No matter the destination or the duration—a holiday vacation to meet up with extended family, a seaside escape over a long weekend, a rejuvenating jaunt to the spa—the luggage should be as thoughtfully executed as the itinerary, as eye-catching as the view outside your window and as functional and versatile as a concierge booking you into a fully booked restaurant. These cases meet all the criteria for a traveler’s...

**next departure.**

By Kathy Witt | Photographs by Kerry Pittenger

Photographed in the village of St. Michaels, Maryland and at the Five Gables Inn & Spa. Nestled in the heart of the Chesapeake Bay, the inn features 20 well-appointed rooms and suites, each individually decorated in an elegant style featuring gas fireplaces and antique furnishings. Five Gables Inn & Spa is a haven for relaxation with a full-service Aveda Spa, indoor pool, sauna and steam room. Special thanks to Heather Sally, manager of Five Gables Inn & Spa. www.fivegables.com

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Got recreation? **JACK GEORGES** has the bag with the Laptop-Compatible Backpack from its Arizona Collection in rough-and-tumble buffalo leather. Made for travel, weekend excursions and daily use, this versatile bag featuring vintage styling, camouflage lining and hunter finish has organization and space for all the necessities, including a laptop and iPad/tablet. MSRP $298. Need style and service? **PIEL LEATHER**’s Large Classic Satchel Carry-On takes care of business—and leisure—beautifully. Made from 100% Colombian full grain leather for a softer and silkier finish, the bag has a top-zip opening to a large main compartment with interior zip-pocket, double padded straps, adjustable/detachable strap and a side clasp hook on each side to make it smaller. It is pure elegance in charcoal gray, honey and toffee. MSRP $380.49. Ready for any adventure is **KORCHMAR**’s Nash Wheeled Duffle. Made in the USA, this traveler and weekender is rugged in 18-oz. waxed cotton twill trimmed with full grain U.S. cowhide. Featuring inline skate wheels and a retractable handle that extends 40.5”, it has a removable shoulder strap, expandable end tabs for extended travel, organizing pockets and quick-release metal “tuck-tite” closures with a buckle adjuster for expansion. MSRP $510. Gallivant near and far with the Parinda Fiona, an exceptional travel tote from **MCKLEIN**. This carry-all’s gold-tone quilted fabric and shiny copper-hued faux leather exterior ensures that you won’t get lost in a crowd. Details include front reinforced pull-zipped pocket, top zip and metal stabilizer feet. A roomy, essentials-friendly main compartment is fully lined with a fun floral/geometric-patterned fabric. MSRP $90. From **CANYON OUTBACK LEATHER**’s Adventure Line comes this rugged carry-on sized duffle in dark brown distressed cowhide and 18-oz. beige canvas with antique brass hardware—including bottom feet—and YKK® zippers. It packs easily and beautifully for any trip with an ergonomic shoulder strap, a large zippered main compartment, and within, another small zippered compartment for small accessories. A matching luggage tag finishes the look. MSRP $119
The T-Pro® Bold™ 2.0 by TRAVELPRO is compact, lightweight and portable – a collection that travels over rough terrain as easily as city streets. Shown is the 26” Drop Bottom Rolling Duffle made of rugged polyester with water-repellent coating for greater stain- and abrasion-resistance. Among its features are a large open compartment and a separate drop bottom for shoes and other odd-shaped items. MSRP $380. • Jenni Chan is all about blending elements of style, functionality and value into luggage for simple, effortless travel. Case in point: The extremely lightweight Jenni Chan Aria Collection with colorful chevron print from AMERICAN FLYER. The 28” spinner weighs just 6.16 lbs. MSRP $240. • Look good and keep organized with CABRELLI’s versatile Top-Zip Tote featuring a detachable pouch large enough to fit your cell phone, wallet, cosmetics or travel documents. Offered in a fashion-forward variety of patterns and colors, the bag provides a center zip divider, organizer pockets, a back wall zip pocket and plenty of room for personal devices. MSRP $40. • PATHFINDER’s Revolution Plus 20” Expandable International Carry-on Spinner steps up as the go-to bag for both business and leisure travel. Featuring DURAMAX® high-density ballistic nylon and YKK® zippers, this bag offers excellent interior and exterior organization and exceptionally smooth wheels. MSRP $239.99.
Here are three bags in one: HIGH SIERRA’s Ultimate Access Carry-On Wheeled Backpack with Removable Daypack may be used as a wheeled bag, a backpack or daypack. Among its amenities are a main compartment with book-style opening and interior clothing straps, hidden padded backpack straps that store behind the zippered back panel and removable front daypack with zippered accessory pocket. MSRP $239.99 • A modern profile is the hallmark of the Overnight Duffle Bag from HEX’s new Division Collection. Enjoy a roomy main compartment, two front pockets – one fleece-lined and padded for tablets and e-readers, the other with organizer and room for phone, chargers or accessories – and a large padded exterior access pocket on the rear side of the bag for a 13”-15” Macbook Pro or other laptop. It comes in water-resistant waxed geometric canvas with black coated trim. MSRP $129.95 • Weighing a mere 2.0 lbs. is the Venice SL Deluxe by RONCATO USA, an expandable cabin duffle in black sporting three exterior pockets, three interior pockets and an adjustable shoulder strap with comfort pad. MSRP $95 • 24-7 INTERNATIONAL’s Lucas Vortex 24” Upright combines intelligent design, ultra-lightweight construction, durable fabrics and Lucas’ signature expandability. This easy-to-pack/easy-to-roll collection boasts a carry-on with a weight of only 3.8 lbs. and comes in assorted colors. It’s ideal for family holiday travel, young professionals, execs and active lifestyles alike. MSRP $120 • The SPORTINA 3-Way Shopper from BRIC’S USA lives up to its name. Carry it as a shoulder bag, crossbody bag – even small day bag by snapping out the interior pocket and attaching a strap. Made from light nylon that is rubber coated inside, this easy-to-clean shopper comes in red, black, olive and black finished with a rich cognac Tuscan leather trim and adjustable leather straps. It is available in medium, large and extra large. MSRP $160/XL.
For on-the-go travelers, VISIONAIR LUGGAGE’s Beverage Pal turns your carry-on into a portable and convenient beverage holder. Lightweight and impact-resistant with an ergonomically designed internal telescopic trolley system, the case’s four-wheel spinner system provides the smoothest movement possible. It also looks good with fully lined interior and ABS/PC scratch-resistant diamond finish. MSRP $149.99 • STM BAGS’ Drifter Laptop Backpack is easy to wear, has pockets in all the right places and is comfy to boot. With a top-load main compartment, padded laptop cell and plenty of organizing pockets, there’s room for electronics, work docs, gym gear, lunch, umbrella and water bottle. Lightweight despite its size and capacity, this retro tech pack also includes a bottom zip pocket that holds a detachable rain cover. MSRP $139.99 • RIMOWA’s Topas Sport Multiwheel® 75 makes traveling with your sporting equipment practical and stylish. Tall and spacious and with an open interior to fit odd-shaped items, this case is made of aluminum magnesium alloy and has RIMOWA’s Multiwheel® system to allow it to roll over any terrain. Two patented Flex-Divider systems on either side make for hassle-free packing. MSRP $1,190 • The GENIUS PACK 21” Hardside Spinner Carry-On makes packing hassle-free with its engineered interior organizational panel and designated compartments for all your clothes plus a laundry compartment tucked out of sight. Crush-proof and super light at 6.8 lbs., it glides silently along atop eight wheels so you don’t have to maneuver your luggage like the Hulk. MSRP $158
Fleet of foot travelers want their bag to keep up. Check out LUGGAGE AMERICA’s Swift featuring super lightweight construction, a 4-wheel spinner system allowing free movement in all directions and a lightweight push button retractable handle. In three models – carry-on, mid-size (shown) and large – collection pieces are expandable and have lots of organizing pockets. MSRP $240/mid-size; $680/set

- Gain serious packing versatility with TRAVELON’s Convertible Crossbody Duffle which expands to a full 24” duffle. No need to repack the contents when switching from crossbody to duffle or vice versa: compartments are accessible in both modes. Made from lightweight, stain-and water-resistant rip-stop, this flexible travel companion comes in black, lime, aqua and berry. MSRP $45

- Love Jake; love the luggage. ATM PACKS Jake The Dog 20” 4-Wheel Upright features durable construction, reliable 360° 8-wheel spinner mobility, recessed TSA-accepted locks and a thoughtfully designed interior that includes a large zippered mesh pocket for small accessories to keep organized and on-point. The case comes in three models. MSRP $219.98

- Just in time for the holidays is American Tourister’s Kids Softside 18” Upright from SAMSONITE. Featuring side-mounted skate wheels, pull handle, a large mesh pocket on the interior panel and cross straps, the case sports a screen print on the top-carry handle and on the back panel. This softside case weighs just 4.2 lbs. MSRP $39.99
Get the largest allowable size bag before having to pay oversize penalties with ATHALON’s 32” Equipment Wheeling Duffle with Organizer in glacier blue with contrasting red lining. Equipped with a unique divider section to adapt to travelers’ individual needs, this lightweight and super-strong duffle separates shoes and/or organizes items with adaptable Velcro® dividers. A trapdoor in the bottom section provides easy access to both sections or enlarges the main section. MSRP $300 • The name says it all: The Sit-On-It Carry All from DBEST PRODUCTS is a carry all suitcase that holds up to 350 lbs. With a step stool feature you can securely stand on and a stackable surface that supports bags and/or heavy items, this case is loaded with amenities, including an internal shock-proof pocket to safely hold a laptop, two front shock-proof pockets for tablet and phone and shock-resistant oversized incline skate wheels. MSRP $160 • An amalgam of contemporary design and real-life practicality, MANCINI’s three-piece CALYPSO Collection of expandable polypropylene spinner luggage is constructed and designed for lightweight performance and durability. The 360° pivoting spinner wheels enable effortless movement in all directions and the interior tie-down straps and zippered mesh lid pockets keep your packed items secure. MSRP $555 • Whether it’s a duffle bag, backpack, tote or carry all, GO!SAC bags in a wide array of signature prints in bright colors are the perfect option for toting all your goodies around town, through airports and for overnight travel. Made for both men and women, these bags – including the Packable Duffle Bag (shown) – are the ultimate expandable full size bag that conveniently folds up into a small pouch. MSRP $45
Combining stylish modern aesthetics with functionality, the Helix is HEYS’ lightest softside luggage ever. The three-piece collection includes a 21” carry-on that weighs a mere 5.5 lbs.; a 26” case weighing only 7 lbs.; and a 30” case weighing just 7.9 lbs. This collection is loaded with features, including patented Hinomoto™ spinner wheels and water-resistant, self-repairable, reversed zippers. MSRP $569.97 per set. TALUS’ collection of AnyDay™ Shoulder Bags, including the Pocket Satchel (shown), are lightweight travel bags with handy storage compartments and a comfortable adjustable webbed shoulder strap. Available in four fashion colors, these durable bags feature a washed finish nylon that is both stain- and water-resistant. MSRP $30. From A.SAKS LUGGAGE, the AE-20W Carry-On Rolling Expandable Duffle in 420 denier nylon is so lightweight it is almost weightless, and also folds completely flat. Water-resistant and able to withstand heavy use, this rugged duffle has self-repairing zippers, plenty of easy-to-use pockets and handles that convert to a shoulder strap. MSRP $79.99. Here’s a sign of compact luggage: J WORLD’s CUE in polycarbonate is designed to fit under the airplane seat or overhead compartment. It measures a svelte 18” x 14.5” x 9”, yet still offers both a padded tablet sleeve with a Velcro® closure and a front pocket that fits tablets/laptops up to 14”, plus an interior divider panel with mesh pockets for organization. MSRP $220.
Timeless fashion and audacious function pair in DELSEY’s Helium Titanium Collection of hardside cases in sleek graphite, silver and black cherry. Shown is the 19” International Carry-On featuring DELSEY’s award-winning exterior pocket with padded sleeve for laptop and two additional mesh pockets for travel documents, electronics or other need-to-access items, plus roomy interior that expands 2” for gifts and souvenirs. MSRP $179.99 • VICTORINOX hits a design pinnacle with its Mountaineer Duffle Backpack. Enjoy easy access to the spacious main packing area, which includes a mesh zippered pocket, and an exterior full-length zippered front pocket. The duffle has a removable, adjustable padded shoulder strap and adjustable padded backpack straps that zip away in the back panel when not in use. MSRP $129.99 • Get expandable luggage that is both strong and lightweight with CALIFORNIA PAK’s WILSHIRE Ultra-Lite Collection, including 20”, 24” and 28” expandable spinners plus a 32” jumbo expandable spinner. In durable rip-stop poly, the collection pieces come in eight colors with enough space for the whole family to travel around the world and back. Shown is the 28” Spinner, weighing in at just 6.25 lbs. MSRP $160 • Taking its cue from PANTONE®’s fall 2014 Fashion Color Report, SUMDEX has added Aurora Red to the palette for its Soft Casual Tech-on Campus Pack, a backpack in lightweight water-repellent shadow print micro nylon that is perfect for campus, weekends and travel. Aurora Red was extolled as a top 10 women’s color for its “sophisticated shade that adds verve and spark.” MSRP $98 • Here is lightweight, durable gear on wheels at an affordable price point: EAGLE CREEK’s No Matter What™ Flatbed Duffle in waterproof Bi-Tech™ fabric and with a sturdy handle/wheel system. Available in 20”, 22”, 28” and 32” models, the duffle has two zippered pockets, lies relatively flat for storage and makes a bold statement in firebrick red, cobalt blue and black collection colors. MSRP $175-$220

Please see the Buyer’s Guide on pages 66-67 for a directory of the companies whose products are included in this feature.