

Nestled in the heart of Palm Beach is a gem of a boutique owned and operated by designer Valerie Louthan, who has been designing cashmere sweaters for more than 30 years for her own label, and for several Paris Couture Houses. The boutique, located at the historic Paramount building, stocks many styles in limited quantities that are produced in Scotland, where Valerie was raised.

Valerie has always had her designs produced by Scottish mills, where the finest cashmere yarn is spun. The raw material comes from goats in Outer Mongolia, and only the longest, finest under-hair fibers are used and spun into yarn. To produce a single sweater, it takes the hair fibers of three to four, painstakingly hand-combed Mongolian goats, and up to seven for a cashmere wrap. Baby-skin softness characterizes Valerie's garments, each having been carefully hand-washed in exceptionally soft Scottish river waters.

Valerie's client list reads like "Who's Who," but she keeps it confidential. She visits Scotland frequently to check on her designs and also travels across the United States presenting her collection at trunk shows. Valerie's forte is creating timeless but contemporary, ultra-high quality cashmere designs that retain their look and fabulous fit.