

## **S.F. stores raided for alleged Versace counterfeiting**

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### **Body**

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Federal agents **raided** five **San Francisco** antique shops in the heart of the city's tourist districts Wednesday for selling fake **Versace** furniture, dinnerware and art, according to U.**S.** Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The same **stores** were targeted earlier this month when agents arrested 28 foreigners who were illegally employed by the companies. In that **raid**, authorities also sought evidence of the illegal shipment of hippopotamus ivory.

The latest search was prompted after a New York-based buyer for **Versace** last week visited three **stores** in **San Francisco's** Union Square shopping area -- Lloyd's Fine Art and Antiques, Kings Fine Art and Antiques and Gioia Fine Art, authorities said.

The buyer reported spotting furniture, lamps, ceramics and other items being sold as **Versace**, but the "shapes of the products, their quality and the intricacy of their patterns were not as good as genuine **Versace**," according to a search warrant affidavit.

The buyer said "several of the **stores** were telling people that the items were **Versace**."

The other **stores raided** Wednesday were King's Fine Art and Antiques showroom and Buckingham Palace Fine Art.

The joint investigation by Immigration, the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service and U.**S.** Fish and Wildlife remains ongoing.

"The trafficking of **counterfeit** goods is a global enterprise that robs legitimate companies of billions of dollars in revenues every year," said Charles DeMore, a spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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S.F. stores raided for alleged Versace counterfeiting

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