

Esquire

How to Dress for a Kentucky Derby Party

Whether you're at Millionaire's Row or your in-laws' backyard, this is the one sporting event where you'd better look damn good. We asked the man behind authoritative style blog [Ivy Style](#) how to mix SOUTHERN tradition with some modern punch from head to toe. **DERBY ESSENTIALS: [How to Bet the Ponies](#) & [Make a Perfect Mint Julep](#) (or [Ten](#))**

By: Christian Chensvold



Go South, Young Man!

The Kentucky Derby stands for a lot of things — cash, money, hats — but not least among them is the unofficial beginning of seersucker season. Since the man behind heritage brand Haspel (left) began cranking out the crinkly fabric in New Orleans a century ago, the lightweight style of a particularly Southern gentleman — bright colors, bow ties, hats (straw ones) — has come to redefine how we catch sunshine and a breeze. So when you think Kentucky Derby, think below the Mason-

Dixon line. We certainly did in seeking out the most authentic of sources for a casual ensemble you can throw together before the starting gun.



The Sportcoat: A Seersucker One

They used to say that only rich men could afford to wear such a cheap fabric, but, seriously, seersucker may never have been this affordable. You can find a full Haspel suit not unlike Gregory Peck's in *To Kill a Mockingbird* at your local Macy's or Nordstrom, or shop online at [Frank Stella](#). Even a new jacket is guaranteed to wrinkle, and that's a good thing.