

# Fashion Forward

A designer shares his favourite discoveries and must-haves

Craig Port knows that, apart from technology, fashion operates on the fastest creative cycle in business. Knowing what comes down the runway internationally is a sure-fire way to forecast the next colour trend, texture or shape, says Port, whose creative reach extends to his men's and women's collections, men's jewellery, designer furniture and soon-to-be-launched fragrances, Port Male and Port Female. Locally, though, "we have a modern fashion culture that's developing as we go along. We can choose to wear what we want without old-fashioned restraint." Yet, Port looks back in time to fashion designer Hubert de

Givenchy for inspiration. "Givenchy was a gentleman whose designs are beautiful and classic. He was modern for his time, but they're still sensible now. And he represents having a lifestyle beyond fashion." Here's a sneak peak at the consummate shopper's inimitable style and how he celebrates life.

REHANA BEGG

**CRAIG PORT**  
"Fashion needn't be obvious."



SINGITA LEBOMBO GAME LODGE  
Kruger National Park.

**TRAVEL** Once a year, usually towards the end of August, I visit Mykonos, Greece. Once I get there, I switch off and get island fever. I book the same room in the same hotel, eat at fantastic Greek restaurants, swim and enjoy quiet nights on the beach or exciting nights out on the town. But I also love to safari at Singita Lebombo Game Lodge in the Kruger National Park. So often we travel to Europe before looking on our doorsteps.

**TIMEPIECE** I was walking down Bond Street in London when I saw my Bvlgari Ergon in a window and liked it.

**NECKLACE** My leather thong holds the key to my locker and a Georg Jensen charm with the engraved initials of a close friend, Richie, who was murdered last year. So it is both sentimental and functional.

**ART** I don't collect art for its intrinsic value. I collect beautiful things. I have a Walter Meyer painting of the Karoo that reminds me of the experience of being in the village where I bought it. I picked up my Brett Murray Pink Panther *Warrior* sculpture at an exhibition; his work was fun, but also a commentary on our society at the time.

**MUSIC** I listen to Balkanology. It's a local fusion movement of remixed melodies from Eastern Europe; it includes Gypsy, Serbian, Macedonian, Bulgarian and Romanian music.

**MOVIE** *Citizen Kane* is Orson Welles' classic story of a man's quest to build an empire, to make his fortune and gain fame. He seems to have lost sight of the simple things in life.

**TREATMENTS** I make a pit stop at the Glasshouse in Cape Town. It's a one-stop shop for rejuvenation for men. A complete pampering session of treatments for me includes shaving, a pedicure, a manicure and a hot rock massage.

**JACKET** My leather bomber jacket is Yves Saint Laurent. I wear it all winter, mixing it either with casual attire or a collared shirt. We tend to mix sports and formal wear; probably because the fitness culture has amalgamated with our way of life and, therefore, our style of dressing.

**BOOKS** I stayed up late last night to read JM Coetzee's *Disgrace*. It's good to read a book of fiction with South African familiarity. I read Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet* when I need answers; when I need to make sense of life. Otherwise, I'm a self-help junkie.

**JEANS** I wear Levi's 511 skinny; they have a sleek, narrow leg. Anything with flair or a bootleg is dated.

**WHEELS** I've driven my Jaguar S-type in Westminster navy for six years. It's time to trade up, to another Jag, of course: the new concept Jag, the XF. They're classic, with a modern edge, and they never forget the familiarity of their brand. My father always had a Jag.

