

# THE VINSON VIEW

Quality maniac and master shopper Nick Vinson on the who, what, when, where and why



## WANTED: SERVICES MANAGER

### Job description

To make life easier for an Extremely Picky Person (EPP). Will involve frequent travel. Italian, French and English essential.

### Examples of services needed

**Dinners:** Make sure that the EPP is seated at the top table only (never near the toilet) and that there are no last-minute guest substitutions.

**Fashion shows:** Be the first person in to get a selection of empty venue shots and show sets for Instagram. Sit and wait until the EPP arrives.

**Transport:** Make sure that the pre-selected seat is not occupied. Keep access codes for city bikes, clean them and set them to the right height.

**Drinks:** Ensure that the EPP is never offered water from a plastic bottle.

**Lifts:** Walk ahead and call the lift to make sure the EPP does not have to wait. Get the timing right: no EPP wants to be rushed or kept waiting.

**Bathroom visits:** Run the tap to the correct temperature and have a towel at the ready.

**Eyewear:** Keep the EPP's spectacles and sunglasses clean at all times.

## 01 Emergency assistants

The hired helpers every Extremely Picky Person needs

At the Louis Vuitton men's show in Paris this January, having left my seat to chat, I came across a pair of staff in matching T-shirts sitting in the front row. Their role for the day was place-holding; they were planted there to make sure that when Extremely Important Persons (EIP) turned up, their seats were warm, accessible and presumably not taken by riff-raff from the back row. When I returned to my seat, I found the charming Tom Stubbs, aka @StyleandError, from *The Financial Times' How to Spend It* magazine, sitting in it. Although we soon found someone to move Tom to his correct seat, I felt bereft. With no place holder provided by Louis Vuitton, was my EIP status in question? And was this perhaps the reason I was yet to be verified by Instagram? I was concerned I was not being picky enough and decided that I might need my own place holder.

They could make sure no one inadvertently sits in seat 1A on my regular flight to Milan, and could help me with my genuine first-world grievance, ensuring that the overhead locker above the first row is not occupied by bags from passengers in rows two to six. I need a place holder on the Eurostar train between London and Paris too, for when someone tries to nab my forward-facing aisle seat at a table with some lame excuse about being unable to

ride backwards. In London, my place holder could also walk ahead, select and release a (shared cycle scheme) Santander bike for me, raise the seat height to level seven and perhaps give the handles a quick wipe down.

A limo driver usually rushes out and opens the door for their passengers. When I went to Cannes for the premiere of Woody Allen's *Match Point* (my sister had co-produced it), I was warned, as a red carpet novice, that when we arrived I must avoid opening the car door at all costs. There were specialists who could open them better than me, in a chic, choreographed way. My place holder could take on this role whenever I ride in a taxi. They could also call the lift so that I don't have to wait for it, or grab the best reformer in my Pilates class so I'm not left with the one under the AC unit. And since only great hotels, such as London's Connaught and Claridge's, offer assistance with running the tap and passing you a clean towel in the men's room, my place holder could take on that role elsewhere too. Likewise, not all resorts and airlines have someone come around and offer to clean my spectacles or sunglasses.

The more I think about it, the more I need a place holder – so I've started a job description (see above). Only when I have one of my own will my EPP (Extremely Picky Person) status be guaranteed. ★



## 02

### Chums on seats

To make sure that my dinner parties have the perfect seating plan, I use a bespoke 'Dunstone' by Anya Hindmarch. £425, [anyahindmarch.com](http://anyahindmarch.com)



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### Flight path

Download the SeatGuru app on your smartphone and pick the best seat on most commercial flights from around 130 airlines. [seatguru.com](http://seatguru.com)