



the new da Vinci collection from MARSUS: sophisticated leather shoulder bags that are both comfortable and practical, combining stylish design with a number of pockets large enough to fit laptop computers, dress shirts and more (\$195 to \$250; [www.marsus.com](http://www.marsus.com)). To achieve a more casual look, there's the AXIO Urban Hardpack, a sleek, chic laptop bag designed for travelers to wear like a backpack (\$149.95; [www.axio-usa.com](http://www.axio-usa.com)). As its name suggests, the Hardpack features a tortoise-shell exterior built to absorb just about any impact. The bag is the brainchild of Bob Haro, one of the founders of freestyle BMX bicycle riding.

Another innovation is BagMate (\$29.95; [www.bag-mate.com](http://www.bag-mate.com)). BagMate helps keep items such as cell phones, wallets and keys well-organized, and functions as a bag liner so it can easily be switched from bag to bag—with personal items still organized—as needed.

To help keep documents handy, just about every traveler would like to find a Leather ID Holder in his or her stocking (\$14.85; [www.magellans.com](http://www.magellans.com)). Another idea is a travel-themed piece of apparel, such as those offered by SkyBelts (\$28.95 with buckle; [www.skybelts.com](http://www.skybelts.com)). These unique accessories are crafted of authentic-looking airline seatbelt buckles and interchangeable color belts, which can be personalized

with a range of coordinating SkyClips. Another: Plane Quiet headphones, which boast active noise-reduction technology that cancels out background noise (\$69.99; [www.protravelgear.com](http://www.protravelgear.com)). And to look your best at that important meeting, no trip is complete without the Excursion Shoe Shine Kit from Red Envelope, which contains a polishing cloth, brown and black polish, brushes and a metal shoehorn (\$75; [www.redenvelope.com](http://www.redenvelope.com)).

Speaking of traveling in style, renowned designer Isabella Fiore recently debuted the Megawatt Paola Mini Hobo, a bag made of Italian goat leather with a rich metallic bronze finish (\$295), which pairs well with the designer's bronze nappa leather Remy wedge (\$295; [www.isabellafiore.com](http://www.isabellafiore.com)).

Of course there are lots of gifts available for those who travel for pleasure as well as business. For golf aficionados, the Great Big Bertha Cart Golf Bag Carrier from Callaway is an excellent gift idea. The bag, which stands nearly 5 feet tall, contains an innovative Steelhead Club Protection system that wraps around golf clubs to shelter the equipment from impacts (\$229; [www.callaway.com](http://www.callaway.com)). It also boasts a spring-activated Power Pull handle for easy handling in busy airports and crowded clubhouses.

**FITNESS FANCIES** With all the feasts around holiday time,

gifts that inspire exercise keep on giving. The new Nike Sphere Dry, for instance, is designed to keep athletes cooler so they can exercise longer (starts at \$40; [www.nike.com](http://www.nike.com)). These new shirts and shorts boast three-dimensional microfabrics that keep athletes cool by creating air spaces as they sweat. The Hydrator Long Sleeve Crew from Hind, a favorite among bicyclists, employs different technologies to accomplish the same goal (\$34.99; [www.hind.com](http://www.hind.com)).

This is also the year of REI. The Seattle-based vendor plans to unveil a cornucopia of new products for the 2004 holiday season, including the Camper's Dream Ice Cream Maker (\$24.95; [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)), which makes ice cream in a plastic ball that's kicked around like a soccer ball; the new 2-liter REI Runoff hydration pack (\$65); and the new MSR Lightning Ascent Snowshoes (\$249.95). Product manager Linda Givler explains that while snowshoe frames historically have provided grip-boosting serrations only underfoot, these new frames feature metal grippers around the entire edge of each shoe, making every step more secure and efficient.

"It's easy to pick up snowshoeing



Isabella Fiore  
 Megawatt Paola  
 Mini Hobo and  
 Remy wedge



BagMate



AXIO Urban Hardpack