

It's a Shirt Thing

Reach your personal-style pinnacle with tailor-made shirts from Chicago's top custom clothiers.

| By Brittany Farb |

1. Daniel George

Expect the perfect collar at Daniel George. "No less than five measurements are dedicated to the collar alone," says Business Manager Grant McNamara. "Our collars are a combination of the right thickness, height and spread, beautifully finished with French stitching." From \$125, 155 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 611, 312.525.1819, danielgeorgecustomsuits.com

2. Duru's Custom Shirts & Suits

Every element of a Duru's shirt is fully customizable, from the collars to pocket types to buttonholes to monograms. Over the past 50 years, Duru's has made more than 1 million custom shirts for clients, including several of Chicago's highest ranking corporate executives, attorneys and professional athletes. 221 N. LaSalle St., 312.782.4443, duruscustomtailors.com

3. ESQ Clothing

"Once you buy a custom shirt, you'll never go off the rack again," says Ge Wang, founder of ESQ Clothing, which opens in June. All of ESQ's custom shirts (from \$210) are cut from 100 percent European fabrics and are suited for men who "work at their body and want to show it off." So it's no surprise that clients include more than 100 NFL players, including Matt Forte of the Chicago Bears. 555 W. Jackson Blvd., 312.818.9088, esqclothing.com

4. Frederick Lynn

Offering made-to-measure (from



BUTTONED UP
Paul Stuart offers single-needle construction custom shirts.

\$200 to \$400) and bespoke (from \$450 to \$750) shirts, Frederick Lynn carries a selection of unique fabrics, including Dormeuil, Escorial, Scabal and Marzoni. Both collections of custom shirting involve working directly with Frederick Lynn's owner and president, Aaron Comes, during every stage of the shirt's construction. 9 E. Huron St., 312.496.3994, fredericklynn.com

5. Ike Behar

Luxury is the name of the game at Ike Behar. Custom shirts are made with fine Italian-woven, high thread-count two-ply fabrics, with meticulous construction using single-needle stitching techniques and a patented diamond-quilted collar. Ike Behar is internationally known

for suiting up three decades of actors in major films such as *Meet Joe Black*, *Miami Vice* and *Ocean's Thirteen*. From \$295, 67 E. Oak St., 312.624.9257, ikebehar.com

6. Nicholas Joseph

This elegant operation takes pride in fitting some of Chicago's top restaurateurs and hoteliers. Every shirt is bench-made by hand with single-needle stitching, triangular gussets and folded collar points. An added bonus? New clients receive a free tailor-made shirt with their first custom-suit purchase. From \$119, 300 W. Grand Ave., 312.895.1577, customsuitsyou.com

7. Oxford Clothes

Oxford Clothes has been a landmark in Chicago for almost

100 years (Joe DiMaggio and Cary Grant were clients). And the Chicago showroom is the only location where customers can be measured by the legendary head master tailor Rocco Giovannangelo. Oxxford's custom shirts include a selection of over 30 collar styles, 14 cuffs and 15 monograms (in 30 colors). \$250-\$750, 1220 W. Van Buren St., 312.829.3600, oxfordclothes.com

8. Paul Stuart

This 80-year-old establishment offers some of the most elegantly crafted Anglo-American-influenced tailored clothing anywhere. Paul Stuart boasts a library of 5,000 English, Swiss and Italian fabrics, and all shirts are hand-cut and sewn with single-needle construction. Mother-of-pearl buttons come standard. \$457-\$997; 107 E. Oak St., 800.227.4990; 208 S. LaSalle St., 877.718.3949; paulstuart.com

9. Richard Bennett Custom Tailors & Shirtmakers

"We expect our shirts to look great and fit well for many years," says Albert Karoll, owner of Richard Bennett. "We use the best interlinings for our collars and cuffs in order to control shrinkage and withstand the wear and tear of commercial dry cleaners." No pre-cut pieces or stock sizes are used. From \$125, 175 W. Jackson Blvd., 312.913.1100, rbtailors.com

10. Syd Jerome

Syd Jerome has long been a popular choice for hard-to-fit men (founder Sid Shapiro estimates these gents make up about 60 percent of his custom-shirt business). Syd Jerome is also nationally known for its unique fabrics. "We embrace the individuality of our customers," says Scott Shapiro, the founder's son and current owner. "No one wants to see replicas of themselves walking down the street." \$145-\$695, 2 LaSalle St., 312.346.0333, sydjerome.com