

## Can't Go Without: Gabrielle Hamilton

From: <http://www.nytimes.com/video/travel/100000002516364/cant-go-without-gabrielle-hamilton.html?playlistId=1194811622333>

1 I'm Gabrielle Hamilton and I'm the chef and owner of Prune Restaurant.

Rome has become my favorite city in the world. If you could get on the back of a Vespa with some good-looking local Roman, I think you could die a really happy person.

5 Well, I was married to an Italian for over ten years and we have children, so now I feel like a, you know, a "tropic Romana" as if I am Roman. The embarrassing truth of what I have to take with me: my totally disposable suitcase.

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I don't know what this says about me, and I don't really care, but I always take my own coffee cup. This is my grown up security blanket. You can see it's disgusting.

10 Have you ever seen these? Plastic vases that are easily packed. Sometimes the hotel rooms are a little, umm, "businessman-y", or sterile. And anyway, you put some flowers around the room you kind of feel like home.

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15 There is a perfumeria in Rome called "Materozzoli". Someone's going to criticize my pronunciation. It's one of my rituals to go buy a new bottle of this even if I don't really need one every time I go to Rome.

These are my obsession with Come de Garcon wallets. You just bring all the wallets. This one's getting totally worn out. This is the Europe wallet. Then you need all your real heavy business, right? Every card, every ID. Sometimes you just want a few bills and some cards and your lipstick and you go out. They come on every trip.

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20 And this final piece is not at all from a store. We call it the "Nona apron," from my 86-year-old mother-in-law, Alda, my kids' nona, who has now passed away. I take one with me whenever I travel, just in case I find myself in a kitchen along the way and I can make myself useful, it's always good to have an apron.

25 Traveling, I couldn't live without it. It opens your mind and heart to the whole rest of the world. Not to mention the food.