

Overhead

At last, the world's finest suitcase washes up on our shores

Claim Your Luggage

Its trunks set sail on the *Titanic*. Its cases have weathered journeys to both poles, accompanied Sir Edmund Hillary on his 1953 summit of Everest and recently made an appearance on the set of the retro Bond thriller *Casino Royale*. In its illustrious 110-year history, British brand Globe-Trotter has been everywhere, it seems — except on America's baggage carousels.

THE FILE Globe-Trotter Orient

Cost \$2,685 (for either 21-inch trolley case or 26-inch suitcase)

Packing Heat Although scenes with the Globe-Trotter were cut from *Casino Royale*, actor Daniel Craig still bought a couple of suitcases for his personal use after filming was done.

Contact globe-trotterltd.com



Then this fall, the luxury luggage maker finally jumped the pond and started appearing in upscale U.S. outlets such as Barneys New York, Moss and the Conran Shop. The suitcases, like the wheeled Orient trolley case shown here, are constructed via basically the same painstaking process the company has followed for more than a century. It starts deep in the forests of southeast Asia, where tribal villagers extract sap from urushi trees, known to produce one of the most durable lacquers on earth. Next it's on to Hertfordshire, where

veteran factory workers stretch 14 layers of material across an ash-wood frame, embellish with leather, rivet it all together, apply the urushi until it yields a diamond-like gloss and then line the bag with the finest Thai silk. The result is sturdier than leather, lighter than aluminum and, like a fine Bordeaux or a particularly wise M&A advisor, actually gets richer with age.

So go ahead: Drop it, stuff it, sit on it or just stand back and ponder where this exquisite valise has been all your life — and where it's going from here. 

WRITER: CRISTINA VELOCCI, JIMMY NICOL (SUITCASE: 3)

The Non-Liquid Shave Tired of futzing with travel-size cans of shaving cream? Panasonic's new **Ultra-Thin Travel Shaver** (\$60) is razor-thin enough to fit in your pocket. The hypoallergenic stainless-steel foil won't irritate skin — plus it's battery-operated, eliminating the need for a converter. brookstone.com

