

IS BIGGER BETTER?

Size matters. From cars and houses, to flat-screen TVs and food, buying big has always been on trend. But what about wine? Sometimes the standard 750 ml bottle isn't enough. That's why wineries produce magnums. Roughly the size of two standard bottles, magnums of wine are ideal for large gatherings. David Flom, managing partner at Chicago Cut Steakhouse, explains why, when it comes to wine, bigger is always better.

"The concept behind the magnum of wine," he says, "is that wine ages better in a larger format." When in magnums, wine can be held longer, thus enhancing the taste when the wine reaches the peak of its flavor profile. Of course, not all magnums are created equal. There's the Carlo Rossi of your youth (admit it, you loved it!) and then there are labels like Silver Oak, Cakebread Cellars and Opus One.

You can find out about these wines and many more at Chicago Cut Steakhouse; their iPad wine list lets you browse by bottle size (there are dozens of magnums on the menu) as well as by region, type, vintage, name and price. "As magnums become more expensive, it's the responsibility of the restaurant to disclose all information about their wine collection," says Flom.

CHICAGO CUT STEAKHOUSE, 300 N. LASALLE ST., CHICAGO, 312.329.1800; CHICAGOCUTSTEAKHOUSE.COM



THE Syd Jerome GUIDE

A FEW GOOD MEN

Love your wardrobe but want something a little different? If the answer is yes, you need to join the Circle of Gentlemen. That's what Janjaap van Gent and Michel van Kommer did. Tired of traditional menswear, van Gent and van Kommer created their signature three-button high-collar shirts, a modern twist on the classic Mandarin collar.

It wasn't until the compliments rolled in that the Netherlands natives knew they were onto something. So in 2005, the fledgling designers launched.

Dedicated to quality European craftsmanship, the brand expanded to include jackets, coats, pants and accessories—with distinctive details like contrast reverse cuffs and pull-out pocket squares.

Their latest collection is the best yet, but it's not for the faint-hearted. Featuring a rich palette of cobalt, terracotta and army green—in everything from sportcoats to pants—this is fashion that makes a bold statement. Visit Syd Jerome this season and pledge your loyalty to the Circle of Gentlemen.



KATJA IS BACK...

And she cares what you're wearing.

Katja is Syd Jerome's editorial intern extraordinaire. Aside from being a computer whiz, Katja has a keen eye for fashion and knows exactly what she wants when it comes to a well-dressed man. Want to catch her eye? Read on to find out her tips for making women swoon.

Q: What's the first thing you notice when a man walks into the room?

A: His shoes, of course! Nothing excites me more than double monk straps. When I see those two buckles... I know I'm in for an adventure. When I see lace-ups, on the other hand, I know it will be a more traditional type of experience.

But it's not all about shoes. I love men who wear watches—the bigger the better. I know I'm in good hands.



THE Syd Jerome GUIDE



LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT CARING FOR FINE GARMENTS.

How often should I dry-clean my wool coat?

Typically, twice a year—at the beginning of winter and again at the end of the season (before storing it in a garment bag to protect it from insects that feed on wool). In between trips to the cleaners, you can keep your wool coat looking fresh—and keep dirt and dust at bay—by taking a clothes brush to it. Brush in one direction, starting at the top and working down, whenever it starts to look a little dull.

What's the best way to care for corduroy?

A blazer should go straight to the dry cleaner, but you can try washing corduroy pants at home. Turn the pants inside out to protect the textured side, and wash them (cold water, gentle cycle) separately from the rest of your laundry because corduroy attracts lint. Hang the pants to dry, or tumble dry on a low setting for 10 minutes, then shake the wrinkles out and hang them to dry the rest of the way. No ironing necessary!

How can I clean my suede boots?

When it comes to cleaning suede footwear, the old adage “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” definitely applies. Treating suede boots with a protective spray when you first get them will help to repel water and prevent stains. If it's too late for that, you can take the boots to a dry cleaner (call first to see if they work with suede) or pick up a suede care kit and clean them at home. Simply brush the boots, in one direction, with a suede brush and watch the dirt disappear and the nap come back to life. If the boots aren't too dirty, this may be all you need. For stubborn stains and deeply embedded dirt, use a suede eraser (often available in a kit with the brush), which will crumble as you rub it across the surface of the boot. When you're done, give the boots a final brush and treat them with a protective spray so that you'll have less cleaning to do next time.

THE A-TO-Z LIST

Syd Jerome features more than 50 designer brands under one roof. See if you don't find your favorites in the list below. Then stop by the store for a shopping experience you'll love.

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|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Agave Denim | Hickey Freeman | Paul & Shark |
| Allegrì | Hugo Boss | Psycho Bunny |
| Armani Collezioni | Incotex | Puma |
| Belvest | Individualized Shirts | Raffi |
| Bernard Zins | Ingram | Robert Graham |
| Bobby Jones | International Laundry | Robert Talbott |
| Boconi | Isaia | Salvatore Ferragamo |
| Borgo 28 | Italo Ferretti | Samuelsohn |
| Borsalino | J. Paul | Sand |
| Brioni | John Varvatos | Santandrea |
| Canada Goose | Kaenon | Sanyo |
| Canali | Luciano Barbera | Schneiders Salzburg |
| Circle of Gentlemen | M. Cohen | Stefano Capaldi |
| Cornelliani | MAC Jeans | Tateossian |
| Davek Umbrellas | Mason's | Think Pens |
| Dibello | Maui Jim | Torino |
| Donald J. Pliner | Mezlan | Trafalgar |
| Duncan Walton | Moncler | Trussini |
| Eidos Napoli | Officina del Tempo | Velvet Man |
| Ermengildo Zegna | Original Penguin | VK Nagrani |
| Eton | Oxford Clothes | Wigens |
| Etro | | Zanella |
| Façonnable | | |
| Flag | | |
| Fullum & Holt | | |
| Georg Roth | | |
| Gimo's | | |
| Gran Sasso | | |
| Gruppo Artigiani | | |

CANALI

SALVATORE FERRAGAMO



GET IN THE LOOP

Fashion is about more than clothes; it's about looking and feeling your best. That's why we can't get enough of Equinox The Loop. Located in the heart of Chicago's financial district, this fitness club offers a variety of programs—strength and cardio training, group fitness classes, personal training sessions—to whip you into shape.

Two of The Loop's newest classes are Animal Flow and the RX Series. The non-traditional Animal Flow blends dynamic bodyweight movements with modern athletic training to build strength, endurance, flexibility and mobility. After the tough hour-long class you may need the RX Series, which uses the three “Ms”—massage, mobilization and maximizing performance—to revitalize the body. You'll practice self-myofascial massage, range-of-motion stretches and breathing strategies to enhance your overall well-being.

Then head to the spa for some well-deserved R&R.

EQUINOX THE LOOP, 200 W. MONROE ST., CHICAGO, 312.252.3100; EQUINOX.COM/CLUBS/LOOP

THE Syd Jerome GUIDE

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

You've planned the menu for your holiday party. Now what about the drinks? By the time you sort out the appetizers, entrees, side dishes and desserts, you may be tempted to just pick up a few bottles of wine and call it a day. But Charles Schneider, the certified sommelier at Benny's Chop House, is happy to help make the occasion even more festive for your guests.

"Because you're serving a large variety of food," says Schneider, "you don't need to focus on the flavor profile of a wine. Choose something that will complement the items on your menu." Take Gewürztraminer, for example. The white wine has a hint of sweetness that will heighten the naturally dry taste of turkey on Thanksgiving. Other wines perfect for America's premier holiday? Zinfandel and Riesling.

Moving on to Christmas and New Year's—"I always view them as big celebrations," says Schneider. "And big celebrations call for special wines." His favorites? Barolo, Bordeaux blends, Pinot Noir and, of course, champagne. You can never go wrong with a glass of bubbly! Gruet, a brand from New Mexico, is less expensive than many of its peers, according to Schneider, and perfect for any special occasion.

Want more wine tips? Stop by Benny's Chophouse and ask Schneider yourself. While you're there, sample some of their great cocktails. You won't be disappointed.

BENNY'S CHOP HOUSE 444 N. WABASH AVE., CHICAGO,
312.626.2444; BENNYSCHOPHOUSE.COM



SYD AND STANLEY

The Blackhawks have done it again! After a riveting win against the Boston Bruins, the Stanley Cup is back home at Syd Jerome. The Cup was first displayed in our store back in 2010 when the Blackhawks defeated the Philadelphia Flyers. Syd Jerome dresses many of the Blackhawks players and staff, so it was no surprise when the Stanley Cup showed up in our store as part of the ongoing victory celebration.

TIME, ITALIAN STYLE

When brothers and long-time watch aficionados Giorgio and Roberto Emili decided to launch their own watch brand, they didn't know much about the world of horology. They just knew they wanted to introduce a timepiece that would be uniquely designed, highly reliable and affordable. No small feat. But they began experimenting with their first model in the medieval city of Senigallia, Italy, and in 2000 the Officina del Tempo brand was born. Flamboyant and unconventional in design, it quickly gained world-wide notoriety for the fledgling watchhouse. Officina del Tempo now offers a variety of models, many of which are available at Syd Jerome. So the next time you're in the store trying on suits or sportcoats, take a short detour and try on a watch or two. Isn't it time your wrist got a little attention?



STEEPED COCKTAILS

Examine the cocktail menu the next time you're out for a night on the town and you just might find tea listed as one of the ingredients. Tea, you ask? Coffee's second cousin once removed? Yes, tea. It pairs fantastically with alcohol, and with the staggering number of black, green, white, oolong and herbal varieties to choose from, mixologists can really get their creative juices flowing.

Want to concoct a bar-worthy blend at home? Try this fruity recipe from Bangkok-based Joseph Boroski, an international "mixologist" who has helped five-star hotels and high-end restaurants around the world boost their cocktail competence.

ROCK CITY TEA

- 4 slices unripe mango
- 1 tsp. granulated white sugar
- 1½ oz. oolong-infused gin (see instructions below)
- 1½ oz. freshly squeezed lemon
- 1 oz. honey
- Cubed ice

Chill a glass with ice. Mash up the mango and sugar in a cocktail shaker. Add the tea-infused gin, lemon juice and honey; stir well to dissolve the honey. Seal the shaker, and shake well for 10 seconds with lots of cubed ice. Remove ice and melted water completely from the glass, and double-strain cocktail into the glass. Present with a slice of unripe mango.

OOLONG-INFUSED GIN

- 3 Tbsp. high-quality oolong tea leaves
- 1 bottle mildly to moderately botanically intense gin such as Bulldog, Beefeater or Tanqueray

Add the tea leaves to the gin. Shake and allow to rest at room temperature for six hours, shaking once or twice to help spread out the infusion. Double-strain the gin to remove all visible pieces of tea.

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Attorney by day. Drummer by night. This is the life of James Murray, managing partner at McAndrews & Norgle, who landed his first paid professional gig at the age of eight. The singing drummer has since parlayed his talent into a successful part-time career including film soundtracks, albums and his most recent project, the blues band Skip Towne & the Greyhounds. Somehow, Murray managed to squeeze in some time to compile a Top 10 List for Syd Jerome! That's right, Murray gives us his take on the 10 Greatest Non-Metal Rock Drummers of all time.

1. **John Bonham (Led Zeppelin).** "He was not someone who tried to steal the show," says Murray. "He was a very strong groove player with a fast right foot."
2. **Neil Peart (Rush).** "Peart worked hard to make the drums a lead instrument in Rush. He was an intense syncopated player who did ingenious work."
3. **Keith Moon (The Who).** "Keith Moon has a wild technique. He once drove a car into a swimming pool. It was that kind of intensity that he brought to the band."
4. **David Grohl (Nirvana, Foo Fighters).** "When you make one of these lists," says Murray, "you want to include people who have staying power, and Grohl has really proved himself. He is a very talented and heartfelt multi-instrumentalist."
5. **Ginger Baker (Cream).** "Baker was one of the first to use the double bass drum in rock. He also brought the rock drum solo to the foreground."
6. **Stewart Copeland (The Police, Oysterhead).** "Copeland brought a certain excitement and momentum to Sting's melodies. He became an integral part of what that band was about."
7. **Ringo Starr (The Beatles).** "Ringo wasn't a flashy drummer, but he was a very integral part of The Beatles. He helped shaped the band's unique sound and acted as a moderator between the members."
8. **Phil Collins (Genesis).** "Collins is a singing drummer with multiple styles. You see that in both his group and solo work."
9. **Ian Paice (Deep Purple, White Snake).** "Paice isn't somebody who always has his name in the spotlight, but he's a true rock drummer with a jazz background."
10. **Josh Freese (A Perfect Circle, Devo, Nine Inch Nails).** "Freese is a hard rock drummer on the border of metal and punk. He's been a replacement drummer and has worked with many top musicians."

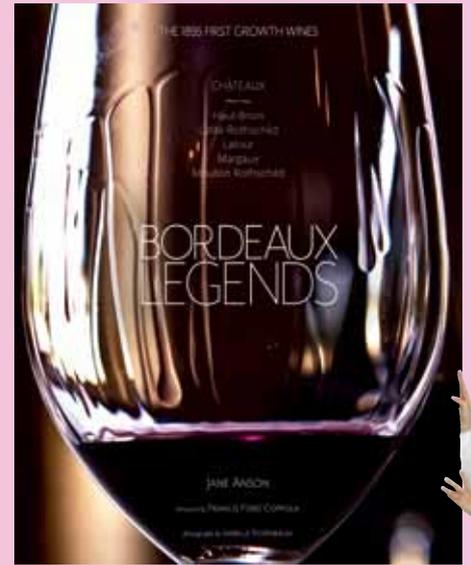
Don't agree with Murray's picks? Stop by one of his shows and share your thoughts. Check out skiptowne.com for a list of dates.

THE FABULOUS FIVE

Château Haut-Brion, Château Lafite Rothschild, Château Latour, Château Margaux and Château Mouton Rothschild. Five wines, one unforgettable story. In *Bordeaux Legends* (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, \$55), wine writer and educator Jane Anson spins a spectacular tale full of "beheadings, marriages, unscrupulous sons-in-law, family feuds...and financial power." This tumultuous history sets the stage for the 1855 Paris Exhibition where four of the wines were crowned as First Growths—a title reserved for the world's best wines. Château Mouton Rothschild joined the group a century later.

Using this pivotal event as a starting point, Anson chronicles the progress of the world-renowned estates through the 21st century. More than just a history book, however, *Bordeaux Legends* also details the exhaustive process of making these fine wines—everything from choosing the right soil, to bottling techniques, tastings and pricing.

Featuring lavish photography by Isabelle Rozenbaum and a foreword by Academy Award-winning director (and winery owner) Francis Ford Coppola, *Bordeaux Legends* is almost as satisfying as the wines themselves.



WHAT'S IN A NUMBER?

If you thought thread count was reserved for Egyptian cotton sheets, think again. The thread count, which usually refers to the number of threads in one square inch of fabric, applies to shirts too. Generally, the higher the thread count, the softer the garment. Fine dress shirts often have thread counts in the 110 to 150 range.

The thread count is sometimes alternatively defined as the number of "hanks" in a pound of cotton yarn, where a hank is 840 yards long. There again, a high number suggests a thinner thread—thus a classier, comfier fabric.

But don't make thread counts your be-all and end-all. Some makers have been known to distort the manufacturing process just to hike the count. Also, you want durability as well as luxurious softness; that's a balance to be struck.

In the end, it's up to you—with advice from your Syd Jerome sales associate, who can help you interpret this key number. Purchase a garment that makes you feel great. And don't try to count the threads by hand. We'll do that for you.

