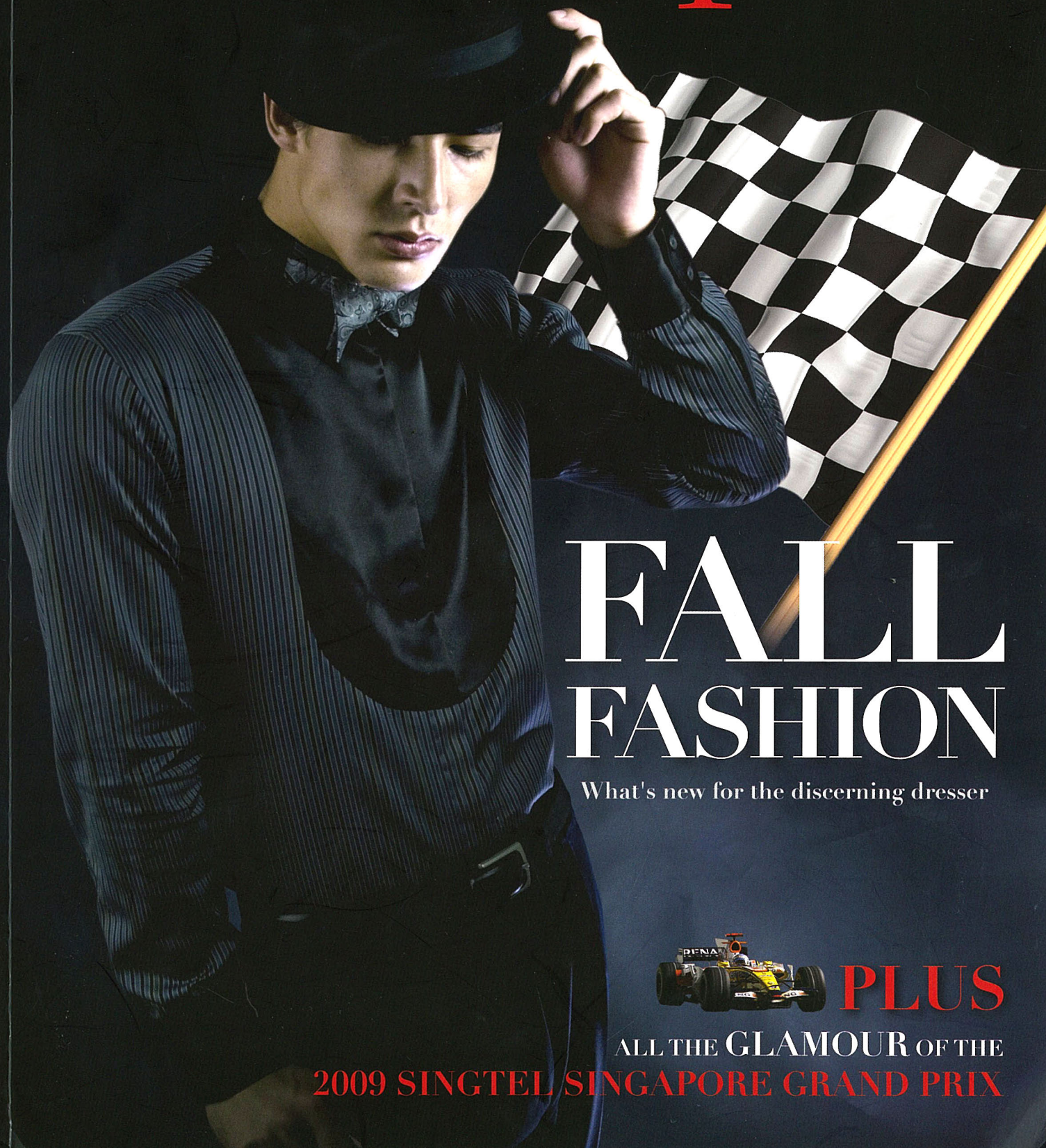


FAVOURITE RETREATS FOR SOOTHING MIND, BODY AND SOUL

# Robb Report

SINGAPORE

FOR THE LUXURY LIFESTYLE™



## FALL FASHION

What's new for the discerning dresser



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2009 SINGTEL SINGAPORE GRAND PRIX

## Precision Architecture

The Shop Front of Raffles Tailor on Orchard Road announces the gravitas of the company in bold type. The dark wood veneer and the sculptural clothing on display emphasize that one is now in the company of The Professionals.

Founder and Master Tailor, Mac Ho, is fastidious about his craft. For him, couture is akin to architecture. Every dart, button and stitch must be carefully executed to achieve the required effect. The journey towards finished suit takes four to eight weeks. Measurements, pattern cutting and design are all carried out personally by him.

“Most traditional tailors generally learn from their master who in turned learned the skills from their masters. So, basically there is no theory in their skills... they just apply what they were taught to do year after year,” says Ho, drawing a distinction with his own background. “As a professional tailor trained in London (The London College of Fashion), I realized that a well made suit alone is not sufficient to satisfy customers in this generation.”

Working with image consultant Eliza Yap, Ho incorporates design into his bespoke service. He ensures his tapered contemporary-classic suits have the correct color, cut, number of buttons and other modifications to perfectly enhance the appearance of his clients. He prides himself on his ability to introduce a pleat here, a dart there to minimize flaws and ensure the fabric hangs perfectly on every contour.

“No two suits that I have tailored are the same,” he says, “because I believe in designing suits based on each individual body shape, character and even profession.”


Yet, even with the design input, Ho is very much a bespoke tailor in the traditional mould. His clients are tycoons, top level executives and suc-

cessful businessmen buying to send a message in the working arena. There are exceptions — notably grooms — but they, like the professional clients, have a need to look conventionally flawless, which is why it is particularly important the suits are engineered to fit and hang perfectly.

“Every detail in the body structure is considered,” he enthuses, “the arm position; the way he stands; the waist level; the button level; the pocket levels; the size and width of the lapel are made in accordance to his build. All button holes are functional button holes. Most importantly, a bespoke suit is a hand-made suit, absolutely no fusing involved.”

Ho sees it as a professional duty to attend international seminars and

conferences. Winner of a Gold Award from the Asian Federation of Master Tailors for pattern cutting and technical skill, another area of his specialty is fabrics.

Amongst those he stocks are 100 percent Vicuna cloths from Italy. Vicuna is a small member of the camel family living in the Peruvian wilderness. Amazingly light, soft and resistant, each fiber is just 12 – 13 microns. Like silk, it protects from temperature extremes at both ends. According to legend, this was a gift of the gods and therefore too precious for anyone other than the royal family. Even in modern times, the price keeps it exclusive: one vicuna overcoat or suit would cost in the region of S\$36,000. 



For Mac Ho of Raffles Tailor, couture is akin to architecture.