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STYLE

**Seneca Clothing Review** 

# SENECA APPAREL BLENDS EUROPEAN STYLE WITH AMERICAN MANUFACTURING





Written by <u>Jonathan Chan</u>, senior manager of lab operations with a decade of experience testing products.

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When I was told that I'd be reviewing Seneca I put a *stoic* expression on my face. But then I learned it was actually **Seneca**, the versatile clothing brand that offers menswear for the office and more, and I smiled. I perused the brand's website and immediately understood what the aesthetic was all about. Seneca makes clothes for people who want to look modern and understated at the same time. The company's ethos reminds me of **Ministry of Supply**, another menswear workwear brand I'd reviewed previously.

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Seneca has a European design flair, combined with American manufacturing. For this review, Seneca sent me the **Vanta Pant (From \$198)**, the **Modena Shirt (\$198)**, and the **Terra Reversible Jacket (\$298)**. My overall impression is that everything was well made, but functionality and comfort sometimes took a backseat. Clothes from Seneca are for professionals who want to break away from the standard silhouette of a power suit while still giving off an air of respectability.

# **What is Seneca?**



This Seneca Modena shirt is both dressy and casual at the same time

Started in 2021 by Nikhil Khosla and Greg Rosborough, Seneca is a men's professional workwear brand that seeks to offer "versatile clothing that works across occasions." The clothes are designed in New York and Portugal, with ethically sourced fabrics from Italy. It's a real cosmopolitan affair.

Everything you buy from Seneca is packaged in recyclable materials and the clothes themselves are machine washable—so no dry cleaning bill, and fewer chemicals like PERC making their way into the environment.

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# **What I tested from Seneca**



#### **Vanta Pants**

These versatile pants are just dressy enough for work without feeling too formal.

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### **Modena Shirt**

From the zip closure to the unique collar, there's a lot to love about the Modena Shirt.

BUY NOW at Seneca



#### **Terra Reversible Jacket**

The Terra Reversible Jacket feels comparable to similar styles from The North Face.

BUY NOW at Seneca

## **What I like about Seneca**



The Vanta pants felt like an upgrade from normal slacks

## Their clothes stand out without demanding the spotlight

Everything I tried from Seneca had a bit of flair to it. The Modena Shirt has a concealable zipper. When zipped up, it gave me jacket and sweatshirt vibes. The streamlined collar reminds me of a banded collar, which gives the shirt a more relaxed aesthetic.

I have similar feelings about the Vanta Pant. After wearing the Vanta with multiple outfits over the course of a month, my impression is that these trousers are a chameleon. They blend in with whatever is around them. The lack of a creased front line keeps them from being perceived as formal, while the form-fitting cut keeps them from looking like baggy, casual slacks.

These design changes sound pretty minor, and in many ways they are. However, I think they're eye-catching enough to whisper that you have a look, but won't scream "look at me."

## The designs are pretty high-quality

The clothes I got from Seneca felt well-made. For example, the Terra jacket has material and padding on par with a North Face jacket.

The Vanta pants are made from Japanese nylon which feels extremely durable. This is especially true of all the buttons. From the French Bearer—the button that secures the fly—to the spare inside, all of the closures were held securely by good stitches.

## What I didn't like about Seneca



Sweating up a storm with the Modena shirt zipped up

## The price puts it out of reach for many people

In Seneca's defense, the clothing it produces is the opposite of fast fashion. However, I can't ignore the fact that everything from Seneca is super expensive. You can expect to pay well over \$300 for a complete outfit.

In terms of value, it's a tough call. Seneca is a brand that lets you trade money in exchange for saving time and getting an easy, fashionable look. And a lot of people want *clothes*, not fashion.

## Not the most breathable styles

While the shirt, jacket, and pants I tested all represented different styles and materials, one thing they had in common was that they were not the most breathable articles of clothing. They felt very insulating.

Granted, the jacket and shirt were designed for cooler weather. However, I am the kind of professional who's a jack of all trades. I do everything from sitting at my desk writing articles all day to **dumping coolers over my head** for social media. I found hustling around outfits by Seneca to be a relatively sweaty experience.

# **Should you buy clothes from Seneca?**

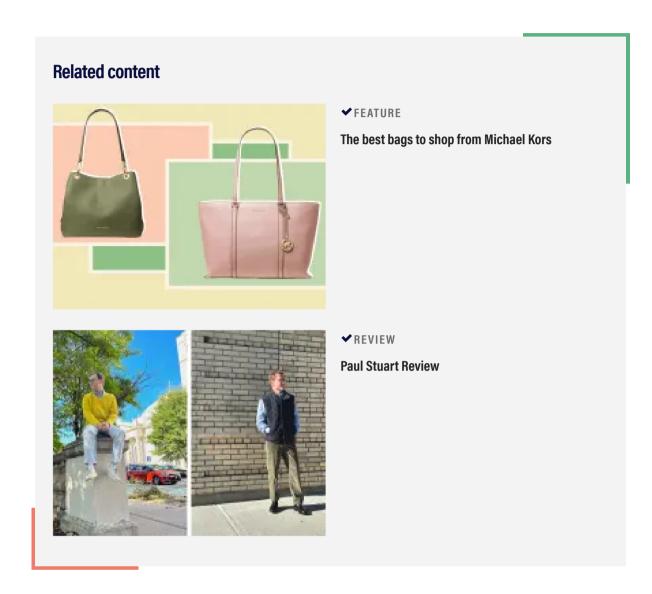


The Terra Jacket is reversible

## Yes, if you want easy fashion

Seneca clothing demands a high price. For the cost, you're getting fashionable clothes that are sustainably sourced and responsibly manufactured. It's a little bit cumbersome, it's a little bit pretentious, but 100-percent quality clothing. If you can afford the high price, you should check out this versatile and presentable clothing brand.

**Shop Seneca** 



Prices were accurate at the time this article was published but may change over time.

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