



I want that bag!

> Carmen Liew sells Coach handbags online at affordable prices

BY SOO WERN JUN

A CLASSIC look of the “C” monogram embossed on soft, tumbled calfskin, smooth cowhide and gently tumbled fine-grain leather is Coach’s signature design. If it were not the leather selections, even the satin or fabric choices are simple yet trendy. Not leaving out the hard-to-miss horse and carriage logo.

Cannot get your mind off that Coach handbag you saw a few months back on a Coach boutique display? Stop trying to erase your memory of it and instead visit the www.welovecoach.com website and perhaps, make your dream bag come true.



Coach wristlets in various designs.

The online boutique started last year when Carmen Liew, 33, sold her own brand new Coach handbags because she could not afford to keep them all. When she received good response from sales of her bags, she decided to give the business a try with the

help of her husband, Eric Lau, 33, a web-designer. Today, the boutique offers a simple option for shoppers who are in love with own luxury bags at an affordable price.

Offering genuine leatherware imported specially for shoppers who are in love with Coach’s trendy yet timeless collection, you no longer need to be deprived of a particular item since they are available in Malaysia. Running this business as a part-time hobby, Liew provides a full range of the leatherware products and maybe you may just find your desired items there.

“Products which are brought in from Coach USA are usually prioritised as the latest collection. Items available ranges from leather handbags, sling bags, wallets, accessories such as scarves, ear-rings, necklaces, headbands and shoes. Whether it’s the Madison, Alexandra, Poppy, Brooke, Julia or Kristin collection, basically everything under the Coach umbrella is available,” explained Liew.

Besides updating shoppers with the latest collection, Liew also brings in previous or limited collections depending on the availability of stocks in the US. This is to cater to shoppers who may have missed out on certain collections which were released in retail boutiques or were not able to obtain a limited edition piece simply because it is not distributed locally.

As for shoppers who have personal requests for a particular item which is not available at the online boutique, Liew helps to source for the product overseas and would assist in ordering the product.

Customers are welcomed to provide

Liew with the style number and details of the item to ease her search for the right product. “Although the items are all imported, we are not able to ship them in complete with boxes as this would add on to the cost incurred for shipping charges. However, I do purchase Coach gift boxes to cater to shoppers who want to present the items as gifts. These boxes are sold separately,” added Liew.

Apart from selling these leatherware, Liew also shares tips on proper maintenance with shoppers. Payment methods include online transfer, PayPal, cash on delivery (COD) and even instalments are also available but certain terms and conditions apply. Prices range from RM100 to RM3,000.



All for sale ... Carmen Liew and her Coach collection.

ANWAR FAIZ/THESUN



An artist's impression of Kenanga Wholesale City.

Wholesale paradise

WHEN it opens its door in mid-2011, Kenanga Wholesale City (KWC) will attract buyers, shoppers and tourists alike to shop for everything fashionable under one roof. KWC follows hot on the heels of successful fashion wholesale malls in the region, including Platinum Fashion Mall in Bangkok, Dongdaemum Market in Seoul, Mangga Dua in Jakarta and several more in Humen and Guangzhou in China.

“A project like Kenanga Wholesale City is very much in line with the government’s policy to continually encourage innovative and sustainable ideas from the private sector to engage visitors in a way that is unexpected, refreshing and of value for money,” said Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen who was present at the launch of the lease units and to officially endorse KWC as a Kuala Lumpur tourist attraction.

“With the opening of the Kenanga Wholesale City, we hope to see KWC as a main shopping destination among tourists and key player in the ministry’s plan to increase tourist spending to RM170 billion in receipts by 2020. Our aim is to also encourage visitors to spend three times as much as they currently do in order for us to develop a high spending tourism industry.”

Also present at the recent press conference was Kenanga Wholesale City Sdn Bhd managing director Bernard Bong.

Located near the wholesale trading centre in Jalan Kenanga, Kuala Lumpur, the wholesale mall will feature 800 retail lots featuring fashion outlets, accessories, shoes, gifts, stationary, cinemas and food and beverage outlets.

For more information, visit www.kenangacity.com.my. - **Soo Wern Jun**

Olympic tie-up

FASHION designer Stella McCartney will oversee the design of the athletes’ clothing for the British team at the 2012 London Olympics, it was announced recently.

The daughter of The Beatles singer Paul McCartney has been appointed creative director for Team GB at the Olympic and Paralympic Games and will help shape the clothing to be made by Adidas.

The British Olympic Association said it was the first time in the history of the summer Games that a designer will work with a sports brand to design the team’s kit.

McCartney, who has already designed a line of clothing for Adidas, said: “As a British fashion designer it is an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be creative director of Team GB as the host nation of the London 2012 Olympic Games.”

Olympic and world champion cyclist Victoria Pendleton said she was excited about the tie-up.

“I’m a massive fan of Stella McCartney and with London hosting the Olympic Games it is really important as the host nation to set the standards.

“To have a British designer inputting into the British kit is going to be very special.” - AFP Relaxnews



Star power

JUST as many expected, Gossip Girl star Taylor Momsen – who previously starred in the European New Look ads – is the face of Madonna and her daughter Lourdes’ much-talked-about fashion line for Macy’s, called Material Girl.

The range, which will become available at the US department store on Aug 3 for back-to-school season, will feature mainly 1980s-inspired clothes, including star flowery bustier dresses, star

prints, “jeggings”, and even fingerless gloves.

According to a press release, the new line relies on mixing unexpected items, “like a tutu dress and studded-combat boots, or an oversized boyfriend sweatshirt with a floral print miniskirt.” All items are priced below US\$80 (RM256).

Even though the fashion world is starting to get fed up with celebrity fashion lines, this collection is highly anticipated

not just because of Madonna’s star power, but also because of her successful design debut for Swedish retailer H&M a few years back. Also, Lourdes – aka Lola – has started blogging on a new site, called Material World (<http://blog.materialgirlcollection.com>), prompting comparisons with fellow teen fashion blogger Tavi, and further building anticipation in the run-up to the collection release. - AFP Relaxnews



Experimental closet

THE celebrity style blogging continues: on the heels of Madonna’s daughter Lourdes, Courtney Love (pix) is letting you peek inside her (very experimental) closet.

Following her lampooned attempt at making her own beauty tutorials (to, as celebrity columnist Coco Perez put it, achieve the “cracked-out look”), Kurt Cobain’s

widow now eagerly posts her daily outfits on *What Courtney Wore Today*.

Cameos by fashion’s finest – designer Tom Ford, model Helena Christensen, or editor of *W* magazine, Stefano Tonchi – combined with daring clothes choices (think lace bras, jumpsuits, and body armour) and her quirky way of talking

about herself in the third person are guaranteed to make this one a blogosphere hit. Visit the blog at <http://whatcourtneyworetoday.com>. - AFP Relaxnews

Have a look at her five 30-seconds beauty tutorials at <http://www.twitvid.com/videos/courtneyloveuk>.