

What's in Your Bag?

Chefs put the right ingredients in their purses

By Susan Stapleton



► MARY SUE MILLIKEN

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| <p>1. Two Japanese wallets. Everything is in there—toothpicks, my New York Metro pass, hair ties, No Kid Hungry stickers, drink coupons on Southwest airlines.</p> <p>2. Blink card (in wallet) for charging my electric car</p> <p>3. Reusable shopping bag</p> | <p>4. Tea and tea bags. I drink Darjeeling tea. I have a habit. I buy straight from India. I drink maybe a gallon a day. Darjeeling has a flavor that's not like anything in the world. It tastes like artichokes in the back of your throat.</p> | <p>5. My pepper mill</p> <p>6. Japanese glasses holder</p> <p>7. This cumbersome key chain with my mom's keys and my security card for LAX.</p> <p>8. Diane Keaton L'Oreal lipstick. I'm a big fan of Diane Keaton.</p> |
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► SUSAN FENIGER

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| <p>1. My phone charger, for sure. That's critical.</p> <p>2. My Lenovo laptop</p> <p>3. A meat thermometer</p> | <p>4. A painted apron from my niece</p> <p>5. Fork (not carried all the time)</p> | <p>6. An extra headband</p> <p>7. My LAX badge. I can't get in there without it.</p> <p>8. Sauza tequila</p> |
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Susan Feniger

Mary Sue Milliken

Occupations: Chefs and co-owners of Border Grill

What kind of handbag?

SF: Tumi backpack. My purse is my office.

MSM: It's an Elaine Arsenault. It's made of football leather and it lasts forever. She has a tiny little shop in the East Village and makes her own bags. I was excited when I found this woman. I look for people who have a passion like I do.

What does your handbag say about you?

SF: I literally have always carried a knapsack. My role in the company is that I go and I'm at each of the restaurants all the time.

MSM: It's pretty utilitarian and compact. I have a lot of stuff in a small space. Isn't that what a handbag is? A support system?

How about the most surprising thing?

SF: When I feel like emptying everything out and find a headband at the bottom of bag that I was looking for.

MSM: I don't know that many people who travel with a pepper mill. When my mom was sick in the hospital, I had to fly in the middle of the night to Arizona. I didn't have anything to eat. I was trying to order the least horrible thing at the hospital—eggs. It made everything feel so much better.

