

# DELVAUX: IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN

WRITER: KIMBERLEY LOVATO

**When Charles Delvaux began displaying his handmade travel trunks in the window of his Brussels studio in 1829, he could not have imagined, 180 years later, that his name would be synonymous with elegant Belgian accessories.**

**W**hile other marques may slip off the tongue more easily today, Delvaux prevails in a world where the word style has not been diluted, and where true luxury is personal. From furniture and upholstery to the celebrated handbags, Delvaux's Exclusive Services offers customization of existing pieces or creation from scratch. Whatever the choice, clients are guaranteed a tradition of hand-craftsmanship and heirloom quality originals that have been the hallmark of Delvaux for nearly two centuries.

## 'FROM A TO Z'

"Everything depends on the demand," says Anne Dubuisson, head of the Exclusive Services department. "From A to Z, we do it." The sky's the limit, it seems, and Dubuisson rattles off the possibilities – design the inside of a bag, insert pockets for an iPhone, MP3, Blackberry, or battery

pack. Her list goes on – watchcases, agendas, bags, belts, cigar boxes, document cases, and wallets. Clients can also recreate retro models and select the color and grain of the leather.

"Certain clients even choose their own exclusive leather that we save just for them so they can add complementary items to their collection in the future," says Dubuisson. Lead-time ranges from two weeks to four months and costs from 20€ for stamping initials to an add-on of infinite zeros, depending on the demand. Clients are mostly individual Delvaux loyalists but corporate clients recognize the Delvaux name too, creating personalized gifts like USB key chains and business card holders with the company logo. Delvaux also creates prestigious gifts, like briefcases, agendas, and desktop items that are offered to VIP customers.

**'CERTAIN CLIENTS EVEN CHOOSE THEIR OWN EXCLUSIVE LEATHER THAT WE SAVE JUST FOR THEM SO THEY CAN ADD COMPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THEIR COLLECTION IN THE FUTURE'**



Delvaux wine holder  
Comme Chez Soi



Delvaux Brilliant Bag

## QUALITY, NOT 'GADGETRY'

"Exclusive Services clients are those who appreciate quality to quantity, and are looking for high-value products rather than gadgets," explains Dubuisson. Though the company's status is based on ancient traditions, Delvaux continually seeks modern impetus for the brand, a task realized at the company's creative think tank, Studio Delvaux, where outside personalities are invited to create pieces for the brand. Photographer and iconic model Hannalore Knuts and avant-garde designer Bruno Pieters have both designed for Delvaux. The next invitee will be Natalia Brilli, a Belgian known for her leather designs. From travel trunks, to the oldest luxury leather goods company in the world, and custom and modern designer, who else can transcend 180-years and still be relevant? It's the very definition of a classic, and why Delvaux remains in a class of its own.

## INTERVIEW EXPRESS

A comprehensive Delvaux exhibition opened on 17 September at the MoMu Fashion Museum in Antwerp. Museum Director Kaat Debo sits down with *Together* to brag.

**Together: What's been the biggest challenge?**

**Kaat Debo:** *This is the first time we have dedicated an exhibition to accessories. How to display them in an appealing and interesting way was one of the main challenges for our team.*

**What can visitors expect to see and learn from the exhibition?**

*The exhibition tells the story of the brand and how it relates to the history of the accessory. The changes in designs over the years were heavily influenced by the way transportation evolved and you can clearly trace these changes in the designs. Another important part of the exhibition focuses on the many highly skilled artisans who have worked at Delvaux.*

**What will visitors be surprised to learn about Delvaux?**

*They will be pleasantly surprised by the craftsmanship of this company, which is extremely rich.* ☺

[www.momu.be](http://www.momu.be)