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# It’s Time for a New, Old-Fashioned Briefcase. Here’s the One to Buy

We’ve cracked the case.



R. Horn’s Wien Pur two-compartment briefcase. *Photographer: Hannah Whitaker fo Bloomberg Businessweek*

By [James Tarmy](#)  
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More than a watch or a pen or a tie, the right briefcase can subtly telegraph style and professionalism while serving a conspicuously utilitarian purpose. It's the object you heave onto a conference table, rifle through at a lunch meeting and rely on for an elegant commute. Given that most classic briefcases do basically the same thing (open and close and carry things), the best are set apart through design, materials and build-quality. With its clean lines, manageable size and timeless, discreet aesthetic, the Pur two-compartment briefcase from R. Horn's Wien is guaranteed to deliver function in a form you'll want to have by your side for decades.

## THE COMPETITION

- Made by hand in Ettinger's century-old UK factory, the slim Burlington briefcase (\$1,750) can fit a laptop and a handful of documents. Suede inside with a sturdy bridle leather exterior, the bag has two slip pockets, one on the outside for easy access.
- Asprey's Hanover 1 briefcase in saddle leather (\$3,150) will wear beautifully over time, and the calfskin interior offers a single main compartment and two pen pockets, plus slots for your business cards and phone.

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- Structured, crisp and contemporary, Sandqvist's Alice bag (\$390) looks hypertrim but has a slot large enough to fit a 13-inch laptop along with a larger main compartment. A removable leather shoulder strap and zip top add to ease of use.

## THE CASE

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R. Horn's Wien is a boutique Austrian manufacturer whose eight craftsmen make products by hand in its Vienna workshop. Light, elegant and made from a supple soft leather, the Pur is roomy enough to carry a laptop or an iPad along with a book, but slender enough that it won't look like you've stuffed your whole work desk inside. There

are two main compartments with a thin third in the front for loose papers, all of which can be locked securely with a small clasp on the flap that's based on a century-old design. (Don't lose the key!) Inside, the lining provides a vivid pop of red, which owners can expose judiciously—a tiny bit of pizzazz in an otherwise staid, if stylish, wrapper. €985 (\$1,075), [rhorns.com](http://rhorns.com)

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