

# They mean business

These incredible women juggle their day jobs with side hustles, virtual learning with virtual meetings, tradition with technology and social good with commerce. From San Francisco to Nairobi via London and Stockholm, these Indian-origin entrepreneurs are laying the foundation of the brands of the future. **Priyanka Khanna** unearths their inspiring stories

## MEENA HARRIS

35, FOUNDER AND CEO, PHENOMENAL  
📍 SAN FRANCISCO

"I often joke that growing up in my family was like the opening scene of *Wonder Woman* (2017), where a community of strong, brilliant women ran around helping each other succeed...and basically saved the world together," says Meena Harris. And she's not exaggerating. The women she is referring to are her late grandmother, Shyamala Gopalan, a breast cancer researcher and civil rights activist; her mother Maya, a civil rights and public policy advocate and lawyer; and her aunt, Kamala—yes, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, Harris's achievements are no less impressive. A lawyer, entrepreneur (she is the founder and CEO of Phenomenal, a grassroots initiative started in 2016 to encourage activism), author (her children's book, *Kamala And Maya's Big Idea*, inspired by a true story from her mother and aunt's childhood, is a *New York Times* bestseller), and a mother ("As the mother of two black daughters...we need more characters who look like my girls.") Harris says, "I learnt at a young age what activism looks like. My grandmother taught me a key lesson that has now become the central line of my book: "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."

A while ago, Harris shared a billboard from Tamil Nadu that congratulated her aunt. For Harris, her Indian heritage is incredibly special. "My grandma instilled that cultural identity. Because of her influence, I studied Bharatanatyam for over 10 years. I've been dying to pick it up again."



## ESHA CHHABRA ▶

37, CO-FOUNDER, ALAYA TEA 📍 LOS ANGELES

Delhi-born and California-raised Esha Chhabra, the co-founder of Alaya Tea, began her career in DC newsrooms, but moved to more grassroots stories. That's also how she returned to her roots. "I ended up in Uttar Pradesh looking at public health issues with WHO, UNICEF and Rotary. That led to a career that's taken me all over the world telling stories on mission-driven companies, social inequalities, and more. The inspiration for Alaya came from visiting so many farmers in India—how could we build a brand that invested in their health and the importance of organic farming in this era of climate change?" The last few months have seen her go back to the root, quite literally. "I've been learning how to grow more fruit and veg. I've always been drawn to gardening and the outdoors. At the beginning of the lockdown, I ordered about 40 packets of seeds and started cultivating them. Now I've got everything from cucumbers and strawberries to sunflowers and zinnias popping up. I like the rhythm of nature; it's slower, undeterred by what's going on around it. It teaches you to be patient, slow down, and not be so caught up in the world of deadlines."

JUSTIN BETTMAN



# RIYA GROVER

32, CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, FEEDR

📍 LONDON

At the time of this interview, Riya Grover had just days prior given birth to her second child. But that isn't the only exciting news for her. In March, her four-year-old company, Feedr, a food tech start-up was acquired for a reported US\$24 million dollars. "I saw an opportunity to integrate more health data and meal personalisation as part of people's daily food choices," says the Oxford and Harvard graduate. "We've grown into an enterprise software platform that enables companies to set up flexible, personalised and nutrition-centric meal plans for their workforce. I've stayed on as the CEO to help integrate our technology with the parent company," she says. But it's not to say that Grover is resting on her laurels. "I found personal time to reflect on my long-term entrepreneurial ambitions," she adds, saying that opportunities in artificial intelligence and machine learning as well as a focus on social good are what she is currently exploring. "As an entrepreneur I've been lucky to have flexibility, so every day looks different, but juggling mummy and CEO also means life is a balancing act," she says, adding that the busy mum wardrobe of Lululemon, Silou and Sweaty Betty sees her through. In the evenings, she opts for Roland Mouret or Stella McCartney. Currently, she's enjoying the new baby haze, looking to pick up tennis again, and plan a holiday. This time, as a family of four.



# ◀ SMITA SATIANI

36, CO-FOUNDER, ALAYA TEA

📍 LOS ANGELES

"I've always been a disciple of work-life balance. So for every hour I spend working, I try to spend at least half amid nature," says Smita Satiani, who has been splitting her time between Los Angeles and the family home of her boyfriend, the filmmaker Aneesh Chaganty, in the Bay Area. Satiani, whose day job is at X, Alphabet's Moonshot Factory, and who has previously worked at the White House during the Obama administration, is the co-founder of Alaya Tea, a direct to consumer brand. Ohio-born Satiani moved to Mumbai and then back to California at the age of five. "Chai is a daily ritual in our homes, so we started Alaya to create a fresher, kinder option. Social good has always been an important aspect of my work, and at Alaya, we buy tea directly from farms that are focused on incorporating regenerative agriculture practices in ecosystems that are increasingly being impacted by climate change." Echoing this mindfulness sartorially, she's partial to Levi's high-rise Re/Done jeans, white tees and local labels such as Rachel Pally and Cuyana. So what's in her cuppa? "At 7am, it's a biodynamic Assam black tea with milk and lavender honey. At 4pm, a pot of our Darjeeling, delicate and floral, and my nightcap is herbal. Drinking tea is more than just about the act. It's about slowing down, appreciating nature, where the leaves come from, and enjoying where you are." >



## GLOBAL INDIANS

### SOITI ROY ANDERSON

39, ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS  
DEVELOPER ♻️ BROOKLYN

"2020 forced me to face critical questions," says the Burmese-Bengali Soiti Roy Anderson. She now calls the US home, but she grew up in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Singapore and the UAE as a result of her father's work as a cross-border attorney. "We need to live a gentler life by making conscious everyday decisions," a direction that she has been championing professionally and personally. "Reduce, reuse, rebuild is our mantra," says the realtor and architect who is in the process of completing two historic townhouse renovations in Brooklyn and an energy-efficient home in Woodstock, New York. "I believe you can make beautiful, luxurious design by reusing overstock items, being mindful of waste, and using local artisans. My fashion sense, too, is about living a low-impact life. I like to reuse hand-me-down or vintage finds and add my own elegant twist." Her looks, she says, are similar to how she would design a building: "Playing with geometry and texture." Labels such as Stella McCartney and Helmut Lang make up her wardrobe, while architects like Louis Kahn and Tadao Ando make up her mood board. For someone who works with such a visual canvas, she admits, "I am a voracious reader...words create colours and shapes of my own imagination."



### SANA JAVERI KADRI

26, FOUNDER AND CEO, DIASPORA & CO.  
📍 OAKLAND

Sana Javeri Kadri grew up in South Bombay, attended UWC, Wales, and studied visual art and food systems in Southern California. "I'd always felt that the point of a privileged global education was to make an impact at home, but California reeled me in." In 2017, realising the potential for ethically produced high-quality spices, she started Diaspora Co. with 350kg of turmeric from one farmer outside Vijayawada. "I find the current natural farming movement that's sweeping across India to be led by such an incredible wave of young, sustainability-conscious farmers." Pre-pandemic, Kadri spent nearly five months in India, travelling the country to source, and always squeezing in visits to the family tailor, tasked to transform Mangaldas Market fabric buys into jumpsuits and dresses. "My Andhra ikat, Tamil Kanjivaram and Bengali Jamdani sari collection has grown formidably," she says, "I love the maximalist Indian kitsch aesthetic. Our packaging and branding was born out of a desire to create a fun, accessible, non-stereotypical, distinctly Indian brand." When not at work, food is still on her mind—gardening and growing her own bounty. "I'm planting fruit trees to enjoy in a few years. Growing food makes me feel so happy to be alive." >





## SOFIA SHONALI MEHROTRA

27, FOUNDER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR,  
MEHROTRA ♻️ STOCKHOLM

Born to a Swedish mother and Indian father, Sofia Shonali Mehrotra says that the contrast between her dual heritage and traditions was the starting point for her eponymous label, Mehrotra. The designer, who trained at Acne Studios in London, visited the *Vogue* India offices several years ago, armed with samples for her then-fledgling label that has now expanded into bags (the standout is her sustainable one-of-a-kind bucket bag), jewellery and scarves. "A big part of the inspiration came from my grandmother, who continued to wear her traditional saris on special occasions and always mixed her Indian heritage with Swedish culture in a beautiful way. I wanted to mirror this mix. For example, our mini straw bags are made by hand in Manipur and detailed with upcycled silk saris. These two elements make each bag unique," she says. "My go-tos are neutral pieces that are transeasonal and the kinds I know I will love. I pair these with accessories I've designed." The Row is a label she appreciates for its inspiring sphere of influence. Mehrotra's conscious approach also bleeds into her lifestyle: "I love to spend time in the Stockholm archipelago or the mountains of France, surrounded by nature. It rejuvenates me and gives me a boost in finding stillness."

## NISHA KANABAR

32, FOUNDER AND CEO, INDUSTRIE AFRICA  
📍 DAR ES SALAAM

A fourth-generation Tanzanian of Gujarati heritage, Nisha Kanabar's childhood was a mix of Indian and Swahili experiences in an international school environment. In 2016, she moved back home after stints at *Vogue* India and *Style.com* in Dubai to launch Industrie Africa, spotlighting designers from the region. "I'm proud of the collaborative, commerce-meets-content platform that blends a curated experience, a brand's own retail storefront and the marketplace method of fulfilment. It keeps our relatively seasonless business extremely agile," she says. "We are celebrating a multitude of African identities, cultures and design nuances. It's important to tell these modern-day sartorial stories and also offer transparency in your discovery experience." Kanabar walks the talk when it comes to her own wardrobe. "My obsession for emerging labels has taken a rather work-from-home turn—oversized matching loungewear from Amsterdam-based Les Coyotes de Paris, utilitarian hand-dyed jumpsuits from Kenyan label KikoRomeo, and off-duty separates from Nigerian brand Orange Culture. I like layering and playing with proportions as well as mixing luxury staples with emerging international labels and contemporary African designer pieces." Like any young founder, Kanabar is living and breathing her business. As we speak, she's in the midst of planning a trip to Ruaha National Park in Southern Tanzania, where she says she'll "be immersed in nature and my laptop with a drink in hand." >



TOBIAS LUNDQVIST



## GLOBAL INDIANS



## ADITI SHAH

30, PELOTON INSTRUCTOR AND WELLNESS EXPERT 📍 NEW YORK

For Aditi Shah, who was planning to get married in Rajasthan this March, the pandemic threw quite the curveball. Instead, she found herself connecting deeper with her fiancé. "Surely the pandemic has shown us that what matters in life is not our social media photos, but our relationships, resilience and community. It's not what life looks like from the outside but what it feels like on the inside." Currently the yoga and meditation instructor at fitness and media brand Peloton, Shah started her career as a model and actor, and is now focused on growing her connection with the 2.6-million plus community "In some small way, I hope that my presence at Peloton can change the way we think about what a 'yoga teacher' looks like, and that my voice can shed some light on the richness of these traditions and practices," she says, adding that she's in the midst of launching a free virtual satsang. "At the moment, my entrepreneurial endeavours are all about building my brand." Naturally, athleisure for her is almost an occupational requirement. Her biggest learning? "It's easy to confuse productivity with self-value. It is essential to refill your cup. Every single day doesn't have to be about balance. If you're passionate about something, it can be truly joyful to put in that work in the pursuit of your dreams."

## AMI DOSHI SHAH

DESIGNER AND APPLIED ARTIST  
📍 NAIROBI

"Not having to commute in Nairobi's traffic is quite liberating," says Ami Doshi Shah on the silver lining of this pandemic—an aspect to which most of us in India would also relate. She has instead taken this time to become an avid gardener. You'll find her outdoors, usually in the early hours of the morning. It's this time that gives her moments of respite and also informs the direction of the jewellery label she started six years ago, after spending a decade in advertising. "Coming back to making and creating was cathartic. I work with locally sourced materials, and in some way, my aim is to bring to life the natural and human beauty of our country," says the trained jeweller whose mix of texture and form has garnered praise. "I work with standard metal-smithing techniques, but love to mix materials and processes, and use leather, wood, uncut stones and crystals as well as oxidation methods such as patination on brass. There is always a sculptural element to the work." With two boys at home, her days have been busy, but she's not one to let it come in the way of how she puts her looks together. "Nowadays, I do make an effort to style up. I wear Kenyan or African labels. My favourites include Katush, Selfi and Maisha Concept, which I mix with basics from brands like COS." >



WINI LIAO



## GLOBAL INDIANS



## AISHWARYA IYER

34, FOUNDER AND CEO, BRIGHTLAND

📍 LOS ANGELES

"My aha moment was realising the importance of a standing desk at home," says Aishwarya Iyer with a laugh. Like many of us, she has rotated through her wardrobe of loungewear (from Loup and Merna Maita). Iyer, who has lived in the east (Massachusetts), the Midwest (Chicago) and the southwest (Texas), landed on the West Coast (Los Angeles) to launch Brightland after a professional epiphany. In 2014, while working at L'Oreal, she realised that supermarket brand olive oil was giving her partner and her consistent stomach pains. "I discovered that nearly 70 per cent of olive oil Americans consume is already rancid due to a fraud-ridden industry with little to no transparency. So I moved to Los Angeles to create a bold, elevated, and traceable solution." Brightland officially launched in 2018 to champion California-made extra virgin olive oil. "We partner with family farms that implement organic practices and pay fair wages." What also sets Brightland apart is its clean, minimal design. "Our bottles do not look like traditional olive oils," she says of the very Insta-friendly packaging that you've seen on the counter tops of any chef (home or otherwise) worth his or her salt. So, what does Iyer like to cook? "I have a major sweet tooth, but I also love simple meals with a lot of vegetables." Dressed with Brightland, of course.

## SHEENA SOOD

36, TEXTILE DESIGNER AND  
FOUNDER, ABACAXI 📍 BROOKLYN

One of the most important skills for a business to survive the pandemic is its ability to pivot. But what do you do when your brand is just off the ground? Sheena Sood found out first-hand. "I planned the launch of abacaxi for Holi this year, but instead I had to change my focus to making fabric face masks from my home.

That decision led to a whole new project," she says, admitting that she's gone through the pandemic cycle of being depressed, worried, stressed and busy through these trying times. Her label, which emerged from a trip to Rajasthan in 2012, started with a brightly hued capsule collection that put together remnants of fabrics and embroidered textiles before soon developing into a full-fledged line. "As a textile designer, I'm a fabric snob who mostly wears natural fibres. I have an obsession with tie-dye that began during my childhood and it continues to be a favourite," says the Brown University graduate who would love to expand into jewellery and homeware in the near future. "True to my brand, I like to layer bright colours with touches of traditional silver jewellery. Many of my designs are either convertible or can be worn in several ways and the styles can fit a wide variety of sizes, which is actually more sustainable and creates less waste." >





## GLOBAL INDIANS

### ZARNA SURTI

33, FOUNDER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,  
TONAL JOURNAL

📍 BETWEEN LOS ANGELES AND PORTLAND

"I wanted a place to celebrate our stories, share our beauty, and honour our joy," says Zarna Surti, the founder of *Tonal Journal*, which seeks to remedy the lack of representation of colour in fashion. "My work was focused on digital fashion and beauty, and at the time, I truly missed the physical connection. On a flight, the idea for the format just came flowing out." So how does it work? "Each volume is dictated by colour (the debut was nude; the next will be red), the emotions it evokes, what it represents and the stories that come out of it." For Surti, whose day job is the global brand narrative director at Nike, *Tonal Journal* led her down a different creative path. "I want to be sure the work I'm creating can give back to communities in a positive way," she says. She's as particular about her fashion choices as she is about the narratives she structures. "I love finding vintage pieces and getting them tailored. My favourite textile is white linen. On weekends I love feather-cuffed dresses, silk sets and stilettos." Those stilettos may be gathering dust at the moment, but Surti is finding little joys: "It's difficult to find moments of personal clarity but I'm making sure to continue educating myself, move my body, cook nourishing food, and reflect."



### DR DEEPIKA CHOPRA

37, THE OPTIMISM DOCTOR®

📍 LOS ANGELES

When it comes to cool professional titles, Dr Deepika Chopra wins hands down. And let's face it, at this moment, an optimism doctor is the only kind we want to see. Holistic practices from her Indian heritage, compounded with an interest in science, led Chopra to create a blend of two often opposing fields as a professional psychologist and founder of Things Are Looking Up™ (which creates "beautiful, functional, everyday products that increase proactive mental well-being"). The first product is a deck of 52 Optimism Cards. The podcast *Looking Up With Dr Deepika Chopra* is "full of raw human storytelling as well as expert tools". "I certainly did not get here in a linear fashion," she says, listing jobs in A&R at a punk music label, in capital markets, and at a healthcare company before pursuing her psychology degree. And Chopra admits to moments of burnout while parenting a young child and juggling many hats. "I am focusing on purpose over productivity and practising what I teach clients: to focus on strengths." When it comes to her wardrobe, filled with LA-girl-loved labels like Rachel Pally, Døen and Jenni Kayne, matching sets (elevated versions of sweatpants, as she says) are key. So what does a day in her life look like? "Many meals prepared and shared, emails answered as well as unanswered, trips to the toddler toilet, puzzles, dishes, Zoom chats, podcast recordings, spontaneous solo dance parties, hugs, kisses, and more dishes." >

KATE BERRY



## GLOBAL INDIANS

# CHITRA AGRAWAL

41, CO-FOUNDER, BROOKLYN DELHI  
📍 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

The name of Chitra Agrawal's food brand best encapsulates the collision of two cultural worlds. In 2009, while working in marketing at American Express, she started blogging family recipes on *Abcdsofcooking.com*, which led to a cookbook, *Vibrant India: Fresh Vegetarian Recipes From Bangalore To Brooklyn*. "The project began with me learning family recipes and led me to incorporate local ingredients and collaborate with local chefs. In 2014, I launched Brooklyn Delhi," she says about her line of condiments and simmer sauces. "Throughout those years, cooking gave me comfort and a way to bond with family, but it never dawned on me that I could actually pursue it as a career. I have bootstrapped this business with my husband, a packaging designer, creating our look inspired by hand-painted Indian truck art and Brooklyn bodega signage," she says. At the time of writing this, Agarwal is currently managing the brand along with two small children, and also a move. So, getting food on the table, even for someone who loves cooking, is no easy feat. "We put our achaars on everything. My favourite is with nachos. Lately, we have been leaning hard on our simmer sauces." Her dream collaboration is one that gets to the very basics: "I grew up eating achaar with plain yoghurt, so partnering with a brand like Chobani would be a dream."



ANNE TROXEL/BEN GARTIUS



# PALLAVI GOLLA

36, FOUNDER-CEO, LARK ADVENTUREWEAR  
📍 PITTSBURGH

"I spent most summers till the age of 14 in Andhra Pradesh, visiting my grandparents," says Pallavi Golla. "I used to beg to not come home." Golla, the daughter of two doctors, was raised to appreciate both cultures and spent weekends learning Bharatanatyam and Carnatic music. With stints at a hedge fund and in wine production and management, Golla founded Lark Adventurewear after the birth of her elder son. "We had just moved back to Pittsburgh from Los Angeles. When we'd go on hikes, I'd find him hot and uncomfortable in traditional cotton baby clothes. I looked for options, but most activewear is made from synthetic fabrics and chemicals that are unsafe for children." A mum on a mission, she set out to find a solution, a patented cotton-bamboo blend, Softek, that creates a cooling effect without chemicals, is stain-resistant, and UPF-50 sun safe. Call it an occupational hazard, but activewear forms the basis of her wardrobe too, dominated by Alo Yoga, Marine Layer, and Summer Salt. "The biggest perks of owning an activewear label for kids is that there is no dress code. And as a busy mum, I have way too many pairs of AllBirds sneakers." The past few months have been incredibly busy. "As an e-commerce brand selling children's essentials, we have been able to grow. As a parent, it's been difficult to navigate running a business and having my children at home." >



## GLOBAL INDIANS



## VATSALA MURTHY

38, FOUNDER, INDIAN GOODS CO.

📍 FRANKFURT

"I'm not a minimalist. I'm more of an 'enough is better' person. This translates into having what I need and 'sparks joy', as Marie Kondo famously put it. That helps making decisions and getting things done so much easier, be it laying the table for dinner or getting dressed. When everything works with everything else, there's not that much thinking needed anymore," says Vatsala Murthy, the founder of Indian Goods Co., a design label borne from a need to "indulge in beautiful objects, with my interest in Indian aesthetic, both contemporary and traditional". For Murthy, who counts Ilse Crawford, India Mahdavi, Nipa Doshi and Jonathan Levien, and Fien Muller and Hannes Van Severen as influences, admits that she's most inspired by products we encounter daily. "There are so many humble objects that are so well designed that we take their function and the genius behind them for granted." It's a philosophy she adopts for her wardrobe, a tight edit, a great brand story as well as a larger purpose. Currently in a unicolour (white, black and blue) palette, Runaway Bicycle, Bhaane and The Summer House top her list. "I like simple yet interesting silhouettes, unusual combinations and the feel of the fabric on my skin." Like many, Murthy has been taking the last few months to regroup. "Fewer distractions have given me a better understanding of where things stand for me, for better and for worse. Now I need to put all that knowledge into action."

## ESHITA KABRA DAVIES

29, FOUNDER AND CEO, BY ROTATION

📍 LONDON

"I came up with the idea of By Rotation, the Airbnb of designer fashion rental, while on honeymoon with my English husband in my home state of Rajasthan," says former investment banker Eshita Kabra Davies of her barely year-old start-up. While packing for her trip, she was surprised at the lack of options to rent statement, quality pieces. "On the trip, I was upset by the level of textile waste I saw and felt guilty about my own habits," she says, about founding By Rotation while juggling a career in finance. Last October, when the app launch was featured in the *Business of Fashion*, she quit to focus on By Rotation. In the last few months, Kabra has seen her user base and listings grow by over 80 per cent and 65 per cent, alongside an organic collaboration with Stacey Dooley and stories in *British Vogue* and *Business Insider*. She has also ditched tailored dresses and suits, finding her fashion groove in high-waisted jeans, a plain T-shirt, and loafers from labels like Jacquemus, The Vampire's Wife, Rejina Pyo and Reformation. "I love independent labels, second-hand and vintage. Needless to say, I share everything I own and rent too." While she works out of a Marylebone studio that is open for styling appointments, she goes to the countryside to rejuvenate. "I need space to recharge, whether it's at the barre, getting out of the city, or scouring vintage interiors at antique fairs." >





## GLOBAL INDIANS

# PRENA GUPTA

38, FOUNDER AND CEO, HOOKED  
📍 SAN FRANCISCO

"I grew up in Shawnee, a conservative town in Oklahoma, and I felt the pressure to assimilate. But over time, I began to embrace my Indian heritage. Growing up in a place where I was different taught me to always be true to myself, and that life lesson helped me become a successful entrepreneur," says Perna Gupta, the founder and CEO of Hooked, a mobile chat fiction format. "My husband and I were on a beach in Costa Rica, surfing and writing a novel with a female Indian protagonist set in a futuristic Silicon Valley. My goal was to create the next *Harry Potter*—an iconic story that inspired millions to follow their dreams—featuring an Indian girl as the hero. But there was one problem: young people weren't reading anymore, they were spending all their time on their phones," she says about the format which tells stories through texts, has 100 million viewers across social media, a short-form video streaming app Hooked TV, and has received funding from Ashton Kutcher, Mariah Carey, LeBron James and Jamie Foxx to name a few. "Art is a reflection of humanity. Modern life is being experienced increasingly on mobile phones. Hooked's stories are the truest expression of this brave new world. Especially during the pandemic, when so many of us are feeling isolated and afraid," she adds, while working from her home (clad in Alo Yoga, James Perse, Vince or a jumpsuit from A Peace Treaty), with her husband Parag and their 16-month-old son.



# RESHMA CHATTARAM CHAMBERLIN

35, CO-FOUNDER, CHIEF BRAND AND  
DIGITAL OFFICER, SUMMERSALT  
📍 ST. LOUIS

"My grandmother was Shobhana Samarth, the actor who helped change the perception of women in the film industry in the 1930s and was very entrepreneurial," says Reshma Chattaram Chamberlin. She credits being raised by a single mother and surrounded by female influences for giving her a strong foundation. After a decade in brand building and strategy for other direct-to-consumer brands such as Rockets of Awesome, Chamberlin took the leap and co-founded Summersalt with Lori Coulter. Summersalt aims to "reinvent the narrative and shopping experience around swimwear and apparel by creating affordable products that empower women to feel joyful and sexy on their own terms," says Chamberlin. "We believe in one-on-one communication. We want a woman's feedback and this informs our product roll-out. When we design, we're thinking of transitional pieces, such as the perfect shirt dress cover-up that can also pair with jeans to dinner. This helps us make the best choices as well, for sustainability." The year has had a mix of highs and lows for Chamberlin: a COVID-19 diagnosis and recovery for her husband, an award from *Fast Company*, and keeping up with the positive press and demand (Jennifer Garner and Kate Hudson were papped in Summersalt's suits). "If anyone is thinking of starting something new and they have the luxury to do it, I'd say go for it. There's no reward without risk. You're going to fail over and over before you succeed, and that is so important to get where you need to go." ■

CARLEY RUDD