

In the same way that a dog isn't just for Christmas, so your swimming trunks shouldn't just be for summer. Personally I've always been pretty slack in this department, and for years only took a couple of pairs away with me when going on a family holiday. Regardless of where we were going, I would take a couple of pairs of old Vilebrequin trunks, and a pair of rough cotton swimming shorts I'd bought in Portofino about 750 years ago (at least). Each time I would throw them in my suitcase my wife would pick them up and throw them in the bin... before I promptly picked them out and put them back again.

These, however, have now fallen to bits (the dodgy Portofino ones, not the fancy Vilebrequins), and so I have been forced to look around for something else. Shopping for trunks is not something you want to spend too much time doing, as it means you have to repeatedly take all your clothes off in shops, and while I'm not averse to trying on shirts and trousers and all the other things you can't size up from ten paces (surely the best way to shop: "Yes, I'm sure that will fit"), getting unnecessarily naked in public is actually rather annoying.

But my wife told me to splash out (which I think she meant as a joke) on some new beachwear, and so a few weeks ago, before embarking on a Caribbean jaunt, I went shopping.

And I made a discovery, one I think you'll like. The brand is 300 Species, they're of Italian-Australian provenance (obviously), they are hand-sewn (probably by elves) at their HQ near Lake Como, and they come in a variety of punchy but not punch-drunk colours. Italian crafted, then, with a touch of Aussie humour. Unlike most other top-end trunks (although I don't know anyone who's ever been in the market for "bottom"-end trunks, to be honest), they're reasonably priced (£155), and you can be guaranteed that no one else on your Maldivian island is going to be wearing any (because not so many people have heard of them).

Their most important characteristic – although some might call it a design detail – is their adjustable belts, which means that they can be – how can I put it? – "loosened" if you happen to have consumed rather too many carbohydrates with your Whispering Angel at lunch.

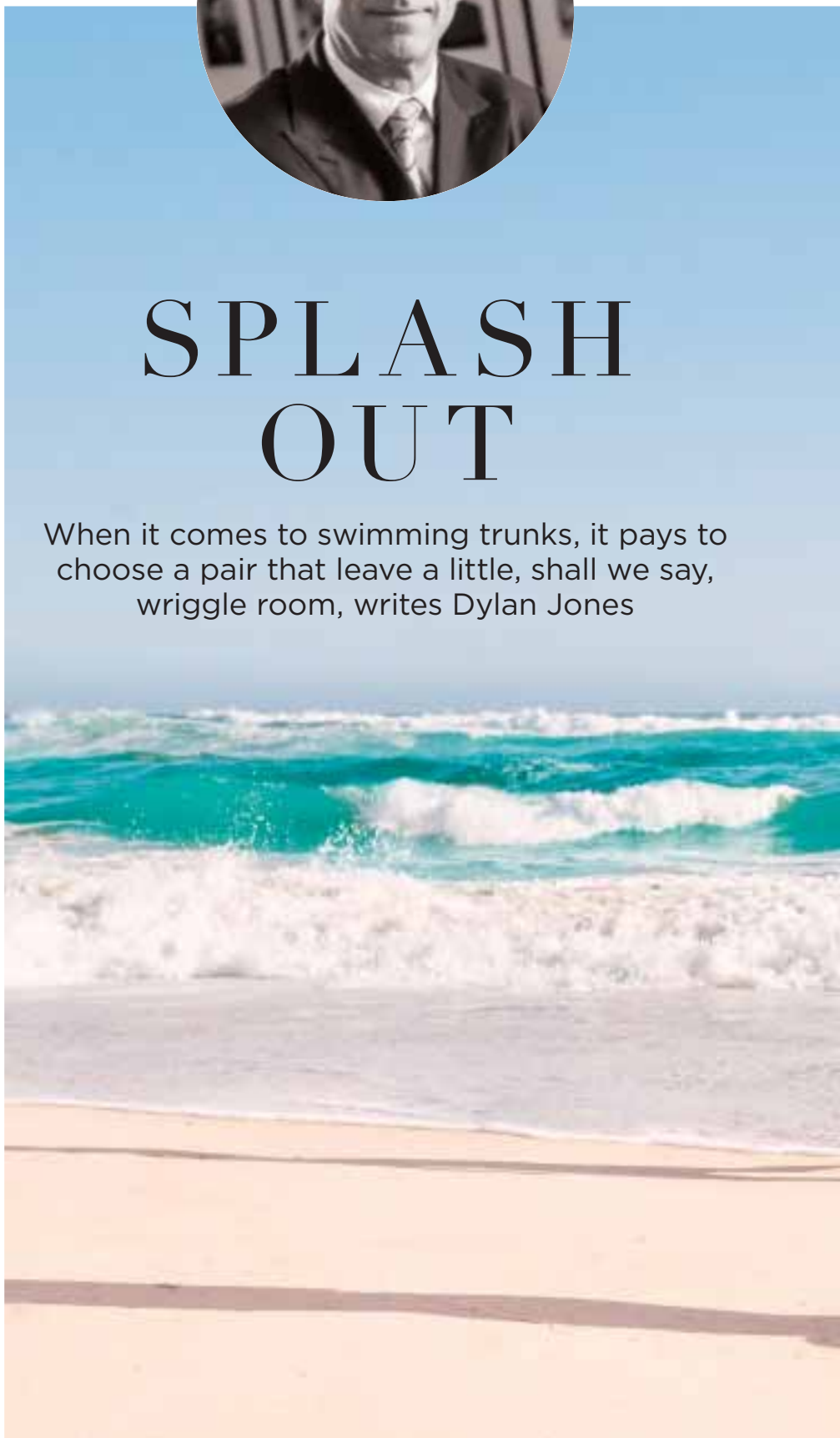
Here to help.

Dylan Jones is the editor-in-chief of GQ and the menswear chairman of the British Fashion Council



SPLASH OUT

When it comes to swimming trunks, it pays to choose a pair that leave a little, shall we say, wriggle room, writes Dylan Jones





300 Species

