

## STEFANO RICCI Explorer n°6

### Mission Peru

When you think about Peru, the first images that come to mind are Machu Picchu and the Nazca Lines. But when you travel to the land of the Inca, you will be captivated by their descendants, proud heirs of ancient knowledge and connection to nature.

A *quipu*, a textile artefact that should not be mistaken for a commercial product, is the guide for the Stefano Ricci Explorer Mission Peru. The *quipu* has, in fact, concealed messages since ancient times, dating back to the Inca era, a civilisation that did not use written language but accomplished extraordinary feats, nonetheless. The most evident of these is Machu Picchu, rediscovered in 1911 by Hiram Bingham, though it had never truly been lost. This site, along with Pisac, offers the Stefano Ricci Man a glimpse into the engineering and architectural prowess of those people who, at over 4,000 metres, managed to develop a complex system of land management and military control.

But it is the *quipu* that accompanies this exploration. As threads in the poetry of life, like those of the *quipu*, small and skilfully tied knots preserve stories, secrets, names, and dates—an unknown and still unexplored alphabet that serves as a journey through time and the most precious textile art. With alpaca wool knots, the past is preserved; with Stefano Ricci's designs, the future is envisaged for a cosmopolitan man drawn to the roots of the world, whose style speaks volumes about his identity.

It is a voyage of discovery, in which the **Fall/Winter 2025-26 Collection** draws inspiration from colours such as cochineal red, the grey of Colca Canyon, and the deep blue honouring the heights reached by condors. The emotions stirred by the Curandero's prayer to Pachamama, Mother Nature, amidst the ancient ruins of the Achoma Fortress, linger in the memory. These feelings resonate in the craftsmanship and fabric choices, paying homage to Mother Nature with jackets made of "royal" vicuña wool (a fabric once reserved solely for the Inca royalty's wardrobe), so rare that only 250 grams of fleece can be gathered every two years. Sixty-seven looks tell a story of adventure that embraces diverse histories and cultures.

Nature dominates this still-untouched world, with its wonders reflected in the waters of Lake Titicaca and the snow-covered Rainbow Mountains of Palcoyo, making for a journey beyond all limits.

*Filippo Ricci, Creative Director of Stefano Ricci S.p.A.*

## STYLE NOTE

### Fall/Winter 2025-26 Collection

Stones and forests, skies and canyons, the mysteries of a proud people and the boundless value of woollen fabrics have always been combined in passing down their legacy. Echoes from the past, reflected in threads and colours, are embodied in Stefano Ricci's Fall/Winter 2025-26 collection, inspired by the history of the Inca. Not just a journey of imagery but one of discovery, a return to ancient and, luckily, preserved textile traditions that share much in common with the unparalleled tailoring of the Florentine brand, which places manual expertise at the pinnacle of its realm of beauty and elegance. This is the story of a luxury built on endless, minute details, of an excellent, continually malleable material shaped according to the rules of contemporary style.

This collection explores seemingly infinite spaces, echoing the dynamism of the modern explorer eager to convey a cultural message even through clothing.

The colours recall timeless natural extraction processes, such as the cochineal red derived from a cactus insect, or indigo from indigofera leaves, alongside the green of the forests surrounding Machu Picchu, the blue of the sky where majestic condors soar, the golden yellow of vicuña fleece, the black of the night, and the white of snow that can fall suddenly at such altitudes or evoke the stones of Palcoyo.

And then there is the Explorer parka with a down-filled interior lined with jersey, an Orylag hat to brave any cold, and the white puffer jacket featuring an octagonal detail symbolising the Stefano Ricci Maison. The discreet appearance of the ruthenium logo adds a touch of light, while the brand's embroidered name graces the luxurious linings, with whispered logos on every sporty piece in the collection, even on glamorous accessories such as the nubuck crocodile bag or the calfskin leather duffle bag, still nubuck, coordinated with the garments. The jacket takes a relaxed turn as a shirt-jacket, and blouson are lined with ultra-light shearling. Light effects from dawn to dusk shimmer on the checked jackets that drape the body, while cotton and cashmere shirts feature open collars and hidden button-downs, and outerwear in pure lines of blue cashmere, mink, and silk. The Stefano Ricci sneakers are majestic, boasting a futuristic 3D-printed honeycomb sole, never seen before.

Signs of exclusive materials and craftsmanship prosper, as seen in the sophisticated and clean-cut nubuck shirt and trousers set. City grey tones peak in the deconstructed pure cashmere coat, showcasing absolute excellence, even in cashmere jeans. Handcrafted silver glasses with an octagonal shape, micro-tweed patterns for featherweight jackets, silk-wool and linen in Prince of Wales fabrics, and an unparalleled

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black down jacket in cashmere and chinchilla thread. Subtle, refined hints of green or lilac thread run through the expertly tailored jackets, forming a palette of shades ranging from orange to sky blue, violet to ochre, like the shifting patterns drawn by nature on ancient mountain rocks. The matted crocodile finish offers endless allure, while the perfect suit for the explorer is made from Alpha Yarn, the fabric of the gods and exclusive to Stefano Ricci, in an energising and serene blue. Blue and burgundy dinner suits present new and surprising colours for haute couture for special occasions, with peak lapels edged in glossy silk or shawl lapels with a black trim.

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## ECONOMIC NOTE

### STEFANO RICCI CONTINUES TO GROW

The year 2024 solidifies the growth of the STEFANO RICCI GROUP, following a 2023 performance that saw a 43% increase over the previous year, thus confirming the forecasts made at the start of the financial year. The end of the third quarter recorded a growth of approximately 11% at both current and constant exchange rates, with revenues at €174 million (compared to €157 million during the same period in 2023).

These figures are driven by the exceptional performance in the Middle East, buoyed by strong revenue growth in Dubai and the completion of the Sindalah Yacht Club by Stefano Ricci.

“In such an uncertain geopolitical landscape and marked by a slowdown of luxury goods consumption,” says Niccolò Ricci, CEO of STEFANO RICCI S.p.A., “I would like to thank our workforce and clients for their commitment to the values and strictly Italian quality we continue to uphold. Thanks to new product lines and highly innovative projects in the Interior division, such as the Suite Stefano Ricci – La Rocca at Castelfalfi, the brand continues to enter new markets and looks with renewed confidence to strategic regions like North America and Asia. This will ensure we maintain high levels of performance, supported by a significant medium- to long-term investment plan.”

European and US markets are steadily growing, while China is experiencing a natural slowdown after the record numbers of 2023. The STEFANO RICCI GROUP continues its vision of strategic openings, with new stores scheduled to open in Montecarlo Mareterra, Ho Chi Minh City, and Washington DC.

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## SR EXPLORER, SUSTAINABILITY AS A MISSION

SR Explorer Mission Peru is a journey of rediscovery into Inca civilisation, during which our team visited the Sacred Valley. We were captivated by the personal story of an extraordinary woman, Nilda Callañaupa, who has spent thirty years dedicated to preserving Quechua textile traditions that would otherwise have been lost. Her efforts focus on securing a future for the native people, enabling the passing down of ancient weaving craftsmanship while also contributing to women's empowerment. For this reason, we have chosen to support the **Centro de Textiles Tradicionales del Cusco** by funding weaving courses for the next generation.

I am also pleased to announce the beginning of our agreement with The Explorers Club of New York, which, starting in 2025, will see us committed to funding international expeditions for young explorers' projects. This past May, we had the privilege of presenting our SR Explorer project at their headquarters, gaining recognition for the quality of our missions, which are based on shared values with this esteemed international institution that has graciously welcomed our family.

*Niccolò Ricci, CEO di STEFANO RICCI S.p.A.*