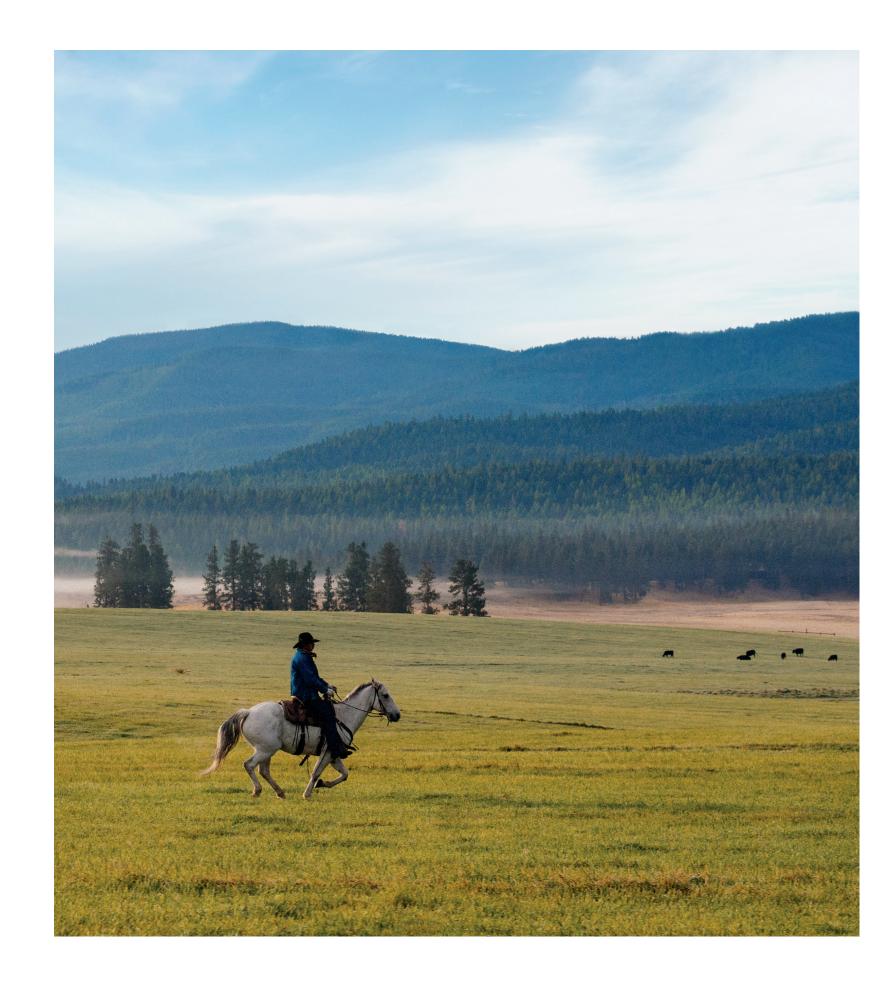
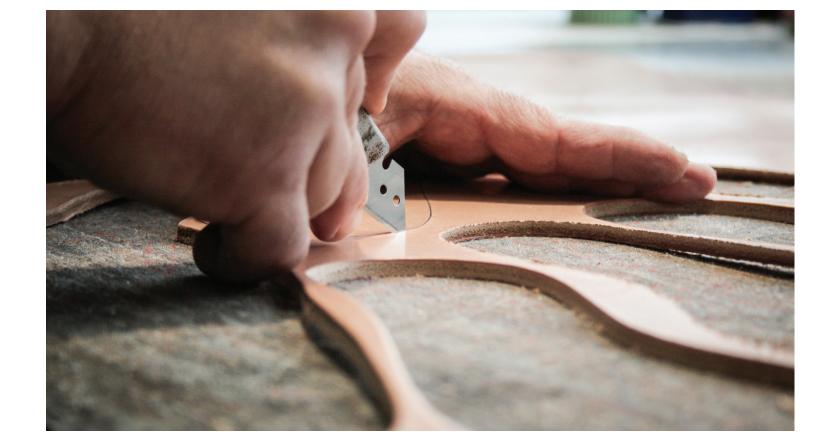
#### Gulfstream

# NONSTOP





BESPOKE



"The only moment where I am happy is when the client says, 'it's perfect.""

—JEAN-FRANÇOIS BARDINON Chapal President



#### **INSPIRED BY PARIS**

Jean-François Bardinon carries on a French leather-making legacy that dates back to 1832. When he was 20, his father, Pierre, sent him to the Chapal workshop to learn the family business. A dreamer with an eye for cinematography, he quickly began sketching jackets. After years as Chapal's designer, he took over the

reins of the company in 2005. Growing up in the 8th arrondissement of Paris amidst the world's great fashion houses was a guiding influence. One of Bardinon's favorite childhood memories is of dining at Maxim's with his family in the 1960s. The grand Parisian restaurant and its impeccable service made a keen impression—and sparked his passionate attention to customer service today.

Bardinon is always creating new Chapal clothing collections and forging collaborations with other artists from film actors to hip-hop musicians. Yet he remains dedicated to upholding his family heritage. "It's essential that we stay true to our history," he says. His favorite Chapal jacket? The "1914," a style originally made for the French military and worn by his aviator grandfather.

At Chapal's historic tannery and workshop, a team of leather artisans craft each jacket by hand using traditional methods. A wooden pattern (top) is cut to ensure a personalized fit.

#### Heritage Par Excellence

Chapal started out as a supplier of company operates its own fine leathers and furs in the 19<sup>th</sup> tannery, a rarity in the industry. century. During World War I the Every step of the fabrication company began producing sheep- takes place at Chapal's historic skin leather jackets for the French workshop in central France, Air Force, and Chapal has been where artisans use tools and linked with aviation ever since. handcraft techniques from one Notably, Charles Lindbergh wore century ago. The hides are veg-

a Chapal A1 jacket on his famous etable tanned, dyed in wooden Atlantic solo flight in 1927. barrels and air-dried. The mas-After patenting an innovative ter cutter slices the leather using waterproof coating for leather, a pattern—it typically takes 32 Chapal created flight jackets for cut pieces to form one jacket. the U.S. Air Force during World

Tailors sew each garment from War II. Today, Chapal continues to start to finish. produce these iconic aviator jack- Bardinon works closely with et styles—USAAF, A1, RAF, 1914— his team of 20 artisans. "My

for a new generation of clients. family has deep respect for the Chapal garments are still skilled leather artisans we have entirely handcrafted in France. worked with over the years," he The hides are from sheep raised says. "It is an important responin Les Causses, a mountainous sibility for us to have a valued region in the southeast. The relationship with our workers."



BESPOKE

## Legacy in Leather

Inspired by legendary adventurers of the past, Chapal perfects the ultimate heirloom jacket.

BY LAURIE WERTZ PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMMANUEL FRADIN



o walk through the wooden doors on the rue de Rivoli, up the grand staircase to the Chapal showroom, is to step back in time to an age of savoir-faire. Inside this elegant Haussmann apartment, in the heart of the historic Paris fashion district, a stunning array of handcrafted leather jackets awaits, each one more irresistible than the next. Founded in 1832, Chapal makes leather jackets steeped in aviation and automotive history with a contemporary edge. Celebrating a spirit of high-speed accomplishment, these are garments intended to be worn for a lifetime then passed to the next generation. The company's devoted following includes celebrities, aviators and racing car enthusiasts modern-day adventurers who seek a connection with the storied past. Chapal is that rare entity: a family-run fashion house that is steadfastly preserving artisan methods mastered through the centuries. Jean-François Bardinon is the eighth generation of his family to lead the company along its independent path. "We have never used suppliers to make our jackets," he says. "We have full control of each step." Chapal takes great pride in meticulously crafting a jacket to individual customer specifications, delivering a fit and feel that only expert handwork can create. >



BESPOKE



A hidden pocket label is signed by the tailor who sewed the jacket from start to finish. Bespoke orders begin with a custom fitting at the Chapal showroom (top).

### A Bespoke Experience

the luxury of finely crafted leather the look of the jacket but how do jackets to an exceptional level you want it to feel?" of detail. All the iconic Chapal aviator and driving jacket styles private fitting, where more than can be made-to-measure for 20 body measurements are taken men and women. Clients can also to achieve the legendary Chapal special-order materials—leather fit. Once a pattern is cut, the tailor collars. For a one-of-a-kind to finishing the lining and details. statement, Chapal will embellish A natural wax finish produces the a jacket with custom embroidery, leather's rich, varnished patina; patches or even tattoos to com- it's a formula that has been in the

to the showroom in Paris, where vises all bespoke orders himself. Bardinon meets with the client. If As keeper of the Chapal family an in-person visit is not possible, heritage, he does not rest until the Chapal team makes it a point the garment has been properly to talk by phone. "It's important to fitted, finished and delivered. hear their voice, to know who will "The only moment where I am be wearing the jacket," says busi- happy is when the client says, ness manager Laurence Luçon. 'it's perfect.'" O

Chapal's bespoke services take "We ask questions, not just about Clients are invited in for a

finishes, linings in silk or British takes over, creating one jacket at a flannel, detachable shearling time, from assembling and sewing

memorate memories and events. family for five generations. The process begins with a visit Bardinon designs and super-

THE 1914 JACKET Originally made for the French Air Force, the 1914 is one of many Chapal jacket styles that can be custom tailored. Clients can create a signature heirloom jacket from a menu of bespoke options.





**01. Leather.** Choose a fine leather from a range of colors and finishes. A detachable sheep fur collar is available on select jackets.



**02. Lining.** Browse a selection of cotton gabardines, French silks and British flannels.

**03. Personalization.** Add a signature touch with a custom patch, tattoo or monogram.



**04. Detailing.** Specify stitching color and the shape and number of pockets.

