

# A WHO'S WHO OF SHOES

Your footwear says more about you than you might be comfortable sharing on Instagram. So who are you? The uber-trendy sneakerhead, the happy-go-hiking nature fanatic, the social dandy or the wine connoisseur? Step up and meet your match

By Grace Cain / Illustrations Rohan Eason



**01/ The Sneaker Obsessive** You often run into the Sneaker Obsessive at his local Shoreditch coffee shop, perched in a corner behind his MacBook Pro and nodding along to a rapper you've never heard of. As he sips on his oat-milk latte, he tells you all about the new op art exhibition that you just have to see. "Thanks," he says when you tell him you like his pale patchwork-paisley shirt. "It's Amiri." Since the sneaker concierge service opened up in Harrods' menswear department, he's saved hours of scrolling through Instagram in search of the latest drops. Those knowledgeable Knightsbridge shoe fanatics let him know whenever anything new comes in, which has taken the stress out of updating his closet. Next on his wish list? A pair of Filling Pieces low-tops.

**02/ The Adventurer** The Adventurer is the friend who gets up the earliest. He's also the only friend who wakes you up at the crack of dawn to check whether you'd like to accompany him on a pre-breakfast cold-water swim. His footwear of choice? Boots, of course. They really are the only option when spending weekends hiking through the Lake District. As you struggle behind him up the first hill, he tells you that he's currently got his eye on a pair of heavy-duty Montelliana 1965 lace-ups. It's a surprisingly fashion-forward decision for the Adventurer, but he insists they'll be sturdy enough for strolls in the countryside. Plus, he'll win some serious style points from his 15-year-old nephew.



**03/ The Peacock** Finding a moment to catch up with the Peacock is always a challenge. With invites flying at him from every direction, he's currently fully booked until mid-September. When you finally run into him at the launch of an art gallery in Florence, you have approximately 17 seconds before he's whisked away by an enthusiastic acquaintance. For tonight's soirée, he's elected to wear a pair of studded Dolce & Gabbana shoes. "They're my new favourites," he says, wafting past you in a thick cloud of Tom Ford's F\*\*\*ing Fabulous eau de parfum. He's already considering his next footwear purchase, however: a pair of gold-embroidered Manolo Blahnik slippers. He plans to wear them to that charity auction next month. Can he expect to see you there?

**04/ The Connoisseur** Each night, when the hands on his Rolex hit 8pm, the Connoisseur pours himself a glass of grand-cru Burgundy and settles down in his Linley chair beside the fireplace to read (he's currently revisiting *One Hundred Years of Solitude*). His Loro Piana jumper is impeccably paired with flawlessly pressed Canali trousers. His shoes – like his demeanour – are perfectly polished. The Connoisseur is the sort of person who likes to invest in things, and that means keeping them in top condition – whether it's an antique vase, a bespoke suit or a Bally derby shoe. This season, he's planning to add a pair of Bottega Veneta Intrecciato slip-ons to his essentials collection. He's willing to bet that they're going to be a future classic.



From top FILLING PIECES Low-Top Ripple sneakers £190; MONTELLIANA 1965 Alberto hiker boots £450; MANOLO BLAHNIK Mariogold slippers £1,125; BOTTEGA VENETA Intrecciato Slip-On shoes £560. Men's Shoes & Accessories, Second Floor; and harrods.com