

Christos Garkinos: fashionable man about town

BY ENID PORTUGUEZ > LA.COM

As co-owner of men's lifestyle store Alpha and the newly expanded contemporary vintage boutique Decadestwo, Christos Garkinos knows how to help both sexes stay stylish. When he's not running his West Hollywood stores, he can be found hitting the tennis courts, eating steak and (surprise!) shopping.

Here's the lowdown:

Alpha is one of the few men's lifestyle stores in L.A. What products do men like to buy that would surprise women?

Toenail clippers. We have this nail kit from a German company called Dovo that comes in a leather package. We just can't keep them in stock.

Alpha is at 8625 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood. (310) 855-0775.

You're also known for your own personal style. Where do you shop?

I love YSL and Gucci. I don't know if it's because of their new designers, but their cuts for me are so much better.

Gucci is at 347 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills. (310) 278-3451.



Where do you shop for bargains?

I do the outlets in Cabazon. It's a two-for-one deal: I can shop for myself, and I can buy a dress from the Prada outlet and sell it at the store.

The Desert Hills Premium Outlets in Cabazon are at 48400 Seminole Drive, East of L.A. (951) 849-6641.

Is there any part of the city you feel you haven't explored yet?

I haven't really explored Watts. I grew up in Detroit, so I love an urban setting, and I know the history of Watts is interesting.

The Watts Towers Arts Center is at 1765 E. 107th St., South L.A. (213) 847-4646.

When you're not running the two stores, where can people find you?

Usually playing tennis or getting my facial with Kim at Ona Spa. Also I tend to shop, believe it or not. Retail is like putting on a show every day.

Ona Spa is at 7373 Beverly Blvd., Hollywood. (323) 931-4442.

What's your favorite restaurant?

The only place I love is Taylor's on Eighth Street in Koreatown. My parents owned a restaurant called Meat Town Inn, so we always had great steak at home. The bone-in rib-eye is great there. The women have been there for 40 years, and it takes you back to a different place.

Taylor's is at 3361 W. Eighth St., L.A. (213) 382-8449.

Where would you go to grab a cocktail?

I like hotel lobbies, so I'd probably get a drink at Sunset Tower.

Sunset Tower is at 8358 W. Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood. (323) 654-7100.

Decadestwo has quite the celebrity clientele. Do you get starstruck?

The one person I'd probably get starstruck over is Tom Ford (the fashion designer who led the legendary turnaround at Gucci). He has been to Decadestwo before, but I just missed him. He's such a rock star.

Decadestwo is at 8214 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood. (323) 655-1960.

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