



Dege & Skinner



Gieves & Hawkes

is conducive to spending money on things you never thought you needed, but suddenly can't live without. Bespoke is like hard drugs: once you've sampled the real stuff, you can't go back to anything else. Unlike narcotics, though, you can pay in instalments."

Stuart Lamprell, 33, cutter at Timothy Everest "We get all types coming here, from 18-year-old pop stars to 70-year-old vicars. I think they enjoy our flexibility and the tranquil atmosphere. I've made Stuart's suits for years — he comes in, hangs about, and I give him a bit of advice about women. It's a bit like the old barber thing. If there is a house style, it's a two-button jacket with a high-notched lapel, fitted but still quite relaxed — a bit like us. Tim Everest worked on Savile Row for Tommy Nutter [who made the Beatles' Abbey Road suits]. Now we provide a full, handmade bespoke suit, crafted on the premises to Savile Row standards, but with a youthful edge."

From £2,115; 32 Elder Street, E1; 020 7377 5770

THE CITY BOY GOES TO DEGE & SKINNER

Adrian Paine, 39, hedge-fund manager (standing) "I only do bespoke. Getting a ready-made suit that fits like a glove is virtually impossible. I like highly tailored suits with a defined waist, and Dege & Skinner does that very well indeed. I like meeting people in a relaxed and rather genteel atmosphere, and like the fact that it is a considered process. Robert knows me and exactly what I like, and the end result is extremely gratifying."

Robert Bailey, 35, head cutter at Dege & Skinner "We get a lot of former military men, who want a very clean look, a lot of company directors, Middle Eastern royalty and a lot of slightly larger men, who need a strict line to knock off a few pounds.

We'll do anything our customers want, but we like waists and try to get as much as possible. Also, we like going slightly bigger on the chest and fuller over the hips. Our aim is to make a gentleman look like a gentleman. The thing about a Savile Row suit is that it is hand-crafted and stitched, and if you take care of it, it will last for 30 years. We have men coming in with suits to be repaired that were made in 1930."

From £2,350; 10 Savile Row, W1; 020 7287 2941, www.degeandskinner.co.uk

THE MONEY MOGUL GOES TO GIEVES & HAWKES

Mark Kogan, 47, retired partner at Goldman Sachs "I am very particular, and as I'm not that tall, I decided to go to Gieves. Kathryn is a great listener. She can translate what I have in my mind into what I wear, and the execution is terrific. My advice to anyone getting a suit is do enough research to be able to walk in and be an educated customer. There's no doubt that a bespoke suit is a wise investment. You will wear it for longer and people will comment on your appearance; and that's worth the money."

Kathryn Sargent, 30, cutter at Gieves & Hawkes "Savile Row isn't as stuffy as it was when I started eight years ago. We're getting a lot of new, younger, hipper customers, who in turn are attracting a new generation of trainee cutters and craftsmen. At Gieves, there is no distinct house style. We can do the traditional British Savile Row suit if need be, but we can also do a softer, looser suit. And, while we might advise you as to what would look good on your figure, or what cloth to try, we'll bend over backwards to help you achieve exactly what you want."

From £2,350 (men and women); 1 Savile Row, W1; 020 7434 2001, www.gievesandhawkes.com □