wale—and this season top brands like Belvest, Kiton, Zegna, Loro Piana and Canali have