

Nicholas Faulkner

HEIGHT 6' 0" CHEST 39" WAIST 30"
SHOES 9 HAIR RED EYES BLUE



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34 THE ESSENTIALS CUSTOM CUTS

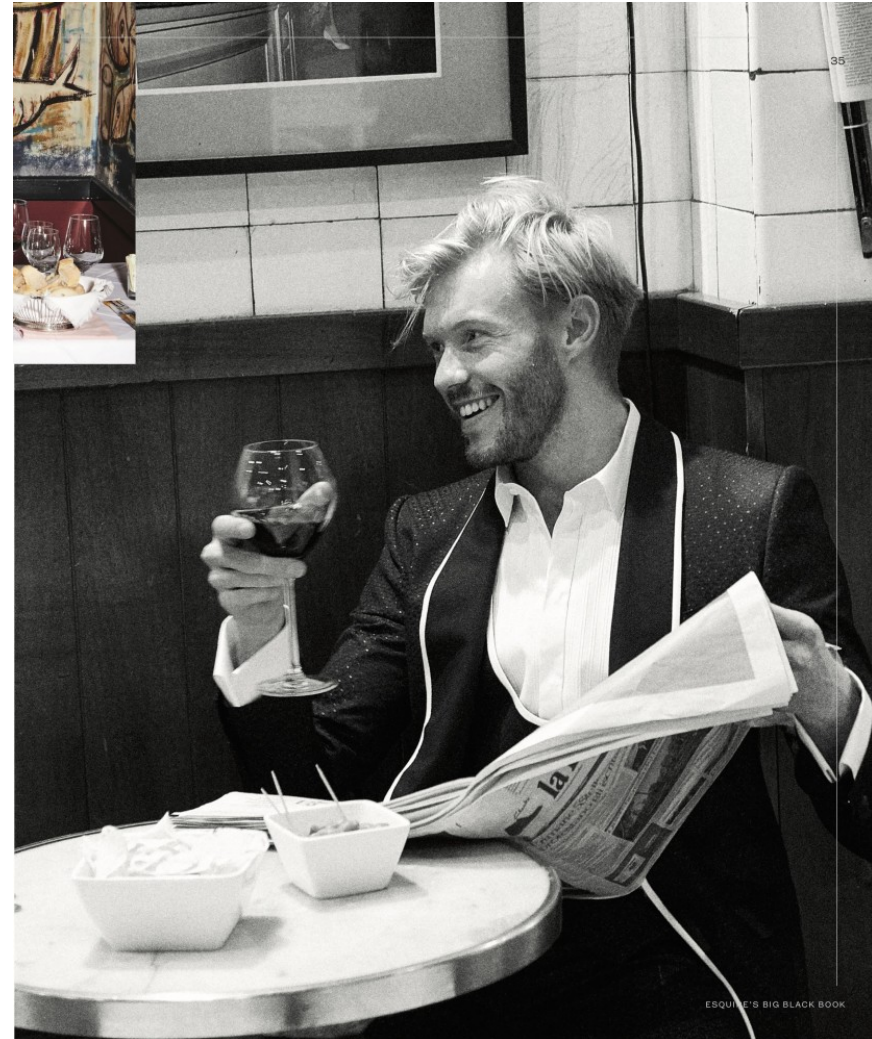


... "A man has no secrets from his tailor. You stand in front of that mirror and you might as well be naked," Domenico Dolce says. He would know: He grew up in a tailor's shop—his father's, on the outskirts of Palermo, in Sicily. "It's a very delicate process, very intimate," he goes on. "You're that vulnerable." "Absolutely," interjects Stefano Gabbana, the other half of one of Italy's best-known fashion houses. "No other professional scrutinizes you the way your tailor does."

Dolce: "Well, maybe your dentist."
Gabbana: "Okay, but going to the tailor is more fun."

Dolce: "Not to mention cheaper."
The two of them start laughing. They've got their patter down to a science. And why shouldn't they? Dolce and Gabbana have been business and creative partners for more than three decades, from the design duo's first show (the backdrop was a sheet, and the models were their friends) to their current status as a nearly \$6 billion worldwide megabrand.

Tailoring has been pivotal to that success—so much so that they're introducing a program built around it, a step above their ready-to-wear men's collection that they are calling Sartoria. The experience mimics entering an Old World Italian tailor's shop: Customers can visit select stores in cities across the world (New York, London, and Milan are a few) and dream up the clothes they want most. A fine handmade suit, certainly, but Sartoria expands the realm of custom possibility, offer-



ESQUIRE'S BIG BLACK BOOK

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