

# Suited and rebooted

## Sartorial tips to wow at this year's Dubai World Cup

**SMILES BETTER:** Your date may be sporting an amazing fascinator but don't be left behind in the style stakes when you suit up



For some men the annual Dubai World Cup is a chance to make a style statement. Others though dread a fall at the first fashion hurdle. In an effort to help you suit up in style on March 29, we sought the advice of the experts at Ascots & Chapels. They should know - the British tailors, which now has shops in DIFC and Dubai Marina Mall, have been outfitting gents for 130 years. Mahir Ali is artistic director at the tailors in Dubai and Janet Small is the firm's colour consultant.

### FABRIC AND FADS

"When thinking of suit fabrics consider the heat, look for a lighter weight fabric but still one with enough body to hold its shape," says Mahir. "Current trends are slimmer trousers and bold check with mid-sized lapels but be careful as these are fashion fads. An investment would be traditional styles but add eye-catching accessories in this season's colours."

### CONSIDERING COLOUR

"Avoid matching your shirt colour to your tie



- it's the easiest opportunity to work a contrast or colour-blocking trend," explains Janet. "Spruce up your outfit with a statement tie, a pocket handkerchief, some stand out socks, a cravat or even colourful shoe laces. Have some fun with it - just be careful that it's not overkill. The finer details go a long way.

If you are getting a tailored suit have a little fun with bold lining. You need a look that says 'this guy looks like he is having fun' - race day is a happy event! Some men may even go for a wild colour like red but as a full suit this is very memorable (inset, from Hugo Boss) and you may only be able to wear it a couple of times."

### BOW TO PEER PRESSURE?

"Bow ties look great on slimmer built men as they add a quirkiness, but the majority of men look better with open neck, ties or even a very flamboyant soft scarf tied in an open neckline. Again remember this should be fun but still classy not comedic," says Janet.

### MEASURE YOUR INSEAM SIR?

"Getting a bespoke suit tailored to perfection can deliver the ultimate high - whatever the occasion. A functional tailor might be great if you know exactly what you want - and even then, he will mostly imitate a style successfully. While it may be bang on trend, the suit may wear you more than you wearing the suit. So its essential to consult someone with experience - especially if you're doing this for the first time," adds Mahir.



**ROLE MODELS:** Suit guru Janet Small says if all else fails follow Mad Men actor John Hamm (right) or Oscar-winner Matthew McConaughey's lead when you suit up



**7DAYS JULIAN PLETTS IS MADE TO MEASURE**  
Remember that scene in 'Friends' when Joey goes to the tailors? ("That's how they take the inseam... In prison!") Luckily my trip to Ascots & Chapels in Dubai Marina Mall was nothing like that. I put my trust in Janet Small as she guides me through a mountain of choices - notch or peak lapels, vents, button holes, pockets etc. The most important though has to be fabric colour. With some sort of Darren Brown-esque mind games Janet seems to know what I like and what'll work with my complexion. She whittles down the choices to a mid range blue - 'somewhere between banker and salesman' we joke. She pairs it with a daring turquoise polkadot liner, I'd never normally go for. Throughout, my opinion has been taken into account while I'm steered towards what I expect will be a stylish suit.

## IN THE BAG

### Choice abayas



REINVENT your abaya closet with designs fusing vibrant colours along with intricate pearl, crochet and lace embellishments. The latest collection from Gulf Princess - a home-grown label of fashionable abayas and jalabiyas designed by Mona Abdul Karim - is available at Candella Boutique (pictured), The Village Mall, Jumeirah Beach Road. Contact 04 342 1961

### That's a wrap



JAZZ up your wrist with a contemporary EBEL Wave Lady timepiece. This double wrap stainless steel and 18K red gold piece with off-white strap version is also available in a grey or brown strap. Visit [www.ebel.com](http://www.ebel.com)

### Bride and joy



BRIDES-TO-BE can flock to find one-of-a-kind hand-made jewellery and heirloom pieces for their big day at Celebrating Vivaha - an exhibition of bridal jewellery, fashion and lifestyle. The three-day Indian

designers event will take place at The Address, Dubai Mall from March 14 to 16.

Visit [facebook.com/CelebratingVivaha](http://facebook.com/CelebratingVivaha)

### Academy glam

DON'T wait until this time next year to inject some Oscar glam into your wardrobe.

Plant the end of your pins in the latest black and gold range from Steve Madden and be ready for any red carpet occasion. Perfect to add a sparkle to an evening dress or even a casual ensemble. Available at Steve Madden stores in the UAE

