

A man in a brown tweed suit is riding a light blue scooter on a cobblestone street. The man is wearing a light blue shirt, a green tie, and a pocket square. He is also wearing a watch and a bracelet. The scooter is a Vespa-style scooter with a large headlight and a small front fender. The background is a blurred street scene.

HUGO JACOMET  
Photographs by Lyle Roblin

THE  
ITALIAN  
GENTLE  
MAN

Thames & Hudson



# SARTORIA RIPENSE

## *Roman Flair*

**S**artoria Ripense is an elegant hideaway nestling in Via di Ripetta in Rome, a stone's throw from the Piazza del Popolo. The main floor looks more like a gentlemen's haberdashery than a classic tailoring salon, displaying an opulent, luxurious range of garments and gentlemen's requisites: raincoats, suede jackets, umbrellas, neckwear, handkerchiefs, shirts and leather goods. The ambiance is that of a gentlemen's club.

The creator, owner and soul of Ripense is Andrea Luparelli, a man of assured tastes and bold stylistic statements, whose presence is always sought at Pitti Uomo for his ability to transmit flair and elegance in even the most aggressively dashing outfit. This is precisely why Sartoria Ripense has built, over the last few years, a strong reputation among the sartorial crowd: Luparelli has the gift of unlocking his clients' sartorial potential, introducing them gradually to unusual, daring fabrics and garments that might at first have been a challenging proposition.

### *The call of the tailoring world*

Luparelli started his career in the oil industry – very far from tailoring – and probably would have continued on that path if he had not, one evening, fortuitously met an old schoolfriend who would open his eyes and change his life forever. That night, he and his schoolmate enjoyed a long dinner, full of memories, laughs and confidences. They discussed how our paths are chosen in life and how we can find satisfaction in the jobs we choose. At that point Luparelli experienced, as he puts it, a sort of 'enlightenment', and decided to create Sartoria Ripense, where gifted bespoke tailors could craft Italian garments for the most discriminating yet daring gentlemen.

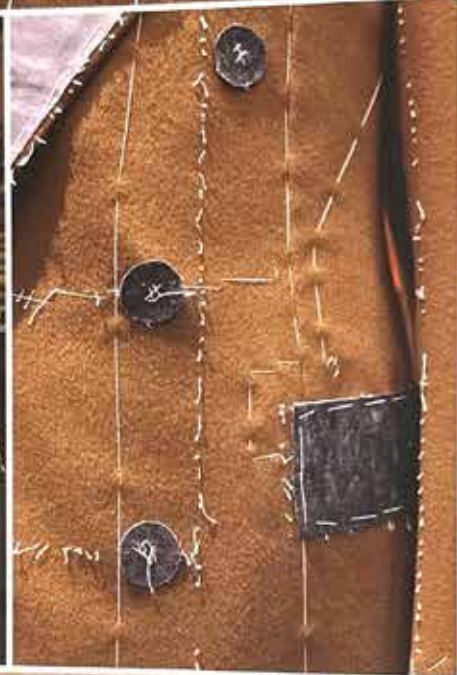
### *The bespoke atelier*

Sartoria Ripense's bespoke atelier is underneath the haberdashery. Inside, a small but expanding team of cutters and tailors interprets a fusion of Luparelli's and his customers' ideas, and translates them into distinctive and beautiful garments. This combination has been integral to Ripense's success: a tasteful, creative and extremely engaged



ABOVE Luparelli in front of the Ripense haberdashery and bespoke salon on Via di Ripetta, Rome.

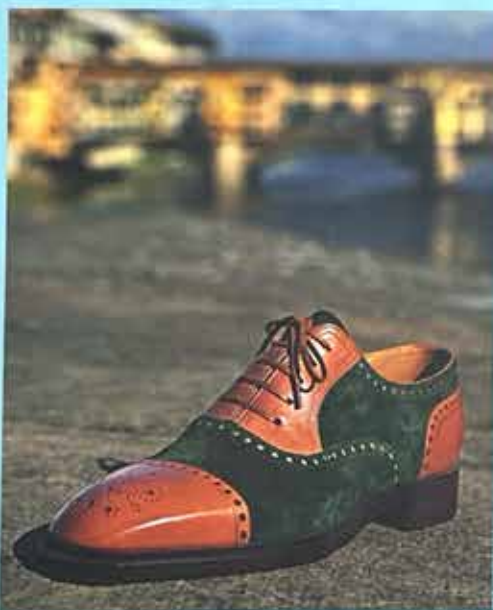
OPPOSITE The founder, owner and soul of Sartoria Ripense, Andrea Luparelli.



owner, whose passion is to help clients express a confident look, and a respected tailoring house that operates according to the strict rules of traditional bespoke (fully handmade jackets, suits and overcoats with clean, timeless lines, refined outside and inside and with exquisite finishing details).

Luparelli's unique take on clothing seems to work. Since 2010 his way of doing business has meant that Ripense's name and reputation have spread, in Italy and elsewhere – even in France, where a growing number of gentlemen have taken a particular liking to the *sartoria* and its reasonably priced bespoke.

Luparelli is also a very good example of how a tailoring entrepreneur should behave in order to reach an international audience and earn the respect of his peers. While never pretending to be a tailor, he is ever-present, giving his clients the best of himself with great taste, bold ideas and long experience – including face-to-face consultations, appointments and fittings – while coordinating the fulfilment of his clients' wish with his skilled team of artisans. Such discipline has resulted in a highly respected Roman bespoke tailoring house.



Celebrating the World's Finest Tailors and Artisans

