

# TOY STORY

If the child is the father of the man, you can bet he's also the pops of the pilot, jet owner or fractional-share member. For the little boy inside every plane lover at the top of your list, here's the ultimate price-is-no-object guide to making sure the season is flight.



As a man on the go, the only luggage that will do is sturdy like a fuselage yet light as a cloud. Something that will keep up with your Challenger 605. Something classic and elegant — the way flying was meant to be. Something, in other words, like the **Faubourg Express suitcases** created by venerable luggage maker Globe-Trotter for Paris fashion house Hermès. Each piece is handcrafted from Globe-Trotter's patented paper-like vulcan fiber and then lined with Hermès's iconic Champ des Course print, which depicts a composite of racetrack sketches and other drawings by French artist Hubert de Watrigant. So instead of wondering where your luggage is, you'll be busy pondering where it will take you next.

*Small beige suitcase, \$3,025; medium, \$4,825; large, \$5,350. 800-441-4488; hermes.com*



PHOTOGRAPH BY JIMMY NICOL (LUGGAGE)



Seems that the pilot doesn't fly far from the FBO: half a century later, Wolfgang Langewiesche's **Stick and Rudder** (McGraw-Hill) remains the leading manual on the art of flying. The only tome since to rival this classic comes from the pen of a cockpit prodigy who flew solo at the ripe age of 14 — and who also happens to be Langewiesche's son, William, the noted national-affairs correspondent for *Vanity Fair*. In his book **Inside the Sky: A Meditation on Flight** (Vintage), the junior Langewiesche draws on his childhood days spent in the passenger seats of his father's and friends' aircraft to unravel the mysteries of flight and explore it as a metaphor for understanding the human condition. Langewiesche père — who would have turned 100 this year — gave his son the gift of flight; their combined literary insights make it the perfect flight buff's boxed set.

*Stick and Rudder*, \$24.95; *Inside the Sky*, \$14. amazon.com



For the ultimate stocking stuffer, pick up **Flight Options'** revamped **JetPASS Ultimate Travel** card. Offering upwards of 25 hours of flight time, this fully refundable jet card offers the most flexibility in the industry, with access to three cabin sizes (the Hawker 400XP, Hawker 850XP and Embraer Legacy 600) — no asset purchase required, fuel surcharge included and no expiration date.

\$100,000. 877-703-2348; flightoptions.com



For the first stop using your new jet card, book a weekend stay at the **Winvian boutique hotel**. Situated on a 113-acre estate in Morris, Connecticut, the 18 free-standing cottages were designed by different architects drawing inspiration from a Connecticut theme — like the "Helicopter," fashioned from a restored 1968 Sea King (Sikorsky builds them down the road in Stratford). The giant-screen viewing area is inside the fuselage; the deep-pile sleeping berth, steam showers and whirlpool are just beyond the cabin door by the fireplace on the mock "runway." Rates include three meals from Alain Ducasse and Daniel Boulud protégé Chris Eddy and open access to the resort's wine cellar.

\$1,450 and up. 860-567-9600; winvian.com



There's little more that can trump the gift of having the world at your fingertips — which is precisely what you give (or get) with the **Vertu Constellation phone**. Named after Lockheed's most successful postwar bird and created with the international jet setter in mind, this most worldly of smart phones has a quad-band engine capable of providing connectivity in 180 countries, real-time flight information, currency conversion attuned to the major financial markets, a clock that tells time in three time zones simultaneously and global weather reports — all in one sleek device crafted from the same ceramic material used on the exterior of the Space Shuttle. At the push of a programmed button, you'll also have access to a dedicated concierge 24 hours a day to accommodate your every whim — the world at your fingertips, indeed.

\$4,650. vertu.com



Many watches tell time and look sharp. But how many are able to claim the role of copilot — measuring crosswinds, providing a conversion scale for aviation weights and measures or converting into an attachment to your instrument panel? For a start, the four shown here: the limited-edition **Bell & Ross BR01-97 Instrument Power Reserve** is a wrist-sized cockpit timepiece of polished satin 18-carat pink gold; the **Breitling Montbrillant Legende** is equipped both with the brand's famous circular slide rule and a caseback conversion scale; the **Ernst Benz ChronoFlite WorldTimer**, whose propeller hands and rotating bezel measure time zones in major cities; and the **Hamilton Khaki X-Wind Automatic** is the world's first drift-angle calculator in watch form and comes with a sporty brown stitched leather strap extension that fits over even the bulkiest flying jacket. Now if only there were a watch to pay for your fuel bill, too.

*Bell & Ross BR01-97 Instrument Power Reserve in pink gold, \$19,900. 888-307-7887; bellross.com. Breitling Montbrillant Legende, \$5,600. 203-762-1180; breitling.com. Ernst Benz ChronoFlite WorldTimer, \$5,200. 248-203-2323; ernstbenz.com. Hamilton Khaki X-Wind Automatic, \$1,295. 877-838-5224*



Waiting up to three years for your Legacy 600 to finally arrive can wear on your patience and get old fast: *What's taking them so long anyway? In that amount of time, I could build one myself!* Well, maybe you should, and with the **Aerolab Biplane Kit**, now you can. The single-engine low wing "Lo Camp" sport version has an open cockpit that seats two comfortably in its leather interior. Don't let its wooden propeller and retro-appeal fool you: this beauty flies at 92 knots (106 mph) up to a ceiling of 12,000 feet. Just remember to bring your Loro Piana scarf (see page 81).

*Starting at \$17,950. aerolab.it*

Sure, you can own a lightning-fast car such as an Aston Martin DB9, but unless you live on a cornfield (and a mowed down one at that), chances are driving it to its limits can be difficult. **Supercar Life** solves that problem by allowing just 15 people a day to rev up speed demons such as the Ferrari F430, Lamborghini Gallardo, Mercedes AMG CLK 63 Black Series, Porsche Turbo 911 and said Aston Martin on racetracks (in January, at Moroso Motorsports Park in Palm Beach, Florida) under the guidance of racing pros.

*\$5,000 per person per day. 877-420-0090; supercarlife.com*

For a holiday filled with high spirits, pop open a bottle of **Airwines**, a pair of full-bodied Australian Shirazes from importer The Grateful Palate whose labels mimic boarding passes. You'll love these wines for their smart packaging (every **2005 First Class** bottle is assigned a "seat number," and when you un-holster it from the case, a stencil of an unfastened seatbelt peeks out from behind), and even more for their rich taste. The **2005 Boarding Pass** has a dense fruity flavor, thanks to grapes grown on 10- to 15-year-old vines in some of South Australia's finest vineyards. For a slight upgrade, the First Class is held for 18 months in a combination of new and one-year-old French- and American-oak casks. Both editions contain notes of baking spices and fruitcake — though we have a feeling they won't be re-gifted nearly as much.

*Boarding Pass, \$18. First Class, \$30.  
888-472-5283; gratefulpalateimports.com*



Combat edema in style by slipping your dogs into these Louisiana alligator-trimmed cashmere **Jet Slippers** by artisanal shoemaker **Harrys of London**. The brand's long-standing bestseller has been snapped up by the likes of Kevin Costner and Harvey Weinstein, and this holiday season, come in brown, camel, heather gray and black. Its smooth, seamless, leather bottoms are made exclusively for use within the private-jet cabin. "Wearing them outside is like dragging your fur coat on the ground," explains Harrys creative director Kevin Martel. Of course, as he points out, "that doesn't stop people from doing it."

*\$495. 212-217-2745; harrysoflondon.com*



Ever wonder what becomes of old, weary commercial airliners and WWII fighter jets? Do they retire to that big FBO in the sky? Chances are, their parts wind up in a bone yard in the Mojave Desert, but if you believe in reincarnation, then you might be able to find them in your living room in the form of a coffee table. Since 2002, the design team behind **Motoart** has been bringing propellers, turbine fans and rear-stabilizer wings back from the grave and reverse-engineering them into limited-edition furniture pieces, such as this **martini table** constructed from a Douglas DC-3 propeller mounted on a C-130 mechanical gear dome. While the Art Deco style harkens back to the golden age of aviation, its three-quarter-inch green glass gives off an ethereal glow from internal illumination – not unlike that emanating from its proud owner.

\$7,900. 310-375-4531; [motoart.com](http://motoart.com)



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIMMY NICOL (BOTTLES AND MARTINI TABLE)



If you've ever watched the pros lose ball after ball at TPC Sawgrass and thought, / could do that, here's your chance. The **PGA Tour Player Experience** essentially enters you in the Tournament Players Championship. OK, so it's a different weekend and you and your brother-in-law are the only two on the leader board. You still dress in the Champions' locker, eat in the VIP dining room and play the course with a caddie who wears your name on his white bib.

\$1,295–\$1,615 per person per day. 800-766-7939; [pgatourexperiences.com](http://pgatourexperiences.com)



You know, if you're going to play a pro, you better look the part. Perhaps you want to call Masters winner Zach Johnson's tailor? **Ralph Dunning**, owner of Dunning Golf, maker of the nicest threads in the game, will personally come to your house for a fitting and stitch you a set of his entirely custom polos, mock necks, sweaters and compression pieces. But don't get the yips on this one — Dunning's calendar has room for exactly 12 such clients a year.

Starting from \$10,000. 905-305-7665; [dunninggolf.com](http://dunninggolf.com)



Here's something that's sure to be cozier than that Christmas sweater: With its **At Sea and in the Air** program, Italian design house **Loro Piana** will outfit your entire aircraft in its suede-bordered cashmere throws, cushions, blankets, slippers and dressing gowns, and even customize the uniforms for plane owner and crew to match the cabin. Available in 24 colors of cashmere and 20 of suede.

212-980-7960; [loropiana.com](http://loropiana.com)