

## STEFANO RICCI *EXPLORER* ARRIVES IN THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

**Stefano Ricci partners with the Charles Darwin Foundation to support research and conservation of Galápagos giant tortoises. The images from the S/S 2024 Collection were entrusted to world-renowned natural history photographer Mattias Klum (National Geographic Fellow).**

“Luxor, Iceland, and now the Galápagos Islands. STEFANO RICCI Explorer continues along the route traced by nature”. These are notes from the travel diary kept by Filippo Ricci, Creative Director of the luxury lifestyle menswear brand. Galápagos, *Las Islas Encantadas*. This is a new mission to investigate all corners of the world, as a deep immersion into authentic eco-sustainability.

Filippo and Niccolò Ricci explored the remote corners of the legendary archipelago with the team at the Charles Darwin Foundation in this latest expedition. From Las Grietas to Tortuga Bay, El Garrapatero, Santa Fe Island, Isla Guy Fawkes Sur to Punta Bowditch, Sierra Negra volcano, El Chato Ranch to Los Gemelos and Galapagos Safari Camp — all while supporting conservation action and on the ground research, following in the footsteps of the great naturalist Charles Darwin who first explored the islands in 1835 during his expedition on the brig-sloop HMS *Beagle*.

During this production, models dressed in garments from the Spring/Summer 2024 Collection came into close contact with the Galápagos Islands’ endemic fauna and flora, including sea lions, marine and land iguanas, Sally Lightfoot crabs, brown pelicans, frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, Darwin’s finches, sharks, *Scalesia* trees and Galápagos giant tortoises. After visiting Iceland’s most remote ice caves, the SR man then had the challenge of an underwater scuba photoshoot at Isla Guy Fawkes Sur, swimming amongst the marine life.

This new chapter of the STEFANO RICCI *Explorer* project was carried out under the careful supervision of the Galápagos National Park Directorate, and with absolute respect for the archipelago’s fragile and unique ecosystems. With this vision, the company, founded in 1972 by designer Stefano Ricci, is joining the frontlines of conservation action by supporting the research efforts undertaken by the Charles Darwin Foundation to protect the emblematic Galápagos giant tortoises.

“We saw the melting of Europe’s largest glacier last fall in Iceland. In this new adventure, we experienced raw nature up close, in an ancient and primordial way. In these unique places species have evolved independently to survive extreme conditions. The evolution of species is our beacon, our inspiration. And it is by visiting such locations and meeting passionate scientists and researchers in the cradle of evolution itself, that one can truly come to terms with the meaning of sustainability. It is a theme that many talk about, but that few truly understand. We are determined to continue with this mission: *Explore the world, to explore ourselves*”, says Filippo Ricci.

This production was created under the supervision of Terry D. Garcia (CEO of Exploration Ventures, Former Executive Vice President of the National Geographic Society) and Mattias Klum (Explorer, Artist, Filmmaker and Photographer, National Geographic Fellow). Join us as our journey of exploration continues.

## STYLE NOTE

Clothes as the mirror of the soul, the fulcrum of emotions and personality. Since ancient times, and now more than ever, fashion has been expressing the tale of oneself, the letter describing who we are.

In the **STEFANO RICCI Spring/Summer 2024 Collection**, these archetypes appear as flashes of truth, according to the tradition of the brand that has always held high the standard of excellence and truly "Made" in Italy production, adhering to the needs of the modern man, who explores beyond any geographical and social border.

The colours of Nature are masterful, giving way to a symphony of pure, light, ductile elegance for the man who travels the world and comes to know unexplored lands. The collection is for a wardrobe that takes the best style and reinterprets it with the aesthetic elements of comfort. Nothing is excessive, even in the exaltation of an authentic luxury made of sublime materials and modern techniques which create an aspect of living. It is an immediately recognisable style because excellence is paired with the highest manual skills.

A field jacket is the highlight of the collection, in soft chamois lambskin leather that seems to slide through the hands, in the colours of impenetrable forests, from neutral-to-bark green tones, with "worn" pockets and collar; it is an unforgettable garment, straight out of memories. These are memories that chase each other, updating themselves throughout the collection, which is influenced by the last adventure in the Galápagos Islands, with the feeling of infinity, arcane, primitive, and authentic. Later, the white of a knit short sleeve polo stands out under the very fine knit shirt-style sweater with a glittering octagonal snap button-down front closure.

And then the cotton or linen and silk blend sweatshirts for the modern explorer, with the subtle logo hidden in the couture linings. There are colours that recall the waters of the marshes, the cactus forests, the shells of giant turtles, the enchanted waters of the Ecuadorian islands, the rust and brown of the stones and cliffs, the SR blue that shines like a sapphire, the dark bursts of the colour of lava, an antique pink that reimagines the flower petals of Eden and a cherry red that gives pure joy in wearing form-fitting jackets closer to the body.

Knitwear is prevalent, with refined finishings and yarns. There is an ease and style in the magic of jogging suits, in linen and silk or silk and cotton, which have become irreplaceable. Refined, faded jeans with sharp details, or cargo trousers worn with an overshirt or light calfskin leather dust coat paired with Super 150's wool trousers. The two-button jackets are paired with trousers styled with 19cm cuffs for a youthful cut and 20cm cuffs for a classic cut. Crocodile remains the protagonist in leathers, rendered in a pure white two-button jacket and a long sleeve shirt jacket, and elsewhere combined with polyester technical fabric for a hooded jacket with a modern and practical air. The *cangiante* Solaro fabric is found in sartorial field jackets for all occasions. Because the Stefano Ricci man chooses from the collection to always find his own style. Special treatments are used, such as aloe-washed linen for shirts with trim and pleasing lines.

Blue suits for elegant, rigorous occasions, for revisited but always fascinating classics. For the evening, outerwear fabrics by the mastery of the weavers of the *Antico Setificio Fiorentino* are paired with dreamy shirts with French cuffs embellished with precious white gold rectangular cufflinks with set diamonds, the details of the unmistakable style of the Florentine Maison.

SR Menswear Looks: **76**

SR Junior Looks: **15**

**SR INTERIORS**  
**The Florentine designer**  
**creates a new suite**  
**for the Grand Hotel Principe di Piemonte (Viareggio)**

STEFANO RICCI is pleased to announce the creation of the new Presidential Suite in the Grand Hotel Principe di Piemonte, Viareggio.

On the second floor of the hotel, the Suite created by the Florentine luxury lifestyle brand is characterised by materials that recall the elements of the brand's identity: Californian briar-root wood surfaces that contrast with precious marbles. It is an elegant balance that reflects the image of the iconic boutiques present in international capitals, deriving from a concept inspired by the sea and yachting.

Developed in an area of 140 m<sup>2</sup> (1507 square feet), the Suite comprises an entrance hall, two bedrooms (the Master equipped with a spa), a living room, a dining room with a wine cellar and three bathrooms. The line that connects the rooms is expressed by sculpted mouldings on the bands of the marble floors, which perfectly connect to the marble tiles in the coffered ceilings and on the passage portals.

Primary elements, in addition to the ceiling, are two dominant octagonal mirrors placed behind SR Fortezza sofas. In the bedrooms, 2.60 meters (8.5 feet) high headboards with leather capitonné were selected. The dining room is characterised by an octagonal table, with a Californian briar-root wood base and crystalline top. In the Master room, as mentioned, is a spa area with a sauna, black wood and, on the ceiling, a backlit artistic glass window. The doors are embellished with coloured crystal mosaics, with sophisticated lead soldering. The suite is embellished by curtains made by the *Antico Setificio Fiorentino*, founded in 1786 and purchased in 2010 by the STEFANO RICCI group. The design chosen from the historical archive is the "Doria" damask, with a decorative motif with the pomegranate, a symbol of good luck, prosperity and wealth in traditional iconography. Silk embrasse enhance the curtains, carefully twisted and handmade by the artisans of the ASF.

The inspiration is also a tribute to the world described by Francis Scott Fitzgerald in 1925, in *The Great Gatsby* (in the same year, the then-named Hotel Select Principe di Viareggio was raised by two floors, before being renamed as the Grand Hotel Principe di Piemonte).

The details of the Suite were selected from the SR HOME proposal: porcelain elements (vases and animal collection ornaments) decorated with exclusive designs and finishes in gold and platinum, bronzes depicting eagle heads and a panther.

The crystalware for the corner bar and the dining room are engraved by hand, with a motif that recalls the platinum decoration of the dishes. For the bedroom and bathroom, the supply includes sheets and towels made with Egyptian cotton woven in Italy, enhanced by the exclusive embroideries of the SR HOME line.

## ECONOMIC NOTE

"We have recorded an excellent start to 2023, with a 45% growth in sales compared to the first quarter of 2022", states Niccolò Ricci, CEO of Stefano Ricci S.p.A. "The geopolitical and economic situation remains uncertain, but our vision remains aligned with innovation and investment. In particular, we note a strong recovery of the Chinese market, which doubled in comparison to last year, as well as wide-ranging results in the United States (+9%) and Europe (+38%)".

After closing 2022 above 150 million Euro, the Florentine company, a global leader in men's luxury lifestyle, consolidates its international vocation with new openings in Madrid and a third boutique in Beijing, in the China Central Mall. The company's first duty-free boutique will open at the Changi Airport in Singapore in June.

"We are proud to inaugurate the first STEFANO RICCI suite in a prestigious hotel such as the Principe di Piemonte in Viareggio. It is the first step of a project that will see us as protagonists on an international level", concludes Niccolò Ricci.

## About the Charles Darwin Foundation and its Research Station

Since its founding in 1959, the Charles Darwin Foundation, an international non-profit, has been working to address the most pressing threats and challenges facing the Galápagos Archipelago through breakthrough scientific research and conservation action, with a view to protect one of our planet's most important natural treasures. More than one hundred scientists, educators, researchers and support personnel participate in this effort every day, working in close partnership with the Galápagos National Park Directorate, and with the support of thousands of engaged volunteers from all over the world.

Over the years, the Charles Darwin Foundation has amassed an invaluable body of knowledge and data, including the largest Galápagos Natural History Collections in Ecuador with more than 135,000 specimens across four collections. Currently, more than 90% of the staff are Ecuadorian citizens, of which the large majority are Galápagos residents. The Charles Darwin Foundation is committed to the professional development of permanent Galapagos residents as future scientists, for the well-being of the islands and the nation in general.

For more information, please visit [www.darwinfoundation.org/en](http://www.darwinfoundation.org/en)