

Overhead

A great bootmaker moves up the spinal cord

If the Shoe Fits

Some traditions are so deeply rooted that even the slightest meddling is simply inconceivable. (Two words: *New Coke*.) Which is why, when Berluti recently debuted a collection of briefs and travel cases after 112 years of hand-crafting nothing but men's footwear, observers regarded the move with some trepidation.

Fear not, creatures of habit and comfort. Olga Berluti, the company's fourth-generation CEO, has not departed from the family aesthetic so much as applied the same spare-no-expense materials and breathtakingly time-consuming practices to a different part of the body. Think of the Trois Nuits bag as a \$2,600 pair of Berluti shoulder shoes.

In the Berluti M.O., Venezia leather undergoes a special tanning process until it becomes, in Olga's inimitable words, "a continuation of the human skin." Berluti's signature patina is then applied (and reapplied — an elite sect of Berluti groupies periodically gathers at five-star Parisian hotels for "Swann Club" patina refresher-coat sessions) and nourished with essential oils, giving your new dermis a worn and burnished yet imperviously glossy finish.

Of course, just one look at the Trois Nuits tells you this bag is as deliciously functional as it is sensual. Compact yet roomy, its zipped gussets hold three days' worth of clothing and a 20-inch laptop, while a separate outside zip pocket is deep enough to store passport and plane tickets. Carrying is made easy by sturdy rolled leather handles or a detachable shoulder strap.

Is it any wonder Steven Spielberg has been spotted toting it through first-class gangways? And if you're worried about someone stopping you in security and blurting, "Hey, isn't that Spielberg's bag?", don't be: Even if no Swann Club meeting is scheduled near you soon, Berluti will customize your patina well before your bag departs on its maiden voyage. **▣**

THE FILE Berluti Trois Nuits Bag

Cost \$2,600

Dimensions 18.9" x 13" x 7"

Store Locations Paris, Moscow, London and New York

Also Available In Smaller Deux Jours version

Contact berluti.com



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