

## Michael Bruno talks personal style: Part Two

Tuxedo Park, The Wind in the Willows and Cary Grant round off the 1stdibs founder's list of likes



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**My style icons** are Cary Grant, for his classic sense of style, and my boyfriend Alexander, who can put together a T-shirt and a pair of shorts in a way that nobody else can.

**A recent “find”** is the antiques district in the North Sea area of Southampton [New York]. I have lived nearby for over 10 years, but I have never really shopped there. It’s a little bit off the radar and in the making; it has kind of popped up in the past year. When I first visited I must have bought more than 60 items. I found lots of small things I loved between \$100 and \$500, from gorgeous sterling-silver cocktail shakers to a little 19th-century marble bust – and the parrot doorstop. Particularly good dealers are Morgan Macwhinnie and East End Antiques. *East End Antiques, 675 North Sea Road, Southampton, NY 11968 (+1631-353 3434). Morgan Macwhinnie, 520 North Sea Road, Southampton, New York, NY 11968 (+1631-283 3366).*

**The last items of clothing I added to my wardrobe** were a dozen white Tom Ford shirts. I love white shirts and these fit me just right, without having to have them custom-made. [www.tomford.com](http://www.tomford.com).

**The last meal that truly impressed me** was at Sant Ambroeus in Southampton. I had a perfect piece of sea bass, but every meal I have there is my best last meal. It’s proper Italian food that’s beyond delicious. I eat there all summer long, and it’s always amazing and wildly busy. *30 Main St, Southampton, New York, NY 11968 (+1631-283 1233; [www.santambroeus.com](http://www.santambroeus.com)).*

**The book on my bedside table** is *The Wind in the Willows*, which was given to me for a recent birthday by Matt Cohler [the former vice president of product management at Facebook]. I didn’t have time for much reading this summer; because of the two puppies I’ve just bought, I fall into bed exhausted.

**An object I would never part with** is not a concept that ever crosses my mind. I consider myself more of a steward of objects – you bring them into your life for a period and then pass them on. Although, that said, I would be very hard pressed to sell my 10ft-tall display cabinet of colourful 1920s fish samples from Hawaii and Mexico. *Waldman Jewelry & Antiques, 25 Main Street, Southampton, New York, NY 11968 (+1631-287 0904).*

**The one artist whose work I would collect if I could** is Gerhard Richter. His work has an organic quality to it, and I like things that feel like they are part of nature. And I think his art is an appreciating asset. [www.gerhard-richter.com](http://www.gerhard-richter.com).

**The best gift I’ve given recently** is a donation to the ASPCA [the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals]. I have been a member for a number of years and it is one of the causes that I give to regularly. [www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org).

**And the best one I’ve received recently** is time with my mother; she visited me for three weeks from Arizona. I hope that’s not too corny, but it’s true. She’s in her late seventies and has just had full mastectomies because she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

**The site that inspires me** is Tuxedo Park [in New York State], where I live. It’s a gated 5,000-acre site between 60,000 acres of two state parks. There are gorgeous 19th-century mansions by the important architects of the day such as Stanford White and John Russell Pope, who built my home. The landscape is rugged but simple. I have 20 acres on the lake with huge meadows, forests and giant boulders. I bought a house within a week of going there – it’s 14,000sq ft, which is considered medium sized there.

**My favourite room in my house** is my main entry hall in Tuxedo Park. From it you can see into the black glass vestibule, through an old Dutch door that’s probably 5ft wide, down a hill, through a meadow and to a prehistoric boulder that’s as big as the house, left there from the Ice Age. I just stand there and say, “Wow”.

**The grooming staple I'm never without** is Tom Ford Tobacco Vanille Eau de Parfum. I'm not really a big cologne wearer, but my friend Patricia Dobashi [managing editor of 1stdibs] gave it to me and I love it. It has a deep, rich, musky tobacco scent and it's very masculine and fresh at the same time. *£140 for 50ml; www.tomford.com.*

**If I didn't live in New York, the city I would live in** is Rome. I can't think of anything better than spending time indulging in Italian culture – their art, food and fashion. I love the street life and being surrounded by monuments. When I go, I stay at the Hotel de Russie, shop at Brunello Cucinelli, especially for cashmere and loose, casual clothing, and eat at the Ristorante Nico near the Spanish steps. *Brunello Cucinelli, 33 Via Borgognona, 00187 Rome (+3906-678 7680; www.brunellocucinelli.com). Hotel de Russie, 9 Via del Babuino, 00187 Rome (+3906-328 881; www.hotelderussie.it). Ristorante Nico, 6 Viale Angelico, 00197 Rome (+3906-370 0456).*

**If I weren't doing what I do,** I would be an inventor. When I see a problem, I like to find a solution. For example, I am now building an app for managing house staff. It's called *The House Pad* and does translations, has an image library of how I like the rooms to look, so things can be put back properly, and allows me to send notes throughout the week, such as “throw away the chicken in the fridge”.