

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

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The Year of the Dream Trip

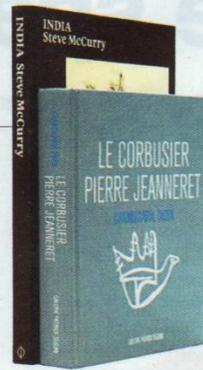
Tod's Alessandra Facchinetti won't be packing light for India.

"I am a very serious tourist," says Tod's women's creative director Alessandra Facchinetti from her office in Milan. "I want to make sure I see everything." That means creating detailed vacation itineraries (often timed to the hour) and literally miles of walking. "You really get to know the culture of a place on foot," she says.

The next big destination for Facchinetti is India, a trip she's been plotting for a couple of years but hasn't found time to take. "For me, it's always been a dream—a magical country full of rich colors, where the maharajas left their mark," she says. She'll spend a few days at the Purple Valley Yoga Retreat in Goa, set in dense gardens near the Arabian Sea and "with the best yoga teacher and great food." Then she'll head to Jaipur to make a requisite jewelry lover's pilgrimage to Munnu The

Gem Palace, "where they have the biggest diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and every other girl's best friend you can imagine," Facchinetti says.

While the designer has been gathering inspiration for months (studying photographer Steve McCurry's *India* and reading about Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret's modernist project of Chandigarh), she is far less disciplined about packing than she is about trip prep. "Everything that I think could work gets pulled out of the closet," she says. There are several stalwarts—J Brand jeans, Acne sweaters, Tod's loafers, and "a few different perfumes" from Le Labo. And though she admires minimalist packers, she always brings a separate suitcase for shoes and bags. "I've never been able to travel with just a carry-on," she says with a sigh. "Not even for a two-day trip." —HEATHER SUMMERVILLE



TOD'S s.p.a.

Don't forget:

- books
- Indian Jewels
- Mario Badescu hand cream
- i-Pad (downloaded with music!)
- Loafers
- Soft sweater for the plane
- Big Tod's Wave bag



Above, clockwise from left: Munnu The Gem Palace earrings (munnuthethegempalace.com; price upon request); India (Phaidon; \$60); Le Corbusier-Pierre Jeanneret: Chandigarh, India (Edition Galerie Patrick Seguin; \$190); Tod's Patchwork Wave bag (Tod's boutiques nationwide; \$3,995); Le Labo Santal 33 Eau de Parfum and Rose 31 Eau de Parfum (lelabofragrances.com; \$160 each).

Jaipur's Samode Haveli hotel, where Facchinetti plans to stay.