

Fabulosity- How to Buy a Birkin and spot a Firkin

Written by Written by Corbin Chamberlin

"Fabulosity" with Corbin Chamberlin- The latest on Scottsdale and Phoenix arts, culture and fashion from the most glamorous guy we know.



Simply Divine

When one thinks of the Hermes Birkin Bag, visions of Fifth Avenue ladies strolling to lunch and the iconic pumpkin orange color instantly come to mind. Hermes is the definition of luxury. As Glenda Bailey states, "Hermes- you will love it today, and have it forever". Hermes produces products that remain classic and chic in these days where disposable fashions are abundant.

Jane Birkin was the inspiration for the Birkin bag. On a flight from Paris, she was discussing with the CEO of Hermes, Jean-Louis Dumas, how difficult it was to find a quality weekend bag. This inspired Dumas, and so the Birkin was born. The Birkin is viewed as the holy grail to fashionistas, which no other bag can ever surpass. The style starts at \$8,450 for the smallest- a 32- and can go as high as \$96,000 for the Himalaya Crocodile.

Story continued. Click the next button below to read on.



An Authentic Birkin

The bag is constructed by one craftsperson, from start to finish. The elite leather (or skin) that comprises the bag is held together by a linen, beeswax-covered thread that is saddle-stitched. This stitching is done in this fashion so in case one of the two threads comes loose there will always be another to hold. God forbid your Harry Winston ring falls out from a broken strap! The hardware, or padlladium, is handcrafted in your choice of metals- you can choose silver, gold or platinum.

Story continued. Click the next button below to read on.



A Fake Birkin (and bad one, at that)!

How to spot a fake? I speak with my lovely & loyal San Fran associate often, a lady who I have bought Hermes from for years, and as she always says- "it is best to buy directly from Hermes." She also expresses that the "firkins", or fake Birkins, will not have the structure of the real thing, and will slump when placed down. The leather will obviously not be of the same quality as the skin or leather you'd find in an Hermes store. The interior of the bag should be lined with goat skin and you should see no seams on the outside, as the Birkin is made inside out and finished with polished piping that makes the bag look like one piece. Underneath the lock strap should be the initials of the craftsperson.

Story continued. Click the next button below to read on.

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Give It To Me!

So you're in love with the Birkin and you want it now? Too bad, the average waiting time for the bag is five+ years. Visit [Hermes.com](https://www.hermes.com) for your closest boutique, make friends with a sales associate and get your name on a list!

In the history of fashion, there are few die-hard Hermes-istas who have discovered a way to bypass the line! Michael Tonello's "Bringing Home the Birkin" is a glamorous book of one man's world-wide journey to out-wit the company of the orange boxes with a specific tactic to obtain the bags. Before Hermes discovers what Tonello had been doing, he managed to land hundreds of Birkins in a short amount of time.

One of my favorite stories ever.

Until next time, Keep it chic.

Corbin Chamberlin

