



FASHION TRENDS

Endurance haute couture

Just because you're an endurance rider doesn't mean you have dibs on all that super kit!

JESSICA MORTON explores some styles perfect for all riders.

When you think of endurance, do you think of riders dressed in spandex and horses equipped with colourful biothane kits? While you might be partly correct, in truth these fit and friendly folk know more than a thing or two about choosing summer riding gear that prevents chafing in all the wrong places and yet looks great too.

So we picked some trends straight from the European endurance circuit that'll keep you looking sharp, and feeling good no matter where you're riding – or for how long!

No pinch pants

If you're planning on a long ride, leave the restrictive jeans and thick breeches at home. Quick drying and super

stretchy riding tights make summer riding much more comfortable.

Equiline's Cairk leggings might just become one of the benchmarks against which future riding tights are judged. Stretchy and sleek, these stylish leggings won't compromise your freedom of movement. Silicone grippers on the knee provide enhanced support in the saddle, while an elasticated pocket on the leg easily expands to fit a large cell phone and prevent it from bouncing around when you pick up the pace.

Perfect for summer riding, French label Horse Pilot designed the X-Aerotech performance breech range using Aerotech technology. Key design concepts include laser cut perforation vents to improve air circulation around the legs, while mesh panels on the inside of the waistband and calves create a welcome cooling effect. Constructed especially for extended time in the saddle, X-Aerotech's enhanced suppleness, stretch and durability makes them feel like a second skin.

Strategic layering

Endurance riders know all about dressing in layers so they can adjust to changing temperatures throughout the day. This strategy helps regulate their body temperature as they add or remove layers according to their activity level or changes in the weather.

A good base layer is designed to keep riders dry, comfortable, and completely odor-free, no matter how long they ride. Since pure cotton garments tend to soak up moisture (and odour), Spanish label Sport HG has created base layers infused with tech-carbon to protect muscles from fatigue and Climatherm® to regulate your body temperature and keep you smelling fresher for longer.

And Italian endurance brand Setzi Saddles recently came up with a revolutionary base layer that doubles as a body protector for long-distance riding. The High Performance Softshield T-Shirt

FEATURE



Setzi Saddles High Performance Softshield T-Shirt



Horse Pilot X-Aerotech Green Morocco summer breeches



Ariat DuraTerrain waterproof boot and half chaps

has a protective exoskeleton made of a rubber composite that absorbs the shock of a fall without constricting the rider's movement in the saddle.

Flexible foot support

That old adage about the foot making the horse? It's true for riders too!

Comfortable footwear is essential when riding over long distances, and while you don't need to be competing in the Tom Quilty Gold Cup to understand the appeal of rock solid support and weather protection, investing in footwear with a decent tread and shock absorbing qualities will help you make it through to the end of your ride.

Sitting aesthetically between work boots and running shoes, the Ariat DuraTerrain boot is a popular choice for endurance riders. With a chunky design and rugged tread, these boots can be worn alone, or matched with Ariat Terrain half chaps. The contoured half chaps provide a protective layer to the leg to prevent chafing and pinching, and also provide compression support. Less expensive and more flexible than tall boots, lightweight chaps can be folded away for travel, and are easy to rinse off and dry after riding.

If you prefer to ride without chaps, the new line of endurance sneakers from Sergio Grasso bring with them a touch of '80s nostalgia. Sporty, sleek and 100 per cent waterproof, this hybridised



KEP Kingfisher Blue endurance helmet


style is sturdy enough to wear for riding and comfortable enough to wear running alongside your horse. Available in a selection of colors, the sneakers have reflectors for night visibility and a stretchy waterproof collar that prevents debris and water from getting inside.

Beat the heat and stay safe

Once upon a time, helmets were uncomfortable, clammy and heavy. But today, with an exciting variety of airy lightweight options available, there is no excuse not to wear one.

Some of the best hot weather designs were conceptualised by riders who live in warm climates. Lelia Polini, CEO and founder of KEP Italia, envisioned a lightweight helmet that would keep riders safe and cool while competing in endurance. Today, her ventilated safety helmets are worn by top endurance riders all over the world.

Don't forget

An emergency kit is a wise investment regardless of where you plan on riding. Rescue Swag sell an Adventurer Rescue Swag and Equine First Aid Kit combo, which contains essential supplies for human and horse emergencies and attaches neatly behind your saddle. The kit includes a snake bite bandage designed specifically for the pressure immobilisation technique commonly used in Australia for snake and funnel web spider bites. Safe to say, you shouldn't leave home without one! 



Sergio Grasso KM Plus Fucsia endurance riding boot