

The Cashmere Lady

Palm Beach Society, February 2-8, 2001



VALERIE LOUTHAN

Cashmere is one of those classics, never out of style, always acceptable in any social setting, sophisticated and seasonless, smooth. Cashmere designs have been called "nonchalant ease," glamorous yet relaxed, with a sporty sense. They've been ageless fashion leaders.

Valerie Louthan has been an International designer of cashmeres since 1972 when she started her design company in Scotland with her own label. Since then she has designed for four Paris Couture houses and has often represented Britain as a designer at "British Fashion Weeks" around the world. For many years, her cashmere creations were distributed in retail stores across the country.

In the past six years, Valerie has sold her sweaters and wraps privately at trunk shows and has had the pleasure of meeting some of her longtime clients for the first time; many of them young British and European royalty, French, German, Italian and Belgian aristocracy, and of course, the best of America. Her client list is exceptional!

Valerie divides her time between Scotland and Palm Beach where she owns a small store in The Paramount, full of her unique designs for both men and women. Her real talent lies in her ability to combine fashion trends with timeless elegance which give her designs a far longer life than other contemporary fashion.

Though more expensive than cashmeres from the Orient, the Scottish manufacturers still used time-honored, traditional methods-lots of hand sewing and the finished garment is carefully washed in the exceptionally soft Scottish river waters. A finished sweater is the product of the fine under-hair of three to four carefully combed Mongolian goats; a cashmere wrap takes up to nine goats' worth!