

by Helen Abrams
photos by Shelli Wright



Huntsmen & Hounds

Where Craft, Heritage, and the Equestrian Spirit Meet

There is a certain romance woven into the equestrian lifestyle, one that lives beyond the ring. It's found in the patina of worn leather, the quiet strength of craftsmanship, and the stories carried through generations of riders and makers. It's within this space that Huntsmen & Hounds finds its voice.

Founded by Michele Rozo and based in Ventura, California, the brand is deeply personal, an extension of a life shaped by horses, creativity, and a commitment to thoughtful design.

What began as a lifelong instinct to create has evolved into a collection of small batch goods that feel both timeless and intentional. Every piece is rooted in purpose, crafted from materials that carry history and meaning. This is not fast fashion. It is slow, considered, and deeply connected to the world it comes from.

HORSE & STYLE: *Huntsmen & Hounds feels incredibly personal. How did the brand first come to life?*

MICHELE ROZO: It all started when I was working at Patagonia as the apparel graphic art director. Working there gave me so many opportunities I couldn't even imagine could happen. Working for a company that supported your sport was a perfect time to get back in the saddle. Let my people go surfing translated for me let my people get back in the saddle. I rode in the morning and worked into the night.

Being a designer there and being an inspired equestrian translated, of course, into dreaming of making goods for what I love doing the most. It wasn't clear at the time what it would be. That's when the ideas started happening. It wasn't until later in my career there that I started building H&H on the side, and predictably it started





with graphic tees. It was something I was familiar with. But I had always wanted to do something different. I had a collection of old horse tack and few pony brasses and a drive to figure out what to do with them.

H&S: *Your connection to horses runs deep. How has that shaped the brand?*

MR: I use the roots of riding as my inspiration. The name Huntsmen and Hounds itself takes you back to the heritage of riding and where it all came from. From the colors of the outdoor lifestyle, to the natural fibers and craftsmanship used to make the clothing, to the tack and saddle. I

have long loved the outdoor lifestyle with horses and dogs. It's a way of life that feels so right to me.

H&S: *There's a strong emphasis on sustainability and craftsmanship in your work. Where does that come from?*

MR: Working for Patagonia had one downfall. And that is you can't unsee how important true sustainability and craftsmanship is when creating a product. I am forever grateful for all the years of being exposed to what really goes into making a true sustainable product. It's my roots, it's what I believe in and what I want

to continue striving for. I want to make goods that can carry that story, that offer transparency about resources, and that make me feel good about the effort made. Being a small batch heritage-made company, it's been a fun challenge to see what I could do to make it as sustainable as possible.

H&S: *The materials you use feel incredibly special. Can you tell us more about that process?*

MR: We are dedicated to small batch American manufacturing. Each piece is constructed in the USA using US cattle hides (a bi-product), vegetable tanned at

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one of two remaining American vegetable tanneries, and paired with responsibly sourced surplus textiles selected through LA material recovery channels. Select styles incorporate durable wax canvas sourced through an established American supplier. Our hardware is carefully curated, blending vintage and modern elements.

H&S: *How would you describe the aesthetic of Huntsmen & Hounds?*

MR: We are a California based modern heritage craft brand dedicated to small batch bespoke American manufacturing. Rooted in equestrian tradition, but interpreted through a refined, contemporary lens. The aesthetic is intentional, tactile and story driven rather than trend driven. Our goal is to make pieces that last a few lifetimes.

H&S: *What do you hope people feel when they carry a Huntsmen & Hounds piece?*

MR: Wearing Huntsmen and Hounds should feel like carrying a piece of history, grounded in strength, guided by soul, and uniquely your own.

H&S: *What's next for the brand?*

MR: This year, my goal is to gather all the sweaters, hats, accessories and handbags I've created over the years, and bring them together in a collection. Sweaters, hats, accessories and handbags. I also have plans for one of a kind upcycled pieces that are part of our origins. I also have the hounds aspect of the brand to think about as well.

Huntsmen & Hounds exists in a space that feels increasingly rare, where craftsmanship is not rushed, materials are chosen with care, and every piece is created with intention. It's a brand shaped not by trends, but by a life lived alongside horses, art, and nature, a return to things that last. **H&S**

Discover the collection at: huntsmenandhounds.com.