



The gentleman's wish list

Secret Santa: great in theory, awkward as hell in real life. We asked 12 Canadian tastemakers what they would buy if they drew their own names

BY RYAN PORTER



JOHN TONG

Architectural designer, Toronto

Tong is renowned for his show-stopping modern revamps, such as his work on Toronto's iconic Drake Hotel.

On his wish list: Clean lines are a signature in both Tong's work and his look. "I shave my head almost every day and can't live without Kiehl's White Eagle Ultimate Brushless Shave Cream." \$13, kiehls.ca

If he had a billion dollars: Tong wants an express route to his cottage near Algonquin Park. "I have always fantasized about having a seaplane and pilot's licence to beat the traffic."

JONATHAN ELIAS

Clothing retailer, Toronto

The head hipster at the well-edited men's casual shops Lost & Found and Working Title practises what he preaches—his work-week uniform consists of a plaid button-down, vintage Levi's, New Balance sneakers and an Ebbets Fields six-panel cap.

On his wish list: Comme Des Garçons Parfum 2, a unisex fragrance with citrus notes for people (like Elias) who don't like fragrance. "It's light and not overpowering," he says. \$90, sephora.com

If he had a billion dollars: Elias would head to the homeland of Comme Des Garçons founder Rei Kawakubo on an "all-expense-paid trip to Japan."

ZAIB SHAIKH

Film commissioner, Toronto

Already known internationally for his role as Amaar on *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, Shaikh is an ideal global ambassador for Toronto in his new role as the city's film commissioner.

On his wish list: A man-about-town's best friend, "A cool pair of shoes." Grenson Tristan Shoe, \$420, clubmonaco.ca

If he had a billion dollars: "I grew up in a Muslim household and was taught to remember your community in times of celebration, so I would make a super donation to the Daily Bread Food Bank."

ARI MILLEN

Actor, Toronto

In *Orphan Black's* season 2 finale, Millen's Mark was revealed to be a top-secret male clone, meaning we'll be seeing a lot more of him (and him and him and him...) when season 3 arrives next spring.

On his wish list: Millen already treated himself to a custom-made leather jacket by the Toronto-based Himel Bros. "The quality is so good I'll give it to my grandkid one day." Kensington racing shirt, \$2,304, himelbros.com

If he had a billion dollars: "Didn't Daniel Day-Lewis retire from acting at one point and become a cobbler? I'd want a pair of those shoes."

DANIEL TORJMAN

Designer, Ottawa

The designer's rock and roll spirit comes through in both his boho personal style and his menswear label 18 Waits. The Spring/Summer 2015 collection is inspired by the funky, foppish post-hippie look of the Beatles in their final photo shoot—think wide-brimmed hats, skinny suits and statement scarves.



On his wish list: "A really cool briefcase-like hat valise would be amazing. It's hard to travel with hats unless they're on your head, as they get squished in your luggage." Guccissima leather hat case, \$5,845, gucci.com

If he had a billion dollars: "A large yacht to travel to warm destinations."

PAUL MASON

Model and agent, Toronto

The 50-year-old's striking silver hair and full beard, which he began growing out in 2013 when his mother passed away, have been catwalk catnip for designers such as Christopher Bates and Farley Chatto.

On his wish list: "I would love a Tiger of Sweden suit." Event pure wool suit, \$949, tigerofswedenmontreal.ca

If he had a billion dollars: "I would follow the tennis circuit for the whole season with the best seats in the house."

JEREMY CHARLES AND JEREMY BONIA

Chef and sommelier respectively, Raymond's, St. John's, Nfld.

The reason the best buds behind Raymond's, often called the best restaurant in Canada, work well together? "We can be brutally honest with each other," Bonia says.

On his wish list: Charles has his eye on "a nice tweed suit from J.Lindeberg." Classic Topstich Jacket, \$495, pants, \$200, simons.ca. Bonia says, "I'd like a winter coat nice enough that my wife would never let me take it into the woods." Neil Barrett neoprene duffel coat, \$1,625, holtrenfrew.com

If he had a billion dollars: Charles would "chase 50 pound Atlantic salmon on a fly-fishing trip to Norway" while Bonia would "travel around France for a year with my family."

DALE MCKAY

Chef, Saskatoon

Top Chef Canada's original champ moved home to Saskatoon last year to open Ayden's Kitchen, named after his 12-year-old son.

On his wish list: "Beard products from Brooklyn Grooming. I have a lot of friends with beards and they use this stuff religiously." Brooklyn Grooming Pilgrim's Classic Hair and Beard Tonic, \$30, brooklynngrooming.com

If he had a billion dollars: "I would get myself and Ayden a penthouse with a loaded media room."

JOFFREY LUPUL

Toronto Maple Leafs forward, Toronto

Off the ice, the Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.-native has style as sharp as a blade. No wonder he's the face of Toronto menswear man cave Gotstyle.

On his wish list: Lupul mostly leaves the headache-inducing patterns to Don Cherry, though he does dip his toe into prints with funky socks. "They add something to your

outfit without you having to put on something that you're not comfortable with." Happy Socks, \$15, hssweden.ca

If he had a billion dollars: "I would buy a jet! I've done a lot of travelling but I've never been to Asia."

GRANT SCENEY

Bartender, Vancouver

Sceney is more than just the friendly Australian in the bow tie behind the bar at Vancouver's Fairmont Pacific Rim hotel—he might be the best bartender in the country. He placed fourth at the World Class 2014 bartending competition in London, England, last summer—a new Canadian best.

On his wish list: While he has always wanted a straight razor, Sceney says, "I fear I will never trust myself to use it." Dovo Carpe Diem Straight Razor, \$210, menessentials.ca

If he had a billion dollars: Does the Fairmont offer sabbaticals? Sceney says, "I'd take two years off work to backpack, snowboard, surf and hike around the world with my friends."



PAUL ELI

Model, Red Deer, Alta.

Since accidentally falling into modelling, the 24-year-old Red Deer, Alberta native's full bearded look has <30s fluttering on his Instagram account @HipstagramLUL.

On his wish list: "Prairie Boys Supply Co. has developed a killer petroleum-based pomade. Every day I use it, I like it more and more." \$24, prairieboysupplyco.com

If he had a billion dollars: "Airfare around the world while sightseeing and staying in luxurious hotels with my loved one. Do yourself a favour—take a vacation!"