



Foxy: John Brommel's calfskin boot

Winter warmers

BOOTS When last winter held Sweden in its iciest grip, shoemaker Mikael Pettersson started to get requests from his regular customers in Helsingborg and Stockholm: did he have any shoes that kept in the warmth? At the time, they were out of luck. But with another winter upon us, he's armed with a new collection from Italy's John Brommel's, a small shoe factory in Rimini that has delivered handcrafted boots and dress shoes to the Italian army for generations. Pettersson is introducing three models with lambskin lining. There are two Chelsea boots, one in black suede and elastic, and one in dark brown with a zip – both with rubber soles.

But the model that really feels right for a long, cold winter is the calfskin boot, complete with a specially designed Vibram rubber sole for insulation and grip. This welted calfskin boot is built on the Vibram sole, which is in turn built on layers of cork and leather. A removable metal foil insole also traps heat. The boot itself is lined with lambskin, with the wool on the inside.

"The look, which is part leather and part suede, is inspired by foxhunting boots, and there is also a practical zip at the top," Pettersson says.

The calfskin boot is available only from Stockholm's Rose & Born. \$750. PER OLSSON

Rose & Born

Grevgatan 2, Stockholm, Sweden. Tel: +46 8 662 08 90. www.roseborn.com

BEIJING'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

ART On Saturday afternoons, the Dashanzi 798 Art District in northeast Beijing is full of weekenders strolling from gallery to gallery.

Its hub is the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), founded by philanthropists and art collectors Guy and Myriam Ullens.

UCCA is the perfect introduction to China's booming art scene, with exhibitions by both established and up-and-coming artists. And as a nonprofit organization all proceeds are reinvested in local art and educational projects.

Check out the UCCA Store's Limited Edition artworks for a souvenir. JOHANNA AGERMAN ROSS

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www.ucca.org.cn and
www.uccastore.com

PISTE DE RÉSISTANCE

SKIS Rugged outdoor types in the Swiss canton of Graubünden are often referred to as "zai" in the local Romansh language, a word that translates as "tough" or "resistant." The name sounded perfect to Simon Jacomet, a Swiss ski instructor who in 2003 came up with the Zai line of high-performance skis. Handcrafted by artisans in the mountain village of Disentis, the skis are made from layers of carbon fiber and have a cedar wood core. They are lightweight and provide a good grip on icy snow. The Laisa model (right) is ideal for carving in off-piste powder. 172cm and 182cm skis, \$3,500; 192cm skis, \$3,650. Poles and a ski bag are included.

IVAN CARVALHO
www.zai.ch

