

Sole Patrol

| By *Edith Schoeber* | Photography by *Julia Gold* |

Los Angeles is an unlikely cobbling capital. The phrase "local footwear" evokes flimsy slip-ons and the ubiquitous flip-flop, and our well-heeled citizens prefer stylish soles imported from Paris or Milan. To the rescue come five L.A. designers determined to make a footprint for the fashionable set. They are digging their heels firmly into the Southland and creating high-end footwear that could send a frisson down Sergio Rossi's four-inch stilettoes or turn Christian Louboutin's red soles green.

LD Tuttle Parting her best foot forward this season is Tiffany Tuttle, who referenced old photos of army ski regiments, mountain Iggy Pop and the 1962 short film *La Jira* for her LD Tuttle collection. Born from this extraordinary mash-up is a feminine suede shoe with bold Frankenstein stitching, a low-leather motorcycle boot with studded straps and a high-top leather and patent oxford, heralding the launch of edgy urban styles. "There's always something to discover in Los Angeles," Tuttle says. Lucky for us, we've just discovered her.



The Drifter (\$342). LD Tuttle available at Creative of Comfort and Lulu. luluttt.com

Calleen Cordero From her North Hollywood factory to her Beverly Blvd. boutique, Calleen Cordero's shoes are testaments to hand-crafting. Her heavily studded leather sandals have become man-hunters—the soft leather clasp with hand-studded details and sky-high open toe boots set with polished gold zippers are also show-stops for classic stars.



The Lunge Lace-up (\$380). Calleen Cordero available at Rue Roman and Babylon. www.calleen.com



The Adonis (\$295). George Esquivel available at Emporio Armani. www.arnesi.com

George Esquivel "I tell my guys to put love into the shoes," says George Esquivel, who employs up to 10 shoemakers at a time to supply his neo-dipped West Hollywood store. Approximately 40 hours are spent hand-crafting each pair of his tough leather boots, quirky wingtips and impeccable brogues that have graced the famous feet of Fred Jam, Gene N' Roses and No Doubt. This fall he adds feminine designs, including a richly burnished suede shoe with hand-car ribbon laces.

Omelle Stepping out for its second season is Christie Angelle and Nicole LaFave's chic and playful line, Omelle. Fall designs include a chocolate leather bootie with a luxuriously knit beidge, a suede shoe done with a plush gathered pouch and a chic felt boot with a snazzy fold over the ankle that's fastened by an over-the-heel harness. Smitten celebs like Blake Lively, Ali Landry and Sharon Stone have strapped up the line.



The Fava (\$320). Omelle available at Madison and Fred Segal. omelle.com

Jerome C. Rousseau

Footwear phenom Jerome C. Rousseau designs his eponymous line, which has attracted best-buddy celebs Charlize Theron and Cameron Diaz, from his Beachwood Canyon home. Inspired by a young Kate Bush, Rousseau is going "Victorian meets Bohemian" for fall with a chevron suede boot that flatters a provocatively low-cut ankle and an exquisite black and green brogueed prior boot.



The Regent (\$280). Jerome C. Rousseau available at Bergamot Beverly Hills. jeromerousseau.com

From left: Tiffany Tuttle, Calleen Cordero, Jerome C. Rousseau and Brock LaFave and Nicole Angelle's factory.

