

THE SHOES MAKE THE MAN

Every well-dressed Italian knows that true style begins from the feet up. Italy is world-famous for the quality of its craftsmanship, and this is particularly the case when it comes to hand-made shoes. Visit one of these historic artisanal shoemakers for an exquisite creation emphatically "Made in Italy."

Tiffany Parks shares her picks.



ANDREA SANTONI began hand-making shoes in his "haute de gamme" workshop in 1975. Now his son Giuseppe proudly follows in his footsteps. This sleek pair of boots is the epitome of casual elegance. Piazza di Spagna, 79. Tel 0669922394. www.santonishoes.com

For more than 60 years, **ROBERTO BOTTICELLI** has been creating footwear that defies convention and makes the imagination soar. This gray suede monk strap with black snakeskin trim is a daring yet understated choice. Via Frattina, 24. Tel 0669921609. www.robertobotticelli.it



Only in the heart of Rome can you find the exclusive craftsmanship of **LAUDADIO**, an award-winning family of artisans crafting leather shoes for nearly a century. This tasseled loafer is a classic, and can instantly sharpen any man's look. Via Capo le Case, 58. Tel 066780898. www.laudadioshoes.it



After being awarded the prestigious Qualità Italia prize in 1975, **SILVANO LATTANZI** continued to put the concept of quality and excellence into every shoe he produced. Have your ideal shoe made "su misura" (to measure), according to your taste and the exact shape of your unique foot. Via Bocca di Leone, 59. Tel 066786119. www.silvanolattanzi.com

The Passion of a Lifetime

A pioneer of Italian fashion, **SALVATORE FERRAGAMO** dedicated his life to designing luxury footwear without sacrificing the most important element: comfort. Born to a large farming family outside Naples, young Ferragamo began to hone his shoemaking skills at the precocious age of nine. Surprisingly, it was simple necessity that first sparked his passion: when his family was unable to afford shoes for his sisters' first communion, he decided to make them himself. Realizing he had discovered his *raison d'être*, he studied shoemaking for a year, and then opened a shop out of his parents' home at age 13. In 1914, at just 16, he immigrated to the US, and by the '20s he was already designing made-to-measure shoes for Hollywood stars. With inspiration from historic Italian artists, along with his own inventiveness, Ferragamo established a new standard of fashion in footwear. Nevertheless, he was distressed by the pain that his shoes caused the wearer, so he studied anatomy at the

University of Southern California in order to design the most comfortable and attractive shoe possible. Today, his legacy lives on with every stitch of his handcrafted shoes, representing the true artisanship and excellence behind the Made in Italy label.



If Italian footwear had a patron saint, his name would be **SALVATORE FERRAGAMO**. Step up your look with this rich brown calf-skin wingtip with delicate buckle details. Via dei Condotti, 73. Tel 066781130. www.ferragamo.com

Since 1946, the **MORESCHI** family has been using traditional techniques to handcraft fine leather footwear, and their research, passion, and dedication has made them one of the most prestigious shoemakers in the country. It takes a dapper and confident man to pull off this two-toned wingtip, but the result is the embodiment of style. Via Frattina, 47. Tel 066992105. www.moreschi.it



For over a century, Giuseppe **MARINI** and his descendants have been dedicating their lives to the art of creating hand-made shoes. These soft suede monk straps are a versatile choice for a man with impeccable taste. Via Crispi, 97. Tel 3471180391. www.calzaturemarini.it

BALDININI was founded in 1910 and has been handcrafting exquisite bespoke shoes ever since. This innovative black Oxford features a flexible leather weave that makes it as comfortable as it is elegant. Via Del Babuino, 150. Tel 0636010347. www.bandinini.it

