

THE FRONT

## Retail therapy for men, by Clare Richardson



**DAPPER RAPPER** OutKast's André 3000 – aka André Benjamin (left) – claims his style icon is Prince Charles, but that hasn't stopped US *Esquire* naming the hip-hop star the world's best-dressed man. Building on this accolade, Benjamin has launched his own label, Benjamin Box. The collection is inspired by early American college football and athletic attire, and includes some rather royal tweed trousers. Jacket, £629; polo shirt, £779.5; trousers, £109, exclusively at Harrods (020-7730 1234).



**JACKET REQUIRED** If you are looking to buy an investment piece this season, let it be one of Oliver J Benjamin's elegant jackets. The designer dresses the city elite and his sharp-cut tailoring will bring a touch of style to any wardrobe. Fawn-needlecord, £425; beige cotton silk, £465; mid-grey Donegal tweed, £465; shirts from £75 each (020-7153 3322; oliverjbenjamin.co.uk).

**MEN IN BLACK** Whether for stepping out to the Oscars or attempting to whisk someone off their feet, a tuxedo can instantly transform mere mortals into suave superstars. G Bruce Boyer's new *Black Tie* book documents the dress code's popularity with Hollywood greats, including Fred Astaire and Cary Grant (£12.95, Assouline).



**THREE OF THE BEST TREKKING RUCKSACKS** Exponent Chinkapin X65, £69.99, from Coleman (01275-845024); X-ert Performance 35L, £55, from Regatta (0161-749 1313); Areta 35, £45, from Berghaus (0191-460 7077).



**CAPED CRUSADER** Topman's fashion-forward Lens area stocks the hottest existing and emerging menswear talent. This season London-based Carolyn Massey is back for a third time with a collection based on 'what it is to be a gentleman. If her headmasterly cape (left) is anything to go by you'll be top of the upper class. Also reappearing are Dexter Wang and Mjök, while the young Dane Kasper Horup-Hansen makes his debut. Cape, £100; jumper, £60; trousers, £60, all by Carolyn Massey (08451-214519; topman.com).

**COMING HOMME**

Dior Homme has bottled its style with a new cologne for men. The woody scent has an explosive citrus smell with ginger notes, and judging by the ad campaign, Jude Law is a fan. Body wash and aftershave balm are also available. Dior Homme Sport eau de toilette, £36 for 50ml (020-7216 0216; diorhomme.com).



**ALFRED DUNHILL AD88 ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM**

In this age of glitzy supertech, there's a curious gentlemen's design trend emerging: substance with style. Observe the new AD88. Its piano-lacquer finish conceals a DAB radio, iPod dock and 80-watt amp. Boom, m'lord. £2,000 (0845-458 0779; dunhill.com). **SA**

