

Melt-in-your-mouth leathers products of a meticulous tannery

By RUSTLE SHAND

Country clothes have invaded the international set. Unstructured in soft suedes, buttery leathers, and canvas fabrics, they are the hallmark of the Trussardi collection of ready-to-wear for spring.

Recently, when Nicola Trussardi visited Claire Pearone's Somerset Mall shop from Bergamo, Italy, he not only brought his new spring line of clothing and accessories but his beautiful wife, Maria Louisa and Costanza de' Medici, a member of his design staff and student of the arts who also acts as his model.

Imagine a loosely knitted oatmeal wool, suede trimmed sweater set teamed with glove soft suede jeans worn by a beautiful 20-year-old member of the legendary Medici family and you're beginning to get the picture.

A descendant of the Italian Medici of Florence, Costanza both perpetuates and exemplifies the family's heritage as patron of the arts.

"But," explained Costanza, "the Italian nobility is no more. Everybody works."

"You might find it strange that I have chosen to work. But there are no more castles. We live a rather simple life," said the young woman whose ancestors are credited with the incredible flowering of intellectual and artistic life in the golden city of Florence, the soul of the Renaissance.

"Family artifacts no longer include a castle or two," she explained, "but do include some fine paintings, jewels and other valuables. But, they are no longer important."

Interviewing Claire Pearone's multilingual guests was quite a challenge for a language-limited reporter. Although all three spoke near-perfect English, they clarified questions between themselves in Italian and



French; then responded in English.

One example of the language confusion occurred when I wanted to know how the handsome, young Trussardi parents and their two children, Beatrice, 6, and Franchesco, 4, spend their time together.



When he became president of family firm in 1970 Nicola Trussardi expanded firm into a full-line tanning house whose products are now available at Claire Pearone in Somerset.

Later the conversation revealed they enjoy sports at the foot of their Alpine mountain home outside of Bergamo and travel to the seaside for summer months. But, Maria Louisa's first response was "we work."

The "everybody works" ethic is most apparent in the Trussardi accessories where he often combines the practical indestructibility of sturdy vinyl with leather. The look is for, as he said, "the woman of today who works and travels."

Good taste, elegance, fashion and ruggedness are all synonymous with the Trussardi greyhound trademark. Young, durable, affluent clothes and accessories to live in and travel in are an Italian symbol of the new chic of "everybody works."

One of the important aspects of the Trussardi designs is that fashion overkill would be virtually impossible with these understated, natural looking clothes.

But, the women who elect to wear them must bear in mind that the look calls for total naturalness. For example, scarlet fingernails should give way to the natural look of clear nail polish; makeup should soften into the clear peach tones and the hair must be natural looking and soft.

These are not clothes to which you add a bright silk scarf or flower or a shawl. They make their own earthy statement through knit textures that play against the suppleness of feather-light suedes and butter-soft sheep skin leathers which add as a background for the individual's own vitality.

Unlike "costume party" fashion trends, the Trussardi look emphasizes the emerging importance of understated affluence, combined with a new interpretation of casual chic.

It is said that "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." I don't know

how flattered Trussardi is, but the manufacturers who imitate the Trussardi handbags and leather accessories keep him busy creating and presenting a complete new line each season consisting, he said, of 1200 different pieces.

In addition to the Trussardi clothes and accessories, there are marvellous short leather boots and sandals for spring. Heel heights are either flat or four inches.

Trussardi described his approach to fashion as "classical and causal" for the women who prefer the young approach to the casual sportive look. The house of Trussardi opened its door in 1910 as a manufacturer of gloves.



Combination of rainproof vinyl and elephant skin trousers, plus matching satchels and bags is choice of women who understand importance of understated affluence.



Top Trussardi model Constanza de' Medici prefers work as a designer and model to stereotype of patron of the arts. With no more castles, she claims nobility prefers life style which is compatible with kid leather, braided suede, khaki and brilliant silk scarves.



Natural fabrics which are favorites with the international set include linen and cotton mixtures, calfskin, and silks in natural "muc color." Copy-cat manufacturers keep Trussardi busy designing as many as 1,200 new pieces each season.

Mary
McFadden
at Hattie,
Inc.

Hattie, Inc. at 555 S. Woodward, Birmingham will present informal modeling on Jan. 12 through 14 of the Mary McFadden Byzantine Collection for Spring '78. Other designers who keep sublime company at Hattie, Inc. are Kenzo, Missoni, Jean Muir, Saint Laurent, and Stephen Burrows. For further information call 645-5755

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You are invited to an informal showing of
Oscar de la Renta's Spring Collection
Wednesday, January 11
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
There's a "Country Gentlewoman" theme
with English chintzes for day...
strong colors for evening... simple
classics in pure cotton for sport. 4-16 sizes.

Jacobson's

BIRMINGHAM

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Come. Experience Adrien Arpel's Sea Spa... a 45-minute, deep-cleansing facial in five fascinating steps, actually derived from the ocean itself. It all starts with a Deep Sea-Kelp Cleansing, then continues through the Sea Salt Slough-Off, Sea Spray Vapor Treatment, "Heatless Heat" Skin Penetration, and ends with a marvelous Sea Mud Pack Therapy. The result? Skin as fresh and lovely as a waterbaby's. And all next week, from Tuesday, January 17th through January 21st, Adrien Arpel Skin Specialist Loni Rossi will be here to personally introduce you to the Sea Spa. The treatment, plus a complimentary makeup and a bonus of 1/2 oz. Prescription Moisturizer for dry skins. Blotting Lotion for oily skins, or Blemish Control for acne. 17.50. Call 643-8514 for your appointment. The Beauty Salon.

Loni Rossi

True Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coudage, open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays until 9 PM.

Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

Brush-offs

Your dentist is going to love it and so will you. It's a toothbrush to carry in your purse, and it costs \$5 and looks just like a lipstick. The white base is decorated with beige flowers, brown stems and green leaves. Remove the top, roll it up just like a lipstick and voila, the enclosed white toothbrush is ready to use. It's a super item to travel with too, just in case you arrive at your destination before the luggage. Goldfinger Ltd., in The Claymore Apts., 29260 Franklin, Southfield, 338-1980.

Weight watching

Any gourmet cook or conscientious weight watcher knows how important it is to have an accurate kitchen scale. This wall scale made in Denmark by Eva is terrific for several reasons. First, it takes up very little space because it folds up and can be mounted on a wall or the inside of a cupboard door. Second, it has a capacity of three kilos or six pounds. Third, the spacious weighing bowl is detachable for easy cleaning. Fourth, it operates on the pendulum principle, which means that no springs are used, thus ensuring the greatest possible accuracy. In stock in stainless steel, the scale is priced at \$26.

The Micro Place, 216 Sherman, Royal Oak, 399-1818.

Sitting pretty

Inasmuch as dressing tables seem to have become permanent fixtures in practically every lady's boudoir, you would think that good looking dressing table stools would be in plentiful supply, but it just isn't so. If you're in the market for such an item, you'll be delighted to know about these stunning stools at The Linen Closet. The all-stainless steel model is priced at \$59. The painted steel model (\$65) features a steel base plus matching vinyl upholstered seat in your choice of white, royal blue, red, brown or black.

The Linen Closet, Bloomfield Shopping Plaza, 6622 Telegraph, Birmingham, 627-7660.

Traveler's aid

Should you be lucky enough to be heading towards the sun in the next few weeks, any one of these purses would make an ideal traveling companion. Made in The People's Republic of China, the lined straw bags (\$4.95 each) are available in oval, round, or square shapes and feature intricate woven designs. There is also a lined handplated macrame shoulder bag trimmed with wooden beads and rope tassels (\$3.75). They are a joy to pack because they are so flat and a joy to carry because they expand to hold so much.

Rolling Stone, 32744 Franklin Road, Franklin 626-5879.

