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# Jump STREET

Forget rock 'n' roll, it's all about horses for world-class equestrian Jessica Springsteen. And she's effortlessly elegant to boot. Grace Cain reports

Howjumper Jessica Springsteen has won the American Gold Cup and the Queen's Cup. She travels the world with the Miami Celtics as part of the Global Champions League. And yet, one suspects, the topic on which she is most often questioned is her famous father.

Springsteen junior willingly admits her upbringing had a profound effect. But not in the way you might think. "When you're young, you don't quite realise what's going on around you," she says (her mother, Patti Scialfa, was a member of father Bruce's E Street Band). With her two brothers, she spent her childhood on the family farm in the appropriately named Colts Neck. "As soon as I saw my mom taking riding lessons, I wanted to do it as well." As a result, she says, it is equestrianism that has shaped who she is today: "It's taught me so much patience, responsibility and determination."

It's also had a profound effect on her wardrobe, which feels in equal parts sophisticated and relaxed; it's refined, yet effortless. "When I was growing up, I competed in equitation, where the aim is to make everything look as elegant as possible. That meant it was important for me to be perfectly put together – polished boots, a good belt, a shirt tucked in and buttoned all the way to the collar. I think that mindset ended up seeping into my personal style; I was very preppy. As I've grown older, my look has become more relaxed. I love Réalisation Par's wrap dresses, and I've recently been wearing Grlfrnd denim a lot."



Jessica wears LOUIS VUITTON jacket £2,470 and trousers £640, JIMMY CHOO shoes £496, right VICTORIA BECKHAM dress £1,399, JIMMY CHOO boots £850

Womenswear, First Floor, Harrods Shoe Heaven, Fifth Floor, and harrods.com

Hair and make-up LUDY GIBSON at Frank Agency

With thanks to Park View Equestrian Centre, Windsor

## HOW SHE WEARS

As an international athlete at the top of her game, travel is inevitable. Is it difficult to compress an entire wardrobe into a space small enough to fit through airport security? "I definitely had to learn to pack better," Springsteen chuckles. "I used to bring so many suitcases with me, it was embarrassing." Now, she explains, she has streamlined her clothing collection, which has made it easier to decide what to take on the road. "Jeans and tank tops, and then a few cocktail dresses and maxiskirts that I love."

Despite this sensible approach to her wardrobe, Springsteen is not immune to the allure of a new season. "Fashion continually presents a promise of reinvention," she says. "It's exciting to see what's new, and I love buying a few different pieces every year, but most of my clothes might be described as 'timeless', because that's what I feel most comfortable in. Perhaps all those years of wearing a uniform – for school and riding – had an effect."

She tends to stick to a basic but versatile colour palette. "It takes a little push to get me out of my neutral comfort zone," she admits. "I'm always glad when I do, though. Gucci recently gave

*"Fashion continually presents a promise of reinvention"*

me a beautiful maxidress in burnt orange with violet flowers, which I've been wearing to special events – thank you, Gucci! And at the Tony Awards last year, where my dad was honoured for his Broadway play, I wore a gorgeous bright-red velvet and chiffon gown by Givenchy. I absolutely love wearing those dresses."

She's also a fan of Stella McCartney, citing the designer's commitment to animal rights and sustainability as the source of her admiration. "I love knowing she feels a deep connection to horses," Springsteen says. From the AW19 collection, a vibrant green gown covered in minuscule leaping horses has caught her eye. She'd team it with a checked overcoat, combining feminine and masculine elements. "It'd look like I'd borrowed something from my mom's closet, then thrown on a jacket of my dad's."

"American style is whatever you make of it," she says. "Everyone has their own taste, and whatever makes you feel comfortable always looks the coolest." As for her own sartorial icons? "Meghan Markle has to be first on my list. She always looks effortlessly beautiful in whatever she wears." However, the person who's had the biggest impact is a little closer to home. "My mom has influenced my style a lot. She always looks so cool but so relaxed; she throws things together and manages to look chic every time."

On Springsteen's rare days off, mother/daughter shopping dates are firmly on the agenda; but riding for its own sake is now (almost) a thing of the past. "It's hard now I'm constantly competing," she says. "In my free time I just want to relax, although I still love to be around horses; it's fun to sit and watch them. But once in a while, when I'm home on the farm, we'll go out riding together: my mom, my dad and me." □

### JESSICA'S KEY PIECES

A great pair of jeans:  
*"I love Grlfrnd's high-waisted mom jeans; they're so comfortable for travelling."*

A leather jacket:  
*"My mom would always want to buy me leather jackets when I was a kid – she has the best taste."*

A wrap dress:  
*"My favourites are from Réalisation Par because they're so pretty, but so easy to wear."*

A maxiskirt:  
*"As well as the basics, I like to have a few high-quality skirts that I know I'll wear loads."*

A denim jacket:  
*"Of course – it's a classic!"*

