

RAJA'S FASHIONS

A well-known name in the local tailoring industry, **Raja's Fashions** is a family-run business that has produced bespoke menswear for international business leaders, diplomats and military professionals for over 55 years. Now in the third generation, they cater to a range of styles, from the more traditional looks of yesteryear to the more modern, fashionable looks of the moment. The founder's grandson, **Dane Gulati**, gets candid on the ins and outs of an impeccable bespoke suit.

How would you know if a suit jacket is well-made and of high quality?

"There are a couple of indicators. The first is the fabric, as a well-made suit should drape well and flatter the body. You should also look for finishing touches like clean buttonholes and a lapel roll. Other key indicators are soft shoulders and high armholes, allowing a slim fit, but giving you room to move around comfortably.

The second is to check for surgeon cuffs on the sleeves. If you're able to unbutton the jacket sleeves, that is a sign of a custom-made suit. Typically, when you wear a suit, you should always unbutton the last button on your sleeve to show that yours is bespoke.

Another sign is pick stitching on the lapel. It is all done by hand, and the thread is matched to the fabric so that it doesn't stand out too much. Buttons should not be made of plastic; they should be natural variations including mother-of-pearl, horn or corozo. Lastly, if you get a checked or striped patterned suit, the patterns should line up seamlessly on the shoulders."



What are some of the best accessories for a suit?

"A classic and staple accessory is the tie. However, times are changing and many are leaving the formal tie look behind for the pocket square — my go-to accessory. This is a very simple way to liven up the suit and add flair.

Another way to dress up your wardrobe would be with a nice watch. Today, they are becoming more popular. Many don't pay too much attention to the brand, as there are a plethora of new smart contemporary ones emerging. For the young gentleman, watches that complement suits take precedence over branded variations. Other great accessories include elegant rings, cufflinks, tie bars and lapel pins."

What are some of the current trends in men's bespoke wear?

"There are so many styles making a comeback in fashion, like the double-breasted suit, which was once considered very posh and is now once again trendy. One-button jackets are now known for their European fashionable flair, while wide lapels are also popular in Europe, as they accentuate the



Dane Gulati

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shoulders, making you appear broader. One style that is coming back strong, and which I'm a big fan of, is the patch pocket. It gives your jacket a casual, retro look. Additionally, people are opting for Mandarin collar shirts rather than the standard option. But no matter what you choose to wear, always make sure it complements your body type and personality."



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